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EDITORIAL STAFF

Sartor O. Williams III, *Editor*

William H. Howe, *Assistant Editor*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Southwest Natural History Institute

1819 Meadowview Drive NW

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104-2511

([sunbittern@earthlink.net](mailto:sunbittern@earthlink.net))

*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](http://www.nmbirds.org).

**Front cover:** Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), Otto, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, 21 January 2013 (see page 6). Photograph by Jonathan P. Batkin.

**Back cover:** Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*), southern Animas Valley near Cloverdale, Hidalgo County, New Mexico, 31 December 2012 (see page 14). Photograph by Cole J. Wolf.

## WINTER SEASON 2012-2013

Winter 2012-2013 witnessed drought conditions continue across New Mexico, with little precipitation, drying springs and rivers, falling reservoir levels, and snowpack less than half of historical averages. Temperatures were generally mild, but were interrupted by occasional snowstorms, including across the south, which presented unwelcomed shocks to birds attempting to overwinter. Poor seed and fruit crops resulted in generally low numbers of many typically numerous species. Several rarities were found, including a late American Woodcock, at least eight Pine Warblers, a Prairie Warbler, and, for the first time, Lawrence's Goldfinches east to the Pecos Valley.

### Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Dam, *Rio Arriba*  
Acomita Lake, *Cibola*  
Aguirre Springs, *Doña Ana*  
Alameda, *Bernalillo*  
Albuquerque, *Bernalillo*  
Angel Fire, *Colfax*  
Animas, Valley, *Hidalgo*  
Artesia, *Eddy*  
Bitter Lake NWR, *Chaves*  
Bosque del Apache NWR, *Socorro*  
Brantley Lake, Dam, *Eddy*  
Broad Canyon Ranch, *Doña Ana*  
Caballo Lake, Dam, *Sierra*  
Carlsbad, Lake, *Eddy*  
Carlsbad Caverns NP, *Eddy*  
Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo*  
Cerrillos, *Santa Fe*  
Clayton, Lake, *Union*  
Cliff, *Grant*  
Clovis, *Curry*  
Cochiti Lake, Dam, *Sandoval*  
Columbus, *Luna*  
Corrales, *Sandoval*  
Cuba, *Sandoval*  
Deming, *Luna*  
Dixon, *Rio Arriba*  
Edgewood, *Santa Fe*  
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, *Sierra*  
Española, *Rio Arriba*  
Farmington, Lake, *San Juan*  
Galisteo, *Santa Fe*  
Gila, *Grant*  
Hillsboro, *Sierra*  
Hobbs, *Lea*  
Jal, Lake, *Lea*  
La Cienega, *Santa Fe*  
Ladder Ranch, *Sierra*  
Lake Avalon, *Eddy*  
Lake Roberts, *Grant*  
La Luz, *Otero*  
Las Cruces, *Doña Ana*  
Las Golondrinas, *Santa Fe*  
La Union, *Doña Ana*  
Leasburg SP, *Doña Ana*  
Los Alamos, *Los Alamos*  
Loving, *Eddy*  
Luis Lopez, *Socorro*  
Maxwell, NWR, *Colfax*  
Mesilla, Dam, *Doña Ana*  
Mesilla Bosque SP, *Doña Ana*  
Nutria Valley, *McKinley*  
Nutt, *Luna*  
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, *Rio Arriba*  
Organ Mts., *Doña Ana*  
Orilla Verde, *Taos*  
Otto, *Santa Fe*  
Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*  
Percha SP, *Sierra*  
Quemado, *Catron*  
Radium Springs, *Doña Ana*  
Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*  
Rio Grande Nature Center, *Bernalillo*  
Rodeo, *Hidalgo*  
Roswell, *Chaves*  
Ruidoso, *Lincoln*  
Sandia Crest, Park, *Bernalillo*  
Sandia Mts., *Bernalillo/Sandoval*  
Santa Fe, Canyon, *Santa Fe*  
Sevilleta NWR, *Socorro*  
Silver City, *Grant*  
Six Mile Dam, *Eddy*  
Socorro, *Socorro*  
Springer Lake, *Colfax*  
Storrie Lake, *San Miguel*  
Sunland Park, *Doña Ana*  
Ute Lake, *Quay*

Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana/Luna*  
 Valles Caldera, *Sandoval*  
 Washington Ranch, *Eddy*  
 White's City, *Eddy*

Williamsburg, *Sierra*  
 Zuni, *McKinley*  
 Zuni Mts., *McKinley/Cibola*

### Standard Abbreviations

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

## Initialed Observers

MA	Mymm Ackley	CGL	Carl G. Lundblad
CLA	Collin L. Adams	MDM	Martin D. MacRoberts
NA	Noah Arthur	LKM	Larry K. Malone
JPB	Jonathan P. Batkin	RN	Robert Nieman
MJB	Matthew J. Baumann	PLN	Paul L. Nobel
KB	Karen Beckenbach	JRO	Jerry R. Oldenettel
DAB	Dan Allen Belcher	GAO	Gale A. Owings
CLB	Charles L. Black	JEP	John E. Parmeter
JMB	James M. Black	JNP	James N. Paton
RCC	Richard C. Castetter	NDP	Nicholas D. Pederson
CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	ALP	Anita L. Powell
RC	Roger Clark	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
DJC	David J. Cleary	JIS	Jeffery I. Sanchez
CC	Chris Conard	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
JLD	John L. Douglas	RSS	Roland S. Shook
WTE	Wyatt T. Egelhoff	JPS	James P. Smith
DME	Deanna M. Einspahr	NGS	Nancy G. Stotz
SMF	Stephen M. Fettig	RTe	Robert Templeton
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	JAT	John A. Trochet
TBG	Tony B. Godfrey	RTu	Rocky Tucker
CJG	Coleman J. Goin	RLV	Ramond L. VanBuskirk
ACG	Ashli C. Gorbet	MLW	Mark L. Watson
AG	Alex Green	REW	Richard E. Webster
DJG	David J. Griffin	DEW	Douglas E. Weidemann
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	SW	Steve West
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	WFWe	William F. West
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	SOW	Sartor O. Williams III
TJH	Tom J. Hines	WFWi	William F. Wittman
EH	Eric Hough	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
WHH	William H. Howe	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
ABJ	Andrew B. Johnson	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
JPJ	James P. Joseph		
DJK	David J. Krueper		

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**[Bar-headed Goose]**—One of these Asian exotics was at Caballo L. 19 Jan-17 Feb (DJC), where seen flying with Canada Geese 5 Feb (LKM).

**Snow Goose**—Two with colored neck collars were at Bosque NWR 20 Jan (DJK\*\*); one was banded as an ad. at Queen Maud Gulf, n. Canada in Aug 2000, some 2340 mi from Bosque NWR; the other was banded as a subad. at Banks Island, n. Canada in Jul 2004, some 2740 mi from Bosque NWR; based on ages at banding, and assuming that each wintered annually at Bosque NWR, each would have traveled over 60,000 mi, enough to circle Earth two and a half times (*fide* A. Mize).

**Cackling Goose**—Noteworthy for *Hidalgo*, one was among many Canada Geese near Animas 31 Dec (MJB, NDP).

**[Mute Swan]**—Two in Albuquerque's North Valley in Feb (K. Herzenberg, MOH) were traced to a local waterfowl farm.

**Tundra Swan**—Reported from four counties, with 3 at Ute L. 20 Dec (DLH), one at Storrie L. 26 Dec (DLH), 4 near Artesia 31 Jan (S. Cordova\*\*) where there were 7 on 28 Feb (R. Verbofsky\*\*), and one at Bosque NWR 27 Dec-12 Jan (m.ob., m.ph.) where there were 2 on 4 Feb (GAO).

**Wood Duck**—An impressive 530 were tallied at Albuquerque 16 Dec (RLV); the species now occurs essentially statewide in winter.

**dabbling ducks**—A concentration of some 77,400 in the remaining pool of EBL 10 Jan included 28,630 **Gadwalls**, 23,000 **Green-winged Teal**, and 10,875 **American Wigeon** (MLW).

**Eurasian Wigeon**—Two ♂♂ were at the Clovis treatment ponds 27 Dec (CLA\*\*), where one lingered to 19 Feb (JEP\*, v.o.).

**Barrow's Goldeneye**—Apparently increasing in range and numbers in winter, with up to 6 on the Rio Grande near Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 30 Dec-19 Jan (JMB\*, SMF\*\*, JEP\*, WFWi), 2 on the Rio Chama below Abiquiu Dam 19-20 Jan (WHH\*\*), and single ♂♂ on the Rio Grande near Pilar, *Taos* 3 Feb (CMR\*) and at Brantley L. 11 Dec-19 Jan (CLA\*\*, m.ob., m.ph.).

**Red-breasted Merganser**—Unusually numerous, including outnumbering Common Merganser in *Eddy*, where high counts were 81 at L. Avalon 16 Dec (SW) and 60 at Brantley L. 11 Jan (SW). About 20 were at Ute L. 8 Feb (JEP). Farther west, one was below Abiquiu Dam 19-20 Jan (WHH\*\*) and, in the RGV, one to 2 were at Cochiti L. 10 Dec-20 Jan (WHH, ACG\*\*, CMR), RGNC 23-24 Jan (DLH, JEP, NEH\*\*), and Bosque NWR 17 Feb (CMR), and 9 were at EBL 15 Feb (DJC). Two were at L. Roberts 7 Dec (LKM).

**Red-throated Loon**—Singles were at Ute L. 20 Dec (MJB\*, CJW\*\*) and again 19 Jan (JRO\*), and at Brantley L. 13 Dec-23 Jan (CLA\*\*, m.ob., JRO\*\*, MJB\*\*, CJW\*\*).

**Horned Grebe**—High counts were 8 at Ute L. 25 Jan (JEP) and up to 5 at Springer L. 2-3 Feb (CMR, JRO). One was at Clovis 17-23 Feb (DLH, CMR).

**Red-necked Grebe**—One at L. Carlsbad 30 Dec-17 Jan (TJH\*\*, RN\*\*, SW, JEP\*, JRO, R. Hurd\*\*) was the first to be confirmed in *Eddy*; what was likely the same bird was at nearby L. Avalon 2 Feb (RN\*).



Red-necked Grebe at Lake Carlsbad on 31 December 2012, first verified Eddy County record. Photograph by Robert Nieman.

***Aechmophorus* grebes**—An aerial survey counted 10,300 concentrated at EBL 10 Jan (MLW).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—As in 2011, several arrived at Albuquerque's Tingley ponds in mid-Jan, with 5 on 15 Jan (DLH) increasing to 19 by 28 Feb (DLH, m.ob., WHH\*\*).

**Double-crested Cormorant**—Continued to winter in impressive numbers in the lower Pecos Valley, with 426 in the L. Avalon-Brantley L. area 16 Dec (TJH) and 200 at Six Mile Dam 19-25 Feb (SW).

**Great Blue Heron**—One below EBL Dam was trying to swallow a young muskrat 19 Jan (DJK\*\*).

**Reddish Egret**—One at Six Mile Dam 14 Dec (SW\*) provided a rare winter record.

**Turkey Vulture**—At least 16 were at Roswell 15 Dec (JIS).

**White-tailed Kite**—One was at Leasburg SP 21 Feb (CJG\*\*).

**Bald Eagle**—Only 88 were found on standard aerial survey transects in New Mexico 7-10 Jan (MLW), down considerably from numbers found in the 1990s. A small concentration of 18 was at EBL 29 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**Harris's Hawk**—Noteworthy in s. *Doña Ana*, one was at Sunland Park 11 Feb (DAB).

**“Harlan's” Hawk**—One was west to Rodeo 23 Feb-10 Mar (REW\*\*).



**Rough-legged Hawk**—Invaded the eastern two-thirds of the state; noteworthy in the west were one at Zuni 15 Dec (JAT), 2 in the Nutria Valley 16 Dec (JAT), and singles near Cuba 23 Dec (CGL) and near Quemado 23 Jan (WFWi). Others were south to the Animas Valley (LKM), Deming (LKM), and several *Eddy* sites (m.ob.).

**Virginia Rail**—Lingering in the north were one at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR) and 2 at Española 30 Dec (BRF).

**Sandhill Crane**—Observers were reminded to be careful when identifying “white” cranes, as single leucistic Sandhills were documented at Percha SP 14 Dec (DJC\*\*), near Artesia 27 Dec (L. Hammer\*\*, SW) and near Columbus 4 Feb (JPS\*\*).

**Snowy Plover**—Infrequent in winter, one was near Loving 23 Dec (C. C. Cranston).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Up to 24 wintered along the Rio Grande at Sunland Park Dec-Jan (JNP, MTS, JEZ, JEP).

**American Avocet**—Wintered at EBL Dec-Feb, with a peak of 38 on 1 Jan (DJC).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—Two were north to Española 30 Dec (BRF) and one was at Angostura Dam, *Sandoval* 21 Jan (DLH).

**Long-billed Curlew**—One lingered at EBL 25 Dec-22 Feb (DJC\*\*).

**Western Sandpiper**—Unexpected in winter, 2 at EBL 16-22 Feb (DJC\*\*) may have been early migrants. Undetailed reports of small flocks in the Pecos Valley require confirmation to be credible.

**Least Sandpiper**—North of expected were two at Zuni 15 Dec (CMR, JAT) and one at Clovis 29 Dec (G. W. Beauprez). Peaked at 1220 at Caballo L. 16 Dec (DJC).

**Dunlin**—Late for so far north, 3 were at Ute L. 20 Dec (MJB\*\*, CJW\*\*). Two wintered at Bosque NWR 15 Dec-10 Feb (DLH, JEP, NEH\*\*, CGL\*\*) and a third was there 18 Dec (CGL\*\*). Up to 3 were at EBL (DJC, DJK) and at Caballo L. (DJC\*\*) Dec-Jan.



One of three Dunlins lingering at Ute Lake 20 December 2012.  
Photograph by Matthew J. Baumann.



**Long-billed Dowitcher**—Present at EBL 4 Dec-22 Feb, including 120 on 8 Jan (DJC).

**American Woodcock**—One made a brief visit to the Corrales bosque 12 Dec (J. S. Findley\*\*) and became the latest fall migrant yet recorded in New Mexico.

**Franklin's Gull**—A first-cycle one was late at Sunland Park 6 Dec (JNP).

**Mew Gull**—An ad. was at Farmington 17 Dec (CLA\*\*). At EBL, an ad. was present 29 Dec-26 Jan (TBG\*\*, DJC\*\*, v.o.) and a first-cycle was there 9 Jan (TBG\*\*). Two ads. were at Sunland Park 13 Jan (JNP\*), where at least one lingered to 21 Jan (J. Groves).

**Thayer's Gull**—An ad. was at EBL from 27 Dec (MJB\*, NDP\*, CJW\*\*) to 3 Feb (m.ob., BRZ\*\*, JRO\*\*, JPS\*\*).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**—Continuing from Nov, a first-cycle was at the Alameda bridge 1 Dec (WHH\*\*, CJW\*\*) and a third-cycle was there 12-13 Jan (WHH\*\*, JEP\*). At least 2 and possibly 3 were at EBL Dec-Feb: an ad. and a third-cycle on 2 Dec (DJC\*\*), with the ad. reported again 13 Dec-1 Jan (DJC) and the third-cycle seen by many 1 Dec-23 Feb (JEP\*, JRO\*\*, CGL\*, MJB\*\*, NDP\*, CJW\*\*, JPS\*\*, MOH\*), and a first-cycle seen 19 Jan (DJK\*). An ad. was at Sunland Park 17 Jan-12 Feb (DAB\*\*, JNP\*\*).

**Glaucous Gull**—An impressive season, with an ad. at the Alameda bridge 28 Dec-19 Jan (R. Thompson\*\*, m.ob., m.ph.) plus single ads. at Cochiti L. 16 Jan (G. Bieber), Ute L. 19 Jan (JRO\*\*), and EBL 3 Feb (JPS\*\*).

**Band-tailed Pigeon**—Unexpected in winter, 2 were at Doc Long PA, Sandia Mts. 6 Jan (DJK) and one was at Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center 22 Feb (JPB\*\*).



Band-tailed Pigeon in the snow at Santa Fe on 22 February 2013.  
Photograph by Jonathan P. Batkin.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**—Now ubiquitous, with counts this season of hundreds reported from sites statewide, including on 28 CBCs. Considered a “scourge” at Carlsbad, and thought to be replacing Mourning Doves there (SW).

**White-winged Dove**—High counts included 1509 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (RLV), 1348 at Roswell 15 Dec (JIS), and 8198 at Las Cruces 22 Dec (DJG). Noteworthy was one at Zuni’s Blackrock Dam 15 Dec (CC\*\*). Observed singing and copulating at Deming 13 Dec (EH).

**Common Ground-Dove**—Three were south of Radium Springs 5-6 Jan (MTS, JEZ\*\*), where 2 lingered to 13 Jan (MTS, JEZ). Two were at La Union 24 Dec (DAB).

**Ruddy Ground-Dove**—One was near Cliff 29 Dec (K. Blisard\*); details provided eliminated Common Ground-Dove.

**Greater Roadrunner**—One was northwest to Zuni 15 Dec (JAT). One was at a Los Alamos feeder 27 Jan (CMR).

**Long-eared Owl**—Noteworthy were one in Albuquerque’s Nob Hill area 20 Feb (H. A. Walker) and 6 roosting at Jal’s Cooper Cemetery 16 Feb (MJB, NDP).

**Short-eared Owl**—Singles were in the Uvas Valley south of Nutt, *Luna* 15 Dec (JEP, WFWi) and Brantley L. 24 Dec (RN) and 2 were near Columbus 4 Feb (JPS\*\*).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**—One spent the winter roosting in a bird house at a Santa Fe school 18 Dec-1 Feb (D. W. Stahlecker\*\*).

**Common Poorwill**—One was found dead at Carlsbad 11 Feb (TJH; specimen to NMSU *fide* SW).

**Magnificent Hummingbird**—An imm. ♂ at Silver City, first seen in Nov, was found dead 24 Dec (KB\*).

**Black-chinned Hummingbird**—Two lingered at Albuquerque at least through 16 Dec (*fide* RLV), one in the Nob Hill area first documented 6 Dec (L. West\*\*) and another in the North Valley first documented 8 Dec (JEP\*).

**Anna’s Hummingbird**—An ad. ♂ was at Las Cruces 22 Dec (J. Atchley).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—At least 2 were at Carlsbad Dec-Feb (SW). An ad. ♂ at Elephant Butte in Nov was last seen 7 Dec (DJC\*\*).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird**—The ad. ♂ that arrived at Eldorado, *Santa Fe* on 3 Nov was last seen 6 Dec (G. & S. Vreeland\*\*).

**Lewis’s Woodpecker**—Unexpected in *Eddy* lowlands, one arrived at Washington Ranch adjacent to Rattlesnake Springs 6 Dec (SW) and remained through the season (m.ob., m.ph). South in the RGV, one was near Radium Springs 7-17 Feb (NGS\*\*, MTS, JEZ\*\*), and up to 2 were at La Union 1-18 Jan (DAB\*\*).

**Acorn Woodpecker**—Far east was one at Clovis from 16 Feb into Mar (W. Anderson\*\*).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**—A ♀ in the Rattlesnake Springs area from 6 Dec into Mar (SW, m.ob., RN\*\*, CLA\*\*, JRO\*\*, MJB\*\*, CJW\*\*) was the first to be confirmed there in over two decades.



