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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: White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*). This alpine tundra-inhabiting grouse reaches its southernmost limit in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mts., where it is listed as endangered by New Mexico. Historically found on all the higher peaks of the range, it was nearly extirpated by unrestricted killing and habitat degradation from grazing. A 1981 transplant of Colorado birds to the southern peaks was successful, and the species now occurs in most of the historic range. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman.

WINTER SEASON 2005-2006

Winter 2005-06 brought a return to serious drought conditions throughout much of New Mexico, and unseasonably warm temperatures were recorded in January and February. Diligent birding, however, resulted in a good season for vagrant waterbirds and unexpected winter holdovers, turned up remarkable numbers of mimids in many areas and grassland species in the south, and culminated with a well-publicized Yellow Grosbeak at Albuquerque that attracted hundreds of bird enthusiasts from throughout the country and beyond.

Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, *Doña Ana*
Alamogordo, *Otero*
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*
Algodones, *Sandoval*
Animas, Mts., Valley, *Hidalgo*
Belen, *Valencia*
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*
Brantley Lake, *Eddy*
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Carlsbad, *Eddy*
Carlsbad Caverns NP, *Eddy*
Charette Lake, *Mora*
Cimarron, Canyon, *Colfax*
Clabber Hill Ranch, *San Miguel*
Clayton, Lake, *Union*
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, *Grant*
Columbus, *Luna*
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, *Sandoval*
Conchas Lake, Dam, *San Miguel*
Corona, *Lincoln*
Corrales, *Sandoval*
Datil, *Catron*
Dixon, *Rio Arriba*
Deming, *Luna*
Eagle Nest, Lake, *Colfax*
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, *Sierra*
Española, *Rio Arriba*
Farmington, Lake, *San Juan*
Florida Mts., *Luna*
Fort Sumner, *DeBaca*
Gila, Gila Bird Area, *Grant*
Hachita, *Grant*
Hatch, *Doña Ana*
Jal, *Lea*
Kirtland, *San Juan*
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*
Lake Roberts, *Grant*
La Luz, *Otero*
Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*
Las Vegas, NWR, *San Miguel*
Los Lunas, *Valencia*
Loving, *Eddy*
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*
Maddox Lake, *Lea*
Madrid, *Santa Fe*
Malaga, *Eddy*
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*
Mescalero Lake, *Otero*
Mesilla, Park, Dam, Valley, *Doña Ana*
Mora, *Mora*
Morgan Lake, *San Juan*
Mosquero, *Harding*
Navajo Dam, *San Juan*
Orilla Verde, *Taos*
Pecos, *San Miguel*
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*
Peña Blanca, *Sandoval*
Percha SP, *Sierra*
Pilar, *Taos*
Pinos Altos Mts., *Grant*
Post Office Canyon, *Hidalgo*
Questa, *Taos*
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*
Ranchos de Taos, *Taos*
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*
Redrock, *Grant*
Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*
Rio Rancho, *Sandoval*
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*
Roswell, *Chaves*
Ruidoso, *Lincoln*
San Acacia, *Socorro*
San Antonio, *Socorro*
Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*
Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
San Lorenzo, *Grant*

Santa Fe, *Santa Fe*
 Santa Rosa, Lake, *Guadalupe*
 Santa Teresa, *Doña Ana*
 Seven Rivers WMA, *Eddy*
 Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*
 Silver City, *Grant*
 Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*
 Socorro, *Socorro*
 Springer, Lake, *Colfax*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*

Sugarite SP, *Colfax*
 Sumner Lake, *DeBaca*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Trigg Ranch, *San Miguel*
 Tucumcari, Lake, *Quay*
 Tyrone, *Grant*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Valmora, *Mora*
 Whites City, *Eddy*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

Standard Abbreviations

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

Initialed Observers

JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	APN	Alan P. Nelson
MJB	Matt J. Baumann	BDN	Bruce D. Neville
DJB	David J. Beatty	GFO	G. Frank Oatman
SMB	Sherry M. Bixler	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JEP	John E. Parmeter
DJC	David J. Cleary	JNP	James N. Paton
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
SWC	Steven W. Cox	ALP	Anita L. Powell
AMC	Alan M. Craig	MMR	Mary M. Ristow
CCC	Craig C. Cranston	AJR	Andrew J. Rominger
JD-M	Joan Day-Martin	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
RHD	Robert H. Doster	JMR	Janet M. Ruth
DME	Deanna M. Einspahr	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
GJE	Gordon J. Ewing	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
TWF	Trevor W. Fetz	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	JWS	John W. Shipman
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	RSS	Roland S. Shook
DJG	David J. Griffin	DWS	Dale W. Stahlecker
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JAT	John A. Trochet
TJH	Tom J. Hines	BV	Brad Vaughn
WHH	William H. Howe	NV	Nick Vaughn
JMH	Jeff M. Howland	GLW	Gordon L. Warrick
CAH	Charles A. Hundertmark	MLW	Mark L. Watson
JK	James Krakowski	REW	Richard E. Webster
DJK	David J. Krueper	SW	Steve West
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	WFW	William F. West
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	EMW	Elton M. Williams
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad	SOW	S. O. Williams III
MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
LKM	Larry K. Malone	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
RAM	Raymond A. Meyer	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
TM	Tim Mitchusson	MAZ	Marian A. Zimmerman
JBM	James B. Montgomery		
NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—High counts were 6 each at Maxwell NWR 6 Dec (DJC**), Clayton 14 Dec (CMR+), and Albuquerque 12 Feb (WHH); others included 3 at BLNWR on various dates 3 Dec-4 Jan (JEP, JRO, GLW), 2 at Bosque NWR 17 Dec (WHH*), and one at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 1 Feb (WFW).

