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NMOS BULLETIN



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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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RECENT AOU CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING NEW MEXICO BIRDS

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

New Mexico Bird Records Committee
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(sunbittern@earthlink.net)

and

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
P. O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504

INTRODUCTION

The recently-published “43rd Supplement” to the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) *Check-list of North American Birds* (Auk 119:897-906, 2002) is the second Supplement to appear since the publication of the 7th Edition of the AOU Check-list in 1998. The Supplement contains several changes that affect New Mexico birds; these primarily involve English and/or scientific name changes resulting from taxonomic splits or other considerations. The Supplement does not alter the number of bird species attributed to New Mexico.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The genus *Ajaia* is merged into *Platalea*, hence Roseate Spoonbill becomes *Platalea ajaja*.

The authority for the recently split Gunnison Sage-Grouse, *Centrocercus minimus*, is corrected to Young et al. (Wilson Bull. 112:446, 2000); this is the species that historically occurred in New Mexico.

The genus *Porphyryla* is merged into the Old World *Porphyrio*, hence the Purple Gallinule becomes *Porphyrio martinica*.

The common and widespread snipe of North America becomes Wilson’s Snipe, *Gallinago delicata*, a species now recognized as distinct from the Old World *Gallinago gallinago*.

For reasons of grammar, the name of the Red Phalarope becomes *Phalaropus fulicarius*, not *fulicaria*.

The better indicate affinities, the English name for *Euptilotis neoxenus* is changed from Eared Trogon to Eared Quetzal. The species is hypothetical in New Mexico, based on one seen and heard (and detailed!) 13 June 1979 just north of the Animas Mountains, Hidalgo County.

As a result of DNA analysis as well as similarities in behavior, molts, and plumages, the monotypic genus *Guiraca* is merged into *Passerina*, hence the Blue Grosbeak becomes *Passerina caerulea*. Reflecting genetic relationships, the sequence of the five New Mexico *Passerina* species is: Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Varied Bunting, and Painted Bunting.

A change not directly affecting New Mexico birds but of interest to New Mexico birders is the splitting of Black-crested Titmouse, *Baeolophus atricristatus*, as a species distinct from Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*.

Finally, several records of the Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*, in the United States are formally recognized, including the one documented in New Mexico at Rattlesnake Springs 1-7 September 1996. Unfortunately, the 43rd Supplement erroneously gives the location as “Lea County” rather than Eddy County.

**New Mexico Ornithological Society and
Western Field Ornithologists
Joint Meeting**

24 July - 27 July 2003
Western New Mexico University
Silver City, New Mexico

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, 23 July

Pre-meeting Field Trips

5:00 pm -- 8:00 pm Registration for those arriving

Thursday, July 24

Morning Field Trips

12:00 -- 5:00 pm WFO Board of Directors Meeting

2:00 -- 8:00 pm Registration

7:00 pm Evening Social and Welcome

Friday, July 25

Morning Field Trips

1:00 -- 5:00 pm Scientific Programs

4:00 -- 7:00 pm Registration, especially for NMOS members

6:00 pm Evening Social

7:00 pm Presentation by Dr. Dale Zimmerman on the birds of the borderlands

Saturday, July 26

9:00 -- 11:00 am Scientific Programs

11:00 -- 12:00 NMOS Board Meeting

1:00 -- 5:00 pm Scientific Programs

6:30 pm Banquet

8:00 pm Noel Synder will present a talk on "Conservation and Reintroduction of Thick-billed Parrots: Future Prospects."

Sunday, July 27 -- Thursday July 31, 2003. Thick-billed Parrot Post-Meeting Field Trip to Chihuahua (5 days -- limited to 18 participants and 2 leaders total)

THE 103rd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT [2002-2003]

Saturday, December 14, 2002 Saturday, January 5, 2003

Dates and names of local contacts for this year's New Mexico CBCs

Compiled by Patricia R. Snider

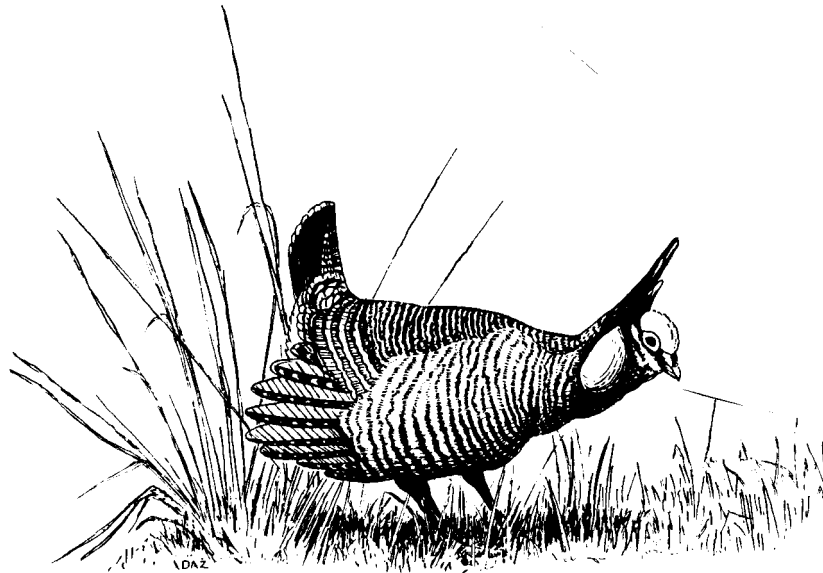
Count Name	Count Date	Contact
Albuquerque	Sun., December 15	Hart Schwarz 266-1810
Angel Fire/Eagle Nest	Sat., December 14	David Cleary 375-2971
Bosque del Apache NWR	Sat., December 14	Steve and Nancy Cox 345-2385 swcox@flash.net or sora@spinn.net
Caballo Lake	Sat., December 28	Barry Zimmer 915-757-8682 (El Paso) brzimmer@aol.com
Carlsbad Caverns NP	Sat., December 14	Steve West 885-3636 wthrs@carlsbadnm.com
Clayton	Wed., December 18	Christopher Rustay 255-7786 chrustay@aol.com
Dixon	Sat., December 14	Robert Weber 737-0889
Ejido San Pedro, Janos, Chihuahua	Sat., January 4	Cynthia Melcher birdswords@yahoo.com
Española	Sun., December 15	Bernie Foy 820-1658 bdfoy@newmexico.com
Farmington	Sat., December 14	Alan Nelson 325-8610 Farmington Bird Club 632-8335 nelson2@gobrainstorm.net
Five Points	Sat., December 21	Steve and Nancy Cox 345-2385 swcox@flash.net or sora@spinn.net
Gila River	Sat., December 28	Roland Shook 388-3441 shookr@silver.wnmu.edu
La Luz-Otero	Fri., December 27	John Mangimeli 479-4102 mangimeli@zianet.com
Lakes Avalon and Brantley	Sun., December 15	Tom J. Hines 885-1869
Las Cruces	Sat., December 14	Tim Lawton 522-2056 tlawton@nmsu.edu and Gordon Ewing 522-3934 gewing@nmsu.edu

Count Name	Count Date	Contact
Las Vegas	Sat., December 28	George Blanchard 757-8828
Loving	Sat., December 21	Craig Cranston 885-8362
Maxwell	Thurs., December 19	Jo Osterhouse 820-1857 osterhousejo@hotmail.com Compiler change!
Pecos	Sun., December 29	Karen and Gary Schiltz 757-2212 gschiltz@cybermesa.com
Peloncillo Mountains	Sun., December 29	Alan Craig 520-558-2220 narca@vtc.net
Portal, AZ	Sat., December 28	Alan Craig 520-558-2220 narca@vtc.net
Questa	Thurs., December 19	Robert Weber 737-9439
Raton	Mon., December 16	David Cleary 375-2971
Roswell	Sat., December 14	Sherry Bixler 622-0597 bbixler@plateautel.net
Ruidoso	Sat., December 21	Anita Powell 257-5352 flicker@zianet.com
Sandia Mountains	Sun., December 29	Nick Vaughn 265-1350 nickvaughn2000@yahoo.com and Rebecca Gracey 242-3821 mrgracey@earthlink.net
Santa Fe	Sat., December 21	Deanna Einspahr 983-4609 deinspahr@audubon.org
Santa Rosa	Sun., December 15	Bill West 473-2780 wingswes@aol.com
Sevilleta NWR	Tues., December 17	Steve and Nancy Cox 345-2385 swcox@flash.net or sora@spinn.net
Silver City	Sat., December 14	Roland Shook 388-3441 shookr@silver.wnmu.edu
Zuni	Sat., December 21	John Trochet 916-736-3560 (in Calif.) trochetj@cwnet.com

NMOS Research Grants

The NMOS is now offering grants to help support research on New Mexico birds. Two grants of up to \$XXX each may be awarded. The criteria for the grants are: 1) the grant money must be spent while conducting research on birds in New Mexico; 2) a short research proposal (2 pages maximum), plus names of three references must be submitted describing the nature of the project and how the allocated funds are to be spent (on gas, tape recording, specific equipment, etc.); 3) a recipient must either present their findings at an annual NMOS meeting or have an article on their research published in the NMOS Bulletin; and 4) research proposals must be received by March 1, 2003. Please submit your proposal to Dr. Roland Shook, 3306 Royal Drive, Silver City, NM 88061.

Information about the research grants is also available on the NMOS Web site: <http://mvar.nmsu.edu/nmos/>.



Lesser Prairie-Chicken

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 *North American Birds*, the American Birding Association's journal (now in its 56th year) dedicated to documenting the continent's bird life, and subsequently in the *NMOS Field Notes*, published quarterly by the New Mexico Ornithological Society.

Sandy Williams is New Mexico's Regional Editor for *North American Birds* as well as Editor of *NMOS Field Notes*; he also maintains the NMOS Archives, including all written bird sighting submissions as well as the New Mexico Photo-Tape File, which includes prints, slides, audio tapes, video tapes, digital images, and compact disks. The year is divided into four seasons (see below), and observers are asked to submit their records to Sandy promptly at the close of each season. All submissions become part of the NMOS Archives; even if all your reports are not published, they remain on file and available for future workers.

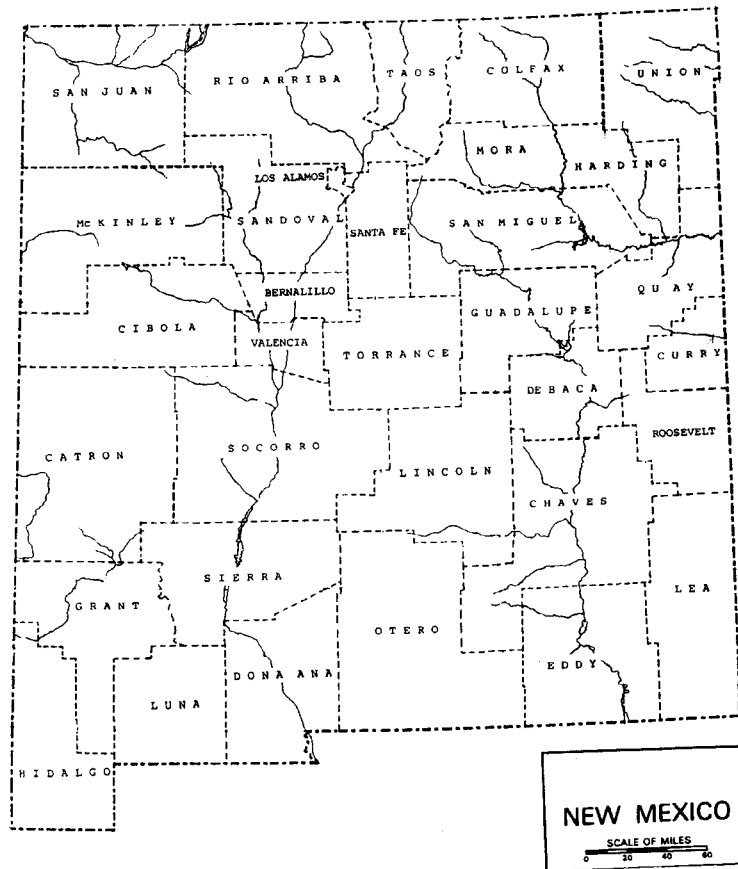
All New Mexico birders are encouraged to submit their sightings, especially of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-range birds. Please submit your records in taxonomic order and make sure all records include date, exact location, numbers of birds, age and sex/color morph, if applicable,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

Please provide details for unusual species. Details are usually needed for sightings of birds appearing in light-faced type in the NMOS *Field Checklist of New Mexico Birds*. Written details and other documentation of very rare species will be circulated to the New Mexico Bird Records Committee for evaluation. Written details may be submitted on a report form (available by mail from Sandy or electronically from the NMOS web page), although any written format is acceptable. If photographs or slides are submitted, please include on the photo/slide your name, date the picture was taken, and the exact location.

Below are the seasons for reporting New Mexico bird observations. Don't procrastinate--send your reports as soon as possible after the close of a reporting period.

Autumn August 1-November 30 (= 4 months)
Winter December 1-February 28 (= 3 months)
Spring March 1-May 31 (= 3 months)
Summer June 1-July 31 (= 2 months)

Seasonal reports and other records should be submitted to: Sartor O. Williams III, New Mexico Bird Records Committee, 1819 Meadowview Dr. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104-2511 (e-mail: sunbittern@earthlink.net).



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**) (hard copy, disk, or email) to Mary Alice Root (maroot@unm.edu) or Bruce Neville (bneville@unm.edu).

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://mvar.nmsu.edu/nmos>

NEW MEXICO RARE BIRD ALERT
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