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

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(*Founded 1962*)

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

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068; www.nmbirds.org.

Front cover: Brant (*Branta bernicla*), Dennis Chavez Park, Clovis, Curry County, New Mexico, 29 December 2011 (see page 4). Photograph by Debra Whitecotton.

Back cover: Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*), Tingley bosque, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, 7 January 2012 (see page 10). Photograph by Stephen M. Fettig.

WINTER SEASON 2011-2012

Winter 2011-2012 began with a series of snow storms that swept across the state during the first half of December, but the remainder of the season was relatively dry and mild. It was a busy season for rare gulls, for the study of “stub-tailed” wrens, and for a Rusty Blackbird invasion, as well as for the continuing trend of species pushing their wintering ranges northward. Several notable rarities were found, including a “Black” Brant at Clovis, an American Woodcock at Magdalena, mid-winter Franklin’s Gulls, a male Bullock’s Oriole wintering at Portales, and a Common Redpoll in Santa Fe County.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Dam, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Hatch, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Acomita Lake, <i>Cibola</i>	Hillsboro, <i>Sierra</i>
Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Jemez Springs, <i>Sandoval</i>
Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	La Cieneguilla, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Ladder Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>
Anapra, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Angel Fire, <i>Colfax</i>	La Luz, <i>Otero</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Las Campanas, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bill Evans Lake, <i>Grant</i>	Las Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bosque Redondo, <i>De Baca</i>	La Ventana, <i>Cibola</i>
Brantley Lake, Dam, <i>Eddy</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Los Ranchos, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Cedar Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Cerrillos, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Magdalena, <i>Socorro</i>
Cherry Lake, <i>Mora</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Cimarron, <i>Colfax</i>	Mesilla Dam, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Nambe, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Cochiti Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Navajo Dam, <i>San Juan</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap [NRT], <i>Roosevelt</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Nutt, <i>Luna</i>
Cotton City, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Oasis SP, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Cuba, <i>Sandoval</i>	Orilla Verde, <i>Taos</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Pojoaque, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Escondida, <i>Socorro</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Poverty Creek, <i>Sierra</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Galisteo, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Gila, Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Rio Rancho, <i>Sandoval</i>
Grants, <i>Cibola</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Guadalupe Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>

Ruidoso, *Lincoln*
 Sandia Crest, Park, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
 San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo*
 Santa Fe, Canyon, Ski Area, *Santa Fe*
 Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*
 Sedan, *Union*
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*
 Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, *De Baca*

Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Tesuque, *Santa Fe*
 Tierra Blanca Cr., *Sierra*
 Tijeras, *Bernalillo*
 Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*
 Tucumcari, *Quay*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana/Luna*
 Valles Caldera, *Sandoval*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

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	♂	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	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 tape provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	***	specimen obtained
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		
RGV	Rio Grande Valley		

Initialed Observers

CLA	Collin L. Adams	CGL	Carl G. Lundblad
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	EM	Ed MacKerrow
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	LKM	Larry K. Malone
GWB	Grant W. Beauprez	PM	Patricia Mehlhop
KB	Karen Beckenbach	APN	Alan P. Nelson
DAB	Dan Allen Belcher	RN	Robert Nieman
CLB	Charles L. Black	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
RCC	Richard C. Castetter	JEP	John E. Parmeter
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JNP	James N. Paton
RC	Roger Clark	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
DJC	David J. Cleary	ALP	Anita L. Powell
CCC	Craig C. Cranston	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
JLD	John L. Douglas	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	JIS	Jeffery I. Sanchez
DME	Deanna M. Einspahr	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
ACF	Andrew C. Fenner	RSS	Roland S. Shook
SMF	Stephen M. Fettig	DMS	Donna M. Simonetti
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	NGS	Nancy G. Stotz
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	RT	Robert Templeton
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	JAT	John A. Trochet
ACG	Ashli C. Gorbet	AT	Al Trompler
DJG	David J. Griffin	RLV	Ramond L. VanBuskirk
EHa	Elaine Halbedel	MLW	Mark L. Watson
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	REW	Richard E. Webster
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	SW	Steve West
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	WFWe	William F. West
TJH	Tom J. Hines	SOW	Sartor O. Williams III
EHo	Eric Hough	WFWi	William F. Wittman
WHH	William H. Howe	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
MJK	Mary Jo Kelly	EGW	Eleanor G. Wootten
DJK	David J. Krueper	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield		
JL	James Lofton		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Chen geese—Impressive “white” goose counts were 34,200 **Snow** and 4670 **Ross’s** at Bosque NWR 17 Dec (DLH) and 5871 **Snow** and 14,659 **Ross’s** at BLNWR 4 Jan (JIS).

