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THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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NEW MEXICO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1995

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The New Mexico Bird Records Committee (hereinafter NMBRC or Committee) was established to evaluate and archive records of unusual bird species that occur in New Mexico. The first report for the Committee (Williams 1995) discussed the history, purpose, procedures, and membership of the NMBRC, provided an initial Review List of species for which documentation is requested, and treated records circulated to the Committee in 1994. The present report, the second for the NMBRC, treats 42 records that were first circulated, or were re-circulated, to the Committee in 1995 and on which decisions were reached. This treatment includes details on the first confirmed New Mexico records for two species: Glossy Ibis and Long-billed Thrasher.

Because the 1994 report contained extensive background information on the objectives, organization, and workings of the Committee, that information is not repeated here. Reprints of that first (1994) report and reprints of this second (1995) report, as well as copies of the current Review List plus blank forms for reporting rare birds, may be obtained from me at the above address.

Committee News

Members of the NMBRC during 1995 who participated in all decisions summarized in this report were: Sartor O. Williams III (Secretary), Alan M. Craig, John E. Parmeter, Christopher M. Rustay, Barry R. Zimmer, and Dale A. Zimmerman. In 1996, the Committee was expanded by one Member with the addition of William H. Howe in July.

During 1996, the Committee greatly increased the number of records evaluated. To date during the year, 96 records have been circulated, including 68 new circulations.

By early 1996, the State List stood at 484 species verified by specimen, photograph, or tape-recording, with this total including the two new species detailed below plus the addition of a "new" oriole as a result of the recent Baltimore Oriole *(Icterus galbula)*/Bullock's Oriole *(I. bullockii)* taxonomic split (Williams 1996). That total placed New Mexico fourth among the 50 United States, behind only Texas (595 species), California (592), and Arizona (515). Records currently under review by the the Committee include potentially first verified New Mexico records for Red-necked Grebe *(Podiceps grisegena),* Black Vulture *(Coragyps atratus),* Curlew Sandpiper *(Calidris ferruginea),* Red-breasted Sapsucker *(Sphyrapicus ruber),* Variegated Flycatcher *(Empidonomus varius),* Prairie Warbler *(Dendroica discolor),* and Eastern Towhee *(Pipilo erythrophthalmus).* An updated field checklist, to include decisions reached in 1996, should be available early in 1997.

The Committee anticipates a revision of the Review List during 1997. Meanwhile, the current Review List may be found in the Appendix to this report.

Report Format

The 42 records treated in this second report are divided into Accepted Records (26) and Unaccepted Records (16). Within each of the two categories, records are arranged taxonomically following the *AOU Check-list* (6^{th} ed) and its supplements. Within each species, records (if more than one) are arranged chronologically. Each record is identified by a NMBRC file number--this number is in parentheses and consists of the year the record was originally circulated to the Committee (not the year in which the record occurred), followed by a dash and a number. Also given are the location (with county in *italics),* the date(s) of the record, and the initials of the observer(s). Only observers who submitted documentation are listed; this practice was adopted in hopes of encouraging more observers to submit their own reports so that they too may receive recognition for their contributions. Observers are not listed for records not accepted. If photographs, audiotapes, or videotapes are on file with the NMBRC, the New Mexico Photo/Tape File (NMPTF) number is given; this

number references all photos and tapes that are on file for each individual record. If a photo was published, a brief citation is given. Abbreviations found in the report are NM (National Monument), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), and SP (State Park).

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ACCEPTED RECORDS

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violacea*). One adult (1995-1) was at San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Fe, on 29 July 1995: KD. This represents the first report for Santa Fe, and the northernmost yet in the Rio Grande drainage in New Mexico. The species was reported annually in New Mexico during the 7-year period 1989-95, averaging about one bird per year.

Glossy Ibis *(Plegadis falcinellus).* An adult (1995-22) in breeding (alternate) plumage was in the vicinity of Bosque Redondo Lakes, ca. 2 mi southeast of Fort Sumner, *DeBaca,* on 14-15 May 1995: CMR, JRO, JEP; videotape (15 May) by SWC, NSC, LPG; NMPTF #1995-3. Discovered by CMR, the bird was studied to good advantage on several occasions as it fed in company with up to 25 White-faced Ibises *(P. chihi).* Supported by videotape footage plus excellent written descriptions, this constitutes New Mexico's first confirmed record.

Surf Scoter *(Melanitta perspicillata).* One (1995-3) female or juvenile at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro,* 8-14 May 1995: PB, JRO, WHH. One (1995-4) first-year male at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves,* 10-20 May 1995: RAM, SN, JRO, JEP, CMB (ph. 20 May), 5MB; NMPTF #1995-4. Although recorded almost annually in New Mexico in recent years (e.g., reported in nine of the 10 years 1986-95), spring records for this species are decidedly scarce.

Piping Plover *(Charadrius melodus).* One adult (1995-6), in breeding (alternate) plumage (and believed to be a male), was at Santa Rosa Reservoir, *Guadalupe,* on 25 April 1995: DWS. This report constitutes the state's fifth overall, and the first for *Guadalupe.* One adult (1995-7), possibly a male based on the complete breast band, was at Brantley Reservoir, *Eddy,* on 29 April 1995: JRO (ph.); NMPTF #1995-2. A photo of this individual was published in *Audubon Field Notes* 49:288. The Brantley bird represents the state's sixth overall, and second confirmed, record.

Whimbrel *(Numenius phaeopus).* One (1995-8) was at the Ojo Amarillo sewage ponds on the Navajo Indian Reservation ca. 3 mi south of Kirtland, *San Juan,* on 11 July 1995: TR (ph.); NMPTF # 1995-6. The locality was erroneously reported as Navajo Lake in *Audubon Field Notes* 49: 961.

Hudsonian Godwit *(Limosa haemastica).* One (1995-9), apparently attaining breeding plumage, was at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves,* on 19 May 1995: CMB. Of the approximately 13 New Mexico reports, eight have come from Bitter Lake NWR.

American Woodcock *(Scolopax minor).* One (1995-25) was feeding in moist soil beneath tall alder *(Alnus)* trees in the Gila National Forest along Sacaton Creek in southern *Catron* (ca.13 mi north of Buckhorn), on 21 March 1991: SOW. This, the state's fifth report, is the most westerly yet.

White-eared Hummingbird *(Hylocharis leucotis).* One (1995-11), apparently an immature, at Cistern

Saddle, Animas Mountains, *Hidalgo,* on 23 June 1995: NMC (sketch), AMC. Although recorded elsewhere in New Mexico in recent years, this represents the first Animas Mountains report since 1976.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *(Archilochus colubris).* An adult male (1995-26) was at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt,* on 9 September 1994: CMR, CIS. This species is verified for the state by two autumn (26 September 1976, 4 October 1974) specimens from nearby Portales (Hubbard and Gennaro 1985). Additional credible reports are lacking.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher *(Empidonax fulvifrons).* One (1995-12) was in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains, *Hidalgo,* on 20 May 1995: DAB, BDN (ph.), CMR; NMPTF #1995-5. Formerly a summer resident in southwestern New Mexico, where confirmed in *Cibola, Catron,* and *Grant,* this represents the first verified state record since the late 1920s-a period of almost seven decades! A photo of this individual was published in *Audubon Field Notes* 49: 289.

Long-billed Thrasher *(Toxostoma longirostre).* One (1995-13) was at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy,* 20 February and 16 & 22 Apri11995. Discovered, described, and photographed 20 February (JRO, ph.) and detailed again 16 April (JRO) and 22 April (JRO, JEP); possibly present through 29 April, but no additional details submitted; NMPTF # 1995-1. Greg W. Lasley reviewed the four color slides and concluded the bird was a typical Long-billed Thrasher; one of these photos was published in *Audubon Field Notes* 49: 180. This record, supported by the four photos, constitutes a first for New Mexico.

Blue-winged Warbler *(Vermivora pinus).* An adult (1995-14), probably a male, was at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy,* 10-11 May 1995: RAM (10 May), DAB (11 May). About the eleventh state record, and the second consecutive spring occurrence at Rattlesnake Springs.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *(Dendroica pensylvanica).* An adult male (1995-29) was singing in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mountains, *Socorro,* on 19 May 1995: DWM. Apparently, and surprisingly, this represents the first *Socorro* report, although there are prior reports from five of the six adjoining counties (none from *Lincoln).* One adult male (1995-15) was singing at the Fort Bliss McGregor Range, southern Sacramento Mountains, *Otero,* on 21 June 1995: RAM. This report, the first for *Otero,* apparently is the first summer report for the state.

Magnolia Warbler *(Dendroica magnolia).* An adult (1995-30) of uncertain sex was at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt,* on 11 May 1995: CLB. A fall-plumaged individual (1995-31), possibly a male, was along the Santa Fe River in the vicinity of Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe, *Santa Fe,* on 14 October 1995: BRF, JL, MP. This latter record furnished a first for *Santa Fe,* and one of the latest yet for New Mexico.

Black-throated Blue Warbler *(Dendroica caerulescens).* An adult male (1995-16) was at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy,* on 18 May 1995: RAM. Although most New Mexico reports for this species have been in the fall, there are spring reports in five of the seven years 1989-95.

Blackburnian Warbler *(Dendroica fusca).* An adult male (1995-32) was at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt,* on 11 May 1995: CLB. This represents about the eleventh overall, and sixth spring, New Mexico report.

Yellow-throated Warbler *(Dendroica dominica).* An adult (1995-33), apparently of the white-lored *albilora* race, was at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy,* on 22 April 1995: JEP, JRO. About the sixteenth New Mexico record overall, but the fifth in spring from this single locality.

Prothonotary Warbler *(Protonotaria citrea).* A male (1995-35) was at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra,* on 31 August 1995: LS, EGW. A male (1995-34) was at the Corrales Bosque, *Sandoval,* on 14 September 1995: TB. The species was reported at least once in New Mexico in eight of the 10 years 1986-95.

Kentucky Warbler *(Oporonis formosus).* One adult female (1995-18) was at Silver City, *Grant,* on 3 June 1995: DAZ, MAZ. This represents the first *Grant* report.

Hooded Warbler *(Wilsonia citrinia).* An adult male (1995-19) was singing 5 mi north of Belen, *Valencia,* on 21 June 1995: WHH.

White-winged Crossbill *(Loxia leucoptera).* One female or first-year male (1994-45) was observed during the Caballo Christmas Bird Count on the northeast slope of Timber Mountain, in the Caballo Mountains ca. 6 mi east of Caballo, *Sierra,* on 2 January 1994: EGW. This represents the first New Mexico report since 1985, and the first ever for *Sierra.*

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Albatross sp. *(Diomedea* sp.). One (1995-21) was reported as having been briefly seen gliding southeast over Peralta, *Valencia,* on the evening of 26 July 1995. This intriguing sighting failed on receiving a 1-5 second-circulation vote. The details were suggestive of the genus but were lacking in several important details, including lacking any description of the head or bill. There are no previous New Mexico reports for any albatross.

Tricolored Heron *(Egretta tricolor).* One (1994-1) was reported at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra,* on 17 May 1994. The very minimal details were suggestive-but not conclusive-of the species, and the record failed on a third-circulation vote. A Tricolored Heron (1994-2) at Las Animas Creek, ca. 7 mi north of Perch Dam SP, on 29 May 1994 was accepted earlier (Williams 1995) and may represent the same individual.

Glossy Ibis *(Plegadis falcinellus).* One (1995-23) was reported at Salitre Tank, located at the east end of Santa Rosa Reservoir, *Guadalupe,* on 24 April 1995. The ibis was seen at a distance of 75 m as it fed alone. Lack of description of the facial skin troubled all Members, while other reported details did not rule out subadult White-faced Ibis *(P. chihi),* a common New Mexico migrant at that season.

Garganey *(Anas querquedula).* Two birds (1995-2), described as a nonbreeding plumaged male and a female, were reported on the Pecos River just upstream from Lake Avalon, *Eddy,* on 20 December 1994. The female was not seen well; the male, seen for 20-25 seconds, apparently showed no trace of the distinctive male Garganey head pattern, although by mid-December such should be evident. The described wing pattern was suggestive but not definitive for the species. Generally, the Members concluded that the observation time was too brief and the details not convincing for such a rare species. In addition, the mid-December date would be unusual for North America, where most records are in spring or fall. Garganey was confirmed in New Mexico by a hunter-killed female taken at Bitter Lake NWR on 23 November 1986 (Schmitt 1990); there have been no additional reports.

White-tailed Kite *(Elanus leucurus).* One (1994-7) was reported in the southern Animas Valley, *Hidalgo,* on 8 May 1994. Although the location and date were considered good for this species, a majority of Members believed the description was too brief and vague to be acceptable. Reports of this graceful raptor have been on the increase in New Mexico, and observers are cautioned to carefully record their sightings so that occurrence patterns may be better documented and understood.

