New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes



Volume 51, Number 3, Summer 2012

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES Volume 51, Number 3, Summer 2012 1 June – 31 July 2012

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society ISSN 0898-9443

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.

Front cover: Adult male Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*) at Cerrillos, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, 28 June 2012 (see page 45). Photograph by Mara E. Weisenberger.

Back cover: Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) in Soledad Canyon, Organ Mountains, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, 26 July 2012 (see page 45). Photograph by David J. Griffin.

SUMMER SEASON 2012

Summer 2012 brought massive wildfires and scorching heat to the state, including the largest forest fire in New Mexico's recorded history, the 1204 sq. km (465 sq. mi) Whitewater Baldy fire in the Gila region, which quickly dwarfed 2011's "biggest ever" Las Conchas fire. Meanwhile, the month of June ranked near the top for "hottest ever" for the state. Scattered showers in July brought some relief, but also the threat of flash floods. Against this grim backdrop, the breeding activities of many birds, particularly common species, appeared to be depressed generally, continuing a downward trend noted in recent years. Birding was not without its highlights, however, and included a White Ibis, three Roseate Spoonbills, the state's fourth certain Black Rail, more Arctic Terns, a Pomarine Jaeger, a surprising Cape May Warbler, and several White-winged Crossbills.

Localities and Counties

Alameda, Bernalillo
Albuquerque, Bernalillo
Animas Valley, Hidalgo
Bitter Lake NWR, Chaves
Black Range, Grant/Sierra
Blackrock, McKinley
Bluewater Gorge, Cibola

Bluewater Lake, McKinley/Cibloa

Boone's Draw, Roosevelt

Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro

Bosque Redondo, *De Baca* Broad Canyon Ranch, *Doña Ana*

Cannon AFB, *Curry*Carlsbad, Lake, *Eddy*Carlsbad Cavern, *Eddy*Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*Cerrillos, *Santa Fe*Chama, River, *Rio Arriba*

Charette Lake, *Mora*Clayton, *Union*Cloverdale, *Hidalgo*

Clovis, Curry

Cochiti Lake, Sandoval Conchas Lake, San Miguel

Corona, *Lincoln*Cowles, *San Miguel*Deming, *Luna*

Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, Sierra

Enbom Lake, Rio Arriba

Folsom, Union

Fort Sumner, *De Baca*Gallinas, *San Miguel*Gila Lower Box, *Grant*

Granite Gap Preserve, *Hidalgo* Guadalupe Canyon, *Hidalgo*

Hillsboro, Sierra

Holloman Lake, *Otero* Horse Lake, *Rio Arriba*

Kingston, *Sierra*Lake Avalon, *Eddy*Lake Roberts, *Grant*Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*Las Cruces. *Doña Ana*

Loving, Eddy

Maxwell NWR, *Colfax*Mesa Rest Area, *Chaves*Mesilla Dam, *Doña Ana*Mesilla Bosque SP, *Doña Ana*

Mills Canyon, *Harding*

Mogollon, Mountains, Catron

Mora. Mora

Morgan Lake, *San Juan* Mountainair, *Torrance* Ned Houk Park, *Curry* Nichols Canyon, *Grant*

north Roosevelt trap (NRT), Roosevelt

Nutria Canyon, *McKinley* Oasis SP, *Roosevelt*

Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Rio Arriba

Organ Mts., *Doña Ana* Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo* Pinos Altos Mts., *Grant*

Post Office (P.O.) Canyon, *Hidalgo*

Radium Springs, Doña Ana

Raton, Colfax

Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy

Rio Grande Nature Center, Bernalillo

Rodeo, *Hidalgo* Roswell, *Chaves*

Sacramento Mts.. Lincoln/Otero

Sandia Crest, Bernalillo

Sandia Mts., Sandoval/Bernalillo

San Mateo Mts., Socorro Tierra Blanca Creek, Sierra

Santa Fe, Canyon, Santa Fe

Silver City, Grant

Six Mile Dam, Eddy

Stone Lake, Rio Arriba

Stubblefield Lake, Colfax

Sygerite SP, Colfax

Value Tucumcari, Quay

Ute Lake, Quay

Vadito, Taos

Valmora, Mora

Variadero, San Miguel

Variadero, San Miguel

Stubblefield Lake, Colfax Variadero, San Migue Sugarite SP, Colfax Vaughn, Guadalupe Sumner Lake, Dam, De Baca Zuni, McKinley

Taos, Ski Area, *Taos* Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

Texico, Curry

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
CBC	Christmas Bird Count		Service
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	WMA	Wildlife Management
CG	Camp Ground		Area
Cr.	Creek	WSMR	White Sands Missile
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake		Range
GBA	Gila Bird Area	8	male (represents sword &
L.	Lake, Laguna		shield of Mars)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	2	female (represents mirror
MSB	Museum of Southwestern		of Venus)
	Biology	ad(s).	adult(s)
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	subad(s).	subadult(s)
NAPI	Navajo Agricultural	imm(s).	immature(s)
	Products Industry	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
NM	National Monument	sp.	species
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	m.ob	many observers
NP	National Park	m.ph.	many photographs
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	V.O.	various observers
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	+	others; et al.
R.	River	*	written details provided
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature	**	photo or tape provided
	Center	***	specimen obtained

