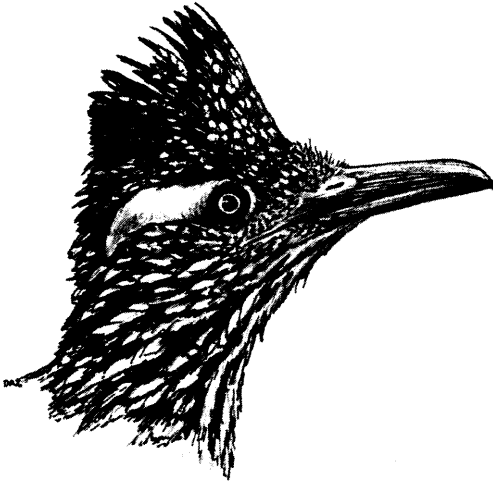


NMOS BULLETIN



New Mexico
Ornithological
Society

Vol. 39, No. 4

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2011

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THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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

OFFICERS FOR 2010 – 2012

President:

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

Vice-President:

Jonathan Batkin, 129 West Zia Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Secretary:

Ashli Gorbet, 7204 Oralee St. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Treasurer:

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

Director:

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

Director:

Chuck Hayes, 6504 Dove Court NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
chuck.hayes@state.nm.us

Director:

Janet Ruth, 105 Mission Ridge Road, Corrales, NM 87048
janet_ruth@usgs.gov

Young Adult Director:

Matt Baumann, 7800 Venice Avenue, Albuquerque, NM 87112
mb687@yahoo.com

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*:

Janet Bair, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103
jbair7@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A very Happy New Year to all of our NMOS members! As we begin 2012, I wanted to make you all aware of just what a special year this is. NMOS is celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year, and we will also be celebrating our 50th Annual Meeting on March 31, 2012. How significant is this event when viewed in the context of the Southwest? To put things in perspective, even though neighboring states achieved statehood before New Mexico, similar ornithological societies in those states began in the following years: Oklahoma (1951), Texas (1953), Colorado (1967), Utah (1980, but just dissolved on January 1, 2011), and Arizona (2005). Even California, which first established the California Field Ornithologists and since morphed into Western Field Ornithologists, didn't begin their state ornithology organization until 1970. We owe a special thanks to the founding members of NMOS, who had the vision and energy to create this organization which has served our state so well over these past 50 years.

With the beginning of the new year, we cannot help but think of members who are no longer with us. While I will not attempt to recognize everyone we have lost, certainly two of the most prominent members were Bruce Hayward, who was memorialized in a wonderful eulogy written by Dale Zimmerman earlier this year. The other was Marian Zimmerman, who passed away in November. Marian was the lifelong companion of Dale. Together they were instrumental in gathering a great deal of invaluable natural history information on the birds in Latin America and Africa over many years in the field. Marian was generous and giving of her time and knowledge, and will be missed by many.

A quick field trip update for our membership: You are all aware that NMOS is offering a data-gathering, U.S. Treasury Department approved field trip to Cuba in conjunction with the Cuban Caribbean Trust, Inc. I am pleased and proud to announce that the trip filled on the first day of reservation acceptance, and we have seven on the wait list! With such a positive response to this offering, we will certainly consider running this trip again in the future. Also, the NMOS Board has approved a NMOS-sponsored field trip to El Triunfo, Chiapas, MX, probably in the spring of 2013 or 2014. A small amount of money will be generated from these tours to be placed in the general NMOS fund to continue with our ornithological goals for the Society.

In closing, I want to thank and acknowledge our new members, as well as all of the supporting regular and Life Members which continue to support our organization. I wish you all a very safe and productive New Year, full of great birding, socializing and discovery. Please join us at the Annual Meeting and help us celebrate our 50th Birthday this March!

Dave Krueper
NMOS President

* * *

NMOS FIELD EXPEDITIONS

NMOS would like to expand our knowledge of New Mexico avifauna with the implementation of field expeditions sponsored by the organization. Field expeditions will be multiple day, usually camping, trips to all corners of the state that lack ornithological knowledge or are under-birded. Breeding densities, migratory routes and winter distribution will all be foci of the expeditions. Participation is purely voluntary, participants will arrange their own transportation, and food should be provided by every individual. Small groups will split up during the expeditions to cover as much ground as possible each day. Groups will meet back at a rendezvous point each day and compare notes. One, possibly two, trips will be set up each year, focusing on different seasons.

The inaugural Field Expedition will be to the Wind River Ranch in Mora County along the Mora River, immediately adjacent to Watrous, from 11-13 May 2012. This 4,500 acre ranch is being considered as an additional parcel in the USFWS New Mexico Refuge Complex, and the USFWS is working with the Thaw family and the Wind River Ranch Trust to make final arrangements for the transition of that property into the refuge system. The Wind River Ranch Trust, the Thaw family, and the USFWS are interested in promoting scientific inventories, and eventually an avian monitoring program in the area, and all are very interested in our NMOS Field Expeditions for some help. This ranch is a key piece in the >300,000 acre watershed protection area that has been identified by the USFWS as an "approved boundary" for the potential refuge lands in the area. The players were thrilled that NMOS might consider holding a "bio-blitz" on the Ranch. NMOS members have an open invitation to come up and use the ranch house, the bunk house with kitchen facilities, the conference center (holds 50 people), and anything else that we may need for our bio-blitz endeavor. Tent camping is also possible. We will sample the 5-mile riparian area along the Mora River, the magnificent grasslands for breeding Burrowing Owls and Long-billed Curlews, and any of the other microhabitats which are found within the 4,500 acre ranch. This is a real "win-win" for NMOS, and a great way to give back to the Thaw family and the Trust for their support to NMOS during our successful Challenge. If interested or if you need more information, please contact Dave Krueper at dkrueper@comcast.net for coordination purposes.

The second trip will be to the Guadalupe Mountains in Eddy County. This large mountain range spans many different habitat types, which will provide a good total species list. The dates for this trip are June 15-17 2012, as this should give us a complete representation of the breeding species in the area. Dark Canyon will be the main camping site and the rendezvous point for this trip. Small groups will head out to surrounding areas to tally all species recorded. Breeding species of special interest on this trip will be Hutton's Vireo, Elf Owl, Varied Bunting and Gray Vireo. This trip has the potential of finding the first recorded nest of Black-capped Vireo in the state. This species has been recorded four separate times in the Guadalupe Mountains with three recent records from Slaughter Canyon and Sitting Bull Falls. Three Black-crested

Titmouse were recorded a few miles south of the NM/TX state line in Dog Canyon on 31 August 2009 and have been recorded in Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas on three other occasions (*vide* eBird). One of the aims of this trip will be to explore suitable habitat along the state line for this species, which would represent the first records for New Mexico. For more information on this expedition, please contact Matt Baumann at mb687@yahoo.com. We will make another announcement closer to the date of the expedition.



RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

The following is a list of publications pertaining to ornithology in New Mexico and adjacent areas that appeared in 2010, 2011 and earlier. Efforts were made to provide a comprehensive listing, however it is likely that citations were omitted. To aid in the development of future annual literature compilations, please submit relevant citations to the editor.

- Behney, A.C., C.W. Boal, H.A. Whitlaw, and D.R. Lucia. 2011. Interactions of raptors and Lesser Prairie-Chickens at leks in the Texas Southern High Plains. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 123: 332-338.
- Berardelli, D., M.J. Desmond, and L. Murray. 2010. Reproductive success of Burrowing Owls in urban and grassland habitats in southern New Mexico. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 122: 51-59.
- Fair, J.M. and L.K. Marsh. 2010. Mountain Bluebird nesting in an arroyo bank in Northern New Mexico. 2010. *Western Birds* 41:115-117.
- Fettig, S.M., N.S. Cox, S.W. Cox, R.L. VanBuskirk, and M.O. Hilchey. 2010. Featured photo: Differences between the winter plumages of the Black and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in New Mexico. *Western Birds* 41: 121-124.
- Hagen, C.A., J.C. Pitman, B.K. Sandercock, D.H. Wolfe, R.J. Robel, R.D. Applegate, and S.J. Oyler-McCance. 2010. Regional variation in MTDNA of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken. *Condor* 112: 29-37.
- Hathcock, C.D., L.A. Hansen, and D.C. Keller. 2010. Occupancy of habitats by Mexican Spotted Owls in relation to explosive noise and recreational access at Los Alamos National Laboratory. *Western Birds* 41: 102-106.
- Hunt, J.L. and T.L. Best. 2010. Vegetative characteristics of active and abandoned leks of lesser prairie-chickens (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) in southeastern New Mexico. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 55: 477-487.
- Paxton, E.H., T.C. Theimer, and M.K.Sogge. 2011. Tamarisk biocontrol using Tamarisk beetles: potential consequences for riparian birds in the Southwestern United States. *Condor* 113: 255-265.
- Snyder, N.F.R., H.A. Snyder, N. Moore-Craig, A.D. Flesch, R.A. Wagner, and R.A. Rowlett. 2010. Short-Tailed Hawks nesting in the sky islands of the Southwest. *Western Birds* 41: 402-430.

- Stahlecker, D.W., D.G. Mikesic, J.N. White, S. Shaffer, J.P. DeLong, M.R. Blakemore, and C.E. Blakemore. 2009. Prey remains in nests of Four Corners Golden Eagles, 1998–2008. *Western Birds* 40: 301-306.
- St-Louis, V., A.M. Pidgeon, M.K. Clayton, B.A. Locke, D. Bash and V.C. Radeloff. 2010. Habitat variables explain Loggerhead Shrike occurrence in the northern Chihuahuan Desert, but are poor correlates of fitness measures. *Landscape Ecology* 25: 643-654.
- Witt, C.C., M.S. Graus, and H.A. Walker. 2010. Molecular data confirm the first record of the Long-billed Murrelet for New Mexico. *Western Birds* 41: 160-167.
- Wolfe, D. H., L. C. Larsson, J. R. Oldenettel, H. A. Walker, And M. A. Patten. 2011. Status of populations of the White-tailed Ptarmigan at the southern edge of its range. *In*: R. T. Watson, T. J. Cade, M. Fuller, G. Hunt, and E. Potapov (Eds.). *Gyrfalcons and Ptarmigan in a Changing World*. The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho, USA. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4080/gpcw.2011.0122>.

* * *

REVIEWERS FOR VOLUME 39

The New Mexico Ornithological Society and the Editor of the *NMOS Bulletin* thank the following individuals who served as reviewers for manuscripts that appeared in Volume 39 of the *Bulletin*:

William H. Howe, David J. Krueper, Mark B. Robbins, Hira A. Walker, Sartor O. Williams III.

* * *

RESEARCH GRANTS

NMOS offers two research grants each year to help support research on New Mexico birds. The *Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant* for \$1,000, is presented in memory of Ryan Beaulieu. Following the wishes of Ryan's family, this grant will support research projects that do not involve the collection of birds. For more information about Ryan Beaulieu and his bird research interests, see the *Audubon* magazine article, *Band of Brothers*, about Ryan and his friends Raymond VanBuskirk and Michael Hilchey and their Rosy-Finch project. The *NMOS Research Grant* is also available for \$1000. The criteria for both grants are that: 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 preference 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 state clearly whether the project does or does not involve collection of birds. 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. All proposals will be evaluated together and up to two proposals will be awarded grants. The *Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant* will fund a project that does not involve the collection of birds; the *NMOS Research Grant* is open to all projects that meet the criteria above.

Please submit your electronic proposal, "NMOS Grant" in the subject line, to:

Dr. Janet Ruth
USGS Arid Lands Field Station
Albuquerque, NM (janet_ruth@usgs.gov)

The deadline for 2012 Research Grant proposals is 20 February, 2012. All applications will be acknowledged within a week of proposal receipt. If no acknowledgement is received, it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with their submission to ensure consideration. Grant awards are announced at the NMOS Annual Meeting.

* * *

**NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
50TH ANNUAL MEETING
31 MARCH 2012**

Best Western Rio Grande Inn
1015 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico
505-843-9500; www.riograndeinn.com

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) will hold its 50th Annual Meeting on Saturday, 31 March 2012, at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn, located just north of the “Old Town” historic district of Albuquerque. This meeting will include an NMOS business meeting, celebration of our 50th Anniversary, an NMOS general science session, and an evening banquet with keynote banquet speaker Dr. Dale Zimmerman. Registration is required for all events.

Out-of-town participants are encouraged to stay on site at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn; directions are available on the hotel website (see above).

There will be a minimal registration fee (\$10 - \$20 for pre-registration; \$15 - \$25 for on-site registration) for the Annual Meeting to cover meeting expenses (program/abstract booklet and refreshments at the breaks). The abstracts for presentations at the NMOS General Science Session will be distributed at the meeting and will be published in the *NMOS Bulletin*.

The NMOS evening banquet will also be held at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn; the keynote banquet speaker will be Dr. Dale Zimmerman. He will speak about the changing status of the birds in the greater Silver City area, Grant County, NM. The banquet will be a plated dinner. We are asking you to select one of three menu items – Pork Tenderloin, Honey Piñon Chicken, or vegetarian. A vegan option is available upon request. The price is \$27 (note that this includes tax and gratuity) and banquet reservations are available with pre-registration only. Payment for registration and the banquet are to be made through NMOS using the registration form below.

NMOS is working on some ideas to make an organized, guided field trip(s) available (no charge): possibly one on Friday evening, 30 March, and one on Sunday morning, 1 April. Information on field trips and who to contact will be posted on the NMOS website <http://www.nmbirds.org> as it is available.

To register electronically, please save a copy of the Word version of the registration form (located on the NMOS website) to your computer and fill out the form. Email the form to Ashli Gorbet at antelope916@hotmail.com AND print a hard copy and mail with payment according to instructions below.

* * *

**NMOS 50th ANNUAL MEETING
31 MARCH 2012**

**CALL FOR PAPERS
NMOS GENERAL SCIENCE SESSION**

Oral presentations for the NMOS General Science Session 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; size should be no larger than 36" H X 48" W. Please submit abstracts for the General Science Session containing the following:

- 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.

Please email your abstract, including the entire abstract in the body of the email, NOT as an attachment. This will prevent any problems with incompatible word processing formats. **The deadline for submission of abstracts is 10 February 2012.** Please email your abstract to BOTH Martha Desmond at mdesmond@nmsu.edu and Chuck Hayes at chuck.hayes@state.nm.us by 10 February. All abstract submissions will be acknowledged within a week of receipt. If no acknowledgement is received, it is the submitter's responsibility to follow up with the Session Chair to ensure consideration. The abstracts for the NMOS General Science Session will be distributed at the meeting and will be published in the *NMOS Bulletin*.

SESSION Chair: Martha Desmond 575-646-1217
BACKUP: Chuck Hayes 505-944-5477

* * *

**NMOS 50TH ANNUAL MEETING
31 MARCH 2012
REGISTRATION FORM**

REGISTRATION and FEES (payable to NMOS) ARE DUE BY MARCH 19!
Pre-registration fee levels and all banquet reservations are only available if registration and payment are received by this due date.

PLEASE NOTE: It is VERY IMPORTANT that people register and pay by this due date! Immediately following this deadline we must provide FINAL numbers for the banquet and meeting participants (for break food) to the caterers. In addition, this information is needed so that we know how many registration packets (agenda and abstracts) to print out prior to the meetings. Although we will continue to accept meeting registration on site, **we ask that you register for the meeting ahead of time if at all possible.** Do not expect “extra” banquet tickets to be available later than this pre-registration date or at the registration desk on site. ***Please help us meet these deadlines.***

of Meeting Pre-Registrations @ \$20 _____
of Student Meeting Pre-Registrations @ \$10 _____
of Reservations for Saturday Banquet @ \$27 _____

(Select one per person):

Pork Tenderloin _____ Honey Piñon Chicken _____
Vegetarian (Chef's Choice) _____ Vegan (Chef's Choice) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE provide your email address. It will enable us to contact you to confirm registration or with last-minute information (e.g., emergency meeting cancellation, information about field trips, etc.).

Email your Registration Form to: antelope916@hotmail.com

ALSO Mail Payment & Registration Form to:

Ashli Gorbet
7204 Oralee St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Checks should be made out to “NMOS”.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

If you have not already paid your 2012 NMOS membership dues, please take a moment to do so now. You can now pay NMOS membership dues and donate to the NMOS on Paypal. You do not need to have a Paypal account and they accept any major credit card. The link to Paypal can be found on the NMOS web site (www.nmbirds.org).

* * *

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