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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.

Front cover: Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) in the Rio Grande bosque south of the Montañito bridge, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, 4 July 2017 (see page 42). Photo by Bernard L. Morris.

Back cover: White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains north of Red River, Taos County, New Mexico, 15 July 2017 (see page 46). Photo by Robert E. Friedrichs.

SUMMER SEASON 2017

The rains and late snows of the spring season were augmented by additional scattered rains over much of the state in Summer 2017, producing favorable habitat conditions in many areas, and especially in northeastern grasslands, where Cassin's Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Dickcissels were much in evidence. Birding was relatively quiet but still managed to produce some surprises, including two Arctic Terns in the northwest at Morgan Lake, Red-shouldered Hawk and Eastern Wood-Pewee at Albuquerque, an active Buff-breasted Flycatcher nest north to the Burro Mountains, and a White-winged Crossbill in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The bird of the season was an adult White-tailed Hawk photographed during a BBS route on Rowe Mesa, San Miguel County, which established the first verified record for the state.

Localities and Counties

| | |
|--|--|
| Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i> | Los Alamos, Canyon, <i>Los Alamos</i> |
| Belen, <i>Valencia</i> | Magdalena Mts., <i>Socorro</i> |
| Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i> | Mills Canyon, <i>Harding/Mora</i> |
| Black Range, <i>Grant/Sierra</i> | Mora, <i>Mora</i> |
| Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i> | Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i> |
| Bosque Redondo Lake, <i>De Baca</i> | Mosquero Canyon, <i>Harding</i> |
| Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i> | Nichols Canyon, <i>Grant</i> |
| Burro Mts., <i>Grant</i> | North Roosevelt Trap [NRT], <i>Roosevelt</i> |
| Caprock, <i>Lea</i> | Ocate, <i>Mora</i> |
| Carlsbad, Lake, <i>Eddy</i> | Ojo Sarco, <i>Rio Arriba</i> |
| Carlisle, <i>Grant</i> | Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i> |
| Chloride, <i>Sierra</i> | Placitas, <i>Sandoval</i> |
| Clayton, <i>Union</i> | Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i> |
| Cliff, <i>Grant</i> | Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i> |
| Cloudcroft, <i>Otero</i> | Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i> |
| Clovis, <i>Curry</i> | Redrock, <i>Grant</i> |
| Cochiti Lake, <i>Sandoval</i> | Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i> |
| Columbus, <i>Luna</i> | Rio Mora NWR, <i>Mora</i> |
| Corona, <i>Lincoln</i> | Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i> |
| Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i> | Roswell, <i>Chaves</i> |
| Datil, <i>Catron</i> | Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i> |
| Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i> | Sabinoso, <i>San Miguel</i> |
| Farley, <i>Colfax</i> | Sandia Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i> |
| Fenton Lake, <i>Sandoval</i> | Sandia Mts., <i>Sandoval/Bernalillo</i> |
| Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i> | San Simon Cienega, <i>Hidalgo</i> |
| Glenwood, <i>Catron</i> | Santa Fe, Canyon, <i>Santa Fe</i> |
| Grenville, <i>Union</i> | Santa Rosa, Lake, <i>Guadalupe</i> |
| Hermanas, <i>Luna</i> | Santa Teresa, <i>Doña Ana</i> |
| Hobbs, <i>Lea</i> | Sevilleta NWR, <i>Socorro</i> |
| Hopewell Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i> | Silver City, <i>Grant</i> |
| Jemez Falls, Springs, <i>Sandoval</i> | Six Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i> |
| Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i> | Springer Lake, <i>Colfax</i> |
| Lakewood, <i>Eddy</i> | Stubblefield Lake, <i>Colfax</i> |
| Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i> | Sumner Lake, Dam, <i>De Baca</i> |
| Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i> | Terrero, <i>San Miguel</i> |
| Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i> | Ute Lake, <i>Quay</i> |

Valle de Oro NWR, *Bernalillo*
Variadero, *San Miguel*
Vaughn, *Guadalupe*

Villanueva, SP, *San Miguel*
Viriden, *Hidalgo*
Watrous, *Mora*

Standard Abbreviations

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| AFB | Air Force Base | UNM | Univ. of New Mexico |
| Bosque NWR | Bosque del Apache NWR | USFWS | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
| BLNWR | Bitter Lake NWR | WMA | Wildlife Management Area |
| BBS | Breeding Bird Survey | WSMR | White Sands Missile Range |
| CBC | Christmas Bird Count | WTP | Water Treatment Plant (or Ponds) |
| CCNP | Carlsbad Caverns NP | ♂ | male (represents sword & shield of Mars) |
| CG | Camp Ground | ♀ | female (represents mirror of Venus) |
| Cr. | Creek | ad(s). | adult(s) |
| EBL | Elephant Butte Lake | subad(s). | subadult(s) |
| GBA | Gila Bird Area | imm(s). | immature(s) |
| L. | Lake, Laguna | 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 audio provided |
| NRT | north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap | *** | specimen obtained |
| NWR | National Wildlife Refuge | | |
| R. | River | | |
| RGNC | Rio Grande Nature Center | | |
| RGV | Rio Grande Valley | | |
| SP | State Park | | |

Initialed Observers

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|------------------------|
| MJB | Matthew J. Baumann | SEM | Sonja E. Mendoza |
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| DJC | David J. Cleary | JRO | Jerry R. Oldenettel |
| PDC | Patrick D. Collins | JEP | John E. Parmeter |
| VD | Vicki Dern | NDP | Nicholas D. Pederson |
| ID | Ian Dolly | CMR | Christopher M. Rustay |
| BRD | Brian R. Dolton | MTS | Marcy T. Scott |
| CF | Carly Foreback | JBS | Jarrod B. Swackhamer |
| REF | Robert E. Friedrichs | JAT | John A. Trochet |
| CG | Cheryl Grindle | RLV | Raymond L. VanBuskirk |
| JMG | John M. Groves | REW | Richard E. Webster |
| DLH | David L. Hawksworth | SW | Steve West |
| NEH | Nancy E. Hetrick | WFW | William F. West |
| WJ-W | Will Jaremko-Wright | RBW | Richard B. Williams |
| ABJ | Andrew B. Johnson | SOW | Sartor O. Williams III |
| DJK | David J. Krueper | LW | Laura Wilson |
| LEL | Laurel E. Ladwig | CCW | Christopher C. Witt |
| JBL | Judy B. Liddell | CJW | Cole J. Wolf |
| JM | James McPhee | JEZ | James E. Zabriskie |
| DWM | David W. Mehlman | | |

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Wood Duck—Noteworthy for *Harding*, one was on the Ute Creek arm of Ute L. 30 Jul (CMR*, NEH). In *Mora*, where recently regular in summer, singles were at Wagon Mound 8 Jul (LW**) and near Watrous 9 Jul (CG).

Gadwall—A ♀ with 4 young was at BLNWR 15 Jul (CMR).

Mexican Duck—Reported north in the RGV to Albuquerque. The irrigated farmland between Columbus and Hermanas is often a good area for Mexican Ducks, where a ♂-♀ pair was photographed 23 Jul (C. Davis**).

Common Merganser—A ♀ with 7 small young was on the Gila R. below Cliff 3 Jun (JAT).

Scaled Quail—Enjoyed a banner reproductive season in *Eddy*, where coveys were commonly seen throughout the season (SW).

Montezuma Quail—Remarkably far north, two were near the South Narrows Picnic Area of El Malpais NM, *Cibola* 3 Jul, where one was hit by a car (ABJ, spec. to MSB).

Pied-billed Grebe—Eight active nests were at EBL's Monticello Point 13 Jun (DJC**).

Eared Grebe—An impressive nesting colony again occupied the Clovis WTP, where 102 ads. were counted, many on nests or building nests, 3 Jul (GMB**).



Eared Grebe, adult on nest, Clovis Water Treatment Ponds, Curry Co.,
3 July 2017. Photo by Grant M. Beauprez.

Aechmophorus grebes—Five pairs of **Western Grebes**, each with chicks, and 38 pairs of **Clark's Grebes**, each with chicks, were at EBL 7 Jul (DJC**).

Inca Dove—Continued scarce throughout its New Mexico range; only one was seen at Carlsbad 16 Jun & 6 Jul (RN**), where the species was fairly common 15 years ago (RN, SW).

Common Ground-Dove—Two (one singing) at Rodeo 29 Jul (REW) provided the only report.

Lesser Nighthawk—One to 2 were reported north in the RGV to Sevilleta NWR in Jul (C. Nemes*, DLH+), north of Oscura at Jake Spring, *Lincoln* 20 Jun (WFW), and in *Chaves* at BLNWR 7 Jun (PDC) and Waldrop Rest Area 1 Jun (PDC).

Mexican Whip-poor-will—Maintaining a Sandia Mts. presence were vocal singles along the Bill Spring Trail 9 Jun (RLV) and at Capulin Spring 29 Jun (J. Minor).

Black Swift—At least 6 ads. were at Jemez Falls 29 Jul (JEP).

Chimney Swift—Reports were restricted to the east, with small numbers at Clayton, Clovis, Hobbs, Carlsbad, and Las Vegas during the season.

Rivoli's Hummingbird—In the Sacramento Mts., singles were at two Ruidoso sites 25 Jun (M. Hardey) and 10 Jul (D. Rizos). In the west, 2 were north to Glenwood 29 Jul (R. Modica).

Lucifer Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ was described at a feeder along Chloride Flats Road northwest of Silver City 23 Jul (E. Halbedel*).

Rufous Hummingbird—Earliest fall migrants were one at Los Alamos 23 Jun (C. Martin) and one at Albuquerque 25 Jun (B. Hussey); 13 more were reported from Terrero and Mora south to Silver City 27-30 Jun (m.ob.).

Calliope Hummingbird—Earliest was one at Hopewell L. 5 Jul (CCW); noteworthy for *Harding* was one in Mosquero Canyon 30 Jul (CMR).

Sandhill Crane—One lingered at Valle de Oro NWR 1-5 Jun (JEP, J. Mosley, C. Jensen).

American Avocet—Noteworthy west to *McKinley*, 54 were near Ivanbito at the Western Refining ponds 19 Jul (DLH).

Snowy Plover—High count at BLNWR was only 106 on 21 Jun (PDC), a considerable decrease from past years.

Mountain Plover—The species summers regularly along US 285 in northern *Taos* and *Rio Arriba*; this season, one was spotted in *Taos* north of San Antonio Mt. 24 Jun (CMR, NEH**). The area is rather dependable for the species—a survey there in 2003 during the period 29 Apr-30 Jun detected 80 birds at 56 sites on Bureau of Land Management lands (Hawks Aloft).



Mountain Plover, U.S. 285 north of San Antonio Mountain, northern Taos Co., 24 June 2017. Photo by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Upland Sandpiper—Fall migrants arrived in late Jul, with 3 flying over Mills Canyon, *Harding/Mora* 29 Jul (CMR) and one at Lakewood 30 Jul (D. Kelly).

Long-billed Curlew—At the southern edge of the breeding range, 3 were on the Caprock BBS 3 Jun (SOW).

Marbled Godwit—Presumably early fall migrants were 2 at Springer L. 18 Jun (CMR**) and 3 at Stubblefield L. 24 Jun (MJB, NDP).

Sanderling—Unexpected in Jun, one lingered at Morgan L. 7 Jun (CLB) & 11 Jun (JM**).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Among the last of the spring migrants was one at the Bandelier NM county line lagoons, *Los Alamos/Sandoval* 8-9 Jun (m.ob., RBW**, NEH**).

Least Tern—One strayed northwest to Morgan L. 7 Jun (CLB). The summering population at BLNWR has declined considerably in recent years, where the high count this season amounted to only 5 birds on 9 Jun (J. Beauchamp, m.ob.). In comparison, the population there in the early 2000s was 10-11 pairs annually, and excellent productivity was achieved.

Caspian Tern—One at Morgan L. 7 & 9 Jun (CLB**, CF**) was joined by a second one there 11 Jun (JM**).



Standing (upper) and flying (lower) White-rumped Sandpiper, Bandelier National Monument “county line lagoons,” Los Alamos/Sandoval counties, 8 June 2017. Photos by Richard B. Williams

Common Tern—Four carefully described at Ute L. 30 Jul (CMR*, NEH*) provided the lone report. The species is a scarce but apparently regular fall transient through the state, but its status is complicated by observer confusion with Forster's Tern.

Arctic Tern—Two were at Morgan L. 7 Jun (CLB**) and at least one lingered there to 9 Jun (CF**); this represents the third Jun record for that site since 2010.

Common Loon—Unusual for mid-summer, a basic plumaged individual was at L. Roberts 11-18 Jul (T. B. Godfrey**, JBS**).

Neotropic Cormorant—High count at Albuquerque's Tingley ponds was 26 on 17 Jul (DLH).

American White Pelican—Unusual for the date, 24 ads. were at 2440 m on Graham L. north of Ocate 27 Jun (DJK**).

Brown Pelican—Two at Brantley L. 16 Jun (RN**) furnished the only report.

Least Bittern—Continuing from May, up to 3 were suspected of breeding at Indian Springs, EBL 12 Jun-20 Jul (DJC**audio). In the Pecos Valley, 2 recently fledged young were following an ad. at BLNWR 15 Jul (CMR) and one individual was at Six Mile Dam 8 Jul (RN).

Great Blue Heron—Three nests, each containing 2-3 chicks, were at EBL's Indian Spring 13 Jul (DJC**).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—An ad. was at 2440 m on Sawmill L., *Colfax* 27 Jun (DJK).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—An imm. was at Bosque NWR 22 Jul (S. Fischer**). An ad. and a juv. were at El Paso just east of Santa Teresa and very near the New Mexico border 23 Jun-26 Jul (JMG**).



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, immature, Bosque del Apache NWR,
Socorro Co., 22 July 2017. Photo by Silas Fischer.

Osprey—Active nests in peripheral locales were below Navajo Dam, *San Juan* 10 Jun (eBird), at Fenton L. 7 Jul (BLM), and Cochiti L. 16 Jul (JBL).

Northern Harrier—The species breeds widely but irregularly in New Mexico; this season, summering birds were found mid-Jun to mid-Jul in the east in *Colfax*, *Guadalupe*, *Chaves*, and *Eddy*, and farther west in *Socorro* and *Luna* (m.ob.).

Mississippi Kite—Now well established in the Santa Rosa area, where 14 were noted 16 Jul (CMR), and in *Harding*, with 2 in Mosquero Canyon 30 Jul (CMR**) and 3 at Gallegos 30 Jul (CMR**). At Roswell, 12 were feeding together over a vacant lot south of the Super 8 motel 1 Jun (SOW).

Common Black Hawk—Unexpected was an ad. at the small Slone-Simpson Park in Corona 17 Jun (DLH**).

Harris's Hawk—Small numbers were reported across the south in *Hidalgo* (NM-C), *Luna* (A. Vesley), *Doña Ana* (L. & J. Smith), *Otero* (W. Knowlton), *Eddy* (RN), and *Lea* (C. Davis), but the overall population in *Eddy* and *Lea* was considered critically reduced from former years (SW).

White-tailed Hawk—An ad. photographed on Rowe Mesa, *San Miguel* 9 Jun (WJ-W**) provided a long-overdue first confirmed state record. There have been several sight reports, of widely varying quality, dating back to at least 1969, but to date none of them has proven acceptable.



White-tailed Hawk, adult, Rowe Mesa, San Miguel County, 9 June 2017.
Photo by Will Jaremko-Wright.

Red-shouldered Hawk—Surprising for mid-summer, an ad. (probably of the west coast subspecies *elegans*) was in the bosque south of Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 4 Jul (BLM**); it provided only the second mid-summer record for New Mexico.

Zone-tailed Hawk—Noteworthy were singles in the Magdalena Mts. in Water Canyon 4 Jun (K. Gahm*) and on the east slope of the Sacramento Mts. along Mule Canyon Road, w. *Chaves* 2 Jun (RN**, PDC).

Elf Owl—Among several territories being monitored along the east slope of the Black Range in w. *Sierra* were ads. tending nestlings in a cavity along Tierra Blanca Creek 28 Jun (DJC**).

Burrowing Owl—Two pairs nested successfully northwest of Nutt, but in southwest *Sierra*, 1-22 Jul (DJC**).

Boreal Owl—One was reported singing (but not seen) from a patch of aspen and fir trees just uphill from Hopewell Lake CG 4 Jul (CCW*).

Acorn Woodpecker—Somewhat east of expected, one was on the east rim of Mills Canyon, *Harding* 29 Jul (CMR**).

Golden-fronted Woodpecker x Red-bellied Woodpecker—An apparent hybrid juv. of these two species was at Portales 12 Jul 2017 (T.D. Watkins**). Adult hybrids had been documented there during the Fall-Winter 2015-16 and Fall-Winter 2016-17 seasons.

Williamson's Sapsucker—Noteworthy for the Manzano Mts., one was seen in aspens in Red Canyon, *Torrance* 2 Jul (CMR).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—Singles where seldom reported were in Hay Canyon, Datil Mts., *Catron* 2 Jul (M. Dorriesfield) and near Cloudcroft, Sacramento Mts. 8 Jul (N. Webber).

[Monk Parakeet]—Up to 8 birds plus an active nest were in El Paso, Texas, very near the New Mexico line and just east of Santa Teresa, 28 Jun (JMG**).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet--For the second consecutive year, the species was found north to the Gila R. in the Nichols Canyon area; this year, 2 were documented there 30 Apr (JBS) and one was singing there 17 Jun (JBS, BRD).

Eastern Wood-Pewee—One was discovered persistently singing the typical song of the species in the bosque adjacent to the RGNC 7-9 Jun (ID**audio, JEP*, JRO**, CJW**audio), and what was likely the same individual was found persistently singing the typical song across the river from the RGNC in the west side bosque, south of the Montano bridge 2-19 Jul (BLM**audio, m.ob., m.ph., m.audio). This represents only the third report for the RGV and the first for *Bernalillo*.



Eastern Wood-Pewee, male singing, bosque near Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque, Bernalillo Co., 9 June 2017. Photo by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Gray Flycatcher—South to the Burro Mts., a pair was nest building in Deadman Canyon 10 Jun (JBS).

Dusky Flycatcher—Three on the Gallinas BBS, *San Miguel* 3 Jun (CMR) established a high count for that route.

Buff-breasted Flycatcher—First found in Deadman Canyon, Burro Mts. only in 2016, this year a pair was feeding nestlings there 8-10 Jun (JBS**, BRD). Prior to these recent records, the species had last been documented summering in the Burro Mts. in 1876.



Buff-breasted Flycatcher, adult at nest, Burro Mountains, Grant Co.,
10 June 2017. Photo by Jarrod B. Swackhamer.

Black Phoebe—Noteworthy at 2230 m, one was at Bonito L., *Lincoln* 15 Jul (CMR).

Eastern Phoebe—Providing a new upper Pecos R. locale, 3 were at El Cerito below Villanueva SP 4 Jun (WJ-W). An ad. was feeding a fledgling along the Mora R. at Watrous 11 Jun (CMR), where the species has nested in recent years.

Say's Phoebe—Moving on up, one was singing at 3250 m on Sandia Crest 17 Jun (JEP).

Vermilion Flycatcher—An impressive 36, including ads. and juvs., were at the WSMR golf course, *Doña Ana* 28 Jun (C.J. Goin). The ♂ at Lamy, *Santa Fe* in May continued to 4 Jun (S. Crabtree).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher—One was north to the east slope of the Black Range along Circle Seven Creek, south of Chloride, 8 Jul (DJC**audio).

Brown-crested Flycatcher—Continuing from May, one was 5 km south of Radium Springs on various dates 10 Jun-5 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—Continued to push west across the High Plains, including 2 in *De Baca* on US 60 west of Yeso 22 Jun (DLH), 2 in *Guadalupe* on US 60 east of Vaughn 22 Jun (DLH**), and one in *Guadalupe* on US 54 southwest of Pastura 16 Jul (CMR, NEH).

White-eyed Vireo—Now expected in summer in New Mexico, this season found one west to Cottonwood Gulch, *McKinley* 9-10 Jun (N. Goldberg**), another farther west singing at Pleasanton, *Catron* 21-27 Jun (P. A. Tallman*), and one singing in the Academy area of northeast Albuquerque 24-30 Jun (J.P. Joseph*, BLM*, DLH audio, NEH**audio, JBL*, J. Parlapiano*).

Bell's Vireo—The species has become regular in the Pecos Valley north to Sumner Dam, where this season one was singing 9 Jun (MJB audio).

Warbling Vireo—One of the eastern subspecies was vocal at NRT 9 Jun (MJB audio).

Red-eyed Vireo—Singles west to the RGV and environs were at the RGNC bosque 7 Jun (ID*), in Albuquerque's South Valley 8 Jun (VD audio), and at Los Alamos 23 Jul (G. Reeves*).

Mexican Jay—At the northern fringe of their range, 5 were in the San Francisco Mts. north of Pueblo Park at Lost Spring, *Catron* 1 Jun (ABJ).

Clark's Nutcracker—Unusual at such a low elevation was a flock of 31 near Ojo Sarco 3 Jun (JEP).

Purple Martin—Near the Texas border, 10 were at Clovis 23 Jul (T. McDaniel) and one was at Hobbs 1 Jun (PDC*). Noteworthy for *Harding* was a ♀ on a wire south of Gallegos 9 Jun (MJB). The species is now well established as a breeder in the Sangre de Cristo Mts., including in *Mora*, where there was one in a cavity near Guadalupe 18 Jun (DLH) and one north of Ocate 3 Jul (WFW).

Tree Swallow—The species is an occasional breeder in the middle RGV; this season, 4 were at EBL's Indian Springs 26 Jun (DJC**).

Cave Swallow—Maintaining a north Las Cruces breeding presence, up to 6 were present at the Embarcadero bridge 5 Jul (MTS) and also at the Lujan-Hill bridge 19 Jul (MTS); farther north, some two dozen were at Leasburg SP in Jun (MTS). In *Eddy*, the first young of the year were banded at Carlsbad Cavern 17 Jun (SW).

Verdin—Pushing north of the Tularosa Basin, 4 were in *Lincoln* northeast of Oscuro at Jake Spring 20 Jun (WFW).

Carolina Wren—One singing at 2835 m in the Valle Vidal at the Shurre Ponds, *Colfax* 18 Jun (DWM*) furnished a new locale and apparently a new elevation record for the species in the state. In the middle RGV, one was singing at Belen 16 Jul (DLH) and up to 6 were noted at Bosque NWR Jun-Jul (MJB, VD, SEM).

Cactus Wren—Now well established in *San Miguel*, high counts this season included 17 on the Variadero BBS 4 Jun (CMR) and 22 on the Sabinoso BBS 11 Jun (CMR). Two in lower Mosquero Canyon 30 Jul (CMR) provided a new *Harding* locale.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Except for 3 reports from near the Arizona border (at Carlisle, Virden, and Redrock), there was but one report of this species this season from *throughout* the remainder of its New Mexico range: 4 in *Doña Ana* on the Jornada BBS in Jun (C. Borgman).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Noteworthy for *Cibola* was a ♂ singing at Ojo Piedra Spring north of Mt. Taylor 25 Jun (CMR).

Eastern Bluebird—Four, including 2 fledglings, south of Radium Springs 7 Jun (JEZ) likely nested in a nearby pecan orchard.

American Robin—Some 20 were seen on Carlsbad lawns 19 Jun (SW); the species now nests in many cities and towns throughout eastern New Mexico.

Gray Catbird—A pair was nesting at Ute L. 9 Jun (MJB*), the ♂ was singing while the ♀ was carrying nest material.

Brown Thrasher—One was at Fort Sumner's Bosque Redondo L. 9 Jun (MJB), a fairly reliable New Mexico breeding locale for the species.

Bendire's Thrasher—One was seen briefly in e. *San Miguel* on the Variadero BBS 4 Jun (CMR*).

Crissal Thrasher—North in the Pecos Valley was one at BLNWR 16 Jul (CMR*).

Cedar Waxwing—Among several mid-summer reports was a pair gathering nest material in the Corrales bosque 1 Jul (BLM).

Phainopepla—North in the RGV were singles at Placitas 5 Jun (V. Davis), Corrales bosque 7 Jun (R. Koehler), and Albuquerque's south valley 30 May (VD) & 4 Jun (DWM). In the west, one was in *Catron* east of Datil 16 Jul (C. Robbins), while in the east, 7 were at San Patricio, *Lincoln* 22 Jun (WFW) and 3 were in *Chaves* northwest of Dunken 2 Jun (RN**, PDC).

White-winged Crossbill—An ad. ♂ was documented in *Taos* in the mountains north of Red River 15 Jul (REF**). Most of the state's records occur in the Jul-Oct period, and primarily in Jul-Aug. The species is an irregular breeder in the state.

American Goldfinch—Notably south for the season, 2 were at Bosque NWR 27 Jun (V. Aikens**).

Botteri's Sparrow—Singles were noted at two Rodeo area locales 2 & 29 Jul (REW).

Cassin's Sparrow—Plentiful in the east, and especially in the northeast, where several BBS routes in *Colfax*, *Union*, *Harding*, *San Miguel*, and *Guadalupe* recorded from 80 to over 225 individuals. Smaller numbers were found west to the RGV and environs from

Santa Fe south to *Doña Ana*, and fewer yet were found farther west (e.g., *Datil*) and the southwest.

Black-throated Sparrow—On the distributional frontiers of the species, up to 14 were at Chaco Culture NHP, *San Juan* 17 Jun-16 Jul (Z. Adams**), up to 5 were in the Orilla Verde area, *Taos* 12 Jun-31 Jul (REF**), and one was in lower Mosquero Canyon, *Harding* 30 Jul (CMR).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Responded well to favorable conditions in the northeast in *Colfax*, *Union*, *Mora*, and *Harding*, including 27 on the Farley BBS 25 Jun (NDP), 6 on the Grenville BBS 18 Jun (CMR), 20 south of Clayton 20 Jun (E. Kistler), and 7 at Rio Mora NWR 8 Jun (WJ-W). Farther west to the RGV, unusual were 2 “calling” at Valle de Oro NWR 30 Jun (LEL).

Yellow-eyed Junco—A ♂ was singing on a traditional territory in the Burro Mts. 8 Jun (JBS**).

Bobolink—Continuing from May, a singing ♂ lingered at Valle de Oro NWR to 5 Jun (M. Shoop**, DLH**, Y. Ranspot*).

Eastern Meadowlark—One found singing about 6.5 km south of Grenville 24 Jun (MJB*, NDP**) was likely the southwestern *liliana* subspecies, based on spread-tail photos.

Scott’s Oriole—In the northeast, a ♀ was feeding a fledgling in Mosquero Canyon 30 Jul (CMR).

Black-and-white Warbler—Lingering into Jun were a ♀ at NRT 3 Jun (JRO), a singing ♂ in Albuquerque 7 Jun (CMB**), and another singing ♂ near Riverside, *Catron* 23 Jun (JBS audio).

Orange-crowned Warbler—An ad. and an apparent fledgling were in Red Canyon, Manzano Mts., *Torrance* 2 Jul (CMR).

Hooded Warbler—A singing ♂ was in Deadman Canyon, Burro Mts. 7 Jun (BLM**).

American Redstart—A singing ♂ was on Albuquerque’s West Mesa 19 Jun (ID*).

Grace’s Warbler—Reports from *Taos* included one at the Red River hatchery southwest of Questa 5 Jul (REF**), one at Cabresto L. 11 Jul (REF), and 8 near Fort Burgwyn 23 Jul (CMR). Ads. were feeding young in the Burro Mts. by 10 Jun (JBS).

Red-faced Warbler—Maintaining a Sacramento Mts. presence, 2 were at the Karr Canyon Picnic Area near Cloudcroft 2 & 13 Jun (W. Knowlton, B. Dale).

Painted Redstart—An ad. was east to Ruidoso 23 Jun (S. Johnson**).

Northern Cardinal—Four, apparently a family group, in Mosquero Canyon 30 Jul (CMR**) provided a new *Harding* locale; the species occurs in every county in eastern New Mexico west to the upper Canadian R. and the middle and lower Pecos Valley. Noteworthy for Albuquerque was a ♂ at a feeder at Kirtland AFB 12 Jul (S. Field**).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—An ad. ♂ singing along the Mora R. at Watrous 11 Jun (CMR) provided the only report.

Varied Bunting—For the second consecutive year, the species occupied the Nichols Canyon area on the lower Gila R., where a ♂ was singing 17 Jun (JBS**, BRD).

Painted Bunting—An ad. ♂ and a ♀ were west to Sumner Dam 9 Jun (MJB).

Dickcissel—Conspicuous in the northeast, with reports of one to 5 from multiple sites in *Colfax*, *Union*, *Mora*, and *San Miguel* (m.ob.). One was at Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 10 Jul (E. Hough). In the middle RGV, a ♂ was singing near Belen 16 Jul (DLH), where the species nested in 2016.



Dickcissel, male singing, near Valmora, Mora County, 9 July 2017.
Photo by Cheryl Grindle.



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