Black Rail *(Laterallus jamaicensis).* One (1995-5) seen fleetingly and imperfectly (seen only from above) at Maxwell NWR, *Colfax,* on 12 May 1995. The few details provided did not eliminate young rails of other species or Sora *(Porzana carolina).* The species, reported but once previously in the state *(NMOS Field Notes* 18: 8) remains unconfirmed in New Mexico.

American Golden-Plover *(Pluvialis dominica).* One (1995-24) was reported at Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax,* on 1 October 1995. The written details were very suggestive but not definitive of a golden-plover, and they were not at all positive for any species. Describing nonbreeding shorebirds is difficult even for experienced observers, and caution is advised.

Red Knot *(Calidris canutus).* One (1994-50) was reported at Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax,* on 19 September 1992. The hastily-written details-from two observers-were far too brief to identify this species or to separate it from similar species.

White-rumped Sandpiper *(Calidris fuscicollis).* One (1994-10) was reported at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves,* on 17 May 1994. The date and location are good for the species, but a majority of Members were not satisfied with the written description. In particular, the white rump was noted only when the wings were briefly and apparently only partially raised (the bird never flew). Most all peeps show some white extending well up onto the flanks, and a resting bird briefly raising its wings could appear to have an all-white rump. Also troubling was the absence of any rust or reddish feathers on the upperparts, although such should be expected in spring birds. Better coverage of eastern New Mexico from mid-May to early June may find this species to be regular in occurrence there.

Red-breasted Sapsucker *(Sphyrapicus ruber).* One (1994-57) was reported in the western foothills of the Ortiz Mountains, *Santa Fe,* on 22 September 1994. The record failed on a close 2-4 second-circulation vote. All Members believed the identification was possibly correct, but the relatively brief and imperfect views in apparently poor light were not sufficient to identify the species or to conclusively eliminate hybrids. The species remains unconfirmed in New Mexico.

Red-throated Pipit *(Anthus cervinus).* One (1995-27) was reported at the Grasslands Turf Farm, Los Lunas, *Valencia,* on 26 September 1992. The record failed on a 0-6 first-circulation vote. The written documentation was reviewed by R. Guy McCaskie, who concluded the description did not match Red-throated Pipit and, additionally, could not be identified to any other species with certainty. There are no previous New Mexico reports.

Yellow-throated Warbler *(Dendroica dominica).* One (1994-40) was reported at White Sands NM, *Otero,* on 28 April 1993. The record failed on a 2-4 second circulation vote. The bird was seen briefly (apparently for only a few seconds) by a single observer. The minimal details were suggestive of the species (e.g., white ear patch), but lacking from the description was any mention of size and shape as well as a complete description of the face and any description of the bill, crown, and upperparts.

Prairie Warbler *(Dendroica discolor).* One (1994-41) was reported at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra,* on 15 May 1994. The bird, described as a very pale female, was seen for about 45 seconds as it flitted in and out of vegetation at a distance of 30 m. The record failed on a 1-5 second-circulation vote, with the majority of Members concluding the available documentation did not convincingly describe a spring Prairie Warbler nor eliminate certain other species.

Blackpoll Warbler *(Dendroica striata).* One (1995-17) was reported at Albuquerque, *Bernalillo,* on 11 May 1995. The report failed on the second circulation, with all Members noting that it was likely accurate but that the available details were insufficient for positive identification.

Hooded Warbler *(Wilsonia citrina).* One (1994-23) was reported at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra,* on 13 May 1994. The very minimal details provided failed to adequately describe this species; the record failed on the second circulation.

Slate-throated Redstart *(Myioborus miniatus).* One (1994-65) was reported from the vicinity of Bluff Springs, south of Cloudcroft, *Otero,* by one observer on 21 May 1993 and independently by a different observer on 10 August 1993; neither observer had prior experience with the species, and the second observer apparently had no prior knowledge of the earlier observation. An intriguing report that went to a second-circulation vote, where it failed 0-6. The details, especially of the August sighting, were suggestive but, unfortunately, were incomplete and written after-the-fact. The species is truly rare north of Mexico, and to be acceptable any report must be detailed and complete. There is one previous record for New Mexico, a specimen from "Steven's Tank" (Bell Lake), *Lea,* on 16 April 1962 (Harris 1964).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to each of my five fellow NMBRC Members-Alan Craig, John Parmeter, Chris Rustay, Barry Zimmer, and Dale Zimmerman-for their splendid efforts in continuing the work of the Committee in 1995. In addition, Craig W. Benkman and Robert W. Dickerman provided valuable input on the crossbill record,

Greg W. Lasley reviewed and commented on the thrasher documentation, and R. Guy McCaskie reviewed and commented on the pipit documentation. The manuscript benefited from reviews by Paul E. Steel and Mary Alice Root.

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APPENDIX. The NMBRC Review List.

The Committee has developed a Review List, currently including 145 species, for which it requests documentation of all New Mexico records. In addition, the Committee requests documentation of all New Mexico records of species not currently on the official State List and, hence, potentially new to the state. Documentation may be in the form of written details, copies of field notes, photographs (slides [preferred], prints, and/or videotapes), voice recordings, and/or information on (and the location of) specimens.

Review List species are those that are on the official State List but, in general, have been recorded on average four or fewer times per year over the previous ten-year period. Also included are certain species that pose significant identification problems. And, also included are certain very locally-distributed species that may be encountered away from their known ranges. The Review List is intended to be dynamic, with species added or removed as knowledge of their status warrants. For example, species can be removed from the Review List when frequency of records exceeds Review List criteria. The NMBRC provides standardized reporting forms, which may be obtained from the Secretary. These forms are intended as an aid in providing documentation.

The Editor(s) of *American Birds/Audubon Field Notes* and *NMOS Field Notes* may require some level of documentation on additional scarce or difficult to identify species, as well as for commoner species when found away from their normal ranges or out of season.

As regards the official New Mexico State List, the Committee has decided that, for a species to be fully accepted on the list of New Mexico birds, it must have at least one record supported by either 1) a specimen, identified by a recognized authority, with convincing evidence that the specimen was taken within New Mexico, or 2) one or more photographs or voice recordings that demonstrate definitive characters, with convincing evidence that the photo or tape was obtained in New Mexico. In addition, the record must be reviewed and accepted by the NMBRC.

