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Volume 7 1979 Number 2

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

By Mary Lou Arthur

The meeting opened on 24 March 1979 at 8:45 a.m. in the Biology Building, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, with a slide show presented by John Egbert. The business session was called to order at 9:30 by President Bruce J. Hayward. Forty-two people were in attendance. The Minutes of the 1978 Annual Meeting were corrected and approved. Chuck Hundertmark, Secretary, reported that this was the last day the Revised Check-list of Birds of New Mexico would be available at \$1.50 first copy to members, in the future, the price will be \$2.50 per copy. Treasurer Jim Sands reported:

Balance on hand January 1, 1978	\$1108.64
December 31, 1978	953.47
Current balance	736.00

The loan of \$1250 from Sangre de Cristo Audubon for publication of the Revised Check-list of Birds of New Mexico has now been reduced to \$450 as of January 11, 1979. The Nominating Committee, Burt Lewis, Pat Snider, and Bill Turner, proposed the following slate of officers for 1979-1980: John P. Hubbard, President; James R. Travis, Vice-President; Mary Lou Arthur, Secretary; Ross L. Teuber, Treasurer; Charles A. Hundertmark and Alan Nelson, Directors-at-large. Election was unanimous. Announcement was made that two issues of Field Notes are in the process of being completed. Also the, nest record cards will soon be available to members. Jim Travis reported that the 10-year index to the Field Notes is completed. Publication of this will be in the near future. John Hubbard discussed the breeding bird census scheduled for the last of May and June. He encouraged members to take part in these counts and to contact him about routes. Dave Lange announced the Southwest

Conference of the National Audubon Society will be held between June 4-11, 1980 at Ghost Ranch. This will be a series of meetings and field trips. Information is needed from the members for good birding areas within the state. He would like to compile regional brochures for use at this time. Pat Snider offered to help on this project. Bert Lindsay gave a short talk on the Friendship Force, a cultural exchange group going to Korea in June. The cost is less than \$400 for two weeks there. He is the State Chairman and is encouraging birders to go. More Information can be obtained by calling him at 299-7454. Jim Travis led in a round of applause for Bruce Hayward and Jim Sands, in appreciation of their service to the Society. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.

The morning session was concluded with Transect Studies of New Mexico Birds: "Roadside Raptor Counts" - John Hubbard and "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Counts" - James Travis. In the afternoon, papers were given by: Tom Marr - "Foraging Behavior of Nesting Cactus Wrens"; Michael Delasanto - "Breeding Ecology of the Black-throated Sparrow"; Rex Wahl - "Experimental Investigation of Some Aspects of Mobbing Behavior"; James Travis - "Analysis of Vocalizations in Empidonax Flycatchers"; James Travis - "Endangered Birds of Hawaii"; Bruce Hayward - "South African Birds"; John Egbert - "An Instance of Bird Predation by an American Kestrel", and concluding, James Bednarz - "The Red-shouldered Hawk Population in Iowa". In the evening, an excellent slide program was presented by Dr. Walter Spofford, Aguila Rancho, Portal, Arizona, on "Roadside Raptors of Africa. "

NMOS BREEDING RECORD PROGRAM FIVE-YEAR ANALYSIS: 1970-1974

By Charles A. Hundertmark

Since 1965, the New Mexico Ornithological Society has maintained a state breeding record program. In this paper, I analyze contributions of this program and update the summaries which have appeared in previous NMOS Field Notes (Hundertmark 1968, 1969). Since the 1969 breeding season, our nest record files have expanded rapidly, and coverage by species, habitat type, county, and altitude have all improved. There remain, however, many areas for which data are needed.

By 1969, records for 177 species of breeding birds had been submitted to the NMOS breeding record program (Hundertmark, 1969). Since then, records for 45 additional species have been submitted, bringing the total number of species as of February 1975 for which we have recent breeding records to 222. Notable among the additions to the list since 1969 are Western Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Eastern Bluebird, and Cassin's Finch.

