

Disclaimer: This file has been scanned with an optical character recognition program, often an erroneous process. Every effort has been made to correct any material errors due to the scanning process. Some portions of the publication have been reformatted for better web presentation. Announcements and add copy have usually been omitted in the web presentation. We would appreciate that any errors other than formatting be reported to the NMOS at this web site. Any critical use of dates or numbers from individual records should be checked against the original publication before use as these are very difficult to catch in editing.

New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes

Volume 34, No. 1
December 1, 1994 to February 28, 1995

Editor: Patricia R. Snider

Editorial Advisor:
Sartor O. Williams III

Report Sightings to Dr. Sartor O. Williams III
New Mexico Bird Records Committee
65 Verano Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Winter 1994-1995 Highlights

Abnormally warm temperatures, plus generally above-average precipitation in many areas, combined for a mild winter. An exception in December was the northern highlands, which were unusually dry with little snow.

Several hummingbird species took advantage of the mild winter weather. Noticeable movements included jays, chickadees, and all three nuthatch species into the lowlands, thrushes and thrashers followed patchy food crops, and water birds and sparrows wintered north in numbers.

Exciting stragglers were Garganey, Mew and Thayer's gulls, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Long-billed Thrasher, and Pine Warbler.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

CBC - Christmas Bird Count	RBA - Rare Bird Alert
Co. - County	RGNC - Rio Grande Nature Center
EBL - Elephant Butte Lake	RGV - Rio Grande Valley
IR - Indian Reservation	SP - State Park
L. - Lake	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
Mt(s) - Mountain (s)	v.o. - various observers
N.M. - New Mexico	+ - and others, plus
NM - Natl. Monument	** - photo or tape
NP - National Park	* - details given
NWR - Natl. Wildlife Refuge	*** - specimen collected
R. - River	

PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTIES

Abuquerque (Bernalillo)	Espanola (Rio Arriba)
Alma (Catron)	Farmington, Lake (San Juan)
Animas, Valley (Hidalgo)	Gila, R. Valley (Grant)
Avalon Lake (Eddy)	Holloman Lake (Otero)
Bitter L. NWR (Chaves)	Isleta marsh (Bernalillo)
Bluewater Lake (Cibola)	Jal (Lea)
Bosque(del Apache)NWR(Socorro)	Jornada Range (Dona Ana)
Brantley Lake (Eddy)	La Joya WMA (Sierra)
Caballo Lake (Sierra)	Las Cruces (Dona Ana)
Capitan (Lincoln)	Las Vegas, NWR (San Miguel)
Carlsbad (Eddy)	Lordsburg (Hidalgo)
Carlsbad Caverns NP (Eddy)	Loving (Eddy)
Clayton, Lake (Union)	Mangas Springs (Grant)
Clovis (Curry)	Maxwell NWR (Colfax)
Columbus (Luna)	Mesilla, Park (Dona Ana)
Conchas Lake (San Miguel)	Morgan Lake (San Juan)
Deming (Luna)	Navajo Lake, IR (San Juan)
Eagle Nest (Colfax)	Otis (Eddy)
Elephant Butte L. (Sierra)	Peloncillo Mts. (Hidalgo)
Engle (Sierra)	Percha SP (Sierra)

Pleasanton (Catron)
Quemado, Lake (Catron)
Rattlesnake Springs (Eddy)
Red River (Taos)
Redrock (Grant)
Roswell (Chaves)
San Andres NWR (Dona Ana)
San Jon (Quay)
San Simon Cienega (Hidalgo)
Sandia Heights (Bernalillo)
Sandia Mts. (Bernalillo)
Santa Fe (Santa Fe)
Santa Rosa, Lake (Guadalupe)

Santa Teresa (Dona Ana)
SevilletaNWR(FivePoints,Socorro)
Silver City (Grant)
Socorro (Socorro)
Storrie Lake (San Miguel)
Stubblefield Lake (Colfax)
Tucumcari (Quay)
Ute Lake (Quay)
Uvas Valley (Luna)
Virden (Hidalgo)
Washington Ranch (Eddy)
Willow Lake (Eddy)
Zuni, Mts. (McKinley)

CONTRIBUTORS' INITIALS USED

SB - Baldwin, Sy
SMB - Bixler, Sherry
TB - Bulow, Tamie
DC - Cleary, David
SC - Cox, Steven
LC - Cuellar, Louis
RWD - Dickerman, Bob
DE - Emkalns, Doug
EE - Espinoza, Ellen
GE - Ewing, Gordon
RF - Fisher, Ralph
BF - Foy, Bernard
LG - Gorbet, Larry
RG - Gracey, Rebecca
TH - Hines, Tom J.
WH - Howe, William
JPH - Hubbard, John
SI - Ingraham, Steve
PI - Insley, Pat
DL - Leal, David
EL - Lewis, Eugene
MM - Medrano, Mike
DM - Mehlman, David
AN - Nelson, Alan

BN - Neville, Bruce
JO - Oldenettel, J.
JP - Parmeter, John
JNP - Paton, James
MP - Peckinpaugh, M.
TR - Reeves, Tim
JR - Rini, Jim
CR - Rustay, Chris
CS - Sandell, Cathy
RS - Scholes, Robt.
HS - Schwarz, Hart
PRS - Snider, Pat
TS - Stans, Ted
PS - Steel, Paul
RT - Teuber, Ross
JY - Trochet, John
SV - Vail, Scott
BV - Vaughn, Brad
MW - Weisberger, M.
SW - West, Steve
SOW - Williams, S.O.
EW - Wootten, Eleanor
BZ - Zimmer, Barry
DAZ - Zimmerman, Dale

1994 CHRISTMAS COUNT TOTALS

Albuquerque	Dec. 18	HS	102	22,903
Avalon-Brantley L.	Dec. 20	MM	109	7,368
Bluewater Lake	Dec. 18	SI	70	2,331
Bosque del Apache	Dec. 17	SC	100	67,804
Caballo-Percha Dam	Jan. 2	BZ	126	10,103
Carlsbad Caverns	Dec. 17	SW	77	1,975
Espanola	Dec. 31	BF	69	3,773
Farmington	Dec. 17	AN	76	23,618
Five Points	Dec. 17	RT	49	7,625
Gila River	Dec. 30	RF	111	6,298
Las Cruces	Dec. 18	EW	111	17,243
Las Vegas	Dec. 17	AMcFa	88	8,423
Loving	Dec. 31	SW	108	8,176
Peloncillo Mts.	Jan. 1	RS	82	4,600
Roswell	Dec. 17	SMB	109	47,525
Sandia Mts.	Jan. 1	TB	58	6,615
Santa Fe	Dec. 18	PI	63	9,890
Sevilleta NWR	Dec. 22	TS	74	5,655
Silver City	Dec. 17	RF	81	3,993
Zuni	Dec. 17	JT	81	11,759

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON -- In good numbers, with 1 to 8 at 8 lakes from the northwest to the southeast, including 1 at Jemez Canyon L., Sandoval Co., on 12/16 (JO). High counts of 8 on 12/10 at Conchas L. (JO, JP, CR) and 7 on Brantley L. on 12/22 (JP, JO, LC).

HORNED GREBE -- Made perhaps their best showing ever, with 1 to 5 at 14 localities in the San Juan, Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian R. drainages (v.o.); including 1 at Holloman L. on 2/27 (GE*).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Small numbers wintered in the lower RGV (v.o.) and Pecos Valley (SW); high counts of 43 at Caballo L. 1/2 (BZ+) and 19 at Avalon L. 2/19 (JO).

GREAT EGRET -- Was in the north at Isleta marsh on 2/19 (JP); elsewhere 1 to 3 over-wintered from Bosque NWR (v.o.) and Bitter L. NWR (GE, SMB+) southward.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 7 to 10 were at Morgan L. on 12/29, 2/17 (TR+), and 2/4 (JO, JP, LC). The very high count of 125 was at Six-Mile Dam near Otis on 1/22 (SW).

TUNDRA SWAN -- 1 at Maxwell NWR from 2/11 to 2/25 (DM, JO+),

CR+); 3 adults in Santa Fe from 12/4 to 12/7 (CR, JO+, Lois Herrmann, Brian Long, Don MacCarter**); an adult and 2 to 4 immatures at Bosque NWR from 1/7 to 2/26 (JP, JO, v.o.); 3 at Caballo L. on 12/11 (JO, LC).

MUTE SWAN -- 1 adult at Caballo L. 1/6 was flying free (JO).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 3 at Farmington on 1/1 (TR+); 1 on an Albuquerque golf course on 2/9 (HS); on 12/17 1 was at Caballo L. (BV) and seen flying at nearby Percha SP on 1/2 (JNP*, BV).

SNOW GOOSE -- 1 with Canada Geese at Cotton City, Hidalgo Co. 2/10-11 (JO). Up to 8000 were wintering near Columbus (CR, JNP, JO).

ROSS' GOOSE -- Reports away from usual areas included 6 at Farmington 1/1 (TR), 2 to 16 near Columbus 1/15 to 2/6 (JO, CR), and 1 on the Loving CBC 12/31 (SV*).

CANADA GOOSE -- Of the small Cackling form were 30 to 40 at Maxwell NWR on 2/25 (CR+); 25 Cackling with 5 of the giant subspecies on Storrie L. on 12/31 (JPH+); 12 "small" ones were on the Bosque NWR CBC on 12/17 (SC+).

WOOD DUCK -- Continued to show numbers and range gains, with reports from 12 locales; on 12/18 a high count of 188 at Albuquerque (HS+); unexpected were 3 near San Juan Pueblo, Rio Arriba Co., on 12/31 (BF+*), 3 at Zuni 12/17 (JT*), 1 near Gila on 12/30 (*fide* RF), 2 at Silver City on 12/17 (RF+), 1 male in the Uvas Valley on 2/18 (CS), and 5 on 12/30 at Jal L. (JO).

MALLARD (Mexican Duck) -- 2 pairs at Bosque NWR on 12/17 (DM*) and 2/25 (PS); 47 in the Uvas Valley on 2/5 (CR, DE, BN); about 15 at the Lordsburg playas on 12/1 (JPH, EE) and 2 on 1/20 (CR); 24 to 30 in the Columbus area on 1/21 and 2/6 (CR); 40 near Anthony, Dona Ana Co., on 1/20 (SW).

GARGANEY -- Unusual: a possible pair on the Pecos R. n. of Avalon L. near Carlsbad on 12/20 (SW*).

CINNAMON TEAL -- The only January record was 3 males at Bosque NWR on 1/21 (PS).

GREATER SCAUP -- Now regularly reported in winter. High counts of 14 to 18 at Stubblefield L. on 2/18 (JP, JO) and 16 at Storrie L. on 12/17 (CR); 1 to 10 at Conchas, Ute, Santa Rosa, and Elephant Butte lakes in December and in February (JO, JP, CR, LC). The only January report was a male at the Tyrone sewage ponds, Grant Co., 1/21 (SW*).

OLDSQUAW -- 1 female on the Rio Grande at Orilla Verde Park near

Pilar, Taos Co., on 12/31 (B. Long**) and 1/19 (PRS).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- Wintering south of its normal range were a female at Bonito L., Lincoln Co., on 2/11 (CR); 1 to 2 at EBL 12/11, 2/12, and 2/26 (JO); up to 5 in the Percha SP-Caballo L. area from 1/2 to 2/26 (BZ+, GE, JO, LC); 1 female at Bitter L. NWR 2/19 (JO); 20 on Six-Mile Dam near Otis on 2/2 (SW).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- Again wintered in small numbers on the San Juan R. below Navajo L. (JO, JP+, TR, DC**).

HOODED MERGANSER -- Reported in good numbers this winter throughout with 16 on the Bosque NWR CBC on 12/17 (SC+) and 21 on the Caballo L.-Percha Dam CBC on 1/2 (BZ+).

WHITE-TAILED KITE -- 1 adult in the Uvas Valley e. of Nutt, Luna Co, on 1/1 (Ann Henry*, Charles Black), 1/8 (JO*), and 1/21 (JP*, JO).

BALD EAGLE -- Breeding: a pair at a Colfax Co. nest in February (CR, JO, JP, SOW);--402 counted on a statewide aerial survey in January by SOW+. Single adults were at Quemado L. on 12/22 (JPH) and 12/18 (JO), near Alma 12/18 (JO), and at Pleasanton on 2/5 (EE, *fide* JPH); an adult was seen flying n. of Capitan on 2/11 (CR); 1 immature at Brantley L. 12/20 (CR). 1 e. of the Sandia Mts. on 1/1 (Gary Froelich*).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- Singles were in Santa Fe on 12/14 (M. Logsdon*), 12/18 (PI+), and 1/28 (Truel West, *fide* RBA); 1 at Zuni on 12/17 (JT+) and at Bluewater L. on 12/18 (SI+); 1 adult in the Sandia Mts. on 12/11 (BV).

COMMON BLACK-HAWK -- Unusual for winter, but not unprecedented, was an adult near Gila on 12/30 (Kate Skaggs*).

HARRIS' HAWK -- More evidence of its moving into the RGV was provided by 1 at the RGNC in Albuquerque 12/11 (Sei Tokuda+, *fide* RBA), 1 adult at Isleta marsh on 2/8 (JO*), 1 adult at La Joya WMA on 1/7 (DL+*), an adult and an immature in Williamsburg, Sierra Co., 1/20 (PS), 1 adult s. of Hatch, Dona Ana Co., on 1/14 (BZ+), and 2 or 3 at the Old Refuge near Mesilla on 2/19 (*fide* CS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- Wintering a bit south were 1 adult in the Animas Valley on 12/3 (Alan Craig+) and 1/31 (SOW), 1 in Luna Co. 10 miles w. of Columbus on 1/18 (JO), and 1 on the Avalon-Brantley CBC on 12/20 (SW+).

MERLIN -- One of their best showings ever, with at least 40 at 30 sites statewide; 3 races were mentioned (v.o.).

CHUKAR -- 1 at Rio Rancho, Sandoval Co., on 12/13 (Pat Nurocki,

fide RBA) was likely a recent escape.

SCALED QUAIL -- 14 on the Navajo IR, San Juan Co., 12/19 (TR+); 8 at Zuni 12/17 (Alan Schmierer*), where rarely reported.

SANDHILL CRANE -- Over 2000 wintered in the Columbus area, seen 1/21 (JNP) and 2/6 (CR); notable were 150 on 12/17 in the Estancia Valley, Torrance Co. (SOW), 5 near Willard, Torrance Co., on 1/3 (CR); 300 over Animas on 2/4 (CR) and 2/10 (JO). About 250 were in the Virden area 12/10 (JPH, RWD); 200-300 over the Jornada Range 2/22 to 2/28 (CS). 200+ on 2/18 were flying over the head of Big Canyon in the Guadalupe Mts., Eddy Co. (SW+).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1 was remarkably early on 2/25 at the Maxwell NWR (CR+*).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- 2 at the turf farm at Santa Teresa on 2/19 (DE, Chad Wayne).

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- Late were 2 at Avalon L. until 12/20 (SW*, TH).

AMERICAN AVOCET -- Late were 2 at Roswell 12/17 (SMB+).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- A few wintered north to Bosque NWR in the RGV (GE, JO, WH), to Holloman L. on 1/31 and 2/14 (GE), and to Roswell in the Pecos Valley (SMB). 1 on 1/21 at Mangas Springs was a local first (RF).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- Late was 1 at Avalon L. on 12/22 (JP, JO, LC).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- Wintered more widely than usual, with singles north to Navajo L. on 1/27 and 2/10 (TR), Espanola on 12/31 (Dale Stahlecker+), Santo Domingo Pueblo, Sandoval Co., in a snowstorm on 1/4 (Bill West, *fide* RBA), and in Albuquerque on 12/18 (DM*); 13 were on the Caballo L. CBC 1/2 (BZ+) and 2 on the Gila Valley CBC on 12/30 (RF+).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- 2 were in the Uvas Valley on 2/5 (CR, DE, BN).

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 1 or 2 were late at Avalon L. until 12/22 (SW, JP, JO) and near Loving on 12/31 (SW+).

DUNLIN -- Late were singles in the Morgan L. area on 12/19 and 12/29 (TR**); 1 or 2 wintered at Bosque NWR 12/10 to 2/11 (DM*, WH*, JP, PRS, Lois Herrmann, C. Brozek). 6 at Caballo L. on 1/2 (CR*, DE*).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- 1 was early at Bosque NWR on 2/25 (CS,

fide RBA) and 2/26 (JO, LC).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 1 was late at Albuquerque on 12/18 (SC*); several lingered at Brantley L. and Six-mile Dam in Eddy Co. through 12/31 (SW, JP, JO, CR).

MEW GULL -- Unusual: at least 1 adult was at Caballo L. 1/6 (JO*), 1/14 (JP*, LG), 1/16 (BZ**), and 1/29 (BV).

THAYER'S GULL -- Unusual: a first-year immature was at Ute L. on 12/10 (JP*, JO*, CR*).

FORSTER'S TERN -- 4 on 12/31 at Willow L. (SV*, *fide* SW) provided the second Eddy Co. winter record.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- Wintered north to Albuquerque (HS*) and Roswell (SMB) again; 2 wintered in Silver City (EL) and 1 at Virden on 12/7 (JPH, RWD). High counts of 34 at Deming 12/31 (CR), 1680 at Las Cruces 12/18 (EW+), and 43 near Brantley L. on 12/20 (SW+).

MOURNING DOVE -- 65 were in Farmington on 1/21 (TR).

INCA DOVE -- Appeared north to Mangas Springs 1/6 to 2/21 (RF, v.o.); 11 at Socorro 12/17 (JP, John Shipman, JO) and 2 on 2/24 (PS); 5 at Alamogordo, Otero Co., on 1/3 (Bill Fuchs, *fide* RBA); and 4 at Roswell 12/17 (SMB+). Notable high counts were 15 at Deming on 12/3 (CR) and 1/15 (JO) and 59 at Las Cruces on 12/18 (EW+).

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE -- Unusual: 1 at Mangas Springs from 1/6 to 2/8 (RF**, DAZ**, SW, CR*, JP*, JO*, v.o.) was the sixth record since 1984 and a first for Grant Co.

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- 1 was at Black Rock L. near Zuni 1/7 (DC); 1 in Santa Fe on 12/18 (PI+); a pair were courting at Albuquerque on 1/9 (RT).

LONG-EARED OWL -- 10 on the Las Cruces CBC on 12/18 (EW+); 2 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 1/1 (RS+); 2 near Santa Teresa on 1/21 (JO, JP).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- 1 was found dead nw. of Lordsburg on 12/10 (JPH, RWD).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- 1 at Zuni on 12/17 (SI*), where rarely found. In the Sandia Mts. singles were at 2 sites on 1/1 (TB), 1 was found dead on 12/22 (Peter Tallman*), and 1 heard on 2/1 (JO).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- 1 at Caballo L. 2/26 (JO, LC).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- A male wintered at a feeder in Ruidoso, Lincoln Co., until 1/28 and a female was there 12/21 into March (Diana Harris). 1 or 2 at Pinos Altos, Grant Co., in December, left with a snowstorm 1/5 (*fide* RF).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- For the second consecutive winter, a male was n. of Silver City, where it was last seen in late Jan. (RE).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- 3 were at Greenwood Canyon in n. Grant Co. in early Dec. and gone by 1/8 (RE); another was in Las Cruces on 12/18 (EW+). 1 adult male was singing in the Peloncillo Mts. on 1/14 (JO*).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- A male stayed in Las Cruces until 1/5 (GE*).

Selasphorus hummingbird -- 1 female-plumaged at the same Las Cruces feeder stayed until 1/31 (GE).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER -- South of its normal range was 1 on Las Animas Creek, Sierra Co., from 1/2 to 2/26 (CR*, DE*, BZ** JP, JO, CS+).

GILA WOODPECKER -- The only reports were 4 near Gila on 12/30 (RF+), 3 at Redrock on 2/4 (CR+), 1 at Virden on 12/7 (JPH, RWD), and 7 in the Animas Valley on 1/1 (RS+).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 1 female in Tesuque near Santa Fe on 12/18 (CR, *fide* SB) and 1/6 (SB). 1 on 1/28 molting into adult plumage at Conchas L. (JO, JP, LC). 1 or 2 below Caballo dam on 1/2 (John Sproul+*); 1 immature at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/17 (SW).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER -- 1 female in Santa Fe on 1/9 (SB). 1 wintered at Pleasanton (JPH, EE). 1 at Pueblo Park nw. of Alma on 12/3 (JPH).

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- Late in the east were 2 female plumaged at Mills Canyon, Harding Co., on 12/3 (CR). 1 at Pueblo Park nw. of Alma on 12/3 (JPH).

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER -- A record high count of 10 at Santa Fe on 12/18 (PI+).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- 1 male at Bosque NWR on 12/17 (DM*). 19 were counted at Albuquerque on 12/18 (HS+).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER -- 1 at Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts., on 12/18 (JT*) where it is now rarely reported.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- A good season for ones with yellow feathers,

including 3 at Farmington 12/10, 1/18, and 2/22 (TR**), 2 at Santa Fe 12/18 to 1/10 and 2/26 (SB*, sketch), and singles at Zuni 12/18 (Al Schmierer*), Sandia Heights 2/20 and 2/23 (Frank and Rita Slown), 1 male near Alma 12/18 (JO*), and on the Washington Ranch on 12/17 (SW).

Empidonax flycatchers -- 2 "unidentified" were near Gila on 12/30 (RF+). A Western-type was near Las Cruces on 12/18 (GE*, Lorraine Schulte*).

BLACK PHOEBE -- 1 at Bluewater L. on 12/18 (Tom Mayer*); a high count for Albuquerque was 7 on 12/18 (HS+).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- Singles at Bosque NWR 1/14 (G. Froelich, *fide* JP) and 2/11 (JP); Percha SP on 1/2 (BV, JNP), 2/11 (JP), and 2/12 (JO); in Roswell on 12/17 (SMB+); and 12/17 at the Washington Ranch (SW*, TH+).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- 1 male wintered at Roswell (SMB, Jerry Ainsworth*).

TREE SWALLOW -- 10 at Percha SP on 2/26 (JO, LC); 4 at Willow L. on 12/31 (SV+*, *fide* SW).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 2 were early on 2/12 at Caballo L. (JO).

GRAY JAY -- 1 at Wheeler Peak Village and 1 at Red River in Taos Co. on 2/25 (JP, JO); and 7 at the Santa Fe Ski Basin on 2/5 (JO) were the only reports.

STELLER'S JAY -- Staged a submontane incursion, with small numbers at 5 RGV sites from Albuquerque to Las Cruces and at 6 Pecos Valley sites from Roswell southward (v.o). 1 at the Gray Ranch headquarters, Hidalgo Co., on 12/1 (JPH).

BLUE JAY -- Westerly were 2 each at Las Vegas on 12/17 (CR) and Santa Fe 12/13 through February (SB); singles at Albuquerque 12/18 (HS+), 1/8 (BV), and 2/5 (JR, RG); and Vado in Dona Ana Co. on 12/31 (Storm Sermay*). In the east 1 was at Conchas L. on 12/29 (MP).

SCRUB JAY -- Also invaded the lowlands and was present at many of the same locales as the Steller's Jays; 5 east to Conchas L. on 2/15 (MP); high counts of 25 in the Caballo L.-Percha SP area on 1/2 (BZ+), 46 at Las Cruces on 12/18 (EW+), and 35 near Brantley L. on 12/20 (SW+).

GRAY-BREASTED JAY -- Remarkable were 3 possibles at Las Cruces 12/18 (Walt Whitford*). 5 near Pueblo Park nw. of Alma on 12/3 (JPH).

PINYON JAY -- High count was 766 on the Sandia Mts. CBC on 1/1 (TB+).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- Descended into Los Alamos, Los Alamos Co., in unusual numbers, with 12 by 12/15 (W.B. Lewis, BF) and 30 present through February (PRS).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- 1 was far south at Sunland Park, in Dona Ana Co., on 1/22 (BN, DE).

AMERICAN CROW -- Wintering crows continued to thrive; notable in the south were 80 near Gila 12/30 (RF+), 3 near Virden on 12/7 (JPH, RWD), 27 s. of Deming 12/3 (EL), near Columbus 1 on 2/6 (CR), and 1500 at Mesilla on 12/18 (JNP, DE).

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN -- Also notable were about 4000 roosting near Portales, Roosevelt Co., on 1/1 (JO); 75 wintered in Roswell (SMB). 1 at Albuquerque on 12/18 (JP*).

COMMON RAVEN -- 1 at Roswell on 12/17 (Ray Meyer, DL*).

BLACK-CAPPED X MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- On 12/31 a well described hybrid was in Albuquerque (WH*, JR, RG+).

MEXICAN CHICKADEE -- 1 to 3 vagrants were found in the Peloncillo Mts. from 1/1 to 2/11 (JO*, CR*, BN, DE).

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- Widespread and relatively abundant in submontane areas (v.o.), with cemeteries proving productive at Roswell, where there were 15 on 1/14 (SMB), and Deming with 2 to 20 from 12/31 to 2/25 (CR, JO, DE, BN).

BUSHTIT -- East of the range were 10 to 13 in reeds at Ute L. on 12/10 (CR, JO, JP). High counts of 385 on the Santa Fe CBC, 199 on the Silver City CBC, 114 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1 at Redrock on 12/8 (JPH, RWD); 8 were counted at Las Cruces on 12/18 (EW+); 2 at Hobbs in Lea Co. on 12/31 (JO).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Joined the lowland invasion, often in high numbers (v.o.).

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 5 at Las Cruces on 12/18 (B. Dolenzal*); 4 at Mesilla Park on 1/3 (CR); 1 at Carlsbad on 12/20 (MM, *fide* SW).

CACTUS WREN -- Continuing a northeasterly trend were singles in Harding Co. 2/21 (SOW) and e. San Miguel Co. 12/10 (JO, JP, CR); 1 was north to Sevilleta NWR 12/17 (RT+); a pair in Las Cruces was building a nest structure 2/4 to 2/9 (CS).

WINTER WREN -- The only report was 1 at Mangas Springs on 12/30 (RF, Paul Boucher, no details).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1 male near Navajo L. 2/5 (TR+).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- High CBC totals for Eddy Co. of 75 on the Carlsbad Caverns NP, 87 on the Avalon-Brantley L., and 91 on the Loving (SW+).

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- Identified as this species were 1 or 2 at the San Simon Cienega on 1/7 and 2/11 (JO), at Rattlesnake Springs 2/4 (SW), and w. of Jal 12/30 (JO*).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- Singles near Percha SP 2/11 (JP) and on the Jornada Range on 12/1 (CS); 1 at Avalon L. on 12/20 and 12/26 (TH, *fide* SW), 2 at Willow L. 12/31 (SV*, *fide* SW), 2 at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/17 (*fide* SW*).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- New areas included 1 male at Miami L., Colfax Co., 2/10 (CR*), 14 near Duran, Torrance Co., and 2 near White Oaks, Lincoln Co., 2/11 (CR). In the west singles were at Farmington on 1/16 (TR**) and Gila 12/30 (RF+). A record 10 at Silver City on 12/17 (RF+).

WESTERN and MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS -- Irregularly distributed, with record highs and lows of each reflecting local food availability (SOW). Notable for the south were 10 Westerns s. of Columbus 2/6 (CR) and the San Andres NWR in January (MW); while Mountains in the east were conspicuous at Conchas L. 12/10 to 2/18, with 200 on 12/29 (MP, CR+). Record counts of 116 Westerns and 375 Mountains on the Zuni CBC. 382 were on the Sevilleta NWR CBC on 12/22.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE -- 1 to 2 seen east to Clayton L. on 12/2 (JO) and 2/21 (SOW), San Jon 12/10 (CR), Conchas L. 1/28 (JP, JO+); Clovis on 1/1 (JO), Roswell 2/20 (JO).

HERMIT THRUSH -- Scattered numbers wintered throughout, north to Farmington (TR), Zuni (JT), Santa Fe (PI), and Tucumcari (CR, JO). The high count was 31 on the Carlsbad Caverns NP CBC on 12/17 (SW+).

AMERICAN ROBIN -- Abundant in some areas (Albuquerque, San Andres Mts.) and scarce in others (Española and Gila); 5690 at Zuni on 12/17 (JT+) furnished a local record.

GRAY CATBIRD -- Lingering were singles at Bosque NWR through 12/17 (JO, JP*) and at Las Cruces 12/3 to 12/6 (EW, Marge Peterson*).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Singles were found north to Bluewater L. 12/18 (SI), Espanola 12/31 (BF), Conchas L. 12/5 (MP), Ute L. on

12/10 (CR), and the Sandia Mts. 1/1 (TB).

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 remained in Socorro through 1/7 (JO, JP, John Shipman). 1 at Rattlesnake Springs on 2/20 (JO).

LONG-BILLED THRASHER -- Uncommon: 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 2/20 showed many of the characteristics of this species (JO**). Not recorded in the state before.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- 1 at a golf course in Clayton on 12/24 (JO).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- Breeding: a pair at the Petroglyph NM, Bernalillo Co., began nesting on the very early date of 2/19, and was feeding 3 young on 3/11 (HS).

CEDAR WAXWING -- A banner winter with moderate numbers reported from numerous sites nearly statewide (v.o.).

PHAINOPEPLA -- In the southwest found from the San Andres NWR in January (MW) westward, including 3 near Columbus on 2/6 (CR).

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- In near record numbers, totaling about 30 at 20 locales; singles were far south near Quemado 12/18 (JO) and Otero Mesa on 12/7 (Ray Meyer*). 1 near Bluewater L. on 12/18 (SI+).

SOLITARY VIREO -- Lingering or wintering birds included singles described as *plumbeus* at Percha SP on 12/17 (BV) and Deming on 1/15 (JO); *cassinii* at Las Cruces on 12/18 (JNP*, DE).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- Out of range singles were at Socorro on 12/11 (JO*, LC) and at a Deming cemetery 2/5 (CR, DE, BN).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- Late were 3 at Las Cruces 12/18 (EW+) and 1 on the Carlsbad Caverns NP CBC 12/17 (T. and M. Bemis, *vide* SW). Early was 1 at Percha SP on 2/26 (JO, LC).

PINE WARBLER -- Unusual: A probable adult male was at Brantley L. 12/20 (CR*); the species is extremely rare anywhere in the w. U.S., including N.M.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- Typically absent in winter, but availing themselves of this winter's mild conditions were singles at Bosque NWR 12/16 (DM) and 2/3 (DE) and at Percha SP 1/1-2 (DE, JNP*, BV), plus a remarkable 5 at Las Cruces on 12/18 (EW+, GE*).

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- 5 or 6 at the Armendariz Ranch near Engle on 1/18 (WH, DM, Bill Maynard, A. Henry**), which established a new wintering location. 1 was n. of Rodeo, Hidalgo Co., on 12/9 (JPH, RWD); 1 south of Animas on 1/7 (JO*); 1 in the Ocotillo

Hills near Carlsbad 12/20 (CR).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- Generally scarce this winter, but 2 wandered south for the Carlsbad Caverns NP CBC on 12/17 (*fide* SW).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- A possible 1 at Redrock on 2/4 (BN) was west of the range.

BREWER'S SPARROW -- Wintered no. in the RGV in substantial numbers, including 5 in Albuquerque on 12/18 (HS+), 236 at the Sevilleta NWR 12/17 and 12/22 (RT, TS), and 75 at the La Joya WMA on 2/4 (WH+).

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- Early were 2 singing at Tres Pistoles Canyon in the Sandia Mts. on 2/26 (DM). 1 in winter plumage in Mangas Springs on 1/30 (RF).

LARK SPARROW -- Unusual for winter were 5 at the Sevilleta NWR 12/22 (TS+) and 1 at Las Cruces 12/18 (EW*).

SAGE SPARROW -- Wintered north in numbers in the RGV, including 209 at Albuquerque on 12/18 (HS+) and 997 at the Sevilleta NWR 12/17 and 12/22 (RT, TS). Late were 8 near Farmington on 12/29 (TR) and early were 2 at Pescado near Zuni on 2/19 (DC).

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- Northerly were 6 at Zuni 12/17 (JT+) and 100 at the RGNC in Albuquerque 12/18 (TB*, *fide* HS).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- Of several *Ammodramus* sparrows on 12/13 in grasslands on the Armendariz Ranch near Engle, at least 2 were these (WH, A. Henry**, DM, B. Maynard).

FOX SPARROW -- 1 or 2 at Mangas Springs 12/10-11 (RF) and 1/14 (RF, JP, DAZ, LG).

SONG SPARROW -- An unusually large migrating flock of several hundred near Percha SP on 1/19 (PS).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Generally scarce; noteworthy was 1 near Clayton 12/17 (Lavinia Fry, *fide* Wes Cook); the high count was 8 at Albuquerque on 12/18 (HS+).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- 3 were in the Albuquerque area: 1 in the city on 12/18; (HS+, LG); 1 adult at Kit Carson Park on 12/18, 1/1, and 1/15 (JP*, HS*, LG); and 1 in the s. Sandia Mts. at Carneul on 1/30 (JO*). 3 others were on the Sevilleta NWR CBC on 12/17 (RT+, no details).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 banded at Las Cruces on 11/23/89 was recaptured on 2/5 (CS), an interval of almost 6 years.

HARRIS' SPARROW -- The only report was 2 in winter plumage near Loving on 12/31 (SW*, Sherry Lynch).

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO -- 1 discovered in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/1 and 12/10 (JPH*, EE, RWD), was seen on 2/4 (CR*, DE, BN) and 2/11 (JO), where it is a rare winter visitant.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- Efforts to locate them in the northeast resulted in 8 at Eagle Nest 1/29 (JO) and 2/11 (JNP); 1 at Maxwell NWR 2/12 (DM) and 8 on 2/18 (JP, JO); 1 at Springer Lake, Colfax Co., on 2/10 (CR) and 2 on 2/18 (JO, JP); 1 at Charette L., Mora Co., and 1 at Storrie L. on 2/18 (JP, JO). At the turf farm at Los Lunas, Valencia Co., there was 2 on 12/9 (JO*) and 1 on 2/20 (TB+, *fide* RBA).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD -- High CBC totals were 139 at Santa Fe on 12/18 (PI+) and 927 at Zuni on 12/17 (JT+).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 1 near Farmington on 2/17 (TR); up to 65 near Columbus on 1/21 (CR), where seldom reported in winter; 50 were at the turf farm near Santa Teresa on 1/15 (GE).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- The only report was 1 at the Washington Ranch on 12/17 (SW, TH).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- North were 32 at Espanola 12/31 (BF+), the first on the CBC in 10 years.

COMMON GRACKLE -- Northerly were singles near Clayton 1/8 (*fide* W. Cook) and Zuni 12/17 (JT*, Paula Donaldson).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- Late in the north were 5 at Las Vegas on 12/17 (CR) and 3 at Ute L. on 12/10 (CR, JO, JP).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- Amazing were 5 probable males at Carlsbad on 1/2 (TH, *fide* SW); there are no verified winter records.

ROSY FINCHES -- Except for 15 to 20 Gray-crowned on Navajo L. dam on 12/3 (JP, JO), Taos and Colfax Cos. cornered the rosy finch market. 350 Brown-capped plus 10 Gray-crowned were at an Eagle Nest feeder on 1/29 (JO); small numbers of all 3 species were at Bobcat Pass e. of Red River, with 15 on 2/11 (JNP), 32 Blacks and 8 Gray-crowned 2/25 (JP, JO).

PINE GROSBEAK -- The only report was of 6 to 10 at Wheeler Peak Village, Taos Co., on 2/25 (JP, JO).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Set a local high of 125 at Zuni on 12/17 (JT+), but elsewhere generally scarce and largely confined to the northern counties.

RED CROSSBILL -- Also set a local high of 156 at Zuni on 12/17 (JT+), but elsewhere generally scarce.

LESSER and AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES -- Single Lessers in the north were at Farmington 2/10 (TR), Navajo L. 12/26 (TR), and Zuni 12/17 (JT); in the Gila Valley on 12/30 Lessers outnumbered Americans by 20 to 2 (RF).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Scarce and found mostly in the north and northwest (v.o.). 6 in the southeast were at Roswell on 12/17 (Elizabeth Shores*).

Published on November 20, 1997.