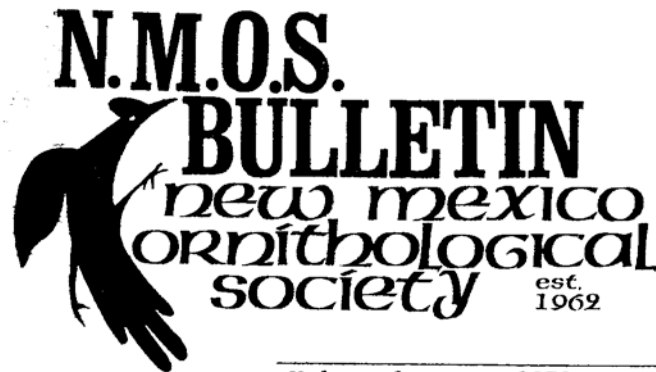


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## SOME NESTING BIRDS OF ROOSEVELT COUNTY

By Eugene Moore

The following 31 species of birds have nested on my ranch, which is located in prairie land southwest of Portales.

Swainson Hawk	Great Horned Owl	Curve-billed Thrasher
Ferruginous Hawk	Burrowing Owl	Common Starling
American Kestrel	Common Nighthawk	Loggerhead Shrike
Scaled Quail	Red-headed Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Bobwhite	Eastern Kingbird	Western Meadowlark
Lesser Prairie Chicken	Western Kingbird	Eastern Meadowlark
Killdeer	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Roadrunner	Horned Lark	Bullock Oriole
Mourning Dove	White-necked Raven	Blue Grosbeak
Rock Dove	Mockingbird	Lark Sparrow
		Cassin Sparrow

Note: Mr. Moore is a longtime resident of Roosevelt County, and his property includes part of Boone's Draw -- Editor

## 1978 SOUTHWEST RAPTOR COUNT

This annual event will be held on 2 December in the southwestern counties: contact Ralph Fisher (537-2148) in Bayard N M

### NEW MEXICO BREEDING SPECIES AND NUMBERS BY COUNTY FOR 1976

By James R. Travis

The following 93 species and 427 records are contained in the NMOS Breeding Record Program for 1976. If you have data that are not included, please send it to the Editor.

Eared Grebe (Rio Arriba-1); Pied-billed Grebe (San Juan-2).

Great Blue Heron (Catron-1,, Grant-1).

Canada Goose (San Juan-3); Mallard (Grant-2, San Juan-12); Pintail (San Juan-1).

Cooper Hawk (Grant-1); Red-tailed Hawk (Grant-5, Hidalgo-2, San Juan-2); Swainson Hawk (DeBaca-2, Grant-1, Guadalupe-1, Hidalgo-2, Luna-2, Roosevelt-1); Black Hawk (Grant-4); Golden Eagle (Luna-2).

Prairie Falcon (Grant-1); American Kestrel (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1, Rio Arriba-1, San Juan-1).

Scaled Quail (Hidalgo-1); Gambel Quail (Bernalillo-3, Grant-4); Ring-necked Pheasant (Bernalillo-4).

Turkey (Catron-1, Grant-1).

American Coot (Catron-1, Rio Arriba-1, San Juan-1).

Killdeer (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1, San Juan-1).

Long-billed Curlew (Colfax-1); Spotted Sandpiper (Bernalillo-1).

Mourning Dove (Bernalillo-77, Catron-2, Grant-2, San Juan-3, Union-2).

Roadrunner (Sandoval-1).

Barn Owl (Grant-2).

Screech Owl (Bernalillo-1); Great Horned Owl (Bernalillo-1, Grant-8, Hidalgo-1, San Juan-2); Long-eared Owl (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1).

Black-chinned Hummingbird (Bernalillo-3, Grant-2, Hidalgo-1).

Common Flicker (Bernalillo-2, Grant-1, Union-2); Acorn Woodpecker (Grant-1); Lewis Woodpecker (Catron-1, Union-1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sandoval-1); Williamson Sapsucker (San Juan-1); Hairy Woodpecker (Sandoval-1); Downy Woodpecker (Bernalillo-1); Ladder-backed Woodpecker (Eddy-1).

Western Kingbird (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1); Cassin Kingbird (Hidalgo-1); Wied Flycatcher (Catron-1); Ash-throated Flycatcher (Bernalillo-2, Catron-1); Black Phoebe (Bernalillo-2); Say Phoebe (Catron-1, Grant-1, Los Alamos-1, Santa Fe-2); Willow Flycatcher (Catron-1); Western Flycatcher (Sandoval-2); Coues Flycatcher (Hidalgo-1); Western Wood Pewee (Bernalillo-7, Grant-2, Sandoval-3); Vermilion Flycatcher (Eddy-1).

Barn Swallow (Colfax-1, Grant-1, Hidalgo-1, Mora-1); Cliff Swallow (Bernalillo-1, Eddy-1, Grant-3, Rio Arriba-1).

Stellar Jay (Sandoval-1); Scrub Jay (Grant-2, Rio Arriba-1); Common Raven (Grant-5, Los Alamos-1, Rio Arriba-1); White-necked Raven (Luna-4, Socorro-1); Clark Nutcracker (Sandoval-1).

Black-capped Chickadee (Bernalillo-1); Mountain Chickadee (Bernalillo-1).

White-breasted Nuthatch (Bernalillo-2, Grant-1); Pygmy Nuthatch (Catron-1, Grant-1, Sandoval-4).

House Wren (Catron-1, Grant-2); Bewick Wren (Grant-3); Cactus Wren (Grant-1); Long-billed Marsh Wren (San Juan-1); Canon Wren (Catron-1); Rock Wren (Eddy-1, Rio Arriba-1).

Gray Catbird (Bernalillo-5); Curve-billed Thrasher (Catron-3, Grant-7).

American Robin (Bernalillo-12, Catron-1, Rio Arriba-2, Sandoval-9); Western Bluebird (Grant-1, Hidalgo-1, Sandoval-4, San Juan-1).

Phainopepla (Grant-1).

Starling (Bernalillo-11, Rio Arriba-1, Sandoval-3).

Yellow Warbler (Bernalillo-1, Rio Arriba-1); Common Yellowthroat (Bernalillo-1); Yellow-breasted Chat (Bernalillo-5); Red-faced Warbler (Catron-1, Grant-1).

House Sparrow (Sandoval-1).

Western Meadowlark (San Juan-1); Yellow-headed Blackbird (Rio Arriba); Red-winged Blackbird (Bernalillo-1); Scott Oriole (Grant-2); Northern Oriole (Bernalillo-9, Grant-1, San Juan-2); Brewer Blackbird (Coifax-1); Brown-headed Cowbird (Bernalillo-9).

Black-headed Grosbeak (Bernalillo-26, Grant-1, Sandoval-2); Blue Grosbeak (Bernalillo-2);

House Finch (Bernalillo-1, Grant-3); Lesser Goldfinch (Bernalillo-3, San Juan-1); Rufous-sided Towhee (Bernalillo-1); Brown Towhee (Grant-1); Rufous-crowned Sparrow (Hidalgo-1); Gray-headed Junco (Sandoval-1); Yellow-eyed Junco (Hidalgo-1); Chipping Sparrow (Union-1); Lincoln Sparrow (Taos-1).

### **SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR BIRDS IN EASTERN NEW MEXICO 1965—1977**

By James R. Travis

Sufficient data have accumulated for the following 28 species to present a summary of spring arrivals in three areas of eastern New Mexico. The most meaningful date is probably the median (H), which is simply the middle value in a series of annual arrivals. Next most important is the 75% range (R), which is the series of dates that encompasses three-fourths of the values.

	<u>ROSWELL</u>			<u>LAS VEGAS</u>			<u>CLAYTON</u>		
	N	M	R	N	M	R	N	M	R
Turkey Vulture	10	3/16	3/7-21	11	4/2	3/25-4/8	5	4/15	4/12-25
Long-billed Curlew	7	4/3	3/28-4/17	7	4/20	4/20-5/3	5	4/4	4/2-7
Common Nighthawk	9	5/3	4/18-5/10	10	5/29	5/27-6/5	8	5/16	5/10-29
White-throated Swift				6	3/28	3/2 5-4/22			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	10	4/9	4/3-20	4	5/11	5/2-24	3	5/4	4/29-5/24
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	5	4/22	4/16-5/7	11	4/28	4/19-5/5			
Western Kingbird	10	4/16	4/12-20	11	5/1	4/19-5/4	4	4/30	4/29-5/10
Cassin Kingbird							6	4/30	4/26-5/10
Say Phoebe				11	3/14	3/10-4/6	5	3/18	3/13-24
Western Wood Pewee	9	5/5	4/24-5/10	7	5/16	5/14-19	3	5/16	5/11-19
Violet-green Swallow				8	4/28	4/5-5/12			
Barn Swallow	10	3/17	3/9-22	11	4/18	4/13-23	5	4/22	4/16-28
Cliff Swallow	8	3/21	3/16-4/28	8	4/28	4/19-5/9			
House Wren	8	4/20	4/5-26	11	5/3	4/25-5/7	6	5/1	4/22-5/11
Mockingbird				10	5/2	4/20-5/12	5	4/22	4/17-30
Hermit Thrush	8	4/14	4/6-30	4	4/27	4/16-28	4	4/20	4/11-29
Solitary Vireo	5	4/30	4/10-5/3	6	5/2	5/1-9			
Virginia Warbler	4	4/21	4/20-5/3	6	5/5	5/1-9			
Yellow Warbler	6	5/8	4/25-5/15	9	5/12	5/4-15	6	5/9	4/2 5-5/10
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	4/1	3/25-4/9	10	4/26	4/13-28	5	4/18	4/14-30
Wilson Warbler	11	4/17	4/7-23	10	5/8	4/24-5/21			
Northern Oriole	10	4/25	4/20-5/3	11	5/7	4/2 9-5/10	5	5/7	5/5-12
Western Tanager	7	5/6	5/28-5/11	9	5/8	5/4-11	3	5/14	5/11-19
Black-headed Grosbeak	10	5/10	5/1-14	10	5/3	4/30-5/7			
Lazuli Bunting				9	5/5	4/25-5/15	6	5/13	5/11-15
Green-tailed Towhee	7	4/27	4/4-5/5	8	4/9	4/28-5/5			
Lark Sparrow	8	4/29	4/14-5/11	9	5/7	4/28-5/14	5	4/29	4/24-5/2
Chipping Sparrow	9	4/10	4/3-24	12	4/27	4/11-5/1	7	4/25	4/12-29

NOTE: Dates are recorded as month/day, i.e., 3/16 is March 16; N stands for sample size

**SUMMARY OF BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS  
IN THE PLAINS OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO**

By C. Gregory Schmitt

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sponsored breeding bird surveys in New Mexico since 1968. Over this period, sufficient data have accumulated in four areas to present a summary of findings. The counts in question are from the Roswell area (Chaves Co.), Floyd (Roosevelt Co.), Cooley Lake (De Baca Co.), and Grenville (Union Co.), all in or near the prairies of the eastern part of the state.

A total of 54 species has been recorded in the four combined counts, which collectively span 33 years. The species maxima per count for the counts are: Roswell 43 (10 years), Floyd 27 (6 years), Cooley Lake 41 (7 years), and Grenville 43 (10 years). The mean numbers of birds per count are: Roswell 984.7, Floyd 459.3, Cooley Lake 591.6, and Grenville 611.0.

Twenty-two of the species recorded on the four counts are associated with grasslands, and 18 to 20 of the total occur in each of the survey areas. The following are the species and their mean densities for the years in which they have been recorded on each survey.

	<u>ROSWELL</u>	<u>FLOYD</u>	<u>COOLEY LAKE</u>	<u>GRENVLE</u>	<u>OVER- ALL</u>
Turkey Vulture	9.7	0.1	2.4	0.6	4.2
Swainson Hawk	2.0	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.2
Golden Eagle	0.3	0	0	0.3	0.3
Marsh Hawk	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Scaled Quail	53.3	28.7	23.1	4.1	27.4
Mountain Plover	0.5	0	0	12.2	6.3
Long-billed Curlew	0	4.6	2.7	1.2	2.8
Mourning Dove	191.7	32.5	65.7	20.5	77.6
Burrowing Owl	0.5	2.3	2.7	1.0	1.6
Common Nighthawk	22.5	2.1	5.2	1.9	10.5
Western Kingbird	25.6	14.1	37.0	12.0	22.1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	0.1	0.3	0.2	0	0.2
Horned Lark	285.2	41.0	56.4	170.5	213.2
Loggerhead Shrike	13.7	9.8	9.8	4.5	9.3
Eastern Meadowlark	36.9	62.8	43.4	0	47.7
Western Meadowlark	63.1	44.6	74.4	180.7	165.7
Brown-headed Cowbird	3.1	0.1	2.7	1.8	1.9
Lark Bunting	4.0	15.6	0.1	8.7	3.7
Grasshopper Sparrow	0	0	0	0.3	0.3
Lark Sparrow	6.8	5.7	12.5	10.1	8.7
Cassin Sparrow	<u>99.3</u>	<u>88.8</u>	<u>121.7</u>	<u>59.9</u>	<u>92.4</u>
Mean	821.4	398.4	482.6	492.1	713.0

Other species recorded on these counts are as follows (numbers refer to average densities):

ROSWELL (10 years): Red-tailed Hawk 1.7; American Kestrel 0.2; Killdeer 0.1; Great-horned Owl 1.4; Black-chinned Hummingbird 0.6; Ladder-backed Woodpecker 0.2; Cassin Kingbird 0.9; Ash-throated Flycatcher 1.8; Say Phoebe 5.0; Bank Swallow 2.6; Rough-winged Swallow 2.5; Barn Swallow 0.6; Cliff Swallow 17.5; Cactus Wren 18.4; Rock Wren 0.1; Mockingbird 95.5; Curve-billed Thrasher 1.0; Common Starling 0.2; House Sparrow 0.2; Red-winged Blackbird 0.2; House Finch 7.9; Brown Towhee 1.1; Black-throated Sparrow 3.2,

FLOYD (6 years): Bobwhite 0.8; Killdeer 1.0; Rock Dove 0.1; Roadrunner 0.3; Mockingbird 21.0; Curve-billed Thrasher 0.1; Common Starling 0.1.

COOLEY LAKE (7 years): Red-tailed Hawk 0.1; American Kestrel 2.2; Bobwhite 4.4; Killdeer 3.4; Rock Dove 0.8; Roadrunner 0.4; Black-chinned Hummingbird 0.1; Common Flicker 0.1; Red-headed Woodpecker 0.1; Ash-throated Flycatcher 1.4; Say Phoebe 1.1; Rough-winged Swallow 2.5; Barn Swallow 3.4; Cliff Swallow 6.2; Common Raven 0.5; Common Starling 15.1; House Sparrow 49.7; Red-winged Blackbird 21.4; House Finch 1.4; Rufous-crowned Sparrow 0.1; Black-throated Sparrow 0.7.

GRENVILLE (10 years): American Kestrel 0.5; Killdeer 4.8; Rock Dove 5.4; Roadrunner 0.3; Common Flicker 0.1; Red-headed Woodpecker 0.1; Cassin Kingbird 0.8; Ash-throated Flycatcher 0.1; Say Phoebe 3.2; Barn Swallow 1.0; Cliff Swallow 16.8; Black-billed Magpie 0.6; Common Raven 2.1; Canyon Wren 0.4; Rock Wren 3.9; Mockingbird 51.5; Common Starling 0.4; House Sparrow 10.8; Red-winged Blackbird 1.6; House Finch 0.6; Brown Towhee 1.2; Rufous-crowned Sparrow 0.9.

### **A POSSIBLE HYBRID CHICKADEE FROM NEW MEXICO**

By John P. Hubbard

The Black-capped (*Parus atricapillus*) and Mountain (*P. gambeli*) chickadees occur widely together in western North America, including in northern New Mexico. In the latter area -- and apparently elsewhere -- there is some segregation by habitat, with Blackcaps typically in broadleaf riparian and other deciduous growth, while Mountain Chickadees typically utilize coniferous woodlands and forests. However, much overlap exists, and even the lowland strongholds of Blackcaps may occasionally host breeding Mountain Chickadees, e.g. near Albuquerque.

In spite of the wide overlap and apparent close relationships of these two species, there appears to be almost no indication that they interbreed. In fact, the sole instance purported to represent an instance of hybridization has recently been refuted by Banks (Wilson Bull. 82:331, 1970). This instance involved a bird taken on 14 August 1870 by H. D. Schmidt at Bitter Cottonwood Creek, Wyoming. Suchetet (1897) identified the specimen as a hybrid, quoting Robert Ridgway to the effect that it was exactly intermediate between the two species. Banks (op. cit.) disagrees with this assessment; he considers the bird to be a typical Blackcap, except for a few white-edged feathers in the superciliary.

Several years ago I noted that an apparent Black-capped Chickadee in the Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard University) possessed white feathers in the superciliary areas. The specimen is a male taken on 21 September 1918 by A. P. Smith at Bell (elevation 8,000 ft.) - 12 miles NE of Raton -- Colfax County. There are ten or so white-tipped feathers in each superciliary area plus whitish flecking over the lores. In addition, there are several other characteristics that are not typical of either species:

back color-- intermediate between the two species

rump color-- closer to that in the Mountain Chickadee, i.e. , more like the back (in the Blackcap this area is more contrasted and buffier than the back)

underparts-- closer to those of the Blackcap, but paler and with a dark suffusion -- giving a dingy appearance

tail, wings-- closer to those of the Blackcap, but white edgings reduced.

throat patch— closer to that of the Blackcap, i.e. small rather than large as in the Mountain Chickadee.

In winglength the two species of chickadee in New Mexico are similar, but the Blackcap averages longer in tail and stubbier in bill.

The possible hybrid measures: wing - 67.0mm, tail 66.0mm, and bill (culmen from nostril) 8.0mm.

BANKS, R. C. 1970. Re-evaluation of two supposed hybrid birds. Wilson Bull. 82:331-332.

SUCHETET, A. 1897. Des hybrides a l'etat sauvage. Regne animal. Classe des Oiseaux. Paris. (not seen).

### NOTES AND NEWS 1978 Christmas Counts

#### Count

Alamogordo	16 Dec.	Larry Murphy, Alamogordo (437-0554)
Albuquerque	23 Dec.	Jim Karo, Albuquerque (254-2777).
Bosque del Apache	30 Dec.	Chuck Hundertmark, Alb. (266-9402)
Gila Valley	30 Dec.	Ralph Fisher, Bayard (537-2148)
Glenwood	29 Dec.	John Hubbard, Santa Fe (988-5918)
Roswel 1	16 Dec.	Hal Hallett, Roswell (622-4885)
Sandia Mts.	16 Dec.	Ross Teuber, Albuquerque (265-8962)
Santa Fe	17 Dec.	Bill Stone, Santa Fe (988-1454)
Silver City	16 Dec.	Ralph Fisher, Bayard (537-2148)

No other information received, but other counts will presumably be held at Farmington, Espanola, Clayton, Las Vegas, Peloncillo Mts., Las Cruces, and in the Carlsbad area.