Along with the addition of species, improved geographical coverage of the state is indicated since 1969. Over 100 records have been submitted for each of 15 counties, compared with 7 counties in the same category at the end of 1969. At the other end of the spectrum, only 8 counties remain for which we still have fewer than 50 breeding records. This compared with 19 counties with fewer than 50 records at the end of the 1969 nesting season. Coverage of the eastern part of the state improved considerably, with conspicuous increases in Quay, DeBaca, Roosevelt, and Guadalupe counties. Coverage in Curry County, however, remained minimal. The northeastern counties of Harding, Colfax, and Mora also received minimal coverage. In Taos, Santa Fe, and San Miguel counties, coverage declined somewhat from the pre-1969 level.

Coverage of the higher elevations in the state has also improved since 1969. From 1970 through 1974, breeding records were distributed by altitude ranges

(Table 2). Prior to 1969, we had almost no records from above 7000 feet elevation. Our coverage by altitude probably closely reflects the areal proportion of altitude ranges in the state now. Nevertheless, some of the major gaps in our records remain in the higher altitudes. This probably reflects the greater difficulty in locating nests in forested areas, compared with lowlands where nests may be more conspicuous in open vegetation, improved coverage of higher altitudes has added recent records for such species as Gray Jay, MacGillivray Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow.

Finally, our coverage by type of habitat has substantially improved since 1969. For example, Improved coverage of eastern counties has resulted in improved coverage of grassland habitats. We have also greatly increased our coverage of marshlands, where major gaps existed in our pre-1969 records. And, as already noted, our coverage of mountain habitats has increased substantially since 1969.

As ornithological work in New Mexico progresses, I believe the value of the breeding record program will increase. For example, I think that the breeding record files will serve as an increasingly more important source of data in the preparation of environmental assessments. In fact, those of us who have the opportunity to review those assessments should insist that government agencies use this data source. The breeding record files should help us accurately assess the status of a growing number of breeding birds in the state.

Obviously, we will better serve all of these purposes if our breeding record coverage continues to improve, as it has over the past five years. While all records add to our coverage, work directed toward remaining gaps in the overall record will be particularly useful. We need current data on several species of ducks which probably still nest on northern lake areas. We need records on a number of mountain species, particularly those nesting in the spruce-fir zone or higher. We also need data on several species which nest in limited areas such as the Bobwhite and Mexican Chickadee. And finally, we need more data from a number of counties which remain poorly surveyed.

Bibliography

- Hundertmark, C. A. 1968. Summary of New Mexico Ornithological Society participation in the North American Nest Record Card Program during 1968. NMOS Field Notes 7:24-28.
- Hundertmark, C. A. 1969. Summary of the nest record program in New Mexico for 1969, and a five-year analysis. NMOS Field Notes 8:29-31 .

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF BREEDING RECORDS SUBMITTED FOR EACH N.M. COUNTY

<u>County</u>	<u>1965-1969*</u>	<u>1970-1974</u>	<u>Total</u>
Catron	128	166	294
Grant	651	212	863
Hidalgo	74	30	104
Torrance	64	29	93
Valencia	22	40	62

TABLE I (Continued)

<u>County</u>	<u>1965-1969*</u>	<u>1970-1974</u>	<u>Total</u>
Eddy	71	155	226
Mora	19	20	39
Luna	28	33	61
Taos	105	60	165
Union	41	37	78
Santa Fe	140	87	227
San Miguel	69	40	109
Colfax	13	9	22
Sandoval	123	179	302
Bernalillo	275	485	760
RIo Arriba	76	111	187
Socorro	124	535	659
Los Alamos	32	12	44
San Juan	30	467	497
Lincoln	14	24	38
Chaves	79	86	165
Roosevelt	9	51	60
De Baca	7	85	92
Otero	6	59	65
Guadalupe	14	37	51
Doña Ana	8	55	63
McKinley	9	1	10
Sierra	13	156	169
Quay	3	228	231
Lea	8	28	36
Harding	2	0	2
Curry	0	4	4

* includes a few records from years preceding 1965.

