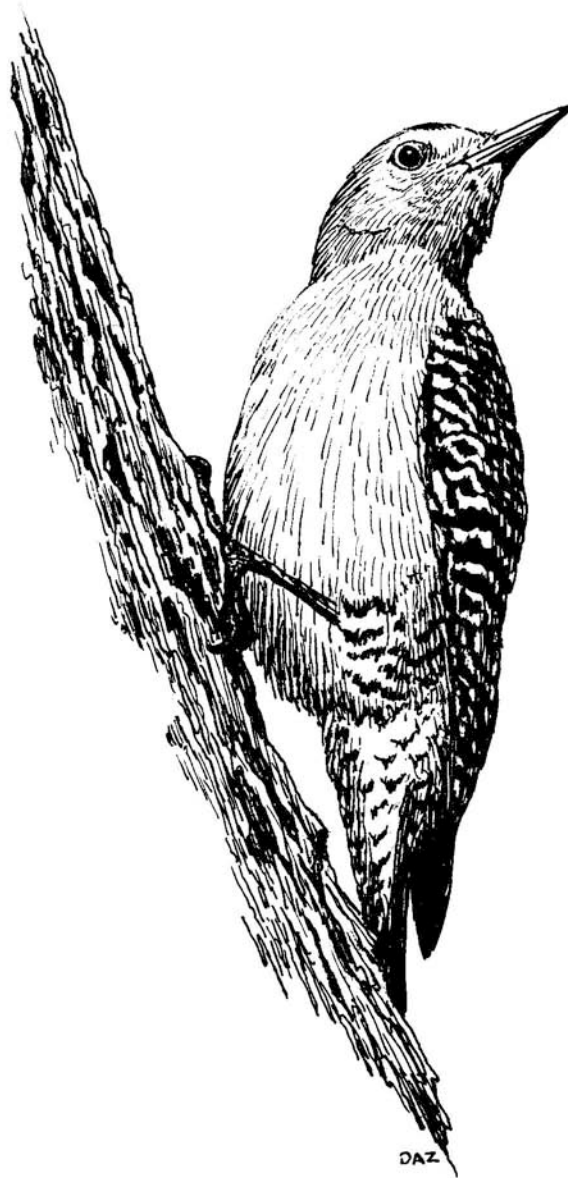


*New Mexico  
Ornithological Society  
Field Notes*



*Volume 43, Number 3, Summer 2004*

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

Volume 43, Number 3, Summer 2004

1 June – 31 July 2004

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](mailto: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:** Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*). Found in New Mexico only in the lower Gila Valley and in southern Hidalgo County, this noisy species requires broadleaf riparian woodlands characterized by mature cottonwoods and/or sycamores. It is threatened by habitat destruction (cutting, burning, inundation) plus progressive fragmentation of remaining habitat patches, and by competition with European Starlings for nest cavities. 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 2004

Summer 2004 brought widespread and occasionally heavy rains to much of the state, providing at least temporary relief from persistent drought and allowing extended breeding by many species.

### Localities and Counties

Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*  
Animas, Cr., Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*  
Animas R., *San Juan*  
Antelope Wells, *Hidalgo*  
Artesia, *Eddy*  
Bear Canyon Lake, *Grant*  
Berland Lake, *San Juan*  
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*  
Blanco, *San Juan*  
Bloomfield, *San Juan*  
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*  
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*  
Burro Mts., *Grant*  
Caballo Lake, *Sierra*  
Carlsbad, *Eddy*  
Cimarron, Canyon, *Colfax*  
Clayton, Lake, *Union*  
Cloudcroft, *Otero*  
Cochiti, Dam, Lake, *Sandoval*  
Columbus, *Luna*  
Conchas Lake, Dam, *San Miguel*  
Corona, *Lincoln*  
Cottonwood Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
Cowles, *San Miguel*  
Crystal, *San Juan*  
Cuba, *Sandoval*  
Deming, *Luna*  
Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax*  
Eldorado, *Santa Fe*  
Elk Mt., *San Miguel*  
El Rito, Cr., *Rio Arriba*  
El Vado Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
Emory Pass, *Grant/Sierra*  
Escondida, *Socorro*  
Española, *Rio Arriba*  
Farmington, *San Juan*  
Fort Sumner, *De Baca*  
Galisteo, Cr., *Santa Fe*  
Gallinas Mts., *Lincoln*  
Gila Bird Area, *Grant*  
Gila Cliff Dwellings, *Catron*  
Glenwood, *Catron*  
Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
Guadalupe Mts., *Eddy*  
Hermanas, *Luna*  
Heron Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
Holloman Lake, *Otero*  
Horse Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
Hudson Lake, *Quay*  
Isleta, *Bernalillo/Valencia*  
Jemez Falls, *Sandoval*  
Jicarita Peak, *Taos*  
Katfish Kove, *Luna*  
Kirtland AFB, *Bernalillo*  
La Joya, *Socorro*  
Lake Roberts, *Grant*  
La Plata, River, *San Juan*  
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*  
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*  
Lemitar, *Socorro*  
Logan, *Quay*  
Lordsburg, *Hidalgo*  
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*  
Los Lunas, *Valencia*  
Magdalena, Mts., *Socorro*  
Manzano, Mts., *Torrance*  
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*  
Mayhill, *Otero*  
Mills, Canyon, *Harding*  
Milnesand, *Roosevelt*  
Mora, *Mora*  
Morgan Lake, *San Juan*  
Mosquero, *Harding*  
Otero Mesa, *Otero*  
Pastura, *Guadalupe*  
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*  
Pep, *Roosevelt*  
Piñon, *Otero*  
Playas Valley, *Hidalgo*  
Ponderosa, *Sandoval*  
Ponil Cr., *Colfax*  
Portales, *Roosevelt*  
Post Office [P.O.] Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
Queen, *Eddy*  
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*  
Ranchos de Taos, *Taos*

Raton, *Colfax*  
 Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*  
 Rio Santa Barbara, *Taos*  
 Roswell, *Chaves*  
 Sacramento, *Otero*  
 San Acacia, *Socorro*  
 Sandia Mts., *Sandoval/Bernalillo*  
 San Gregorio Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
 San Juan Pueblo, *Rio Arriba*  
 San Mateo Mts., *Socorro*  
 San Pedro Parks, Peaks, *Rio Arriba*  
 Santa Barbara Divide, *RA/MO/TA*  
 Santa Fe, Ski Basin, *Santa Fe*  
 Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*  
 Sawtooth Mts., *Catron*  
 Serpent Lake, *Taos*  
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*  
 Silver City, *Grant*

Skeleton Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
 Socorro, *Socorro*  
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*  
 Stinking Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
 Stone Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*  
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*  
 Terrero, *San Miguel*  
 Tolar, *Roosevelt*  
 Tres Hermanas Mts., *Luna*  
 Truchas, *Rio Arriba*  
 Tucumcari, Lake, *Quay*  
 Ute Lake, *Quay*  
 Vermejo Ranch, *Colfax*  
 Wagon Mound, *Mora*  
 Whites City, *Eddy*  
 Zuni, *McKinley*  
 Zuni Mts, *McKinley/Cibola*

### Standard Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	RGV	Rio Grande Valley State Park
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	SP	State Park
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CG	Camp Ground	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
Cr.	Creek	ad(s).	adult(s)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	subad(s).	subadult(s)
GBA	Gila Bird Area	imm(s).	immature(s)
L.	Lake	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	sp.	species
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	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		

## Initialed Observers

JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	APN	Alan P. Nelson
JB	Jason Beason	BDN	Bruce D. Neville
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DJC	David J. Cleary	JEP	John E. Parmeter
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	TR	Tim Reeves
SWC	Steve W. Cox	MMR	Mary M. Ristow
JD-M	Joan Day-Martin	AJR	Andrew J. Rominger
JPD	John P. DeLong	EMR	Eric M. Rominger
RHD	Robert H. Doster	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
CAF	Carol A. Finley	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
KAG	Kathy A. Granillo	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
DJG	David J. Griffin	MMS	Mike M. Stake
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JNS	James N. Stuart
WHH	William H. Howe	JAT	John A. Trochet
GSK	Gregory S. Keller	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
DJK	David J. Krueper	MLW	Mark L. Watson
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	SW	Steve West
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad	WFW	William F. West
MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts	DW	David White
LKM	Larry K. Malone	SOW	S. O. Williams III
TM	Tish McDaniel	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
PM	Patricia Mehlhop	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer		
JBM	James B. Montgomery		

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Common Loon**—Late was one at Ute L. 9 Jun (DJC).

**Pied-billed Grebe**—Up to 5 broods were at L. Roberts 16 Jul (DJK).

**Eared Grebe**—Fared well in *Rio Arriba*, with 225 nests at Horse L. 20 Jun (DWS), 10 nests at Stone L. 20 Jun (DWS), and 125 nests at Stinking L. 18 Jun, where ads. were feeding young 15 Jul (DWS). Fared poorly in *Colfax*, where 9 nests at Maxwell NWR 7 Jul were lost to high water 13 Jul (DJC) and 24 nests at Stubblefield L. 24 Jul were lost 30 Jul (DJC).

**Western Grebe**—Up to 45 nests were at Stone L. 20 Jun, with ads. feeding chicks there 1 Jul (DWS). A nest was at Stubblefield L. 6 Jul, where there was one young 17 Aug (DJC).

**Clark's Grebe**—Four nests were at Stubblefield L. 23 Jul (DJC) but all apparently failed when flooded.

**American White Pelican**—Unexpected in summer were 32 ads. in apparent breeding condition at El Vado L. 19 Jun (DWS).

**Brown Pelican**—An imm. was at Morgan L. 24 Jul into Aug (APN, BDN\*, CMR). Another imm. captured at “A Mountain” east of Las Cruces 2 Jul was reportedly rehabilitated and released at Caballo L. 23 Jul (P. Hinde).

**Least Bittern**—An ad. with 2 juvs. was at Bosque NWR 28 Jul (JEP).

**Great Blue Heron**—A nest with one nestling on the San Juan R. between Bloomfield and Blanco 2 Jul (J. Tanner *fide* TR) provided a new *San Juan* breeding locale.

**Great Egret**—North was one at Springer L. 2 Jun (DJC). Noteworthy for *Luna* was one north of Akela 21 Jul (RAM).

**Little Blue Heron**—One was at La Joya on multiple dates 14 Jun-5 Jul (JPD, SWC).

**Cattle Egret**—A flock of 265 was near Lemitar 23 Jul (DLH).

**White Ibis**—An imm. visited Bosque NWR 27-31 Jul (G. Parker, JRO\*\*, JEP\*).

**Roseate Spoonbill**—An imm. was at BLNWR 21-28 Jun (GLW), the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year the species has appeared there.

**Wood Duck**—A female and 2 young were in Russian olive habitat along the San Juan R. at Farmington 17 Jun (TR). The species was present at San Juan Pueblo throughout Jun (DWS). Two were below Conchas Dam 15 Jun (WFW).

**Mexican Duck**—The irrigated fields west of Columbus continued as a stronghold, with 80 there 23 Jul (JEP).

**Ring-necked Duck**—A female with 7 ducklings at Berland L. 24 Jul (CMR, BDN) established breeding in the Chuska Mts. Others apparently summering included 4 at Red L., *McKinley* 24 Jul (CMR, BDN), 2-4 near San Gregorio L. 6 Jul (CMR) & 10 Jul (JRO\*), a pair at Bear Canyon L. 20 Jun (JRO), and singles at Moon Ranch, *Grant* 24 Jun (SOW) and Bosque NWR 20 Jun (SW).

**Hooded Merganser**--Produced young again at Bosque NWR, with 2 juvs. on a pond 27 Jun (JRO\*\*) and up to 4 juvs. on another pond 24-31 Jul (JEP, JRO).

**Osprey**—A record 17 pairs nested in northern New Mexico, but only 7 were successful, fledging a total of 14 young (DWS). Ospreys summering south of known breeding areas were singles at L. Roberts 25 Jun (JRO) and Brantley L. 29 Jun (RHD).

**Mississippi Kite**—Nested successfully in e. *San Miguel*, with 2 ads. and 3 juvs. along Atarque Cr. s. of Mosquero 30 Jun-1 Jul (MDM).

**Bald Eagle**—The 3 known territories in *Colfax* were occupied, but only 2 were successful, fledging a total of 4 young in 2004 (DWS).

**Northern Harrier**—Often overlooked in summer, a nest with 4 large nestlings was documented 4.5 mi south of Morgan L. 25 Jun (R. Kellermueller\*\*).

**Northern Goshawk**—Singles in the vicinities of San Pedro Parks Wilderness 6 Jul (CMR), Jemez Falls 4 Jul (JEP), R. Quemado e. of Truchas 25 Jul (WFW), and Elk Mt. 22 Jun & 6 Jul (WFW).

**Gray Hawk**—Two ads. in upper Guadalupe Canyon 19, 22, & 25 Jun (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, LKM\*) nested successfully, with an ad. tending a large nestling 25 Jul (CGL\*). An ad. was in the Arizona portion of Skeleton Canyon 28 Jun (SOW).

**Common Black-Hawk**—Continued to appear north of expected, including singles at Cochiti Dam 31 Jul (MLW) and on the Cimarron R. near Cimarron 29-31 Jul (DJC\*). In the middle RGV, the species again summered at Isleta (K. Johnson) and one was at Sevilleta NWR 24 Jul (T. Kennedy).

**Prairie Falcon**—One noted at 12,400 ft over the Santa Barbara Divide near Jicarita Peak 17 Jul (JEP).

**White-tailed Ptarmigan**—Singles were seen on Jicarita Peak 11 Jul (CMB) & 13 Jul (EMR) and 3 were there 27 Jul (JB).

**Blue Grouse**—A female with young was on the R. Quemado e. of Truchas 25 Jul (WFW).

**Gambel's Quail**—Unusual were 2 in the Jemez Mts. near Ponderosa 25 Jul (CMR).

**Common Moorhen**—One to 2 were n. to BLNWR 3 & 21 Jul (JEP, JRO, GLW).

**Snowy Plover**—Noteworthy for *Quay* were up to 4 at Hudson L. on various dates 3 Jun-28 Jul (DJC) and up to 3 at Ute L. 23 Jun-20 Jul, where an ad. with 3 chicks was found

11 Aug (DJC). High count at BLNWR was 255 on 23 Jun (GLW); 15 were at Holloman L. 11 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

**Mountain Plover**—Two broods were found on Vermejo Ranch e. of Cimarron 2 Jul (DJC\*\*). Continuing records included one in the North Plains, *Cibola* 4 Jun (DJK) and 5 at White Lakes, *Santa Fe* 9 Jun (WFW).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Unusual n. to *Colfax* were singles at Stubblefield L. 24 Jun (DJC\*\*) and Eagle Nest L. 10 Jul (DJC). High count at BLNWR was 214 on 30 Jun (GLW). A pair was tending 2 chicks at Deming 26 Jun (LKM).

**Spotted Redshank**—An apparent ad. male in black breeding plumage put in a brief appearance at BLNWR 25 Jul (R. Lewis\*). There are no previous New Mexico reports and, unfortunately, this individual was not photographed nor re-found by others, and so must be relegated to hypothetical status.

**Solitary Sandpiper**—Singles were w. to Berland L. 24 Jul (CMR, BDN) and L. Roberts 14 Jul (LKM).

**Willet**—Unseasonal were one at Lordsburg 18 Jun (JEP, JRO) and 9 at Brantley L. 22 Jun (RHD).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—Unusual for the lower Pecos Valley were several apparently territorial ads. at Brantley L. 9 & 22 Jun (WHH, RHD).

**Marbled Godwit**—A remarkable 51 were at Brantley L. 22 Jun (RHD). Other mid- to late Jun reports included 2 at Springer L. 22 Jun (DJC\*\*) and 4 at BLNWR 23 Jun (GLW).

**Sanderling**—Singles were at Maxwell NWR 19 Jun (DJC) and Stubblefield L. 23 Jul (DJC).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**—One was w. to Bosque NWR 28 Jul (JRO).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—One was w. to Wagon Mound 4 Jun (JRO); notably late were 3 at Stubblefield L. 19 Jun (DJC\*\*) and singles at Springer L. 22 Jun (DJC) and Ute L. 23 Jun (DJC).

**Wilson's Snipe**—Summering birds included singles at Springer L. 29 Jun-15 Jul (DJC) and on nearby Ponil Cr. 22 Jun (DJC); 2 were vocal at Mora 1 Jun (NSC).

**Wilson's Phalarope**—Early for fall migrants were 25 females at Lordsburg 18 Jun (JRO).

**Ring-billed Gull**—Noteworthy for summer were 15 at Eagle Nest L. 25 Jun (JEP) and 10 there 10 Jul (DJC).

**California Gull**—Although no nesting was discovered, 10-25 summered at Eagle Nest L., where seen on various dates 12 Jun-17 Jul (DJC, JEP). Others in the north were 23 at Morgan L. 24 Jul (CMR, BDN) and 12 at Heron L. 18 Jul (CMR).



**Forster's Tern**—Unseasonal were 4 at Springer L. 22 Jun (DJC\*\*) and singles at Maxwell NWR 25 Jun (JEP) and BLNWR 23 Jun & 7 Jul (GLW).

**Least Tern**—Significant was the discovery of an active nesting colony at Brantley L. 9 Jun (WHH), where low water provided habitat for up to 7 pairs, which produced at least 6 fledglings by Jul (RHD, JBM), providing a nesting first for *Eddy* and the first for New Mexico away from BLNWR. At BLNWR, 11 pairs nested but only 7 chicks fledged (JBM). Wandering singles were at Ute L. 3 & 23 Jun (DJC\*\*), Bosque NWR 12 Jun (CMB\*), and Holloman L. 10 Jun (J. Smith).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—Found statewide, including w. to four *San Juan* locales Jun-July (CMR, BDN, TR\*\*) and from lowland areas such as Antelope Wells 23 Jul (JEP) up to nearly 7000 ft at El Rito 11 Jun (JRO) and Ranchos de Taos 3 Jul (JRO).

**White-winged Dove**—Singles were n. to La Plata 5 Jul (TR), Los Alamos 12 Jun (JRO), and Maxwell 7 Jul (DJC).

**Mourning Dove**—A pair at Deming fledged 2 young 3 Jun, renested in the same nest and fledged 2 more 4 Jul, and renested again in the same nest where there were 2 nestlings 30 Jul (LKM).

**Common Ground-Dove**—Encouraging were up to 4 vocal in Guadalupe Canyon 12-26 Jun (JRO, JEP, SOW\*) and 2 vocal in the Carzalia Valley e. of Hermanas 23 Jul (JEP).

**Ruddy Ground-Dove**—A singing, seemingly territorial male seen chasing Common Ground-Doves was in Guadalupe Canyon 19 & 25 Jun (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Singles were seldom reported were at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 5 Jun (JRO), near Farmington 24 Jun (TR), at Los Luceros near Española 14 Jun & 4 Jul (MDM), Eldorado 2 Jun (DW\*\*), Clayton L. 27 Jul (NSC), the Canadian R. near Logan 26 Jul (NSC), and near Gila Cliff Dwellings 15 Jul (K. Brodhead). Few were found on the lower Pecos R. near Carlsbad, where spraying to kill saltcedar had destroyed much suitable habitat (SW).

**Elf Owl**—Maintaining their *Eddy* beachhead, 8 were in lower Last Chance Canyon 8 Jul (SW).

**Burrowing Owl**—A high 25 pairs were present at Kirtland AFB this season; 15 were successful, fledging 58 young (CAF).

**Barred Owl**—The state-first individual, discovered at Galisteo in late May, persisted in cottonwoods along Galisteo Cr. into Aug (JPB\* et al.).

**Long-eared Owl**—A pair with 2 vocal young was near Mt. Taylor, *Cibola* 23 Jul (CMR, BDN).

**Common Poorwill**—An ad. was flushed from a nest scrape containing one chick near Alamo Mt., Otero Mesa 5 Jun (*fide* SW).

**Whip-poor-will**—Northerly were 2 in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 4 Jun (JRO), 2 at Doc Long Picnic Area, Sandia Mts. 8 Jun (DW) & 2 Jul (CMR), and one on the Vermejo Ranch in Crow Canyon, n. Sangre de Cristo Mts. 13 Jul (DJC\*\*).

**Black Swift**—Returned to Jemez Falls, where a partial inventory found 3 on nests 4 Jul (JEP+).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—In the Peloncillo Mts. n. of Guadalupe Canyon were 3 in Cottonwood Canyon 12 Jul (WFW), one in Skeleton Canyon 20 Jun (JEP, JRO) and 2 males there 28 Jun (SOW), and a male in P. O. Canyon Jun-Jul (CDL).

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird**—Notably scarce in Guadalupe Canyon, with only 2 there 12 Jun (SOW) and none found later.

**Blue-throated Hummingbird**—A female was e. the Guadalupe Mts., where seen at a Queen feeder 5 Jul (SW). Another female was in Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 12 Jul (WFW).

**Magnificent Hummingbird**—A female was n. to the Pajarito Ski area above Los Alamos 4-5 Jul (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Lucifer Hummingbird**—Up to 4 ads. were in P. O. Canyon Jun-Jul, where a female was gathering nest material 22 Jun (K. Scholes) and 2-3 fledglings were seen 27-31 Jul (CDL). Elsewhere in the Peloncillo Mts., a male and a female were in Skeleton Canyon 28 Jun (SOW) and a female was in Cottonwood Canyon 12 Jul (WFW).

**Anna's Hummingbird**—Early was a female in P. O. Canyon 30 Jun (CDL); a male was there 28 Jul (CDL).

**Costa's Hummingbird**—An ad. female was banded at L. Roberts 28 Jul (JD-M).

**Calliope Hummingbird**—Earliest was one at Terrero 6 Jul (WFW). East were singles at Ute L. 28 Jul (DJC) and BLNWR 16 & 20 Jul (GLW).

**Calliope X Rufous hybrid**—A mysterious but well-documented hummer at Bosque NWR 25 Jul (CMB\*, JEP\*, JRO\*\*, GKF\*\*) was likely a Calliope X Rufous hybrid.

**Rufous Hummingbird**—Earliest fall migrant was a male in the Manzano Mts. 23 Jun (T. Huning); one to 2 others were at 10 sites statewide 25-30 Jun (m.ob.), and 7 were banded at L. Roberts 1 Jul (JD-M).

**Allen's Hummingbird**—Six females were measured and banded in the L. Roberts area 18-31 Jul (JD-M\*) and a probable male Allen's was reported at Las Cruces 10-17 Jul (DJG\*).

**Elegant Trogon**—A pair was found nesting in a sycamore in the c. Peloncillo Mts. 28 Jun & 8-9 Jul (SOW, PM).

**Belted Kingfisher**—Summering birds included a pair on the San Juan R. near Bloomfield 23 Jun (TR), one or more present at San Juan Pueblo throughout Jun (DWS), and one at Albuquerque's RGNC 13 Jun (JEP).

**Lewis's Woodpecker**—A pair was nesting at Santa Fe's Fairview Cemetery 27 Jul (DW) & 30 Jul (JNS). East was one in e. *San Miguel* s. of Mosquero 30 Jun (MDM).

**Acorn Woodpecker**—Far n. were 2 at Cedar Springs CG e. of Gobernador, *Rio Arriba* 17 Jul (JRO), where first reported in May. Others in the northwest were singles near Cuba 18 Jul (JRO) and in the Chuska Mts. near Crystal 24 Jul (CMR, BDN).

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker**—Unexpected in the northwest, one was near Ambrosia L., *McKinley* 11 Jul (CMR). Another was n. to Maxwell NWR 7 Jul (DJC\*\*).

**Downy Woodpecker**—Scarce in the Sacramento Mts., an active nest was near Cloudcroft 12 Jun (WHH).

**Arizona Woodpecker**—In the Peloncillo Mts., pairs in Skull and Brushy canyons each fledged young during the season (CDL).

**Three-toed Woodpecker**—Much in evidence in the San Juan, Sangre de Cristo, and Jemez ranges, including the San Pedro Parks area 7 & 10 Jul (CMR, JRO); unusual was one at Little Walnut Picnic Area near Silver City in mid-Jul (*fide* DAZ).

**Willow Flycatcher**—One was at Mora 8 Jul (NSC), where first found summering in 2003.

**Hammond's Flycatcher**—Singles were singing in aspens in the Zuni Mts. near Coddington 8 Jun (HRS) and near Ojo Redondo CG 25 Jun (HRS). An ad. with a begging juv. was in upper Cimarron Canyon 10 Jul (DJC).

**Gray Flycatcher**—Continued to appear most everywhere, including singing birds s. to the Burro Mts. Jun-Jul (JPD) and Sawtooth Mts. 15 Jun (SOW); a record 8 were in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 18 Jun (HRS).

**Dusky Flycatcher**—Ten were detected on a 2-mi transect along Bluewater Cr., Zuni Mts. 24 Jun (HRS).

**Black Phoebe**—Now well established n. to *San Juan* and *Colfax*, with 2 successful pairs at Farmington in Jun (APN, TR\*\*) and pairs with fledglings at Cimarron 12 Jun (DJC) and Springer 15 Jul (DJC). This season, breeding was documented n. to *Taos*, where a pair fledged 4 young at Ranchos de Taos (J. F. Oatman). Additional evidence of range expansion was provided by singles on the Animas R. near the Colorado line 16 & 23 Jun (TR) and near Bluewater CG 24 Jun (HRS), a pair at El Rito 11 Jun (JRO), and one in the Sacramento Mts., *Otero* at 7128 ft. 12 Jun (WHH).

**Eastern Phoebe**—Summering birds included singles in the Mesteñito Valley w. of Mills 24 Jun (LAS) and at the head of Mills Canyon 27 Jun (LAS), in the Conchas L. area of *San Miguel* at La Manga Cr. 23 Jun (CMR) and Cinta Cr. 25 Jun (CMR), and at Sumner Dam 24 Jun (GSK), and a juv. was below Tres Lagunas Dam at Santa Rosa 15 Jun (WFW).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—Northeast were 2 in e. *San Miguel* s. of Mosquero 30 Jun (MDM) and one at Ute L. 14 Jul (DJC).

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher**—Noteworthy for the Black Range were 4 along upper Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 10 Jul (WFW).

**Brown-crested Flycatcher**—Unusually common in Guadalupe Canyon (e.g., 5 territories in a 2-mi transect 11-12 Jun [SOW]) and made a good showing elsewhere, with 4 in Skeleton Canyon 20 Jun (JRO) providing a local first, one n. to Glenwood 21 Jul (JRO), 4 at Katfish Kove 25 Jun (JRO), 2 on upper Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 10 Jul (WFW), and one in the Tres Hermanas Mts. near Columbus 10 Jun (LKM). A large *Myiarchus* at La Mesa, *Doña Ana* 8 Jun (GJE) may have been this species.

**Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**—One was in Guadalupe Canyon 11-12 Jun (SOW), the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year for the species there.

**Cassin's Kingbird**—Two singles were observed following Scaled Quail broods in the middle Animas Valley 7 Jul (SOW), pouncing on insects scared up by the traveling quail.

**Thick-billed Kingbird**—Only one was found in Guadalupe Canyon 19 & 26 Jun (JEP, JRO), where many of the large sycamores favored by this species were dead or dying.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—Far w. were singles at Maxwell NWR 8 Jun (KAG\*\*) and LVNWR 15 Jul (MMR). A pair was nest-building at BLNWR 27 Jun (GLW).

**Bell's Vireo**—Singles were n. in the RGV to La Joya 14 & 23 Jun (JPD) and in the Pecos Valley to Bosque Grande n. of Roswell 9 Jun (WHH).

**Gray Vireo**—Three were singing near Piñon 10 Jun (WHH), and 2 at Red L., Guadalupe Mts. 5 Jul (SW) furnished a new locale. Searches for nests in *Socorro* found 4 in the Ladron Mts. 24 Jun, 2 at the Socorro Box 28 Jun, and four (plus a pair feeding fledged cowbirds) in the Quebradas area 28 Jun (JPD).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**—The one found at RGNC in May remained until 5 Jun, where seen and heard by many (m.ob.). Far west was one in the GBA 10 Jul (JPB\*).

**Red-eyed Vireo**—Singing singles were w. to Cimarron 31 Jul-3 Aug (DJC\*\*) and Albuquerque's South Valley 17 Jun (DLH); another was in San Andres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 20 Jun (RAM\*).

**corvids**—Several corvid species in the RGV appear to have suffered steep declines in recent years, with West Nile virus the suspected culprit. **Western Scrub-Jays** were considered common in the Cochiti area in 2000 but were scarce or absent in 2004, and reports of "dead blue jays" were received from the area (MLW). In the Española area, monthly counts of **Black-billed Magpies** at one site declined from 35 in 2002 to 15 in 2003 to zero by Jul 2004 (MDM). Similarly, **American Crows** have declined sharply on standard transects in the middle RGV (DLH).

**Pinyon Jay**—Three were in e. *San Miguel* s. of Mosquero 28-29 Jul (MDM).

**Chihuahuan Raven**—One near San Ysidro, *Sandoval* 8 Jul (CMR\*) was far northwest of expected.

**Purple Martin**—Returned to the recently-colonized Sangre de Cristo Mts., including one n. to the Raton area 24 Jul (DJC), 2 above Gallinas, *San Miguel* 5 Jun (CMR), and singles near Elk Mt. 6 Jul (WFW), at Cowles 16 Jul (JEP), and Iron Gate CG n. of Cowles 26 Jun (DW). Noteworthy in the west were 5 active nests in Cebolla Canyon, *Cibola* 3 Jul (DJK).

**Tree Swallow**—About 25 were using nest boxes at Eagle Nest 12 Jun (DJC\*\*). Others suggestive of local breeding were at Iron Gate CG n. of Cowles 26 Jun (DW).

**Cave Swallow**—Colonized an abandoned garage in Whites City, where there were 5 nests 23 Jun (SW).

**Bushtit**—Unusual at 10,000 ft were 15 on Elk Mt. 16 Jul (JEP).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Began appearing in numbers (up to 7 daily) in the middle RGV in *Bernalillo*, *Valencia*, and *Socorro* by 22 Jul (DLH), and the species was “common” in the Burro Mts. 24-25 Jul (JPD), where absent in Jun. Unusual was one at Katfish Kove 25 Jun (JRO).

**Pygmy Nuthatch**—One to 2 descended to the RGV at Albuquerque 22 Jul (DLH).

**Brown Creeper**—Ads. were feeding fledglings in the San Pedro Peaks area, *Rio Arriba* 7 Jul (CMR).

**Cactus Wren**—Continued colonization north of historic range was evidenced by 8 near Pastura 6 Jun (WHH) and 2 near Ute L. 28 Jul (DJC).

**House Wren**—Apparently invaded the Gallinas Mts. near Corona following a large fire in 2001, where this season 8 were singing and a pair was feeding young 18 Jun (HRS).

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**—Ten were counted in the Tres Hermanas Mts. 10 Jun (LKM). Far from expected range was one at the Gila Cliff Dwellings 16 Jul (DJK).

**Eastern Bluebird**—A male was tending one fledgling at RGNC 5 Jun (JEP).

**Veery**—One singing in *Taos* along the Rio Pueblo just w. of the Buddhist monastery 22 Jun-11 Jul (WFW, JEP, JRO, CMB) provided the only report.

**Swainson’s Thrush**—Late for the Peloncillo Mts. was one singing in P. O. Canyon 17 & 19 Jun (CDL).

**American Robin**—A juv. was at Artesia 1 Jun (SW), where breeding is rare. A white one was at Socorro 10 Jul (T. Mitchusson).

**Varied Thrush**—Nicely described was a female at Las Cruces 3 Jul (L. Schulte\*).

**Brown Thrasher**—One was nw. to the Animas R. 7-18 Jul (J. Wells *fide* TR).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—North to *Colfax* was one near Farley 11 Jun (DJC\*).

**Crissal Thrasher**—At the eastern fringe of the range were one at Bosque Grande n. of Roswell plus 2 more near there 9 Jun (WHH) One at Piñon 10 Jun (WHH) provided a local first.

**Cedar Waxwing**—Two pairs that nested in Russian olives along the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam established breeding in *San Juan*; one nest at Navajo Lake SP 12-21 Jun (TR\*\*) apparently failed, but the other found in Simon Canyon 21 Jun had ads. feeding nestlings 10 Jul (TR\*\*). Elsewhere, up to 4 were seen daily at San Juan Pueblo throughout Jun (DWS), where nesting was first documented in 1995.

**Phainopepla**—Singles wandered north to *San Juan*, with one along the La Plata R. n. of Farmington 25 Jun (TR\*\*) and another at Chaco Canyon 30 Jun-7 Jul (B. Shattuck\*\*); others of note were singles north to Los Lunas 16 Jul (DLH) and near Mayhill 30 Jun (SW).

**Olive Warbler**—North was one singing in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 1 Jun (JAT), and 2 were in the San Mateo Mts. near Springtime CG 11 Jun (HRS). Ads. were tending fledglings in the Burro Mts. 22 Jun (JPD) and 18 Jul (DJK).

**Lucy's Warbler**—North in the RGV was a pair at San Acacia 16 Jun (RHD).

**Northern Parula**—A singing male provided a local first at P.O. Canyon 3 Jun (CDL).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—A male provided a local first at P.O. Canyon 13 Jun (CDL). Undetailed was an internet report of a male near Pilar, *Taos* 18 Jun.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler**—A female was feeding a cowbird chick in Cebolla Canyon, *Cibola* 4 Jul (DJK); a female was feeding a cowbird chick at Gila Cliff Dwellings 16 Jul (DJK). Early were 2 migrants at RGNC 25 Jul (JEP).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—Single males were at Maxwell NWR 25 Jun (JNS) and GBA 10 Jul (JPB\*).

**American Redstart**—Late were singles at RGNC 2 Jun (C. Davis) and Bosque NWR 3 Jun (DLH), plus a female at BLNWR 3 Jun and a male there 5 Jun (GLW). Perhaps summering were a female near Cimarron 5 Jul (DJC) and a male there 31 Jul (DJC\*\*), and a female in San Andres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 20 Jun (RAM).

**Ovenbird**—As in several recent years, an Ovenbird was singing along El Rito Cr. n. of El Rito 11 Jun (JRO) & 26 Jun (JEP).

**Kentucky Warbler**—Surprising was a singing ad. male in *Otero* 10 mi sw. of Sacramento 23 Jun (MMS\*), found in oak scrub in an old burned area.

**Hooded Warbler**—A singing ad. male sw. of Sacramento 9 Jun was accompanied by a female 23 Jun (MMS\*).

**Wilson's Warbler**—An ad. was with a fledgling in a willow carr above Serpent L. 26 Jul (J. Nelson-Moore\*) and several were detected on breeding bird transects in the nearby Santa Barbara Divide area 27 Jul (JB).

**Red-faced Warbler**—North were singles in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 1 Jun (JAT) and in the Sandia Mts. at Doc Long Picnic Area 4 Jun (J. Jokela\*).

**Painted Redstart**—Two were n. to Sawmill Canyon, Magdalena Mts. 17 Jun (AJR).

**Hepatic Tanager**—Scarce in the Manzanito Mts., a singing male was at Cedro Peak, *Bernalillo* 5 Jun (JEP); nicely documented was a nesting pair in Crow Canyon near Cimarron 25 Jun-3 Jul (DJC\*\*).

**Summer Tanager**—Summered n. to Galisteo, where there were one 12 Jun (JRO) and 2 on 13 Jul (JPB) plus a stub-tailed fledgling 25 Jul (JPB). A significant range expansion was evidenced by 7 along Atarque Cr. s. of Mosquero, e. *San Miguel* 3 Jun-29 Jul (MDM). One was at the Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe 30 Jun (D. Carver\*).

**Scarlet Tanager**—A molting male was just n. of Ponderosa 20 Jul (WFW\*).

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Responding to wetter conditions, this species was widespread and conspicuous, including in the northwest, with one near San Antonio Mt., *Rio Arriba* 4 & 6 Jul (*fide* JB), several near Pueblo Pintado, *McKinley* 30 Jun (JNS) plus 2 there 11 Jul (CMR), 8 in the Ojito area, w. *Sandoval* 27 Jun (CMR), and 2 on Albuquerque's West Mesa 4 Jun (JEP). In the east, a nest with 4 eggs was found on the Creamer Ranch 3 mi north of Milnesand 6 Jul (TM\*\*).

**Botteri's Sparrow**—In the middle Animas Valley, this species has been slow to recover in areas that were both burned and grazed, but has rebounded in unburned areas following cattle removal; a high 61 territories were mapped there 5-8 Jul (SOW, PM).

**Chipping Sparrow**—Early was one at Eldorado 4 Jul, where there were 6 by 22 Jul (JPB).

**Brewer's Sparrow**—Up to 3 singing males were at Stubblefield L. 7-28 Jun (DJC).

**Black-chinned Sparrow**—Far north was one in the La Jara Cr. drainage near Gobernador, *Rio Arriba* 19 Jun (JB), only some 20 mi south of the Colorado line.

**Lark Bunting**—Responded positively to plentiful rains in *Colfax*, *Union*, and *Harding*, where the species was common to abundant Jun-Jul (LAS, DJC). West to *San Juan* were 3 near Huerfano Mt. 4 Jun (TR).

**Savannah Sparrow**—An ad. was incubating 4 eggs at Eagle Nest L. 13 Jun, where some 8 males were singing (DWS).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—Prolonged drought coupled with excessive livestock grazing have been detrimental to the *ammolegus* subspecies in s. *Hidalgo*, where standard transects detected only 21 in the s. Animas Valley 10 Jun (down 81% from 1992) and zero in the w. Playas Valley 11 Jun (down 100% from 1992), where apparently extirpated (SOW).

**Fox Sparrow**—Exciting was news of singing individuals in willow carrs in the Pecos Wilderness 27 Jul: one above Serpent L. and 2 in the upper R. Santa Barbara drainage (JB); the species is not known to nest in New Mexico.

**Song Sparrow**—At least one pair was nesting south to the Zuni Mts. along Bluewater Cr. 24 Jun (HRS).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—Some 48 were detected in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness 6-8 Jul (CMR+), a remarkable density for New Mexico.

**Dark-eyed Junco**—At least 2 pairs of *dorsalis* Gray-headed Juncos were in the Jack's Peak/Burro Peak area of the Burro Mts., with both tending fledglings there 21 Jun (JPD).

**Yellow-eyed Junco**—At least 6 territories were documented in the Jack's Peak/Burro Peak area of the Burro Mts., including a nest with eggs 3 Jun and ads. with fledglings on various dates 4 Jun-25 Jul (JPD). This may be the only site where the two junco taxa breed sympatrically.

**Northern Cardinal**—Continued to appear in the northeast, with singles at Santa Rosa 15 Jun (WFW) and Tucumcari L. 26 Jul (NSC).

**Pyrrhuloxia**—Ads. were feeding fledglings at Deming 17 Jul (LKM) & 31 Jul (CMR).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Single males lingered in the RGV at Escondida 16 Jun (DLH), Ladder Ranch, *Sierra* 6 Jun (WFW), and Radium Springs 7 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

**Lazuli & Indigo buntings**—Indigo continued to encroach on Lazuli habitat in the north. Indigo X Lazuli hybrids were noted on the Animas R. 23 Jun & 6 Jul (TR\*) and near Cimarron 5 Jul (DJC\*).

**Varied Bunting**—A male in P.O. Canyon 5-7 Jun (CDL) provided a local first. Four territories were documented in Guadalupe Canyon 11-12 Jun (SOW). At least one pair occupied San Andres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 15 May-4 Jul (RAM).

**Dickcissel**—Up to 3 were at Maxwell NWR 1-23 Jul (DJC). One was singing at LVNWR 8 Jun (WFW) where 3 males were singing 17 Jun (MMR).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—One was seen and heard northwest to the Cabezon Peak area, *Sandoval* 27 Jun (CMR\*) and another was north to Philmont, *Colfax* 16 Jun (DJC).

**Bronzed Cowbird**—Singles were north to Albuquerque 13 Jun (JEP), BLNWR 4 & 20 Jun (GLW), and Portales 25 Jun (GSK).

**Orchard Oriole**—An active nest was at Ute L. 9 Jun (DJC), and another was near Pep in mid-Jun (*fide* TM). Single individuals were reported at Tucumcari L. 15 Jun (WFW), Sumner Dam, Fort Sumner, and Tolar 24 Jun (GSK), and BLNWR 3 Jun (GLW).

**Baltimore Oriole**—An apparent male was near Española 18 Jul [not Jun, as reported in *NAB* 58:578] (M. Orr\*) and another male was at BLNWR 16 Jun (GLW\*\*).

**Scott's Oriole**—Somewhat north was one on the Canadian R. in e. *San Miguel* near the *Quay* line 15 Jun (WFW).



**Pine Grosbeak**—Reported from the San Juan, Jemez, and Sangre de Cristo ranges; high counts were 5 in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness 6-8 Jul (CMR+), 8 in the Apache Cr. area, n. *Rio Arriba* 17 Jul (JRO), 11 at the Santa Fe Ski Basin 27 Jul (WFW), and 6 on Elk Mt. 6 Jul (WFW).

**Red Crossbill**—Present in good numbers in the northern two-thirds of the state, including 250 in the San Pedro Parks area 6-8 Jul (CMR+), 25 at Serpent L. 17 Jul (JEP), 50 on Elk Mt. 6 Jul (WFW), 26 in the Zuni Mts. 25 Jun (HRS), and 40 at Emory Pass 24 Jul (JEP).

**White-winged Crossbill**—A male with a juv. in the Latir Peaks area, *Taos* 19 & 27 Jun (D. DiTommaso\*\*) likely nested locally (*fide* C. Benkman). Others were 6 in the Brazos Ridge area 7 Jul (K. Behrens *fide* JB), a male above Serpent L. 17 Jul (JEP\*), one in the upper Rio Santa Barbara drainage 26 Jul (JB), and 3 at the Santa Fe Ski Basin 27 Jul (WFW).

**American Goldfinch**—A female visited a feeder along the Animas R. near Cedar Hill 16 & 23 Jun (TR). Late were 2 at Las Cruces 6 Jun (GJE); unusual for the season were 2 at Bosque NWR 4 Jul (DLH). At least 2 were along the Cimarron R. near Cimarron 22 Jun & 5 Jul (DJC), and up to 5 were there 29 Jul (DJC), when singing and flight displays were noted.

**Evening Grosbeak**—Ads. were feeding fledglings in Cimarron Canyon 10 Jul (DJC).

\* \* \*

Published 14 September 2006





**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**