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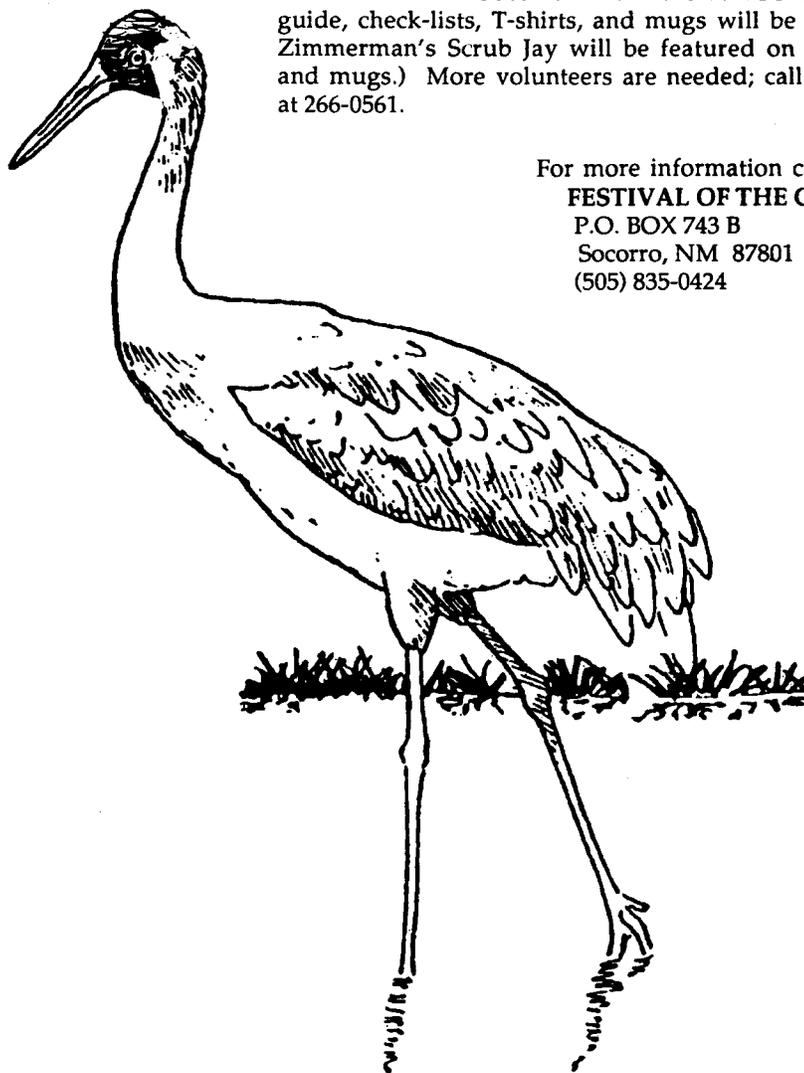
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## 1992 FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

The 1992 Festival of the Cranes, sponsored by the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and by Socorro, NM, will be held November 19-22. Kenn Kaufmann, Associate Editor of American Birds and author of Advanced Birding, will be the featured speaker Saturday night. In addition, there will be other talks, an art show, tours of the refuge, and field trips to ghost towns, historic homes and to Water Canyon. Members of the NMOS will help with the refuge tours, the field trips to Water Canyon, and staff a booth in Socorro where the NMOS bird-finding guide, check-lists, T-shirts, and mugs will be sold. (Dale Zimmerman's Scrub Jay will be featured on the T-shirts and mugs.) More volunteers are needed; call Mary Alice at 266-0561.



For more information call or write:  
**FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES**  
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### ADDITIONS TO THE "BIRDS OF THE SEVILLETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE" LIST

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As part of the ongoing Long Term Ecosystem Research Program on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro Co., I have been conducting quarterly bird censuses since January, 1991. After a preliminary analysis of the data I noticed several species had been observed which were not reported in the original "Birds of the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge" list (Teuber 1991). It is not surprising that additional ornithological work on the refuge has resulted in an expanded species list, as the refuge is extensive (238,000 acres). Furthermore, because of the diversity of habitats, the possible bird species list is large.

Data were collected using the variable circular plot method, where all individuals seen and/or heard within a radius of 200m from the sample point are counted during a standard sample period. I use a nine-minute sample period on the Sevilleta, and count birds at eight different locations in each habitat type. Pinyon-juniper woodland, creosote shrub and grassland habitats are each sampled once during Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Additional observations were also made while moving between sample locations, before and after census periods and on non-sample days.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*):

Three different individuals were heard and seen in pinyon-juniper habitat in the Los Pinos Mountains 14 September, 1991. The sampling area is in Goat Draw, a wide, extended canyon at the northern end of the Range (elevation 1829m). These individuals were likely migrants, but it is probable they were also breeders in the immediate vicinity, e.g., Manzano or Los Pinos Mountains.

Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*):

I first observed this species in creosote habitat near Five Points on 31 August, 1991. Species identification was made by using bill size and shape, and overall body size. An individual was also observed in a yucca in grassland habitat south of Black Butte on 27 August, 1992. I do not think either individual bred in those locations, but the species is a possible breeder in more woody habitat near the Ladron and Los Pinos Mountains.

Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*):

The first observation of this species was made on 14 September, 1991 in pinyon-juniper habitat in Goat Draw. A single individual was part of a diverse, largely migrant, foraging flock consisting of: one Red-shafted Flicker, one Western Wood-Pee-wee, one Empidonax sp., two Plain Titmice, one Red-breasted Nuthatch, one House Wren, two Virginia's Warblers, two Yellow-rumped Warblers, one Western Tanager and one Black-headed Grosbeak. This species likely migrates regularly through this area and may occasionally breed there also.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*):

A pair of individuals was observed in Palo Duro canyon in mixed creosote-grassland habitat on 27 August, 1992. They were perched in a large salt cedar against the canyon wall, near a constant water source. This species probably migrates through the Refuge in low numbers in both Fall and Spring.

McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*):

Grass productivity was relatively high during the 1991 growing season, which may explain the presence of large longspur flocks in the grassland south of Black Butte during the 1991-1992 winter. I first observed this species in mixed creosote-grassland habitat near Five Points on 16 December, 1991, when several flocks of 2-30 individuals were both seen and heard. Additional observations were made on 1 January, 1992 in the extensive grassland area south of Black Butte, where flocks of an estimated 4-45 individuals were seen and heard.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*C. ornatus*):

These congeneric longspurs are difficult to identify in the field (Hubbard 1976). I had several good observations of the tails of individuals I flushed, and also clearly observed the wing plumage of several individuals in flight. The presence of both species is confirmed, but the relative numbers of each longspur species is more difficult to ascertain. This species was observed in the same locations and on the same days as McCown's longspur.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Ross Teuber for conducting the original, long-term surveys on the Sevilleta, which allowed for the publication of the bird species list. His extensive knowledge was integral in assisting the beginning of L.T.E.R. avian research on the Refuge. Refuge manager Ted Stans and Dr. Robert Parmenter have provided logistical support. The data from this study are part of the Sevilleta Information Management System. Funding was provided by N.S.F. grant BSR 88-11906. This is contribution #35 of the Sevilleta L.T.E.R.

#### **LITERATURE CITED**

Hubbard, J. 1976. Longspurs in New Mexico. N.M.O.S. Bulletin 4: 8-11.

Teuber, R.L. 1991. Birds of the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. N.M.O.S. Bulletin 19: 2-8.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RECENT NMOS BOARD MEETING**

The NMOS Board of Directors met 12 September at UNM. The following reports were made: 1) The New Mexico Bird Finding Guide has been well received and is selling well. 2) The software for the Database is in place (See Jackie's McConachie's report.). 3) Rollie Goodman and Pat Snider are keeping up with the huge job of

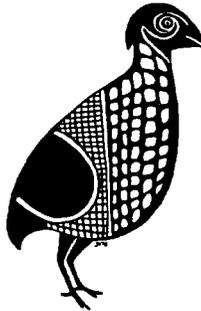
publishing the NMOS Field Notes. 4) The next issue of the NMOS Bulletin (#3) is about ready to go to press. 5) A new NMOS brochure is being produced by Jim Karo. 6) The NMOS will participate in the 1992 Festival of the Cranes, November 19-22, in Socorro and at the Bosque del Apache NWR. 7) The 1993 NMOS Annual Meeting will be held 27-28 March in Roswell with field trips to see the Lesser Prairie Chicken and to visit Bitter Lake NWR.

President Sandy Williams announced the proposed formation of two new committees: one to be an advisory committee for the NMOS Bulletin, and the other to review rare bird records.

### UPDATE ON NMOS BIRD DATABASE

- by Jackie McConachie

After months of fine tuning our database program to meet the diversity of problems we've run up against, Burt and I are almost to the point where we will be able to do the actual data entry. The first ten issues of NMOS Field Notes have been, or are in the process of being, transcribed onto data entry forms. This in itself has been a problem, since there are many different ways to interpret the data in the Field Notes. Once we get everyone in "synch" we should be able to move along a little faster. Burt has had the tedious task of listing and standardizing localities, observers and species so that the old and new names can be cross-referenced. Keith has been doing a great job streamlining the program to make it conform to all our "little" changes. Once we have input the first ten Field Note issues, we will be asking the same volunteers (now that we trained!) to transcribe another issue or assist someone else in that task. We also need a few people to input data at the New Mexico Heritage Program office or the New Mexico Museum of Nature History where we have computer terminals available. If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (505) 841-8837 ext. 54.



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