

*New Mexico
Ornithological Society
Field Notes*



Volume 57, Number 3, Summer 2018

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

Volume 57, Number 3, Summer 2018

1 June – 31 July 2018

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society

ISSN 0898-9443

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sartor O. Williams III, *Editor*

William H. Howe, *Assistant Editor*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Southwest Natural History Institute

1819 Meadowview Drive NW

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104-2511

(sunbittern@earthlink.net)

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: Brown-capped Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte australis*), Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos County, New Mexico, 21 July 2018: adult (upper) and juvenile (lower); see page 45. Photos by Matthew J. Baumann.

Back cover: Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, 21 July 2018: adult with goldfish (upper) and nest with one adult and three large young (lower); see page 40. Photos by Michele Weisz.

SUMMER SEASON 2018

The Summer 2018 season saw the large wildfires of May continuing into June, leading to numerous public lands closures around the state. Much of June was dry and hot, with temperatures in the Albuquerque area reaching triple digits by the last half of the month, and by early July, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated that almost all of New Mexico was in “exceptional,” “extreme,” or “severe” drought. But widespread rain, complete with flood warnings, allowed some forests to re-open by mid-July, and late July brought heavy rains and flash flooding to Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and surrounding areas. Birding highlights included successful surveys for summering Brown-capped Rosy-Finches in the northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Tropical Kingbird summering at Carlsbad Caverns National Park’s Rattlesnake Springs, and a male Yellow-throated Vireo nesting with a female Plumbeous Vireo at Albuquerque, the pair successfully producing three young. Others included a Lucifer Hummingbird banded in the Organ Mountains at Aguirre Springs, an Anhinga seen circling a Taos golf course, and a Scarlet Tanager found along Las Animas Creek west of Caballo Lake.

Localities and Counties

Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Lordsburg, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bernalillo, <i>Sandoval</i>	Los Alamos, Canyon, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Magdalena Mts., <i>Socorro</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	North <i>Roosevelt</i> Trap [NRT], <i>Roosevelt</i>
Caballo Lake, <i>Sierra</i>	Ocate, <i>Mora</i>
Capulin Volcano, <i>Union</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Carlsbad, Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Ojo Sarco, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Oliver Lee SP, <i>Otero</i>
Corona, <i>Lincoln</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Datil, <i>Catron</i>	Placitas, <i>Sandoval</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Pleasanton, <i>Catron</i>
Eagle Nest Lake, <i>Colfax</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Eunice, <i>Lea</i>	Redrock, <i>Grant</i>
Floyd, <i>Roosevelt</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>	Rio Mora NWR, <i>Mora</i>
Galisteo, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Ruby Ranch, <i>San Miguel</i>
Grants, <i>Cibola</i>	Sabinoso, <i>San Miguel</i>
Guadalupe Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Sandoval/Bernalillo</i>
Hobbs, <i>Lea</i>	San Mateo Mts., <i>Socorro</i>
Hondo, <i>Lincoln</i>	Santa Fe, Canyon, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Horse Springs, <i>Catron</i>	Santa Rosa, Lake, <i>Guadalupe</i>
Jemez Falls, Springs, <i>Sandoval</i>	Santa Teresa, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>	Sevilleta NWR, <i>Socorro</i>
La Joya, <i>Socorro</i>	Signal Peak, <i>Grant</i>
Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Six Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i>

Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Taos, Ski Village, *Taos*
 Tesuque, *Santa Fe*
 Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*

Valle de Oro NWR, *Bernalillo*
 Variadero, *San Miguel*
 Villanueva, SP, *San Miguel*
 Wagon Mound, *Mora*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*

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

MJA	Michael J. Andersen	JBL	Judy B. Liddell
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	PWM	Pat W. McCasland
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	BLM	Bernard L. Morris
DAB	Dan A. Belcher	JN-M	James Nelson-Moore
BC	Bryan Calk	RSN	Robert S. Nieman
DJC	David J. Cleary	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
PDC	Patrick D. Collins	JEP	John E. Parmeter
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
RD'A	Robert D'Antonio	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
JD	Joel DuBois	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	KSS	Kim S. Score
TBG	Tony B. Godfrey	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
KAG	Kathy A. Granillo	JNS	James N. Stuart
SG	Sara Griffith	JBS	Jarrold B. Swackhamer
JMG	John M. Groves	RLV	Raymond L. VanBuskirk
RG	Robin Gurule	REW	Richard E. Webster
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	MW	Michele Weisz
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	SW	Steve West
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	WFW	William F. West
EH	Emily Hjalmarson	DGW	Debra G. Whitecotton
TJH	Tom J. Hines	CCW	Christopher C. Witt
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	JW	Jill Wussow
ABJ	Andrew B. Johnson	SY	Sandra Young
DK	Donna Kelly	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
JK	Jason Kitting		
DJK	David J. Krueper		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Canada Goose—The resident Carlsbad population continued to thrive—56 were counted in the L. Carlsbad area 11-12 Jul (SW).

Wood Duck—A ♂ was at Fort Sumner 16 Jun (MJB).

Mexican Duck—Some 25, including hatch-year birds, were at the Lordsburg WTP 13 Jun (SW).

Gambel's Quail—Scarce on the Plains of San Agustin, 2 found on the Horse Springs BBS 3 Jun (DLH) provided just the second detection on that route in the last quarter century.

Montezuma Quail—Singles were heard singing at two sites in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 23 Jun (DLH*); the last report from that small range at the northern edge of the species' distribution was in Jun 2005. Noteworthy for the Organ Mts., a ♂ and ♀ were together at Dripping Springs 18 Jul (JD*).

Eared Grebe—A colony of 132 ads. was nesting at the Clovis WTP 3 Jun (GMB). Some 24 were building nests at Maxwell NWR's Lake 12 on 16 Jun (CMR). In the Sangre de Cristo Mts., four pairs were nesting at Wheaton Creek Ranch north of Ocate 12 Jul (WFW, JN-M, RG**).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Unusual for mid-Jun in the RGV, one was at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach 19 Jun (DLH**).

Inca Dove—Most of the few reports came from the lower RGV from Las Cruces southward. Encouraging for Carlsbad, pairs were at two sites 8 Jul (SW) & 11 Jul (SW, RSN) and a single was at the Riverside Country Club 29 Jun (C. Hatch).

Common Ground Dove—At least one ad. was at Redrock 8 Jun (JEP) & 14 Jul (REW). One was north to Bosque NWR 7 Jul (EH**) & 9 Jul (JRO**).



Common Ground Dove, Bosque del Apache NWR, 9 July 2018. Photo by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Black Swift—Far from known summering locales, one was seen above Pleasanton 30 Jun (NDP). Up to 2 ads. were seen at Jemez Falls 12 & 29 Jul (RLV, JEP) but no active nests were seen.

Chimney Swift—One was at Capulin Volcano 20 Jul (JBL).

Rivoli's Hummingbird—A ♂ was on the west side of the Magdalena Mts. in Mill Canyon 11 Jul (J. Wilson**). The few other reports were from the Mogollon and Pinos Altos mts., *Catron* and *Grant* from late Jun into Jul (v.o.).

Lucifer Hummingbird—An ad. ♂ banded at Aguirre Springs CG 13 Jul (N&G Batchelder**) provided the first record for *Doña Ana*. Under review, a young ♂ was reported east to Rattlesnake Springs 11 Jul (B. Zvolanek*).

Anna's Hummingbird—Two, a subad. ♂ and a ♀, were in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., 14 Jul (NDP*).

Calliope Hummingbird—An early ad. ♂ was at Tesuque 4 Jul (V.S. Stann**).

Rufous Hummingbird—A significant “flight” of southbound migrants arrived across a broad front 29-30 Jun, with reports from *Taos*, *Colfax*, *Rio Arriba*, *Santa Fe*, *San Miguel*, *Los Alamos*, *Sandoval*, *Catron*, *Grant*, *Sierra*, and *Doña Ana* on those two days (m.ob.).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—Four were in Guadalupe Canyon 23 Jun (JEP), the only dependable New Mexico locale for the species.

Common Gallinule—A pair produced at least 3 chicks at Bosque NWR, where seen in various stages of development 10 Jun-22 Jul (JEP, M. Johnson, EH, CMR). Undetailed were 2 north to the Belen marsh 6 Jul (CCW).

Black-necked Stilt—Ads. with large young were at the Grants golf course 28 Jul (CMR**, NEH). Ten pairs were at the Lordsburg WTP 13 Jun (SW).

American Avocet—Numbers increased steadily at EBL beginning in late Jun, with 72 on 28 Jun, 156 on 5 Jul, 242 on 10 Jul, 274 on 19 Jul, 464 on 2 Jul, to 565 on 27 Jul (DJC), these likely post-breeders (or failed breeders) from farther north.

Mountain Plover—The northern Taos Plateau along US 285 north of Tres Piedras is a dependable area for this species. This season, 2 were seen east of mile marker 406 in *Taos* on 16 Jun (JEP) and an ad. was at a nest north of San Antonio Mt. in *Rio Arriba* 27 Jun (S. Trevathan**).

Marbled Godwit—Noteworthy for mid-Jun, 8 were at Stubblefield L. & 37 were at Maxwell NWR on 16 Jun (CMR**), and one was at EBL 19 Jun (G. Brinkman). Six apparent fall migrants reached EBL by 30 Jun (DJC) and one was at Storrie L. (WJ-W) & 2 were at Bitter Lake NWR (PDC) 5 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper—Fall migrants began to arrive in the RGV and in the east in mid-Jul. At EBL, the first was seen 13 Jul (DJC**) but 23 were there by 16 Jul (DJC).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Late spring migrants were still passing northward during the second week of Jun, including 11 at Las Vegas NWR 10 Jun (CMR*, WJ-W**) and 9 at Maxwell NWR 13 Jun (WJ-W).

Solitary Sandpiper—Earliest were one at Wheaton Creek Ranch north of Ocate 12 Jul (WFW*, JN-M*, RG*), 2 at Mims L. near Truth or Consequences 14 Jul (A. Vesley), and singles at EBL (DJC) & L. Avalon (SW, TJH) on 17 Jul.

Willet—One was at EBL 28 Jun (DJC**).

Laughing Gull—Continuing from 29 May, a first-cycle individual was at Brantley L. 1-2 Jun (DK**, NEH**). A 2nd-cycle individual was at L. Carlsbad 6-8 Jul (JEP*, RSN**, SW).



Laughing Gull, Lake Carlsbad, Eddy Co., 6 July 2018.
Photo by Robert S. Nieman.

California Gull—Noteworthy for the San Juan Mts. in summer, 17, including 2 ads., were at Stone L., *Rio Arriba* 26 Jun (CLH*).

Least Tern—Four were present at Bitter Lake NWR 1 Jun (RSN) and 3 were there 2 Jun (NEH), but only one to 2 were reported there 6 Jun-28 Jul (m.ob.) and there was no mention of nesting. Two were at Brantley L. 3 Jun (RSN) but only singles were seen there 29 Jun (RSN**) and 6-7 Jul (JEP).

Caspian Tern—Three were at EBL 1 Jun (DJC**) and 3 were at Brantley L. 8 Jun (RSN**).

Anhinga—Dr. Joseph R. Jehl Jr described one as it circled the Taos golf course for about 10 minutes on 29 Jul but, as there are no ponds on the golf course, it then flew southwest, in the direction of Pilar and the RGV, and was lost from sight. This represents the northernmost record for the state and at least the seventh overall.

Neotropic Cormorant—Present in Albuquerque's Tingley Beach area Jun-Jul, with a peak 32 on 28 Jun (DLH) but with no evidence of nesting. Dispersing upriver were 2 at

the Alameda bridge 9 Jun (JNS**) and one at the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo lakes 17 Jun (G. Friedman).

American White Pelican—Experienced an impressive mid-summer increase at EBL, from 88 on 28 Jun, 150 on 2 Jul, 200 on 13 Jul, and 326 on 19 Jul to 400 on 29 Jul (DJC**). Some 95 were carefully counted at Bitter Lake NWR 7 Jul (PDC**). At Eagle Nest L., 20 were estimated 24 Jun (E. Hendrich) and 51 were counted 28 Jul (D&J Fredrich). Such large summer numbers in New Mexico likely reflect failed breeders from nesting lakes farther north.

Least Bittern—The few reports were restricted to the middle RGV from La Joya south to EBL and to the lower Pecos Valley at Carlsbad and Six Mile Dam.

Tricolored Heron—One was at Brantley L. 29 Jun (RSN*) and another was at Albuquerque's Campbell Road bosque south of the RGNC 16 Jul (B. Eggers**).



Tricolored Heron, Albuquerque, 16 July 2018.
Photo by Bob Eggers.

Cattle Egret—The population seems to be increasing in the middle RGV, where 80 were seen at Valle de Oro NWR 7 Jun (CMR), one was seen carrying nest material north from there 21 Jun (DLH), 45 were on the west side of the Rio Grande across from Valle de Oro NWR 25 Jun (E.J. Silva), and 127 were at Valle de Oro NWR 8 Jul (DLH).

Black-crowned Night-Heron—Noteworthy at 2600 m were 14 at Black L., *Colfax* 24 Jun (DLH), where the species likely breeds.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron—An ad. pair was along the New Mexico-Texas line at Santa Teresa 5 Jun (JMG**) and a third ad. was seen nearby 8 Jun (JMG**); the species nested on the Texas side of the line in 2017. Also in the RGV, an ad. and an imm. were near EBL's North Monticello Point 9-12 Jul (DJC**). In the east, an ad. and an imm. were at the Clovis Hillcrest Zoo 12 Jul (DGW**), an imm. was at Bitter Lake NWR 7 &

13 Jul (JEP*, PDC*), an imm. was at L. Avalon 8 Jul (RSN**), and an imm. found at Carlsbad was taken to rehabilitation 18 Jul (Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**).

Turkey Vulture—The species is common and widespread in summer in New Mexico, but actual breeding records are few. This season, two downy chicks were found behind a juniper tree in a lower montane drainage on Cat Mt., *Otero* 21 Jul (C.R. Britt**).

Osprey—Albuquerque's nest in the Alameda area produced three young, where an ad. was seen delivering a large goldfish to them 21 Jul (MW**).

Bald Eagle—Two ads. were at Ruby Ranch 12 Jul (WFW, JN-M, RG**); although a large nest structure exists there, breeding remains unconfirmed at the site.

Mississippi Kite—Continued to fill in the summer range in the northeast quadrant, with reports from *San Miguel*, *Quay*, *Guadalupe*, *Curry*, and *De Baca* (m.ob.).

Harris's Hawk—Two were at Deming's Mountain View Cemetery 14 Jun-26 Jul (H. Guttschuss*, TBG, C. Ellis).

Gray Hawk—Five were counted in Guadalupe Canyon 22 Jun (JEP) and one was in the middle Animas Valley at Dunagan's Crossing 23 Jun (JEP). One was north to Redrock 21 Jul (E.G. Wootten*).

Red-shouldered Hawk—An ad. at Rattlesnake Springs 8 Jun (RSN*) may have been the same individual seen at the US 62/180 bridge over the Black R. 25 May (JEP*). What was described as an imm. was briefly detailed at Rattlesnake Springs 19 Jul (B. Wieland*).

Zone-tailed Hawk—Several reports from areas where historically scarce or absent in summer: an ad. was seen soaring over Sandia Lab, *Bernalillo* 14 Jun (MJB*); an ad. was seen in the foothills east of Springtime CG, San Mateo Mts. 30 Jun (SEM**); an ad. was seen over the Homestead subdivision west of Datil 24 Jul (K. Cox*). At Redrock, where expected, 2 ads. were tending a juv. 8 Jun (JEP*).

Elf Owl—Surveys in *Sierra* along the eastern base of the Black Range and in the adjacent RGV detected birds at 19 of 28 known territories visited 4-18 Jun (DJC*).

Burrowing Owl—Three were seen near Wagon Mound 11 Jun (CMR).

Short-eared Owl—One was in grasslands southeast of Floyd 14 Jun (GMB); the species nested in this general area in 2014.

Red-headed Woodpecker—An ad. was in *Guadalupe* a short distance north of the Colinas Exit (I-40 exit 267) 5 Jun (W. Buskirk*) & 7 Jun (CLH*). Noteworthy was an imm. in *Colfax* at the 1-25 Tinaja exit 20 Jul (J. Leutzelschwab**).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—Three were in a recent burn area on Mt. Withington, San Mateo Mts. 27 Jun (WFW); there are few reports from that range.

Peregrine Falcon—Monitoring of a fixed sample area in western New Mexico documented a 25% decline in breeding pairs over three years, from 40 pairs in 2016 to 35 in 2017 and 30 in 2018, the population decline linked to low productivity over the past decade (T.H. Johnson et al.).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—Three were detected in Guadalupe Canyon 23 Jun (JEP) and 2 were there 15 Jul (WJ-W, JBS).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher—Up to 3 were in the GBA 26 Jun-23 Jul (JBS), where this relatively recent arrival is now an expected species.

Brown-crested Flycatcher—Three were along Palomas Cr. west of Williamsburg 8 Jun (DJC audio), where suspected of breeding. In the lower RGV, a vocal one was 5 km south of Radium Springs on various dates 3-13 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

Tropical Kingbird—Continuing from 27 May, one at Rattlesnake Springs was seen and heard by many through Jun to 22 Jul (RSN**audio, JEP*, m.ob., m.ph.); a second bird was present 1 & 7 Jul (RSN). This event constitutes only the second confirmed record of the species for the state; there are at least nine confirmed New Mexico records of Couch's Kingbird, the closely related sister species to Tropical Kingbird.



Tropical Kingbird, Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., 10 June 2018.
Photo by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Thick-billed Kingbird—A vocal individual was heard and seen in the lower RGV 5 km south of Radium Springs 29-30 Jun (MTS*, JEZ*). In Guadalupe Canyon, a pair was noted 23 Jun (JEP) and an occupied nest was found 15 Jul (WJ-W, JBS).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—A record 11 were detected on the Variadero BBS 3 Jun (CMR), all of them in e. *San Miguel*.

Olive-sided Flycatcher—A late one was along the Las Vegas Riverwalk 10 Jun (CMR).

Greater Pewee—Two were singing in the burn area on the Signal Peak road 9 Jun (JEP).

Dusky Flycatcher—Surprising at 3625 m, 2 were near Casias L., Vermejo Park Ranch, Taos 20 Jul (MJB, RLV).

Black Phoebe—One along the Rio Pueblo, Taos near the junction of highways 75 & 76 on 2 Jun (JEP) provided only the third for the Ojo Sarco BBS, which has been conducted since the late 1960s.

Eastern Phoebe—Reports were restricted to the northeast quadrant, west to Maxwell NWR, Rio Mora NWR, Las Vegas Riverwalk, and the Villanueva bridge (eBird).

Vermilion Flycatcher—A ♀ was north to Maxwell NWR 3 Jun (A. Versaw**). A family of 2 ads. and 3 fledglings was at Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 20 Jun (B. Marra**). Four were at the iris farm just west of Hondo 23 Jun (PDC).

Bell's Vireo—Continuing from May, one was north to Corazon Hill, *San Miguel* 3 Jun (CMR**). Noteworthy for *Lincoln*, an ad. was feeding a begging juv. along the Rio Hondo just west of Tinnie 4 Jul (NEH**audio). In the RGV, one was vocal north to Bernalillo 15 Jun (NSC, JK).

Gray Vireo—In the east, single ♂♂ were detected at two sites on Burro Hill, e. *San Miguel* 10 Jun (CMR). In w. *Torrance*, one was singing about 1.5 km south of the Abo Ruins entrance 1 Jul (CMR). Two were heard in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 23 Jun (DLH).

Yellow-throated Vireo—A ♂ Yellow-throated and a ♀ **Plumbeous Vireo** formed a pair, built a nest, and produced three young in the bosque adjacent to Valle de Oro NWR. The ♂, present since 6 May, was often heard singing in May and Jun. The pair was found at the nest 5 Jun (SG**), and the two were observed sharing nest duties through Jun. The nest was situated 9 m up on a cottonwood tree. On 30 Jun, both ads fed the 3 large nestlings and, while observers watched, one young vireo fledged from the nest that day (JEP*, CMR*, NEH**). Hybridization among vireos seems to be quite rare. There is at least one documented instance of a ♂ Yellow-throated nesting with a ♀ Blue-headed Vireo, but that nest was unsuccessful; however, at least one hybrid specimen between those two species is known.

Red-eyed Vireo—One singing at Bosque NWR 14 Jun (J. Bosler) was the only New Mexico report during this summer season.

Steller's Jay—Perhaps a winter holdover, one was seen in yucca-grassland near Gage, *Luna* 8 Jun (MJB*, ABJ*). Another presumed lingerer was at Las Cruces 4 Jun (JD). Yet another straggler was in creosotebush habitat on the southwest flank of the Las Uvas Mts., *Doña Ana* 7 Jul (E. Halbedel*).

American Crow—Undetailed were 4 reported at an I-10 rest area east of Separ, *Grant* 19 Jul (C. Hines).



TOP: Male Yellow-throated Vireo feeds three chicks in nest.
MIDDLE: Female Plumbeous Vireo feeds three chicks in nest.
BOTTOM: One of three hybrid vireo chicks after leaving nest.
Valle de Oro NWR, 30 June 2018. Photos by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Bank Swallow—A new breeding colony was discovered west of the Belen marsh 28 Jun (CLH*), where some 40 birds were flying about nest holes in a vertical bank excavated for fill material.

Purple Martin—Noteworthy for the “east mountain” area, one was in *Santa Fe* north of Edgewood 8 Jul (ABJ*). One was in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 23 Jun (DLH). On the eastern border with Texas, a ♂ & ♀ were at Green Meadow L., Hobbs 2 Jun (NEH**) and at least 4 ads. were present at martin houses in Eunice, where a fledgling was seen by 23 Jun (PWM**).

Carolina Wren—In the Albuquerque area, one was singing in the Valle de Oro NWR bosque 29 Jun (MJA audio). At least 4 were reported throughout the season at Bosque NWR (m.ob.)

Cactus Wren—Two ads. were tending 3 nestlings in w. *Bernalillo* north of the Route 66 Casino 5 Jul (RLV, BC**). The species appears to be thriving in e. *San Miguel*, where a record 32 were counted along NM 419 on the Sabinoso BBS 10 Jun (CMR), and a record 27 were counted on the Variadero BBS 3 Jun (CMR).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—A pair was nesting at Oliver Lee SP 18-19 Jul (D. Lerwill**), where 3 **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were also present. Observers should always carefully describe how Black-taileds are distinguished from Blue-Grays.

American Dipper—A pair was feeding nestlings at the base of Jemez Falls 12 Jul (RLV) and a fledgling was begging from an ad. there 21 Jul (JEP).

Swainson’s Thrush—Few reports of summering birds: one was singing along the Rio Pueblo near Tres Ritos, *Taos* 6 Jun (JEP); one was singing in the Taos Ski Village area 16 Jun (JEP); and one was seen along the Williams L. trail about the Taos Ski Village 26 Jul (T. Jackman).

American Robin—One was in Guadalupe Canyon 23 Jun (JEP), where seldom reported.

Gray Catbird—In the Sacramento Mts., one was singing at Runyan’s fruit stand on US 82 in *Chaves*, northwest of Dunkin, 10 Jun (NEH audio) and 5 were at the Mescalero fish hatchery, *Otero* 21 Jul (JMG).

Brown Thrasher—One at Fred Baca Park near Taos 2-18 Jul (v.o., RD’A**) provided the only report.

Bendire’s Thrasher—The remote area some 15 km north of the Route 66 Casino in w. *Bernalillo* was again productive, including 2 ads. with 3 juvs. 5 Jul (RLV**, BC**, M. Mutchler**).

Cedar Waxwing—Many mid-summer reports in the north-central part of the state, but few specific comments relating to possible breeding. Noteworthy was a pair courtship feeding in the Valle de Oro NWR bosque 30 Jun (CMR*, NEH**). In *Taos*, 5 were noted along the Rio Pueblo near Peñasco 24 Jun (NEH).

Phainopepla—A ♂ & ♀ were north to Placitas 2-11 Jul (RLV, JRO, CMR**, BLM**). A ♂ was at Corrales 8 Jul (JMR**). Four pairs were at Sevilleta NWR 2 Jul, including one pair feeding fledglings (KAG et al.). In the southeast, a ♀ was along the Mule Canyon road in sw. *Chaves*, south of Elk, 10 Jun (NEH**).



Cedar Waxwings, pair courtship feeding, Valle de Oro NWR,
30 June 2018. Photo by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Evening Grosbeak—Far from expected summer habitat, a ♂ was in the RGV at Williamsburg 8-10 Jun (M. Powey**).

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch—As part of the NMOS Field Trips program, surveys to locate summering Brown-cappeds were successful in four areas in *Taos* along the crest of the northern Sangre de Cristo Mts. Two separate individuals were found south of State Line Peak 21 Jul (WJ-W*, ABJ*). A ♂ was foraging on a snow patch north of Big Costilla Peak 21 Jul (D. Kammerichs**, RG*). Several were seen south of Big Costilla Peak 20-21 Jul (MJB, RLV, JW, SY), including an ad. ♂ with 2 juvs. above Casius L. 21 Jul (MJB**) plus at least 2 others 20-21 Jul (JW**). Earlier in the season, in the Wheeler Peak area, a ♂ and ♀ were observed carrying nest material into a rock crevasse near Lake Fork Peak 13 Jun (RLV**, JW, L. George).

American Goldfinch—The species summers regularly in north-central New Mexico, and this season produced mid-summer (mid-Jun to mid-Jul) reports from *Rio Arriba*, *Taos*, *Colfax*, *San Miguel*, and *Bernalillo*, plus additional reports of small numbers summering south to Bosque NWR (eBird).

Rufous-winged Sparrow—Maintaining a Guadalupe Canyon presence, 2 were seen 23 Jun (JEP*) and again on 15 Jul (WJ-W*, JBS*).

Botteri's Sparrow—Reports were restricted to known areas in the middle Animas Valley (JEP, NDP) plus singles in two locales near Rodeo (eBird).

Cassin's Sparrow—Well distributed in eastern New Mexico during the season, with reports from *every county* east of the mountain chains, including moderate numbers in the northeast but fewer in the drier southeast. The species began showing up in the RGV, from Albuquerque southward, by late Jun and continued into Jul; in the southwest, the species arrived in relatively small numbers in Jul (eBird).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Reports were limited to the northeast in *Colfax, Union, Harding, Guadalupe, Curry, and Roosevelt*; a high 11 were detected on the Clovis BBS 11 Jun (CMR).

Black-throated Sparrow—Noteworthy for *San Juan*, singles were at two Shiprock BBS locales 2 Jun (DLH), 2 were at each of two locales near La Plata 11 Jul (W. Medley), and 6 were at Chaco Canyon NHP 15 Jul (B. Wieland).

White-crowned Sparrow—Late for the desert southwest, one was at Redrock 8 Jun (JEP).

Vesper Sparrow—Two territorial ♂♂ were in the Manzano Mts. foothills 4 km south of Chilili, *Torrance* 1 Jul (CMR).

Song Sparrow—Five, identified as the southwestern subspecies *fallax*, were in the Lower Gila Box, *Hidalgo* 8-9 Jun (MJB*, ABJ*).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—South of known breeding areas, an ad. ♂ was near Reserve on a Rancho Grande Estates, *Catron* pond 2 Jun (DLH), the third consecutive year for an ad. ♂ to be there in Jun.

Eastern Meadowlark—Singing Easterns outnumbered Western Meadowlarks 5 to one along Trigg Road, *Harding* 16 Jun (MJB).

Orchard Oriole—An ad. ♂ was a surprise 24 km west of Bernalillo, *Sandoval* 22 Jun (D. Ginter**).

Hooded Oriole—Noteworthy for e. *Lincoln*, an ad. ♂ was at the iris farm near Hondo 23 Jun (PDC).

Bronzed Cowbird—In the northeast, a ♂ was displaying to a ♀ at Logan, *Quay* 16 Jun (MJB**).

Ovenbird—Unusual in New Mexico in summer, one was singing in the Corrales bosque 21 Jun (JMR, DJK).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Two ads. with 3 young were in the Ojo Piedra Spring area on Mt. Taylor, *Cibola* 4 Jul (CMR**).

Lucy's Warbler—One was singing north to Algodones, *Sandoval* 23 Jun (KSS, SG). At Valle de Oro NWR, 12 were banded 6 July (JK).

MacGillivray's Warbler—Unusual was one singing in the lower RGV at La Union 8 Jul (DAB audio).

Hooded Warbler—The “eastern” warbler most likely to be found in summer in the state. Continuing from May, a ♂ was singing in Los Alamos at the junction of Acid and Pueblo canyons 1-6 Jun (M. Smith*audio, RG*). A singing ♂ was in the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 9 Jun-22 Jul (BRF**, CLH*), where 2 were seen briefly 14 Jun (T. O’Brien*) & 13 Jul (BRF*). A ad. ♂ was singing in the Albuquerque bosque south of the Montaña bridge 11 Jun-15 Jul (A. Warner audio, m.ob., m.ph.). One was heard singing at Rattlesnake Springs 10 Jun (NEH audio).

American Redstart—Four reports, but no evidence of breeding. A first-year ♀-plumaged individual was near San Ildefonso Pueblo, *Santa Fe* 3 Jul (E. Buechley*). An ad. ♂ was singing at Los Alamos at the junction of Acid and Pueblo canyons 1 Jun (M. Smith audio, K. Rolle**). A young ♂ was singing at La Union 8 Jun (DAB**audio). A ♂ was at Bitter Lake NWR 28 Jul (PDC*).

Northern Parula—Single ♂♂ were singing at Galisteo 16 Jun (JPB**) and NRT 3 Jun (NDP audio).

Townsend’s Warbler—Surprisingly early was one in the Sandia Mts. at Cienega Canyon 15 Jul (D. Fleming*). Another was on Mt. Taylor, *Cibola* 28 Jul (NEH*).

Summer Tanager—In the northeast, 2 were along Carrizo Cr., *Harding* 14 Jun (WJ-W).

Scarlet Tanager—An ad. ♂ was on Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 17 Jul (K. Stinnett**). This is the fourth late-summer (17-23 Jul) occurrence of alternate plumaged ♂ Scarlet Tanagers in the state in recent years.



Male Scarlet Tanager, Las Animas Creek, Sierra Co., 17 July 2018.
Photo by Ken Stinnett.

Varied Bunting—In the southwest, 5 were in Guadalupe Canyon 23 Jun (JEP). In the southeast, up to 2 were in Slaughter Canyon, *Eddy* 6-15 Jul (RSN, W. Britton**).

Painted Bunting—A ♂ was in the lower RGV at Leasburg SP 25 Jun (MTS*). A ♀ was west to the Rodeo area 27 Jul (R. Townsend**).

Dickcissel—Small numbers were reported in the northeast in *Colfax*, *Union*, and *San Miguel* (eBird). High count for potential breeders was 5 singing ♂♂ in agricultural fields at Fort Sumner 16 Jun (MJB**).



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

