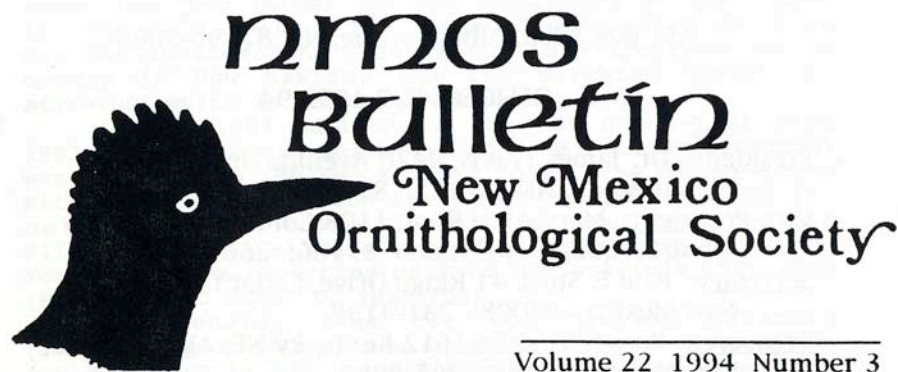


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CHANGES IN THE TAXONOMY OF NEW MEXICO BIRDS
AS A RESULT OF THE THIRTY-NINTH SUPPLEMENT TO THE AOU CHECK-LIST

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In a recent supplement to the AOU Check-list of 1983, (AOU 1993) there were several changes regarding birds that occur in New Mexico.

The Green-backed Heron (*Butorides virescens*) is now split into two former species into which it was lumped in 1983 (AOU 1983). The former Green-backed Heron is now two species: the Green Heron (*B. virescens*) which occurs in New Mexico, and the Striated Heron (*B. striatus*) which is found from Panama south.

In the 1983 edition of the AOU Check-list (AOU 1983) the New World White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) was lumped with the two similar forms, the Black-winged Kite (*E. caeruleus*) and the Black-shouldered Kite (*E. notabilis*). The three forms are now regarded as allospecies and all are considered separate, with the New World form reverting back to the previous 1983 name (White-tailed Kite, *E. leucurus*).

The generic name for the Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*) is now *Caracara*. The type specimen for *Polyborus* is not identifiable and the genus *Caracara* must be used instead (AOU 1993). *Caracara* is the name used in the 1957 edition of the AOU Check-list (AOU 1957).

The Rosy Finch group (*Leucosticte*) was regarded to be composed of three separate species in the 1957 checklist (AOU 1957). The 1983 edition lumped the three forms into a single species, Rosy Finch, *L. arctoa*. The three resurrected forms, all of which have occurred in New Mexico will appear in the following order: Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, *L. tephrocotis*; Black Rosy-Finch, *L. atrata*; and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, *L. australis*. Only the latter species breeds in New Mexico while the others are known primarily in winter. They were lumped originally based on insufficient evidence which placed them with the Asian Rosy-Finch (*L. arctoa*).

The Lesser Golden-Plover is split into two species, American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) and Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*). This split separates the birds that breed in western Alaska and winter in Hawaii and other tropical islands from the birds that breed from western Alaska eastward and winter in South America.

The results of these changes are the reversion back to common and scientific names for Green Heron and White-tailed Kite, and in the adoption of the generic name *Caracara* for the Crested Caracara. The Lesser Golden-Plover on the New Mexico list is replaced by the American Golden-Plover. Also, the Rosy Finch, as such, is removed from the state list; the 3 forms once recognized, but lumped in 1983, are now resurrected for a gain of two species for the New Mexico checklist.

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