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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; www.nmbirds.org.

Front cover: Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), male, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, 21 January 2015 (see page 15). Photograph by Amy Howard.

Back cover: Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), female, White Rock, Los Alamos County, New Mexico, 11 February 2015 (see page 8). Photograph by Stephen M. Fetting.

WINTER SEASON 2014-2015

The winter of 2014-2015 brought generally warmer than usual temperatures to the state, although that was frequently interrupted by widespread rain and snow, plus occasional cold snaps, over much of the state. Following increased rainfall during the preceding summer and fall, habitats—especially grasslands—appeared in excellent condition. As has been the theme for many recent winters, the season was characterized by species lingering late and/or returning early, and wintering farther and farther north. Among the rarities were the continuing Black Vulture and Common Crane in the Roswell area, a Red-bellied Woodpecker west to Los Alamos County, and a bright male Summer Tanager in the snow at Albuquerque.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu, Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Guadalupe Mrs., <i>Eddy</i>
Acomita Lake, <i>Cibola</i>	Hachita, <i>Grant</i>
Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Hermanas, <i>Luna</i>
Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Hillsboro, <i>Sierra</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Hobbs, <i>Lea</i>
Angel Fire, <i>Colfax</i>	Jal, <i>Lea</i>
Animas, Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Kingston, <i>Sierra</i>
Antelope Wells, <i>Hidalgo</i>	La Cienega, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Bernardo WMA, <i>Socorro</i>	Ladder Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	La Joya, WMA, <i>Socorro</i>
Bluewater Lake, <i>McKinley/Cibola</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Lake McMillan, <i>Eddy</i>
Brantley Lake, Dam, <i>Eddy</i>	La Luz, <i>Otero</i>
Broad Canyon Ranch, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Las Cruces, Dam, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Las Vegas, <i>San Miguel</i>
Carlsbad, Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Cerrillos, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Lordsburg, Playa, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Chloride Canyon, <i>Sierra</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Cliff, <i>Grant</i>	Maxwell NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Mesilla, Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Mesilla Bosque SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	North Roosevelt Trap (NRT), <i>Roosevelt</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Nutt, <i>Luna</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Costilla, <i>Taos</i>	Oliver Lee SP, <i>Otero</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Dexter, <i>Chaves</i>	Orilla Verde, <i>Taos</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Eldorado, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Pilar, <i>Taos</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Poverty Creek, <i>Sierra</i>
Fort Sumner, <i>De Baca</i>	Quemado Lake, <i>Catron</i>
Glenwood, <i>Catron</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>

Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
 Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*
 Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
 Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
 Roswell, *Chaves*
 Sandia Crest, Park, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
 San Ildefonso, *Santa Fe*
 Santa Fe, Canyon, Preserve, *Santa Fe*
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*
 Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*

Spring Canyon SP, *Luna*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*
 Sumner Dam, *De Baca*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Three Rivers, *Otero*
 Tularosa, *Otero*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana/Luna*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 White Rock, *Los Alamos*
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

Standard Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	SP	State Park
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CG	Camp Ground	♂	male (represents sword & shield of Mars)
Cr.	Creek	♀	female (represents mirror of Venus)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	ad(s).	adult(s)
GBA	Gila Bird Area	subad(s).	subadult(s)
L.	Lake	imm(s).	immature(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	sp.	species
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	m.ob.	many observers
NAPI	Navajo Agricultural Products Industry	m.ph.	many photographs
NM	National Monument	v.o.	various observers
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	+	others; et al.
NP	National Park	*	written details provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	**	photo or tape provided
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	***	specimen obtained
PA	Picnic Area		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		

Initialed Observers

FA	Francisco Anaya	LKM	Larry K. Malone
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	RAM	Raymond A. Meyer
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	APN	Alan P. Nelson
GMB	Grant M. Beauprez	RN	Robert Nieman
KB	Karen Beckenbach	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DAB	Dan Allen Belcher	SO	Steve Olson
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JO-W	Jennifer Owen-White
IB-M	Iza Bruen-Morningstar	JEP	John E. Parmeter
RC	Roger Clark	JNP	James N. Paton
DJC	David J. Cleary	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
CC	Chris Conard	BP	Bryan Pfeiffer
MJD	Martha J. Desmond	ALP	Anita L. Powell
JLD	John L. Douglas	TR	Tim Reeves
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	CR	Chris Ruge
ACF	Andrew C. Fenner	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
SMF	Stephen M. Fettig	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	CIS	Catherine I. Sandell
RF	Robert Friedrichs	JIS	Jeffery I. Sanchez
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
DJG	David J. Griffin	RSS	Roland S. Shook
JMG	John M. Groves	NGS	Nancy G. Stotz
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	WMT	Wayne M. Treers
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	JAT	John A. Trochet
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	RLV	Raymond L. VanBuskirk
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	MLW	Mark L. Watson
TFH	Terry F. Hodapp	REW	Richard E. Webster
JH	Jack Holloway	DW	Debbie Weissman
EH	Eric Hough	SW	Steve West
WJ-W	Will Jaremko-Wright	WFW	William F. West
JK	Jason Kitting	LW	Leann Wilkins
DJK	David J. Krueper	MW	Mouser Williams
CL	Carol Levine	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad		
WEM	William E. Maley		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Varying numbers were present in Albuquerque's South Valley throughout the season; high counts were 37 on 27 Dec (JO-W) and 35 on 24 Feb (DLH).

white geese—On 20 Dec, Bosque NWR reported 24,600 **Snow** and 4350 **Ross's** (DLH) geese; on the same day, BLNWR reported 5293 **Snow** and 9831 **Ross's** (JIS).

Brant—A first-winter Black Brant in Albuquerque's South Valley 11-16 Feb (DLH*, m.ob., m.ph.) provided the third recent Albuquerque area Brant record.

Cackling Goose—Some 38 were south to Dexter's Lake Van 8 Feb (CMR*).

[**Mute Swan**]—One of these exotics was at RGNC 11 Feb (NEH**).

Tundra Swan—An imm. at Bosque NWR, first seen 21 Nov, continued there to 18 Feb (CIS, m.ob., m.ph.). An ad. in the Maxwell NWR-Stubblefield L. area 15 Nov continued to 8 Jan (MLW, NEH**, WTE**, RN**). An aerial survey found 5 swans of uncertain species at the Huey WMA, *Eddy* 6 Jan (MLW).

Trumpeter Swan—An imm. put in a brief but well-documented visit to Bosque NWR 4-10 Jan (CIS**, JH**). Four, originating from a semi-feral flock at Pagosa Springs, Colorado, were in the Farmington area 20 Dec (APN).

Wood Duck—Found statewide, including 310 at Albuquerque 21 Dec (RLV). Noteworthy were 3 at Hobbs 5 Jan (CL), 38 at Dexter 8 Feb (CMR), and 11 near Cliff 27 Dec (LKM).

Eurasian Wigeon—A ♂ was at the Clovis treatment ponds 26 Dec (CMR*). First reported in Nov, another ♂ was at EBL 1 Jan (CMR*, WTE*).

Cinnamon Teal—Mid-winter records included 5 at BLNWR 9 Jan (JEP) and 5 at Rattlesnake Springs 10 Jan (RN*). Undetailed winter reports of teal with blue wings, which could be either Blue-winged or Cinnamon, seem to be increasing but cannot be allocated to species.

Northern Pintail—An aerial survey counted 11,150 at EBL 15 Jan (MLW).

Green-winged Teal—An aerial survey on 15 Jan counted 20,330 at EBL and an additional 2210 at nearby Caballo L. (MLW).

Ring-necked Duck—A high 725 were counted on the Sevilleta CBC 19 Dec (S. W. Cox).

Greater Scaup—Noteworthy for the desert location, a ♂ and ♀ were at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project, e. *Eddy* 29 Jan (RN**).

White-winged Scoter—Continuing from Nov, one was at Quemado L. 7 Dec, where it was feeding on crawfish (NEH**, CMR*, WTE*). Others were singles at Bluewater L., *Cibola* 13-19 Dec (JAT**, CMR*) and at Bosque NWR 7 Feb (J. D. Ligon*).

Long-tailed Duck—One found at L. Carlsbad 14 Feb (RN**) continued through Feb (RN**, SW**) and into Mar.

Common Goldeneye—Some 37 were south to Quemado L. 7 Dec (WTE), and one was in the lower Pecos Valley at Six Mile Dam 21 Dec (SW).

Barrow's Goldeneye—Now an annual winter attraction along the upper Rio Grande in *Taos*, *Rio Arriba*, and *Santa Fe*, this season found 2 or more in the Orilla Verde area north of Pilar 17 Dec-4 Jan (m.ob.), one south of Pilar 7 Feb (JEP*, JRO**), up to 8 in the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo area 4 Jan-18 Feb (m.ob., m.ph.), and 2 or more in the vicinity of Buckman, *Santa Fe* 8-14 Feb (RC, JRO**, BRF).

Red-throated Loon—One was at L. Avalon 18 Jan (SMF**); the species is irregular in occurrence in the state, with about 35 records total. Identity of a second loon photographed there that day is under review.

Pacific Loon—One wintered at Mescalero L., *Otero* 3 Jan-8 Feb (ALP**, K. Suter**).

Common Loon—Continuing from Nov, one at Albuquerque's Tingley ponds lingered to 3 Jan (NEH**, DJK**, WTE**).

Horned Grebe—Singles where seldom reported were at Acomita L. 7 Dec (CMR, WTE), and Abiquiu L. 13 Dec (WTE). Four lingered north to Stubblefield L. 16 Dec (MLW**).

American White Pelican—Noteworthy so far north for the season were 5 at Ute L. 21 Feb (JEP).

Brown Pelican—One found in poor condition at Bernardo WMA 13 Jan soon died (*vide* K. Madden). An ad. was in the EBL-Caballo L. area 10-16 Feb (CMB*, SMF**).

American Bittern—One to 2 were at BLNWR on multiple dates 3 Dec-25 Feb (m.ob., NEH**, RN**, SMF**, WTE**). One was below Brantley Dam 12 Dec (JEP).

Snowy Egret—Mid-winter reports were up to 6 at BLNWR 7-9 Jan (FA, m.ob.) and singles near Williamsburg 9 Jan (DJC**) and at Six Mile Dam 18 Jan (SW).

Cattle Egret—Noteworthy for winter was one at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP).

Green Heron—Lingering singles were at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SO*), below Caballo Dam 6 Dec (DJC**), Percha SP 29 Dec (MJB), and Loving 21 Dec (C.C. Cranston).

Black Vulture—Continuing from 23 Nov, the state's 2nd confirmed record was last seen in the Roswell area 4 Dec (SW**).

Turkey Vulture—Now regular at Roswell in winter, 28 were counted at two roosts 12 Dec (JEP) and at least 28 continued 19 Jan (SMF**).

White-tailed Kite—Likely reflecting improved grassland conditions in the southwest, at least one was in *Hidalgo* south of Hachita 22 Dec-19 Feb (DJG, JEP*). Singles were north of Rodeo 26 Dec (WTE*) & 2 Feb (EH**), and near Hermanas 6 Dec (LKM).

Bald Eagle—Far from “expected” habitat of lakes and rivers, 2 ads. were in the Black Range at Poverty Creek 7 Jan (DJC) and one was on the Plains of San Agustin at the Very Large Array, w. *Socorro* 7 Jan (J.W. Shipman). Noteworthy for Rattlesnake Springs was an imm. there 1 Feb (RN).

Northern Goshawk—One was scouting a bird feeding station at Bluewater Acres, *Cibola* 14 Dec (CMR).

Common Black Hawk—Remarkably early, one was at the Glenwood fish hatchery 16 Feb (DLH).

Harris's Hawk—Continuing their south-central New Mexico presence, 4 were at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT) and 2 were near Oliver Lee SP 2 Jan (WTE).

Rough-legged Hawk—Singles were south to McIntosh, *Torrance* 15 Feb (WTE) and Bosque NWR 20 Dec (CIS).

Virginia Rail—Late for the north, one was below Clayton L. 28 Dec (CMR).

Sandhill Crane—Mid-Dec counts included 12,065 at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (DLH) and 14,546 at BLNWR 20 Dec (JIS). A white Sandhill, mated to a typical gray one, was at Bosque NWR from Oct to 14 Jan (CIS, SMF).

Common Crane—New Mexico's first confirmed record, discovered in company with Sandhill Cranes in the Roswell area 30 Nov, continued there until 29 Jan (m.ob., m.ph.), where it attracted observers from throughout North America.

American Avocet—Earliest was one in the Brantley L. area 29 Jan (SW).

Spotted Sandpiper—North for the season were singles at Maxwell NWR 18 Dec (L. Wilkins) and Española 4 Jan (BRF).

Lesser Yellowlegs—Unexpected in winter, one was well-described at Bosque NWR 22 Dec (DLH*).

Long-billed Curlew—Surprising for mid-winter was one in a snow-covered field north of Tularosa 3 Jan (CMR, WTE).

Dunlin—One was at the Lordsburg Playa 27 Feb (JRO).

Least Sandpiper—Noteworthy for Deming were up to 6 that overwintered there 24 Dec-21 Jan (LKM). Some 115 were along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 9 Jan (DJC).

Mew Gull—Singles ads. were at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge from 10 Feb into Mar (WEM, m.ob., NEH**, JRO**, WTE**) and EBL 26-31 Jan (B. Morris**, MOH). Although rare, the species has been annual in New Mexico since 2002.

California Gull—Some 66 were counted at Farmington 20 Dec (APN), where it has become a conspicuous wintering species in recent years.

Thayer's Gull—A good season, with single first-cycle birds at the Alameda bridge 18 Dec-20 Feb (WEM**, NEH**, WTE**, JEP*), EBL 31 Jan (MOH**), and Carlsbad 23 Jan (RN**).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—First reported in late Nov, a first-cycle individual was at Sunland Park through Dec to 5 Jan (DAB**).

Glaucous Gull—A first-cycle individual in the Farmington area from 2 Feb into Mar (TR**) provided a *San Juan* first.

Inca Dove—Possibly recovering following several years of low numbers, with 12 at Elephant Butte 23 Dec (DJC**), 58 at Las Cruces 26 Dec (WMT), 17 at Deming 21 Jan (LKM), and 6 at Carlsbad 20 Dec (SW). Noteworthy were one in P.O. Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 28 Dec (C.D. Littlefield) and 2 vocal at La Luz 3 Jan (CMR*).

Ruddy Ground-Dove—A ♂ was at Las Cruces 13 Jan (R. C. Castetter*).

White-winged Dove—Noteworthy for the season, 16 were north to Bluewater L. 14 Dec (JAT, CC**) and 2 were north to Clayton 28 Dec (CMR).

Northern Pygmy-Owl—Among several reports was a cooperative one in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts. 15-21 Feb (JEP, NEH**, NDP**).

Burrowing Owl—One in the Clayton area 28 Dec (CMR) was far north for the season. At least one wintered at Rio Rancho, where seen on multiple dates 9 Dec-15 Feb (CLH).

Long-eared Owl—Continuing from Nov, 8 were roosting in Arroyo Varrido on the south edge of Sevilleta NWR 19 Jan (DLH). Ten were counted on the Las Cruces CBC 20 Dec (WMT).

Short-eared Owl—Healthy grasslands provided for a good season, with singles near Fort Sumner 24 Jan (NEH*, WTE*), BLNWR 31 Dec (FA), Sevilleta NWR 2 Dec (MJB), the Las Cruces West Mesa 11 Jan (NEH*, WTE*, CMR), and the Uvas Valley near Nutt 24 Jan (JEP*) plus 3 each on Otero Mesa 6 Jan (RAM) and in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (JPB).

Magnificent Hummingbird—A ♀ was at Silver City 23 Dec-1 Jan (KB*).

Anna's Hummingbird—Continuing from 26 Nov, a ♀ lingered near Radium Springs to 7 Dec (MJD**), where she was joined by a ♂ 7 Dec (MJD). Continuing from 23 Oct, another ♀ 5 km south of Radium Springs continued to 27 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Undetailed was one at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Singles lingered at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT) and Silver City 21 Dec (KB**). Early was an ad. ♂ in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 15 Feb (DLH).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—One was reported on the Las Cruces CBC 20 Dec (WMT).

Lewis's Woodpecker—The species spread south through the lower RGV and the desert southwest, including one near Caballo L. 27 Dec (JLD), up to 4 in the Radium Springs area Dec-Feb (MTS, JEZ, CJG, WTE**), 2 at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT), one at Deming 5 Dec-28 Feb (LKM, m.ob.), and up to 2 at Virden 28 Feb (NEH**, WTE*, CMR*).

Red-headed Woodpecker—Out-of-range were singles at Tularosa 2 Jan-9 Feb (CMR*, WTE**, JRO**) and Silver City 25 Jan-20 Feb (KB**, B. Dolan**, LKM*).

Acorn Woodpecker—A high 9 were in the Black Range at Poverty Creek 3 Dec (DJC). One was at Mesilla Park 22 Dec (N. Arthur) and again 22 Feb (DAB**).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—A female entertained many at White Rock from about 18 Jan to 3 May (T. Miller**, m.ob., m.ph.); it provided a *Los Alamos* first. The species has occurred in the state in four of the past five years.

Williamson's Sapsucker—A high 5 were on the Española CBC 4 Jan (BRF); others in the north included 4 at Santa Fe 20 Dec (WTE) and 2 at Las Vegas 20 Dec (CR). In the Guadalupe Mts., a ♂ and ♀ were in Robinson Draw 6 Feb (RN).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Judging from reports, the species was relatively widespread and numerous west to the RGV, with reports from 11 locales in eight counties, including a juv. ♂ at Conchas Dam 13 Dec (MJB*), a juv. at Roswell 9 Jan (DJK), a juv. in the Rattlesnake Springs area 13 Dec (JEP*, JRO) & 10 Jan (RN**), a juv. ♀ at La Cienega 8 Dec (JPB**), an undetailed one on the Bosque CBC 20 Dec (*fide* DLH), one at the Ladder Ranch 17 Dec (NEH**), a juv. at Caballo Dam 10 Jan (JEP*), a juv. at Broad Canyon Ranch north of Radium Springs 16 Jan (NGS**), a juv. ♀ at Mesilla Park 22 Feb (DAB), a juv. at La Union 14 Feb (DAB**), and a juv. at La Luz 3 Jan (CMR*, WTE**).

Red-naped Sapsucker—Somewhat north for the season, one was found on the Española CBC 4 Jan (SMF**).

Red-naped Sapsucker x Red-breasted Sapsucker—An apparent hybrid between these two species was described from Las Cruces 2 Jan (CJG*).

“Yellow-shafted” Flicker—An apparently “pure” ♂ was west to Deming 27 Dec-18 Feb (MJB, CGL, DJG).

American Kestrel—Getting an early start on the breeding season, a pair was at a nest box at Deming 12 Feb (LKM); at La Union, a pair visited a nest box 16 Feb (DAB) only to discover a roosting Western Screech-Owl there.

Merlin—Found on 14 CBCs, in all quadrants of the state; highest counts were 10 at Albuquerque 21 Dec (RLV) and 7 at Roswell 20 Dec (JIS).

Peregrine Falcon—Among several mid-winter reports in the lower RGV and lower Pecos Valley were 2 ads. together at the Las Cruces Dam 13 Jan (NGS**).

***Empidonax* flycatchers**—Once again, this group was in evidence in the south, with at least 14 reported—often with scant details—Dec-Jan, with 12 in the RGV from Bosque NWR south to Las Cruces and 2 in the middle Animas Valley. Eight were reported as **Dusky**, 3 as **Hammond's**, one as “western”, and 2 as of uncertain species.

Black Phoebe—A late one on the Las Vegas CBC 20 Dec (CR) provided a new species for that long-running count.

Eastern Phoebe—One was far west to the Chiricahua Desert Museum north of Rodeo 27-29 Dec (REW).

Say's Phoebe—Late for the north, singles were at Santa Fe 20 Dec (WTE) and Las Vegas 20 Dec (CR).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Noteworthy for far southeastern New Mexico was one at Jal 12 Dec (JEP, JRO**).

Ash-throated Flycatcher—Surprising for the season, a silent one photographed at Mesilla Bosque SP 14 Feb (CJG**, P. Rice**) appeared to be this species rather than some similar *Myiarchus* (e.g., Nutting's).

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird—A silent kingbird obviously of the Tropical/Couch's group was well-described at the old L. McMillan lakebed 20 Dec (CMR*).

Cassin's Kingbird—One described at Silver City 20 Dec (KB*) provided additional evidence of this species wintering in southwestern New Mexico.

Northern Shrike—Multiple reports across the north; south were 4 in the Moriarty-McIntosh area, *Torrance* 21 Feb (NEH). One at Bosque NWR was seen by many from 1 Dec into Jan (m.ob., m.ph.); it was found dead 8 Jan (JH).

Bell's Vireo—A vocal one at La Union continued to be seen and heard through Dec to 5 Jan (DAB**).

Plumbeous Vireo—One was reported on the Las Cruces CBC 20 Dec (WMT).

Hutton's Vireo—One was in the Florida Mts. at Spring Canyon SP 24 Dec (LKM).

Pinyon Jay—Encouraging numbers were reported at several locales, including 250 near Santa Fe at Eldorado 4 Jan (IB-M), 505 on the Bluewater Lake CBC 14 Dec (JAT), 220 at Quemado L. 7 Dec (CMR), and 160 in the Black Range at Poverty Creek 7 Jan (DJC).

Blue Jay—One was west to Costilla 3 Jan (RF). West to the RGV and vicinity were 2 at Santa Fe 1 Dec-26 Feb (C. Cave**), one at Corrales 7-12 Dec (DJK), up to 2 in Albuquerque's south valley 31 Jan-20 Feb (DLH, WEM**), and one along Las Animas Creek near Caballo L. 29 Jan (R. Ketchum).

American Crow—High counts included 6031 at Albuquerque 21 Dec (RLV) plus another 5421 in Albuquerque's south valley 27 Dec (JO-W), and 9530 at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT).

Tree Swallow—Unexpected were 39 at L. McMillan Dam 20 Dec (CMR). Earliest spring arrivals were 6 at the Lordsburg treatment ponds 20 Feb (DJG).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Earliest spring arrivals were singles at Mesilla Bosque SP 21 Feb (JRO) and near Radium Springs 22 Feb (MTS).

Black-capped Chickadee—One in the Veguita bosque, n. *Socorro* 1 Feb (JRO**) was near the southern limit of the species' range.

Black-capped Chickadee x Mountain Chickadee—One of these hybrids was in the Corrales bosque 11 Jan (JEP).

Juniper Titmouse—One was at Deming's Mountain View Cemetery 27 Dec-28 Feb (MJB, LKM, CMR, WTE); the species is scarce in *Luna*.

Pacific Wren—By far the more rare of the two “stub-tailed” wrens that winter in the state, this season was, nevertheless, better than usual, with reports of 7 birds in five locales (some at the same sites as Winter Wrens): 2 in the Jemez Mts. in Frijoles Canyon, *Sandoval* 14-15 Feb (BRF** audio, MW** audio), up to 2 in the Corrales bosque 21 Dec-18 Jan (DJK*, WEM, DLH, WTE), and singles in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (DLH*), Oliver Lee SP 2 Jan-9 Feb (CMR*, WTE*, JRO**), and Rattlesnake Springs 21-28 Jan (SW). All reports will need to be reviewed by New Mexico Bird Records Committee.

Winter Wren—By far the more numerous, more frequently encountered, and more widespread of the two “stub-tailed” wrens, and this season was no exception, with some 30 reported from 17 locales in 10 counties. Noteworthy were up to 8 at the old L. McMillan Dam 20 Dec (CMR*) and again 31 Jan (RN*), and singles west to the Cliff-Gila Valley 27 Dec (RSS) and Silver City 14 Dec (J. Swackhamer**audio).

Marsh Wren—Late for the north were singles on the Maxwell CBC 18 Dec (LW) and the Santa Fe CBC 20 Dec (WTE).

Carolina Wren—One at Cerrillos since 8 Nov was still there 13 Dec (ACF*, JPB**). Two were at Bosque NWR 19 Jan (DLH), where the species has been resident since 2011. One singing near Radium Springs 13 Feb (NGS**audio) continued through Feb (JRO**) and into Mar.

gnatcatchers—Understanding the winter status of gnatcatchers is complicated by absence of details for most reports. Convincing reports of **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** this season were singles at EBL 20 Dec (JEP), Las Cruces Dam 16 Feb (NGS**), and Columbus 11 Dec (J. Allen**). **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers** near the northern edge of their range were singles in n. *Socorro* at La Joya WMA 17 Feb (WEM, M. Shoop) and San Lorenzo Canyon near Polvadera 2 Feb (B. Serdehely).

American Dipper—One wandered down to the RGV at Algodones Dam, *Sandoval* Dec-Feb (DLH).

Eastern Bluebird—Much in evidence from the RGV eastward, including 139 on three Albuquerque area CBCs 21-27 Dec (RLV, NDP, JO-W). Reports in the lower RGV included 38 on the Caballo CBC 27 Dec (JLD) and 4 in a pecan orchard near Leasburg SP 26 Dec (JEZ**). Noteworthy for *Lea* were 6 at the Jal golf course 12 Dec (JEP). In the southwest, 2 were near Cliff 27 Dec (RSS), 2 were at Virden 28 Feb (CMR*, WTE*, NEH*), and 11 were in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (NDP).

Rufous-backed Robin—One was in the middle Animas Valley, in hackberries along Animas Creek, 23 Feb (DJG*) but could not be relocated in subsequent days (DJG).

American Robin—A high 4200 were tallied on the Española CBC 4 Jan (BRF).

Varied Thrush—Single males were at Santa Fe 30 Dec-10 Jan (F. Freibert**, C. Grindle*) and Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 3 Feb (D. Paez*); the species has been annual in New Mexico for the past 12 years.

Gray Catbird—Singles were late at Carlsbad 11 Dec (SW) and in the middle Animas Valley 21 Dec (DJG*).

Curve-billed Thrasher—A record high 57 were counted on the Santa Fe CBC 20 Dec (WTE); the species is a relatively recent colonizer of the area. One was north to Pilar 3 Feb (A. & J. Tuomey), another was near Abiquiu 14 Feb (A. Sherman), and one was visiting a feeder at White Rock 28 Dec (SMF). In the northwest, one was below Bluewater Dam, *Cibola* 14 Dec (CMR*) and 2 were near Grants, *Cibola* 19 Feb (M. Weidemann).

Brown Thrasher—Singles were west to the RGNC 8-15 Feb (m.ob., WEM**) and Percha SP 29 Dec (MJB). In the east, singles were at Conchas L. 10 Dec-8 Feb (WJ-W), NRT 24 Jan (NEH*, WTE), L. McMillan Dam 31 Jan (RN), and Rattlesnake Springs 13 Dec-17 Jan (m.ob.).

Bendire's Thrasher—In *Hidalgo*, an early one was singing at Granite Gap 28 Jan (FWF) and 2 were at nearby Road Forks 2 Feb (EH).

Crissal Thrasher—Noteworthy for the northwest was one below Zuni's Blackrock Dam 12 Feb (JAT).

Northern Mockingbird—Mid-winter reports from northern New Mexico have been increasing in recent years. This season, singles were near San Ildefonso 10 Jan (SMF*, NMOSFN 54:1 (Winter 2014-2015) - 11 - 1 Dec 2014 – 28 Feb 2015

TFH), Eldorado 8-26 Jan (IB-M), and Las Vegas 20 Jan (WJ-M**); another was east of Sandia Park along Frost Road from 19 Jan to 23 Feb (JK**).

European Starling—One with a spectacularly deformed bill revisited an Albuquerque feeder 28 Feb (DW**), where it had been photographed 8 Feb 2014 (DW**).

Sprague's Pipit—Apparently wintering were 3 in the Five Points area of Sevilleta NWR 17 Dec (MJB**), one at Three Rivers 3 Jan (CMR*, WTE*), up to 12 on the Las Cruces West Mesa 12 Dec (MTS, JEZ), 2 in the Uvas Valley near Nutt 24 Jan (JEP*), and one in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (NDP).

Olive Warbler—A few can be found annually in winter in southern New Mexico; this year, one was north of Cliff 2 Dec (BP) and, in the Black Range, singles were north of Kingston 27 Dec (DJC**) and in Chloride Canyon 10 Jan (DJC**).

Lapland Longspur—The rarest of the three regularly occurring longspurs in New Mexico, this season found 9 at Clayton 28 Dec (CMR, NEH**) and 5 at Clovis 26 Dec (GMB) plus singles at Otto, *Santa Fe* 23 Feb (RC), Albuquerque's West Mesa 22 Jan (WEM**), and the Las Cruces West Mesa 11 Jan (CMR, WTE*).

Chestnut-collared Longspur—The most numerous of the three regularly occurring longspurs in New Mexico, e.g., this season, 4309 were reported in the southern Animas Valley 20-21 Dec (DJG).

waterthrush sp.—One of uncertain species was described in the Cliff-Gila Valley 27 Dec (LKM*).

Black-and-white Warbler—A ♂ was in the Cliff-Gila Valley 27 Dec (LKM).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Historically unknown in winter in the state, the species continued to solidify its new wintering status across southern New Mexico, with often multiple reports from nine counties, including north in the Gila Valley to Cliff 30 Dec (BP), north in the RGV to Albuquerque, where there was one at the Alameda bridge 5 Jan (P. Benham*, L. Beckman*) and another at Old Town 18 Jan-4 Feb (DW**), north in the Tularosa Basin to Tularosa 2 Jan (CMR*, WTE), and north on the eastern plains to Clovis 27 Dec (CMR). High count was 11 at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT).

Common Yellowthroat—One was north to Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SO*).

American Redstart—One was at Percha SP 29 Dec (MJB**, NDP**, DLH).

Pine Warbler—One briefly described at Albuquerque 4 Dec (MOH*) provided the only report statewide.

Townsend's Warbler—A ♀ or imm. was well-described in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 4 Jan (NGS*).

Eastern Towhee—A ♀ seen by many at the BLNWR Visitor’s Center 9 Jan-6 Feb (R. Morris*, m.ob., JRO**, SMF**, WTE**, NEH**, RN**) provided the state’s 17th record overall; the species has been found in four of the past five years.



Female Eastern Towhee, Bitter Lake NWR, Chaves County, 24 January 2015. Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—At the northern fringe of their range, one was in White Rock Canyon, *Los Alamos* 7 Jan (SMF**) and 2 were in Diablo Canyon, *Santa Fe* 8-15 Feb (RC, BRF). Two were at Conchas L. 10 Dec (WJ-W) where 5 were singing 8 Feb (WJ-W**).

Canyon Towhee—Noteworthy for the far southeast, at least one was at the Jal cemetery 12 Dec (JEP), where the species may be resident.

Abert’s Towhee—Three were north of Rodeo at the San Simon “River” highway crossing 28 Jan (WFW), a dependable and easily accessed site for this species.

Cassin’s Sparrow—Noteworthy for winter, 4 were at L. McMillan 20 Dec (CMR*).

American Tree Sparrow—Again found south to the Albuquerque area, including 2 south of the Alameda bridge 19 Jan-25 Feb (JK, G. Maple**, WEM**), up to 6 north of the Alameda bridge 21 Dec-28 Jan (MOH, WEM**), and one at Corrales 23 Dec (WTE).

Impressive for the RGV were up to 12 at the Ohkay Owingeh lakes 7 Dec-9 Feb (m.ob., J. Friedman**), as were up to 6 in *Los Alamos* at Bandelier NM 7-28 Jan (MW**, J. Long**). In the east, 3 were far south to Milnesand, *Roosevelt* 16 Dec (GMB*, A. Hersey**).

Clay-colored Sparrow—The species typically winters south of New Mexico, but this year a few well-documented reports were received from along the southern border: singles in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (A.M. Craig*), in the vicinity of Hatchet Gap, *Hidalgo* 14 Feb (DLH*), at the La Cueva Picnic Area east of Las Cruces 8 Jan (C. Gras**), and at White's City, *Eddy* 14 Dec (RN**).

Field Sparrow—One was west to Otero Mesa 6 Jan (RAM*); in the east, 6 were at NRT 17 Jan (JEP), one to 2 were at Rattlesnake Springs 13 Dec & 2 Feb (SW), and one was at the Jal cemetery 12 Dec (JEP).

Black-chinned Sparrow—Where seldom reported were 2 in Bootleg Canyon, Los Pinos Mts., *Socorro* 17 Dec (MJB**), and 2 at Oliver Lee SP 19-20 Feb (JRO**).

Lark Sparrow—One lingered at Bosque NWR 2-3 Dec (CIS*). Noteworthy for the season were 2 at Columbus 24 Dec (J. & M. Hubinger*) and one there 14 Feb (DLH*).

Black-throated Sparrow—A large concentration of 50 was in Bat Cave Draw, CCNP 27 Jan (SW).

Lark Bunting—Large flocks of 300 or more were common in southwestern deserts and grasslands in Feb (DJG, JRO).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Noted in the southern Animas Valley 20-21 Dec, including 5 on 20 Dec (DJG), while up to 30 were reported in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (JPB, NDP). Three were along the entrance road to Aguirre Springs 26 Jan (NGS), where found in previous years. One was on the Las Cruces West Mesa 11 Jan (WTE) and one was in the Corralitos Valley west of Las Cruces 2 Feb (NGS).

Baird's Sparrow—The species has been found with increasing frequency in southern New Mexico in recent winters, and this year continued that trend, with reports from *Otero*, *Doña Ana*, *Luna*, and *Hidalgo*, including “common” on Otero Mesa Dec-Jan (RAM), one to 3 at three sites on the Las Cruces West Mesa 12 Dec (MTS, JEZ), 21 Jan (DJG*), and 27 Feb (NGS*), one in the Uvas Valley near Nutt 24 Jan (JEP*), one near Antelope Wells 23 Feb (DJG*), 3 in the s. Animas Valley 20-21 Dec (DJG), and a high 19 were reported without details in the middle Animas Valley 28 Dec (JPB).

Fox Sparrow—One to 2 were reported from 12 locales in 10 counties from the RGV eastward. Where seldom reported were a slate one at Costilla 31 Dec (RF), a red one at San Augustine, *San Miguel* 3 Feb (WJ-W**), a red one at Cerrillos 26 Dec-20 Mar (ACF*, JPB**), a slate one at Oliver Lee SP 19 Feb (JRO**), and a slate one in Tierra Blanca Canyon, w. *Sierra* 25-28 Feb (DJC*).

Lincoln's Sparrow—Some 121 were tallied on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 28 Dec (NDP).

Swamp Sparrow—Noteworthy were 6 west to the Peloncillo Mts. 28 Dec (NDP); north were 2 at Sumner Dam 17 Jan (JEP), one at Las Vegas 16 Jan (WJ-W*), one at La Cieneguilla, *Santa Fe* 6 Jan (IB-M), and 2 at Peña Blanca, *Sandoval* 10 Dec (MJB).

White-throated Sparrow—Among numerous reports were up to 19 at Luis Lopez 15 Dec-24 Feb (JRO) and a high 4 on the Santa Fe CBC 20 Dec (WTE).

Harris's Sparrow—The species is scarce but regular in winter in New Mexico; this season, 2 were near Chama, *Rio Arriba* 10-17 Feb (RC), at least 5 were in the Corrales-Albuquerque area Dec-Feb (DJK**, JEP*, DLH*, NEH**, WEM, JK*), and singles were south to the Organ Mts. 17 Jan (JMG) and La Union 5 Dec-5 Jan (DAB).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—Another species that is scarce in numbers but regular in occurrence in New Mexico; this season, the species was in evidence in the middle and lower RGV, with one at Corrales 15 Feb (DJK*, JMR*), one in the Albuquerque bosque 28 Dec-6 Jan (WEM*), singles at two sites in the Sandia Mts. foothills 26 Dec (R. Hoppe) and 12 Jan-1 Feb (JK*, JEP*), and singles at Bosque NWR 20 Dec-10 Feb (S.E. Mendoza**, CMB*) and Mesilla Bosque SP 3-24 Jan (NGS**). In the southwest, one continuing from Nov was at Rodeo 6 Dec (REW*).

Summer Tanager—An ad. ♂ visited a suet feeder in Albuquerque near Petroglyph NM 19 Jan-28 Feb (A. Howard**), including during snow storms and cold weather. This provided the third winter record for New Mexico, following a male photographed at Dixon 16 Dec 2000 and a female specimen found tangled in a suet feeder at Corrales 9 Feb 2012.

Northern Cardinal—Continuing from Nov, a ♂ was at NRT 17 Jan (JEP) & 24 Jan (NEH**, WTE*); also continuing from Nov was a ♂ singing at Ute L. 21 Feb (JEP). Now resident at Hillsboro, singles were documented there 27 Dec (DJC**) & 15 Jan (DJC**).

Rusty Blackbird—A rare species in the state, a ♀ was on the Ladder Ranch along Palomas Creek 16 Dec (M. Wilson**).

“blackbirds”—Among 35,646 blackbirds reported on the Roswell CBC 20 Dec (JIS et al.) were 14,815 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 2319 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2230 **Great-tailed Grackles**, 3742 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, and 12,540 not identified to species.

Bullock's Oriole—Providing a rare winter record, a ♀ was photographed at Las Cruces 20 Dec (WMT**).

rosy-finch—Among the few reports away from Sandia Crest were 20 **Brown-capped**s on the Angel Fire CBC 14 Dec (M.J. Kelly), a mixed flock of 75 mostly **Brown-capped**s at Heron L., *Rio Arriba* 16 Feb (RC), a mixed flock of mostly **Brown-capped**s at Red River, *Taos* 22 Feb (T. Ferguson), and an apparent mixed flock of 70 (but only **Brown-capped**s identified) in the upper Pecos area at 3050 m north of Jack's Creek CG, *San Miguel* 21 Jan (B.J. Long**).

Pine Grosbeak—Five were south to Sandia Crest 26 Dec (NDP).

Purple Finch—With only about three dozen state records overall, this species is a rarity in New Mexico. This season, a female-plumaged one was nicely-documented at Percha SP 27 Dec (JMG**).

Cassin's Finch—Moderate numbers were widespread in montane areas statewide; a high 265 were counted on the Sandia Mts. CBC (NDP).

Red Crossbill—Noteworthy lowland records were 16 at Deming 27 Dec-1 Jan (MJB, CGL)—reported as all Type-2s except for one Type-5 (MJB)—and 7 at Mesilla 20 Feb (NGS). The species was decidedly scarce statewide, including being found on only two of 33 CBCs.

Pine Siskin—Some 240 were in sunflowers near San Jon, *Quay* 27 Jan (CMR), a notable concentration for the eastern plains.

Evening Grosbeak—Among the few reports from the southern half of the state were flocks of up to 32 in the Black Range foothills near Hermosa, *Sierra* 17 Dec-28 Feb (DJC).

ERRATUM

NMOSFN 53(4):53, Autumn 2014—**Tricolored Heron**: the record for 3 at Galisteo 4 Aug 2014 is an error; the observer reported Cattle Egrets, not Tricolored Herons.

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

