

The 75th Report of the Colorado Bird Records Committee

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INTRODUCTION

This 75th report (hereafter Report) of the Colorado Bird Records Committee (hereafter CBRC or committee) presents the results of deliberations of the CBRC involving 109 reports submitted by 72 observers and documenting 70 species. The Report covers reports submitted to the CBRC in 2015 and 2016 plus four more recent reports of species new to the state. Per CBRC bylaws, all accepted records received a final 7-0 or 6-1 vote to accept. The accepted species in this Report are limited in details, but more information is given for the reasons that reports are not accepted. Four species are added, and none deleted, to the state list in this report, so that the Colorado list stands at 511 species compared to 507 from the 73rd Report (Peterson and Gent 2019). In addition, this report acknowledges a change in the common name of one Colorado species in order to be consistent with the latest American Ornithological Society (AOS) check-list of North American Birds (Chesser et al. 2019).

Committee members voting on these reports were David Dowell (Longmont), John Drummond (Colorado Springs), Kathy Mihm Dunning (Denver), Peter Gent (Boulder), Rachel Hopper (Fort Collins), Tony Leukering (Wiley), Dan Maynard (Denver), Steven Mlodinow (Longmont), Christian Nunes (Boulder), Mark Peterson (Colorado Springs), Bill Schmoker (Longmont), and Jason St. Pierre (Durango).

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

The Committee solicits documentation of reports in Colorado for all species published in its Main Review List (cobrc.org/ReviewList.aspx), species with no prior accepted record in Colorado, and sightings of regularly occurring species that are considered out-of-range or out-of-season. Documentary materials should be submitted online at the CBRC website (cobrc.org). Alternatively, one can fill out the form printed on the dust jacket of this journal and mail it to the CBRC Chair, or request an electronic document from the Secretary (see this journal's inside front cover for contact information).

REPORT FORMAT

The records in this report are arranged taxonomically following the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) through the 60th Supplement (Chesser et al. 2019). We present the initials of the contributing observer(s), the official accession number and the vote tally in the first round and, if relevant, the second and third rounds (with the number of "accept" votes on the left side of the dash).

The initial observer of the bird is underlined, if known, and is presented first only if that person contributed documentation; additional contributors follow in alphabetical order by last name. If the initial observer is known with certainty, but did not submit documentation, those initials are underlined and presented last. Observers submitting a photograph or video capture are indicated with an ampersand (&). In this report, county names are italicized. Abbreviations are used for the following: Reservoir (Res.), Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), State Park (SP), National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), and State Wildlife Area (SWA).

COMMON NAME CHANGE

Blue-throated Mountain-gem – *Lampornis clemenciae*: Chesser et al. (2019) state that the reason to change the common name from Blue-throated Hummingbird is to “standardize the English group name of all species of *Lampornis* to Mountain-gem and reduce the prevalence of the English group name “hummingbird” across the family.”

SPECIES NEW TO THE STATE

Pink-footed Goose – *Anser brachyrhynchus* (SM[&], KK[&], SR[&], BP[&], CT[&], TL[&], PG[&], PH[&]; 2018-061; 7-0): An adult was found on December 11, 2018 at Idaho Creek Open Space, which is ½ mile south of Hwy 119 a couple of miles west of I-25, *Weld*. On 12 December it was re-found at Milavec Res. in the Frederick Recreation Area, *Weld*, where it remained until well into March 2019. This species breeds in East Greenland where its population has more than doubled over the past 40 years. Over the past 10 years there has been a marked increase in sightings in the northeast USA, and a few further west (Sherony 2008). This bird had the hallux on both legs and showed no signs of having been in captivity: indeed very few of this species are kept in captivity. For these reasons the committee voted to accept this report as a wild bird having flown to Colorado with the thousands of Cackling Geese that also spent the winter in Frederick.



Pink-footed Goose, Weld. 19 January 2019. Photo by Steve Mlodinow.

Barnacle Goose – *Branta leucopsis* (SM[&]; 2018-029; 6-1): One was seen briefly on 9 January 2018 at Aurora Res., *Arapahoe*. (KL, MM[&], PG[&], BP[&]; 2019-001; 6-1): An adult was seen between 6 and 16 January 2019 at Milavec Res. in Frederick, *Weld*. This species also breeds in East Greenland where the population has had a significant increase over the past 40 years. This has led to more sightings in the northeast USA, but many of these have not been accepted because Barnacle Goose, unlike Pink-footed Goose, is a popular species in waterfowl collections. If there had only been the 2018 sighting of this species, then it probably would have had the same fate in Colorado. However, the 2019 sighting was at the same location with the Pink-footed Goose. Most committee members were of the view that if one very rare goose could get to Weld County from East Greenland, then so could the other very rare goose.