The Review List.-Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Least Storm-Petrel, Brown Pelican, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye (outside *San Juan),* Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Kite, Gray Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Crested Caracara, Aplomado Falcon, Sage Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Purple Gallinule, American Golden-Plover, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Buff-breasted

Sandpiper, Ruff, Short-billed Dowitcher, American Woodcock, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Herrmann's Gull, Mew Gull, Thayer's Gull, Western Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Caspian Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Black Skimmer, Ancient Murrelet, Common Ground-Dove, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Whiskered Screech-Owl (outside Peloncillo Mts), Short-eared Owl, Boreal Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Buff-collared Nightjar, White-eared Hummingbird, Berylline Hummingbird, Cinnamon Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird (outside *Grant* and *Hidalgo)*, Lucifer Hummingbird (outside Peloncillo Mts), Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Elegant Trogon (outside Peloncillo Mts), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Couch's Kingbird, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Sedge Wren, Veery (outside Penasco area), Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush, Rufous-backed Robin, Varied Thrush, Long-billed Thrasher, Sprague's Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-green Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Botteri's Sparrow (outside Animas Valley), Worthen's Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Bobolink (outside Los Ojos area), Rusty Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Lawrence's Goldfinch.

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SURVEYS OF GRASSLAND BIRDS AT THE MAXWELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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The Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR) is located northwest of the town of Maxwell in Colfax County, New Mexico. MNWR is 3700 acres in size, about 700 of which are lakes and the remainder a variety of upland habitats. Typically, about 440 acres of the refuge are actively farmed with a variety of crops. Most of the non-agricultural area of the refuge is covered by various types of grasslands which have resulted from the abandonment of agricultural fields and homesteads at various times since the refuge's establishment. The exact type of grassland that has resulted depends on a variety of factors, including soil type, elevation, and prior land use. The shrub Four-winged Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) is present in some of the refuge grasslands. More disturbed areas contain Foxtail Barley (*Hordeum jubatum*), Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and Kochia (*Kochia scoparis*). A very unique and important habitat type that occupies small portions of the refuge is the woodlot, comprising primarily Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*) and several species of cottonwood and poplar (*Populus* sp.). Woodlot sites are locations of former human habitation.

MNWR is well known to birders as a place where several species considered rare, unusual, or otherwise interesting in New Mexico can be found in the breeding season (Zimmerman et al. 1992). However, as with most national wildlife refuges, its primary objective is to provide a feeding and resting area for migratory waterfowl, with secondary objectives being the provision of habitat for other birds and wildlife and to provide opportunities for recreation. In order to more fully document the presence and abundance of some of these species of interest at MNWR, I conducted a series of point counts on and off the refuge during the breeding season of 1995 to: (1) document the abundance and distribution of grassland and other non-game bird species on the refuge; (2) study temporal trends in the populations of these species throughout the

breeding season; and (3) examine the abundance and distribution of these species in the areas surrounding the refuge.

METHODS

A route consisting of a total of 65 points located at least 0.2 mi. apart was established on virtually all driveable roads within or bordering MNWR. For survey purposes, the 65 points were divided into two groups: the west side containing 33 points and the east side containing 32 points. All points in a side were visited in a single morning; therefore, the entire set of points was surveyed in two successive days. Each point was visited for a period of five minutes and all birds heard or seen during the five minutes were counted, except for any individuals which were known or suspected to have been counted at a previous point. Surveys were started approximately 20 minutes before local sunrise. The surveys were conducted by bicycle and all surveys except the very first were completed within 4 hours, 30 minutes.

Surveys of these points were made on 23 May (visit 1), 7-8 June (visit 2), and 5-6 July 1995 (visit 3). Rainy weather on 24 May prevented any additional surveys, so only the west side was surveyed during visit 1. During visits 2 and 3, complete surveys were made. A fina1 trip was made to Maxwell on 14-16 August 1995 (visit 4), but since virtually all singing activity had finished at this point, no point surveys were conducted. On all visits, after the point surveys were completed, various other parts of the refuge were visited on foot to survey for species that might have been missed on the point counts. In these surveys, particular attention was paid to the woodlots.

A regional survey transect was established to determine bird distribution and abundance in the area immediately surrounding the refuge. This transect consisted of 38 points and started approximately 8 mi. north of the refuge and ran south to the refuge, turned west through the refuge, and then continued to a point about 3 mi. west of the refuge. These points were located approximately 0.5 mi. apart and were visited for 5 minutes during which all birds seen or heard within a 0.25 mi. radius of the point were counted. The regional surveys were started at approximately 30 minutes before local sunrise and lasted for about 4 hours, 30 minutes. The regional transect was surveyed a total of two times, once on visit 2 and again on visit 3.

RESULTS

A total of 117 species was encountered during the course of the study. Of this total, 85 species were encountered during either the refuge or regional point count surveys, although many of these were clearly spring and/or fall migrants. Several species not on the current refuge checklist (Anonymous 1992) were observed during the study: Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidodax hammondii*), Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), Northern Waterthrush (*Seiuros noveboracensis*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), and Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*).

Table 1 shows all species found on refuge point counts, in order of the total number of individuals counted on the surveys on visits 1, 2, and 3. The species that were consistently the most common on refuge surveys were: Western Meadowlark (*Stumella neglecta*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Cliff Swallow (*Hirondo pyrrhonota*), and Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). The meadowlark and blackbird were always the first and second most common species, respectively, in all refuge surveys. The relative abundance of the Cliff Swallow is slightly misleading since it reflects the large numbers of mostly young birds counted on visit 3. On the regional surveys, the five most common species were the Cliff Swallow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Homed Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and Vesper Sparrow (Table 2). Species richness on refuge point counts ranged from two to 16 species per point across all visits with an average of just under eight species per point. As would be expected, point species richness was highest at those sites with the widest diversity of habitats. On the refuge, these areas were generally woodlots surrounded by grasslands. Areas of relatively low species richness on the refuge were generally the areas with the most extensive grasslands that were the farthest distance from woodlots. On the regional surveys, richness ranged from two to 17 species per point, with an average slightly lower than that of the

refuge points. Many of the species encountered are of ornithological or conservation interest in New Mexico and these are discussed separately by species in the sections that follow.

Grasshopper Sparrow

This species is of interest both because of persistent and widespread population declines (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -3.6%/year, P <= 0.01, National Biological Service unpubl. data) and because of its relatively restricted breeding distribution in New Mexico (Hubbard 1978). As mentioned above, the Grasshopper Sparrow was one of the most common bird species on upland portions of MNWR during this study (Table 1). A maximum of 77 birds was counted during a single visit with up to four birds at a single point. The species was present on all four visits to the refuge and several instances of probable breeding, as evidenced by parents carrying food and giving alarm calls, were observed. Although more data are needed, it seems safe to say that MNWR contains one of the highest known breeding densities of Grasshopper Sparrows in New Mexico.

The sparrow was found in virtually all areas of the refuge that were surveyed. Typical sparrow habitat was very open grassland that was always dry. Grasshopper Sparrows were found on the regional survey, including some points off the refuge, suggesting that isolated patches of habitat do exist in the greater Maxwell area. However, sparrows were found on a significantly higher proportion of points on refuge surveys than on regional surveys (visit 2: X^2 = 25..50, P <= 0.0001, df = 1; visit 3: X^2 = 13.31, P <= 0.0001, df = 1). Sparrow densities, as measured by average number of birds per point on which sparrows were found, were higher on the refuge than on the regional surveys (visit 2: 1.5 birds/point on refuge vs. 1.0 birds/point on regional; visit 3: 1. 8 birds/point on refuge vs. 1.2 birds/point on regional). These results strongly suggest that although the refuge is clearly within the breeding range of the Grasshopper Sparrow in New Mexico, it is providing much more suitable habitat for this species than is generally available outside the refuge. It seems likely that this is due to the extensive areas of relatively tall grassland that have developed on the old agricultural areas of the refuge in the absence of grazing.

Savannah Sparrow

This species is of interest because the southern limits of its breeding range occur in northern New Mexico. It also has shown modest population declines across its range (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -0.6% /year, P <= 0.05, National Biological Service unpubl. data). The Savannah Sparrow also proved to be one of the most common species on the refuge (Table 1), with a maximum of 45 birds observed during a single visit and up to 4 birds at a single point. The sparrow was fairly widely distributed on the refuge, although absent from many areas. The sites with highest counts of Savannah Sparrow were generally low lying areas with very wet soil that supported a vegetation cover of either Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*) or sedge (*Carex* sp.) meadow. Savannah Sparrows were generally absent from higher sites on the refuge and those areas not covered with graminoids. Evidence of breeding in the form of adults carrying food and giving alarm calls was noted several times during the study.

Savannah Sparrows were also found on the regional survey off the refuge. There were proportionally more sparrows found on the refuge than off; but these differences were only statistically significant for one visit (visit 2: X^2 = 4.50, P = 0.034, df = 1; visit 3: X^2 = 2.37, P = 0.123, df = 1). Savannah Sparrow densities were fairly similar between the refuge and regional surveys (visit 2: 1.7 birds/point on refuge vs. 1.7 birds/point on regional; visit 3: 1.8 birds/point on refuge vs. 1.3 birds/point on regional). These results suggest that the refuge is providing relatively more suitable habitat for the Savannah Sparrow as compared to the surrounding area.

Dickcissel

The Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) is of interest because of continental population declines (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -1.6%/year, P <= 0.01, National Biological Service unpubl. data) and because it has only recently been confirmed as breeding in New Mexico (S. Williams pers.

comm.). It also exhibits a very interesting breeding biology with great inter-annual variation in population densities at various sites within the range (Fretwell 1986). The Dickcissel was found on the refuge during this study and exhibited a pronounced increasing population trend during the summer: no birds on the first visit, three birds on the second visit, 33 birds on the third visit, and no birds on the fourth visit (although two birds were seen just to the north of the refuge on visit four). No evidence of breeding was found and all birds observed were singing males. Dickcissels were most common in the extensively disturbed area to the west of the main lake and north of refuge headquarters, near the agricultural fields north of the main lake, and along the east side of the refuge which is bordered by extensive alfalfa fields. Dickcissels were also found on the regional surveys, but only on points in the immediate vicinity of the refuge. The proportion of points on which the Dickcissel was found was very similar for both refuge and regional surveys.

It is extremely difficult to assess the status of the Dickcissel at MNWR. It is regularly reported from the refuge, at least in late summer. The count of 33 birds on visit 3 seems quite high, but the lack of any other quantitative survey data does not allow this count to be placed in any context. The well known variability of Dickcissel population sizes plus the species' typical association with hay fields, suggest that the variability in numbers observed in this study is not atypical and that breeding cannot be assumed without additional evidence. These results do suggest that further investigations into the status of the Dickcissel on the refuge take place in early or mid-July, when populations are at their largest.

Cassin’s Sparrow

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*) is another grassland species that has experienced large population declines (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -2.3%1year, P <= 0.01, National Biological Service unpubl. data). It is of interest at MNWR since this area represents the western limit of its normal breeding distribution on the eastern plains (Hubbard 1978). This species was found during this study, but in very low numbers on every visit. A total of six birds was counted on each of the first three visits and, aside from one count of three birds, only one bird was ever observed per point.

The Cassin's Sparrow was consistently found only in grasslands with saltbush near and north of the main entrance and on the refuge's west side. Cassin's Sparrows were found on the regional surveys on a higher proportion of points than on the refuge; these differences were statistically significant for one visit (visit 2: $X^2 = 0.64$, P = 0.424, df= 1; visit 3: $X^2 = 5.34$, P = 0.021, df= 1). Sparrow densities were higher on regional than on refuge surveys (visit 2: 1.5 birds/point on refuge vs. 2.0 birds/point on regional; visit 3: 1.0 birds/point on refuge vs. 1.8 birds/point on regional). Cassin's Sparrow is not a particularly common species in this part of New Mexico, as evidenced by the generally low proportion of points at which it was observed both on the refuge and regional surveys. It prefers grasslands with shrubs (saltbush, in this area), although it is not immediately clear why saltbush grassland should be more common regionally than on the refuge.

Vesper Sparrow

This sparrow was the most widespread sparrow found on the refuge (Table 1). It is of less conservation concern than many of the species discussed in this paper since it shows slight population declines (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -0.6%/year, P <= 0.05, National Biological Service unpubl. data) and is fairly widely distributed in the state (Hubbard 1978). A maximum of 61 birds were counted on a single visit with up to four at a single point. Vesper Sparrows were found throughout the refuge, except in some very disturbed areas and agricultural fields. They seemed to prefer grasslands with at least a few shrubs present, but they were also found in open woodlots and in the southern part of the refuge adjacent to heavily grazed pasture. Vesper Sparrows were found in approximately equa1 proportions of points on the refuge and regional surveys (visit 2: $X^2 = 2.12$, P = 0.145, df= 1; visit 3: $X^2 = 1.63$, P = 0.201, df= 1). This would seem to indicate that Vesper Sparrow abundance on the refuge reflects its abundance in the region as a whole and that perhaps this sparrow is not significantly affected by the differing land use practices on and off the refuge.

Lark Bunting

The Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) is another slightly declining grassland species (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -0.7%/year, P > 0.1, National Biological Service unpubl. data) with a fairly restricted breeding distribution in the state (Hubbard 1978). Many birds observed in the breeding season are apparently not breeders (Hubbard 1978). This species exhibited a marked temporal increase during the course of this study with three birds at three points during visit 2 and 16 birds at six points during visit 3. One flock of birds not in breeding plumage was observed during visit 1 at one point and many non-breeding plumage birds were seen at various places on the refuge during visit 4. In June and July, many of the birds observed were males in breeding plumage performing the flight display, but no other evidence of breeding was observed on the refuge. The primary place on the refuge where Lark Buntings were found was along the north boundary road. Buntings were commonly found on the regional surveys, particularly during visit 3, when buntings were generally more common both on and off refuge. The difference between refuge and regional surveys in the proportion of points on which buntings were found was statistically significant for the latter visit (visit 2: $X^2 = 0.02$, P = 0.883, df= 1; visit 3: $X^2 = 13.51$, P <= 0.0001, df = 1). In this part of New Mexico, the Lark Bunting seems to prefer very open country, which might explain its greater prevalence outside the refuge in more heavily grazed areas.

Eastern Kingbird

The Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is of interest primarily because its distribution in the state is mainly in the northeast (Hubbard 1978); MNWR is considered one of the best places in New Mexico to see this species (Zimmerman et al. 1992). Recent population trends show slight declines (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -0.4%/year, P <= 0.05, National Biological Service unpubl. data). Eastern Kingbirds were commonly found during the study and this species was the tenth most common species on refuge point counts (Table 1). Up to 28 birds were found on a single survey with up to three birds at a single point. Eastern Kingbirds were generally found in or near woodlots or human habitation and one nest was found in a Siberian Elm. Eastern Kingbirds were also found on the regional surveys, but in lower proportions than on the refuge surveys, although these differences were not statistically significant (visit 2: $X^2 = 3.38$, P = 0.066, df = 1; visit 3: $X^2 = 0.34$, P= 0.560, df = 1).

Long-billed Curlew

The Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) is an obligate grassland nesting species and is generally suspected to be declining across its range (Ehrlich et al. 1988; North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -1.2%/year, P > 0.1, National Biological Service unpubl. data). The curlew was observed on visits 1 and 2, including three individuals counted at two points on the visit 2 regional survey. All curlews were in heavily grazed, completely open pasture or rangeland off the refuge. These sample sizes are too small for statistical analysis, but it seems possible that curlews prefer the very short grass of grazed rangeland (at least for foraging) and therefore are less likely to be found on the refuge.

Horned Lark

This species is one of the most ubiquitous open country birds in New Mexico, yet has shown signs of population declines within its range (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -0.9%/year, P ,; 0.01, National Biological Service unpubl. data). It is included in this discussion because of the marked difference in the proportion of points on which it was found between the refuge and regional surveys. The lark was the fourth most common bird found on regional surveys (Table 2). Horned Larks were found on a considerably higher proportion of sites on regional surveys than on refuge surveys (visit 2: X^2 =15.66, P <= 0.0001, df = 1; visit 3: $X^2 = 18.68$, P <= 0.0001, df = 1). Since the lark prefers very open country with low (or even no) grass, this difference in distribution is probably due to the differing land use practices on and off the refuge, most notably the widespread occurrence of grazing off-refuge.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is of conservation concern because of population declines (North American Breeding Bird Survey 1966-1994 survey-wide trend: -1.3%/year, P <= 0.01,

National Biological Service unpubl. data) linked to the decline of its preferred riparian habitats in most parts of the western U.S. Its breeding distribution in New Mexico is not well known outside of the major river valleys, but it is known to occur at sites in the eastern plains such as at Clayton and Portales (Hubbard 1978) and at Rattlesnake Springs (Zimmerman et al. 1992). It should be noted that in their study of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Franzreb and Laymon (1993) felt that most of the cuckoos from the Pecos River of west Texas and eastern New Mexico were probably of the eastern subspecies (*C. a. americanus*), which is not considered to be as threatened as the western *C. a. occidentalis*. The cuckoo was observed in very small numbers on visits 2,3, and 4. It was only found in or immediately adjacent to woodlots. Although seen and/or heard in most of the woodlots on the refuge, no definitive evidence of breeding was obtained. However, breeding is entirely plausible at MNWR since cuckoos have used elms as a nesting substrate in other areas of New Mexico (Howe 1986, cited in Franzreb and Laymon 1993). This species deserves further investigation both to determine its exact breeding status on the refuge and the racial identity of the individuals to be found there in summer.

Willow Flycatcher

This species is of interest because of the recent listing of the subspecies *E. t. extimus* as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I observed and/or heard Willow Flycatchers on the refuge during visits 1,2, and possibly 4. A total of three individuals were encountered at three points during the visit 1 refuge survey and a minimum of six different individuals were found in different woodlots during this entire visit. All birds observed or heard were in woodlots, except for one bird in a Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) clump. The flycatchers observed were clearly migrant individuals, most likely of a different subspecies such as *E. t. adastus* that breeds to the north of New Mexico. These observations confirm the value of the upland habitat of the refuge, and the woodlots in particular, to migrating individuals of many species.

Other Species

Several other species observed in this study deserve a brief comment. The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) was found on every visit and survey and was the seventh-most common species on refuge surveys (Table 1). This species is a well-known brood parasite that has been implicated in the decline of many species (Lowther 1993). Many of the passerine bird species found in this study are parasitized by the cowbird, so its presence, population trends, and use of host species might deserve continued monitoring on the refuge.

Marsh Wren

The Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) is a species that is very scarce in New Mexico in the breeding season (Hubbard 1978). It was found on two visits in the tall cattails by the inflow to the main lake. Its presence in June and July and the fact that it was singing suggest possible breeding. However, no wrens were heard or seen in similar looking habitat around the other lakes. The Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) is another species that is known to have bred once in New Mexico (W. Howe pers. comm.). Hence, the observation of a female during the survey conducted on 6 July 1995 was quite interesting, although obviously not suggestive of breeding.

Two species deserve comment because they were not found. The first is the Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), for which, according to Zimmerman et al. (1992), MNWR's "trees often hold ... Red-headed Woodpeckers in summer." The refuge checklist (Anonymous 1992) lists the woodpecker as occasional (seen only a few times during a season), however. I found no Red-headed Woodpeckers, despite large amounts of time spent in and around woodlots. Casual observations suggest that perhaps this species was more common at MNWR in the past than it is now (J. French pers. comm.) and this is another species that has significantly declining populations continent-wide (National Biological Service unpubl. data). It is not clear exactly what has happened to the woodpecker, but perhaps this species deserves more attention from observers at this site and state-wide.

The other species that deserves mention because it was not found is the Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*). In the recent past, this species was fairly common on the refuge (J. French pers. comm.). However, it has disappeared from the refuge, none have been seen by refuge staff recently, and none were seen or heard during the course of this study. Continent-wide data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey show statistically significant population declines for this species both in New Mexico and nationally (National Biological Service unpubl. data). This disappearance from MNWR is puzzling since the habitat on the refuge and local land use seem relatively unchanged during the time period of its decline. The decline of the quail points out the necessity of periodic monitoring of the populations of even widespread and fairly common species and also of conducting research into the causes behind such population declines.

DISCUSSION

This study is probably the most intensive investigation of non-game birds that has been carried out recently on the MNWR. It confirmed the presence of all the species that were thought to be of interest before the study began and provided a great deal of data on the abundance and temporal trends of these species as well as determining the presence of several species that had not been previously known to occur on the refuge. Grassland species such as the Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Dickcissel were present throughout the breeding season of 1995. These species were all present in much larger numbers than were initially expected. It is quite probable that the highest densities of these species (or at least of the sparrows) in the State of New Mexico occur on the refuge, although this state has not been surveyed with sufficient intensity to say positively that there are no sites with higher densities somewhere else. These two sparrows, along with the Vesper Sparrow, were the dominant grassland sparrow species and were present in reasonably constant numbers throughout the season. However, the Dickcissel and Lark Bunting, both grassland species of conservation concern, showed very distinct increases in numbers between May and July. This suggests that efforts to monitor grassland species in New Mexico must either be timed to coincide with peak abundances of the target species or must be repeated within a season.

Many terrestrial bird species found during this survey were associated with woodlots. Several species of conservation and/or birder interest in New Mexico such as the Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Eastern Kingbird used these woodlots almost exclusively for nesting or were found only in them. Many other species were found at least partly in woodlots or very close by. Finally, many of the passerine migrants that were observed were found in woodlots. Together, these observations strongly indicate the importance of the woodlots in providing habitat for species of concern that might otherwise not be found on the refuge.

It must be noted that several of the grassland species found in this study were equally as common on the refuge as in the surrounding region. Examples include the Western Meadowlark and Vesper Sparrow. Apparently, this part of New Mexico is an area of high abundance for these species and they are not greatly affected by differences in land use between the refuge and the surrounding landscape. This study also indicated clearly that a few species, such as the Homed Lark, Cassin's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, and possibly Long-billed Curlew, were more widespread regionally than on the refuge. This is not an unexpected result for those species which prefer very open country with few trees and short, close-cropped grass, but it should be emphasized that current refuge management practices do not automatically provide better habitat for all species.

All of the distinct habitat types on the refuge that were used by the species of interest mentioned above are either human created or extensively modified. These include the lakes, grasslands, and woodlots, which are used by virtually all wildlife. This indicates that human management practices have had and will continue to have a major impact on the populations of the species discussed in this report. Given the large populations of many of the species of concern, it seems fair to say that current refuge management, in which agriculture and recreation are confined to very small parts of the refuge, contributes to the maintenance of the preferred habitat of most species. The only management activity that might possibly affect some species is the periodic control of grasshoppers during outbreak years (Bomar et al. 1993). However, as discussed by Bomar et al. (1993), this control activity may actually be beneficial for some bird species, so it seems reasonable to assume that this activity poses little or no harm to grassland bird populations.

The woodlots, as discussed earlier, are clearly a very important habitat for many species, even though they are completely man-made. What seems important about them is both their spatial dispersion and vertical habitat stratification, with both the very tall elms, cottonwoods, and poplars being used by some species and the very low and dense elm thickets being used by other species. For example, the Swainson's Hawk, Great Homed Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Eastern Kingbird, and Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) use the large trees for nesting, perching, and roosting. Other species, such as passerine migrants, were primarily found in and about the relatively dense elm thickets surrounding the larger trees. These woodlots are not completely static features: the large trees will eventually die and fall over, while continued recruitment, particularly of elms, will result in the expansion of the dense areas of woodlot into surrounding habitat, generally grassland. It may be worthwhile to establish an intermittent monitoring program for the expansion of these woodlots, to make sure they do not continually expand at the expense of grassland habitat.

In summary, this study provides abundant confirmation that the MNWR is serving a valuable conservation function outside that belonging to traditional wildlife management and recreation. At least in New Mexico, MNWR is a stronghold for a variety of species of major conservation and ornithological interest. Although the combination of habitat types that now exist are largely the result of human activities in the past, the avian biodiversity of the refuge is important at both state and regional levels. Maintenance of this diversity seems quite compatible with current management activities, but periodic monitoring may be needed to verify the status of many species and the availability of good quality grassland habitat.

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Table 1. List of species found on refuge point surveys, sorted by total number of individuals counted on all three visits. The maximum number of points a species could be found on was 163.

Species	Total Indiv.	Total Points	Species	Total Indiv.	Total Points
Western Meadowlark	416	161	Burrowing Owl	7	6
Red-winged Blackbird	312	102	Green-winged Teal	7	3
Grasshopper Sparrow	159	98	House Finch	7	7
Vesper Sparrow	156	100	Lesser Goldfinch	7	6
Cliff Swallow	120	49	Say's Phoebe	7	6
Savannah Sparrow	108	64	Violet-green Swallow	7	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	81	59	Western Wood-Pewee	7	7
Yellow-headed Blackbird	75	31	Eared Grebe	6	3
Common Grackle	71	23	Lazuli Bunting	6	6
Eastern Kingbird	64	48	Sora	5	5
Mourning Dove	56	37	Virginia Rail	5	5
Bullock's Oriole	51	38	American Kestrel	4	3
America Coot	49	13	Lesser Scaup	4	2
Gadwall	44	20	Pied-billed Grebe	4	4
Am. White Pelican	37	3	Common Nighthawk	3	3
Blue Grosbeak	37	33	Double-crested Cormorant	3	3
Dickcissel	36	27	Ring-necked Pheasant	3	3
Killdeer	35	30	Red-tailed Hawk	3	3
Barn Swallow	32	18	Turkey Vulture	3	2
Mallard	32	19	Willow Flycatcher	3	3
Lark Bunting	26	10	House Wren	2	2
Northern Shoveler	26	6	Indigo Bunting	2	2
Cassin's Kingbird	23	19	Ring-billed Gull	2	1
Common Yellowthroat	21	16	American Goldfinch	1	1
Western Kingbird	20	18	Audubon's Warbler	1	1
Cassin's Sparrow	18	16	Bank Swallow	1	1
Black-billed Magpie	16	10	Black-chinned Hummingbird	1	1
American Robin	15	13	Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	1
Northern Mockingbird	14	13	Black-headed Grosbeak	1	1
Swainson's Hawk	14	12	Black Tern	1	1
Redhead	13	6	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	1	1
Ruddy Duck	13	3	Canada Goose	1	1
Yellow Warbler	12	11	Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1
Cinnamon Teal	11	6	Hooded Merganser	1	1
Common Raven	11	9	Northern Harrier	1	1
European Starling	11	7	Warbling Vireo	1	1
No. Rough-winged Swallow	11	6	White-crowned Sparrow	1	1
American Avocet	8	3	Western Grebe	1	1
Horned Lark	8	7	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	1
Lark Sparrow	8	7			

Table 2. List of species found on regional point surveys, sorted by total number of individuals counted on all two surveys. The maximum number of points a species could be found on was 76.

Species	Total Indiv.	Total Points
Cliff Swallow	254	30
Western Meadowlark	186	76
Red-winged Blackbird	88	34
Horned Lark	72	27
Vesper Sparrow	56	46
Mourning Dove	34	16
Cassin's Sparrow	26	14
European Starling	26	5
Lark Bunting	25	17
Savannah Sparrow	24	16
Eastern Kingbird	17	14
Grasshopper Sparrow	17	15
Swainson's Hawk	17	13
Blue Grosbeak	16	15
Dickcissel	16	11
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	13
Bullock's Oriole	14	9
Say's Phoebe	14	11
Barn Swallow	12	5
Killdeer	12	9
American Robin	11	9
Common Grackle	11	8
Gadwall	11	5
Northern Mockingbird	11	9
Lesser Goldfinch	10	5
Lark Sparrow	9	6
Western Wood-Pewee	9	7
Cassin's Kingbird	8	8
Common Raven	7	4
House Finch	7	6
Western Kingbird	7	7
Yellow-headed Blackbird	6	3
Mallard	5	2
Red-tailed Hawk	5	5
American Coot	4	2
American Kestrel	4	4
Norther Shoveler	4	2
Black-billed Magpie	3	3
Cinnamon Teal	3	1
Green-winged Teal	3	1
Long-billed Curlew	3	2
Burrowing Owl	2	1
Am. White Pelican	2	1
American Avocet	2	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	3
Turkey Vulture	3	2
Blue-winged Teal	2	1
Double-crested Cormorant	2	1
Lazuli Bunting	2	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	2
Ruddy Duck	2	1
Canada Goose	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	1
No. Rough-winged Swallow	1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	1
Rock Wren	1	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	1
Sage Thrasher	1	1
Sora	1	1
Violet-green Swallow	1	1
Warbling Vireo	1	1
Yellow Warbler	1	1

A PROBABLE NEST RECORD OF THE HOODED WARBLER IN CATRON COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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On 28 June 1994, Bill Maynard saw and heard a male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) along the west fork of the Gila River, Catron County. He provided written details plus a sketch to Sandy Williams at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF).

On 23 July, Paul McConnell informed me that he and his wife had seen a female Hooded Warbler near the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, in about the same place where the male had been reported earlier.

On the morning of 24 July, Lee Daniel and I looked for the birds. We saw a female moving along in the low shrub and vine growth by the trail. The female perched in the open and we were able to confirm the identification. Lee was able to verify the sighting, both by sight and sound, due to her birding experiences in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The bird was observed making four trips carrying food items. As we did not wish to disturb the bird, we were unable to locate the nest or to take photographs on this visit.

On 31 July and 1 August, David Cleary observed a female Hooded Warbler at the site, and photographed the bird on 1 August.

Alan Craig and Narca Moore-Craig reported seeing a male and female Hooded Warbler in this same area on 5 August, and both birds were sketched at the time of observation.

On 10 November, I located the nest and photographed it. A second, older nest was found nearby, perhaps from an earlier attempt or from a previous year.

After checking the literature, I feel that this may be the first record of the Hooded Warbler nesting in New Mexico. I observed the frequent fanning of the tail feathers, similar to that of the redstarts, as stated in the references. Also mentioned was the chip note, heard by several observers, given by the birds while moving along in the underbrush. The observations of eight persons offer further corroboration.

I wish to thank Bill Maynard, the McConnells, Dave Cleary, and the Craigs for sharing their observations, and Sandy Williams and Paul Boucher for their help and advice. All written details, photographs, and sketches noted above are on file at NMDGF.

Literature Cited

Bent, Arthur Cleveland, ed. 1953. Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers. Washington, D.C.: U.S. National Museum Bulletin No. 203.

Harrison, Colin. 1978. A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds. Cleveland: Collins.

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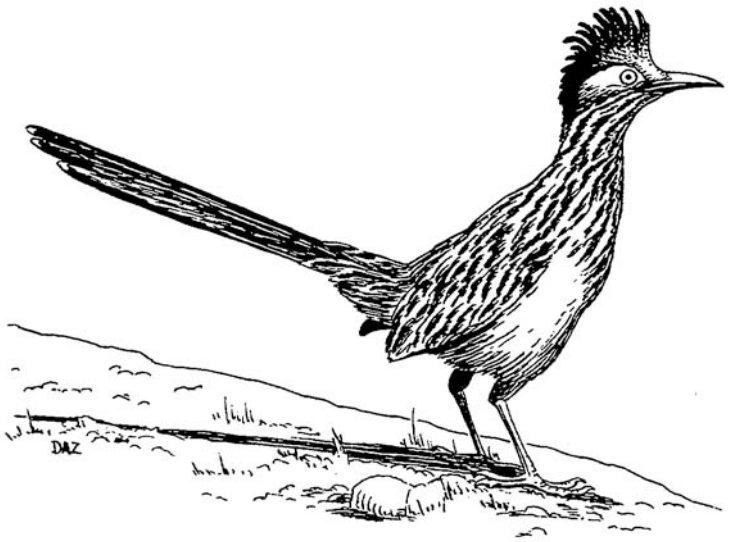

Greater Roadrunner