Brant—An ad. “Black” Brant at Clovis 28-30 Dec (D. Whitecotton**, JRO**, WFWi**, JEP*) provided a *Curry* first.

Cackling Goose—Some 4500 were at two city parks at Clovis 30 Dec (JEP). Rare in *Santa Fe*, one was at Pojoaque’s Buffalo Thunder casino 18 Dec (JPB).

[Mute Swan]—One at Truth or Consequences 11 Feb (SMF**) was a local escapee.

Trumpeter Swan—One ad. was at Brantley L. 10 Feb (WFWi**, RN**). Six tame ones at L. Luther near Farmington Dec-Feb (T. Reeves**) were believed to be part of a semi-feral group from Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Tundra Swans—Up to 5 were at LVNWR 3 Jan-18 Feb (MLW, J. Mosley, CLA**, JRO, JEP) and singles were at Cochiti L. 25 Dec (WHH) and Zuni 31 Dec (JAT); unidentified swans noted on aerial surveys were one at Cherry L. 9 Dec & 3 Jan (MLW) and 5 east of Tucumcari 3 Jan (MLW).

Wood Duck—Noteworthy counts included 46 at Española 18 Dec (BRF), 405 at Albuquerque 18 Dec (RLV), 57 at Clovis 7 Jan (JEP), and 18 at BLNWR 7 Dec (JIS); 2 were west to Grants 8 Jan (CMR).

Mallard—Some 15,456 were reported on the Clayton CBC 17 Dec (CMR).

“Mexican” Duck—North in the Pecos Valley was one at BLNWR 4-11 Jan (JIS).

Cinnamon Teal—A ♂ persisted at Belen 3-27 Jan (JRO, WFWi) and up to 3 ♂♂ were at EBL 13 Jan (DJC); 14 at BLNWR 25 Jan (JIS) were considered spring arrivals.

Canvasback—Noteworthy for the Animas Valley were 2 ♂♂ 1 Jan (D. Scholes, E. Newbold**).

Greater Scaup—One was west to Farmington 17 Dec (APN). Two ♂♂ were at Santa Fe’s Las Campanas 18 Dec (JPB).

White-winged Scoter—One visited Caballo L. 7 Dec (DJC**).

Long-tailed Duck—A good season found singles near Percha SP 17 Dec (CGL**), the Shalem Colony area of Las Cruces 27 Jan (RCC**, MTS, JEZ**), and Loving 18 Dec (RN, SW*).

Bufflehead—Some 150 were below Cochiti Dam 6 Dec (MLW).

Barrow’s Goldeneye—Scarce in *San Juan* in recent years, so noteworthy were two on the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam 11 Dec (CMR*, NEH**); elsewhere, an imm. ♂ was

on the Rio Grande at Orilla Verde 14 Jan (CMR*), and an ad. ♂ was at Maxwell NWR 12-18 Feb (CLA**, JEP*).

Pacific Loon—One at Cochiti L. 18 Jan (DJK*) provided the lone report.

Western Grebe—Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* was one at Las Campanas 10 Dec (WTE**).

***Aechmophorus* grebes**—An aerial survey counted 4100 at EBL 6 Jan (MLW); north were 130 at Morgan L. 5 Jan (MLW) and 15 at Ute L. 3 Jan (MLW).

Neotropic Cormorant—Up to 7 were north to Albuquerque 21 Jan-29 Feb (DLH, WHH**, m.ob.); some 62 were at EBL Dam 20 Jan (DJC).

Double-crested Cormorant—Impressive for the Pecos Valley, 624 were counted in the Brantley L. area 16 Dec (TJH); farther south, 300 were at Six Mile Dam 25 Feb (SW).

Great Egret—Late for the north was one at RGNC 7 Dec (DLH).

