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NEW MEXICO
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FIELD NOTES

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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

Yet another species, the Eurasian Wigeon, has been added to the New Mexico roster. Consorting with a flock of American Wigeons at Santa Teresa, Dona Ana County, this male was well described and photographed.

First reliable winter records of the Bell's Vireo, Townsend's Warbler, Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were also reported. The state's fourth Varied Thrush and about its 10th Black-legged Kittiwake were other rarities.

Many birds were out of place or out of season: Black-shouldered Kite in Otero County, Harris' Hawk and Chihuahuan Raven far north at Albuquerque, a high-altitude Hermit Thrush, plus Inca Dove, Blue Jay, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Red-headed Woodpecker where unexpected.

Others were seen in unusual quantities: 14 Northern Shrikes were the most since 1977-78, 16 Barn Owls were at a roost in Dona Ana County, White-throated Swifts were numerous, a wave of Eastern Bluebirds invaded the Rio Grande Valley, Bonaparte's Gulls and Merlins were relatively abundant, 16 or 17 Tundra Swans were seen (no one identified them as Trumpeters), and Caballo Lake had a record gathering of 750 Olivaceous Cormorants. Wood Ducks -- 240 reported statewide -- also set a record.

Aerial surveys found a comforting 355 Bald Eagles, as well as great numbers of our common winter visitors -- for example, almost 50,000 Canada Geese, 37,722 "white" (Snow and Ross') Geese at Bosque NWR, 28,000 Common Mergansers at five locales, and 22,000 Sandhill Cranes in the middle Rio Grande Valley. From the ground, 13,314 American Crows were counted at Albuquerque.

NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1988-89

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

Albuquerque Dec. 18, Hart Schwarz, 91, 31,358
Bluewater L. Jan. 2, David Cleary, 48, 2,022
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque) Dec. 24, Steven Cox, 91, 35,266
Caballo Dec. 20, Barry Zimmer, 125, 20,222
Carlsbad Caverns NP (Carlsbad) Dec. 17, Steve West, 89, 4,724

Clayton Dec. 26, Martin Mayfield, 30, 633
Española Dec. 26, W. Burton Lewis, 65, 5,288
Farmington Dec. 17, Alan Nelson, 68, 33,297
Gila River Dec. 31, Ralph Fisher, 106, 12,647
Lakes Avalon & McMillan (L. Avalon) Dec. 29, Mike Medrano, 91, 6,846

La Luz-Otero County Dec. 31, Robert Jenness, 83, 4,553
Las Cruces Dec. 17, Barry Zimmer, 113, 17,119
Las Vegas Dec. 31, George Blanchard, 72, 8,875
Loving Dec. 31, Steve West, 96, 9,031
Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 28, Robert Scholes, 92, 10,416

Roswell Dec. 17, Sherry Bixler, 101, 11,311
Sandia Mts. Dec. 31, Kay Anderson, 36, 1,412
Santa Fe Dec. 18, Pat Insley, 59, 6,827
Sevilleta NWR Dec. 16, Theodore Stans, 32, 1,883
Silver City Dec. 17, Ralph Fisher, 67, 5,997
Zuni Dec. 17, John Trochet, 85, 8,915

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

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE

CA -- Carol Anderson	CAM -- Charles Hundertmark	RS -- Robert Scholes
KA -- Kay Anderson	JSNht (Jht, Nht) -- Joseph	HS -- Hart R. Schwarz
SB -- Sherry Bixler	& Nancy Hutto	LHS -- Lorraine Schulte
WSGB (WB, GB) -- Warren &	PI -- Pat Insley	JS -- John Shipman
Genevieve Bloys	RSKJ (RJ, KJ) -- Robert	GSmi -- Gerri Smith
JBl -- James Black	& Katherine Jenness	PSt -- Paul Steel
DC -- David Cleary	PJ -- Phil Johnson	JTay -- John Taylor
WC -- Wes Cook	TK -- Thomas Kraft	RT -- Ross Teuber
JDo -- Jeff Donaldson	BL -- M. Burton Lewis	JT -- John Trochet
RD -- Rod Drewien	DMac -- Don MacCarter	JV -- James Vaught
EE -- Ellen Espinoza	MMe -- Mike Medrano	SW -- Steve West
RF -- Ralph Fisher	DM -- Doris Miller	ScW -- Scott Wilson
GF -- Grace Flinn	PMu -- Peggy Mitchusson	EW -- Eleanor Wootten
MF -- Mark Flippo	AN -- Alan Nelson	BZ -- Barry Zimmer
AF -- Alton Ford	BD -- Kenneth Bruce Ostyn	OGMz (OZ, MZ) -- Dale
LG -- Larry Gorbet	DCBC -- Otero County	& Marian Zimmerman
LH -- Lois Herrmann	Bird Club	
DSJHo -- Dick & Jean	GP -- Gary Parker	
Hoffman	CR -- Chris Rustay	
JH -- John P. Hubbard		

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.) -- Mountain(s)	* -- details provided
NM -- National Monument	** -- photograph
N.M. -- New Mexico	*** -- specimen
NWR -- National Wildlife Refuge	
SGR -- State Game Refuge	

Abiquiu -- Rio Arriba	Cliff -- Grant	Isleta (Pueblo) -- Ber-
Alamogordo -- Otero	Cochiti L., Dam - Sandoval	nalillo, Valencia
Albuquerque -- Bernalillo	Conchas L. -- San Miguel	Jal -- Lea
Anthony -- Doña Ana	Cuba -- Sandoval	Johnson Mesa -- Colfax
Artesia -- Eddy		
Aztec -- San Juan	Datil -- Catron	La Cueva SGR -- Mora
Bell L. -- Lea	Deming -- Luna	Laguna Grande -- Eddy
Bill Evans L. (often	Dry Cimarron Valley	L. McMillan -- Eddy
Evans L.) -- Grant	-- Union	La Luz -- Otero
Black R. -- Eddy	Durling's farm --	Lamy -- Santa Fe
Bloomfield -- San Juan	Doña Ana	Las Vegas -- San
Bosque del Apache NWR		Miguel
(Bosque NWR) -- Socorro	Espanola -- Rio Arriba	Los Ojos -- Rio Arriba
Buckhorn -- Grant	(Evans L. -- Grant --	Loving -- Eddy
Burn L. -- Doña Ana	also Bill Evans L.)	
	Farmington -- San Juan	Magdalena -- Socorro
Caballo L., Dam -- Sierra	Florida Mts. -- Luna	Magdalena Mts. --
Carlsbad -- Eddy	Gila R. -- Grant,	Socorro
Carlsbad Caverns NP --	Catron, Hidalgo	Mangas Springs -- Grant
Eddy	Glenwood -- Catron	Maxwell NWR -- Colfax
Chama -- Rio Arriba		Mesilla -- Doña Ana
Clayton, Clayton L. --	Hachita -- Grant	Mimbres R., valley --
Union	Hobbs -- Lea	Grant, Luna

Morgan L. -- San Juan	Randal's pool -- Doña Ana	Taos -- Taos
Moriarty -- Torrance	Redrock -- Grant	Truth or Consequences
Nevajo Dam -- San Juan	Rio Grande Nature Center	-- Sierra
	-- Albuquerque	Tularosa -- Otero
Old Refuge at Mesilla	Rodeo -- Hidalgo	
-- Doña Ana	Roswell -- Chaves	Wetherly L. -- Union
Owen's Farm -- Doña Ana		
	San Acacia -- Socorro	Zuni Mts. -- Cibola,
Pajarito Village -- Santa	Sandia Mts. -- Bernalillo	McKinley
Fe	Santa Fe -- Santa Fe	Zuni Reservation (Zuni
Palomas Creek -- Sierra	Sevilleta NWR -- Socorro	for short) -- McKinley
Percha Dam SP --	Silver City -- Grant	
Sierra	Socorro -- Socorro	
Pleasanton -- Catron	Sturrie L. -- San Miguel	
Post Office Canyon --	Sunland Park -- Doña Ana	
Hidalgo		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON -- Singles at Morgan L. 2/3 (PJ) and Caballo L. 1/5 (PJ,JS).

HORNED GREBE -- Only report, 1 at Caballo L. 1/5 (PJ, JS).

EARED GREBE -- 2,000 on Caballo CC was top for season.

WESTERN GREBE -- 1 at L. McMillan 2/5 (SW).

CLARK'S GREBE -- 10 at Morgan L. 2/3 (PJ) and 1 at L. McMillan 2/5 (SW).

Aechmophorus species -- 50 at Morgan L. 2/3 (PJ); at least 600 on Caballo CC.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- Season's only reports at L. McMillan: 70 on 12/12 (DMac); about 63 on 2/5 but up to 300 2/25 (MMe, SW).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- Many reports of a species once quite rare in N.M. in winter: 1 to 6 at Morgan L., Las Vegas NWR, Palomas Creek and Sunland Park (v. o.); 350 on Caballo CC; up to 26 at L. McMillan through December (MMe, SW).

OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT -- Also increasing in winter, all in Rio Grande Valley. The 750 on Caballo CC were an all-time high for state. Bosque NWR peak was 45 on 2/24 (JTey); 6 at Buen L. 2/13 (JDo, BZ).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- Low all winter in Gila Valley (RT). Birds on empty nests at Glenwood as early as 2/27 (JH); this may be similar to Eddy County heronries where birds roost all winter on nests from previous season (unknown whether same nests are used later during breeding season).

GREAT EGRET -- 1 late near Redrock 12/24 (AF).

CATTLE EGRET -- 1 at Caballo was first CC record there.

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- 5 at Mengas Springs 12/16 (RF); unusual.

TUNDRA SWAN -- unusual: High number of reports, widely dispersed. Though none was identified as a Trumpeter, the possibility should always be considered. 6 or 7 near Clayton 12/7-26 (WC), 5 at Sturrie L. 12/12 (DMac), 2 at L. McMillan 12/29-30 (MMe, SW, MF), and singles at Nevajo Dam 12/14 (DMac), near Aztec 12/18 (Jan S John Rees), and Las Vegas NWR 2/25 (CR, Patrick Burke).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- Only reports, 1 to 3 at Maxwell NWR 1/21 (JH, PJ, JS, JV) and 2 at Las Vegas NWR 2/11 (CR).

SNDW GOOSE -- Aerial surveys by DMac: Up to 32 in Farmington area, up to 750 at Las Vegas NWR, peak of 37,722 at Bosque NWR 12/15, 75 near Deming, 5,200 near Artesia 1/5 and 1,600 on L. McMillan 1/5. Also, 25 at Maxwell NWR 1/21 (JH+), 89 at La Cueva SGR 12/3-1/2 (CR), 20 at Tularosa 2/21 (JGNHT) and Bosque NWR down to 17,800+ on 1/20 (PMu).

SNOW GOOSE -- blue phase -- Single ** with 27 white-phase birds at Sunland Park 1/25-2/28 (JDo, BZ).

ROSS' GOOSE -- Widely reported. With Snow Geese at Las Vegas NWR (Sy Baldwin, George Blanchard, CR) and at La Cueva SGR 1/29 (JH, PJ, JV, JS). Also, 1 with Sandhill Cranes in Gila Valley 12/27 (Dave & Mayetta Clawson, RF), and photographed at Burn L. and Santa Teresa Country Club (JDo, BZ).

CANADA GOOSE -- DMac's aerial surveys counted, at various dates from December into February, 17,500+ in Farmington area, almost 50 at Zuni, 31,716 in the northeast (including 12,850 at Clayton L. and 10,471 at Maxwell NWR), and 448 at L. McMillan. Others reported 80 in Cliff area in December (RF), 28 at Sunland Park 1/25 (JDo, BZ), and 10 at Washington Ranch near Rattlesnake Springs 1/16 (Sheri Fedorchak).

WOOD DUCK -- The winter showed the largest numbers ever reported in N.M. At Rio Grande Nature Center, 142 on 12/18 (MS) and 40 on 2/11 (Carol Davis). At Farmington, 20 on 2/3 (PJ). 1 spent much of season at Mangas Springs (RF) and 15 were at the Old Refuge (JDo, BZ). L. McMillan had 2 on 12/20 (MMe, SW).

MALLARD -- High was 4,117 at Las Vegas NWR 1/3 (DMac). 550 were in flooded fields below Cochiti Dam 2/12 (CR).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- Early singles at Rattlesnake Springs: 1/16 (Sheri Fedorchak) and 2/10 (Phyllis Cremonini).

CINNAMON TEAL -- 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 1/16 (Sheri Fedorchak) were early. 2 males photographed at Jal L., Lea County (Orlando Ornelas, SW) may have been first report from county.

GREEN-WINGED x CINNAMON TEAL -- Hybrid at Bosque NWR 2/24 (JTay).

EURASIAN WIGEON -- unusual: N.M.'s first confirmed record was a single male in company with American Wigeons at Santa Teresa Country Club 1/4-2/27 (JDo, photo by BZ). There had been previous unconfirmed reports.

CANVASBACK -- A single 1/16 at Washington Ranch, near Rattlesnake Springs, where unusual. (Sheri Fedorchak).

GREATER SCAUP -- The species is either becoming more regular in N.M., or more observers are looking carefully at all scaup. 2 at Cochiti L. 12/13 (PJ, JS), 2 at Las Vegas NWR 12/3 (JDo, CR). A male and a female at Evans L. 1/19-22 (DSMZ) were photographed, as was a male at Caballo L. 12/20 (JDo, BZ).

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 35 at Las Vegas NWR 2/18 (PI, CR). Season high was 286 on L. Avalon CC. Others seen at Santa Teresa (JDo, BZ) and near Tularosa (GSmi).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- unusual: Probable female at Las Vegas NWR 2/18 (PI, CR); male and female at Bosque NWR 2/11-23 (PB, RD, RT).

HOODED MERGANSER -- Reported widely. 2 at Rio Grande Nature Center 2/11 (fide CAH) and a male there 1/7 (PSt); 9 at Storrie L. 2/18 (PI, CR); 4 at Las Vegas NWR (1 male, 3 females) 12/10 (Sy Baldwin, George Blanchard, CR), and 1 male and 2 females at Caballo L. 2/8 (CR). High was 10 on Roswell CC.

COMMON MERGANSER -- Very large numbers at the larger reservoirs: DMac counted 8,900 at Caballo L., 6,900 at Elephant Butte L., 4,300 at Conchas L. 1/3-6, 74 at Cochiti L. 12/15, and 7,250 1/6 at L. McMillan. Up to 6,000 on Caballo CC.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- Also more widespread. 3 males at Cochiti L. 12/4-11 (PI, CR), 2 there 12/13 (PJ, JS), a female at Caballo L. 12/20-2/8 (PSt), 11 on Roswell CC, and a N.M. high of 80 at Loving CC.

DUCKS in general -- Highest in several years in Gila Valley (RF).

TURKEY VULTURE -- unusual: 1 on 2/22, very early, near Tularosa (GB).

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE -- unusual: 1 at La Luz Canyon 12/21 (KJ); 1 near Tularosa 1/5 (JGHHt). Same bird?

BALD EAGLE -- 355 on Game & Fish Dept. aerial surveys in December and January. unusual: Singles near Rodeo in December (RS, AF) and near Portales 2/10 (W. Robertson)...Various observers saw 2 near Farmington, 1 at Los Ojos, 2 at Abiquiu L., 2 at Zuni, 12 on Maxwell NWR, 2 at Wetherly L., 3 on Española CC, 1 at Randall Davey Center, 11 at Las Vegas NWR, 9 on Las Vegas CC, 1 at Tecolote, 1 to 13 at Cochiti L., 1 to 11 at Bosque NWR 1/4 to 2/21, 3 to 10 in Silver City area (numbers down in Grant County). An immature killed a Great Blue Heron near Cliff 1/15 (RF).

HARRIS' HAWK -- unusual: Singles at Rio Grande "Oxbow" in Bernalillo County 1/21-22 (G, HS, photo) and at Bosque NWR 1/24 to 2/14 (PMc, TK).... Sharp year-to-year decline in Carlsbad area (SW).

RED-TAILED HAWK -- Red-phase bird first seen at Mangas Springs 9/23 remained throughout the period (RF).

RED TAILED (HARLAN'S) HAWK-1 at Bosque NWR 1/12 (JS, PJ). Details.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK -- unusual: Dark-phase bird at Las Vegas NWR in the autumn was still present 12/3, 12/10 and 2/25 (CR, JDo).

MERLIN -- Various observers saw 1 at Los Ojos below Abiquiu Dam 1/7; 1 at Las Vegas NWR 2/11 and 25; 1 to 3 at Zuni in December and January; 1 near Cochiti Dam 2/12 and 19; 1 s. of Albuquerque 2/2; singles at Bosque NWR 12/3 and 1/5; 1 at Mangas Springs 12/3, and, in Dona Ana County, 1 at the Old Refuge (photo), Durling's farm and Tallmon Dairy in December and January. BZ describes "a terrific invasion for this species in southern New Mexico and west Texas; 7 different birds were sighted in the El Paso area; normally 1 or 2 in fall are all we get."...1 on Black River 12/31 (SW).

PEREGRINE FALCON -- It is gratifying that reports are coming in with gradually increasing regularity and numbers. Dates and locations are withheld for protection of the birds.

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- 18 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE -- 1 at Alamogordo 12/29/88-2/15/89 (GF) was certainly an escape or release; 60 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/17 (SW+) may also have been in part or totally the product of local releases.

SCALED QUAIL -- 6 in the Dry Cimarron Valley 1/21 (PJ+), 8 on Zuni CC and 7 on Bluewater L. CC were in areas where they are local in occurrence. Numbers were very low in the Carlsbad area (SW).

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 2 on Zuni CC and 1 there 12/18 (JT); 2 or 3 at Mangas Springs through the winter (RF), and 1 at the Old Refuge 12/17 (ScW, BZ) were the only winter reports.

SORA -- Up to 12 all winter at Mangas Springs (RF).

COMMON MOORHEN -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 12/21 (CR).

AMERICAN COOT -- Apparent winter high, 7,122 at Elephant Butte L. on 1/6 (DMac).

