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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:

No blockbusters for the season, but many good sightings. The state's third verified American Woodcock and first evidence of Black Swift breeding were notable. The Boreal Owl reached Wheeler Peak, a worldwide farthest south. Ruddy Ground Dove appeared for the third time in four years at the same Doña Ana County site. Other N.M. rarities were two Jaegers, two Scarlet Tanagers, a Carolina Wren, a Wood Thrush, two groups of Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Prothonotary Warblers....Observers described a flock of 40 to 50 shorebirds at Holloman Lakes as Black Turnstones. This common Pacific Coast species is extremely rare inland. Without photographic evidence, it must be rated at best as only "possible" for New Mexico, though some details were provided; the species is still unconfirmed for our state.

A lot of birds were out of place, among them a Black-shouldered Kite at Bosque refuge, a Common Black Hawk at Percha Dam State Park, Purple Martins at Mangas Springs, a Gray Catbird and a Brown Thrasher too far west, and a Broad-billed Hummingbird at Truth or Consequences. Again, some montane birds moved to lowlands.

Whooping Cranes had a bad year, but Wood Ducks continued to increase. There were good numbers of Ospreys, Bald Eagles and Clark's Nutcrackers.

The annual count of southbound raptors in the Manzano Mountains, held August 21 to November 4, recorded 3,938 birds of 17 species, just under 1986's 4,005. Of the more abundant, Turkey Vultures, Northern Harriers and Sharp-shinned and Swainson's Hawks were up, while Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Golden Eagles and American Kestrels declined. Tabulation, minus 170 not identified by species:

	--Peak--				--Peak--		
	Total	Date	No.		Total	Date	No.
Turkey Vulture	283	9/28	150	Red-tailed Hawk	460	10/11	30
Osprey	19	twice	3	Ferruginous Hawk	21	twice	4
Bald Eagle	1	10/26	1	Zone-tailed Hawk	2	twice	1
Northern Harrier	79	10/29	5	Golden Eagle	85	10/21	13
Sharp-shinned	1,625	10/9	170	American Kestrel	423	twice	28
Cooper's Hawk	679	9/30	36	Merlin	18	twice	3
Northern Goshawk	7	11/4	2	Peregrine Falcon	7	7 times	1
Broad-winged Hawk	7	9/21	2	Prairie Falcon	8	8 times	1
Swainson's Hawk	44	4 times	4				

--James L. Daly

Southwestern Audubon Society's one-day annual raptor count found 355 birds of 12 species, vs. 315 in 1986. Also sighted, 7 Great Horned Owls (record high) and 7 Greater Roadrunners (very low). Kestrels were below normal. Summary: 2 Bald Eagles, 68 Northern Harriers, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Cooper's Hawks, 7 Harris' Hawks, 165 Red-tailed Hawks, 4 Ferruginous Hawks, 4 Rough-legged Hawks, 27 Golden Eagles, 50 American Kestrels, 2 Merlins, 8 Prairie Falcons.

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CA -- Carol Anderson | LG -- Larry Gorbet | PJ -- Phil Johnson |
| JBl -- James Black | BrH -- Bruce Halstead | AK -- Adolf Krehbiel |
| R&SC -- Robert & Susan Carl | WH -- William Howe | GL -- Greg Lasley |
| DC -- David Cleary | JH -- John P. Hubbard | BL -- W. Burton Lewis |
| WC -- Wes Cook | CAH -- Charles A. Hundertmark | |
| JLD -- James L. Daly | J&Nht -- Joseph & Nancy Hutto | DMac -- Don MacCarter |
| JDo -- Jeff Donaldson | | EMc -- Barbara McKnight |
| WE -- William Eley | | JM -- John McNelly |
| RF -- Ralph Fisher | PI -- Pat Insley | DM -- Doris Miller |
| AF -- Alton Ford | R&KJ -- Robert & Katherine Jenness | WM -- William Mobley |
| | | Tmu -- Tim Mitchusson |

AN -- Alan Nelson	LHS -- Lorraine Schulte	JW -- Jack Whetstone
MO -- May O'Byrne	JS -- John Shipman	HW -- Harvey Williams
BO -- Kenneth Bruce Ostyn	GSmI -- Gerri Smith	SWI -- Sartor Williams III
OCBC -- Otero County Bird Club	PSn -- Pat Snider	
	F&RSI -- Frank & Rita Slown	KW -- Kathy Wood
MAR -- Mary Alice Root	DSt -- Dale Stahlecker	EW -- Eleanor Wootten
CR -- Chris Rustay	GSt -- Gary Stolz	
	MS -- Marjorie Swain	BZ -- Barry Zimmer
RS -- Robert Scholes		D&MZ -- Dale & Marian Zimmerman
HS -- Hart R. Schwarz	WU -- William Uhlein	

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE

abbreviations and symbols:

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

Albuquerque -- Bernalillo	Cumbres Pass -- Rio Arriba	L. McMillan -- Eddy
Arch -- Roosevelt		Lake Peak -- Santa Fe
	Datil -- Catron	La Luz -- Otero
Bandelier NM -- Sandoval,	Deming -- Luna	Las Cruces -- Doña Ana
Los Alamos	Doña Ana -- Doña Ana	Los Alamos -- Los Alamos
Bayard -- Grant	Donaldson's farm --	Los Lunas -- Valencia
Bell L. -- Lea	Doña Ana	
Bernalillo -- Sandoval	Durling's farm -- Doña Ana	Mangas Springs -- Grant
Big Hatchet Mts. -- Hidalgo		Manzano Mts. -- Torrance
Bill Evans L. (also Evans L.)	Elephant Butte L. --	Maxwell NWR -- Colfax
-- Grant	Sierra	Mesilla -- Doña Ana
Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.)	El Morro NM -- Cibola	Moriarty -- Torrance
-- Chaves	Embudo -- Bernalillo	
Black Range -- Grant	Espanola -- Rio Arriba	Navajo L. -- San Juan
Black Rock Dam, Zuni --	Evans L. -- Grant	Nutria L. -- McKinley
McKinley		Ojo Sarco -- Rio Arriba
Bosque del Apache NWR	Farmington -- San Juan	Owen's farm -- Doña Ana
(Bosque NWR) -- Socorro	Fenton L. -- Sandoval	
Burford L. -- Rio Arriba	Gila R. -- Grant, Catron,	Percha Dam SP -- Sierra
	Hidalgo	Pleasanton -- Catron
Caballo L., Dam -- Sierra	Glenwood -- Catron	Portales -- Roosevelt
Carlsbad -- Eddy		Post Office Canyon --
Carlsbad Caverns NP --	Heron L. -- Rio Arriba	Hidalgo
Eddy	High Rolls -- Otero	
Charette Lakes -- Mora	Hillsboro -- Sierra	Randall Davey Nature
Cienega Canyon, Sandia	Hobbs -- Lea	Center -- Santa Fe
Mts. -- Bernalillo	Holloman L. -- Otero	Randal's Pool -- Doña
Cimarron -- Colfax	Horse Springs -- Catron	Ana
Clayton, Clayton L. --	Hyde SP -- Santa Fe	Raton -- Colfax
Union		Rattlesnake Springs
Cloverdale -- Hidalgo	Jal -- Lea	-- Eddy
Cochiti L., Pueblo --	Kingston -- Sierra	Redrock -- Grant
Sandoval		Rio Grande Nature Cen-
Columbus -- Luna	Laguna Grande -- Eddy	ter, Albuquerque --
Conchas L. -- San Miguel	La Joya SGR -- Socorro	Bernalillo

Roswell -- Chaves	Stone L. -- Rio Arriba	White Sands NM -- Otero
Roy -- Harding	Storrie L. -- San Miguel	Zuni Reservation (Zuni for short) -- McKinley
San Augustin Plains -- Catron	Tres Piedras -- Taos	
Sandia Mts., Crest, Park -- Bernalillo	Truth or Consequences -- Sierra	
San Marcial -- Socorro	Tucumcari -- Quay	
San Rafael -- Cibola	Tularosa -- Otero	
Sevilleta NWR -- Socorro	Villanueva -- San Miguel	
Silver City -- Grant	Wheeler Peak -- Taos	

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON -- Only singles at Bitter L. 11/7 and 11/27-28 (KW).

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- breeding: 2 adults and 3 immature in August at Cochiti Golf Course, where family was first seen 7/1 (F&RS1).

EARED GREBE -- 2 at Mary's L., Colfax County, 11/17 (SW1). 500 to 1,000 on Burford L. 10/5 (DSt).

WESTERN GREBE -- 20 at Charette Lakes 9/23; 18 left that night (SW1); 7 at Miami L., Colfax County, 11/17 (SW1); highs of 10 at Bosque NWR 10/22 and 11/6 (RT), and present at Bitter L. during season, with no Clark's at either refuge.

CLARK'S GREBE -- Fewer than usual. 6 at Red L. Navajo Sanctuary, McKinley County, 8/10, 15 (DC, J. Taylor, B. Humphries); 1 at Black Rock Reservoir 9/20 (DC); 5 at Charette Lakes 9/23 (SW1), with 3 leaving that night.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- In MRGV, 200 on 8/28 and 100 on 9/2 at La Joya SGR, where unusual (RT); 70 at Bosque NWR 9/3 (BZ) and 30 9/14 (RT). Arrived at Bitter L. 8/20, peaked there at 318 on 9/4, and 32 still there 11/27 (KW). High at L. McMillan, 153 on 10/13 (DMac). Singles at Holloman L. 9/3 and 11/5 (BZ+) and at Tularosa 9/28-10-28 (J&Nht) were unusual.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- A juvenile at Red L. Navajo Sanctuary 8/10, 15 (DC+).

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT -- 6 to 8 at Bosque NWR 8/20 (RT)

LEAST BITTERN -- 1 at Bosque NWR 9/3 (BZ); present during August at Tucumcari L. (WU).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- 1 at El Morro NM 11/29 (GSt) was apparently the first local record. "Flock" of 40+ at L. McMillan 11/18 (DMac).

GREAT EGRET -- unusual: 1 at Gila Bird Habitat a mile s. of Evans L. 10/31-11/1 (RF)....4 at Bitter L. 11/30 were late (KW).

CATTLE EGRET -- 20 at Bosque NWR 8/1 (CR) and 35+ two miles n. of there 8/20 (RT).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- A group of 12 at Farmington 8/15 (James Elam) was early. First of season in the southwest was 1 at Mangas Springs 9/23 (RF).

TUNDRA SWAN -- Only report, 1 at Bitter L. 11/30 (KW).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- Only Bitter L. -- 1 on 10/30 and 2 on 11/1 and 11/16 (KW).

SNOW GOOSE -- First arrivals, 6 at Bosque NWR 10/9 (PJ, JS). Peak in southeast was 17,300 at Bitter L. 11/2 (KW).

