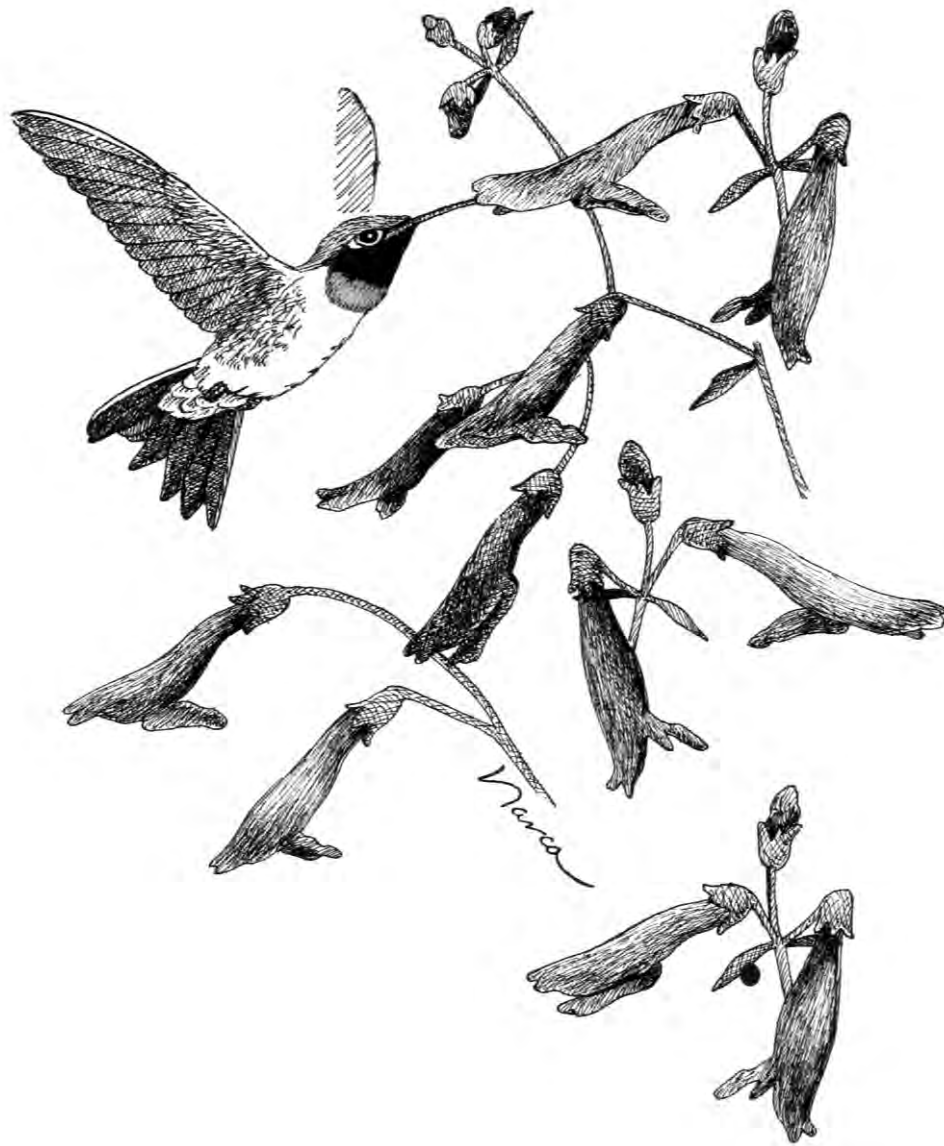


*New Mexico
Ornithological Society
Field Notes*



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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD NOTES

Volume 49, Number 1, Winter 2009-2010

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Reporting Observations: All individuals interested in birds in New Mexico are encouraged to submit their observations to *NMOS Field Notes*. Especially solicited are records of uncommon species, nesting birds, and early, late, or out-of-season/range birds. Records should be submitted in taxonomic order and should include species name, date, exact location, numbers of birds, age, sex, and color morph (if applicable), and name and contact information of observer. Details are necessary for unusual records; these may be submitted on a report form (available from the address above), but any written format is acceptable. Photographic documentation is strongly encouraged.

NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(*Founded 1962*)

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: P. O. Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068; www.nmbirds.org.

Cover: Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*). This familiar hummingbird is among the most common and widespread of New Mexico's breeding birds. It occurs statewide, and breeds in a variety of habitats from lowest elevations up to at least 2285 m; it achieves its greatest densities in riparian habitats such as the Rio Grande Valley in central and southern New Mexico. Typically arriving by early April, nesting is in full swing by May and continues into August. Recent studies have shown that Black-chinneds reduce nest predation by placing their nests near active accipiter nests in riparian situations. Art by Narca Moore-Craig.

WINTER SEASON 2009-2010

Winter 2009-10 was characterized by much colder and wetter conditions than experienced in New Mexico for many years. There was a small movement by some picids, corvids, parids, and similar groups into atypical habitats, and some frugivores, including bluebirds and other thrushes, were present in good numbers. But many grassland and shrubland species, and especially seed-eating sparrows, were found in greatly reduced numbers, undoubtedly owing to poor seed production resulting from poor summer rains. Highlights included three more Lesser Black-backed Gulls, the state's first confirmed Anna's Hummingbird nest, a wintering Black-throated Blue Warbler, a brief appearance by White-winged Crossbills, and a Lawrence's Goldfinch north to *McKinley*.

