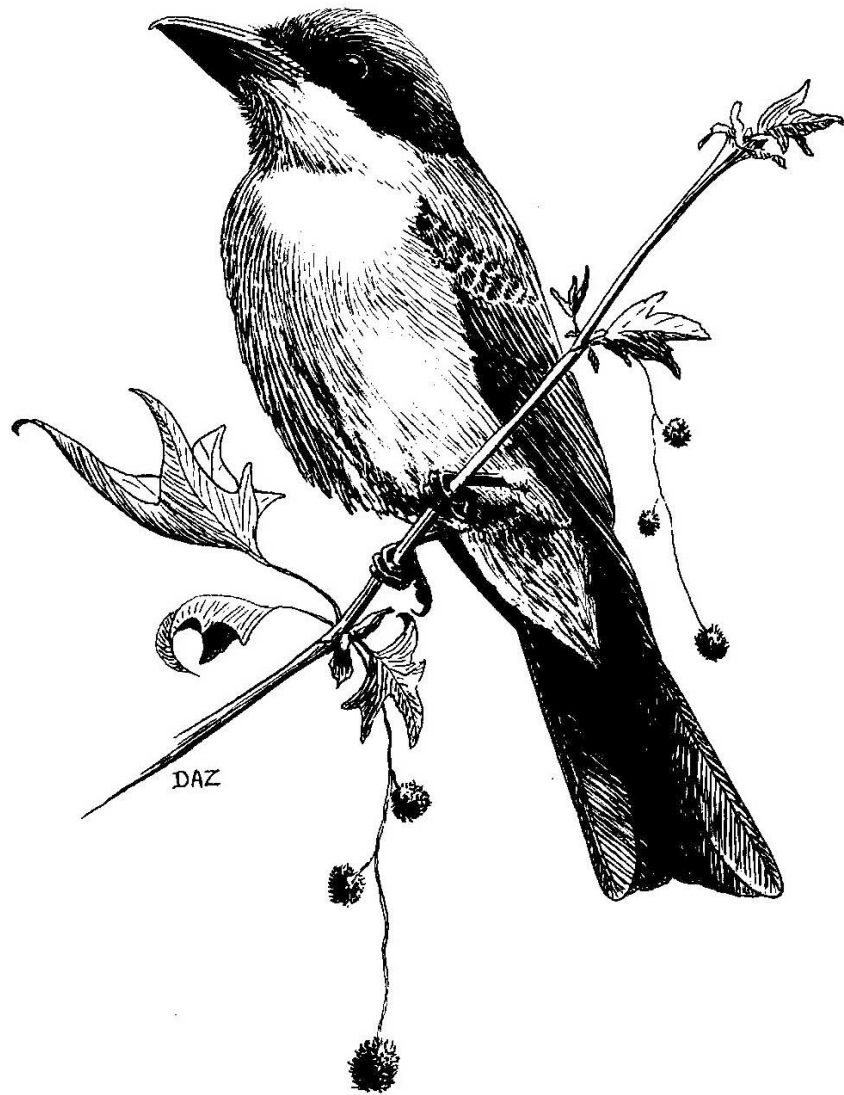


*New Mexico  
Ornithological Society  
Field Notes*



*Volume 41, Number 2, Spring 2002*

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 habitats. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman, commissioned by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for a series on state endangered species. Used by permission.

## SPRING SEASON 2002

The severe drought gripping New Mexico deepened in spring 2002, reaching conditions not seen in half a century; by season's close, forests were burning, lakes and rivers were drying, and everywhere dry topsoil was blowing away with the wind. Against this backdrop, birds and birders concentrated at shrinking wetlands and surviving oases, resulting in discovery of many rarities, especially shorebirds and waterbirds as well as eastern strays, particularly warblers.

### Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, *Doña Ana*  
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*  
Amistad, *Union*  
Angel Fire, *Colfax*  
Animas, Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*  
Arrey, *Sierra*  
Belen, *Valencia*  
Bernalillo, *Sandoval*  
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*  
Black Range, *Grant/Sierra*  
Bluewater Cr., Gorge, Lake, *Cibola*  
Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*  
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*  
Bosque Redondo, *De Baca*  
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*  
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*  
Carlsbad, *Eddy*  
Carlsbad Caverns NP, *Eddy*  
Carnuel, *Bernalillo*  
Carrizozo, *Lincoln*  
Cimarron, *Colfax*  
Clanton Canyon, Cienega, *Hidalgo*  
Clayton, *Union*  
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, *Grant*  
Clovis, *Curry*  
Columbus, *Luna*  
Conchas Lake, Dam, *San Miguel*  
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, *Sandoval*  
Corrales, *Sandoval*  
Deming, *Luna*  
Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax*  
Eldorado, *Santa Fe*  
Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, *Sierra*  
Escondida, Lake, *Socorro*  
Field, *Curry*  
Fort Sumner, *De Baca*  
Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
Guadalupe Mts., *Eddy*  
Hachita, *Grant*  
Hagerman, *Chaves*  
Hatchet Gap, *Hidalgo*  
Hillsboro, *Sierra*  
Holloman Lake, *Otero*  
House, *Quay*  
Isleta, Lake, Marsh, *Bernalillo/Valencia*  
Jal, Lake, *Lea*  
Kingston, *Sierra*  
La Joya, WMA, *Socorro*  
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*  
Lake Roberts, *Grant*  
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*  
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*  
Last Chance Canyon, *Eddy*  
Lincoln, *Lincoln*  
Lingo, *Roosevelt*  
Little Hatchet Mts. *Grant/Hidalgo*  
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*  
Los Lunas, *Valencia*  
Loving, *Eddy*  
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*  
Magdalena, Mts., *Socorro*  
Manzano, Mts., *Torrance*  
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*  
Mayhill, *Otero*  
Mesilla, Dam, Valley, *Doña Ana*  
Mills Canyon, *Harding*  
Mosquero, *Harding*  
Mountainair, *Torrance*  
north *Roosevelt* trap, *Roosevelt*  
Ned Houk Park, *Curry*  
Oasis SP, *Roosevelt*  
Organ Mts., *Doña Ana*  
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*  
Peralta, *Valencia*  
Percha SP, *Sierra*  
Pinos Altos, Mts., *Grant*  
Pleasanton, *Catron*

Pojoaque, *Santa Fe*  
 Portales, *Roosevelt*  
 Post Office Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
 Puerto de Luna, *Guadalupe*  
 Quarai, *Torrance*  
 Quemado, Lake, *Catron*  
 Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*  
 Raton, *Colfax*  
 Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*  
 Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*  
 Roswell, *Chaves*  
 Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel*  
 Sabinal, *Socorro*  
 Sabinoso, *San Miguel*  
 Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*  
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*  
 Sandia Park, *Bernalillo*  
 San Acacia, *Socorro*  
 San Antonio, *Socorro*  
 San Andres NWR, *Doña Ana*  
 Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*

Separ, *Grant*  
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*  
 Signal Peak, *Grant*  
 Silver City, *Grant*  
 Six-Mile Dam, *Eddy*  
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*  
 Socorro, *Socorro*  
 Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*  
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*  
 Sugarite SP, *Colfax*  
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*  
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*  
 Sunspot, *Otero*  
 Taos, Ski Valley, *Taos*  
 Tolar, *Roosevelt*  
 Turn, *Valencia*  
 Ute Lake, *Quay*  
 Water Canyon, *Socorro*  
 Virden, *Hidalgo*  
 Yeso, *De Baca*  
 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
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	ad(s).	adult(s)
CG	Camp Ground	subad(s).	subadult(s)
Cr.	Creek	imm(s).	immature(s)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
L.	Lake	sp.	species
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	m.ob	many observers
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	v.o.	various observers
NM	National Monument	+	others; et al.
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	*	written details provided
NP	National Park	**	photo or tape provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	***	specimen obtained
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

## Initialed Observers

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DJC	David J. Cleary	JNP	James N. Paton
KMC	Kathleen M. Cotton	NP	Nicholas Pederson
AMC	Alan M. Craig	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
JPD	John P. DeLong	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
DAE	Douglas A. Emkalns	RTS	Robert T. Scholes
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
SMF	Stephen M. Fetting	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
GRF	Glen R. Finley	JWS	John W. Shipman
D&BF	Dana & Bob Fox	PRS	Patricia R. Snider
TG	Tony Gallucci	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	SHS	Scott H. Stoleson
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	BV	Brad Vaughn
WHH	William H. Howe	NV	Nick Vaughn
TH	Tyler Huning	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
HWI	HawkWatch International	MLW	Mark L. Watson
DJK	David J. Krueper	MEW	Mara E. Weisenberger
RK	Robert Kruidenier	SW	Steve West
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	WFW	William F. West
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	SOW	S. O. Williams III
JWM	Jacob W. Malcom	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
LKM	Larry K. Malone	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
PM	Patricia Mehlhop	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
DWM	David W. Mehlman	MAZ	Marian A. Zimmerman
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer		
GM	Gale Monson		

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Common Loon**—Surprisingly reluctant to leave, late singles lingered at Ute L. 4 May (JRO), Maxwell NWR 20 May (DJC), and Stubblefield L. 28 May (DJC).

**Horned Grebe**—Late were breeding-plumaged singles at Holloman L. 29 Apr (CMR) and LVNWR 11 May (CMR).

**American White Pelican**—Some 100 at Bluewater L. 26 Mar and later were feasting on goldfish (HRS). Noteworthy for the Cliff-Gila Valley were 11 north of Cliff 10 Apr (Carol & Mike Fugagli *vide* DAZ).

**Brown Pelican**—Undetailed was a possible one at L. Avalon 27 May (Tom Bemis *vide* SW).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Two wandered north in the RGV to Sevilleta NWR 7 Apr (WHH).

**American Bittern**—One at Bosque NWR 17 Apr (WFW\*) and 2 at BLNWR 3 May (GLW) furnished the only reports for this now rare species.

**Great Egret**—The species continued to appear in out-of-the-way places, including 2 at Peralta 3 Apr (KMC) and singles at Clanton Cienega 11 May (NM-C), Columbus 28 May (SOW), Mayhill 28 Apr (SW), and Jal 9 May (SW). A high 26 were at Bosque NWR 12 Apr (JEP).

**Little Blue Heron**—Far north was an ad. at Springer L. 8 May (DJC\*\*). Another ad. was at BLNWR 25-27 Apr (JEP, JRO, DJK, GLW) and 1-2 ads. were at Bosque NWR 2-28 May (WHH, DAE, BDN, JRO, CMB).

**Reddish Egret**—An imm. at Holloman L. 24 May (BRZ\*)—New Mexico's 18<sup>th</sup> overall—provided an *Otero* first and the first for the month of May.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—Several active nests were in a marsh just east of I-25 at Las Vegas 11 May (CMR).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**—An ad. put in a brief appearance at Bosque NWR 26 May (Thomas Warren\*).

**White Ibis**—An ad. apparently split its time between Bosque NWR, where present 12-21 Apr (RK, JEP\*, JRO\*\*, CMB\*) and again 28 May (CMB), and La Joya, where present 11 May (DLH, DAE\*, BDN\*).

**Glossy Ibis**—The species was documented in New Mexico for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive spring season, with singles at Bosque NWR 13 Apr (JRO\*\*), 17 Apr (WFW\*), & 10 May (DAE\*, BDN\*), one mile south of Bernalillo 1 May (JRO\*\*), and at LVNWR 25 Apr (D&BF) where there were 2 on 5 May (JRO\*\*).

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck**—An ad. visited a field south of San Antonio 22-23 Apr (RK, JRO\*\*, PRS).

**Greater White-fronted Goose**—Noteworthy were 2 at Deming 27 Mar (LKM\*).

**Ross's Goose**—Lingered late at Bosque NWR, where there were 3000 on 10 Mar (WHH) and 1000—but very few Snow Geese—on 9 Apr (PRS). One capable of flight at Jal L. 30 May (SOW) was feeding on birdseed with domestic geese and exotic doves.

**Tundra Swan**—Last of the season were 8 at LVNWR 17 Mar (CMB\*), 5 at Maxwell NWR 19 Mar (DJC), and one at Bosque NWR 29 Mar (WHH, DJK).

**Wood Duck**—Continued to appear in obscure places, including 3 males in *Harding* on Ute Cr. 4 May (JRO), a female at Quarai 26 May (NV), and a male at Bluit, *Roosevelt* 13 Apr (LAS).

**Eurasian Wigeon**—The male at RGNC in Feb was last reported 3 Mar (BV\*).

**Greater Scaup**—The male at RGNC in Feb was last seen 2 Mar (JEP, DAE, BDN) & 3 Mar (BV). Other Greaters were 3 at Brantley L. 2 Mar (JRO) and 2 at LVNWR 25 Apr (D&BF).

**Osprey**—New Mexico's breeding population continued to increase, numbering 13 pairs in May—12 in the Heron-El Vado area, *Rio Arriba* and one at Cochiti L. (DWS).

**White-tailed Kite**—In contrast to last year's multiple nestings, the dry spring this year produced very few reports of birds—singles near Columbus 15 Mar (RAM) & 16 May (RAM) and near Arrey 1 Apr (MLW)—and no nests.

**Mississippi Kite**—The species was well represented in the Pecos Valley and eastern plains. Noteworthy for the RGV were 2 at Jacona near Pojoaque 31 May (BRZ), one at Corrales 12 May (WHH), and 2 at Isleta 27 May (DAE, BDN).

**Bald Eagle**—Late for *Catron* were an ad. and an imm. at Quemado L. 7 Apr (JRO). The three known breeding territories in *Colfax* were occupied 22 Mar (SOW, PM).

**Gray Hawk**—An ad. soaring over the lower Gila R. near Virden 19 Apr (DAZ\*, MAZ\*, Robert Wilcox) was the first seen there in over two decades.

**Common Black-Hawk**—At least 2 nests in the Cliff-Gila Valley failed due to human disturbance (DAZ). Farther east, singles were over the Pecos River at Santa Rosa 14 May (WFW), over the Rio Bonito east of Lincoln 31 May (SW) and along the Rio Grande at Isleta, *Valencia* 28 Apr (JRO\*\*) and Percha SP 20 Apr (JWS).

**Harris's Hawk**—An ad. was north to Bosque NWR 8 Mar (GJE) and 29 Mar (WHH).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—The one that wintered near Turn was still present 17 Mar (JRO\*\*).

**Broad-winged Hawk**—Four passed the Sandia Mts. lookout, *Bernalillo* during the period 14-23 Apr (HWI). Farther east, a late one was at Fort Sumner 27 May (JRO) and singles were at Roswell 14 Apr (CMR\*) and at Rattlesnake Springs 25-26 Apr (JEP).

**Swainson's Hawk**—Earliest returnees were singles near Deming 20 Mar (RAM), at Luis Lopez 22 Mar (JRO), and Las Cruces 23 Mar (GJE); nesting was underway at Las Cruces by 14 Apr (GJE).

**Zone-tailed Hawk**—Three passed the Sandia Mts. lookout 21-23 Apr (HWI).

**Rough-legged Hawk**—Late for the south was one near Deming 11 Mar (LKM); 2 at Maxwell 1 Apr (DJC) were the last seen.

**Merlin**—Last of the season were singles at Albuquerque 17 Apr (CMR) and at the Sandia Mts. lookout 23 Apr (HWI).

**Aplomado Falcon**—Although still dismissed by some as merely “occasional sightings,” naturally occurring Aplomados are now resident in southern New Mexico; the pair that nested in 2001 nested again in 2002 (RAM), a 2<sup>nd</sup> pair was observed mating 8 May, and single ads. were documented at two additional locales 3 Mar and 10-14 May (RAM).

**Prairie Falcon**—East was a pair nesting along the Canadian R. in *Harding* in May (DJC).

**Chukar**—One was standing beside the highway at Hachita 26 May (SOW); no self-sustaining populations are known in New Mexico.

**Blue Grouse**—Totally unexpected was one seen at close range on South Baldy, Magdalena Mts. 19 May (Daniel J. Kinney\*).

**Wild Turkey**—North in the Peloncillo Mts. was a female “Gould's” in Post Office Canyon 8 Apr (CDL) and a male there 8 May and later (CDL).

**Black Rail**—One was tape-recorded on Ponil Cr. east of Cimarron 29 Apr (DJC); if conclusive, this would be the first verification of the species for New Mexico.

**American Coot**—An ad. was tending 2 red-faced chicks at Jal L. 30 May (SOW).

**Sandhill Crane**—Very late was one at Los Lunas 28 May (DLH).

**Black-bellied Plover**—Impressive were 12 at Maxwell NWR 20 May (DJC\*\*); elsewhere, singles were at BLNWR on various dates during the period 19 Apr-11 May (GLW, CMR, JRO), Storrie L. 14 May (JRO\*\*), and Ruby Ranch 24 May (WFW).

**Snowy Plover**—Made a good showing, including 216 at BLNWR 3 May (GLW) and 87 east of Loving 11 May (SW), the latter the most found there in many years. Lingering at prairie wetlands were 4 at Maxwell NWR 28 May (DJC), 3 at Springer L. 29 May (DJC), and one at LVNWR 11 May (CMR).

**Semipalmated Plover**—High counts were 11 at Maxwell NWR 3 May (DJC), 10 at BLNWR 27 Apr (JRO), and 3 at Holloman L. 28 Apr (SW).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Unusual were 2 north to LVNWR 11 May (CMR).



**American Avocet**—Pioneering isolated locales were 3 each at the Carrizozo golf course 12 May (JRO) and the Columbus treatment ponds 28 May (SOW); high counts included 248 at Maxwell NWR 3 May (DJC) and 400 at BLNWR 13 Apr (CMR).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—Generally scarce in spring, so noteworthy were reports from five locales during the period 19 Apr-3 May, including a high 10 at Bosque NWR 21 Apr (JRO) and 3 at BLNWR 27 Apr (GLW) plus singles near Las Vegas 28 Apr (CMR), at Corrales 25 Apr (DJK), and at Isleta 28 Apr (CMR).

**Willet**—Made an impressive showing nearly statewide 19 Apr-17 May (m.ob.); notable *maxima* were 26 at Stubblefield L. 4 May (JEP), 20 at Bosque NWR 10 May (DAE, BDN), 40 at BLNWR 27 Apr (GLW), 76 at Deming 1 May (LKM), and 120 at Brantley L. 27 Apr (JRO). Late were 3 at Stubblefield L. 24 May (DAE, BDN, CMR) and 2 at Maxwell NWR 28 May (DJC).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—Migrant concentrations included 24 at Mountainair 5 May (BV) and 25 at Carrizozo 12 May (JRO).

**Whimbrel**—The species was much in evidence, with 3 at Cochiti L. 1 May (JRO\*\*), 3 at Stubblefield L. 13 May (DJC\*\*), one at Ruby Ranch 22 & 24 May (WFW\*), and 2 at BLNWR 24 May (GLW).

**Long-billed Curlew**—Noteworthy was a migrant flock of 250 at Hagerman 2 Mar (JRO).

**Hudsonian Godwit**—An ad. at Springer L. 25-26 May (DAE\*, BDN\*, CMR\*) relocated to Maxwell NWR 28 May (DJC\*\*).

**Marbled Godwit**—High count was 40 at Sumner L. 27 Apr (WFW).

**Sanderling**—One to four were at six locales from the RGV eastward during the period 27 Apr-26 May (m.ob.).

**Western Sandpiper**—High counts were 700+ at Bosque NWR 19 Apr (CMR) and 1355 at BLNWR the same day (GLW).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—Earliest were singles at Portales 17 May (JEP) and near Canon AFB, *Curry* 18 May (JRO); *maxima* were 23 at Weatherly L., *Union* 25 May (CMR, DAE, BDN), 18 at Springer L. 25 May (CMR), and 5 each at Stubblefield L. 28 May (DJC\*\*) and Maxwell NWR 30 May (DJC).

**Baird's Sandpiper**—Very early was one at Bosque NWR 10 Mar (WHH).

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—Two were west to Deming 22 Apr (LKM\*).

**Dunlin**—Nine at BLNWR 5 Mar (GLW) had dwindled to one by 3 May (GLW); latest elsewhere were 2 at Maxwell NWR 8 Apr (DJC) and one at Bosque NWR 17 Apr (WFW).

**Ruff**—A probable one, described as an ad. male in basic plumage, was at Springer L. 24 May (BDN\*); there are but 4 previous (one certain) reports.

**Short-billed Dowitcher**—A vocal one was among Long-billeds at BLNWR 26 Apr (JRO\*, JWM).

**Common Snipe**—Five “whinnying” at the Ponil Cr. marsh 7 miles east of Cimarron 1 May (JRO) were suggestive of local breeding.

**Red-necked Phalarope**—Scarce in spring, 5 bright females were amongst Wilson’s at Ruby Ranch 24 May (WFW).

**Laughing Gull**—An “invasion” brought an ad. to Sunland Park 30 Mar (JNP\*\*, Bill Wittman), an ad. to Brantley L 27 Apr (JRO\*\*) and (probably the same bird) to nearby L. Avalon 30 Apr (SW), an imm. to Sumner L. 5 May (NP\*, sketch NV), and an imm. to Springer L. 24 May (CMR\*, DJC).

**California Gull**—Lingering were 3 at Maxwell NWR 20 May (DJC) and one at Springer L. 24 May (CMR).

**Caspian Tern**—An ad. at Brantley L. 12 May (JRO\*\*) furnished the only report.

**Arctic Tern**—A breeding-plumaged ad. at Brantley L. 12 May (JRO\*\*) provided New Mexico’s 6<sup>th</sup> credible report and the first since 2000.

**Least Tern**—Exceptionally early was one at Bosque NWR 6 Apr (JEP, JRO), where one was also present 29 Apr (JRO) and 15 May (JRO). Earliest at BLNWR were 2 on 27 Apr (JEP, GLW). Others away from the BLNWR nesting grounds were one at Brantley L. 12 May (JRO) plus 2 there 28 May (WFW) and 4 at Six-Mile Dam 11 May (SW).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—Continued its remarkable colonization of New Mexico, with numerous reports (many supported by photos) from at least three dozen communities in 18 counties from the RGV eastward; west were one at Magdalena 28 May (BRZ), 5 at Deming 7 May (BRZ\*\*), a courting pair at Columbus 28 May (SOW), and several in and around Silver City (DAZ, ERL).

**White-winged Dove**—Peripheral were singles at Maxwell 30 Apr-27 May (DJC\*\*) and Manzano L. near Quarai 10 Mar (NV, NP); large increases were noted in Albuquerque’s North Valley (DWM) while in Silver City, White-wingeds had largely replaced Mourning Doves at feeders (DAZ, MAZ).

**Mourning Dove**—A determined pair that initiated nesting at northwest Albuquerque’s Paradise Hills in Feb fledged one young 20 Mar, nested a 2<sup>nd</sup> time and fledged one on 24 Apr, initiated a 3rd clutch of eggs 24 Apr but lost it to crows on 4 May, and was building another nest 11 May which fledged one on 14 Jun (WHH).

**Inca Dove**—Continued to increase its presence at Albuquerque, including 3 in the University area 5 May (GM) and one in the Northeast Heights 31 Mar & 2 there 4 May (JEP). Others on the edge of the range were singles north to Ute L. 4 May (JRO) and in Post Office Canyon 18 May (CDL) plus 2 at Hillsboro 21 Apr (CMR).

**Common Ground-Dove**—One was heard and seen 2 miles south of Radium Springs 6 Apr (MTS, JEZ).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Earliest spring arrivals this season were one at NRT 14 May (WFW), 8 at Rattlesnake Springs 18 May (SW), and 2 near San Acacia 19 May (BV).

**Barn Owl**—Singles where seldom reported were 5 miles south of Amistad 20 Apr (JRO), at Yeso 24 May (JRO), and at Columbus 29 Mar (LKM).

**Elf Owl**—Two were in Clanton Canyon 31 Mar (*fide* DAZ), where there are very few March reports. In the southeast, one was seen and heard in Last Chance Canyon 27 May (*fide* SW).

**Long-eared Owl**—A pair nested on a rock ledge down in a sinkhole at BLNWR; discovered 6 Apr, an ad. was tending 2 nestlings 17 May, and one or both young fledged by 5 Jun (GLW+).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—At least 3 were heard (one seen) on Signal Peak 20 May (Robert Wilcox) and 2 were tape-recorded there 22 May (DAZ+), but all may have been migrants as none were detected there 29 May (DAZ+).

**Lesser Nighthawk**—Early was one at Bosque NWR 12 Apr (JEP).

**Common Poorwill**—Earliest reports were singles in Mills Canyon 24 Mar (SOW, PM) and Post Office Canyon 25 Mar (CDL).

**Whip-poor-will**—One was vocal at Doc Long Picnic Area, Sandia Mts. 15 May (CMB), where the species is rare. On the eastern plains, singles were reported on 26 Apr at both NRT and Boone's Draw (JRO\*).

**Chimney Swift**—Earliest were singles at Roswell 26 Apr (JRO) and Rattlesnake Springs 26 Apr (JEP). West was one at Raton 24 May (CMR). Others were 2 at Clayton 25 May (CMR) and 3 at Roswell 27 May (WFW).

**White-throated Swift**—East were up to 5 at Mills Canyon 24 Mar (SOW, PM) and 2 at Conchas L. 25 Apr (WHH).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—East of expected was a female 2 miles south of Radium Springs 14 Apr-30 May (sketch MTS\*, JEZ\*\*). A male was north to Post Office Canyon 23 Apr & 31 May (CDL).

**Magnificent Hummingbird**—Seven were tallied at *Grant* feeders 11 May (DAZ+). An ad. male was at Aspen Spring, Animas Mts. 11 May (AMC).

**Lucifer Hummingbird**—Earliest male returned to Post Office Canyon 31 Mar (RTS); first female arrival was 12 Apr (CDL). At least 6 were present in Post Office Canyon through May, and a male was in nearby Beehive Canyon 26 May (CDL).

**Anna's Hummingbird**—Earliest was a female in Post Office Canyon 12 Apr (CDL) and a male there 2 May (CDL).

**Calliope Hummingbird**—Highly unusual in New Mexico in spring, single males were at Luis Lopez 21-24 Apr (JRO\*\*), near Pinos Altos 6 Apr (*fide* DAZ), and in Post Office Canyon 31 Mar and 14 & 25 Apr (CDL), where there was also a female 9-14 Apr (CDL).

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird**—The one that wintered at Carlsbad was last seen 6 Mar (SW).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—Another species that is unexpected in New Mexico in spring, but this season produced 2 males at Luis Lopez 22 Apr (JRO\*\*), 2 males at Silver City (ERL, DAZ) and another at Pinos Altos (*fide* DAZ) during 1-7 Apr, and one or more males in Post Office Canyon 2-23 Apr (CDL).

**Elegant Trogon**—A male was in Indian Creek Canyon, Animas Mts. 10-11 May (AMC), but was not found later.

**Belted Kingfisher**—Noteworthy for the eastern plains, one was at NRT 4 May (JRO). A male was observed entering a nesting burrow near Cimarron on the Vermejo R. at Dawson Cemetery 18 May (DJC). Two at Bosque Redondo 26 May (WHH) were suspected of local breeding.

**Lewis's Woodpecker**—Late were one at Mesilla 5 Apr (GJE) and another at Socorro 11 May (DAE, BDN). Far east was one at NRT 4 May (Paul McConnell\*).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—An ad. male was west to Deming 15 Mar (LKM\*).

**Three-toed Woodpecker**—The Sacramento Mts. support the southeasternmost population of this species; this season, a male was on Sacramento Peak near Sunspot 5 May (MB\*) and another was on nearby Alamo Peak 20 May (MB). Previously unreported was a female feeding an apparent juv. in the Sacramento Mts. 26 Jun 1984 (*fide* MB\*).

**“Yellow-shafted” Flicker**—A male was at Albuquerque 31 Mar-1 Apr (BV).

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet**—A very vocal one was at Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 23 Apr, where it was captured and banded 27 Apr (AMC, NM-C); this furnished one of the few New Mexico records away from Guadalupe Canyon.

**Greater Pewee**—Early was a singing male on Cherry Cr, Pinos Altos Mts. 7 Apr (*fide* DAZ).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**—One at NRT 19 May (DAE\*, BDN\*, JRO\*\*) was taped while singing, providing New Mexico's 3<sup>rd</sup> definite record.

**Willow Flycatcher**—Some 20+ had returned to the Cliff-Gila Valley by 30 Apr (SHS), and early date.

**Least Flycatcher**—One reported from NRT 4 May (JRO).

**Gray Flycatcher**—Early was one singing in Water Canyon 5 Apr (JEP).

**Cordilleran Flycatcher**—East was one at NRT 27 May (JRO).

**Black Phoebe**—At the northern fringes of the range were one at Four Corners, *San Juan* 9 Apr (TG) and 2 near Cimarron 25 May (DJC\*\*).

**Eastern Phoebe**—In possible breeding locales were one in Mills Canyon 23 May (DJC) and 2 at Tres Lagunas Dam near Santa Rosa 14 May (WFW).

**Say's Phoebe**—Noteworthy at 10,700 ft was one at Sandia Crest 19 May (CMR).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—The species was unusually abundant and widespread, especially in the RGV from San Acacia (BV) southward, and including fledglings at Percha SP 31 May (MTS, JEZ). In the northeast, an active nest was at Conchas L. 25 Apr (WHH) and a single was at Santa Rosa 14 May (WFW).

**Ash-throated Flycatcher**—First of the season was one near Radium Springs 30 Mar (MTS, JEZ); another reached Post Office Canyon 6 Apr (CDL).

**Eastern Kingbird**—Scarce in the southeast in spring, one was at Rattlesnake Springs 5 May (SW).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—Peripheral was one near House 8 May (WFW).

**Northern Shrike**—One was near Cimarron at Dawson Cemetery 4 & 21 Mar (DJC).

**White-eyed Vireo**—Well-documented were a singing ad. near Amistad 6 May (MRG\*) and another at Rattlesnake Springs 5 May (SW\*).

**Hutton's Vireo**—North was a vocal one in Water Canyon 5 Apr (JEP). Somewhat early was a nest with eggs in Post Office Canyon 1 Apr (CDL).

**Red-eyed Vireo**—Singles were at NRT 12, 19, & 24 May (JEP, JRO), near Lingo 11 May (LAS), and at Rattlesnake Springs 5 May (SW).

**Steller's Jay**—One at Santa Rosa 9 Mar (CMR) likely was a winter holdover. Unusual for the Organ Mts. was one at Aguirre Springs 26 Mar (GJE).

**Blue Jay**—One that wintered in northeast Albuquerque was last seen 24 Apr (MLA); it had arrived 31 Oct. Late for *Colfax* was one at Maxwell 15 May (DJC).

**Pinyon Jay**—Several were east to Mills Canyon 23-24 Mar (SOW, PM).

**American Crow**—Continued to expand its breeding range, including a nest in Mills Canyon 23 May (DJC) and another nest in northwest Albuquerque's Paradise Hills in Apr (WHH).

**Purple Martin**—Only one was noted in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. west of Raton 14 May (DJC), although the species has nested there in recent years.

**Tree Swallow**—A pair was entering a nest box at Eagle Nest 29 Apr (DJC).

**Violet-green Swallow**—East was one at the Mosquero escarpment 5 May (JRO).

**Barn Swallow**—Unusual at 10,500 ft were several at buildings on South Baldy, Magdalena Mts. 24 May (HRS).

**Mexican Chickadee**—Although long considered resident in the Animas Mts., local nesting by this species was undocumented there until this season, when a pair was observed carrying food into a cavity 10-11 May (AMC).

**Juniper Titmouse**—An active nest in Guadalupe Canyon 11 May (NM-C) was at the southern fringe of the breeding range.

**Bushtit**—A nearly completed nest was in the Corrales bosque 31 Mar (WHH); another nest under construction in Post Office Canyon 1 Apr produced fledglings by 1 May (CDL).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Late for the RGV was one at Sabinal 28 Apr (CMR).

**Canyon Wren**—Very early was a pair feeding nestlings in Walnut Canyon, CCNP 23 Mar (SW).

**Carolina Wren**—Returned to the news this season, with singing singles at the Sumner L. boat launch 28 Apr (JRO) and at Socorro's Riverine Park 8 Mar (JEP).

**Sedge Wren**—A heard-only single at Bosque NWR 29 Mar (DJK) provided the only report.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Spring arrival in Post Office Canyon was on 23 Mar, where a male was on territory 27 Mar, a female was noted 16 Apr, the pair was feeding nestlings 22 May and there were 2 fledglings 29 May (CDL).

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**—One was in the Little Hatchet Mts. 10 May (LKM).

**Eastern Bluebird**—Easterns where seldom reported were one at Sugarite SP 28 Mar & 10 Apr (DJC\*) and 3 at Mills Canyon 2 Mar (DJC\*\*). Late was one at Corrales 12 May (WHH).

**Western Bluebird**—Noteworthy for the northeast was a pair feeding nestlings in Mills Canyon 6 May (DJC).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—Migration through Post Office Canyon peaked during 15-26 Mar; last seen there was one on 17 Apr (CDL).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**—With but one certain record, this species is unquestionably the rarest thrush in New Mexico; fairly well-described this season was a possible one at NRT 27 May (WFW\*).

**Wood Thrush**—One was at NRT from 31 May into early Jun (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), providing the 6<sup>th</sup> record for that locality.

**Gray Catbird**—This species continued its southward expansion, including 5 territorial singers at Bosque Redondo 27 May (JRO) and a pair at Quarai 12 & 19 May (NP, NV).

**Northern Mockingbird**—Seemed to cope with the drought by moving higher in elevation, including 6 on territory at 7500 ft along Bluewater Cr. 31 May (HRS). One at Hatchet Gap 27 May was giving a convincing Common Parakee imitation (SOW).

**Brown Thrasher**—Among the several reports was one west to Clanton Cienega 20 May (NM-C).

**Long-billed Thrasher**—One was singing at Bosque Redondo 16 Mar (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), marking the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive spring that the species has been recorded there.

**Crissal Thrasher**—North were 2 at Eldorado 13 May (DWS).

**Sprague's Pipit**—Late was one well-seen 14 miles east of Las Vegas 24 May (WFW\*), where it was pinned down by strong winds.

**Phainopepla**—North was a male near Carnuel 19 May (CMB). In the southeast, 3 nests were active at Rattlesnake Springs by late May (*fide* SW).

**Olive Warbler**—At least 5 were on Signal Peak by 29 Mar (*fide* DAZ).

**Blue-winged Warbler**—A singing male was at NRT 14 May (WFW\*), and another singing male was at San Andres NWR 20 May (CMR\*, MEW).

**Golden-winged Warbler**—A female was at NRT 19 May (DAE\*, BDN\*, JRO\*\*).

**Virginia's Warbler**—Earliest was one singing at Cherry Creek CG, Pinos Altos Mts. 7 Apr (DAZ).

**Lucy's Warbler**—The species was notably conspicuous in the RGV, from Sabinal (CMR) and Luis Lopez (JRO) southward.

**Northern Parula**—Maintaining its status as one of the most frequently observed “eastern” warblers in New Mexico, singles were at nine sites: a male at Los Alamos 19 Apr (SMF\*), a singing male at Water Canyon 18 May (DWM\*), a female at Luis Lopez 25 Apr (JRO\*), a female at NRT 19 May (JRO, DAE, BDN), a male near Field 4 May (JRO\*\*), one at BLNWR 13 Apr (CMR), one west to Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 23 Apr (AMC, NM-C), a male at NMSU in Las Cruces 3 May (CWB\*), and a female at Rattlesnake Springs 26 May (JRO\*\*).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—Made a good showing, with singles at Pritzloff Ranch near Las Vegas 11 May (CMR), a male at Los Maravillas east of Belen 9 May (DWS), a male at Quarai 11-12 May (HRS, sketch NV, NP), and a male at NRT 18-19 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, DAE, BDN).

**Magnolia Warbler**—Two were at NRT 19 May (DAE\*, BDN\*), where at least one remained through 27 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, WFW\*). West was an apparent ad. female at Albuquerque's Paradise Hills golf course 9 May (JPD\*).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler**—Earliest were singing singles at Water Canyon 5 Apr (JEP) and Cherry Creek CG, Pinos Altos Mts. 7 Apr (*fide* DAZ). Rare on the eastern plains, one was at NRT 26-28 Apr (JRO, JEP).

**Blackburnian Warbler**—A female was at NRT 11 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Yellow-throated Warbler**—An ad. male of the white-lored race was singing at Sabinal 20-21 Apr (Dolores Varela-Phillips\*\*); another white-lored individual was at Luis Lopez 29 Apr (JRO\*\*).

**Prairie Warbler**—A singing male was seen at Rattlesnake Springs 26 May (JRO\*); there are fewer than 10 credible New Mexico reports, of which only 4 are certain.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**—A male was at NRT 11 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*); a female was there 18 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Blackpoll Warbler**—A female was at NRT 19 May (JRO\*, DAE\*, BDN\*).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—Very early was a female at Luis Lopez 5 Apr (JRO\*\*, JEP). Others were singles at NRT 11 & 18 May (JEP, JRO\*\*), Quarai 11 May (GRF\*), Bosque NWR 11 May (DAE, BDN), and Rattlesnake Springs 17 May (JWS\*).

**American Redstart**—Reported from five locales: an imm. male at Quarai 12 May (NP), 3 female-plumaged individuals at I-40 reststops west of Santa Rosa 25 May (BV), 1-3 at NRT 8-31 May (v.o.), one near Lingo 11 May (LAS), and one at Rattlesnake Springs 12 & 17 May (JRO, JWS\*).

**Louisiana Waterthrush**—A heard-only individual was tape-recorded at Rattlesnake Springs 13 May (audio JRO); there are but 12 previous New Mexico reports.

**Kentucky Warbler**—Nicely-described was a female in the Corrales bosque 6 May (DJK\*).

**MacGillivray's Warbler**—Exceptionally early was a male at Walnut Canyon, CCNP 23 Mar (SW).

**Hooded Warbler**—Singles were at Albuquerque's Kirtland AFB 24 Apr (JEP), Escondida L. 29 May (DLH), Boone's Draw 24 May (JEP), BLNWR 27 Apr (JRO\*\*, JEP, DJK), and Rattlesnake Springs 25 Apr (JEP).

**Red-faced Warbler**—Certainly unexpected in the RGV, one was near Escondida L. 15 May (DLH).

**Painted Redstart**—Earliest was one singing along Big Dry Cr. south of Pleasanton 16 Mar (SOW).

**Hepatic Tanager**—Among several easterly reports was a male singing at the Mosquero escarpment 5 May (JRO).



**Summer Tanager**—Single males were north to Pritzlaff Ranch near Las Vegas 11 May (CMR) and Puerto de Luna 26 May (WHH). Unusual for Silver City was a first-year male there 15-19 May (DAZ, MAZ).

**Scarlet Tanager**—An ad. male at Quarai 25 May (Jennifer Holmes\*) provided a *Torrance* first.

**American Tree Sparrow**—Latest was one at Springer L. 18 Mar (DJC).

**Brewer's Sparrow**—Up to 4 were singing in the Maxwell area 7 May (DJC).

**Henslow's Sparrow**—A probable one was seen at Bosque NWR 28 Apr (James Place\*) and again 29 Apr (DLH\*), when it was seen and heard singing. There are no previous New Mexico reports; details of this one are being evaluated.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—Late for the south was one in Post Office Canyon 17-18 May (CDL) and one banded at Clanton Cienega 20 May (AMC). One was singing in the Zuni Mts. along Bluewater Cr. 31 May (HRS).

**White-throated Sparrow**—Notably late was one singing at Corrales 6 May (DJK).

**Harris's Sparrow**—Lingering from winter were singles at Luis Lopez until 23 Apr (JRO\*\*) and L. Roberts 25 Apr (CMR).

**“White-winged” Junco**—One at Sugarite SP 5 Mar (DJC\*\*) provided a local first.

**Lapland Longspur**—A male in full breeding plumage was at LVNWR 18 Mar (WFW\*).

**Northern Cardinal**—Very far north, a singing male at Maxwell 7-26 Apr (DJC\*\*) furnished the first certain record for *Colfax*. Others in the north were one at Santa Rosa 8 May (WFW) and a singing male at NRT 26 & 28 Apr (JRO).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Yet another strong showing, with reports of 1-3 at 18 sites nearly statewide during the period 26 Apr-30 May (m.ob.), including west to Cliff (SHS), Silver City (DAZ, MAZ+), and Separ (LKM).

**Varied Bunting**—Singles noted in Guadalupe Canyon 10 May (NM-C), at San Andres NWR 20 May (CMR, MEW), and in Walnut Canyon, CCNP 28 May (WFW) implied that those three core populations were persisting.

**Painted Bunting**—Early was one at Rattlesnake Springs 26 Apr (JEP). North were singles singing near Radium Springs 31 May (MTS, JEZ) and at NRT 27 May (JEP).

**Dickcissel**—Early was a territorial male battling with a Blue Grosbeak at Fort Sumner 14 May (WFW).

**Bobolink**—A migrant male singing at NRT 14 May (WFW) provided a local first.

**Brewer's Blackbird**—The species is a rare breeder in central New Mexico, so noteworthy were 6 breeding at the Paako Ridge golf course north of Sandia Park 6 May (HRS) and another 6 breeding in east Albuquerque at Eubank and Central 25 May (HRS).

**Common Grackle**—In the west were singles at Quemado L. 7 Apr (JRO\*\*), Sapillo Cr., Grant 25 Apr (CMR), and Deming 11 May (LKM).

**Bronzed Cowbird**—Continuing an unfortunate trend, this species was found at multiple sites in *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, and *Eddy*; north were singles at Silver City 12 May (ERL), Percha SP 6 May (GJE), Roswell 27 May (WFW), BLNWR 19-21 May (GLW), and Oasis SP 17 May (JEP).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—Another unfortunate sign of the times: the 517 tallied in *Grant* 11 May (DAZ+) made this the most numerous bird species counted in the county that day.

**Orchard Oriole**—Increased its presence in north-central areas, with 1-3 at Ned Houk Park near Clovis 17-25 May (JEP, JRO), one at Tolar 26 May (WHH), and 2 at Fort Sumner 19 May (DAE, BDN). Far north was an ad. male at Maxwell 12 May (DJC\*\*).

**Baltimore Oriole**—An ad. male strayed to Mills Canyon 22 Apr (DJC\*). A young male was at NRT 28 Apr (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Scott's Oriole**—On its northeastern frontier were singles at Quarai 11 May (HRS) and near Sabinoso 5 May (JRO) and 2 at NRT 28 Apr (JEP, JRO\*\*) & 4 May (JRO); at Silver City, however, the species was judged much reduced from former numbers there (DAZ).

**Rosy-Finch**—Last of the Sandia Crest Rosy-Finches were 2 **Gray-crowneds**, 10 **Blacks**, and 5 **Brown-cappeds** 3 Mar (CMB), while 4, 5, and 3, respectively, were at the Taos ski area 8 Apr (TG). Unusual at 7000 ft were 4 Brown-cappeds drinking from a puddle in the Manzano Mts. 1 Apr (Van Sutherland).

**Pine Grosbeak**—One was west of Angel Fire at Palo Flechado Pass, *Colfax* 23 Mar (DJC).

**Cassin's Finch**—Conspicuous in the southwest, including 4 near Kingston 24 Apr (CMR), 40 at Emory Pass, Black Range 20 Apr (JEP), and one at Silver City 28 Mar & 2 Apr (ERL); east were 5 at Mills Canyon 9 Mar (DJC).

**Red Crossbill**—Six in the Manzano Mts. north of Mountainair 10 Mar increased to 10 during Apr and to 17 in May, when ads. were feeding fledglings (TH).

**Lesser Goldfinch**—Early for the north was one in Mills Canyon 2 Mar (DJC).

\* \* \*

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**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**