

Remarkable was the discovery of a flock of 150 Black Rosy-Finches feeding along the roadside between Bitter Springs and Page in extreme n. Arizona Feb. 25 (JS); this is the largest flock of any rosy-finch encountered in Arizona. The only report of Purple Finch came from a feeder in Sedona Dec. 14 (E. Gardner). Most of the Lawrence's Goldfinches that entered the state during the fall had left by the start of the winter period, but two lingered at P.A.P. until Dec. 3 (SE), one was still at Rio Verde Jan. 7 (TC), and a flock of 20 was seen at Tubac Feb. 16 (F&L Brandt).

Corrigendum

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo specimen (NASFN 48: 972) found in Flagstaff Jun. 9, 1994 was incorrectly accredited to N.A.U. (N. Arizona University); the correct depository for that specimen should have read M.N.A. (Museum of N. Arizona) (*fide* T. Merkel).

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New Mexico

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Exceptionally warm temperatures, plus generally above-average moisture in many areas, combined for a notably mild winter. Conspicuous movements included jays, chickadees, and nuthatches into the lowlands, thrushes and thrashers following patchy food crops, and waterbirds and sparrows wintering north in numbers.

Abbreviations: Bitter L. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte L.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

Loons to Cranes

Common Loons were well represented, with one-eight at 8 lakes from northwest to southeast. Horned Grebes made perhaps their best showing ever, with one-five at 14 locales in the San Juan, Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian drainages (v.o.). Small numbers of Am. White Pelicans overwintered in the lower Rio Grande (v.o.) and Pecos (SW *et al.*) valleys; *maxima* were 43 at Caballo L., Jan. 2 (BZ *et al.*) and 19 at L. Avalon Feb. 19 (JO).

A Great Egret was in the north at Isleta Feb. 19 (JEP); elsewhere, one-three overwintered from Bosque and Bitter L. southward (v.o.). Up to 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons were n. at Morgan L., Dec. 29 (TR) and Feb. 4 (JO); 125 Black-crowned near Carlsbad Jan. 22 (SW) provided a local winter high. Tundra Swans were in the news with one at Maxwell N.W.R., Feb. 11-25 (DM *et al.*), three at Santa Fe Dec. 4-7 (CR, BL, D. MacCarter), ≤five at Bosque Jan. 7-Feb. 25 (v.o.), and three at Caballo L., Dec. 11 (JO). A free-flying Mute Swan was at Caballo L., Jan. 6 (JO). Ross' Geese away from usual areas included six at Farmington Jan. 1 (TR), ≤16 at Columbus Jan. 15-Feb. 6 (JO, CR), and one at Loving Dec. 31 (*fide* SW). Wood Ducks continued to show gains in numbers and range, with reports from 12 locales and a high of 188 at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (HS *et al.*); unusual were three at Zuni Dec. 17 (JT *et al.*), one near Gila Dec. 30 (*fide* RF), one in the Uvas Valley Feb. 18 (CS), and five at Jal Dec. 30 (JO). Amazing was a "pair" of probable **Garganeys** on the Pecos R. near Carlsbad Dec. 20 (SW). The only January Cinnamon Teals were three males at Bosque Jan. 21 (PES). Highs for the now regularly reported Greater Scaup were 14 at Stubblefield L., Feb. 18 (JEP, JO) and 16 at Storrie L., Dec. 17 (CR), with

one-ten at Conchas, Ute, Santa Rosa, and E.B. lakes in December & February (JO *et al.*); the only January report, and in the west, was a male at Tyrone Jan. 21 (SW). An Oldsquaw was n. of Pilar Dec. 31 (ph. BL) and Jan. 19 (PRS). Barrow's Goldeneyes continued to winter in small numbers on the San Juan R. below Navajo Dam (v.o., ph. DC).