Initialed Observers

	Collin L. Adams	MJO	Matthew J. O'Donnell
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	KBO	K. Bruce Ostyn
DAB	Dan A. Belcher	JEP	John E. Parmeter
CLB	Charles L. Black	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	TR	Tim Reeves
RC	Roger Clark	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
DJC	David J. Cleary	JIS	Jeffrey I. Sanchez
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	CIS	Catherine I. Sandell
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
ACG	Ashli C. Gorbet	RSS	Roland S. Shook
KAG	Kathy A. Granillo	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
DJG	David J. Griffin	JNS	James N. Stuart
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	NGS	Nancy G. Stotz
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	HT	Hank Taliaferro
WHH	William H. Howe	RT	Ross Tsai
JPJ	James P. Joseph	JAT	John A. Trochet
MK	Maureen Kelly	MLW	Mark L. Watson
DJK	David J. Krueper	REW	Richard E. Webster
CDL	1	SW	Steve West
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad	WFWe	William F. West
MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts	DW	Debra Whitecotton
LKM	Larry K. Malone	SOW	S. O. Williams III
SEM	Sonja E. Mendoza	WFWi	William F. Wittman
RN	Robert Nieman	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
PLN	Paul L. Nobel	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck—An ad. put in a one day visit to a playa east of Clovis 21 July (CMR*).

Canada Goose—A pair with 3 young was at Sumner L. 4 Jun (WHH).

[Mute Swan]—One was at EBL's Monticello Point 15 Jun (DJC**).

"Mexican" Duck—Two pairs were northwest to the Zuni treatment ponds 6-11 Jun (JAT).

Ring-necked Duck—Apparently summering were 4 at Horse L. 30 Jun (RT), 2 at upper Stubblefield L. 16 Jun (NEH), and 3 on Johnson Mesa east of Raton 1 Jul (CMR*).

Lesser Scaup—Apparently summering were 2 at Enbom L. 4 Jul (RT), 2 at Stubblefield L. 16 Jun (MJB, NDP), and a ♂ at Bosque NWR 30 Jun (NDP**).

Common Merganser—Three were at Bluewater L. 11 Jun (JAT), where the species is not known to breed.

Scaled Quail—Numbers were low in the Carlsbad area, where for the second year no young were seen (SW).

Dusky Grouse—A \supseteq with 2 chicks was at the Taos ski area 7 Jul (JEP); another \supseteq was with 10 chicks northwest of Cowles near Johnson L. 24 Jun (PLN).

Wild Turkey—At high elevations were a \bigcirc with 12 small chicks at 2652 m near Ojo Redondo, Zuni Mts. 22 Jun (JAT) and a \bigcirc with 9 half-grown young at 3048 m in the Sandia Mts. 28 July (CMR).

<u>Pacific Loon</u>—One was an unseasonal surprise at Charette L. 15-30 Jul (CMR*, WTE*, JEP*, MJB**, CLA**, LKM*, RC).



Pacific Loon at Charette Lake 24 July 2012. Photograph by Collin L. Adams

Pied-billed Grebe—An ad. with a stripe-headed chick was at Apache Cr., *Catron* 6 Jul (CMR).

Eared Grebe—An impressive 42 nests were active at the Clovis treatment ponds 21 Jul (CMR). Ten nests were at Stone L. 12 Jun and at least 75 nests were at Horse L. 3 Jul but all apparently failed as water levels fell (DWS).

Western Grebe—Up to 101 nests were active at Stone L. 5 Jul and 6 nests were at Horse L. 12 Jul but all failed as water levels fell (DWS).

Brown Pelican—Continuing from Apr, the imm. at EBL was seen through 13 Jul (DJC**, CLA**, JEP, WFWi). One captured at Silver City 11 Jul was rehydrated, fed, and released the same day at L. Roberts (*fide* USFWS).

colonial waterbirds—A nesting colony at EBL in the vicinity of Indian Springs contained 46 active Snowy Egret nests, 7 of Great Egrets, 6 of Black-crowned Night-Herons, and one Great Blue Heron nest 18 Jun (DJC**).

Great Egret—An impressive 61 were fishing in a rapidly drying pond at Bosque NWR 10 Jun (DLH).

Little Blue Heron—A good season found single ads. at RGNC 12-20 Jun (m.ob., NEH**, WHH**), Bosque NWR 7-23 Jun (m.ob., CLA**, MJB**), and L. Carlsbad 8 Jun (D. Keyser, *fide* SW).

Tricolored Heron—Up to 4 imms. were at L. Avalon 27-28 Jul (SW, JEP*, MJO, CLA**).

Reddish Egret—Continuing from May, the dark morph subad. at Ute L. was present 1-3 Jun (WFWi**, JEP*, MJB**, NDP, CJW**, NEH**).

Green Heron—Noteworthy for the Zuni area were singles at Ojo Caliente, *Cibola* 12 Jun (JAT) and Blackrock Dam 29 Jul (JAT). A high 13 were counted at Bosque NWR 28 Jul (DLH).

<u>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</u>—Continued its impressive expansion into New Mexico, with up to 3 ads. continuing at Bosque NWR to 18 Jun (CIS**, m.ob., ph.), including one gathering sticks there 7 Jun (JRO), an ad. continuing at Roswell's Spring River area to 28 Jun (WFWi**, WFWe*, JEP*), and single ads. at Six Mile Dam 22 Jun (SW*), Pajarito Cr. north of Tucumcari 21 Jul (CMR*), and Texico 21 Jul (CMR*).

<u>White Ibis</u>—An ad. was at BLNWR 25 Jun-6 Jul (J. Trujillo**, JIS, WFWe, JEP*, WFWi), the 2nd consecutive year for the species there.

Glossy Ibis—Noteworthy for summer, single ads. were at Stubblefield L. 17 Jun (MJB*, NDP) and Morgan L. 18 Jul (TR**).

Roseate Spoonbill—A good season, with three reports: an imm. at Bosque NWR 28 Jun (W. Washam**), an imm. at Holloman L. 3-7 Jul (K. Babcock**, M. Wootten), which furnished an *Otero* first, and an imm. at Albuquerque's Tingley ponds 16 Jul (Sarah Stinnett**), which provided a *Bernalillo* first.

Osprey—A pair was at Bluewater L. 5 Jul (JAT), where not known to nest.

White-tailed Kite—One was at Mesilla Bosque SP 22 Jul (CJG**).

Mississippi Kite—Spreading into the northeast were 5 along Carrizo Cr., *Union* 16 Jun (CMR), 4 at Clayton 15 Jun (CMR), 4 at Alamocito Ranch, *Harding* 16 Jun (NDP), one along the Canadian R. east of Conchas L. 30 Jun (CMR), and up to 4 along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* Jun-Jul (MDM). At Carlsbad, at least 13 juvs. from various backyards were taken to rehabilitators, an indication of the relative abundance of breeding kites there (SW).

Bald Eagle—Of seven nests known to have been active this year, six were successful; at least 10 young fledged, but counts were incomplete at three nests (DWS). Noteworthy for Jul, single ads. were seen at Charette L. 21 Jul (JEP) and Sugarite SP 23 Jul (JNS**).

Common Black-Hawk—Noteworthy were one to 2 at Bosque NWR 12 Jun-21 Jul (WHH**, NDP, DLH), a juv. along the lower Mimbres R. in nw. *Luna* 17-19 Jul (WFWe, MLW), and an ad. in the s. Peloncillo Mts. near Bunk Robertson Spring 28 Jul (CGL**).

Gray Hawk—A new site in the s. Peloncillo Mts. was established by a pair with 2 young at a nest in an oak near Bunk Robertson Spring 28-29 Jul (CGL**). Others included a pair at the Cottonwood Day Use area near Rattlesnake Springs 24 Jun (SW) and a pair in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jul (JEP, CLA*).

Swainson's Hawk—Scarce in the Zuni area, an ad. was there 29 Jul (JAT).

Zone-tailed Hawk—Noteworthy singles were in New Canyon, Manzano Mts., *Torrance* 11 Jul (LKM) and in far western *Chaves* at the Diamond A Ranch 27 Jun (WFWe).

Peregrine Falcon—An active eyrie at 3423 m in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. 1 Jul (BRF**) was the highest ever found in New Mexico.

<u>Black Rail</u>—While searching for a reported King-Clapper Rail at BLNWR, a Black was heard and recorded vocalizing for some 30 mins, beginning 2030, on 9 Jun (audio MJB, audio NDP); this provided the state's 4th acceptable record and first for *Chaves*.

<u>King-Clapper Rail</u>—A rail of this species pair was heard vocalizing at BLNWR the evening of 7 Jun (WHH*); the vocal description suggested King Rail, but no recordings were obtained and no visual was made, so species identification is uncertain.

Sandhill Crane—Unusual was one "summering" at Bosque NWR 15 Jul (NDP).

Black-bellied Plover—Late were singles at Ute L. 1 Jun (JEP*) and EBL 5 Jun (DJC) and 3 at Conchas L. 10 Jun (CMR*); all were in non-breeding plumage.

American Golden-Plover—One was late at BLNWR 5 Jun (J. B. Montgomery, JIS**).

Snowy Plover—Up to three pairs nested at EBL, where an ad. was tending a juv. 24 Jun (DJC**) and 2 ads. were incubating eggs 20-23 Jul (DJC**).

Mountain Plover—Three were at a traditional *Taos* site on the Taos Plateau along US 285 on 9 Jun (JEP). Seven were near Farley, *Colfax* 17 Jun (NDP).

American Avocet—A pair tending chicks at Zuni 11 Jun (JAT) provided a breeding first for the Zuni region. Up to four pairs nested at EBL 3 Jun-30 Jul (DJC**), where returning migrants numbered 617 on 23 Jul (DJC**). A pair was tending 4 chicks at a seasonal pool northeast of Caprock, *Lea* 6 Jun (SOW).

Solitary Sandpiper—Remarkably early fall migrants were 2 at Bosque NWR 30 Jun (NDP**).

Willet—Earliest presumed southbound migrant was at Morgan L. 23 Jun (JEP).

Upland Sandpiper—First of the fall migrants was one in e. Roswell 28 Jul (JEP).

Long-billed Curlew—One at Deming 1 Jul was coping with triple digit heat by spending the afternoon standing under a water sprinkler (LKM). Breeding reports included a week-old chick s. of Clayton 5 Jun (A. Safranek**) and an ad. with 2 half-grown chicks at the turf farm east of Moriarty, *Torrance* 11 Jul (LKM).

Marbled Godwit—Unusual was one at BLNWR 13 Jun (JIS). Earliest certain fall migrants were 2 at EBL 27 Jun (DJC**).

Sanderling—Several lingered into early Jun, one at Ute L. 3 Jun (NEH**), 4 in a flooded Fort Sumner field 3 Jun (MJB**, NDP, CJW**), and 15 at EBL 5 Jun (DJC**).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—One to 3 were at Ute L. 1-3 Jun (JEP, MJB, NDP, NEH**).

Least Sandpiper—One was late at Ute L. 1 Jun (JEP).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Notably late were 2 at Morgan L. 20 Jun (TR) and one there 23 Jun (JEP). High counts were 36 at Ute L. and 10 at Clovis 1 Jun (JEP).

Stilt Sandpiper—One was late at BLNWR 7 Jun (WHH**). Early southbound migrants were singles at EBL 9 Jul (DJC) and Otto, *Santa Fe* 12 Jul (RC*).

Wilson's Snipe—One was winnowing over a wet meadow north of Mora 14 Jul (WTE, CMR). South of breeding areas were unseasonal singles at EBL 30 Jun (DJC) and Las Cruces 2 Jul (J. L. Douglas).

Wilson's Phalarope—A juv. at Morgan L. 10 Jul (TR**) was still sporting down feathers and may have been produced locally. Three quartets of juvs. at Zuni's wetland 29 Jul (JAT) also were likely produced locally.

Red-necked Phalarope—Unexpected in Jul, one to 2 were at Maxwell NWR 15-30 Jul (CMR*, WTE, RC).

<u>Laughing Gull</u>—A first cycle bird was at EBL 3-5 Jun (DJC**). Another apparent first cycle was at Morgan L. from 2 Jun into Aug (CLB**, TR**, MJB**, JEP*, WFWi, CLA**).

California Gull—Late for the east, 2 were at Ute L. 3 Jun (NEH**). Summering but non-breeding were 7 at Morgan L. 23 Jun (JEP) and up to 3 at EBL 24-30 Jun (DJC**).

Least Tern—An ad. strayed to Morgan L. 2 Jun (CLB**).

<u>Arctic Tern</u>—An ad. was at Morgan L. 11 Jun (MJB**). Two ads. were at Stubblefield L. 16-18 Jun (MJB**, NDP**, NEH**, CMB*). The species has been photographically documented in New Mexico in four of the past five years.



One of two Arctic Terns at Stubblefield Lake 18 June 2012. Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.

<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>—A light morph adult was retrieved from a brine pool in the Laguna Grande area east of Loving 6 Jun (S. R. Uhrig**); it was rehabilitated and released at Bottomless Lakes SP 12 Jun and was not seen again (*fide* USFWS). There are but two previous Jun records for any jaeger in the state, and none for this species.



Pomarine Jaeger (handheld) at Laguna Grande 6 June 2012. Photograph by Samantha R. Uhrig.

Band-tailed Pigeon—Some 60 were subsisting on cracked corn at a feeder north of Kingston 4 & 28 Jul (DJC**).

Inca Dove—Increasingly rare in the Albuquerque area, so noteworthy were singles in the University area 12 Jul (CMR) and RGNC 12 June (P. Kline).

Common Ground-Dove—Reports from three *Hidalgo* sites: one to 2 at Rodeo 15 Jun-14 Jul (JEP, REW), including a singing ad. and an independent juv. there on 8 Jul (REW), a window-killed one in P.O. Canyon 14 Jul (CDL), and up to 5 in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jul (JEP, CLA).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Relatively conspicuous in the northeastern quadrant in early Jun, with reports of one to 3 from at least eight sites in *San Miguel* (Conchas Dam, Trigg Road), *Quay* (Tucumcari), *De Baca* (Sumner Dam, Fort Sumner), and *Roosevelt* (NRT, Oasis SP, Boone's Draw) 2-5 Jun (m.ob.). Away from core areas were singles at Riverside, *Lincoln* 27 Jun (WFWe), Culp Canyon, s. Sacramento Mts., *Otero* 26 Jun (DJG), and on the lower Mimbres R. in nw. *Luna* 17 Jul (WFWe, MLW**), and 2 in Last Chance Canyon, *Eddy* 12 Jun (SW). The species continued to suffer from habitat loss owing to salt cedar removal in the lower RGV (MTS) and the lower Pecos Valley (SW).

Whiskered Screech-Owl—One near Bunk Robinson Spring 27 Jul (CGL) provided a new s. Peloncillo Mts. locale.

Elf Owl—At least one continued in the Soledad Canyon area, Organ Mts. 4 Jun & 11 Jul (DJG, MTS, JEZ). On the east slope of the Black Range in *Sierra*, singles were near Hermosa 13 Jun (DJC) and Chloride Canyon 14 Jun (DJC) and 2 territories were along Tierra Blanca Cr. 16 Jun (DJC); 2 were heard along Las Animas Cr. 30 Jun (JEP). In *Eddy*, 3 were in Last Chance Canyon 12 Jun (SW).

Lesser Nighthawk—Noteworthy north to *San Miguel*, one was trilling just west of Variadero 30 Jun (CMR*). In e. *Lincoln*, one was vocal on the Diamond A Ranch near the *Chaves* line 27 Jun (WFWe).

Mexican Whip-poor-will—In the Zuni Mts., singles were vocal in Hausner Canyon 7 Jun (JAT) and Little Water Canyon 9 Jun (JAT). In the s. Sangre de Cristo Mts., one was heard west of Gallinas, *San Miguel* 14 Jul (CMR).

Chimney Swift—Two were over the Tucumcari Post Office 2 Jun (WTE, CMR), a likely nesting area. Five were over downtown Clovis 28 Jul (CLA*).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—At least 14 were in uppermost Guadalupe Canyon 27-29 Jul (CGL), an area not previously surveyed for sensitive species. Two were in the c. Peloncillo Mts. in upper Cottonwood Canyon 16 Jun (JEP, CLA), and 2 were in P.O. Canyon on various dates 1 Jun-29 Jul (CDL).

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—Only one was found in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jun (JEP, CLA).

Magnificent Hummingbird—Reported only from the Mogollon and Pinos Altos ranges.

Lucifer Hummingbird—Numbers were down in P.O. Canyon, with a high count of only 9 on 10 Jun (CDL). A \circlearrowleft in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 16 Jun (JEP) provided the only additional report.

Anna's Hummingbird—A \circlearrowleft was in P.O. Canyon 4 Jun (CDL).

Calliope Hummingbird x Rufous Hummingbird—An apparent hybrid male was at L. Roberts 21 Jul (NDP**).

Belted Kingfisher—An ad. was feeding crawfish to a juv. below Cochiti Dam 15 Jul (WHH*).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Eleven, including 5 recent fledglings, were near Valmora 30 Jul (CMR, WTE).

Gila Woodpecker—One was in P.O. Canyon 6 Jul (CDL), the first there since 1985.

Red-naped Sapsucker—One at Zuni's Blackrock bosque 7 & 29 Jul (JAT) was reported as the first to summer at Zuni.

American Three-toed Woodpecker—Probably benefitting from recent fires, the species continued to be widely reported, from the San Juan, Sangre de Cristo, and Jemez mountains south to the Zuni, Sandia, and Black ranges.

Northern Flicker—An intergrade, that appeared more "Yellow" than "Red," was at Tucumcari 2 Jun (CMR*).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet—Only one was detected in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jul (JEP, CLA).

Western Wood-Pewee—Late migrants included 3 at Vaughn 7 Jun (WHH) and one in P.O. Canyon 13 Jun (CDL). An active nest was on the prairie at Maxwell NWR 3 Jun (KAG*).

Willow Flycatcher—A record 26 territories were in the Ohkay Owingeh area in Jun (DWS). One singing at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 24 Jun (CMR) may signal a new breeding site.

Hammond's Flycatcher—Late for the desert was one at Granite Gap Preserve 6 Jun (REW).

Dusky Flycatcher—Unusual was a nest at Zuni's Blackrock bosque 7 Jun (JAT), only the 2nd breeding attempt at that site; it was abandoned 12 Jun (JAT).

Eastern Phoebe—The continuing pair at the Alameda bridge was carrying food under the bridge 29 Jun (HT), suggesting a 2nd brood was being reared.

Brown-crested Flycatcher—East of historical range was one in at Broad Canyon Ranch north of Radium Springs 14 Jun (audio NGS**). Two pairs were on the lower Mimbres R. in nw. *Luna* 17-19 Jul (MLW).

Thick-billed Kingbird—One pair was in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jul (JEP, CLA).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—An active nest was at the Mesa Rest Area 7-8 Jun (SOW*, WHH**). Even farther west, singles were at the Alameda bridge 13 Jun (MK) and, in *Doña Ana*, Aguirre Springs 21 Jun (DAB), and Dripping Springs 2 Jun (SEM**).

<u>White-eved Vireo</u>—Continued its increasing presence in the state, with one singing along the Canadian R. in Mills Canyon, *Mora/Harding* 16-18 Jun (MJB**, NDP**, WFWi), one singing at Cedar Crest 5-11 Jul (J. D. Ligon*), and one singing at Bosque NWR 15 Jul-5 Aug (DLH*, MJB**, NDP**).

Bell's Vireo—One was singing in Twin Butte Canyon southwest of Roswell 7 Jun (SOW), where found in past years.

Gray Vireo—Noteworthy for *Cibola* was one singing in Bonita Canyon at the southeastern end of the Zuni Mts. 10 Jun (JAT). In *Catron*, one was singing west of Quemado L. 21 Jun (SOW) and 2 pairs were along the trail to San Francisco Hot Springs south of Pleasanton 7 Jul (CMR).

Yellow-throated Vireo—Two were at Boone's Draw 2 Jun (MJB*, NDP*, CJW**). One was west to Zuni's Blackrock bosque 7 Jun (JAT).

Warbling Vireo—One was late along the Rio Grande south of Radium Springs 3-5 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

Red-eyed Vireo—West to the RGV were singles at the Alameda bridge 27-29 Jun (MK*, WHH**) and Bosque NWR 29 Jul (NDP**). In the east, one was singing along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 16-17 Jun (MDM) and one was at NRT 1 Jun (JEP*).

Clark's Nutcracker—Typically restricted to the vicinities of Mt. Sedgwick and Lookout Mt. in the Zuni Mts., this season, 2 were found on Oso Ridge 10 Jun (JAT).

Chihuahuan Raven—A nest at Albuquerque's Paradise Hills fledged 3 in late Jun, and the 3 fledglings were seen begging food on 9 Jul (WHH).

Tree Swallow—Up to 8 summered in the Indian Springs area of EBL 4 Jun-14 Jul (DJC).

Violet-green Swallow—One was east to NRT 1 Jun (JEP).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Numbers were down considerably in the upper Bluewater Cr. area of the Zuni Mts., where only 3 were found 20 Jun (HRS), down from the eight year average of 22 there.

Cave Swallow—The main colony at Carlsbad Cavern rebounded from 2011's disastrous season, as some 68% of birds banded there this Jun-Jul were young of the year (SW). In the Pecos Valley, a new colony along US 285 about 3 km north of Carlsbad's Living Desert SP contained 27 nests 1 Jun (SW). In the Las Cruces area, there was a nest with young at the Picacho bridge 7 Jul (KBO) and a fledgling was begging at Mesilla Dam 7 Jul (KBO).

Black-capped Chickadee—One was east to Folsom 1 Jul (CMR).

Bridled Titmouse—Nested northeast to the San Mateo Mts., with a pair feeding nestlings in an oak cavity at Springtime CG 1 Jun (SEM, *fide* HRS) and, farther north, seen carrying food in Potato Canyon 9 Jun (SEM). In the Black Range, an ad. was tending 2 fledglings at Hermosa, *Sierra* 18 Jul (DJC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—A pair was tending 2 young in New Canyon, Manzano Mts., *Torrance* 11 Jul (LKM).

<u>Carolina Wren</u>—Two continued at Bosque NWR Jun-Jul (G. A. Owings, NDP**), where present since 2011.

Bewick's Wren—Numbers were down considerably in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 8 Jun (HRS), when only 4 were detected where formerly three dozen was the norm; pinyon-juniper and cholla habitats had recently been cleared there.

Marsh Wren—An early one was at Zuni 29 Jul (JAT).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Two were at Granite Gap Preserve 15 Jun (JEP); the species has continued scarce since the Feb 2011 freeze.

Eastern Bluebird—Noteworthy for *Quay*, one was near Tucumcari 2 Jun (CMR, WTE).

Veery—A search of known locales along the Rio Pueblo above Vadito found none on 20 Jun (WFWe).

Swainson's Thrush—In *Taos*, one to 2 summering birds were seen or heard at five sites along the Rio Pueblo or in adjacent canyons 9 Jun-14 Jul (JEP, WFWe, CMR, WTE), and one was singing on the Rio Hondo below the Taos ski area 7 Jul (JEP).

American Robin—Five juvs. were noted at Roswell's Smith Sanctuary 25 Jun (J. Cohen).

Gray Catbird—South in the Pecos Valley were one to 2 at Bosque Redondo 3-4 Jun (NDP, WHH), including ads. gathering and carrying food, suggestive of nesting. Farther south, one was banded at BLNWR 5 Jun (JIS).

Bendire's Thrasher—One was singing near Zuni's Tekapo 6 Jun (JAT). In the east, one was near Variadero 30 Jun (CMR*), perhaps the 2nd local record there.

Curve-billed Thrasher—Unusual was one at Zuni 29 Jul (JAT) which, based on call notes, was thought to be of the eastern subspecies group.

<u>Cedar Waxwing</u>—Providing another New Mexico breeding locale, an ad. was feeding 4 recent fledglings at 2560 m along the East Fork Jemez R., *Sandoval* 24 Jul (C. Mangeng**).

Phainopepla—Extended its breeding range northwest to the lower Bluewater Gorge, where an ad. was feeding nestlings 30 Jul (JAT). Others of note were a ♂ north to Placitas, *Sandoval* 11-13 Jun (R. McCollough*) and another ♂ east to Mountainair 15 Jun (R. Yaksich).

Chestnut-collared Longspur—Surprising if accurately identified, an unseasonal one was seen and heard at Stubblefield L. 30 Jul (WTE*, RC).

<u>Ovenbird</u>—One heard singing in Gallinas Canyon 4 km west of Gallinas 2 Jun (CMR*, WTE), was the 2nd found on the Gallinas BBS in recent years; it was still singing 14 Jun (WFWe).

<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>—One in Soledad Canyon 1 Jun (DJG) provided a first for the Organ Mts.

<u>Louisiana Waterthrush</u>—An early fall migrant was photographed in Soledad Canyon, Organ Mts. 26 Jul (DJG**). There are now about two dozen credible New Mexico records.

Golden-winged Warbler—Under review is one described as a "probable ♀" in the Lower Gila Box at Blue Cr., *Grant* 2 Jul (RSS*); there are no previous acceptable New Mexico records from west of the RGV nor from the Jun-Jul period.

Black-and-white Warbler—Singing singles were reported at Albuquerque 7 Jun (CMR) and near Seneca, *Union* 16 Jun (CMR*).

Lucy's Warbler—Now well established east to Rattlesnake Springs, where up to 4 were singing 3-6 Jun (SOW, RN). Farther north in the Pecos drainage, at least one singing along Twin Butte Canyon Cr. southwest of Roswell 7 Jun (SOW) provided a first summer record for *Chaves*.

Virginia's Warbler—East of expected was one below Johnson Mesa, in far e. *Colfax*, 1 Jul (CMR).

<u>Mourning Warbler</u>—A singing ad. ♂ was reported at Zuni's Blackrock bosque 7 Jun (JAT).

Hooded Warbler—A pair took up residence in the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve Jun-Jul (WTE, JPB**, BRF**, WFWe), where the species also occurred in 2009 and 2010, but proof of breeding remained elusive. In the Sandia Mts., a ♂ was singing among willows and grapevines in Embudito Canyon 8 Jun (MJO).

American Redstart—Late singles were at NRT and Ned Houk Park 1 Jun (JEP*), Boone's Draw 2 Jun (JEP, MJB, NDP), and Maxwell NWR 3 Jun (KAG*). Noteworthy were one at Bosque NWR 29 Jun (NDP*) and 2 there 28-29 Jul (DLH*, NDP*).

<u>Cape May Warbler</u>—An ad. ♂ was rescued from a cat at Cerrillos 28 Jun (M. E. Weisenberger**); apparently unhurt, it was photographed and released, providing the 13th credible New Mexico record.

Northern Parula—Continuing from May, a ♂ was at the Ice Caves Trading Post, *Cibola* until 3 Jun (K. Score*). Also in the west, a ♂ was singing at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 6 Jun (JAT). In the RGV, a ♂ was singing at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 30 Jun (ACG**).

Magnolia Warbler—A ♀ was late at NRT 1 Jun (JEP*, WFWi).

Yellow Warbler—Two 33 were singing at Cochiti L. 15 Jul (WHH), where breeding has been established only recently. Up to 2 territories were at Hillsboro 9 Jun-21 Jul (DJC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler—A ♂ was singing at Zuni's Blackrock bosque 7 Jun (JAT).

Wilson's Warbler—Breeding birds in the n. Sangre de Cristo Mts. in *Taos* included a pair at a high elevation bog along the Rito la Presa northeast of Tres Ritos 20 Jun (WFWe) and a singing ♂ along the Rio Hondo below the Taos ski area 7 Jul (JEP).

Red-faced Warbler—One north to Hondo Canyon 15 Jul (H. A. Walker*) provided one of the few Sandia Mts. records.

Painted Redstart—A pair was tending fledglings north of Kingston 9 Jun (DJC**).

Abert's Towhee—Five territories were in the vicinity of the Lower Gila Box in *Grant* 23 Jun (CMR), where a nest with eggs was located.

Botteri's Sparrow—Away from their middle Animas Valley stronghold were 3 (2 singing) at Rodeo 8 Jul (REW) and 3 singing west of Cloverdale 29 Jul (CGL).

Brewer's Sparrow—None were found in the Zuni Mts. along upper Bluewater Cr. 20 Jun (HRS), where present annually 2004-2011.

<u>Field Sparrow</u>—Surprising was a singing ♂ west to Broad Canyon Ranch north of Radium Springs 8 Jun (NGS**).

Black-chinned Sparrow—Only recently arrived in the Zuni area, 9 were singing in Cheama Canyon 6 Jun, where an ad. was tending 2 fledglings 29 Jul (JAT).

Vesper Sparrow—One was singing in the n. Black Range at Burnt Cabin Flat, *Sierra* 10 Jul (DJC**).

Savannah Sparrow—Unusual for the season was one south to L. Roberts 14 Jul (NDP**). In suitable breeding habitat were 6 singing in a wet meadow north of Mora 14 Jul (CMR, WTE) and 2 in a swale at Rociada, *San Miguel* 20 Jun (WFWe).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Some distance from breeding areas in the s. Animas Valley, 2 ♂♂ were singing at the end of the public road west of Cloverdale 29 Jul (CGL).

<u>Song Sparrow</u>—Historically absent as a breeder from the Gila Valley in New Mexico, the species now appears established there, at least in the Nichols Canyon area of the Gila Lower Box, where two family groups were documented 23 Jun (CMR*, DJG), in the same area where fledglings were reported in 2011 (DJG). These appear to represent *M. m. fallax*, the southwestern subspecies resident in s. Arizona.

Swamp Sparrow—Unusual was a singing δ summering in a wet thicket at Rodeo 3 Jun-1 Jul (audio REW).

White-crowned Sparrow—Unseasonal was one well described in the Sacramento Mts. along the Rio Penasco Road, *Otero* 3 Jul (M. Cooksey*).

"Oregon" Junco—Unseasonal was one at Oasis SP 18-20 Jun (J. Lofton**).

Hepatic Tanager—In the northeast were singles below Johnson Mesa, e. *Colfax* 1 Jul (CMR) and at Capulin NM, *Union* 16 Jun (CMR) and 3 along the Canadian R. in Mills Canyon 16 Jun (NDP), where there was at least one **Summer Tanager** the same day (NDP, MJB).

Summer Tanager—The species was northwest to the Zuni area, where a pair feeding young in the Blackrock bosque 29 Jul (JAT) established the first breeding record for Zuni, and one was in lower Bluewater Gorge 30 Jul (JAT).

Western Tanager—A ♂ was late at the Mesa Rest Area 8 Jun (WHH).

Northern Cardinal—May have colonized Mesilla Bosque SP, where a ♂ seen from 2 Jun into Jul (NGS**, CJG**) was accompanied by a ♀ on 21 Jul (W. Treers). In w. *Sierra* during Jun-Jul, at least one territory was at Hillsboro, where a juv. was seen 28 Jul (DJC**), another territory was along NM 27 south of Hillsboro (DJC**), and 2 territories were along Tierra Blanca Cr. (DJC**). In the northeast, a pair was at Ute L. 1-3 Jun (JEP, NEH).

Pyrrhuloxia—Very late for the northeast, a ♂ was south of Cannon AFB 2 Jun (DW**). In the RGV, an ad. was tending 2 fledglings at Broad Canyon Ranch 19 Jul (MTS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Lingering were single ♂♂ at Fort Sumner 1-3 Jun (NDP) and the Alameda bridge 29 Jun (HT).

Blue Grosbeak—A ♂ spent a hot afternoon lingering under a water mister in s. *Curry* 2 Jun (DW**).

Indigo Bunting—Generally conspicuous across the south, including 3 \circlearrowleft singing along the lower Mimbres R. in nw. *Luna* 17-19 Jul (MLW**, JNS**). Noteworthy in the north were one or more in Nutria Canyon 7 Jun (JAT), 3 along the Chama R. near the monastery 16-17 Jun (SW), and 3 at Cochiti L. 15 Jul (WHH*).

Varied Bunting—A ♂ was singing in the s. Sacramento Mts. in Culp Canyon, *Otero* 3 Jun (DJG). A ♂ in P.O. Canyon 9-10 Jun (CDL) was the first there in several years. Significant was the discovery of 9 or more in uppermost Guadalupe Canyon, both above and below the vicinity of Bunk Robinson Spring, 28-29 Jul (CGL**), an area not previously surveyed.

Painted Bunting—In the lower RGV, a ♂ was singing south of Radium Springs 3 Jun (MTS) and 2 ♂ plus a recent fledgling were at Broad Canyon Ranch 19 Jul (MTS).

Dickcissel—One made a visit to Holloman L. 12 Jun (DAB*).

Bronzed Cowbird—Two were north to Boone's Draw 2 Jun (JEP). The species was active at EBL, where **Hooded Oriole** was the favored victim (DJC**).

Orchard Oriole—Made a strong showing, with reports in the east from *Colfax*, *Union*, *San Miguel*, *Quay*, *Curry* (DW**), *Chaves*, and *Eddy*, in the RGV with a ♂ at Broad Canyon Ranch 22 Jun (NGS**), and single ♂♂ in the southwest at Sapillo CG near L. Roberts 11 Jul (J. Lee*) and Rodeo 8 Jul (REW*).

Hooded Oriole—Noteworthy north to w. *Chaves*, an ad. ♂ was at the Diamond A Ranch 28 Jun (WFWe).

Baltimore Oriole—Unseasonal was an ad. ♂ at Rattlesnake Springs 24 Jun (SW*).

Red Crossbill—An impressive season began in early Jun, when the species was judged abundant in the Zuni Mts. (JAT) and others were seen on nearby Mt. Taylor (DJK). By early Jul, moderate numbers were reported across the northern mountains, and by mid-Jul the species was increasing rapidly in the Sandia Mts., with estimates of 500 or more at Sandia Crest by late Jul (m.ob.).

White-winged Crossbill—Among the hundreds of Red Crossbills were at least 3 White-wingeds in the immediate vicinity of Sandia Crest, plus 3 others—including a mating pair (JPJ*)—below the crest at the 10K trailhead 18-30 Jul (m.ob., ACG**, MJB**, NEH**, WHH**, DJK**, CMB**, B. Smith**, J. Groves**). Two ad. ♂♂ in the Manzano Mts. at Gallo Peak, *Torrance* 26 Jul (PLN*) furnished the only report away from the Sandia Mts.



Adult male White-winged Crossbill with Red Crossbills at the 10K trailhead, Sandia Mountains 22 July 2012. Photograph by Nancy E. Hetrick.

* * *



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

