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NEW MEXICO

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD NOTES

VOLUME 27, NO. 1

December 1, 1987 - February 29, 1988

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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

With the Black Vulture recorded in Arizona, and from Texas to the Atlantic coast, its New Mexico appearance has seemed overdue. In January two observers familiar with the species came up with the most credible report yet, of an individual flying north over Los Lunas at about 400 feet. Good details, but no photograph, so the species was not added to our confirmed list.

At least 19 Tundra Swans, a high total, were counted. Other unusual water birds were a probable Pacific Loon, and two Surf and one White-winged Scoter. Eight greater Sandhill Cranes were very unusual at Bitter L., where the lesser race is normal. Three Ospreys, scarce in winter, were reported. The annual Bald Eagle census found a high 298 individuals. Nine Northern Shrikes were seen, including five in one day.

Forster's Terns, first seen in winter a year ago, were at Elephant Butte L. and Las Cruces. Others out of season: Gray Catbirds at two locales, N.M.'s first winter Virginia's Warbler. Out of place were: Downy Woodpecker at Moriarty, Gray Jay at Tesuque, Gray-breasted Jay at Percha Dam, Pinyon Jays in Roswell, Black-billed Magpies in Albuquerque. Hepatic Tanager at Silver City lacked details; perhaps the second winter record for any tanager in New Mexico.

Rarities: Three of the elusive Baird's Sparrow and one Le Conte's Sparrow were exceptional; a Carolina Wren at Rattlesnake Springs into the winter; Socorro's first Purple Finch. Several unusual winter owls at Zuni. Lapland Longspur for the second consecutive year.

Special notice: Numerous Rosy Finches. Montezuma Quail spreading from release areas in the Guadalupe Mountains, and Northern Bobwhites expanding west of the lower Pecos River. Moving into lowlands were Steller's and Scrub Jays, Mountain Chickadees, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Brown Creepers. And a surprise: Albuquerque banders say Eastern Bluebirds may even outnumber Westerns in the middle Rio Grande Valley.

N. M. SPECIES TOTALS UNCHANGED BY REVISIONS IN AOU CHECKLIST

Sources: Supplement in the Auk, Vol. 106, No. 3, July 1989, to the American Ornithologists' Union Check List of North American Birds. Comments and interpretation by Steve West.

As usual, Field Notes will list species under their new English-language names, with former names in parentheses for a couple of issues. New scientific names included only in this summary. We list only species known in New Mexico, in taxonomic order.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON now Nyctanassa violacea instead of Nycticorax violaceus.

BARN OWL (Tyto alba) replaces Common Barn-Owl.

Western Flycatcher split in two. The N.M. form now CORDILLERAN FLYCATCHER (Empidonax occidentalis). Western form now PACIFIC-COAST FLYCATCHER (E. difficilis). (Both occur in the Siskiyou region of northern California, AOU points out. Vocalizations differ.) My unabridged dictionary pronounces the "LL" of Cordilleran like a "Y", as in Spanish.

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER (Poliottila melanura), the New Mexico form, retains its name. A southern California form becomes CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER (P. californica). Vocalizations differ.

AMERICAN PIPIT (Anthus rubescens), the New Mexico form, is split off from WATER PIPIT (A. spinoletta), now only the Eurasian form.

Brown Towhee split to CANYON TOWHEE (Pipilo fuscus), the New Mexico form, and the CALIFORNIA TOWHEE (P. crissalis).

Steve points out there is no net change in the number of New Mexico species. He thinks Cordilleran, the most drastic change, is attractive, but that it's also likely to be as popular as the switch to Common Moorhen from Common Gallinule.

NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1987-88

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

Albuquerque Dec. 20, Hart Schwarz, 95, 20023
Bluewater L. Dec. 18, Arch McCallum, 61, 2692
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque), Steven Cox, 78, 15582
Caballo Jan. 3, Barry Zimmer, 131, 14553
Carlsbad Caverns NP (Carlsbad) Dec. 23, Mark Flippo, 79, 2287
Clayton Jan. 2, Martin Mayfield, 38, 2759
Española Dec. 27, W. Burton Lewis, 84, 6890
Farmington Dec. 30, Alan Nelson, 75, 32877
Gila River Jan. 2, Ralph Fisher, 104, 10028
Lakes Avalon & McMillan (L. Avalon) Jan. 3, Mike Medrano, 100, 16344
La Luz-Otero County (La Luz) Dec. 20, Robert Jenness, 63, 3651
Las Cruces Dec. 19, Eleanor Wootten, 103, 13154
Las Vegas Dec. 19, George Blanchard, 68, 19202
Loving Dec. 20, Steve West, 80, 4680
Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 28, Robert Scholes, 97, 11425
Roswell Jan. 2, Harold Hallett, 81, 43263
Sandia Mts. Dec. 19, Kay Anderson, 41, 1397
Santa Fe Dec. 20, Roland Goodman, 57, 9868
Sevilleta NWR Dec. 31, Theodore Stans, 41, 2920
Silver City Dec. 19, Ralph Fisher, 75, 4995
Zuni Dec. 20, John Trochet, 87, 14945

..abbreviated "CC" in text. Official reports on CCs do not identify which participant made a particular observation.

