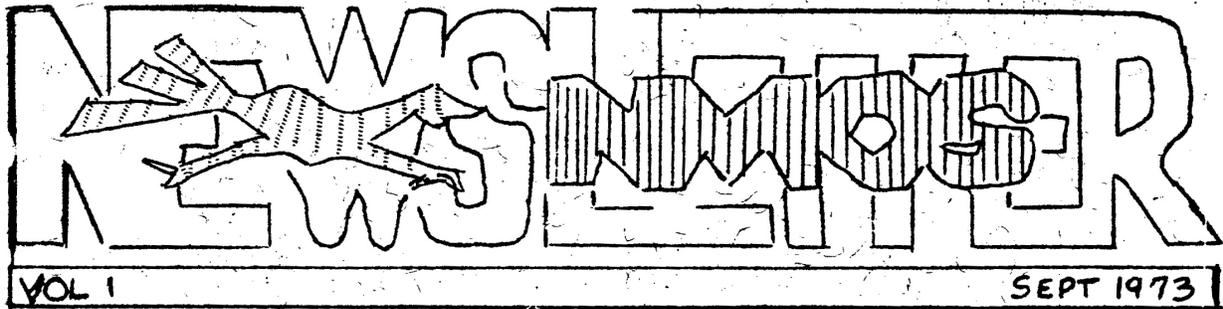


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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Directors of the New Mexico Ornithological Society are taking a new direction this year to get more people involved in birding activities in New Mexico. We sent questionnaires to N .M.O .S. members, and their replies were interesting and helpful. Our major problem appears to be the lack of communications! We have decided that a newsletter is a logical first step. Hopefully this newsletter will lead toward a larger and stronger N M.O.S. We need more members and more enthusiasm! Communication is the essence of a society. An N.M.O.S. newsletter will aid its members to have fun together and yet contribute much to the knowledge of the birds of the state.

Ro Wauer has agreed to serve as editor for the first few newsletters. He has a keen interest in New Mexico birds and birders, and I appreciate his enthusiasm very much. We have asked several people from various parts of the state to assist him in obtaining information on New Mexico birds and their habitats, and to let him know of noteworthy events happening in their areas of the state. Donna Thatcher of Farmington, Margie Williams of Roswell, Tom Brake of Silver City , and Chuck Hundertmark of Albuquerque have agreed to help. Anyone else with bird or conservation news is invited to send news to: Ro Wauer, Acoma Park #67. 1896 Lorca Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

The N.M.O.S. newsletter will be bi-monthly at first until we

get enough help and material to make it a monthly publication. This first one is being sent to persons we believe might be interested in the fun that goes with field trips, individual projects, and friendly get-togethers. We hope that you will work with us and, if you are not a member, that you will join us. A membership to the New Mexico Ornithological Society entitles you to all of our publications (including the field notes) and to participate in field trips and meetings which are scheduled from time to time. Stick around!

- Bruce Hayward

N.M.O.S. MEETING -FALL 1973

Set aside the Thanksgiving Weekend for a fun time of birding and visiting friends. A joint meeting of N.M.O.S. and T.O.S. is scheduled for November 22-24, at El Paso. Headquarters will be the Del Camino Motel, 5001 Alameda (Telephone 772-2711). Base price is \$12. double, and trailer hookups are also available. Field trips are scheduled to Monday Canyon in the Franklin Mts., Aguirre Springs in the Organ Mts., Waco Tanks, and the Rio Grande Levee. A Mexican Dinner at Juarez is set for Friday evening, and Dr. Ira Gabrielson will be the Saturday evening Banquet Speaker. Plans for a N.M.O.S.-sponsored Mexican birding trip, immediately following the meeting, are being formed. COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN!

N M.O.S.-WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

The New Mexico Ornithological Society is a non-profit organization designed to promote interest in New Mexican birds and their habitats. Members include casual bird watchers as well as professionals. The Society publishes Field Notes (reports of New Mexico bird occurrences and populations) twice each year; Bird-finding Guides and other publications irregularly; and, starting with this issue, bi-monthly news of New Mexico birds, birders, and places to bird. All are free to members.

If you are now already a member, we welcome your interest and participation. Membership information is available (or dues paid) from the Secretary, Mrs. Barbara McKnight, Box 10, Cedar Crest, New Mexico 87008. Membership is on the calendar year, but new memberships received after October 1 expires December 31 the year following.

PHREATOPHYTE CONTROL PROGRAM THREATENS ROOKERY

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society has joined with several other New Mexico environmental groups in a suit to halt

a Bureau of Reclamation project which threatens to destroy the largest known breeding colony of cormorants and night herons in the state.

The Bureau and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission are jointly engaged in eradicating 6000 acres of trees at Elephant Butte Reservoir. Three thousand acres of salt cedars, willows and a few cottonwoods have already been cleared, but no environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared.

The area involved lies just five miles south of Elephant Butte Marsh where 550 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons and 100 to 200 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nested in 1969 or 1970. Also present at that rookery were three to five pairs of Olivaceous Cormorants, the first known nesting records of this species in New Mexico.

The suit seeks to halt the clearing project until an EIS is completed. After a preliminary hearing in June, U .S. District Judge E.L. Mechem declined to issue a preliminary injunction but recommended that the status quo be maintained until a full trial in September. - CH

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS - ALBUQUERQUE

The New Mexico Ornithological Society, together with the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, New Mexico Mountain Club, and the Sierra Club is again sponsoring a full series of five wildlife films at Popejoy Hall, UNM campus. All shows start at 7:30p.m. Season tickets are \$5 .50 for adults and \$3 .00 for students. Available from Audubon Wildlife Film Series, P.O. Box 3457, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110.

Oct. 25 -Greg McMillan, "The Living Jungle." Dec. 7 -Walter H . Berlet, "Hawaii-Paradise of the Pacific." Feb. 15 -Frank Heimans, "What Have You Done to My Country?" March 27 -Charles T. Hotchkiss, "Queen of the Cascades." April 16 -John Douglas Bulger, "Scandanavian Saga."

BIRD NBWS FROM AROUND NEW MEXICO

SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO - by Tom Brake, Silver City

The annual Gila River bird census was conducted this year on May 12. A total of nineteen participants, including several college students and Forest Service employees, recorded 117 species and 2880 individual birds. Uncommon species included a Broad-winged Hawk and a Mississippi Kite sighted by Dale and

Marion Zimmerman, who also observed a Swainson's Thrush. Bobolinks were spotted in some numbers this year. Bruce and Bill Baltosser found a Lewis' Woodpecker along the river. Rain occurred along the river during the count day, clearing in the afternoon.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO - by Chuck Hundertmark, Albuquerque

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society have several fall meetings and field trips planned. On October 18, Ed Swenson, of the Soil Conservation Service, will present a program on Tucumcari Marsh. This marsh is possibly the best birding area in East-Central New Mexico. On November 15, Dr. J. David Ligon, University of New Mexico ornithologist, will present a program. All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lornas and Yale, and all interested persons are welcomed.

Everyone is also invited to participate in the Cienega Canyon field trip, September 29. A full day is planned! Cienega Canyon turn-off is halfway between Sandia Park and Doc Long picnic grounds, and birding starts at the parking area at 8:00a.m.

NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO - by Donna Thatcher, Farmington

Donna has agreed to submit news from northwestern New Mexico, but was unable to do so for this issue due to a previously planned trip to Mexico.

NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO - Ro Wauer, Santa Fe

The Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society held a Big Day Count in the Espanola area on May 19. Eleven society members recorded 109 species and 2889 individual birds. The most commonly seen birds on the count were the Mourning Dove, Common Crow, American Robin, Starling, Yellow and Audubon's warblers, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-headed and Evening grosbeaks, and Pine Siskin. Only one each of the following species were found: Pied-billed Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, Virginia Rail, Eastern Kingbird, Gray Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, and Song Sparrow.

