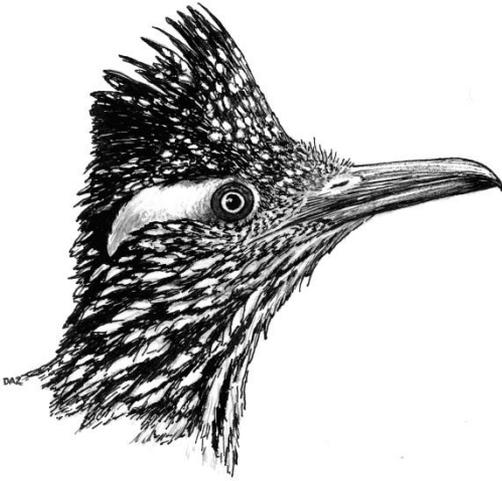


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THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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RECENT AOS CHECKLIST CHANGES AFFECTING THE NEW MEXICO LIST: THE 59TH SUPPLEMENT

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The recently-published 59th Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's (AOS; formerly American Ornithologists' Union, or AOU) Checklist of North American Birds (Auk 135:798-813, 2018) is the 18th such supplement to appear since the publication of the 7th edition of the AOU Checklist in 1998; it summarizes decisions made during the period April 2017–April 2018. The bulk of the changes in this supplement resulted from ongoing genetic research primarily involving nuclear and/or mitochondrial DNA analyses, and most do not directly involve New Mexico birds. Readers seeking to better understand the evidence and reasoning behind these decisions are encouraged to read the 16-page supplement and the numerous references cited therein. An updated list of all 2,143 species known from the AOS Checklist area (North and Middle America) is available at www.americanornithology.org and clicking on "Checklists."

New Mexico gained no new species from this supplement, but one species of jay received a new English name, the sequence of the kites, eagles, and hawks was rearranged, four woodpeckers were moved to a different genus and their linear sequence was rearranged, and four species of sparrows were moved into two new genera but maintained their same linear sequence.

The English name for *Perisoreus canadensis* reverts from Gray Jay to Canada Jay, which was the official name of the species for almost a century. The name also reflects the scientific name as well as the main geographic area of distribution of the species, and is consistent with the geographical naming of other members within this genus.

Based on phylogenetic analyses of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA, the linear sequence of New Mexico's 21 species in the Family Accipitridae (kites, eagles, hawks) is rearranged. White-tailed Kite and Swallow-tailed Kite now lead this list, but Golden Eagle now heads the remainder of the list, while Bald Eagle and Mississippi Kite are shifted downward in sequence, to follow Northern Goshawk.

Phylogenetic analyses of DNA demonstrated that the woodpecker genus *Picoides* is polyphyletic (of more than one evolutionary ancestry), resulting in moving four of New Mexico's five *Picoides* species to the genus *Dryobates*, and rearranging the linear sequence of all five species: American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*), Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*), Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*D. scalaris*), Hairy Woodpecker (*D. villosus*), Arizona Woodpecker (*D. arizonae*).

Similar DNA analyses demonstrated that the sparrow genus *Ammodramus* is polyphyletic, resulting in New Mexico's five *Ammodramus* species being split among three genera, but retaining their linear sequence: Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus*

savannarum), Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*), Henslow's Sparrow (*C. henslowii*), LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*), Nelson's Sparrow (*A. nelsoni*).

Of interest to New Mexico birders, although not involving New Mexico birds, was the AOS acceptance of several species as new to the United States, including Amethyst-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis amethystinus*), documented in western Texas in 2016, and Pine Flycatcher (*Empidonax affinis*), documented in southern Arizona in 2016. A proposal to re-split the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Mexican Duck (*A. p. diazi*) failed on a divided vote, thus perpetuating, at least for the time being, the current inconsistent treatment of the several taxa in the North American "Mallard complex."

An updated Checklist of New Mexico Bird Species now available on the NMOS webpage www.nmbirds.org incorporates the 59th Supplement changes described above. The state list now includes 545 species that have been verified in the state by specimen, photograph, or audio evidence and accepted as valid by the New Mexico Bird Records Committee. Since the state list was last updated in August 2017, there was one addition, Black-crested Titmouse (*Baeolophus atricristatus*), with one seen by many and nicely photographed at Clovis 16–26 December 2017 and accepted by the New Mexico Bird Records Committee 13 April 2018.

Thanks to M. J. Baumann and D. J. Krueper for careful review of this manuscript and for proofreading the updated state checklist.

* * *

IN MEMORIAM: JAMES S. FINDLEY

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

Dr. James S. Findley passed away at his home in Corrales 20 May 2018, aged 91. Jim was one of the central founders of NMOS. In fact, he provided an important spark that set the Society in motion, identifying like-minded persons around New Mexico to contact regarding the idea of forming a bird society, which led to the Society's founding in 1962 (Travis, NMOS Bulletin 30:49-60, 2002). Always the natural historian, Jim, along with others, established better documentation of the occurrence of birds in the state as the core mission of the new organization.

During his nearly four decade long career at the University of New Mexico, Jim was Professor and Chair of the Biology Department, Director and Curator of the Museum of Southwestern Biology, and upon retirement, Emeritus Faculty at UNM. Although Jim was a mammologist first (authoring *Mammals of New Mexico* and *The Natural*

History of New Mexico Mammals), he mentored numerous ornithology students as well.

Jim, who was a Life Member of NMOS, continued his interest in birds in retirement, including publishing a multi-decade compilation of birds of the Corrales area. He took a great interest in my efforts to summarize New Mexico bird occurrence, and continued to provide interesting observations, including an American Woodcock he photographed on his lawn in Corrales 12 December 2012. On the evening of 22 May 2018, family, neighbors, friends, and UNM colleagues and former students gathered on that lawn, a beautiful and welcoming bosque locale, to remember Jim Findley.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Please take the opportunity now to pay your 2018 NMOS membership dues. To pay for membership, please download the membership form from our website (www.nmbirds.org), fill out, and mail to the following address, providing a check made out to "NMOS". New to 2018, you may also pay membership dues through our website using the PayPal Service. Save a stamp and pay online! Thank you!

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New Mexico Ornithological Society
— Founded 1962 —

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: Post Office Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068.

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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. Please submit articles in double-spaced electronic format, such as a Microsoft Word document, by e-mail to the Editor (see inside front cover). Refer to recent issues of the *Bulletin* for examples of style. News items may be submitted to the Editor by way of e-mail.

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