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Reporting Observations: All individuals interested in birds in New Mexico are encouraged to submit their observations to *NMOS Field Notes*. Especially solicited are records of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-season/range birds. Records should be submitted in taxonomic order and should include species name, date, exact location, numbers of birds, age, sex, and color morph (if applicable), and name and contact information of observer. Details are necessary for unusual records; these may be submitted on a report form (available from the address above), but any written format is acceptable. Photographic documentation is strongly encouraged.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(*Founded 1962*)

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068.

Front Cover: Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*) at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County, New Mexico, 5 November 2016 (see page 58). Photo by Anna Wright.

Back Cover: Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) found along Pecos River at Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico, 22 October 2016 (see page 53). Photo (in captivity, ca. 29 October 2016) by Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

AUTUMN SEASON 2016

Autumn 2016 was characterized by fairly good rains across the south and east, including from remnants of a hurricane in early September, and generally warm temperatures into October and November. On the birding front, an impressive number of rarities were found, including New Mexico's fifth Black Rail at Carlsbad in October.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Lake, *Rio Arriba*
Alameda, *Bernalillo*
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*
Algodones, *Sandoval*
Belen, *Valencia*
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*
Bluewater Lake, *McKinley/Cibola*
Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*
Brantley Lake, Dam, *Eddy*
Buckhorn, *Grant*
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Carlsbad, *Eddy*
Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*
Chloride, Canyon, *Sierra*
Clayton Lake, *Union*
Clovis, *Curry*
Cochiti Lake, *Sandoval*
Columbus, *Luna*
Conchas Lake, *San Miguel*
Conoco Pond, *Lea*
Corona, *Lincoln*
Deming, *Luna*
Dexter, *Chaves*
Eagle Nest Lake, *Colfax*
Edgewood, *Santa Fe*
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Emory Pass, *Grant/Sierra*
Farmington, *San Juan*
Galisteo, *Santa Fe*
Grants, *Cibola*
Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*
Lake Roberts, *Grant*
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*
La Union, *Doña Ana*
Leasburg SP, *Doña Ana*
Lordsburg, Playa, *Hidalgo*
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*
Los Lunas, *Valencia*
Loving, *Eddy*
Lovington, *Lea*
Maljamar, *Lea*
Manzano, *Torrance*
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*
Mayhill, *Otero*
Mesilla, Park, *Doña Ana*
Mesilla Bosque SP, *Doña Ana*
Milnesand, *Roosevelt*
Mogollon, *Catron*
Moon Ranch, *Grant*
Mora, *Mora*
Ned Houk Park, *Curry*
north *Roosevelt* trap (NRT), *Roosevelt*
Nutt, *Luna*
Oasis SP, *Roosevelt*
Organ Mts., *Doña Ana*
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*
Percha SP, *Sierra*
Portales, *Roosevelt*
Post Office (P.O.) Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Poverty Creek, *Sierra*
Quemado, Lake, *Catron*
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*
Ramon, *Lincoln*
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*
Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
Rockhound SP, *Luna*
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
Ruidoso, *Lincoln*
Sandia Mts., *Sandoval/Bernalillo*
San Simon Cienega, Valley, *Hidalgo*
Santa Fe, Canyon, Ski Area, *Santa Fe*
Santa Rosa, Lake, *Guadalupe*
Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*
Silver City, *Grant*
Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*
Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*

Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*
 Tijeras, *Bernalillo*
 Tucumcari, *Quay*

Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Valle de Oro NWR, *Bernalillo*
 Wagon Mound, *Mora*

Standard Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	SP	State Park
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CG	Camp Ground	♂	male (represents sword & shield of Mars)
Cr.	Creek	♀	female (represents mirror of Venus)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	ad(s).	adult(s)
GBA	Gila Bird Area	subad(s).	subadult(s)
GGP	Granite Gap Preserve	imm(s).	immature(s)
L.	Lake, Laguna	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	sp.	species
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	m.ob	many observers
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	m.ph	many photos
NAPI	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry	v.o.	various observers
NM	National Monument	+	others; et al.
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	*	written details provided
NP	National Park	**	photo or tape provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	***	specimen obtained
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
PA	Picnic Area		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

Initialed Observers

MJA	Michael J. Andersen	JN-M	James Nelson-Moore
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	PM	Pamela Morris
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	RN	Robert Nieman
DAB	Dan Allen Belcher	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
CLB	Charles L. Black	KBO	K. Bruce Ostyn
RC	Roger Clark	JEP	John E. Parmeter
DJC	David J. Cleary	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
PC	Patrick Collins	RAR	Rose Ann Rowlett
JC	Janet Cook	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
DyC	Dylan Cuellar	KS	Kim Score
VD	Vicki Dern	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
SD	Steve Drilling	JWS	John W. Shipman
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	JBS	Jarrod B. Swackhamer
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	RLV	Raymond L. VanBuskirk
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	HAW	Hira A. Walker
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	MLW	Mark L. Watson
JMG	John M. Groves	REW	Richard E. Webster
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	DEW	Douglas E. Weidemann
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	MW	Marion Weidemann
TJH	Tom J. Hines	SW	Steve West
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	WFW	William F. West
JL	Judy Liddell	DW	Debra Whitecotton
JDL	J. David Ligon	RBW	Richard B. Williams
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
WEM	William E. Maley		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Rare in *Grant*, one was at the Moon Ranch ponds north of Buckhorn 8 Sep (MJB, WTE**); later the same day, 3 were in the Uvas Valley at the “Nutt-Hatch” playa, *Doña Ana* (NEH**, WTE**).

[Egyptian Goose]—Apparently expanding from a feral population in Clovis, 2 were at Ned Houk Park 1 Sep (CMR).

Wood Duck—Now widespread in the eastern two-thirds of New Mexico, this season produced reports from 17 counties from the RGV eastward (m.ob.).

Eurasian Wigeon—A ♂ was at Stubblefield L. 27 Oct-10 Nov (M.O. Hilchey, RC**). The species has been essentially annual in the state over the past quarter century, averaging about 2.2 records per year.

Mexican Duck—Noteworthy east to the Pecos Valley, 3 were near Loving 20 Nov (SW).

Surf Scoter—The most frequently encountered scoter in New Mexico, this season found singles at Los Alamos 3-5 Nov (JRO**, MJB**, NEH**) and Cochiti L. 5 Nov (MJB*) and 3 at Farmington 11 Nov (NDP**).

Black Scoter—One at Storrie L. 18-19 Nov (WJ-W**, J. Szabat*) provided a *San Miguel* first.

Hooded Merganser—Noteworthy for *Guadalupe*, 17 were at Dilia 19 Nov (CMR).

[Chukar]—One strolled across a suburban patio at Grants 1 Sep (R.R. Hastings**).

Red-necked Grebe—One at Ute L. 30 Nov (DEW**, MW*) continued into Dec; it provided the first verified *Quay* record.

***Aechmophorus* grebes**—Both **Western** and **Clark’s** grebes produced young at Caballo L., where an ad. Western was tending a chick 8 Aug (DJC**) and six pairs of Clark’s were with chicks 1-5 Aug (DJC**). High counts for *Aechmophorus* sp. were 800 at Abiquiu L. 16 Oct (CMR) and 3000 counted during an aerial survey of EBL 22 Nov (MLW).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Rare in eastern New Mexico, one was below Sumner Dam 24 Sep (JEP, GMB**). Thirty in P.O. Canyon 7 Aug (CDL) was a high number for the northern Peloncillo Mts.

Common Ground-Dove—Singles were at Rodeo 5 Aug (JEP), Guadalupe Canyon 6 Aug (WTE*), and Rattlesnake Springs 4 Aug (RN**).

Mexican Whip-poor-will—One vocal along the Dome Road, *Sandoval* 12 Aug (WFW) provided another locale for the Jemez Mts.

Chimney Swift—One at NRT 16 Sep (JEP) furnished the latest report this season.

Vaux's Swift—Two were at San Simon Cienega 21 Sep (REW*, RAR*); the species is a rare but apparently regular fall migrant through the San Simon Valley.

Rivoli's Hummingbird—Four migrants were tallied at P.O. Canyon 2-21 Sep (CDL). A ♀ and ♂ were at Mogollon 3-4 Sep (B. Scott, M. Auslander). Maintaining a Sacramento Mts. presence, one was near Ruidoso 13 Aug (R. Hodson).

Blue-throated Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ in P.O. Canyon 4 Sep (CDL) provided the state's lone report.

Lucifer Hummingbird—Numbers peaked in P.O. Canyon at 46 on 5 Aug, where the last ♀♀ were 4 on 20 Sep and the last ♂♂ were 2 on 28 Sep (CDL); at least 6 young fledged there this year. One was in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 5 Aug (WTE*).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—An imm. ♂ was at NRT 4-5 Sep (JRO**).

Anna's Hummingbird—Regular in fall at P.O. Canyon, where passage birds were recorded this fall 8 Aug-12 Nov (CDL). Elsewhere, singles were at Rodeo's Chiricahua Desert Museum 8 Aug (WTE*), Silver City 10 Sep (JBS*) & 28-30 Nov (B. Dolton**), near Rockhound SP 2-30 Nov (D. Gauss**), and south of Radium Springs 20-23 Oct (MTS, JEZ).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ arrived south of Radium Springs 1 Nov (MTS, JEZ), where it continued into Jan.

Broad-billed Hummingbird—Continues to be the "Mexican" hummer most likely to wander far afield in New Mexico. This season, reports away from the Peloncillo Mts. and vicinity were singles north to Santa Fe 16 Oct-2 Dec (L. Howard, G. Szpatura, JPB**, BRF**, R. Koehler**, RBW**) and in the Sandia Mts. near Tijeras 1-15 Nov (C.W. Smith**, m.ob., m.ph.), and east to Carlsbad 1-2 Nov (E. Pierce**), plus one near Radium Springs 22-28 Sep (MTS*, JEZ**).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—Up to 6 were in Guadalupe Canyon 6-17 Aug (JEP, CMR, WTE, RC) where one lingered to 4 Sep (RN**, WTE).

Black Rail—One found along the Pecos River in Carlsbad 22 Oct was taken to the Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (DWWRC) that day (*fide* RN), where it was maintained through Oct (DWWRC**) before being transported to Texas and released at Mitchell L. near San Antonio 1 Nov (DWWRC*). The white throat, grayish underparts, dusky cheek, and brownish eye indicate a young bird in its first fall. The occurrence provided the fifth credible New Mexico record (and the first to be photographed).

American Coot—Aerial waterfowl surveys in northeastern New Mexico counted 32,175 on 6 Oct, including 12,300 at Stubblefield L and 10,990 at Maxwell NWR (MLW).

American Golden-Plover—One at EBL 11 Oct (DJC**) provided the only report. The species is irregular in occurrence in New Mexico; it was found in 12 of the past 15 years, averaging about 2.3 records per year during that period.

Ruddy Turnstone—One at EBL 1 Sep (DJC**) provided the first state record since 2013.

Red Knot—Last documented in the state in 2012, one was at EBL 8-9 Sep (DJC**).

Sanderling—Seldom reported in *Mora*, one was documented at Wagon Mound 17-18 Sep (WJ-W**, JC).

Dunlin—One report, a single individual at Caballo L. 11-13 Nov (DJC, CMR).

Pectoral Sandpiper—One lingered at Caballo L. 21 Oct (DJC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—One was west to the Lordsburg WTP 5 Aug (WTE*). Noteworthy for Albuquerque, at least one was at the Alameda flats 3-10 Sep (MJA**, m.ob.) and another was at the Belen marsh 11 Sep (RLV**).

Western Sandpiper—A late one was among 680 **Least Sandpipers** at Caballo L. 11 Nov (DJC).

Spotted Sandpiper—Three were at 3350 m at Williams L., *Taos* 13 Aug (BRF).

Solitary Sandpiper—One was at Williams L., *Taos* 10 Sep (HAW**) which, at 3350 m, established an altitude record for the species in the state. Another was at 2650 m in the Valles Caldera NP, *Sandoval* 27 Aug (BRF**).

Red-necked Phalarope—Made a good showing in the east. Noteworthy in the west were 2 at the Quemado WTP 8 Sep (MJB), 14 north of Buckhorn at the Moon Ranch ponds 5 Sep (JBS**), and one at the Columbus WTP 5 Sep (WTE). High counts included 28 at Santa Rosa L. 18 Sep (CMR), 21 at the “Nutt-Hatch” playa, *Doña Ana* 24 Sep (CMR), and 12 at EBL 6 Sep (DJC**).

jaeger sp.—A jaeger was seen over the prairie 16 km west of Santa Rosa 3 Sep (S. Brayshaw*), but species identity could not be determined.

Sabine’s Gull—Made a strong showing, with often multiple reports (amounting to about 30 individuals, allowing for turnover) from 13 locales 17 Sep-16 Oct, including singles at Bandelier NM, *Sandoval* 24 Sep (RBW**, M. Brown**), Cochiti L. 13 Oct (RC**), Wagon Mound 17 Sep (WJ-W**), Storrie L. 21 Sep (WJ-W**), LVNWR 29 Sep (WJ-W), and Ute L. 8 Oct (WJ-W**). Others included a high 6 at Santa Rosa L. 18 Sep (CMR), 3 at Sumner L. 24 Sep (JEP*) plus one to 2 others there on various dates 18 Sep-16 Oct (m.ob.), up to 3 at Caballo L. 2-7 Oct (WTE*, DJC**) plus 2 there 14 Oct (DJC*), singles at Brantley L. 25 Sep, 3 Oct, and 9 Oct (RN, BLM), 2 at L. Avalon 17 Sep (BLM**), and one on the desert at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project site, e. *Eddy* 7 Oct (RN**). Westerly were 2 at Bluewater L. 2 Oct (CMR*).

Laughing Gull—Two were documented: a first-cycle one at Percha Flats, Caballo L. 1 Aug (DJC**) & 5 Aug (DJC**, WTE**, DyC**, CMR), and a second-cycle individual at Brantley L. 3 Sep (CMR*, SD**) & 30 Sep (JWS**).



Laughing Gull, Brantley Lake, Eddy County, 30 September 2016.
Photo by John W. Shipman.

Iceland Gull—A first-cycle “Thayer’s” was at the San Juan County landfill near Farmington 18 Nov (T. Reeves**).

Least Tern—Two juvs., reared from eggs saved from rising waters at Brantley L. this summer, were released at BLNWR 13 Sep (*fide* SW).

Caspian Tern—A strong season found 2 at Cochiti L. 29 Sep (BLM, JL**, RC**), 2 at Storrie L. 9 Sep (WJ-W**), 3 at Conchas L. 18 Sep (WJ-W*), 2 at Sumner L. 12 Oct (N.S. Cox**), and up to 3 at EBL 8-15 Sep (CLB**, MJB, DJC).

Black Tern—An impressive 350 were at Brantley L. 3 Aug (SW), one of the largest concentrations seen in the state in many years.

Common Tern—Historically scarce in New Mexico, this season the species was found at four sites from the RGV eastward, with up to 8 at Sumner L. 18 Sep-10 Oct (m.ob., m.ph.), 6 at EBL 18 Sep (DJC**), 2 at Santa Rosa L. 18 Sep (CMR*), and 4 at Brantley L. 25 Sep (RN**) plus a late one there 28 Oct (RN**).

Common Loon—Unusual for the date was one at Clayton L. 29 Aug (K. Ingalls**).

Neotropic Cormorant—Noteworthy was one west to Moon Ranch, n. Grant 19 Aug (JBS**) & 8 Sep (MJB, WTE).

Brown Pelican—The long-staying individual at Eagle Nest L., first reported 15 May, was seen through Aug and was last reported 15 Sep (JC). One was at EBL 19 & 29 Nov (MJB, DJC).

American Bittern—One was below Brantley Dam 23 Nov (RN), the seventh consecutive year for the species there. Others in the southeast were singles at BLNWR 8 Oct (PC), L. Avalon 8 Oct (CMR, BLM, PM, KS), and south of Maljamar at Conoco

Pond 7 Oct (BLM, PM) & 15 Oct (SW). One at Bosque NWR 8 Aug (WTE*) provided the only additional report.

Great Egret—In unusual locales were one at Bluewater L., *Cibola* 2 Oct (CMR) and another in the Sacramento Mts. at Mayhill 2 Aug (SW).

Green Heron—Late singles were at Albuquerque 15 Nov (BLM, PM) and Carlsbad 25 Nov (M. Dupree).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—The species is now a regular feature across much of New Mexico during the warm months. This season produced reports of up to 3 at Clovis 14 Aug-7 Oct (JEP*, JRO, KS**), up to 4 at Oasis SP 5 Aug-7 Oct (m.ob., m.ph.) where a popular food item was crawfish (DW**), and singles at Rattlesnake Springs 12 Aug (SW**) and Mesilla Bosque SP 3-7 Sep (A. Puglisi**, WTE**).

Turkey Vulture—Latest reported were 3 at BLNWR 12 Nov (F. Sturges) and singles at Carlsbad 13 Nov (RN) and L. Avalon 19 Nov (TJH).

White-tailed Kite—Two were seen by many at Bosque NWR 10 Sep-7 Nov (m.ob., m.ph.); farther south, singles were at Mesilla Bosque SP 8-9 Oct (WTE**), San Simon Cienega 23 Aug (REW) and Rodeo 1 Oct (REW).

Mississippi Kite—Noteworthy were singles at Rodeo 5 Sep (REW, RAR**), in *Santa Fe* north of Edgewood 7 Sep (P. Noble), and north of Trementina, *San Miguel* 14 Aug (WJ-W). Numerous reports from the RGV eastward, including high counts of 10 at Santa Rosa 6 Sep (C. Grindle), 14 at Conchas L. 14 Aug (WJ-W**), and an impressive 133 at Tucumcari 31 Aug (JN-M*), these last in two tight kettles feeding high in front of advancing storm cells.

Common Black Hawk—Now a summer resident in the middle RGV, several continued at Albuquerque 4 Aug-17 Sep (m.ob.), Belen 6-31 Aug (DLH), and Bosque NWR 9 Aug-15 Sep (m.ob.). Farther south, an apparent migrant was below Caballo Dam 12 Oct (DJC**) and another was late at Percha SP 13-14 Nov (m.ob., RC**, DJC**).

Harris's Hawk—The species was reported across the southern tier of counties in *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, *Otero*, *Eddy*, and *Lea* (m.ob.). In *Eddy*, however, numbers continued well below historical levels, likely due to increased oil and gas activities (SW).

Gray Hawk—A juv. was at San Simon Cienega 5 Aug (JEP), where the species has gone unreported in recent years.

Broad-winged Hawk—Typically scarce west of the RGV, this season found single ads. at Granite Gap, Peloncillo Mts. 10 Sep (MTS*) and San Simon Cienega 21 Sep (REW*, RAR*).

Zone-tailed Hawk—Noteworthy was one northeast to Bueyeros, *Harding* 26 Aug (GMB) and another at the WSMR golf course, *Doña Ana* 29 Aug (CJG**). Latest credible report was one at Percha SP 10 Oct (CLB).

Rough-legged Hawk—Earliest arrivals were 2 east of Las Vegas 8 Nov (WJ-W**); one was south to Milnesand by 15 Nov (GMB).

Flammulated Owl—One was on the eastern prairie at NRT 6 & 9 Oct (JRO**, KS), where the species is now understood to be a regular migrant.

Elf Owl—Latest detected along the east slope of the Black Range were 2 near Chloride 3 Aug (DJC); surveys of known territories in that region 6 Aug-17 Sep found none (DC).

Spotted Owl—Unusual in the Sandia Mts., one was found dead along the Bill Spring trail 23 Nov (S. Vender**, specimen to MSB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Two to 3 lingered in Chloride Canyon, Black Range, 19 Oct-16 Nov (DJC).

Red-headed Woodpecker—More evidence of nesting on the western fringe of the range was provided by 2 ads. and a juv. in the RGV at Algodones 10-20 Aug (v.o., WTE**, BLM**, C. Harris**) and 2 ads. with 2 juvs. at Ruby Ranch north of Las Vegas 19 Aug (WFW).

Acorn Woodpecker—Noteworthy counts in the Black Range were 17 in Chloride Canyon 14 Sep (DJC**) and 13 at Poverty Creek 14 Sep & 19 Oct (DJC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker x Golden-fronted Woodpecker—A ♀ of one of these hybrids was at Portales 14 Sep (T.D. Watkins**), where the same or another had been present the previous winter.

Williamson's Sapsucker—Singles were east to Boones Draw 18 Sep (MJB) and the Conoco Pond near Maljamar 16 Sep (RN**).

Merlin—One nicely photographed at a Santa Teresa turf farm 26 Aug (JMG**) provided the earliest confirmed fall record ever for the state; another early one was photographed at Mora 5 Sep (JC**).

[Monk Parakeet]—A flock of at least 6 was feeding on mesquite beans at Santa Teresa 14 Oct (JMG, S. Wood**); the species nests nearby in adjacent El Paso.

[Rosy-faced Lovebird]—A flock of at least 8 of these African exotics was at Rio Rancho 4 Aug (J. Olivieri**).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—Lingering in Guadalupe Canyon were 2 on both 17 Aug (RC) and 4 Sep (RN).

Eastern Wood-Pewee—Singles were vocal at Rattlesnake Springs 4 Sep (CMR*) and Boones Draw 10 Sep (MJB*, NDP*).

Hammond's Flycatcher—One lingered at Percha SP 19-21 Nov (MJB, MJA**, DLH*).

Dusky Flycatcher—One near Radium Springs 29 Nov (MTS, JEZ) continued into Dec.

Eastern Phoebe—Surprisingly early for southwest New Mexico were 3 at the River (Simon) Ranch on the lower Mimbres R., *Luna* 22 Sep (MLW**).

Vermilion Flycatcher—One was in Albuquerque's South Valley 14 Aug (GKF). Late for the north, a ♂ lingered at Conchas L. 8 Oct (WJ-W).

Great Crested Flycatcher—Up to 2 were at Boones Draw 10-11 Sep (MJB*, NDP), and one was there 16 Sep (JEP*, NEH**).

Great Kiskadee—One discovered at Percha SP 12 Nov (CJG**, J. Williams**) continued to 30 Nov (m.ob., m.ph.). This represents the 11th credible record for the state since the first was documented in 1984.



Great Kiskadee, Percha State Park, Sierra County, 13 November 2016.
Photo by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Couch's Kingbird—One was at Bosque NWR 5-12 Nov (A. & K. Wright**, m.ob., RC**, JRO**, MJA**audio, RN**). In New Mexico, confirmed Couch's records now outnumber confirmed Tropical Kingbird records by 11 to 1.

Thick-billed Kingbird—A pair was feeding a nestling in Guadalupe Canyon 6 Aug (JEP, NEH**, WTE**, CMR).

Eastern Kingbird—An ad. was feeding a recent fledgling at Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel* 19 Aug (WFW*). One at Los Alamos 16 Aug (RBW**) provided a *Los Alamos* first.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—One was very late at Dexter 15 Nov (B. Franco**).

Northern Shrike—Earliest arrival this season was one at LVNWR 4 Nov (WJ-W**).

Bell's Vireo—One likely of the eastern subspecies *bellii* was described at NRT 16 Sep (JEP*, JRO).

Hutton's Vireo—Noteworthy for the Organ Mts., 2 were heard at Aguirre Springs 25 Sep (CMR*, WTE).

Cassin's Vireo—Late singles were at Rattlesnake Springs 20 Nov (RN**) and Percha SP 25 Nov (JEP, VD**).

Blue-headed Vireo—Unusual west to the RGV, one was south of Radium Springs 14 Oct (MTS*, JEZ*). Others were restricted to the far eastern plains: singles at NRT 30 Sep (JEP*) & 8-9 Oct (GMB, JWS**), the Maljamar Rest Area 16 Sep (RN**), and the Conoco Pond south of Maljamar 24 Sep (RN**) & 7 Oct (BLM**, PM).

Warbling Vireo—One was at 3780 m on the summit of Lake Peak, *Santa Fe* on 21 Aug (BRF).

Red-eyed Vireo—One at NRT 11 Sep (JRO) provided the only report.

Clark's Nutcracker—Two or more were south to Emory Pass, Black Range 13 Aug (DJC**), 22 Sep (K. Holladay), and 23 Oct (JBS**).

Black-billed Magpie—Five were south on the Pecos River to Dilia, *Guadalupe* 14 Aug (CMR*), where one lingered to 1 Nov (CMR*). Several were reported south in the RGV to Rio Rancho 19 Aug (M. Lord**).

Purple Martin—Two were at Red Cloud CG in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 19 Aug (JDL*), where the species has nested in recent years.

Tree Swallow—Five were late at Six Mile Dam 21 Nov (SW).

Barn Swallow—One at Six Mile Dam 21 Nov (SW*) was notably late for *Eddy*. Another late one was at Bosque NWR 13 Nov (CMR*).

Juniper Titmouse—Scarce south to the Peloncillo Mts., one was in Clanton Canyon 5 Aug (JEP).

Verdin—Two were north to Belen 11 Sep-20 Nov (DLH, NEH**, VD, A. Warner).

Pacific Wren—Two were reported at Rattlesnake Springs 9 Oct (CMR*, RN**audio, L. Wilson**, S. Griffith**, BLM**), where one lingered 10 Oct-20 Nov (RN**audio, DLH*audio).

Winter Wren—Singles were reported at Rattlesnake Springs 13 & 20 Nov (RN**audio). Others were singles at Los Lunas 24 Sep (NEH**), NRT 21 Oct (JRO**), Brantley Dam 23 Nov (RN**), the Conoco Pond 23 Nov (RN**), and La Union 24 Nov (DAB).

Carolina Wren—Singing singles were at the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 11 Sep-23 Nov (BRF**, m.ob.), Cedar Crest 22 Sep-2 Nov (WEM**), Belen 21 Aug (CMR, NEH), and Percha SP 9 Sep (CLB**) through 30 Nov (m.ob., MJA**, MJB**, T. Godfrey**), and up to 3 were at Bosque NWR 5 Aug-12 Nov (m.ob.).

Cactus Wren—Continuing to spread in *Santa Fe*, where one was at Eldorado 12 Sep (C. Beidleman*). A family of 4 was in *San Miguel* southeast of LVNWR 15 Nov (WJ-W)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Late were 3 at Percha SP 19 Nov (MJB, MJA**) where at least one lingered 25 & 27 Nov (VD**, WTE). Other Nov reports were singles at Mesilla Park 5 Nov (WTE) and Rattlesnake Springs 6 & 11 Nov (RN**, DLH).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Two were at San Simon Cienega 5 Aug (JEP).

Black-capped Gnatcatcher—Continuing from 31 Jul, one was in Guadalupe Canyon 6 & 17 Aug (JEP**, CMR*, RBW**audio, NEH**, RC*). Together, these reports documented the first occurrence there since the freeze of Feb 2011.

Eastern Bluebird—Three were on the edge of the plains at Edgewood 11 Nov (JRO).

Wood Thrush—Rare but regular in New Mexico, this season one was at NRT 6-9 Oct (JRO*, JWS**, JEP*, GMB**, BLM, PM, KS, WEM).

Rufous-backed Robin—Providing a *Luna* first, one was just south of Deming 24 Nov (D.A. Williams**).

Varied Thrush—Providing the second record for *Lea*, one was at the Maljamar Rest Area 18-19 Nov (KBO*, D.B. Newman**).



Varied Thrush, Maljamar Rest Area, Lea County,
18 November 2016. Photo by Daniel B. Newman.

Gray Catbird--Continuing a recent trend, several were found late into the fall, with singles at Albuquerque in Old Town 13-20 Nov (D. Weissman) & Knob Hill 15-20 Nov (HAW**), one at Percha SP 25 Nov (VD), and one at Carlsbad 21-27 Nov (SW).

Curve-billed Thrasher—At the northern fringe of the distribution were one near Echo Amphitheater, *Rio Arriba* 16 Oct (CMR*) and 2 near Ojo Caliente, *Taos* 21 Aug (W. Russell). Noteworthy for *Mora* was one at Wagon Mound 4-5 Sep (DLH).

Brown Thrasher—Reported from 10 locales in nine counties from the RGV eastward during the period 17 Sep-26 Nov (m.ob., m.ph.), including up to 7 at Rattlesnake Springs Oct-Nov (m.ob.).

Crissal Thrasher—Part of a northward spreading were one singing at Ojo Caliente, *Taos* 19 Aug (K. Dunn*), one at Conchas Ranch southeast of LVNWR 15 Nov (WJ-W audio) where the species now seems to be resident, and 2 near Santa Rosa 21 Oct (WFW).

Sprague's Pipit—Unusually scarce this season, with one at NRT 30 Sep (JEP) and 3 in *Luna* grasslands south of Nutt 20 Nov (MJA)

Lesser Goldfinch—Evidence of late nesting near Radium Springs included a female gathering nest material 16 Sep, a stub-tailed fledgling 11 Oct, and 3 very recent fledglings begging from ads. 25 Nov (MTS*, JEZ*).

Rufous-winged Sparrow—Up to 5 were in Guadalupe Canyon 6 Aug, 17 Aug, & 4 Sep, including singing individuals all dates (JEP*, CMR*, RC*, RN**, NEH**) and one carrying insect food, presumably to young, 6 Aug (WTE**). This “Arizona specialty” has been a New Mexico resident at this locale since 2011.

Field Sparrow—One west to Manzano 8 Sep (BLM*, JL*) provided a first for *Torrance*. One at Milnesand 26 Oct (GMB) furnished the only additional report.

Baird's Sparrow—Three in *Luna* grasslands south of Nutt 20 Nov (MJA**) were the only ones reported.

Fox Sparrow—First fall migrants were a “slate” one north of Hermosa, *Sierra* 15 Oct (DJC**), a “red” one at NRT 29 Oct (JRO**), and 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 6 Nov (RN**).

Swamp Sparrow—One was at the Capitan wetlands 12 Nov (RN); there are very few *Lincoln* records.

Harris's Sparrow—A surprising 3 were at Lovington's Chaparral Park 18 Nov (KBO). One at LVNWR 20 Nov (WJ-W**) provided the only additional report.

Yellow-eyed Junco—A second-hand report of one at the Manzano Mts. hawkwatch site, *Torrance* in Sep (*fide* NSC) could not be verified.

Bobolink—Singles were at Rattlesnake Springs 21 Aug (RN*) and Rodeo 15 Sep (REW*).

Orchard Oriole—A ♂ was west to LVNWR 2 Aug (WTE*) and a ♀ was there 20 Aug (WJ-W**); another ♀ was farther west to Albuquerque 31 Aug (C.M. Brozek*).

Hooded Oriole—A ♂ was north to Albuquerque's Taylor Ranch area 1 Aug (R. Simpson**).

Baltimore Oriole—Singles were a young ♂ at Ramon 3 Sep (CMR*, SD**), a young ♂ at Boones Draw 10 Sep (MJB*), a ♀ or young ♂ at NRT 16-17 Sep (JEP*, JRO**), and a young ♂ at Milnesand 3 Oct (GMB**).

Bronzed Cowbird—A juv. was north in the RGV to Belen 21 Aug (CMR*).

Common Grackle—Very late for central New Mexico, a ♂ was at Manzano 24 Nov (CMR*, NEH**).

Louisiana Waterthrush—One was at Rattlesnake Springs 21-28 Aug (RN**). Records have increased in New Mexico in recent years; the species occurred annually during the six years 2011-2016, averaging ca. 2.5 records per year.

Northern Waterthrush—An early one was in the Galisteo bosque 14 Aug (BRF*); it was carefully studied to eliminate the similar Louisiana Waterthrush which might be expected on such an early date.

Golden-winged Warbler—A ♀ was at NRT 10 Sep (GMB*, KS*). There are now some 38 credible New Mexico records; about one-third of them in the fall.

Blue-winged Warbler—One was west to Guadalupe Canyon 4 Sep (WTE**). Of the 44 state records to date, only 8 have occurred during the fall.

Black-and-white Warbler—Few reports received, but included was one photographed at Los Alamos 23 Sep (RBW**), where rare.

Prothonotary Warbler—One was at Leasburg SP 20 Oct (CJG*).

Swainson's Warbler—One was described at Rattlesnake Springs 3 Aug (SW*). The species remains one of the state's rarest eastern strays, with only 10 credible records.

Lucy's Warbler—One at the Cottonwood Day Use Area below Navajo Dam 28 Aug (CMR*, NEH*, RBW**) provided a new *San Juan* locale for this expanding species.

American Redstart—Reports from 11 locales in nine counties during the season, including one west to L. Roberts 8 Sep (JBS, WTE**) and one in the Fort Stanton area, *Lincoln* 4 Sep (CMR*) plus single-day counts of 2 at Oasis SP 9 Sep (DW), 3 at Boones Draw 10 Sep (NDP, MJB), and 3 at the Conoco Pond near Maljamar 26 Aug (JRO). Reported at NRT on multiple dates 3 Sep-9 Oct, likely representing a minimum of 5 individuals (m.ob.).

Northern Parula—One at NRT 30 Sep-1 Oct (JEP*, JRO**) provided the lone report.

Magnolia Warbler—Singles were at Boones Draw 10 Sep (NDP*, MJB*), at NRT 1 Oct (JEP*, JRO**), and again at NRT 9-10 Oct (WEM**, JWS**, KS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler—One at Conchas L. 8 Oct (WJ-W**) was the only report.

Blackpoll Warbler—One was at Mesilla Bosque SP 23 Sep (WTE**). The species is rare in New Mexico, with about 3.8 records per year, and poses identification problems in fall.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—Three singles at RGNC during the period 25 Sep-22 Oct (m.ob., m.ph.) and 4 singles at NRT during the period 14 Sep-28 Oct (m.ob., m.ph.).

Pine Warbler—Providing a first for *Quay*, one documented at Ute L. 30 Nov (DEW**, MW*) continued there into early Dec.



Pine Warbler, Ute Lake State Park, Quay County,
30 November 2016. Photo by Douglas E. Weidemann.

Yellow-throated Warbler—Irregular in occurrence in the state, one was nicely described at Rattlesnake Springs 3 Aug (SW*).

Grace's Warbler—Two were late near McGaffey, *McKinley* 2 Oct (CMR*).

Black-throated Gray Warbler—Scarce in the east, one was at NRT 20 Aug (JEP*).

Hermit Warbler—East of expected, one was in the Banco Bonito staging area at Valles Caldera NP, *Sandoval* 22-23 Aug (NDP**).

Black-throated Green Warbler—Two were at Rattlesnake Springs 9 Oct (CMR*, BLM*, PM*, RN), and one was still there 10 Oct (RN**).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Typically scarce in fall; this season, the lone report was a ♀ at NRT 8 Oct (JEP*, JRO).

Blue Grosbeak—An impressive flock of 80 was in a grain field south of Rattlesnake Springs 3 Aug (SW).

Varied Bunting—One was banded at San Andres NWR, *Doña Ana* 16 Aug (M. E. Weisenberger), a known breeding locale for the species. Up to 6 were in Guadalupe Canyon 6 Aug (JEP, CMR), where a ♂ lingered to 4 Sep (RN*, WTE).

Painted Bunting—Relatively conspicuous in the east and across the south. Noteworthy for *Luna* were up to 5 at Gage 5-10 Aug (CMR, JEP, WTE**, NEH**) while of note for *Catron* was one at Quemado L. 8 Sep (NDP*, MJB).

Dickcissel—At Belen’s Whitfield Wildlife Center, an ad. pair was present 29 Jul, the female seen flying with a large caterpillar to a hidden spot and both ads. heard giving alarm notes when closely approached (DLH*). At the same site on 21 Aug, a juv.—chipping incessantly—was associating with an ad. (VD**, NEH audio, CMR*). The species breeds irregularly at scattered locales in eastern New Mexico, but this appears to be the first solid evidence of nesting in the RGV.

ERRATUM

NMOSFN 54(3): 62, Autumn 2015—The record of a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Percha SP 20 Aug 2015 is an error, the observer reported a Black-and-white Warbler, not a Black-throated Blue.

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

