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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1979 ANNUAL MEETING

By John P. Hubbard

The 1979 Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held at the Department of Biology, University of New Mexico. The date will be 24 March, with the activities beginning at approximately 8:30am. Registration will be held during the meeting, and memberships and publications will be available as well.

The usual format for the meeting is to begin with an informal slide show, followed by the business session and the presentation of papers on ornithological subjects. Following lunch, there will be additional papers as appropriate. Finally, an evening program is the usual event, with an illustrated lecture being the typical bill of fare. Meals are left to the discretion of the attendees, but coffee and doughnuts are available during morning and afternoon sessions.

Anyone wishing to give a paper or other presentation is invited to write or call Dr. Bruce Hayward for this purpose.

We urge everyone to attend the meeting, and presentations are solicited from as wide a spectrum of attendees as possible. Preferred are at least semi-scientific, 15 to 20 minute presentations on New Mexico birds, but some latitude in these areas can be considered.

No field trip has been scheduled as of this date, but a Sunday birding foray is traditional.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1979-80 OFFICERS

By John P. Hubbard

President Bruce Hayward appointed a committee of Burt Lewis, Pat Snider, and Bill Turner to nominate candidates for the 1979-80 offices in the NMOS. Their selections are:

President: John P. Hubbard
Vice-President: Jim Travis
Secretary: Mary Lou Arthur
Treasurer: Ross L. Teuber
Directors-at-large: Alan Nelson
Charles A. Hundertmark

Bill Baltosser is a carry-over director and his term will expire in one year. Chuck Hundertmark is nominated to fill John Hubbard's remaining year as a director, and this term is also for one year.

If there are other nominations for any of the above offices, these should be communicated to Burt Lewis. Nominations may also be accepted from the floor, although it is preferable to have these in advance of the meeting. Voting on nominations will be held during the business session, on the morning of the Annual Meeting.

TWO MEXICAN RECOVERIES OF BIRDS BANDED IN NEW MEXICO

By John P. Hubbard

It is always a thrilling event to have one's banded birds recovered; and recoveries of U.S. birds in foreign countries have to top the list. The following are two that may be of interest to readers, both from the standpoint of the recoveries themselves and the process of elucidating them.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus). On 7 July 1973, I banded an adult female (No. 633-90523) near Signal Peak, Pinos Altos Mountains in Grant County. This undoubtedly represented a breeding bird.

In 1976 I was informed by the Bird Banding Laboratory (Patuxent, Maryland) that this bird had been recovered in the vicinity of Chimaltitam, Jalisco, by Rodolfo Paz-R. The date of the recovery was given as June 1976, which would have been in the breeding season in that region. This was surprising, because our race of Sharp-shin (A. s. velox) is not supposed to breed in that area of Mexico -- being replaced by A. s. suttoni. Curious about the situation, I wrote to the Laboratory for copies of their correspondence. This information indicated that Sr. Paz had written to report the recovery in May 1976, and from this was deduced a recovery date of November 1972 -- 9 months before I banded it! The place of recovery was given as 130 km N of Guadalajara in the Serra Madre.

I then wrote to Mr. Paz to inquire about the date of recovery, pointing out the discrepancy. In turn, he replied that a second party -- unnamed -- had actually killed the hawk, while hunting in the mountains. Mr. Paz requested the hunter, and to the best of his recollection, he stated that the recovery was made in November -- but in 1973 instead of 1972!

Thus, we know that a breeding Sharp-shin from southwestern New Mexico moved south some 725 miles -- probably in the autumn after it was banded -- where it was recovered by a Mexican hunter and perhaps eaten!

Hooded Oriole (Icterus cucullatus). On 31 July 1973, I banded an immature female (No. 671-65774) at Carrizalillo Spring in Luna County. In 1974 I was informed by the Laboratory of the recovery of this bird, and I subsequently obtained copies of the original correspondence reporting the incident.

The recovery was made on 28 November 1973, about 100 km N of Tepic, Nayarit - - with the information shown on a map that was enclosed. The bird had been killed by Sr. Enedino Lopez, who wrote to the Laboratory c/o Sr. Rodolfo Martines of Tepic. I subsequently wrote to Mr. Lopez for more information but never received any reply. Tepic lies some 650 miles SSE of Carrizalillo Spring.

These two recoveries are interesting enough in themselves, but the coincidences of their bandings and recoveries also deserves comment. Both were banded in July 1973 and recovered in November 1973, The banding and recovery sites were on the order of 75 miles apart, and both birds were killed -- apparently shot for food or sport.

SUMMARY OF MIGRANT PASSERINES BANDED IN EASTERN NEW MEXICO

By John P. Hubbard

In May 1971, I began my involvement in banding migrant passerines at oasis-like sites in the plains region of eastern New Mexico. The sites for banding were near Clayton (Union Co.), the Portales area (Roosevelt Co.), and the Jal area (Lea Co.). As of September 1977, some 85 species and 1544 individuals had been banded¹, including 78 species and 1036 individuals in spring and 45 species and 508 individuals in autumn. These results show that eastern New Mexico sustains a significant diversity and density of migrant birds, with oasis-like sites being particularly productive for demonstrating the situation. The summary of the banding results is as follows:

| | <u>Clayton</u> <u>Spring</u> | <u>Portales Area</u> <u>Spring</u> <u>Fall</u> | | <u>Jal Area</u> <u>Spring</u> <u>Fall</u> | | <u>Totals</u> <u>Spring</u> <u>Fall</u> | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----|--|----|--|-----|
| <u>Flycatchers</u> | | | | | | | |
| Traill | 0 | 55 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 56 | 20 |
| Least | 0 | 0 | 147 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 152 |
| Dusky | 0 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 2 |
| Olive-sided | 0 | 17 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 26 | 1 |
| Other (2 spp.) | 0 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 15 | 3 |
| <u>Nuthatch</u> | | | | | | | |
| (Red-breasted) | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| <u>Wrens</u> (2 spp.) | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 |
| <u>Mimids</u> (2 spp.) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| <u>Thrushes</u> | | | | | | | |
| Hermit | 3 | 47 | 0 | 90 | 0 | 140 | 0 |
| Swainson | 51 | 45 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 103 | 0 |
| Other (2 spp.) | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| <u>Gnatcatcher</u> | | | | | | | |
| (Blue-gray) | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| <u>Kinglet</u> | | | | | | | |
| (Ruby-crowned) | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| <u>Vireos</u> (4 spp.) | 0 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 9 |
| <u>Warbler</u> | | | | | | | |
| Yellow | 3 | 1 | 10 | 20 | 1 | 24 | 11 |
| Audubon | 10 | 32 | 1 | 33 | 0 | 75 | 1 |
| MacGillivray | 19 | 51 | 4 | 30 | 0 | 100 | 4 |
| Wilson | 4 | 54 | 180 | 37 | 10 | 95 | 190 |
| Other (17 spp.) | 15 | 28 | 34 | 32 | 9 | 75 | 43 |

¹Banding was done mainly under my master permit or that of the N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish; however, these totals include birds banded near Portales in Sept. 1976 under Barbara McKnight's permit, and I appreciate her allowing me to include these data here.

| | <u>Clayton</u> <u>Spring</u> | <u>Portales Area</u> <u>Spring</u> <u>Fall</u> | | <u>Jal Area</u> <u>Spring</u> <u>Fall</u> | | <u>Totals</u> <u>Spring</u> <u>Fall</u> | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----|--|---|--|----|
| <u>Orioles</u> (2 spp.) | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| <u>Tanagers</u> | | | | | | | |
| Western | 1 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 20 | 8 |
| Other (Hepatic) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| <u>Finches</u> | | | | | | | |
| Chipping Sparrow | 0 | 27 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 30 | 8 |
| Lincoln Sparrow | 12 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 4 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 2 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| Other (10 spp.) | 11 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 2 | 35 | 17 |

Dates of banding

Clayton: 13-14 May 1971, 16-20 May 1972, 10-11 May 1975
Portales Area: 5-6 May 1971, 22 May-2 June 1975, 26 April-3 May

1976; 4-16 September 1976
Jal Area: 5-6 May 1975, 17-21 May 1975; 7-8 September 1977

EDITORS OF NMOS FIELD NOTES, 1962-1977

By John P. Hubbard

The major accomplishment of the New Mexico Ornithological Society over the years has been its publications, and the most important of these has been the Field Notes. Through 1977, 32 numbers of Field Notes have been published, involving thousands of records and hundreds of hours of editing and writing for publication. Amazingly, all of the approximately 600 pages of Field Notes have been edited by eight people, with seven of these having been involved in two or more numbers. This production has been hard work, and the Society owes these volunteers a great debt of gratitude for their contributions. In addition, L. J. Lefkowsky prepared the much appreciated index for those issues for the years 1962-67.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1962,no.1 | J.R. Travis, B. McKnight, and M. Huey |
| 1962,no.2 | J.R. Travis and B. McKnight |
| 1963,no.3 | J.R. Travis and B. McKnight |
| 1963,no.4 | J.R. Travis, B. McKnight, and W.S. Huey |
| 1963-64,no.5 | J.R. Travis, B. McKnight, and W.S. Huey |
| 1964,no.6 | B.C. McKnight and OH. Niles |
| 1964-65,no.7 | B.C. McKnight and OH. Niles |
| 1965,no.8 | B.C. McKnight and P.R. Snider |
| 1965-66,5:1 | B.C. McKnight and P.R. Snider |
| 1966,5:2 | B.C. McKnight and P.R. Snider |
| 1966-67,6:1 | B.C. McKnight, P.R. Snider, and J.P. Hubbard |
| 1967,6:2 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1967-68,7:1 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1968,7:2 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1968-69,8:1 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1969,8:2 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1969-70,9:1 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1970,9:2 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1970-71,10:1 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and P.R. Snider |
| 1971,10:2 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and J.R. Travis |
| 1971-72,11:1 | J.P. Hubbard, B.C. McKnight, and D.M. Niles |
| 1972,11:2 | J.P. Hubbard, D.M. Niles, and B.C. McKnight |
| 1972-73,12:1 | J.P. Hubbard, D.M. Niles, and B.C. McKnight |
| 1973,12:2 | J.P. Hubbard, D.M. Niles, and B.C. McKnight |
| 1973-74,13:1 | J.P. Hubbard and B.C. McKnight |
| 1974,13:2 | J.P. Hubbard and B.C. McKnight |
| 1974-75,14:1 | J.P. Hubbard |
| 1975,14:2 | J.P. Hubbard |
| 1975-76,15:1 | J.P. Hubbard |
| 1976,15:2 | J.P. Hubbard and W.H. Baltosser |
| 1976-77,16:1 | W.H. Baltosser and J.P. Hubbard |
| 1977,16:2 | W.H. Baltosser and J.P. Hubbard |

SURVEYS FOR BALD EAGLES IN NEW MEXICO

By John P. Hubbard

While the Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) has been known from New Mexico for many years, the first comprehensive survey of the species in the state was not conducted until the winter of 1977-78. Now, in the winter of

1978-79, the scope and extent of surveying has been increased, and it is anticipated that statewide surveys will continue into future years.

The 1977-78 venture involved mainly the efforts of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the U.S. Forest Service. The former placed emphasis on aerial surveys of the northern half of the state and the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys. The Forest Service placed emphasis on ground surveys, mainly in or near national forests; some aerial surveys were also conducted in the western half of the state. In total, 358 Bald Eagles were counted in New Mexico in late winter and early spring 1978, with 46.6% of the birds being immatures.

In 1978-79, both of these agencies are again involved in eagle surveys, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and others. Game Department emphasis will again be placed on aerial surveys, while the Forest Service will use both a ground and an aerial approach. One survey has already been completed, that being on 29-30 November 1978 by the Game Department in the northern half of New Mexico. A total of 91 Bald Eagles was recorded on that survey, with 35.2% of these being immatures.

In addition to the above surveys, the National Wildlife Federation has sponsored a nationwide count of Bald Eagles in the U.S. N.M.O.S. members can contribute by reporting numbers, ages, places, dates, and activities of any birds seen in January. Send the information to me, as I am acting as state coordinator for the N.W.F. count in New Mexico. I would also like to receive any record that you may have of Bald Eagle nests or occurrences in the period April-August in the state. Thanks!

NOTES AND NEWS

We are saddened to report the death of Mrs. Delbert Boggs at Roswell in 1978, Mrs. Boggs was known to visitors at Bitter Lake N.W.R., as she frequently accompanied Delbert on his rounds and while birding.

Mary Russell has improved to the point of being able to walk and feed herself to varying degrees. She has not regained her speech yet, but we hear that she reads and understands well. We wish her our best, for she is a wonderful and warm person.

Jim Sands is retiring as the N.M.O.S. Treasurer after a continuous stint of service beginning about 1968. The Society is grateful to Jim for this contribution of his time and effort in our behalf. Also deserving N.M.O.S. thanks are the outgoing officers, including Bruce Hayward who has served so ably for several years. Others are Ralph Raitt and Chuck Hundertmark.

Service to the Society is both a satisfying and an essential element in propagating the group. We need help in many facets of our operation, and we invite you to communicate your interests and offers of help to the officers of the Society. The N.M.O.S. has endured since 1962, and we hope to achieve our 20th anniversary and go on from there. To do this, we need new commitment from the membership, so pitch in and do your part. Belonging is more than just paying your dues; it also involves giving of yourself, even if it is only to tell those who do more that the job has been well done.

The 1978 breeding bird routes need to be assigned as soon as possible, as several people have or may drop ones that they have run in the past. In order to "clear the decks," all routes will be considered available until written notification to the Editor is received that you are committed to one or more routes in 1979. Those running the route in 1978 will be given preference, but

get your bids in now. The routes in New Mexico are: Farmington, Nageezi, Cebolla, Ojo Sarco, La Cienaga, Wagon Mound, Mora Grant, Logan, Crownpoint, Correo, Valencia, Cooley Lake, Floyd, Fence Lake, Horse Spring, Horse Mountain, San Antonio, Carrizozo, Roswell, Caprock, Rodeo, Gage, Deming, Jornada, Cloudcroft, Pecos, Greenville, Torreon, Claunch, Hope, and Maljamar.

We need your 1978 Christmas Count data for the winter American Birds report, as well as for the NMOS Field Notes later on. Please send these reports to the Editor within the first 10 days of March, along with your data on notable birds seen in the period of Dec. 1978 - Feb. 1979.

The membership discount on the Revised Check-list of the Birds of New Mexico expires at the end of March 1979. This means that it will still be available to you at the Annual Meeting at the reduced price of \$1.50. The discount applies only to your first copy; other copies are sold at the regular price of \$2.50. If anyone has any problem with the binding, let us know so it can be replaced -- free of charge. This assumes normal use and care, which should be thousands of openings and closings for the life of the book.

Breeding record cards for 1978 are requested, so that the data can be included in a summary for the year. So far we have received cards from Donna Cole (47 cards), Marshall Conway (4), Ralph Fisher (14), Kris Frame (1), Dean Hector (1), J.P. Hubbard (20), Bill Isaacs (1), Mickey Lang (2), Bruce Hayward (4), Barbara and Dan McKnight (18), Marj. Swain (36), Marietta Sumner (1), and Jim Vaught (1). Let's go, you others!

Tired of just reading articles in the Bulletin by the Editor? You can do something about this by contributing articles yourselves -- do so now. Notes, news, and longer pieces are needed for future Bulletins, with the next deadline being 1 April, 1979.

Two of our members, Greg Schmitt and Donna Cole, have arrived in Bolivia after an epic trip overland in their Jeep from New Mexico. They will be doing biological surveys and collecting in the Chaco of Bolivia and Paraguay, and work has already begun. Headquarters for now are in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Walton Hawk is now a resident of San Cristobal, in Taos County. For many years Dr. Hawk has lived in Las Vegas. However, he has birded and sent in reports on both of these areas, and elsewhere, for several years. Good birding in your new home, Walton.

The new logo design for the Bulletin is from a Mimbres motif, as figured in a recent book by Dr. J. J. Brody of the University of New Mexico, "Mimbres Painted Pottery." The design appears to represent a Roadrunner and a rattlesnake, and we hope the members appreciate the work of these early birders of southwestern New Mexico. Besides the Roadrunner, their motifs seem also to depict herons, hawks, turkeys, quail, parrots, and swallows, not to mention lesser animals such as bats, rabbits, pronghorns, and bears.

American Birds reports are to be sent to the Editor within 10 days after the close of a reporting period. These periods are:

winter: December - February
spring: March - May
summer: June - July
fall: August - November

Please be prompt in sending in your records and be sure to give

substantiating details for unusual records. We thank all of you for your participation, including new contributors from Hobbs (Hart Schwarz) and Williamsburg (Doris Miller).

JOIN THE NMOS

Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to everyone. Membership offers you two issues of the Field Notes and four of the Bulletin each year, plus an Annual Meeting each spring. It also provides an opportunity for you to publish your observations and articles, Membership costs are:

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| student: | \$ 2.50 |
| institutional: | 2.50 |
| regular: | 5.00 |
| family: | 7.50 |
| contributing: | 25.00 |
| patron: | 100.00 |

Contact the Secretary or Editor for more information, or send your dues to the Secretary.