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MINUTES OF THE 1982 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1982 annual meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society was held in Albuquerque on Saturday, 6 March, with two field trips on 7 March. Registration began at the Department of Biology, University of New Mexico, at 8:30 AM. James Karo, Dustin Huntington, and Richard Bradley showed slides of birds during this period. The business meeting was called to order by President Chuck Hundertmark at 9:00 AM.

Ross Teuber gave the following treasurer's report:

Balance on hand, 1 January 1981		\$1211.44
Receipts - 1981		
Memberships	630.00	
Revised Checklist	269.95	
Other Publications	<u>62.75</u>	
		<u>+962.70</u>
		2174.14
Disbursements - 1981		
Postage	186.90	
Printing	406.42	
Annual Meeting	12.48	
Miscellaneous	<u>19.28</u>	
		<u>-625.08</u>
Balance on hand, 1 January 1982		\$1549.06

Arch McCallum, editor of the NMOS Bulletin, announced that the deadline for the next Bulletin is 15 April, and every third month thereafter. He also requested papers be submitted by the membership for publication in the Bulletin.

Chuck announced that the next issue of the Field-notes will be out soon.

Donna Schmitt and Bo West were elected as Directors-at-large of the Society, succeeding outgoing Board members Bill Stone and Dustin Huntington. Bill will continue on the Board as Membership Chairman, and Dustin will be Publications Chairman (for publications other than the Field-notes and Bulletin).

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Technical papers presented at the meeting were as follows:

- "Winter invasions of montane birds into the lowlands of southern California: Some surprising patterns."- Rich Bradley
- "Montane avifaunas of New Mexico--Is the transition gradual or abrupt?" - Arch McCallum
- "The fall Spizella migration at Candelaria Farms: Timing and composition." - Chuck Hundertmark
- "Contemporary ornithology: Is the amateur left out?" - David Ligon
- "Range expansions of Louisiana and Little Blue Herons in the Southwest." - Kevin Zimmer
- "Upcoming NMOS publications." - Dustin Huntington
- "Preliminary comparison of the nesting biology of the Harris' Hawk and the Swainson's Hawk in southeastern New Mexico." - Jim Bednarz

In the afternoon tours of the mammal museum and the bird range were led by Sarah George and Jim Bednarz. Identification sessions were then held in the bird range.

A no-host happy hour at the Canterbury Center followed the afternoon session.

A special twentieth anniversary banquet honored founders (Boyd McLeod, Jim Findley, Vester Montgomery, Bill Huey, and Dale Zimmerman) and past presidents (Bill Huey, Jim Travis, Bruce Hayward, and John Hubbard) of the Society. John Durrie and Bill Huey gave brief reminiscences of the founding of the Society by Boyd McLeod. David Ligon presented the Society's first Florence M. Bailey Award to Barbara McKnight, a charter member, long-time secretary, and honorary life member.

The evening program was a slide-lecture on Kenya by Dale Zimmerman.

Registration for the Saturday meeting was 67 persons, an increase of 22 over the 1981 total.

Field trips on Sunday went to Juan Tabo Canyon and to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

—Sue Huntington, Secretary

SANDHILL CRANE GRAPPLES WITH GOLDEN EAGLE

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On the afternoon of 11 October 1981 A. J. Krehbiel and I were at Clayton Lake State Park, in northeastern New Mexico. We stood at lakeside hearing the "gaoooo-a-a-a, gaoooo-a-a-a" of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) floating down from the sky above. No amount of searching with binoculars permitted a sighting of the migrating sandhills. However, a bird appeared in my field of

view at an altitude so great that my first thought was, "It's a species of buteo hawk." But it wasn't, for now it showed itself to be a soaring Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Wishing to find a companion, if any, I glassed to the left, and there, to my utter amazement, was an unusually large dark blob, which at the moment had no meaning. It proved to be a combination of 2 large birds: Golden Eagle and Sandhill Crane. The eagle was directly over the upside-down crane, whose upturned feet were paired with the talons of the eagle. The birds thus-joined were slowly descending, wings out-stretched, rotating as they came.

