New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes



Volume 50, Number 1, Winter 2010 - 2011

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES Volume 50, Number 1, Winter 2010-2011 1 December 2010 – 28 February 2011

A quarterly publication of the New Mexico Ornithological Society ISSN 0898-9443

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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.

Front cover: Rufous-winged Sparrow (*Peucaea carpalis*), Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo County, New Mexico, 8 January 2011 (see page 14). Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Back cover: Female **Elegant Trogon** (*Trogon elegans*), Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mountains, Doña Ana County, New Mexico, 13 February 2011 (see page 9). Photograph by Lucas J. Foerster.

WINTER SEASON 2010-2011

Following plentiful early autumn rains, winter 2010-11 saw a return to very dry conditions across most of New Mexico. Early February brought a week of record-setting cold, complete with several consecutive days of subfreezing temperatures south to the Mexican border, but by mid-February, record high temperatures were recorded north to Albuquerque. Thanks to the autumn rains, seedeaters and frugivores were especially numerous, as were grassland species generally. A number of rarities were found, including a Brant, two American Woodcocks, the first winter season Elegant Trogons, and two Yellow-throated Warblers, and Rufous-winged Sparrow was added to the state list.

Localities and Counties

Aguirre Springs, Doña Ana Alameda, Bernalillo Alamogordo, Otero Albuquerque, Bernalillo Animas Valley, Hidalgo Bear Canyon Lake, Grant Belen, Valencia Bernardo, Socorro Bitter Lake NWR, Chaves Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro Brantley Lake, Dam, Eddy Caballo Lake, Dam, Sierra Cannon AFB, *Curry* Carlsbad, Eddy Carlsbad Caverns NP, Eddy Casa Colorada, Valencia Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Cherry Lake, Mora Clayton, Lake, Union Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, Grant Cloverdale, Hidalgo Clovis, *Curry* Conchas Lake, Dam, San Miguel Corrales, Sandoval Cotton City, *Hidalgo* Deming, Luna Dixon, Rio Arriba Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, Sierra Española, Rio Arriba Eunice, Lea Farmington, Lake, San Juan Gila, Bird Area, Grant Glenwood. Catron Grulla NWR, Roosevelt Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Hatch, Doña Ana Hermanas, Luna NMOSFN 50:1 (Winter 2010-2011)

Hermosa, Sierra Heron Lake, Rio Arriba Hobbs. Lea Holloman Lake, Otero Jal, Lea Kingston, Sierra La Cieneguilla, Santa Fe Ladder Ranch. Sierra Laguna Grande, Eddy Lake Avalon, Eddy Las Cruces, Doña Ana Las Palomas, Sierra Last Chance Canyon, *Eddy* Las Vegas, NWR, San Miguel La Union, Doña Ana Lordsburg, Playa, Hidalgo Los Alamos, Los Alamos Loving, Eddy Madrid, Santa Fe Maxwell, NWR, Colfax Mims Lake, Sierra Mountainair, Torrance Navajo Dam, Lake, San Juan north *Roosevelt* trap [NRT], *Roosevelt* Nutt. Luna Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Rio Arriba Organ Mts., Doña Ana Orilla Verde, Taos Otero Mesa, Otero Pecos, San Miguel Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Percha SP, Sierra Pinos Altos Mts., Grant Playas, *Hidalgo* Pleasanton, Catron Post Office Canyon, Hidalgo Quarai, Torrance

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1 Dec 2010 – 28 Feb 2011

Questa, *Taos* Radium Springs, *Doña Ana* Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy* Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo* Rio Rancho, *Sandoval* Roswell, *Chaves* Ruidoso, *Lincoln* San Acacia, *Socorro* San Antonio, *Socorro* Sandia Crest, Park, *Bernalillo* Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval* San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo* Santa Fe, Canyon, Ski, *Santa Fe* Separ, *Grant* Seven Rivers WMA, *Eddy* Sevilleta NWR, Socorro Silver City, Grant Six Mile Dam, Eddy Springer Lake, Colfax Sunland Park, Doña Ana Tierra Blanca Cr., Sierra Tijeras, Bernalillo Torreon, Torrance Tyrone, Grant Ute Lake, Quay Uvas Valley, Doña Ana/Luna Wagon Mound, Mora Williamsburg, Sierra 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
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey		Service
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WMA	Wildlife Management
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP		Area
CG	Camp Ground	WSMR	White Sands Missile
Cr.	Creek		Range
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	3	male (represents sword &
GBA	Gila Bird Area		shield of Mars)
L.	Lake	P	female (represents mirror
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	·	of Venus)
MSB	Museum of Southwestern	ad(s).	adult(s)
	Biology	subad(s).	subadult(s)
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	imm(s).	immature(s)
NM	National Monument	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	sp.	species
NP	National Park	m.ob.	many observers
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	V.O.	various observers
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	+	others; et al.
R.	River	*	written details provided
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature	**	photo or tape provided
	Center	***	specimen obtained
RGV	Rio Grande Valley		

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Barry R. Zimmer

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BRZ

KJZ

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JDL

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—Much in evidence, including in the e. with 2 at Ute L. 6 Jan (JRO) and up to 2 at LVNWR 8-20 Jan (JPB, RC, JRO), and in the R.G.V. from Corrales to Caballo L., including highs of 22 at Bosque NWR 30 Jan (JWS**), 15 at EBL 9 Feb (DJC**), and 9 at Caballo L. 4 Dec (DJC). One was w. to Lordsburg 21 Feb (AMC). Some 195 were seen migrating nw. over the Peloncillo Mts. 19 Jan (CDL).