TABLE 2

DISTRIBUTION OF 1970-1974 BREEDING RECORDS BY ALTITUDE

<u>Altitude in feet above sea level</u>	<u>Number of breeding records</u>	<u>Percentage of breeding records</u>
Under 4000	295	8.5
4000-4999	1232	35.5
5000-5999	868	24.9
6000-6999	505	14.5
7000-7999	305	8.8
8000-8999	128	3.7
9000-9999	109	3.1
Over 10000	26	0.7
Unknown	<u>10</u>	<u>0.3</u>
Total	3478	100.0

NEW MEXICO BREEDING SPECIES AND NUMBERS BY COUNTY FOR 1977

By James R. Travis

The following 98 species and 325 records are contained in the NMOS Breeding Record Program for 1977, If you have data that are not included, please send it to the Editor,

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

Canada Goose (San Juan-8); Mallard (Catron-1, Grant-2, San Juan-7); "Mexican" Duck (Catron-1); Gadwall (Colfax-3); Green-winged Teal (Catron-1); Cinnamon Teal (Catron-2); Ruddy Duck (Catron-2, Colfax-3); Common Merganser (Grant-1, Sandoval-1, San Juan-1).

Goshawk (Sandoval-1); Cooper Hawk (Grant-3); Red-tailed Hawk (Eddy-1, Grant-13, Hidalgo-5, Luna-1, San Juan-1); Swainson Hawk (Grant-1); Zone-tailed Hawk (Grant-2); Black Hawk (Grant-5); Golden Eagle (Grant-2, Luna-1).

Scaled Quail (Hidalgo-6); Gambel Quail (Grant-4, Hidalgo-3).

Turkey (Grant-1).

American Coot (Catron-2, Colfax-1, Hidalgo-1).

Killdeer (Hidalgo-1, San Juan-1); Mountain Plover (Union-2).

Rock Dove (Union-1); White-winged Dove (Hidalgo-1); Mourning Dove (Bernalillo-3, Hidalgo-10, Luna-3, San Juan-3).

Roadrunner (Luna-2)

Barn Owl (Grant-2, Hidalgo-1).

Screech Owl (Hidalgo-1); Great Horned Owl (Grant-7, Hidalgo-3, Luna-1, San Juan-3); Burrowing Owl (Hidalgo-1); Long-eared Owl (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1).

White-throated Swift (Grant-1).

Black-chinned Hummingbird (Hidalgo-1, San Juan-2).

Belted Kingfisher (Grant-1).

Common Flicker (Bernalillo-1, Grant-2, Sandoval-2, Socorro-3); Red-headed Woodpecker (Bernalillo-1); Lewis Woodpecker (Rio Arriba-2); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Rio Arriba-1); Hairy Woodpecker (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1, Sandoval-1, San Juan-1).

Western Kingbird (Chavez-2, Hidalgo-1, San Juan-1, Socorro-1); Cassin Kingbird (Hidalgo-1, Luna-1); Ash-throated Flycatcher (Grant-2, Hidalgo-1, Socorro-1); Say Phoebe (Catron-2, Hidalgo-2, Los Alamos-1, Santa Fe-1); Dusky Flycatcher (McKinley-1); Western Flycatcher (Grant-1, Sandoval-4); Western Wood Pewee (Grant-1, Sandoval-4); Vermilion Flycatcher (Grant-3, Hidalgo-1).

Violet-green Swallow (Grant-1); Barn Swallow (Union-1); Cliff Swallow (Grant-1, Rio Arriba-10; Purple Martin (Catron-2).

Scrub Jay (Grant-2); Mexican Jay (Grant-1); Common Raven (Grant-7, Los Alamos-1, Luna-1, San Juan-1); White-necked Raven (Chavez-7, Grant-4, Hidalgo-1, Luna-1).

