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NEW MEXICO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1994

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The New Mexico Bird Records Committee (hereinafter NMBRC or Committee) was established to evaluate and archive records of unusual bird species that occur in New Mexico. Formation of the NMBRC was initiated in 1992, was formalized with a Secretary and five Members in 1993 (Williams and Parmeter 1993), and commenced operations in 1994, including by drafting an initial Review List (see below) and by beginning the circulation of records. This report, the first for the NMBRC, discusses the overall objectives of the NMBRC, provides the initial Review List of species for which the Committee seeks documentation, and treats 55 records that were circulated to the Committee in 1994 on which decisions were reached. This treatment includes details on the first confirmed New Mexico records for five species: Ruff, Black Skimmer, Berylline Hummingbird, Cinnamon Hummingbird, and Acadian Flycatcher.

NMBRC Purpose

The NMBRC was established with six broad purposes or objectives in mind. These are: 1) to solicit and maintain documentation of records of birds from New Mexico; 2) to evaluate and validate such records; 3) to publish data on decisions; 4) to provide a means by which sight records can gain acceptance as valuable scientific data, by establishing standards of observation and reporting; and 6) to keep or cause to keep the official New Mexico State List of accepted bird species.

NMBRC Review List

The Committee developed a Review List of 142 bird species for which it requests documentation of all New Mexico records. In addition, the Committee requests documentation of all New Mexico records of species not currently on the official State List and, hence, potentially new to the state. Documentation may be in the form of written details, copies of field notes, photographs (slides [preferred], prints, and/or videotapes), voice recordings, and/or information on (and the location of) specimens. An excellent article explaining how to document rare birds may be found in Dittmann and Lasley (1992).

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

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

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

The Review List.--Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Least Storm-Petrel, Brown Pelican, Anhinga, Magnificent Frigatebird, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Brant, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter,

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

NMBRC Procedures

Because this is its first report, some details are provided here on the procedures and workings of the NMBRC. New Mexico's procedures are closely patterned on those currently in use in Texas (see Lasley 1991) and Louisiana (see Dittmann 1995); those, in turn, are patterned after procedures in use in California (see Patten et al. 1995).

The process of evaluation begins with submission of a record to the Secretary. As noted above, submissions may be in the form of written details, photographs (slides are preferred), tape recordings, or data on specimens. The Secretary assigns each record a NMBRC file number, and groups records into "Rounds" of 10-20 individual records. If multiple observers are involved with a specific record, and that fact is known to the Secretary, it may take up to a year or more before a record begins circulation, in order to ensure that as much documentation as possible is received and made available for evaluation.

Each record in a Round is first voted on by the Secretary, then the Round is circulated (generally by mail) to each of the other Members for their votes and comments. Members do not see the votes or comments of other Members on the first circulation; instead, they return their votes to the Secretary and forward the Round on to the next Member. Each Member makes every effort to review and vote on a Round within one month of its receipt; hence, it can take up to six months for a Round to complete just its first circulation.

Voting categories include acceptable, unacceptable based on questionable identification, and unacceptable based on questionable origin. Members evaluate reports based on what they consider to be adequate documentation to support each record. Generally, records are evaluated conservatively, as the Committee believes it is better to not accept potentially correct records rather than to accept potentially incorrect ones. If requested or deemed necessary by a Member, documentation for a record may be submitted to one or more outside authorities for comments, with those comments becoming part of the record that is circulated. Referral to outside experts can occur prior to a record's first circulation, or subsequent to that or other circulations.

A record is accepted if it receives a 6-0 or 5-1 vote for acceptance on its first circulation; a record is not accepted if it receives a 0-6, 1-5, or 2-4 vote on its first circulation. Records receiving other combinations of votes are re-circulated, along with the votes and comments of the Members. Members must provide full explanatory comments for all non-acceptance votes on the first circulation; they must provide such comments for all votes on subsequent circulations. Members may not discuss individual records among themselves on the first circulation, but may do so on subsequent circulations. If a record remains undecided after a third circulation, it is decided at a meeting of the Committee. As such an event would amount to the equivalent of four circulations for a particular record, it follows that such records may require several years before a final decision is reached. Complete documentation for all records, whether accepted or not, is retained in the NMBRC archives, where it is available to individuals who may wish to draw their own conclusions or for re-evaluation at some future date.