SANDHILL CRANE -- High counts: At Bosque NWR 11,302 on 1/6 (DMac) and 15,195 on 1/13 (PMu); 7,000+ in Los Lunas area 1/6 (DMac); 1,120, including 1 albino, at Bernardo SGR 12/15 (DMac); 22,000 in MRGV 12/15 from Isleta Marsh to Caballo L. (DMac). Elsewhere, 25 at Las Vegas NWR included one possible greater race (Sy Baldwin, George Blanchard, CR). Up to 150 at Mangas Springs and maximum of 400 at Cliff (RF). 2 near Rodeo 1/2 were somewhat unusual (RS).

WHOOPIING CRANE -- Up to 13 in MRGV. At Bosque NWR, high of 9 from 1/13 to 2/10 (PMu, JTag). DMac found singles at Bernardo SGR and San Acacia, and 2 at the Casa Colorado farm, Valencia County.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER -- 1 at Bosque NWR 2/24 (JTag) was early.

AMERICAN AVOCET -- Only report, an early single at Bosque NWR 1/20 (PMu).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- Single at Morgan L. 2/3 (PJ) was n. of usual winter range.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1 at Albuquerque 12/18 (JS). A high 10 on Rio Grande at Caballo CC.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Only winter record was on Loving CC.

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- A very pale bird was among 3 at Laguna Grande 12/31 (MMe, SW).

DUNLIN -- Winter reports on rise. Singles at bosque NWR 1/4 and 1/13 (PMu), and 1 at Laguna Grande 12/31 (MMe, SW).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- At Bosque NWR, 18 on 1/14 (FSt), and 27 on 1/27 and 65 on 2/24 (JTay). "Numerous and widespread" along Rio Grande near Las Cruces, where "normally quite rare" (BZ). One at Dead Sea Marsh east of Laguna Grande 1/29 (SW).

COMMON SNIBE -- 1 at Two-Mile Reservoir, near Santa Fe, 12/18 (David Blagg, Jamie Cox, Dorothy Manor, CR).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 16 on Caballo CC, with 8 remaining at least until 1/5 (BZ+); 118 on L. Avalon CC; 49 on Loving CC.

RING-BILLED GULL -- 6 at Morgan L. 2/3 (PJ); 1 at Maxwell NWR 1/21 (PJ+); 1 at Zuni reservoir 12/15-2/18 (JT, DC); 1,500 on Caballo CC; 203 on Roswell CC; 816 on L. Avalon CC.

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 1 adult at Elephant Butte L. 1/5 (JS).

HERRING GULL -- 1 at Storrie L. 2/14 and 1 at Las Vegas NWR 2/18 (PI, CR); 1 adult at Mesilla 2/13 (JDo, BZ) was BZ's first for Doña Ana County; 6 on L. Avalon CC.

THAYER'S GULL -- 1 immature at Elephant Butte L. 12/26-1/5 (PJ, JS); described, with photo.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE -- 1 immature seen well at Cochiti L. 12/11 (CR, PI); about the 10th N.M. record, only one of which is verified by specimen or photo.

TERN species -- 1 on Caballo CC was most likely a Forster's.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON -- 2 at Waterfall Canyon, Sandia Mts., 2/23 (HS) may have wintered over, since spring migrants normally arrive in early April.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- High winter counts were 13 at Socorro (PJ), 24 on La Luz-Otero CC, and 20 on L. Avalon CC. Singing males were at Truth or Consequences 1/13 and Carlsbad 1/16 (SW); 1 at Mangas Springs 2/26 (RF) was a first arrival.

INCA DOVE -- unusual: Vagrant which appeared in autumn in Santa Fe was still there for CC and on 2/27 (LH)...1 at Socorro 2/9 (PJ), 1 at Redrock throughout December (AF), 4 at Tularosa 12/2 (JSMHT) and on La Luz-Otero CC, and a remarkable 14 at Alamogordo 12/9 (William Wells).

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- unusual: Scarce winter sightings included 1 in northern Quay County 1/16 (CR), 3 in Zuni village (DC, photo), and 4 on Zuni CC.

BARN OWL -- unusual: 16 in roost at Old Refuge 12/20 and 5 near Durling's farm throughout the period. Usually seen only alone or in pairs. (BZ, SW, JDo). First Carlsbad CC record.

WESTERN SCREECH OWL -- 1 at Bosque NWR 1/17 (PMu, TK). 1 heard at Percha was first for Caballo CC.

SPOTTED OWL -- 1 in Florida Mts. 2/5 (J. Boyd**). First documented record for this range.

LONG-EARED OWL -- 1 or 2 at Old Refuge 12/14, 17 (BZ, SW); 4 at Owen's farm 2/26-27 (BZ+); 1 in Magdalena Mts. 2/15 (JB+).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- unusual: 1 w. of Magdalena 1/14 (PJ, JS).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- 1 caught by cat in NW Albuquerque 12/24 (fide M.A.Root) was released unhurt. Seldom reported in this area.

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- 10 near Alamogordo 12/25 (JS); 10 to 30 over Owen's farm 12/12 and 1/3, and 2 at Old Refuge (BZ+) (seemed more numerous in south this winter, possibly owing to warm weather); 10 in sw. Chaves County 2/5 (SW).

LEWIS' WOODPECKER -- 1 in Dry Cimarron Valley 1/21 (PJ) at eastern limit of range.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- unusual: An immature bird at Tunnel Spring, Sandia Mts., 12/8, 13 (Donna Broudy, HS).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- Adult female* at Durling's farm 2/20 and an immature, probably of this species, was there 1/2 (JDo, BZ; details).

WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER -- 2 on Las Vegas CC; seldom seen at northern limit of their winter range.

DOWNY WOODPECKER -- 1 at Tucumcari L. marsh 1/16 (CR) was east of normal range, and 1 on Roswell CC was at southern limit of winter range.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- Single yellow-shafted forms at Bloomfield 2/5 (Jan & John Rees) and at Durling's farm 2/27 (JDo, BZ) were w. of range; becoming rarer in the south.

Empidonax species -- unusual: 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/12 (LG).

SAY'S PHOEBE -- breeding: Nest with eggs at Carlsbad 1/27 was very early (SW).

CAVE SWALLOW -- First Carlsbad Caverns arrival was on 2/13, about normal (SW).

STELLER'S JAY -- 7 on Albuquerque CC and 2 near Tularosa 1/2 (JGNHT) were at low elevations.

BLUE JAY -- unusual: 2 at Bloomfield 12/27-2/28 (Jan and John Rees), and Santa Fe's autumn bird remained through the winter....2 at Tucumcari L. 1/16 (CR).

PINYON JAY -- 1 on Carlsbad CC; no details.

AMERICAN CROW -- Some high counts, 55 on Farmington CC, 13,314 on Albuquerque CC, 500+ at Socorro 1/12 (PJ), and 50 at Mangas Springs 12/28-1/31 and 60 in the Mimbres Valley 2/28 (RF).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- unusual: 2* in petroglyph area w. of Albuquerque 12/17 and 1/21 (LG) were identified by their calls. They are evidence of the species' continuing slow northward movement in the Rio Grande Valley....1 or 2 were at Mangas Springs and the Buckhorn area from 12/3 (RF) and on the Gila R. CC. At Los Lunas 12/26 (BO); above-normal numbers in lower Doña Ana County (BZ) and around Hobbs (SW).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- 3 on Sandias CC (no details) were unusual for that range; high counts were 45 on Española CC, 14 on Las Vegas CC, and 31 on the Albuquerque CC.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- Numbers high at Randall Davey throughout the winter (CR). Few lowland reports: 2 at Albuquerque 12/18 (HS+); 2 on Carlsbad CC; 193 on Sandias CC was a high number.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- High CC counts: 32 at Cabello, 58 in Peloncillos.

PLAIN TITMOUSE -- 2 on Sevilleta CC.

VERDIN -- 1 s. of Cliff 12/31 (RF+), 1 at La Luz Canyon 12/17 (RSKJ); 7 on Carlsbad CC.

BUSH TIT -- High CC counts, 56 at Cabello and 169 at Silver City.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 18 on Sandias CC; singles at Zuni 12/17 (JT) and Albuquerque 12/18 (HS+).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1 on Clayton CC; 1 at Carlsbad 2/19 (SW).

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 143 at Zuni 12/17 (JT+); 1 on Española CC.

BROWN CREEPER -- 3 on Roswell CC; 1 on Las Cruces CC; 1 or 2 at Rattlesnake Springs in December and January (Cathy Cook+).

WINTER WREN -- Singles at Hondo Canyon, Sandias, 12/2 and 1/11 (PSt); at Percha Dam SP 12/21 and Rendel's Pool 12/30 and 1/3 (BZ, JDo), and on the Carlsbad CC.

CACTUS WREN -- 1* on Roswell CC.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- Common in Sandias (HS). In lowlands, 1 or 2 at Farmington 1/5-6 (B. Carr), 2 on Albuquerque CC, 2 on L. Avalon CC; 2 on Loving CC.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 9 on Santa Fe CC, 9 on Zuni CC, 25 on Albuquerque CC, 107 on Cabello CC, and 47 on Carlsbad CC.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- unusual: 1 on Española CC.

Gnatcatcher species -- 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/25 (Cathy Cook).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- Invasion in Rio Grande Valley from Albuquerque south: 6 on Albuquerque CC, 30 at Socorro 2/8 (PB), 1 at Luis Lopez, n. of San Antonio, 1/24 (PJ, JS), 4 on Bosque CC, 40+ on Cabello CC, 15+ at Dos Lagos Golf Course in Anthony 12/28 (BZ, SW), 2 on Old Refuge and 5 others on Las Cruces CC. Also with above-usual numbers were 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/21 (LG) and 80 on Roswell CC.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- Widespread but low numbers on all but these CCs: 238 at Santa Fe, 241 at La Luz-Otero, and 1,020 at Silver City.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- Pattern similar to Western, with these high CCs: 236 at Farmington, 1,021 at Gila R., 302 at Silver City, 178 at Cabello, and 126 at Carlsbad.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE -- Very low except 146 on Zuni CC and 43 on Santa Fe CC.

HERMIT THRUSH -- unusual: 1 in upper Juan Tabo Canyon at 7,500 feet was high at this season (HS)...Singles on Farmington and Zuni CCs.

AMERICAN ROBIN -- Low numbers except 439 on Farmington CC, 436 on Española CC and 1,483 on Gila R. CC.

VARIED THRUSH -- unusual: 1** at Carlsbad in January and February (Shirley Swayze, SW photo) was only the fourth confirmed N.M. record.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- Unusually to north was 1 at Pajarito Village 12/15-2/1 (EE). High CCs, 18 at La Luz, 12 at Carlsbad.

SAGE THRASHER -- Singles n. of Moriarty 2/26 (PI+), on Zuni CC, and at Bitter L. (JB1). 8+ in Gila Valley 12/31-1/4 (RF+); 33 on Carlsbad CC.

BROWN THRASHER -- 1 at Bosquecito, Socorro County, through at least 1/24 (Glenn Kendall, JS, PJ); 1 at Socorro all winter (PB); 3 on Carlsbad CC, and 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 2/2 (LG, JB1).

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 2 on Peloncillos CC.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- 1 on Albuquerque CC.

CRISSAL THRASHER -- 2 on Albuquerque CC.

AMERICAN PIPIT -- 1 at Zuni 12/15 (JT), 14 on Española CC, 7 at Cochiti L. 2/12 (PI+), 194 on Bosque CC, 3 at Tularosa 2/7 (JSMHT), 736 on Loving CC.

CEDAR WAXWING -- Numerous only at Farmington (AN); few elsewhere.

PHAINOPEPLA -- 42 on Silver City CC was a high count.

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- unusual: 14 reports of at least 11 individuals, the most since the 1977-78 winter (fide JH). 2 different birds at Cuba 2/2, 2/3 (PJ). Singles at Chama 2/2 (PJ), Taos 1/22 (CR), Johnson Mesa and Maxwell NWR 1/21 (JS+), Vallecitos, Rio Arriba, 1/15 (CR), Las Vegas 1/21 (JS+), Las Vegas NWR 2/18 & 25 (CR, PI), Cochiti L. 12/13 (JS, PJ) and 2/4 (PI, CR), Zuni 12/16-17 (JT), Isleta 1/26 (JBl), and 1 in Bosque count week.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE -- 1 at Abiquiu Dam 1/15 (CR), 1 at Santa Fe 1/4 (LH), 4 at Zuni 12/16 (JT), 29 on Bosque CC, 33 on Carlsbad CC.

BELL'S VIREO -- unusual: 1 at Percha Dam 12/27 (PJ) is first reliable N.M. winter record.

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 1 on Peloncillos CC.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 7 (!) on the Caballo CC for this count's first record; 2 at Mesilla on Las Cruces CC.

YELLOW-RUMPED (Myrtle) WARBLER -- 1 or 2 at Zuni 12/15-21 (JT); 2 at Tucumcari L. 1/16 (CR); 1 at Elephant Butte L. 1/5 (JS)...Audubon's : 21 on Zuni CC...unspecified: a high 53 on Roswell CC.

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER -- The first N.M. winter record was one described adequately (LH) on the Santa Fe CC.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 12/20-21 (CR, BZ+) and 1 on Las Cruces CC.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- Persisted at Rattlesnake Springs with a high of 4 on 12/17 (fide Phyllis Cremonini). Two near Rodeo 12/30 (RS).

PYRRHULOXIA -- North of usual range were singles near Socorro throughout the period (PB), near Cliff 12/31 (RF+), plus 4 on Roswell CC.

BLUE GROSBEAK -- unusual: First winter record for N.M., 1 on Albuquerque CC.

INDIGO BUNTING -- unusual: Also a first winter record, 1 at Bitter L. 12/21-26 (S. Marlett+).

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE -- 1 at Corrales 12/18 (LG+) was northerly.

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- More winter reports than usual, including 1 or 2 near Rodeo 12/30 (RS+), and singles at Hachita 12/18 (Robert Dickerman), Percha Dam SP 12/30 (BZ+), and Artesia 2/25 (SW).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- High number of northerly reports: 1 on Española CC, 4 or 5 at Maxwell NWR and 2 or 3 in Dry Cimarron Valley 1/21 (PJ), 1 on Zuni CC, and up to 11 in December and 24 in February at Las Vegas NWR (CR+).

CHIPPING SPARROW -- Northerly for winter were 12 on Farmington CC, 1 on Las Vegas CC, and 8 banded in Albuquerque 2/11 (CAH+).

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW -- Also northerly, up to 5 in the western Sandia Mts. in December and January (HS) and 1 near Lamy 2/26 (PI+).

SAGE SPARROW -- 1 or 2 in the western Sandia Mts. in December and January (HS); seldom seen there. 1 near Las Vegas 2/25 (CR) was northerly.

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- Several banded at Albuquerque 2/19 and later (CAH+).

FOX SPARROW -- Singles at Rattlesnake Springs 12/31 and 2/2 (LG, JBl).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1 at Santa Fe 12/21 (LH) was northerly.

SWAMP SPARROW -- 3 at Zuni 12/11-2/26 (JT, OC); singles at Albuquerque 1/28 (LG) and Tucumcari 1/16 (CR); 4 at Mangas Springs 1/8-11 (RF), and 12 on Caballo CC.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- High counts: 12 on Caballo CC, 6 on Albuquerque CC and up to 8 at Rattlesnake Springs 2/2 (JB1, LG).

HARRIS' SPARROW -- 1 at Bosque NWR 1/14 (RT, PSt), 2 at Socorro 11/21 through 2/28 (PB), 1 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/12 (GP), and 1 on Loving CC.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- 1 at Zuni 12/17 was probably of the dark-colored race orientalis (JT), which usually winters s. of N.M.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (SLATE-COLORED) -- 1 at Santa Fe 2/19 (JH); 6 banded at Albuquerque 1/28-29 (CAH+).

DARK-EYED JUNCO (OREGON) -- unusual: 1 at Zuni 12/17 (JT) was possibly a hybrid with a Zonotrichia sparrow.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR -- A few between Los Lunas and s. Doña Ana County (V.O.) and 3 near Datil 2/4 (PJ, JS).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR -- 200+ near Datil 2/4 (PJ, JS).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK -- Northerly: Up to 4 at Zuni, 1/1 into February (DC), and 1 singing in Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts., 1/10 (HS).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- Up to 24 wintered at Zuni (JT+).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE -- Significant records: Up to 27 at Zuni 12/15-19 and 2/11, 18 (JT+); 27 at Bluewater L. 12/10-2/26 (DC); 10 at Los Ojos 1/7 (CR, LH); 4 at Las Vegas 12/30-31 (PI+); up to 16 wintered at Glenwood (JH).

COMMON GRACKLE -- 1 to 2 at Zuni 12/31-2/28 (DC).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- 1 at Zuni 12/31 (DC); 6 near Alamogordo 1/15 and 2/17 (RSKJ).

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- unusual: 2 immatures at Columbus 1/4-5 (JB1, C. Black). A male at Owen's farm through 1/14 (BZ+) was area's first winter record.

PURPLE FINCH -- A possible pair at Percha Dam SP 1/21 (EW).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Most of relatively few reports were from montane areas. A few elsewhere: At Zuni 12/17 and 2/20 (JT), Santa Fe 2/9 (LH), Bluewater L. 1/2-3 (DC+), Albuquerque 12/18 (HS+), near Cliff 12/31 (RF), and at Alamogordo 2/15 (GF+).

RED CROSSBILL -- None in Sandias in fall or winter (HS).

PINE SISKIN -- Widespread, mostly in low to moderate numbers (v. o.).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- 49 at Zuni 12/17 (JT); 1 at Pleasanton 2/26 (JH).

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH -- unusual: 1 female near Mesilla 12/27 (BO).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- In Sangre de Cristo, Sandia and Sacramento Mts. Elsewhere, 17 on Farmington CC, 170 on Española CC, 15+ at Santa Fe 2/19 (JH), 55 at Las Vegas 12/30-31 (PI+), and 4 on Albuquerque CC.