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Review of *Raptors of New Mexico*. Edited by Jean-Luc E. Cartron.

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Raptors of New Mexico. Edited by Jean-Luc E. Cartron. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010. xvi + 710 pp. Photographs, illustrations, maps, appendices, glossary, references, index. \$50.00 cloth.

As a raptor specialist, I eagerly look forward to the publication of state and regional books on birds of prey, typically rich with hard-to-find locally flavored information on distribution and biology. With the publication of *Raptors of New Mexico*, my home state has joined the ranks of the handful of states blessed with such volumes, and in fine form. This is an impressive work both in size and content, but the first thing anyone will notice are the photographs—hundreds, most top-notch, many capturing moods, scenes, and places unique to New Mexican raptors. In many ways the book is a showcase for the 109 or so photographers who contributed images, but there is much more here than gorgeous pictures.

Raptors of New Mexico includes chapters on the 19 species of Accipitriformes, five species of Falconiformes, and 13 species of Strigiformes that regularly occur in New Mexico, as well as a single chapter covering seven additional raptor species considered casual or accidental. Each species chapter includes sections on distribution (with detailed range maps), habitat associations, nesting, diet and foraging, predation and interspecific interactions, status and management, and references. In addition, the book contains introductory chapters on New Mexico's vegetation and floristic zones, the taxonomic classification of the state's raptors, raptor morphology, a concluding statement on the health of New Mexico's raptor species, and a series of appendices presenting data cited in chapters but not available elsewhere. I would have liked an overview chapter on raptor biology and demographics, but it's hard to complain given how much this book, the collective work of 41 authors, does offer.

Of particular interest to those working in the Great Plains are chapters on the Mississippi kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), western screech-owl (*Megascops kennicottii*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), and

short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), all species that come to mind when I think of prairies and their associated forested riparian corridors. Roughly a third of the eastern part of New Mexico is short grass prairie, and chapters covering the above species are packed with detailed observations and information on their biology on the state's prairies. The New Mexico flavor and focus make these accounts less suitable as comprehensive species references, but they more than make up for that in detail and local knowledge that cannot be found elsewhere.

I highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in New Mexican raptors, but it is a must-have for the serious birder or scientist working with birds of prey in the Great Plains. **Brian A. Millsap**, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region*.