

## REVIEW

Check-list of the Birds of New Mexico. — John P. Hubbard. 1970. New Mexico Ornithological Society Publication No. 3. 103 p., 3 maps. \$2.50

Despite the attraction of its varied and abundant birdlife (476 species), New Mexico is poorly known ornithologically. The standard reference work to the birds of the state, *The Birds of New Mexico*, by Florence Merriam Bailey (1928) is long out of date, and its "replacement", *New Mexico Birds and Where to Find them* by J. S. Ligon (1961) has serious limitations.

The need for an up-to-date annotated list is filled by the appearance of Hubbard's competent and carefully-detailed paper. In it, the statewide status of each species is discussed. Supplementary information given includes: distribution (by county), specimen or photographic documentation, breeding records, seasonal status, and frequency of occurrence. For species whose status has not been unequivocally determined, Hubbard ranks the records on a sliding scale that ranges from "highly probable" to "questionable."

By using a shorthand format, Hubbard has managed to cram an amazing amount of detail into a small space. An interesting feature is that names of observers are largely or entirely omitted. This procedure may not appeal to those who scan *Audubon Field Notes* studying the distribution of their own initials, but those who are more interested in the distribution of birds will find that it does not detract from the general usefulness of the list.

All annotated lists have the incidental salutary effect of pointing out gaps in our knowledge. This list should be especially helpful in stimulating studies of New Mexico birds because of the thoroughness with which the data have been compiled. It is available at a bargain price from the New Mexico Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 277, Cedar Crest, New Mexico 87008. *J. R. Jehl, Jr., San Diego Natural History Museum, Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112.*