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NEW MEXICO  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD NOTES

VOLUME 30, NO. 1

December 1, 1990 - February 28, 1991

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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE EDITORS:

The winter saw the first-ever report of a Western Gull in New Mexico. The bird was sighted at Caballo L. during the Christmas count by Barry Zimmer, who provided a sketch and excellent details, but rain prevented confirming photography. The normal range is along the Pacific coast from British Columbia to northern Mexico, and inland incursions are rare.....The Red-bellied Woodpecker finally achieved official ~~status~~. It was sighted rarely in our state from 1955 on, but without photos or specimens. Finally, in mid-December 1990, two visitors spotted a female at Washington Ranch when Steve West was present, and he snapped the long-sought picture. Only a 35-year wait.

Other unusual sightings: A Pacific Loon at Navajo Dam, and 13 Barrow's Goldeneyes on the San Juan R. A high 368 Bald Eagles on the annual aerial survey. N.M.'s first winter-time Common Black Hawk was at Glenview. Well out of place: a Harris' Hawk at Caballo L., two Northern Goshawks at the Rio Grande Nature Center, Post Office Canyon's first wintering Common Ground Dove, two wintering Gray Catbirds at Chaco Canyon NP (northerly and out of season) and two Purple Finches at Glenwood.

Other holdovers: A Rufous Hummingbird at Carlsbad until January 10. A Hutton's Vireo and Yellow-throated and Townsend's Warblers. Single Anna's Hummingbirds stayed late at feeders in Albuquerque and Las Cruces.

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Annual one-day winter raptor count in southwest New Mexico by Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society (Ralph Fisher, compiler):

Bald Eagle, 2 adults; 1 juvenile; 28 Northern Harriers; 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk; 6 Cooper's Hawks; 7 Harris' Hawks; 154 Red-tailed Hawks; 19 Ferruginous Hawks; 1 Rough-legged Hawk; 11 adult and 5 juvenile Golden Eagles; 67 American Kestrels; 2 Merlin; 4 Prairie Falcons; 1 Peregrine Falcon. (13 species, 313 birds, 16 observers in 7 parties; east to Hatch and south to Columbus. Also seen, 3 Roadrunners and 2 Great Horned Owls. Peregrine was only fourth sighting since 1970;)

NEW MEXICO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1990

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

Albuquerque, Dec. 16, Hart Schwarz, 90, 23,244  
Bluewater L., Dec. 16, David Cleary, 40, 2,369  
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque CC), Dec. 15, Steven Cox, 95, 57,523  
Caballo Dec. 16, Barry Zimmer, 126, 17,087  
Carlsbad Caverns NP (Carlsbad NP CC), Dec. 15, Steve West, 89, 4,180  
Clayton Dec. 15, Martin Mayfield, 40, 3,001  
Española Dec. 30, Burton Lewis, 69, 4,489  
Fermington Dec. 15, Alan Nelson, 59, 37,739  
Five Points, Dec. 29, Ross Teuber, 33, 911 (new count)  
(Gila R. -- canceled as heavy precipitation made roads impassible)  
Lakes Avalon & Brentley (L. Avalon CC), Dec. 23, Mike Medrano, 91, 11,262  
La Luz, Dec. 29, Robert Jenness, 60, 3,069  
Las Cruces, Dec. 30, Barry Zimmer, 116, 13,406  
Las Vegas, Dec. 23, George Blanchard, 56, 9,765  
Loving, Dec. 22, Steve West, 91, 9,339  
Peloncillo Mts., Dec. 29, Robert Scholes, 86, 5,901  
Roswell, Dec. 15, Sherry Bixler, 90, 49,269 (includes Bitter L.)  
Sandia Mts., Dec. 29, Kay Anderson, 33, 938

(continued on next page)

Santa Fe, Dec. 16, Pat Insley, 50, 7,120  
 Sevilleta NWR, Dec. 15, Theodore Stans, 49, 1,531  
 Silver City, Dec. 15, Ralph Fisher, 76, 3,882  
 Zuni, Dec. 15, John Trochet, 73, 8,455

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

Aguirre Springs (Organ Mts.) -- Doña Ana	Gila R. -- Grant, Catron, Hidalgo	Rio Grande Nature Center -- Bernalillo
Albuquerque -- Bernalillo	Glenwood -- Catron	Rodeo -- Hidalgo
Animas Mts., Peak, Valley -- Hidalgo	Holloman L. -- Otero	Roswell -- Chaves
Ataleya Peak -- Santa fe	Juan Tabo Canyon -- Bernalillo	Sandia Mts. -- Bernalillo
Avalon L. -- Eddy	Laguna Grande - Eddy	L. Avalon -- Eddy
Bandelier NM -- Los Alamos, Sandoval	La Luz -- Otero	Rio Arriba
Bill Evans L. -- Grant	Las Cruces - Doña Ana	San Juan R. -- San Juan
Bitter L. NWR (Bitter L.) -- Chaves	Las Vegas -- San Miguel	San Simon Cienega -- Hidalgo
Black River Village -- Eddy	Lordsburg -- Hidalgo	Santa Fe -- Santa Fe
Black Rock (dam, etc.), Zuni-- McKinley	Loving -- Eddy	Santa Rosa -- Guadalupe
Bluewater L. -- Cibola, McKinley	Lovington -- Lea	Sevilleta NWR -- Socorro
Bosque del Apache NWR (Bosque NWR) -- Socorro	Mangas Springs -- Grant	Silver City -- Grant
Bottomless L. SP -- Chaves	Maxwell NWR -- Colfax	Socorro -- Socorro
Burn L. -- Doña Ana	Mesilla -- Doña Ana	Springer L. -- Colfax
Ceballos L. - Sierra	Morgan L. -- San Juan	Sumner L. -- De Baca
Carlsbad -- Eddy	Moriarty -- Torrance	Tesuque -- Santa Fe
Carlsbad Caverns NP -- Eddy	Navaajo L. -- San Juan	Truth or Consequences -- Sierra
Clayton (L.) -- Union	Ojo Caliente -- Rio Arriba & Taos	Tyrone -- Grant
Cliff -- Grant	Peloncillo Mts. -- Hidalgo	Ute L. -- Quay
Cochiti L. -- Sandoval	Percha Dam SP -- Sierra	
Columbus -- Luna	Post Office Canyon -- Hidalgo	
Corrales -- Sandoval	Randall Davey Nature Center -- Santa Fe	Wagon Mound -- Mora
Deming -- Luna	Rattlesnake Springs -- Eddy	Washington Ranch -- Eddy
Elephant Butte L. -- Sierra	Redrock -- Grant	Zuni Mts. -- McKinley
Española -- Rio Arriba		Zuni Reservation (Zuni for short) -- McKinley
Farmington -- San Juan		

INITIALED OBSERVERS IN THIS ISSUE

KA -- Kay Anderson	DSJHo -- Dick & Jean Hoffman	LHS -- Lorraine Schult
PB -- Pat Basham	JH -- John P. Hubbard	HS -- Hart Schwarz
CB -- Charles Black	SI -- Stephen Ingraham	JS -- John Shipman
JBl -- James Black	PI -- Pat Insley	KSl -- Kate Skaggs
SBa -- Sy Baldwin	CJe -- Carlyn Jervis	PSn -- Patricia Snider
WC -- Wes Cook	BL -- W. Burton Lewis	PSt -- Paul Steel
RWD -- R.W. Dickerman	BMc -- Barbara McKnight	RT -- Ross Teuber
JNO -- John Durrie	MMe -- Mike Medrano	JT -- John Trochet
GE -- Gordon Ewing	BO -- k. Bruce Ostyn	JV -- James Vaught
RF -- Ralph Fisher	JPa -- John Parmeter	HSRW -- Harvey & Ruth Williams
AF -- Alton Ford	CSa -- Catherine Sandell	SW -- Steve West
LG -- Larry Gorbet	RS -- Robert Scholes	SWi -- Sartor Williams
BH -- Bruce Hayward	GS -- Greg Schmitt	EW -- Eleanor Wootten
LH -- Lois Herrmann		BZ -- Barry Zimmer
		DSMZ -- Dale and Marian Zimmerman

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PACIFIC LOON -- unusual: 1 at Navajo L. 2/12 (JH, HB).

COMMON LOON -- Singles at Bluewater L. 12/8-18 (DC, SI) and Sumner L. 3/19 (LH); 5 on 12/27 at Elephant Butte L. (JBl, CB, Elizabeth Black) and 15 on 1/26 (JPa); 7 on L. Avalon CC, and 1 near Carlsbad 2/23 (SW).

HORNED GREBE -- 1 at Caballo L. 12/1 (JPa); 1 at Bosque NWR 12/2 and 2 at Elephant Butte L. 1/27 (LG, Carol Davis).

EARED GREBE -- 200+ at Elephant Butte L. (PSt); 1 at Holloman L. 2/18 (LHS, EW).

WESTERN GREBE -- 6 at Navajo L. 2/13 (JH, JV).

CLARK'S GREBE -- First for Grant County, 1 at Bill Evans L. 12/8, 10 (DSMZ).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN -- 2 at Elephant Butte L. 2/17 (DC); 25 at Caballo L. during the period (v. o.); 7 on L. Avalon CC.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT -- 1 at Bluewater L. 12/10-18 (DC, SI) and at Bill Evans L. 12/9, 11 (RF); up to 8 in Eddy County 12/22-23 (fide SW).

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT -- 90 near Truth or Consequences 12/1 (JPa).

GREAT BLUE HERON -- 1 or 2 near nests at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/4-6 (JH).

GREAT EGRET -- 1 at Bitter L. 2/18 (LH).

SNOWY EGRET -- 1 on Loving CC.

GREEN-BACKED HERON -- 2 on nest at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/5 (JH); 1 at Bosque NWR 12/2 (SWi).

TUNDRA SWAN -- 1 near Santa Rosa and 2 at Ute L. 1/8 (SWi); 3 at Bosque National Wildlife R. 12/2 (v. o.) and 1 there 2/9 (JPa, Andy Kravnik); 3 at Redrock 1/10-13 (AF); 2 at Lordsburg 12/31 (CSa); 1 on Loving CC.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE -- 1 at Zuni 2/24 (DZ); 1 at Rio Grande Nature Center 2/9 (LG), and 26 on Sevilleta CC.

SNOW GOOSE -- Blue morph in Dona Ana County 1/10 (BZ)...First for Eddy County at Rattlesnake Springs 12/15 (SW+).

ROSS' GOOSE -- Many at Bitter L. in December (SB+); 1 at Burn L. 12/30 (BZ).

CANADA GOOSE -- Some small geese at Morgan L. 2/12 (JH, JV). Up to 12,000 -- a record -- at Clayton L. during season (WC)???. Six "Richardson's" geese at Rio Grande Nature Center 2/17 (LG); 4 on Sevillita CC.

WOOD DUCK -- 10 in Corrales 12/13 (SBA); 1 at Tesuque 1/27 (Bill Huey); 96 on Albuquerque CC; 1 at Glenwood 2/4-5 (JH); 8 at Bosque NWR 12/2 (SW1); 2 on Roswell CC; 5 at Tyrone 2/5 (RF); 4 in Silver City 12/15-1/7 (RF, DSMZ, HSRW); 3 on Las Cruces CC.

MALLARD -- A male of Mexican form at Lordsburg 12/2 (RF).

NORTHERN PINTAIL -- 7 near Zuni 12/25, with up to 150 on 2/24 (SI,DC).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL -- 16 on Las Vegas CC; 25 on Loving CC.

CINNAMON TEAL -- 8 at Blackrock 2/23-24 (DC); 4 at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/4-5 (JH); 6 at Bosque NWR 12/2, with some still there in January (v. o.); 13 on Caballo CC.

NORTHERN SHOVELER -- 1 at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/4-5 (JH).

AMERICAN WIGEON -- 3 near San Juan 1/20 (LH); 10 at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/4 (JH).

CANVASBACK -- 20 at Blackrock 2/23-24 (DC); 23 in Las Cruces 12/6-14 (CSa, GE).

REDHEAD -- Up to 10 near Zuni, with 200 on 2/23 (SI, DC); 465 at Springer L. and 225 at Wagon Mound L. 2/15 (SW1).

RING-NECKED DUCK -- 15 at Blackrock 2/23-24 (DC); 2 at Randall Qavey Nature Center 12/14 (SBA); 50 at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/4-5 (JH).

GREATER SCAUP -- The one in November at Rio Grande Nature Center was still there 1/4 (HS); 1 on Caballo CC; 1 at Burn L. 12/30 (BZ).

LESSER SCAUP -- 6 at Blackrock 2/23-24 (DC); a male at Glenwood fish hatchery 2/5-6 (JH); 8 at Burn L. 12/3 (LHS).

SURF SCOTER -- 1 seen by Cheryl K. Rofer on Bosque NWR CC.

COMMON GOLDENEYE -- 1 or 2 near Zuni 12/12-2/28 (SI); 1 male at Caballo L. 1/12 (CSa).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE -- 13 on San Juan R. 2/2 and 1 there 2/15 (DC, JPa).

