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WINTER 1998-1999 HIGHLIGHTS

Birds and birders experienced one of the driest and warmest winters on record. The mild conditions allowed many water birds, raptors, thrushes, mimids, and other groups to linger late, over-winter in numbers, or return early. Several hummingbirds lingered and at least one stayed all winter. Several Empidonax flycatchers took advantage of the mild winter. Only sparrows and finches were in generally low numbers. Sparrows were reduced in many areas, including migrants such as Lark Buntings and Chipping Sparrow, also residents like Black-throated Sparrows.

1998-1999 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Count	Date	Compiler	Species	Individuals
Albuquerque	12/20	HS	105	21,057
Bluewater Lake	12/20	PP	73	2,636
Bosque Apache NWR	12/19	NC	115	65,360
Caballo	1/3	BZ	124	16,353
Carlsbad Caverns NP	12/19	SW	76	3,235
Clayton	12/28	LH	75	17,916
Dixon	1/2	RW	50	3,581
Espanola	12/20	BF	72	3,123
Farmington	12/19	AN	85	20,045
Five Points	12/18	NC	53	1,557
Gila River	1/2	RS	113	7,228
La Luz-Otero County	12/30	JM	82	4,620
Lakes Avalon-Brantley	12/26	TH	91	8,729
Las Cruces	12/29	GE	124	41,981
Las Vegas	1/2	GB	69	14,203
Loving	12/21	SW	105	5,340
Peloncillo Mountains	1/3	AC	102	9,446
Questa	12/20	RW	41	2,555
Roswell	12/19	SB	110	222,826
Ruidoso	12/19	AP	57	3,349
Sandia Mountains	1/2	JY	54	2,069
Santa Fe	12/26	PI	58	6,801
Santa Rosa	12/22	BW	82	3,253
Sevilleta NWR	12/23	NC	93	50,783
Silver City	12/19	RS	90	7,446
Zuni	12/19	JAT	79	3,893

Abbreviations Used

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

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PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTIES

Albuquerque (Bernalillo)	Animas Valley (Hidalgo)
Animas Mts. (Hidalgo)	Avalon Lake (Eddy)

Bitter Lake NWR (Chaves)
Bluewater Lake (Cibola)
Bosque (del Apache) NWR
(Socorro)
Brantley Lake (Eddy)
Caballo Lake (Sierra)
Clayton, Lake (Union)
Cliff (Grant)
Clovis (Curry)
Cochiti Lake (Sandoval)
Conchas Lake (San Miguel)
Deming (Luna)
Elephant Butte Lake (Sierra)
Espanola (Rio Arriba)
Farmington, Lake (San Juan)
Fort Sumner (DeBaca)
Lake Valley (Sierra)
Las Cruces (Dona Ana)

Loving (Eddy)
Mangas Springs (Grant)
Peloncillo Mts. (Hidalgo)
Percha SP (Sierra)
Quarai Ruins (Torrance)
Rattlesnake Springs (Eddy)
Roswell (Chaves)
Ruidoso (Lincoln)
Santa Fe (Santa Fe)
Santa Rosa (Guadalupe)
Sevilleta NWR (Socorro)
Socorro (Socorro)
Sumner Lake (DeBaca)
Sunland Park (Dona Ana)
Texico (Curry)
Tucumcari, Lake (Quay)
Ute Lake SP (Quay)
Zuni (McKinley)

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON -- 1 was lingering from autumn at Sumner L. on 12/23-29 (JO*, JP, DE, CR).

PACIFIC LOON -- A good season found singles at Conchas L. 1/10 to 1/23 (JO*, JP*) and Sumner L. 12/23 to 1/10 (JO*, JP*, DE, CR, JMH). 2 at Brantley L. from 12/26 until 1/11 (DE, CR*, SW).

COMMON LOON -- Reported from 11 sites this winter (v.o.). High counts of 7 at Conchas L. on 1/10 and Sumner L. on 12/23 (both JO).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON -- The eighth and ninth N.M. records were single immatures at Ute L. on 12/27 to 1/10 (JP*, JO**) and Conchas L. 1/10 to 2/14 (JO**, JP*, BH*, BN*, DE*, JMH*, LC).

HORNED GREBE -- A high count of 45 at Conchas L. on 1/10 (JO, LC).

RED-NECKED GREBE -- 1 at Farmington L. from 1/4 to 1/11 (JP*, JO**, TR**) furnished only the second confirmed N.M. record.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Small numbers wintered in the Caballo, Roswell, and Carlsbad areas (v.o.); early for the north were 6 at Tucumcari L. on 2/13 (JO) and 9 at Bluewater L. on 2/14 (BP).

BROWN PELICAN -- Last of autumn's sightings were 3 at EBL 12/4 (JP) and 1 at Brantley L. until 12/8 (SW, JO**).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- North were 13 at La Joya WMA in Socorro Co. on 2/7 (BV). Noteworthy for the Pecos R. Valley were singles near Carlsbad 12/5 to 12/27 (JO, SW).

AMERICAN BITTERN -- Hard to find in winter, 1 was seen by many at Bosque NWR from 1/11 to 2/2 (BZ**, JO**, JP, CR, BN, DE, PB).

GREAT and SNOWY EGRETS -- Because of the mild weather, several over-wintered in the RGV and Pecos R. Valley.

GREEN HERON -- Lingering north were 1 at Espanola 12/20 (JT, BF) and 2 at Albuquerque on 12/20 (HS, Jim Rini*).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- At Bosque NWR from 3 on 12/5 (JP) to 8 on 12/19 (SC, NC) and 1 to 5 from 2/20 to 2/26 (GE, JP, JO, ERS). Unusual for mid-winter were 5 on 1/10-11 (BZ**).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1 or 2 were at the RGNC area in Albuquerque 12/20 (Marylou Arthur*) to 2/21 (JP, PRS, SN, DE, BV).

SNOW GOOSE -- N.M. continued to do its part to promote the continental overpopulation with some 21,096 at Bosque NWR on 12/19 (SC+) and 6638 at Bitter L. NWR on 12/4 (GW) First time on the Albuquerque CBC were 379 12/20 (HS, SH*).

ROSS'S GOOSE -- Not far behind for a high count was 6127 at Bitter L. NWR on 12/4 (GW).

BRANT -- With only 3 previous N.M. records, the discovery of the Black subspecies among some 10,000 CANADA GEESE at Clayton L. on 12/28-29 (DE*, DS*, JP*, JO**) caused additional scrutiny of Union Co. goose flocks resulting in reports of a probable White-bellied subspecies at the lake 1/10 (Larry Gorbet) and 1/18 (SW) and e. of Clayton near the Oklahoma line on 1/24 (JO*) and 2/6 (BN*, DE*).

MUTE SWAN -- At least 1 continued in the Caballo L. area on 12/4 and 1/31 (JO, LC).

TUNDRA SWAN -- A fair season found 2 near Farmington on 12/25 (TR); 2 near Dilia, Guadalupe Co., on 1/15 (Glenn Olsen*); 1 or 2 at Conchas L. from 1/1 to 1/16 (BH, v.o.); and 7 at Ute L. on 12/27 (JO).

WOOD DUCK -- Continued to increase in numbers and range, including peripheral areas such as 1 male near Zuni 1/2 to 2/15 (DC) and 21 at Texico on 12/27 (CR). 1 was at Deming on 12/17 and 2 on 2/9 (LM).

EURASIAN WIGEON -- Another good season produced singles at the RGNC in Albuquerque on 12/31 (DE, JP*, v.o.), a female near Roswell 12/19 (SS*), and a male at Six-Mile Dam near Carlsbad on 12/1 (SW*).

AMERICAN WIGEON -- An albino was at Clovis on 12/28 (JO**).

MEXICAN MALLARD -- Far north was a well-described 1 at Bluewater L. on 12/20 (CR*).

CINNAMON TEAL -- The mild conditions allowed them to persist at several sites, including 6 at Bitter L. NWR 1/8 (GW); 2 near Carlsbad on 1/10 (SW), 1 at Bosque NWR on 12/19 (NC, SC); and 1 at EBL 1/18 (D. Ely, S. Dinsmore).

GREATER SCAUP -- Reported at 8 sites. High counts were only 3 each at Clayton L. on 12/28 (LH+) and Conchas L. on 1/16 (PH, DE, EN). 1 south to Clovis on 12/28 (JO); at Bitter L. NWR 2 on 12/25 and 1 on 2/22 (GW).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- An adult male graced Farmington L. from 1/16 to 2/6 (TR**, JO**).