Report Format

The 55 records treated in this first report are divided into Accepted Records (47) and Unaccepted Records (8). Within each of the two categories, records are arranged taxonomically following the *AOU Check-list* (6th ed) and its supplements. Within each species, records (if more than one) are arranged chronologically. Each record is identified by a NMBRC file number-this number is in parentheses and consists of the year the record was originally circulated to the Committee (not the year in which the record occurred), followed by a dash and a number. Also given are the location (with county in *italics*), the date(s) of the record, and the initials of the observer(s). Only observers who submitted documentation are listed; this practice was adopted in hopes of encouraging more observers to submit their own reports so that they too may receive recognition for their contributions. Observers are not listed for records not accepted. If photographs, audiotapes, or videotapes are on file with the NMBRC, the New Mexico Photo/Tape File (NMPTF) number is given; this number references all photos and tapes that are on file for each individual record. If a photo was published, a brief citation is given. Abbreviations found in the report are NM (National Monument), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), SP (State Park), and WMA (Wildlife Management Area).

NMBRC Membership

Members of the NMBRC during 1994 who participated in all decisions summarized in this report were: Sartor O. Williams III (Secretary), Alan M. Craig, John E. Parmeter, Christopher M. Rustay, Barry R. Zimmer, and Dale A. Zimmerman.

Initialed Contributors

Pat Basham (PB), Sherry M. Bixler (SMB), Charles L. Black (CLB), James Black (JB), Terry Brownell (TB), Steven A. Buckman (SAB), Doug Burkett (DB), David J. Cleary (DJC), Alan M. Craig (AMC), Joan E. Day-Martin (JD-M), Douglas A. Emkalns (DAE), Gordon J. Ewing (GJE), Ralph A. Fisher Jr (RAP), Bernard R. Foy (BRF), Larry P. Gorbet (LPG), Jean and Richard Hoffinan (J & RH), William H. Howe (WHH), Andy Kraynik (AK), David A. Leal (DAL), Gail Diane Luckner (GDL), William R. Maynard (WRM), Paul McConnell (PM), Narca Moore-Craig (NM-C), Bruce D. Neville (BDN), Benjamin D. Parmeter (BDP), John E. Parmeter (JEP), Christopher M. Rustay (CMR), Catherine I. Sandell (CIS), Lorraine Schulte (LS), Patricia R. Snider (PRS), E. A. H. Speirs (EAS), Brad Vaughn (BV), George E. Wallace (GEW), Steve West (SW), William F. West (WFW), Eleanor G. Wootten (EGW), Barry R. Zimmer (BRZ).

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*). One (1994-2) was at the mouth of Las Animas Creek, Caballo Reservoir, *Sierra* on 29 May 1994: CIS.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). One adult (1994-3) was at a pond immediately north of Percha Dam SP, *Sierra* on 23 April 1994: CIS. One adult (1994-4) was at Maxwell NWR, *Colfax* on 24 July 1994: LS.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*). One adult male (1994-28) was at Gray's Pond, 3.5 mi. north of Radium Springs, *Dona Ana* on 3 November 1993: EGW. One adult male (1994-6) was at Holloman Lakes, *Otero* on 15 April 1994: BDN. One adult male (1994-29) was at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro* on 30 April-1 May 1994: (on 30 April) CMR; (on 1 May) PRS.

White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). One female or immature (1994-30) was at Burn Lake, Las Cruces, *Dona Ana* on 29 October 1993: LS.

American Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). One adult (1994-46) at and near Socorro, *Socorro* during the period 6-18 September 1993. Discovered 6 September (PB) at the same locale where there had been an adult in September 1982. Seen by many; those providing useful documentation: (on 7 September) LPG (ph); (on 8, 11, and 18 September) JEP; (on 11 September) CMR, SW; (on 12 September) EGW (ph), BRP, BV; (on 13 September) PRS; (on 14 September) GJE; NMPTF #1993-5. A photo of this kite was published in *American Birds* 48: 139.

