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THE 1983 ANNUAL MEETING

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Society will be held in Silver City on 15-17 April 1983. The business and paper sessions will be held at Western New Mexico State University, in Room 219 of the Science Building. The Science Building is on 12th and Alabama Streets. The location of the Saturday night banquet will be announced at the meeting.

Friday evening activities will consist of a hospitality hour at the Science Building. Dale Zimmerman will give a presentation on Southeast Asia.

The schedule of events on Saturday, 16 April is

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Slide Show
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Business meeting, including election of officers
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Break
9:45 AM - 12:00 N	Paper Session
12:00 N - 1:30 PM	Lunch (price \$2.00)
1:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Paper Session
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Banquet with after-dinner speaker (price \$6.00)

On 17 April there will be field trips to Redrock, the Gila Valley near Cliff, and possibly to the Cherry Creek/Signal Peak area. Times will be announced on Saturday.

The nominating committee of John Durrie, Mary Lou Arthur, and Arch McCallum proposes the following slate of officers for two-year terms beginning at the upcoming annual meeting; President-Dustin Huntington, Vice-President-Chuck Hundertmark, Secretary-Burt Lewis, Treasurer-Ross Teuber, Director-at-large-Jim Travis. Bo West and Donna Schmitt have one year

remaining on their terms as directors.

MOTEL AND KOA RATES IN SILVER CITY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Drifter Motel: U.S. Highway 180 and Silver St.
Telephone 538-2916. Single: \$25; 2 people/1 bed:\$29;
3 people/2 beds: \$35; 4 people/2 beds: \$32.
Also includes a restaurant, lounge, and pool.

The Copper Manor: Across the street from The Drifter
and next to the Red Barn Restaurant and Lounge.
Telephone: 538-5392. Single: \$27; 2 people/1 bed: \$31;
2 people/2 beds: \$34.

Holiday Motor Hotel (Best Western): U.S. Hwy. 180 East. Telephone 538-3711
P.O. Box 2617. Restaurant, lounge, and pool. Single: \$28; 2 people/1 bed:
\$32; 2 people/ 2 beds: \$35. \$4 extra for each additional person. NOTE: this
is a special rate for the NMOS group only, so be sure to identify yourself at
the desk.

KOA Campground: U.S. Hwy. 180 East, 4 miles. Telephone:
388-3351. hookups: \$6.50; Electricity: \$7.50; Full hookup: \$8.50 (for two).
\$1 extra for each additional person over 3 years.

CAMPING IN THE SILVER CITY AREA

The nearest Forest Service campground is in Cherry Creek or McMillan on
NM 15, approximately 15 miles north of Silver City. There is a KOA in Arenas
Valley about 4 miles east of Silver, on US 180/NM 90. A trailer court just
over the hill, west of Silver on US 180, takes overnight guests. For those
who want to sleep on the ground, any National Forest land is probably okay.
Closest spot would be north of the Little Walnut Picnic Ground, which is 5
miles north of Silver City (turn north on Little Walnut Rd. by the Long John
Silver's gustatory emporium).

--Bruce Hayward, for NMOS local arrangements folks and the Silver City
Chamber of Commerce

FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF GULLS IN NEW MEXICO II. HEERMANN'S, FRANKLIN'S, AND LAUGHING GULLS

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This article covers three medium-sized gulls: Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*), Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*), and Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*). Two are vagrants in New Mexico, and one is a widespread migrant and non-breeding summer visitor (Hubbard 1978). Table 1 gives measurements of each species; the data are from Dwight (1925)

The Heermann's Gull breeds principally on islands in the Gulf of California and locally off western Baja California, Sinaloa, and Nayarit, Mexico. After breeding, it disperses along the Pacific coast from Vancouver Island, British Columbia to Guatemala, and winters in the same range from northern California south (Cogswell 1977). It is rare inland. It has been recorded once in New Mexico, a breeding-plumaged male found dead on Pinos Altos Mountain near Silver City in Grant County on 20 March 1919 (Bailey 1928). Small numbers occur annually at the Salton Sea in southeast California

(Garrett and Dunn 1981), and there are more than a dozen records from Arizona, mostly from the western part of the state (Monson and Phillips 1981). Additionally, there are three sightings from Nevada, and one each from Texas, Michigan, Ohio, and Oklahoma (Tomer 1981). Almost all inland records are between September and May, except at the Salton Sea, where the species has been seen earlier.

