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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD NOTES

SEASONAL REPORT #3

FEBRUARY-MAY, 1963

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CONTRIBUTORS

NORTHWEST

MC Marjorie Cromer, Los Alamos
LGH L. G. Hawkins, Los Alamos
WSH William S. Huey, Santa Fe
WBL W. Burton Lewis, Los Alamos
McK Daniel and Barbara McKnight, Cedar Crest
DR Don Rose, Los Alamos
JLS James L. Sands, Albuquerque
PRS Patricia R. Snider, Santa Fe
JRT James and Marylou Travis, Los Alamos

NORTHEAST

ES Elmer Schooley

SOUTHWEST

No report

SOUTHEAST

RCB R. C. Brummett, Carlsbad
BH Bruce Harris, Carlsbad
VM Vester Montgomery, Roswell
JHS James H. Sikes, Roswell

Summary of the Season:

Although most of the ducks left the Española and Santa Fe areas in January many were back early in March. Pat Snider reports early returns in Santa Fe for Gadwall (3/9), Pintail (3/8), Green-winged Teal (3/8), Blue-winged Teal (3/26), American Widgeon (3/13), Redhead (3/9), Lesser Scaup (3/4), Bufflehead (3/10), and Ruddy Duck (3/13) and notes that many of these species stayed later than usual.

Large numbers of Mallard (1000), Gadwall (400), American Widgeon (1000), and Common Merganser (800) were seen in the Las Vegas area in February (ES).

There was some early migration of land birds resulting in some earliest records for several species, Warblers moved rapidly through the southeastern part of the state (only scattered sightings were reported, VM), and arrived a little early and in good numbers in the northwest region. Waterfowl reported by Bill Huey were abstracted from monthly aerial census reports prepared by John Goodwin of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The numbers noted represent concentrations on various waters throughout the state, and do not necessarily indicate relative abundance,

The Maxwell Lakes and Stubblefield Reservoir are located in Colfax County. The Dexter Hatchery is south of Roswell in Chaves County.

Included here also are the tables which were inadvertently omitted from Seasonal Report #2

Common Loon

1 was on Lake Avalon 4/24 (BH).

Horned Grebe

1 was at Lake McMillan 3/19 (BH); 1 at Bosque del Apache Refuge 4/1 (McK).

Eared Grebe

An early record was 4/13 at San Ildefonso (JRT); 25 were seen at Bitter Lake Refuge 4/28 (VM) and hundreds were reported from the Carlsbad area during April (RCB).

Pied-billed Grebe

1 at the San Ildefonso pond 3/16 is the earliest record for that area (JRT).

Double-crested Cormorant

Several were seen at Las Vegas in April (ES).

Little Blue Heron

1 was seen at Lake McMillan 4/30 (RCB).

Cattle Egret

One on the Bosque Refuge 5/10 to 5/14 reported by Les Oliver in Audubon Field Notes (Vol. 17, p. 423).

Common Egret

I was seen on a pond east of Carlsbad on 4/15 and 4/29 (BH).

Snowy Egret

I was seen in Santa Fe 4/13 and 4 on 4/25 (PRS). 4 were in Espanola 4/27 (JRT). 1 was roosting atop a large Ponderosa Pine in Los Alamos 5/2 (JRT, LGH).

American Bittern

One of very few local records was 1 at Espanola 5/1 (PRS, MC).

White-faced Ibis

In Santa Fe 4/26 (PRS), and in two localities near Espanola 4/27 (JRT).

Whistling Swan

The swan present all winter at Bitter Lake Refuge was last seen 2/23 (VM).

Canada Goose

3557 seen at La Cueva in February; 535 seen on McAllister Lake in February (WSH).

Snow Goose

2100 seen on McMillan Lake in March (WSH).

Mallard

325 seen on Maxwell Lakes in February; 2600 seen on McAllister Lake in February; 6800 seen on the Rio Grande between Albuquerque and Bernardo in February; 950 seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; 2800 seen on McAllister Lake in March; 2452 seen on the Rio Grande between Albuquerque and Bernardo in March; 245 seen on Maxwell Lakes in April (WSH).

Gadwall

1788 seen on the Pecos River between Avalon Reservoir and the Texas Line in February; 1325 at Dexter Hatchery; 4110 were seen on Maxwell Lakes in March;

950 on Burford Lake in April; 600 on Maxwell Lakes in April (WSH).

American Widgeon

1515 seen at Dexter Hatchery in February; 2980 seen at Dexter Hatchery in March; 880 seen on Maxwell Lakes in March (WSH).

Pintail

555 seen at Dexter Hatchery in February; 2285 seen on La Joya Refuge in February; 1226 seen on Maxwell Lakes in March (WSH).

Shoveller

200 seen at Dexter Hatchery in February; 325 seen at Dexter Hatchery in March 1437 seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; 5700 seen on Burford Lake in April; and 895 seen on Maxwell Lakes in April (WSH).

Redhead

550 seen on Stubblefield Lake in February; 595 seen on Maxwell Lakes in February; 880 seen on Burford Lake in March; 4080 seen on Maxwell Lakes in March (WSH).

Ringneck

85 seen at Dexter Hatchery in March; 699 seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; 1187 seen on Burford Lake in April (WSH).

Canvasback

5 were seen in Santa Fe 3/13 (PRS), 230 were seen on Stubblefield Lake in February; 285 were seen on McMillan Lake in February; 268 were seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; and 711 were seen on Burford Lake in March (WSH).

Scaup

160 were seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; 237 were seen on Burford Lake in April (WSH).

Bufflehead

278 were seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; 1188 were seen on Burford Lake in April; 450 were seen on McAllister Lake in April (WSH).

Ruddy Duck

812 were seen at Dexter Hatchery in February; 1202 were seen on McAllister Lake in March; 346 were seen on Maxwell Lakes in March; 1188 were seen on Burford Lake in April; and 595 were seen on Maxwell Lakes in April (WSH).

Hooded Merganser

On Lake McMillan in March (RCB).

Red-breasted Merganser

On Lake McMillan in March (RCB).

Turkey Vulture

Seen in Bosque del Apache Refuge 4/1 (McK); arrived in Los Alamos 4/7 (JRT), and in Santa Fe 4/11 (PRS).

Mississippi Kite

Returned to within a hundred yards of the site of the first known nest in New Mexico and completed a nest near Roswell by 5/26; 1 or 2 additional adults were also present (VM).

Goshawk

2 (pair?) were heard and seen at Red Cloud Canyon, Gallinas Mountains south of Corona, 5/18 (McK),

Broad-winged Hawk

The first known record for the area was 1 studied carefully in Espanola 4/27 by a group of bird students (JRT, WBL).

Ferruginous Hawk

1 present in Santa Fe 5/4 (PRS).

Golden Eagle

8 seen in the Northeast transect 3/11 (WSH),

Bald Eagle

13 seen in the Northeast transect 3/11 (WSH).

Osprey

2 were seen in Espanola 4/21 (DR).

Common Gallinule

1 seen and photographed at Bosque del Apache Refuge 4/1 (McK).

Coot

10688 seen on Burford Lake in April (WSH).

Semipalmated Plover

17 were seen at Lake McMillan 5/4 (BH); 1 at McAllister Lake, near Las Vegas 5/11 (JRT).

Killdeer

First migrants of the spring in Santa Fe were 5 on 3/8; 10 were seen there on 3/20 (PRS).

Mountain Plover

1 in Santa Fe 4/26 (PRS).

Black-bellied Plover

A flock of 6 was seen near Carlsbad in May (RCB).

Long-billed Curlew

1 alighted in Snider's front yard in Santa Fe on 4/27 (PRS); at Las Vegas 3/30 (ES).

Spotted Sandpiper

First seen 4/26 in Santa Fe (PRS).

Solitary Sandpiper

First noted in Santa Fe 4/30 (PRS).

Greater Yellowlegs

Seen in Santa Fe from 3/26 to 4/27 (PRS).

Lesser Yellowlegs

Seen in Santa Fe from 3/22 to 5/9 (PRS).

Pectoral Sandpiper

1 in Santa Fe 4/23 and 2 on 5/10 (PRS).

Baird's Sandpiper

Seen in Santa Fe from 3/18 to 5/15, with 15 on 4/22 (PRS).

Least Sandpiper

Seen in Santa Fe from 3/22 to 4/30 (PRS).

Long-billed Dowitcher

Seen in Santa Fe from 4/8 to 5/1 (PRS); at Las Vegas 3/30 (ES).

Stilt Sandpiper

2 of 16 at Lake McMillan 5/17 were collected by Bruce Harris (RCB, BH).

Western Sandpiper

Perhaps the commonest sandpiper in the Santa Fe area during spring migration; seen from 4/18 to 5/24 (PRS).

Marbled Godwit

2 were seen in Santa Fe 4/19 and 4/29 (PRS); 1 in Espanola 5/1 (PRS, MC); 1 near Carlsbad in early May (RCB).

Sanderling

2 were collected at Lake McMillan 5/17 (BH).

American Avocet

At Las Vegas 3/30 (ES).

Wilson's Phalarope

Present in Santa Fe from 4/16 to 5/25, 110 on 5/1 (PRS).

Northern Phalarope

1 was seen near Carlsbad 5/20 to 5/24 (RCB).

Franklin's Gull

Flocks of up to 32 were seen in the Carlsbad region during the period (BH).

Bonaparte's Gull

2 were present in Santa Fe from 4/19 to 4/29 (PRS); 1 was reported from the Carlsbad region for the period (RCB).

White-winged Dove

1 was seen and heard near Carlsbad 5/17 (BH, RCB).

Mourning Dove

First one of the spring in Santa Fe was noted 4/3 and many were present by 4/28 (PRS).

Poorwill

First heard 4/9 at Cedar Crest (McK).

Common Nighthawk

First spring arrivals were 5/21 in Santa Fe (PRS) and 5/26 in Los Alamos (JRT).

White-throated Swift

Some early arrivals were 8 seen in Los Alamos 3/31 (JRT).

Black-chinned Hummingbird

First spring observation at Cedar Crest was on 4/28 (McK).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

Spring arrival in Cedar Crest 4/10 (McK); in Espanola 4/13 (JRT).
A nest in a canyon east of Los Alamos contained 2 eggs on 5/18 (JRT).
First noted near Las Vegas 4/15 (ES).

Red-shafted Flicker

Peak of spring migration occurred from 3/16 to 3/31 in Santa Fe (PRS).

Eastern Kingbird

1 was seen 2 miles south of Lake McMillan 5/17 (BH) and 1 in Roswell 5/21 (VM).

Western Kingbird

5 were seen in Portales 4/20 during the N.M.O.S. annual meeting (JRT); the first of the season in Santa Fe was noted 4/30 (PRS).

Cassin's Kingbird

First noted 5/2 in Santa Fe (PRS); 5/4 in Los Alamos (JRT).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

3 were seen in the vicinity of Portales 4/20 (JRT).

Ash-throated Flycatcher

First seen 5/11 in Cedar Crest (McK); 5/14 in Los Alamos (JRT).

Black Phoebe

2 at Espanola 5/1 (MC, PRS).

Say's Phoebe

First seen in spring in Santa Fe 3/9 (PRS); 3/16 in Espanola (JRT);
3/20 in Cedar Crest (McK).

Western Wood Pewee

Spring arrival: Cedar Crest 5/9 (McK); Santa Fe 5/11 (PRS); Los Alamos 5/14 (JRT).

Olive-sided Flycatcher

First noted in spring in Cedar Crest 4/22 (McK).

Violet-green Swallow

Spring arrival: Santa Fe 4/8 (PRS); Los Alamos 4/14 (JRT); Cedar Crest 4/24 (McK).

Tree Swallow

100 at Las Vegas 3/30 (ES). 1 in Espanola 4/13 (JRT). Last spring record Santa Fe 5/11 (PRS).

Barn Swallow

First noted 4/11 in Santa Fe (PRS).

Cliff Swallow

First noted 4/25 in Santa Fe (PRS).

Blue Jay

1 at Portales 4/20 (VM, JHS) and 1 at Roswell 4/25 (VM).

Gray Jay

1 seen near summit of Pajarito Mountain 2/24 (WBL, DR).

Clark's Nutcracker

Stayed at high elevations in Los Alamos and Santa Fe areas. Seen only twice in Los Alamos during February, although they usually appear regularly at suet feeder (WBL).

Rock Wren

First heard in spring in Los Alamos 3/31 (JRT).

Mockingbird

First spring sightings were 3/23 in Santa Fe (PRS); 4/6 in Los Alamos (JRT); 4/30 in Cedar Crest (McK).

Brown Thrasher

1 near Lake Avalon 5/2 (BH).

Hermit Thrush

1 in hills above Santa Fe 2/9 (PRS).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

First noted in Los Alamos 4/18 (JRT) which is quite early.

Water Pipit

First noted in spring near Cedar Crest 3/9 (McK); in Santa Fe 3/18 (PRS).

Cedar Waxwing

Still scarce. A few were seen in Santa Fe (PRS) and Cedar Crest (McK) in March. 150 were seen in Gran Quivira National Monument 5/18 (McK). Only 1 was seen during the whole period in Roswell, on 5/26 (VM).

Starling

2 were seen in Los Alamos 2/12 (LGH). Common in Santa Fe during the winter; most left by 2/23 (PRS).

Bell's Vireo

1 at Carlsbad 5/6 (BH).

Gray Vireo

1 at Carlsbad 5/20 (BH).

Solitary Vireo

1 seen in Portales 4/20 (JRT); first arrival noted 4/22 in Cedar Crest (McK); 5/1 in Los Alamos (JRT).

Warbling Vireo

First noted in Cedar Crest 5/2 (McK); 10 miles north of Espanola 5/14 (JRT); Santa Fe 5/21 (PRS).

Virginia's Warbler

First noted in Cedar Crest 4/15 (McK); in Los Alamos 4/24 (JRT).

Parula Warbler

1 female was carefully identified in Cedar Crest 5/10, the third record in that area (McK).

Yellow Warbler

First noted in Espanola 4/27 (JRT). Many were seen on first day of sighting

in Santa Fe 5/1 (PRS).

Myrtle Warbler

A few were reported in the spring: 1 in Cedar Crest 4/22 (McK); 1 in Santa Fe from 4/23 to 5/1 (PRS); and 3 in Roswell 5/25 (VM).

Northern Waterthrush

From 1 to 3 were seen in Santa Fe from 5/13 to 5/21 (PRS); 1 in Carlsbad 5/31 (RCB).

Yellowthroat

An early arrival was seen in Santa Fe 4/13 (PRS).

Yellow-breasted Chat

Present in Cedar Crest from 5/10 on (McK).

Wilson's Warbler

1 at Portales 4/20 (JRT); 1 at Cedar Crest 4/25 (McK).

American Redstart

1 at Washington Ranch near Carlsbad 5/5 (BH).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Present in Santa Fe from 3/27 to 5/16 (PRS).

Orchard Oriole

3 were seen at Washington Ranch near Carlsbad 5/5 (BH).

Hooded Oriole

1 at Washington Ranch 5/5 (BH).

Scott's Oriole

1 male was clearly seen and heard in Cedar Crest 4/17 (McK).

Bullock's Oriole

First noted at Cedar Crest 5/16 (McK); in Santa Fe 5/9 (PRS).

Boat-tailed Grackle

20 were seen in Espanola 3/16 (JRT).

Brown-headed Cowbird

First noted in Santa Fe 4/11 (PRS).

Western Tanager

First noted in Cedar Crest 5/1 (McK); in Santa Fe 5/9 (PRS); in Los Alamos 5/14 (JRT). Seen twice during May in Roswell where it is seen occasionally during migration (VM).

Cardinal

1 in Albuquerque in May (JLS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

1 in Albuquerque 5/5 (McK).

Black-headed Grosbeak

First noted in Cedar Crest 4/28 (McK); in Santa Fe 5/2 (PRS); in Los Alamos 5/5 (JRT).

Indigo Bunting

1 in Carlsbad 5/9 (RCB); 1 in Cedar Crest 5/24 (McK).

Lazuli Bunting

Seen in Cedar Crest 4/29 (McK); in Santa Fe 5/2 (PRS); in Los Alamos 5/18 (JRT).

Painted Bunting

Common in Carlsbad after 5/8 (RCB).

Evening Grosbeak

Abundant during late winter in Los Alamos (WBL). Over 2000 seen at San Ildefonso 4/15 (PRS) large flocks in Santa Fe in early May (PRS).

Cassin's Finch

24 arrived in Cedar Crest 3/4 and stayed through April (McK). First noted in winter in Los Alamos 2/20, stayed until 4/25 (WBL).

Pine Grosbeak

4 were present during the last week in May in Montezuma, north of Las Vegas (ES).

Pine Siskin

Abundant in Roswell from 4/1 to 5/15 (VM); few wintered in Santa Fe, noted 4/13 (PRS); none wintered in Los Alamos, first seen there 4/10 (WBL).

American Goldfinch

Abundant in Roswell from 4/1 to 5/15 (VM). Appeared in Santa Fe 4/13 (PRS).

Red Crossbill

No records for this winter; and none since winter of 1959-60 in Los Alamos (WBL).

Savannah Sparrow

Seen in Santa Fe from 4/23 to 4/30 (PRS).

Lark Bunting

Thousands seen near Portales 4/20 (JRT).

Oregon Junco

Most had left Cedar Crest by 3/31 (McK). Last seen in Los Alamos 4/18 (WBL); in Santa Fe 4/23 (PRS).

Tree Sparrow

1 in Espanola 2/2 (JRT).

Chipping Sparrow

Quite early in Los Alamos 3/31 (JRT); first seen in Santa Fe 4/5 with peak migration from 4/20 to 4/27 (PRS); first noted in Cedar Crest 4/22 (McK).

White-crowned Sparrow

Last spring migrant in Los Alamos 5/2 (WBL). Stayed in Santa Fe until 5/21 (PRS).

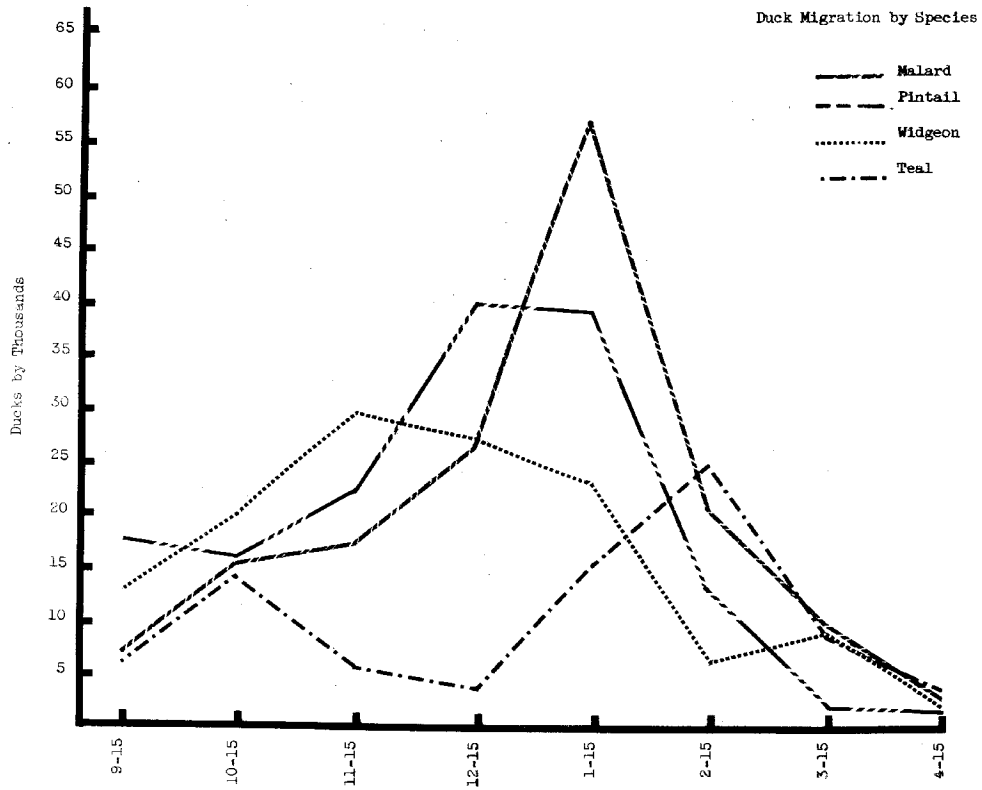


Table 2. Census Results on Three Transects Including

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Census Figures on Bitter Lake and Bosque del Apache Refuges

	9-15 1962	10-15 1962	11-15 1962	12-15 1962	1-15 1963	2-15 1963	3-15 1963	4-15 1963
<u>Rio Grande</u>								
Ducks	5,632	15,910	26,516	60,539	47,637	33,259	9,327	1,558
Geese	0	0	95	182	2,903	1,368	34	2
Coots	460	905	1,452	1,707	1,824	1,081	1,203	758
<u>Northwest</u>								
Ducks	15,847	40,324	34,025	26,323	0	0	1,747	17,956
Geese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coots	6,438	2,416	17,145	7,925	0	0	230	13,258
<u>Northeast</u>								
Ducks	37,317	57,789	26,025	16,864	8,682	10,758	30,959	9,360
Geese	61	115	383	3,984	2,255	4,555	1,485	97
Coots	13,180	23,364	25,895	10,749	5,050	1,510	5,484	10,191
<u>Pecos</u>								
Ducks	2,020	16,906	10,602	10,834	64,469	26,452	16,591	3,764
Geese	0	32	0	60	174	85	2,114	0
Coots	47	748	1,538	1,416	387	1,697	1,189	912
<u>San Juan</u>								
Ducks	276	374	339	510	157	1,518	2,819	106
Geese	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coots	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
<u>Bosque del Apache</u>								
Ducks	2,089	2,302	9,408	9,059	1,005	2,243	1,078	475
Geese	0	134	1,103	5,647	4,351	2,147	30	10
Coots	77	58	116	135	22	19	111	80
<u>Bitter Lake</u>								
Ducks	1,221	8,150	16,070	23,129	47,801	19,540	8,803	3,244
Geese	19	0	30	279	459	0	0	0
Coots	284	4,001	8,096	4,148	9,460	6,017	3,364	1,017
<u>Total</u>								
Ducks	64,402	141,755	122,985	147,258	169,751	93,770	71,324	36,065
Geese	81	281	1,611	10,152	9,332	8,155	3,663	109
Coots	20,486	31,492	54,242	26,080	16,743	10,327	11,581	26,216
Waterfowl	84,969	173,528	178,838	183,490	195,826	112,252	86,568	62,390

Table 1. Average Number of Waterfowl Seen per Flight by Species

Species	1962-63 Average by Flights (8)	1961-62 Average by Flights (12)	Four-year Average by Flights (40)	Percent Increase or Decrease from 1961-62	1962-63 Percent Increase or Decrease from Four-year Average
Mallard	19,401	22,597	20,217	-14	-4
Gadwall	12,847	5,640	8,157	+128	+16
Widgeon	14,961	13,313	10,669	+12	+40
Pintail	18,725	11,684	12,358	+60	+50
Teal	10,480	6,905	8,583	+52	+22
Shoveller	4,738	3,689	3,487	+19	+36
Ruddy	3,087	5,143	3,938	-40	-22
Merganser	5,154	5,624	5,995	-8	-14
Bufflehead	1,159	824	712	+41	+63
Ringneck	2,049	1,682	1,230	+81	+67
Scaup	376	776	902	-52	-58
Goldeneye	35	371	348	-87	-101
Redhead	3,786	4,494	4,559	-16	-17
Canvasback	1,686	2,275	3,164	-26	-22
Geese	4,193	4,404	3,915	-5	-7
Coot	23,017	24,157	26,763	-5	-14
Unidentified	5,460	3,383	10,312	+61	-47
Total	131,181	116,979	124,309	+12	+6