# New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes



Volume 43, Number 2, Spring 2004

# NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES Volume 43, Number 2, Spring 2004 1 March – 31 May 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.

#### **SPRING SEASON 2004**

Unusual weather patterns in March and April brought scattered, sometimes heavy precipitation to New Mexico, but pervasive drought conditions returned in May. Meanwhile, like Rick's Café in the film *Casablanca*, everybody comes to the "Melrose Trap," and this season that included two first state records, numerous other rarities, and many happy birders. Statewide, three species—Barred Owl, Black-capped Vireo, and Golden-crowned Warbler—were added to the state list in Spring 2004.

# Localities and Counties

Alameda, Bernalillo Albuquerque, Bernalillo Amistad, Union Animas, Mts., Valley, Hidalgo Bandelier NM, Sandoval Belen. Valencia Bernalillo, Sandoval Bitter Lake NWR, Chaves Blanco, San Juan Bloomfield, San Juan Boone's Draw, Roosevelt Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro Bosque Redondo, De Baca Brantley Lake, Eddy Buckhorn, Grant Burro Mts., Grant Capitan, Lincoln Capulin, Union Carlsbad, *Eddy* Cerrillos, Santa Fe Cimarron, *Colfax* Clanton Canyon, Cienega, Hidalgo Clayton, Lake, Union Clovis, Curry Cochiti, Lake, Dam, Sandoval Columbus, Luna Conchas Lake, Dam, San Miguel Corrales, Sandoval Cotton City, *Hidalgo* Deming, Luna Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax* Eldorado, Santa Fe Elephant Butte Lake, Dam, Sierra El Morro, Cibola El Vado Lake, Rio Arriba Emory Pass, Grant/Sierra Escondida, Socorro Eunice. Lea Farley, *Colfax* Farmington, San Juan NMOSFN 43:2 (Spring 2004)

Floyd, Roosevelt Fort Sumner, DeBaca Galisteo, Creek, Santa Fe Glenwood, Catron Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Guadalupe Mts., Eddy Hatchet Gap, Hidalgo Hillsboro, Sierra Holloman Lake, Otero Isleta, Lake, Marsh, Bernalillo/Valencia Katfish Kove. Luna Kenna, Roosevelt Kingston, Sierra Kirtland, San Juan La Joya, Socorro Lake Avalon, Eddy Las Vegas, NWR, San Miguel Leasburg SP, Doña Ana Little Hatchet Mts., Grant/Hidalgo Logan, Quay Lordsburg, Playa, Hidalgo Los Lunas, Valencia Luis Lopez, Socorro Madrid, Santa Fe Magdalena, Mts., Socorro Malaga, *Eddy* Manzano Mts., Torrance Maxwell, NWR, Colfax Mesilla, Dam, Valley, Doña Ana Milnesand, Roosevelt Morgan Lake, San Juan Mountainair, Torrance Nara Visa, *Quay* Navajo Dam, San Juan north Roosevelt trap, Roosevelt Ned Houk Park, Curry Oasis SP, Roosevelt Otero Mesa. Otero Pecos, San Miguel Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo

Pep, Roosevelt Peralta, Valencia Petroglyph NM, Bernalillo Percha SP, Sierra Pie Town, Catron Pinos Altos Mts., Grant Portales, *Roosevelt* Post Office [P.O.] Canyon, Hidalgo Quarai, *Torrance* Quemado, Lake, Catron Radium Springs, Doña Ana Ranchos de Taos, Taos Raton, *Colfax* Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Redrock, Grant Rincon, Doña Ana Rio Grande Nature Center, Bernalillo Rodeo, *Hidalgo* Roswell, Chaves Sabinoso, San Miguel Sandia Mts., Bernalillo/Sandoval San Acacia, Socorro San Marcial, Socorro Santa Fe, Santa Fe Santa Rosa, Guadalupe

Santo Domingo, Sandoval Seneca, Union Sevilleta NWR, Socorro Silver City, Grant Skeleton Canyon, Hidalgo Socorro, Socorro Springer, Lake, *Colfax* Stinking Lake, *Rio Arriba* Stubblefield Lake, Colfax Sumner Lake, Dam, De Baca Sunland Park, Doña Ana Tatum. *Lea* Tesuque, Santa Fe Tijeras, Bernalillo Tolar, Roosevelt Tucumcari, Lake, Quay Tyrone, Grant Ute Lake, Quay Vaughn, *Guadalupe* Watrous, Mora Vermejo Ranch, Colfax Yeso, De Baca Zuni, *McKinley* Zuni Mts, McKinley/Cibola

# **Standard Abbreviations**

AFB	Air Force Base	RGNC	Rio Grande Nature
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR		Center
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	RGV	Rio Grande Valley
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	SP	State Park
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife
CG	Camp Ground		Service
Cr.	Creek	WMA	Wildlife Management
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake		Area
GBA	Gila Bird Area	WSMR	White Sands Missile
L.	Lake		Range
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	ad(s).	adult(s)
MSB	Museum of Southwestern	subad(s).	subadult(s)
	Biology	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

1 March - 31 May 2004

- JDA Julian D. Avery Jonathan P. Batkin JPB RDB Ryan D. Beaulieu CB **Charles Black** JB James Black DJC David J. Cleary KC Kelly Cotten NSC Nancy S. Cox SWC Steven W. Cox AMC Alan M. Craig CMB Celestyn M. Brozek ELC E. Louis Cuellar JPD John P. DeLong SJD Stephen J. Dinsmore RHD Robert H. Doster DAE Douglas A. Emkalns GJE Gordon J. Ewing SMF Stephen M. Fettig BRF Bernard R. Foy LPG Larry P. Gorbet MRG M. Rebecca Gracey CJG C. J. Grimes DLH David L. Hawksworth J&MH John & Marty Hirth WHH William H. Howe HWI HawkWatch International David Jasper DJ JK Jim Krakowski PEL Paul E. Lehman ERL Eugene R. Lewis CDL Carroll D. Littlefield LKM Larry K. Malone **Tish McDaniel** TM SLM Steve L. McDowell B&DMBarbara & Daniel McKnight RAM Raymond A. Meyer
- SGM Steven G. Mlodinow NM-C Narca Moore-Craig Arnold Moorhouse AM APN Alan P. Nelson BDN Bruce D. Neville GFO G. Frank Oatman JRO Jerry R. Oldenettel JEP John E. Parmeter JNP James N. Paton NDP Nicholas D. Pederson MR Mike Ramos John Rees JR MMR Mary M. Ristow EMR Eric M. Rominger RAR Rose Ann Rowlett CMR Christopher M. Rustay Lawry A. Sager LAS Kenneth C. Schneider KCS HRS Hart R. Schwarz MTS Marcy T. Scott JWS John W. Shipman PRS Patricia R. Snider DWS Dale W. Stahlecker JNS James N. Stuart RLV Raymond L. VanBuskirk GLW Gordon L. Warrick MLW Mark L. Watson **REW** Richard E. Webster SW Steve West WFW William F. West DW David White SOW S. O. Williams III JEZ James E. Zabriskie
- DAZ Dale A. Zimmerman
- MAZ Marian A. Zimmerman

# SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**<u>Red-throated Loon</u>**—Showing admirable staying power, 2 from the winter season remained at Ute L. into Mar (JEP, JRO), and were last seen 22 Mar (DJC).

**Pacific Loon**—One that wintered at Ute L. was still there 12 Mar (JEP), 20 Mar (JRO), and 30 Mar (DJC).

**Common Loon**—A sad sight was one at EBL 7 Mar (MTS, JEZ) with a fishing swivel hanging from its bill. Notably late were singles at Sunland Park 12 May (JNP), Clayton L. 19 May (PEL, SGM), and Ute L. 24 May (DJC).

Horned Grebe—Last was one in breeding plumage at Maxwell NWR 13 Apr (DJC).

American White Pelican—The species was relatively widespread during migration, with 1000 at EBL 8 Apr (WFW) the high count. Four found dead at L. Avalon 28 Mar had been shot (SW).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Continued to decline in the RGV, where no nesting was reported. Unexpected was one in the Pecos Valley at L. Avalon 8 Mar (SJD\*\*).

**Double-crested Cormorant**—Seven at Clovis 28 May (JEP) and one at Lordsburg 26 Mar (JEP, JRO) were in counties where the species is rare.

Least Bittern—One was heard at Bosque Redondo 8-9 May (JEP, BDN) and one seen there 18 May (WFW), and one was heard at Bosque NWR 7 May (BDN).

**Great Blue Heron**—New breeding locales included 4 nests at Morgan L. 30 Apr (APN) and 3 nests at Quemado L. 23 Apr (DWS). At least 2 nests were active at Bosque NWR 11 Apr (BDN) & 7-8 May (BDN, JWS) and 20 nests were active at Watrous in Apr (DWS).

**Great Egret**—Continued to increase in numbers and localities, including singles north to El Vado L. 8 May (DWS) and west to Tyrone 23 May (ERL), and 2 in the Sacramento Mts. at Capitan 17 Apr (JRO). High count was 30 at Bosque NWR 24 Apr (SW).

Little Blue Heron—An ad. at Bosque NWR 8 May (JWS\*) provided the only report.

Tricolored Heron—Undetailed was one at BLNWR 24 Apr (GLW).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**—Conspicuous at Clovis, where up to 100 were reported 14-20 May (BDN, WFW, PEL) and 7 nests were found at the local zoo 26 May (S. Hendershot).

<u>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</u>—An ad. was at Albuquerque's Central Ave. bridge 29 May (NSC\*, SWC\*) and an ad. was at Tatum 20 May (JRO\*\*, SGM\*\*, PEL\*).

<u>Glossy Ibis</u>—Single ads. were documented at Bosque NWR 15 Apr (JRO\*\*) and Ute L. 23 May (DJC\*\*); other reports never got beyond the "internet ether."

**White-faced Ibis**—Two that wintered at Belen were still there 13 Mar (JEP). Earliest migrants were 4 at Bosque NWR 27 Mar (JEP) and one at L. Avalon 28 Mar (SW).

**Turkey Vulture**—Earliest reports were one at EBL 5 Mar (JRO) and 40 at Carlsbad 10 Mar (SW). First at the Sandia Mts. hawkwatch site were 12 on 19 Mar (HWI).

Greater White-fronted Goose—Noteworthy was one at Corrales 7 Mar (WHH).

Snow Goose—Late were 5 at Columbus 27 May (WHH).

Ross's Goose—Late was one with Snow Geese at Columbus 27 May (WHH).

Canada Goose—Young were hatching at Clovis 26 May (S. Hendershot).

**Tundra Swan**—Last of the wintering birds were one at EBL 12-13 Mar (JRO\*\*, JEP) and 5 at Maxwell NWR 19 Mar (DJC).

**Eurasian Wigeon**—The popular male that wintered at Albuquerque's Mariposa Park and environs was last seen 11 Mar (W. Kuehn).

Northern Pintail—An unusual "white-cheeked" individual was at Cochiti Dam 4 Apr (WHH\*\*).