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*). One first-year (not juvenile) bird molting into adult plumage (1994-47) in the southern Animas Valley, *Hidalgo* on 22 July 1994: JEP, CMR, CIS.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). One (1994-9) at Black Rock Reservoir, Zuni Indian Reservation, *McKinley* on 14 May 1994: DJC. One (1994-33) at Holloman Lakes, *Otero* on 4-5 June 1994: CLB.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*). One adult in alternate plumage (1994-48) at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro* on 24 July 1992: TB. Two birds, both at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, as follows: an adult molting into basic plumage (1994-49A) on 10 August 1992 (GEW, EAS) and an adult in basic plumage (1994-49B) on 5 September 1992 (JEP, LPG). These latter treated as two individuals largely due to the time gap between sightings; the August record was accepted on a 5-1 vote, the September record was accepted 6-0.

Ruff (*Philornachus pugnax*). One bird, probably a female (1994-51), at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro* on 30 April 1994. Discovered by CMR and reportedly seen by many, but documentation provided only by him and PB (Ph), LPG (ph), and JEP; NMPTF #1994-1. Not found 1 May. This constitutes the state's third report and first confirmed record.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*). One adult (1994-52), west side of Elephant Butte Reservoir between Long Point and Hot Springs Landing, *Sierra* on 1 May 1993: LPG (Ph); first sighted by Carol Davis; NMPTF #1993-1. A photo of this bird was published in *American Birds* 47:441. This represents the state's second report and, supported by three excellent photos, first confirmed record.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*). One bird (1994-32) at Gallina Spring on Palomas Creek, Ladder Ranch, *Sierra* on 8 July 1994: CLB.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). One (1994-11) at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* on 24-25 May 1994: SW. The record was accepted on a 5-1 first-circulation vote.

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*). One (1994-53) at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves* on 6 August 1993: SAB (ph); NMPTF #1993-3. This record was accepted on a 5-1 vote on the first circulation. The photograph, although poor, showed a bill shape consistent with this species and not the unlikely Smooth-billed Ani.

White-eared Hummingbird (*Hylocharis leucotis*). A male (1994-54A) and a female (1994-54B) in the Manzano Mountains 13 mi. southeast of Tijeras, *Bernalillo* from approx. 1 July to 16 August 1994: JD-M (Ph); NMPTF #1994-4 (only the male was photographed). The male, photographed 20 July 1994, was accepted on a 6-0 vote; the female was accepted on a 5-1 vote on the first circulation, with the dissenting Member noting it was "almost certainly" this species but believing the description was inadequate.

Berylline Hummingbird (*Amazilia beryllina*). One adult female (1994-55) in Guadalupe Canyon approx. 2.5

mi. northeast of the state line, *Hidalgo* on 24-25 May 1993: NM-C (Ph), AMC; NMPTF #1993-2. A photo of this bird was published in *American Birds* 47:466. This record, supported by a series of five excellent photographs, constitutes a first for New Mexico.

