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FOURTH REPORT OF THE NEW MEXICO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The New Mexico Bird Records Committee (hereinafter NMBRC or Committee) was established to evaluate and archive records of unusual bird species that occur in New Mexico. The first report of the Committee (Williams 1995) discussed the history, purpose, procedures, and membership of the NMBRC, provided an initial Review List of species for which complete documentation was requested, and treated 55 records circulated to the Committee in 1995. The second report (Williams 1996) treated 42 records circulated or re-circulated to the Committee in 1995. The third report (Williams 1997) treated 127 records that were circulated or re-circulated to the Committee in 1996 and also included a revised Review List. The present report, the fourth for the NMBRC, treats 158 records of 65 species that were circulated or re-circulated to the Committee in 1997 and early 1998 and on which decisions were reached.

The records in this report span the period 1991-1997, with the great majority from 1996 and 1997. Included in this treatment are the **first confirmed New Mexico records for three species: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Wandering Tattler, and Eurasian Collared-Dove**, the latter a non-native species that arrived in the state in 1995 and now appears to be locally established in the east. Other highlights include the first Crested Caracara in well over a decade, the third accepted Arctic Tern, the third and fourth accepted Prairie Warblers, and the fifth accepted Heermann's Gull and Rufous-backed Robin, plus Reddish Egret, American Woodcock, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Mourning Warbler, none of these latter with more than nine previous reports.

The Committee's first report contained extensive background information on the objectives, organization, and workings of the NMBRC; that information is not repeated here. Reprints of the first, second, third, and this fourth report, as well as copies of the current Review List plus blank forms for reporting rare birds, may be obtained from me at the above address.

Members of the NMBRC who participated in all decisions summarized in this report were: Sartor O. Williams III (Secretary), Alan M. Craig, William H. Howe, John E. Parmeter, Christopher M. Rustay, Barry R. Zimmer, and Dale A. Zimmerman.

State List. The addition of the three species listed above (and detailed below) brings the State List to 495 species verified by specimen, photograph, or tape-recording. Records currently under review include potentially first verified New Mexico records for Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) and White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*).

As indicated above, for a species to be fully accepted to the list of New Mexico birds, the Committee has decided that it must have at least one record supported by either

1) a specimen, identified by a recognized authority, with convincing evidence that it was taken in New Mexico, or 2) one or more photographs or voice recordings that demonstrate definitive characters and with convincing evidence that the photo or tape was obtained in New Mexico. In addition, the record must be reviewed and accepted by the NMBRC.

Report Format. The 158 records treated in this fourth report are divided into Accepted Records (146) and Unaccepted Records (12). Within each of the two categories, records are arranged taxonomically following the 7th Edition of the *AOU Check-list* (AOU 1998). Within each species, records (if more than one) are arranged chronologically. Each record is identified by a NMBRC file number—this number is in parentheses and consists of the year the record was originally circulated to the Committee (*not* the year in which the record occurred), followed by a dash and a number. Also given is the location (with county in *italics*), the accepted date(s) of the record, and the initials of the observer(s). Only observers who submitted documentation are listed. Observers are not listed for records not accepted. If photographs, videotapes, or audiotapes are on file with the NMBRC, the New Mexico Photo/Tape File (NMPTF) number is given; this number references all photos and tapes that are on file for each individual record, referenced by the year the record occurred. If the photo was published, a brief citation is given. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes for acceptance are unanimous. Abbreviations found herein, in addition to the ones given above, are NM (National Monument), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), SP (State Park), and ph. (photograph); N, E, S, and W denote the cardinal compass points.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). One (1997-78) adult in alternate (breeding) plumage at Brantley Reservoir, *Eddy*, 30 April 1997: J & DH. One (1998-16) probable immature at Stubblefield Lake, Maxwell NWR, *Colfax*, 8 November 1997: JEP, JRO. There are about 12 previous New Mexico reports of varying quality dating back to 1957; these two provided the 3rd for *Eddy* and the first for *Colfax*, respectively.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). One (1997-47) in basic (winter) plumage at Cochiti Reservoir, *Sandoval*, on various dates 24 November 1996-11 January 1997 (after which the lake froze over): WHH, JRO, PRS, JEP. There are about 14 previous reports of varying quality (one confirmed) dating back to 1944; this individual furnished the 2nd accepted state record, and the first report of the species from *Sandoval*.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). One (1998-17) juvenile at Sumner Reservoir, *DeBaca*, 25 October 1997: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-17. This individual represented the third *DeBaca* report. The species was found in New Mexico annually, and in increasing numbers, 1990-1997, and was removed from the Review List at the close of 1997.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*). One (1998-1) apparent adult at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 4 August 1997: WRR (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-12; this nicely-photographed individual was accepted on a 6:1 vote, with one member objecting to lack of written details. One (1998-2) apparent subadult at North Monticello Point, Elephant Butte Reservoir, *Sierra*, 31 August-6 September 1997: WFW, BDN, DAE, JEP, JRO (ph. 6

September); NMPTF # 1997-13. First recorded in New Mexico only in 1991, these two represent the state's 5th and 6th well-documented records.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). One (1997-79) adult at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 4-5 April 1997: JRO (ph. 4 April), JEP; NMPTF # 1997-1. One (1997-80) adult at Bosque Redondo Lake near Fort Sumner, *DeBaca*, 16 May 1997: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-2. The latter report constituted a county first.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*). Two adults (1997-81) at Holloman Lake, *Otero*, 17-18 May 1997: GJE, JEP, JRO (ph. 18 May); NMPTF # 1997-3; a photo of these birds was published in *Field Notes* 51:907. Inquiries determined that these unbanded, free-flying birds had not escaped from regional zoos; they were judged to be genuine wild strays and, on the strength of the photos, provided the first verified record for the state. Unverified, mainly spring season reports, extend back to 1949.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). One male (1997-48) at Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*, on various dates 21 December 1996-20 February 1997: MLA, HRS, NMC. One male (1997-49) at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, on various dates 11 January-7 February 1997: WRR. One male (1997-50) at Caballo Dam, *Sierra*, 20 January and 18 February 1997: MF, ERL. One male (1997-101) at Storrie Reservoir, *San Miguel*, 23 March 1997: JRO. Recently annual in New Mexico, with multiple records each year since 1992, the species was removed from the Review List at the close of 1997.

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*). One (1997-52) female or young male at Santa Rosa Reservoir, *Guadalupe*, 2 November 1996: CMR. One adult male (1997-53) at Santa Rosa Reservoir 3 November 1996: JRO. One adult male (1997-102) at Farmington Lake, *San Juan*, 10 April 1997: TR (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-8.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). One (1997-51) female or young male at Santa Rosa Reservoir, *Guadalupe*, 2 November 1996: CMR. Two (1998-3), an adult male and a female or young male at Lake 13, Maxwell NWR, *Colfax*, 22 November 1997: BDN, DAE.

Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*). One male (1997-54) at Cochiti Reservoir, *Sandoval*, 24 December 1996: WFW. The species is extremely rare anywhere in New Mexico away from the San Juan River below Navajo Dam.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). One (1997-56) immature at Percha SP, *Sierra*, on various dates 29 August-6 September 1993: CIS, BRZ, CMR, JEP, DAE, BDN, LPG. One (1997-57) immature at Chaparral Park, Lovington, *Lea*, 13 September 1996: JEP, JRO.

Crested Caracara (*Caracara plancus*). One (1997-83) immature at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 25 January-5 February 1997: WRR (ph. 31 January), GJE, JRO (ph. 1 February), JEP, BDP; NMPTF # 1997-4. This was the first well-documented New Mexico report since 1985, and it provided a *Chaves* first. A photo of this bird was published in *Field Notes* 51:783.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). One (1997-59) at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 5 September 1992: JEP, LPG, was accepted on a 6:1 vote, with one member believing Pacific Golden-Plover (*P. fulva*) was not effectively ruled out. One (1997-60) at the turf farm near Los Lunas, *Valencia*, 19-20 September 1992: LPG, JEP. One (1997-62) alternate-plumaged adult at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 8-9 May 1993: JEP, LPG (ph. 8 May), CMR; NMPTF # 1993-9. One (1997-63) basic-plumaged individual at Bitter Lake NWR 27 September 1996: JEP, JRO. One (1998-4) apparent

juvenile at North Montecillo Point, Elephant Butte Reservoir, *Sierra*, 6 September 1997: JEP, JRO (ph.), BDN, DAE; NMPTF # 1997-14. One (1998-5) basic-plumaged individual beside I-25 at Onava, *San Miguel*, 24-25 September 1997: WFW, PRS.

Wandering Tattler (*Heteroscelus incanus*). One (1998-6) apparent juvenile at the headquarters ponds of Navajo Agricultural Products Incorporated, about 7 mi S of Farmington, *San Juan*, 27 September-6 October 1997: JWR (ph. 27 September), TR (ph. 27 September, 4 October), VPE, LPG (ph. 5 October), SW; NMPTF # 1997-15. The individual was carefully separated from the remotely possible Gray-tailed Tattler (*H. brevipes*) by visual marks as well as by vocalizations, although one member believed the vocalizations may not entirely eliminate Gray-tailed; it was accepted 6:1. The record, supported by an excellent series of 32 slides, furnished a first for New Mexico. A photo of this individual was published in *Field Notes* 52:105.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Two (1998-7) described as adults, at a pond beside I-25 at Onave, *San Miguel*, 24-25 September 1997: WFW, PRS. The record was accepted on a 6:1 vote, with one member troubled by the generally sparse description. The species is more rare in fall than in spring.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). One (1997-84) adult in alternate plumage at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 26 April 1997: BDN, DAE.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). One (1997-116) immature or basic-plumaged adult at Ridge Campground, Elephant Butte Reservoir, *Sierra*, 9 August 1997: BAL; accepted 6:1. This was the first New Mexico record since 1994, and the first ever for *Sierra*.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). Three (1997-104) at Chicosa Lake, *Harding*, 6 June 1997: CMR. Up to 21 (1997-105) at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 10 June 1997: WHH. This species is now recognized as regular in the east from mid-May into early June; it was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997, although occurrences west of the Pecos Valley as well as any unseasonal reports still require careful documentation.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*). One (1997-98) at Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*, 5-10 February 1997: WHH (ph. 5 February), JEP, CMR, BV, JRO (ph. 9 February), GJE, LS; NMPTF # 1997-7. This provided New Mexico's 7th well-documented record; a photo of the bird was published in *Field Notes* 51:783.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*). One (1997-106) possible male molting into alternate plumage at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 30 May-6 June 1997: RW (ph. 30 May), BRZ (ph. 4 June), JEP, JRO; NMPTF # 1997-18; photo published in *Field Notes* 51:1033. Two (1998-20) basic-plumaged apparent adults at Bosque del Apache NWR 11 October 1997: CMR, DAE. One (1998-21) possible immature at McAllister Lake, Las Vegas NWR, *San Miguel*, 26 October 1997: JRO. The last record was accepted 6:1, with one member believing Red-necked Phalarope (*P. lobatus*) may not have been eliminated.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). One (1997-64) winter adult at Sunland Park, *Dona Ana*, 28 January 1997: BRZ, JNP.

Heermann's Gull (*Larus heermanni*). One (1997-107) first-winter bird at the Lordsburg Playa, *Hidalgo*, 23 October 1997: TEG. Accepted on a 6:1 vote, this

represents only the 5th well-documented New Mexico report and, surprisingly, the first for fall.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). One (1997-117) winter adult at Caballo Reservoir, *Sierra*, 19 February 1994: JEP, LPG (ph.); NMPTF # 1994-8. Up to two (1997-119) winter adults at Caballo Dam 6-25 January 1995: JRO (ph. 6 January), JEP, BRZ (ph. 16 January), BV; NMPTF # 1995-25. One or two (1997-120) first-winter birds at Rock Canyon and Monticello Point, Elephant Butte Reservoir, *Sierra*, 16 December 1995-6 April 1996: JRO (ph. 16 December, 6 April), BRZ (ph. 11 January), LPG (ph. 2 April), JEP, CMR; NMPTF # 1995-26. One (1997-121) winter adult at Brantley Reservoir, *Eddy*, 3 February 1996: JRO (ph.), JEP; NMPTF # 1996-54.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). One (1997-123) first-winter bird at Caballo Dam, *Sierra*, 29 November 1995-6 March 1996: BDN, DAE, JEP, JRO (ph. 2 December), WHH (ph. 3 December), EGW, TW (ph. 14 December), JNP, BRZ (ph. 2 January, 9 January), CMR, SB, JLD, GJE; NMPTF # 1995-29. This persistent individual, the first ever to spend an entire winter in the state, provided about the 10th New Mexico report, and the 3rd to be photo-documented; a photo was published in *Field Notes* 50:204.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). One (1998-22) juvenile at Farmington Lake, *San Juan*, 21 September 1997: TR. One (1998-23) juvenile at Sumner Reservoir, *DeBaca*, 21 September 1997: CMR. These two were among six individuals reported from 5 locales during fall 1997. Averaging over 10 individuals per year during 1993-1997, this species was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). One (1997-124) probable adult at Caballo Dam, *Sierra*, 5 September 1994: CMR. Two (1997-125) adults at Caballo Dam 18 August 1995: JEP, JRO. One (1997-126) adult near Caballo Dam (Percha Flats) 13 April 1996: JEP, JRO (ph.), BDN, DAE; NMPTF # 1996-55. One-two (1997-127) adults north of and at Monticello Point, Elephant Butte Reservoir, *Sierra*, 10 & 15 September 1996: TJH, JRO (ph. 15 September); NMPTF # 1996-56. Two (1997-128), an adult and a probable first-winter bird, at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 27 September 1996: JEP, JRO. One (1998-24) adult at Bitter Lake NWR 3 August 1997: BDN, DAE. The species was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). One (1997-108) alternate-plumaged apparent adult at Monticello Bay, Elephant Butte Reservoir, *Sierra*, 3 July 1997: JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-9. This furnished the 3rd well-documented New Mexico record of this species; a photo was published in *Field Notes* 51:1064.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). One (1997-109) at Fort Sumner, *DeBaca*, 26 July 1997: JEP, JRO (ph); NMPTF # 1997-10; photo published in *Field Notes* 51:1034. This Old World species is now recognized as undergoing an explosive range expansion across North America, spreading northward and westward from established populations in Florida; breeding has been reported from Montana to Texas. Unfortunately, many of the details of this event have been, and continue to be, obscured by the Eurasian Collared-Dove's similarity to the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*), the latter a common cage-bird that occasionally escapes and can be found "at large," and persisting, in urban environments, including Albuquerque and Roswell. Currently available North American field guides are of little or no use in distinguishing the two and, until updated, likely will continue to confuse the situation;

presently, the most useful references are Smith (1987) and the European literature. In New Mexico, Eurasian Collared-Doves were first reported, and photographed, at Roswell in September 1995, where they have persisted. As of early 1999, the species had been reported from 9 locales from the Rio Grande Valley eastward, and breeding seems likely in the Pecos Valley and perhaps elsewhere.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*). One (1997-110) singing male in the Gila Valley north of Cliff, *Grant*, 4 July 1997: JEP, JRO.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). One (1997-65) at Morgan Lake, *San Juan*, 23 February & 6 March 1993: SB (sketch), TR. One (1997-67) near sewage ponds at Zuni, *McKinley*, 22 December 1996: JAT.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). At least one (1998-25) at the vagrant trap in north *Roosevelt* 10 mi W Melrose on 10 & 13-14 September 1997: PRS, JEP, BDN.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). One (1997-113) apparently newly-molted juvenile at Silver City, *Grant*, 31 July 1997 (MAZ). There are but 8 previous New Mexico reports, those spanning the dates 27 May-13 July; this provided the 3rd for *Grant*.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). One (1997-22) dark-eyed juvenile at Percha SP, *Sierra*, 12 November & 2 December 1995: BDN, DAE, JEP, JRO (ph. 2 December); NMPTF # 1995-21. One (1997-86) seen and heard singing on White Sands Missile Range E of Engle at Rhodes Canyon, San Andres Mountains, eastern *Sierra*, 18 May 1997: JP. One (1997-114) singing along the San Juan River E of Bloomfield, *San Juan*, 21 June 1997: TR (ph); NMPTF # 1997-11; photo published in *Field Notes* 51:1035. One (1998-26) singing adult at Sabinal, *Socorro*, 7, 14, & 16 September 1997: JRO, WFW.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). Two birds (1997-23) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, on various dates 23 April-7 May 1994: JEP, LPG. One (1997-24) at Boone's Draw 4 September 1994: BRF. Two birds (1997-25), probably a male-female pair, at Boone's Draw on various dates 23 April-11 May 1995: JRO (phs. 23 April, 30 April, 6 May), JEP, CLB; NMPTF # 1995-22; one singing and one gathering nest material suggested a possible nesting attempt, but birds not seen 12 May or later; a photo of one of these birds was published in *Field Notes* 49:290. One (1997-26) singing at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, 7 September 1996: JEP, SW, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-49. One (1997-130) along the Gila River near Cliff, *Grant*, 21-22 August 1997: SHS. The species was reported in New Mexico each year 1988-1997; it was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). One (1997-27) in *Harding* 7 mi N Logan 12 October 1996: CMR, was accepted on a 6:1 vote. One (1998-9) at the vagrant trap in N *Roosevelt* 10 mi W Melrose 23-24 October 1997: JRO, JEP, was, by 4 days, the state's latest ever.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). One (1997-28) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 8 May 1994: JEP. One (1997-29) possible juvenile (dark eye) at Laurel Circle Park, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*, 5 September 1994: JRO. One (1997-30) at Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains, *Hidalgo*, 1 October 1994: JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1994-7; accepted on a 6:1 vote, the 2 slides were identifiable only as *Vireo* sp. One (1997-31) at Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*, 1 November 1995: BRZ; notably late in the season; the record was

accepted on a 6:1 vote, with one member believing there were not enough details to evaluate the record. One (1997-32) at Las Vegas NWR, *San Miguel*, 7 September 1996: CMR, PRS. Two-three birds (1997-33) at Rattlesnake Springs and adjacent Washington Ranch, *Eddy*, 13-14 September 1996: JEP, JRO, CMR, BDN, DAE; three individuals seen 14 September. One (1997-34) at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 14 September 1996: JEP. Averaging over six birds per year in New Mexico in recent years, the species was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). One (1997-131) singing at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, 6-7 October 1994: KBO. One (1997-132) at a grove beside NM 20 in southern *DeBaca* ca. 5 mi N of the *Chaves* line 1 October 1995: CMR. One (1997-1) singing at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 23-24 August 1996: JEP, JRO, BDN, DAE. These reports provided the 3rd for *Eddy*, the 2nd for *DeBaca*, and the first for *Roosevelt*, with the latter the 16th overall for New Mexico.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). One (1997-68) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 19 October 1996: JEP, JRO. One (1997-69) at the Gila Bird Habitat Management Area SW of Riverside, *Grant*, 25 October 1996: RSS. One (1998-27) at Ned Houk Park 8 mi N Clovis, *Curry*, 18 October 1997: BDN, DAE. Now recognized as a rare but regular migrant (especially) and wintering species in New Mexico, averaging over five birds per year in recent years; the species was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). One (1997-133) that struck a window (and subsequently revived) at Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*, 12-17 November 1994: SJT, LS, GJE. One (1997-134) singing along Corruppa Creek [= North Canadian, or Beaver, River] ca. ¼ mi W of the Oklahoma line in northeast *Union* 26 May 1996: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-57. One (1997-2) at Zuni, *McKinley*, 7-12 October 1996: DJC (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-42; a photo of this individual was published in *Field Notes* 51:100. One (1997-3) at Roswell, *Chaves*, 23 October 1996 (SMB). The latter provided the 20th New Mexico report.

Rufous-backed Robin (*Turdus rufopalliatu*s). One (1997-135) at Durling's Farm near Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*, 16-23 October 1994: BRZ (ph. 16 October), JNP, BDN, DAE, GJE, JEP, JRO, CMR; NMPTF # 1994-9. This furnished the 5th New Mexico record, all of which have occurred in the Rio Grande Valley since 1986; a photo was published in *Field Notes* 49:83.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). One (1997-137) in southern *Otero* at the Texas line ca. 20 mi N Dell City 30 December 1996: GWL (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-58. The date was erroneously reported as 5 January 1997 in *Field Notes* 51:784.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). One (1997-88) adult male at Morgan Lake, *San Juan*, 10 May 1997: D & ML, TR (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-5.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). One (1997-4) at the turf farm E of Moriarty, *Torrance*, 14 September 1996: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-43. One (1997-5) at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 19 October 1996: JEP, JRO. Reported annually in New Mexico since 1992, averaging over four birds per year; the species was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). One (1996-111) briefly seen at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 18 May 1996: JRO, was accepted on a 6:1 second-circulation vote. One (1997-6) at the turf farm E of Moriarty, *Torrance*, 4

October 1996: CMR. One (1997-89) male at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 17 May 1997: JEP, JRO. One (1998-28), not an adult male, at Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*, 8 October 1997: DRC, was accepted on a 6:1 vote. Reported annually in New Mexico since 1990, with most records in the east and in the spring.

Capé May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). One (1997-7) at a prairie grove along US 285 in *W DeBaca*, southeast of Vaughn, 22 September 1996: SW. This record, about the 10th for New Mexico, was the first for September; it was accepted on a 6:1 vote, with one member believing the description did not rule out other species.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). One male (1997-8) at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 26 September 1996: JEP, JRO. One male (1997-9) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 19 October 1996: JEP, JRO. One male (1997-10) at Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*, 21 October 1996: JPH. One female (1997-11) at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 2-3 November 1996: RLT, CMR. One female (1997-90) at the N *Roosevelt* trap 16 May 1997: JEP. One male (1998-29) at the turf farm E of Moriarty, *Torrance*, 28 September 1997: CMR. The species was reported annually in New Mexico 1989-1997, recently averaging about four birds per year; it was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). Two (1997-138), described as a male and a female, at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 9 October 1994: JRO (ph. of female); NMPTF # 1994-10. One (1997-139), described as a young female, at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 1 October 1995: CMR, BDN, DAE. One (1997-140), described as a young female, at Boone's Draw 29 October 1995: JRO. One (1997-141) male, apparently an adult, at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 29 October 1995: JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1995-27. One (1997-12), possibly an adult female or young male, at the N *Roosevelt* trap 19 October 1996: JEP, CMR, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-44. One (1998-30) of uncertain sex at the N *Roosevelt* trap 19 October 1997: BDN, was accepted on a 6:1 vote.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*). One (1997-13), probably a male, at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, 14 September 1996: CMR, BDN, DAE.

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). One (1997-70) white-lored bird at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, 13-14 May 1992: JEP, BDP. One (1997-71) white-lored bird at Young Park and the adjacent Wal-Mart store, Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*, on various dates 22 December 1995-24 February 1996: BDN, DAE, CIS, JRO (ph. 24 December), JNP, BRZ, JEP, JLD, GJE, CMR; NMPTF # 1995-24. One (1997-72) white-lored bird at Lower San Francisco Plaza, 3.5 mi S Reserve, *Catron*, 15 December 1996: JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-51; photo published in *Field Notes* 51:784. One (1997-73) white-lored bird at Young Park, Las Cruces, 22 December 1996-11 January 1997: WG, GJE. This last event was the 2nd consecutive winter for the species at the same location, but this individual attracted fewer observers.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). One (1997-115), probably a young female, at Percha SP, *Sierra*, 13-15 January 1996: JRO (ph. 13 January), JEP, JNP; NMPTF # 1996-53; supported by one slide, published in *Field Notes* 50:205, this constituted the 2nd definite New Mexico record. One (1997-91) of uncertain sex at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 4 May 1997: BDN, DAE; following an accepted May 1996 record (Williams 1997), this latter record provided the 4th accepted New Mexico report in less than two years.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). One (1997-14) of the western subspecies at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 19 October 1996: JEP, JRO (ph.), DAE, CMR; NMPTF # 1996-45.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). One (1997-142) along the Pecos River at Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*, 22 September 1994: CMR. One (1997-143) at Percha SP, *Sierra*, 8 & 12 October 1994: JEP, JRO. One (1997-144) singing male at Washington Ranch adjacent to Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, 14 May 1995: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1995-28. One male (1997-92) at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 11 May 1997: BDN, DAE. One female (1997-93) at the N *Roosevelt* trap 17 May 1997: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-6. One female (1997-94) 1 mi N Seneca, *Union*, 24 May 1997: JRO.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). There were singles at five locales in the fall of 1996. One (1997-15) probable male at Las Vegas NWR, *San Miguel*, 25 August 1996: JATT. One (1997-16) probable male at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*, 13-14 September 1996: JEP, JRO, CMR, BDN, DAE. One (1997-17) probable male at Farmington, *San Juan*, 16-20 September 1996: TR (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-46; photo published in *Field Notes* 51:101. One (1997-18) probable male at Percha SP, *Sierra*, 6 & 20 October 1996: JRO (ph. 6 October), EGW; NMPTF # 1996-47; given the two week interval between these Percha sightings, two members believed two birds may have been involved. One (1997-19) probable male at a Home Base garden center, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*, 1-3 November 1996: JEP, JRO (ph. 1 November), HRS, WHH; NMPTF # 1996-48. Reported almost annually during the 18-year period 1980-1997, and averaging about four birds per year during 1995-1997, this species, which poses no serious identification problems, was dropped from the review list at the end of 1997.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). One alternate-plumaged male (1997-95) at the N *Roosevelt* vagrant trap 10 mi W Melrose 7 May 1997: JEP, JRO. This provided the 7th well-documented New Mexico report.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). One male (1997-96) at the headquarters of White Sands NM, *Otero*, 28 May 1997: JM. Accepted on a 6:1 vote, with one member objecting to the overall brief description.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). One (1998-12) on White Sands Missile Range at the "Pond" site, SW of Bingham in southern *Socorro*, 8 September 1996: RAM, DB. One (1997-74) near Gyp Tank, McGregor Range, Otero Mesa, *Otero*, 4 January 1997: RAM. Two (1997-75) near Mesa Horse Camp, McGregor Range, Otero Mesa, *Otero*, 21 February 1997: RAM. One (1997-76) near Toy Tank, McGregor Range, Otero Mesa, *Otero*, 4 March 1997: RAM. These four records were accepted on votes of 6:1. The January record provided one of the few mid-winter New Mexico records.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). One (1997-35) "adult" at Kit Carson Park, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*, 24 November 1994-1 January 1995: JEP, HRS, JRO; this was the 3rd consecutive winter for the species at that site. One (1997-36) "winter adult" at Carnuel, *Bernalillo*, 30 January 1995: JRO. One (1997-37) "immature" at Silver City, *Grant*, 22 October-7 November 1995: DAZ & MAZ (ph. 23 October); NMPTF # 1995-23; photo published in *Field Notes* 50:96. One (1997-39) "adult" near Bill Evans Lake, *Grant*, 11 November 1995: ERL. Two birds (1997-40), "winter adult and immature," at Carnuel on various dates 25 November 1995-7 January 1996: WHH, BDN, DAE, BV, JEP; this was the 2nd consecutive winter for the species at that site. One

(1997-41) at Spring Canyon SP, *Luna*, 29 December 1995: JRO; provided a first for the Florida Mountains. One (1997-42) "immature" at Percha SP, *Sierra*, 2 January 1996: BRZ, JNP. One (1997-43) "immature" at Aguirre Springs SP, Organ Mountains, *Doña Ana*, 8 January 1996: BRZ. This species, found in New Mexico annually since 1986 and recently averaging about 10 reports per year, was removed from the Review List at the end of 1997.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). One (1997-45) autumn adult on the Oklahoma line 1 mi N of US 56/64 in northeast *Union* 24 September 1996: JEP, JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1996-50. One (1998-14) at the turf farm E of Moriarty, *Torrance*, 13 September 1997: JRO (ph.); NMPTF # 1997-16. The latter record was a county first.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). One (1998-15) winter male at San Jon, *Quay*, 26 November 1997: JRO. There are no previous *Quay* reports.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*). One (1997-103) at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 23 March 1997. The record failed on a 2:5 first-circulation vote. March is an unlikely date to find the species anywhere in the United States, and is an unprecedented early date for New Mexico. Most members concluded that the description, written several weeks after the observation, most likely refers to Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*).

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*). One (1997-122) described as a first-winter bird, at Caballo Dam, *Sierra*, 30 March 1996. The record failed on a 0:7 vote, with members concluding the written details resulting from a brief view of a flying bird were not sufficient to distinguish Western from Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) or from some other species.

Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Lampornis clemenciae*). One (1997-111), described as a female, at Six Mile Canyon, Magdalena Mountains, *Socorro*, 1 June 1991. The report failed on a 0:7 vote; the written details did not eliminate Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*), and that species was reported from the same site during that month by other observers.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*). One (1997-112) at Mogollon, *Catron*, 9 July 1997. The record failed on a 0:7 vote; the written details did not describe this or any other species with certainty.

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). One (1995-28) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, 11 May 1995. The record ultimately failed on a 1:6 third-circulation vote, with the majority citing the marginal description as the deciding factor.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). Two (1997-87) foraging on a mud flat with numerous American Pipits (*A. rubescens*) at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*, 30 April 1997. The record failed on a 0:7 vote, with all members concluding the written description almost certainly applied to American Pipit. Occurrence on mud flats would be unusual for this grassland species.

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). One (1998-11) at the "Cain" site on White Sands Missile Range in southern *Socorro* SW of Bingham 25 August 1996. The record failed on a 1:6 vote, a strong contributing factor being the uncertainty of both observers as to the exact identity of the bird. Three (1998-13) near the same "Cain" site

25 October 1996, failed on a 2:5 vote, with the majority believing the brief views by the single observer were insufficient for identification.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). One (1997-44) at Silver City, *Grant*, 15 February 1996. The record failed on a 2:5 vote, with the majority concluding the brief description was inadequate for identification.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). One (1997-20) at Bluewater Lake, *Cibola*, 7 November 1996. The record failed on a 0:7 second-circulation vote, and was subsequently withdrawn by the observer. There is but a single verified record for New Mexico, that occurring in 1886.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*). One (1997-100) captured, measured, banded, and photographed at Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque, *Bernalillo* 5 October 1996; NMPTF # 1996-52. The photographs and other material were examined by Craig W. Benkman, an authority on the species, who concluded the individual likely was not a crossbill but instead a siskin or some other finch with non-occluded mandibles or, perhaps, a siskin x crossbill hybrid. The Committee agreed 0:7 that the evidence did not conclusively identify the species.

Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). A flock including six-eight males plus an uncounted number of females (1997-77) at a feeder in Silver City, *Grant*, 11-28 January 1997. The record failed on a 0:7 vote, with all members concluding the written description almost certainly pertained to Cassin's Finch, which had staged a massive invasion throughout New Mexico and adjacent states during that season. Common Redpoll remains unverified in New Mexico.

INITIALED CONTRIBUTORS

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comments on an earlier draft of this report, and Craig W. Benkman provided valuable input on the White-winged Crossbill report.

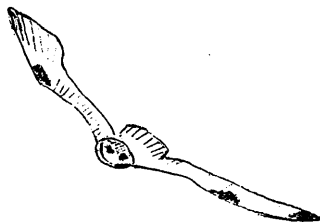
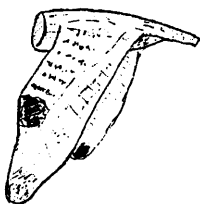
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Baldwin
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1993
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SHORT-EARED OWL
ASIO FLAMMEUS

MORGAN LAKE, SAN JUAN CO. NEW MEXICO



Received 14 April 1999

FIRST NOTICE

38TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2000

NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

The 38th Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held Saturday 25 March 2000 at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque. Following the business meeting and election of officers, professional papers will be presented from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A banquet will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Sheraton Hotel, followed by a presentation by an invited speaker at 8:15 p.m. at the museum. Volunteers are needed to help with the meeting and to help prepare a history of the society. It is hoped that long-time members and former officers will contribute information to this history project. Photos, letters, and other memorabilia would be useful. Until a committee is formed, the *Bulletin* editors will receive any information that you care to provide.



LOOKING AHEAD:

The 1999 Festival of the Cranes at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will take place November 18-21, 1999. The NMOS participates by presenting workshops and by leading field trips to Water Canyon. Call Mary Alice Root (505-266-0561) for more information or to volunteer your help. Check the NMOS Home Page.

REALLY LOOKING AHEAD, TO 2001:

- 1) The New Mexico Ornithological Society will meet in Silver City, NM in the spring of 2001 (probably in May), with Roland Shook in charge. Watch the NMOS Home Page for more details.
- 2) The Cooper Ornithological Society will meet in Albuquerque 18-22 April of 2001. (The 2000 meeting will be in Riverside, CA.) More information is available on the Cooper Ornithological Society Home Page on the World Wide Web.

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 Field Notes, 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 the NAS Field Notes; 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 PREFERABLY BEFORE) the deadlines listed below. After the information has been summarized for the NAS Field Notes, it is used by the NMOS Field Notes Committee to compile the more detailed NMOS Field Notes. 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 Williams. A copy of this report form can be found in most issues of the NMOS Bulletin.

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.

NAS Field Notes 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.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a guide in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print in black ink or type. Attach available drawings, photographs (slides are preferred), copies of field notes, etc.; include all photos of obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: Dr. Sartor O. Williams III, New Mexico Bird Records Committee, 65 Verano Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Thank you!

1. Common and scientific name: _____
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2 ad. males in breeding plumage): _____
3. Locality (include County): _____
4. Date(s) when seen: _____
5. Time(s) of day when seen: _____
6. Reporting observer (include middle initial and address and phone): _____
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird: _____
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: _____
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): _____
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): _____
11. Distance to bird: _____
12. Duration of observation: _____
13. Habitat (general and specific): _____

14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification): _____

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks): _____

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

(Description, continued):

16. Voice:

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

19. Previous experience with this species:

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation: _____

b) after observation: _____

21. This description written from: _____ notes made during observation;
_____ notes made after observation; _____ memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? _____. If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter, along with date and time of writing this account:

IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT A REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION IS NOT AN AFFRONT, BUT IS AN EFFORT TO SUBSTANTIATE A RECORD BY OBTAINING CONCRETE EVIDENCE WHICH MAY BE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED FOR ALL TO EVALUATE.

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 news and articles (double-spaced) to Mary Alice Root or Bruce Neville.

ANNUAL DUES

Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January.

Dues are: Regular \$10, Family \$15, Student \$5, Supporting \$35 and Life \$300.

Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P.O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-3068

New Mexico Ornithological Society's HOME PAGE

<http://biology.unm.edu/~nmos>

NEW MEXICO RARE BIRD ALERT
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NEW MEXICO RARE BIRD ALERT

This issue of the *NMOS Bulletin* was published 28 July 1999.

NEW MEXICO BIRNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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