New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes



Volume 39, Number 3, Summer 2000

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES Volume 39, Number 3, Summer 2000 1 June – 31 July 2000

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sartor O. Williams III, *Editor*

William H. Howe, Assistant Editor

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Southwest Natural History Institute 1819 Meadowview Drive NW Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104-2511 (<u>sunbittern@earthlink.net</u>)

Reporting Observations: All individuals interested in birds in New Mexico are encouraged to submit their observations to *NMOS Field Notes*. Especially solicited are records of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-season/range birds. Records should be submitted in taxonomic order and should include species name, date, exact location, numbers of birds, age, sex, and color morph (if applicable), and name and contact information of observer. Details are necessary for unusual records; these may be submitted on a report form (available from the address above), but any written format is acceptable. Photographic documentation is strongly encouraged.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Founded 1962)

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$10; Family \$15; Student \$5; Supporting \$35; Life \$300. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068.

Cover: Elegant Trogon (*Trogon elegans*). Owing to threats to limited habitat, the Elegant Trogon is listed as endangered by the state of New Mexico. One-two pairs have occupied New Mexico's Peloncillo Montains each nesting season since 1991. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman, commissioned by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for a series on state endangered species. Used by permission.

SUMMER SEASON 2000

Summer 2000 was a season of contrasts, with generally dry conditions broken occasionally by intense local storms, while forest and range fires continued to complicate life for birds and birders. Nevertheless, serious work toward documenting breeding birds proceeded on several fronts, and a new species was added to the state list.

Localities and Counties

Abbott, *Colfax* Alamogordo, Otero Albuquerque, Bernalillo Angel Fire, Colfax Animas, Mts., Valley, Hidalgo Antelope Wells, Hidalgo Aztec, San Juan Bear Mts., Socorro Belen. Valencia Berrenda Creek, Sierra Bill Evans Lake, Grant Bitter Lake NWR, Chaves Bonito Lake. Lincoln Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro Bosque Redondo, DeBaca Brantley Lake, Eddy Cabezon, Sandoval Canjilon, Mt., Lake Rio Arriba Carlsbad, *Eddy* Carrizozo, Lincoln Chaco Canyon, Wash, San Juan Chama, Rio Arriba Cimarron, *Colfax* Cliff, Grant Cliff-Gila Valley, Grant Cloudcroft, Otero Clovis, Curry Corona. Lincoln Corrales, Sandova/Bernalillo Covote Creek SP, Mora Crossroads. Lea Cuba, Sandoval Deming, Luna Dulce, *Rio Arriba* Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax* Edgewood, Santa Fe Eldorado, Santa Fe Elephant Butte Lake. Sierra Elida, Roosevelt El Rito, Rio Arriba

Enbom Lake, Rio Arriba Escondida, Socorro Eunice. Lea Fort Stanton, Lincoln Fort Sumner, DeBaca Gallegos, Harding Gallinas Canyon, San Miguel Gila Bird Area, Grant Glenwood, Catron Grey Feathers Lodge, Grant Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Guadalupe Mts., Eddy Guadalupita, Mora Heron Lake, Rio Arriba Holloman Lake, Otero Horse Lake, Rio Arriba Isleta, Bernalillo/Valencia Jemez Falls, Sandoval Jicarilla Mts., Lincoln Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandoval/Bernalillo Laborcita, Socorro La Joya WMA, Socorro Lake Roberts, Grant Lake Valley, Sierra Las Animas Cr. Sierra Las Cruces, Doña Ana Las Vegas, NWR, San Miguel Lincoln. Lincoln Lordsburg, Hidalgo Los Lunas, Valencia Loving, Eddy Lovington, Lea Luis Lopez, Socorro Macho Creek, Sierra Mangas Springs, Grant Manzanita Mts., Bernalillo Manzano, Mts., Torrance Maxwell. NWR. Colfax Mesilla, Dam, Doña Ana Mogollon, Catron

NMOSFN 39:3 (Summer 2000)

Mora, Mora Mosquero, Harding Mountainair, Torrance Mundo Lake. *Rio Arriba* N.R.T., Roosevelt Ojo Sarco, Rio Arriba Orilla Verde CG, Taos Pastura, *Guadalupe* Pecos, San Miguel Percha SP, Sierra Perico Creek, Union Petroglyph NM, Bernalillo Picacho, Lincoln Piñon, Otero Placitas, Sandoval Post Office Canyon, Hidalgo Quarai, *Torrance* Quemado, Lake, Catron Radium Springs, Doña Ana Ragland, *Quay* Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Redrock, Grant Reserve, Catron Rio de los Pinos, Rio Arriba Rio Grande Nature Center, Bernalillo Roswell, *Chaves*

Rowe, Mesa, San Miguel Sabinoso, San Miguel Sandia Crest, Bernalillo San Juan Pueblo, *Rio Arriba* San Marcial, Socorro San Mateo Mts., Socorro Santa Fe, Ski Basin, Santa Fe Santa Rosa, Guadalupe Sargent WMA, *Rio Arriba* Silver City, Grant Six-Mile Dam, *Eddy* Socorro. Socorro Spring Canyon SP, Luna Springer, Lake, Colfax Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax* Taos, Ski Valley, Taos Truth or Consequences, Sierra Tucumcari, Quay Tularosa, Basin, Otero Vadito. Taos Valle Grande, Sandoval Variadero, San Miguel White Oaks, Lincoln Yeso, DeBaca Zuni, *McKinlev* Zuni Mts, McKinley/Cibola

