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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 \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068; www.nmbirds.org.

Cover: Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma imberbe*). A regular but scarce summer resident in New Mexico, the former "Beardless Flycatcher" is found annually only in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo County, where it nests in sycamores and other riparian trees. Territories tend to be near the few water pools in the otherwise dry canyon; numbers have declined in recent years, coincident with a general drying trend experienced in the canyon. The small and localized population is vulnerable to loss of required low-elevation riparian habitat from burning, clearing, reduced water table, or overgrazing. Art by Dale A. Zimmerman.

WINTER SEASON 2007-2008

The winter of 2007-08 was characterized by colder temperatures over much of New Mexico, and above average snowfall in most mountain ranges. Several montane species were conspicuous in lowland areas, but wintering sparrows were scarce. Meanwhile, the background theme of species lingering late, overwintering north of historic range, and/or returning early continued. Notable rarities included the first report of Barnacle Goose, a latest ever Red Phalarope, the 4th and 5th well-documented Lesser Black-backed Gulls, the 4th verified Couch's Kingbird, the 9th Rufous-backed Robin, and the continuing state-first Common Redpoll.

Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Laguna Grande, <i>Eddy</i>
Alamogordo, <i>Otero</i>	Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Anapra, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Las Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>
Animas, Mts., Valley, <i>Hidalgo</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Bernardo, <i>Socorro</i>	Logan, <i>Quay</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Lordsburg, Playa, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Los Alamos, <i>Los Alamos</i>
Bosque Redondo, <i>De Baca</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Luis Lopez, <i>Socorro</i>
Buckman, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Burn Lake, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Mesilla, Park, Dam, Valley, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Burro Mts., <i>Grant</i>	Organ Mts., <i>Doña Ana</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Orilla Verde, <i>Taos</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	Otis, <i>Eddy</i>
Cimarron, Canyon, <i>Colfax</i>	Pecos, <i>San Miguel</i>
Clayton, <i>Union</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Questa, <i>Taos</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Radium Springs, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Raton, <i>Colfax</i>
Datil, <i>Catron</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Rodeo, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Eagle Nest, <i>Colfax</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Eldorado, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Ruidoso, <i>Lincoln</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Sandia Crest, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Bernalillo/Sandoval</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	San Juan Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Florida Mts., <i>Luna</i>	Santa Fe, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Gila, Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Separ, <i>Grant</i>
Hachita, <i>Grant</i>	Seven Rivers WMA, <i>Eddy</i>
Hatch, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Sevilleta NWR, <i>Socorro</i>
Hermanas, <i>Luna</i>	Silver City, <i>Grant</i>
Hurley, <i>Grant</i>	Six Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i>
La Cienega, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Socorro, <i>Socorro</i>

Spring Canyon SP, *Luna*
 Springer Lake, *Colfax*
 Sugarite Canyon, SP, *Colfax*
 Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*
 Tatum, *Lea*
 Truth or Consequences, *Sierra*

Tyrone, *Grant*
 Ute Lake, *Quay*
 Virden, *Hidalgo*
 Whites City, *Eddy*
 Zuni, *McKinley*

Standard Abbreviations

AFB	Air Force Base	SP	State Park
Bosque NWR	Bosque del Apache NWR	UNM	Univ. of New Mexico
BLNWR	Bitter Lake NWR	USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	♂	male (represents sword & shield of Mars)
CG	Camp Ground	♀	female (represents mirror of Venus)
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		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		
RGV	Rio Grande Valley		

Initialed Observers

PB	Pat Basham	MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	LKM	Larry K. Malone
MJB	Matt J. Baumann	CM	Cecilia McNicoll
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SMB	Sherry M. Bixler	NM-C	Narca Moore-Craig
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NSC	Nancy S. Cox	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
SWC	Steven W. Cox	JEP	John E. Parmeter
AMC	Alan M. Craig	CP	Cathy Pasterczyk
CCC	Craig C. Cranston	JNP	James N. Paton
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DME	Deanna M. Einspahr	TR	Tim Reeves
TWF	Trevor W. Fetz	MMR	Mary M. Ristow
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
TG	Tony Godfrey	JIS	Jeffery I. Sanchez
LPG	Larry P. Gorbet	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
MRG	M. Rebecca Gracey	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
KAG	Kathy A. Granillo	RSS	Roland S. Shook
DJG	David J. Griffin	RT	Robert Templeton
MJH	M. Joan Hardie	JAT	John A. Trochet
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JBV	J. Brad Vaughn
CLH	Charles L. Hayes	NV	Nick Vaughn
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	MLW	Mark L. Watson
TJH	Tom J. Hines	RW	Robert Weber
WHH	William H. Howe	SW	Steve West
JMH	Jeff M. Howland	WFWi	William F. Wittman
JK	James Krakowski	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
DJK	David J. Krueper	HDW	Hope D. Woodward
JAL	Joseph A. LaFleur	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
ERL	Eugene R. Lewis	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	DAZ	Dale A. Zimmerman
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—High counts were up to 9 in Albuquerque's South Valley 20 Dec-6 Jan (m.ob.) and 7 each at Maxwell NWR 7 Dec (DJC), Clayton 19 Dec (CMR), and Corrales 16 Dec (DJK). Others included one at Bernardo 1 Dec (CJW) and 3 at Percha SP 19 Jan (DJG).

Snow Goose—Noteworthy for the southwest, a blue morph was at Virden 29 Dec & 26 Jan (JEP). An impressive 40,660 were at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH).

Ross's Goose—A high 5080 were at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH).

Barnacle Goose—An unbanded, free-flying one was in the Maxwell area 7 Dec-9 Feb (JEP*, DJC**, NDP**, MJB**, JRO**, JPB**, m.ob.). Although the provenance of this bird may never be known with certainty, it arrived amidst a backdrop of spectacular population increases among Barnacle Goose populations in recent decades.

Cackling Goose—High counts included 2522 near Clayton 19 Dec (CMR), about 500 each at Maxwell NWR 7-8 Dec (JEP, WFWi) and Albuquerque's South Valley 21 Dec (JEP), and 550 at RGNC 10 Feb (JEP). West was one at Virden 29 Dec (JEP, WFWi).

Trumpeter Swan—The 3 that arrived at Farmington 8 Jan (TR**) have been revealed as captive-bred offspring of a captive pair at Pagosa Springs, CO.

Tundra Swan—A good season found 2 at Maxwell NWR 7 Dec-27 Feb (DJC, m.ob.) and singles in Albuquerque's South Valley 21 Dec-4 Jan (m.ob.) and near Radium Springs 3 Dec (MTS*, JEZ**, DJG**); likely Tundras were one at Cherry L., Mora and 4 at LVNWR 12 Jan (MLW) and one at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (*fide* DLH).

Wood Duck—A ♀ was at Clovis 18 Jan (JEP). High count was 339 on the Albuquerque CBC 16 Dec (HRS+).

Eurasian Wigeon—A ♂ at Clovis 15-18 Jan (WFWi, JEP) provided a *Curry* first; another ♂ was at Caballo Dam 2 Feb (JEP, WFWi).

American Wigeon—Over 4000 were at Clovis 18 Jan (JEP), a large concentration for New Mexico.

Blue-winged Teal—Earliest reported were 8 at BLNWR 20 Feb (JMH, JIS); there were no Jan reports.

Cinnamon Teal—Noteworthy for Jan were 4 at Bosque NWR 26 Jan (JRO) and a ♂ at Maxwell NWR 27 Jan (DJK).

Greater Scaup—A ♂ was at Sugarite SP 22 Dec (DJC**); undetailed was one at Deming 8 Jan (WFWi).

Long-tailed Duck—An apparent imm. ♀ was at Bosque NWR 14-26 Dec (A. Rube**, J. D. Ligon, M. Miller, JPB**) and an apparent imm. ♂ was at Ute L. 2-9 Feb (NDP**, CJW**, JEP*).

Barrow's Goldeneye—Much in evidence again in evidence in *Colfax*, with at least one ♂ and 2 ♀♀ present in the Maxwell NWR-Stubblefield L.-Springer L. area 9 Dec-16 Feb (DJC**, JEP*, MJB**, NDP*, m.ob.). In the upper R.G.V., a ♂ was at Orilla Verde 29 Dec (RW**) and a ♀ was at Cochiti L. 23 Dec (CJW**).

Hooded Merganser—A high 27 were at Miami L., *Colfax* 7 Dec (DJC**); noteworthy for *Luna* was one at Deming 20 Jan (LKM).

Lesser Prairie-Chicken—North of expected was one in “downtown” Logan 17 Dec (B. Bass**).

Scaled Quail—Unusual were 18 at Zuni's Tekapo 15 Dec (CMR).

Scaled Quail x Gambel's Quail—Noteworthy were 7 of these hybrids at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DJG).

Montezuma Quail—Two coveys of 6-7 birds each were in the Jack's Peak area, Burro Mts. 7 Feb (RSS).

Pacific Loon—One at Cochiti L. 9-14 Dec (WHH*, WFWi) provided the lone report.

Common Loon—A vocal one was at Burn L. 9-17 Dec (CGL**, MTS*, JEZ**, DJG**); over 20 were at Ute L. 9 Feb (JEP).

Red-necked Grebe—One was described at Farmington L. 15 Dec (TR*).

Aechmophorus grebes—High counts for wintering birds were 4100 at EBL 15 Jan (MLW) and 1185 at Caballo L. 29 Dec (JBV).

American White Pelican—Late for the north was one at Farmington 15 Dec (APN). In *Eddy*, wintering numbers continued to grow, as did illegal shooting (SW); 236 were in the Brantley L.-L. Avalon area 16 Dec (SW).

Double-crested Cormorant—An impressive 757 were counted in the Brantley L. area 16 Dec (SW).

American Bittern—Singles were at Bosque NWR 26 Dec (JPB**) & 19 Jan (RHD), and BLNWR 9 Jan (JMH, JIS) & 21-22 Feb (JEP).

Great Egret—Numbers continued to grow, including 60 at BLNWR 14 Dec (SW), 34 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TJH), and 73 at Six Mile Dam 22 Dec (SW, CCC); smaller numbers persisted in s. New Mexico through Jan, including 12 at BLNWR 9 Jan (JMH, JIS).

Snowy Egret—Noteworthy for mid-winter were 7 at BLNWR 9 Jan and 6 there 6 Feb (JMH, JIS).

Cattle Egret—Nine were at Burn L. 11 Dec (CGL).

White-faced Ibis—Increasing winter presence was evidenced by 55 at BLNWR 9 Jan and 40 there 23 Jan (JMH, JIS). One was at Six Mile Dam 23 Dec (SW).

Turkey Vulture—Historically unknown in winter in the state, the recently discovered winter roost at Roswell was occupied Dec-Feb (m.ob.), including at least 18 there 15 Jan (NSC) and 27 on 16 Feb (JEP). Elsewhere, singles were at RGNC 18 Jan (B. Dory*) & 10 Feb (KAG*), near Deming 3 Jan (R. & C. Helbock), and near Hurley 3 Feb (SW).

Osprey—Jan records included singles n. to the Truth or Consequences area 12 & 15 Jan (JEP, JRO, MLW) and L. Van, *Chaves* 15 Jan (SW).

White-tailed Kite—Continued much in evidence in *Hidalgo*, s. *Grant*, *Luna*, and *Doña Ana*, including four pairs near Hachita 18 Dec (DJG); an ad. was north to Bosque NWR 11 Jan (JK) & 21 Feb (PB*).

Bald Eagle—Only 11 were counted during an aerial survey of the EBL-Caballo L. area 24 Jan (RHD), down 88% from the 94 counted on similar surveys there in 2001.

Northern Harrier—Found on 31 CBCs; noteworthy were 59 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 30 Dec (TG+), 47 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+), and 12 at Zuni 15 Dec (JAT+).

Harris's Hawk—Pushing the breeding season was a pair at a nest s. of Loving 22 Feb (JEP). Farther west, one was s. of Alamogordo 15 Dec (SW), 2 were in *Luna* 22 Dec (LKM), and 3 were w. of Hachita 9 Jan (C. W. Painter).

“Harlan's” Hawk—Often reported, but rarely well documented; this season one was nicely photographed near Lordsburg 1 Dec (DAZ**).

Rough-legged Hawk—A dark morph ad. was near Animas 28 Dec (DJK).

Golden Eagle—One took down a Sandhill Crane at LVNWR 23 Feb (MMR), but the crane ultimately escaped.

Merlin—Found nearly statewide Dec-Feb, including on 16 of 32 CBCs; noteworthy was a likely *suckleyi* at Zuni 13 Dec (JAT*).

Peregrine Falcon—Scarce in Jan in New Mexico, singles were in the Organ Mts. 5 Jan (DJG) and at Sunland Park 4 Jan (JEP). Late for the north was one at Santa Fe 13 Dec (MLW).

Virginia Rail—Lingering or wintering in the n. were 4 at Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC) and singles at Orilla Verde 22 Dec (RW), Española 23 Dec (BRF), and Santa Fe 22 Dec (DME).

Sora—A vocal one was n. to San Juan Pueblo 23 Dec (MDM).

Sandhill Crane—An aerial survey counted 19,476 in the RGV 15 Jan (MLW). Some 11,710 were at BLNWR 15 Dec (SMB+).

Snowy Plover—Late were one at Laguna Grande 20 Dec (JRO) and 18 near Loving 23 Dec (CCC+).

Killdeer—Noteworthy was one n. to Clayton 19 Dec (JAT); an impressive 130 were at Seco Flats, Caballo L. 26 Jan (DLH).

Black-necked Stilt—An estimated 12 wintered along the Rio Grande in the Sunland Park area Dec-Feb (JNP); specific counts included 3 at Anapra 9 Dec (CGL) and 5 at Sunland Park 4 Jan (JEP).

American Avocet—Wintered n. to Caballo L., where there were 2 on 29 Dec (DLH*), 3 on 26 Jan (DLH), and 2 on 4 Feb (DJC**); one was at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP).

Greater Yellowlegs—North for the season was one at Springer L. 7 Jan (DJC**). An impressive 56 were on the Roswell CBC 15 Dec (SMB+); lingering through winter were 16 at BLNWR 9 Jan & 17 there 6 Feb (JMH, JIS).

Long-billed Curlew—Late were 33 near Separ 1 Dec (RSS), 17 near Hermanas 5 Dec (DJG), and 2 near Hachita 20 Dec (DJG). Early or wintering were 15 at Six Mile Dam & 5 near Otis 9 Feb (SW).

sandpiper sp.—Sandpipers reported as “Westerns,” but undetailed and not even flagged as unusual by the compilers, numbered 5 on the Roswell CBC 15 Dec (SMB+) and 124 on the Loving CBC 22 Dec (CCC+); this species is not expected in winter in New Mexico.

Least Sandpiper—Some 600 were at Caballo L. 26 Jan (DLH).

Dunlin—Reports were 2 at Caballo L. 4-5 Feb (DJC**), one at Brantley L. 16 Jan (WFWi), and 3 at Loving 23 Dec (CCC+).

Red Phalarope—One at the Deming water treatment ponds 8 Dec (LKM**) provided the latest ever for New Mexico and a Dec first.

Bonaparte's Gull—Lingering were 5 at BLNWR 14 Dec (SW), 39 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TJH+), and 5 at Loving 23 Dec (CCC+); unusual for the season were up to 2 at EBL 2 Feb (JEP, DJC**).

Mew Gull—A first-winter one was at Sunland Park 1 Dec, 18 Jan, & 1 Feb (JEP*, JRO**). Single ads. were at Caballo L. 28-29 Dec (CGL**) and EBL 2 & 19 Feb (DJC**).

California Gull—The species was unusually prevalent, including a record 163 at Farmington 15 Dec (APN+). Others of note, all described as ads., were 14 at Eagle Nest 3 Dec (DJC**), 2 at Zuni 15 Dec (JAT*), and 2 at Lordsburg 29 Dec (JEP) plus up to 5 at EBL Dec-Feb (m.ob.), up at 2 at Caballo L. 28 Dec-5 Jan (CGL, JEP), and one at Brantley L. 16 Jan (RHD).

Thayer's Gull—An ad. was at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina on various dates 19 Dec-23 Feb (m.ob., CGL**, JPB**, JRO**, DJC**) and a first-winter one was there 25 Jan (JRO**) & 18 Feb (MOH*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—A first-winter bird was at Sunland Park 1 Dec (JEP*, JRO**) and presumably the same one was there 23 Feb (JNP**); an ad. was there 1 Jan (JNP**). These represent the 4th and 5th well-documented New Mexico records.

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Reported on 28 of 32 CBCs, including a high 105 w. to Farmington 15 Dec (APN+) and 219 at Silver City 16 Dec (R. Metz+); 44 were in the snow at 2500 m at Eagle Nest 14 Dec (DJC**). Getting an early start, a pair was copulating at Deming 9 Jan (LKM).

White-winged Dove—Noteworthy counts in the north were 4 at Farmington 15 Dec (APN+) and 59 at Santa Fe 22 Dec (DME+); 8 were at Ruisoso 15 Dec (ALP+).

Inca Dove—Four were n. to Gila Dec-Feb (CM), and up to 5 wintered at Silver City, where ♂♂ were singing 28 Feb (ERL).

Common Ground-Dove—One at Rodeo 28 Dec (DJK) provided the only report.

Ruddy Ground-Dove—One at Gila, first noted 29 Nov, was photographed 15 Dec (CM**) and was still present 3 Feb (CM); another was at Silver City 7-11 Dec (ERL*).

Greater Roadrunner—Maintaining a *Colfax* presence, singles were at Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC) and Raton 25 Dec (DJC).

Long-eared Owl—Noteworthy roosts numbered 14 birds at Cooke's Spring, *Luna* 3 Feb (RSS), 13 at City of Rocks SP, *Grant* 20 Jan (J. Bird), and 8 in the Cimarron foothills e. of Loving, *Eddy* 9 Feb (SW).

Short-eared Owl—Fueled by an abundant prey base, the species experienced a remarkable season, with reports of singles at Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (NSC, SWC), Broadview, *Curry* 9 Dec (CMR), BLNWR 22 Feb (JEP*), Otero Mesa 1 Feb (RAM), and Seven Rivers WMA 27 Jan (SW), plus 2 each in the s. Tularosa Valley, *Otero* 12 Feb (RAM) and in *Eddy* e. of Loving 9 Feb (SW), 4 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 30 Dec (TG+) including at least one in the middle Animas Valley (CGL**), and a roost of 7 in the Tularosa Valley at the Coe lakebed, *Doña Ana* 9 Feb (RAM).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—One was in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 31 Dec (DJG**).

White-throated Swift—Conspicuous for the season in the south, including 150 in the Sunland Park area 1 Jan (MTS, JEZ) and 75 there 4 Jan (CJW), 30 near Hatch 30 Dec (DJG), and 7 at Spring Canyon SP, Florida Mts. 22 Jan (LKM).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—A ♀ was at Carlsbad “most of Jan,” including 29 Jan (SW), the 4th consecutive winter for the species there.

Anna's Hummingbird—Up to 3 were at Carlsbad through mid-Feb (SW) and at least one was at Radium Springs through 9 Feb (MTS, JEZ, MOH**).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird—Earliest ♂♂ in the Peloncillo Mts. were singles 13 & 15 Feb (CDL); manzanita began blooming there 12 Feb.