Snow Goose—Blue morphs are relatively rare, so noteworthy were 201 among some 23,000 Snows at Bosque NWR 17 Dec (DLH); other blues included one among 175 whites at Farmington 17 Dec (APN+), one among 129 whites at Sevilleta NWR 16 Dec (NSC, SWC+), and 7 among 26 whites at Clayton 14 Dec (CMR+).

Ross's Goose—At least one ad. blue morph was at Bosque NWR 10 Dec (BDN) & 31 Dec (MTS, JEZ); 2 blue morphs there 9 Jan (BRZ**) were possibly hybrids with Snow Goose.

Cackling Goose—West was one at Bluewater L., *Cibola* 18 Dec (CMR).

Bar-headed Goose—The apparent escapee found in the Bosque NWR area since mid-2006 was seen flying with Canada Geese north of San Antonio 12 Jan (TM).

Trumpeter Swan—Two made a brief stop at the diversion dam at Algodones 21 Dec (WFW, Jane Summers**).

Tundra Swan—Made a strong showing, with reports from eight locales from the RGV eastward, including up to 15 in the Maxwell area 6 Dec-11 Feb (MLW, JEP, DJC**), 6 at Tucumcari L. 9 Dec (JRO), 2 each at Charette L. 2 Dec (JRO) and LVNWR 16 Jan (WFW), and singles at Belen 2-5 Jan (JEP, CMR, JRO**), Bosque NWR 9-19 Dec (JEP, CGL), Sumner L. 8 Dec (JRO), and L. Avalon 24 Dec-8 Jan (JRO, SW, JPB, CGL), the latter found shot 27 Jan (SW).

Wood Duck—Reported on 14 CBCs, including 33 at Española 31 Dec (BRF+).

Eurasian Wigeon—A male was at Albuquerque's Mariposa Park 16 Dec-19 Feb (CGL**, WHH*, JEP*, DJK, BV, MTS, JEZ**).

Cinnamon Teal—Mid-winter reports included 4 on the Gila CBC 31 Dec (RSS+), 2 at Bosque NWR 14 Jan (CGL), and 6 at BLNWR 6 Jan (CGL) with 9 there 18 Jan (GLW).

Greater Scaup—Noteworthy for the upper RGV were 2 ad. males at Pilar 22-23 Dec (GFO*).

Long-tailed Duck—Singles were at EBL 3-6 Jan (B. A. Locke*) and Jal 10 Dec (JEP*).

Barrow's Goldeneye—Made an impressive showing east of the mountains in *Colfax*, *Mora*, and *San Miguel*, with up to 2 males and one female at Stubblefield L. 24 Dec-24 Feb (DJC**, JRO*, JEP*, CMR), a male at French L. east of Cimarron 18 Dec-27 Feb (DJC**, EMW), up to 2 males at Mora 20 & 23 Dec (EMW**), and a female at LVNWR 1 Dec (JRO**).

Red-breasted Merganser—High counts were 100 each at Ute L. 13 Feb (DJC**) and Brantley L. 6-8 Jan (JEP, CGL).

Ring-necked Pheasant—The 116 on the Avalon-Brantley CBC 23 Dec (SW+) was the largest number yet recorded there; the species was especially prevalent at adjacent Seven Rivers WMA (SW).

Wild Turkey—Demonstrating the questionable genetics of turkeys in the Rattlesnake Springs area were 4 pure white ones among 36 dark ones 15 Jan (SW).

Red-throated Loon—An apparent juv. at Conchas L. 10-19 Dec and again 1-24 Feb (JEP*, JRO**, MJB*, NDP*, WFW*) was believed to be the same individual. Another apparent juv. was at Brantley L. 12 Dec-3 Feb (JRO**, JEP*, MJB*, NDP*, WHH, CGL*, DJK, SW).

Pacific Loon—One or more were at Conchas L. 18 Dec (WFW) and 20-21 Feb (CMR, JEP*, JRO**, NDP*, MJB), but undetailed reports of a possible “Arctic Loon” there remained unconfirmed.

Yellow-billed Loon—An imm. was at Brantley L. 12 Dec-7 Jan (JRO**, MJB*, WHH**, JPB*, m.ob.).

Horned Grebe—Where seldom reported were one at Cochiti L. 15 Jan (JEP) & 2 there 1 Feb (WFW) and 3 at Mescalero L. 13 Dec (JRO).

Red-necked Grebe—Single imms. were at Cochiti L. 15 Dec-8 Jan (MJB*, NDP*, WFW, JRO**, CGL*, BDN) and at EBL Dam 8 Jan-3 Feb (BRZ**, MTS*, JEZ**, JRO**, CGL**, JEP*).

Aechmophorus grebes—Far north for winter were 730 at Morgan L. 2 Dec (APN) & 650 there 27 Jan (APN). High counts at EBL amounted to only 2770 on 6 Jan (MLW) & 2116 on 24 Jan (RHD), most of which were **Westerns**.

American White Pelican—Overwintered in the middle RGV and the lower Pecos Valley, including highs of 45 at EBL 6 Jan (MLW) and 81 in the Avalon-Brantley area 23 Dec (TJH+). Continued to be killed by trigger-happy gunners at several *Eddy* lakes (SW).

Neotropic Cormorant—Has largely vanished from the state in recent years; 2 at Caballo L. 18 Dec (BV) provided the only report.

American Bittern—Singles were at BLNWR 17 Dec (JPB, GLW) & 15 Feb (GLW) and L. Avalon 30 Jan (TJH).

Great Egret—Much in evidence in the RGV and Pecos Valley, including a high 17 near Radium Springs 2 Jan (CGL). One was north to the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam 11 Dec-7 Jan (APN).

Snowy Egret—Latest were singles at Brantley L. 24 Dec (JRO) and L. Avalon 25 Dec (SW); earliest was one at Cliff 6 Feb (DJB).

Cattle Egret—Noteworthy for winter was one north to Bosque NWR 17 Dec (DLH) & 9 Jan (BRZ); 4 were at Las Cruces 1 Jan (CGL).

Green Heron—One was at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS+).

White-faced Ibis—One lingered at Belen's Taco Bell marsh 3 Dec (CMR, BDN) and 2 Jan (JEP).

Turkey Vulture—Persistent reports of up to 2 at Roswell (including “near the UFO museum”) 24 Dec-4 Jan (WHH**, CMR, MJB, NDP, I. Palma) culminated in the discovery of 14 at a roost there 7 Jan (DJK, JMR). Earliest arrivals were 2 at Silver City 4 Feb (P. F. Boucher *fide* DJB).

Osprey—Late was one at Hatch 11 Dec (CMR, BDN). At least one was in the EBL area on various dates 4 Dec-18 Feb, including twice in Jan (CGL, BRZ, JEP).

White-tailed Kite—Increased its presence across s. New Mexico, with 3 near Rodeo 1 Jan (REW, JRO**), one in the middle Animas Valley 3 Dec (B. Cavaliere) & 3 there 31 Dec (CMR, JRO**), 2 in *Grant* west of Hachita 18 Feb (CGL**), 2 in *Hidalgo* south of Hachita 4 Jan (CMB), one at Mesilla 26 Feb (CMR, MMR**), and one at Seven Rivers WMA 4 & 14 Feb (SW, RHD, SOW).

Bald Eagle—Rare south to *Eddy*, one was at Brantley L. 23 Dec (WHH, CMR).

Harris's Hawk—In the Tularosa Basin, 4 were at Alamogordo 6 Jan (CGL**) and 3 were near La Luz 30 Dec (J. Mangimeli).

Crested Caracara—Nicely documented was one near Rodeo 3 Dec (D. Jasper, K. Maynard**).

Merlin—Found statewide Dec-Feb, including 1-2 on 16 CBCs 15-31 Dec (m.ob.); one was east to House, *Quay* 10 Jan (DWS).

Aplomado Falcon—Single naturally occurring birds were in *Otero* 25 Jan (J. Frey) and *Luna* on various dates 20 Dec-27 Feb (RAM, JPB**, AMC, REW).

Peregrine Falcon—Wintering birds continued to increase in the Gila Valley, middle and lower RGV, and lower Pecos Valley; farther north were 2 at Pilar 22 Dec (GFO), plus up to 4 in *Taos* Dec-Jan (GFO) and one in *Rio Arriba* 25 Jan (DWS).

Virginia Rail—North for the season were one at Española 31 Dec (BRF+) and 5 each near Cimarron 30 Dec (DJC) and Clayton 14 Dec (CMR+).

Common Moorhen—One was north to Bosque NWR 17 Dec (WHH*).

Sandhill Crane—Unusual were 60 north to Española 31 Dec (BRF+). Some 9955 were counted on the Bosque NWR CBC 17 Dec (DLH+); 21,000 were in the BLNWR area 7 Dec (JBM).

Black-bellied Plover—One lingered at BLNWR 7 Dec (GLW).

Snowy Plover—Rare in winter, 3 were near Loving 17 Dec (SW) and one was at Brantley L. 23 Dec (CMR, WHH**) & 21 Jan (SW); earliest arrival was one at BLNWR 15 Feb (GLW).

Black-necked Stilt—Surprising for winter, one was at BLNWR on multiple dates 7 Dec-2 Feb, including 4, 7, & 18 Jan (GLW, JMH, JEP) and 2 were at Sunland Park 2 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

American Avocet—Late were 3 at BLNWR 17 Dec (GLW); earliest were 16 at BLNWR 15 Feb (GLW) and 13 at Bosque NWR 20 Feb (DLH).

Greater Yellowlegs—Unexpected in winter north to *Colfax* were 2-4 at Springer L. 2 Dec-25 Feb, including 2 on 14 & 20 Jan (DJC**).

Spotted Sandpiper—Noteworthy for winter were singles at Farmington 17 Dec (APN), GBA 2 Dec-17 Feb (RSS), and Ruidoso 17 Dec (ALP).

Long-billed Curlew—Lingering or wintering were 24 at Loving 17 Dec (CCC+), 3 south of Roswell 7 Jan (JEP), and singles at Deming 28 Dec (LKM), near Percha SP 8 Jan (BRZ**), at Six Mile Dam 5 Feb (SW) and in s. *Chaves* 13 Feb (RHD).

Dunlin—Late for the north was one at Stubblefield L. 4 Dec (DJC**); in the south, one was at EBL 30 Dec (JRO) and a high 12 were east of Loving 17 Dec (SW).

Franklin's Gull—Very late was one at Sunland Park 9 Dec (CGL, MJB, NDP) & 14 Dec (JNP).

Mew Gull—A good season produced an ad. at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 11-25 Feb (WHH*, DJK**, JEP*, JRO**, m.ob.), an ad. at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 5-11 Feb (CMR, BDN*, MJB**, NDP*, JEP*), and an imm. at Tyrone 4 Dec (ERL, DAZ**, LKM**).

California Gull—Small numbers wintered in the RGV in *Sandoval*, *Bernalillo*, *Sierra*, and *Doña Ana* Dec-Jan.

Thayer's Gull—An ad. was at EBL 11 & 18 Feb (JEP*).

Glaucous Gull—Staged its best winter ever in New Mexico, with (assuming no duplication) up to 5 first-winter birds at four locales: at least one at Sunland Park 6 Dec-2 Jan (JNP*, JEP*, JRO**) and 2 there 9-11 Dec (JNP*, CGL**, MJB*, NDP*, BDN*, CMR), plus singles at Caballo L. 31 Dec (DLH*), EBL 23 Jan-26 Feb (WFW, JEP*, JRO**, CGL**, MJB*, NDP*, BDN*), and Brantley L. 6 Jan-4 Feb (JEP*, DJK, SW).

Black-legged Kittiwake—An imm. was at Brantley L. 23-27 Dec (WHH**, CMR, SW, JRO*, MJB*, NDP*).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Early was one at Signal Peak, Pinos Altos Mts. 12 Feb (R. Mansbach).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Common and conspicuous statewide, including on 26 CBCs spread over 20 counties. Singing began at Albuquerque 29 Dec (SOW) and Post Office Canyon 3 Jan (CDL).

White-winged Dove—In the north were one near Farmington Dec-Feb (APN), 4 at Española 31 Dec (BRF+), 25 at Santa Fe 26 Dec (DME+), 4 at Clabber Hill Ranch 18 Dec (WFW+), and 25 at Tucumcari 11 Dec (JRO). Reported on 19 CBCs, including 222 at Albuquerque 18 Dec (HRS+), 985 at Roswell 17 Dec (SMB+), and 16,503 at Las Cruces 17 Dec (GJE+). In the southwest, where formerly absent in winter, 145 were at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS+) and 2 wintered in Post Office Canyon (CDL), where singing began 27 Feb (CDL). Three active nests were at Mesilla Park in Dec (CGL).

Common Ground-Dove—Singles were near Cliff 31 Dec (ERL*) and at Las Cruces 15-29 Dec (DJG**).

Ruddy Ground-Dove—A male and 2 females were reported at Rodeo 2 Dec (P. D. Hulce) and a “pair” was there 11 Dec (N. Dias), but none was found there later (*fide* REW).

Barn Owl—North of usual for winter were singles at Maxwell 1 Jan (DJC**) & 24 Feb (DJC**) and Clayton 14 Dec (CMR).

Eastern Screech-Owl—An apparent one was heard singing at about 4:00 AM 29 Dec at a wooded I-25 rest area west of Las Vegas (J. P. Valentik*); the unseen bird vocalized about six times at close range. The observer, a traveling birder from Arkansas, was disappointed, since he was hoping to add Western Screech-Owl to his list, but he quickly compared recordings of the two species and concluded it was “just an Eastern;” there is but one certain record for the state.

Burrowing Owl—Late was one at Farmington 11 Dec (J. Rees). Singles wintered north to Corrales (DJK, JMR), Albuquerque’s Kirtland AFB (JEP, SWC), and BLNWR (GLW). Two were 5 mi northeast of Fort Sumner 10 Jan (DWS).

Long-eared Owl—Conspicuous in the east and south, including roosts of up to 10 near Cimarron and at Maxwell NWR Dec-Feb (m.ob.) and 4 in the Animas Valley 25 Dec (AMC, NM-C).

Short-eared Owl—Singles reported on CBCs at Maxwell 15 Dec (*fide* L. Mowbray), Loving 17 Dec (*fide* CCC), and CCNP 21 Dec (TJH*).

