

*New Mexico  
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*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:** Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*). Known from New Mexico since the 1850s, this waterbird reaches its northernmost limit in New Mexico, where it is a rare breeder in the middle Rio Grande Valley, and where it is threatened by loss of breeding sites, disturbance, food supply fluctuations, and persecution. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman, commissioned by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for a series on state endangered species. Used by permission.

## WINTER SEASON 2002-2003

Continuing the trend of recent winters, warm and dry were the dominant weather themes for Winter 2002-03, with January witnessing the smashing of century-old records for high average temperatures at many stations. Birds continued to respond to this warming climate, with numerous species lingering late, wintering north of usual, or returning early and, for several species, nesting was underway by January.

### Localities and Counties

Abiquiu, Dam, *Rio Arriba*  
Aguirre Springs, *Doña Ana*  
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*  
Animas, Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*  
Antelope Wells, *Hidalgo*  
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*  
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*  
Bosque Redondo, *De Baca*  
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*  
Burn Lake, *Doña Ana*  
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*  
Carlsbad, *Eddy*  
Carlsbad Caverns NP, *Eddy*  
Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*  
Cimarron Canyon, *Colfax*  
Clanton Canyon, Cienega, *Hidalgo*  
Clayton, Lake, *Union*  
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, *Grant*  
Clines Corners, *Torrance*  
Clovis, *Curry*  
Cochiti Lake, Dam, *Sandoval*  
Columbus, *Luna*  
Conchas Lake, Dam, *San Miguel*  
Corrales, *Sandoval*  
Cotton City, *Hidalgo*  
Dixon, *Rio Arriba*  
Deming, *Luna*  
Double Adobe, *Hidalgo*  
Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax*  
Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, *Sierra*  
Elida, *Roosevelt*  
Encino, *Torrance*  
Española, *Rio Arriba*  
Farmington, Lake, *San Juan*  
Fort Sumner, *DeBaca*  
Guadalupe Mts., *Eddy/Otero*  
Hillsboro, *Sierra*  
Hurley, *Grant*  
La Joya, WMA, *Socorro*  
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*  
Lake Roberts, *Grant*  
Lake Valley, *Sierra*  
La Cueva, *Mora*  
La Luz, *Otero*  
Las Animas Creek, *Sierra*  
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*  
Las Palomas, *Sierra*  
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*  
Los Pinos Mts., *Socorro*  
Lordsburg, Playa, *Hidalgo*  
Loving, *Eddy*  
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*  
Mayhill, *Otero*  
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*  
Mesilla, Dam, Valley, *Doña Ana*  
Mills Canyon, *Harding*  
Organ Mts., *Doña Ana*  
Otero Mesa, *Otero*  
Pancho Villa SP, *Luna*  
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*  
Peralta, *Valencia*  
Percha SP, *Sierra*  
Petroglyph NM, *Bernalillo*  
Playas, *Hidalgo*  
Post Office Canyon, *Hidalgo*  
Questa, *Taos*  
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*  
Ramon, *Lincoln*  
Raton, *Colfax*  
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*  
Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*  
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*  
Roswell, *Chaves*  
Ruidoso, *Lincoln*  
Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*  
Sandia Park, *Bernalillo*  
Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*  
Santa Fe, *Santa Fe*  
Santa Rosa, Lake, *Guadalupe*  
Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*  
Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*  
Silver City, *Grant*

Six-Mile Dam, *Eddy*  
 Socorro, *Socorro*  
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*  
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*  
 Sugarite SP, *Colfax*

Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca*  
 Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*  
 Whites City, *Eddy*  
 Williamsburg, *Sierra*  
 Zuni, *McKinley*

### Abbreviations

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

## Initialed Observers

MLA	Mary Lou Arthur	JN-M	Jim Nelson-Moore
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GM	Gale Monson	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
APN	Alan P. Nelson	MAZ	Marian A. Zimmerman

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Common Loon**—Low lake levels led to generally low loon numbers. High count was 8 at Conchas L. 8 Feb (JEP).

**Pied-billed Grebe**—The 24 at Farmington 14 Dec (APN+) was a high count for so far north.

**Horned Grebe**—Few reports, including 2 at Conchas L. 7 Jan (WFW) and 3 there 22 Feb (JEP, JRO).

**Western Grebe**—A careful count of some 8300 Westerns (but only 2 **Clark's**) at EBL 1 Dec (CMR) emphasized the importance of that site to the species; partial counts of 3700 on 9 Jan (MLW) and 5500 on 20 Jan (CMR) indicated that these grebes were wintering.

**American White Pelican**—Good numbers overwintered in the lower Rio Grande and Pecos valleys, including 180 at EBL 9 Jan (MLW), 135 at Brantley L. 8 Jan (MLW), and 203 at Loving 24 Dec (CCC+).

**American Bittern**—One at Ojo Caliente, *Cibola* 30 Dec (JAT) furnished a local first. Another was at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (Sondra Williamson\*).

**Great Egret**—Once scarce in winter, this species is now expected across the southern tier of counties; this season produced reports from *Grant, Luna, Socorro, Sierra, Doña Ana, Chaves, and Eddy*, including 11 at L. Avalon 23 Dec (SW).

**Snowy Egret**—Unexpected in winter, one was at Bosque NWR 31 Dec (JRO), 18 Jan (JRO), and 21 Feb (JEP).

**Cattle Egret**—Late were 2 at Bosque NWR 13-14 Dec (JEP, DLH) and Las Palomas 28 Dec (GJE); early were 10 in s. *Doña Ana* 19 Feb (GJE).

**White-faced Ibis**—Late were 3 near L. Avalon 15 Dec (SW).

**Turkey Vulture**—Very late were 2 at Roswell 14 Dec (SMB) and one at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE).

**Snow Goose**—Blue morphs included 2 near Clayton 18 Dec (CMR) and one at Clovis 7 Dec (JRO).

**Ross's Goose**—The 28 at Farmington 14 Dec (APN+) represented a high count for the northwest.

**Tundra Swan**—One at LVNWR 2 Dec (MLW) provided the lone report.

**Wood Duck**—Continued to winter widely and in good numbers, especially in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys; in the RGV, exotic Russian olive trees were favored for food and cover. Reported on seven CBCs, including 373 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (HRS+) and 3 at Ruidoso 14 Dec (ALP+).

**Eurasian Wigeon**—An ad. male was at RGNC 7 Feb (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), where the species has occurred in seven of the past eight years.

**Mexican Duck**—Noteworthy were 2 north to L. Roberts 23 Feb (ERL).

**Cinnamon Teal**—Late were 2 at Zuni 29 Dec (JAT). One to 2 in Deming 11 Dec-21 Feb (LKM) were the first to overwinter there.

**Greater Scaup**—Among the few reports were a male at Stubblefield L. 28 Feb (DJC), 2 males and a female at Springer L. 24 Jan (JEP), 1-2 males at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 8 & 22 Feb (JEP, JRO), a male and female at RGNC 23 Dec (SOW\*), and a female at Santa Rosa 1 Jan (JEP, JRO).

**Long-tailed Duck**—One was at Stubblefield L. 18-22 Dec (DJC\*\*, CMR, JRO\*\*).

**Common Goldeneye**—The 30 at Sumner L. 21 Dec & 10 Jan (JEP) represented a high count for that locality.

**Barrow's Goldeneye**—Noteworthy away from the San Juan R. was a male on the Chama R. below Abiquiu Dam 24-26 Jan (WHH\*\*, JEP\*) and another male on the Rio Grande below Cochiti Dam 24 Jan (T. Headley).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—A flock of 35 was at Conchas L. 22 Feb (JEP, JRO). West was one at L. Roberts 26 Jan (CMR\*).

**Osprey**—Midwinter reports were singles at Las Vegas 28 Dec (GB), EBL 5 Jan (WFW) & 1 Feb (JEP, JRO), Truth or Consequences 15 Dec-18 Jan (JRO) including 3 Jan (JEP), s. of Williamsburg 3 Jan (JEP), Brantley L. 8 Jan (MLW) & 30 Jan (SW), and Loving 24 Dec (CCC+).

**Bald Eagle**—Noteworthy was a concentration of 45 near La Cueva 2 Dec (MLW); grassland reports included singles near Encino 10 Jan (SW) and north of Ramon 5 Feb (CMR).

**Harris's Hawk**—One was near Las Cruces 12 Jan (BRZ), where rare; 3 were near La Luz 27 Dec (JM+).

**American Kestrel**—Pairs were inspecting nest cavities at Deming by 26 Jan (LKM).

**Merlin**—A good season brought reports of 1-3 at some 30 locales in 18 counties statewide, from *San Juan* and *McKinley* east to *Union* and *Curry*, south to *Hidalgo* and *Eddy*.

**Applomado Falcon**—An ad. west of Columbus 26 Jan and later (JRO\*\*, JEP\*, RAM) provided a new locality.

**Peregrine Falcon**—As in recent years, a few lingered late into Dec, including singles at Zuni 30 Dec (JAT) and Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (PB), and one remained through Jan at Albuquerque (JEP, JRO); presumably early was one at Cochiti L. 1 Feb (DAE).

**Montezuma Quail**—High counts were 15 at Silver City 14 Dec (RSS+) and 18 in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (AMC+).

**Virginia Rail**—Far north for the season were 3 along Seneca Cr., *Union* 18 Dec (CMR).

**Sandhill Crane**—Unusual for *Hidalgo* were 10,000 in the Cotton City-Lordsburg Playa area 25-31 Jan (JRO, PEL, ERL), including a leucistic, nearly all-white individual 29 Jan (LKM).

**Snowy Plover**—Very early were 3 at BLNWR 26 Feb (GLW).

**Killdeer**—A high 250 were at recently drained L. Avalon 14 Jan (SW).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Unexpected in mid-winter were 2 in the Santa Teresa area 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

**American Avocet**—Extremely early was a flock of up to 64 at the Lordsburg Playa 25 Jan-4 Feb (JRO, PEL, MTS, JEZ, LKM, ERL, SOW). Earliest at BLNWR was one on 19 Feb (GLW).

**Lesser Yellowlegs**—Late were 3 at Santa Rosa 15 Dec (CMR, JN-M).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—North for the season were singles at Dixon 14 Dec (*fide* RT) and north of Alameda, *Bernalillo* 15 Dec (SOW\*).

**Long-billed Curlew**—Unexpected in mid-winter were 22 south of Columbus 2 Jan (CMR).

**Dunlin**—High counts were 3 at BLNWR 17 & 29 Jan (GLW) and 5 at Lordsburg Playa 24 Dec (JRO); singles were at Bosque NWR 5 Jan (JRO) & 1 Feb (DAE) and Brantley L. 25 Jan (SW).

**Mew Gull**—Single ads. were at Santa Rosa L. 15 Dec (WFW\*) & 21 Dec (JEP\*, JRO\*\*) and EBL's South Highlands area 1 Feb (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Forster's Tern**—Unseasonal were 5 at Six-Mile Dam near Loving 9 Feb (BDN) and 2 at L. Avalon 20 Feb (SW).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—The rapid range expansion continues unabated—this season, the now-resident aliens continued essentially ubiquitous in the eastern two-thirds of the state and made significant inroads into the southwest, including the Cliff-Gila Valley, Hurley, Lordsburg, Cotton City, Animas, and Rodeo. Reported on 14 CBCs. High counts included 163 at Clayton 18 Dec (CMR+), 91 in the Caballo-Percha area 28 Dec (BRZ+), and 42 at Silver City 14 Dec (RSS+). An active nest was discovered in a pine tree at Hatch, *Doña Ana* 12 Jan (BRZ).

**White-winged Dove**—Two were far northeast to Clayton 18 Dec (CMR\*\*). An active nest was in a leafless tree at Pancho Villa SP 27 Feb (LKM).

**Mourning Dove**—A pair was building a nest at Albuquerque 18 Jan (WHH).



**Inca Dove**—Five were north to Santa Rosa 9 Feb (JRO), and the species was considered resident now throughout central Albuquerque (GM). Farther south, high counts included 19 at Roswell 14 Dec (SMB+), 24 at Deming 18 Jan (LKM), 123 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE+), and 26 in the Avalon-Brantley area 15 Dec (TJH+).

**Common Ground-Dove**—A male was at Percha SP 28 Dec-24 Jan (BRZ\*\*, JNP, BV, JEP); for unexplained reasons, this is New Mexico's only dove species not currently enjoying "boom times."

**Ruddy Ground-Dove**—The invasion that began in Oct continued into the winter season, with singles from fall lingering at Luis Lopez through 23 Feb (JRO+) and Albuquerque through 14 Dec (L. G. Burwick\*\*) and new singles appearing near Cliff 28 Dec (LKM\*) and Silver City 6 Jan (DAZ\*, MAZ\*). Two were at Cotton City 24 Dec (JRO\*\*) but that locale gained true fame when 9 were found 25 Jan (PEL\*, JRO\*\*) and similar numbers continued to be reported there into Feb (m.ob., JEZ\*\*).

**Long-eared Owl**—High counts were 4 at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (SWC+) and 3 at Lindsey L. east of Carlsbad 9 Feb (SW); singles were at BLNWR 14-20 Dec (GLW) and Pancho Villa SP 19 Jan-27 Feb (LKM+).

**Short-eared Owl**—Now rarely encountered, singles were south of Clines Corners 11 Jan (SW), at Bosque NWR 29 Dec (WFW), and at Lindsey L. east of Carlsbad 9 Feb (SW).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—A vocal one was at Socorro's Riverine Park 12-20 Feb (WFW, JRO, JEP).

**Common Poorwill**—Suggestive of wintering was one taken live from a pool at Rattlesnake Springs 18 Jan (RN *fide* SW).

**White-throated Swift**—Small numbers are not unexpected in southern New Mexico in winter; surprising, however, were 600 at Deming 26 Dec (LKM).

**Anna's Hummingbird**—A female was at Las Cruces 4 Dec (WFW).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—One was at a Carlsbad feeder 11 Dec-15 Feb (SW).

**hummingbird sp.**—Entirely undetailed were reports of 2 possible Black-chinneds, one Broad-tailed, and 2 Rufous in the Avalon-Brantley area 15 Dec (*fide* TJH), and single Broad-tailed and Rufous at Las Cruces in mid-Dec (*fide* GJE). Observers should remember that all hummingbirds are rare in New Mexico in winter, and all should be carefully documented when possible.

**Lewis's Woodpecker**—Wandering singles were at Albuquerque 15 Dec (HRS), Las Animas Cr. 28 Dec-12 Jan (MTS, JEZ, BRZ), Deming 26 Dec-28 Feb (LKM+), La Luz 27 Dec (*fide* JM), and near Carlsbad 15 Dec (TJH). High counts were 16 at Farmington 14 Dec (APN+) and 33 at Española 15 Dec (BRF+).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—Noteworthy for winter were single ads. at Fort Sumner 10 Jan (JEP) & 16 Feb (JRO).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—A male at Santa Rosa 7 Dec-9 Feb (WFW, CMR, JEP\*, JRO\*\*, DAE\*, BDN\*) provided a *Guadalupe* first and New Mexico's 15<sup>th</sup> credible record overall.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—An ad. male was at Bosque NWR headquarters 24 Dec (WFW), 11 Jan (JEP, JRO), & 16 Jan (DJK).

**flicker sp.**—Flickers with yellow feathers included singles at eight locales from Maxwell to the Animas Valley, and included an apparent hybrid female at Deming 13-14 Dec (JRO\*\*) and 2 apparent ad. male Yellow-shafteds at Zuni 26 Dec (JAT).

***Empidonax* sp.**—Although not always identifiable to species, *Empidonax* flycatchers have been found in recent winters with increasing regularity, and this season was no exception. In addition to those tentatively identified below were a possible Dusky near Hillsboro 14 Dec (JEP\*, JRO\*), one unidentified below Elephant Butte Dam 15 Dec (JRO), and 3 unidentified in the Cliff-Gila Valley 28 Dec (*fide* RSS)

**Hammond's Flycatcher**—Singles believed to be this species were at Bosque NWR 14 Jan (BRZ\*\*) & 26 Jan (JRO\*), Elephant Butte Dam 26 Dec (DAE), Las Animas Cr. 28 Dec (BRZ\*), and Double Adobe 14 Dec (AMC, NM-C, REW).

**Gray Flycatcher**—One believed to be this species was at Percha SP 1 Dec (CMR).

**Dusky Flycatcher**—Singles believed to be this species were at Bosque NWR 9-13 Dec (DLH\*, JEP\*), 1 Feb (DAE\*), & 23 Feb (JRO\*\*), and at Double Adobe 26 Dec (JRO\*\*). Undetailed were 3 reported to be this species (plus 3 more unidentified *Empidonax*) in the Cliff-Gila Valley 28 Dec (*fide* RSS).

**“Western” Flycatcher**—One likely of the Cordilleran/Pacific-slope group was at Double Adobe 14 Dec (AMC, NM-C).

**Northern Shrike**—Singles were at Questa 19 Dec (*fide* RW), Raton 16-19 Dec (DJC), Sugarite SP 15-16 Dec (DJC\*\*), Maxwell NWR 19 Dec (JO) & 22 Jan (DJC), Clayton 18 Dec (CMR), Santa Rosa in mid-Dec (WFW), Zuni 30 Dec (JAT), and Bosque NWR in mid-Dec (*fide* SWC).

**Plumbeous Vireo**—Late was one at Deming 13-14 Dec (JEP, JRO) and another was reported at Las Cruces 14 Dec (*fide* GJE).

**Cassin's Vireo**—One was at Mesilla 21 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

**Hutton's Vireo**—The species again moved into lowland areas, with singles in *Luna* at Deming 14 Dec-21 Feb (JEP, CMR, MTS, JEZ, LKM), and the lower Mimbres R. 26 Jan (CMR), plus others in the RGV at Caballo Dam (DAE, BDN), Percha SP (JEP), and Las Cruces 14 Dec-5 Jan (*fide* GJE); noteworthy were 2 at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts. 11 Jan (BRZ\*\*).

**Steller's Jay**—The massive invasion that began in fall reached its peak in Dec, when the species blanketed the state in record numbers in “odd” habitats; the tide began to recede in Jan and Feb. Reported on 23 CBCs. Found east to Clayton, Fort Sumner, and Elida and south to the Peloncillo Mts., Deming, and Las Cruces.

**Blue Jay**—West of the eastern plains were 2 at Santa Fe 21 Dec (DME+), singles at three Albuquerque sites 15 Dec (HRS), 29 Dec (CMB), and 16 Feb (W. B. Lewis), and one at Socorro 9-27 Jan (PB). High count was 62 at Roswell 14 Dec (SMB+).

**Pinyon Jay**—Away from usual range or habitat were 2 east to Roswell 14 Dec (SMB+) and one at Percha SP 28 Dec (BRZ); 240 were counted on the Gila River CBC, *Grant* 28 Dec (RSS+).

**Black-billed Magpie**—At the southern edge of the range were 6 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (HRS+) and one at Corrales 4 Jan (JEP).

**American Crow**—Unusually large numbers moved south into *Eddy* and *Otero*, including 200 at Brantley L. 8 Feb (SW) and 61 near Mayhill 17 Feb (SW). In the west, 2 in Post Office Canyon 23 Jan (CDL) provided a local first, and another was elsewhere in *Hidalgo* 29 Jan (LKM). High counts were 4237 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (HRS+), 500+ near Radium Springs 2 Dec & 23 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and 8852 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE+).

**Tree Swallow**—Earliest were 2 near Rattlesnake Springs 26 Feb (SW).

**Violet-green Swallow**—Earliest were 2 at Radium Springs 11 Feb (MTS).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—Earliest were 2 near Rattlesnake Springs 26 Feb (SW) and 7 at Burn L. 28 Feb (GJE).

**Cave Swallow**—Early was one at Carlsbad Cavern NP 31 Jan (SW), where the average arrival date is 10 Feb and the earliest ever was 27 Jan (*fide* SW).

**Barn Swallow**—Unexpected in mid-winter was one south of Loving 13 Jan (I. Palma *fide* SW).

**Mountain Chickadee**—East was one at Clayton L. 18 Dec (CMR).

**Bridled Titmouse**—One was at Percha SP 28 Dec & 12 Jan (BRZ), where the species is sporadic in winter, and another strayed to Lake Valley 26 Jan (JRO).

**Juniper Titmouse**—Noteworthy were up to 2 at Deming 14 Dec-26 Feb (LKM, JEP, CMR, MTS, JEZ\*\*).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Widely distributed in submontane areas, including at Santa Rosa, Socorro, Mesilla, and Deming.

**Brown Creeper**—The species was especially obvious in the RGV, including multiple reports from Albuquerque, Socorro, Caballo Dam, and Percha SP.

**Cactus Wren**—One was north to Santa Rosa 15 Dec (WFW).

**Carolina Wren**—One was found along Berrendo Cr. in Roswell 14 Dec (SMB).

**House Wren**—Apparently wintering were singles north in the RGV to Socorro 9-28 Jan (PB) and Bosque NWR 14 Dec (DAE, BDN) and 1-3 at Caballo Dam 4 Dec-18 Jan (WFW, CMR, BRZ).

**Winter Wren**—Apparently a good season, judging from reports, with singles (most poorly detailed, or not detailed at all) in Cimarron Canyon 6-12 Dec (DJC\*\*), Santa Rosa 15 Dec (*fide* WFW), near Cedar Crest 2 Jan (CMB\*), Bosque NWR 14 Dec (*fide* SWC), Las Palomas 4 Dec (WFW), Silver City 14 Dec (*fide* RSS), Carlsbad 1 Dec (SW), and Rattlesnake Springs 14 Dec (SW).

**Sedge Wren**—One was at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 5 Feb (WFW\*) & 8 Feb (DAE\*, BDN\*).

**Marsh Wren**—North were 2 at Sauz Cr., *Colfax* 9 Dec & 4 Jan (DJC) and one was still there 5 Feb (DJC).

**American Dipper**—One found at Bosque NWR in Nov continued to entertain many through 2 Feb (m.ob, sketch M. Ramos). Another became a popular attraction at a North Valley canal in Albuquerque 15 Dec-2 Jan (B. Leonard+, JRO\*\*).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Far north for the season were 2 at Petroglyph NM 15 Dec (NV\*), where one was found 24 Jan (HRS). Others described as this species were 4 in desert scrub at Sevilleta NWR 17 Dec (SWC\*) and one below Elephant Butte Dam 9 Dec (JEP).

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**—Two were north to the South Highlands area of EBL 1 Dec (CMR) & 20 Jan (CMR, DAE).

**Eastern Bluebird**—The species made a strong showing across the state, including in the Canadian, Pecos, Tularosa, Rio Grande, Zuni, Gila, Mimbres, and Animas valleys, with reports from some 36 locales in 17 counties, including on 13 CBCs. Likely local firsts were 6 at Hillsboro 1 Feb (JRO) and 3 at Playas 9 Feb (MTS, JEZ); the 42 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 29 Dec (AMC+) furnished a record high for that count.

**Mountain Bluebird**—Noteworthy for the southwest were 250 along the lower Mimbres R., *Luna* 9 Feb (MTS, JEZ), 50 at Animas 24 Dec (JRO), and 312 in the Peloncillo Mts. 20 Dec (AMC+).

**Hermit Thrush**—North were 2 at Farmington 14 Dec (APN+).

**Gray Catbird**—The species is unexpected in winter, so surprising was one at Socorro 16 Dec-27 Jan (PB). Lingered were singles at Radium Springs 1 Dec (MTS, JEZ), Rattlesnake Springs 8 Dec (JRO), and Whites City 14 Dec (RN\*).

**Northern Mockingbird**—One at Socorro 1 Dec-28 Feb (PB) was at the northern limit of the usual winter range. Either early or (more likely) wintering were singles at Turn, *Valencia* 7 & 14 Feb (JRO) and Conchas L. 8 & 15 Feb (JRO).

**Sage Thrasher**—Late were 2 at Zuni 26 Dec, where there was one on 30 Dec (JAT).

**Brown Thrasher**—One wandered west to Cotton City 25 Jan (JRO, PEL); in the RGV, singles were at Cochiti 8 Feb (DAE, BDN) and Socorro 28 Jan (WFW). Farther east were singles at Conchas L. Feb 15-22 (JRO, JEP) and BLNWR 4 Dec-26 Feb (GLW).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—Getting an early start were singing singles at Albuquerque 29 Jan (WFW) and in Post Office Canyon 5 Jan (CDL).

**European Starling**—A pair was nesting at Albuquerque 20 Jan (SOW).

**Sprague's Pipit**—The search for wintering Sprague's Pipits continued, with mixed results: 2 were in Sevilleta NWR grasslands near Black Butte 21 Dec (DJK), but none were seen there in Jan (*fide* DJK); on Otero Mesa, 1-3 were found 5-12 Dec (RAM) and 2 were there 11 Feb (RAM); in *Luna*, however, grasslands near Deming produced singles 31 Dec (RAM) & 18 Jan (RAM) and 1 Feb (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), at least 4 on 19 Jan (CMR, DAE\*, LKM\*, RAM), and up to 6 on 25 Jan (GJE, T. Lawton\*) while last there were 2 on 23 Feb (RAM).

**Olive Warbler**—Wintering were one in Skull Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (DLF *fide* AMC), a female in oaks with Bushtits near Post Office Canyon 12 Jan (CDL), and an ad. male at Mesilla 11 Jan (BRZ\*\*).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—Now expected in the lower RGV in winter, this season found 6-8 in the Mesilla-Las Cruces area 14 Dec-21 Jan (GJE, JRO, MTS, JEZ); farther north were one at Bosque NWR 14 Dec (*fide* SWC) plus 1-5 in the Caballo-Percha area 1 Dec-20 Jan (CMR, BRZ, JEP, WFW), while west was one in the Cliff-Gila Valley 28 Dec (*fide* RSS).

**Northern Parula**—One in Roswell's Enchanted Hills area 18 Dec (*fide* SMB) provided a rare winter record.

**Yellow Warbler**—Lingering very late were singles at Bosque NWR 9 & 13 Dec (JEP\*) and Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**—Far north for the season was one in upper Cimarron Canyon at Tolby CG 13 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**Townsend's Warbler**—Noteworthy for winter was a female at Mesilla 11 Jan (BRZ\*\*) & 10 Jan (JRO\*).

**Pine Warbler**—Unprecedented were 3 on the UNM campus in Albuquerque Dec-Feb: a bright male found 15 Dec (A. J. Rominger\*, R. Beaulieu\*) attracted many searchers who subsequently found intermediate- and dull-plumaged individuals there as well (m.ob., JRO\*\*, DJK\*\*); all 3 were seen 21 Dec (JEP\*, JRO\*\*) and at least 2 were still present 15-16 Feb. Yet another, either an ad. female or a young male, was at Deming 13 Dec-10 Jan (JEP\*, JRO\*, LKM\*).

**Blackpoll Warbler**—Very late was one at Caballo Dam 7 Dec (CMR\*, DAE\*) & 9 Dec (JEP\*).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—One was at Bosque NWR 4 Jan (DJK\*\*).

**American Redstart**—One, either a female or young male, was at RGNC 12-23 Dec (CMR\*, MLA\*, JEP\*, SOW\*).

**Prothonotary Warbler**—At Bosque NWR, one of the 2 from Nov persisted into Dec, where present 1-14 Dec (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, PRS\*, DLH\*).

**waterthrush sp.**—A vocal one was heard but not seen at Rattlesnake Springs 8 Dec (JRO).

**Common Yellowthroat**—Several lingered into mid-Dec, including a vocal one at Caballo Dam 13 Dec (JEP), one at BLNWR 14 Dec (GLW), and one at Las Cruces 14 Dec (*fide* GLE); 2 were in the Animas Valley at Clanton Cienega 25 Dec (JRO, AMC, NM-C).

**Wilson's Warbler**—Unexpected in winter, single Wilson's Warblers were at a site in Albuquerque's North Valley 22 Dec (DAE\*, BDN\*), 1 Jan (CMR), & 8 Feb (CMR) and at a Bosque NWR site 15 Jan (GJE) & 23 Feb (JRO\*\*).

**Green-tailed Towhee**—Unusual was one at Zuni 26 Dec (JAT\*).

**Abert's Towhee**—Only 2 were found in the Cliff-Gila Valley 28 Dec (RSS+).

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Noteworthy for winter were singles at Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (WHH\*, CMR) and Cotton City 26 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

**Botteri's Sparrow**—One was captured, banded, and photographed in the McKinney Flats area west of Antelope Wells in Jan (Cesar Mendez-Gonzales\*\*), providing the first New Mexico winter record for the species and one of the few winter records for the U.S.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow**—The species was plentiful in foothills canyons of the Los Pinos Mts., where 24 were counted 21 Dec (WHH, CMR).

**American Tree Sparrow**—The species was numerous in *Colfax*, *Union*, and *San Miguel*, including 239 at Maxwell 19 Dec (JO). South of usual were singles at Santa Rosa 15 Dec (WFW) and RGNC 31 Dec-9 Feb (m.ob.) and 3 at Bosque NWR 26 Dec (K. E. Camburn\*).

**Chipping Sparrow**—Wintered north in numbers to the Los Pinos Mts., where 176 were counted 21 Dec (NSC, WHH, CMR). Also north was one at Zuni 28 Dec (JAT).

**Brewer's Sparrow**—Noteworthy were 3 north to Albuquerque 15 Dec (EH\*).

**Field Sparrow**—Providing a local first were four in mesquite brush at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 7 Jan (WFW), where 2 were found 8 Feb (JEP, JRO). Elsewhere, singles were at Santa Rosa 15 Dec (WFW) and Last Chance Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. in Jan (SW) and 2 were at Loving 27 Jan (SW).

**Black-chinned Sparrow**—One was north to Embudito Canyon, north Sandia Mts., *Sandoval* 29 Jan (WFW).

**Lark Sparrow**—Very unusual in winter was one at Zuni 28 Dec (JAT\*).

**Sage Sparrow**—North of expected were 6 at Zuni 28 Dec (JAT).

**Lark Bunting**—Unusual in winter in central New Mexico was one near La Joya 21 Dec (NSC).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—Among the few reports were singles near La Joya 21 Dec (DLH\*), Otero Mesa 5 & 10 Dec (RAM), Deming 30 Jan (LKM), and 10 mi northeast of Lordsburg 31 Jan (DAZ\*\*\*); 2 were in the Animas Valley 1 Dec (JEP, JRO, AMC, NM-C) but none were detected there 29 Dec (AMC+).

**Baird's Sparrow**—As in most winters, none were detected in Jan this season. One was in Sevilleta NWR grasslands east of La Joya 21 Dec (WHH\*, CMR\*), and another was in the Animas Valley as late as 29 Dec (CMR), while on Otero Mesa, where Baird's is a regular migrant, 6 were found 10 & 12 Dec (RAM) and 7 were present 4 Feb (RAM) and 5 were there 11 Feb (RAM).

**Fox Sparrow**—A good season produced a reddish one at Maxwell 4-6 Jan (DJC\*\*) and slate-colored ones at Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (WHH\*, CMR\*), Luis Lopez 15 Dec-14 Feb (v.o., JRO\*\*), Caballo Dam 4 Dec-20 Jan (WFW, JRO, DAE\*, BDN\*, CMR\*), Deming 5-21 Feb (LKM, MTS\*, JEZ\*), and Whites City 14 Dec (RN\*), plus 3 in Post Office Canyon Dec-Jan (CDL\*) and another in nearby Skull Canyon 29 & 31 Dec (DLF, CDL\*). Undetailed were one at Questa 19 Dec (*fide* RW) and 2 at Roswell 14 Dec (*fide* SMB).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—Five were north to Mills Canyon 10 Dec-8 Feb (DJC).

**Zonotrichia sparrows**—All four species (White-throated, Harris's, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned) known to occur New Mexico were much in evidence this season, and all four were present at Bosque NWR.

**White-throated Sparrow**—Noteworthy for *Luna* was one at Columbus 27 Feb (LKM).

**Harris's Sparrow**—An impressive season, with 3 at Farmington 14 Dec (APN+) and singles at Dixon 14 Dec (RT), Española 15 Dec (BRF), Maxwell 8 Dec (DJC\*\*), Santa Rosa 15 Dec (CMR), BLNWR 4 Dec (GLW), Luis Lopez 31 Jan (JRO) & 11 Feb (PRS), and Percha SP 28 Dec (BV\*). Two were at Socorro 1 Dec-28 Feb (PB) and 1-2 were at Bosque NWR 7 Dec-14 Jan (JEP\*, JRO\*, m.ob.).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—Unseasonal was a dark-lore one at Bosque NWR 16 Jan (DJK\*).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**—Singles were in Embudito Canyon in the north Sandia Mts., *Sandoval* 15 Dec (EH\*) & 29 Jan (WFW) and at Bosque NWR 1 Dec-24 Jan (m.ob., JRO\*\*, DJK\*\*).

**White-winged Junco**—Christmas counters reported (without detail) one at Raton in mid-Dec (*fide* DJC) and 2 at Clayton 18 Dec (CMR).

**Lapland Longspur**—The species was in evidence in the northeast, with highs of 24 at Maxwell 19 Dec (JO+), where the species persisted into Feb (DJC\*\*), and 67 at Clayton

18 Dec (CMR+), plus 16 at Sauz Cr., *Colfax* 4 Feb (DJC); another was at Eagle Nest 24 Jan (JEP\*). Farther south and west, singles were at Ruby Ranch north of Las Vegas 14 Jan (WFW) and Zuni 28 Dec (JAT).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur**—High counts were a precise 1793 at Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (NSC+) and 500 in the south Animas Valley 1 Dec (JEP+).

**Northern Cardinal**—A male was north to the Pecos R. at Santa Rosa 1 Jan (JEP\*).

**Pyrrhuloxia**—One was north to Santa Rosa 15 Dec (WFW) and another was at Ruidoso 21 Dec (*fide* ALP).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—A female was reported at a Peralta birdbath 29 Jan (KMC); a male was in the Crosby Mts. 6 mi southwest of Datil, *Catron* 4 Dec (C. Baker\*\*).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—At the northern limit of the wintering range were one at Zuni 30 Dec (JAT), 2 on the Albuquerque CBC 15 Dec (HRS+), 3 singing at Kirtland AFB 30 Jan (JEP\*), and 2 in Sevilleta NWR grasslands east of La Joya 21 Dec (DJK\*).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**—Noteworthy for winter were 3 at Zuni 26 Dec (JAT), 25 at Bosque NWR 2 Jan (JEP), and 500 in south *Luna* 25 Jan (GJE).

**Common Grackle**—Singles were north to Albuquerque 22 Dec (DAE, BDN) and Santa Rosa 1 Jan & 8 Feb (JRO). West was one at Rodeo 25-28 Dec (JRO\*\*).

**Bronzed Cowbird**—Continuing a wintering trend were 2 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE).

**rosy-finches**—Thanks to the efforts of Ken Schneider, Sandia Crest has become a famous destination for international birders seeking North American's three rosy-finch species, and this season was no exception, with a flock of 50-100 **Brown-capped**s, **Blacks**, and **Gray-crowned**s (including a few **Hepburn's**) there Dec-Feb (m.ob.). In *Colfax*, three-species flocks of feeder-friendly rosy-finches were documented 20 Dec-15 Feb (DJC\*\*), with 140 at Eagle Nest, 80 at Angel Fire, and 25 at Palo Flechado Pass (DJC+). Elsewhere, a flock of 100 **Brown-capped**s was near Stinking L., *Rio Arriba* 6 Jan (DWS).

**Purple Finch**—A female-plumaged individual was at Santa Rosa 23 Jan (PEL\*), 8 Feb (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), & 9 Feb (DAE\*, BDN\*).

**Cassin's Finch**—The species was widespread but generally uncommon, although up to 40 consorted with rosy-finches at Sandia Crest Dec-Feb (KCS). Reported on 10 CBCs nearly statewide. Wandering Cassin's included singles south to Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 14 Dec (NM-C) and Spring Canyon, Florida Mts., *Luna* 28 Jan (LKM), 25 at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts. 14 Dec (GJE), and 2 on Camp Wilderness Ridge, Guadalupe Mts. 4 Jan (SW).

**Lesser Goldfinch**—Continued to make its cool-season presence known, including a high 25 north to Farmington 14 Dec (APN+), 44 at Albuquerque 15 Dec (HRS+), and one at Maxwell 19 Dec (JO). Two Lessers were singing at Corrales 4 Jan (JEP, JRO), and singing Lessers were feasting on opening elm buds at Albuquerque 29 Jan (SOW).



**Lawrence's Goldfinch**—The fall incursion continued into the winter, with one at Caballo Dam 13 Dec (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), 2 at Percha SP 16 Jan (DJK), 3 at Radium Springs 1-15 Dec (MTS\*, JEZ\*\*), 12 at Silver City 14 Dec (RSS+) 4 in the Mimbres Valley, northwest *Luna* 19 Feb (MTS\*, JEZ\*\*), and 2-10 near Columbus 2 Jan-27 Feb (m.ob.\*).

**Evening Grosbeak**—Small to moderate numbers were found, these almost entirely restricted to the north. Reported on 10 CBCs, with highs of 243 at Santa Fe 21 Dec (DE+), 113 at Española 15 Dec (BRF+), 73 at Raton 16 Dec (DJC+), 60 at Angel Fire 14 Dec (DJC+), 57 in the Sandia Mts. 29 Dec (NV+), and 33 at Farmington 14 Dec (APN+).

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