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N.M.O.S. WINTER MEETING

Circle March 9 on your 1974 calendar! That is the date of the Winter Meeting of N . M .O. S. to be held at the Biology Building, University of New Mexico. The morning session will commence at 9: 15 with a program of bird identification. A panel of "experts" composed of Moderator Dr. J. David Ligon, Jim Travis, Dr. John Hubbard, and Ro Wauer, will discuss techniques for the identification of hummingbirds, orioles, and sparrows of the Spizella genus.

The afternoon session will include short talks by graduate students and a discussion of bird clubs in New Mexico. The evening speaker has not as yet accepted. Also, we are tentatively planning a Sunday field trip to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge; Ro Wauer, leader.

Member of N.M.O.S. or not, you are invited to attend!

WE'LL STICK WITH "NEWSLETTER"

Eight of the ten letters I received regarding a new name for our newsletter said to stick to the current name. Other suggestions: The Roadrunner, Piasano, Bulletin, New Mexico Bird News, and NMOS News. So, we'll stick with "Newsletter." Our heading was done by Laura Wilson, National Park Service in Santa Fe. Laura, we thank you.

CHANGES IN THE NEW MEXICO BIRD LIST SINCE 1970

by John P. Hubbard

When the New Mexico Check-list was published in late 1970, it treated 476 species. Of these 413 were regarded as confirmed, 54 as hypothetical, and 9 as unaccepted. In the last three years information has been obtained that has altered the check-list, and now 484 species are treated in the N.M.O.S. files; 422 are confirmed, 50 are hypothetical, and 12 are unaccepted.

Changes since 1970 include the confirmation of 9 species as definitely occurring (i.e., collected or photographed) in the state, and recent taxonomic reclassification by the A .0 .U. Check-list Committee (discussed in the September 1973 Newsletter). Major changes are discussed in the Annotated List.

Only collectors and photographers of birds are named. Specimen locations are given as DMNH (Delaware Museum of Natural History), ENMU (Eastern New Mexico University Natural History Museum), MCZ (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard), and USNM (United States Museum of Natural History). Other sources of data quoted are AEN/AM Audubon Field Notes (now American Birds), and NMOS (New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes and files).

Annotated List

Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis). Now confirmed (previously hypothetical), based on a bird taken 3 miles east of Roswell on 1 November 1972, by S. S. Carroll (ENMU). Also photographed just north of Bosque del Apache N.M. on 16 November 1972, by Gary Zahm (NMOS).

Gray Hawk (Buteo nitidus). Now hypothetical (previously confirmed); the eggs formerly thought to be of this species were found to be those of Cooper's Hawk. Remaining are two sight records from the Gila Valley; one near Cliff on 24 July 1953 (Ligon, New Mexico Birds, 1961), and one near Redrock on 23 August 1973. There is also one report only as "southwestern" New Mexico on 16 May 1973 (NMOS).

California Gull (Larus californicus). Now considered confirmed (previously hypothetical); based on a band recovered at Carlsbad sometime prior to 1951 (Condor, 53: 64-65, 1951). I have not been able to obtain additional information from the banding office.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla). Added to the

hypothetical list, based on a sight record at Bosque del Apache NWR on 12 November 1972 (NMOS), and sight records at Caballo Lake on 19 and 24 November and 4 December (AFN).

Orange-fronted Parakeet (Aratinga canicularis). Added to the unaccepted list as an unsuccessful exotic, based on sight records of one in the Rio Grande Valley, southern Dona Ana County, 24 July to 24 August 1971 (NMOS).

Ferruginous Owl (Glaucidium brasilianum). Added to the unaccepted list as a sight record in the literature and later withdrawn; heard bird in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo County, 3 July 1970 (AFN). (This species was reported on the El Paso Christmas Count in 1973 Ed.)

Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna). Added to the confirmed list (no previous record), based on a male photographed at Silver City by Dale Zimmerman, 2 October - 7 November 1972; also, one was seen (photographed by John N. Durrie, etc.) in Albuquerque, 15-20 April 1973 by many observers, and one seen at Pleasanton 30 September to at least 11 October 1973 (NMOS).

White-headed Woodpecker (Dendrocopos albolarvatus). Added to the hypothetical list, based on a reported sighting 4 miles north of Luna, Catron County, 5 September 1971 (NMOS); prior records have never officially been submitted to the NMOS.

Least Flycatcher (Empidonax minimus). Now confirmed (previously hypothetical), based on a bird taken at Silver City by Charles Marsh (MCZ), 29 April 1884. This specimen had been labeled as Hammond's Flycatcher until reidentified recently by Allan R. Phillips.