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE:

abbreviations and symbols in text:

CC -- Christmas bird count	R. -- River
L. -- Lake	SP -- State Park
MRGV -- middle Rio Grande Valley	v. o. -- various observers
Mt. (Mts.) -- mountains (s)	
NM -- National Monument	* -- details provided
N. M. -- New Mexico	** -- photograph
NWR -- National Wildlife Refuge	*** -- specimen
SGR -- State Game Refuge	
Abiquiu (L.) -- Rio Arriba	Bluewater L. -- Cibola, Cliff -- Grant
Alamogordo -- Otero	McKinley Clovis -- Curry
Animas -- Hidalgo	Boone's draw -- Roosevelt Cochiti L., Canyon,
Avalon L. -- Eddy	Bosque bridge, village Pueblo -- Sandoval
Aztec -- San Juan	-- Valencia Columbus -- Luna
Bandelier NM -- Sandoval, Los Alamos	Bosque del Apache NWR Coyote -- Rio Arriba
Belen -- Valencia	(Bosque NWR) -- Socorro Dexter -- Chaves
Belen SGR -- Valencia	Caballo L., Dam -- Sierra Dixon -- Rio Arriba
Bill Evans L. (often Evans L.) -- Grant	Carlsbad -- Eddy Dry L. -- Quay
Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.) -- Chaves	Carlsbad Caverns NP -- Eddy Elephant Butte L. -- Sierra
	Cebolla -- Rio Arriba El Pueblo -- San Miguel
	Clayton (L.) -- Union

Española -- Rio Arriba (Bill) Evans L. -- Grant	Mayhill -- Otero Morgan L. -- San Juan Moriarty -- Torrance	San Rafael -- Cibola Santa Fe -- Santa Fe Silver City -- Grant
Farmington -- San Juan Fort Sumner -- de Baca	Ojo Caliente -- Rio Arriba Percha Dam SP -- Sierra Pie Town -- Catron Portales -- Roosevelt	Sipapu -- Taos Sitting Bull Falls -- Eddy Socorro -- Socorro Storrie L. -- San Miguel Sumner L. -- De Baca
Gila R. -- Grant, Catron, Hidalgo Glenwood -- Catron Gray Ranch -- Hidalgo	Randal's Pool -- Doña Ana Rattlesnake Springs -- Eddy Rio Grande Nature Cen- ter, Albuquerque Rodeo -- Hidalgo Roswell -- Chaves Rowe Mesa -- San Miguel	Tesuque -- Santa Fe Tierra Amarilla -- Rio Arriba Truth or Consequences -- Sierra Tularosa -- Otero Vaughn -- Guadalupe Walnut Canyon -- Eddy Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts. -- Socorro Zuni Reservation (Zuni for short) -- McKinley
Hlgh Rolls -- Otero Hopewell L. -- Rio Arriba Hondo R. -- Lincoln, Chaves	Sandía Mts., Crest, Park -- Bernalillo San Marcial -- Socorro San Mateo Mts. -- Socorro	
L. McMillan -- Eddy La Luz -- Otero Las Cruces -- Doña Ana Lordsburg -- Hidalgo Los Alamos -- Los Alamos Los Lunas -- Valencia Loving -- Eddy Mangas Springs -- Grant		

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE

PB -- Pat Basham JB1 -- James Black WB -- Warren Bloys SBO -- Sarah Boles	PI -- Pat Insley R&KJ (RJ, KJ) -- Robert & Katherine Jenness PJ -- Phil Johnson	F&RS -- Frank, Rita Slower HS -- Hart R. Schwarz JS -- John Shipman DSt -- Dale Stahlecker PSt -- Paul Steel
DC -- David Cleary WC -- Wes Cook RD -- Rod Drewien	PL -- Paul Lehman BL -- W. Burton Lewis DMac -- Don MacCarter EMc -- Barbara McKnight MMe -- Mike Medrano DM -- Doris Miller WM -- William Mobley	JTa -- Jackie Talley CT -- Clara Teuber RT -- Ross Teuber JT -- John Trochet BU -- Bill Uihlein JV -- James Vaught
EE -- Ellen Espinoza RF -- Ralph Fisher MF -- Mark Flippo RG -- Roland Goodman LG -- Larry Gorbet	AN -- Alan Nelson M&SO -- May & Stuart O'Byrne CR -- Chris Rustay RS -- Robert Scholes AS -- Alan Schmierer G&DS -- C. Gregory & Donna Schmidt	SW -- Steve West JW -- Jack Whetstone SWI -- Sartor Williams III KW -- Kathy Wood EW -- Eleanor Wootten EZ -- Barry Zimmer D&MZ -- Dale & Marian Zimmerman
HH -- Harold Hallett LH -- Lois Herrmann SH -- Steve Hoffman JH -- John P. Hubbard CAH -- Charles A. Hundertmark J&NHt -- Joseph & Nancy Hutto		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- unusual: A single at Storrie L. 12/5 (JH, JV).

COMMON LOON -- In low numbers at usual sites: 1 at Elephant Butte L. 12/18 (JS) and 2 there 1/5 (JS, PJ) and 1 at L. McMillan 2/9 (SW, Orlando Ornelas). More unusual was one at La Luz reservoir 12/20-23 (R&KJ).

HORNED GREBE -- Winter reports only from lower Pecos Valley: 1 at Bitter L. 1/2 (KW) and 3 at L. McMillan 1/3 (SW+).

WESTERN GREBE -- Largest winter report was about 150 at Elephant Butte L. 12/18 (PJ, JS). Also at Cochiti L. (JH, JV) and Bill Evans L. (RF).

CLARK'S GREBE -- Only sighting, 1 at Elephant Butte L. 12/18 (PJ, JS).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Winter numbers and sightings continue to rise in N.M. Singles at Bosque NWR 12/5 (DC) and 12/12 (PI, CR). Maximum was 18 at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW), and 8 were at L. McMillan 1/3 (SW, CR).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 5 at Morgan L. 1/26 (PJ); 1 at Bill Evans L. 1/16-27 and 15 there 2/7 (RF). At least 4 of the latter were already showing white nuptial plumes.

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT -- Cited only in lower Rio Grande Valley; 4 at Caballo Dam 12/18 (PJ, JS) and 1 on Las Cruces CC.

AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1 or 2 at Bitter L. all winter (KW).

GREAT EGRET -- At Bitter L. (KW): 5 on 12/25, 3 by 12/31, then building to 7 on 1/2 and as many as 11 in the first half of January.

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- Only winter report, 1 at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW).

TUNDRA SWAN -- Many more records than usual, all described as Tundras though birds are assumed to be on the alert for Trumpeters. Nine were at Dry L. 12/18 (WM), 3 at Mule Creek 1/14 (BMc), 3 near Silver City at Moon ranch (Jim Koons), 1 at Gila airstrip 1/2 (M&SO), 1 near Cliff 1/12 (RF, Helen Randal, Toni Brevillier), 4 at Dexter 12/1 (KW).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- Above-normal number of reports: 3 in the Farmington area (AN), a high count of 16 at Belen SGR2/8 (WH), 1 at Bosque NWR 2/14 (RT), and 1 on Caballo CC.

SNOW GOOSE -- Wintered in Farmington; 40 present 12/30-1/27 (AN).

ROSS' GOOSE -- 8 at Farmington with Snow Geese 1/2 (AN). As many as 400 at Bosque NWR 1/10 (PI, CR).

CANADA GOOSE -- Numbers up in Clayton area (WC). Up to 44 at Zuni 12/17-22 (JT), over 100 in the Cliff area from January to at least 2/7 and 64 at Mangas Springs 1/3-2/5 (RF), 30+ near Tularosa 1/5-15 and 2/1 (J&NHt), over 400 in the Hondo valley 1/9-10 (SW), and 20 near Lordsburg 1/13 (J. Koons).

WOOD DUCK -- Wintering birds still on rise. Up to 32 in Albuquerque area 12/20-2/4 (HS), a pair 12/23 near Abiquiu (DSt), others near Farmington, between Española and Belen, and at Bitter L. (v.o.).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 3 at San Rafael 12/22 (JT); only winter report.

CINNAMON TEAL -- A male at Zuni 12/22 (JT); 20 at Cochiti 2/14 (CR).

CANVASBACK -- 60 at L. McMillan 1/16 (SW); contrasts with low numbers in recent years.

GREATER SCAUP -- One female at Elephant Butte L. 12/13 (PJ, JS); 2 on Caballo CC.

SURF SCOTER -- unusual: Rare in New Mexico, 2 males seen and photographed at Bill Evans L. 1/23-3/5 (D&MZ, RF).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER -- unusual: One shot near Clovis; no details (fide GS).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 2 at San Marcial 12/11 (PJ, JS).

HOODED MERGANSER -- Reported from the Gila, Rio Grande and Pecos Valleys, including 1 at Cochiti L. 2/14 and 5 at Bosque NWR 1/9 (CR); 2 at Bosque NWR 2/14 (RT), and a high of 26 at Bitter L. 12/11-2/19 (KW).

BLACK VULTURE -- unusual: A bird flying northeasterly directly overhead, at about 400 feet, over Los Lunas 1/31 was probably of this species (SH, Lisa Daly). Both observers were familiar with this species, and they provided good details. Believed to be first well-described sighting for the state, although not supported by a photograph, drawing or specimen.

TURKEY VULTURE -- 1 e. of Carlsbad 2/15 (SW) was early.

OSPREY -- unusual: 1 wintered at Cochiti Dam stilling pond to 2/16 (F&RS); singles at Bosque NWR 1/1 (RT, PB) and on Gila R. CC. Not normally present in winter.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- unusual: 1* near San Marcial 12/11 (PJ, JS); 1 near Rodeo 12/10 (Craig Kesselheim); 1 adult s. of Animas 1/4 (RS+). Single at Columbus 1/7 (JB1+) was first record for that area.

BALD EAGLE -- Increased numbers wintered statewide along major streams and bodies of water. Most marked increase was in the Caballo-Percha Dam area, and there were good numbers in northern N.M. Earliest was at Mangas Springs 12/3 (RF); latest within the reporting period was at Bosque NWR 2/25 (RT, Jelle deBoer). Ninth annual statewide survey 1/12-14 found 298 individuals, the second highest total.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- Singles at Abiquiu 1/18 (DS), Zuni Reservoir 12/21 (JT), Santa Fe 1/14 (DS), Rio Grande Nature Center 1/7 (LB), and Percha Dam SP 1/3 (BZ).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK -- unusual: 1* at Percha Dam SP, probably of this species, 1/5 (JB+). First winter report for this hawk.

RED-TAILED HAWK (Harlan's) -- Singles on Loving CC and at Bosque NWR 2/6 (JW).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- 1 on San Augustin Plains 2/12 (PJ); 3 near Portales 2/28 (JH). Infrequent in winter.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK -- 2 in Rio Arriba County 2/20 (CR+). Singles on Sandia Pueblo 1/4 (PI+), Las Vegas CC, east of Las Vegas 2/6 (JH, PJ), near Cochiti L. 1/2 (JH), n. of Fence L. and highway 36 near Pie Town 12/5 (DC), e. of Vaughn 2/13 (JH), between Vaughn & Roswell 12/13 (JS), at Bosque NWR 1/9 (CR+), on L. Avalon CC, at Rattlesnake Springs 12/27 (CR, Richard Rustay), on Gila R. CC. (Irregular in last 3 years in Eddy County.) 1 or 2 at Bitter L. 1/2, 1/4-8, 1/22, and 1/23 (KW). 6 adults and 4 immatures in Grant County 1/16 (RF), and 4 more adults 1/9, 12, 13 (fide RF). One near Mexican border s. of Cloverdale 2/4 (SWi).

MERLIN -- Immature female, probably richardsoni, in Santa Fe 2/21 (JH). 2 along highway 41 in Torrance County 2/21 (CR, LH). 1 near Zuni 12/21 (JT); infrequent there. 1 at Bitter L. 12/11, 1/17, 2/12 (KW). 1 at Mangas Springs 12/5 (RF). 2 on Loving CC.

CHUKAR -- 1 at Bitter L. 1/9-15 (KW) was obviously an escape or released.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT -- High count of 25 on Las Vegas CC.

WILD TURKEY -- An amazing 200+ at Bosque NWR 2/25 (RT); 3 in San Mateo Mts. 2/12 (PJ, JS); 25 at Mayhill 2/25 (JHt); 18 in Hondo area 1/10 (SW); 4 on Gila R. CC; 20 at L. Roberts 2/13 (RF).

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- 2 or 3 at Silver City 12/2 and 2/25 (DSMZ); 2 groups of 6 in Dark Canyon, Lincoln National Forest, were probably from recent reintroductions near there (Jim Walters); seen occasionally across the Texas border in Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. NP (fide SW); 11 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- 3 near Bandelier NM 1/10 (Chris Judson) would be from the local introduced population. A westerly range expansion on a broad front indicated in the Pecos Valley: 16 at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW), 1 on the

L. Avalon CC, 13 on the Loving CC, 12 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/27 (CR), 1 reported from Walnut Canyon 12/1 (fide MF).

SCALED QUAIL -- 40 at Espanola 2/12 (JW), 1 on Rowe Mesa 12/5 (JH), 166 on Carlsbad CC, and 229 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- 112 on Farmington CC, none on Espanola CC, 202 on Silver City CC, and 406 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

AMERICAN COOT -- Peaks of 1,600 in the Zuni area (JT) and 3,200 on the Las Vegas CC.

SANDHILL CRANE -- unusual: A single s. of Farmington in December and January... The 8 greater Sandhills at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW) along with 3,770 lessers may have been a local first. The greater is normally restricted to areas farther west. ... Other reports included 300+ east of the Sandia Mts. 2/21 (LH, CR), 46 at Dixon (JW), 512 at Cliff 12/5 (RF), 50 near Tularosa 2/18-19 (JGNHT), and 560 at Sumner L. 12/15 and 8 at Dry L. 12/12 (OMac). Season high was 5,250 at Bitter L. 12/4 (KW).

WHOOPIING CRANE -- All winter at Bosque NWR, with 11 there 1/29 (RT). Also 5 adults at Elephant Butte L. 2/10 (JS) and 3 at Belen SGB 2/2-8 (WH).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 1 at La Luz reservoir 12/23 (RJ) and a high of 28 on L. Avalon CC.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- A high winter concentration was 12 on the Rio Grande on Caballo CC.

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 2 at Morgan L. on 1/26 were late (PJ).

DUNLIN - unusual: 1 at Elephant Butte L. 12/18 (PJ, JS). Rare in N.M. in winter.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 37 at Bosque NWR 12/12 (PI, CR) was a high number for winter.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE -- unusual: Very rare in winter; singles at the Zuni filtration ponds 12/12 (DC) and at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 2 at Caballo L. 1/3 (BZ) and 30+ there 1/13 (Tom Gatz, Henry Messing); 1 at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW); 9 on L. Avalon CC, with 3 still there 2/13 (SW).

RING-BILLED GULL -- 52 on Las Vegas CC but only 3 in the area 2/6 (PJ); 368 at Bitter L. 1/23 increased to 2,000 by 2/26 (KW); 3,000 at L. McMillan 1/16 had decreased to 250 on 2/13 (SW).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 5 on Caballo CC.

HERRING GULL -- 1 at Cochiti L. 1/2 (JH); 1 on Roswell CC; 8 at Elephant butte L. 12/18 (PJ, JS); 6 at L. McMillan 1/16, with 3 still there 2/13 (SW).

FORSTER'S TERN -- unusual: Following the first N.M. winter records last year, 3 were at Caballo L. 12/18 (PJ, JS) and 1/13 on CC, plus 5 on 1/18 (Tom Gatz, Henry Messing); another on Las Cruces CC.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- unusual: 1 on L. Avalon CC. Highs were 22 at Socorro 12/12 (PJ), 10+ at Percha Dam 12/18 (PJ, JS), and 20 on La Luz CC, but low numbers all winter in Carlsbad (SW).

MOURNING DOVE -- Lows on CCs: 2 at Carlsbad, 10 at Loving.

INCA DOVE -- Highs of 7 at Socorro 12/25 (PJ), 3 at Truth or Consequences 12/23 (OM), and 10 at Alamogordo 12/13-31 (JTa).

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- 1 killed and observed being eaten by a female Northern Harrier se. of Whites City 12/6 (SW+).

'88-1 (winter '87-88)

WESTERN SCREECH OWL -- 1 on Zuni CC; seldom seen there in winter.

NORTHERN PYGMY OWL -- 1 on Zuni CC.

BURROWING OWL -- unusual: 1 on Plains of San Augustin 1/14 (PJ, Leonard Compagno), west of usual range....1 at Bitter L. 1/17 (KW).

LONG-EARED OWL -- unusual: 1 near Zuni 12/21 (JT). Few winter records there....1 on Caballo CC.

SHORT-EARED OWL -- unusual: 1 at Nutria L., Zuni, 12/27 (JT); infrequent there.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- unusual: 10+ at Caballo Dam 1/5 (JS+); 2 there 1/31 (BZ), 20+ at Percha Dam SP 1/5 (JB1+), and 4 at Bandelier NM 3/21 (JW). All early sightings.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: 1 at Las Cruces feeder 12/15 (EW, PL); 2 at Silver City feeder from mid-October; 1 still present 12/9 (John Scholl, fide DSMZ).

BELTED KINGFISHER -- 2 on Gila R. CC, 12 on Loving CC, and 1 at a small pool in rocky arroyo along NM137 to Sitting Bull Falls, a few miles w. of US285 12/30 (PJ, JS).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER -- 1 on Farmington CC was low count; single at Belen 12/17 (WH) was southerly; 1 w. of Lincoln 1/10 (SW) was easterly.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- 1 at Bitter L. 2/12 (KW); occasional there.

ACDRN WOODPECKER -- 2 at Ponderosa campground, Bandelier NM, 12/6 (CR); this and recent Los Alamos County records indicate that the formerly highly local Los Alamos population has expanded south at least to middle and lower Frijoles Canyon....15 in Big Rosa Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 2/12 (PJ, JS), where searches have been rare. Absent at Glenwood all winter until 2/8 (BMc).

RED-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- Add to list in Vol. 26, No. 4, p.55, of species no longer seen in Clayton area (WC).

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER -- High counts, 15 on Gila R. CC and 10 on Peloncillo Mts. CC. Singles at Zuni 2/20 (DC) & Cochiti L. 2/24 (CR+) were northerly.

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- Singles at Dixon 12/4 (JW), at Bandelier NM visitors center 2/28 (CR, Linda Spackman) and Santa Fe 12/15 (CR) were at the northern limit of their winter range.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER -- At least 1 wintered at Dixon (JW), northern winter limit of its range. 17 on Caballo CC was high.

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- unusual: 1 at Moriarty 2/21 (LH, CR) was out of montane or river valley habitat....16 on Albuquerque CC was high.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- West of range were 1 or 2 yellow-shafted form at Black Rock bosque in Zuni Mts. (JT), Santa Fe 12/19 (JH), on Albuquerque CC and on Caballo CC.

GRAY JAY -- unusual: A vagrant at Tesuque 2/19 (William Huey) at 6,650 feet elevation for the only record there in 35 years. Nearest known winter population is at Hyde State Park, 8,400 feet, on Little Tesuque Creek within the Santa Fe CC circle.

BLUE JAY -- Westerly were 1 at Las Vegas NWR 12/19 (PI, CR) and 2 on Albuquerque CC....1 was at Fort Sumner 2/26 (JH) and species was present in small numbers in the Carlsbad area, occasionally in riparian or woodland habitats (SW).

SCRUB JAY -- The fall lowland invasion of this species persisted into winter, but was more widely distributed than STELLER'S, with 1 to 5 in the Rio Grande Valley at Sevilleta NWR 12/31 (RT+), San Marcial 12/11 (PJ, JS), Trut or Consequences 12/14 (DM) and lowland Doña Ana County (BZ+). Also at Deming 12/24 (PL), w. of Alamogordo 12/27 (WB, RJ), in Rocky Arroyo, Eddy County, 12/30 (PJ, JS) and Rattlesnake Springs 12/23 (SW, MF).

GRAY-BREASTED JAY -- unusual: A first for the Rio Grande Valley was 1* with a group of Steller's at Percha Dam SP on Caballo CC (BZ+)....6 near Mangas Springs 1/2 (RF).

PINYON JAY -- unusual: 3 on Roswell CC (no details)....Peak of 52 at Mangas Springs December-February (RF).

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- unusual: 2 on Albuquerque CC were s. of range in the MRGV....111 was a high on the Santa Fe CC.

AMERICAN CROW -- unusual: 2 near Fort Sumner 2/26 (JH), 7 at Silver City 2/7 (DSMZ) and 1 at Percha Dam SP in a flock of ravens 1/3 (BZ#)....High counts were 298 on Farmington CC, 195 on Santa Fe CC, 50+ at El Pueblo 2/5 (JH) and 30 to 40 wintering at Mangas Springs (RF).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- 1 calling at Belen 12/19 (WH), 1 at Vaughn 2/11 (JH).

COMMON RAVEN -- High CC counts: Española 121, Zuni 282, Silver City 347 and Caballo 55.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- 44 on Albuquerque CC was high; 1 reported with scant details on Caballo CC would be southernmost N.M. record if correct.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- Widespread in Rio Grande Valley lowlands south to Sierra and Doña Ana Counties. The flight extended to Silver City (RF), Deming 93 on 12/14 (PL), and Rattlesnake Springs (2 on 12/77 -- CR). High CC totals included Zuni 76, Caballo 42, Gila R. 10, Las Cruces 20 and Peloncillo Mts. 3.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- 17 on Caballo CC, 23 on Gila R. CC.

VERDIN -- 1 at San Marcial 12/11 (PJ, JS), and 1 or 2 at Alamogordo 1/24 (RSKJ) and 2/10 (GSmi).

BUSHTIT -- Widespread in Rio Grande Valley, including 15 at Bernalillo 2/3 (WH), 6 at Albuquerque 12/4 (LG), 13 at Los Lunas 12/16 (WH) and 2 at Socorro 2/14 (PJ). 200 were at Water Canyon 1/14 (PJ, Leonard Campagno); present at Slaughter Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns NP, 1/7 (fide MF).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Lowland reports include 1 at Clayton 12/6 (WC), 3 at University of New Mexico in Albuquerque 2/3 (LG), and "widespread" in Sierra and Doña Ana Counties (BZ). CC totals: Española 1, Santa Fe 34, Roswell 1, Caballo 2, and Las Cruces 4.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- Above-normal numbers in southern lowlands: 29 on Caballo CC, 4 at Holloman Air Force Base in February (Reggie Wise), 2 at Deming 12/14 (PL). and 1 on L. Avalon CC.

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 82 on Zuni CC was more than usual.

BROWN CREEPER -- Abnormally high numbers in MRGV south to Doña Ana County (BZ+); 1 at Tularosa 2/13 (Charles Pase); 1 at Bitter L. 2/12 (KW); 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/30 (PJ+); 4 on Farmington CC.

ROCK WREN -- Singles on Las Cruces and L. Avalon CCs were low.

CAROLINA WREN -- unusual: 1* at Rattlesnake Springs 1/14 and 2/11 (MF) was probably the same bird present in the fall.

BEWICK'S WREN -- 1 on Zuni CC and 4 on Santa Fe CC were low.

HOUSE WREN -- Singles on Española and Albuquerque CCs, s. of Los Lunas 12/16 (WH) and at Bosque NWR 1/1 (RT+). Several in lowland areas of Sierra County (Caballo L.) & Doña Ana County were n. of winter range.

WINTER WREN -- unusual: 1 banded at Tucumcari L. 12/5 (BU) was the first record for the area....1* on Caballo CC.

AMERICAN DIPPER -- 5 on Española CC was high; 1 at Zuni 1/24 (DC).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- Northerly reports were 1 on Farmington CC, 3 on Española CC, 1 at Santa Fe 2/9 (LH), 2 at El Pueblo 12/5 (JH). and 10 in Zuni area 12/21 (JT)...47 on Gila R. CC.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 2 on Albuquerque CC.

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- 1 seen at Bosque NWR 2/7 (PJ) was acquiring breeding plumage. 1 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- A female banded and 3 others (including 1 each male and female) were observed at Albuquerque 1/16 (CH+). Records there show that more Easterns than Westerns are positively identified in the Rio Grande bosque, suggesting that the former may be underestimated in the MRGV....1 male and 2 females at Socorro 1/1 (RGCT, PB), and 1+ there 2/20 (PJ).

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- Substantial numbers, especially near breeding areas such as Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Bluewater L., Silver City and La Luz. Other places had generally low counts.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD-- These also tended to remain near breeding areas, which generally do not extend as far south. An exception is the Peloncillo Mts., where the CC was 86.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE-- Low numbers statewide, except in some northern places: Dixon (JW), Española CC, Santa Fe CC, Zuni CC and Bluewater L. CC.

HERMIT THRUSH -- Northern reports included several in Santa Fe (v.o.), up to 7 in Zuni 12/11-2/21 (DC), 1 at Los Lunas 12/16 (WH), 6 on Albuquerque CC, and 11 in Albuquerque area 2/1-6 (WH).

AMERICAN ROBIN -- Numbers in Rio Grande Valley s. of Albuquerque very low.

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1 mist-netted at Tucumcari 2/24 (BU); 1 on Gila R. CC (Harvey & Ruth Williams).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- 1 at Zuni 12/19-20; singles at Clovis and Portales 2/27-28 (JH); 1 at Bitter L. 12/11 (KW), 20 on La Luz CC; 24 on L. Avalon CC, 2 on Carlsbad CC.

SAGE THRASHER -- Northerly reports included 1 at Dixon 12/4 (JW), several at Santa Fe through the winter (JH, SWI), 2 at Zuni 12/21 (JT), 1 at Bluewater L. 1/25 (PJ), and 3 at Galisteo 2/21 (CR, LH). A high count of 62 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 at Los Alamos 2/5-29 (M. Bunker); 1 wintered at Tucumcari L. (BU); 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/27 (CR) spent the winter (fide MF); 1 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 3 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- Northern records included 1 at Santa Fe 2/13-29 (SBo) and 1 at Bitter L. 12/7 (KW).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- 3 on Albuquerque CC; 3 at Alamogordo 12/17 (WB, RJ); 2 at Silver City for two weeks in late December (MSSO). A high 46 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

AMERICAN PIPIT (WATER PIPIT) -- 9 at Española 1/16 (PI); 38 at Cochiti 2/14 (CR); 7 on Zuni CC; 40 s. of Albuquerque 1/9 (PI)...48 on Peloncillo Mts. CC was a local high count.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING -- A small flock near Aztec 2/6 (Jan & John Rees).

CEDAR WAXWING -- Numbers low in southern half of state. Highest CCs were 80 at Albuquerque and 77 at Farmington.

PHAINOPEPLA -- Extralimital, 1 on Sevilleta CC, 1 at Walnut Canyon (Cathy Cook) on 12/4, and 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/23 (SW, MMe). High CC totals, 17 at Silver City and 32 in Peloncillo Mts.

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- 1 at Tierra Amarilla, 2 at Hopewell L. and 2 at Cebolla 2/20 (CR, PI, LH) was a very high count for one day in N.M. 2 on Bluewater CC.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE -- As usual, most abundant in the lower Pecos Valley from L. McMillan south, Rio Grande Valley from Socorro south, in Gila Valley, and in Peloncillo Mts.

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 3 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1 at Albuquerque 1/18-2/17 (WHB#); 1 at L. McMillan 1/3 (CR) was well described.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER -- unusual: 1 on Española CC was first N.M. winter record.

MYRTLE WARBLER -- 1 at Santa Fe 2/9 (JH); 4 at Zuni 12/19 (JT); 1 banded in Albuquerque during the winter (CAH); 1 at Clovis 2/27 (JH); 1 at Belen and 4 at Bosque bridge 12/17 (WH); 1 on Caballo CC; 3 on L. Avalon CC.

YELLOW-RUMPED (Audubon's) WARBLER -- 9 at Zuni 12/19 (JT).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 2 on Las Cruces CC.

HEPATIC Tanager -- 1 immature reported on Silver City CC without details.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- Up to 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/27-2/11 (CR+).

PYRRHULOXIA -- North of usual range were singles at Bosque Redondo, near Fort Sumner, 2/13 (JH); on Sevilleta CB, and at Socorro 2/3 (SWI).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- 1 at Bitter L. 1/7 (KW).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- 2* on L. Avalon CC were southerly.

CHIPPING SPARROW -- N. of normal winter range: 1 on Farmington CC and 4 at Belen SGR 2/7 (WH).

CLAY COLORED SPARROW -- unusual: 3 near Rodeo 12/27 (RS+).

FIELD SPARROW -- unusual: 1* near Bosque village 12/17 (WH); rare in MRGV.

LARK SPARROW -- In Las Cruces area 12/19 (EW+) and at Carlsbad Caverns NP 12/23 (fide MF). Casual in winter in N.M.

SAGE SPARROW -- 2 near Dixon 2/25 (JW) were northerly.

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- North of usual range, 1 to 2 at Zuni 12/17-28 (JT).

BAIRD'S SPARROW -- unusual: 3 near Rodeo 12/27 (RS+); very rare in N.M.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- unusual: 21 near Rodeo 12/27 (RS+); rare in winter.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW -- unusual: 1* at Zuni 12/19 (JT, OC); first record for area and a rare species in N.M.

FOX SPARROW -- Single grayish birds at Zuni 12/19 (DC, JT) and s. of Fort Sumner 2/26 (JH). Single reddish birds at Cliff on Gila CC, Randal's pool 12/15 (PL) and High Rolls 1/23 (GSmi, JTa).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1 at Ojo Caliente 2/20 (CR+) and up to 5 at Zuni 12/17-2/6 (DC, JT) were north of usual winter locales.

SWAMP SPARROW -- 1 at Zuni 12/19-21 (JT+); more reports than usual from MRGV in December; 1 at Bitter L. 1/2, 10 (KW); fairly numerous near Las Cruces, with a high of 10 at Randal's pool 1/5 (BZ+).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Many more reports than usual along Rio Grande Valley and more widespread; singles on Española CC, at Zuni 12/17, 20, 28 (JT), on Las Vegas CC, and at Tucumcari 1/17 (BU).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1** to 2 at Bosque NWR 1/23-2/29 (LG+) and 1 at Randal's pool 12/15 (PL).

HITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- Numbers low statewide.

HARRIS' SPARROW -- Singles at Farmington 12/27 (AN+), on Española CC, at Socorro 1/1 (PB+), and at Bitter L. 2/12 (KW).

DARK-EYED JUNCO (White-winged) -- unusual: 3 in Sandia Mts. 1/20-2/19 (Pst+) and 1 in Española 1/16 (CR+).

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO -- 3 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR -- 1* on 12/16 (WH), and 2* on 1/25 and 7 to 12* on 1/29 (PJ, JS) at Grasslands Sod Farm near Los Lunas; 4 at Bosque NWR 12/28 (RD); 55+ on Gray Ranch 2/4 (SWi), and 2 at AG Sod Farm s. of Las Cruces 2/10 (BZ) for third consecutive year.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- unusual: 1* at Grasslands Sod Farm 1/25 (PJ); very rare in N.M.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- Singing males at Zuni 2/28 (DC), Bosque NWR 12/6 (DC) and 1/9 (PI+), and Boone's Draw 2/26 (JH).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- Up to 20 at Zuni 12/12-2/29 (DC+) and 1 at Cochiti L. 2/14 (CR+) were n. of normal winter range.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD -- 1* at Bosque NWR 12/12 (PI, CR) and 2* just n. of refuge 1/1 (RT+).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD -- 3 on Santa Fe CC, up to 30 at Zuni 12/12, 1/2 and in February (DC), and 10 to 20 at Santa Rosa 2/13, 26 (JH) were n. of usual range.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- Range expansion continued, with 400 in Farmington area in late February (B. Carr), 1 at Las Vegas 2/6 (JH, PJ), up to 29 at Zuni 12/19-1/9 and in February (DC+), 1 at Santa Rosa 2/13, 26 (JH), and 20 to 25 at Silver City 12/12 and 1/5 (RF).

COMMON GRACKLE -- unusual: Rare winter records: singles e. of Gallup 12/3 (AS) and at Zuni from 12/13 into February (DC+).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- 1 at Zuni 12/20 to 2/25 (DC); northerly.

ROSY FINCH -- unusual: 70 brown-capped and a gray-crowned near Laguna Huerfana (San Miguel County) 2/6 (JH, PJ); easternmost N.M. record... 5 to 10 near Coyote 1/4 (DS); 50 brown-capped and 2 gray-crowned n. of Hopewell L. 2/20 (LH+); 150 brown-capped and 3 gray-crowned at Sipapu 1/2 (JW); 6 brown-capped at Cochiti L. 12/28 (FSRS); 3 gray-crowned just e. of Santa Fe 2/24 (SWi); 10 on 12/14 (Pst+) and 15 on 12/22 (JH) at Sandia Crest.

PINE GROSBEEK -- Up to 34 at Sandia Crest 12/19-24 and 2/18 (Pst+); 1 near Tres Ritos 1/2 (JW).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Low to moderate numbers in lowlands, s. to Las Cruces.

RED CROSSBILL -- unusual: 15 in Albuquerque 2/9 (WH) and singing male near Cochiti L. 2/16 (FSRS)...Up to 38 in Santa Fe 12/20-2/29 (JH+).

PINE SISKIN -- Generally uncommon but widespread, including Clayton (WC), Portales (JH) and Rattlesnake Springs (JS+).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- Up to 25 at Zuni 12/1-2/20 (DC, JT) and 1 near Portales 2/26 (JH).

EVENING GROSBEEK -- Remained numerous in montane-piedmont areas essentially statewide, plus such areas as Farmington (AN+), Dixon (JW), Española (BL+), Zuni (DC+), Albuquerque (Pst+) and near Alamogordo (RJ+).