LONG-TAILED DUCK (OLDSQUAW) -- 1 female at Farmington L. from 1/5 to 1/11 (TR**, JO, JP); 1 male at Cochiti L. on 2/28 (BH*); 1 male on Brantley L. on 12/26 (DE, CR); and nearby Avalon L. on 12/30 (JO).

AMERICAN GOLDENEYE -- South were singles at Las Cruces 12/19 (GE+), at Holloman L., Otero Co., 12/5 (JO), and on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC on 1/3 (LM).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- Although regular in winter on the San Juan R. below Navajo L. in San Juan Co., they are extremely rare elsewhere in N.M. Notable were a male on Conchas L. from 1/16 to 1/23 (BH*, JO*, JP*) and a male and female at Bitter L. NWR 12/19 (GW*, John Wells*). 1 on Farmington L. 12/19 to 1/26 (TR) was a local first.

MERGANSERS -- The three species were widespread and rather numerous, topped by an estimated 10,000 COMMONS churning the waters of Caballo L. on 1/2 (BN, DE) and 1/9 (BZ).

OSPREY -- Rare in winter. 1 in the Caballo L./Percha SP area 12/4 (JP) and 12/18 (DE). It was still there on 1/9 (BZ). Another was at EBL 12/4-5 (JP, JO) and 1/29-30 (JP).

WHITE-TAILED KITE -- 1 adult was in the s. Animas Valley on 12/27 (Michael Patten*). 1 near the town of Animas on 12/5 (AC+, *fide* RS). 3 near Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico on 1/3 (CM).

BALD EAGLE -- South were an adult in the Animas Valley on 12/8 and 1/3 (*fide* AC) ; 2 adults over Deming on 1/28 (LM); and 2 immatures at Rattlesnake Springs on 1/30 (SW).

HARRIS'S HAWK -- North in the RGV were up to 4 on 1/21 and 2/27 near Williamsburg, Sierra Co., (Steve Dobrott).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 3 south to the Animas Valley 2/16 (AC, NMC), 1 near Deming 12/5 (114), 1 dark morph at Las Cruces 12/19 (Storm Sermay*), and 1 at Carlsbad 2/12 (SW).

MERLIN -- Conspicuous all season with 1 to 4 at 33 sites statewide (v.o.).

PEREGRINE FALCON -- The only January report was 1 on 1/2 at Sunland Park (JNP).

QUAILS -- Scaled Quail numbers were considered down in Union Co. (LF), but good in Bernalillo Co. (HS). The Gambel's Quail numbers were considered the highest in ten years in sw. N.M. (AC).

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- Easily overlooked, in winter there were 5 in the Peloncillo Mts. area 1/3 (AC+), 6 in the Animas Mts. 12/24 (AC, NMC), and 15 in the Sacramento Mts. s. of Cloudcroft, Otero Co., on 12/2 (*fide* AP).

COMMON MOORHEN -- 1 was north at Santa Rosa on 1/12 (BW).

SANDHILL CRANE -- 1 at Bluewater L. 2/3 (BP). A record 350 were in the Cliff-Gila area 12/5 (RF). 3 were in the Animas Valley 1/3 (AC, MAC) Peak counts in the Roswell area 12/30 were 4186 (GW) and 2350 over Deming 2/2 (LM).

WHOOPIING CRANE -- The experimental population wintering in N.M. was down to 3 birds, plus 1 hybrid, this season (John Taylor).

SNOWY PLOVER -- Late were 17 at the Laguna Grande area, Eddy Co., on 12/6 (SW+). There were none by 12/21.

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- As usual, absent from the state, but 18 were just to the south near Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico, on 1/3 (CM).

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 1 apparently spent the season at Bitter L. NWR (GW, DE, JO, CR, SB), although it was unreported from 1/25 to 2/26.

AMERICAN AVOCET -- Early were 5 at the playas w. of Lordsburg, Hidalgo Co., on 2/13 (SW).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- Several over-wintered in the south; notably north were singles at Bluewater L. on 1/16 (DC**) and at Puerto de Luna, Guadalupe Co., on 2/7 (JO).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Early were 2 at Six-Mile Dam near Loving on 2/24 (SW). A remarkable 213 in n. Chihuahua near Janos, Mexico, on 1/3 (CM+).

SANDERLING -- 1 was lingering at Laguna Uno near Loving on 12/6 (SW*).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - 1 at Bosque NWR on 1/31 (CR*) and 1 at Deming on 2/9 (LM). A high count of 400 at Laguna Uno near Loving on 12/6 (SW+).

LEAST SANDPIPER -- High counts of 600 at Laguna Uno near Loving on 12/6 and 330 on 12/21 (SW+).

DUNLIN -- In the Pecos Valley 8 at Bitter L. NWR 12/6 (JO), increasing to 10 or 11 on 12/30 and 1/29 (GW). 8 were at Laguna Uno near Loving on 12/6 (SW*).

STILT SANDPIPER -- 1 lingered at Brantley L. 12/8 (SW*).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 27 were at Bitter L. NWR on 1/8 (SB, *fide* GW).

FRANKLIN'S GULL -- Late were singles at Sunland Park on 12/5 and 12/8 (JNP).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- Unusually prevalent in the RGV and Pecos Valley in December (v.o.); 50 near Carlsbad 1/22 (SW) was the high count.

MEW GULL -- Well documented was an adult at Conchas L. 1/16 (BH*) and 1/23 (JP*, JO**). Others were a second winter at upper EBL on 12/30 (BW*) and a first-winter at Caballo L. on 1/3 (JNP, BZ*).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- Noteworthy were 2 to 4 at Farmington L. on 12/22-23 and 1/6 (TR) and 6 adults at Cochiti L. 12/6 (BH). Several southerly reports included up to 3 at Sunland Park on various dates from 12/5 to 2/20 (JNP).

THAYER'S GULL -- A first-winter at Farmington L. from 1/4 to 2/27 (TR**, BH*, JP*, JO**, SOW, v.o.) furnished a San Juan Co. first.

GLAUCOUS GULL -- A possible (viewed at a distance of up to a mile) on Sumner L. on 12/29 (JO*).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- Breeding: getting an early start was 1 incubating an egg in the Animas Mts. 2/24 (AC, NMC).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE -- Continued to be reported: with 1 at Texico 12/27 (JO*) and several in and near Roswell all season (JO, JP, SB, SW, v.o.).

RINGED TURTLE-DOVE -- Ferals continued to complicate the picture with singles documented at Albuquerque on 1/10 (JO**) and Bosque NWR on 2/28 (Donald Ultang**), as well as an undetermined number at Roswell (SB).

WHITE-WINGED AND INCA DOVES -- Continued to thrive in the south and to increase in the n. strongholds of Roswell (SB) and Albuquerque (HS*). Noteworthy were a White-winged at Ruidoso on 12/19 (AP) and 9 Incas at Rodeo, Hidalgo Co., 1/2 (R. Scholes). High count of 5647 White-winged Doves at Las Cruces on 12/19 (GE+).

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE -- A small dove at Bosque NWR on 2/7 (Gary Parker) proved to be the state's 7th record (JO**, CR*, DE, PRS*, v.o.); last seen on 2/20 (JT+, GE).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- Now quite scarce in N.M., 6 were discovered at Bitter L. NWR on 12/9 (GW*), with 1 or 2 on 12/18 and 1/16 (JP*, JO). 1 at Albuquerque 1/13 (DE*) provided the only additional report.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- Enjoying the mild early winter were 356 in Las Cruces on 12/19 (GE+).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD -- A male visited a Las Cruces feeder from 12/20 to 2/6 (GE*).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- A male was at Las Cruces on 12/19 (Diana Lawton*).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- 2 were at Las Cruces on 12/21-22, with 1 remaining till 1/8 (GE).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD -- Farther north, an immature female persisted at Albuquerque through 12/8 (HS, banded by JDM).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- A female was in Albuquerque 12/12 to 12/30 (HS, banded by JDM); a male was at Placitas in Sandoval Co., from 12/6 to 12/26 (HS, banded by JDM). Undetailed was 1 at Las Cruces on 12/22 (GE).

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER -- Wintering where unusual were 2 at Bluewater L. 12/20 (BP*). Up to 6 spent January in the Manzanita Mts. s. of Tijeras in Bernalillo Co., (Karen Boettcher, HS, BV,

JO); 2 in the Gila Valley near Cliff 1/2 (RS+): and 1 at Mangas Springs 12/8 through 2/28 (RF).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- West in range was 1 immature at Albuquerque all winter (Bert Lindsay*, JO**, HS, BV, PRS+).

