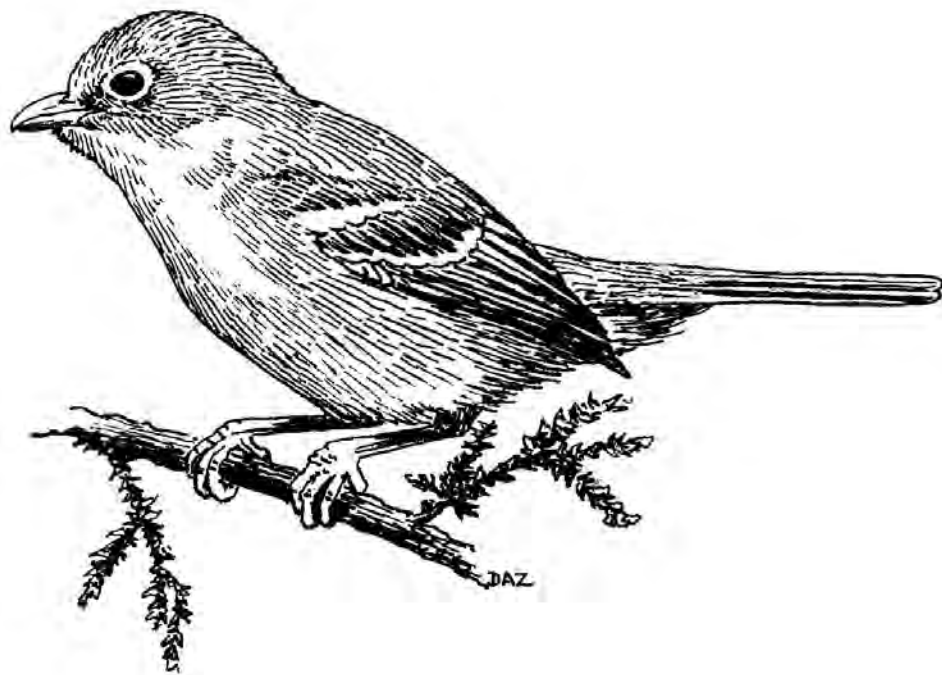


*New Mexico
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Field Notes*



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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

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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; www.nmbirds.org.

Cover: Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*). This short-distance migrant occurs in New Mexico April-September, in arid juniper woodlands of foothills and mesas and in desert arroyo-riparian habitats. Although some historic populations have disappeared, recent surveys have found the species in new areas and in unexpected numbers. An estimated 400 territories are now known from 20 counties. Listed as Threatened by New Mexico, it is vulnerable to loss or degradation of quality juniper-grassland habitat from burning, clearing, overgrazing, and energy development. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman.

WINTER SEASON 2006-2007

The winter of 2006-07 was characterized by heavy snows in December and January, which caused the cancellation of the Maxwell, Clayton, and Pecos CBCs, but a February warming trend ushered in early migration and breeding by several species. Improved grassland conditions across the south resulted in strong showings by many species, especially grassland raptors, pipits, and sparrows. Gulls were much in the news, including New Mexico's first Iceland Gulls, second confirmed Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Mew Gulls at four locales. Other notable rarities included Reddish Egret, Red-shouldered Hawk, Crested Caracara, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Pine Warbler, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Meanwhile, surprisingly unseasonal were December Black-throated Gray and Wilson's warblers and a February Purple Martin.

Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Hatch, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Hermanas, <i>Luna</i>
Animas, Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>
Antelope Wells, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Isaack Lake, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bear Canyon Lake, <i>Grant</i>	Jal, <i>Lea</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Bingham, <i>Socorro</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Las Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Leasburg SP, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Burn Lake, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Lordsburg, Playa, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Cerrillos, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Madrid, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Cimarron, Canyon, <i>Colfax</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Clanton Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Mesilla, Park, Dam, Valley, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Mesquite, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Cloverdale, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Montezuma, <i>San Miguel</i>
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Mount Taylor, <i>Cibola</i>
Columbus, <i>Luna</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Cotton City, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Davies Tank, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Petroglyph NM, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Placitas, <i>Sandoval</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Doña Ana, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Eldorado, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Raton, <i>Colfax</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Rincon, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Fort Bayard, <i>Grant</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Gila Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Glenwood, <i>Catron</i>	Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i>
Hachita, <i>Grant</i>	San Simon Cienega, <i>Hidalgo</i>

Sandia Crest, *Bernalillo*
 Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*
 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*
 Spring Canyon SP, *Luna*
 Stubblefield Lake, *Colfax*

Sugarite Canyon, SP, *Colfax*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Trigg Ranch, *San Miguel*
 Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*
 Tularosa, *Otero*
 Tyrone, *Grant*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Velarde, *Rio Arriba*
 Vermejo Ranch, *Colfax*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 Yankee, Canyon, *Colfax*
 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

