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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; www.nmbirds.org.

Front cover: Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), Stubblefield Lake, Colfax County, New Mexico, 10 December 2016 (see page 14). Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Back cover: Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*), Los Alamos, Los Alamos County, New Mexico, 20 December 2016 (see page 10). Photograph by Uriah Sanchez).

WINTER SEASON 2016-2017

Weather conditions during the Winter 2016-17 season were considered seasonal, with the relatively generous moisture conditions of the fall months continuing into the early winter across parts of the south, before giving way later to drier and milder conditions, with scant mountain snow, by season's end. A number of interesting bird records were obtained, including three Red-necked Grebes, Neotropic Cormorants nesting north to Albuquerque, a Boreal Owl in Los Alamos, the continuing Great Kiskadee joined by a Purple Finch at Percha State Park, and the state's fourth Snow Bunting record.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu, Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Madrid, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Anapra, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Magdalena Mts., <i>Socorro</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Mangas Springs, <i>Grant</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Bernardo, <i>Socorro</i>	Mesilla, Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Milnesand, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Ned Houk Park, <i>Curry</i>
Brantley Lake, Dam, <i>Eddy</i>	Nutt, <i>Luna</i>
Buckman, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Oasis SP, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Charette Lake, <i>Mora</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Pilar, <i>Taos</i>
Cochiti Lake, <i>Sandoval</i>	Pinos Altos, Mts., <i>Grant</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Dripping Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	San Antonio, <i>Socorro</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Sandia Crest, Park, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Bernalillo/Sandoval</i>
Flora Vista, <i>San Juan</i>	San Mateo Mts., <i>Socorro</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>	Santa Fe, Canyon, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Santa Rosa Lake, <i>Guadalupe</i>
Glenwood, <i>Catron</i>	Santa Teresa, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Guadalupe Mts., <i>Eddy</i>	Silver City, <i>Grant</i>
Hermosa, <i>Sierra</i>	Six Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i>
Ladder Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>	Slaughter Canyon, <i>Eddy</i>
Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>	Springer Lake, <i>Colfax</i>
Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>	Storrie Lake, <i>San Miguel</i>
Las Cruces, Dam, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Stubblefield Lake, <i>Colfax</i>
Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>	Sumner Lake, Dam, <i>De Baca</i>
La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Sunland Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Taos, Ski Valley, <i>Taos</i>

Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*
 Tucumcari, *Quay*
 Tularosa, *Otero*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*

Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana/Luna*
 Water Canyon, *Socorro*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*

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)
L.	Lake	imm(s).	immature(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	sp.	species
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	m.ob.	many observers
NAPI	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry	m.ph.	many photographs
NM	National Monument	v.o.	various observers
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	+	others; et al.
NP	National Park	*	written details provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	**	photo or tape provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
PA	Picnic Area		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

Initialed Observers

JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	DWM	David W. Mehlman
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
KB	Karen Beckenbach	PM	Pauline Morris
DAB	Dan Allen Belcher	RN	Robert Nieman
CLB	Charles L. Black	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
RC	Roger Clark	JEP	John E. Parmeter
DJC	David J. Cleary	JNP	James N. Paton
PC	Patrick Collins	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
BRD	Brian R. Dolton	TR	Tim Reeves
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
GAF	Gerald A. Friedman	KS	Kim Score
TBG	Tony B. Godfrey	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
KAG	Kathy A. Granillo	JBS	Jarrod B. Swackhamer
CG	Cheryl Grindle	RLV	Raymond L. VanBuskirk
RG	Robin Gurule	TDW	Twila D. Watkins
LH	Laurens Halsey	MLW	Mark L. Watson
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	DEW	Douglas E. Weidemann
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	MW	Marion Weidemann
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	SW	Steve West
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	WFW	William F. West
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	JW	Jay Wilbur
ABJ	Andrew B. Johnson	RBW	Richard B. Williams
DJK	David J. Krueper	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
DL	David Lerwill	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
WEM	William E. Maley		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Has increased its presence in the Albuquerque area in recent winters; noteworthy this season were 8 at Corrales 7 Jan (DJK**, JMR).

Brant—A “Black” Brant was field-feeding with Canada and Cackling geese along the Texas border in *Curry* south of Texico 25 Dec (J. Leifester**, GMB*). The species has been found in the state in five of the past seven years.