Snowy Egret—Scarce in mid-winter, up to 4 were at BLNWR 4 & 25 Jan (JIS) and singles were at Six Mile Dam 4 & 30 Jan (SW) and Sunland Park 13 Jan (JEP).

Green Heron—One was north to Corrales 18-21 Dec (DJK*, WHH**).

White-faced Ibis—One wintered at Belen Dec-Feb (m.ob.); at least one persisted at BLNWR 4-25 Jan (JIS).

Turkey Vulture—Surprising was one in *Curry* along US 60 near Melrose 16 Dec (SOW, PM), where the surrounding prairie was snow-covered. Nine were present in the Roswell area 17 Dec (JIS**) where others were noted 4 Jan (JIS) and 14 Jan (DJK, JMR).

Osprey—Late for the north was one at Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 11 Dec (DLH).

White-tailed Kite—Two were in *Luna* 6.5 km east of Nutt 11 Jan (WHH**). Two were north of Rodeo 31 Dec (*fide* MJB).

Bald Eagle—Some 112 were counted on 11 CBCs 14 Dec-2 Jan (m.ob.). Aerial surveys counted 104 on standard waterfowl transects 3-6 Jan (MLW), down markedly from an annual average of 432 on those transects in Jan 1990-1996 (SOW).

Harris's Hawk—North in the RGV were singles near Hatch 21 Dec (CJW) and at Percha SP 11 Jan (WFWi). One was at Rodeo 31 Dec (MJB, DLH).

Red-shouldered Hawk—An imm. photographed at Luis Lopez 28 Feb (JRO**) represented one of the several eastern subspecies (*fide* B. A. Sullivan).

“Harlan's” Hawk—Of interest north to *Santa Fe* were singles at La Cieneguilla Dec-Feb (JPB**, BRF**) and Pojoaque 13 Feb (EM**).

Rough-legged Hawk—Seldom reported in *Valencia*, one was at Los Lunas 2 Jan (CMR*). High counts were 5 in the Clayton area 29-31 Dec (JRO) and 3 at Clovis 31 Dec (GWB).



Red-shouldered Hawks wander to New Mexico from populations both east and west of the state; this immature at Luis Lopez appears to represent one of the eastern subspecies. Photographed 28 February 2012 by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Merlin—Widespread in small numbers statewide Dec-Feb, including on 15 CBCs from all quadrants of the state 14 Dec-2 Jan (m.ob.).

Peregrine Falcon—Historically rare or absent in winter, this season found singles north to Cuba 24 Dec (T. Johnson), Española 18 Dec (BRF**), and BLNWR 4 Jan (JIS); at least 3 were in the Albuquerque area Dec-Jan (m.ob.).

Virginia Rail—Two were vocal north to La Cieneguilla 16 Jan (JPB).

Common Gallinule—One lingered at Deming until 2 Jan (LKM).

Sandhill Crane—Unusually conspicuous in the southwest, including 300 at Virden 16 Dec (EHa), 6200 in the Animas-Cotton City area 24 Dec (CDL), and 3000 in the Deming area 22 Feb (LKM).

Black-necked Stilt—Now regular in winter in the lower RGV, 30 were at Sunland Park 21 Dec (DJG) & 13 Jan (JEP) and 9 were along the Rio Grande at Anapra 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

American Avocet—Very late for Albuquerque, 15 were at the Alameda bridge 4 Dec (WHH**, CJW**). Up to 6 persisted at EBL 25 Dec-5 Feb (DJC**).

Spotted Sandpiper—One was late at Española 18 Dec (BRF).

Willet—One was late at BLNWR 7 Dec (JIS).

Long-billed Curlew—Unusual in winter, one to 2 were at Bosque NWR 2-21 Jan (CMR, JEP, CMB), 2 were at EBL 25-27 Dec (DJC**), and one was 10 km south of Gage, *Luna* 19 Jan (L. Foerster).

Least Sandpiper—Late for the Albuquerque area, singles were at RGNC 20 Dec & Tingley Beach 27 Dec (*fide* WHH); high count was 523 at Caballo L. 4 Jan (DJC).

Dunlin—One to 3 were at Bosque NWR 8-12 Feb (CJW, MJB**), EBL 24 Dec-5 Feb (DJC**), along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 20-30 Jan (DJC), and Loving 23 Dec (CCC).

Wilson's Snipe—Surprising in winter at 2595 m, one was at Valles Caldera 11 Feb (WHH).

American Woodcock—One found injured at Magdalena on the late date of 2 Dec soon died (*fide* MJB, *** to MSB); it furnished the 4th state record from west of the RGV.

Franklin's Gull—The species winters off the Pacific coast of South America, so quite surprising was an ad. in breeding plumage at the Alameda bridge 8 Jan-5 Feb (JEP*, WHH**); farther south in the RGV, single ads. were at EBL 2-26 Dec (DJC**) and Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP*).

Mew Gull—Single ads. were at the Alameda bridge 6-23 Feb (m.ob., A. Bankert**, CJW**), EBL 7 Dec-14 Jan (WFWe*, JEP*, m.ob.), and Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP*).

Herring Gull—A high 14 were at EBL 3 Feb (DJC**).

Thayer's Gull—At least one first-cycle was at the Alameda bridge 4 Dec-5 Feb (m.ob., WHH**, JRO**). An ad. and 2 first-cycles (including a very pale individual) were at EBL on various dates 25 Dec-25 Feb (DJC**, NDP*, CLA*, JEP*, JRO**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Continuing from Nov, an ad. or nearly ad. (third-cycle) was at EBL on various dates 7 Dec-24 Feb (WFWe, DJC**, RLV*, WFWi*, JEP*, JRO*); what was likely the same bird was at nearby Caballo L. 10 Dec (JEP*).

Glaucous Gull—A first-cycle at Burn L. in Las Cruces 13-17 Dec (AT**, DJG**, m.ob.) apparently moved south to Sunland Park, where present 20 Dec-3 Jan (DAB**, CJW**, JNP**, RLV, CLA). At EBL, 2 first-cycles (including a very pale one) were present 20 Jan-6 Feb (DJC**) and at least one of them remained to 25 Feb (JRO**, RLV, JEP*).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Unexpected in winter, one was among 25 White-winged Doves at Sandia Park 22 Dec-3 Jan (R. Murphy**).

White-winged Dove—Found statewide, from Farmington and Clayton southward, including on 17 CBCs 14 Dec-2 Jan. Dec concentrations included 548 at Albuquerque 18 Dec (RLV), 2005 at Roswell 17 Dec (JIS) and 8913 at Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG). Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* were about 100 at Cerrillos 30 Dec-29 Feb (ACF*) and 75 at Galisteo 18 Jan (DJK). An active nest was at Columbus 25 Feb (LKM*).

Inca Dove—Among the few reports beyond core areas in the south were one at Gila 3 Dec (JRO), 9 at Virden 2 Dec (JEP), 5 at Rodeo 2-31 Dec (JEP, NDP), and 2 at Hillsboro 26 Jan (DJC).

Common Ground-Dove—One at Rodeo 2 Dec-2 Jan (JEP*, MJB**, NDP, CLA) provided the lone report.

[**Monk Parakeet**]—One continued at its nest/roost structure near the Alameda bridge 18 Jan (CLH).

Greater Roadrunner—One was at 2296 m at Los Alamos 2 Dec (J. Fitzgibbon**).

Barn Owl—An early one was north to Nambe 13 Feb (EM).

Burrowing Owl—One at Rio Rancho 4 Feb (WHH) may have wintered.

Short-eared Owl—Two were in the middle Animas Valley 1 Jan (CLA**, RLV).

White-throated Swift—Eight were in the Williamsburg-Percha SP area 28 Dec (DJC**).

Magnificent Hummingbird—A ♂ at Silver City 5 Jan (KB) furnished the only report.

Anna's Hummingbird—Singles were at Elephant Butte 2-6 Dec (DJC**, JEP*) and Las Cruces 6-17 Dec (S. & W. Hill, DJG).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—A ♂ was at Silver City 26 Dec (K. Neil *fide* RSS) and a ♀ was at Las Cruces 1 Dec (NGS**).

Rufous Hummingbird—Single ad. ♂♂ were at Elephant Butte 2 Dec-4 Jan (DJC**, JEP*) and Las Cruces 1-23 Dec & 3-13 Jan (JLD). A green-backed ♂ Rufous was at Las Cruces 4-5 Dec (DMS**).

Red-headed Woodpecker—An ad. was at Fort Sumner 29 Jan (CMR), where normally absent in winter; one was late at Las Vegas 17 Dec (C. Ruge).

Acorn Woodpecker—Three were near Cuba 21 Jan (WHH); high counts were 46 at Silver City 17 Dec (KB) and 41 at Ruidoso 2 Jan (ALP).

Red-breasted Sapsucker x Red-naped Sapsucker—One of these hybrids was at Tijeras 26 Dec (RLV); pure Red-breasted remains unverified in New Mexico.

American Three-toed Woodpecker—One was at 3414 m near Aspen Vista, *Santa Fe* 19 Feb (JPB). Two continued at Sandia Crest 13 Jan (JEP), and 2 or more continued in the Black Range west of Poverty Creek 31 Dec (DJC**) & 24 Feb (JEP, JRO).

Yellow-shafted Flicker—Apparently pure ones were singles at Clayton 14 Dec (CMR), Los Ranchos 11 Jan (CMR*), near Percha SP 2 Jan (DJG), at Leasburg SP 28 Jan (CJG*), and west to Silver City 4-18 Jan (KB*), but intergrades with Red-shafteds were nearly as numerous, including 4 at Clayton 14 Dec (CMR) and singles at Los Alamos Dec-Jan (SMF**), Percha SP 16 Feb (CJG, DMS**), and Zuni 31 Dec (JAT).

Empidonax flycatchers—Several persisted in Guadalupe Canyon, with up to 3 **Hammond's** 31 Dec-2 Jan (CGL**, MJB**, NDP), a **Gray** 31 Dec-2 Jan (CGL**, MJB**, NDP), and a **Dusky** 2 Jan (MJB*). Up to 2 of uncertain species were in the Caballo L. area 30 Dec-2 Jan (DLH, JLD).

Black Phoebe—Lingering in the north were 3 at Cimarron 18 Dec (MJK) and singles at Dixon 14 Dec (RT), Española 18 Dec (BRF), and Santa Fe 17 Dec (BRF*).

Eastern Phoebe—One wintered north to Galisteo 9 Jan (JPB*) & 26 Feb (BRF**). Noted on seven CBCs, including high counts of 6 on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (JLD) and 4 on the CCNP CBC 17 Dec (SW).

Say's Phoebe—Also late for the north were one to 2 at Farmington 11-17 Dec (CMR, APN) and 3 at Española 18 Dec (BRF); one vocal at Pojoaque 17 Feb (JPB) may have been an early spring migrant.

Northern Shrike—One to 3 were at 12 locales across the northern half of the state in *San Juan, Rio Arriba, Colfax, Union, and San Miguel*, including singles south to Zuni 31 Dec (JAT), La Ventana 8 Jan (CMR), and Cerrillos 25 Jan (ACF*).

Hutton's Vireo—The species began to occupy territories in the northern Peloncillos Mts. by late Jan (CDL).

Pinyon Jay—Flocks were conspicuous south to *Grant*, including 102 at Bear Mountain Lodge 4 Dec (EHa), 150 at Silver City 19 Jan (KB), and 67 at GBA 10 Feb (RSS).

Blue Jay—Singles were west to Santa Fe 17 Dec (DME) and La Luz 28 Dec (CJG**). A heard-only Blue Jay at Mesilla Dam was soon revealed as a solar-powered loudspeaker broadcasting jay calls to deter crows from pecan orchards (NGS*, DJG**).

American Crow—Apparently undeterred by pecan orchard management efforts, 10,673 were counted at Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG).

Chihuahuan Raven—One was at Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 15 Jan (WHH*). Some 158 were vocal at Fort Sumner on 29 Jan (CMR), where only 2 **Common Ravens** were detected.

Horned Lark—Some 800 were present at EBL's Monticello Point 24 Dec (DJC).

Tree Swallow—Earliest arrivals were 8 along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 27 Feb (DJC**) and 9 in the L. Avalon-Brantley L. area 29 Feb (SW).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Earliest were one at EBL Dam 26 Feb (DLH), 2 near Radium Springs 27 Feb (JEZ), and 3 below Williamsburg 27 Feb (DJC**).

Cave Swallow—Following near colony collapse in 2011, the species did not return to Carlsbad Cavern until 23 Feb, some two weeks later than is typical (*fide* SW).

Bushtit—Three were at Clayton 14 Dec (CMR*), where scarce.

Carolina Wren—One was at Bosque NWR 2 Feb (CLA**), where the species has been present since Jul 2011.

Pacific Wren—“Stub-tailed” wrens caused much excitement in the Albuquerque area, where Winter Wrens outnumbered Pacific Wrens by 7 to 2, and vocalizations were deemed key to any identification. A Pacific was in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts., 26 Dec-1 Jan (NDP*, MJB** audio, NEH**, JRO**, CJW**, m.ob.) and another was in the Tingley bosque from 21 Dec into Mar (DJK*, CMR*, WHH*, JEP*, m.ob., JRO**, CLA**, MJB** audio, ACG**, CJW**, SMF**, m.ob.).

Winter Wren—At least 2 were in the Tingley bosque from 20 Dec to at least 17 Feb (m.ob.); others in the Albuquerque area were singles at Corrales 18 Dec (WHH**), Alameda bridge 3 Dec-18 Feb (CJW**, m.ob.), the West Side 18 Dec (CMR*), an irrigation ditch near I-40 on 10 Jan (DLH), and the South Valley from Oct to 13 Jan (DLH). Elsewhere, singles were at Bosque NWR 17 Dec-15 Jan (DLH), Ladder Ranch 15 Dec (NEH*), and below Brantley Dam 27 Jan (RN). A silent “stub-tailed” wren was at Spence Hot Springs, *Sandoval* 27 Dec (CGL).

Marsh Wren—North for the season were 2 at Stubblefield L. 21 Dec (MJB) and one at La Cieneguilla 15 Jan (JPB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Noteworthy for winter, one was at Deming 7 Jan (EHo).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Notably scarce, including none found in formerly occupied areas in the EBL area (DJC). High counts were 6 in Miner Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 1 Jan (NDP, MJB, JPB) and 6 at Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG).

American Dipper—One was a surprise in the Sandia Mts. at the Ojito Open Space near Cedar Crest 22 Jan (DLH, NEH, CMB, ACG**). A pair was courting north of Jemez Springs by 11 Feb (WHH*).

Eastern Bluebird—Reported widely in the east as well as throughout the RGV from *Rio Arriba* south to *Doña Ana*. In the west were 5 along Tierra Blanca Creek in western *Sierra* 26 Jan (DJC), one or more at Zuni in Dec (JAT), one at GBA 27 Dec (RSS), 2 at Bill Evans L. 16 Jan (EGW), 3 at Virden 16 Dec (EHo), and 7 at Deming 1 Feb (LKM).

Hermit Thrush—One at Farmington 11 Dec (CMR) was near the northern edge of the wintering range.

American Robin—A stunning leucistic individual at Santa Fe 30 Jan (JPB**) was said to be in its third winter there.

Varied Thrush—A ♂ at Deming’s Mountain View Cemetery 29 Dec (CGL*) provided a *Luna* first.

Gray Catbird—More evidence of increasing winter presence was provided by one at Bosque NWR 21 Jan (CMR*), one at Las Cruces 19 Dec-19 Feb (W. Glenn), and one to 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 17 Dec-14 Jan (RN, DJK).

Northern Mockingbird—Lingering in the north were one in the snow at Oasis SP 6 Dec (JL) and other singles at Albuquerque 18 Dec (RLV) and Clovis 31 Dec (GWP). A high 78 were counted at Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG).

Brown Thrasher—The species was well represented from the RGV eastward, including a high 5 at Rattlesnake Springs 2 Jan (SW). Two were west to Zuni 31 Dec (JAT).

Bendire's Thrasher—Probably representing early migrants, singles were at Deming 15 Feb (LKM) and San Simon Cienega 19 Feb (REW).

Curve-billed Thrasher—Noteworthy for the northwest, 2 were near Grants 8 Jan (CMR). In the upper RGV were 3 at Dixon 14 Dec (RT), 2 at Española 18 Dec (BRF), and a high 20 at Santa Fe 17 Dec (DME).

Crissal Thrasher—Two were north to the Tesuque area 29 Dec (A. Gancarz*).

American Pipit—Far north for mid-winter, 2 were at Abiquiu Dam 21 Jan (WHH*).

Cedar Waxwing—Moderate numbers occurred nearly statewide Dec-Jan, from Farmington east to Clayton and south to the Peloncillo Mts. and Carlsbad, including 104 at Farmington 17 Dec (APN) and 35 at Santa Fe 17 Dec (DME).

Phainopepla—The species was relatively scarce in its usual haunts in the southwest, where favored foods were likewise scarce, but was fairly common about mistletoe and sumac in the lower RGV, including 60 in the Caballo L. area 2 Jan (JLD). Noteworthy were 2 at Ruidoso 2 Jan (ALP) and 3 north to Roswell 17 Dec (JIS).

Lapland Longspur—An impressive 99 were in the Clayton area 14 Dec (CMR) but the species was decidedly rare elsewhere.

Ovenbird—One along the Laborcita Canyon Road near La Luz 28 Dec (M. Haribal*) represented New Mexico's seventh winter record since the first in 1998.

Orange-crowned Warbler—North to Albuquerque were singles in the Tingley bosque 7 Jan (SMF*) and the South Valley 20 Jan (DLH); 7 were at Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG), where now regular in winter.

Common Yellowthroat—One lingered at Albuquerque 18 Dec (RLV*).

Chestnut-sided Warbler—Providing New Mexico's second Dec record was one at the Ladder Ranch 15 Dec (NEH*).

Pine Warbler—One was at Rattlesnake Springs 17 Dec (R. Hurd**) and presumably the same individual was relocated 9 Feb (SW**), where it remained into Mar (JRO**, RN, JEP*).

Green-tailed Towhee—One wintered north to Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts., 10 Jan (MJB) & 5 Feb (J. Schelling**).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—One north to Ancha Canyon near Buckman 16 Jan (JPB**) may be the first documented wintering in *Santa Fe*. Out of habitat was one at Bosque Redondo 29 Jan (CMR*).

Abert's Towhee—At least 3 were at San Simon Cienega 2 Jan (NEH, CLA**).

Cassin's Sparrow—Notoriously difficult to document in winter, several were reported across the south; those with useful details were one at Ladder Ranch 15 Dec (ACF*), 2 near Aguirre Springs 7 Jan (BRZ**), and at least one in the Peloncillo Mts. 1 Jan (NEH**).

American Tree Sparrow—Several were south to *Santa Fe*, with up to 11 at Galisteo 8-22 Jan (RC**, JPB**, DJK, BRF*) and 8 at La Cieneguilla 11-13 Feb (BRF*, JPB**). One was south to NRT 7 Jan (JEP, WFWi).

Chipping Sparrow—At the northern edge of the winter range were 7 at Albuquerque 18 Dec (RLV), 13 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP, WHH), and 5 at Clovis 31 Dec (GWB).

Field Sparrow—A good season produced reports from eight locales in seven counties, including 4 along the Delaware R., *Eddy* 1 Jan (SW), a high 5 at Sumner L. 29 Jan (CMR*), and, west to the RGV, singles at Escondida 18 Feb (JRO**) and Ladder Ranch 15 Dec (ACF*).

Vesper Sparrow—One was north to Clayton 28 Dec (JRO).

Lark Sparrow—One was north to the Five Points area, Sevilleta NWR 15 Dec (DJK*). One was at La Union 10-15 Feb (DAB**), where recently regular in winter.

Lark Bunting—Several reports from north of usual, including one at Clayton 27-28 Dec (JRO), 40 near Sedan 19 Feb (MJB, NDP), 30 at NRT 30 Dec-7 Jan (JEP), and 300 at Clovis 31 Dec (GWB); small numbers were north in the RGV to Sevilleta NWR, Luis Lopez, and Bosque NWR in Dec.

Baird's Sparrow—A day after a snowstorm, one was at the Leopold Vista, *Grant* 2 Dec (JRO**). One was in Ladder Ranch grasslands 15 Dec (WFW*). Five were reported in the middle Animas Valley 1 Jan (*fide* NDP), where at least one was photographed (CLA**).

Le Conte's Sparrow—One described at Clayton L. 14 Dec (CMR*) provided a first for *Union*.

Fox Sparrow—A gray one was at Galisteo 18 Jan (DJK) and single red ones were in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts. 28 Dec (CLB) and in the RGV at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque, Luis Lopez, EBL Dam, Ladder Ranch, and Las Palomas Dec-Jan (m.ob.) plus at Rattlesnake Springs 17 Dec-25 Feb (RN, DJK, CJW); undetailed were singles at Las Vegas 17 Dec (C. Ruge) and Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG).

Swamp Sparrow—One was west to Acomita L. 8 Jan (CMR); another was at Rodeo 2 Dec (JEP).

Harris's Sparrow—Another good season produced singles in the RGV near Orilla Verde 27 Jan (*fide* MJB), Pojoaque 31 Dec-21 Feb (H. Morgan**), Luis Lopez 14 Dec-29 Feb (JRO, JEP), Bosque NWR 17 Dec (NEH**, CMB), Percha SP 30 Dec-7 Feb (LKM), and Las Cruces 5-17 Dec (NGS**); farther west were singles at Hillsboro in Dec (B. Barnes**) and Gila 2 Dec (JRO).

White-crowned Sparrow—Single dark-lored individuals were found on the Peloncillo CBC 1 Jan (*fide* NDP) and at Cerrillos 15-29 Feb (ACF*).



One of four found in New Mexico this season, this Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Cerrillos 12-29 February 2012. Photographed 12 February 2012 by Jonathan P. Batkin.

Golden-crowned Sparrow—A good season, with singles at Cerrillos 12-29 Feb (ACF*, JPB**, BRF**), Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 28 Dec-29 Feb (WHH**, SOW*, PM, CMR*), Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (*fide* NDP), and Elephant Butte 2 Jan-8 Feb (DJC**, JRO**, JEP*, CLA**).

“Slate-colored” Junco—Scarce in the Peloncillo Mts., one was in Owl Canyon 23 Jan (CDL).

Northern Cardinal—A high 6 were at Rodeo 2 Dec (JEP). One to 2 continued at Hillsboro 1 Dec-4 Feb (DJC**).

Pyrrhuloxia—Singles dispersed north to NRT 30 Dec-7 Jan (JEP) and Bosque Redondo 29 Jan (CMR).



This Rusty Blackbird was one of at least four present in Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 20 December 2011-20 January 2012. Photographed 3 January 2012 by Gary K. Froehlich.

Rusty Blackbird—A record season found one at Clayton L. 17 Dec (D. E. Weidmann**), up to 4 northeast of Clayton 22-31 Dec (MJB*, JRO**), one at BLNWR 17 Dec (E. Roesler**), and, in the RGV, one near RGNC 18 Dec (RLV**, JEP*), up to 4 in the Tingley bosque 20 Dec-20 Jan (m.ob., ACG**, JRO**, MJB**, NEH**, SMF**, GKF**, WHH**, DJK**, CJW**, SW**), and one south of Percha SP 2 Jan (AT*, DMS**).

Common Grackle—Lingering were up to 12 at Deming 17 Dec (CGL**) & 2 Jan (LKM) and at least 2 at La Luz 28 Dec (CJG**).

Bronzed Cowbird—Two were at NMSU in Las Cruces 13-14 Jan (DJG, CJG), the only reliable winter location for the species in the state.

Bullock's Oriole—An alternate-plumaged ad. male persisted at a sugar water feeder at Portales from 29 Nov into Mar, where photographed 3 Dec & 11 Feb (D. Batten**).

Brown-capped Rosy-Finch—A impressive 300 were reported on the Angel Fire CBC 18 Dec (MJK).



This adult male Bullock's Oriole survived the entire winter season at Portales, weathering snow storms and freezing temperatures. Photographed 11 February 2012 by David Batten.

Cassin's Finch—Among the very few reports was one at Sevilleta NWR 6 Dec (K. A. Granillo**).

Common Redpoll—An ad. ♂ visited a feeder near the unincorporated San Marcos community 25 km south of Santa Fe 22 Dec-18 Feb (R. B. Olcott**, m.ob., JPB**, JRO**, BRF**, CLA**, C. Taylor**), providing only the second confirmed New Mexico record.

Lawrence's Goldfinch—Three, described as 2 ♂♂ and a ♀, were on the southwest edge of Silver City 17 Dec (K. Dayer*, ERL).

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

