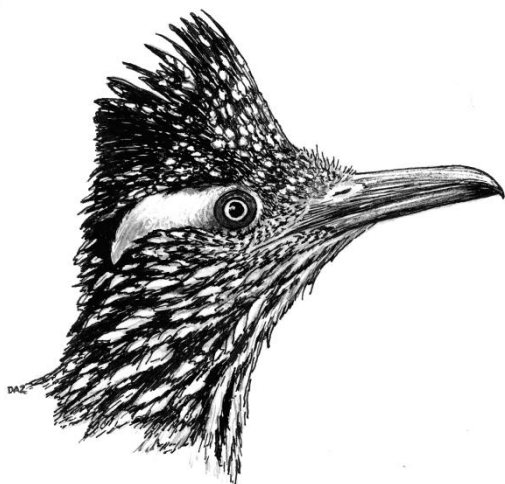


# NMOS BULLETIN



New Mexico  
Ornithological  
Society

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Vol. 47, No. 2

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2019

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Post Office Box 3068, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-3068  
www.nmbirds.org

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**Director:**

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**Director:**

Mike Andersen, mjandersen@unm.edu

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**Editor:**

Sartor O. Williams III, sunbittern@earthlink.net

**Assistant Editor:**

William H. Howe, whhowe60@gmail.com

**Editor, NMOS Bulletin:**

David Mehlman, dmehlman@centurylink.net

## NMOS 57<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Please mark your calendars for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to be held on October 12-13, 2019, in Rodeo, NM, at the Geronimo Event Center of the Chiricahua Desert Museum. We are still working out details, but the plan is to have field trips Saturday morning and Sunday. Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00pm will be the annual meeting with scientific presentations. We will have a banquet Saturday evening and, in lieu of a keynote speaker, we will have some birding fun with trivia and quizzes. There is plenty of lodging in the Rodeo area. Check out the Geronimo Event Center's website at [www.geronimoevent.com](http://www.geronimoevent.com) for a list of lodging opportunities. Registration information and final details will soon be available at [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org).

Oral presentations for the NMOS Annual Meeting will be allotted 20 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes for questions. Papers may range from technical reports of original research to more general presentations addressing science-related questions. Poster presentations are also encouraged; size should be no larger than 36" H X 48" W.

Please submit abstracts for the General Science Session containing the following:

- TITLE (in all capital letters) of no more than 20 words.
- Names and addresses of author(s) in the following form:

Bear, V.L., and C. Finch  
Dept. of Ornithology  
University of Central New Mexico  
Birdsville, NM 88666

- Body of abstract as one single-spaced paragraph, not to exceed 250 words.
- Include E-mail address and/or phone number of presenting author.

Please email your abstract, with "NMOS Abstract" in the subject line, including the entire abstract in the body of the email, **NOT** as an attachment. This will prevent any problems with incompatible word processing formats. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **10 September 2019**. Please email your abstract to Matt Baumann, [mbaumann22@gmail.com](mailto:mbaumann22@gmail.com), AND Chuck Hayes, [chuck.hayes@state.nm.com](mailto:chuck.hayes@state.nm.com).

All abstract submissions will be acknowledged within a week of receipt. If no acknowledgement is received, it is the submitter's responsibility to follow up with the Session Chair to ensure consideration. The abstracts for the NMOS General Science Session will be distributed at the meeting and will be published in the **NMOS Bulletin**.

\* \* \*

## IN MEMORIAM: JERRY R. OLDENNETTEL

JOHN PARMETER\*

1325 Paisano NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112 U.S.A.

\*jp972@centurylink.net

Jerry Oldenettel, an outstanding figure in New Mexico field ornithology during the past quarter century, passed away on 11 April 2019, aged 76. It would be difficult to overstate Jerry's contributions to New Mexico ornithology or his impact on the state's birding community.

Jerry grew up in Illinois and as a young man served in the United States Navy. Highly intelligent and mathematically inclined, he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from San Diego State University and, with this background, launched a successful career as a manager of large, complex research and development projects related to high resolution satellite imaging and atmospheric correction. His career took him from San Diego to Maui and then to New Mexico. He became prominent in the California birding community in the early 1980s and made substantial contributions to ornithological knowledge both there and in Hawaii before arriving in Albuquerque in 1994.

For a variety of reasons, New Mexico has been an under-birded state for most of its history. In the early 1990s, there was a small community of birders and ornithologists who were beginning to deliberately seek out and document rarities and to explore parts of the state where the birdlife had hitherto received scant attention. Jerry almost immediately took birding in the state to another level, spending two full days in the field virtually every weekend, exploring new areas, discovering new birding locations, and working the "hot spots" as no one had done before.

Jerry's ability to find and photograph rare birds was remarkable. With his long hours in the field and knack for obtaining high-quality photos, Jerry probably provided more documentation on rare birds in the state than any other individual over the past 25 years. During his time in New Mexico, he found and/or photographed nine first state records: Long-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma longirostre*; 1995), Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*; 1995), Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophatus*; 1996), Swainson's Warbler (*Limothlypis swainsonii*; 1999), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*; 2001), Henslow's Sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*; 2003), Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*; 2005), Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferous*; 2010, see Baumann et al. 2011), and Common Crane (*Grus grus*; 2014). The last



**Jerry Oldenettel, Jim Shiflett, and Janet Ruth in Cuba, November 2012. Photo Narca Moore-Craig.**

four of these remain the only photographically documented state records of these species. I know of no statistics on birders who have found the most first state records, but those who have found nine or more must be a small and elite group and I suspect few of them started as late as 1994. The Piratic Flycatcher Jerry discovered at Rattlesnake Springs in September 1996 was the first to be identified as such in the United States, though it was pre-dated by a Florida record that for many years was thought to be a Variegated Flycatcher (*Empidonomus varius*). The Common Crane warrants comment because its discovery showed Jerry at his best. In the fall of 2014, a Common Crane appeared in the Texas Panhandle and many New Mexico birders learned of it and began to speculate about the chances of one appearing in eastern New Mexico. However, only Jerry undertook the somewhat daunting task of spending days on New Mexico's southeastern plains sorting through every flock of Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis*) he could find – and, within three days of beginning, he located a Common Crane with Sandhills in agricultural fields southeast of Roswell. Jerry spread the word immediately and then stayed with the bird for over four hours while a number of birders drove down from Albuquerque and Santa Fe to see it. Since this was on a Sunday afternoon, this last service was appreciated greatly by those of us with day jobs.

Jerry also documented an additional 30 first New Mexico records that were discovered by others: 29 by photos or videotape and one by audio recording. Jerry photographed and was the first to correctly identify the only New Mexico records of Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*; 2003) and Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*; 2008). He obtained the only photos of New Mexico's single record of Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*; 1996, see Neville 1998) and he obtained the first photos of several other first state records, including Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*; 2004), Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basilenterus culicivorus*; 2004, see Howe and Parmeter 2004), and Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*; 2007). It was Jerry who rediscovered the Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge on 18 November 2008, the day after word broke that it had been photographed on 13 November. His patience and skill as a photographer enabled him to obtain diagnostic series of photos of many difficult-to-identify species, such as Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) in Albuquerque and multiple Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (*Empidonax flaviventris*) on New Mexico's eastern plains. While his talents were deployed throughout New Mexico and elsewhere, Jerry had a special affinity for the Melrose Migrant Trap and he did more than any other individual to document records at that oasis and give it the prominence among birders that it enjoys today (see Parmeter 2007, 2013).



**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Melrose Migrant Trap, September 9, 2011. Photo Jerry Oldenettel.**

Jerry made numerous other contributions to New Mexico ornithology. He served for 23 years as the Treasurer of the New Mexico Ornithological Society, was several times a

member of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee, compiled detailed reports for publication in *New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes* and *North American Birds*, studied species of special interest such as White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*; see Wolfe et al. 2011), and conducted multiple Breeding Bird Survey routes each year. Perhaps most importantly, he played a key role in mentoring several excellent young New Mexico birders in the early 2000s who have gone on to be among the state's best and most active birders and/or ornithologists. In the last decade of his life, Jerry branched out into other areas of natural history, becoming an expert on New Mexico's butterflies and orchids.

Though Jerry's interest in listing waned somewhat in later years, he certainly enjoyed this aspect of birding and his enthusiasm was contagious. In 2005 he set a New Mexico year list record of 428 species that is likely to stand for many years. His big year sparked the interest of the entire state's birding community and many birders made special efforts to seek out rarities and help Jerry find key species. In the end it seemed like a team effort and Jerry always treated it as such.

Perhaps related to his mathematical abilities, Jerry possessed outstanding spatial acuity. Jerry carried maps in his head and, as a young man, he worked briefly as a taxi driver, something he must have done extremely well. When Jerry had been to a birding location once, he could always find his way back, no matter how remote the site or how circuitous the route. His unusual ability to pinpoint locations and judge distances was amply demonstrated with the Eastern Whip-poor-will record mentioned above. After Jerry found the bird at the Melrose Migrant Trap, other birders arrived from Albuquerque with a net, hoping to capture the bird and obtain a few feathers to perform the DNA analysis that was critical to rule out Mexican Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus arizonae*). The bird was



**Eastern Whip-poor-will,  
Melrose Migrant Trap, October  
8, 2010. Photo Jerry Oldenettel.**

perched on a low branch within a clump of trees; on one previous occasion it had flushed from the branch and flown off through a gap in the trees before returning. All of us present knew that we might have only one more chance to flush the bird and the key question was exactly where to place the net, assuming the bird would fly exactly as it had when flushed earlier. Of the half dozen or so people present, Jerry was the one who was adamant concerning precisely where the net should be placed, so we followed his advice, though others (including me) had doubts about whether it was placed correctly. The bird was flushed, and sure enough, flew almost exactly into the center of the net, allowing the bird to be captured and the feathers to be obtained.

Jerry was in all respects an exceptionally generous individual. He gave his time to the New Mexico Ornithological Society, Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, and Socorro Rotary Club. He was also extremely generous with his money. When sharing rides with other birders, he always offered to pay more than his fair share for gas.

He donated substantial sums of money to charitable causes, especially conservation, and provided considerable assistance to members of his extended family who lacked his financial means.

Everyone who knew Jerry knows that he was the consummate gentlemen, always kind and thoughtful, and always willing to help and mentor others. His death leaves a huge gap in the New Mexico birding community. All of us who had the privilege of birding with him gained from the experience and will miss him.

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## RECENT AOS CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING THE NEW MEXICO LIST: THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SUPPLEMENT

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III\*

Secretary, New Mexico Bird Records Committee

\*sunbittern@earthlink.net

The recently published 60<sup>th</sup> Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's (AOS; formerly American Ornithologists' Union, or AOU) *Check-list of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2019) is the 19<sup>th</sup> such supplement to appear since the publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the AOU Check-list in 1998; it summarizes decisions made during the period 15 April 2018 – 15 April 2019. As in recent years, the bulk of the changes in this supplement resulted from ongoing genetic research primarily involving nuclear and/or mitochondrial DNA analyses as they pertain to evolutionary relationships. Readers seeking to better understand the evidence and reasoning behind these decisions are encouraged to read Chesser et al. (2019) and the numerous references cited therein.

New Mexico neither gained nor lost species as a result of these decisions. However, there were a number of changes to scientific names, English names, and the linear sequences of several groups of birds that do involve New Mexico species.

The scoter *Melanitta fusca* is split into three species, two of them primarily Eurasian in distribution. The North American one retains the name White-winged Scoter, but becomes *Melanitta deglandi*.

To conform to AOS guidelines for English names, the hyphen is removed from the names of several species of ground doves; the two that occur in New Mexico become Common Ground Dove and Ruddy Ground Dove.

The linear sequence of the subfamilies of the family Cuculidae (cuckoos) is rearranged to become Smooth-billed Ani, Greater Roadrunner, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Black-billed Cuckoo.

The English name of the Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*) becomes Blue-throated Mountain-gem. This standardizes the English group name of all species of *Lampornis* to Mountain-gem.

The linear sequence of the plover genus *Charadrius* is rearranged to reflect current thinking on evolutionary relationships, and the sequence of New Mexico's five *Charadrius* species is accordingly changed.

The Least Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma microsoma*), along with all other species in that genus, is transferred to the genus *Hydrobates*, hence our Least Storm-Petrel becomes *Hydrobates microsoma*.

The linear sequence of the species in the family Hirundinidae (martins, swallows) is rearranged to reflect current thinking on evolutionary relationships, and the eight New Mexico species are accordingly rearranged.

The linear sequence of the family Passerellidae (New World sparrows) is extensively rearranged, including the sequence of New Mexico's 37 species in the family.



The five New Mexico warblers formerly placed in the genus *Vermivora*, and more recently in the genus *Oreothlypis*, are now placed in a new genus *Leiothlypis*, and become *Leiothlypis peregrina* (Tennessee Warbler), *L. celata* (Orange-crowned Warbler), *L. luciae* (Lucy's Warbler), *L. ruficapilla* (Nashville Warbler), and *L. virginiae* (Virginia's Warbler).

Proposals affecting New Mexico species considered but not accepted for this Supplement included deletion of the hyphen in the English group name Mountain-gem, separation of Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo harlani*) from Red-tailed Hawk (*B. jamaicensis*), change of the English name of McCown's Longspur (*Rhynchophanes mccownii*), merger of the genus *Melospiza* into the genus *Aimophila*, and discontinuation of use of the possessive in patronymic English bird names.

An updated *Checklist of New Mexico Bird Species*, now available on the NMOS webpage at [www.nmbirds.org/pubs/state-checklist](http://www.nmbirds.org/pubs/state-checklist), incorporates the 60<sup>th</sup> Supplement changes described above. The state list now includes 546 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. The most recent addition to the state list was the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), with one photographed at a salt pan east of Carlsbad 18 May 2018 that subsequently died during rehabilitation, and is now a specimen at the Museum of Southwestern Biology; it was accepted by the New Mexico Bird Records Committee on 1 January 2019.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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## WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Western Field Ornithologists annual conference is being held from August 21–25 in Albuquerque at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It will be chock full of field trips, workshops, and interesting presentations. Meeting information, the field trip schedule, and registration details can be found at [www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php); the registration deadline is 15 August 2019. Dr. Christopher C. Witt, Museum of Southwestern Biology & Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, will give the keynote presentation on “The Hidden Forces that Make Bird Species and Set Their Geographical Ranges.”

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## MANUSCRIPTS NEEDED FOR NMOS BULLETIN

New Mexico Ornithological Society members are encouraged to submit articles of scientific merit concerning the distribution, abundance, status, behavior, and ecology of the avifauna of New Mexico and its contiguous regions. Articles received for consideration in the *NMOS Bulletin* are subject to peer 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, David Mehlman ([dmehلمان@centurylink.net](mailto:dmehلمان@centurylink.net)) and refer to the preparation of manuscripts guidelines at [www.nmosbirds.org/bulletin](http://www.nmosbirds.org/bulletin) or recent issues for examples of style.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Please take the opportunity now to pay your 2019 NMOS membership dues. To pay for membership, please download the membership form from our website ([www.nmbirds.org/membership](http://www.nmbirds.org/membership)), fill out, and mail to the following address, providing a check made out to “NMOS.” You can now also pay membership dues through our website using PayPal. Save a stamp and pay online! Thank you!

New Mexico Ornithological Society  
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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.

NMOS Bulletin  
ISSN 2167-003X

The *Bulletin* is published quarterly; 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. 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.

[www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)

This issue of the *NMOS Bulletin* published July 30, 2019  
Printed on 100% recycled paper.

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Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068

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