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NMOS BULLETIN



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1998 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT RESULTS FROM NEW MEXICO

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The year 1998 marked the seventh consecutive year in which New Mexico participated in the North American Migration Count (NAMC). This count takes place each year on the second Saturday in May and has the primary goal of providing "a picture in time" of avian migration on the same day across North America. The count is patterned, with some modifications, after a number of other surveys, primarily Christmas counts. Boundaries for these counts are county borders and all counts occur on a single designated day. The data-gathering event is a valuable addition to our attempts to learn more about distribution and population dynamics of birds. These data are especially valuable when analyzing continent-wide trends pertaining to neotropical migrants and threatened/endangered species. The growing database will prove more valuable each year and with increased participation.

The 1998 count occurred on Saturday 9 May. Coverage in 1998 included 16 counties, the highest number yet covered in New Mexico. Table 1 presents summary statistics for this year's counts. Table 2 summarizes the counts over the past seven years. Four counties were surveyed in 1998 but not in 1997: San Miguel, Socorro, Torrance, and Union. For Socorro, Torrance, and Union Counties, these were the first counts since the NAMC began. Two counties covered in 1997 were not covered in 1998: Lea and Los Alamos. An important factor in the interpretation of data gathered in the survey is the lack of observers, resulting in undercoverage in most areas. Still, many areas in the state are being surveyed and as time passes, these data, plus growing coverage, will help provide a clearer picture of bird migration across New Mexico.

The sixteen counties produced numerous records. The species count jumped to its all-time high of 278 with 300 in a day now seeming possible under the right conditions. This represents an increase of 10 species over the previous high of 268 species in 1996 and 1997 (+ 3.7%). Increases from 1997 were noted in the category of individuals (+ 42.8%), party-miles (+ 21.4%), and observers (+ 19.4%). Only party-hours dropped from 1997, a drop of 1.2%. Many observers commented on the lack of some species, while others felt migration seemed already over for many species.

Grant County again produced the highest count in species with 184, followed by Eddy with 167, and Socorro, a new count, with 153. The highest numbers of individuals were in San Miguel, Grant and Eddy County. The all-time high count of individuals seen on the San Miguel count (10,068) was helped by large numbers of waterfowl and coots (3253), while the Eddy County numbers were due mainly to large numbers of Turkey Vultures, insect-eaters such as Western Kingbirds, swallows, and Killdeer. The Grant County numbers represented high counts of a number of disparate species (Gambel's Quail, Mourning Dove, House Finches, etc.). High counts for individual species again placed Grant County in a strong lead with 98.5 species (as compared with 96.25 in 1997), Eddy with 39.0 (47.1 in 1997) and Chaves with 30.3 (26 in 1997). Many counties shared the high count with another county, resulting in a fractional number; in cases where two counties had the same high number, each county received a score of 0.5, a county a three-way tie would receive 0.3, and so on.

Only Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Say's Phoebe, Barn Swallow, and Western Meadowlark were found on all sixteen counts. Several unusual species were recorded on count day and are discussed in the county summaries that follow. Overall coverage in the state continues to improve, although there are several areas in which a county count would be especially valuable. Most current counts also have a general lack of observers but still do quite well with limited people to survey their area. The eastern tier of counties is still not adequately covered with only a 1998 count from Union County along that border. Coverage in the Rio Grande Valley improved greatly with the new count in Socorro County but Bernalillo County is still undercovered, based on counts from there several years ago, and there is nothing south of Socorro County. Grant County does an excellent job of covering that part of the state but a new count in Hidalgo County would be especially valuable and would add several species to the annual and overall totals.

The 1999 North American Migration Count will be conducted on 8 May 1999 and the results will be

reported in a future *NMOS Bulletin*. Those interested in taking part in an on-going count, or initiating a new one in a county not yet covered, should contact the author at the above address. People are urged to participate in those counts away from population centers where often one person or one-party is all that is available to cover the entire county. For a copy of the complete species list of the 1998 results, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the author.

BERNALILLO COUNTY: Participation in Bernalillo County improved over 1997 when only a single feeder watcher provided information. This count has the potential for well over 100 species with adequate coverage. Fifty-five species were recorded this year; none was unique to this count, but it did have the state high for American Pipit (2).

