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NESTING OF SWAINSON'S HAWKS (*BUTEO SWAINSONI*) IN RIPARIAN WOODLANDS OF NEW MEXICO

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The Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) has a wide breeding distribution in New Mexico (Bailey 1928, Ligon 1961, Hubbard 1978, Bednarz 1988a). It is found at low to middle elevations in most parts of the state, in association with grasslands, shrublands, and even riparian woodlands (Bailey 1928, Hubbard 1978, Bednarz 1988a,b). Bailey (1928) alludes to nests in trees along tributaries of the Pecos River while Schmitt (1976) found three immature birds in a cottonwood grove along the San Juan River. Overall, however, use of riparian trees or woodlands for nesting has not been well documented in New Mexico, and we report here on three nests that we found and monitored recently, one along the Gila River, the other two along the middle Rio Grande. The Swainson's Hawk in the Gila River Valley of southwestern New Mexico can be described as being "spotty" in distribution and occurrence (D. Zimmerman pers. comm., R. Shook pers. comm.). Although it occurs in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, the Swainson's Hawk is much more common eastward, including in the Estancia Valley where it occurs both as a breeding summer resident and during migration (J.-L. Cartron pers. obs.).

The banks of the Gila River between the towns of Cliff and Gila (Grant County) support a Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)-Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*)-boxelder (*Acer negundo*) riparian woodland at an elevation of approximately 1,490 m (4,900 ft). An occupied Swainson's Hawk nest discovered and monitored by one of us (SHS) was located near the top of a 35 m tall cottonwood tree at the edge of the riparian woodland. This nest was used each year from 1997 through at least 2001, and fledged at least one young in all but the latter year. The resident pair foraged over adjacent bottomland agricultural fields and pastures. They shared their riparian nesting area, and possibly competed for food, with breeding Red-tailed Hawks (*B. jamaicensis*), Zone-tailed Hawks (*B. albonotatus*), Common Black-Hawks (*Buteogallus anthracinus*), and Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*).

In 2004 two Swainson's Hawk pairs nested along a two-mile stretch of the middle Rio Grande in the South Valley of Albuquerque, at an elevation of 1,500 m (4,921 ft). Both nests were located along the eastern side of the river. They occurred within the local riparian woodland, or bosque, with adjacent fields and pastures to the east. The first of these two nests was in a nesting territory known to have been occupied by Swainson's Hawks for several years (J. Kelly, pers. comm.), while as far as we know the other nest was first discovered in 2004, by two of us (DAD and JLEC). Both nests were well concealed and placed near the top of the canopy in Rio Grande cottonwoods (*P. deltoides* var. *wislizenii*). One nest tree measuring about 25 m in height was at the edge of a small opening within a patch of dense wooded riparian vegetation dominated by cottonwood, Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and saltcedar (*Tamarix ramossissima*). The other nest tree was about 20 m tall and occurred in a more open area that had been subject to thinning. Both nests produced one fledgling. At one of the two nests, the young fledged during the third week of July, and could still be observed within the nesting area on August 5. At the other nest, fledging occurred around August 1.

Prey remains collected under one of the two bosque nests included a Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), two Chihuahuan spotted whiptail lizards (*Aspidoscelis exsanguis*), a Woodhouse's toad (*Bufo woodhousii*), and cicadas and other insects (Coleoptera). Under the second nest, prey remains included those of a house mouse (*Mus musculus*), an American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), a Great Plains skink (*Eumeces obsoletus*), and insects (Coleoptera and Orthoptera). The Swainson's Hawk is morphologically adapted for hunting in open country (Glinski and Hall 1998), and at least one nesting pair was observed foraging over the fields adjacent to the bosque. Hunting might also have been conducted within the more open areas of the bosque itself, a possibility suggested by the habitat associations of the Woodhouse's toad and Chihuahuan spotted whiptail lizard. Although widespread, these two species are more abundant in the bosque than surrounding fields (Degenhardt et al. 1996, W. Degenhardt pers. comm.). On August 5, the young just fledged at one of the nests was observed on the ground walking and hopping around dense riparian vegetation and heaps of dead branches, presumably searching for insects.

