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NEW MEXICO  
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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

The summer season brought accounts of two species never verified for New Mexico. Allen's Hummingbirds were reported at two feeders a couple of miles apart in Silver City, and one sighting came with details that fit the description of the male. In a frustrating encounter, a Rose-throated Becard was heard in Guadalupe Canyon 50 yards from the Arizona border, but was barely glimpsed as a Kingbird drove it from a tree. It fled across the state line and could not be found again.

Also reported were such state scarcities as Tricolored Heron, Magnolia Warbler and White-winged Crossbill. There was also the first definite evidence of the breeding of the Hooded Merganser in New Mexico. And an apparently healthy Sandhill Crane flew past in the middle Rio Grande Valley in June, long after thousands of its fellows had returned to northern breeding grounds.

A bad-luck story from Clayton, where Chimney Swifts have become summer regulars, but no nests have been found. The birds were constantly in and out of the Baptist church chimney, however, so local birders climbed dangerously to the roof. By coincidence, each such feat was preceded by a torrential rainstorm, and there was no sign of nests -- probably washed away by the downpours.

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE:

abbreviations and symbols in text:

L. -- Lake	R. -- River
Mt. (Mts.) -- Mountain(s)	SGR -- State Game Refuge
MRGV -- middle Rio Grande Valley	SP -- State Park
NM -- National Monument	
N.M. -- New Mexico	* -- details
NP -- National Park	** -- photograph
NWR -- National Wildlife Refuge	*** -- specimen

Abiquiu L., village -- Rio Arriba  
Albuquerque -- Bernalillo  
Arroyo Seco -- Taos

Belen -- Valencia  
Bernardo -- Socorro  
Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.) -- Chaves  
Bosque bridge, village -- Valencia  
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque NWR)  
-- Socorro

Caprock -- Lea  
Carlsbad -- Eddy  
Cedar Crest -- Bernalillo  
Chama R. (Rio Chama) -- Rio Arriba  
Clayton, Clayton L. -- Union  
Clovis -- Curry  
Cochiti L., Pueblo -- Sandoval  
Cottonwood Canyon, Gulch --  
McKinley

Deming -- Luna  
Durling's Farm -- Doña Ana  
Endee -- Quay  
Eagle Nest L. -- Colfax  
Española -- Rio Arriba

Fairview -- Rio Arriba

Fence L. -- Cibola  
Galisteo village, dam -- Santa Fe  
Grants -- Cibola  
Guadalupe Canyon -- Hidalgo

Holloman L. -- Otero  
Hurley -- Grant  
Isleta (Pueblo) -- Bernalillo, Valencia

La Cueva (Jemez Mts.) -- Sandoval  
L. McMillan -- Eddy  
Lake Peak -- Santa Fe  
L. Roberts -- Grant  
Lakewood -- Eddy  
Las Animas Creek -- Sierra  
Las Vegas -- San Miguel  
Los Alamos -- Los Alamos  
Loving -- Eddy

Mangas Springs -- Grant  
Mountainair -- Torrance  
Mule Creek -- Grant

Pajarito Acres -- Los Alamos  
Peloncillo Mts. -- Hidalgo  
Pojoaque -- Santa Fe  
Pueblo -- San Miguel  
Quemado L. -- Catron

Ribera -- San Miguel  
Roswell -- Chaves

Sandia Mts., Crest, Park -- Bernalillo  
Sangre de Cristo Mts. -- Taos, Colfax,  
Rio Arriba, Mora, San Miguel, Santa Fe  
San Juan Pueblo -- Rio Arriba  
San Mateo Mts. -- Socorro  
San Simon Cienega -- Hidalgo  
Santa Fe -- Santa Fe  
Santa Fe R. -- Santa Fe, Sandoval  
Sena -- San Miguel

Seneca -- Union  
Silver City -- Grant  
Sycamore Canyon -- Grant

Tesuque Peak -- Santa Fe  
Trujillo -- San Miguel  
Water Canyon (Magdalena Mts.) --  
Socorro  
Whites City -- Eddy  
WIPP site (nuclear waste storage) -- Eddy  
Zuni Mts. -- Cibola, McKinley  
Zuni Reservation (Zuni) -- McKinley

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE:

BA -- Bertha Allen  
PB -- Pat Basham  
GB -- George M. Boyden  
WC -- Wes Cook

JND -- J. N. Durrie  
WE -- J. William Eley  
RF -- Ralph Fisher  
PF -- J. Paul Fitzsimmons

RG -- Roland Goodman  
RH -- Randy Hill  
WH -- William Howe  
JH -- John Hubbard

PI -- Pat Insley  
CJ -- Carlyn Jervis  
AK -- Adolf Krehbiel  
PL -- Paul Lehman

EL -- W. Burton Lewis  
AM -- D. Arch McCallum  
DMI -- Darwin Miller  
M&SO -- May & Stuart O'Byrne  
OCBC -- Otero County Bird Club

TR -- Fr. Terence Rhoades  
WR -- Wes Robertson  
LS -- Linda Seibert  
S&WSp -- Sally & Walter Spofford  
PSt -- Pat Stein  
WS -- William Stone  
MS -- Marjorie Swain

RT -- Ross Teuber  
JRT -- James R. Travis  
JT -- John Trochet  
KW -- Kathy Wood  
KZ -- Kevin Zimmer

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

WESTERN GREBE -- 2, dark phase, at L. McMillan 7/10 (WH); unusual there in summer.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Rare in summer at Bosque NWR, these were reported this year: 1 on 6/2 (RT), 2 on 6/7 (WH+), 6 on 7/14 (RT), and 8 on 7/5 (PI, DMI).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- breeding: Nest in cottonwood with head of a young bird visible at Abiquiu L. 6/24 (J. R. Vaught)...1 on Santa Fe R. reservoir 6/30 (CJ).

LITTLE BLUE HERON -- breeding: Pair on nest at Belen to 7/19 (WH).

TRICOLORED HERON -- 1 at Bitter L. 7/6 (KW).

CATTLE EGRET -- breeding: 3 or 4 active nests at Belen (WH); no date.

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- 1 at Bernardo SGR 6/12 and 3 at Bosque NWR 6/7 (WH); 1 in Peloncillo Mts. 7/23 (Margie Guzman).

WOOD DUCK -- breeding: Probable family groups of 3 at 3 mi. n. of Bernardo and 7 flushed from a drain n. of Bosque village 7/27 (WH) provided evidence of occasional breeding in MRGV...1 immature in small decorative pool at an Albuquerque apartment complex 6/7, 11 (WS); tame, a probable escape.

MALLARD -- 2 of Mexican race at Bitter L. 6/15 (KW).

HOODED MERGANSER -- unusual breeding: Female with 6 to 8 downy young was discovered in a secluded section of drain -- cut off from casual view by very dense vegetation -- along the Rio Grande 3 mi. s. of Bosque bridge. Observed 6/7 and 9, and well described (WH). First definite breeding record for N.M.

COMMON MERGANSER -- A female on Santa Fe R. near Cochiti 7/22 (WE, WH). Probable first summer record for L. McMillan, male and female (no young) 7/5 (WH).

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- Eastern N.M., north to south: At Clayton, 1 on 5/12, 2 on 5/13, 2 on 5/27 and 1 on 7/6 (AK); At Cannon Air Force base and golf course near Clovis, 26 adults in flight 6/5. In late July, 2 dead and 1 alive in nest, and 3 young on ground. Golf course supt. says species has been present 3 or 4 years, peaking in 1984 (WR). At Bitter L., 1 on 7/26 (KW). At Roswell, Southeast N.M. Audubon Society conducted kite watch from May to early August at Cahoon Park golf course. No exact count of arriving adults, but 6 nests were found, of which 3 were abandoned, 2 produced 2 young each, and 1 had young not countable.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- breeding: Active nest again at La Cueva (MS+).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK -- breeding: Female at nest in Sycamore Canyon feeding young (not counted). 1 on 7/8 at Mangas Springs (RF).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- First-year bird e. of Mountainair 7/15 (S&WSp).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- Numerous at WIPP site 25 mi. e. of Carlsbad (WH).

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- Adult and 9 chicks at feeder and water in Pajarito Acres 7/30 (Maxine Lewis). 1 on Valencia Breeding Bird Survey 6/5 (JND, PF, GB).

SCALED QUAIL -- 1 in Santa Fe 7/11 (JH); high altitude for species.

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 1 heard 16 mi. s. of Ojo Caliente 6/19 (JH); from 6/27, pair was at sewer pond marsh in Pueblo Canyon, Los Alamos, with mud and grass platforms possibly preliminary to nest-building (BL); 3 calling on Santa Fe R. at Cochiti 7/2 (WE, WH).

SORA -- 1 on 7/2 at Zuni; 2 or 3 calling at Los Alamos sewer pond marsh 7/16, 29 (BL) (breeding?); 1 heard 7/4 at Quemado L. (JH); several all summer at Mangas Springs "undoubtedly nested" (RF).

SANDHILL CRANE ---unusual: Adult flew past, 30 feet overhead, on I-25 at Isleta 6/10 (WH). It looked healthy. Very late and unprecedented for MRGV, whose large Sandhill flocks head north months earlier.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER -- 1 at Bitter L. 7/27 (KW).

SNOWY PLOVER -- 200+, including young. at Bitter L. 7/13 (KW); 25+ at Holloman L. 6/3 (PL, KZ).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- 1 near Cerro Chiflo, Taos County, 6/19 (JH); 5 on Galisteo Dam road 7/17 (PF).

WILLET -- Singles 6/27 at L. McMillan and at salt lakes e. of Loving (WH).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- 1 on Las Vegas Breeding Bird Survey 6/15 (JH).

SANDERLING -- 1 at Holloman L. 6/3 (PL, KZ).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 1 adult at L. McMillan 6/27 (WH).

LEAST TERN -- 11 at Bitter L. 7/6 and 14 there 7/14-20 (KW); 1 adult at L. McMillan may be first record for there (WH).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- 25+ in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., 6/3 (Ross & Clara Teuber) was a large flock for the area.

MOURNING DOVE -- breeding: 2 nests with eggs, on ground in ponderosa habitat in n. Los Alamos County 5/9 (Pat Stein).

SPOTTED OWL -- Possible nesting sites s. of I-40 8/6-11 and near Blackrock L., Zuni, 7/28 (TR). 1 calling in Fence Lake area 7/31-8/1 (Lyn Smith). 1 in Gila Wilderness (no date, no details) (Warren Shaul).

LESSER NIGHTHAWK -- unusual: 1 at 7/1 at Tekapo L., Zuni; details, first good sighting at Zuni (JT). 125 mi. n. of usual range.

COMMON POEWILL -- Calling 6/9 near South Peak, Sandias (Paul Steel); high for species.

BLACK SWIFT -- 3 near Abiquiu L. 6/19; details; larger than accompanying White-throated Swift (WH).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- 15+ at Trujillo Canyon 6/15 (JH).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- At home of M&SO in Silver City 7/20.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: An adult male visited the feeders of Nancy & Jerry Strickling in Silver City 7/16-18. They provided details, described as fitting the description of the species. At about the same time, Barbara & Harvey Smith reported having an Allen's at their home, but no details were sent in; the Smiths are 2 miles from the Stricklings. The species has been listed as potential but unconfirmed in New Mexico.

ACORN WOODPECKER -- breeding: Pair of adults at storage tree with 2 freshly chipped cavities in lower Pueblo Canyon, Los Alamos County, 7/1 (BL)...Pair in Horsehead Canyon, Zuni Mts., 7/1-3 (JT) and 1 in Springtime Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 6/2 (PB).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- breeding: Adult feeding young in residential ponderosa habitat at Los Alamos 7/3-4 (PSt).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER -- breeding: 10 on Chamisa trail, Santa Fe County; one nest found: 6/1 (WE).

WESTERN FLYCATCHER -- 1 at Durling's Farm 6/2 (PL).

BLACK PHOEBE -- 1 at Ribera, 2 at Pueblo and 2 at Sena along Pecos R. (WE). 1 on Rio Chama 6/19 (WH). 1 or 2 in Sandia Park 7/15; rare transient (BA).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1 at Ribera 6/9 (WE).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- Female 15 mi. ne. of Seneca 6/18 (Frank Graves); seen 6/27 at same site (WC, AK).

EASTERN KINGBIRD -- breeding: 2 adults feeding fledgling behind Safeway store at Española 7/20; species nested again at Isleta (WH). 1 adult 6/6 in Riverside, Española valley (BL).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- Several near WIPP site in late June-early July (WH).

ROSE-THROATED BECARD -- unusual: A male was heard calling on 6/10 about 50 meters inside New Mexico from the Arizona line in Guadalupe Canyon. It moved to a sycamore just inside the state line, and was chased out by a Cassin's Kingbird. It fled into Arizona, affording KZ, the observer, only a quick glimpse. He followed it into Arizona, but was unable to find it again. The species has never been verified for New Mexico.

PURPLE MARTIN-- 15 to 20 in one dead pine (some entering or leaving nest holes -- some young?) 3 mi. w. of Mule Creek (JH). 20 in July in Otero County (OCBC).

TREE SWALLOW -- 5+ at Quemado L. 7/4; adult pair entering and leaving nest hole in cottonwood stub 15 feet up (JH).

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW-- 1 on West Mesa, Albuquerque, where rare in summer (6/5,WH).

BANK SWALLOW-- At nesting colony in San Juan Pueblo, 35+ on 6/2, 20+ on 6/19 (JH).

(most swallow accounts above should be labeled "breeding")

STELLER'S JAY -- 1 e. of Mountainair 7/15 (S&WSp).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- breeding: 7 nests with adults and/or up to 4+ young were seen in the vicinity of Deming 6/21, mainly on power poles; an additional adult was on a nest 11 mi. se. of Hurley the same day (JH).

CHICKADEES -- (Updating spring report) Between Belen and Bernardo, 4 Black-capped pairs, 4 Mountain pairs, 1 Black-capped x hybrid, 1 Mountain x hybrid, and 1 Black-capped x Mountain (which fledged 2 young) (WH).

PLAIN TITMOUSE -- 1 at Rio Chama in riparian zone at Abiquiu 6/19 (WH).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 2 on 7/27 4 mi. n. of Bernardo; indicates early fall flight? (WH).

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 1 at treeline on Lake Peak ridge 7/15 (WE, WH).

ROCK WREN -- breeding: Nests with 7 individuals s. of Pojoaque 6/10 (WE), and pair nested and fledged 2 broods at Mangas Springs, latter on 7/29 (RF).

CANYON WREN -- 1 on e. side of L. McMillan 7/10 (WH); low valley habitat, and east of normal range.

BEWICK'S WREN -- breeding: Pair nested in willow marsh and raised 2 broods at Mangas Springs (no dates given) (RF)...Male singing in cottonwood bosque along Rio Grande at Española 6/16 (BL).

HOUSE WREN -- breeding: Nest cavity in aspen with adult carrying fecal sac at Camp May, Los Alamos County, 7/11 (PSt).

AMERICAN DIPPER -- Pair at La Cueva (Jemez Mts.) in early June (John Rofrano).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- breeding: 1 fledgling in dry pinyon-juniper 1 mi. s. of Pojoaque 6/30 (WE).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- 2 banded at Ligon residence near Cedar Crest 7/7 (Jeff Hill).

GRAY CATBIRD-- 1 singing at Zuni 6/30 (JT). At Cottonwood Gulch 6/28, 30 (AM); third record there.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 1 s. of Rodeo 6/24 (RH).

WATER PIPIT -- 8 in Sangre de Cristo peaks 7/14-15; pair on Penitente Peak carrying food.

PHAINOPEPLA -- 1 male 6/8 n. of Whites City (RT); occasional there.

GRAY WREO -- breeding: Among 2 at Zuni 7/3 and 4 on 7/4 were 3 territorial males; one of a "territorial pair" was building a nest (JT).

SOLITARY VIREO -- 2 of plumbeus race singing 6/19 -- 1 at Abiquiu Creek, 1 at Rio Chama (WH).

WARBLING VIREO -- 2 pairs on 7/2, 7/4 at Zuni (JT); breeding not confirmed.

RED-EYED VIREO -- 1 banded at Ligon property at Cedar Crest 7/7 (Jeff Hill).

WARBLERS at Ligon property at Cedar Crest 7/2-9 (some banded): HOODED, BLACK-AND-WHITE, TENNESSEE. (Jeff Hill)

LUCY'S WARBLER -- Pair 4 mi. n. of Bernardo 6/9 (WH). 50+ at Las Animas Creek 6/1 (KZ). "Tremendous numbers" at San Simon Cienega 6/21-22 (RH, LS).

YELLOW WARBLER -- 2 at Seneca Creek, 6 mi. n. of Rabbit Ear Mt.. 6/24 (WC, AK, Frank Graves). 3 at Sena and Pueblo 6/9 (WE).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER -- unusual: 1 male, well described, in Los Alamos 6/22 (CJ): scarce in N.M.

AMERICAN REDSTART -- 1 adult singing 3 mi. s. of Bosque village 6/7, 12 (WH).

OVENBIRD -- 1 singing 2 mi. s. of Bosque village 6/7 (WH).

HEPATIC TANAGER -- Pair voicing anxiety calls as observer searched for nest in ponderosa grove in Bayo Canyon, Los Alamos 6/27 (BL).

SUMMER TANAGER -- 1 at San Simon Cienega 6/20-21 (RH, LS).

SCARLET TANAGER -- unusual: 1 male and possibly 1 female at Sandia Park (date not reported) (BA); observer more familiar with Scarlet than other tanagers. Casual in autumn in the area.

WESTERN TANAGER -- breeding: Adult on nest in scrub oak near Valle Canyon in southwest Los Alamos County 6/29 (JHT)...2 at Bosque village 6/7 (WH) were late migrants.

PYRRHULOXIA -- 1 on 6/4 at Bosque NWR (PB).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- 1 seen 5/9-16 at Sunlit Hills, south of Santa Fe (RG)

LAZULI BUNTING male mated to INDIGO BUNTING female s. of Belen 6/3 (WH).

PAINTED BUNTING -- 8 singing males at L. McMillan 6/27 (WH).

FIELD SPARROW -- Probable; single seen briefly 7/29 in company with Black-throated Sparrows at Santa Fe R., near Cochiti Dam (WE).

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- 2 at Eagle Nest L. 6/30 (WE).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 1 singing and seen, more possibly present, near and at Endee 6/15 (JH).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD -- 8+ males seemingly on territory in wheat fields with no obvious water between Endee and Caprock 6/15 (JH).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- Only Meadowlark at WIPP site late June-early July, but both species present at near-by Carlsbad (WH).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- At Zuni, 1 to 25 in June and July (TR, JT). Male at Quemado L. 7/4 (JH).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- breeding: 15 at Quemado L. 7/14, carrying food and fecal matter (JH).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- 4 at Fairview "marsh" 6/2; male at Malpais marshes e. of Grants; 1 at Quemado L. 7/4 (JH). 2 or 3 at Zuni in June and July (TR). 3 on Valencia Breeding Bird Survey 6/5 (JND, PF, GB). Colony at L. Roberts, species seen 8/9 in Silver City (RF).

COMMON GRACKLE -- 8 at Eagle Nest L. 6/30 (nesting?) (WE). 7 on Valencia Breeding Bird Survey (JND, PF, GB). 6 on 7/15 at Bosque NWR, where unusual in summer (Pi, Darwin Miller+).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- 1 at Silver City feeder first week of July (M&SO); 3 at San Simon Cienega 6/21-22 (RH, LS); pair at Rattlesnake Springs 6/8 were second report at site (RT).

ORCHARD ORIOLE -- 1 immature at Lakewood 6/28-7/5 (WH).

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- breeding: Female feeding young at nest in Pajarito Acres 7/8 (PSt)...1 on 7/3. 3 on 7/4 at Zuni (JT). Several 6/4, 6/6 in Cañada Ancha, in Santa Fe County 5 mi. se. of Pajarito Acres (BL). 4 on 6/11 on Cerro Verde Breeding Bird Survey (JND, PF, GB).

RED CROSSBILL -- Most in years in Los Alamos County, with flocks of 10 to 30 (BL). 1 s. of Belen 7/19 (WH).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL -- unusual: 12 flew over Lake and Tesuque Peaks in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. 7/14. Twice, 2 White-winged were with Red Crossbills (of which 50 in all were sighted), and there was one flock of 8 unaccompanied White-winged. Details, including calls. (WE, WH). Species is reported only irregularly in New Mexico.