

# NMOS BULLETIN



New Mexico  
Ornithological  
Society

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2006

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# THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Post Office Box 3068, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-3068  
www.nmosbirds.org

## OFFICERS FOR 2006 – 2008

### **President:**

Roland Shook, 3306 Royal Drive, Silver City, NM 88061  
tyranidae@hotmail.com

### **Vice-President:**

Dave Krueper, 105 Mission Ridge Road, Corrales, NM 87048  
dkrueper@comcast.net

### **Secretary:**

Nancy Cox, 4426 San Isidro Street NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107  
sora@spinn.net

### **Treasurer:**

Jerry Oldenettel, 499 Farm-to-Market Road, Socorro, NM 87801  
borealowl@aol.com

### **Director:**

Tim Reeves, 5101 Piñon Hills Boulevard, Farmington, NM 87402  
treeves@sisna.com

### **Director:**

Janet Ruth, 105 Mission Ridge Road, Corrales, NM 87048  
janet\_ruth@usgs.gov

### **Director:**

Martha Desmond, New Mexico State University, P. O. Box 30003,  
MSC 4901, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003; mdesmond@nmsu.edu

### **Editors, *NMOS Field Notes*:**

#### **Editor:**

Sartor O. Williams III, 1819 Meadowview Drive NW,  
Albuquerque, NM 87104; sunbittern@earthlink.net

#### **Assistant Editor:**

William H. Howe, P. O. Box 461, Albuquerque, NM 87103  
whhowe@comcast.net

### **Editor, *NMOS Bulletin*:**

Robert H. Doster, 6119 Black Ridge Drive NW,  
Albuquerque, NM 87120; calcarius@comcast.net

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For most of us, the events of the past several months have flown by. A day turns into a week, a week into a month, and finally several months have past. It would be easy for me to blame the passage of time and promises not kept on the Christmas and New Years Eve celebrations, but for me, procrastination would be a much more accurate reason.

All of the Board members recently met at the Bosque and we had a very productive meeting. One of the most important items we wanted to wrap-up is the release of the *NMOS Field Notes Database*. The release will be very soon, and hopefully by the time you receive this Bulletin, the announcement of the database release and link will be posted on the NMOS Web Site.

The NMOS Web Site has been updated and revised. Janet Ruth, with the help of Bruce Neville, has spent considerable time on this project and I would like to personally thank her for her time and effort.

The Board also announced the appointment of a new editor, Rob Doster, to the *NMOS Bulletin*. I am looking forward to the changes that will be made in the *Bulletin* and the resulting improvements. Instructions on submitting papers for publication appear elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

In March of 2000, Ralph Fischer died and left a large gap in the recording of field observations in southwestern New Mexico, especially around the Silver City area. I knew Ralph, and although he was not a formally trained ornithologist, he loved birds and spent countless hours combing the hillsides and valleys watching, identifying, recording and photographing. Those records he submitted to NMOS form a valuable historical record of the number, kind, season, and year of the species he encountered. Numerous others have done the same, thereby building a large database of observational data. The point is that field notes can be of considerable value especially when taken over a number of years. I want to encourage all that spend time in the field to carefully record the kinds and numbers of birds you observe. For “rare” birds, there are

instructions elsewhere in this *Bulletin* that will guide you in your submission of records to NMOS.

Steve West has graciously taken over the duty of both hosting and being the keynote speaker for the NMOS Annual Meeting, 5 May 2007, at the Washington Ranch near Carlsbad, NM. Steve will speak on his years' of experience working with Cave Swallows and his thousands of banding records. Here is a chance to see some fellow members of the society, hear and/or present some papers, and look for New Mexico's southeastern specialties. You will find more information and registration forms elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

Look to see you at the meetings - Roland

## RECENT AOU CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING THE NEW MEXICO BIRD LIST: THE 47<sup>th</sup> SUPPLEMENT

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

New Mexico Bird Records Committee

1819 Meadowview Drive NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104-2511

sunbittern@earthlink.net

The recently-published 47<sup>th</sup> Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check-list of North American Birds (Auk 123:926-936, 2006) is the sixth supplement to appear since the publication of the 7th edition of the AOU Check-list in 1998; it summarizes decisions made during 2005. Most changes are based on ongoing genetic research using mitochondrial DNA, nuclear DNA, and/or ribosomal RNA sequencing. Readers seeking to better understand the evidence and reasoning behind these decisions are encouraged to read the 11-page supplement and the references cited therein.

