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MINUTES OF THE 1983 ANNUAL MEETING AT SILVER CITY

On the weekend of 15-17 April the 21st annual meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society was held in Silver City. Pre-registration activities at the Science Building, Western New Mexico University, on Friday evening consisted of an extraordinary exhibition of the original color plates of the birds of New Guinea painted by Dale Zimmennan, which will appear as the illustrations in his forthcoming book on this subject, in collaboration with Bruce Beehler, Smithsonian Institution, and Thane Pratt, Rutgers University. Registration began in the Science Building at 8:30 AM. Dustin Huntington, James Karo, et al., showed slides of birds at this time. The official business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by President Chuck Hundertmark.

Ross Teuber gave the following Treasurers report:

Balance on hand, 1 January 1982	Receipts-1982	\$1549.06
Memberships	717.50	
Revised check-lists	276.25	
Other publications	378.95	
	1363.70	<u>+1363.70</u>
		2912.76
Disbursements-1982		
Postage	101.63	
Printing	707.21	
Annual Meeting	300.00	
Bailey Award	108.56	
Lane bird-finding guides	296.13	
Miscellaneous	257.67	
	<u>1771.20</u>	
		<u>-1771.20</u>
Balance on hand, 1 January 1983		\$1141.56

Chuck announced some NMOS publications that are in progress or recently completed. A bird-finding guide for New Mexico, by various contributors, and a publication on the birds of the Pecos Valley by Chuck Hunter and Bill Howe are in progress. Dustin and Sue Huntington have completed a compilation, The Rare and Unusual Birds of New Mexico, based on 20 years of NMOS Field-notes. Roland Goodman, editor, discussed progress on the Field-notes, in particular delays due to increasing volume of data, loss of editorial committee members, etc. Bill Stone, membership secretary, announced that only half of the membership have paid their dues prior to this meeting.

Mary Lou Arthur, chairperson of the nominating committee, presented for nomination the following slate of officers for two-year terms: 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 in their terms as directors. The slate was unanimously approved as proposed.

The second annual NMOS site survey will be held the weekend of 3-5 June on Mt. Taylor. Interested members are requested to contact Arch McCallum at 862-7503.

During 19-21 May the NMOS will cosponsor a joint meeting in Albuquerque with the Cooper Ornithological Society and the Western Bird-banding Association.

The business meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Technical papers presented at the meeting were as follows:

Song dialects of White-crowned Sparrows in New Mexico--Jim Travis, LANL.

Winter food habits of Ross Geese and Snow Geese in the Casas Grandes Valley of northern Mexico--Keith Redetzke, UTEP.

Habitat use by Lesser Prairie Chickens in the shinnery oak prairie--David Wilson, NMSU.

Status of uncommon hawks in Hidalgo County--Ralph Fisher, SWNM Audubon Society.

Latest "Hooker Dam" plan--Bruce Hayward, WNMU.

Due to the limited number of papers submitted, the afternoon session was cancelled, and field trips to Fort Bayard and Cliff were scheduled, led by Bruce Hayward and Ralph Fisher, respectively.

The field trips were followed by a banquet at the First United Methodist Church.

After the banquet Dale Zimmerman gave a talk on the fauna and flora of Central and Eastern Australia, which was amply illustrated with slides.

On Sunday, further field trips to Redrock and Cliff were conducted by the same leaders. --Burt Lewis, Secretary.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anyone who did not pick up a membership card at the annual meeting may obtain one by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the secretary and requesting the card.

RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO, by Dustin and Sue Huntington, is hot off the press. Order yours by sending \$5.00, plus \$1.00 for postage, to the secretary.

#### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK TAKES MOUSE

David C. Bolster  
Cottonwood Gulch Foundation  
Route 2, Box 3  
Thoreau, NM 87323

On 30 March 1983, at 1708 MST, I observed a small adult Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) fluttering on the ground alongside a fallen dead pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) tree, near the northern edge of the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation property in McKinley County, New Mexico. I stopped, and, as I watched, the hawk hopped up onto the log, holding an apparently dead mouse (*Peromyscus* sp.) in its left foot. The hawk peered around, and stared at me, presumably aware of my presence, although I had not moved since I initially spotted the bird.

For approximately 45 seconds the hawk and I stared at each other, allowing me adequate time to note the small size (no larger than a Scrub Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*)), dark cap, fine reddish barring on the breast, blood red eye, and greenish yellow cere. Abruptly, the bird jumped up off the log and flew low over the ground, disappearing from view into the pinyons approximately 35 m south of me. The mouse was clutched around the neck in the hawk's left foot, facing right, giving me a clear view of its white belly and moderately short tail. The hawk's back appeared an even blue-gray, and the barred tail was slightly but clearly notched at the tip. Although the mouse was roughly 1/4 to 1/3 the size of the hawk, the bird did not seem to have any difficulty carrying it.

These observations were made at the edge of a pinyon-juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) woodland, altitude 2286 m, at a distance of 18 m, with the wind calm, and under virtually cloudless skies. The bird was observed through 10x binoculars, and my view to where it sat on the log was unobstructed.

Accipiters are considered to be almost exclusively bird eaters: Bent (1961, Life histories of North American birds of prey, Part 1, New York, Dover) cites A. K. Fisher's findings that 105 of 107 Sharp-shinned Hawk stomachs containing food contained birds, while only 6 of 107 contained mice. Small songbirds such as juncos, chickadees, nuthatches, and siskins were all common in the area at the time, and the kill was made midway between two feeding stations approximately 125 m apart, used in an experiment on Mountain Chickadees (*Parus gambeli*). These tended to concentrate such small passerines in these two areas, and it was therefore especially interesting to observe the hawk preying on a rodent.

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The following people, institutions, and agencies comprise the membership of the Society, as of 1 May 1983. Some institutions have been granted complimentary memberships on a year-by-year basis. Members in good standing in 1982 who do not find their names below are in arrears; to reinstate their memberships they should remit \$7.50 for individuals, \$10.00 for families, or \$3.50 for students to membership chairman Bill Stone, 927 Los Lovatos Road, Santa Fe 87501.

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