C.F.O. Journal

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C.F.O. JOURNAL

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CFO JOURNAL is a quarterly publication devoted to the field study of birds in Colorado. Articles and notes of scientific or general interest, and reports of unusual observations, are solicited. Send manuscripts, with photos and drawings to: Barry Knapp, 4695 Osage Dr., Boulder, CO 80303. Send rare bird reports to: CFO Official Records Committee, c/o Zoological Collections, Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park, Denver, CO 80205.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable at the beginning of each year), including a subscription to CFO JOURNAL: Sustaining, $100; Supporting, $25; Contributing, $10; Regular, $5. Dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Membership inquiries and renewals should be addressed to Judd Sundine, Treasurer, 5325 Garland, Arvada, CO 80002. Send change of address to Camille Cummings, PO Box 109, Berthoud, CO 80513.

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Your 1980 CFO membership renewal is now due. You may use the form printed on back of the wrapper & the enclosed envelope to make your payment.

Cover Illustration: Dipper, by Narca Moore

FROM THE EDITORS

The cause of the long delays in publishing the seasonal reports has been the difficulty of finding people willing to take on the onerous task of compiling them. We are wondering whether, in the interests of timeliness and Journal space, it might be better to abandon the present comprehensive format of the seasonal reports in favor of a more abbreviated one, perhaps a "Seasonal Highlights." In order to continue the present format we will need some new volunteers to compile them (largely from the material Hugh Kingery receives as American Birds Regional Editor), as some of the recent seasonal report compilers wish to do no more. Members' opinions are solicited.

Correction: Due to an editorial oversight, the consecutive pagination in Vol 13 #2 is incorrect. The correct pagination is obtained by adding 28 to each page number of that issue. Future references to, and the forthcoming index for Volume 13, will employ the corrected pagination.

SITE GUIDES NEEDED

The C.F.O. Journal welcomes contributions in the form of site guides to productive birding areas throughout the state. The format can be centered around finding a particular species, birding hotspots in a particular county or latilong, or suggested stops for lucrative birding along a road, river, lake, or in a state park. Successful formats used in the past can be found by consulting old C.F.O. Journal issues. Such contributions not only serve to help other members bird more efficiently in unknown territory, but they also provide a standard by which future environmental or species distribution changes can be measured. Please let all of us know how and where you bird in your particular area. Send your contributions to the C.F.O. editors. Thank you.

1980 CFO ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting this year will be held in Boulder on Saturday May 24 at the historic Chautauqua Resort. In this quiet rustic setting there are rooms available for lodging, a cafeteria and dining room, and a fine meeting hall for the papers session. Some of the best birding in Boulder is in and around the Chautauqua grounds.

Nominating Committee - Persons wishing to make recommendations or have input to the CFO Nominating committee should contact Barry Knapp, 4695 Osage Dr., Boulder, CO 80303. Nominations for two directors are needed.

Papers Session - A series of 20-minute talks will be given on Saturday. At this early date we already have two papers promised.

** Identification of Spizella sparrows by Mark Holmgren.
** Birds of Mesa de Mayo in So. Colorado by Charles Chase.

Call for Papers: Anyone wishing to present a paper or lead an identification session please submit an abstract by April 15 to: Peter Gent, 55 South 35th St., Boulder, Colorado 80302.

Banquet - It will be held on Saturday evening at Chautauqua. The evening entertainment will be two films by Alfred M. Bailey.

Art Display - An added feature at this year's meeting will be displays of nature art. Anyone wishing to display and/or sell artwork or photographs please contact Bill Ervin, Dept. EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309, so that we can accommodate everyone.

Field Trips - Because this is Memorial Day weekend, a two day birding trip to Julesburg is planned for after the meeting (Sunday and Monday the 25th and 26th). Possible species: Great Crested Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern warblers, Hudsonian Godwit, and White-rumped Sandpiper, to name just a few.

An alternative one-day trip to Barr Lake near Denver on Sunday is scheduled.

Saturday morning mini-trips around Boulder birding hot spots will be led by Boulderites.

Look for further details in the next CFO Journal, but set aside the Memorial Day Weekend for getting together with birding friends. It will be fun and educational.

Terry Root, Chairwoman,
1980 CFO Annual Meeting
EPO Biology
University of Colorado
Boulder, CO 80309

THE SECOND DMNH/CFO TAXONOMY CLINIC WITH DR. ALLAN R. PHILLIPS 1 JUNE 1979

cosponsored by:

THE DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

and

THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST

transcribed and edited by

Mark Holmgren

1915 ½ Goss Street
Boulder, CO 80302

On June 1, 1979, Dr. Allan R. Phillips conducted the second Bird Taxonomy Clinic at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The clinic was sponsored by the DMNH and the Colorado Field Ornithologists. Dr. Phillips is an internationally recognized avian taxonomist whose work is centered primarily around the birds of Mexico and the western United States--their distribution, patterns of migration, and sub-specific relationships. He is the senior author of The Birds of Arizona as well as over 130 publications since 1933. Currently, he is working on an updating or miniature revision of Ridgway's The Birds of North and Middle America. He serves as a Research Associate to the DMNH and Guest Research Associate with the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon. His permanent residence is in Monterrey, Mexico.

During his most recent visit to Colorado, Dr. Phillips was particularly interested in gathering information on the dates and migrational routes of the various sub-species of Catharus thrushes and Empidonax flycatchers. While netting at John Martin Reservoir with Charles Chase he collected the state's second specimen record for the Painted Bunting.

What follows is the first of a two-part condensed and edited account of the five-hour clinic. Dr. Phillips' comments were directed to the 12 participants who posed questions about some of the more challenging aspects of Colorado field ornithology, primarily pertaining to identification at the specific and sub-specific levels. The text was edited to reflect not only Dr. Phillips' expertise in avian taxonomy, but also his fundamentalist attitude toward ornithology.

PART I Oporornis warblers, Empidonax flycatchers, dowitchers, sandpipers.

Q: Dr. Phillips, would you discuss the field identification of the Connecticut, Mourning, and MacGillivray's warblers with respect to sexual differences and plumage differences between spring and fall birds?

ARP: The warbler genus Oporornis is sometimes recognized as a subgenus of Geothlypis, the yellowthroats. There are three types of grey-headed birds in breeding plumage. The Connecticut Warbler has no black on the head in any season. It has a complete white eye ring not interrupted in front of the eye. This full eye ring is a pretty good field mark in spring or fall unless you run into a hybrid. The other two species, Mourning- and MacGillivray's-warblers, both have black on the grey hood of spring males. At all times nearly all MacGillivray's have white eye arcs, set off by black lores in spring and summer males. Occasionally you will see one that lacks the eye arcs and occasionally a Mourning with an eye arc even in spring. The presence or absence of eye arcs in spring is then a 98% character for the two species (i.e., at least 98% of the observed MacGillivray's specimens will show them; 98% of the spring Mourning specimens will not). In the fall, young Mourning Warblers very commonly have eye arcs, so the presence of this character alone will not set the species apart in fall. The only sure mark distinguishing the Mourning from MacGillivray's is found by measuring wing length minus tail length. In Mourning, the difference is usually more than 11 mm, but less than 19 mm.

In MacGillivray's the difference is usually less than 9 mm. In Connecticut, the difference is 19 mm or more. [see Phillips, 1947:296,300; Lanyon and Bull, 1967]. But geographic variation occurs. As one examines breeding MacGillivray's Warblers farther and farther south of the breeding range of the Mourning Warbler, the tail gets longer and longer. This is one reason why I suspect they are both the same species. Breeding populations of the two "species" meet on the eastern edge of the Rockies in Alberta. Previous studies in Alberta on hybridization have completely neglected measurements, so the issue of whether or not they are "good species" has not been settled.

Q: Could we discuss the Empidonax flycatchers. What characters are reliable in the field for distinguishing the species? Is identification as difficult for birds in the hand or do we have more to work with?

ARP: First of all, whether we're dealing with birds in the hand or as seen through binoculars no one character in a vacuum tells us everything. Taxonomy is the art of putting all the characters together--getting a consensus of characters. If one or two of them don't agree, well, then the bird is abnormal, but nevertheless, that is what the bird is. Genetically it comes off that stock. This is what taxonomy, birding, banding,

genetics is all about--what is the parentage, the origin of the bird in question? So all characters must be used together, and the failure of one character does not necessarily indicate hybridism. Among Empidonax very seldom, if ever, will the species hybridize.

In the field the only reliable characters in winter or migration are the dip of the tail in the Gray Flycatcher and the call notes of those species that are inclined to do so. Frequently, the Least Flycatcher will give the "che-bek" call, and the call note of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is unmistakable--very different from any other in the group; it is coarser, less like a subdued whistle. Now some of the very sharp California birders feel they have come up with some other ways of distinguishing among migrating Empidonaces based on netting, identifying the bird in the hand, releasing and observing its behavior. If they feel they can distinguish birds based on the combination of tail and wing flicking or the diminished eyering in Willow Flycatcher, then God bless them. These are characters I haven't noticed, but which may well exist. But their observations, especially of flycatchers and thrushes in California, may not take into account racial differences found in other parts of the west or even within California for that matter. You cannot neglect subspecies [see Phillips, 1975]. This is one reason why an adequate museum series is all-important in answering the questions of race, sex, age, season, and color-phase differences among birds of a single species.

What I do to identify an Empidonax skin is to read the label as to the date of collection and the plumage. I go to a museum with an adequate series, then get out several birds of each species taken at the same time of year in the same plumage and place them together in species groups. Generally Empidonax have a full molt in spring, so the typical characters show best as the birds are coming north. Most of them go south before molting. I then compare the unidentified skin with each group and what I will find are the following characters. Ventrally most Empidonax are alike except the Yellow-bellied and Western, which show yellow up over the chest and throat. In others the posterior underparts may be yellow, even pronounced (e.g., fall Hammond's), but it will stop at the lower chest, leaving the throat gray or white. In juvenal-plumaged Westerns the yellow throat-wash may be pretty light and in the California Island race (E.d. insulicola) the throat wash in adults is just as dull as in the juvenal. Some fall Acadians will have a bright yellow throat which looks identical to a Yellow-bellied. Even some spring Acadians may show this. Hammond's usually shows the darkest throat--it will never get really white. Willow and Alder have a white throat compared to Hammond's.

So ventrally we have two yellow-throated species--Western and Yellow-bellied; one species in which some individuals are yellow-throated--Acadian; and one that is sometimes partly yellow--Hammond's. So ventral colors alone are not good

enough. Dorsally one species is grayer or paler--Gray Flycatcher. Generally, those species that are yellow underneath are greener on top. The greenest are Acadian and Yellow-bellied, then Western and some fall Hammond's; then Alder; Willow, Dusky, Least, and most Hammond's are dull olive brown to olive-gray; and Gray is the dullest.

All these subtle differences are only visible with birds in the hand in full daylight; often it is a matter of judgment since there is a lot of variation, and also the plumages vary from season to season. Some juvenals can be pretty brown.

There is one character which separates almost all eastern from all western Empidonaces. In the eastern species (Least, Acadian, Yellow-bellied and to a slight extent Alder), a sharp contrast can be seen between the very dark base of the wing feathers and the extensive pale edges of the tertials and wing-bars. In the western species these colors blend more, the contrast is not as bold.

Q: It appears from the specimens we're examining that perhaps the wingbars on western empids have a sort of greenish or yellowish tinge to them. Do you find this is consistent?

ARP: This depends on the species. The duskiness of the eastern species make the wingbars stand out more. The western Willow Flycatcher in spring (the form found in Colorado) tends to have a duller, more subdued, rather darker or browner anterior wing-bar than any other Empidonax. The one time I had a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in my backyard in Tucson I knew it was an eastern flycatcher by the boldness of the wingbar.

Empidonax can be grouped on the basis of bill width. This is the primary distinction in bill morphology. The narrow-billed group consists of Hammond, Dusky, and Gray. The Gray Flycatcher's bill is usually longest but, nevertheless, narrow. The Least Flycatcher is intermediate, and in the broad-billed group are Willow, Alder, Yellow-bellied, Western, and Acadian pretty much in order of increasing bill width. I take an unidentified specimen and compare it to a series of skins taken at the same time of year. I look down on the birds resting on their back and place the bird in the appropriate group based on bill width and throat color. by then examining the breast, belly, and wingbars, I can usually tell what species I'm dealing with. Of course then I check wing measurements and all the other characters (see Phillips et al, 1966, 1970, and A Key to Seven Southwestern Species of Empidonax, Birds of Arizona, 1964:85).

Q: All these characters seem to have so much variation and overlap into each other. Why do taxonomists make nine species out of these birds that all look alike?

Taxonomists haven't made them into nine species; the birds themselves have. Each of the nine species is a good species, and hardly ever will they hybridize (see also Lanyon, 1978 for an excellent piece of taxonomic work on the South American flycatcher genus, Myiarchus). They all have their own calls, nests, and eggs. The Acadian builds a pensile nest, something like a vireo (a fact known since 1880); the Western nests in holes in banks or rock ledges, the Willow-Alder group nests in low, leafy bushes; Hammond's in high fir or pine trees, the Gray in Pinyon-Juniper or sage-brush. Eggs can be helpful in separating the narrow-billed from the broad-billed group. In this respect the Least Flycatcher is lumped with the narrow-billed group, which lays unspotted eggs. The broad-billed group lays spotted eggs.

The Least and the Western are lumped with the narrow-billed group when you look at the emargination (abrupt narrowing of the web toward the tip) of the outer web of the sixth primary (see Phillips et al, 1966 for a complete discussion with illustrations). This character is good in about 85 (or more) of 100 specimens. The Willow is the only species in the west that shows a uniform outer web in the 6th primary. Least is the only one in the east that consistently shows the emargination. This character can always be assessed by comparing the 6th with the 7th primary, which is emarginated in each species of Empidonax.

Tail shape can sometimes be used as an additional character. In the Least Flycatcher the central rectrices are generally just a shade shorter than the longest rectrix creating a slight notch. In Traill's and Alder the central rectrix is usually just as long as any of the others. Hammond's will show a pronounced and even notch, 2 mm or more. In Dusky and Gray too much variation exists to use this as a character. From Hammond's to Dusky to Gray one can see a gradual whitening in the outer web of the outer tail feather. No other northern species shows this. (We aren't discussing the Buff-breasted flycatcher.) The edgings of the primary coverts is a helpful auxilliary character in separating Dusky from Gray if the feathers are still fresh. In the Dusky they are solidly dark, while in the Gray they are definitely pale-edged. And then you have the wing-tail difference which is distinctly less in Dusky (7.0 mm or less in females, 8.0 mm or less in males) than in any other Empidonax because of its longer tail, with little overlap, particularly with Hammond's. Wing lengths and formulae are discussed in the 1966 and 1970 articles in Bird-Banding.

Q: How do you distinguish between Yellow-bellied and Acadian Flycatcher?

ARP: The Acadian has a paler green back and a paler crown. the bill of the Acadian averages wider, and the wing is more pointed. Note the somewhat paler tarsi in Acadian; they are not quite so dusky or blackish as in Yellow-bellied. The mouth color in

Acadian is not bright orange-yellow as it is in most Empidonax, but varies from flesh-color to pale dull yellow (see Bird Banding, 1966).

By the way, when netting or collecting Empidonaces, or most other birds for that matter, label the colors of all soft parts: the mouth lining, tarsi, feet, iris, eyering (if any) and bill.

Q: Do you believe that the Alder Flycatcher is as rare in Colorado as records would indicate?

ARP: No, I do not. But one needs to go out at just the right time of the year (around June 1) and collect one. There are three Colorado records for the Alder, all of which are specimens in the Denver collection, the westernmost of which was collected May 28, 1904, in Arvada along Clear Creek. Not until 1975 was this recognized as an Alder. This again shows the permanent value of a specimen. It may lie around misidentified or unidentified for years. As long as it is preserved with the proper data, eventually the truth will come to light.

Q: The field guides are either incomplete or inaccurate regarding the identification of dowitchers. Could you discuss the differences between Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers?

ARP: Dowitchers are distinguishable either by the call or by some very technical differences in the hand which are really not difficult at all having worked them out, but I had to work very hard to find them. Essentially the Long-billed is a freshwater species. The Short-billed is a polytypic, salt-water species, inhabiting ocean beaches generally, where there is sandy substrate with water action. Many Short-billed Dowitchers remain in the summer south of the species' normal breeding range in the most motley array of plumages, rather than migrating north to their three disjunct breeding grounds. Long-billed Dowitchers molt, even in their first year, to a bright alternate (breeding) plumage and migrate north. After June 4, there are virtually no Long-billed Dowitchers in the U.S. This has not been realized because people have been confused by mislabeled specimens. There are many dowitcher specimens which do not have authentic data and this is why I hammer at people to put complete labels on birds as soon as you get them, whether you're netting or collecting or picking them up as a road-kill or they crash into your picture window. The first thing you do is get a date and a locality on the bird. After weeding out the unlikely dowitcher specimens and then looking at many shorebird groups, I have concluded that oversummering in basic or winter plumage is a characteristic of sea- or salt-water shorebirds generally (i.e., some species) species whose normal habitat is fresh-water do not do that. They go north all the way in summer. There is some problem with this idea in that dowitchers are present in summer inland at the Salton Sea.

They do not call and no one has obtained a specimen so their identificatin is not yet certain.

Long-billed Dowitchers can be distinguished from the Short-billed by examining the base of the culmen directly above the rear end of the nostril. About 1 mm from the feathering, where this is, one can see with or without a hand lens that the culmen is smooth in the Short-billed Dowitchers. In the Long-billed you typically see a series of ridges angling forward on to the culmen above this point, which is about ½ mm from the feathering. This character is good for immature birds also. There is a great deal of overlap between the species in actual bill size. The male Long-bill cannot be distinguished from Short-bills in this character--only the female is truly longer-billed. So, the ridges over the proximal end of the nostril opening are more reliable.

Q: How reliable is the breeding coloration of the underparts in distinguishing the Short- from the Long-billed?

ARP: 99.44% sure if you use all the characters of the breeding plumage. In summer plumage the Long-bill usually, but not always, has a rusty lower belly. The barred flanks described in the field guides are not a good character for the Long-billed Dowitcher. The flanks can be barred in either species. Rather, it is the barred sides of the chest where there is almost 100% separation in the breeding plumage. In the Short-billed the sides are almost always spotted.

The tail feathers of the Long-billed show broad, dusky bars, twice as wide or wider than the white bars. The dark bars on the Short-billed are often less uniform and hardly larger than the white ones, although this is evident only when looking at the lateral, rather than the central tail feathers. This character alone is not 100% sure, but it's pretty good.

The uppertail coverts are barred in the Long-bill and more spotted in the Short-bill. On the fourth primary (the seventh from the outside), the outer web is completely dark at all times in the Long-bill, except for a thin whitish tip; whereas in the Short-bill, the pale of the inner web laps over onto the outer web and there is often a white marking on the outer edge of the outer web.

Q: Is this white marking consistent in all Short-bills?

ARP: No, I'm not saying it's consistent. It is a very good tendency that will appear in 75-80% of the specimens, maybe more. And it's good year round as long as the bird isn't molting. Juvenal-plumaged Long-billed Dowitchers are darker than Short-bills on the breast showing a more gray suffusion through there with less distinct or no dark spotting and usually less of a buffy wash. There is only one specimen record for Short-billed Dowitcher in Colorado and we have no idea which subspecies it might be which passes through the state.

The calls are distinctive, but it's not the number of calls that's important in distinguishing between the species--the more excited they get the more calls they give. It's the quality of the note that's important. In the Short-bill it's mellow as the field guides say, but in the Long-billed it's the "metallic" quality of the call that's distinct.

Q: Dr. Phillips, I know you've been working on the distribution of Semipalmated Sandpipers in winter. In the course of this work have you figured out how to reliably seperate the Semipalmated from the Western?

ARP: In winter the character that is good is the bill. In the Semipalmated the bill is shorter and generally flared out more at the tip creating a slightly spoonbilled effect, more so than in the Western. Unfortunately, overlap exists. Furthermore, there is a population of Semipalmated Sandpipers in Labrador that is not as wide-billed as other populations. Shorter-billed Westerns are males and longer-billed Semipalmateds are females, so there is considerable overlap between male Westerns and female Semipalmateds. Some better distinction is needed. This, by the way, can not be found in the American Birds (29:799-806) article on Semipalmated Sandpipers. I found that by taking a #2 insect pin, which is exactly ½ mm wide, I can obtain a critical measurement which allows me to separate most Semipalmateds from Western Sandpipers. If you look at the underside of these birds' bills, you will see that the mandible comes out with a groove in it from the base. Measure this groove or depression 7.5 to 8 mm from the bill tip. Place your thumbnail at this distance from the pin tip and then put your thumbnail at the tip of the bill. At the point where the tip of the pin is against the groove on the lower mandible, the groove in this specimen is as wide as the pin, ½ mm (or wider). This is true of the Semipalmated. With the Western, however, the width is nowhere near ½ mm at that point. This is how you distinguish the two in the hand in winter or during migration. It has been field tested on Semipalmated Sandpipers, but not on Westerns. It has the advantage of ignoring sex. It does not hold for immatures through their first September, but it is good in 95% of the birds after September.

Q: What were some of the specific bird problems that you came to Colorado this year to work on, either at the museum or in the field?

ARP: I'm working on all the birds I can work on, because I'm working on a new list of birds from North and Middle America, so I have to treat all of them. There is a lot of variation in the birds and this is particularly evident in large collections. I am sending specimens from all collections simultaneously to the U.S. National Museum in order to see just this--to get a picture of the range of variation within, for instance, the Costa

Rican populations or from this or that part of Nicaragua. This is the way Ridgway wrote his Birds of North and Middle America. He borrowed everything in sight and worked it out. Nobody has done it like that since. Ridgway did such an excellent job. I'm afraid everybody has stopped looking at birds and taking measurements, because all people had to do was turn to Ridgway's key and they had all the answers. They forget that he had such a limited amount of material to work with, much of which said nothing but "Costa Rica" or "Guatemala" on it, often incorrectly sexed (or unsexed). Obviously, that should not be the end of ornithology. We should have gone on from there, but people just haven't been looking at birds closely. They've taken it for granted that they knew everything and this is the worst mistake one can make--to start out thinking one knows something. Always start out with the opposite impression—that you don't know and you're going to try to learn. That way you can make progress. Van Rossem, not long before he died, was out in the field with me. He told me, "When I was 18 years old, I knew all the answers about birds. And after studying birds all the rest of my life, now I don't know a damn thing." That's what it all boils down to.

Part II will appear in the next journal issue and will discuss thrushes, thrashers, and buntings, as well as provide a reference literature section.

A SUMMARY OF 1978 COLORADO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

by

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The 1978 Christmas Count period was December 16, 1978 - January 1, 1979. Requests were submitted to compilers of 26 counts asking for reports of their compilations. Reports from 25 counts were received. The following summary was taken from these reports. These results will be subject to the scrutiny of American Birds editors, and rare or unusual sightings will be reviewed by the CFO Official Records Committee.

There were 161 species, 4 additional races, 1 hybrid, 1 form and about 201,444 individuals found at the 25 Christmas Counts reporting.

DATES OF COLORADO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1978

December 16, 1978	Colorado Springs, Denver, Greeley, Longmont, Roaring Fork River Valley, Rocky Mountain National Park.
December 17, 1978	Black Forest, Boulder, Grand Junction, Pueblo Reservoir.
December 20, 1978	Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.
December 21, 1978	Nunn.
December 22, 1978	Weldona-Ft. Morgan.
December 23, 1978	Ft. Collins, Pueblo.
December 27, 1978	Hotchkiss, Westcliffe.
December 29, 1978	North Park.
December 30, 1978	Bonny Reservoir, Durango, Evergreen-Idaho Springs, Gunnison, Lake Isabel, San Luis Valley.
December 31, 1978	Pikes Peak.

NUMBER OF SPECIES FOR EACH COUNT

Denver 102, 4 races, 1 form

Boulder 89, 3 races, 1 hybrid

Colorado Springs 78, 3 races

Grand Junction 76, 1 race

Longmont 75, 1 race

Weldona-Ft. Morgan 49, 2 races, 1 form

Gunnison 47

Rocky Mountain National Park 43, 2 races

Evergreen-Idaho Springs 42, 3 races

Greeley 37, 2 races

Ft. Collins 74, 2 races

Pueblo 71, 3 races

Pueblo Reservoir 67, 2 races

Durango 62, 1 race

Roaring Fork RV 53, 1 race

Lake Isabel 52, 2 races

Bonny Reservoir 51, 1 race

Hotchkiss 50

Westcliffe 36, 1 race

Black Forest 34, 2 races

Monte Vista NWR 33

San Luis Valley 32

Nunn 26

North Park 23

Pike's Peak 22, 2 races

TOTAL PARTY-HOURS FOR EACH COUNT

Denver 276

Boulder 238

Longmont 122

Colorado Springs 108

Ft. Collins 83

Evergreen-Idaho Springs 79.25

Grand Junction 66

RMNP 53

Durango 47

Nunn 37

Pueblo 34

Bonny Reservoir 33

Pueblo Reservoir 33

Greeley 32

Lake Isabel 30

Gunnison 28.5

Westcliffe 28

Roaring Fork RV 24.5

North Park 23

Monte Vista NWR 16

San Luis Valley 14

Black Forest 12

Weldona-Ft. Morgan 11.5

Hotchkiss 10.25

Pikes's Peak 7

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS FOR EACH COUNT

Denver 149

Boulder 105

Colorado Springs 64

Evergreen-Idaho Springs 46

Bonny Reservoir 11

Black Forest 10

Greeley 10

Gunnison 10

Longmont 33
RMNP 28
Durango 27
Ft. Collins 25
Nunn 20
Roaring Fork RV 19
Grand Junction 18
Pueblo 13
Pueblo Reservoir 9
North Park 8
Lake Isabel 6
Westcliffe 6
Pike's Peak 5
San Luis Valley 4
Hotchkiss 3
Weldona-Ft. Morgan 3
Monte Vista NWR 2

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL BIRDS FOR EACH COUNT

Boulder 30,273
Longmont 19,374
Bonny Reservoir 19,352
Ft. Collins 18,180
Denver 16,936
Grand Junction 15,628
Weldona-Ft. Morgan 14,858
Monte Vista NWR 12,786
Greeley 11,067
Pueblo 9513
Colorado Springs 7023
Nunn 5537
Durango 3944
Evergreen-Idaho Springs 2395
Lake Isabel 2133
Roaring Fork RV 1986
Westcliffe 1757
San Luis Valley 1686
Gunnison 1616
RMNP 1582
Pueblo Reservoir 1473
Hotchkiss 1102
Pike's Peak 697
North Park 636
Black Forest 627

SPECIES WITH 1000 OR MORE TOTAL INDIVIDUALS

Canada Goose 39,993
Mallard 31,256
Starling 19,369
House Finch 2749
Common Crow 2269
Steller's Jay 1806

Horned Lark 18,978

Red-winged blackbird 16,281

House Sparrow 7593

Dark-eyed Junco 6814

(4114 Oregon (43 Pink-sided form), 1389 Slate-colored, 119 White winged, 1149 Dark eyed, sp.)

Rock Dove 5559

Black-billed Magpie 4810

Tree Sparrow 4085

Mountain Chickadee 1795

Gray-headed Junco 1667

Gray-crowned Rosy Finch 1588

Western Meadowlark 1379

Common Merganser 1237

Brewers Blackbird 1236

Black-capped Chichadee 1141

Pygmy Nuthatch 1095

Bohemian Waxwing 1026

Brown-capped Rosy Finch 1010

SUMMARY OF SPECIES REPORTED

Key to Columns:

A. Number of counts reporting each speices.
B. High number for each species, count reporting.
C. Total individuals for each species.

	A	B	C
Horned Grebe	2	6 Bou	7
Western Grebe	2	12 Bou	13
Pied-billed Grebe	4	7 Bou	15
Great Blue Heron	13	36 Den	123
Swan, sp.	1	2 SLV	2
Canada Goose	15	11,900 FC	39,993
Wh. -fronted Goose	1	1 GJ	1
Duck, sp.	2	4030 WFM	4032
Mallard	22	10,000 MV	31,256
Gadwall	9	25 Pue	125
Pintail	12	100 MV	216
Green-winged Teal	15	150 MV	560
Blue-winged Teal	2	25 CS	27
Cinnamon Teal	1	2 Gun	2
American Wigeon	13	261 Den	959
Northern Shoveler	5	15 CS	38
Wood Duck	4	6 GJ	11
Redhead	5	13 Bou, Den	42
Ring-necked Duck	5	37 Bou	90
Canvasback	3	5 Den	11
Greater Scaup	1	1 Den	1
Lesser Scaup	8	22 CS	84
Common Goldeneye	13	100 Bou	445
Barrow's Goldeneye	1	1 RMNP	1
Bufflehead	4	6 Den	10
Ruddy Duck	1	2 RFV	2
Hooded Merganser	2	12 Den	18
Common Merganser	11	1000 Bou	1237
Red-br. Merganser	3	20 Bou	22
Hawk, sp.	1	2 Den	2
Goshawk	6	1 CS, Dur, EIS GJ, PP, Wes	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	6 GJ	31
Coopers' Hawk	10	3 Den, GJ	16
Red-tailed Hawk	20	21 LI	156
Redtailed (Harlan's)	5	5 Den	10
Swainson's Hawk	2	1 GJ, Gun	2
Rough-legged Hawk	20	33 Long	179
Ferruginous Hawk	10	14 Nunn	41
Buteo, sp.	3	2 BF, Den	5
Golden Eagle	17	9 Den	67
Bald Eagle	13	16 SLV	66

	A	B	C
Marsh Hawk	15	27 Bon	159
Osprey	1	1 Long	1
Prairie Falcon	16	6 Bou, Nunn	46
Merlin	11	4 GJ, Nunn	21
American Kestrel	20	48 GJ	245
Blue Grouse	1	1 Den	1
Wh.-tailed Ptarmigan	1	19 RMNP	19
Sage Grouse	1	18 NP	18
Bobwhite	1	6 Bon	6
Scaled Quail	2	48 PR	63
Gambel's Quail	2	132 GJ	135
Ring-necked Pheasant	13	53 Long	251
Chukar	2	23 Hot	27
Turkey	6	14 EIS	34
Virginia Rail	4	4 Den	8
American Coot	8	47 Den	81
Killdeer	13	29 Den	105
Common Snipe	13	33 FC	113
Spotted Sandpiper	2	1 FC, GJ	2
Gull, sp.	1	1 WFM	1
Glaucous Gull	1	1 PR	1
Herring Gull	5	83 Bou	155
California Gull	1	1 Den	1
Ring-billed Gull	7	767 Bou	883
Rock Dove	22	1105 Bou	5559
Mourning Dove	4	717 GJ	722
Roadrunner	1	1 Pue	1
Barn Owl	1	1 Bon	1
Screech Owl	3	3 Bon, Den	7
Great Horned Owl	14	24 Bon	109
Pygmy Owl	1	1 Dur	1
Long-eared Owl	8	7 Hot, PR	29
Short-eared Owl	4	2 Long	5
Belted Kingfisher	15	31 Bou	138
Common Flicker	8	149 GJ	285
Com. (R.-sh.) Flicker	18	215 Bou	838
Com. (Yel.-sh) Flicker	5	1 CS, Den, Gre Pue, RFV	5
Red-bel. Woodpecker	1	3 Bon	3
Lewis Woodpecker	7	9 Dur	25
Williamson's Sapsucker	1	1 Dur	1
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	1	1 PR	1
Hairy Woodpecker	18	44 Bou	201
Downy Woodpecker	24	58 Bou	252
Lad.-b. Woodpecker	2	2 Pue	3
No. Three-t. Woodpecker	6	5 Bou	14
Horned Lark	21	9000 Bon	18,978
Gray Jay	5	22 EIS	43
Blue Jay	9	44 Bou	133
Steller's Jay	15	585 Bou	1806
Scrub Jay	14	155 CS	607
Black-billed Magpie	25	1062 Den	4810
Common Raven	20	133 MVR	763

	A	B		C
Common Crow	20	785	CS	2269
Pinyon Jay	5	45	RFV	138
Clark's Nutcracker	6	49	RMNP	121
Black-cap. Chickadee	21	387	Den	1141
Mountain Chickadee	18	369	EIS	1795
Plain Titmouse	4	9	Dur	14
Bushtit	10	187	Den	350
White-br. Nuthatch	18	82	Bou	297
Red-br. Nuthatch	10	14	Bou	71
Pygmy Nuthatch	11	271	Bou	1095
Brown Creeper	15	59	Bou	146
Dipper	11	50	Gun	168
Winter Wren	3	2	Bou, MVR	5
Bewick's Wren	3	3	GJ	5
Long-b. Marsh Wren	4	4	Den	9
Canon Wren	4	20	Bou	47
Rock Wren	2	2	PR	3
No. Mockingbird	1	1	Den	1
Gray Catbird	1	1	CS	1
Brown Thrasher	1	1	Pue	1
Curve-billed Thrasher	1	2	Pue	2
American Robin	18	160	Bon	924
Western Bluebird	1	4	Dur	4
Mountain Bluebird	3	21	Gun	21
Townsend's Solitaire	18	111	Den	412
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	1	1	Pue	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	38	Bou	43
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4	4	Bou, GJ	11
Water Pipit	5	5	GJ	10
Bohemian Waxwing	9	570	FC	1026
Cedar Waxwing	5	200	FC	279
Northern Shrike	21	12	Bon, Den, FC	78
Loggerhead Shrike	5	5	Dur, GJ	14
Starling	23	3627	GJ	19,369
Yel.-r. (Audubon's) Warbler	2	2	PR	3
House Sparrow	22	1108	GJ	7593
Western Meadowlark	18	272	Long	1379
Yel.-head. Blackbird	2	1	CS, Long	2
Red-wing. Blackbird	20	4443	Pue	16,281
Rusty Blackbird	1	3	Long	3
Brewer's Blackbird	12	409	Gre	1236
Common Grackle	3	4	Long	6
Br.-head. Cowbird	1	2	Pue	2
Black-head. Grosbeak	2	1	CS LI	2
Evening Grosbeak	9	209	Den	699
Purple Finch	2	4	Pue	6
Cassin's Finch	11	296	EIS	554
House Finch	18	686	CS	2749
Pine Grosbeak	6	11	RFV	29
Gr.-cr. Rosy Finch	11	500	FC	1588
Black Rosy Finch	6	26	PP	49
Br.-cap. Rosy Finch	4	498	Gun	1010

	A	B	C
Rosy Finch, sp.	1	2 Den	2
Pine Siskin	16	202 Dur	874
American Goldfinch	15	59 Bou	333
Lesser Goldfinch	1	2 CS	2
Red Crossbill	5	40 BF	73
Gr.-tailed Towhee	2	2 RFV	3
Ruf.-sided Towhee	10	36 CS	126
Brown Towhee	3	12 Pue	28
Black-thr. Sparrow	1	1 GJ	1
Dark-eyed Junco	6	669 Dur	1149
Dark-e. (Wh.-w.) Junco	11	32 Den	119
Dark-e. (Oregon) Junco	20	665 Dur	4114
Dark-e. (Sl. col.)Junco	20	353 Bou	1389
Gray-headed Junco	18	394 CS	1983
Junco, sp.	7	196 Den	495
Tree Sparrow	22	1300 Bon	4086
Harris' Sparrow	9	34 Bou	61
White-cr. Sparrow	12	268 Pue	646
White-thr. Sparrow	6	4 Bon	9
Fox Sparrow	2	1 Den, FC	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1 Den	1
Swamp Sparrow	3	4 Pue	6
Song Sparrow	18	263 Den	930
McCown's Longspur	1	2 Den	2
Lapland Longspur	6	850 Bon	864
Ch.-col. Longspur	1	3 Den	3
Longspur, sp.	2	14 Den	16
Snow Bunting	1	3 NP	3

SUMMARY OF BIRD TRIP TO LATILONG BLOCK 13

by
Walter Graul
Colorado Division of Wildlife
317 W. Prospect
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

The publication of the Colorado Bird Latilong Study in 1978 revealed a number of poorly-studied areas in the state. Latilong 13 was one such area. Birds commonly found in surrounding areas such as Rock Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Song Sparrow had not even been reported for Latilong 13. In an effort to rectify this, a number of birders scouted the area in early June 1979, choosing the early breeding season to determine migrant as well as breeding status of species observed. Special thanks to the volunteers listed below.

Dates: Scouting by Bissell and Graul - May 17-18, 1979
Group trip - June 1-3, 1979

Participants in the Group Trip:

Walter Graul	Walt Kuenning
Steve Bissell	Ruth Kuenning
Ann Means	David Alles
Diane Osborne	Mike Moulton
Frank Justice	Judd Sundine
Jan Justice	Linda Sundine
Nancy Taggart	Charles Chase III
Toni Gardella	Mark Holmgren
Candy Reckling	Lisa Bardwell
Camille Cummings	Peter King
Mary Jane Schock	Lonise King

Field Trip Sites:

Site 1 - 5 miles north of River Bend, Elbert Co. Consists of a north-facing rocky ridge covered by juniper trees. (Smiley Property).

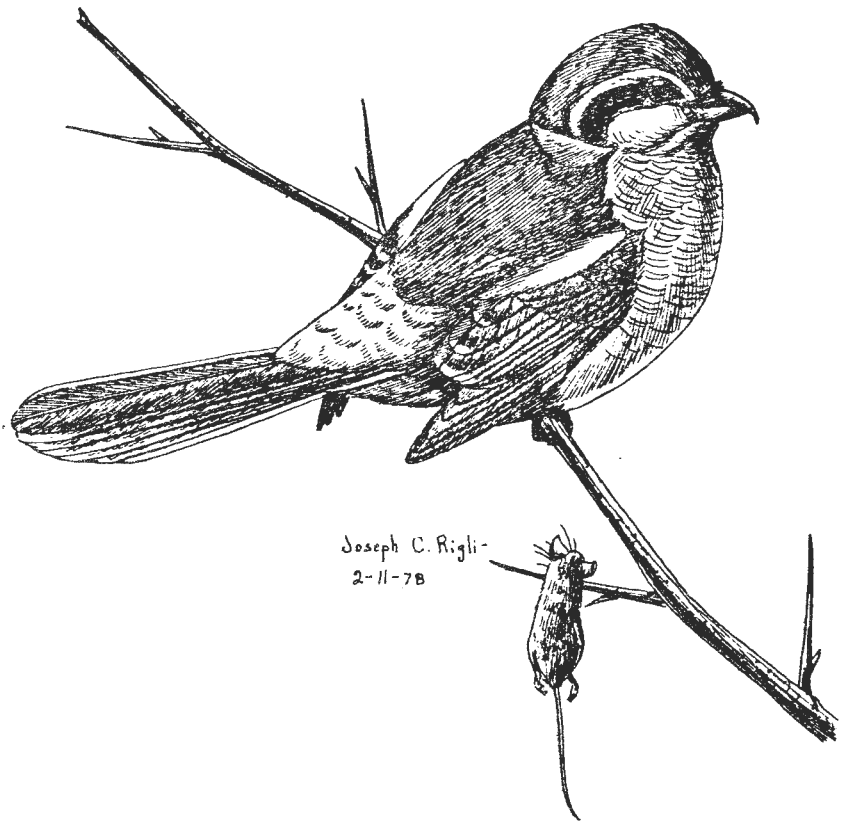
Site 2 - 1 mile east of River Bend, Elbert Co. Consists of big Sandy Creek adjacent to ranch (heavily grazed). (Floyd Mock Ranch.)

Site 3 - 4 miles south of Limon, Lincoln Co. Shortgrass prairie pasture (Ben Raines Ranch). Where Graul previously documented nesting of Mountain Plover and McCown's Longspur.

Site 4 - 5.3 miles southeast of Limon along highway 287, Lincoln Co. Consists of Big Sandy Creek lightly grazed with a nearby pond. (Earl Forstall Ranch.)

Site 5 - 2 miles west, 11 south, to a point 1 east of Hugo, Lincoln Co. Consists of 8-acre pond, narrow meadow, grove of trees (owned by Colo. Div. Wildlife). Lake is Kinney Lake.

Limon - Immediate town area, Lincoln Co. Many deciduous trees--mainly elm.



SPECIES LIST

Explanations:

* - Status or habitat change (changes underlined).
** - Species new for block 13.

Species	Site(s)	Habitat	Status
Mallard	2, 4	L	B
Pintail	1, 4	L	b
Red-tailed Hawk	1	PJ	b
**Broad-winged Hawk	4	R	M
Swainson's Hawk	1, 4, 5	R	B
Ferruginous Hawk	1, 4	Sg	b
Golden Eagle	1	GL	b
Marsh Hawk	4	MS	b
*American Kestrel	1, 2, 4	R, PJ	b
*Killdeer	1, 4, Limon	L, U	B
Spotted Sandpiper	2, 4	L	b
Rock Dove	Limon	U	b
*Mourning Dove	1, 2, 4	R, Sg, BA (Cliffs)	B
Great Horned Owl	1, 5	R, PJ	B
*Burrowing Owl	3	Sg	B
Common Nighthawk	1, 4 Limon	R, U	b
Common Flicker	1, 2, 4	R, PJ	B
**Red-headed Woodpecker	2, 4, 5	R	B
**Downy Woodpecker	4	R	b
*Eastern Kingbird	1, 2, 4	R, PJ	b
*Western Kingbird	1, 4, Limon	PJ, U, R	B
**Western Wood Pewee	4	R	b
Horned Lark	1, 4	GL	b
Rough-winged Swallow	1	Ag	b
*Barn Swallow	2, 5, Limon	Ag	B
*Cliff Swallow	2	Bridge	B
**Blue Jay	2, 4	R	b
Black-billed Magpie	1, 4	R, PJ	b
Common Crow	1	PJ	b
*House Wren	4	R	B
**Rock Wren	1	PJ	B
Mockingbird	1, 4	R, PJ	b
*Brown Thrasher	1, 4	R, PJ, Sb	B
American Robin	1, 2, Limon	R, PJ, U	b
**Swainson's Thrush	2, 4, 5	R	M
**Eastern Bluebird	4	R	M
*Loggerhead Shrike	1, 4	R, PJ	b
*Starling	1, 4	R, PJ	B
**Warbling Vireo	Limon	U	b
*Yellow Warbler	2, 4	R	B

Species	Site(s)	Habitat	Status
**Yellow-rumped Warbler	4, 5	R	M
MacGillivray's Warbler	5	Sb	M
**American Redstart	1	PJ	M
House Sparrow	Limon, 2	U. Ag	b
*Western Meadowlark	1, 4, 5	GL, R, PJ	b
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2, 4	Ms	b
Red-winged Blackbird	1, 2, 4, 5	Ms	B
Orchard Oriole	4, 5	R	b
*Northern Oriole	1, 2, 4, 5	R, PJ	B
*Common Grackle	2, 4, Limon	U, Sb, R	B
*Brown-headed Cowbird	1, 4	R, PJ	b
**Black-headed Grosbeak	1	PJ	b
*Blue Grosbeak	1, 4	R, PJ	b
**Lazuli Bunting	1	PJ	b
**House Finch	Limon	U	b
**Green-tailed Towhee	1	PJ	M
**Brown Towhee	1	PJ	b
Lark Bunting	4, 5	GL	b
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	GL	b
*Lark Sparrow	1, 2, 4	R, PJ	B
*Chipping Sparrow	1	S	b
**Fox Sparrow	Limon	U	M
**Song Sparrow	5	R	b

(Additional by Graul and Bissel on May 17-18 scouting trip)

**White-faced Ibis	5	Ms	M
**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	4	R	M

Summary of Highlights

65 species
20 new species for block 13
29 status and/or habitat code changes
20 species confirmed nesting in block 13

Additionally, 2 species of mammals were added for block 13.

Species	Site(s)	Habitat	Status
Mule deer	1	PJ, Sg	B
Porcupine	1, 4	PJ, R	B

This census of latilong 13 added to our knowledge of bird distribution in the state. Much needs to be done regarding migration and wintering as well as breeding populations in Colorado. Hopefully with continuing energy and application by interested Colorado birders, we can fill many of these gaps.

C.F.O. ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

by
Judd Sundine, Treasurer

CHECKING		CREDIT	DEBIT
5-18-78 -	Balance on hand (Last year's meeting)	$ 849.64	
Expenses:	Postage, Records Committee D.O.W. Latilong Printing Cost		$ 284.08
	Journals 33,34,35 & Vol. 13#1		1258.83
Income:	Latilongs	142.50	
	1979 Paid Members and Library Subscriptions	605.00	
	Savings to Checking Transfer	200.00	
	Misc: Contributing, Supporting and Sustaining Members, Postage Paid by Members	202.82	
		$1997.96	$1542.91

5-27-79 - Balance on hand: $455.05

SAVINGS		CREDIT	DEBIT
5-18-79 -	Balance on hand (Last years' meeting)	$ 862.16	
7-17-78	Contribution from Foothills Audubon Club	150.00	
4-1-79	Transfer from Savings to Checking		200.00
5-25-79	Interest to Date	53.06	
		$1065.22	$200.00

5-27-79 Balance on Hand 1979 Meeting: $865.22

TOTAL BALANCE ON HAND 1978 MEETING: $1713.23

TOTAL BALANCE ON HAND 1979 MEETING: $1320.27

BULLETIN BOARD

Invitation to Citizens Concerned with Urban Wildlife:

The Division of Wildlife is setting up bird census transects within the City and County of Denver in order to determine the bird distribution, population densities and habitat associations and to determine what effect urbanization has upon wildlife.

People interested in our environment are needed to run these transects. Volunteers for this project will be asked to spend from two to four hours per month for a period of one year. The ground rules of this study are strict and controlled, but the results can lead to significant mangement decisions with regard to urban wildlife.

Volunteers will be asked to run different transects each month, volunteers must provide their own transportation. Three volunteers will run each transect in all areas of Denver and a standard form will be provided so results can be sent in each month.

Anyone interested in committing time for this worthwhile study, please call Steve Bissell at the D.O.W. at 825-1192 Ext. 337. Each person will then be sent a follow-up letter explaining the study in more detail.

Thank you for your cooperation. Steve J. Bissell, Nonconsumptive Use Specialist, Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.

EAGLE SURVEY

Individuals who can conduct eagle counts throughout the winter at major Colorado reservoirs are urged to contact Lynn Fisher, Water and Power Resources Services (formerly Bureau of Reclamation) at 234-3779 (Denver). Highest priority reservoirs include Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Pinewood Lake, Flatirons Reservoir, Estes Lake, Mary's Lake, Pueblo Reservoir, and Bonny Reservoir, but all reservoirs are of interest. Lynn is particularly interested in coordinating ground counts with aerial surveys.

INFORMATION REQUESTED ON SIGHTINGS OF WING-TAGGED BALD EAGLES

Bald Eagles are being captured and marked along McDonald Creek, Glacier National Park, northwestern Montana. This site is a temporary stop for the eagles on their way south to wintering areas.

In 1978 and 1979 a bright orange wing marker (3 by 5 ½ inches) was placed next to the body on each wing. In 1977, the markers were bright yellow. Orange markers are coded A11 to A99. Yellow markers are coded M01 to M10. It is important to report codes if they can be read because birds marked in Colorado have bright yellow markers, but are coded C01 to C99.

Sightings of marked birds will help determine migration routes, wintering areas, and nesting areas.

INFORMATION NEEDED

1. Was the eagle an adult (white head and tail) or a subadult (various combinations of dark and light body plumage)?

2. Marker color and number.

3. Exact location where eagle was observed.

4. Date and time of sighting.

5. Activity of bird.

6. Were other eagles nearby, and how many?

7. Observer's name, address and telephone number.

Please report sightings to:

Bald Eagle Project
Glacier National Park
c/o Riley McLelland,
West Glacier, MT 59936
Phone: 406-888-5441 or 888-5465 or call 888-5504 (Harriet Allen)

and to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bird Banding Laboratory
Laurel, MD 20811

PROPOSED TELEPHONE HOT-LINE

By the time of the C.F.O. convention in May, we hope to have established a Colorado Rare Bird Occurrence Alert similar to those successfully operating in the Bay Area, Massachusetts, and other places. The telephone alert would give weekly information about rare birds and unusual ornithological occurrences throughout the state. The initial costs of the system will be substantial and it may, in fact, be impossible to afford all new equipment. We are looking for two machines with the following capabilities: a message receiver which can give a 20 second instructional message to contributors followed by a voice-activated tape on which sightings can be submitted; and a message transmitter which will carry a three-minute recording of the bird sightings submitted. Anyone who has equipment to donate or who knows of near-new or very reliable units that the C.F.O. could purchase are asked to write or call Barry Knapp, 4695 Osage Dr., Boulder, CO 80303; 494-8390.

SCHEDULE OF FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

February 24 (Sunday--full day)

Pawnee National Grasslands; Leader: Stephen Vaughan. Meet at 10:00 AM at Jct. of U.S. 85 and Colorado 14 in Ault. Look for raptors longspurs, Snow Buntings and perhaps Snowy Owl.

March 29 (Saturday, plus Sunday option)

Arkansas Valley: For first spring migrants. Leader: Dave Griffiths (584-3859) Persons wishing to attend this trip must contact Dave for meeting details.

April 13 (Sunday, 4:00 AM - 8:00 AM)

Sage Grouse near Crawford in Western Colorado. Leader: Bill Huntley. Meet at Jct. of Highways 133 and 92 on the east end of the main street in Hotchkiss at 4:00 AM. Warm clothing and a hot thermos are recommended. Participants will be sitting in cars but the engines cannot be started.

May 24 (Saturday, plus Sunday and Monday optional field trips)

C.F.O. Annual Convention in Boulder Historic Chautauqua, Local Birding Saturday morning. Papers session, Annual Banquet Saturday afternoon and evening. Extended field trips on Sunday to Julesburg area or Barr Lake. See details this issue.

black crowned night heron

COLORADO BIRD DISTRIBUTION LATILONG STUDY

Order from:

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Colorado Field Ornithologists
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