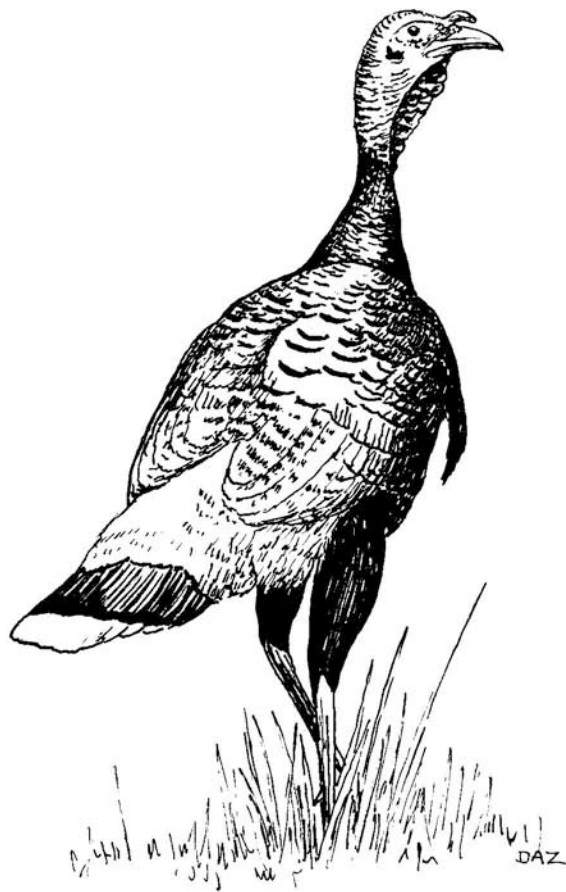


*New Mexico
Ornithological Society
Field Notes*



Volume 44, Number 1, Winter 2004 - 2005

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

Volume 44, Number 1, Winter 2004-2005

1 December 2004 – 28 February 2005

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: "Gould's" Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*). This subspecies, typical of Mexico's Sierra Madre, occurs naturally in the U.S. only in the Animas and Peloncillo ranges, where it favors pine-oak forested canyons. Listed as threatened by New Mexico, it is vulnerable to habitat loss from vegetation removal, fire, competition with livestock, loss of water sources, hybridization with non-native turkeys, and human killing and disturbance. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman.

WINTER SEASON 2004-2005

Widespread and abundant rain and snow made the winter of 2004-2005 the wettest on record for New Mexico; following plentiful summer and fall rains, this resulted in excellent cover, especially for grassland species in the south. As in previous winters, the theme of this birding season continued to be species lingering late, wintering north of expected, and/or returning early, and with early onset of breeding activity by many species. Notable rarities included a Brant in *Mora*, more Ruddy Ground-Doves in the south, a Great Kiskadee near Las Cruces, several Bohemian Waxwings among Cedars in the north, and a wintering Black-throated Gray Warbler at Mesilla Park. Tantalizing was a sight report of two Whooping Cranes east of Portales; the species remains unconfirmed by photograph or specimen in New Mexico.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Hope, <i>Eddy</i>
Alamogordo, <i>Otero</i>	Ladder Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Animas, Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>
Antelope Wells, <i>Hidalgo</i>	La Luz, <i>Otero</i>
Bear Canyon Lake, <i>Grant</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Lordsburg, Playa, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Los Lunas, <i>Valencia</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Lovington, <i>Lea</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Maddox Lake, <i>Lea</i>
Cedar Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Madrid, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Chaco Canyon, <i>San Juan</i>	Mangas Springs, <i>Grant</i>
Charette Lake, <i>Mora</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Cimarron, Canyon, <i>Colfax</i>	Mesilla, Park, Dam, Valley, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Mosquero, <i>Harding</i>
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Pecos, <i>San Miguel</i>
Dawson, <i>Colfax</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Peña Blanca, <i>Sandoval</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Pep, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Dripping Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Eagle Nest, Lake, <i>Colfax</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Elephant Butte Lake, <i>Sierra</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Elida, <i>Roosevelt</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
El Vado Lake, Dam, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Raton, <i>Colfax</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Red River, <i>Taos</i>
Florida Mts., <i>Luna</i>	Redrock, <i>Grant</i>
Gruña NWR, <i>Roosevelt</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Hermanas, <i>Luna</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>

Ruidoso, *Lincoln*
 San Acacia, *Socorro*
 Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Heights, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
 San Jose, *San Miguel*
 Santa Fe, *Santa Fe*
 Santa Rosa, Lake, *Guadalupe*
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*

Socorro, *Socorro*
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Taos, Ski Valley, *Taos*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Villanueva, *San Miguel*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 Whites City, *Eddy*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
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

PB	Pat Basham	DWM	David W. Mehlman
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	RAM	Raymond A. Meyer
MJB	Matt J. Baumann	AJM	Arnold J. Moorhouse
DJB	David J. Beatty	NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig
RDB	Ryan D. Beaulieu	APN	Alan P. Nelson
SMB	Sherry M. Bixler	BDN	Bruce D. Neville
JMB	James M. Black	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JEP	John E. Parmeter
DJC	David J. Cleary	ALP	Anita L. Powell
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	AJR	Andrew J. Rominger
SWC	Steven W. Cox	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
AMC	Alan M. Craig	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
CCC	Craig C. Cranston	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
JD-M	Joan Day-Martin	RS	Robert Shantz
MJD	Martha J. Desmond	BS	Brad Shattuck
RHD	Robert H. Doster	RSS	Roland S. Shook
DME	Deanna M. Einspahr	JS	Jude Smith
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	PRS	Patricia R. Snider
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	JAT	John A. Trochet
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	RLV	Raymond L. VanBuskirk
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	NV	Nick Vaughn
TJH	Tom J. Hines	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
J&MH	John & Marty Hirth	MLW	Mark L. Watson
WHH	William H. Howe	REW	Richard E. Webster
DJK	David J. Krueper	SW	Steve West
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	WFW	William F. West
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	SOW	S. O. Williams III
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
LKM	Larry K. Malone		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pacific Loon—One to 2 were at Conchas L. 2 Jan-1 Feb (m.ob.); singles were at Cochiti L. 27 Dec (MJB*) and Brantley L. 22 Jan (CMR).

Common Loon—High count was 13 at Conchas L. 2-4 Jan (WFW, JRO). North for mid-winter was one at Charette L. 23 Jan (JRO).

Horned Grebe—The few reports were restricted to large northeastern lakes; high count was 8 at Conchas L. 15 Jan (JRO, JEP).

Red-necked Grebe—One in winter plumage at Conchas L. 2 Jan-1 Feb (WFW*, MJB*, JRO**, JEP*, BDN*, RDB*) provided the 5th photographically documented state record.

Aechmophorus grebes—Noteworthy for the far northwest were 120 at Morgan L. 10 Jan (MLW). Possibly wintering were 6 **Western's** and 2 **Clark's** at Cochiti L. 30 Jan (WHH). A **Western** pair was displaying at L. Avalon 14 Feb (SW).

Brown Pelican—The imm. present at EBL since Aug continued in evidence there through Jan (m.ob., JRO**) and was actively fishing 2 Feb (WFW). Note: An imm. found at Las Cruces 2 Jul was rehabilitated and released at Caballo L. 23 Jul (*fide* USFWS); it is possible that it and the EBL bird were the same individual.

Neotropic Cormorant—Continued extremely scarce in traditional haunts (e.g., Bosque NWR, Caballo L.) in the RGV. One wandered north to Albuquerque 26 Feb (CMR).

American Bittern—One flying by Luis Lopez 15 Dec (JRO) provided a local first. One at BLNWR 1 Dec, 29 Dec, & 6 Jan (GLW) provided the only additional report.

Great Egret—Far north were singles at Peña Blanca 26 Dec (WHH*) and in fields near Cochiti 16 Feb (MLW). Greats again wintered in the lower RGV and lower Pecos Valley, including 4 at BLNWR 12 Jan (GLW) and 9 at L. Avalon 30 Jan (SW).

Cattle Egret—Apparently increasing in winter in the lower RGV, 12 were at Las Cruces 18 Dec (S. & W. Hill *fide* GJE), one was at Mesilla 11 Jan (J. Douglas), and 3 were at NMSU in Las Cruces 11 Feb (GJE).

White-faced Ibis—Traditionally unexpected in winter, one was at Belen's Taco Bell marsh 15 Jan-27 Feb (CMR, RDB, JRO, BDN, MJB); at least one was at Bosque NWR on various dates 7 Dec-27 Feb (PB, SWC, JEP, CGL) and 2 were noted there 21 Jan (JEP).

Turkey Vulture—Historically unknown in winter in New Mexico, but this season several were reported (but not detailed) in the lower Pecos Valley, including 2 at Roswell 18 Dec (*fide* SMB), 8 south of Roswell 15 Jan (JPB), and about 10 at Roswell 17 Jan (T. Bemis *fide* SW) plus one at Carlsbad 30 Jan (SW). Earliest elsewhere were singles at EBL Dam 21 Feb (WFW) and Mangas Springs 24 Feb (ERL).

Snow Goose—Blue morphs included one at Clayton L. 4 Dec (BDN), 2 on the Farmington CBC (among 157 whites) 18 Dec (APN+), 15 on the Sevilleta CBC (among

1450 whites) 14 Dec (SWC+), and 7 on the Bosque NWR CBC (among 26,300 whites) 18 Dec (SWC+).

Ross's Goose—Noteworthy for the location were 425 at LVNWR 9 Jan (CMR).

Brant—A “Black” Brant at Cherry Valley L. 4-5 Dec (JEP*, MJB*, CMB*) was a *Mora* first and the 7th Brant overall for New Mexico.

Cackling Goose—Both enthusiasm and confusion were evident as birders attempted to distinguish Cackling Geese from Canada Geese; available evidence suggests Cackling Geese are relatively numerous in the northeast and in the middle RGV. Some tallies this season included 3886 at Clayton L. 15 Dec (CMR, DJK), 250 at Maxwell NWR 4 Dec (JEP), and 420 at RGNC 12 Dec (JEP).

Mute Swan—Undetailed was one at Morgan L. 11 Dec (F. Bowman *fide* APN), which flew away when a boat approached.

Trumpeter Swan—Four ads., in company with 5 Tundras, put in a brief appearance at Stubblefield L. 2 Dec (DJC**). Two ads. were at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 2 Jan-1 Feb (WFW, JPB*, JRO**, MJB*, JEP*, RDB*, CMB*).

Tundra Swan—Much in evidence, including 4-5 in the Maxwell area 2 Dec-7 Jan (DJC**, JEP, MJB, MLW), 2 at Ute L. 3 Jan (JPB), 5 at BLNWR 29 Dec-23 Feb (GLW), 3 at L. Avalon 10 Dec-18 Feb (SW, JRO**, JEP, MLW), and singles at Farmington late Nov-18 Dec (APN) and EBL 8 & 12 Dec (MLW, J&MH).

Wood Duck—Noted on 11 CBCs 14 Dec-2 Jan at Farmington, Dixon, Española, Albuquerque, Sevilleta NWR, Las Cruces, Cimarron, Roswell, Lakes Avalon-Brantley, Loving, and CCNP. Noteworthy for the southwest were 2 at Bear Canyon L. 17 Feb (ERL).

Eurasian Wigeon—A male at Albuquerque split its time between RGNC and Mariposa Park 4 Dec-18 Feb (m.ob., DJK**, GKF**, CGL**).

Cinnamon Teal—Presumably early were 3 at EBL 14 Jan (JEP), 7 at Maddox L. near Lovington 22 Jan (CMR*), and 15 at BLNWR 26 Jan (GLW).

Green-winged Teal—An aerial survey estimated 15,675 at EBL 6 Jan (MLW), a remarkable concentration for New Mexico.

Greater Scaup—West was a female at Farmington L. 10 Dec (JEP) where 2 females were reported 18 Dec (T. Reeves *fide* APN); others included a male at Clayton L. 29 Jan (JEP) and 4 at Conchas L. 8 Jan (JEP).

White-winged Scoter—Lingering from Nov was a female/imm. at Clayton L. 15 Dec-29 Jan (DJK, CMB*, JRO**, JEP*, JPB). Two were at Holloman L. 6 Jan (GJE*).

Long-tailed Duck—An apparent male was at Santa Rosa L. 19 Dec (JMB*) and an ad. female was at LVNWR 9-17 Jan (BDN* et al., JRO**).

Barrow's Goldeneye—An unprecedented “invasion” found an ad. male and 3 females on the Chama R. below El Vado Dam 8 Feb (WFW*) and a male and female there 15 Feb (JPB*), a male and a female in the Maxwell-Stubblefield area 3 Dec-28 Feb (m.ob., WHH**, JRO**, DJC**), a female on the Rio Grande near Orilla Verde, *Taos* 13 Feb (BDN*, CMR*), and a female at Conchas L. 9 Jan (RDB*, BDN*, CMR*).

Osprey—Noteworthy for winter was one in the EBL Dam area 9 Jan-27 Feb (CGL**, JEP, JRO, JPB).

Bald Eagle—An aerial survey of the EBL-Caballo L. area 25 Jan found only 15 Bald Eagles, down from 94 there on a similar survey there Jan 2001 (RHD, D. Ahlers).

Harris's Hawk—One to 2 were in the Alamogordo area 16 Dec (J. P. Ward), 16 Jan (CGL), and 5 Feb (JRO). Four were in the Deming area 3 Dec (LKM).

Merlin—Small numbers noted nearly statewide Dec-Feb, including 2 on the Chaco Canyon CBC 20 Dec (BS) and 3 on the Bosque NWR CBC 18 Dec (SWC).

Aplomado Falcon—At least one present in s. *Luna* 2 Dec (RAM).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken—Ten near Pep were already “booming” on the early date of 6 Feb (CMR).

Virginia Rail—At least 7 were vocal in upper EBL 26 Jan (RHD).

Common Moorhen—Noteworthy for the southwest was one near Cliff 7 Feb (DJB). High count was 5 at Mesilla Dam 12 Feb (JEP).

Sandhill Crane—Peak count was an estimated 100,000 at Grulla NWR 2 Dec (JS). A bright, fully white albino Sandhill was in the Carzilla Valley near Hermanas 21 Jan (JRO**), demonstrating the value of photographically documenting all “white cranes.”

Whooping Crane—Two ads. were identified among some 40,000 Sandhills at Grulla NWR 1 Dec (JS), but extensive subsequent searches failed to relocate them. Although no photographs were obtained, the USFWS considered this a “confirmed” record; the species remains unverified by photograph or specimen in New Mexico.

Black-bellied Plover—Unexpected in winter, 5 lingered at BLNWR until 18 Dec, and one persisted there through Jan until 16 Feb (GLW*).

Mountain Plover—Very late was one at BLNWR 20 Dec (CMB*).

Black-necked Stilt—Surprising for mid-winter were 13 at Sunland Park 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Last at BLNWR was one 8 Dec (GLW). Earliest spring migrants were 3 at Belen 24 Feb (JRO).

American Avocet—Late were 2 at BLNWR 8 Dec (GLW) and one at EBL 12 Dec (J&MH). Earliest returnees were 2 at BLNWR 26 Jan (GLW) and one at Lordsburg Playa 30 Jan (JRO).

Greater Yellowlegs—North for the season were 3 at Ute L. 9 Jan (RDB).

Spotted Sandpiper—North was one at Española 2 Jan (BRF).

Long-billed Curlew—Late were 73 at Loving 19 Dec (*fide* CCC); unusual for mid-winter was one near Hermanas 21 Jan (JRO); early were 20 near Loving 18 Feb (JEP).

Least Sandpiper—An estimated 600 were at EBL's Monticello Point 18 Jan (JRO).

Bonaparte's Gull—Late for the north were 8 at Springer L. 1 Dec (DJC**), with 4 lingering there 5 Dec (MJB). High count was 30 at L. Avalon 11 Dec (SW).

Mew Gull—An ad. visited Brantley L. 17-21 Jan (JRO**, SW*).

Herring Gull—Small numbers reported at six locales from the RGV eastward, including 7 at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 21 Jan (JEP).

Thayer's Gull—Nicely documented were single first-winter birds at Cochiti L. 26-27 Dec (WHH**, MJB*) and EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 18 & 21 Jan (JRO**, JEP*).

Forster's Tern—Late was one at L. Avalon 14 Dec (JRO).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Ever increasing numbers were found statewide, including on 23 of 34 CBCs, with highs of 469 at Roswell 18 Dec (SMB) and 203 at Clayton 15 Dec (CMR); 18 were west to Farmington 18 Dec (APN). It was judged the most common and conspicuous bird species in the village of Elida 14 Feb, where only 2 Mourning Doves were noted (WHH).

White-winged Dove—Wintered north to Farmington, where up to 2 were noted Dec-Feb (APN); others in the north included 18 at Santa Fe 26 Dec (DME) and several at Madrid 23 Jan (C. Perez). Noteworthy for the Peloncillo Mts. were up to 3 in Post Office Canyon Dec-Feb (CDL). At Albuquerque, where now resident, singing began by 20-22 Jan (SOW, PRS).

Inca Dove—A pair was copulating at Radium Springs 15 Dec (MTS, JEZ). The species continued in evidence in the RGV north to Albuquerque.

Common Ground-Dove—Detailed reports were restricted to *Hidalgo*, with one in the middle Animas Valley 2 Jan (CMR*, MJB*, RDB*) and up to 2 at Rodeo 1 Jan-23 Feb (AJM*, m.ob., JRO**), where they consorted with Ruddy Ground-Doves. Undetailed was one on the Gila Valley CBC near Cliff 1 Jan (*fide* RSS).

Ruddy Ground-Dove—Another strong showing found 6 at Rodeo 1 Jan (AJM*), where 2-7 were seen almost daily through 23 Feb (MJB*, RDB*, JEP*, JRO**, RS**, m.ob.). A female was near Radium Springs 15 Dec-7 Jan (MTS, JEZ, MJB*).

Greater Roadrunner—Reported on 17 CBCs, including north to Zuni, Dixon, Santa Fe, Pecos, and Raton. In Albuquerque, a pair was courting 30 Jan and collecting nest material 9 Feb (SOW).

Barn Owl—Late for the north was one at Maxwell NWR 28 Dec (P. Hoban). A nest box at BLNWR contained 2 small nestlings and 4 eggs 23 Feb (GLW*); such early nesting is unprecedented in New Mexico.

Eastern Screech-Owl—The one found at Portales in Nov 2003 was still present 3 Jan (JPB**) and was vocal 19 Feb (JRO).

Short-eared Owl—Noteworthy were up to 4 in the Salt Creek area of BLNWR 16 Dec (GLW), where they associated with a roost of Long-eared Owls, and 3 south of Whites City 18 Dec (SW), where one remained 1 Jan (SW). Undetailed was one below Conchas Dam 2 Jan (*fide* WFW).

Common Poorwill—Very late was one seen in CCNP's Walnut Canyon 18 Dec (SW).

Magnificent Hummingbird—An ad. male banded at L. Roberts 2 Dec remained there until 31 Jan (JD-M).

Anna's Hummingbird—A female was north to Albuquerque 24 Dec-11 Jan (S. Norris).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Notably early were single males in Post Office Canyon 15 Feb (CDL), where manzanita shrubs were blooming by Jan, and in the nearby Animas Valley 21 Feb (NM-C).

Rufous Hummingbird—A late male was banded at Las Cruces 8 Dec (JD-M), while the last at Post Office Canyon was seen (at a frozen feeder) 12 Dec (CDL); undetailed was one in the Carlsbad area 26 Dec (*fide* TJH). A female *Selasphorus* at Mesilla Park 31 Dec (CGL) was believed to be a Rufous.

Red-bellied Woodpecker—A male was at Conchas Dam 2-15 Jan (CMB*, JRO**, MJB*, JEP*, BDN*, m.ob). One was in the Atarque Cr. area south of Mosquero, e. *San Miguel* 3 Dec (MDM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Reports with useful details were single imms. at Dawson 16 Dec (WHH**), Conchas L. 2-9 Jan (CMB, MJB, JRO, BDN), and Villanueva 22 Jan (JRO), and an ad. male at Percha SP 9 Jan-27 Feb (BRZ, CGL, JPB) plus an imm. there 30 Jan (BRZ).

Red-naped Sapsucker—One was east to Lovington 22 Jan (CMR*).

Downy Woodpecker—Unusually high numbers were reported at low elevations in *San Juan*, including a record 14 at Farmington 18 Dec (APN).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—An ad. male was in the Sandia Mts. 30 Jan (J. P. Joseph*), where the species has been scarce or absent in recent years. One was drumming at Bandelier NM, *Sandoval* 27 Feb (JRO**).

“Yellow-shafted” Flicker—Flickers with yellow feathers, some of which were suspected of being intergrades, were 2 at Clayton 4 Dec (BDN) and 3 there 15 Dec (CMR) plus singles at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Jan (SW) and Redrock 30 Jan (JRO).

***Empidonax* sp.**—A western-type believed to be a Cordilleran was detailed and photographed at Rattlesnake Springs 18 Dec (CCC**, v.o.). One was at Silver City 18 Dec (*fide* RSS); undetailed was one suspected of being a Hammond's near Cliff 1 Jan (*fide* RSS); one of the Hammond's-Dusky group at Mesilla Dam 18 Dec (CGL*) was suspected of being a Dusky.

Black Phoebe—Unusually late were 2 north to Zuni 18 Dec (JRO).

Eastern Phoebe—Far west were singles near Cliff 1 Jan (RSS) and in the Animas Valley 2 Jan (CMR*, RDB). Noted in the RGV at Socorro, Bosque NWR, Ladder Ranch, Percha SP, and Las Cruces. High count was 7 at Rattlesnake Springs 18 Dec (SW).

Say's Phoebe—Pushing the northern envelope were 3 at Farmington 18 Dec (APN) and singles at Santa Fe 26 Dec (DME) and Maxwell 6 Jan (DJC).

Great Kiskadee—One along a ditch just north of Las Cruces, first reported 14 February (Minerva Rivera)—but, according to the landowner, possibly present since late Nov (*fide* JEZ)—was seen and documented by many through Feb (K. Stinnett, MTS*, JEZ**, JEP*, CGL*, LKM*, MJB*, RDB*, SW*, m.ob.). This was New Mexico's 6th credible report and the first for *Doña Ana*.

Northern Shrike—Singles were at seven northern sites during the season, including an ad. singing at LVNWR 17 Jan (RDB). South was an ad. at Bosque NWR 12 Feb (M. Ristow).

Plumbeous Vireo—Late was one at Ladder Ranch west of Caballo L. 7 Dec (WFW). Possibly wintering was one at Mesilla Park 11-12 Feb (CGL, JEP).

Cassin's Vireo—Late was one Ladder Ranch 7 Dec (WFW), where there was also a Plumbeous. One at Mesilla Park 5 Dec (CGL*) was quite bright but was not a Blue-headed.

Hutton's Vireo—Noteworthy was one at Mesilla Park 18 Jan (JEZ) & 12 Feb (JEP). Hutton's returned to Post Office Canyon 28 Jan and were conspicuous there by 7 Feb (CDL).

Steller's Jay—One strayed to Farmington 10 Dec (JEP).

Blue Jay—West were one at Raton 29 Jan (JEP), one at Cimarron 4 Jan & 2 there 21 Feb (DJC), and one on Vermejo Ranch near Cimarron 17-18 Dec (DJC).

Western Scrub-Jay—Notably scarce in the middle and lower RGV and absent from some regularly occupied areas, such as near Socorro (PB).

Mexican Jay—Clan members were carrying nest material in Post Office Canyon by 17 Feb (CDL).

American Crow—Numbers continued unusually low in several areas, including at Albuquerque (WHH, HRS) and Socorro (PB).

Chihuahuan Raven—Numbers were greatly reduced in the Deming area (LKM) and the species was considered very rare in the Carlsbad area Jan-Feb (SW).

Common Raven—Two were at Brantley L. 26 Dec (SW).

Tree Swallow—Late was one at Bosque NWR 5 Dec (D. Pellegrini). May have wintered at L. Avalon, where there were 20 on 5 Jan (*fide* SW), 4 on 17 Jan (JRO), and 40 on 23 Jan (SW).

Barn Swallow—Early was one (with 200 Trees) at L. Avalon 18 Feb (JEP).

Bushtit—In the Peloncillo Mts., pairs began segregating from winter flocks by 10 Jan (CDL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Staged a noticeable lowland invasion, including east to Clayton, near Mosquero, and Roswell and south to Deming, Mesilla, and Carlsbad (m.ob.).

Pygmy Nuthatch—Two were in the middle RGV near Los Lunas 1 Dec (DLH).

Cactus Wren—Ten birds plus numerous old nest structures were seen on San Juan Mesa north of Elida 14 Feb (WHH).

Carolina Wren—Nicely described was one at Cedar Crest 26 Dec (AJR*), for the 3rd local record there. There have been multiple New Mexico reports each year since 1998.

House Wren—Late was one at Zuni mid-Dec (JAT).

Winter Wren—A good season produced singles at Farmington 18 Dec (APN*), Santa Fe 26 Dec (*fide* DME), Pecos R. near San Jose 11 Jan (WFW), Clayton L. 15 Dec (DJK), Albuquerque's North Valley 26 Feb (CMR), and Rattlesnake Springs 15 & 29 Jan (JPB*, MJB*, SW).

Marsh Wren—High counts for wintering birds were 38 at Conchas L. 2 Jan (WFW) and 22 in upper EBL 26 Jan (RHD).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Two strayed to the Florida Mts. at Byer Spring 28 Jan (JRO). Up to 5 wintered in saltcedar at Mesilla Park 2 Dec-27 Feb (CGL).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Nicely described were 2 late ones near San Acacia 14 Dec (DLH*). Undetailed CBC reports were 3 at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (*fide* SWC) and singles at CCNP 18 Dec (*fide* SW) and Loving 19 Dec (*fide* CCC), all areas where Black-tailed is likely; observers should always detail wintering gnatcatchers.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Reports increased north in the RGV, including one at Bosque NWR 11 Dec and 2 at a different locale there 18 Dec (JEP) plus one there 7 Jan (CMB*), one at Ladder Ranch 7 Dec (WFW), another at T or C, *Sierra* 12 Feb (JEP), and 2 west of Caballo L. 14 Jan (JEP). Seven on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC included 4 in the middle Animas Valley 2 Jan (CMR, MJB, RDB), while one was north to Carlisle Canyon, *Grant* 24 Jan (RS).

Eastern Bluebird—Well represented, with reports from 29 locales (including on 13 CBCs) from the RGV eastward, including 171 at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW). In the west, a male was in Post Office Canyon 7 Dec (CDL).

American Robin—Began singing at Albuquerque by 22 Jan (PRS).

Gray Catbird—Singles were north to Abiquiu 12 Feb (CMR) and Clayton 15 Dec (RLV).

Northern Mockingbird—Singles lingered in the north at Clayton 15 Dec (DJK) and Maxwell 16 Dec (DJK). Noteworthy for the season were 4 at Conchas L. 2 Jan (WFW).

Sage Thrasher—Wintering north of usual were 12 at Española 2 Jan (BRF), 5 at Santa Fe 26 Dec (DME), one near Bernal, *San Miguel* 15 Jan (JEP), and up to 2 at Conchas L. 2 & 17 Jan (WFW, RDB).

Brown Thrasher—West of usual were singles at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 18 Dec (JRO) and Post Office Canyon 10 Jan (CDL).

Crissal Thrasher—Singing in Sandia Mts. foothills 9 Jan (JEP) and Post Office Canyon 10 Jan (CDL).

Sprague's Pipit—Typically irregular in winter in New Mexico, with Jan records particularly scarce. This season, 6 were found near Hope 15 Dec but only singles were there 26 & 27 Dec and 20 Jan (RAM); on Otero Mesa, 5 were found 2 Feb and 10 on 6 Feb (RAM); farther west, 8 were south of Deming 11 Dec (RAM) and one was in the south Animas Valley 8 Feb (ERL).

Bohemian Waxwing—One was among some 400 Cedar Waxwings at Farmington 7 & 10 Dec (C. L. Black, JEP*) and 2 were among Cedars near Abiquiu 8-9 Feb (WFW*, S Brayshaw**). These were the first New Mexico records in four years.

Cedar Waxwing—Unusually numerous and widespread Dec-Feb, including reports on 21 CBCs statewide, from Farmington east to Clayton and south to Silver City, Las Cruces, and Loving.

Phainopepla—Unusual for the elevation and date was a male near Cloudcroft, *Otero* 21 Feb (WFW).

Olive Warbler—One was at Mesilla Park 9 Dec (CGL*) and again on various dates 7-21 Jan (CGL).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Late for the north were singles at Albuquerque 12 & 19 Dec (RDB*), Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW), and Bosque NWR 18 Dec (SWC). Several lingerers were in the lower RGV and lower Pecos Valley in Dec, but there were no specific Jan reports; probably wintering were singles at Mesilla Park 5 Feb (CGL) & 12 Feb (JEP) and Deming 16 Feb (LKM).

Black-throated Gray Warbler—A male was seen at Mesilla Park in late Nov and mid-Dec (*fide* CGL) and again from 15 Jan through Feb (CGL**), including 18 Jan (JEZ), 29 Jan (BRZ), 6 Feb (JRO), & 12 Feb (JEP) and provided a wintering first for Las Cruces.

Townsend's Warbler—Surprising for winter were single well-documented singles at Albuquerque 12 & 19 Dec (RDB*), Owl Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 2 Jan (D. Danforth*), and Mesilla Park 9-15 Dec (CGL*).

Pine Warbler—An apparent ad. male provided a surprise at Albuquerque's Kirtland AFB 14 Jan-16 Feb (GKF, JEP*).

American Redstart—A young male lingered at Radium Springs 11-22 Dec (MTS, JEZ).

Cassin's Sparrow—Typically scarce or absent in winter, this season produced 18 in the middle Animas Valley 2 Jan (CMR, MJB, RDB), one banded near Antelope Wells 22 Jan (MJD), one near Hermanas 5 Feb (JRO), small numbers on Otero Mesa all winter (RAM), 3 in south *Lea* 22 Jan (CMR*), and one north to Sevilleta NWR 23 Dec (AJR*). Early singing was noted at BLNWR 19 Feb (GLW), Hope 21 Feb (SW), Brantley L. 25 Feb (RHD), and Carlsbad 28 Feb (SW).

American Tree Sparrow—South of expected were singles at Zuni 18 Dec (JAT) and Dripping Springs 18 Dec (GJE*). Noteworthy at 2520 m were 7 at Eagle Nest 13 Dec (DJC**). High count was 78 at Clayton 18 Dec (CMR).

Chipping Sparrow—North for the season were 2 at Corrales 19 Dec (DJK), 2 at Albuquerque 6 Jan (BDN), and a remarkable 99 in the Conchas L. area 2 Jan (WFW).

Field Sparrow—Noteworthy were 2 west to Conchas Dam 2 & 4 Jan (WFW, JRO, MJB*); others were singles at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Dec (B. K. Percival) and southern *Lea* 22 Jan (CMR*).

Sage Sparrow—Late for the north were 13 at Chaco Canyon 20 Dec (BS); surprising were 2 singing north of Taos 26 Feb (JEP).

Grasshopper Sparrow—The 22 in the middle Animas Valley 2 Jan (CMR, MJB, RDB) was a very high winter count. Three were banded near Antelope Wells 14 Jan (MJD).

Baird's Sparrow—Surveys for grassland sparrows found several Baird's, including some apparently wintering, in *Eddy*, *Otero*, and *Luna*, including 10 near Hope 15 Dec (RAM), 3 on Otero Mesa 18 Jan (RAM) and a high 16 there 6 Feb (RAM). One was seen on the Ladder Ranch 7 Dec (WFW).

Le Conte's Sparrow—Very rare in New Mexico, singles were north of BLNWR 15 Jan (JPB**) and on the McGregor Range portion of Otero Mesa 8 Feb (RAM*).

Fox Sparrow—A good season found a "gray" at Maxwell 22-29 Dec (DJC**), up to 3 "reds" in the Conchas Dam area 2 Jan-1 Feb (CMB, JRO, WFW), singles at Zuni 18 Dec (JAT) and Ladder Ranch 7 Dec (WFW), a gray in the Peloncillo Mts. 2 Jan (REW*), a gray in Filmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 7 Jan (MTS, JEZ), up to 4 at CCNP 18 Dec,

apparently including 3 grays and one red (*fide* SW), and a red at Maddox L. 22 Jan (CMR*).

Lincoln's Sparrow—North were 2 at Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC).

Swamp Sparrow—Noteworthy for the eastern plains were 6 Swamp Sparrows at Maddox L. 22 Jan (CMR). Four were at Rattlesnake Springs 18 Feb (JEP).

White-throated Sparrow—One apparently wintered north to Ponil Cr. near Cimarron, where seen 16 Dec & 24 Feb (DJC*).

Harris's Sparrow—Two were along Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 24 & 26 Feb (DJC**) and singles were at Farmington 18 Dec (APN), Albuquerque's North Valley 13 Dec-14 Jan (DWM*, MJB*, m.ob.), Belen 20-21 Jan (RDB, JEP), and near Cliff 16 Dec & 1 Jan (C. Fugagli).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—An ad. was in Albuquerque's North Valley 13 Dec-14 Jan (DWM*, DJK, CGL, MJB*, JEP, JRO).

"White-winged" Junco—Reports included 2 each at Clayton 4 Dec (BDN*) and Dawson 16 Dec (WHH*) and one at Valmora, *Mora* 14 Dec (DJK).

McCown's Longspur—High count was 400 at a prairie dog town on Otero Mesa 18 Feb (RAM); other reports included 120 at LVNWR 11 Jan (WFW) and 100 at Bellview, *Curry* 25 Feb (CMR).

Lapland Longspur—This is the rarest of the three longspur species occurring in New Mexico, but this season produced multiple reports from eight northeastern locales in *Colfax*, *Union*, *Mora*, and *San Miguel* Dec-Feb, including highs of 30 at Stubblefield L. 29 Jan (JEP) and 45 there 19 Feb (DJC), 27 at Clayton 15 Dec (CMR), 36 at LVNWR 9 Jan (CMR), and 15 at Conchas L. 1 Feb (WFW). One was south to Sevilleta NWR 23 Dec (DJK*).

Chestnut-collared Longspur—High count was 1015 in the southern Animas Valley 21 Feb (AMC, NM-C).

Northern Cardinal—Now regular along the Canadian R. below Conchas Dam, where there were 2 on 2 Jan (WFW) and singles 3 Jan (JRO) and 1 Feb (WFW). On the Pecos R., 2 were north to Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WFW).

Eastern Meadowlark—Two were on Albuquerque's West Mesa 19 Dec (NV), where 5 were singing on the early date of 28 Jan (JEP).

Common Grackle—Noteworthy were singles north to Maxwell 4-26 Dec (DJC*), near RGNC 25 Dec (SOW, P. Mehlhop), and Sandia Heights 5 Feb (F. & R. Slowen), plus 3 west to Virden 5 Feb (JRO**) and up to 3 at Rodeo 1 Jan-4 Feb (AJM*, m.ob.).

Bronzed Cowbird—Up to 10 wintered at NMSU stock pens in Las Cruces 18 Dec (T. Lawton*) through 20 Feb (m.ob.)

Brown-headed Cowbird—Surprising was one at 2560 m (8400 ft) at Eagle Nest 13 Dec (DJC**).

Rosy-Finch—Banding studies of wintering rosy-finches at Sandia Crest provided interesting insights, including recaptures of 4 **Blacks** banded there last winter; this season, from a flock of over 100, 89 were banded: 48 **Brown-capped**s, 28 **Blacks**, and 13 **Gray-crowned**s (NSC, SWC et al.). Elsewhere, a three-species flock of some 60 (primarily **Brown-capped**s) was at Eagle Nest Dec-Feb (DJC), a three-species flock of up to 100 (primarily **Brown-capped**s) was at the Taos ski area 25-26 Feb (JRO, JEP), and about 60 were seen in flight at Red River 25 Feb (JRO).

Pine Grosbeak—Noteworthy for the Sandia Mts. was one at Sandia Crest 16 Jan (NSC) and 11 there 5 Feb (RDB, NSC). One descended to a Santa Fe feeder 26 Feb (D. Lacoss*).

Purple Finch—A female was well-described at Santa Fe 2 Dec (MH*).

Cassin's Finch—Moderate numbers were widespread in the north and southwest, and were reported on 17 CBCs, including 4 east to Ruidoso 18 Dec (ALP) and 41 at La Luz 29 Dec (H. Reiser).

Red Crossbill—Small to moderate numbers were reported, primarily in the north, but a few ventured into the south and southeast, including 11 at Radium Springs 20 Dec (MTS, JEZ), 3 in the Avalon-Brantley area 26 Dec (*vide* TJH), and 14 at Clovis, *Curry* 9 Feb (JRO).

White-winged Crossbill—An apparent one was at Farmington 22 Feb (F. Bowman *vide* APN); details included brown plumage, crossed bill, and two white wingbars.

Lawrence's Goldfinch—One near Rodeo 4 Dec (P. D. Hulce) and 3 there 6 Jan (REW) provided the only reports.

Evening Grosbeak—Conspicuous in the northern half of the state, including up to 400 in Russian olive trees at Abiquiu 12 Feb (JPB et al.).

* * *

Published 8 February 2007



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES