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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.

Cover: Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*). A regular but scarce summer resident in New Mexico, the former "Beardless Flycatcher" is found annually only in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo County, where it nests in sycamores and other riparian trees. Territories tend to be near the few water pools in the otherwise dry canyon; numbers have declined there in recent years, coincident with a general drying trend experienced in the canyon. The small and localized population is vulnerable to loss of required low-elevation riparian habitat from burning, clearing, reduced water table, or overgrazing. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman.

SUMMER SEASON 2008

Summer 2008 brought widespread drought conditions from the prairies to the mountains, and this appears to have affected breeding bird populations generally, as many typically common species were found in record low numbers. Among the very few genuinely rare species found was the state's first Gull-Billed Tern. For the third consecutive year, all 62 of New Mexico Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes were covered, a feat unmatched by any other state or province in North America (see note on page 46).

Localities and Counties

Alameda, *Bernalillo*
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*
Alma, *Catron*
Animas, Cr., Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*
Bear Canyon Lake, *Grant*
Belen, *Valencia*
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*
Black Range, *Grant/Sierra*
Bluewater, Gorge, Lake, *Cibola*
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*
Burro Mts., *Grant*
Caballo Lake, *Sierra*
Carlsbad, *Eddy*
Carlsbad Caverns NP, *Eddy*
Carrizozo, *Lincoln*
Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*
Cedar Hill, *San Juan*
Chama, *Rio Arriba*
Chloride Canyon, *Sierra*
Clanton Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Clayton Lake, *Union*
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, *Grant*
Cloudcroft, *Otero*
Corona, *Lincoln*
Corrales, *Sandoval*
Deming, *Luna*
Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Farmington, *San Juan*
Gallinas Mts., *Lincoln*
Glenwood, *Catron*
Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Guadalupe Mts., *Eddy*
Hatch, *Doña Ana*
Holloman Lake, *Otero*
Hope, *Eddy*
Jack's Peak, *Grant*
Jemez Falls, Springs, *Sandoval*
Kingston, *Sierra*
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*
Madrid, *Santa Fe*
Magdalena Mts., *Socorro*
Manzano Mts., *Torrance*
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*
Mesa Rest Area, *Chaves*
Morgan Lake, *San Juan*
Nambe, Falls *Santa Fe*
north *Roosevelt* trap (NRT), *Roosevelt*
Organ Mts., *Doña Ana*
Otero Mesa, *Otero*
Pastura, *Guadalupe*
Percha SP, *Sierra*
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*
Pinos Altos Mts., *Grant*
Post Office Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Quarai, *Torrance*
Quemado Lake, *Catron*
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*
Ramah Lake, *McKinley*
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
Redrock, *Grant*
Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*
Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
Sacramento Mts., *Lincoln/Otero*
Sandia Mts., *Sandoval/Bernalillo*
San Marcial, *Socorro*
San Mateo Mts., *Socorro*
Santa Fe, Ski Basin, *Santa Fe*
Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*
Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*
Santo Domingo, *Sandoval*
Serpent Lake, *Taos*
Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*
Silver City, *Grant*
Skeleton Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Stinking Lake, *Rio Arriba*
Sumner Lake, *De Baca*
Trigg Ranch, *San Miguel*

Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*
 Tyrone, *Grant*
 Vaughn, *Guadalupe*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 Wagon Mound, *Mora*

Watrous, *Mora*
 Whites City, *Eddy*
 Zuni, *McKinley*
 Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

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, Laguna	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	sp.	species
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	m.ob	many observers
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	v.o.	various observers
NM	National Monument	+	others; et al.
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	*	written details provided
NP	National Park	**	photo or 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

JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	JNP	James N. Paton
MJB	Matt J. Baumann	TR	Tim Reeves
DJC	David J. Cleary	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
RHD	Robert H. Doster	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
DJG	David J. Griffin	JIS	Jeffrey I. Sanchez
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
WHH	William H. Howe	RSS	Roland S. Shook
JMH	Jeff M. Howland	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
DJK	David J. Krueper	JAT	John A. Trochet
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	JBV	J. Brad Vaughn
JDL	J. David Ligon	HAW	Hira A. Walker
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	MLW	Mark L. Watson
MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts	REW	Richard E. Webster
LKM	Larry K. Malone	SW	Steve West
SM	Sonja Mendoza	WFWi	William F. Wittman
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer	SOW	Sartor O. Williams III
BAM	Brian A. Millsap	EGW	Eleanor G. Wootten
JBM	James B. Montgomery	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
BDN	Bruce D. Neville	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel		
JEP	John E. Parmeter		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Ross's Goose—Unseasonal was a free-flying one at RGNC 4 Jun (BRZ); it reportedly arrived the previous day.

American Wigeon—South of regular summering areas, six were at Zuni 8 Jul (JAT).

Ring-necked Duck—Apparently summering were one at Zuni 6 Jul (JAT) and one to 2 at BLNWR 16 Jun, 2 Jul, & 16 Jul (JIS).

Scaled Quail x Gambel's Quail—Seemingly on the increase in New Mexico, one of these hybrids was at Rio Rancho 16 Jun (N. Nate**).

Common Loon—Lingering were singles at Maxwell NWR 6 Jun (JEP) and EBL 30 Jun (J. A. LaFleur).

Eared Grebe—Some 300 pairs were nesting at Stinking L. 13 Jul (DWS), 150 with active nests and 150 nest-building. Several in breeding plumage were south of known breeding range, with singles at Bear Canyon L. 11 Jun (DLH), BLNWR 7 Jun (WHH), and Six Mile Dam 23 Jun (SW) and one to 2 at Brantley L. 11 Jun-24 Jul (RHD).

Least Bittern—Noteworthy for *Eddy* were one to 2 at Six Mile Dam 24 Jun-2 Jul (WFWi, RHD, SW, JEP); one was at Bosque NWR 1 Jun (BRZ).

Great Blue Heron—There were 16 active nests at Watrous 1 Jun (DWS), 9 active nests near Cliff 9 Jun (RSS), and 3 active nests near San Marcial 23 Jul (DJC).

Snowy Egret—Unusual were up to 3 north to the Corrales area Jun-Jul (DJK).

Tricolored Heron—Wandering singles were an ad. north to RGNC 4 Jun (BRZ*, J. Barnhart**, J. Blumberg**), an imm. at EBL 29-30 Jul (DJC**), one at BLNWR 26 Jul (JIS), an imm. at Brantley L. 24 Jul (RHD*), and an imm. at Rattlesnake Springs 12 Jun (SW*).

Cattle Egret—Eight buffy ads. at Mims L. near Truth or Consequences 30 Jun (DJC**) suggested local breeding.

Green Heron—One at Tyrone 6 Jul (ERL) may be a local first.

Black-crowned Night-Heron—Unusual was an albino juv. at Belen 17 Jul (Wildlife Rescue**).

Turkey Vulture—Few actual nests are discovered, so noteworthy was a nest in Zuni's Blackrock Arroyo 9 Jul (JAT).

Osprey—Although there were 18 nest attempts in n. *Rio Arriba*, only 9 nests were successful, fledging 18 young by 12-13 Jul (DWS); three broods died, possibly due to West Nile virus (DWS). Elsewhere, a nest was active below Navajo Dam, *San Juan* 22 Jun (DWS) and one at Ramah L. had at least one young 8 Jul (JAT).

White-tailed Kite—Noteworthy for n. *Grant* was one near Moon Ranch at the Mule Creek road junction 10-11 Jun (P. Tallman*). In *Hidalgo*, singles were in the San Simon Valley 27 Jul (REW), at Rodeo 20 Jul (REW), and in the middle Animas Valley 27 Jul (DJC).

Mississippi Kite—One was north in the Pecos Valley to Santa Rosa 23-24 Jul (F. Hinker*); others of note were singles on the prairie at Vaughn 26 Jul (CMR*), 16 km east of Hope 10 Jun (DJG), and in the Cliff-Gila Valley 15 Jul (RSS*).

Bald Eagle—Two active nests in *Colfax* each produced 2 young; of the 2 active nests in *Rio Arriba*, one produced 2 young while the other failed (DWS). Unusual was a subad. at Quemado L. 9 Jun (WFWi).

Northern Goshawk—An ad. was in the Burro Mts. 14 Jun (DJG).

Harris's Hawk—One was north in the RGV to Hatch 17 Jul (K. Stinnett); another was at Alamo Tank, Otero Mesa 14 Jun (DJG).

Broad-winged Hawk—A light morph ad. was a summer surprise at Cedar Crest 16 Jul (JDL*).

Gray Hawk—Had another strong season, with territorial ads. in Guadalupe Canyon Jun-Jul (m.ob., MJB**), a subad. in foothill oak woodland in Clanton Canyon 11 Jun (HAW**), a subad. north to the Gila R. near Virden 12 Jun (RAM*), an ad. in the lower RGV near Santa Teresa 21 Jun (J. Groves*), and a pair in the Rattlesnake Springs area Jun-Jul (SW, RHD, HAW).

Zone-tailed Hawk—May have recently colonized the San Pedro Mts., *Santa Fe*, where one or 2 were seen 14-15 Jun and the species was also present in 2007 (BAM). In the nearby Sandia Mts., one was soaring over Cienega Canyon 8 Jun (JBV).

Ferruginous Hawk—A windmill nest near Sumner L. had 3 large nestlings 6 Jun (JPB).

Golden Eagle—Aerial surveys in the northeast determined 42 active nests would fledge 33 young (DWS); broods in four nests there were found dead, possibly due to West Nile virus (DWS).

Aplomado Falcon—A subad. of unknown provenance was on Otero Mesa 3 Jul (RAM). Reported successful reproduction by released birds in the Alpine, Texas area by 2004 (*fide* RAM) renders suspect any Aplomado in s. New Mexico.

King Rail—A bird reported to possibly be this species was heard briefly at Six Mile Dam 23 Jun (SW*, WFWi) & 28 Jun (JPB*), but follow up efforts were negative; available details will be evaluated by the Bird Records Committee.

Common Moorhen—One was north to Brown's Fish Farm at Buckhorn, *Grant* 1 Jul (ERL).

Snowy Plover—High count at BLNWR was 192 on 4 Jun (JIS+). One was north to Maxwell NWR 6 Jun (JEP) and another was at Wagon Mound 4 Jun (WFWi). A nest with eggs was at Brantley L. 25 Jun (HAW).

Semipalmated Plover—Late were 2 at Maxwell NWR 6 Jun (JEP); one was at BLNWR on various dates 4-25 Jun (JIS, HAW).

Mountain Plover—At least one was in the n. San Luis Valley, *Taos* 6 Jun (JEP).

Greater Yellowlegs—Noteworthy for the season and locale was one at Zuni's Ojo Caliente L., *Cibola* 6 Jul (JAT).

Long-billed Curlew—West was one on the North Plains, *Cibola* 13 Jun (DJK).

Marbled Godwit—First returnees were singles at EBL 13 Jul (DJC) and BLNWR 16 Jul (JIS).

Sanderling—One reached Brantley L. 31 Jul (MJB**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—One was among Westerns at BLNWR 18-19 Jul (JEP*).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Last of the spring migrants were 8 at BLNWR 4 Jun (JMH) and 3 there 16 Jun (JIS+).

Stilt Sandpiper—Early were 9 at BLNWR 2 Jul (JIS+); 11 were at Vaughn 26 Jul (BDN), where rarely reported.

Wilson's Snipe—Two were winnowing in the Apache Cr. area, n. *Rio Arriba* 12-13 Jul (JPB).

Red-necked Phalarope—Early was one at Vaughn 26 Jul (BDN, CMR*).

Laughing Gull—An ad. was at Caballo L. 21 Jul (DJC**).

Franklin's Gull—Lingering were 4 at BLNWR 16 Jun & one there 2 Jul (JIS+), 31 ads. at Holloman L. 17 Jun (WFWi), 3 at EBL 28 Jun (DJC**), and one near Eunice, *Lea* 27 Jun (MLW**).

California Gull—Noteworthy for the south were 2 ads. at Bosque NWR 26 Jul (BDN, CMR*), 1 at EBL 29-30 Jul (DJC**), and a 2nd-cycle one at BLNWR 12 Jun (WHH**).

Least Tern—At least four pairs were present at Brantley L. 25-26 Jun, of which three had nests with eggs, but all were flooded by 27 Jun resulting in no reproduction (RHD*, HAW*). At BLNWR, seven pairs nested but only 7 chicks ultimately fledged (JBM*). Far to the northwest, one was at Morgan L. 9 Jul (WFWi**).

Gull-billed Tern—Providing an unexpected first for New Mexico was an ad. at BLNWR 10-11 Jun (JBM, JMH**, JIS**, JRO**, JEP*, MJB**, JPB**, WFWi**).

Black Tern—Some 24 were at Carrizozo 26 Jul (BDN, CMR).

Common Tern—At least 3 were at EBL 9 Jul (DJC**).

Forster's Tern—Lingering were 4 at Brantley L. 12 Jun (RHD) and one at Alameda 19 Jun (MJB); noteworthy for *Lincoln* was one at Carrizozo 26 Jul (BDN, CMR).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Three nests in the Burro Mts. 13-31 Jul (DJG), including one with eggs 30-31 Jul (HAW).

Common Ground-Dove—One was singing at Mangas Springs, *Grant* 19 Jul (DJG), and one was at Rodeo 1 Jun (REW), where 3 were seen 4 Jul (JEP). Two vocal ♂♂ were at Rattlesnake Springs 20-31 Jul (SW*, WFWi, RHD*, MJB**).

Ruddy Ground-Dove—At least one was seen and heard at Rattlesnake Springs 20 Jul (SW*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—North in the RGV were 2 each at Los Luceros, *Rio Arriba* 4 Jul (MDM) and Santo Domingo 12 Jun (LAS); one was found dead near Cedar Crest 4 Jul (BDN).

Greater Roadrunner—Continuing at Farmington was one on 1 Jun (*fide* TR).

Western Screech-Owl—A pair occupied a nest box in juniper habitat near Madrid, with 3 nestlings observed 21 Jun-1 Jul (LAS).

Whiskered Screech-Owl—Among the few reports was one in Whitmire Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 10 Jul (MJB).

Northern Pygmy-Owl—One in Clanton Canyon gave a long fast series of double notes 5 Jul (JEP*); one along Negrito Cr. near Reserve, *Catron* gave a series of single notes 8 Jun (JRO*).

Spotted Owl—Reports were received of one to 2 in the Sandia Mts. (DJK), Pinos Altos Mts. (MJB), Black Range (m.ob.), and Sacramento Mts. (WHH).

Long-eared Owl—A nest was in Fajado Wash near Chaco NM, *San Juan* 21 Jun (DWS).

[Buff-collared Nightjar]—Surveys for this species in Guadalupe Canyon 9-10 Jul (HAW, MJB) found none; the last credible report there was in 1985.

Whip-poor-will—Maintaining a Sandia Mts. presence was a vocal one at Doc Long PA 1 Jun (JBV).

Black Swift—At Nambe Falls, 9 were counted in the air 24 Jul (MJB) & 25 Jul (JPB). At Jemez Falls, 4 were on nests 28 Jun (JEP).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—Conspicuous in Guadalupe Canyon, with 12 there 4-5 Jul (JEP) and a ♀ nest-building 10 Jul (HAW). One was north to Post Office Canyon 7-8 Jun (CDL) and one or more were in Skeleton Canyon 12 Jun (HAW).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—Up to 6 were in Guadalupe Canyon 9-11 Jul (MJB), including a ♀ incubating eggs 9 Jul (HAW**).

Blue-throated Hummingbird—A ♀ was at Silver City 26 Jul (ERL*).

Magnificent Hummingbird—A ♂ wandered to Luis Lopez 25 Jun (JRO**); one was along the Rio Peñasco south of Cloudcroft 13 Jun (WHH), where seldom reported.

Lucifer Hummingbird—Summer peak in Post Office Canyon was 22 ♂♂ and 5 ♀♀ on 11 Jun (CDL); frequently seen in the highlands of the Peloncillo Mts. at flowering ocotillo in Jun and at flowering Palmer's agave in Jul (CDL).

Anna's Hummingbird—Post-breeding singles in the Peloncillo Mts. were imms. near Post Office Canyon 1 Jul (CDL) and Cottonwood Canyon 10 Jul (MJB).

Calliope Hummingbird—First to arrive were singles at Radium Springs 10 Jul (MTS, JEZ), Santa Fe 11 Jul (JPB), and Cedar Hill 12 Jul (TR).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Late for the prairie was a ♀ at the Mesa Rest Area 8 Jun (WHH).

Rufous Hummingbird—First to arrive was a ♂ at Madrid 23 Jun (LAS); next were 2 ♂♂ at Cedar Hill 30 Jun (TR) and a ♂ at Cliff 1 Jul (EGW).

Elegant Trogon—A ♂ was seen and heard in a canyon south of Skeleton Canyon 5 Jul (JEP*, WFWi), the 3rd consecutive year that locale has been occupied.

Lewis's Woodpecker—Where seldom reported were one at Beaverhead and 2 near Wall L., both s. *Catron*, 22 Jun (CMR).

Red-headed Woodpecker—One on Ute Cr. west of Rosebud, *Harding* 11-12 Jun (CLH) provided a local first.

Acorn Woodpecker—One at Red Cloud CG in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 10 Jun (HRS) was the 4th year for the species at that recently colonized local. One at Los Alamos 21 Jun used its tongue to extract 4 nestling Western Bluebirds from a nest box, consuming each one (J. M. Fair).

Hairy Woodpecker—Unseasonal was one in the Corrales bosque 22 Jun (DJK).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—In the southwest, a pair was in a burned area east of Mogollon near Willow Cr., *Catron* 26 Jul (EGW).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—A nest was under construction in Guadalupe Canyon 11 Jul (HAW**).

Olive-sided Flycatcher—Late for the prairie was one at NRT 8 Jun (CMR).

Greater Pewee—One was singing on Jack's Peak, Burro Mts. 26 Jun (DJG).

Willow Flycatcher—Discovery of a nest with eggs at Rattlesnake Springs 28 Jun (HAW**) provided the first documented nesting in the Pecos R. drainage. One nest at

Glenwood and three nests near Alma in Jun (DLH) were at sites where first discovered in 2007.

Gray Flycatcher—Two were in Tajiue Canyon, Manzano Mts. 12 Jun (HRS). In the Black Range, singles were in Chloride Canyon 2 Jul (DJC) and at Mud Spring north of Kingston 28 Jun (DJC).

Dusky Flycatcher—One was singing from willows along Bluewater Cr., Zuni Mts. 19 Jun (HRS).

Cordilleran Flycatcher—Late for the lowlands were vocal singles at NRT 6 Jun (WHH) and the Corrales bosque 8 Jun (DJK).

Black Phoebe—A pair was northeast to Valencia Spring, *Harding* 13 Jun (CMR).

Eastern Phoebe—Three pairs were at Clayton L. 1 Jun, including one tending a fledgling (JRO). Ads. were feeding nestlings at a Trigg Ranch site, e. *San Miguel* 26 Jun (MDM).

Vermilion Flycatcher—An ad. was tending 2 juvs. near San Marcial 22 Jul (RHD).

Dusky-capped Flycatcher—One was singing north to the Mimbres R. near San Lorenzo, *Grant* 12 & 23 Jun (DLH*). At least one was in the Jack's Peak area, Burro Mts. 13-14 & 26 Jun (DJG).

Brown-crested Flycatcher—At the eastern edge of their distribution, four pairs were along Las Animas Cr. west of Caballo L. 4 Jul (DJC).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher—One was in Guadalupe Canyon 9 Jul (MJB*, HAW), the first found there since 2005.

Eastern Kingbird—One was west to Zuni's Nutria L. 8 Jul (JAT). Late for the southeast was one at Tatum, *Lea* 10 Jun (SOW).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—West of expected, a pair was at the Mesa Rest Area throughout Jun (WHH, RHD) and a juv. was there 24 Jul (RHD). Farther afield were singles near Pastura 4 Jun (BAM) and at Red L., Guadalupe Mts. 6 Jul (SW).

Bell's Vireo—Away from traditional areas were singles in Twin Butte Canyon, w. *Chaves* 11 Jun (SOW), at Rodeo 4 Jul (JEP), and in the middle Animas Valley 3 Jul (JEP).

Gray Vireo—A high 15 singing ♂♂ were at Zuni in early Jul, where there also was a nest with young (JAT). Noteworthy for s. *Catron* were at least 2 singing ♂♂ near San Francisco Hot Springs 25 Jun (DLH). A ♂ was singing in the Cooke's Peak area, *Luna* 4 Jun (MLW**).

Hutton's Vireo—Now well established in the Black Range, 2 were in Chloride Canyon 2 Jul (DJC) and one was north of Kingston 28 Jun (DJC**). Unusual for the season was one at Deming 2 Jul (LKM).

Clark's Nutcracker—Noteworthy was one on Jack's Peak, Burro Mts. 26 Jun (DJG).

American Crow—One with a fledgling at Ramah L. 8 Jul (JAT) provided one of the few certain breeding records for the Zuni area. Now scarce in the Cliff-Gila Valley, singles were there 11 Jun & 15 Jul (RSS).

Common Raven—Unusual in *Eddy* lowlands, one was in the Yeso Hills south of Whites City 20 Jun (SW).

Purple Martin—One was at Red Cloud CG in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 10 Jun (HRS), where the species was first detected in 2006. A pair was in the Elk Mt. area east of Cowles, *San Miguel* 18 Jul (JEP).

Violet-green Swallow—Two active nests were in spaces between the bricks of the Quarai ruin 13 Jul (HRS).

Bank Swallow—Surveys from Albuquerque northward, completed in Jun, confirmed 17 active colonies—one each in *Rio Arriba* and *Taos*, 12 in *Sandoval*, and 3 in *Bernalillo* (HAW, MJB).

Cave Swallow—Continued to expand north in the Pecos Valley, with an ad. at a culvert near Lake Arthur, s. *Chaves* 11 Jun (SW). Some 84 nests were under a bridge at Carlsbad 28 Jun (SW).

Juniper Titmouse—One was south to the Organ Mts. in Fillmore Canyon 17 Jul (SOW).

White-breasted Nuthatch—Noteworthy for lowland riparian habitat, a pair was tending fledglings in the Nichol's Canyon area along the Gila R. below Redrock 27 Jun (RAM).

Townsend's Solitaire—Late were singles at the Mesa Rest Area 12 Jun (RHD) and near White Oaks, *Lincoln* 15 Jun (RHD).

Swainson's Thrush—One was singing at Chama 14 Jun (JEP).

Crissal Thrasher—One to 2 were in the Corrales bosque 21 Jun (DJK), where scarce. Another was north of BLNWR 8 Jun (WHH).

Cedar Waxwing—Two pairs were at Cedar Crest in Jun, including one pair nest-building 12-13 Jun; the nest was found in a juniper 15 Jun, but had failed by 23 Jun, possibly due to insect shortage (JDL*). Other apparently summering waxwings were 2 along the Rio Pueblo near Placitas, *Taos* 7 Jun (JEP), 8 at Chama 14 Jun (JEP), several singles and pairs along the Rio Grande at Pilar, *Taos* 7 Jul (JDL), and a pair at Corrales 8 Jun, where at least one persisted through 22 Jun (DJK).

Phainopepla—North of historic range were single males at Madrid 12 Jun-19 Jul (LAS) and Twin Butte Canyon, w. *Chaves* 11 Jun (SOW).

Olive Warbler—Providing another San Mateo Mts. breeding record was an ad. feeding a fledgling near Bear Trap CG 16 Jul (*fide* HRS). Far north was a singing ♂ at Ojo Redondo CG, Zuni Mts., *Cibola* 11 Jul (JAT).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Three were in Fourth of July Canyon, Manzano Mts. 13 Jun (HRS), apparently nesting in maple leaf litter. A bright yellow one in the Burro Mts. 30 Jul (DJG*) likely represented the West Coast subspecies *lutescens*.

Lucy's Warbler—Maintaining an *Eddy* presence, a ♂ was in the Rattlesnake Springs area 27 Jun (HAW).

Northern Parula—Late was a ♀ at Rodeo 1 Jun (REW*).

Yellow Warbler—Five ♂♂ were singing at Percha SP 3 Jul (DJC).

“Audubon's” Warbler—Late for the prairie were 2 at NRT 6 Jun (WHH).

Townsend's Warbler—A ♂ at Jack's Peak 1 Jun (DJG) was the last of the spring migrants there; a ♀ there 30 Jul (DJG) was the first of fall.

American Redstart—A male-female pair was in Keller Canyon near Alma 17 Jul and later (DLH*), but no nest was found. A near ad. ♂ was singing in the Corrales bosque 20 Jul (WHH).

Prothonotary Warbler—Unexpected in Jun, singles were along the Gila R. near Cliff 8 Jun (RSS*) and in the Lower Gila Box, *Hidalgo* 23 Jun (RAM).

Worm-eating Warbler—One was along the Gila R. in the Nichols Canyon area, *Grant* 15 Jun (J. Nemeth *fide* RAM) and another was at Rodeo 8 Jun (REW*).

Ovenbird—A male was singing along the Mimbres R. about 4 km north of Mimbres, *Grant* 22 Jun (DLH*).

MacGillivray's Warbler—Late were singles at NRT 6 Jun (WHH) and in Albuquerque 19 Jun (CMR).

Common Yellowthroat—Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* were 2 singing ♂♂ plus a ♀ at Jacona 25 Jul (JPB).

Wilson's Warbler—Presumably summering was one near Serpent L. 23 Jul (G. Soehnel).

Painted Redstart—North to the Magdalena Mts., a pair was feeding nestlings in Six Mile Canyon 20 Jul (SM**).

Summer Tanager—In the northeast were 4 in the Canadian Canyon, *Harding* 25 Jun (HRS) and 10 along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 26-27 Jun (MDM). Unusual was an apparent migrant in the high Burro Mts. 31 Jul (DJG).

Cassin's Sparrow—A surprising 45 were west to Zuni 6 Jul (JAT).

Botteri's Sparrow—The only report away from the middle Animas Valley was of 2 along State Line Road near Rodeo 23 Jul (REW).

Chipping Sparrow—Unexpected during the breeding season in riparian habitat along the Rio Grande, so noteworthy was a ♂ singing in the Corrales bosque 22 Jun (DJK) and an ad. feeding 2 begging juvs. there 20 Jul (WHH). There is at least one previous breeding record for the middle RGV, a pair that nested successfully near San Marcial in 1975.

Black-chinned Sparrow—Five ♂♂ were singing in Zuni's Cheama Canyon 5 Jun (JAT), where a nest with nestlings 8 Jul (JAT) provided a first breeding record for the Zuni region. Noteworthy was one in *Torrance* southwest of Duran 26 Jul (CMR). An active nest was in South Canyon, Magdalena Mts. 28 Jul (SM *fide* HRS).

Savannah Sparrow—In likely breeding habitat were one at Zuni's Nutria L. 5 Jul (JAT) and 3 at Bluewater L. 9 Jul (JAT).

Grasshopper Sparrow—In the northeast, 4 were singing south of Abbott along Sauz Cr., *Colfax* 26 Jun (HRS). In the south Animas Valley, 40 were found during surveys 10 Jul (HAW, MJB).

Song Sparrow—Undetailed was a report of 2 singing in the Cliff-Gila Valley 8 Jul (RSS); the species is not known to summer in that area.

Lincoln's Sparrow—Very late were 2 at NRT 6 Jun (WHH).

White-crowned Sparrow—Far from suitable habitat were single dark-lored ones at Corrales 10 Jun (DJK) and EBL Dam 25 Jun (DJC**).

"Gray-headed" Junco—About four or more pairs of *dorsalis* Gray-headed Juncos were present in the Jack's Peak area Jun-Jul (DJG).

Yellow-eyed Junco—An estimated four to eight pairs were present in the Jack's Peak area, Burro Mts. 23-27 Jun (DJG), when territorial ads. were noted, ads. were seen feeding fledglings, and independent fledglings were present. In addition, there were believed to be two mixed pairs involving Yellow-eyed and "Gray-headed" ads. (DJG).

Northern Cardinal—North in the RGV was a ♀ along the river at Santo Domingo 12 Jun (LAS). Noteworthy were 2 along Bitter Cr., northwest *Grant* 2 Jul (CLH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—A male was late at EBL Dam 3 Jun (DJC).

Lazuli Bunting—South of historical breeding range were a pair nest-building at Quarai 13 Jul (HRS) and a ♂ singing south of Cloudfcroft 14 Jun (WHH). A ♂ was singing near Cliff 20 Jun (JEP), where breeding was discovered only in recent years.

Lazuli Bunting x Indigo Bunting—A hybrid ♂ was at Farmington 1 & 30 Jul (TR).

Varied Bunting—A ♂ was far north to Cliff 26 Jul (EGW*). At least three pairs were in Guadalupe Canyon 9-11 Jul, including one pair nest-building (HAW, MJB). Up to 6 ♂♂ were in Walnut Canyon, CCNP 31 Jul (MJB).

Painted Bunting—Among several reports were a ♂ singing north of BLNWR 8 Jun (WHH) and one west to Rodeo 26 Jul (REW).

Eastern Meadowlark—One was at 2195 m in Zuni's Shoemaker Canyon 7 Jul (JAT).

Brewer's Blackbird—Three were at Willow Cr., *Catron* 28-29 Jun (JNP); the species is local in the Mogollon Mts.

Common Grackle—In the west were a pair at Farmington 10 Jun (TR) and 2 at Grants, *Cibola* 12 Jun (DJK).

Bronzed Cowbird—Singles were north to Glenwood 3 Jul (DLH) and BLNWR 5 Jun (JMH), and a ♂ was at Silver City on various dates 21 Jun-11 Jul (ERL). Up to 6 were at EBL Dam 3 Jun-16 Jul (DJC), including a fledgling being fed by a Bullock's Oriole 16 Jul (DJC**).

Orchard Oriole—North to *Union*, two pairs were at Clayton L. 1 Jun (JRO).

Hooded Oriole—A ♀ was north in the RGV to Luis Lopez 3 Jun (JRO**).

Pine Grosbeak—Reports were a ♂ in the Apache Cr. area, n. *Rio Arriba* 6 Jul (S. Coffee, M. Reid) and 2 near Serpent L. 26 Jul (JEP).

Cassin's Finch—Four were south to the Burro Mts. 25 Jun (DJG).

Red Crossbill—Small numbers were well distributed in northern and western mountains; both Type 2 and Type 5 birds were widespread and numerous in the Zuni area (JAT). Two were east to Trigg Ranch, e. *San Miguel* 24 Jul (MDM).

Pine Siskin—Lingered unusually late in many lowland areas, including the RGV, and were suspected of nesting at Albuquerque (HRS). Noteworthy for the east were one at BLNWR 5 Jun (JMH) and 3 at NRT 6 Jun (WHH). Elsewhere, 3 were at EBL Dam 3 Jun (DJC) and a high 22 were in Post Office Canyon 3 Jun where there were 2 on 29 Jun (CDL).

American Goldfinch—Summering Americans are always newsworthy. This season produced 2 near Placitas, *Taos* 7 Jun (JEP), 5 at Chama 14 Jun (JEP), a ♂ at Cottonwood Gulch, *McKinley* in early Jul (JAT), and a ♂ south to Post Office Canyon 16 Jul (CDL).

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The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) in New Mexico

Sartor O. Williams III, State Coordinator

The North American Breeding Bird Survey, or BBS for short, is a cooperative endeavor of the U. S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Research Center. The survey, which is continent-wide in scope, is designed to monitor the status and trends of North American bird populations.

Originally developed by Chandler S. Robbins (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and his associates, the BBS was launched in 1966, with routes in the states and provinces east of the Mississippi River. It was extended into the prairie states and provinces in 1967, and expanded to the western states and provinces in 1968; New Mexico's participation in BBS began in 1968. During the 1980s, BBS was extended into Canada's Yukon and Northwest Territories and to Alaska. More recently, experimental routes have been established across the northern tier of states in Mexico, making BBS truly continental in scope.

New Mexico began with 31 BBS routes, one in each degree block of latitude-longitude in the state. In 1992, the number of routes was doubled to two per degree block, giving the state 62 routes in recent years. The starting points and directions of travel of BBS routes are chosen at random, to reduce habitat biases. Routes are generally located along secondary roads, to reduce interference from traffic and congestion. Roads must have public access, to allow routes to be sampled year after year without need for special arrangements.

Routes are surveyed once each year, during the peak of the breeding season, which in New Mexico is primarily in early June; some southern desert routes are surveyed in late May while some northern or mountain routes are done later in June. Each route is 24.5 miles long, with a total of 50 stops located 0.5 miles apart. Routes begin 30 minutes before local sunrise. A single observer conducts a three-minute point count at each stop, counting all birds seen within 0.25 miles of the stop as well as all birds heard (the first few stops are done in darkness, so all identifications at those are by ear). Because of the short time at each stop, the observer must be highly proficient at identifying all species likely to be encountered by voice as well as by sight; there is no time to flip through field guides.

BBS data provide an index of population abundance that is used to estimate relative abundance and population trends. The population trend information is used by federal, state, and local agencies as well as non-governmental and other organizations to evaluate bird conservation priorities, including decision making regarding endangered species. Much more can be learned about BBS data analyses, and the many applications of the results, at the BBS webpage (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/).

Survey-wide, as the value of BBS has become recognized, the program has grown and participation in it has increased. By 2008, 3486 routes had been established in the United States, and that year about 70% of them were sampled; about 50% of Canada's 986 routes were sampled.

Through the sometimes Herculean efforts of New Mexico's BBS volunteers, we achieved 100% coverage of the state's 62 routes in each of the past three years 2006-2008, a record unmatched by any other state or province. In 2008, only little Delaware, with a total of 10 routes, also achieved 100%.

New Mexico BBS volunteers who participated in 2008, and the number of routes run by each (in parentheses), were: Matt Baumann (1); Paul Boucher (1); Dave Cleary (1); Celia Cook (1); Nancy Cox (2); Steve Cox (1); Rob Doster (2); Jeanne Fair (1); Bill Falvey (2); Bernie Foy (1); Kathy Granillo (2); David Griffin (1); Dave Hawksworth (4); Chuck Hayes (2); Bill Howe (4); David Johnson (1); Dave Krueper (1); Mike Means (1); Dave Mehlman (2); Ray Meyer (1); Lannois Neely (1); Jerry Oldenettel (2); John Parmeter (1); Nick Pederson (1); Christopher Rustay (5); Janet Ruth (1); Hart Schwarz (5); Dale Stahlecker (1); Hira Walker (1); Mark Watson (1); Steve West (2); Bob Wilcox (2); Bill Willard (2); Sandy Williams (5). We are indebted to the efforts of all of these observers for their contributions both to New Mexico ornithology and to this important international monitoring program.

A few New Mexico routes become vacant each year, owing to volunteers moving away or otherwise becoming unable to continue conducting their routes. Persons who are proficient at New Mexico bird identification, and who would like to be a part of this important cooperative effort, are encouraged to contact the State Coordinator Sandy Williams (sunbittern@earthlink.net).

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