Mountain Chickadee (Grant-1, San Juan-1); Verdin (Luna-1).

White-breasted Nuthatch (Catron-1, Grant-2, Sandoval-1); Pygmy Nuthatch (Sandoval-1, San Juan-1).

House Wren (Sandoval-4); Cactus Wren (Hidalgo-1, Luna-1); Cañon Wren (Bernalillo-1, Catron-1); Rock Wren (Hidalgo-1, Union-1).

Mockingbird (Hidalgo-1); Curve-billed Thrasher (Grant-3, Luna-1).

American Robin (Bernalillo-1, Grant-1, Sandoval-4, San Juan-2, Valencia-1); Hermit Thrush (Sandoval-1); Western Bluebird (Grant-1, Sandoval-2, San Juan-3).

Phainopepla (Grant-1).

Starling (Bernalillo-3, Grant-1, Luna-1, Sandoval-3, Socorro-3).

Solitary Vireo (Grant-1, Sandoval-1).

Virginia Warbler (Catron-1, Rio Arriba-1); Lucy Warbler (Hidalgo-1); Parula Warbler (Bernalillo-1); Yellow Warbler (San Juan-1); Yellow-breasted Chat (Grant-2).

House Sparrow (Luna-1).

Western Meadowlark (Mora-1); Hooded Oriole (Hidalgo-1); Scott Oriole (Grant-2); Northern Oriole (San Juan-2); Great-tailed Grackle (Bernalillo-1).

Western Tanager (Sandoval-1, San Juan-1); Summer Tanager (Grant-1, Bernalillo-1).

Black-headed Grosbeak (Sandoval-2, Bernalillo-2); Blue Grosbeak (Sandoval-1); Indigo Bunting (Grant-1); House Finch (Hidalgo-1, Luna-1, Quay-1, San Juan-1); Pine Siskin (Sandoval-1); Lesser Goldfinch (Grant-1, San Juan-1); Rufous-sided Towhee (Catron-2, Grant-1, Los Alamos-1); Brown Towhee (Quay-1); Rufous-crowned Sparrow (Grant-1); Black-throated Sparrow (Hidalgo-3); Gray-headed Junco (Grant-1, Sandoval-2); Chipping Sparrow (Rio Arriba-1, San Juan-1); Lark Sparrow (Sandoval-2).

Addenda for 1976

Mountain Plover (Sandoval-1), for new totals of 94 species and 427 records. Ed.

NEW MEXICO'S ENDANGERED BIRDS

By John P. Hubbard

New Mexico's state endangered species list has been revised and reissued as Regulation No. 599, effective 25 May 1979. Birds now listed as endangered in New Mexico are:

Group I -- Gray Hawk, Caracara, Peregrine Falcon, Aplomado Falcon, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, Coppery-tailed Trogon, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, and Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Group II -- Olivaceous Cormorant, Mississippi Kite, Black Hawk, Bald Eagle, (Mexican) Turkey, Whooping Crane, (inland) Least Tern, Buff-collared

Nightjar, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Gila Woodpecker, Thick-billed Kingbird, Beardless Flycatcher, Bell Vireo, Varied Bunting, Yellow-eyed Junco, and McCown Longspur.

Group I species are those whose prospects of survival or recruitment in New Mexico are in jeopardy, a definition that is roughly equivalent to the federal term "endangered." Group II species are those the survival or recruitment of which could become jeopardized within the near future, which is roughly the same as the federal "threatened." Most Group I species on the above list have suffered notable declines in New Mexico, and some of the species may even be extirpated there, e.g., Sharp-tailed Grouse. Group II species are generally in better straits, but some catastrophic event could shift them to Group I status, e.g., massive destruction of habitat.

One will note that most of the species listed above cannot really be considered to be endangered or threatened in the broad sense, that is, their survival is not jeopardized or apt to become so over a large part or all of their total ranges. In other words, outside of New Mexico most of these species are surviving adequately, and some are even common and thriving elsewhere. However, the law under which species are listed as endangered in New Mexico, i.e., the state's Wildlife Conservation Act, requires that the Department of Game and Fish focus on a species' status only within the state, hence many peripheral or otherwise limited populations of birds become candidates for listing. In some ways this may seem unnecessary, but on the other hand, if each state does not take steps to preserve its own biological diversity, then the job may not get accomplished.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Steve West will be joining the staff of the NMOS Field Notes, beginning with the December 1978-May 1979 Issue (Vol. 18, No. 1). He will work up the issue with John Hubbard, who will remain as coeditor into the foreseeable future and will continue to receive all bird records for the Field Notes and American Birds.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

By Mary Lou Arthur

The following 147 entries represent the paid up 1978 and/or 1979 membership of the Society, plus those people who have been voted honorary life memberships (LM). In addition, courtesy or exchange memberships exist with several organizations, including American Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Western Birds, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Of the 147 entries, 101 represent paid up memberships for 1979, while 46 (marked by asterisk) have not paid the current dues. Policy on memberships in arrears is to carry them for the first six months of the year in which they are delinquent. After that period, they will be removed from the mailing list and will receive no further publications until dues are paid. Please save us this drastic step by keeping your dues current. We need and appreciate your support.

AHLBORN, Gary--Dept. Fish & Wildlife, NMSU, Box 4901, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
*ANDERSON. Richard M.--Dept. Fish & Wildlife, NMSU, Box 4273, Las Cruces,
N.M. 88003

ANDREWS, Craig, Mr. & Mrs.--3416 Sierra Dr. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110
*ALLEN, Bertha R.--P.O. Box 5, Sandia Park, N.M. 87047
ARTHUR, Mary Lou--728 Monroe NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110
BALTOSSER, Bill--Dept. Biol., NMSU, Box 3AF, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
BARKER, Albert & Dorothy--7105 Remington NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109
*BASHAM, Pat--Box 1646, Socorro, N.M. 87801
BEDNARZ, James--6128 McLeod NE, Apt. 15, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109
BERGER, Bryon--1431 College, Emporia, Kan. 66801
*BOND, Frank M.--540 Camino Rancheros, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
*BRAUN, Ron--1302 Berrywood Ln., Houston, Tx 77077
CARTER, William, Dr.--Rt. 6, Box 63, Ada, Okla. 74820
*CHEEK, James--909 Rex, Carlsbad, N.M. 88220
COFFEY, Michael--306 Cactus Rd., Gallup, N.M. 87301
*COMISKY, Stella--8005 Hendrix NE, #621, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109
*CONNER, Neppie--120 N. Plainview, Fayetteville, Ar. 72701
CORS, Paul--1409 Garfield, Laramie, Wyo. 82070
CROMER, Marjorie--194 Tunyo, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
*DAVIS, Charles, Dr.--Dept. Fish & Wildlife, NMSU, Box 4901, Las Cruces, N.M.
88003
DELESANTRO, Michael--Dept. Biol., NMSU, Box 3AF, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
DELOLLIS, Dorothea--3600 Piermont NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87111
DRUMMOND, Jack--2030 Chilton, Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
DURRIE, John & Hope--614 Richmond NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
*EGBERT, John--P.O. Box 449, Cliff. N.M. 88028
EPPICH, John--116 E. Gladden Dr., Farmington, N.M. 87401
*ESPY, Pansy--Box 1459, Ft. Davis, Tx 79734
FISHER, Ralph--P.O. Box 1029, Silver City, N.M. 88061
FLYNN, Dr. (Joe)--2630 Morrow NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
FOUTZ, J.L., Mrs.--505 McDonald Rd., Farmington, N.M. 87401
*FITZSIMMONS, J. Paul--621 Vassar NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
*GENNARO, A.L., Dr.--Box 2056, ENMU, Portales, N.M. 88310
GOULD, Kim--Rt. 1, Box 1560, Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
GRAY, Charlotte--Box 4424, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
GROSSMAN, E. H.--925 W. Georgia #700, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6C 1R8
HALLETT, Harold, Mr. & Mrs.--P.O. Box 396, Roswell, N.M. 88201
HAMPTON, Gary--9300 Northgate #141, Austin, Tx 78758
*HANSON, Wayne--522 Canyon Rd., Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
HARRIS, E. W., Mrs.--P.O. Box A, Farmington, N.M. 87401
HARTSHORNE, Pierre F., Mr. & Mrs.--510 Jornada, Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
HAWK, Walton, D.V.M.--P.O. Box 40, San Cristobal, N.M. 87564
HAWKINS, Leslie--7532 Bear Canyon Rd. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87109
HAYES, Preston, Mrs.--917 Sayers, Hobbs, N.M. 88240
HAYWARD, Bruce, Dr.--Rt. 8. Box 160, Silver City. N.M. 88061
HEFLEY, Harold, Mr. & Mrs.--612 Gary Dr., Roswell, N.M. 88201
*HIBBEN, Mrs. (Frank)--3005 Campus NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
*HOPPES, William--El Paso Nat. Gas Co., P.O. Box 1492, El Paso, Tx 79904
*HUEY, William--P.O. Box 565, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
HUBBARD, John, Dr. (LM)--2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
HUNDERTMARK, Charles--223 Morningside NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87108
*HUNTINGTON, Dustin, Mr. & Mrs.--11 Calle Pueblo Pinado, NW, Albuquerque, N.M.
87120
HUSSEY, Barbara--2068 B Mercury Dr. SE, Kirtland AFB, N.M. 87118
ISAACS, Bill--Rt. 4, Box 2B, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
*JACOBSEN, Ken--10414 Towner NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112
JENKS, Randolph--2146 E 4 St., Tucson, Ariz. 85719
KARO, James--1621 Cedar Ridge Dr. NE, Albuquerque. N.M. 87112
*KELLAHIN, Jason--112 Malaga Rd., Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
KLOSS, Phillips, Mr. & Mrs.--Box 33, Taos, 87571

KREHBIEL, Adolf--P.O. Box 40, Clayton, N.M. 88415
LANGE, David--1800B Vassar NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
LANNING, Dirk--Chi. Des. Res. Inst., P.O. Box 1334, Alpine, Tx 79830
LEE, Dwight--1656 Ebert, Winston-Salem, N. Car. 27103
LEFKOFSKY, Charles, Mr. & Mrs.--8002 Morrow Rd. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110
LESPERANCE, H. H.--1801 N. Wagner, Farmington, M.M. 87401
LEWIS, W. Burton--314 Potrillo Dr., Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
LINDSAY, Bert--2910 Utah NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110
McCALL, Geraldine--1482 44th St., Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
*McCORMICK, Myra--Bear Mt. Ranch, Box 1163, Silver City, N.M. 88061
McKERNAN, Robert--4402 N. 36th St., Phoenix, Ariz. 85018
McKNIGHT, Daniel & Barbara (LM)--P.O. Box 246, Glenwood, N.M. 88039
McLEOD, Boyd (LM)--1647 2nd St. NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
MARR, Thomas--Dept. Biol. NMSU, Las Cruces, M.M. 88003
MERKEL, Terrence--222 E. Nizhoni F-8, Gallup, N.M. 87301
MILLER, Julius, Mr. & Mrs.--P.O. Box 610, Williamsburg, N.M. 87942
MILTON, Martha--9024 Los Arboles NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112
MOHLHENRICH, Marjorie--320 Gen. Marshall NE, #4, Albuquerque, N.M. 87123
MORTON, Claribel F.--Mt. Rt. Box 115, Jemez Springs, N.M. 87025
*MURPHY, Lawrence, Dr.--1835 Lamar Circle, Alamogordo, N.M. 88130
NEAL, Jim--1862 Propps NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112
NELSON, Alan--106 W. 33rd St., Farmington, N.14. 87401
NEW MEXICO HERITAGE PROGRAM--Villagra Building, Santa Fe, N.M. 87503
NICKLAS, Rita--1907 Buena Vista SE, #64, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
NILAS, David--Del. Mu. Nat. Hist., Box 3937, Greenville, Del. 19807
NODA, Frank, Mr. & Mrs.--11621 Morenci NE, Albuquerque, N.H. 87112
*NOONAN, Thomas, Mr. & Mrs.--8410 James NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87111
NORDSTROM, Judity--1518 Zuni Dr., Farmington, N.M. 87401
OAKS, Blanche--101 Waneta, Clovis, N.M. 88101
*OLSON, Toren--753 Sage, Grants, N.M. 87020
PACHE, Peter--Earth Env. Consultants, 9426 Ind. Sc. Rd. NE, Albuquerque, N.M.
87112
*PALMER, Fletcher--P.O. Box 55, Montezuma, N.M. 87731
*PATTON, James A., Jr.--P.O. Box 311, Clayton, N.M. 80415
PETERSON, Donald--8317 Guide Meridian Rd., Lynden, Wa. 98264
*PETERSON, Roger--St. Johns College. Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
PHILLIPS, Joanne--11033 Hwy 35 NW, Alameda, N.M. 87114
*POLECHLA, Paul--Box 3516, ENMU, Portales, N.M. 88130
*PONTON, David--P.O. Box 385, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
*PRECEK, Richard--2401 Aztec NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
RAITT, Ralph, Dr.--Dept. Biol., NMSU, Box 3AF, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
ROGERS, Bill--P.O. Box 2419, Silver City, N.M. 88061
*ROOT, Mary Alice--1108 Columbia NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
ROSE, Donald--4895 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
RUDELL, Raymond F., Jr.--1875 Camino Mora, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
SANDS, James--Star Rt., Box 10, Placitas, N.M. 87043
*SCHEMNITZ, Stanford--Rt. I, Box 1402, Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
SCHMIERER, Al--Box 467, Zuni, N.M. 87327
*SCHOLES, Robert, Dr. & Mrs.--Box 117, Rodeo, N.M. 88056
SEIBERT, Linda--1001 S. Almendra, Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
*SERIALS DEPT. ENMU LIB.--Portales, N.M. 88130
SERIALS DEPT. NMSU LIB.--Box 3475, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
SERIALS DEPT. UNM GEN. LIB.--Albuquerque, N.M. 87106
SERIALS DEPT. MCGILL UNIV. LIB.--3459 McTavish, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H3A 1Y1
SHRYOCK, Mrs. Louis--Box 461, Kirtland, N.M. 87417
*SHULTZ, Philip, Dr. & Mrs.--107 Cienega St., Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
SILIA, Madge--P.O. Box 0, Shiprock, N.M. 87420

*SKAGGS, Roger, Mr. & Mrs.--Box 182, Glenwood, N.M. 80039
 SLOWEN, Frank, Mr. & Mrs.--615 Calle De Leon, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
 SNIDER, Patricia--#90, Royal Crest. Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
 SNYDER, Mildred--161 Del Mar Circle, Aurora, Col. 00011
 *SOAPES, Tom--Box 2315, ENMU, Portales N.M. 88130
 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE--Box 2007, Albuquerque, N.M. 87103
 STEIN, Patricia--305 Potrillo Dr., Pajarito Acres, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
 STONE, William, Dr. & Mrs.--927 Los Lovatos Rd., Santa Fe N.M. 87501
 SWAIN, Robert, Mr. & Mrs.--Mt. Rt. Box 114, Jemez Springs, N.M. 87025
 *SWARTZ, Blair--172 Paseo Penasco, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
 TEUBER, Ross--1612 Ky. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110
 THATCHER, Donna--1108 N. Monterey, Farmington, N.M. 87401
 THOMPSON, Richard--P.O. Box 1493, Socorro, N.M. 87801
 TRAVIS, James, Dr. & Mrs.--9420 Avenida De La Luna, Albuquerque, N.M. 87111
 *TURNER, Pat--30⁸ La Plata, N.W., Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
 *VAN BUSKIRK, Owen--409 Morningside NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87108
 VANCLEVE, G. Bernard, Mr. & Mrs.--304 S. Winebiddle St., Pittsburg, Penn.
 15224
 *VANCE, Julia--P.O. Box 1795, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501
 WAHL, Charles--1210 Plain St., Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
 WAGNER, Stephan--P.O. Box 325, Algodones, N.M. 87001
 WEBB, Bruce--3 Chautauqua, Boulder, Cob. 80302
 WEST, Clarence, Mr. & Mrs.--10 Kachina, Los Alamos, N.M. 87544
 WEST, Steve--Box 104, Loving, N.M. 88256
 *WILKENING, Ruby--1218 S. Dr., Socorro, N.M. 87801
 WILLIAMS, Frances--3307 Neely, Midland, Tx 79703
 *WILT, Richard--Drawer T, Carlsbad, N.M. 88220
 WINTERSTEIN, Scott--Dept. Biol. NMSU, Box 3AF, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
 WISDOM, Michael--Dept. Wildlife, Box 4901 NMSU, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
 WITZEMAN, Janet--4619 Arcadia La. Phoenix, Ariz. 85018
 WORD, Terrence--502 Ponderosa NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107
 *WYNDHAM, Richard--6507 Guadalupe Tr. NW, Albuquerque • N.M. 87107
 *ZELLER, Henry, Col. & Mrs.--P.O. Box 870, Silver City, N.M. 88061
 *ZIMMERMAN, Dr. & Mrs.--1011 W. Florence, Silver City, N.M. 88061

NOTES AND NEWS

DELINQUENT MEMBERSHIPS

Please note the new policy on delinquent memberships (and receipt of publications), outlined on page 16. If the Society is to remain solvent, we must have your support, and this means that dues should be paid as early each year as possible. Inasmuch as we need to save as much money as possible, all renewal notices and reminders will be limited to those published in the Bulletin.

OPERATION GAME THIEF (OGT)

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish operates a paid informant program in order to help in prosecuting violations involving New Mexico wildlife. In spite of the name, OGT also pays for information on violations involving nongame and endangered species. Recently, the OGT Board raised the minimum reward for information on endangered species violations to \$250, with nongame violations raised to \$100. If you wish to report a violation, call 1-800-432-4263 (all callers remain anonymous). You can also contribute to OGT, by sending your donation to: Division of Law Enforcement, State Capitol, Santa Fe, N.M. 87503.

BREEDING RECORD CARDS

Breeding record cards are in short supply, but several thousand are being printed now. Place your order for cards with the Secretary. Minimum orders should be for 25 cards, in order to avoid our having to fill numerous small or repeat orders.

New Mexico Ornithological Society, Inc.

President:

*John P. Hubbard 2016 Valle Rio
Santa Fe 87501

Vice-President:

James R. Travis 9410 Avenida de la Luna, NE
Albuquerque 87111

Secretary:

Mary Lou Arthur 728 Monroe, NE
Albuquerque 87110

Treasurer:

Ross L. Teuber 1612 Kentucky, NE
Albuquerque 87110

Directors-at-large:

**William H. Baltosser . Dept. Biology, N.M.S.U.
Box 3AF
Las Cruces 88003

Charles A. Hundertmark 223 Morningside, NE
Albuquerque 87108

Alan P. Nelson 106 W. 33rd St.
Farmington 87401

* Also editor of NMOS Bulletin and coeditor of NMOS Field Notes.

**Also coeditor of NMOS Field Notes.