PB	Pat Basham	LKM	Larry K. Malone
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	PWM	Pat W. McCasland
MJB	Matt J. Baumann	JM	James McPhee
DJB	David J. Beatty	RAM	Raymond A. Meyer
CB	Cathy Benavides	APN	Alan P. Nelson
TB	Tony Benavides	BDN	Bruce D. Neville
GB	Gavin Bieber	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
SMB	Sherry M. Bixler	JEP	John E. Parmeter
CRB	Charles R. Britt	JNP	James N. Paton
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
DJC	David J. Cleary	ALP	Anita L. Powell
NSC	Nancy S. Cox	TR	Tim Reeves
SWC	Steven W. Cox	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
AMC	Alan M. Craig	LAS	Lawry A. Sager
CCC	Craig C. Cranston	SS	Scott Schuette
RHD	Robert H. Doster	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
DME	Deanna M. Einspahr	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	RFS	Robert F. Shantz
GKF	Gary K. Froehlich	RSS	Roland S. Shook
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	RT	Robert Templeton
DJG	David J. Griffin	JAT	John A. Trochet
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JBV	J. Brad Vaughn
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	NV	Nick Vaughn
TJH	Tom J. Hines	MLW	Mark L. Watson
WHH	William H. Howe	REW	Richard E. Webster
JMH	Jeff M. Howland	SW	Steve West
DJK	David J. Krueper	WFW	William F. West
TL	Tim Lawton	EMW	Elton M. Williams
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	JY	John Yerger
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Noteworthy for the northwest was one at Farmington 13 Dec (APN). High counts were 13 at Maxwell NWR 8-9 Dec (DJC, JEP), 8 in the Roswell area 16 Dec (SMB), and 6 at Caballo L. 16 & 19 Feb (JEP, JRO, MOH, CMR); 4 were at Bosque NWR during Jan (m.ob.).

Ross's Goose—Two blue morphs were among about 2000 whites at Bosque NWR 7 Jan (BDN).

Cackling Goose—Reported in the RGV from *Bernalillo* to *Doña Ana*, in the Tularosa Basin in *Otero*, and in the east in *Colfax*, *San Miguel*, *Chaves*, *Eddy*, and *Lea*.

Canada Goose—Unusual in *Hidalgo*, 40 were at Virden 29 Dec & 26 Jan (JEP). A substantial 24,214 were counted on the Farmington CBC 16 Dec (APN+).

Tundra Swan—A good season found 3 in the Maxwell area 2 Dec-7 Jan (DJC**, JEP, MLW), 3 at Cherry L., *Mora* 7 Jan (MLW), 4 at LVNWR 2 Dec (JEP*), one at EBL 28 Jan (CMB), and one at BLNWR 1 Dec (JMH).

Wood Duck—Impressive were 47 at Mesilla Dam 8 Dec (CGL). Noteworthy for the southwest were 2 at Glenwood 21 Jan (*fide* DJB), 3 at Tyrone 10 Dec (ERL), 3 at Deming 6 Dec (LKM), and one in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (JEP*).

Mallard—Early was a female on a nest at Santa Fe 23 Feb (LAS).

Greater Scaup—High count was 9 at Ute L. 9 Dec (DJC**), where there were 4 on 6 Jan (JEP) and 2 on 28 Jan (NDP, MJB).

Surf Scoter—Two females were at Deming 6-9 Dec (LKM*, JRO), where one had been present in Nov.

White-winged Scoter—A female was in the Maxwell NWR-Stubblefield L. area 3 Dec-1 Jan (DJC**, MOH**, JEP*).

Long-tailed Duck—One to 2 apparent females were at Stubblefield L. on various dates 7 Dec-28 Feb (DJC**, JEP*, NDP*, MJB, BDN*, CMR*).

Bufflehead—Noteworthy for s. *Hidalgo* was a male at McKinney Tank 23 Feb (DJG).

Barrow's Goldeneye—Maintaining a *Colfax* presence were a male at Stubblefield L. 2 Dec-6 Jan (JEP*, DJC**), where there was a female 1-6 Jan (DJC**); a male was there again 23 Feb (DJC).

[Chukar]—Bird hunters and dog trainers continue to release these exotic partridges around the state; one such was killed by a Northern Harrier at Isaack L. 1 Jan (DJG).

“Gould's” Wild Turkey—A high count for the middle Animas Valley was 23 there 31 Dec-1 Jan (JEP).

Pacific Loon—Singles at Conchas L. 4 Jan (MOH*) and Sunland Park 17 Dec (BDN*, CMR*) provided the only reports.

Horned Grebe—Noted at Ute L. Dec-Jan, where there was an impressive raft of 35 on 4 Jan (MOH). In the RGV, singles were at Cochiti L. 10 & 26 Dec (WHH) and Caballo L. 16 Feb (JEP), and up to 2 were at EBL 14 Dec (RHD) and 27 Jan (BDN, CMR).

Western Grebe—Unusual was one north to Española 23 Dec (BRF).

American White Pelican—North for mid-winter was one at Ute L. 7 Jan (MLW).

Neotropic Cormorant—Made a small comeback in the RGV, with highs of 14 at Bosque NWR 28 Jan (WHH), 16 at EBL 19 Feb (CMR), 24 at Caballo L. 3 Feb (WHH), 8-9 at Burn L. 9-10 Feb (JEP, MTS, JEZ), and one at Sunland Park 5 & 12 Jan (MTS, JEZ, JEP). Noteworthy for *Eddy* was one at Rattlesnake Springs 25 Jan (C. Riegelmayr**).