Common Poorwill—Suggestive of wintering, an apparent one was flushed from the Post Office Canyon road the evening of 31 Dec (E. & D. Newbold *fide* AMC) and a “fresh” feather was found at CCNP 20 Dec (*fide* SW).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—One first seen at a Carlsbad feeder 24 Nov (SW) was present at least through 24 Dec (SW*); another was at another Carlsbad feeder from early Nov through the period (E. Pierce, SW*, CMR*, WHH*, JEP*, CGL*).

Magnificent Hummingbird: Late was an ad. male at L. Roberts 1 Dec (JD-M).

Black-chinned Hummingbird—A female lingered at a Carlsbad feeder 24 Nov-24 Dec (SW*).

Anna's Hummingbird—One wintered at Carlsbad 24 Dec-10 Jan (SW*, WHH, CMR). Singles were in ne. Las Cruces 22 Dec & 20 Jan (CGL) and w. Las Cruces 19 Jan (L. Hinesley) and 2 wintered at Radium Springs Dec-13 Jan, with one remaining there until 2 Feb (MTS*, JEZ**, CMR, BDN).

Costa's Hummingbird—An ad. male was a surprise at Las Cruces 29 Nov-2 Jan (T. Lawton**).

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird—Up to 3, including at least one male Rufous, were at Carlsbad 9-24 Dec (SW*, JEP*, JRO*, WHH*, CMR); lacking details were several apparent *Selasphorus* hummers at Las Cruces 17 Dec (*fide* GJE) and Silver City Dec-Feb (*fide* DJB).

Green Kingfisher—Previously unreported from New Mexico, one was seen and well-described on the Pecos R. near Malaga 17 Dec (R. Wiedenmann*), but exhaustive efforts to relocate it in subsequent weeks failed, so verification of the species for the state will have to wait.

Lewis's Woodpecker—Noteworthy were 12 e. to Sugarite SP 9 Feb (CAH). Maintaining a presence in the upper RGV were 20 at Questa 15 Dec (R. Weber+), 24 at Dixon 17 Dec (R. Templeton+), and 50 at Española 31 Dec (BRF+).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—One was w. to Columbus 18 Feb (LKM, R. Matthews**).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker—Noteworthy for *Colfax* was one n. to the Cimarron area 9 Dec (DJC**). A high 63 were counted on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (AMC+).

Empidonax flycatchers—While it is clear that *Empidonax* flycatchers are wintering in increasing numbers in s. New Mexico, the species involved are not always clear. Among the reports this season were single possible **Gray Flycatchers** in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (L. & T. Gates*) and CCNP 21 Dec (CCC*), single likely **Dusky Flycatchers** at Percha SP 27 Jan (JRO) & 3 Feb (JEP, CMR*), Redrock 5 Feb (CMR*), and Bosque NWR 20 Feb (DLH*), single **Dusky/Hammond's** types at Mesilla 2 & 29 Jan (CGL) and Rattlesnake Springs 6-7 Jan (JEP*, CGL), and unidentified singles at Silver City in early Dec (P. Taber) and Mimbres, *Grant* 23 Dec (DJB).

Black Phoebe—One was n. to Zuni 17 Dec (JAT).

Eastern Phoebe—Singles were w. to Cliff 31 Dec (RSS) and the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC).

Say's Phoebe—Unexpected so far n. in winter were a remarkable 4 Say's Phoebes at Farmington 17 Dec (APN+), 3 at Española 31 Dec (BRF+), 2 at Santa Fe 26 Dec (DME+), and singles in *Colfax* at Philmont 17 Dec (EMW**) and Maxwell Dec-Feb, including 14 Jan (DJC).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Wintering birds were in evidence in the south in *Grant, Hidalgo, Socorro, Sierra, and Eddy*.

Ash-throated Flycatcher—A vocal one wintered below Caballo Dam 9 Dec-4 Feb (JEP*).

Northern Shrike—Reported across the n. counties, including multiple reports from *Taos* (GFO*) and *Colfax* (DJC); singles were s. to El Malpais, *Cibola* 18 Feb (C. J. Grimes*) and Tucumcari 11 Dec (JRO**).

Plumbeous Vireo—A good season found 2 at Percha SP 4 Dec & singles there 16 & 31 Dec (CGL**) plus singles near Radium Springs 24 Feb (MTS, JEZ**), at Mesilla 7 Jan (BRZ), and Deming 10 Dec (CGL).

Hutton's Vireo—One was n. to Socorro 29 Dec (JWS); noteworthy were singles at Aguirre Springs 7 Jan (BRZ) and e. to CCNP 21 Dec (J. M. Black*, C. L. Black*). A high 17 were in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC+).

Blue Jay—Rushing the season was one building a nest at Clayton 29 Dec (JRO).

Pinyon Jay—Noteworthy for the e. edge of the range were 220 at Corona 4 Dec (CMR).

Horned Lark—High counts were 986 on the Clayton CBC 14 Dec (CMR+) and 1917 on the Bosque CBC 17 Dec (DLH+).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Noteworthy for mid-winter was one at Santa Teresa 2 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Earliest migrant was one near Radium Springs 14 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

Cave Swallow—Notably early was one near Whites City 19 Jan (R. West).

Verdin—North in the RGV was one 5 mi south of Belen 12 Dec (DLH). One was carrying feathers into a nest (or roost) structure at Spring Canyon SP, Florida Mts. 13 Jan (LKM).

Carolina Wren—A wren killed by a cat at Sugarite SP 13 Jan (P. Walsh) proved to be a Carolina (CAH) and provided the state's first specimen (to MSB).

House Wren—One wintered north to Luis Lopez, where present 2 Jan-23 Feb (JRO).

Winter Wren—Unprecedented numbers were found nearly statewide, with reports from 14 locales and including up to 8 individuals in the Corrales area 21 Dec-16 Feb (TWF*), 2-3 Los Lunas 29 Dec-8 Feb (M. Stake), and 2 at Eagle Nest Dam 14 Dec (DJC), plus singles at Cimarron Canyon 13 Dec (DJC**) & 1 Mar (DJC), Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 9 Dec (DJC) & 4 Feb (DJC**), Santa Fe 26 Dec (DME), Cochiti Dam 8 Jan (CMR*), RGNC 15-20 Dec (N. J. Shroust*, M. R. Gracey), s. of Belen 13 Jan (J. Stanek), near Pecos 17 Dec (JK*), Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW), Zuni 17 Dec (JAT), near Cliff 31 Dec (RSS), and Rattlesnake Springs 15 Jan (SW*).

American Dipper—Scarce in the Sacramento Mts., 2 were at Ruidoso's Twin Rivers Park 4 Dec (CMR, BDN).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Noteworthy for the San Andres Mts. were 3 in Rhodes Canyon, WSMR, e. *Sierra* 2 Dec (CGL).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Far north for the season was one visiting a suet feeder at Farmington 20 Dec (L. Lesperance). In the RGV, one was near Percha SP 31 Dec (BV*) and a high 3 were at Mesilla 2 Jan (CGL).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—North in the RGV were 5 at Bosque NWR 17 Dec (DLH), where there was one 14 Jan (JEP, JRO) and 2 on 22 Jan (JPB), and 2 were in the town of Elephant Butte 4 Feb (JEP). Others of note in *Sierra* were 10 in the Fairview Mts. 13 Jan (CGL) plus, in the n. San Andres Mts., *Sierra*, one at Burris Well 13 Jan (CGL), 1-2 in Cottonwood Canyon 9 Feb (CGL), and one at Rock House Spring 24 Feb (CGL). Noteworthy for the Cliff-Gila Valley were 2 on 31 Dec (DAZ, MAZ).

Eastern Bluebird—Moderate numbers were found on 15 CBCs, primarily from the RGV eastward plus at Zuni and Gila; 10 CBCs reported all three bluebird species. Noteworthy Easterns were 30 near Valmora 27 Dec (JRO) and a high 69 at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW).

Western Bluebird—Reported on 24 CBCs, including high counts of 625 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV+), 460 at La Luz 30 Dec (J. Mangimeli+), 451 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 31 Dec (RSS+), and 425 at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS+).

Mountain Bluebird—Reported on 19 CBCs, including high counts of 696 at Española 31 Dec (BRF+), 649 at Zuni 17 Dec (JAT+), and 626 at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW+).

Hermit Thrush—North was one at Clayton 14 Dec (CMR).

Varied Thrush—A ad. male was 0.5 mi north of Mesilla Dam 29 Jan-16 Feb (CGL**, JRO**, MTS*, JEZ*).

Gray Catbird—Unexpected in New Mexico in winter, this season found singles at Ranchos de Taos 28 Jan (GFO*), Sevilleta NWR 16 Dec (D. Prichard*), and EBL Dam 3 Feb (JEP).

Northern Mockingbird—Unusually numerous across the southern half of the state. Singles were north to Cimarron 29 Dec-16 Jan (DJC**), Sugarite SP 19 Dec-21 Jan (DJC**), Clayton 14 Dec (CMR), Conchas L. 18 Dec (WFW), Trigg Ranch 1-2 Feb (MDM), and near Madrid 14 Feb (LAS).

Sage Thrasher—Wintered in unprecedented numbers across southern and central New Mexico, including in areas where not previously known in winter; found on 14 CBCs, including north to Orilla Verde, Española, and Santa Fe and with high counts including 52 at Zuni 17 Dec (JAT+), 22 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV+), 82 at Sevilleta NWR 16 Dec (NSC, SWC+), 100 at Bosque NWR 17 Dec (DLH+), and 87 at CCNP 21 Dec (SW+). Numbers noticeably increased at some locales in Jan including 45 at EBL 9 Jan

(BRZ), 70 in Rhodes Canyon, n. San Andres Mts., e. *Sierra* 13 Jan (CGL), 10 at Madrid 2 Jan (LAS), and 92 in the Caja del Rio area w. of Santa Fe 7 Jan (MMR).

Brown Thrasher—Singles were w. to Corrales 16 Jan (*fide* DJK), Las Animas Cr. 29 Jan (MTS, JEZ), and Silver City 1 Feb (*fide* DJB); 2 were at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 19 Dec (WFW) and 4 were at Rattlesnake Springs 7-8 Jan (CGL).

Curve-billed Thrasher—Noteworthy north to *Colfax* was one near Cimarron 18 Dec (*fide* DJC); another was north to Española 31 Dec (BJF). Curve-billeds were on territory and singing in the Peloncillo Mts. 8 Feb (CDL).

Crissal Thrasher—North were singles at Tesuque, *Santa Fe* Dec-Feb (S. Tanner*) and Zuni 17 Dec (JAT). Crissals were singing in the Sandia Mts. 14 Jan (BDN) and the Peloncillo Mts. 18 Jan (CDL).

Sprague's Pipit—Searches for wintering Sprague's were successful in grasslands of the n. Jornada del Muerto about 16 mi e. of San Antonio, where several were found on various dates 26 Dec-11 Feb (WFW, JEP, JPB, BDN*, CMR, SW), including a high 7 on 21 Jan (JEP, JRO); elsewhere, 3 were near Brantley L. 23 Dec (WHH*, CMR), up to 3 were in s. *Luna* 13 Jan (DJG) and 27 Feb (REW), and one was in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (REW).

Cedar Waxwing—Migrants began drifting back into the state in late Jan, including 12 at Mesilla Park 20 Jan (CGL), 8 at Socorro 22 Jan (BDN, CMR), and 4 at Valmora 29 Jan (CMR).

Phainopepla—This species was more common than usual in the Peloncillo Mts. (CDL). North were 4-5 at GBA 4 Jan & 3 Feb (RSS), one in Socorro 22 Jan (CMR), up to 2 at Luis Lopez 5 & 22 Jan (JRO), and one at BLNWR 19-21 Dec (JMH).

Olive Warbler—Either early or overwintering was one at Cherry Creek CG, Pinos Altos Mts. 22 Feb (LKM).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Small numbers again wintered in the lower RGV and lower Pecos Valley; noteworthy were 5 at Mesilla Park 1 Jan (CGL) where there were 6 on 20 Jan (CGL). North for the season was one in Embudo Canyon, Sandia Mts. 20 Dec (CMB*).

Yellow Warbler—One was seen at Las Cruces 17 Dec (H. Harrison*); details were suggestive of this species but could not rule out Orange-crowned Warbler.

Pine Warbler—One visited the UNM Campus at Albuquerque 8-19 Dec (MJB*, NDP, JRO*, W. A. Talbot*, BDN*), and another was on the New Mexico Tech campus at Socorro 1-21 Jan (B. Holliday**, BRZ, JRO**, CGL*, JEP*, CMR*).

Ovenbird—Unexpected in winter was one at Socorro 14 Jan (JEP, JRO**).

Green-tailed Towhee—One was n. to Bosque NWR 2 & 21 Jan (JEP).

Cassin's Sparrow—Attention to grassland sparrows helped to clarify the status of this species, with 2 e. of San Antonio 26 Dec (WFW) and at least one there 11 & 13 Feb (JEP, WFW), one at Brantley L. 23 Dec (WHH, CMR), 4 at Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG*), and 13 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (CMR et al.).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—A remarkable 130 were reported at CCNP 21 Dec (SW). Found singing in the Peloncillo Mts. by 17 Feb (CDL).

American Tree Sparrow—Singles were s. to Albuquerque 17-18 Dec (N. ShROUT*), Bernardo WMA, *Socorro* 21 Jan (JEP), and Luis Lopez 23 Dec-11 Jan (JRO**).

Chipping Sparrow—Lingering in the north were 2 at Conchas Dam 11 Dec (MJB, NDP) and one at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW); either wintering or very early was a bright, red-capped ad. at Corrales 29 Jan (DJK).

Clay-colored Sparrow—Two apparent Clay-colored were in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (JRO*, CMR*).

Field Sparrow—Singles were near Conchas Dam 1 Feb (WFW) and at Carlsbad 11 Dec (SW), and 2 were at Maddox L., *Lea* 12 Dec (JRO**); an unprecedented 9 were reported at CCNP 21 Dec (SW).

Vesper Sparrow—One was n. to Albuquerque 18 Dec (JK*).

Black-throated Sparrow—Two were north to Cochiti L. 2 Jan (DJK).

Sage Sparrow—Early was one near Cimarron 25 Feb (DJC**).

Savannah Sparrow—Migrants were moving north by Feb, as evidenced by 35 near Conchas Dam 1 Feb (WFW), 4 near Datil 18-19 Feb (CMR, BDN), one at Farmington 22 Feb (APN), and 10 at Springer L. 25 Feb (DJC).

Baird's Sparrow—One was in grasslands 16 mi e. of San Antonio 13 Feb (WFW), one was s. of Deming 28 Dec (JPB), 2 were in the Animas Valley at the former Klump Ranch 25 Dec (AMC, NM-C), and 2 were near Rodeo 1 Jan (REW), where the species may winter regularly.

Le Conte's Sparrow—Two were at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 10 Dec (JEP*, JRO**), where one had been present in Nov.

Fox Sparrow—A good season found singles n. to Peña Blanca 3 Jan (WFW) and Ute L. 27 Dec (DJC); farther s., one to 2 were at 12 sites in *Bernalillo* (JEP, DAZ), *Valencia* (TWF), *Sierra* (CGL), *Doña Ana* (N. Stotz), *Grant* (RSS), *Hidalgo* (CDL), and *Eddy* (JEP, CGL).

Swamp Sparrow—North were singles at Springer 14 Jan (DJC) and RGNC 3 Dec (CMR); w. were 2 each at L. Roberts 6 Dec (DJB) and the Animas Valley 31 Dec (JRO**).

White-throated Sparrow—One was w. to Kirtland 11 Dec (C. Shryock).

Harris's Sparrow—Two were at Ranchos de Taos 13 Dec (GFO); singles were at Rio Rancho 19 Jan (TWF*) and Bosque NWR 4 Dec-26 Feb (m.ob., CGL**, GKF**).

White-crowned Sparrow—Unexpected in winter, 5 dark-lored ones were at Rodeo 31 Dec-1 Jan (JRO**); early was a dark-lored one at Silver City 19 Feb (DAZ).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—One was at Rock House Spring, San Andres Mts., *Sierra* 24 Feb (CGL). At Bosque NWR, an ad. was found along the Marsh Loop 16 Jan (CGL) and presumably another ad. was at the headquarters 18 Jan (DJK).

McCown's Longspur—Up to 15 were in grasslands 16 mi east of San Antonio 2 Jan-13 Feb (JEP, SW, CMR, BDN, WFW). West and north was one in *Socorro* e. of Datil 18 Feb (CMR).

Lapland Longspur—Reports were restricted to *Colfax* and *Union*; high count was 11 at Eagle Nest 3 & 13 Dec (DJC**).

Northern Cardinal—Continued its presence in the northeast, including 3 at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW), a high 5 in the Conchas Dam area 18 Dec (WFW), 2 in e. *San Miguel* s. of Mosquero 1 Feb (MDM*), and 3 along Pajarito Cr. near Tucumcari 11 Dec (JRO*).

Pyrrhuloxia—Drifting northward were singles at L. Roberts in early Dec (F. Land), San Lorenzo 23 Feb (P. Walker), San Acacia 15 Feb (RHD), and Causey, *Roosevelt* 11 Dec (JRO), and 3 at Valley of Fires, *Lincoln* 4 Dec (CMR, BDN).

Yellow Grosbeak—One, apparently an ad. or near ad. male, at Albuquerque attracted national attention. First noticed at feeders in the North Valley about 1 Dec (R. Powell**) and 5 Jan (M. Ratliff**), it was discovered by birders 22 Jan (JEP*, JRO**, m.ob., m.ph.) and enjoyed by hundreds there through at least 31 Jan. It then disappeared but was subsequently rediscovered (photos show it to be the same individual) in the University area about 17 Feb (L. Hopwood), where it remained, again well documented, into the spring season. This represents the 4th New Mexico report of this species since 1999, and the 3rd for the autumn-winter period.

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Late for the north was one at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 17 Dec (CMR).

Rusty Blackbird—An impressive season produced 3 at Ute L. 27 Dec (DJC**), one at BLNWR 1-3 Dec (JMH, JEP*, JRO**), 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 17 Dec-7 Jan (JEP*, JRO**, JPB*, DJK*, CGL**), and 2 at Las Cruces 17 Dec (W. Whitford*).

Common Grackle—Continued to winter or linger north and west of expected, but haphazard reporting continued to confuse the issue. Credible reports included one west to Playas, *Hidalgo* 10 Jan (P. E. Lehman) and 2 at Deming 29 Jan (LKM), singles north to Albuquerque 18 Dec (AJR*) and San Antonio 2 Jan (JEP), 3 at Eagle Nest 3 Dec (DJC), one at Maxwell 1 Jan (DJC**), and 6 at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WFW).

Bronzed Cowbird—Present at the NMSU stock pens in Las Cruces Dec-Feb (m.ob., BRZ**), including 10 on 20 Dec (CGL) and 6 on 7 Jan (BRZ**).

Bullock's Oriole—A ad. male at Percha SP, first noted 20 Nov (CGL), remained throughout Dec-Jan (CGL**, JRO**, JEP*) and was last seen 3 Feb (CMR*, BDN*).

Rosy-Finch—The popular three-species flock at Sandia Crest entertained many at Sandia Crest all season, where 271 were banded by 25 Feb: 203 **Blacks**, 39 **Brown-capped**s, and 29 **Gray-crowned**s (NSC, SWC et al.). A three-species flock at Eagle Nest 13 Dec (DJC) provided the only additional report.

Purple Finch—What was described as an eastern female was at Percha SP 24 Jan (G. Bieber*)

Cassin's Finch—Notably scarce, with only small numbers noted on 7 CBCs.

Red Crossbill—Only two reports: 2 at Questa 15 Dec (R. Weber) and one or more at Zuni in late Dec (JAT).

Lesser Goldfinch—Continued to make its winter presence known north of expected, including outnumbering **Americans** at Farmington 28 to 24 on 17 Dec (APN). Noteworthy were 2 n. to Peña Blanca 3 Jan (WFW).

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