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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: Black-crested Titmouse (*Baeolophus atricristatus*), Hillcrest Park, Clovis, Curry County, New Mexico, 17 December 2017 (see page 9). Photo by Jonathan P. Batkin.

Back cover: Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*), at Gila Bird Area, Grant County, New Mexico, 23 January 2018 (see page 8). Photo by Jarrod B. Swackhamer.

WINTER SEASON 2017-2018

Winter 2017-2018 was generally mild but also very dry, with little snow in the highlands, scant rain in the lowlands, and lakes and reservoirs at low levels. On the birding front, a Black-crested Titmouse at Hillcrest Park in Clovis added a new species to the state list. Other finds of much interest were the state's third accepted Red-breasted Sapsucker and second overwintering Louisiana Waterthrush. Providing a mid-winter first were four Cave Swallows at Mesilla. Other rarities included Red-necked Grebe, Rufous-backed Robin, Common Redpoll, and Eastern Towhee plus wintering Yellow-throated Warblers at both Farmington and Alamogordo.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu, Lake, Dam, *Rio Arriba*
Alameda, *Bernalillo*
Alamogordo, *Otero*
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*
Angel Fire, *Colfax*
Animas, Valley, *Hidalgo*
Belen, *Valencia*
Bluewater Lake, *Cibola*
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*
Brantley Lake, Dam, *Eddy*
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Carlsbad, *Eddy*
Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*
Cerrillos, *Santa Fe*
Clayton, Lake, *Union*
Cliff, *Grant*
Cliff-Gila Valley, *Grant*
Clovis, *Curry*
Columbus, *Luna*
Conchas Lake, Dam, *San Miguel*
Corrales, *Sandoval*
Deming, *Luna*
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Española, *Rio Arriba*
Farmington, Lake, *San Juan*
Gallup, *McKinley*
Gila Bird Area, *Grant*
Gila Cliff Dwellings, *Catron*
Gila Hot Springs, *Grant*
Glenwood, *Catron*
Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Hachita, *Grant*
Holloman Lake, *Otero*
Kingston, *Sierra*
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*
La Joya, WMA, *Socorro*
La Luz, *Otero*
Las Cruces, Dam, *Doña Ana*
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*
La Union, *Doña Ana*
Leasburg SP, *Doña Ana*
Logan, *Quay*
Lordsburg Playa, *Hidalgo*
Los Alamos, Canyon, *Los Alamos*
Los Lunas, *Valencia*
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*
Mesilla, Park, *Doña Ana*
Mesilla Bosque SP, *Doña Ana*
Mimbres, *Grant*
north *Roosevelt* trap (NRT), *Roosevelt*
Oasis SP, *Roosevelt*
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, *Rio Arriba*
Oliver Lee SP, *Otero*
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*
Percha SP, *Sierra*
Pojoaque, *Santa Fe*
Portales, *Roosevelt*
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
Redrock, *Grant*
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
Roswell, *Chaves*
Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo*
Santa Fe, Canyon, *Santa Fe*
Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*
Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*
Silver City, *Grant*
Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*
Socorro, *Socorro*
Spring Canyon SP, *Luna*
Springer Lake, *Colfax*
Stubblefield Lake, Dam, *Colfax*
Taos, Ski Valley, *Taos*
Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*

Tucumcari, *Quay*
 Tularosa, *Otero*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Watrous, *Mora*

White Rock, *Los Alamos*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

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 audio provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
PA	Picnic Area		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

Initialed Observers

JA	John Arnold	DJK	David J. Krueper
B&BA	Bob&Bettina Arrigoni	JL	Judy Liddell
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	CGL	Carl G. Lundblad
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	WEM	William E. Maley
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	WM	Wendy McCrady
KB	Karen Beckenbach	SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza
DAB	Dan A. Belcher	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	PM	Pauline Morris
DGB	David G. Buckley	APN	Alan P. Nelson
CB	Carol Bylsma	JN-M	James Nelson-Moore
RC	Roger Clark	RN	Robert Nieman
DJC	David J. Cleary	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
PDC	Patrick D. Collins	JP	Jack Parlapiano
KD	Kenneth Dayer	JEP	John E. Parmeter
VDD	Vicki D. Dern	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
BRD	Brian R. Dolton	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
JLD	John L. Douglas	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
JDu	Joel DuBois	KSS	Kim S. Score
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	RSS	Roland S. Shook
GAF	Gerald A. Friedman	MSh	Michael Shoop
REF	Robert E. Friedrichs	KS	Ken Stinnett
TBG	Tony B. Godfrey	JBS	Jarrod B. Swackhamer
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	JSz	Jeff Szabat
JPG	John P. Gorey	GS	Gail Szapatura
KG	Kathy Grassel	JAT	John A. Trochet
JMG	John M. Groves	JT	Jake Turin
RG	Robin Gurule	RLV	Raymond L. VanBuskirk
JH	John Haughawout	AW	Amanda Walker
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	TDW	Twila D. Watkins
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	MLW	Mark L. Watson
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	SW	Steve West
TJH	Tom J. Hines	WFW	William F. West
LH	Lonnie Howard	DGW	Debra G. Whitecotton
TJ	Thomas Jackman	JW	Jay Wilbur
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	RBW	Richard B. Williams
ABJ	Andrew B. Johnson	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
JPJ	James P. Joseph	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
DK	Donna Kelly	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
CK	Caitlin Kiska		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Remaining north into mid-winter were singles at Pojoaque 29 Dec-7 Jan (BRF**, WTE**) and Maxwell NWR 13 Jan (JEP*). The 19 counted at Clayton L. 30 Dec (CMR**, NEH**) was a record high for that CBC.

Cackling Goose—Eight were south in the Pecos Valley to Six Mile Dam 14 Dec (SW) & 6 Jan (RN**). Some high counts farther north included 600 at Clovis 23 Dec (CJW**) and 1500 at Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR 21 Jan (DLH).

Canada Goose—Two nests had eggs at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach by 21 Feb (DLH).

[Egyptian Goose]—Maintaining a Clovis presence were up to 3 at Hillcrest Park 2 Dec-12 Jan (GMB**, J.Du**, v.o.) plus 2 each at Colonial Golf Course 24 Dec (GMB) and Green Acres Park 27 Jan (GMB).

Trumpeter Swan—Two ads. were at Maxwell NWR from 6 Jan (WTE**, RC) through Feb (m.ob., m.ph) and into Mar, and were the first seen in the state in three years.

Tundra Swan—Three were at Maxwell NWR from 22 Dec (MJB*) through Jan & Feb (m.ob., m.ph) and into Mar, and provided a good comparison with the 2 Trumpeters also present there. Other Tundras on the high plains were 3 in *San Miguel* east of L. Isabel 22 Jan (MSh**) and 2 at Las Vegas NWR 13-18 Jan (JEP*, WJ-W). One at Bosque NWR 25 Dec (AW**) provided the only additional report.

Wood Duck—In the far west, one was on the Zuni CBC 19 Dec (JAT), up to 4 were at Glenwood 20 Jan-4 Feb (J. Conway, R. Modica), and one was near Cliff 4 Dec (R. Bussian). High counts in the lower Pecos Valley in *Eddy* included 8 near Seven Rivers WMA 9 Dec (SW) and 10 at Rattlesnake Springs 19 Jan (RN, PDC).

Cinnamon Teal—One in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (JPB) was a first for the Peloncillo CBC.

Canvasback—Noteworthy for *Taos*, a ♂ was at Talpa L. 23 Feb (TJ**).

White-winged Scoter—Continuing from Nov, 2 ♀/imm-types were at Bluewater L. 2 Dec (DGB**) & 9 Dec (NDP**, NEH**, JEP*). A ♂-♀ pair made a one day appearance at Bosque NWR 27 Dec (CMB**).

Black Scoter—Continuing from Nov, a ♀ remained at Bluewater L. 2 Dec (DGB**) & 9 Dec (NDP**, NEH**, JEP*) to 13 Dec (JAT).

Long-tailed Duck—A ♀ on the Rio Grande at Buckman 17-22 Dec (LH**, GS, JPB**, BRF**, RC**) provided a *Santa Fe* first. A ♂ at Conchas L. 19 Jan (JEP*) furnished the only additional report.

Barrow's Goldeneye—Five were on the Rio Grande near the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 17 Dec (BRF*) where at least one ♂ continued to 18 Feb (BRF, GAF). Farther north, a ♂ was in the Orilla Verde area, *Taos* 9 Dec (REF**) and a ♀ was there 7 Jan (WTE*).

mergansers—Unusual was a large, actively feeding flock estimated to contain 400 **Common Mergansers** and 300 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Brantley L. 21 Jan (SW*), accompanied by a swirling flock of some 150 **Ring-billed Gulls**.

[**Masked Duck**]—Intriguing was a detailed sight report from an observer familiar with the species of a ♀ or imm. at Bosque NWR 22 Jan (S.A. Thrower*). The species is unconfirmed in the state, there being but two questionable previous reports.

Montezuma Quail—A ♂ was vocal at Kingston 17 Feb (DJC). Noteworthy for the location, 14 were at City of Rocks SP, *Grant* 3 Jan (TBG**).

[**Chukar**]—Four, either releases or escapees, were at Carlsbad 10 Dec (SW).

Horned Grebe—Noteworthy for Albuquerque was one at the Tingley bosque ponds 11 Feb (D. Fleming**).

Red-necked Grebe—One transitioning into spring plumage was near the dam on Caballo L. 19-28 Feb (NDP**, DJC**, JEP*).

Eared Grebe—Noteworthy for the Animas Valley was one there 31 Dec (JPB**).

Aechmophorus grebes—Much reduced from recent years, only 1900 were counted during an aerial survey of EBL 5 Jan (MLW); the lake's level was extremely low.

Band-tailed Pigeon—Always noteworthy in winter, singles were on the Angel Fire CBC 16 Dec (M.J. Kelly), the Las Vegas CBC 16 Dec (C. Ruge), and at a Silver City feeder 8-15 Jan (KB).

Greater Roadrunner—Received late was a report of one at Archuleta, *San Juan* 8 Sep 2017 (J.M. Ramakka**). Others in the northwest this season were one at Gallup 27 Jan-25 Feb (H. Karr) and another south of Prewitt, *McKinley* 2 Dec (A. West). In the north, one was at Taos 17 Jan (TJ).

White-throated Swift—North for mid-winter were 2 near Logan 19 Jan (JEP). Farther south, notable mid-winter reports were 50 at Granite Gap, *Hidalgo* 25 Dec (B&BA), 15 at La Luz 23 Dec (M. Pendleton), 8 each at Leasburg SP 18 Jan (CJG) and Spring Canyon SP 19 Jan (D. Allison), and 3 at La Cueva Picnic Area east of Las Cruces 26 Dec (SEM).

Anna's Hummingbird—One to 2 spent part of the winter at Elephant Butte 5-26 Dec (DJC**), Truth or Consequences Nov-2 Feb (A Morrison**), near Radium Springs 12 Dec (MTS), Las Cruces 2 Dec-2 Jan (JDu**), Rockhound SP, *Luna* 1 Dec-14 Feb (D. Gauss**), Silver City 6-21 Dec (BRD), near Rodeo 3 Dec-3 Jan (B&BA), and Carlsbad 1-2 Jan (SW).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ lingered at Silver City 6 Dec (BRD).

Rufous Hummingbird—A ♂ was at Carlsbad 3 Dec-14 Jan (SW*) and another ♂ was at Silver City 11-21 Dec (BRD).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ visited a n. Las Cruces feeder 4 Nov-17 Jan (R.C. Castetter, JW**, K. Suter**, DAB**).

Virginia Rail—North for the season, 2 were below Stubblefield Dam 19 Jan (MJB, NDP); others in the north included one to 2 at Los Alamos 15 Dec-10 Feb (RG+) and one at Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 2 Dec-9 Feb (BRF).

Common Gallinule—Compared to earlier years, continued generally scarce in the state. One to 2 were at Bosque NWR on various dates 13-28 Jan (JEP, v.o.) and 2 were at Mesilla Bosque SP 16 Dec (KS, JLD).

Sandhill Crane—Now winters in fair numbers in the Cliff-Gila Valley, where 235 were counted 30 Dec (RSS+). An impressive 2000 passed over the middle Animas Valley 15 Dec (CB).

Black-necked Stilt—Earliest were 2 at Holloman L. 19 Feb (NDP*).

American Avocet—Late were 3 at Brantley L. 1 Dec (SW), 2 at L. Avalon 6 Dec (DK), 10 at Bosque NWR 11 Dec (CK, L. Harrison), and one at La Joya WMA 15 Dec (DLH). Mid-winter reports included one at Holloman L. 5-12 Jan (JEP, RG, JT**). Apparently early were 3 at the Columbus WTP 2 Feb (BLM, PM) and one at the Lordsburg Playa 11 Feb (KD).

Long-billed Curlew—Noteworthy for mid-winter, 30 were near McIntosh, *Torrance* 11 Jan (JL**). One in *San Miguel* along I-25 east of L. Isabel 22 Jan (MSh) was the only additional Jan report.

Dunlin—One was present at the north edge of Bosque NWR from 26 Jan-21 Feb (DLH**, m.ob., m.ph.). One to 2 were at Seco Point, Caballo L. 20 Dec-6 Feb (DJC**).

Least Sandpiper—Present in fair numbers along the Rio Grande south of Williamsburg 7 Dec-22 Feb, including 111 on 1 Jan (DJC). Late in the north were one at Albuquerque 21 Dec (JP*) and 3 at the Clovis WTP 16 Dec (CMR**).

Long-billed Dowitcher—Present along the Rio Grande south of Williamsburg Dec-Feb, where the peak count was 117 on 18 Jan (DJC).

American Woodcock—One in Albuquerque south of the Alameda bridge 24 Jan (G.A. Owens*) provided the 7th record for the Corrales-Albuquerque area.

Spotted Sandpiper—North for the season, one was in *San Juan* at Simon Point, Navajo L. 1 Jan (WTE*). One wintered at Angostura Dam, *Sandoval* 9 Dec-10 Feb (DLH**).

Wilson's Phalarope—One at La Joya WMA 28 Dec-5 Jan (BRF, MJB*, NDP*, JEP) provided only the 2nd mid-winter New Mexico record.

Black-legged Kittiwake—An ad. at Bluewater L., *Cibola* 6-9 Dec (R. Koehler**, NDP**, JEP*) furnished New Mexico's 24th credible record.

Mew Gull—Single ads. were at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 6 Jan (BRZ**) and Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 12 Jan-10 Feb (WEM**, JH**, NEH**, JEP*, DLH*, JPJ*, NDP**, MJB**, JA*).

Ring-billed Gull—Some 150 were among the feeding flock of mergansers at Brantley L. 21 Jan (SW).

Iceland Gull—Two records of "Thayer's" Gulls, both first-cycle birds: One in Albuquerque's north valley at Calabacillas Arroyo 9 Dec (BLM**) and another at Ute L. 19 Jan-11 Feb (JEP*, MJB**, NDP**, DGB**, NEH**).

Neotropic Cormorant—Established a mid-winter presence in Albuquerque, with 4 at the Tingley ponds 1 Jan, increasing to 8 by 17 Jan, 15 by 11 Feb, and 25 by 28 Feb (DLH et al.). Other Albuquerque reports were singles at the Alameda bridge 17 Dec (M. Rudd) and 6 there by 13 Jan (KSS).

Great Blue Heron—About 50 were attracted to exposed mudflats 2 Dec (SW) when L. Avalon was drained. Nine ads. were on nest platforms at Six Mile Dam 16 Feb (SW).

Great Egret—About 40 were on the exposed mudflats of recently drained L. Avalon 2 Dec (SW). In Albuquerque, one was at the Bridge Street bridge 17 Dec (KG**) and again 27 Feb (KG**). One was north to Farmington in mid-Dec (APN).

Green Heron—One was at Carlsbad 1 Feb (RN*), where scarce in the winter season.

Turkey Vulture—Among several winter season reports were one at Mesilla Park 15-16 Dec (JW*, CJG**) and another at Roswell 12 Jan (PDC). Early for the north half of the state was one flying north over Cedar Crest 31 Jan (J.D. Ligon) and another over the prairie east of David Hill, *Harding* 28 Feb (CMR*).

White-tailed Kite—Continuing from Nov, 2 were at the Nutt-Hatch playa, *Doña Ana* 18 Jan (K. Blisard*). Farther southwest, 2 were in the middle Animas Valley 15 Dec (CB*) and one was near San Simon Cienega 26 Feb (T. Nauman**).

Northern Goshawk—An imm. was east to Oasis SP 2 Jan (DGW**).

Red-shouldered Hawk—Continuing from Nov, one was in the Rattlesnake Springs area 16-27 Dec (RN**, R. Moyer**, T. Connell*, v.o.) but was not found there Jan-Feb.

Zone-tailed Hawk—Unusual in winter, one was at Tularosa 23 Dec (CMR**, NEH**).

Rough-legged Hawk—South to the Mexican border, one was near Hermanas, *Luna* 24 Jan (C. Wilhite*). Another was south to Bell L., *Lea* 26 Jan (RN**).

Short-eared Owl—One in the Las Uvas Mts., *Doña Ana* 11 Dec (E. Halbedel*) was roosting in a canyon mouth that opened onto grasslands.

Lewis's Woodpecker—Several were south in the RGV, including singles at Luis Lopez 9-13 Dec (JRO), Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 28 Dec-28 Feb (CGL**, DJC**), and Caballo L. 30 Dec (JMG*); elsewhere, one was at La Luz 13 Feb (W. Treers*) and another was at the Gila Cliff Dwellings 24 Dec (WM).

Golden-fronted Woodpecker x Red-bellied Woodpecker—A ♀ at Portales 1 Dec (TDW**) marked the 3rd winter for this hybrid there.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—In the west, an imm. was at Rodeo 30 Dec (MJB*, NDP**, JPB**) and a ♀ was at the GBA 30 Dec (JBS*, JPG*).

Red-naped Sapsucker—One was east to Conchas Dam 19 Jan (JEP).

Red-breasted Sapsucker—One was seen and documented by many at the GBA from 23 Dec (KD**) to 27 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.); it provided only the 3rd accepted state record.

Downy Woodpecker—Continuing from Oct, one to 2 were south in the RGV to Percha SP 8 Dec-16 Feb (DJC, m.ob.).

“Yellow-shafted” Flicker—An apparently pure individual was west to Santa Fe 13 Feb (L.C. Herrmann*).

Hammond’s Flycatcher—Had a fairly good winter season, with credible reports of one in Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (NDP*, MJB*, JPB*), one to 2 at the GBA 30 Dec (JBS*, JPG*), 21 Jan (KSS*), & 4 Feb (NDP*), and singles at Gila Hot Springs 9 Dec (WM**), near Mimbres 3 Dec (WM**), Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 2 Jan (CGL**), Percha SP 17 Feb (JEP*), and Rattlesnake Springs 3 Dec (RN audio).

Dusky Flycatcher—One was north to Albuquerque’s south valley 13 Jan (DLH*); one to 2 others were at five locales farther south in the RGV in *Sierra* and *Doña Ana*. In the southwest along the Gila R., 2 were at the Turkey Cr. trailhead n. of Cliff 1 Jan (ABJ*), one to 2 were at the GBA 4 Feb (NDP*), 11 Feb (CMR*), & 27 Feb (JPG*), and one was at Redrock 4 Feb (BLM**). In the Tularosa Basin, one was at Oliver Lee SP 20 Jan (RLV*), 27 Jan (BLM**), and 18 Feb (NDP*). In the lower Pecos watershed, one was at Rattlesnake Springs 3 Dec (RN**audio).

Gray Flycatcher—Three in Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (NDP**, MJB, JPB) furnished the season’s only report.

Black Phoebe—North for the winter season were singles at Farmington 17 Dec (APN*), Clayton L. 23 Dec (JRO), and below Abiquiu Dam 18 Feb (M. Stoller).

Vermilion Flycatcher—A ♂ wintered north to the Belen marsh 3 Dec-4 Feb (MSh, m.ob., m.ph.). Farther south, one was at Williamsburg 1 Jan (DJC) and one was present all season at La Union (DAB).

Northern Shrike—For the 2nd consecutive year, one wintered in open country in *Bernalillo* east of Cedar Crest, where seen 26 Dec (MJB, NDP**) & 7 Jan (JEP*).

Hutton’s Vireo—Singles were in lowland areas at Deming 6 Dec-31 Jan (m.ob., JPB**, TBG**), Las Animas Cr. west of Caballo L. 27 Dec (CGL), and at Percha SP 12 Jan-4 Feb (RG, JT).

Steller’s Jay—The invasion of the fall season continued in evidence into the winter. Lingering in the RGV were 35 at Los Lunas 19 Feb (CLH*), 5 at Luis Lopez 28 Feb

(JRO), 8 at Percha SP 16 Feb (BLM), 13 at Mesilla Park 17 Feb (WTE), and 15 at La Union 25 Feb (DAB).

Blue Jay—Made a strong showing west to the RGV Dec-Feb: 1 at Taos 11 Dec-13 Jan (J. Lay**), up to 4 at White Rock 2-24 Feb (K. Christensen**, RBW**, m.ob.), one at Santa Cruz, *Santa Fe* 9 Dec (D. Khalsa), singles at two Santa Fe locales 24 Dec-6 Jan (C. Crew**) & 26 Jan (S. Hodges**), one at Cerrillos 17 Jan (JPB), up to 3 in Albuquerque's north valley 31 Dec-27 Feb (v.o.), one in southeast Albuquerque 19 Dec (JP*), 2 among Steller's Jays at Los Lunas 16 Feb (DLH), and one at Las Cruces 3 Dec-13 Feb (JDu**). One was at Tularosa 23 Dec (CMR*, NEH**).

Clark's Nutcracker—Continued in evidence in pinyon-juniper habitat in *Torrance* east of Clines Corners, including 3 on 17 Dec (CMR) & one on 13 Jan (P. Channel).

Common Raven—A pair was nest-building on a water tower at Tucumcari 28 Feb (CMR).

Cave Swallow—Four at Mesilla's Calle del Norte bridge 1 Jan (CK**) provided the state's first confirmed mid-winter record.



One of four Cave Swallows at Mesilla, Doña Ana County, 1 January 2018.
Photo by Caitlin Kiska.

Barn Swallow—One, flying with a **Tree Swallow**, was a surprise near Mesilla Bosque SP 7 Jan (A. Salas).

Mountain Chickadee—Noteworthy east to *Quay*, one was at Ute L. 19 Jan-10 Feb (JEP, MJB, NDP, GMB).

Black-crested Titmouse—One discovered at Hillcrest Park in Clovis 16 Dec (CMR**) entertained many through 26 Dec (m.ob., m.ph.), and provided the first record for New Mexico. Dr. C.M. Curry, University of Oklahoma, evaluated New Mexico photos and confirmed the Clovis bird was not a hybrid with the more eastern Tufted Titmouse. Black-crested Titmouse is resident in the Texas Panhandle, where occasional hybrids with Tufteds occur.

Verdin—Singles were north in the RGV to three sites in the Belen area: at the Belen marsh 30 Dec (JEP, JRO**), the Whitfield WMA 3 Dec (MSh**) & 15 Jan (DLH), and at the Rio Communities area south of the Whitfield WMA 18 Feb (DLH).

Pygmy Nuthatch—Stragglers lingering in lowland areas were 5 in Albuquerque's UNM area 21 Feb (JPJ), one at Socorro's Turtle Bay 17 Feb (JEP), and 3 at Mesilla Park 10 Feb (CJG*).

Pacific Wren—A busy season, including at least one in upper Los Alamos Canyon 2 Dec-6 Jan (RBW, m.ob., m.ph., audios) and 2 in upper Water Canyon, *Los Alamos* 2 Jan-24 Feb (M. Brown, m.ob., m.ph., audios). One was along the Loop Trail at Bandelier NM, *Sandoval* 23 Dec 2017 (S. Dominic-Baird**). One was in Sulphur Canyon, Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (KSS*) through 28 Feb (m.ob., m.ph., audios). Farther east, 2 were together along the upper Pecos R. at Dalton Picnic Area, *San Miguel* 31 Dec 2017 (A. Shultz*, audio). In the southwest, one was at Cherry Creek CG, *Grant* 4 Feb (JBS, BRD).

Winter Wren—Reported from ten locales in eight counties. In the northwest, one was on the Bluewater Lake CBC 16 Jan (JAT). In the RGV, singles were at the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 31 Dec (BRF*audio), in upper Los Alamos Canyon 2 Dec-6 Jan (RBW**audio, M. Brown**), in Bandelier NM along the Loop Trail 23 Dec (S. Dominic-Baird**) & 4 Jan (C. Warneke), at Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 9 Dec-7 Jan (JPB**, D. Nichols*, BRF*audio), below EBL Dam 2-22 Dec (CMR*, DJC), and at Percha SP 12 Feb (C. Mangeng*, D. Spall). In the Tularosa Basin, one was at Oliver Lee SP 24 Dec-14 Jan (CMR**, NEH**, JEP*, A. Warner*). In the Pecos Valley, 4 were in salt cedar thickets below Brantley Dam 15 Dec (RN**) and one was still there 23 Feb (RN**), and 2 were at Rattlesnake Springs 3 Dec-25 Feb (RN**audio).

Carolina Wren—Noteworthy for *Curry*, one was at a tree farm northwest of Clovis 16 Dec (CMR*). One was at Rattlesnake Springs 18 Feb (TJH**, SW, RN**audio).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Winter season reports included singles north to Taos 7 Dec (TJ*), Tent Rocks, *Sandoval* 21 Feb (P. Wing*), Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (DJK**), Las Cruces 10 Feb (JDu**), and Deming 29 Dec (JPB*).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Continued to show recovery in the southwest, with reports from *Grant*, *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Socorro*, *Sierra*, *Doña Ana*, and *Otero*, including up to 2 north to Redrock 20 Jan (BRD) & 4 Feb (BLM**), one north to Bosque NWR 23 Jan (D. Gochfeld), one north to the Tularosa WTP 23 Dec (CMR), and a ♂-♀ pair at Oliver Lee SP 5 Jan-16 Feb (JEP*).

Black-capped Gnatcatcher—One was in Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (MJB*audio, NDP**, JPB**).

American Dipper—One spent the winter in Albuquerque's north valley along a canal below the Paseo del Norte bridge 14 Dec-21 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.).

Eastern Bluebird—Well-distributed around the state, absent only from the northwest. Notable high counts included 74 at Belen's Whitfield WMA 2 Dec (DLH) and 90 at Rattlesnake Springs 10 Jan (SW).

Rufous-backed Robin—Nicely documented was one at La Union 22 Jan & 4 Feb (DAB**); it established the state's 20th overall record and the 7th since 2013.



Rufous-backed Robin, La Union, Doña Ana Co., 22 January 2018.
Photo by Dan Allen Belcher.

American Robin—A high 3500 were tallied on the Zuni CBC 19 Dec (JAT).

Varied Thrush—One was in upper Santa Fe Canyon 5-23 Dec; it was first found at the Randal Davey Audubon Center 5-6 Dec (S. Pipkin, RC*, JSz*, BRF**) then re-found in the nearby Cerro Gordo Road area 13-23 Dec (JPB**, BRF**, MSh**, BLM**, E. Hjalmarson**, WTE**).

Gray Catbird—Late or wintering were singles at Watrous 2 Dec (WJ-W*), Corrales 17 Dec (JMR, DJK**), and Jacona, *Santa Fe* 1 Jan (BRF**).

Curve-billed Thrasher—Records continued to accumulate in the northwest quadrant, with one on the Bluewater Lake CBC 16 Dec (JAT) and 2 at Grants, *Cibola* 15 Jan (D. Conrad**).

Brown Thrasher—Reported from seven counties from the RGV eastward, including up to 4 at Ute L. 19 Jan-11 Feb (JEP*, NEH**) and up to 5 at Rattlesnake Springs 3 Dec-25 Feb (RN**, m.ob.).

Crissal Thrasher—One was northwest on the Zuni CBC 19 Dec (JAT).

Sage Thrasher—Far north for mid-winter, up to 2 were near Costilla, *Taos* 11-17 Jan (REF**, TJ*).

Sprague's Pipit—Two were east of Roswell at the Alamo Road sinkhole 15 Jan (WFW, JN-M*). One was in Mason Draw grasslands west of Las Cruces 20 Jan (WTE**).

Cassin's Finch—Conspicuous in middle and lower RGV lowlands and adjacent areas, including 48 at a stock tank in the desert south of Engle, *Sierra* 25 Dec (DJC**).

Common Redpoll—One at the Clayton cemetery 19-20 Jan (MJB**, NDP**, JEP*) provided only the 6th credible state record.



Common Redpoll, Clayton cemetery, Union Co., 19 January 2018.
Photo by Nicholas D. Pederson.

Red Crossbill—Roving flocks were conspicuous in south-central lowlands and desert areas, including up to 20 at Deming Dec-Jan (m.ob., TBG**, JPB**), up to 22 south of Radium Springs Dec-Feb (MTS, JEZ), up to 47 at Mesilla Park Dec-Jan (m.ob., WTE*, CMR**, NEH**), 15 at Santa Teresa 14 Jan (JMG**), and 19 at Tularosa 23 Dec (NEH audio).

Pine Siskin—Notable concentrations in the northeast were an estimated 400 at Maxwell NWR 18 Jan (S. Chalmers) and another 400 in roadside sunflowers in the Dry Cimarron Valley, *Union* 31 Dec (NEH).

Lapland Longspur—Reports were largely confined to the northeast in *Colfax* and *Union*; high counts included up to 21 at Springer L. 16 Dec (JEP) & 27 Jan (DGB), and 18 southwest of Clayton 27 Jan (DGB). Farther south were 2 south of Estancia, *Torrance* 24 Jan (JH**) and one in Mason Draw grasslands west of Las Cruces 30 Jan (BLM*).

Eastern Towhee—A ♂ entertained many at the Bosque NWR Visitor Center from 10 Dec (AW**) through 25 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.).

Cassin's Sparrow—Small numbers were reported in the south in *Hidalgo*, *Doña Ana*, *Eddy*, and *Lea*, including singles photographed at the Nutt-Hatch Playa, *Doña Ana* 1 Dec

(M. Stolk**) and the Las Cruces Dam 4-16 Dec (JW**). High counts were 2 in *Hidalgo* grasslands about 20 km south of Hachita 3 Feb (JEP) and 3 at Carlsbad 13 Jan (RN**).

American Tree Sparrow—Reports were largely concentrated in the high plains from Maxwell south to Las Vegas and in the Dry Cimarron Valley, and included over 100 in several flocks in the Stubblefield Lake-Maxwell NWR area 13 Jan (JEP). Two were south to Albuquerque's RGNC 17 Dec (JA, R. Latta**, JL**).

Vesper Sparrow—Unexpected in winter north to *Quay*, this season found 3 northeast of Logan 4 Jan (R. Godwin**), and one northeast of San Jon 10 Feb (JEP). Two were late at Albuquerque's RGNC 6 Dec (VDD). The species is typically absent in New Mexico north of I-40 in winter.

Lark Bunting—North for the season were 20 near San Jon, *Quay* 10 Feb (JEP). Others north of expected were 30 near Tolar, *Roosevelt* 20 Dec (DLH), up to 2 at NRT 17 Dec (JRO, CMR, JPB), and 8 at Oasis SP 2 Jan (DGW).

Grasshopper Sparrow—An impressive 6 were in *Hidalgo* grasslands about 20 km south of Hachita 3 Feb (JEP).

Fox Sparrow—Noteworthy for *Quay*, a "red" one was at Ute L. 20 Jan (MJB, NDP) & 10 Feb (JEP). One was north in the RGV to Pilar, *Taos* 21 Dec (M. Peterson*).

Swamp Sparrow—Noteworthy for the northwest quadrant was one at Bluewater Lake 16 Dec (JAT).

Harris's Sparrow—Irregular in *San Juan*, one was at Kirtland 17 Dec (C. J. Schmitt*).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—One was on the Zuni CBC 19 Dec (JAT). Continuing from 19 Nov, one was at the Bosque NWR Visitor Center through Dec and Jan to 10 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.). Another was at the Bosque NWR boardwalk 25-28 Jan (R.E. Webster**, DLH**). One was at Albuquerque's Embudito Canyon trailhead 12-29 Jan (KSS**, m.ob., m.ph.). The species is rare but regular in winter in the RGV.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—An estimated 2500-3000 were seen at sunset, apparently coming to roost at a water tower along Sonoma Ranch Road, Las Cruces, 3 Feb (KS**).

Bullock's Oriole—Very late was one feeding on crabapples in Albuquerque's north valley near Candelaria Farms 8 Dec (DLH**).

Rusty Blackbird—First reported in Nov, 2 ♀♀ continued at Leasburg SP from 28 Dec (CGL**) to 20 Jan (m.ob., m.ph.). One at Seven Rivers WMA, *Eddy* 16 Dec (SW*) provided the only additional report.

Ovenbird—Noteworthy for the season, one was at a home along Santa Fe's Canyon Road 4 Feb (N.R. McCabe**). There are seven previous winter records for the state.



Louisiana Waterthrush, Oliver Lee State Park, Otero County, 4 February 2018.
Photo by David L. Hawksworth.

Louisiana Waterthrush—One wintered at Oliver Lee SP from 22 Dec (D.M. Simonetti**) to 18 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.). This constitutes the second winter record for New Mexico.

Orange-crowned Warbler—Reported from 14 locales in the middle and lower RGV from Williamsburg south to Santa Teresa Dec-Feb (m.ob.).

Common Yellowthroat—One was at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 5 Dec (S. Young**, M. Furgoch) and another was at Williamsburg 25 Jan (DJC**).

Northern Parula—Very late or wintering were singles at Las Animas Creek west of Caballo L. 27 Dec (CGL*) and at Alamogordo 31 Dec (JSz*).

Yellow Warbler—One was late at Percha SP 2 Dec (JEP).

Pine Warbler—A first-winter ♀ was at the Clayton cemetery 19 Dec (JEP*, MJB**, NDP**).

Yellow-throated Warbler—Continuing from 2 Oct, one at a Farmington feeder persisted Dec-Feb and was last seen 19 Mar (APN*, S.L. Nelson**). Continuing from 9 Nov, one at Alamogordo continued through Dec-Jan and was last reported 18 Feb (DLH**, m.ob., m.ph.).



Yellow-throated Warbler, Alamogordo, Otero County, 4 February 2018.
Photo by David L. Hawksworth.

Western Tanager—A winter ♂ was well-described at Mesilla Park 17 Jan (CJG*).

Northern Cardinal—A ♂ was in the Albuquerque bosque at the BioPark 24 Dec-27 Feb (CJW**, C. Dotson**, M. Pino**). In the middle Pecos Valley, 2 were at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (RG) and 3 were just downstream at Spirithaven Ranch 14 Dec (RG). A ♂ was at Ute L. 19 Jan-11 Feb (JEP, MJB, NDP, NEH). Well represented in *Sierra* along the east base of the Black Range, with reports of multiple birds at Hillsboro (DJC**) and Tierra Blanca Cr. (DJC), plus a ♂ along Berrenda Cr. 20 Jan (R. Gray**).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—A young ♂ was at San Acacia, *Socorro* 8 Dec (G. Loos**) and an ad. ♂ was at Española 18 Dec (K. Miller**).

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

