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## **New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes**

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## WINTER 1996-1997 HIGHLIGHTS

The winter was characterized by generally ample precipitation statewide. December's mild weather was broken abruptly by a snowstorm in early January that reached the Mexican border. After the drought of last summer there was little juniper berry crop. Several genuine rarities were found. There were several water-bird surprises. Numerous gulls were found frequenting the Sunland Park racetrack (JNP, BZ). There were a few reports of hummingbirds; good numbers of Cedar Waxwings, bluebirds and robins seemed to abandon northern areas appearing in the south. The season was made memorable by impressive movements and numbers of cardueline finches, with many in the lowlands.

### Christmas Counts

Albuquerque	Dec. 21	HS	97	20,715
Bosque del Apache NWR	Dec. 22	SNC	106	41,265
Caballo	Jan. 3	BZ	141	22,036
Carlsbad Caverns NP	Dec. 21	SW	86	5,100
Clayton	Dec. 27	LH	63	6,093
Espanola	Jan. 4	BF	60	3,129
Farmington	Dec. 21	AN	81	56,266
Five Points	Dec. 21	TS	36	2,713
Gila River	Jan. 4	RF	98	8,276
Lakes Avalon-Brantley	Dec. 28	TJH	111	11,713
Las Cruces	Dec. 21	GE	139	34,638
Las Vegas	Dec. 22	GB	71	5,052
La Luz-Otero Co.	Dec. 28	JM	63	3,340
Loving	Dec. 23	SW	112	7,586
Peloncillo Mts.	Dec. 29	AMC	94	19,721
Questa	Dec. 19	RW	43	1,521
Roswell	Dec. 21	SMB	100	45,357
Ruidoso	Jan. 4	LOC	54	2,960
Sandia Mts.	Jan. 5	JY	43	2,956
Santa Fe	Dec. 28	PT	57	5,825
Sevilleta NWR	Dec. 27	TS	44	1,144
Silver City	Dec. 21	RF	83	5,592
Zuni	Dec. 21	JAT	71	4,936
Ejido San Pedro, MX (Janos, Chih.)	Jan. 5	CM	116	21,265

## Abbreviations Used

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

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Cordova, Larry	LOC	Mangimeli, John	JM
Cox, Nancy	NC	Melcher, Cynthia	CM
Cox, Steve	SC	Meyer, Raymond	RM
Craig, Alan	AMC	Moore-Craig, Narca	NMC
Cranston, Craig	CC	Nelson, Alan	AN
Cuellar, Louis	LC	Neville, Bruce	BN
Davis, Carol	CD	Oldenettel, Jerry	JO
Dickerman, Bob	RD	Parmeter, Ben	BP
Emkalns, Doug	DE	Parmeter, John	JP
Ewing, Gordon	GE	Paton, James	JNP
Fisher, Ralph	RF	Radke, William	WR
Foy, Bernard	BF	Reeves, Tim	TR
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Stinnett, Ken	KS		
Trochet, John	JAT		
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Weber, Bob	RW		
West, Bill	BW		
West, Steve	SW		
Williams, S.O	SOW		
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Zimmerman, Dale	DAZ		
Zimmerman, Marian	MZ		

## PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTIES

Albuquerque	Bernalillo
Animas Valley	Hidalgo
Bernardo	Socorro
Bill Evans Lake	Grant
Bitter Lake NWR	Chaves
Bosque (del Apache) NWR	Socorro
Bosque Redondo	DeBaca
Brantley-Avalon L.	Eddy
Caballo Lake	Sierra
Carlsbad	Eddy
Carlsbad Caverns NP	Eddy
Clanton Canyon	Hidalgo
Clayton, Lake	Union
Clovis	Curry
Cochiti Lake	Sandoval
Columbus	Luna
Deming	Luna
Dripping Springs	Dona Ana
Elephant Butte L	Sierra
Espanola	Rio Arriba
Farmington	San Juan
Five Points	Socorro
Garfield	Dona Ana
Gila Valley	Grant
Hachita	Grant
Las Cruces	Dona Ana
Las Vegas	San Miguel
Logan	Quay
Lordsburg	Hidalgo
Los Lunas	Valencia
Loving	Eddy
Mangas Springs	Grant
Maxwell NWR	Colfax
Melrose trap	Roosevelt
Mesilla, Park	Dona Ana
Navajo Lake	San Juan
Peloncillo Mts.	Hidalgo
Percha Dam SP	Sierra
Questa	Taos
Rattlesnake Springs	Eddy
Redrock	Grant
Roswell	Chaves
Ruidoso	Lincoln
San Juan River	San Juan
Sandia Mt. Crest	Bernalillo
Sandia Heights	Bernalillo
Santa Fe	Santa Fe
Santa Rosa	Guadalupe
Sevilleta NWR	Socorro
Silver City	Grant
Sunland Park	Dona Ana
Tucumcari, Lake	Quay
Tyrone	Grant
Ute Lake	Quay
Virden	Hidalgo
Zuni	McKinley

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- 1 on Caballo L. on 1/3 (CR\*).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON -- 1 on Willow L. near Malaga, Eddy Co., on 12/23 (CC\*), the sixth N.M. record in 6 years.

HORNED GREBE -- Reported in the Pecos Valley south to Bottomless L. SP near Roswell with 1 on 1/31 (JO); high counts elsewhere were 5 on Ute L. 1/31 (CR), 7 on EBL on 1/30 (JPH+), and 10 on Caballo L. on 1/31 (RD\*\*\*). Found in higher numbers than usual on Caballo L. (BZ).

RED-NECKED GREBE -- The immature seen in late November on Cochiti L. was found 1/5 (JO) and 1/11 (JP\*), after which the lake froze over. 1 and possibly 2 on Caballo L. on 1/30-31 (JPH+, RD), where at least one had been seen during much of 1996.

EARED GREBE -- Over 3000 were on Caballo L. 1/3 (BZ+).

AECHMOPHORUS GREBES -- Notably scarce both on Caballo L. and EBL until late January (BZ+); on 2/21 a raft of over 2000 was on EBL (BN, DE+).

BROWN PELICAN -- Single immatures were on upper EBL on 1/30 (JPH+), and found in Karr Canyon near High Rolls, Otero Co., 1/15 (Cary Gracie, fide Emily Fields). The latter, with measurements indicating the western race, was rehabilitated and released in California.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- Unusually high numbers "discovered" the lower Pecos Valley, including 294 in the Brantley L. area on 12/28 (TJH) and 805 at Loving on 12/23 (SW+).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- 2 at Six-Mile Dam near Loving on 12/23 (SW\*). Present in the middle RGV where they are resident, but they outnumber Double-crested only at Bosque NWR (CR, DE, PRS+, SC+).

CATTLE EGRET -- Lingering were 1 at EBL on 12/21 (JP, JO), 8 at Mesilla on 12/27 (JO, CS), and 1 at Six-Mile Dam near Loving on 12/23 and 1/24 (SW±).

GREEN HERON -- 1 at the RGNC in Albuquerque 12/6 (CR) and 12/21 (Mary Lou Arthur\*).

TUNDRA SWAN -- A good season found 10 at Maxwell NWR on 12/14 (JP, JO, LC); 13 at Bosque NWR on 12/23 (JP, JO), where 1 or 2 remained at least through 2/23 (JO, JP, PS, SOW, BZ, PRS+, TB\*, v.o.). The Pecos Valley yielded 1 at Bosque Redondo Park on 12/31 (JP) and another or the same at nearby Sumner L., DeBaca Co., on 1/19 (JO).

TRUMPETER SWAN -- An adult eluded many in the Bernardo-La Joya WMA area, where it was found on 2/2 (JO\*\*) and last seen on 2/16 (JP\*, JO\*).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1 at Clayton on 12/27 (CR\*, LH); 5 in Albuquerque 12/17, 2/2, and 2/23 with 1 on 1/18 (DS); 1 at Bosque NWR on 1/11 (BZ\*) and 2/16 (JO); 4 near Roswell on 2/2 (JP, BP) ; 16 at Las Cruces 12/21 (Tim Lawton\*).

ROSS'S GOOSE -- Peripheral records included 2 to 20 at Farmington 12/16 to 2/2 (TR, PRS), 1 at Clayton L. on 12/27 (CR, LH), and 5 at Virden on 12/28 (JO).

WOOD DUCK -- Away from the San Juan R. and Rio Grande valleys included 1 male near Clayton on 12/27 (CR\*, LH), 3 males at Tucumcari L. on 1/31 (CR), 1 at Ruidoso 1/4 (LOC), 1 in the Gila R. Valley 1/4 (RF+), 4 at Silver City on 1/5 and 2 on 2/5 (EL), 1 at Lordsburg on 1/22 (EL), and a male at Deming on 1/1 (JO).

CINNAMON TEAL -- Notably early reports included single males at Lordsburg on 1/19 (CR, DE, BN), Bosque NWR on 1/23 (TB, fide RBA), and near Zuni on 1/25 (DC).

EURASIAN WIGEON -- Made a good showing, with single males at Albuquerque 12/21 to 2/20 (M. L. Arthur\*, HS\*, NNC\*), Caballo L. on 1/20 (Matt Fraker\*) and 2/18 (EL\*), and Bitter L. NWR 1/11 to 2/7 (WR\*).

GREATER SCAUP -- Seen where rarely reported included 1 female at the RGNC in Albuquerque on 12/20 (JP) and 2 on 12/21 (fide HS), 1 at Bottomless L. SP near Roswell on 1/31 and 2/1 (JO, GE), 2 near Garfield on 1/26 (JO).

OLDSQUAW -- 1 at Clayton L. on 1/11 (JO\*\*), 2 in winter plumage at Sumner L., DeBaca Co., 12/22 (JO\*\*), and 1 at Bottomless L. SP near Roswell on 12/21 (SMB\*) to 2/4 (GE\*, BH\*, JO\*, JP\*, CR\*, BN\*, DE\*, v.o.).

AMERICAN GOLDENEYE -- 1 female at Hurley, Grant Co., on 1/18 (EL), about 15 on the Rio Grande s. of Garfield on 1/26 (JO)

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- The only 1 away from the San Juan R. was a male at Cochiti L. on 12/24 (BW\*).

BUFFLEHEAD -- The pale buffy female seen near Navajo L. in November was seen again on 2/1 and 2/23 (TR, PRS).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 1 female on the Rio Grande near Garfield 1/26 (JO); 1 on Burn L. in Las Cruces on 2/2 (JO).

BLACK VULTURE -- 5 near Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico the week of 1/5 (CM+).

WHITE-TAILED KITE -- 4 near Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico on 1/5 (CM+).

BALD EAGLE -- Breeding: incubation was in progress at the 2 known nests in Colfax and Sierra Cos. by 2/17 (SOW, KC);....a roost was discovered in s. Albuquerque where there were at least 18 on 1/19 (DS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK -- Outnumbered COOPER'S on the Las Cruces (GE+), Caballo (BZ+), and Peloncillo Mts. (AMC+) CBCs. At Silver City where Cooper's were formerly the commoner of the two, Sharpies feasted on the abundant cardueline finches and were widespread from at least 6000 feet in town to around 4000 feet in the Gila R. Valley and s. of White Signal in Grant Co. (DAZ, MZ).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- Singles in Santa Fe on 12/28 (PI+), near Madrid, Santa Fe Co. on 12/11 (Lawry Sager), at Cochiti L. on 1/29 (BW, fide RBA), immature near Hatch, Dona Ana Co., on 1/18 (TB\*), and at Holloman L., Otero Co., 1/22 (GE). Lack of sightings in the Silver City area in winter was unusual (DAZ, MZ).

HARRIS'S HAWK -- 1 adult near Las Cruces on 12/21 (Bill Jacobson\*).

CRESTED CARACARA -- An immature at Bitter L. NWR on 1/31 (WR\*\*) and later (GE\*, JP\*, BP\*, JO\*\*· LG, Carol Davis), last seen 2/5 (WR, fide RBA). This furnished a Chaves Co. first and the first well-documented N.M. record in over a decade.

MERLIN -- Another good winter found 1 to 3 from December to February at 26 areas from the Pecos Valley westward (v.o.).

APLOMADO FALCON -- Perhaps following a recent "trend" of re-colonization, 1 was discovered n. of Hachita on 12/30 (Tom and

EW) and was reported erratically through at least 2/22 (v.o). Interestingly aside from the original sighting, which was described as an immature, all other written reports described an apparent adult and fell within the narrow period of 1/22 to 1/31 (F. Haas, D. Krueper, EL+, DAZ, MZ, GE\*, DS, SOW\*, KC). In spite of nationwide attention no additional written reports or satisfactory photos were received.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- Unknown to winter in N.M., but about 3 near Janos in Chihuahua, Mexico, 1/4 (SOW, D. Larson) and 1 on 1/5 (CM+) demonstrated they are not far away; early was 1 at Los Lunas, Valencia Co., on 2/21 (DE+).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 1 was early at Sunland Park 1/19 to 1/21 (JNP).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- 1 was late at Maxwell NWR 12/1 (JO).