Abbreviations and Conventions

AFB	Air Force Base	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	SP	State Park
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey		Service
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WMA	Wildlife Management
CG	Camp Ground		Area
Cr.	Creek	WSMR	White Sands Missile
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake		Range
L.	Lake	ad(s).	adult(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	subad(s).	subadult(s)
Mt(s)	Mountain(s)	imm.	immature
NM	National Monument	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
NP	National Park	m.ob	many observers
N.R.T.	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	V.O.	various observers
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	+	others; et al.
R.	River	*	written details provided
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature	**	photo or tape provided
	Center	***	specimen obtained

Initialed Observers

MGB	Michael G. Baker	
DJC	David J. Cleary	
N&SC	Nancy & Steven Cox	
JD-M	Joan Day-Martin	
JLD	Jon L. Dunn	
DAE	Douglas A. Emkalns	
KPE	Karen P. Eperson	
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	
GG	Gail Garber	
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	
WHH	William H. Howe	
PEL	Paul E. Lehman	
JWM	Jacob W. Malcom	
LKM	Larry K. Malone	
B&DMBarbara & Daniel McKnight		
PM	Patricia Mehlhop	
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer	
JBM	James B. Montgomery	
BDN	Bruce D. Neville	
JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel	
JEP	John E. Parmeter	

TR Tim Reeves HR Hildy Reiser EMR Eric M. Rominger CMR Christopher M. Rustay RTS Robert T. Scholes HRS Hart R. Schwarz RSS Roland S. Shook PRS Patricia R. Snider SHS Scott H. Stoleson DWS Dale W. Stahlecker JT Joyce Takamine Brad Vaughn BV NV Nick Vaughn HAW Hira A. Walker GLW Gordon L. Warrick Renee West RW SW Steve West WFW William F. West SOW S. O. Williams III DAZ Dale A. Zimmerman MAZ Marian A. Zimmerman

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Loon—Unusual in summer, singles in non-breeding plumage were at Zuni's Nutria L. 3 Jun (DJC) and Bill Evans L. 7 Jul (GJE).

Pied-billed Grebe—An ad. with 4 young at Zuni's Ojo Caliente L., *Cibola*, 8 Jun (DJC). 6 large but locally produced young were at the Isleta marsh, *Bernalillo*, 29 Jul (CMR).

Eared Grebe—The Jicarilla Indian Reservation's Stinking (Burford) L., *Rio Arriba*, is a vital Eared Grebe nesting locale, but this year the lake was dry and abandoned by grebes and other waterbirds. Elsewhere, however, up to 250 nests were at Horse L. 23 Jun (DWS) and 100 individuals plus 20 completed nests were at Maxwell NWR 18 Jun (DJC).

Western Grebe—One nest at Horse L. 23 Jun (DWS) but 8 nests there 21 Jul (DWS). One nest plus 4 broods at Mundo L. 22 Jun (DWS) were the first evidence of breeding there.

Clark's Grebe—15 individuals plus 5 completed nests at Stubblefield L. 20-21 Jun (DJC**); an estimated 20 nests there 16 Jul (CMR).

Neotropic Cormorant—Unusual anywhere in the Pecos Valley, 1 was at BLNWR 21-29 Jul (GLW, JEP).

Least Bittern—One at Bosque NWR 11 Jun (JRO) was the only report.

Great Blue Heron—A nest at Bosque NWR produced 3 young by 30 Jul (CMR).

Great Egret—One north to Springer L. 26 Jun-16 Jul (SOW, JEP, CMR) provided a local first. North in the RGV were 3 at La Joya WMA 30 Jul (BV). Present throughout Jun-Jul at BLNWR, with a high 20 there on 7 Jul (GLW).

Snowy Egret—Seven nests at Holloman L. this season (*fide* HR) provided a Tularosa Basin first.

Little Blue Heron—Single ads. S of Los Lunas 29 Jun (DWS*) and at Bosque NWR 10 Jun (JEP, JRO) furnished the only reports.

Tricolored Heron—One was at BLNWR 14-25 Jun (GLW, JWM).

<u>**Reddish Egret**</u>—An imm. at BLNWR 10-29 Jul (GLW*, JEP*, JRO**) furnished the state's 9th well-documented record.

Green Heron—Considered fairly common and probably breeding in along the lower Mimbres R. in northwestern *Luna* 9-11 Jun & 5-6 Jul (SOW, PM). Another *Luna* record was 1 at Deming 2-7 Jun (LKM).

<u>White Ibis</u>—The species was again in the news, with 2 ads. at BLNWR 12 Jun (JBM*, JWM*, GLW*) and 1 ad. at LVNWR 15-17 Jul (JEP*, JRO**, PRS, L. Dominguez).

White-faced Ibis—The species failed to nest at any of its known breeding locales in New Mexico.

