

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 35, NO. 1
December 1, 1995 to February 29, 1996

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 1995-1996 HIGHLIGHTS

An unusually cold winter provided favorable conditions for birds and for those watching them. Continued drought and low spring run-off gave cause for concern. Rare waterbirds and warblers provided excitement. Montane species attracted attention in the lowlands. Duck populations in the middle Rio Grande Valley were believed to be as high as in the early 1950's (Bruce Morrison). Several rare gulls provided challenges and rewards. A few hummingbirds lingered, but details for most were sketchy or absent. A remarkable sixteen warbler species were reported; lack of documentation relegated four to the "rumor only" category. An outbreak of sick and dying House Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks in the Los Alamos/Santa Fe/Cochiti area was found to be caused by a salmonella virus, most likely caused by dirty water pans and feeders. 200 birds a day were reported dying at the peak of the outbreak (Kathleen Ramsay).

CHRISTMAS COUNT TOTALS

<u>Count Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number</u>
Albuquerque	12/17	HS	112	17, 448
Bosque del Apache	12/16	SC	124	51,191
Caballo L. area	1/2/96	BZ	133	1.5,179
Carlsbad Caverns	12/16	SW	88	4,785
Española	12/31	BF	67	7,422
Farmington	12/16	AN	83	45,070
Gila River	12/30	RF	96	6,854
Las Cruces	12/17	BZ	126	26,210
Las Vegas	12/17	GB	73	4,812
Loving	12/21	SW	103	7,721
Peloncillo Mts.	12/30	RS	92	7,367
Roswell	12/16	SMB	00	44,283
Ruidoso	12/16	AP	67	3,111
Sandia Mts	1/1/96	TB	52	2,905
Santa Fe	12/23	PI	68	8,396
Silver City	12/16	RF	82	5,255
Zuni	12/16	JT	81	6899

Abbreviations Used

CBC - Christmas Bird Count
Co. - County

EBL - Elephant Butte Lake
L. - Lake

Mt(s) - Mountains
N.M. - New Mexico
NP - National Park
NWR - Natl.WildlifeRefuge
R. - River
RBA - Rare Bird Alert
RGV - Rio Grande Valley

SP - State Park
v.o. - various observers
+ - plus, et. al.
* - details provided
** - photo or tape
*** Specimen collected

COUTRIBUTORS' INITIALS USED

SB - Baldwin, Sy
SMB - Bixler, Sherry
GB - Blanchard, George
TB - Bulow, Tamie
DC - Cleary, David
WC - Cook, Wes
SC - Cox, Steve
LC - Cuellar, Louis
JLD - Dunn, Jon
DE - Emkalns, Doug
GE - Ewing, Gordon
RF - Fisher, Ralph
BF - Foy, Bernard
LG - Gorbet, Larry
TJH - Hines, Tommy J.
BH - Howe, Bill
PI - Insley, Pat
EL - Lewis, Eugene
RM - Meyer, Ray
NMC - Moore-Craig, Narca
AN - Nelson, Alan
BN - Neville, Bruce

JO - Oldenettel, J.
JP - Parmeter, John
JNP - Paton, James
AP - Powell, Anita
TR - Reeves, Tim
CR - Rustay, Chris
CS - Sandell, Cathy
RS - Scholes, Robt.
HS - Schwarz, Hart
PRS - Snider, Pat
DS - Stahlecker, D
PS - Steel, Paul
RT - Taylor, Rick
JT - Trochet, John
BV - Vaughn, Brad
SW - West, Steve
SOW - Williams, S.O.
EW - Wootten, Eleanor
JY - Yancey, Jonalyn
BZ - Zimmer, Barry
DAZ - Zimmerman, Dale
MZ - Zimmerman, M.

PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTIES

Albuquerque (Bernalillo)
Avalon Lake (Eddy)
Bill Evans Lake (Grant)
Bitter Lake NWR (Chaves)
Bloomfield (San Juan)
Bosque(del Apache)NWR (Socorro)
Brantley Lake (Eddy)
Caballo Lake (Sierra)
Carlsbad (Eddy)
Carlsbad Caverns (Eddy)
Clayton (Union)

Columbus (Luna)
Conchas Lake (San Miguel)
Deming (Luna)
Dry Cimarron Valle (Union)
Elephant Butte L. (Sierra)
Española (Rio Arriba)
Farmington (San Juan)
Gila R. Valley (Grant)
Hobbs (Lea)
Holloman Lake (Otero)
Las Animas Creek (Sierra)

Las Cruces (Doña Ana)
Las Vegas NWR (San Miguel)
Lordsburg (Hidalgo)
Los Alamos (Los Alamos)
Los Lunas (Valencia)
Loving (Eddy)
Lovington (Lea)
Malaga (Eddy)
Mangas Springs (Grant)
Maxwell NWR (Colfax)
Mesilla, Park (Doña Ana)
Morgan Lake (San Juan)
Moriarty (Torrance)
Navajo Lake (San Juan)
Otero Mesa (Otero)
Otis (Eddy)
Peloncillo Mts. (Hidalgo)
Percha Dam SP (Sierra)
Radium Springs (Doña Ana)
Raton (Colfax)

Rattlesnake Springs (Eddy)
Roswell (Chaves)
Ruidoso (Lincoln)
Sandia Mts. (Bernalillo)
Sandia Park (Bernalillo)
Santa Fe (Santa Fe)
Santa Rosa, L. (Guadalupe)
Santa Teresa (Doña Ana)
Silver City (Grant)
Spring Canyon SP (Luna)
Stubblefield L. (Colfax)
Sunland Park (Doña Ana)
Taos (Taos)
Tohatchi (McKinley)
Tres Piedras (Taos)
Ute Lake (Quay)
Watrous (Mora)
Willow Lake (Eddy)
Zuni (McKinley)

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON -- A possible 1 at Santa Rosa L. On 2/17 (CR*, JY).

PACIFIC LOON -- Singles at EBL on 12/31 (JO**) and on 1/13 (JP*, JO*) and at Caballo L. from 1/2 to 1/11 (BZ*, JNP, DE*, BN*, RF, CR, TB).

COMMON LOON -- Has become regular in winter: 1 to 2 at ute L. on 12/27 and 1/14 (JO); 5 at Conchas L. on 1/14 (JO); 1 at Santa Rosa L. 1/14 (JO); 1 to 4 at Caballo L. and EBL all winter (v.o.); 1 to 2 at Brantley L. 1/28 and 2/3 (JO).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON -- Unusual: 1 at Ute L. on 12/27 (JO**), the state's fifth record in five years!!

LEAST GREBE -- Unusual: 1 possible at Bosque NWR 1/8 (EW*) was not found again. The species remains unverified in New Mexico.

HORNED GREBE -- 2 at Ute L. on 12/27 and 3 on 1/14 (JO); 1 at EBL on 1/13 (JO, JP); 2 to 4 at Caballo L. from 12/2 to 1/20 (BZ, JP, JO, CR, GE); 1 at Brantley L. 2/3-4 (JP, JO); and 1 on the Pecos R. in s. Eddy Co. 1/20 (SW, TJH).

RED-NECKED GREBE -- The State's first verified record was a

first-winter bird discovered on 12/23 at Caballo L. (BN*, DE*, CS*) where it remained at least through 1/12 (JO** JP*, BZ*, JNP*, BH*, v.o.). Unverified reports stretch back over half a century.

EARED GREBE -- Up to 2000 at Caballo L. in January (v.o.).

Aechmophorus grebes -- 4000 seen on 1/12 at EBL during an aerial survey (SOW).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Moderate numbers wintered in the lower RGV and Pecos Valley (v.o.); returning early were 150 over Anthony, Doña Ana Co., on 2/9 (EW, fide CS) and 18 flying over the desert e. of Malaga on 2/25 (SW+).

BROWN PELICAN -- 1 first winter bird was plunge-diving at Caballo L. on 12/8 (JO*), last seen 12/14 (EW, Lorraine Schulte, fide CS).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- Unusually far north were 6 at Morgan L. on 12/31 and 4 on 2/16 (TR). 38 at Willow L. on 1/20 (SW, TJH) was a high number for the area.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- 1 immature at Pecan Park pond in Deming in 12/10, 12/29 (JO) and 2/24-25 (JO, JP) may be Luna Co. first.

AMERICAN BITTERN -- Singles at Bosque NWR on 12/16 (SC+) and 2/20 (NMC, RT).

CATTLE EGRET -- Very late was 1 at Bosque NWR 1/12 to 1/14 (CS, JLD) and 4 at Caballo L. on 1/2 (DE, CS+).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 9 at Morgan L. on 12/31 and 7 on 2/2 (TR+).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- Late was 1 at Bosque NWR through 1/7 (JO**, LG). An early 1 was at the refuge 2/20 (NMC, RT).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK -- 1 caused excitement at Las Animas Creek from 1/6 to 1/20 (JP*, JO**, BN*, DE*, BZ, GE*, CS, JLD). Its close association with domestic ducks, a pair of Mandarin Ducks, and chickens at a farm pond eroded its credibility, though it was free-flying.

TUNDRA SWAIN -- 1 was at Avalon L. from 12/4 to 12/25 (SW**, JO**, TJH).

MUTE SWAN -- Up to 5 in the Caballo L. area were surely escapes or introduced. (Darryl Mott**, CS, PRS, v.o.).

SNOW GOOSE -- 2 at Chuska L. at Tohatchi on 12/6 (DC**).

ROSS'S GOOSE -- Reportedly comprised 49% of the "white geese" at Bitter L. NWR, resulting in 6000 present 12/16 (SMB). Peripheral Ross' were 3 or 4 near Farmington 12/2 and 1/2 (TR); singles at Lordsburg on 2/24 (JP, JO); at Burn L. in Las Cruces 12/17 to 12/23 (BZ**, JO) and 1/18 (GE); 20 at Willow L. on 2/29 (SW, TJH).

WOOD DUCK -- Continued to winter widely: 3 at Montezuma in San Miguel Co. on 12/17 (PRS, PI+), 2 pairs at Alto L. in Lincoln Co. on 1/28 (AP+), a pair at Pecan Park pond near Deming on 12/30 (JO), and 4 at Brantley L. on 1/S (Jerry Fanning) were in areas where seldom reported.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- A male at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/16 (fide SW) and 4 at Avalon L. On 1/4 (SW) were late.

CINNAMON TEAL -- Earliest reports were single males 1/26 at Navajo L. (TR*), Black Rock L. near Zuni on 2/3 (DC), and near Rattlesnake Springs 1/27-28 (DE, BN, CS, JO).

EURASIAN WIGEON -- Unusual: A male provided a Zuni first record at BlackRock L. on 12/15 (JT*); a male was at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque 1/7 to 1/15 (BV, JP* PS, CR*, JO** v. o.).

LESSER SCAUP -- Fewer seemed to be wintering (JP, v.o.).

OLDSQUAW -- Formerly rare, it has been reported annually in recent years. This winter found a male at Tyrone 1/1-2 (EL, MZ, DAZ**) and a female at Lovington on 12/28 JO**).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- Further downstream than usual on the San Juan R. were 1 or 2 at Farmington 12/2 to 1/8 (TR**).

TURKEY VULTURE -- Extremely late was 1 near Otis on 12/21 (SW**). 1 at Percha SP on 12/26 had a broken wing (GE). Notably early was 1 at a Glenwood roost in Catron Co. on 2/13 (Roger and Kate Skaggs).

VULTURE SPECIES -- Given the virtual absence of Turkey Vultures from the state in mid-winter, the presence of 279 only 25 miles south at Janos, Chihuahua in Mexico on 1/10 (BH+) was startling,

as were the 80 Black Vultures a bit further south near Casas Grandes on 1/11, 70 miles south of the state (BH+). The latter species is unverified in N.M. at any season!

WHITE-TAILED KITE -- 2 in the Las Uvas Valley e. of Nutt, Luna Co., 12/30 (JO**) furnished further evidence of its expansion into the state.

BALD EAGLE -- Aerial surveys 1/8 to 1/12 counted a total of 430 in N.M.. 60% were adults (SOW). High counts were 68 at EBL and 46 at Maxwell NWR, 4 flying adults were near Deming on 2/2 (EL).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- An immature was at Farmington on 12/19 and an adult there on 12/26 (TR**).

HARRIS'S HAWK -- A pair along the Rio Grande at Radium Springs on 1/9 (BZ) and an adult on 12/29 (JO).

MERLIN -- A black phase seen near Santa Fe 1/24 to 2/28 (DS*, G. Schmitt) was likely *suckleyi*; elsewhere 1 to 5 were at 20 locales statewide from December to February (v.o.); high count was 5 on the Santa Fe CBC 12/23 (PI+).

COMMON MOORHEN -- 1 was far north at Zuni on 12/13 (JT*).

AMERICAN COOT -- A "rather flashy looking" bird with a leucoestic forecrown and back was at Black Rock L. near Zuni on 2/11 (JO).

SNOWY PLOVER -- 1 was late at Holloman L. on 12/28 (GE); 3 were early there on 2/14 (GE).

KILLDEER -- A remarkable 350 were at Avalon L. 1/4 (SW).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- 1 was early at Los Lunas On 2/21 (PS).

AMERICAN AVOCET -- Earliest were 2 at Bosque NWR on 2/23 (CR) and 2 at Lordsburg on 2/24 (JP, JO).

LESSER TELLOWLEGS -- 1 with Greater was unseasonable at Santa Teresa on 1/6 (DE, BN).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Notably late were 169 at Avalon L. on 12/30 (JP) and 150 near Otis on 1/1 (SW).

LEAST SANDPIPER -- North were 2 at Morgan L. on 1/13 (TR).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 1 was at Avalon L. on 12/17 (JO*).

DUNLIN -- A late 1 was at Avalon L. on 12/17 (JO*); early were 5 at Bitter L. NWR on 2/4 (JO, JP).

STILT SANDPIPER -- 2 at Bosque NWR on 12/23 (JO*).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- Unusual: 1 at Rattlesnake Springs On 1/27 (DE*, BN*, CS) was the state's Sixth well-documented record and the first since 1991.

LAUGHING GULL -- 1 first-winter bird was at Caballo L. on 1/20 (JP*, JO** JLD*).

MEW GULL -- 1 first-winter immature was at EBL On 12/16 (JO**) and 1/11 (BZ**); and 1. adult at Brantley L. on 2/3 (JP* JO**).

THAYER'S GULL -- 1 first-winter at Caballo L. from 12/8 to 12/10 (JP*, JO**, LG+), on 1/2 (BZ*, JNP*), and 2/25 (CR*); plus the same or another at EBL 12/31 (JO*) and 1/20 (JP, JO, JLD*).

GLAUCOUS GULL -- 1 studied well at Caballo L. from 1/6 to 1/20 (BN*, DE*, CR*, SB* (sketch), JLD*, JO*. JP*).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -- 1 very cooperative first-winter immature at Caballo L., discovered in late November and seen 12/2 to 2/25 (JO**, EW**, BH**, BZ**, BN*, DE*, CR*, SB*, JP* (sketch), JLD*, JNP*, v.o.).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- A high count of 2080 on the Las Cruces CBC On 12/17 (BZ+).

INCA DOVE -- Far north was 1 at Bloomfield on 12/13 (TR**).

FLAMMULATED OWL -- 1 found dead in Santa Fe on 1/2 (SOW***), following the season's first major snowstorm, furnished an intriguing winter specimen.

WESTERN SCREECH-OWL -- 1 wintered near Las Cruces (BZ**, Pat Arrowwood+, GE) and was calling by late February (CS); other singles were vocalizing in Cottonwood habitat in Bloomfield 2/10 (TR+) and in pinyon--uniper near Santa on Fe on 2/16 and later (DS).

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL -- Singles were at Angel Fire, Colfax Co., on 2/10 (JP, JO**), heard near Zuni on 12/16 (CR+), and in the Sandia Mts. on 1/1 (Donna Broudy*).

LONG-EARED OWL -- Over-wintered at Dripping Springs near Las Cruces, with 8 present on 2/6 (GE); 2 were roosting in salt cedars at Six-Mile Dam near Otis on 12/21 (SW*).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- Single possibles at Roswell until 1/2 (J. McElroy) and near Silver City "all winter" (fide RF).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- 2 at Greenwood Canyon near Mangas Springs into late December, 1 remained through January (RF); 1 or 2 at Las Cruces 12/17 (fide BZ) and 12/25 (GE*).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- An immature male at Albuquerque made the local television news in early January in snow; it was healthy when banded on 2/7 and was last seen on 2/17 (HS, Joan Day-Martin, Muriel Jurgens). An adult male was near Silver City on 12/1 (Paul Boucher, fide DAZ).

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER -- 32 on the Farmington CBC 12/16 (AN) furnished a record count. 1 north of Mimbres, Grant Co, on 2/19 (NMC, R.Taylor). 1 adult at Sunland Park first reported 11/22 (JNP) continued to divide its time between there and nearby El Paso, Texas (BN, DE, Greg Lasley**) and was last seen on 2/15 (BZ).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- In the RGV 1 immature molting to adult remained at Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. from 1/2 to 2/18 (DE, BN, BZ** SB*, JO, JP, CR, CS, v.o.).

GILA WOODPECKER -- 1 north of the usual range at Buckhorn, Grant Co., on 12/2 (RF).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — Westerly was a probable 12/16 at Silver City (fide RF*); 1 female at Tesuque in Santa Fe Co. 1/6 (SB*); 1 male in Santa Fe On 1/14 (SB*); 1 female at Las Animas Creek On 1/20 (DE); 1 or 2 immature males at Percha SP 1/13 to 1/20 (JO, JP, JLD, DE, BN); 1 immature at Las Cruces On 12/17 (Bz*, JNP*); 1 male near Rattlesnake Springs on 1/27 (BN, DE, CS).

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER — 1 possible in Clanton Canyon in the Peloncillo Mts. 1/17 (C. and P. Williams**). Analysis of photographs indicates hybrid origin. The species is still unverified in New Mexico.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER — North in winter were 2 at Santa Fe on 12/23 (PI+) and 1 female on 1/B (SB*); and 1 female near Golden, Santa Fe Co., on 1/5 (SB*).

LEAST FLYCATCHER — 1 was well studied at Percha SP 12/2 (JP*, JO**, LG, BN, DE, v.o.) and on 1/13 to 1/15 (JP, JO BN, DE, JNP).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER — Apparently over-wintered in the south, with singles at Las Animas Creek from 1/2 (DE, CS+, JNP*, BZ*) to 2/17 when it was calling (JP, JO) and 2/18 (NMC, RT); and at Percha SP on 1/20 (JP, JO, JLD, DE, BN); a likely 1 was at Rattlesnake Springs 12/16-17 (SW**, JO**).

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER — 1 "western" at the Old Refuge near Mesilla on 12/17 (JNP*, BZ**) and 12/19 (JP*) was tape recorded on 12/23 (JO**); sonogram analysis indicated that it was a Pacific-slope (James Travis*).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- Singles at Bosque NWR 1/10 to 1/14 (JLD, CS, TB) and 1/26 (Celestyn Brozek, fide RBA); at Percha SP 12/23 (BN, DE, CS) and 1/13-14 (DE, BN, JO, JP); at the Old Refuge near Mesilla 12/17 (BZ**, JNP); in Carlsbad 2/3 (JO, JP); and near Rattlesnake Springs on 1/27 (BN, DE, CS).

SAY'S PHOEBE -- Typically withdraw from northern areas in Winter. Singles were near Farmington on 12/31 and 2/12 (TR), near Conchas L. on 1/14 (JO), and the Dry Cimarron Valley on 1/20 (CR).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- A male molting into adult plumage was in Albuquerque's South Valley 1/27-28 and 2/7 (Dawn Semmler+, HS), 2/11 (BV, JP), and 2/12 (JO).

TREE SWALLOW -- A few persisted in the Caballo L.-Percha SP area 1/2 until 1/6-7 (JP, JO, BN, DE, BZ*, JNP) and reappeared 2/24 (JO, JP); in Eddy Co. the last 2 were at Avalon L. on 12/22 (SW*), while 5 returned to Willow L. on 2/25 and 15 on 2/29 (SW+).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- Early were 1 near Bill Evans L. on 2/20 (NMC, RT); 6 at Mangas Springs on 2/29 (RF); 2 at Caballo L. on 2/17 (GE, CS), and 1 to 3 on 2/25 (JP, JO); 5 at Cass Draw near Loving on 2/29 (SW).

STELLER'S JAY -- Among the several submontane reports were 1 to 3 at Farmington 12/2 to 12/16 (AN, TR); 1 at Percha SP on 1/2 (BZ*) and 1/6 (JO, JP, LC); and 1 at Hill, Doña Ana CO., on 12/29 (JO),

BLUE JAY -- Again invaded the RGV and adjacent areas from Santa

Fe (SB), Española on 12/30 (BF), Cedar Crest on 12/8 in Bernalillo Co. (PS), Bosque del Apache 2/23 (CR) south to Percha SP on 1/2 and 1/11 (BZ*, JNP*, CS); a high count was 8 at Albuquerque on 12/17 (HS).

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY -- Invaded lowlands in good numbers at Las Cruces (BZ); 1 at Spring Canyon SP On 2/25 (CR); and 6 at Rattlesnake Springs on 1/14 (SW*).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- South of the range were 20 at Santa Ana Pueblo in Sandoval CO. 2/16 (BH), and 10 in the area of Albuquerque on 12/17 (HS+).

AMERICAN CROW -- The 200 in the Dry Cimarron Valley 1/20 provided a high count for the area (CR); notable high counts were 715 at Farmington 12/16 (AN), 1117 on 12/17 at Albuquerque (HS+), and 2666 at Las Cruces 12/17 (BZ+).

COMMON RAVEN -- Two flocks of 225 and 100 were in open country near Tres Piedras on 2/9 (CR).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- 1 was notably east in Union Co. on 1/20 in the Dry Cimarron Valley (CR*). High Count of 104 at Farmington on 12/16 (AN+).

MEXICAN CHICKADEE -- 1 or 2 wandered to the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/9 (JO), 2/18 (SOW*), and 2/24 (JP, JO).

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- Submontane birds were conspicuous in the lower RGV with 1 to 5 at Bosque NWR (SC+, BZ, BH, JO, CR, v.o.) and 2 to 5 at Percha SP (BZ, JO, CR JP), 1 or 2 near Las Cruces (BZ, JO, JP, JLD); in the Pecos valley at Santa Rosa on 2/17 (CR+) and near Otis on 12/21 (SW+); unusual was 1 to 3 at the turf farm near Moriarty on 1/7 (SB+) and 2/27 (BH, CR, PRS).

BUSHTIT -- High count Of 554 at Santa Fe On 12/23 (PI+).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Likewise invaded lowlands, with about 12 at Silver City (DAZ, MZ), 1 near Deming on 12/10 (JO), a high count of 21 at Las Cruces 12/17 (BZ+), 2 at Roswell in mid-December (SMB), and 1 at Hobbs 12/28 (JO).

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 2 were in cottonwoods at Valmora, Mora Co., on 12/8 (CR).

CACTUS WREN -- 2 in the Northeast Heights Of Albuquerque on 12/17 (HS+) and 1 on 12/21 (JO) were a surprise, they remained through the period, and the discovery of an old nest structure suggested residence there.

WINTER WREN -- At least 1 Was at Zuni 12/3 to 12/5 (DC**); the 1 at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/10 (DE*, BN*) was likely a November holdover.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- Lowland reports were 2 on the Caballo CBC on 1/2 (DE*, CS); 1 near Mesilla 12/17 (BZ*, JNP*) and on 1/6 (GE), and 1 at Avalon L. on 12/30 (JP).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER-- Made an unusually strong showing, with 1 or 2 in December and January at Percha SP (v.o); 1 at Bosque NWR 12/16 (SC+); Caballo L. 1/9 to 1/13 (BH, JO, JP); near Mesilla on 12/23 (DE, BN CS); and at Loving on 12/21 (SW+).

GNATCATCHER species -- Undetailed were 8 Blue-grays in the Peloncillo Mts. along with 14 Black-tailed On 12/30 (RS+).

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- The only report from the southeast was 1 near Avalon L. on 12/25 (JO). 8 were on the Las Cruces CBC on 12/17 (BZ+).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- North and west were 17 at Española on 12/31 (BF+) and 2 at Zuni on 12/16 (CR*). In the southwest 1 or 2 in the Peloncillo Mts. 12/30 (RS+) and 2/24 (JP, JO).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- Lowland reports were a flock of 100 near EBL on 12/31 (JO); at Percha SP 7 on 12/26 (GE), 4 1/21 (CS), and 20 2/17 (CS, GE); 4 at Avalon L. 1/28 (JO)

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE -- Seen in the lowlands were 1 at Bosque NWR 1/14 (JLD) and 5 at Spring Canyon SP 2/25 (CR).

AMERICAN ROBIN -- Breeding: getting an early start was a pair building a nest at Silver City 2/27-28 (RF).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Of interest or concern was the general scarcity of reports, including the s. half of N.M

SAGE THRASHER -- Notable in mid-winter were 6 at Zuni 1/13 and 7 on 2/11 (DC); early was 1 s. of Farmington 2/9 (TR).

BROWN THRASHER -- Singles were in Los Alamos from 1/29 to 2/24 (M.Cash, fide PRS); Bosque NWR 12/16 (David Hawksworth*, LG*), Las Animas Creek on 1/7 (DE, BN), in the Roswell area on 12/16 (SMB+), and Rattlesnake Springs area on 1/27 (BN, DE, CS) and 2/3-4 (JO, JP).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- Breeding: a pair was building a nest at Silver City 2/27-28 (RF).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- 5 on Otero Mesa grasslands from 12/5 to 12/14

(RM*).

CEDAR WAXWING -- Absent in some winters, but widespread and numerous this winter from La Plata in San Juan Co., Raton, and Clayton south to Mesilla and Hobbs (V.0.) High count Of 300 at the Moon Ranch, n. Grant Co., on 1/13 (RF).

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- 1 or 2 reported from San Juan CO. 12/1 to 2/9 (TR); Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, San Miguel, and Union Cos. (CR, SB, NMC, RT). Far south was 1 adult in Las Cruces on 1/26 (Sue Hill**, good details, video) for the second definite Doña Ana Co. record.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE -- Breeding; an adult flushed from a nest with two eggs on Otero Mesa 2/27 (Brian Locke) was notably early.

WHITE-EYED VIREO -- 1 persisted at Percha SP until 12/2 (JO**, JP*, LC, LG).

SOLITARY VIREO -- Taking advantage of the Las Cruces climate were a Plumbeous and a Cassin's at Mesilla Park 12/17 (BZ**, JNP*), and a cassini on 1/20 (JP, JO) and 1/22 (CS). A plumbeus was near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico on 1/12 (BH+).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 1 or 2 again wintered in the lower RGV at Percha SP and Mesilla (v.o.); singles away from the Peloncillo Mts. were at Deming on 12/10 (JO) and Spring Canyon SP in the Florida Mts. 2/25 (CR*); 2 at Dripping Springs near Las Cruces on 2/10 (GE) and 1 singing in the Guadalupe Mts., Eddy Co., on 1/2 (RM*).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- Lingering or wintering were singles north to Santa Fe on 12/23 (PI*), near Alameda in Bernalillo Co., 12/17 (Terry Brownell*); 2 at Percha SP 12/2 (JO) and 1/20 (JO, JD); a record 19 near Las Cruces 12/17 (BZ+), with 2 to 4 still there on 1/20 (JO, JLD).

LUCY'S WARBLER -- Early was 1 at Mangas Springs 2/28 (RF).

NORTHERN PARULA -- Singles, rare at any season, were an immature near Bloomfield 12/9 to 12/19 (Nell Mahon*, TR**, J. Rees) and at the Albuquerque Zoo 1/14-15 (JO*, JP*, CR*).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER -- Late was 1 at Avalon L. on 12/22 (SW*).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER -- Singles were at Silver City 2/7 (MZ) and in the Mesilla area 12/19 to 2/24 (CR*, DE, JO, JP, JLD, BZ**, CS).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 1 discovered at a Las Cruces Walmart on 12/22 (T. McKimmie, fide CS) remained at nearby Young Park until 2/24 (BZ*, JO**, JNP, CS*, GE*, DE*, BN*, CR*, JLD*, JP*, sketch, v.o.).

PRAIRIE WARBLER -- An immature female at Percha SP on 1/13 (JP*, JO**) and 1/15 (JNP*) provided the second definite N.M. record.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- Typically rare or absent in winter, singles were near Zuni on 12/16 (CR*), Bosque NWR on 12/16 (D. Hawksworth*, fide SC) and 2/23 (CR), Silver City 12/16 (RF+), Caballo L. on 12/2-3 (JO, JP, BH), Percha SP 12/2 to 1/15 (BZ, JNP, JO, JP+, BH*), Loving 12/21 (SW), and a male at Rattlesnake Springs 12/10 to 2/29 (SW, DE, BN, CS).

WILSON'S WARBLER -- 1 female at Las Cruces on 12/17 (W. Whitford*, J. Howard) may provide a winter first, another was near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico on 1/12 (BH+).

OLIVE WARBLER -- 1 immature male strayed east to Mesilla Park on 12/17 (JNP*, BZ**) to 1/11 (DE), for at least the second winter report there.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- Evidence of its northward expansion was provided by 2 at Santa Rosa on 2/17 (CR*, JY).

RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 at Watrous on 12/8 (CR). A record high Count of 445 at Carlsbad Caverns NP On 12/16 (SW+) was twice the previous high.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- West and south Of the usual range were up to 20 near Farmington 12/27 to 2/16 (TR**); 10 the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque 12/17 (TB, fide HS); 2 at the Petroglyph NM near Albuquerque 12/9 to 1/16 (HS); 5 at Bitter L. NWR on 12/16 (RM*, J. Montgomery).

FIELD SPARROW -- 4 were at Walnut Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns NP, on 2/24 (SW); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs On 1/27 (DE, BN, CS) and on 2/4 (JP, JO).

LARK SPARROW -- Northerly in winter was 1 at Silver City on 12/16 (fide RF).

LARK BUNTING -- North of its winter range were 2 at EBL on 12/25 (JO); flock of 2000 to 4000 e. of Columbus 12/30 (JO).

FOX SPARRCW -- Of the reddish forms 1 at Bosque NWR wintered through 2/23 (JO, CR*, GE*, JP, JLD, BZ); 1 banded at Bitter L. NWR on 11/24 stayed through December (RM*, S. Najera); 1 near Hill, Doña Arm Co., on 12/29 (JO); 1 near Mesilla Dam on 12/24 (JO); 1 near Santa Teresa on 1/6 (BN, DE) and 2/24 (CR*, DE); 1

or 2 in the Rattlesnake Springs area on 12/10 (DE, BN), 12/16 (SW), 2/3-4 (JO, JP) and 2/10 (SW). 1 gray form at EBL in Socorro Co. on 1/7 (JO).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- 1 along the Rio Casas Grandes near Nuevo Casas Grandes in Mexico on 1/12 (BH) may have been the first Chihuahuan record.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- Reported regularly in recent winters: 2 at Carneul, Bernalillo Co, on 12/31 (BV) and 1 on 1/7 (JP*); 1 at Bosque NWR 12/16 (fide SC), 1 immature at Silver City, 2/15 (P.Boucher*); 1 immature at Spring Canyon SP 12/29 (JO*) for a first Florida Mts. record; 1 immature at Percha SP 1/2 (BZ*, JNP*); and 1 at Aguirre Springs, Doña Ana Co., on 1/S (BZ*).

HARRIS'S SPARROW -- 1 at Albuquerque on 12/17 (HS+); 1 adult at Bosque NWR on 12/9 (JP, LG+); 1 Silver City 12/16 (RF+); 1 at La Huerta near Carlsbad on 12/26 through most of the winter (TJH, fide SW); 1 Loving On 12/21 (TJH, fide SW), and 1 at Maddox L. near Hobbs 12/9 to 12/26 (SW).

DARK-EYED JUNCO -- The White-winged form was at Los Alamos 1/20 to 1/29 for the first in many years (PRS, good*) and in the Sandia Mts. On 1/1 (TB).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 8 to 10 at Stubblefield L. on 12/26 (JO**), 2 to 4 n. Of Sedan, Union Co., on 12/27 (JO), 2 at the Moriarty turf farm on 1/27 (BH*, CR, PRS); and 1 at the turf farm near Santa Teresa on 2/24 (CR*, DE).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- Had an impressive season; 1 at Sandia Park on 1/1 (BH**) and 1/15 (CR*) to 1/28 (TB, fide RBA); 3 at Santa Rosa 2/17 (CR*, JY); a male at Bitter L. NWR on 12/26 (RM*); and 2 or 3 near Percha SP 1/2 (JNP*, BZ**), 1/7 (DE*, BN*), and 1/13 (JP*, JO).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- 8 at Farmington On 12/16 (TR*); 1 male in Taos on 12/9 (PRS, CR); 8 near Zuni on 1/6 (DC); 1 male in Santa Fe on 12/18 (SB*).

COMMON GRACKLE -- Early winter reports continued to increase, including 85 at Farmington 12/16 (AN+), 486 at Roswell On 12/16 (SMB+), and 45 at Las Cruces on 12/17 (BZ+), but whether this species was carefully identified from Great-taileds was uncertain. Rattlesnake Springs yielded 18 on 12/16 (SW), 1 on 1/27 (DE, BN, CS), and 2 males on 2/3 (JP, JO).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- 3 were early at Las Cruces On 2/21 (GE).

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- 1 was late at Columbus on 12/10 and on 12/30 (JO**).

PURPLE FINCH -- Female-plumaged singles were at Bitter L. NWR on 12/29 (RM*); at Las Animas Creek on 1/5 (CR*, TB), and at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/16-17 (SW, JO*).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Away from their usual haunts were 2 or 3 near Folsom, Union CO., on 12/26 (JO), 25 in Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mts., Socorro Co., on 12/3 (JO), 25 at Emory Pass in the Black Range, Sierra Co. side, on 2/18 (JP, JO), and 6 near Las Cruces at Dripping Springs on 2/6 (GE).

PINE SISKIN -- 250 were in Union CO. on 1/20 (CR).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- Northerly in winter were 18 on 12/16 at Farmington (AN+), 8 at Zuni 12/10 to 2/4 (DC), and 3 at Albuquerque on 12/17 (HS+).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- 1 was heard and seen near Nuevo Casas Grandes in Chihuahua, Mexico, on January 12 (BH+).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- They were widespread including 25 east to Folsom, Union Co., on 1/27 (JO) and singles south to Emory Pass on the Sierra Co. side 2/18 (JP, JO) and a male at Dripping Springs near Las Cruces on 12/17 (GE*).

Published January 30, 1999.