Green-winged Teal—Late for the south was an ad. male at Columbus 29 May (SOW).

<u>Surf Scoter</u>—An apparent female was at Springer L. 28 Apr (DJC\*\*). A female/juv. was at EBL 10 Mar (SJD\*).

Long-tailed Duck—One was at Ute L. 12 Mar (JEP\*).

**Barrow's Goldeneye**—A female was east to Stubblefield L. 13 Mar (DJC\*) where one had been reported in Jan.

**Osprey**—Migrants were found statewide, including such fishless places as El Morro 10 Apr (CJG), near Pie Town 18 Apr (SOW), and the Peloncillo Mts. 6 Apr (CDL). At the Sandia Mts. hawkwatch site, 77 were counted during the period 24 Mar-5 Apr (HWI). Sixteen pairs were nesting in northern New Mexico by mid-May (DWS).

**Mississippi Kite**—Continued to colonize villages, woodlots, and golf courses in the east, including 4 at Nara Visa 21 May (JRO) and one at Kenna 10 May (BDN, DAE); at least 5 were in the Conchas Dam area 8 may (CMR) while in the middle RGV one to 2 were near Bernalillo 21 May (RHD), Corrales 23 May (WHH), and Peralta 28 May (E. Nuñez).

<u>Gray Hawk</u>—An ad. at a ranch NE of Rodeo 25 Apr (REW\*) provided a local first. Two were in Guadalupe Canyon 24 Apr (RDB, NDP, RLV).

**Common Black-Hawk**—Continued to appear east and north of historic range, including a pair at Santa Rosa 7 May (JK), one on the upper Pecos R. near Sena, *San Miguel* 21 Apr (JPD), and a nest on the Canadian R. near Sabinoso 13 Apr (JDA). Noteworthy for

the RGV were 2 at Escondida 29 Mar (NSC). Two were at Katfish Kove, where the Mimbres R. goes underground, 17 & 20 Apr (LKM).

Harris's Hawk—One was north in the RGV to Luis Lopez 14-24 Mar (JRO\*\*).

**Swainson's Hawk**—Arrived on schedule, with nearly simultaneous reports from numerous locales, including Cotton City, Deming, BLNWR, Ute L., and Clayton 26-31 Mar (v.o.). About 80 were in a Bosque NWR field 10 Apr (JEP).

Golden Eagle—Late for the prairie was one south of Portales 20 May (PEL).

Merlin—Latest were singles south of Capulin 8 Apr (WHH) and at the Sandia hawkwatch site 21 Apr (HWI).

**Aplomado Falcon**—A pair engaged in courtship and copulation was observed in southern *Luna* on several dates 18 Apr-28 May (RAM et al.). One was described over the eastern Guadalupe Mts., *Eddy* 7 May (KC\*).

Northern Bobwhite—A vocal one at Santa Fe 23 Mar (SLM\*\*) likely was an escapee.

Common Moorhen—One north to Isleta, *Bernalillo* 7 & 18 May (BDN, DAE, JRO).

Sandhill Crane—Late singles were at BLNWR 16 Apr (JEP) and Maxwell 29 Apr (DJC).

Black-bellied Plover—Two at Maxwell 3 May (DJC) provided the only report.

American Golden-Plover—One was at Zuni 26 Mar (CJG\*).

**Snowy Plover**—Several were found away from traditional areas, including 2 at Ute L. 17 May (DJC), 4 at Hudson L., *Quay* 24 May (DJC), and 2 at Tucumcari L. 25 May (WFW). At BLNWR, 15 were present 10 Mar (GLW); high counts there were 160 on 14 Apr and 150 on 26 May (GLW).

**Killdeer**—Two ads. were with 4 half-grown chicks at the Bandelier NM sewage lagoons, *Sandoval* 10 May (SMF).

**Mountain Plover**—Surveys for other species found 29 Mountain Plovers at 14 sites in western *Union* 27 Mar-7 Apr (S. Fellows, CMR, WHH). At least one chick was among 14 ads. at Vermejo Ranch 26 May (DJC\*\*). Two chicks were at Santo Domingo 18 May (JNS). A migrant flock of 37 was seen southwest of Deming 16 Mar (*fide* RAM).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Artificial wetlands provided habitat for 6 nests at the Sunland Park racetrack infield 12 May (JNP), 2 nests at the Lordsburg sewage ponds 21 May (AMC, NM-C), and one nest at the Columbus sewage ponds 29 May (SOW).

**Solitary Sandpiper**—Peripheral were singles at Katfish Kove 23 Apr (JRO) and Tyrone 3 May (ERL); high count was 4 at Santa Fe 26 Apr (JNS).

Willet—Unusual were 3 at Mountainair 29 Apr (JRO). High count was 84 at Bosque NWR 23 Apr (JEP).

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**Upland Sandpiper**—One was at the Bluit Prairie Chicken Area near Causey, *Roosevelt* 5 May (TM).

Whimbrel—A good season found one at Bosque NWR 17 Apr (JEP\*, JRO\*\*), 2 at Maxwell NWR 24 Apr (DJC), and 3 each at Morgan L. 30 Apr (JR\*\*) and Springer L. 30 May (CMR).

**Long-billed Curlew**—A migrant flock of 90 was in a field near Percha SP 20 Mar (JEP); 148 were at Maxwell NWR 24 Apr (DJC). Noteworthy for the northwest were singles at the Navajo Agricultural Production area 25 Apr (JR\*\*) and Morgan L. 30 Apr (APN).