Barnacle Goose, Weld. 6 January 2019. Photo by Ben Sampson.

White-tailed Kite – *Elanus leucurus* (JSm^{&c}; 2019-002; 7-0): An adult was seen on 27 May 2019 near the intersection of county roads 31 and KK, which is a few miles northwest of Holly, *Prowers*. Unfortunately, this bird was not seen by anyone else, but the excellent photographs left no doubt as to its identity. This species had been expected to occur in Colorado for some time, as it breeds in California, Arizona, and Texas, and eBird shows sightings from northern New Mexico, western Kansas, and Nebraska.



White-tailed Kite, *Prowers*. 27 May 2019. Photo by Jill Smith.

Yellow-green Vireo – *Vireo flavoviridis* (MP[&]; 2019-004; 7-0): An adult male was photographed and recorded on 25 June 2019 at Two Buttes SWA, *Baca*. The different song compared to a Red-eyed Vireo first alerted the observer to the bird, but it wasn't until later when he looked carefully at the photographs that the identification was made. Yellow-green Vireo is a rare visitor to the southern tier of US states, but eBird shows two records much farther northeast at Cape May in New Jersey and in northeast Massachusetts, and one much farther northwest in Vancouver, Canada.



Yellow-green Vireo, *Baca*. 25 June 2019. Photo by Mark Peterson.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck – *Dendrocygna autumnalis* (DO; 2015-079; 6-1): Four birds were well seen for over 20 minutes on the evening of 20 June 2015 standing along the edge of the Animas River just north of Durango, *La Plata*. This is only the second record of this species in Colorado; the first was of one bird at a pond in the Pawnee National Grasslands in July 1991.

Brant (Black) – *Branta bernicla (nigricans)* (TF[&], PWN[&], BP[&]; 2015-030; 7-0): An adult of the Pacific race was seen between 21 March and 9 April 2015 at the Monte Vista NWR, *Rio Grande*. This species is very rare in the San Luis Valley.

Eurasian Wigeon – *Anas penelope* (JD[&], BP[&]; 2015-008; 7-0): An adult male was seen on 25 January 2015 at a pond in Canon City, *Fremont*. (RMO[&], JStP; 2016-019; 7-0): Another adult male was seen between 3 and 7 March 2016 at Pastorius SWA, which is southeast of Durango, *La Plata*.

American Black Duck – *Anas rubripes* (SM[&]; 2015-024; 7-0): An adult in non-breeding plumage was seen on 13 February 2015 at Windsor Res., *Weld*.

Harlequin Duck – *Histrionicus histrionicus* (AB; 2015-130; 7-0): An adult was collected by Charles Wovthen on May 1, 1901 in Estes Park, *Larimer*, and is in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. This Estes Park specimen becomes the 2nd record of this species in Colorado, because the first record is of a bird collected in July 1883 at Vallecito Res., which is northeast of Durango, *La Plata*.

Red-necked Grebe – *Podiceps grisegena* (SL[&]; 2016-036; 7-0): An adult in breeding plumage was seen on 31 May 2016 at Village Lake Res. in Pagosa Springs, *Archuleta*. This is an intriguing record in a sparsely birded region of the state after Red-necked Grebes bred in North Park in June 2014.

Common Ground-Dove – *Columbina passerina* (JB[&]; 2016-022; 7-0): An adult was seen on 13 May 2015 in Paonia, *Delta*. This is the 7th record of this species in Colorado and the 2nd record on the West Slope.

Black-billed Cuckoo – *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (BP; 2015-065; 7-0): An adult was briefly seen on 25 May 2015 at the banding station at Chico Basin Ranch, *El Paso*. (PWN[&]; 2015-078; 7-0): Another adult was seen between 10 and 15 June 2015 in La Veta, *Huerfano*. (DSr[&]; 2015-087; 6-1): One was seen on 19 July 2015 at Prewitt Res. SWA, *Washington*. 2015 was a productive year for this species in Colorado.

Lesser Nighthawk – *Chordeiles acutipennis* (KMD; 2016-016; 7-0): One was seen on 25 July 2015 at the Nucla sewage lagoons, *Montrose*. This species has been seen regularly at this site over the past decade.

Black Swift – *Cypseloides niger* (TL; 2015-010; 7-0): Five birds were seen on 27 August 2004 at Barr Lake SP, *Adams*. It is unusual to find this many Black Swifts out over the plains of Colorado.

Rivoli's Hummingbird – *Eugenes fulgens* (CS[&]; 2015-115; 7-0): An adult female was seen and nicely photographed on 12 and 13 June 2015 several miles west of Bellvue, *Larimer*. (SA; 2015-088; 6-1): An immature male was seen on 27 June 2015 a few miles northeast of Durango, *La Plata*.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – *Archilochus colubris* (BP[&]; 2015-048; 7-0): An adult male was seen on 4 and 5 May 2015 at the Stulp farm, which is a few miles south of Lamar, *Prowers*.

Anna's Hummingbird – *Calypte anna* (JD[&], BP[&]; 2015-081; 7-0): An adult male was seen on 25 June 2015 coming to a feeder a few miles south of Valdez, which is west of Trinidad, *Las Animas*.

Black Rail – *Laterallus jamaicensis* (MP; 2015-084; 7-0): Birds were heard calling on 22 and 23 July 2011 at two separate marshes on the Brett Gray Ranch, which is southwest of Punkin Center, *Lincoln*.

Hudsonian Godwit – *Limosa haemastica* (JD[&], BP[&]; 2015-050; 7-0): An adult in breeding plumage was seen by many people between 4 – 9 May 2015 on the Verhoeff farm, which is just northeast of John Martin Res., *Bent*. (DSh[&]; 2015-056; 7-0): Another adult was seen on 8 May 2015 in Beebe Draw, *Weld*. (BP[&]; 2016-026; 7-0): An adult was seen on 18 and 19 April 2016 at Lake Holbrook, *Otero*.

American Woodcock – *Scalopax minor* (MA[&], GG, HM, CW[&]; 2016-001; 7-0): Two birds were seen between 3 January and 7 February 2016 at the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, *Larimer*. Birds were also seen at this location the previous winter.

Red Phalarope – *Phalaropus fulicarius* (BP[&]; 2016-009; 7-0): One was seen on 18 and 19 January 2016 at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*. This is a very rare occurrence of this species in mid-winter in Colorado.

Laughing Gull – *Leucophaeus atricilla* (RMI[&]; 2016-030; 7-0): An adult was seen on 22 and 23 May 2014 at De Weese Res., which is a few miles north of Westcliffe, *Custer*. (DSj; 2015-091; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on 28 July 2015 at Orlando Res., which is several miles north of Walsenburg, *Huerfano*. This is a new county record for *Huerfano*.

Glaucous-winged Gull – *Larus glaucescens* (DD[&]; 2016-004; 6-1): An immature bird was seen on 13 January 2015 at Aurora Res., *Arapahoe*. (SM[&]; 2015-027; 7-0): Another immature was seen on 11 March 2015 at Black Hollow Res., which is between Fort Collins and Ault, *Weld*.



Western Gull, Alamosa. 16 July 2016. Photo by David Dowell.

Western Gull – *Larus occidentalis* (SM[&]; 2016-060; 7-0): An immature bird was seen between 17 June and 18 July 2016 at Prewitt Res., *Washington*. (DD[&], SF[&]; 2016-054; 7-0): An adult was seen between 22 June and 23 July 2016 at Blanca Wetlands in the San Luis Valley, *Alamosa*. These are the 6th and 7th records respectively for Colorado.

Iceland Gull – *Larus glaucooides* (SM[&]; 2015-001; 7-0): An adult was seen on 1 December 2014 at the Larimer County landfill in

west Fort Collins, *Larimer*. (DD[&]; 2015-003; 7-0): An immature bird was seen at exactly the same time on 1 December 2014 at Boulder Res., *Boulder*. (DD[&], SM; 2015-004; 7-0): A 2nd year bird was seen between 17 and 21 December 2014 at Lagerman Res., which is near Niwot, *Boulder*. (SM[&]; 2015-006; 7-0): An adult was seen on 22 December 2014 again at the Larimer County landfill, *Larimer*, although this could have been the same individual seen on 1 December. (DD[&], 2015-015; 6-1): Another adult was seen on 4 February 2015 at Barr Lake SP, *Adams*. (DD[&]; 2015-028; 7-0): An adult was seen between 6 and 8 March 2015 at the gravel pits along the South Platte Greenway, *Adams*. This is a very large number of sightings of this species in the winter of 2014/2015. (SM; 2016-098): An immature bird was seen on 18 October 2016 at Barr Lake SP, *Adams*. This last report of Iceland Gull was not voted on by the committee because the species was lumped with Thayer's Gull in 2017 (Chesser et al. 2017).