The fall program of activities include a talk by John Tyers, National Park Service, at Los Alamos on October 10, and a program by Chuck Hundertmark on nesting birds, at Santa Fe, November 10. Everyone is invited to these programs that start at 7:30p.m. Fall field trips include a Canjilon Lakes trip on September 30; Hyde Park and the Santa Fe Ski Basin on October 6;

Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado, on October 21; Gran Quivira National Monument on November 10; La Joya State Game Refuge and Bosque del Apache Refuge on November 24-25. For more information on the meetings or bird trips you may wish to contact Program Chairman Judy Vance or Field Trip Chairman Pat Snider.

SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO - by Marge Williams, Roswell

On May 5, the SE New Mexico Audubon Society held a Spring Count in which a total of 102 bird species were recorded. Some specialities of the count were a female Painted Bunting, Long-billed Curlew, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and shorebirds including Solitary and Stilt sandpipers, Willet and Lesser Yellowleg. Some of the participants found Clay-colored and Brewer's sparrows.

An April 28 trip to Sitting Bull Falls resulted in the recording of the Pyrrhuloxia, White-throated Swift, Canyon Wren, Scott's Oriole, and Cassin's Kingbird. En route home, a stopover at Lake McMillen resulted in the discovery of Forster's Terns and a Snowy and Baird's sandpipers.

Jane Sikes saw a Mountain Plover in the south section of Roswell in May, in the same general area discussed by Vesta Montgomery in her book, "Bird Finding Localities in the Vicinity of Roswell."

IT'S A BIRD!

Did you, ever watch a Bullbat,
or hear the Butterball?
Have you listened to the Nuthatch,
or caught the Dumb-bird's call?
Did you know that there's a doughbird,
an Ovenbird and Teacher,
A Simpleton, a Spoonbill,
a Googlenose and Preacher?

Have you ever seen a Pumpkin-blossom,
Horsehead or Clam,
Skunkbill, Turnstone,
Stib or Uncle Sam?

Have you ever spied a Frostbird,
Brassbak or Rail,
Sawwhet, Beetlehead,
Sicklebill or Whale?

Each name's a bird - they may
be found from pole to Torrid Zone:
And if you search 'mid " local" names,
You'll find them - everyone!

by Walter K. Putney

BIRD NAME CHANGES

Perhaps everyone does not appreciate how arbitrary ornithologists must be when they assign "official" names to birds. Yet few birders would question the necessity of having uniform names used in bird books. Without some form of standardization the birdwatching business would sink into utter chaos! For instance, the early settlers of our country gave more than 100 local names to the Flicker. Needless to say, someone simply had to arbitrarily choose one of these names as the standard name for the bird books we use.

So late in the last century a group of prominent ornithologists appointed a committee to standardize North American bird names. Although the membership of the committee naturally changes with deaths and reappointments, it has been meeting periodically for years to carefully consider necessary name changes for our birds. The committee is under the authority of the American Ornithologists' Union (A .O .U.), and is so influential that virtually every North American bird book conforms to its standard names, even though particular ornithologists may not personally agree with the committee's decisions. Thus we can all at least understand each other when we talk about a particular bird.

The question naturally arises as to why the name of a bird should ever change after it was given its official name years ago. Most of the names in fact do not change, and if you compare the names in a contemporary book with those in a book written in 1900, the majority will be identical. But for rather complex and technical biological reasons, a bird that previously was considered a separate species may now be considered merely a different form of another species (some-what like the case of two breeds of dogs that are different forms of the same species). Determining just which species are "good" species and which are merely variations of the same species (called "subspecies") is no easy matter. Research is constantly in progress to answer these questions, and as the results are analyzed, the A.O.U. Committee carefully considers them and accordingly makes appropriate changes in the bird names.

A number of such changes recently appeared in the official publication of the A.O.U., The Auk. Bird books appearing in the future, by convention, will incorporate these new names. Also, the official Christmas count names will conform to the new decisions.

This is not to say that we can't recognize the subspecies on field trips, for a some of them are quite easily identified. It just means that as far as the official species names are concerned, we should use the current names. Gradually the new names will become familiar, and the future generation of birdwatchers will find the name "Upland Plover" (now Upland Sandpiper) as strange-sounding as we find the name "Missouri Skylark" (now called the Water Pipit) even today.

