

Disclaimer: This file has been scanned with an optical character recognition program, often an erroneous process. Every effort has been made to correct any material errors due to the scanning process. Some portions of the publication have been reformatted for better web presentation. Announcements and add copy have usually been omitted in the web presentation. We would appreciate that any errors other than formatting be reported to NMOS at this web site. Any critical use of dates or numbers from individual records should be checked against the original publication before use as these are very difficult to catch in editing.

NEW MEXICO

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD NOTES

VOLUME 29, NO. 1

December 1, 1989 - February 28, 1990

Editor: Roland A. Goodman

Editorial Committee: Nancy Cox, Steven Cox, William

Howe, W. Burton Lewis, Paul Steel, Ross Teuber

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2016 Valle Rio

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

---

FROM THE EDITORS:

N. M.'s first documented Glaucous-winged Gull was photographed at Caballo L. A Pacific-coast bird, casual in Arizona. The same lake provided our fifth Glaucous Gull. Of equal interest, reappearance of the Whiskered Screech Owl in Peloncillo Mts. canyons near the Arizona border. Only previous confirmed report in the 1970s in the same area. This time up to four were heard.

Scarce waterfowl also were exciting. Many saw and photographed an adult male Trumpeter Swan at Bosque NWR. Almost as rare were 2 or 3 Oldsquaws and four Barrow's Goldeneyes at various lakes.

January aerial surveys counted a record 512 Bald Eagles, vs. an average of about 300 in the previous three years. Also notable, two Harris' Hawks in the Albuquerque area and at least 18 Merlins statewide.

Large downhill movements included Mountain Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches into the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys, and a very large Sage Thrasher gathering in Eddy County. Far out of place were 13 Eastern Bluebirds near Rodeo, and wandering Gray-breasted Jay, Black-billed Magpie and Ruddy Ground Dove. A rare Rufous-backed Robin was at Bosque NWR, and a Varied Thrush was photographed at Santa Fe. Very uncommon, six Lawrence's Goldfinches were at Columbus. Hummingbirds of three species lingered at southern feeders into the winter, and warblers of three species stayed in Las Cruces.

-o-

SOUTHWESTERN AUDUBON SOCIETY'S annual raptor count on December 2, with 15 persons covering 675 miles, saw 258 raptors and a scant 5 Roadrunners. Compiler was Ralph Fisher. The 10 raptor species: Northern Harrier 37, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Cooper's Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 130, Harris' Hawk 5, Ferruginous Hawk 10, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Golden Eagle 8 adults and 4 immatures, American Kestrel 48, Prairie Falcon 8, buteo sp. .

NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1989

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

Albuquerque Dec. 16, Hart Schwarz, 92, 11,795  
Bluewater L. Dec. 30, Dave Cleary, 48, 2,062  
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque CC) Dec. 30, Steven Cox, 102, 57,852  
Caballo Dec. 17, Barry Zimmer, 134, 17,553  
Carlsbad Caverns NP (Carlsbad NP CC) Dec. 16, Steve West, 93, 8,823  
Chaco Canyon Dec. 26, Kevin Wentworth, 21, 288  
Clayton Dec. 30, Martin Mayfield, 33, 782  
Española Dec. 30, W. Burton Lewis, 94, 6,886  
Farmington Dec. 16, Alan Nelson, 71, 21,488  
Gila R. Dec. 30, Ralph Fisher, 105, 5,481  
Lakes Avalon & McMillan (L. Avalon CC) Dec. 23, Mike Medrano, 124, 14,225  
La Luz Dec. 30, Robert Jenness, 70, 5,951  
Las Cruces Dec. 20, Barry Zimmer, 123, 19,973  
Las Vegas Dec. 16, George Blanchard, 71, 11,278  
Loving Dec. 21, Steve West, 103, 8,881  
Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 30, Robert Scholes, 93, 9,236  
Roswell Dec. 16, Sherry Bixler, 105, 45,093  
Santa Fe Dec. 17, Pat Insley, 63, 6,694  
Sevilleta NWR Dec. 16, Theodore Stans, 58, 5,472  
Silver City Dec. 16, Ralph Fisher, 90, 6,392  
Zuni Dec. 16, John Trochet, 71, 8,581

Abbreviated "CC" in text. Official CC reports rarely identify which participant made a particular observation.

LOCALITIES AND THEIR COUNTIES IN THIS ISSUE

abbreviations and symbols in text:

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

- Albuquerque -- Bernalillo
- Animas Valley -- Hidalgo
- Bill Evans L. -- Grant
- Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.) -- Chaves
- Black R. -- Eddy
- Black Rock Dam, etc., Zuni -- McKinley
- Bluewater L. -- Cibola, McKinley
- Boone's Draw -- Roosevelt
- Bosque del Apache NWR [Bosque NWR] -- Socorro
- Bosquecito -- Socorro
- Caballo L., Dam -- Sierra
- Carlsbad -- Eddy
- Carlsbad Caverns NP -- Eddy
- Chaco Canyon -- San Juan
- Clanton Canyon -- Hidalgo
- Clayton -- Union
- Columbus -- Luna
- Cochiti L. -- Sandoval
- Datil -- Catron
- Deming -- Luna
- Dripping Springs, Organ Mts. -- Doña Ana
- Elephant Butte L. -- Sierra
- El Rito -- Rio Arriba
- Espanola -- Rio Arriba
- Estancia -- Torrance
- Farmington -- San Juan
- Gage -- Luna
- Gila -- Grant
- Gila R. -- Grant, Catron, Hidalgo
- Hatch -- Doña Ana
- Hobbs -- Lea
- Holloman L. -- Otero
- Juan Tabo Canyon -- Bernalillo
- La Cienega -- Santa Fe
- L. Avalon -- Eddy
- L. McMillan -- Eddy
- La Luz -- Otero
- Las Cruces -- Doña Ana
- Las Vegas -- San Miguel
- Loving -- Eddy
- Mangas Springs -- Grant
- McAllister L. -- San Miguel
- Mesilla -- Doña Ana
- Moriarty -- Torrance
- Navajo L. -- San Juan
- Old Refuge at Mesilla -- Doña Ana
- Organ Mts. -- Doña Ana
- Pancho Villa SP -- Luna
- Peloncillo Mts. -- Hidalgo
- Percha Dam SP -- Sierra
- Pleasanton -- Catron
- Portales -- Roosevelt
- Randall Davey Nature Center -- Santa Fe
- Randall's Pool -- Doña Ana
- Rattlesnake Springs -- Eddy
- Redrock -- Grant
- Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque Riverside -- Grant
- Roswell -- Chaves
- Salt L. -- Eddy
- San Antonio -- Socorro
- Sandia Mts. -- Bernalillo
- San Simon Cienega -- Hidalgo
- Santa Fe -- Santa Fe
- Six-Mile Dam -- Eddy
- Silver City -- Grant
- Socorro -- Socorro
- Tatum -- Lea
- Truth or Consequences -- Sierra
- Tularosa -- Otero
- Vallecitos -- Rio Arriba
- Zuni Reservation (Zuni for short) -- McKinley

INITIALED OBSERVERS

- CA -- Carol Anderson
- KA -- Kay Anderson
- SBA -- Sy Baldwin
- PB -- Pat Basham
- SB -- Sherry Bixler
- CB -- Charles Black
- JBl -- James Black
- DC -- David Cleary
- WC -- Wes Cook
- MC -- Marge Cromer
- RF -- Ralph Fisher
- AF -- Alton Ford
- LH -- Lois Herrmann
- SI -- Stephen Ingraham
- PI -- Pat Insley
- PJ -- Phil Johnson
- GL -- Greg Lasley
- BL -- W. Burton Lewis
- DMac -- Don MacCarter
- MMe -- Mike Medrano
- SM -- Stephen MacDonald
- GP -- Gary Parker
- CR -- Christopher Rustay
- CSa -- Catherine Sandell
- HS -- Hart R. Schwarz
- LHS -- Lorraine Schulte
- JS -- John Shipman
- KSK -- Katie Skaggs
- PSn -- Patricia Snider
- DS -- Dale Stahlecker
- PSt -- Paul Steel
- RT -- Ross Teuber
- JV -- James Vaught
- SW -- Steve West
- SWi -- Sartor Williams III
- EW -- Eleanor Wootten
- BZ -- Barry Zimmer
- DSMZ -- Dale & Marian Zimmerman

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- 1 probable at Elephant Butte L. 1/24 (PJ+); 1 at Caballo L. CC.

COMMON LOON -- 2 to 6 at Elephant Butte L. 1/24-2/7 (PJ+).

PIED-BILLED GREBE -- Numerous at Elephant Butte L. 1/21 (DC).

HORNED GREBE -- 1 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa); at Elephant Butte. 2 on 1/21 (DC) and 1 on 2/10 (LG, SGNC).

RED-NECKED GREBE -- 1 possible Las Vegas NWR 2/13 (CR).

EARED GREBE -- 1 to 2 at Las Vegas NWR 1/13 (JH, JV); 2 near Zuni 12/2 (OC); 1 on 1/24 and 3 on 2/13 at Bosque NWR (SWi); 1 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa); over 2,000 at Elephant Butte L. 1/24 (PJ+).

WESTERN GREBE -- over 3,000 at Elephant Butte L. 1/24 (PJ+).

CLARK'S GREBE -- 800 at Elephant Butte L. 1/24 (PJ+).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- 2 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa); 5 to 7 at Caballo L. in February (PJ+); 1 at Elephant Butte 2/27 (PSt).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 450 on Caballo CC and 250 there 1/21 (BZ+).

NEOTROPICAL (Olivaceous) CORMORANT -- 350 on Caballo CC and 250 there 1/21 (BZ+).

AMERICAN BITTERN -- 1 or 2 on Albuquerque CC (Alan Swain); 1 at Bitter L. 12/31 (SW); 1 or 2 near Hobbs 12/25 (JS).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- 7 or 8 at Bluewater L. 12/28 (SI); 7 at Bosque NWR 1/14 (PI); 17 at Caballo L. 1/17 (CSa).

GREAT EGRET -- 2 at Six-Mile Dam on Loving CC; 3 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON -- 7 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa).

WHITE-FACED IBIS -- 1 at Bosque NWR 12/7 (JB1+).

TUNDRA SWAN -- 2 at Cochiti L. 2/22 (PSt); 2 adults at Bosque NWR from January through 2/17 (v.o.); 8 on Roswell CC.

TRUMPETER SWAN -- unusual: An adult at Bosque NWR from late December into February was seen, well described and photographed by many observers.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 6 in Albuquerque 1/22 (HS); 19 in San Antonio 1/13-24 (v. o.); 1 at Bitter L. 12/25 (DC).

SNOW GOOSE -- Approximately 28,000 on Bosque CC, including 661 blue morphs.

ROSS' GOOSE -- 408 on Bosque NWR CC.

CANADA GOOSE -- 32,646 in the northwest and 38,468 in the northeast on aerial surveys 1/8-12 (DMac).

WOOD DUCK -- A female at Six-Mile Dam 2/8 (SW); 73 on Albuquerque CC.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL -- At least 140 in late December in middle Rio Grande Valley (JS); 30 on 12/22 (PI) and 1 on 1/4 (RT) at Bosque NWR.

MALLARD -- 1 to 3 of the Mexican race on Bosque CC and 1 there 2/17-18 (SWi); some at Mangas Springs 1/16 and 2/24 (RF); 2 to 3 at Porcha Dam 2/22-28 (DM, SWi).

NORTHERN PINTAIL -- Many at Bosque NWR in December and January (v. o.).

CINNAMON TEAL -- 50+ at Bosque NWR 2/18 (SWi); 8 at La Joya SGR 2/17 (SWi); 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 1/28, 7 on 2/10 (fide Bill Bourbon).

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- Numerous all season at Bosque NWR (v.o.).

GADWALL -- 5 on 1/4 and 3 on 2/17 at Bosque NWR (RT).

AMERICAN WIGEON -- A few at Bosque NWR throughout the winter (v.o.); 30+ at Elephant Butte L. 1/24 (PJ).

CANVASBACK -- 3 at Las Vegas NWR 1/13 (JH); 6 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa).

REDHEAD -- 4 or 5 at Navajo L. 2/26 (PJ); 20+ at Las Vegas NWR 1/13 (JH); 12 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa).

RING-NECKED DUCK -- 26 at Cochiti Dam 2/18 (PI); 4 near Mondo 2/4 (SW); 2 at Elephant Butte L. 1/23 (PJ).

GREATER SCAUP -- 3 at Las Vegas NWR 2/15 (PSn+); 3 at Bill Evans L. 12/21 (RF); 1 on Caballo CC.

LESSER SCAUP -- 1 at La Cienega 2/18 (PI); 2 at Navajo Dam 2/26 (PJ); 2 at Ojo Caliente Reservoir, Zuni Mts., McKinley County, 1/27 (SI).

OLDSQUAW -- A female at Bitter L. 12/23-1/15 (Robert Kasuboski+); a male at Caballo L. 1/3-31 (J81+); a male at Elephant Butte 2/10 (LG, SENC). Scarce in New Mexico.

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 20 at Navajo Dam 2/26 (PJ); 10 on Española CC; male at Bluewater L. 12/28 (DC, SI); 7 at Caballo L. 1/17 (CSa); 379 on Loving CC.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE - unusual: 3 below Navajo Dam 2/10 (DC); a female at McAllister L. 12/2 (CR).

BUFFLEHEAD -- 4 at Bosque NWR 12/22-1/8 (PI, PJ); 1 on Carlsbad Caverns NP CC.

HOODED MERGANSER -- 2 males and 2 females at Bosque NWR 1/8 (PJ); 30 at Bitter L. 12/24 (JS); 5 at Caballo L. 1/21 (8Z); 85 on Loving CC; 2 females at Mattox L. 1/9 (SW).

COMMON MERGANSER -- 2 on Española CC; 4 or 5 at Bosque NWR 1/8 (PJ); 5,000+ at Caballo L. 1/17 (CSa); 8 at Mattox L. 1/9 (SW).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 1 at Bluewater L. 12/28 (DC, SI); a female at Caballo L. 12/17 (8Z); 315 on Loving CC.

RUDDY DUCK -- 4 or 5 at Bosque NWR 1/8 (PJ).

OSPREY -- unusual: Singles at Truth or Consequences 1/13 (PJ), and at Rock Creek marina, Caballo I., 1/24 (JS, PJ+). Very late.

BALD EAGLE -- Numbers were far up: The January 15-17 aerial survey by the N. M. Department of Game & Fish (DMac) counted 512, far exceeding the mean annual average of 307 for the previous three years.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- Individuals at Zuni 12/8 (DC) and in Zuni Mts. 12/16 (SI).

HARRIS' HAWK -- unusual: 2 on Albuquerque CC (LG); 4 adults and 2 juveniles at Deming 1/11 and 2/14 (RF, photo).

SWAINSON'S HAWK -- 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/10, no details ffile Sheri Fedorchak). Rare\*in N.M. in winter.

WHITE-TAILED HAWK -- unusual: 1 reported with sketchy details near Tatum 12/16 (Douglas Lynn Jr., ffile SW) was far northwest of normal range. Species has never been documented in the state.

RED-TAILED HAWK (rufous phase) -- Singles at Zuni sewer ponds 11/28 (SI); at Mangas Springs throughout season and at Deming 1/11 (RF). Harlan's form: Individuals near San Antonio 11/30, 12/5-6, 12/27 (PJ) and south of Deming 1/11 (RF).

MERLIN -- At least 18 reported from various areas (v. o.).

CHUKAR -- 1 in downtown Truth or Consequences 1/18 (Pastor Theo. E. Allwardt, Sr.) was obviously escaped or released.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT -- Felt to be increasing in the Clayton area (WC).  
1 on La Luz CC.

WILD TURKEY -- 7 on Clayton CC; 95 on Bosque NWR CC; 10 at Cloudcroft  
2/18 (SW); 8 at Mengas Springs 12/27-30 provided first local record (RF).  
...Thirty birds from the Bosque NWR population were released at La  
Joya SGR on 1/30 (SWi).

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- 34 on Peloncillo Mts. CC.

SCALED QUAIL -- 27 on Española CC (Gregory Lonewolf); 28 at Zuni 12/3  
and 16 (DC).

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- 30 on Española CC; 210 on Caballo CC.

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 3 on Albuquerque CC.

SORA -- 1 on Albuquerque CC.

COMMON MOORHEN -- 1 along the Black R. and 1 in Loving in December (SW).

SANDHILL CRANE -- 116 on Gila-Cliff CC; 100 in Estancia 1/17 (PJ+) and  
300 there 2/18 (SWi).

WHOOPIING CRANE -- 12 adults in MRSV in the winter ((U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Service).

SNOWY PLOVER -- 1 at Monticello Bay, Elephant Butte L., 1/14 (PSt).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 1 at Bosque NWR in January and early February (v.o.)  
with 12 on 2/17-18 (RT, SWi); 5 at Bitter L. 12/3 (CSa).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 1 at Bosque NWR 12/22-1/13 (v. o.).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1 at Percha Dam 1/11, 1/17 (JS, CSa).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW -- Singles in Hobbs 12/25 (JS) and in Carlsbad 1/9 (SW).

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 3 or 4 at Elephant Butte L. 1/14, 24 (PSt +); 10 at  
Salt L. on Loving CC.

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 6 at Holloman L. 1/11 (PJ, JS); 10 at Hatch 1/17  
(CSa); 30 at Percha Dam 2/7 (PJ).

DUNLIN -- 1 or 2 at Elephant Butte L. 1/14, 24 (PSt+).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 13 at Bosque NWR 1/4, 28 on 2/1, and 41 on  
2/17 (RT+).

COMMON SNIPE -- 11 at Hatch 1/17 (CSa).

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- 3 at Elephant Butte L. 2/ 7 (PJ, Dean Kendall),  
with 40 on 2/19 (DC) and 23 on 2/26 (PSt); 9 on L. Avalon CC.

RING-BILLED GULL -- 1,204 on Loving CC.

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 2 at Elephant Butte L. 2/1 (JB1, B0, TH) and 2/10  
(LG); 3 adults at Caballo L. 12/17 (BZ) and 2/9 (PJ).

HERRING GULL -- 1 at Cochiti L. 2/18 (PI+), 1 at Bosque NWR 1/8 (PJ);  
20 at Elephant Butte L. 2/7 (PJ, Dean Kendall); 17 at Caballo L. CC and  
40+ there 1/21 (BZ); 32 on L. Avalon CC; 1 on Loving CC.

THAYER'S GULL -- 1 to 3 immatures at Caballo L. 12/17-2/10 (BZ, many  
other observers).

GLAUCOUS GULL -- unusual: A first-winter bird at Caballo L. 1/9 (R.  
Ketchum) to 2/16 (BZ photo, v. o.) provided about the 5th N.M. record.

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL -- unusual: A first-winter bird was at Caballo L.  
1/21-24 (BZ photo, PJ, JS) and 2/7 (PJ). This is the first well-docu-  
mented record of this species in New Mexico.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- Substantial numbers in urban areas included 25 to 30 at Socorro 1/22 (JS), 30 on the La Luz CC, and 50 northeast of Carlsbad 12/23 (SW).

MOURNING DOVE -- 343 on the Zuni CC was a high count.

INCA DOVE -- unusual: 19 on the La Luz CC...1 at Mangas Springs from fall until 2/18 (RF) and 4 in Carlsbad 12/2 (SW), where rarely reported; 4 to 6 at feeders in Socorro in December and early January (JS, PJ).

COMMON GROUND DOVE -- unusual: 1 at Socorro 12/17-1/4 (JS, PJ), well north of normal range.

RUDDY GROUND DOVE -- A male on the Portal, Arizona, CC 12/31 was actually in New Mexico about 10 miles north of Rodeo (RS+), far from the area of previous sightings in the Rio Grande valley s. of Las Cruces; it remained in the area 2 or 3 weeks thereafter.

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- 1 in Santa Fe above 7,000 feet 1/16 (W. I. Knickerbocker, fide BL).

BARN OWL -- 1 at Bosquecito 2/27 (PJ); 13 at 2 roosts on Caballo CC; 15 at the roost at Old Refuge 12/20 (BZ); 1 at Dripping Springs 12/9 (KSk) and 12/15+ (CSa).

WHISKERED SCREECH OWL -- unusual: 1 in Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., just east of Arizona state line 2/10 (JBl, CB, TH). Good details, and tape recordings of calls. Probably the second and third records for the state, with 2 seen and/or heard and taped there and at Clanton Canyon near by on 12/16 and 3/14 (LB, PJ). For further details see special account in American Birds, Vol. 44, No. 2, summer 1990, p.307.

LONG-EARED OWL -- 1 at Bosquecito 2/27 (PJ); 15 at roost in Old Refuge at Mesilla 12/20+ (BZ); 3 at Dripping Springs 12/9, 1/10 (EW,CSa).

SHORT-EARED OWL -- Individuals at Zuni 12/29 (OC) and Dripping Springs 1/10 (EW, CSa); a road-killed bird found on the Carlsbad-Hobbs highway 1/9 (SW) may be a first recent record for Lea County.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL -- An injured bird photographed at Randall's Pool 12/22 (BZ).

WHITE-THROATED SWIFT -- unusual: 4 at Dripping Springs 1/10 (CSa, EW); 4 at Carlsbad Caverns 12/14 (fide Sheri Fedorchak) and 2 there 1/1 (fide Bill Bourbon).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: A male at a feeder in Las Cruces through the period (JS, PJ, photo). Very late.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: A possible female at Carlsbad Caverns NP, with details (Bill Bourbon). Very late.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: At feeder in Socorro during period to 12/10 (PJ), and 1 male at the same feeder as the Anna's (above) throughout the winter (JS, PJ, BZ, photo). Both were stragglers.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- Singles were at Santa Fe (details) 1/28-2/25 (LH, SBa) and on the Carlsbad Caverns CC.

HAIRY WOODPECKER -- 12 on the Zuni CC was a high total.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER -- 2 near Bluewater L. in the burn area 12/28 (OC, SI).

SAY'S PHOEBE -- Northerly reports were singles on Española CC, at Santa Fe 12/4 (SW), and near Sandia Park on CC.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER -- Late at Bosque NWR were 1 on CC and 1 on 1/13 (PJ, JS). Early there were singles 2/1 and 2/17 (PB, RT).

TREE SWALLOW -- 1 at Cochiti L. outlet 1/6 (PSt) was late. Early were 9 at Percha Dam 2/15 (SWi) and, at Bosque NWR, 2 on 2/13 (RT) and 20 on 2/19 (OC).

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW -- 2 at Bosque NWR 2/19 (PB, RT) were early.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 2\* early on 2/21 at Caballo L. (JB1, TH).

CAVE SWALLOW -- First arrival at Carlsbad Caverns NP was 1/9, rising to 225 by 2/25 (SW).

STELLER'S JAY -- unusual: The fall lowland invasion continued into this season with a huge count of 217 on the Carlsbad Caverns CC and 19 on the L. Avalon CC. Other lowland areas: 20 on Albuquerque CC, 32 on Roswell CC, 23 on Gila R. CC, 80 on Caballo CC, 8 on Las Cruces CC, and 12 at Tularosa 1/22 (CSa).

BLUE JAY -- unusual: 1 at El Rito 12/11-2/28 (DSt), and several lingered from fall into early winter in the Española, Los Alamos and Santa Fe areas (BL, LH, PI, MC, JH+). 4 in Clayton (WC) and up to 3 in Albuquerque (80) spent the winter. 1 was in Socorro in December and January (JS, PJ), 38 were on the Roswell CC, and 1 on the Las Cruces CC.

SCRUB JAY -- unusual: High lowland CC numbers: 47 at Albuquerque, 23 at Sevilleta NWR, 24 on Gila R., 63 at Caballo, 40+ at Las Cruces, and 22 at Carlsbad Caverns.

GRAY-BREASTED JAY -- 1\* at Percha Dam 1/13 (LG, Carol Davis) was east of range.

PINYON JAY -- Southerly CC totals: 95 on Gila R., 25 at Silver City, 14 at La Luz, and 2 at Carlsbad Caverns.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- unusual: 1\* on Sandia Mts. CC (Tamie Bulow). An extraordinary one\*\* was n. of Randall's Pool 2/5, 6 (BZ); possibly an escape, but its plumage was in natural condition, so it may be a first for Dona Ana County.

AMERICAN CROW -- unusual: Large flocks were 425 on the Espanola CC, 2,719 on the Bosque NWR CC, and 214 on Caballo CC (normally only a few).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- 1 in Socorro 1/22 (JS), 2 at Pleasanton 12/31 (JH) and common at Hobbs 12/25 (JS).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- Christmas Count highs: 44 at Farmington, 24 at Las Vegas and 21 at Albuquerque.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE -- 1 at Clayton in December (WC); high 26 on Las Vegas CC. Good numbers stayed in the Rio Grande and Pecos R. lowlands: 11 on Bosque NWR CC, 27 on Las Cruces CC; 1 at N.M. State University 12/26-1/5 (CSa); 1 in Roswell during count week; 6 n. of Carlsbad 12/23 (fide MMe); 23 on Carlsbad Caverns CC; 13 at Rattlesnake Springs 2/7 (fide Bill Bourbon), and 5 on Loving CC.

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- 20 on Caballo CC.

PLAIN TITMOUSE -- Singles on Sevilleta CC, Bosque NWR CC, and at Carlsbad 12/23 (CR, SW).

VERDIN -- Singles at Sevilleta NWR in December (RT) and at Mangas Springs 12/24-30 (RF).

BUSHTIT -- 12 in southeast Albuquerque 12/15 (Bill Willard); 10 at Socorro 1/2 (PJ); several at Caballo Dam 2/7 (PJ, Dean Kendall), and 2 at Carlsbad 11/23 (fide MMe).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 1 at Tularosa 1/22 (CSa); 3 on Caballo CC; 3 at Dripping Springs 12/9 (CA); 29 at Mesilla Park 12/20 (BZ, GL) was a very high number; 16 on L. Avalon CC, and 1 on Loving CC.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 22 on Las Vegas CC was high; 1 on Roswell CC.

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 245 on Zuni CC; 2 in Sandia Mts. 1/20 (PSt).

BROWN CREEPER -- 9 on Santa Fe CC; 1 on Roswell CC; 3 on L. Avalon CC.

SEDGE WREN -- unusual: 1 or 2\* at Bosque NWR 1/22, 2/23 (PJ, JS), 2/1 (JBl, BO, TH), on 2/5 (SW) and 2/27 (LG); 1 was at Rattlesnake Springs 2/7-8 (JBl, BO).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- 3 on Santa Fe CC, 4 at Galisteo 2/25 (PI, LH), 4 at Socorro 12/24 (JS), 3 at San Antonio 2/1 (BO), 2\*\* at Percha Dam 12/17 (BZ+), 13 on Peloncillo Mts. CC, 2 at Tularosa 1/22 (CSa), and 101 on Carlsbad Caverns CC, much higher than usual.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- Relatively high CC counts were 22 at Farmington, 17 at Bosque NWR, 695 at Silver City, and 3 at Loving.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- The CC pattern, as compared with local norms, differed from that of Westerns: 386 at Farmington, 388 at Zuni, 223 at Sandia Mts., 1,663 at Sevilleta NWR, 15 at Bosque NWR, 571 on L. Avalon count, and 511 at Carlsbad Caverns.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE -- High CC counts: 135 at Zuni, and 151 at Sevilleta NWR in the western half of the state, plus 4 on Roswell CC and 17 on L. Avalon to the east.

HERMIT THRUSH -- unusual: A statewide high of 23 were on the Albuquerque CC.

AMERICAN ROBIN -- CC highs were 596 at Farmington, 1,094 at Espanola, 1,847 at Santa Fe, 1,007 at Albuquerque, 692 at Sevilleta NWR, and, in the southeast, 425 at La Luz, 679 at L. Avalon, and 1,095 at Carlsbad Caverns.

RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN -- unusual: 1\*\* stayed about 2 weeks or more at Bosque Birdwatchers' RV Park in San Antonio for the second verified N.M. record, providing photos to numerous observers (CAH, JBl, CB, BO, David Borthwick+).

VARIED THRUSH -- unusual: A male \*\* was in Santa Fe 12/13-2/22 (LH, JH, SBa, JS, SWi+).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 4 on Loving CC.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- 11 on Santa Fe CC.

BLUE-TAILED GNATCATCHER -- 1 in count week near Las Cruces (fide BZ); 1 on Peloncillo CC. Two near White's City were described fairly well, including call notes. The species is still unverified by specimen or photograph in this part of the state.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD -- 2 on Espanola CC; 1 on Zuni CC.

SAGE THRASHER -- 1 on Espanola CC; 1 on Santa Fe CC; 1 at Zuni 2/11 (OC); 18 on Sevilleta CC; 1 at Elephant Butte L. 1/24 (PJ+); 2 on Caballo CC; 2 on Roswell CC, and singles at Mangas Springs 12/10 and 2/11 (RF). The high numbers were in the southeast: 229 on L. Avalon CC and 338 on Carlsbad Caverns CC.

BROWN THRASHER -- Singles at Bosquecito 1/13 (JS, PJ); Percha Dam 12/17 (BZ) and L. Avalon CC.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER -- 1 singing s. of Deming 2/11 (RF).

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- 4 on Albuquerque CC and 4 on Roswell CC were the highs; 2 on Sevilleta CC.

CRISSAL THRASHER -- 1 at Mangas Springs 2/15 was apparently the first to be recorded there (RF).

AMERICAN PIPIT -- 6 on Espanola CC; 17 on Santa Fe CC; 3 at Zuni 1/27 (SI); 2 at Cochiti L. 2/18 (PI+); 483 on Bosque NWR CC and 49 there 2/1 (RT, PB); 322 on Caballo CC; up to 30 at Mangas Springs throughout the period (RF); 110 on Las Cruces CC, and 207 on the Loving CC.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING -- Only report, 1 at El Rito 1/19-2/22 (DSt).

CEDAR WAXWING -- Highest numbers, 93 on Farmington CC, 25 to 30 at Clayton in last week of February (WC), 20 on La Luz CC, 163 on Silver City CC, and 17 at N. M. State University 1/4-9 (CSa).

PHAINOPEPLA -- 1 on Carlsbad Caverns CC.

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- 9 were reported: 3 at Tres Piedras 2/4 (PI, CR), singles on Zuni CC, at Reheboth in Zuni area 1/28 (SI), on Espanola CC, on Las Vegas CC, in Juan Tabo Canyon 12/3 (HS, no details), and on Bosque NWR CC.

EUROPEAN STARLING -- Winter numbers down in Clayton area (WC).

SOLITARY VIREO -- Only reports, 1 plumbeus at Mesilla Park 12/20 (BZ, GL), and 1 of unknown race at N.M. State University 12/27-1/2 (CSa). Species very unusual in winter.

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 1 on Peloncillos CC; 1 in Clanton Canyon 2/17 (LG,PJ).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1 on Caballo CC; singles at Percha Dam 1/13 (LG, Carol Davis) and 2/13-15 (SWi); 7 on Las Cruces CC.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER -- 1 well described from Las Cruces 12/21-31 (CSa) was the first winter report for New Mexico.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH -- 1 at Percha Dam 1/13 (LG) was the fourth winter record for the state.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- High of 30 was on the Gila R. CC. Notable were singles on the Peloncillo and Loving CCs. Apparently a few established at Rattlesnake Springs were spreading to other suitable habitats (SW).

PYRRHULOXIA -- High CC counts were 14 in Peloncillos, 29 for La Luz, 168 for L. Avalon, and 53 for Carlsbad Caverns.

ABERT'S TOWHEE -- 1 near Riverside 12/30 (RF+) was northerly.

CASSIN'S SPARROW -- Only reports: 3 in Peloncillos 12/28 (RS+), 1 at Dripping Springs 12/9 (CA) and 1 at Las Cruces 1/22 (CSa).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- On CCs: northerly, 1 at Farmington, 1 at Espanola, and 7 at Las Vegas NWR. More southerly, 2 at Albuquerque, 3 at Bosque NWR and 12 at Roswell.

CHIPPING SPARROW -- 1 on Espanola CC was northerly. High CCs were 112 on Caballo and 820 for Las Cruces.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW -- Only report, 2\* possible at Columbus 1/27-28 (BO).

BREWER'S SPARROW -- Highs were 119 on Caballo CC and 500 for Las Cruces CC.

FIELD SPARROW -- unusual: 1\* at Percha Dam SP 12/17 and 1 on the Las Cruces CC...At least 1\* at Rattlesnake Springs 2/8 (BO, JB1) and 4 on L. Avalon CC.

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- 1 at Mangas Springs 1/15-17 (RF).

LARK SPARROW -- 1 on Peloncillo CC, 2 on Las Cruces CC, and 1 reported at Black R. 1/7 (Bill Bourbon).

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW -- Northerly, 1 in lower Juan Tabo Canyon 12/13 (HS), where species occasionally winters, 17 on Sevilleta CC and 28 on Bosque NWR CC.

SAGE SPARROW -- Northerly at Zuni, 1 on CC and 2 on 2/25 (DC). 133 on Sevilleta CC was high.

LARK BUNTING -- 12,600+ at Columbus 1/27-28 (BO). 901 on Carlsbad Caverns CC was extremely high; previous CC record was 24.

SAVANNAH SPARROW -- Northerly were 6 on Zuni CC, 1 at Las Vegas NWR 2/24 (LG, CB), and 1 on Sevilleta CC. High CCs were 461 for Peloncillo and 271 for Caballo. Las Cruces had 56 on 12/17 (BZ+).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW -- Only report, 14 on Peloncillo CC.

FOX SPARROW -- A grayish\* (schistacea) at El Rito 1/19 was joined by a reddish one\* 2/28 (DSt). Other gray birds, all in the south, 1 or 2 at Glenwood 12/31 (JH), at Mangas Springs 1/5-8 and 1/17, 20 (RF), on Silver City CC, at Tularosa 1/22 (CSa), at Rattlesnake Springs 1/8 (Bill Bourbon), at Black R. Village 2/12 (SW), on L. Avalon CC, and at Loving 12/31 (SW+).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW -- 1 at Albuquerque 12/18 (HS) was northerly. High CCs were 86 for Caballo, 9 for Las Cruces, and 26 for Carlsbad Caverns.

SWAMP SPARROW -- 2 on 12/3 and 1 on 2/27 at Zuni (DC) were northerly. At Bosque NWR, 4+ on 12/21 (JS), 1 on the CC, and 3 on 1/22 (PJ, JS). In the south, 2 on Gila R. CC, 1 on Silver City CC, 5 at Rattlesnake Springs 2/7 (Bill Bourbon), 5 on Loving CC and 1 to 3 at Hobbs 12/25 (JS).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- Singles on Farmington and Peloncillo CCs.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW -- unusual: 2 black-lored (orianthus) wintered at Mangas Springs (RF).

HARRIS' SPARROW -- Singles on Española CC, at Albuquerque 2/25 (LG), near San Antonio 2/23 (PJ), at Mangas Springs\*\* 12/30 (RF), at Pancho Villa SP\* 12/29 (SBI), and on Caballo and Las Cruces CCs.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR -- At Green Chaparral turf ranch near Moriarty, 10 to 15\* on 12/26 (DC), over 24 on 1.11 (LG), about 150 on 1/17 (PJ, JS), about 50 on 1/22 (PSt), and 40 on 2/3 (DC). 1 at Monticello Bay, Elephant Butte L. 1/14 (PSt) and 1/24 (PJ, JS).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- At Green Chaparral, 1 to 2\* on 12/26, 5 on 1/8\* (SW) and 1/17\* (PJ, JS), about 20 on 1/22 (PSt) and 10 on 2/3 (DC).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR -- 2 to 5 at Zuni, Green Chaparral, Datil and Bosque NWR in January (v.o.). Numerous in south: 800+ in 5 flocks in Animas Valley 2/16 (PJ, LG), 410 on Loving CC, and 200 near Hobbs 12/35 (JS).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD -- 8 to 12 at Zuni all season (DC) and 2 males at Las Vegas NWR 1/13 (JH, JV).

COMMON GRACKLE -- A male at Zuni 12/29 (DC) and up to 10 in Socorro 12/7-2/18 (JS, PJ). Still increasing in Albuquerque, Socorro & Carlsbad.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- Northerly 1 on Farmington CC. 6 on Silver City CC.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- unusual: 1\*\* adult male at Pancho Villa SP 12/29-2/22 (SBI, JBI+). Another in northern Grant County 2/24 (SWI).

ROSEY (BROWN-CAPPED) FINCH -- 150 at Vallecitos 2/19 (DSt). Few reports.

PURPLE FINCH -- unusual: 1\* male probable at Silver City 12/8-16 (N. and J. Strickling).

CASSIN'S FINCH -- Low to moderate numbers in lowlands. In the south, 5 near Riverside on Gila CC, 13 on Silver City CC, 26 on Caballo CC, 9 at Dripping Springs 2/23 (SWI), and 6 at Carlsbad Caverns NP 1/1 (Bill Bourbon).

RED CROSSBILL -- Only reports, 10 at Zuni 12/8 (DC), 6 at Cedar Crest 1/12 (Pst).

PINE SISKIN -- 82 at Farmington 12/30 (AN) was especially high.

LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH -- unusual: Irregular in New Mexico. 6\* at Pancho Villa SP 12/29 (SBI) and 1\* at Dripping Springs 12/8 (CSa).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH -- Especially high: 121 at Farmington 12/30 (AN+).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- Widespread in moderate to high numbers in sub-montane areas: 98 on Zuni CC, 300 on Santa Fe CC, 239 on Española CC, and 47 on Las Vegas CC. Other highs: 231 on Farmington CC, 255 on Albuquerque CC and 148 on Sevilleta CC. The 30 on the Carlsbad Caverns CC were the first winter occurrence there in many years.