# New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes



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## NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES Volume 52, Number 3, Summer 2013 1 June – 31 July 2013

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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.

**Front cover:** California Gull (*Larus californicus*) pair with two chicks, Heron Lake, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, 28 June 2013; first state breeding record (see page 39). Photograph by William H. Howe.

**Back cover:** Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides axaillaris*) at Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro County, New Mexico, 9 July 2013; first U.S. record (see page 38). Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

#### **SUMMER SEASON 2013**

The drought conditions of the past year continued into Summer 2013, with dry forests, drier shrublands and grasslands, and desiccated streams and lakes; Elephant Butte Lake, the state's largest, was down to 3 per cent of capacity. Breeding birds undoubtedly suffered, as evidenced by unusually low counts on most surveys and censuses. Scattered rains began by mid-July, including some surprisingly extreme events, such as up to 18 cm of rain plus hurricane strength winds in the Albuquerque area 26 July. On the birding front, the discovery and extensive documentation of a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail, a species heretofore unreported from north of Mexico, was the dominant event. Other highlights included the first nesting by California Gull in the state, and the expansion of the Eastern Phoebe's recently established breeding range in the Rio Grande Valley.

## Localities and Counties

Abiquiu, Lake, *Rio Arriba* Acomita Lake, Cibola Alameda, Bernalillo Albuquerque, Bernalillo Animas, Valley, Hidalgo Bitter Lake NWR, Chaves Black Range, Grant/Sierra Bluewater Lake, McKinley/Cibola Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro Bosque Redondo, De Baca Brantley Lake, Eddy Caballo Lake, Dam, Sierra Carlsbad, Lake, Eddy Carlsbad Cavern, Eddy Carlsbad Caverns NP, Eddy Carrizozo, Lincoln Clayton, Lake, Union Cliff-Gila Valley, Grant Cloudcroft, Otero Clovis, *Curry* Cochiti Lake, Sandoval Corrales, Sandoval Deming, Luna Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, Sierra El Pueblo, San Miguel Fenton Lake, Sandoval Fort Sumner, De Baca Galisteo, Santa Fe Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Guadalupe Mts., Eddy Heron Lake. Rio Arriba Hillsboro, Sierra Hobbs. Lea Kingston, Sierra Lake Avalon, Eddy NMOSFN 52:3 (Summer 2013)

Lake Roberts, Grant La Plata. San Juan Las Animas Cr., Sierra Las Campanas, Santa Fe Las Cruces, Doña Ana Las Vegas, San Miguel La Union, Doña Ana Lordsburg, Hidalgo Magdalena, Mts., Socorro Mesilla Bosque SP, Doña Ana Mesilla Dam, Doña Ana Mims L., Sierra Mogollon Mts., Catron Morgan Lake, San Juan north *Roosevelt* trap (NRT), *Roosevelt* Oasis SP, Roosevelt Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Rio Arriba Otto, Santa Fe Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Percha SP, Sierra Pinos Altos Mts., Grant Post Office (P.O.) Canyon, Hidalgo Pojoaque, Santa Fe Quemado Lake, Catron Radium Springs, Doña Ana Raton, *Colfax* Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Ribera, San Miguel Rio Grande Nature Center, Bernalillo Rodeo, *Hidalgo* Sacramento Mts., Lincoln/Otero Sandia Mts., Sandoval/Bernalillo San Mateo Mts., Socorro Santa Fe, Canyon, Santa Fe Silver City, Grant

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Stone Lake, *Rio Arriba* Sumner Lake, Dam, *De Baca* Tierra Blanca Creek, *Sierra* Truth or Consequences, *Sierra* Ute Lake, *Quay*  Valles Caldera, *Sandoval* Vaughn, *Guadalupe* Villanueva, *San Miguel* Water Canyon, *Socorro* Williamsburg, *Sierra* 

## **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	8	male (represents sword &
GBA	Gila Bird Area		shield of Mars)
L.	Lake, Laguna	<b>\$</b>	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
	Contor		specificit obtailed

## **Initialed Observers**

- FA Francisco Anaya
- JPB Jonathan P. Batkin
- MJB Matthew J. Baumann
- DAB Dan A. Belcher
- KB Karen Beckenbach
- CLB Charles L. Black
- RC Roger Clark
- DJC David J. Cleary
- WTE Wyatt T. Egelhoff
- BRF Bernard R. Foy
- GAF Gerald A. Friedman
- ACG Ashli C. Gorbet
- DLH David L. Hawksworth
- CLH Charles L. Hayes
- NEH Nancy E. Hetrick
- J&MH John & Marty Hirth
- EH Eric Hough
- WHH William H. Howe
- JPJ James P. Joseph
- DJK David J. Krueper
- CDL Carroll D. Littlefield
- EM Ed MacKerrow

MDM Martin D. MacRoberts LKM Larry K. Malone RN Robert Nieman Jerry R. Oldenettel JRO K. Bruce Ostyn KBO John E. Parmeter JEP NDP Nicholas D. Pederson WR William Rowe CMR Christopher M. Rustay JIS Jeffrey I. Sanchez Catherine I. Sandell CIS MTS Marcy T. Scott HRS Hart R. Schwarz RSS Roland S. Shook DWS Dale W. Stahlecker NGS Nancy G. Stotz

- REW Richard E. Webster
- SW Steve West
- SOW Sartor O. Williams III
- WFWi William F. Wittman
- JEZ James E. Zabriskie

## **SPECIES ACCOUNTS**

**Greater White-fronted Goose**—One was with 11 Canada Geese at Mims L. near Truth or Consequences 17 Jun (LKM).

**Snow Goose**—Singles were at Lordsburg 14-17 Jun (JEP, SW) and Acomita L. 13 Jun (DJK\*\*) & 14 Jul (CMR).

[Egyptian Goose]—A feral pair at Green Acres Park in Clovis was tending 3 downy young 30 Jun (JRO).

**"Mexican" Duck**—Two were at Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR 1 Jun (CMR). Some 20 were at the Lordsburg treatment ponds 17 Jun (SW).

**Canvasback**—A ♂-♀ pair was at EBL 14-19 Jul (DJC\*\*).

Redhead—One to 2 were at BLNWR on various dates 6 Jun-31 Jul (FA).

**Lesser Scaup**—A  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\rightarrow}$  was at Heron L. 28 Jun (WHH).

**Scaled Quail x Northern Bobwhite**—One south of Gallegos, *Harding* 12 Jun (MJB\*) looked like a Scaled but with a pale throat and white line above eye and was singing "bob-WHITE."

Northern Bobwhite—Notably scarce in usual haunts in the now arid east, including none on the Caprock BBS, *Lea* 10 Jun (SOW). Obvious escapees were two at La Union 15-16 Jun (DAB).

**Montezuma Quail**—Rare in the Guadalupe Mts., one was near the northern boundary of CCNP 6 Jul (R. West).

**[Chukar]**—Two at La Vina near La Union 13 Jul (DAB) probably came from the same source as the Northern Bobwhites.

**"Gould's" Wild Turkey**—A  $\bigcirc$  was north in the Peloncillo Mts. to P.O. Canyon 7 Jun (CDL).

Pacific Loon—One lingered at Bosque NWR 2 Jun (L. Leckman\*\*).

Common Loon—An imm. lingered at Ute L. 2 Jun (MJB\*. NDP\*\*).

**Eared Grebe**—The 64 nests at Stone L. 17 Jun (DWS) were the only ones noted in the Jicarilla lakes area this season.

Clark's Grebe—Three pairs each tending one chick were at Cochiti L. 20 Jul (WHH\*\*).

**Neotropic Cormorant**—Up to 19 were present at Albuquerque's Tingley ponds Jun-Jul (DLH) but no breeding was discovered. Beyond expected range were one north to the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo lakes 5 Jul (GAF\*\*), 2 east to Clovis 30 Jun (JRO), and one west to Deming 27 Jul (CMR\*, WTE\*, NEH\*\*).

**Brown Pelican**—An imm. was at Mims L. 17-28 Jun (LKM, JEP), and likely the same one was at nearby EBL 13-29 Jul (DJC\*\*). One seen flying south over I-25 near Moriarty 22 Jul (K. Brusuelas) provided a *Torrance* first.

**Least Bittern**—Up to 5 or more were conspicuous at Bosque NWR 7-18 Jul (m.ob., ph.), often foraging in company with the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail.

Great Blue Heron—The Quemado Lake breeding colony was occupied, with seven active nests 1 Jun (DLH\*).

Little Blue Heron—One ad. was at EBL 8 Jun (J&MH\*) and up to 2 ads. were at Bosque NWR 8-18 Jul (DLH, SW).

**Tricolored Heron**—An imm. was at Bosque NWR 28 Jul (CMR\*, WTE\*, NEH\*\*). Up to 4 imms. were at BLNWR 29-31 Jul (JIS\*\*, FA).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron-**-Present and possibly nesting at 2600 m at Black L., *Colfax* in Jun (DLH).

<u>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</u>—A subad. was at BLNWR 15 Jun (NDP\*\*). Two ads. were at Las Vegas 27 Jul (W. Jaremko-Wright\*\*, R. Larrañaga\*\*), where the species has nested in recent years.