New Mexico gained no additional species, but one species received a new common name, one former subfamily was elevated to full family status, and several groups were rearranged, resulting in new sequences and, in some cases, new scientific names and/or name combinations.

The two groups of "Blue Grouse" are recognized as two full species, with the Rocky Mountain species now (re)named Dusky Grouse but retaining the original species name *Dendragapus obscurus*, and the species of the Pacific Northwest named Sooty Grouse, *D. fuliginosus*.

The genus *Asturina* is merged with *Buteo*, hence our Gray Hawk, formerly *Asturina nitida*, becomes *Buteo nitidus*. Within *Buteo*, Gray Hawk is inserted between Broad-winged Hawk and Short-tailed Hawk on the New Mexico list.

Substantial changes were made to the shorebird tribe Tringini, including merging *Catoptrophorus* (Willet) and *Heteroscelus* (tattlers) into *Tringa*, and recognizing *Actitis* (including our Spotted Sandpiper) as basal to the tribe. The new phylogeny requires several scientific name changes and

the rearrangement of the sequence of species. The new sequence and scientific names for the first six New Mexico species in the family Scolopacidae become: Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*), Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*), and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*).

The skuas and jaegers are removed from the family Laridae (gulls, terns, and skimmers) and elevated to full family status—Stercorariidae, and, reflecting the determination that the new family is more closely related to the auks (family Alcidae) than to the gulls, it is placed after Black Skimmer and before the alcids, the latter represented on the New Mexico list by the Ancient Murrelet.

Substantial changes were made to the subfamily Sterninae (terns), primarily involving resurrecting genera most recently merged into *Sterna*. The new scientific names and rearranged sequence for New Mexico terns becomes: Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*), Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*), and Elegant Tern (*Thalasseus elegans*).

A number of changes were made to the family Cuculidae (cuckoos), including merging the subfamily Coccyzinae (New World cuckoos) into the subfamily Cuculinae (Old World cuckoos). The only change to the New Mexico list is a rearrangement of the sequence of species, placing the Yellow-billed Cuckoo before the Black-billed Cuckoo.

Not affecting the New Mexico list, but of interest to birders, is the addition of two new species to the United States list: Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) and Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*). Both of these were added to the United States list based on photographic documentation first published in the journal *North American Birds* (NAB 59:368, 2005 and NAB 59:350-351, 2005, respectively).

An updated list of all 2,041 species known from the AOU Check-list area is available at [www.aou.org/aou/checklist/index.php3](http://www.aou.org/aou/checklist/index.php3).

\* \* \*

## **NMOS RESEARCH GRANTS**

The New Mexico Ornithological Society is pleased to announce the availability of two \$1000 research grants through the Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant Program to support research on New Mexico birds.

The criteria for the grants are: the grant money must be spent while conducting research on birds in New Mexico; the recipient must either present a paper based on the research at an annual NMOS Meeting or submit an article based on the research to the *NMOS Bulletin*; and precedence will be given to student applicants.

A short research proposal (2 pages maximum) must be submitted describing the nature of the project and how the allocated funds are to be spent (e.g., on gas, tape recording, specific equipment, etc.). Each proposal should include two letters of reference, one of which should be from a graduate advisor if the applicant is a graduate student. References should comment on the applicant's commitment to New Mexico ornithology and ability to design and carry out creative, independent research. Research proposals must be received by 15 April 2007. Please submit your electronic proposal, with "NMOS Grant" in the subject line, to:

Dr. Roland Shook  
Western New Mexico University  
Silver City, NM 88061  
[shookr@wnmu.edu](mailto:shookr@wnmu.edu)

Grant awards will be announced at the NMOS Annual Meeting on 5 May 2007.

## **NMOS 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

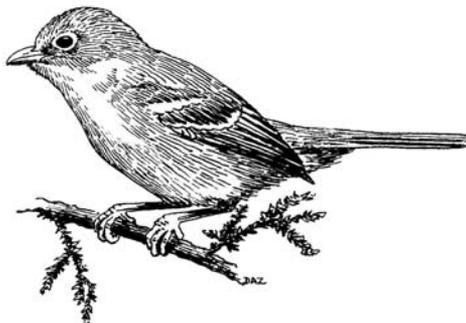
Saturday, 5 May 2007  
Camp Washington Ranch and Retreat  
Eddy County  
South of Carlsbad, New Mexico

NMOS has reserved two dorms at Camp Washington (10 people per dorm, barracks style) @ \$12 per bed per night. Reservations for these dorm beds are to be made through NMOS on a first come, first served basis.

For those not interested in this housing style, there are multiple motels available in Carlsbad or Whites City. See the list of some motels on the meeting announcement at the NMOS website.

NMOS has arranged with Camp Washington to have meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) available on site starting with a social (light refreshments) and dinner on Friday night, 4 May. The price is \$7.50 per meal. Reservations for these meals are to be made through NMOS.

NMOS has arranged with Steve West to have Cave Swallow banding trips available on Thursday, Friday and Sunday (3, 4 and 6 May) with a maximum of 14 people per trip, on a first come, first served basis. Reservations for this trip are to be made through NMOS.



REGISTRATION FORM

Fees (payable to NMOS) are due by 15 April 2007.

No. of meeting Registrations @ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of student Meeting Registrations @ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Friday night Social @ \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Friday night Dinner @ \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Saturday Breakfast @ \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Saturday Lunch @ \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Saturday Dinner Buffet @ \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Sunday Breakfast @ \$7.50 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for dorm beds on Friday night @ \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for dorm beds on Saturday night @ \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Cave Swallow banding on Thursday night \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Cave Swallow banding on Friday night \_\_\_\_\_

No. of reservations for Cave Swallow banding on Sunday night \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Send payment and Registration Form to:

Roland Shook  
3306 Royal Drive  
Silver City, NM 88061

## **NMOS 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held Saturday, 5 May 2007 at the Camp Washington Ranch and Retreat south of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Oral presentations will be allotted 15 minutes, with an additional five-minute period for questions. Papers may range from technical reports of original research to general observations. Poster presentations are also encouraged. Poster sizes should be no larger than 36" H x 48" W.

Please submit abstracts containing the following information:

- TITLE (in all capital letters) of no more than 20 words.
- Names and addresses of author(s) in the following form:

Bear, V. L. and C. Finch, Dept. of Ornithology,  
University of Central New Mexico, Birdsville, NM 88666

- Body of abstract as one single-spaced paragraph, not to exceed 250 words.
- Include e-mail address and/or phone number of presenting author.

If at all possible, please e-mail your entire abstract in the body of the email, not as an attachment. This will prevent any problems with incompatible word processing formats. E-mail abstract on or before 15 April to: [rdoster@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:rdoster@uc.usbr.gov) **and** [dave\\_krueper@fws.gov](mailto:dave_krueper@fws.gov)

The abstracts will be distributed at the meeting and will be published in the *NMOS Bulletin*.

Session Co-Chairs:

Rob Doster, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 505-462-3643

Dave Krueper, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 505-248-6877

## ***NMOS FIELD NOTES***

*NMOS Field Notes* is published quarterly, and provides a seasonal overview of the changing patterns of New Mexico's birdlife, including unusual records, breeding and wintering range changes, and changes in seasonal occurrence and migration patterns.

All individuals interested in birds in New Mexico are encouraged to submit their observations to *NMOS Field Notes*. Especially solicited are records of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-season/range birds. Records should be submitted in taxonomic order and should include species name, date, exact location, numbers of bird(s), age, sex, and color morph (if applicable), and name and contact information (including e-mail address) of observer(s). Remember, unless field observations are properly documented and submitted for consideration, they have no way of becoming part of the ornithological record. Note that reporting birds to Rare Bird Alerts or listservs does not constitute submission to *NMOS Field Notes*.

Please provide details for unusual records. Details are usually needed for sightings of birds appearing in light-faced type in the *NMOS Field Checklist of New Mexico Birds* (see: [www.nmosbirds.org/nmcheck.html](http://www.nmosbirds.org/nmcheck.html)). 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 rare bird report form (available from the Editor or electronically from links on this webpage: [www.nmosbirds.org/nmbrc.html](http://www.nmosbirds.org/nmbrc.html)), although any written format is acceptable. If photographs are submitted (electronically or as slides, prints, or video), please include with the photograph the name of the species in question, date the picture was taken, the exact location, and photographer's name.

The four reporting periods correspond to the four seasons of the year, which are:

- Winter (1 December – 28/29 February)
- Spring (1 March – 31 May)
- Summer (1 June – 31 July)
- Autumn (1 August – 30 November)

Please submit reports as soon as possible after the close of a reporting period.

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**

Editor: Sartor O. Williams III, 1819 Meadowview Drive NW,  
Albuquerque, NM 87104; [sunbittern@earthlink.net](mailto:sunbittern@earthlink.net)

Assistant Editor: William H. Howe, P. O. Box 461, Albuquerque, NM  
87103; [whhowe@comcast.net](mailto:whhowe@comcast.net)

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**NEW MEXICO RARE/UNUSUAL BIRD REPORTING**

The following is a listing of information requested when reporting observations of rare or unusual birds in New Mexico. This listing is also available as an electronic form that may be used flexibly and need not be used at all (available at: [www.nmosbirds.org/nmbrc.html](http://www.nmosbirds.org/nmbrc.html)). Forms may be printed in black ink or submitted electronically. Attach available drawings, photographs (electronic, or slides, prints, video), copies of field notes, etc.; include all photos of obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: Sartor O. Williams III, New Mexico Bird Records Committee, 1819 Meadowview Drive NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104; [sunbittern@earthlink.net](mailto:sunbittern@earthlink.net). Thank you.

1. Common or scientific name.
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 ad. males in breeding plumage).
3. Locality (include County and distance from nearest named town).
4. Date(s) when seen.
5. Time(s) of day when seen.

6. Reporting observer (include middle initial, address, and e-mail address).
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, and 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; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks).
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 was 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 of 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.

**New Mexico Ornithological Society**  
**Financial Statement**  
as of 31 December, 2006

Balance as of 12/31/05:

Checking Account Balance	13,545.14
Petty Cash	20.71
Undeposited checks	92.00
Total	\$13,657.85

Net Transactions from 1/1/06 to 12/31/06:

Dues	1,835.00
NM Bird Finding Guide Sales	4,854.00
NM Field Checklist Sales	162.95
Annual meeting	424.09
Postage	-948.25
Miscellaneous	-332.45
Printing	-3700.28
Storage Unit Rent	-430.00
Interest	13.46
Total Transactions	1,878.52

Total 2006 beginning balance plus transactions	\$15,536.37
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Balance as of 12/31/06:

Checking Account Balance	15,927.57
Petty Cash Balance	25.71
Checks outstanding	-1,027.66
Undeposited Checks	610.75
12/31 balance	\$15,536.37

Petty cash income and disbursements (\$5.00 and \$(0.00)) are included in the income and expense categories above.

Date: 10 February, 2007

Submitted by:

  
Jerry R. Oldenettel, Treasurer

\* \* \*

# NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

— *Founded 1962* —

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: 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 Membership \$10; Family \$15; Student \$5; Supporting \$35; Life \$300. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: Post Office Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068.

## ***NMOS BULLETIN***

The *Bulletin* is published quarterly; 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 encouraged to submit articles and news. Articles received are subject to review and editing. Published articles are noted in major abstracting services. Please submit articles in double-spaced electronic format, such as a Microsoft Word document, by e-mail to the Editor (see inside front cover). Refer to recent issues of the *Bulletin* for examples of style. News items may be submitted to the Editor by way of e-mail.

**[www.nmosbirds.org](http://www.nmosbirds.org)**

New Mexico Ornithological Society  
P.O. Box 3068  
Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068

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