Rufous Hummingbird—With details were a young ♂ at Las Cruces 14-15 Dec (R. Castetter**) and an ad. ♂ there 4-18 Jan (J. Douglas*).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Beyond expected range were singles se. of Logan 15 Jan (WFWi) and in Thompson Canyon, Burro Mts. 31 Jan (R. Shantz).

Red-headed Woodpecker—Noteworthy for the RGV was one on Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 31 Dec (R. Ketchum) through Feb (m.ob., JRO**, NDP**).

Acorn Woodpecker—North were one at Raton 25 Jan (DJC+) and up to 3 at Sugarite SP 1 Dec-9 Feb (DJC**, JEP). Remarkable if accurate were 31 reported on the Ruidoso CBC 4 Jan (ALP+).

Gila Woodpecker—Nine were in the vicinity of Virden 29 Dec (JEP); 26 were on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 30 Dec (TG+).

Williamson's Sapsucker—North were a ♂ and ♀ at Cimarron 5 Dec (JLD**, DJC**); the ♀ was relocated 7 Dec (JEP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Those reported with details were a ♂ at Cimarron 5 Dec (JLD**, DJC) and a ♀ on Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 23 Jan-17 Feb (CGL, MTS, DLH).

Red-naped Sapsucker—One was north to Española 23 Dec (BRF*).

Downy Woodpecker—One was south to Percha SP 19 Jan (DJG).

Northern Flicker—Flickers with yellow feathers included an apparent ♀ **Yellow-shafted** at Socorro 17 Nov-13 Jan (PB) and another of uncertain parentage on Las Animas Cr., *Sierra* 9 Feb (JAL).

Empidonax flycatchers—A remarkable 6 were found on the Gila River CBC 29 Dec (RSS+), and at least one continued in the area to 18 Feb (RSS), but species identity was uncertain. An often vocal one identified as **Hammond's** was at Percha SP 1 Dec (JEP*), 29 Dec (CGL), 26 Jan (DLH*), and 1 Feb (JEP*). Apparent **Dusky Flycatchers** were singles at Bosque NWR 2 & 24 Feb (DLH*) and Rattlesnake Springs 15 Dec (SW*, TJH) and 17 Jan (WFWi*).

Eastern Phoebe—West were 2 on the Silver City CBC 16 Dec (HDW**).

Say's Phoebe—Late for the north were 5 at Farmington 15 Dec (APN+); early was one at Pojoaque, *Santa Fe* 16 Feb (JPB).

Couch's Kingbird—A vocal one split its time between Sunland Park and adjacent El Paso 1-13 Jan (JNP**, BRZ** & audio, MTS*, JEZ** & audio, JEP*, MJB** & audio, CJW*, JRO**, CGL**, m.ob.). Of nine well-documented state records of kingbirds of

the Tropical/Couch's group, four are assignable to Couch's but none can be assigned with certainty to Tropical.

Western Kingbird—Very early was one in the Animas Valley 17 Feb (AMC, NM-C).

Northern Shrike—One to 3 were at 10 *Colfax* sites Dec-Feb (m.ob.). An ad. was s. to Romeroville, *San Miguel* 5 Jan (MMR).

Hutton's Vireo—Where rarely reported were singles at and near Virden 29 Dec (JEP), near Virden 26 Jan (JEP), at Spring Canyon SP 26 Dec (LKM), and at City of Rocks SP 2 Feb (LKM). In the Organ Mts., up to 5 were along Aguirre Springs' Pine Tree Trail 2 Dec (CGL, DJG) and one was in Fillmore Canyon 5 Jan (DJG).

Steller's Jay—Remnants of the autumn's minor invasion were in the RGV from *Sandoval* to *Socorro*, including 37 at Corrales 16 Dec (WHH, DJK) and 14 there 5 Feb (TWF); 2 lingered at Socorro through Feb (PB). Noteworthy for the Organ Mts. were up to 4 on the Pine Tree Trail 2 Dec (CGL, DJG) & 18 Dec (MTS, JEZ).

Pinyon Jay—Noteworthy for the lower RGV was one at Las Palomas 29 Dec (JBV).

Clark's Nutcracker—Surprising were 2 in the Burro Mts. 11 Jan (DJG).

Chihuahuan Raven—One was n. to Clayton 19 Dec (CMR); 500 were roosting in mesquite s. of Deming 5 Dec (DJG).

Common Raven—Noteworthy for *Eddy* were 2 at Rattlesnake Springs 2 Jan (SW), one at Whites City 11 Feb (SW), and 5 n. of Carlsbad 29 Feb (SW).

Tree Swallow—Late was one at Bosque NWR 9 Dec (DLH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Several lingered in *Doña Ana*, including one at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DJG) and up to 8 at Sunland Park 1-6 Jan (MTS, JEZ, JNP, MOH), where there was one 1 Feb (JEP).

Cliff Swallow—Unusual was one at Sunland Park 4 Jan (CJW).

Cave Swallow—Unexpected were 14 Cave Swallows at two sites along the Rio Grande at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP, MTS, JEZ). Earliest returnees reached CCNP 11 Feb (SW), about average for recent years but about one month earlier than in the 1970s.

Black-capped Chickadee—Noteworthy for the Jemez Mts. was one at Los Alamos 6 Jan (S. M. Fettig**, T. F. Hodapp**).

Mountain Chickadee—Conspicuous in foothill and lowland areas statewide, including one at Bosque Redondo 18 Jan (JEP), 11 at Socorro Dec-Feb (PB), 2 at Percha SP 19 Jan (DJG), 5 at Mesilla Park 25 Dec (DJG), one at Sunland Park 1 Jan (JNP), 12 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 29 Dec (RSS), and singles at Tyrone 3 Feb (ERL) and Rodeo 28 Dec (DJK).

Black-capped Chickadee x Mountain Chickadee—One of these hybrids was at Corrales 16 Dec (WHH); such hybrids occur in low numbers in the bosque from Corrales to Bernardo.

Bushtit—Pairs were noted in the Peloncillo Mts. by 2 Feb (CDL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch—Remnants of the autumn's incursion included 7 e. to Clayton 19 Dec (CMR, MDM**), 10 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TJH+), 11 in the Caballo L. area 29 Dec (JBV), 6 at Mesilla Park 25 Dec (DJG), and singles at Deming 8 Jan (WFWi) & 24 Feb (LKM) and Rattlesnake Springs 22 Feb (JEP).

Pygmy Nuthatch—In atypical habitat were 2 in central Albuquerque 2 Dec-29 Feb (CMB), singles in southeast Albuquerque 13 Jan (CP) and Bosque NWR 26 Feb (S. Wilson), and 3 at Mesilla Park 16 Dec (CGL**).

Cactus Wren—In the Sandia Mts. foothills adjacent to Albuquerque were 2 n. of Encantado 16 Dec (CMB) and singles in Embudito Canyon 26 Dec (JK) and Embudo Canyon 30 Dec (CMB).

House Wren—Late was one n. to Cimarron Canyon 18-19 Dec (DJC**).

Winter Wren—One was on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 4 Dec (DJC*) and 2 were on the river n. of Pecos 30 Dec (JK*).

Marsh Wren—Four lingered n. to Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC+); 2 were n. to La Cienega 26 Jan (JPB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet—Continued in evidence in atypical habitat, including a high 12 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+), one at EBL Dam 12 Jan (JEP, JRO), up to 3 at Percha SP 9 Dec-12 Jan (m.ob.), and one to 2 near Radium Springs 6 Dec-25 Jan (CGL, MTS, JEZ). Among the high counts were 12 in the Burro Mts. 28 Feb (DJG), 12 near Silver City 20 Feb (LKM), and 10 in the Organ Mts. 31 Dec (DJG).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Lackadaisical reporting continued to confound our understanding of the winter status of this species, historically not known to winter in the state. Late—and well detailed—were singles at Zuni's Blackrock 13 Dec (JAT*) and Albuquerque 16 Dec (NV*); undetailed were 8 at Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (NSC, SWC) and 2 at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (*fide* DLH), both sites also reporting undetailed **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers**. Any Blue-gray seen in winter needs to be carefully described, and any Black-tailed need to be reported with sufficient information to distinguish it from Blue-gray.

Eastern Bluebird—Conspicuous from the RGV eastward Dec-Jan. In the west were 5 at GBA 28 Dec (RSS) and 5 at Virden 26 Jan (JEP).

Hermit Thrush—One north to Cimarron Canyon 29 Dec (DJC**) may be a *Colfax* winter first. Others in the north included 3 at Farmington 15 Dec (APN), one at Questa 16 Dec (RW), 3 at Dixon 15 Dec (RT), and 2 at Española 23 Dec (BRF).

Rufous-backed Robin—One along Las Animas Cr. from 21 Jan (G. Bieber, D. Lovitch**) into Mar (m.ob., many photos) furnished the 2nd record for *Sierra*, the 8th for the RGV, and the 9th overall for New Mexico.

Gray Catbird—Unexpected in winter, singles were n. of Pecos 30 Dec (JK), at Bosque NWR 10 Feb (JAL), and at Mesilla 7-15 Dec (CGL).

Northern Mockingbird—Late were singles at Zuni 15 Dec (JAT) and Socorro 3-16 Dec (PB); wintering or early were singles at Ute L. 2 Feb (NDP, CJW) and Conchas L. 9 Feb (JEP).

Sage Thrasher—Unusually absent from CCNP until one was seen 30 Jan (SW); in the n. were 2 at Española 23 Dec (BRF), 2 at Eldorado 20 Jan (JPB), and 3 at Buckman 23 Jan (JPB).

Brown Thrasher—Among several reports were one n. to Cimarron 15 Dec (DJC**) and one w. to Corrales 12 Feb (TWF**).

Curve-billed Thrasher—Singles were n. to Orilla Verde 29 Dec (RW+), near Cimarron 18 Dec (DJC**), and Clayton 19 Dec (JAT*).

European Starling—Found on 31 CBCs, including 10,000 at Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (NSC, SWC) and an unusually precise 5482 at Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+).

American Pipit—North for the season were 4 at Española 23 Dec (BRF+) and singles at Santa Fe 14 Jan (JPB) and Clayton 19 Dec (JAT*).

Sprague's Pipit—Late for the n. was one at Clayton 19 Dec (JAT*); one to 4 were at 10 locales across the south in *Hidalgo*, *s. Grant*, *Luna*, *Otero*, and *Eddy* mid-Dec—mid-Feb (m.ob.), although the only Jan report was of 4 on Otero Mesa 21 Jan (RAM).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Continued to winter in some numbers in s. New Mexico, including highs of 9 at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DJG+) and 5 in the Avalon-Brantley area 16 Dec (TJH+); noteworthy were singles at Ruidoso 4 Jan (ALP) and Deming 1 Feb (LKM). One that wintered at Carlsbad visited a hummingbird feeder (SW); one at Radium Springs ate suet (MTS, JEZ).

Townsend's Warbler—Unexpected in winter, an ad. ♂ was well-described at Albuquerque 24 Dec (KAG*).

Palm Warbler—One of the western subspecies was at Las Palomas 29 Dec (JBV*).

Common Yellowthroat—Singles were reported at Las Cruces 15 Dec (DJG+) and Tatum 15 Jan (WFWi).

Wilson's Warbler—Unusual in New Mexico in winter, a ♀ was at Santa Clara, *Grant* 16 Dec (LKM*).

Canyon Towhee—Two persisted at Maxwell 11 Dec-22 Jan (DJC**); 2 were e. to Grady, *Curry* 10 Dec (JRO).

Abert's Towhee—High counts were 7 at Nichol's Canyon, *Grant* 28 Feb (RSS) and 8 at Virden 26 Jan (JEP); only 2 were found in the Cliff-Gila Valley 29 Dec (CLH, RSS).

American Tree Sparrow—Some observers commented that fewer were seen and that the species was hard to find (JEP, DJC), suggesting it may be wintering farther north (i.e., north of New Mexico) than previously.

sparrows—Were generally scarce, especially in southern grasslands and shrublands. Noteworthy were single **Chipping Sparrows** n. to Corrales 16 Dec (DJK) and Albuquerque 26 Dec (NDP), 3 **Clay-colored Sparrows** in the middle Animas Valley 30 Dec (JPB*), a **Brewer's Sparrow** n. to Zuni 12-15 Dec (JAT*, CMR), and 2 **Field Sparrows** at CCNP 15 Dec (*fide* SW).

Black-chinned Sparrow—Fourteen were at Spring Canyon SP 26 Dec (LKM).

Lark Sparrow—Six were in the vicinity of Virden 29 Dec & 26 Jan (JEP), one of the few dependable areas for the species in winter.

Savannah Sparrow—A high 11 were n. to Zuni 15 Dec (JAT).

Grasshopper Sparrow—One was on Owl Canyon Ridge, Peloncillo Mts. 29 Dec (CDL), apparently a regular wintering site.

Baird's Sparrow—Three were in the middle Animas Valley 30 Dec (DJK, MOH, CMR, JAT), 3 were at two sites near Hachita 18 Dec (DJG), and one was on Otero Mesa 25 Jan (RAM), all areas of more-or-less regular occurrence in recent years.

Fox Sparrow—One to 3 were at eight locales in *Bernalillo*, *Socorro*, *Sierra*, *Hidalgo*, *Doña Ana*, and *Eddy* (m.ob.), but the only ones with details were one to 2 reddish ones at Luis Lopez 8 Dec-23 Feb (JRO* et al.) and single grayish (slate-colored) ones at RGNC 8 Dec-7 Feb (CJW*, P. Kline*) and Post Office Canyon 23 Dec-17 Jan (CDL*).

Swamp Sparrow—One was n. to Springer L. 28 Feb (DJC). Scarce in *Santa Fe*, one was at La Cienega 26 Jan (JPB).

Harris's Sparrow—Singles were at Maxwell 20 Dec (MDM*), Cochiti Village 22 Dec (MLW**), and w. of Datil 11 Dec-29 Feb (MJH*, J. L. Dunn**).

“White-winged” Junco—One was banded at RGNC 19 Jan (LPG*).

“Slate-colored” Junco—Found on 13 CBCs, including a high 18 w. to Zuni 15 Dec (JAT+) plus 17 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV, MRG), and 16 at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR); one was w. to Post Office Canyon 6 Jan and later (CDL).

Yellow-eyed Junco—Providing a winter first were one to 2 in the Jack's Peak area, Burro Mts. 28 Dec, 11 & 23 Jan, and 27-28 Feb (DJG*), including one photographed 23 Jan (DJG**) plus a **“Red-backed” Junco** also there 23 Jan (DJG**); assorted other **Dark-eyed Juncos** were present there on various dates all season.

Lapland Longspur—One was s. to EBL 6 Jan (JRO**). Farther north, only small numbers were in the Maxwell area 15 Dec-11 Jan (DJC, JEP), where the high count was 18 on 16 Dec (DJC), and 2 were at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR).

Northern Cardinal—Noteworthy were a ♂ at Ute L. 2 Feb (NDP, CJW), a ♂ in Axle Canyon, Burro Mts. 21 Jan (*fide* DJB), and a ♂-♀ pair at Carlsbad from Nov through Feb (SW).

Pyrrhuloxia—One was n. to Sevilleta NWR 18 Dec (NSC, SWC). A ♂ was singing in the Post Office Canyon area by 24 Feb (CDL).

Eastern Meadowlark—One was n. to Zuni 15 Dec (JAT); another was at 1960 m on Owl Canyon Ridge, Peloncillo Mts., 23 Jan (CDL).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—North were one at Las Vegas 5 Jan (DME), a ♀ at Maxwell 28 Jan (DJC), and a ♂ there 9 Feb (DJC**).

Rusty Blackbird—Regular in the east in recent years, one was at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR*) and 2 were at Ute L. 8 Jan (DJC**).

Common Grackle—Far n. for the winter, a ♂ persisted at Maxwell 23 Dec-19 Feb (DJC**), while one lingered at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR); 40 at Carlsbad 17 Feb (SW) was a large group for that date.

Great-tailed Grackle—Some 2000 were counted leaving a roost at Artesia, *Eddy* 15 Jan (SW).

Bronzed Cowbird—Wintering singles were at the NMSU stock pens in Las Cruces 16 Dec (CGL) & 4 Jan (JEP), and at a Deming feed lot 23 Jan (WFWi); unverified were a reported 12 north to Roswell 15 Dec (SMB+).

Brown-headed Cowbird—Over 17,000 were reported at BLNWR 15 Dec (JMH, JIS).

Bullock's Oriole—Nicely documented was a late ♀ at Mesilla Park 16 Dec (CGL**).

rosy-finch—The three-species flock at Sandia Crest was estimated at nearly 1000 birds Dec-Feb (*fide* MOH); in contrast to past years, **Brown-capped**s greatly outnumbered **Blacks** and **Gray-crowned**s through the season (NSC, SWC). Other three-species flocks were 250 (mainly **Gray-crowned**s) at Orilla Verde 29 Dec (RW), about 200 (mostly **Brown-capped**s) at the Taos Ski Area, *Taos* 15 Feb (JEP), 63 (mostly **Brown-capped**s) at Raton 27 Dec (DJC), and at least 76 (mostly **Brown-capped**s) at Eagle Nest 14 Dec (DJC). Elsewhere, about 65 **Gray-crowned**s were at Lyden, *Rio Arriba* 16 Dec (MDM**), 4 **Brown-capped**s were near Pecos 30 Dec (G. & K. Schiltz), and a **Brown-capped** was at Los Alamos 16 Jan (E. L. Albright**).

Pine Grosbeak—Eleven at Angel Fire, *Colfax* 2 Jan (DJC**) was a high count.

Cassin's Finch—The species was widespread and conspicuous, including being found on 15 CBCs. Among the reports were 2 e. to Mills Canyon, *Harding* 12 & 26 Feb (WFWi), 2 at Buckhorn Spring, San Andres Mts., *Sierra* 16 Jan (CGL), 6 in the

mountains w. of Datil 5 Jan (MJH), and singles at Spring Canyon SP 26 Dec (LKM) and Post Office Canyon 17 Jan (CDL).

Red Crossbill—Largely confined to the south; among the few reports were 5 at Albuquerque 13 Jan (CP), 9 each at Socorro 14 Dec (DLH) and Las Cruces 17 Dec (DJG), 2 each at Deming 29 Feb (LKM) and the WSMR golf course, *Doña Ana* 19 Dec (CGL), and one to 2 in the Burro Mts. 11 Jan & 27-28 Feb (DJG).

Common Redpoll—The ad. ♀, found and photographed at El Prado, *Taos* in Nov, was seen again 2 Dec (MOH*, BDN*, CJW*) and was last seen 4 Dec (J. & A. E. Tuomey*). Providing the first verified record for New Mexico, it corresponded to a notable irruption of the species into wintering areas to the north of New Mexico.

Lesser Goldfinch—Up to 3 wintered n. to Maxwell Dec-Feb, including 2 on 4 Dec (DJC**), 2 on 1 Jan (DJC**) and a ♂ on 26 Jan (DJC**).

Lawrence's Goldfinch—Another active season produced one on the lower Gila R. at Virden 29 Dec (JEP*) and 4 there 29 Feb (JEP*), 4 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 29 Dec (HDW) and up to 10 there 3 Feb (SW*) & 16 Feb (M. Fugagli), and 6 east to Caballo Dam 23 Feb (MJB*, NDP**) & 28 Feb (R. Munro).

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