

*New Mexico  
Ornithological Society  
Field Notes*



*Volume 53, Number 1, Winter 2013 - 2014*

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES  
Volume 53, Number 1, Winter 2013-2014  
1 December 2013 – 28 February 2014

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society  
**ISSN 0898-9443**

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 \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068; [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org).

**Front cover:** Brant (*Branta bernicla*), Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, 17 December 2013 (see page 4). Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.

**Back cover:** Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*), below Elephant Butte Dam, Sierra County, New Mexico, 19 January 2014 (see page 16). Photograph by Dale Spall.

## WINTER SEASON 2013-2014

Continuing the trend of recent years, Winter 2013-2014 was warm and dry in New Mexico. Early autumn rains improved habitat for some wintering species, notably sparrows and other seed eaters, but by the end of the season conditions again appeared bleak heading into the spring. Several shorebird species were documented overwintering, suggesting a northward shift in their ranges. Similarly, several warbler species continued to make their winter presence known. Among a number of notable rarities were a Brant at Albuquerque, a Groove-billed Ani at La Union, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker far west to La Plata.

### Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	La Luz, <i>Otero</i>
Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Las Campanas, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Last Chance Canyon, <i>Eddy</i>
Angel Fire, <i>Colfax</i>	Las Vegas, <i>San Miguel</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bernardo, <i>Socorro</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Lordsburg Playa, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bluewater Lake, <i>McKinley/Cibola</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Mesilla, Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Brantley Lake, Dam, <i>Eddy</i>	Mesilla Bosque SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Broad Canyon Ranch, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Mills Canyon, <i>Harding</i>
Burro Mts., <i>Grant</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Orilla Verde, <i>Taos</i>
Carlsbad, Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Cliff, <i>Grant</i>	Pilar, <i>Taos</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Pinos Altos Mts., <i>Grant</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Pojoaque, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Eagle Nest, <i>Colfax</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Rio Rancho, <i>Sandoval</i>
Eunice, <i>Lea</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Galisteo, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	San Antonio, <i>Socorro</i>
Guadalupe Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Sandia Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Kingston, <i>Sierra</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Bernalillo/Sandoval</i>
La Cieneguilla, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Santa Fe, Canyon, Preserve, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Ladder Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>	Sevilleta NWR, <i>Socorro</i>
Laguna Grande, <i>Eddy</i>	Silver City, <i>Grant</i>
La Joya, WMA, <i>Socorro</i>	Six Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i>
Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>	Spring Canyon SP, <i>Luna</i>
Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>	Sunland Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>

Tesuque, *Santa Fe*  
 Ute Lake, *Quay*  
 Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana/Luna*  
 Valle de Oro NWR, *Bernalillo*  
 Vaughn, *Guadalupe*

Washington Ranch, *Eddy*  
 White Rock, *Los Alamos*  
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*  
 Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

### Standard Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	SP	State Park
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CG	Camp Ground	♂	male (represents sword & shield of Mars)
Cr.	Creek	♀	female (represents mirror of Venus)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	ad(s).	adult(s)
GBA	Gila Bird Area	subad(s).	subadult(s)
L.	Lake	imm(s).	immature(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	sp.	species
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	m.ob.	many observers
NAPI	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry	m.ph.	many photographs
NM	National Monument	v.o.	various observers
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	+	others; et al.
NP	National Park	*	written details provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	**	photo or tape provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
PA	Picnic Area		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

## Initialed Observers

FA	Francisco Anaya	MJK	Mary Jo Kelly
NA	Noah Arthur	DJK	David J. Krueper
ARB	Andrew R. Bankert	CGL	Carl G. Lundblad
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	LKM	Larry K. Malone
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	RAM	Raymond A. Meyer
GWB	Grant W. Beauprez	RN	Robert Nieman
KB	Karen Beckenbach	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DAB	Dan Allen Belcher	JO-W	Jennifer Owen-White
RB	Ray Bowers	JEP	John E. Parmeter
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JNP	James N. Paton
RCC	Richard C. Castetter	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
RC	Roger Clark	ALP	Anita L. Powell
DJC	David J. Cleary	TR	Tim Reeves
SDC	Steve D. Collins	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
SWC	Steve W. Cox	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
KD	Ken Dayer	JIS	Jeffery I. Sanchez
JLD	John L. Douglas	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	RSS	Roland S. Shook
SMF	Stephen M. Fettig	JPS	James P. Smith
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	DS	Dale Spall
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	NGS	Nancy G. Stotz
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	WT	Wayne Treers
DJG	David J. Griffin	RLV	Ramond L. VanBuskirk
JMG	John M. Groves	REW	Richard E. Webster
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	SW	Steve West
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	WFWe	William F. West
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
TJH	Tom J. Hines	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
WHH	William H. Howe	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
JPJ	James P. Joseph		

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Greater White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose**—A hybrid between these two species was at Clayton L. 19 Dec (MJB\*\*).

**Snow Goose**—Some 39,500 were at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (DLH) and 11,400 were at BLNWR 14 Dec (JIS); amazing numbers, considering that the 915 that wintered at Bosque NWR 1961-62 represented an exciting “all time record high.”

**Ross’s Goose**—Some 6900 were at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (DLH), a high 26,600 were at BLNWR 14 Dec (JIS), and 4148 were at Albuquerque’s Valle de Oro NWR 21 Dec (JO-W); remarkable numbers, considering that Ross’s was first documented in the state only in 1956.

**Brant**—One at Albuquerque 15 Dec-5 Jan (S. Williamson, m.ob., m.ph.) split its time between RGNC and Ladera Park; it sustained a leg injury 22 Dec, but continued to fly and feed with other geese until last seen. This interesting Brant fit neither the typical Atlantic or Pacific subspecies, and seemed to have all the characteristics of a “Gray-bellied” Brant.

**Tundra Swan**—Two were at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (J. Holloway) and singles (perhaps from Bosque NWR?) were south to Leasburg SP 17 Dec (RB\*\*) and north to Bernardo 16 Dec-13 Jan (MJB, NDP, D.W. Mehlman, J. McPhee, DLH) and nearby La Joya 2-15 Feb (JRO, JEP).

**Wood Duck**—Wintered in the RGV and vicinity from Dixon south, including 795 in the Albuquerque area 15-21 Dec (RLV, JO-W).

**Eurasian Wigeon**—A ♂ in the Las Campanas area from 10 Jan (C. Slocomb\*\*) to 24 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.) provided a *Santa Fe* first. Another ♂ was at the Clovis treatment ponds 26 Dec-20 Jan (GWB\*).

**Blue-winged Teal**—Unexpected in mid-winter, a ♂ and 2 ♀♀ were at Percha SP 12 Jan (BRZ\*\*).

**Cinnamon Teal**—A ♂ was at EBL 7-9 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**White-winged Scoter**—A ♀/imm. was at Brantley L. 25 Jan (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Long-tailed Duck**—Three were in the Laguna Grande area at Nash Draw 23 Dec (ARB\*\*, RN\*\*).

**Common Goldeneye**—A ♀ was south to Las Cruces 15 Jan (NGS\*\*). A high 206 were on the Española CBC 5 Jan (BRF).

**Barrow’s Goldeneye**—In the upper RGV, up to 4 were in the Ohkay Owingeh lakes area 6 Dec-9 Feb (m.ob., BRF\*\*, WHH\*\*, NEH\*\*, WTE\*\*), and single ♂♂ were at Orilla Verde 27 Dec-8 Jan (S. & C. Hanks) and near Pilar 1 Feb (JEP\*, JRO). In the southeast, a ♂ was at Brantley L. 18 Feb (RN\*\*).

**Common Merganser**—Some 500 were concentrated at L. Roberts 18 Dec (*fide* RSS).

**Pacific Loon**—Singles were at Brantley L. 19 Jan-2 Feb (JRO\*\*, JEP\*, RN, CMR\*\*) and Ute L. 9-15 Feb (JRO, DLH).

**Common Loon**—North for the season was one at Abiquiu L. 20 Jan (WHH).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Earliest arrival at Albuquerque's Tingley ponds was one 17 Jan (ARB\*\*), where up to 18 were present by 18 Feb (DLH).

**Double-crested Cormorant**—Some 300 were at Six Mile Dam 11 Feb (SW).

**American White Pelican**—An early 6 were north to Ute L. 7 Feb (JEP).

**Brown Pelican**—An ad. at Brantley L. 1-2 Feb (RN\*\*, CMR\*) represented the California subspecies. Two ads. were at EBL 25 Feb (LKM\*).

**Great Egret**—Several wintered in the lower Pecos Valley and lower RGV, with 1-6 at BLNWR 31 Dec-22 Jan (FA), 2 at Brantley L. 25 Jan (JEP), and 1-3 at Mesilla Bosque SP 29 Dec-10 Jan (JEP).

**Snowy Egret**—Noteworthy for winter, one to 5 were at BLNWR 31 Dec-22 Jan (FA) and one was at Sunland Park 10 Jan (JEP).

**Cattle Egret**—Two lingered at EBL's Three Sisters area 1-31 Dec (DJC\*\*); one appeared at EBL's Monticello Point 26-28 Jan (DJC).

**White-faced Ibis**—Continuing a recent trend, a few wintered at BLNWR, with 6 on 14 Dec, 2 on 31 Dec, and 5 on 22 Jan (FA).

**Turkey Vulture**—Fifteen were at Roswell 14 Dec (JIS).

**White-tailed Kite**—One was in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP).

**Bald Eagle**—Some 111 were counted on 17 CBCs 14 Dec-5 Jan (m.ob.); high counts were 14 on the Albuquerque CBC 15 Dec (RLV) and 16 on the Valle de Oro CBC 21 Dec (JO-W).

**Cooper's Hawk**—A high 47 were on the Albuquerque CBC 15 Dec (RLV).

**Northern Goshawk**—An ad. was along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 26 Dec-6 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**Harris's Hawk**—Occurred across the south in *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, *Otero*, *Eddy*, and *Lea*, but numbers were considered low in the latter two, with high counts of but 9 in the Avalon-Brantley area 15 Dec (TJH) and 7 near Eunice 1 Jan (P. W. McCasland).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—An ad., apparently one of the several eastern subspecies, was at Mesilla Bosque SP 27 Dec-10 Jan (NGS\*\*, JEP\*).

**“Harlan’s” Hawk**—One to 3 were in the RGV at Ohkay Owingeh 5 Jan (WHH\*\*), La Cieneguilla all season (BRF\*\*), San Antonio Dec-Jan (GKF), and Bosque NWR Dec-Jan (GKF, DLH). One was west to Rodeo 1 Dec (REW).

**Ferruginous Hawk**—A good season, with reports on 15 CBCs 14 Dec-4 Jan. Relatively numerous in the middle RGV, with 7 at Valle de Oro NWR 21 Dec (JO-W), 6 at San Antonio 1 Dec (GKF\*\*), and up to 10 at Bosque NWR Dec-Jan (GKF, DLH); high count elsewhere was 13 in the Angel Fire-Eagle Nest area 14 Dec (MJK).

**Rough-legged Hawk**—Was conspicuous from the RGV eastward, with one to 2 at 19 locales in 13 counties Dec-Feb (m.ob.).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Noteworthy for the season, 18 were at Sunland Park 29 Dec (MTS, JEZ) where there were at least 2 on 10 Jan (JEP).

**American Avocet**—Late were 2 at BLNWR 14 Dec (FA); early was one at the Lordsburg playa 8 Feb (LKM).

**Snowy Plover**—Several wintered in the Nash Draw area of Laguna Grande Dec-Feb, including at high 14 on 3 Jan (ARB). One was north to BLNWR 8 Jan (JIS, T. Warner\*\*).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—One was very late at Bosque NWR 17 Dec (L. Hinesley\*\*). Remarkable was one that spent the winter at Leasburg SP—first found 18 Nov, it remained into Mar (NGS\*\*, CJG\*\*, m.ob.).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**—Although Greater Yellowlegs winter in small numbers in southern New Mexico, the status of Lessers is poorly understood. This season, one Lesser was east of Carlsbad 31 Dec (RN\*\*) and 3 were reported at BLNWR 8 Jan (FA), where one was photographed 27 Jan (JIS\*\*).

**Long-billed Curlew**—One was in the Uvas Valley, *Luna* 22 Feb (JEP).

**Sanderling**—One was in the Laguna Grande area 2 Jan-12 Feb (ARB\*\*).

**Western Sandpiper**—Additional evidence that this species has begun to overwinter in southern New Mexico was provided by some 100 in the Laguna Grande area Dec-Feb, including 93 on 2 & 9 Jan (ARB\*\*) and, along with 263 **Least Sandpipers**, a high 108 Westerns were there 22 Jan (ARB).

**Dunlin**—A small flock of 9 was at Laguna Grande Dec-Feb, where several were photographed 2 Jan (ARB\*\*). Others included 3 at EBL 2 Jan (DJC\*\*), one below Williamsburg 17 Dec-6 Jan (DJC\*\*), and one at Brantley L. 18 Feb (RN\*\*).

**Black-legged Kittiwake**—A winter-plumaged ad. was at Brantley L. 15 Dec (RN\*\*).

**Bonaparte’s Gull**—Noteworthy for *Roosevelt* was one at Portales 12 Dec (GWB\*\*).



**Mew Gull**—Single ads. were at the *San Juan* landfill near Farmington from Nov into Mar (TR), Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 31 Jan-8 Feb (ARB\*\*, NEH\*\*, JEP\*, JRO\*\*, CMB\*, DLH), Sunland Park 23-27 Dec (JNP\*, JMG), and L. Carlsbad 24-25 Jan (RN\*\*, JRO\*\*).

**California Gull**—Noteworthy for the lower Pecos Valley was one at L. Carlsbad 7 Dec (RN\*\*).

**Thayer's Gull**—Single non-ads. were near Farmington 11 Jan-22 Feb (TR), the Alameda bridge 6 Jan-10 Feb (WHH\*\*, ARB\*\*, JRO\*\*, JPS\*\*), and Brantley L. 18-25 Feb (RN\*\*, JRO\*\*).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—Another strong season, with a first-cycle in the Farmington area 10 Jan-12 Feb (TR), a first-cycle at the Alameda bridge 4-11 Jan (ARB\*\*, WHH\*\*, CMR\*), at least one ad. at EBL 1 Dec-12 Feb (DJC\*\*, NEH\*) and a first-cycle there 4 Jan-21 Feb (JEP\*, DJC, BRZ, JPS), and an ad. at Sunland Park 20 Jan (JNP\*\*) plus a first-cycle there and in adjacent El Paso on various dates 6 Dec-8 Jan (JNP, JMG, DAB). The species has been annual in the state since the 2006-07 winter season.

**Glaucous Gull**—Four were documented—an ad. at the Alameda bridge 4-6 Jan (ARB\*\*, JEP\*, JRO\*\*, WHH\*\*, DLH) and single first-cycles at EBL 27 Dec-11 Feb (DJC\*\*, BRZ\*\*, GKF\*\*, CMB\*\*, m.ob.), Ute L. 7 Feb (JEP\*), and BLNWR 25 Jan (J. B. Montgomery\*).

**Band-tailed Pigeon**—One was at Silver City 26 Feb (KB).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—Continued in abundance statewide, with reports from 30 of 33 CBCs. High counts included 590 at Clayton 29 Dec (CMR) and 1973 at Valle de Oro NWR 21 Dec (JO-W).

**White-winged Dove**—Some were on nests at Las Cruces by mid-Jan (NGS, DJG), where there were very recent fledglings by 1 Feb (NGS\*\*).

**Inca Dove**—The unexplained decline in numbers continued across much of the south; nevertheless, a pair was mating and another pair was on a nest structure at Mesilla Park 22 Dec (DJG\*\*, NA), up to 11 visited an Elephant Butte feeder Dec-Feb (DJC\*\*), and 12 were at La Union 14 Dec (JEP).

**Common Ground-Dove**—One was near Rodeo 1 Dec (REW\*\*) and 3 were in Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP\*\*).

**Ruddy Ground-Dove**—Continuing from Nov, up to 3 were at Rodeo through 25 Jan (m.ob., MJB\*\*, NDP\*\*).

**Groove-billed Ani**—One at La Union 13 Dec (J. A. Montoya\*\*) provided the first for *Doña Ana* since 1987.

**Burrowing Owl**—North for the season, one passed the winter in a bank cavity at Rio Rancho Dec-Feb (CLH).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—One was at Galisteo 11 Jan (JPB\*\*).

**Common Poorwill**—Strongly suggestive of an overwintering bird, one flushed from a rock crevice on the south face of La Bajada Mesa, *Santa Fe* on the warm afternoon of 20 Jan (J. Luetzelschwab\*).

**White-throated Swift**—Five were north to Mills Canyon 24 Feb (RC).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird**—A ♀ wintered at Elephant Butte 1 Dec-13 Feb (DJC\*\*).

**Anna's Hummingbird**—Continuing from Nov was one at Carlsbad 7 Dec (RN\*\*). In Las Cruces, a ♀ continued from Nov until at least 13 Dec (RCC, JEP\*) and a ♂ was there 3 Dec (DJG\*); 2 reported on the Las Cruces CBC 14 Dec (WT) may have been these two.

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird**—Undetailed was one reported on the Las Cruces CBC 14 Dec (WT).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—An ad. ♂ was at Las Cruces 6 Dec (RCC\*); undetailed were 2 reported on the Las Cruces CBC 14 Dec (WT).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—Continuing from 17 Nov, a ♂ was at Truth or Consequences, *Sierra* through 7 Feb (A. Morrison\*\*, DJC, JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Acorn Woodpecker**—Some 46 were in the Ruidoso area 28 Dec (ALP). Somewhat northwest was one on the Bluewater Lake CBC 21 Dec (K. Score).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—Unexpected west of the Continental Divide, a ♂ was in riparian cottonwoods at La Plata, *San Juan* 19 Jan (L. Ray\*\*).



Male Red-bellied Woodpecker at La Plata 19 January 2014. Photograph by Lisa Ray.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Five were photographed west to the RGV: singles at White Rock 6-13 Jan (SMF\*\*), Pojoaque 5 Jan (JPB\*\*), Corrales 29 Jan (SDC\*\*), Albuquerque's Grecian Park 2 Dec-26 Jan (ARB\*\*, CMB, WTE\*\*), and Mesilla Park 18-22 Dec (CJG\*\*, NA\*).

**Downy Woodpecker**—One was south to the Radium Springs area 13 Jan (MTS\*). Noteworthy for the Sacramento Mts. were 6 on the Ruidoso CBC 28 Dec (ALP).

**Merlin**—A remarkable 13 were reported on the Albuquerque CBC 15 Dec (RLV). Observers reporting “black” Merlins (e.g., this season at Tesuque and Washington Ranch) are advised to review Dickerman (Western Birds 44(4):312-315, 2013, “Records of the black Merlin in New Mexico, with comments on its identification.”) when considering such reports.

**Peregrine Falcon**—Increasingly found in winter in New Mexico, this season one to 3 were reported on eight CBCs at Gila River, Silver City, Valle de Oro NWR, Sevilleta NWR, Ladder Ranch, Las Cruces, La Luz, and Roswell 14 Dec-4 Jan. A pair occupied a breeding territory in the Jemez Mts. by 13-15 Feb (D. Ponton\*\*), a record early date for the north.

[**Monk Parakeet**]—Six in s. *Doña Ana* 31 Jan (DAB) were of unknown origin.

**Empidonax flycatchers**—This group continued to make its winter presence known across the south, with at least 16 individuals reported; singles identified as **Gray Flycatcher** were in Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (MJB\*, NDP) and Monument Draw north of Eunice 1 Jan (CMR\*, WTE\*\*), singles believed to be **Hammond’s Flycatcher** were at Ladder Ranch 18 Dec (WFWe), Percha SP 28 Dec (CGL\*), and Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP), birds identified as **Dusky Flycatcher** were singles at Ladder Ranch 18 Dec (WFWe), below Caballo Dam 21 Feb (JEP\*), Percha SP 12 Jan (BRZ\*), 2 at Broad Canyon Ranch 24 Dec (NGS\*\*), and one each at Radium Springs from 24 Dec into Mar (MTS, JEZ), and near Cliff 8 Feb (CMR\*). In addition, at least 4 unidentified empids were reported—singles at GBA 24 Jan (RSS) and Rattlesnake Springs 10 Jan (SW) and 2 at Ladder Ranch 18 Dec (WFWe).

**Cassin’s Kingbird**—Remarkable if accurate was one at Silver City 14 Dec (KD\*); details eliminate Western Kingbird and apparently the Tropical/Couch’s group, although the latter was not considered by the observer.

**Bell’s Vireo**—One was at La Union 2 Dec (DAB) and again 17 Feb (DAB\*\*) but with no detections in the 2.5 months between those two sightings.

**Plumbeous Vireo**—One wintered at the Deming cemetery 27 Dec-30 Jan (CGL, m.ob., CMB\*\*); undetailed was one at Mesilla Park 28 Dec (NA).

**Cassin’s Vireo**—At least one was at Las Cruces 21 Dec (WT) & 28 Dec (NA).

**Hutton’s Vireo**—Noteworthy for the isolated Florida Mts. was one at Spring Canyon SP 27 Jan & 13 Feb (LKM).

**Steller’s Jay**—Remained much in evidence in lowland areas Dec-Feb, especially in the middle and lower RGV, including 8 at Percha SP 12 Jan (BRZ), 5 hiding pecans at Leasburg SP 11 Dec (NGS), and up to 5 south of Radium Springs 8 Dec-17 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

**Blue Jay**—West to the RGV were one at Española Dec-Jan (*fide* BRF), up to 2 at Luis Lopez 25 Dec-28 Feb (JRO, DLH), and one at Las Cruces 1-18 Feb (C. Gressitt\*).

**American Crow**—The RGV is now home to thousands of wintering crows, where high counts this season included 6217 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (RLV), 3728 at Valle de Oro NWR 21 Dec (JO-W), 3736 at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (DLH), and 6505 at Las Cruces 21 Dec (WT).

**Tree Swallow**—Noteworthy for winter were one at Mesilla Bosque SP 29 Dec (JEP) and 2 near Williamsburg 13 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—An early one was over the dry Rio Grande at Broad Canyon Ranch 13 Feb (MTS).

**Cliff Swallow**—A surprisingly early one was at Leasburg SP 25 Jan (CJG\*\*, A. Fitzroy\*\*); photos distinguished it from Cave Swallow, which might be expected on such an early date.

**Black-capped Chickadee x Mountain Chickadee**—Single hybrids were at Española 5 Jan (*fide* BRF), Corrales 1 Jan (WHH\*\*), and RGNC 2 Jan (WHH\*\*).

**Pygmy Nuthatch**—Reports in the RGV were one at Albuquerque's Journal Center 15 Dec-12 Jan (ARB\*\*, JEP, WHH, CMR) and 3 at Mesilla Park 20 Dec (NA).

**House Wren**—Several were found north of usual, including one seen and heard near Shoemaker, Mora 26 Jan (WTE\*), one at Rio Rancho 26 Dec (CLH\*), 2 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (RLV), a high 4 at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (DLH), and one below EBL Dam 11 Jan (JEP).

**Pacific Wren**—First reported 18 Oct, a vocal one continued at Rattlesnake Springs to 1 Feb (JEP\*, CMR\*, m.ob.).

**Winter Wren**—Much in evidence, with reports from nine locales in seven counties from the RGV eastward: singles at Las Vegas along the Gallinas R. 14 Dec (CMR\*, WTE\*), Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 22 Feb (BRF\*), La Cieneguilla 8 Feb (BRF\*), up to 2 at Corrales 15 Dec-8 Feb (m.ob., WHH\*\*, DJK\*\*, SDC\*\*, CMB\*\*, NEH\*\*), and singles at Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (SWC), below EBL Dam 4 Dec-30 Jan (DJC\*\*), Leasburg SP 13 Dec-10 Jan (JEP\*), below Brantley Dam 1 Dec-24 Jan (RN\*\*), and Last Chance Canyon 21 Feb (RN\*\*).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Two were seen and heard in Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 16 Jan (J. Liddell), where at least one was present 3 Feb (ARB\*\*). Noteworthy were 2 near Radium Springs 11 & 24 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Undetailed CBC reports were 2 at Sevilleta NWR 20 Dec (SWC), one on the Caballo L. count 28 Dec (JLD), and 2 at Las Cruces 21 Dec (WT).

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**—Scarce since the Feb 2011 freeze, 2 were north to La Joya WMA 18 Jan & 23 Feb (CMR\*). Undetailed CBC reports, in areas where the previous species is possible, were 2 on the Caballo L. count 28 Dec (JLD), 8 at Las Cruces 21 Dec (WT), one in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (NDP), and one at CCNP 14 Dec (SW).

**American Dipper**—One wandered down to the Corrales bosque, where present 13 Dec-31 Jan (M. Kelly, m.ob., WHH\*\*, DJK\*\*, GKF\*\*).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—Noteworthy for *Grant*, 2 were at Upper Gallinas CG, Black Range 8 Feb (CMR).

**Eastern Bluebird**—Maintained its RGV presence, with reports from *Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Socorro, Sierra, and Doña Ana* Dec-Feb, including 97 in the Albuquerque area 15-21 Dec (RLV, JO-W).

**Western Bluebird**—Unusual were 2 northeast to Clayton 29 Dec (CMR). Recorded on 26 CBCs, with high counts of 417 at Silver City 14 Dec (KB), and 333 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP).

**Gray Catbird**—More evidence of wintering was provided by singles along the Gallinas R. at Las Vegas 14 Dec (CMR\*, WTE\*), at Pojoaque 31 Dec-8 Jan (M. Williams, JPB\*\*, BRF\*\*), and below EBL Dam 1 Dec-19 Jan (m.ob., CGL\*\*, DJC\*\*, CMB\*\*, DS\*\*).

**Sage Thrasher**—Found wintering north to Engel, *Sierra* Dec-Feb, with a high 52 there on 15 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**Brown Thrasher**—Up to 3 were at Rattlesnake Springs 14 Dec-25 Jan (SW, JEP, JRO).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—A pair was in residence in the La Tierra Trails area near Santa Fe 17-23 Feb (BRF\*\*). East to *Lea*, 2 were near Eunice 1 Jan (CMR\*, WTE\*).

**Sprague's Pipit**—Two were in Uvas Valley grasslands, *Luna* 22 Feb (JEP\*, JRO).

**Phainopepla**—Up to 8 were north to San Antonio Dec-Feb (GKF, JRO). High counts elsewhere were 50 at Silver City 14 Dec (KB) and 41 in the Caballo L. area 28 Dec (JLD).

**Olive Warbler**—Winter reports included 3 on the Bear Mt. Road, Silver City 17 Dec (KB), a ♂ & ♀ north of Kingston 18 Jan (DJC), and a ♂ in the Pinos Altos Mts. 15 Feb (KD).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—One was on the Ladder Ranch 18 Dec (WFWe).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—Solidified its new wintering status with reports of singles from Albuquerque's Journal Center 15 Dec-28 Feb (m.ob., WHH\*, BRF\*, JPJ\*) and Old Town 8 Jan-14 Feb (D. Weissman\*\*), and south through the RGV with singles in the Caballo L. area, Percha SP, Ladder Ranch, Las Cruces, Mesilla Park, and La Union mid-Dec-Jan (m.ob.). Singles also were west to the Cliff area 4 Jan (RSS) and Deming 27 Dec (MJB, NDP), and east to La Luz 2 Jan (JLD) and Clovis 27 Dec (CMR\*).

**Common Yellowthroat**—A vocal one was at Bosque 27 Jan (CMB).

**Northern Parula**—One was late at Albuquerque's Grecian Park 2-3 Dec (ARB\*\*).



Orange-crowned Warbler at Old Town, Albuquerque, 19 January 2014. Photograph by Debbie Weissman.



Bay-breasted Warbler at Deming 27 December 2013. Photograph by Matthew J. Baumann.



Pine Warbler in Northeast Heights, Albuquerque, 8 February 2014. Photograph by Roger Hammond.

**Bay-breasted Warbler**—Rare in New Mexico, one, most likely a young ♀, at the Deming Cemetery 27 Dec-3 Feb (CGL\*\*, m.ob., m.ph.) provided only the second New Mexico winter record.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**—A ♂ was late at Dixon 1 Dec (A.E. & J.W. Tuomey\*\*).

**Palm Warbler**—First discovered 29 Nov, one of the yellow eastern race *hypochrysea* continued at San Antonio through the season and into Mar (m.ob., JRO\*\*, GKF\*\*, CMB\*\*, SMF\*\*, NEH\*\*).

**Pine Warbler**—Three were in the Albuquerque area—singles on the UNM campus 6-11 Dec (CJW, NEH\*\*, V. Dern), at the Journal Center from 15 Dec into Mar (S. Valasek, m.ob., ARB\*\*, CMB\*\*, WHH\*\*), and the northeast heights 6-27 Feb (R. Hammond\*\*).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—The species was unusually widespread and numerous this season. An interesting result of molecular studies this winter was that most Yellow-rumpeds that winter in New Mexico are from Canada, not local mountains, and most are of mixed Myrtle-Audubon's heritage (*fide* CJW, *fide* C. W. Witt).

**Yellow-throated Warbler**—A white-lored individual was at Kirtland AFB, *Bernalillo* 6-9 Jan (JEP\*, P.E. McConnell\*). There are now some 50 records from 15 New Mexico counties.

**Black-throated Gray Warbler**—Noteworthy for winter were singles at Mesilla Park 21-28 Dec (DJG\*\*, NA) and Guadalupe Canyon 30 Dec (MJB\*, NDP).

**Townsend's Warbler**—Singles along the Pine Tree Trail at Aguirre Springs 11 Jan (BRZ) and at Kingston 12 Feb (DJC\*\*) added to the accumulating winter records of recent years.

**Wilson's Warbler**—A ♂ was late at Albuquerque's I-40 bridge 1 Dec (MJB\*\*) and 15 Dec (JEP).

**Green-tailed Towhee**—North for the winter was one at La Cieneguilla 26 Dec-8 Feb (JPB\*\*, BRF\*).

**Canyon Towhee**—One was east to Monument Draw north of Eunice 1 Jan (CMR, WTE\*).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow**—Apparently wintering was one at Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center 15 Feb (JPB).

**Rufous-winged Sparrow**—Maintaining a Guadalupe Canyon presence, at least 2 were there 30 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP\*\*, JPB\*\*).

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Noteworthy for winter, 2 were along the Aguirre Springs entrance road 18 Dec (BRZ\*\*), the third consecutive winter for the species there. One was detailed at Brantley L. 2 Feb (CMR\*).



Two Rufous-winged Sparrows in Guadalupe Canyon 30 December 2013.  
Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.

**American Tree Sparrow**—One was south to the Alameda bridge 6 Dec-3 Feb (ARB\*\*, NEH), and 2 were at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 5 Jan (WHH, JPJ). High count amounted to only 30 at Cimarron, *Colfax* 21 Dec (MJK).



**Chipping Sparrow**—A record 1481 were counted on the Silver City CBC 14 Dec (KB). At the northern edge of the winter range, 7 were found on the Albuquerque CBC 15 Dec (RLV) and 2 were found on the Sandia Mts. CBC 26 Dec (NDP).

**Lark Sparrow**—Noteworthy winter reports were 12 in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (NDP, MJB), one north to Sevilleta NWR 17 Dec (*fide* NSC), one near Radium Springs 30 Jan (JEZ), and 3 in the Avalon-Brantley area 15 Dec (TJH).

**Lark Bunting**—Unusual was one north to Clayton 29 Dec (CMR\*).

**Baird's Sparrow**—Late summer rains, resulting in a good grass seed crop, proved beneficial to wintering sparrows, including Baird's, with credible reports of one in the Animas Valley 29 Dec (NDP), up to 2 in the Uvas Valley, *Luna* 28 Dec (NEH\*\*) & 22 Feb (JEP\*, JRO), one at Sevilleta NWR 27 Jan (WHH\*\*), one on the Las Cruces West Mesa 12 Feb (NGS\*\*), and 7 on Otero Mesa 26 Jan (RAM\*\*), where the species was present Dec-Feb (RAM).

**Fox Sparrow**—Singles were west to the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (NDP) and at six RGV sites from Albuquerque south to La Union Dec-Jan; farther east, a red one was at Aguirre Springs 18 Dec (BRZ\*\*), a red one was in Last Chance Canyon, *Eddy* 21 Feb (RN\*\*), and 4 individuals were reported on the CCNP CBC 14 Dec (SW).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—Noteworthy for the north were one at Clayton L. 30 Dec (CMR\*) and 5 at Mills Canyon 16 Feb (RC).

**Swamp Sparrow**—One was north to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 5 Jan (J.M. Black\*, A.C. Fenner\*, S. Petrakis\*).

**White-throated Sparrow**—Numerous and widespread (except in the northwest), including on 16 CBCs. High counts included 24 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (RLV), 18 at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (DLH), and 18 in the Caballo L. area 28 Dec (JLD).

**Harris's Sparrow**—Conspicuous from the RGV eastward Dec-Feb, with often multiple reports from eight counties, including individuals photographed near Las Vegas and at Las Campanas, the Alameda bridge, Bosque NWR, EBL Dam, and Leasburg SP.

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**—Two were at Kirtland, *San Juan* 19-26 Dec (C.G. Schmitt). Singles were in the RGV at Placitas, *Sandoval* 1 Jan (J. McPhee), Corrales 28 Feb (DJK, JMR), Albuquerque's Piedra Lisa Park 12 Dec-16 Jan (ARB\*\*, CMB\*\*), Albuquerque's Juan Tabo Canyon 15 Dec (*fide* MJB), Valle de Oro NWR 21 Dec (JO-W), Luis Lopez 14 Jan-28 Feb (JRO\*\*), and two Bosque NWR locales Dec-Feb (m.ob., m.ph.).

**Dark-eyed Junco**—Notably scarce in *Roosevelt* (W. Robertson) and *Doña Ana* (MTS, JEZ).

**“White-winged” Junco**—One at Santa Fe 5 Dec (RC\*\*) provided the lone report.

**Northern Cardinal**—Noteworthy for the Burro Mts. was one at the Axel Canyon Preserve 27 Feb (L. Zatopek *fide* RSS).

**Pyrrhuloxia**—One was north to Corrales 29 Dec (T. Collins\*).

**Blue Grosbeak**—Unexpected in mid-winter, a young ♂ was in the Paseo del Rio area below EBL Dam 19 Jan (C. Mangeng\*, DS\*\*). There are but four previous New Mexico winter records, those falling within the period 18 Dec-25 Jan.

**Rusty Blackbird**—In the lower RGV, single ♀♀ were at two sites south of Percha SP 26-28 (CGL\*\*), and one ♀ was at Leasburg SP 11 Dec (NGS\*\*) where there were 2 on 19 Dec (RB\*\*). A ♂ and 2 ♀♀ were at the Vaughn treatment ponds 16 Feb (SW).

**Brewer's Blackbird**—Among 30,050 “blackbirds” reported in the Roswell area 14 Dec, 17,101 were identified as Brewer's (JIS).

**Common Grackle**—One was west to Deming 13 Dec (LKM) and one was north to Luis Lopez 16 Feb (JRO).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—Some 8023 were reported on the Roswell CBC 14 Dec (JIS).

**Streak-backed Oriole**—A ♂ at Rattlesnake Springs, apparently the same individual that had been present 10-14 Nov, reappeared there 10 Jan, where it remained through the season and well into Mar (M. Thomas, RN\*\*, JMG\*\*, JRO\*\*, JEP\*, SW).

**Rosy-Finch**—A three-species flock of about 40 **Blacks**, 15 **Brown-capped**s, and 5 **Gray-crowned**s was at the Taos ski village, *Taos* 1 Feb (JRO, JEP). A single-species flock of some 125 **Brown-capped**s was at Lower Canjilon L., *Rio Arriba* 19 Jan (WHH\*), and 50 **Brown-capped**s were in the Angel Fire area 14 Dec (MJK). Fewer wintered at Sandia Crest than in past years, with flocks rarely exceeding 20 birds, and with **Brown-capped**s and **Blacks** typically the only species reported.

**Red Crossbill**—Surprisingly, the species was not detected on any CBC this season. One was reported at McMillan CG, Pinos Altos Mts. 17 Jan (LKM).

**Lesser Goldfinch**—Far northeast for winter, 3 were near Clayton 29 Dec (CMR\*). Noteworthy for the Sandia Mts. in winter, 3 were in Embudito Canyon 26 Dec (DJK, JMR).

**Evening Grosbeak**—Moderate numbers were in the north, south to the Zuni, Sandia, and southern Sangre de Cristo mountains; high counts were 111 in the Orilla Verde area 18 Dec (M. Peterson) and 102 in the Santa Fe area 22 Dec (WTE) and 38 near Bluewater L., *Cibola* 21 Dec (CMR). Farther south, 8 were at Ruidoso 28 Dec (ALP) and one to 2 lingered at Rattlesnake Springs 12-25 Jan (RN, JEP, JRO).

\* \* \*



**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**

