

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 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 36, No. 3  
June 1 to July 31, 1997

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

## SUMMER, 1997 HIGHLIGHTS

Ample precipitation provided generally excellent food and cover conditions, especially for grassland species. Remarkably numerous were Lark Buntings in the northeastern part of the state, as well as Long-billed Curlews, Cassin's Sparrows, Dickcissels, and Grasshopper Sparrows. Attention to breeding birds verified a new nesting species for N.M., a Magnificent Hummingbird. There was an impressive showing of Gray Flycatchers. Cardeuline finches were uncommon in the northern highlands.

### Abbreviations Used

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	NWR	Natl. Wildlife Refuge
CG	Campground	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
Co.	County	R.	River
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	SP	State Park
IR	Indian Reservation	v.o.	various observers
L.	Lake	+	et al., others
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	*	details provided
NM	National Monument	**	photo, tape given
N.M.	New Mexico	***	specimen collected

### Contributors' Initials Used

Cleary, David	DC	Meyer, Ray	RM	Schwarz, Hart	HS
Cook, Wes	WC	Moore-Craig, Narca		Seyffert, Ken	KS
Craig, Alan	AC		NMC	Shook, Roland	RS
Emkalns, Doug	DE	Neville, Bruce	BN	Snider, Pat	PRS
Ewing, Gordon	GE	Oldenettel, J.	JO	Stahlecker, D.	DS
Fisher, Ralph	RF	Oldham, Mike	MO	Stoleson, Scott	SS
Foy, Bernard	BF	Parker, Dennis	DP	West, Bill	BW
Granillo, Kathy	KG	Parmeter, Ben	BP	West, Steve	SW
Hawksworth, Dave	DH	Parmeter, John	JP	Williams, S.O.	SOW
Howe, William	BH	Paton, James	JNP	Zimmer, Barry	BZ
Lewis, Eugene	EL	Puschock, John	JEP	Zimmerman, Dale	
Malone, Larry	LM	Reeves, Tim	TR		DAZ
McClenahan, Sue	SM	Rustay, Chris	CR	Zimmerman, Marian	
		Scholes, Robert	RTS		MZ

PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTIES

Albuquerque	Bernalillo	Las Animas Creek	Sierra
Angel Fire	Colfax	Las Cruces	Doña Ana
Animas Mts.	Hidalgo	Las Vegas NWR	San Miguel
Animas Valley	Hidalgo	Lordsburg	Hidalgo
Belen	Valencia	Los Alamos	Los Alamos
Bill Evans Lake	Grant	Los Ojos	Rio Arriba
Bitter Lake NWR	Chaves	Magdalena Mts.	Socorro
Bluewater Creek	Cibola	Mangas Springs	Grant
Bluewater Lake	Cibola	Maxwell, NWR	Colfax
Bosque (del Apache) NWR		Mesilla	Doña Ana
	Socorro	Navajo Lake	San Juan
Caballo Lake	Sierra	Organ Mountains	Doña Ana
Caprock	Lea	Pastura	Guadalupe
Clayton	Union	Peloncillo Mts.	Hidalgo
Cloudcroft	Otero	Piñon	Otero
Columbus	Luna	Pinos Altos	Grant
Conchas Lake	San Miguel	Playas Valley	Hidalgo
Deming	Luna	Post Office Canyon	Hidalgo
El Rito	Rio Arriba	Quarai Ruins	Torrance
Elephant Butte L.	Sierra	Rodeo	Hidalgo
Farmington	San Juan	Roswell	Chaves
Fort Sumner	DeBaca	Ruidoso	Otero
Gila, Gila R.	Grant	Sabinoso	San Miguel
Glenwood	Catron	San Andres NWR	Doña Ana
Grenville	Union	Sandia Mts.	Bernalillo
Guadalupe Canyon	Hidalgo	Santa Fe	Santa Fe
Guadalupe Mts.	Eddy	Silver City	Grant
Hobbs	Lea	Stinking (Burford) Lake	
Holloman Lakes	Otero		Rio Arriba
Jemez Mountains	Sandoval	Wagon Mound	Mora
	Zuni	McKinley	

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- Any loon in summer is a surprise. This season produced a late 1 in basic plumage on Conchas L. on 6/1 (JO\*).

