

**SIXTH REPORT OF THE
NEW MEXICO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131
sunbittern@earthlink.net

This sixth report of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee (NMBRC, or Committee) summarizes decisions reached between May 2007 and September 2010. During that period, 116 records of 64 bird species were evaluated, with 73 (63%) accepted and 17 (15%) not accepted; an additional 26 (22%) will be re-circulated and are not discussed here. Most records evaluated were from the mid- to late 2000s, but several were from earlier decades, including re-circulations from earlier years. During the period, 15 species were accepted as new to New Mexico—14 resulting from Committee decisions and one resulting from a taxonomic split. These bring the New Mexico list of bird species confirmed by specimen, photograph, or audio recording to 532 through September 2010. The 14 evaluated species (scientific names are in the main list, below) added to the state list are: Blue-footed Booby, Clapper Rail, Songrebe, Black-tailed Gull, Iceland Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Long-billed Murrelet, Vaux's Swift, Green Kingfisher, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Fan-tailed Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler, and Common Redpoll. As a result of the American Ornithologists' Union's decision to split two new North American species from the former "Winter Wren" (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), these designated as Winter Wren (*T. hiemalis*) and Pacific Wren (*T. pacificus*) (*Auk* 127:726-744, 2010), New Mexico has a net gain of one species, as both taxa are known from specimens in the state (Williams 2010). Documentation for two additional species potentially new to the state—Black Turnstone (*Arenaria melanocephala*) and Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)—is currently in circulation, and reports of yet two more potentially new species - Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) and Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*)—both supported by specimen material, have been received. An updated list of the current 532 verified species is available on the NMOS web site at www.nmbirds.org.

History.—The NMBRC was organized during 1992-93, and began evaluating records in 1994. Five earlier Committee reports have been published (*NMOS Bulletin* 23:87-96, 1995; 24:59-68, 1996; 25:75-87, 1997; 27:35-46, 1999; 35:61-86, 2007), and these provide background information on the purpose and procedures of the Committee. During the period covered by those first five reports, 724 records were evaluated, and 36 species were accepted as new to the New Mexico list.

Review List.—The Committee maintains a Review List of bird species for which it requests documentation of all New Mexico records. In addition, the Committee requests documentation of all New Mexico records of species not currently on the official State List and, hence, potentially new to the state. Review List species are those

that are on the official State List but, in general, **have been recorded on average four or fewer times per year over the previous ten-year period.** Also included are certain species that pose significant identification problems, or may be very locally-distributed in the state. The Review List is intended to be dynamic, with species added or removed as knowledge of their status warrants. Information on how to report birds, plus a report form for rare species, can be found on the NMOS web site. **Observers are reminded that the posting of reports to “hotlines,” “listserves,” and other internet lists does not constitute formal submission or documentation of observations.**

Committee Members.—The current NMBRC consists of six members and a secretary: Robert H. Doster, William H. Howe, David J. Krueper, Jerry R. Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, Barry R. Zimmer, and Sartor O. Williams III (secretary). Former members who voted on some records in this report are Alan M. Craig, Christopher M. Rustay, Scott H. Stoleson, and Dale A. Zimmerman. Owing to a job-related transfer away from New Mexico, Rob Doster will step down 1 January 2011 and be replaced by Nicholas D. Pederson. Beginning 1 January 2012, the Committee will institute six-year term limits for members, at the completion of which a member must step down for at least one year, this to allow new persons to participate as well as to provide welcome relief for long-serving members. To start this new rotation, the longest serving member will step down in January 2012, and this will continue each year until all members are on staggered six-year terms.

Report Format.—Records treated in this report are divided into accepted and unaccepted. Within each category, records are arranged taxonomically following the *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition* and its subsequent supplements. Records within a species are listed chronologically, providing number/age/sex information if appropriate, locality (with county in *italics*), the accepted date(s) of the records, and the initials of observer(s) who submitted documentation, followed by a NMBRC file number consisting of the year the record was first circulated (*not* the year in which the record occurred) followed by a dash and a number. If known, the initials of the observer responsible for finding and/or identifying the bird are given first, followed in alphabetical order (by surname) by other observers who submitted documentation. Initials are not given for unaccepted records. Standard abbreviations used are MSB (Museum of Southwestern Biology), NWR (National Wildlife Refuge), SP (State Park), m.ob (many observers), ph. (for all photographic materials, including video) and audio (for all audio recordings). Finally, readers should be aware that not all reports of Review List species received since 2007 have been reviewed yet.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*). A family group of 2 adults and 3 immatures, none with bands or other markers, made a brief stop at a small pool behind the Las

Cruces Flood Control Dam, *Doña Ana*, 28 Dec 2008 (ph. NGS; ph. DJG, CGL; 2009-10); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:299.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). An immature was at Conchas Lake, *San Miguel*, 16 Jan 2009 (JEP; WFW; 2009-11).

Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxi*). Adding a new species (and family, Sulidae) to New Mexico's list was an apparent subadult found by Robert A. Mumford and Steve Peterson in the vicinity of the dam at Conchas Lake, *San Miguel*, 15 Aug-10 Sep 2009 (RAM, ph. SP; ph. JPB, ph. MJB, CLB, ph. NEH, ph. WHH, ph. JRO, JEP, CMR, ph. CJW, m.ob., m.ph.; 2009-20); photo published in *North American Birds* 64:26. The bird, occasionally seen plunge-diving, was observed and photographed by numerous birders from across North America, and was featured in television and newspaper accounts as well as on national websites and blogs. The last confirmed report was 10 Sep; there was an unconfirmed report for 30 Sep.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*). A dark-phase immature was at Brantley Lake, *Eddy*, 12 Jun 2005 (MJB; 2007-21). A dark-phase subadult, or near adult, was at Bitter Lake NWR 30 Jun-1 Jul 2009 (ph. JIS; 2009-21).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Two immatures were at a flooded playa 2.4 km south of Broadview, *Curry*, 19 Sep 2004 (BDN; 2007-22).

Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*). Providing an unexpected New Mexico first was one at Bosque del Apache NWR 9-11 May 2009 (CW; ph. JPB, MJB, CMB, ph. & audio NEH, MOH, ph. JRO, JEP, ph. & audio NDP, WFW, ph. CJW; 2009-22); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:382. Initially thought to be a King Rail, the numerous photographs and other documentation were evaluated by persons knowledgeable in King Rail/Clapper Rail identification, including James Maley, Steven W. Cardiff, and Donna L. Dittmann of Louisiana State University, Marshall J. Iliff, and Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, who all concluded it was a Clapper Rail, and apparently typical of Gulf Coast populations.

Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*). Adding a new species (and family, Heliornithidae) not only to New Mexico but also to the United States, was a female at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro* 13-18 Nov 2008, first discovered and photographed 13 Nov by Sally A. King and subsequently relocated and photographed by additional observers 18 Nov (ph. SAK; MJB, ph. SMF, ph. JRO, JEP et al.; 2009-23). The record was discussed in detail by Williams et al. (2009), which included several photos, including one of the bird in flight. The identification was not in question but the bird's origin was the subject of much discussion. The record was accepted on a 6-1 vote, with one member questioning natural occurrence. The majority, however, noted that this species is unknown in zoos, private aviaries, and the Latin American cagebird trade; that other swimming, carnivorous birds that are far more common and widespread in Mexico than Sungrebe (e.g., grebes, cormorants, anhingas) are also apparently unknown in the cagebird trade; that the species has recently expanded its range in northeast Mexico; that there are a number of records of this species from outside normal range and habitat, including four records from high elevations in the Andes Mountains and records from the island of Trinidad; that the two Old World finfoot species show

similar evidence of dispersal; that there are previous U.S. records of other seemingly unlikely to occur Neotropical gruiforms; and that the Sungrebe's habit of feeding by taking insects from shoreline vegetation while swimming may lead individuals to disperse when water levels drop. The numerous experts on Neotropical birds contacted by the Committee overwhelmingly believed this bird was a wild vagrant; the Committee's majority was influenced by highly supportive comments made by J. Van Remsen, Robert S. Ridgely, Steven L. Hilty, Steve N. G. Howell, John C. Arvin, Dale A. Zimmerman, Mark B. Robbins, Davis W. Finch, Greg W. Lasley, David Stejskal, and Alvaro Jaramillo. A former director of ornithology at the Bronx Zoo, Donald Bruning, reported that he had direct experience caring for an African Finfoot at his institution decades ago, that finfoots are extremely difficult birds to keep alive in captivity, and that in his opinion a bird removed from native habitat and kept by a non-expert would probably die in a few hours to a few days. The Committee's majority concluded that human transport would be overwhelming unlikely, but that natural vagrancy would be entirely likely, and that the burden of proof clearly falls on anyone claiming captive origin for the New Mexico bird.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). One still in winter plumage was at Bosque del Apache NWR 9 May 2005 (MJB; 2007-25).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). An adult male was definitively photographed along the Oxbow Trail at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*, 26-27 May 2007 (ph. NG; PEM; 2007-02).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). An adult in breeding plumage at Brantley Lake, *Eddy* was nicely photographed 8 Jun 2007 (ph. RHD; 2008-01); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:621. The species is rare in New Mexico in spring, and previously unreported in June.

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). One in winter plumage at the Deming Waste Water Treatment Plant 8 Dec 2007 provided a first for *Luna* (ph. LKM; 2008-21).

Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*). Providing a New Mexico first was an adult (or near adult) in worn plumage at Brantley Lake, *Eddy* 16-18 Aug 2008 (SW; ph. JPB, ph. MJB, ph. JRO, JEP; 2008-22); photos published in *North American Birds* 63:129. Originally discovered by Steve West and identified by Jerry R. Oldenettel, the multiple photos and written details identified this species and eliminated the similar "Band-tailed" Gulls (Belcher's Gull, *L. belcheri*, and Olog's Gull, *L. atlanticus*) of South America. Black-tailed Gull is native to coastal northeastern Asia; it is a casual vagrant to North America, where it is especially rare in the interior.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). Previously unreported in New Mexico, the winter of 2006-07 produced reports from three localities likely involving two individuals. The first was a first-winter bird at Sunland Park, *Doña Ana* and immediately adjacent Texas on various dates 5 Dec 2006-26 Feb 2007 (ph. JNP; ph. JPB, ph. MJB, ph. GKF, MOH, DJK, ph. CGL, BDN, ph. JRO, JEP, MTS, ph. JEZ; 2007-03); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:305. The second was also a first-winter bird, found at Caballo Lake, *Sierra* on 4 Feb 2007 (ph. CGL; 2007-04); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:306. This second bird was notably paler than the one at Sunland Park

and considered by most to be a different individual. The third was a first-winter bird at Elephant Butte Lake's Rock Canyon Marina, *Sierra* 6-10 March 2007 (ph. DJC; ph. GKF, JEP; 2007-05); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:488. This last bird was also notably pale, including having nearly pure white primaries as in the easternmost, nominate subspecies *L. g. glaucooides* rather than darker primaries of the more western *L. g. kumlieni* (*vide* Bruce G. Peterjohn). Analysis of multiple photos of the three gulls indicated the Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake birds were almost certainly the same individual, while the Sunland Park bird appeared to be a different individual.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). New Mexico's second confirmed record was a winter adult at Elephant Butte Lake's Rock Canyon Marina 24 Jan-7 Feb 2007 (GB; ph. JPB, ph. MJB, CMB, ph. SWC, MOH, DJK, ph. CGL, BDN, ph. JRO, JEP; 2007-06); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:306. During the winter of 2008-09, three individuals were documented. The first was a second-winter bird at Sunland Park and adjacent Texas 7-15 Dec 2008 & 11 Jan 2009 (ph. JNP; 2009-12). The second was a winter adult at Elephant Butte Lake's Rock Canyon Marina 15-29 Dec 2008 (ph. DJC; ph. JPB, CGL, JEP; 2009-13). The third was an apparent third-winter bird at Elephant Butte Lake's Rock Canyon Marina 23 Jan 2009 (ph. JPS; 2009-14); photos indicate this last bird was beyond second-winter plumage but not a full adult, and was distinguishable from the two individuals photographed earlier in the season.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). A first-winter bird at Brantley Lake, *Eddy* 16 Feb & 14 March 2009 (ph. MOH; JEP, SW; 2009-15) provided the state's first record in three years.

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*). Providing a first for New Mexico was an adult found by James B. Montgomery at Bitter Lake NWR 10-11 June 2008 and subsequently well-documented (ph. JPB, ph. MJB, ph. JMH, ph. JRO, JEP, ph. JIS, ph. WFW; 2008-04); photo published in *North American Birds* 62:594. The location is about equidistant from breeding populations along the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Ocean, but subspecies cannot be determined from photos (*vide* Kimball L. Garrett).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). An adult in breeding plumage at Cochiti Lake 13 May 2008 furnished a *Sandoval* first (ph. JNS; 2008-05); photo published in *North American Birds* 62:452. An adult in breeding plumage at Maxwell NWR's Lake 13, *Colfax* 13 Jun 2009 provided New Mexico's 13th overall record and first for June (MJB, ph. NDP; JEP; 2009-24); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:630.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). A light-morph adult was at Brantley Lake, *Eddy* 21 Jun 2007 (ph. RHD; 2008-03); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:621. The 10 photos, video footage, and written details conclusively identified this species; the record provided only the second confirmed record for the state.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). New Mexico joined the growing list of inland locales to record this east Asian seabird when one was salvaged from a brine pool in the Laguna Grande area east of Loving, *Eddy* 12 July 2009 (ph. SRU; 2009-25); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:559. The carcass was taken to MSB, where it was prepared as a study skin by Andrew B. Johnson (MSB 29200) and tissue samples were obtained. Using mitochondrial DNA sequencing, the specimen was conclusively

determined to be this species (Witt et al. 2010, including photos of the specimen). Although the exact date of death is unknown, the salvage date is consistent with most records from the interior West and the Pacific Coast of North America (*North American Birds* 63:559-560).

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). Previously unverified, one photographed at San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo* 18 Sep 2007 (ph. REW; 2008-06) was accepted on a 6-1 second circulation vote. The majority concluded that the series of 11 photos distinguished this species from Chimney Swift. The species is a regular transient through southeastern Arizona.

Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*). Unexpected on the eastern plains, but adding to the growing list of remarkable vagrants to appear at the north *Roosevelt* migrant trap, located 16 km west of Melrose, was a female seen 11 Jun 2005 (GJP; 2006-16). The written description, including flight and hover-gleaning behavior, indicated a female Elegant Trogon and eliminated other North American trogons.

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*). A male, apparently a subadult, was discovered by Hope D. Woodward along the Gila River in the vicinity of the NM 211 bridge near the town of Gila, *Grant*, where it was seen and documented by many 15 May-6 Jul 2007 (ph. HDW; JPB, ph. MJB, CLB, ph. JMB, ph. LKM, ph. JRO, JEP, NDP, WFW, ph. DAZ; 2007-09); photo published in *North American Birds* 61:671. This record, supported by numerous excellent photos, furnished the first verified record of a species considered long overdue in New Mexico. A year earlier, a male had been seen at the same locality, i.e., on the Gila River in the vicinity of the NM 211 bridge near Gila on 5 July 2006 (KMB; 2007-11); this well-described bird was seen and heard at close range as it fed in the clear waters below a beaver dam, but no photographs were obtained and the bird was not relocated in subsequent weeks. A half-year before that, a female had been seen along the Pecos River ca. 11 km east of Malaga, *Eddy* on 17 Dec 2005 (RW; 2007-12); this well-described individual furnished the state's first report, and preceded the first verified record by only a year and a half.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*). One was seen and heard singing near Bosque Farms, *Valencia* 23 Aug 2006 (TWF; 2007-13); the identification relied largely on the description of the full song. One was seen and heard calling at the north *Roosevelt* migrant trap 15 May 2008 (JEP, ph. DJK; 2008-09); the photos are of a wood-pewee with an entirely yellow lower mandible, and the described "pip" or "pit" calls were judged typical of Eastern and not Western Wood-Pewee by Kenneth V. Rosenberg, Kimball L. Garrett, and Jon L. Dunn.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*). One at Bitter Lake NWR's new visitor center 13 May 2007 (ph. JMH; 2007-14) provided a *Chaves* first.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*). Another novelty for the north *Roosevelt* migrant trap, and the most easterly yet for the species in New Mexico, was one there 4 Oct 2008 (ph. MOH; JPB, ph. JRO, JEP; 2009-06); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:130. One was just west of Lake Roberts, *Grant* 28 Jun 2009 (JED-M, GM; 2009-26).

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*). One at Sunland Park, *Doña Ana* and adjacent El Paso, Texas was seen and documented by many 1-13 Jan 2008 (ph. JNP; ph. MJB, ph. & audio MOH, ph. CGL, ph. JRO, JEP, ph. & audio MTS & JEZ, CJW, ph. & audio BRZ; 2008-23); bill size and shape plus distinctive call notes eliminated the similar Tropical Kingbird.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*). One singing male was well-described at Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* 11 May 1984 (GJP; 2009-27). This represented the first report of the species for New Mexico; it preceded the second (which provided the first verified record when photographed in May 2004) by two decades.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). One adult was at the north *Roosevelt* migrant trap 30 Apr 2006 (DLH; 2007-27). Another adult was at the same site 12-13 May 2006 (JEP; 2007-28); owing to frequent migrant turnover at this closely-monitored site, this was considered a different bird from 2007-27.

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*). One was heard singing and observed at length in the bosque 5 km north of Bernalillo, *Sandoval* 28 Jun 2005 (HAW; 2007-29). The observer was aware of the rarity of the species in the state, and described the bird sufficiently well to distinguish it from other vireos, including Red-eyed Vireo, with which she was familiar. The date matches the pattern of occurrence established in Arizona.

Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*). One was observed at the Black River crossing ca. 1.6 km southeast of Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* 7-8 Feb 1990 (sketch JMB, KBO; 2008-24).

Black-capped Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila nigriceps*). Previously unreported in New Mexico, a pair that ultimately nested and produced young was well-documented in Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo* 4 Jun-8 Aug 2006; the adults were first reported by Raymond L. VanBuskirk 4 Jun, verified by audio 9 Jul, photographed feeding three nestlings 22 Jul, and observed feeding up to three fledglings 5-8 Aug (ph. PA, NSC, MOH, audio RCH, DJK, ph. JRO, JEP, CMR, REW; 2007-15); photo published in *North American Birds* 60:599. This Mexican species, which in recent years has continued to spread in adjacent Arizona, where now considered resident, has been expected in New Mexico.

Gray-checked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*). One at Amistad, *Union* 19 May 2004 was well-described by observers familiar with this species and with races and variants of other similar thrushes (PEL, SGM; 2007-32).

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). One was on the golf course at Conchas Dam, *San Miguel* 13 May 2006 (JEP; 2007-34).

Variied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). A male, likely an adult, was seen and heard in Zuni's Blackrock Arroyo, *McKinley* 13 Dec 2008 (JAT; 2009-16).

Long-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma longirostre*). One at Crossroads 25 April 2008 furnished a first for *Lea* and the fourth for New Mexico (ph. JRO; JEP, WFW; 2008-13); photo published in *North American Birds* 62:453.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). Two flushed from the rocks at Stubblefield Dam, *Colfax* 14 Nov 1991 were convincingly described (sketch CMR, CIS; 2009-09)

and provided the first credible state record in many years. One young female, also in the rocks of Stubblefield Dam, was abundantly well-documented 15-21 Dec 2008 (ph. DJK, JMR; ph. JPB, ph. MJB, ph. MOH, ph. WHH, ph. JRO, JEP, NDP, WFW, ph. CJW; 2009-19); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:358. This latter record represents only the second to be verified in New Mexico, the first being a specimen obtained in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains northwest of Las Vegas, *San Miguel* in Dec 1886.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora cyanoptera*). A male was nicely described at Socorro, *Socorro* 14 May 2006 (sketch PB).

Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*). Furnishing a first for New Mexico was one at Eunice, *Lea* 23 Aug 2009 (ph. PWM; 2009-28); photo published in *North American Birds* 64:189. Chuck Sexton, who has considerable experience with the species in Texas, identified the bird in the photos as most likely a female.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). One fall-plumaged female or young male was in northwest Albuquerque's Paradise Hills area 19 Aug 2004 (WHH; 2007-35); this represented one of the earliest fall migration dates yet recorded for the species in the state. One adult female was in the Organ Mountains along the Pine Tree Trail, Aguirre Springs, *Doña Ana* 7 Nov 2004 (BRZ; 2007-36) and represented one of the later fall migration records.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). A singing male at the Eunice cemetery 16-23 Feb 2009 (ph. MOH; WFW, ph. CJW) provided a first for *Lea*.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). A fall-plumaged individual was at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt* 12 Sep 1998 (JEP, JRO; 1999-29); the record was accepted on its second circulation, following the addition of further clarifying details sufficient to identify this species and eliminate similar species. One fall-plumaged individual was at Riverside SP below Elephant Butte Dam, *Socorro* 7-9 Dec 2002, the latest date yet for the species in New Mexico (DAE, CMR; JEP; 2007-37). Among three reported in the spring of 2008 were an adult male at the old headquarters at Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves* 5 May (KBO; 2008-26) and another adult male at Bosque Redondo Lake near Fort Sumner, *De Baca* 16 May 2008 (DJK; 2008-27).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limothypis swainsonii*). One was at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt* 8 May 1994 (JEP; BDP, LPG; 2007-39).

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*). One was definitively photographed at the Cold Canyon windmill near East Red Canyon, San Mateo Mountains, *Socorro* 19 Apr 2008 (SM, ph. CB; 2008-14). The mid-April date would be expected for this species but early for Northern Waterthrush in the state.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). An adult male still in breeding (alternate) plumage was at the north *Roosevelt* trap 7 Sep 2007 (JEP; 2008-15). An adult male in breeding plumage was at the north *Roosevelt* trap 15 & 20 May 2008 (DJK; LKM; 2008-16); members assumed the same bird was present on both dates, although this cannot be known with certainty.

Fan-tailed Warbler (*Euthlypis lachrymosa*). Providing another first for New Mexico was an adult found by Gary K. Froehlich at the north *Roosevelt* trap and subsequently

seen and photographed by many 18-19 May 2009 (ph. GKF; JPB, ph. MJB, CMB, ph. NEH, MOH, WHH, ph. DJK, ph. JRO, JEP, ph. NDP, ph. MTS & JEZ, ph SOW, WFW, ph. CJW, m.ob.; 2009-29); photo published in *North American Birds* and in Froehlich and Parmeter (2010). Given its occurrence in adjacent Arizona, the species had been anticipated in New Mexico, but it was unexpected on the eastern plains.

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*). Another expected but previously unreported species was an occasionally singing adult, presumably a male, found by John E. Parmeter in Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo* and subsequently described and photographed by many during the period 2 Jan-12 Feb 2009 (JEP; ph. JPB, MJB, ph. ACG, WHH, ph. DJK, LKM, ph. JRO, NDP, WFW, ph. CJW; 2009-18); photo published in *North American Birds*. This event was summarized by Parmeter and Baumann (2009), including placing it in context of increasing records in Texas and Arizona.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). One was in grasslands on BLM land on Otero Mesa, *Otero* 4 Nov 2007 (BDN, CMR; 2009-08).

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). A female was in a woodlot 1.6 km northeast of Seneca, *Union* 21 May 2004 (PEL, SGM, JRO; 2007-42). One apparent immature male was at Luis Lopez, *Socorro* 22 May 2006 (JRO; 2007-43). An adult male was captured, photographed, and banded at Los Alamos, *Los Alamos* on the unusual date of 23 Jul 2009 (ph. CDH; 2009-31); photo published in *North American Birds* 63:633; the bird's enlarged cloacal protuberance suggested it may have been mated.

Streak-backed Oriole (*Icterus pustulatus*). One was at Rodeo, *Hidalgo* 14 Oct 2007 (REW; 2008-17); the bird, seen and heard as it foraged in mesquite, was distinguished from similar species by an observer familiar with this species.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). One first-spring female was in Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo* 13 May 2006 (NM-C; 2007-44); the thorough details eliminated similar species, including Streak-backed Oriole. At least one immature, apparently a female, was at the north *Roosevelt* migrant trap 3-16 Sep 2007 (JRO; MJB, ph. SMF, MOH, JEP, NDP; 2008-18); because the bird occasionally sang, most observers thought it was a male, but it was captured, banded, and photographed 11 Sep by SMF, who concluded it was most likely a female (Fettig and Cox 2008). One adult female was at the north *Roosevelt* migrant trap 23 Sep 2007 (JPB, MOH; 2008-19); the written details eliminated the immature Baltimore Oriole present there earlier that season as well as female Bullock's and male Baltimore orioles.

Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*). This species was added to New Mexico's verified list when an adult female was photographed visiting a thistle feeder at the home of Ann Ellen and James W. Tuomey 10 km north of Taos at El Prado, *Taos* 26 Nov-4 Dec 2007 (AET, ph. JWT; ph. JPB, ph. MJB, MOH, ph. JRO, JEP, NDP, CJW; 2008-20); photo published in *North American Birds* 62:190.

UNACCEPTED REPORTS

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). One believed to be a male of this species was photographed at Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro* 15 Nov 2008 (2009-01). The photos are of a dark mallard-like duck, obviously a male judging by the clear greenish bill, but whether it is this species, or Mottled Duck, or Mexican Duck could not be determined with certainty. The majority believed the bird was more likely a Mexican Duck, the expected taxon at this location, but the apparent lack of white in the speculum suggested American Black Duck, a species unverified in New Mexico.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). One believed to be this species was seen in desert grassland on the west side of Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro* 27 Jul 1992 (1997-55); the written details did not identify this or any other *Buteo* species with certainty, while the summer date would be unlikely for this species in New Mexico. One described as a juvenile of this species was at Chaparral Park, Lovington, *Lea* 27 Nov 2007 (2009-02); the majority concluded the meager description, which did not rule out other species of *Buteo*, was doubtfully this species.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*). One was heard at the Ponil Creek crossing on NM 58 east of Cimarron 25 Sep 2002 (2009-03). The record consisted of a description of a “grrr” vocalization, heard twice in response to tape playback. The majority agreed with an outside consultant, who concluded it was impossible to say for sure which species was involved.

American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). One was reported at Holloman Lake, *Otero* 3 Apr 1993 (1997-61); the sparse details did not adequately identify this species nor eliminate other plover species.

Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*). One believed to be a first-winter individual was reported at Brantley Lake, *Eddy* 4 & 9 Mar 2007 (2007-07); the incomplete description of a gull seen at 75 m did not eliminate other gulls, including first-winter Herring Gull.

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*). A kingbird photographed along US 64 southwest of the Raton airport, *Coffax* 29 Aug 2008 (2009-05) proved to be a juvenile or fall-plumaged Western Kingbird.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*). One believed to be this species was singing at the La Cueva Picnic Area at Dripping Springs, Organ Mountains, *Doña Ana* 18 May 2008 (2008-11); although the identity was possibly correct, it was made after the fact by an observer unfamiliar with vireos, and the description was inadequate for such a rare species.

Green Jay (*Cyanocorax yncas*). One was nicely photographed at Las Cruces 2-3 Aug 2007 (2009-07). Identity was unquestioned, but wild origin was questioned, especially so since the bird appeared in the very yard where a Green Jay (as well as a Blue Mockingbird, *Melanotis caerulescens*) had been photographed in 1995, and the species is a popular cagebird in nearby Mexico; the record failed on a 0-7 vote. However, the species may be a candidate to eventually stray to New Mexico from south Texas or eastern Mexico, based on the occurrence of other species from that area in remote locations in New Mexico.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*). One was reported near Lingo, *Roosevelt* 12 May 2007 (2007-33); the brief details were suggestive, but insufficient to identify such a rare species.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*). One described as a female was reported at Las Cruces 3 Jul 2004 (2009-12); the details were suggestive but far too inconclusive for such a remarkably unseasonal record of a species unknown in the Southwest in summer.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnithlypis swainsonii*). One reported as this species was described as flycatching at Corrales, *Sandoval* 12 May 1994 (2007-40); the written details effectively eliminated this species.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). One thought to be this species was heard but not seen near El Porvenir, *San Miguel* 10 Jun 2006 (2007-41); the committee was not convinced that the briefly described song identified this species or eliminated other species.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). A finch reported as possibly a female of this species was at Madrid, *Santa Fe* 28-29 Apr 2007 (2007-45); the observer was uncertain of the identification, and the incomplete description did not effectively describe the species.

CONTRIBUTORS

Peg Abbott, Pat Basham, Jonathan P. Batkin, Matthew J. Baumann, Gavin Bieber, Charles L. Black, James M. Black, Katherine M. Brodhead, Corey Brown, Mark Brown, Terry Brownell, Celestyn M. Brozek, David J. Cleary, Nancy S. Cox, Steven W. Cox, Joan E. Day-Martin, Robert H. Doster, Susan J. Drown, Douglas A. Emkalns, Gordon J. Ewing, Stephen M. Fettig, Trevor W. Fetz, Gary K. Froehlich, Noah Gaines, Ashli C. Gorbet, Larry P. Gorbet, David J. Griffin, Charles D. Hathcock, David L. Hawksworth, Nancy E. Hetrick, Michael O. Hilchey, William H. Howe, Jeff M. Howland, Richard C. Hoyer, Sally A. King, David J. Krueper, Paul E. Lehman, Carl G. Lundblad, Larry K. Malone, George Martin, Pat W. McCasland, Paul E. McConnell, Sonja Mendoza, Steven G. Mlodinow, Narca Moore-Craig, Robert A. Mumford, Bruce D. Neville, Jerry R. Oldenettel, K. Bruce Ostyn, Gary J. Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nicholas D. Pederson, Steve Peterson, Christopher M. Rustay, Janet M. Ruth, Lawry A. Sager, Jeffrey I. Sanchez, Catherine I. Sandell, Lorraine Schulte, Marcy T. Scott, James P. Smith, Nancy G. Stotz, James N. Stuart, Ross L. Teuber, John A. Trochet, Ann Ellen Tuomey, James W. Tuomey, Samantha R. Uhrig, Hira A. Walker, Richard E. Webster, Chris West, Steve West, Sartor O. Williams III, William F. Wittman, Cole J. Wolf, Hope D. Woodward, Rick Wiedenmann, James E. Zabriskie, Barry R. Zimmer, Dale A. Zimmerman.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Understanding and describing New Mexico's large and diverse avifauna continues to be a cooperative endeavor, and thanks are extended to all observers who take the time to provide useful documentation for their observations. The members of the NMBRC are thanked for their hard work and continued good humor. This current report was carefully reviewed and improved by John Parmeter, Bill Howe, and Dave Krueper.

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