Tundra Swan—Much in evidence this season, with up to 5 at Maxwell NWR 8 Dec-17 Feb (m.ob., MLW**), 2 at Springer L. 10 Dec (CMR, NEH), 3 at Charette L. 10 Dec (CMR**, NEH), 2 near Storrie L. 17 Feb (D. Sylvester), up to 4 at LVNWR 18 Dec-1 Jan (C. Ruge), and one at Tularosa 27 Feb (M. Ostrander*); in the middle RGV, at least 5 were present from San Antonio south through Bosque NWR 9 Dec-28 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.). A pair of ad. swans photographed during an aerial survey of Sumner L. 2 Dec (MLW**) have yet to be identified to species.

Wood Duck—Reported from 14 counties from the RGV eastward; high count away from Albuquerque was 35 at Truth or Consequences 28 Jan (JEP).

Cinnamon Teal—Among several mid-winter reports were a ♂ at Bosque NWR 7 Jan (MJB*) and 2 ♂♂ at Caballo L. 13 Jan (DJC**).

American Wigeon—An aerial survey of EBL 21 Dec counted 11,375 (MLW).

Northern Pintail—An aerial survey of EBL 21 Dec counted 10,350 (MLW).

Green-winged Teal—An aerial survey of EBL 21 Dec counted 12,625 (MLW).

Long-tailed Duck—A ♀ at Stubblefield L., first reported 27 Nov (S. Brayshaw), continued to 11 Dec (CMR**, NEH**, WTE**, RBW**). Another ♀ at Bosque NWR, first reported 9 Dec (N. Stocker**), entertained many there to 24 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.).



Long-tailed Duck, female, Bosque del Apache NWR,
Socorro Co.. 29 December 2016. Photo: Mark L. Watson.

Barrow's Goldeneye—Wintered in four general areas along the upper Rio Grande in *Taos*, *Rio Arriba*, and *Santa Fe*, with up to 3 upstream from Pilar 15 Dec-2 Feb (S. Knox*, RBW*, RG**, CLH*, M. Peterson*), up to 5 above the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 15 Dec-13 Jan (GAF**, D. Foy, K. Haller**), 2 ♂♂ at Española 18 Dec (MOH*) and a ♂ near Española's Fairview 7 Jan (BRF*), and up to 3 at Buckman 28 Jan-10 Feb (J. Szabat*, RC*, BRF*).

Red-breasted Merganser—An impressive 435 were found during a Pecos R. kayak trip above Six Mile Dam 4 Jan (SW). Noteworthy for *Mora* was one at Charette L. 10 Dec (CMR).

Scaled Quail—Some 84 were in one large group in a pecan orchard at Ute L. 4 Dec (CMR).

Montezuma Quail—Three were in the Organ Mts. at Aguirre Springs 25 Feb (WTE*).

Red-necked Grebe—A strong season produced an ad. at Ute L. 30 Nov-1 Jan (DEW**, MW*, JRO**, NEH**, CMR*, RBW**, DLH*), another ad. at EBL Dam 7 Jan-17 Feb (NDP**, MJB*, JEP*, JRO**, BLM**, NEH**, DJC**), and an apparent ad. at Conchas L. 29 Jan (MJB*, NDP*).



Red-necked Grebe, adult, Ute Lake, Quay Co.,
1 December 2016. Photo: Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Aechmophorus grebes—Peak mid-winter count, obtained by aerial survey, was 4200 at EBL on 9 Jan (MLW).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Surprising were 8 in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts. 8 Jan (BRZ**). Presumably early were one at Silver City 1 Feb & 3 there 2 Feb (KB).



Band-tailed Pigeon, 8 birds, Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., Socorro Co., 8 January 2017. Photo: Barry R. Zimmer.

Inca Dove—The 3 at Carlsbad 29 Jan (SW) provided the only report from the Pecos Valley and eastern New Mexico. Elsewhere, noteworthy were 7 at Tularosa 2 Jan (S. Barham**) and 14 at Deming 31 Jan (TBG**), while scattered reports in the lower RGV included up to 30 at La Union 4 Dec-26 Feb (DAB).

Greater Roadrunner—Several were noted at the northern fringes of the distribution, including one near the community of Continental Divide, *McKinley* 18 Dec (A. Palmieri), one racing through downtown traffic at Taos 2 Dec (T. Jackman), and one at Clayton L. 28 Dec (CMR).

