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SEASONAL REPORT 1968-1

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

JOHN P. HUBBARD
BARBARA C. MCKNIGHT
PATRICIA R. SNIDER

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 277
CEDAR CREST, NEW MEXICO 87008

CONTRIBUTORS:

MAC MARJORIE A CROMER
JND JOHN N. DURRIE
JSF JAMES S. FINDLEY
RAF RALPH A. FISHER, JR.
WH WALTON HAWK
WWH W. W. HILL
JPH JOHN P. HUBBARD
BI BILL ISAACS
JAJ JEROME A. JACKSON
MCK DANIEL AND BARBARA MCKNIGHT
VM VESTER MONTGOMERY
APN ALAN P. NELSON
DMN DAVID M. NILES
WR WILLIAM REFFAULT
RWR RICHARD W. RIGBY
JDR JAMES D. RISING
SAR SIEVERT A. ROHWER
JLS JAMES L. SANDS
ES ELMER SCHOOLEY
CS CAROL SHRYOCK
JHS JAMES H. SIKES
PRS PATRICIA R. SNIDER
JRT JAMES R. TRAVIS
WCT WILLIAM C. TURNER
DAZ DALE A. ZIMMERMAN

CORRIGENDUM:

IN "INDEX TO N.M.O.S. FIELD NOTES, SEASONAL REPORT #1, JUNE-SEPTEMBER, 1962 -
- VOLUME VI, NO. 2, JUNE 1-NOVEMBER 30, 1967", MAKE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTION:

UNDER DICKCISSEL, CHANGE 66-2,44 TO READ 66-2, 42.

PROBABLY THE OUTSTANDING WEATHER EVENT OF THIS REPORT PERIOD WAS THE MASSIVE STATE-WIDE SNOWSTORM IN MID-DECEMBER WHICH PILED SNOWS TO UNPRECEDENTED DEPTHS PARTICULARLY IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE STATE. IN PLEASANTON, USUALLY ONE OF THE Milder WINTER AREAS, SNOW WAS EIGHT OR MORE INCHES DEEP FROM THE 18TH TO 20TH OF DECEMBER, AND NOT ONLY SUCH SPECIES AS OREGON AND GRAY-HEADED JUNCOS AND WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, BUT ALSO LINCOLN'S, FOX (ONE), SONG, RUFOUS-CROWNED, BLACK-THROATED, AND BREWER'S SPARROWS, ALONG WITH BROWN, RUFOUS-SIDED, AND GREEN-TAILED (ONE) TOWHEES, CARDINALS AND HOUSE FINCHES, WERE ALL FEEDING TOGETHER ON AMARANTHUS SEEDS. ROAD KILLS IN LUNA, SIERRA AND OTHER COUNTIES WERE ENORMOUS AS BIRDS GATHERED IN SNOW-FREE RUTS ON THE HIGHWAYS TO FEED. MEADOWLARKS WERE REPORTED FEEDING ON ROAD-KILLED BIRDS. AFTER THE SNOW CEASED, TEMPERATURES DROPPED TO VERY LOW LEVELS WHICH DOUBTLESS COMPOUNDED THE DIFFICULTIES. THE EFFECT OF DISASTERS SUCH AS THIS ON BIRD POPULATIONS THE FOLLOWING BREEDING SEASON WOULD MAKE AN INTERESTING STUDY.

HORNED GREBE

2 WERE SEEN ON ALAMOGORDO RESERVOIR, DEBACA CO., 4/9 (DMN, JDR); VIEWED AT 150 YARDS FOR 15 MINUTES WITH COMPARISON TO 4 EARED GREBES; DESCRIBED IN BREEDING PLUMAGE EXCEPT FOR SOME WHITE ON THROAT AND BREAST.

WESTERN GREBE

2 AT MORGAN LAKE 12/10 (APN); 1 AT BITTER LAKE NWR 12/11 (JHS) AND 5/15 (VM, WR); ONE PHOTOGRAPHED AT BERNARDO REFUGE, SOCORRO CO., 4/13 (JND, WWH).