CHAVES COUNTY: Chaves County again had a good showing with good numbers of shorebirds and 6 species unique to the count: American Golden Plover, Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Least Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Chimney Swift. Twenty-four species of shorebirds were found statewide on count day; seventeen of those were found in Chaves County. The colony of Eurasian Collared-Dove (4) continues to thrive in north Roswell.

DE BACA COUNTY: Sole-person coverage in any county is tough, but any coverage in these areas is especially valuable. Roger Hoppe compiled the De Baca count and found several interesting species, the most unusual being a Lewis' s Woodpecker near Fort Sumner.

EDDY COUNTY: Coverage in the mountains improved in Eddy County, but fewer birds were found in the lowlands, dropping the total to 167 species, 5 fewer than in 1997. Ten species were unique to this count: Harris's Hawk, Marbled Godwit, Red-necked Phalarope, Common Nighthawk, Red-eyed Vireo, Cave Swallow, Pyrrhuloxia, Painted Bunting, Orchard Oriole, and Baltimore Oriole. Shorebirds were present at a single, remaining spot at Laguna Uno; swallows and Turkey Vultures were especially numerous.

GRANT COUNTY: Since the beginning of the NAMC in New Mexico, Grant County has always led in number of species; 1998 was no exception, leading the group with 184 species. Grant County also led the state in the number of high counts of individuals in a county (98.50) and in the number of species found only in that county on count day (17). The 17 unique species were: Common Black-Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Elf Owl, Spotted Owl, Gila Woodpecker, Greater Pewee, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Mexican Jay, Purple Martin, Bridled Titmouse, Brown Creeper, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Olive Warbler, Painted Redstart, Abert's Towhee, and Hooded Oriole.

LINCOLN COUNTY: A good representation of birds for the southern mountains, but nothing unusual, was found in Lincoln County. Compiler Jean Kappler reported that the most unusual bird was seen the following week: a Brown Pelican, a species not yet recorded on a New Mexico NAMC. No unique species were found on this count.

MCKINLEY COUNTY: A Green Heron was the only borderline-unusual species reported from McKinley County, where no unique species were tallied. Large numbers of Redhead (220) were recorded. Again, 103 species were found in a oneperson effort; additional coverage with more people could better reflect the true richness of this area.

MORA COUNTY: Seventy-four species were found in Mora County, 9 more than 1997. High counts for two species, including a tie for the high count for Eastern Kingbird (2), and 13 species of waterfowl were found.

SANDOVAL COUNTY: Counters in Sandoval found 13 more species than in 1997, bringing their 1998 total to 114 species. Three species were found unique to this count: Williamson's Sapsucker, Three-toed Woodpecker, and White-throated Sparrow. This count had an interesting mix of high counts for lowland species such as Double-crested Cormorant and Ferruginous Hawk, and for highland species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Red Crossbill.

SAN JUAN COUNTY: Although reporting a lack of warbler species and individuals of many species, only three fewer species than in 1997 were found in San Juan County this year. One species was unique on count day: Bonaparte's Gull. White-winged Dove continues to hold on in low numbers at this northern outpost for the species. Large numbers of Pinyon Jays and Black-billed Magpies were present in San Juan County.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY: San Miguel, counted again in 1998 after an absence of a year, ended up with 140 species and the highest number of individuals (10,068). Four species of grebes were seen, all count-day highs, and 16 species of waterfowl, 10 of which also represented a state high for count day. Five species were unique to this count: Greater White-fronted Goose, Baird's Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Eastern Phoebe, and American Dipper.

SANTA FE COUNTY: Counters in Santa Fe registered an increase in the number of species over last year from 119 to 126. Four unique species were found: Long-eared Owl, Hammond's Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, and Harris's Sparrow. Six Long-billed Curlews and a Cassin's Sparrow were also good finds.

SOCORRO COUNTY: A first-year effort in Socorro County paid off handsomely with 153 species (3rd highest among 1998 counts), highs for 17 species, and nine unique species. The unique species were: Neotropic Cormorant, Little Blue Heron, Ross's Goose, Wood Duck, Whimbrel, Flammulated Owl, Whip-poor-will, Swainson's Thrush, and Clay-colored Sparrow. This count, which started out at a high elevation with snow and ended up in the Rio Grande Valley, has the potential for many additional species with added participation.

TAOS COUNTY: Taos County improved slightly with three more species in 1998 than 1997. With 90 species, the count found two unique species: Common Goldeneye and Common Snipe. Highs for a wide variety of species, including Cordilleran Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, were found. Most warbler numbers seemed low, although 8 different species were found.

TORRANCE COUNTY: Another new count was in Torrance County, centered around Quari. Although covering only a small area in the county, the results were good, producing 48 species, including one unique species, a late and unusual Golden-crowned Sparrow.

UNION COUNTY: Another first effort was in Union County, where 29 species were recorded on a day plagued by cold, windy weather. High count was found for 1 species, Lark Bunting, and most species seemed to be found in lower than usual numbers.

Table 1. County summary of 1998 North American Migration Count in New Mexico.

| County | # of Species | # of Individuals | # of High Counts | # of Unique Sp. | # of Observers | Compiler |
|------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bernalillo | 55 | 479 | 1.00 | 0 | 3 | Jeff Myers |
| Chaves | 130 | 6,569 | 30.30 | 5 | 18 | Sherry Bixler |
| DeBaca | 45 | 926 | 0.45 | 0 | 1 | Roger K. Hoppe |
| Eddy | 167 | 8,645 | 39.00 | 10 | 21 | Steve West |
| Grant | 184 | 9,244 | 98.50 | 17 | 31 | Bob Wilcox |
| Lincoln | 61 | 489 | 0.25 | 0 | 15 | Jean Kappler |
| McKinley | 103 | 2,340 | 5.45 | 0 | 1 | Dave Cleary |
| Mora | 74 | 1,241 | 2.00 | 0 | 2 | Scott Vail |
| Sandoval | 114 | 1,136 | 9.00 | 3 | 2 | Terry Brownell |
| San Juan | 133 | 4,652 | 16.45 | 1 | 25 | John Rees |
| San Miguel | 140 | 10,068 | 28.60 | 5 | 5 | Bill West |
| Santa Fe | 125 | 3,711 | 18.80 | 4 | 33 | Linda Mowbray |
| Socorro | 153 | 2,869 | 17.00 | 9 | 4 | Doug Emkalns |
| Taos | 90 | 1,704 | 8.50 | 2 | 4 | Karen Epperson |
| Torrance | 48 | 204 | 1.00 | 1 | 2 | Hart R. Schwarz |
| Union | 29 | 719 | 1.00 | 0 | 3 | Lavina Fry |
| Totals: | 278 | 54,996 | 277.30 | 57 | 170 | |

Table 2. Historical comparison of New Mexico NAMC results

| | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Counties Surveyed | 3 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 16 |
| Total Species | 222 | 218 | 260 | 256 | 268 | 268 | 278 |
| Total Individuals | 13,969 | 15,538 | 33,374 | 40,584 | 43,246 | 38,504 | 54,996 |
| Party-Hours | 182 | 118 | 445 | 500 | 467 | 484 | 478 |
| Party-Miles | 894 | 676 | 2,251 | 2,768 | 2,468 | 3,097 | 3,761 |
| Total Observers | 33 | 59 | 101 | 151 | 139 | 137 | 170 |

THE 37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Saturday, 20 February 1999

San Juan College, Farmington, New Mexico

ABSTRACTS

(In order of presentation)

WHERE THE BIRDS ARE: HIGH BREEDING BIRD DENSITIES IN
THE CLIFF-GILA VALLEY.

Scott H. Stoleson and Deborah M. Finch, USDA Forest Service,
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Riparian habitats comprise less than 1 % of the land area in the Southwest, yet support a disproportionate diversity and density of the region's wildlife. These areas have been severely reduced or degraded by anthropogenic influences including water management, agriculture, grazing, channelization, urbanization, and invasion by exotic species. Consequently, almost no riparian habitats survive in a pristine condition, and a disproportionate number of threatened and endangered species in the region are riparian obligates. We describe the breeding bird community in an area of intense agricultural use in the upper Gila River valley of New Mexico. We used spot-mapping surveys and nest searches to determine numbers and locations of breeding territories of riparian birds in 6 wooded patches. From these data we calculated the density and diversity of breeding birds. Forty-nine species were documented as breeding. Bird densities were extremely high: 2 patches exceeded 1500 pairs per 40 hectares. These density values may be the highest recorded for noncolonial breeding birds anywhere in North America. The site includes the largest known population of Southwestern Willow Flycatchers, whose density exceed 7.5 pairs per hectare in one patch. Several species were found at densities in excess of 3 pairs per hectare, including Western Wood-Pewee, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Other threatened or local species breeding at the site include Common Black Hawks, Abert's Towhees, Gila Woodpeckers, and Brown-crested Flycatchers. Our results suggest that with intelligent management, resource use and conservation can be compatible, and that such a compromise does not necessarily compromise habitat quality.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF FLAMMULATED OWLS IN NEW MEXICO.

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The Flammulated Owl is an insectivorous, cavity-nesting neotropical migrant that breeds in montane coniferous forest in western North America. Although this species is abundant throughout the mountains of New Mexico, and breeds in every national forest in the state, it is considered sensitive by the U.S. Forest Service. To assess the population status of this owl in New Mexico, I compared its distribution and abundance in the Black Range, San Mateo, Magdalena, Zuni and Jemez Mountains of western New Mexico, to reports from other parts of its range. Observed owl densities were strikingly similar to those reported in other areas of New Mexico, as well as those for populations in British Columbia and Colorado. Owls were not evenly spaced across the landscape, but were found in local aggregations of 3 to 11 males. I suggest that the observed grouping of owls is due to non-contiguity of suitable habitat because of the patchy occurrence of Cottonwood and Aspen stands, as well as the clumped distribution of cavities excavated by Acorn Woodpeckers, particularly in pine-oak forests. This is an important consideration if owl densities are extrapolated to unsurveyed areas of "suitable" habitat in order to estimate population sizes or infer distribution. Since standardized surveys have been conducted only recently, there is a scarcity of historic distribution and abundance data, making it difficult to assess large-scale patterns through time. Although demographic trends could not be evaluated yet in this study, reproductive rates were as high as, and

predation rates lower than, a well-studied and apparently stable population in Colorado. Overall, nesting success was high, as were return rates of adults to breeding territories. Because Flammulated Owls are a K-selected species, specialized for longevity and low reproductive output, long-term monitoring is essential for determining demographic trends.

NEST-SITE SELECTION, REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS, AND TERRITORY REOCCUPATION OF FERRUGINOUS HAWKS IN THREE REGIONS OF NEW MEXICO.

Jon W. Stravers and Gail L. Garber, Hawks Aloft Inc., P. O. Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184

Hawks Aloft, Inc. is conducting a long-term study of Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*) populations in New Mexico, currently focusing on 3 distinct regions within the state: the grasslands and juniper savannas within the Socorro Bureau of Land Management Resource Area, the badland/grassland complex within the Farmington BLM District, and the grassland/agricultural lands complex within the Estancia Valley. During the nesting season of 1998, 49 active Ferruginous Hawk nests were located within the 3 study areas: 24 within the Estancia Valley, 20 within the Socorro District, and 5 within the Farmington District. We determined the outcome of 47 nesting attempts. Of these attempts, 37 (78.7%) were successful, producing a total of 85 fledglings (2.3 per successful nest and 1.8 per nesting attempt). Ferruginous Hawk activity was documented at another 11 sites but we were unable to confirm the actual location of the nests in these territories. In the Socorro District, 14 of 20 Ferruginous Hawk nesting attempts in the Socorro study area were successful (70%), producing 26 fledglings (1.9 per successful nesting attempt and 1.3 per known nesting attempt). Six nesting attempts failed. We did not determine the number of chicks fledged at one successful nest. Of the 20 active nests within the Socorro study area, 11 were located near the edge of open plains in juniper savanna, 7 were located on open portions of plains-mesa grassland, and 2 were located near the edge of, but within, pinon-juniper woodlands. We confirmed 5 Ferruginous Hawk nesting attempts in the Farmington study area and determined the outcome of 4 attempts. All 4 were successful (80%), producing 10 fledglings (2.5 per confirmed successful nesting attempt and 2.0 per known nesting attempt). Twenty of twenty-four Ferruginous Hawk nests in the Estancia study area were successful (83.3%), producing 49 fledglings (2.45 fledglings per successful nesting attempt and 2.04 per known nesting attempt).

WEEKLY AVIAN STRIP CENSUS OF A RECOVERING RIPARIAN AREA IN THE GILA NATIONAL FOREST.

Roland. S. Shook, Dale. A. Zimmerman, Department of Natural Sciences,
Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM 88061 and
Paul Boucher, USDA Forest Service, Gila National Forest, Silver City, NM 88061

A weekly strip census of the Gila River Bird Area from May 1996 to December 1998 reveals the presence of 174 species of birds including numerous neotropical migrants, a number of which breed in the study area. Threatened or endangered species nesting in the area are Common Black Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, and Bell's vireo. Estimates of relative abundance or detectability and seasonality have been determined for each species.

OLDER SONGBIRDS ENCOUNTERED IN THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY.

Michael D. Means, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station,
2205 Columbia SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106 and
Nancy C. Cox, Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc., Albuquerque, NM

This talk will draw on banding data acquired at Rio Grande Nature Center 1984 -1998; and banding data acquired at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge 1994 -1998. It will be case studies on particular bird species encountered at these 2 sites. We expect to examine 10 different songbird species; i.e. Blue Grosbeak and White-crowned Sparrow.

SONGS OF GRAY VIREOS (*Vireo vicinior* COUES) IN SAN JUAN AND
RIO ARRIBA COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO.

James A. Travis, 9420 Avenida De La Luna NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111 and
Tim Reeves, Department of Computer Information Systems,
San Juan College, Farmington, NM 87402.

Surveys conducted for the Bureau of Land Management by Reeves during 1997 and 1998 have greatly increased the number of known locations for Gray Vireos in San Juan and Western Rio Arriba Counties, New Mexico. Tape recordings were made of many of the vireos encountered to be used for documentation of the identity of vireos encountered. These tapes were analyzed by Travis who made sonograms and detailed tracings of 51 syllables from 12 different Gray Vireos. The results of this analysis are presented. No duplication of syllables by different Gray Vireos has been found to date suggesting that individual birds can be identified by vocalizations. Comparisons of sonograms of Gray Vireo and Plumbeous Vireo (*V. plumbeus*), also recorded in San Juan County is made. The songs of the Vireonidae are characterized by rate, syllable type, and syntax (pattern in the use of syllables). The songs of these 2 species can be distinguished by these 3 characters.

INITIAL RESULTS OF BURROWING OWL STUDIES
ON KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE.

Nancy S. Cox and Steven Cox, Hawks Aloft Inc., P. O. Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184

The Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) study started in the fall of 1997. Twenty-one owls were color banded and released between 18 September and 16 October 1997. Five color banded owls returned to KAFB during the spring of 1998. The 5 color banded owls were found within 100 meters of the initial capture location. During the summer of 1998, 50 pairs of owls were observed. The 5 banded owls were part of the observed pairs. Reproductive success was 86% for the 50 pairs. The average number of fledglings was 2.83, with a median of 3, and a range of 0 to 7. There is no correlation between previously banded owls and nesting success. Also, it is not known if the non-banded owls had returned to their original nesting location.

NEW MEXICO PARTNERS IN FLIGHT BIRD CONSERVATION PLAN.

Christopher M. Rustay, Hawks Aloft Inc., P. O. Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184

"Partners in Flight, a national coalition of government agencies, conservation groups, academic institutions, private businesses and everyday citizens is dedicated to keeping common birds common." New Mexico Partners in Flight is a state working group under the umbrella of the U.S. Partners in Flight program. The first draft of a Bird Conservation Plan has been compiled. It prioritizes breeding birds in the state based on abundance, threats to habitat and importance of New Mexico to each species. Those species which have 10% or more of their breeding population in the state are noted as species for which New Mexico has a high degree of responsibility. The New Mexico working group has divided the state's habitats into twenty-two categories under 5 major headings: grasslands, forests, shrub lands, wetlands, and other. Habitat requirements, associated species, population and habitat objectives have been determined for species which were deemed most at risk. This plan will incorporate new information as it arises. Individuals are still needed to review and comment on this draft. Copies of the plan may be obtained from Hawks Aloft.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE PARASITIC JAEGER
(*Stercorarius parasiticus*) FOR NEW MEXICO.

Sartor O. Williams III and C. Gregory Schmitt.
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish,
P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504

What should prove to be New Mexico's first confirmed Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) was a juvenile retrieved from the waters of Conchas Lake, San Miguel County, by water skiers on 19 September 1998. The bird was exhausted and somewhat emaciated, but showed no outward sign of injury, according to Liza Coward, one of those who found it. The bird was taken for rehabilitation first to Espanola, where it was believed to be some sort of gull, and eventually to Santa Fe, where it was cared for by Ms. Coward, who contacted us regarding its identity. We visited the recuperating bird on 5 October, and recognized it as a Parasitic Jaeger. On 6 October, we returned and obtained measurements and a series of color slides, which we believe to be the first verification of the species for the state. We were later informed that the bird achieved complete recovery, and was released on the Texas coast in late December. We will discuss the identity of this individual, and summarize previous New Mexico reports of Parasitic, Pomarine (*S. pomarinus*), and Long-tailed (*S. longicaudus*) jaegers.

ASSISTING A PIONEERING POPULATION OF NESTLING OSPREYS
(*Pandion haliaetus*) IN NORTH-CENTRAL NEW MEXICO.

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POSTER PRESENTATION: Ospreys began nesting in north-central New Mexico in 1990. The first nest site, which has been continuously occupied through 1998, was a tall, double-crossarm power pole at El Vado Reservoir. It has produced at least 24 young in 9 years. Adults at the second territory on nearby Heron Reservoir, first occupied in 1992, were successful in fledgling young only once between 1992 and 1996 while utilizing 3 different natural (treetop) sites. In July 1996, the Heron pair started a nest on a double-crossarm power pole and the nest of a third pair was discovered on a similar pole at nearby Tierra Amarilla. To avoid bird electrocutions and/or power outages, nest platforms were placed on the 3 occupied power poles (El Vado, Heron, and Tierra Amarilla) and another was placed on a tall snag at Heron. In 1997, all 3 power pole platforms were occupied and 8 young were fledged. In March 1998, a fourth pair was discovered attempting to build on a power pole at Cochiti Reservoir, 115 km south of the core population; a platform was installed and immediately accepted by the pair. In May 1998 the platform on the snag at Heron was also occupied, bringing the breeding population of 5 pairs. Four successful nests fledged 9 young in 1998. In order to encourage a greater proportion of this growing new population to nest on more natural nest sites, we initiated a pro-active program of placing nest platforms in snags or on poles away from power lines in November 1998.

REPORT ON THE 37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The well-attended meeting took place at the San Juan College in Farmington, NM on 20 February 1999 with some 85 registrants. Dr. Tim Reeves was in charge of the arrangements. Ten papers were presented at the afternoon session, chaired by Greg Schmitt; the abstracts appear in this issue of the *NMOS Bulletin*. Tim Reeves and Alan Nelson filled in for a cancelled paper with an informative talk on their Revised Checklist of Birds of San Juan County, New Mexico; each attendee was presented a copy of the attractive list. After the banquet, beautifully prepared and served in the College Dining Room, Tim Reeves gave the invited talk on "San Juan County Birds: Recent Research and Discoveries." The presentation, augmented by Tim's beautiful slides, was well received by an appreciative audience.

The field trips on both Saturday and Sunday were very productive due to the excellent leadership of the Farmington birders -- assisted by unseasonably warm, pleasant weather. The target birds (Barrow's Goldeneye and Northern Shrike) were duly presented, along with a Rusty Blackbird, plus enough other species that everyone went home satisfied.

Bo West was in charge of registration, Jan Lamkin made the nametags, and Judy Pritchard and Mary Alice Root helped out where needed -- along with Tim's students. All in all, it was a wonderful meeting. Thanks again, Tim.