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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.

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**Front cover:** Male Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*) at Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico, 14 June 2016 (see page 41). Photo by Kirsten Mauritsen.

**Back cover:** Adult (upper) and juvenile (lower) Gray Hawks (*Buteo plagiatus*) in the Cliff-Gila Valley, Grant County, New Mexico, 3 June 2016 (see page 40). Photo by Jarrod B. Swackhamer.

## SUMMER SEASON 2016

Summer 2016 continued the generally warm and dry conditions of the spring, with especially hot temperatures in the east and across the south (e.g., Carlsbad reached 116° F one day); the so-called “monsoon season” provided little relief, offering up only widely scattered showers by the end of the period. Excitement on the birding front included Gray Hawk nesting north to the Cliff-Gila Valley, an Elegant Trogon at Artesia (!), both Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet and Thick-billed Kingbird breeding north to the lower Gila River, two White-winged Crossbills on Mt. Taylor, a late Blackpoll Warbler at Albuquerque and a Louisiana Waterthrush near Maljamar. Meanwhile, surveys for nesting Cave Swallows significantly expanded our knowledge of the breeding range northward to De Baca, northern Roosevelt, and Curry counties.

### Localities and Counties

Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>
Algodones, <i>Sandoval</i>	Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>
Amistad, <i>Union</i>	Glenwood, <i>Catron</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Grants, <i>Cibola</i>
Artesia, <i>Eddy</i>	Grenville, <i>Union</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Guadalupe Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bill Evans Lake, <i>Grant</i>	Guadalupe Mts., <i>Eddy</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Hachita, <i>Grant</i>
Black Range, <i>Grant/Sierra</i>	Hobbs, <i>Lea</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>
Bosque Redondo Lake, <i>De Baca</i>	Jemez Falls, Springs, <i>Sandoval</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Burnt Cabin Flats, <i>Sierra</i>	Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>
Burro Mts., <i>Grant</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Caballo Lake, <i>Sierra</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Carlsbad, Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Lordsburg, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Carrizozo, <i>Lincoln</i>	Los Alamos, Canyon, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Cedar Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Magdalena, <i>Socorro</i>
Cherry Creek CG, <i>Grant</i>	Maljamar, <i>Lea</i>
Cliff, <i>Grant</i>	Mora, <i>Mora</i>
Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Nambe, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Nara Visa, <i>Quay</i>
Corona, <i>Lincoln</i>	Nichols Canyon, <i>Grant</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Oasis SP, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Cowles, <i>San Miguel</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Dulce, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Eagle Nest Lake, <i>Colfax</i>	Pie Town, <i>Catron</i>
Edgewood, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Post Office (P.O.) Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Poverty Creek, <i>Sierra</i>
El Morro, <i>Cibola</i>	Queen, <i>Eddy</i>
Farmington, <i>San Juan</i>	Quemado Lake, <i>Catron</i>
Fenton Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>

Ramon, *Lincoln*  
 Raton, *Colfax*  
 Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*  
 Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*  
 Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*  
 Rodeo, *Hidalgo*  
 Rosebud, *Harding*  
 Roswell, *Chaves*  
 Sabinoso, *San Miguel*  
 San Antonio, *Socorro*  
 Sandia Mts., *Sandoval/Bernalillo*  
 San Gregorio Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
 San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo*  
 Santa Fe, Canyon, *Santa Fe*  
 Santa Rosa, Lake, *Guadalupe*

Shiprock, *San Juan*  
 Silver City, *Grant*  
 Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*  
 Stone Lake, *Rio Arriba*  
 Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*  
 Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*  
 Taos, Plateau, *Taos*  
 Ute Lake, *Quay*  
 Variadero, *San Miguel*  
 Vaughn, *Guadalupe*  
 Villanueva, SP, *San Miguel*  
 Virden, *Hidalgo*  
 Watrous, *Mora*  
 Zuni, *McKinley*  
 Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

### 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

HTB	H. Thomas Bartlett	CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	EM	Ed MacKerrow
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	WEM	William E. Maley
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	PM	Patricia Mehlhop
KB	Karen Beckenbach	SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza
CLB	Charles L. Black	RAM	Raymond A. Meyer
JMB	James M. Black	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
SB	Sue Briney	RN	Robert Nieman
RC	Roger Clark	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DJC	David J. Cleary	JEP	John E. Parmeter
PC	Patrick Collins	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
JC	Janet Cook	BR	Bryn Roberts
DyC	Dylan Cuellar	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
RD'A	Robert D'Antonio	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
GAF	Gerald A. Friedman	JWS	John W. Shipman
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	NGS	Nancy G. Stotz
KAG	Kathy A. Granillo	JBS	Jarrold B. Swackhamer
DJG	David J. Griffin	JAT	John A. Trochet
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JBV	J. Brad Vaughn
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	SW	Steve West
KAH	Karen A. Herzenberg	WFW	William F. West
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	DGW	Debra G. Whitecotton
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	MW	Mouser Williams
ABJ	Andrew B. Johnson	SOW	Sartor O. Williams III
DJK	David J. Krueper	LW	Laura Wilson
LEL	Laurel E. Ladwig	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
JL	Judy Liddell	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
JDL	J. David Ligon		

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Snow Goose**—Two lingered at EBL 26 Jun-5 Jul (DJC\*\*) where one continued to 26 Jul (DJC\*\*). One capable of flight was at Bosque NWR 17 Jul (GKF\*).

**Wood Duck**—Noteworthy for *Mora* was a ♀ with 3 young on Sapello Cr. at Watrous 24 Jun (HTB) and 7 ads. at Rio Mora NWR 22 Jun (WJ-W). Wood Ducks now breed commonly in the RGV; this season produced reports of a single ♀♀ escorting small young at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 15 Jun (GAF), Nambe 19 Jun (EM), Corrales bosque 24 Jul (D. Lerwill\*\*), RGNC 25 Jun (M. Weisz\*\*), and Bosque NWR 11 Jun (GKF\*\*), plus at least two broods at Albuquerque's Alameda flats 25-31 Jul (BLM, DLH).

**Gadwall**—Often overlooked during the breeding season, a ♀ with 9 young was at BLNWR 22 Jun (SW).

**Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal**—A ♂ hybrid was in Zuni's Nutria Canyon 2 Jun (JAT\*) and another was at Bosque NWR 11 Jun (GKF\*\*).

**Ruddy Duck**—Breeding reports included a ♀ with 3 young at Bosque NWR 4 Jun (M. Hood) and a ♀ with 9 downies at the Las Cruces Dam 25 Jun (NGS).

**Northern Bobwhite**—One was west in the Canadian-Conchas watershed to Variadero 2 Jul (WJ-W\*\*). The species reportedly experienced good nest success in the Clovis area, where more than a dozen were seen 28-29 Jun (CMR).

**Gambel's Quail**—Four seen 16 km southwest of Amistad 11 Jun (CLH) were of unknown origin; a hybrid with Scaled Quail was at that site in 2015.

**Montezuma Quail**—At the northern fringe of the range were 4 single ♂♂ at and near Old Horse Springs, *Catron* 5 Jun (DLH) and one in the Bear Mts. north of Magdalena 11 Jun (SEM). Noteworthy for the Guadalupe Mts. was one in upper Dark Canyon 3 Jul (SW).

**White-tailed Ptarmigan**—A ♂ was in the vicinity of Jicarita Peak, *Taos* 25 Jun (BRs\*\*, RN\*\*), a reliable locale for the species.

**Eared Grebe**—Some 150 at the Clovis WTP 30 Jul (GMB) included 73 ads. on nests plus other ads. and chicks on the water. Fifty ads. were at Stone L. 24 Jun (CLH), another important breeding site for the species in the state.

**Clark's Grebe**—A visit to the upper portions of Red Bluff L. in s. *Eddy* found 12 ads. and 6 juvs. 8 Jul (RN\*\*); 8 **Western Grebes** were also present (RN).

**Inca Dove**—In the Pecos Valley, 3 were at Roswell 24 Jun (RN\*\*) but none were detected at Carlsbad (SW). Generally few reports and very small numbers farther west; in the RGV, one at Elephant Butte 24 Jul (DJC\*\*) was the most northerly. Noteworthy for *Grant* was one at City of Rocks SP 9 Jun (K. Zagst).

**Common Ground-Dove**—Providing a *Santa Fe* first, a ♂ was at Eldorado 16-25 Jun (RC\*\*, JPB\*\*). Much farther south, one was at Virden 9 Jul (DyC) and another was vocal at Rattlesnake Springs 28 Jul (CLB).

**White-winged Dove**—Noteworthy for Zuni was an active nest at Blackrock Dam 23 Jul (JAT).

**Mexican Whip-poor-will**—In the Zuni Mts., one was vocal below McKenzie Ridge east of McGaffey L. 26 Jul (JAT). In the Sangre de Cristo Mts., 2 were vocal in Canovas Canyon west of El Porvenir, *San Miguel* 10 Jun (RC).

**Black Swift**—Reported from Jemez Falls 11 Jun-27 Jul (m.ob.) including 11 on 23 Jul (JEP).

**Chimney Swift**—Six were west to Las Vegas 8 Jul (WJ-W\*).

**Lucifer Hummingbird**—A ♀ was in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 25 Jul (J. Szabt\*) & 29 Jul (MJB\*). In P.O. Canyon, numbers peaked with 19 ad. ♂♂ and 8 ad. ♀♀ on 10 Jun, prior to dispersal with the summer rains (CDL); numbers increased by late Jul, with 21 birds, including 3 juvs., there 31 Jul (CDL).

**Anna's Hummingbird**—A young ♂ at Silver City 21-22 Jun (KB, JBS\*\*) provided the lone report.

**Costa's Hummingbird**—An ad. ♂ was a one-day wonder at P.O. Canyon 19 Jun (CDL).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—Fall migrants typically become conspicuous in New Mexico by about the first week of Jul, but each year a few arrive earlier. This season, the earliest was a ♂ near Las Vegas 16 Jun (C. Ruge); including that one, there were 3 reports during the period 16-20 Jun and 3 during 21-25 Jun but 17 during 26-30 Jun (m.ob.).

**Calliope Hummingbird**—Fall migrants typically reach New Mexico in Jul, and this year was no exception—no Jun reports were received. Noteworthy was an ad. ♂ east to Capulin Volcano NM, *Union* 5 Jul (L. Calderon\*\*).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—Providing a *Catron* first, a ♂ was near the Gila Cliff Dwellings at the Heart Bar WMA 17 Jun (D. Chambers\*\*). In P.O. Canyon, where the species now summers regularly, the first juv. was seen 30 Jun (CDL).

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird**—Three were in Guadalupe Canyon 31 Jul (MJB, NDP), the only New Mexico locale where the species summers regularly.

**Common Gallinule**—Noteworthy was a pair with 4 small chicks at Bosque NWR 16 Jul (JWS); there have been few breeding reports in recent years.

**Black-necked Stilt**—At BLNWR, numbers increased through Jun to a peak of 307 by 13 Jul, then dropped sharply to 128 on 27 Jul (SB). Some 110 were at the Clovis WTP 30 Jul (GMB). The species again nested at Belen, where ads. and 2 downies were present 13 Jun (C. Harris\*\*).

**American Avocet**—Numbers at BLNWR increased through Jun and Jul, and reached a post-breeding peak of 209 on 27 Jul (SB). Noteworthy were a pair with 4 chicks at the small Hachita WTP 16 Jul (JBS).

**Snowy Plover**—One was at LVNWR 16 Jun (WJ-W), where scarce. At a rarely visited site, 13 were in s. *Eddy* at the upper edge of Red Bluff L. 8 Jul (RN). High count at BLNWR was 164 on 29 Jun (SB).

**Semipalmated Plover**—One was early at EBL 24 Jul (DJC\*\*).

**Mountain Plover**—One was in *Cibola* on the North Plains (south of El Malpais) 4 Jun (DJK), where the species summers at least irregularly. North of Tres Piedras, US 285 follows the *Rio Arriba/Taos* county line across the Taos Plateau to the Colorado line; this season, between mile markers 406 & 407, 2 were seen in each county 11 Jun (JEP).

**Long-billed Curlew**—One was in *Cibola* on the North Plains (south of El Malpais) 4 Jun (DJK), where the species has nested in past years. At least three pairs were in *Harding* west of Mosquero 12 Jun (CMR).

**Marbled Godwit**—Either very late or very early, one was at LVNWR 16 Jun (WJ-W). Earliest at BLNWR was one on 29 Jun (SB); 3 were there 10 Jul (GMB). Earliest at EBL were 4 on 7 Jul (DJC). Singles reached Brantley L. 12 Jul (SW) and Storrie L. 14 Jul (WJ-W\*\*).

**Stilt Sandpiper**—Two in s. *Eddy* at Red Bluff L. 8 Jul (RN\*\*) were the earliest reported. At BLNWR, earliest were 18 on 13 Jul (SB), where there were 86 by 27 Jul (SB).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—Last of the spring migrants were 2 at BLNWR 2 Jun and an undetailed 4 there on 15 Jun (PC).

**Pectoral Sandpiper**—One was early at Brantley L. 25 Jul (SW).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**—Far west was one at the Lordsburg WTP 8 Jul (A. Core\*, D. Stejskal\*\*, m.ob.) & 14 Jul (NEH).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—First fall arrivals were one at Onava north of Las Vegas 11 Jul (WJ-W), one at Brantley L. 12 Jul (SW), 2 at Bosque NWR 12 Jul (D. Croster), and 2 at Albuquerque's Alameda flats 16 Jul (DLH).

**Willet**—Noteworthy for the Pinos Altos Mts. was one at L. Roberts 5 Jul (T. B. Godfrey\*\*).

**Franklin's Gull**—Lingering were an ad. at Holloman L. 12 Jun (SW) and another ad. at EBL 23 & 28 Jun (DJC).

**California Gull**—Noteworthy for summer were up to 4 ads. at Stone L. 23 Jun (CLH).

**Least Tern**—Numbers continued extremely low at BLNWR, once the stronghold of the species in the state; although a nest was reported 1 Jun (SB), no more than 2 birds were seen there during Jun, and the high count of 3 on 13 Jul (SB) may reflect early migration.



According to S. West, a nest with eggs was found at Brantley L., but rising lake waters caused officials to take the eggs, possibly to be hatched in captivity. Reports of wandering birds in the lower Pecos Valley were singles at Six Mile Dam 25 Jun (SW) and L. Avalon 9 Jul (RN\*\*).

**Caspian Tern**—A rare but regular spring and fall transient through New Mexico, this summer season found 3 late at Brantley L. 6 Jun (RN\*\*), singles at Quemado L. 25-26 Jun (CMR\*, MW\*\*, NEH\*\*) and BLNWR 4-8 Jul (PC\*\*), and one at Brantley L. 18 & 22 Jul (RN\*\*).

**Black Tern**—Continuing a trend, only small numbers of migrants were noted; high counts were 15 at Brantley L. 12 Jul (SW) and 16 at EBL 26 Jul (DJC).

**Common Loon**—Continuing from May, one was at EBL Dam 1-6 Jun (DJC\*\*). Noteworthy for the Sacramento Mts., one in basic plumage was at Alto L., *Lincoln* 13 Jun (K. Hummel\*\*) and one was at Inn of the Mountain Gods, *Otero* 20-27 Jul (GMB\*, CLH\*).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Again occupied Albuquerque's Tingley ponds, with up to 17 during 1 Jun-13 Jul (DLH). As in recent years, the species turned up in a number of non-traditional areas, including 2 west to Deming 17 Jul (NEH\*\*) and one to Bill Evans L. 24 Jun (JEP), one north to the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 4 Jun (JEP), and 2 east to Santa Rosa L. 18 Jun (R. Maurer) and one at Brantley L. 6 Jun (RN).

**Brown Pelican**—The one discovered at Eagle Nest L. 19 May continued there through 30 Jul (M. J. Kelly\*\*, WJ-W, JEP, m.ob.).

**American Bittern**—One along the seasonal road at Bosque NWR 11 Jun (GKF\*\*) provided the only report.

**Least Bittern**—An ad. and 3 begging young were at the boardwalk pond at Bosque NWR 30 Jul (CMR).

**Great Blue Heron**—Two nests were successful at Six Mile Dam during the season, one of them fledging 4 young (SW).

**Tricolored Heron**—Possibly continuing from early May, an imm. was at BLNWR 1 Jun (W. Briney\*).

**Green Heron**—An ad. tending 2 begging "fuzzy-headed" young at Deming's Pecan Park 17 Jul (NEH\*) may represent only the second breeding record for *Luna*.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**—A juv. was at Oasis SP from 29 Jul into Aug (DGW\*\*).

**Osprey**—Fenton L. is somewhat apart from the main New Mexico Osprey breeding locales, so noteworthy was a pair at a nest there 6 Jun (M. Lord\*\*).

**White-tailed Kite**—One was north to Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR 14 Jun (DLH\*\*, BLM\*\*). One was north of Rodeo at the Portal Road intersection 24 Jul

(BRZ\*\*) and 2 were 3 km south of Animas 30 Jul (MJB). At least one ad. and one juv. were near a nest in Mason Draw west of Las Cruces 27 Jul (RAM\*\*).

**Mississippi Kite**—The species continues to populate additional areas between the Texas line to the east and the middle RGV to the west, including 2 at Villanueva SP 22 Jul (JC\*), a nest at a Santa Rosa city park 6 Jun (MW\*\*), one at Fort Sumner's Bosque Redondo 24 Jun (RN), recently fledged young at Conchas L. 2 Jul (WJ-W\*\*) and one in Mosquero Canyon, *Harding* 4 Jul (RC\*\*).

**Bald Eagle**—A nest on private land in *Sierra* east of EBL fledged one by 11 Jun (K. Stinnett\*\*). Singles ads. were noted in several locales where breeding has not been documented, including 24 km south of Dulce 24 Jun (CLH), near Mora 20 Jun (N. Welson), and at Storrie L. 6 Jul (WJ-W\*\*).

**Northern Harrier**—A ♀ was tending a recently fledged juv. in the lower Pecos Valley near Red Bluff L., s. *Eddy* 8 Jul (RN\*\*).

**Northern Goshawk**—Active nests were in the Black Range 4-29 Jun (DJC\*\*) and in the Burro Mts. 12 Jun (JMB\*).

**Common Black Hawk**—An ad. was along the Pecos R. upstream from Villanueva 16 Jun (LW\*\*).

**Harris's Hawk**—Two were together at Deming 3 Jun (R. Casias).

**Gray Hawk**—Providing the first confirmed nesting for *Grant*, an ad. and a recently fledged juv. were at a nest on the Gila R. near Cliff 3 Jun (JBS\*\*). Farther south, at now well-established breeding locales, 2 recently fledged young were in Guadalupe Canyon 31 Jul (MJB, NDP) and 2 large nestlings were being tended by ads. in the vicinity of Rattlesnake Springs 2-10 Jul (RN\*\*).

**Zone-tailed Hawk**—Noteworthy northwest to the Zuni Mts., one was in Bluewater Canyon 1 Jun (JRO). Two in Canyon Largo, west of Sabinoso (and part of the Canadian River canyon complex) 14 Jun (WFW) established a new *San Miguel* locale. Two active nests were in the Guadalupe Mts. south of Queen 16 Jun (SW).

**Barn Owl**—Two ads. were tending 2 juvs. at Oasis SP 29 Jul (DGW\*\*). A nest on Tierra Blanca Cr., w. *Sierra* had at least 2 young 29 Jun-20 Jul (DJC\*\*). An ad. and 2 begging fledglings were heard along Whitewater Road near Glenwood 25 Jun (CMR).

**Elf Owl**—Continuing surveys on the eastern slope of the Black Range in *Sierra* found 14 occupied territories (of 17 checked) during Jun (DJC).

**Burrowing Owl**—An encouraging number of reports were widely scattered around the state, e.g., 16 including 4 fledglings on the Shiprock BBS 4 Jun (DLH), 15 including 5 fledglings on the Grenville BBS 24 Jun (CMR), and 14 including 10 fledglings in a black-tailed prairie dog town on the Rosebud BBS 11 Jun (CLH). Two were at Six Mile Dam 1 Jun (SW), where the species is considered rare.

**Spotted Owl**—Found in two new locations in the Zuni area, with one in a branch of Galestena Canyon 23 Jul (JAT) and two—including a begging juv.—below McKenzie Ridge east of McGaffey L. 26 Jul (JAT).

**Boreal Owl**—Two were heard in the vicinity of Apache Cr., *Rio Arriba* 17 Jun (R. L. VanBuskirk).

**Elegant Trogon**—Providing a first for the Pecos Valley, an ad. ♂ was photographed 14 June at a house south of Artesia (Kirsten Mauritsen\*\*), the site characterized by many trees in an otherwise arid landscape. Seeking water, the trogon would approach water tanks near the house, where it was vigorously attacked by nesting Barn Swallows, causing it to seek shelter in trees and even an outbuilding. The trogon was seen several times during that day, but was not seen subsequently. This represents the second record for eastern New Mexico, following one at the migrant trap in n. *Roosevelt* in Jun 2005.

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—Continuing at known westerly locales were a ♂-♀ pair at Algodones 16 Jun (DLH\*) and one along the Pecos R. between Ribera and Pueblo, w. *San Miguel* 5 Jun (CMR).

**Aplomado Falcon**—One of unknown origin was on the Armendaris Ranch, *Sierra* 16 Jul (G. Garber, L. Rimer\*\*).

[**Monk Parakeet**]—Seven were near a known nest site in El Paso, Texas immediately adjacent to Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana* 5 Jun (J. M. Groves).

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet**—A family group of 4, including a fledgling being fed by an ad., was along the Gila R. at the mouth of Nichols Canyon 26 Jun (JBS\*\*); a return visit to that area 16 Jul found the Nichols Canyon territory still occupied plus one bird singing at a new site upstream, near the mouth of Blue Creek Canyon (JBS\*, B. Dolton); a third visit to the area 27 Jul confirmed singing birds in those two territories, about 1.6 km apart (JBS\*). Although there is an earlier *Grant* report of a single bird at Redrock in April 1987, the present report represents the first known instance of breeding anywhere in New Mexico outside of Guadalupe Canyon.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**—The species is known to linger into Jun in lowland areas; this season, one was on the prairie at Ramon 2 Jun (SW).

**Greater Pewee**—One was filling the pine forests with song in the Black Range west of Poverty Creek 2 & 18 Jun (DJC\*\*, JEP), the same site where 2 had been present in 2009. In the Burro Mts., one was singing in the Burro Peak area 24 Jul (JBS).

**Willow Flycatcher**—One was singing at the Glenwood fish hatchery 26 Jun (CMR).

**Dusky Flycatcher**—Noteworthy for the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mts., a nest was north of Rainsville near Ojo Feliz, *Mora* 24 Jun (CMR\*) and an individual was below Johnson Mesa, *San Miguel* 24 Jul (CMR\*); the *Mora* nest was in low pine branches among brushy oaks, and the *Mora* bird was in oaks with a pine overstory.

**Buff-breasted Flycatcher**—Continuing from May, one was singing in Deadman Canyon, Burro Mts. 12 Jun (JMB\*).

**Eastern Phoebe**—At the western edge of the breeding range, 2 were on the Mora R. west of Golondrinas, *Mora* 17 Jun (R. Plange), one was singing in Gallinas Canyon, LVNWR 1 Jul (WJ-W), and 3 were at Villanueva 16 Jun (JL). Farther east, one was singing south of Sabinoso at the NM 419 bridge over the Canadian R. 12 Jun (CMR).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—Continuing northeastern reports were a ♂ & ♀ at Fort Sumner's Bosque Redondo Park 10-24 Jun (MJB\*\*, RN\*\*) and 2 at Conchas L. 2 Jul (WJ-W).

**Ducky-capped Flycatcher**—Now well established at several *Grant* locales; this season found one at Cherry Creek CG 12 Jun (JBS), 2 at a new site on Bear Cr. near the Ben Lily area 11 Jun (JBS), at least one at the GBA 10 Jun-18 Jul (JBS), and, in the Burro Mts., 3 in Deadman Canyon 12 Jun (JBS) and 2 on Jacks Peak 27 Jul (JBS, SOW, PM). Noteworthy for the n. Peloncillo Mts., two pairs were present in early Jun and one of them nested successfully (CDL).

**Brown-crested Flycatcher**—Seven were at seven sites along Las Animas Cr. west of Caballo L. 6 Jun (DJC\*\*), where the species is regular in summer. Noteworthy for the lower RGV was one south of Radium Springs 16-20 Jun (MTS, JEZ), where one had been present in May.

**Thick-billed Kingbird**—A vocal one was on the Gila R. upstream from the mouth Nichols Canyon 6 Jul (DJG audio), where on 16 Jul a pair was present—one of them collecting nest material and taking it into a tall cottonwood (JBS\*\*). In Guadalupe Canyon, a pair was at a nest 31 Jul (MJB).



Thick-billed Kingbird, one of a pair, Gila River, Grant County, 16 July 2016. Photo by Jarrod B. Swackhamer.

**Eastern Kingbird**—South for mid-Jul, one was near San Antonio 16 Jul (JWS\*\*).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—Many available range maps underestimate the extent of the breeding range in northeastern New Mexico; this season, one was on the Sabinoso BBS, *San Miguel* 12 Jun (CMR), one was south of Amistad, *Union* 9 Jun (DLH), and, in *Harding*, one was 19 km west of Rosebud 11 Jun (CLH) and 5 were north of Ute L. on

the Logan BBS 11 Jun (MJB). Noteworthy for sw. *Guadalupe* was one east of Vaughn 14 Jun (SOW).

**Bell's Vireo**—Continuing in the Pecos Valley north to *De Baca*, one was at Bosque Redondo 10 Jun (MJB) and one was below Sumner Dam 24 Jun (RN). Maintaining an Albuquerque presence, at least one was near the Alameda bridge 11 Jun (LEL\*\*, KAH), and 3 & 24 Jul (D. Buckley\*\*).

**Gray Vireo**—One was singing in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 19 Jun (DLH), the second consecutive year for the species in that range.

**Hutton's Vireo**—Considerably north of historical range, one was singing in Zuni's Galestena Canyon in early Jun (JAT\*).

**Clark's Nutcracker**—One at low elevation in Cedar Crest 16 Jun (WEM) was believed to have been displaced by on-going higher elevation forest fires.

**Common Raven**—Noteworthy for the Guadalupe Mts., an active nest was on communication towers at the north end of the range in *Chaves* 25 Jun (SW).

**Horned Lark**—A high 145 was counted in the North Plains, *Cibola* 4 Jun (DJK).

**Purple Martin**—Four were at Clovis 4 Jun (GMB). One was in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 19 Jun (DLH). In the northern Sangre de Cristo Mts, 3 were along the York Canyon Road west of Raton 9 Jul (R. Fielding). Among several reports from the southern Sangre de Cristo Mts. were 2 at Cowles 16 Jul (JEP). A colony of up to three active nests was on Cerro Chatito south of El Morro 21 Jul (ABJ).

**Tree Swallow**—Noteworthy for summer in the middle RGV, 2 were at a snag in upper EBL 18 Jun (JEP); the species has nested in that area in past years.

**Bank Swallow**—In Rio Rancho, the Isis Road Arroyo had 30 ads. and several nestlings 5 Jun (CLH) and the Lower Montoyas Arroyo had up to 10 ads. 5 Jun (CLH). Possibly early fall migrants, at least 2 were seen among other swallows in north Las Vegas 3 Jul (LW\*) & 7 Jul (WJ-W\*).

**Cliff Swallow**—A nesting colony at the Edgewood Walmart was power-hosed off the walls the night of 8 Jun (A. McCarthy).

**Cave Swallow**--Surveys for nesting colonies in eastern New Mexico away from known areas in *Eddy*, and in the RGV north of *Doña Ana*, significantly expanded the known breeding range within the state. In the east, surveys of highway culverts 6-26 Jun (SOW\*\*, MJB\*\*) documented 20 new breeding locales in *Lea*, *Chaves*, *Roosevelt*, *De Baca*, and *Curry* and pushed the range north to U.S. 60 (ca. 34° 30' N); numbers at sites ranged from one to two pairs to impressive colonies of over 50 ads.; a specimen was salvaged from the floor of a U.S. 60 culvert at the n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap 10 Jun (MJB\*\*\*, specimen to MSB). In the RGV, surveys of culverts 30 Jun & 7 Jul (SOW\*\*, PM) found two sites in *Socorro*: a pair near San Antonio and four nests near the Camino Real Heritage Center; these pushed the range in the RGV north to U.S. 380 (ca. 33° 50'

N). Noteworthy was a single Cave Swallow seen at the Vaughn WTP 20-21 Jul (SW\*), the first report of the species from *Guadalupe*



Cave Swallow nests in highway culvert south of Hobbs, Lea County, 7 June 2016. Photo by Sartor O. Williams III

**Carolina Wren**—Continuing from May, one was singing at Nara Visa 10 Jun (MJB\*\* audio). At least 3-4 were singing at Bosque NWR Jun-Jul (v.o.).

**Cactus Wren**—One 19 km west of Rosebud 11 Jun (CLH) was a first for the Rosebud BBS. Fifteen near Variadero 11 Jun (CMR) was a high count for the Variadero BBS. One to 2 were along the Rio Puerco Road north of I-40, w. *Bernalillo*, 2 Jul (CMR) & 8 Jul (BLM).

**Black-capped Gnatcatcher**—Not reported in New Mexico since the Feb 2011 freeze, a ♀-plumaged individual in heavy molt was in Guadalupe Canyon 31 Jul (MJB\* audio, NDP).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**—A pair was mating at San Gregorio L. 3 Jul (CMR). An ad. with fledglings was seen in the Sandia Mts. along the Ellis Trail 17 Jul (CMR).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—Although widespread in the state's northern mountains in summer, relatively few nests of this ground-nesting species have been reported in New Mexico; this season, a ♀ was incubating four eggs at 2820 m on the north flank of Mt. Taylor, *Cibola* 8 Jun (DJK\*\*, JMR\*\*).

**Gray Catbird**—Apparently summering birds away from traditional areas included 3 west to Zuni's Nutria Canyon area 2 Jun (JAT), one at the GBA 10 Jun (JBS\*\*), one in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts. 8 Jun (KAH, LEL), up to 3 at Bosque Redondo 11-24 Jun (B. O'Connor, RN\*\*), one singing at Percha SP 2 Jun (NGS\*\*), and one at Rattlesnake Springs 2-31 Jul (RN\*\*).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—One was north to Taos at Fred Baca Park 28 Jul (T. Jackman, RD'A); 2 were west to a Grants golf course 26 Jul (C. Harris).

**Brown Thrasher**—Unusual west to the RGV in summer, one was near the old bridge at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 4 Jun (BRF\*\*) and another was in southeast Albuquerque 2 Jun (S. Fields\*\*).

**Bendire's Thrasher**—One was at Zuni's Yellow House Ruins 23 Jul (JAT). One to 2 were seen along the Rio Puerco Road north of I-40, w. *Bernalillo* on various dates 14 Jun-8 Jul (DyC, CMR, BLM), a recently dependable area for the species.

**Cedar Waxwing**—An active nest, with a ♀ on eggs, at Coyote Creek SP 16 Jun (JC\*\*) provided the first nesting record for *Mora*. Since the state's first nest was discovered in *Rio Arriba* in 1995, the species has been found nesting in at least seven northern counties, with breeding evidence noted annually in the state 2006-2016.

**Phainopepla**—One was northwest to Zuni's Blackrock Dam 26 Jul (JAT\*) and one was at El Malpais's Sandstone Bluff Overlook, *Cibola* 29 Jun (D. Haller\*\*).

**Olive Warbler**—A ♂ was singing along the Continental Divide Trail in the Cerro Lobo area south of El Morro 14 Jun (ABJ).

**House Sparrow**—At least five pairs were actively nesting in old Cliff Swallow nests in a highway culvert just west of Carrizozo 30 Jun (SOW).

**Red Crossbill**—Small to moderate numbers were reported from the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, and Sandia mts. and west to Mt. Taylor and the Zuni Mts Jun-Jul (m.ob.), with only a few reports farther south, including 2 in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 19 Jun (DLH), a ♂-♀ pair at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, *Otero* 19 Jul (K. Holladay\*), where the ♀ was gathering bark from a dead juniper, 8 in the Black Range in the Poverty Creek area 2 Jun (DJC\*\*), and 4 in the Burro Mts. 12 Jun (JBS).

**White-winged Crossbill**—Two were in *McKinley* on the Mt. Taylor BBS 8 Jun (DJK\*, JMR), at least one and possibly both were ♀♀.

**Ovenbird**—Noteworthy for mid-summer, one was at Rattlesnake Springs 2 Jul (RN\*).

**Louisiana Waterthrush**—One was detailed at the Conoco Pond south of Maljamar 26 Jul (CLB\*).



**Black-and-white Warbler**—Early was a ♀ at the Conoco Pond south of Maljamar 26-28 Jul (CLB, RN\*\*).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—One was south to Jacks Peak, Burro Mts. 27 Jul (JBS).

**Lucy's Warbler**—In the northwest, 2 were in Zuni's Blackrock bosque 1-3 Jun (JAT). In the Albuquerque area, at least 5 were in the South Valley 2 & 17 Jul (DLH, m.ob.). Three were at the village of Hachita 16 Jul (JBS), where the species is now regularly recorded in late May/early Jun (SOW).

**American Redstart**—An ad. ♂ at Watrous 24 Jun (HTB\*\*) provided the lone report.

**Northern Parula**—A ♂ was late at Santa Fe 3-6 Jun (BRF\*\*, C. Grindle). Unseasonal was a ♀ at "Catfish Camp," upper EBL 25 Jun (JEP\*).

**Blackpoll Warbler**—A ♂ was a surprise in Albuquerque's South Valley 12 Jun (JBV\*).

**Townsend's Warbler**—An early one was in the Sandia Mts. at Capulin Spring, Bernalillo 30 Jul (B. O'Connor\*\*).

**Hermit Warbler**—One was on Jacks Peak, Burro Mts. 27 Jul (JBS\*\*), at least 2 were there 28 Jul (JRO), and a "group" was there 30 Jul (B. Dolton *fide* JBS); the site is one of the more dependable for this species in fall migration.

**Wilson's Warbler**—In *Taos*, 2 were in the Taos ski area at the Williams L. trailhead 5 Jun (RD'A) and 2 were above Serpent L. on the trail to Santa Barbara Ridge 25 Jun (RN) & 9 Jul (CMR); both are known areas of summering by this species.

**Yellow-breasted Chat**—Noteworthy for the east side of the Sandia Mts., at least one was vocal all night at Cedar Crest 25-26 Jun (JDL).

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow**—One was singing in the Ortiz Mts. 12 Jun (BRF), one of the few dependable locales in *Santa Fe* for the species.

**Canyon Towhee**—Noteworthy for *Lea*, 2 ads. were feeding a juv. at the Maljamar Rest Area 28 Jul (RN\*\*).

**Rufous-winged Sparrow**—One was below the ranch in Guadalupe Canyon 31 Jul (NDP).

**Botteri's Sparrow**—At least one was present and carrying food at Pitchfork Ranch 16 Jul (JBS\*\*); although known from this site since 2008, this is the first strong evidence of breeding anywhere in *Grant*. Three were at San Simon Cienega 29 Jul (MJB), where degraded habitat conditions usually preclude presence by this the species.

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Much in evidence in the east in Jun, with reports from all counties east of the mountains, including 121 on the Grenville BBS 24 Jun (CMR), 145 in *Harding* on the Logan BBS 10 Jun (MJB), and 181 on the Variadero BBS 11 Jun (CMR). The species was noted in several western areas, including 3 singing near Shiprock 4 Jun



(DLH), one singing at the Very Large Array, w. *Socorro* 5 Jun (DLH), one in the North Plains south of El Malpais, *Cibola* 26 Jun (NEH\*), 2 near Pie Town 25 Jun (CMR), and 3 at Hachita 16 Jul (JBS); noteworthy were 20 at Zuni 23 Jul (JAT), where the species is present about one year out of four.

**Black-chinned Sparrow**—Continued to populate the El Malpais area *Cibola*, with singles at the Sandstone Bluff Overlook and South Narrows Picnic Area 25 Jun (CMR).

**Vesper Sparrow**—Noteworthy for *Mora* was a nest with eggs at Rio Mora NWR 27 Jun (WJ-W\*\*). Some 44 were counted on the North Plains, *Cibola* 4 Jun (DJK), a high count for that area. In the Black Range in w. *Sierra*, one to 2 pairs were in the Burnt Cabin Flat area west of Poverty Creek 17 Jun & 2 Jul (DJC\*\*).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—Made a good showing in the northeast, with reports of summering birds in at least nine counties; including 5 on the Grenville BBS 24 Jun (CMR), 3 each on the Sedan BBS, *Union* 24 Jun (KAG) and Rosebud BBS 11 Jun (CLH), 4 in *Harding* near Solano 12 Jun (CMR), 9 on the Clovis BBS 28 Jun (GMB), and 12 on the Pep BBS, *Roosevelt* 14 Jun (GMB); noteworthy for *Mora* were up to 6 at Rio Mora NWR 8 Jun-9 Jul (WJ-W).

**Fox Sparrow**—A slate-colored one singing above Serpent L., *Taos* 25 Jun (BR\*) was thought to be paired; this is an area where the species has been found summering in recent years.

**Song Sparrow**—A ♂ was singing at Morgan L. 4 Jun (MJB), where territorial birds have been found in past years. Along the Gila R., 4 territories were in *Grant* in the vicinity of Nichols Canyon 26 Jun, including a family group of 3 (JBS\*\*), and others were seen downstream of Fisherman's Point in *Hidalgo* 7 Jul (DJG).

**Yellow-eyed Junco**—Four ads. and at least 3 juvs., representing two family groups, were on Burro Peak, Burro Mts. 24 Jul (JBS).

**Summer Tanager**—A ♂ was northwest to Simon Canyon, on the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam, *San Juan*, 22 Jul (B. Ryan\*\*). The species was present at Zuni's Blackrock bosque 24-29 Jul, including ads. carrying food 24 Jul (JAT).

**Northern Cardinal**—In the northeast, 2 at Glenrio 11 Jun (R. A. Fischer) provided a new *Quay* locale. In *Chaves* southwest of Roswell, one was singing along Twin Butte Canyon 2 Jun (SOW), where present since the early 1990s. There are records for all eastern counties from *Eddy* and *Lea* north through *Chaves* and *Roosevelt*, and on through *De Baca*, *Guadalupe*, *Curry*, *Quay*, e. *San Miguel*, and *Harding*, plus scattered reports in *Colfax* and *Union*. In the RGV, the continuing ♂ at Albuquerque's BioPark was singing 7 Jun (H. A. Walker) & 19 Jun (J. M. Stewart).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Two ♂♂ were singing west to Zuni's Blackrock bosque 3 Jun (JAT). In the RGV and environs, single ♂♂ were at Los Alamos 12 Jun (S. Knox\*\*), Corrales bosque 26 Jun (D. Lerwill\*\*), and Cedar Crest 12 Jun (JDL).

**Indigo Bunting**—Noteworthy northwest to Farmington, a ♂ was singing along the San Juan R. 20 Jun (J. W. King\*\*).

**Varied Bunting**—Noteworthy north to *Grant*, a ♂ was singing along the Gila R. at Nichols Canyon 26 Jun & 27 Jul (JBS\*\*). In *Hidalgo*, one near Owl Canyon south of Rodeo 27 Jun (D. Zappone) provided a new locale, as did one in Last Chance Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. 19 Jun (SW).

**Painted Bunting**—Additional evidence of spreading westward into east-central New Mexico was provided by 2 singing ♂♂ plus a ♀ at the Conchas L. golf course 2 Jul (WJ-W\*\*), and 2 singing ♂♂ just southeast of Fort Sumner plus a ♀ at Bosque Redondo 10 Jun (MJB\*\*).

**Dickcissel**—Small to moderate numbers were conspicuous in the northeast in *Colfax*, *Union*, *Mora*, *San Miguel*, *Curry*, and *Roosevelt*; high count was 14 near Grenville 24 Jun (CMR). In the middle RGV, one to 2 persisted in Albuquerque's South Valley 3-15 Jun (m.ob.) and 2 were at Belen 29 Jul (DLH).

**Bobolink**—A singing ♂ at LVNWR 9 Jun (WJ-W\*\*) provided the fourth *San Miguel* record; each was present for only one day.

**Eastern Meadowlark**—In *Cibola*, 26 were counted on the Fence Lake BBS 4 Jun (DJK), a high count for that route. Higher elevation reports were singles at the Valle Grande, *Sandoval* 23 Jul (JEP) and Quemado L. 25 Jun (CMR).

**Orchard Oriole**—West of expected, a second-year ♂ was banded near Los Alamos 26 Jul (C. D. Hathcock\*\*). In the Fort Sumner area, a ♀ and 2 singing ♂♂ were present 10 Jun (MJB\*\*).

**Hooded Oriole**—Very rare so far northwest, a second-year ♂ was at Zuni's Blackrock bosque 1-3 Jun (JAT).



**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**