ACORN WOODPECKER -- 1 at Bluewater L. 12/20 (JAT, *fide* BP).

GILA WOODPECKER -- 6 were near Cliff on 1/2 (RS+), where they are now scarce. The 1 that appeared at Mangas Springs last summer stayed until 1/31 (RF). A record 10 were in the Animas Valley on 1/3 (AC+).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- Well described singles were w. to Cochiti L. on 1/11 (JO**), Percha SP from 1/3 to 2/25 (BZ**, DV, JNP, JP, PRS, DE, v.o.), and Las Cruces 12/19 (James Mulhauser*). Other reports were uncertain.

RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER -- Two hybrids showing some Red-breasted characters were near Bill Evans L. near Cliff on 1/2 (DAZ, *fide* RS).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- Far south was a probable at Las Cruces on 12/19 (Walt Whitford*).

NORTHERN FLICKER -- Flickers with yellow shafts are not uncommon in N.M., with some being pure Yellow-shafteds and others intergrades with Red-shafteds; this season found 1 to 4 such flickers at 7 locales from Clayton w. to Mangas Springs (v.o.).

GILDED FLICKER -- They are unreported and unexpected in N.M. This season produced intriguing, but indefinite reports of singles at Zuni on 12/17 (JAT*), Animas Creek, Hidalgo Co., on 1/3 (Doug Danforth*), and Santa Fe on 2/24 (Brian Long**). The latter proved to be a hybrid.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER -- 1 probable at EBL on 1/29-31 (JO**, JP).

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 1 probable in the Peloncillo Mts. on 1/3 (Dave Jasper, *fide* AC).

DUSKY FLYCATCHER -- 1 was extensively documented near Riverside, Grant Co., 1/2-4 (DAZ**, MZ*, RS).

BLACK PHOEBE -- Late were singles north to Espanola on 12/20 (JT, BF) and Santa Rosa on 12/22 (BW).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 4 at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/19 (SW) provided a high count. 1 at Bosque NWR 12/19, 1/31, and 2/26 (NC, SC, JP, CR*, BN, DE+); 1 at Santa Rosa 12/22 (BW); and 1 at Percha SP on 12/4 (JP).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- North was 1 at Caballo L. on 1/3 (BZ); 1 in Lake Valley on 2/24 (GG), and in Las Cruces 1 on 12/8 (Peter Jungemann), a male on 12/19 (Sue Hill*) and 2/24 (Ken Stinnett).

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- Singles were at 10 sites from 12/13 to 2/23 (v.o.), including 1 immature at Madrid, Santa Fe Co., on 1/15 (Lawry Sager*).

BELL'S VIREO -- Late was 1 at the EBL dam on 12/4 (JP*). 1 near Sunland Park on 1/2 (JNP**) and 1/6 (JZ, Marcy Scott) provided the first verified winter record.

PLUMBEOUS VIREO -- Lingering singles were at Deming 12/8 (LM) and at Dripping Springs near Las Cruces 12/19 (GE).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 1 was at Percha SP on 1/9 (BZ**).

BLUE JAY -- High count of 103 at Roswell on 12/19 (SB).

AMERICAN CROW -- This species has been spreading south. 7320 at Las Cruces on 12/19 was a very high count (GE+).

TREE SWALLOW -- 4 were late at EBL on 12/5 (JP, JO) The earliest in the Animas Valley was 1 on 2/15 (SW).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 1 at Caballo L. on 1/3 (J. Sproul*) was unusual.

MEXICAN CHICKADEE -- 4 to 6 were at 3 Animas Mts. sites from 12/24 to 2/24 (AC, NMC).

JUNIPER TITMOUSE -- South was 1 in the Animas Mts. on 2/24 (AC, NMC).

VERDIN -- North were 1 on 12/18 and 6 on 1/23 at the Sevilleta NWR (SC, NC).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1 wandered east to the Capulin NM in Union Co. on 12/25 (JO).

CACTUS WREN -- Pioneers continued their presence in the Albuquerque area with 1 or 2 at two w. Sandia Mts. foothill sites from 12/20 to 2/20 (HS*, H. Wagnon, PRS). Others were n.

in the RGV with singles at two Sevilleta NWR sites on 12/18 and 12/23 (SC, NC+).

HOUSE WREN -- North for the season were singles at Sevilleta NWR on 12/23 (SC, NC+) and Bosque NWR 12/19 and 1/25 (DE*, BN).

WINTER WREN -- At least 5 were at 2 Zuni sites on 12/19 and 12/21 (JAT); elsewhere singles were at Ruidoso 12/31 and 2/26 (AP) and in the Gila Valley near Cliff on 1/2 (Scott Stoleson *fide* RS).

AMERICAN DIPPER -- 1 staked out a Pescado R. irrigation structure near Zuni from 12/5 to 2/20 (DC**).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- Staged a minor lowland invasion, including 2 east to Harding Co. on 2/6 (DE, BN) and 2 in the Caballo L./Percha Dam area 1/2-3 (DE, BN, BZ, BW) Singles were at Bitter L. NWR 12/19 (JP) and near Loving on 12/21 (SW). 2 at the Quarai Ruins on 1/17 (HS) were a local first.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1 over-wintered at the Petroglyph NM at Albuquerque, where it was seen on several dates from 1/20 and later into March (HS).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- A good season found moderate numbers at 18 sites from the RGV eastward (v.o.).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- Large numbers widespread in the west, including a record 640 in the Peloncillo Mts. 1/3 (AC+).

AMERICAN ROBIN -- A high count of 1013 at Albuquerque on 12/20 (HS+).

GRAY CATBIRD -- Unusual for winter was 1 at Lake Valley on 2/25 (GG*).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Several persisted in the north, including singles at Clayton on 12/25, 12/28, and 1/24 (JO, CR, BE), at Zuni from 12/17 to 1/9 (JAT, DC**), and Bluewater L. on 12/20 (CR). 2 at Ute L. on 12/27 (JO).

SAGE THRASHER -- Unusually abundant in the Albuquerque area (HS) and others wintered north of usual locations, including at Santa Fe all winter (SOW) and at Zuni with a high of 10 on 1/18 (DC).

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 at Socorro from 1/16 to 2/27 (PB); 1 in the Gila Valley near Cliff from 12/24 to 1/3 (RF, RS); 1 in Fort Sumner 12/29 (JO) and 1 or 2 at nearby Bosque Redondo Park on

2/7 (JO); 1 at Caballo L. on 1/9 (JZ, M. Scott), 1 at Rattlesnake Springs and 1 at nearby Black River Village on 12/19 (SW+).

LONG-BILLED THRASHER -- The "resident" at Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner welcomed its third year there with song on 2/7 (JO**).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- Very early was 1 building a nest on 2/20 in Bear Canyon in the w. foothills of the Sandia Mts. e. of Albuquerque (HS).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- Early was a probable at Avalon L. on 2/27 (SW*).

CEDAR WAXWING -- Moderate to large numbers virtually blanketed N.M. during the period. Record highs were established on several CBC's, including 243 on 12/20 in Albuquerque (HS+).

OLIVE WARBLER -- Presumably early was 1 at Emory Pass in the Black Range, Sierra Co., on 2/27 (JO).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- A few wintered in the lower RGV and Pecos Valley. High count of 12 at Mesilla Park, Dona Ana Co., on 1/1 (JO).

YELLOW WARBLER -- Very late was 1 at Percha SP on 12/4 (JP).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER -- 1 was late at Red Bluff L. on the Pecos R. in s. Eddy Co. on 12/31 (JO*).

PINE WARBLER -- Warbler of the season was a male on Las Animas Creek, Sierra Co., on 12/4-5 and 1/2 (JP*, JO*, DE*, BN*).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- During 12/4 and 1/2-3 a female was at Percha SP (BZ**, JP*, JNP, BV, BN, DE).

AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1 female-plumaged at Percha SP on 12/4 (JP) and 1/3 (JNP, BZ**, BV).

OVENBIRD -- Unusual for the season was 1 at Clovis on 12/28 (JO**).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1 at Bosque NWR on 1/11 (BZ*).

PAINTED REDSTART -- 1 in Las Cruces on 2/19 (K. Stinnett, Bill Glenn) reportedly had been present several weeks.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- Notable for Zuni were singles at Nutria and Pescado near Zuni from 1/30 to 2/20 (DC**).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- Very late was 1 at Brantley L. on 12/26 (DE*, CR*).

FIELD SPARROW -- 2 at Clayton L. 12/28 (DE, CR) and 1 on 1/18 (SW+); 2 at Los Alamitos in Harding Co. on 2/6 (DE, BN); 1 near Tucumcari on 12/27 (JO) and 3 near Tucumcari L. on 1/1 (JP); and 1 at Sumner L. on 2/7 (JO).

BAIRD'S SPARROW -- Single probables reported in the s. Animas Valley on 12/29 (AC, NNC) and on 1/3 (LM*) and may have wintered. An undetailed 3 there on 2/15 (SW+) may have been migrants.

LECONTE'S SPARROW -- Topping the season's sparrow news was the discovery of a small population wintering in a wind-swept reed bed at Conchas L. on 12/9 (BW*); 2 to 6 or more were well-documented on numerous dates through 2/14 (JO**, JP*, BN*, DE*, BF, v.o.).

FOX SPARROW -- Grayish ones were at Black Rock near Zuni on 12/19 (JAT) and at Three Gun Springs at Carnuel, in Bernalillo Co. 1 or 2 on 12/11-12 (DE, JP, JO**) and 1/2 (JP). Reddish singles were at Bitter L. NWR 12/26 and 1/4 (GW) and at Rattlesnake Springs on 12/19 (SW).

HARRIS'S SPARROW -- Singles at Corrales, Sandoval Co., on 12/20 (Rebecca Gracey*) and Santa Rosa 12/22 (BW+) to 2/14 (JP, JO**).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 adult entertained many at Bosque NWR from 1/30 through February (JO, DE, v.o.). Undetailed were singles at Albuquerque on 12/20 (*fide* HS) and at Gila, Grant Co., on 1/2 (*fide* RS).

DARK-EYED JUNCO -- High count for the Slate-colored form was 17 at Clayton on 12/28 (LH+). A White-winged form was near Santa Fe from 1/2 to 1/17 (SOW).

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO -- Visits to the Animas Mts. found singles at Cistern Saddle on 12/24 and Indian Creek on 1/16 (AC, NMC).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 1 or 2 were noted at 5 ne. sites (v.o.), including at Maxwell NWR in Colfax Co., with 12 on 2/24 (BW), many well into summer plumage.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- Pushing north were singles seen at Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner 1/16 (JP, JO), Conches L. on 12/9 (BW) and Tucumcari L. on 12/12 (JO, JP).

PYRRHULOXIA -- Northerly were 10 at Sevilleta NWR on 12/23 (SC, NC, CR) and 1 male at Quarai Ruins on 1/17 (HS) and 1 at Santa Rosa on 12/22 (BW).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- Providing a winter first for Zuni was a female from 12/19 to 1/2 (JAT, DC**).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- 1 or 2 wintered n. to Albuquerque from 1/2 through February (C. Brozek*, BV, HS, PRS*).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- An impressive season found singles near Archuleta, San Juan Co., on 2/19-21 (BN*, DE*, JP*, JO** CR); Pena Blanca in Sandoval Co. on 1/26 (BW*); and at Bitter L. NWR on 12/25 (CR*, DE). On 12/28 2 were undetailed at Clayton on 12/28 (CR).

COMMON GRACKLE -- North for the season were singles at Farmington 12/19 (AN+) and Taos, Taos Co., 2/6 (JP, JO).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- 6 at the NMSU agricultural barns at Las Cruces on 1/1 (JO) provided the only report.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- More widely reported than usual. Far north were 1 male at Albuquerque on 2/21 (BV); 2 near Clayton 1/18 (SW) and 1 male at Las Vegas, San Miguel Co., 1/2 (JT). **80,031** reported in the Roswell area 12/19 (SB+).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- The few reported were principally found in and near montane areas.

RED CROSSBILL -- They were scarce. Highs amounted to only 8 at Los Alamos, Los Alamos Co., on 12/6 (JT), 12 at Alto in Lincoln Co. on 1/14 (*fide* AP), and 5 at Ruidoso on 2/5 (*fide* AP).

PINE SISKIN -- Wandered east to Union Co., including 238 at Clayton on 12/28 (LH+), and remained conspicuous there through February (LF, Wesley Cook).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- A few lingered north in the Gila R. Valley and in the RGV to Albuquerque (HS+, RS+, v.o.), but all had departed by early January.

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Generally small numbers were in the north (v.o.), at Zuni (DC), and in the Sacramento Mts. near Ruidoso (AP). High count was 100 at Tesuque, Santa Fe Co., on 2/6 (JO).

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