DUNLIN -- The only reports were early singles at Navajo L. on 2/23 (TR) and Bitter L. NWR on 2/1-2 (DE, EN, CR, JP+).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1 at the RGNC in Albuquerque 2/5 to 2/10 (BH\*\*, JO\*\*, JP\*, GE\*, CR\*, LS, DV, v.o.), provided N.M.'s 7th record. It followed the 6th by only a year.

LAUGHING GULL -- A winter plumage adult at the Sunland Park racetrack on 1/28 (BZ\*, JNP\*).

FRANKLIN'S GULL. -- 1 adult at the Sunland Park racetrack 1/11 to 1/18 (JNP\*).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 1 adult at the Sunland Park racetrack on 1/11 to 1/27 (JNP).

THAYER'S GULL -- 1 first-year immature at the Sunland Park racetrack 1/27 to 2/2 (JNP\*, BZ\*) Elsewhere, gulls that were presumed to be this species were 2 immatures n. of Las Vegas at Storrie L. on 12/1 (JO\*\*) and 12/6 (PRS\*, CR); 7 at EBL 1/31 (JPH, RD); at Caballo L. 1 immature on 1/4 (JO, JP\*) and 10 immatures on 1/31 (JPH, RD\*\*\*).

GLAUCOUS GULL -- A first-winter immature at Caballo L. on 12/21 (JP, JO) was a holdover from autumn.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- Unusual, but not unprecedented, was an early 1 at Sandia Heights 2/21 to 2/23 (Roger Hoppe, fide HS).



EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE -- First documented at Roswell in September, 1995, they seem to have persisted there, and several were photographed in February (SMB\*\*). This rapidly expanding species is now present in about four Texas Panhandle localities, including 1 on the N.M. line at Farwell near Clovis on 2/20 (Greg Lasley+).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- Now resident in numbers in Roswell (SMB+) and Albuquerque (HS), it pushed n. to Santa Fe, where there were 1 or 2 in December (F. Quesenberry) and 1/26 (BW, fide RBA). Over-wintered at Silver City, and began singing there on 1/29 (DAZ, MZ).

INCA DOVE -- 1 singing at Silver City 1/27 had attracted a second by 2/20 (DAZ, MZ).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE -- The only report was 1 n. of Rodeo, Hidalgo Co., on 12/28 (Robert Scholes).

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- North was 1 at Taos in Taos Co. on 1/27 to 1/30 (P. Luther); it was catching finches at a feeder.

SHORT-EARED OWL -- 1 was at Zuni on 12/22 (JAT+). They are now uncommon in the state.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- 1 found in a yard in the Northeast Heights of Albuquerque 12/29 (Tom Kilroy, fide HS).

COMMON POORWILL -- 2 were in Post Office Canyon, Hidalgo Co., on 12/29 (Roger Armstrong, fide AMC).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- 1 at Caballo L. on 1/3 (BZ); 5 near Columbus on 2/8 (JO).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 male at Las Cruces on 12/21 (KS), 2 females in Clanton Canyon on 2/15 (JO+).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 adult male at Las Cruces 12/21 (Carol Anderson, fide GE).

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER -- Again wintered in the lower RGV, with singles at Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. 1/3-4 (JO, JP), Percha SP December to February (DE, BN, HS, BZ, JNP, v.o.), near Garfield on 1/11 (BZ), and Sunland Park December to February (JNP, BZ). Noteworthy was another at San Juan, Grant Co., 2/9 and 2/23 (EL).

GILA WOODPECKER -- Continued scarce in the Gila Valley, but 7 were in the Animas Valley on 12/29 (AMC+).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 1 immature male molting to adult plumage at Percha SP on 1/3 (BRZ, JNP), 1/4 (JP, JO), 1/11 (BZ+), and 2/16 (NMC\*, Rick Taylor+); 1 adult female in Garfield on 1/11 (BZ+), 1 female at Pancho Villa SP at Columbus on 1/19 (BN, DE).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER -- A male at Zuni on 12/19 (JAT\*).

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- Notable were 1 to 3 at Zuni 12/19 to 12/21 (JAT+); and 1 on 1/8 near Sandia Park, in Bernalillo Co. (PS).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- Southerly was 1 on Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. on 1/3 (DE\*, JP).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER -- Singles along Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. on 1/3-4 (JP, JO) and near White Signal, Grant Co., on 1/28 (DAZ, MZ) and 2/8 (EL+).

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 1 near Bill Evans L. on 2/23 (EL\*) may have been the unidentified *empidonax* seen 1/4 (RE).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- Singles at the Las Palomas marsh in Sierra Co., 12/13 (GE); s. of Radium Springs, Dona Ana Co., on 1/11 (BZ); and at the Washington Ranch near Rattlesnake Springs on 12/21 (SW+).

TREE SWALLOW -- 1 at EBL on 1/30 (JPH\*\*\*, RD+).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 2 at Caballo L. on 1/3 (BZ\*, JNP).

BARN SWALLOW -- 1 at Caballo L. on 1/4 (JP\*, JO\*\*).

GRAY JAY -- Remarkable was a possible that wandered to Roswell on 12/21 (Elmer Schooley).

PINYON JAY -- At the southern edge of their range were 180 at Silver City on 12/21 (RF+) and 150 in 2 flocks on 2/17 in the Mimbres R. Valley, Grant Co. (NMC+).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- 1 in Silver City on 12/6 and 12/11 (EL); 1 at the White Sands Missile Range housing area in Dona Aria Co. on 1/18 (David Holderman\*\*).

AMERICAN CROW — Southerly were 1 at on 12/1 at Boone's Draw, Roosevelt Co. (CR); 50 in pecans e. of Deming 12/27 (JNP); about 50 over Dripping Springs near Las Cruces on 2/16 (NMC+), 100 at Mesquite, Dona Ana Co., 1/31 and 500 near Mesilla on 2/20 (GE).

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN -- Singles were at Albuquerque on 12/21 (Gary Froelich) and 2/23 (BV), the latter frequenting a dairy; 2 groups, 1 of about 14, wintered in Silver City where they favored fast-food restaurants (DAZ, MZ).

MEXICAN CHICKADEE -- At least 1 seen in Clanton Canyon, on 1/18-19 (BN, DE, CR), 1/31 (JP+), and 2/15 (JO+).

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- Conspicuous in submontane areas, including 3 east to Clayton 12/27 (CR, LH+); 8 at Santa Rosa 2/23 (JO); 5 or 6 at Fort Sumner, DeBaca Co., 12/1 (CR), 1/19 (JO), and 2/23 (JP); 2 at Roswell 12/21 (SMB) and 1 on 2/1 (CR); and 2 n. of Carlsbad on 12/28 (TJH+). For only the third winter in 4 decades, several wintered at Silver City (DAZ, MZ).

PLAIN TITMOUSE -- 1 was a surprise at Roswell on 2/1 (CR).

VERDIN -- North of the usual range was 1 on 1/25 at Turn in Valencia Co. (CR\*).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Attracted attention in lowland areas all season, including east to Clayton 12/18 to 3/1 (WC); Tucumcari on 12/8 (JO) and 1/31 (CR); and Clovis on 12/22 (JO); and south to Deming 12/27 (JNP), Mesquite in Dona Ana co. on 1/31 (GE), and Loving on 12/23 (SW+). Notable highs were 10 at Santa Fe on 12/28 (PI+), 14 at Roswell on 12/21 (SMB), 9 at Caballo L. and Percha SP 1/3 (BZ+), 44 at Las Cruces 12/21 (GE+), and 5 near Carlsbad on 12/28 (TJH+).

CACTUS WREN -- The saga of ne. records continued with 2 at San Jon, Quay Co., 12/8 (JO) and 1 at Ute L. on 1/31 (CR).

CANYON WREN -- 1 wandered to Bosque NWR on 12/22 (NC\*).

AMERICAN DIPPER -- Providing a local first was 1 at Rattlesnake Springs on 1/15 after a storm (V. Sartori).

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- Singles s. of Hachita on 12/28 (JO) and at the Las Cruces airport on 2/18 (JP), plus 2 at Mesilla on 12/27 (JO).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 2 at Bosque Redondo Park 12/1 (CR) and singles at Bosque NWR 12/22 (NC), EBL on 1/4 (JP, JO), and the Avalon/Brantley L. area on 12/28 (TJH+).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- Notable were 2 near Bill Evans L. 12/4 (RF) and 2 at Dripping Springs on 12/21 (GE).

Bluebird species -- 40 Easterns outnumbered Westerns and Mountains combined at Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/21 (SW) Westerns and Mountains were scarce in the north, but seen in sizeable flocks in the south. High counts of Mountains were found south into Mexico and included 50 at Virden on 12/28 (JO) ; 300 at Redrock 12/29 (JO) ; 292 on 12/29 in the Peloncillo Mts. (AMC+); 60 at Mangas Springs 1/13 to 1/30 (RF); 50 at Lordsburg on 1/25 (JO); 30 on Hwy 28 sw. of Las Cruces on 1/9 (BZ); 350 at Roswell on 12/21 (SMB±); 129 at Loving on 12/23 (SW); and 64 at Janos in Chihuahua, Mexico on 1/5 (CM+).

AMERICAN ROBIN -- Likely following available food crops, they were scarce or absent in some locales, but present in record numbers elsewhere.

BROWN THRASHER -- Singles were at Farmington on 12/21 (L. Lesperance, fide AN), Watrous in Mora Co. on 12/1 (JO\*\*), Tucumcari on 1/31 (CR\*), Bosque Redondo Park 2/23 (JO+), Roswell on 12/21 (SMB), at Las Cruces occasionally through the winter (GE\*), the Jornada Range near Las Cruces 12/21 (CS), and Janos, Chihuahua 1/5 (CM+). 5 were at Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/21 (SW+).

LONG-BILLED THRASHER -- A probable discovered at Bosque Redondo Park on 2/22 (JP\*) was compared to a nearby Brown on 2/23 (JO\*\*, CD, LG). There is one previous N.M. record for this species.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- Getting an early start was 1 that was singing 16 miles n. of Hachita on 1/22 (DAZ, MZ).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- Breeding: A nest with 2 young found at the Petroglyph NM near Albuquerque indicated that incubation had begun on 2/17 (HS); ... Far north was 1 at Los Alamos from 12/30 into March (R. Boicourt\*\*), only the second local and first winter record there.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- Singles were in grasslands near Bingham in e. Socorro Co. on 12/14 (Doug Burkett\*) and in s. Otero Co. n. of Dell City, Texas on 12/30 (Greg Lasley\*\*, Chuck Sexton). In Chihuahua, Mexico, 54 were at Janos 1/5 (CM+).

CEDAR WAXWING -- Appeared in many locales. High counts were 200 at Farmington on 12/21 (AN+), 124 in Albuquerque on 12/21 (HS+), and 104 at Las Cruces on 12/21 (GE+).

PHAINOPEPLA -- North was 1 female in the s. San Mateo Mts., Sierra Co., on 2/2 (HS) 4 were near La Luz in Otero Co. on 12/28 (GE).

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- Away from the n. tier of counties were singles at Zuni on 12/21 (JAT), an immature at Belen 12/25 (JO\*\*), an immature at San Marcial, Socorro Co., on 1/5 (JO\*\*), the Quarai Ruins in Torrance Co. on 1/2 (HS), and an immature at Texico, Curry Co., 12/22 (JO).

SOLITARY VIREO -- Undetailed was a possible plumbeus at Las Cruces on 12/21 (fide GE).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- Rare but regular in winter in the lower RGV; this season found singles at Percha SP 12/21 (JO, JP) and 1/3 (JNP, BZ\*), at Las Animas Creek nearby on 1/3 (JNP, BZ\*), Mesilla Park on 1/9 (BZ), and near Dripping Springs on 12/21 (GE\*).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1 in Socorro in Socorro Co. on 1/6 and 2/11 (PB). 7 counted at Las Cruces on 12/21 (GE+).

NORTHERN PARULA -- Lingering single probables were females at Bosque Redondo Park on 12/1 (CR\*) and at Las Cruces on 12/21 (KS\*).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER -- 1 male at Mesilla Park on 12/21 (R. Gunter\*, H. Harrison) and 1/9 (BZ).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- Well detailed was 1 albilores near Reserve in Catron Co. on 12/15 (JO\*\*) and a male at Las Cruces on 12/22 (William Glenn\*) and 1/11 (GE\*).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- Presumably the same female was at Riverside Park below Caballo L. dam and nearby Percha SP 12/27 to 1/4 (GE, John Sproul\*, JP, JO\*\*, CR\*).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- Unusual in winter were a male n. to Percha SP 12/21 to 1/4 (JP, JO); briefly noted were 7 at Las Cruces 12/21 (GE+) and 6 at Loving 12/23 (CC\*).

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- A pair n. to Santa Rosa on 2/23 (JO).

PYRRHULOXIA -- North were a male at Edgewood, Santa Fe Co., 1/15 and 1/17 (Peter Tallmon\*) and 1 at the migrant trap w. of Melrose on 12/1 (CR).

INDIGO BUNTING -- A possible female-plumaged bird was at Redrock on 12/29 (JO). While any bunting is unexpected in winter, the Lazuli is believed the more likely.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- North was 1 at Sevilleta NWR 12/21 (BH\*). Imitating their calls produced a record 205 in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/29 (AMC+).

RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 was well detailed in the Los Pinos Mts., Socorro Co., on 12/21 (BH).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- South of the usual range was 1 at the RGNC in Albuquerque on 2/8 (JP, LG).

CHIPPING SPARROW -- 10 at the Sevilleta NWR on 12/21 (BH\*) were at the n. edge of their usual winter range. Quite far north were 2 near Clayton on 12/27 (CR\*, LH).

Sparrows -- Good grass seed crops produced record counts of Chipping, Brewer's, and Vesper sparrows in Hidalgo Co. where about 2000 of each were tallied 12/29 (AMC). They were also in good numbers in the Grant Co. lowlands (RF).

FIELD SPARROW -- Up to 10 at the migrant trap w. of Melrose December to February (JO, JP, CR, LC).

LARK SPARROW -- Unusual in N.M. in winter, so notable were 6 at Redrock on 12/29 (JO), 2 in the Animas Valley on 12/31 (AMC, NMC, CS), 1 at Las Cruces on 12/21 (fide GE+), and 1 at Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/21 (SW+).

SAGE SPARROW -- 110 in the Albuquerque area on 12/21 was a high number (HS+).

BAIRD'S SPARROW -- Well described were 1 or 2 at two Otero Mesa sites in Otero Co. on 1/4 and 2/2 (EM).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 5 or 6 in the n. Animas Valley on 12/29 (AMC, NMC, Steve and Ruth Russell) and on 1/18 (DE, BN, CR); 1 banded there on 12/31 proved to be widespread western race *perpallidus* (AMC).

FOX SPARROW -- Quite a few records: a gray form near the Sandia Mt. foothills e. of Albuquerque 12/1 (BV) and 12/21 (HS); 1 red

near the RGNC in Albuquerque 1/20 (DS); a red at the Melrose migrant trap 12/22 (JO\*\*); 3 in the Gila R. Valley 1/4 (RF); 1 at Silver City 12/21 (RF) and 2 gray sw. of Silver City 12/29 (JO\*\*); 1 red 12/29 at Redrock (JQ\*\*); 2 at Tyrone 12/15 (EL); 1 gray in Las Cruces 12/21 (Nancy Stolz\*); 1 dark at Dripping Springs on 1/10 (BZ) and 2/17 (NMC); and 3 at Janos, in Chihuahua, Mexico, on 1/5 (CM+).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1 north to Zuni on 12/21 (JAT); 1 at Bandelier NM in Sandoval Co. near Los Alamos on 1/10 (CR\*); 1 at the migrant trap w. of Melrose on 12/1 (CR), on 12/22 and 2 on 1/19 (JO); and 1 at Clayton on 12/27 (CR\*, LH).

SWAMP SPARROW -- Northern records included 1 at Zuni 12/21 (JAT), 1 at Belen on 12/25 (JO), 2 at Bosque Redondo Park on 2/23 (JO), and 8 at Tucumcari L. on 1/31 (CR).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- Good numbers with an adult in Chama, Rio Arriba Co., on 12/7 (JP\*, JO\*\*); 1 in Santa Fe on 12/28 (fide PI); 1 or 2 in Zuni on 12/20-21 (JAT\*); 1 in Albuquerque 12/21 (Roger Hoppe, fide HS); 1 immature at Bosque Redondo Park on 2/23 (JO); 1 or 2 at Bosque NWR on 12/22 (with 1 banded, SC, LG) to 2/23 (JP, JO, DE, BN, CR\*, PS+, BZ\*); 2 at Bill Evans L. on 2/4 (RF).

HARRIS'S SPARROW -- 1 immature at Costilla, Taos Co., 12/14 (JP, JO\*\*); 1 near Santa Fe 12/1 (BF, fide RBA); 1 immature in Albuquerque on 12/21 (HS\*) and 1 immature 2/15 (BN, DE); 1 in Silver City from 1/12 to 1/30 and 2/25 (DAZ\*\*, MZ\*); an adult in Las Cruces 12/21 (Walt Whitford\*); and 2 near Bill Evans L. on 12/4 (RF).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 2 on 1/4 at the Grasslands Turf Ranch near Los Lunas, Valencia Co., (CR, DE) and 2/21 (DE, BN); and 4 on 1/12 (BZ+).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- A challenge to identify in winter; this season found 1 calling on the Petroglyph NM w. of Albuquerque on 1/18 (HS), 2 at the Sevilleta NWR on 12/21 (BH\*), and 1 w. of Caballo L. singing on 1/3 (JP, fide BZ).

COMMON GRACKLE -- Notable for mid-winter were singles at Wagon Mound, Mora Co., on 1/12 and at Deming 1/26 (JO).

ROSY FINCHES -- A mixed flock of 500 near Angel Peak SP s. of Bloomfield, San Juan Co., on 1/6 (TR\*\*) and 100 near Red River, Taos Co., on 1/18 (JP, JO). 2 Gray-crowned and a Black were at Sandia Crest e. of Albuquerque on 12/28 (Tom Kilroy, fide HS).

PINE GROSBEAK -- Surprising was a possible 1 on 12/7 near Farmington (TR).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Inundated the western two-thirds of N.M., numbering in the hundreds in some areas, setting local records (v.o.), and appearing in unusual places, as the shopping center in Corrales on 12/1 (BH), the bottomlands in the lower Gila R. Valley (EL), Deming on 1/1 (JO\*), and in cacti at Columbus 12/28 and 2/8 (JO, JNP, SOW) . High count was 315 in the Sandia Mts. on 1/5 (JY+) . Scattered reports of Purple Finches (and even "Redpolls") invariably proved to be Cassin's.

RED CROSSBILL -- Except in the southeast, winter was characterized by roving flocks (v.o.). Notable records included 1 at Farmington 12/15 (TR\*\*), plus others there later; 36 near Clayton 12/27 (CR, LH) and at additional Union Co. sites (WC); 50 at Zuni on 12/14 and 150 on 12/1 (DC); 15 at Virden on 12/28 (JO) and 2 on 1/31 (JP, BP). They were especially conspicuous in the RGV south of Albuquerque, with a high of 106 at Las Cruces 12/21 (GE+). At Percha SP (DE) and Las Cruces (Craig Benkman) they were found to be eating pecans.

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- 11 at Albuquerque on 12/21 were north of the usual winter range (HS+).

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH -- In the five southwestern counties fall's unprecedented flight continued, with local highs of 14 or 15 at Cliff, Grant Co., on 1/4 (RF) and 1/21 (EL); 13 at Silver City 12/27 (RF) ; 15 to 17 at Virden on 12/28 (JO\*\*) and 1/31 (JP\*); 83 in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/29 (AMC\*); 2 in Spring Canyon SP near Deming on 12/27 (JNP) and 1/1 (JO\*\*); 36 at Dripping Springs 12/21 (GE). Among the last reported were 6 n. to EBL dam on 2/16 (DC\*), 2 at Mangas Springs 2/18 (NMC), 10 below Caballo L. at Riverside Park 2/15 (PB, R. Teuber). In n. Mexico 14 near Janos in Chihuahua on 1/5 (CM+) and 3 near Ascension 1/6 (BH, SOW) may be the first for that region.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Abundant, with record highs of 119 at Santa Fe on 12/28 (P1+) and 597 at Zuni on 12/21 (JAT+).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Added greatly to the cardueline winter, with record numbers (often many hundreds) from Farmington, Zuni, and Santa Fe east to Clayton, Logan, and Clovis, south to Tyrone, the Peloncillo Mts., Las Cruces, and Carlsbad (v.o.).

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