Many of the recent changes are minor and relate to the spellings of scientific names. A few of the changes that will be of interest to New Mexican birdwatchers are given below. For the complete list of changes, refer to The Auk, volume 90, pages 411-419.

1. The Great White Heron of southern Florida is now considered to be another form of the Great Blue Heron, so both of these birds are officially "Great Blue Herons."
2. The Snow Goose and Blue Goose are considered the same species which will be called the "Snow Goose."
3. The Common (European) Teal and Green-winged Teal are considered the same species, which will be called the "Green-winged Teal."
4. The Harlan's Hawk and the Red-tailed Hawk are considered the same species and will be called the "Red-tailed Hawk."
5. The Ruddy Turnstone, which has been considered a type of plover and thus placed in bird books alongside the Killdeer, Golden Plover, etc., has upon closer examination been found to be a sandpiper, and is now placed in that family. This bird has, always been troublesome because it has many characteristics that suggest a plover, and many that suggest a sandpiper.
6. The Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-shafted Flicker, and Gilded Flicker are now considered one species and are called the "Common Flicker."
7. The Common Bushtit and Black-eared Bushtit are now considered the same species which will be called, simply, the "Bushtit."
8. The Slate-colored Junco, White-winged Junco, Oregon Junco, and Guadalupe Junco are all now considered the same species, which will be called the "Dark-eyed Junco."

9. The Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole are now considered the same species, which is called the "Northern Oriole."
- 10 In order to make certain common names conform to a system of nomenclature that takes into account birds throughout the world and not just the United States, the following minor changes have been made. The old name is in the left hand column and the new name in the right hand column.

Shoveler	Northern Shoveler
Knot	Red Knot
Yellowthroat	Common Yellowthroat
Catbird	Gray Catbird
Pigeon Hawk	Merlin
Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel
Wood Ibis	Wood Stork
Upland Plover	Upland Sandpiper
Common Scoter	Black Scoter
Common Egret(American Egret)	Great Egret

- Kent Rylander

YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS IN NEW MEXICO

Peter H. Pache has been selected as the N.M.O.S. "young ornithologist" for fall 1973. New Mexico is proud of its graduate programs in ornithology, and we want to introduce the state's young ornithologists each issue.

Peter is in his second year of graduate work under Dr. J. David Ligon at the University of New Mexico. Since April 1973, he has been conducting an "Avifaunal Community Study" at the Santa Fe Ski Basin in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Twice a month census visits have been made, through August, to three habitats on the mountain: the spruce-fir, aspen, and pinyon-juniper zones; the latter area lies just below Hyde Park. In conjunction with this study, Peter spent three months censusing a pinyon-woodland in the Manzano Mountains to provide himself with a comparative basis for the lowland study. His field research complete, he is now writing his thesis.

Other interests include a population analysis of Harris' Hawks in the Southeastern part of the state. What began as a food habit study may well expand into a fairly comprehensive project on the reproductive biology of the species.

Peter is a native of Vermont. He entered the University of Montana in the fall of 1968, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Biology from that school in June, 1972. Dr. Philip

Wright, with whom he studied at U.M., recommended the Southwest as a good place for advanced ornithological study, and Dr. Ligon as a good man to work under. - BMCK

NEW MEXICO MARSH SURVEY

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society has launched a project to begin gathering information in a systematic way on New Mexico marshes. New Mexico birders are encouraged to submit information on marsh locations, lists of bird species seen (with numbers when available), lists of nesting birds, and any other information available on vegetation, wildlife other than birds, ownership of land, etc. Submit your material to Chuck Hundertmark, English Department, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque 87106.

Marshes offer great opportunities for birding in New Mexico, often attracting heavy populations of wintering and nesting birds. Growing pressures on the state's water resources, however, threaten many of these areas. Your information will prove valuable in obtaining protection for valuable marsh habitats and in the preparation of future birding guides. - CH

HELP! WE NEED A NAME!

There have been lots of suggestions to name this document. A few that can be printed include Bird News, N.M.O.S. Bulletin, The Roadrunner, New Mexican Birds, and Bird Data. If you have any better suggestions, please send them along to Ro_Wauer. The next issue may bear your title.

N.M.O.S. OFFICERS - 1973-1974

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