Common Poorwill—Earliest were 2 in Slaughter Canyon 22 Feb (SW).

White-throated Swift—Unusual were 19 north to Tucumcari 29 Jan (MJB); one was north to Diablo Canyon, *Santa Fe* by 10 Feb (BRF).

Rivoli's Hummingbird—Three were in the Pinos Altos area 25 Dec (M. Johnson, KB) where one continued to 29 Jan (*fide* KB).

Anna's Hummingbird—Among the relatively few reports were a ♂ at Silver City from late Nov to 3 Jan (BRD), a ♂ near Rockhound SP, *Luna* last seen 11 Dec (D. Gauss), and a ♀ at Elephant Butte 12-20 Jan (DJC**); undetailed were 2 in north Las Cruces 17 Dec (J.L. Douglass) and one in south Las Cruces 26 Feb (C. Overend).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—A ♂ 5 km south of Radium Springs 1 Nov-28 Feb (MTS, JEZ) was believed to be the same individual that wintered there last year. Farther north, an imm. ♂ endured occasional subfreezing temperatures at Los Alamos 1 Dec-3 Jan (R. Wright**) and another imm. did the same at Albuquerque 25 Dec-15 Jan (D. Doughty**).

Rufous Hummingbird—Useful reports included a ♂ at Silver City 25 Dec (BRD), a ♀ at Las Cruces 10 Dec-16 Jan (R.A. Meyer*), and one at Carlsbad 5 Jan (SW*).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—This is the hummer that tends to wander far and wide, and this season continued that trend, with an imm. ♂ at Santa Fe since 16 Oct last seen 2 Dec (L. Howard*, RBW**), an imm. ♂ at Silver City 25 Dec (KB**), an ad. ♂ at Las Cruces 24-27 Feb (M.E. Weisenberger**), and a ♀ at Carlsbad since 31 Oct last reported 15 Dec (E. Pierce**).

Sora—One overwintered north to the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve, where there were multiple detections in all months 11 Dec-28 Feb (JPB**).

Common Gallinule—Rare in winter north to Bosque NWR, where one was present 14 Dec-11 Jan (JEP+).

Black-necked Stilt—Eleven were along the Rio Grande between Anapra and Sunland Park 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ), where found in previous winters. Undetailed was one north to BLNWR 21 Dec (R. Collins).

American Avocet—Late for so far north, 85 were on a Rio Grande sandbar at Albuquerque 7 Dec (K. Grassel**). Several wintered at Caballo L., where present 5 Dec-17 Feb, including 24 there 2-13 Jan (DJC).



American Avocets, part of flock of 85, Albuquerque, Bernalillo Co., 7 December 2016. Photo: Kathy Grassel.

Dunlin—Two were at EBL 1 Dec (DJC) but the species was not seen there again until one was observed 19 Feb followed by 2 on 21 Feb (DJC**).

Least Sandpiper—Late for so far north, and noteworthy for *Harding*, were 2 on the north arm of Ute L. 4 Dec (CMR*, RBW**). Unusual north to Albuquerque in mid-winter were 5 there 30 Dec (BLM*).

Solitary Sandpiper—Unexpected anywhere in the state in mid-winter, one was at Las Cruces 8 Jan (JW**).

Wilson's Phalarope—Exceptionally early for a spring migrant, one was at Bosque NWR 17-25 Feb (MOH, NDP*, C. Herr**, PC**).

Laughing Gull—A first-cycle individual was at Springer L. 2 Jan (D. Cuellar**); the species is casual in mid-winter in the state.

Mew Gull—The species is a rare but regular cool season visitor to New Mexico. This season, a first-cycle one was at the San Juan County landfill near Flora Vista 4 Jan-11 Feb (TR**, JRO**, JEP*), another first-cycle was at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 6 Dec (D. Buckley**) and an ad. was there 3-11 Feb (WEM**, NEH**, JEP*). In the south, an ad. was at Sunland Park 19 Dec (JNP*) and a first-cycle was there 16-17 Jan (JNP**, WTE*).

