

NMOS BULLETIN



NEW MEXICO
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Volume 31 2003 Numbers 2-4

CONTENTS

RECENT AOU CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING THE NEW MEXICO BIRD LIST Sartor O. Williams III	19
41ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY 28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS JOINT MEETING, SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO, 24-27 JULY 2003 PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS	21
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2003-2004	36

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

NMOS Officers for 2002/2004	18
Minutes of the NMOS Board Meeting, July 25, 2003, Silver City, NM	35
Requests for Research Assistance	38
NMOS 2004 Annual Meeting Preliminary Announcement	39
NMOS Research Grants	39
NMOS Web Page Information: now at http://www.nmosbirds.org	39
Reporting New Mexico Bird Observations	40
Editorial	42
Information on NMOS Bulletin, Dues, Home Page, Rare Bird Alert	43

THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3608

OFFICERS FOR 2002-2004

President: Craig Benkman, Dept. Biology, MSC 3AF, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM 88003; 505-646-2541

Vice-President: William H. Howe, P.O. Box 461, Albuquerque, NM 87103; 505-890-4581

Secretary: Nancy Cox, 4426 San Isidro NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107; 505-345-2385

Treasurer: Jerry Oldenettel, 499 Farm-to-Market Road, Socorro, NM 87801; 505-838-9715

Director: Bruce Neville, 2105 Lakeview Road SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105; 505-873-0060

Director: Tim Reeves, 5101 Piñon Hills Blvd., Farmington, NM; 87402

Director: Roland Shook, 3306 Royal Drive, Silver City, NM 88061; 505-388-3441

Editors, *NMOS Field Notes*:

Sartor O. Williams III, 1819 Meadowview Dr. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

<sunbittern@earthlink.net>

William H. Howe, P.O. Box 461, Albuquerque, NM 87103; 505-890-4581

Editor, *NMOS Bulletin*:

Bruce Neville, 2105 Lakeview Road SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105; 505-873-0060;

<bneville@unm.edu>

RECENT AOU CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING THE NEW MEXICO BIRD LIST

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

New Mexico Bird Records Committee
1819 Meadowview Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104-2511
sunbittern@earthlink.net

and

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504

INTRODUCTION

The recently-published "44th Supplement" to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) *Check-list of North American Birds* (Auk 120:923-931, 2003) is the third Supplement to appear since the publication of the 7th edition of the AOU Check-list in 1998; it summarizes decisions made during 2002. The changes and other decisions, as regards New Mexico, fall into three broad categories: 1) English and/or scientific name changes resulting from taxonomic or other considerations; 2) a major re-ordering of certain higher classification groups; and 3) a recognition that a number of genera and species, especially among the "tanagers" and "finches," presently are improperly classified. The various changes in the 44th Supplement, however, do not alter the number of bird species presently attributed to New Mexico.

In addition to the above, it was announced that Supplements will now be published annually, so that accepted changes may be publicized more quickly. Conveniently, an updated list of all 2031 bird species known from the AOU Check-list area, and incorporating the changes from the 44th Supplement, may be found on the web at www.aou.org/aou/birdlist.html.

ENGLISH OR SCIENTIFIC NAME CHANGES

Rock Pigeon becomes the new English name for the former Rock Dove; the scientific name, *Columba livia*, remains unchanged.

The New World pigeons formerly included in the genus *Columba* are placed in a separate genus, *Patagioenas*; hence, the scientific name for Band-tailed Pigeon becomes *Patagioenas fasciata* (Say).

The subgenus *Megascops* for all New World species of *Otus* (except for *Otus flammeolus*) is elevated to full genus status. Hence, the scientific name for Western Screech-Owl becomes *Megascops kennicottii* (Elliot) and the scientific name for Whiskered Screech-Owl becomes *Megascops trichopsis* (Wagler).

Joint Meeting Program
Western Field Ornithologists
New Mexico Ornithology Society
July 24 – 27, 2003, Silver City New Mexico

Wednesday, July 23

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration for early arrivals at Holiday Inn Express.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. WFO finance committee meeting, Holiday Inn Express (limited to committee members only).

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. WFO publications committee meeting, Holiday Inn Express (limited to committee members only).

Thursday, July 24

5:30 Field Trips leaders meet at Harlan Hall parking lot

5:45 a.m. - 6:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast at local motel or at Harlan Hall (for those who have paid for the breakfast) on WNMU campus (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets).

6:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Field trips. Depart from WNMU parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. WFO Board meeting at Holiday Inn Express.

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration for early arrivals at Holiday Inn Express.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Lunch on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU Campus.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Dinner on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU Campus.

5:00 p.m. Reception for Field Trip Leaders at the Gifted Han Gallery.

6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. WFO/NMOS/CBRC Reception at Gifted Hand Gallery.

8:00 p.m. Owling field trips leave from the parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

Friday, July 25

5:30 Field Trips leaders meet at Harlan Hall parking lot

5:45 - 6:15 a.m. Breakfast at local motel or at Harlan Hall on WNMU campus.

6:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Field trips. Depart from WNMU parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Lunch on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU campus.

Joint Meeting Program
Western Field Ornithologists
New Mexico Ornithology Society
July 24 – 27, 2003, Silver City New Mexico

Wednesday, July 23

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration for early arrivals at Holiday Inn Express.

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. WFO finance committee meeting, Holiday Inn Express (limited to committee members only).

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. WFO publications committee meeting, Holiday Inn Express (limited to committee members only).

Thursday, July 24

5:30 Field Trips leaders meet at Harlan Hall parking lot

5:45 a.m. - 6:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast at local motel or at Harlan Hall (for those who have paid for the breakfast) on WNMU campus (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets).

6:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Field trips. Depart from WNMU parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. WFO Board meeting at Holiday Inn Express.

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration for early arrivals at Holiday Inn Express.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Lunch on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU Campus.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Dinner on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU Campus.

5:00 p.m. Reception for Field Trip Leaders at the Gifted Han Gallery.

6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. WFO/NMOS/CBRC Reception at Gifted Hand Gallery.

8:00 p.m. Owling field trips leave from the parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

Friday, July 25

5:30 Field Trips leaders meet at Harlan Hall parking lot

5:45 - 6:15 a.m. Breakfast at local motel or at Harlan Hall on WNMU campus.

6:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Field trips. Depart from WNMU parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Lunch on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU campus.

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Scientific Program at Global Resource Center (GRC) Auditorium, WNMU Campus (directions in registration packet).

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. registration at GRC on WNMU campus.

5:15 – 6:15 NMOS Board of Directors Meeting in Harlan Hall

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Dinner on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU Campus.

7:00 p.m. Dale Zimmerman present "Birds of the Borderland" at Global Resource Center Auditorium on WNMU Campus (directions in registration packet).

Saturday, July 26

5:30 Field Trips leaders meet at Harlan Hall parking lot

5:45 a.m. – 6:15 a.m. Breakfast at local motel or at Harlan Hall on WNMU campus.

6:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Field trips. Depart from WNMU parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch on own or in Cafeteria on WNMU campus.

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Scientific Program at GRC auditorium, WNMU Campus (directions in registration packet).

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. registration at Global Resource Center on WNMU campus.

6:00 p.m. Banquet at WNMU Student Union.

8:00 p.m. Noel Synder Program at the Global Resource Center Auditorium on WNMU Campus (directions in registration packet).

Sunday, July 27

5:45 a.m. – 6:15 a.m. Breakfast at local motel or at Harlan Hall on WNMU campus

6:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Informal Field trips. Depart from WNMU parking lot behind Harlan Hall (corner of 12th and Alabama Streets). Participants must arrive 15 minutes before departure, please.