EARED GREBE -- Breeding: 9 nests with eggs were found at Toadlena, San Juan Co., 7/11 (Brian Fedorko). No nests were noted at Zuni (DC). A peak count of 900 nests at Stinking L. on 7/9 (DS) was judged average for there.

CLARK'S GREBE -- 3 lingering at Bill Evans L. on 6/14 (EL) were late, with 1 still present on 6/21 (RF).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Moderate numbers summered in the far north, including 62 at Stinking L. on 7/9 (DS) and 8 at El Vado L., Rio Arriba Co., on 6/20 (PRS); their likely source is Antero L., Colorado, where nesting was disrupted by dam construction (fide Ronald Ryder).

BROWN PELICAN -- A sub-adult at Burn L. in Las Cruces in May was last seen on 6/1 (SW\*\*, J. Yancey). It may have been the same individual seen at Caballo L. on 6/11-12 (SM\*). An "apparent adult" at Bill Evans L. 6/28-29 (DH, fide DAZ) provided a local first.

AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1 at Zuni from 6/5 to 6/8 (DC\*) was vocal.

GREAT BLUE HERON -- Breeding: established on upper Las Animas Creek was a colony where 2 of 5 active nests had large young on 6/14 (GE).

GREAT EGRET -- Unusual was 1 near Deming on 6/3 (LM).

LITTLE BLUE HERON -- An adult at Bosque NWR in June and July (DE, BN, JO, GE, MO) was the only report.

CATTLE EGRET -- Singles away from known breeding areas were s. of Wagon Mound at Calley's L. on 6/6 (CR) and at the Lordsburg marsh on 7/5 (JO, JP, BP),

GREEN HERON -- Where rarely recorded were 2 at Bosque Redondo L. near Fort Sumner 7/26 (JO, JP) and singles below Bill Evans L. on 6/6 (RS) and at Deming 7/6 (JO).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- Moved in residential areas in south Albuquerque and Bosque Farms in Bernalillo Co., with 10 and 100 pairs, respectively, in June (BH).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- 1 was found at Bosque NWR in early June (MO).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- Breeding: all 15 nests at Stinking L. on 6/11 failed by 6/28 (DS). They failed to attempt any nesting at previously occupied sites near Zuni (DC) and at the Bosque NWR colony (MO).

TUNDRA SWAN -- Corrigendum for Vol 36, No. 2, page 20: the last swan at Bosque NWR should have been 3/8, not 5/8.

SNOW GOOSE -- 3 were late at Bosque NWR on 6/6 (JP, JO) and 2 were present 7/3 to 7/20 (JO, GE).

WOOD DUCK -- 1 immature male e. of Lordsburg on 7/6 (JO) was unusual.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- Also unusual were 3 s. of Hope, in Eddy Co., on 6/13 (SW).

EURASIAN WIGEON -- Corrigendum for Vol. 36, No. 2, page 21: the 1 at Storrie L. should have been 3/22-23, not 5/22-23.

RING-NECKED DUCK -- Several persisted into summer in the west, with singles at Chuska L., San Juan Co., 7/27 (JO); and Nutria L. near Zuni from 6/5 to 7/1 (DC). 3 were at Bluewater L. on 6/9 (DC).

BUFFLEHEAD -- 1 at Nutria L. near Zuni 6/14 and 6/24 (DC).

HOODED MERGANSER -- A lingering female was at Bosque NWR on 6/4 (BZ).

TURKEY VULTURE -- Breeding: a nest with 2 eggs was in Twin Buttes Canyon, 20 miles sw. of Roswell on 6/3 (SOW).

OSPREY -- Breeding: all 3 nests in Rio Arriba Co. were a success, fledging a total of 8 young by late July (DS).

WHITE-TAILED KITE -- Continued to tantalize. Singles were near Deming on 6/26 (JEP\*) and near Gila on 7/20 (SS, *fide* DAZ), but breeding evidence remains elusive.

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 2 or 3 were at Fort Sumner on 6/14 (BH) and on 6/22 (BF).

BALD EAGLE -- Breeding: the nest in Colfax Co. fledged 1 young (SOW) and the Sierra Co. nest fledged 2 (SM);.... In Colfax Co. single adults were at Stubblefield L. 7/19 (JO) and at Black L. on 6/28 (CR) and 7/9 (PRS, BW). 1 near Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Co., 7/25 (Ken Schneider).

