

# NMOS BULLETIN



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ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

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## **A Note from the President**

It is often daunting to begin a new adventure, and so it is with me as I become President of the New Mexico Ornithological Society. NMOS was founded several years ago by individuals with a love of ornithology and a desire to promote the study of birds in New Mexico. Their vision has grown into one that includes an annual meeting where both amateurs and professionals can gather to discuss and present papers pertaining to birds. In addition, amateurs and professionals can publish scientific papers in the organization's Bulletin, and noteworthy observations are documented in NMOS' Field Notes. Over the years occasional papers have been published on various aspects of ornithology in the state under the direction of NMOS.

We owe a debt of gratitude for the vision and dedication of those individuals on the Board who have worked hard this past year. Dave Krueper, Nancy Cox, Jerry Oldenettel and Tim Reeves have agreed to continue in their current positions. Bill Howe who has served as President for the past several years and Bruce Neville who has been the Editor of the Bulletin are stepping down owing to demands of work. Both of these jobs required commitment and perseverance. I would also like to welcome two new Directors, Janet Ruth and Martha Desmond. I look forward to working with both of them in the future. Sandy Williams is New Mexico's Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, as well as, Editor of *NMOS Field Notes* (Bill Howe is Assistant Editor). Sandy plays a major role in maintaining the credibility of bird records in the state and is a valuable member of NMOS. Mary Alice Root has been working tirelessly on the NMOS database. Pat Snyder adds a historical perspective to NMOS. Her name appears numerous times over many years in the Field Notes as an observer, as well as, an editor. She has played many roles in NMOS and regularly attends the Board Meetings. Finally, there are many, too numerous to mention that have been a part of NMOS. Thanks.

This past May, NMOS had their annual meeting in Albuquerque. My son's graduation and my father's death prevented me from attending, however, many have reported on its success. Numerous people were involved, thank you for your dedication to NMOS.

On behalf of the current officers, one of our goals is to be more current in publishing both the Bulletin and the Field Notes. NMOS members are encouraged to submit articles and news to the Bulletin. These items will be published in a timely manner. Additional information can be found at the end of this Bulletin.

The Officers are here to serve you. Contact information is published on the next page.

Roland Shook, Silver City

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**NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Saturday, May 20, 2006

**Schedule of events**

0830- 1200. Registration

0900-0950. Membership meeting and election of officers

1000-1200. Paper session 1; Chair- Dr. Blair Wolf

1200-1340. Lunch on your own

1330-1600. Paper session 2; Chair- Dr. Blair Wolf

1830-2000. Banquet at the Airport University Inn Ballroom

2000. Featured speaker

**Dr. Christopher Witt**

Curator of Birds and Assistant professor  
Museum of Southwestern Biology and Biology Department  
The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

**“A Brief History of Hummingbird Evolution”**

## **Abstracts Of Papers Presented (in order of presentation)**

**GRAY VIREO POPULATION MONITORING IN SOUTHEAST NEW MEXICO.** Stake, M. M. and G. Garber, Hawks Aloft, Inc., P.O. Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184.

The Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) is a scrub-foraging songbird of conservation concern, primarily because of perceived threats, such as habitat loss and Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitism. Despite concern over Gray Vireo populations, there have been relatively few population studies that identify local distribution and measure reproductive success. In 2005, Hawks Aloft, Inc., with funding support by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Share with Wildlife program, searched for and monitored Gray Vireo territories in the Sacramento and Guadalupe Mountains of southeast New Mexico. We located and monitored 15 territories in the Guadalupe Mountains, near the town of Queen, New Mexico. We monitored 19 Gray Vireo nests and discovered considerable parasitism (71%). Only six nests fledged at least one vireo, and average productivity was 0.67 vireo young per territory. We calculated 34% Mayfield nest success. Although nest parasitism was relatively high and productivity relatively low, the extent of how parasitism affects Gray Vireo reproductive success is unknown. Continued monitoring will clarify the effects of parasitism and the viability of this population. Identifying and monitoring other populations in New Mexico would improve our understanding of distribution and local threats, thereby improving future status assessments for Gray Vireos in New Mexico and priority ranking for conservation efforts.

**THE NMOS DATABASE: FORTY YEARS OF NEW MEXICO BIRD SIGHTINGS READY FOR USE.** Root, M. A., NM Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87104, Natural Heritage New Mexico, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

This huge project, undertaken by NMOS volunteers, contains forty years of New Mexico bird sightings from 1962 through November 2003. New data will be entered into the database as they become available. Containing 61,046 sightings, 1596 localities in 33 counties, 1786 observers, covering 577 species, this database is now ready for use. Researchers and birders alike can search the database by species, locality, date, observer, and many combinations thereof. Abundances, distributions, breeding records, and range expansions and reductions are among the many opportunities for research. Latitude and longitude coordinates are available for many of the localities, which provide mapping possibilities. Information for use, and disclaimers, are located on the website. Also, links will be found on the NHNM website, the NMOS website, and on the NMMNH&S website. Feedback in the form of comments and corrections are encouraged. Support has been provided by the NM Museum of Natural History and Science, the Natural Heritage New Mexico, the NM

Land Office, the BLM, and the NMOS.

**POTENTIAL USES OF EBIRD FOR AVIAN BIOGEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH IN NEW MEXICO: THE VALUE OF CITIZEN SCIENCE.** Rustay, C. M., Playa Lakes Joint Venture, 1303 Rio Grande Blvd #5, Albuquerque, NM 87104; and B. D. Neville, Centennial Science & Engineering Library, MSC05-3020, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

eBird, [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org), is an international Internet database that collects and compiles information submitted by birders across the continent. It has several enticing features to encourage birders to use the database, which in turn encourages them to submit data. By submitting checklists of birds seen at a given time and place, birders can maintain a variety of their own lists, while contributing to a shared public dataset that offers a variety of information on bird distribution, movements, and abundance throughout North America and in New Mexico in particular. The ability to query the public dataset for various investigations continues to expand as new software releases are brought online. As with other “citizen science” projects, the value of the database depends upon the number of records deposited. In contrast to other datasets (e.g., North American Birds) where space is at a premium, eBird storage is essentially unlimited and can therefore capture information on common species, as well as rare ones. Quality control is provided by filters that flag unusual records for review by state editors. Cornell, which stewards the program, can provide access to additional data on individual records for studies requiring greater detail. Examples of the use of eBird for both recreational and scientific applications are provided.

**INFLUENCE OF LANDSCAPE AND WITHIN-PATCH CHARACTERISTICS ON AVIAN COMMUNITY DYNAMICS IN CHIHUAHUAN DESERT GRASSLANDS.** Agudelo, S. and M. Desmond, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003. Murray, L. Department of Experimental Statistics, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

The influence of landscape and vegetation characteristics on non-breeding grassland- and- shrubland adapted bird communities associated with Chihuahuan Desert grassland fragments were studied between 2003 and 2005 to document the effects of habitat degradation and fragmentation as a result of desertification in the southwestern United States. We selected 27 grassland patches, nine each of black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*), tobosa (*Pleuraphis mutica*) and dropseed (*Sporobolus sp*) to test predictions regarding avian responses to grassland patch size, isolation and shape, level of shrub encroachment and vegetative structure and composition. Overall avian abundance, richness and diversity were low within seasons and across years. Shrubland-adapted birds were dominant during the period of study; grassland

obligate species were almost absent in the study sites with Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) comprising the majority of this guild. The number of invasive shrubs was an important variable predicting bird abundances for both avian guilds, negatively influencing grassland-adapted birds and positively influencing shrubland-adapted birds. Landscape level characteristics were important predictors of shrubland-adapted bird abundances, suggesting shrub encroachment into grasslands degrades grassland quality and influences species composition, making grassland patches unsuitable for grassland obligate species.

**ARE SHRUB ENCROACHED GRASSLANDS OF THE NORTHERN CHIHUAHUAN DESERT SUB-OPTIMAL HABITAT FOR WINTERING SAGE SPARROWS (*AMPHISPIZA BELLI*)?** Joos, C. J. and M. J. Desmond, Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife, New Mexico State University, 2980 S. Espina, Knox Hall 132, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

The southwestern United States is important for breeding and wintering grassland and shrub-adapted birds, many of which are experiencing population declines. Yet little research has addressed the effects of recent large scale vegetation changes on avifauna in the American Southwest. In other avian species, non-breeding habitat quality has been previously linked to timing of arrival on breeding grounds as well as quality of breeding territories. In this study multiple indicators of avian fitness were measured in Sage Sparrows (*Amphispiza belli*) wintering in grasslands along a gradient of honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) encroachment in the Chihuahuan Desert of southern New Mexico. Sage Sparrows were captured within three habitats: mesquite dominant with coppice dune formation, mesquite dominant mixed with grass but no dunes, and grasslands with little or no mesquite. Subcutaneous fat level and pectoral muscle condition were scored, and body measurements were taken to calculate body condition indices. Pre-existing vegetation classifications were used to categorize degree of shrub encroachment. The goal of this project was to create a greater understanding of winter ecology for this species, their physiological response to habitat quality, and help elucidate if mesquite encroachment into Chihuahuan Desert grasslands creates sub-optimal non-breeding habitat for Sage Sparrows.

**RAPTOR USE OF THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE BOSQUE AND THE ADJACENT URBAN AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS .** Garber, G. L., T. W. Fetz and M. M. Stake, Hawks Aloft, Inc., PO Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184

The Middle Rio Grande valley provides valuable year-round habitat for many species of raptors. From December 2001 through February 2004, we monitored raptor use of several river reaches from the Alameda bridge south to the

Belen bridge to: 1) compare seasonal raptor abundance in urban reaches to more rural areas with a high degree of agriculture adjacent to the riparian woodland (bosque) along the Rio Grande; 2) compare current abundance to that reported in the early 1980's Middle Rio Grande Biological Study, and; 3) test two different survey methods to compare detection rates. The rural routes supported significantly higher concentrations of raptors, particularly buteos, falcons, and harriers, during the winter than all routes located in the more urban areas near Albuquerque. During the summer, a higher number of raptors were detected on the rural routes, but the difference was not significant, possibly because the methods used were not effective in detecting Cooper's Hawk, the dominant bosque nesting raptor. The point count survey method detected significantly more raptors (11.79 per 10 miles) than the continuous driving method (8.09 per 10 miles). We suggest that the presence of agricultural lands adjacent to the bosque provides a higher value habitat to this suite of raptors than the urban landscape, and that point count surveys are a more effective way to detect raptors.

**THE ELF OWLS OF THE SOUTHWEST.** Dickerman, R. W. and A. B. Johnson, Division of Birds, Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.

The Elf Owls of North America have long been considered to be represented as two disjunct subspecies, nominate *Micrathene whitneyi whitneyi*, found in Arizona and New Mexico (but note, *M. c. whitneyi* has been known from the Big Bend region of Texas since 1924) and *Micrathene whitneyi idonea* of the Lower Rio Grande in south Texas. The south Texas population is known from only 6 specimens with data of which four were collected in the late 1880's! It was not again reported from this region in Texas again until 1960! Whether it moved out of this region and then returned is unknown. Many postulate vast range expansions, but solid evidence of this expansion has been lacking until recently. Steve West first found Elf Owls in the Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico using playback in 1997. Six were collected between 2000 and 2003 in Dark Canyon. Five of these were so distinct from any specimen examined that they were described as a new subspecies. More recent specimens indicate that both *M. w. whitneyi* and *M. w. idonea* are now invading the Guadalupe Mountains and undergoing introgression with the local population, which will probably soon cease to exist!