Short-billed Marsh Wren (Cistothorus platensis). Added to the hypothetical list (no previous records), based on sight records of single birds in the Bitter Lake NWR-Roswell area during 8 December 1971 to 3 April 1972 (NMOS).

Gray-cheeked Thrush (Catharus minimus). Added to the confirmed list (previously hypothetical), based on a specimen taken 3 miles southwest of Clayton by John Hubbard, 13 May 1971 (USNM).

Veery (Catharus fuscescens). Added to the confirmed list (previously hypothetical), based on one specimen taken 3 miles southwest of Clayton by John Hubbard, 13 May 1971 (DMNH); also, 3 were banded there on 13-14 May 1971 and 5 on 16-19 May 1972 (NMOS). There is one other confirmed record; one was seen and

its vocalizations recorded at Fourth of July Canyon, Manzano Mountains, Torrance County, 5-9 May 1972, by J. David Ligon and the Daniel McKnights (NMOS).

White-eyed Vireo (Vireo griseus). Added to the confirmed list (previously known only from a questionable specimen), based on one collected 2 miles west of Hermanas, Luna County, by John Hubbard, 24 May 1972 (DMNH); also, one was seen in Little Walnut Canyon, north of Silver City, 9 July 1973 (NMOS).

Yellow-throated Vireo (Vireo flavifrons). Added to the confirmed list (previously hypothetical), based on one taken 2 miles west of Hermanas, Luna County, by John Hubbard, 25 May 1972 (DMNH).

Yellow-throated Warbler (Dendroica dominica). Added to the confirmed list (previously hypothetical), based on a photograph taken by Paul K. Donohue and Bruce A. Sorrie, 25 April 1973, at Bitter Lake NWR (NMOS).

N.M.O.S. Field Check-lists have been reprinted and are now available to members for only 3¢ each. That's the best deal I've heard of since wet cigars! Get your check-lists at the Winter Meeting or order them from Barbara McKnight, Box 277, Cedar Crest, New Mexico 87008.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI: (Crotophaga sulcirostris). Vagrant at Santa Fe, September 1964; Albuquerque, 1952, December 1967; Cloverdale area, May 1953; and Carlsbad Caverns NP, November 1966. - Taken from "Check-list of the Birds of New Mexico." Any additional New Mexican records of this species should be reported.

NEW SPECIES OF BIRD, FIRST IN A DECADE

Eight University of Hawaii biology students, conducting an ecological survey high on the slopes of Maui's Haleakala Volcano, discovered a bird new to science. The brown and beige, sparrow-sized bird, is a member of the Honeycreeper Family, and is a new genus and species. It has not as yet been given a name.

It feeds on insects and inhabits the upper reaches of the Hana Rain Forest on Haleakala Volcano - one of the wettest regions in the world with an annual rainfall of more than 400 inches. There are probably only about 150 of the birds which cover a range of 10 to 12 square miles between 6,000 and 7,500 feet elevation. On nearly every occasion in which the new species has been seen, it

has been in close association with the Maui Creeper, Amakihi, and Parrotbill, all related members of the Honeycreeper Family.
- from Science News.

BIRD NEWS FROM AROUND NEW MEXICO

SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO - by Tom Brake, Silver City

The SWNM Audubon Society conducted two Christmas Counts. Twelve participants spent December 15, a clear, sunny day with the temperature up to 65°F., counting birds around Riverside on the Gila River. A total of 94 species and 2267 individuals were tabulated. Unusual sightings were 3 Green Herons, 1 Snow Goose, 3 Bald Eagles, 1 Long-billed Marsh Wren, and 1 Fox Sparrow. Nine participants counted 49 species and 996 individuals on the Silver City count, December 22. The weather was fair and windy. Unusual birds included 3 Rufous-crowned Sparrows and a Crissal Thrasher.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart O'Byrne observed an adult male Anna's Hummingbird 2 miles north of Silver City on September 22, and another, immature Anna's Hummingbird was observed many times from October 1 to 10 at Glenwood by Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Sumner.

The observations of mixed flocks of Scaled and Gambel's Quail has been an ongoing occurrence at two locations near Silver City. The O'Byrnes have 3 Scaled Quail feeding with 25 Gambel's Quail at their residence, and the Brakes have 2 Scaled Quail that feed with 22 Gambel's Quail.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO - by Chuck Hundertmark, Albuquerque

Three Christmas Bird Counts conducted by the Central New Mexico Audubon Societies this season revealed a "normal" winter bird distribution with a few surprises. The counts contrasted sharply with those of the previous winter when severe weather and a shortage of wild food brought invasions of mountain species and many wanderers.

As usual, the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge count produced the highest species and individual totals with 90 species and 159,319 individuals reported. The Albuquerque count produced 64 species and about 28,000 individuals, and the Sandia count turned in 42 species and 4,798 individuals.

Ross Teuber reported that the Ring-necked Duck, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, and Yellow-rumped Warbler were new for the Sandia count. Most unusual on the valley count were a Hooded Merganser, seen by compiler Alan Engberg at Indian Lakes, a Burrowing Owl

and Black-billed Magpie seen behind the La Luz development, and Verdin reported by Barbara Escher.

A high of 23,410 Crows were counted, about three times the previous high count. The increase was due to the location of a favorable site for counting as the Crows returned to the Rio Grande floodplain to roost for the night.

Highlights of the Bosque del Apache count included 2 White-fronted Geese, 2 Common Goldeneyes, 2 Ferruginous Hawks, an adult Bald Eagle, 5 Dowitchers, 4 Vermilion Flycatchers, a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, 3 Cassin's Sparrows, 6 Vesper Sparrows, and a Black-throat.

Two programs are scheduled by the Central NM Society at the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, beginning at 7:30 p.m.: On February 21, Stuart Bryan, a biologist at UNM, will talk on his summer in the Truchas Peaks area; this includes slides of nesting Gray Jays. On March 21, a film entitled, "Look What We've Done to This Land," will be shown. The film is distributed by the Central Clearing House.

NORTHEAST NEW MEXICO - by Ro Wauer, Santa Fe

This new year means a change of officers of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society. Outgoing President Ken Anglemire deserves a sound round of applause for his tireless work of designing a very fine society that is not only active but productive. Kudos to Ken and Anne. New officers are President Alan Rawcliffe of Los Alamos, Vice-President Judy Vance, Secretary Bill Chudd, and Treasurer Clarence West.

This club's field trip calendar is rather extensive with a San Idelfonso trip scheduled for February 16, Espanola on March 9, Cochiti Pueblo on March 24, a Lesser Prairie Chicken trip near Portales on April 6-7, and Espanola-San Juan Pueblo on April 13. If you are in the area, you are invited to participate.

Sangre de Cristo members participated in at least four Christmas Counts. On December 16, a total of 63 bird species were recorded at Santa Fe, Unusual species included a Pygmy Owl and 27 Sage Thrashers. The Espanola Count accounted for 65 species. Bert Lewis reported that unusual Espanola birds included a Green Heron, Blue Jay (seen by Jim Travis), House Wren, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Las Vegas counters found more than 70 species on their count, and Los Alamos counters reported 65 species.

SOUTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO - by Marjorie Williams, Roswell

SENM Audubon Society held two field trips to Bitter Lake NWR

last fall. Outstanding finds were White-faced Ibis, Forster's and Black Tern on September 22, and Bonaparte's Gull and Common Merganser on November 10.

On October 3, the society visited Eastern New Mexico University's Portales Museum of Natural History. D .B. Saint, of the Bureau of Reclamation, talked to the group about the proposed Brantley Dam, February 3.

The Roswell Christmas Count was held on December 15. Among these birds recorded were a Pyrrhuloxia at Bitter Lake NWR and a Cactus Wren in the cemetery. Three Bald Eagles were reported at the Refuge just prior to the count. Other excitement during the Christmas-New Years weeks was caused by a Lesser Prairie Chicken seen at the Refuge for 2-3 days, 32 Whistling Swans, and a Williamson's Sapsucker at Roswell, October 20.

The Avalon-McMillen Count was made on December 21 with at least 20 Pyrrhuloxias and a Black-tailed Gnatcatcher among the recorded birdlife. Both counts were down this year, perhaps because of the very dry weather.

SUET PUDDING FOR WINTER BIRDS - from Midland Naturalist

Start with 1 1/2 cups of melted fat (bacon fat will do) and add any or all of the following:

- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1 1/2 cups bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- 1 cup rolled oats
- any amount of bird-seed or scratch feed

Mix thoroughly, pack in small flat dishes (bottoms cut from milk cartons are good). Set in a cool place to harden. Place on bird feeding tray.

ALASKA LANDS URGED FOR PARKS AND REFUGES

Secretary of Interior Rogers Morton has sent legislation to Congress asking withdraws of a vast array of magnificent Alaskan lands--23% of the entire state--as national parks, national wildlife refuges, national rivers, and national forests. The proposals were made in accordance with the requirements of the Alaska Native Claim Act of 1971. Secretary Morton asks 32.26 million acres for the new Alaska parks bringing the total U.S. Park System up to 62.26 million acres, and 31.59 million acres for wildlife refuges, bringing that national total to 61.59 million acres. He asks 18 .8 million acres for national forests as well as 20 new units for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers

System.

Representing two years of extensive analysis and study, the proposals generally deserve strong support though the National Audubon Society believes that entire Yukon Flats, a key breeding area for many species of waterfowl, should be a National Wildlife Refuge and that more of the scenic Wrangell Mountains should be preserved as a National Park. We hope that Secretary Morton's legislative proposals for land protection in Alaska, with certain additions, will be a priority consideration for the new session of Congress. - from Audubon Leader.

ANIMAS CANYON PERMIT DENIED - The U.S. Forest Service recently denied a permit to four individuals seeking to build a road through Animas Canyon for the purpose of mining flourspar. An environmental impact statement was being prepared but was not released, since the Forest Service geologist felt the existing flourspar was not of sufficient economic value to merit any mining. - from Rio Grande Sierran.

N.M.O.S.-T.O.S. FALL MEETING REPORT

The New Mexico and Texas Ornithological Societies shared a Fall Meeting in El Paso over the Thanksgiving Weekend. The agenda included evening programs and a variety of field trips, and the Saturday night banquet was concluded with a brief talk by N.M.O.S. President Bruce Hayward and a key note talk by Dr. Ira Gabrielson, retired Director of the National Wildlife Management Institution and conservationist.

Thursday night's Social Hour included a slide talk on local birds. Following Friday night's dinner at Juarez, a panel discussion ensued on wilderness preservation, scientific area preservation, outdoor learning facilities for school children, and habitat development for birds. Panelists were Luther Jones, Texas Legislator; Ed Kutac, T.O.S. President; Jane Peckham, member of the El Paso Environmental Educational Council; and John Henneberger and Ro Wauer, Santa Fe Regional Office of the National Park Service.

The 105 registerants recorded a total of 142 bird species on field trips to Aguirre Springs in the Organ Mountains, Franklin Mountains, Horizon Lake, and along the Rio Grande levees. Some of the more unusual sightings included a Least Bittern, Bald Eagle, Peregrine, two Sabine's Gulls, Anna's Hummingbird, Green Kingfisher, Phainopepla, Crissal Thrasher, Palm Warbler, and Baird's Sparrow.

The meeting was fun and productive, bird-wise. Geth White and

her El Paso associates, hosting the meeting, are given special N.M.O.S. thanks. - Ro Wauer.

CONNIE HAGAR PASSES

Mrs. Connie Hagar, Rockport, Texas, died November 24 at the age of 86. Mrs. Hagar's friendship to birders, her zealous devotion to birding her part of the Texas Coast, and the respect that professional and amateur ornithologists alike held for her elevated this lady to a special status among birders. The world of birds has lost a very special friend. - Ro Wauer.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS SOUTH OF THE BORDER

This is the second year that Mexican and Central American Counts have been accepted for publication in American Birds. Two Mexican counts (Gomez Farias and El Naranjo) were taken in 1972. This year, several birders, including Editor Ro Wauer, participated in Mexican counts. We were impressed with a new Christmas Count record set on the El Naranjo Count (238 species), and even more excited when 250 species were recorded on the Catemaco Count. Rumor has it, however, that other birders broke 250 in Panama. It looks like 1974 will produce an even greater number of counts South of the Border; and the competition will be superb. - Ro Wauer.

MEXICAN BIRD GUIDES and CHECKLIST: Birding in Mexico and Central America is much easier with Peterson and Chalif's new "A Field Guide to Mexican Birds." Available at most bookstores, this guide is a must for birders below the border. Retail price is \$8.95.

Although there are some other guides available, I find the Peterson guide most useful. However, Edward's "Finding Birds in Mexico" (Ernest P. Edwards, Sweet Briar, Va.) is very helpful for locating good birding places. This book retails for \$6.95.

One more suggestion: Peregrine Productions, Box 5373, Santa Fe, NM 87501, offers a very nice "Traveler's List and Checklist for the Birds of Mexico," that fits into the front of either of the Mexican books. It includes all of the names that various authors use for the same species. Retail price is 75¢ - Ro Wauer.