American Bittern—Singles were at BLNWR 2 Jan (SW) & 13 Jan (JPB) and Mesilla 10 Dec (M. Brooks).

Great Egret—High count for winter was 33 at Six Mile Dam 3 Feb (SW); one was north to Socorro 20 Jan (JEP).

Snowy Egret—Apparently wintering were one near Doña Ana 11 Jan (MTS) and 3 at Mesquite 22 Jan (CGL).

Little Blue Heron—Very late was an ad. at Caballo L. 3 Dec (DLH*).

Reddish Egret—Providing a winter first was one at BLNWR 19 Dec-4 Jan (JMH**), although this likely was the same one present there during fall, last seen 25 Oct.

Cattle Egret—One was north to Bosque NWR 7 & 15 Jan (BDN, CMR, RHD); others were in *Doña Ana* Dec-Feb, including a high 74 at Las Cruces 16 Dec (TL).

White-faced Ibis—For the second consecutive year, one wintered at Belen, where seen on multiple dates 16 Dec-24 Feb (m.ob.); at least one was at BLNWR 27 Dec-21 Feb (JMH), including 2 on 2 Jan (SW), and one was at Sunland Park 7 Dec (JEP).

Turkey Vulture—Late or wintering were 2 at Roswell 16 Dec (SMB). Unexpected was one east of Animas 12 Jan (JPB).

Osprey—Several lingered into Dec in *Doña Ana* and *Eddy*; apparently wintering were singles at Truth or Consequences 9 Dec (CGL), 5 Jan (LKM), and 4 Feb (CGL) and Percha SP 9 Dec (CGL**), 13 Jan (JEP), and 3 Feb (WHH, CMR).

White-tailed Kite—Responded positively to good grassland conditions in s. New Mexico, with reports from four counties, including one in the Animas Valley 9 Jan (SS, JY), a pair plus a single east of Hermanas 22 Feb (RAM), a pair near Isaack L. 7-24 Dec (JRO**, CGL**, DJG**, m.ob.), and one at Seven Rivers WMA 9-21 Dec (SW**, JRO).

Northern Harrier—Benefiting from healthy grasslands, harriers were unusually numerous statewide, including detections on 26 of 29 CBCs.

Harris's Hawk—North in the RGV was one at Sevilleta NWR 19 Dec (NSC, SWC*). Four were near Tularosa 6 & 22 Feb (CRB, CGL). In the southwest, 7 were in *Luna* 2 Dec (LKM) and 2 were in *Hidalgo* 2 Dec (*fide* RSS).

Red-shouldered Hawk—An ad., apparently one of the eastern subspecies, was near Radium Springs 11-15 Feb (MTS*, JEZ**, CGL*, DJG*, MJB*, NDP*).

Ferruginous Hawk—High counts were 21 were at the Navajo agricultural area south of Farmington 3 Feb (APN) and 13 on the Las Vegas CBC 27 Dec (DME).

Rough-legged Hawk—South were one at Cloverdale 18 Feb (GB, SS) and 2 at Six Mile Dam 23 Jan (SW).

Crested Caracara—An imm. was in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec 31 Dec (CGL**, CRB**, CMR), the 2nd consecutive winter for the species in *Hidalgo*.

Merlin—Well distributed Dec-Feb, especially in the southwest, including a high 5 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (AMC+). Noteworthy for the southeast was one at Jal 4 Feb (SW).

Peregrine Falcon—Singles lingered into Dec at several southern locales, including 2 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (*fide* AMC). One in w. *Doña Ana* 7 Jan (MTS*, JEZ*) provided the only detailed Jan report.

Prairie Falcon—One was chasing Rock Pigeons in downtown Albuquerque 5 Dec (WHH).

Virginia Rail—Late for the north were 3 at Stubblefield L. 1 Jan (DJC) and singles at Las Vegas 27 Dec (DME) and Santa Fe 2 Jan (DME).

Sandhill Crane—Noteworthy for *Hidalgo* were 300 at Virden 29 Dec (JEP) and over 1000 at Cotton City 31 Jan (DJG). Some 1200 were in alfalfa near Garfield, *Doña Ana* 14 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Unusual were 121 north to Española 23 Dec (BRF). An albino was near Hermanas 30 Jan (J. Krakowski*).

Black-necked Stilt—Again wintered in the Sunland Park area, including 5 on 2 Jan (MTS, JEZ) and 4 on 12 Jan (JEP); 14 were there 9 Feb (JEP).

American Avocet—Late were 5 at Lordsburg Playa 5 Dec (DJG) and 2 at Sunland Park 10 Dec (NDP). Earliest were 2 in *Doña Ana* 22 Feb (LKM) and 8 bright ads. at Lordsburg Playa 22 Feb (J. Bird**).

Lesser Yellowlegs—Noteworthy for midwinter was one with 3 Greater at Bosque NWR 7 Jan (BDN, CMR*); another was with 2 Greater near Loving 23 Dec (SW).