NORTHERN HARRIER -- Summering harriers rebounded with the end of dry conditions, especially in the Pecos R. Valley, where there were 4 at 3 sites near Roswell on 6/11 (BH). In the southwest, singles were at Lordsburg on 7/5 (JO, JP, BP), Deming on 7/25 (LM), and w. of Columbus on 7/16 (JNP). 1 or 2 between 6/2 and 7/6 (JP, JO, SOW) and 7/25 (AC, NMC) were in the Animas Valley.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK -- Breeding: a nest was in southeastern N.M. in Turkey Canyon of the Guadalupe Mts. near Queen. (SW\*\*, Larry Paul).

CHUKAR -- Introductions have failed, but individuals keep appearing. 3 were at the Ladder Ranch on Las Animas Creek on 6/14 (GE).

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN -- Alarming were estimates that they have declined by 85% over the past decade; herbicide programs, coupled with grazing and drought, were believed to be responsible. Numbers were down from 2500 in 1988 to 324 in 1996.

QUAILS -- More encouraging were reports that NORTHERN BOB-WHITE and SCALED and GAMBEL'S QUAIL numbers were up in most areas, likely reflecting more favorable weather conditions (v.o.).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- Summering birds were reported from 5 counties: 6 at Farley, Colfax Co., on 6/25 (SOW); 5 at Grenville on 6/12 (KS); and singles near Pueblo Pintado, McKinley Co., on 6/14 (Jim Place), at Zuni on 6/27 (DC\*), in the North Plains on NM 117 in Cibola Co., on 6/7 (DC), and near Santo Domingo Pueblo, in Sandoval Co., on 6/8 (JO). 10 present at the Moriarty turf farm, Torrance Co., 7/26 were presumed to be early migrants (JO).

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 1 was unusual at Bill Evans L. on 6/21 (RF).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 1 was early at Bosque NWR 7/6 (JO).

WILLET -- Early were 5 at EBL on 7/3 (JO) and 1 on 7/5 at the Lordsburg marsh (JO, JP, BP).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Benefited from favorable conditions. Summering curlews were well-represented from Maxwell (KG, JO) west to 10 on 6/11 at Sedan, Union Co. (KG) and south to 3 on 6/3 near Delia, Guadalupe Co. (SOW); 4 on 6/14 at Pastura (BH); and 2 on 6/21 at Pep, Lea Co. (David Leal). Singles were unusual near Zuni on 6/27 (DC\*\*), on 6/20 at Holloman L. (CR), and 2 at Lordsburg on 7/5 (JO, JP, BP).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER -- Now recognized as regular in the east into early June. This summer there were 3 at Chicosa L., Harding Co., on 6/6 (CR\*) and 21 at Bitter L. NWR on 6/10 (BH\*).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 2 were at Deming on 7/17 (LM\*).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 2 lingered at Bosque NWR until 6/28 (JO). 1 was early at Deming on 7/25 (LM).

COMMON SNIEPE -- Undoubtedly breed in the state, but proof is lacking. 4 were winnowing and 2 others seen in the high Tusas Valley w. of Tres Piedras, Rio Arriba Co., on 6/25 (SOW). 1 was winnowing at Los Ojos on 6/26 (SOW), and 11 were near Angel Fire on 6/28 (CR).

\*RED PHALAROPE -- 1 male in breeding plumage at Bosque NWR in late May was still present on 6/4 (BZ\*\*) and 6/6 (JP\*, JO\*)

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- At EBL 1 on 6/28 (JO), 1 or 2 on 7/3 (JO), and 7/6 (JO, JP, BP).

RING-BILLED GULL -- High counts for summering, but non-breeding, gulls were up to 50 at Stinking L. on 6/7 (DS), 10 at EBL on 6/28 (JO), and 6 at Caballo L. on 7/17 (GE).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- Small numbers summered, mainly in the north, including 20 at Stinking L. 6/7 (DS) and 1 found dead on 6/20 (PRS); 15 at Heron L., Rio Arriba Co., on 7/12 (JO) and 23 on 7/18 (CR); 3 at Bluewater L. 6/17 (DC); and 1 at Charette L., Mora Co., on 7/19 (JO).

ARCTIC TERN -- 1 adult in breeding plumage at EBL on 7/3 provided the third N.M. record (JO\*\*, details).

LEAST TERN -- The small colony near Roswell had 5 nests by early June (James Montgomery, Kristine Johnson) about average for the last 5 years;...1 was near Clayton 7/20 (WC); an adult on the Las Vegas NWR 6/4 (Phil Garcia\*\*), 1 wandered to Malpais Spring in Otero Co. on 6/8 (JEP) on the White Sands Missile Range.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- Breeding: an active nest in the Animas Mts. 7/25 (NMC);...Widely reported from montane areas. Presumed non-breeders were 25 at Quarai Ruins 7/19 (HS), up to 130 at Silver City feeders in mid-June (RS, *fide* DAZ), and 5 in the Organ Mts. on 6/17 (JNP).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE -- 1 at Fort Sumner on 7/26 (JP\*, JO\*\*) was a new location. 2 were at Roswell 6/19 (SW), where they have been present since 1995.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- Continued their northward advance, with 1 at Farmington on 6/16 (TR\*), 1 or 2 at Santa Fe in June and July (BW), 2 calling at the nearby Rancho Encantado on 7/13 (BF), and 1 calling at Logan, Quay Co., 6/2 (SOW). "Urban" White-wings were judged well-established in Silver City with some 75 pairs, but fewer were noticed in nearby river valleys (DAZ).



COMMON GROUND-DOVE -- The only reports were of 1 banded at Bosque NWR on 6/2 (DH) and 1 singing near Gila on 7/4 (JP\*, JO\*, BP).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO -- Breeding: adults with begging juveniles were at Mangas Springs 7/26 and 7/30 (RF);.... 2 at Hillsboro, Sierra Co., 7/29 (DAZ, MAZ) were in an area where seldom reported. Elsewhere 1 to 6 were noted at 14 locales from Shiprock on 7/4 (TR\*) and Maxwell on 7/19 (JO) south to the s. Guadalupe Mts. on 6/21-22 (SW) and 6/7 at Hobbs (DH).

FLAMMULATED OWL -- 1 was heard in Sandstone Canyon e. of Cedar Hill, San Juan Co., on 7/1 (TR).

ELF OWL -- 2 in Dark Canyon in the s. Guadalupe Mts. on 6/16 (SW+) furnished an Eddy Co. first record, providing additional evidence of its range expansion.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- 1 heard at Canjilon Lakes, Rio Arriba Co., on 6/26 (JP).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK -- A vocal 1 was 25 miles n. of Roswell 6/11 (BH) near the n. edge of the Pecos R. Valley range.

BLACK SWIFT -- 3 at Heron L., Rio Arriba Co., on 7/19 (CR\*) were far from nesting locales.

CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 1 at Silver City on 7/8 (DAZ) provided a local first; elsewhere 2 were at Albuquerque 7/1 (JP, BP, JO), while 5 was the maximum in Clayton (WC).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- Breeding: added to the list of species definitely known to breed in N.M. A female was on a nest in the Animas Mts. 6/13-14 (JP, JO\*\*, AC).

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD -- Scarce, with 1 or 2 males and no females at their Post Office Canyon stronghold in June and July (RTS) and none reported elsewhere.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 male was n. to Mangas Springs on 7/27 (RF); the only others were a few seen in Post Office Canyon in June and July (RTS), and 2 elsewhere on 7/5 in the Peloncillo Mts. (AC, JP).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD -- 2 males and a female on Otero Mesa in yucca grassland 7/17 (RM, good\*) in Otero Co.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD -- 2 females in Mills Canyon, Harding Co., on 6/26 (HS), the first local record.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- The earliest for summer was an adult male at Pinos Altos 6/23 (Russell Kleinman, *fide* DAZ), followed by 1 at La Cueva in Mora Co. 6/27 (CR).

BELTED KINGFISHER -- A pair was south of its range in s. Albuquerque on 6/23 (BH).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- 1 adult was west of its range at Belen on 7/20 (JO).

ACORN WOODPECKER -- Unusual was 1 in desert scrub seen 25 miles e. of Columbus in sw. Doña Ana Co. at least 40 miles from the nearest oaks on 6/11 (JNP).

GILA WOODPECKER -- 1 female was e. of the Animas Mts. on Deer Creek 6/10 (SOW), where a male was seen in May.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- Breeding: nest with 2 calling young in a stub near the Dome Burn in the Jemez Mts. on 7/13 (PRS); a second nest on the same day in a different area on the Dome Road (JO).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- Southerly were a pair in the Pinos Altos Mts. 6/2 (BZ) and 1 male near Cloudcroft 6/21 (CR).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER -- Breeding: A pair was nesting in the Dome Burn in the Jemez Mts. on 6/29 (JO\*) in a dead aspen;....Far south was a male in the Pinos Altos Mts. on 7/1 (LM\*).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- Singles were in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona, Lincoln Co., on 6/17 (HS) and on 6/21 near Cloudcroft (CR).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER -- Breeding: a nest near Shiprock from 7/13 to 7/31 was a San Juan Co. first. Unfortunately it produced only cowbirds and a re-nesting effort on 7/26 failed (TR\*);....In the Gila R. Valley near Cliff about 156 pairs were studied 6/10-11 (DP, *fide* DAZ), a figure similar to 1995 and 1996 estimates which continued to demonstrate the importance of that area to the south-western subspecies.

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- Made an impressive summer showing, with reports from 29 locales and including 11 BBS routes; high counts included 10 near Pecos, San Miguel Co., on 6/30 (CR), 4 at Zuni on 6/27 (DC), and 4 pairs at Little Walnut near Silver City in summer (DAZ). At the se. edge of its range were 3 in the s. Sacramento Mts. near Piñon 6/10 (BH) and 1 in the Guadalupe Mts. in Turkey Canyon 6/18 (SW+)

DUSKY FLYCATCHER -- 3 at 7500 feet in the Zuni Mts. on 6/12 on Bluewater Creek (HS), 2 singing in pines 6/28 near Angel Fire (CR), 1 at 8500 feet in the Sandia Mts. on 6/3 (HS).

BLACK PHOEBE -- Breeding: an adult and a juvenile were along the Mora R. at Valmora, Mora Co., on 7/19 (JO).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- A singing, unmated 1 in Albuquerque at the Montaño Street bridge over the Rio Grande from 6/4 to 7/3 (DS, JP, BH).

BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- At least 2 were east to Las Animas Creek on 6/20-21 (JP) and 6/28 (JO), where it is now seen annually.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER -- Flycatcher of the season was a newly molted immature at Silver City 7/31 (MZ\*).

THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD -- Only 1 was detected 6/11-13 on a 2-mile Guadalupe Canyon transect in the N.M. part (SOW) where in most years 3 pairs summer (SOW).

EASTERN KINGBIRD -- Breeding: up to 5 territories were active at San Juan Pueblo, Sandoval Co. Nests with large young were found on 7/7 and 7/18 (DS);.... 1 or 2 at 7 San Juan Co. areas from 6/14 to 7/22 (TR).

PURPLE MARTIN -- Southerly and in pinyon habitat was 1 flying near Piñon on 6/10 (BH).

PINYON JAY -- A notable post-breeding flock of 60 at Silver City on 7/31 (DAZ, MZ, RS). High count of 181 at Mt. Taylor, Cibola Co., ON 6/14 (Bill Willard).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- Up to 20 were at Emory Pass 6/9, and 6 were there on 6/12 (Paul Boucher). Breeding in the Black Range in Sierra and Grant Cos. is likely, but so far unproved. 2 were over Alamogordo, Otero Co., on 6/24 (Marilyn and Hugh Ellison).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- The RGV breeding frontier was pushed south by 25 miles with 2 fledglings being fed by adults in s. Albuquerque on 6/22 (BH).

AMERICAN CROW -- 2 or 3 in Ruidoso on 7/27-29 (JNP).

MEXICAN CHICKADEE -- At least 10 in the Animas Mts. 6/13-14 (AC, JP, JO) and 7/25 (NMC) when an adult was "carrying food", but actual nesting not documented.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- 3 were in the Organ Mts. on 6/17 (JNP) where not known to breed.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 2 seen in the Animas Mts. on 6/13-14 (JO, JP, AC).

CACTUS WREN -- Breeding: 1 at a nest structure near Sumner L., DeBaca Co., on 7/26 (JO, JP) was a probable new location;...Additional northeastern reports were 2 e. of Sabinoso on 6/6 (CR) and 4 at 4 places on 6/3 in Harding Co. (SOW).

BEWICK'S WREN -- Present throughout Albuquerque's RGV in June and July (BH), where they were rare or absent in the early 1980's.

WINTER WREN -- 1 singing below Jemez Falls CG on 7/11 (JP) and 7/13 (JO, Louis Cuellar) furnished the second Jemez Mts. summer report in three years.

MARSH WREN -- Breeding: a Stinking L. colony persisted with 13 clutches located on 6/11 (DS).

AMERICAN DIPPER -- 1 was on the No. Fork of the Ruidoso R., near Ruidoso on the Mescalero IR, Otero Co., on 7/2 (Anita Powell).

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- In the Guadalupe Mts. area included single males on the w. side 41 miles se. of Piñon on 6/10 (BH\*) and on the e. side in Big Canyon on 6/21 (SW+).

VEERY -- 1 or 2 were singing between Vadito and the Sipapu Ski Area in Taos Co. from 6/22 to 7/12 (JP, JO, BN, DE, James Travis, PRS, BW); that area remains the most likely state breeding locale.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- Late were 2 near Rodeo on 6/1 (RTS).

GRAY CATBIRD -- Continued to appear in peripheral areas, including 1 or 2 below Navajo L. dam from 6/1 to 6/22 (TR\*); 2 at Upper Nutria near Zuni 6/5 (DC); individuals in Valencia Co. at the Madrone Ponds n. of Jarales 6/7 and 6/28 (JP, JO) and at Bosque on 7/20 (JO); 1 on 6/29 at Bosque NWR (DE, BN).

LONG-BILLED THRASHER -- The persistent, but not mated, bird at Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner was still singing on 6/14 (BH\*), 6/22 (BF\*, tape submitted), and 7/26 (JP\*, JO\*).

BROWN THRASHER -- Breeding: a pair at Bosque Redondo Park at Fort Sumner was feeding young on 6/22 (BF); 1 was chased by the Long-billed Thrasher on 6/14 (BH\*); 1 or 2 seen on 7/26 (JP, JO).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- Breeding: fledged a second brood of 4 at Eldorado near Santa Fe on 6/22 (SOW).

PHAINOPEPLA -- Singles pushed north: 1 male on 6/15 to near Alma in Catron Co. (JO), a male on 6/20 near Riley, Socorro Co., (HS), a female at Isleta Pueblo, Bernalillo Co., 7/20 (JO), and a male at the Quarai Ruins on 7/19 (HS), but no breeding was detected in those peripheral areas. 49 counted in the N.M. part of Guadalupe Canyon on 6/12 (SOW).

WHITE-EYED VIREO -- Far northwest was 1 male on 6/21 near Bloomfield (TR\*\*), providing the second record for San Juan Co.

BELL'S VIREO -- Breeding: Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., suffered an alarming high cowbird parasitism rate of 87% with 13 of 15 nests impacted (David Roemer). Of 3 nests discovered above EBL, all were abandoned following cowbird parasitism (Larry White).

GRAY VIREO -- Breeding: a nest near Aztec 7/4 contained 2 nestlings that likely fledged 7/9 (TR\*\*), a first San Juan Co. nesting record. Up to 16 with a fledgling, at Big Canyon in the Guadalupe Mts. 6/21 (SW);...2 were at Aguirre Springs Park in the Organ Mts. on 6/17 (JNP).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 2 pairs were east to the Organ Mts. on 6/17 (JNP) suggesting possible local breeding.

WARBLING VIREO -- Late for Mesilla was 1 on 6/3 (RM).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER -- 1 was banded at Bosque NWR on 6/5 (DH).

YELLOW WARBLER -- Notable was 1 singing at Belen on 6/7 (BH), as the species has now become scarce there in summer.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER -- Breeding: 25 counted in Otero Canyon of the Manzanita Mts. s. of Tijeras, Bernalillo Co. A nest was found with young at about 7300 feet in a juniper (HS).

PRAIRIE WARBLER -- A male at the Whittington Center of the NRA near Raton, Colfax Co., 6/10 (David Curson\*).  
97-3 (Summer '97)

OVENBIRD -- For the second consecutive year, 1 singing in the San Juan Mts. near El Rito on 6/27 (JP) and 7/2 (PRS). Adding to the intrigue was another singing in the Jemez Mts. along the Guadalupe R. n. of Cañones, Sandoval Co., on 6/29 (BH).

OLIVE WARBLER -- Breeding: A male was feeding a fledgling on the road to Signal Peak n. of Pinos Altos 6/14 (JO, JP).

HEPATIC TANAGER -- 1 was in the Canadian R. Canyon e. of Wagon Mound, Mora Co., on 6/6 (CR).

SUMMER TANAGER -- Far north were 2 on the Canadian R. near Sabinoso on 6/6 (CR) and 1 was in a prairie grove s. of Vaughn, Guadalupe Co., on 6/7 (SW).

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- Peripheral were single males e. of Conchas L. and at Tucumari, Quay Co., on 6/7 (CR).

LAZULI BUNTING -- 1 male singing in the South Valley in Albuquerque on 6/23 (BH) was at the southern limit of its breeding range.

INDIGO BUNTING -- Breeding: 3 males with 1 feeding a fledgling at Belen on 7/20 (JO);...1 male at Zuni 6/9 to 7/16 (DC), 3 e. of Conchas L. on 6/7 (CR), and 1 male at Quarai Ruins on 7/19 (HS).

INDIGO X LAZULI BUNTING -- 2 or 3 apparent hybrids were noted on 7/3 and 7/20 in San Juan Co. (TR\*\*).

VARIED BUNTING -- A male was singing 7/14 in San Andres Canyon of the San Andres NWR were it had been seen on 5/29 (BH\*, Mara Weisenberger\*).

PAINTED BUNTING -- Far north were 3, with 2 singing males, near Tucumcari, Quay Co., on 6/7 (CR).

DICKCISSEL -- Favorable conditions and good rains in the northeastern grasslands made for the best numbers ever; with reports of 1 at Springer L., Colfax Co., on 7/19 (JO); 5 on 7/19 at the Maxwell NWR (JO) and 7/29 (PRS); a male s. of Capulin in Union Co. on 6/24 (SOW); near Solano in Harding Co. on 6/6 (CR); 1 e. of Watrous on 7/19 (JO) in Mora Co.; at the Las Vegas NWR on 6/6 (CR), 3 on 7/9 (PRS, BW) and 2 on 7/19 (JO); and 1 near Fort Sumner on 6/2 (SOW), 1 or 2 on 7/26 (JO, JP), and 4 on 7/27 (BF).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- Noteworthy was 1 singing at Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mts. on 6/7 (JP, JO).

ABERT'S TOWHEE -- Breeding: in the Cliff-Gila area of the Gila R. Valley only a small population persists (DAZ). A nest found in late June contained towhee and cowbird eggs and a pair in early July was feeding fledgling towhees and cowbirds (SS, *fide* DAZ).

BOTTERI'S SPARROW -- Returned to the Animas Valley, where there were 24 occupied territories 6/8 to 6/11 (SOW). The only 1 e. of the Continental Divide was a male singing in unlikely habitat at McKinney Flats in the Playas Valley, e. of San Luis Pass, on 6/10 (SOW).

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- With ample spring and summer rains, they rebounded nicely in the east, but the species was scarce or absent in previously occupied range in the southwest. High counts were 158 near Bitter L. NWR on 6/11 (BH) and 149 near Fort Sumner on 6/2 (SOW). In the southwest, none were in the Animas Valley on 6/9 (SOW).

BREWER'S SPARROW -- At the southern fringe of breeding range were 2 singing at Spur L. Basin n. of Luna in Catron Co. on 6/15 (SOW).

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- North of usual was at least 1 at El Malpais NM, Cibola Co., on 6/15 (JP, JO).

VESPER SPARROW -- Late for the borderlands area were singles in the s. Animas Valley and at San Luis Pass on 6/9 (SOW).

SAGE SPARROW -- A singing 1 was near El Rito 7/12 (JP).

LARK BUNTING -- Breeding: Documented nests in Colfax (HS, SOW) and Harding Cos. (HS). In the northwest at two San Juan Co. sites fledglings were seen on 7/18-19 (TR\*\*). Experienced perhaps their best summer ever in ne. N.M., with multiple reports of "incredible numbers" throughout June from Colfax and Union Cos. s. to Quay, Torrance, and Lincoln, Cos., including highs of 64 at Maxwell on 6/10 (KG), 63 s. of Abbott, Union Co., on 6/27 (HS), 206 near Grenville 6/12 (KS), 57 e. of Las Vegas on 6/7 (CR), and 31 s. of Encino, Torrance Co., on 6/6 (SOW). Far south was a male at Caprock, Lea Co., on 6/5 (SOW).

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- Summering were 1 at Nutria L. near Zuni on 6/5 and 6/14 (DC), 2 near Burns L. in Los Ojos on the Parkview Fish Hatchery on 6/26 (SOW), 27 on 6/28 near Angel Fire (CR), and 8 at Maxwell on 6/10 (KG).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- Favored by good grass cover in the east with small to moderate numbers at 9 northeast sites, including 2 at Chicosa L., Harding Co., on 6/6 (CR) and 7 near Rosebud, Harding Co., on 6/2 (William Maynard), plus singles near Variadero on 6/7 (CR) and Pastura on 6/14 (BH). In the southeast 2 at Bitter L. NWR on 6/11 (BH), 3 near Caprock on 6/5 (SOW), and 1 at Hobbs on 6/7 (DH). In Hidalgo Co. the *ammolegus* race reversed a 5-year decline with 57 in the Animas Valley and 16 in the Playas Valley on 6/9-10 (SOW).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Unusual was an adult along the San Francisco R. near Glenwood 6/28 (DP, *fide* DAZ).

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO -- Breeding: at least 1 of 10 in the Animas Mts. on 6/13-14 was a juvenile (AC, JO, JP). Of 30 there on 7/25 22 were young of the year (NMC).

BOBOLINK -4 males and 1 female were at Burns L. at Los Ojos 6/29 (DE, BN), but none were seen 7/12 following recent mowing of hay fields (JO).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- Northerly were singles at Zuni 6/18 and 6/26 (DC) and 2 in Harding Co. on 6/3 (SOW). 13 with no Westerns were between Magdalena and Riley, Socorro Co., on 6/20 (HS).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- South to the Sacramento Mts. with 14 on the Mescalero IR in Otero Co. near Ruidoso 7/28 (GE) and 3 near Cloudcroft on 6/21 (CR).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- 1 in Roy, Harding Co., 6/6 (CR).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- Breeding; a BULLOCK'S ORIOLE on 7/16 was feeding a fledgling at Tyrone, Grant Co., (EL);... Others included a male on 7/4 at Glenwood (JP, BP); 2 to 5 in Hidalgo Co. on 6/10 and 6/12-13 (SOW); east to Sierra Co. (v.o.); 3 at Pancho Villa SP 7/16 (BZ, JNP) and a male at Deming on 7/6 (JO) in Luna Co.; and 1 at the Jornada Range in Doña Ana Co. on 6/7 (RM).

ORCHARD ORIOLE -- North in the Pecos R. Valley was 1 male singing at Bitter L. NWR on 6/11 (BH).

HOODED ORIOLE -- Once regular at Silver City, they were absent this year (DAZ).



SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- A pair at 6800 feet in pinyon-juniper in San Juan Co. on 7/24 (TR); 5 on the Sabinoso BBS on 6/6 (CR); and 1 near Zuni 6/21 to 6/30 (DC).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Notable for the south was a mating pair in the Organ Mts. on 7/5 (GE). Numbers in the northern highlands were low. None in the Los Alamos area in June and July (PRS).

RED CROSSBILL -- Only small numbers were detected, these restricted to the n. highlands (v. o.), 2 in the Zuni area on 6/25 (DC), and 1 in the Mogollon Mts. near Reserve in Catron Co. on 6/21 (JO).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Late reports were singles on 6/1 in Albuquerque (BH), at Rio Rancho in Sandoval Co. (BH), and near Gallinas, San Miguel Co. (CR). Up to 9 spent the summer in three sites near Zuni, including up to 4 at Sand Springs Canyon 6/9 to 6/21 (DC) and 3 at Black Rock Canyon on 6/30 (DC).

EVENING GROSBEEK -- Scarce in the north. Noteworthy in the south were singles near Gila on 7/11 and 7/13 (*fide* DAZ), at Pinos Altos on 6/2 (BZ), and 6 at Ruidoso from 7/27 to 7/29 (JNP).

Published August 15, 2000.