Localities and Counties

Abiquiu Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Las Cruces, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Alameda, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Las Palomas, <i>Sierra</i>
Albuquerque, <i>Bernalillo</i>	Las Vegas, NWR, <i>San Miguel</i>
Anapra, <i>Doña Ana</i>	La Union, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Belen, <i>Valencia</i>	Loving, <i>Eddy</i>
Bitter Lake NWR, <i>Chaves</i>	Malaga, <i>Eddy</i>
Bosque del Apache NWR, <i>Socorro</i>	Maxwell, NWR, <i>Colfax</i>
Bottomless Lakes SP, <i>Eddy</i>	Mesilla, Park, Dam, Valley, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Brantley Lake, <i>Eddy</i>	Morgan Lake, <i>San Juan</i>
Burro Mts., <i>Grant</i>	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, <i>Rio Arriba</i>
Caballo Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	Orilla Verde, <i>Taos</i>
Carlsbad, <i>Eddy</i>	Otero Mesa, <i>Otero</i>
Carlsbad Caverns NP, <i>Eddy</i>	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap [NRT], <i>Roosevelt</i>
Clayton, Lake, <i>Union</i>	Peloncillo Mts., <i>Hidalgo</i>
Cliff, Cliff-Gila Valley, <i>Grant</i>	Percha SP, <i>Sierra</i>
Clovis, <i>Curry</i>	Portales, <i>Roosevelt</i>
Cochiti, Lake, Dam, <i>Sandoval</i>	Post Office Canyon, <i>Hidalgo</i>
Conchas Lake, Dam, <i>San Miguel</i>	Questa, <i>Taos</i>
Corrales, <i>Sandoval</i>	Rio Grande Nature Center, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Deming, <i>Luna</i>	Rattlesnake Springs, <i>Eddy</i>
Dixon, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Roswell, <i>Chaves</i>
Elephant Butte, Lake, Dam, <i>Sierra</i>	San Acacia, <i>Socorro</i>
Española, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	San Antonio, <i>Socorro</i>
Farmington, Lake, <i>San Juan</i>	Sandia Crest, Park, <i>Bernalillo</i>
Gila, Bird Area, <i>Grant</i>	Sandia Mts., <i>Bernalillo/Sandoval</i>
Glorieta, <i>Santa Fe</i>	Santa Fe, <i>Santa Fe</i>
Guadalupe Mts., <i>Eddy</i>	Santa Rosa, Lake, <i>Guadalupe</i>
Hatch, <i>Doña Ana</i>	Santa Teresa, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Hermanas, <i>Luna</i>	Sevilleta NWR, <i>Socorro</i>
Heron Lake, <i>Rio Arriba</i>	Silver City, <i>Grant</i>
Hillsboro, <i>Sierra</i>	Six Mile Dam, <i>Eddy</i>
Holloman Lake, <i>Otero</i>	Socorro, <i>Socorro</i>
Kingston, <i>Sierra</i>	Stubblefield Lake, <i>Colfax</i>
Ladder Ranch, <i>Sierra</i>	Sumner Lake, Dam, <i>De Baca</i>
Laguna Grande, <i>Eddy</i>	Sunland Park, <i>Doña Ana</i>
Lake Avalon, <i>Eddy</i>	Texico, <i>Curry</i>
Lake Roberts, <i>Grant</i>	Univ. of New Mexico, <i>Bernalillo</i>

Ute Lake, *Quay*
Viriden, *Hidalgo*
Watrous, *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 Service
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
CBC	Christmas Bird Count	WSMR	White Sands Missile Range
CCNP	Carlsbad Caverns NP	♂	male (represents sword & shield of Mars)
CG	Camp Ground	♀	female (represents mirror of Venus)
Cr.	Creek	ad(s).	adult(s)
EBL	Elephant Butte Lake	subad(s).	subadult(s)
GBA	Gila Bird Area	imm(s).	immature(s)
L.	Lake	juv(s).	juvenile(s)
LVNWR	Las Vegas NWR	sp.	species
MSB	Museum of Southwestern Biology	m.ob.	many observers
Mt(s).	Mountain(s)	v.o.	various observers
NM	National Monument	+	others; et al.
NMSU	New Mexico State Univ.	*	written details provided
NP	National Park	**	photo or tape provided
NRT	north <i>Roosevelt</i> trap	***	specimen obtained
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
R.	River		
RGNC	Rio Grande Nature Center		
RGV	Rio Grande Valley		

Initialed Observers

RAB	Robert A. Barnes	DWM	David W. Mehlman
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CMB	Celestyn M. Brozek	JNP	James N. Paton
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SWC	Steven W. Cox	CMR	Christopher M. Rustay
AMC	Alan M. Craig	JIS	Jeffery I. Sanchez
JD	James Davis	CIS	Catherine I. Sandell
JLD	John L. Douglas	HRS	Hart R. Schwarz
RD	Rod Drewien	MTS	Marcy T. Scott
SMF	Stephen M. Fettig	RFS	Robert F. Shantz
BRF	Bernard R. Foy	RSS	Roland S. Shook
DJG	David J. Griffin	DMS	Donna M. Simonetti
JG	John Groves	RT	Robert Templeton
DLH	David L. Hawksworth	JAT	John A. Trochet
NEH	Nancy E. Hetrick	CV	Cathy Vanick
MOH	Michael O. Hilchey	MLW	Mark L. Watson
TJH	Tom J. Hines	RW	Robert Weber
WHH	William H. Howe	SW	Steve West
JPJ	James P. Joseph	WFWe	William F. West
LK	Lea Knutson	SOW	Sartor O. Williams
DJK	David J. Krueper	CJW	Cole J. Wolf
CDL	Carroll D. Littlefield	JEZ	James E. Zabriskie
CGL	Carl G. Lundblad	BRZ	Barry R. Zimmer
LKM	Larry K. Malone		