ROSS' GOOSE -- Unusual high of 1,000 at Bitter L. 11/13 (KW).

CANADA GOOSE -- Bitter L. resident population rose to 34 by August (KW).

WOOD DUCK -- Once infrequent in N.M., it has increased dramatically in recent years in number of reports and localities. Up to 3 at Black Rock Reservoir 9/19-20 (DC). In the Rio Grande Valley, at least 4 at Rio Grande Nature Center 11/7-22 (LG), late report of a "brood" on upper Elephant Butte L. in the summer (TMu), a female at Percha Dam SP 9/3 (BZ), up to 7 at Randal's Pool 10/1 (BZ, JDo), and 1 at Owen's farm 11/23 (BZ). Only southeast report, 2 on 11/3 at Rattlesnake Springs (CR).

MANDARIN DUCK -- A single of this Asian species (*Aix galericulata*) consorted with Wood Ducks at Rio Grande Nature Center 11/7-22 (LG). Probable escape.

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 1 at Bitter L. 9/4 had a "pure white body and an orange spatula bill" (JS). In the past few years the state has seen an abnormal number of albino or leucistic birds of many species.

GADWALL -- breeding: A good production of young this summer at Bitter L., with a peak of 537 birds there 8/7 (KW).

REDHEAD -- 20 at Bitter L. in August (KW).

SURF SCOTER -- unusual: A female at Underwood L., Catron County, 10/31 (TMu).

HOODED MERGANSER -- 16 at Las Vegas NWR 11/15 (PI).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- Only fall reports, a female at Holloman L. (EW) and 1 at Bitter L. 11/27 (KW).

(See introduction for data on Manzano and southwestern raptor counts.)

TURKEY VULTURE -- Late migrants were 5 at Glenwood fish hatchery 10/11 and singles near Redrock, Hillsboro and Bayard 10/12 (JH).

OSPREY -- At Charette Lakes 9/24 (SW1), Randall Davey Nature Center 10/4 (CR), Cochiti Dam 9/8-10/7 (F&RS1), Sumner reservoir 10/13 (DMac), a probable early migrant over the Sandias 8/23 (HS), Bitter L. 8/27-10/16 (KW), Caballo L. 11/8 (PJ) and 4 there 9/2-3 (BZ), and 2 in Dona Ana County 9/9, 10/1 (BZ+).

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- unusual: 1 at Bosque NWR 11/11 (Bryan Pridgeon).

MISSISSIPPI KITE -- Vagrants at Maxwell NWR 9/5 (CR) and Owen's farm 8/20 (BZ); 4 at Albuquerque 9/3 (Bryan Pridgeon).

BALD EAGLE -- The annual movement into N.M. for the winter brought at least 16 sightings of 1 to 10 birds, including 15 immatures, a few in August through October, but mostly in November. Sites were Navajo L., Stone L., French L. and York L. in Colfax County, Maxwell NWR, Las Vegas NWR, Cherry Valley L. and Guadalupita (Mora County), Cochiti L., Storrie L., York L. (Colfax), Conchas L., Bitter L. and the Sandias (v.o.).

NORTHERN HARRIER -- Singles at Tularosa 8/15 (J&Nht) and near the Big Hatchet Mts. 8/12-13 (JW) were early.

COMMON BLACK HAWK -- unusual: An adult at Percha Dam SP 9/3 was north of normal range. Good details from topnotch observers BZ, GL and Kenn Kaufman.

HARRIS' HAWK -- unusual: An adult at Holloman L. 11/21 (OCBC) was out of its normal area.

ZONE-TAILED HAWK -- 1, without details, Bandelier NM 8/9 (PI+).

RED-TAILED HAWK -- Melanistic adult and immature at Randall Davey Nature Center 9/11 (JH). Two other melanistics at Bosque NWR 10/6, 11/6 (RT, Dr. Jelle deBoer).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- Immature at upper Charette L. 9/24 (SW1).

GOLDEN EAGLE -- Immature over Charette Lakes 9/24 (SW1).

FALCON species -- A large black falcon, with details, at Bosque NWR 9/14 (RT, Dr. Jelle deBoer). It might have been a Gyrfalcon, which has never been reported so far south in the U.S., but details were insufficient to confirm or refute this identification.

BLUE GROUSE -- 5 on Wheeler Peak 9/8 (DSt) and 6 there 9/26 (PJ); 8 on Canjilon Mt. 9/7 (DSt).

WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN -- breeding: Female and 4 young on Pecos Baldy peak, San Miguel County, 8/22 (DMac).

WILD TURKEY -- 27 at Bosque NWR 10/9 and 11/10 (JS, PJ); 20 in Karr Canyon, Otero County, 8/23 (Reggie Wise); 8 at Reserve 11/27 (PJ).

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- Last seen at Mangas Springs 8/9 (RF).

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 9/27 (Terry Baldino) and 6 on 11/3 (CR) may be first records for there; origin? At Bitter L. all season (KW).

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- Numbers up in Tularosa and La Luz areas (OCBC) but low at Columbus 10/15-19 (DM).

SCALED x GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- Example of this hybrid shot near Deming 11/14 (W. Laughlin).

SORA -- 1 at Cochiti golf course 8/14 (F&RS1).

AMERICAN COOT -- A partly albinistic bird at the Four Corners power plant, San Juan County, 11/13 (PJ).

SANDHILL CRANE -- 2 at Mary's L., Colfax County, 11/17 (SW1) and 14 at Grasslands Turf Farm near Moriarty 10/13 (BO). First fall arrivals were at Clayton 9/29 (WC), Bosque NWR 9/21 (PJ), in the Gila Valley 10/18, at Bitter L. 9/16 (KW), and at Truth or Consequences 10/11 (DM). A southbound total of 26,743 were counted at Bernalillo (peak of 7,395 on 11/8) (DSt), headed in the direction of Bosque NWR. Bitter L. fall high was 2,200 on 11/20 (KW). The 512 in the Gila Valley 12/6 was an all-time high (RF).

WHOOPIING CRANE -- Only 2 of 12 eggs transplanted to Sandhill nests at Grays L., Idaho, fledged, and the foster flock declined to no more than 20 to 22, vs. 27 in 1986. First arrival at Bosque NWR was 10/28 (JS).

SNOWY PLOVER -- Last of season was 1 at Bitter L. the week of 10/2 (KW).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER -- Singles at Bosque NWR 8/20 (RT) and at Bitter L. 8/28 (KW) and 9/4 (JS, PJ).

MOUNTAIN PLOVER -- Again at Moriarty turf farm (350 there 9/16, plunging to 1 on 9/17 and 5 on 10/13 (BO). 20 at Holloman L. 9/3 (BZ, GL, Kenn Kaufman).

AMERICAN AVOCET -- 7 at Bitter L. 11/27 (KW) were last of season.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 150 at Bitter L. 11/27 (KW), unusual for such a late date.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER -- 2 near Maxwell NWR 9/5 (CR).

WILLET -- Last of season at Bitter L. was 1 on 10/16 (LG).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 3 at Randall Davey Nature Center 9/6 (CR).

MARbled GODWIT -- 2 at Bosque NWR 9/29 (PJ, JS).

BLACK TURNSTONE -- unusual: Rated only "possible," the sighting of 40 to 50 birds described as this species would have been a N.M. first if fully authenticated. Common on the Pacific Coast, the species is extremely rare inland, so the report of so large a flock adds to the doubts. The birds were at Holloman L. 11/21 and were seen by R&KJ, Nlt and Charles and Lavern Helm of the OCBC. Next day they were absent. The Jennesses had seen the species recently in California and provided some details, but no photograph.

SANDERLING -- 1 on 9/29 at Bosque NWR (JS, PJ).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER -- Juveniles at Holloman L. 9/3 and 9/28 (BZ).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER -- At Zuni 10/18 (DC), at Tucumcari L. in August (WU), several at Holloman L. 9/1-19 (CA, EW+), 8 at Bitter L. 10/23 (KW), and 4 late birds at Durling's farm 10/20 (BZ).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER -- 1 at Moriarty turf farm 10/29 (JB, BO), 3 at Bosque NWR 10/8-9 and 10/15 (PJ, JS), and 1 at Bitter L. 10/2 (LG, JB).

DUNLIN -- 2 at Laguna Grande 11/1 (CR) were later than normal.

STILT SANDPIPER -- Fall highs were 30 at Holloman L. 9/28 (JDo, BZ) and 75 at Bitter L. 8/20 (KW).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK -- unusual: 1 in an Albuquerque backyard 11/10 was seen well and photographed by RT. The third documented N.M. report.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- Late reports included 2 at Holloman L. 11/7 (EW), 3 at Bitter L. 11/13 (KW) and 2 at Laguna Grande 11/2 (CR).

JAEGER species -- 1 at Heron L. 9/5 (Pst) was possibly a Pomarine, based on fairly large size and deliberate flight. A probable Parasitic was at La Joya SGR 9/10 (RT).

LAUGHING GULL -- unusual: 1 in juvenal plumage at Caballo L. 9/2 was well described (BZ, JDo, photo by GL).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- Singles at Cochiti L. 11/8 (JH) and Holloman L. 11/23 (BZ+).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 50+ at Heron L. and Burford L. 9/12 (PI+).

SABINE'S GULL -- Only report, 1 at Holloman L. 9/21 (JM).

COMMON TERN -- 1 immature well described from Charette Lakes 9/23-24 (SW1); 1 with no details at Clayton L. 8/27 (WC).

FORSTER'S TERN -- Late: 3 at Bitter L. 11/7 (KW) and 1 at Caballo L. 11/8 (PJ).

BLACK TERN -- At Tucumcari L. in August (WU); 60 at Bitter L. 8/20 had fallen to 1 by 9/17 (KW); 7 at Holloman L. 9/4 (Lynn and George Moseley).

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- Common in Sandia Mts. through mid-September (HS, MAR).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- unusual: 1 at Jal 9/6 (JS) was well e. of range; 1 at Truth or Consequences 8/17 (DM) was melanistic....High counts: 20+ at Socorro 11/6 (JS, PJ), 22 at Truth or Consequences 8/23 (DM), 11 at Tularosa 11/11 (J&NHT), 8 at Holloman Air Force Base in August (Reggie Wise). 1 late at Redrock 11/3 (AF).

INCA DOVE -- High counts: 8 at Socorro 11/8 (PJ), 2 at Truth or Consequences 8/26 (DM), 3 at Alamogordo in November (Marvin Rohovic), and 12 at Redrock Game Farm 11/30 (AF).

COMMON GROUND DOVE -- 1 to 3** at Owen's farm 10/24 and 11/12 (BZ+).

RUDDY GROUND DOVE -- unusual: 2 different males** at Owen's farm 10/22-23 and 11/10-12 (BZ, 8 others). This is the third fall in four years that the species has appeared at this site.

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- 1 at Zuni 9/10, 10/4 (DC), west of usual range.