Hudsonian Godwit—Singles were at Bosque NWR 9 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*) and BLNWR 12 May (JEP\*).

**Marbled Godwit**—An impressive 81 were grounded by a storm at Maxwell NWR 24 Apr (DJC).

**<u>Ruddy Turnstone</u>**—Nicely documented was an ad. at Maxwell NWR 10 May (DJC\*\*).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—Well documented were 2 at Belen 4 May (RDB\*, NDP\*).

Western Sandpiper—Peak at BLNWR was 1208 on 24 Apr (GLW).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—Three were at BLNWR 14 May (JEP+) and 8 were there 15 May (JEP+).

**Dunlin**—Latest migrants were 6 at BLNWR 9 Apr (WHH), one at Holloman L. 19 Apr (MTS\*, JEZ\*\*), and one at Morgan L. 30 Apr (JR\*\*).

<u>**Red Phalarope**</u>—One in winter/basic plumage at Stinking L. 8 May (DWS\*) and another in winter/basic plumage at BLNWR 8 May (BDN\*, DAE\*).

Laughing Gull—A first-year bird was at the Clovis sewage ponds 28 May (JEP\*).

**Franklin's Gull**—West of usual were 35 at Buckhorn 21 Apr (ERL), 22 at Tyrone 25 Apr (ERL), and 3 at the Lordsburg Playa 17 Apr (ERL).

Mew Gull—An ad. was at Stubblefield L. 14-19 May (DJC\*\*).

**California Gull**—High count was 18 at Stinking L. 8 May (DWS). Two were at Eagle Nest L. 28 May (DJC).

**Caspian Tern**—Singles were at Cochiti L. 18 Apr (MMR\*) and Clovis 20 May (JRO\*\*, SGM\*\*, PEL).

**Forster's Tern**—Unusually high counts occurred on 28 Apr, with 79 at Cochiti L. (MLW) and 51 at Springer L. (DJC). Late were one at Stubblefield L. 31 May (DJC) and 2 at BLNWR 31 May (SOW).

**Least Tern**—Wandering were one at Bosque NWR 15 Apr (JRO) and 2 there 17 Apr (JEP) plus singles at Kenna 17 Apr (JRO) and Clovis 28 May (JEP). Up to 5 were at Brantley L. 21 May (JEP), where the species summered in 2003.

**Band-tailed Pigeon**—One was in the lower RGV at Radium Springs 1 May (MTS, JEZ\*\*).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—The species has completed its conquest of New Mexico, with reports this season from *San Juan* east to *Union* and south to *Hidalgo* and *Lea*; it is now conspicuous in most every city, town, and village as well as ranches, farms and other isolated sites, e.g., 3 at the "Middle of Nowhere Bar" at Nutt, *Luna* 30 May (SOW).

**White-winged Dove**—North were several at Farmington and Blanco during the season (APN) plus up to 2 at Maxwell 20-28 Apr (DJC\*\*).

**Inca Dove**—The species is now established in the RGV from Albuquerque south; north was a pair at Cerrillos 1 Apr (LAS).

**Common Ground-Dove**—A female was near Rincon 9 May (MTS\*, JEZ\*\*). Three were at a farm northeast of Rodeo 25 Apr (REW+).

**<u>Ruddy Ground-Dove</u>**—An ad. male was at Deming 14 Apr (LKM\*).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Peripheral were singles at Galisteo 29 May (JPB), Clayton L. 31 May (CMR), and NRT 16 & 23 May (JEP).

<u>**Groove-billed Ani**</u>—One at Milnesand 30 Apr (K. Bailey\*, E. R. Thompson\*, P. Whiting\*) was the first for New Mexico since 1994.

Barn Owl—A nest was found at a Rodeo cotton gin 8 May (RAR).

**Eastern Screech-Owl**—The state-first individual, present at Portales since Nov 2003, was seen by many during the season, including 19 May (JRO\*\*), vocal on 22 May (JEP\*, CMR\*), and still present on 30 May (BDN+).

**Whiskered Screech-Owl**—Surveys in the Peloncillo Mts. found 8 territories in Clanton Canyon and one territory in Cottonwood Canyon 13 Apr (SOW) and 7 territories in Skeleton Canyon 2 May (SOW).

**Elf Owl**—Up to 3 were in Dark Canyon, *Eddy* 31 May, where some 30 nest boxes were installed to assist that pioneering population (R. W. Dickerman).

**Barred Owl**—Nicely documented, and long overdue, was state-first one at Galisteo 29 May (JPB\*\*); the apparently lone individual remained into Jun.

Long-eared Owl—A pair was in Skull Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 30 Mar (EMR).

**Lesser Nighthawk**—Considerably north of known range, up to 4 were seen and heard trilling at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 8 May (CMR\*) & 25 May (WFW\*). Four were in Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 28 May (CDL), where it was noted that

this low desert breeder arrived in the evenings to forage. First of season were 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 17 Apr (JEP).

**Common Nighthawk**—First of season reports, all on 8 May, were one at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam (CMR), 2 at Fort Sumner (JEP), and one at Rock Hound SP, *Luna* (LKM).

**Whip-poor-will**—North were a vocal 2 in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo* 17 May (JEP) and one or more in the Manzano Mts. 19 May (JDA).

**Chimney Swift**—Small numbers at four eastern locales: one at Clayton 31 May (CMR), one at Clovis 19 May (WFW) and 3 there 28 May (JEP), 4 at Portales 13 May (BDN) and 2 there 22 May (JEP), and one at Roswell's New Mexico Military Institute 12 May (JEP).

**White-throated Swift**—Noteworthy for the lowland desert location were some 1000 at the Deming Waste Water Plant 14 Apr (LKM).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—North in the Peloncillo Mts. was an ad. male at Post Office Canyon 30 Mar-31 May (CDL) and 4 in Skeleton Canyon 8 May (DJ *fide* AMC).

**Lucifer Hummingbird**—Returned to Post Office Canyon 28 Mar, where up to 5 males and 2 females were present by 30 Apr (CDL). A female at Carlsbad 19-20 Apr (SW\*) was the first from Eddy to be reported to NMOS.

**Black-chinned Hummingbird**—Earliest were singles in Post Office Canyon 20 Mar (CDL) and at Deming 29 Mar (LKM).

Costa's Hummingbird—Undetailed was one in Guadalupe Canyon 24 Apr (RLV).

<u>Calliope Hummingbird</u>—Historically, neither Calliope nor Rufous hummingbirds were expected in spring in New Mexico, but recently this has been changing; this spring found an ad. male Calliope at Deming 11 Apr (LKM\*).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—As with Calliope, Rufous was historically unexpected in spring, but this season produced an ad. male at Deming 19 Apr (LKM\*) and several that passed through Post Office Canyon 27 Mar-21 Apr, including 3 males and 2 females there on 19 Apr (CDL).

**Belted Kingfisher**—Suggestive of local breeding were one at Corrales 23 May (WHH) and 2 at Albuquerque's Central Avenue bridge 30 May (JEP).

**Lewis's Woodpecker**—Far south was one being chased by Acorn Woodpeckers in Clanton Canyon 14 Apr (SOW). The one that wintered at Deming was last seen 30 Apr (LKM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—In locales where seldom reported were 2 each below Conchas Dam 8 May (CMR), near Santa Rosa 19 May (WFW), and Seneca 31 May (CMR).

Acorn Woodpecker—Far east, and a first for *Lea*, was one flycatching in an elm grove at Tatum 20 May (JRO\*\*, SGM\*\*, PEL). Others of note included one at a Santa Fe *NMOSFN* 43:2 (Spring 2004) 25 1 March – 31 May 2004

feeder 27 May (MMR) and one or more north to Cedar Springs CG southwest of Dulce, *Rio Arriba* 20 May (J. Beason).

Red-naped Sapsucker—Late for the locale was one at Tyrone 23 May (ERL).

**Arizona Woodpecker**—Pairs were in 4 canyons in the seldom visited northern Peloncillo Mts. this season, including a nest in Brushy Canyon 13 May (CDL).

Three-toed Woodpecker—One was at Iron Gate CG north of Pecos 20 Apr (JDA).

Yellow-shafted Flicker—An apparent male was at NRT 10 Mar (JNS).

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet**—At least one was in Guadalupe Canyon on various dates 24 Apr-8 May (v.o.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher—Early was one at Rattlesnake Springs 21 Apr (WHH).

**Greater Pewee**—Unexpected in the Peloncillo Mts., one made a brief stop in the Post Office Canyon area 10 May (CDL). Notably early, if accurate, was an undetailed one reported near McMillan CG, Pinos Altos Mts. 8 Apr (CJG).

Least Flycatcher—Rare in spring, one was at Boone's Draw 15 May (CB).

**Gray Flycatcher**—Noteworthy for the Guadalupe Mts. was a pair nest-building near Queen 7-8 May (KC); the species continues to expand south and east of historic range.

**Black Phoebe**—Only recently established north to *San Juan* and *Colfax*, the species returned to Farmington 10 Mar (APN), Springer 19 Mar (DJC), and near Cimarron by 17 Apr (DJC). A pair was nest-building under a bridge at Springer 20 May (DJC).

**Eastern Phoebe**—Unusually conspicuous in western *Union*, where there were 2 pairs plus 8 singing males in the Folsom area 7 Apr (WHH).

Say's Phoebe—One returned to Maxwell on 2 Mar (DJC).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—The species maintained its beachhead in the northeast, with 8 in the Conchas Dam area 8 May (CMR, WFW); elsewhere in the east, singles were at Sumner Dam 20 May (MMR), Tolar 21 Mar (JDA) & 31 May (BDN, DAE), and Milnesand 18 Apr (CMR). An ad. male was north to Ranchos de Taos 7 May (GFO).

Great Kiskadee—One visited Rattlesnake Springs 16 May (SW\*, CB\*, JB\*).

**Thick-billed Kingbird**—Two were near the ranch house in upper Guadalupe Canyon 8 May (AM).

**Eastern Kingbird**—Rare south to *Roosevelt* in spring, singles were at NRT 20 May (SGM) and 23 May (JEP) and 3 were at Boone's Draw 29 May (JEP).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—West was one in *San Miguel* 8 May (WFW); another was reported on Otero Mesa in May (*fide* PRS). Noteworthy were 8 in the Floyd/Portales area 13 May (JEP). An active nest was near Eunice 21 May (JPD).

Loggerhead Shrike—A nest with 4 young was found on Otero Mesa 3 May (LAS).

Northern Shrike—An ad. was in the Maxwell area 19 Mar (DJC).

<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>—One was at NRT 30 Apr-3 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, WHH\*); another was at BLNWR 16 May (JEP\*).

**Bell's Vireo**—North in the RGV were one at La Joya 28 May (JPD) and singles at Bosque NWR 24 Apr (DLH), 18 May (DLH), & 28 May (CMB\*).

**Black-capped Vireo**—A singing ad. male at NRT 1-2 May (J. Sandberg, JEP\*, ELC\*\*, JRO\*\*, LPG\*\*, +) was the first to be confirmed in New Mexico.

Gray Vireo—One was singing in the Ortiz Mts., Santa Fe 23 May (DW fide LAS).

<u>Yellow-throated Vireo</u>—A male was singing near RGNC 24-30 May (MRG\*, sketch MR, JEP\*).

Cassin's Vireo—Earliest was one at Emory Pass, Grant 10 Apr (JEP+).

**Red-eyed Vireo**—At least one was at NRT on various dates 14-25 May (JEP, BDN, JRO, MMR, JPB).

**Blue Jay**—Two in the riparian zone along the Gallinas R. at Las Vegas 20 May (WFW) suggested the species may have colonized that city.

**Chihuahuan Raven**—An albino was west of Portales 30 Apr (JEP) & 1 May (JRO\*\*), where one had been seen in Feb.

**Purple Martin**—Two migrants were at Isleta 8 Apr (JRO). Maintaining their presence in the Sangre de Cristo Mts., 9 were near Raton 7 May (DJC).

**Tree Swallow**—About 10 at Eagle Nest 1 May (DJC), with a pair at a nest box there 15 May (DJC).

Violet-green Swallow—Far east was one at NRT 9 May (CMR).

**Cave Swallow**—One was at Radium Springs 14 Mar (MTS, JEZ). Seven were roosting under a bridge south of Malaga 7 Mar (SJD).

**Black-capped x Mountain Chickadee**—One of these hybrids was in the Coralles bosque 21 Mar (WHH).

**Mexican Chickadee**—In the Animas Mts., 7 were in the Indian Cr. Canyon/Aspen Spring area 8 May (RAR, AMC), while a pair was on Cistern Saddle and one was along Black Bill Trail 29 May (NM-C).

Bridled Titmouse—Two were at Katfish Kove 28 Mar & one was there 23 Apr (JRO).

**Bushtit**—A pair was building a nest in an exotic pine on Albuquerque's formerly treeless West Mesa near Paradise Hills 30 Mar (WHH).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Noteworthy for the Animas Mts. were 3 at Aspen Spring 8 May (AMC, RAR) and one there 29 May (NM-C).

White-breasted Nuthatch—One at Corrales 21 Mar (WHH\*) was singing a "slow song," suggestive of the eastern subspecies *S. c. carolinensis*.

Carolina Wren—One was singing at Los Lunas 15-30 Apr (DLH).

House Wren—A vocal one at Percha SP 20 Mar (JEP) likely wintered locally.

Winter Wren—Singles at Belen 2 Mar (WFW) and Rattlesnake Springs 30 Mar (SW).

Marsh Wren—One was singing below Conchas Dam 25 May (WFW).

American Dipper—A ad. and three fledglings were near Pilar, *Taos* 12 May (J. Beason). A pair was nest-building along the Catwalk on Whitewater Cr. near Glenwood 21 Mar (BDN, CMR).

**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**—Two were north in the RGV to the South Highlands area of EBL 10 Apr (JEP), where recently dependable. In the southwest, one was in the Little Hatchet Mts. 7 May (LKM) and a pair was at Hatchet Gap 28 May (SOW). In the southeast, 2 were in West Slaughter Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., 8 May (KC).

**Eastern Bluebird**—This species has quietly colonized the RGV, with recent breeding reports from *Santa Fe* south to *Doña Ana*; this season, one was inspecting cavities at Corrales 7 Mar (WHH) and a pair was there 23 May (CMR), a pair was tending fledglings at RGNC 13-16 May (JNS, CMB, RHD), and a pair near Radium Springs nested in an agave stalk, feeding nestlings there 1-2 May (MTS\*, JEZ\*\*).

<u>Gray-cheeked Thrush</u>—With only about 3 satisfactory records (one confirmed), this is our rarest thrush; this season, one was described at Amistad 19 May (PEL\*, SGM\*) and another was detailed at NRT 17 May (M. A. Patten\*) & 23 May (CB\*).

Varied Thrush—A first for *Torrance* was a male at Torreon 11 Apr (V. L. Murphy\*).

**Gray Catbird**—One in Post Office Canyon 7 May (CDL) provided a local first. Noteworthy for the lower RGV was one singing in Selden Canyon near Rincon 17 May (MTS, JEZ). Late was one at Bosque Redondo 23 & 28 May (JEP).

**Brown Thrasher**—High count was 4 at Bosque Redondo 23 May (JEP). One was west to Galisteo Cr. 29 Mar-25 Apr (A. Finner, LAS).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—Single nests with nestlings were at Logan 22 Apr (DJC) and Otero Mesa north of the Cornudas Mts. 4 May (LAS).

**Crissal Thrasher**—North of expected range was one at Tesuque 23 Mar (S. Tanner\*). Noteworthy for *Chaves* were 2, apparently a pair, at BLNWR 16 Apr (JEP). A nest with

3 eggs was at Petroglyph NM 23 May (HRS); a nest with a hatchling and an egg was in P. O. Canyon 25 May (CDL).

**Sprague's Pipit**—Unusual for the extremely late date and the locale was a possible Sprague's described at a corral in the Valles Caldera, *Sandoval* 13 May (T Hodapp\*).

**Cedar Waxwing**—Among the numerous late-lingering ones were 4 at NRT 15 May (BDN), 40 at Socorro 25 May (JEP), 18 at Bernalillo (not Bernardo as reported in *NAB* 58:412) 28 May (RHD), and 30 at Albuquerque 30 May (JEP).

**Phainopepla**—North for the season in the RGV were singles at Sevilleta NWR 27 May (WHH), San Acacia 26 May (RHD), and Luis Lopez 15 May (JRO). North in the Pecos Valley were a female at BLNWR 7 May (JRO) and a male there 8 May (GLW) & 28 May (JEP).

**Olive Warbler**—At least 6 were in the Jack's Peak area of the Burro Mts. 27 Mar (JRO), where 3 were found 15-16 Apr (SOW) & 27-28 Apr (JPD).

<u>Blue-winged Warbler</u>—A male was near Tijeras 1-2 May (CMB\*, JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

<u>Golden-winged Warbler</u>—Unprecedented were reports of 6 singles at six locales during the period 8-26 May: a singing ad. male on Galisteo Cr. at Galisteo 22 May (JPB\*), an ad. male at RGNC 12 May (CMB\*, sketch MR\*), a female at Socorro 8 May (JWS\*, BDN\*, DAE\*, DLH), a female at NRT 13 May (JEP\*), a female at Clovis 19 May (WFW), and a male at Rattlesnake Springs 13 May (BDN\*, DAE\*) and an undetailed one still there 26 May (RLV *fide* SW).

**Tennessee Warbler**—Singles were on Galisteo Cr. 20 May (JPB\*) and at NRT 16 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*).

**Virginia's Warbler**—One was singing in the Black Range near Kingston on the early date of 10 Apr (JEP).

**Lucy's Warbler**—Earliest reported was one at Columbus 18 Mar (B&DM). Five were singing along Percha Cr. in the Hillsboro area 20 Mar (JEP). Noteworthy was one in the Little Hatchet Mts. 28 May (SOW). One singing at Bosque NWR 23 Apr (JEP) was at the northern fringe of the RGV distribution.

**Northern Parula**—Four reports with details during the period 8-25 May: a female near Madrid 8 May (BRF\*), a singing male south of San Marcial 20 May (RHD\*), a female at NRT 25 May (JPB\*), and a singing male at Rattlesnake Springs 16 May (CB\*); undetailed was one reported at Bosque NWR 4 Apr (*fide* PRS).

**Yellow Warbler**—Singles were singing at Redrock 26 Mar (JEP, JRO) and in the middle Animas Valley 26 Mar (JEP, JRO). The 22 at Clayton L. 31 May (CMR) was an unusually high number for there.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—The species made a surprisingly strong showing, with singles at six locales in five counties during the period 2-21 May: one at RGNC 2 May (KCS\*), a male at Socorro 7-9 May (BDN\*, DAE\*, CMB\*, JEP\*, JRO\*), one at Vaughn 16 May

(JRO\*\*), one at NRT 7 & 20 May (JRO\*, PEL\*, SGM\*), a singing male at Boone's Draw 21 May (JRO\*, PEL\*, SGM\*\*), and a male at Rattlesnake Springs 15 May (JEP\*).

Magnolia Warbler—A female was at NRT 25 May (JPB\*).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**—A female was at Mesilla 5 Apr (B&DM\*) and another female was at NRT 19 May (PEL\*).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler**—Earliest was a male singing in Clanton Canyon (not Kingston as reported in *NAB* 58:412) 27 Mar (JEP).

Black-throated Green Warbler—A bright male was at Boone's Draw 23 May (CB\*).

**Hermit Warbler**—Scarce in spring, single migrants were in the Jack's Peak area of the Burro Mts. 27 Apr (JPD\*) and in Skeleton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 8 May (DJ *fide* AMC), the latter traveling with a flock of Bushtits.

**Grace's Warbler**—Earliest were 3 in the Burro Mts. 8 Apr (R. Wilcox). Noteworthy for *Luna* was a migrant at Katfish Kove 20 Apr (LKM). A high 17 were counted along a 1.5 mile transect in Barro Canyon, Sandia Mts. 27 Apr (HRS).

**Palm Warbler**—Four reports from four counties during 16-28 Apr: one of the western subspecies at Eldorado 28 Apr (G. Johnson), a yellow ad. representing the eastern subspecies at Hudson L. between Logan and Tucumcari 22 Apr (DJC\*), one at BLNWR 23 Apr (GLW\*), and a western one at Rattlesnake Springs 16 Apr (JEP\*).

Blackpoll Warbler — A male was well-described at Rattlesnake Springs 9 May (KC\*).

**Black-and-white Warbler**—Singles were at six sites in five counties: Quarai 8 May (KCS *fide* HRS), Percha SP 25 Apr (RDB, NDP, RLV), Leasburg SP 23 Apr (L. Schulte), NRT 7 & 19 May (JRO), Portales 23 Apr (JDA), and Rattlesnake Springs 16 May (CB).

American Redstart—Singles reported from nine sites in nine counties from the RGV eastward during the period 1-26 May: a female at Socorro 1 May (BRF\*), a singing male at Radium Springs 6-7 May (MTS, JEZ), a young male on Galisteo Cr. 20 May (JPB), one at Vaughn 16 May (JRO), a young male at Sumner Dam 20 May (MMR), one at Amistad 21 May (PEL, SGM), a young male at Ute L. 24 May (DJC\*\*), a young male at NRT 21 May (JRO, PEL, SGM), and one at Rattlesnake Springs 26 May (*fide* SW).

**Prothonotary Warbler**—Singles were on Galisteo Cr. 22 May (JPB\*) and at Percha SP 26 May (GJE\*).

**Ovenbird**—Singles reported from Galisteo Cr. 18 May (JPB), Madrid 13 May (LAS), Corrales 9 May (CMR), Fort Sumner and Bosque Redondo 24 May (JPB), and NRT on various dates 8-24 May (m.ob.).

**Northern Waterthrush**—Noteworthy were reports from Yeso 16 May (JRO) and Tryone 1 May (ERL).

**Hooded Warbler**—A female was at Hillsboro 30 Apr (BRF\*). A singing male was at NRT 20-21 May (JRO\*\*, PEL\*, SGM, JEP\*, MMR); undetailed was a possible female there 30 May (BDN, DAE).

**Painted Redstart**—Noteworthy for *Luna* was a migrant at Katfish Kove 28 Mar (JRO). A fledgling was among adults in Indian Cr. Canyon, Animas Mts. 29 May (NM-C).

<u>Golden-crowned Warbler</u>—Providing a New Mexico first, and the first United States record away from southern Texas, was one at NRT 8-10 May (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, WHH\*\*, BDN\*, DAE\*, LKM\*, RHD\*\*, K. & J. Havlena\*).

**Summer Tanager**—Singles were north to Pump Canyon near Navajo Dam 25 May (T. Reeves), Galisteo Cr. 20 May (JPB), and Nara Visa 21 May (PEL, SGM).

Scarlet Tanager—A female was 1 mile northeast of Seneca 21 May (JRO\*, PEL\*, SGM\*).

Western Tanager—East was one on Ute Cr. north of Farley 30 May (CMR).

Green-tailed Towhee—Late for the eastern plains was one at Pep 13 May (BDN, DAE).

**American Tree Sparrow**—The one that wintered south to RGNC was last seen 7 Mar (JEP). In the north, last reported were 5 at Springer L. 17 Mar (DJC).

**Clay-colored Sparrow**—Noteworthy for the southwest was one at a Silver City feeder in Apr (DAZ, MAZ).

Field Sparrow—Three were at Oasis SP 30 Apr (JRO) and one there 1 May (JEP).

**Black-chinned Sparrow**—Far northeast of expected range was one at Amistad 21 May (JRO\*\*, PEL, SGM\*\*). Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* was one singing south of Madrid 8 May (BRF).

**Vesper Sparrow**—Considered common in open rabbitbrush plains in the Zuni Mts, with a nest with 3 young at Bluewater 27 May (HRS).

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—An estimated 180 singing in exotic lovegrass in the Broadview area, n. *Curry* 12-14 Apr were believed to be migrants (TM).

**Fox Sparrow**—Single reddish ones were at Katfish Kove 28 Mar (JRO\*\*) and Rattlesnake Springs 8 Mar (SJD).

Harris's Sparrow—One that wintered at Gila, *Grant* was last seen there 18 Apr (A. Gant).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—One was at Alameda 25 Apr (ELC).

**Yellow-eyed Junco**—Three returned to the Jack's Peak area of the Burro Mts. by 15-16 Apr (SOW), with at least two territories there 27-28 Apr (JPD). In the Animas Mts., a pair plus 2 singing males were noted 21 May (AMC, NM-C).

**Northern Cardinal**—Eight were north to the Conchas Dam/Clabber Hill Ranch area 8 May (CMR, WFW), two males were along the Canadian R. between mileposts 88 & 89 on NM 104 25 May (WFW), and one was along the Pecos R. at milepost 5 on NM 91 south of Santa Rosa 19 May (WFW).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Blanketed the eastern two-thirds of the state 6-31 May, with reports from *Taos, Colfax, Union, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Guadalupe, DeBaca, Roosevelt, Socorro, Lincoln, Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy,* and *Lea* (m.ob.), plus an early male at Luis Lopez 5 Apr (JRO). Farther west, one was at Kirtland 19-20 May (C. Shryock) and 6 apparently different individuals passed through Post Office Canyon 7-30 May (CDL).

**Varied Bunting**—One returned to Guadalupe Canyon by 8 May (AM). In the Guadalupe Mts., a pair was near Slaughter Cave 8 May (KC) and one was singing along Walnut Canyon 22 May (JEP).

**Painted Bunting**—Astonishingly early was a male at Bloomfield 1 Apr (JR). Also north of expected were a male at Santa Fe 24 May (JNS\*) and 3 along the Canadian R. below Conchas Dam 8 & 25 May (CMR, WFW). In *Doña Ana*, where now regular in the breeding season, a pair was near Rincon 17 & 24 May (MTS, JEZ).

**Dickcissel**—Early was a female at Bosque NWR 30 Apr (J&MH\*). Others were 2 at LVNWR 30 May (CMR), Fort Sumner 31 May (SOW), and NRT 31 May (JEP).

**Eastern Meadowlark**—North to *Colfax* were up to 2 singing at Philmont 6-28 May (audiotape DJC).

**Common Grackle**—Singles were west to Animas 8 May (AM) and Cotton City 31 May (G. Smith *fide* AMC).

**Bronzed Cowbirds**—North were a male at Albuquerque 25 May (A. Armstrong\*) and a pair at Ned Houk Park north of Clovis 19 May (WFW).

Orchard Oriole—North was a pair nest-building at Ute L. 24 May (DJC\*\*).

Baltimore Oriole—One described as a young female was at Maxwell 25 May (DJC\*\*).

**Scott's Oriole**—Earliest were singles in Post Office Canyon 20 Mar (CDL) and Clanton Canyon 27 Mar (JEP). North were a pair near Eldorado 4 May (MMR) and a male at Madrid 18 May (JRO).

Cassin's Finch—Extremely scarce; apparently absent from most traditional areas.

Red Crossbill—Scarce; 12 in the Magdalena Mts. 8 May (BDN, DAE) the high count.

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Published 14 September 2006



# **NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**