Female Red-bellied Woodpecker at Washington Ranch near Rattlesnake Springs on 14 February 2013. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

**Williamson's Sapsucker**—Lingering near the northern edge of the wintering range, 3 were at Española 30 Dec (BRF) and 8 were at Santa Fe 22 Dec (DME).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**—Those with documentation were 2 at Albuquerque's Altura Park 18 Dec (CMB\*) and singles at Cedar Crest 26 Dec (NEH\*\*), below Caballo Dam 24 Dec (DJC\*\*), Mesilla area 22 Dec-1 Jan (NA\*, RCC), and Rattlesnake Springs area 7 Dec-4 Jan (RN, MJB\*, CJW\*\*, JEP\*).

**Downy Woodpecker**—Singles were south to the Ladder Ranch 16 Dec (WFWe) and Leasburg SP 7-30 Jan (MTS, JEZ\*\*, CJG\*\*). Two near Clayton 19-20 Dec (MJB\*, CJW\*\*) were identified as the eastern subspecies; another apparent "eastern" was at Galisteo 4 Feb (JPB\*\*).

**"Yellow-shafted" Flicker**—Apparently pure ones were a ♂ at Socorro 18 Dec (CGL\*\*) and a ♂ and ♀ at Broad Canyon Ranch north of Radium Springs 7 Dec (MTS\*, JEZ\*).

**Peregrine Falcon**—Apparently wintering north of historical range, singles were at Española 30 Dec (BRF), Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 27 Jan (BRF), BLNWR 9 Jan (F. Anaya), and near Radium Springs 18 Jan (MTS), and 3 were at Albuquerque 16 Dec (RLV).

**[Monk Parakeet]**—Continuing near the Alameda bridge, one was perched above its yucca roost site 6 Feb (DJK).

**Hammond's Flycatcher**—Continuing from Nov, one at Albuquerque's Roosevelt Park was last seen 1 Dec (WTE).

**Dusky Flycatcher**—At least one wintered at Bosque NWR (*fide* DLH), where photographed 15 Dec (CJW\*\*).

**Empidonax flycatchers**—Empids not identified to species were one on the Caballo CBC 29 Dec (JLD) and 3 on the Gila CBC 29 Dec (RSS).

**Black Phoebe**—North of usual winter range was one at Orilla Verde 19 Dec (M. Peterson).

**Eastern Phoebe**—North of usual winter range was one at Galisteo from 31 Dec into Mar (BRF\*\*, JPB\*\*, WTE).

**Say's Phoebe**—North of expected in winter, 3 were at Española 30 Dec (BRF) and 2 were at Santa Fe 22 Dec (DME); others in *Santa Fe* were singles at Otto 21 & 29 Dec (WTE, JPB\*\*), La Cienega 26 Jan (JPB\*\*), and Las Golondrinas 22 Feb (RTu).

**Vermilion Flycatcher**—North of usual winter range was one at Roswell 15 Dec (JIS).

**Loggerhead Shrike**—One was at Abiquiu Dam 19-20 Jan (WHH\*\*).

**Northern Shrike**—Reported across the north from *Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Union, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, San Miguel, and Quay*. South to *Socorro* were singles at Luis Lopez 7 Feb (JRO), Bosque NWR Dec-Feb (m.ob.), and near Bingham 11 Dec (O. Johnson\*).

**Cassin's Vireo**—One was near Radium Springs 6 Jan (MTS, JEZ).

**Hutton's Vireo**—Noteworthy for *Luna*, singles were at the Deming cemetery 13 Dec-18 Jan (CGL\*\*, DLH, EH) and Spring Canyon SP 21 Jan (LKM).

**Steller's Jay**—One was a surprise in Owl Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 30 Dec (KB, JPJ). One was east to Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 7 Dec (MDM).

**Blue Jay**—Continuing from Nov, one at Albuquerque's Botanical Gardens remained through the season (m.ob.).

**Clark's Nutcracker**—Far from expected habitat, one was in Sycamore Canyon near Cliff 29 Dec (LKM\*).

**American Crow**—Wintering crows were widespread in the state, and were especially conspicuous in the RGV, including counts of 3041 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (RLV), 1254 at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH), and 5465 at Las Cruces 22 Dec (DJG).

**Tree Swallow**—North for mid-winter, up to 3 were at Bosque NWR 28 Dec-8 Jan (V. Dern\*, BRZ).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**—Earliest were 2 near Radium Springs 7 Feb (MTS) and 4 at Mesilla Bosque SP 9 Feb (CJG).

**Cave Swallow**—At least 8 reached CCNP by 12 Feb (*fide* SW), a typical arrival date there. Nine were at Las Cruces 23 Feb (NGS).

**Black-capped Chickadee x Mountain Chickadee**—At least 2 of these hybrids were at RGNC 8-9 Jan (BRZ\*\*, CJW\*\*), where a population has been resident since the 1980s.

**Juniper Titmouse**—Two were east to Clayton 19 Dec (CMR).

**White-breasted Nuthatch**—Identified by voice and plumage as the eastern subspecies *carolinensis*, a ♂ and a ♀ were at Washington Ranch near Rattlesnake Springs 13 Dec-16 Feb (audio MJB\*\*, CJW\*\*, JEP\*, NDP\*).

**Pacific Wren**—At least 2 were vocal in Zuni's Nutria Valley 16 Dec (JAT\*\*). Farther east, one was in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts. from 26 Dec (CJW\*\*) into Feb (JEP\*, BRF\*).

**Winter Wren**—Singles were at two Santa Fe sites Dec-Feb (BRF\*\*, WTE, CMR\*, JPB), two sites in the Corrales bosque Dec-Jan (WHH\*, JEP\*), near Williamsburg 3-11 Dec (DJC\*\*), and west to lower Bluewater Gorge, *Cibola* 11 Dec (JAT).

**Carolina Wren**—Continuing from 2011, 2 were vocal at Bosque NWR through the season (m.ob.).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**—Several lingered into Dec, including one at Albuquerque 16 Dec (*fide* RLV), 2 on the Caballo CBC 29 Dec (*fide* JLD), and one at Washington Ranch 14 Dec (JEP).

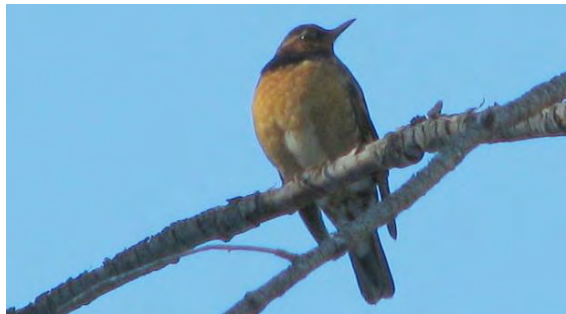
**Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**—Continued scarce, with only 3 at Las Cruces 22 Dec (DJG) and 4 in the Peloncillo Mts. 30 Dec (NDP). Singles were north in the RGV to EBL Dam 5 Feb (LKM) and Bosque NWR 23 Feb (SOW).

**American Dipper**—One was in the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 13-15 Dec (AG, BRF\*\*, JPB\*\*).

**Eastern Bluebird**—Moderate numbers reported from the RGV eastward, including 98 at Albuquerque 16 Dec (RLV), 14 at La Luz 2 Jan (JLD), 36 at CCNP 15 Dec (SW) and 2 at Ute L. 25 Jan (JEP). In the west, 3 were in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (DLH).

**Towson's Solitaire**—Noteworthy for e. *San Miguel*, a high 45 were counted along Trigg Road 6-7 Dec (MDM).

**Varied Thrush**—One singing its characteristic winter song was at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 15 Dec (CC\*). One was a surprise in Los Alamos Canyon, *Los Alamos* 16 Jan (C. D. Hathcock\*\*).



Varied Thrush in Los Alamos Canyon on 16 January 2013. Photograph by Charles D. Hathcock.

**Gray Catbird**—Found wintering in New Mexico only in recent years, one was found north to Dixon 15 Dec (C. Chappell\*, D. Yeamans\*\*). One was at Bosque NWR 15 Dec (DLH).

**Northern Mockingbird**—North for the season were singles at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR), Ute L. 25 Jan (JEP), and w. Santa Fe 6 Jan-28 Feb (RTu).

**Brown Thrasher**—Reported from at least seven sites from the RGV eastward. Notable high counts were 2 north to Clayton 19 Dec (CMR) and 7 on the CCNP CBC 15 Dec (SW).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—One was north to Dixon 15 Dec (RTe). A pair was nest-building in Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 17-19 Feb (ACG).

**Crissal Thrasher**—The species has been spreading northward in recent years. This season, a pair was documented in the Conchas River watershed 2 Dec-2 Mar, where the ♂ was singing 25 Jan (W. Jaremko-Wright\*\*), providing a *San Miguel* first and the most northerly yet for e. New Mexico. A pair—the ♂ singing—was at Cerrillos 17 Feb (JPB\*\*, BRF\*).

**Sprague's Pipit**—Decidedly scarce, with singles at Sevilleta NWR 7 Dec (DJK), near Nutt 6 Dec (CLA\*), and near Rattlesnake Springs 5 Jan (JEP\*, WFWi\*) the only reports.

**Lapland Longspur**—Up to 8 were in the Jemez Mts. in the Valles Caldera area 1-6 Jan (WHH\*, SMF\*\*). One to 2 were reported from several sites in *Colfax* (Springer L.), *Mora* (Charette L.), *Santa Fe* (Otto), *Socorro* (Luis Lopez), *Sierra* (EBL), *Doña Ana* (Santa Teresa), and *McKinley* (Zuni).

**Orange-crowned Warbler**—Historically unknown in New Mexico in winter, this season produced multiple reports in the RGV from *Bernalillo* south to *Doña Ana*, including singles at four Albuquerque sites 11 Dec-2 Jan (m.ob., CJW\*\*), Socorro 18 Dec (CGL\*\*), Bosque NWR 13 Dec (DLH), 4 in the Caballo L. area 29 Dec (*fide* JLD) where there was one below Caballo Dam 29 Dec-1 Jan (JEP, WFWi) and another at Percha SP 14 Dec (DJC), and up to 5 in the Las Cruces area 22 Dec (*fide* DJG) where one was nicely documented 11-21 Jan (J. L. Yellon\*\*).

**Common Yellowthroat**—North of expected, one was at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 30 Dec (JMB\*). Farther south, single ♂♂ were at Percha SP 15 Dec (JEP) and L. Avalon 2 Feb (RN).

**Northern Parula**—A ♀ was described at Mesilla 22 Dec (T. Lawton\*)

**Pine Warbler**—An unprecedented season produced 6 individuals at six Albuquerque locales in Dec, with at least 2 of them continuing into Jan: continuing from Nov were singles at Aztec Park 2 & 6 Dec (CMR\*, GAO) and Jade Park 1-2 Dec (ACG\*); one at Roosevelt Park in Nov was not seen in Dec. First found in Dec were singles at Martineztown Park 3 Dec (MOH, *fide* MJB), Journal Center 9-16 Dec (ACG\*\*), and UNM 16 Dec-2 Jan (CJW\*\*, JEP\*, WFWi\*, MJB\*). Presumably continuing from Nov, one was at Sunset Memorial Park 11 Jan (DLH). Much farther south, one was at Rattlesnake Springs 15 Dec & 6 Jan (SW\*) and 2 were there 29 Jan (N. S. Cox\*).



**Prairie Warbler**—One at Riverside CG below Caballo Dam 18-21 Dec (TBG\*\*, CLA\*\*, CGL\*\*, DJC\*\*, JEP\*, WFWi\*) provided New Mexico's first Dec record.



Prairie Warbler below Caballo Dam 20 December 2012. Photograph by Collin L. Adams.

**Townsend's Warbler**—Unexpected was one at Deming 13 Dec (CGL\*\*).

**Eastern Towhee x Spotted Towhee**—One resembling an Eastern but sounding more like a Spotted at Albuquerque's Poblanos Open Space 16-19 Dec (MA, D. W. Mehlman\*\*, CJW\*\*, NEH\*\*, JRO\*\*, CGL\*\*) was considered by most to be a likely hybrid between the two species.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow**—At the northern edge of its range, one was in Ancha Canyon, *Santa Fe* 18 Jan (JPB\*\*).

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Always an identification challenge in winter, 2 were near Aguirre Springs 5 Jan (BRZ).

**American Tree Sparrow**—Several were found south of usual wintering areas, including 6 at Ute L. 20 Dec (MJB) and one to 4 at three Albuquerque sites 25 Jan-16 Feb (MOH, GAO, NEH\*\*, m.ob.).

**Chipping Sparrow**—At the northern edge of its winter range, 14 were reported in the Albuquerque area 16 Dec (RLV), which included 10 at Corrales that day (DJK), where at least 3 were present 18 Jan (DJK).

**Lark Sparrow**—Rare in winter in New Mexico away from the extreme southwest, this season one was at La Union 19-27 Jan (DAB\*\*). Remarkably early for *Santa Fe*, 5 were reported at Las Golondrinas 22 Feb (RTu).

**Sage Sparrow**—A dark one in company with 3 typical light ones at the I-25 Rio Salado Rest Area, *Socorro* 19 Jan (DJK\*) was likely the subspecies *canescens*, a western race not verified in New Mexico.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**—One was north to the Alameda wetlands 25 Jan (MOH). Farther south, 4 were along the Aguirre Springs entrance road 5 Jan (BRZ), while snow in the southern Animas Valley forced 2 to the roadside 31 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP).

**Baird's Sparrow**—Two were in a grassy swale in the Uvas Valley south of Nutt 15 Dec & 23 Feb (JEP\*). In the southern Animas Valley, snow forced up to 16 to the roadside 31 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP\*\*, CJW\*\*).



One of 16 Baird's Sparrows in the snow in the southern Animas Valley near Cloverdale on 31 December 2012. Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.

**Le Conte's Sparrow**—Under review is a possible one at Acomita L. 8 Feb (K. Score\*). There are but 2 previous New Mexico records from west of the RGV, and none from *Cibola*.

**Fox Sparrow**—A red one was north to Clayton L. 19 Feb (MJB\*, CMR). Noteworthy for *Torrance* was a slate one at Quarai 20 Jan (DJK). High counts were 3 at Rattlesnake Springs 15 Dec (SW\*) and 5 at White's City 15 Dec (RN\*\*). Other reports were a red one west to Silver City 15 Dec (D. A. Zimmerman\*\*), a red one Albuquerque 1-13 Dec (CJW\*\*, MA, GAO), a slate one at Luis Lopez all season (JRO, JEP), a red one at Bosque NWR 20 Jan (DJK\*), a red one and a slate one below EBL Dam 28 Dec (DJC\*\*), a slate one in Fillmore Canyon, Organ Mts. 20 Jan (NGS\*\*), and a red one at L. Avalon 4 Jan (JEP\*, WFWi).

**Lincoln's Sparrow**—North for the season were 2 at Clayton L. 19 Dec (CMR).

**Swamp Sparrow**—Three were west to Zuni 15 Dec (JAT). Unusual were singles at Clayton L. 19 Dec (CMR) and in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP). Noteworthy for *Lea* was one at Jal L. 16 Feb (MJB, NDP).

**Harris's Sparrow**—A good season, with reports of 2 at Maxwell 3 Feb (JRO) and singles at Corrales 14-27 Feb (C. Ramotnik, WHH\*\*), Edgewood 2-24 Dec & 4-21 Feb (PLN\*, JPB\*, RC\*\*), Bosque NWR Dec-Feb (m.ob. CGL\*\*), Mesilla Dam 22 Dec (RCC), and Hobbs 17 Feb (MJB\*\*, NDP).

**White-crowned Sparrow**—A dark-lore individual wintered at RGNC, where banded 26 Jan and recaptured there 2 Mar (CMR).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow**—Continuing from Nov, a first-winter one at Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center was seen 13-15 Dec (AG\*, WTE\*, JPB\*\*). Undetailed was one at Albuquerque 16 Dec (*fide* RLV). A first-winter one was at Las Cruces 22 Dec (RCC\*, NA).

**“White-winged” Junco**—Unusually conspicuous across the northern half of the state, including 5 west to the Zuni Mts. 9 Dec (JAT) and singles in Zuni's Mullen Canyon 13 Dec (JAT) and Pole Canyon 17 Dec (JAT\*\*\*). Others were 2 at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR), one at Dixon in mid-Dec (RTe), one at Los Alamos 27 Jan (CMR), up to 5 at three *Santa Fe* locales Dec-Feb (m.ob., JPB\*\*), one banded at Sandia Crest 10 Feb (MOH), one at Edgewood 21 Jan (ABJ\*\*\*), and one far south to L. Avalon 6 Jan (RN\*\*).

**Northern Cardinal**—A ♂ was on the southwest edge of Silver City 15 Dec (KB). In the northeast, singles were along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 7 Dec (MDM) and at Ute L. 25 Jan (JEP). One continued at Hillsboro 12 Jan (DJC\*\*).

**Pyrrhuloxia**—Three were north to Sevilleta NWR 14 Dec (S. W. Cox). Noteworthy was one in the Ruidoso area 4 Jan (ALP).

**Rusty Blackbird**—Has been found in New Mexico with increasing regularity in recent years. This season produced 3 at a feedlot near Clayton 19 Dec (MJB\*, CJW\*\*), singles at Cerrillos 13-20 Jan (ACG\*\*, m.ob., JPB\*\*, JRO\*\*) and Leasburg SP 11-12 Jan (CJG\*\*, NGS\*\*, MTS\*, JEZ\*), and up to 2 at L. Avalon 4 Jan-3 Feb (JEP\*, CLB, RN\*\*).

**Common Grackle**—Up to 4 persisted at a Santa Fe feeder Dec-Feb (BRF).

**Brown-headed Cowbird**—Increasingly numerous in winter in southern New Mexico, including 85 at Six Mile Dam 22 Dec (SW) and a reported 1440 at Roswell 15 Dec (JIS). Farther north, 7 were at Clayton 19 Dec (CMR), 3 were at Stanley, *Santa Fe* 13 Jan (JPB\*\*) and 2 were at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 12 Dec (JAT).

**Rosy-Finch**—A three-species flock again wintered at Sandia Crest, composed primarily of **Blacks**, fewer numbers of **Brown-capped**s, and even fewer **Gray-crowned**s (MOH et al.). The Enchanted Forest ski area, *Taos* hosted 69 **Brown-capped**s and 2 **Gray-crowned**s 3 Feb (CMR). Some 70 **Brown-capped**s were found on the Angel Fire CBC 15 Dec (M. J. Kelly).

**Pine Grosbeak**—Unusually conspicuous south to Sandia Crest Dec-Jan, including a high 14 on 26 Dec (MJB\*\*, NDP\*, WHH, DJK), and with one singing 2 Jan (JEP, WFWi).

**Red Crossbill**—Continued much in evidence Dec-Feb, especially in central and southern areas, including a high 171 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NDP). In the Sacramento Mts., 20 were at Ruidoso 4 Jan (ALP). Lowland reports included up to 12 east to Clayton 19-20 Dec (DEW), which sonograms determined were all “type-2” except for one “type-4” (audio MJB), and up to 23 at Deming 28 Dec, of which all were “type-2” (audio MJB, audio CJW), and where over two dozen continued 7-9 Jan (LKM).

**Lawrence's Goldfinch**—For the first time, the species was found east to the Pecos Valley, with up to 12 at L. Avalon 1 Jan (TJH\*\*, RN\*\*) and fewer continuing through 22 Jan (SW\*, JEP\*, WFWi, JRO\*\*, CLB\*). In more traditional areas farther west, one was below Caballo Dam 28-29 Dec (CLA\*\*, JEP\*), 2 were at Las Cruces 22 Dec (S. E. Mendoza\*, S. Barham), and 11 were in the Big Creek area, Peloncillo Mts. 30 Dec (R. Drewien, D. Jasper).

\* \* \*



**NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**