Arctic Tern – *Sterna paradisaea* (KK[&]; 2015-064; 7-0): An adult was seen on 28 May 2015 at Timnath Res., *Larimer*.

Neotropic Cormorant – *Phalacrocorax brasilianus* (SM; 2015-037; 7-0): An adult was seen on 6 April 2015 a little west of Windsor, *Weld*. (CD[&], BW, MBg; 2016-021; 7-0): A bird was seen between 17 March and 5 July 2016 at Chipeta Lakes SWA, which is just south of Montrose, *Montrose*.

Brown Pelican – *Pelecanus occidentalis* (DSi, BP[&], CT[&], KMD[&]; 2016-024; 7-0): An adult was seen between 5 and 7 April 2016 at Lake Beckwith in Colorado City, *Pueblo*. (BP[&], KMD[&]; 2016-027; 7-0): Another adult was seen on 23 and 24 April 2016 at John Martin Res., *Bent*. (JR[&], 2016-029; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on 26 April 2016 at Cottonwood Marsh, which is just east of Boulder, *Boulder*. These sightings represent three different Brown Pelicans all seen in a three week period in Colorado.

Least Bittern – *Ixobrychus exilis* (BP[&]; 2015-005; 7-0): An adult was seen on 21 and 22 May 2014 at Rose Pond in Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*. (BM[&]; 2015-090; 7-0): An adult female was briefly seen on 6 June 2015 also in the south part of Chico Basin Ranch, *Pueblo*. (DSH[&]; 2016-033; 7-0): Another adult was seen on 19 May 2016 at Walden Ponds, which is just east of Boulder, *Boulder*.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – *Nyctanassa violacea* (TD[&], MC, DS[&], CR[&]; 2015-092; 7-0): An adult was seen between 7 and 10 August 2015 at the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, *Jefferson*.

Red-shouldered Hawk – *Buteo lineatus* (BK[&], JV; 2015-099; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on 30 and 31 August at North Sterling SP, *Logan*.

Zone-tailed Hawk – *Buteo albonotatus* (RMo[&]; 2015-043; 7-0): An adult was briefly seen on 8 April 2015 in Burlington, *Kit Carson*.

Acorn Woodpecker – *Melanerpes formicivorus* (KMD[&]; 2016-017; 7-0): Two adults were seen on 20 July 2014 at Pueblo Mountain Park, which is near Beulah, *Pueblo*. These birds were subsequently seen during the rest of 2014 and 2015, and have become resident at this location. (AH[&]; 2015-019; 7-0): A female was seen on 15 February 2015 in southwest Colorado Springs, *El Paso*.

Eastern Wood-Pewee – *Contopus virens* (DD[&]; 2016-002; 5-2, 6-1): A group of 5 birds was seen on 7 September 2015 at Sandy Bluffs State Trust Land, which is a few miles north of Idalia, *Yuma*. Some committee members were unsettled by the number of birds seen, but ultimately were convinced because at least 4 of the birds were heard calling.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – *Empidonax flaviventris* (SM; 2015-063; 6-1): A bird was seen on 23 May 2015 at Holyoke, *Phillips*. (GW[&], SM[&]; 2015-112; 7-0): An adult was seen on 9 October 2015 at the Fox Ranch, which is several miles northwest of Idalia, *Yuma*.

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alnorum* (SM; 2015-075; 5-2, 6-1): A bird was seen on 20 May 2015 in Eads, *Kiowa*. (SM[&]; 2015-073; 7-0): Two birds were seen on 21 May 2015 near Hale, *Yuma*. (SM[&]; 2015-071; 7-0): Three birds were seen on 24 May 2015 at the woods in Ovid, *Sedgwick*. (SM[&]; 2015-072; 7-0): A male was seen also on 24 May 2015 at Sand Draw SWA, which is several miles south of Julesburg, *Sedgwick*. (BK; 2015-061; 6-1): Two adults were seen on 24 May 2015 at the Lions Club in Holyoke, *Phillips*. (SM; 2015-074; 7-0): A bird was seen on 27 May 2015 in Greeley, *Weld*. Clearly the week of May 20 – 27 brought a large number of Alder Flycatchers to the Eastern Plains of Colorado.

Vermilion Flycatcher – *Pyrocephalus rubinus* (BP[&]; 2015-031; 7-0): An immature male was seen on 5 April 2015 along the Arkansas River below Pueblo Res. dam, *Pueblo*.

Great-crested Flycatcher – *Myiarchus crinitus* (BB[&]; 2015-077; 6-1): A bird was seen on 22 May 2015 along the Poudre River trail in Fort Collins, *Larimer*.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – *Tyrannus forficatus* (PWN[&]; 2015-066; 7-0): A female was seen on 30 May 2015 a few miles northeast of La Veta, *Huerfano*.



Pacific Wren, Boulder. 10 July 2015. Photo by Alec Hopping.

Bell's Vireo – *Vireo bellii* (HK; 2015-67; 7-0): A bird was seen on 24 and 25 May 2015 in Franktown, *Douglas*. (BP[&], JD[&]; 2015-069; 7-0): An adult male was also seen up until 11 June 2015 at Valco Ponds in Pueblo, *Pueblo*.

Blue-headed Vireo – *Vireo solitarius* (GW[&]; 2016-091; 7-0): An immature bird was seen on 26 September 2016 at the woods in Stratton, *Kit Carson*.

Pacific Wren – *Troglodytes pacificus* (MBt, AB[&], PG, WR, KMD, AH[&]; 2015-082; 6-1): An adult male was seen between 20 June and 10 July 2015 at Calypso Cascades in the Wild Basin area of RMNP, *Boulder*.

Sedge Wren – *Cistothorus platensis* (SM; 2016-014; 6-1): One was seen on 21 October 2015 at Union Res., *Weld*. (SM; 2016-100; 7-0): A bird was seen on 12 November 2016 at Van's Marsh, which is just north of the northwest part of John Martin Res., *Bent*.

Gray-cheeked Thrush – *Catharus minimus* (DSu; 2015-058; 7-0): An adult was seen on 11 May 2015 at Big Sandy Creek in Simla, *Elbert*.

Purple Finch – *Haemorhous purpureus* (TF[&], RH[&], BM[&]; 2016-005; 7-0): A female was seen between 14 December 2015 and 16 January 2016 at Fountain Creek Regional Park in Colorado Springs, *El Paso*.



Baird's Sparrow, Larimer. 15 July 2016. Photo by Steven Mlodinow

Baird's Sparrow – *Ammodramus bairdii* (NK[&]; 2015-086; 7-0): As many as 3 males were heard and seen between 25 and 31 July 2015 south of Norfolk and west of I-25, *Larimer*. (KMD[&], SM[&]; 2016-053; 7-0): At least 6 males, and maybe more, were seen on 15 July 2016 at the Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, which is on the Wyoming border just west of I-25, *Larimer*. These are the first reports received by the CBRC about the Baird's Sparrows occurring in northern Larimer County since 2015. Breeding has now been documented by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies staff at the Soapstone Prairie in both 2018 and 2019.

Fox Sparrow (Red) – *Passerella iliaca (iliaca)* (TB[&]; 2016-013; 7-0): An adult was seen on 16 November 2014 at the Red Rocks Trading Post, *Jefferson*. This bird spent about two months at this location.

Golden-crowned Sparrow – *Zonotrichia atricapilla* (MH; 2016-045; 6-1): An immature bird was seen on 9 April 2016 along the Colorado River in Fruita, *Mesa*. (KMD[&]; 2016-105; 7-0): Another immature was seen on 16 December 2016 at Rocky Ford SWA, *Otero*.

Eastern Meadowlark – *Sturnella magna* (JB[&]; 2015-089; 7-0): At least one, and probably more birds were seen between 21 – 30 July 2015 at McIntosh Lake in northwest Longmont, *Boulder*. These birds were documented to be of the southwest race *liliana*, which very rarely occurs in Colorado.

Common Redpoll – *Acanthis flammea* (KMD[&]; 2016-006; 7-0): One was seen on 15 December 2015 in Las Animas, *Bent*.

Chestnut-collared Longspur – *Calcarius ornatus* (TS[&]; 2016-023; 6-1): An adult was seen on 27 March 2016 several miles southwest of Alamosa, *Conejos*.

Smith's Longspur – *Calcarius pictus* (JT[&]; 2015-002; 6-1): A bird was seen on 27 September 2014 at Medicine Bow Curve in RMNP, *Larimer*. This is a very unusual, high location for this bird of the plains.

Eastern Towhee – *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (SM; 2015-062; 7-0): An adult female was seen on 21 May 2015 at the Fox Ranch, which is several miles northwest of Idalia, *Yuma*.



Hooded Oriole, Douglas. 27 April 2016. Photo by Mark Obmascik.

Hooded Oriole – *Icterus cucullatus* (MO[&], PG[&], CT[&], NL[&]; 2016-028; 7-0): A male was seen between 27 April and 3 May 2016 in the Roxborough Park neighborhood, Douglas. This is the 3rd record of this species in Colorado, and the first away from the very southwest and west of the state.

Golden-winged Warbler – *Vermivora chrysoptera* (BK[&]; 2015-060; 7-0): An adult female was seen on 21 May 2015 at the Cañon City Riverwalk, Fremont.

Mourning Warbler – *Geothlypis philadelphia* (DSu; 2015-059; 7-0): An adult male was seen on 11 May 2015 at East Bijou Creek on County Road 170 northwest of Agate, Elbert.

Cape May Warbler – *Setophaga tigrina* (BP[&], JD[&]; 2015-054; 7-0): An adult female was seen between 5 – 11 May 2015 at John Martin Res. State Park, Bent.

Yellow-throated Warbler – *Setophaga dominica* (KD; 2015-051; 7-0): An adult was seen between 6 – 8 May 2015 at Huck Finn Pond, which is in Durango, La Plata. (CW[&]; 2016-007; 7-0): An immature was seen on 10 January 2016 in Fort Collins, Larimer. This bird spent the entire winter in a neighborhood in Fort Collins, and was regularly seen by many observers coming to a feeder in cold and snowy conditions.

Prairie Warbler – *Setophaga discolor* (NG[&], BM[&], JD[&]; 2015-049; 7-0): An immature male was seen between 28 April and 2 May 2015 at the banding station in Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso. (DSu[&]; 2015-098; 7-0): Another immature male was seen on 12 August 2015 in the Ken Caryl Valley, Jefferson. (DSu[&]; 2016-052; 7-0): An adult male was seen on 16 and 17 May 2016 also in the Ken Caryl Valley, Jefferson.

Painted Redstart – *Myioborus pictus* (MD[&]; 2015-041; 6-1): An adult was seen on 15 April 2015 at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP, Montrose.

Painted Bunting – *Passerina ciris* (SB[&]; 2015-093; 2-5, 7-0): An adult female was seen at Clear Springs Ranch, which is along Fountain Creek south of Colorado Springs, El Paso.

Dickcissel – *Spiza americana* (PD; 2016-031; 7-0): An adult male was seen on 14 May 2016 along I-70 in DeBeque Canyon, Mesa. This is a very rare occurrence of this species on the West Slope of Colorado.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Many Colorado birders, expert and beginner alike, will sooner or later have a bird report “not accepted” by the CBRC. While some written descriptions may describe a look-alike

species or subspecies causing the non-acceptance, more often than not, unaccepted reports simply do not provide enough descriptive details or convincing photographs to provide “without a doubt” evidence to support a record. Or, the key call or song was not heard well or not described well or at all. Even a 5-2 majority vote in favor of a record being accepted does not meet the required 6-1 or 7-0. The bird may well, in fact, refer to the species reported, but the details provided may have been not convincing enough. Do not be insulted. Next time, detail every key identification point you observed (but not a word-for-word field guide description). Separate all of the look-alike species and when appropriate address potential hybrids. When photographing, attempt to get clear shots that show key features/behavior/posture or include a sound recording or a sonogram when possible.

Vaux’s Swift – *Chaetura vauxi* (2016-055; 2-5): An adult was seen on 22 May 2016 along Tabeguache Creek east of Uravan, *Montrose*. It is very difficult to separate this species from Chimney Swift, and no photographs were obtained. Although several committee members strongly suspected this to be a Vaux’s Swift, others noted that the different wing shape between the two species was not described. There is only one accepted report of this species in Colorado, which was along the Arkansas River below Pueblo Res., *Pueblo* on 28 April 2015 when several photographs were obtained.

Blue-throated Mountain-gem – *Lampornis clemenciae* (2015-035; 0-7): A female was seen on 31 July 2008 in southwest Grand Junction, *Mesa*. All committee members thought the description of the bird was rather short, and some concluded that the described calls did not eliminate Rivoli’s Hummingbird.

Whooping Crane – *Grus americana* (2015-045; 0-7): Two adults were seen on 17 March 1995 at the Monte Vista NWR, *Rio Grande*. All committee members agreed that these birds were introduced to the Sandhill Crane flock by putting Whooping Crane eggs in Sandhill nests. Therefore, these sightings were not accepted due to “natural occurrence questionable.”

Iceland Gull – *Larus glaucooides* (2015-017; 1-6): An immature bird was seen on 1 February 2015 at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*. Many committee members were worried by the description as “much larger than a Ring-billed Gull.” However, remember at the time of these votes, Iceland Gull was considered as a separate species from Thayer’s Gull, and somewhat smaller than Thayer’s Gull.

Snowy Owl – *Bubo scandiacus* (2016-020; 2-5): An immature bird was very briefly seen on 12 January 2016 in a backyard in Colorado Springs, *El Paso*. Several committee members noted there was no real description of the bird’s plumage, just a description of its actions. Therefore, another light owl, such as a Barn Owl, which is also a bit more likely to occur in a suburban backyard, could not be eliminated.

Black-backed Woodpecker – *Picoides arcticus* (2015-085; 1-6): A bird was heard, but not seen, on 16 June 2015 at Black Mountain, which is several miles northeast of Craig, *Moffat*. The nearest eBird report of this species to Colorado is a record from the Wind River Range in Wyoming. This species’ flight call is quite distinctive from other woodpeckers. However, the committee’s thoughts were summarized by one member writing, “A tantalizing report, but insufficient for acceptance as a first state record.”

Gyrfalcon – *Falco rusticolus* (2015-040; 0-7): One was seen on 10 March 2015 7 miles south of Glade Park, which is west of Grand Junction, *Mesa*. Committee members were concerned about the very brief sighting of a white-phase individual. This phase breeds in Greenland, and is extremely rare in North America where almost all white-phase birds are kept by falconers.

Alder Flycatcher – *Empidonax alnorum* (2015-057; 2-5): One was seen on 15 May 2015 below the dam at Prewitt Res., Logan. Several committee members thought that the primary projection shown in the photographs was too short for an Alder Flycatcher. In addition, the bird was silent so that the distinctive call of this species was not heard.

Pacific Wren – *Troglodytes pacificus* (2015-076; 2-5): A male was seen on 5 September 2014 in Estes Park, Larimer. No photographs or recordings were obtained, and several committee members thought that the description did not eliminate a Winter Wren. (2016-008; 1-6): One was seen on 24 December 2015 just east of Rye, Pueblo. Again, most committee members thought that Winter Wren was not eliminated because of the very short sighting and the fact that no calls were heard or recorded.

Bendire's Thrasher – *Toxostoma bendirei* (2015-094; 1-6): An adult was seen on 24 April 2014 along Hwy 109 near Ninaview, which is south of La Junta, Las Animas. Most committee members thought that the description and poor photographs did not rule out Sage Thrasher or even a juvenile Curve-billed Thrasher with a short, not fully grown, bill.

Henslow's Sparrow – *Centronyx henslowii* (2015-095; 2-5): One was seen on 6 October 2010 in a weedy field near John Martin Res., Bent. The bird was identified later from a photograph because it had an olive head. Several committee members thought that the photograph and very brief description were not convincing enough to document this very rare sparrow: there is only one accepted Colorado record.

Swainson's Warbler – *Limnothlypis swainsonii* (2015-083; 1-6): An adult was seen on 15 July 2015 just south of Valdez, which is west of Trinidad, Las Animas. Most committee members were uncomfortable with the brief description, the time of year and the habitat described as “low scrub of some sort.”

Mourning Warbler – *Geothlypis philadelphia* (2016-003; 4-3, 0-7): An immature was seen on 28 August 2015 at Flagler Res. SWA, Kit Carson. Several committee members changed their vote after it was pointed out that the photograph looked more like the first fall female MacGillivray's Warbler on page 511 of the Dunn and Garrett (1997) warbler book than the first fall Mourning Warbler on page 501.

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