7:00 a.m. Departure for Chihuahua (location to be announced). **Meeting adjourned. Bien viaje!!**



Scientific Sessions — Schedule of Presentations
219 Harlan Hall, Western New Mexico University • 25 & 26 July 2003

Session I. Friday, 25 July 2003. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- 1:00–1:20. **Introductory remarks.** TED FLOYD.
- 1:20–1:40. **Pushing the bounds of avian migration: The annual flights of the Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) between Alaska and New Zealand.** GILL, ROBERT, THIEUNIS PERSMA, PHIL BATTLE, ADRIAN RIEGEN, AND GARY HUFFORD.
- 1:40–2:00. **Population trends of the Yuma Clapper Rail in the Colorado River delta, Mexico, 1999–2002.** HINOJOSA-HUERTA, OSVEL, JUAN BUTRÓN-MÉNDEZ, AND JOSÉ JUAN BUTRÓN-GONZÁLEZ.
- 2:00–2:20. **Abundance and habitat affinities of Burrowing Owls in the Mexicali Valley, Baja California and Sonora, Mexico.** ITURRIBARRÍA-ROJAS, HELENA, OSVEL HINOJOSA-HUERTA, AND JAQUELINE GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ.
- 2:20–2:40. **Concentrations of organochlorine pesticides and selenium (Se) in eggs from three species of birds from the Colorado River delta.** GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ, JAQUELINE, DANIEL SCHLENK, OSVEL HINOJOSA-HUERTA, GERARDO SÁNCHEZ-BON, JUAN J. RIVERA-DÍAZ, NORMA RAMOS-DELGADO, AND HELENA ITURRIBARRÍA-ROJAS.
- 2:40–3:00. **Review of some recent bird and habitat studies in Sonora.** GÓMEZ-LIMÓN, EDUARDO.
- 3:00–3:20. **Break.**
- 3:20–3:40. **The El Doctor wetlands: A critical stopover station for neotropical migratory landbirds in the Sonoran Desert.** HINOJOSA-HUERTA, OSVEL, ENRIQUE ZAMORA-HERNÁNDEZ, HELENA ITURRIBARRÍA-ROJAS, AND JAQUELINE GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ.
- 3:40–4:00. **The Sonoran Joint Venture: A binational bird conservation program.** BEARDMORE, CAROL.
- 4:00–4:20. **Santa Fe “Cool”: Curve-billed Thrasher biology at the altitudinal range limits for the species.** STAHLCKER, DALE W.
- 4:20–4:40. **Status of a disjunct Common Black-Hawk population in southeastern New Mexico.** TROY, RONALD J., AND DALE W. STAHLCKER.
- 4:40–5:00. **Continental-scale bird assessment and objective setting: The Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan.** BEARDMORE, CAROL.

Session II. Saturday, 26 July 2003. 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- 1:00–1:20. **Comparing hummingbird diversity, abundance, and productivity in a mature riparian forest with the surrounding mesquite grasslands.** WETHINGTON, SUSAN M.
- 1:20–1:40. **Audio analysis of the calls of King and Clapper Rails.** JERRY R. OLDENNETTEL.
- 1:40–2:00. **Nesting habitat and nest-site selection by Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*) on the Gila River, New Mexico.** WOODWARD, HOPE, SCOTT H. STOLESON, AND DEBORAH M. FINCH
- 2:00–2:20. **Movements of Mexican Spotted Owls in Southeastern Arizona: Results of a multi-year banding study.** DUNCAN, RUSSELL B., AND S.M. SPEICH.
- 2:20–2:40. **Break.**
- 2:40–3:00. **Birds of the Gray Ranch, Hidalgo County, New Mexico.** MOORE-CRAIG, NARCA.
- 3:00–3:20. **Bird point count surveys on BLM lands in San Juan County, New Mexico.** REEVES, TIMOTHY, AND JOHN HANSEN.
- 3:20–3:40. **Initial breeding bird response to piñon-juniper woodland thinning: A watershed-scale case study from northern New Mexico.** FETTIG, STEPHEN M., BRIAN F. JACOBS, AND RICHARD G. GATEWOOD.
- 3:40–4:20. **The New Mexico List: Then and now.** WILLIAMS, III. SARTOR O., AND JERRY R. OLDENNETTEL.
- 4:20–4:40. **Break.**
- 4:40–6:00. **Expert panel: Stump the chumps.** MODERATED BY JOE MORLAN.

Poster Presentations

Spatial analysis of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat in the Cliff-Gila Valley: Patterns affecting habitat selection and nesting outcome. BRODHEAD, KATHERINE M.

Status of the New Mexico Breeding Bird Atlas Project, focusing on the Valles Caldera National Preserve. FETTIG, STEPHEN M.

Note: Posters will be on display in Room 219 Harlan Hall from 1:00 p.m., Friday, 25 July, through 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 26 July. Conference attendees are encouraged to examine the posters before and after the scientific paper presentations.

28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
41ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Silver City, New Mexico • 24–27 July 2003



Abstracts of papers and posters presented at the scientific sessions
219 Harlan Hall, Western New Mexico University • 25 & 26 July 2003

BEARDMORE, CAROL. Sonoran Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road – Suite 103, Phoenix AZ 85021, carol_beardmore@fws.gov. • **The Sonoran Joint Venture: A binational bird conservation program.**

The Sonoran Joint Venture is the first “all-bird” Mexico-U.S. conservation partnership. Our area includes more than the Sonoran Desert. It extends from the Mogollon Rim in Arizona to the Salton Sea; it includes all of the Baja Peninsula and the Sea of Cortez; and it reaches to the Mexican states of Sonora and Sinaloa. Our goals and objectives are taken from the four major bird initiative’s conservation plans. We work in the areas of research, monitoring, habitat restoration, outreach, education, professional training, and avitourism. Some of our high-profile projects, such as cienega restoration, rail-survey training, and local community participation on the Colorado delta, will be discussed. We hope that the Sonoran Joint Venture will be a model for other similar cross-border conservation partnerships.

BEARDMORE, CAROL. Sonoran Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road – Suite 103, Phoenix AZ 85021, carol_beardmore@fws.gov. • **Continental-scale bird assessment and objective setting: The Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan.**

Well over a thousand bird species are being assessed at a continental scale to provide data for setting population objectives for the Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan. A team from Canada, the United States, and Mexico has been collaborating to compile and analyze data for the plan, due to be available in fall 2003. The assessment process is the one used by Partners in Flight for the past 12 years; however, many changes have been made to take into account new data, additional species, and new analyses. Continental population-size estimates have been made for these species, which have allowed quantitative objectives and targets to be calculated. Avifaunal biomes revealed by cluster analysis are used to present objectives. The new PIF Watch List will be discussed, as well as the relatively new concept of stewardship species.

BRODHEAD, KATHERINE M. Department of Earth Sciences, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717, kbrodhead@montana.edu. • **Spatial analysis of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat in the Cliff-Gila Valley: Patterns affecting habitat selection and nesting outcome.**

The objective of the study is to characterize the spatial patterns of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) breeding habitat that influence the species distribution and that contribute to nesting outcome. The study site is in the Upper-Gila River Valley of New Mexico, which supports one of the largest populations of the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. This investigation draws from the conceptual framework of landscape ecology, with its particular focus on patterns formed by patches and corridors in the landscape. Floodplain dynamics result in a mosaic of forest patches of varying species and age, and this study assesses those patterns that contribute to optimal habitat. Analysis required completion of a digital landcover map designed to capture patch structure and canopy complexity by mapping the presence of sub-canopy and understory layers and canopy height in three classes across the floodplain. Patch and landscape-level metrics were used to: (1) model the relative importance of patch dimensions and surrounding matrix in influencing patch selection and breeding outcome; and (2) characterize differences in landscape-level parameters between areas of high and low flycatcher densities. Analysis shows that canopy heterogeneity and patch size are important indicators for patch selection and breeding success.

