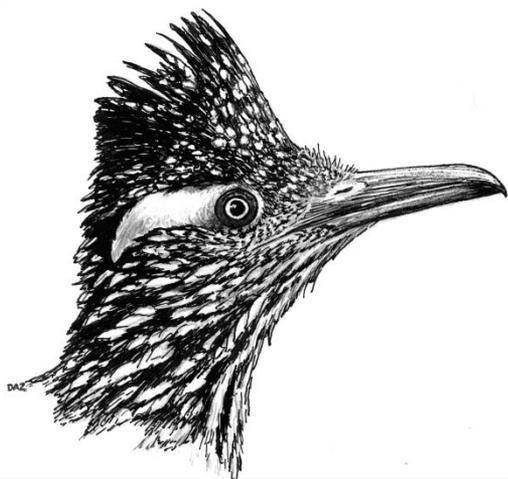


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ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF SANTA FE CANYON PRESERVE

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Introduction—The Santa Fe Canyon Preserve (SFCP) is a mature cottonwood bosque on the Rio Santa Fe, just east of the eponymous city at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. A fairly large expanse (212 hectares) of largely native vegetation in a permanently wet portion of the river, it is one of the most important component of wildlife habitat in Santa Fe County, New Mexico. Today, beaver activity makes it a dynamic riparian woodland dominated by cottonwoods, willows, and box-elder,¹ but it has had a checkered history. From 1893 to 1994, the large riparian portion of the preserve (~10 hectares) was submerged beneath a reservoir that was part of the drinking water system serving the city (The Nature Conservancy 2017). The dam and reservoir were dismantled in favor of larger upstream reservoirs, and under management by The Nature Conservancy, a portion of the Rio Santa Fe was allowed to re-establish its historic channel, which led to an astounding restoration of riparian forest that is now approximately two decades old. The river flows intermittently, but year-round, through a channel marked by a series of beaver dams and ponds.² The bosque is unique in Santa Fe county, since it is not replicated either upstream, where the canyon is much narrower, or downstream, where diversion, livestock grazing, and vegetation management policy make it impossible.³

SFCP has high value for long-term monitoring of birds and other wildlife. In 2012 I began systematic bird surveys to document species status in SFCP. The protected status of the preserve will likely permit continuing re-assessment in the future by the same methods, facilitating the analysis of trends.

The preserve is nestled at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at the lowest point of the municipal watershed, which has been closed to the public for decades. It lies at the eastern end of residential development within city limits. The adjoining property to the south is the Randall Davey Audubon Center (RDAC), which has been visited by birders since the early 1980s. Most of the RDAC land is at higher elevation,

¹ The most abundant species are *Populus deltoides*, *Populus angustifolia*, *Salix exigua*, *Salix irrorata*, *Salix lucida*, and *Acer negundo* (Hubby and Peterson 2013).

² The actual river flow is determined by municipal water demand, causing considerable variability.

³ Elsewhere on the Rio Santa Fe, a healthy bosque recurs below the municipal sewage treatment plant, but being 19 km downstream and 320 m lower in elevation, it takes on different habitat characteristics. Other restoration efforts are certainly possible, and have been contemplated by local governments.

and includes forested areas with pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), oneseed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and montane conifer (or mixed conifer) forest (Hubby and Peterson, 2013). Some birds will clearly use both SFCP and RDAC, but a number of species will be mostly confined to RDAC. Since my surveys did not cover the coniferous habitat of RDAC, I exclude discussion of species expected to be limited to that area.

METHODS

Surveys—From 2012 to 2017, I carried out a form of survey along the same path within the preserve. The route was 1,140 m long, beginning at latitude, longitude (35.68649°, -105.89509°) and ending at (35.68957°, -105.88902°)⁴, at an elevation of about 2,230 m (7,300 ft). All individuals seen or heard on the route were tabulated, regardless of distance from the path. The survey was not intended to measure quantitative density as in a line-transect survey, but it does permit a qualitative assessment of frequency of occurrence. Surveys were carried out in all seasons, approximately 33 surveys per year. All surveys were conducted in the morning hours, usually beginning between 6:30 am and 8:00 am; in winter, some were begun as late as 9:00 am. The route walked on each survey was along a well-worn dirt path obvious to any visitor, and will hopefully be maintained in the same location in the future. The route was walked in the west-to-east direction, but I believe the reverse route would produce very similar results. Birds perched near the year-round seed feeders at RDAC were not counted.

I did not use recorded sounds to elicit responses on the surveys, for the same reason that they are not used on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes. As on BBS routes, many individuals were detected by sound alone. As expected, the peak number of species tallied was during autumn migration, August through September. Lowest totals occurred during winter, December through February.

Historical Reports—The species list below also reflects historical reports. The primary sources referenced for this list were the online database of the New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS 2017) and the eBird website (eBird 2017). The NMOS database covers the time period 1962–2009, and its reliability is ensured through editing: details were usually required for acceptance. The eBird website is less rigorously reviewed, but reports included here were accompanied by written details or photographs, or were judged plausible based on habitat and seasonal timing. Many undetailed reports were disregarded.

One problem with historical data is the ambiguity in location, since many of the old sightings refer to RDAC, before the existence of SFCP. Many of these sightings were likely birds seen on or flying over SFCP and observed from the RDAC property, but

⁴ WGS 84 datum.

we cannot be certain. It seems unimportant to preserve the distinction, since most species will take advantage of both areas, so I have included most old RDAC reports in the list. There are a few notable rarity reports from Bear Canyon above the RDAC property that I have excluded due to the profoundly different montane conifer habitat there. A similar problem is old reports of waterfowl that were found on the defunct reservoir. Many of these reports are excluded from consideration here since the species in question were likely attracted by deep water (~15 m) in the old reservoir and are unlikely to occur again in the future, since the main pond on the preserve is now much shallower (2 m at deepest point). The pond freezes over in the coldest part of winter.

Owls and nightjars deserve special mention. As of this writing, little effort has been devoted to night-time surveys, so we have only fragmentary knowledge of owls and nightjars. New surveys of this type are highly desirable; under no circumstances, however, should specific owl nesting or roosting locations be made public, on eBird or any other public forum. Another problem in determination of status is soaring birds, particularly buteos, eagles, and Turkey Vulture. Since the surveys were conducted in the morning hours, few soaring birds were tabulated, so there is greater uncertainty about their status.

RESULTS

LIST OF SPECIES

Although my surveys occurred in a limited time frame (about 5 years), it is possible to assign status for many of the resident species and migrants. I used my knowledge of status in Santa Fe County in general to aid in these assessments and I welcome reports of unusual species in the future. Terms for status and abundance in the species list are defined as follows:

Status: *Permanent resident:* found year-round. *Winter or summer resident:* found throughout the season designated. *Migrant:* found either in spring migration (April–June) or fall migration (August–November), or both. *Visitant:* irregularly seen, for only a day or two in summer or winter, but not thought to be resident in either season. *Irruptive:* erratic occurrence; may be common one year and absent the next. *Accidental:* denotes a species with only one or two records, and for which the habitat is not appropriate.

Abundance: Because of the size of the preserve and the habitat types, there are no species that are abundant, i.e., numbering in the thousands. I use *common* to denote a species that can be expected to be seen on most outings of an hour or more, but potentially in small numbers. *Fairly common* and *uncommon* denote cases where the species was detected sporadically, indicating low abundance. *Scarce* and *rare* refer to species that are seen on infrequent outings because of transience or because of abundance at the level of a single individual or two.

Waterfowl

Greater White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)	A single record, 15-24 Oct 2009 (JB).
Snow Goose (<i>Chen caerulescens</i>)	A single report of a flock flying over 7 Feb 1987 (CR)
Canada Goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)	Scarce winter visitant.
Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	A pair was reported Apr 2009 and a pair Apr 2012, but undetailed.
Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)	Rare migrant in spring, with a few reports in fall.
American Wigeon (<i>Anas americana</i>)	Rare migrant in spring and fall.
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>).	Permanent resident, although never found in large numbers.
Blue-winged Teal (<i>Anas discors</i>).	Uncommon migrant in spring and fall.
Cinnamon Teal (<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>).	Rare migrant in spring and fall.
Northern Shoveler (<i>Anas chipeata</i>).	Rare migrant in spring (as late as early Jun), and fall (Aug).
Green-winged Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>).	Uncommon winter resident and migrant in fall and spring. Typically found in small groups, with a group of 13 occurring once. On the main pond but also in the small beaver ponds.
Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>).	A single report of a pair on 2 Oct 2012 (AG).
Redhead (<i>Aythya americana</i>).	A single record 21 Nov 2007 (JB).
Ring-necked Duck (<i>Aythya collaris</i>).	Rare spring migrant.
Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>).	Rare spring and fall migrant. Two records, in Apr and Nov (JB).
Ruddy Duck (<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>).	Rare spring and fall migrant.

Quail, Turkey, Grebes

Scaled Quail (<i>Callipepla squamata</i>)	Probably a permanent resident, but rare: there are a few undetailed reports at both SFCP and RDAC.
Gambel's Quail (<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>)	One was found dead 12 Oct 2016. Rare in northern NM.

Quail, Turkey, Grebes

Wild Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	Rare winter resident, sometimes evidenced by tracks in the snow. Permanent resident farther up the canyon and on hillsides.
Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant.
Eared Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)	A single report on 11 May 1996 (CR).

Pigeons, Doves, Roadrunners

Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)	Rare permanent resident; usually seen near the residences near the parking lot, but not in the interior of the preserve.
Band-tailed Pigeon (<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>)	Rare summer resident, although more common at RDAC and nearby mountains. One exceptional late-winter record (22 Feb 2013) at RDAC (JB).
Eurasian Collared-Dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident. Usually encountered close to the residences near the parking lot.
White-winged Dove (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>)	Common permanent resident. Attracted to nearby seed feeders, which enable it to persist in the cold months.
Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	Fairly common summer resident from Mar to Oct.
Greater Roadrunner (<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>)	A few reports at RDAC, but none yet on the preserve.

Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds

Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	Rare summer resident, Jun-Aug, with only a handful of reports. It is a fairly common summer resident elsewhere in Santa Fe County.
Common Poorwill (<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>)	One record, May 2017. It is a common summer resident on adjacent wooded slopes.

Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds

Black Swift (<i>Cypseloides niger</i>)	A single report on 31 Jul 1988 (CR). The nearest nesting location is about 10 km north, at Nambe Falls.
<i>Chaetura</i> sp. (Chimney/Vaux's Swift)	One report, May 2013.
White-throated Swift (<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>)	Rare migrant: a few reports late Jul - Sep.
Mexican Violetear (<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>)	Accidental: one bird visited a feeder just outside the preserve along Upper Canyon Rd., mid-Nov 2004, the only record for New Mexico.
Black-chinned Hummingbird (<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>)	Common summer resident, Apr-Sep.
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>)	Common summer resident Apr-Oct.
Rufous Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>)	Common migrant Jul-Sep, when it can be abundant.
Calliope Hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus calliope</i>)	Uncommon migrant Jul-Sep.

Rails, Coots, Cranes

Virginia Rail (<i>Rallus limicola</i>)	Rare summer resident, and possibly a permanent resident. Heard most frequently in fall, but it has been detected throughout the year, with a few reports even in Jan, when it is rare in northern New Mexico. Nested in 2014 (C. Grindle). Recorded calls were not used in the surveys, so its abundance is uncertain in this very suitable habitat.
Sora (<i>Porzana carolina</i>)	Rare summer resident and rare migrant, and more common in fall migration. Has been detected by call in winter (2016-2017). Recorded calls were not used in the surveys, so its abundance is uncertain.
American Coot (<i>Fulica americana</i>)	Summer resident. One nesting pair frequents the main pond except when it freezes over Dec-Feb.

Rails, Coots, Cranes

Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)	One report, a flock flying over 1 Mar 2014 (C. Grindle). A winter resident farther south in Santa Fe County.
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Plovers, Sandpipers, Terns, Cormorants, Herons

Killdeer (<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant.
Wilson's Snipe (<i>Gallinago delicata</i>)	Rare winter resident, Sep-Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper (<i>Actitis macularius</i>)	Rare migrant from spring to fall.
Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)	Accidental migrant: one report, 29 Apr 2010 (JB).
Double-crested Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>)	One group was photographed flying over 7 Oct 2016, and a single individual flew over 22 Sep 2012 (AG). There are only a few Santa Fe County records.
Great Blue Heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	Rare permanent resident; normally just a single individual.

Vultures, Osprey, Hawks, Eagles

Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	Uncommon summer resident, Apr-Sep.
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant, usually at the main pond, feeding on introduced fish. A few records in Jun-Jul (2011, 2013, 2017) may have been wandering unmated birds. Sightings on the reservoirs upstream suggest nesting, but it has not been confirmed.
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Rare winter resident: surprisingly, only three undetailed reports in Nov-Dec.
Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant. One Dec report (AG).
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	Rare winter resident; absent in summer, when it retreats to higher elevations.

Vultures, Osprey, Hawks, Eagles

Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	Permanent resident; confirmed nesting in large deciduous trees.
Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	A few reports in summer and fall, but lacking in details.
Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus</i>)	Rare spring migrant during the short window Apr 26 - May 4.
Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)	Rare migrant. A kettle of migrants observed on 2 Oct 2004.
Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	Permanent resident, but infrequently seen.
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	Permanent resident in Santa Fe County, but only a few reports in fall and winter at SFCP.

Owls, Kingfishers

Flammulated Owl (<i>Psiloscopus flammeolus</i>)	One record, 25 Aug 2017. Fairly common breeder in nearby forested hillsides.
Western Screech-Owl (<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>)	Status uncertain; a permanent resident in northern New Mexico, but only a few winter records at SFCP.
Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	A few reports at RDAC, but none yet on the preserve, surprisingly. A permanent resident in the county.
Northern Pygmy-Owl (<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>)	Rare permanent resident. More common in surrounding woodlands, but only rarely encountered.
Belted Kingfisher (<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>)	Rare migrant, Apr-Oct.

Woodpeckers

Lewis's Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	Only a handful of records May-Sep. Seems to be attracted to the cottonwoods at RDAC.
Acorn Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>)	A single record on 18 May 2013. One photographed at RDAC, 31 Aug 2013 (<i>vide</i> BF).

Woodpeckers

Williamson's Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>)	Scarce spring and fall migrant. Increasingly found in winter.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>)	A few undetailed reports. Casual in Santa Fe County, so it seems like a possibility in the preserve.
Red-naped Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>)	Rare summer resident Mar-Sep; one report in Dec (AG). The occasional presence of a pair in summer suggests breeding.
Ladder-backed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides scalaris</i>)	Uncommon summer resident May-Oct.
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides pubescens</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident.
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident.
Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	Common permanent resident; the red-shafted race is represented. Some birds show intergrade plumage characters.

Falcons

American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Rare winter resident Oct-Feb.
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Rare migrant, with one winter record, 27 Jan 2013. Winter reports in northern NM are on the increase (S.O. Williams, pers. comm.).

Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>)	Uncommon spring and fall migrant.
Western Wood-Pewee (<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>)	Found in small numbers May-Sep. Spring and fall migrant and possible summer resident.
Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	Scarce spring and fall migrant. The endangered Southwestern subspecies (<i>E.t. extimus</i>) does not occur in the breeding season.
Hammond's Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax hammondi</i>)	Spring and fall migrant, but identification difficulties make the status uncertain.

Flycatchers

Gray Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant. Summer resident in nearby coniferous forest.
Dusky Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>)	Spring and fall migrant, but identification difficulties make the status uncertain.
Cordilleran Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>)	Common summer resident May-Sep.
Black Phoebe (<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>)	Scarce spring and fall migrant.
Eastern Phoebe (<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>)	Only two records (Jan, Apr). A rare but regular winter visitant in northern NM.
Say's Phoebe (<i>Sayornis saya</i>)	Summer resident, Mar-Sep; scattered reports Oct-Nov. Absent in winter.
Ash-throated Flycatcher (<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>)	Common summer resident, May-Aug. One Oct report.
Cassin's Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>)	Uncommon summer resident, May-Aug.
Western Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>)	A few reports May-Aug, but details are lacking. Rare at most.
Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)	A single report, 7 Sep 2015 (ph. J. Fitzgibbon).

Vireos

White-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo griseus</i>)	A single record, 31 May - 8 Jun 2015, when two birds were present.
Cassin's Vireo (<i>Vireo cassinii</i>)	Rare fall migrant, particularly in Sep.
Plumbeous Vireo (<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>)	Fairly common migrant (May-Sep), with fewer records in mid-summer.
Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>)	Fairly common summer resident May-Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)	One record only, 25 Aug 2013.

Corvids

Pinyon Jay (<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident. In late summer and fall, flocks can be as large as 100.
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Corvids

Steller's Jay (<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident, but absent in Jun, when breeding at higher elevation.
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)	One record, Nov 1988, at RDAC (CR).
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (<i>Aphelocoma woodhouseii</i>)	Common permanent resident.
Clark's Nutcracker (<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>)	Uncommon winter resident, with sporadic occurrence mostly Sep-Jan. One record in May.
Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica hudsonia</i>)	Common permanent resident.
American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident.
Common Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	Common permanent resident. Frequently seen flying down-canyon in the morning.

Swallows

Tree Swallow (<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>)	Uncommon spring and fall migrant.
Violet-green Swallow (<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>)	Fairly common summer resident Apr-Sep, usually near RDAC.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>)	Uncommon migrant Apr-Sep.
Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	Rare spring migrant: a few reports in May.
Cliff Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant.
Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	Fairly common summer resident Apr-Sep.

Titmice, Bushtits, Nuthatches, Creepers

Black-capped Chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>)	Common permanent resident near the permanently wet areas.
Mountain Chickadee (<i>Poecile gambeli</i>)	Common permanent resident.
Juniper Titmouse (<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident. More common in adjacent pinyon-juniper.
Bushtit (<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>)	Common permanent resident.
Red-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta canadensis</i>)	Rare winter visitant, mostly Sep-Feb.

White-breasted Nuthatch (<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>)	Fairly common permanent resident, on and near the large cottonwoods.
Pygmy Nuthatch (<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>)	Rare on the Preserve, but common permanent resident at RDAC where the Ponderosa Pine is more numerous.
Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>)	Scarce winter resident, mostly Nov-Mar, but occasionally found at other times of year.

Wrens

Rock Wren (<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>)	A few reports at RDAC, but not confirmed on the preserve.
House Wren (<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>)	Uncommon summer resident Apr-Oct; has nested at RDAC.
Winter Wren (<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>)	Rare winter resident (Oct-Mar), at least in some years. In 2012-2015 there were one or two birds present, usually in the marshy area near the old dam.
Marsh Wren (<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>)	Uncommon winter resident Sep-Jan in the marshy areas.
Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)	One record: a singing male was present Sep-Oct 2016.
Bewick's Wren (<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>)	Fairly common permanent resident.

Gnatcatchers, Dippers, Kinglets

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>)	Uncommon summer resident and migrant, Apr-Sep.
American Dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>)	One bird photographed on the river just west of the preserve, in Dec 2012 (AG).
Golden-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>)	Rare winter visitant.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Regulus calendula</i>)	Fairly common fall and spring migrant. Uncommon in winter.

Thrushes

Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>)	Two undetailed reports in winter.
Western Bluebird (<i>Sialia mexicana</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident.

Thrushes

Mountain Bluebird (<i>Sialia currucoides</i>)	A small number of undetailed reports at RDAC, but unconfirmed in the preserve.
Townsend's Solitaire (<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>)	Common permanent resident except in Jun. Frequently heard singing in fall.
Hermit Thrush (<i>Catharus guttatus</i>)	Fairly common fall and spring migrant; scarce winter resident.
American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	Common permanent resident. Flocks can be quite large in fall.

Thrashers, Starlings, Waxwings, Pipits

Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	Rare summer resident May-Sep. At least one was present through the summer in 2015. A few records Oct-Dec. Difficult to see.
Curve-billed Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident at RDAC, and seen on occasion in the preserve.
Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)	A single report, 3 Oct 2010 (JB).
Northern Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	A rare visitant from Apr-Oct.
European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	Rare permanent resident.
Bohemian Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>)	Two records: one flock (of 19) in Mar 2005 spent several weeks. Two were reported at RDAC in Nov 1986 (CR).
Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident.
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	Rare permanent resident (thankfully), but common in adjacent residential areas.
American Pipit (<i>Anthus rubescens</i>)	One undetailed report in May 1988 (CR).

Finches

House Finch (<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>)	Common permanent resident.
Cassin's Finch (<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>)	Uncommon winter resident, and notably irruptive. A few reports in

Finches

	summer.
Red Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	Uncommon permanent resident; more common in adjacent forests.
Pine Siskin (<i>Spinus pinus</i>)	Common permanent resident.
Lesser Goldfinch (<i>Spinus psaltria</i>)	Fairly common summer resident May-Oct, and absent in winter, when they are replaced by American. One record in Feb.
American Goldfinch (<i>Spinus tristis</i>)	Fairly common winter resident, and absent in summer.
Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>)	Common permanent resident, but somewhat irruptive. Winter flocks can be huge, numbering close to 1000. Numbers seem to drop Jun-Jul, when they are probably breeding at higher elevations.

Warblers

Northern Waterthrush (<i>Parus noveboracensis</i>)	Two records: 5 Sep 2011 and 14 May 2016 (recording, S. Severs).
Orange-crowned Warbler (<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>)	Fairly common spring and fall migrant.
Nashville Warbler (<i>Oreothlypis ruficapilla</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant.
Virginia's Warbler (<i>Oreothlypis virginiae</i>)	Fairly common summer resident, Apr-Sep.
MacGillivray's Warbler (<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>)	Uncommon spring and fall migrant.
Common Yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Habitat seems possible for breeding, but sporadic records reflect uncertain summer status.

Warblers

Hooded Warbler (<i>Setophaga citrina</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant. A singing male and a female occurred Jul-Sep 2012, but no evidence of nesting was obtained. Other intriguing records close to the breeding season include 31 May 2009 (JB), and 26 Jun 2010.
American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)	Two undetailed reports at RDAC in Aug-Sep.
Magnolia Warbler (<i>Setophaga magnolia</i>)	One record, 14 Oct 1995.
Yellow Warbler (<i>Setophaga petechia</i>)	Fairly common spring and fall migrant (May-Aug), with records in Jun-Jul that could indicate breeding.
Chestnut-sided Warbler (<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>)	One bird recorded singing, 1 Jun 2013.
Palm Warbler (<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>)	One record, 9 Sep 2013 (JB).
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's race) (<i>Setophaga coronata audubonii</i>)	Common spring and fall migrant, Mar-Nov. Rare in winter. A few records in Jun-Jul represent dispersals from breeding areas on adjacent mountain slopes.
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle race) (<i>Setophaga coronata coronata</i>)	Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Some birds show intergrade characters.
Grace's Warbler (<i>Setophaga graciae</i>)	Fairly common summer resident in Ponderosa Pine at RDAC. It is rare on the preserve, which has few Ponderosa Pines.
Black-throated Gray Warbler (<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>)	Uncommon summer resident Apr-Sep. Nests in forests on adjacent mountain slopes. Adults can be found feeding young in the preserve Jul-Sep.
Townsend's Warbler (<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>)	Scarce fall migrant, Sep-Oct. Fairly common fall migrant on adjacent mountain slopes.
Wilson's Warbler (<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>)	Common spring and fall migrant.

Warblers

Yellow-breasted Chat (<i>Icteria virens</i>)	Uncommon summer resident May-Aug. Nesting is possible but needs confirmation.
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Sparrows

