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New Mexico Ornithological Society

Field Notes

Volume 38, No.4
August 1 to November 30, 1999

Editor: Patricia R. Snider

Editorial Advisor:
Sartor O. Williams III

Report Sightings to Dr. Sartor O. Williams III
New Mexico Bird Records Committee
1819 Meadowview NW, Albuquerque, NN 87104

FALL 1999 HIGHLIGHTS

Generous summer rains continued well into September, followed by a mild autumn. This combination encouraged late breeding by some species, provided favorable conditions for migrants (especially shorebirds), and set the wild food table for residents, transients, and wintering species alike. A downside to the conditions was serious botulism outbreaks in the Uvas Valley and near Garfield that together claimed over 2000 birds of 12 families.

It was a relatively quiet loon season. Grebes were among the water birds that benefited from summer rains. Aided by the generally lush conditions, hummingbirds were described by some as present in "astonishing" numbers. The wood warbler migration, while not spectacular, was nevertheless entertaining. Large numbers of Brewer's, Vesper, and other sparrows plus Lark Buntings inundated the state, particularly in the southwest

Abbreviations Used

Co. - County	RGV - Rio Grande Valley
EBL - Elephant Butte Lake	RGNC - Rio Grande Nature Center
FWS - U.S. Fish & Wildlife	R. - River
GFD - N.M. Game and Fish Dept.	SP - State Park
L. - Lake	v.o. - various observers
Mt(s) - Mountain (s)	+ - plus, et al.
NM - National Monument	* - details provided
NWR - Natl. Wildlife Refuge	** - photo, tape given
N.M. - New Mexico	*** - specimen collected

Contributors' Initials Used

Basham, Pat (PB)	Howe, William (BH)
Cleary, David (DC)	Malone, Larry (LM)
Cook, Wesley (WC)	Mehlhop, Pat (PM)
Craig, Alan (AC)	Moore-Craig, Narca (NMC)
Cuellar, Louis (LC)	Neville, Bruce (BN)
Emkalns, Doug (DE)	Oldenettel, J. (JO)
Ewing, Gordon (GE)	Parmeter, John (JP)
Fisher, Ralph (RF)	Pulcinella, Nick (NP)
Foy, Bernard (BF)	Reeves, Tim (TR)
Foy, Dawn (DF)	Rustay, Chris (CR)
Fry, Lavina (LF)	Sager, Lawry (LS)
Hawk Watch Int. (HWI)	Schwarz, Hart (HS)
Hill, Sue (SH)	Scott, Marcy (MS)
Hill, Wallace (WH)	Shook, Roland (RS)

Stahlecker, Dale (DS)
Trochet, John (JAT)
Vaughn, Nick (NV)
Walker, Hira (HW)
Warrick, Gordon (GW)

Weber, Robert (RW)
West, Steve (SW)
West, William (BW)
Williams, Sartor O. (SOW)
Zabriskie, Jim (JZ)

PLACE NAMES AND THEIR COUNTIES

Albuquerque (Bernalillo)	Manzano Mts. (Torrance)
Animas Mts., Valley (Hidalgo)	McAllister Lake (San Miguel)
Bitter Lake NWR (Chaves)	Melrose trap (Roosevelt)
Black Lake (Colfax)	Milnesand (Roosevelt)
Bluewater Lake (Cibola/McKinley)	Moriarty (Torrance)
Boone's Draw (Roosevelt)	Otero Mesa (Otero)
Bosque (del Apache) NWR (Socorro)	Percha Dam SP (Sierra)
Brantley Lake (Eddy)	Pilar (Taos)
Caballo Lake (Sierra)	Pinos Altos Mts. (Grant)
Caprock (Lea)	Portales (Roosevelt)
Carlsbad (Eddy)	Redrock (Grant)
Chaco Canyon (San Juan)	Rattlesnake Springs (Eddy)
Clanton Canyon (Hidalgo)	Riverside (Grant)
Clayton, Lake (Union)	Roberts Lake (Grant)
Clovis (Curry)	Roswell (Chaves)
Conchas Lake	San Antonio (Socorro)
Deming (Luna)	San Marcial (Socorro)
Elephant Butte L. (Sierra)	San Mateo Mts. (Socorro)
Fort Sumner (DeBaca)	Sandia Mts. (Bernalillo)
Guadalupe Mts. (Eddy)	Santa Fe (Santa Fe)
Hachita (Grant)	Socorro (Socorro)
Hermanas (Luna)	Stubblefield Lake (Colfax)
Holloman Lake (Otero)	Sumner Lake (DeBaca)
Isaack's Lake (Dona Ana)	Tatum (Lea)
Jal (Lea)	Texico (Curry)
La Mesa (Dona Ana)	Tijeras (Bernalillo)
Lake Valley (Sierra)	Truth or Consequences (Sierra)
Las Vegas, NWR	Tucumcari Lake (Quay)
Lordsburg (Hidalgo)	Ute Lake (Quay)
Los Lunas (Valencia)	Uvas Valley (Luna)
Loving (Eddy)	Zuni (McKinley)
Maljamar (Lea)	

