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WINTER 1997-1998 HIGHLIGHTS

Relatively mild and damp winters are no longer a novelty for the state, and the winter of 1997-1998 was no exception. It was portrayed by an almost complete absence of submontane jays, parids, bluebirds, and cardeuline finches in stark contrast to last winter. Some other species, especially sparrows, wintered well north of usual. Although some may view global warming with political spectacles, the steady advance of warm- country birds northward, in both winter and breeding seasons, argues that change is occurring.

It was a banner season for the loons, with four species reported in the state. Reports of rare gulls continued. Scaled and Gambel's quail were considered in good numbers in most areas.

The AOU Checklist has made changes in species order which will be reflected in this issue.

All birders are encouraged to document their sightings, not just "phone them Alert. in" to the Rare Bird

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Albuquerque	Dec.21	HS	105	52,473
Bosque del Apache	Dec.20	SC, NC	92	47,688
Caballo	Jan.2	BZ	137	16,180
Carlsbad Caverns	Dec.31	SW	90	3,200
Clayton	Dec.29	LH	61	6,279
Dixon	Jan. 1	RW	47	3,083
Espanola	Jan.4	EF	68	4,107
Farmington	Dec.20	AN	69	38,036
Five Points	Dec.20	DH	26	1,089
Gila River	Jan.3	RS	113	6,980
La Luz-Otero Co.	Dec.27	JM	71	5,080
Lakes Avalon-Brantley	Dec.22	TH	82	9,058
Las Cruces	Dec.20	GE	107	28,685
Las Vegas	Dec.21	GB	72	6,024
Loving	Dec.29	SW	106	5,850
Peloncillo Mountains	Dec.27	AC	83	5,567
Questa	Dec.22	RW	37	1,169
Roswell	Jan. 3	SB	84	21,331
Ruidoso	Dec.30	AP	55	1,973
Sandia Mountains	Dec.27	JY	46	2,337
Santa Fe	Dec.27	P1	59	5,917
Santa Rosa	Dec.30	BW	66	2,271
Sevilleta NWR	Dec.30	BR	54	3,477
Silver City	Dec.20	RS	84	7,067
Zuni	Dec.20	JAT	74	6,592

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

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

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PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTRIES:

Albuquerque (Bernalillo)	Bitter Lake NWR (Chaves)
Animas Valley (Hidalgo)	Bosque (del Apache) NWR
Arrey (Sierra)	(Socorro)
Bernardo (Socorro)	Brantley Lake (Eddy)
Bill Evans Lake (Grant)	Caballo Lake (Sierra)

Carlsbad Caverns NP (Eddy)
Chama (Rio Arriba)
Clayton (Union)
Cliff (Grant)
Cochiti Lake (Sandoval)
Conchas Lake (San Miguel)
Corona (Lincoln)
Deming (Luna)
El Vado Lake (Rio Arriba)
Elephant Butte L.(Sierra)
Española (Rio Arriba)
Farmington (San Juan)
Fort Sumner (DeBaca)
Gila, R. Valley (Grant)
Heron Lake (Rio Arriba)
House (Quay)
Las Animas Creek (Sierra)
Las Cruces (Dona Ana)
Las Vegas, NWR (San Miguel)
Lordsburg (Hidalgo)
Los Alamos (Los Alamos)
Loving (Eddy)
Mangas Springs (Grant)
Meirose trap (Roosevelt)
Mescalero Lake (Otero)
Milnesand (Roosevelt)

Morgan Lake (San Juan)
Peloncillo Mts. (Hidalgo)
Percha Dam SP (Sierra)
Post Office Canyon (Hidalgo)
Questa (Taos)
Rattlesnake Springs (Eddy)
Rodeo (Hidalgo)
Roswell (Chaves)
Ruidoso (Lincoln)
Sabinoso (San Miguel)
San Andres NWR (Dona Ana)
San Antonio (Socorro)
Sandia Mts. (Bernalillo)
Santa Fe (Santa Fe)
Santa Rosa, Lake (Guadalupe)
Sevilleta NWR (Socorro)
Silver City (Grant)
Socorro (Socorro)
Sumner Lake (DeBaca)
Sunland Park (Dona Ana)
Trujillo (San Miguel)
Tyrone (Grant)
Ute Lake (Quay)
Willow Lake (Eddy)
Zuni (McKinley)

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON -- 1 was at EBL on 2/8 (DE*, BN*) and on 2/14 (JP* JO*).