WHITE PELICAN

1 ON A SMALL LAKE NEAR LAGUNA PUEBLO, VALENCIA CO., 4/7 (PRS); SELDOM RECORDED IN THAT SECTION OF THE STATE.

GREAT BLUE HERON

ROOKERIES WERE REPORTED IN THE WATROUS AREA, MORA CO., WITH 18 COMPLETED NESTS ON 4/27 (WH); AT THE SALMAN RANCH, LA CUEVA, MORA CO., WITH 18 NESTS ON 4/28 (ES); AT GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS NATIONAL MONUMENT 4 YOUNG ON 5/11 AND 14 ON 5/30 (RAF).

GREEN HERON

1 SEEN 5 MILES SOUTH OF RESERVE ON SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, CATRON CO., 5/5 (MCK).

LITTLE BLUE HERON

SINGLE ADULT AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 4/5 (VM, JHS) AND 5/2 (VM), AND AN IMMATURE ON 4/29 (JHS); 1 AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR ON 5/5 (JND, WWH).

CATTLE EGRET

3 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 4/5 (WR); THIS VERY RARE VISITANT HAS STILL NOT BEEN COLLECTED OR PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE STATE.

AMERICAN BITTERN

5 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM) IS A HIGH NUMBER FOR THE STATE AT ANY SEASON; 1 HEARD NEAR FARMINGTON 5/11 (APN).

WHITE-FACED IBIS

1 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 AND PREVIOUSLY (VM); THE SPECIES IS VERY RARE IN THE STATE IN WINTER.

CANADA GOOSE

4 AT ALMA, CATRON CO., 12/24 (JPH); 800 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 WAS

REGARDED AS A HIGH NUMBER THERE (VM); PEAK OF 2250 AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR ON 1/9 WITH 200 PRESENT ON 2/22, AND 1 UNTIL 4/25 (RWR); PEAK OF 2100 AT LAS VEGAS IN LATE JANUARY, WITH 300 PRESENT IN LATE MARCH, AND 15 ON 5/19; 1500 AT LA CUEVA ON 3/27 WERE REGARDED AS A MONTH LATE IN DEPARTURE (JLS); 5 AT FARMINGTON ON 5/11 (APN); SEVERAL PAIR WITH DOWNY YOUNG AT LA CUEVA 5/19 (WH, ES).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

1 WAS BANDED IN JANUARY, PHOTOGRAPHED BEFORE RELEASE, AT BERNARDO REFUGE, SOCORRO CO. (JLS).

BLUE GOOSE

PEAK OF 35 AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR ON 12/1 (RWR); 9 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM); SOME 100 AT LAKE MCMILLAN ON 3/15 (I. CASSELL, VM, JHS) IS A VERY LARGE NUMBER FOR THE STATE.

ROSS' GOOSE

PEAK OF 100 AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR ON 12/1 (RWR) IS A NEW HIGH FOR THIS SPECIES THERE; 4 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

6 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM); THE SPECIES IS RARE IN THE STATE IN THE WINTER.

OLDSQUAW

A FEMALE WAS SEEN AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 5/2 AND 5/15 (VM, WR); THIS APPEARS TO BE THE FOURTH RECORD FOR THE STATE AND THE SECOND FOR THE SOUTHEAST.

HOODED MERGANSER

4 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM); 2 AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR 3/1 (RWR).

BALD EAGLE

WINTER REPORTS: 1 AT FT. BAYARD, GRANT CO., 12/1 (J. P. GIBSON FIDE RAF); 1 AT FLORA VISTA, SAN JUAN CO., 12/27 (APN); 5 TO 7 AT LAS VEGAS FROM EARLY DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY (ES); 3 AT LA CUEVA REFUGE, MORA CO., 2/14 (JLS).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER

1 AT MORGAN LAKE, SAN JUAN CO., 5/4 (APN); 2 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 5/15 (VM, WR).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER

PAIR WITH 3 DOWNY YOUNG 6 MILES SOUTH OF ROSWELL, CHAVES CO., 5/22 (VM).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

11 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 5/15 (VM, WR).

COMMON SNIPE

1--PRESUMABLY THE SAME BIRD--SEEN DAILY 4/14 THROUGH 4/25 ALONG A VERY SMALL STREAM IN PONDEROSA HABITAT, CANONCITO, SANDIA MTS., BERNALILLO CO. (DAVRA DOLESHAL).

WHIMBREL

1 NEAR LA CUEVA ON 5/19 (WH, ES); VERY RARE IN THE STATE.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER

2 NEAR CLIFF, GRANT CO., ON 12/21 (JPH); RARE AND LOCAL IN THE WINTER IN THE STATE.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS

12 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM); GENERALLY RARE IN WINTER IN THE STATE.

STILT SANDPIPER

3 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 5/15 (VM, WR).

BONAPARTE'S GULL

1 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 (VM); THIS IS THE THIRD WINTER RECORD FOR THE STATE AND THE SECOND FROM THE SOUTHEAST.

FLAMMULATED OWL

4 PRESUMED MIGRANTS BANDED AT CEDAR CREST, BERNALILLO CO., BETWEEN 4/25 AND 5/1 (MCK).

LONG-EARED OWL

1 SEEN AND WELL-DESCRIBED ON THE MESA WEST OF ALBUQUERQUE, BERNALILLO CO., 2/14 (BROWNIE HIBBEN); THIS OWL SELDOM REPORTED IN THAT SECTOR.

GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER

1 DEFINITELY AND POSSIBLY 2 WOODPECKERS SEEN ON 4/20, IN AN ISOLATED GROVE OF TREES ON N.M. HIGHWAY 380 40 MILES WEST OF ROSWELL, CHAVES CO., APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THIS FORM. LEISURELY OBSERVATION FROM AS CLOSE AS 25 FEET AND FOR 45 MINUTES; DESCRIBED AS HAVING RED CAP AND REDDISH PATCH ON THE NECK WITH A LIGHT GOLDEN FRONT AND UNDERPANTS, IN ADDITION TO RESEMBLING A LADDER-BACKED ON THE UPPERPARTS, BUT OF LARGE SIZE (VM, JHS); OBSERVERS FAMILIAR WITH THE SPECIES FROM TEXAS, AND VM KNOWS THE RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER AS WELL.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

1 AT ROSWELL, CHAVES CO., ON 12/29 (VM); VERY RARE IN WINTER IN STATE.

ACORN WOODPECKER

1 AT ROSWELL, CHAVES CO., ON 3/13 THROUGH 3/14, WHERE ALSO SEEN IN NOVEMBER, 1967 (VM); THE SPECIES IS A VAGRANT TO THAT AREA.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER

ABSENT FROM LOS ALAMOS-ESPANOLA-SANTA FE (PRS) AND CORRALES (JSF) AREAS DURING WINTER, AND FROM ALBUQUERQUE COUNT ON 12/23, AND FROM APACHE CREEK ON 3/30-31 (MCK), ALL OF WHICH IS UNUSUAL. EARLIEST RECORDS IN LATE APRIL AND EARLY MAY, WHEN FOUND AT FARMINGTON (APN), SANTA FE (JND), CIMARRON VALLEY (DMN ET AL.), POJOAQUE, SANTA FE CO., (PRS), RESERVE-APACHE CREEK, CATRON CO. (MCK, BOYD MCLEOD, AL MOORE), AND GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS (RAF).

EASTERN KINGBIRD

REPORTED AT FARMINGTON ON 5/22 AND 6/1 (CS); OCCURS RARELY IN THE NORTHWEST.

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD

PAIR BUILDING A NEST IN GUADALUPE CANON, HIDALGO CO., 5/28 (DAZ).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER

IMMATURE MALE NEAR CLIFF, GRANT CO., 12/21 (JPH); SINGLE MALES 7 MILES WEST, 7 MILES SOUTH OF TATUM, LEA CO., 4/6 (DMN) AND AT CONCHAS DAM, SAN MIGUEL CO., ON 5/12 (WH, ES); 2 MALES IN UNION CO. 10 MILES WEST OF KENTON, OKLA., ON 5/11 (JDR).

BEARDLESS FLYCATCHER

1 IN GUADALUPE CANON, HIDALGO CO., ON 5/27-28 (DAZ).

BLUE JAY

SINGLES IN SOUTHEAST ALBUQUERQUE IN LATE DECEMBER AND ON 1/4 (MRS. JOHN TORRENS) AND AT LOS ALAMOS FROM 1/3 THROUGH MID-MAY (WCT); AT LEAST 1 FROM SEVERAL LOCALITIES IN THE SANDIA PARK AREA, SANDIA MTS., IN THE PERIOD FROM 1/21 THROUGH 4/23 (FIDE MCK).

STELLER'S JAY

NEST WITH 4 NEARLY FEATHERED YOUNG IN A JUNIPER AT SAN CRISTOBAL, TAOS CO., ON 5/30 (WH).

SCRUB JAY

LARGE NUMBER INVADDED SANTA FE AFTER HEAVY SNOWS IN DECEMBER (PRS), AND DEPARTED AT THE SAME TIME, AND THROUGH AT LEAST EARLY APRIL FROM BARRANCA MESA, LOS ALAMOS (WCT); 60 IN THE SANDIA MTS. ON THE COUNT 12/30 WAS A HIGH NUMBER (MCK, ET AL.).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

3 ACTIVE NESTS IN CIMARRON VALLEY, 10 MILES WEST OF KENTON, OKLA., ON 5/11 (JAJ); 2 NESTS, ONE WITH 6 EGGS, AT ESPANOLA ON 4/18, WITH 1 YOUNG BANDED ON 6/2; BREEDING IN THIS IMMEDIATE AREA HAS NOT BEEN RECORDED FOR SEVERAL DECADES (PRS).

COMMON CROW

200 WINTERED AT LOS ALAMOS (PRS, WCT, ET AL.) WHERE USUALLY UNCOMMON.

PINON JAY

FLOCKS OF OVER 1000 ROAMED THROUGH PINON WOODLAND DURING THE WINTER IN LOS ALAMOS (JRT).

BROWN THRASHER

SINGLES AT SANTA FE 11/5 TO 3/11 (J.W.KELLAHIN), LAS VEGAS 1/1 THROUGH 5/7 (ES, WH), ALBUQUERQUE 1/14 THROUGH 3/31 (B.LINDSAY).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER

1 SEEN 7 MILES WEST OF FLOYD, ROOSEVELT CO., 4/8 (DMN); DISTRIBUTION IN THE EAST IS POORLY KNOWN.

ROBIN

2 NESTS WITH EGGS IN RIPARIAN WOODLAND IN THE CIMARRON VALLEY, 10 MILES WEST OF KENTON, OKLA., 5/11 (JAJ, DMN, JDR, SAR).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

1 OR MORE IN NORTHEAST ALBUQUERQUE 1/29, AND 3 TIMES IN PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS (R.LUHRS); 2 SEEN ON SANDIA MTS. COUNT 12/30 (MCK, ET AL.).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

A FEMALE SEEN 5 MILES SOUTH OF YESO, DEBACA CO., AND 2 SEEN 7 MILES SOUTH OF YESO 4/9 (DMN).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

1 SEEN 7 MILES WEST OF FLOYD, ROOSEVELT CO., 4/8, AND 1 SEEN 7 MILES WEST AND 8 MILES SOUTH OF TATUM, LEA CO., 4/7 (DMN).

PHAINOPEPLA

FEMALE AT PLEASANTON, CATRON CO., 12/24 (JPH); PAIR AT RADIUM SPRINGS, DONA ANA CO., 4/7, THE FEMALE ON A NEST (MCK).

STARLING

1 AT HORSE SPRINGS, CATRON CO., 12/24 (JPH).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

1 MALE COLLECTED 3 MILES NORTH OF SILVER CITY, GRANT CO., ON 5/9 IS THE FIRST SPECIMEN AND RECORD FOR THE STATE (DAZ).

TENNESSEE WARBLER

A SINGING MALE WAS SEEN NORTH OF CLIFF IN THE GILA VALLEY 5/18; THERE IS A PREVIOUS SIGHT RECORD AND A SPECIMEN FROM THE SOUTHWEST (DAZ).

PARULA WARBLER

A FEMALE ON IMMATURE MALE WAS SEEN AT CEDAR CREST (WHERE PREVIOUSLY RECORDED) ON 5/7 (L.LEFKOFSKY, MCK); A MALE SEEN AT SILVER CITY 5/9 (B.G.ELLIOTT, DAZ) WHERE ALSO RECORDED SEPTEMBER 1964 BY B.K.HARRIS.

YELLOW WARBLER

A MALE AT GLENWOOD, CATRON CO., 3/28 IS AN EARLY RECORD (RAF).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

A MALE SEEN NEAR AT HAND IN LOS ALAMOS 5/21 (MAC); 5TH STATE RECORD.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER

A MALE COLLECTED NEAR CLIFF IN THE GILA VALLEY 5/15 (DAZ) IS THE FIRST STATE SPECIMEN OF A RARELY RECORDED VISITANT,

OVENBIRD

1 WAS SEEN IN THE CIMARRON VALLEY IN UNION CO., 10 MILES WEST OF KENTON, OKLA., 5/11 (DMN); THIS IS A RARE MIGRANT IN THE STATE.

AMERICAN REDSTART

A MALE WAS SEEN IN THE RESERVE, CATRON CO., AREA 5/12 (MCK), AND THE SPECIES WAS REPORTED AT FARMINGTON 5/9 AND 5/20 (APN, CS).

COMMON GRACKLE

AT LEAST 3 DISPLAYING AND SINGING MALES AND A FEW FEMALES IN CIMARRON VALLEY, UNION CO., ON 5/11 (JAJ, JDR); 1 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 5/15 (VM, WR).

SUMMER TANAGER

1 IN SILVER CITY ON 5/9 (RAF), WHERE VERY RARE.

CARDINAL

1 SEEN ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CAMPUS, ALBUQUERQUE, 3 TIMES IN THE PERIOD 4/1-6 (R.LEWIS).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

REPORTS OF SINGLE MALES IN THE PERIOD FROM 4/27 TO 5/26 FROM LA PLATA-SAN JUAN RIVERS JUNCTION (APN); MONTEZUMA (WH); SANDIA PARK, SANDIA MTS. (FIDE MCK). CEDAR CREST (MCK); BITTER LAKE NWR (A.N.CARTER, VM, WR).

EVENING GROSBEAK

FEW REPORTS FROM THE LOWLANDS-12 ON 3/30 SANDIA BASE, ALBUQUERQUE (MCK), AND FARMINGTON 5/8 (CS).

CASSIN'S FINCH

A FEW REPORTED IN PERIOD DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH FROM CEDAR CREST (MCK), LOS ALAMOS (PRS), FLORA VISTA (APN), ESPANOLA (COUNT); IN SILVER CITY AREA ONLY IN MARCH OR LATER (RAF); IN THE JICARILLA RANGE DISTRICT, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, IN LATE MAY (APN),

RED CROSSBILL

REPORTED ONLY FROM JICARILLA RANGE DISTRICT, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, WHERE SEEN SEVERAL TIMES IN PERIOD 5/31 TO 6/2 (APN).

ROSY FINCHES: GRAY-CROWNED AND BROWN-CAPPED

350 GRAY-CROWNED AND 50 BROWN-CAPPED ROSY FINCHES SEEN NEAR ESPANOLA ON OPEN PLAINS ON 12/30 (MAC, PRS), BROWN-CAPPED ALSO REPORTED FROM FARMINGTON-FLORA VISTA AREA: 350 ON 12/27, AND UNSPECIFIED NUMBER BUT INCLUDING 1 COMING TO A FEEDER, 12/13-20 (APN); 75 TO 100 AT LAGUNA PARK ON THE MORA SIDE OF N.M. HIGHWAY 3 ON 2/17 (ES).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE

1 AT ESPANOLA ON 12/30 (COUNT) WHERE RARE IN WINTER.

SAVANNAH SPARROW

1 AT ALBUQUERQUE ON 12/23 (COUNT) WHERE RARE IN WINTER.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

2, 1 SINGING, IN DENSE, RATHER TALL GRASS IN UNION CO. 10 MILES WEST OF KENTON, OKLA., ON 5/10 (DMN).

BAIRD'S SPARROW

POSSIBLE RECORDS FROM WATROUS, MORA CO., 4/27 (WH), AND LAS VEGAS 4/28 (ES); 1 IN SHORT-CROPPED GRASSLAND IN UNION CO. 3 MILES WEST, 1 MILE SOUTH OF KENTON, OKLA., 5/11 (DMN).

RUFIOUS-CROWNED SPARROW

9 IN PLEASANTON 12/20 (JPH), 1 IN THE CORRALES, SANDOVAL CO., AREA 12/23 (JSF), 4 IN ALAMOGORDO 12/27 (W.H.HUNT), AND 20 AT BITTER LAKE NWR ON 12/29 AND 2 ON 5/15 (VM), REPRESENT RECORDS FROM PLACES NOT KNOWN OR THOUGHT TO BE BREEDING LOCALITIES AND SUGGEST AT LEAST PARTIAL MIGRATION IN THIS SPECIES IN THE STATE, SEVERAL SINGING IN THE CANADIAN VALLEY 9 MILES WEST, 2 MILES SOUTH OF ROY, ON 4/11 (DMN).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

IN LARGE MIXED FLOCKS WITH BREWER'S (50 TO 60%) AND CHIPPING (10%) SPARROWS IN UNION CO. 10 MILES WEST OF KENTON, OKLA., 5/10 (DMN, SAR); FIRST IN LAS VEGAS 4/28 PRESENT IN EARLY MAY (ES), WITH PEAK IN MIXED FLOCK ON 5/9 (WH).

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW

1 IN EMBUDO CANON, BERNALILLO CO., 2/25 (JND, J.P.FITZSIMMONS) IS THE FIRST WINTER RECORD IN THE NORTH.

HARRIS' SPARROW

1 WINTERED AT LOS ALAMOS WHERE PHOTOGRAPHED (B.SWARTZ); 1 AT ESPANOLA 12/30 (PRS); 1 WINTERED AT LAS VEGAS, LAST SEEN 5/7 (WH).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

WINTER REPORTS FROM SANTA FE (PRS), TESUQUE (BI, PRS), CEDAR CREST (MCK, GLENWOOD (JPH), MAINLY IN ONES AND TWOS BUT 7 IN ALBUQUERQUE AREA ON 12/23 (COUNT); ADDITIONAL SPRING REPORTS FROM LAS VEGAS (WH) AND FARMINGTON (APN); LATEST DATE 5/8 AT CEDAR CREST (MCK).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

AN IMMATURE IN TESUQUE ON 1/7 AND FOR SEVERAL WEEKS PREVIOUS (BI, W.H. KNICKERBOCKER, PRS) IS ONE OF THE FEW RECORDS FROM THE STATE,

FOX SPORROW

WINTER REPORTS: 1 ON 12/19 PLEASANTON, 1 ON 12/21 CLIFF (JPH); 2 ON 12/29

ROSWELL (VM), SPRING REPORTS: 3 ON 3/24 GLENWOOD (RAF); 2 ON 4/ 27 ROSWELL (VM); 1 ON 5/18 JUNCTION OF SAN JUAN-LA PLATA RIVERS (JPH).

SWAMP SPARROW

5 AT ROSWELL ON 12/29 (COUNT); 2 AT ESPANOLA ON 12/30 (COUNT); 1 AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR 1/1 (COUNT); 4 SEEN 3 MILES NORTH OF GILA IN THE GILA VALLEY IN EARLY MAY (B.HAYWARD),