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NEW MEXICO
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FIELD NOTES

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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

Two species emerged during the season as candidates for inclusion in New Mexico avifauna, though neither sighting met the strict standards for definitive listing. A bird believed to be Allen's Hummingbird was seen in the Peloncillo Mountains and described in some detail, though a photograph was inconclusive. This West Coast species has made casual appearances in Arizona, Texas and Louisiana. The Black-backed Woodpecker is a northerner that has been recorded in the West only as far south as central California, central Nevada, and Nebraska. Thus an individual in the Sandia Mountains, well described but without a photograph, was far out of its expected range. New Mexico observers will be alert for further evidence.

The nesting season in the central part of the state saw below-normal temperatures and above-average precipitation until the last week of July. Vegetation responded vigorously, including a good crop of grass seeds. Farther north, nesting success declined despite abundant food. In the Gila Valley rains in late June broke a three-month drought, but by then grasshoppers had done wide damage.

Black-shouldered Kites again were in the Rodeo area, where only casual. Unusually, Mississippi Kites bred near Isleta, and Northern Goshawks ranged farther south than normally. Clayton had its first Caspian Tern, and Least Terns extended their range to Fort Sumner and Holloman Lake. Breeding Burrowing Owls at Zuni were unusual. And Chimney Swifts in downtown Albuquerque were a surprise.

Also notable: A Kentucky Warbler at Bandelier National Monument. Two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Otero County. Remarkably, Dickcissels singing at Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge, where Grasshopper Sparrows were observed breeding for the first time. And, despite several summer reports of American Goldfinch, breeding in the state is still unconfirmed.

The Lucifer Hummingbirds at Post Office Canyon now apparently constitute an established population. Blue-throated and Magnificent Hummingbirds were notable. Flycatchers had a good breeding season, with interesting reports from Zuni. The lack of Bank Swallow nesting records was surprising, but Tree Swallows continued to breed at Clayton Lake. Expanding further northward, the Crissal Thrasher was seen for the first time at Santa Fe. Bendire's Thrasher at Holloman Lake was well east of its normal range. Nesting Phainopeplas at Zuni were also far afield.

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE:

SB -- Sherry Bixler	PI -- Pat Insley
SBo -- Sarah Boles	R&KJ (RJ, KJ) -- Robert & Katherine Jenness
WC -- Wes Cook	CJe -- Carlyn Jervis
DDa -- David Dale	AK -- Adolf Krehbiel
BD -- Bonnie D'angelo	BL -- W. Burton Lewis
JDo -- Jeff Donaldson	MN -- Marty Mayfield
WE -- William Eley	BE&DMc (EMc, DMc) -- Barbara & Daniel McKnight
RF -- Ralph Fisher	JM -- John McNelly
BH -- Bruce Hayward	DM -- Doris Miller
LH -- Lois Herrmann	TMu -- Tim Mitchusson
GH -- Geoffrey Hill	AN -- Alan Nelson
SH -- Steve Hoffman	EO -- Kenneth Bruce Ostyn
WH -- William Howe	GP -- Gary Parker
JH -- John P. Hubbard	LS -- Lawry Sager
TH -- Tyler Huning	RS -- Robert Scholes
J&NHt (JHt, NHt) -- Joseph & Nancy Hutto	

JTE: This issue contains many breeding records from spring and autumn.

AS -- Alan Schmierer
HS -- Hart R. Schwarz
LHS -- Lorraine Hartshorne Schulte
KS -- Kenneth Seyffert
DSe -- David Seymour
JS -- John Shipman
FRiS (FS, RiS) -- Frank & Rita Slown
S&WSp (SSp, WSp) -- Sally & Walter
Spofford
PSt -- Paul Steel

MS -- Marjorie Swain
JTa -- Jackie Talley
RT -- Ross Teuber
JRT -- James R. Travis
JT -- John Trochet
SW -- Steve West
SWi -- Sartor Williams III
EW -- Eleanor Wootten
RY -- Rob Yaksich
EZ -- Barry Zimmer

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE:

abbreviations and symbols in text:

BBS -- Breeding Bird Survey
L. -- Lake
Mt. (Mts.) -- Mountain(s)
NM -- National Monument
N. M. -- New Mexico
NP -- National Park
NWR -- National Wildlife Refuge

SGR -- State Game Refuge
R. -- River
SP -- State Park

* -- details provided
** -- photograph
*** -- specimen

Alamogordo -- Otero
Albuquerque -- Bernalillo
Bandelier NM -- Sandoval, Los Alamos
Belen -- Valencia
Bill Evans L. -- Grant
Bluewater L. -- Cibola, McKinley
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque NWR)
-- Socorro
Burro Mts. -- Grant

Heron L. -- Rio Arriba
Hobbs -- Lea
Holloman L. -- Otero

Isleta (Pueblo) -- Bernalillo,
Valencia
Jemez Mts., R., Springs -- Sandoval
Karr Canyon -- Otero
Kirtland Air Force Base --
Bernalillo

Caballo L. (Dam) -- Sierra
Cedar Crest -- Bernalillo
Cerrillos -- Santa Fe
Chama -- Rio Arriba
Cherry Creek -- Grant
Clayton, Clayton L. -- Union
Cloudcroft -- Otero
Cochiti L., Canyon, Pueblo --
Sandoval

La Cienega -- Santa Fe
La Cueva -- Sandoval
La Joya SGR -- Socorro
Lake Peak -- Santa Fe
L. Roberts -- Grant
La Luz -- Otero
Las Cruces -- Dona Ana
Las Vegas -- San Miguel
Lordsburg -- Hidalgo
Los Alamos -- Los Alamos
Los Lunas -- Valencia
Los Ojos -- Rio Arriba
Loving -- Eddy
Luna Reservoir -- Catron

Dry Cimarron Valley -- Union
Elephant Butte L. -- Sierra
El Pueblo -- San Miguel
El Rito -- Rio Arriba
Embudo -- Bernalillo
Espanola -- Rio Arriba
(Bill) Evans L. -- Grant

Magdalena Mts. -- Socorro
Mangas Springs -- Grant
Maxwell NWR -- Colfax
McGaffey L. -- McKinley
Mimbres R., Valley -- Grant, Luna
Mt. Taylor -- Cibola

Fairview -- Rio Arriba
Farmington -- San Juan
Fenton L. -- Sandoval
Florida Mts. -- Luna
Fort Sumner -- De Baca
Gage -- Luna
Gila R. -- Grant, Catron, Hidalgo
Glenwood -- Catron
Grenville -- Union
Guadalupe Canyon -- Hidalgo

Peloncillo Mts. -- Hidalgo
Percha Dam SP -- Sierra
Pinos Altos (town, Mts.) -- Grant
Pleasanton -- Catron
Post Office Canyon -- Hidalgo

Quemado -- Catron
Raton -- Colfax
Redrock -- Grant
Rodeo -- Hidalgo
Rowe Mesa -- San Miguel

Sacramento L., Mts. -- Otero
Sandia Mts., Crest, Park -- Bernalillo
San Simon Cienega -- Hidalgo
Santa Fe -- Santa Fe
Sena -- San Miguel
Sierra Grande -- Union

Silver City -- Grant
Sycamore Canyon -- Grant

Taos -- Taos
Three Rivers -- Otero
Tres Piedras -- Taos
Trujillo Canyon -- San Miguel
Truth or Consequences -- Sierra
Tularosa -- Otero
Wheeler Peak -- Taos
Zuni Mts. -- Cibola, McKinley
Zuni Reservation (Zuni) -- McKinley

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- breeding: Adults with young at Blackrock L., Zuni, 6/21 (JT) and Luna Reservoir 7/27 (SWi).

WESTERN GREBE -- breeding: Continued to breed at upper Elephant Butte L., with adults and downy young present 6/8 (TMu); some still present 7/26 (PSt, RT). Young seen with adults at Maxwell NWR 8/6 (PSt) and Caballo L. 9/28 (BZ)....1 was in Chama area during the summer (no dates reported) (LHS).

CLARK'S GREBE -- breeding: Also still breeding at upper Elephant Butte L. as of 6/8 (TMu)...Two at Bosque NWR 7/26 (PSt, RT) and 7/27 (PI).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- breeding: Numerous nests found 7/17, including some 100 at Jemez Canyon Reservoir (estimated to be 80% cormorants, 20% egrets), 200 at Caballo L., largely cormorants and egrets, and 50+ Double-crested nests at Elephant Butte L. (R. Brown, JH)....An adult at Mangas Springs 7/13 was unusual (RF).

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT -- breeding: 50+ nests at upper Elephant Butte L. 6/8 (TMu).

LEAST BITTERN -- 1 at Bosque NWR 6/4 (RT).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- breeding: Up to 20 active nests with large young at Glenwood fish hatchery 3/23 to 6/27 (RF, SWi).

GREAT EGRET -- A single 6/24-30 (JT) at Zuni, where normally absent.

SNOWY EGRET -- breeding: See Double-crested Cormorant, above. Over 100 nests at Loving heronry in June (SW).

LITTLE BLUE HERON -- 2 adults at La Joya SGR 7/2-5 and 1 at Belen 7/5 (WH). 1 on the Pecos R. at Ft. Sumner 6/4 (BO) was a local first.