Cinnamon Hummingbird (*Amazilia rutila*). One adult male (1994-56) at Santa Teresa, *Dona Ana* present 18-21 September 1993. Discovered by Patricia Russell on 18 September and seen by many through the morning of 21 September but not thereafter. Documentation: (on 19 September) BRZ (ph); (on 20 September) GDL (ph), JEP, LPG (ph), and AK (ph); NMPTI #1993-6. A photo of this bird was published in *American Birds* 48:160. The 19 color photographs from four photographers confirm this first New Mexico, and second United States, record.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). One female (1994-34) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt* on 14 May 1993: JEP. About the twelfth state record, this was the first for May and the first for *Roosevelt*.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*). One (1994-58) on the University of New Mexico campus in Albuquerque, *Bernalillo* on 14-15 October 1993, discovered by CLB. Documentation: (on 14 October) CLB; (on 14-15 October) LPG (ph, audiotape, printed sonograms); (on 15 October) JB (ph), JEP, CMR; NMPTF #1993-7. The record was conditionally accepted on a 5-1 vote on the first circulation, with the stipulation that the material be reviewed by an outside authority. J. Van Remsen Jr concluded the recorded voice was diagnostic of this species. The tape-recorded vocalizations together with the typical-appearing sonograms allowed the species to be added to the New Mexico list.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*). One (1994-59) at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra* present 28 August-5 September 1993, discovered by CLB. Documentation: (on 28 August) CLB; (on 28 August and 4 September) JEP; (on 31 August) LPG (Ph); (on 1 September) BRZ (Ph); on 2 September) CMR, GJE; (on 4 September) BDN, DAE; (on 5 September) SW; NMPTF #1993-4. A photo of this bird was published in *American Birds* 48:139. One (1994-60) on White Sands Missile Range at Mound Springs, *Lincoln* on 19 May 1994: DB (Ph); NMPTF #1994-2. These, the fourth and fifth reports overall, represent the second and third confirmed records for New Mexico.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). One (1994-13) at Fort Sumner, *De Baca* seen and heard singing on 7 and 14 May 1994 and seen on 4 June 1994: (on 7 May) CMR; (on 14 May and 4 June) JEP. The bird reportedly was photographed by others in June, but no photographs were submitted.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). One singing adult (1994-37) at the Corrales Bosque, 1.5 mi. south of King's Road, *Sandoval* on 11 and 13 June 1994: (on 11 June) CLB; (on 13 June) JEP. One singing adult (1994-36) at Roswell, *Chaves* on 27 June 1994: 5MB.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). One singing adult (1994-14) at Carlsbad, *Eddy* on 21 April 1994: R & JH. Two adults (1994-15 and 1994-16) present 25 May 1994 (both birds, singing) and 5 June 1994 (1994-15 only, singing) on the east side of the Rio Grande 4-4.5 mi. north of Bernardo (1994-15) and 5.5 mi. north of Bernardo (1994-16), *Socorro*: WHH. One singing adult (1994-38) along the Rio Grande near San Acacia, *Socorro* on 17 June 1994: CLB.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*). One adult male (1994-17) at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* on 29 April 1994: SW. One silent bird, sex uncertain (1994-39) along the Rio Grande near Belen, *Valencia* on 5 June 1994: WHH. One singing adult male (1994-61) at Trout Creek, approx. 2 mi. north of Luna, *Catron* on 14 June 1994: WRM (ph); NMPTF #1994-3.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). One singing adult male (1994-62) on the Gila River at Heart Bar WMA, below Gila Cliff Dwellings NM, *Catron* on 11 June 1994:

WFW.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). One adult male (1994-18) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt* on

8 May 1994: JEP. One adult, presumably a male (1994-19) at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra* on 13 May 1994: DAL.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). One singing adult male (1994-20) at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* on 9 May 1994: BDP.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). One adult of the western subspecies *palmarum* (1994-21) at Palomas marsh, *Sierra* on 24 March 1994: EGW. One adult (1994-22) at Percha Darn SP, *Sierra* on 8 May 1994: DAL. For the latter record, the written details were adequate for identification to species, but incomplete description of underparts precluded identification to subspecies; the record was accepted on receiving a 5-1 vote on the first circulation.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*). One female (1994-42) at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* on 13 May 1993: JEP. Laurence C. Binford quizzed the observer and concurred with the identification.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporomis formosus*). One silent bird, sex uncertain (1994-43) at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt* on 2 June 1994: CLB.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). One singing adult male (1994-63) at the Corrales Bosque, *Sandoval* on various dates 24 May-7 July 1992: TB. Although this male appeared to be defending territory, no female or evidence of nesting was observed. An adult male-female pair (1994-64) on the West Fork of the Gila River at Gila Cliff Dwellings NM, *Catron* on various dates 28 June-5 August 1994: the male was heard and seen on 28 June by WRM, the female was seen on 23 July by PM, on 25 July by RAF, and on 31 July-1 August by DJC (ph on 1 August), and the pair was heard and seen together on 5 August by AMC and NM-C; NMPTF #1994-5. The site was searched on 10 November 1994 by RAF, who discovered, photographed, and collected a nest structure resembling nests typical of Hooded Warbler, suggesting possible attempted breeding by this pair, the first such occurrence for New Mexico.

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*). One adult in alternate plumage (1994-25) at the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, *Santa Fe* on 1 May 1994: BRF.

Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). A male and a female plus four additional birds probably also this species (1994-44) at Percha Dam SP, *Sierra* on 2 January 1994: BRZ. In this flock of six birds, one male and one female, both in basic plumage, were well studied; the remaining birds were believed to be one male and three females.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*). Two together (1994-26) at La Joya WMA, *Socorro* on 19 November 1993. This record failed on receiving a 1-5 vote on the first circulation. The description was suggestive of this species, but most Members noted that the equivocally-described head and body color, eye color, bill size and shape, and voice did not eliminate entirely the possibility that the birds may have been Pied-billed or Eared grebes. Also, the occurrence of two together in New Mexico, and in mid-November, seemed unlikely. The species is unconfirmed in New Mexico.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Two together (1994-27) at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* on 7 May 1992. The record failed on a 0-6 first-circulation vote. The birds were seen by a single observer at about 30 yards distance under less than optimal conditions--partially backlighted when perched, then seen flying. All Members noted that the written details were suggestive of this species, but unanimously concluded that White-faced Ibis was not eliminated. Several important details, such as eye color, were not seen, while the broken facial border (whether skin or feathers was not noted) was described as white, not the expected bluish.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). Two "immatures" (1994-5) at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro* on 14 May 1994. This record failed on receiving a 2-4 vote on the first circulation. The birds were seen briefly by a single observer, without the aid of binoculars, at a distance of 75 ft. The description

failed to mention several key features. Additionally, the presence of immature-plumaged birds in New Mexico in mid-May seemed unlikely.

Gray Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*). Two adults (1994-8) at Roswell, *Chaves* on 13 April 1994. This record failed on a 1-5 first-circulation vote. The description of the two birds, seen circling overhead, did not eliminate Broad-winged Hawk, a species much more likely to occur at that date and location.

Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*). One (1994-31) approx. 5-10 km east of Cliff on US 180, *Granton* 24 July 1994. The record failed on a 1-5 first-circulation vote. The viewing conditions--five seconds from a moving car of a flying bird 10-15 m distant--were poor, and the brief description did not eliminate Ruddy Ground-Dove (although unlikely at that season) or Inca Dove.

Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). One (1994-35) at Water Canyon, Magdalena Mountains, *Socorro* on 6 March 1993. This record failed on receiving a 2-4 vote on the first circulation. The consensus of Members questioning the record was that the brief description, which throughout confused breast and belly, did not eliminate possible hybrid sapsuckers, which may be more likely in New Mexico.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher (*Empidonax fulvifrons*). One (1994-12) in the vicinity of the "old ranger station" in Skeleton Canyon, *Hidalgo* on 2 July 1994. This record failed on receiving a 0-6 vote on the first circulation, with all Members concluding that the written description did not adequately describe this species. The single observer had no prior experience with the species, and was unaware of its extreme rarity in New Mexico--last verified in 1929.

Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). One (1994-24) at McMillan Camp Ground, *Grant* on 10 May 1994. The record failed on a 0-6 first-circulation vote. The bird was observed briefly and incompletely at a distance of 100-150 ft by a single observer with no prior experience with the species. The description, which did not include notations on the underparts or wings, and was equivocal as regards the back, did not rule out other *Dendroica* warblers more likely to occur in that area, including Townsend's, Grace's, Hermit, and Black-throated Green. The species is unconfirmed in New Mexico.

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I sincerely thank each of my fellow Members--Alan Craig, John Parmeter, Chris Rustay, Barry Zimmer, and Dale Zimmerman--for their efforts in helping to launch the NMBRC. John Parmeter deserves special recognition for insisting that such a Committee be formed and for keeping the pressure on to see that it was accomplished. Greg W. Lasley was most helpful in answering my questions and in providing me with information on procedures in Texas.

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