Iceland Gull—Single Thayer's-type Iceland Gulls were first-cycle ones at the San Juan County landfill 4 Jan-11 Feb (TR**, JRO**, JEP*), EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 7-20 Jan (NDP**, MJB*, WTE*), and Caballo Lake's Percha Flats 9 Jan (BLM**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Another impressive season, with a minimum of 10 birds reported (all but 3 of them imms.) from four locales in four counties: up to 4 at the San Juan County landfill near Flora Vista 21 Dec-11 Feb (TR**, JRO**, NEH**, JEP*) plus 2 likely of the same group at nearby Farmington L. 15 Jan (NEH, CMR), one at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 4-14 Dec (m.ob., m.ph.), one in the vicinity of Caballo Dam 12 Dec (SEM**), up to 3 there 7 Jan-3 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.), and 2 still there 26-27 Feb (DLH**, DJC**), and 2 at Sunland Park 19 Dec (JNP**) and one there 8-17 Jan (JNP, WTE**). Including this season, the species has been annual in the state for 11 consecutive winter seasons.

Pacific Loon—Singles were at Abiquiu L. 8 Jan (WTE*), the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 2-11 Dec (K. Miller, m.ob., m.ph.), Cochiti L. 3 Dec (RBW**), Conchas L. 29 Jan (MJB, NDP), and Ute L. 20 Dec (DEW, MW). There are records for 22 of New Mexico's 33 counties

Common Loon—Scarce in *Grant*, one was at L. Roberts 14-28 Dec (TBG**, JBS*).

Neotropic Cormorant—Two returned early to Albuquerque's Tingley ponds 27 Jan (DLH); 31 were there by 19 Feb, including a pair nest-building (DLH**). Two at Brantley L. 31 Jan (SW*) furnished the only report away from the RGV.

American White Pelican—Late for the north were 11 at Ute L. 9 Dec (JEP). Surprising for mid-winter were 18 at Santa Rosa L. 13 Jan (WJ-W**) where there were 25 on 4 Feb (DLH*).



Neotropic Cormorant, pair nest-building, Tingley ponds, Albuquerque, Bernalillo Co., 19 February 2017. Photo: David L. Hawksworth.

Brown Pelican—An ad. was at Bosque NWR 2 Dec (J.W. Emerson**, F. Holmes**); this bird may be the same as the EBL bird (see following). An ad. last seen at EBL 29 Nov was re-found there 4 Dec and continued to at least 26 Feb (DJC**, m.ob., m.ph.); this individual, which seemed to be thriving, was photographed plunge diving on several occasions and was seen at various locales around the lake during the season.



Brown Pelican, adult, plunge-diving, Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra Co., 8 January 2017. Photo: David J. Cleary.

American Bittern—Reports were limited to the lower Pecos Valley, with one at BLNWR 12 Dec-14 Jan (C. Herr, PC) and below Brantley Dam 7 Jan (RN**), the latter marking the seventh consecutive winter for the species there.

Green Heron—A late one was in Albuquerque's North Valley 8 Dec (BLM, PM).

White-faced Ibis—Noteworthy for mid-winter were 4 at BLNWR 4 & 18 Jan (PC, DLH).

Turkey Vulture—Wintering birds away from *Chaves* included one soaring near Alma, *Catron* 6 Jan (ABJ*), one at Columbus 9 Jan (R. Stoll*), and one at Mesilla Park 12 Jan (JW**). Up to 7 were in the vicinity of Macho Draw north of Roswell 5 Dec-7 Jan (CLB), including 5 flying over snow-covered prairie on the latter date.

Bald Eagle—A pair was nest-building at the north edge of Bosque NWR 18-20 Feb (NDP**), but apparently abandoned the effort by Mar.

Swainson's Hawk—Certainly unexpected during the winter season, a typical light morph ad. was in *Socorro* at La Joya WMA 16 Feb (KAG*).

[**Snowy Owl**]—One reportedly photographed at Moses, *Union* 8 Dec was revealed as a hoax, as the website photo submitted had been obtained in Canada. There remains no credible record of this species for New Mexico.

Long-eared Owl—Relatively few reports compared to previous winters. High counts were 6 at Ned Houk Park 28 Jan (CMR**) and 4 at Dripping Springs 5 Feb (WTE).

Short-eared Owl—Singles were in the Uvas Valley south of Nutt 14 Jan (JEP*) and the middle Animas Valley 1 Jan (WTE*).

Boreal Owl—The owl of the season was one discovered by high school students in a Gambel's oak at 2200 m in Los Alamos 20 Dec (U. Sanchez**, L. Petersen*); it provided the third late fall/early winter, low-elevation New Mexico record.

Lewis's Woodpecker—There have been persistent reports from in and near the San Mateo Mts. in recent years; this season one was in the mountains 1.6 km west of Monica Cabin 11 Feb (SEM**).

Golden-fronted Woodpecker x Red-bellied Woodpecker—A hybrid ♀ was at Portales 12 Dec (TDW**); it had been present there earlier this fall, and either it or another had been present there on multiple dates last winter.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Noteworthy for the Santa Fe area was an ad. ♀ north of town near Bishop's Lodge 30 Dec-7 Jan (BRF**, WTE**, JPB**).

Crested Caracara—One at Animas 15 Jan (S. Lerich**) provided the first state record since 2009.

Applomado Falcon—An ad. was described from near Cotton City, *Hidalgo* 11 Jan (L. Johnson*).

Peregrine Falcon—North for the season, one was soaring in the vicinity of Tesuque, *Santa Fe* 1 Jan (RC**).

Hammond's Flycatcher—Four reports with useful documentation, with one in the lower Gila Valley at the GBA 26 Feb (JBS*), singles in the lower RGV in *Sierra* at the Ladder Ranch 15 Dec (R. Gurule**) and at Percha SP 22 Jan (KS*), and one in the lower Pecos Valley at Rattlesnake Springs 11 Dec-26 Feb (RN**).

Dusky Flycatcher—Showed the same general distribution as Hammond's, with 2 at the GBA 26 Feb (JBS*), singles at two Caballo L. sites 26 Dec (DLH**) with one of them continuing to 26 Feb (DLH), one at Percha SP 21 Feb (LH**), another at Leasburg SP 22 Jan (WTE**), another 5 km south of Radium Springs 29 Nov-23 Jan (MTS, JEZ**), and one at the La Cueva Recreation Area near Carlsbad 8 Jan (RN**).

Gray Flycatcher—One at Leasburg SP 29 Jan & 17 Feb (WTE*) furnished the lone report.

Great Kiskadee—The one discovered in Nov at Percha SP was seen and photographed by dozens of observers through 28 Feb and was still present well into Mar (m.ob., m.ph.).

Northern Shrike—Among the few reports were singles at El Malpais (Lava Falls), *Cibola* 23 Dec (T. Rohmer*) and at Ute L. 12 Jan (DL**).

Hutton's Vireo—Singles wintering in the RGV were at the Ladder Ranch 15 Dec (RG*), Percha SP 7 Jan (CG), and Leasburg SP 28 Dec-25 Feb (m.ob.).

Cassin's Vireo—One 5 km south of Radium Springs 7 Feb (MTS, JEZ) may have wintered locally.

Plumbeous Vireo—A late one was at Percha SP 3-11 Dec (JEP, DEW**).

Blue Jay—One was west to the Sangre de Cristo Mts. of *Mora* at Chacon 25 Dec-29 Jan (S. Stewart**).

Tree Swallow—There were no Jan reports. Earliest arrivals were 4 at Leasburg SP 4 Feb (L. Wallace**) but 110 had reached Caballo L. by 15 Feb (DJC**).

Violet-green Swallow—Earliest reported were 6 at Bernardo 26 Feb (CG).

Barn Swallow—Lingering were one at San Antonio 17 Dec (BLM*, PM*), 3 below Caballo Dam 18-29 Dec (SEM, DJC**), and one at Percha SP 19 Dec (DJC). Following several weeks of no reports in early Jan, one was seen at Percha SP 21-22 Jan (DWM, KS).

Pacific Wren—Another interesting season, including well-documented individuals at Rattlesnake Springs 11 Dec-26 Feb (RN**audio, S. Taylor**audio) and below Brantley Dam 20 Jan (RN**audio) & 3 Feb (MJB**audio, ABJ); these represent the most easterly reports in all of North America for this season (*fide* eBird). Another with hard documentation was in Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier NM, *Sandoval* 5 Feb (CMR**),

NEH**audio), while another was described on Los Alamos National Lab property in Los Alamos Canyon, 10-17 Dec (RG*, J. Turin*, BRF*, RBW*).

Winter Wren—Found at four sites in the middle-lower RGV and four sites in the lower Pecos Valley: singles at Peña Blanca, *Sandoval* 1 Feb (WFW*), Albuquerque's Tingley bosque area 9 Dec-24 Feb (DLH**audio, D. Buckley**, NEH**audio, CMR*, m.ob.), below EBL Dam 31 Dec-18 Jan (DJC), Percha SP 24 Dec-9 Jan (P. Marvin**audio, BLM), 2 at L. Avalon 15 Dec (RN**audio), singles at two locales near Loving 4 Jan (RN**), and one at Rattlesnake Springs 4 Dec-24 Jan (RN**audio, SW*).

Carolina Wren—Noteworthy were singles at a Los Alamos suet feeder 5 Feb (T. Rahn**), at Belen's Whitfield Center 22 Jan (CMR*, NEH*) & 11 Feb (DLH**audio), and continuing from Nov at Percha SP 2 Dec-26 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.). At least 2 were singing at Bosque NWR by 11 Feb (DLH**audio).

Cactus Wren—Continuing the colonization of *Santa Fe*, one was at the La Bajada Rest Area 5 Jan (JPB**).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Lingering or wintering singles were at Ute L. 12 Dec (DEW**, MW), Albuquerque's North Valley 18 Dec (DWM), near Hermosa, *Sierra* 24-28 Dec (DJC), below Caballo Dam 7 Jan (JEP, MJB, NDP**), Randal's Pool near Santa Teresa 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and in the middle Animas Valley at Dunagan's Crossing 31 Dec (NDP*).

Eastern Bluebird—In the west, 5 were at Saliz Pass, *Catron* 8 Jan (J.C. Egbert*), 13 at Mangas Springs 11 Feb (JBS, BRD), 5 at GBA 23 Feb (JBS), and one in the middle Animas Valley 1 Jan (DLH). The species was recorded in all 10 RGV counties from *Taos* to *Doña Ana* as well as in nine eastern counties. The 139 counted at Albuquerque 18 Dec (DWM) was a record high for that CBC.

Mountain Bluebird—Widespread and numerous statewide Dec-Feb. Some 800 were counted along Old Buckman Road, *Santa Fe* 10 Feb (BRF).

Hermit Thrush—Noteworthy for mid-winter was one north to Farmington L. 14 Jan (CMR).

Rufous-backed Robin—Providing a first for *Grant*, one was at GBA 18-26 Feb (B.A. Rich*, JBS**). This marked the fourth consecutive year for the species to occur in the state.

Gray Catbird—Made its wintering presence known once again, with singles north to the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 23 Dec (BRF*), near Madrid 18-24 Dec (S. Westbrook), Corrales 18 Dec (DL**) & 26-28 Jan (A. Rodgers), Percha SP 19-30 Dec (m.ob., NEH**, CMR**), Las Vegas 18 Dec (C. Ruge**), Fort Sumner's Bosque Redondo 5 & 19 Feb (DLH**, GMB*), and Rattlesnake Springs 2-15 Jan (RN**).

Brown Thrasher—Reported from 11 sites in nine counties during the season, including one west to the Rio Puerco 7 km southwest of San Luis, *Sandoval* 9 Dec (MJB*, ABJ*). High count was 5 at Rattlesnake Springs 19 Dec (RN).

Bendire's Thrasher—Nicely documented was one at Rodeo 1 Jan (NEH**, CMR**, WTE**).

Northern Mockingbird—Noteworthy for mid-winter, one was north to the La Bajada Rest Area south of Santa Fe 5 Jan (JPB**).

Phainopepla—One was north to the Glenwood hatchery 2 Jan (DLH).

Sprague's Pipit—Well-described were singles in the Uvas Valley south of Nutt 1 Jan (BRF*) and the middle Animas Valley 1 Jan (WTE*).

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch—Unusually numerous this winter, and greatly outnumbered both **Gray-crowneds** and **Blacks** at Sandia Crest and elsewhere. High counts were up to 235 Brown-capped at Sandia Crest 18-20 Feb (CMR, RLV, DJK**, m.ob.).

Purple Finch—A ♂ of the eastern subspecies entertained many at Percha SP from 29 Dec (B.K. Percival*) through the end of the season and into Mar (m.ob., NDP**, WTE**, JRO**, JEP*, MJB**, BLM**, DJC**). This represented the first New Mexico record in two years, the last being one photographed at Percha SP in Dec 2014.



Purple Finch, adult male, Percha State Park, Sierra Co.,
28 February 2017. Photo: David J. Cleary.

Lapland Longspur—Singles were south to EBL 3 Dec (JEP) and to grasslands west of Bingham, *Socorro* 19 Dec (J. Drucker*). Very few were noted in usual haunts in *Colfax* and *Union*; high count was 7 in the Kiowa National Grasslands northeast of Clayton 1 Dec (DLH).

Snow Bunting—One was documented by many observers at Stubblefield L. from 8 Dec (JRO**) to 30 Dec (m.ob., m.ph.). All four of New Mexico's records have been from along the eastern base of the Sangre de Cristo Mts., and three of those have been from Stubblefield L.



Snow Bunting, Stubblefield Lake, Colfax Co., 11 December 2016. Photo: Richard B. Williams.

American Tree Sparrow—Far south of expected, one was at Percha SP 22-26 Jan (WTE*, H. Rodgers*); another was south to Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR 2-11 Jan (WEM**, v.o.).

Field Sparrow—High count was 3 at Ute L. 12 Dec (DEW, MW). Where seldom reported were singles at Oasis SP 16 Jan (GMB) and Milnesand 15 Dec (TDW**).

Lark Sparrow—Noteworthy for mid-winter were 2 at Columbus 13 Jan (BLM, PM).

Baird's Sparrow—The only one reported with any details was in the Uvas Valley south of Nutt 1 Jan (BRF*).

Fox Sparrow—Scarce in *Curry*, 2 “red” ones were at Clovis 23 Dec (CMR*) while noteworthy for the west were 2 “red” ones at the GBA 31 Dec (JBS**). One at Percha SP 7 Jan-21 Feb (m.ob.) was thought by some to be a “red x slate-colored” hybrid (WTE**, KS*, LH**).

Swamp Sparrow—Scarce in western New Mexico, one was north to Glenwood 2 Jan (DLH**) and another was at Mangas Springs 2 Jan (CMR, NEH). In the RGV, one lingered north to the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 15-19 Dec (GAF**, BRF*).

Harris's Sparrow—Making news this season were one to 2 at eight locales in the RGV in *Taos, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, Socorro* and *Sierra* (m.ob., m.ph.).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—A fair season produced singles at Pueblito, *Socorro* 2 Jan (JRO**, JEP*), Percha SP 7 Dec-21 Jan (m.ob., NDP**), and in the Organ Mts. at Dripping Springs 5-11 Feb (WTE*).

Yellow-eyed Junco—One strayed to the Peloncillo Mts. in Clanton Canyon 25 Jan (BLM*, PM*).

Bullock's Oriole—Unseasonal were a ♂ at a Las Cruces feeder 10 Dec (R.A. Meyer*) and a second-year ♂ at Estancia, *Torrance* 29 Jan (DLH**).



Bullock's Oriole, second-year male, Estancia, Torrance Co., 29 January 2017. Photo: David L. Hawksworth.

Rusty Blackbird—An active season found one west to the foothills of the San Mateo Mts. at the Monticello Box 29 Dec (M.K. Ray**). Singles were in the RGV in Albuquerque's North Valley 10-16 Dec (P. Marshall**, m.ob., m.ph.) and Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH*). In the east, 2 were at Maxwell NWR 4 Dec (RC**) and 4 were northeast of Clayton 3 Dec (DLH*).

Common Grackle—Noteworthy for mid-winter were a ♂ at Luis Lopez 4 Jan (JRO) and one at Percha SP 20 Dec (CMR).

Orange-crowned Warbler—One to 2 were at 16 locales in the lower RGV from Williamsburg south to La Union Dec-Feb (m.ob.), and singles were at four locales in the lower Pecos Valley from Brantley Dam south to Rattlesnake Springs Dec-Jan (m.ob.).

Common Yellowthroat—An ad. ♂ reached Albuquerque's South Valley by 19 Feb (DLH*).

Yellow Warbler—Surprising was a very late one at Ute L. 9 Dec (JRO**).

Pine Warbler—A first-fall ♀, discovered on the south side of Ute L. near the Yucca CG 30 Nov (DEW**, MW*), continued there to 10 Dec (CMR*, NEH**, JRO**, JEP*).

Northern Cardinal—Interesting was a cluster of undetailed singles in the RGV in *Sierra*, including singles at Percha SP 11 Dec & 11 Jan (eBird); the species is resident in foothill canyons in western *Sierra*, but is rarely reported along the Rio Grande.

Black-headed Grosbeak—A very late ♀ at Bosque NWR 3 Dec (DJK*) provided another unseasonal surprise.

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

