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**NMOS**  
**Bulletin**  
New Mexico  
Ornithological Society

Volume 20 1992 Number4

NMOS BULLETIN

The Bulletin is published four times a year; 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 urged to submit articles and news. Articles received are subject to review and editing. Published articles are noted in major abstracting services (e.g., the AOU's "Recent Ornithological Literature" section of The Auk). Please submit articles and news to Mary Alice Root.



**A LEAST STORM-PETREL IN GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

Dale A. Zimmerman  
1011 W. Florence Street  
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Pacific hurricane 'Lester,' in greatly diminished intensity, entered the southwestern United States from Sonora on 23-24 August 1992. In southwestern New Mexico it manifested itself primarily in the form of weak winds and a little over an inch of rainfall, but it was doubtless responsible for the appearance of a Least Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma microsoma*) at Silver City on the evening of the 24th. Shortly after sunset, a student found the bird fluttering about on the ground, under lights in the town's business district, and took it to Dennis Miller's wildlife rehabilitation center where it died within minutes of its arrival. Mr. Miller kindly notified me at once, and I promptly prepared the bird as a study skin, finding it to be a male (testes c. 2 mm. dia.), apparently adult, and quite emaciated. It weighed only 11 grams. The specimen, #9087 in the collection of the University of New Mexico's Museum of Southwestern Biology, provides the first record of the species (indeed, of any procellariiform bird) in New Mexico.

Kenn Kaufman informs me that he received an unconfirmed report of a storm-petrel, tentatively identified as a Least, at Lake Patagonia in southern Arizona, also on 24 August. The species remains undocumented in Arizona, although there were several valid sight records there in September 1976, following tropical storm 'Kathleen' which deposited more than 200 Least Storm-petrels at the Salton Sea in California (G. Monson and A. R. Phillips, Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona, Univ. of Ariz. Press, 1981).

Received 12 November 1992

**NEW MEXICO BIRD FINDING GUIDE, Revised Edition: Corrigenda**

P. 103 Paragraph 1, first word: for "billed" substitute "tailed"  
P. 144 Paragraph 4: for "Friday through Monday" substitute

"daily"

Paragraph 6: disregard

P. 145 Paragraphs 2-5: disregard

P. 146 Paragraph 1: disregard

Following the first full paragraph, insert:

On the east side of the Organ Mountains is another great birding spot with a decided contrast in habitats from Dripping Springs Natural Area. Aguirre Springs and the Pine Tree National Recreational Trail are reached by traveling northeast on highway 70 from Las Cruces for 17 miles to the Aguirre Springs National Recreation Area turnoff. (Hours: from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., daily, October through March; and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., April through September. There is a fee of \$3 per vehicle.) Proceed right (south) on this access road, following BLM signs, 5.5 miles to the Aguirre Springs picnic area and campground. Just beyond the latter is a parking area for Pine Tree Trail, for which hikers should allow a minimum of 4 hours to walk the 4.5-mile loop. The elevation rises from 5,700 feet at the trailhead to about 6,880 feet at the highest point. The route, which crosses several seasonal creeks, provides spectacular views of the granitic spires aptly named "Organ Needles" and "Rabbit Ears." An early start is advised in summer, when temperatures may be over 80 degrees F. by 8 a.m.; carrying a canteen is essential. In winter, warm clothes that can be shed in layers are useful.

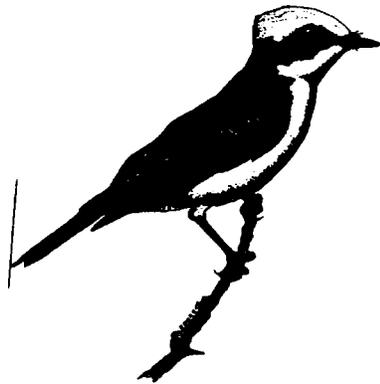
The best birding usually is along the lower reaches of the Pine Tree Trail. The vegetation here is chaparral with mountain mahogany, Apache plume and scrub oak predominating, and junipers and Gambel's oaks scattered across the landscape.

Bird life along the lower part of the trail is similar to that in the campground except for increased numbers of Black-chinned Sparrows in the first half mile. (The species is most numerous from early April through the summer; many move to lower elevations for the winter.) Rock and Bewick's wren, Canyon Towhee and Rufous-crowned Sparrow are common along most of the route, with Rufous-sided Towhees replacing Canyons as one climbs.

With heightened elevation, oaks and junipers increase and ponderosa pines appear, while cholla cactus, sotol and agave continue to give a desert flavor to this interesting montane community. In the pine belt, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Hepatic Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak are common summer residents. In winter, Scrub Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, and White-breasted Nuthatch are often seen. At any season, Acorn Woodpecker and Plain Titmouse may be

encountered, sometimes with a Mountain Chickadee or two, and Canyon Wrens are possible in the rock outcroppings along the trail. Golden Eagles are likely (some nest there) as are White-throated Swifts, Violet-green Swallows and Indigo Bunting in summer.

At the summit, the trail skirts pine forest with resident Hairy Woodpeckers. In summer a good place for Cordilleran (Western) Flycatcher, Solitary Vireo, and Grace's Warbler (uncommon) is in the vicinity of a primitive camp where a sign marks the half-way point on the trail. Most of the year, there are several small water-crossings along the upper reaches; near these streambeds - especially the first one after the mid-point -- one should look for Virginia's Warbler, an uncommon summer resident. Steller's Jays, Cassin's Finches and other montane species visit the higher areas in some winters. Migration brings various warblers, including Townsend's and Black-throated Gray.



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#### **REPORTING NEW MEXICO BIRD OBSERVATIONS**

It is common knowledge that birders have added greatly to our understanding of the bird life of New Mexico. In fact, birders now account for the majority of new data on species distribution and field identification of North American birds generally. However, unless field observations are properly documented and submitted for consideration, they have no way of becoming part of the ornithological record. For New Mexico, bird records are published seasonally in American Birds, the National Audubon Society's journal dedicated to documenting the continent's bird life, and in the NMOS Field Notes, published quarterly by the New Mexico Ornithological Society.

Sandy Williams is New Mexico's Regional Editor for American Birds: he is also responsible for maintaining the NMOS Archives,

including all written bird sighting submissions as well as the Photo/Tape File. Contributors are asked to submit their records to Sandy by (AND PREFERABLE BEFORE) the deadlines listed below. After the information has been summarized for American Birds, it is used by the Field Notes Committee to compile the more detailed NMOS Field Notes. Importantly, all submissions become part of the NMOS Archives; even if all your reports are not published, they remain on file and available to future workers.

All New Mexico birders are encouraged to submit their sightings, especially of uncommon species and early, late or out-of-range birds. Please submit your records in taxonomic order and make sure all records include date, exact location, numbers of birds, age and sex/color morph if applicable, and name's) of observer(s).

Please provide details for unusual records. Details are usually needed for sightings of birds appearing in light-faced type in the NMOS Birds of New Mexico Field Check-list. Details can be submitted on a rare/unusual report form available from Sandy.

If slides are submitted, please be sure to include ON THE SLIDE your name, date the picture was taken, and the exact location. Your original slide will be returned to you, while a duplicate will remain in the Photo File.

American Birds and the NMOS have the year broken down into four reporting periods:

Season	Period	Due
Autumn	1 Aug-30 Nov (=4 months)	31 Dec
Winter	1 Dec-28 Feb (=3 months)	31 Mar
Spring	1 Mar-31 May (=3 months)	30 Jun
Summer	1 Jun-31 Jul (=2 months)	31 Aug

Records should be submitted to Dr. Sartor O. Williams III at either the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or 65 Verano Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

This issue of the Bulletin was published 2 December 1992.

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