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Reporting Observations: All individuals interested in birds in New Mexico are encouraged to submit their observations to *NMOS Field Notes*. Especially solicited are records of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-season/range birds. Records should be submitted in taxonomic order and should include species name, date, exact location, numbers of birds, age, sex, and color morph (if applicable), and name and contact information of observer. Details are necessary for unusual records; these may be submitted on a report form (available from the address above), but any written format is acceptable. Photographic documentation is strongly encouraged.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(*Founded 1962*)

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$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.

Front cover: Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) at the north Roosevelt County migrant trap west of Melrose, New Mexico, 12 May 2017 (see page 31). Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Back cover: Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*) at Clanton Cienega in the Animas Valley, Hidalgo County, New Mexico, 13 May 2017 (see page 32). Photograph by Narca Moore-Craig.

SPRING SEASON 2017

Weather and habitat conditions during the Spring 2017 season were characterized by scattered rains and late snows in the north and west, leading to “lush” habitat conditions in places there and in the southwest, but a drying trend continued in the southeast. Birds and birders were active, and a number of noteworthy rarities were documented, including Costa’s Hummingbirds at several southwestern locales, and photo-documentation of Black Vulture, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Swainson’s Warbler and Cape May Warbler, among others.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Lake, *Rio Arriba*
Alameda, *Bernalillo*
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*
Animas, Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*
Apache Creek, *Catron*
Belen, *Valencia*
Bernardo, *Socorro*
Bernalillo, *Sandoval*
Bill Evans Lake, *Grant*
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*
Black Range, *Grant/Sierra*
Boones Draw, *Roosevelt*
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*
Broadview, *Curry*
Burro Mts., *Grant*
Caballo Lake, *Sierra*
Carlsbad, Cavern, *Eddy*
Carrizozo, *Lincoln*
Clanton Canyon, Cienega, *Hidalgo*
Clayton, Lake, *Union*
Cliff, *Grant*
Clovis, *Curry*
Cochiti Lake, *Sandoval*
Corona, *Lincoln*
Corrales, *Sandoval*
Eagle Nest Lake, *Colfax*
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Eunice, *Lea*
Farmington, *San Juan*
Galisteo, *Santa Fe*
Gallinas Creek, *Grant*
Gallup, *McKinley*
Gila Bird Area, *Grant*
Gila Lower Box, *Grant/Hidalgo*
Golden, *Santa Fe*
Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Heron Lake, *Rio Arriba*
Hillsboro, *Sierra*
Hobbs, *Lea*
Jal, *Lea*
Jemez Springs, *Sandoval*
Lake Roberts, *Grant*
Lamy, *Santa Fe*
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*
Lordsburg playa, *Hidalgo*
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*
Lovington, *Lea*
Maljamar, *Lea*
Maxwell NWR, *Colfax*
Melrose, *Curry*
Milnesand, *Roosevelt*
Morgan Lake, *San Juan*
Ned Houk Park, *Curry*
Nichols Canyon, *Grant*
north *Roosevelt* trap [NRT], *Roosevelt*
Nutt-Hatch playa, *Doña Ana*
Oasis SP, *Roosevelt*
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, *Rio Arriba*
Organ Mts., *Doña Ana*
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*
Percha SP, *Sierra*
Quemado Lake, *Catron*
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*
Ramon, *Lincoln*
Raton, *Colfax*
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
Redrock, *Grant*
Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
Sacramento Mts., *Lincoln/Otero*
Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
Santa Fe, Canyon, *Santa Fe*
Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*
Silver City, *Grant*

Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*
 Socorro, *Socorro*
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*
 Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Taos, *Taos*
 Tatum, *Lea*
 Tierra Blanca Creek, *Sierra*
 Tularosa, *Otero*

Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Valle de Oro NWR, *Bernalillo*
 Vaughn, *Guadalupe*
 Veguita, *Socorro*
 Villanueva, *San Miguel*
 Water Canyon, *Socorro*
 Weatherly Lake, *Union*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*
 Zuni, *McKinley*
 Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

Standard Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	SP	State Park
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	WTP	Water Treatment Plant (or Ponds)
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 audio provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
PA	Picnic Area		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		
RGV	Rio Grande Valley		

Initialed Observers

MJA	Michael J. Andersen	WEM	William E. Maley
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	PWM	Pat W. McCasland
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	DWM	David W. Mehlman
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza
CLB	Charles L. Black	NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
DGB	David G. Buckley	PM	Pauline Morris
RC	Roger Clark	JN-M	James Nelson-Moore
DJC	David J. Cleary	RN	Robert Nieman
PDC	Patrick D. Collins	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
JC	Janet Cook	MO	Marie Ostrander
AMC	Alan M. Craig	JEP	John E. Parmeter
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	TR	Timothy Reeves
GAF	Gerald A. Friedman	RAR	Rose Ann Rowlett
DF	Daniel Froehlich	MBR	Megan B. Ruehmann
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	CR	Cassidy Ruge
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
SG	Sara Griffith	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
RG	Robin Gurule	MS	Michael Shoop
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JBS	Jarrold B. Swackhamer
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	DT	Danny Tipton
KAH	Karen A. Herzenberg	JAT	John A. Trochet
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	REW	Richard E. Webster
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	SW	Steve West
NK	Nirmal Khandan	WFW	William F. West
RK	Rick Koehler	DGW	Debra G. Whitecotton
DJK	David J. Krueper	RBW	Richard B. Williams
DL	Daniel Leifheit	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Scarce in *Curry*, singles were at Green Acres Park in Clovis 28-29 Apr (JEP) and the Clovis WTP 18 May (JRO**). One lingered at Bosque NWR 6-7 May (MJB).

[**Egyptian Goose**]—A mated pair of this exotic species was at Ned Houk Park 13 May (CMR), where a small feral flock is seen frequently.

Tundra Swan—Several continued into Mar, including one at the Tularosa WTP 2 Mar (MO**), up to 4 at and near Bosque NWR 4 Mar (N. Johnson**), and 3 each at LVNWR 3 Mar (JEP*) and Maxwell NWR 3 Mar (JEP*).

Wood Duck—Noteworthy for *Mora* were one at Coyote Creek SP 9 May (JC), 3 at Rio Mora NWR 13 May (WJ-W, JC), and 3 at Valmora 19 May (WTE**). Elsewhere, others of note included one at Carrizozo 15 Apr (CMR, NEH) and a pair at the Tularosa WTP 15 Mar (MO).

American Wigeon—Some 2500 were at Six Mile Dam 8 Mar (SW) but only 300 remained there 11 Mar (SW).

Mexican Duck—North of usual range were 3 at Quemado L. 21 May (CMR, NEH**), one at Apache Creek 21 May (CMR, NEH), a ♂-♀ pair at the Zuni WTP 31 May (JAT*), one at Los Luceros, *Rio Arriba* 20 Mar (S.M. Fettig*, T.F. Hodapp*), and 2 at BLNWR 19 Mar (A. Rodgers, C. Larson).

Greater Scaup—Among the few reports were 6 at Eagle Nest L. 13 Mar (J. Patterson**) and one at Sunland Park 8 Apr (WTE*).

Bufflehead—Noteworthy for *Guadalupe*, one was at the Vaughn WTP 16 Mar (SW).

Barrow's Goldeneye—Two were south to Cochiti L. 1 Mar (RK**).

Red-breasted Merganser—An ad. ♀ was late near Heron L. 17 May (WTE*).

Montezuma Quail—North of expected were single vocal ♂♂ at four different locales on a private ranch 16 km southeast of Corona 16 May-4 June (MBR*).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken—Spring surveys of 52 roadside routes plus the state-owned Prairie-Chicken Areas yielded an estimated spring population of 4230 birds in the state, a 27% increase from 2016 (New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish).

Wild Turkey—Noteworthy for *Curry*, a hen with 5 chicks was at Ned Houk Park 28 May (GMB**).

Horned Grebe—Latest reported were 2 at Abiquiu L. 25 Mar (BRF).

Red-necked Grebe—Continuing from Jan, the one at EBL Dam was present 5-14 Mar (DJC**) and was last seen 1 Apr (JEP*).

Rock Pigeon—One wandered to NRT 12 May (JEP), where there are few local records.

Inca Dove—Continued scarce in New Mexico, with generally very small numbers in the south. One was north to Clovis 20 May (H. Marchman**).

Lesser Nighthawk—Early was an undetailed one at Las Cruces 7 Apr (J. DuBois); the species typically arrives after mid-Apr.

Common Poorwill—Seldom reported in *Curry*, singles were detected north of Melrose 13 May (JEP) and at Boney Hill north of Broadview 13 May (CMR).

Chimney Swift—Reports were restricted to the east, with one to 2 in May at Clayton (K. Linner), Clovis (CMR, NEH, CMB), Lovington (JRO), Hobbs (DLH), and Carlsbad (RN); earliest were 2 at Clovis City Hall 2 May (CMR).

Rivoli's Hummingbird—In the Animas Mts., 2 were at Aspen Spring and one was at Cistern Saddle 13 May (WTE**).

Lucifer Hummingbird—An ad. ♀ was in Guadalupe Canyon 22 Apr (WTE*) and another was along Indian Creek, Animas Mts. 12 May (WTE, JBS**).

Anna's Hummingbird—Reports were restricted to *Hidalgo*, with one in Clanton Canyon 4 Mar (J. Sund**), 4 in Guadalupe Canyon 22 Apr (WTE**), and one at Aspen Spring, Animas Mts. 13 May (WTE*).

Costa's Hummingbird—A good spring season, with reports of displaying ♂♂ from *Grant* and *Hidalgo*: 2 at Redrock 25 Mar (JBS*), one at GBA 27 Apr (JBS**), and one in the Gila Lower Box 29 Apr (MJB, NDP) plus 2 in Guadalupe Canyon 22 Apr (WTE*).

Rufous Hummingbird: Two spring reports: an ad. ♂ at Soda Dam near Jemez Springs 29 May (J. Welch*) and another in Guadalupe Canyon 22 Apr (WTE*).

Calliope Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ was at Los Alamos 4 May (RG**).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—Present in Guadalupe Canyon from 11 Mar through May (v.o.). In the Animas Mts., singles were in Indian Creek Canyon 12 May (WTE) and Double Adobe 13 May (AMC).

Common Gallinule—A pair with up to 5 chicks was along the Bosque NWR boardwalk 20-29 May (SEM*, P. & P. Hicks).

Sandhill Crane—One lingered at Valle de Oro NWR to 31 May (m.ob., DT**). Another was at Gila Farms near Cliff 12 May (B. Dolton).

American Avocet—One was at Maxwell NWR 4 Mar (JEP), very far north for so early.

Black-bellied Plover—One was early at BLNWR 29 Mar (BLM**). High count was 3 at Bosque NWR 29 Apr (GKF, DLH**). West of the RGV, one was at the Nutt-Hatch playa, *Doña Ana* 29 Apr (WTE**). Last reported were 2 at BLNWR 20 May (PDC**).

American Golden-Plover—Singles in basic plumage were at EBL 20 Apr (DJC**) and Bosque NWR 13 May (GKF**).

Semipalmated Plover—Generally small numbers were reported 22 Apr-25 May in *Cibola, Bernalillo, San Miguel, Socorro, Sierra, and Eddy*; high count was 11 at Bosque NWR 30 Apr (MJB, NDP, DJK).

Whimbrel—A good season, with an early one at Valle de Oro NWR 28-31 Mar (CMR**, m.ob., m.ph.) and another at Bosque NWR 29-30 Apr (MJA**, m.ob., m.ph.); noteworthy for *Union* was one at Weatherly L. 28 May (CMR*, S. Drilling**).

Long-billed Curlew—Noteworthy for Albuquerque, up to 128 were at Valle de Oro NWR 25 Mar (CMR, JEP).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper—One was at Bosque NWR 2 May (M. Kramer**, E. Ardila). Originally thought to be a Western Sandpiper, it was identified from photos as this species by MJB. This provided the third New Mexico record and the first for spring.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro Co., 2 May 2017.
Photo: Mark Kramer.

Sanderling—One to 5 were at five sites spread over all quadrants of the state 26 Apr-31 May (m.ob.).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Spring migrants were noted 14-28 May, with singles at Albuquerque's Alameda flats 25 May (MS**), and LVNWR 27 May (CMR), 2 at Weatherly L. 28 May (CMR), up to 6 at BLNWR 14-27 May (S. Crabtree*, JEP), and 4 at Brantley L. 13 May (RN).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—Small numbers reported in the east and in the RGV 14 Apr–17 May (m.ob.); 2 were west to the Nutt-Hatch playa 29 Apr (WTE**).

Long-billed Dowitcher—Seldom reported in *Taos*, one was documented at Talpa L. near Ranchos de Taos 2 May (T. Jackman**).

Solitary Sandpiper—Singles where seldom reported were at Gallup 28 Apr (T. & P. Herwood**) and L. Roberts 16 & 28 Apr (J. & K. Keagle, JBS).

Lesser Yellowlegs—Scarce in *Los Alamos*, one was at the Bandelier NM lagoons 2 Apr (NEH*, CMR).

Willet—High counts included up to 225 at Bosque NWR 29 Apr (MJA, DLH), 78 at the Lordsburg playa 23 Apr (WTE**), 73 at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 30 Apr (GAF), and 22 at Grants, *Cibola* 29 Apr (J. Fitzgibbon).

Wilson's Phalarope—Early was one at Bosque NWR 11–18 Mar (JEP).

Red-necked Phalarope—Generally small numbers (one to 9 birds) reported in 8 counties from the RGV eastward late Apr–May; a high 20 was at Bosque NWR 29 Apr (GKF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Continuing from the winter season, 2 imms. were at Percha Flats, Caballo L. 3 Mar (DJC**) and at least one was still there 9 Mar (DJC**). An ad. was at Bosque NWR 29 Apr (MJA**, CR**, DLH**, GKF) and an imm. was at the Clovis WTP 13 May (GMB**, CMR*).

Least Tern—An ad. strayed to Morgan L. 9 May (TR**). High count at BLNWR was only 5 counted 24 May (PDC), and only one was found at Brantley L. 15 May (BLM).

Caspian Tern—Northbound transients were 3 at Brantley L. 15 May (BLM**), 4 at EBL 21 Apr (DJC**) and one still there 29 Apr (WTE*), one at Bosque NWR 28 Apr (GKF), and 4 at Morgan L. 24 Apr (TR**).

Black Tern—Very few reports for this once common transient. Earliest, all on 12 May, were 2 at Clovis WTP (GMB, JEP), 3 at Bosque NWR (MJB, NDP), and 5 at BLNWR (DT); high count was 12 at Storrie L. 23 May (WJ-W).

Common Loon—A late one at Santa Cruz L., *Santa Fe* 13–23 May (B. Olcott**, RC**) provided the only May report.

Neotropic Cormorant—Continuing from 19 Feb, when 31 were at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach, including a pair nest-building (DLH**). By 9 Mar, there were three active nests: two laying or incubating and one under construction (DLH**). Up to 4 nests were active during 10–17 Apr (DLH) and on 30 Apr one nest held 2 nestlings (DLH**); on 15 May, two nests held large nestlings. This event established a breeding first for *Bernalillo* and the most northerly breeding yet for the species in the RGV.

American White Pelican—An impressive 2246 were counted at EBL’s Monticello Point 7 Apr (DJC**). One was found dead on a fence at Quarai Ruins, *Torrance* 23 May (SG**).

Brown Pelican—Up to 3 ads. were at EBL 2 Mar-7 May (DJC**, JRO**, WTE**, JEP*). Elsewhere, an ad. was at Bill Evans L. 27 Apr (JBS**) and an imm. was at Brantley L. 22 Apr-20 May (DL**, RN**).

American Bittern—Up to 2 at each of two locales at Bosque NWR 31 Mar-20 May (m.ob., m.ph.), often “booming” at the South Loop boardwalk. Up to 2 at BLNWR 1 Mar-1 May (v.o., R. Denton**, BLM**, M. Jones**). In the north, one was booming at Allen L. near Springer 27 May (CMR*).

Least Bittern—One to 2 were singing at Bosque NWR 17-22 Apr (JRO, JEP) and one was singing at EBL’s Indian Springs 26 May (DJC audio).

Great Blue Heron—Ads. were on six nests the Las Vegas wetlands (southeast of town) 26 Apr (WJ-W*) and 4 May (DLH*). In the middle RGV, two active nests were at EBL’s Indian Springs 26 May (DJC**). In the lower Pecos Valley, five nests were active at Six Mile Dam 11 Apr (SW).

Great Egret—Northerly were singles at Cochiti L. 3 May (E.J. Selva) and the Las Vegas wetlands 26-27 Apr (WJ-W**) and 2 at Ute L. 24 Apr (M. Weidemann).

Little Blue Heron—An ad. at EBL’s Monticello Point 25-30 Apr (DJC**) furnished the only report for the season.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—An ad. carrying nest material joined another in a cottonwood tree along the Las Vegas riverwalk 9 May (WJ-W*).

Glossy Ibis—An ad. near Stanley 22 Apr (M.R. Johnson**) provided a first record for *Santa Fe*. Another ad. was northwest to Morgan L. 2 May (TR**). Up to 2 were documented at Albuquerque’s Alameda flats 2 May (SG**, NEH**). At least one ad. was at Bosque NWR 18 Apr (GKF**), 22 Apr (JEP*), 29 Apr (GKF), 5 May (CMR*), and 12 May (MJB*).

Black Vulture—One was nicely photographed as it left its roost at Rattlesnake Springs 16 Apr (M.J. Thompson**). This provided the third confirmed New Mexico record, the first for *Eddy*, and the state’s first for spring.

Osprey—A pair was nest-building and mating at Albuquerque’s Alameda flats 23 Apr (KAH*) and the pair tended the nest through 7 May (KAH, WEM**, DJK**). A storm destroyed the nest the night of 7-8 May (KAH) but by 12 May the pair was constructing a new one (DJK**).

Bald Eagle—Adults suspected of nesting were in *Rio Arriba* and *Colfax* in May (v.o.). Far south for the season was an ad. at L. Roberts 31 May (T. Godfrey*).

Common Black Hawk—Continued to occupy areas far north and east of historical range, including on the upper Pecos R. at Villanueva 23 Apr-12 May (D. Johnson**,

DT**) and near Santa Rosa 10 May (JN-M, RG), the Hondo, Bonito, and Penasco rivers on the east slope of the Sacramento Mts. Apr-May (m.ob.), the middle RGV in Albuquerque Mar-May (m.ob.), Belen (DLH), Veguita (DLH**), Bosque NWR Apr-May (GKF, v.o.), Palomas Cr. west of Williamsburg 1 May (CJG**), and Percha SP 11-15 Apr (DJC**, CLB, JEP), Tierra Blanca Cr. on the east slope of the Black Range 3 May (DJC**), and Gallinas Cr. on the west slope of the Black Range 26 May (JAT*).



Black Vulture, Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., 16 April 2017.
Photo: Michael Jon Thompson.

Harris's Hawk—Far from known range, an ad. was photographed at El Rito, *Rio Arriba* 17 Apr (N. Ambriz**); the popularity of this species with falconers always complicates such reports. Also north of expected, an imm. was north of BLNWR 26 May (JEP*). Reported across the south in *Luna, Doña Ana, Otero, Eddy, and Lea*; considered to be in serious decline in both *Eddy* and *Lea* (SW).

Gray Hawk—An ad. north to Bosque NWR 1 Apr (JEP*) provided the second *Socorro* record.

Broad-winged Hawk—Ten individuals were reported from nine sites in six counties from the RGV eastward 14 Apr-6 May (m.ob.), including a dark morph ad. at the Las Vegas riverwalk 20 Apr-3 May (WJ-W**, m.ob., m.ph.) and 2 circling together at Rattlesnake Springs 19 Apr (RN**).

Zone-tailed Hawk—Continued to appear in areas where seldom or never reported, including singles in the San Pedro Mts. south of Golden, *Santa Fe* 18 Apr (RC**), Socorro's Riverine Park 5 May (CMR*), one in *Socorro* south of the Very Large Array 13 May (MJB, NDP), and along upper Bonito Cr. west of Angus, *Lincoln* 4 May (WFW).

Rough-legged Hawk—Two seen in *Taos* along US 285 north of Tres Piedras 8 Mar (Z. Pohlen) provided the only report.

Barn Owl—In out-of-the way locales were one in a tree line 5 km north of Melrose 13 May (CMR) and one at the Maljamar Rest Area 13 May (BLM**, PM).

Whiskered Screech-Owl—A night survey of Clanton Canyon detected 18 birds (some likely paired) 10 Mar (WTE*) but only 7 birds on 21 Apr (WTE*).

Elf Owl—Earliest arrivals were one in Clanton Canyon 10 Mar (WTE) and 2 in Rocky Arroyo, *Eddy* 20 Mar (RN**). Noteworthy for the Organ Mts. was a vocal one in Soledad Canyon 7 Apr (WTE*). Monitoring of 15 known (previously occupied) sites on the east slope of the Black Range in w. *Sierra* detected birds at 11 sites 3 Mar-24 May (DJC*).

Spotted Owl—Causing much excitement was one that strayed to Albuquerque's Petroglyph NM Visitor Center 1-2 Mar (m.ob., m.ph.); it was later seen in quieter surroundings in the backyard of a nearby residence 11 Mar (K. Bird**).



Spotted Owl, Petroglyph National Monument, Bernalillo Co., 1 March 2017.
Photo: Nancy E. Hetrick.

Long-eared Owl—Noteworthy for the open prairie, one was roosting in the clump of trees at Ramon 28 Mar (BLM**).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Six south of the Very Large Array in the vicinity of Dusty, *Socorro* 13 May (MJB*) were in dying cottonwoods of the upper Alamosa Valley and appeared to be breeding birds.

Red-headed Woodpecker—Noteworthy for *Mora* was an ad. near Valmora 19 May (WTE**).

Crested Caracara—One was seen at Animas 2 Mar (G. Lorton), where one was photographed in Dec. One was in the San Simon Valley north of Rodeo 14 May (C.B. Chappell*).

Merlin—Last to be reported were singles at Santa Fe 28 Apr (DF*) and Bosque NWR 28 Apr (GKF).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—Singles were at two Guadalupe Canyon sites 11 Mar (WTE*) and ♂♂ were occupying three territories there 13 May (REW, RAR).

Greater Pewee—Singles far from expected range were one in Albuquerque's South Valley 26 Apr (MS**) and one at NRT 17 May (JPB**).

Buff-breasted Flycatcher—Maintaining an Animas Mts. presence, 2 ♂♂ were above Aspen Spring 13 May (WTE**).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Single ♂♂ were north to Bernalillo 26 Mar (M. Lord**) and Lamy 4-28 May (RC**, BRF**). In the east, one was at Oasis SP 30 Apr (A. Hersey).

Great Crested Flycatcher—Typically scarce in spring, one at NRT 10 May (WFW, RG**) provided the only report.

Brown-crested Flycatcher—More evidence of this species moving into the lower RGV was a vocal one south of Radium Springs 16-31 May (MTS, JEZ**).

Great Kiskadee—First found 12 Nov 2016, this individual continued at Percha SP through the winter and was reported on several dates Mar-Apr (m.ob., DJC**, NK**, NEH audio) and was last reported 1 May (DJC). Meanwhile, over on the southeastern plains, one at the Tatum WTP 28 Apr-10 May (JEP*, JRO**, CLB**) furnished the second record for *Lea*.

Couch's Kingbird—One was vocal at Percha SP 14 Apr (DJC**), the fourth record for this species in the state within the past year.

Tropical/Couch's kingbird—A silent individual of this species-pair was at Bosque NWR 14 Apr (C. Harris**).

Thick-billed Kingbird—Two pairs were established in Guadalupe Canyon 13 May (REW, RAR).

Western Kingbird—Early was one at Jal L. 30 Mar (CLB). One was carrying nest material at Percha SP by 26 Apr (NK**).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—Earliest were singles at Lake Van, *Chaves* 30 Mar (PC) and near Eunice 30 Mar (CLB). West of usual was one near Santa Rosa 12 May (JEP) and 2 at Corazon Hill, *San Miguel* 6 May (CR).

White-eyed Vireo—One was along the Santa Fe R. in Santa Fe 28 Apr (DF*) and another was at Rattlesnake Springs 6-7 May (RN**, M. McCloy**). Undetailed was one reported east of Stateline Road near Rodeo 12 May (G. Bieber, R. Benner).

Bell's Vireo—North in the Pecos Valley, one to 2 were singing at Sumner Dam 30 Apr-20 May (JEP, NEH**, JRO).

Plumbeous Vireo—An early one was singing below EBL Dam 1 Apr (JEP).

Red-eyed Vireo—Singles were west to the RGV in Albuquerque's North Valley 12 May (DGB**) and below EBL Dam 22 May (DJC*). In the east, one was at NRT 16-19 May (JPB**, JRO) and undetailed singles were at the Tatum WTP 12 May (RN) and Rattlesnake Springs 28 Apr (NM-C).

Blue Jay—Providing a first record for *Lincoln* was one at Capitan 3-4 May (J. Stephens*). Another was north of Golden but in e. *Sandoval* 16 May (J.D. Chapman**).

Purple Martin—Maintaining an eastern plains presence were 4 at Clovis 13 May (CMR*), 3 at Green Mountain L. in Hobbs 27 May (JRO), and a ♂ at a martin house 3 km east of Eunice 26 Apr (PWM**). In the north, 9 were at a new location near Raton 27 May (CMR). Unusual in the RGV, a migrant was at Socorro 12 May (MJB).

Tree Swallow—A late one was at Quemado L. 21 May (CMR).

Violet-green Swallow—In the face of an approaching storm front, some 3000 were bunched up in the Gila Lower Box at Nichols Canyon 29 Apr (DJK).

Bank Swallow—At Rio Rancho on 20 May, 20 ads. were at burrows in Arroyo Barranca and 50 ads. were at burrows in lower Montoyas Arroyo (CLH*).

Cave Swallow—Again occupied recently discovered sites east and north of *Eddy*, including 5 at a culvert east of Eunice 13 Mar (PWM) & 27 May (SW), 20 at a culvert along US 70 near Railroad Mt., *Chaves* 29 Apr (JEP), and 2 in a culvert at Taiban, *De Baca* 28 Apr-19 May (JEP, NEH**, MJB, JRO); these three sites were all first discovered in 2016. In *Eddy*, numbers were reported as stable at Carlsbad Cavern [the main cave] and at lowland sites (SW), including up to 45 nests at Six Mile Dam 15 May (SW).

Mountain Chickadee—East of expected, 2 were heard at the isolated Capulin Volcano NM, *Union* 28 May (CMR).

Mexican Chickadee—None were detected in the Animas Mts. 12-13 May (WTE), the only area in New Mexico where the species is resident.

Verdin—At the current northern limit of its distribution, up to 2 were at the Belen marsh 17 Mar (BLM, PM) & 4 May (CMR).

Rock Wren—Way out east, 3 were at the caprock escarpment of Boney Hill north of Broadview, *Curry* 13 May (CMR, GMB).

Canyon Wren—One was in *Curry* at the Boney Hill escarpment 13 May (CMR, GMB).

House Wren—One below EBL Dam 17 Mar (JEP) was likely a wintering bird.

Pacific Wren—Continuing from the winter season, one at Rattlesnake Springs was last reported 5 Mar (RN**).

Carolina Wren—Found singing at six sites at Bosque NWR 18 Apr (GKF*), and reported by others as singing at various sites there Mar-May (m.ob., m.ph.). Elsewhere in the RGV, one was singing at Belen's Whitfield Center 27 Mar (L. Heinze*) and one was singing at Percha SP 3 Mar-5 May (DJC**, NEH**, JRP, JRO, GKF).

Bewick's Wren—One was in the east at Boney Hill, *Curry* 13 May (CMR).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Scarce since the 2011 freeze, one was at Bosque NWR in the vicinity of the Canyon Trail 15 Apr (JEP).

Black-capped Gnatcatcher—A ♂-♀ pair was in Guadalupe Canyon 11 Mar (WTE**).

American Dipper—An ad. was feeding nestlings at the Cowles ponds, *San Miguel* 19 May (M. Zmuda**).

Eastern Bluebird—At least one pair nested south of Radium Springs Apr-May (MTS, JEZ).

Western Bluebird—Two pairs were feeding nestlings in the Corrales bosque 9 May (J.M. Ruth).

Townsend's Solitaire—One was in upper Water Canyon at 2800 m near South Baldy Mt. 6 May (CMR). One lingered on the prairie at Milnesand 27 May (JRO).

Wood Thrush—One at NRT 23 Apr (GMB**) furnished the lone report.

Gray Catbird—Seldom reported in *Los Alamos*, one was at White Rock 19 Apr (RBW). Noteworthy elsewhere were 2 west to Zuni's Nutria Canyon 31 May (JAT) and 2 at Sumner Dam 20 May (JRO).

Brown Thrasher—One was west to Silver City 16-18 Apr (JBS**) and one was at Percha SP 4 May (NEH*). In the east, one to 2 were in *San Miguel, De Baca, Roosevelt,* and *Eddy* 30 Apr-6 May (v.o.).

Crissal Thrasher—One was northwest to Zuni's Tekapo 31 May (JAT), establishing the first spring record for that area.

Phainopepla—In *Eddy*, one was at Rattlesnake Springs 1 May (SW) and a ♂-♀ pair was in lower Last Chance Canyon 13 May (SW).

Olive Warbler—Two were north to upper Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts. 30 May (JAT).

Sprague's Pipit—One in the middle Animas Valley 12 Mar (WTE*) provided the only report.

Purple Finch—The ♂ that wintered at Percha SP was last seen 5 Mar (NEH**).

Canyon Towhee—East toward the Texas border were up to 5 singing at Boney Hill north of Broadview, *Curry* 13 May (CMR, GMB) and one at the Maljamar Rest Area 27 May (SW).

Abert's Towhee—Good numbers were found in the Gila Lower Box 29 Apr, with 7 west of Fisherman's Point in *Hidalgo* (MJB) and 7 at Nichols Canyon in *Grant* (JBS, MBR, DJK).

Rufous-winged Sparrow—Two were in Guadalupe Canyon 11 Mar (WTE**) and a ♂ was singing there 13 May (REW, RAR).

Black-throated Sparrow—Noteworthy for *Los Alamos*, one was along the Rio Grande 2 Apr (RBW**).

Lark Bunting—Two were northwest to Chaco Canyon, *San Juan* 27 May (E. Haskell**).

Grasshopper Sparrow—One to 2 entertained many at Valle de Oro NWR 8-14 May (NEH audio, m.ob.). Noteworthy for *Mora* was one singing in grasslands at Rio Mora NWR 13 May (WJ-W). In the east, high count was 8 singing north of Melrose 13 May (JEP).

Baird's Sparrow—One in Jornada del Muerto grasslands 26 km east of San Antonio *Socorro* 11 Mar (JEP) was the lone report for the season.

Song Sparrow—A recent colonizer from the west into the state's lower Gila Valley, this season 5 were at Virden, *Hidalgo* 13 May (S. Stumbo), 5 were in the Gila Lower Box, *Hidalgo* 29 May (MJB) and 3 were at Redrock 20 Apr (JBS).

Harris's Sparrow—Singles were at Morgan L. 24 Apr (TR**), Taos 1 Apr (R. D'Antonio**), Galisteo 4 Mar (BRF**), Tecolote Cr. west of Las Vegas 11 Mar-8 May (CR**), Bernardo WMA 1-7 Mar (E. Speck**, SG**), Percha SP 24 Apr (DJC), and Eunice 25 Mar (CLB).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—Noteworthy for *Los Alamos*, one was at White Rock 30 Apr (R. Walker**). One in the Organ Mts. at Dripping Springs in Feb was last seen 11 Mar (M. Perkins).

Yellow-eyed Junco—Found in both the Burro and Animas Mts. this season. In the Burro Mts., 2 were on Burro Peak 15 Apr (K. Dayer*) and 2 were along the Deadman Canyon trail 27 Apr (J. Gorey**). In the Animas Mts., 2 were in the vicinity of Aspen Spring and 5 were on Cistern Saddle 13 May (WTE**).

Bobolink—A ♂ was at the Tatum WTP 10 May (CLB*) and another ♂ was singing at Valle de Oro NWR 11 May (MJA**) & 28 May (MS).

Orchard Oriole—West of usual were single ♂♂ at Hillsboro 15 Apr (JEP) and south of Radium Springs 14 May (MTS, JEZ**).

Hooded Oriole—A ♂ was early at Rodeo 19 Mar (D. Zappone**). Another ♂ was north to Albuquerque 26 Mar (R. Simpson**).

Worm-eating Warbler—One was well-documented at NRT 12-13 May (m.ob., m.ph.). Another was west to the Sandia Mts. at Doc Long Picnic Area 4 May (WEM*).

Prothonotary Warbler—One south of Cannon AFB 14 May (DGW**) provided a first record for *Curry*.

Swainson's Warbler—One was at NRT 10-14 May (WFW, m.ob., m.ph.); there are less than a dozen state records. This was the 44th warbler species to be documented at that now-famous migrant trap.

Tennessee Warbler—A spring ♂ at Boones Draw 20 May (MJB*) provided the lone report.

Lucy's Warbler—Returned north to the Corrales-Albuquerque area by 20 Mar, with reports from eight locales from the Santa Ana Pueblo bosque near Bernalillo south to Albuquerque's South Valley during the season, including a family group of four in the bosque near Valle de Oro NWR 29 May (CMR*) and a singing ♂ at Kirtland AFB's Tijeras golf course 24 Apr (MJB).

Virginia's Warbler—One was early in Embudo Canyon, Sandia Mts. 8 Apr (CMR*).

MacGillivray's Warbler—Earliest reported was one at Hillsboro 15 Apr (JEP).

Kentucky Warbler—One at Rattlesnake Springs 30 Apr (RN**) was the only one reported this season.

Hooded Warbler—A ♂ was west to the Animas Valley 30 Apr (B. Orozco**) and another ♂ was singing at Los Alamos 27 May (M. Schraad**, M. Smith*). In the east, a ♀ was at NRT 6 May (JEP*, JRO**, NEH**), a ♂ was at Rattlesnake Springs 9 Apr (L. Irby**) and a ♀ was there 2 May (CLB).

American Redstart—Often multiple reports from about 14 locales around the state. Where seldom reported were single ♂♂ at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 30 May (JAT), the Vaughn WTP 19 Apr (SW), and Crossroads, *Lea* 28 Apr (JEP, JRO); a ♀ was west to Silver City 26 May (JBS**).

Cape May Warbler—Rare in New Mexico, a ♂ was singing on the southeast flank of the Burro Mts. 24 May (MBR**). This provided the state's first record since 2012, and the 15th state record overall.

Northern Parula—Single singing ♂♂ were in Albuquerque's South Valley bosque 12 May (WEM) and Bosque NWR's Visitor Center 8-9 Apr (SG**, MJB). Farther east, singles were near Stubblefield L. 19 May (DWM) and at NRT 12 Apr (WEM).

Magnolia Warbler—Providing the only report this season, a ♂ was at NRT 17-19 May (JPB**, JRO, DGB**).

Chestnut-sided Warbler—A good season, with singles at Los Alamos 27 May (S. Knox**, J. & C. Heikopp**), Edgewood, *Santa Fe* 7 May (P.L. Noble*), Boones Draw 20 May (MJB*), and Rattlesnake Springs 21 May (DL**).

Blackpoll Warbler—A ♂ was at NRT 13 May (JEP*, DJK**).

Palm Warbler—Singles were west to the Sandia Mts. at the Doc Long area 1 May (WEM*) and Los Alamos 24 May (M. Smith*).

Yellow-throated Warbler—One west to the Animas Valley at Clanton Cienega 13 May (NM-C**, J.T. Shiflett**) furnished the first record for *Hidalgo*.

Grace's Warbler—Two were early in Chloride Canyon, *Sierra* 12 Apr (DJC**).

Hermit Warbler—One was far east to Rattlesnake Springs 28 Apr (NM-C*). In the southwest, where expected, singles were in Clanton Canyon 21 Apr (WTE*) and the Animas Mts. 13 May (WTE*).

Painted Redstart—Singles were north to two Jemez Mts. sites: one at Los Alamos 11-14 May (RK, NEH**, m.ob., m.ph.) and another in Bandelier NM's lower Frijoles Canyon, *Sandoval* 20 May (CGL**). In nonbreeding habitat, one was in the RGV at Percha SP 28 Mar-2 Apr (JEP, m.ob.). In breeding habitat, one was singing in Chloride Canyon, Black Range 15 Mar (DJC**).

Summer Tanager—Remarkably early was on at the Waldrop Rest Area, e. *Chaves* 23 Mar (PDC**).

Northern Cardinal—A ♂ was at Albuquerque's BioPark 12 Apr-6 May (J.M. Stewart, m.ob.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—In the northwest, a ♂ was at Farmington 19-24 May (TR**) and another was southwest of Abiquiu L. 6 May (C.D. Hathcock**).

Painted Bunting—A ♀ was west to the Waldo area, *Santa Fe* 13 May (J.L. Hatt**). Two ♂♂ were singing west to Sumner Dam 14 May (NEH**, CMR).

Dickcissel—Two at Weatherly L. 28 May (CMR) established the third consecutive season that the species had been found singing there. One was singing at Valle de Oro NWR 11-12 May (MJA**, MS) and 2 were there 28 May (MS).

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