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- 3 immatures at Ute L. SP on 11/16 (BH*).

COMMON LOON -- Early were singles at Conchas L. on 9/25 (JO); Brantley L. on 9/21 (JZ, MS); and 3 at Conchas L. on 9/28 (BH). High count of 10 at Conchas L. 10/31 (JO).

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- Breeding: 2 young being fed at Bill Evans L., Grant Co., on 8/11 (LM) and 1 large chick at Black L. on 8/17 (SOW, PM).

EARED GREBE -- Breeding: Chicks at Black L. 8/17 (SOW, PM).

WESTERN GREBE -- The estimated 5000 at the Narrows of EBL on 10/24 underscored the importance of the lake to this species (SOW, PM).

CLARK'S GREBE -- Breeding: at McAllister L. 1 of a pair was carrying 2 chicks on 9/11 (HS, NV) and 4 young were seen there on 10/31 (CR);....Only 2 were present with the thousands of Westerns at the EBL Narrows 10/24 (SOW, PM).

AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1 at Bitter L. NWR on various dates from 10/29 to 11/12 (GW, SW) furnished the only report.

LEAST BITTERN -- High count of 8 at Tucumcari L. 8/25 (BW).

CATTLE EGRET -- 3 on a pole in the middle of desert at the White Sands Missile Range, Otero Co., on 8/15 (BN, DE).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- Moderate numbers were widespread from August to early October, including 114 in the Uvas Valley, Luna Co., on 9/24 (CR) where 40 had succumbed to botulism by 9/22 (FWS). 90 on 8/13 at the playas w. of Lordsburg (JO); 50 to 151 at temporary Isaack's Lake ne. of Las Cruces from 8/24 to 9/10 (GE, LM).

TURKEY VULTURE -- Very late were 1 at Caballo L. 11/5 (MS, JZ) and 3 at the Tres Hermanas Mts. near Columbus, Luna Co., 11/22 (LM). It winters in nearby Chihuahua, Mexico.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK -- 2 apparently wild ones put in a brief appearance at Holloman L. on 10/1 (GE*).

WOOD DUCK -- Peripheral were 8 at Conchas L. 10/26 (NV); 3 at Fort Sumner on 10/30 (JO); 1 or 2 at Deming on 10/20 and 10/27 (LM); 3 at Bitter L. NWR on 10/29 (GW); and a female at Holloman L. on 10/10 (BN, DE). 200 were at the RGNC pond in Albuquerque on 10/20 (NP).

RING-NECKED DUCK -- Breeding: added to the list of the state's breeding species when a female with 2 pre-flight young were seen at Nutria L. near Zuni on 8/22. Also present was an eclipse male (JAT).

SURF SCOTER -- An impressive 7 stopped briefly at Bitter L. NWR on 11/9 (GW**, CR*). The only additional report was 1 female at Conchas L. on 11/14 (BH*).

BUFFLEHEAD -- Very early was 1 at Bitter L. NWR 9/3 (GW).

OSPREY -- Late were singles at Ute L. on 11/6 (JO, JP), Brantley L. on 11/2 (SW), and Percha SP on 11/28 (DE, BN). 14 passed the Manzano Mts. site from 9/1 to 10/9 (HWI).

WHITE-TAILED KITE -- 1 was near Hachita on 9/26 (AC, NMC).

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- 2 in the South Valley of Albuquerque on 8/15 (JO**).

BALD EAGLE -- 2 adults at Stubblefield L. on 8/7 were likely local breeders (JO, JP).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- 14 counted on the Manzano Mts. site from 9/9 to 10/26 (HWI).

COMMON BLACK-HAWK -- Eventful for the lower Pecos Valley was 1 at Rattlesnake Springs on 9/26 (SW*). Noteworthy was an immature in the Animas Valley on 10/14 (NMC*).

HARRIS'S HAWK -- Breeding: a nest in the lower RGV with 1 young at Truth or Consequences on 11/30 (Shirley Kendall);....1 adult at Hatch, Dona Ana Co., on 11/24-26 (CR, Tim Lawton*, v.o.), and 1 in w. Dona Ana Co. 9/17 (SH, WH).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- 12 passed over the Manzano Mts. site from 8/30 to 10/10 (HWI) suggesting an increasing trend. In the east single immatures were at Portales on 10/5 (BW), Boone's Draw on 9/25 (JP, JO), and Tatum 9/11 (DE, BN).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- 8 at a prairie dog town near McDonald, Lea Co., on 10/22 (JO). 8 were counted over the Manzano Mts. site from 9/9 to 10/18 (HWI).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 1 over the Manzano Mts. lookout on 10/31 (HWI).

GOLDEN EAGLE -- 159 flew over the Manzano Mts. site from 9/1 to 11/4 (HWI).

APLOMADO FALCON -- Documented natural occurrences have increased dramatically in s. N.M. in the past decade. This coincided with the finding of a previously unknown breeding population in n. Chihuahua, Mexico in the early 1990's. This fall there were at least five convincing reports of naturally occurring birds from three counties. Discounted were sightings without details from Holloman L. in August and at Akela, Luna Co., in mid-October. Earliest was 1 seen chasing sparrows e. of Las Cruces on 8/3 (M. Hakkila), followed by an adult at Isaack's L. from 8/31 to 9/4 (JO**, JZ**, WH**, BN*, DE*, v.o.). Near Muzzle L. w. Dona Ana Co., an unbanded immature was well described on 9/3 (Peter Jungemann*). It gave a falconer's Merlin a "near death" experience. Another immature was found on Otero Mesa 9/11 to 9/18 (Ray Meyer), that had been banded as a wild nestling in n. Chihuahua in May, 1999 (fide R. Meyer, A. Montoya). 1 was described 3 miles s. of Hachita on 10/5 (M. Hakkila).

MERLIN -- Only 14 passed by the Manzano Mts. lookout site from 9/15 to 11/4 (HWI), but the species was widespread elsewhere in the east and south (v.o.).

PEREGRINE FALCON -- A juvenile was observed chasing and occasionally catching butterflies above the Manzano Mts. on 9/3 (LS). Another was a botulism victim in the Uvas Valley (GFD). Late was 1 near Columbus, Luna Co., 11/30 (LM). 64 were counted at the Manzano Mts. site from 9/3 to 11/1, up 104% from previous years (HWI).

PRAIRIE FALCON -- 38 flew over the Manzano Mts. site from 8/31 to 10/28 (HWI).

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN -- 6 on the n. flank of Wheeler Peak, Taos Co., on 9/20 provided evidence for the persistence of that northerly population (Eric Rominger).

SANDHILL CRANE -- The first migrants of autumn passed over the Manzano Mts. site on 9/29 (LS).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- Made a good showing at several locales including Bitter L. NWR where present from 8/21 to 11/19, with a high count of 8 on 9/24 (GW, v.o.).

SNOWY PLOVER -- Notable for the Guadalupe Mts. were 6 at Queen L. on 8/19 (SW). High counts of 282 at Bitter L. NWR on 9/3 (GW) and 81 on the salt lakes east of Loving on 8/3 (SW).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1 was late at Bitter L. NWR 10/29 (GW). Singles near Zuni on 8/14 (DC) and at Deming on 8/16 (LM).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- A large concentration for nw. N.M. of 100 near Star L., McKinley Co., on 8/26 (Adam Crateau). 1 at ephemeral Isaack's L. near Las Cruces on 8/24 (GE).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- Mainly restricted to the west this fall, with 3 at Zuni on 8/28 (JAT), 1 in the Uvas Valley near Nutt on 9/24 (CR), 1 at Tyrone on 8/22 (EL), 1 west of Las Cruces on 8/27 (MS, JZ), and 1 to 3 at Isaack's L. ne. of Las Cruces from 8/1 to 9/10 (GE, JO, JP, LM).

WILLET -- 15 were at the playas w. of Lordsburg on 8/13 (JO); 1 at Las Vegas NWR 8/7 (JP, JO); 4 at Bitter L. NWR on 8/21 (GW) to 1 on 10/24 (JO); 1 at Isaack's L. ne. of Las Cruces on 8/15 (JO); and 2 or 3 at Holloman L. from 8/15 (JO, BN, DE) to 1 on 10/1 (GE).

UPLAND SANDPIPER -- The green prairies of e. N.M. hosted impressive numbers, including 370 in the Carlsbad area 8/5 to 9/15, with a one-day high of 73 on 8/22 (SW); west to the RGV were 8 at San Antonio on 8/19 (JO), 1 to 2 at EBL 8/15 and 8/18 (JO), 1 at Isaack's L. 8/15 (JO), and 44 in the Mesilla Valley, Dona Ana Co., on 8/21 (MS, JZ).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Found favorable conditions with high counts of 620 in the Portales area on 10/2 (JO), 304 at Hagerman, Chaves Co., on 9/20 (DS), and 250 in Lea Co. near Lovington 10/16 and 10/22 (JO).

RUDDY TURNSTONE -- 1 immature near Las Vegas at Isabel L. on 10/12 (BW*) furnished a San Miguel Co. first.

RED KNOT -- A rare 1 was at EBL on 11/24 (JO**).

SANDERLING -- An immature was near Zuni 9/18 (DC) and 3 immatures at White Lakes, Santa Fe Co. on 9/21 (BW). A high count of 10 at Bitter L. NWR on 9/17 (GW).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- Westerly single immatures were near Zuni at Black Rock L. 8/22 and at Bluewater L. on 8/25 (JAT*).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 1 at White Lakes, Santa Fe Co., on 9/21 (BW). A high of 14 were in the Uvas Valley s. of Nutt on 9/24 (CR).

STILT SANDPIPER -- Impressive numbers were at Bitter L. NWR from 8/21 to 10/15, including 108 9/24 (GW). Late was 1 seen there on 11/19 (GW). Westerly singles were in the Uvas Valley on 9/24 (CR) and at Deming 10/1 (LM). 7 found dead of botulism were in the Uvas Valley in early October (GFD).

RUFF -- An immature near Zuni at Nutria L. near Zuni on 8/22 was well described (JAT*). There are 3 previous records (1 certain) in N.M.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER -- The 1 to 3 at Bosque NWR from 9/9 to 9/12 (JO*, BH*) were well described.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- 1 in Albuquerque's North Valley on 11/28 (David Bernitsky**) was the state's eighth well documented record.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE -- Uncommonly reported. 5 near Zuni on 9/11-12 (DC**), 3 in the Uvas Valley 9/24 (CR) and 2 to 4 at Isaack's L. 9/4 to 9/16 (DE, BN, LM, WH).

RED PHALAROPE -- Rare, singles at Las Vegas NWR on 10/20 (BW*) and Holloman L. on 10/9 (BN*, DE*).

FRANKLIN'S GULL -- Quite early was 1 at Tukumcari L. on 8/25 (BW).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 2 at Bluewater L. on 8/25 (JAT) and 1 on 10/9 (DC); 1 at Deming on 10/27 (LM); and an adult at Sunland Park on 11/19 (JNP).

THAYER'S GULL -- 1 probable was at Brantley L. on 10/23 (JO**) and 11/2 (SW).

SABINE'S GULL -- 1 immature at Bitter L. NWR on 9/19 (DS*) provided the lone report.

COMMON TERN -- Undetailed reports came with 1 to 3 at Sumner L on 9/18 (JP, JO); 1 to 3 at Bitter L. NWR 9/17 to 9/21 (GW, MS, JZ); 13 at Brantley L. on 9/21 (MS, JZ); and 35 at EBL on 9/28 (BW).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE -- Strengthened their grip on e. N.M. with singles at Fort Sumner and at nearby Bosque Redondo Park 9/18 and 9/24-25 (JP, JO); at the migrant trap w. of Melrose 10/9 (JP, JO); Portales on 9/6 (JO**), and Texico 9/11 and 10/2 (JO**); plus 18 at Roswell on 10/26 (GE) and 7 at Jal on 10/23

(JO**). West was 1 at Rio Rancho near Albuquerque 11/3 to 11/30 (B. McClung, *fide* HS).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- Consolidated their hold on the ne. with 7 at Ute L. and 11 at Logan, Quay Co., on 9/25 (JO).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE -- Singles on 8/16 at Mangas Springs, Grant Co., (RF*) and Isaack's L. on 9/8 (LM*).

FLANMULATED OWL -- Far east was 1 found roosting at the Melrose migrant trap on 10/2 (JP, Louis Cuellar).

SPOTTED OWL -- 1 dying was found near Cloudcroft, Otero Co., 8/14 (*fide* R. Dickerman***). Notable was 1 heard in the Manzano Mts. 10/22 (LS). It soon became silent upon attracting the attention of a Great Horned Owl.

LONG-EARED OWL -- 1 seen at the Melrose trap on 10/9 and 10/22 (JP, JO**).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- 2 were found roosting at Chaco Canyon 11/6 (H. Smith). 1 was n. of Lordsburg 11/26 (CR*) and another was hit by a car near Hachita on 10/23 (MS*, JZ*).

WHIP-POOR-WILL -- A vocal 1 was north to the Zuni Mts. near Zuni on 8/23 (JAT).

BLACK SWIFT -- Breeding: the Jemez Mts. colony in Sandoval Co. had 7 nests, each with 1 nestling on 8/25 (HS, NV).

CHAETURA SWIFT -- 1 was over the Gila R. near Riverside on 10/8 (RS).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 male was east to the White Sands Missile Range housing area, in Dona Ana Co., from 10/1 through November (David Holdermann*).

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 female was in the Animas Valley on 10/16 (AC, NMC+).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- 1 east to Carlsbad 8/27 (SW*).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD -- Far east was 1 at Clayton on 8/5 and 8/25 (WC, *fide* LF). There were more records than usual in August (v.o.).

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER -- A notable movement was documented in the Manzano Mts. when 121 were tallied from 8/29 to 10/11, with high

counts of 21 on 9/20 and 27 on 10/8 (LS). 1 was at Socorro on 10/20 (PB).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- Westerly were an immature at Stubblefield L. on 9/21 (RW) and Las Cruces 11/30 (GE).

ACORN WOODPECKER -- East of its range was 1 at Bitter L. NWR on 9/7 (GW*).

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- East was 1 near Nara Visa in Quay Co. on 10/9 (JO).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- 1 in Otero Canyon s. of Tijeras, Bernalillo Co., on 10/26 (HS*). On 10/9 1 was near Endee, Quay Co., and 1 n. of Clovis (JO).

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER -- 2 probables in the Pinos Altos Mts. on 9/19 (LM*) were at the s. fringe of their distribution.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- Reports of some with yellow feathers were scattered from 1 at Clayton 10/16 (LF) to a male in the Animas Valley on 10/30 (NMC+). 2 at Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner on 10/30 (JO); 1 at Holloman L. on 10/1 (GE) and 10/10 (BN, DE); 1 male on 10/24 at Rattlesnake Springs 10/24 (JO); and 1 male at Eunice, Lea Co., on 10/23 (JO**).

LEAST FLYCATCHER -- 1 was west to Sumner L. dam on 9/6 (JO); another was at Caprock on 9/14 (DE, BN).

BUFF-BREASTED FLYCATCHER -- 2 possibles in Clanton Canyon on 8/18 (LM*) were not relocated in subsequent days.

BLACK PHOEBE -- Northeast was 1 at Clayton L. 9/26 (JO**).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- Unusually conspicuous in the RGV. 1 at Pena Blanca, Sandoval Co., 11/2 (BW); 1 in Socorro 11/11 to 11/14 (PB); 1 to 4 on Bosque NWR 11/13 to 11/27 (JP, JO, DC*); and 1 at Percha SP on 11/28 (DE, BN). Farther west was 1 in the Gila Valley near Riverside on 11/5 (RS).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- Have become a fixture northeast to Conchas L. where 1 or 2 continued in evidence 9/25 to 9/28 (JO, BH).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER -- Singles were at Endee, Quay Co., on 9/11 (JO**), near Clovis on 9/11 (JO), and at the Melrose migrant trap on 9/18 (JP, JO**).

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD -- Breeding: Late nesters were seen "carrying food" at Rattlesnake Springs on 8/2 (SW) and in the Animas Valley on 8/6 (AC, NMC).

WESTERN KINGBIRD -- Lingerings were 1 at St. Vrain, Curry Co., on 10/22 (JO) and 3 at Hermanas on 10/21 (SOW*).

EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 1 was west to Nutria L. near Zuni on 8/27 (JAT*).

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- Early was 1 immature at the Las Vegas NWR on 10/23 (JP) and 1 immature at McAllister L. 11/14 (M. MacRoberts*, BF, v.o.). 1 immature at Orilla Verde Park near Pilar on 11/24 (RW). East were singles at Conchas L. on 11/6 (JP, JO) and 11/14 (BH*) and an adult in s. Curry Co. on 11/21 (James Lofton**). South was 1 immature at Bosque NWR on 11/11 (BH*) and 11/14 (JO**).

WHITE-EYED VIREO -- At least 1 was at Rattlesnake Springs on 10/3 (JO*).

BELL'S VIREO -- 1 was late at Caballo L. on 11/27 (JP) Upriver, singles were banded at San Marcial 9/9, 9/22, and 9/23 (Hira Walker).

BLUE-HEADED VIREO -- Single possibles were at Zuni 9/18 (DC*), Bosque Redondo Park near Fort Sumner 10/9 (JP*), in Frio Draw on NM 209 n. of Clovis 9/11 (JO*), Milnesand on 9/5 (JO*), and at Rattlesnake Springs on 10/24 (JO**).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO -- 1 probable was at Sumner L. below the dam on 10/2 (BN*, DE*).

RED-EYED VIREO -- 1 at Milnesand on 9/5-6 (JO) and 1 at Boone's Draw on 9/18 (JP, JO, LC).

BLUE JAY -- They wandered west in October to the RGV and environs, including 2 in Los Alamos, Los Alamos Co., on 10/14 (Shirley Baker); singles in Albuquerque on 10/3 (PRS+), 10/18 (JO), and 10/23 (SW); 1 on 10/14 seen at Tijeras, Bernalillo Co, 10/14 (Joan Day-Martin); in the Manzano Mts. 10/11 (*fide* LS); 1 at Veguita in Socorro Co. in early October (*fide* LS); and 1 in Socorro 10/14 and 3 on 11/27 (PB). Another strayed to Silver City, Grant Co., in mid-October (Jack Carter, *fide* RF).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- Peripheral areas included 12 in the Manzano Mts. on 9/6 (BH) and "large numbers" there in late October (LS), plus 1 or 2 on San Mateo Peak on 10/10 (HS).

AMERICAN CROW -- 18 in Roswell on 9/19 (GW).

PURPLE MARTIN -- 2 at Pescado near Zuni on 8/4 and 8/9 (DC) and 3 to 4 at the Nutria Lakes near Zuni on 8/9 and 8/14 (DC); 2 were 11 miles west of Raton, Colfax Co., on 8/7 (JO, JP). 22 near Roberts L. on 8/10 (BW).

SWALLOWS -- Several Tree and Barn Swallows were eating Russian olive berries at Las Vegas NWR on 9/11 (HS, NV).

CAVE SWALLOW -- Some 270 were roosting in sorghum fields near Carlsbad on 8/14-15 (SW).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- A moderate flight found small numbers east to the Maxwell NWR, Colfax Co., 8/7 (JP, JO), Clayton 10/10 (JO), Moriarty 10/3 (JO), Melrose migrant trap 10/16 to 10/28 (JP, JO, BH), Boone's Draw on 9/25 (JO, JP), and Carlsbad on 11/8 (SW).

CAROLINA WREN -- Reports in N.M. have been on the rise for several years and recently the species has found the middle RGV to its liking. In 1998 a juvenile of unknown origin was banded at Albuquerque. Breeding: this year at Riverine Park in Socorro a pair was carrying nest material into a stump 8/5-6, tending the nest 8/19, and carrying food to the nest 9/1-2 (JO**). A family group, with at least 2 juveniles, was seen there 9/9 (CR*) and 2 to 3 fledglings on 9/15 (JO**), establishing the first N.M. breeding record. As fate would have it the stump was removed by maintenance crews in late September;....another was singing at Rattlesnake Springs on various dates from 8/22 (JO**) to 10/24 (SW, v.o.).

WINTER WREN -- Singles were at Hondo Falls in the Sandia Mts. on 10/22 (DE); the Melrose migrant trap on 10/9, 10/16 (JO, JP*) and 10/28 (BH); and near Tatum on 10/16 (JO**). 2 near Redrock on 11/27 (CR*).

SEDGE WREN -- Rarely reported, 1 was at Bosque NWR on 11/11 (BH).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- Much in evidence in several smaller mountain ranges as the Zuni Mts. (JAT), Sandia Mts. (HS), Manzano Mts. (LS), San Mateo Mts. (HS), and Animas Mts. (NMC+). In lowlands 1 or 2 at the Moriarty turf farm on 10/8 (JP, JO) and 10/16-17 (JP, LC, JO); the Melrose migrant trap on 10/9 (JP); and at Caballo L. on 11/27 (JP).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- Far east were 3 near Eunice, Lea Co., on 10/23 (JO**).

VARIED THRUSH -- 1 male at Fruitland, San Juan Co., on 11/20 (TR**) provided a San Juan Co. first. There are fewer than a dozen N.M. records.

GRAY CATBIRD -- Noteworthy were 1 to 3 near Zuni on 8/26 and 8/28 (JAT) and 9/4 to 10/8 (DC); 1 in the n. Sandia Mts. in Las Huertas Canyon at 8500 feet, Sandoval Co., on 9/14 (BH*), possibly a first local report; and 1 or 2 in Socorro 8/19 to 9/14 (JO), included 1 seen "carrying food" on the latter date. 1 at Crossroads, Lea Co., on 10/16 (JO).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Late was 1 at Clayton 11/24 (LF).

BROWN THRASHER -- Singles west to the RGV were at Corrales, Sandoval Co., on 10/24 (BH), Los Lunas on 9/8 (CR), Socorro on 11/2 (PB), and San Marcial on 10/14 (banded, HW).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- North of expected was 1 at Eldorado near Santa Fe on 9/28 (Dawn Foy).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- Out of range was a probable in grasses at Bluewater L. on 10/4 (DC*).

PHAINOPEPLA -- 1 strayed east to Bitter L. NWR 10/10 (GW).

OLIVE WARBLER -- Late or maybe over-wintering was 1 in the Animas Mts. on 11/4 (NMC, AC).

TENNESSEE WARBLER -- Recorded at Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. 9/28 (BW) and 9/4 at Rattlesnake Springs (SW).

NORTHERN PARULA -- In the RGV at Isleta L., Bernalillo Co., a female on 11/21 (DE), a male at Bosque NWR 11/13 (JO*, DE, CR), and a male below EBL dam on 11/26 (JP).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- Singles near Moriarty on 9/6 (DE, BN) and Lake Valley on 9/23 (CR*).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- 1 male on 10/3 in the South Valley at Albuquerque (CR*, BN*, DE*).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER -- 1 male at Albuquerque on 10/3 (BN, DE, CR*); 1 female at Sumner L. 10/5 (BW) and 10/2 (DE, BE); and 1 female at the migrant trap w. of Melrose on 10/16 (JP*, JO**, LC).

MYRTLE YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- 10 at the migrant trap w. of Melrose on 10/28 (BH).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- Unusually prevalent, with 1 or 2 at the Melrose migrant trap on 9/18 to 10/9 (JO*, JP*, MS*, JZ), 1 female at Milnesand on 9/6 (JO*), and 1 at Jal on 10/23 (JO**). At least 2 or possibly 3 at Rattlesnake Springs on 10/24 (JO**, video).

HERMIT WARBLER -- Noteworthy were singles in the Pinos Altos Mts. on 8/27 (MS, JZ) and 9/16 to 9/18 (LM) and in Clanton Canyon of the Peloncillo Mts. on 8/27 (MS, JZ).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER -- 1 at Boone's Draw on 9/18 (JP*, JO*, LC).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- 1 at Glenwood, Catron Co., on 9/1 (Daniel and Barbara McKnight*).

PINE WARBLER -- 1 at the Melrose migrant trap on 10/9 (JO*, JP*)

PALM WARBLER -- Singles at McAllister L. near Las Vegas on 10/17 (BF*), the Melrose trap 10/5 (BW*), and 1 near Suniand Park on 10/9 (JNP*).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- 3 in female-plumage at the Melrose migrant trap on 9/18 (JO, JP, LC) and 1 female at Percha SP on 11/27 (JP).

AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1 male near Zuni on 8/28 (JAT); 1 male in Chama on 8/1 (Damian Andrus*); and 1 female along the Gila River near Riverside on 9/24 (RS).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER -- The state's first confirmed record in late July in Socorro remained through 8/14 (JO, LM*, DE*, BN*, CR*, BF*, BW, PB).

OVENBIRD -- 1 near Lake Valley on 9/23 (*fide* CR); 1 at the Melrose migrant trap on 9/11 (JO) and 9/18 (JP, JO).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1 on 9/28 in Tajique Canyon in the Manzano Nts. (*fide* HS); and 1 in the Animas Valley on 8/27 was a first local record (NMC).

KENTUCKY WARBLER -- 1 immature male at Boone's Draw on 9/4 (JO*).

HOODED WARBLER -- 1 banded at San Marcial on 9/8 (HW).

SUMMER TANAGER -- 1 was north at Clayton L. on 9/26 (JO).

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- They took advantage of the lush conditions in the southwest, with 30 in the s. Animas Valley (including breeding activity) on 8/6 (AC, NMC); 34 in the Animas and Playas Valleys on 8/27 (AC, NMC); and 10 singing near the Big Hatchet Mts., Hidalgo Co., on 8/31 (SOW).

BOTTERI'S SPARROW -- Breeding: a partial survey of its habitat in the middle Animas Valley found 7 territories occupied by singing birds, plus 1 juvenile 9/1-2 (SOW).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- West of usual were 1 near Riverside on 11/12 (RS) and 7 at Lake Valley on 9/23 (CR).

FIELD SPARROW -- Early were singles seen at the Melrose migrant trap on 10/9 (JP) and at Carlsbad on 10/1 (SW).

FOX SPARROW -- The only report was of a gray form at Pilar on 10/21 (RW).

SWAMP SPARROW -- 1 in the Animas Valley on 10/14 (NMC).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Had a banner season, especially in the middle and lower RGV (v.o.). West were 1 near Zuni 11/24 (DC), 3 along the Gila R. below Redrock 11/27 (CR), and 1 tan striped adult in the Animas Valley 11/4 (NMC).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- The only report was an immature n. of Las Vegas on 10/20 (BW).

GRAY-HEADED DARK-EYED JUNCO -- Both *dorsalis* and *caniceps* were in the Animas Nts. on 11/4 (NMC+).

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO -- 3 were in the Animas Mts. 11/4 (NMC+).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- 3 at the Los Lunas turf farm on 10/30 (CR*).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR -- 8 at Bluewater L. 10/9 (DC).

PYRRHULOXIA -- North of breeding areas included singles at ne. Albuquerque on 10/28 (DE), the Melrose migrant trap on 10/22 and 10/30 (JO), Bitter L. NWR on 11/14 (GW), Bottomless L. SP, Chaves Co., on 10/27 (GE), and EBL 10/18 (NP). 2 at Boone's Draw on 10/16 (JO).

YELLOW GROSBEAK -- 1 reported and described as an adult male was at Bosque NWR on 10/4 (Ronald Rowland*), but available details were sketchy and it wasn't relocated.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- The only report was an immature male at Rattlesnake Springs on 10/3 (JO**).

LAZULI BUNTING -- 1 male was late at Socorro 11/21-22 (PB).

INDIGO BUNTING -- 1 or 2 near Zuni on 8/7 to 8/28 (DC); 2 at Socorro on 8/5 and 8/19 (JO); 1 singing near Roberts L. 8/10 (BW); 1 was late at Rattlesnake Springs 10/24 (JO).

PAINTED BUNTING -- Scarce in the lower RGV, 3 were at La Mesa 8/21 (MS, JZ); on the se. plains 4 were at Milnesand on 9/8 plus 2 at Caprock and 1 at Maljamar on 8/21 (JO).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- A male and 2 females were at Bosque NWR on 11/21 (AC*, NMC*, JO**).

COMMON GRACKLE -- 3 in Deming on 8/25 (LM).

ORCHARD ORIOLE -- Single females at the Melrose migrant trap on 9/11 (JO), Milnesand 9/6 (JO), and 1 at Bitter L. NWR on 9/7 (GW).

PUPPLE FINCH -- Rare in N.M., a male was at Conchas L. on 10/31 (JO**). Undetailed was another at Clayton on 11/5 (WC, *fide* LF).

RED CROSSBILL -- 2 in Albuquerque's South Valley on 8/13 (DE) were in an unusual lowland locale.

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- Responding to an overabundance of sunflowers, they were notably numerous, including 225 at Zuni on 8/21 (JAT), and showed evidence of late nesting at Zuni 8/16 (DC) and in the Animas Valley 8/6 (NMC, AC). Late were 2 at Fruitland, San Juan Co., on 11/20 (TR), 1 at Zuni on 11/6 (DC), and 20 near Redrock on 11/27 (CR).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Early were 2 at Lake Valley on 9/23 (CR) and 5 at Conchas L. on 9/25 (JO).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Quite scarce, the only reports were or small flocks at Angostura, Taos Co., on 8/6 (RW) and 19 at Santa Fe on 10/16 (NP).

Published August 10, 2002.