Long-billed Curlew—Increasingly evident in winter, 83 were in the Loving area 23 Dec (CCC, SW). In *Luna*, 13 were northeast of Hermanas 16 Jan (LKM) and 11 were there 22 Feb (RAM); 9 were west of Columbus 27 Jan (DLH).

Least Sandpiper—A high 264 were in the Las Cruces area 16 Dec (TL+).

Dunlin—Singles were at Holloman L. 8 Dec-22 Feb (JRO, CGL, JEP, MJB, JPB**, CRB) and Lordsburg Playa 3 Feb (RFS**).

Wilson's Snipe—Notable concentrations were 21 at Las Palomas 30 Dec (JBV) and 34 at the "Swan Pond" near Radium Springs 15 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

Bonaparte's Gull—Typically scarce in winter, reports this season included 15 at Santa Rosa L. 17 Dec (WFW), 30 at Six Mile Dam 23 Jan (SW), and 40 at L. Avalon 21 Feb (SW): in the RGV, one was at EBL 22 Dec (CGL) and one was at Caballo L. on various dates 9 Dec-9 Feb (m.ob.), where there were 2 on 19 Feb (CMR).

Mew Gull—A strong showing produced an ad. at Farmington 16 Dec (TR**), up to 2 ads. at EBL 3-11 Feb (JEP, DJK, WHH*, GKF**), an ad. at Caballo L. 29 Dec-27 Jan (CGL**, MJB**, MOH**, m.ob.), and an ad. at Sunland Park 6 Dec-12 Jan (JNP*, MTS*, JEZ*, CRB**).

Ring-billed Gull—A high 1031 counted at BLNWR 10 Jan (JMH).

California Gull—Reported from *San Juan, Sandoval, Socorro, Sierra, Doña Ana, Otero*, and *Eddy*; high counts were 5 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+) and 5 at Sunland Park 2 Dec (JNP).

Herring Gull—Unusually plentiful at EBL, with 12-22 counted on various dates 25 Jan-7 Feb (m.ob.) and a high of 25 on 11 Feb (WHH). Noteworthy for *Mora* was an ad. at Calley's L. 10 Feb (BDN, CMR).

Thayer's Gull—An ad. was at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 13 Jan-11 Feb (JEP*, m.ob., MJB**, CGL**, MOH**, JRO**, GKF**).

Iceland Gull—Providing a New Mexico first was an extensively documented imm. at Sunland Park on multiple dates 5 Dec-26 Feb (JNP**, JRO**, CGL**, GKF**, JPB**, MJB**, JEZ**, m.ob.). Remarkably, another imm. was discovered at Caballo L. 4 Feb (CGL**), some 60 mi (100 km) northwest of Sunland Park.

Lesser Black-backed Gull—An ad. at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 24 Jan-7 Feb (GB, m.ob., JRO**, MJB**, MOH**, CGL**, JPB**, SWC**) provided the 2nd confirmed state record.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Now a conspicuous component of New Mexico's avifauna, this recent invader was reported on 27 of 29 CBCs, including a high 929 at Roswell 16 Dec (SMB+) and, in the west, 102 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+), 33 at Zuni 30 Dec (JAT+), and 95 at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS+).

White-winged Dove—Reported on 19 CBCs, including an impressive 52 north to Santa Fe 2 Jan (DME+), 91 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV+), 346 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS+), and 193 at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS+). North to *San Juan*, small numbers (2-4 birds) were at Kirtland, Farmington, and Bloomfield feeders “all winter” (APN).

Inca Dove—A vocal pair was far north to Aztec, *San Juan* from 23 Jan into Mar (W. McNall).

Common Ground-Dove—One was with Incas and a Ruddy Ground-Dove at Cotton City 29 Dec-27 Jan (JEP*, CRB).

Ruddy Ground-Dove—Yet another good season produced a male at Cotton City 29 Dec-4 Feb (JEP*, CGL**, CRB, JRO), a male in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (JEP*), and a female near Radium Springs 15 Jan-3 Feb (MTS*, JEZ**, DJG), where one had been present in Nov.

[**Military Macaw**]—Apparently another refugee from the cage bird trade, one was at Sunland Park 24 Dec (WFW+) and 9 Jan (JY).

Greater Roadrunner—North to *Colfax*, were singles at Philmont 16 Dec (DJC**) and near Farley 6 Jan (DJC**); one was at Zuni during Dec (JAT).

Whiskered Screech-Owl—Up to 6 were active in Clanton Canyon 12 Jan (MOH**).

Burrowing Owl—At the northern edge of the wintering range, 3 were at Albuquerque’s Kirtland AFB 4 Jan (JEP).

Long-eared Owl—Reported from *San Juan, Colfax, Quay, Socorro, Hidalgo, Grant, Luna, Doña Ana*, and *Otero* counties. Some 25 were in a saltcedar roost at Randal’s Pool near Santa Teresa 10 Feb (CGL) & 16 Feb (MTS, JEZ**); other day roosts included 8 in saltcedar near Cimarron 27 Feb (DJC), 5 in sumac at Hiblar Tank near Las Cruces 16 Dec-11 Feb (DJG, CGL), and 6 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (JEP). Early was an ad. incubating eggs in a mesquite nest north of Hachita 22 Feb (RAM*).

Short-eared Owl—Improved grasslands resulted in multiple reports: singles near Maxwell 10 Feb (BDN, CMR*), Zuni’s Tekapo L. 28-30 Dec (JAT*), and CCNP 16 Dec (SW), 3 near Rodeo 30 Dec (CMR*), and 4 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (CMR*); one wintered in grasslands near Hermanas Dec-Feb (DLH).

White-throated Swift—Remarkable for winter were 20 north to Farmington 15 Jan (A. James *fide* APN); other mid-winter concentrations included 25 near Rattlesnake Springs 8 Jan (SW), 100 at Davies Tank, WSMR 25 Jan (DJG), and 20 near Radium Springs 27 Jan (CRB).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—One wintered at Carlsbad Dec-Feb (E. Pierce), where photographed 1 Jan (SW**).

Anna’s Hummingbird—In the southeast, one that arrived at Carlsbad in early Dec remained through 28 Jan (SW); the one at Eunice, *Lea* in Nov was last seen 4 Dec (PWM). Other Anna’s with details were 2 imm. males and a female at Radium Springs

in Dec (MTS*, JEZ*), where the males left in early Jan, and a male at Las Cruces 1 Dec-23 Jan (DJG*).

Rufous Hummingbird—Nicely documented was a male at Silver City 17 Dec (M. A. Murphy**); undetailed was one reported at Las Cruces 16 Dec (*fide* TL).

Belted Kingfisher—Unusual in winter at 7500 ft was one in Sugarite Canyon 19 Jan (JEP).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Noteworthy for *Hidalgo* were 3 at Virden 29 Dec (JEP) and 2 there 26 Jan (JEP) & 3 Feb (JRO). One was south to Mesilla 22-24 Feb (MTS, JEZ**, CGL, CRB**).

Acorn Woodpecker—Thirty were reported on the Ruidoso CBC 16 Dec (ALP+).

Gila Woodpecker—Up to 4 were along Deer Cr. west of Antelope Wells 5 Dec-4 Mar (DJG). Noteworthy was one at San Simon Cienega 26 Jan (JEP). High count was 28 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (AMC+), most or all in the Animas Valley.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Several were west to the RGV and environs, including singles at Los Alamos 3 Dec-16 Jan (B. Swartz**), Santa Fe 2 Jan (DME) & 20 Feb (BRF*), Bosque NWR 22 Dec-28 Jan (m.ob.), Percha SP 9 Dec-4 Feb (CGL*, CRB*, JEP), and Leasburg SP 27 Jan-10 Feb (m.ob., JEZ**, CGL**); 2 were in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV*).

Red-naped Sapsucker—A male was north to Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC**, J. Duke**).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—Singles were at Sandia Crest 3 Dec (J. Joseph) and 29 Jan (J. Haw).

Empidonax flycatchers—Wintering empids continued to increase, including single apparent **Hammond's Flycatchers** below EBL Dam 13 Jan (JEP), at Percha SP 17 Dec-13 Jan (BDN*, CMR*, CGL, LKM, JEP), near Rincon 4 Feb (MTS*, JEZ**), and in the Animas Valley 13 Jan (MOH*). Apparent **Dusky Flycatchers** were one at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (WHH*) and another at a different site there Dec-Feb (DLH*), and one at Leasburg SP 14 Jan & 3 Feb (CGL*). Empids of undetermined species were up to 3—in addition to the 2 Dusksies, above—at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH), 2—including one “**Western**” (JAT*)—in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (*fide* AMC), 2 at GBA 9 Dec (RSS) and singles there 22 Dec & 2 Feb (RSS), and singles near Cliff 25 Jan (LKM) & 11 Feb (SW), Percha SP 17 Dec (BDN, CMR) & 13 Jan (JEP), Roswell 16 Dec (*fide* SMB), and CCNP 16 Dec (*fide* SW).

Black Phoebe—North were 2 at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 29 Dec (JAT) and singles at Grants, *Cibola* 18 Feb (C. J. Grimes), Dixon 16 Dec (RT), and Española 23 Dec (BRF).

Eastern Phoebe—One was north to Corrales 17 Dec (DJK, CMR); one was west to Cliff 30 Dec (RSS).

Say's Phoebe—Two lingered at Farmington 16 Dec (APN); also north for the season were 4 at Española 23 Dec (BRF+).

Vermilion Flycatcher—Increased its wintering presence across s. New Mexico, with multiple reports for *Grant, Hidalgo, Socorro, Sierra, Doña Ana,* and *Eddy*; high count was 7 on the Caballo CBC 30 Dec (JBV+), most of them in the Percha SP-Arrey area. North were singles at Glenwood 23 Dec (R. W. Skaggs) and Albuquerque's Alameda bridge area 24-25 Dec (CMR*, CGL).

Ash-throated Flycatcher—For the second consecutive year, one wintered below Caballo Dam, where seen and heard 29 Dec (DLH*) and 10 Feb (JEP).

Northern Shrike—Singles were reported from seven *Colfax* locales Dec-Feb (m.ob.) and 3 were at Raton 25 Dec (DJC+). South were singles near Lamy, *Santa Fe* 10-18 Feb (BDN, CMR*, JPB**) and Zuni in Dec (JAT).

Plumbeous Vireo—Late was one at Percha SP 3 Dec (CGL**). Undetailed was one at Las Cruces 16 Dec (*fide* TL).

Blue-headed Vireo—Remarkably late, or wintering, was one at Aguirre Springs 8 Jan (MTS*, JEZ**).

Hutton's Vireo—Maintaining an Organ Mts. presence were 5 at Aguirre Springs 25 Feb (MTS, JEZ) and 2 in Filmore Canyon 7 Jan (CGL**).

Blue Jay—Especially prevalent in *Colfax*, including 5 at Yankee 23 Dec (DJC), 5 at Chase Ranch near Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC), 4 on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 11 Feb (BDN, CMR), 3 at Cimarron 21 Dec (EMW**), and 2 at Raton 19 Jan (JEP).

Pinyon Jay—Continued scarce in the north, but were numerous in the southwest, including 500 at GBA 1 Dec (RSS), 953 at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS+), and 70 at Bear Canyon L. 5 Jan (ERL).

American Crow—A high 512 were at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+).

Horned Lark—Following a snowstorm, an estimated 12,000 were along roadsides in *Chaves* 20 Jan (SW).

Purple Martin—Remarkable early was an ad. male at Deming 27 Feb (LKM*).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—One lingered near Santa Teresa 8 Dec (CRB, CGL) & 5 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Presumably early were one at Radium Springs 9 Feb (JEP) and 3 there 16 Feb (MTS), one to 2 at Mesilla 16 Feb (CRB), 2 at Percha SP 19 Feb (CMR), and one at Caballo L. 19 Feb (CMR).

Cave Swallow—First of the year were 14 at CCNP 5 Feb (*fide* SW).

Barn Swallow—Early was one at Carlsbad 25 Feb (SW).

Canyon Wren—Noteworthy in winter at 2620 m was one at Black L., *Colfax* 7-16 Feb (P. Monk**).

House Wren—North for the season were singles at Cerrillos 4 Feb (LAS) and Madrid 7 Feb (LAS).

Winter Wren—Singles were at two upper Cimarron Canyon sites 1-26 Dec (DJC) and at Cliff 21 Jan (E. G. Wootten).

American Dipper—The one at Percha SP since Oct was last reported 9 Feb (JEP).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Singles with useful details were at Petroglyph NM 17 Dec (NDP*) and Randal's Pool near Santa Teresa 8 Dec (CRB, CGL*).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—One at EBL Dam 3 Feb (JEP) provided a new RGV locale. Two were at Leasburg SP 9 Feb (MTS, JEZ). Noteworthy were 4 in the Mockingbird Mts., *Socorro* 4 Jan (CGL) and 2 in the Fairview Mts., *Sierra* 4 Jan (CGL).

Eastern Bluebird—Plentiful from the RGV eastward, including highs of 97 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS+), 80 in the Caballo-Percha area 30 Dec (JBV+), 43 at CCNP 16 Dec (SW+), and 26 at Española 23 Dec (BRF+). Easterns presumably of the west Mexican subspecies were plentiful in the Peloncillo Mts., including 54 there 31 Dec (AMC+); others in the west were 2 at Zuni 30 Dec (JAT*), 25 at GBA 16 Dec (RSS), 6 at Deming 6 Dec (LKM), and 2 at Spring Canyon SP 23 Jan (LKM).

Western Bluebird—Early was a pair mating at Cerrillos 7 Feb (LAS).

Mountain Bluebird—A record 1033 was at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+).

Hermit Thrush—Remained north in numbers, including 4 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+), 8 at Española 23 Dec (BRF+), 12 at Santa Fe 2 Jan (DME+), and one at Cimarron 11 Feb (CMR); 39 were at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HRS+).

Brown Thrasher—One at Corrales 17 Dec (DJK) marked the 6th winter for the species at that locale. One was southeast of Santa Fe at Eldorado 9 Dec through at least Jan (J. Nelson-Moore**).

Bendire's Thrasher—Two, both singing, in the Deer Cr. area west of Antelope Wells 24-25 Feb (DJG).

Curve-billed Thrasher—Pushing ever northward, singles were at two Cimarron locales 15-16 Dec (DJC**, EMW**) and one was at Dixon 16 Dec (RT).

Crissal Thrasher—One was north to Santa Fe 2 Jan (*fide* DME).

Sprague's Pipit—Lush grasslands produced record numbers in the southwest, especially near Hermanas, where there were 42 on 2 Dec (DLH), 9 on 16 Jan (LKM), 13 on 27 Jan (DLH), and one on 17 Feb (CGL**, CRB). Others included 4 in w. *Doña Ana* 7 Jan (MTS*, JEZ*), where there were 3 on 13 Jan (CGL**) and 2 on 17 Feb (CGL, CRB**), up to 2 east of Hachita 17 Feb (CGL), 3 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (CMR), and 2 in McKinney Flats west of Antelope Wells 5 Dec plus singles there 20 Dec-25 Feb (DJG). Farther north, at least one was in *Socorro* grasslands west of Bingham 16 Dec & 5 Jan (JEP).

Cedar Waxwing—Reported on 17 CBCs statewide 15 Dec-2 Jan (m.ob.), and 25 were at Bear Canyon L. 5 Jan (ERL). Few reports during mid-late Jan, with 10 on Deer Cr. west of Antelope Wells 30 Jan (DJG) the high count. Apparent early returnees included 2 at Trigg Ranch 17 Feb (MDM) and 18 at Cimarron 26 Feb (DJC**).

Phainopepla—A pair was north to Socorro Dec-Feb (PB), a male was at Luis Lopez 10 Feb (JRO), and singles were at two Bosque NWR sites 15 Dec (WHH*, CMB*).

Olive Warbler—Two were vocal along the Pine Tree Trail, Aguirre Springs 7 Jan (DJG) and 25 Feb (MTS, JEZ).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Now regular in winter in the lower RGV, including reports this season from at least eight *Doña Ana* sites Dec-Feb (m.ob.), such as up to 3 detected daily in the Mesilla Park area through the winter (CGL). Lingering into mid-Dec were singles at Silver City 17 Dec (*fide* RSS), Animas Valley 20 Dec (DJG), and Rattlesnake Springs 16 Dec (SW), and 2 in the Avalon-Brantley area 17 Dec (TJH+).

Black-throated Gray Warbler—Remarkable for winter was an ad. male at Caballo Dam 26 Dec (R. Ketchum*).

Pine Warbler—Well documented was one at Velarde 16 Dec (MDM**).

Common Yellowthroat—North was one at Bosque NWR 7 Jan (BDN*, CMR*). *Doña Ana* reports included at least one male at Mesilla Park on various dates 14 Dec-16 Feb (CGL, CRB, DJG) and a female there 2 & 14 Dec (CRB), and single males at Davies Tank, WSMR 21 Dec (CGL) & 8 Jan (CGL), Mesquite 22 Jan (CGL), and Sunland Park 13 Jan (CGL). Two were in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TJH+).

Wilson's Warbler—Unexpected in winter, a male was at Radium Springs 25 Dec (MTS, JEZ**) and a female was at Mesilla Dam 2 Dec (CGL**) & 8 Feb (CGL).

Cassin's Sparrow—One was singing east of Las Cruces by 17 Feb (*fide* HRS).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow—A high 72 counted on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (AMC+).

American Tree Sparrow—Two were south to Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 24 Dec (CMR). Five at Ute L. 6 Jan (JEP) included birds in both *Quay* and *Harding*.

Chipping Sparrow—Abundant across the south; north were 2 at Farmington 16 Dec (APN+), 12 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (MOH*), 8 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (W. Rowe*, NDP, MJB), and 42 at Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (DJK).

Clay-colored Sparrow—Unexpected in winter were singles at Rodeo 21 Jan (REW) and Columbus 29 Dec (CMR*).

Brewer's Sparrow—Abundant across the south; north were one at Zuni 27 Dec (JAT*), 4 at Petroglyph NM 17 Dec (NDP), and 92 at Sevilleta NWR 19 Dec (NSC, SWC+).

Field Sparrow—Two were at Spencer Dam north of Carlsbad 17 Dec (SW).

Black-chinned Sparrow—One was north to Domingo Baca Canyon, Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP*, MJB).

Lark Sparrow—Impressive were 26 at Virden 29 Dec (JEP) and 20 there 26 Jan (JEP). Other credible reports were 2 at Cotton City 4 Feb (JRO) and singles at Columbus 29 Dec (CMR) and near Mesilla 9 Dec (CRB) & 7 Jan (CGL**).

Lark Bunting—Lush desert grasslands favored this species in the southwest; noteworthy were 1000 near Animas 30 Dec (JEP) and 2500 at Columbus 29 Dec (CMR).

Grasshopper Sparrow—Where rarely encountered in winter were singles west of Bingham 25 Jan (CGL, CRB), at San Simon Cienega 26 Jan (JEP), and in grasslands at 1950 m above Owl Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 27 Dec & 22 Feb (CDL). High count was 30 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 31 Dec (AMC+).

Baird's Sparrow—Credible reports were 4 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (CMR*), up to 5 in the southern Animas Valley near Cloverdale 18 Feb (SS*, GB), and 2 in McKinney Flats west of Antelope Wells 17 Jan (DJG) and one there 24 Feb (DJG); one or more passed through Otero Mesa grasslands in early Dec (RAM).

Le Conte's Sparrow—One was described near Carlsbad 17 Dec (SW*). Three (one seen, one heard, and one other suspected) were in grasslands in the northeast corner of the McGregor Range at the base of the Sacramento Mts., Otero Mesa, 6 Dec (RAM).

Fox Sparrow—Made a strong showing, with reports from 11 locales in nine counties: one grayish (slate-colored) at Montezuma 1 Feb (TB, CB**), one grayish at Santa Rosa 17 Dec (WFW), one reddish at Ute L. 28 Jan (NDP, MJB), one grayish at RGNC 15 Dec-14 Feb (m.ob.), one apparently grayish in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (R. Hoppe*), one grayish at Bosque NWR 22 Dec-5 Jan (CGL, JEP), one grayish in Lee's Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 17 Feb (CDL), one unspecified at Silver City 17 Dec (*fide* RSS), one unspecified at Fort Bayard 17 Dec (LKM), one grayish at Sunland Park 2 Jan (JNP), and one grayish, one reddish, and one unspecified at CCNP 16 Dec (SW+).

Lincoln's Sparrow—Especially numerous in mountain foothills in the south, including a high 259 in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC+). North were one at Maxwell 7 Jan (DJC**) and 2 at Española 23 Dec (BRF).

Swamp Sparrow—At the northern edge of the winter range were singles at Española 23 Dec (BRF) and Cimarron 2 Jan (DJC**) and up to 3 at Ute L. 5-6 Jan (MOH, JEP). Noteworthy were one at Deming 22 Dec (LKM) and a high 6 west to the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AMC+).

White-throated Sparrow—North were singles at Sugarite SP 25 Dec (DJC), Yankee Canyon 25 Dec (DJC), and Montezuma 20 Jan (TB, CB**).

Harris's Sparrow—Reported from 10 sites in eight counties: singles on the Vermejo Ranch 27 Jan & 27 Feb (DJC**), Cimarron 15 Dec (DJC), Corrales 17 Dec (MRG*), Albuquerque 3 Feb (JEP*), Socorro 12-14 Dec & 15 Jan (PB), Luis Lopez on various

dates 11 Dec-23 Feb (JRO, JEP, CMB), Hatch 24 Feb (CGL**), Post Office Canyon 23 Nov-1 Jan (CDL), and Silver City 17 Dec (*vide* RSS), and 2 in Stone Canyon, CCNP 16 Dec (TJH*).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—A good season produced singles at Santa Rosa 17 Dec (WFW), Placitas 30 Dec (JM), Petroglyph NM 17 Dec (NDP*), and Skull Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (P. Abbott*).

“White-winged” Junco—One was west to Zuni’s Mullen Canyon 28 Dec & 1 Jan (JAT*).

Lapland Longspur—Continuing from Nov, Laplands were conspicuous in the Maxwell area, with generally small numbers Dec-Jan, but a high 150 north of Maxwell 3 Feb (DJC**). Away from *Colfax*, 8 were near Ute L. 6 Jan (JEP), one was at LVNWR 9 Dec (JEP), and 2 were south to McIntosh, *Torrance* 18 Feb (CMR).

Chestnut-collared Longspur—Impressive numbers made good use of s. grasslands, including some 3400 near Hermanas 2 Dec (DLH), over 1860 at Sevilleta NWR 21 Dec (DJK, MOH, NSC, SWC), and about 1100 in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (CMR).

Northern Cardinal—Two were at Santa Rosa 17 Dec (WFW+).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—Historically scarce in winter, high counts this season included about 5000 near Hermanas 4 Feb (JRO), 2200 at Deming 15 Dec (LKM), over 500 at Sunland Park 12 Jan (JEP), and 300 at Mesilla 5 Dec (CGL).

Rusty Blackbird—Four were at Ute L. 9 Dec (DJC**) and at least 2 males were at Davies Tank on various dates 20 Dec-8 Jan (CGL**, CRB**, MTS, JEZ**).

Brewer’s Blackbird—A record 326 was north to Farmington 16 Dec (APN+).

Common Grackle—One was far west to Virden 29 Dec (JEP); 3 were at Deming 6 Dec (LKM).

Bronzed Cowbird—A high 30 were at Las Cruces 16 Dec (TL+) and smaller numbers lingered there Jan-Feb (CGL, JEP, JEZ).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Five were north to Maxwell 5 Jan (DJC**).

Rosy-Finch—Returned in numbers to Sandia Crest where, through 11 Mar, 773 had been banded this winter: 579 **Blacks**, 186 **Gray-crowneds** (including 104 **“Hepburn’s”**), and 8 **Brown-cappeds** (NSC, SWC+). Elsewhere, one **Gray-crowned** was at Placitas 29-30 Dec (JM), 14 **Brown-cappeds** were at Montezuma 20 Jan-12 Feb (TB, CB**), and a flock of 15 of undetermined species was on Mt. Taylor 18 Feb (C. J. Grimes).

Cassin’s Finch—Widespread in small to moderate numbers, but unreported from the far northwest and far southeast. Higher counts included 75 at Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC+) and 59 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV+). Nine visited a Silver City feeder Jan-Feb (DAZ**).

House Finch—A yellow-feathered male was at Cochiti 18 Dec (MLW**).

Lawrence's Goldfinch—Staged a mini-invasion in the southwest, with singles at Radium Springs 15 Dec (JRO*) and the Carlisle Mine, *Grant* 31 Dec (RFS**) and 7 at San Simon Cienega 5 Jan (NDP*, MJB*).

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