BUFFLEHEAD -- 1 near Zuni 12/18 and 10 at Blackrock 2/23-24 (SI, DC); 6 at Bosque NWR 12/27 (LH); 8 at Elephant Butte 12/6 (LHS, EW).

HOODED MERGANSER -- A male at Springer L. 2/15 (SW1); 1 to 5 at Bosque NWR 12/2-1/22 (v. o.); 18 at Bitter L. on Roswell CC, with 6 left on 2/21 (SBA); 10 at Caballo L. 12/7, 1 pair left on 1/21 (PSt, BZ).

COMMON MERGANSER -- 3 to 4 at Bluewater L. 12/10-14 (DC); 12 in Corrales bosque 12/7 (SBA); 3 near Blue Hole, Guadalupe County, 2/3 (SW); 15 at Moon Ranch, Grant County, 2/7-8 (JH, RWD); over 3,500 at Elephant Butte L. 2/17 (DC); over 8,500 at Caballo L. 1/11 12 (CSa, BZ); 4 at Holloman L. 1/2 (GE).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER -- 4 seen at Sumner L. SP 2/22 (SBa); a male at Bottomless L. SP 2/16-23 (SW, Frank Smith); 9 females at Elephant Butte L. on 12/7 and 12 on 1/27 (LG, Carol Davis); a female at Burn L. 2/10 (LHS+); 2 males at Carlsbad 2/23 (SW).

RUDDY DUCK -- 12 at Blackrock 2/23-24 (DC).

OSPREY -- unusual: 1 at Maxwell NWR in January (William Mobley).

BALD EAGLE -- 368 counted in the N.M. Game & Fish Dept. annual aerial survey 1/7-9; 203 (55%) were adults. This is well below the record 512 of the previous year, but still the second highest for the 10-year period (no count in 1989). Also, many widely scattered sightings....Unusual: Singles far from water in the Sandia Mts. 1/8 and on Albuquerque's West Mesa 1/21 (HS)....23 at Bosque NWR 1/5 (JPa) were evidently the high there.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK -- unusual: Singles at Rio Grande Nature Center 12/21 (JPa) and 2/17 & 23 (LG+)....1 immature near Ojo Caliente 1/19 (SBa) and 1 near Lovington 12/12 (JS).

COMMON BLACK HAWK -- 1 at Glenwood 1/5 (Roger Skaggs) was the first reliable winter report for the state.

HARRIS' HAWK -- 1 at Cabello L. 1/23 was outside its normal range; only 2 adults in the entire southwest area 2/9 (RF).

RED-TAILED HAWK -- unusual: 3, including 1 dark phase, at Bitter L. 2/21, and 5, including 2 light phase and 2 dark phase, near Percha Dam SP 1/1 (SBa, Sheila Gershen)....The rufous-phase individual was at Mangas Springs all winter for the fifth consecutive year. A second was in the Gila Valley most of the period, and a third along Highway 80 north of Rodeo 2/9 (RF).

MERLIN -- At least 15 reported (v. o.) from scattered locations. Most in one area were 3 on the Santa Fe CC.

WILD TURKEY -- 6 on Clayton CC; 156 on the Bosque NWR CC demonstrate the success of that introduced population; 11 on Carlsbad NP CC 12/15.

MONTEZUMA QUAIL -- 2 on Peloncillo Mts. CC; present at Laguna de Babicora, Chihuahua 1/31 (Rod Drawien)

SCALED QUAIL -- 12 on Santa Fe CC; 20 at Zuni 12/9 (DC); 3 on the Bluewater L. CC; 28 on the Five Points CC.

GAMBEL'S QUAIL -- 15 on the Five Points CC; present at Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, 1/25-26 (Rod Drawien).

VIRGINIA RAIL -- 1 at Mangas Springs 12/11 (RF).

SORA -- 1 at Bitter L. 2/21 (SBa).

COMMON MOORHEN -- 11 on Las Cruces CC.

SANDHILL CRANE -- 55 on Las Vegas CC; 2 over Moriarty 2/24 (PI+); 20 at Moon Ranch, Grant County, 2/7, 8 (JH); 2 on Peloncillo CC.

WHOOPIING CRANE -- 8 on Bosque CC.

KILLDEER -- Seen statewide.

AMERICAN AVOCET -- 17 at Burn L. 12/3 (LHS).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS -- 2 at Bosque NWR 12/16, and up to 9 there 1/12 (JS, CSa).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS -- 1 at Bosque NWR 2/9 (Andy Kravnik, JPa); 1 at Laguna Grande 1/3 (SBa).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER -- 1 at Cliff 1/25 (RF); 1 at Percha SP 12/27 through 1/21 (SBe, LH, PSt); 1 at Caballo Dam 12/6 (EW, LHS).

WESTERN SANDPIPER -- 5+ at Bosque NWR 11/29 (fide PSn).

LEAST SANDPIPER -- 1 at Bosque NWR 2/18 (DC).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER -- The juvenile seen at Bosque NWR in November was last reported 12/2 (LG, Carol Davis, DC).

DUNLIN -- 1 at Bosque NWR 12/2-8 (v. o.).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER -- 3 along Pecos R. in Guadalupe County 2/3 (SW); up to 24 on Bosque CC, with 14 there 1/22 (v. o.).

COMMON SNIFE -- 1 to 3 in Bluewater L. area 12/10-16 (DC, JT, SI); singles at Randall Davey Nature Center 12/5, 16 (SBe); 1 near Mesilla 1/7 (GE); 45 on Loving CC.

BONAPARTE'S GULL -- Unusually high winter numbers. 1 on Albuquerque CC; 3 at Elephant Butte L. 12/7 (PSt) and 1/27 (LG); 2 on Caballo CC and present there 1/5 (PSn); 16 on L. Avalon CC; 1 on Loving CC.

RING-BILLED GULL -- 77 on Roswell CC; 1 at Bill Evans L. 1/8 (RF); 106 on Las Cruces count was high for the area; 2,208 on L. Avalon CC; present in Chihuahua at Ascension 1/22-24 and at Lago Mexicanos 1/28 (Rod Drewien).

CALIFORNIA GULL -- 2 at Elephant Butte L. 1/27 (LG).

HERRING GULL -- 2 adults at Bitter L. 12/8 and 5 at Elephant Butte L. 1/26 (JPa); high of 30 at Caballo L. 1/11 (BZ) and 1/12 (CSa); 1 on Las Cruces CC; 1 on Roswell CC; 10 on L. Avalon CC, and 2 on Loving CC.

WESTERN GULL -- unusual: A first for N.M., 1 on the Caballo L. CC was extremely well described and was the first record for the species in New Mexico (BZ); heavy rain made photography impossible.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE -- The large numbers in the Las Cruces area in the fall continued to grow and move into other southern areas: 25 at Socorro 12/8 (JPa), 30 at Percha Dam SP 1/26 (JPa), 44 on Caballo CC, 16 on La Luz CC, 1 wintering in Post Office Canyon (RS) for the first time, 3+ at Redrock in January (Alton Ford), 199 on Las Cruces CC, and 51 on Carlsbad NP CC.

INCA DOVE -- 5 at Socorro 12/8 (JPa), 4 on Roswell CC for second year, 16 on La Luz CC, 32 on Las Cruces CC, 4 on L. Avalon CC, 3+ at Carlsbad 2/23 and 4 at Black River Village 1/18 (SW) for first local record.

COMMON GROUND DOVE -- unusual: 1+ adult female at Post Office Canyon December to February (RS) for the second record and first to overwinter.

GREATER ROADRUNNER -- None seen all winter in entire Silver City-Gila Valley area (RF).

NORTHERN PYGMY OWL -- 1 on Zuni CC; 1 in Santa Fe 12/16-19 (fide PI, SBe).

BURROWING OWL -- 1 below Albuquerque's west mesa 1/13 and 1/31 (HS); 1 on Albuquerque CC.

SPOTTED OWL -- 1 in Zuni Mts. 12/8 (DC) may be the first report for this location.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD -- Late singles photographed at feeders in Albuquerque 12/7-19 (BrH, LG+); 1 on Las Cruces CC (BZ+).



RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD -- unusual: 1 adult male remained at Carlsbad feeder intermittently 10/23 through 1/10 (DSJHo).

BELTED KINGFISHER -- 1 at Bandelier NM, where occasional, on 1/17; though Rito Frijoles has not been stocked for many years, some 3 to 4-inch trout survive upstream from headquarters.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER -- unusual: 1\*\* immature at Mesilla Dam since 11/23 was last seen 1/11 (BZ, CSa, GE).

ACORN WOODPECKER -- unusual: Several in Las Cruces area 2/10 (LHS+).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER -- unusual: 1\*\* female at Washington Ranch 12/15 (Found by Tim and Jan Reynolds, photo by SW) was the first verified state record, although John Hubbard's "Revised Checklist of Birds of N.M." mentions 8 records back to 1955.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER -- A female\* was at Socorro 12/8 (PSt); other reports lacked details.

NORTHERN FLICKER -- 2 yellow-shafted males at Rattlesnake Springs 1/13 (SBa) and a single was there 12/15 (fide SW). Other singles on Albuquerque CC, at Percha SP, where "rare but regular in winter" (BZ), and at Washington Ranch 2/16 (SW, Frank Smith).

EASTERN PHOEBE -- 1 at Bosque NWR 12/1 (SW1) and 12/8 (PSt).

TREE SWALLOW -- Several at Las Cruces 2/10 (LHS) were early.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW -- 1 at Caballo L. 12/6 (LHS).

CAVE SWALLOW -- 6 back at Carlsbad Caverns NP 2/10, increasing to 40 by 2/28. (Bill Justice).

BLUE JAY -- Reported only in southern Pecos Valley: 50 on Roswell CC, 4 on L. Avalon CC, and seen in Carlsbad area.

SCRUB JAY -- Above-normal numbers in south: 2 at La Joya SGR 2/15 (JH, RWD), 3 at Truth or Consequences December to February (DM), 19 on Caballo CC, 16 on Las Cruces CC, and 16 on Carlsbad NP CC.

PINYON JAY -- 22 on Silver City CC and 20 on La Luz CC were southerly; 29 on Albuquerque CC, where seen only at intervals of 5+ years.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE -- unusual: 6 at Corrales 12/7 (SBa).... The species may be increasing in the Clayton area.

AMERICAN CROW -- 8,180 were counted on the Albuquerque CC, 1,293 on the Bosque NWR CC, and 5+ at the Moon Ranch (Grant County) 2/7 -8 (JH, RWD).

CHIHUAHUA RAVEN -- After repeated identifications based on calls in the Albuquerque area in recent years, a dead specimen (sent to the University of New Mexico) was the first confirmed report. It was found 12/26 at a crow roost where up to 16 others were observed on 1/25 (Bill Willard). There were also 1 to 3 on Albuquerque west mesa 12/1, 1/12-13, and 2/14 (identified by call) and 6 on the university campus in January and February (LG, Bill Willard).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE -- 45 on Española CC.

MEXICAN CHICKADEE -- 1 at Laguna de Babicora, Chihuahua, 1/30-31 (Rod Drewien).

BRIDLED TITMOUSE -- 4 or 5 in Six-Mile Canyon, Magdalena Mts., 2/15 (JB1); 5 on Caballo CC; present at Guerrero Reservoir, Chihuahua, 1/29 (Rod Drewien).

PLAIN TITMOUSE -- 1 each on Five Points and L. Avalon CCs.

VERDIN -- 1 on L. Avalon CC; 1 at Ascension, Chihuahua 1/22-24 and present at Encinillas, Chihuahua, 1/27 (Rod Drewien).

BUSHTIT -- 35 on Five Points CC; 1 on Carlsbad NP CC.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 4 at Zuni 12/8 (DC); 4 on Sandia CC.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH -- 2 on L. Avalon CC; 1 on Carlsbad NP CC; present at Laguna de Babicora, Chihuahua, 1/30-31 (Rod Drewien).

PYGMY NUTHATCH -- 6 on Sandia CC; present at Laguna de Babicora, Chihuahua, 1/30-31 (Rod Drewien).

BROWN CREEPER -- 3 on L. Avalon CC; 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 1/13 (SBa); present at Laguna de Babicora, Chihuahua, 1/30-31 (Drewien).

AMERICAN OIPPER-- Singles at Navajo L. 2/13 (JH, JV) and at Arroyo Hondo on Santa Fe CC.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET -- 1 at Randall Davey Nature Center and 4 at Atalaya Mt. in Santa Fe (SBa); 6 at Hondo Canyon, Sandia Mts., 12/6 (PSt); 4 on Albuquerque CC; singles on Roswell & Loving CCs.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET -- Northerly sightings: 2 on Farmington CC, 1 on Espanola CC, and at Santa Fe all winter (LH); 5 at Zuni 12/8 (DC). Relatively high counts were 47 on Albuquerque CC, 130 on Las Cruces CC, and 56 on Carlsbad NP CC. Numbers down at Mangas Springs (RF); present at Laguna de Babicora, Chihuahua, 1/30-31 (Drewien).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER -- 2 at Dripping Springs 1/11 (KSK).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD -- unusual: Almost statewide, and in extraordinary numbers at some locations: 3 in Taos County 2/3 (LH, PI); 1\*\* at Zuni 2/23-24 (DC); up to 10 at Sumner L. 2/19-22 (LH, SBa); 23 on Cabello CC; 2 on Peloncillo CC; 5 on Las Cruces CC, where they were the only bluebirds seen; 103 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/15 (SW\*), outnumbering Westerns.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD -- Widespread west of Pecos Valley, but usually outnumbered by Mountain, and sometimes by Eastern.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD -- Highs were 421 on Zuni CC and 341 on Sevilleta CC. Absent on Silver City CC; 3 at Moon Ranch, Grant County, 2/8 (JH, RWD).

HERMIT THRUSH -- unusual: 2 on Espanola CC, 1 on Zuni CC, 1 on Bluewater L. CC, and 35 on Las Cruces CC.

AMERICAN ROBIN -- unusual: High of 2,551 on Zuni CC, where there was an "excellent juniper crop".

GRAY CATBIRD -- 1 at Chaco Canyon NM 2/23 (JH+) was unusually far north for winter; 1 on Roswell CC.

SAGE THRASHER -- Small numbers scattered northwest to southeast, with highs of 10 or 11 at Zuni 12/15 (JT+) and 2/24 (DC); 30 on Five Points CC. Only 2 on Carlsbad NP CC, vs. 338 the previous year.

BROWN THRASHER -- Singles at Glenwood 2/4 (JH), at Mesilla 12/30 (BZ), and on Las Cruces CC. An impressive 7 on Carlsbad NP CC.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER -- 5 on Albuquerque CC, 19 on Silver City CC, 3 on Roswell CC. Present at Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, 1/25-26 (Rod Drewien).

CRISSAL THRASHER -- 3 on Albuquerque CC, 1 on Sevilleta CC, and 1 on Five Points CC.

AMERICAN PIPIT -- 2 to 10 at Española, San Juan Pueblo and the Zuni area in December (v. o.); 338 on Caballo CC; present at Ascension, Chihuahua, 1/22-24 (Rod Drewien).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT -- 7 on Peloncillo CC.

CEDAR WAXWING -- Lower numbers in the north and higher in the south: 40 in Taos County 2/3 (PI, LH); 22 on Caballo CC; 132 on Silver City CC; 60 at Tyrone 2/5 (RF); 55 on La Luz CC, and 57 on Las Cruces CC.

PHAINDEPLA -- 1 on La Luz CC and 36 on Las Cruces CC.

NORTHERN SHRIKE -- Above average number of singles: On Farmington CC, immature near Turley and 1 near Blanco, both in San Juan County 2/16 (JPa); on Santa Fe CC, at Rehoboth 12/6 (SI), at Bluewater Village 12/18 (DC), on Zuni count week (JT), an immature at junction of NM41 and 285 near Lamy 2/24 (PI+), in Sandia Heights 12/9-15 (Roger Hoppe\*\*).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE -- 1 at Lumberton, Rio Arriba County, 2/23 (PSn); common throughout Chihuahua (Rod Drewien).

HUTTON'S VIREO -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 12/16-1/26 (BZ\*\*, JPa) was the first confirmed Rio Grande Valley record; present at Guerrero Reservoir, Chihuahua, 1/29 (Rod Drewien).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER -- 1 on Caballo CC; 1 at Percha Dam 1/6 (JPa); species is now expected in this area in winter, as were the 6 on the Las Cruces CC. One, probably this species, at Roswell 1/3 (Mary Peckinpaugh).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER -- High CC totals included 68 at Farmington, 6 at Zuni, 296 at Las Cruces, and 45 at Carlsbad NP. Numbers down in Silver City area (DSMZ, RF).

TOWNSEND'S WARBLER -- 1 at Dripping Springs 1/11 (KSk, LHS, EW) was the state's second winter report.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER -- The one reported at Roswell in November was seen again on 12/10 (Mary Peckinpaugh, details and sketch). This is New Mexico's first winter report.

NORTHERN CARDINAL -- 2 on Peloncillo CC; 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 12/15 and a male at Black River Village 1/18 (SW+).

LAZULI BUNTING -- In northern Chihuahua at Galeana and Casas Grandes 1/25-26 (Rod Drewien) were near the northern limit of their winter range.

PAIUNTEO BUNTING -- unusual: 1 or 2 males at Las Cruces 12/8-11 (LHS, Robert White) were the state's first winter record.

CANYON TOWHEE -- 2 at Los Alamos (high for species) 2/24 may have overwintered (PSn).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW -- 12 near Española 2/3 (PI, LH); 63 on Las Vegas CC; 40+ at Las Vegas NWR 1/19 (JPa, Andy Kraynik); 2 at Bluewater Village 12/10 (DC), and 1 on Roswell CC.

CHIPPING SPARROW -- unusual: 20 to 30 at Rio Grande Nature Center all winter long; peak was on 1/11 (HS); sporadic in winter in Albuquerque....Highs farther south were 467 on Caballo CC and 913 on Peloncillos CC.

BREWER'S SPARROW -- 365 on Peloncillos CC.

BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW -- 2 on Silver City CC.

VESPER SPARROW -- 425 on Peloncillo CC.

BLACK-THROATED SPARROW -- 2 at Juan Tabo Canyon 12/10, 18 (HS); occasional in winter in Sandia foothills.

SAGE SPARROW -- 20 to 30 in Rinconada Canyon, in Albuquerque's west mesa escarpment, all winter (HS).

FOX SPARROW -- 1 at Percha Dam SP 12/1 (JPa).

SWAMP SPARROW -- Widespread in low to moderate numbers, including 2 near Gallup 12/15 (SI), 1 at Rio Grande Nature Center 1/11 (HS) and 1 at Bitter L. 2/21 (SBa).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW -- "Invaded" much of the state, with highs of 10 on Zuni CC and 26 at Percha Dam SP 12/16 (BZ).

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW -- Singles on Zuni CC, in Three Gun Canyon in the Sandias 1/13 (Brad Vaughn), and in Post Office Canyon 12/20 to 2/28 (RS).

HARRIS' SPARROW -- 2 at Rio Grande Nature Center 12/16 (Tamie Bulow), 2 in Sandia Heights all winter (Roger Hoppe), 2 at Caballo L. 12/16 (JS+), and 1 at Las Cruces all season (CSa, EW).

McSWAIN'S LONGSPUR -- 2 males 1/12 and 3 males 1/19 at Green Chaparral turf farm near Moriarty (JPa, Andy Kraynik), about 50 on 2/1 (LG), 8 on 2/10 (LH), 3 on 2/21 (PSt) and 1 female 2/24 (PI+). At Grasslands turf farm at Los Lunas, 5+ males 2/9 (JPa, Andy Kraynik); 26 (about half adult males) at sod farms near Sunland Park 2/10 (PL).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR -- At turf farms, 6 males at Green Chaparral 2/1 (LG) and 2 at Grasslands 2/9 (JPa).

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR -- Widespread in moderate numbers, including a male at Zuni 12/15 and a female at Bluewater Village 12/18 (SI), and 2 near Glenwood 2/7 and near Moon Ranch 2/8 (RWD).

COMMON GRACKLE -- 2 on Las Vegas CC were northerly; 2 at Bosque NWR and 10 at Socorro 12/8 (JPa); 15 at Black River Village 2/19 were a local first (SW).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD -- 2 females at Rio Grande Nature Center 1/4 (HS) were north of usual, in flock of hundreds of Redwing Blackbirds.

SCOTT'S ORIOLE -- 1 "flycatching" male at Pancho Villa SP, Columbus, 12/31 (SBa) was north of usual winter range.

PURPLE FINCH -- unusual: 2 adult males at Glenwood 2/4-6 (JH); they may have wintered in the area (RGS Nelson).

CASSIN'S FINCH, PINE SISKIN -- Both scarce or absent in submontane areas.

RED CROSSBILL -- Few reported. 3 on 1/27 and 2 on 2/23 at Randall Davey Nature Center (SBa); many in Jemez Mts. (PSn), and moderate numbers in Sandia Mts. for the period (HS).

LESSER GOLDFINCH -- 2 on 12/9, 2 on 2/12 and 5 on 2/23 at Zuni (OC); 1 at Sandia Park 2/23 (PSt).

EVENING GROSBEAK -- In contrast to previous winter, conspicuous by absence in lowlands. Only exceptions: 2 to 8 at Randall Davey Nature Center 2/5, 23 (SBa, LH); pair near Gallup 12/16 (SI), and a male and female at Silver City 2/19 (DSMZ).