Canada Goose—Unusual for the location was 1 that flew from a rain pool near Animas 20 Jul (RTS).

Wood Duck—A molting male was at Stubblefield L. 20-21 Jun (DJC).

"Mexican" Duck—9 at Mesilla 1 Jun (RAM) and 2 at Six-Mile Dam 5 Jun (SW).

Northern Pintail—At least 1 pair nested near Quemado this season (F. Brooks *fide* WHH).

Canvasback—Mid-summer reports were 3 at Maxwell NWR 16 Jul (CMR) and 1 at Deming 21 Jun (LKM).

Lesser Scaup—Late was a male at Zuni 8 Jun (DJC).

Common Merganser—Unusual for *Luna*, a female was consorting with a male "Mexican" Duck on the lower Mimbres R. 10 Jun (SOW, PM).

Osprey—An additional breeding territory was discovered near Heron L., bringing the state's total to 8 active nests in 2000 (DWS). Of these, 5 were successful, producing a total of 11 young, while 3 failed (DWS). 2 subads. were at Quemado L. 13 Jul (DWS). One ad. was at Eagle Nest L. 26 Jun (PEL).

Mississippi Kite—Made news in the middle RGV, with an ad. on a nest in the Corrales bosque, *Sandoval*, 26 Jun (J. S. Findley) plus singles at Los Lunas 30 Jul (BV) and Bosque NWR 16 Jun (BV).

Bald Eagle—All 3 active nests in *Colfax* were successful, fledging a total of 5 young 3 Jun-10 Jul (SOW, PM).

Northern Harrier—Suggestive of local breeding were 1 at Maxwell NWR 2 Jul (JT), a female near Fort Sumner 2 Jun (SOW), 2 males at BLNWR 8 Jun (WHH), and 1 at Deming 2 Jun (LKM).

<u>Gray Hawk</u>—Surprising was an ad. in the New Mexico portion of Guadalupe Canyon 25 Jul (WFW); even more surprising was a nest with 1 large nestling just across the line in the Arizona portion of the canyon the same day (WFW).

Common Black-Hawk—Expanded their eastern beachheads in the Hondo and Pecos drainages, with a successful nest on the Rio Bonito at Fort Stanton that fledged young 9-10 Jul (N&SC**, JRO**), an ad. at Emil Fritz Spring downstream from Lincoln 30 Jul (JEP, JRO), and a pair exchanging prey that was taken to a suspected nest at Santa Rosa 25 Jun (MGB).

Harris's Hawk—An active nest was located about 5 mi S of Alamogordo this season (*fide* HR), the 2^{nd} for the Tularosa Basin this year.

Zone-tailed Hawk—Noteworthy for *Luna* was an ad. on the lower Mimbres R. 9 Jun (SOW, PM, P. Russell).

Ferruginous Hawk—Noteworthy for *Rio Arriba* was one 5 mi N of Cebolla 7 Jul (CMR).

Crested Caracara—Unconfirmed was a report with sketchy details of 2 at the Nancy Mine SW of Socorro 23 Jun (J. Kretzmann*); efforts to relocate the birds were unsuccessful.

White-tailed Ptarmigan—Helicopter surveys for bighorn sheep in the Pecos Wilderness observed 6 birds (2 pairs and 2 singles) along a transect from Rincon Bonita to Jicarita Peak 14 Jul (EMR).

Montezuma Quail—Continued in evidence in the southwest and the southeast, including 1-3 at Fort Stanton 5-30 Jul (WFW, JRO**, JEP).

Virginia Rail—Several summered at Guadalupita, including 5 there 21 Jun (SOW, PM).

Sora—6 at Allen's L. near Springer 16 Jul (CMR) included 4 young.

Black-bellied Plover—Late was 1 heard over Luis Lopez 7 Jun (JRO).

Snowy Plover—Enjoyed a good season, including first breeding at EBL, where present Jun-Jul (JEP, JRO) with a high of 21 there including 2 broods (1 ad. with 3 small chicks and ads with 2 large chicks) 29 Jul (CMR). Up to 6 were at Bosque NWR 10-16 Jun (JEP, JRO, NV). Far north was 1 at Maxwell NWR 16 Jul (CMR). Reportedly nested

successfully at Holloman L. (*fide* HR). High counts at BLNWR were 253 on 2 Jun and 249 on 7 Jul (GLW).

Semipalmated Plover—Late was 1 at Bosque NWR 16 Jun (NV). Early was 1 at Maxwell NWR 16 Jul (CMR).

Mountain Plover—Noteworthy was 1 on the North Plains east of Fence Lake, *Cibola*, 4 Jun (DJC**). Only 1 was detected on the Grenville BBS, *Union*, 9 Jun (K. Seyffert). Early fall migrants were 30 at the Los Lunas turf farm 22 Jul (JEP).

Willet—Mid-summer birds included 2 at EBL 30 Jun (JEP, JRO) and 6 at BLNWR 23 Jun (GLW).

Spotted Sandpiper—An ad. with small chicks at Guadalupita 19 Jun (SOW, PM).

Marbled Godwit—Mid-summer birds included 1 at Maxwell NWR 26 Jun (PEL) and 1 at BLNWR 22 Jun (JWM*), where there were 11 by 7 Jul (JRO).

Sanderling—Noteworthy was 1 at EBL 29 Jul (CMR*).

White-rumped Sandpiper—Relatively numerous at BLNWR, where there were 38 on 2 Jun (GLW), 50 on 3 Jun (DAE, BDN), 70 on 4 Jun (JRO), and a final 18 on 9 Jun (GLW). Unusual were 3 about 5 mi SE of Pastura 4 Jun (WHH). Far west was 1 at EBL's Monticello Point 10 Jun (JEP, JRO).

Pectoral Sandpiper—Early was 1 near Loving 29 Jul (JEP, JRO).

Stilt Sandpiper—Earliest fall migrants were 8 at BLNWR 14 Jul (GLW).

Common Snipe—Summering, often vocal birds suggestive of local breeding included 1 near Canjilon L. 24 Jun (JRO), 3 at Angel Fire 17 Jun (CMR), 12 at Guadalupita 21 Jun & 12 Jul (SOW, PM), 2 at Mora 8 Jul (DWS), and 2 near Pecos 18 Jun (CMR).

Red-necked Phalarope—One at BLNWR 4 Jul (JWM*).

Long-tailed Jaeger—An ad. at Stubblefield L. 26-27 Jun (C.L. Wood**, PEL, WFW), foraging on insects among other things, was an unexpected surprise; there are but 7 previous state records.

Laughing Gull—One seen well at BLNWR 14 Jun (JWM*).

California Gull—High count was 37 at Eagle Nest L. 26 Jun (PEL).

Western Gull—One in apparent second-summer plumage at EBL 30 Jun-1 Aug (JEP*, JRO**, DAE*, BDN*, JLD*) and believed to be of the paler northern nominate subspecies (*fide* JLD) provided the state's 3rd credible report.

Common Tern—Single ads. believed to be this species were at BLNWR 21 Jun (JWM*) and Stubblefield L. 15 Jul (CMR).

38

Least Tern—The small population that breeds at BLNWR had a good season: 10 ad. pairs had 9 successful nests and fledged 15 chicks (JBM).

Black Tern—Last spring migrants were 10 at BLNWR 9 Jun (GLW). Earliest fall migrant was 1 at BLNWR 7 Jul (JRO).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Dry conditions in the mountains may have been responsible for the presence of 175 on the lower Mimbres R., *Luna*, 11 Jun (SOW, PM), where ash seeds were the favored food. Others below nesting elevations were 2 each at Quarai 9 Jul (NV) and Mangas Springs 7 Jul (GJE) and 6 in Post Office Canyon 20 Jul (EMR).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Now well established in the east, with reports from Fort Sumner (JEP), Roswell (JEP, JRO), Carlsbad (JEP), Lovington (JRO), and Eunice (JRO**). The advancing tide was evident in the RGV, with 2 at Belen 19 Jul (JRO**) and 1 at Luis Lopez 2 Jun-31 Jul (JRO). Most westerly yet was 1 at Lordsburg 1 Jul (JRO**).

White-winged Dove—An active nest at Glenwood 4 Jun (B&DM), where the species is a relatively recent arrival. One north to Tucumcari 11 Jun (CMR).

Inca Dove—One was north to NW Albuquerque 2 Jul (BV).

Common Ground-Dove—Enjoyed its best season in decades: 2 at Mangas Springs 7 Jul (GJE); 3 seen and heard near Bill Evans L. 2 Jul (DAE*, BDN*), where 1 later collided with a window (SHS***); a vocal male at Redrock 1 Jul (JEP*, JRO*, WFW); 6 individuals, including 4 vocal males, at 4 sites in the middle Animas Valley 12 Jun & 4-5 Jul (SOW, PM); and 1 in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jun (SOW).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—Reported from 12 sites from the RGV eastward: 1 at Stubblefield L. 21 Jun (DJC**); 1 at Maxwell NWR 18 Jun (DJC) & 16 Jul (CMR); 1 at Sauz Cr., *Colfax*, 21 Jun (HRS); 5 at Bosque Redondo 3 Jun (JEP); 1 at Elida (SHS); 1 at Salt Cr., *Chaves*, 8 Jun (WHH); 1 at Picacho 29 Jul (JRO); 1 at San Juan Pueblo 7 & 18 Jul (DWS); 1 at Laborcita 19 Jun (N&SC); 1 at Percha SP 2 Jun (GJE); minimum of 4 vocal at Radium Springs Jun-Jul (RAM); and 1 at Mesilla 1 Jun (RAM). In the west, 1 was in Zuni's Blackrock Canyon 7-26 Jun (DJC**), 16 pairs (including 14 nests and 2 broods) in the Cliff-Gila Valley Jun-Jul (SHS); 2 in the Gila Bird Area 24 Jul (WFW); 1 on Berrenda Cr., 22 Jun (CMR), and 2 on the lower Mimbres R., *Luna*, 6 Jul (SOW, PM).

Barn Owl—2 active nests with nestlings along Perico Cr. 22 Jun (HRS).