The three most widely used field guides (Peterson 1941, Robbins 1966, Udvardy 1977) are generally adequate for identifying this species, but their treatments are incomplete. The Heermann's is unlike any other North American gull, and an observer should not misidentify one, although young birds are so uniformly dark brown that birders unfamiliar with them might be tempted to call one a dark-phase jaeger. Awareness of the problem and reference to any standard guide should resolve the issue.

Table 1. selected measurements, in millimeters, after Dwight (1925).

Species	Sex	Wing	Tarsus	culmen
Heermann's Gull	male	337-368	52-58	37-48
	Female	329-344	49-53	40-43
Laughing Gull	male	308-330	50-54	37-44
	Female	295-326	46-55	35-41
Franklins Gull	male	263-286	41-45	29-34
	Female	262-283	39-44	27-33

An adult Heermann's in breeding plumage has a white head, pearly gray underparts, dark gray mantle and wings, black primaries, and a black tail with a thin white terminal band. The primaries (except for the outer three) and the secondaries are tipped white, forming a white trailing edge to the wing; the edge narrows as it approaches the outer end of the wing, and does not extend to the tip. The upper tail coverts are pale, contrasting with the back and tail, and the tertials are thinly tipped pale buff. The eye is dark, and the legs are black. The bill is bright red with the distal 20% dusky. Winter adults have the head, neck, and throat heavily streaked with dark brown, the streaking lightest on the throat. The chin is invariably white. The head can show streaking from August to February.

The field guides show only one "immature" plumage for the Heermann's Gull, and this is definitely an oversimplified treatment. It is generally thought the Heermann's takes three years to reach adult plumage. At the suggestion of Jon Dunn I examined skins at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley to see if there is any reason to suspect the Heermann's Gull might take four years to mature. The answer is not clear-cut. The amount of variation in large gulls is substantial in all plumages; without a more exhaustive study involving larger series of skins (and banded birds of known age) no final conclusion can be reached. It was possible, however, to divide the skins at Berkeley (all of which were collected in November) into a sequence which appears to be a four year progression. The following descriptions are based on the assumption of a four year sequence. If it proves to be three years (and it easily could), then the variations will have to be squeezed into three years worth of molt, or explained by sexual or individual variation. In any event, it is useful to be aware of the full range of variation, and to remember that any observer fortunate enough to see a Heermann's Gull in New Mexico should take notes sufficiently detailed that no matter what the explanation for the variation, the record can be accurately assigned to the correct age.

Juveniles and first winter birds are virtually identical. They are dark brown overall with darker brown-black (not black) primaries and tail. The feathers of the upper back, upper tail coverts, and flanks are very thinly edged with buff. The buff edgings are obvious only under good viewing conditions, and mostly worn off by late winter. The pale trailing edge of the

wing is either absent or so dark that it does not contrast. The chin is slightly paler than the rest of the underparts. Feet and legs are black. The eye is dark. The bill is mostly black with a variously small pale or reddish base. The tail may be thinly edged with buff, but is not in many (most?) individuals.

Second and third(?) year birds are intermediate between first winter and adults, progressing in a regular sequence of spring and fall molts. For details of the sequence refer to the initial article in this series (Blom 1982). Since spring molt only involves head and body, and results only in a generally paler body plumage, and because few inland records are from the time when a bird in fresh summer plumage might be expected, we will describe only winter plumages here. By comparing, for example, first winter and second winter plumages, it should be relatively easy to determine with great accuracy what a first summer bird would look like.

The second winter plumage is patterned like first winter but has an overall gray-brown cast. It is lighter and grayer than first winter birds, and strikingly browner than older individuals. The belly is frequently paler than the breast and throat. The bill may be up to one-half red at the base, and a thin buff terminal tail band is more likely to be present. The trailing edge to the wing is usually evident, though it is buff, not white, and does not contrast as sharply as in older birds.

Third winter birds are similar to adults, but are darker overall; the underparts are medium gray and the mantle a shade darker gray than adults. There is still a faint brownish cast to the tail and primaries, visible only at very close range. The head is more heavily mottled, almost solid brown, usually showing only a few white streaks on the face. The pale edges to the tertials, the pale upper tail coverts, the terminal tail band and the edge to the wing are all evident but not as pure white as in adults. The bill is like an adult's, but the dusky area averages slightly more extensive.

In general Heermann's is intermediate in size between the Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and California (*L. californicus*) Gulls, closer in body size to the former with a bill more like the latter. The bill has a prominent hook. In all plumages the wings extend well beyond the tail at rest. In flight it is a long-winged gull, more buoyant than other gulls its size. No other gull, sitting or flying, should appear so uniformly colored or so dark.

The Franklin's and Laughing Gulls are superficially similar species that have been poorly treated in the field guides. Despite what Peterson, Robbins, and Udvardy say, they are identifiable in all plumages. I include Udvardy because, while he appears to avoid the issue by not treating the Laughing Gull, he has an excellent photograph of a winter-plumaged adult, plate 34. It is labelled, however, as a Franklin's Gull. If I am successful in communicating the differences between the two species in this article, the reasons it is a Laughing should become obvious.

The Franklin's Gull breeds throughout the Great Plains of the United States and Canada and as far west as Malheur Refuge in southeastern Oregon (Littlefield and Thompson 1981). It winters off the west coast of South America (Grant 1981) and is extremely rare in the U.S. in winter, with most records coming from the Gulf Coast (Clapp in prep.). It is an uncommon but regular migrant in New Mexico and a casual summer visitor with no evidence of breeding (Hubbard 1978, J. Trochet pers. comm.).

The Laughing Gull is a coastal species, breeding on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida, and on the Gulf Coast and throughout the Caribbean. It also breeds on the west coast of Mexico and in the Gulf of California (Clapp in prep.). It is a rare vagrant inland at the Salton Sea in southeastern California (Garrett and Dunn 1981) and up the Mississippi River and throughout the Great Lakes (Clapp in prep.). Many of the inland records, especially those in the middle of the country, surely pertain to misidentified Franklin's Gulls. Lack of adequate documentation makes it

impossible to determine the validity of many reports. There is one Laughing Gull record from New Mexico, a specimen collected in December 1957 at Wall Lake in Catron County (Hubbard 1978). Since Laughing Gulls are regular post-breeding wanderers to the Salton Sea, and since there are two documented and numerous sight records from across southern Arizona (Monson and Phillips 1981), additional New Mexico records are to be expected. (See postscript for comments on several recent New Mexico reports.)

The following differences will help separate the two in all plumages, though they will be most useful when it is possible to make a direct comparison.

The largest Franklin's approaches but does not equal the size of the smallest Laughing (see Table 1). On average, Laughing Gulls are notably larger. The legs of Franklin's Gulls appear proportionately shorter. The bill of the Laughing is longer and heavier and has a pronounced hook at the tip not present in the Franklin's. In all areas of comparison the Laughing Gull is larger, sex for sex. Comparing a large male Laughing against a small female Franklin's will exaggerate the differences. Reverse the comparison, and it will dampen the effect. Direct comparison of the two will almost always make the differences obvious, but without direct comparison proportions are not adequate, nor necessary, to confirm identification.

In flight the Franklin's appears shorter-winged and more buoyant, a difference which may be striking under some circumstances and non-existent under others.

Laughing Gulls have a typical three year molt sequence. For explanation see the first article in this series (Blom 1982).

The juvenal plumage is held from mid-summer to September (Dwight 1925). The wings are medium brown, the primaries black-brown. Buff fringes to the feathers of the mantle give the upper surface a scaly appearance. The head, back, and breast are gray-brown. The face is the palest part of the head, and the nape and rear crown tend to be the darkest. There are thin white crescents above and below the eye. The belly, flanks, and rump are gray-white. There is a dark subterminal tail band, extending to and including the outer tail feathers. The tail has a thin buff fringe. The eye is dark; the bill and legs are black.

The first winter plumage is acquired by October. It is like the juvenal except for having the mantle, breast, and flanks medium gray instead of gray-brown. The head is mainly lighter gray, whitish on the face and throat.

The first summer plumage, acquired by April, is like the first winter except for substantial wear and fading of retained juvenal wing and tail feathers, and slightly less extensive gray on the underparts.

The second winter plumage is acquired in the first complete molt. It is like the winter adult plumage except for the following: the head is mostly white, washed especially on the hind-crown and nape with light gray; there is a gray wash on the sides of the breast; the black of the primaries is more extensive, and there is some dark feathering retained in the secondaries and coverts; the tail can have an incomplete band, or irregular sub-terminal brown spots on some tail feathers. The iris is dark and the legs and bill are black.

The second summer plumage is like second winter except for the full black hood on most individuals. The underparts are usually entirely white. The bill is dull red with a black tip (or black with a red tip!). The legs are black with some birds showing a red tinge.

Third winter is the first adult plumage. All subsequent winter plumages will be like this. A third winter bird is like a breeding plumaged adult except for having a gray wash on the crown and hindneck, the rest of the head being white. The sides of the breast are washed with a very light gray. The inner primaries have white terminal spots.

Third summer, or breeding plumaged adults, have pure white underparts and

tail. The mantle is dark gray with the outer primaries black. There is a white trailing edge to the wing, formed by white tips to the secondaries and inner primaries. The head has an extensive black hood with white crescents above and below the eye. The legs and feet are dark red-brown; the iris is dark.

The Franklin's Gull is unique in having two complete molts a year (Dwight 1925), except for the first post-nuptial (pre-basic) molt, which involves only head and body. It takes only two years to reach full adult plumage, not three as in the Laughing Gull. Because of the complete molts the transition is much faster.

A Franklin's Gull can retain juvenal plumage until October. It is like a juvenile Laughing Gull except that the head is mostly white with a strongly contrasting half-hood covering the rear crown, nape, and the area around and including the eye. This dark area sets off the white crescents above and below the eye. In all plumages they are noticeably thicker than the eye crescents of Laughing Gulls. The crescents almost meet behind the eye, unlike the crescents on the Laughing Gull. The underparts are white. The wings have less brown in the coverts. The tail band is incomplete, never reaching the outer two tail feathers, which are white. This incomplete tail band readily separates juvenile and first winter Franklin's and Laughing Gulls. The eyes, legs, and bill are black.

The first winter plumage is acquired by October. It is like the juvenal except that the half-hood on the head is darker. The Franklin's Gull will show an extensive half-hood in all non-breeding plumages, a useful character for separating them from Laughing Gulls, which in non-breeding plumages have a paler gray wash on the crown and nape, not usually including the eye. The wings are extensively dark gray, with brown mottling in the secondaries and coverts. There may be a light gray wash to the sides of the breast. This is the plumage the field guides suggest is not separable from the second winter plumage of the Laughing Gull. Note especially the thicker eye crescents, the tail band even and complete except for the outer two tail feathers on each side, the more extensive and darker hood, and the more extensive brown in the wing.

The first summer plumage is the real trouble-maker, primarily because it is not covered in the guides. It is like the breeding plumage except that the hood is usually not complete, with some white feathering retained in the face; and, the black of the primaries is more extensive, with no white bar between the black and the dark gray of the mantle. This is the plumage which observers, using the white bar as the principal field mark, are calling Laughing Gulls. Note, however, the thick white eye crescents, the black legs and bill, the light gray central tail feathers, and the pure white underparts (sometimes flushed with pink).

A second winter lird is like a first summer one except for a dark half-hood and less black on the primaries, with the beginning of the white bar between the black and the gray. Usually all the primaries are tipped with white. The bill is reddish at the tip, and the legs can be dull red.

The second summer plumage is the first full breeding plumage. The underparts are entirely white, with a variously strong rosy tint. The head has a full black hood. The tail is white with the central tail feathers light gray. These gray central tail feathers are acquired during the molt from the first winter to the first summer plumage. They can be difficult to see in the field, but if they are, they are diagnostic; the Franklin's Gull is the only gull in the world so marked. The amount of black in the primaries is even less than in the second winter, and the white bar separating the black and gray parts of the wing is present. The primaries have large white tips. The bill and legs are red.

A third winter bird is in the first complete winter plumage. It is like a breeding adult but with a dark half-hood.

Using the above information it becomes clear why the bird in plate 34 in Udvardy (1977) is a Laughing Gull. The mostly white head, with no dark on the crown or around the eye; the heavy black bill; the gray on the sides of the breast; and the small white spots on the inner primaries rather than large spots on all the primaries all support such an identification. In summary, there should be continued reports of Laughing Gulls in New Mexico, but they will always be rare and will need extensive documentation. If birders pay close attention to the important characters, and do not rely solely on one or two, they can learn to separate Laughing and Franklin's Gulls with confidence. It should be obvious from the discussion that it is necessary not only to identify the bird, but to determine its age.

POST SCRIPT

After finishing this article I had the opportunity to review three recent reports of the Laughing Gull from New Mexico. One record was of two birds photographed at Lake McMillan in Eddy County on 12 August 1980. The other two records were sight records.

Both sight records seem to pertain to Franklin's Gulls. They rely on the absence of a white bar in the wing to eliminate that species. As we have seen, this is not enough. Regrettably, the observers noted few other characters, such as color of the underparts, bill and leg color, color of the tail feathers, size of the eye crescents, etc. On both records, however, one additional field mark was commented on, and it argues strongly for the Franklin's Gull. One report is from 15 September, the other from 11 October. Both note the extensively black head of the bird. One reported that the head was "90% black" and the other that the head was mostly black "just starting to molt." By mid-September only the most retarded Laughing Gull would be showing any black on the head at all, and by the second week in October Laughing Gulls should be in full winter plumage. The Franklin's Gull, on the other hand, retains an extensive half-hood throughout the winter, and can look almost fully hooded in flight. Since no other details were noted the documentation is clearly inadequate to substantiate the occurrence of so rare a bird.

The photographic record seems to document the occurrence of two first summer Laughing Gulls. It is unfortunate that no written documentation accompanies the photographs. They are adequate to document the presence of at least one bird, and probably two, but it is difficult to tell. They do not clearly show all the field marks, and are an excellent example of why written notes need to be taken along with the photographs. In any instance, it is a second confirmed record for the state, and certainly not the last. Several other sightings have been reported recently but not reviewed yet.

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SECOND ANNUAL NMOS SITE SURVEY: MT. TAYLOR

The second annual NMOS Site Survey will be held on Mt. Taylor on 3-5 June 1983. The purpose of the surveys is to add to our knowledge of the avifaunas of sites in the state which have not received much attention from ornithologists. Mt. Taylor is an ideal candidate for this kind of attention, because despite its great bulk and wide variety of habitat-types, it has not been well-explored and its avifauna is poorly known. The rediscovery of the Blue Grouse and discovery of a new southernmost population of White-crowned Sparrows in 1982 suggest that other pleasant surprises are in store. Specific assignments will be made once it is known how many observers will participate. If interested, please contact Arch McCallum (address on back page)

A BREEDING RECORD FOR THE PINE GROSBEAK IN NEW MEXICO

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On 31 July 1981 Paul Fitzsimmons and I went to the Jemez Mountains, near Fenton Lake, to investigate more fully a sighting of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) by Paul four days earlier.

Specifically, the area is the Calaveras Campground, just off Route 126, about 5-6 km west of Fenton Lake and just past the entrance road to Seven Springs Fish Hatchery. Calaveras Creek runs through the campground, and the habitat is riparian growth and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), with nearby ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Elevation is about 2400 m.

We saw the male grosbeak almost immediately upon our arrival at the campground. It's a relatively tame and sedentary bird, so we were able to watch and photograph it at close range. The female appeared 15-20 minutes later, and as she fluttered her wings we observed the male feeding her. Both then moved away from us, but for only a short distance. For the next five or six hours we watched the pair in the same general area of the campground, and we saw that they were feeding on spruce seeds and on the twinberry (honeysuckle), *Lonicera involucrata*. At no point were they shy or retiring; generally they sat in one spot, clearly visible, but occasionally they moved enough to feed. The male was more sedentary than the female, and it is worth noting that we heard neither bird utter a sound of any sort.

All of this concentration in one particular area of course led us to

think of a nest, although all of the literature we examined spoke of a much earlier nesting period than the last day of July. In any event, in a final stroll just before leaving, we saw both birds fly to a small spruce, and on closer examination I discovered a nest about 3 m from the ground, 1.5 m from the trunk, and 0.5 m from the end of the branch. The female settled on the nest as the male moved to an adjoining tree. The nest was loosely formed of small twigs and was rather well hidden from below.

While I kept track of the birds, Paul climbed the tree and inside the compact cup of grasses he saw two eggs (greenish blue, spotted with brown) and one newly hatched baby bird. This accomplished, we quickly moved away to avoid disturbing the parent birds and were gratified to see the female return to the nest. The unfortunate sequel to this report is that Paul returned to the site a few days later and found the nest abandoned, the young dead, and no sign of the adult birds. Heavy equipment had been moved into the area and would appear to have been responsible for the abandonment. On the bright side, we had recorded our observation with the rare bird alert, and several people saw the birds and nest before the tractors arrived.

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND WESTERN BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meetings of the Cooper Ornithological Society and the Western Bird-banding Association will be held jointly on 19-22 April 1983 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. NMOS is one of the sponsors of the meeting. The program will include papers, motion pictures, demonstrations of banding techniques, and field trips. Ornithologists from all parts of the country will be in attendance. NMOS members who can attend should not pass up this opportunity to hear the latest word on recent developments in ornithological research. For additional information concerning the meetings, contact J. David Ligon, Chairman of the Local Committee, Department of Biology, UNM, Albuquerque, NM 87131 (505) 277-2135 or 277-3411. Abstracts of papers must reach Dr. John A. Wiens, at the above address, by 1 April 1983.

NOTICE TO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT COMPILERS

The Bulletin will be happy to publicize the dates of CBCs for 1983-84. However, because of the publication schedule of the Bulletin, it will be necessary that this information appear in the September issue in order to be timely. If you desire such publicity please ensure that date of CBC and the name, address, and telephone number of compiler reach the editor by 1 August 1983.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRDS BATHE ON WET LEAVES

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On 26 August 1982, I watched as two female-plumaged Calliope Hummingbirds (*Stellula calliope*) bathed on the dew-drenched leaves of common reed (*Phragmites communis*) at Santa Fe, New Mexico. The observations were made between 0645 and 0655, at distances of 1-5 m. The temperature was 17°C (56° F), the wind calm, and the sky somewhat cloudy.

When first noticed, one hummingbird was hovering just above a leaf in a clump of the common reeds. The leaves of the plants were largely covered with a sheet of dew, and droplets hung from the pendulous tips. After a moment, the hummingbird dropped onto and clung to the upper surface of the leaf, which measured about 50 mm in width and 600 mm in length. The bird then

proceeded to rub its underparts, head and wings on the leaf, obviously soaking up moisture onto the plumage. This observation was made from about 5 m, and it lasted for about 15 seconds.

I approached closer and stood within the edge of the clump of reeds, which measured about 2 m wide and 8 m long and consisted of plants up to 3.5 m tall. At that time, another Calliope Hummingbird appeared, and after a momentary aerial clash, it and the other bird began to repeat the bathing behavior seen earlier--at times within 1 m of each other. In some five additional episodes, the birds lit on wet leaves and soaked their feathers with dew. In most cases the wings were stilled, but hover-and-cling actions took place when the leaves became agitated. Each bout of leaf-bathing lasted 10 to 30 seconds, interspersed with occasional aerial clashes between the two birds.

After several episodes of leaf-bathing, each bird retreated to a nearby twig and began to preen the plumage vigorously--sitting within 1.5 m of each other. At that time the birds were only 1-2 m from me, and the short bill, small size, buffy flanks, and limited rufous and broad aspect of the outer tail feathers confirmed their identity. Another female-plumaged Calliope Hummingbird joined them toward the end of my observations, but I did not see it leaf-bathe.

In my experience, the Calliope Hummingbird is the most frequent of its family in New Mexico to forage on flowers and arthropods deep within the leafy confines of plants. In our family wildflower garden, this species may at times be lost to sight as it forages among leafy columbines (*Aquilegia* spp.), beardtongues (*Penstemon* spp.), and other plants. One can see from this the ease with which brushes with wet leaves by foraging birds could lead to actual leaf-bathing behavior. While such behavior is more readily discerned and thus more striking when involving common reeds, it may be frequent in conjunction with more typical forage plants.

MARSH HAWK ATTEMPTS TO DROWN NORTHERN SHOVELER

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On 23 January 1983 we were driving alongside one of the large impoundments at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County, New Mexico. About 1 m out from the bank there was a female Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus*) belly deep in the water. We stopped the car to photograph the bird. While it seemed reluctant to leave, it did fly before a photograph could be taken. A moment later an adult female Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) popped up where the hawk had been sitting. The duck seemed to be gasping for breath and slowly swam away, frequently shaking its feathers and stretching its wings. The Marsh Hawk made two passes over the duck, but then landed on a small island and preened its wet belly and tail feathers.

It appeared that the Marsh Hawk had been trying to drown the shoveler and would have succeeded had we not interrupted it. The hawk was having no apparent difficulty in holding the shoveler underwater.

Bent (Life histories of North American birds of prey) mentions that Marsh Hawks occasionally take ducks and other game birds, on the basis of a few reports and the contents of stomachs. However, this method of hunting by drowning the prey is not described. Michael Fitzpatrick (*American Birds* 33:837, 1979) reported a similar case, a Marsh Hawk drowning a Common Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus*). He observed the entire episode, from the hawk's first striking the prey through eating it.

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