

**Western Field Ornithologists
and
New Mexico Ornithological Society
Joint Meeting**

July 24–27, 2003

**Western New Mexico University
Silver City, New Mexico**

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The 28th annual meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists and the 41st annual meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held jointly at the campus of Western New Mexico University in Silver City, New Mexico, July 24–27, 2003. The theme of the meeting will be the birds of the Mexican Borderlands, and it will promote exchange of biological information with professional and amateur ornithologists from both sides of the international border. Situated in the Madrean oak woodland habitats of the Southwestern Borderland region, Silver City, New Mexico, affords unique birding and ornithological research opportunities for the casual birder as well as the professional biologist. Late July is prime time for hummingbird viewing in this region, and up to 10+ species can be found within two hours' driving distance from the site of the meetings. Furthermore, this area affords great opportunities for viewing many southwestern specialty species such as the Common Black-Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Montezuma Quail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Flammulated and Spotted Owls, Greater Pewee, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Mexican Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Crissal Thrasher, Olive and Red-faced Warblers, Painted Redstart, and Abert's Towhee.

Activities: Several organized half-day field trips are available, including a representative sampling of birds and habitats of southwestern New Mexico and northwestern Chihuahua. Participants can explore the region's diverse habitats on their own as well, using the just published third edition of the *New Mexico Bird Finding Guide* (available for \$20, postage included, from New Mexico Ornithological Society, P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068). A field trip to the Sierra Madre Occidental in Chihuahua, Mexico, follows the meeting. As at previous WFO meetings, afternoon professional paper sessions and identification slide panels are planned. Social activities include a welcoming reception, a Friday evening social event, and the concluding banquet and evening program on Saturday. For those diverse individuals who are slightly less interested in the birding opportunities, there are also many other cultural and historical sites to visit in the immediate vicinity, such as Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument.

Speakers: The featured speaker after the Saturday evening banquet is Dr. Noel Snyder from Portal, Arizona. Dr. Snyder is the co-author of *The California Condor: A Saga of Natural History and Conservation* and *Birds of Prey: Natural History and Conservation of North American Raptors*. His presentation is entitled "Conservation and Reintroduction of Thick-billed Parrots: Future Prospects."

On Friday night 25 July Dr. Dale Zimmerman from Silver City, New Mexico, will be making a presentation on the birds of the borderlands region. Dr. Zimmerman is a long-time resident of Silver City and a pioneer in many ornithological investigations within this bird-rich region.

Lodging: A block of 30 rooms has been reserved at the Silver City Holiday Inn Express (505-538-2525) for this meeting. Prices are set at \$60/night and are reserved under "WFO Meetings" with a confirmation number 68518772. These rooms are available on a first-come first-served basis until 15 June 2003. A wide variety of hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, and guest inns is also available in the greater Silver City area. This is a popular destination for summer visitors, so make reservations early. Please visit www.silvercity.org on the World Wide Web to view alternate accommodations, prices, and telephone numbers, as well as recreational activities for the area.

For additional information contact dave_krueper@fws.gov and watch WFO's website, www.wfo-cbrc.org, for updates.