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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.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$10; Family \$15; Student \$5; Supporting \$35; Life \$300. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068.

Cover: Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*). A pair nested in southern New Mexico in 2001, the first such nesting by native Aplomados in New Mexico in 50 years. 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 2000-2001

Winter 2000-2001 began dry, but widespread and frequent precipitation by Christmastime improved conditions nearly statewide. Continuing a trend, many species lingered late or overwintered north of usual, while several southern species continued to push north. The season was marked by significant submontane movements by several groups, including jays, parids, nuthatches, and finches, but sparrows were conspicuously scarce. Meanwhile, a long-awaited Mexican species was added to the state list.

Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, *Doña Ana*
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*
Algodones, *Sandoval*
Animas, Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*
Arrey, *Sierra*
Artesia, *Eddy*
Belen, *Valencia*
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*
Bottomless Lakes SP, *Chaves*
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*
Burn Lake, *Doña Ana*
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Capulin NM, *Union*
Carlsbad, *Eddy*
Carlsbad Caverns NP, *Eddy*
Carnuel, *Bernalillo*
Casa Colorada, *Valencia*
Chaco Canyon, *San Juan*
Clanton Canyon, Cienega, *Hidalgo*
Clayton, Lake, *Union*
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, *Grant*
Columbus, *Luna*
Conchas Lake, Dam, *San Miguel*
Cochiti Lake, Dam, *Sandoval*
Corrales, *Sandoval*
Dixon, *Rio Arriba*
Deming, *Luna*
Dripping Springs, *Doña Ana*
Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax*
Eldorado, *Santa Fe*
Elephant Butte Lake, *Sierra*
Española, *Rio Arriba*
Farmington, Lake, *San Juan*
Florida Mts., *Luna*
Fort Sumner, *De Baca*
Garfield, *Doña Ana*
Gila, *Grant*
Grants, *Cibola*
Hatch, *Doña Ana*
Hatchet Gap, *Hidalgo*
Hermanas, *Lea*
Hobbs, *Lea*
Holloman Lake, *Otero*
La Joya, WMA, *Socorro*
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*
La Luz, *Otero*
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*
Los Lunas, *Valencia*
Loving, *Eddy*
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*
Madrid, *Santa Fe*
Malaga, *Eddy*
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*
Mesilla, Dam, Valley, *Doña Ana*
Navajo Dam, *San Juan*
Navajo Lake, *San Juan/Rio Arriba*
Otis, *Eddy*
Palomas, *Sierra*
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*
Peña Blanca, *Sandoval*
Percha SP, *Sierra*
Petroglyph NM, *Bernalillo*
Post Office Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Questa, *Taos*
Raton, *Colfax*
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*
Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
Riverside, *Grant*
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
Roswell, *Chaves*
Ruidoso, *Lincoln*
Sandia Park, *Bernalillo*
Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
Santa Fe, *Santa Fe*
Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*

Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*
 Six-Mile Dam, *Eddy*
 Socorro, *Socorro*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Taos, Ski Valley, *Taos*

Tijeras, *Bernalillo*
 Trujillo, *San Miguel*
 Tularosa, *Otero*
 Whites City, *Eddy*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 Zuni, *McKinley*
 Zuni Mts, *McKinley/Cibola*

Abbreviations

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	sp.	species
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	m.ob	many observers
NM	National Monument	v.o.	various observers
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	+	others; et al.
NP	National Park	*	written details provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	**	photo or tape provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

Initialed Observers

JA	John Arnold	JN-M	Jim Nelson-Moore
CWB	Craig W. Benkman	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
SMB	Sherry M. Bixler	JEP	John E. Parmeter
GB	George Blanchard	JNP	James N. Paton
TB	Terry Brownell	ALP	Anita L. Powell
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	TR	Tim Reeves
DGB	David G. Buckley	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
DJC	David J. Cleary	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
SWC	Steven W. Cox	KCS	Kenneth C. Schneider
AMC	Alan M. Craig	RTS	Robert T. Scholes
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	TLS	Tara L. Shelton
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	JWS	John W. Shipman
TJH	Tom J. Hines	RSS	Roland S. Shook
J&MH	John & Marty Hirth	PRS	Patricia R. Snider
WHH	William H. Howe	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
PI	Pat Insley	JT	Joyce Takamine
PEL	Paul E. Lehman	JAT	John A. Trochet
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	NV	Nick Vaughn
TRM	Tracy R. Mader	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
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DWM	David W. Mehlman	SW	Steve West
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer	WFW	William F. West
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LFN	Lannois F. Neely	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
APN	Alan P. Nelson		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pacific Loon—Singles were at LVNWR 4 Dec (DJC*) and Brantley L. 18 Dec (SW*) & 3 Feb (SW)

Common Loon—High counts included 13 at Brantley L. 7 Jan (JRO) and 6 at Conchas L. 24 Jan (WFW, JN-M).

Yellow-billed Loon—The imm. at Farmington L. in Nov remained there through 29 Jan (TR*), and was photographed 1 Dec (TR**) and 9 Jan (JRO**).

Horned Grebe—One was north to Farmington L. 3 & 16 Dec (TR), 24 Jan (CMR), & 31 Jan (TR). High count was 4 at Brantley L. 10 Jan (WFW).

Western Grebe—Early were 2 at Navajo L. 19 Feb (TR) and one at Weatherly L., *Union* 21 Feb (CMR).

American White Pelican—North for the season were 2 at Sumner L. 26 Jan (WHH).

Neotropic Cormorant—Few reports and low numbers were the rule, with 15 at Bosque NWR 18 Feb (WHH) and 15 at Burn L. 24 Jan (GJE) the high counts.

Double-crested Cormorant—Noteworthy for the lower Pecos Valley were 419 on the Avalon-Brantley CBC 18 Dec (TJH+) and 382 on the Loving CBC (SW+).

American Bittern—One at BLNWR 8 Dec & 5 Jan (GLW) provided the only report.

Snowy Egret—Late for the north was one at Farmington 16 Dec (APN); another lingered at Bosque NWR until 30 Dec (JEP). The only Jan report was one at Six-Mile Dam 7 Jan (JRO) & 10 Jan (WFW).

Green Heron—One was north to Corrales 8 Jan (HRS), where unusual in winter. Another was at Six-Mile Dam 10 Jan (WFW).

White-faced Ibis—Last were 2 at Bosque NWR 2 Dec (WHH); earliest were 8 in the Mesilla Valley 21 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

Turkey Vulture—Surprising was a well-described single at Corrales 4 Jan (MRG*); the species is not known to winter in New Mexico. Early were one at Percha 7 Feb (WFW), one feeding on a dead coyote at Salem, *Doña Ana* 14 Feb (MTS, JEZ), and one at Carlsbad 25 Feb (SW).

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck—Certainly unexpected was an adult that strayed to Maxwell NWR 4 Dec (LFN*).

Greater White-fronted Goose—Several occurred in areas where seldom noted, including 5 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR), one at Corrales 6 Jan (WHH), and up to 13 at Brantley L. 8 Jan-3 Feb (JRO, CMR, SW).

Snow Goose—At Bosque NWR, 104 blue morphs were among 17,400 white morphs 16 Dec (SWC+). Elsewhere, 5 “Blues” were on the Clayton CBC 28 Dec (CMR+), 28 were at La Joya 20 Dec (CMR), and 30 were on the Avalon-Brantley CBC 18 Dec (TJH+).

Brant—Two “Black” Brant, described as an ad. and a juv., were at Brantley L. 18 Dec (SW*); there are but four previous New Mexico records.

Trumpeter Swan—Two ads. were at Clayton L. 24 Dec (JRO**), 28 Dec (CMR*), and 2 Jan (MLW).

Tundra Swan—A good season produced 7 at Maxwell NWR 1 Dec-17 Feb (v.o.), one at Clayton L. 24-28 Dec (JRO**, CMR), 1-3 at LVNWR 4-17 Dec (v.o.), and 6 near Roswell in Jan (SMB).

Wood Duck—Continued to increase in range and numbers, including 4 at Peña Blanca 23 Feb (WHH), 5 near Cliff 30 Dec (RSS+), and 8 each at Casa Colorado 18 Feb (CMR), EBL 4 Jan (MLW), and Tularosa 20 Jan (JRO). Noted on CBCs 16-31 Dec at Farmington, Española, Albuquerque, Sevilleta NWR, Santa Rosa, Gila, and La Luz (v.o.)

Eurasian Wigeon—A male was at RGNC 13 Dec -3 Feb (m.ob, JRO**, BRZ**).

American Wigeon x Mallard—An apparent hybrid was at Navajo Dam 19 Feb (TR*).

“Mexican” Duck—Noteworthy for the east were 2 at BLNWR 8 Dec (GLW) and one there 12 Jan (GLW) plus 9 at Loving 23 Dec (SW).

Cinnamon Teal—Earliest were one at Navajo Dam 2 Feb (PEL) plus 3 at Bosque NWR (JEP) and 2 at Holloman L. (GJE) 3 Feb.

Redhead—A record high 251 on the Farmington CBC 16 Dec (APN+).

Greater Scaup—Among the very few reports were a female at EBL 6 Jan (JEP) and 3 males at Caballo L. 2 Dec (SW, ReW).

Long-tailed Duck—Singles were a female at Farmington L. 1 Jan (TR**), a male at Stubblefield L. 1-3 Dec (DJC*), and a male at Conchas L. 8 Dec (WHH**).

Common Goldeneye—A high 134 on the Caballo CBC 30 Dec (BRZ+).

Hooded Merganser—Noteworthy were 34 in the Maxwell NWR/Stubblefield L. area 2 Dec (DJC) and 33 on the Bosque CBC 16 Dec (SWC+).

Osprey—Unusual in winter, one was in the Caballo L. area 3 Dec-21 Jan (v.o.).

White-tailed Kite—Evidence of recent colonization of southern New Mexico continued, with 2-3 in *Hidalgo* 10 & 28 Jan (AMC, NM-C, S. Smith), up to 8 in *Luna* Jan-Feb (SOW, CLH, SW, ReW), and singles at Bosque NWR 26 Jan (J&MH), Tularosa 27 Dec-1 Jan (J. Mangimeli), and Roswell 26 Jan (SMB).

Bald Eagle—Demonstrating unwavering faith in the future was a female tight on her nest in snow-covered *Colfax* 10 Feb (SOW, PM). An apparent “practice” nest on North Seco

Cr, *Sierra* in Jan was later abandoned (TRM). Two died of lead poisoning at Farmington in Feb (TR).

Northern Goshawk—Apparently a good flight year, with singles at 9 sites from the RGV eastward, including at BLNWR 2 Feb (GLW**) and Rattlesnake Springs 16 Dec (SW*).

Harris's Hawk—North in the RGV were 2 south of Williamsburg 19 Feb (CMR).

Red-shouldered Hawk—An imm. reported at Casa Colorado, 18 Feb (CMR*) could not be relocated.

“Harlan's” Hawk—Noteworthy was one west to Zuni's Blackrock 16 Dec (CMR*).

Ferruginous Hawk—Well represented on CBCs, with 52 birds recorded in 16 CBC circles.

Rough-legged Hawk—Once considered rare along the Mexican border, this season produced reports from *Hidalgo, Luna, Doña Ana, Otero, and Eddy* Dec-Jan (v.o.).

American Kestrel—Found on all 26 CBCs, with a high 92 at Las Cruces 16 Dec (GJE+) and 64 at Roswell 16 Dec (SMB+).

Merlin—Saturated the western two-thirds of New Mexico Dec-Feb, including 1-2 on 12 CBCs (m.ob). A dark individual, presumably *F. c. suckleyi*, was at La Joya 22 Dec (JRO**).

Aplomado Falcon—A pair, present in southern New Mexico since Oct 2000, was observed in courtship and prenesting behavior 20 Feb (RAM).

Peregrine Falcon—A few lingered into Dec. Noteworthy were singles at Madrid 16 Jan (LAS) and near Columbus 21 Jan (SW, ReW).

Montezuma Quail—High counts were 12 in Clanton Canyon 29 Dec (JRO) and 16 on the Ruidoso CBC 16 Dec (ALP+).

Virginia Rail—Late for the north was one at Española 31 Dec (BRF).

Sora—Late for the north was one at Santa Fe 23 Dec (BRF*).

Common Moorhen—One north in the RGV to Bosque NWR 16 Dec (SWC+).

Whooping Crane—The experimental flock that winters in New Mexico was down to 2 individuals Dec-Feb, one each at Casa Colorada and Bosque NWR (John P. Taylor).

Black-bellied Plover—Late were 4 at BLNWR 1 Dec (GLW). One at L. Avalon 18 Dec was still present 4 Jan (SW) and 7 Jan (JRO**).

Snowy Plover—Quite rare in winter, singles were on the salt flats east of Loving 23 Dec (SW*) and near Bottomless Lakes SP 6 Jan (SMB).

American Avocet—A winter-plumaged one at Holloman L. 6 Feb (CMR, SOW).

Spotted Sandpiper—Lingering were singles north to Questa 17 Dec (RoW+) and Albuquerque 17 Dec (DWS*).

Long-billed Curlew—Unusual for winter were one near Otis 2 Jan (SW) and 2 at Artesia 12 Jan (JEP).

Western Sandpiper—Unusual for winter was one at Caballo L. 30 Dec (CMR*).

Dunlin—Noteworthy were 10 at BLNWR 11 Jan (GLW**) and 12 Jan (JEP*). Elsewhere were one at EBL's Monticello Point 5 Jan (WFW), 4 at Palomas 30 Dec (GJE), and 2 at Loving 23 Dec (SW).

Mew Gull—Single adults were at Sunland Park 18 Jan (JNP*, MTS*, JEZ*) and Conchas L. 24 Jan (WFW). A possible one was at Carlsbad 3 Feb (CMR, SW*).

Thayer's Gull—A first-winter individual was at Brantley L. 8-27 Jan (JRO*, WFW, JEP*). A probable Thayer's was at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 10 Feb (JRO*).

Glaucous Gull—An ad. at Cochiti L. 23 Feb (WHH*, WFW) & 24 Feb (JEP*, JRO**) provided the first New Mexico report since 1998.

Black-legged Kittiwake—An imm. lingered at Six-Mile Dam 23 Dec-31 Jan (SW*, JRO**, WFW, JEP*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—This invading species maintained its strong presence in the Pecos Valley. New RGV locales were established with up to 13 at Arrey 30 Dec-11 Jan (v.o., JRO**, BRZ**) and 1-3 at Hatch 21-22 Dec (JRO**, BRZ**). North were up to 33 at Clayton 24-28 Dec (CMR, JRO**). West were 2 at Columbus 2 Dec (JEP, JRO**).

White-winged Dove—Found on 12 CBCs, and outnumbered Mourning Doves on 7 of them, including at Silver City, Santa Fe, and Roswell. The 10,213 counted at Las Cruces 16 Dec (GJE+) established White-wingeds as the most numerous bird species there. Peripheral were 6 at Grants 4 Feb (JRO) and one at Conchas L. 24 Jan (WFW).

Inca Dove—Now resident in Albuquerque, where there were 5 on 17 Dec (HRS+), one in the Old Town area 3 Feb (JA), and 1-2 in the University area 11-16 Feb (CMR). High counts included 7 at Rodeo 30 Dec (RTS), 24 at Deming 28 Feb (LKM), 80 at Las Cruces 16 Dec (GJE+), 26 at Roswell 16 Dec (SMB+), and 29 in the Avalon-Brantley area 18 Dec (TJH+).

Common Ground-Dove—One at Rodeo 31 Dec (*fide* AMC).

Greater Roadrunner—Found on 21 of 26 CBCs, including singles north to Maxwell 15 Dec (LM+) and Zuni 16 Dec (JAT+) and 2 at Santa Fe 23 Dec (PI+).

Barn Owl—Noteworthy were 5 leaving a saltcedar roost at Sunland Park 8 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

Great Horned Owl—One on a nest at a Las Cruces Home Depot store 24 Jan (GJE).

Long-eared Owl—High counts were 8 at Dripping Springs 6 Jan (MTS, JEZ) and 10 at Lindsey L near Loving 19 Feb (SW).

Short-eared Owl—Singles were at BLNWR 5-10 Jan (GLW, SMB, WFW) and near Hermanas 18 Jan (CLH).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—One found dead in NE Albuquerque 9 Jan (A. Reinig *fide* WHH***).

White-throated Swift—Out and about in balmy southern New Mexico were one in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (*fide* AMC), 30 at Palomas 30 Dec (GJE), and 20 near Las Cruces 6 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—An imm. male at Carlsbad in Nov remained through 7 Jan (E. Pierce, SW, JRO**).

Magnificent Hummingbird—One without details on the Silver City CBC 16 Dec (*fide* RSS).

Black-chinned Hummingbird—One without details on the Silver City CBC 16 Dec (*fide* RSS).

Anna's Hummingbird—One at Las Cruces 16 Dec (TLS) and one there 6 Jan (JRO).

Rufous Hummingbird—One without details in the Avalon-Brantley area 18 Dec (*fide* TJH).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Far south of usual were one near Deming 27 Dec-17 Feb (LKM, JRO, CMR) and 1-2 each at Las Cruces 16 Dec-11 Feb (v.o., BRZ**) and Tularosa 13-20 Jan (JRO).

Acorn Woodpecker—Unusual was one at Sandia Park 28-31 Dec (Beverly A. Guertin**).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Singles were reported (some without details) from 9 sites from the RGV eastward: a juv. at Tijeras 30 Dec (CMB*); a juv. molting into ad. plumage at Socorro 25 Feb (JRO, CMR); one at Luis Lopez 14 Dec (JRO); a juv. near Percha 30 Dec (MTS, JEZ); a juv. at Conchas L. 8 Dec (WHH*); an ad. male at BLNWR 16 Dec (GLW*); a juv. molting into ad. plumage at Carlsbad 3 Feb (CMR, SW); a juv. at White's City 16 Dec (SW*) & 13 Jan (JEP); a juv. at Rattlesnake Springs 10 Dec (SW).

Red-naped Sapsucker—Unusual for the season was one at Española 31 Dec (BRF).

Downy Woodpecker—Peripheral were singles east to Clayton 28 Dec (CMR) and south to Caballo L. 30 Dec (*fide* BRZ).

Arizona Woodpecker—10 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (JRO, CMR).

Empidonax sp.—Singles lingered in the Cliff-Gila Valley 22 Dec (“Dusky” RSS), 30 Dec (“Gray” *fide* RSS) and at Hatchet Gap 5 Jan (“Dusky/Hammond’s” SOW).

Black Phoebe—Late for the north were 2 at Española 31 Dec (BRF).

Eastern Phoebe—Far west were singles near Riverside 16 Feb (RSS) and in the Peloncillo Mts 31 Dec (ERL).

Say's Phoebe—North for the season were one at Farmington 16 Dec (APN), 2 at Algodones 29 Dec (LAS), and one near Las Vegas 7 Jan (JT).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Noteworthy were singles north to Albuquerque 17 Dec (CMB*) and BLNWR 16 & 29 Dec (GLW*).

Great Kiskadee—One, present at Rattlesnake Springs since 27 Jul, remained through Dec-Jan (v.o., JRO**) and was last seen 1 Feb (SW).

Northern Shrike—An imm. was south to Bosque NWR 10-16 Dec (JRO**, Sondra Williamson*) & 3 Feb (sketch Mike Ramos*) and an ad. was south to Las Cruces 10-14 Dec (GJE*). In the north, 1-2 were at Farmington L. (TR), Chaco Canyon (Hamilton Smith), near Taos (JEP, JRO), Questa (RoW), Española (BRF), and Trujillo (WFW) 13 Dec-17 Feb.

Hutton's Vireo—Unexpected were singles at 3 sites in the Las Cruces area: Dripping Springs 9 Dec (GJE), NMSU 10 Feb (JNP), and Mesilla 11 Feb (MTS, JEZ), and another was at Deming 2 Dec (JEP). Nine on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC was a high count for there (AMC+).

Steller's Jay—Conspicuous in many lowland areas, particularly the RVG from Albuquerque south to Sunland Park (m.ob.), including a high 29 on the Caballo CBC 30 Dec (BRZ+). Also conspicuous in the southwest in the Gila Valley from Cliff to Virden, the Peloncillo Mts., and at Rodeo and Deming (m.ob.). East were singles at Santa Rosa 31 Dec (WFW) and Fort Sumner 1 Feb (JRO, PEL).

Blue Jay—West to the RGV were 2 each at Española 31 Dec (BRF+) and Santa Fe 23 Dec (PI+).

Western Scrub-Jay—Another corvid that joined in the lowland invasion. Noteworthy were 4 at Deming 2 Dec (JRO). Far east were 3 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR) and 2 on the Texas line at Glenrio, *Quay* 8 Dec (WHH).

Pinyon Jay—Far east of expected were 50 at Sumner L. 26 Jan (WHH) and 58 in pecans at Artesia 3 Feb (SW).

Black-billed Magpie—One in south Albuquerque 1 Dec (JEP) was at the current southern limit of the species' RGV range.

American Crow—Wintering crows continued to expand their range. Noteworthy were 53 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR+), 11 north of Roswell 7 Feb (WHH), and 200 in pecans at Tularosa 5 Feb (SOW).

Tree Swallow—Several lingered late or overwintered, including 2 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (TB) and one there 31 Dec (DWM), 47 at Palomas 30 Dec (GJE), one in southern *Doña Ana* 14 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and 2 at Brantley L. 31 Jan (PEL).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Late were 3 at Caballo L. 30 Dec (BRZ+); early was one near Las Cruces 11 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

Cliff Swallow—Unexpected was an apparent Cliff at Albuquerque 17 Dec (DGB*).

Barn Swallow—Late were 1-2 at RGNC 13-17 Dec (v.o.) and 2 at Corrales 3 Jan (MRG).

Black-capped Chickadee—One was south to La Joya 20 Dec (CMR*).

Mountain Chickadee—Unusually numerous in lowland areas nearly statewide, from Farmington east to Clayton and south to Virden, Columbus, Mesilla, Santa Rosa, and Fort Sumner.

Juniper Titmouse—Conspicuous in lowland areas, including at Clayton, Deming, Brantley L., and Rattlesnake Springs.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Another species that invaded lowland areas, including one at Virden 28 Dec (JRO), 2 at Deming 12 Jan (LKM), 5 at Percha 30 Dec (BRZ), 4 at Mesilla 14 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and 2 at Carlsbad 3 Feb (CMR).

White-breasted Nuthatch—Detected on 24 of 26 CBCs, with a high 79 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (HRS+).

Pygmy Nuthatch—Out of range were 2 in Clanton Canyon 29 Dec (JRO) and one at Deming 2 Dec (SW).

Brown Creeper—Made a good showing in lowland areas, including detections on 14 of 26 CBCs, with a high 20 on the Albuquerque CBC 16 Dec (HRS+) and 11 on the Caballo CBC 30 Dec (BRZ+).

Cactus Wren—Two in northeast Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS).

Carolina Wren—One at Luis Lopez since Oct 2000 was last seen 10 Feb (JRO, JEP*).

House Wren—Wintering singles at Caballo L. 30 Dec (BRZ), Las Cruces 11 Feb (MTS, JEZ), near Sunland Park 2 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and Carlsbad 14 Jan & 14 Feb (SW).

Winter Wren—Scarce compared to recent years, with singles only at Las Vegas 30 Dec (*fide* GB), Corrales 9 Dec (HRS*), and Malaga 23 Dec (TJH*).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Joined in the submontane invasion, especially in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys. A high 12 in Clanton Canyon 29 Dec (JRO).

Gnatcatchers—Untangling the status of wintering gnatcatchers was further complicated this season, with vague reports of both species (often from the same local, e.g., La Joya) the rule rather than the exception. Nicely detailed was a late **Blue-gray** at Boca Negra

Canyon, Petroglyph NM 17 Dec (NV*) and another Blue-gray was among 15 Black-taileds counted at Las Cruces 16 Dec (K. Stinnett*, GJE). Noteworthy for the southwest were 5 **Black-taileds** near Rodeo 31 Dec (AMC+).

Eastern Bluebird—Plentiful in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys; farther west, the 35 in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC+) provided a statewide high.

Mountain Bluebird—High count was 1081 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (AMC+).

American Robin—Detected on all 26 CBCs Dec-Jan, including highs of 2542 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS+) and 2807 at Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (SWC+).

Varied Thrush—An ad. male at Belen 20 Dec (Chuck Brandt*) continued the recent proliferation of reports of this rare species.

Gray Catbird—Notably late was one at Mesilla 16 Dec (CWB, T. Lawton*).

Northern Mockingbird—Typically rare, or overlooked, in northern New Mexico in winter, one was at Clayton 24-28 Dec (JRO, CMR) and another lingered at Zuni 16 Dec-2 Jan (DJC**).

Brown Thrasher—Singles were west to Corrales 16 Dec-20 Jan (WHH*) and Socorro 30 Dec-3 Feb (JEP, JWS). In the east, one was at Santa Rosa 31 Dec (WFW) and up to 5 were at Carlsbad Caverns NP and adjacent Rattlesnake Springs Dec-Jan (SW, JEP).

Crissal Thrasher—Singing at Carnuel 13 Feb (WFW), and a recently completed nest at Petroglyph NM 22 Feb (HRS). The 55 in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC+) furnished an unusually high count.

European Starling—An estimated 50,000 at Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (SWC+).

American Pipit—Singles north to Zuni 30 Dec (DJC) and Española 31 Dec (BRF) and 3 at Maxwell 15 Dec (LM+).

Sprague's Pipit—Surveys for grassland sparrows in south *Luna* discovered 25 migrating Sprague's 1 Dec (RAM). One in the southern Animas Valley 10 Jan (NM-C) was suggestive of local wintering.

Bohemian Waxwing—One at Raton 17 Feb (JEP*, JRO**) provided the state's first report since 1990.

Cedar Waxwing—Unusually numerous and widespread Dec-Feb, including detections on 14 of 26 CBCs Dec-Jan. High count was 298 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+).

Phainopepla—One was northeast to Roswell 20 Jan (SMB). Found on 5 CBCs, including a high 49 at Las Cruces 16 Dec (GJE+).

Olive Warbler—Out of range were apparent single female/imms. at Dripping Springs 1 Jan (JEZ*) and Aguirre Springs 26 Jan (MTS*, JEZ*). Another was reported in Skull Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (Dave Jasper *fide* AMC).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Wintered in the lower RGV, including a high 6 at Las Cruces 11 Dec (CMR) and 3 there 16 Dec (GJE+) plus singles there 21 & 31 Jan (JRO), 7 Feb (WFW), and 21 Feb (B&DM); north was one at Bosque NWR 18 Feb (DJC*). Also wintered in the lower Pecos Valley, with singles at Brantley L. 18 Dec (SW*) & 12 Jan (JEP) and at Carlsbad Caverns NP 16 Dec (SW+).

Northern Parula—Late was one at Roswell 16-17 Dec (SMB*).

Yellow-throated Warbler—One was at NMSU in Las Cruces 16 Dec-10 Feb (TLS*, MTS*, PEL*, JRO**, WFW, JNP).

Palm Warbler—One of the western race was at Palomas 20 Jan (J&MH*).

Northern Waterthrush—Surprising if accurate were undetailed singles at RGNC 3 Feb (JA) and Bosque NWR 10 Feb (GJE).

Common Yellowthroat—Far north for the season was one at Rio Rancho 17 Dec (CMB*).

Summer Tanager—Surprising was an ad. male at Dixon 16 Dec (Robert Templeton**). Photographs suggest it may have been the eastern subspecies, which is smaller and darker than the western subspecies, and which has been recorded previously in New Mexico in Nov and Jan (*vide* John P. Hubbard).

Green-tailed Towhee—Notably scarce, as were many other migrant sparrows. One was north to Albuquerque 17 Dec (Sondra Williamson*).

Canyon Towhee—Far east was one at Hobbs 4 Feb (CMR). A high 304 were counted in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC+).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—Two reported northeast to Clayton 28 Dec (CMR).

American Tree Sparrow—Singles were south to Zuni 13 Dec (JAT), Petroglyph NM 17 Dec (sketch NV*), and Roswell 16 Dec (SMB).

Sparrows—In sharp contrast to last winter, wintering grassland sparrows were spectacularly scarce, with **Chipping, Brewer's,** and **Vesper** sparrows conspicuous by their absence. The Peloncillo Mts. managed 201 Brewer's 31 Dec (AMC+), down from 13,462 last year.

Field Sparrow—Singles at Bosque NWR 10 Feb (JEP, JRO), Garfield 13 Jan (JNP*), and Brantley L. 7 Jan (JRO).

Black-chinned Sparrow—Unusual for the winter season was one north to Three Gun Springs Canyon, Sandia Mts. 30 Dec (NV*).

Black-throated Sparrow—One was north to *San Juan* 5 Jan (TR).

Sage Sparrow—Unusual were 17 at Zuni 16 Dec (JAT+).

Fox Sparrow—A gray one was at Carnuel 13 Jan (CMR*), 21 Jan & 3 Feb (JEP*), & 13 Feb (WFW) and a red one was at Rattlesnake Springs 7-8 Jan (JRO**). Undifferentiated and un-detailed were reports of singles in the Cliff-Gila Valley 30 Dec (*fide* RSS) & 19 Jan (LKM), Roswell 16 Dec (*fide* SMB), and Loving 23 Dec (*fide* SW) and 2 at Questa 17 Dec (*fide* RoW).

White-throated Sparrow—Unusual were 2 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR).

Harris's Sparrow—Two winter ads. at Albuquerque 17 Dec (TB*, DGB*) and one imm. at Las Cruces 1 Dec-12 Jan (TLS**+).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—Singles were at Bosque NWR 19 Feb (WFW*, NV), near Garfield 11 Jan (MTS*, JEZ*), and at BLNWR 3 Dec-6 Feb (S. Platt*, GLW**, JRO**, JEP*).

White-winged Junco—Singles at Capulin NM 21 Feb (CMR*), Conchas L. 24 Jan (WFW), Albuquerque's North Valley 20 Dec-19 Feb (DWM), RGNC 15 Feb (MTS, JEZ), and far south to Las Cruces 2 Dec (TLS**) & 5-6 Jan (BRZ, JRO*).

Yellow-eyed Junco—One in Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. Dec-Jan (RTS, NM-C) was the first ever to overwinter there.

Northern Cardinal—A male overwintered in Post Office Canyon Dec-Jan (RTS).

Pyrrhuloxia—North in the RGV were 1-2 at Los Lunas 8 Dec (JRO), near Jarales, Valencia 25 Feb (JRO), and La Joya 20 Dec (CMR) & 1 Jan (JRO). One reported without comment at Ruidoso in Dec (ALP).

Eastern Meadowlark—North were singles at Zuni 16 Dec (JAT) and Petroglyph NM 17 Dec (NV*).

Rusty Blackbird—Staged a surprising showing, with one at Taos 17 Feb (JEP*, JRO**), 6 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR*), 2 at Bosque NWR 1 Dec-7 Jan (NV, WHH*, JRO**, MRG), and 3 at L. Avalon 4 Jan (SW).

Common Grackle—Continued to be reported—generally without comment—among the more numerous Great-tailed Grackles. Notably late in the north were one at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR) and 20 at Las Vegas 30 Dec (GB+); possibly overwintering were one at Rattlesnake Springs 26 Jan (JEP) and 4 at Albuquerque 28 Jan (JEP).

Bronzed Cowbird—One at NMSU, Las Cruces 16 Dec (TLS*).

Brown-headed Cowbird—North for the season were 69 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR+) and one at Las Vegas 7 Jan (JT).

Streak-backed Oriole—A well-documented imm. at Corrales 9 Dec-28 Jan (Penny Perkins*, JEP*, JRO**, SWC**) provided the first confirmed record for New Mexico. One previous credible record: one described and sketched at Bosque NWR 10 Jan 1984 (G. Hill*). A vague report of a female Streak-backed, along with an Audubon's Oriole and a pair of Black-vented Orioles, at Columbus 20-21 May 1980 deserves no credence.

Rosy-Finches—A memorable season, with mixed-species flocks of up to 60 at Taos 20 Feb (Paul Kaestle), 50 (mostly **Brown-capped**) at Questa 17 Dec (RoW+), 80 (mostly **Blacks**) at Madrid 6-17 Feb (WFW, CMR, PRS), and 90 (mostly Blacks but including at least one Hepburn's **Gray-crowned**) at Sandia Crest 30 Dec-15 Feb (v.o., JRO**, JEZ**). A Black was at Eagle Nest 17 Feb (JEP, JRO) while Gray-crowns included 2 on Johnson Mesa, *Colfax* 11 Feb (SOW, PM), one at Eldorado 13 Dec (Larry Owens), and 75-100 at Corral Canyon, Jemez Mts. *Sandoval* 11 Feb (Carlyn & Tom Jervis).

Pine Grosbeak—One at Blackrock 14 Dec (JAT) furnished a Zuni first. Five in Mullen Canyon 16 Dec (JAT*) were the first for the Zuni Mts. in some 30 years. Noteworthy for Los Alamos were 20 at the Pajarito Ski area 9 Dec (JEP, JRO). Up to 4 were south to Sandia Crest 21-26 Jan (KCS+), where irregular.

Cassin's Finch—Much in evidence in lowland situations throughout the western two-thirds of the state and noted on 15 of 26 CBCs, including a record 80 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+) and a high 59 at Silver City 16 Dec (RSS+). Several undetailed "Purple Finch" reports almost certainly refer to the abundant Cassin's.

Red Crossbill—Widespread and conspicuous in lowland areas, including south to Deming, Mesilla, Tularosa, Brantley L., and Carlsbad (m.ob); as in previous years, often found in pecan orchards in the south.

Pine Siskin—Detected on 20 of 26 CBCs; high count of 168 in the Sandia Mts. 30 Dec (NV+).

Lesser Goldfinch—Again lingered late or overwintered north of usual, including 27 north to Farmington 16 Dec (APN+) and 28 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS+). Noteworthy were one at Zuni 1 Jan-24 Feb (DJC), 8 at Corrales 6 Jan (WHH), and several in Albuquerque's North Valley Jan-Feb (DWM).

Evening Grosbeak—Rounded out the cardueline invasion, and was especially numerous in the San Juan, Zuni, Rio Grande, and Gila valleys, including 51 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+), 83 at Zuni 16 Dec (JAT+), 51 at Española 31 Dec (BRF+), 96 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS+), and 40 at Gila 30 Dec (RSS+). Scarce only in the far south, with one at Rattlesnake Springs 10 Jan (WFW) the lone southeastern report.

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