

THE C.F.O. RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1989

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This report contains records received by the Committee for the year 1989, plus new decisions for a few older records.

The members who voted on these records include Bill Brockner (Evergreen), Coen Dexter (Clifton), William Howe (Laurel, Maryland), Mark Janos (Pueblo), David Silverman (Rye), Van Truan (Pueblo) and Nick Watmough (Norfolk, UK).

Part 1. Species Added to The C.F.O. State List.

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*) 56-89-53. This bird (a female) was discovered on December 17, 1989. It was found near Holly, in a weedy field south of the Arkansas River near the Kansas state line in Prowers County by Mark Janos and Kendall Knaus during the annual Holly Christmas Bird Count. The following day, several birders were able to relocate it and Duane Nelson was able to secure several diagnostic photographs. Kansas had its first record of Pyrrhuloxia earlier in the same winter season, and Scott Seltman of Kansas had alerted Coloradans to the possibility of its occurrence only weeks before it happened. *Thanks, Scott.*

Part 2. Species Deleted from The State List.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) 8-80-84. This bird was well described, and its identity is not a problem. However, it is commonly kept in aviaries, and most records to date away from its known range have been viewed as possible escapes. Some duck species have well documented patterns of vagrancy (Eurasian Wigeon, Garganey, Tufted Duck). It is interesting to note that Chatfield Reservoir, where this duck was found, has hosted feral Muscovies and even a Common Pochard previously.

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) 10-80-83. This bird was well described, and its identity is not in question. The species is quite sedentary and uncommon throughout its restricted range. A factor of importance is that to date, no Common Black-Hawks have been observed as far north as the Sandia Mountains in New Mexico. Because the issue of where the bird came from has not been resolved, the majority of committee members felt that until a pattern of vagrancy in the species is discerned, it is best considered hypothetical on the state list.

Part 3. Reported Species Not Added to The State List.

Red-backed Buzzard (*Buteo polyosoma*) 10-87-45. No individual bird in Colorado (and perhaps in the U.S.) has been at the center of so much controversy as this bird, first, reported in 1987 in the Gunnison Valley, Gunnison County. Reams of notes, many photographs and much conversation has centered, not on its identity, as much as how, or why, it continues to return yearly to the banks of Ohio Creek. The committee members, while wanting to believe that the bird somehow confused its species affinities with wintering Swainson's Hawks on the Pampas of South America and that it migrates north with them in spring, feel that adding the species to the North American list would be in error. The Red-backed Buzzard is essentially non-migratory and would probably not be able to undertake long-distance migrations (if for no other reason than an inability to put on fat for a long journey without eating). While we believe that anything is possible, it seems presumptuous for us to leap from the possible level to saying with certainty that it arrived here on its own.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) 31-89-28. An immature male was seen on 5/16/89 at Tamarack Ranch SWA, Logan County. Expert opinion was sought, and the opinion given was that an immature male was highly unusual during spring migration. The experts felt that in all likelihood, this was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but that for a first state record, the record was not unassailable. The committee members agreed with their conclusions.

Part 4. Category A Records (Submitted Documentation Supports the Recorded Description.)

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) 7-89-5. One to two were seen well with White-faced Ibis North of Erie on Weld County Road 1 between 5/7 and 5/9/89. (Bill Prather).

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) 8-89-6. One was found at Union Reservoir, Weld County on 3/23/89, and it settled in at nearby Foster Res., Weld County until at least 6/11/89. (Bill Prather and D. W. Bolton).

Black Duck x Mallard (*Anas rubripes x platyrhynchos*) 8-89-7. A male was seen on the Platte River in Adams County near its confluence with Clear Creek on 12/30/89. Nelson photographed it on 12/31. (David Martin, Duane Nelson, Dick Schottler).

Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) 13-89-9. Three were seen in Sedgwick County in extreme NE Colorado between 9/30/89 and 11/23/89. (Dan Bridges).

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) 18-89-10. Six to seven adults and young

were seen at Nee Noshe Reservoir, Kiowa County, confirming nesting for the first time since 1949 in Colorado. (Mark Janos and Peter Gent).

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) 18-89-11. One to two were observed on 5/14-15/91 at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, possibly pioneers from the Nee Noshe colony. (Mark Janos).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) 18-89-12. A male in breeding plumage was seen at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, on 5/14/89. (Mark Janos).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) 18-89-13. One first-winter bird was seen at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, on 9/16/89. (Mark Janos).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) 18-89-14. One adult in slightly fading breeding plumage was seen at Lake Meredith, Crowley County on 8/27/89. It must have made an impression on the viewer as "Rednot" now adorns the license plate on his car. (Mark Janos).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) 19-89-15. One juvenile was seen at the Plum Creek Delta at Chatfield SRA, Douglas County on 9/3/89 by many observers. (Mark Janos).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) 22-89-16. One adult in breeding plumage was seen at Holbrook Reservoir, Otero County, 9/14-15/89 as it harassed nearby gulls and terns. (Mark Janos).

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) 23-89-17. One adult in breeding plumage was seen and photographed at Lake Cheraw, Otero County, on 7/31/89. Adults are very rarely seen in Colorado at any season. (Thomas H. Kent).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) 23-89-18. One in first-winter plumage was seen by many observers between 7/23 and 7/31, 1989 at Lake Cheraw, Otero County. (Mark Janos, Thomas H. Kent, David Silverman).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) 23-89-19. One in first-winter plumage was seen at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Denver County, on 8/30/89. (Bob Righter).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) 23-89-20. A first year bird, beginning to molt into 2nd summer plumage, was seen by many observers at Cherry Creek Reservoir, Denver County, on 4/15-16/89. (Mark Janos).

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) 23-89-21. A bird in first-winter plumage was seen at Blue Lake on the Kiowa/Bent County border on 4/22/89. (Mark Janos).

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) 23-89-22. Three were seen flying from Red Lion SWA toward Jumbo Reservoir, Logan County, on 5/20/89. (Dan Bridges).

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) 23-89-22. One was seen at Lake Beckwith, Colorado City, Pueblo County, on 4/9/89. (David Silverman).

Blackbilled Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) 26-89-25. One was seen and heard in woods on the west side of Bonny Reservoir in Yuma County, on 5/14/89. (Dan Bridges).

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) 29-89-26. A male was flushed from the grove on the west side of Lake Henry, Crowley County, 5/13/89. (Duane Nelson).

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) 31-89-27. This bird, probably an immature male, was seen feeding in cactus flowers at the Haviland Lake Campground, La Plata County, on 6/20/89. (Juliet A. Howard).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) 34-89-30. An unusual summer record from the San Luis Valley, this bird was observed at Monte Vista NWR, Rio Grande County, on 6/19/89. (Juliet A. Howard).

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) 44-89-31. One was seen at Fairview Cemetery in La Junta, Otero County, on 9/16/89. (Mark Janos).

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) 43-89-32. One wintered at a feeder in Crawford, Delta County between 1/11 and 2/25/89. (Mrs. Albert Moore).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) 43-89-33. One was found at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver County, on the Denver Urban Christmas Count, on 1/2/89. (Urling Kingery).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) 43-89-34. One wintered in Aspen, Pitkin County, and was photographed. (Linda Vidal).

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) 46-89-35. Two or more individuals were seen by many observers between 9/30 and 10/21/89 in winter wheat and tall-grass prairie east of Julesburg, Sedgwick County. While not a first state record, this is perhaps the first unassailable record for Colorado. Excellent photos were taken by Dave Leatherman. (Dan Bridges, Dave Leatherman, Joseph Mammoser).

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) 48-89-36. One immature female was seen and photographed at the home of Jim and Rosie Watts in Penrose, Fremont County, between 9/9 and 9/11/89. (Peter Gent, Mark Janos, Jim Watts, Rosie Watts, Sylvia Wheelock).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) 42-89-38. Two were found at the home of Marti Poole in Englewood, Arapahoe County, in the fall of 1988, and were seen on 1/2/89 on the Denver Urban Christmas Count. They remained through the early summer and provided the first nesting record for Colorado. (Hugh Kingery).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) 42-89-39. One was seen about two miles east of Two Buttes SWA, Baca/Prowers County, on 10/9/89. (Dan Bridges).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) 52-89-39. A male was seen by several observers in suburban Lyons, Boulder County, on 5/5/89. (Ann Means, John Prather).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) 52-89-40. One immature female, distinctive in having no tail, was seen along the Platte River upstream from Kingfisher Bridge, Chatfield SWA, Jefferson County, on 11/5/89. (Duane Nelson).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) 52-89-41. One was seen in the Wolf Pack Woods at the Denver Zoo in City Park, Denver County, on 10/14 and 11/18/89. (Mary B. Patterson).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) 52-89-42. One was seen in SW Loveland, Larimer County, on 5/5 and 5/6/89 by several observers. (Ann Means).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) 52-89-43. A male made a brief appearance at a suet feeder in SW Denver, Denver County, on 2/14/89, and was photographed as it fed. (Phyllis Fischer and Duane Nelson).

Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) 52-89-44. An adult female was seen at Two Buttes SWA, Baca County on 9/4/89. This was seen by many competent observers and was the first of this species documented in the state since 1959. (Dan Bridges).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) 52-89-45. One was seen by many observers along the S. Platte above Kingfisher Bridge in Chatfield SRA, Jefferson County, on 10/29/89. (Randy Lentz).

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) 52-89-46. One was seen in Colorado City, Pueblo County on 8/27/89. This is a new record for Latilong 26. (David Silverman).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) 52-89-47. One was seen at Burchfield Lake SWA, Baca County on 9/6/89. This is a first autumn record for the state. (Mark Janos).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-48. One was seen in a backyard in Ft. Collins, Larimer County, on 9/3/89. (Mary Alice Root).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-49. A male was seen and heard near the Wagon Wheel Campground on the south side of Bonny Res., Yuma County, on 5/21/89. (Dan Bridges).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-50. An adult male in basic plumage was found at Chatfield SRA, Jefferson County, above Kingfisher Bridge on 10/29/89. Many observers relocated this bird the following day. (Randy Lentz).

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) 52-89-51. A male was seen at the Wagon Wheel Campground at Bonny SRA, Yuma County, on 9/2/89. (David Silverman).

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) 55-89-52. An adult male was seen on the south side of the Royal Gorge, Fremont County, on 6/17/89. (Juliet A. Howard).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) 56-89-54. A male was photographed at a feeder in Northglenn, Adams County, in May, 1989. (H. Ross Sibley).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) 56-89-55. An adult was found along Clear Creek, near its confluence with the Platte River, Adams County, on 1/2/89. (David Martin and Duane Nelson).

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*) 56-89-57. Three were seen and carefully described from Sedgwick County, in the same location that the Sprague's Pipits were found on 10/14/89. (Dan Bridges).

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca zaboria*) 56-89-58. A bright eastern race bird

was seen by 9 observers, including 5 members of the records committee at CF&I Lake, Pueblo County on 11/12/89. (Duane Nelson).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) 56-89-60. An adult was seen in Hygiene, Boulder County on 12/27/89. (The Records Committee will no longer review this species, or similarly fairly-common birds). (Virginia Dionigi).

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) 56-89-61. An immature was seen in Colorado City, Pueblo County on 9/24/89. (David Silverman).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*) 56-89-62. A female was observed and photographed along Plum Creek, Douglas County, on 12/17/89. (Duane Nelson and Dick Schottler).

Part 5. Category B and C Records. (Submitted documentation probably indicates a misidentification or is too brief or incomplete to support the stated identification).

Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) 1-89-1. One seen on a small private pond 1/2 mile west of Lagerman Reservoir, Boulder County, on 5/13/89. Committee members felt that Common Loon was not ruled out.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisgenae*) 2-89-2. One seen at CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, on 3/24/89. Committee members felt that Horned Grebe was not convincingly ruled out.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) 3-89-3. One seen at Blue Mesa Reservoir, Gunnison County, on 7/5/89. The committee was split on this vote, some members stating that the description was too brief.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) 3-89-4. One seen at CF&I Lakes, Pueblo County, on 12/9/89. The committee split on this vote, with some members feeling that the description was too brief, or failed to eliminate female Cormorants or Pacific Loon.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolis*) 12-89-8. One seen 1/4/89 west of Lazear, Delta County. The description was felt to be too brief, and did not eliminate Northern Goshawk.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) 25-89-24. One seen near Wetmore, Custer County, on 5/27/89. The committee felt that the description was too brief.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*) 42-89-29. One was seen in a willow carr near Nederland, Boulder County. There was a split vote on this bird, with some members feeling that the description was too brief.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodrammus bairdii*) 56-89-56. Two were seen near Thornton, Adams County on 9/21/89. The committee split on this vote, with some members feeling that the description was too brief.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) 56-89-58. One seen at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Adams County, on 1/2/89. The committee split on this vote, dissenters feeling that the description was too brief. (This species is

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regular enough that the committee is not seeking additional reports for it).

References

- Allen, S. 1988. Some Thoughts on the Identification of Gunnison's Red-backed Hawk (*Buteo polyosoma*) and Why It's Not a Natural Vagrant. *C.F.O. Journal* 22:(1).
- American Ornithologist's Union, 1989. Checklist of North American Birds, 37th Supplement.
- Nelson, D. L. 1990. The C.F.O. Checklist of Colorado Birds.
- Wheeler, B. 1988. A Red-backed Hawk in Colorado. *C.F.O. Journal* 22:(1).