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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](http://www.nmbirds.org).

**Front cover:** Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*) at the north Roosevelt County migrant trap west of Melrose, New Mexico, 25 May 2018 (see page 26). Photograph by Jonathan P. Batkin.

**Back cover:** Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) atop a Euclid haul truck at a dry salt lake east of Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico, 18 May 2018 (see page 23). Photograph by Shonna G. Berry.

## SPRING SEASON 2018

Weatherwise, Spring 2018 was windy and dry from March into mid-April, with wildfires beginning in multiple areas, including the eastern plains, by late April. Record heat was recorded in several regions by early May, and major wildfires soon dominated the news in the north, west, and east, causing some National Forest closures by late May. Birdwise, however, it was a season of interesting species and events. New Mexico's first Brown Booby was at a salt pan east of Carlsbad. The state's second confirmed Tropical Kingbird was at Rattlesnake Springs. Additional records of Arctic Tern and Black-capped Vireo were obtained, and a fair number of typically rare warblers were scattered about the eastern two-thirds of the state.

### Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Lake, Dam, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Guadalupe Mts., <i>Eddy</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Hillsboro, <i>Sierra</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Hobbs, <i>Lea</i>
A-Spear Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>	Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Bernardo, WMA, <i>Socorro</i>	Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>
Bill Evans Lake, <i>Grant</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Black River Village, <i>Eddy</i>	La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bluewater Lake, <i>McKinley/Cibola</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Boones Draw, <i>Roosevelt</i>	Lordsburg, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Los Alamos, Canyon, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Bosque Redondo, Lake, <i>De Baca</i>	Los Lunas, <i>Valencia</i>
Bottomless Lake SP, <i>Chaves</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Maljamar, <i>Lea</i>
Buckman, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Maxwell NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Caballo Lake, <i>Sierra</i>	Mesilla Bosque SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Milnesand, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i>
Cedar Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Navajo Lake, Dam, <i>San Juan</i>
Clanton Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Ned Houk Park, <i>Curry</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap [NRT], <i>Roosevelt</i>
Clines Corners, <i>Torrance</i>	Nutt-Hatch playa, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Oasis SP, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Counselor, <i>Sandoval</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Quemado Lake, <i>Catron</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Estancia, <i>Torrance</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Eunice, <i>Lea</i>	Redrock, <i>Grant</i>
Farmington, <i>San Juan</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>	Rio Rancho, <i>Sandoval</i>
Galisteo, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Gallup, <i>McKinley</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Sacramento Mts., <i>Lincoln/Otero</i>

Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*  
 Santa Fe, Canyon, *Santa Fe*  
 Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*  
 Silver City, *Grant*  
 Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*  
 Socorro, *Socorro*  
 Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*  
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*  
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*  
 Taos, *Taos*  
 Texico, *Curry*

Tucumcari, Lake, *Quay*  
 Valle de Oro NWR, *Bernalillo*  
 Vaughn, *Guadalupe*  
 Wagon Mound, *Mora*  
 Washington Ranch, *Eddy*  
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*  
 White Rock, *Los Alamos*  
 Whites City, *Eddy*  
 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

JRA	J.R. Absher	RL	Rene Laubach
MJA	Michael J. Andersen	JL	Judy Liddell
N&GB	Ned & Gigi Batchelder	DWM	David W. Mehlman
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	PM	Pauline Morris
DAB	Dan A. Belcher	IN	Ian Nicholson
MB	Michael Bressler	RSN	Robert S. Nieman
DGB	David G. Buckley	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DJC	David J. Cleary	JBP	Jack B. Parlapiano
PDC	Patrick D. Collins	JEP	John E. Parmeter
RD	Robert D'Antonio	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
KD	Kenneth Dayer	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
VDD	Vicki D. Dern	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
BRD	Brian R. Dolton	AS	A. Salas
SD	Steve Drilling	KSS	Kim S. Score
JD	Joel DuBois	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	MS	Michael Shoop
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	JBS	Jarrold B. Swackhamer
SF	Sharon Fullingim	JS	Jeff Szabat
RG	Robin Gurule	DT	Danny Tipton
CH	Catherine Harris	JAT	John A. Trochet
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JT	Jake Turin
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	AWa	Amanda Walker
TH	Tristan Herwood	TDW	Twila D. Watkins
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	MLW	Mark L. Watson
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	AWe	Andy Weaks
TJH	Tom J. Hines	SW	Steve West
TJ	Thomas Jackman	WFW	William F. West
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
ABJ	Andrew B. Johnson		
DK	Donna Kelly		

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Canada Goose**—A pair was nesting in an old raptor nest 9 m up in a cottonwood tree in Albuquerque's south valley 21 Apr (DLH\*\*).

[**Egyptian Goose**]—Continuing in evidence in the Clovis area, an ad. was with 2 downy young at the Clovis WTP 21 May (GMB\*\*).

**Trumpeter Swan**—Two present at Maxwell NWR since 7 Jan were last reported 17 Mar (KSS\*\*), apparently associating with 2 Tundra Swans.

**Tundra Swan**—Two of the 3 present at Maxwell NWR since 22 Dec 2017 were reported 17 Mar (KSS\*, VDD\*, K. Carson\*), associating with 2 Trumpeters, and one was reported there 10 Apr (R.L. VanBuskirk\*).

**Wood Duck**—Reports during May came from 10 counties from the RGV eastward; west were 2 at the GBA 5 May (J. Bell).

**Mexican Duck**—Noteworthy for *Catron*, 5 were at Quemado L. 26 May (CMR\*\*). Some 20 were at the Deming WTP 28 Mar (D. Newman).

**Greater Scaup**—Late was an ad. ♀ at the Rock Lake hatchery near Santa Rosa 25 May (NEH\*\*).

**Long-tailed Duck**—A ♀ or imm. was seen many at Bosque NWR 14-23 Mar (R. Wright\*\*, m.ob., m.ph).

**Barrow's Goldeneye**—Last reports in the upper RGV were a ♂ at the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 2 Mar (RG\*\*) and 2 ♀♀ there 4 Mar (BRF\*). Remarkably late were 2 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ described at Maxwell NWR 31 Mar (R. Golden\*).

**Hooded Merganser**—A ♀ was enjoying a meal of crawfish at Santa Rosa's Blue Hole 13 Apr (SEM).

**Eared Grebe**—Some 96 ads. were involved with courtship activities at the Clovis WTP 21 May (GMB\*\*), a known breeding locale.

**Clark's Grebe**—Nested successfully at three EBL sites: pair with young at Indian Springs 22 May, three pairs with young at Monticello Cove 29 May, and five pairs with young in the Three Sisters area 29 May (DJC).

**Band-tailed Pigeon**—Noteworthy for the eastern plains was one at NRT 11 May (JEP, JRO\*\*).

**Inca Dove**—Very few reports. One at Portales 16 Apr & 6 May (TDW\*\*) provided the only report from eastern New Mexico, including the Pecos Valley.

**Common Ground-Dove**—One at Rodeo 28 Apr (C. Trapani) was the only report.

**Greater Roadrunner**—A pair was at Cedar Crest 14 Apr (J.D. Ligon). In the northwest, singles were near Ghost Ranch, *Rio Arriba* 17 May (WTE), at Counselor 14 May (A.

Lawrence), and at Bluewater L., *Cibola* 24 Mar (SEM). In the north, one was north of Taos 20 Apr (C. Ferland).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Several in the Blue Spring area south of Black River Village 16-25 May (SW) provided a new *Eddy* locality.

**Mexican Whip-poor-will**—Where seldom reported were 3 in Little Water Canyon, Zuni Mts. 29 May (JAT) and 2 on Big Canyon Ridge, Guadalupe Mts. 25 May (MJB\*, ABJ).

**Chimney Swift**—One was west to Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR 3 May (JEP\*).

**Lucifer Hummingbird**—A ♂ in CCNP's Slaughter Canyon 13 Apr (RSN\*\*) provided the first confirmed record for *Eddy* and for eastern New Mexico.



Lucifer Hummingbird, Slaughter Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns NP, Eddy Co.,  
13 April 2018. Photo by Robert S. Nieman.

**Anna's Hummingbird**—Single ♂♂ were in e. Las Cruces 8 Apr (WTE\*\*) and at Mesilla Bosque SP 14 Apr (H. Thomas\*).

**Calliope Hummingbird**—Spring records are still somewhat of a novelty in New Mexico. This season found one at Gallup 23-25 Apr (TH\*\*), a ♂ at Silver City 3 Apr and a ♂ & ♀ at the same site there 11 Apr (BRD\*), and a ♂ at Hillsboro 27-29 Mar (J. Richmond\*\*).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—Spring records included an ad. ♀ banded in n. Las Cruces 20 Mar (N&GB), a ♂ at the A-Spear Ranch west of Williamsburg 16-17 Mar (JRA\*\*, N&GB) and a different ♂ there 29 Mar (JRA\*\*). Farther north in the RGV, single ♂♂ were in Albuquerque's north valley 31 Mar-2 Apr (L. Derwelis\*\*) and at White Rock 19 Apr (K. Christensen\*\*).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—An ad. ♂ far northeast to NRT 5 May (M.T. DeLeon\*\*) provided a *Roosevelt* first; there are now credible records for 20 of New Mexico's 33 counties. In the RGV, an ad. ♂ in n. Las Cruces 20 Mar (N&GB) reportedly had been present for several months. An ad. ♀ was at the A-Spear Ranch 31 Mar-1 Apr (JRA\*\*, N&GB). All other reports this season were from several *Hidalgo* locales.

**Common Gallinule**—Up to 3 were seen at Bosque NWR on various dates 6 Apr-29 May (m.ob., SEM\*\*). One in the Indian Springs area of upper EBL, *Sierra* 5 May (NDP, MJB) furnished the only additional report.

**Black-necked Stilt**—Noteworthy for *Mora* were one at Wagon Mound 21 Apr (WJ-W\*\*) and 4 there 25 Apr (WJ-W).

**American Avocet**—Some 48 were at the Western Refining ponds, *McKinley* 9 May (DLH). Scarce in *Taos*, 2 were at Talpa L. 7 May (TJ\*\*). Noteworthy were 13 at Corona, n. *Lincoln* 30 Apr (C. Grindle).

**Black-bellied Plover**—Remarkably early, one was at BLNWR 15 Mar (N. Pumphrey\*\*); there are no previous March records for New Mexico. Singles at EBL's main marina 22 May (DJC) and Monticello Point 29 May (DJC) were the only additional reports.

**American Golden-Plover**—One at Valle de Oro NWR 29 Apr (MOH\*\*, J. Kitting\*\*, NEH\*\*, JEP\*) provided the only report.

**Snowy Plover**—Three were north to Wagon Mound by 30 Mar (WJ-W). Noteworthy for *Luna* was one at the Columbus WTP 30 Mar (AWe\*\*). High counts at BLNWR amounted to only 34 on 25 Mar & 31 on 29 May (PDC).

**Whimbrel**—One was at Bosque NWR 28-29 Apr (MOH\*\*, DLH\*, NDP\*, MS\*). One at Weatherly L., *Union* 13 May (CMR\*\*) marked the second consecutive year for the species at that site.

**Long-billed Curlew**—Some high counts of migrants included 200 at Texico 2 Mar (GMB) and 237 near Portales 28 Mar (W. Britton).

**Sanderling**—Few reports. High counts were 4 each at Brantley L. 1 May (DK) and Stubblefield L. 20 May (NDP).

**Dunlin**—Reports limited to Bosque NWR, where one to 3 were noted 3-21 Mar (m.ob.).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—Few reports: 3 each at Maxwell NWR 20 May (NDP) and Sumner L. 20 May (MJB\*\*), one at Brantley L. 26 May (JEP), and 2 at Valle de Oro NWR 26 May (CMR\*\*, m.ob.).

**Willet**—Relatively numerous and widespread during a conspicuous migration peak in late Apr, including 30 at Bill Evans L. 29 Apr (BRD), 25 at Moon Ranch ponds, *Grant* 28 Apr (JBS), 50 in e. Las Cruces 29 Apr (T. Lawton), 50 near Radium Springs 29 Apr (JEZ), 33 at EBL 30 Apr (IN), 27 at WSMR in *Socorro* east of San Antonio 1 May (B. Marsh), 15 each at L. Avalon (RSN) & Brantley L. (S. Smith) on 28 Apr, 5 at Clovis WTP 27 Apr (JEP), 30 at Valle de Oro NWR 27 Apr (DLH), and 39 at Storrie L. 20 Apr (WJ-W).

**Red-necked Phalarope**—Small numbers reported from *De Baca*, *Chaves*, *Eddy*, *Socorro*, *Doña Ana*, and *Otero* 2 Apr-28 May; high count was 9 at the Las Cruces West Mesa WTP 29 Apr (JD).



**Laughing Gull**—At Brantley L., an imm. 29-31 May was joined by an ad. 30-31 May (RSN\*\*, TJH\*\*, PDC\*\*). In the west, an imm. was at Bill Evans L. 21-22 Apr (CH\*\*, JBS\*\*, KD\*\*).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—An ad. at the Columbus WTP 30 Mar (AWe\*\*) provided a *Luna* first. A 1<sup>st</sup>-cycle was at EBL 27 Mar (DJC\*\*) and another 1<sup>st</sup>-cycle was at Morgan L. 10 Apr (B. Greco\*\*).

**Least Tern**—Earliest were singles at L. Carlsbad 30 Apr (RSN) and BLNWR 4 May (PDC). Highest count at BLNWR amounted to only 6 birds 25 May (JEP). One wandered northwest to Morgan L. 19 May (CMR\*\*).

**Caspian Tern**—Singles were at Storrie L. 20 Apr (WJ-W) and EBL 20 Apr (DJC\*\*). One was at Brantley L. 5 May (RSN) and another was there 25 May (JEP\*).

**Arctic Tern**—One was at Brantley L. 29 May (RSN\*\*). There are now about 20 state records since the first was confirmed in 1991.

**Common Loon**—Late ones with documentation were singles at Stubblefield L. 20 May (NDP\*\*) and Sumner L. 26 May (BRF\*\*).

**Brown Booby**—Providing an overdue first record for New Mexico, a subad. was found perched on the cab of a large earthmoving vehicle at one of the Moasic Company's salt pans east of Carlsbad 18 May (S.G. Berry\*\*). It was captured and taken to the Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center but subsequently died (specimen now at MSB).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Present at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach area Mar-May, including a high 36 on 29 Mar (DLH) but there was no sign of nesting this season.

**Brown Pelican**—One was about 40 km northeast of Roswell, along Railroad Mountain Road at White L., 22-23 Apr (JT, RG\*\*).

**American Bittern**—Singles were noted at Bosque NWR 2 Mar (JEP) & 4 May (CMR) and a pair was courting there 17 Apr (CH\*\*). At least one was at BLNWR 22 Mar-11 May (PDC et al.) and one was heard at Bottomless Lakes SP 31 Mar (JS); undetailed and doubtful is a report of 8 at Bottomless Lakes SP 21 Mar (eBird).

**Least Bittern**—Reports were limited to the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys. One to 2 were at Bosque NWR 23 Apr-31 May (m.ob.), EBL's Indian Springs area 4-5 May (MJB) & 23 May (DJC audio), and Six Mile Dam 26 May (RSN). A vocal one was at Bosque Redondo L. 11-13 May (WJ-W\*).

**Great Blue Heron**—Six active nests were at Six Mile Dam 12 May (SW).

**Great Egret**—Northerly were 2 at Los Alamos 10 May (v.o., phs.) and singles at Valle de Oro NWR 24 Mar (JEP), Abiquiu L. 17 May (WTE), Stubblefield L. area 20 May (NDP\*), and Tucumcari L. 12 Apr (S. Turner). In the southwest, 5 were at the Columbus WTP 31 Mar (AWe).

**Snowy Egret**—Three at BLNWR 2 Mar (JEP) likely wintered locally.

**Tricolored Heron**—One at Bosque NWR 17 May (J. Minor\*\*) was the lone report.

**Reddish Egret**—A dark morph apparent subad. was at BLNWR 20-29 May (PDC\*\*, JEP\*, NEH\*\*, m.ob., m.ph.).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**—An ad. was along the Las Vegas Riverwalk 29 Apr (WJ-W\*).

**Glossy Ibis**—Two were at Bosque NWR 14 Apr (MJB\*, NDP\*) where at least one continued to 22 Apr (JEP\*, JS, J. Bertrams\*\*), and one was at EBL 6 Apr (DJC\*\*).

**Osprey**—A pair was nest-building at Albuquerque by 23 Apr (JL\*\*); the nest blew down 8 May (M. Weisz) but was rebuilt and had an ad. on it by 11 May (JL\*\*). In the southwest, a pair was at L. Roberts 20 May, with one bird on a nest (JBS\*\*).

**White-tailed Kite**—Reported from two *Hidalgo* valleys: singles in the San Simon Valley near Rodeo 3 Mar (S. Taylor) & 27 Mar (S. Kurtzman) and one in the Animas Valley just south of Animas 8 Mar (AS).

**Bald Eagle**—Nesting activity noted in two new areas: a pair at a nest on the northwest arm of Navajo L. 14 Apr (S. Allerton\*), and a pair at a nest on the Bernardo WMA 15 Apr (H.L. Snell), but there was no follow-up at either site.

**Common Black Hawk**—Multiple reports from the upper and middle RGV, from the Española area south through Corrales, Albuquerque, Belen, Bosque NWR, and the A-Spear Ranch west of Williamsburg (m.ob.). One was a surprise at the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 22 Apr (B. Roberts\*\*).

**Harris's Hawk**—North of usual range, one was near Portales 12-28 Mar (GMB\*\*) and another was west of Hatch at the Nutt-Hatch playa 13 Mar (WJ-W). Several were noted in *Luna*, including up to 3 at Deming's Mountain View Cemetery 20 Mar-12 May, one along 1-10 east of Deming 20 Mar, and one at Rockhound SP 18 Mar (v.o., phs.).

**Gray Hawk**—One was north to the Gila R. at Redrock 8 Apr (JBS, BRD).

**Red-shouldered Hawk**—Unusual in New Mexico in May, an ad. was west of Whites City at the US 62/180 Black River bridge 25 May (JEP\*), and another individual was seen at Valle de Oro NWR 5 May (KSS\*).

**Broad-winged Hawk**—Migrants reported from 11 sites in nine counties from the RGV eastward 12 Apr-5 May (m.ob.), including 3 birds in the Rattlesnake Springs area 5 May (RSN+\*\*).

**Zone-tailed Hawk**—Reports from unexpected areas included one at the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 21 Apr (BRF\*\*), one at RGNC 8 & 22 Apr (SEM\*, SD\*), one in the Sandia Mts. in Cienega Canyon 6 May (CMR\*), and one in *Socorro* along US 60 east of Water Canyon 29 Apr (DGB\*\*). In *Sierra*, one was along Palomas Cr. on the A-Spear Ranch 22 May (JRA\*\*) and 2 were along Las Animas Cr. on the Ladder Ranch 24 May (K. Stinnett).

**Flammulated Owl**—Four were heard in the Sandia Mts. at the Tree Spring trailhead on the evening of 9 May (JEP), a dependable locale for the species.

**Elf Owl**—Extensive surveys were again conducted along the east base of the Black Range in *Sierra* by David Cleary, tabulating numbers of *occupied territories* Apr-May; maximum counts were 4 territories between Hillsboro and Kingston 14 Apr & 3 May, 4 territories along Tierra Blanca Road 11 Apr, and 6 territories in the Winston-Hermosa area 28 Apr. In addition, his surveys of Palomas Cr. on the A-Spear Ranch found 6 occupied territories 30 Apr & 25 May. Also, his RGV surveys in the upper EBL area from Indian Springs to Catfish Camp found 5 occupied territories 23 May. Surveys in the RGV in adjacent s. *Socorro* found 4 occupied territories 5 May (NDP, MJB). Taken together, these findings indicate the presence of a significant population of Elf Owls spread across these areas, and greatly expand our understanding of the species in the state.

**Short-eared Owl**—Surveys for birds along the Texas border in southwestern *Lea* found 2 near the Western Refinery 29 Mar (MB\*\*) and one in grasslands on the Battleax Ranch 3 Apr (SW). In n. *Lea*, one was seen just north of Lane Salt Lake 30 Mar (A. Bankert).

**Lewis's Woodpecker**—Continuing from winter, one was along Las Animas Cr. west of Caballo L. 5 Mar-2 Apr (DJC\*\*). One was south to Bosque NWR 19 Apr (K. Yakola\*\*). One was just south of the Very Large Array in w. *Socorro* 5 May (NDP, MJB\*\*).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Singles with documentation were a ♀ west to Silver City 3 Mar (BRD\*), a ♂ on Rowe Mesa, *San Miguel* 30 Mar (J. Luetzelschwab\*\*), a ♂ at Washington Ranch 2-3 Mar (JEP\*), and an imm. at the Maljamar Rest Area 7 Apr (PDC\*\*).

**Downy Woodpecker**—A pair was south in the RGV to Socorro's Riverine Park 5 May (CMR\*\*).

**Ash-throated Flycatcher**—March reports were 5 at three sites along the Texas border in southwestern *Lea* 27-29 Mar (MB\*\*); in *Eddy*, singles were at Brantley L. 23 Mar (DK\*) and Rattlesnake Springs 30 Mar (RSN).

**Brown-crested Flycatcher**—One to 2 were present in the lower RGV south of Radium Springs 13-18 May, including 2 together in the bosque 17 May (MTS\*).

**Tropical Kingbird**—A vocal one was at Rattlesnake Springs 27 May (RSN\*\*audio). There is but one previous confirmed New Mexico record, a pair near Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana* Jul-Aug 2010.

**Eastern Kingbird**—South in the RGV, one was at Las Cruces 1 Apr (D. Ohl\*) and another was at Valle de Oro NWR 13-18 Apr (DLH\*\*, KSS\*\*, DT\*\*, MS\*\*).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—One was west to Mangas Springs, *Grant* 19-20 Apr (BRD\*\*, JBS\*\*, P. Tabor\*). Another was west to Valle de Oro NWR 18 May (NEH\*\*).

**Least Flycatcher**—A vocal one was along the Chama R. below Abiquiu L. 17 May (WTE\*). The species is scarce in spring, and especially so west of the plains.

**Buff-breasted Flycatcher**—Under review is one reported at Zuni 28 May (JAT\*); the species was last found in the Zuni region in 1873.

**Black Phoebe**—Reports continued to accumulate in the easternmost counties, including singles at Ned Houk Park 23 Apr (GMB), Clovis 12 Apr (CMR\*\*), Oasis SP 28 Mar (GMB\*), and Conoco Pond near Maljamar 7 Apr (PDC\*).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—A ♀ was north in the RGV to Valle de Oro NWR 20-21 Apr (KSS\*\*, v.o.) and a ♂ was along the Rio Grande at Buckman 19 May (L. Howard\*\*). Farther east, one to 2 were at Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 7 Apr-15 May (eBird) and a pair was at Milnesand 27 Apr (JEP). An active nest was at Deming 15 Apr (WTE\*\*).

**Black-capped Vireo**—A singing ♂ was a surprise at NRT 25 May (JEP\*, JPB\*\*, GMB); it provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> local record and the 6<sup>th</sup> for the state.

**White-eyed Vireo**—One was in the Sandia Mts. in Cienega Canyon 29 Apr-6 May (DLH\*\*, m.ob., m.ph.).

**Bell's Vireo**—One was singing north to Sumner Dam 6 May (JEP), where the species has become nearly regular in recent years. Noteworthy for *San Miguel*, 2 were at the bottom of Corazon Hill 5 & 16 May (WJ-W\*\*). Up to 8 were in the Blue Spring area south of Black River Village in mid-May (SW), a new locale for the species in *Eddy*.

**Gray Vireo**—Noteworthy in the northeast quadrant, 2 were in w. *San Miguel* at the NM 419 crossing of the Canadian R. 17 May (WJ-W\*audio).

**Yellow-throated Vireo**—In the west, one was singing in Clanton Canyon 21 Apr (JS\*) and another was singing at Gila Hot Springs, *Grant* 26-27 May (KD, JBS\*\*). In the east, one was at Rattlesnake Springs 21 Apr (RSN\*\*) and another was at Boone's Draw 12 May (MJB\*). At Albuquerque, one was singing in the Valle de Oro NWR bosque from 6 May (JEP\*) through the month (m.ob., m.ph.) and into Jun.

**Red-eyed Vireo**—Singles at NRT 6 May (JRO, GMB) and 20 May (JRO) provided the only reports.

**Steller's Jay**—The massive invasion of the fall and winter seasons continued well into spring. Some high counts in the RGV were 28 in Albuquerque's south valley 3 Mar (DLH), 34 at Belen 31 Mar (DLH), 14 near Los Lunas 22 Apr (DLH), and 20 at Corrales 1 May (JMR). Five near Los Lunas 22 May (DLH) were among the last of the RGV reports. Some 24 were in the desert near Chaco NHP, *San Juan* 3 May (Y. Mauriz). In the south, 6 were at Percha SP 16 Mar (JEP), 12 were near Radium Springs 11 Mar (MTS, JEZ), and 6 were at Deming 22 Apr (BLM). Remained conspicuous in pinyon-juniper ca. 7 km east of Clines Corners, where up to 25 were seen 19 Apr (MLW).

**Blue Jay**—Small numbers (usually only one or 2) were widely reported in the RGV and environs in *Taos*, *Rio Arriba*, *Santa Fe*, *Los Alamos*, *Sandoval*, *Bernalillo*, *Socorro*, and *Doña Ana*, lingering at Albuquerque to 10 May (SD\*) and Bosque NWR to 14 May (AWa\*\*).

**Clark's Nutcracker**—Apparently overwintered in numbers in pinyon-juniper 7 km east of Clines Corners, where 70—including one flock of 40—were present 19 Apr (MLW). In the same general area, 5 were at Palma, *Torrance* 6 Apr (DLH\*\*).

**Bank Swallow**—Two nesting colonies in the Rio Rancho area were visited by CLH: on 6 May, the Arroyo de la Barranca site had 150-200 birds flying, many entering and leaving nest holes, but on 13 May, the Lower Montoyas Arroyo site had only 8 birds flying.

**Tree Swallow**—Seemingly late for migrants, 2 to 3 were at Zuni's Nutria Lake # 4 on 27 May & 1 Jun (JAT), and 3 were in Nutria Canyon 28 May (TH).

**Purple Martin**—In the eastern tier of counties, up to 9 were at Clovis 13-28 May (GMB+), a ♀ was at Green Meadow L., Hobbs 27 Apr (RSN\*\*) and a pair was there 28 May (DLH), and up to 3 were at Eunice late Apr-May, with nest-building noted by late May (P.W.McCasland\*\*).

**Cave Swallow**—Ten were noted south of Radium Springs, passing northward up the Rio Grande, on 12 Mar (MTS). Also indicating spring passage north in the RGV, numbers reported at Leasburg SP went from 5 on 13 Mar, to 44 on 27 Mar and 48 on 29 Mar, to 2 on 17 May (eBird). One was north to EBL's Lions Beach 22 Apr (JEP\*).

**Pacific Wren**—At least one continued in upper Water Canyon, *Los Alamos* 3 Mar to at least 22 Mar (BRF\*audio, RG, JT audio, RL\*\*); reported without details 7 Apr (eBird). One in the Sandia Mts. at Sulphur Canyon since late Dec continued to 23 Mar (A. Warner\*, VDD\*, M. McDermott\*, D. Lerwill\*\*, JBP\*\*). East to *San Miguel*, one was in the Hermit Peak area along Beaver Cr. above El Porvenir CG on 6 May (WJ-W\*audio).

**Winter Wren**—Continuing from winter, 2 were at Rattlesnake Springs to 23 Mar (JEP\*, RSN\*) and one continued there to 22 Apr (RSN\*audio).

**Carolina Wren**—Continuing from Feb, one was singing in the Rattlesnake Springs/Washington Ranch area to 30 Mar (JEP\*, SW\*, RSN\*\*audio). One was singing along the Las Vegas Riverwalk 20 Apr & 3 May (WJ-W). Up to 4 were singing at Bosque NWR Mar-May (m.ob.), where resident since 2011.

**Cactus Wren**—In *Curry*, a pair was at a nest in an elm north of Melrose 25 May (GMB\*\*). Elsewhere in the northeast, one was at Mosquero, *Harding* 19 May (NDP) and 2 were at Tucumcari L. 15 May (WJ-W).

**American Dipper**—The one first found in Albuquerque's north valley 21 Feb continued to at least 11 Mar (CMR\*\*).

**Eastern Bluebird**—Reported from 17 counties from the RGV eastward, including a ♂ at the Vaughn WTP 15 Mar (SW). In the southwest, singles were at Deming's Mountain View Cemetery 14 Mar (JD\*) and Silver City 1 & 4 Apr (BRD, JBS).

**Veery**—Seldom documented in migration, one was along the Chama R. below Abiquiu Dam 17 May (WTE\*).

**Swainson's Thrush**—A singing migrant lingered in fruiting mulberries south of Radium Springs 16-18 May (MTS, JEZ).

**Wood Thrush**—One at NRT 14-16 May (RD\*\*, TJ\*, K. Teaque) provided the only report.

**Varied Thrush**—A ♀ was in the Valle de Oro NWR bosque 25-29 Mar (PM, BLM\*\*, NEH\*\*, JBP\*\*, v.o.).

**Gray Catbird**—One was singing at Zuni's Nutria Diversion Dam 27 May (JAT).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—In the northwest, 2 were at two sites near Counselor 18 May (WTE).

**Brown Thrasher**—Reported from eight counties in the east. Farther west, singles were in *Santa Fe* at Edgewood 15 Mar (G. Vanus\*\*) and Cerrillos 11-12 May (M. Roedel\*\*).

**Bendire's Thrasher**—Surveys on county roads in *Hidalgo* northwest of Lordsburg, generally south of US 70 and north of I-10, found over 40 birds, including pairs and singing ♂♂, during Mar-May (AS et al.). More limited surveys south of Animas during the same period located about a dozen birds (AS et al.). Surveyors as well as many birders visited the Rodeo area during the season, and reported the species at multiple sites including the Chiricahua Desert Museum, along State Line Road, in and near Rodeo, and along Gin Road.

**Cedar Waxwing**—Two pairs were exhibiting site fidelity at Zuni's Blackrock L. 31 May-1 Jun (JAT).

**Phainopepla**—Beyond usual range, a ♂ was a Zuni's Blackrock area 31 May (JAT) and another ♂ was in Albuquerque's south valley 27 Apr (E.J. Selva\*).

**Olive Warbler**—Pushing the northwestern limits of the range, a ♀ was in the Zuni Mts. at Ojo Redondo CG, *Cibola* 30 May (D.A. McCallum\*) and a pair was at an active nest in the Datil Mts. in Hay Canyon, *Catron* 26 May (CMR). Noteworthy for the Organ Mts. was a singing ♂ at Aguirre Springs 6 May (WTE\*\*audio).

**Sprague's Pipit**—One was near the Texas border in southwestern *Lea* in the Battleax Ranch area 3 Apr (SW\*).

**Pine Grosbeak**—An ad. ♂ was a low elevation surprise at Tierra Amarilla, *Rio Arriba* 21 May (WTE\*).

**Rosy-Finches**—Surprising was a flock of 25 **Blacks** down in the gorge along the banks of the Rio Grande in *Taos*, near the Colorado line, 5 Mar (B.J. Long\*\*). Last reports from Sandia Crest were 2 **Gray-crowneds**, 3 **Brown-cappeds**, and 5 **Blacks** on 2 Apr (N.S. Cox+). Last at the Taos ski area were 2 **Gray-crowneds**, 25 **Brown-cappeds**, and 2 **Blacks** on 24 Mar (L. Broadhurst).

**Cassin's Finch**—Remnants of the winter incursion, small numbers continued in evidence in lowland areas Mar-Apr; among the last were one in Socorro 5 May (CMR), 2 in mulberries at Washington Ranch 5 May (RSN), and one at Rodeo 11 May (G. Bieber).

**Lesser Goldfinch**—A ♀ was feeding a stub-tailed young at Corrales 8 Apr (JMR).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—Noteworthy for *Rio Arriba*, one was at the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 21 Mar (BRF\*\*).

**Black-chinned Sparrow**—Noteworthy for *Valencia*, up to 6 were on the west side of the Manzano Mts. in Canyon Monte Largo 14-28 Apr (CMR\*\*, DLH\*, NEH\*).

**Field Sparrow**—Among the few reports were late singles at Portales 29 Apr (TDW\*\*) and in *Curry* south of Cannon AFB on 9 May (D.G. Whitecotton).

**Fox Sparrow**—Single “slate” individuals were at Valle de Oro 8 Apr (CMR\*\*) and Belen 7 Mar (NEH\*\*); a “red” one was at Socorro 17 Mar (SEM\*\*); 2 red ones at Rattlesnake Springs 3 Mar (JEP) continued to 25 Mar, when a slate one was also present (RSN\*\*).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**—One molting into ad. plumage was at Luis Lopez 29 Mar-19 Apr (SF\*\*, MJB\*, MJA\*\*), and another molting into ad. plumage was at the Bosque NWR boardwalk 5 May (MJB\*).

**Harris’s Sparrow**—An ad. was at Albuquerque’s Los Poblanos 15 Apr (DWM). Continuing from winter, one to 2 imms. were at Luis Lopez 2 Mar-23 Apr (SF\*\*, v.o.). An ad. was along the north loop road at Bosque NWR 22 May (AWa\*\*). An ad. was seen by many at Rodeo 1 Mar-21 Apr (G. Ivey, m.ob., m.ph.).

**Vesper Sparrow**—Up to 5 were singing at Quemado L. 26-27 May (CMR).

**Swamp Sparrow**—Among the few reports was one at the Vaughn WTP 23 Apr (NEH).

**Eastern Towhee**—Continuing from winter, the ♂ at Bosque NWR was singing 2 May (IN) was last documented 5 May (AWa\*\*).

**Orchard Oriole**—West to the middle RGV, a ♀ was at Luis Lopez 16 May (SF\*\*). Providing a new *Eddy* locale, a ♂ was at Blue Spring south of Black River Village 22 May (SW).

**Hooded Oriole**—One was northwest to Zuni’s Tekapo 28 May (JAT). A ♂ was north in the RGV to Luis Lopez 31 Mar-30 Apr (SF\*\*, MJA\*\*). On the east slope of the Sacramento Mts., a ♂ was at Hondo, *Lincoln* 5 May (S. Smith\*).

**Baltimore Oriole**—An ad. ♂ was at La Union 9 May (DAB\*) and a near-ad. ♂ was at NRT 11 May (JEP\*, WJ-W\*\*).

**Rusty Blackbird**—One in the Corrales bosque 21 Mar (PM, BLM\*\*) provided the season’s only report.

**Common Grackle**—Somewhat early, 2 were at Tucumcari 1 Mar (CMR\*). One was west to Deming 22 Apr (PM\*, BLM\*\*).

**Worm-eating Warbler**—One was at Rattlesnake Springs 20 Apr (MB\*, W. Michaels\*).

**Louisiana Waterthrush**—One visited the Maljamar Rest Area 7 Apr (PDC\*\*et al.).

**Golden-winged Warbler**—A ♂ was in the Sandia Mts. at Cienega Canyon 28 Apr-4 May (W.E. Maley\*\*, m.ob., m.ph.) and a ♂ was at Rattlesnake Springs 5-6 May (L. Irby\*\*, RSN\*\*).



Golden-winged Warbler in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mountains, Bernalillo Co.,  
28 April 2018. Photo by Nancy E. Hetrick.

**Blue-winged Warbler**—A ♂ at Galisteo 12-13 May (JPB\*, JS\*) was the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for *Santa Fe*. A ♂ at Leasburg SP 16 May (C.J. Goin\*\*) was the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for *Doña Ana* and the first to be confirmed.

**Black-and-white Warbler**—Reported from 14 locales in 10 counties from the RGV eastward, including one at the Rio Grande Gorge, *Taos* 21 May (D. Harrington) and one at Ned Houk Park 27 Apr (JEP, JRO). The species is a regular spring and fall transient through the state.

**Prothonotary Warbler**—Always a treat, one was described at Rattlesnake Springs 12 Apr (D. Johnston\*).

**Tennessee Warbler**—Singles at Washington Ranch 12 May (NDP\*\*) and La Union 22 May (DAB\*) were the season's only reports.

**Lucy's Warbler**—Relatively large numbers nested throughout the Albuquerque bosque, especially in the south valley, where 14 individuals were tallied 15 Apr (DLH). Six were found along the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam 20 May (CMR), where now well-established. A new *Eddy* site was Blue Spring, where 3 were found 22 May (SW).

**Kentucky Warbler**—A ♂ was in Los Alamos Canyon 1-4 May (BRF\*, m.ob., m.ph.) and another ♂ was at Holloman L. 7 May (PM\*, BLM\*), the latter only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for *Otero*.

**Hooded Warbler**—Made a good showing, with reports of one to 2 from eight sites in seven counties: at least one at Los Alamos 8 May (M. Smith\*) & 23-31 May (m.ob., m.ph.), 2 at Corrales 12 May (DWM), an early one in Otero Canyon, *Bernalillo* 18 Apr (R. Timberlake\*), singles at Estancia 19 May (NEH\*) and Sumner Dam 5 May (JEP\*), one to 2 at NRT 6 May (NEH\*\*, JRO) & 11-12 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), one at Boones Draw 11 May (MJB\*), and one at Rattlesnake Springs 3-6 May (WFW, RSN\*\*, BLM\*).



**American Redstart**—Made a fairly robust showing, with reports from 14 counties from the RGV eastward; one was west to the Silver City golf course 29 Apr (JBS, BRD).

**Northern Parula**—Reported from eight locales in seven counties (*Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Bernalillo, Socorro, Doña Ana, Roosevelt, Eddy*) from the RGV eastward 16 Apr-28 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—Made a better than usual showing, with reports from the RGV eastward at eight sites in seven counties, all in the period 4-21 May. Noteworthy for *Taos* was one at Fred Baca Park 10-11 May (RD\*\*, TJ\*\*, L. Friedman\*\*, M. Peterson\*). Rarely reported in *Union*, one was at Clayton L. 13 May (CMR\*\*). Providing a local first was one at the Vaughn WTP 6 May (NEH\*\*).

**Blackpoll Warbler**—A ♂ was at NRT 12 May (JEP\*, JRO, KSS) and a ♀ was at Washington Ranch 12-13 May (NDP\*\*).

**Palm Warbler**—Single ♂♂ of the western subspecies were at Valle de Oro 20 Apr (KSS\*, MS\*) and Galisteo 22-27 Apr (BRF\*\*, JPB\*\*).

**Yellow-throated Warbler**—The one at Farmington since Oct 2017 was last seen 19 Mar (A.P. Nelson).

**Hermit Warbler**—Singles were east to the RGV at Albuquerque 21 Apr (DGB\*\*), Paseo del Rio below EBL Dam 23 Apr (CH\*\*), and Las Cruces 3 May (WTE\*\*), but there were no reports from southwestern New Mexico, where the species is expected.

**Canada Warbler**—A ♂ was singing at Galisteo 19-20 May (JPB\*\*, JEP\*, BRF\*\*, RL\*\*, WTE\*, R. Clark\*); it provided the first record for *Santa Fe* and only the 17<sup>th</sup> for the state.



Canada Warbler, Galisteo, Santa Fe Co., 19 May 2018.  
Photo by Jonathan P. Batkin.

**Scarlet Tanager**—A ♂ at Ned Houk Park 12 May (KSS\*) provided a *Curry* first.

**Northern Cardinal**—Presumably continuing from winter, a ♂ was singing at the Albuquerque BioPark 3-28 Apr (DLH\*audio, v.o.). Farther north in Albuquerque, a ♂ was singing at RGNC 24 Mar (K. Herzenberg\*, J. Montgomery\*\*). In the east, a ♂ at Lovington, *Lea* 1 Mar (R. Hoyl\*\*) furnished a local first.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—One to 4 individuals were reported from some 40 locales in 18 counties in all quadrants of the state, including west to *San Juan, McKinley, and Grant*.

**Varied Bunting**—Reported from four areas of CCNP, including up to 4 in Slaughter Canyon 28 Apr-5 May (RSN, JEP) and up to 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Apr-20 May (RSN, BLM\*\*).

**Painted Bunting**—A ♂ was singing at Santa Rosa 4 May (JEP) and one to 2 ♂♂ were singing at Sumner Dam 5 May (JEP) & 20 May (MJB). Noteworthy for *Luna* was a ♀ along the lower Mimbres R. 13 May (NEH\*\*).

**Dickcissel**—Widespread in small numbers on the high plains in *Colfax* and *San Miguel* in May (v.o., ph.). Four were singing in alfalfa fields at Fort Sumner 26 May (MJB\*\*audio, NEH\*\*audio). One was west to Valle de Oro NWR 12 May (MS\*).

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**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**