## **DEVELOPMENT OF IMMUNOPHENOTYPING TECHNIQUES FOR MEASUREMENT OF IMMUNE RESPONSE IN BIRDS TO VIRUSES.**

Fair, J. M., K. J. Taylor-McCabe, Y. Shou, C. Hathcock, D. Keller, and B. L. Marone, Los Alamos National Laboratory, MJ J495, Los Alamos, NM 87506.

Since the emergences of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the North America there have been hundreds of human cases recorded and in some cases a severe de-



cline in populations of susceptible species of birds, such as ravens. Other species, such as chickens, are resistant to WNV disease. To address the need to more accurately measure immune response in birds we are developing a lymphocyte immunophenotyping assay using multiparameter flow cytometry. Lymphocytes were isolated from blood samples and labeled with antibodies to for in chickens and pigeons, and are being developed for other species. Samples from chickens and pigeons were analyzed using a laser flow cytometer available through the National Flow Cytometry Resource at Los Alamos. A method for isolation of lymphocytes was developed from 100-200 microliter blood samples. Pigeons infected with WNV had significantly higher lymphocytes than uninfected birds. Additional development is ongoing to determine whether the antibodies developed in chicken are specific enough for use in other species such as ravens and magpies. The ability to reliably assess the abundance of lymphocyte subsets birds in response to WNV, or other pathogens or stressors, will provide valuable insight into the immune response of birds.

**EVALUATION OF AERIAL SURVEY METHODS FOR LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKENS (*TYMPANUCHUS PALLIDICINCTUS*) IN SOUTHERN SHORTGRASS PRAIRIES OF TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO.** Woodward, H. D., W. B. Ballard, D. Haukos, M. C. Wallace, and D. Wester, Dept. Range, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409; Stoleson, S. H., USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, Irvine, PA 16329; White, G.C., Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523; Whitlaw, H., Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. Lubbock, TX 79409.

Since the 1800s, the range-wide population of Lesser Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) has declined by 92%, primarily due to habitat loss and degradation. In 1998 the Lesser Prairie-Chicken became a candidate for protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Efforts to document total number of active breeding display sites (leks) and population numbers in the Texas south plains have been hindered by inaccessibility. Based on experiences of other prairie grouse researchers, we propose that aerial surveys and counts can improve current knowledge of existing leks, locate new leks, and provide a means of more closely approximating the total Lesser Prairie-Chicken population in Texas. In order to evaluate aerial survey techniques for surveying and counting Lesser Prairie-Chickens, we propose a two-phase approach. The first year we will determine the aircraft (helicopter, fixed-wing airplane), height, and flying speed best able to survey known leks in New Mexico and Texas and will calculate a sightability probability. In the second and third years we plan to refine this technique with by evaluating distance sampling and mark-recapture methods' ability to detect known numbers of leks and known male lek attendance. We expect our end product of survey protocol recommendations will be a valuable tool for management of

Lesser Prairie-Chickens and contribute to conservation efforts not only in Texas, but across their five-state range.

## **INFLUENCE OF RESOURCE MANIPULATIONS ON ABUNDANCE, COMMUNITY COMPOSITION AND SEED SELECTION BY WINTERING SPARROWS IN SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO.**

Mendez-Gonzalez, C., M. J. Desmond, and L. B. Abbott, Department of Animal and Range Sciences and Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, 88003

The influence of seed diversity, abundance and type on avian community dynamics and avian diets during winter is not understood. To address this we conducted a large-scale seed manipulation experiment with 4 treatments and a control. Prior to our experiment, we conducted a pilot study to examine grassland sparrow diets through regurgitation under natural conditions, we mist-netted birds at six sites. For our pilot study on diet, 573 birds were sampled comprising 18 species. Savannah Sparrows were the dominant species ( $n = 270$ ). We found more than 70 seed species in avian diets. Despite that high diversity, 5 seed species accounted for 80% of consumption. The most abundant seed species detected were feather fingergrass (*Chloris virgata*) 24%, dropseed (*Sporobolus spp*) 23%, Palmer's amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) 18%, stinkgrass (*Eragrostis cilianensis*) 8%, and carpetweed (*Mollugo verticillata*) 6%. Seed selection among birds differed significantly within site ( $X^2 = 6795$ ,  $df = 32$ ,  $P = 0.00$ ). Diets of Vesper and Savannah sparrows were broader compared to Brewer's, Chipping, and White-crowned sparrows. For our seed manipulation experiment, avian community composition varied between years and sites. Plots treated with 40kg/ha of sand dropseed supported the highest abundance of birds during winter of 2004, whereas, all treated plots supported more birds compared to controls in 2005 ( $P < 0.05$ ). During 2004 the avifauna was dominated by Horned Larks, whereas, Chestnut-collared Longspurs were the dominant species the following winter. Species richness and avian abundance were higher ( $P > 0.05$ ) during winter of 2005. The four most common sparrows on regurgitation plots (Brewers, Chipping, Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows) consumed more sand dropseed than other seed types ( $P < 0.05$ ), however, the smaller and more mobile Spizella sparrows consumed more sand dropseed, the smallest seed type, compared to Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows ( $P < 0.01$ ). Grasshopper Sparrow consumed less sand dropseed and more blue grama and plains bristlegrass seed ( $P < 0.05$ ). Data collected from our seeded plots indicates that sparrows partition seeds during the winter and a few seed species comprise the majority of winter diets.

## **THE FUNCTIONAL IMPORTANCE OF COLUMNAR CACTI AS RESOURCES FOR A DESERT BIRD COMMUNITY; AN ASSESSMENT USING STABLE ISOTOPES.** Wolf, B. O., R. Warne

and C. Mathiasen, Biology Department, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, 87131.

Columnar cacti are prominent features of arid and semi-arid ecosystems in the Neotropics. Cacti are unusual among arid zone plants in that they offer an abundance of succulent, energy rich fruit to vertebrates in an environment where water and nutrient abundance may constrain animal function. Quantifying the importance of these resources to consumers provides important insight into the role that cacti play in structuring animal communities. In the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea* and organ pipe cacti, *Stenocereus Thurberi*, provide extensive water and energy resources to the bird community during the hottest and driest periods of the annual cycle. Between May and August, the saguaro releases a huge pulse of nutrients (130,000+ kJ/ha) into the ecosystem in the form of floral nectar and fruit pulp. This nutrient pulse can be tracked into consumers by means of its stable isotope signal, which differentiates cacti from other plant resources in the environment. Plants such as saguaro use CAM photosynthesis and have tissue carbon isotope ratios that differ strongly from the isotopic values of the majority of desert plant species, which use C3 photosynthesis (saguaro/organ pipe -13.0 ‰ VPDB versus -25.0 ‰ VPDB average for C3 plants). During June, the peak period of fruit production, stable isotope analysis of avian plasma indicates that saguaro fruit represents approximately 43% of the bird community's carbon intake. Our data show that the saguaro resource penetrates deeply into both insectivorous and granivorous avian guilds where it provides water, energy and nutrients. This study provides the first insight into the functional importance of cacti to animal communities in hot subtropical desert.

## POSTERS

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE MOUNTAIN VESPER SPARROW (*POOECETES GRAMINEUS ALTUS*) PHILLIPS 1964.** A. B. Johnson and R. W. Dickerman, Division of Birds, Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

The population of the vesper sparrow, *Pooecetes gramineus*, from the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona was described as a new subspecies *P. g. altus* in 1964 by Allan R. Phillips. The subspecies' range was never entirely delineated, but roughly described as 'northern Arizona and adjacent states.' We examined specimens from collections in New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado to determine the summer range of *P. g. altus*. The subspecies was found to occur in all three states, as postulated by Phillips

## **Nesting birds of a drained, post-fire, semi-permanent wetland at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge**

Jean-Luc E. Cartron and Jane E. Mygatt

Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131

On 15 June, 2006, we observed a pair of Vermilion Flycatchers (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) in a drained semi-permanent wetland along the Marsh Loop at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Bosque del Apache NWR lies at the northern edge of the Vermilion Flycatcher's normal breeding distribution in the Rio Grande Valley (Ligon 1961, Hubbard 1978, Parmeter et al. 2002), with a lack of published information on the species' local nesting habitat.

On 15 June and 19 June, 2006, we searched for the nest of the Vermilion Flycatcher pair, along with nests of other species. The nest search area was about 6 acres in size and part of a larger semi-permanent wetland that had been drained during the previous fall and then subjected to a controlled burn to eliminate rank cattail vegetation. While the area is to be inundated again, at the time of our search it held no water. The search area was bordered to the east by the road and to the west by an extensive patch of broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*) that already had become reestablished since the controlled burn. The vegetation in the search area itself consisted of large Rio Grande cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizeni*) with few remaining live branches (from stress related mostly to anoxic conditions during long-term flooding); younger cottonwoods established before the area was made a semi-permanent wetland and often growing in small groves; small patches of broadleaf cattail; an extensive grass cover of saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata* var. *stricta*), with additional species including foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*); swainsonpea (*Sphaerophysa salsula*); and a few young saltcedars (*Tamarix chinensis*).

We discovered the Vermilion Flycatcher nest in one of the older cottonwoods on 19 June 2006, at a height of 6 m and placed in a horizontal fork in the canopy. We observed the female in the nest while the male often perched on a low branch of the same tree. Within the nest search area, we also found eight occupied nests belonging to six other species (in most cases the nests were too high for us to determine their exact contents). Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) and Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) were the most abundant birds, and we located two occupied nests of each of these two species. Like the Vermilion Flycatcher, the Western Kingbirds nested in the remaining foliage of the older cottonwoods (at heights of 3.5 m and 7 m), while the two mockingbird nests were at heights of 0.6 m and 1.8 m in young cottonwoods. One mockingbird nest had two older nestlings on 15 June, while the other nest was empty on 19 June, the day that nest was discovered. One of the two cottonwoods with a Western Kingbird nest also had an occupied Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) nest cavity, an old woodpecker hole at a height of about 7-8 m in a dead branch. In the cottonwood with the

Vermilion Flycatcher nest was a Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) nest, built in a low branch of the canopy, at a height of 3.5 m. The Vermilion Flycatcher nest and the Bullock's Oriole nest were only about 5 m from each other. The last two species we found nesting in the area were White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) and House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). The White-winged Dove nest was 5 m high in an older cottonwood, the House Finch in a younger cottonwood at a height of 4 m. Also seen in the area but not found nesting were a Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and a Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). Beyond the search area, among the cattails, both Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*) were heard or seen.

Breeding Vermilion Flycatchers have been reported on the Bosque del Apache NWR since the 1950s (Ligon 1961, S. Williams pers. comm.). As shown here, nesting habitat at the edge of the species' normal breeding distribution includes mesic, open areas not directly adjacent to water (a ditch approximately 400 m to the west represented the closest body of water in the area). Among the other species we found nesting, the Western Kingbird is typically absent in dense stands of cottonwoods along the Middle Rio Grande, nesting instead in burned areas or outside the riparian zone, in adjacent rural or semi-rural areas (JLEC pers. obs.). On the Refuge, where much of the habitat is open, the Western Kingbird not surprisingly is listed as abundant during the summer, and just driving along the two-way road back to the tour loop fee booth we found another occupied nest of that species, in a snag in a drained pond. Finally, White-winged Dove numbers have increased dramatically during the last 30 years in central and northern New Mexico (Sauer et al. 2005, W. Howe pers. comm.). Nesting by this species has only recently been documented at the Bosque del Apache NWR (see U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995, 2001).

**Acknowledgments** - Work described here was conducted under Fish and Wildlife Service special use permit 22520-03-06. It was part of a larger effort to develop a field guide to the flora and fauna of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque, a project co-sponsored by the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, and the University of New Mexico Department of Biology, with the Rio Grande Nature Center and the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge as co-partners. We thank Gina Dello Russo, Colin Lee, Donna McLean, Maggie O'Connell, Daniel Perry, and John Vradenburg for their logistic support and collaboration; S. Williams for distributional information on some species; and Bill Howe and two anonymous reviewers for helpful comments on a draft of this manuscript.

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## **Probable Breeding of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) in eastern New Mexico**

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On the morning of 7 May, 2005, John, Benjamin, and Ruthmary Parmeter found a Short-eared Owl 14.5 km west of Portales along New Mexico Highway 267 in Roosevelt County, New Mexico. The following morning, several birders watched a Short-eared Owl hawking over fallow agricultural fields south of NM 267. At 08:30 on 8 May, Avery observed two Short-eared Owls flying over the same fields. He walked 150 m south from the road, and the two owls quickly approached and circled in an agitated manner while emitting frequent barking calls. One owl then dove at him as if attempting to drive him away. Both owls were detected by Jonathan Batkin again on May 25.

From June to August, Keller periodically monitored the owls at dusk in the same location as previous observations. One individual or both owls occasionally were seen landing in the same section of field south of NM 267. Attempts by Keller to locate a nest were unsuccessful, despite observing this behavior several times.

The owls were viewed regularly in a fallow agricultural field approximately 800 m in width. The field was bordered by two dirt roads on the east and west sides, and again on the south, roughly 500 m south of NM 267. Most observations of the owls were south of a barbed-wire fence that ran east-west approxi-

mately 300 m south of NM 267. Short-eared Owls were observed landing in grasses just south of the fence line along the western edge of the field on numerous occasions. No livestock were present in the field and grasses were approximately 0.6 m in height. The dominant plant species were sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula* (Michx.) Torr.), silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium* Cav.), sunflower (*Helianthus* spp.), Russian thistle (*Salsola* spp.), narrowleaf goosefoot (*Chenopodium desiccatum* A. Nels.), poverty threeawn (*Aristida divaricata* Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.), and sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus* (Torr.) Gray).

Short-eared Owls are associated with open country such as prairies, marshes, and agricultural environments during both the breeding and wintering periods (Holt and Leasure 1993). They can be highly nomadic as they track small mammals with cyclic population patterns. In the western United States, Short-eared Owls typically summer throughout the northern part of the continent, south to northern California, northern Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas (A. O. U. 1998). The species has exhibited significant population declines range-wide according to North American Breeding Bird Survey data (-4.8%/year,  $P = 0.01$ ) over the past 38 years (Sauer et al. 2005). Currently, the nearest breeding to New Mexico is in southern Colorado (Kingery 1998) and the panhandle of western Oklahoma (Reinking 2004).

In New Mexico, the Short-eared Owl is considered a rare to uncommon migrant and wintering species (e.g., Parmeter et al. 2002). There are no New Mexico breeding records, although recent reports of three near Clovis, Curry County 17 June, 2000 (Williams 2000), one near Bueyeros, Harding County 16 June, 2001 (Williams 2001), and one found freshly dead in a fence near Farley, Colfax County 22 July, 2005 (L. A. Sager *vide* S. O. Williams III), are at least suggestive of occasional local summering. Perhaps owing to favorable environmental conditions, more Short-eared Owls than usual were reported during the winter season preceding our observations, with at least 14 birds at seven sites in six counties October-March 2004-05 (S. O. Williams III, pers. comm.).

The excitement in eastern New Mexico concerning this pair of owls is related to their persistence and behavior. Because the pair was observed from early May to early August, it was present throughout the “safe dates” for breeding observations (10 May to 30 June) in Oklahoma ([www.suttoncenter.org/safedates.pdf](http://www.suttoncenter.org/safedates.pdf)), leading to a categorization of “possible breeding” by Breeding Bird Atlas projects. Even more importantly, this pair was observed during the safe dates in suitable habitat and Avery observed territorial behavior, both of which are labeled as “probable breeding” in the Breeding Bird Atlas breeding codes (Reinking 2004). Therefore, we believe that this species can be listed in the State of New Mexico as a probable breeder based on observations by us and others in Roosevelt County, NM in 2005.

**Acknowledgements** - We would like to thank Sartor O. Williams III for his insightful comments on this manuscript and for his knowledge of the distribution and recent sightings of Short-eared Owls in New Mexico. We would also like to thank John Parmeter for suggesting that we write this report on the owls as well as the other birders whose observations contributed to this paper. In addition, we thank Jimmy Neece for identifying the major plant species at the site.

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### **First Nesting of the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) and early status in New Mexico.**

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Except for questionable specimens taken in 1851, Hubbard (1970) indicated that the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was first recorded in New Mexico in the mid-1950's. By 1970, the species had been found nesting occasionally to irregularly at scattered sites in the central and southern Rio Grande Valley, the southern Pecos Valley, and once in the eastern plains at Portales, Roosevelt County. In addition, May vagrants had twice been reported at Clayton, Union County in the extreme northeast, and once at Cloverdale, Hidalgo County in the extreme southwest. Hubbard (1978) updated the status of the Mississippi Kite in the state, indicating the persistence of the above nesting populations (and perhaps one in the Clayton area) but with some apparent declines in numbers. A few more New Mexico vagrants were recorded in the early 1970's, twice in June–July in the southwest and once in the extreme northwest.

The first record of the Mississippi Kite in the Pecos Valley of eastern New Mexico appears to have been that of R.C. Brummett, who in September, 1955, reported "several about a large cottonwood grove a few miles south of Carlsbad" in Eddy County (Ligon, 1961). The next published report was of a single bird seen on 26 June, 1958, by Vester Montgomery at a locality about seven miles northwest of Roswell, Chaves County (Ligon, 1960). On 26 July, 1962, Montgomery and A.N. Carter found a nest with one young at Roswell, which was the first published nesting record of the species for the Pecos Valley and only the second for New Mexico (Zimmerman, 1962). Previously there was a report of a nest found in the summer of 1960, in the lowermost Rio Grande Valley in Doña Ana County north of El Paso, Texas (Zimmerman, 1962).

On 6 August, 1957, I discovered a family of Mississippi Kites, consisting of two adults and at least two juveniles, circling over riparian woodland just north and east of Black River Village, approximately 14 km ENE of Whites City, Eddy County, New Mexico. The Black River (elevation 375–380 m), is intermittent for much of its length as it flows from the eastern base of the Guadalupe Mountains near Whites City north and east to the Pecos River. Cottonwoods (*Populus*) and willows (*Salix*) were the dominant vegetation along the river bottom, with some of the former being mature trees well in excess of 15 m in height.

Additional observations consisted of two juvenile kites and a possible third being fed by two adults. The birds were observed over the course of the next two days and were unmistakable in both their plumages and their behavior. The juveniles were distinct with their banded tails, heavily streaked under parts and more lightly streaked heads. The juveniles constantly harassed the adults who were capturing various insects in midair as they glided over the trees. While in midair, the adults then passed insects several times to the juveniles. On several occasions I thought a fifth kite might be present, but the birds were hard to follow at all times as they glided back and forth across the road and over the tops of the tall trees. The presence of two adults and three juveniles would be unusual since two eggs is the normal clutch size for this species, with clutches of three being

quite uncommon (Parker, 1999).

Based upon the above observations, this appears to be the earliest breeding record for this species in New Mexico.

The possibility of the Black River Village birds having nested a considerable distance from where I observed them, and then wandered as a family unit to this area seems implausible. Parker (1999) does indicate that the kites are very sociable but provides no evidence that young are fed more than several weeks after fledging (age <60 days) and in the general vicinity of the nest before any migration starts. The dates of early August for the kite family I observed on the Black River in 1957, appear to fit the known fledging dates for the species. The southward migration from nesting areas in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas starts towards the end of August or later as reported by Parker (1999).

**Acknowledgements** - I thank John P. Hubbard for the summary of the early records for this species in the State, as well as comments on the early drafts of the manuscript.

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**2005 New Mexico  
North American Migratory Count Results**

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The 2005 New Mexico North American Migration Count (NAMC) was the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive years of this effort. The continuity of this activity continues to accumulate valuable data on the status of birds across New Mexico on a given date in the spring. The primary goal of NAMC is to provide “a picture in time” of migration on the same day across the United States and Canada. The survey date is always the second Saturday in May. The count is patterned after a variety of other bird census techniques including Christmas counts, Big Day Counts, and other volunteer-driven activities. One main difference is that the NAMC takes place on a single day across the continent and that the boundaries of the survey areas are county or parish boundaries. The results continue to be a valuable addition to what we know about bird migration, distribution, and population trends in birds. While these surveys give us valuable information about migrants, all birds are counted, and population trends in resident species are tracked as well. On a continent-wide basis, the NAMC provides researchers with another mass of data about neotropical migrants and their movements. With 14 years of information for many areas across the continent, this information grows in value each year.

The 2005 count occurred on Saturday, 14 May, the latest date possible for the count. While coverage is still not occurring in all New Mexico counties, 21 counties were covered in 2005, the same number as in 2004. The all-time high participation in terms of counties was 24 in 1999. One new count was done in Curry County, the first time there, and Sierra County, which was counted in 2004, was not counted in 2005. Almost 64% of New Mexico’s 33 counties had some degree of coverage.

Although large portions of most counties remain uncovered, or at least under-covered on count day, the 21 counties that participated on 14 May 2005 accounted for 59.6% of the surface area of the state, compared with 61.9% in 2004. While participation in all counties would be ideal, and all counties could use more coverage, the 2005 results show what happened across portions of the state on one Saturday in May. Considering the size of the state, the low human population, and the physical difficulty in covering some areas of New Mexico, this count continues to do a good job of showing what is happening in the state.

Coverage in some counties continues annually but some counties could be added by tapping into the talents of resident birders, as in Otero and Lincoln Counties, for example. Birders in areas such as Albuquerque could cover Torrance County, which hasn’t been covered in several years. There is probably a

way to eventually cover all the counties of New Mexico, although this might drain the resources in some counties where good coverage is currently being exhibited. There are only two counties in which a NAMC count has never taken place: Cañon and Cibola.

Table 1 summarizes the 2005 results by county and highlights are given in the county summaries that follow. Of the 20 counties in which the count was held both in 2004 and 2005, 11 experienced a drop in species, 8 had more species, and one had the same number. Eleven of the twenty counts showed an increase in the number of individuals found. Many observers reported some of the same problems in coverage, ranging from excessive wind, overgrazing, drought in some areas, habitat fragmentation, and increasing urban sprawl. A total of 311 species was found in 2005, an increase of 5 over 2004 and a percentage increase of less than 2%. The record high number of species was 320 established in 2003. With just over 500 species verified in the state, this means that on 14 May 2005, about 60% of all species ever seen in New Mexico were seen on that date, somewhere in the state.

The total number of individuals seen continues to increase with 73,121 found in 2005 compared with 71,581 in 2004, for an increase of a little over 2%. The number of unique species (those found on only one count and no other) was 50 in 2005 compared with 42 in 2004, party-hours increased by about 4%, party-miles increased by about 2.5%. A slight decrease was noted in observers (a little less than 2%) but the number of feeder watchers increased from 40 to 46 for a 15% increase.

Table 2 shows the growth of the New Mexico NAMC from 1992 to the present. As would be expected, generally the best coverage is found near population centers. Yet, some dedicated individuals have worked to develop thorough counts in less populated areas such as Hidalgo, Socorro and San Miguel Counties. The result of this is continuing coverage that is good across most of the state, but yet there are gaps.

Results depend heavily on the degree of participation. Coordinating other spring counts with the NAMC would probably improve coverage across New Mexico. For consistency across the nation, the NAMC is always held on the second Saturday in May so it may involve encouraging other spring bird counts to shift their count dates where possible. It would be good to be able to cover all 33 counties and to have the majority of birders from across the state participate in this effort. Christmas bird counts end up with almost twice as many participants and having those numbers on a statewide, coordinated spring count could produce some remarkable results and add that much more information to our knowledge of spring migration in our state. Table 3 shows a comparison of the New Mexico NAMC in 2005 and the 2004-05 Christmas count results. It was not possible to get the total

**Table 1. County Summary of 2005 North American Migration Count in New Mexico**

County	# of species	# of individuals	# of high counts	# of unique species	party-hours	party-miles	# of observers	# of feeder-watchers	compiler
Bernalillo	63	406	0.00	0	18.00	85.00	5	0	Jim Place
Chaves	100	5,949	19.50	3	21.00	173.25	8	3	Sherry Bixler
Colfax	169	8,533	45.25	4	74.00	476.50	30	13	Agnes Gibson
Curry	86	3,970	4.00	0	13.00	281.00	1	0	Steve West
Dona Ana	17	43	0.00	0	6.00	2.00	1	1	Gordon Ewing
Eddy	164	5,849	21.58	2	65.16	402.30	10	2	Bob Nieman
Grant	170	6,109	49.33	4	67.00	405.50	24	4	Robert M. Wilcox
Guadalupe	46	442	1.00	1	8.00	2.00	2	0	Jand and Rick Lewis
Hidalgo	160	3,078	30.08	13	59.00	213.00	18	5	Alan Craig
Lea	51	1,099	4.25	0	10.00	135.00	2	0	Pat McCasland
Los Alamos	83	2,046	5.00	0	33.00	87.50	15	6	Stephen Fettig
Luna	83	1,487	1.50	0	13.00	191.80	1	0	Larry Malone
Rio Arriba	131	4,076	16.58	0	18.00	202.50	5	0	Dale Stahlecker
Roosevelt	72	825	10.33	7	17.00	62.00	4	0	Lawry Sager
Sandoval	57	547	1.50	0	7.00	8.00	2	0	Terry Brownell
San Juan	111	2,546	3.00	0	34.50	304.50	24	7	John Rees
San Miguel	193	8,046	45.80	8	98.50	838.00	19	0	Bill West
Santa Fe	129	5,979	18.08	0	108.80	548.00	40	1	Lonnie Howard
Socorro	192	5,437	18.66	5	113.00	445.50	12	2	Doug Emkalns
Taos	123	5,395	13.50	1	80.50	265.30	10	1	Karen R. Epperson
Valencia	92	1,259	2.00	1	17.50	23.00	4	1	Celestyn Brozek
<b>Totals</b>		<b>73,121</b>	<b>311.00</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>881.96</b>	<b>5,151.65</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>46</b>	

**Table 2. Historical Comparison of New Mexico NAMC Results**

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Co. Surveyed	3	5	10	11	13	14	16	24	23	23	22	19	21	21
Total Sp.	222	218	260	256	268	268	278	307	309	311	307	320	306	311
Total Individ.	13,969	15,538	33,374	40,584	43,246	38,504	54,996	80,040	75,013	60,765	70,327	63,821	71,581	73,121
Party-Hrs.	182	118	445	500	467	484	478	838	739	757	680	726	849	882
Party-Miles	894	676	2,251	2,768	2,468	3,097	3,761	5,281	5,284	6,627	5,038	4,896	5,025	5,152
Total Obser.	33	59	101	151	139	137	170	197	183	194	182	168	241	237

**Table 3. Comparison of New Mexico 2004-2005 Christmas Count and 2005 NAMC Results**

	No. of counts	total No. of sp.	ave. No. of species	total No. of individ.	total party-hrs.	total party-miles	field observers	other observers
Christmas counts	34	227	76.47	328,364	1,453.75	???	545	???
NAMC counts	21	311	109.18	73,121	881.96	5,151.7	237	46

party-miles and other observers (feeder watchers) from the Christmas count data found online but the other information does provide some interesting comparisons.

Table 4 provides the sum of data from all of the county counts. San Miguel with 193 species barely edged out Socorro with 192. In third place, Grant County with 170 species barely edged out Colfax County with 169. Grant County again had more high counts of species (49.33), barely edging out San Miguel with 45.8 and Colfax with 45.25. For many species there was a tie between two or more counties for the high number. In tabulating ties, this resulted in a fractional number. If two counties had the same high number of Little Blue Heron (as happened in 2005), each county would be marked with 0.5 for that species, a three-way tie would be marked as 0.33 for each county, and so on.

Because of low participation in some areas, only two species (Mourning Dove and House Finch) was seen on all 21 counts. In 2004 four species were found on all 21 counts. Two species (European Starling and House Sparrow) were seen on all but one count in 2005.

As always, there are a great number of unusual species seen across the state. Many of these are mentioned in the following county accounts and in the state compilation in Table 4. Some of the more unusual ones include Le Conte's Sparrow in Chaves; Ruddy Ground-Dove in Guadalupe; a third record for the Flammulated Owl in the Animas Mountains of Hidalgo County and a late Swamp Sparrow in the same county; Northern Waterthrush in Luna; Wood Thrush, Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted Warblers in Roosevelt; Common Loon, a late Common Goldeneye, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker in San Miguel; and Tricolored Heron, Glossy Ibis, a late Sandhill Crane, and Black-throated Blue Warbler in Socorro. The Red-bellied Woodpecker was a first for the New Mexico NAMC.

Hidalgo County again had the largest number of unique species with 13, followed by San Miguel with 8, Roosevelt with 7 and Socorro with 6. Eleven of the twenty-one counties participating had at least one unique species on count day.

The 2006 count took place on 13 May 2006 and the results of that count will appear in a future issue of the *NMOS Bulletin*. The 2007 count will take place on Saturday, May 12. Individuals interested in taking part in an already established count are urged to contact the compiler of the county you are interested in or the author at the above address. A list of current county compilers will be posted to the NMOS Website (<http://www.nmosbirds.org>) a month or so before the May count

**BERNALILLO COUNTY:** Bernalillo County dropped from 93 species in 2004 to 63 in 2005. This included the efforts of two parties, one in the lowlands and one in the Sandia Mountains. No unique species or high count was recorded.

**CHAVES COUNTY:** Chaves County dropped 8 species, with 100 found in 2005. Several interesting species were found, including a well-detailed Le-Conte's Sparrow. Chaves County ended up with high counts for 19.5 species and 3 unique species (Ross's Goose, Black-bellied Plover, and of course, the Le Conte's Sparrow). Not included in the tabulation were two Ringed Turtle-Dove, a species not on the New Mexico list. In spite of the late season for the count, 12 species of shorebirds were found. Chaves County continues to have strong numbers of columbids with 40% of all Eurasian Collared-Dove in the state recorded on this count and state high numbers for White-winged Dove.

**COLFAX COUNTY:** Colfax County was a new addition in 2004, and the 2005 results were even better than the strong 2004 showing. Colfax finished up 4th in the number of species (22 species higher than the previous year), third highest in number of high counts (being barely edged out by San Miguel County for second place), and with four unique species (Long-eared Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, and Pine Grosbeak). Colfax County also had the second highest number of observers.

**CURRY COUNTY:** A first time count was conducted in Curry County in 2005 with a single observer. Eighty-six species were found, which included high counts for four species. Interesting finds included 4 Pinyon Jays along the Caprock in the northern part of the county.

**DOÑA ANA COUNTY:** A single-observer at a feeder found a small sample of what is possible in this rich county. Seventeen species were found including a late Eastern Phoebe and two Bendire's Thrashers. With enough participation this county (like most of them) can easily top 100 species and Doña Ana County is an especially rich county in this regard.

**EDDY COUNTY:** Eddy County dropped by three species from 2004 but increased the number of individuals by about 2,000. High counts were found for just over 21 species and two unique species were also noted: Cave Swallow and Black-and-white Warbler. Even at the late date of this count 12 species of waterfowl and 12 species of waterbirds were found. Zone-tailed Hawks continue to persist in small numbers in the Guadalupe Mountains.

**GRANT COUNTY:** A drop of 20 species and about 4,000 individuals still produced great results in Grant County. Included in this total were the highest number of high counts for species (49.33), four unique species (Common Black-Hawk, Spotted Owl, Greater Pewee, and Abert's Towhee), and a tie for the third highest number of field observers (24). An unusual Dusky-capped Flycatcher was



detailed.

**GUADALUPE COUNTY:** Guadalupe County increased by 13 species to 46. This included a Ruddy Ground-Dove, the only one reported on the spring count and a new county record. This detailed record was the sole unique (and high count) species for Guadalupe County. In 2004, high winds hampered the count, and in 2005, it was a series of passing thunderstorms.

**HIDALGO COUNTY:** Although in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the number of species, Hidalgo County, because of its unique location and many observers always turns out exciting finds. The number of species (160) was 8 lower than in 2004, while the number of individuals was up by about 10%. High counts were recorded for 30.08 species along with 13 unique species, the most of any county: Gray Hawk, Montezuma Quail, Common Ground-Dove, Broad-billed and Lucifer Hummingbirds, Strickland's Woodpecker, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Thick-billed Kingbird, Mexican Chickadee, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers, Swamp Sparrow, and Yellow-eyed Junco. Migrants were reported as scarce in Guadalupe Canyon.

**LEA COUNTY:** Lea County increased by 12 species in 2005 to 51, with a 30% increase in the number of individuals. High counts were recorded for 4.25 species and no unique species was found. A Little Blue Heron was one of only two found in the state on the NAMC count in 2005. Unfortunately the number of Chihuahuan Ravens continues to be low on this count and elsewhere.

**LOS ALAMOS COUNTY:** Los Alamos County dropped by 6 species to 83, but had almost 1,000 more individuals. High counts were recorded for 5 species and no unique species was found. In 2004 Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were amazingly absent from the count, but in 2005 they showed up in good numbers, with 207 and 103 respectively.

**LUNA COUNTY:** Luna increased by 17 species to 83 in 2005 and almost the same number of individuals. High counts were found for 1.5 species with the most unusual species on the count being a Northern Waterthrush. Two Hairy Woodpeckers were found at Katfish Kove, and small numbers of Harris' Hawk continue to persist in the county.

**RIO ARRIBA COUNTY:** Thirty-two additional species were found in Rio Arriba in 2005 over 2004. While fewer individuals were found, additional field observers helped to boost the species total. Highs were noted for 16.58 species. Large numbers of species of waterfowl (16) and warblers (9) were found. The growing number of nesting Osprey was reflected by the 11 found on this count.

**ROOSEVELT COUNTY:** Roosevelt County results again improved with observers concentrating in the southern part of the county and at Melrose Trap. The result was an increase in species (72, compared with 65 in 2004), and similar

increases in the number of high counts (10.33 vs. 7.5) and the number of unique species (7 vs. 4). The unique species were Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Upland Sandpiper, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted Warblers and Clay-colored Sparrow.

**SANDOVAL COUNTY:** Sandoval ended up with 2 species fewer than in 2004, but increased the number of individuals seen. No unique species was found, but high counts were established for 1.5 species. Drought conditions were reported as the cause for the low counts in warblers, vireos, and flycatchers and the very few waterbirds. Gambel's and Scaled Quail were reported to be on a resurgence, and White-winged Dove (uncommon as recently as a year previously) were said to be supplanting Mourning Dove throughout the area of the count.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY:** San Juan County dropped by 11 species but still ended up with high counts for three species and a tie for the third highest number of people in the field. Lark and Indigo Bunting were found, which were somewhat unusual. Good numbers were found of waterfowl in addition to good samples of shorebirds and warblers.

**SAN MIGUEL COUNTY:** San Miguel County tied its species count in 2005 with its count in 2004. The count turned in the second highest number of high counts, barely being edged out by Grant County. Eight unique species were recorded: Common Loon, Least Bittern, Common Goldeneye, Ferruginous Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, California Gull, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. The Red-bellied Woodpecker was the first one recorded on an NAMC in New Mexico. This count continues to find a good mix of eastern and western species and also found 12 species of warblers.

**SANTA FE COUNTY:** Santa Fe County increased by four species over the previous year and increased the number of individuals by about 2,000. Part of this increase was the very high numbers of Western Tanagers found (408) which was about 46% of all individuals of this species found in New Mexico on count day. Many of these were found in a single area. Elsewhere on the count, high counts were found for 18.08 species.

**SOCORRO COUNTY:** This count increased its species total over 2004 by 13 species, to be barely edged out by San Miguel which had 193. In addition over 2,500 additional individuals were found, high counts for 18.66 species were recorded, and five unique species were found. Those species included Neotropic Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Sandhill Crane, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Dickcissel. Two exotics seen could not be counted (Bar-headed Goose and Ringed Turtle-Dove) and several expected species were missed (Common Nighthawk, Juniper Titmouse, and Northern Waterthrush).

**TAOS COUNTY:** Taos County increased by 6 species to 123 and in-

creased the individual count by over 2,000 birds. High counts were recorded for 13.5 species and one unique species (American Pipit) was found. As is usual for this count, large numbers of Marsh Wrens were found. A later than usual count still produced 10 species of warblers in Taos County along with 11 species of waterfowl.

VALENCIA COUNTY: Valencia County dropped slightly in 2005, down to 92 species from 96 in 2004. Two high counts were record and one unique species (Baird's Sandpiper) was found. A new species to the composite Valencia County spring count was a single Stilt Sandpiper. Good samples of shorebirds and warblers were noted.

**Acknowledgements** - As always, this would not be successful without the hard work of the county compilers and the hundreds of people who take a day and count birds for the effort. Bruce Neville's help has also been invaluable in helping to expand this project

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Bernalillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guadalupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
1 Common Loon											
2 Pied-billed Grebe		1	16			7	5		3	1	
3 Eared Grebe			17			42			2		
4 Western Grebe			31			3	1	1			
5 Clark's Grebe			4			18					
<i>Aechmophorus sp.</i>											
6 Am. White Pelican			3			5					
7 Neotropic Cormorant											
8 D.-c. Cormorant			3	1				4			
9 Least Bittern											
10 Great Blue Heron		3	7	4		10	12	4	3		
11 Great Egret				1					2		
12 Snowy Egret		14					3				
13 Little Blue Heron						1				1	
14 Tricolored Heron											
15 Cattle Egret			1								
16 Green Heron		4				4					
17 Bl.-c Night-Heron		7		10			1				
18 White-faced Ibis		43	81	30		13	7				
19 Turkey Vulture	1	52	15			118	133	11	68		30
20 Snow Goose		1									
21 Ross's Goose	1			1							
22 Canada Goose	6		105	3							2



**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada- lupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
47 Gray Hawk									1		
48 Com. Black-Hawk							5				
49 Harris' Hawk					1						
50 Swainson's Hawk		7	10	5	9	5	5		8	13	
51 Zone-tailed Hawk					2	4			2		
52 Red-tailed Hawk		1	18	2	7	26			11		3
53 Ferruginous Hawk											
<i>Buteo species</i>											
54 Golden Eagle			1		2	1				1	
55 American Kestrel	1	11	14	3	8	27	3		13	2	
56 Peregrine Falcon			1								
57 Prairie Falcon					1	1				1	
58 Ring-neck. Pheasant		9		4	18						
59 Blue Grouse			6								
60 L. Prairie-Chicken											
61 Wild Turkey			15		1	3			2		
62 Scaled Quail	3	24	1	2	35	4			7	45	2
63 Gambel's Quail					2	417			144		
64 N. Bobwhite		14		3						2	
65 Montezuma Quail									1		
66 Virginia Rail		2	9			1					
67 Sora			3			3					

68 Com. Moorhen	27	329	1	197	40	25	1
69 Am. Coot			12				
70 Sandhill Crane	1						
71 Bl.-bellied Plover	91			8			
72 Snowy Plover	1			2			
73 Semipal. Plover	68	30	41	84	8	15	18
74 Killdeer		3			1		
75 Mt. Plover	140		38	18		16	2
76 Bl.-necked Stilt	72	14	57	30		15	
77 Am. Avocet		2	8				
78 Gr. Yellowlegs		4					
79 L. Yellowlegs	1						
yellowlegs sp.							
80 Sol. Sandpiper							
81 Willet	1					3	
82 Spotted Sandpiper	16	38		21	17	15	1
83 Upland Sandpiper							
84 Long-billed Curlew	1	2	1				
85 Marbled Godwit							
86 Semipal. Sandpiper				4			
87 W. Sandpiper	17			14			
88 Least Sandpiper				7		6	
89 Baird's Sandpiper							
90 Dunlin				2			
91 Stilt Sandpiper	1			14			1
unid. peeps							
92 L.-billed Dowitcher	54	11	20	16			
93 Wilson's Shipe			2	1			

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Dofia Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada- lupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
94 Wilson's Phal. unid. sandpiper	114	291	11	91	18	22	1	5			
95 Franklin's Gull		2		1							
96 Ring-billed Gull	1	77	1	7							
97 California Gull				4							
98 Forster's Tern				14							
99 Least Tern	13			2							
100 Black Tern				1							
101 Rock Pigeon	80	1	165	109	73	6	11	13			
102 Band-tailed Pigeon	1	61		61		5	3				
103 E. Collared-Dove	200	9	16	19	62	12	37	1			
Ringed Turtle-Dove	2										
104 White-winged Dove	3	420	1	1	160	104	15	14			
105 Mourning Dove	7	320	87	589	4	488	52	86	31		
106 Inca Dove	6			2	2	2	3				
107 Com. Ground-Dove											
108 Ruddy Ground-Dove							1				
109 Yellow-billed Cuckoo				2							
110 Greater Roadrunner	1	10	2	7	6	8	6				
111 Barn Owl	1	1		5	2	1	2				
112 Flamulated Owl					5	2					
113 W. Screech-Owl					2	2					



114 Great Horned Owl	15	2	14	1	5	
115N. Pygmy-Owl			1		1	
116Elf Owl			5		2	
117 Burrowing Owl	10	1				7
118 Spotted Owl			4			
119 Long-eared Owl	8					
120 Lesser Nighthawk		6	5		3	1
121 Com. Nighthawk	1	41	1			
nighthawk sp.		7				
122 Common Poorwill	2	6	28		5	2
123 Whip-poor-will			12		10	
124 Chimney Swift		3				
125 White-thr. Swift	2	17	8		2	30
126 Br.-bill. Hummingbird					8	
127 Mag. Hummingbird			1		1	
128 Lucifer Hummingbird					3	
129 Bl.-chin. Hum.	2	16	56		15	2
130 Br-tail. Hummingbird	15	2	39		33	84
Rufous/Allen's Hum. hummingbird sp.		16			1	
131 Belted Kingfisher	4					
132 Lewis' Woodpecker	28					
133 Red-headed Wdpker	1					
134 Acorn Woodpecker	1					
135 Red-bellied Wdpker	3					
136 Gila Woodpecker			15		7	4
137 Williamson's Sap.	1		18		17	2
138 Red-naped Sap.	1					4

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada- lupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
sapsucker species											
139 Lad.-backed Wdpker	1					11	27		22	1	
140 Downy Woodpecker			13				3				1
141 Hairy Woodpecker			11			1	13		1		15
142 Strickland's Wdpker									11		
143 Thr.-toed Wdpker			2								
144 Northern Flicker											
red-shafted								1	9		12
undifferentiated	2		30				27				21
145 N. Beard.-Tyrannulet									3		
146 Ol.-sided Flycatcher			2			3	10		9		
147 Greater Pewee							2				
148 W. Wood-Pewee	4	3	54	1		7	50		17	1	7
149 Willow Flycatcher	1					2	4				
150 Ham. Flycatcher	1			1			1		2		3
151 Gray Flycatcher	3					7	9				
152 Dusky Flycatcher			4				4	5	3		1
153 Cord. Flycatcher	1	7	3			1	15		8		7
"W. Flycatcher"											
<i>Empidonax</i> species		1				2					5
154 Black Phoebe		1	3			5	22	2			6
155 Eastern Phoebe											1

156 Say's Phoebe	1	6	25	1	20	54	11	3
157 Verm. Flycatcher		3			34	46	29	
158 D.-capped Flycatcher						2	18	
159 Ash-thr. Flycatcher	11		7	12	28	78	38	21
160 Br.-crest. Flycatcher						3	12	
161 Cassin's Kingbird		2	12		27	105	32	14
162 Thick-billed Kingbird							1	
163 Western Kingbird	4	580	41	577	1	438	44	188
164 Eastern Kingbird			22					
165 Sc.-tailed Flycatcher		1	1		9			22
166 Loggerhead Shrike		2			12	4	6	8
167 Bell's Vireo					6	14	4	
168 Gray Vireo					5	2		
169 Plumbeous Vireo	10		31		11	29	2	14
170 Cassin's Vireo							1	
171 Hutton's Vireo						4	26	
172 Warbling Vireo	11		8			43	10	10
173 Steller's Jay	6		49			11	2	26
174 Blue Jay		10			5			
175 Western Scrub-Jay	6		5	1	6	27	16	21
176 Mexican Jay						26	49	
177 Pinyon Jay			16	4				
178 Clark's Nutcracker			10					2
179 Black-billed Magpie			65					
180 American Crow	1		72					21
181 Chihuahuan Raven		3	3	7	7	44	13	37
182 Common Raven	7		100			131	21	64
raven species							9	

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada- lupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
183 Horned Lark			39	145		3	20		103		
184 Purple Martin			6								
185 Tree Swallow			101								
186 Violet-green Swallow	12		911			179					92
187 N. R.-wing. Swallow		55	141			61			8		
188 Bank Swallow			74								
189 Cliff Swallow		62	414	65		333	390	78	120		
190 Cave Swallow						750					
191 Barn Swallow		90	109	203		121	61	15	66	21	
swallow species						10					
192 Bl.-capped Chick.			10								
193 Mountain Chickadee	15		68			2	15		18		33
194 Mexican Chickadee											
195 Bridled Titmouse							13		22		
196 Juniper Titmouse	5		2				15	2	7		3
197 Verdin						6	5		6		
198 Bushtit	4		5			31	95	5	66		
199 Red-br. Nuthatch	4		3				7				7
200 White-br. Nuthatch	4		22			4	38		4		17
201 Pygmy Nuthatch			19				8				14
202 Brown Creeper			9				3		1		2
203 Cactus Wren		2			1	11	18		5	3	

204 Rock Wren	1	3	18	2	12	8	8	6
205 Canyon Wren			7		19	9	9	5
206 Bewick's Wren	2			1	27	75	2	126
207 House Wren	3		51		1	20	7	21
208 Marsh Wren						2		
209 American Dipper								
210 Golden-cr. Kinglet	5		1			9	2	12
211 Ruby-cr. Kinglet			4		3	4	2	12
212 Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher			17			3	2	
213 Bl.-tail. Gnatcatcher						3		
214 Eastern Bluebird						1		
215 Western Bluebird			39		17		3	77
216 Mountain Bluebird			48					10
217 Townsend's Solitaire			6					9
218 Swainson's Thrush								
219 Hermit Thrush	4		8	2		15	1	10
220 Wood Thrush							13	
221 American Robin	17	65	145	22	9	87	3	1
222 Gray Catbird			2					80
223 N. Mockingbird	2	102	3	21	1	62	12	38
224 Sage Thrasher								
225 Bendire's Thrasher					2			3
226 Curve-bill. Thrasher	5	6		2	1	30	4	8
227 Crissal Thrasher	1				5	1	4	
228 European Starling		325	48	95	2	51	1	26
229 American Pipit					117		7	12
230 Cedar Waxwing	10		1	10	92	36		
231 Phainopepla					1	12		56

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada- lupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
232 Olive Warbler							3				
233 Orange-cr. Warbler			6				7		5		7
234 Virginia's Warbler	5		14				11		12		14
235 Lucy's Warbler						2	54		22		
236 Northern Parula											
237 Yellow Warbler			27	1		11	60	8	19		
238 Chest.-sided Warbler											
239 Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler											
240 Yel.-rump. Warbler											
Myrtle						1					9
Audubon's	39								20		32
undifferentiated		2	135	1			35		2		22
241 Bl.-thr. Gray Warbler	1						23		21		
242 Townsend's Warbler									9		
243 Hermit Warbler									2		
244 Grace's Warbler	15						23	5	3		21
245 Bay-br. Warbler											
246 Bl.-and-wh. Warbler						1					
247 Am. Redstart											
248 N. Waterthrush				1		1	1				
249 MacGill. Warbler		1	3			7	13		1		4
250 Com. Yellowthroat			8	1			16		13		1

251 Wilson's Warbler	1	4		5	31	18	3
252 Red-faced Warbler					27	11	
253 Painted Redstart		9		31	6	8	
254 Yell.-br. Chat			1		48	4	
warbler species							
255 Hepatic Tanager				6	7	19	2
256 Summer Tanager	1			28	44	10	
257 Western Tanager	13	1	47	9	43	26	65
258 Gr.-tailed Towhee	3		11		1		6
259 Spotted Towhee	15		72	6	55	58	68
260 Canyon Towhee	5		3	6	36	14	15
261 Abert's Towhee					3		
262 Cassin's Sparrow		1	18	52	2		24
263 Rufous-cr. Sparrow				7	7	9	
264 Chipping Sparrow	10	1	190	7	30	20	35
265 Cl.-colored Sparrow							
266 Brewer's Sparrow		8		5	16	7	
267 Bl.-chinned Sparrow	3			4	3	1	5
268 Vesper Sparrow			42	1		8	
269 Lark Sparrow		32	39	12	4	7	4
270 Bl.-throated Sparrow				17	65	33	1
271 Lark Bunting		4	145	1		1	225
272 Savannah Sparrow		2		1			
273 Grasshop. Sparrow		1				3	
274 LeConte's Sparrow	1						
275 Song Sparrow		10		1			3
276 Lincoln's Sparrow		7		1			

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Dofña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada -	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
277 Swamp Sparrow									1		
278 White-cr. Sparrow white-lored											
black-lored											2
undifferentiated		22	52	1		13	35	6	10		5
sparrow species		2		10							
279 Dark-eyed Junco											
Oregon	1										
pink-sided											
gray-headed	10								1		3
undifferentiated	17		98			1	10				49
280 Yellow-eyed Junco									7		
281 Northern Cardinal						15	34		10		
282 Pyrrhuloxia					2	39			1		
283 Rose-br. Grosbeak			7				1				
284 Bl.-headed Grosbeak	25		193	1		14	55		62		45
285 Blue Grosbeak	2	7	2	10		37	21	22	4	1	
286 Lazuli Bunting	1		4			1					
287 Indigo Bunting						1					
288 Painted Bunting											
bunting species						7					
289 Dickcissel											



291 Eastern Meadowlark	4	1	4	34	7				
292 Western Meadowlark	48	5	1	29					
meadowlark species	184	4							
293 Yell.-head. Blackbird	22	1	4	1					3
294 Brewer's Blackbird	1		20	2					2
295 Common Grackle	47	16							1
296 Great-tailed Grackle	487	2	147	36	91				10
297 Bronzed Cowbird	4	2	18	16					
298 Br.-headed Cowbird	4	56	85	36	5				30
blackbird species		7							
299 Orchard Oriole	1	17		14					1
300 Hooded Oriole		1	14	10					
301 Bullock's Oriole	20	44	47	29	15				4
302 Scott's Oriole		8	6	22					
303 Pine Grosbeak	4								
304 Cassin's Finch	15								7
305 House Finch	28	13	235	34	9				279
306 Red Crossbill	8			2					3
307 Pine Siskin	1041	11	170	32					207
308 Lesser Goldfinch									
green-backed									1
undifferentiated									7
309 American Goldfinch	10	3	89	9					
310 Evening Grosbeak	85								103
311 House Sparrow	293	2	218	57	59				49
unidentified birds	26			1					

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada -	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
Total species	63	100	169	86	17	164	170	46	160	51	83
Total Individuals	406	5,949	8,533	3,970	43	5,849	6,109	442	3,078	1,099	2,046
Total parties	5	3	13	1	1	7	17	1	7	1	9
Total participants	6	8	30	1	1	10	24	2	18	2	15
Party-hours by foot	15	2	40.5	3	0	43.33	42	8	43	2	30.25
by car	5	19	33.5	10	0	21.83	25	0	16	8	2.75
by bike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
by rafting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
total party-hours	20	21	74	13	0	65.16	67	8	59	10	33
Party-miles by foot	16	1.25	22.5	3	0	23.8	28.5	2	46	2	22.5
by car	71	172	454	278	0	378.5	377	0	167	133	65
by bike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
by rafting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
total party-miles	87	173.3	476.5	281	0	402.3	405.5	2	213	135	87.5
Stationary											
party-hours sta-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
No. observers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
No. of parties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

Feeder-watching hours	0	2	17.75	0	4	3	3	0	7	0	4.5
No. of watchers	0	3	13	0	1	2	4	0	5	0	6
No. of parties	0	3	11	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	4
Owling party-miles	0	0	1	0	0	2.3	2	0	1	0	0
No. of observers	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	5	0	0
party-hours	0	0	1	0	0	1.75	4.5	0	2	0	0
No. of parties	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0
Weather Report pre-dawn	NR	60	32-43	52	NR	63	55	55	38	60	NR
AM	NR		40-47	65	NR	66	NR	55	53	67	40-55
noon	NR		55-60	75	NR	70	75		85	75	50-55
PM	NR	81	61-65	77	NR	76	NR	78	89	80	60-65
sunset	NR		50	70	NR	73	75		84	82	50-55
night	NR		45-50	60	NR	66	NR		64	NR	NR
wind pre-dawn	NR	Vari.	0-10	0	NR	WNW12	0	0	0-3	N 10	NR
AM	NR	5 to 15	0-10	0-10	NR	N 15	NR	0-10	0-5	NE 5	<5
Noon	NR	all	5-15	0-10	NR	NW 4	NR	0-10	0-5	NE 5	<5
PM	NR	day	0-13	0-15	NR	calm	5	0-10	0-10	Cal M	gusty
Sunset	NR		0-3	0-10	NR	ESE 7	5	0-10	0-5	SW 5	NR
Night	NR		0-3	0-10	NR	SSE 6	NR	0	0-3	NR	NR

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

	Berna- lillo	Chaves	Colfax	Curry	Doña Ana	Eddy	Grant	Guada- lupe	Hidalgo	Lea	Los Alamos
precipitation											
pre-dawn	NR	0	none	none	NR	light	none	none	none	none	none
AM	NR	0	none	none	NR	none	none	none	none	none	none
noon	NR	0	none	none	NR	none	none	none	none	none	none
PM	NR	0	show- drizzle	trace	NR	none	none	rain	none	none	none
sunset	NR	0	drizzle	none	NR	none	none	none	none	none	none
night	NR	0	drizzle	none	NR	none	none	none	none	none	none
% cloud cover											
pre-dawn	NR	100%	75-	0%	NR	clear	15%	60	0-5%	100	NR
AM	NR	80%	80-98%	0%	NR	partly over-	NR	70	0-15%	40%	25%
Noon	NR	35%	100%	20%	NR	cast	NR	80	30-40%	30%	NR
PM	NR	20%	60-	50%	NR	over-	NR	100	40-80%	20%	50%
Sunset	NR	10%	90%	70%	NR	clear	NR	85	80-90%	10%	NR
Night	NR	5	80-	85%	NR	clear	NR	85	90%	NR	NR

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
1 Common Loon						1					2
2 Pied-billed Grebe		6		1		6	1	10			59
3 Eared Grebe		852				3		5			924
4 Western Grebe		76			102	1		2			221
5 Clark's Grebe		3				9		9			48
<i>Aechmophorus</i> sp.						7					7
6 Am. White Pelican		15				1					30
7 Neotropic Cormorant								17			24
8 D.-c. Cormorant		16				8		1			41
9 Least Bittern						1					10
10 Great Blue Heron	4	3			3	4		4			71
11 Great Egret								12			26
12 Snowy Egret	1	1						135		6	172
13 Little Blue Heron											15
14 Tricolored Heron								1			1
15 Cattle Egret					1	1		5		4	27
16 Green Heron		1						8			33
17 Bl.-c Night-Heron		5		5	25	20		5	2		97
18 White-faced Ibis		17			70	11		32		2	324
19 Turkey Vulture	8	25	1	4	22	85	68	29	68	2	759
20 Snow Goose								4			26
21 Ross's Goose							2				22
22 Canada Goose		92		10	44	27	2	86	56		455

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
23 Wood Duck	1		2				1	1	2		31
24 Gadwall	6	125			48		65	2	2	2	483
25 Am. Wigeon		40		4			10	2			97
26 Mallard											
Mallard form	1	140	2	6	147	66	69	46	38	14	1002
Mexican form	14										19
27 Blue-winged Teal	1	5				36	2	14	16	5	331
28 Cinnamon Teal	3	100		4	5		28	28	12		334
29 Northern Shoveler		5		20	20		28				352
30 Northern Pintail		10			4		4		1		62
31 Green-winged Teal	1	80		4	57		19				362
32 Canvasback											35
33 Redhead		28		4	113		86	7			290
34 Ring-necked Duck		4					1				39
35 Lesser Scaup		70			5		3				150
36 Bufflehead		85			1		8				145
37 Com. Goldeneye					1						38
38 Com. Merganser		36		3				1			84
39 Ruddy Duck	1	75			26		54	8	10		405
duck species				12							17
40 Osprey		11									54
41 Miss. Kite						9					101
42 Bald Eagle						1					44

43 Northern Harrier	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	65
44 Sharp-sh. Hawk			2	1	1			48
45 Cooper's Hawk	2	2	5	5	5			80
46 N. Goshawk				1	1			49
<i>Accipiter sp.</i>			1			1		3
47 Gray Hawk								48
48 Com. Black-Hawk								53
49 Harris' Hawk	2							52
50 Swainson's Hawk	8		13	1	9		5	151
51 Zone-tailed Hawk								59
52 Red-tailed Hawk	1	7	5	26	18	2	10	189
53 Ferruginous Hawk			3					56
<i>Buteo species</i>								1
54 Golden Eagle	4		1				1	67
55 American Kestrel	2	7	1	40	21	15	11	251
56 Peregrine Falcon	1	1	1			1	2	63
57 Prairie Falcon	1							61
58 R.-neck. Pheasant	4		6	9		12	8	128
59 Blue Grouse				1				66
60 L. Prairie-Chicken								62
61 Wild Turkey	10		27	27	14	4	1	124
62 Scaled Quail	10	2	5	27	14	4	13	283
63 Gambel's Quail	71		23	11		40	1	772
64 N. Bobwhite				3				107
65 Montezuma Quail								66
66 Virginia Rail	1		5	5	2	2		88
67 Sora			1	1	1	1	1	76

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
68 Com. Moorhen											69
69 Am. Coot	6	270	2		31	90	13	300	1	5	1418
70 Sandhill Crane								1			71
71 Bl.-bellied Plover											72
72 Snowy Plover											171
73 Semipal. Plover								4			80
74 Killdeer	8	11	8	1	22	27	6	13		10	452
75 Mt. Plover											79
76 Bl.-necked Stilt	2				4			13		14	323
77 Am. Avocet		23			15	2		50		12	367
78 Gr. Yellowlegs											88
79 L. Yellowlegs								2			85
yellowlegs sp.											1
80 Sol. Sandpiper						2					82
81 Willet											85
82 Spotted Sandpiper	6	9	1	1	10	6	16	5	5		249
83 Upland Sandpiper			4								87
84 Long-billed Curlew						4					92
85 Marbled Godwit						5					90
86 Semipal. Sandpiper								1			91
87 W. Sandpiper					3			2			123
88 Least Sandpiper								2			103
89 Baird's Sandpiper										1	90



90 Dunlin																						92
91 Stilt Sandpiper																						106
unid. peeps																						2
92 L.-billed Dowitcher																						201
93 Wilson's Snipe																						108
94 Wilson's Phal.																						921
unid. sandpiper																						5
95 Franklin's Gull																						134
96 Ring-billed Gull																						263
97 California Gull																						98
98 Forster's Tern																						121
99 Least Tern																						126
100 Black Tern																						127
101 Rock Pigeon																						1335
102 Band-tailed Pigeon																						344
103 E. Collared-Dove																						607
Ringed Turtle-Dove																						3
104 White-winged Dove																						1157
105 Mourning Dove																						4094
106 Inca Dove																						134
107 Com. Ground-Dove																						110
108 Ruddy Ground-																						109
109 Yell.-billed Cuckoo																						114
110 Greater Roadrunner																						182
111 Barn Owl																						135
112 Flammulated Owl																						123
113 W. Screech-Owl																						122

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
114 Great Horned Owl	1		3	2		1	5	3			166
115N. Pygmy-Owl								1			118
116Elf Owl											123
117Burrowing Owl	4		5			2	1	1		5	154
118Spotted Owl											122
119Long-eared Owl											127
120Lesser Nighthawk	1					3		102			241
121Com. Nighthawk	2		5			10					182
nighthawk sp.								1			8
122Common Poorwill	1	2				2		3	1		174
123Whip-poor-will								1			146
124Chimney Swift											131
125White-thr. Swift	23	6				34	7	12	6		272
126Br.-bill. Hummingbird											134
127Mag. Hummingbird											129
128Lucifer Hummingbird											131
129Bl.-chin. Hum.	2	19		48	89	11	74	90	25	32	625
130Br.-tail. Hummingbird		13			6	139	84	20	86	1	751
Rufous/Allen's Hum. hummingbird sp.					1		4				1
131Belted Kingfisher					1	9			8	2	155
132Lewis' Woodpecker		4			1	13	10		4		192
133Red-headed Wdpker						5					143

134 Acorn Woodpecker					2															162
135 Red-bellied Wdpker				1																136
136 Gila Woodpecker																				171
137 Williamson's Sap.																				140
138 Red-naped Sap.																				168
sapsucker species																				1
139 Lad.-backed Wdpker																				231
140 Downy Woodpecker																				196
141 Hairy Woodpecker																				213
142 Strickland's Wdpker																				153
143 Thr.-toed Wdpker																				145
144 Northern Flicker																				
red-shafted																				197
undifferentiated																				88
145 N. Beard.-Tyrannulet																				148
146 Ol.-sided Flycatcher																				182
147 Greater Pewee																				149
148 W. Wood-Pewee																				461
149 Willow Flycatcher																				164
150 Ham. Flycatcher																				165
151 Gray Flycatcher																				198
152 Dusky Flycatcher																				174
153 Cord. Flycatcher																				213
"W. Flycatcher"																				5
<i>Empidonax species</i>																				18
154 Black Phoebe																				247
155 Eastern Phoebe																				159

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
156 Say's Phoebe	1	11	3	3	9	39	58	20	14	3	438
157 Verm. Flycatcher					5			5			279
158 D.-capped Fly-											178
159 Ash-thr. Flycatcher	2	4	2	1	5	48	47	38	4	16	536
160 Br.-crest. Flycatcher											175
161 Cassin's Kingbird	9	8			6	141	47	3	22	1	590
162 Thick-billed Kingbird											163
163 Western Kingbird	101	6	89	1	22	136	15	135		64	2732
164 Eastern Kingbird					5						191
165 Sc.-tailed Flycatcher			16		4						218
166 Loggerhead Shrike	7		12		12	1	1	6		1	237
167 Bell's Vireo								2			193
168 Gray Vireo								1			176
169 Plumbeous Vireo	1	5			4	4	5	16	9		310
170 Cassin's Vireo								1			172
171 Hutton's Vireo											201
172 Warbling Vireo		3	1	1	2	11	12	30	19	3	336
173 Steller's Jay		2				11	10	2	33		325
174 Blue Jay											189
175 Western Scrub-Jay		1			1	21	84		9	1	374
176 Mexican Jay											251
177 Pinyon Jay		12			4	12	11	4	32		272
178 Clark's Nutcracker		6				6	5		30		237

179 Black-billed Magpie	49		27	57	36		152		573
180 American Crow	36	3	6	50	97		75	1	552
181 Chihuahuan Raven	5	14				10	79	2	327
182 Common Raven	66		48	109	172	22	79	19	1025
raven species						16		6	31
183 Horned Lark	15		2	183	14	18	7		732
184 Purple Martin									190
185 Tree Swallow	25			11	3	3			328
186 Violet-green Swallow	63		38	311	234	24	211		2261
187 N. R.-wing. Swallow	44		172	144	125	34	185	2	1158
188 Bank Swallow	30			39	1	22			355
189 Cliff Swallow	30	1	140	516	136	250	65	62	3035
190 Cave Swallow	185								940
191 Barn Swallow	36	27	38	68	86	400	38	44	1667
swallow species									10
192 Bl.-capped Chick.			13	17	7	1	16		258
193 Mountain Chickadee	2		1	22	69	15	43		478
194 Mexican Chickadee									212
195 Bridled Titmouse									230
196 Juniper Titmouse				10	22		2		264
197 Verdin						5			219
198 Bushtit			10	17	47	46	36	1	572
199 Red-br. Nuthatch			2	5	10	9	1		247
200 White-br. Nuthatch	5		8	14	16	1	6		340
201 Pygmy Nuthatch	1			14	2	5	5		269
202 Brown Creeper				1	1	3			222
203 Cactus Wren	9			2		2			256

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
204 Rock Wren	2	1			6	46	8	3	3	1	332
205 Canyon Wren	2				2	10	3	3	5		279
206 Bewick's Wren		2		2	6	28	12	21	1	5	516
207 House Wren		7	2		4	41	8	3	4	4	383
208 Marsh Wren								1	50		261
209 American Dipper							1		6		216
210 Golden-cr. Kinglet											223
211 Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1				2	2	6	6	8		268
212 Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher		1			2	5	6	7	3	2	264
213 Bl.-tail. Gnatcatcher	1										217
214 Eastern Bluebird						3		3			221
215 Western Bluebird		1			8	29	46	20	28	1	484
216 Mountain Bluebird		10			4	8	32	1	18		347
217 Townsend's Solitaire						13	4	3	10		262
218 Swainson's Thrush			2			3					224
219 Hermit Thrush					2	6		6			285
220 Wood Thrush			1								221
221 American Robin	11	20		1	63	160	177	36	103	3	1224
222 Gray Catbird			1	3		5		3	1	1	238
223 N. Mockingbird	24	1	27		1	155	10	105	2	23	1008
224 Sage Thrasher		1					1		1		227
225 Bendire's Thrasher											230
226 Curve-bill. Thrasher	6		11	1		12	20	5		3	359

227	Crissal Thrasher	5	23	3	11	106	151	178	1	228	39	244
228	European Starling	25	23	3	11	106	151	178	90	1	39	1766
229	American Pipit									1		230
230	Cedar Waxwing		7	2	234		130	140	18	1	99	1010
231	Phainopepla	1							12			313
232	Olive Warbler								1			236
233	Orange-cr. Warbler		1		2		9	6	3	68		347
234	Virginia's Warbler		9				29	6	3	18		355
235	Lucy's Warbler								6			319
236	Northern Parula			1								237
237	Yellow Warbler	1	22	4	1	7	75	18	23	28	3	545
238	Chest.-sided War-											
239	Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler			1					1			239
240	Yell.-rump. Warbler											240
	Myrtle											
	Audubon's											
	undifferentiated											
241	Bl.-thr. Gray Warbler	2	25	4	1	55	51	67	65	146	65	569
242	Townsend's Warbler					3	32	106				341
243	Hermit Warbler			1				3	4	7	1	302
244	Grace's Warbler											251
245	Bay-br. Warbler											245
246	Bl.-and-wh. Warbler		1				12		18	3		345
247	Am. Redstart											1
248	N. Waterthrush	1	1	2			1					247
249	MacGill. Warbler		1	2			4					250
250	Com. Yellowthroat					1	1	1	5	2	1	290
			24				3	5	36	1	3	361

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna Luna	Rio Arriba	Roose- velt	San- doval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valen- cia	Totals
251 Wilson's Warbler	2		3		3	12	12	18	10		373
252 Red-faced Warbler								4			294
253 Painted Redstart											267
254 Yell.-br. Chat warbler species	2	26		4	3	10	10	28	8	3	440
255 Hepatic Tanager					2	12	1	2			3
256 Summer Tanager	4					17	1	28		8	304
257 Western Tanager	3	32	2	3	23	67	408	26	112	4	397
258 Gr.-tailed Towhee		13			2	4	3	5	2		1142
259 Spotted Towhee	1	45	1	10	17	50	112	50	25	11	308
260 Canyon Towhee	11					18	60	4	1		855
261 Abert's Towhee											433
262 Cassin's Sparrow			18			74					264
263 Rufous-cr. Sparrow						5		4			455
264 Chipping Sparrow		11	3		5	79	73	30	46	2	300
265 Cl.-colored Sparrow			1								810
266 Brewer's Sparrow		2	8			2		10	7	1	266
267 Bl.-chinned Sparrow		40				6	2			1	325
268 Vesper Sparrow		9	23			25			1		293
269 Lark Sparrow					1	195	28	12		3	392
270 Bl.-throated Sparrow	4			3	3	2	8	38		5	762
271 Lark Bunting			90		1	267	46	97	3	1	449
272 Savannah Sparrow							2				1235
											277



273 Grasshop. Sparrow	12																	289
274 LeConte's Sparrow																		275
275 Song Sparrow	7	1						10	7	51								365
276 Lincoln's Sparrow	2	2					13	2					3					304
277 Swamp Sparrow																		278
278 White-cr. Sparrow																		
white-lored							33											33
black-lored								6										8
undifferentiated	2	6						8	28	18	3	6						215
sparrow species																		12
279 Dark-eyed Junco																		
Oregon	1																	2
pink-sided								16										16
gray-headed	2						4			13								33
undifferentiated								1	31	83								323
280 Yellow-eyed Junco																		287
281 Northern Cardinal								1										341
282 Pyrrhuloxia	1									1								326
283 Rose-br. Grosbeak	1									2	1							295
284 Bl.-headed Grosbeak	2	50	1	3	69	133	164	191	27									1439
285 Blue Grosbeak	8	4	13	7	18	47	47	1										536
286 Lazuli Bunting	14		2	12	6	12	12	3										341
287 Indigo Bunting		1	1	1	1	3	1	3										299
288 Painted Bunting		1			3	3												299
bunting species					1	1												1
289 Dickcissel										1								290
290 Red-wing. Blackbird	16	52	23	1	64	325	129	264	81									2593

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

Species	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
291 Eastern Meadowlark	3	44	8		32	151	23	17	9	12	374
292 Western Meadowlark meadowlark species	33	90	15		26	34		10	120	25	821
293 Yell.-head. Blackbird		60			8	71	28	36	92		290
294 Brewer's Blackbird		60			9	166	14	13	19		665
295 Common Grackle		35	28		8	65	25	110	38	29	695
296 Great-tailed Grackle	83	35	28		8	65	25	110	38		676
297 Bronzed Cowbird	1							1			2436
298 Br.-headed Cowbird		55	5	10	58	101	67	125	53	9	336
blackbird species											1299
299 Orchard Oriole						2					7
300 Hooded Oriole											334
301 Bullock's Oriole	5	9	48	1	21	153	30	39	36	20	325
302 Scott's Oriole	5				2	5		5			898
303 Pine Grosbeak											357
304 Cassin's Finch							1		1		307
305 House Finch	176	20	2	6	141	99	520	110	195	32	328
306 Red Crossbill								3			2582
307 Pine Siskin	2	65	3		32	357	341	150	879	84	322
308 Lesser Goldfinch	25					1				3	3766
green-backed					3						337
undifferentiated		4		13	22	27	34	65			4
309 American Goldfinch	1	3			23	88	30	20	20		302
310 Evening Grosbeak		4			7	94	141		350		541
311 House Sparrow	120	37	8	10	157	42	356	180	71	49	1094
unidentified birds											3361
											27

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird County by County, New Mexico**

	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
Total species	83	131	75	57	111	193	129	193	123	92	73,121
Total Individuals	1,487	4,076	825	547	2,546	8,046	5,979	5,437	5,395	1,259	129
Total parties	1	4	3	1	14	8	15	9	6	3	239
Total participants	1	5	5	2	24	19	40	12	10	4	
Party-hours by foot	5	6	10	6	16.5	39	61	26.1	55	17	470.68
by car	8	8	9	1	18	59.5	47.75	86.9	22.5	0.5	402.23
by bike		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
by rafting		4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
total party-hours	13	18	19	7	34.5	98.5	108.8	113	80.5	17.5	879.91
Party-miles by foot	6.4	3.5	7	4	12.5	28	46	22.3	22.75	6	326
by car	185.4	190	57	4	292	810	502	423.2	229.5	17	4805.6
by bike		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
by rafting		9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
total party-miles	191.8	202.5	64	8	304.5	838	548	445.5	265.3	23	5153.6
Stationary party-hours	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	11
No. observers	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
No. of parties	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4

**Table 4. Results of the 2005 North American Migration Bird Count by County, New Mexico**

	Luna	Rio Arriba	Roosevelt	Sandoval	San Juan	San Miguel	Santa Fe	Socorro	Taos	Valencia	Totals
<b>Feeder-watching</b>											
hours	0	0	0	0	17.5	0	4	7	1	0.25	71
No. of watchers	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	2	1	1	46
No. of parties	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	2	1	1	36
<b>Owling</b>											
party-miles	24	0	0	1	0	18	0	25.5	0	0	74.8
No. of observers	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	3	0	0	20
party-hours	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	2.75	0	0	20
No. of parties	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	13
<b>Weather Report</b>											
pre-dawn	47	NR	42	48	NR	30				60-80	
AM	70	NR	51	55	NR	50	NR	NR	45	60-80	
noon	86	NR	78	71	NR	70	NR	NR	70	60-80	
PM	92	NR	76	82	NR	78	NR	NR		60-80	
sunset	80	NR	71		NR	NR	NR	NR		60-80	
night	70	NR	71		NR	NR	NR	NR		60-80	

Weather Report										
wind										
pre-dawn	0	NR	2-5 E	0 to 10	NR	NW-5	NR	NR	NR	none
AM	3 NE	NR	15-20	0	NR	NW-8	NR	NR	NR	none
Noon	5 NE	NR	10 SE	3 to 5	NR	W-10	NR	NR	NR	none
PM	10 NE	NR	10 SE	5 to 10	NR	SW-12	NR	NR	NR	none
Sunset	3 NE	NR	10-15	5 to 10	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	none
Night	0	NR	2-5 E		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	none
precipitation										
pre-dawn	none	none	none	none	NR	none	NR	NR	NR	none
AM	none	none	none	none	NR	none	NR	NR	NR	none
noon	none	none	none	none	NR	none	NR	NR	NR	none
PM	none	none	none	none	NR	none	NR	NR	NR	none
sunset	none	none	none	none	NR	none	NR	NR	NR	none
night	none	none	none	none	NR	none	NR	NR	NR	none
% cloud cover										
pre-dawn	0%	NR	5%	0%	NR	70%	NR	NR	NR	NR
AM	5%	NR	15%	0%	NR	60%	NR	NR	0	NR
Noon	30%	NR	30%	0%	NR	50%	NR	NR	NR	NR
PM	50%	NR	60%	0%	NR	50%	NR	NR	partly	NR
Sunset	98%	NR	30%	0%	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Night	98%	NR	50%	0%	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

## REPORTING NEW MEXICO BIRD OBSERVATIONS

It is common knowledge that birders have added greatly to our understanding of the bird life of New Mexico. In fact, birders now account for the majority of new data on species distribution and field identification of North American birds generally. However, unless field observations are properly documented and submitted for consideration, they have no way of becoming part of the ornithological record. For New Mexico, bird records are published seasonally in *North American Birds*, the American Birding Association's journal (now in its 56th year) dedicated to documenting the continent's bird life, and subsequently in the *NMOS Field Notes*, published quarterly by the New Mexico Ornithological Society.

Sandy Williams is New Mexico's Regional Editor for *North American Birds* as well as Editor of *NMOS Field Notes*; he also maintains the NMOS Archives, including all written bird sighting submissions as well as the Photo-Tape File, which includes prints, slides, audio tapes, video tapes, digital images, and compact disks. The year is divided into four seasons (see below), and observers are asked to submit their records to Sandy promptly at the close of each season. All submissions become part of the NMOS Archives; even if all your reports are not published, they remain on file and available to future workers.

All New Mexico birders are encouraged to submit their sightings, especially of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-range birds. Please submit your records in taxonomic order and make sure all records include the date, exact location, numbers of birds, age and sex/color morph, if applicable, and the name(s) and contact information (including e-mail address) of observer(s).

Please provide details for unusual records. Details are usually needed for sightings of birds appearing in light-faced type in the NMOS Field Checklist of New Mexico Birds. Written details and other documentation of very rare species will be circulated to the New Mexico Bird Records Committee for evaluation. Written details may be submitted on a report form (available by mail from Sandy Williams or electronically from the NMOS web page), although any written format is acceptable. If photographs are submitted, please include on the photo/slide your name, date the picture was taken, and the exact location.

Below are the seasons for reporting New Mexico bird observations. Don't procrastinate—send your reports as soon as possible after the close of a reporting period.

Autumn	August 1 – November 30	(= 4 months)
Winter	December 1 – February 28/29	(= 3 months)
Spring	March 1 – May 31	(= 3 months)
Summer	June 1 – July 31	(= 2 months)

Seasonal reports and other records should be submitted to:

Sartor O. Williams III  
New Mexico Bird Records Committee  
1819 Meadowview Dr NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87104-2511  
e-mail: sunbittern@earthlink.net

## NMOS BULLETIN

The *Bulletin* is published four times a year; subscription is by membership in NMOS. The *Bulletin* serves two primary purposes: (1) to publish articles of scientific merit concerning the distribution, abundance, status, behavior, and ecology of the avifauna of New Mexico and its contiguous regions and (2) to publish news and announcements deemed of interest to the New Mexico ornithological community.

NMOS members are encouraged to submit articles and news. Articles received are subject to review and editing. Published articles are noted in major abstracting services, e.g., the AOU's "Recent Ornithological Literature" section of *The Auk*. Please submit news and articles in double-spaced hard copy or, preferably, electronically on disk or by e-mail to the Acting Editor, Roland Shook, 3306 Royal Drive, Silver City, NM 88061; email: tyranidae@hotmail.com

## ANNUAL DUES

Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for the calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January.

Dues are: Regular \$10, Family \$15, Student \$5, Supporting \$35, and Life \$300.

Dues and membership applications may be sent to the New Mexico Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068 or to the Treasurer, Jerry Oldenettel, 499 Farm-to-Market Road, Socorro, NM 87801.

**New Mexico Ornithological Society Home Page:**  
**<http://www.nmosbirds.org>**

**New Mexico Rare Bird Alert:**  
**505-884-3269**

## Announcement of Annual Meeting

Steve West has graciously accepted to host the 45th Annual Meeting of NMOS in Carlsbad, NM on April 28, 2007. Please mark your calendars and begin preparing to join us in Carlsbad.

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