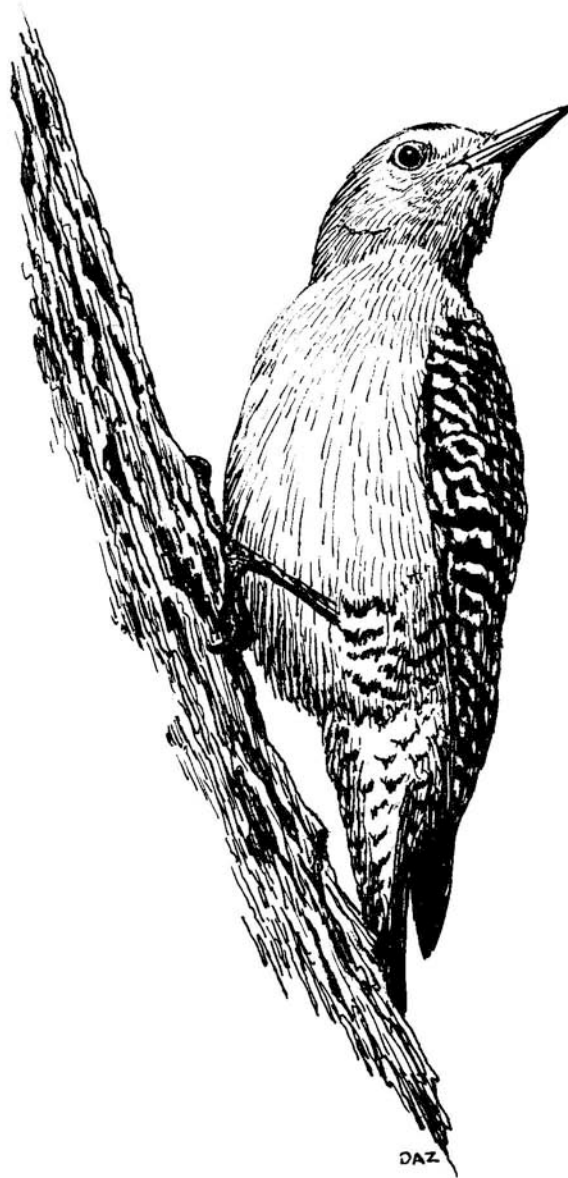


*New Mexico
Ornithological Society
Field Notes*



Volume 43, Number 1, Winter 2003 - 2004

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

Volume 43, Number 1, Winter 2003-2004

1 December 2003 – 29 February 2004

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society

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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: Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*). Found in New Mexico only in the lower Gila Valley and in southern Hidalgo County, this noisy species requires broadleaf riparian woodlands characterized by mature cottonwoods and/or sycamores. It is threatened by habitat destruction (cutting, burning, groundwater depletion), progressive fragmentation of remaining habitat patches, and by competition with European Starlings for nest cavities. 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 2003-2004

Winter 2003-04 saw dry and mild conditions continue through December and January, but February brought rain, snow, and cooler weather to much of the state. The birding season was marked by extreme scarcity of grassland sparrows, a near absence of montane species in the lowlands, and a continuation of the trend of northward range expansions. Birders were rewarded, however, with the discovery of a surprising number of rarities, including Red-throated Loon, Brant, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Varied Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Streak-backed Oriole, Purple Finch, the first over-wintering Calliope Hummingbird, and a state-first Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal.

Localities and Counties

Alamogordo, <i>Otero</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Animas, Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Mesilla, Dam, Valley, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Bosque Redondo, <i>De Baca</i>	Otis, <i>Eddy</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Cimarron Canyon, <i>Colfax</i>	Questa, <i>Taos</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Raton, <i>Colfax</i>
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	San Marcial, <i>Socorro</i>
Eagle Nest, Lake, <i>Colfax</i>	Sandia Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Eldorado, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Bernalillo/Sandoval</i>
Elephant Butte Lake, <i>Sierra</i>	Santa Fe, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Santa Rosa, Lake, <i>Guadalupe</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Santa Teresa, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Sevilleta NWR, <i>Socorro</i>
Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>	Silver City, <i>Grant</i>
Katfish Kove, <i>Luna</i>	Six-Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i>
La Joya, WMA, <i>Socorro</i>	Socorro, <i>Socorro</i>
Laguna Grande, <i>Eddy</i>	Springer, Lake, <i>Colfax</i>
Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>	Stubblefield Lake, <i>Colfax</i>
Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>	Sumner Lake, Dam, <i>De Baca</i>
La Luz, <i>Otero</i>	Sunland Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Taos Ski Valley, <i>Taos</i>
Las Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>	Ute Lake, <i>Quay</i>
Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>	Whites City, <i>Eddy</i>
Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>	Williamsburg, <i>Sierra</i>
Los Pinos Mts., <i>Socorro</i>	Zuni, <i>McKinley</i>

Abbreviations

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

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Red-throated Loon—Two at Ute L. 19 Jan-17 Feb (m.ob., JRO**, DJC**) likely had lingered since Nov. Another was at Conchas L. 28 & 30 Jan (WFW, JRO**).

Pacific Loon—Well documented was one at Ute L. 19 Jan-14 Feb (m.ob., JRO**).

Common Loon—High count was 18 at Ute L. 19 Jan (JRO), with at least 15 there 28 & 30 Jan (WFW, JEP). Elsewhere, a late one was at Farmington 20 Dec (APN), 5 were at Brantley L. 16 Dec (SW) where at least 2 lingered through 24 Jan (JEP) and one was present 8 Feb (JRO), and one was at Sumner L. 1 Feb (DAE, BDN).

Horned Grebe—High counts were 16 at Santa Rosa L. 14 Dec (WFW), 10 at Ute L. 30 Jan (JRO), and 7 in the Avalon-Brantley area 26 Dec (TJH). One at La Joya 28 Feb (CMR) provided the only report from west of the eastern plains.

Aechmophorus grebes—Owing to shrinking lake levels, fewer than usual wintered at EBL, with 1800 (primarily **Westerns**) on 8 Jan (MLW) the high count.

American White Pelican—Surprising for the Peloncillo Mts. were 17 soaring over Post Office Canyon 6 Jan (CDL). Moderate numbers wintered in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys, including 100 in the Elephant Butte-Caballo area 8 Jan (MLW) and 120 at Brantley L. 11 Jan (SW).

Neotropic Cormorant—Now greatly reduced in the RGV, with 6 at Bosque NWR 19 Jan (GJE) & 22 Feb (WHH) and 2 at Caballo L. 4 Jan (BRZ) the “high” counts.

Double-crested Cormorant—In the Pecos Valley, some 400 were at Brantley L. 4 Dec (MLW) where at least 140 remained through 11 Jan (SW).

American Bittern—Singles were at Bosque NWR 10-13 Jan (JEP, JRO**, WFW, BRZ**) and BLNWR 7 Jan (GLW).

Great Egret—At least 2 were north to BLNWR 10 Dec-26 Feb (GLW), and small numbers (e.g., 7 at L. Avalon 24 Jan [JRO]) wintered in *Eddy* (SW), where formerly absent in winter.

Snowy Egret—Late was one at Belen 9 Dec (JRO).

Cattle Egret—Twelve were tallied on the Las Cruces CBC 14 Dec (GJE+).

Green Heron—Rare in the winter season, singles were at EBL Dam 26 Dec (DJC**) and Six-Mile Dam 20 Feb (JEP, JRO).

White-faced Ibis—Five lingered at Belen 9 Dec (JRO), where there were 2 on 31 Jan (JEP) & 12 Feb (JRO).

Turkey Vulture—The species is not known to winter in New Mexico, so surprising were one in e. *Sierra* on the “Rhodes Range” area of WSMR 2 Dec (P. L. Mathis**), 7 at Roswell 20 Dec (*fide* SMB), and 2 south of Animas 2 Jan (J. Krakowski*).

Greater White-fronted Goose—Typically scarce in mid-winter, 1-9 were at nine sites in *Colfax, San Miguel, Bernalillo, Socorro, and Chaves* 13 Dec-25 Jan (m.ob.)

Ross’s Goose—Continued to increase in the Farmington area, where there were 40 on 20 Dec (APN). A rare blue-morph was at Clayton L. 27 Dec (CMR).

Brant—A dark-bellied individual was among Canada Geese at Ute L. 24 Jan-14 Feb (DJC**, JRO**, JEP*, WFW, DAE*, BDN*); there are fewer than six previous state records.

Tundra Swan—Made a good showing, with reports from eight locales: up to 6 at Maxwell NWR 1 Dec-28 Feb (MLW, DJC**, JEP, JRO), 2 at LVNWR 1 Dec (MLW) and 4 there 13 Feb (JRO), one at Cochiti L. 24 Jan-16 Feb (WHH**, WFW, JRO), one at Bosque Redondo 7 & 14 Dec (CMR, JRO**), 3 at La Joya 3 Dec (MLW), one at Williamsburg 7 Jan (CMB), 2 at BLNWR 2 Dec-2 Feb (GLW**), and 1-2 at L. Avalon 11 Dec-20 Feb (R. Nieman*, SW, JEP, JRO**).

Wood Duck—Well represented, with reports from 18 locales in 15 counties, including on nine CBCs; noteworthy highs were 21 at Española 21 Dec (BRF+) and 314 at Albuquerque 14 Dec (HRS+).

Gadwall—Shrinking lakes resulted in large waterfowl concentrations, including 14,570 Gadwalls counted on an aerial survey at EBL 8 Jan (MLW).

Eurasian Wigeon—A male entertained many at Albuquerque’s Mariposa Park and vicinity 29 Jan-29 Feb (m.ob., JRO**, RHD**, DW**, WHH**). At least one Eurasian has wintered at Albuquerque in eight of the past nine years.

Cinnamon Teal—Early was one at Belen 31 Jan (JEP).

Northern Shoveler—Some 4300 counted at the drying EBL 8 Jan (MLW).

Northern Pintail—Some 3720 at EBL 3 Dec (MLW).

“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal—A first for New Mexico was an ad. male of the Eurasian subspecies of the Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*), sometimes called the Common Teal, at Bosque NWR 18 Feb (RH*, GKF*, JEP*, JRO**).

Greater Scaup—Very few reports, with 8 at Ute L. 24 & 30-31 Jan (DJC) the high count. A female was at RGNC 17 Jan (JEP), where more-or-less regular in recent years.

Long-tailed Duck—Singles were at Maxwell NWR 13 Dec (JRO**), Brantley L. 3 Jan (JRO**), and Holloman L. 10-17 Jan (MTS*, JEZ**, JRO**).

Barrow’s Goldeneye—Unexpected away from *San Juan*, single females were at Stubblefield L. 27 Jan (DJC*) and LVNWR 5 Feb (WFW).

Red-breasted Merganser—Unusually prevalent in the Canadian and Pecos valleys; high counts included over 100 at L. Avalon 24 Jan (JEP), over 200 at Brantley L. 3 Jan (JRO), and some 190 at Ute L. 17-18 Feb (DJC), where there were also over 250 **Commons**.

Osprey—Far north for the season was one at Navajo Dam, *San Juan* 1 Jan (APN); at least one was in the EBL area 5 Jan-7 Feb (WFW, JRO, JEP).

White-tailed Kite—Single ads. were at Katfish Kove 6 Dec (MTS*, JEZ*) and Bosque NWR 24 Feb (S. H. Grubelich*).

Bald Eagle—A notable concentration of 49 was at Cherry L., *Mora* 5 Jan (MLW); in contrast, the 36 counted in the drying Elephant Butte-Caballo area 28 Jan (D. Ahlers) was down considerably from counts there in previous years.

Northern Goshawk—Far east was an imm. at Ute L. 28 Jan (WFW).

Harris's Hawk—One was north to Bosque NWR 13 Feb (T. Bulow). Five were near Alamogordo 24 Jan (MTS, JEZ), where recently established.

Ferruginous Hawk—A surprising 18 were at the Navajo farms south of Farmington 21 Feb (APN).

Rough-legged Hawk—One was among Ferruginous Hawks at the Navajo farms south of Farmington 21 Feb (APN). Considered unusual was one at Ruidoso 20 Dec (ALP).

Golden Eagle—A local pair in the n. Peloncillo Mts. was on territory by 18 Jan and observed mating on 18 Feb (CDL).

Merlin—Reported at 18 sites primarily from the RGV eastward, including on 10 CBCs; high counts were 3 at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SWC+) and 6 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE+).

Aplomado Falcon—One was on territory in s. New Mexico Jan & Feb (RAM).

Peregrine Falcon—At Albuquerque, 1-2 wintered Dec-Feb (m.ob.) and another was at Las Cruces 26 Dec (GJE) & 17 Jan (MTS, JEZ); elsewhere, singles were at Katfish Kove 6 Dec (MTS, JEZ), Sitting Bull Falls, *Eddy* 1 Jan (*fide* SW), Peloncillo Mts. 3 Jan (*fide* AMC), and Eldorado 27 Feb (DWS).

Chukar—The escapee at Sandia Crest continued to compete with juncos and finches at feeders through Jan (KCS et al.).

Gambel's Quail—After suffering heavy losses from a Cooper's Hawk, surviving members of a Post Office Canyon flock learned to come to feeders at night (CDL).

Sora—North for the season was one at Albuquerque's oxbow 14 Dec (N. D. Pederson*). Fifteen were counted near San Marcial 23 Dec (RHD), a large number for the winter season.

Common Moorhen—Unusual for the season and locality was one at L. Roberts 14 & 23 Jan (ERL).

Snowy Plover—Latest were one at BLNWR 17 Dec (GLW) and 1-2 near Loving 20 & 23 Dec (SW, CCC). Earliest were 2 at BLNWR 11 & 26 Feb (GLW).

Killdeer—A flock of 191 was in an Otis alfalfa field 27 Jan (SW).

Mountain Plover—Late were 12 in an old prairie dog town west of the Victorio Mts., w. *Luna* 11 Dec (RAM).

American Avocet—Late was one at BLNWR 3 Dec (GLW). Apparently over-wintering were up to 4 at Caballo L. 4-11 Jan (BRZ, JNP, JEP, JRO). Two at EBL 28 Feb (JEP, JRO) likely were early spring migrants.

Lesser Yellowlegs—Scarce in mid-winter, one was at EBL 17 Jan (JRO).

Spotted Sandpiper—North for the season were singles at Española 21 Dec (BRF) and Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW) & 3 Jan (JEP).

Long-billed Curlew—Late were 125 in s. *Luna* 6 Dec (DLH). Unexpected were 6 in the Uvas Valley near Nutt, *Luna* 11 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

Least Sandpiper—North were 4 Morgan L. 1 Jan (APN) and 3 at Hudson L., *Quay* 24 Jan (DJC). The 18 at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SWC+) was a record high for that CBC. The 285 at Laguna Grande 20 Dec (SW) was a large number for the season.

Dunlin—Singles were at Morgan L. 1 Jan (APN), Bosque NWR 13-18 Jan (BRZ, WFW, JRO), and Mesilla 18 Feb (WHH*) and 3 were at Hudson L., *Quay* 31 Jan-18 Feb (DJC**).

Wilson's Snipe—North was on the Clayton CBC 27 Dec (*fide* CMR).

Bonaparte's Gull—Far north for mid-winter were 3 at Springer L. 5 Jan (DJC), as was one at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW). A remarkable 252 were in the Avalon-Brantley area 26 Dec (TJH+), with at least 19 at L. Avalon 31 Jan (CMR) and 50 there 16 Feb (DAE, BDN).

Mew Gull—A first-winter individual was present at Sunland Park 17 Dec-1 Jan (JNP*, MTS*, JEZ*) and an ad. was there 16 Jan-16 Feb (JNP*, JRO**).

Ring-billed Gull—The 391 on the Farmington CBC 20 Dec (APN+) was a high count for there. Some 2000 were at Sunland Park 17-18 Dec (JNP).

California Gull—Noteworthy were 4 ads. south to Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP, MTS, JEZ).

Herring Gull—Noteworthy for the northwest was one at Farmington L. 20 Dec (APN).

Thayer's Gull—Lingering from Nov was a first-winter individual at Sunland Park 1-18 Dec (JNP**, MTS*, JEZ*). An ad. was at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 17 Jan-15 Feb (JRO**, WFW, JEP*).

Forster's Tern—Noteworthy for the season was 1-3 at L. Avalon 24 Jan-20 Feb (JEP, JRO) and 2 at Six-Mile Dam 20 Feb (JEP, JRO).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Moderate numbers were found virtually statewide, including on 18 CBCs located in all corners of the state and including an impressive (or disturbing?) 938 at Roswell 20 Dec (SMB+). Evidence of early nesting was noted in *Sierra* 4 Jan (MTS, JEZ) and *Union* 24 Jan (JPB).

White-winged Dove—Continuing a trend, White-wingeds were much in evidence in the northern half of the state, including one at Maxwell 15-22 Dec (DJC**), a high 41 at Santa Fe 4 Jan (DME+), and one singing at Los Alamos 14 Feb (C. Jervis). A mere 42,521 were tallied on the Las Cruces CBC 14 Dec (GJE+).

Greater Roadrunner—One was north to Raton 24 Dec (N. Kirkland**), where apparently now resident. A record high 55 was counted at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SWC+); the previous high for that count was only 12. Ever resourceful, one caught a hapless junco in Post Office Canyon 19 Feb (CDL).

Eastern Screech-Owl—The state-first individual, discovered at Portales in Nov, remained there through the period (J. D. Avery et al., JRO**), and was vocal from late Jan on.

Long-eared Owl—Five were roosting in junipers in the Los Pinos Mts. 16 Dec (SOW*, WFW, WHH).

Short-eared Owl—One was in a fallow field at Zuni 20 Dec (JAT*).

White-throated Swift—Some 200 at Las Palomas 4 Jan (GJE) was a high count for winter.

Magnificent Hummingbird—An ad. female was banded at Grey Feathers Lodge on Sapillo Cr., 15 mi north of Silver City, 2 Dec (JD-M).

Black-chinned Hummingbird—Very late was a female in Post Office Canyon 19 Dec (CDL). Undetailed was one near Carlsbad 26 Dec (*fide* SW).

Anna's Hummingbird—A female at Las Cruces since Oct was banded 8 Dec (JD-M) and remained until at least 16 Jan (L. Schulte). One was at Albuquerque 14 Dec (HRS). A male was at a Whites City feeder 14 Dec-31 Jan (m.ob.).

Calliope Hummingbird—An ad. male in Albuquerque's Northeast Heights 12 Nov-15 Feb (D. Foreman**) was the first known to over-winter in New Mexico.

Rufous Hummingbird—An ad. female banded at Las Cruces 8 Dec (JD-M) was still present 14 Dec (*fide* GJE). Undetailed was one near Carlsbad 26 Dec (*fide* SW).

Lewis's Woodpecker—South of expected were singles at Deming 1 Dec-3 Feb (LKM), Mesilla 30 Dec (GJE), and Otis 20 Dec (SW). A high 67 were found on the Dixon CBC 14 Dec (RT+).

Red-bellied Woodpecker—Two found their way to Santa Rosa 14 Dec: a male in town (DW*) and a female south of town (WFW).

Williamson's Sapsucker—North for the season were singles at Zuni 18 Dec (JAT), Española 21 Dec (BRF), and Santa Fe 4 Jan (DME) and 2 at Cochiti 12 Feb (WFW).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Reports with at least some details included “a female molting into ad. plumage” at Watrous, *Mora* 7 Feb (CMR*, DAE, BDN), an “imm.” at Socorro 8 Feb (DLH) and an “ad.” at the same site 14 Feb (DLH), an “ad. male” at Bosque NWR 2 Jan (JEP), and an “imm.” plus an “ad. female” in the Rattlesnake Springs area 31 Jan (CMR, DAE, BDN).

Hairy Woodpecker—Unusual for the lower RGV were 2 at Percha SP 4 & 11 Jan (BRZ).

Three-toed Woodpecker—One was reported on the Ruidoso CBC 20 Dec (*fide* ALP).

“Yellow-shafted” Flicker—Singles apparently of this race were one at Zuni 20 Dec (JAT), a female at Los Alamos 4 Jan (SMF**, TFH**), a female at Eldorado late Dec-early Feb (JPB**), and one on the Clayton CBC 27 Dec (*fide* CMR).

***Empidonax* flycatchers**—Several lingered well into the season; those with some details were an apparent **Hammond's** below Caballo Dam 10 Jan (JEP*, JRO**) and another below Elephant Butte Dam 7 Feb (JEP), an apparent **Dusky** at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (DLH*, PB) and again 10 Feb (PB), and at least one probable **Dusky** in the GBA 5 Dec, 9 Jan, & 14 Feb (RSS).

Black Phoebe—Noteworthy for winter were one north to Dixon 14 Dec (*fide* RT) and a high 3 at Española 27 Dec (BRF+).

Eastern Phoebe—Reported at nine sites from the RGV eastward, including on four CBCs. West were singles near Cliff 4 Dec (CF) and Katfish Kove 15 Jan (JEZ).

Say's Phoebe—North for the season were singles at Farmington 20 Dec (APN) and Dixon 14 Dec (RT) and a high 3 at Santa Fe 4 Jan (DME+).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Unusually conspicuous in the RGV, with a male at Luis Lopez 23 Dec (JRO) & 14 Jan (WFW), a male at Bosque NWR on various dates 20 Dec-31 Jan (m.ob.), a female at Las Palomas 4 Jan (GJE), and an imm. male at Percha SP 4 Jan (BRZ) and an ad. male there 11 Jan (BRZ).

Northern Shrike—One to 4 were at eight locales, including singles south to Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (PB*), Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW), and Bosque Redondo 20 Dec (JEP*, JRO); high count was 4 on the Maxwell CBC 18 Dec (WHH, JO+).

Hutton's Vireo—Noteworthy was one at Radium Springs 29 Jan-21 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

Steller's Jay—One wandered to Percha SP 4 Jan (BRZ) but, in sharp contrast to last year, the species was decidedly scarce in lowland areas.

Pinyon Jay—A high 300 were south to the La Luz area 29 Dec (JM+). Also south of expected were 2 at Deming 20 Jan (LKM).

Chihuahuan Raven—One was north in the RGV to Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 1 Feb (WHH). Noteworthy for winter was one north to near Logan, *Quay* 24 Jan (DJC**).

Tree Swallow—Very late were 6 at Las Palomas 4 Jan (GJE) and 6 near Percha SP 4 Jan (JNP, BRZ). Earliest apparent spring migrants were 4 at Loving 22 Feb (SW).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Late was one with Tree Swallows near Percha SP 4 Jan (JNP, BRZ). Early was one at Mesilla 11 Feb (GJE).

Cave Swallow—Four at Carlsbad Cavern 2 Jan (R. West) provided the first winter record for the area (*fide* SW). Spring arrival was marked by 5 at Carlsbad Cavern 19 Feb (R. West).

Barn Swallow—Very early was one at Bosque NWR 18 Feb (RH).

Black-capped Chickadee—Unusual was one in the Sandia Mts. 21 Dec (NV, MRG).

Bridled Titmouse—Four wandered down the Mimbres R. to Katfish Kove 6 Dec (MTS, JEZ).

Juniper Titmouse—A high 136 were tallied on the Sandia Mts. CBC 21 Dec (NV, MRG+).

Verdin—A record high 12 were north to Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SWC+).

Cactus Wren—Two in the Manzano Mts. foothills in *Valencia* southeast of Belen 15 Feb (JNS) furnished a new locale for this expanding species.

House Wren—Late was one north to Corrales 13 Dec (JEP). Apparently wintering were singles at Carlsbad 4 Jan (SW), GBA 9 Jan (RSS), and Alamogordo 1 Feb (SW).

Winter Wren—A good season found singles at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW), Albuquerque's North Valley 14 Dec (DWM*), GBA 19 Dec (RSS), Silver City 16 Dec (*fide* RSS), and Mesilla 11 Feb (GJE*).

Marsh Wren—Late for the north were 3 at Morgan L. 1 Jan (APN). Noteworthy were 33 below Conchas Dam 28 Dec (WFW+).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Typically scarce north to *Socorro* and *Sierra*, this season found 2 at Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (DLH*), one at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (SWC*, NSC*), 2 in the EBL area 10 Jan (JEP) & 22 Jan (WFW), and one at the north end of Caballo L. 4 Jan (BRZ).

Eastern Bluebird—The species blanketed eastern New Mexico, with multiple reports from 17 counties from the RGV eastward, including a high 100 at Bosque Redondo 20 Dec (JEP, JRO). West were one at Zuni 18 Dec (JAT) and 7 in the Florida Mts., *Luna* 26 Feb (LKM).

Hermit Thrush—Northerly were one at Farmington 20 Dec (APN) and 2 at Española 21 Dec (BRF); 9 were in one Russian olive tree near Bernalillo, *Sandoval* 6 Jan (H. A. Walker).

Varied Thrush—An ad. male near Gila Hot Springs (specifically, on the Gila River below Alum Camp trailhead) 5 Feb (D. H. Russell*) provided a *Grant* first.

Gray Catbird—One lingered in Cimarron Canyon 14 Dec (LCH*); another was at Rattlesnake Springs 31 Jan (CMR) & 7 Feb (JRO).

Northern Mockingbird—Typically scarce (or absent?) in northern New Mexico in winter, so noteworthy were 2 at Farmington 20 Dec (APN), and singles at Clayton 27 Dec (CMR), *Harding* 30 Jan (M. MacRoberts), Ute L. 24-25 Dec & 24 Jan (DJC**), and 5 in the Conchas Dam area 28 Dec (WFW+).

Brown Thrasher—Singles were at Silver City 16 Dec (RSS), RGNC Dec-Feb (m.ob.), Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 28 Dec (WFW), and 5 mi south of San Jon, *Quay* 14 Feb (CMR), and up to 3 were at Rattlesnake Springs 31 Jan-20 Feb (DAE, BDN, CMR, JRO).

Curve-billed Thrasher—One was singing in Post Office Canyon 13 Jan (CDL).

Crissal Thrasher—One was singing in Post Office Canyon 8 Jan (CDL). Northerly was one singing at Eldorado 27 Feb (DWS).

Sprague's Pipit—Surveys for grassland birds found 2 on Otero Mesa 21 Dec (RAM) and one there 21 Jan (RAM), one at a *Socorro* site on WSMR 9 Jan (NSC) and 17 Feb (SWC), one in the Five Points area of Sevilleta NWR 16 Dec (CMR, RLV, J. P. DeLong), 2 near Deming 10 Dec (RAM), and one west of Gage, *Luna* 13 Dec (RAM).

Phainopepla—Noteworthy were three that wintered north to Socorro, where present 1 Dec-29 Feb (PB).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Additional evidence of wintering was provided by reports of singles near Cliff 3 Jan (RSS), Silver City 16 Dec (RSS), Caballo L. 4 Jan (BRZ), and CCNP 14 Dec (SW) plus an impressive 13 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GJE+).

Yellow Warbler—Singles were reported at Las Cruces 14 Dec (*fide* GJE) and the Santa Teresa area 1 Jan (JNP).

Black-throated Blue Warbler—Nicely photographed was a female at Mimbres, *Grant* present from about 15 Dec to 31 Jan (J. C. Croff**).

Common Yellowthroat—One to 2 wintered at Rattlesnake Springs 14 Dec-8 Feb (SW, JEP, JRO, CMR).

Eastern Towhee—A female at Rattlesnake Springs 16-20 Feb (DAE*, BDN*, JEP*, JRO**) provided the state's 8th overall record.

Canyon Towhee—One was in Albuquerque's North Valley 14 Dec (DWM), where unusual. A high 112 were counted on the Sandia Mts. CBC 21 Dec (NV, MRG+).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—One at Zuni 20 Dec (JAT) provided a first for the Zuni Mts. region.

American Tree Sparrow—One was west to near Farmington 21 Feb (J. Rees *fide* APN), where unusual. Another wintered south to RGNC Dec-Feb (m.ob.). High count was 177 on the Maxwell CBC 18 Dec (JO+), while noteworthy were 15 south to Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 28 Dec (WFW+).

grassland sparrows—Reflecting the effects of prolonged drought and poor livestock management, normally common grassland sparrows such as **Brewer's** and **Vesper** were conspicuously scarce or absent altogether in much of s. New Mexico.

Field Sparrow—Undetailed were reports of singles in the Loving area 23 Dec (*fide* CCC) and at Ute L. 22 Feb (CMB). Although regular in winter in very small numbers in e. New Mexico, this rare species requires at least brief details regarding how it was identified.

Black-chinned Sparrow—Two were north to the Los Pinos Mts. 16 Dec (WHH*).

Black-throated Sparrow—An unusual sparrow at Las Cruces 15 Feb (M. Munson-McGee**) was likely a partial-albino Black-throated, complete with white face and pinkish feet and legs but otherwise resembling Black-throated.

Baird's Sparrow—Searches for this species on Otero Mesa found one on 22 Dec and 3 at the same site 15 Jan (RAM), plus singles at three nearby sites 25-28 Jan (RAM). Another was near Deming 10 Dec (RAM).

Fox Sparrow—Reddish individuals were one at Maxwell 6-7 Dec (DJC**) and up to 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 24 Jan-20 Feb (JEP, JRO, DAE, BDN). A grayish one was near Cliff 25 Feb (LKM). Undetailed were 2 in the Questa area 18 Dec (*fide* RW) and one in the Loving area 23 Dec (*fide* CCC).

Lincoln's Sparrow—North for the season were 3 at RGNC 1 Jan (JEP) and singles in Cimarron Canyon 14 Dec (LCH), Peña Blanca, *Sandoval* 12 Feb (WFW), and Albuquerque's North Valley 25 Jan (DWM).

Swamp Sparrow—Several were north of expected for the season, including 2 at Raton 16 Dec (DJC) and one along Ute Cr., *Harding* 30 Jan (JEP). Five were at Corrales 11 Dec (WHH) and 20 were at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 28 Dec (WFW+).

Harris's Sparrow—An ad. was at Bernardo WMA, *Socorro* 31 Jan (JEP) and an imm. was at Bent, *Otero* 4-7 Dec (J. Hird).

White-crowned Sparrow—Unusual for the season was a dark-lored one banded at RGNC 8 Feb (SWC, NSC+).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—Singles were in the Sandia Mts. 21 Dec (NV, MRG) and Albuquerque's North Valley 11 Jan (S. Norris) and at Bosque NWR 7 Jan (GKF), and Silver City 16 Dec (RSS).

Lapland Longspur—South was one seen and heard at EBL's Monticello Point 6 Dec (JEP*, JRO). In the northeast, Laplands were at seven sites in *Colfax*, *Union*, *San*

Miguel, and *De Baca* Dec-Jan, including reported highs of 20 at Eagle Nest 30 Dec (DJC**) and 44 at Stubblefield L. 28 Jan (DJC).

Northern Cardinal—A male was north to 5 mi south of Santa Rosa 5 Feb (WFW). Notable high counts were 38 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 3 Jan (AMC+) and 37 on the CCNP CBC 14 Dec (SW+).

Pyrrhuloxia—Singles at higher than usual elevations were at L. Roberts 25 Jan & 28 Feb (JRO) and Ruidoso 20 Dec (*fide* ALP). In the RGV, 4 were north to Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (SWC+).

Eastern Meadowlark—Getting an early start, one was singing at Pep, *Roosevelt* 20 Feb (JEP).

Rusty Blackbird—A male was at Clayton 27 Dec (CMR*) and single females were in the RGNC area from 18 Jan (JNS*) through Feb (m.ob., JRO**) and at Bosque NWR 20 Dec (RLV*, R. D. Beaulieu).

Common Grackle—Lingering in the north were singles at Eagle Nest 1 Dec (DJC) and Maxwell 15-21 Dec (DJC**) and 5 at Clayton 27 Dec (CMR+). Thirteen were distinguished from abundant Great-taileds at Roswell 20 Dec (SMB+). Five were at Radium Springs 15 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

Great-tailed Grackle—A high 8287 were tallied at Roswell 20 Dec (SMB+).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Unusual for the season was a male at Zuni's Black Rock 17 Dec (JAT).

Streak-backed Oriole—Nicely documented was an ad. female near Radium Springs 20 Dec (MTS*, JEZ**), which provided New Mexico's second photographically documented record.

Rosy-Finches—Perhaps owing to poor snow cover, rosy-finches were generally scarce. About 60 mostly **Blacks** wintered at Sandia Crest Dec-Feb (KCS+), where 21 **Blacks** and 7 **Gray-crowneds** were banded Jan-Feb (SWC, NSC+). A three-species flock at Taos Ski Valley 6 Feb contained about 40 **Blacks** and 15 each of **Gray-crowneds** and **Brown-capped**s (JEP, JRO).

Pine Grosbeak—Up to 4 were singing at the Taos Ski Valley 6 Feb (JEP, JRO) and 10 were south to Sandia Crest 7 Dec (KCS), where there were 4 on 30 Jan (*fide* KCS). Unusual was one west to Zuni's Mullen Canyon 20 Dec (JAT).

Purple Finch—Quite rare in New Mexico, singles were documented at Eldorado 22 Feb (JPB**) and RGNC 8 Feb (RLV*, NSC*); both individuals appeared to be of the eastern subspecies.

Cassin's Finch—The species was generally scarce statewide, and largely absent from submontane areas.

House Finch—A partial albino (white face, etc.) was at Los Alamos 12 & 14 Dec (SMF**, TFH**).

Red Crossbill—The species was scarce statewide, with 65 on the Sandia Mts. CBC (NV, MRG+) a notable exception.

Lesser Goldfinch—The species continued to winter in greater numbers and farther north than previously known, including 3 at Costilla, *Taos* 6 Feb (JEP, JRO) and 3 or more at Sugarite SP, *Colfax* 9 Jan (JEP, JRO). Lessers outnumbered Americans 65 to 38 at Farmington 20 Dec (APN+), 30 to 6 at Maxwell 1 Jan-15 Feb (DJC), and 45 to 40 at Albuquerque 14 Dec (HRS+), where Lessers largely replaced Americans in the North Valley Jan-Feb (DWM).

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Published 14 September 2006



NEW MEXICO COUNTIES