Elf Owl—Persisted in the southeast, with 1 heard in Last Chance Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., 16 Jul (SW, RW).

Burrowing Owl—Living on borrowed time were an ad. with 6 fledglings near a "land for sale" sign on Albuquerque's booming West Mesa 25 Jun (NV).

Short-eared Owl—Astounding if accurate was a report of 3 in "native bunch-grass prairie" near Clovis 17 Jun (MGB*); the species is not known to summer anywhere in New Mexico.

Boreal Owl—One was heard and seen on Canjilon Mt. 14 Jul (J. Taylor*), where first documented in 1988.

Black Swift—Early was one on a nest at Jemez Falls 4 Jul (JEP). 3 seen foraging over Sargent WMA 8 Jul (CMR).

White-throated Swift—Far east were 4 at the Mosquero breaks 11 Jun (CMR).

<u>White-eared Hummingbird</u>—A female at a Mogollon feeder 23-28 Jul (JRO*, JLD*, WFW, DAE) provided a first for *Catron*.

Violet-crowned Hummingbird—3 singing males plus a female gathering nest material in Guadalupe Canyon 13-15 Jun (SOW).

Blue-throated Hummingbird—A female reported at Mogollon 23 Jul (WFW).

Magnificent Hummingbird—2-6 at Mogollon 2-27 Jul (JEP, JRO, WFW) and 1-2 at Grey Feathers Lodge near L. Roberts 8 Jun (LKM) and 23 Jul (JRO).

Calliope Hummingbird—Earliest fall migrant was a male at Nogal, *Lincoln*, 9 Jul (JRO).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Late for the eastern plains was a male at N.R.T. 4 Jun (CMR).

Rufous Hummingbird—Earliest fall migrant was a male at Eldorado 25 Jun (BRF).

<u>Allen's Hummingbird</u>—A young male banded at Grey Feathers Lodge 28 Jul (JD-M) was the first verified New Mexico record; photographs were obtained (F. Bassett**) and diagnostic tail and other feathers were retained (JD-M***).

Red-headed Woodpecker—An ad. carrying food to a nest cavity 11 mi E of Gallegos 11 Jun (CMR).

Williamson's Sapsucker—An ad. pair at a nest cavity at Angel Fire 17 Jun (CMR).

Downy Woodpecker—An ad. pair feeding fledglings at Coyote Cr. SP 9 Jul (DWS).

Yellow-shafter Flicker—An apparently "pure" female on Perico Cr. 22 Jun (HRS).

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet--2 territories in Guadalupe Canyon 14-15 Jun (SOW).

Greater Pewee—Near the northern fringe of its range was 1 on South Fork Negrito Cr., *Catron*, 18 Jun (JRO).

Willow Flycatcher—There was both good news and bad for this endangered taxon. Expanded surveys along Coyote Cr. near Guadalupita documented 17 territories (the largest aggregation in northern New Mexico), including active nests 21 Jun & 12 Jul (SOW, PM). At San Juan Pueblo, the largest site in the upper RGV, 16 territories and 8 nests were located Jun-Jul (DWS). In the Cliff-Gila Valley, however, which harbors the largest population of this taxon in the state, numbers declined by some 40% (SHS, D.

Finch). In the lower RGV, 6 pairs/territories in the Radium Springs area made 11 nest attempts but only 1 was successful (RAM).

Gray Flycatcher—This species continued to thrive, with reports from 15 locales in *San Juan* (TR), *Rio Arriba* (CMR), *Taos* (JEP), *Sandoval* (J. Fair), *San Miguel* (CMR), *McKinley* (DJC), *Cibola* (HRS), *Lincoln* (HRS, SOW), *Luna* (LKM), and *Otero* (WHH). High counts were 5 near Ojo Sarco 24 Jun (JEP), 13 on Rowe Mesa 18 Jun (CMR), and 6 near Piñon 9 Jun (WHH). Unusual was 1 in the Florida Mts. at Spring Canyon SP 10 Jun (LKM).

Dusky Flycatcher—Summering birds were at two new sites in the Zuni Mts. 13 Jun (HRS). Farther south, 3 were singing near Capilla Peak, Manzano Mts., 15 Jul (WHH) and 1 was singing in suitable habitat south of Cloudcroft 18 Jun (WHH).

Vermilion Flycatcher—North was 1 on Ute Cr. near Gallegos 11 Jun (CMR), where regular in recent years. Noteworthy was a male at Carrizozo 30 Jul (JEP). An ad. with 2 fledglings was at Percha SP 2 Jun (GJE).

Brown-crested Flycatcher—A pair on the lower Mimbres R., *Luna*, 6 Jul (SOW, PM) provided a local first.

<u>Great Kiskadee</u>—One at Rattlesnake Springs 27-29 Jul (D. Sheppard, JEP*, JRO*) furnished the state's 4th well-documented record.

Thick-billed Kingbird—Two territories, including 1 with an active nest, in a 2-mile Guadalupe Canyon transect 13-14 Jun (SOW), plus a 3rd territory farther up canyon 14 Jun (SOW).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—Peripheral were 2 at Gallegos 3 Jun (SOW), 3 at Yeso 3 Jun (JRO) and singles at Albuquerque 14 Jun (CMR) and the Ladder Ranch, *Sierra*, 12 Jun (S. Dobrott).

<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>—Intriguing was a singing male 2 mi N of Socorro 5 Jun (HAW) and another at Escondida 29 Jun (HAW), where a male was singing while a female carried nest material 3 Jul (DLH); unfortunately, the chosen site was adjacent to a Cooper's Hawk nest, and neither vireo was seen after 7 Jul (DLH). Another singing male was far west to the Gila Bird Area 19 & 21 Jun (RSS*).

Bell's Vireo—Peripheral were 1 on the lower Mimbres R., *Luna*, 6 Jul (SOW, PM), 2 on Berrenda Cr. 22 Jun (CMR), and a singing male at San Nicholas Spring, WSMR, *Doña Ana*, (R.V. Taylor*).

<u>Yellow-throated Vireo</u>—A male was singing at Rattlesnake Springs 4 Jun (JRO**, SW, RW).

Red-eyed Vireo—One at Crossroads 3 Jun (JRO). Far west were singles at Bill Evans L. 2 Jul (DAE, BDN) and Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CMR).

Pinyon Jay—At least 1 was east to Ragland 4 Jun (CMR).

Black-billed Magpie—25 were at La Jara, *Sandoval*, 21 Jul (T.H. Johnson), where the species is a recent arrival.

Purple Martin—Reports from the San Juan, Zuni, Mogollon, Pinos Altos, Magdalena, San Mateo, White, and Sacramento mts. (v.o.). Noteworthy were 2 in Gallinas Canyon, Sangre de Cristo Mts., 25 Jun (CMR) and 6 feasting on swarming ants in the San Agustin Plains, *Socorro*, 2 Jul (HRS).

Tree Swallow—Ads. were feeding young at Chama 17-18 Jun (DAE, BDN); the extent to which this species breeds in New Mexico is unclear.

Violet-green Swallow—Far east was 1 at the Mosquero breaks 11 Jun (CMR). Nested in the stone walls of Quarai Mission, where there were large nestlings 9 Jul (NV).

Cave Swallow—2 reported south of Mesilla 1 Jun (RAM).

Bridled Titmouse—One on the Mimbres R. 11 Jun (SOW, PM) may be a Luna first.

Juniper Titmouse—One was east to the Mosquero breaks 11 Jun (CMR). 2 in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jun (SOW) were the first there in several years.

Bushtit—Five family groups along a 5-mile stretch of bosque in Albuquerque 3 Jun (WHH).

Brown Creeper—Often overlooked in summer, so noteworthy were ads. with fledglings at Jemez Falls 9 Jul (WHH), Sandia Crest 5 Jul (WHH), and near Cloudcroft 16-18 Jun (WHH); others were near Dulce 3 Jul (DWS) and at 3 Manzano Mts. sites 15 Jul (WHH).

Cactus Wren—Continued in evidence at its northern fringe of the range, including an ad. entering a nest structure in NE Albuquerque 4 Jun (NV), 6 in southern *Harding* 3 Jun (SOW), 1 east of Sabinoso 11 Jun (CMR), 8 near Variadero 4 Jun (CMR), and 5 SE of Pastura 4 Jun (WHH).

<u>**Carolina Wren**</u>—Maintained their presence at Socorro's Riverine Park, where 1 was seen and heard 10 Jul (HAW*) and at Rattlesnake Springs, where there was 1 on 4 Jun (SW, RW).

Bewick's Wren—15+ were vocal along a 5-mile stretch of Albuquerque bosque 3 Jun (WHH); the species was not found there in summer during intensive surveys in the early 1980s.

Marsh Wren—The breeding colony at Enborn L. contained 8 territories and 1 nest with eggs 10 Jun (DWS); there were also 79 nest structures without eggs.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Two ads. with 3 fledglings at Sandia Crest 23 Jul (CMR); about 3 in spruce habitat at 8600 ft at Bear Trap CG, San Mateo Mts., 17 Jul (HRS), where breeding was suspected. 33 on the Cloudcroft BBS 17 Jun (WHH).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—One was north to Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CMR). A female was at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Jul (JEP).

Veery—Up to 3 were singing at Chama on various dates 17 Jun-8 Jul (DAE*, BDN*, JRO, PEL, CMR*) and at least 2 were singing along the Rio Pueblo E of Vadito 4-24 Jun (WFW, BV, JEP).

Swainson's Thrush—One singing at Chama 25 Jun (JRO**) where there were 2 on 8 Jul (CMR).

Gray Catbird—Again summered in the RGV south to Radium Springs. Specific breeding records included a nest at Socorro that hatched 5 young 22 Jun (HAW, Patrick Lehman**) and 3 nests at Bosque NWR Jun-early Jul (HAW). Singing males were at 3 sites near Radium Springs in Jun (RAM).

Brown Thrasher—Unusual was 1 at Las Cruces 2 Jun-10 Jul (GJE).

Bendire's Thrasher—One at Quarai 13 Jul (HRS) and 2 in the Bear Mts. 7 Jun (HRS) provided local firsts.

Curve-billed Thrasher—A 2^{nd} round of nesting at Eldorado produced 30 nests, 26 of which were successful in fledging at least 1 young (DWS).

Crissal Thrasher—Noteworthy was 1 in Chaunte Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 9 Jun (HRS).

Cedar Waxwing—Nesting was suspected at Chama, but no nests were seen; reports included 12 there 17-18 Jun (DAE, BDN), and 8 there 25 Jun (JRO) and 8 Jul (CMR). Others summering in the Chama area were 2 at Sargent WMA 8 Jul (CMR) and 2 on the Rio Brazos E of Chama 8 Jul (CMR). Nesting was first confirmed in New Mexico only in 1995.

Phainopepla—Widespread and relatively numerous in the south, including 20 in the Gila Bird Area 14 Jun (LKM), 30 in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Jun (SOW), 52 on Macho Cr. 10 Jun (GG), 17 at Percha SP 2 Jun (GJE), and 12 at Rattlesnake Springs 4 Jun (SW, RW). North were a female at Zuni 24 Jul (DJC*), a pair at Reserve 17 Jun (JRO), and 1-2 at Placitas 21 Jun (*fide* HRS) plus ads. feeding 2 recent fledglings at Quarai 23 Jul (HRS) and 3 nesting pairs at Luis Lopez 15 Jun (JRO).

Nashville Warbler—Very late was 1 at N.R.T. 3 Jun (JEP).

Lucy's Warbler—Noteworthy for western *Sierra* were 5 on Berrenda Cr. 9 Jun (GG) and 7 on Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CMR); 6 were singing along the lower Mimbres R., *Luna*, 10 Jun (SOW, PM); 5 were singing at Bosque NWR 16 Jun (NV).

Northern Parula—A singing male was 2 mi N of RGNC 3 Jun (WHH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler—One reported in Bluewater Canyon, Cibola, 15 Jun (CMR).

Audubon's Warbler—10 on a 2-mi transect on Wildling Ridge, Manzanita Mts., 1 Jun (HRS), where the taxon has recently colonized open pinyon-juniper woodland at 7500 ft.

Black-and-white Warbler—A male was singing in Chaco Wash 6-7 Jun (B.H. Smith*).

American Redstart—Several lingered into the summer: 1-2 at Chama 17-25 Jun (DAE, BDN, JRO**), a singing ad. male at Socorro 2 Jun (HAW), a female at Bosque NWR 2 Jun (HAW), and a first-year male at Fort Stanton 5 Jul (WFW).

Worm-eating Warbler—One at San Marcial 27 Jun (HAW*).

Ovenbird—One was singing at the picnic area just north of El Rito 24 Jun (JRO) where found in previous years. One was at Zuni's Blackrock Canyon 24 Jun (DJC*).

Kentucky Warbler—A singing male was at Cliff 1 Jun (SHS *fide* DAZ).

Wilson's Warbler—A singing male was at Twining Lodge, Taos Ski Valley, 4 Jun (WFW), where also reported in 1999. 2 reported at Sargent WMA 8 Jul (CMR).

Red-faced Warbler—In the Sacramento Mts. in *Otero*, 2 were on the Rio Peñasco 17 Jun (WHH) and 1 was singing in Sacramento Canyon 2 mi N of Timberon 8 Jun (WHH).

Painted Redstart—Made the eastward (or northward?) leap to the Sacramento Mts., with an ad. at the South Fork CG, Bonito L., 5 Jul (WFW) and 2 there 30 Jul (A. Gibson-Mathis *fide* JRO).

Heaptic Tanager—East was 1 near Mosquero 11 Jun (CMR).

Summer Tanager—North were singles on the Canadian R. near Sabinoso 11 Jun (CMR) and on Cuervo Cr. E of Variadero 4 Jun (CMR).

Cassin's Sparrow—In spite of dry conditions, the species enjoyed a good season in its eastern strongholds, and was found west to Maxwell NWR, Cimarron, Mountainair, and the middle RGV (v.o.). In the northwest, singles were near Cabezon 15 Jun (CMR) and at Zuni 18 Jun (DJC). In the southwest, 8 were near Antelope Wells 13 Jun (SOW) and a high 147 were in Lake Valley 24 Jun (CMR).

Botteri's Sparrow—New Mexico's breeding population was reduced by half when fire followed by grazing rendered half its middle Animas Valley habitat unsuitable; 13 territories were documented in remaining habitat 11-12 Jun & 2-5 Jul (SOW, PM). Representing a significant range extension, however, was a singing male in the lower Mimbres R. valley 6 Jul (SOW, PM), a *Luna* first.

Chipping Sparrow—First fall migrant was 1 at Albuquerque 13 Jul (WHH).

Brewer's Sparrow—Noteworthy was 1 at Stubblefield L. 20-21 Jun (DJC). A nest with 4 eggs was found along Señorito Cr. near Cuba 21 Jun (CMR).

Black-chinned Sparrow—Continued in evidence in the upper RGV, with up to 5 at Orilla Verde CG 6 Jun-4 Jul (CMR) and 1 on Guadalupe Mt., *Taos*, 6 Jun (KPE).