Green-tailed Towhee (<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>)	Uncommon fall and spring migrant, Apr-May and Aug-Sep.
Spotted Towhee (<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>)	Common permanent resident.
Rufous-crowned Sparrow (<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>)	Two reports, 5 Sep 2009 and 16 Feb 2014 (JB).
Canyon Towhee (<i>Melospiza fusca</i>)	Fairly common permanent resident.
Cassin's Sparrow (<i>Peucaea cassinii</i>)	One record, 1 May 2016.
Chipping Sparrow (<i>Spizella passerina</i>)	Common summer resident Mar-Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow (<i>Spizella pallida</i>)	One undetailed report 2 Oct 2012 (AG).
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	Rare fall migrant, Aug-Oct.
Black-chinned Sparrow (<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>)	One record, a singing bird on 18 May 2014.
Vesper Sparrow (<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>)	Rare fall migrant, Aug-Sep.
Lark Sparrow (<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>)	Rare spring and fall migrant.
Black-throated Sparrow (<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>)	One report on 30 Jun 2012 (W. Egelhoff).
Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)	A single report on 4 Oct 1987 at RDAC (CR), but not yet recorded on the preserve.
Fox Sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	One record on 23 Dec 2016. A few other undetailed reports in winter.
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)	Fairly common permanent resident; restricted to wet areas.
Lincoln's Sparrow (<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>)	Uncommon spring and fall migrant.
Swamp Sparrow (<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>)	One report, 19 Oct 2010 (JB).
White-throated Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>)	One report at the western edge of the preserve, 7 Jan 2017 (R. Clark). Several records at RDAC fall through spring.

Sparrows

White-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>)	Fairly common spring and fall migrant, and rare in mid-winter.
Golden-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>)	Rare winter vagrant: one bird was photographed Nov-Dec 2012. There have been several winter records at RDAC.
Dark-eyed Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)	The Gray-headed (<i>J.b. caniceps</i>), Oregon (<i>J.b. oregonus</i>), and Pink-sided (<i>J.b. mearnsi</i>) races are common winter residents, Sep-Apr. The Slate-colored race (<i>J.b. hyemalis</i>) is rare and probably misidentified, since intergrades with Oregon can occur more frequently. There are a few records of White-winged (<i>J.b. aikenii</i>) at RDAC. Collectively, the species is numerous but probably declining (Foy 2012).

Tanagers, Grosbeaks

Hepatic Tanager (<i>Piranga flava</i>)	Only a few records in Jul-Aug 2012. Nests in adjacent coniferous forests.
Summer Tanager (<i>Piranga rubra</i>)	One record at RDAC, 21 Apr 2017 (ph. S. Pipkin).
Western Tanager (<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>)	Fairly common summer resident May-Sep.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>)	Several May reports at RDAC.
Black-headed Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>)	Fairly common summer resident May-Sep.
Blue Grosbeak (<i>Passerina caerulea</i>)	Rare spring migrant, May-Jun.
Lazuli Bunting (<i>Passerina amoena</i>)	A few records Jul-Sep.
Indigo Bunting (<i>Passerina cyanea</i>)	A few report May-Jul at RDAC.

Blackbirds, Orioles

Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)	Common permanent resident. They flock at feeders at nearby residences.
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Western Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>)	A visitant in all seasons; only a few reports.
Yellow-headed Blackbird (<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>)	Possible, but unconfirmed.
Brewer's Blackbird (<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>)	Rare fall migrant.
Common Grackle (<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>)	A few records Apr-Nov.
Great-tailed Grackle (<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>)	A few records Apr-Jun. There are small resident flocks in nearby urban areas.
Brown-headed Cowbird (<i>Molothrus ater</i>)	Fairly common summer resident, Apr-Jul.
Bullock's Oriole (<i>Icterus bullockii</i>)	Uncommon summer resident May-Aug.
Observers	Jonathan Batkin (JB), Alex Greene (AG), Christopher Rustay (CR).



Spotted Towhee perched on Four-winged Saltbush, April 2015. Photograph by B.R. Foy

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56th ANNUAL MEETING
24 MARCH 2018**

The New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) will hold its 56th Annual Meeting on Saturday, 24 March 2018, at the Courtyard Marriott 5151 Journal Center Blvd. in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This meeting will include an NMOS business meeting, an NMOS general science session, and an evening banquet with a keynote presentation by Jennifer Owen-White. This year's keynote presentation will focus on urban refuges and bird conservation.

As usual, NMOS will be offering an organized, guided field trip (no charge) on Sunday morning following the annual meeting. Information about the field trip will be announced at a later date.

More information regarding the annual meeting will be published in the next issue of the NMOS Bulletin and will be available on the website soon.

* * *

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