A White-tailed Kite was vaguely reported at Rio Rancho in late December (*fide* PRS) and Corrales Jan. 28 (*fide* PRS); much better documented was one in the Uvas Valley e. of Nutt, *Luna*, Jan. 1 (AH, C. Black) and later (v.o.). Unusual for winter (but not unprecedented) was an ad. Com. Black-Hawk at Gila Dec. 30 (K. Skaggs). More evidence of Harris' Hawks moving into the R.G.V. was provided by one-two at Albuquerque Dec. 11 (*fide* PRS), Isleta Feb. 8 (JO), La Joya Jan. 7 (DL), Williamsburg Jan. 20 (PES), Hatch Jan. 14 (BZ), and Las Cruces Feb. 19 (*fide* CS). Merlins put in one of their best showings ever, with at least 40 at 30 sites statewide; 3 races were mentioned (m.ob.).

A Chukar at Rio Rancho Dec. 13 (*fide* PRS) was likely a recent escape. Eight Scaled Quail were at Zuni Dec. 17 (AS), where rarely reported. Sandhill Cranes seemed well established at Columbus, with over 2000 there Jan. 21 (JNP) and Feb. 6 (CR), noteworthy were 150 in the Estancia Valley Dec. 17 (SOW), with lesser numbers there Jan. 3 (CR).

Shorebirds to Terns

Remarkably early was a Semipalmated Plover at Maxwell N.W.R., Feb. 25 (CR), as was a Mt. Plover at Santa Teresa Feb. 19 (DE, C. Wayne). Notably late were two Black-necked Stilts at L. Avalon Dec. 20 (SW, TH) and two Am. Avocets at Roswell Dec. 17 (SMB *et al.*). A few Greater Yellowlegs overwintered at Bosque and other sites (v.o.) and a local first was one at Mangas Jan. 21 (RF); the latest Lesser was at L. Avalon Dec. 22 (JEP, JO). Two Long-billed Curlews were in the Uvas Valley Feb. 5 (CR, BN, DE). Spotted Sandpipers wintered more widely than usual, including singles n. to Navajo Dam Jan. 27 (TR), Española Dec. 31 (BF *et al.*), and Albuquerque Dec. 18 (DM); 13 Spotted were at Caballo Jan. 2 (BZ *et al.*). Late were one-two W. Sandpipers at L. Avalon until Dec. 22 (SW, JEP, JO) and near Loving Dec. 31 (SW *et al.*), as were single Dunlins at Farmington Dec. 19 (TR) and Morgan L., Dec. 29 (TR); overwintering were one-two Dunlins at Bosque Dec. 17-Feb. 11 (v.o.) and six at Caballo L., Jan. 2 (CR, DE). Early was a Wilson's Phalarope at Bosque Feb. 25-26 (JO).

Late was a Bonaparte's Gull at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (SC); several Bonaparte's

lingered in *Eddy* through Dec. 31 (SW). At least one ad. Mew Gull was at Caballo L., Jan. 6 (ph. JO), Jan. 14 (JEP), Jan. 16 (ph. BZ), and Jan. 29 (BV). A 1st-year Thayer's Gull was at Ute L., Dec. 10 (JEP, JO, CR). Four Forster's Terns at Willow L., Dec. 31 (*fide* SW) provided only the 2nd *Eddy* winter record.

Doves to Jays

Overwintering White-winged Doves were again n. to Albuquerque (HS) and Roswell (SMB) and two overwintered at Silver City (EL); highs included 34 at Deming Dec. 31 (CR), 1680 at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*), and 43 near Brantley L., Dec. 20 (SW *et al.*). Inca Doves were n. to Mangas (RF), Socorro (v.o.), Alamogordo (*fide* PRS), and Roswell (SMB); notable *maxima* were 15 at Deming Dec. 3 (CR) and Jan. 15 (JO) and 59 at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*). A Ruddy Ground-Dove at Mangas Jan. 6–Feb. 8 (RF *et al.*, ph.) furnished New Mexico's 6th record since 1984 and was a first for *Grant*. Northerly was a Greater Roadrunner at Zuni Jan. 7 (DC); a pair at Albuquerque was courting Jan. 9 (RT). A N. Saw-whet Owl was at Zuni Dec. 17 (SI), where rarely found; in the Sandia Mts., singles were at 2 sites Jan. 1 (TB *et al.*) and another was found dead Dec. 22 (P. Tallman).

Several hummingbirds took advantage of the mild winter, including a ♂ Magnificent at a Ruidoso feeder until Jan. 28 and a female there Dec. 21–March (D. Harris); two Magnificants were at Pinos Altos in December but left with a Jan. 5 snowstorm (*fide* RF). For the 2nd consecutive winter, a ♂ Black-chinned was near Silver City, where it last seen in late January (*fide* RF). Three Anna's Hummingbirds at Greenwood Canyon, n. *Grant*, in early December were

gone by Jan. 8 (RF); another was at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*). An Anna's was singing in the Peloncillo Mts., Jan. 14 (JO). A ♂ Rufous was at Las Cruces until Jan. 5 (GE); a 2nd *Selaphorus* at the same feeder remained until Jan. 31 (GE).

South of the normal range was a Lewis' Woodpecker at Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*, Jan 2–22 (DE *et al.*, ph. BZ). The only Gila Woodpeckers were three–four near Gila Dec. 30 (RF *et al.*) and Redrock Feb. 4 (CR), plus seven in the Animas Valley Jan. 1 (RS *et al.*). In the east and late were two Williamson's Sapsuckers at Mills Canyon, *Harding*, Dec. 3 (CR). A Three-toed Woodpecker was at Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts., Dec. 18 (JT), where the species is now rarely reported. It was a good season for N. Flickers with yellow feathers, including ≤three at Farmington (ph. TR), two at Santa Fe (SB), and singles at Zuni (AS), Sandia Heights (F&R Slown), Alma (JO), and Washington Ranch (SW). The only Empids were two "unidentified" near Gila Dec. 30 (RF *et al.*) and a Western-type at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (GE, L. Schulte). Late Black Phoebes were singles at Cochiti L., Dec. 26 (CR) and Bluewater L., Dec. 18 (T. Mayer); high for Albuquerque was seven Dec. 18 (HS *et al.*). Single E. Phoebes were at Bosque, Percha, Roswell, and Washington Ranch Dec. 17–Feb. 12 (v.o.). A Vermilion Flycatcher overwintered at Roswell (SMB). Four Tree Swallows at Willow L., Dec. 31 (*fide* SW) provided one of few *Eddy* winter records. Early N. Rough-wingeds were two at Caballo L., Feb. 12 (JO). The only Gray Jays were one at Wheeler Peak Village Feb. 25 (JEP, JO) and seven at Santa Fe Ski Basin Feb. 5 (JO).

Westerly Blue Jays were two each at Las Vegas Dec. 17 (CR) and Santa Fe December–February (SB) and singles at Alberquer-

que December–January (HS, BV) and Vado, *Doña Ana*, Dec. 31 (S. Sermay). Both Steller's and Scrub jays staged submontane incursions, with small numbers of Steller's at 5 R.G.V. sites from Albuquerque to Las Cruces and at 6 Pecos Valley sites from Roswell southward (v.o.); in the east was one at Conchas L., Dec. 29 (MP). Dispersing Scrub Jays were at many of the same locales, including five e. to Conchas L., Feb. 15 (MP) plus *maxima* of 25 in the Caballo-Percha area Jan. 2 (BZ *et al.*), 45 at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*), and 35 near Brantley L., Dec. 20 (SW *et al.*). Remarkable were three possible Gray-breasted Jays at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (W. Whitford). Clark's Nutcrackers descended into Los Alamos in unusual numbers, with 12 there by Dec. 15 (WBL, BF) and 30 present through February (PRS).

Corvids to Thrashers

Far south was a Black-billed Magpie at Sunland Park Jan. 22 (BN, DE). Wintering Am. Crows continued to thrive; notable in the south were 80 near Gila Dec. 30 (RF *et al.*), 27 s. of Deming Dec. 3 (EL), one near Columbus Feb. 6 (CR), and 1530 at Mesilla Dec. 18 (JNP). Also notable were ≤4000 Chihuahuan Ravens roosting near Portales Jan. 1 (JO); 75 Chihuahuans wintered at Roswell (SMB), where there was also a Com. Raven Dec. 17 (RM, DL). One–three vagrant Mexican Chickadees were in the Peloncillo Mts. Jan. 1–Feb. 11 (JO, CR, BN, DE). Mountain Chickadees were widespread and relatively abundant in submontane areas, with cemeteries proving productive at Roswell, where there were 15 Jan. 14 (SMB), and Deming, with ≤20 December–February (CR, JO, BN, DE). A well-described Mt. x Black-capped was at Albuquerque Dec. 31 (WH). Easterly were 13 Bushtits in reeds at Ute L., Dec. 10 (CR, JO). All 3 w. nuthatch species joined in the lowland invasion, with White-breasteds often in high numbers; notable were eight Red-breasteds at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*) and two at Hobbs Dec. 31 (JO), as were four–five Pygmys at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (B. Dolenzal) and Jan. 3 (CR) and one at Carlsbad Dec. 20 (M. Medrano *fide* SW). Continuing a northeasterly trend were single Cactus Wrens in *Harding* Feb. 21 (SOW) and e. *San Miguel* Dec. 10 (JO) and another was n. to Sevilleta N.W.R., Dec. 17 (RT *et al.*); a Las Cruces pair was nest building Feb. 4 (CS). The only Winter Wren was one at Mangas Dec. 30 (RF, P. Boucher). Gnatcatchers identified as Black-taileds included one–two at San Simon Cienega Jan. 7 and Feb. 11 (JO), Rattlesnake Springs Feb. 4 (SW), and near Jal Dec. 30 (JO). Among the Blue-grays reported (some without details) were singles near Percha Feb. 11 (JEP) and



Ruddy Ground-Dove at Mangas Springs, New Mexico, January 10, 1995. Sixth state record. Photograph/Ralph A. Fisher, Jr.



Eastern Bluebird is very rare in northwestern New Mexico. This one was at Farmington January 16, 1995. Photograph/Tim Reeves.

Jornada Dec. 1 (CS) plus one—two at L. Avalon Dec. 26 (TH, *fide* SW), Willow L., Dec. 31 (*fide* SW), and Rattlesnake Springs Dec. 17 (*fide* SW). Eastern Bluebirds in new areas included several at Miami L., Feb. 10 (CR) and near Duran and White Oaks Feb. 11 (CR); Easterns in the west included singles at Farmington Jan. 16 (ph. TR) and Gila Dec. 30 (RF *et al.*), plus a record 10 at Silver City Dec. 17 (RF *et al.*). Western and Mt. bluebirds were irregularly distributed, with record highs and lows of each reflecting local



An apparent Long-billed Thrasher at Rattlesnake Springs, New Mexico, February 20, 1995. There are no previous state records of this Texas specialty, but the species has made it north to Colorado twice. Photograph/Jerry Oldenettel.

food availability; notable for the south were 10 Westerns in the Florida Mts., Feb. 6 (CR), while Mountains in the east were conspicuous at Conchas L., December–February, including 200 there Dec. 29 (MP). As with bluebirds, Am. Robins were abundant in some locales (Albuquerque, San Andres Mts.) and scarce in others (Española, Gila); 5690 at Zuni Dec. 17 (JT *et al.*) furnished a local record. Townsend's Solitaires were e. to Clayton L., December and February (JO, SOW), San Jon Dec. 10 (CR), Conchas L., Jan. 28 (JEP), and Clovis Jan. 1 (JO). Lingering Gray Catbirds included singles at Bosque through Dec. 17 (JO, JEP) and Las Cruces Dec. 3–6 (M. Peterson, *fide* EW). Single N. Mockingbirds were found in Dec. n. to Bluewater L. (SI), Española (BF), Conchas L. (MP) and Ute L. (CR). A thrasher at Rattlesnake Springs Feb. 20 showed many of the characters of **Long-billed Thrasher** (ph. JO), a species heretofore unreported in New Mexico. A pair of Crissal Thrashers at Petroglyph N.M. initiated nesting on the notably early date of Feb. 19, and was feeding young Mar. 11 (HS).

Waxwings to Sparrows

It was a banner winter for Cedar Waxwings, with moderate numbers reported from numerous sites nearly statewide. In the southwest, Phainopeplas were found from San Andres N.W.R. (MW) westward, including three in the Florida Mts., Feb. 6 (CR). Northern Shrikes occurred in near record numbers, totaling about 30 at 20 locales; singles were far south near Quemado Dec. 18 (JO) and Otero Mesa Dec. 7 (RM).

Lingering or wintering Solitary Vireos included singles described as *plumbeus* at Percha Dec. 17 (BV) and Deming Jan. 15 (JO) and *cassinii* at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (JNP, DE). Out-of-range Hutton's Vireos included singles at Socorro Dec. 11 (JO) and Deming Feb. 5 (CR). Late Orange-crowned Warblers were three at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*) and one in *Eddy* Dec. 17 (*fide* SW); early was one at Percha Feb. 26 (JO). An ad. ♂ probable **Pine Warbler** was at Brantley L., Dec. 20 (CR); the species is extremely rare anywhere in the w. United States, including New Mexico. Common Yellowthroats are typically absent in winter, but availing themselves of this year's mild conditions were singles at Bosque Dec. 16 (DM) and Feb. 3 (DE) and Percha Jan. 1–2 (DE, JNP, BV), plus a remarkable five at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW *et al.*).

Six Cassin's Sparrows at the Armendariz Ranch near Engle Jan. 18 (WH, ph. AH) established a new wintering locale. American Tree Sparrows were generally scarce, but two wandered s. to *Eddy* Dec. 17 (*fide* SW). Far west was a possible Clay-colored Sparrow at



Cassin's Sparrow at Armendariz Ranch, Sierra County, New Mexico, January 18, 1995. A new winter locale for a species not often verified in the state in winter. Photograph/Ann Henry.

Redrock Feb. 4 (BN). Brewer's Sparrows wintered n. in the R.G.V. in substantial numbers, including five at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (HS *et al.*), 236 at Sevilleta N.W.R., Dec. 17 & 22 (RT, TS), and 75 at La Joya Feb. 4 (WH). Early were two Black-chinned Sparrows singing in the Sandia Mts., Feb. 26 (DM). Unusual for winter were five Lark Sparrows at Sevilleta N.W.R. Dec. 22 (TS *et al.*) and one at Las Cruces Dec. 18 (EW). Sage Sparrows wintered n. in numbers in the R.G.V., including 209 at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (HS *et al.*) and 997 at Sevilleta N.W.R., Dec. 17 & 22 (RT, TS); late were eight near Farmington Dec. 29 (TR) and early were two at Zuni Feb. 19 (DC). Northerly Savannah Sparrows included six at Zuni Dec. 17 (JT) and 100 at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (TB *fide* HS).

Of several *Ammodramus* sparrows wintering in grasslands on the Armendariz Ranch, at least two were Grasshoppers (WH, ph. AH). White-throated Sparrows were generally scarce; noteworthy was one near Clayton Dec. 17 (*fide* WC) and high was eight at Albuquerque Dec. 18 (HS *et al.*). A White-crowned banded at Las Cruces Nov. 23, 1989 was recaptured there Feb. 5 (CS), an interval of >6 years. Three Golden-crowned Sparrows were in the Albuquerque area—two in the city Dec. 18 and later (JEP, HS) and another at nearby Carnuel Jan. 30 (JO). Three others were at Sevilleta N.W.R., Dec. 17 (RT *et al.*). The only Harris' were two at Loving Dec. 31 (SW, S. Lynch).

Alaska Region

T. G. TOBISH, JR.

The widespread and relentless below-average temperatures and above-average precipitation, which was nearly entirely snow, continued from the fall season through most of December. Thereafter, strong Arctic high pressure systems expanded over most of the Mainland and initiated a mid-period cycle of alternating sub-zero and often windy conditions with heavy multi-day snow storms. Late winter snowpacks were above average almost statewide, and were nudging against record highs locally (e.g. Anchorage began March only 11 inches shy of the record snowfall).

The early season combination of heavy snow and lengthy cold and wind forced what had been near-record building numbers of semi-hardy species to quickly dissipate. A few of the early Christmas Bird Counts documented these numbers. These conditions once again highlighted the recently recognized phenomenon that fall migration protracts well into December for at least the southern half of the Mainland. Several Fringillid and larger omnivorous species often, especially in low snowfall conditions, manage in varying numbers to remain until an extended sub-zero period or heavy snows force them southward.

The effects of the early season conditions were especially noted in southern Southeast,



Grasshopper Sparrow at Armendaris Ranch, Sierra County, New Mexico, January 18, 1995. A new winter locale for this species. Photograph/Ann Henry.

A Yellow-eyed Junco discovered in the Peloncillo Mts., Feb. 4 (CR, DE, BN) was seen again Feb. 11 (JO); the species is a rare winter visitor to this range. Efforts to locate Lapland Longspurs in the northeast resulted in one-eight at Eagle Nest, Maxwell N.W.R., Springer L., Charette L., and Storie L., Jan. 29–Feb. 18 (JEP, JO, CR, JNP, DM). Up to 65 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were near Columbus in mid-January (CR, JO), where rarely reported in winter. The only Rusty Blackbird was at Washington Ranch Dec. 17 (SW, TH). North were 32 Brewer's Blackbirds at Española Dec. 31 (BF *et al.*), the first to winter there in 10 years. Northerly Com. Grackles included singles near Clayton Jan. 8 (*vide* WC), Santa Fe Dec. 18 (*vide* CR), and Zuni Dec. 17 (JT). Late for the north were five Brown-headed Cowbirds at Las Vegas Dec. 17 (CR). Amazing were five ♂ probable Bronzed Cowbirds at Carlsbad Jan. 2 (TH, *vide* SW); there are no verified winter records.

Except for about 20 Gray-crowns Rosy-Finches at Navajo Dam Dec. 3 (JEP, JO), *Taos* and *Colfax* cornered the rosy-finch market, with 350 Brown-capped plus 10 Gray-crowns at Eagle Nest Jan. 29 (JO) and small numbers of all 3 species at Bobcat Pass Feb. 11 (JNP), including 30–40 Blacks there Feb. 25 (JEP, JO). The only Pine Grosbeaks were 10 at Wheeler Peak Village Feb. 25 (JEP, JO). Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills set local highs (of 125 and 156, respectively) at Zuni Dec. 17 (JT *et al.*), but elsewhere both were generally scarce and largely confined to n. counties. Lesser Goldfinches in the north included singles at Farmington Feb. 10 (TR), Navajo Dam Dec. 26 (TR), and Zuni Dec. 17 (JT); in the Gila Valley Dec. 30, Lessers outnumbered Am. Goldfinches by 20 to two (RF). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce

and mostly in the north and northwest (v.o.); six in the southeast were at Roswell Dec. 17 (E. Shores).

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