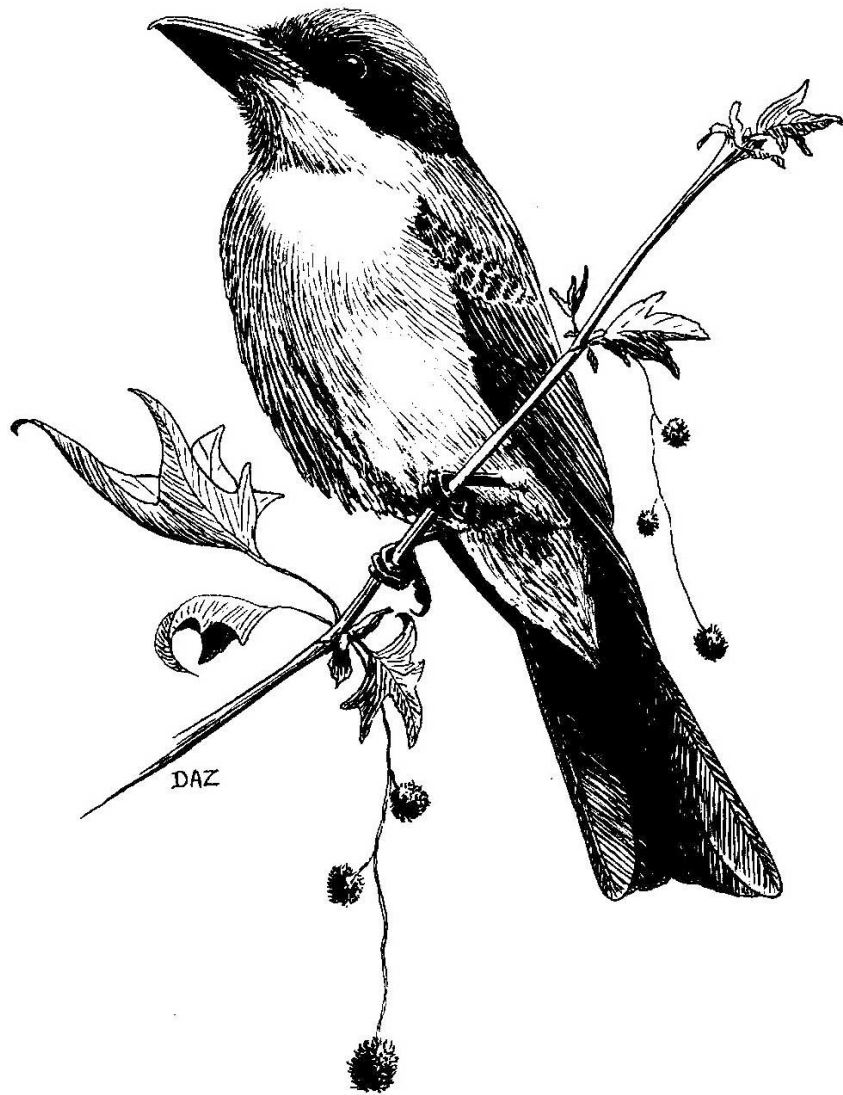


*New Mexico
Ornithological Society
Field Notes*



Volume 41, Number 3, Summer 2002

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

Volume 41, Number 3, Summer 2002

1 June – 31 July 2002

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sartor O. Williams III, *Editor*

William H. Howe, *Assistant Editor*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Southwest Natural History Institute
1819 Meadowview Drive NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104-2511
(sunbittern@earthlink.net)

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.

SUMMER SEASON 2002

Extreme drought conditions continued into Summer 2002, with forest and range fires and dry rivers and reservoirs dominating the local and national news. Breeding birds were affected and many species—especially Neotropical migrants—abandoned the effort and began to wander. Scattered rains in July, however, allowed some resident species to nest successfully. Several genuine rarities were documented, as was the first successful Aplomado Falcon nest in half a century.

Localities and Counties

Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Heron Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Angel Fire, <i>Colfax</i>	Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>
Animas, Cr., Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Isleta, <i>Bernalillo/Valencia</i>
Bandelier NM, <i>Sandoval</i>	Jornada, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	La Joya, WMA, <i>Socorro</i>
Black Lake, <i>Colfax</i>	Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>
Bluewater Canyon, Creek, <i>Cibola</i>	Lakewood, <i>Eddy</i>
Boone's Draw, <i>Roosevelt</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>	Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Broadview, <i>Curry</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Manzano, Mts., <i>Torrance</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Carrizozo, <i>Lincoln</i>	Mayhill, <i>Otero</i>
Cimarron, <i>Colfax</i>	Mills Canyon, <i>Harding</i>
Clanton Canyon, Cienega, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Mimbres, <i>Grant</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Mogollon, <i>Catron</i>
Cloudcroft, <i>Otero</i>	Mosquero, <i>Harding</i>
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Mountainair, <i>Torrance</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	New Mexico State Univ., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Corona, <i>Lincoln</i>	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap [NRT], <i>Roosevelt</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Orilla Verde, <i>Taos</i>
Coyote Creek SP, <i>Mora</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Pastura, <i>Guadalupe</i>
El Vado Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Pecos, <i>San Miguel</i>
Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Eunice, <i>Lea</i>	Pep, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Farley, <i>Colfax</i>	Peralta, <i>Valencia</i>
Fence Lake, <i>Cibola</i>	Piñon, <i>Otero</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>	Pinos Altos, Mts., <i>Grant</i>
Gallinas Mts., <i>Lincoln</i>	Playas Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Gila, <i>Grant</i>	Pleasanton, <i>Catron</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Gila Hot Springs, <i>Grant</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Glenwood, <i>Catron</i>	Quarai, <i>Torrance</i>
Glorieta, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Guadalupe Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Ramah Lake, <i>McKinley</i>
Guadalupe Mts., <i>Eddy</i>	Raton, <i>Colfax</i>

Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
 Redrock, *Grant*
 Reserve, *Catron*
 Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*
 Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
 Roswell, *Chaves*
 Rowe, *San Miguel*
 Sabinoso, *San Miguel*
 Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
 San Luis Mts., Pass, *Hidalgo*
 San Marcial, *Socorro*
 San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo*
 Santa Fe, Ski Basin, *Santa Fe*
 Santa Rosa, Lake, Dam, *Guadalupe*
 Santo Domingo, *Sandoval*

Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*
 Skeleton Canyon, *Hidalgo*
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*
 Tucumcari, Lake, *Quay*
 Tyrone, *Grant*
 Vadito, *Taos*
 Vick's Peak, *Socorro*
 Villanueva, *San Miguel*
 Weed, *Otero*
 White Oaks, *Lincoln*
 Willow Lake, *Eddy*
 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
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)
GBA	Gila Bird Area	sp.	species
L.	Lake	m.ob	many observers
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	v.o.	various observers
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	+	others; et al.
NM	National Monument	*	written details provided
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	**	photo or tape provided
NP	National Park	***	specimen obtained
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap		
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

Initialed Observers

SA	Steven Albert	BDN	Bruce D. Neville
KB	Kathy Brodhead	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DJC	David J. Cleary	JEP	John E. Parmeter
KMC	Kathleen M. Cotton	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	BKP	Brandon K. Percival
AMC	Alan M. Craig	EMR	Eric M. Rominger
JD-M	Joan Day-Martin	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
JPD	John P. DeLong	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
DAE	Douglas A. Emkalns	GS	Giancarlo Sadoti
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
SMF	Stephen M. Fetting	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
DF	Denise Friedrich	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	PRS	Patricia R. Snider
KG	Kathy Granillo	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	SHS	Scott H. Stoleson
WHH	William H. Howe	JT	Joyce Takamine
TH	Tyler Huning	BV	Brad Vaughn
THJ	Terrell H. Johnson	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
DJK	David J. Krueper	MLW	Mark L. Watson
RK	Robert Kruidenier	ReW	Renee West
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	RW	Robert Wilcox
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	SW	Steve West
BJL	Brian J. Long	WFW	William F. West
LKM	Larry K. Malone	BW	Bill Willard
PM	Patricia Mehlhop	SOW	S. O. Williams III
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer	HDW	Hope D. Woodward
GM	Gale Monson	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
JBM	James B. Montgomery	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig	MAZ	Marian A. Zimmerman

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Loon—Unusual were up to 3 summering at Stubblefield L. 7 Jun-31 Jul (DJC, JEP, JRO, BKP).

Pied-billed Grebe—Locally produced juvs. were at Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 2 Jun (SOW) and La Joya 11 Jul (WHH).

American White Pelican—Perhaps refugees from drought conditions farther north, White Pelicans appeared at several locales, including highs of 240 near Mosquero 16 Jun (CMR), 40 at EBL 3 Jul (WFW), and 26 at Maxwell NWR 22 Jul (DJC).

Neotropic Cormorant—High count amounted to only 34 at Bosque NWR 21 Jul (CMR). An ad. was north to La Joya 11 Jul (WHH).

Anhinga—A well-described female along the Rio Grande in White Rock Canyon, *Sandoval* 1 Jun (SMF) furnished the state's 4th record overall.

Great Egret—Noteworthy was one north to the Cimarron area 6 Jun (DJC). A high 12 were north to La Joya 11 Jul (WHH).

Little Blue Heron—An imm. at Bosque NWR 21 Jul (CMR) provided the lone report.

Tricolored Heron—One was at BLNWR 17-31 Jul (GLW+).

Reddish Egret—Nicely documented was an imm. at Bosque Redondo 7 Jun (JRO**) & 10 Jun (John J. Levy**).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—Three active nests were in pines near the Rio Rancho golf course in Jun (WHH).

White Ibis—The ad. in the Bosque NWR-La Joya area in May was last reported at Bosque NWR 4 Jun (RK).

Roseate Spoonbill—Two imms. at BLNWR 24-25 Jul (JBM*, Brady McGee**) furnished only the 3rd well-documented New Mexico record and the first since 1984.

Wood Duck—Among the reports were a male at Stubblefield L. 29 Jun-6 Jul (DJC**), one near Black L. 30 Jun (PRS, CMR), a pair at Glorieta 30 Jun (JRO).

Ring-necked Duck—Unusual were 1-2 at Tyrone on various dates 2 Jun-28 Jul (ERL).

Lesser Scaup—Unusual were 3 south to Holloman L. 28 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

Hooded Merganser—Apparently summering were singles at Stubblefield L. 29 Jun (DJC**) and Maxwell NWR 13 Jul (BKP).

Common Merganser—Noteworthy for *Colfax* was a female with 4 juvs. on the Cimarron R. east of Cimarron 3 Jun (DJC).

Osprey—New Mexico's breeding population increased to 14 pairs this season, with 12 in the Heron-El Vado area (DWS), one at Cochiti (MLW), and a new one at Ramah L. (THJ); none were known prior to 1990. The nests at Cochiti and Ramah L. each fledged 2 young (MLW, THJ) but, perhaps due to drought and low water, productivity was poor in the Heron-El Vado area, where only 7 pairs were successful, and with only 10 young fledged (DWS).

Bald Eagle—Of the three active nests in *Colfax*, only one was successful, fledging 2 young in Jun (SOW).

Gray Hawk—A juv. was in New Mexico near the state line in Guadalupe Canyon 5 Jul (JEP*, JRO*).

Common Black-Hawk—Two were north in the Pecos Valley to Santa Rosa 1 Jun (DAE, BDN). A record 10 occupied territories were in *Lincoln*, with six active nests under observation in Jun (DWS, Ron Troy). Black-Hawks fared well in the Cliff-Gila Valley, where there were 28 pairs in Jun (SHS). An active nest was near Mimbres 10 Jun (CLH).

Harris's Hawk—One was north to Bosque NWR 2 Jun (RK).

Zone-tailed Hawk—Unusual was one in the lower RGV near Radium Springs 4 Jun & 9 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

Ferruginous Hawk—A nest with 2 downy young was at Sauz Cr., *Colfax* 12 Jun (DJC**).

Aplomado Falcon—A resident pair in southern New Mexico fledged 3 young by 31 Jul (RAM), marking the first successful nesting by naturally occurring Aplomado Falcons in New Mexico—and the United States—in 50 years. This historic natural re-colonization event may be threatened by proposed releases of hundreds of captive Aplomados of tropical lowland origin into the high desert grasslands of west Texas and southern New Mexico.

Ring-necked Pheasant—One with chicks on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 20 Jul (DJC**) was noteworthy for that area of *Colfax*. A female was tending 13 chicks at Peralta 3 Jun (KMC).

White-tailed Ptarmigan—Encouraging was evidence of up to 5 on Latir Peak, *Taos* 11 Jun (EMR*, BJL*), where last documented in 1978.

Blue Grouse—Although rarely reported, a small population persists in the mountains east of Mogollon, where 2 were near Silver Creek Divide 15 Jul (Jack & Martha Carter *fide* DAZ, MAZ).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken—The 3 seen 3 miles northeast of Broadview 11 Jun (LAS) were at the northern fringe of the currently occupied New Mexico range. Overall, the species has been nearly eliminated from over 80% of its historic range.

Snowy Plover—Peaked at BLNWR with 371 on 21 Jun (GLW) and 18 at Holloman L. 14 Jun (GJE). Elsewhere, there were up to 5 at Maxwell NWR 4-15 Jun (DJC), 2 at Springer L. 13 Jul (JEP, JRO), and 5 at Sumner L. 7 Jun (JRO).

Semipalmated Plover—Early was one at Stubblefield L. 31 Jul (DJC).

Killdeer—High counts were 56 at Maxwell 18 Jul (DJC) and 107 at BLNWR 3 Jul (GLW).

Mountain Plover—An ad. with a chick was near Farley 13 Jul (JEP, JRO) and another ad. was with a chick at Santo Domingo 11 Jun (WFW). At least 5—including a pair with a chick—were near Costilla, *Taos* 27 Jun (BJL).

Black-necked Stilt—Family groups were at Tucumcari L. 7 Jul (CMR), Isleta marsh 21 Jul (CMR), and La Joya 11 Jul (WHH). High count at BLNWR was 284 on 31 Jul (GLW).

American Avocet—Noteworthy was a pair at Zuni in early Jun (SA). High counts included 239 at BLNWR 21 Jun (GLW), 190 at Holloman L. 14 Jun (GJE), and 70 at Willow L. 8 Jun (SW, ReW).

Greater Yellowlegs—One at BLNWR 21 Jun (GLW) was the only June report. Presumably early fall migrants were 5 at BLNWR 3 Jul (GLW), one at Bosque NWR 3 Jul (JRO), one at Tucumcari L. 6 Jul (DAE, BDN, CMR), and 3 at EBL 7 Jul (JRO).

Lesser Yellowlegs—Earliest were 2 at Ruby Ranch near Las Vegas 2 Jul (WFW) and one at BLNWR 3 Jul (GLW), where there were 40 on 10 Jul (GLW).

Solitary Sandpiper—Earliest was one at Sevilleta NWR 11 Jul (WHH). Others included 1-2 at Bosque NWR 21-22 Jul (CMR, JRO), one at Luis Lopez 22 Jul (JRO), one in *Hidalgo* 24 Jul (LKM), and 4 near Pep 25 Jul (LAS).

Willet—Presumably early fall migrants were one near Cimarron 20 Jun (DJC) and 7 at BLNWR 21 Jun (GJW); up to 3 were at EBL by 7 Jul (JEP, JRO) and one was at RGNC 17 Jul (GM).

Spotted Sandpiper—An ad. was incubating 4 eggs along Bluewater Cr. 11 Jun (HRS). Noteworthy for Sumner L. was an apparently territorial pair there 4 Jun (WHH).

Upland Sandpiper—At least 8 migrants were near Portales 24 Jul (LAS).

Long-billed Curlew—Possibly owing to dry conditions, curlews fared poorly in New Mexico breeding areas this season, and several appeared in non-breeding areas quite early, including one at Albuquerque 9 Jun (BDN) and 51 near Loving 6 Jun (SW).

Marbled Godwit—Earliest were 5 at EBL 7 Jul (JEP, JRO) and one at Springer L. 18 Jul (DJC). One at Tyrone 28 Jul (ERL) furnished a local first.

Sanderling—Late were 2 at BLNWR 4 Jun (WHH); early was one at Stubblefield L. 6 Jul (DJC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—West was one at Bosque NWR 22 Jul (JRO**).

Western Sandpiper—Earliest were 2 at Bosque NWR 3 Jul (JRO) and 171 at BLNWR 10 Jul (GLW), where there had been none 3 Jul (GLW).

White-rumped Sandpiper—A flock of about 30 frequented Sumner L. 1-7 Jun (DAE, BDN, WHH, JRO). Farther west, 10 were near Cimarron 6 Jun (DJC) and one was at Ruby Ranch near Las Vegas 9 Jun (WFW). In the east, 4 were at Portales 1 Jun (JRO) with one still there 9 Jun (JRO) and one was at Brantley L. 2 Jun (JRO).

Pectoral Sandpiper—Unusual for the date and locale were 3 at Deming 13 Jul (LKM*).

Stilt Sandpiper—Late were singles at Sumner L. 1 Jun (DAE, BDN) and Maxwell NWR 4 Jun (DLC) and 13 at BLNWR 7 Jun (GLW). First fall arrivals at BLNWR were 44 on 17 Jul (GLW) with 109 there 31 Jul (GLW). High count elsewhere was 20 at Ruby Ranch near Las Vegas 27 Jul (WFW).

Wilson's Snipe—Suggestive of local breeding was one winnowing at Springer L. 4 Jun (SOW); 6 were on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 6 Jun (DJC).

Laughing Gull—Lingering from the spring invasion was a subad. at Sumner L. 4 Jun (WHH**).

Forster's Tern—Unusual were 14 at Bosque NWR 3 Jul (WFW).

Least Tern—The breeding population at BLNWR enjoyed a relatively good breeding season: of 11 ad. pairs present, nine successfully hatched chicks, and 17 eventually fledged (JBM). Elsewhere, 5 were at Brantley L. 9 Jun (JRO) and one was at Holloman L. 28 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

Black Tern—The species is unexpected anywhere in New Mexico in late June, so noteworthy were 2 at Stubblefield L. 15 Jun (DJC), 2 at BLNWR 21 Jun (GLW), and 9 at Maxwell NWR 29 Jun (DJC).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—This invader continued much in evidence from the RGV eastward, and in the Silver City area (m.ob). Noteworthy were 2 at Los Alamos 7 Jul (*fide* JT).

White-winged Dove—One was north to Maxwell 27 Jun & 10 Jul (DJC**) and 2 were vocal at Los Alamos 3 Jun (SMF). Interesting carnivorous behavior was observed at Roswell, where White-wingeds perched on algal mats in the Spring R. and fed on damselflies attempting to lay eggs (Robert R. Larsen).

Mourning Dove—In northwest Albuquerque's Paradise Hills, a determined pair fledged one young from its 5th nesting effort of the season on 16 Jul and was incubating nest number six on 19 Jul (WHH).

Common Ground-Dove—One was vocal near Radium Springs 6-9 Jun (MTS*, JEZ**). At least 4—and possibly 7—were at Clanton Cienega, Animas Valley 6 Jun (JEP, JRO**).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Several were noted in areas where seldom reported, including 3 on Perico Cr., *Union* 27 Jun (HRS), 2 at Portales 24 Jul (LAS), one on Little Cherry Cr., Pinos Altos Mts. 10 Jul (DF), and 1 at Clanton Cienega 6 Jul (JRO).

Whiskered Screech-Owl—A vocal one in Post Office Canyon 18 Jun (CDL) furnished a local first and the northernmost yet for the Peloncillo Mts.

Elf Owl—In the southeast in *Eddy*, small numbers were found in Last Chance Canyon but none were noted at Upper Dark Canyon or Rocky Arroyo sites (SW).

Burrowing Owl—Some 500 were counted at 83 of 131 prairie dog towns visited in *Quay*, *Curry*, and *Roosevelt* through the period (LAS); 29 ads. and a similar number of juvs. were at a single site near Pep 29 Jun (SHS). In the southwest, three family groups, each with juvs., were in the southern Animas Valley 17 Jul (JMR).

Long-eared Owl—An ad. was tending 3 nestlings in the Sandia Mts. near La Madera, *Sandoval* 15 Jun (MRG).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—A vocal one was at 9590 ft. on Eagle Peak, *Catron* 15 Jun (JRO); breeding-season records in southwest New Mexico are scarce.

Chimney Swift—West were one at Raton 13 Jul (BKP) and 2 at Las Vegas 12 Jun (WFW).

White-throated Swift—Four at the Mosquero escarpment 16 Jun (CMR) including ads. feeding nestlings. One was at the caprock escarpment north of Bellview, *Curry* 11 Jun (LAS).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—North in the Peloncillo Mts. were single males at Post Office Canyon 13-24 Jun & 1-31 Jul (CDL) and Skeleton Canyon 27 Jul (JRO). Far east was a male at Carlsbad 13 Jun & 27 Jul (Eric Pierce *fide* SW).

Berylline Hummingbird—One was visiting thistles in the southern Animas Valley near San Luis Pass 10 Jun (SOW*); there is but one previous New Mexico report.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—A female was nesting in Guadalupe Canyon 13 Jun (SOW); females were observed collecting nest material at two additional locales there 12 Jun (SOW).

Magnificent Hummingbird—Singles were noted at Gila Hot Springs 7 Jul (JEP, JRO), near Pinos Altos 18 Jul (Sue Scott *fide* DAZ, MAZ), and near Cliff 13 Jul (Patricia Taber *fide* DAZ, MAZ). Five were banded at L. Roberts during the period 30 May-29 Jul, including an apparently nesting female 11 Jun (JD-M), and 2 were banded along nearby Sapillo Cr. 7-10 Jun, including an apparently nesting female on the latter date (JD-M). In the Sacramento Mts., one was south of Cloudcroft on the R. Peñasco 16 Jun (WHH).

Lucifer Hummingbird—Away from their Post office Canyon stronghold were a male in Skeleton Canyon 28 Jul (JEP, JRO**) and a female in Clanton Canyon 24 Jul (LKM*).

Anna's Hummingbird—An ad. male in Post Office Canyon Jun-Jul was joined by a 2nd male there 18-19 Jul (CDL). Other post-breeding Anna's were singles at Deming 12-13 Jul (LKM) and Carlsbad 26 Jul (SW*).

Calliope Hummingbird—Earliest fall migrants were singles at Deming 4 Jul (LKM), Luis Lopez 9 Jul (JRO), and Radium Springs 9 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

Rufous Hummingbird—Earliest returnees were singles at Los Alamos 27 Jun (JT), in the Manzano Mts. 27 Jun (TH), and Coyote Cr. canyon, *Mora* 30 Jun (CMR); arrived in *Socorro*, *Grant*, and *Hidalgo* by 1 Jul (v.o.).

***Selasphorus* sp.**—A totally green-backed male at Luis Lopez 24-26 Jul (JEP*, JRO**) may have been an Allen's; a mostly green-backed Rufous was present at the same time.

Belted Kingfisher—An ad. carrying food along Ponil Cr. east of Cimarron 8 Jul (DJC) was suggestive of local nesting; another was along the Valencia Drain near Peralta 13 Jun (KMC).

Red-headed Woodpecker—A pair nesting at Carlsbad 28 Jun produced at least one young by 30 Jul (*fide* SW), apparently the first successful *Eddy* breeding in many years.

Acorn Woodpecker—Noteworthy for the Manzano Mts. were up to 3 north of Mountainair 18 Jun-17 Jul (TH).

Red-naped Sapsucker—A nest in a narrowleaf cottonwood at 7500 ft. in Bluewater Canyon, Zuni Mts. hatched young on about 10 Jun (HRS); a nest in an aspen at 7500 ft. in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts. hatched young on about 12 Jun (HRS).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker—Two were found dead in an Otero Mesa stock tank 2 Jun (SW).

Downy Woodpecker—A female along the Rio Grande at Sevilleta NWR 11 Jul (WHH) may have been a local breeder.

Three-toed Woodpecker—Remarkably low in elevation was an ad. male near San Francisco Hot Springs south of Pleasanton 14 Jul (HDW*); the species is resident in the higher reaches of the nearby Mogollon Mts.

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—An ad. was adding lining to a nearly-completed nest in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW).

Olive-sided Flycatcher—One was in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 15 Jun (HRS), where summer residency is possible but not proven.

Willow Flycatcher—There was good news for the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher in the middle RGV, with a record 12 territories in the La Joya-Sevilleta area, 3 territories in new areas north of Bosque NWR, and a record 56 territories near San Marcial Jun-Jul (Bureau of Reclamation). Elsewhere, 4 pairs on Ponil Cr. east of Cimarron 14 Jun-24 Jul (DJC) furnished a *Colfax* summer first, beavers created new habitat for a pair at Blackrock near Zuni in Jun (SA), and a single was on the Pecos R. at Villanueva 27 Jun (GM).

Gray Flycatcher—Now widespread in northern New Mexico, 2-6 were south to Reserve (JRO), Vick's Peak (HRS), White Oaks (SOW), and Piñon (WHH) 2-16 Jun.

Dusky Flycatcher—A vocal one was south to Pumphouse Canyon near Cloudcroft 16 Jun (SW).

“Western” Flycatcher—A late one was east to NRT 4 Jun (WHH).

Black Phoebe—Far north and a *Colfax* first was a nest near Cimarron that produced fledglings by 13 Jul (DJC**). A reported 40 were feasting on flies at a Peralta horse barn 13 Jun (KMC).

Eastern Phoebe—There are few verified nesting records for New Mexico, so noteworthy was a nesting pair at Mills Canyon 25 Jun (HRS) that produced at least one fledgling by 16 Jul (DJC**).

Say's Phoebe—Two were at Sandia Crest 9 Jun (BV).

Vermilion Flycatcher—A pair was northeast to Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 7 Jun (JRO).

Great Crested Flycatcher—An ad. 13 mi southeast of Portales 10 Jul (LAS) provided the only report.

Thick-billed Kingbird—Notably scarce in Guadalupe Canyon, with only one there 11-13 Jun (SOW) and 2 noted 5 Jul (JEP, JRO).

Eastern Kingbird—A pair was feeding a juv. at Ruby Ranch north of Las Vegas 27 Jul (WFW).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—One strayed west to Sumner L. 16 Jul (Martin MacRoberts).

Rose-throated Becard—A possible, described as an ad. male, was reported at Las Cruces 6-7 Jun (Jill E. Green*, Lorraine Schulte*); never verified in New Mexico, this was the first to be reported since 1984.

White-eyed Vireo—Made a strong showing, with one singing along the Cimarron R. east of Cimarron 8 Jul (DJC**) and one singing along the Gila R. near Gila 17 Jun (HDW*, DF) and another (or possibly the same?) singing along the Gila R. above Mogollon Cr. 24 Jun (HDW*).

Bell's Vireo—Encouraging were 10 at Redrock 4 Jun (RW), and the species was described as more plentiful than usual in the Cliff-Gila Valley (SHS). Noteworthy were 2, including a singing male, at Davies Tank, WSMR headquarters, *Doña Ana* 2 Jul (GS).

Gray Vireo—Noteworthy were singles singing in the Caja del Rio area, *Santa Fe* 23 & 28 Jun (JRO, JEP), 10 at seven sites in the Quebradas area, *Socorro* 6 Jun (*fide* NSC), and at least one in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW).

Hutton's Vireo—Unexpected for the date and location were 1-2 in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW) and 5 Jul (JEP, JRO).

Red-eyed Vireo—One was on the Gila R. near Gila 1 Jul (KB, DF).

Blue Jay—Reports have increased recently in *Colfax*; this season one summered at Maxwell 12 Jun-21 Jul, where it was joined by another 22-31 Jul (DJC**).

Black-billed Magpie—Peripheral were singles in Mills Canyon 16 Jul (DJC), Canyon Blanco in southwestern *San Miguel* 29 Jun (JRO), and south to Peralta 16 Jun (KMC).

Chihuahua Raven—The species has only recently been found nesting north to *Mora* and *Colfax*; this season, nests were reported north of Wagon Mound, *Mora* (BW) and at several *Colfax* sites, including one north of Maxwell 4 Jun (KG), three south of Abbott 12 Jun & 11 Jul (DJC), and east of Springer (BW).

Purple Martin—Additional evidence of colonization of the Sangre de Cristo Mts. was provided by 15—including several juvs. being fed by ads.—on the Sapello R. at San Ignacio, *San Miguel* 27 Jul (WFW) and one at the base of Rowe Mesa near Rowe 8 Jun (CMR).

Violet-green Swallow—Far east were 2 at the Mosquero escarpment 16 Jun (CMR).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—A pair was tending 2 fledglings at Fort Sumner 3 Jun (SOW).

Bank Swallow—Owing to construction disturbance, northwest Albuquerque's Calabacillas Arroyo colony was reduced to about 175 nesting pairs 7 Jul (WHH). Three were at a cutbank in northeast Albuquerque 13 Jul (DJK).

Cave Swallow—Two were near Radium Springs 22 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

Mexican Chickadee—An apparent family group of 4 was in Indian Cr. Canyon, Animas Mts. 14 Jun (SOW, AMC).

Juniper Titmouse—East of expected was one at the Mosquero escarpment 16 Jun (CMR).

Brown Creeper—Singing singles where seldom reported were at Post Office Flats, Zuni Mts. 12 Jun (HRS) and Lackey Point, Gallinas Mts. 15 Jun (HRS). A record 12 were detected on the Cloudcroft BBS 16 Jun (WHH).

Cactus Wren—On their northeastern frontier were one in south *Harding* 21 Jun (DJC), 3 east of Pastura 4 Jun (WHH), and one in cholla near Rogers, *Roosevelt* 10 Jul (LAS).

Bewick's Wren—One was east to Perico Cr., *Union* 27 Jun (HRS).

House Wren—Perhaps recent arrivals to the area, 4 were in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 15 Jun (HRS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet—Quite late was one in Guadalupe Canyon 12 Jun (SOW).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—In the southwest were 3 at Redrock 4 Jun (RW) and singles there 4 Jul (JRO) and at San Simon Cienega 5 Jul (JEP) and Guadalupe Canyon 12 Jun (SOW).

Townsend's Solitaire—Two were in the Gallinas Mts. 15 Jun (HRS), where the species is a rare but regular breeder. Noteworthy was a vocal one in the Manzano Mts. 16 Jun (TH).

Veery—A vocal one near Vadito 2 Jul (WFW) furnished the only report of this scarce breeder.

Swainson's Thrush—Two were singing in the “traditional” Veery area near Vadito 29 Jun (JEP) and 2 Jul (WFW) and one was there 20 Jul (JRO). Late for the eastern plains was one at NRT 1 Jun (JEP, JRO, BDN).

Hermit Thrush—A very pale individual, reminiscent of a Gray-cheeked Thrush, was at NRT 1 Jun (JRO**).

Wood Thrush—The one found at NRT 31 May lingered there until 9 Jun (JRO**, JEP*, DAE*, BDN*, WHH*, SW*).

Gray Catbird—South in the middle and lower RGV were 2 at Sevilleta NWR 11 Jul (WHH) and singles at Bosque NWR 21 Jul (CMR) and Radium Springs 24 Jul (JEZ).

Northern Mockingbird—One was at 7500 ft near Mayhill 17 Jun & 30 Jul (SW).

Brown Thrasher—One was along Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 30 Jul (DJC*) and another was at Boone's Draw 23 Jul (LAS).

Bendire's Thrasher—A pair in the Caja del Rio area near Santa Fe 11 Jun (WFW) produced at least one fledgling by 23 Jun (JRO**).

Crissal Thrasher—One was north of BLNWR 5 Jun (WHH); the species is scarce so far north in the Pecos Valley.

European Starling—Likely reflecting increased urbanization, two on the Lakewood BBS 6 Jun (SW) were the first for that route.

Cedar Waxwing—Lingering were 2 at Dawson Cemetery near Cimarron 5 Jun (DJC).

Phainopepla—A male wandered north the Bluewater Cr., Zuni Mts. 11 Jun (HRS). Five, including a pair building a nest, were north to Quarai 16 Jul (HRS), and one was east to the Mayhill area 18 Jun (SW).

Orange-crowned Warbler—The 14 on the Cloudcroft BBS 16 Jun (WHH) furnished a high count for that route. An early fall migrant was in salt cedars near Radium Springs 29 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

Northern Parula—Single singing ad. males were at Corrales 25 Jun (DJK*) and Quarai 16 Jun (NDP).

Magnolia Warbler—An ad. male was at NRT 2 Jun (DAE*, BDN*).

“Audubon’s” Warbler—Unusual for summer was one east to Mills Canyon 17 Jun (DJC).

Yellow-throated Warbler—Unexpected was one at Rattlesnake Springs 21 Jul (BV*).

Bay-breasted Warbler—An ad. female was along Eagle Cr., *Lincoln* 17 Jun (SW*).

Black-and-white Warbler—A male was at NRT 4 Jun (WHH) and a female was on the Gila R. near Gila 17 Jul (KB).

American Redstart—A young male was singing at NRT 1 Jun (JEP, JRO, DAE, BDN) and another male was singing at Corrales 25 Jun (DJK).

Ovenbird—Surprising was a singing male at Corrales 25 Jun (DJK).

Common Yellowthroat—Far from any suitable habitat was one singing at Silver City 20 Jun (DAZ, MAZ).

Hooded Warbler—Three were singing along a 4 mi transect in the Corrales bosque 25 Jun, where at least one was present on 16 Jun & 16 Jul (DJK*).

Canada Warbler—Remarkable if accurate was a probable one, described as a female, on the Gila R. above Cliff on the very early date of 22 Jul (HDW*); there are but eight previous New Mexico records and none in fall earlier than 11 Sep.

Red-faced Warbler—One was north to the Diener Canyon area, Zuni Mts., *Cibola* 29 Jun (JPD*). Six were along the Rio Peñasco south of Cloudcroft 15-16 Jun (WHH).

Hepatic Tanager—The species is scarce in the Manzano Mts., so noteworthy were one near Cedro 30 Jun (JRO), a pair in Tajique Canyon 19 Jun (HRS), and one at Quarai 16 Jun (NDP). Early for the lowlands was one at Rattlesnake Springs 21 Jul (BV).

Summer Tanager—In the northeast were singles at Villanueva 27 Jun (GM) and near Sabinoso 16 Jun (CMR); in the east were one at Fort Sumner 3 Jun (SOW) and 2 at NRT 9 Jun (SW).

Western Tanager—The species was conspicuous in lowland areas by mid-Jul, suggesting early abandonment of dry mountains; among the earliest were singles at Silver City 28 Jun (DAZ, MAZ), Albuquerque 6 Jul (CMR), and Sevilleta NWR 11 Jul (WHH).

Green-tailed Towhee—Two were in the Gallinas Mts. 15 Jun (HRS), the 2nd consecutive year the species has occurred there. Early was one in the Corrales bosque 18 Jul (DJK).

Canyon Towhee—Two were east to the Caprock Amphitheater, *Quay* 5 Jun (LAS).

Botteri's Sparrow—The Animas Valley population continued to show some recovery from the 2000 fire, with 38 territories (but only 10 in or near the burned area) 1-5 Jul (SOW, PM). In the west Playas Valley, one was singing in atypical habitat 17 Jul (JMR, AMC, NM-C).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—One was north in the upper RGV to Orilla Verde 23 Jun (JT). An estimated 25 males were on territory in the Post Office Canyon area in late Jul (CDL).

Chipping Sparrow—Singles returned to La Joya 11 Jul (WHH) and Post Office Canyon 13 Jul (CDL).

Brewer's Sparrow—Breeding was confirmed in *Colfax*, with up to 5 males singing in saltbush habitat at Maxwell NWR 4 Jun-6 Jul, a pair mating 27 Jun, a nest with eggs 12 Jul, a nest with nestlings 25 Jul, and an ad. feeding fledglings 31 Jul (DJC**).

Black-chinned Sparrow—One was north in the RGV to Orilla Verde 23 Jun (JT).

Vesper Sparrow—One near Piñon 6 Jun (WHH) was at the southern edge of the breeding range. High counts were 70 on the Fence Lake BBS 13 Jun (DJK), 52 on the Pecos BBS 6 Jun (CMR), and 39 on the Maxwell BBS 4 Jun (KG).

Lark Bunting—The species was notably scarce in the northeast, and probably failed to nest. Fall migrants were in *Colfax* by 6 Jul (DJC) and *Roosevelt* by 18 Jul (LAS).

Song Sparrow—Only 2 territories were found along a Zuni Mts. transect in Jun (in wetter years, 6 territories are normal there); a nest with small nestlings was there 11 Jun (HRS).

White-crowned Sparrow—Late for the desert was one at Deming 10 Jun (LKM).

Yellow-eyed Junco—A partial survey in the Animas Mts. found 5 singing males 14 Jun (SOW, AMC), the most reported there in several years.

Northern Cardinal—One was singing in Twin Butte Canyon, western *Chaves* 1 Jun (SOW), where more-or-less dependable in recent years.

Pyrrhuloxia—A female wandered far north to Bandelier NM's White Rock Canyon, *Sandoval* 1 Jun (SMF*).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Following a strong spring showing, single males were at Jornada 1 Jun (RAM), Rattlesnake Springs 2 Jun (JRO), and near Gila 29 Jul (DF), and a male and female were together at Silver City 30 Jul (DAZ, MAZ).

Lazuli Bunting—Both Lazuli and **Indigo Buntings** were present together at several northern sites, including Dawson Cemetery near Cimarron, where there was a Lazuli X Indigo hybrid 4 Jul (DJC**).

Varied Bunting—Encouraging were 5 occupied territories in Guadalupe Canyon 11-13 Jun (SOW) and a male in Walnut Canyon, CCNP 9 Jun (JRO**) & 24 Jul (SW).

Painted Bunting—A male singing in the Canadian R. watershed near Newkirk 7 Jul (CMR, DAE) furnished a *Guadalupe* first; not far to the east, 5 were singing in the Tucumcari area 7 Jul (CMR). Noteworthy for *Otero* was a male east of Three Rivers 28 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

Dickcissel—Singles at LVNWR 9 Jun (WFW) and Bosque Redondo 7 Jun (JRO**) provided the only reports. Although searched for, none were detected in *Quay*, *Curry*, or *Roosevelt* Jun-Jul (LAS).

Bobolink—A male was in an alfalfa field along the Cimarron R. east of Cimarron 8 & 13 Jul (DJC**), but was not found 17 Jul, after the field was mowed.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Presumably early were 37 at Davies Tank, WSMR headquarters, *Doña Ana* 2 Jul (GS).

Brewer's Blackbird—The species continued its southward expansion, with a pair in Tajique Canyon, Manzano Mts. 19 Jun (HRS), several in *Catron* at Reserve, San Francisco Plaza, Rancho Grande, Alma, and Glenwood 14-16 Jun (JRO), and 2 at Sacramento plus 5 near Weed, *Otero* 9 Jun (JRO).

Bronzed Cowbird—Continued in evidence across the southern tier of counties in *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, *Eddy*, and *Lea*, including 5 at Eunice 1 Jun (JRO) of which one was believed to be a female of the eastern subspecies. North were 3 at Glenwood 15 Jun (JRO), 2 at Carrizozo 9 Jun (JRO**), and 1 at BLNWR 9 Jun (GLW).

Orchard Oriole—North was one singing at Maxwell 13 Jul (JRO).

Hooded Oriole—A pair in Post Office Canyon fledged a first brood 3 Jul and a 2nd brood 7 Aug (CDL).

Baltimore Oriole—An imm. male was singing at Rattlesnake Springs 2 Jun (JRO**).

Scott's Oriole—Several were found north and east of usual, including 3 in the Caja del Rio area near Santa Fe 28 Jun (JEP) and one near Ragland, *Quay* 16 Jun (CMR).

Cassin's Finch—The species was decidedly scarce, with 2 at Angel Fire 30 Jun (CMR), one at Los Alamos 14 Jun (JT), and one visiting a Manzano Mts. feeder in Jun (TH) the only reports.

Red Crossbill—Relatively widespread, although in small numbers; detected on seven BBS routes, and including reports from the Fence Lake area and from the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Zuni, Manzano, Gallinas, Mogollon, and Sacramento ranges in Jun and the Pinos Altos Mts. in Jul (m.ob.).

Pine Siskin—Typically scarce in submontane areas in summer, but this season the species arrived there in numbers by mid-Jul (v.o.).

Lesser Goldfinch—Five were at Roswell 5 Jun (WHH), where breeding is uncertain.

Lawrence's Goldfinch—A juv. in Post Office Canyon 24 Jul (CDL*) was remarkably early and represented the first state record since Feb 2000. A male had been seen at nearby Portal, Arizona 22 Jul (*fide* CDL).

American Goldfinch—The species is an extremely rare breeder in New Mexico, so noteworthy were 3 on the Vermejo R. at Dawson Cemetery 5 Jun (DJC) and 8 on Ponil Cr. east of Cimarron 13-14 Jun & 3 Jul, with up to 11 singing and displaying males there 24 Jul (DJC).

Evening Grosbeak—Relatively scarce this season, with the few reports restricted to the Sangre de Cristo and Sacramento ranges in Jun (JEP, CMR, SW, WHH).

* * *

Published 30 December 2004



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES