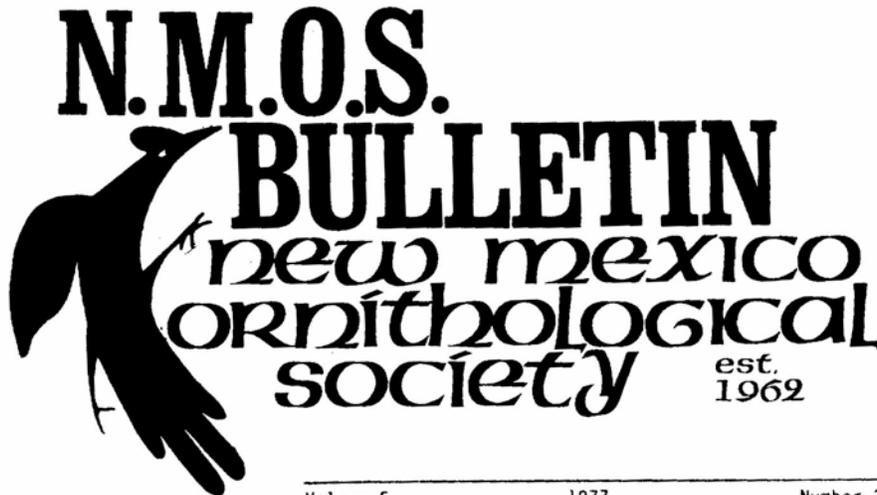


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PROBABILITY RATINGS FOR THE LIST OF UNVERIFIED SPECIES REPORTED FROM NEW MEXICO

John P. Hubbard

The following resume is based on an assessment and vote of the following people serving on the N.M.O.S. Bird Committee: Bill Baltosser, J. P. Hubbard (chairman), David Niles, Ralph Raitt, Patricia Snider, Jim Travis, Ro Wauer, Marjorie Williams, and Dale Zimmerman. The ratings are based on the average of the scores given for each species by the Committee, using 1 for Highly Probable, 2--Probable, 3--Possible, and 4--Questionable. Since the list was drawn up for review; the Trumpeter Swan and Barrow Goldeneye have been confirmed in the state, while a new addition to the unverified list is the Nutting Flycatcher (Myiarchus nuttingi)--based on an observation by D. A. and M. Zimmerman near Evans Lake, Grant Co., on 8 December 1976. Finally, the Buff-breasted Hummingbird was inadvertently left off the review list and is not included here.

HIGHLY PROBABLE (1.0 to 1.49).

Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Fulvous Whistling Duck
Costa Hummingbird

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Worm-eating Warbler

PROBABLE (1.51 to 2.49)

Red-throated Loon

White-tailed Hawk

Common Crane
American Golden Plover
Short-billed Dowitcher
Pomarine Jaeger
Black-legged Kittiwake

POSSIBLE (2.51 to 3.49)

Brown Pelican
Scarlet Ibis
Black Duck
Greater Scaup
Barrow Goldeneye

QUESTIONABLE (3.51 to 4.0)

Red-necked Grebe
Least Grebe
Trumpeter Swan
Mottled Duck
European Wigeon
Masked Duck
Black Vulture
Red-shouldered Hawk
Parasitic Jaeger
Western Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull

Black Skimmer
Thick-billed Parrot
Short-billed Harsh Wren
Common Redpoll

Whooping Crane
American Oystercatcher
White-headed Woodpecker
Rose-throated Becard

Allen Hummingbird
Ferruginous Owl
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Tufted Titmouse
Wren-tit
Cerulean Warbler
Black-headed Oriole
White-collared Seedeater
Smith Longspur

SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR SELECTED BIRDS IN BERNALILLO COUNTY

Jim Travis

The following median arrival dates for two localities in Bernalillo County are examples of how data on migration can be analyzed and used. The data **are** from the period 1965-1976 and are presented in chronological order. i.e., the general sequence of arrival of birds in spring. Dates in parentheses indicate that few records were available, while blanks indicate that the species either does not occur at that locality or dates were too few or inconclusive to analyze.

Albuquerque Cedar Crest

White-throated Swift	3-14	
Say-Phoebe	3-22	3-22
Turkey Vulture	4-3	4-3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4-3	4-14
Violet-green Swallow	4-5	4-20
Barn Swallow	4-7	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	4-12	4-22
Chipping Sparrow	4-19	4-20
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4-19	
Mockingbird	4-24	(4-20)
Hermit Thrush	4-24	(4-27)
Western Kingbird	4-24	
Virginia Warbler		4-24
House Wren	4-26	4-26
Wilson Warbler	4-28	4-25
Solitary Vireo	4-29	4-23
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	4-29	4-15
Black-headed Grosbeak	4-29	4-29
Bullock Oriole	5-1	5-1
Cassin Kingbird		5-1
Green-tailed Towhee	5-2	4-27
Yellow Warbler	5-2	5-13
Lazuli Bunting		5-4
MacGillivray Warbler	5-5	5-3
Black-throated Gray Warbler	5-6	
Western Tanager	5-8	14-30
Western Wood Pewee	5-14	5-14
Common Nighthawk	5-31	5-31

SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO HAWK COUNT

Ralph A. Fisher

The count was conducted on 14 December 1976. This was the second year that the count covered most of the southwest corner of the state, having missed 1975 due to a snow storm on the night prior to the count. The forerunner of this count has been conducted annually since 1969 by Tom Brake and myself. The count in 1976 had more participants (20) than ever before, and it covered more area" most of Grant, Luna and Hidalgo counties, plus a portion of Sierra and Dona Ana counties.

Eight routes were covered as follows: (1) Ralph Fisher, Jean Ralston; (2) Bruce Hayward, Paul Packard; (3) Robert and Janet Witzeman, Harvey and Ruth Williams; (4) Stuart and May O'Byrne, Gerry Daniel; (5) Paul Wilneth, Vic Moitoret; (6) Dale and Marian Zimmerman; (7) Walter and Sally Spofford; (8) William Baltosser, Wayne Pilz, Rex Wahi. All routes except one began at or before 8 am., and most were finished by 2 p.m. Hawks, eagles, owls, and shrikes were censused by driving various highways and backroads. Recorded were mileage, species, adult or juvenile, male or female, time, habitat, and what the bird was doing for each observation. Binoculars and scopes were used, and overlaps or duplications of routes or records were eliminated. Weather was perfect for the time of year.

Results were encouraging, with 584 individuals of eight species

of hawks. both eagles, Great Horned Owls, and Loggerhead Shrikes counted in 1026.7 miles (Table I). The Bald Eagle was located by Dusty Hunt in Clanton Canyon, Hidalgo County. The average count per hundred miles for all raptors (exclusive of shrikes) was 44.5, with the range from 17.6 to 114 over the eight routes. Excluding shrikes, 10.8% of the total birds were juveniles and of the Red-tails 18.3% were juveniles. These figures are not conclusive, since some parties did not designate all ageable birds. Of the 453 hawks, eagles, and falcons, 325 (71.7%) were perched and 128 (28.3%) were flying when counted, it is a common consensus of the observers that by 1 or 2 p.m. fewer hawks were perched; in most cases, except for Marsh Hawks, hawks were on perches until about 10 am. (For a more detailed account, send a self-addressed envelope to the Secretary.)

ROUTES	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	
Mileages	82.7	305.2	71.9	121.7	124.0	164.5	99.0	57.7	
<u>Species</u>									<u>Totals</u>
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1						4	5
Cooper Hawk	3	2	2	2			1		10
*Red-tailed Hawk	28	28	15	33	12	16	6	26	164
Adults	20	27	12	28	9	16	4	18	134
Juveniles	8	1	3	5	3	0	2	8	30
Rough-legged Hawk		1	1	2	1				5
Ferruginous Hawk	8	3			3	1	2	3	20
Buteo spp.		5		2					7
Golden eagle	5	7		11	6	2	1		32
Bald Eagle		1							1
Marsh Hawk	18	15	1	15	7	3	5	9	73
Prairie Falcon	5	12	1	1	4		2	3	28
American Kestrel	11	30	12	17	5	7	5	21	108
All eagles, hawks, falcons									
Adults	64	100	28	74	36	29	18	57	404
Juveniles	14	4	4	9	5	0	4	9	49
Perched	55	67	25	65	25	19	17	52	325
Flying	23	37	7	18	14	10	5	14	128
Great Horned Owl		2			2				4
All eagles, hawks, falcons, owls									
Totals	78	104	32	83	39	29	22	66	457
Birds/100 mi.	94.0	44.5	44.5	68.0	33.0	17.6	22.0	114.0	44.5
Loggerhead Shrike	22	42	7	21	12	13		10	127
GRAND TOTAL	100	148	39	104	53	42	22	76	584

*6.7% were melanistic

SUCCESSFUL REDHEAD NESTING ON THE BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

Gary H. Zahm

At 4:45 p.m. on 3 August 1973, I drove up to the southernmost pond of the two which lie adjacent to the west side of the Bureau of Reclamation's Low Flow Channel, which courses through the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County, New Mexico.

In the middle of the 2-acre pond were three Pintails (Anas acuta)--2 adult females and one immature which had reached flight stage. As I watched the

ducks through a pair of 7 x 50 binoculars, a male Redhead (Aythya americana) in eclipse plumage flew from a shallow, grassy cove. As I watched the male in flight, I heard the noise of a brood of ducks moving through the water. From the same grassy cove swam a female Redhead followed by six young, approximately three-fourths grown. The brood remained in full sight as they swam across the four-foot deep pond. They made their way to the far end of the pond and disappeared within a grove of flooded salt cedar or tamarisk (Tamarix pentandra).

This pond, which contains an abundance of sago pondweed (Potamogeton pectinatus) and Chara sp., was host to a variety of diving ducks including Redheads, Canvasbacks (Aythya valisineria), Ring-necked Ducks (Aythya collaris), and Lesser Scaup (Aythya affinis) during the spring of 1973. As many as five male Redheads and four females inhabited the ponds as late as 20 May.

Besides the brood of Redheads, the two ponds also produced at least two broods of Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos), one brood of Mexican Ducks (Anas diazi), four broods of American Coots (Fulica americana), one brood of Pied-billed Grebes (Podilymbus podiceps), and many broods of Red-winged Blackbirds (Agelaius phoeniceus).

To my knowledge, the only other record of Redhead nesting in Socorro County was during May 1952, when Mr. Raymond Fleetwood, biologist at the Bosque del Apache NWR noted a brood of six young. No details accompanied that record.

LATE SPRING BIRDS OF BIG BEND'S BOOT SPRINGS

John Egbert

From mid-April through early June, northbound migrant passerines sweep over the south rim of the Chisos Mountains into the pine-Oak woodland of Boot Springs. This range lies in the Big Bend country of Brewster County, Texas. Here eastern and western birds feed side-by-side, most to part company there or soon to the north. Some species remain and breed in the shady canyons of bigtooth maple, Graves oak, and Arizona cypress. Joining these breeding passerines are various southwestern hummingbirds, including the Lucifer, Blue-throated, and Rivoli. During 1976, White-eared Hummingbirds were also seen. The first three hummingbirds—plus the Broad-tailed—occur regularly along the streambed of Boot Canyon, within a half-mile of the Boot Springs cabin.

In 1976 wood warblers were abundant during late April and early May. In total, sixteen species were observed there, including the more-or-less eastern Black and White, Myrtle, Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and Mourning the western Colima, Audubon, Townsend, MacGillivray, and Painted Redstart, and the more ubiquitous Orange-crowned, Nashville, Wilson, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and American Redstart.

As in New Mexico, many kinds of birds in Big Bend tend to concentrate in riparian situations. Away from Boot Canyon, the Chihuahuan Desert prevails. and as one moves down the mountain this influence dominates. Within a hundred yards or less of the canyon there, exist desert shrubland, grassland, and pine oak woodland--as well as riparian habitats--and their ecotones. Bird life there is recognizably diverse, as the following description of the avian panorama indicates.

Colima Warblers have abandoned their dishevelled nest, which has been robbed

of its eggs and ripped apart by Mexican Jays. Male Western Flycatchers are doing regular battle. Painted Redstarts search for a nest site, only to be driven off by a pair of Colimas. The members of a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks share nesting duties in magnificent Graves oak, which spreads over the now rampant stream. A Zone-tailed Hawk scans boulders for sunning crevice scaly lizards (Sceloporus poinsetti). Blue-throated Hummingbirds duel between their Arizona cypress lookouts. Lucifer Hummingbirds bathe on mossy rhyolite boulders wet from a two-inch rain. Acorn Woodpeckers flycatch from a cypress snag; another watchfully tips into a silver dollar size nest hole in a Graves oak. Black-crested Titmice and a Bewick Wren miss a warning call, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk nearly snares a Colima. Here night may bring calls of eastern and western Screech Owls, a crying Long-eared Owl, and the appearance along the streambed of the Flammulated Owl. Great Horned Owls are also present, while Poorwills and Whip-poor-wills announce the final setting of the sun-eager to begin feeding on mosquitos hovering over canyon pools of stagnant water.

These are some of the scenes of the varied birdlife of Big Bend, in which have been recorded more species of birds than any other national park (Over 365 species). For New Mexicans, the trip is only a few hours and well worth the effort. Before you go, read Ro Wauer's Birds of Big Bend National Park and Vicinity and Naturalist's Big Bend (both available--at \$5.36 each postage-paid--from Peregrine Productions, Box 5373, Santa Fe. N. M. 87501).

AERIAL INTERACTIONS OF TWO FERRUGINOUS HAWKS

John Egbert

Three of my students and I observed the following incident on 29 January, 1977, at a locality 10 miles east of Bernardo, Socorro County, along U.S. 60. Two light phase adult Ferruginous Hawks (Buteo regalis) were first observed perched 125 meters apart, one atop a Scapweed (Yucca elata) and the other on a utility pole. Suddenly the two took flight and chased an adult Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) that flew over nearby. One of the two hawks broke off the chase shortly, but the other continued to chase the eagle for 50 meters beyond. At this point, the second hawk also broke off the chase and it was soon joined by the first hawk. The two began to soar in small circles in tandem, i.e. one bird following the other. This circling led to several instances of near contact among the two, plus three actual moments of touching.

One incident of contact occurred when one bird flew over the back of the second, swooping at and brushing the back of the latter bird. The latter seemed to ignore the contact in that instance. A similar but weaker interaction took place in the second instance. In the third instance the second bird rotated to face the first. The two seized each other, apparently by locking talons, and then tumbled with spread, flapping wings for at least 5 meters. During about three minutes of observation, a "kree-a" call was heard several times. After this period of time, the birds broke out of the circling flight and flew off in opposite directions.

Precisely what the function of the aerial maneuvers was I cannot say. It could have involved courtship, aggression, or a combination of the two behaviors. Neither Bent (Life histories of North American falconiformes, Part I, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 167:284-292, 1937) nor Brown and Amadon (Eagles, hawks, and falcons of the world, vol. 2. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1968) mention aerial displays in this species of Buteo, and in fact such appear to be rare in the genus--being known in B. hemilasius of Eurasia (Brown and Amadon, op.

cit.) and in the New World B. albonotatus (Hubbard, Condor, 76: 214-215, 1974).

GIVE GEORG WILHELM HIS DUE!

John P. Hubbard

According to Peter Matthiessen (Wildlife in America, Viking Press, New York, 1959), Georg Wilhelm Steller has nine North American plants and animals named after him. One of these species is the Steller Jay, discovered by him on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, about three decades before the beginning of the American Revolution. While not as striking as the extinct Steller Sea-cow (Hydroamalis stelleri) or the Steller Eider (Somateria stelleri), Steller would he proud to have this jay bear his name.

Perhaps it is the influence of the Sputnik Age and our ventures into outer space, but some people seem intent on depriving Georg Wilhelm of his jay! The problem, you see, is that many New Mexico birders have taken to referring to Cyanocitta stelleri as Stellar's Jay. As you know, the word stellar comes from stella (Spanish estrella). Latin for ``star.'' Stars and Georg Wilhelm have little in common, other than their nominal competition for this jay (and perhaps others of Steller's creatures). In all fairness, Steller did find the jay and bring it to the attention of science--so, let us give Georg Wilhelm his due: it is the S T E L L E R Jay, everybody!

Incidentally, Mr. Steller explored easternmost Siberia, westernmost North America, the North Pacific Ocean, and various interspersed islands with Admiral Vitus Bering. Bering was a Dane, sent in 1741 from the Russian Court to explore the above area, mainly in connection with the fur trade. Besides exploration, the expedition carried out biological studies: hence the discoveries of Steller. Among the latter are the only recorded observations of the sea-cow mentioned above, as well as of the extinct Spectacled or Pallas Cormorant (Phalacrocorax persipicillatus)--both definitely known only from Bering Island. Steller was 32 when the expedition began, and although he died soon after--in 1746--he left a legacy that should not be forgotten.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, 19 March 1977

Morning Session

Jim Karo "Slides of Birds"
Bruce Hayward "Business Meeting"
"Wanderings of Birds"
John Hubbard "Seasonal Occurrence of Raptors"
Jim Sands "Gamebird Migration"
Jim Travis "Spring Arrivals/Sandhiil Crane Migration"

Afternoon Session

Bill Baltosser "Hummingbird Ecology in the Southwest"
Terry Riley and Charles Davis "Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat"
Chuck Hundertmark and Henry Zeller "Waterbird Nesting at Elephant Butte"
John Egbert "The Colima Warbler in the Big Bend"
Ralph Raitt "Bird Habitats in Colombia"
David Ligon "Wood-hoopoe Research in Kenya"
David Ponton "Peregrine Falcons at a New Mexico Eyrie"

Evening Session

Robert Miller "Bird Adventures on Hudson Bay"

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Henry M. Zeller, Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the Society for 1977 was held at the Biology Building, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, being convened at about 9:30 a.m. the meeting was preceded and followed for the rest of the day by an interesting program. Fifty-three members of the Society attended, and there were about 10 guests.

1. The Minutes of the 1976 Annual Meeting were approved.
2. The President made several announcements.
3. The Treasurer gave his financial report for 1976 (see 1976 Financial Report, NMOS Bulletin. Vol 5, No 1).
4. The President spoke of the financial problems of the Society, which had been discussed at Board of Directors meetings, More funds are needed for publications, particularly. A result of this discussion was the suggested establishment of new membership types as provided by the proposed revision of the By-laws. The revised By-laws would provide for Patron and Supporting memberships for persons wishing to contribute substantially to the Society. It has been suggested that appropriate gifts be presented to such persons. One new source of funds which has brought \$300 to the treasury lately is our recent contract with the Santa Fe National Forest to prepare annotated bird lists for three areas of the Forest. The lists were prepared by Henry Zeller and checked by John Hubbard and Jim Travis.
5. John Hubbard discussed the publications of the Society. Because of funding problems, it was necessary that members purchase special publications, only the Bulletin and the Field Notes being free of charge. Special publications would be offered to members at a reduced price, however. The next such issue would be on the subject of Elephant Butte Marsh, by Chuck Hundertmark. It was nearly ready for printing. Hubbard asked for ideas from members for our publications, and invited their contributions to the Bulletin or of special manuscripts, etc. He reported that a revision of the NMOS Checklist was well under way and should be issued in the late fall or early winter. He concluded by calling for volunteers to cover the US Fish and Wildlife Service breeding bird routes. These are run once each in late May or June, June being the best time.
6. Amendment of the By-Laws: The President introduced the proposed amendments to the By-laws for consideration. These had been published in the Bulletin issues, Vol 4, No. 4, and Vol 5, No. 1. Only some 25 votes on the amendments had been received by mail, although these were all in favor of the proposal. The President asked all those present who had not submitted written ballots to indicate whether they approved the amendments. Approval was unanimous, so with these votes plus those that had been received by mail, it was determined that the amendments were approved, and they were so declared by the President.
7. Election of Officers and Directors: The President brought out, under the amendments to the By-laws, just approved, that the number of Directors was increased to seven, including the Officers, and that Officers were to be elected by the membership to specific positions. There were to be three Directors who were not Officers. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Dave

Ligon, Chairman, Dot DeLollis, and Ross Teuber, had recommended the following slate: for President, Bruce Hayward; for Vice-President, Ralph Raitt; for Secretary, Henry Zeller; for Treasurer, Jim Sands; as Directors, Bill Baltosser, John Hubbard, and Jim Travis. There were no further nominations. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Officers and Directors be elected as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

8. Appointments to Staff Positions: According to the amended By-Laws Staff positions are made official. The appointments of the individuals already holding the positions listed below were automatically confirmed: as Editor of the Bulletin, John Hubbard; as Editors of the Field Notes, Bill Baltosser (Senior Editor) and John Hubbard; as Conservation Chairman, Henry Zeller.

g. Appreciation for Services to the Society: The President extended the appreciation of the Society to Claudia Hubbard for her services for the two years just past. He also gave our thanks to Boyd McLeod for his great help with publications of the Society. Following the President's remarks, it was moved, seconded, and carried that Boyd McLeod be made a Life Member of the Society.

10. The President announced the address of the newly elected Secretary as the official address of the Society: Henry H. Zeller, 152 East San Mateo Rd., Santa Fe. N.M. 87501: telephone 505/982-3084

In conclusion, the 1978 Annual Meeting may be in Portales in April. The 1977 meeting was adjourned, having lasted approximately an hour.

SPRING BIRD COUNTS

According to information received as of press time, the following count information pertains:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinators</u>
Roswell	30April ¹	Marjorie Williams (Roswell--623-5429)
Gila Valley	7 May	Ralph Fisher (Bayard--537-2148)
Farmington	114 May	Alan Nelson (Farmington--325-3619)
Espanola	15 May	Ellen Espinoza (Espanola area--753-6787) Bill Stone (Santa Fe--988-1454)

¹ will be held 14 May if the above day is unsuitable.

BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

New Mexico's 27 Breeding Bird Survey Routes are not yet fully signed up for, and we urge qualified members to take on those that are still open. The counts take 3-4 hours on one morning in June, based on 50 stops of 3 minutes each along a 25 mile prescribed route. If you are interested in running a count, contact John Hubbard, 2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe 87501 (988-5918).

Counts that are not allocated: Nageezi (San Juan Co.), Pecos (San Miguel), Tucumcari (Quay), Fence Lake (Valencia), Floyd (Roosevelt), Horse Springs (Catron), San Antonio (Socorro), Carrizozo (Lincoln), Deming and Gage (Luna), Jornada (Dona Ana), Cloudcroft (Otero), Maijamar (Lea).

NEWS OF MEMBERS OF THE N.M.O.S.

Ross Teuber is recovering from surgery in Albuquerque, and we all join in

wishing him a rapid return to good health. Two Fish and Wildlife Service stalwarts of the Society have recently transferred out of New Mexico, and we wish them well: Gary Zahm has gone to South Dakota and Barnet Schranck to Washington, D.C.

REMINDER ON AMERICAN BIRDS/FIELD NOTES REPORTS

As indicated in a previous Bulletin, there is a new schedule for American Birds reports. For those of you who may have missed the new schedule, it is repeated below:

Season Report Due Period

winter	1 Dec-28 Feb (3 months)	10 March
spring	1 Mar-31 May (3 months)	10 June
summer	1 June-31 July (2 months)	10 August
autumn	1 Aug-30 Nov (4 months)	10 December

Reports should be submitted to John Hubbard (2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe 87501), if you send your data elsewhere they may not appear in American Birds, because any delay under our tight deadlines may simply be too much to overcome. These reports are also used to compile the much more detailed Field Notes, and the data will be forwarded to Bill Baltosser after it is no longer needed for the American Birds summary. Please adhere to this methodology to ensure that our reports are as complete as possible. After used for these reports all data will be entered into NMOS archives; even if all the data that you submit is not published, you can rest assured that it will remain on file. Some of you submit very extensive reports (e.g. Walton Hawk, Pat Snider), and these data are extremely valuable archival material.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

PRESIDENT: Bruce J. Hayward, Dept. Biol. Sciences, WNMU, Silver City 88061
SECRETARY: Henry M. Zeller, 152 East San Mateo Road, Santa Fe 87501
EDITOR, BULLETIN: John P. Hubbard, 2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe 87501