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Greater White-fronted Goose—A flock of 141 passed over the Peloncillo Mts. 9 Feb (CDL); birds from the Bristol Bay area in Alaska winter in the Mexican state of Chihuahua and stage at nearby Ascensión (*fide* CDL). Others were seldom reported were 5 at Clayton L. 16 Dec (WHH, DJK) and 2 at Watrous 1 Dec (WFWe).

Snow and Ross's Geese—Typically lumped as “light geese” by wildlife managers, the 20,000 at BLNWR 15 Jan were estimated at 63% **Ross's** and 37% **Snow** (JIS). Some 14,600 were at Bosque NWR 19 Dec (DLH), where the ratio in Jan was determined to be 75% **Snow** and 25% **Ross's** (RD). A blue **Ross's** was at Clovis 18 Dec (JEP*). **Ross's Geese** were seldom reported included 3 at Virden 27 Dec (RFS**) and 4 at Deming 26 Dec-28 Feb (LKM).

Cackling and Canada Geese—Typically lumped as “dark geese” by wildlife managers, some 18,000 were in the Clayton L. area 5 Jan (MLW), where on 16 Dec the great majority were believed to be **Cackling Geese** (WHH, CMR).

Trumpeter Swan—Two imms. reached Bosque NWR 3 Jan (J. Roybal**); one was subsequently seen by many along the Farm Loop 7-9 Jan (RD, NM-C**, DJK**, MJB**, m.ob.) but was found dead 11 Jan (CIS, *** to MSB); the other persisted in a canal through Jan-Feb (JRO**, NEH**, v.o.) until found dead (*** to MSB); both were victims of predation, likely from coyotes (*fide* A. B. Johnson).

Tundra Swan—Had a good season, with up to 9 at LVNWR 15-16 Dec (WHH*, DJK) & 6 there 5 Jan (MLW**), one w. to Zuni's Eustace L. 14-17 Dec (JAT*), 4 at Bosque NWR 9 Dec-29 Jan (CIS, v.o.), 2 at EBL 5 Dec (JRO, JEP, DJC**), and 3 s. of Malaga 6 Jan (MLW).

Wood Duck—Widely reported, including on 14 CBCs, with 184 in the Albuquerque area 20 Dec (HRS). Noteworthy in the w. were 10 at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT) and 8 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 2 Jan (LKM).

Eurasian Wigeon—An ad. ♂ was among 6400 **American Wigeons** at Clovis 18 Dec-15 Jan (JEP*, CMR*); 2nd local record, the first in Jan 2008.

Blue-winged Teal—Unexpected in mid-winter, a ♂ was at Anapra 3 Jan (MTS, JEZ, CGL**); undetailed flocks on certain CBCs are unlikely and remain to be confirmed.

Cinnamon Teal—Noteworthy for winter, 3 ♂♂ were near Cliff 2 Jan (DJK).

Greater Scaup—One was at BLNWR 29 Jan (JEP*, JRO), 2 were on the Rio Grande s. of Williamsburg 28 Dec-30 Jan (v.o., DJC**), and 4 were at Holloman L. 22 Dec-14 Jan (MJB*).

Surf Scoter—An ad. ♂ was at Bosque NWR 8 Dec (C. K. Lee**). One was captured in the Laguna Grande area 25 Jan and ultimately released at Bottomless Lakes SP (*fide* J. Harding).

White-winged Scoter—One was on the conveyance canal e. of Fort Craig, *Socorro* 21 Dec (M. Jones*).

Long-tailed Duck—One was on the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo ponds near Española 20 Dec (BRF*).

Barrow's Goldeneye—An ad. ♂ at Stubblefield L. 1-4 Dec (WFWe, JEP*, JRO*) was joined by a ♀ 14 Dec (DJK). Three ad. ♂♂ were on the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo ponds 31 Dec (JEP*) & at least 2 ♂♂ remained through 2 Jan (JEP*).

Red-breasted Merganser—High counts were 56 at Conchas L. 18 Jan (DLH) and 40 at Six Mile Dam 22 Feb (SW).

Wild Turkey—An impressive 223 were at Philmont, *Colfax* 5 Dec (CMR).

Montezuma Quail—Out of range was a ♀ at Bosque NWR 7 Dec (G. Garton**). A high 9 were in Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. 1 Jan (C. G. Schmitt).

Red-throated Loon—Continuing from Nov, one at EBL was refound 16-18 Jan (DJC**, CJW**, JEP*, JRO*) and 24 Feb (DJC).

Pacific Loon—Eight were at Conchas L. 18 Dec (SMF**); one was there 13 Feb (JEP*).

Common Loon—High count was 10 at Morgan L. 13 Jan (CLB). Late was one at Stubblefield L. 1-4 Dec (WFWe, WHH), surviving in a small opening in the ice.

