

## Minutes of the 2011 NMOS Annual Meeting

The New Mexico Ornithological Society held its 49th Annual Meeting on April 9, 2011 at the Ramada Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Present were NMOS officers: Dave Krueper, Jonathan Batkin, Ashli Gorbet; NMOS Directors: Janet Ruth, Martha Desmond, Chuck Hayes; NMOS Student Director: Matt Baumann; and NMOS appointees: Sandy Williams and Janet Bair, as well as numerous other NMOS members.

Registration began at 9:00 am. The NMOS Business Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

**Welcome:** Dave Krueper, President gave a welcome to the members at the Annual Meeting. He thanked the Officers and the members of the Board for their continued hard work for the Society. He also noted that we had received considerable support from locals Martha Desmond and David Griffin to make this meeting a success. Dave presented past-President Roland Shook with a copy of The Raptors of New Mexico, signed by the Officers, Board members and others in the Society, as a small token of our appreciation for his many years of service to the Society.

**Minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting:** Ashli Gorbet, Secretary, read minutes from the previous annual meeting (April 10, 2010 Albuquerque, New Mexico) and announced that the complete minutes are posted on the website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Krueper read the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Jerry Oldenettel (Treasurer). At the end of 2010, the balance for the NMOS bank account was \$7856.14. There is \$505 in the Research Grant account, and we are generating additional monies for the Research Grant Endowment to be reported on later.

There was no Old Business:

New Business:

**Thaw Trust Challenge:** Jonathan Batkin, Vice President provided background and goals of the effort to generate an endowment for the Research Grants Program. The Thaw Charitable Trust has issued a Challenge Grant of \$7500 to be matched by NMOS fund-raising of \$7500 by the end of 2011. Donations made to NMOS in the amount of \$500 (including installments of \$250 per year in 2011 and 2012) will be recognized with the benefits of life membership in NMOS. Donations in all amounts, at all levels are encouraged and can be made via PayPal through the NMOS Website.

**Dale Zimmerman Artwork:** As part of the Challenge fund-raising mentioned above, Dave Krueper announced the availability of limited edition and signed prints of Dale Zimmerman's artwork depicting his ten favorite New Mexican bird species for purchase by NMOS members. These prints will be available on archival paper and are 8 ½" x 11" in size for \$25 apiece or a set of five different prints for \$100. Monies raised will count toward generating our matching contribution of \$7500 to the Challenge, and we urge all members to get their prints or sets as soon as they are available on the website (by mid-May or early June 2011).

**Silent Auction** : As part of the Challenge, Dave Krueper donated a pair of Zeiss 10x40 BGAT binoculars and announced that they were available for Silent Auction bidding. Monies generated by this auction would count toward the Challenge, and members were urged to bid on the binoculars.

**Florence M. Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award:** Chuck Hayes announced that NMOS was presenting Dr. John Hubbard with a Florence M. Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Hubbard's contributions to the understanding and conservation of New Mexico avifauna included service as past president of NMOS, editor or co-editor of *NMOS Field Notes*, *NMOS Bulletin* and southwestern region reports for *American Birds*. Dr. Hubbard has authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications about New Mexico birds plus the Check-list of the Birds of New Mexico (1970) and the Revised Check-list of the Birds of New Mexico (1978).

#### Committee Reports

**NMOS Field Notes:** Sandy Williams, Editor reported that four issues were produced in 2010 (Vol . 48, Nos. 1 – 4, 2009). Plans are to produce four issues during 2011 (Vol. 49). Report your sightings!

**NMOS Bulletin:** Janet Bair, Editor reported that three issues have been published in the last year. Members may note a change to a smaller font as a cost and paper-saving measure. Articles have been received on a regular basis and members are encouraged to submit articles for consideration at any time. All articles submitted are being put through a scientific peer-review process. The next issue of the *NMOS Bulletin* is in preparation now.

**NMOS Website:** <http://www.nmbirds.org> - Janet Ruth reported on improvements being made to the New Mexico Birds photo gallery portion of the website - working to get photos of New Mexican species taken in New Mexico and/or taken by New Mexican photographers. In addition, she reported that it is now possible to renew NMOS memberships, make donations to NMOS, and purchase the New Mexico Bird Finding Guide online using PayPal. This capability will be expanded in the near future to enable purchase of NMOS items (caps, mugs, T-shirts), and registration for future NMOS Annual Meetings.

**Research Grants:** Janet Ruth, Chair of the NMOS Research Grants Committee, announced the two winners of NMOS grants for this year. Bethany Abrahamson (UNM) received the Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant (\$1000) for her project entitled "Elevational distributions and inter-specific competition in New Mexico hummingbirds". Ronald Treminio (NMSU) received the NMOS Research Grant (\$1000) for his project entitled "The use of stable hydrogen isotopes to elucidate the molt pattern of Burrowing Owls breeding across the Great Plains".

**NMOS Weekend Field Expeditions:** Dave Krueper explained the purpose of the weekend field expeditions (to gather information on the birds of under-explored areas of the state) and announced that Cole Wolf had volunteered to assist in the organization and execution of these trips

**Future Business:** Dave Krueper announced that the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the NMOS will be held at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn on either 31 March or 14 April, 2012

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am

The annual meeting continued with a general science session, chaired by Martha Desmond. Nine presentations were delivered between 11:15 am – 4:30 pm. Five posters were presented for viewing in the lobby throughout the day; an informal poster session was held from 2:50 pm – 3:20 pm.

The evening banquet was also held at the Ramada Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico at 6:00pm followed by the keynote presentation by Dr. Sartor O. “Sandy” Williams, Secretary of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee, entitled “Adventures in Mexico with the Mexican Duck.”

Registration/attendance for the meeting was 58 people.