In other states such as California, Colorado, or Wyoming, Swainson's Hawks are known to often use riparian trees for nesting (England et al. 1997, Colorado Partners in Flight 2000, S. Stoleson pers. obs.). Writing about the Southwest in general, Bednarz (1988a) indicates that Swainson's Hawk nests are common in riparian woodlands. In southeastern New Mexico in the 1980s, Swainson's Hawk nest densities were among the highest documented anywhere (Bednarz 1988c). Nests were typically in mesquite (*Prosopis*

glandulosa) associations (Bednarz 1988a,b,c), but some nests were found in riparian woodlands (J. Bednarz pers. comm.). Together with earlier published studies (e.g., Bailey 1928, Schmitt 1976, Bednarz 1988a), the information we provide tends to confirm that Swainson's Hawks in New Mexico nest more frequently along streams and rivers than was once known. Monitoring of Swainson's Hawk nests in riparian areas could prove valuable both for the management of this species and for monitoring the health of the state's riparian ecosystems.

Acknowledgments—We thank Bill Degenhardt for helping us identify lizard and toad remains collected at one nest, and Bob Dickerman for access to the bird collection at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico. Special thanks are also extended to Bill Gannon and the Mammals Division of the Museum of Southwestern Biology. Jim Bednarz kindly provided published and unpublished information on Swainson's Hawks in southeastern New Mexico and elsewhere in the Southwest. Roland Shook and Dale Zimmerman helped characterize the status of the Swainson's Hawk in the Gila River Valley of southwestern New Mexico. An earlier draft of the manuscript was improved through comments by two anonymous reviewers. Funding for research along the Gila River was provided by the Gila Forest National Forest, while work in the Rio Grande Bosque was funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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Submitted 06 August 2004.

FIRST RECORD OF GOLDEN-CROWNED WARBLER (*BASILEUTERUS CULICIVORUS*) FROM NEW MEXICO

William H. Howe and John E. Parmeter

In a spring that produced numerous unusual bird records in New Mexico, including verification of three first state records, easily the most unexpected was a Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) at an oasis known as the Melrose Trap from 8-10 May 2004. This oasis, which has become famous over the years for its attraction to eastern vagrants, is located in the eastern plains of New Mexico in northern Roosevelt County, approximately 10 miles west of the town of Melrose, just north of US Highway 60 near milepost 354. The elevation of the site is circa 4300 feet, and like many oases frequented by New Mexico birders, this one is located in an arid plains area far removed from other sizable stands of trees. This oasis is more productive than most others due to its dense canopy of native and other trees, considerable understory vegetation that is lacking in most other oases, and a cattle tank that serves as a source of water, a very scarce item in eastern New Mexico. Furthermore, it is both large enough to hold birds for significant periods of time, and small and accessible enough that a small group of diligent observers can probably find most of the migrants that are present on a given day.

Discovery and Subsequent Sightings. Parmeter (hereafter JEP) discovered the bird at approximately 8:30 AM on 8 May. The only other birders present were Benjamin and Ruthmary Parmeter, who also saw the bird at that time. After making cell phone calls to inform others about the bird, these observers looked for it for another ninety minutes without success, then left the oasis to break for lunch. Upon returning just after noon, they relocated the bird almost immediately, and it was generally seen easily through that afternoon until most observers left around 4:00. Jerry Oldenettel arrived shortly before 1:00 and was the first additional observer to see the bird, and also the first to obtain photos and videotape. Others who saw it that afternoon, in approximate order of arrival, were Pat Snider, Louis Cuellar, Charles Black, Julian Avery, and Joe Sandberg. The bird remained and was seen by at least 14 observers on 9-10 May. The last reported observation was by Jim and Karen Havlena of Los Osos, California, at 7:15 PM on 10 May. Several observers spent much of 11 May looking for the bird without success, and it was not seen subsequently.

It is worth noting that Oldenettel and another observer spent three hours at the oasis on the morning of 7 May without seeing the bird, so the likelihood is that it arrived during the night of 7-8 May, and departed during the night

of 10-11 May. Consistent with this, there appears to have been a changeover of other rare bird species present at the oasis on the nights of 7-8 May and 10-11 May. Oldenettel observed a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) and a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) on 7 May that were not seen subsequently, and on May 11 a Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) and a Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) appeared.

Behavior and Habitat Use. Based on our own observations and those of others, the bird was almost hyperactive, foraging continuously at low and mid-levels below a canopy of cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) and silver poplar (*Populus alba*). Unlike some other migrants at this oasis, the bird spent its time entirely in the understory of the trees and was never observed to venture out into the adjacent saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) shrublands. The bird would move rapidly from spot to spot, picking what were probably small insects off of leaves, branches, logs, brush piles, and the ground. It spent the majority of time within approximately 5 feet of ground level, but occasionally would forage briefly up to about 15 feet above ground. The bird habitually cocked its tail upward in a manner similar to a Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*), and frequently flicked its wings. The bird appeared to respond vigorously to the whistled imitation of a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) (James Black, pers. commun.).

Description of the Bird. This was a medium-sized warbler, judged by Howe (hereafter WHH) to be larger and bulkier than a nearby Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*), and by JEP to be as long as or slightly longer and heavier bodied than a Wilson's Warbler. The fairly long tail at times appeared rounded and at other times spiky at the tip. The dark bill (later determined by video to have a pinkish base to the lower mandible) was somewhat heavy for a warbler and the tip of the upper mandible seemed to be hooked down slightly. The relatively long tail often cocked upwards, stout bill, and the general pattern of coloration, led several observers to compare the bird to "a tiny Yellow-breasted Chat" (*Icteria virens*). Dorsal coloration, including the back, wings, rump, and upper side of the tail, appeared uniformly dull grayish-olive, becoming grayer in certain light conditions. Underparts were bright to medium yellow from chin to undertail coverts, being brightest on the throat and center of the breast. There were no wingbars, tail spots or streaking in the plumage. The head pattern was striking with a dull olive cheek patch (about the same color as the back), a thin dark line through the eye and lores, a contrasting broken yellow ring around a prominent black eye, and a pattern of stripes on the head reminiscent of a Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*). These stripes included a wide buffy-yellow median crown stripe bordered by black lateral crown stripes, and a buffy- to greenish-yellow supercilium below each lateral stripe. The lateral crown stripes were broad from above the eye

to the nape, but narrowed considerably to a thinner line between the eye and the bill. The supercilium became brighter yellow above the lores. The legs were pink.

Vocalizations. As far as we know the bird was not heard to sing, but call notes were heard by various observers a number of times. WHH heard it give a muted buzzy "dzzrt" as the bird flew close by, and upon reviewing his videotape discovered that several of these call notes are audible in the background on the tape. On a few occasions JEP heard the bird give a soft "tack" call note.

Age/Sex. In one video frame the individual rectrices appear quite pointed, which may have contributed to the notched or spiky appearance of the tail. We were unable to find references to determine if the pointed rectrices are characteristic of a second-year bird (i.e. born in 2003), as is the case with many passerines, but this is apparently a useful ageing character for the closely related Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) (Pyle 1997). Male and female Golden-crowned Warblers are similar in appearance so the sex of the bird is unknown.

Range and Review of Subspecies. The Golden-crowned Warbler inhabits humid to semihumid tropical evergreen and deciduous forest from central Nuevo Leon in eastern Mexico, and southern Nayarit in western Mexico, south through Central America and much of South America (Howell and Webb 1995; AOU 1998). The northernmost known limit of its range is at Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, about 60 miles west of Falcon Dam, Texas (Dunn and Garrett 1997). The three major taxonomic groupings in the Golden-crowned Warbler complex are separable by differences in color of the central crown stripe, the supercilium, and the back (Curson et al. 1994; Dunn and Garrett 1997). Two of these groups occur in South America: "Cabanis's Warbler" (*cabanisi* group of the Golden-crowned Warbler complex) from Columbia to northwest Venezuela, and "Golden-crowned Warbler" (*auricapillus* group of the complex) from Trinidad, Venezuela, and eastern Columbia south to Bolivia, Uruguay, and northeastern Argentina (Dunn and Garrett 1997). The "Stripe-crowned Warbler" (*culicivorus* group of the complex) ranges from Mexico through Central America. The combination of an olive-yellow supercilium, yellowish central crown stripe, and grayish-olive back indicate that this is the group to which the New Mexico individual belongs. The "Stripe-crowned Warbler" has been divided into four subspecies, but these are too similar in appearance to assign the New Mexico individual to subspecies based on field observations. All Texas records (see below) that have been identified to subspecies have been of the northern race, *B. c. brasherii* (Dunn and Garrett 1997), as would generally be expected.



Fig. 1. Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*), Melrose Trap, 9 May 2004. Video capture by William H. Howe

Other United States Records. Until this observation, all records of Golden-crowned Warbler in the United States were from southern Texas, with 16 records currently accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee (Mark Lockwood, pers. commun.). Fifteen of those records are from the lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) from Brownsville and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Cameron County, west to Bentsen State Park, Hidalgo County. The single record outside the LRGV is of one that appeared at Corpus Christi, Nueces County, TX, from 25-29 April 2001. These records span the period 12 August through 30 April. Wintering birds have arrived as early as late October and remained into February, March and as late as 6 April before disappearing. Although the species is generally considered to be resident, populations from the northern part of its range in Mexico may be partially migratory (J. Arvin, pers. commun.). Two Texas records appear to be of spring migrants: the Corpus Christi record cited above and one at Santa Ana NWR on 30 April 1995. Records from Laguna Atascosa NWR on 12 August 2001, Harlingen on 5 September 1945, and Santa Margarita Ranch, Starr County, on 15 Sep 1974 (J. Arvin, pers. commun.) suggest fall migrants or post-breeding dispersal.

This record from the Melrose Trap represents the first May record of the Golden-crowned Warbler in the United States, and is also the first U.S. record outside of Texas. The Melrose Trap lies approximately 700 miles northwest of the most northerly previous record of this species.



Fig. 2. Golden-crowned Warbler, Melrose Trap, 8 May 2004. Video capture by and courtesy of Jerry R. Oldenettel

Origin. One can only speculate how a Golden-crowned Warbler came to be at the Melrose Trap, so far out of its normal ‘vagrancy’ range and so far removed from its preferred habitat of humid tropical deciduous forest. Together with the two Texas records from late April, this record hints at a pattern of spring “overshooting” by Golden-crowned Warblers undertaking seasonal movements at the northern fringe of their range. The spring 2004 season produced two additional first verified state records in New Mexico: Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) and Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*). The occurrence of the owl is likely unrelated to the appearance of the warbler. The vireo was present 1-2 May at this very same oasis. However, in contrast to Golden-crowned Warbler, Black-capped Vireo is strongly migratory, and a bird would need to be only slightly off course from a straight line between its west Mexican wintering grounds and its Oklahoma/Texas breeding range

to arrive at the Melrose Trap. Its occurrence at this site, and indeed in New Mexico, seems much less improbable than would appearance of a Golden-crowned Warbler. Perhaps related to the Golden-crowned Warbler record are records of two other primarily neotropical birds from eastern New Mexico in spring 2004. A Groove-billed Ani was noted near Milnesand, Roosevelt County on 30 April (fide S.O. Williams III) and a Great Kiskadee was seen by several observers at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy County on 16 May. Both of these species are casual in New Mexico and, like the Golden-crowned Warbler, are primarily sedentary in most of their range, and reach their northern limits in the region of south Texas and northeastern Mexico. It is tempting to speculate that some common factor may have led to these three records, though it is far from clear what that cause might be. An unusual, very wet weather pattern in early April may be in part responsible for these occurrences, but it should be noted that the records occurred several weeks afterwards during normal spring weather patterns.

Acknowledgments. We thank Sartor O. Williams III for reviewing an earlier draft of this document, Mark Lockwood for detail on accepted Texas records, and John Arvin for information on its distribution in Mexico. We also thank Jerry Oldenettel for use of one of his video captures with this paper. Through the New Mexico Rare Bird Alert, Patricia Snider provided continual updates to the birding community on the occurrence of this bird throughout its 3-day stay. A special thanks goes to the New Mexico State Land Office for its willingness to provide access by birders to the Melrose Trap.

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Submitted 19 September 2004.

43RD ANNUAL MEETING, 2005, PORTALES, NM

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico in late April or early May 2005. Greg Keller of ENMU is the host for the meeting.

Complete details and a call for papers will be included in the February 2005 *Bulletin*, but check the NMOS Website at <http://www.nmosbirds.org> for periodic updates.

2005 NMOS GRANT PROGRAM: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The NMOS now offers two \$1000 research grants each year 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; and
- 2) the recipient must either present their findings at an annual NMOS Meeting or submit an article on their research to the *NMOS Bulletin*.

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.). Research proposals must be received by March 31, 2005. Please submit your proposal to:

Dr. Roland Shook
Western New Mexico University
Silver City, NM 88061
(shookr@wnmu.edu).

THE 105TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (2004-2005): DATES AND LOCAL CONTACTS FOR THE NEW MEXICO COUNTS

Information current as of 30 November 2004.
All area codes are 505, unless otherwise specified.

Count Name	Count Date	Contact/Compiler
Albuquerque	Sunday, December 19	Hart Schwarz 266-1810 hschwarz@fs.fed.us
Angel Nest/ Eagle Fire	Tuesday, December 14	Agnes Gibson 377-6128 aagib@kitcarson.net
Bosque del Apache NWR	Saturday, December 18	Steve & Nancy Cox 345-2385 swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net
Caballo	Sunday, January 2	Brad Vaughn 857-0869 bradvaughn@prodigy.net
Carlsbad Caverns NP	Saturday, December 18	Steve West 885-3636 wthrsuift@carlsbadnm.com
Cimmaron NEW!	Saturday, December 18	David Cleary 375-2971 djcleary@bacavalley.com
Clayton	Wednesday, December 15	Christopher Rustay 255-7786 chrustay@aol.com
Conchas Lake/ Clabber Hill Ranch	Sunday, January 2	Bill West 473-2780 wingswestnm@earthlink.net
Dixon	Saturday, December 18	Robert Templeton 579-4095 cohntemp@newmexico.com
Ejido San Pedro (Janos, Mex.)	Monday, January 3	Sonja Macys sonjamac@qwest.net
Española	Sunday, January 2	Bernie Foy 466-1587 bdfey@newmexico.com
Farmington	Saturday, December 18	Alan Nelson 325-8610 nelson2@gobrainstorm.net
Five Points	Thursday, December 23	Steve & Nancy Cox 345-2385 swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net
Gila River	Saturday, January 1	Roland Shook 388-3441 tyranidae@hotmail.com
La Luz	Wednesday, December 29	Hildy Reiser 439-5196 hiltranger@totacc.com
Lakes Avalon and Brantley	Sunday, December 26	Tom J. Hines 885-1869 tjhines68@hotmail.com

Count Name	Count Date	Contact/Compiler
Las Cruces	Saturday, December 18	Tim Lawton 522-2056 tlawton@nmsu.edu
Las Vegas	Wednesday, December 22	Lisa Boegl 983-4609 lboegl@audubon.org
Loving	Date not set	Craig Cranston 885-8362
Maxwell Refuge	Thursday, December 16	Linda Mowbray 989-8295 ljmow@swcp.com and Jo Osterhouse 820-1857 osterhousejo@hotmail.com
Orilla Verde (Pilar) NEW!	Thursday, December 16	Robert Weber 751-4019 or Elizabeth Winter ewinter@newmex.com
Pecos	Saturday, January 1	Gary & Karen Schiltz 757-2212 gschiltz@cybermesa.com
Peloncillo Mountains	Sunday, January 2	Alan Craig 520-558-220 narca@vtc.net
Portal, Arizona	Saturday, January 1	Alan Craig 520-558-220 narca@vtc.net
Questa	Thursday, December 30	Robert Weber 751-4019
Raton	Tuesday, December 21	David Cleary 375-2971 djcleary@bacaville.com
Roswell	Saturday, December 18	Sherry Bixler 622-0597 bbixler@plateautel.net
Ruidoso	Saturday, December 18	Anita Powell 257-5352 flicker@zianet.com and Lincoln County Bird Club
Sandia Mountains	Sunday, December 26	Rebecca Gracey 242-3821 mrgracey@earthlink.net and Nick Vaughn 265-1350
Santa Fe	Sunday, December 26	Deanna Einspahr 983-4609 deinspahr@audubon.org
Santa Rosa	Sunday, December 19	Bill West 473-2780 wingwestnm@earthlink.net
Sevilleta NWR	Tuesday, December 14	Steve & Nancy Cox 345-2385 swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net
Silver City	Saturday, December 18	Roland Shook 388-3441 tyranidae@hotmail.com
Zuni	Saturday, December 18	John Trochet 916-736-3560 trochetj@cwnet.com

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

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:
505-884-3269

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