Vesper Sparrow—Summered south in mountains to near Manzano (WHH), Mountainair (C. Cook), Corona (HRS), White Oaks (SOW), and Piñon (WHH); 4 were near the San Mateo Mts. 21 Jun (N&SC).

Lark Bunting—Notably scarce, and restricted to the northeast. High count was 5 at Stubblefield L. 20-21 Jun (DJC).

Savannah Sparrow—Singing singles in new locales were at Valle Grande, Jemez Mts., *Sandoval*, 9 Jul (WHH) and Guadalupita 12 Jul (SOW, PM).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Typically scarce in grazed shortgrass prairie in New Mexico, but a recently fenced area near Abbott attracted 4 singers 21 Jun (HRS). 2 N of Mora 10 Jul (DWS) furnished a new locale.

Northern Cardinal—North was 1 on the Canadian R. S of Sabinoso 11 Jun (CMR). Noteworthy for western *Sierra* were 1 on Berrenda Cr. 9 Jun (GG) and 7 on Macho Cr. 10 Jun (GG). Two along Twin Butte Canyon SW of Roswell 6 Jun (SOW) indicated continuing presence in *Chaves*. Nested for the first time in Post Office Canyon (*fide* RTS).

Pyrrhuloxia—Unexpected in summer in both *Socorro* and *Sierra*, respectively, singles were singing near San Antonio 19 Jun (N&SC) and at Caballo Dam 22 Jul (JEP). Summering in *Hidalgo* were 12 at Hatchet Gap 1 Jun (SOW) and 1 on Deer Cr. near Antelope Wells 12 Jun (SOW).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—A male was at Edgewood 26 Jun (B. Evans *fide* HRS).

Blue Grosbeak—A nest at Petroglyph NM 25 Jun (NV) was a local first; it contained 1 grosbeak egg and 1 cowbird egg, and ultimately failed.

Lazuli Bunting—Several nested south to the Cliff-Gila Valley (SHS). A male lingered in Guadalupe Canyon to 13 Jun (SOW).

Varied Bunting—A male-female pair was north to the Gila Bird Area 24 Jul (WFW). In Guadalupe Canyon, where now regular, there were 3 territories along a 2-mile transect 14-15 Jun (SOW).

Painted Bunting—2 singing males near Radium Springs Jun-Jul (RAM).

Dickcissel—High count was 5 at Maxwell NWR 17-18 Jun (DJC), with others there through mid-Jul (v.o.). Elsewhere, were 3 singing at LVNWR 16 Jul (PRS) & 23 Jul (JT), 1 at Fort Sumner 2-3 Jun (SOW, JEP), and 1 near Clovis 17 Jun (MGB).

Eastern Meadowlark—Although overlooked by popular field guides, fair numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks breed in NE New Mexico; this season, they outnumbered Westerns in some *Union* locales, including 13 Easterns but only 8 Westerns along Perico Cr. 22 Jun (HRS).

Common Grackle—Far west was 1 at Aztec 6 Jun (TR).

Bronzed Cowbird—Continued in evidence across the southern tier of counties in *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, and *Lea*, and north in the RGV with 3 at Percha SP 2 Jun (GJE) and a male at Truth or Consequences 10 Jun (JEP, JRO).

Orchard Oriole—North were a male at Maxwell NWR 2 Jul (JT), and single first-summer males at Fort Summer 4 Jun (DAE) and N.R.T. 3 Jun (JEP, JRO).

Hooded Oriole—4 along Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CMR).

Scott's Oriole—North were a male at Zuni 3 Jun (DJC) and 1 at Orilla Verde CG 4 Jun (WFW).

Pine Grosbeak—Like Texans, Pine Grosbeaks prefer New Mexico ski areas; this season found singing singles at Taos Ski Valley 4 Jun (WFW) and Santa Fe Ski Basin 1 Jul (BRF).

Cassin's Finch—Scarce and generally confined to the northern mountains. High count was 9 on the Rio de los Pinos 16 Jun (KPE).

Red Crossbill—Reported from the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Zuni, Sandia, Jicarilla, and Sacramento mts. (v.o.), but without evidence of breeding. High count was 33 near Angel Fire 17 Jun (CMR).

Pine Siskin—Ads. were feeding juvs. at Zuni 3 Jun (DJC**) and 19 Jul (DJC). Late were 4 at Silver City 18 Jun (DAZ, MAZ).

American Goldfinch—The species has only recently been documented as breeding in New Mexico. This season found up to 12 summering in the Chama area Jun-Jul (DAE, BDN, CMR), but no nests or young were seen. Others in potential breeding habitat were 2 on the Rio de los Pinos 16 Jun (KPE) and singles at Orilla Verde CG 6 Jun (CMR) and Gallinas Cr. near Las Vegas 25 Jun (CMR). Late for the south was a male at Silver City 8 Jun (DAZ, MAZ).

Evening Grosbeak—Unusual for elevation and date was 1 in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., 4 Jul (WHH). High counts were 19 near Angel Fire 17 Jun (CMR) and 9 near Cloudcroft 17 Jun (WHH).

* * *

Published 12 November 2003



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES