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A HALF-CENTURY OF BIRD RECORDS AT A SINGLE SITE

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Abstract.—Bird species have been recorded at a single site in Cedar Crest, New Mexico, over a period of more than 50 years, 1955 - spring 2008. Because of the presence of surface water in the form of small streams, the vegetation is well developed and diverse, making this spot unusually attractive to migrants, as well as to many other birds. During this period, we have recorded a total of 169 avian species. In addition to a comprehensive list, we briefly consider what appear to be some real changes in the local avifauna over the second half of the 20th century.

One of the most appealing aspects of birding is the always-present chance of sighting an unexpected species. Although a new or rare bird can appear at any time, this is most likely to occur during periods of migration and at certain locations. Experienced birders know of particular places that are especially likely to attract such species (e.g., Parmeter 2007). This report lists the species encountered, both rare and common, at one such site on the east side of the Sandia Mountains, New Mexico, over the years 1955 to mid-2008. It also briefly considers changes in the local breeding avifauna that occurred during that interval.

During the period January 1951 through August 1975, Barbara and Daniel McKnight resided in their home on about 5.26 ha (13 acres) of land on Casa Loma Road, Cedar Crest, (latitude 35.107° N, longitude 106.372° W, elevation 2000 m [6561 ft.]) on the east side of the Sandia Mountains, Bernalillo County, NM. Beginning in 1955 they began observing, recording and photographing the local birds. In February 1963 Barbara applied for and received a federal bird-banding permit. Thereafter, many hundreds of birds were captured by the McKnights in mist nets and ground traps. Many of their rare or unexpected records

were documented by photographs of hand-held birds, and a few specimens were taken.

This property, in the pinyon-juniper foothills, holds a diversity of habitats attractive to birds, as a result of riparian habitat associated with two small, but permanent, streams in a floodplain. The trees along the arroyo near the house consists, or consisted, primarily of introduced black willows (*Salix nigra*), Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*), trees-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), along with native cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) and Rocky Mountain junipers (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Other principal tree species near the house are exotic silver-leaf or white poplars (*P. alba*), Lombardy poplars (*P. nigra*), Russian olives (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and black locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Pinyon pines (*Pinus edulis*) and junipers of two species (*J. scopulorum* and *J. monosperma*) also are present. The elms, trees-of-heaven, and most of the Russian olives have been removed in more recent years.

Vegetation along the other small watercourse consists of native species, primarily unusually large Gamble's oaks (*Quercus gambelii*), chokecherries (*Prunus virginiana*), pinyon pines and Rocky Mountain junipers, together with a well-developed understory consisting primarily of New Mexico olive (*Forestiera pubescens*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpus oreophilus*), trumpet gooseberry (*Ribes leptanthum*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*). Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) currently is also abundant. The two streams and their associated vegetation are separated by a narrow meadow, all of which is, as mentioned, part of an ancient floodplain. The southern part of the property is a hill with rocky outcrops; its vegetation consists primarily of pinyons, junipers, mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), and Gray (*Q. grisea*) and Gamble's oaks.

In 1975 David and Sandy Ligon purchased this site from the McKnights. Beginning in June 1976 (through June 2008) they have observed the birds, noting unexpected species when encountered.

METHODS

Our species list is presented in Table 1. A second table identifies birds for which frequency of occurrence apparently has changed over time at the site (e.g., a species common during the 'McKnight years' and

rare or absent during the 'Ligon years', or vice versa). Such patterns may be attributable to real changes in geographic distribution, either expansion or contraction, to increases or decreases in population density over a broad area, or to changes in local habitat.

After the McKnights had left, a small pond was developed just west of the Ligon's property. As a result, several kinds of birds especially attracted to water and the food it contains have been recorded over the years (e.g., Osprey). In addition, from their yard, the McKnights and Ligon have noted several species passing high overhead. These, which are not listed in Table 1, include Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), and Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*).

The records of *Empidonax* species, nearly all of which were obtained by the McKnights, are based on netted birds that were measured and carefully examined in the hand. The Ligon did little banding and have not included any species that might pose special identification problems, such as most of the migratory *Empidonax* flycatchers. In a few cases specimens were taken. These were deposited at the Museum of Southwestern Biology of the University of New Mexico. Almost all of the other rare species recorded by the Ligon were seen, often repeatedly, by at least two observers. We reviewed the paper by John Tatschl (1967) on the breeding birds of the Sandia Mountains, but here consider only species recorded on, over, or just adjacent to the Cedar Crest site by the McKnights and/or the Ligon.

RESULTS

Table 1 notes species rarely or uncommonly recorded in New Mexico. Of the 18 such species, 12 normally migrate to the south of the United States. Of these 12 'Neotropical migrants', 8 are wood-warblers, several of which breed only in the eastern part of North America. Table 1 also identifies those avian species that regularly occur at no great distance from the east Sandia Mountains, but that are unexpected in this area due to habitat requirements (e.g., Black-capped Chickadee), or whose permanent range does not extend to the Sandias (e.g., Blue Jay). Finally, those species that are regularly present are also recorded.

Table 2 lists apparent changes in the occurrence of summering avian species from roughly 1955 - 1975, and from 1975 to the present. The information presented in this table may be of most biological significance. With regard to summering and breeding species, there appear to have been some real changes in the local avifauna since the departure of the McKnights in 1975. These can be categorized as species losses and species gains.

Species losses.—When the Lignons took up residence in the mid-1970's, several birds previously recorded by the McKnights were still present as spring/summer residents. These include Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Poorwill, Mountain Bluebird, and Yellow-breasted Chat; these species apparently no longer occur at this site. Others that were 'regulars' during the McKnight era, but which have never been seen on the property by the Lignons, even in the 70's, are Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Gray Catbird. The Lignons were away during the summers of 1977, '78 and '79 and 1981, which almost surely meant that they missed some interesting breeding records in the first years after the McKnights had left. For example, just prior to their departure in early June 1977 a pair of House Wrens had begun nesting, and in 1978 the same was true for Mountain Bluebirds. Neither of these species has since been seen on the property during the breeding season.

Species gains.—Several kinds of birds that were either not present at all or that were rare during the McKnight years have more recently either increased in numbers or colonized this area. Those which have conspicuously increased in the Cedar Crest area include the Cooper's Hawk and American Crow. Additionally, a few conspicuous species that are now regular breeders in the area were never recorded by the McKnights. These include the now-abundant White-winged Dove and Brewer's Blackbird.

The increases in the Cooper's Hawk and members of the genus *Corvus* (crows and ravens) represent statistically significant trends in New Mexico or over the Southwest (Table 2). The same is true for Eurasian Collared-Doves and White-winged Doves. The White-winged Dove has moved north in New Mexico over the past two or three decades and clearly has expanded its range well beyond the Rio Grande Valley. A breeding colony of Brewer's Blackbirds appeared in Cedar Crest about 5

years ago, approximately one-half mile from the area considered here, and has since returned annually to the same site.

DISCUSSION: SEEKING AN EXPLANATION FOR SPECIES CHANGES

When the McKnights first established their home, there were few large deciduous trees. Photographs taken before the arrival of the McKnights, or soon thereafter, (Fig. 1) indicate a paucity of vegetation. This was due in part to the severe overgrazing by horses, which earlier had been used to provide meat for a commercial mink and fox farm.

Over the past half century the property has become increasingly heavily-vegetated (Fig. 2). Fast-growing trees, primarily or entirely exotic species, were either planted in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps or around 1950 by the McKnights, drastically changing the vegetation picture, both in structure and species composition. By the time the Lignons occupied the place many of the exotics had grown large and had closed in and deeply shaded the first arroyo, which previously had harbored catbirds and chats. In addition, over the years snowberry, trumpet gooseberry and especially Virginia creeper have come to densely cover most of the ground in arroyo 1, probably making for an inhospitable habitat for ground-foraging birds.

One final example of the spread of exotic tree species on the east side of the Sandia Mountains, including the site considered here, is provided by the Siberian elm, which is now abundant over a broad area in Cedar Crest. (Much of the increase of this 'weed' species has occurred during the period that the Lignons have lived at Cedar Crest, which, probably not coincidentally, included the wettest 20-year period in New Mexico's history.) These major human-induced alterations of the local environment by the planting and spread of exotic trees probably can account for most of the species declines and losses from the site.

On the other hand, the development of large deciduous trees appears to favor some other species, including the Cooper's Hawk, and possibly Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, and American Robin. Certain passerines (e.g., Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak) have repeatedly

nested in the exotic trees near the house. The high perch sites also attract a number of large species, including Red-tailed Hawk, Common Raven, and occasional large flocks of migrating Turkey Vultures, among others.

The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data summarized in Table 2 suggest that most of the losses of breeding birds at this site cannot be attributed to large scale declines in numbers. Rather, changes in vegetation composition and structure probably have rendered the site inhospitable to the Common Poorwill, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. As the trees have become larger and more numerous, the local area has almost surely become less attractive to Mountain Bluebirds as well, which, in contrast to the other five birds, show a non-significant decline overall in New Mexico.

Thus it appears that human alteration of the environment, primarily by the planting and spread of exotic trees, is the primary factor that has promoted changes in the summer avifauna of Cedar Crest area, both decreases and increases. Finally, the development of large deciduous trees has probably been responsible for attracting many of the Neotropical migrants and other unusual species recorded over the years.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Daniel McKnight and Sandra Ligon for their many contributions to this study. We also thank S. Williams and W. H. Howe for their most constructive reviews of the manuscript. In particular, Howe suggested that we compare our indications of changes in the abundance of certain species with trends provided by the BBS.

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- Parmeter, J.E. 2007. Annotated checklist of the birds of the Melrose migrant trap, Roosevelt County, New Mexico. *New Mexico Ornithological Society Bulletin* 35:1-40.
- Tatschl, J.L. 1967. Breeding birds of the Sandia Mountains and their ecological distributions. *Condor* 69:479-490.

TABLE 1. List of Birds seen at the McKnight/Ligon site, Cedar Crest, New Mexico, 1955 - spring 2008.

Species	Scientific Name	Frequency	Recorder
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2	L
Cinnamon Teal	<i>A. cyanoptera</i>	2	L
Green-winged Teal	<i>A. crecca</i>	2	L
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	2	L
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	3	M, L
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2	L
Mississippi Kite+	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	2	M
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	2	M, L
Sharp-shinned Hawk+	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	3	M, L
Cooper's Hawk	<i>A. cooperii</i>	3	M, L
Northern Goshawk	<i>A. gentilis</i>	2	L
Broad-winged Hawk*	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1	L
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>B. jamaicensis</i>	3	M, L
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	3	M
Spotted Sandpiper^	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	2	M
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	3	M, L
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2	L
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	3	L
Mourning Dove+	<i>Z. macroura</i>	3	M, L
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	2	M, L
Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	2	M, L
Flammulated Owl+	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>	2	M
Western Screech-Owl+	<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>	3	M, L
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	2	M, L
Northern Pygmy-Owl+	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>	2	M
Northern Saw-whet Owl+	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	2	M, L
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	3	M, L
Common Poorwill+	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	2	M, L
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferous</i>	2	M, L
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	2	M
Magnificent Hummingbird*	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>	2	M, L
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	3	M, L
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1	L
Calliope Hummingbird+	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	3	M, L
Rufous Hummingbird+	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	3	M, L
Broad-tailed Hummingbird+	<i>S. platycercus</i>	3	M, L
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	2	L
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	2	L

TABLE 1. Continued.

Species	Scientific Name	Frequency	Recorder
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>M. formicivorus</i>	2	L
Williamson's Sapsucker+	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>	2	M, L
Red-naped Sapsucker+	<i>S. nuchalis</i>	2	M, L
Ladder-backed Woodpecker+	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>	2	M, L
Downy Woodpecker+	<i>P. pubescens</i>	3	M, L
Hairy Woodpecker+	<i>P. villosus</i>	3	M, L
Northern Flicker+	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	3	M, L
Olive-sided Flycatcher+	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	3	M, L
Western Wood-Pewee+	<i>C. sordidulus</i>	3	M, L
Willow Flycatcher+	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	2	M
Hammond's Flycatcher+	<i>E. hammondi</i>	2	M
Gray Flycatcher+	<i>E. wrightii</i>	2	M
Dusky Flycatcher+	<i>E. oberholseri</i>	2	M
Cordilleran Flycatcher+	<i>E. occidentalis</i>	3	M, L
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2	M, L
Eastern Phoebe+	<i>S. phoebe</i>	1	M, L
Say's Phoebe+	<i>S. saya</i>	3	M, L
Ash-throated Flycatcher+	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	3	M, L
Cassin's Kingbird+	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	3	M, L
Western Kingbird	<i>T. verticalis</i>	2	M, L
Northern Shrike*	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	1	M
Plumbeous Vireo+	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>	3	M, L
Warbling Vireo+	<i>V. gilvus</i>	3	M, L
Red-eyed Vireo+	<i>V. olivaceus</i>	1	M
Steller's Jay+	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	3	M, L
Blue Jay	<i>C. cristata</i>	2	L
Western Scrub-Jay +	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	3	M, L
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	2	M, L
Clark's Nutcracker+	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	2	M, L
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica hudsonia</i>	2	L
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	3	M, L
Common Raven	<i>C. corax</i>	3	M, L
Violet-green Swallow+	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	3	M, L
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2	L
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	2	M, L
Mountain Chickadee+	<i>P. gambeli</i>	3	M, L
Juniper Titmouse+	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>	3	M, L
Bushtit+	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	3	M, L
Red-breasted Nuthatch+	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	3	M, L

TABLE 1. Continued.

Species	Scientific Name	Frequency	Recorder
White-breasted Nuthatch+	<i>S. carolinensis</i>	3	M, L
Brown Creeper+	<i>Certhia americana</i>	3	M, L
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	2	M
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	2	M
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	1	M, L
Bewick's Wren+	<i>T. bewickii</i>	3	M, L
House Wren+	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	3	M, L
Winter Wren*	<i>T. troglodytes</i>	2	M, L
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	2	M
Ruby-crowned Kinglet+	<i>R. calendula</i>	3	M, L
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher+	<i>Poliopitula caerulea</i>	2	M
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	2	L
Western Bluebird+	<i>S. mexicana</i>	3	M, L
Mountain Bluebird	<i>S. currucoides</i>	2	M, L
Townsend's Solitaire+	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	3	M, L
Swainson's Thrush+	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	2	M
Hermit Thrush+	<i>C. guttatus</i>	3	M, L
American Robin+	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	3	M, L
Varied Thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	1	L
Gray Catbird+	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	2	M
Northern Mockingbird+	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2	M, L
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	2	M
Brown Thrasher+	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	1	M, L
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>T. curvirostre</i>	2	M, L
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2	M, L
Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulous</i>	1	M, L
Cedar Waxwing+	<i>B. cedrorum</i>	3	M, L
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	1	L
Golden-winged Warbler*	<i>V. chrysoptera</i>	1	L
Tennessee Warbler+	<i>V. peregrina</i>	1	M
Orange-crowned Warbler+	<i>V. celata</i>	3	M, L
Nashville Warbler+	<i>V. ruficapilla</i>	2	M
Virginia's Warbler+	<i>V. virginiae</i>	3	M, L
Northern Parula+	<i>Parula americana</i>	1	M, L
Yellow Warbler+	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	2	M, L
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>D. pensylvanica</i>	1	M, L
Magnolia Warbler+	<i>D. magnolia</i>	1	M
Black-throated Blue Warbler+	<i>D. caerulescens</i>	1	M

TABLE 1. Continued.

Species	Scientific Name	Frequency	Recorder
Yellow-rumped Warbler+	<i>D. coronata</i>	3	M, L
Black-throated Gray Warbler+	<i>D. nigrescens</i>	2	M, L
Townsend's Warbler+	<i>D. townsendi</i>	2	M, L
Grace's Warbler+	<i>D. graciae</i>	2	M
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	2	M
American Redstart+	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	2	M, L
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	1	L
Ovenbird+	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	2	M, L
Northern Waterthrush +	<i>S. noveboracensis</i>	2	M
MacGillivray's Warbler+	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	3	M, L
Common Yellowthroat+	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	2	M, L
Hooded Warbler+	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	2	M, L
Wilson's Warbler+	<i>W. pusilla</i>	3	M, L
Yellow-breasted Chat+	<i>Icteria virens</i>	2	M, L
Hepatic Tanager+	<i>Piranga flava</i>	2	M, L
Summer Tanager	<i>P. rubra</i>	2	L
Scarlet Tanager*	<i>P. olivacea</i>	1	M
Western Tanager+	<i>P. ludoviciana</i>	3	M, L
Green-tailed Towhee+	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	2	M, L
Spotted Towhee+	<i>P. maculatus</i>	3	M, L
Canyon Towhee+	<i>P. fuscus</i>	3	M, L
Chipping Sparrow+	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	3	M, L
Clay-colored Sparrow+	<i>S. pallida</i>	2	M
Brewer's Sparrow+	<i>S. breweri</i>	2	M
Lark Sparrow+	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	2	M, L
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	2	M
Fox Sparrow+	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	2	M
Song Sparrow+	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	3	M, L
Lincoln's Sparrow+	<i>M. lincolni</i>	3	M, L
White-throated Sparrow+	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	1	M
Harris's Sparrow	<i>Z. querula</i>	1	M
White-crowned Sparrow+	<i>Z. leucophrys</i>	2	M, L
Golden-crowned Sparrow+	<i>Z. atricapilla</i>	1	M
Dark-eyed Junco+	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	3	M, L
Rose-breasted Grosbeak+	<i>Phenicticus ludovicianus</i>	1	M, L
Black-headed Grosbeak+	<i>P. melanocephalus</i>	3	M, L
Blue Grosbeak+	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	3	M, L
Lazuli Bunting+	<i>P. amoena</i>	2	M, L

TABLE 1. Continued.

Species	Scientific Name	Frequency	Recorder
Indigo Bunting+	<i>P. cyanea</i>	3	M, L
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	2	L
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	2	L
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	2	L
Brown-headed Cowbird+	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	3	M, L
Bullock's Oriole+	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	3	M, L
Scott's Oriole	<i>I. parisorum</i>	2	M, L
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	1	L
Cassin's Finch+	<i>C. cassinii</i>	3	M, L
House Finch+	<i>C. mexicanus</i>	3	M, L
Red Crossbill+	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	2	M, L
Pine Siskin+	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	3	M, L
Lesser Goldfinch+	<i>C. psaltria</i>	3	M, L
American Goldfinch+	<i>C. tristis</i>	3	M, L
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	2	M, L
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	M, L

Recorded by the McKnights = M; Recorded by the Ligon = L

Frequency of occurrence: 1 = Rare in NM; 2 = Locally rare to uncommon, or irregular; more numerous elsewhere; 3 = Regular in occurrence (seen every, or almost every, year)

Documentation in addition to sightings : * = Specimen; + = One or more individuals banded and/or photographed by the McKnights at the Cedar Crest site

^ = recorded nearby, but not on McKnight/Ligon property per se

TABLE 2. Apparent changes in the frequency of summering/ breeding birds at the McKnight/Ligon site at Cedar Crest, New Mexico, based on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) trends for New Mexico and/or the Southwest over the years 1966 - 2006. **Boldfaced** birds are where Cedar Crest and BBS trends are similar, thus probably part of a larger phenomenon. *Italicized* birds are those where local trend is counter to BBS trend, thus suggesting that local conditions are driving the change.

Species	1955-1975	1976-2006	BBS Trend 1966-2006 (%/year)
Cooper's Hawk	U	C	NM: NS – Southwest: Sig. +
Eurasian Collared-Dove	–	2 records	NM: Sig. +
White-winged Dove	–	VC	NM: Sig. +
<i>Common Poorwill</i>	C	–	NM: NS +
American Crow	U	C	NM: NS + Southwest: Sig. +
Common Raven	U	C	NM: Sig. +
<i>Violet-green Swallow</i>	infrequent	regular	NM: NS –
Bewick's Wren	U	regular	NM: NS +
<i>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</i>	regular	–	NM: NS +
Mountain Bluebird	regular	–	NM: Sig. –
<i>Gray Catbird</i>	Regular (to 1969)	–	NM: NS +
<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	regular	–	NM: NS +
<i>Yellow-breasted Chat</i>	C	rare	NM: NS +
<i>Brewer's Blackbird</i>	–	new colony	NM: NS – Southwest: Sig. –

Sig. = statistically significant; NS = not statistically significant



FIGURE 1. Landscape view of the McKnight/Ligon site, Cedar Crest, New Mexico, in the 1950s.



FIGURE 2. Landscape view of the McKnight/Ligon site, Cedar Crest, New Mexico, in 2008. Photograph taken from about the same location as Fig. 1.

REQUEST FOR HISTORIC PHOTOS

The New Mexico Ornithological Society is soliciting historic photos from members for use on the NMOS web site (www.nmbirds.org). If you have photos from past NMOS meetings, field trips, or other events, and would like to share them for display on the Society's web site, please contact Dave Krueper at (dave_krueper@fws.gov). Please include a photo credit that can accompany the contributed images.

* * *

NMOS FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The New Mexico Ornithological Society recognizes those individuals who have made a significant lifetime contribution to: New Mexico's ornithological knowledge; the promotion of the value of New Mexico birds, both aesthetic and economic; effective conservation of the state's avifauna; and/or the New Mexico Ornithological Society as an organization.

Nominations for the award can be submitted by any interested individual(s) and will be accepted at any time during the year. Nominations should be submitted to the current NMOS President or Secretary (see inside front cover). The Florence Merriam Bailey Lifetime Achievement Awards Committee may seek additional information about the nominee from the person(s) who submitted the original nomination. The Awards Committee will review the nomination and determine by majority vote if, in their opinion, a nominee meets the above criteria. The decision of the committee is final. Upon recommendation of the Awards Committee, awards will be presented at the NMOS annual meeting.

For a nomination form, and to learn about previous Florence Merriam Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award winners, visit the following page on the NMOS web site: www.nmbirds.org/FMBAiley.html.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR YOUNG ADULT BOARD MEMBER

In an attempt to foster and cultivate a younger audience and leadership participation in the Society, the Board of Directors of NMOS are soliciting nominations for a new, non-voting Member position to be filled by a young adult (age 15 - 24). The successful nominee will need to attend the NMOS annual meeting as well as three or four board meetings per year at various locations in New Mexico for the duration of a two-year term. Nominations may be submitted to the current NMOS President in the form of a write-up that describes the nominee's interests, abilities, and potential for contributions to NMOS and New Mexico ornithology.

* * *

NMOS 47th ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

25 April 2009
Fuller Lodge
2132 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, New Mexico

The 47th Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held on Saturday, 25 April 2009 at Fuller Lodge, located at 2132 Central Avenue in the historic district of Los Alamos. Further details on the meeting, including the Call for Papers and registrations information, will appear in upcoming issues of the *NMOS Bulletin*. Details will also be posted on the NMOS web site, www.nmbirds.org, as they become available.

* * *

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 \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. 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.nmbirds.org

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