¹DUNCAN, RUSSELL B., AND ¹S.M. SPEICH. ¹R.B. Duncan and Associates, Endangered Species and Natural Resources Consultants, 6111 Bobcat Lane, Tucson AZ 85743-9273, rbduncan@theriver.com. ¹SMS Consulting, 4720 North Oeste Place, Tucson AZ 85749. • **Movements of Mexican Spotted Owls in Southeastern Arizona: Results of a multi-year banding study.**

As part of a multi-year study of the Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) in southeastern Arizona, we banded 245 owls (155 non-juveniles and 90 juveniles) from 1991–2001. As a result, we documented owl movements, including natal dispersal, in the study area's naturally fragmented forested mountains. As in other Spotted Owl banding studies, most juveniles are never seen again due to a high mortality rate. Only 16.6% (15) of the 90 juveniles that we banded were recaptured or re-sighted after initial capture. Of this total, 4 of the 15 juveniles (26.7%) had dispersed between mountains with the remainder dispersing within their natal mountain ranges. Straight-line distances for the inter-mountain dispersal events amounted to 28, 32, 48, and 54 km, and all ended up in the nearest mountain range with suitable Spotted Owl habitat. Habitats crossed by these four owls included large areas of unsuitable habitats, like open desert and desert grassland, and also increasingly urbanized settings. We detected various types of adult and subadult movements, which included changing territories (either by choice or by being forced to move by other aggressive individuals); non-territorial floater movements; possible elevational migration; and temporary and permanent emigration in response to effects of fires. From chance band recoveries we were able to determine causes of mortality in 4 adults and 3 juveniles. Starvation and predation are the specific causes of death that we were able to identify, and possibly collision with motor vehicles. Documented predators included Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), and coati (*Nasua narica*).

FETTIQ, STEPHEN M. New Mexico Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 947 Quartz Street, Los Alamos NM 87544, osprey@cybermesa.com. • **Status of the New Mexico Breeding Bird Atlas Project, focusing on the Valles Caldera National Preserve.**

The New Mexico Breeding Bird Atlas Project, Inc., is a non-profit corporation currently using volunteers and partnerships throughout the state of New Mexico to identify the distributions of breeding birds. The project uses behaviors to determine breeding status, following the standard set by the 1981

and 1986 Northeast Breeding Bird Atlas conferences. In 2002, atlas work began within the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) to provide relative abundance estimates and breeding information on the 16 New Mexico Partners-in-Flight priority species that were found during initial survey work the previous summer, as well as on other species associated with the uniqueness of the caldera, such as Wilson's Snipe, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Volunteers working 9 of 16 atlas blocks on the VCNP reported 105 bird species, of which 92 species showed evidence of potential breeding, with 55 species confirmed as breeding. Dark-eyed Junco, American Robin, and House Wren were the three most-often-confirmed species within the caldera, being confirmed in 8 or more of the 9 blocks. Of the species associated with the uniqueness of the caldera, no Wilson's Snipe or Savannah Sparrow were confirmed, while Eastern Meadowlark was confirmed to be breeding in 1 block and Golden-crowned Kinglet and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were confirmed in 2 and 4 blocks, respectively. Mountain Chickadee, American Robin, Violet-green Swallow, Hermit Thrush, and Dark-eyed Junco all have relative abundance estimates of over 0.70. Twenty-one species have relative abundance estimates below 0.02. Of the species associated with the uniqueness of the caldera, Wilson's Snipe had the lowest relative abundance at 0.034, with Savannah Sparrow at 0.051; Ruby-crowned Kinglet had the highest relative abundance at 0.51; Eastern Meadowlarks (0.024) and Golden-crowned Kinglet (0.085) hold moderately low values. Work will continue to complete all 16 blocks within the VCNP.

¹FETTIG, STEPHEN M., ²BRIAN F. JACOBS, AND ³RICHARD G. GATEWOOD. National Park Service, Bandelier National Monument, HCR 1 Box 1, Suite 15, Los Alamos NM 87544, ¹stephen_fettig@nps.gov, ²brian_jacobs@nps.gov, ³richard_gatewood@nps.gov. • **Initial breeding bird response to piñon-juniper woodland thinning: A watershed-scale case study from northern New Mexico.**

Piñon-juniper woodlands at Bandelier National Monument in the Jemez Mountains, New Mexico, are characterized by mostly bare ground in the interspaces between trees and by soil erosion rates of approximately 0.5 cm per decade. These conditions threaten the National Park Service's ability to protect numerous imbedded ancestral puebloan sites and were likely initiated by a history of livestock grazing, fire suppression, and drought. In an attempt to increase grass and forb cover in order to stabilize soils, the Monument initiated a restoration experiment in the winter of 1996–1997. Two adjacent 40-ha watersheds were identified. The treatment watershed was thinned by approximately 75%, with the woody material lopped and scattered as coarse mulch, while the control watershed was not changed. The treatment has been successful in increasing the grass and forb cover and in stabilizing soils to a large degree. In order to evaluate the treatment's effect on breeding birds, we conducted 10-minute avian point counts at 5 locations in each of the watersheds during 1998, 1999, 2001, and 2002. Preliminary results suggest that aerial insectivorous species may be benefiting from the restoration treatment.

¹GARCIA-HERNANDEZ, JAQUELINE, ²DANIEL SCHLENK, ³OSVEL HINOJOSA-HUERTA, ⁴GERARDO SÁNCHEZ-BON, ⁵JUAN J. RIVERA-DÍAZ, ⁶NORMA RAMOS-DELGADO, AND ⁷HELENA ITURRIBARRIA-ROJAS. ¹Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo, Carretera al Varadero Nacional Km 0.6, A.P. 284, Guaymas Sonora México 85480 jaqueline@cascabel.ciad.mx. ²University of California – Riverside, Department of Environmental Sciences, daniel.schlenk@ucr.edu. ³University of Arizona, Department of Renewable

Natural Resources, osvel@u.arizona.edu. • **Concentrations of organochlorine pesticides and selenium (Se) in eggs from three species of birds from the Colorado River delta.**

Organochlorine pesticides such as DDT were intensively used in the Colorado River delta from 1960 up to the 1980s. Therefore, residual concentrations of these pesticides might still be present in the delta wetlands and might affect the region's wildlife. In addition, selenium (Se), a semi-metallic element known to cause embryonic deformities in birds, is present in elevated concentrations along the Colorado River and its delta. In this study, we monitored reproductive success of 90 nests of three species of birds (Mourning Dove, Burrowing Owl, and Marsh Wren) throughout the 2002 breeding season (April to June). We collected 25 eggs of Mourning Doves, 18 eggs of Marsh Wrens, and 8 eggs of Burrowing Owls for chemical analysis. Samples were analyzed by gas chromatography to determine organochlorine compounds and by ICP MS to determine concentrations of metals. Mean concentrations of DDT, DDE, and Se in Mourning Dove eggs were 27 ng/g, 21 ng/g and 1.6 µg/g, respectively. Mean concentrations of DDT, DDE, and Se in Burrowing Owl eggs were 23 ng/g, 22 ng/g, and 1.7 µg/g, respectively. Concentration of selenium in Marsh Wren eggs was 5.3 µg/g. Levels of DDT and DDE found in these eggs were all below background levels found in eggs of various other baseline/reference species, which reflects the present disuse of DDT in the agricultural area. Selenium concentrations in Marsh Wrens' eggs did exceed the background level of 2 µg/g found in eggs of various other reference/baseline species. However, no correlation was found between concentrations of Se, DDT, or DDE and the nest success of the species monitored. In conclusion, there seems to be no major threat from these contaminants to the health of the species studied at the present time. However, it is important to keep monitoring the levels of these and other pesticides in birds and to continue to study the effects on their health.

¹GILL, ROBERT, ¹THEUNIS PIERSMA, ¹PHIL BATTLE, ²ADRIAN RIEGEN, AND ¹GARY HUFFORD. ¹U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, Anchorage AK, robert_gill@usgs.gov. ¹University of Groningen, Haren, The Netherlands. ¹Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, Texel, The Netherlands. ²Miranda Naturalists' Trust, Pokeno, New Zealand. ¹National Weather Service, Anchorage AK. • **Pushing the bounds of avian migration: The annual flights of the Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) between Alaska and New Zealand.**

The North American subspecies of the Bar-tailed Godwit, whose population numbers about 125,000 birds, breeds in western Alaska and winters in New Zealand and eastern Australia. The great-circle distance between these sites is about 11,000 km. Through a combination of color-flagging, analyses of travel costs, and plotting of seasonal distributional records, we show that godwits partake of an elliptical migration route that entails a 25,000-km-long flight each year. This includes a northbound flight to eastern Asia broken into two 7,000- to 9,000-km-long legs over mostly open ocean, and a single southbound, 11,000-km-long nonstop leg from Alaska to the wintering grounds. To accomplish these flights, birds put on record fat loads (55%) and have, at least for the southbound flight, evolved a migration system dependent on winds from predictable autumn storms embedded in the Aleutian Low pressure system.

GÓMEZ-LIMÓN, EDUARDO. Angela Peralta #61, Colonia Periodista, Hermosillo Sonora México 83156, edugomez@hmo.megared.net.mx. • **Review of some recent bird and habitat studies in Sonora.**

During the last five years there have been some opportunities to participate in and coordinate efforts directed to the study and conservation of birds and their habitats in Sonora. Most projects involve working with non-governmental organizations, conservation agencies from governments on both sides of the border, universities, bird observatories, and private land owners. The spring of 2003 marked the beginning of the fourth year in the operation of two bird banding stations under the MAPS protocol at the San Pedro River and at the wildlife refuge of Sierra Los Ajos in Cananea. The second phase of a bird survey by point counts is underway along the Santa Cruz River east of Nogales. The formation of a club of young bird watchers called Los Halcones has been one of the important achievements in public outreach in the region. Birding in Sonora has aroused the interest of private land owners, government agencies, and NGOs to explore the potential for this activity as an economic alternative. Surveys for specific species have been conducted and/or are underway in different habitat in Sonora. Examples include Willow Flycatcher in riparian areas in northern Sonora, Yellow-billed Cuckoo in western drainages of the state, and Clapper Rail surveys in the central coast of the Gulf of California. During the last two years a monitoring program on migratory pollinators was conducted in central and northern Sonora to determine routes and dates of Rufous Hummingbird during its migration through the state. By the end of this year, rapid habitat assessments and bird surveys focused on neotropical species will be conducted along several riparian localities in central and northern Sonora. Also by the end of 2003, an analysis of ecological threats to selected sites within the Sonoran Desert Ecoregion in Sonora will be completed. Observations and localities from all of these projects are being gradually transferred to the Sonora Conservation Data Center. This is an office from the state government whose goal is to process and update information for the conservation of natural resources.

[†]HINOJOSA-HUERTA, OSVEL, [†]ENRIQUE ZAMORA-HERNÁNDEZ, [†]HELENA ITURRIBARRÍA-ROJAS, AND [°]JAQUELINE GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ. [†]Pronatura Sonora, 104 Biological Sciences East, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85719, osvel@u.arizona.edu. ^{††}Pronatura Sonora, Final Bahía de Bacochibampo, Ap. Postal 484, Guaymas Sonora México 85400, [†]ezamora@lycos.com, [†]helenair@hotmail.com. [°]Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo A.C., Unidad Guaymas, Carretera al Varadero Nacional km 6.6, Ap. Postal 282, Guaymas Sonora México 85400, jaqueline@cascabel.ciad.mx. • **The El Doctor wetlands: A critical stopover station for neotropical migratory landbirds in the Sonoran Desert.**

El Doctor comprises 350 ha of marshlands, mesquite, and saltcedar thickets along the escarpment that separates the Gran Desierto in Sonora from the Colorado River delta. These wetlands are maintained by freshwater springs and are the only large patch of vegetation (>1 ha) for at least 150 miles to the south, east, and west. We assessed the use of El Doctor by migratory landbirds during the spring of 2002. We operated 6 mist-nets (12 m × 2.6 m, 36 mm mesh) during 5 hours (opened at sunrise) for 3 days in every 10-day period from 1 April to 20 June. We captured 597 birds from 43 species during 20 banding days (491.5 net hours). We also documented the presence of other 14 species of migratory landbirds. Of the migrant birds detected during area surveys, 84% were observed feeding. The average capture rate was 1.81 birds per net hour (95% C.I., 0.53–3.09). The peak of spring migration was during between 1 May and 10 May, when the capture rate was 4.64 birds per net hour. The most common species migrating through El Doctor were Swainson's Thrush, Western Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Willow Flycatcher, and Western Tanager. Of the birds we banded, we recaptured only 13 individuals in subsequent days. Fifty-three percent of the birds captured had fat levels <5%, and 77% had fat levels <30%. Willow Flycatchers were the birds with lowest fat levels, with 81% of the individuals with fat levels <5%. The

number of species and capture rates show the importance of El Doctor as a critical stopover station for neotropical migratory landbirds. The patterns of stay length and arrival condition suggest that birds arrive at El Doctor after crossing the Gran Desierto, then feed and rest at the site for a short time, and then continue their northbound migration.

¹HINOJOSA-HUERTA, OSVEL, ¹JUAN BUTRÓN-MÉNDEZ, AND ¹JOSÉ JUAN BUTRÓN-GONZÁLEZ. ¹Pronatura Sonora, 104 Biological Sciences East, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85719, osvel@u.arizona.edu.

¹Pronatura Sonora, Ejido Luis Encinas Johnson, San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora México 83440. •

Population trends of the Yuma Clapper Rail in the Colorado River delta, Mexico, 1999–2002.

The Yuma Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) is an endemic marshbird to the Lower Colorado River and its delta. The subspecies is federally listed as threatened in Mexico and endangered in the U.S. We have monitored the population of Clapper Rails in the Colorado River delta from 1999 to 2002. The monitoring program consists of call-response surveys at 20 transects (five point counts each) randomly located in the marshlands of the delta and visited twice per breeding season (March and May). The population of Yuma Clapper Rails declined 52.85% during the period of study (95% C.I., 32.31–73.38; $p < 0.001$, $\beta = 0.99$). However, the Ciénega de Santa Clara still maintains the largest population of the subspecies, with an estimate of 3,420 individuals (95% C.I., 2,307–4,523). These declines are associated with marshland dynamics in relation to fire. Part of the Ciénega was burned in 1998, promoting the growth of young stands of cattail. Over the last 5 years, the cattail stands have been decaying and becoming more dense, thus reducing the rails/ha they can support. At other areas, habitat has been created by drainage seepage, instream flows, and backwaters, thus showing that maintenance a dynamic system of marshlands is critical for long-term health of populations of Yuma Clapper Rails. The continuation of a long-term monitoring program is essential for the effective management of the protected wetlands in the Colorado River delta and the conservation of the subspecies.

¹ITURRIBARRÍA-ROJAS, HELENA, ¹OSVEL HINOJOSA-HUERTA, AND ¹JAQUELINE GARCÍA-HERNÁNDEZ.

¹Pronatura Sonora, Final Bahía de Bacoichibampo, Ap. Postal 484, Guaymas Sonora México 85400, helenair@hotmail.com. ¹Pronatura Sonora, 104 Biological Sciences East, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85719, osvel@u.arizona.edu. ¹Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo A.C., Unidad Guaymas, Carretera al Varadero Nacional km 6.6. Ap. Postal 282, Guaymas Sonora México, 85400, jaqueline@cascabel.ciad.mx. • **Abundance and habitat affinities of Burrowing Owls in the Mexicali**

Valley, Baja California and Sonora, Mexico.

Western populations of Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia*) have been declining during recent decades, and the bird is now a species of concern throughout North America. We estimated the abundance and determined the habitat affinities of Burrowing Owls during the breeding season of 2002 in the Mexicali Valley, Baja California and Sonora, Mexico. We surveyed 58 random transects (5000 m in length) located across the study area (3,750 km²). At each transect we counted all observed Burrowing Owls, estimating the distance from the observer, and determining sex and age (adult or juvenile). At each transect we estimated the percent coverage of dominant land features. The population estimate was calculated using the program DISTANCE, and the habitat affinities were determined through a correlation analysis. A total of 300 owls were detected, with an average of 5.17 ± 0.77 owls per transect, and a density of 0.141 owls/ha. The population estimate for the Mexicali Valley was 3,818 Burrowing Owls (95% C.I.: 3,351–4,350). The density of Burrowing Owls was positively correlated

with increased agricultural coverage and the presence of agricultural drains ($r^2 = 0.6122$, $p = 0.0354$, $F_{2,53} = 2.1130$). Although the Colorado River delta has been degraded drastically, the development of the Mexicali agricultural valley has benefited Burrowing Owls, and now the valley maintains one of the largest breeding populations of the species.

MOORE-CRAIG, NARCA. P.O. Box 16361, Portal AZ 85632, narca@vtc.net. • **Birds of the Gray Ranch, Hidalgo County, New Mexico.**

Sprawled across the Continental Divide in New Mexico's boot heel, the Gray Ranch encompasses more than 500 square miles and most of the Animas Mountains. It lies at a crossroads for several biogeographical regions: the Rocky Mountains, Mexico's Sierra Madre Occidental, and the Chihuahuan Desert, with elements from the Great Plains and Sonoran Desert. This mix of biomes underpins the ranch's biological wealth. Although scientific investigation began with the U.S.-Mexican Boundary Survey of 1849-1856, only a few ornithologists have worked in the region over the past 150 years. Alan Craig and I have amassed data over a 12-year period, including a year of living on the ranch. Data was acquired through surveys made from 1991 to 2003, a literature search, and records from other observers. More than 300 birds have been recorded for the Gray Ranch, including virtually all of the southwestern specialties. The ranch holds the primary breeding grounds in New Mexico for Mexican Chickadee, Botteri's Sparrow, and Yellow-eyed Junco. Other notable breeding species include Mexican (Mallard) Duck Northern Goshawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Gould's Wild Turkey, Montezuma Quail, Spotted Owl, Magnificent Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker, Greater Pewee, Olive, Lucy's, and Red-faced Warblers, Painted Redstart, Hepatic Tanager, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur winter in the extensive grasslands.

JERRY R. OLDENETTEL. 499 Farm-to-market Road, Socorro NM 87801, borealow@aol.com. • **Audio analysis of the calls of King and Clapper Rails.**

This paper presents an analysis of King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) and Clapper Rail (*R. longirostris*) *kek* notes and *kek* series. A total of 7 Clapper Rail examples and 4 King Rail examples available on commercial CDs were analyzed. The data was digitized with Peak, a commercial sound manipulation program, and analyzed with Canary, an audio analysis program from the Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology. The data show detectable, consistent differences between King and Clapper rail calls and, additionally, significant differences among the various subspecies of Clapper Rail. This analysis is applied to calls recorded at the north end of Willow Lake in Malaga, Eddy County, New Mexico, during spring 1999 to support the first King Rail record for New Mexico (NM BRC #2002-02).

¹REEVES, TIMOTHY, AND ²JOHN HANSEN. ¹CIS Department, 4601 College Boulevard, San Juan College, Farmington NM 87402, treeves@sisna.com. ²U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington NM 87401. • **Bird point count surveys on BLM lands in San Juan County, New Mexico.**

Beginning in 1999, we began long-term monitoring of bird populations on Bureau of Land Management lands in the BLM Farmington District. These studies are funded by BLM, the project was developed by the second author, and the field work was conducted by the first author. The purpose of our work is to determine the kinds of bird species and their relative abundance within specific habitat types. These

data will be useful in assessing the impacts of habitat improvement projects, oil and gas development, or natural perturbations (fire, drought, or flood). The eight point-count surveys are located in San Juan County as follows: Route 1, Mount Nebo (pinyon-juniper woodland, with some ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, 23 stops); Route 2, Devil's Canyon (ponderosa pine forest and pinyon-juniper woodland, walking survey with 26 stops at 250m intervals); Route 3, Pump Canyon (cottonwood and salt-cedar riparian corridor in pinyon-juniper woodland, walking survey with 14 stops at 250m intervals); Route 4, Pump Mesa (pinyon-juniper and Tebuthiuron-treated vs. control big sagebrush, 24 stops); Route 5, Huerfano South (Tebuthiuron-treated big sagebrush, 11 stops); Route 6, Angel Peak (untreated big sagebrush, 10 stops); Route 7, Blanco Trading Post (untreated big sagebrush); Route 8, Huerfano North (Tebuthiuron-treated big sagebrush, 12 stops). Bird surveys were conducted primarily in the breeding season (early summer) and winter, with one survey each in late summer / fall and late winter / early spring. Bird species and numbers of individuals heard and seen during five-minute stops along the survey route were recorded. Vegetation sampling (conducted separately) was performed at each stop by pace-point-transect. Our presentation includes bird species encountered, number of individuals of each species, and the number of stops where each species was encountered. Bird data are correlated with habitat type and vegetation data. The effects of the 2002 drought are discussed.

STAHLCKER, DALE W. Eagle Environmental, 30 Fonda Road, Santa Fe NM 87508, dwseagle@cybermesa.com. • Santa Fe "Cool": Curve-billed Thrasher biology at the altitudinal range limits for the species.

I followed the progress of 300 nesting attempts in 30–45 Curve-billed Thrashers (*Toxostoma curvirostre curvirostre*) territories in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, during the 2000–2003 breeding seasons. I searched for active thrasher nests and territorial adults in four distinct habitat/disturbance types. Thrasher territories were most dense (8 ha/territory) within a 125 ha study area in Eldorado, a moderate-density (~1 ha/lot) subdivision in pinyon-juniper-cholla savanna, intermediate in adjacent undeveloped 95 ha cholla floodplain (16 ha/territory), and lowest in an adjacent 95 ha pinyon-juniper-cholla savannah (48 ha/territory) and a 135 ha cholla floodplain (90 ha/territory) 15 km from development. Eldorado thrashers also nested earlier, laid more eggs, and fledged more young than did those in pastureland. Nesting was fairly synchronized, with peaks in active nests in late April to early May, in mid-June, and in mid- to late July. Approximately 50% of pairs attempted a third nesting attempt, whether or not successful in earlier efforts. Second clutches were significantly larger than early spring clutches. Productivity was also positively correlated with winter (November–April) precipitation. "Palmer's" Curve-billed Thrasher Thrashers (*T. c. palmeri*) in Arizona's Sonoran Desert were reported in greater densities (2–4 ha/territory) but had smaller clutches (2.7 eggs per clutch, $n=101$) than did those in Santa Fe County (3.3 eggs/clutch, $n=261$). South Texas *T. c. curvirostre* were reported in similar densities to *T. c. palmeri* in Arizona and had the largest clutches (3.8 eggs per clutch, $n=67$). Eldorado thrashers enjoy the benefits of supplemental food, irrigated lawns and garden, and greater availability of water, but they also must deal with both native and domestic predators (dogs, cats, children). Probable persecution of snakes within the subdivision may also benefit thrasher productivity.

[†]TROY, RONALD J., AND [†]DALE W. STAHLCKER. [†]Eagle Environmental, P.O. Box 202, Hondo NM 88336.

[†]Eagle Environmental, 30 Fonda Road, Santa Fe NM 87508, dwseagle@rt66.com. • Status of a disjunct Common Black-Hawk population in southeastern New Mexico.

We monitored a disjunct population of Common Black-Hawks (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) along the Rio Hondo, Rio Ruidoso, and Rio Bonito in Lincoln County, New Mexico during the 2002–2003 breeding seasons. This area is 250–300 km from the core of the species' U. S. range in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. An apparently stable population of 10–12 pairs occupied 70 km of riparian corridor that is mostly privately owned. We monitored nesting efforts of six pairs in both years. Only three young were fledged in two successful nests in 2002. All six nests had eggs or young in June 2003. Inter-territory distances are greater than in other areas where this species has been studied. Impacts of human activities and the future of this population will be discussed.

WETHINGTON, SUSAN M. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, P.O. Box 1125, Patagonia AZ 85624, swething@dakotacom.net • **Comparing hummingbird diversity, abundance, and productivity in a mature riparian forest with the surrounding mesquite grasslands.**

In 2002, a hummingbird monitoring project was started with the following goals: to determine the best long-term monitoring sites for hummingbirds in the southwestern USA, to learn how to sample their population size effectively, and to use the resulting information to preserve and protect hummingbirds. To accomplish these goals, we use geographic factors and vegetation types to locate potential sites. Bird banding is used to quantify populations, and patterns of diversity, levels of breeding activity, and stopover use during migration are used to evaluate their monitoring value. We compared the effect of vegetation type on hummingbird populations at Aravaipa Canyon, a mature riparian forest, with a site in the surrounding mesquite grasslands. Five feeders were maintained at each site, which are about 5 miles apart. No other feeders were within 2 miles of either site, and few flowers bloomed, due to drought. We banded hummingbirds once every two weeks from May through September. Eight species occurred at both sites, and there was no significant difference in abundance per banding day between the sites. However, the number of species per banding day differed significantly, with an average of 3.9 ± 1.1 SD species at Aravaipa and 2.6 ± 1.3 SD in the mesquite grasslands. Four species bred at Aravaipa, but only one in the mesquite grasslands. Because we banded a gravid female, we extended our knowledge of the breeding range of the Violet-crowned Hummingbird northward to Aravaipa. We also banded an individual that looked like a hybrid between Black-chinned and Broad-billed Hummingbirds. These data suggest that the northern range edge for both Violet-crowned and Broad-billed Hummingbirds is likely near Aravaipa Canyon and that Aravaipa Canyon should be considered for long-term monitoring.

[†]WILLIAMS, III, SARTOR O., AND [†]JERRY R. OLDENETTEL. New Mexico Bird Records Committee, Southwest Natural History Institute, 1819 Meadowview Drive NW, Albuquerque NM 87104-2511,

[†]sunbittern@earthlink.net, [†]borealowl@aol.com. • **The New Mexico List: Then and now.**

In the 25 years since the last statewide compendium of New Mexico birds was published, 67 species have been accepted to the New Mexico list, bringing the state total to 502 species verified by specimen, photograph, or audiotape. To understand changes to the list over the last century, we analyzed growth in the list based on statewide compendia published in 1911, 1928, 1961, 1970, and 1978; these lists were adjusted to conform to current A.O.U. taxonomy and to currently accepted New Mexico species. Rate of increase has varied, generally correlated with the level of ornithological activity in various periods. During 1912–1928, 3.1 species/year were added, this during a time of increased work by the Bureau of Biological Survey. The slowest period was 1929–1961, when only 1.4 species/year were added. The greatest rate of growth occurred 1962–1978, with 3.6 species/year added, this corresponding to the

establishment of the N.M.O.S. in 1962. Since 1978, increase has been a more modest 2.7 species/year, not unexpected as the 500 threshold was approached. Increase was steady during this recent period, with at least one species added each year and roughly the same number added prior to 1990 as later. The 67 recent additions can be analyzed several ways: (a) 35 were "waterbirds" and 32 were "landbirds"; (b) 2 resulted from taxonomic splits not previously recognized, 26 were raised from hypothetical status, while 39 were newly reported (some quite unexpected); (c) 51 were verified without specimens but instead by photograph or audiotape, while 16 resulted from specimens, including 8 from salvage; (d) roughly 21 are of eastern North American origin, 17 are from Mexico, 9 are from western North America, 7 are primarily Eurasian, and 13 are considered widespread. The New Mexico Bird Records Committee was organized in 1992 to encourage documentation of records and to facilitate their evaluation. Continued growth is anticipated, and likely candidates will be discussed. Potential new species include the usual suspects (current hypotheticals, taxonomic splits, species occurring nearby) but, if history is any guide, many will arrive unexpected and unpredicted.

¹WOODWARD, HOPE, ²SCOTT H. STOLESON, AND ³DEBORAH M. FINCH. ¹Department of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska, Fairbanks AK 99775, woodwardh@yahoo.com. ²USFS Northeastern Research Station, Irvine PA 16329. ³USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, Albuquerque NM 87102. • **Nesting habitat and nest-site selection by Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*) on the Gila River, New Mexico.**

The purpose of our study was to determine whether Yellow-billed Cuckoos choose specific nesting habitat and if those choices influence nest outcome. To do this we evaluated the correlations between nesting habitat and nest site selection and nest outcome between 1997–2002 at the scale of nest tree and surrounding nest area in a population of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in southwestern New Mexico. We first summarized nesting habitat characteristics. We then tested the hypothesis that cuckoos select nest sites with specific characteristics, by comparing known nest site variables (nest tree height, diameter at breast height, and tree density) with those where cuckoos were not known to nest (null site). We also tested whether cuckoos select nest habitats with similar attributes across years and across patches. To determine the correlates of cuckoo nest success, we tested the following hypotheses: (1) Nesting habitat characteristics influence nest outcome; (2) Precipitation and temperature influence nest outcome; (3) Differences in survey patch and year predict nest outcome; (4) Differences in date of nest initiation is correlated with nest outcome; and (5) Differences in nest substrate (nest tree species) is correlated with nest outcome. Most nests were placed in boxelder or Goodding's willow. Non-native trees were used occasionally. Only variance in tree height was explained by year and patch ($p=0.01$). Habitat variables possessed no predictive power on nest outcome. Neither precipitation nor temperature had a predictive power on nest outcome. Variance in nest outcome was not explained by variance in patch. With the data currently available, it is not possible to make strong statements about any correlations between nesting site selection, habitat, and nest outcome. Only year and nest initiation week showed strong predictive power on outcome, and this relation is difficult to interpret. Most birds show medium to strong effects of habitat. The results from this analysis could be further evidence that cuckoos are unusual in this regard, as they are in regard to breeding biology or simply that better data need to be collected in order to draw any strong conclusions.

Minutes of the NMOS Board Meeting, July 25, 2003, Silver City, NM

The New Mexico Ornithological Society board met on July 25, 2003, at 5:24 p.m. at Western New Mexico University campus during the joint meeting with Western Field Ornithologists in Silver City, New Mexico. Present were Bill Howe, Jerry Oldenettel, Roland Shook, Sandy Williams, Tim Reeves, and Nancy Cox.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: \$5,538 as of May 30, 2003.

Grants: Two grants were awarded at \$1000 each: Hope Woodward for work on the Gila River, and Tracey Mader for Burrowing Owl studies.

Website: Bruce would like to continue being the web master; the site had been moved without notifying him; should we pay some one to set it up – estimate \$10/month?; Jerry has 1/3 of the Bulletins scanned and corrected and 1/10 of the Field Notes; we should have at least one other person with access so that we won't be in a situation as we were for this meeting.

Database: Mary Alice is one-third to one-half through checking the data.

Bulletin: Bruce is willing to take the Bulletin over from Mary Alice who is ready to relinquish it; we need more submissions such as Sandy's species account of Violet-crowned Hummingbird; need to get it looking "slick"; should make grantees to write up their work for the Bulletin

Field Notes: Sandy Williams was trying to come up with a new format but decided to do that once we have caught up; Bill Howe will be proofing them.

Annual Meeting: current meeting looks like we will be in the black; have a joint account with WFO and need to pay out the food service and the t-shirts (\$648); will split the profits from the t-shirts with WFO; next year's meeting will be in Albuquerque but we don't know where

NMBFGs:

Misc: Santa Barbara has a checklist of birds of New Mexico that is very incorrect; Bill Howe will notify them as to the errors (approximately 15 species).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Christmas Bird Counts - 2003-2004

Albuquerque	Sunday, December 14	Hart Schwarz, 266-1810 hartschwarz@fs.fed.us
Angel Fire/Eagle Nest	Sunday, December 14	David Cleary, 375-2971 djcleary@bacavalley.com
Bosque del Apache	Saturday, December 20	Steve and Nancy Cox, 345-2385 swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net
Caballo	Sunday, January 4	Barry Zimmer, 915-821-6737 brzimmer@aol.com
Carlsbad Caverns	Sunday, December 14	Steve West, 885-3636 wthrsuift@carlsbadnm.com
Conchas Lake	Sunday, December 28	Bill West, 473-2780 wingswes@aol.com
Clayton	Saturday, December 27	Christopher Rustay, 255-7786 chrustay@aol.com
Dixon	Sunday, December 14	Robert Weber (no phone) or Bob Templeton, 579-4095, cohntemp@newmexico.com
Española	Sunday, December 21	Bernie Foy, 466-1587 bdfoy@newmexico.com
Farmington	Saturday, December 20	Alan Nelson, 325-8610 nelson2@gobrainstorm.net
Five Points	Tuesday, December 16	Steve and Nancy Cox, 345-2385 swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net
Gila River	Saturday, January 3	Roland Shook, 388-3441 tyranidae@hotmail.com
La Luz-Otero County	Monday, December 29	John Mangimeli, 434-6463 mangimeli@zianet.com
Lakes Avalon and Brantley	Friday, December 26	Tom J. Hines, 885-1869
Las Cruces	Sunday, December 14	Tim Lawton, 522-2056 tlawton@nmsu.edu or Gordon Ewing, 522-3934 gewing@nmsu.edu
Las Vegas	Saturday, December 27	George Blanchard, 757-8828
Loving	Saturday, December 20	Craig Cranston, 885-8362
Maxwell	Thursday, December 18	Jo Osterhouse osterhousejo@hotmail.com

Christmas Bird Counts - 2003-2004

Pecos	Saturday, December 20	Gary and Karen Schiltz, 757-2212 gschiltz@cybermesa.com
Peloncillo Mountains	Saturday, January 3	Alan Craig, 520-558-2220 narca@vtc.net
Portal	Sunday, January 4	Alan Craig, 520-558-2220 narca@vtc.net
Questa	date not determined	Robert Weber (no phone) or Bob Templeton, 579-4095, cohntemp@newmexico.com
Raton	Wednesday, December 17	David Cleary, 375-2971 djcleary@bacavalley.com
Roswell	Saturday, December 20	Sherry Bixler, 622-0597 bbixler@plateautel.net
Ruidoso	Saturday, December 20	Anita Powell, 257-5352 flicker@zianet.com
Sandia Mountains	Sunday, December 21	Rebecca Gracey, 342-3821 mrgracey@earthlink.net or Nick Vaughn, 265-1350 nickvaughn2000@yahoo.com
Santa Fe	Sunday, January 4	Deanna Einspahr, 983-4609 (w) deinspahr@audubon.org
Santa Rosa	Sunday, December 14	Bill West, 473-2780 wingswes@aol.com
Sevilleta	Thursday, December 18	Steve and Nancy Cox, 345-2385 swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net
Silver City	Saturday, December 20	Roland Shook, 388-3441 tyranidae@hotmail.com
Zuni	Saturday, December 20	John Trochet, 916-736-3560 trochetj@cwnet.com

Requests for Research Assistance

Studying Effects of the Pinyon Pine Die-Offs on Pinyon Jays

Kris Johnson of Natural Heritage New Mexico is interested in looking at the effects of the pinyon die-off on Pinyon Jays. She's looking for study sites that have Pinyon Jay flocks, preferably also nesting colonies, in areas with and without bark beetle impacts. If any NMOS members have possible study sites on their property or know of any such sites, please contact her by e-mail (kjohnson@unm.edu) or phone (277-3822, x223).

Range-wide Breeding Survey for Long-billed Curlews to Begin in March 2004

A two-year breeding survey of Long-billed Curlews will be initiated in March 2004 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Migratory Bird Office and the Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey, Fort Collins, Colorado, in an effort to determine total population size and to develop a plan to monitor long-term population trends. Because the Long-billed Curlew breeding range includes much of northeastern New Mexico, there is a good chance that some of the survey routes will occur in our state.

The FWS and BRD are looking for volunteers to help survey the census routes. Routes will be located throughout the curlew's breeding range, stratified by local time of breeding and by habitat. The survey will use a methodology similar to that used by the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), except that the survey period will be earlier (late March to mid-April in New Mexico) and two people will be needed for each route. Survey and monitoring guidelines as well as contacts can be viewed at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/birds/>. Specific locations of the survey routes have yet to be determined, but should be posted at this web site by late December 2003.

The Long-billed Curlew has been deemed "highly imperiled" by both the U.S. and the Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plans, and is designated a "Bird Species of Conservation Concern" by the FWS (see <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/reports/BCC02/BCC2002.pdf>). Estimates of the global Long-billed Curlew population, though unreliable, fall in the 15,000-20,000 range. Concern for this species is great because of these small numbers and of suspected declines in various parts of its range. In addition, the North American Breeding Bird Survey probably does not provide adequate estimates of population trend due in part to its timing, which is relatively late in the curlew breeding season at a time when the failed breeders are more easily detected relative to breeding pairs with nests. This survey is an attempt to get more reliable population estimates and trends to help guide future conservation actions for Long-billed Curlews.

If you are interested in helping with this survey or if you need additional information, please contact Bill Howe (Phone: 505-248-6875; E-Mail: Bill_Howe@fws.gov) or anyone else listed on the web site as a contact.

2004 ANNUAL MEETING PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society has been scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2004, at the University of New Mexico's Science and Technology Park, 801 University Blvd. SE, Albuquerque. Ample parking is available. Dr. Kristine Johnson, Director of Natural Heritage New Mexico, will chair the paper session. A formal call for papers will go out in the next Bulletin, but proposals may be submitted to Dr. Johnson at kjohnson@unm.edu prior to that announcement. Field trips and a visit to the new Museum of Southwestern Biology on the UNM campus will be held on Sunday.

NMOS RESEARCH GRANTS

The New Mexico Ornithological Society is now offering two \$1000 research grants to help support research on New Mexico birds. The criteria for the grants are: 1) the grant money must be spent while conducting research on birds in New Mexico; 2) a short research proposal (2 pages maximum), plus names of three references must be submitted describing the nature of the project and how the allocated funds are to be spent (on gas, tape recording, specific equipment, etc.); 3) a recipient must either present their findings at an annual NMOS meeting or have an article on their research published in the *NMOS Bulletin*; and 4) research proposals must be **received** by March 31, 2004. Please submit proposals to Dr. Roland Shook, Western New Mexico Univ., Silver City, NM 88061 (shookr@silver.wnmu.edu or rbshook@signalpeak.net).

NMOS WEB PAGE INFORMATION

Now at <http://www.nmosbirds.org>

The NMOS Web Page has moved yet again! Following the proverbial "technical difficulties" at both ends of the system, we now have our own permanent Web name. The official NMOS Web Page is now at <http://www.nmosbirds.org>. Unfortunately, the simple "nmos.org" had already been claimed by the New Mexico *Ophthalmological Society*. Our thanks to Kenneth Ingham of Kenneth Ingham Consulting, Albuquerque, for registering the domain name and hosting the website.

REPORTING NEW MEXICO BIRD OBSERVATIONS

It is common knowledge that birders have added greatly to our understanding of the bird life of New Mexico. In fact, birders now account for the majority of new data on species distribution and field identification of North American birds generally. However, unless field observations are properly documented and submitted for consideration, they have no way of becoming part of the ornithological record. For New Mexico, bird records are published seasonally in *North American Birds*, the American Birding Association's journal (now in its 56th year) dedicated to documenting the continent's bird life, and subsequently in the *NMOS Field Notes*, published quarterly by the New Mexico Ornithological Society.

Sandy Williams is New Mexico's Regional Editor for *North American Birds* as well as Editor of *NMOS Field Notes*; he also maintains the NMOS Archives, including all written bird sighting submissions as well as the Photo-Tape File, which includes prints, slides, audio tapes, video tapes, digital images, and compact disks. The year is divided into four seasons (see below), and observers are asked to submit their records to Sandy promptly at the close of each season. All submissions become part of the NMOS Archives; even if all your reports are not published, they remain on file and available to future workers.

All New Mexico birders are encouraged to submit their sightings, especially of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-range birds. Please submit your records in taxonomic order and make sure all records include the date, exact location, numbers of birds, age and sex/color morph, if applicable, and the name(s) and contact information (including e-mail address) of observer(s).

Please provide details for unusual records. Details are usually needed for sightings of birds appearing in light-faced type in the NMOS Field Checklist of New Mexico Birds. Written details and other documentation of very rare species will be circulated to the New Mexico Bird Records Committee for evaluation. Written details may be submitted on a report form (available by mail from Sandy Williams or electronically from the NMOS web page), although any written format is acceptable. If photographs are submitted, please include on the photo/slide your name, date the picture was taken, and the exact location.

Below are the seasons for reporting New Mexico bird observations. Don't procrastinate—send your reports as soon as possible after the close of a reporting period.

Autumn	August 1 – November 30	(= 4 months)
Winter	December 1 – February 28/29	(= 3 months)
Spring	March 1 – May 31	(= 3 months)
Summer	June 1 – July 31	(= 2 months)

Seasonal reports and other records should be submitted to:

Sartor O. Williams III
New Mexico Bird Records Committee
1819 Meadowview Dr NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104-2511
e-mail: sunbittern@earthlink.net

NEW MEXICO RARE/UNUSUAL BIRD REPORT FORM

Please be as complete as possible, as this may be the most complete report available to users of the record. Its future acceptability may depend on how well it is detailed here. This report and any photographic or other documentation will be placed in ornithological archives and otherwise appropriately used.

Species

Number/Age/Sex

Reporter

Address

Other observers

Date/time of record

Locality

Habitat

Conditions (e.g., weather, lighting)

Optical aids

How long was the bird(s) observed?

How far away was the bird(s)?

Size and shape of bird

Description of bird(s), including overall coloration (upper and under parts, wings, tail, etc.), and any patterning (on head, under parts, wings, tail, etc.)

What was the bird(s) doing?

Basis for identification

Have you previous experience with this species?

Were photos or recordings obtained?

Other comments

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to be the new Editor of the *NMOS Bulletin*. Before going farther, I'd like to thank Mary Alice Root for many years of faithful service as the previous Editor of the *Bulletin*. A round of applause, please.

I would like to encourage *all* of our members to submit papers relating to New Mexico birds for consideration. These papers do not have to be formal or statistical; they can be simple reports of unusual observations. All of us have had field experiences that cause us to remark, "oh, I didn't know that!" Well, maybe *nobody* knew that. We still have much to learn about the biology of even our most common birds. Please consider submitting an account of your observations to the *Bulletin*.

As Sandy Williams remarks in "Reporting New Mexico Bird Observations" (p. 40, this issue), your observations are important in the understanding of our birds, but they don't become part of the permanent record unless they're published. The *NMOS Bulletin* is a peer-reviewed journal, ensuring a high level of credibility to the articles included. The *NMOS Bulletin* is an appropriate place for publication, as it makes the information permanently available to the New Mexico ornithological community and beyond.

I am developing a group of Assistant Editors who have agreed to work with authors desiring guidance in developing their papers, assistance in acquiring needed references, and other assistance in preparing papers for potential publication. These Assistant Editors will be located throughout the state, so that one or more will be convenient to most ornithologists. Their names will be included in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

Thank you and good birding,
Bruce Neville

NMOS BULLETIN

The *Bulletin* is published four times a year; subscription is by membership in NMOS. The *Bulletin* serves two primary purposes: (1) to publish articles of scientific merit concerning the distribution, abundance, status, behavior, and ecology of the avifauna of New Mexico and its contiguous regions and (2) to publish news and announcements deemed of interest to the New Mexico ornithological community.

NMOS members are encouraged to submit articles and news. Articles received are subject to review and editing. Published articles are noted in major abstracting services, e.g., the AOU's "Recent Ornithological Literature" section of *The Auk*. Please submit news and articles in double-spaced hard copy or, preferably, electronically on disk or by e-mail to the Editor, Bruce Neville, 2105 Lakeview Road SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105, e-mail bneville@unm.edu.

ANNUAL DUES

Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for the calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January.

Dues are: Regular \$10, Family \$15, Student \$5, Supporting \$35, and Life \$300.

Dues and membership applications may be sent to the New Mexico Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068 or to the Treasurer, Jerry Oldenettel, 499 Farm-to-Market Road, Socorro, NM 87801.

New Mexico Ornithological Society Home Page:

<http://www.nmosbirds.org>

New Mexico Rare Bird Alert:

505-323-9323

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3088
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87180-3088

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 623
ALBUQUERQUE NM

JEF ON DENI
501

27201+5614 30