**Osprey**—Peripheral nests, each with one nestling, were at Fenton L. 29 Jul (WHH\*\*) and Cochiti L. 20 Jul (WHH\*\*).

**Mississippi Kite**—One was on a nest at Clayton 22 Jun (CMR); 9 individuals were counted in the Clayton area 24 Jul (DLH). One was west to the Cliff-Gila Valley 10 Jun (RSS).

**Northern Harrier**—A territorial pair was at BLNWR through mid-Jun (SOW\*, JIS, FA) but nesting was not confirmed. A  $\Im$  was in suitable grassland habitat near Carrizozo 18 Jun (DJK).

**Common Black-Hawk**—Noteworthy for the lower Pecos Valley was one south of Rattlesnake Springs 22 Jul (SW). In the middle RGV, singles were seen at Albuquerque 9 Jun (JEP\*) and the Isleta Diversion Dam, *Valencia* 2 Jul (DLH).

**Gray Hawk**—Present in the southwest in *Hidalgo* (JEP) and the southeast in *Eddy* (SW) Jun-Jul.

**Zone-tailed Hawk**—In the east, one was seen along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 23 Jul (MDM) and one was in Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. 10 Jul (SW). In the RGV, one flew over Albuquerque's Paradise Hills neighborhood 1 Jun (WHH\*), one was along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 10 Jun (DJC), and one was on Las Animas Cr. 27 Jul (DJC).

**Virginia Rail**—Several were conspicuous at Bosque NWR 7-18 Jul, often in association with the Rufous-necked Wood-Rail (m.ob., WHH\*\*).

**Rufous-necked Wood-Rail**—The event of the season was the discovery of a Rufousnecked Wood-Rail (*Aramides axaillaris*) at Bosque NWR's South Loop boardwalk, where it was present 7-18 Jul. Originally found by Matt Daw, who accidentally obtained video of it as he was videotaping a Least Bittern, the word spread rapidly via the Internet, and birders quickly converged on the site from throughout North America. The wood-rail entertained many hundreds during its stay, as it foraged about the edge of dense cattails bordering a shallow pond, venturing out onto the mud flats and occasionally into the water to feed. It was often seen in company with Least Bitterns and Virginia Rails, and crawfish seemed to be the favored food item, especially as the crustaceans became concentrated in the progressively drying pool. Relatively sensitive to disturbance early in its stay, toward the end it seemed to grow more tolerant of human activities taking place on the nearby boardwalk. The bird occasionally flew from one side of the pond to the other. Toward the end of its stay, it became increasingly vocal at dawn and dusk, including the evening and morning when last detected.

As this represents a potential first record for the U.S., the New Mexico Bird Records Committee is tasked with evaluating it. The identity is unquestioned, as thousands of photos were obtained, as well as video and audio recordings, but the issue of natural vagrancy vs. human transport needs to be addressed. Two *Aramides* species, the Giant Wood-Rail and the Gray-necked Wood-Rail, are kept in captivity in zoos and, less commonly, in private aviaries, including occasionally in the U.S. and Canada. To date, however, we have found but three instances of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in captivity, one from southern Mexico (market), one from South America (aviary), and one from Great Britain (zoo), all three reports several decades old. We have found no record of importation of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail into the U.S., nor any interest in the species among zoos and aviculturists. Repeated inquires about, and searches for, an aviculturist in the area who might harbor such an unusual species have proved negative.

Historically considered largely or entirely restricted to coastal mangroves, there is now increasing documentation of Rufous-necked Wood-Rail occurrences well inland from any coast, and at elevations of up to 1800 m. In addition, there are strong suggestions of both seasonal and altitudinal movements, as well as references to presumed accidental occurrences. The species is found from Mexico south to Peru and the Guianas as well as on a number of islands some distance (up to 130 km) offshore, yet shows no geographic variation over that wide distribution, suggesting genetic interchange among far flung populations. The species occurs in northwestern Mexico to within about 1200 km of Bosque NWR.

Bosque NWR is perhaps the largest freshwater marsh complex in the southwest, and as such it is highly attractive to vagrant waterbirds and marshbirds, some of which may be detected by the large numbers of birders and biologists who visit the refuge throughout the year. It is no coincidence that the refuge has been found to host over the years a number of New Mexico rarities, including single Purple Gallinules in 1972 and 1991, a Sungrebe in 2008, and a Gulf Coast Clapper Rail in 2009.

## Black-bellied Plover—One was late at EBL 3 Jun (DJC).

**Snowy Plover**—Up to five pairs nested successfully at EBL 14 Jun-21 Jul (DJC\*\*). Only one chick was produced at Brantley L., where plovers were forced to compete with offroad vehicles, dogs, fire pits, and trash dumping (SW). One ad. was at the Deming treatment ponds 9 Jul (KBO).

**Black-necked Stilt**—Three pairs were nesting at EBL's Three Sisters area 28 Jun-13 Jul (DJC\*\*). One tiny chick was among ads. at Deming 9 Jul (KBO). Some 190 were at BLNWR 6 Jun, dropping to 164 on 3 Jul and 119 by 31 Jul (FA).

American Avocet—Noteworthy west to *Cibola* were five broods of various ages at Acomita L. 14 Jul (CMR). Five chicks were among ads. at EBL 14 Jun (DJC); migrants began to arrive at EBL by early Jul, with 264 on 5 Jul, 380 on 16 Jul, and 574 by 29 Jul (DJC\*\*).

**Spotted Sandpiper**—Two were late at the Lordsburg treatment ponds 17 Jun (SW). An ad. with a chick was on a Corrales sandbar 21 Jul (WHH).

Solitary Sandpiper—Earliest was one at Bosque NWR 6 Jul (NDP).

Willet—One reached Brantley L. by 27 Jun (SW\*).

**Marbled Godwit**—One was at EBL 22 Jun-1 Jul (DJC\*\*); other arrivals were singles at Otto 3 Jul (WTE, RC) and Bosque NWR 11 Jul (SOW).

Semipalmated Sandpiper—One was late at Clayton L. 1 Jun (MJB, NDP).

**Western Sandpiper**—Earliest fall migrants were 2 at Bosque NWR 8 Jul (DLH) and 13 at EBL 8 Jul (DJC), where 400 were counted 18 Jul (DJC).

**White-rumped Sandpiper**—Late northbound migrants were 5 at Clayton L. 1 Jun (MJB, NDP) and 2 at Ute L. 2 Jun (MJB, NDP) where there was one on 11-12 Jun (MJB).

Wilson's Snipe—One on the Ojo Sarco BBS, *Taos* 8 Jun (JEP) was the first detected there in several years.

Red-necked Phalarope—Unusual for mid-Jun was one at Acomita L. 13 Jun (DJK).

**Laughing Gull**—One molting into ad. plumage was at Morgan L. 16-17 Jun & 18 Jul (CLB\*\*). A 2<sup>nd</sup>-cycle one was at EBL 5-9 Jul (DJC\*\*, JEP\*, LKM) and an ad. was there 16 Jul (DJC\*\*).

<u>California Gull</u>—Establishing the first New Mexico breeding record for any gull species, 26 ads. and four broods of chicks were on an island in Heron L. 28 Jun (WHH\*\*, M. Howe). Although found summering there since the mid-1970s, low water levels this year likely exposed suitable nesting substrate that is normally under water.

**Least Tern**—Only three pairs were nesting at BLNWR 12 Jun (JIS), and none nested at Brantley L. this season. Wandering singles were west to Morgan L. 14 Jun (CLB) and north to Ute L. 12 Jun (MJB\*\*).

**Black Tern**—Late spring migrants were 3 at Morgan L. 1 Jun (DLH) and 4 at BLNWR 6 Jun (FA). Some 27 fall migrants reached EBL 25 Jul (DJC).

**Forster's Tern**—Three were at BLNWR 4 Jun (SOW) and 3 Jul (FA); the only known New Mexico breeding record for the species was at this site in 1992.

**Band-tailed Pigeon**—Reported at feeders in relatively large numbers, including 200 at Silver City in Jun (KB) and 60 north of Kingston 1 Jun (DJC).

**Inca Dove**—Two at La Union 21 Jul (DAB) were the first there this year, where the species seems to have decreased as Eurasian Collared-Dove has increased (*fide* DAB). Others were singles at Animas 14 Jun (SOW) and Carlsbad 18 Jun (SW) and a nest with eggs at Elephant Butte 10 Jun (DJC).

**Common Ground-Dove**—The pair south of Radium Springs that produced two fledglings in late May lost no time initiating a second nesting, incubating a new clutch by 3 Jun, but the effort failed for unknown reasons 17 Jun (MTS\*, JEZ\*). Elsewhere, 3 were in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JEP\*) and one was at Rodeo 28 Jul (REW).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**—Reported as "struggling to survive" in the lower Pecos Valley, where imported leaf beetles are ravaging what's remaining of salt cedar habitat (SW). Two were at Rattlesnake Springs 26 Jul (RN), where the species was reported as "harder to find every year."

**Western Screech-Owl**—Two pairs nested successfully in nest boxes within 200 m of each other at Pojoaque (EM\*\*).

**Long-eared Owl**—For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, a pair nested successfully at Pojoaque, fledging 3 young about 21 Jun (EM\*\*).



Female Blue-throated Hummingbird west of Lake Roberts, 21 July 2013. Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.

**Lesser Nighthawk**—Fewer found foraging in the evenings over P.O. Canyon in Jun; only one to 3 were seen nightly this season compared to 10-12 nightly 10 years ago (CDL).

**Black Swift**—Far from known breeding sites, 2 were flying over agricultural fields 4 km south of La Plata 19 Jun (MJB\*\*).

**Magnificent Hummingbird**—One to 2 were at three sites in the Pinos Altos Mts. 14 Jun-21 Jul (JEP, WFWi, WR), where the species summers in small numbers.

<u>**Blue-throated Hummingbird**</u>—A  $\bigcirc$  was west of L. Roberts at the inn now named Little Toad Creek Inn 20-23 Jul (R. L. VanBuskirk, MJB\*\*, NDP\*\*, JEP\*, WFWi); the species is scarce in the state, with no certain nesting known.

**Lucifer Hummingbird**—A  $\circlearrowleft$  was in the flats 8 km north of Rodeo for three days in Jun (M. Moe); another  $\circlearrowright$  was in upper Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., 15 Jun (JEP). Some 32 (23  $\circlearrowright$  and 9  $\bigcirc$  ) were in P.O. Canyon 14 Jun (CDL).

**Rufous Hummingbird**—Earliest fall migrant ad. ♂♂ were singles in P.O. Canyon 20-21 Jun (CDL), Silver City 25 Jun (KB), and Cedar Crest, *Bernalillo* 26 Jun (J. D. Ligon).

**Calliope Hummingbird**—Typically arrives a few weeks later than Rufous; earliest this season were single  $\Im \Im$  at P.O. Canyon 11 Jul (CDL), Bosque NWR 13 Jul (EH), near Radium Springs 15 Jul (MTS, JEZ), and La Union 15 Jul (DAB\*\*).

**<u>Berylline Hummingbird</u>**—Under review is a sighting of a  $\Diamond$  along the Osha Trail near Cloudcroft 3 Jun (T. J. Helentjaris\*); there are only three previous New Mexico records, all from the southwestern corner of the state.

**Violet-crowned Hummingbird**—Only one was detected in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JEP).

Lewis's Woodpecker—Scarce in the Sacramento Mts. region, one was at Lincoln, *Lincoln* 9 Jul (SW).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**—West of usual, 2 were at two upper Pecos R. sites near Ribera 9 Jun (CMR).

**Gila Woodpecker**—Noteworthy north to the San Francisco River, one was near Alma, *Catron* 18 Jun (RSS).

Williamson's Sapsucker—A  $\vec{\circ}$  was near Cloudcroft 15 Jul (LKM).

Red-naped Sapsucker—Late for the prairie was one at NRT 1 Jun (JEP).

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker**—Noteworthy for the northwest were 4 at Abiquiu L. 19 Jun (CIS).

American Three-toed Woodpecker—Continuing reports from the Sangre de Cristo Mts. with 2 along the Aspen Vista service road, *Santa Fe* 13 Jul (JEP), the Jemez Mts. *NMOSFN* 52:3 (Summer 2013) - 41 - 1 June – 31 July 2013

with one at the Pajarito Ski Basin, *Los Alamos* 22 Jun (JEP), and the Mogollon Mts. with 2 at Willow Cr., *Catron* 6 Jun & 17 Jul (RSS).

**American Kestrel**—Two pairs were successful within a 5 km-square area at Pojoaque one in a nest box fledged 2 on 10 Jul (EM\*\*) and one in a cottonwood tree cavity fledged 4 on 11 Jul (EM\*\*). A pair in a nest box at La Union fledged 3 on 25 Jun (DAB\*\*).

**Peregrine Falcon**—Ads. found in non-breeding habitat by Jun were likely failed breeders; these included singles at Albuquerque 5 Jun (CMR), "downtown" Animas 14 Jun (SOW), Santa Fe 29 Jun (BRF\*\*), and Bosque NWR 29 Jun (JEP).

[Monk Parakeet]—The long-staying individual near the Alameda bridge, present since 2010, was seen again 22 Jun (V. Dargan). However, the large yucca containing its roost structure blew down in the 26 Jul windstorm (CLH), and the bird was not reported thereafter.

**Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet**—Two were vocal in one area of upper Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JEP).

**Greater Pewee**—Continuing from May, the one in upper Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., was still singing at least through 13 Jun (ACG, J. Holloway\*\*), and the one at Red John Corral, San Mateo Mts., was still singing 1 Jun (S. E. Mendoza), the last date reports were received from that site.

**Willow Flycatcher**—Three pairs summered at Rattlesnake Springs Jun-Jul (SW), the only known *Eddy* breeding site. One was singing at Bosque NWR's boardwalk area 29 Jun (JEP).

**Hammond's Flycatcher**—One was late at Clayton L. 2 Jun (MJB\*, NDP\*\*); also late was one on the prairie at Vaughn 1 Jun (SW).

**Dusky Flycatcher**—Scarce south of Raton on the east flank of the Sangre de Cristo Mts., one was singing from suitable scrub oak habitat on Holman Hill, *Mora* 23 Jun (CMR\*, WTE\*).



Adult Eastern Phoebe near nest on the old bridge at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, 30 June 2013. Photograph by Bernard R. Foy.

**Eastern Phoebe**—Additional summering records west to the RGV included an active nest on the old bridge at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 30 Jun (BRF\*\*), which provided the first breeding record for *Rio Arriba*, plus singles at Las Campanas 3 Jun (WTE) and RGNC in mid-Jun (WR). Three, including a nesting pair, were along the upper Pecos R. in the Ribera-Villanueva area 9 Jun (CMR), where there were also 3 **Black Phoebes** the same day (CMR).

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher**—Noteworthy for the east slope of the Black Range in w. *Sierra*, a vocal one provided a Chloride Canyon first on 12 Jun (DJC\*).

<u>Great Crested Flycatcher</u>—Unexpected in mid-Jun, one was at a Hobbs golf course 15 Jun (C. Levine\*); another was early at Rattlesnake Springs 22 Jul (SW\*).

Thick-billed Kingbird—A single pair was detected in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JEP).

Eastern Kingbird—One was a surprise at Cochiti L. 20 Jul (WHH\*).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**—Two were west to BLNWR 4 Jun (SOW\*). An active nest was north of Logan in *Harding* 12 Jun (MJB\*\*).

<u>White-eyed Vireo</u>—One was discovered at Rattlesnake Springs 26 Jul (RN\*\*). The species has been annual in the state in recent years.



White-eyed Vireo at Rattlesnake Springs, 26 July 2013. Photograph by Robert Nieman. **Bell's Vireo**—Noteworthy were one singing at Sumner Dam 1 Jun (JEP, WFWi), and one at Hillsboro 6 & 27 Jul (DJC). A pair at La Union fledged young 5 Jul and was incubating a second clutch by 10 Jul (DAB\*).

**Gray Vireo**—Where seldom encountered were one was singing in the Ortiz Mts. south of Santa Fe 9 Jun (BRF) and one at 1863 m at Cottonwood Well, upper Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. 11 Jul (SW).

**Plumbeous Vireo**—Out of habitat was one singing in cottonwoods at Cochiti L. 16 Jun (WHH).

Red-eyed Vireo—One was along Trigg Road, e. San Miguel 23 Jul (MDM).

American Crow—A pair and 3 noisy fledglings were at Heron Lake CG 28 Jun (WHH). Up to 3 were in the Black Range at Poverty Creek, *Sierra* 5 Jun & 31 Jul (DJC), where the species is resident in small numbers.

**Chihuahuan Raven**—An impressive concentration of 850 was roosting on lines along a 0.5 km stretch of road west of Tatum, *Lea* 13 Jul (DLH).

Purple Martin—One near Chamisal, Taos 8 Jun (JEP) furnished a local first.

**Bank Swallow**—Only four burrows were active at a previously major Rio Rancho, *Sandoval* colony site 7 Jul (CLH).

**Cave Swallow**—Continued to thrive in the Las Cruces area, including 4 active nests on a canal west of Mesilla Dam 5 Jul (KBO) and at least 3 birds probably nesting under the La Llorona Park bridge 4 Jul (KBO). Following recovery from the poor 2011 season, the population at Carlsbad Cavern (the main cave) was considered stable (SW).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**—Unusual for Albuquerque was one in the University area 10 Jun & 1 Jul (CMR).

**Pygmy Nuthatch**—A pair was feeding nestlings in a cavity in upper Water Canyon 2 Jun (ACG).

<u>Carolina Wren</u>—One to 2 were heard regularly at Bosque NWR 8 Jun-21 Jul (m.ob.), where present since 2011.

**Cactus Wren**—Continued to thrive in the northeast, including 7 along Trigg Road, e. *San Miguel* 24 Jul (MDM), one in a new locality south of Bueyeros, *Harding* 5 Jun (CLH), and 9 in *Harding* north of Logan 12 Jun (MJB).

**Townsend's Solitaire**—Perhaps overlooked as a breeder in the Magdalena and San Mateo mountains, one was singing in upper Water Canyon 29 Jun (JEP) and ads. were feeding spotted fledglings in Bear Trap Canyon 21 Jul (CMR).

**Swainson's Thrush**—For the first time in many years, none were detected on the Ojo Sarco BBS in *Taos* 8 Jun (JEP). Late or wandering were 2 at NRT 8 Jun (CMR, WTE) and singles in two Peloncillo Mts. canyons 27 & 29 Jun (CDL).

**Gray Catbird**—Singles were singing along the Pecos R. at El Pueblo and Villanueva 9 Jun (CMR). Two at Bosque Redondo 1 Jun (JEP) may have been summering there. Presumably an early migrant was one seen and heard at NRT 30 Jul (CMR).

**Northern Mockingbird**—Only 7 were counted on the Magdalena BBS 4 Jun (HRS), down from 80 in 2012.

**Sage Thrasher**—Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* was one along the White Lakes Road 28 Jun (WTE).

**Brown Thrasher**—An automatic camera captured one at a Mesilla Bosque SP water fountain 20 Jun (V. Crane); the temperature stamped on the photo read 108° F. Westerly Jul reports were one at the El Malpais Visitor Center, *Cibola* 14 Jul (CMR\*) and another at RGNC 25 Jul (V. Dern\*).

Bendire's Thrasher—One was singing in *Lincoln* south of Corona 7 Jun (HRS\*).

**Curve-billed Thrasher**—For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, a pair nested in a Barn Owl nest box at Pojoaque (EM). Noteworthy for *Los Alamos* was one at White Rock 22 Jun (JEP).

**Cedar Waxwing**—Two were near La Plata 19 Jun (MJB) and one was at the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo lakes 30 Jun (BRF\*\*); the species has nested in both areas in recent years.

**Phainopepla**—One was in the s. Sacramento Mts. near Piñon, *Otero* 19 Jun (DJK). Active nests were reported below Caballo Dam 17 Jun (LKM\*), at Percha SP 7 Jun (DJC), and Virden, *Hidalgo* in mid-Jun (WR).

**Olive Warbler**—An ad.  $\Diamond$  was east to the Sacramento Mts. at Cloudcroft 11 Jul (WTE\*\*).

**Ovenbird**—Lingering were singles in Otero Canyon, Manzanita Mts., *Bernalillo* 1 Jun (ACG\*) and south of Radium Springs 6 Jun (MTS\*).

Black-and-white Warbler—One was singing near Ribera 9 Jun (CMR).

Lucy's Warbler—A pair north to Albuquerque's South Valley was first detected 7 Apr and seen and heard several times 2-9 Jun (JPJ\*\*). The species has been reported with increasing frequency north in both the RGV and the Pecos Valley in recent years.

Nashville Warbler—One was late at NRT 1 Jun (JEP).

**Virginia's Warbler**—An early fall migrant was south of Radium Springs 14 Jul (MTS, JEZ).

**MacGillivray's Warbler**—Very late was a ♂ singing at Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 15 Jun (WHH). One appeared at Albuquerque's Montessa Park 3-8 Jul (NDP).

**Hooded Warbler**—A ♂ singing at Galisteo 9 Jun (JPB\*\*) provided the only report.



Adult male Hooded Warbler at Galisteo, 9 June 2013. Photograph by Jonathan P. Batkin.

**American Redstart**—Late ones included a  $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$  singing at Galisteo 1 Jun (BRF\*\*), a  $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$  singing at Rattlesnake Springs 28 Jun (RN\*\*), and a  $\stackrel{\circ}{\rightarrow}$  at NRT 15 Jun (NDP).

**Northern Parula**—A ♂ was singing at NRT 1-2 Jun (JEP\*, JRO).

**Yellow Warbler**—Noteworthy were 5 singing  $\partial \partial$  and at least one  $\mathcal{Q}$  in willows upstream from Cochiti L. 16 Jun (WHH), and singles in w. *Sierra* at Hillsboro 8 Jun (DJC) and Tierra Blanca Cr. 1-29 Jun (DJC).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**—A  $\circlearrowleft$  was singing around the beaver ponds at the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 1 Jun (audio BRF\*).

Townsend's Warbler—A late one was east to the Vaughn treatment ponds 1 Jun (SW).

**Wilson's Warbler**—Among the late records were one at La Union 6 Jun (DAB) and one near Counselor, *Sandoval* 15 Jun (DJK).

**Red-faced Warbler**—Two were in Mexican Canyon, Sacramento Mts., *Otero* 28 Jul (WTE).

**Abert's Towhee--**Small numbers persisted in the Cliff-Gila Valley, including 2 at Fort West Ditch 21 Jun (RSS) and one near the NM 211 bridge 3 Jul (RSS).

**Botteri's Sparrow**—One was singing from alfalfa at a ranch on the northeast edge of Rodeo 28 Jul (REW). At least one was heard singing in the "traditional" X-T Camp area in the middle Animas Valley 15 Jun (JEP).

**Cassin's Sparrow**—Conspicuous by its absence or near-absence throughout the heart of its core breeding range in eastern New Mexico.

Vesper Sparrow—One singing near Chamisal, *Taos* 8 Jun (JEP) was a first for the Ojo Sarco BBS.

**Lark Bunting**—Perhaps an early refugee from drought stricken prairies, a  $3^{\circ}$  was at BLNWR 22 Jun (JIS\*\*).

**Savannah Sparrow**—Five were in the Valles Caldera area 7 Jul (WHH), where found breeding in past years. Two were down to Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR 13 Jul (NEH\*\*).

**Song Sparrow**—The species has only recently colonized New Mexico's Gila River Valley; this season, up to 4 were reported singing in the Cliff-Gila Valley 24 Jun-3 Jul (RSS).

Lincoln's Sparrow—One was late at Oasis SP 8 Jun (CMR\*).

**Yellow-eyed Junco**—One was reported from Jack's Peak in the Burro Mts., *Grant* 15 Jun (K. Dayer *fide* RSS), but the status of the once thriving population there is unknown.

Western Tanager—The species was relatively conspicuous in non-breeding areas during the summer months. Late birds included 10 at Vaughn 1 Jun (SW), one at La Union 6 Jun (DAB) and one near Radium Springs 21 Jun (MTS, JEZ); on the early side were singles at Mesilla Bosque SP 10 Jul (DAB) and Deming 12 Jul (LKM); obvious fall migrants were 2 each at Cochiti L. 20 Jul (WHH) and Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JEP).

**Northern Cardinal**—Now well established in w. *Sierra*, with up to 3 along Percha Cr. at Hillsboro 1 Jun-20 Jul (DJC\*\*) and at least 2 along Tierra Blanca Cr. 8-29 Jun (DJC\*\*).

**Pyrrhuloxia**—A ♂ was singing near Bosque NWR's Chupadera Trail 11 Jul (SOW).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**—Last of the spring migrants was an ad.  $\bigcirc$  singing at Oasis SP 8 Jun (CMR\*, WTE\*).

**Lazuli Bunting**—Unusual was one at Deming 17 Jun (LKM). A  $\stackrel{\frown}{\circ}$  and  $\stackrel{\bigcirc}{\circ}$  were along Sapillo Cr. west of L. Roberts 27 Jul (CMR), where the species likely now breeds.

**Varied Bunting**—Three were in Guadalupe Canyon 20 Jul (JEP) and a  $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$  came to water in P.O. Canyon on various dates 5-10 Jun (CDL). In *Eddy*, 2  $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$  were in Slaughter Canyon 16 Jul (LKM) and one  $\stackrel{\circ}{\circ}$  was territorial at Rattlesnake Springs 23 Jun & 3 Jul (SW).

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**Painted Bunting**—One was at Sitting Bull Falls, *Eddy* 9 Jun (SW). In *Doña Ana*, a  $\Diamond$  was singing at Broad Canyon Ranch north of Radium Springs 27 Jun (MTS) and a  $\bigcirc$  came to water south of Radium Springs 28 Jun (MTS, JEZ).

**<u>Bobolink</u>**—Continuing from May, at least  $3 \stackrel{?}{\circ} \stackrel{?}{\circ}$  were at Albuquerque's Valle de Oro NWR to 20 Jun (M. O. Hilchey, m.ob.), by which time all the alfalfa fields had been mowed.

Eastern Meadowlark—Two were singing in the Valles Caldera 7 Jul (WHH).

**Brewer's Blackbird**—At least one pair was nesting in juniper at Abiquiu L. 20 Jun (CIS). The species has disappeared from the Bluewater Lake BBS (HRS) where a colony of several dozen birds had nested for years.

**Bronzed Cowbird**—Found across the south, including one north to Silver City 1 Jun-16 Jul (E. R. Lewis), 2 at Deming 28 Jul (CMR), up to 3 at Elephant Butte 1-30 Jun (DJC), a displaying  $\Im$  at Truth or Consequences 8 Jun (J&MH), a fledgling begging from a pair of Bullock's Orioles south of Radium Springs 17-18 Jun (MTS, JEZ), 2 at Carrizozo 7 Jun & 4 there 12 Jul (JRO), and a juv. among juv. Western Kingbirds in *Eddy* 21 Jul (RN).

**Orchard Oriole**—A young  $\circ$  was near Otto 30 Jun (RC\*\*). An ad.  $\circ$  was west to Las Cruces 23 Jun (NGS\*).

**Cassin's Finch**—Unusual in the Sandia Mts. in summer, a  $\stackrel{?}{\circ}$  was singing along the Tree Springs Trail 1 Jun (JEP).

**Red Crossbill**—In sharp contrast to last year, only small numbers were reported, these from the Sangre de Cristo, Magdalena, Black, and Pinos Altos ranges.

**American Goldfinch**—South of usual summer range in New Mexico, a ♂ was seen and heard at Bosque NWR 13 Jul (D. V. Pluym\*, EH).

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## **NEW MEXICO COUNTIES**