GREEN-BACKED HERON -- Present all summer at Mangas Springs, with suspected nestling (RF).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- breeding: In a continuing pattern, at least 150 nests at the Loving heronry in June (SW).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- Early fall migrants on 7/2 included 2 at La Joya SGR (WH) and 6 at Holloman L. (EW). 40 seen at La Joya 7/26 (PSt, RT).

CANADA GOOSE -- breeding: 3 pairs with goslings at Storrie L. 5/30 (JH) and nests at Bosque NWR 4/19 and 4/20 (PI)....Present during summer in Clayton rea (WC).

WOOD DUCK -- A male was seen at Zuni 6/25 and 6/30 (JT). A pair was sighted only on 6/5 at Percha Dam SP (DM).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- Two pairs at La Joya SGR 7/2 and 7/5 (WH).

MALLARD -- Several at rain-filled playas in Lea County 6/1 (SW)....
Breeding: At Fenton L., 3 females with 14 young 7/19 (TH); 2 broods seen there 7/26 (MS)...Mexican-type sightings include a female with 4 one-third-grown young on a Rio Grande drain $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of San Marcial (JH), and a male on 6/23 by JT near Grants, far north of the normal locales in the lower Rio Grande valley and southwest New Mexico.

NORTHERN PINTAIL -- Irregular during the summer, but at Zuni throughout June, with a high of 8 on 6/29 (JT); 4 were at La Joya SGR on 7/2 (WH).

CINNAMON TEAL -- Up to 55 at Zuni during June (JT).

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- A male and female at Sandia Park 6/8 (HS).

GADWALL -- 4 at Holloman L. 7/9 (JDo, EZ).

AMERICAN WIGEON -- Up to 4 in Zuni area 6/21-30 (JT). A female at La Joya SGR 7/2 (WH).

REDHEAD -- 2 at Luna reservoir 7/27 (SWi); 12 at La Joya 7/2 (WH).

RING-NECKED DUCK -- Up to 3 at Zuni 6/21-30 (JT).

COMMON MERGANSER -- breeding: Female with 7 young on San Francisco R. 6/24 (SWi)...1 at Zuni in late June (JT).

OSPREY -- unusual: Singles at Cochiti L. 6/10 (PS) and at Bosque NWR 6/7 (Da, fide RT) were apparently late migrants.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- unusual: 2 seen by various observers near Rodeo (this may be an early autumn report) (fide S&WSp); 1 in the same location, possibly one of the same birds, sighted by BO+ 6/29. The species has been only a casual migrant in this area.

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- breeding: 2 adults, 1 fledgling and 2 nestlings near Isleta 7/29, 31 (Penny Elliston+). Possibly first nesting record for Bernalillo County...1 at Mangas Springs, where only casual, 7/1 (RF).

NORTHERN HARRIER -- Singles near Rodeo 6/4 (RS) and Three Rivers 6/21 (JM) were most likely late migrants.

NORTHERN GOSHAWKS -- breeding: A pair that formerly nested in the Burro Mts. is no longer present...unusual: 1 near Post Office Canyon 7/29 (RS) was south of normal range. An immature bird, probably of this species, was seen between Alamogordo and Holloman Air Force Base 7/28 (JM).

HARRIS' HAWK -- 3, at least 1 an adult, in southwest N.M. 7/7 (JH).

SWAINSON'S HAWK -- breeding: A pair at Kirtland Air Force Base fledged 2 young (fide HS).

ZONE-TAILED HAWK -- breeding: A pair in Sycamore Canyon fledged 2 young (RF).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- unusual: Singles south of Isleta 6/13 (WH, WE) and at Maxwell NWR 7/24 (WH); species infrequently reported from these areas.

BLUE GROUSE -- breeding: Nests or broods were found at W. A. Humphries Wildlife Area, Rio Arriba County, 7/15 (Bruce Morrison), Taos Ski Area 6/14 (Dean Holloway, fide RF), and Guaje Canyon, Jemez Mts., 7/12 (Steve and Nancy Cox+).

MONTEZUMA QUAIL-- breeding: Broods observed at Mangas Springs 6/27 (RF), Fort Bayard 8/21 (B. K. Harris), and Post Office Canyon 8/9 (RS)....2 at Glenwood 7/3 (DMc) and 30 in the Sierra San Luis, Chihuahua, Mexico, 7/7-12 (Charlie Painter).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- Numerous at Hobbs 7/4 (JS).

SCALED QUAIL -- 5 on Sierra Grande 7/27 (MM), 2 on Grenville BBS (KS), 1 at Santa Fe 6/7-9 (JH), and 1 on La Cienega BBS (JRT).

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- 2 in La Luz Canyon 7/15, 20 (Paul Gordon, R&KJ); 20+ in Florida Mts. 2/19-20 (JH).

VIRGINIA RAIL -- All summer at Mangas Springs (RF); 2 at La Joya SGR 7/2, 5 (WH).

SORA -- 1 at Luna Reservoir 7/27 (SWi). At La Joya 7/2, 5 and 20, with 12 on last date (WH).

AMERICAN COOT -- breeding: Brood at Espanola (JRT), date unstated, believed to be first such report from there. Other breeding reports from Zuni area 4/16 and 5/21 (JT), at Fenton L. 6/16 and 30 (MS), at Quemado L. 7/11 and Luna Reservoir 7/23 (SWi), and at Fairview 8/21 (JH).

SNOWY PLOVER -- 20+ at Holloman L. 7/9 (JDo, EZ).

KILLDEER -- breeding: At Bluewater L. 5/11 and Zuni 5/29 (JT).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- At least 100 at Los Lunas sod farm, early June and 7/20 (WH+).

BLACK-NECKED STILT -- 1 at Hobbs 7/4 (JS). At least small numbers in this area in summers since 1983, and nesting is presumed (SW).

AMERICAN AVOCET -- 2 west of Lordsburg 7/4 (JH).

WILLET -- 5 at Holloman L. 7/9 (JDo, EZ).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- breeding: Pair with two-week-old young in Dry Cimarron Valley 5/27 (PSt).

MARBLED GODWIT -- A pair at Bluewater l. 6/22 (JT) was late.

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 10 or more at Holloman l. 6/18 (JM).

STILT SANDPIPER -- 1 in breeding plumage at La Joya SGR 7/2 and 5 (WH); 3 at Bosque NWR 7/26 (PSt, RT).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- Only June record was 7 at Zuni 6/25 (JT).

FRANKLIN'S GULL -- 1 at Cochiti L. 6/11 (PSt).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- At Heron L. all summer (LHS).

CASPIAN TERN -- unusual: 1 at Clayton L. 6/5 (WC, AK) was well described for the first local record. Species is rare in state.

FORSTER'S TERN -- 2 at Maxwell NWR 7/24 and 1 at La Joya SGR 7/2 (WH); 1 at Bosque NWR 7/26 (PSt).

LEAST TERN -- unusual: 1 at Bosque Redondo Park, Fort Sumner, on 7/4 was the first Pecos Valley record north of Bitter L. NWR (BO, TH). 1 at Holloman L. 7/2 (EW+) was the second detailed record (out of 4 in all) for there....
breeding: 4 pairs nested at Bitter L. NWR, hatching young in late July after heavy rains washed out the first attempts (Steve Marlatt).

BLACK TERN -- 15 at Maxwell NWR 7/24 (WH).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- A flock of 5 in the lower Mimbres Valley (Luna County) 6/30 was well outside the normal breeding habitat (JH).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- breeding: 5 juveniles appeared at a Truth or Consequences feeder 6/13 (DM)....1 at Albuquerque 6/10 was well north of usual range.

INCA DOVE -- Singles at Percha Dam SP 6/26 (BO), Truth or Consequences 6/30 (DM) and Tularosa 6/20 (NHT).

COMMON GROUND DOVE -- A male at San Simon Cienega 7/7 (JH).

BURROWING OWL -- Up to 5 at Zuni 6/23-29, first reported there since 1880s (JT).

LONG-EARED OWL -- 1 at Zuni 6/26, 2 in Zuni Mts. 6/28 (JT).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- First pair of season at Mangas Springs 6/20 (RF).

WHIP-POOR-WILL -- unusual: 1 calling in the North Fork, Magdalena Mts., 6/14-15 (JS), in an area where it is seldom reported.

BLACK SWIFT -- unusual: 4 to 6 at Reese Mesa (no date given) (AN+). Few, if any, records exist for San Juan County....3 birds, probably of this species, on Lake Peak 7/29 (JH).

CHIMNEY SWIFT -- unusual: 4 to 8 in downtown Albuquerque 6/1-15 (SH).

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD -- Regular at feeders at L. Roberts (DSe). Species is rare in N.M.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: Also regular at L. Roberts (DSe). 1 to 2 east of Cloudcroft 6/6 through 7/20 (Naomi Dobbins+); north of expected range and early for post-breeding wandering. It, too, is rare in state.

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD -- breeding: Up to 10, including 1 or 2 immatures, in Post Office Canyon. Apparently this is now an established U.S. population, probably the largest outside the Chisos Mts. in Texas. 7/4-8/8 (RS+).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- A male at Silver City during the period was out of season (A. & D. Arteaga, fide MO).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: A green-backed hummingbird, thought to be of this species, was observed at Post Office Canyon and described in detail. A photograph failed to show the throat. BZ provided the description, and the bird was seen at close range by half a dozen others, including RS. (7/24) Allen's is still not definitely verified as a New Mexico species.

RUFUS HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: A nearly complete albino, probably of this species, photographed at Chama 7/13 (LHS)....First fall female arrived in Ancho Canyon, Los Alamos County, 6/30 (BL); 1st males in Glenwood 7/4 (SWi) and near Silver City 7/1 (DSe).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER --- breeding: Nest in Chama, with adults bringing 2 young to feeder for 2 weeks in June (LHS). Nest cavity in cottonwood at Clayton L. 6/14, with adult feeding young through 7/19 (WC).

ACORN WOODPECKER -- Pairs were found at storage trees with nest cavities in two new areas in Los Alamos and were present all summer (BL); no young seen.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- A single male sapsucker* with red throat and forehead but lacking a red nape was sighted in Cochiti Canyon 6/11 (PSt).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER -- A male "Yellow-bellied" seen in Alamogordo 7/28 (RJ) (nape color not reported, but probably this species) was likely an early migrant.

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- A male* seen in Sixteen Springs Canyon, Otero County, 7/19 (RJ) was near the southern limit of its summer range; seldom reported there at this season.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER -- 1 in Zuni Mts. 6/22 (JT), and a male on Sandia Crest 7/18 (HS).

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER -- unusual: A bird identified as the male of this species was reported on Sandia Crest near the chair lift on 7/18 (Hue and Jo Ann MacKenzie). The details submitted, including head sketch, agree with all the accepted field marks, but there was no photograph. Additional authenticity comes from the fact that the observers formerly lived for many years in Ottawa, Canada, where both this and the Three-toed species are seen nearly every winter. The species still cannot be definitively accepted as occurring in New Mexico.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- An immature** yellow-shafted form was at Clayton L. 6/28 (WC).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER -- breeding: Up to 3 probable breeders in Zuni Mts. 6/28, 29 (JT) and possible breeding singles at Heron L. 7/16 (PSt) and in Sandia Mts. 7/13 (HS)....Lowland reports included 1 at Clayton 6/6 (WC) and 1 near Fort Sumner 6/4 (BO).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER -- 4 territorial birds at Zuni 6/30 (JT), and 1 apparently on territory at Pleasanton 7/7 (SWi). None in La Joya SGR area, where several were present the previous summer (WH).

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER -- 1 to 2 singing in Zuni Mts. 6/24, 29 (JT).

DUSKY FLYCATCHER -- Up to 8 singing in Zuni Mts. 6/24, 29 (JT) and several in Sandia Mts. 6/8 and 7/13 (HS).

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- breeding: 2 pairs building nests at Zuni 5/22 (JT).... 2 singing in Cherry Creek Canyon 7/17 (RF+).

WESTERN FLYCATCHER -- 1 at Clayton 6/6 (WC).

BLACK PHOEBE -- At least 2 in El Pueblo area 6/16 (JH) and up to 6 at Zuni 6/21-30 (JT).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- breeding: Nest in Dry Cimarron Valley 5/27 (RT, PSt).... 1 in El Pueblo area 6/16 (JH).

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD -- Easterly records in mid-June: near Grenville (KS) and in Trujillo Canyon (JH)....1 was in Embudito Canyon 7/4 (HS); species is rare on desert side of Sandias in summer.

WESTERN KINGBIRD -- 1 in Ancho Canyon, Los Alamos, 6/1 (BL). Normally seen in county in summer only along the Ruo Grande.

PURPLE MARTIN -- breeding: Many nesting colonies in Gila National Forest (SWi) and 1 colony on Mt. Taylor (PSt).

TREE SWALLOW -- breeding: Again bred at Clayton L.; young being fed 6/28-7/5 (WC).

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW -- Likely breeders: several through summer at Cochiti L. (F&RS), 6 on Rowe Mesa 6/7 (WE, WH), and 3 in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 (JH). Two at Bitter L. NWR 6/28 were apparent early migrants (SB).

BANK SWALLOW -- Only reports were apparent early migrants: 2 at Zuni 6/25 (JT) and 2 at La Joya SGR 7/2, 5 (WH).

CLIFF SWALLOW -- breeding: Nesting on 2 Silver City buildings (RF).

BARN SWALLOW -- breeding: Nests at Lordsburg and near San Simon Cienega (JH). ...Birds at Rodeo (RS) and Gage (BH).

STELLER'S JAY -- 1 on Rowe Mesa 6/7 (WE, WH); first summer report there.

PINYON JAY -- breeding: Fledglings in Santa Fe 6/12 and 7/19 (JH).

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- breeding: Adult feeding single young not flying well east of McGaffey at 8,300 feet on 4/20 (AS)...5 in Zuni Mts. 6/22 (JT).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- breeding: Pair nested** in scrub oak in Los Alamos 6/8 and fledged 5 young 7/2 for county's first confirmed breeding record (BL, Alan Kernodle, Lorraine Thorn).

AMERICAN CROW -- breeding: a juvenile near El Pueblo 6/16 (JH)...9 in two family groups between Los Lunas and Belen 7/5 (WH).

CHIHUAHAN RAVEN -- 2 at Los Lunas 7/2 (WH) were north of normal range.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- Present at Mimbres 6/30 and Silver City 7/5 (JH).

VERDIN -- Numerous at the species' northern range limit in the Rio Grande Valley at La Joya SGR, including a family group 7/2 (WH).

BUSH TIT -- 2 at treeline, 11,500 feet, on Wheeler Peak 7/8 (WH, GH); 12 in northeast Albuquerque 7/4 and 7/22 (WH).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Up to 6 in Zuni Mts. 6/24-29 (JT).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1 at Mimbres 6/30 (JH).

BROWN CREEPER -- breeding: Pair feeding nestlings at Sandia Peak 7/6 (BD, WH).

ROCK WREN -- 2 on Sierra Grande 7/27 (MM).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- Up to 40 in Zuni Mts. in June (JT).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- breeding: Several family groups in Sandia Mts. in early August (HS) and adults tending 7 recently fledged young at Sandia Crest 7/6 (WH, BD)...2 in Ojo Bonito Canyon, Zuni Mts., 6/24 (JT); 4 at Camp May, Los Alamos County, 6/28 (PI+).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 2 at Tres Piedras 6/22 (WE, WH); 1 in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 (JH); 2 in Copper Canyon, Magdalena Mts., 6/7-8 (JS); 2 at Mill Ridge, Otero County, 7/8 (JTa).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- breeding: Attempts by Rob Yaksich to attract bluebirds to nest in boxes in Raton and vicinity were well rewarded. Out of 8 or so boxes, 3 were occupied by Westerns, with two reused for second clutches, for a total of about 18 fledglings. Raton is on the eastern perimeter of the species' summer range.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- breeding: Two of the Raton boxes (above) were occupied by Mountains which fledged 4 young in spite of predation. Other nests reported at Galestina Ponds, Zuni, 6/7-8(JT) and at house 11 miles north of Jemez Springs 6/16 (MS).

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1 at El Pueblo 6/7 (WH, WE); 3 at Albuquerque 7/25 (PSt).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Numbers down at Mangas Springs (RF); 75 on Rodeo BBS (RS).

SAGE THRASHER -- 3 at Zuni 6/26 (JT); 1 in Six-Mile Canyon, Magdalena Mts., 7/10 (JS) was probably a fall migrant.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 2 on Valencia BBS 6/7 and 7 on Cerro Verde BBS 6/10 (JND); 1 at Holloman L. 7/9 (BZ, JDo) was a first local record and well east of normal range in southern New Mexico.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- 2 on Grenville BBS (KS); 9 at La Luz 7/15 (Paul Gordon).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- unusual: Several at Las Bolsas, Santa Fe County, in early June and earlier (LS) were a first for that locality. Species has been spreading northward, with recent appearances near Los Alamos and Espanola....3 at La Joya SGR 7/2 (WH) and 1 in lower Mimbres Valley 6/30 (JH).

WATER PIPIT -- 30 on Wheeler Peak 7/8 (GH, WH), including 2 young being removed from a nest by a Common Raven.

CEDAR WAXWING -- 2 to 5 at Blackrock, Zuni, 6/24-25 (JT) were behaving like nonbreeders; there are no confirmed breeding records in New Mexico. 6 were at Percha Dam SP 6/5 (DM).

PHAINOPEPLA -- unusual and breeding: the first-ever record for the Zuni area was a nesting pair with 2 juveniles at Blackrock Dam 7/2-5 (JT)...Other peripheral sightings: a female at La Joya SGR 7/2, 5 (WH); 1 or 2 at Bosque NWR 5/31-6/7 (DDa, RT); 1 at Alamo Canyon, Otero County, 7/20 (JM), and 1 at Post Office Canyon 6/5 (RS).

BELL'S VIREO -- breeding: Adult with 3 nestlings in Guadalupe Canyon 5/8 (SWi).

GRAY VIREO -- 4 to 7 at Zuni 6/27-30, including 1 at a new locality (JT); 1 on La Cienega BBS (JRT).

SOLITARY VIREO -- Widespread in mountains: 3 in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 and 1 in Santa Fe 7/9-20 (JT); 4 on Rowe Mesa 6/7 (WE, WH).

WARBLING VIREO -- breeding: a nest at Blackrock Dam, Zuni, in June (JT), and an individual on the Mimbres River 6/30 may have been nesting (JH)...Species found widely at higher elevations, and 1 was at Percha Dam SP 6/5 (DM).

RED-EYED VIREO -- 1 singing at San Simon Cienega 7/7 (JH).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 2 at Camp May, Los Alamos County, 6/28 (PI+); 4 in Zuni Mts. 6/29 (JT).

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER -- Common at Zuni in June (JT); 5 on Rowe Mesa 6/7 (WE, WH).

LUCY'S WARBLER -- At Percha Dam SP 6/5 (DM); recorded at Mimbres, Redrock and San Simon Cienega 6/30-7/7 (JH).

YELLOW WARBLER -- Several from Sena to El Pueblo 6/7-16 (JH, WE, WH); common at Chama (LHS) and in Zuni area (JT); 1 at Mimbres 6/30 (JH).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (Audubon's race) -- 2 on Rowe Mesa 6/7 (WE, WH); 1 at Truth or Consequences 6/5 (DM) was late.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER -- breeding: Nest-building noted at Zuni 6/21-28 (JT)...1 at Cerrillos 7/26 (LS); several at Three Rivers and in Sacramento Mts. during the period (JM, GSmi).

GRACE'S WARBLER -- 2 to 3 at Zuni 6/21-28 (JT); common in Magdalena Mts. 6/7-15 (JS).

KENTUCKY WARBLER -- unusual: 1 was fairly well observed and described at Bandler NM 6/6 (CJe, Paula Hansley, Gary Emerson) for the third summer report in the state.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER -- 1 at El Pueblo 6/7 (WE, WH) was undoubtedly a late migrant; 20 in Zuni Mts. 6/29 (JT).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- breeding: 12+ pairs nested at Mangas Springs (RF)... 30 at Zuni 6/25 (JT).

PAINTED REDSTART -- 10 in Sierra San Luis, Chihuahua, Mexico, 7/7-12 (Charlie Painter+).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT -- 40 at Zuni 6/25 (JT), 9+ from Sena to El Pueblo 6/16 (JH), 15 at Bosque NWR 7/27 (PI+), 9 on Mimbres R. 6/30 (JH), and 5 singing males at Mangas Springs (RF).

OLIVE WARBLER -- 1 at 7,200 feet on Trout Creek, Pinos Altos Mts., 7/12 (RF).

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- Male near Las Cruces 6/28 was pale in coloration (EW), suggesting that it had been in captivity.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSEBEAK -- 1* male near Tularosa 7/6 (JHt) and 1* male in Alamogordo 6/5 (GSmi).

BLACK-HEADED GROSEBEAK -- 3 in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 (JH), e. of usual range.

BLUE GROSEBEAK -- More numerous than usual at Glenwood, and still singing 8/18 (EMc).

LAZULI BUNTING -- Up to 9 at Zuni 6/25-30 (JT), 1 at Santa Fe 7/15 (LH) and 2 near El Pueblo 6/7 (WE, WH).

INDIGO BUNTING -- Up to 3 at Zuni 6/24-30, 1 in Karr Canyon 6/8 (JM), and 6 in Mimbres Valley 6/30 (JH).

DICKCISSEL -- unusual: Up to 5 singing at Maxwell NWR 7/16 (Paul Desjardins) and 7/24 (WH), in a new locality for species. Unknown whether they were early migrants or breeders.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- unusual: 1 near Las Cruces 6/2 (EW) was probably a very late migrant....Peripheral reports: 1-2 on Sierra Grande 7/27 (MM); in Magdalena Mts. 7/26 (JS); near Three Rivers 6/21 and in Karr Canyon 6/8 (JM).

RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE -- 9 at Bosque NWR 7/27 (PI+) was a high count.

BROWN TOWHEE -- 2 to 3 at Zuni 6/25-30, near Grenville 6/15 (KS), and in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 (JH).

ABERT'S TOWHEE -- 2 at San Simon Cienega 7/7 (JH).

ASSIN'S SPARROW -- 2 near La Cienega, where irregular, on 6/22 (JRT). Clearing of roadside ditches by highway crews may account for a decline to 5 on a transect east of Las Vegas where 32 is the average number (JH). Two near Rodeo 6/4 (RS) were early; other southwestern reports were in early July at best (JH).

RUFUS-CROWNED SPARROW -- breeding: 1 carrying food and 2 singing in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 (JH).

CHIPPING SPARROW -- Earliest migrants in Albuquerque 7/11 (WH); 20 near Alamogordo 7/20 (JM).

BREWER'S SPARROW -- Up to 12 at Zuni 6/25-30 (JT).

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- 1 in Trujillo Canyon 6/16 (JH).

VESPER SPARROW -- Up to 70 in Zuni Mts. and vicinity 6/21-30 (JT); many singing at Maxwell NWR 7/24 (WH); 5 at Sierra Grande 7/27 (MM); 3 at Los Alamos in the period (BL); 2 on Rowe Mesa 6/7 (WE, WH), and 4 east of Las Vegas 6/16 (JH).

LARK SPARROW -- 3 near El Rito 6/22 (SH) and 1 at Silver City 7/2 (JH).

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW -- 1 at Zuni 6/26 (JT).

SAGE SPARROW -- 7 at Zuni 6/26 (JT).

LARK BUNTING -- No reports, even from the northeast, where it is most regular in the summer.

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- breeding: Nest built at Zuni in late May was abandoned as of June 26 (JT).

ASSHOPPER SPARROW -- breeding: Numbers up in Clayton area, with young noted /5 (WC)...A new summer locality was Maxwell NWR, with 8 singing 7/24 (WH).

SONG SPARROW -- 3 at La Cueva 7/5 (PI+).

LINCOLN SPARROW -- 3 at Camp May, Los Alamos, 6/28 (PI+).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- 14 at Zuni 6/25 (JT).

WESTERN MEADOWLARK -- Southwesterly records were 1 at Mangas Springs 7/3-15 (RF) and 1 near Rodeo 6/4 (RS).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- Again summered in the Zuni (JT) and Las Vegas (JH) areas. First presumed migrants were on 7/2 at La Joya SGR (WH) and Holloman L. (EW+).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- Several summered near Cochiti L. (F&RIS), which is low for breeding. Six near Rodeo 6/4 (RS) were very late and 24 at Tularosa 7/9 (Nlu) may have been early migrants.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- 30 on 6/23 was Zuni's high count (JT). Up to 10 were at Bill Evans L. in the period (RF).

COMMON GRACKLE -- breeding: Young noted in Santa Fe as early as 6/4-6 (JH). ...50+ at Bosque NWR 7/27 (PI+) may have been migrants.

BRONZED COWBIRD -- Lower Rio Grande Valley reports: 1 or 2 in Truth or Consequences in June and July (DM); 1 at Caballo L. 6/5 (DM); 1 near Las Cruces 6/6 (EW).

PINE GROSBEAK -- 6 males on Wheeler's Peak 7/8 (WH, GH).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- breeding: Summered near Chama (LHS) and in the La Cueva area, with fledglings at the latter locale 7/25-27 (MS)....Unusual for the season were a singing male in the Zuni Mts. 6/24 (JT), a pair in the Sandia Mts. 6/13 (HS) and a female there 7/13 (GP).

RED CROSSBILL -- Only report before late June was a pair at Santa Fe 6/5 (PI). Then there were up to 30 in the Zuni Mts. 6/22-29 (JT), 6 at Camp May, Los Alamos 6/28 (PI+), and numerous examples in the Sandia Mts. soon after 6/22 (HS). Others: Several in the Apache Creek-Luna area of Catron County 6/21-30 (SWi) and 1 at Santa Fe 6/21 (JH).

PINE SISKIN -- Only lower-elevation reports were 4 to 20 at Zuni 6/22-29 (JT), and, at Santa Fe, several 6/6-8 (JH) and 6 on 6/17 (PI).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- Black-backed form returned to Farmington in mid-July after absence since 1985 (AN).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Small numbers in Chama area through the summer (LHS), 1 at Los Ojos 7/16 (PSt), a pair at Zuni 6/25 (JT), and 3 at Percha Dam SP 6/5 (DM). Closest yet to breeding in New Mexico were two family groups, feeding young, along the Pine R. in Colorado almost at the state line (AN).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Summered in the Chama area and in these mountains: Sangre de Cristo (JRT+), Jemez (MS+), Sandia (HS) and Sacramento (Naomi Dobbins). MS reported young at La Cueva. Late birds present at Santa Fe until 6/3 (SBo) and 6/23 (LH), and 6/3 at Cedar Crest. Returned to Santa Fe 7/20 (JH) and to Sandia Park 7/18 (HS).

HOUSE SPARROW -- breeding: Several nesting in an occupied Cliff Swallow colony near El Pueblo 6/16 (JH).