

COLORADO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT: 1986–2013

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ABSTRACT: Since 1985, 58 species have been added to the Colorado list, 49 confirmed as new to the state, 8 to reclassification of subspecies as species, and 1 to description of a new species (the Gunnison Sage-Grouse, *Centrocercus minimus*). The changes include discovery of a resident population of the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), transitory colonization of the Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*), marginal colonization of the Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) becoming a regular spring migrant, massive colonization of the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), vagrancy of four species of Old World origin, and vagrancy of one species of Southern Hemisphere origin, the Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*).

The Colorado Bird Records Committee (CBRC) last published a report in *Western Birds* in 1987 (Gent 1987). Since that time, its reports have been published exclusively within the journal published by the Colorado Field Ornithologists (*C.F.O. Journal*, *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists*, and *Colorado Birds*). All of the CBRC's reports can be downloaded from its website (www.coloradobirdrecords.org). This report summarizes species added to the Colorado list since publication of Gent (1987), including additions due to taxonomic revision.

The Colorado state list totaled 440 species at the end of 1985 (Gent 1987). This report discusses 58 additions to the Colorado list (8 due to taxonomic splits), as well as four additional species that could have represented changes to the list. All species on the 1985 list remain on the current list. Thus, as of review of all documentation through 2013, the Colorado state list stood at 498 species. Per CBRC bylaws, all accepted first state records received a 7–0 or 6–1 vote to accept (up to three rounds of voting) and were based on physical evidence (e.g., photo, audio recording, specimen) or written documentation from multiple observers. Single-observer records may be accepted provisionally until one of the aforementioned requirements is met for a subsequent occurrence, at which time the species is added to the state list (for an example, see the Common Ground-Dove). Basic information on all records evaluated can be retrieved from the CBRC website. The CBRC has had nine chairs from 1986 to 2013: Richard Bunn, Doug Faulkner, Peter Gent, Mark Janos, Tony Leukering, Bill Lisowsky, Duane Nelson, Bill Prather, and Larry Semo.

REPORT FORMAT

The initials of the contributing observer(s) and the record's accession number are given for each first state record. The initials of the observer(s) who found the bird, if known, are italicized and presented first only if that person also contributed documentation; additional contributors follow in alphabetical order by last name. If the initial observer is known with certainty, but he or she did not submit documentation, those initials are italicized and presented last.

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Observers submitting a photograph or video are indicated with a dagger (†), those who submitted video by (v), those who submitted audio spectrograms or recordings by (s), and those who submitted a sketch by (sk).

In this report, county names are italicized. The committee recognizes only those dates for which a bird was documented as dates of occurrence. The full span of dates for each record is given when possible; however, the seasonal summary reports in the Colorado Field Ornithologists' quarterly journal are the primary source of those dates. Abbreviations used in the report: CBC, Christmas Bird Count; DMNS, Denver Museum of Nature and Science; NG, National Grassland; NM, National Monument; SP, State Park; SWA, State Wildlife Area.

SPECIES ADDED BECAUSE OF TAXONOMIC REVISIONS

All species added to the Colorado state list as a result of taxonomic splits by the American Ornithologists' Union North American Classification Committee were supported by records accepted by the CBRC or had been recognized as regularly occurring in the state (Andrews and Righter 1992). Except where noted, these species are not on the CBRC's main review list.

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*). Split from the Canada Goose (*B. canadensis*) (Banks et al. 2004). The Canada Goose is a year-round resident in Colorado, supplemented by migrants and winter visitors; the Cackling Goose is a common migrant and winter resident on the eastern plains, particularly in the southeast.

Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*). Distinguished as a species distinct from the Greater Sage-Grouse (*C. urophasianus*) in 2000 (Young et al. 2000, AOU 2000). These species are allopatric year-round residents in sagebrush steppe in Colorado. The Gunnison Sage-Grouse is patchily distributed in southwestern Colorado from eastern Gunnison and north-central Saguache west to the Utah state line.

Mexican (*Antrastomus arizonae*) and Eastern (*A. vociferus*) Whip-poor-wills. Formerly considered a single species, the Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), of which Colorado had just four records in 1985. One of those four was of a singing individual of the Mexican subspecies *arizonae* near Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, July 1981, the other three of the eastern nominate *vociferus*. Subsequently split (Chesser et al. 2010), both species are accidental in Colorado and on the CBRC's main review list. Currently, Colorado has two records of the Mexican and nine records of the Eastern. Colorado's second recorded Mexican Whip-poor-will was a calling individual along Fosset Gulch Road, *Archuleta*, on 22 June 1999. Eight of the state's nine records of the Eastern are from east of the Rocky Mountains; the other is of one tape-recorded along the Little Snake River, *Moffat*, on 21 May 1992. Six of the nine Eastern Whip-poor-will records are from 13 to 26 May, the remaining three spanning September.

Blue-headed (*Vireo solitarius*) and Cassin's (*V. cassinii*) Vireos. Split from the Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*), which breeds regularly in Colorado (AOU 1997). The Blue-headed Vireo was on the main review list through 2013, after which the CBRC removed it because of its annual occurrence in small numbers (Faulkner 2014). That species is primarily a fall migrant (40 records) from 1 September to 25 October in eastern Colorado. Colorado has just six spring records (five from 6 to 19 May; one for 16 June). Cassin's Vireo is a regular fall migrant in small numbers statewide, except on the extreme eastern plains, but it is considerably rarer during spring migration.

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). Formerly considered conspecific as the Rufous-sided Towhee (also *P. erythrophthalmus*), this species and the Spotted

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Towhee (*P. maculatus*) were split in 1995 (AOU 1995). The two species' hybrid zone in the Great Plains, particularly along the Platte River drainage, has been well established, with birds showing Eastern Towhee characteristics occurring into north-eastern Colorado (Sibley and West 1959, Rising 1983a). The Spotted Towhee is a widespread breeding species in the state. The Eastern Towhee remains on the main review list in part because of the lack of regular breeding in Colorado and inherent difficulties presented by the Great Plains hybrid swarm. The CBRC does not accept records of any birds exhibiting even minor Spotted Towhee features. As of 2013, Colorado had 32 records from along the Front Range and eastern plains. Most records (22) are of fall migrants and wintering birds, presumably originating from somewhere north and/or east of Colorado.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). In 1995, the AOU resplit this species and Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*), which it had merged in 1973. Like that of the towhees, the hybrid zone for these species on the Great Plains has been well studied (Rising 1983a, b). But, in contrast to the situation of the towhees, phenotypically pure Baltimore Orioles breed regularly in the eastern tier of Colorado counties—thus that species is not on the main review list. Bullock's Oriole breeds widely in the state.

Black (*Leucosticte atrata*) and Gray-crowned (*L. tephrocotis*) Rosy-Finches. The AOU (1993) reversed its decision of 1983 and resplit these species from the Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*L. australis*), which is nearly endemic to Colorado. During winter, all three species are found regularly in mixed flocks throughout the Rocky Mountains in Colorado.

SPECIES ADDED AS A RESULT OF DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). Colorado's only record is of one at a small pond near Kersey, *Weld*, 15 October 1990 (*JHm*, *JCo*; 8-90-14). The question of this bird's origin was of some concern to the CBRC, but Nelson (1992) noted that acceptance of this record was based partially on the species' "strong tendency to wander after the breeding season."

Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*). Bailey and Niedrach (1965) noted two specimens taken in Colorado: one near Loveland, *Larimer*, 6 November 1907, and an adult male at Timnath Reservoir, *Larimer*, 18 September 1962 (DMNS 353 and 33794, respectively). It was on the basis of these specimens that the Mottled Duck was originally placed on the Colorado list when the Colorado Bird Records Committee (then the CFO Official Records Committee) was formed in 1972. However, the species was removed from the state list (Andrews 1979) after John Hubbard examined these specimens and reidentified them as having Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) influence (Hubbard 1977). Colorado's only accepted record is of a male photographed at Andrick Ponds SWA, *Morgan*, 28–30 June 2013 (*SMIt*, *RH*; 2013-186); it exhibited the blue-green speculum of *A. f. maculosa* (Bellrose 1976).

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*). A male at Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, 26 April 1990 (PG, MJ, *JBr*; 8-90-11), was the first Garganey reported in Colorado. This bird was also reported on the 27th, but the CBRC has no documentation in support of its occurrence on that date. This occurrence follows the strong pattern in much of the U.S. and Canada for this species to be found in spring (Howell et al. 2014). The only other Colorado record is also of a male found during spring migration, at Sombrero Pond, *Boulder*, 28 March 1992.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). The state's first was a male at Cottonwood Marsh, *Boulder*, 21–23 Mar 1997 (*MPI*, PG, MJ, *TLsk*, LN; 1997-16). Colorado has since recorded three more Tufted Ducks: one each in March 2000, January 2011, and December 2011. The latter two may have been the same (returning) adult female,

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but they were at locations 14 km apart, and the CBRC decided that distance was enough to warrant the birds being considered as different.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). Colorado's first record is of one killed by a hunter on Hoy Mountain, *Moffat*, 26 October 1988, <1 km from the Utah state line (DMNS 39566). All subsequent records have also come from Hoy Mountain, where the Ruffed Grouse is likely a year-round resident.

Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) The surprise of the 2002 fall migration was the appearance of a transitional-plumaged adult at a small gravel-pit pond near Franktown, *Douglas*, 17–20 November 2002 (*HK, UK, DF†, RH†, TL†, RO†, GW, DWm†*; 2002-105; Figure 1). This represented the first U.S. record away from Pacific coastal states. Colorado has a second record of an alternate-plumaged adult at Chatfield SP, *Jefferson/Douglas*, 28 September 2005.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). This species has had a confusing history in Colorado dating back to at least 1898 (Faulkner 2004). It was on the CBRC's original state list (Reddall 1973) on the basis of a specimen (DMNS 39079, collected May 1916), then later removed when reexamination revealed the bird to be a White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) (Gent 1987). The first accepted Colorado record of the Glossy is of an alternate-plumaged adult at Sweitzer Lake SP, *Delta*, 27 March 1986 (*MJ sk, VJ*; 7-86-10). This species is now regular, with an average of 3.3 records accepted annually from 1995 to 2004, 4.3 from 2005 to 2011). Owing to the annual occurrence of multiple individuals, the species has been removed from the state's main review list (Faulkner 2012a). Nesting has not been confirmed in Colorado but was just across the state border near Laramie, Wyoming, in 2005 (Faulkner 2005).

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). Colorado's first was represented by an adult that roosted near the John Martin Reservoir dam, *Bent*, 13–14 August 2002 (*DN†, CLW†*; 2004-83). Colorado has since accepted two more records, both of single adults, in July 2009 and July 2010. All three records are from eastern Colorado.



Figure 1. Transitional-plumaged Arctic Loon at Walker Pit near Franktown, *Douglas*, 19 November 2002.

Photo by Tony Leukering

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Harris's Hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*). The committee reviewed documentations for three occurrences in 1994, accepting two of them: one adult near Waterton, *Jefferson*, 17–23 December 1994 (*JK*, *SS*, *JBH*, *MJ*, *JR†*; 10-94-17) and one adult in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 19 December 1994 (*BLs*; 10-94-18). An apparent movement by this species outside its normal range in 1994 was enough to assuage concerns regarding these birds' origin (Prather 1997). Colorado has two additional records, from October 1995 and June 2007. Pending review are two additional records, both with photographs, from 2013 and 2014.

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*). An adult soaring over Colorado NM, *Mesa*, 17 July 1999, was well documented by attendees and staff of the Rocky Mountain [né Colorado] Bird Observatory's summer camp (NB, *JDu†*, MN, *AW†*, *SY†*; 1999-176) for the state's first record. Colorado has another record from Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo*, 27 April 2002. The committee also has received photographs of one from spring 2014; the record is pending review.

Curlew Sandpiper. (*Calidris ferruginea*). An alternate-plumaged female at Upper Queen Reservoir, *Kiowa*, 30 June–1 July 1998 (*DN†*, *DSc*; 1998-49) represents the first of currently four records for Colorado. The other three records are of single birds during fall migration in September 2005, August 2012, and August 2013.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). A basic-plumaged individual remained at Cherry Creek Reservoir, *Arapahoe*, 8–9 October 1988 (*JR*, *SS*, *DM†*; 23-88-33). Colorado's subsequent three records are all of individuals staying very briefly in April 1990, October 1998, and October 2000.

Western Gull. (*Larus occidentalis*). Colorado's first Western Gull visited Chatfield SP, *Douglas/Jefferson*, 1–18 June 2011 (*GW†*, *DA†*, *PG†*, *BMd†*, *BKP†*, *NP*; 2011-81). This individual, which had a lame left leg, had the solid bright yellow orbital ring and black wingtips indicating a pure Western Gull and a saddle color within the range of variation of the northern subspecies *occidentalis*. Colorado has three other accepted records, of a third-cycle subadult and an alternate-plumaged adult, both from March 2012, and another adult in October 2013. All four of these records are from eastern Colorado. In a split decision, the CBRC did not accept a record of a Western-type gull, photographed in southwestern Colorado in April 2012, that appeared to have an infusion of Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*) genes.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). A first-cycle immature at Valco Ponds SWA and the Pueblo landfill, *Pueblo*, 9–10 January 1999 represented the first record for Colorado (*RO*, *BKP*, *DQ*, *MJ*, *PG*, *TL†*, *TDu*; 1999-171). Another in its first cycle occurred in March 2000, but it wasn't until 2005 that the species became annual during late winter and early spring. Colorado currently has 33 records, with the initial dates of sightings in November (1), December (5), January (7), February (5), March (10), and April (5), and another one in the queue for review.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). An adult in definitive basic plumage was in the greater Loveland area, *Larimer*, 6 March–6 April 2000 (*DL*, *RH†v*, *TL*, *JM*, *LN*, *RO*, *LS†*, *DE*; 2000-164). Colorado's second record is of another long-staying adult at Aurora Reservoir, *Arapahoe*, 15 December 2013–3 January 2014.

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*). Semo (2007) exhaustively reviewed the occurrence of a 3- or 4-year-old male Kelp Gull of the wide-ranging nominate subspecies *dominicanus* that was at Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, 17–27 September 2003, and between Fossil Creek Reservoir and Donath Reservoir, both *Larimer*, 19 October–20 November 2003 (*HK*, *UK*, *PG*, *RH†*, *TL†*, *BMd†*, *NP*, *BS†*, *AS†*; 2003-78; Figure 2). The committee acknowledged that it could not prove with certainty that this individual did not possess mixed-species heritage. The Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) is the only species with which the Kelp Gull is known to have hybridized in the Northern Hemisphere, and this was the only pairing the committee considered. While F1 Kelp × Herring hybrids appear intermediate between the parental species, Kelp × post-F1



Figure 2. After more than a week at Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, in September 2003, this near-adult Kelp Gull was observed at two locations in *Larimer* during October and November 2003 (here at Donath Reservoir, 26 October).

Photo by Bill Maynard

backcrosses can appear phenotypically identical to a pure Kelp Gull (Dittmann and Cardiff 2005). Expert opinion solicited for this record noted unanimously that this individual appeared to be a phenotypically pure Kelp Gull.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*). Colorado's only Sooty Tern record is of an adult apparently driven inland by Hurricane Ike (BKPt, JK, BMD†, NP, BS, AS†, GW†; 2008-107). This bird, discovered 12 September 2008 at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*, disappeared for a brief period before anxious birders refound it at Lake Meredith, *Crowley*, 14.5 km to the northwest. The bird departed early the next morning (Percival 2009).

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*). One at Nee Noshe Reservoir, *Kiowa*, 15–16 July 1997, provided Colorado with its first record (DN†, MJ sk, DSc sk; 1997-42) (Nelson 1999). The state's subsequent two records are of single birds making brief visits in June 2004 and July 2012. All three records are from eastern Colorado.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*). Quite unexpected, an adult was found at Manitou Lake, *Teller*, 27 June 2013, and actively foraged at Manitou Lake and along Trout Creek through 30 June 2013 (BLft, RL, JDr†, DF†, BK, PG†, BKPt; 2013-177; this issue's front cover). The two New World subspecies, *acufavidus* and *eurygnathus*, are distinct, as the latter usually has an entirely yellow or orange bill. The Eurasian subspecies *sandvicensis*, can be distinguished with caution, in part, by its longer, thinner, drooping bill. Efe et al. (2009) suggested it be distinguished as species, but Chesser et al. (2013) believed the evidence for this inadequate. Several photos of the Colorado tern showed that its bill was thick and fairly straight, as in *acufavidus*. The origin of this bird is of some concern because there are very few inland records of this species, most (all?) of storm-driven birds. Colorado experienced no major weather systems before or during the time that this tern was found. However,

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its behavior of actively plunge-diving for prey, the lack of leg bands, and lack of feather wear all suggested that this was a wild bird and not one recently escaped from captivity.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*). An adult found at Jett Reservoir, *Kiowa*, in southeastern Colorado, stayed for three days, 19–21 July 2001 (DF sk, PG, ROv, CLW†, DN: 2001-64). Colorado's only other record is of one at Pastorius Reservoir, *La Plata*, 29 April 2004, in the southwest corner of the state.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). A small colony of at least 11 birds in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, went undetected by the birding community until July 1996 (TL, PG, MJ; 25-96-34), though local residents related that the birds had been present since 1995 (Janos 1998). The species continued its well-documented U.S. expansion through the state and is now considered a common year-round resident in much of Colorado.

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*). The committee received documentation for three occurrences in 1992, all of which were accepted. The first was of one at Lafayette, *Boulder*, 4 November–16 December 1992 (MJ, DN†, DMn; 25-92-3), the other two records of two birds at Vineland, *Pueblo*, 15 November 1992–4 January 1993, with one persisting to 28 February 1993 (MJ, MY, JW; 25-92-12), and three birds at Lamar, *Prowers*, 23 November–21 December 1992 (JSt†; 25-92-2). The Inca Dove established very small breeding colonies in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, and Lamar, *Prowers*, during the early 2000s, but these populations disappeared by 2011. Colorado currently has 22 accepted records.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*). Colorado's first record, of one at Deckers, *Douglas*, 8 November 1981 (DMI; 25-81-64), was quickly followed by the second, at Tamarack Ranch SWA, *Logan*, 17 December 1981 (GBr; 25-81-63). Given that these records, and another from December 1994, were all single-observer reports without physical evidence, it was not until multiple observers documented the occurrence of one at Jackson Reservoir, *Morgan*, in November 1999 that the species was added to the state list. Colorado has just one additional record, of one in November 2011, which contributed to establishing a pattern of late fall and early winter (November–December) occurrence of the Common Ground-Dove in the state.

Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*). One visiting a feeder near Durango, *La Plata*, 25–26 July 1998 (MPx†; 1998-80), represented the state's first record. Colorado has a second record, of one photographed at Conifer, *Jefferson*, 12 September–4 October 2003, which was originally identified as a Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) (Faulkner 2012b). These records fit the Green Violetear's pattern of summer vagrancy to the U.S., likely involving the partially migratory subspecies *thalassinus* of central Mexico (Howell et al. 2014).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). The state's first record is represented by an adult male at Rye, *Pueblo*, 13 July 1991 (DSi, TS†; 31-91-42). Colorado now has 24 records of which 18 are of fall migrants with initial detection dates from 19 August to 3 October. Two other records for July are also likely of fall migrants, while the remaining four records are of spring migrants found 30 April–13 May.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*). A male at Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee NG, *Weld*, 17–18 May 2001, provided Colorado's first record (RD†, SD, RHv, SMe; 2001-46), which remains the only spring occurrence among the total of now seven records. The remaining six are from July (1), August (1), September (2), November (1), and December (1).

Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cyanthus latirostris*). A female at Clifton, *Mesa*, 14–15 November 2002 (DF†, TL†, DN†, RO, GW†, CLW†, SB, BMr; 2002-100) represents the first of now three state records. The bird had apparently been present since at least July, but the Colorado birding community did not become aware of it

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until November, when Steve Bouricius checked on the report of a late Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) that turned out to be this species (Leukering 2004). Remarkably, two of Colorado's records are of birds previously banded in Louisiana! The female at Clifton had been banded in January 2002, and an adult male found at Colorado Springs, *El Paso*, on 13 April 2006 had been banded the previous December. An adult male found 11 km south of Lamar, *Prowers*, on 18 April 2005, was not captured (and photos do not show the legs well), so the committee is unaware whether or not it too had been previously banded.

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*). Colorado's first and second records overlapped during the same summer. An adult female visited feeders at a residence near Durango, *La Plata*; the committee received documentation for 19 June–24 July 2005 (JBef†, PG, JK†, CWi, SA; 2005-69; Figure 3), though the bird apparently stayed through 7 August. During this period, an immature female was first observed on 22 July in northern *La Plata* ~35 km north of the first bird, and it apparently also stayed until 7 August (DF†, LS†, RB; 2005-77). These White-eared Hummingbirds occurred during the species' unprecedented movement during the summer and early autumn of 2005, which generated first records for northern Arizona, southeastern New Mexico, the Texas Panhandle, and only the second record east of the Mississippi River, of one in Michigan (Semo 2006).

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*). Currently, the state's first accepted record is of four individuals just north of the New Mexico border at Lake Dorothy SWA, *Las Animas*, 20 July–4 September 1994 (PG, JM, MY; 33-94-43). The status of a provisionally accepted record at Billy Creek SWA, *Ouray*, 5 September 1980 (unknown observer; 33-80-60) mentioned by Chase (1982) is under review. A very small breeding colony has persisted near Durango, *La Plata*, since at least 1995, and a pair has nested at Pueblo Mountain Park near Beulah, *Pueblo*, since 2012. Colorado currently has 17 records, although a few of these may pertain to the same individuals over multiple years (e.g., the Durango breeding colony).



Figure 3. The first of two female White-eared Hummingbirds found in *La Plata* during mid-summer 2005 (here at Durango, 2 July).

Photo by Bill Schmoker

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Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*). An injured adult found near Trinidad, *Las Animas*, 29 September 1997, taken to a raptor rehabilitator, and ultimately released provided Colorado with its first record (GE†; 1997-21). This individual showed none of the telltale signs of previous captivity, such as worn tail feathers or abnormal bill or talon growth (Evans 1998). Colorado has two additional records, both of single adults, for October 2010 and July 2011.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*). Colorado's first record was provisionally accepted as a single-observer report of one in Pueblo, *Pueblo*, on 28 May 2000 (MJ; 2000-165). Subsequently, one was photographed in August 2005, one was captured at a banding station in May 2006, and one was audio recorded in May 2008. There are currently nine records of this species.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*). One at Van's Grove, *Bent*, 12 May 2008 (BKPt, JK†, BMd†; 2009-32; Figure 4) remains the only Acadian Flycatcher recorded in Colorado.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*). A singing male was at Hannah Ranch SWA, *El Paso*, 19 May 1991 (JCo, BPr, JP; 34-91-47). Despite a range contraction and population decrease between the late 1800s and 1970 (Conway and Kirkpatrick 2007), the species had historically ranged as far north as Prescott, Arizona, and west-central New Mexico, so its occurrence in Colorado was plausible.

Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*). One photographed at Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee NG, *Weld*, 29 October 2007 (DL†; 2007-76; Figure 5), provided Colorado with its first record. Its large bill implied it was of the subspecies *magister* of the southwestern U.S. and western Mexico. Colorado has a second record of one photographed in *Alamosa*, 29 June 2013. Still pending review is one photographed in 2014.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*). Colorado's sole record is of one observed for just 13 minutes in the backyard of a private residence near Lamar, *Prowers*, 21 June 2013 (JSt†; 2013-174). Kansas has a single record from Cimarron NG, *Morton*, 18–21 May 1995, ~120 km southeast of where this bird was observed in Colorado's southeastern corner. The Colorado record currently represents the farthest north this species has been documented in North America.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). One record for Colorado, of an adult at Adobe Creek Reservoir, *Bent*, 18–19 September 2002 (DN†, RH†, TL†; 2002-77; Figure 6). Although ascertaining the age of *Myiodynastes* flycatchers can be difficult, photos of this bird show worn flight feathers and a long, wide dark shaft streak on the outermost rectrix, indicating an adult (Pyle 1997, Leukering and Semo 2004).

Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*). One at Waterton Canyon, *Jefferson*, 23 October 1992, provided Colorado with its first record (DWd, JK sk; 34-92-190). The state's only other record is of one photographed near Parker, *Elbert*, 3 July 2004.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*). Leukering (2011) considered the Cave Swallow to be a "stealth" vagrant to Colorado. As he noted, it has been reported in the state on multiple occasions since 2003, but until 2013 the CBRC has received documentation for only one of those reports, which it did not accept in a mixed decision (Semo and Faulkner 2011). The only accepted record is of a juvenile photographed at Prewitt Reservoir, *Washington*, 17 July 2013 (SM†; 2013-183).

Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*). After this species and the Winter Wren (*T. hiemalis*) were split from *T. troglodytes* in 2010 (Chesser et al. 2010), the CBRC received photographs of one at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca*, 2 January 2005 (TL†, CLW; 2010-88; 7-0). Prior to 2010, *T. hiemalis* was known to be of annual occurrence in Colorado but the status of *T. pacificus* as currently defined was unclear, with no records accepted by the CBRC. Subsequently, the committee has accepted nine Pacific

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Wren records, all of which are from the eastern half of the state from mid-October to early January.

Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*). Rather surprisingly, this migrant and winter resident in the Great Plains was first recorded in Colorado only in 2003, when one was observed at Nee Noshe Reservoir, *Kiowa*, 11–12 October 2003 (BS, SMA, JM, GW†; 2003-82). The state still has just a total of five records, all but one (from *Boulder*) from the far eastern plains. The *Boulder* record is also the only one for spring, 16 April 2013.

Tropical Parula (*Setophaga pitiayumi*). A singing male set up territory in Grandview Cemetery, Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 18 June–4 July 2005 (DF, PG, LG†, TH†, NL, JM†, NP s, BS†, CWi†, DL, JM; 2005-71; Figure 7). This record represents the northernmost documented occurrence of this species.

Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*). Colorado's lone record is of one along the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, *Jefferson*, 3 May 1993 (DN†, JR†, DSc, SS; 52-93-36).

Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*). Colorado's first record is of one photographed in the southeastern corner of the state at a private residence near Lamar, *Prowers*, 16 September 2006 (JSt†; 2006-128). Since then, birders have documented multiple singing males near Durango, *La Plata*, in 2010; three records for the Devil's Kitchen Trail, Colorado NM, *Mesa*, 2010-2012, including successful nesting in 2012; and a nonsinging individual in rural *Huerfano* in 2012.

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*). Colorado's first of four records is of a female found 7 km west of the Kansas border near Holly, *Prowers*, 17–18 December 1989 (MJ, KK, DN†; 56-89-53). The other three records are from August 1996, April 1999, and June 2011. Vagrancy of the Pyrrhuloxia in the southern Great Plains typically occurs in late fall and winter, so the late spring and summer dates for three of Colorado's four records are somewhat atypical (Patten 2006).

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*). An immature male, probably of the eastern subspecies *aeneus*, was near a private residence in Lakewood, *Jefferson*, 18 May–5 June 1990 (PG, MJ, BC, JCl; 54-90-76). The committee recently has received documentation for this bird's continuing occurrence at its original location for 17 June and at another nearby residence on 30 June. This remains Colorado's only record.

Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*). A definitive-plumaged male occupied a small territory near Cortez, *Montezuma*, 19 June–14 July 2006 (RH†, JK†, BMd†, BKP†, NP, AS†, CWi†, NE, JR; 2006-102). It resembled the southwestern U.S. subspecies *nelsoni* in its yellow (less orange) plumage, long bill, and relatively short tail (Semo 2008). Still under review is the photograph of an adult female in May 2014.

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*). Colorado's first, an apparent adult female, patronized feeders at a private residence in Loveland, *Larimer*, 8 December 2007–2 January 2008 (CK†, PG, GG†, TL†, BKP, NP, AS†, AK; 2007-103; Figure 8). It appeared to be of the subspecies *microstictus* of western Mexico. Colorado's only other record is of one near Fountain, *El Paso*, 25 November 2011.

Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni*). The massive redpoll invasion of winter 2012–2013 yielded six records. The first was of multiple individuals coming to feeders at the Discovery Museum, Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 23 December 2012–26 January 2013 (TH, KMD, RH†, BMd†, MM, SMI†; 2013-10; Figure 9). These birds occurred among the hundreds of Common Redpolls (*A. flammea*) also coming to those feeders but did not associate specifically with each other. All 14 documentations received were of single birds, and 10 of these included photographs. Sex and plumage differences evident in the photographs reveal up to three individuals per day but it is impractical for the committee to attempt to determine exactly how many individuals might have been documented over their month-long stay. The additional five records, all with photographs, date from 29 December 2012 to 3 March 2013. The committee



Figure 4. Colorado's overdue (and still its only) Acadian Flycatcher at Van's Grove, Bent, 12 May 2009.

Photo by Brandon Percival



Figure 5. This Brown-crested Flycatcher, of the subspecies *magister*, made a quick stop at Crow Valley Campground, Weld, 29 October 2007, in northeastern Colorado.

Photo by David Leatherman



Figure 6. Colorado's only Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, photographed during its two-day visit to a woodlot at Adobe Creek Reservoir, *Bent*, 18–19 September 2002 (here on 19 September).

Photo by Tony Leukering



Figure 7. This adult male Tropical Parula set up a territory at the Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins, *Larimer*, 18 June–4 July 2005 (here on 22 June).

Photo by Rachel Hopper

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did not accept six other reports, even though these also included photographs. For these, outside expert opinions were not decisive or at least two committee members concluded that the birds should be left unidentified to species because they were not classic examples of the Hoary Redpoll.

Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*). A male stayed at a private residence in Grand Junction, Mesa, 23 May–24 July 2007 (LA, PG, GG†, RH†, BM†, NP; 2007-38; Figure 10) and may have sired young with a female Lesser Goldfinch (*S. psaltria*) (Brinkley 2008). This species breeds in California and northern Baja California and winters regularly in southern Arizona and northwestern mainland Mexico, making occasional winter movements farther east to New Mexico, so the occurrence of one during summer was quite unexpected. Semo (2008 and references therein) noted that single males also occurred in 2007 in southwestern Utah (late March and presumably the same individual again in early September) and west-central New Mexico, 19 July–5 August, lending support to a pattern of anomalous vagrancy by that species in 2007.

SPECIES NOT REPRESENTING A CHANGE FROM THE COLORADO LIST IN 1985

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). This species was originally placed on the Colorado list on the basis of a record from Chatfield SP, Douglas/Jefferson, 21 September 1980 (Chase 1982). A subsequent committee removed this record, as well as another from 1981, because of concerns regarding origin (Nelson 1991), an issue the previous committee had considered (Leukering 2003). In 2002, after the species had established a pattern of vagrancy in the Great Plains, the committee re-reviewed four documented reports and accepted one: an adult at Adams and Bunker Reservoir No. 1, Weld, 11 July 1991 (GB†; 8-91-14). This remains the only accepted record for Colorado.

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*). Colorado's only documented Emperor Goose is one killed by a hunter near Hudson, Weld, in late January 2009. Although the CBRC did not accept the record, its analysis may have implications for other potential extralimital records of the Emperor Goose in the interior U.S. (Semo 2011). Semo and I examined and photographed the mounted specimen, and the taxidermist allowed two underwing coverts to be pulled. The bird showed no sign of captivity, such as removal of the hallux from the right foot, leg bands, tattooing on foot webbing, or abnormal feather wear or calloused feet. Comparison of stable-isotope ratios in the pulled feathers by the U.S. Geological Survey with those in birds within their native range in Alaska implied that the Colorado specimen had molted those feathers at a latitude similar to Colorado (Semo 2011). Possibly, it was a wild bird that had spent the previous summer in or near Colorado. Regardless, the majority of committee members were conservative and voted to not accept because of the results of the stable-isotope analysis and the possibility that this Emperor Goose was not of wild provenance.

California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). The identification of three birds at Land's End on the Grand Mesa, Mesa, 25 August 1998 is not in doubt; however, because these birds originated from the recently introduced population in Arizona this occurrence does not qualify as a state record. Two second-year birds (N1 and N8) reported in 2015 had been released in Grand Canyon NP in September 2014. N8 was photographed in southwestern Colorado in mid-April, then approximately a week later in Los Alamos, New Mexico. N1 was observed in a Colorado Springs backyard in late May and captured for rehabilitation and re-release.

Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). This species was on the state list in 1985 (Gent 1987) on the basis of one at Chatfield State Park, Douglas, 20 June 1980 (RA, KK; 10-80-83). A later committee removed this record under the mistaken belief that the species was "quite sedentary" and cautioned that a pattern of vagrancy

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should be established before that record was accepted (Nelson 1991). After the committee had received three additional reports, it unanimously re-accepted the 1980 record as Colorado's first (Prather 1996). Colorado currently has 11 records of the Common Black Hawk, seven of them since 2005, from both sides of the continental divide. Their distribution by month is April (3), May (2), June (5), and September (1).

REPORTERS AND CITED OBSERVERS

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Figure 8. This Streak-backed Oriole frequented a feeder near Loveland, *Larimer*, 8 December 2007–2 January 2008 (here on 9 December).

Photo by Bill Schmoker

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Figure 9. One of multiple Hoary Redpolls at the Discovery Museum, *Larimer*, part of a major redpoll invasion during the winter 2012-2013 (here on 11 January).

Photo by Rachel Hopper



Figure 10. Colorado's first recorded Lawrence's Goldfinch was this adult male at Grand Junction, Mesa, 23 May–24 July 2007 (here on 26 May).

Photo by Bill Schmoker

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