Greatly excited, I cried, "Look, look!" telling Krehbiel as best I could what I was seeing. When he said he couldn't find the unfolding drama I turned to him to help. When I again saw the birds in my binoculars they had disengaged, and the crane righted itself to glide downward to the lakeshore. The eagle did not pursue. The crane seemed unhurt, flying to the western portion of the lake about 1/2 km distant.

Following a few minutes of animated conversation Krehbiel and I drove to the area of the lake where the crane had disappeared from view. It now stood in water 30 cm deep near the shore, apparently unhurt. We left it and birded the north end of the lake. Returning homeward, we did not attempt to relocate our crane, an oversight that in retrospect seems most regrettable.

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Texas Ornithological Society will hold its spring meeting 20-22 May 1982, centered at Van Horn, Texas. That location allows access to the Davis and Chinati Mountains, Lake Balmorhea, and the El Paso area, as well as the Guadalupe and Rattlesnake Springs. For details contact Tony Gallucci, 2237 Shadowdale, Houston, TX 77043 (713-932-9630).

NOTES ON NEST PARASITISM BY THE BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD IN THE ZUNI MOUNTAIN REGION

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The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) is said to have bred in the Zuni Mountain Region (ZMR) at least as early as 1892, when it was recorded near Gallup by A. K. Fisher (Bailey 1928). However, its arrival at least in the mountainous portion of the region may not have greatly antedated Fisher's observation, for it was not mentioned by any other nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century observer. Such a series of oversights-would be unlikely with today's high populations of the species. Moreover, Ladd (1963), writing of the ethno-ornithology of the Zuni Indians, said of the cowbird, "No specific taboo; it is not traditionally used. Never taken." It may be that there was no taboo nor traditional use of this bird, now common in Zuni (J. Trochet MS), because it was not present in the earlier days when the Zunis' ceremonial usages of bird feathers became consolidated.

Other than these speculations nothing can be said about the history of this species in the ZMR, but currently it is thriving. In fact, I have become concerned that cowbird parasitism may be responsible for the seeming local scarcity of such species as the Grace's and Black-throated Gray Warblers (*Dendroica graciae* and *D. nigrescens*) and the Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*). At Cottonwood Gulch (CWG), which located on the northern slope of the Zuni Mountains at an elevation of 2290 m (7500 ft), Brown-headed Cowbirds are common and conspicuous in ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest and pinyon (*P. edulis*) - juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) woodland, but not in

shrub-steppe associations. Elsewhere in the ZMR, cowbirds were found in a 1981 survey of breeding birds to be widespread in woodlands and higher-elevation valleys.

Although I have not gathered much information on cowbird parasitism in this region, that which is available is of more than passing interest because of the rarity with which the host has been recorded as victimized or of the relative frequency of parasitism in the nests discovered.

At CWG, where most of these records were obtained in the period 1977-1981, only 1 fledged juvenile cowbird was seen before 1 July. Nests with eggs spanned the period 11 June-21 July, and nests with young, 1-18 July. Territorial behavior of adult cowbirds was conspicuous in May and early June. This period of breeding activity agrees with those of the small woodland birds cowbirds most frequently parasitize, but not with those of such larger, earlier-nesting species as the Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and jays. The larger, later-nesting Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) and Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) have not been recorded as parasitized in the ZMR, but data are sparse for them.

An annotated list of all species known to have been parasitized in the ZMR follows. All records are from Cottonwood Gulch unless otherwise indicated.

ANNOTATED LIST

DUSKY FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax oberholseri*). Dates of discovery of 7 nests, with their contents, are 6/01/77-building; 6/08/77-building, later fledged 3 host nestlings (HN); 6/09/78-4 host eggs (HE); 6/07/80-building, nest later destroyed; 6/07/80-4 HE, 7/01-2 HN, 1 cowbird (C)N; 6/08/80-1 HE, 1 CE, 6/11-3 HE, 1 CE, 7/01-1 CN; 6/15/81 (Oso Ridge Lookout)-3 HE, 1 CE. Thus 3 of 5 nests whose contents could be verified were parasitized. At CWG habitat appeared saturated with 7 pairs in a census plot in 1978; there were 5 pairs in the plot in 1979 and only 1 in 1980.

SOLITARY VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*). 6/21/78-a juvenile cowbird followed a pair of vireos known to have held a territory locally; 6/06/81-2 large nestlings with white wing-bars and 1 small nestling, alive but apparently only 1 day old. The larger nestlings were vireos; could the smaller have been a cowbird? Two other nests found but contents not verified

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER (*Dendroica nigrescens*). 7/17/78-a juvenile cowbird followed one of these warblers.

GRACE'S WARBLER (*Dendroica nigrescens*). Not previously recorded as parasitized by *Molothrus ater* (Friedmann et al. 1977). Sheppard (1959) found a nest containing 3 HE and 1 CE. The CE was removed but only 1 HE hatched. Only date given is 7/12/59 for 1 HN. 7/15/77-in a grove of ponderosa pines I saw a female Grace's Warbler repeatedly feed a juvenile cowbird larger than she. No other young bird was seen. A male Grace's Warbler was in the vicinity, but was not seen to bring food.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*). 6/18/78-3 HE; 7/18/78-2 HN, 1 CN; 7/21/78-1 HE, 1 CE; 7/24/78 (El Morro National Monument)-2 HN (fledged that day); 6/04/79-2 HE in nest, 1 HE on twig below nest. Thus 2, possibly 3, of 5 nests were "manipulated" by cowbirds. In addition, Chipping Sparrows fed juvenile cowbirds on 7/22/78 and 7/22/79. Despite intense territorial behavior in April, Chipping Sparrows most often nest in July in the ZMR. All data available indicate that these July attempts are not second broods. In contrast, 3 nests of the closely-related Brewer's Sparrow (*S. breweri*) all held nestlings by 6/10. Although cowbirds are decidedly uncommon in the shrublands where these sparrows nest, the early nesting dates of Brewer's Sparrows and the relatively early dates for Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*) (12 nests between 5/21 and 7/03) may partially deter the cowbirds

from attempting to parasitize these species. Chipping Sparrows, on the other hand, make ideal hosts.

GRAY-HEADED JUNCO (*Junco caniceps*). Not previously recorded as parasitized by *M. ater* (Friedmann et al. 1977). 5/27/77-4 HE, 6/06-4 HN; 6/07/77-HN only; 6/18/81 (Alamosa Canyon)-1 CN; 7/06/81 (Big Water Canyon)-4 HE, 7/13-3 HN. The ranges of the 3 subspecies of *M. ater* meet near the ZMR. The nestling found on 6/18/81 had bright yellow rictal flanges, a characteristic of *M. a. obscurus* (Rothstein 1978).

I wish to thank Lloyd Kiff, whose request for information inspired the writing of this note, and numerous persons from Cottonwood Gulch who found nests.

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FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF LOONS IN BASIC PLUMAGE

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Three species of loons (*Gavia*) are known to have occurred in New Mexico (Hubbard 1978, 1982). The Common Loon (*G. immer*) is, in fact, the "commonest" of these, but this is only relative to the frequency with which the others, the Arctic (*G. arctica*) and Red-throated (*G. stellata*) Loons, are seen. Although all 3 species winter commonly along the west coast of the United States and in the northern Sea of Cortez, loons as a group are not common in New Mexico. Their relative rarity in the state no doubt contributes to the difficulty many observers experience in identifying single birds.

In the preparation of this article I examined all specimens of loons in basic (i.e. winter) plumage in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) at the University of California, Berkeley. An excellent series of birds was available for all except *G. adamsii* and *G. a. arctica*. Specimens which were at extremes of range for a variety of characters were compared against those of other species, in hopes of clarifying the most consistently useful marks. These were field-checked against living birds along the coast of California (from Crescent City to Monterey) on frequent visits from November 1981 through March 1982.

The general appearance of a loon in basic plumage is similar for all species: rather large size with a medium long, pointed bill, dark-appearing eyes, a more or less sooty gray or brownish gray dorsum, and whitish venter. The top of the head, nape, posterior neck, scapulars, mantle, rump, and upper tail are generally dark, while the lower head, throat, foreneck, and ventral aspect of the body are whitish. Although flight characters differ and may be useful to very experienced observers, I have insufficient confidence in my ability to make these distinctions to attempt to instruct others. Species-specific variations in the shared pattern of plumage, then, will

provide the means of identifying these birds. Since virtually all records are of birds in this plumage, including summer occurrences, my discussion is limited to the basic plumage of loons.

The Common Loon is a monotypic, essentially Nearctic species (Cramp and Simmons 1977). It is highly variable for a number of characters conventionally thought useful for field identification. Body size averages larger than for Arctic or Red-throated Loons. However, small birds of this species, formerly regarded by some as a subspecies, *G. i. minor*, overlap the other 2 in body size. The bill usually appears heavy, and its color varies from dull, pale straw to dark gray, less stout and lighter on young birds. Favorable viewing conditions allow noting that the culmen of pale-billed birds is dark. The range of bill sizes overlaps that of the Arctic Loon significantly. Head carriage is generally level. Most winter Common Loons have a very steep slope from the base of the culmen to the top of the head, with the appearance of a bump on the forecrown.

Plumage characters about the head and neck should be noted in detail, especially as these are most helpful in distinguishing all loon species. Common Loons in basic plumage will show a whitish eyering. Seeing this may require optimal viewing conditions, though this feature is visible at a considerable distance on many, at least as a supraorbital whitish semicircle. The preocular area is no darker than the dark areas above and behind the eye and at the nape. The neck shows a 2-toned effect, the anterior 50% or so whitish, the posterior portion an even, dark sooty gray. The somewhat hazy boundary separating these neck colors shows a conspicuous deviation from straight-line to include in the whitish-colored area a patch corresponding to the striped area of the lateral neck in alternate (i.e. breeding) plumage. A few birds show at close range some faint flecking with brownish on the anterior mid to upper neck. The posterior neck and nape are somewhat darker (adult birds) to markedly darker (first winter birds) than the back; the dark sooty brownish gray feathering of the back is broadly and evenly edged with silvery grayish in first year birds and may give the appearance in early autumn of a silvery grayish saddle, especially on the anterior back. The visible flank of a swimming bird is dark.

The Arctic Loon is polytypic. Of the 3 subspecies only *G. a. pacifica* is likely in New Mexico. It is the smallest race wintering commonly off the west coast of the U. S. *G. a. viridigularis* is by far the largest subspecies and winters in the Pacific off Asia. There are a few records for British Columbia. The nominate subspecies, *G. a. arctica*, winters on the inshore waters of coastal Europe and in the Caspian and Black Seas. These are sometimes considered separate species (Cramp and Simmons 1977). The bill in each case is usually slender and straight, appearing dark gray (adult) to a pale bluish white or light grayish with a darker culmen (first winter birds). Head carriage is generally level. There is a gradual slope of the dark forehead and an evenly rounded head, compared to *G. immer*.

There are a number of species-specific basic-plumage characters to be seen about the head and neck. The lores are the darkest area on the head, much darker than the posterior head. Most birds have no apparent eyering, even at close range. The white of the lower face never completely encircles the eye; it usually just touches the inferior and posteroinferior aspects of the eye. The posterior crown and nape and the hindneck as well are grayish and much paler than the remainder of the dorsal plumage. The neck has a 3-toned, distinctive appearance: the anterior 40% or so is white; this abuts a very dark brownish gray line which forms a thin, straight boundary to the dark hindneck; the more posterior neck plumage is lighter grayish. The 3-toned effect is less dramatic in first winter birds and may be hard to see at a distance. But the straight crisp color border well away from mid-hindneck is a very good mark for both *G. a. pacifica* and *G. a. viridigularis*. There occurs in the region of the throat, on about 15% of live

birds studied this winter and on about 80% of skins studied, a linear array of brownish spots which coalesce into a more or less well-defined chinstrap. This, too, is an excellent mark if present. The scapulars and mantle of adults are darker than in any other loon species. First winter birds may appear to have scaling at close range because of lighter grayish brown edges on these feathers (Fig. 1). I do not consider helpful the whitish posterior flank, said to distinguish this species from others. In anything other than millpond conditions all loons may show some whitish in this region, and in any case it does not reliably differentiate this from the 2 succeeding species.