Snow Goose—Among 24,835 white ones at Bosque NWR 18 Dec were 52 blue morph ones (DLH).

Ross's Goose—Some 2772 were among the Snow Geese at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (DLH). At BLNWR, Ross's outnumbered Snows 7442 to 4640 18 Dec (JIS). One was with one Snow at Mountainair 5 Dec (CMR).

Brant—Unreported in the state since 2004, a "Black" Brant was at Crane L., LVNWR 7-29 Jan (RC, m.ob., NEH**, CJW**, JPB**, JRO**).

Cackling Goose—Six were s. to EBL (JEP) and one was at Six Mile Dam (SW) 5 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan—A tame family of four at L. Luther, *San Juan* 31 Jan-28 Feb (T. Newman**, TR**) was believed to be semi-feral birds produced at Pagosa Springs, CO.

Tundra Swan—High counts were 9 at Cherry L. 3 Jan (MLW**), 6 at LVNWR 16 Jan (J. McPhee), and 3 each at Ute L. 3 Jan (MLW) and RGNC 8 Jan (G. Gilbert**).

Wood Duck—Reported on 11 CBCs, including local highs of 16 at Santa Fe 18 Dec (DME) and 14 at Zuni 2 Jan (JAT). Noteworthy were 24 below EBL Dam 28 Dec (DJC**), 14 at Rattlesnake Springs 29 Jan (SW), and 8 at Las Vegas 26 Dec (CMR).

Eurasian Wigeon—A \circlearrowleft was at Clovis 18 Dec-28 Jan (CMR*, JEP*, JRO**), where one has occurred in three of the past four years.

"Mexican" Duck—A \circlearrowleft was n. to Corrales 6 Dec (MJO**).

Cinnamon Teal—Noteworthy for mid-winter, $2 \stackrel{\diamond}{\supset} \stackrel{\diamond}{\supset}$ were at EBL 28 Dec-14 Jan (DJC**, JEP).

Greater Scaup—Noteworthy were 3 at Clovis 18 Dec (CMR*), a \bigcirc at Santa Fe's Las Campanas 28 Feb (RC**), and a \bigcirc at Deming 22 Dec (LKM*).

<u>Black Scoter</u>—Received late for Autumn 2010, an imm. was salvaged from a brine pit in the Laguna Grande area 14 Nov (*** to MSB, *fide* ABJ, MJB). An ad. \Im was well-described at Brantley L. 20 Dec (SW*). These represent the first records for *Eddy*.

Long-tailed Duck—One made a brief visit to Burn L., Las Cruces 1 Dec (AT*).

Bufflehead—Some 340 were on the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam 2 Dec (MLW). The 50 on the Española CBC 1 Jan (BRF) provided a local high.

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<u>**Barrow's Goldeneve**</u>—Undetailed was a $\stackrel{\frown}{\circ}$ at Maxwell NWR 14 Jan (WFWi); a $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\rightarrow}$ was there 29 Jan (JEP*, WFWi).

Red-breasted Merganser—Scarce in *Curry*, a $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\rightarrow}$ was at Clovis 18-29 Dec (CMR, JEP).

Montezuma Quail—Fifteen were found on the Ruidoso CBC 4 Jan (ALP).

[Chukar]—One was at Los Alamos 28 Feb-1 Mar (SMF**); there are no known established populations in New Mexico.

Ring-necked Pheasant—Unusual was one at Montezuma, *San Miguel* 24 Nov-15 Dec (C. Benavidez**).

Red-throated Loon—An imm. was at Brantley L. 20 Dec (CMR*, SW*).

Pacific Loon—Singles were at Springer L. 21 Dec (DLH), Ute L. 25 Feb (JEP*), and Clovis 18 Dec-28 Jan (CMR*, JEP*, WFWi, JRO**).

Common Loon—One was n. to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 1 Jan (SMF, TFH**); high counts were 8 at Conchas L. 14 Jan (RC) and 10 at Ute L. 25 Feb (JEP).

Pied-billed Grebe—An impressive 50 were at Six Mile Dam 13 Feb (SW).

Horned Grebe—Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* were 3 at Santa Cruz L. 18-21 Dec (JPB, SMF).

<u>**Red-necked Grebe**</u>—Singles were at Caballo L. 25 Dec (DJC**) and EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 27 Dec (DJC**).

Aechmophorus grebes—Some 3400 were at EBL 6 Dec (MLW) but only 700 were there 5 Jan (MLW). North were 60 at Navajo L. 6 Jan (MLW) and 2 at Cherry L. 3 Jan (MLW**).

Neotropic Cormorant—North were 2 at the Alameda bridge 18-26 Feb (CMB*, m.ob., CJW**, MJO**) and one at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach 27 Feb (CMR*). A high 51 were at Mims L. 16 Jan (DJC).

Double-crested Cormorant—Two were n. to Clayton L. 15 Dec (CMR*).

Brown Pelican—Up to 6—4 ads. and 2 imms.—were at EBL 2 Dec-1 Feb (DJC**, m.ob., CGL**, NEH**, JWS**), but all immediately vanished upon the arrival of several days of subfreezing weather on 1 Feb.

American Bittern—Singles were at BLNWR 18 Dec (JIS) and in the Lakes Avalon-Brantley area 20 Dec (TJH).

Great Egret—Wintered in the RGV from Bosque NWR south and in the lower Pecos Valley from BLNWR south; a high 56 were in the Avalon-Brantley area 20 Dec (TJH).

Snowy Egret—Mid-winter singles were at BLNWR 26 Jan (SW), Sunland Park 22-23 Jan (WFWi) and Six Mile Dam 23 Jan (JRO).

Cattle Egret—One was late at EBL 23-24 Dec (DJC**).

White-faced Ibis—Late were 81 at BLNWR 18 Dec (JIS), where 3 lingered through 19 Jan (JIS).

Turkey Vulture—One was late at Belen 8 Dec (CIS). Up to 6 were in the Roswell area 18-19 Dec (M. Quick**).

Osprey—Late for the n. were 3 at Heron L. 2 Dec (MLW).

White-tailed Kite—Perhaps reflecting favorable grassland conditions resulting from summer rains, singles were nw. of Lordsburg 20 Feb (J. Zenge), at Playas 11 Jan (WPC), in the Uvas Valley between Hatch and Nutt 24 Dec-21 Jan (D. Ginter, JEP*, DJC**), and at Bosque NWR 20-24 Dec (CIS, S. Boynton**) & 23-28 Feb (CIS).

Northern Harrier—Another grassland raptor likely responding to favorable habitat conditions, this species was widespread and relatively numerous, including on 28 CBCs statewide; high count was 48 at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (DLH).

Sharp-shinned Hawk—At Rattlesnake Springs 8 Dec, one hit a **Belted Kingfisher** just as the kingfisher hit the water in pursuit of a fish; both birds arose from the water, but with the kingfisher in pursuit of the hawk, which it eventually chased from the area (SW).

Common Black-Hawk—One was late at the GBA 26 Dec (E. Halbedel*).

Harris's Hawk—Four were in the Deming area 4-5 Dec (LKM), where resident in small numbers. One was near Separ 5 Dec (RSS). Two were at Rattlesnake Springs 14 Feb (SW), where scarce.

<u>Short-tailed Hawk</u>—Under review is an apparent light-morph ad. which soared over Cherry Cr., Pinos Altos Mts. 11 Dec (DJG**).

"Harlan's" Hawk—Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* was one at La Cieneguilla 17 Jan-28 Feb (BRF**, RC**, JPB**).

Rough-legged Hawk—One was at La Cieneguilla 12-21 Feb (BRF, JPB**). In the RGV were singles at San Acacia 23 Jan (CMR*) and Bosque NWR 9 Dec (MJO**).

Merlin—Widespread during the season; reported on 17 CBCs, including e. to Clayton, Clovis, and Eunice; high count was 8 at Santa Fe 18 Dec (DME).

Peregrine Falcon—North for the season was one at Questa 18 Dec (MJK). Four were at Albuquerque 18 Dec (HRS), where at least 2 remained through Feb (m.ob.).

Common Moorhen—One wintered at Deming 4 Dec-19 Feb (LKM, CMR*).

Sandhill Crane—A high 18,376 were in the Roswell area 18 Dec (JIS). An albino one caused some excitement in the Uvas Valley 12 Dec (C. Meyers).

Whooping Crane—Under review is a possible one reported flying with Sandhills s. of Grulla NWR 8 Dec (M. Massey*); it was not noted during USFWS crane surveys in the area 9 Dec; the species remains unconfirmed in New Mexico.

Black-bellied Plover—Continuing from Nov, one lingered at Caballo L. until 11 Dec (DJC**).

Snowy Plover—Late singles were at Brantley L. 20 Dec (SW) and on the Loving CBC 26 Dec (CCC).

American Avocet—Two were at the Lordsburg Playa 22 Jan (LKM). Two at Caballo L. 29 Jan survived the freeze and continued through Feb (DJC).

Greater Yellowlegs—Two were n. to Española 1 Jan (BRF).

Lesser Yellowlegs—One was well-documented at Bosque NWR 16 Dec (MJB, CJW**). Reports from elsewhere Dec-Jan were undetailed and may refer to Greaters.

Long-billed Curlew—North for the season were 3 near Cannon AFB 28 Jan (JL).

Western Sandpiper—Unexpected in New Mexico in winter, up to 4 persisted at Caballo L. 4 Dec-21 Feb (DJC**).

Least Sandpiper—High count was 1248 at Caballo L. 29 Jan (DJC).

Dunlin—Up to 9 wintered at Caballo L. 25 Dec-29 Jan (DJC**), with at least one still there 21 Feb (DJC); one at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (MOH) provided the only additional report.

<u>American Woodcock</u>—One 5 km ne. of Clayton 15 Dec (DLH*) furnished a *Union* first. Under review is one reported near Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 10 Feb (GAO*).

<u>Wilson's Phalarope</u>—Unexpected in the state in winter, an ad. \bigcirc was at Seco Point, Caballo L. 25 Dec-7 Jan (DJC**, DLH*).

Black-legged Kittiwake—An imm. was at Brantley L. 20 Dec (MOH*, CMR*, SW).

California Gull—Present at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina through the season, including up to 6 there 9-10 Jan (GKF, BRZ).

Herring Gull—A high 18, mostly ads., were at EBL 5 Feb (JEP).

<u>**Thaver's Gull</u>**—An ad. was at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 2 Jan-18 Feb (DJC**, JEP*, m.ob.).</u>

Lesser Black-backed Gull—An ad. was at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 29 Dec-1 Feb (DJC**, NDP*, m.ob., NEH**, GKF**, JRO**, CJW**) and a first winter one was there 3 Jan-18 Feb (MOH**, BRZ*, KJZ**, MJB**, CJW**, DJK). First found in the state only in the winter of 2001-02, the species has been annual for the past five winter seasons, averaging about three birds per year.



Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Elephant Butte Lake this season, including this first-winter one present 3 January – 18 February 2011. Photographed 17 January 2011 by Cole J. Wolf.

Glaucous Gull—A first winter one was at EBL 10 Dec (JEP*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Reported on 30 CBCs statewide, including 845 at Caballo 2 Jan (JLD), 593 at Clovis 18 Dec (GB), 420 at Clayton 15 Dec (CMR), 397 at Roswell (JIS), and 310 at Farmington 18 Dec (APN). First discovered in New Mexico only in 1995, the species has continued to increase throughout the state.

White-winged Dove—One braving snow and cold at Zuni's Blackrock 3 Jan (JAT) was a first for the Zuni CBC. Reported on 24 CBCs statewide, including n. to Farmington, Dixon, Española, Santa Fe, Roswell, and Clovis. In the Peloncillo Mts., 12 wintered at P.O. Canyon 6 Dec-28 Feb (CDL).

Inca Dove—Now scarce in the Carlsbad area, where one seen 29 Dec (SW) was the only report.

Common Ground-Dove—One was in Guadalupe Canyon 16 Jan (MJB*) and a \bigcirc was s. of Radium Springs 13-21 Dec & 20-24 Feb (MTS, JEZ**).

[Monk Parakeet]—One continued at its nest/roost structure near the Alameda bridge 8 Dec-13 Feb (CLH, M. Kelly, D. Ginter).

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Barn Owl—One was in a hole in an arroyo at Rio Rancho 15 Jan (WHH).

Burrowing Owl—An early one was n. to Clovis 28 Jan (JL).

Common Poorwill—Late were singles at Corrales 6 Dec (DJK) and La Union 7-11 Dec (DAB**).

White-throated Swift—Up to 12 were n. to Buckman Mesa, Santa Fe 21 Feb (RC).

Broad-billed Hummingbird—A \bigcirc again wintered at Carlsbad, where present from 7 Oct to at least 22 Jan (EP) and a \bigcirc was also at Carlsbad 20 Dec (SW). A \bigcirc was in the "A Mountain" area e. of Las Cruces 17 Dec (AT*).

Anna's Hummingbird—Among the few reports were $2 \stackrel{?}{\circ} \stackrel{?}{\circ}$ at Las Cruces all winter, including on 5 Feb, after 92 hours of subfreezing temperature (K. Stinnett).

<u>Costa's Hummingbird</u>—An ad. \circlearrowleft was in the "A Mountain" area e. of Las Cruces 17 Dec (AT*).

Elegant Trogon—Not reported in New Mexico in winter in previous years, this season found two at two widely separate locales: a \bigcirc in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts., 13 Feb (L. J. Foerster** [plus video clip]) and another, apparently a \Diamond , in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Feb (CMR*).

Belted Kingfisher—North for the season were singles at Cimarron, *Colfax* 29 Jan (JEP) and Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 13 Dec (JPB).

Acorn Woodpecker—An impressive 29 were counted on the Ruidoso CBC 4 Jan (ALP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Singles with sufficient details were along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 18 Feb (MDM*), at Torreon 5 Dec (CMR*), San Antonio 10 Dec (JEP*), below ELB Dam 28 Dec-23 Feb (DJC**), and at Percha SP 1 Jan (JEP*).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—One to 2 continued at Sandia Crest 5 Dec-13 Feb (JEP, CJW**). Up to 3 were in the Poverty Creek area, w. *Sierra* Dec-Feb (DJC**).

"Yellow-shafted" Flicker—Apparently pure ones included single $\Im \Im$ w. to Guadalupe Canyon 15 Jan (MOH*) and Lordsburg 21 Feb (AMC*). In the RGV and farther east were singles at Albuquerque 5 Dec (JBV), Casa Colorada 13 Feb (GKF), EBL Dam 6 Jan-13 Feb (DJC**, TFH**), Clovis 18 Dec (CMR), and Carlsbad 29 Dec (SW).

Empidonax flycatchers—Another impressive wintering season for this group of flycatchers, with 23 individuals at 14 locales in eight counties from Glenwood, Corrales, and Roswell southward, most of them adequately described to species. Apparent **Hammond's** were singles at Ladder Ranch 29 Dec (WFWe), Percha SP 26 Dec-18 Feb (CGL**, BRZ**, DJC**, JEP*, DJK), and La Union 1 Jan (DAB**) plus up to 2 in Guadalupe Canyon 3 Jan-19 Feb (NDP*, JEP*, JRO**, MOH, CJW**, MJB audio, CMR*). Single apparent **Duskies** were near the Alameda bridge 26 Dec (JBV*), at EBL 6 Dec-14 Feb (DJC**), along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 3 Jan (DJC), and on Tierra Blanca Cr. 8-25 Dec (DJC**) and up to 2 in Guadalupe Canyon 5-15 Jan (JEP*, *NMOSFN* 50:1 (Winter 2010-2011) -9- 1 Dec 2010 – 28 Feb 2011

JRO, MOH). Single **Grays** were at Big Cr., Peloncillo Mts. 2 Jan (MOH) and the middle Animas Valley 2 Jan (NDP*). Empids of uncertain species included 6 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 1 Jan (RSS), and singles at Glenwood 18 Dec (E. Hough), Corrales 19 Dec (WHH), Roswell 18 Dec (JIS), and Rattlesnake Springs 18 Dec (SW) & 21 Dec (MOH).

Black Phoebe—Late for the n. were singles at Questa 18 Dec (MJK) and Dixon 14 Dec (RT).

Eastern Phoebe—Singles where seldom reported were at Alamogordo 15 Dec (MJB, CJW) and Eunice 1 Jan (PWM).

Vermilion Flycatcher—One was n. to Roswell 18 Dec (JIS).

Cassin's Kingbird—Unusual for winter was one at City of Rocks SP, *Grant* 30 Jan (K. Cassell*).

Northern Shrike—One to 2 were at six locales in *Colfax, Union, Mora,* and *San Miguel* during the season (m.ob.). Farther s. were singles in Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 5-10 Feb (P. Benham, NDP*) and at EBL 11 Feb (LKM).

Hutton's Vireo—Maintaining an Organ Mts. presence was one at Aguirre Springs 7 Jan (BRZ).

Steller's Jay—One was s. to La Union 13 Feb (DAB).

Blue Jay—One at La Union 30 Nov was still present 7 Feb (DAB).

Clark's Nutcracker—East of the mountains was one in an isolated pine stand at Ojo Feliz, *Mora* 29 Jan (CMR).

Black-billed Magpie—One was s. to Corrales 12 Jan (TWF).

American Crow—Some 13,141 were reported on the Las Cruces CBC 18 Dec (DJG).

Chihuahuan Raven—Continued in evidence in *Bernalillo* and *Sandoval*, with 39 in small groups on Albuquerque's West Mesa 20 Dec (CJW), one at Petroglyph NM 5 Jan (CJW**), one at Corrales 19 Dec (WHH), and 4 at Rio Rancho 21 Feb (WHH). In the ne., 3 were on the Clayton CBC 15 Dec, where there were also 24 **Common Ravens** (CMR).

Common Raven—Noteworthy for *Eddy* were one near Whites City 8 Dec (SW) and 5 near Rattlesnake Springs 10 Dec (SW).

Tree Swallow—Arrived across a broad front 17-20 Feb (m.ob.), including 30 in the Caballo L. area 17 Feb (DJC**).

Violet-green Swallow—Two were at Las Palomas 18 Feb (DJK).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Eight were near Williamsburg 16 Feb (DJC).

Black-capped Chickadee x Mountain Chickadee—Two of these hybrids were in the Corrales bosque 19 Dec (WHH**).

Mountain Chickadee—One continued at La Union 16 & 24 Jan (DAB).

Juniper Titmouse—A pair was nest-building in a bluebird box at Silver City 22 Feb (PT).

White-breasted Nuthatch—Based on vocalizations, singles of the "eastern" group of subspecies were identified at Clovis 18 Dec (CMR*) and Corrales 23 Jan (WHH*).

Pygmy Nuthatch—One wandered to Farmington 18 Dec (APN).

Cactus Wren—Conspicuous along the west base of the Sandia Mts., including 2 at Albuquerque Acres 19 Dec (HRS), one in Embudo Canyon 10 Feb (MJB, CJW), and 2 in Embudito Canyon 2 Jan-26 Feb (m.ob., CJW**).

<u>**Pacific Wren**</u>—Recently split from Winter Wren, it appears that Pacific is by far the rarest of the two in New Mexico. This season, two individuals were reported with details: one along the Zuni R. at Zuni 2 Jan (JAT*) and one at the San Antonio Open Space at Cedar Crest 19 Feb (DJK*); note that Winter Wrens were at or near both these locales.

Winter Wren—Another impressive season, with reports of one to 2 from 19 localities in nine counties. West were 2 at Zuni's Blackrock area 2 Jan (JAT*). All others were from the RGV eastward, including singles at La Cieneguilla 28 Jan-21 Feb (BRF**, JPB**), Corrales bosque 3 Dec-28 Feb (m.ob., MJO**, WHH**), Alameda bridge 22 Dec-4 Feb (m.ob., CJW**), and RGNC 20 Dec (D. Paez). Farther s. in the RGV were singles at EBL's Indian Springs area 27 Dec (DJC**), below EBL Dam 2 Dec-14 Jan (DJC**), on the river below Williamsburg 3 Dec (DJC**), and at Percha SP 8 Jan-18 Feb (BRZ**, KJZ**, DJK). On the e. side of the Sandia Mts. were one to 2 in Cienega Canyon 26 Dec-29 Jan (CJW**, CMB*, NEH**) and singles at Cedar Crest 29 Nov-15 Jan (JDL), San Antonio Open Space at Cedar Crest 19-24 Feb (CMR*, CJW**, MJO*), and Tijeras 26 Dec (MOH). In the Manzano Mts. was one at Quarai 5 Dec (CMR*). In the Tularosa Basin was one at Holloman L. 16 Dec (MJB, CJW). In the east, one was along the Gallinas R. at Las Vegas 26 Dec (CMR*), 2 were at Seven Rivers WMA 20 Dec (MOH, CMR*), and singles were in Last Chance Canyon 31 Jan (SW) and at Brantley Dam 26 Feb (R. Nieman*).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Noteworthy for winter, reports included one n. to Albuquerque 19 Dec (HRS) plus other singles at EBL 4 Jan (JEP) and Caballo L. 2 Jan (DLH), 2 in the Avalon-Brantley area 20 Dec (TJH) and 4 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 2 Jan (NDP).

Black-capped Gnatcatcher—A vocal pair was in Guadalupe Canyon 3 Jan (NDP*, JPB), where the species has been present since 2006.

Eastern Bluebird—Present in the RGV from Española south to Williamsburg, with a high 60 at Albuquerque 19 Dec (HRS). West were 10 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 1 Jan (RSS), 3 in the Black Range at Hermosa 26 Jan (DJC**), 2 each at Zuni's Blackrock 2 Jan (JAT) and Bear Canyon L. 21 Feb (LKM), and one in the Peloncillo Mts. 2 Jan (NDP).

Hermit Thrush—Noteworthy for the plains, 2 near Clovis 18 Dec (CMR) were near the n. edge of the winter range.

<u>Varied Thrush</u>—A \bigcirc at Corrales in Nov continued there until 4 Dec (MJO**, DJK**, CMR*, JEP*, MJB**, NDP*). A \bigcirc was near Bosque village, *Valencia* 4 & 11 Feb (E. M. Andersen).

Gray Catbird—Historically unknown in New Mexico in winter, this season found singles at Corrales 5 Dec-27 Feb (DLH, TWF), Albuquerque's Old Town 11 Jan (J. Beltran**), Albuquerque's Netherwood area 4 Dec (CMR*), Las Cruces all season (RCC, D. M. Simonetti**), Rattlesnake Springs 8 Dec-12 Feb (SW, JEP), Maddux L. near Hobbs 15 Jan (CLB), and w. to Pleasanton 20 Feb (A. Seegert). Favored fare included Russian olive, pyracantha, and hackberry fruits.

Northern Mockingbird—Typically absent from n. New Mexico in winter, singles were n. to Clayton 15 Dec (CMR), Otto, *Santa Fe* 22 Jan (RC), and a rest area n. of Wagon Mound 30 Jan (NDP).

Sage Thrasher—Unusually numerous and widespread during the season, including CBC highs of 102 at Five Points, *Socorro* 14 Dec (NSC), 99 in the Peloncillo Mts. 2 Jan (NDP), 36 at CCNP 18 Dec (SW), 29 at Sevilleta NWR 17 Dec (SWC), and 19 at Zuni 2 Jan (JAT). North were one at Clayton L. 15 Dec (LKM), 2 at White Rock, *Los Alamos* 2 Jan (SMF**), and a remarkable 58 along Trigg Rd., e. *San Miguel* 18-19 Feb (MDM).

Brown Thrasher—Reported from the RGV eastward, with singles at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (CMB), Percha SP 27 Dec-2 Jan (DJG et al.), near Shoemaker, *Mora* 29 Jan (CMR*), Clovis 29 Dec (JEP), and Roswell 18 Dec (JIS), and 5 at CCNP 18 Dec (SW), where there were 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 12 Feb (JEP).

Curve-billed Thrasher—One was n. to Dixon 14 Dec (RT), 2 were at Española 1 Jan (BRF), and a high 16 were found on the Santa Fe CBC 18 Dec (DME).

American Pipit—A high 3054 were reported on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (JLD).

Sprague's Pipit—Unreported in Jan, but singles were on Otero Mesa 16 Dec (MJB, CJW) and 12 Feb (CJW), near Hermanas 7 Feb (LKM), and Hobbs 11 Feb (WHH).

Olive Warbler—An ad. \bigcirc was in upper Brushy Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 12 Dec (CDL). In the Black Range were 2 at Kingston 29 Dec (DJC**), one at Hermosa 26 Jan (DJC), and one n. of Kingston 12 Feb (DJC).

Lapland Longspur—Up to 4 near Otto 11-13 Feb (RC**, JPB) provided a *Santa Fe* first. Elsewhere, one was heard but not detailed at Williams Playa near Clovis 18 Dec (CMR), one was on Albuquerque's West Mesa 1-2 Feb (NDP*, CJW**, MOH), and another was "heard only" at Lordsburg 19 Feb (CMR).

McCown's Longspur—About 150 were at Otto, Santa Fe 11 Feb (RC).

Orange-crowned Warbler—Singles lingered in the RGV n. to EBL Dam 10 Dec (JEP), Ladder Ranch 29 Dec (WFWe), and Percha SP 28 Dec (DJG) & 2 Jan (JLD). Elsewhere,

lingering or wintering were singles at Alamogordo 16 Dec (MJB, CJW) and the Avalon-Brantley area 20 Dec (TJH).

Nashville Warbler—Surprising for the winter season was one at Carlsbad 2 Jan (EP*).

<u>Northern Parula</u>—Unexpected in winter, an ad. \bigcirc from Nov continued s. of Radium Springs until 10 Dec (MTS, JEZ), and one was at Burn L., Las Cruces 4 Dec (W. Treers*).

Yellow Warbler—Another winter surprise was one at Silver City 26 Feb (KB*).

<u>**Yellow-throated Warbler**</u>—A remarkable 2 were seen by many observers: one at San Antonio from 9 Dec (S. Santa Anna) to 31 Dec (m.ob., JMB**, JRO**, CJW**, JPB**, SMF**, NEH**, MJO**, JWS**), and another at the Albuquerque Marriott at I-40 and Louisiana 25-26 Jan (JBV*, m.ob., JRO**, CJW**, WHH**, NEH**).



One of two found in New Mexico during the season, this Yellow-throated Warbler was at Albuquerque 25-26 January 2011. Photographed 26 January 2011 by Nancy E. Hetrick.

Palm Warbler—One was at Caballo L. near the mouth of Las Animas Cr. 7 Dec (DJC**).

Black-and-white Warbler—One was in salt cedar at Caballo L. 1 Jan (DLH*).

Common Yellowthroat—A \circlearrowleft wintered n. to Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 4-31 Jan (MOH, CMB, JEP, CJW^{**}). A ♂ was at Sevilleta NWR 17 Dec (DJK). Two were at Bosque NWR 18 Dec (DLH, DJK) where one was seen 18 Jan (DJK).

Wilson's Warbler—Perhaps no longer a winter surprise was one at Carlsbad 29 Dec (EP*); the species has occurred in the state in three of the past five winter seasons.

Green-tailed Towhee—Among the many sparrow species that responded to an abundant seed crop, Green-taileds were especially numerous in the southwest, including a national high count of 389 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 2 Jan (NDP). Far n. was one along the Gallinas R. at Las Vegas 26 Dec (CMR).

Eastern Towhee—The \mathcal{Q} first found at Madrid in Oct continued there through Feb (LAS, JEP*, JPB**, WFWi, GAO).

Abert's Towhee—A high 10 were at San Simon Cienega 20 Feb (DLH).

<u>Rufous-winged Sparrow</u>—Providing a much-anticipated state first, up to 3, described as a mated pair and a territorial \mathcal{J} , were in upper Guadalupe Canyon from 3 Jan (NDP**, JPB**) through Feb (JEP*, JRO**, MOH, LKM*, MJB*, CJW**, CMR*). Presumably spreading from ne. Sonora, the species was first detected in the Arizona portion of the canyon in Aug 2003.

Cassin's Sparrow—Reported at several s. locales, including a remarkable but undetailed 31 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC (NDP). Elsewhere, one was n. to Sevilleta NWR 14 Dec (NSC), one was at the entrance to Aguirre Springs 7 Jan (BRZ, KJZ**), one to 2 were on Otero Mesa 16-17 Dec (CJW, JEP), and at least 2 were at Seven Rivers WMA 20 Dec (CMR*).

American Tree Sparrow—Notably scarce in its usual haunts in the ne. area of the state; however, one was s. to NRT 18 Dec (JEP, WFWi), 2 were reported at Roswell 18 Dec (JIS), and 2 were on the Ladder Ranch 29 Dec (WFWe).

Clay-colored Sparrow-Unexpected in winter, one was nicely described at Seven Rivers WMA 20 Dec (CMR*, MOH).

Field Sparrow—Made an impressive showing in the se., where wintering birds included 10 at NRT 19 Dec (CMR*) where there were at least 2 on 29 Dec (JEP) & 28 Jan (JEP), 20 at Roswell 18 Dec (JIS), 3 at Brantley L. 20 Dec (MOH), 10 at CCNP 18 Dec (SW), 3 in the Black R. area, Eddy 12 Feb (JEP), 3 at Eunice 14 Jan (CLB), and 5 at Jal 14 Jan (CLB).

Black-chinned Sparrow—One was in the Sandia Mts. in Embudito Canyon 28 Jan (MJO**) & 31 Jan (CJW).

Lark Sparrow—Surprising were 10 at Eunice 1 Jan (PWM), where the species apparently winters in some years. In the RGV, one was n. to Bosque NWR 18 Dec (MRG*) and another was at La Union in Dec (DAB). Elsewhere, 2 were in the Cliff-Gila Valley 1 Jan (RSS) and singles were at Cotton City 22 Jan (LKM) and the Peloncillo Mts. 2 Jan (NDP).

Black-throated Sparrow—A pair was nest building at City of Rocks SP, *Grant* on the early date of 16 Feb (PT).

Lark Bunting—Present in substantial numbers across the south, including a high 2500 near Cotton City 15 Dec (CDL). One was n. to Questa 18 Dec (MJK) and another was at NRT 29 Dec (JEP).

Grasshopper Sparrow-Small numbers were detected in the sw. in Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra, Doña Ana, and Otero, including 10 w. of Cloverdale 1 Jan (NDP), 2 on Owl Canvon Ridge, Peloncillo Mts. 21 Feb (CDL), one ne. of Hermanas 7 Feb (LKM), one on the Ladder Ranch 29 Dec (WFWe), up to 4 in w. Sierra 1 Dec-20 Jan (DJC**), 3 at the Aguirre Springs entrance, Doña Ana 7 Jan (BRZ**, KJZ), and one on Otero Mesa 17 Dec (JEP).

Baird's Sparrow—Four were on Otero Mesa 16 Dec (MJB, CJW), one was on the Ladder Ranch 29 Dec (WFWe), and 4 were in the middle Animas Valley and vicinity 2 Jan (CMR, CDL, NDP).

Fox Sparrow—Described as reddish ones were one to 2 at Clovis 18 Dec (CMR*) & 28 Jan (JEP), and singles at Clayton 15 Dec (DW**), Alameda 4 Feb (JEP, CJW**, CLB), Bernardo 18 Jan-25 Feb (DJK, WFWi, CMR, GKF), Rattlesnake Springs 8 Dec (SW), and w. to Zuni's Blackrock 2 Jan (JAT*) and Tyrone 12 Dec (ERL). Slate-colored ones were at Caballo L. 14 Dec (DJC*) and Post Office Canyon 21 Dec (CDL). Undifferentiated CBC reports were singles at Las Vegas 26 Dec (L. Knutson) and Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP) and 2 at Roswell 18 Dec (JIS).

Lincoln's Sparrow—Unusually numerous across the s. half of the state, including highs of 462 on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (JLD) and 150 on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 2 Jan (NDP).

Swamp Sparrow—Another sparrow that was much in evidence, with high counts of 11 each at Sevilleta NWR 17 Dec (DJK**), Bosque NWR 18 Dec (DLH), and the Avalon-Brantley area 20 Dec (TJH). Singles were n. to La Cieneguilla 21 Jan (JPB*) and Pecos 9 Jan (RC).

Harris's Sparrow—Singles were at the mouth of Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 9-30 Jan (CJW**, NEH**) and 2 were seen there 19 Feb (DJK). Others were singles at Cedar Crest 26 Dec (MRG), near Tijeras 19 Jan (MJO*), in Albuquerque's South Valley 21-28 Jan (DLH*), and Clovis 18 Dec (CMR) and nw. to Farmington 18 Dec (APN).

White-crowned Sparrow—Dark-lored ones are unexpected in winter, so noteworthy were 2 at Zuni's Tekapo 1 Jan (JAT) and singles at Zuni village 3 Jan (JAT), RGNC 23 Jan-8 Feb (MJO*), and NRT 19 Dec (CMR).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—A good season, with 7 individuals found at five locales, including in the Sandia Mts. with 3 in Embudito Canyon 1 Jan-26 Feb (ACG, m.ob. CJW**, NEH**, MJO**) and singles in Domingo Baca Canyon 21 Jan (CJW**) and at Tijeras 26-27 Dec (MOH, CJW**), and s. in the RGV, with singles at Las Cruces 28 Dec (J. Groves*) and La Union 9 Dec-24 Jan (DAB**).

"White-winged" Junco—One was at Edgewood, Santa Fe 30 Dec (P. L. Nobel*).

"Slate-colored" Junco—One was w. to Mogollon, *Catron* 1 Dec (DJG).

Northern Cardinal—Two $\partial \partial$ were singing at Ute L. 25 Feb (JEP). In *Sierra*, singles were along Tierra Blanca Cr. 8 Jan (DJC**) and at Ladder Ranch 29 Dec (WFWe). A Q was at Silver City 13 Feb (D. A. Zimmerman).

<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</u>—Very late was one at La Union 1 Dec (DAB**).

<u>Blue Grosbeak</u>—Unexpected in winter, an imm. was in Miner Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 1 Jan (NDP*, JPB*).

Indigo Bunting—Wintering or early was a $\stackrel{\frown}{\sim}$ at Las Cruces 20 Feb-6 Mar (W. Glenn**).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—One was n. to Orilla Verde 21 Dec (D. Gledhill).

<u>Rusty Blackbird</u>—Two were near Clayton 15 Dec (DLH) and 2 were at Holloman L. 15 Dec (MJB*, CJW**). In *Eddy*, 5 were at Washington Ranch 12 Jan (WFWi) and one was at Black River Village 13 Jan (CLB*).

Bronzed Cowbird—One was at Las Cruces 18 Dec (DJG).

rosy-finch—Reports away from Sandia Crest were 37 **Gray-crowneds** and 60 **Brown-cappeds** at Angel Fire, *Colfax* 29 Dec (A. Gibson) and 11 **Brown-cappeds** at Santa Fe Ski Area 26 Dec (JPB).

Cassin's Finch—Conspicuous in mountains and foothills s. to Silver City, the Black Range, and the vicinity of La Luz, *Otero* (m.ob.). Reported on 11 CBCs; high count was 69 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (MRG).

Red Crossbill—Scarce, with 15 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP) the only CBC report. South to *Doña Ana* were 9 near Radium Springs 19 Dec (MTS, JEZ), 2 at Las Cruces 19 Jan (JEZ), and at least one at Shalem Colony 29 Jan (RCC).

Evening Grosbeak—Restricted to the region from Albuquerque northward, where moderate numbers were found on nine CBCs. High counts in the Albuquerque area were 8 at Corrales 4 Dec (JEP), 7 at Cedar Crest 4 Dec (NEH), and 10 at Elena Gallegos 17 Jan (CMB).

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NEW MEXICO COUNTIES

