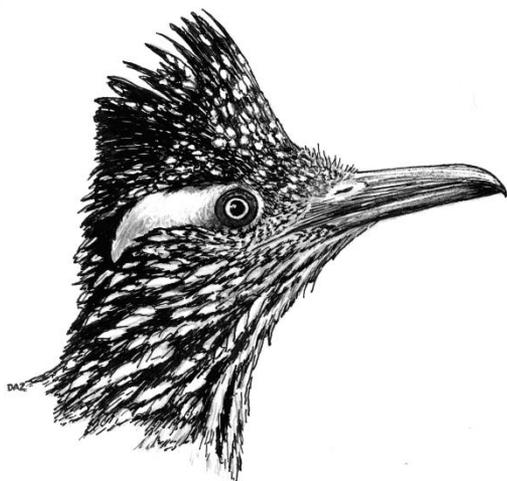


# NMOS BULLETIN



New Mexico  
Ornithological  
Society

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2020

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# THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

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## RECENT AOS CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING THE NEW MEXICO LIST: THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SUPPLEMENT

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III\*

Secretary, New Mexico Bird Records Committee

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The recently published 61<sup>st</sup> Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) *Check-list of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2020) is the 20<sup>th</sup> such supplement to appear since the publication of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the check-list (AOU 1998); it summarizes decisions made during the period 15 April 2019–15 April 2020. 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. (2020) and the numerous references cited therein.

A significant change as regards New Mexico is that Mexican Duck (*Anas diazii*) is again recognized as a full species separate from Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*) and so rejoins its closest relatives Mottled Duck (*A. fulvigula*) and American Black Duck (*A. rubripes*) as one of the three “black ducks” of North America. This split increases the New Mexico list to 547 species. Within New Mexico, Mexican Duck is an uncommon to locally fairly common resident in the south, north broadly to the Mogollon Plateau, the Albuquerque area, and the lower Pecos Valley; it is irregularly (but increasingly) found farther north. Occasional hybrids with Mallards are reported, especially in city parks and similar human altered habitats. The taxon has received notably poor treatment in popular field guides for about half a century, leading to abundant confusion in reporting.

The linear sequence of species in the family Phasianidae is rearranged and subfamilies are eliminated. The sequence for New Mexico's seven species becomes Wild Turkey, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gunnison Sage-Grouse, Dusky Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, and Ring-necked Pheasant.

Large changes are made among the hummingbirds resulting from adoption of a new classification and a number of these changes involve what are now the final nine species on New Mexico's list of 17 species. The linear sequence of our four *Selasphorus* hummingbirds becomes Calliope, Rufous, Allen's, and Broad-tailed. Following *Selasphorus*, the other changes involve the linear sequence for what are now the final five hummingbird species on our New Mexico list plus genera changes for three of them: Broad-billed Hummingbird (remains *Cynanthus latirostris*), White-eared Hummingbird (removed from *Hylocharis*, now *Basilinna leucotis*), Violet-crowned Hummingbird (removed from *Amazilia*, now *Leucolia violiceps*), Berylline Hummingbird (removed from *Amazilia*, now *Saucerottia beryllina*), and Cinnamon Hummingbird (remains *Amazilia rutila*).

The sequence of genera in the family Rallidae is rearranged. The new sequence for New Mexico's ten species becomes Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, Clapper Rail, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Purple Gallinule, Yellow Rail, and Black Rail.

The sequence of families in the order Suliformes (frigatebirds, boobies, cormorants, and darters) is rearranged, and, as New Mexico has species in each of the four families, the new sequence of families on our list becomes *Fregatidae*, *Sulidae*, *Anhingidae*, and *Phalacrocoracidae*. Within the *Phalacrocoracidae*, Double-crested now precedes Neotropic.

Changes within the screech-owl genus *Megascops* resulted in moving Whiskered Screech-Owl to a place immediately before Western Screech-Owl on our New Mexico list.

Also adopted were new criteria for assessing the establishment of introduced species, including increasing the minimum persistence time for establishment from 10 to 15 years. Several cagebird species in areas beyond New Mexico that were formerly believed established but have since proved otherwise were removed from the list of species known to occur in the United States.

The supplement also announces adoption of revised guidelines for English bird names (available at: [americanornithology.org/nacc/guidelines-for-english-bird-names/](http://americanornithology.org/nacc/guidelines-for-english-bird-names/)) providing an in-depth discussion on how the classification committee handles selection and use of English names. Stability in names (i.e., avoiding the never-ending search for a “better” name) is a high priority.

A final change, added after publication of Chesser et al. (2020), is the change of the English name of McCown’s Longspur to Thick-billed Longspur.

Finally, proposals that were considered but not accepted are listed. These included a proposal to remove “scrub” from the English name of the scrub-jay complex, a proposal to elevate the North American subspecies of Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) to a full species, and a proposal to change the English name of the Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*), which is neither a parulid warbler nor olive, to *Ocotero*, a vernacular name used in its extensive Mexican and Central American range that refers to the ocote, Spanish for several species of pines.

An updated *Checklist of New Mexico Bird Species*, (available at: [www.nmbirds.org/pubs/state-checklist/](http://www.nmbirds.org/pubs/state-checklist/)), incorporates the 61<sup>st</sup> Supplement changes described above. As noted above, with the addition of the Mexican Duck, the state list now numbers 547 species that have been confirmed by specimen, photo, or audio evidence and accepted as valid by the New Mexico Bird Records Committee.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU). 1998. Check-list of North American Birds, 7th ed. American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, DC, USA.
- Chesser, R.T., S.M. Billerman, K.J. Burns, C. Cicero, J.L. Dunn, A.W. Kratter, I.J. Lovette, N.A. Mason, P.C. Rasmussen, J.V. Remsen, Jr., D.F. Stotz, and K. Winker. 2020. Sixty-first supplement to the American Ornithological Society’s *Check-list of North American Birds*. *The Auk: Ornithological Advances* 137(3). <https://doi.org/10.1093/auk/ukaa030>

## NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NMOS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020–2022

The NMOS Nominating Committee (Sandy Williams, chair; Nancy Hetrick, and John Parmeter) has submitted the following slate of Officers and Directors for the current two-year term 2020–2022:

President	Kathy Granillo (Los Lunas)
Vice-President	Matt Baumann (Albuquerque)
Secretary	Megan Ruehmann (Silver City)
Treasurer	Dave Krueper (Corrales)
Director	Dave Hawksworth (Albuquerque)
Director	Chuck Hayes (Rio Rancho)
Director	Will Jaremko-Wright (Las Vegas)

Our bylaws require that our members approve the slate of new board members each year. This normally occurs at the annual meeting. However, since we had to postpone the 2020 annual meeting, the existing board decided to appoint this slate until such future time as an election can be held.

\* \* \*

## NMOS 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The previously scheduled 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for Saturday, March 28, 2020, was cancelled and has been tentatively rescheduled for May 1 and 2, 2021, at the Washington Ranch ([campwashingtonranch.org/](http://campwashingtonranch.org/)), if health and safety circumstances permit. The Ranch is located next to Rattlesnake Springs near Carlsbad. Lodging will be available at the Ranch or in nearby White's City or Carlsbad. The meeting is expected to include field trips, a scientific session, and a banquet with a keynote speaker. If conditions do not permit us to have an in-person annual meeting at this time, tentative plans are being made for a virtual meeting to be held instead, perhaps in April 2021. Information on this annual meeting will be available at [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org).

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## NMOS FUNDRAISING TRIPS

The previously announced NMOS Fundraising Trips have been postponed and tentatively rescheduled to 2021 and beyond due to the coronavirus/COVID-19 health crisis and ongoing travel restrictions. Please check our website ([www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)) and Facebook page for updates.

### Tour Schedule:

- Belize, November 2021
- Caribbean: Greater Antilles Megatour, February, 2022
- Colombia, Fall/Winter, 2022/2023
- Trinidad & Tobago, Fall/Winter, 2023/2024

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome the following new members who have joined NMOS in 2020:

Paul Green, Carson	Mike Maddux, Albuquerque
Dion Kidd Johnson, Alamogordo	Patrick McCasland, Eunice
Melanie King, Parker, CO	Patricia Russell, Santa Teresa

\* \* \*

## IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM A. CARTER

William A. Carter, NMOS Life Member, passed away in Ada, Oklahoma, on 20 March 2020, aged 84. He spent his professional career as a professor of biology at Oklahoma's East Central University, where he was also Chair of the Biology Department.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Please take the opportunity now to pay your 2020 NMOS membership dues. To join or renew your membership, go to our website ([www.nmbirds.org/membership](http://www.nmbirds.org/membership)) and pay using PayPal (save a stamp, pay online!) or download the membership form, fill out, and mail to the following address, providing a check made out to "NMOS." Thank you!

New Mexico Ornithological Society  
P.O. Box 3068  
Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068

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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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)

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