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NEW MEXICO
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FIELD NOTES

VOLUME 26, NO. 2
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Paul Steel, Ross L. Teuber, and Steve West

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

Good documentation, including photographs, added two species to the confirmed New Mexico roster this season.

The Boreal Owl, a small strictly nocturnal northern raptor of the forests of North America and Eurasia, had been moving casually into our western mountains. When it was found 50 miles from Colorado's southern border, John J. Rawinski, a National Forest biologist, began a springtime search for it along Dixie Creek in New Mexico's Carson National Forest near Cumbres Pass. Efforts failed in 1984-86, but on April 14-19, 1987, Rawinski and Dale Stahlecker, an Albuquerque biologist, saw an adult male south of the state line, recorded its call, and obtained flash photographs. It was the farthest south sighting, worldwide, for the species.

Happenstance led to discovery of a Piping Plover at Springer Lake on April 22 by Dick and Jean Hoffman, of Cleveland, Ohio. Heading home from one of their frequent New Mexico birding trips, they photographed this out-of-place rarity and described it in detail. There had been sight records in 1964 and 1981. The Hoffmans also reported, but did not photograph, an unusual Northern Beardless Tyrannulet near Redrock.

It was a typical uneven New Mexico spring. Heavy Los Alamos precipitation interfered with nesting. Albuquerque was on the damp side, while the Gila Valley was dry, cool and windy; both reported mediocre migration, with warblers particularly scarce. Nevertheless there were high points, including:

A rare Pacific Loon in Eddy County. Two Sabine's Gulls at Zuni -- wrong time and place. An unusual Yellow-throated Warbler, yet a "dearth" of eastern warblers. Tricolored & Little Blue Herons at Bosque NWR. An undocumented Groove-billed Ani in Doña Ana County.

The spring raptor count in the Sandias, February 10-May 10, ran into heavy snow cover into early April and unusual easterly winds in the latter month, evidently diverting migrants from the mountains. Total sightings, including raptors unidentified as to species, fell to 2,416 from 3,129 in 1986. Seventeen species were noted -- Black-shouldered and Mississippi Kites for the first time, but Rough-legged, Broad-winged and Zone-tailed Hawks absent. The tabulation:

Turkey Vulture	569	Swainson's Hawk	47
Osprey	42	Red-tailed Hawk	187
Black-shouldered Kite	1	Ferruginous Hawk	12
Mississippi Kite	1	Golden Eagle	214
Bald Eagle	5	American Kestrel	103
Northern Harrier	43	Merlin	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	450	Peregrine Falcon	8
Cooper's Hawk	536	Prairie Falcon	17
Northern Goshawk	15		

SPRING BIRD COUNTS IN NEW MEXICO (name, sponsor, date, compiler, species):

Eddy County (N.M.Ornithological Society), 5/9-10, Mike Medrano, 118

Espanola Big Day Count (Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society), 5/17,
W. Burton Lewis, 92

Farmington (Four Corners Bird Club), 5/9, Alan Nelson, 105

Gila Valley Spring Migration Count and Big Bird Bash (Southeast N.M.
Audubon Society and N.M. Audubon Council), 5/2, Ralph Fisher, 151

Otero County Bird Club (OCBC) Count, 5/2-3, Robert Jenness, 112

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE:

PB -- Pat Basham	PI -- Pat Insley	RS -- Robert Scholes
SBo -- Sarah Boles	R&KJ (RJ, KJ) -- Robert & Katherine Jenness	HS -- Hart R. Schwarz
DC -- David Cleary	HL -- H.H. Lesperance	LHS -- Lorraine H. Schulte
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JDo -- Jeff Donaldson	JM -- John McNelly	PSn -- Pat Snider
RF -- Ralph Fisher	MMe -- Mike Medrano	DSt -- Dale Stahlecker
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D&JHo -- Dick & Jean Hoffman	AN -- Alan Nelson	JT -- John Trochet
SH -- Steve Hoffman	M&SO (MO, SO) -- May & Stuart O'Byrne	BU -- Bill Uihlein
TH -- Tyler Huning	R&VM -- Robert & Virginia Messick	JV -- James Vaught
WH -- William Howe	JP -- Joanne Phillips	SW -- Steve West
JH -- John P. Hubbard	RR -- Ross Rasmussen	WW -- William West
D&SH (DH, SH) -- Dustin & Susan Huntington	TR -- Fr. Terence Rhoades	SWI -- Sartor Williams III
J&NHt (JHt, NHt) -- Joseph & Nancy Hutto	CR -- Chris Rustay	KW -- Kathy Wood
		RY -- Rob Yaksich
		EZ -- Barry Zimmer

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE:

abbreviations and symbols in text:

L. -- Lake	R. -- River	
MRGV -- middle Rio Grande Valley	SGR -- State Game Refuge	
Mt. (Mts.) -- Mountain(s)	SP -- State Park	
NM -- National Monument	v. o. -- various observers	
N. M. -- New Mexico	* -- details provided	
NP -- National Park	** -- photograph	
NWR -- National Wildlife Refuge	*** -- specimen	
OCBC -- Otero County Bird Club		
Aguirre Springs -- Doña Ana	Clanton Canyon -- Hidalgo	Gila R. -- Grant,
Alameda -- Bernalillo	Clayton, Clayton L. -- Union	Catron, Hidalgo
Alamo Canyon -- Otero	Cloudcroft -- Otero	Glenwood -- Catron
Alamogordo -- Otero	Cochiti L., Canyon, Pueblo -- Sandoval	Guadalupe Canyon -- Hidalgo
Albuquerque -- Bernalillo	Donaldson's farm -- Doña Ana	Heron L. -- Rio Arriba
Animas -- Hidalgo	Ana	High Rolls -- Otero
Animas Valley -- Hidalgo	Durling's farm -- Doña Ana	Hobbs -- Lea
Bandelier NM -- Sandoval, Los Alamos	Elephant Butte L. -- Sierra	Holloman L. -- Otero
Belen -- Valencia	El Vado l. -- Rio Arriba	Jemez Mts., R., Springs, Pueblo -- Sandoval
Bernalillo -- Sandoval	Embudito -- Bernalillo	Laguna Grande -- Eddy
Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.) -- Chaves	Encino -- Torrance	L. McMillan -- Eddy
Black Range -- Grant	Española -- Rio Arriba	La Luz -- Otero
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque NWR) -- Socorro	Farmington -- San Juan	Las Cruces -- Doña Ana
Caballo L., Dam -- Sierra	Fort Union -- Mora	Las Vegas -- San Miguel
Carlsbad -- Eddy		Lordsburg -- Hidalgo
Carlsbad Caverns NP - Eddy		Los Alamos -- Los Alamos

Los Lunas -- Valencia	Randal's Pool -- Dona Ana	San Francisco R. -- Catron
Los Ojos -- Rio Arriba	Raton -- Colfax	Silver City -- Grant
	Rattlesnake Springs --	Socorro -- Socorro
Magdalena Mts. -- Socorro	Eddy	Springer L. -- Colfax
Mangas Springs -- Grant	Redrock -- Grant	Storrie L. -- San Miguel
Maxwell NWR -- Colfax	Rio Rancho -- Sandoval	Summer L. -- de Baca
McAllister L. -- San	Roswell -- Chaves	Sycamore Canyon -- Grant
Miguel	Ruidoso -- Lincoln	
Mesa rest stop -- Chaves,		Tres Piedras -- Taos
de Baca		Trujillo Canyon -- San
Mescalero Apache Reserva-	Sabinoso -- San Miguel	Miguel
tion -- Otero	Sacramento L., Mts., R.	Truth or Consequences --
Morgan L. -- San Juan	-- Otero	Sierra
Mule Creek -- Grant	Sandia Mts., Crest,	Tucumcari -- Quay
Nutria L. -- McKinley	Park -- Bernalillo	Tularosa -- Otero
Oso Canyon -- Rio Arriba	San Rafael -- Cibola	
	San Simon Cienega --	Velarde -- Rio Arriba
Parkview -- Rio Arriba	Hidalgo	White Lakes -- Santa Fe
Percha Dam SP -- Sierra	Santa Fe -- Santa Fe	
Pleasanton -- Catron	Sena -- San Miguel	Zuni Reservation (Zuni
Post Office Canyon --	Shady Lakes (in Alame-	for short) -- McKinley
Hidalgo	da) -- Bernalillo	
	Sierra Blanca -- Sierra	

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- unusual: 1 photographed and seen at leisure on the Pecos R. east of Carlsbad, on Eddy count (NMe, CR, PSn, PSt, RT, SW, others). Fewer than a dozen records of species for N.M., and only second for Eddy County.

HORNED GREBE -- 1 at Jemez Canyon Reservoir 3/5 (PSt) and 2 in breeding plumage at Bosque NWR 3/39 (WH) were only reports.

WESTERN GREBE -- Reports included 2 at Las Vegas NWR 4/26 (PI, PSn), 1 at Storrie L. 5/15 (WH), 4 at Caballo L. 3/29 (WH), and birds displaying at Elephant Butte L. in late March (TMu).

CLARK'S GREBE -- Almost statewide except in southeast. Over 2 dozen in Zuni area 4/18-5/2 (DC, TR), 10 at Las Vegas NWR 4/26 (PI, PSn), 1 there 5/15 (WH), 4 on Springer L. 4/22 (D&JHo), 1 on Storrie L. 5/15 (WH), 1 at Caballo L. 5/19 (PSt), and displaying at Elephant Butte L. in mid-March (TMu).

AECHMOPHORUS sp. -- Preliminary staging observed at Heron L. 4/18 (CR).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- First spring records, 5 on 3/26 at Caballo L. (DM) and 96 at Bitter L. same day (KW). Latest in Pecos or Rio Grande Valleys were at Bitter L. 5/2 (KW). Unusual were 50 near Clayton 4/8-23 (WC) and 76 that flew over the Sandia Mts. 4/23 (WH).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 2 on Farmington count were unusual. At least 60 at Cochiti L. 3/22-5/15 (PI), with nesting observed later in the season.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT -- 1 to 4 at Bosque NWR 3/29-4/14 (v.o.). Also at Caballo L. with 2 on 3/29 (WH), 1 on 5/1 (RT) and 3 on 5/19 (PSt). A probable 5/10 at L. McMillan, where rare (CR); incomplete details.

LEAST BITTERN -- breeding: Nesting reported at Tucumcari L. during May and July (BU).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- breeding: Active nests again in the Glenwood area, with 60 at the Kwillylekia Ruin, 17 at Glenwood, & 32 at Heart Bar heronry (RF).

GREAT EGRET -- 1 at Caballo L. 4/30 (DM) and 1 -- both early and unusual -- at Holloman L. 3/24 (JM).

SNOWY EGRET -- In unusual locales, singles late at Zuni 5/23 (DC) and early at Holloman L. 3/24 (JM).

LITTLE BLUE HERON -- Only spring report was a single in adult plumage at Bosque NWR 4/25 (RT).

TRICOLORED HERON -- 1 at Bosque NWR 4/14-5/16 was the only spring sighting in N.M. (PB, RT).

CATTLE EGRET -- Widely reported, including 1 to 4 at Zuni in April and May (DC), 4 at Bernalillo 4/10 (PSt), and a high of 22 on the Gila Valley count. Also seen in the Alamogordo area and lower Pecos Valley (v.o.).

GREEN-BACKED HERON -- 1 on the Farmington count, where somewhat unusual. First spring birds at Glenwood 3/19 (SW1) and at Bitter L. 4/11 (KW). Six on Gila Valley count was high.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- Normally confined to river valleys and lakes, this species can show up in unexpected places: 1 at Takepo, Zuni, 5/29 (JT) and 2 on 4/18 at the Mesa rest stop (CL). An immature-plumaged bird was at Rattlesnake Springs 5/25 (CR); there are fewer than 5 records for Carlsbad Caverns NP.

WHITE IBIS -- 1 reported without details from Rattlesnake Springs 4/19 (fide MF). One other undetailed report exists from Eddy County, also in the spring (fide SW).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- 20 near Tularosa 3/18 (J&Nht). High spring count was apparently 80 at Bosque NWR 5/1 (RT).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- A single at Percha Dam SP 3/5 (DM) was only sighting.

SNOW GOOSE -- Late singles were at Bosque NWR 5/8 (RT) and Bitter L. 5/15 (KW). Most were gone by late March, leaving small numbers through late April.

ROSS' GOOSE -- unusual: 500 at Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH), even outnumbering the Snow Geese present. Two at Bitter L. 4/4-17 (KW).

CANADA GOOSE -- 292 on Farmington count was high. 1 late bird at Las Vegas NWR 4/26 (PSn). A nest was sighted on a cliff wall in the Rio Grande Gorge (D. True).

WOOD DUCK -- 8 on Farmington count and 6 at Belen 4/18 (WH). A pair remained at Randal's Pool in southern Doña Ana County throughout the period and may have nested (JDo, BZ). A single at Rattlesnake Springs 4/10 (MF).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- 1,500 at Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH).

MALLARD -- breeding: A female found nesting in an old Great Horned Owl nest 30 feet above the ground in Alameda. Eggs hatched 5/19, with 7 or 8 young produced (JP). This also happened in June, 1980.

Mexican-like MALLARDS and subspecific intergrades -- A single at Mangas Springs 3/7 and later (RF). 1, possibly 2, at Bosque NWR on 4/14 and 2 on 5/5 (RT). 1 at Percha Dam SP 5/3 (PI, CR) was thought to be an intergrade. The only Pecos Valley report was of a pair at Bitter L. 5/16-22 (KW).

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- A high of 2,000 at Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH).

GADWALL -- Also a high, 1,200 at Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH).

CANVASBACK -- 3 at Bitter L. 5/29 (KW) were late.

REDHEAD -- Highs were 450 on 3/1 and 1,000 on 3/10 at Zuni (TR). 4 at Bitter L. 5/29 (KW) were late.

LESSER SCAUP -- Also late, 5 on 5/29 at Bitter L. (KW).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- Latest report was a female at Bitter L. 4/16 (KW).

BLACK SCOTER -- Reported with no details was 1 near Ruidoso 3/21 (Cricket Kerr). Scarce in N.M.

HOODED MERGANSER -- Only sighting, 2 females at the Santa Fe R. delta at Cochiti L. 3/5 (Pst).

COMMON MERGANSER -- First spring reports were of singles at the Randall Davey Nature Center 3/18 and 4/8 (CR).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- Reported primarily from Cochiti L. and the lower Pecos Valley. At Cochiti, a male 3/29 (WH), 3 males and 2 females 4/12 (Pst), and 2 males 4/12 (JH). In lower Pecos, 2 males at Bitter L. 3/12 and a female 3/12 at L. McMillan, with 3 at Bitter L. until at least 3/27 (KW).

TURKEY VULTURE -- Earliest, all singles: Cochiti L. 4/10 and Sumner L. 3/25 (Pst), Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH), Bitter L. 3/15 (KW), Pleasanton 3/20 (SW1) and L. McMillan 3/12 (Pst)...569 on Sandia spring raptor count.

OSPREY -- Earliest was 1 at Bitter L. 3/24 (KW). Stragglers were at Maxwell NWR 5/15 (WH), Bitter L. 5/29 (KW), Percha Dam SP 5/19 (Pst), Mescalero Apache Reservation 5/24 (JM), and near the US 180 bridge in Grant County 5/3 (RF)...42 on Sandia count.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- 1 on 4/11 was a first on Sandia raptor count...1 or 2 10 miles s. of Animas 5/19-20, 29 (D. Lee).

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- breeding: A nesting pair in Roswell in late April and early May (v. o.)...A first for Sandia count, 1 on 4/16...1 at Rattlesnake Springs on Eddy count.

BALD EAGLE -- Singles w. of Rio Grande Gorge bridge 3/2 (Rick Garcia) and n. of Tres Piedras 3/12 (Bill Moehn). 2 or 3 at Maxwell NWR throughout the period (WM)...19 at Cochiti L. 3/14 (WH)...Latest report, 1 adult at Springer L. 4/22 (D&JH)...Only 5 on Sandia count, vs. 38 in 1986.

NORTHERN HARRIER -- breeding: Possible breeding birds at Bitter L. in late May (KW), and at Rattlesnake Springs in Eddy count...1 s. of Animas 5/20 (Pst) was late.

COOPER'S HAWK -- 536 on Sandias count.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- 450 on Sandias count.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- breeding: 2 nests at Zuni 5/28 (JT)...None of the known nesting sites in Grant County was occupied this year (RF).

COMMON BLACK HAWK -- breeding: 3 nesting pairs in Grant County in late April and early May (RF)...First arrived at Pleasanton 3/21; 2 present 3/26 and after (SW1).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- unusual: Melanistic adult in Albuquerque 5/25 (SH)...1 circling over Caballo Dam SP 5/3 (RT), and an immature at Rattlesnake Springs 4/22 (MF)...None on Sandias count.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK -- 1* e. of Mule Creek 4/16 (TH, Tonimarie Strenach)...None on Sandias count.

RED-TAILED HAWK -- breeding: Most known nests in Grant County produced only 1 or 2 chicks, vs. 3 or 4 in previous years (RF).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1 at Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH); unusual there at any time.... None on Sandias count.

GOLDEN EAGLE -- breeding: Nest with young at Nutria L. No. 2, Zuni, 5/28 (JT). ...Sandia count of 214 was lowest in 3 years.

PRAIRIE FALCON -- breeding: 1 on nest in lower Gila Box, Grant County, 4/9 (RF).

RING-NECKED PHEASANT -- 44 on Farmington count.

WILD TURKEY -- 1 at Bosque NWR 4/25 (RT).

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- 2 at Mangas Springs 5/17 and 31 (RF); 6 to 12 at Post Office Canyon throughout period (RS); 2 in Clanton Canyon 4/26 (D&Jho).

NORTHERN BOEWHITE -- 2 at Bitter L. all spring (KW) were at the extreme western edge of their range.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- 99 logged on the Farmington count.

YELLOW RAIL -- 1 reported but unverified at Bitter L. during the week of 5/16-22 (fide KW).

SANDHILL CRANE -- Late reports included 5 at Percha Dam SP 3/26 (DM) and 6 at Bitter L. 3/25 (KW). Much later were 10 flying north over the Sandias 4/21 (WH). None found at Bosque NWR 4/11 (PSn).

SNOWY PLOVER -- breeding: First young of the year at Bitter L. 5/28 (KW).... Several reports from Bosque NWR, including as many as 6 on 4/25 (RT) and 2 on 5/19 (PSt). First of season for N.M. was a single at Bitter L. 3/12 (PSt). Numbers there rose to 12 the next day and a high of 133 on 5/2 (fide KW). West of usual range in state was 1 at the junction of I-10 and NM 338 in Hidalgo County 4/26 (D&Jho).

PIPING PLOVER -- unusual: 1 photographed at Springer L. 4/22 (D&Jho). This is the first verified record for N.M., following 2 previous sight records, at L. Avalon 8/10/64 by R. C. Brummett (Audubon Field Notes 18:527), and at Bosque NWR 4/5/81 (D&SH).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- Possibly the first Dona Ana County record was a single photographed near Las Cruces 3/24-4/1 (EZ+).

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- Spring arrival at Bitter L. was 3/20 (KW).

AMERICAN AVOCET -- Spring arrivals in the south were 2 at Holloman L. 3/8 (R&KJ), and 4 at L. McMillan 3/12 (PSt).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1 on Farmington count.

WILLET -- Abnormally high numbers at Morgan L. -- 150 on 4/29 and 60 on 4/30 (HL).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- Several lingered after normal spring departure dates, including 6 w. of Lordsburg 5/23 (RF) and 3 at Bitter L. 5/29 (KW). Often singles will remain, but not small groups.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Spring firsts were 1 at Bosque NWR 3/30 (CR) and, in the Pecos Valley, 1 at Bitter L. 4/6 (KW). High of 77 near Tularosa 4/9 (J&Nht).

MARBLED GODWIT -- West of normal migration route were 1 at Zuni 4/27 (DC) and 3 to 4 at Heron L. 4/18 (CR). More regular in Pecos Valley, with 8 at L. McMillan 4/28 (D&Jho).

SANDERLING -- 3 on 5/15 at Bitter L. (KW), where unusual in spring. Species is much more regular in the fall in the southeast.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- 1 at L. McMillan 5/10 (PSt).

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 60 at Caballo L. 3/29 (WH); unusually high for the period.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- Several sightings; in May at Tucumcari L. (BU), 2 on 5/6 at Holloman L. (R&KJ), small numbers through spring at Bitter L., the last being a single 5/29 (KW).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 1 at Zuni 4/25 (DC, TR); 2 at Percha Dam SP 5/1 (RT).

DUNLIN -- 2 in breeding plumage seen at some distance at L. McMillan 3/12 (PSt).

STILT SANDPIPER -- 34, an unusual number, at Bosque NWR 5/19 (PSt, Bob Edens).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 1, possibly this species, in Clayton area 5/15 (WC).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- Very early, 10 at Laguna Grande 3/12 (PSt). 40+ at Las Vegas NWR 4/26 (PI), 800 on the OCBC count, and 200+ at Bitter L. 4/17 (KW).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE -- Only spring report, 3 near White Lakes 5/25 (JH).

FRANKLIN'S GULL -- 3 at Bitter L. 3/20 (KW) and 1 at Cochiti 3/22 (PI) were early; small numbers reported from the Rio Grande Valley east through 5/28.

LITTLE GULL -- unusual: The immature at L. McMillan over the winter was probably seen there 3/20 (PSt).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 3 at Morgan L. 5/6 (HL); 1 at Bitter L. 5/2, 7 (KW); 20 at L. McMillan 3/20 (PSt) and 1 there 4/28 (D&Jho).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 1 subadult at Maxwell NWR 5/13 (WH).

HERRING GULL -- 1 immature at Cochiti L. 3/14 (WH), 3/22 (CR), and 4/5 (WH).

SABINE'S GULL -- unusual: 2 reported at Zuni 4/23 (DC). This species is exceedingly rare in the U.S. Interior in spring.

FORSTER'S TERN -- Reported statewide from 4/17 to 5/15, with a high of 26 at Bitter L. 5/2 (KW).

LEAST TERN -- Arrived at Bitter L. 5/8 (KW).

BLACK TERN -- Reported nearly statewide 5/2 to 5/28. Highs were 40 at Maxwell NWR 5/15 (WH), 60 at Morgan L. 5/6 (HL), and 200+ at Holloman L. 5/7 (R&KJ).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- A flock of 5 flew past the Sandia raptor lookout 4/23 (WH).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- unusual: Singles at High Rolls 4/21 (JTa) and at Mountain Park, Otero County, daily (Jim and Jane Cadwallader)...Up to 60 by mid-April in Post Office Canyon. (RS).

MOURNING DOVE -- A high of 702 on the Farmington count.

INCA DOVE -- Singles seen at residences in northeast Albuquerque 4/11 (RT) and 4/25 (PST); possibly the same bird, since locations are only a half-mile apart.

BLUE-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Aratinga acuticauda*) -- unusual: 3** were still coming to a feeder at the home of Ellie Fontana-Prentice in Alameda in April. A pair first appeared there in June 1985 and nested the following year, fledging one young, increasing the number to 3. Photo published in the Albuquerque Journal.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI -- unusual: 1 reported, without supporting details, at Randal's Pool 5/22 (Dennis Taylor, fide BZ).

COMMON BARN OWL -- breeding: A nestling found at Bitter L. week of 5/23-29 (KW). 1 at Española 3/31 (MC).

GREAT HORNED OWL -- breeding: 2 nests at Bitter L. week of 3/21-27 (KW); 2 nests in Grant County fledged 2 young each; most known nests in Grant County produced only 1 or 2 owlets, vs. 3 or 4 in most previous years (RF).

SPOTTED OWL -- unusual: 2 in Black Rock Canyon, Zuni, 5/28 (JT).

BOREAL OWL -- unusual: 1 adult male in Cumbres Pass area 4/14-19; first documented record for state. Complete details and photograph (John J. Rawinski, DSt). See introduction to this issue.

CAPRIMULGID species -- 1 without details from Clayton area ~~4/7~~ 4/7 (WC); reported as a Common Nighthawk; at this date it could well have been a Lesser Nighthawk.

COMMON POORWILL -- First heard calling at Pleasanton 4/8 (SW1).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK -- 1 calling e. of Pecos R., s. of Carlsbad 5/9 (PST).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- First of season at Bitter L. 5/16 (KW).

CHIMNEY SWIFT -- Several near Roswell in May (Jim Montgomery, fide KW). Only report.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- First arrivals at Los Alamos 4/10 (PSn); 6 at Bandelier NM 3/7 (CR); 10 at Zuni 4/25 (TR), and 1 at Pleasanton with flock of 80 there on 3/26 (SW1).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: 2 at Cloudcroft 4/21 (Naomi Dobbins); no details.

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD -- Up to 8 to 10 returned to Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.; first male 3/31; first female 4/4; at least 3 pairs probably nesting; 6 to 8 remained at the end of the period.

BELTED KINGFISHER -- unusual: 1 along Frijolés Creek near the Ceremonial Cave in Bandelier NM 3/7 (CR). Probably a migrant or wanderer, since the stream has not been stocked for 50 years and is blocked from the Rio Grande by Upper and Lower Falls. The few surviving trout probably insufficient to support a resident fisher.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER -- 1 on the OCBC count, in an area where seldom reported, near the southern limit of its range.

ACORN WOODPECKER -- 1 male and 1 female seen at a Ruidoso residence 4/25, 30 (R&VM).

GILA WOODPECKER -- unusual: 1 along the San Francisco R. 2/5 (SW1) was north of range...5 in Guadalupe Canyon 5/21 (PSt).

RED-NAPIED SAPSUCKER -- 1 at Durling's farm 4/16 (BZ, JDo) was a somewhat late migrant.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- breeding: A pair were nesting in a ponderosa cavity in Mortendad Canyon, Los Alamos County, at 6,800 feet and carrying food to it on 5/20 (BL); a low elevation and unusual nest site and habitat. H.H.Harrison reports that the species nests only in aspen in Colorado. This is also the typical nest site in the Jemez Mts.

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- 2 on the Sacramento R. 3/15 (R&KJ) and 1 at Ruidoso 4/6 (R&VM) were near the southern limit of range.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- 1 yellow-shafted form at Bosque NWR 3/3 (RT).

NORTHERN BEARDLESS TYRANNULET -- 1 probable near Redrock 4/25, well north of usual range (D&JHo).

GREATER PEWEE -- 1 on Gila Valley count.

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 2 singing s. of White Lakes 5/25 (JH).

BLACK PHOEBE -- Well established at Zuni, with at least 8 pairs 5/28-29 (JT). 1 near Sena 5/25 (JH, JV) was only report from upper Pecos Valley.

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1 near Sena 5/25 (JH, JV).

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER -- Only report, 1 in Clanton Canyon 4/26 (D&JHo).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER -- 1 at Hobbs 3/24 (PSt) was early.

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- 1 at Redrock 5/1 (CR).

WESTERN KINGBIRD -- 1 near Santa Fe 3/22 (PI) was very early, and 1 near Farmington 4/17 (AN) was at least a week early.

EASTERN KINGBIRD -- Singles at Encino 4/30 (CR) and Bitter L. (fide KW) were in areas where rarely reported.

PURPLE MARTIN -- 2+ e. of White Lakes 5/25 (JH); new area for species.

TREE SWALLOW -- About 15 at Bosque NWR 3/3 (RT) was earliest report.

BANK SWALLOW -- 50+ at Zuni 5/1 (DC) was a high count for area.

BARN SWALLOW -- breeding: 18 to 20 nests near San Simon Cienega 5/23 (RF).

GRAY JAY -- unusual: 2 seen on sw. edge of Valle Grande, Jemez Mts., 4/1 (PSt); species casual there in recent years.

BLUE JAY -- Stayed all winter in numbers in Raton; in groups of about 10, and about 8 were still present in west Raton 4/21 (RY); 1 in Silver City was last seen 5/12 (RF).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- 1 on 3/5 at Rio Rancho (RR), well s. of normal range.

AMERICAN CROW -- breeding: A nest found on mesa s. of Nutria L. No. 2 5/28 (JT).

COMMON RAVEN -- breeding: A pair nested 15 miles e. of White Lakes, and another near Leyba, San Miguel County, 5/25 (JH).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- breeding: New nest on windmill in Gila Lower Box with adult on nest 4/17 (RF).

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- 5 at Iron Creek campground, Black Range, 5/23 (PSt).

BUSH TIT -- breeding: Active nest found at Los Alamos 5/27 (HL)....1 near University of New Mexico campus in Albuquerque 4/29 (WH).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- A pair excavating a nest in a pinyon tree near Pleasanton 4/12 (SW1) were in a very low elevation and in atypical habitat for the species.

CACTUS WREN -- unusual: 1 at Pleasanton 3/1-20 (M.J.Renfro, Sm1).

BEWICK'S WREN -- breeding: A pair nested in Santa Fe and were carrying food daily in May (SBo).

WINTER WREN -- unusual: 2* at Bandelier NM 3/7 (CR).

SEDGE WREN -- 1 at Bitter L. during the week of 3/8-13 (KW).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- Low-elevation reports included several at Santa Fe through at least 4/19 (CR) and at Zuni 4/12-16 (DC), 3 at Holloman L. 3/8 (RJ+), and 4 to 6 near Pleasanton 3/13-4/2 (SW1).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- Arrived in Sandia Mts. 4/16 (Wh).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 3/31 (CR) were very early, vs. the previous early date of 4/3 for the Pecos Valley area. 1 at Grapevine Canyon, Otero County, 4/18 (OCBC); 1 at L. McMillan on Eddy count 5/10 is the latest spring report for the Pecos Valley by 9 days.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- 1 male and 2 females s. of Los Lunas 3/22 (WH), and 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 5/9 (RT).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- breeding: Out of 8 nest boxes at Armstrong Camp west of Raton, 2 were occupied by this species (RY)....Present in low numbers statewide this spring (PSn), except near Raton, where they were more common than usual (RY). Also present at Tucumcari L. in May (BU).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- breeding: 2 in nest boxes at Armstrong Camp (see above) (RY)....Absent from Tucumcari L. (BU); 4 at Bitter L. 3/26-28 (KW).

AMERICAN ROBIN -- About 100 at Truth or Consequences 4/9 (DM).

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1 detailed at Redrock 5/21 (PSt).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Arrived at Tularosa 4/16 (J&Nht) and at Truth or Consequences 4/24 (DM); 100 on Gila Valley count was high.

SAGE THRASHER -- 1 or 2 at Bitter L. 3/8-31; 1 at Zuni 4/25 (TR).

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 at Santa Fe 5/3-6 (JH); 1 or 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 3/7, 3/31 and 5/9 (CR, PSt+).

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 2 near Laguna Pueblo 4/18 (WH); 2 in Animas Valley 5/20 (PSt).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- The wintering bird last seen at Santa Fe 3/12 (SDo).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- breeding: A nest in Embudito Canyon had fledged 2 young by 4/16 (HS).

WATER PIPIT -- 75 at Bosque NWR 3/29 (WH); 1 at L. McMillan 5/10 (CR+) was later than usual.

CEDAR WAXWING -- Small numbers persisted in many parts of N.M. into late May, as usual.

PHAINOPEPLA -- 1 in Magdalena Mts. 3/18 (JS); 3 near Alamogordo 5/17, 22 (GF); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 5/18 (fide MF).

BELL'S VIREO -- 13 on the Gila Valley count was a new high. Arrived at Rattlesnake Springs 4/19 (fide MF), with at least 3 to 4 there 5/10, 24 (CR+).

GRAY VIREO -- 2 singing near Zuni 5/26 (JT).

SOLITARY VIREO -- 1 thought to be of the eastern solitarius race was at Donaldson's farm on the early date for the species of 3/28 (BZ, JDo). This race is known primarily as a fall migrant in N.M., only in the eastern sector.

RED-EYED VIREO -- 1 reported with no details on the Gila Valley count (DSe).

TENNESSEE WARBLER -- 1 with good details at Redrock 5/1 (CR); singles with no details at Albuquerque 5/24 (SH) and at Rattlesnake Springs 5/9 (fide MF).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- First arrivals reported 4/19, with 1 at Rattlesnake Springs (MF) and 2 in the Sandia Mts. (WH).

NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 4/29 (D&Ho).

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER -- 1 at Pleasanton 4/9 (SW1) was early. Arrived in Sandia Mts. 4/19 (WH).

LUCY'S WARBLER -- Arrived at Glenwood 3/24 (SW1); 2 at Percha Dam SP 5/3 (PI,CR).

NORTHERN PARULA -- 1 reported with no details at Los Alamos 5/13 (WW, fide BL).

YELLOW WARBLER -- Arrival of 4 at Pleasanton 4/9 (SW1) may represent a normal arrival time for that area, but would be 1 to 2 weeks early for rest of N.M.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 1 at Rio Rancho 5/18 (RR); 1 at Fort Union 5/11-15 without details (Richard Beidelman).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- Myrtle race: 1 at Santa Fe 4/27 and 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 3/31 (CR). Audubon's race: Singles at El Vado L. and Los Ojos 4/18 (CR), and at Holloman L. 5/31 (JM).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER -- 1 at Randall Davey Nature Center 4/27 (CR); unusual in spring.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- unusual: 1 well described at Bosque NWR 4/14 (Cesllyn Brozek) was the 8th N.M. record, 7 being in the spring.

GRACE'S WARBLER -- First were 5 at Bandelier NM 4/25 (CR), apart from 1 reported with no details at Rattlesnake Springs 4/14 (fide MF).

OVENBIRD -- 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 4/14 without details (fide MF).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1 at Clayton L. 5/26 (WC); 1 at Fort Union 5/11-15 (Richard Beidelman); 1 at Mesa rest stop 4/30 (CL); 1 at Percha Dam SP 5/3 (CR); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 4/29 (D&JH) and 5/4 (fide MF).

MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER -- First arrivals were 2 at Bitter L. 5/2 (KW).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 1 at McAllister L. 4/26 (Pst).

WILSON'S WARBLER -- Arrived 4/18-26 in Roswell (KW) and 4/19 at Rattlesnake Springs (MF).

RED-FACED WARBLER -- 1 in Black Range 5/3 (PI, CR); 5 to 10 at Cherry Creek 5/22-23 (Pst).

PAINTED REDSTART -- 1 in Alamo Canyon 3/14 (R&KJ); 1 at Aguirre Springs 3/29 (JM); 1 at Iron Creek in Black Range 5/23 (Pst); 2 at Pleasanton 3/19 and 2 there 3/26 (SW1).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- First reports were 1 at Redrock 5/1 (CR) and 4 at Zuni 5/9 (TR).

HEPATIC TANAGER -- 2 at White Lakes, a new locality, 5/25 (JH).

SUMMER TANAGER -- unusual: 1 at Clayton 5/14 (WC); only 2 confirmed reports there.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- breeding: Nest low in juniper in Sycamore Canyon 5/25 (RF). Probable pair nesting (present in April and May) at Randal's Pool, where rare (BZ+).

PYRRHULOXIA -- Peripheral reports on 5/2: 1 at Roswell (KW) and 2 on the Gila Valley count.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 6 single males reported: Santa Fe 5/21 (SW1), Albuquerque 4/28-30 (Pst), Bitter L. 5/26 (KW), La Luz Canyon 5/4-7, 5/19-25 (GF), near Tularosa 5/13 (J&Nht), and Rattlesnake Springs on Eddy count.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK -- First arrivals: Los Alamos 5/3 (PSn) and Santa Fe 5/2 (JH).

INDIGO BUNTING -- 5 at Maxwell NWR 5/15 (WH), 1 at Clayton 5/8 (WC), 1 at Mesa rest area 5/8 (PSn), 1 at Bitter L. 5/28 (KW), and 1 at Rattlesnake Springs on Eddy count.

PAINTED BUNTING -- 6 at L. McMillan on Eddy count.

DICKCISSEL -- unusual: Male at Durling's farm 5/6 (JDo, BZ), where unexpected in spring....1 at Santa Fe feeder 4/14-15 (JH).

BROWN TOWHEE -- 3 at L. McMillan on Eddy count were e. of usual range.

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- unusual: 1 singing at Zuni 5/29 (JT) was outside the normal range....7 singing near Sabinoso 5/30 (PI, CR) and 8 singing ne. of Las Cruces 5/23 (CR).

RUFUS-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 at Clayton L. 4/12 (WC) was second record for area.

BREWER'S SPARROW -- 16 at Maxwell NWR 5/15 (WH).

VESPER SPARROW -- 25+ mostly singing at Maxwell NWR 5/25 (WH).

SAGE SPARROW -- 1 at Zuni 3/1 (DC) was early.

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- First singing at Pleasanton 3/26 (SW1) and in Sandia Mts. 4/15 (WH).

LARK BUNTING -- Westerly sightings: 1 at Zuni 4/26 (DC), 2 on Farmington count.

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 5 singing at Maxwell NWR 5/15 (WH).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 3 singing at Maxwell NWR 5/15 (WH). First arrival at Clayton 5/14 (WC).

FOX SPARROW -- Only report, 1 (grayish race) at Pleasanton 3/24 (SW1).

SONG SPARROW -- Late migrants: 1 at Percha Dum SP 5/2 (PI, CR) and 1 at Bitter L. 4/25-5/1 (KW).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- Only report, 1 adult near Alamogordo 4/23, 26 (GF).

HARRIS' SPARROW -- 1 at Farmington about a week starting 5/1 (AN); 1 at Shady Lakes 4/23 and 2 on 4/26 (JP); 1 at Socorro 5/8 (PB); 1 on Gila Valley count.

HOPLINK -- 4 males 5/28 at Parkview (LHS), where species may breed some years. A male 5/26 near Tularosa (JHt), where rare in spring.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- A Zuni survey 5/27 yielded 18 singing, vs. 118 Westerns (JT).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 7 at Holloman L. 5/21 (JM) were somewhat late.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- New colony found at San Rafael; maximum of 53 on 4/13 (DC). At Zuni, 12 on 3/1 dwindled to a maximum of 5 on 4/20-5/31 (DC). First arrivals, 3 at Espanola 3/15 and 1 near Santa Fe 3/22 (PI+). High in Gila Valley was 38 on count.

COMMON GRACKLE -- Earliest: 3/22 at Clayton (WC), 4/8 at Albuquerque (WH), and 4/18 at Santa Fe (JH). Westerly were 4 on Farmington count. First local reports were 4 at Velarde 5/14 (LH) and 3 at Encino 4/30 (CR).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- Peripheral were pairs at Truth or Consequences 5/30 (DM), at Silver City (MO) and at Rattlesnake Springs 5/24 (CR).

HOODED ORIOLE -- 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 5/18 (fide MF) was east of usual range.

NORTHERN ORIOLE -- 1 in Oso Canyon, Carson National Forest, in ponderosa pines 5/31 (AN) was out of typical habitat.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- Peripheral singles on Farmington count, at Zuni 5/26 (JT), and near Trujillo 5/30 (CR).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Small numbers to mid-April in Los Alamos, Zuni and Sandia areas (v.o.). Singles at Tularosa 3/29 (J&Nht) and Ruidoso 4/5 (R&VM).

RED CROSSBILL -- Small numbers near Fort Union 5/11-15 (Richard Beidelman), Santa Fe 5/30-31 (JH, LH), Sandias 5/17 (RR) and Sacramento Mts. 3/15 and 5/2-3 (RJ+).

PINE SISKIN -- Generally few in San Juan, Rio Grande and Pecos Valleys into May (v.o.).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Fairly widespread into May, but in small numbers (v.o.).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Fairly numerous in mountains into May, including Jemez, southern Sangre de Cristo, Sandia, Piños Altos, Sacramento and Sierra Blanca (v.o.). Other reports, 90 on Farmington count, 36+ at Santa Fe (JH), 2+ at Zuni (DC), 8 at Rio Rancho 4/29 (RR), 1 at Albuquerque 5/2 (RT).