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NEW MEXICO
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FIELD NOTES

VOLUME 26, NO. 1

December 1, 1986 - February 28, 1987

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Paul Steel, Ross L. Teuber, and Steve West

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

The season saw the state's first report of a Little Gull and its first winter sightings of Forster's Tern. There was also an immature Black-legged Kittiwake. A possible Trumpeter Swan attracted many viewers to Percha Dam State Park, and stirred some disagreement on its identity.

The annual N.M. Bald Eagle census located 318 individuals, well above average. The Black-shouldered Kite remained in Hidalgo County. A number of Great Egret sightings, unusual for winter. A Thayer's Gull at Cochiti Lake and two Crissal Thrashers at Santa Fe extended their species' ranges northward.

High numbers in particular places included White-winged and Inca Doves in the lower Rio Grande Valley, Lewis' Woodpeckers at Bluewater Lake and Silver City, and Pinyon Jays at Zuni, Bluewater Lake and Silver City. High counts of bluebirds, solitaires and robins were widely distributed, probably because of problems with snow cover and food availability. A rare sighting of Lapland Longspur and unusually numerous reports of Harris' Sparrow were also notable.

Worth mention were views of both species of gnatcatcher, and rare-to-unusual winter records of Solitary Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat.

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE:

CA -- Carol Anderson

KA -- Kay Anderson

WHB -- William H. Baltosser

PB -- Pat Basham

TB -- Tom Bemis

JC -- Jim Cheek

DC -- David Cleary

WC -- Wes Cook

DD -- David Dale

JLD -- James L. Daly

JDO -- Jeff Donaldson

JE -- John Egbert

RF -- Ralph Fisher

RG -- Roland Goodman

HH -- Harold Hallett

LH -- Lois Herrmann

WH -- William Howe

JH -- John P. Hubbard

CAH -- Charles A. Hundertmark

J&Nht (JHt, Nht) -- Joseph & Nancy Hutto

PI -- Pat Insley

R&KJ (RJ, KJ) -- Robert & Katherine
Jenness

AK -- Adolf Krehbiel

HLe -- Harry Lehto

HL -- H. H. Lesperance

BL -- W. Burton Lewis

MM -- Marty Mayfield

AM -- D. Arch McCallum

DMac -- Don MacCarter

JM -- John McNelly

DM -- Doris Miller

AN -- Alan Nelson

CP -- Charles Painter

TR -- Fr. Terence Rhoades

CR -- Chris Rustay

RS -- Robert Scholes

GS -- C. Gregory Schmitt

HS -- Hart R. Schwarz

LHS -- Lorraine Hartshorne Schulte

JS -- John Shipman

F&RiS -- Frank & Rita Slown

PSn -- Pat Snider

TS -- Theodore Stans

PSt -- Paul Steel

RT -- Ross Teuber

JT -- John Trochet

JV -- James Vaught

SW -- Steve West

SWi -- Sartor Williams III

KW -- Kathy Wood

EW -- Eleanor Wootten

RY -- Rob Yaksich

BZ -- Barry Zimmer

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS IN TEXT

L. -- Lake

Mt. (Mts.) -- Mountains

NM -- National Monument

N.M. -- New Mexico

NP -- National Park

NWR -- National

Wildlife Refuge

SGR -- State Game Refuge

R. -- River

SP -- State Park

v.o. -- various observers

MRGV -- Middle

Rio Grande

Valley

* -- details

provided

** -- photo

NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1986-87:

(name of count, date, compiler, number of species, total birds)