FLAMMULATED OWL -- 1 at Bandelier NM 8/28 (John Wirth) was probably late for that area.

WESTERN SCREECH OWL -- 1 was called in at Randall Davey Nature Center 10/31 (David Henderson, fide CR) for a first record there.

NORTHERN PYGMY OWL -- 1 at El Morro NM 10/1 (GSt).

SPOTTED OWL -- unusual: a pair in Black Rock Canyon, Zuni, late October, without details (DC). A rare resident there, last reported in autumn of 1984.

BOREAL OWL -- unusual: 1 at Wheeler Peak 10/3, for the southernmost record worldwide, and 1 or 2 near Cumbres Pass 10/5 (DSt+). First autumn appearances in N.M., of course, for this newly arrived rarity.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK -- 2 at Cochiti Dam 10/3 (CR); 1 in Albuquerque 10/2-3 (CAH).

BLACK SWIFT -- breeding: a juvenile from Fenton L. 8/5 was rehabilitated and later released (fide M. Peters, BO). First breeding evidence for N.M.

CHIMNEY SWIFT -- 2 in Rio Grande SP, Albuquerque, 9/5 (BO), w. of normal range.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- 4 at Villanueva SP 9/26 (CR); seen at Cochiti Dam 9/26-28 (F&RS1) and Carlsbad Caverns NP, where late, on 11/7 (MF).

HUMMINGBIRD species -- Unidentified hummingbird very late at a Roswell feeder 11/28-30 (fide KW).

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: a vagrant male* at a feeder in Truth or Consequences daily 8/27-10/10 (DM).

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: A male at Truth or Consequences feeder 8/20 (DM).

LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD -- Last at Post Office Canyon 9/29 (RS).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD -- Late: 1 at Truth or Consequences 10/24 (DM) and 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 11/8 (MF).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: A female at Las Cruces feeder 9/18 (EW); singing male at Silver City 8/1-9/7 (D&MZ).

COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- Immature male at Post Office Canyon 8/5 was described as this species by David Stejskal, but expert committee judged that the copious details probably indicated that it was a Calliope Hummingbird.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD -- A male 8/3-15 and a female 8/7-18 in Farmington (AN).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER -- Abundant w. of Cimarron 9/11 (KW); 12 in Van Bremmer Canyon w. of Raton 11/17 (SW1) were late.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- unusual: An immature* observed on s. rim of Frijoles Canyon, Bandelier NM, 8/28 (John and Martha Hirth).

GILA WOODPECKER -- 1 at Cloverdale 10/24 (PJ), but none in Gila Valley or Redrock, where a few are normally seen (RF).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- unusual: An immature at Durling's farm 10/8 was only the third Doña Ana County record (BZ).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER -- unusual: Species invaded Doña Ana County lowlands in largest numbers in memory, beginning in late September (BZ).

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- A migrant at Sevilleta NWR 11/18 (RT); unusual there.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER -- unusual: 1 at Datil 8/29, where it's occasional (PJ).

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- unusual: 1 at Mangas Springs 9/20 (RF); first record there.

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE -- 3 near Arch 8/15 (CR); 1 at Bell L. 9/6 (JS).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER -- 2 on 8/29 and 1 on 9/27 banded at Rio Grande Nature Center (CAH+); 1 probable in Hobbs 9/5 (JS).

DUSKY FLYCATCHER -- 1 probable at Glenwood 11/28 (JH+) was late.

GRAY FLYCATCHER -- 2 banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 9/19 (CAH+).

WESTERN FLYCATCHER -- breeding: A nestling in Cienega Canyon 8/9 (HS)....One banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 8/23 (CAH+).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1 at Bitter L. 10/16 (LG); 1 at Holloman L. 9/12 (JM); 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 11/3 (CR).

EASTERN KINGBIRD -- 1 at Roy 9/12 (KW) and 2 near Portales 8/15 (CR).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER -- A vagrant at Albuquerque 10/25 (fide Mary Arthur, BrH), 2 near Portales 10/14 (Pst), and 50+ near Jal 9/27 (BO).

PURPLE MARTIN -- Several at Mangas Springs 8/29 (RF), a first for there.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- Several at Bitter L. 11/15 (KW) were late.

CAVE SWALLOW -- Several at Rattlesnake Springs 11/11 (MF) were late.

BARN SWALLOW -- breeding: Pair feeding young at Silver City 8/11 (D&MZ) provided second local nesting record....9 flew over Manzano Mts. 9/19 (PI+). 3 at Owen's farm 11/10 (JDo, BZ) were late.

GRAY JAY -- 1 or 2 at Hyde SP (8,400 feet) 9/23-10/24 (TH, CR) were low.

STELLER'S JAY -- A lowland invasion in the southwest, with reports from Glenwood in late August (BMc), Silver City 9/9-18 (D&MZ, RF), White Signal, Grant County, 11/14 (D&MZ), and Mangas Springs 11/26 (RF). One at Percha Dam SP 11/26 (LG).

SCRUB JAY -- A massive invasion of Doña Ana and Sierra County lowlands (BZ). Also noteworthy, 16 in two flocks near Silver City 9/18 (D&MZ).

PINYON JAY -- Small numbers at the Rio Grande Nature Center in late September (LG), at Silver City 9/1 and Mangas Springs 9/5 (RF), and at Pleasanton 11/26 (JH), where they are irregular.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER -- In high numbers in the Sandia and Manzano Mts. in September (HS, JLD+). One near Cochiti L. (5,650 feet) 9/21-22 (F&RS1) and a few at the mouth of Water Canyon (Magdalena Mts.) 8/10 (PJ) were at low altitudes.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- unusual: 1 near town of Doña Ana 8/12 on I-25 (WE) was extremely far south and may have been an escape.

AMERICAN CROW -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 10/24 (LHS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- 6 at Bandelier NM 9/7 (PI+).

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- Large numbers moved into lowland areas, including the MGRV (LG), Silver City (RF) and the largest flight ever recorded in the lower RGV, which began 10/8 (BZ+). Unusual sightings: 2 at Grasslands Turf Ranch, Los Lunas, 10/13 (BO), 2 at Holloman L. 9/28 (CA, EW), 1 at Mangas Springs 8/15 (RF) and 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 10/15 (LG) and 11/2 (CR).

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 9/2 through the end of September (BZ+) and 3 there 11/26 (LG, Carol Davis); 4 at Mangas Springs 8/30 (RF).

PLAIN TITMOUSE -- 1 at Bosque NWR 9/21 (PJ).

VERDIN -- 1 at Bell L. 9/5 (PJ, JS).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Moderate numbers after late September at Los Alamos (BL) and Doña Ana County lowlands (BZ). One or two recorded at Farmington (RC), Roswell area (KW, Mary Peckinpaugh), Silver City (MZ), Glenwood (EMc) and Rattlesnake Springs (LG, CR).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Singles at Rattlesnake Springs 10/15 (LG) and 11/2 (CR).

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 2 in Chinese elms at Aztec ruins, San Juan County, 10/24 (fide AN).

BROWN CREEPER -- Numbers up at Farmington (AN) and in Doña Ana County (BZ); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs from 10/15 on (LG+).

CANYON WREN -- 1 at Columbus 10/18 (DM).

BEWICK'S WREN -- Singles at Tucumcari L. in August (WU) and Bell L. 9/5 (JS) were at eastern limits of range.

CAROLINA WREN -- unusual: 1* at Rattlesnake Springs 10/15 (LG) and 11/2, 3 (CR) was very rare for N.M.

SEDGE WREN -- unusual: 1* at Española 10/3 (CR); rare in N.M.

AMERICAN DIPPER -- unusual: 1 on the Rio Grande at Truth or Consequences daily 10/24 to 12/13 was out of habitat (Anita & Gene Kotinek).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- "Very common at all elevations" in the Sandias in September and October (HS); some spilled into lowland areas: 1 at Farmington 10/18 (R&SC), from Ribera to Villanueva SP 9/26 (CR), and 1 at Bosque NWR 11/17 (PJ).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1 at El Morro NM 11/23 (GSt); arrived at Mangas Springs 9/26 (RF).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 1 at Bandelier NM 8/9 (PI).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- 3 at San Marcial 9/17 (PJ); 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 11/2 (CR).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH -- Localities where observed were up; singles at Villanueva SP 9/26 (CR), road to Capilla Peak, Manzano Mts., 10/3 (PJ), Durling's farm, where it is a quite rare migrant, on 9/16, 25 (EZ), and Rattlesnake Springs 11/2 (CR).

HERMIT THRUSH -- 1 at Mangas Springs 11/29 (RF) was the second in five years.

WOOD THRUSH -- unusual: 1* at Bitter L. 10/14 (KW); quite rare in N.M.

GRAY CATBIRD -- Well to west, 1 e. of the San Augustin Plains 11/28 (PJ, JS), 1 at Silver City 11/27 (HW) and 1 at Redrock Game Farm 11/29 (RF). More than usual reports of migrants also included 1 at La Joya SGR 9/10 (RT) and an early 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 8/26 (MF).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Late singles at Farmington 11/14 (SC), San Augustin Plains 11/60 (PJ, JS) and Mangas Springs 11/29 (RF).

SAGE THRASHER -- Singles at Charette Lakes 9/24 (SWI), Zuni 11/21 (DC), and Bitter L. 11/29 (Jim Montgomery).

BROWN THRASHER -- Singles at Los Alamos 11/15-22 (Merle Bunker), Bitter L. 11/30 (KW), Grapevine Canyon in Grant County 10/27 (JW), Donaldson's farm 11/5 (JDo, KZ), and Rattlesnake Springs 11/19 (fide MF).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- 1 banded at the Rio Grande Nature Center (CAH+) was a local first. 1 at Pleasanton 11/20 (PJ).

WATER PIPIT -- 1 at Holloman L. 9/5 (EW, CA) and 2 at San Marcial 9/17 (PJ) were earlier than usual.

CEDAR WAXWING -- Numbers low statewide; absent from Doña Ana County (EZ).

PHAINOPEPLA -- At Mangas Springs through August (RF).

GRAY VIREO -- 1* near Glenwood 9/1 (CR).

SOLITARY VIREO -- 1 at El Morro NM 10/4 (GSt); both plumbeus and cassinni races observed in Sandias (HS); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 10/22 (MF).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- unusual: 2 in the Black Range between Hillsboro and Kingston 9/28 were the first reported for the range; 1 at Owen's farm 10/8 was one of the very few Doña Ana County records. (EZ, JDo)

RED-EYED VIREO -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 9/27 (BO); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 9/10 (MF).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- Among later reports: 2 at Nutria Canyon 10/17 (DC), 1 at Redrock 10/24 (PJ), and a very high 8 at Donaldson's farm 11/5 (JDo, EZ).

NASHVILLE WARBLER -- 7 noted during season, from 8/18 at Black Rock bosque (DC) to 10/11 at Bosque NWR (PJ, JS).

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER -- Latest were singles at Black Rock bosque 10/4 (DC) and El Morro NM 10/7 (GSt).

LUCY'S WARBLER -- 3 at Percha Dam SP 9/3 (EZ+).

NORTHERN PARULA -- 1 at White Sands NM 9/19 (EW+).

YELLOW WARBLER -- 1 near Zuni 9/20 (DC) and 1 at Holloman L. 9/28 (CA, EW) were rather late.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER -- unusual: 1 adult male at Albuquerque 10/9-13 (Jean Davis, BrH); 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 10/4 (Diane & Doyle Wise).

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER -- 1 at El Morro NM 10/3 (GSt); 2 at Durling's farm 10/13 were the only fall sightings in Doña Ana County.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER -- Widespread in August and September. 1 at El Morro NM 10/4 (GSt) and 1 at Santa Fe 10/11 (CR).

HERMIT WARBLER -- unusual: 1 immature in Magdalena Mts. 9/12 (JS, PJ) was fairly well described....1 at Post Office Canyon 8/8 (RS).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER -- unusual: A female at Durling's farm 10/13 (BZ, JDo).

GRACE'S WARBLER -- breeding: 2 were feeding fledglings at Randall Davey Nature Center 8/8 (CR)....1 at El Morro 10/2 (GSt).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER -- Only reports, 1 at Albuquerque 9/7 (RT) and 1 at Bell L. 9/6 (PJ, JS).

AMERICAN REDSTART -- Singles at Percha Dam SP 9/2 and 9/28 (BZ+), at Waldrop Park, Chaves County, 9/12 (BO), at Mangas Springs 9/6 (RF), at Durling's farm 9/23 (BZ), at Holloman L. 9/3 (CA, EW), and at Bell L. 9/5 (PJ).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER -- unusual: A male well described at Glenwood 9/29 (Fred & Brenda Houser). Roughly two-thirds of the 22 N.M. records were in fall.

OVENBIRD -- 1 fairly well seen at Percha Dam SP 11/26 (IG, C. Davis).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- Singles banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 8/22 and 9/5 (CAH+); 2 at Percha Dam SP 9/3 (BZ+); 1 at Bell L. 9/6 (PJ, JS).

MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER -- 25 at Holloman L. 9/6 (JM); last banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 9/26 (CAH+); 1 at El Morro NM 10/3 (GSt).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- Last observed at Mangas Springs 9/20 (RF).

WILSON'S WARBLER -- Last seen in most areas 10/3-4; 1 at Glenwood 10/11 (JH); 1 at Donaldson's farm 11/5 was the latest Doña Ana County fall record (BZ+).

RED-FACED WARBLER -- 1 in the Black Range 9/3 (BZ+).

PAINTED REDSTART -- 1 at Silver City 8/18 was only the 3rd or 4th seen there by the observer in 30 years (MZ)....1 along the Catwalk, Glenwood, 9/1 (CR); 1 in the Black Range 9/3 (BZ+).

OLIVE WARBLER -- 1 near Emory Pass 9/3 (BZ+); 1 near Kingston 9/28 was late and at a very low elevation (BZ, JDo).

SCARLET Tanager -- unusual: Female banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 9/26 (CAH+) and a male* was seen at Tularosa 9/21 (JHt). Species is rare in state.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- unusual: 2* at Rattlesnake Springs 11/3 (CR).

PYRRHULOXIA -- High total of 5 at Bosque NWR 11/17 (PJ); 4+ at Bitter L. 9/5 (JS) and a male at Mangas Springs 11/7-31 (RF).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK -- Singles: Banded 11/8 at Rio Grande Nature Center (CAH+), at Bitter L. 10/14-16 (KW) for first fall record, at Silver City 9/3 (MZ) and second fall record at Owen's farm 9/23 (JDo, BZ).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK -- 1 in Santa Fe 10/11 (CR) was late

INDIGO BUNTING -- Singles at Percha Dam SP 9/28 and Durling's farm 10/13 (BZ, JDo).

PAINTED BUNTING -- A vagrant* at Mangas Springs 9/30 (RF) was w. of usual range.

DICKCISSEL -- 1 at Owen's farm 9/23 (JDo, BZ) was westerly.

BROWN TOWHEE -- 1 at Horse Springs 10/23 (PJ) was westerly. A melanistic bird was at Mangas Springs 11/22-30 (RF).

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- 3* near Laguna Grande 11/1 (CR) were late migrants.

CHIPPING SPARROW -- 15+ were at 12,500 feet on Lake Peak 8/19 (JH). Small flocks at Bitter L. 8/20 and 8/28 were early (KW).

BREWER'S SPARROW -- 5 at 12,500 feet on Lake Peak 8/19 (JH).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- 1 banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 8/30 (CAH+).... Numbers of all Spizellas far down near Las Cruces, with latest report 11/10 (JDo, BZ).

FIELD SPARROW -- Vagrant** at Owen's farm 11/20-30 (BZ), west of normal range.

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- Single in Water Canyon 10/8 (JB, LG), several in Silver City 9/12-20 (D&MZ), and 2 in La Luz Canyon 8/20 (R&KJ).

LARK SPARROW -- 1 at Owen's farm 10/24 (BZ+) was late.

SAGE SPARROW -- 1 at 8,000 feet in Sandias 9/27 (HS).

LARK BUNTING -- West of usual: 1 at Ojo Sarco 8/26 (JW) and 1 in Albuquerque 8/23 (CAH+).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- 4* at Arch 8/15 (CR) and singles* s. of Redrock 10/24 (PJ) and near Columbus 10/15-19 (DM).

FOX SPARROW -- A grayish bird in Sandia Mts. 11/22 (HS). Single reddish birds at Glenwood 11/28 (JH+) and Durling's farm 6/26 (JDo, BZ).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 2+ on 9/18 in Embudito Canyon, where not seen every year (HS). Early singles in Albuquerque 8/30 (CAH) and Mangas Springs 8/29 (RF).

SWAMP SPARROW -- 1 banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 11/1 (CAH+); 2 at Bosque NWR 10/28 (PJ).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Fairly widespread around Las Cruces beginning 10/26 (BZ+). 1* on 10/22 at Rattlesnake Springs, where rare (MF).

HARRIS' SPARROW -- Only report, 1 at Bosque NWR 11/17 (PJ).

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR -- Sod farm sightings: 17+ near Los Lunas 10/13 (BO) and 49+ near Las Cruces beginning 10/20 (BZ+).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR -- 11 in Albuquerque 11/23 and 67 near Los Lunas 10/13 (BO); 15 probably of this species w. of Magdalena 11/24 (JS, PJ), and about 15 in Las Cruces area 10/20 to end of period (BZ+).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- unusual: In Sandias, 1 calling in Embudito Canyon 11/14 and 2 calling in Bear Canyon 11/21 (HS).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- Late at Zuni 11/4 (DC); 20+ at Kirtland Air Force Base 9/21 (BO).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- Early birds at Bitter L. 11/20-28 (KW).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- breeding: Fledglings being fed at Zuni 8/16 (DC)....
24 near Burford L. 9/12 (PI+) and 85 at San Rafael 11/22 (DC).

COMMON GRACKLE -- Singles at Farmington into September (RC) and at Carrizozo
9/3 (BZ+). Hundreds at Jal 11/10 (PSt).

BRONZED COWBIRD -- 1 at Truth or Consequences 8/19 (DM).

ORCHARD ORIOLE -- unusual: 1 banded at Rio Grande Nature Center 8/23 (CAH+) was
far n. of normal range.

ROSY FINCH -- About 60 (mostly Gray-Crowned, some Black) at Sandia Crest
11/8-13 (HS).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Common in Sandias in October and November (HS).

RED CROSSBILL -- A few in northern mountains (v.o.). Vagrant pair** at Redrock
11/29-30 (AF, RF).

PINE SISKIN -- Lowland reports: A few in Albuquerque 8/10 (Mary Lou Arthur and
BrH), 4 at Bosque NWR 11/25 (PJ, JS), several at Bitter L. 10/30 (KW), and 14
at Rattlesnake Springs 11/3 (CR).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- breeding: Nest at Mesilla 9/27 (BO).

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH -- unusual: 3* on 10/14 (PJ) and 10 to 15 on 11/4-5 (Mary
Lou Arthur, BrH) near Cloverdale. Species irregular in N.M.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- At Chama 8/1-21 (LHS) and at Rattlesnake Springs 8/26 (fide
MF). Minor influx later in Doña Ana County (BZ+).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- breeding: Dependent fledglings at Los Alamos in mid-August
(BL, Lorraine Thorn).... Numerous in northern and central montane and foothill
areas. About 100 in Española 11/8 (CR). Notable smaller sightings: At Jackson
L., San Juan County, 11/14 (PJ); in Chama area 8/1-21 (LHS); in Burford L. area
9/3-6 (PI+); at Cochiti L. 10/31 (CR); at Zuni 10/17 (DC); at El Morro NM 11/23
(GST); at Pleasanton 11/27 (JH); at High Rolls 10/23 (GSm), and at Rattlesnake
Springs 11/4, 11 (MF). Two at Mangas Springs 11/27 were only the second record
there in 5 years.

AVIAN DEMOGRAPHICS -- CHANGING BIRD LIFE IN THE CLAYTON AREA

For more than three decades, birders in the Clayton area have kept a record of their sightings. Now Wes Cook, of Clayton, has done a comparative study of species sighted in 1955 and those seen in 1987 through August. His listing does not state the number of birds seen nor the regularity with which they have been observed over the years, and it does not analyze the reasons for the changes. Nevertheless, it stresses the fluidity of natural systems.

The species fall into four groups: A -- Seen in 1985, no longer seen. B -- Reduced numbers since 1955. C -- Increased numbers since 1955. D -- Absent in 1955, present today.

A -- Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Tundra Swan, Purple Gallinule, Black-bellied Plover, Least Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Chukar, Peregrine Falcon, Screech Owl, Spotted Owl, Red-necked Phalarope, Black Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Great-crested Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Clark's Nutcracker, American Crow, Plain Titmouse, Cactus Wren, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Shrike, Sprague's Pipit, Bell's Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Fox Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Bobolink, Lesser Goldfinch

B -- Marbled Godwit, Bank Swallow, Marsh Wren, Western Bluebird, MacGillivray's Warbler, American Redstart, Longspurs species

C -- White Pelican, Cattle Egret, White-faced Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Bald Eagle, Mississippi Kite, Osprey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Long-eared Owl, Chimney Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Northern Flicker (yellow-shafted), Eastern Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, House Finch,

D -- Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Virginia Rail, Snowy Plover, Sanderling, Franklin's Gull, Common Tern, Caspian Tern, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Water Pipit, Field Sparrow, Dickcissel, Red Crossbill, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole