

*New Mexico  
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*Reporting Observations:* All individuals interested in birds in New Mexico are encouraged to submit their observations to *NMOS Field Notes*. Especially solicited are records of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-season/range birds. Records should be submitted in taxonomic order and should include species name, date, exact location, numbers of birds, age, sex, and color morph (if applicable), and name and contact information of observer. Details are necessary for unusual records; these may be submitted on a report form (available from the address above), but any written format is acceptable. Photographic documentation is strongly encouraged.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(*Founded 1962*)

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

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**Cover:** Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*). Owing to threats to limited habitat, the Elegant Trogon is listed as endangered by the state of New Mexico. One-two pairs have occupied New Mexico's Peloncillo Mountains each nesting season since 1991. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman, commissioned by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for a series on state endangered species. Used by permission.

## WINTER SEASON 1999-2000

Another dry and mild winter allowed many birds to linger late, overwinter north of usual, and/or return early, all the while rearranging conventional wisdom as to the status of several species. The season was notable for unprecedented numbers of wintering sparrows, these apparently responding to abundant grasses and mild conditions, especially in south-central and southwestern New Mexico.

### Localities and Counties

Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Kirtland AFB, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	La Joya, <i>Socorro</i>
Algodones, <i>Sandoval</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Animas Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Lake Valley, <i>Sierra</i>
Anthony, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Las Animas Cr., <i>Sierra</i>
Arrey, <i>Sierra</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Aztec, <i>San Juan</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Bernardo, <i>Socorro</i>	Lordsburg, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Blanco, <i>San Juan</i>	Los Lunas, <i>Valencia</i>
Bluewater, Lake, <i>McKinley/Cibola</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Madrid, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Bosque Redondo, <i>DeBaca</i>	Mangas Springs, <i>Grant</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Mesilla, Dam, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Mimbres, <i>Grant</i>
Cerrillos, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Moriarty, <i>Torrance</i>
Claunch, <i>Socorro</i>	Mountainair, <i>Torrance</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Navajo Dam, <i>San Juan</i>
Cliff, <i>Grant</i>	Navajo Lake, <i>San Juan/Rio Arriba</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Nutt, <i>Luna</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>
Cochiti Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval/Bernalillo</i>	Peña Blanca, <i>Sandoval</i>
Crownpoint, <i>McKinley</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Petroglyph NM, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Pinos Altos, <i>Grant</i>
Dripping Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Eldorado, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Quarai, <i>Torrance</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Questa, <i>Taos</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Ragland, <i>Quay</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>DeBaca</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Garfield, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Redrock, <i>Grant</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Hachita, <i>Grant</i>	Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i>
Hatch, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Sandia Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Hillsboro, <i>Sierra</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Bernalillo/Sandoval</i>
Hurley, <i>Grant</i>	Santa Fe, <i>Santa Fe</i>

Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*  
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*  
 Silver City, *Grant*  
 Six-Mile Dam, *Eddy*  
 Socorro, *Socorro*  
 Stinking Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *DeBaca*  
 Taos, Ski Valley, *Taos*

Tres Hermanas Mts., *Luna*  
 Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*  
 Tyrone, *Grant*  
 Ute Lake, *Quay*  
 Uvas Valley, *Luna/Dona Ana*  
 Zuni, *McKinley*  
 Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

### Abbreviations and Conventions

AFB	Air Force Base	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	SP	State Park
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CG	Camp Ground	ad(s).	adult(s)
Cr.	Creek	subad(s).	subadult(s)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	imm(s).	immature(s)
L.	Lake	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	m.ob.	many observers
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	v.o.	various observers
NM	National Monument	+	others; et al.
NP	National Park	*	written details provided
N.R.T.	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	**	photo or tape provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

### Initialed Observers

PB	Pat Basham	TJH	Tom J. Hines
SMB	Sherry M. Bixler	WHH	William H. Howe
GB	George Blanchard	PI	Pat Insley
DJC	David J. Cleary	G&CJ	Gary & Carol Johnson
SWC	Steven W. Cox	ERL	Eugene R. Lewis
AMC	Alan M. Craig	JRL	James R. Loftin
JLD	Jon L. Dunn	LKM	Larry K. Malone
DAE	Douglas A. Emkalns	PM	Patricia Mehlhop
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	RAM	Raymond A. Meyer
AF	Andrew Fenner	NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig
RAF	Ralph A. Fisher Jr	APN	Alan P. Nelson
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	BDN	Bruce D. Neville
DMF	Dawn M. Foy	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
LF	Lavina Fry	JEP	John E. Parmeter
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	BP	Bruce Pataky
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JNP	James N. Paton

GSP Gary S. Pfaffenberger  
TR Tim Reeves  
CMR Christopher M. Rustay  
LAS Lawry A. Sager  
HRS Hart R. Schwarz  
MTS Marcy T. Scott  
RSS Roland S. Shook  
PRS Patricia R. Snider  
DWS Dale W. Stahlecker  
JAT John A. Trochet

BV Brad Vaughn  
NV Nick Vaughn  
GLW Gordon L. Warrick  
RW Robert Weber  
SW Steve West  
WFW William F. West  
SOW S. O. Williams III  
JEZ James E. Zabriskie  
BRZ Barry R. Zimmer

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Pacific Loon**—One each at Conchas L. 9 Feb (WHH\*), Brantley L. 29 Dec (*fide* TJH) & 18 Jan (CMR\*), and EBL 2 Feb (WFW), the latter decomposing and being eaten by a gull.

**Common Loon**—High counts of 7 at Conchas L. 8 Feb (WFW) and 18 on the Avalon-Brantley CBC 29 Dec (TJH+).

**Yellow-billed Loon**—One at Cochiti L. 15-26 Feb (WFW\*, CMR\*, JRO\*\*, WHH\*, JEP\*) furnished the state's 10<sup>th</sup> record in 10 years.

**Pied-billed Grebe**—22 on the Farmington CBC 18 Dec (APN+) provided a record high for that northerly count.

**Horned Grebe**—One at Burn L. in Las Cruces 18 Dec-9 Jan (GJE, JLD, JRO, JEP, CMR) was south of usual. Others included 1 at Farmington L. 23-27 Dec (TR, JLD, JRO), 1 at Conchas L. 28 Dec (JRO), 3 at Ute L. 28 Dec (JRO) and 2 there 13 Feb (JRO), 5 on the Santa Rosa CBC 19 Dec (WFW+), 3 at BLNWR 11 Dec (SMB), and 3 at Brantley L. 29 Dec (JLD, JRO).

**Red-necked Grebe**—One in first-winter plumage at Farmington L. 11-23 Dec (TR\*\*) provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> confirmed state record and the 2<sup>nd</sup> for that particular locale.

**Eared Grebe**—A high 297 on the Santa Rosa CBC 19 Dec (WFW+).

**Western & Clark's Grebes**—6046 Westerns, but only 7 Clark's, counted at EBL and Caballo L. 4 Feb (LKM). North for the season were 2 Westerns at Navajo Dam 29 Dec (TR). Unusual was a Clark's at Deming 8-9 Jan (DAE, BDN).

**American White Pelican**—High mid-winter counts included 40 on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (BRZ+) and 120 at L. Avalon 15 Jan (*fide* SW). Early returnees included 31 at BLNWR 18 Feb (GLW) and 13 at Sumner L. 26 Feb (CMR).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Small numbers wintered at Bosque NWR Dec-Jan (v.o.), with a high of 14 there 12 Feb (WHH). Elsewhere were 2 on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (BRZ+) and 1 at Las Cruces 18 Dec (GJE+).

**American Bittern**—2 at BLNWR 18 Dec (GLW+) and 1 seen there 15 Jan (SMB), 21 Jan (GLW), and 4 Feb (GLW).

**Great Egret**—Apparently overwintering were 1 at Bosque NWR 30 Dec & 6 Jan (JRO) and 3-4 at BLNWR on various dates 18 Dec-21 Jan (GLW+).

**Snowy Egret**—Last at BLNWR was 1 on 29 Dec (JLD, JRO). Unusual was 1 at Six-Mile Dam 28 Jan (SW).

**Cattle Egret**—One overwintered at Bosque NWR, where seen on numerous dates 30 Dec-12 Feb, including throughout Jan (v.o., BRZ\*\*).

**White-faced Ibis**—Overwintered at Bosque NWR, with 8 on 18 Dec (SWC+) and 7 there 10 Jan (BRZ\*\*), 28 Jan (JEP), and 12 Feb (WHH), and at BLNWR, with 1 there 18 Dec-26 Feb (GLW+).

**Turkey Vulture**—Early was 1 near Las Cruces 18 Feb (SMB).

**Greater White-fronted Goose**—Two at RGNC 19 Dec-26 Feb (v.o.).

**Snow & Ross's Geese**—Large numbers of both species at several locations, especially refuges. 95 "Blue" Geese were among 25,633 white Snow Geese at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (SWC+). Peak count at BLNWR was 11,892 Snows and 12,397 Ross's on 3 Dec (GLW). To protect Arctic breeding grounds from overpopulation of "light geese," the State Game Commission allowed a special season 1 Feb-10 Mar, complete with no daily bag or possession limits.

**Tundra Swan**—Up to 4 in the Bernardo-La Joya area in Dec (SWC\*, CMR, DAE, BDN, JLD), but one was shot 19 Dec and 2 others were shot 7 Jan (*fide* T. Mitchusson); it is illegal to hunt swans in New Mexico. The survivor was last seen 28 Jan (JEP).

**Wood Duck**—Wandering individuals included singles at Zuni's Eustace L. 18 Dec-8 Jan (JAT\*\*), Lake Valley 25 Dec (CMR), and the Animas Valley 4 Jan (JLD) plus 2 at Deming 3 & 30 Dec (LKM, JLD, JRO). Noteworthy were 10 at Española 19 Dec (BRF+) and 223 at Albuquerque 19 Dec (HRS+).

**Eurasian Wigeon**—A male at RGNC 4 Dec (JEP).

**American Wigeon x Mallard**—Unusual was an apparent hybrid Wigeon x Mallard at BLNWR 18 Feb (GLW).

**Blue-winged Teal**—Unusual for winter was a male at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (DLH) and 9 Jan (JRO).

**Cinnamon Teal**—Irregular in winter, so reports of 2 males at Zuni 22 Jan (DJC), 1 male at RGNC 18-23 Jan (MTS, JEZ, JRO), 2 at Bosque Redondo 16 Jan (NV), 1-2 at Bosque NWR 8 & 15 Jan (DAE, BDN, MTS, JEZ), and 1 at BLNWR 7 Jan (GLW) were noteworthy.

**Greater Scaup**—4 males at Farmington L. 21 Feb (TR) were west of usual. Others included 3 near Clayton 29 Dec (CMR), 4 at Ute L. 28 Dec (JLD, JRO), 2 males at the Spring River oxbow in Roswell 18 Dec (SMB\*), 2 males at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (DLH\*) & 8 Jan (WHH\*), and 1 male at EBL 9 Jan (BRZ).

**Common Goldeneye**—One at Hurley 8-26 Jan (ERL, LKM).

**Barrow's Goldeneye**—2 males in *Rio Arriba* on Navajo L. 26 Dec (JLD, JRO). One male at Farmington L. 12-18 Dec (TR\*\*).

**Hooded Merganser**—High counts were 50 in *Harding* on the Ute Creek arm of Ute L. 28 Dec (JLD, JRO) and 62 at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (SWC+).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—Westerly was a male at Farmington L. 11 Dec (TR).

**Osprey**—Early were 2 at Truth or Consequences 1 Feb (WFW).

**White-tailed Kite**—2 in the Uvas Valley, *Luna* 2 Jan (SW) & 4 Feb (JRO\*\*), 1 in the Animas Valley 4 Dec (fide RSS) and 20 Jan (AMC, NM-C), and 1 near Garfield 18 Jan (R. Rasmussen\*).

**Northern Goshawk**—An ad. on Pump Mesa 17 Dec (TR\*\*) was one of the few documented for *San Juan*. Another ad. was at Madrid 19 & 23 Jan (LAS).

**Harris's Hawk**—Noteworthy for the RGV was 1 at Hatch 4 Dec (CMR) & 11 Dec (JEP).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—An immature of the western subspecies *elegans* was at Bosque NWR 30 Dec (JLD\*, JRO\*\*), 8 Jan (WHH\*), 14 Jan (JEP\*), 15 Jan (DAE\*, BDN\*, MTS\*, JEZ\*), 30 Jan (SOW\*, PM\*), & 2 Feb (PRS\*). [Note: this record inadvertently omitted from *North American Birds* 54(2), 2000.]

**“Harlan's” Hawk**—One at Cliff 3 Dec (CMR\*) may be the source of “Zone-tailed Hawk” reports from the same area. Nicely documented was 1 near Anthony 6 Dec (BRZ\*\*) & 22 Jan (MTS\*, JEZ\*).

**Merlin**—Numerous and widespread Dec-Jan, with reports from 20 counties, including north to *San Juan*, *Rio Arriba*, and *Colfax* and east to *Union*, and *Curry*.

**Peregrine Falcon**—A few lingered into early Dec; last of the season was 1 at Bosque NWR 29 Dec (PRS).

**Chukar**—One in Albuquerque's South Valley 13 Feb (DAE, BDN) was almost certainly an escape.

**Wild Turkey**—Noteworthy were 17 Gould's Wild Turkeys on lower Deer Cr., Animas Mts., 7 Dec (G. Schmitt).

**Montezuma Quail**—Among the few reports were 14 on the Ruidoso CBC 18 Dec (A. Powell+) and 16 in the Peloncillo Mts. 1 Jan (AMC+).

**Virginia Rail**—North for the season were 2 at Clayton L. 28-29 Dec (DAE, CMR), 1 on the Las Vegas CBC 2 Jan (GB+), and 1 at 6600 ft. at Quarai 13 & 25 Jan (HRS).

**Common Moorhen**—Far north was 1 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW) & 26 Feb (DAE, CMR). High count was 15 on the Las Cruces CBC 18 Dec (GJE+).

**Sandhill Crane**—Peripheral was 1 at Mangas Springs 15-16 Dec (RAF).

**Whooping Crane**—The experimental population that winters in New Mexico was down to 3 birds: 1 in the Bernardo area and 2 at Bosque NWR Dec-Jan (v.o.).

**Snowy Plover**—Unusual for winter was 1 at Brantley L. 29 Dec (SW).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Earliest were singles at Lordsburg 19 Feb (LKM) and Bosque NWR 20 Feb (NV).

**American Avocet**—Earliest was 1 at Bosque NWR 11 Feb (DAE).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—Late were singles at Corrales, *Sandoval*, 12 Dec (WHH) and Sevilleta NWR 23 Dec (SWC).

**Long-billed Curlew**—Unseasonal were 4 at the Moriarty turf farm 15 Jan (JRO).

**Dunlin**—Late were 1 at BLNWR 18 Dec (GLW) and 3 at Loving 30 Dec (SW\*). Early were 3 at Bosque NWR 4 Feb (LKM\*), where there were 4 on 11 Feb (DAE) and 12 Feb (WHH).

**Stilt Sandpiper**—Unexpected in winter were 5 at BLNWR 3 Dec (GLW), with 2 there 10 Dec (GLW) & 29 Dec (JLD, JRO); 1 still there 5 Jan (GLW) was the last seen.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**—High counts for mid-winter were 87 at BLNWR 21 Jan (GLW) and 40 at Caballo L. 2 Jan (BRZ+).

**Bonaparte's Gull**—Noteworthy for mid-winter were 6 at BLNWR 14 Jan (GLW).

**Mew Gull**—Single adults were at Conchas L. 28 Dec (JLD\*, JRO\*\*) and EBL 1-20 Jan (DAE\*, BDN\*, CMR, JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Ring-billed Gull**—48 on the Farmington CBC 18 Dec (APN+) was considered a high count for there.

**Thayer's Gull**—One described as “darkish first-winter” was at EBL's Monticello Point 1 Jan (DAE, BDN).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—High counts of 6 at Fort Sumner 8 Feb (WFW) and 97 (plus 1 apparent Ringed Turtle-Dove) at Roswell 18 Dec (SMB+). One at Albuquerque 18-19 Dec (R. Adair\*\*).



**White-winged Dove**—Overwintered in the north at Santa Fe and Fort Sumner and in the southwest at Silver City and Redrock. High counts included 366 at Roswell 18 Dec (SMB+) and a national high 17,614 at Las Cruces 18 Dec (GJE+).

**Inca Dove**—Among the plentiful reports from the southern half of the state were 1 at Hillsboro 15 Jan (MTS, JEZ) and 2 at Arrey 2 Jan (JNP, BRZ).

**Common Ground-Dove**—One female at Mesilla Dam 31 Dec-9 Jan (JLD\*, JRO\*, JEP, CMR\*).

**Ruddy Ground-Dove**—Up to 2 at Deming 4 Dec-7 Jan (CMR\*, LKM\*, JEP\*, JRO\*\*) were described as a male and a female. Well-described were a male and female at Mangas Springs 21 Dec (RAF\*).

**Green Parakeet (Conure)**—One *Aratinga holochlora* eating quince fruits at Las Cruces in Feb (M. Hakkla) was considered an escape from the local cage-bird trade.

**Greater Roadrunner**—Apparently thriving in the south, with 44 counted in *Grant*, *Hidalgo*, and *Luna* 4 Dec (RSS+) which was “up from 18 counted in Dec 1998,” and 44 on the Las Cruces CBC 18 Dec (GJE+).

**Great Horned Owl**—One found dead at Los Alamos 3 Jan 2000 had been banded there 29 Apr 1988 (Bird Banding Lab).

**Long-eared Owl**—One in the Tres Hermanas Mts. 24 Jan (LKM) and 1-2 in the Animas Valley 1-3 Jan (AMC+) were in areas where seldom reported.

**Short-eared Owl**—Made a relatively good showing, with 1 at Stinking L. 20 Jan (DWS\*), 1 in the Five Points area of Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (SWC\*), 2 north of Hachita 30 Dec (JLD, JRO\*), and 1 east of Columbus 20 Dec (LKM).

**White-throated Swift**—Warm conditions in the south favored these swifts, with 480 on the Las Cruces CBC 18 Dec (GJE\*) and 10 at Elephant Butte Dam 19 Dec (JRO); at least 40 were at Mesilla Dam 8 Jan (JEP, JRO, GJE).

**Magnificent Hummingbird**—2 were reported at Pinos Altos from late Dec into Jan (*fide* RSS).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird**—One, judged a female or immature (but otherwise lacking details), was at Las Cruces through 4 Jan (GJE).

**Anna’s Hummingbird**—A male at Albuquerque 6-19 Dec (HRS\*) and 2 individuals at Las Cruces 18 Dec (GJE) provided the only reports.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird**—One was reported without details at Silver City 18 Dec (*fide* RSS).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—Unfortunately undetailed were 1 reported at Silver City 18 Dec (*fide* RSS) and 2 at Las Cruces 18 Dec (*fide* GJE).

**Lewis's Woodpecker**—One strayed east to Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW) and 24 Dec (JLD, JRO).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—An ad. wandered west to Mesilla 6 Dec-7 Feb (v.o., BRZ\*\*, JRO\*\*). 2 on the Roswell CBC 18 Dec (SMB+).

**Gila Woodpecker**—Two in Skull Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., 1 Jan (*fide* AMC) provided a new locality.

**Williamson's Sapsucker**—Notably late for submontane areas were 1 at Española 19 Dec (BRF+), 1 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW+), and 2 at Eldorado 4-10 Jan (BRF, DMF).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Several reports from the RGV eastward, generally with few or no details. West was 1 at Hillsboro 18 Dec (JRO). Singles in the RGV, all but one described as “immature” or “juvenile,” were at Algodones 19 Feb (CMR), Albuquerque 16 Jan (JRO), Pueblito, *Socorro* 10 Feb (JRO) & 18 Feb (DAE, BDN), Bosque NWR 20 Feb (NV\*), Elephant Butte Dam 1 Jan (DAE, BDN), Caballo Dam 1-2 Jan (DAE, BDN, WHH\*), and an adult female at Mesilla 31 Dec (JRO). Reports in the east included 1 at Ragland 28 Dec (JLD, JRO) and 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Dec (JLD, JRO) & 9 Jan (SW).

**Red-naped Sapsucker**—A male was at Zuni's Pie Mesa 19 Dec (JAT\*), where rare in winter. One at Cerrillos 6 Jan (AF) was eating Russian olives.

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker**—Two on the Bluewater CBC in *Cibola* 18 Dec (CMR) provided one of the few Zuni Mts. records.

**Hairy Woodpecker**—Conspicuous in lowland areas, especially in the lower RGV, including 5-6 at Percha SP 12 Dec-15 Jan (JRO, JEP, BRZ\*\*).

**Three-toed Woodpecker**—The McGaffey Burn in the Zuni Mts., *McKinley*, continued dependable for the species, with 2 there 27 Dec (JLD, JRO\*\*).

**“Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted” Flicker**—One-two, described either as hybrids or as Yellow-shafteds, were at Clayton (CMR+) Portales (GSP), Conchas L. (JLD, JRO), Cerrillos (AF), Zuni (JAT), and Caballo Dam (DAE, BDN). Details of 1 reported as a “Gilded” at Las Cruces 18 Dec and other dates (*fide* GJE) indicate Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted cross more likely.

***Empidonax* sp.**—*Empidonax* flycatchers of undetermined species were 1 each at Socorro 28 Feb (PB) and the Gila Bird Area 7 Jan-25 Feb (RSS).

**Dusky Flycatcher**—Undetailed singles reported as this species were at Bosque NWR 14 Jan (JEP), Elephant Butte Dam 12 Dec (JRO) & 15-17 Jan (JEP), and Mesilla 18 Dec (JRO) & 31 Dec (JLD).

**Black Phoebe**—Late for the north were singles at Dixon 18 Dec (RW) and Española 19 Dec (BRF) and 3 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW).

**Eastern Phoebe**—High counts were 5 at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (SWC+), 2 at Loving 30 Dec (SW+), and 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Dec (JLD, JRO). Far west were 1 at Redrock 19 Feb (LKM, RSS) and the Animas Valley 18 Dec-3 Jan (AMC, NM-C [sketch], JRO\*\*).

**Say's Phoebe**—Lingering late in the north were 3 at Farmington 18 Dec (APN+), 2 on the Las Vegas CBC 2 Jan (GB+), and 3 at Zuni 19 Dec (JAT), with the last one at Zuni seen 31 Dec (DJC).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—Noteworthy for the RGV were 1 at Palomas 2 Jan (GJE) and 1 near Percha SP 2-15 Jan (JNP, BRZ\*\*, JEP).

**Northern Shrike**—Another good showing for this species, with reports from 19 sites including 1 south to the Zuni Mts. 15 Dec (JAT), 1-2 at Bosque NWR 30 Dec-18 Jan (v.o.), 1 at Mountainair 15 Jan (JRO\*\*), and 1 near Clovis 21 Nov-23 Dec (JRL\*\*).

**Bell's Vireo**—One below Caballo Dam 11 Dec (JEP, JRO) had been discovered in Nov.

**Blue Jay**—Far west was 1 at Cliff 1 Jan (RSS+). Highs in the RGV were 5 at Española 19 Dec (BRF+), 13 at Santa Fe 26 Dec (PI+), and 4 at Socorro 3 Jan-28 Feb (PB, J. Shipman). High counts in the east were 25 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW+) and 85 at Roswell 18 Dec (SMB+).

**Pinyon Jay**—Among several high counts were 500 on the Zuni CBC 19 Dec (JAT+), 1363 on the Bluewater Lake CBC 18 Dec (BP+), about 1000 at Kirtland AFB 26 Jan (J. Drummond), and 200 near Mimbres 5 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

**Black-billed Magpie**—Continued presence south to Albuquerque evidenced by 7 on the Albuquerque CBC 19 Dec (HRS+), and 1 in the South Valley 27 Feb (BV), where breeding has been reported (*fide* S. Altenbach).

**American Crow**—Noteworthy were 3956 on the Las Cruces CBC 18 Dec (GJE+). Unusual were 128 at Zuni's Pescado L. 22 Jan (DJC).

**Chihuahuan Raven**—Far north for the season were 7 on the Clayton CBC 29 Dec (CMR+), where there were also 27 Common Ravens. Continuing presence in *Bernalillo* evidenced by 1 on the West Mesa 3 Dec (WHH) and 2 at Isleta 25 Dec (BV).

**Tree Swallow**—Earliest were 20 at Bernardo 18 Feb (JRO) and 6-8 at Bosque NWR 18 Feb (DAE, BDN).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—Late was 1 at Caballo Dam 2 Jan (WHH\*, MTS, JEZ).

**Verdin**—Singles were north to Mangas Springs 16 Dec-1 Jan (RAF) and Socorro 15 Jan (JEP) & 10 Feb (JRO); 3 at Sevilleta NWR 23 Dec (SWC) were at the northern fringe of its range.

**Bushtit**—East were 20 at Portales 2-18 Dec (GSP).

**Cactus Wren**—Continuing presence in the middle RGV evidenced by 1 in NE Albuquerque 22 Dec (NV) and 4 at Sevilleta NWR 23 Dec (SWC+).

**Canyon Wren**—Perhaps inspired by the warm weather, 1 was singing at Petroglyph NM 12 Jan (NV).

**Carolina Wren**—Continued apparent colonization of the RGV, with 1 singing at Los Lunas 22 Jan (JRO\*) & 29 Jan (JEP) and 2 at Socorro's Riverine Park 29 Jan (DAE), the latter persisting in spite of extensive underbrush clearing. One at Rattlesnake Springs since Aug was documented 29 Dec (JLD\*, JRO\*\*) and heard again 6 Feb (SW).

**Bewick's Wren**—Unusual were 10 at Clayton 29 Dec (CMR+) and 1 in northeastern Union Dec-Feb (LF).

**House Wren**—Unusual in winter in New Mexico, so noteworthy were several on Dec CBCs plus 1 on the Las Vegas CBC 2 Jan (GB+), 4 in the Caballo area 2 Jan (BRZ+), and 6 in Lake Valley 25 Jan (CMR).

**Winter Wren**—Staged an unprecedented “invasion,” with singles at Santa Fe 26 Dec (PI), Peña Blanca 15 Feb (WFW), Zuni's Blackrock Dam 19 Dec (JAT\*), Bluewater Canyon, *Cibola* 18 Dec (CMR\*), Bosque Redondo 26 Feb (DAE\*, CMR\*), Bernardo 6 Feb (BV\*), below Elephant Butte Dam 12 Dec (JRO) & 17 Dec (JEP), Las Animas Cr. 2 Jan (DAE\*, BDN\*), Ruidoso 17 Feb (CMR\*), and 2 in the Animas Valley 1 Jan (JLD\*, JRO\*, AMC). At Corrales, *Sandoval*, at least 1-2 were present 19 Dec-26 Feb (MRG\*, BV\*, JRO\*\*, M. Martin\*\*) with a high 5 there 13 Feb (NV).

**Marsh Wren**—Noteworthy for the north in winter were 5 on the Clayton CBC 29 Dec (CMR+), 1 at Quarai 13 & 25 Jan (HRS), and a high 35 at Zuni 19 Dec (JAT).

**American Dipper**—One along Las Animas Cr. near Caballo L. 29 Jan (K. Stinnett).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—Following autumn influx, continued much in evidence in submontane areas through Dec-Jan, including up to 3 east to the Clayton area 29 Dec (LF, CMR) and 1 at Sumner Dam 26 Feb (CMR), 1-2 south to Caballo Dam 11 Dec (JEP, JRO) & 2 Jan (MTS, WHH) and Rattlesnake Springs 29 Dec (JLD, JRO). Noteworthy were 4 at Quarai 13 & 25 Jan (HRS) and 20 on the Bluewater CBC 18 Dec (BP+).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Late were 3 in the Five Points area of Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (SWC\*), 2 at Caballo Dam 2 Jan (WHH\*, MTS, JEZ), and singles at Elephant Butte Dam 12 Dec (JRO) and 1 Jan (DAE, BDN), and Percha SP 17 Dec (JEP).

**Eastern Bluebird**—Conspicuous throughout the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian valleys. West were 1 at Zuni 8 Jan (DJC) and 6 at Deming 11 Dec (JEP, JRO).

**Western Bluebird**—710 Westerns (but only 4 Mountains) at Silver City 18 Dec (RSS+).

**Mountain Bluebird**—Notably abundant in several areas, including CBC highs of 839 at Farmington 18 Dec (APN+), 314 at Española 19 Dec (BRF+), 412 at Zuni 19 Dec (JAT+), 732 at Bluewater Lake 18 Dec (BP+), 420 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW+), and

186 at Las Cruces 18 Dec (GJE+). An estimated 2900 Mountains (but only 4 Westerns) were near Claunch 11-14 Jan (CMR).

**Hermit Thrush**—2 lingered at Zuni until 27 Dec (DJC).

**Varied Thrush**—One male at Aztec's Riverside Park 18-27 Dec (J. Rees\*, JLD\*, JRO\*, TR\*\*) and one male at New Mexico Tech in Socorro seen and described by many 11 Jan-20 Feb (WFW\*, m.ob\*, JRO\*\*).

**Gray Catbird**—Unusually late was 1 at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 17 Dec (JAT\*).

**Northern Mockingbird**—Unseasonal for the north were 1 at Clayton 1 Jan (*vide* LF), 1 at Las Vegas 2 Jan (GB), and 2 at Dixon 18 Dec (RW).

**Sage Thrasher**—Small numbers found north to Zuni, Bluewater L., Dixon, Santa Fe, Eldorado, Santa Rosa, Fort Sumner, Conchas L., Saint Vrain in *Curry*, and Albuquerque (m.ob.).

**Brown Thrasher**—West were singles at Corrales, *Sandoval*, 15 Dec-13 Feb (WHH\*\*) and Socorro 17-18 Jan (PB); 1-2 were at six sites farther east during the period.

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—Several overwintered at Eldorado Dec-Feb (BRF, DMF, G&CJ), where 1 was singing 7 Feb (SOW).

**Crissal Thrasher**—North was 1 at Eldorado 6 Dec (G&CJ); 1 was singing in NE Albuquerque 14 Jan (PRS). Notably early was a nest with 2 small young in Riconcada Canyon, Petroglyph NM 27 Feb (HRS).

**Sprague's Pipit**—Possibly overwintering were singles on Otero Mesa 27 Jan, 10 Feb, and 12 Feb (RAM\*).

**Cedar Waxwing**—Moderate to large numbers (e.g., 245 at Farmington 18 Dec [APN+]) present nearly statewide through Dec, but none reported 6 Jan-5 Feb. Early were 30 at Taos 8 Feb (RW), 40 at Cerrillos 22 Feb (AF), and 63 at Santa Rosa 26 Feb (CMR).

**Olive Warbler**—A male apparently overwintered on Bear Mt. near Silver City, where present 18 Dec (RSS) and 17 Jan (R. Wilcox).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—January records included singles at Percha SP 2 & 8 Jan (BRZ) and Deming 28 Jan (JRO) plus 1-3 at Mesilla 8-9 Jan (JRO, CMR).

**Northern Parula**—A male was at Los Alamos 12 Dec (M. MacRoberts\*).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—Singles at Percha SP 15 Jan (JEP) and Las Cruces 18 Dec (H. Harrison\*).

**Ovenbird**—One at Albuquerque in the Alameda area mid-Dec through Feb (v.o., including photos in Jan (R. Waitz\*\*, JRO\*\*)) was the state's first for Jan.

**Common Yellowthroat**—Found wintering north in the RGV, with a female at Bernardo 29 Jan (DAE), a male and female at Bosque NWR 10 Jan (BRZ), and a female at Percha SP 30 Dec (BRF, DMF) & 2 Jan (BRZ).

**Green-tailed Towhee**—High count of 215 in the Peloncillo Mts. 1 Jan (AMC+).

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Difficult to locate, and identify, in winter. Single possible Cassin's were 1 at Sevilleta NWR 21 & 23 Dec (J. Place\*) and Lake Valley 25 Jan (CMR\*); 11 were reported on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 1 Jan (AMC+).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow**—Noteworthy was 1 along Ute Cr., western *Union* 28 Dec (CMR).

**American Tree Sparrow**—Several at the southern fringe of its range included 2 at Chaco Canyon NM, *San Juan*, 11 Jan (H. Smith), singles at Albuquerque 12 Dec (CMR) and Sevilleta NWR 23 Dec (SWC\*), and 2 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW).

**Chipping Sparrow**—Notably abundant in the south, including 211 on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (BRZ+), 1141 on the Gila Valley CBC 1 Jan (RSS+), 1285 on the Silver City CBC 18 Dec (RSS+), and a record 2369 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 1 Jan (AMC+). North were 1 at Española 19 Dec (BRF), 12 at the RGNC 26 Dec (WHH), 2 in the Sandia Mts. foothills 23 Jan (BV), and 3 at Roswell 18 Dec (SMB).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—Unexpected anywhere in New Mexico in winter, 1 was well-described in the middle Animas Valley 1 Jan (JLD\*) and 20 Jan (NM-C\*). Undetailed reports of relatively large numbers of Clay-colored elsewhere remain to be substantiated and likely refer to other species.

**Brewer's Sparrow**—Spectacularly abundant in the southwest, and especially conspicuous north to the Gila Valley, Silver City, and Albuquerque. The 13,462 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 1 Jan (AMC+) established a national high.

**Field Sparrow**—West of usual were 2 at Sumner L. 8 Feb (WFW) and singles at Santa Rosa L. 19 Dec (WFW), RGNC 20 Feb (banded, N. Cox), Bernardo 19 Jan-18 Feb (JRO, JEP, DAE, BDN), and the Animas Valley 20 Jan (sketch, NM-C\*).

**Black-chinned Sparrow**—One in the Sandia Mts. 19 Feb (NV) either overwintered or was early.

**Vesper Sparrow**—More numerous than usual in the southwest in *Grant*, *Sierra*, *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, and *Doña Ana*. The 3571 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 1 Jan (AMC+) was a record for that count. North was 1 at Bosque NWR 3 Feb (NV).

**Lark Sparrow**—Noteworthy were 9 in the Peloncillo Mts. 1 Jan (AMC+).

**Lark Bunting**—"More numerous than usual" in *Sierra* and *Doña Ana* (BRZ) and "abundant" in the Animas Valley (AMC, NM-C).

**Savannah Sparrow**—North for the season were 2 at Albuquerque 19 Dec (WHH).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—8 in the Animas Valley 1 Jan (AMC+) were the only ones reported.

**Baird's Sparrow**—Very well described were singles in the Animas Valley 1 Jan (CMR\*) and 4 Jan (JLD\*).

**Fox Sparrow**—Reported from 10 locales, primarily in the Rio Grande and Gila valleys. Red forms reported were singles at N.R.T. west of Melrose 12 Feb (JRO\*\*), RGNC 6 Jan (DAE), Percha SP 2 Jan (BRZ\*), and Rattlesnake Springs 18 Dec (SW). Gray forms reported were 1 at Elephant Butte Dam 12 & 17 Dec (JRO, JEP), 2 on Macho Cr. west of Nutt 26 Jan (CMR), 1 at Dripping Springs 7 Jan (BRZ). Undifferentiated were 1 at Questa 19 Dec (RW), 6 in the Gila Valley 1 Jan (RSS+), and 1 at Tyrone 16 Jan (ERL).

**Song Sparrow**—348 on the Zuni CBC 19 Dec (JAT+).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—Several high counts, including 58 in Lake Valley 25 Jan (CMR), 48 on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (BRZ+), 76 on the Gila Valley CBC 1 Jan (RSS+), and 113 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 1 Jan (AMC+). Lingering in the north were 2 at Zuni 19 Dec (JAT) and 1 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW).

**Swamp Sparrow**—Widely reported, including 1 at Silver City 18 Dec (RSS) and up to 3 in the Animas Valley 18 Dec-3 Jan (AMC, NM-C). 1-9 were reported on 14 CBCs, including north to Zuni, Bluewater Lake, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Santa Rosa, and Roswell.

**White-throated Sparrow**—Made an exceptional showing, with numerous records in the south and others north to Farmington, Crownpoint, Bluewater, Española, Santa Fe, and Bosque Redondo. Notable were 5 at Peña Blanca 19 Feb (CMR), 3 in the Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo*, 2 Jan (CMR), and 1 at Quarai 13 Jan (HRS).

**Harris's Sparrow**—Singles described as winter ads. were at Corrales, *Sandoval*, 19 Dec-23 Jan (WHH\*, JLD, JRO, PRS\*, BV\*, JEP), Alameda 19 Dec (T. Brownell), and SW *Curry* 19-26 Dec (JRL\*\*).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—Single dark-lored individuals at Blanco 29 Jan (TR\*\*) and Bosque NWR 18 Feb (BDN).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**—A winter ad. near Socorro at Pueblito 18 Jan (WFW\*), 18 Feb (DAE, BDN), & 24 Feb (JRO). One banded at Post Office Canyon 28 Dec (R. Scholes) was the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for there.

**Dark-eyed Junco**—Single “White-winged” Juncos were at Clayton 29 Dec (CMR) and Eldorado 19 Feb (BRF, DMF).

**Lapland Longspur**—Several in the northeast including at and near Clayton and Ute L. on various dates (v.o.). West were 1 at the Los Lunas turf farm 10 Jan (BRZ) & 23 Jan (DAE) and 1-2 at EBL's Monticello Point 11-12 Dec (JEP, JRO\*\*).

**Northern Cardinal**—At the northern fringe of its range were a male at Portales Dec-Jan (GSP\*\*) and a female there 20 Dec (GSP\*), a male and female at Santa Rosa 26 Feb (CMR), and 2 along Macho Cr. West of Nutt 26 Jan (CMR).

**Pyrrhuloxia**—Northerly were a female at Cerrillos 18 Feb-8 Mar (AF\*), 1 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW), a male at Sumner Dam 26 Feb (CMR\*), a male at Bosque Redondo 24 Dec (JLD, JRO) and a female there 16 Jan (NV).

**Lazuli Bunting**—Very late was a male at Socorro 12 Dec (PB).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—Wintered north to Albuquerque's West Mesa, where there were 1 on 19 Dec (NV\*), 3 on 20 Jan (WHH\*), and 2 singing 27 Feb (BV).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—North were 2 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW). An estimated 5000+ were at Deming 28 Jan (JRO).

**Rusty Blackbird**—3 at Bosque NWR 12 Dec (JRO) were first reported in Nov. Far west was a male in the middle Animas Valley at "Dunagan's Crossing" 1 Jan (JLD\*, JRO\*\*).

**Common Grackle**—Winter status is complicated by confusion with Great-taileds and by lackadaisical reporting. Notably far north were 9 at Clayton 29 Dec (CMR) and 16 there 2 Jan (W. Cook *vide* LF) and 1 at Percha SP 9 Jan (DAE, BDN). Presumably early was 1 at Fort Sumner 26 Feb (CMR).

**Bronzed Cowbird**—3 at the NMSU cow barns in Las Cruces 18 Dec (JRO\*\*) and 4 there 8 Jan (JRO).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—Far north for the season were a remarkable 459 on the Clayton CBC 29 Dec (CMR+).

**Bullock's Oriole**—Unexpected was an apparent ad. male at Montoya, *Quay* 8 Jan (O. Kolkmann\*). Another apparent wintering male was at Carlsbad 4 & 7 Jan and 9 & 23 Feb (SW\*).

**Rosy-Finch**—A three-species flock of up to 80 birds wintering at Sandia Crest 5 Dec-30 Jan included mostly **Black Rosy-Finches**, moderate numbers (up to ~15 individuals) of **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches**, and small numbers (up to ~4 individuals) of **Brown-capped Rosy-Finches** (m.ob.). A three-species flock at Taos Ski Valley 26 Dec contained 60 Blacks, 10 Brown-cappeds, and 2 Gray-crowned, including 1 Hepburn's (JLD, JRO).

**Red Crossbill**—Reported in small numbers from the Zuni and Sandia mts. Up to 8 in the Zuni area 16-17 Dec (JAT) were identified by voice as "Type 2."

**Pine Siskin**—Relatively common in the west, but scarce elsewhere, including Albuquerque. Moderate numbers on 13 CBCs.

**Lesser Goldfinch**—Normally replaced by American Goldfinch in New Mexico in winter, but this season found Lessers overwintering in larger numbers and farther north than usual, including up to 10 at Corrales, *Sandoval*, all season (WHH+) and 1 at



Eldorado 2 Jan-3 Feb (BRF, DMF). Reported on 13 CBCs including north to Farmington, Espanola, Santa Fe, and Las Vegas, and outnumbering Americans at Caballo, Las Cruces, and the Peloncillo Mts.

**Lawrence's Goldfinch**—A bright male at Caballo Dam 4 Feb (LKM\*) was the state's first since 1997.

\* \* \*

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**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**