PACIFIC LOON -- 1 in first-winter plumage at EBL on 1/18 (DE*, BN*).

COMMON LOON -- 2 at Heron L. on 1/18 (JO, CR); 1 on Conchas L. on 2/21 (JO); 1 at Santa Rosa L. on 12/30 (BW+); 1 or 2 on EBL on 1/3 (JO, JP), 1/13 (JO, PL), and 1/18 (JO, JP, Louis Cuellar+); 6 or 7 on EBL on 2/14 (JP, JO); 3 seen at Brantley L. on 12/22 (TH+); and 4 at Loving on 12/29 (SW+).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON -- An immature at Caballo L. 1/10 (BZ*, sketch) and 1/13 (JO*, PL*) was the state's 7th in 7 years.

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- Late for the north were 10 on 12/20 at Farmington (AN+) and 3 at Clayton on 12/29 (CR, LH+).

HORNED GREBE -- Present at 12 locales in 9 counties, where they favored the larger lakes, and included 3 on Heron L. on 1/25 (JT), and 1 at El Vado L. on 1/7 (DS*) and 1/18 (JO, CR). 16 were on Santa Rosa L. on 2/13 (CR, DE).

WESTERN GREBE -- Where rarely encountered were singles at Mescalero L. on 12/17 (AP) and at Deming on 2/27 (LM).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- At least one wintered north to Morgan L. from 12/20 to 2/25 (JO, TR**), a first for San Juan Co. Also wintering were 30 at Caballo L. 1/13 (GE) and 76 at Six-Mile Dam near Loving on 12/25 (SW).

BROWN PELICAN -- Recently annual in N.M., an adult put in a brief appearance at Caballo L. 1/13 (F.J. Dirckx*, GE*).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- 2 were north to the Isleta Pueblo lakes, Bernalillo Co., on 2/15 (BV, good*).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- On 12/10 there was 1 at the sewage plant in Deming (LM).

AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1 at Willow L. 1/7 (SW, TH) provided an unusual Eddy Co. winter record.

GREAT EGRET -- Several present at Bosque NWR all winter (JP, BV, GE), where 11 were counted on 12/20 (SC, NC+).

SNOWY EGRET -- 1 at Loving on 12/29 (SW) was the only report.

CATTLE EGRET -- 17 at Las Cruces on 12/29 (GE) provided the only report.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON -- North for winter were 7 at Morgan L. on 12/27 (TR).

TURKEY VULTURE -- Do not winter in N.M., so remarkable on 1/1 was 1 soaring w. of Caballo L. (DE) and perched nearby at Las Animas Creek on 1/2 (JNP, BZ**, BV). To the south at Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico however, 208 were counted on 1/2 (*fide* BH).

BLACK VULTURE -- 2 were counted at Janos, Chihuahua in Mexico on 1/2 (*fide* BH+).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1 in northwestern N.M. at Luther L. near Flora Vista on 12/22 (TR) and 6 at Farmington on 2/21 (TR). 1 to 3 seen near Los Lunas in Valencia Co. from 2/8 to 2/14 (CR, JO, JP).

SNOW GOOSE -- 7 grazing in pastures at Mangas Springs on 2/26 (RF). 10 at Lordsburg on 12/26 (JO) and 2 on 1/12 (JO, PL).

BLUE SNOW GOOSE -- Among the few away from the RGV were 1 or 2 at Farmington on 12/18 to 2/21 (TR**, AN+) and 6 at Texico, Curry Co., on 2/22 (CR).

CANADA GOOSE -- A high count of over 170 on the playas w. of Lordsburg on 1/22 (EL).

TUNDRA SWAN -- 1 found injured 1/10 at Lyden, Rio Arriba Co., that later died (Wildlife Rescue). 1 was at the Las Vegas NWR on 2/11 (CR) and 2/14 (DE, BN); a probable 1 at Sumner L. on 12/31 (JO); and 1 at Bosque NWR from late December to 2/11 (NC, SC+, GE, CR+, JP, JO+, DE, BN, PRS).

WOOD DUCK -- 18 at Rattlesnake Springs on 2/5 (SW+) was a high number for Eddy Co.; other records were 1 on 12/20 at Farmington (AN+), 3 at Espanola on 1/4 (BF+), 2 males at the Las Vegas NWR on 2/21 (JT, MM); 296 tallied 12/21 at Albuquerque (HS+), 1 at Bosque NWR on 12/20 (SC, NC+), 1 at Silver City 12/20 (RS+) through 1/9 (Paul Boucher, *fide* DAZ), and 2 at Deming on 2/19 (LM).

EURASIAN WIGEON -- A male was at the RGNC in Albuquerque 12/26 (CR*) and 1/11 (BV, BZ**); the species has recently been reported annually in the state.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- Unexpected in winter, so puzzling were undetailed reports of 1 at Silver City on 12/20 (RS) and 3 at Loving on 12/29 (SW).

CINNAMON TEAL -- Surprising in winter, noteworthy were a male at Ojo Caliente L. in Cibola Co. on 1/17 and 2/1 and near Zuni on 1/24 (DC) and a pair in the Percha SP area on 1/2 (BZ*, JNP, BV) and 1/10 (JP, JO).

GREATER SCAUP -- Among the few reports were 2 males at Clayton on 12/29 (CR*, LH).

LESSER SCAUP -- Unusual were 2 near Rodeo on 12/27 (AC+).

OLDSQUAW -- 1 male at Las Vegas NWR on 2/21 (JO, JP*).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- High counts in the south were 60 on the Caballo CBC on 1/2 (BZ+) and 50 at Six-Mile Dam near Loving on 2/19 (SW).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- Away from their San Juan Co. stronghold were an adult male on the Rio Chama below El Vado dam 1/7 (DS*) and an immature male at Las Vegas NWR 2/11 (CR*).

COMMON GOLDENEYE X HOODED MERGANSER -- An apparent hybrid male was on Caballo L. on 1/13 (JO*, PL).

BALD EAGLE -- Unexpected concentrations were 20 at a roost in Albuquerque on 1/6 (DS) and, very far from water, up to 15, mostly adults, in pinyon-juniper country s. of Corona on 2/16 (Charles Painter); only 1 was there on 2/17. 2 adults at Red L. near Navajo in San Juan Co. 12/15 (DS).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- An adult in Post Office Canyon from 1/12 to 2/5 (RTS).

HARRIS'S HAWK -- An immature at Farmington on 2/21 (TR**) was a San Juan Co. first, though extralimital occurrences of this species, which is popular with falconers, must be viewed with caution. Found to be persisting in both Luna and Hidalgo Cos. (Sally Spofford *fide* RF, LM, EL, RS).

HARLAN'S RED-TAILED HAWK -- West of expected was 1 well described near Zuni on 12/20-21 (CR*, JAT*) . At Bosque NWR 1 on 1/26 (CR+) and 2/7 (BN, DE).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- Rather plentiful in the north; far south were singles n. of Rodeo on 12/28 (RTS*), the s. Animas Valley on 1/11 (JO), near Artesia on 1/17 (SW), and at Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/31 (SW). 1 at Deming on 12/1 and 2 on 12/31 (LM).

MERLIN -- Another good winter found 1 to 3 at 30 places statewide, including 1 near Milnesand on 1/10 (DS).

APLOMADO FALCON -- Adding to the on-going intrigue were detailed sightings of singles at Albuquerque 12/7 (Jane Happy*) and n. of Bernardo 1/9 (Janelle Harden*, sketch) Both locales are just n. of the historic range.

PEREGRINE FALCON -- Over-wintering birds favored river valleys and larger lakes, especially in the RGV, where there were 2 at Cochiti L. on 1/11 (CR*, DE) . Singles near Navajo, San Juan Co., 12/17 (DS); Albuquerque on 12/26 (CR); at Bosque NWR 1/3 (JO, JP) and 1/10 (BZ); in the Gila R. Valley near Gila 12/30 (RF); at Caballo L. from 1/10 to 2/7 (GE, JO, JP, DAZ+); and Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE+).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- Up to 8 were in the Clayton area 1/19 (Lavina Fry); 16 were west to Fort Sumner on 1/8 CR) and 4 on 1/2 (JO, JP).

VIRGINIA RAIL -- Noteworthy were 17 at Zuni 12/20 (JAT+, CR); 10 persisted through February in three Zuni areas (DC).

SORA -- January reports were singles at Zuni on 1/4 (DC) and Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner on 1/2 (JP, JO), plus 6 near Cliff on 1/3 (RS).

COMMON MOORHEN -- Single report of 1 at Loving 12/29 (SW).

WHOOPING CRANE -- All efforts to artificially establish them in the Rocky Mts. region have ceased, although the experimental birds that winter in the state may persist for another decade. By season's end, only 4 remained in existence (US Fish and Wildlife Service).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- North in winter were 3 on 12/30 at Santa Rosa (BW+).

LEAST SANDPIPER -- Winter records were 1 at Morgan L. on 12/14 and 2/21 (TR); 84 in the Caballo L. area 1/2 (BZ, CR, DE); 6 near Lordsburg on 12/28 (EL); and 25 at Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE+).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 15 at Caballo L. on 1/2 (CR, DE) was a high number. 10 in the Uvas Valley, Dona Ana Co., on 1/10 (JO) was notable.

COMMON SNIPES -- Noteworthy were 3 at Clayton on 12/29 (CR, LH) and 6 in the Sacramento Mts. at Ruidoso on 1/1 (AP+).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- Lingering were 1 at Bill Evans L. on 12/4 (RF); 1 at Tyrone on 12/26 (EL) ; 6 at Deming on 12/1 (LM); and 4 near Loving on 12/29 (SW). High count and latest report was of 13 at Caballo L. on 1/2 (BZ+).

MEW GULL -- Perhaps their best season ever, with reports from 4 sites totaling 6 individuals: a winter adult at Conchas L. on 2/24 (BW*), a second winter at EBL on 1/3 (JP*, JO*), an extensively documented first winter at Caballo L. from 1/1 to 1/17 (DE*, BN*, CR*, JNP, BZ**, JP*, JO**, video, BV), a winter adult at Caballo L. 1/10 (JP*, JO**, video), another first winter at Sunland Park 1/20-21 that split its time with Texas (BZ**), an adult also at Sunland Park from 1/19 to 1/23 (JNP*).

THAYER'S GULL -- Had several appearances, with a first winter (or hybrid?) at Storrie L. n. of Las Vegas 2/11 (CR*) and 2/21 (JO*, JP*); EBL at least 1 first winter (possibly a holdover from November) from 12/26 (MP*) into February (JO**, video, JP, DE*, BN*, v.o.); plus an adult there on 12/30 (JO**, video) and 1/13 (JO, PL); and a first winter at Caballo L. on 1/10 (BZ**).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- Uncommon in winter. Single adults at EBL on 1/17 (JP, JO+), Caballo L. on 1/2 (BZ) and 1/13 (JO, PL) and at Sunland Park on 1/21 (JNP).

GLAUCOUS GULL -- An apparent second year was at EBL 1/3 (JP*, JO*) and 1/10 (BN*, DE*).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -- Almost passing through without being noticed was an adult at Willow L. on 12/29 (Craig Cranston**).

Streptopilia doves -- In Roswell 18 were counted on 1/3 (SB); this population continues to perplex.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- 1 north to La Mesilla, Rio Arriba Co., in December (BF); elsewhere notable high counts of 39 at

Albuquerque on 12/21 (HS+), 221 at Roswell on 1/3 (SB+), about 50 in Silver City all fall (EL), and 7294 at Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE±).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE -- The 3 at Redrock, Grant Co., on 12/6 (DAZ*, M. Zimmerman) comprised the largest "flock" reported in the state in over a decade.

BARN OWL -- 13 were roosting in salt cedars at Loving on 12/29 (SW).

NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL -- Unusual for the Pecos R. Valley was 1 at Loving on 12/29 (SW*, C. Cranston) . 1 was at Ruidoso on 1/21 (Mary Reinhart, *fide* AP).

LONG-EARED OWL -- 1 near Reserve, Catron Co., on 12/26 (JO), 1 on Flourite Ridge ne. of Deming on 1/25 (LM), 10 at Dripping Springs near Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE+).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- 3 roosting in tall grasses in the s. Animas Valley on 1/12 (PL, JO**, AC, NMC) provided the only report of this now-scarce visitor.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- 1 was out of habitat on 12/19 in pinyon woodland at Zuni (JAT*).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD -- Early and out of its range was a female at Las Cruces on 2/22 (JNP**).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 lingered in Post Office Canyon until 12/10 (RTS).

Selasphorus hummingbird -- 1 or 2 present in Las Cruces through 12/20 (GE+) may have been Rufous.

BELTED KINGFISHER -- 1 near Zuni from 12/30 to 2/21 (DC) may have been the first to overwinter there.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER -- 1 south to Percha SP 1/2 to 2/7 (JO**, JP, BZ**, JNP, BV, GE, v.o.).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- 1 to 3 in winter in the Fort Sumner area from 1/2 to 2/13 (CR, JP, JO).

GILA WOODPECKER -- Only 2 were found on the Gila R. CBC on 1/3 (RS+), but an encouraging 9 were in the Animas Valley on 12/27 (AMC+).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- An adult male was a treat at Percha SP from 1/2 to 1/18 (BZ**, JNP, JO, JP, PL, DE, BN, v.o.) . The only other report was an immature probable in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/27 (Bob Bradley*).

YELLOW-SHAFTED NORTHERN FLICKER -- Singles at 7 sites: a male west to Zuni 12/20-21 (JAT, CR); a female on 1/25 near Santa Fe (SOW); at the migrant trap w. of Melrose 2/13 (CR); Santa Rosa L. on 2/13 (CR); a female in the Peloncillo Mts. 12/27 (JO, A. Moorhouse, D. Danforth); and 1 in the Florida Mts. near Deming on 2/22 (LM).

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 1 of the 4 empidonax flycatchers seen near Cliff on 1/3 (RS+) later proved to be a Gray. It stayed there until 2/3 (DAZ).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1 at Bosque NWR 2/1 (CR*), 1 at Percha SP from 1/3 to 2/7 (JO, JP, DE, BN, BZ, v.o.), 1 in the Gila R. Valley near Cliff on 1/3 (RS+), and 2 in the Rattlesnake Springs area on 12/31 (SW).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- Scarce in winter. 2 were near Cliff 1/3 (RS) and 1 first year male was at Las Palomas, Sierra Co., on 1/2 (DE, CR).

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD -- A silent bird of this type was seen in the Gila R. Valley s. of Riverside on 2/24 (LM*) . Further information on this individual will be included with the next spring report.

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- Singles were at 13 northern locales from 12/27 to 2/14, including at Clayton on 12/29 (LH), in Solano, Harding Co., on 1/31 (JP, JO), an adult near Trujillo on 12/27 (MP*), and at Ute L. on 1/18 (SW, JY).

CASSIN'S VIREO -- 1 at Mesilla Park, Dona Ana Co., 1/9 (BZ*) was in an area where it has wintered before.

HUTTON'S VIREO -- Now apparently regular in winter in the lower RGV, 1 was n. to EBL dam on 12/30 (JO, JP) and 1 at Percha SP on 1/10 (BN, DE).

STELLER'S JAY -- Among the very few submontane reports were singles at Roswell on 1/3 (*fide* SB) and Las Animas Creek, Sierra Co., on 1/2 (CR, DE).

BLUE JAY -- Now may winter regularly in the Espanola and Santa Fe areas, where there were up to 4 at each location in December and January (CR, BF+, PI+).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- Consolidating their southern beachhead were 7 at Albuquerque on 12/21 (HS+).

AMERICAN CROW -- Where seldom encountered were singles in the Mimbres R. Valley, Grant Co., on 2/13 (DAZ, MZ) and at Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/31 (B. and J. Bliven, fide SW). Wintering crows are becoming common in most of N.M., and have spread south. 1 or 2 were in Deming on 12/10 and 1/2 (LM) and 306 counted at Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE+).

TREE SWALLOW -- Apparently overwintering were 3 at Percha SP on 1/2 (BZ**, JNP).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 2 or 3 at Percha SP and at nearby Caballo L. on 1/2 and 1/10 (BZ, JNP, BV, JP, JO). First 2 arrivals at Bosque NWR on 2/27 (JP).

CLIFF SWALLOW -- Remarkably early were 2 at Bosque NWR on 2/27 (JP).

CAVE SWALLOW -- Returned to Carlsbad Caverns NP on 2/22 (Tom Bemis, fide SW).

CACTUS WREN -- 1 near Trementina 2/21 (JP, JO) provided a new locale in ne. N.M.; others in the area included 1 at Sabinoso on 1/18 (SW) and 3 e. of Conchas L. on 12/27 (MP). All sites are in San Miguel Co.

CAROLINA WREN -- 1 was singing at Socorro on 2/25-28 (JO*, JP*, DE, DH).

HOUSE WREN -- Very late was 1 near Zuni on 12/20 (CR*).

WINTER WREN -- Up to 3 at Zuni in late December (fide JAT, CR*). Elsewhere singles near Sabinoso, San Miguel Co., 1/18 (SW, JY) and at Albuquerque 12/21 (Terry Brownell*).

AMERICAN DIPPER -- 6 below El Vado L. dam on 1/18 (JO, CR) comprised a notable concentration.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 2 east to Clayton on 12/29 (CR*, LH); otherwise the species was scarce statewide.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 21 north to Farmington on 12/20 (AN) provided a record count there.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1 below Caballo L. dam on 1/2 (BZ, CR, DE, JNP).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- Moderate numbers were widespread from the RGV eastward. The only sw. report was a single in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/27 (AC+).

VARIED THRUSH -- Surprising was a male at San Nicholas Spring on the San Andres NWR on 2/23 (Mara Weisenberger), a local first and the first for the state since 1990.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Several stayed north, including 1 at Clayton on 12/29 (CR, LH+) and 2 at Ute L. on 1/4 (JO). Surprising was 1 at Heron L. on 1/25 (JT).

SAGE THRASHER -- Whether because of milder conditions or by abundant juniper crops, they also stayed north, including at Zuni all winter (DC), with 7 counted on 12/20 (JAT+). Others pushing the n. limits were 2 at Espanola on 1/4 (BF+) and singles at Cochiti L. 1/11 (CR) and Eldorado near Santa Fe on 1/30 (SOW).

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 or 2 were at 8 sites from the RGV eastward, including 1 all winter in Union Co. (LF). 1 at Albuquerque on 12/21 (R. Gracey*, J. Rini); 1 at Fort Sumner on 1/2 (JO*, JP); 1 at Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner on 1/8 (CR); 1 in Roswell in early Jan. (SB); 1 on Las Animas Creek, Sierra Co., 1/2 (DE) and 1/10 (JO, JP, LG, Carol Davis); 2 at Loving 12/29 (SW+); and 1 near Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/31 (SW).

LONG-BILLED THRASHER -- The "resident" bird at Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner was seen 12/31 (JO**) and 1/2 (JP*, JO*), marking the first complete year there by breaking into song on 2/21 (CR).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- A pair again over-wintered north to Eldorado near Santa Fe, where 1 was singing on 2/14 (SOW).

EUROPEAN STARLING -- 35,000 or more was judged a conservative estimate for a flight that darkened the Albuquerque skies on 12/21 (fide HS).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- An exhaustive search located only 1 in the s. Animas Valley on 1/12 (PL, JO**, AC, NMC).

CEDAR WAXWING -- A few persisted into December, but none was noted after 1/13 until 15 appeared near Milagro in Guadalupe Co. on 2/15 (JO), followed by 16 at Clovis on 2/22 (CR) and 6 near Socorro on 2/28 (DE).

PHAINOPEPLA -- A record-high 96 were in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/27 (AMC+).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1 at EBL dam on 2/14 (JP, JO); 1 on Las Animas Creek on 1/2 (CR, DE), and 1 at Percha SP on 1/3 (JP, JO).

MYRTLE YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 1 at Morgan L. on 12/27 (CR); 8 at Zuni on 12/20 (JAT, CR); 1 at Santa Fe 12/27 (P1+); 5 in the Gila R. Valley 1/3 (RS+); 1 in Silver City 12/20 (RS+); and 1 at Las Animas Creek 1/2 (CR, DE).

AUDUBON'S YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 1 at El Vado L. 1/18 (JO, CR). Wintered in the Zuni area (DC).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- Lingering singles at Las Cruces 12/20 (GE) and at Loving on 12/29 (D. & C. Cassingham).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- Lingering n. of the usual range were singles at Zuni 12/20 to 12/29 (DC) and Santa Rosa on 12/30 (BW) Early was 1 at Fort Sumner on 2/8 (JO).

SPOTTED TOWHEE -- Perplexing was a "green-backed" 1 at Zuni on 12/19 (JAT*).

CANYON TOWHEE -- A near-record 354 was in the Peloncillo Mts. on 12/27 (AC+).

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- Rarely satisfactorily identified in the state in winter. This season 2 were well described w. of Caballo L. on NM152 1/2 (BZ*, JNP) and 2 were near Aguirre Springs, Dona Ana Co., on 1/9 (BZ).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- West were 6 at Morgan L. 12/24 (TR) and 8 on 2/27 (CR); high count was 40 at Espanola on 1/4 (BF+), and south were 15 to 20 s. of Elida in Roosevelt Co. on 1/1 (JO), 1 near Taiban, DeBaca Co., on 12/31 (JO), and 4 at Albuquerque on 12/21 (HS+).

CHIPPING SPARROW -- North were 10 at Albuquerque 12/21 (HS+).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- Remarkable for winter was 1 that died in Albuquerque 1/24 (SC***, NC, fide BK, specimen to UNM); another

was reported with Chipping and Brewer's on Las Animas Creek on 1/17 (JO*).

BREWER'S SPARROW -- 1 at Zuni on 12/20-21 (CR, JAT) was a first December record there. Elsewhere unprecedented numbers wintered n. to the Albuquerque area, including nearly 200 at the Petroglyph NM w. of Albuquerque from December to February (HS).

FIELD SPARROW -- West was 1 especially bright (eastern race?) at Zuni on 12/20 (JAT*). Others reported were 1 at Logan, Quay Co., 1/4 (JO), a high count of 9 at the migrant trap w. of Melrose in n. Roosevelt Co. on 2/13 (CR), and 3 near Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/31 (SW).

VESPER SPARROW -- 19 at Zuni 12/20 provided the second December record for that area (CR*, JAT).

LARK BUNTING -- Particularly conspicuous n. of the usual winter range, including 250 near San Jon, Quay Co., on 12/27 (MP) and 50 each at Logan, Quay Co., on 1/4 (JO) and in the Melrose area in Curry Co. 1/1-2 (JO, JP); 1 in Albuquerque on 12/21 (BH*) was considered so unusual for the season that written details were called for.

BAIRD'S SPARROW -- Excessively scarce or more likely absent from the state in winter. Winter's Christmas snowstorm brought 1 to a Bitter L. NWR feeder 12/23 to 12/25 ((GW**), while another was described well in the n. Animas Valley on 12/27 (AC* NNC*, sketch).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 1 at a feeder at Bitter L. NWR from 12/24 to 1/2 (GW*)

FOX SPARROW -- Singles near Alma on 12/26 (JO), in Los Alamos from 12/3 to 12/25 (PRS*, CR*), at Bitter L. NWR from 12/20 to 2/23 (GW**), in Silver City on 12/20 (RS), and near Arrey on 1/17 (JO+). 4 were tallied on the Gila R. CBC on 1/3 (RS+) . Some were thought to be zaboria, but efforts to separate the many races in the field can be frustrating.

HARRIS'S SPARROW -- A good season found singles with an immature near Pojoaque in Santa Fe Co. on 1/4 (BF*), an adult in Eldorado near Santa Fe all winter (SOW, JO**, BF, CR), Las Vegas on 12/21 (JT), an immature near Zuni 12/25 (JO), an adult near Alameda 12/18 and 1/11 (CR*), an immature at House on 1/1 (JO**), an adult on 1/3 s. of Percha SP (JP, JO), and at Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- Very late was a black-lored at Zuni on 12/21 (JAT).

DARK-EYED JUNCO -- Singles of the White-winged form were at Clayton on 12/29 (LH, CR), Eldorado near Santa Fe on 11/15 to 2/15 (SOW*, BF**), and at Zuni on 12/20 (JAT*).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- Notable were 11 at Clayton on 12/29 (CR), singles at Mesa Huerfano near Trujillo 12/27 (MP*) and at Zuni on 12/20 (JAT*).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR -- A high of 26 were at Zuni 12/20 (JAT), where up to 4 persisted through January and 14 were counted on 2/7 (DC).

PYRRHULOXIA -- Continuing a northward trend were 2 at Arch, Roosevelt Co., on 1/17 (SW, JY). 1 at Fort Sumner on 1/2 (JO).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- High counts of 1500 at Deming on 2/2 (LM) and 502 at Las Cruces on 12/20 (GE+).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- Rare in N.M. The winter found 1 or 2 on Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. from 1/2 to 1/17 (DE*, JP*, JO**, LG, v.o.) and 1 at Arrey on 1/2 (JNP, BZ**).

COMMON GRACKLE -- Several lingered very late, including 8 n. to Fort Sumner on 1/2 (JO, JP), 1 at House on 1/2 (JO, JP), 3 at Santa Rosa 12/30 (BW+), and 3 at San Antonio on 1/11 (BZ).

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- Very late was 1 near Carlsbad Caverns NP on 12/31 (V. Sartori*).

ROSY FINCHES -- Rumors of some seen at the Los Alamos Ski Area in early December unfortunately remained just that - rumors (*fide* Rare Bird Alert).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- In contrast to a year ago, they were practically non-existent, with only small numbers noted in a few mountain ranges and with no submontane movement.

RED CROSSBILL -- Also conspicuous by their absence. The 2 reports consisted of 8 in the Chuska Mts. from 12/20 to 12/30 (TR**) and 3 in the Sandia Mts. on 12/27 (JY).

PINE SISKIN -- In contrast to other cardeulines small to moderate numbers were relatively widespread, including to the e. plains and s. to the Mexican border (v.o.).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- Lingered late, but went unreported anywhere after 1/3; singles reappeared at Gila 2/24 (LM) and Zuni on 2/23 (DC).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- The only reports were 30 at Chama on 1/18 (JO, CR) and 17 at Tesuque, Santa Fe Co., 12/27 (CR).

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