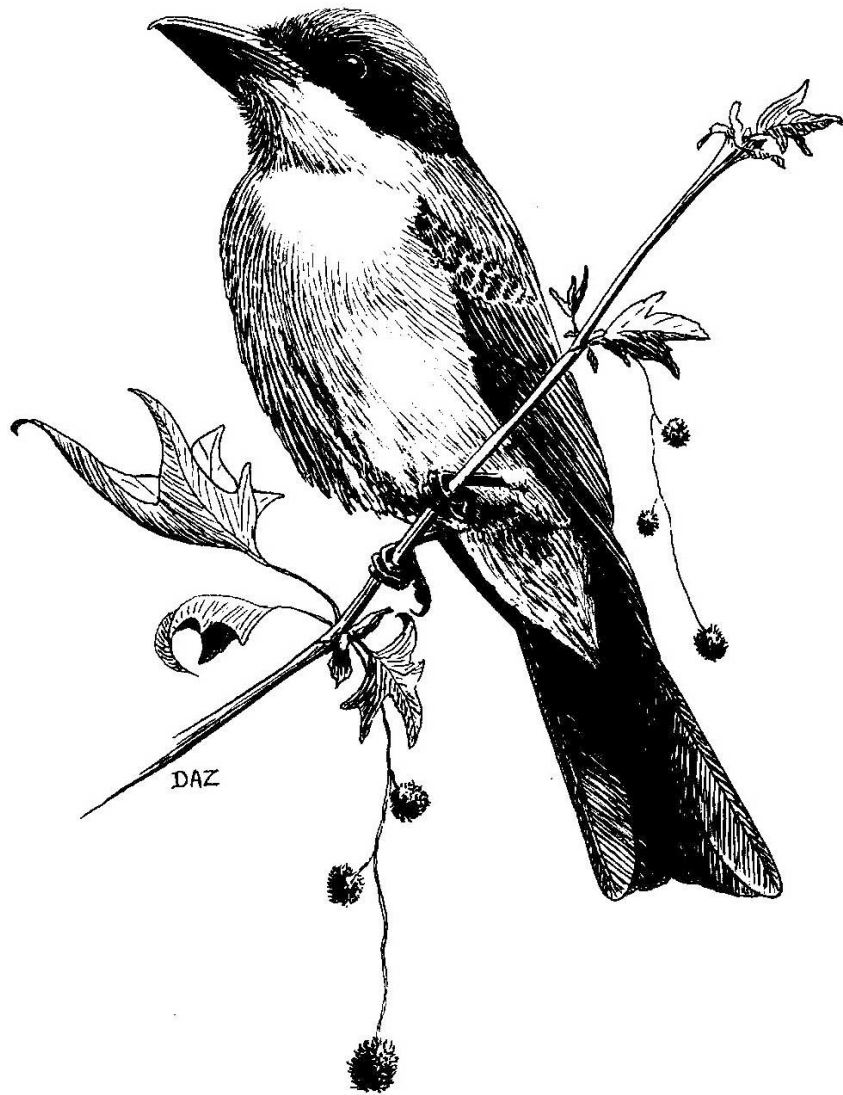


*New Mexico
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Field Notes*



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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

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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: Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*). This large Neotropical flycatcher summers regularly in New Mexico only in Guadalupe Canyon, where its survival depends on protection, from fire and other threats, of mature sycamore-cottonwood riparian habitat. 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 2001-2002

Warm and dry conditions were the rule for Winter 2001-02, with blowing dust replacing blowing snow, and with many species lingering late or wintering far north of usual. In sharp contrast to last winter, there was little evidence of montane species in lowland areas, while sparrows and other grassland birds were again scarce in parched rangelands. Birding proceeded with enthusiasm, however, and another newly documented species—Lesser Black-backed Gull—pushed the New Mexico list comfortably beyond the 500 mark.

Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Jornada, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	La Joya, WMA, <i>Socorro</i>
Anapra, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Animas, Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>
Antelope Wells, <i>Hidalgo</i>	La Luz, <i>Otero</i>
Bear Canyon Lake, <i>Grant</i>	La Mesa, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bernardo, <i>Socorro</i>	Las Animas Creek, <i>Sierra</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Bosque Redondo, <i>De Baca</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bottomless Lakes SP, <i>Chaves</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Magdalena, <i>Socorro</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Mesilla, Dam, Valley, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Casa Colorada, <i>Valencia</i>	Mills Canyon, <i>Harding</i>
Cerrillos, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Mountainair, <i>Torrance</i>
Clanton Canyon, Cienega, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Otis, <i>Eddy</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Cochiti Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Pinos Altos Mts., <i>Grant</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Placitas, <i>Sandoval</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Dilia, <i>Guadalupe</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Puerto de Luna, <i>Guadalupe</i>
Eagle Nest, Lake, <i>Colfax</i>	Questa, <i>Taos</i>
Elephant Butte Lake, <i>Sierra</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Embudo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Raton, <i>Colfax</i>
Emory Pass, <i>Grant/Sierra</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Rio Rancho, <i>Sandoval</i>
Gage, <i>Luna</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Glenwood, <i>Catron</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Hermanas, <i>Luna</i>	Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i>
Hillsboro, <i>Sierra</i>	San Acacia, <i>Socorro</i>
Hondo, <i>Lincoln</i>	San Juan Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Isleta, <i>Bernalillo/Valencia</i>	San Simon Cienega, <i>Hidalgo</i>

Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Park, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
 Santa Fe, *Santa Fe*
 Santa Rosa, Lake, *Guadalupe*
 Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*
 Six-Mile Dam, *Eddy*
 Socorro, *Socorro*
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*

Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sugarite SP, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Tyrone, *Grant*
 Tijeras, *Bernalillo*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Water Canyon, *Socorro*
 Whites City, *Eddy*
 Willow Lake, *Eddy*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

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

MLA	Mary Lou Arthur	APN	Alan P. Nelson
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GB	George Blanchard	JEP	John E. Parmeter
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DJC	David J. Cleary	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	KCS	Kenneth C. Schneider
SWC	Steven W. Cox	RTS	Robert T. Scholes
AMC	Alan M. Craig	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
JD-M	Joan Day-Martin	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
DAE	Douglas A. Emkalns	RSS	Roland S. Shook
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	PRS	Patricia R. Snider
ACF	Andrew C. Fenner	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	JT	Joyce Takamine
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	RT	Robert Templeton
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JAT	John A. Trochet
TJH	Tom J. Hines	BV	Brad Vaughn
DAH	David A. Holdermann	NV	Nick Vaughn
WHH	William H. Howe	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
TH	Tyler Huning	MLW	Mark L. Watson
DJK	David J. Krueper	RoW	Robert Weber
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	ReW	Renee West
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	SW	Steve West
LKM	Larry K. Malone	WFW	William F. West
DWM	David W. Mehlman	SOW	S. O. Williams III
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
GM	Gale Monson	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
LM	Linda Mowbray		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Red-throated Loon—One was at Willow L. 1 Dec (JRO**) & 16 Dec (CMR*).

Pacific Loon—One crash-landed on a wet road near Sumner L. 4 Dec (MRG**); it was revived and later released at the lake. Others were one each at Conchas L. 3 Jan (WHH) and Brantley L. 15 Feb (SW).

Common Loon—High count was 7 at Conchas L. 3 Jan (WHH).

Horned Grebe—One at Caballo L. 18 Feb (JT) provided the only RGV report. In the east, small numbers were at reservoirs in *San Miguel*, *Quay*, *Guadalupe*, and *Eddy*; 6 at Conchas L. 12 Jan (JEP, JRO) was the high count.

Eared Grebe—Far north for the season was one at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR).

***Aechmophorus* grebes**—Although lake levels were very low, an aerial survey counted some 3000 at EBL 15 Jan (MLW); at nearby Caballo L. 30 Dec, **Western Grebes** outnumbered **Clark's** by about 5:1 (BRZ+).

American White Pelican—High count for wintering birds was 90 at EBL 15 Jan (MLW).

Neotropic Cormorant—High counts amounted to 51 at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (SWC+), 23 at Sunland Park 1-2 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and 19 at Caballo L. 30 Dec (BRZ+); Neotropics outnumbered Double-crested at each site.

American Bittern—Now quite rare in New Mexico, one was at Bosque NWR 8 Jan (BRZ**) & 21 Jan (CMR, DAE, BDN).

Great Egret—North for the season was one at Isleta 25 Jan (JRO); a high 11 were at Six-Mile Dam 21 Feb (SW).

Snowy Egret—Five at Six-Mile Dam 29 Jan (SW) provided a notable winter “concentration.”

White-faced Ibis—Early were 3 at Percha SP 28 Feb (GJE).

Greater White-fronted Goose—Small numbers were noted in the Maxwell area, BLNWR, and Caballo L.; high count was 7 at Clayton L. 26 Jan (JRO).

Snow Goose—Noteworthy were 23 “Blue” Geese at La Joya 22 Dec (CMR) and 205 “Blue” Geese at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (SWC+).

Ross's Goose—A high 11,194 Ross's (but only 3730 Snow Geese) were reported from BLNWR 15 Dec (SMB+).

Mute Swan—One of these aggressive exotics was lurking about EBL 17 Feb (JT).

Tundra Swan—Made a good showing, with 5 at Maxwell NWR 3 Dec-28 Feb (m.ob., DJC**), 7 at LVNWR 29 Dec (JT), 3 at Ute L. 7 Jan (MLW), and one at Bosque NWR 2 Jan-24 Feb (m.ob).

Wood Duck—Widely reported from the RGV eastward, including aerial estimates of 25 at Santa Rosa L. and 20 at Bottomless Lakes SP 5 Dec (MLW) plus counts of 28 at Española 5 Jan (BRF+), 324 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (HRS+), and 94 in the Avalon-Brantley area 20 Dec (TJH+).

Eurasian Wigeon—Now regular in winter, single males were at RGNC 3 Feb (CMB*), Bear Canyon L. 22 Jan (ERL*), and Deming 8 Feb (LKM*).

“Mexican” Duck—North were singles in Albuquerque’s North Valley 13 Jan (CMR) and at Isleta 16 Feb (CMR).

Greater Scaup—A male was at RGNC 16-23 Feb (JEP, JRO, JT, DAE, BDN); 3 probable Greaters were at Tyrone 24 Feb (ERL, JRO*).

Surf Scoter—An ad. female was at Stubblefield L. 7 Dec (DJC**).

Long-tailed Duck—The one at L. Avalon in late Nov was still present 1 Dec (JEP, JRO**).

Bufflehead—Noteworthy were 140 below Cochiti Dam 22 Feb (WHH).

Barrow’s Goldeneye—Unusual away from the San Juan R., a male was on the Rio Grande at Embudo 16 Feb (JEP*, JRO*).

Osprey—Evidence of overwintering was provided by up to 2 in the EBL area 5-21 Jan (JRO, JEP, DAE, BDN).

White-tailed Kite—Singles were in *Luna* 21 Dec (LKM) and 19 Feb (RAM); drought conditions, leading to reduced prey, were likely responsible for low kite numbers.

Common Black-Hawk—Unexpected in New Mexico in winter, an imm. was at Hill, *Doña Ana* 17 Jan (GJE). Very early was an ad. in the Hondo area 27 Feb (Ron Troy, DWS).

Harris’s Hawks—Peripheral were singles at Bosque NWR 1 Jan-24 Feb (m. ob., JRO**), east of Tolar, *Roosevelt* 10 Dec (MRG*), and the Jornada grasslands 5 Jan (BRZ).

Red-shouldered Hawk—An ad. of the western subspecies was in the Casa Colorada area near Turn, southern *Valencia* 17 Feb (CMR*, JRO**).

“Harlan’s” Hawk—Reports with supporting details were singles at Bosque NWR 21 Jan (CMR*) and La Mesa 5 Dec (BRZ*).

Rough-legged Hawk—Found south to *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, and *Chaves* (v.o.).

Merlin—A good winter season, with reports from 26 sites statewide, including on 11 CBCs.

Aplomado Falcon—A resident pair in southern New Mexico remained on territory through the winter, with copulation and nest site inspection noted 22 Feb (RAM); a 2nd territory, maintained by at least one ad., was documented elsewhere 2 Feb (JRO, JEP) and later (RAM). Meanwhile, plans for massive releases of captive Aplomados into southern New Mexico, which some fear may obliterate this natural colonization event, proceeded aggressively.

Peregrine Falcon—Unusual in mid-winter, singles were in Albuquerque's North Valley 13 Jan (CMR), Sandia Mts. 30 Dec (NV), Bosque NWR 8 Jan (BRZ) & 21 Jan (CMR), EBL 1 Jan (JRO) & 21 Jan (DAE, BDN), and near Hermanas 27 Dec (JRO).

Chukar—One near Ruidoso 15 Dec (Anita L. Powell) provided evidence that game farm birds continue to escape.

Wild Turkey—Encouraging news for "Gould's" Wild Turkeys was 2 north to Post Office Canyon 5 Feb (CDL) and 10 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Jan (AMC**, NM-C**).

Virginia Rail—North for the season were 2 at Stubblefield L. 1 Jan (DJC).

Sora—North was one at Albuquerque 16 Dec (Nick Pederson*).

Common Moorhen—Present in the Gila, Rio Grande, and Pecos valleys, including singles near Cliff 29 Dec (RSS) and at Bosque NWR 15 Dec-19 Jan (SWC, WFW, JRO) and 3 each at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE*) and Six-Mile Dam 29 Jan (SW).

Sandhill Crane—Counts included 11,060 at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (SWC+), 7199 at BLNWR and vicinity 15 Dec (SMB+), 8136 at Caballo L. 30 Dec (BRZ+), and 4000 west of Columbus 2 Feb (LKM).

Whooping Crane—The experimental population that winters in New Mexico was down to its last surviving individual this winter; it was seen migrating north over Albuquerque, with thousands of Sandhills, 28 Feb (GM).

Snowy Plover—Noteworthy for winter were 3 at Brantley L. 28 Dec (SW), where one lingered 31 Dec (JRO) and 31 Jan (SW).

Black-necked Stilt—Surprising for mid-winter were 5 in the Anapra-Sunland Park area 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ) and 4 there 9 Jan (WFW).

American Avocet—Late were singles at L. Avalon 1 Dec (JEP) and Bosque NWR 15 Dec (MRG); early was one at BLNWR 1 Feb (GLW).

Greater Yellowlegs—Late for the north was one at Puerto de Luna 22 Dec (JRO). Small numbers overwintered at BLNWR, where there were 4-5 on 4, 11, & 18 Jan (GLW). Small numbers were detected on 6 CBCs 15-30 Dec.

Long-billed Curlew—Notably late were 6 near Otis 16 Dec (SW), singles near Hermanas 21 & 27 Dec (LKM, JRO), and 2 near Luis Lopez 12 Jan (MRG). An injured one was at Caballo L. 19 Jan (JEP, JRO). Earliest obvious spring migrants were 9 near Gage 27 Feb (RAM).

Dunlin—Overwintered at BLNWR, where 9 were counted 15 Dec, 1 & 18 Jan, and 1 Feb (GLW). One was at Bosque NWR 8 Jan (PRS).

Bonaparte's Gull—Late for the north were singles at Eagle Nest L. 1 Dec (DJC) and Sumner L. 12 Dec (WFW) and 2 at Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW); high count was 30 at L. Avalon 1 Dec (JEP); last reported was one at Caballo L. 30 Dec (BRZ).

California Gull—Up to 3 wintered south to Sunland Park 25 Dec-19 Jan (m.ob.) an ad. was at EBL 5 & 19 Jan (JEP); noteworthy were 8 at Eagle Nest L. 7 Dec (DJC).

Thayer's Gull—Singles in first-winter plumage documented at the Socorro dump 3-16 Jan (JRO**, CMB*, JEP*) and at EBL 19 Jan-2 Feb (JRO**, JEP*, DAE*, BDN*) may have been the same bird.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Overdue for New Mexico, an ad. present at Sunland Park 25 Dec-8 Jan (JRO**, BRZ**, m.ob.*) provided a first state record. Amazingly, another ad. was described from Bosque NWR 5 Jan (David A. Rintoul*).

Glaucous Gull—An ad. at Springer L. 8 Dec (DJC) subsequently moved to Stubblefield L., where present 9-20 Dec (DJC**, CMR).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Early was one in Clanton Canyon 27 Feb (LKM).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Continued its rapid colonization of New Mexico, with reports from 20 locales in 15 counties from the RGV eastward, including detections on 7 CBCs; high counts included 80 at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+), 96 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+), 24 at San Miguel, *Doña Ana* 4 Jan (BRZ**), and 31 at Loving 16 Dec (Craig Cranston+). West were 2 at Magdalena 24 Feb (JRO) and up to 5 at Columbus 27 Dec-15 Feb (JRO, JEP, LKM).

White-winged Dove—Maintained its impressive winter presence in range and numbers, including north to Santa Fe, Santa Rosa, and Clayton. Notable high counts were 691 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+), 871 at La Luz 2 Jan (John Mangimeli+), 138 at Silver City 15 Dec (RSS+), and 19,783 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Mourning Dove—Singing was heard in Post Office Canyon on the early date of 11 Feb (CDL).

Inca Dove—Now resident north to Albuquerque, where there were 5 on 12 Dec (HRS). Farther north was one at Cerrillos 17 Feb (ACF*). High counts were 35 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+), 40 at Deming 26 Dec (LKM), and 152 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Common Ground-Dove—One died when it hit a window in Deming 28 Dec (LKM***); the specimen proved to be an imm. female (DAZ).

Greater Roadrunner—One was at 7400 ft on the crest of the Oscura Mts., *Socorro* 6 Dec (DAH).

Western Screech-Owl—One was east to Clayton L. 26 Jan (JRO).

Northern Pygmy-Owl—Singles at Sugarite SP 15 Feb (DJC) and Zuni 30 Dec (JAT) provided the only reports.

Burrowing Owl—At the northern edge of the wintering range were one at Albuquerque 16 Dec (HRS+) and 5 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+); high count was 18 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Spotted Owl—One was reported without details near Questa 16 Dec (*fide* RoW), where there have been no recent confirmed records.

Long-eared Owl—Seemingly out of place in the desert borderlands was one at Pancho Villa SP in Columbus 24 Jan-15 Feb (Jerry & Shary Hammon, v.o.).

Short-eared Owl—Now rare, singles were at Zuni 30 Dec (JAT), Bosque NWR 2 Dec (WFW), and near Antelope Wells 4 Jan (Sam Smith *fide* AMC, NM-C).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—A very vocal one was near Sandia Crest 16-19 Jan (WFW, KCS, JRO).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—One visited a Carlsbad feeder Dec-Feb, and was still present in Mar (Eric Pierce *fide* SW).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—With no previous New Mexico winter records, this species staged a mini-invasion in *Doña Ana* this season, with singles at Anthony 3 Nov-25 Feb (Helen Bigelow**, photos identified by BRZ, but not submitted to NMOS) and at Las Cruces 23-24 Feb (Barbara & Robert Dickensied**); another was present at El Paso, Texas 6 Nov-16 Feb (BRZ).

Anna's Hummingbird—Wintering Anna's may be increasing north to Albuquerque, where 4 ad. females (3 banded) were present Dec-Feb (JD-M, HRS, CMB, Cindy Harris); elsewhere, singles were present in Dec at Las Cruces (GJE) and near Carlsbad (TJH).

Costa's Hummingbird—Surprising for the date and for the northern locale was an ad. female at Placitas 5-26 Jan (JD-M**, HRS, CMB); it was banded, photographed, and diagnostic tail feathers were obtained which were subsequently verified as this species by William H. Baltosser.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—A probable one visited a Carlsbad feeder 5 Dec-28 Feb and remained into Mar (SW). First spring migrant was a male in Post Office Canyon 27 Feb (CDL).

Rufous Hummingbird—Undetailed *Selasphorus* hummers reported as this species were 3 at Silver City 15 Dec (RSS+), 2 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+), and one near Carlsbad 20 Dec (TJH+).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Judging from reports, this species must be thriving in the upper RGV, with 104 at Dixon 15 Dec (RT+) and 85 at Española 5 Jan (BRF+). South of expected were singles at White Signal, *Grant* 20 Dec (*fide* ERL) and Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 2 Dec-6 Jan (m.ob.) and 2 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Red-headed Woodpecker—One at Carlsbad 7 Feb (SW), where the species formerly nested, was the first there since 1995.

Gila Woodpecker—Continued to be much in evidence in *Hidalgo*; noteworthy were singles in Clanton Canyon 27 Feb (LKM) and on Deer Cr. near Antelope Wells 10 Feb (AMC, NM-C).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Reports with some details that likely pertain to this species were a molting imm. female at Mills Canyon 22 Feb (DJC*), an ad. male at Mountainair 19 Feb (TH*), an imm. at Bosque NWR 2 Dec (WHH*), and an imm. male at Percha SP 2 Dec (DAE*, BDN*).

Downy Woodpecker—South was one on Las Animas Cr. 30 Dec (MTS, JEZ).

***Empidonax* flycatchers**—Providing identification challenges were several that overwintered, highlighted by single vocal **Dusky Flycatchers** at Percha SP 30 Dec-19 Jan (BRZ*, JNP, JEP*, JRO) and Bosque NWR 21 Jan (DAE, BDN, CMR) and a vocal **Cordilleran Flycatcher** at Leasburg SP 1 Dec-6 Jan (MTS, JEZ, audiotape BRZ**). Others were a “Western” at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH*) and unidentified singles at Glenwood 3 Feb (JRO*) and Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Black Phoebe—Somewhat north for the season were 2 at Española 5 Jan (BRF+).

Eastern Phoebe—One to 2 were at 3 Pecos Valley sites from BLNWR to Rattlesnake Springs and at 5 RGV sites from Albuquerque to Las Cruces Dec-Jan (m.ob.); west was one near Deming 10-15 Feb (LKM*, JRO**, CMR).

Say's Phoebe—The species typically vacates northern New Mexico in winter, so noteworthy this season were one at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+) and 2 at Española 5 Jan (BRF+).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Lingering in the lower RGV were an imm. male at Palomas 30 Dec (GJE) and a male and female near Radium Springs 1-5 Dec (MTS, JEZ, BRZ**).

Northern Shrike—Singles wandered south to Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW), Sevilleta NWR 22 Dec (PB), and Bosque NWR 1 Dec (CMB); others remained farther north in *Taos*, *Colfax*, *Union*, and *Santa Fe*.

Plumbeous Vireo—Late was one at Las Cruces 15 Dec (*fide* GJE).

Cassin's Vireo—Lingering at Percha SP was one on 2 Dec (DAE, BDN) & 30 Dec (JNP, BRZ**).

Hutton's Vireo—One was at Mesilla 5 Jan (BRZ), where almost annual in recent years.

Steller's Jay—Several drifted into atypical habitats, including one at Corrales 16 Dec (WHH), 3 near Caballo L. 30 Dec (MTS, JEZ), up to 6 in the Santa Rosa area 16 Dec-3 Feb (WFW, JEP, CMR, JRO**), and 2 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+).

Blue Jay—The species was prevalent in the east from *Colfax* and *Union* south to *Eddy*, with a high 78 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+); west were singles at Santa Fe 22 Dec (Deanna Einspahr+), Albuquerque all season (MLA), and Water Canyon 7 Jan (BRZ).

Western Scrub-Jay—Getting an early start was one carrying nest material at Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 2 Feb (AMC, NM-C).

Mexican Jay—A pair was initiating nest construction in Post Office Canyon 13 Feb (CDL).

Pinyon Jay—Some 47 were east to Mills Canyon 9 Jan (DJC).

Black-billed Magpie—Pushing the range limits were 5 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (HRS+), and singles at Mills Canyon 6 Dec (DJC) and Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW+); 29 were south to the Dilia area 24 Dec (JRO).

American Crow—Numbers exploded in the lower RGV, including 5000 in pecan orchards south of Radium Springs 5 Dec (BRZ, MTS, JEZ) and 10,250 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Chihuahuan Raven—Two pairs were established east of Bernardo on the early date of 23 Feb (WHH).

Common Raven—Two were south of Whites City 16 Feb, where considered scarce (SW).

Cave Swallow—Returned to Carlsbad Caverns NP 28 Jan, some 2 weeks earlier than the usual arrival date (SW).

Barn Swallow—Perhaps enjoying global warming were 2 at Bosque NWR 9 Jan (WFW).

Black-capped Chickadee—Up to 5, including one singing, were south to the town of Bosque, *Valencia* 22-23 Feb (JEP, WHH, CMR).

Bridled Titmouse—Noteworthy for the Caballo L. area were 19 on lower Las Animas Cr. 30 Dec (MTS, JEZ). Territorial activity was evident in Post Office Canyon on the early date of 6 Feb (CDL).

Bushtit—Unusual for the Organ Mts. was one at Aguirre Springs 3 Dec (BRZ). Notable were single flocks of 61 in Post Office Canyon 27 Dec (CDL) and 40 in Indian Cr. Canyon, Animas Mts. 6 Jan (NM-C).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—In stark contrast to last winter, this and other montane species were almost absent from lowland areas this winter. Up to 3 at Percha SP 30 Dec-19 Jan (BRZ, JRO) and one at Mesilla 5 Jan (BRZ) were among the very few reports received.

Pygmy Nuthatch—Usually scarce in the Sandia Mts., but 3 were at Sandia Park 1 Jan (JEP).

Cactus Wren—One was seen in northeast Albuquerque 27 Jan (HRS), where more or less present since 1995.

House Wren—A few lingered late or overwintered in the lower Rio Grande and Pecos valleys, including singles at Caballo L. 30 Dec (BRZ), Santa Teresa 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and Sunland Park 9 Jan (WFW) plus 5 near Loving 16 Dec (CMR) and 4 at Carlsbad Caverns NP 15 Dec (SW+).

Winter Wren—One was at Percha SP 2 Dec (DAE, BDN) and 3 were at Six-Mile Dam 16 Dec (CMR); another was singing at Carlsbad 3 Feb (SW).

Marsh Wren—North were 2 at Española 5 Jan (BRF+), 1-2 in *Colfax* 1-24 Jan (DJC), one near Folsom, *Union* 26 Jan (JRO), and 4 at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—One was north to Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (DJK*); noteworthy for the southwest were 2 in the Animas Valley 29 Dec (CMR).

Eastern Bluebird—Made an especially strong showing from the RGV eastward, with reports from 12 counties including a male at San Juan Pueblo 16 Feb (JEP, JRO), 22 at Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW+) and 5 there 9 Feb (JEP, JRO) plus 15 at nearby Puerto de Luna 22 Dec (JRO).

American Robin—Males were singing in Albuquerque 12 Feb (PRS) and 17 Feb (SOW).

Gray Catbird—Quite late was one at Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW). Astonishingly early was one singing along the Canadian R. in Mills Canyon 22 Feb (DJC).

Northern Mockingbird—Unexpected in winter in northern New Mexico, so noteworthy were 3 each at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+) and Conchas L. 3 Jan (WHH), plus singles at Zuni 1 Jan (JAT), Dixon 15 Dec (RT+), and Mills Canyon 9 Jan (DJC).

Sage Thrasher—North for the winter were 2 at Mills Canyon 9 Jan (DJC). A high 72 were in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (AMC+).

Brown Thrasher—One that arrived at Corrales 3 Nov remained through the season, apparently the 3rd consecutive winter that one (this one?) has wintered there (WHH). Far west was one at Zuni 1 Jan (JAT). Elsewhere, singles were at Clayton, Bosque Redondo, and Las Cruces and 2 were at Carlsbad Caverns NP 15 Dec-1 Jan (v.o.).

Curve-billed Thrasher—One was singing in the Sandia Mts. foothills of east Albuquerque 14 Jan (PRS).

Crissal Thrasher—Singles were singing in the Organ Mts. in Baylor Canyon 8 Jan (SOW) and at WSMR headquarters, *Doña Ana* 26 Jan (DAH).

Sprague's Pipit—Noteworthy for mid-winter was one near Hermanas 12 Jan (RAM). Others, possibly representing late or early migrants, were 2 at Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (DJK*), 5 near Hermanas 4-14 Dec (RAM), and one near Gage 27 Feb (RAM).

Cedar Waxwing—The species was conspicuous during mid-late Dec, including on 8 CBCs, but went unreported in Jan. Earliest returnees were 78 at Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 2 Feb (AMC, NM-C).

Phainopepla—North for the season was a male west of Abo Pass in *Socorro* 21 Jan (Richard Anderson). Multiple reports were received from *Catron*, *Grant*, *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Sierra*, *Doña Ana*, and *Otero*, including on 6 CBCs, with a high 124 in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (AMC+).

Olive Warbler—Three were in the Organ Mts. above Aguirre Springs 3 Dec (BRZ*), for the 2nd consecutive winter the species has been found there.

Orange-crowned Warbler—Now more-or-less expected in the lower RGV in winter, with Dec-Jan reports this season from Percha SP, Las Cruces, and Sunland Park (v.o.). Farther north were a possible one at Española 5 Jan (*fide* BRF) and another at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (Sondra Williamson*).

Nashville Warbler—Surprising for winter was a male at Las Cruces 13 & 19-20 Jan (CWB*).

Northern Parula—Unexpected was a female at Leasburg SP 1 & 5 Dec (MTS, JEZ, BRZ).

Northern Waterthrush—One was found by gull seekers at Sunland Park 29 Dec (SW) and 5 Jan (JEP, JRO).

Louisiana Waterthrush—One seen and well-described on Little Bear Cr. near its junction with the Middle Fork of the Gila R., *Catron* 4 Dec (Gregory Levandoski*) represented a New Mexico winter first. The species winters in northwestern Mexico and occasionally in southeastern Arizona, and might be expected in southwestern New Mexico, especially in mild winters.

Common Yellowthroat—Many more than usual were reported, including singles north to Zuni 1 Jan (JAT), La Joya 22 Dec (CMR), and Bosque Redondo 1 Jan (JRO). Farther south in the RGV were 2 at Bosque NWR 21 Jan (CMR) one in the Caballo L. area 30 Dec (BRZ+), one in the vicinity of Radium Springs 5 Dec (BRZ), and 2 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+); west were a male at Clanton Cienega 31 Jan (AMC, NM-C) and a female there 7 Feb (NM-C).

Wilson's Warbler—A well-described male at Las Cruces 15 Dec (CWB*) provided one of the very few Dec records for the species in New Mexico.

Scarlet Tanager—A puzzling female tanager that was first seen in a Rio Rancho yard 4 Jan was killed when it hit a window there 9 Jan (Page Draper***), allowing positive identification as an imm. female Scarlet (Robert W. Dickerman). There are few previous winter records from anywhere in the U.S., and none from New Mexico.

Western Tanager—Surprising was a female seen near RGNC 1 Jan (JEP*).

Green-tailed Towhee—At the northern fringe of the wintering range were four at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (SWC+).

Cassin's Sparrow—The species winters sparsely in southwestern New Mexico; reports this season included 5 at two Animas Valley sites 29 Dec (JRO, CMR).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—Possibly overlooked in northern New Mexico in winter; this season produced one at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR), 3 in Mills Canyon 19 Jan (DJC), and 6 at Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW+).

American Tree Sparrow—South of expected were one at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH*), one at Alto, *Lincoln* 19-22 Feb (John D. Morton*), and one at Carlsbad Caverns NP 15 Dec (*fide* SW).

Chipping Sparrow—North for the season were 3 in the Sandia Mts. 30 Dec (DWM*) and 2 there 27 Jan (DWM) and a high 26 at Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (NSC+).

Brewer's Sparrow—Unusual so far north were 22 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (HRS+).

Field Sparrow—Three at Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW+) provided the lone report.

Black-chinned Sparrow—Two were at Hillsboro 2 Feb (JRO); a high 40 were at Aguirre Springs 3 Dec (BRZ).

Baird's Sparrow—Singles were in southern *Luna* 4-14 Dec & 14 Jan (RAM), near Rodeo 30 Dec (RTS), and in the Animas Valley 25 Feb (NM-C*).

Fox Sparrow—Undetailed singles were reported at Questa 16 Dec (*fide* (RoW) and Tyrone 3 Feb (ERL).

Swamp Sparrow—Singles on the edge of typical range were at Tijeras Cr., Sandia Mts. 13 Jan (JRO) & 27 Jan (BV) and at Clanton Cienega 7 Feb (NM-C**).

Harris's Sparrow—Single imms. were in the RGV at San Acacia 9 Dec (BV*), at Luis Lopez 9 Nov-20 Dec and again 18 Jan-28 Feb (JRO**), and east of Luis Lopez 28 Jan-5 Feb (JRO**); and an ad. and an imm. were at Spirit Canyon Lodge near L. Roberts 2-24 Feb (ERL, CMR, JRO**).

“White-winged” Junco—One reported on Maxwell CBC 20 Dec (*fide* LM).

“Slate-colored” Junco—Reported on 12 CBCs, including 15 at Farmington 15 Dec (APN+) and 10 at Clayton 30 Dec (CMR+).

“Oregon” Junco—Several found roosting among the blades of Schott's yucca in Post Office Canyon during the season (CDL).

“Gray-headed” Junco—A male was singing at Sandia Crest on the early date of 12 Feb (SOW).

Northern Cardinal—Very far north was a male in the Maxwell area in late Dec (*vide* LM). North in the Pecos Valley were a male at Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW), 2 males south of Santa Rosa at Agua Negra Cr. 22 Dec (JRO**), and a male at Sumner Dam 12 Dec (WFW). Others of note were one at Silver City 15 Dec (*vide* RSS), one at San Simon Cienega 15 Feb (AMC), and a high 10 at Rattlesnake Springs 22 Jan (KBO).

Pyrrhuloxia—Wandering north were one at Sedan, *Union* 27 Jan (JRO**), 2 at Puerto de Luna 12 Dec (WFW), and one near RGNC 16 Dec-26 Jan (Andrew Rominger*, JRO**, v.o.). Reported on 14 CBCs, including 106 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (GJE+).

Black-headed Grosbeak—Unseasonal was an imm. at Silver City 15 Dec (Scott H. Stoleson*).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—A male was north to LVNWR 20 Jan (BV).

Rusty Blackbird—Well-documented were 2 near Portales 30 Jan (CMR*) with at least one there 9 Feb (JEP*, JRO**). One reported as an ad. male was at Española 2 Dec (JT); undetailed were 2 reported at L. Avalon 21 Feb (SW).

Common Grackle—North of expected were singles at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+), Las Vegas 29 Dec (GB+), and Santa Rosa 16 Dec (WFW+); 8 were in northeast Albuquerque 3 Jan (PRS).

Great-tailed Grackle—One was at Raton 16 Dec (DJC).

Brown-headed Cowbird—The species continued to increase its winter presence, with reports from 12 locales, including a high 187 at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+); not surprisingly, feedlots were the favored habitats.

Rosy-Finches—For the 3rd consecutive winter, a mixed flock wintered at Sandia Crest; from 6 on 6 Dec, the flock grew to 95 on 13 Jan, then decreased to 25 by 23 Feb, with **Blacks** comprising roughly 60% of the flock, **Gray-crowneds** 30%, and **Brown-capped** 10% (m.ob., WHH**).

Cassin's Finch—Among the several reports were an impressive 80 at Emory Pass 2 Jan (WFW), 8 in the Pinos Altos Mts. 20 Feb (LKM), and 2 at Silver City 15 Dec (RSS+).

Red Crossbill—Rather scarce, including reports from only 4 CBCs. Noteworthy was one in the seldom-visited Oscura Mts., *Socorro* 6 Dec (DAH).

Pine Siskin—Relatively abundant, including 52 east to Clayton 19 Dec (CMR+), 625 in the Sandia Mts. 30 Dec (NV+), and 337 at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (SWC+).

Lesser Goldfinch—The species has quietly become a regular wintering bird across southern New Mexico and north to Albuquerque, where small numbers were present Dec-Feb (WHH, DWM). Farther north were 20 at Farmington 15 Dec (APN+), 2 at Zuni 31 Dec (JAT), and 3 in Mills Canyon 9 Jan (DJC).

American Goldfinch—Noteworthy for the far southwest were 13 at Clanton Cienega 31 Jan (AMC, NM-C).

Evening Grosbeak—Very few reports, including detections on only two CBCs. Eight near Cochiti 22 Feb (WHH) provided the only report after Dec.

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