Horned Grebe—Singles were photographed at E.B.L. 23 Jan (DJC**) and BLNWR 11 Feb (JIS**); high count was 4 at Sumner L. 15 Jan (JEP).

Red-necked Grebe—One was at EBL's Long Point/Lost Canyon area 8 Jan-16 Feb (DJC**, CJW**, JEP*, JRO**).

Western Grebe—One to 2 wintered at Morgan L. 4 Dec-16 Jan (TR); 11 there 30 Jan (TR) likely signaled "spring" arrival.

American White Pelican—North for the season was one at Conchas L. 18 Jan-27 Feb (DLH, JEP).

American Bittern—At least one persisted at BLNWR 19 Dec-29 Jan (JIS, JEP, JRO).

Great Egret—Cold weather may have reduced numbers this season; high counts were 9 at BLNWR 15 Jan (JIS), 9 at Six Mile Dam 3 Jan (SW), and 5 at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG).

Snowy Egret—Noteworthy for mid-winter, 16 were at BLNWR 6 Jan (JIS) and one was at Loving 3 Jan (SW).

Cattle Egret—One at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG) provided the lone report.

White-faced Ibis—About 25 wintered at BLNWR Dec-Jan (JIS) and one wintered at Belen 3 Jan-14 Feb (DLH, JEP, CMR).

Turkey Vulture—The 39 at Roswell 19 Dec (JIS) provided a new winter high count.

Osprey—Now expected in s. New Mexico in winter, this season found singles far n. to Heron L. and Abiquiu L. 17 Jan (JPB).

White-tailed Kite—Two were n. to Bosque NWR 9 Dec-28 Feb (CIS, m.ob., NEH**, JRO**); singles were in the Uvas Valley, w. of Hatch 8 Jan (NM-C) and Las Cruces 12-30 Dec (JLD).

Bald Eagle—High counts were 33 at Heron L. 1 Dec (MLW) and 19 at Bosque NWR 19 Dec (DLH).

Northern Goshawk—Noteworthy for the e. plains, an ad. was at Lingo, *Roosevelt* 3 Jan (W. Heck**).

Common Black-Hawk—Always unexpected in winter, an ad. was at Glenwood, *Catron* 3-10 Jan (R. W. Skaggs).

Zone-tailed Hawk—Undetailed was an early one over Silver City 12 Feb (*fide* RSS).

Crested Caracara—One was feeding on a cow carcass along NM 549 about 16 km e. of Deming 20 & 23 Dec (T. Schaub**).

Merlin—Conspicuous Dec-Feb, including on 18 CBCs in all quadrants of the state.

Aplomado Falcon—Reports are increasing (and several were noted this season), but distinguishing a wild one in the state is essentially impossible now. Widespread releases of captive birds across the s. half of the state began in 2004 and continue through the present time, including in areas where natives had been attempting to recolonize. Introduced birds have traveled hundreds of kilometers from their release sites, and progeny of these released birds, many now ads., have not been banded. It may be several decades before the species is again “countable” in New Mexico.

Prairie Falcon—One took up residence at a peanut processing plant in Portales Dec-Feb (Z. F. Jones), feasting on Rock Pigeons and Eurasian Collared-Doves.

Virginia Rail—Three were n. to Española 20 Dec (BRF).

Sora—A high 22 were at Six Mile Dam 3 Jan (SW).

Common Moorhen—Reports from *Sierra*, *Luna*, *Doña Ana*, and *Eddy*, including one at Deming in Oct that was still there 28 Feb (LKM+) and a family group of up to 6 at Percha SP 5 Dec-20 Feb (m.ob., JRO**).

Sandhill Crane—17,750 were reported in the BLNWR vicinity 19 Dec (JIS).

Black-necked Stilt—Wintering were 2 at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG) and 11 at Sunland Park 3 Jan (CGL, MTS, JEZ).

American Avocet—Six wintered in the Caballo L. area 25 Dec-8 Feb (DJC**, DLH).

Greater Yellowlegs—Nicely documented were up to 18 wintering along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 12 Dec-30 Jan (DJC**).

Lesser Yellowlegs—Late was one at Bosque NWR 14-22 Dec (CIS, MOH*); early were 3 at BLNWR 15 Feb (DLH).

Long-billed Curlew—Noteworthy for winter, 3 were near Hermanas 3 Jan (WHH**) and 4 were at the Loving cemetery 3 Jan (SW).

Western Sandpiper—Lingering singles were at Caballo L. 11 Dec (DJC**) and Las Palomas 12 Dec (DJC**).

Least Sandpiper—Over 500 wintered along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 5 Dec-4 Feb, at which time water releases flooded all available habitat (DJC).

Dunlin—One lingered n. to Morgan L. 11 Dec (TR**), 2 were at Caballo L. 5 Dec (DJC**), and one was at Holloman L. 22 Dec (MJB**); up to 11 wintered below Williamsburg 12 Dec-4 Feb (DJC**, JPB, JEP).

Wilson's Snipe—One was n. to Seneca Cr., *Union* 15 Dec (DJK, CMR).

Franklin's Gull—One was late at Sunland Park 5 Dec (JNP).

Bonaparte's Gull—North of expected were 4 at Cochiti L. 6 Dec (WHH*) and 2 at RGNC 20 Dec (K. Boettcher*); a high 39 were in the Brantley L. area 20 Dec (TJH).

Mew Gull—Single ads. were at Farmington L. 19 Dec (TR*), Morgan L. 14 Feb (TR**), and Sunland Park 9 Dec (JNP*).

Herring Gull—High count was 10 at EBL's Rock Canyon Marina 16 Jan (JEP)

California Gull—Much in evidence in Dec, including 10 at Farmington 12 Dec (TR), 4 at Cochiti L. 6 Dec (WHH), 13 at Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 13 Dec (JEP), and 9 at Sunland Park 9 Dec (JNP); 3-5 wintered at EBL 1 Jan-6 Feb (m.ob.); Feb reports included 10 at Morgan L. 12 Feb (JEP) and one at Brantley L. 13 Feb (NDP).

Thayer's Gull—Single first-cycle ones were at Morgan L. 18 Dec (TR**) and EBL 3-4 Jan (NDP, JPB**, CGL); an ad. was at EBL 1 & 16 Jan (JEP*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull—Another impressive season found single ads. at the Alameda bridge 20-21 Feb (DLH*, JPJ*), Caballo L. 3 Jan (JPB**, NDP*), and Brantley L. 20 Dec (CMR*).

Forster's Tern—Irregular in winter, 4 were at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG).

Band-tailed Pigeon—Surprising for winter was one near Hatch 9 Jan (BRZ**); another was n. to Glorieta 20 Feb (A. McSweeney*).

Eurasian Collared-Dove—Some 600 were at a Roswell dairy 1 Feb (SW). Now found statewide in substantial numbers, the species was first reported in New Mexico at Roswell only in 1995.

Inca Dove—One was n. to Clovis 27 Dec (W. Robertson).

[Lilac-crowned Parrot]—Part of a feral flock from the vicinity of the El Paso Country Club, 27 were near Randal's Pool e. of Santa Teresa 17 Jan (JG).

Greater Roadrunner—One was at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT); the species remains scarce in the northwestern quadrant of the state.

Great Horned Owl—A nest at RGNC was active by 29 Jan (DLH); farther n., one at Eldorado, *Santa Fe* began incubation by 14 Feb (D. W. Sthalecker).

Burrowing Owl—Two again overwintered n. to Corrales Dec-Feb (DJK).

Short-eared Owl—One was at Bosque NWR 30 Dec (CMB*) and 2 were at the same site 6 Jan (CIS); one was reported at Roswell 19 Dec (JIS).

Northern Saw-whet Owl—Noteworthy for the e. plains was one at NRT 15 Feb (DLH).

White-throated Swift—In evidence in the middle and lower RGV, including 2 at San Antonio (JEP) and 5 at Bosque NWR (CIS) 1 Jan, 14 at Las Palomas 3 Jan (NDP, JPB), and some 500 at Mesilla 1 Jan (CGL, DJG).

Magnificent Hummingbird—A ♂ was at Silver City 1 Jan (B. Smith *fide* RSS) and another large hummer probably this species was there 27 Jan (M. Murphy *fide* RSS).

Anna's Hummingbird—The state's first confirmed nest was found at Las Cruces—the ♀, seen gathering nest material and paint chips 24-30 Jan, was found on her nest atop a pine cone 31 Jan, where she was feeding a nestling 19 Feb; one young fledged about 1 Mar (DMS**, DJG**). Other Anna's included at least 8 in the Las Cruces area 19 Dec (DJG), 2 at Elephant Butte 4 Dec-5 Jan (DJC**), and one e. to Carlsbad 20 Dec (SW).

***Selasphorus* hummingbirds**—Undetailed reports of **Rufous/Allen's** were one at Silver City 25 Dec & 1 Jan (*fide* RSS) and 3 at Las Cruces 19 Dec, where there was also an undetailed **Broad-tailed** the same day (*fide* DJG).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—Several were reported but only a few were well-documented: a juv. at Conchas Dam 12 Dec-13 Feb (JEP*), a ♀ at Albuquerque's Altura Park 17 Dec (M. Hinton**) & 1 Jan (CMB), a juv. at UNM 25-27 Dec (CMR*, MJB*), a juv. at San Acacia 15 Dec (DLH*), a juv. below EBL Dam 4 Jan (CDL**), and a ♀ near Percha SP 2 Jan (CDL**).

Red-naped Sapsucker x Red-breasted Sapsucker—A bright hybrid was at Shalem, *Doña Ana* 16 Jan (DJG); pure Red-breasted remains unconfirmed in the state.

Downy Woodpecker—Relatively widespread, including 2 s. to Percha SP 1 Jan-6 Feb (m.ob.).

Hairy Woodpecker—One wintered at Deming Dec-Feb (LKM, JEP).

Empidonax flycatchers—Again wintered in s. New Mexico, with most believed to be in the **Dusky/Hammond's** group: 2 at Bosque NWR 19 Dec (DLH); singles below EBL Dam 5 Dec (JEP) & 23 Jan (DJC); singles in the Las Palomas area 12 Jan (DJC**, a Dusky) & 20 Feb (DJG); singles at Percha SP on various dates 1 Jan-20 Feb (DJK, CGL, DLH, JEP*); and singles at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG), the GBA 14 Jan-16 Feb (RSS), and near Rattlesnake Springs 17 Dec (SW).

Black Phoebe—North were 2 at Dixon 14 Dec (RT) and Española 20 Dec (BRF).

Eastern Phoebe—One was w. to Cliff 2 Jan (DJK).

Say's Phoebe—Three lingered n. to Farmington 19 Dec (APN).

Northern Shrike—Found at 10 sites in *Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Union, McKinley, Mora,* and *San Miguel*; high count was 4 along the Dry Cimmaron R., *Union* 14 Dec (DJK).

Plumbeous Vireo—One was found on the Caballo CBC 2 Jan (JLD).

Cassin's Vireo—One lingered at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG).

Hutton's Vireo—Conspicuous in the lower RGV, including one at Ladder Ranch 4 Jan (WFWe), one to 2 at Percha SP 2 Jan-20 Feb (m.ob.), and 4 at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG).

Steller's Jay—In the RGV, 2 wandered to Percha SP 2 Jan (CGL) and one was at Las Cruces 5 Jan (DJG).

Blue Jay—One was w. to Santa Fe in early Jan (D. Einspahr).

American Crow—A roost near Mesilla Dam was estimated to contain about 25,000 birds 4 Jan (DJG).

Chihuahuan Raven—Noteworthy for *Santa Fe*, 66 were at Otto 15 Feb (JPB). Singles were at two Corrales sites 20-21 Dec (WHH*), at Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 16 Jan (WHH), and at RGNC 16 Jan (DLH). A silent one was reported among Commons at LVNWR 5 Dec (CMR).

Common Raven—Nine were e. to Clovis 2 Jan (GB). Up to 4 were in the Brantley L. area 20 Dec (SW, CMR*).

Tree Swallow—Earliest were 3 at Caballo L. 8 Feb (DJC**).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow—Arrived at multiple sites 20 Feb, including 5 at Percha SP (DJG), 2 at Caballo Dam (JEP), and several at Las Palomas (DJG).

Cliff Swallow—Early were 2 along the Rio Grande s. of Williamsburg 24 Feb (DJC**).

Cave Swallow—Typically arrives at CCNP in early Feb, but this season none had arrived by 28 Feb (SW).

Mountain Chickadee—Made a small incursion eastward, including singles at Santa Rosa 13 Feb (JEP), Sumner Dam 18 Dec (JEP), Ned Houk Park n. of Clovis 15 Jan (JEP), and near Clovis 1 Jan (CMR).

Bridled Titmouse—Increased its presence e. to the RGV, with singles at EBL Dam 5 Dec-22 Jan (m.ob., DJC**) and Las Palomas 3 Jan (NDP) and 2 or more at Percha SP Dec-Feb (m.ob.); one strayed to the Deming cemetery 6 Feb (DLH).

Juniper Titmouse—Several were noted away from usual habitat, including one at Clayton 16 Dec (JAT), 2 at Bosque NWR 19 Dec (MOH), and one at Percha SP 2-9 Jan (CGL, BRZ); a high 20 were at Farmington 19 Dec (APN).

White-breasted Nuthatch—One was at Clovis 2 Jan (CMR), where seldom reported.

Carolina Wren—Continuing from autumn, one was singing at Santa Rosa's Pecos R. bridge 13 Feb (JEP*) & 27 Feb (DLH).

Bewick's Wren—A high 12 were found on the Clayton CBC 16 Dec (CMR).

House Wren—Far n. for the season, and a first for the Clayton CBC, was one at Clayton L. 16 Dec (WHH**).

Winter Wren—Up to 2 "easterns" and possibly one "western" were seen and/or heard in the Corrales bosque Dec-Feb (m.ob., WHH**, DJK**, SMF**NEH**). Singles were reported without details in the Burro Mts. 19 Jan (DJG) and at Randal's Pool near Santa Teresa 17 Jan (JG).

Marsh Wren—North were 2 in the Clayton area 15-16 Dec (DJK, CMR) and singles at Española 20 Dec (BRF) and Morgan L. 7 Feb (TR).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—One at Corrales in Nov continued there until 5 Jan (DJK**).

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher—Reported across the s. in *Hidalgo*, *Doña Ana*, and *Eddy* and n. in the RGV to *Sierra* and *Socorro*. Five territories were occupied in the EBL area 4 Feb (DJC).

Eastern Bluebird—Widespread from the Texas line westward, including on 11 CBCs. High count was 52 in the Albuquerque area 20 Dec (HRS); noteworthy in the west were 7 at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT), 3 near Cliff 2 Jan (RSS), 2 at Deming 5 Feb (LKM), and 5 in the Florida Mts., *Luna* 7 Dec (LKM). Pairs were searching nest cavities at Rattlesnake Springs by 28 Feb (SW).

Western Bluebird and **Mountain Bluebird**—Both were widespread, often in substantial numbers, in lowland areas and on the e. plains (v.o.).

Hermit Thrush—Reported on 16 CBCs, including 11 at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT).

Varied Thrush—A ♂ was north of Las Cruces at the Shalem bridge 3 Jan (NDP*).

Gray Catbird—Continuing a recent trend, wintering catbirds were one at Santa Fe 5-6 Dec (SW**), where reportedly present through Feb, and one at Socorro 30 Dec (CMB) & 30 Jan (DLH).

Northern Mockingbird—North for the season were one at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT), one favoring suet at Santa Fe late Nov-Mar (L. C. Herrmann), one guarding hackberries at a rest area ne. of Watrous 15 Dec (WHH**), and one to 2 at two Albuquerque sites Dec-Feb (NDP**, MJB).

Sage Thrasher—One was n. to near Clovis 1 Jan (CMR).

Brown Thrasher—Singles were at Santa Fe 2 Dec (C. Jarvis*) and RGNC 23-29 Dec (DP, DJK); 4 were at CCNP 19 Dec (SW) where at least one was at Rattlesnake Springs 14 Feb (MJB).

Curve-billed Thrasher—One at Zuni's Tekapo 14-15 Dec was described as *palmeri* (JAT*). Others of note were 2 at Española 20 Dec (BRF, SMF, T. F. Hodapp**) and one near Clayton 15 Dec (DJK).

Crissal Thrasher—Up to 3 were nw. to Zuni's Blackrock Dam 14-15 Dec (JAT). Undetailed were singles reported n. to Questa and Orilla Verde in mid-Dec (RW).

European Starling—About 5000 were concentrated along Bonanza Cr. at La Cienega, Santa Fe 13 Dec (JPB**).

Sprague's Pipit—North and a local first was one at Kirtland AFB, Bernalillo 25 Jan (SWC*).

Cedar Waxwing—More numerous and widespread than in most years, including on 16 CBCs in all quadrants of the state. Noteworthy were a record high 150 at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT) and 130 at Post Office Canyon 16 Jan (CDL).

Phainopepla—Two were ne. to Roswell 19 Dec (JIS).

Olive Warbler—One in upper Skull Canyon 26 Jan (CDL) provided one of the few winter records for the Peloncillo Mts. Others were 2 in the Sheridan Gulch area s. of Pleasanton, Catron (A. Seegert *vide* RSS) and singles n. of Kingston 16 Dec (DJC**) and at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG).

Orange-crowned Warbler—One was n. to Albuquerque's Paradise Hills 27 Dec (WHH**); farther s., up to 4 were in the Las Cruces-Mesilla Park area Dec-Jan (DJG, CGL, JEP) and 2 were at Brantley L. 20 Dec (CMR*).

Black-throated Blue Warbler—A ♂ visited a Las Cruces nectar feeder from 26 Dec into Mar (L. & G. Mosley, DJG**, JEZ**, m.ob.), only the 4th to be found in New Mexico in winter.

Ovenbird—One at Hillsboro 14 Jan (RAB**) furnished the state's 6th winter record, the first found only in 1998.

Common Yellowthroat—Now a regular but still rare wintering species in s. New Mexico, singles were at Bosque NWR 19 Dec (DLH), Percha SP 5 Dec-20 Feb (JEP, m.ob.), Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG), Roswell 19 Dec (JIS), and CCNP 19 Dec (SW).

Green-tailed Towhee—Representative of the scarcity of many seed-eating species this year, the Peloncillo Mts. CBC found only one on 3 Jan (AMC); last year that count tallied a national high 254.

Spotted Towhee—Singles were e. to Williams Playa near Clovis 1 Jan and Texico 2 Jan (CMR).

Canyon Towhee—A high 32 were at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT). One was in Paradise Canyon near Clayton 16 Dec (DJK). One began singing in Post Office Canyon 12 Feb (CDL).

American Tree Sparrow—Only a few reports from *Colfax* and *Union*, with about 25 at Maxwell NWR 1-17 Dec (v.o.) the high count; most southerly was one at LVNWR 15 Dec (WHH). Recent years have found fewer of this species wintering in New Mexico.

Brewer's Sparrow—Only 3 were found on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 3 Jan (AMC); 13,462 had been counted there in 2000.

Field Sparrow—Up to 8 at NRT on various dates 1-15 Jan (CMR, JRO, JEP) provided the only reports.

Black-chinned Sparrow—One was in the Sandia Mts. along the Domingo Baca Trail 26 Dec (CMR*).

Vesper Sparrow—The 3 found on the Peloncillo Mts. CBC 3 Jan (AMC) were the fewest recorded there in 36 years.

Lark Sparrow—One to 2 were at La Union 1 Jan (DAB**), where present throughout the winter; the species had been reported but not verified there in recent winters (*vide* JNP). Reports n. to Silver City, Caballo L. and Roswell were undetailed and require confirmation.

Lark Bunting—Very low numbers, especially in the southwest. The 11 at Deming 31 Jan (LKM) was the observer's high count for the season.

Savannah Sparrow—North for the season were a record high 17 at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT), 40 in Albuquerque's North Valley 20 Dec (DWM), and 11 near Clovis 2 Jan (CMR).

Baird's Sparrow—Two were in snow on Otero Mesa 3 Dec (RAM**). One at Ladder Ranch 4 Jan (WFWe) provided the only additional report.

Fox Sparrow—A "red" one was at Bosque NWR 5 Dec (CIS*). Single "gray" ones were at Cliff 2 Jan (DJK*), Silver City 29 Jan (D. & M. Zimmerman**), and Post Office Canyon 2 Jan-4 Feb (CDL*). Undetailed CBC reports were 2 at Las Vegas 2 Jan (LK), 3 at Roswell 19 Dec (JIS), and one in the Caballo L. area 2 Jan (JLD).

Lincoln's Sparrow—One was n. to Farmington 19-20 Dec (TR**) & 12 Feb (JEP). Others n. of usual were 3 at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT) and 2 at Las Vegas 2 Jan (LK).

Swamp Sparrow—Noteworthy were singles at Ute L. 12 Dec (JEP), Roswell 29 Jan (JEP), and the Cliff-Gila Valley 2 Jan (LKM).

Harris's Sparrow—An ad. wintered at Farmington 19 Dec-12 Feb (TR**, JRO**, JEP*). Others were singles at Hillsboro 24-26 Dec (RAB) and Roswell 26 Jan (CMR*).

Golden-crowned Sparrow—One at Tse Bonita, *McKinley* 22 Dec (JD, CV) provided a local first. An apparent imm. was at Corrales 26 Dec (WHH*) and an ad. was at Bosque NWR 12 Dec-28 Feb (m.ob., CIS**, JRO**).

Yellow-eyed Junco—An ad. n. of Silver City on various dates 26 Jan-28 Feb (KB**, DJG) provided another example of apparent northward spread by this species. Noteworthy were at least 2 about residences in the foothills of the Burro Mts. 13-14 Feb (DJG).

Lapland Longspur—Reported at three sites: about 70 n. of Levy, *Mora* 5 Dec (CMR), 5 at Clayton 16 Dec (CMR), and 2 near Maxwell NWR 30 Jan (JEP).

Northern Cardinal—Noteworthy for *Harding* were a ♂ and 2 ♀♀ on the Ute Cr. arm of Ute L. 12 Dec (JEP*). A ♂-♀ pair was at Hillsboro 1-13 Jan (DJC**). A high 3 were found on the Lakes Avalon-Brantley CBC 20 Dec (TJH). Undetailed was a report of one at Silver City in mid-Dec (*fide* R. Metz).

Pyrrhuloxia—Dispersing northward were one on the Ute Cr. arm of Ute L. 12 Dec (JEP), 2 at NRT 1 Jan (CMR), one at Sevilleta NWR 15 Dec (SWC), and 3 in the Cliff-Gila Valley 2 Jan (RSS, DJK**).

Yellow-headed Blackbird—One lingered n. to LVNWR 15 Dec (WHH**).

Rusty Blackbird—One was along Seneca Cr. e. of Clayton 15 Dec (CMR*, DJK), where also found in previous years. In the RGV, an occasionally singing ♂ was along the Rio Grande below Williamsburg 17 Dec-5 Feb (DJC**, JPB**, NDP*, JEP*) and 2 were near Derry, *Sierra* 9 Jan (BRZ**).

Brewer's Blackbird—North were 15 at Albuquerque near the Sandia casino 21 Dec (SOW). Remarkable were 22,172 reported on the Roswell CBC 19 Dec (JIS).

Bronzed Cowbirds—Wintering birds were restricted to the NMSU cow pens at Las Cruces, with 3-6 there on various dates 19 Dec-11 Jan (DJG, CGL, BRZ).

rosy-finch—The three-species flock at Sandia Crest continued to entertain birders from around the world; among the highlights this season was a ♀ **Brown-capped** banded as a hatch-year bird 27 Dec 2004 and recaptured there 31 Jan 2010, a longevity record for the species (*fide* NSC); in all, some 93 individuals, including **Brown-cappeds**, **Blacks**, and **Gray-crowned**s, banded in previous seasons were recaptured this season (NSC et al.). The only rosy-finches away from Sandia Crest were 50 **Brown-capped**s at Questa 17 Dec (RW) and 120 mostly **Gray-crowned**s near Cabezon Peak, *Sandoval* 14 Feb (H. A. Walker**).

Pine Grosbeak—Present in the Sandia Crest vicinity Dec-Jan, including 8 on 10 Dec (JRO).

Cassin's Finch—Largely restricted to the n. mountains and adjacent areas. One was e. to Clayton L. 16 Dec (WHH). South were 2 at EBL 23 Dec (DJC), one at L. Roberts 20 Feb (LKM), and up to 10 at Silver City in Feb (RSS et al.).

Red Crossbill—Very few reports. Up to 28 were in the Poverty Cr. area, w. *Sierra* 19 Dec-6 Feb (DJC**). Two were s. to the Deming cemetery 5 Dec (LKM).

White-winged Crossbill—Four were at Aspen Vista below the Santa Fe Ski Area 20 Dec (R. Ellenberg), where at least one male was feeding on spruce cones 26 Dec (JPB*).

Lesser Goldfinch—No longer surprising n. of historical winter range, one to 3 were at Farmington 21 Jan-12 Feb (TR, JEP) and 4 were at a Santa Fe feeder 1 Dec-28 Feb (JPB).

Lawrence's Goldfinch—Providing a *McKinley* first and the only New Mexico report this season was a ♂ at Tse Bonito, about 6.5 km e. of Window Rock, Arizona, 19 Dec (JD*, CV*).

Evening Grosbeak—Moderate numbers in the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, and Sandia mts. and adjacent valleys from Dec to early Jan; high count was 76 near Valles Caldera, *Sandoval* 27 Dec (WHH). Three were at Farmington 2 Dec (TR) and 2 were at Zuni 14 Dec (JAT).

[Orange Bishop]—Continuing from Nov was a ♂ of unknown provenance lurking in giant cane (*Arundo*) at Las Cruces 19 Dec (DJG).

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