Albuquerque Dec. 20, Hart Schwarz, 91, 17995
Bluewater L. Dec. 19, D. Arch McCallum, 86, 5348
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque) Dec. 21, Charles A. Hundertmark, 59, 35315
Caballo Dec. 18, Barry Zimmer, 129, 18794
Carlsbad Caverns NP Dec. 20 (Carlsbad), Tom Bemis, 77, 3965
Clayton Dec. 27, Marty Mayfield, 50, 2950
Española Dec. 28, W. Burton Lewis, 56, 3298
Farmington Dec. 20, Alan Nelson, 72, 25106
Gila River Jan. 3, Ralph Fisher, Jr., 98, 5288
Lakes Avalon & McMillan (L. Avalon) Jan. 3, Jim Cheek, 90, 11704
La Luz Jan. 3, Robert Jenness, 70, 3435
Las Cruces Jan. 4, Barry Zimmer, 107, 16556
Loving Dec. 21, Steve West, 73, 6796
Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 27, Robert Scholes, 98, 18833
Roswell Dec. 20, Harold Hallett, 84, 34193
Sandia Mts. Dec. 27, Kay Anderson, 40, 1381
Santa Fe Dec. 21, Roland Goodman, 55, 6249
Sevilleta NWR Dec. 18, Theodore Stans, 33, 1930
Silver City Dec. 20, Ralph Fisher, Jr., 71, 5239
Zuni Dec. 21, John Trochet, 84, 6347

Abbreviated "CC" in text. If an editor chooses, "On x CCs" tells on how many counts a species was seen; comments on individual CCs may follow. Official reports on CCs do not identify which participant made a particular observation.

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE:

Alamogordo -- Otero	Gila Cliff Dwellings -- Catron
Albuquerque -- Bernalillo	Gila R. -- Grant, Catron, Hidalgo
Bernalillo -- Sandoval	Gray Ranch -- Hidalgo
Bill Evans L. (often Evans L.) -- Grant	Hatch -- Doña Ana
Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.) -- Chaves	Jemez Mts., R., Springs -- Sandoval
Black Rock Dam, Zuni -- McKinley	Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts. --
Bluewater L. -- Cibola, McKinley	Bernalillo
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque NWR) --	La Cueva SGR -- Mora
Socorro	Laguna Grande -- Eddy
Burn L., Las Cruces -- Doña Ana	La Joya SGR -- Socorro
Caballo L., Dam -- Sierra	L. Avalon -- Eddy
Carlsbad -- Eddy	L. McMillan -- Eddy
Carlsbad Caverns NP -- Eddy	La Luz -- Otero
Clayton, Clayton L. -- Union	Las Animas Creek -- Sierra
Cliff -- Grant	Las Cruces -- Doña Ana
Cochiti L., Pueblo -- Sandoval	Las Vegas city, NWR -- San Miguel
Coolidge -- McKinley	Los Lunas -- Valencia
Cottonwood Canyon -- McKinley	Loving -- Eddy
Deming -- Luna	Magdalena -- Socorro
Durling's farm -- Doña Ana	Mangas Springs -- Grant
Elephant Butte L. -- Sierra	McAllister L. -- San Miguel
Española -- Rio Arriba	Mesilla -- Doña Ana
Evans l. (Bill Evans L.) -- Grant	Mora -- Mora
Farmington -- San Juan	Nutria L. -- McKinley
Florida Mts. -- Luna	Old Refuge at Mesilla -- Doña Ana

Peloncillo Mts. -- Hidalgo
Pena Blanca -- Sandoval
Percha Dam SP -- Sierra
Pleasanton -- Catron
Raton -- Colfax
Rattlesnake Springs -- Eddy
Redrock -- Grant
Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque
-- Bernalillo
Roswell -- Chaves
Sandia Mts. -- Bernalillo
San Simon Cienega -- Hidalgo

Santa Fe -- Santa Fe
Sevilleta NWR -- Socorro
Silver City -- Grant
Socorro -- Socorro
Storrie L. -- San Miguel
Truth or Consequences -- Sierra
Tularosa -- Otero
Uvas Mts., Valley -- Dona Ana
White Sands NM, Missile Range --
Otero
Zuni Reservation (Zuni for short)
-- McKinley

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON -- On only L. Avalon CC; 2 birds....1 at Jemez Canyon Reservoir 12/11 (Pst).

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- On 13 CCs; high of 31 at Caballo; 1 at Española was unusual.

HORNED GREBE -- Only report was 1 at Caballo L. 2/7 (Pst, RT).

EARED GREBE -- On 10 CCs; top was 200 at Caballo; 48 at Loving was unusual.

WESTERN GREBE -- On 4 CCs; high was Caballo's 200; Bluewater's 1 unusual. Many winter records included 2 on 1/1 at Storrie L. (JH), 1 or 2 at Cochiti L. 12/17, 21 (JH, WH), all season at Caballo L. with peak of 20 on 1/28 (JDo, BZ), and 2 at Evans L. 12/6 (JH).

CLARK'S GREBE -- On 2 CCs; an unusual 66 at Caballo (down to 45 on 1/28, JDo and BZ). One on 1/4 at L. McMillan, where infrequent (WH).

AECHMOPHORUS sp. -- On 4 CCs; most was 50 at Caballo.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- On 2 CCs; 27 on L. Avalon; the unusual 1 at Farmington stayed in area at least to 1/12 (AN). Apparently injured bird at Big Dry Creek, Grant County, 12/3 (SWi). Other reports all from L. McMillan: 37 on 1/4 (WH), 3 on 1/6 (DMac), and 25 on 2/15-16 (RT).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- On 3 CCs, with 43 at L. Avalon and 1 at Albuquerque both unusual.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT -- Only CC, a surprising 33 at Caballo, where species was common after being generally absent in previous winter. Also there, 1 on 12/8 (WH) and 1 immature 1/28 (JH).

AMERICAN BITTERN -- On 2 CCs; 1 at Albuquerque was unusual. 1 at Bosque NWR 1/10 (RT, Pst).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- On 15 CCs; most was 30 at Las Cruces; 28 at Albuquerque was abnormally high. At Cochiti L., 16 on 1/25 (CR) and 19 on 2/15 (PI).

GREAT EGRET -- On 4 CCs; unusual 4 at Roswell. Surprisingly widespread for a bird that normally vacates New Mexico in winter: 1 to 4 at Caballo L. 12/16-19 (BZ, DM); in lower Rio Grande Valley, 1 at Hatch 1/31 (JH) and 1 at Old Refuge 1/4 (BZ). In lower Pecos Valley, 3 to 4 at Bitter L. 1/9, 13 (KW) and 1 at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH).

SNOWY EGRET -- On 2 CCs. 3 at Caballo 12/18 (DM); 1 wintered at Bitter L. (KW).

CATTLE EGRET -- 1 on Las Cruces CC was only winter report.

GREEN-BACKED HERON -- Again, 1 on Las Cruces CC was sole sighting.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- On 5 CCs; the 36 at Roswell was above normal.

TUNDRA SWAN -- Only report, 1 at McAllister L. 1/5 (DMac).

TRUMPETER SWAN -- unusual: A single subadult swan which preferred the company of Sandhill Cranes was first seen at Percha Dam SP on 1/12 and remained there at least to 2/9. During that period it was seen by a good many of the state's best field observers and was repeatedly described in detail. Finally it was recorded as a quite likely Trumpeter Swan, but not positively confirmed. At least two felt that it was probably a Tundra Swan. The species is rare in New Mexico, confirmed only by a specimen found dead in the Mimbres Valley in 1977. Among the observers this time were EW, CA, DM, Julius Miller, BZ, JDo, PSn, JH, WHB, CP, RT, and PSt.

SWAN sp. -- A single flying high over Bluewater L. 12/17 (JT) could not be identified.

GREATER WHITE-FRONT GOOSE -- 2 at Santa Fe R. dam 1/25 (CR), 2 at Cochiti marsh 1/25 (PI) and 2/18 (WH), 12 at Los Lunas 1/24 (DD), singles at Percha Dam SP 1/28 (JH) and 2/26 (DM), and 1 at Bitter L. 2/7 (PSt, RT) and 2 on 2/26 (KW).

SNOW GOOSE -- On 2 CCs, with unusual 1,400 on L. Avalon. High report for season at Bosque NWR was about 20,000 (HLe). Clayton area population the lowest in years (WC); seen at La Cueva SGR and Mora 12/10 (DMac); 9 near Gila Cliff Dwellings 12/31 (Jim Koons); and 75 at Tularosa 2/8-10 (J&Nht). Blue form on 2 CCs, with 15 on L. Avalon.

ROSS' GOOSE -- Only CC, 8 at Farmington; third consecutive winter in area. Highs at Bosque NWR, 800+ on 12/26 and 1,300+ on 2/8 (HLe).

CANADA GOOSE -- On 12 CCs; high or unusual, 5,525 at Farmington, 2 on Sandias count, and 32 on Gila R. Winter peak at Bitter L., 1,724 on 2/6 (KW).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE -- Birds reported as this species (Alopochen aegyptiacus) at Roswell country club during the period (KW). Probably escapes.

WOOD DUCK -- On 6 CCs; most was 5 at Roswell. Male and female at Zuni filtration plant 12/3-2/7 (DC, JT); male at Las Cruces 1/5-22 (LHS).

MANDARIN DUCK -- 3 males, 1 female in Corrales area 12/20 (JLD, Tom Sisk). This is where a male, assumed to be an escapee, was seen in December 1984.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- On 11 counts; high of 76 at Bluewater L.

MALLARD -- On 16 CCs, notably 12,383 at Farmington, 1,088 at Albuquerque. Mexican form: On 3 CCs; 5 in Peloncillos, on Carlsbad report without details. 1 male with 8 Mallards at Mangas Springs 2/9 (RF); 2 plus a hybrid in Uvas Valley 1/28-30 (JH); 8 at Gray Ranch 12/30 and 2 there 2/20 (JH).

NORTHERN PINTAIL -- On 9 CCs; high was 179 at Loving. Sharply down in Clayton area (MM).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- On 4 CCs. 1 male 12/26 at Caballo L. (JS).

CINNAMON TEAL -- Only CC, 1 on Gila R. 2 at Cochiti L. 2/21 (WH), 4 males at Caballo L. 2/7 (PSt, RT); male at Bitter L. 1/30 (KW).

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- On 10 CCs; most was 872 at Roswell.

GADWALL -- On 13 CCs; high was 306 at Roswell. Fewest in winter since 1976 at Farmington (AN).

AMERICAN WIGEON -- On 12 CCs; 610 at Roswell. 1 at Santa Fe was first since 1972 on a CC.

CANVASBACK -- On 6 CCs; highest, 37 at Loving.

REDHEAD -- On 9 CCs; most were 475 at Roswell.

RING-NECKED DUCK -- On 12 CCs; highest, 133 at Farmington.

GREATER SCAUP -- unusual: On 2 CCs, 1 at Caballo and 4 at Zuni with good details. ...Season brought a multitude of records of this species, normally very rare in N.M.: male and female at Rio Grande Nature Center 2/22 (WH) and 2/23 (PSt);

male and 2 females at Black Rock Reservoir 2/1 (DC); 3 males and a female near Las Vegas 1/1 (JH, JV); 2 males below Caballo L. 12/16 (BZ); at Percha Dam, 2 males 1/5, 8, and 2 males and a female 1/15-16, male and female 1/19 and 2 males 2/5 (DM); male at Nutria L. 12/15 (DC).

LESSER SCAUP -- On 10 CCs, with 120 on Gila River. 120 also on Evans L. 12/6; area's second most abundant duck.

SURF SCOTER -- unusual: Only CC record, 1 at Caballo, with good details. This rare duck also seen there 1/28 (BZ) and 2/7 (RT, PSt).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- unusual: 2 at Bitter L. 2/16 (RT).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- On 8 CCs, with unusual 77 at Caballo. 35 at Percha Dam SP 12/16 (JDo, BZ).

BUFFLEHEAD -- On 11 CCs, up to 501 at Roswell; 4 at Gila River were new for count. 1 at Black Rock reservoir 12/5 (DC), 5 below Caballo L. 12/6 (BZ, JDo), and 150 throughout season at Bitter L. (KW).

HOODED MERGANSER -- On 4 CCs; 1 at Zuni rated unusual. 1 or 2 at Clayton (WC), Las Vegas NWR (PI), Cochiti L. (PSt), and at Bosque NWR 2/8 (HLe) and 2/20 (Wayne Prentice).

COMMON MERGANSER -- On 13 CCs; most was 3,000 at Caballo; considered unusual were 73 at Albuquerque and 1 on Sandias count.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- On 1 CC, 3 at L. Avalon. Also 1 or 2 at Cochiti L. 12/17-2/21 (WH) and at Bitter L. 1/2 (KW).

RUDDY DUCK -- On 10 CCs; peak of 306 at Roswell.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- unusual: Singles northeast of Deming 12/29 (LH) and at San Simon Cienega 2/7 (Charles B. Schaughency).

OSPREY -- unusual: More reports than usual, including singles at Bosque NWR 12/26 (HLe); at Caballo L. on CC and 1/8 (DM) and 2/7 (RT, PSt); near Cliff 12/20, and on Gila River CC.

BALD EAGLE -- Reflecting the count of 316 on the annual state survey in January, vs. an average of 230 (GS+), there were reports from all major drainages and bodies of water (v.o.). Among many Cochiti L. reports, the peak number was found 1/13 and 1/14 by T. Johnson, with 23 adults and 32 immatures, including 33 in the adjacent Capulin Canyon and 22 in Alamo Canyon -- all-time high for the area. 41 were still at Cochiti 1/25 (PI, CR). Southwest of the species' usual range in N.M. was 1 at L. McMillan 1/10-11 (B. Swayze, SW).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- unusual: 4 on Zuni CC.

HARRIS' HAWK -- unusual: A vagrant near Tularosa 2/12 (JM).

RED-TAILED HAWK -- Single melanistics near Zuni 2/1 (DC), and at Bosque NWR 12/3 and near Carlsbad 2/7 (RT). 1 of Harlan's race* at Zuni 1/12 (JT).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- unusual: 1 dark phase at Zuni 12/18 (JT).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- unusual: 1 dark phase near Zuni in January (DC, TR).

PEREGRINE FALCON -- unusual: A vagrant at Rattlesnake Springs 1/4 (WH). 1 on Southwest Audubon raptor count (RF+) was only the third in 12 years.

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- 7 on Peloncillo CC. Reported with no details in Sierra de las Uvas 1/10 (fide Linda Seibert); first local record.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- 10 at Bitter L. 2/6 (KW).

SCALED QUAIL -- 128 on Carlsbad CC; 10 on Gila Valley CC were new to count. Unrecorded at Bitter L. for season (KW).

VIRGINIA RAIL -- On 5 CCs; most was 7 at Farmington. In Clayton area during winter with high 3 on 12/28 (WC, MM); a few all season at Mangas Springs (RF), and 1 at Bitter L. 1/2 (KW).

SORA -- Singles on 3 CCs. Low numbers all winter at Mangas Springs (RF) and Bitter L. (KW). 1 or 2 at L. McMillan (WH).

COMMON MOORHEN -- Only CC record, 5 at Las Cruces.

AMERICAN COOT -- On 13 CCs, with 8,642 at Roswell.

SANDHILL CRANE -- On 5 CCs; 5,800 at Bosque. Other highs: 200 in Gila Valley 12/6 (RF), 52 at Redrock December-February (Alton Ford), 7,300 on 1/2 and 4,200 on 2/26 at Bitter L. (KW).

WHOOPIING CRANE -- Largest number in central N.M. was 23 (Wendy Brown, RD) with 1 wintering near Ascension, Chihuahua.

SNOWY PLOVER -- unusual: Third N.M. winter record was 1 at Laguna Grande 1/4 (WH).

KILLDEER -- On 16 CCs; most was 101 at Las Cruces.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- On 4 CCs; 11 at L. Avalon. 2 at Percha Dam SP 12/18 and 1/28 (BZ) and 10 on White Sands Missile Range (JM).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- Only reports, 1 at Bosque NWR 12/26 and 2/8 (HLe).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- On 2 CCs; unusual 8 at Caballo. Also 1 at Pleasanton 2/15 (SWI) and 4 at Caballo 12/8 (WH) and 6 on 12/16 (BZ).

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- On 1 CC (1 at Loving), and 1 at Laguna Grande 1/4 (WH).

LEAST SANDPIPER -- On 2 CCs, with very high 108 at Caballo. Even more -- 204 -- at Laguna Grande 1/4 (WH).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- On only Avalon CC, where also 72 were seen 1/4 and 15+ 2/16 (RF). 3 at Cochiti L. 12/11 (PSt) and 1 at Bosque NWR 1/10 (PSt).

COMMON SNIPE -- On 14 CCs; up to 25 at Gila River.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- unusual: Second Carlsbad Caverns NP record was a single at Rattlesnake Springs 1/16, described by Kim Watson.

LITTLE GULL -- unusual: An immature was associating with Bonaparte's Gulls at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH) and again 2/16-17 (RT). These are the first records of this species in New Mexico.

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 94 at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH) had decreased to 30+ by 2/16-17 (RT). Both are very high N.M. winter counts.

RING-BILLED GULL -- 800 on Caballo CC and 650 on Avalon CC. 190 at Cochiti L. 1/7 had all left by 1/22 (WH), with 9 returning by 2/15 (PI+).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- More than usual: 1 adult at Cochiti L. 12/11 (PSt) and 1/7 (WH); a first-year bird at Caballo L. 12/8 (WH) and a third-year bird there 1/28 (BZ, JDo).

HERRING GULL -- 1 at Storrie L. 1/1 (JH, JV), 9 to 12 at Cochiti L. 12/21 (JH), up to 8 at Caballo L. in December and January (BZ, JDo), at Bitter L. all winter (KW), and 2 on L. Avalon CC.

THAYER'S GULL -- unusual: An adult at Cochiti L. 1/7 (WH) was the first Rio Grande Valley sighting north of Bosque NWR.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -- 1 at Burn L. 12/21 (LHS) and 12/23 (Harold Harrison), for about the ninth state sighting, only one of which is documented by specimen or photograph.

FORSTER'S TERN -- unusual: The first N.M. winter records were all well-described: singles on Caballo and L. Avalon CCs, 1 at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH) and at least 6 there 2/15-16 (RT).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- Highs were 21 on L. Avilon CC and 45 on Las Cruces CC, as well as 20 to 30 at Socorro 12/6 to 2/14 (JS) and 35 at Percha Dam SP 1/28 (BZ, JDo). But only 1 at Truth or Consequences 2/7-12 (DM).

INCA DOVE -- unusual: 1** was at a feeder in Zuni, where rare, 12/12-1/15 (DC, JT)...9 at Socorro 12/29 (JS) and up to 3 daily at Alamogordo December-February (RJ).

COMMON GROUND DOVE -- 4 on Carlsbad CC, without details.

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- unusual: 1 at Zuni throughout the period (DC, JT)... 2 at Gray Ranch 12/30 (JH).

COMMON BARN OWL -- unusual: 8 in Las Animas Creek near Percha Dam 1/4 (BZ) was a large number for this species, which is usually solitary or in pairs.

WESTERN SCREECH OWL -- unusual: 1 on Silver City CC was the first ever for that count.

LONG-EARED OWL -- unusual: 1 on 1/11 at Zuni (JT).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- unusual: 1 northwest of Coolidge 1/10 (JT).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- 2 in Cottonwood Canyon in December (AM).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- 15-20 at Caballo Dam 1/28 (BZ, JDo) and 2/19 (JH); several hundred over Gila Valley 2/22 (RF).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER -- In high numbers: 46 on Bluewater CC and 19 on Silver City CC.

ACORN WOODPECKER -- Exceptional 32 on Gila River CC.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- A high 9 on Bluewater CC.

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- Singles at Percha Dam SP 12/12 and 1/28 (BZ, JDo) were south of range, and 1 on University of New Mexico campus 12/10 (WH) was out of habitat.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- 17 of the yellow-shafted form were high for Roswell CC.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER -- 1* at Percha Dam SP 1/28 (JDo, BZ) and 2/16 (CR).

DUSKY/HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER -- 1 near Pleasanton 2/13, 23 (M.J. Renfro, SWi).

BLACK PHOEBE -- North of usual were 1 or 2 at Cochiti Dam 1/7 and 2/17 (WH+), 1/25 and 2/8 (CR) and 2/15 (PI+).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 1/4 (WH) and 1/1 and 2/11 (park staff).

SAY'S PHOEBE -- 1 at Santa Fe 1/18 (John Arnold).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- A male near Silver City 2/22 was early (RF).

TREE SWALLOW -- 1 or 2 were late at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH). About 15 at Percha Dam SP 1/19 (DM) were possible early migrants.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- Possible early migrants, 2 at Caballo Dam 2/19 (JH).

CAVE SWALLOW -- Returned to Carlsbad Caverns 2/11 (park staff); earliest recorded date of return was 2/9/73.

BARN SWALLOW -- 2 at Caballo Dam 12/8 (WH) were late.

STELLER'S JAY -- 208 on Bluewater CC was high. Singles at Bernalillo 2/25 and in Juan Tabo Canyon 2/28 (WH) remained after the fall influx into the MRGB. 1 to 3 were on the White Sands Missile Range 1/29 and 2/12 (JM).

BLUE JAY -- 3 still in Albuquerque in January-February after last fall's incursion (Nancy Joste, Charles Wellborn).

PINYON JAY -- Noteworthy CC counts: 1,155 Bluewater, 672 at Zuni, and 70 on Gila River.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- A high 52 on Bluewater CC.

BLACK BILLED MAGPIE -- Local record of 92 on Santa Fe CC.

AMERICAN CROW -- 26 to 32 at Mangas Springs 12/6 to 1/6 (RF).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- 79 on La Luz CC was high.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- 45 on Española CC and 26 on Albuquerque CC were elevated counts.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- 166 on Zuni CC and 300 on Bluewater CC. None on Farmington CC for first time since 1970, and absent from Doña Ana County. 1 at Clayton 12/23 (MM) remained at higher elevations this winter.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- On CCs, 24 at Caballo, 15 at Silver City, and 93 in Peloncillos.

VERDIN -- 1 at La Joya SGR 2/26 (WH).

BUSHTIT -- High CCs: 136 at Zuni, 110 at Silver City, 197 in Peloncillos. 15 at Albuquerque 1/23 (WH). 1 at Bitter L. 2/22 (Jim Montgomery, fide KW); rare in lower Pecos Valley.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 18 on Albuquerque CC. Totally absent from Doña Ana County all winter (BZ), as was the WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.

BROWN CREEPER -- 1 on Las Cruces CC.

ROCK WREN -- Singles on Farmington and Española CCs, where casual in winter.

HOUSE WREN -- Highs: 5 at Percha Dam SP 12/18 and 6 at Old Refuge 1/4 (BZ).

WINTER WREN -- 2 at Blackrock Dam 12/17 (JT).

AMERICAN DIPSER -- 1 at Cochiti Dam spillway 1/25 (PI, CR).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- Large fall flight's impact continued through the winter. On CCs, 3 in Peloncillos, 18 at Albuquerque, 1 at Caballo. 1 at Zuni 1/11 (JT), 2 at Silver City 12/15-19 (George Moseley), and 3 at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- On CCs, 1 at Sevilleta (no details), 1 at La Luz (details), and 2 at Carlsbad (details).

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- 1 on Las Cruces CC, 2 on Peloncillos CC.

GNATCATCHER sp. -- 2 at Percha Dam SP 2/16 (CR).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- 17 on Las Cruces CC. 12 at Percha Dam SP 1/28 (BZ).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- Large numbers south from Santa Fe in the Rio Grande Valley to Las Cruces, then west to the Peloncillo Mts. (v.o.).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- Concentrations shifted to western New Mexico, apart from the Zuni area. On CCs, 117 at Farmington, 400 at Silver City, 124 in the Peloncillos.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE -- Though some CCs produced relatively high counts for their areas, they were widely distributed: 36 at Clayton, 215 at Santa Fe, 35 at Las Cruces, and 16 at L. Avalon.

AMERICAN ROBIN -- High CC counts widely distributed: Farmington 769, Clayton 294, Silver City 814, Carlsbad 206. But northern Rio Grande Valley counts were relatively low (Española 115, Santa Fe 58), possibly owing to heavy snow cover.

SAGE THRASHER -- A few north to Zuni (JT) and Bitter L. (KW).

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 at Zuni 12/9-2/17 (DC, TR), 1 at Sandia Haven 1/9+ (fide RT), 1 at Bosque NWR 12/26 (HLe), 1 at Percha Dam SP 2/16 (CR), and 4 on Carlsbad CC.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 1 on Peloncillo CC.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- On CCs, Silver City 26, Carlsbad 18. Present at Santa Fe all winter (SBo), 1 at Bitter L. 2/2 (KW).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- unusual: 1* at Santa Fe all season (Ted Stampfer) and 1 on CC were firsts for the city....Singles at La Joya SGR 2/26 (WH), Bitter L. 1/2 (KW) and Gray Ranch 12/30 (JE), and 2 in Florida Mts. 2/19-20 (JH).

WATER PIPIT -- 664 on Loving CC.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING -- None reported despite huge numbers in Colorado.

CEDAR WAXWING -- On CCs, Farmington 201, Silver City 338, Caballo 301. Common in Doña Ana County (BZ) but low numbers elsewhere.

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- Singles on Bluewater and Zuni CCs.

SOLITARY VIREO -- unusual: 1 at Percha Dam SP 12/16 (BZ, JDo); at least the state's 8th winter record.

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 2 on Gila Valley CC were new to the count.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- unusual: 1 wintered at Farmington for the third consecutive year (HL)....6 on Las Cruces CC.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- Myrtle race: 1 at Santa Fe 12/17 (JH), 2 at L. McMillan 1/4 (WH). Audubon's race: 6 on Zuni CC. Numbers low at Silver City (RF), and only 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 1/4 (WH).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- unusual: 1 at Albuquerque 1/4 (HS) was the second detailed winter record for New Mexico.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 2 on Las Cruces CC.

ABERT'S TOWHEE -- 2 on Peloncillos CC. 4* at San Simon Cienega 2/21 (JH).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- unusual: 61 on Clayton CC; rarely seen there....15+ near Las Vegas NWR 1/1 (JH, JV); 1 at Bosque NWR 2/7 (RT, PST).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- unusual: 7* on Peloncillos CC; rare in N.M. in winter.

FOX SPARROW -- Single reddish birds at Socorro 12/15-2/20 (PB, RT), near Mesilla 1/4 and later (BZ+), and Rattlesnake Springs 1/4 (WH).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 2 on Bluewater CC and 1 at Zuni 12/20-21 and 1/13, 16 (JT) were north of normal winter range.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Most records from Rio Grande Valley except 3 at Raton 1/1 (RY), 1 at Zuni 1/16 (JT), and 2 on La Luz CC.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1* on Caballo CC. 2 at Bosque NWR 1/23 (David Marin).

HARRIS' SPARROW -- Unusually numerous. 7 immatures on Farmington CC (fourth time on count and first since 1976), and 1 on Silver City CC (second time on count since 1960)....17 reported from Rio Grande Valley westward (v.o.).

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO -- unusual: 2 on Peloncillos CC. Very rarely seen in this mountain range.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR -- Up to 35 west of Magdalena from early December to 2/8 (HLe). 1** to 2 in southern Doña Ana County 12/1-2/11 (BZ).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- unusual: 1 west of Magdalena 12/23 (HLe); very rare in N.M.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- North of usual winter range: 9 at Zuni 2/28 (DC), and 1 at Las Vegas 1/1 (JH, JV).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- Only at Las Vegas: 3* on 1/1 and 1 on 1/24 (JH).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- North of usual records were 2 at Zuni 12/21 (JT+) and 8 there 1/10 and 2/28 (DC); 2 on Bluewater CC; 6 at Las Vegas 1/1 (JH, JV). ...Also notable: 50 on 12/20 and 1/9 at Silver City (RF+), where species now appears to be resident.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- North of usual winter range: 45 at Peña Blanca 1/7 (WH), 8 on Bluewater CC, and 49 near Cliff 1/3 (RF+).

ROSY FINCH -- unusual: 8 "brown-capped" at a Farmington feeder 2/26-28 during a period of heavy snowfall (AN) -- first report there since 1977 and first local report at a feeder.

PINE GROSBEAK -- 10 on Sandias CC.

PURPLE FINCH -- 5* (2 males and 3 females) possibly at Las Vegas CC.

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Reports most frequent from December to early January, then again in late February, mostly in or near montane areas (v.o.). Southern-most were 1 near Cliff 1/3 & 47 at Silver City 12/20 (RF+).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- 2 at Albuquerque 1/3 (CR).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Only a few in Santa Fe through the period. Irregularly noted in Zuni Mts. and in Albuquerque area. Other reports: 123 at Farmington 12/20 (AN+), 64 at Raton 1/1 (RY), several at Bosque NWR 1/24 (LHS), and 4 at Silver City 12/20 (RF+) and 1/31 (JH).