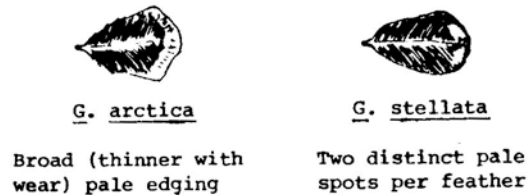


Fig. 1. Scapular and mantle feather edgings of Arctic and Red-throated Loons.

The Red-throated Loon is a monotypic Holarctic species (Cramp and Simmons 1977). In the field it appears virtually the same size as the Arctic Loon. Head carriage may be level or uplifted; this latter posture may be helpful to identification. The bill is dark gray (adult) to pale gray (first winter birds), very slender, with a distinct gonydeal angle accentuating this slighthness distally and contributing to the appearance of an upturned bill. These features of the bill can be difficult to perceive under challenging viewing conditions. The slope of the forehead is similar to that of *G. arctica*, and there is no "bump" on the crown.

An adult in basic plumage is strikingly pale about the head and neck. The eye may just touch the dark cap superiorly. The forehead appears pale gray to cleanly white. No other loon may have so pale a forehead. The anterior and lateral neck is white. The hindneck has a narrow strip of light to medium gray. The color boundary is less sharp than in that of *G. arctica* and much closer to the hindneck than on other loons, another excellent comparative feature. The remainder of the dorsum is gray, extensively but finely spotted with white, paler on the mantle than on the wing coverts. First winter birds are somewhat darker. They lack the exceedingly pale forehead, having this medium gray instead. The sides of the neck and sometimes the upper anterior neck as well are dappled with brownish spots. The mantle may be darker, with fewer spots, if juvenal plumage is retained, as it is sometimes into January, rarely later. In either case the dorsal spotting, if well seen, is diagnostic (Fig. 1).

Observers should also be alert to the possibility of the occurrence in New Mexico of the Yellow-billed Loon (*G. adamsii*), another monotypic Holarctic species, which has occurred in Minnesota (Savalaja 1981), Idaho, and Nevada (R. Blom, pers. comm.), as well as sparingly along the Pacific coast. A supposed specimen from Colorado turned out to be a Common Loon (Binford and Remsen 1974). This species most closely resembles the Common Loon. The bill averages more massive than in *G. immer*, and there are many other subtle differences between the bill structures of the 2 species which in sum may give the Yellow-billed Loon's bill an upturned appearance. The most important field mark on the bill is the color of the distal culmen. In *G. adamsii* the distal half or more is pale. This can be quite difficult to see. A front or top view is highly desirable to eliminate the narrow dark ridge of the distal culmen of *G. immer*. Head carriage is said to be more commonly

uplifted, accentuating the appearance of an upturned bill. My experience has been that level-headed carriage is more common. The former posture, if present, is helpful.

At considerable distance, when bill characters may be difficult or impossible to discern, identification can be made easily with careful attention to readily visible plumage characters. About the head and neck, the single most useful character is the dark, discrete auricular patch surrounded anteriorly, posteriorly, and inferiorly by paler plumage. The dark plumage of the crown and nape is often quite a narrow strip of feathers, giving the species a much paler-headed appearance than the Common Loon. Also of great field use, if present, is the mantle pattern of older immatures and adults. The mantle appears cross-banded, with pale rows of feathering on a dark background. This effect is due to the wider, squarer pale edgings to these feathers on Yellow-billed Loons. The cross-banding and the auricular patch are visible at great distance in situations where the culmen color may not be seen.

I wish to thank Steve Bailey of the MVZ for permission to examine the collection. Thanks also to Arch McCallum in whose request for this identification article I found occasion to learn much about these birds. I wish to give special thanks to Rick Blom for his help with obtaining some of the literature, appropriate comments in the development of the article, and particularly for his valued company on several trips to the coast this past winter.

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(with parenthetical annotations)

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FIRST ANNUAL NMOS SITE SURVEY: SANDIA MOUNTAINS

On 29-30 May 1982 the first annual NMOS Site Survey will take place in the Sandia Mountains. The survey is intended to, as completely as possible, survey the breeding birds of the area in a systematic way.

The current plan is to have small groups cover relatively limited areas in a more thorough and detailed manner than is usually possible on a CBC or spring bird count. Despite the proximity of the Sandias to Albuquerque there are still many unanswered questions about bird distribution there. This survey may help answer some of those questions.

Special emphasis will be placed on the distribution of breeding *Empidonax* flycatchers, sparrow distribution on the west side of the mountain, breeding birds of the crest, and the distribution of nocturnal birds. In addition, there will be an *Empidonax* identification session and perhaps other ID sessions. Weather permitting, there will be a picnic Saturday evening followed by an (almost certainly successful) search for Flammulated Owls.

The survey is open to all birders, one does not have to belong to NMOS, and there is no fee. The birding then should be excellent. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dustin Huntington, 11 Calle Pueblo Pinado NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120, (505) 831-5755. --D . H .

REPORT OF THE NMOS BIRD RECORD COMMITTEE: NO. 2

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Progress in evaluating records by the new BRC, the formation of which I announced previously (Hubbard 1980, New Mexico Ornithol. Soc. Bull. 8:11), has not been as rapid as I would have liked. All members of the Committee have many other commitments, which has resulted in delays in evaluation. In addition, there has been an increase in records for which evaluation is desirable, thus increasing the problem.

In an attempt to alleviate the problem, I have decided to expedite evaluation by using only one of the above experts on some records. This has been the case primarily where agreement was high in the evaluation of the record, i.e. both reviewers rated it similarly. Where a discrepancy existed, a third opinion was sought.

In addition, several other reviewers have participated in some of the evaluations, especially in very difficult species. Finally, a few evaluations from previous BRC's are published here for the first time. Initials used are as follows: WHB--William H. Baltosser, JPH--John P. Hubbard, KK--Kenn Kaufman, RJR--Ralph J. Raitt, JRT--James R. Travis, DAZ--Dale A. Zimmerman.

In order to save space below, I have reduced the text for records and evaluations considerably. A comment section is supplied only where necessary, usually where a record materially affects the standing of the species in the 1978 check-list (Hubbard 1978, Revised check-list of the birds of New Mexico, New Mexico Ornithol. Soc. Publ. No. 6). If you have questions, you may contact me about fuller explanations. The scale for evaluation (in increasing order of probability) for sight records is: questionable, possible, probable, and highly probable. For records in which physical evidence (e.g. photograph or tape-recording) is available, there are two additional categories:

incorrect and definite.

1. Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*). An immature at Tingley Beach, Albuquerque, Bernalillo Co., 1/23 to at least 3/04/1981, by Dale Stahlecker et al. (record submitted by Dustin L. Huntington, with photographs). Evaluation: incorrect, based on color slides NMOS-1981-E-G (Jon Dunn, Roxie C. Laybourne, DAZ). Comment: this bird was actually a Red-throated Loon (*G. stellata*), and this is the first verified record for New Mexico.

2. LEAST GREBE (*Podiceps dominicus*). (1) One at San Simon Cienega, presumably Hidalgo Co., 12/02 and possible 11/29/1978, by Robert Morse and Walter Spofford. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, KK). (2) One 3 ml (5 km) E of Clovis, Curry Co., 9/15/1979, by Maralyn and David Chandler. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, DAZ).

3. BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). One on the Gila River, about 3 km SSW of Bill Evans Lake, Grant Co., on 2/13/1978, by Allen J. Gast. Evaluation: highly probable (DAZ), probable (JPH). Comment: this species was formerly rated as "hypothetical, possible" in the state.

4. LOUISIANA HERON (*Hydranassa tricolor*). One at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Chaves Co., 5/02/1978, by V. Lee Grover. Evaluation: questionable (WHB, JRT, DAZ).

5. BRANT (*Branta bernicla*). One on the Rio Grande, 4-5 mi (6.5-8 km) S of Cochiti Dam, Sandoval Co., end of Nov., 1980, by Miles Earney. Evaluation: possible (DAZ), probable (JPH).

6. GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*). Female at Harroun Lake, Eddy Co., 12/17/1978, by Richard and Linda Wilt. Evaluation: questionable (KK), possible (JPH).

7. BLACK SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). Female at Bluewater Lake, McKinley Co., 1~1980, by D. Archibald McCallum. Evaluation: highly probable (JPH, KK).

8. BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*). One south of Deming, Luna Co., 3/17/1980, by Dan Campbell et al. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, KK).

9. WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*). Two approximately 2 mi (3 km) S of Tularosa, Otero Co., 8/25/1980 and for 6 more weeks by Joe Hutto et al. Evaluation: highly probable (DAZ), probable (JPH).

10. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (*Accipiter striatus*). Nest with young, 11.5 mi (18 km) SE of Animas, Hidalgo Co., 6/30 and 7/02/1980, by James C. Bednarz et al. Evaluation: highly probable (DAZ), probable (WHB, JPH).

11. WHITE-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo albicaudatus*). One 4 mi (6 km) E of Artesia, Eddy Co., 6/4/1980, by V. L. Grover. Evaluation: incorrect, based on a color slide 1980-32B (JPH, DAZ). Comment: the bird shown appears to be a subadult Swainson's Hawk (*B. swainsoni*) (JPH).

12. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (*B. lagopus*). One at Hollene Community, 15 mi (23 km) N of Clovis, Curry Co., 7/1980, by M. Chandler. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, DAZ).

13. GRAY HAWK (*B. nitidus*). (1) An adult at Las Cruces, Dona Ana Co., 3/31/1979, by James C. Bednarz et al. Evaluation: probable (JPH, KK). (2) An adult ca. 28 mi (44 km) E of Roswell, Chaves Co., 4/22/1979, by David E. Lange et al. Evaluation: probable (JPH, KK).

14. GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*). A dark phase bird at Coronado State Park, Sandoval Co., 8/11/1977, by Gladys S. Donohue. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, DAZ) Comment: this is the first report for the state.
15. APLOMADO FALCON (*Falco femoralis*). (1) One seen on U.S. 80, ca. 12 mi (19 km) N of Rodeo, Hidalgo Co. 12/28/1978, by Tom Marr et al. Evaluation: possible (JPH, KK). (2) Three at City of Rocks State Park, Grant Co., 10/22-27/1979, by Doris and Julius Miller. Evaluation: possible (JPH), questionable (DAZ).
16. MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*). One at Hollene Community, 7/14/1979, by M. and D. Chandler. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, DAZ).
17. WHOOPING CRANE (*Grus americana*). 18 over Hollene Community, 10/1978, by M. and D. Chandler. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, DAZ).
18. BLACK RAIL (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). One at Berrendo Creek, Chaves Co., 5/04/1978, by V.L. Grover. Evaluation: (WHB, RJR, JRT, DAZ). Comment: this species has been reported from the state only once before.
19. PURPLE GALLINULE (*Porphyryla martinica*). One at Holloman Air Force Base, Otero Co., 4/18/1978, by V.L. Grover and David Renwalt. Evaluation: possible (WHB, RJR, JRT, DAZ).
20. PIPING PLOVER (*Charadrius melodus*). One at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., 4/05/1981, by D. and S. Huntington. Evaluation: probable (JPH, DAZ). Comment: this is the second report from New Mexico.
21. WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*). One seen 15 mi (24 km) SE of Roswell, Chaves Co., 5/17/1980, by J. Phelps White, III. Evaluation: definite, based on color slide 1980-35B (WHB, JPH).
22. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*). (1) One at Bitter Lake N.W.R., 7/26/1980, by D.L. and Sue Huntington. Evaluation: probable (JPH, DAZ); color slides 1980-27A through D do not confirm the record. (2) Seen 3 mi (5 km) E of Clovis, Curry Co., 8/25/1979, by M. and D. Chandler. Evaluation: questionable (JPH, DAZ).

(to be continued)

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—Sue Huntington, Secretary

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