

New Mexico

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Relatively plentiful moisture in much of the north and west had lakes and streams full, but the southeast continued dry. Birds and birders were active, and several important nest records were established.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

Loons to Herons

Common Loons in summer are always a novelty in New Mexico—this season found one at Maxwell N.W.R., June 4 (JO); three at Stubblefield L., July 23 (JP, JO); and one at L.V.N.W.R., July 15 (CR). Eared Grebes took advantage of favorable conditions in the northwest, with about 1000 nests at Stinking L. in July (DS), 161 nests at Long L., *San Juan*, July 21 (ph. DC), and 95 nests at Zuni July 27 (DC). Also at Zuni was a pair of W. Grebes tending three chicks July 14–26 (ph. DC). What was described as a light-colored albatross with very long, thin, black-bordered wings glided low over Peralta, *Valencia*, July 26 (D. Harris & D. Padilla-Harris); there are no previous New Mexico reports of any *Diomedidae*. An imm **Brown Pelican** flying E along I–10 at Akela June 17 (CS) was likely the same found later that day in a Las Cruces parking lot, where it was captured and moved to Burn L.; it was last seen June 22 (GE *et al.*). Another immature was at Caballo L., June 19 (E. Wootten), where there were one–two July 4 (JO) and July 7 (DE, BN). Northerly were four Neotropic Cormorants at Corales June 3 (JP, JO); in the west, and a local first, was one in the Animas Valley July 6 (ph. JO).

An Am. Bittern at Stinking L., June 10 (DS) was the first there in many years. Single Little Blue Herons were at 3 middle R.G.V. locales June 11–18 (JO) and 2 Pecos Valley locales June 6–17 (SOW, ML). A Tricolored Heron at B.L.N.W.R., June 24 (SB) and an ad **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at San Ildefonso July 29 (K. David) provided the only reports. White-faced Ibises built 5 nests at Stinking L. (DS) and 15 at Zuni (SA), but success was poor at both sites.

Waterfowl to Shorebirds

A ♀ Wood Duck was escorting seven young near Socorro July 9 (BM), where breeding is poorly documented; outlying singles were at Mesilla June 5 (RM) and Jal L., June 9 (CP, TH). Noteworthy ducks included a ♂ Com. Goldeneye at Bluewater L., July 9 (JO), a Bufflehead pair at Zuni June 2 (DC), and single ♀ Hooded Mergansers at Maxwell N.W.R., July 6 (DM) and Zuni July 11–August (ph. DC).

The Osprey nest at El Vado L. produced three fledglings, but the nest at Heron L. failed to produce eggs (DS). Ospreys in areas where not known to breed included one at Zuni July 14 (ph. DC) and one in the Sacramento Mts., July 18 (GE). An ad. White-tailed Kite was at Lordsburg July 28 (CR) and one–two were in the Animas Valley July 5, 19, & 31 (v.o.); nesting remains undocumented in the state. The state's 2 Bald Eagle nests, one each in *Cofax* and *Sierra*, fledged three and two, respectively (v.o.); unusual was an adult near Mule Cr., July 18 (H. Parent, *vide* D&MZ). Four–five N. Harriers near Roswell June 9 (WH) furnished a high summer count for anywhere in New Mexico. A Harris' Hawk near Fort Craig July 9 (BM) provided further evidence of that species' establishment in the R.G.V. Two Zone-tailed Hawks near Mills Canyon June 22 (*vide* HS) were the first reported at that n.e. site in many years. A Red-tailed Hawk made the Los Alamos newspaper—it frequented a local ballpark and would dive "to pickup tidbits of food left by spectators." Dry conditions in the southeast likely were responsible for low numbers and poor productivity of N. Bobwhites and Scaled Quail (SW), but favorable conditions in the southwest resulted in multiple broods of Scaled and Gambel's quail there (v.o.).

A Snowy Plover was far west at Lordsburg Playa June 15 (RF). Early Semipalmated Plovers included one–three at *San Juan* (TR), Maxwell N.W.R. (JP, JO), Zuni (DC), Caballo L. (CR), and Holloman L. (GE), July 23–31. June–July surveys for breeding Mt. Plovers located 125, including 16 young at 23 sites in 9 counties during June–July (L. Sager *et al.*). An adult in the south was with two chicks e. of Corona June 11 (DM). American Avocets found favorable conditions at several n.w. locales (v.o.), including at Tohatchi, where there were 20 including three young July 21 & 28 (ph. DC). The earliest Solitary Sandpipers were singles at Maxwell and Springer July 23 (JP, JO); one was unusual in the Peloncillo Mts., July 30 (*vide* RTS). A Whimbrel was at Navajo L., July 11 (ph. TR). Single Marbled Godwits were late at Heron L. (*vide* PRS) and B.L.N.W.R. (SOW), June 21; early returnees were two at Stubblefield L., July 23 (JO, JP)

plus six–seven each at Elephant Butte L. and Caballo L., July 29–30 (CR, JO).

White-rumped Sandpipers are always a treat; in the west and late were five at Maxwell N.W.R., June 4 (JO), one at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., June 3 (DE, BN), and three at Holloman L., June 14 (GE). Stilt Sandpipers are rare anytime at Zuni; one–three July 18 (ph. DC) furnished a summer first. Small numbers of Com. Snipe summered at Canjilon L. (JP), Eagle Nest L. (DM), Angel Fire (CR), Wagon Mound (JO), and L.V.N.W.R. (CR), June 4–July 15; far south was one in the Animas Valley June 13 (SOW). Wilson's Phalaropes again nested at Zuni, where 2 nests with eggs were discovered June 1 (ph. SA).

Gulls to Woodpeckers

Two Franklin's Gulls were late at Stinking L., June 10 (DS), as were 11 Franklin's and one Bonaparte's at Maxwell N.W.R., June 4 (JO). California Gulls were at 5 n. lakes in July (v.o.), including a high 121 at Eagle Nest L., July 8 (DM). Forster's Terns were unreported in June; earliest were four at L. Avalon July 17 (TJH, *vide* SW). Six pairs of Least Terns nested at B.L.N.W.R., up from four last year (S. Najera, SOW).

White-winged Doves were in the Sacramento Mts. at Pinon June 10 (WH) and the Guadalupe Mts. near Queen June 19 (SW); in the west, one was n. to Cliff June 11 (RF). A Com. Ground-Dove in the Animas Valley July 6 (ph. JO) furnished the only report of this now scarce state-listed species. Undoubtedly an escapee was a Cockatiel flying about Jal L., June 9 (CP, TH). Yellow-billed Cuckoos made a strong showing in the south, including eight near Cliff July 21 (SOW), 18 on a transect near Brantley L. (ML), and eight at Rattlesnake Springs June 18 and July 15 (SW); northerly were a pair at Blanco June 29 (ph. TR) and one–three at Maxwell N.W.R. on various dates June 7–July 23 (DM, JP, JO). Out of habitat was an apparent Flammulated Owl heard at Farmington June 11 (TR). Adult W. Screech-Owls were feeding two fledglings in pinyon-juniper near Santa Fe June 13 (DS). Northern Pygmy-Owls where rarely reported included singles near Canjilon L. (JP) and Cloudcroft (CR) June 23; single Long-eareds were s. of Hopewell L., June 24 (JO) and at Maxwell N.W.R., July 5 (DM). Far e. of the usual breeding range was a Com. Poorwill flushed from 2 eggs in shinnery oak near Hobbs June 10 (CP, TH), while notably n. was a Whip-poor-will heard near Gallinas, *San Miguel*, June 6 (CR).

Three Black Swifts had returned to Jemez Falls by June 17 (JP, JO). A *Chaetura* swift believed to be a Chimney was at Dripping Springs June 7 (J. Dozier, *vide* BN). Seven

Broad-billed Hummingbirds, including a female on eggs, were in Guadalupe Canyon June 11 (SOW), and a ♂ Broad-billed was n. in the Peloncillo Mts., July 6 (JO). **White-eared Hummingbirds** had another banner year, with reports from 3 mountain ranges: an ad. male near Tijeras July 14–30 (ph. JDM) for the 2nd consecutive year; a pair near L. Roberts June 10–July 31 (v.o., ph. RF, JO); and an immature in the Animas Mts., June 23 (NMC, AC), the first there in several years. Along with several Magnificents were one–three Blue-throated Hummingbirds visiting feeders at Mogollon July 22 & 29 (CR, JO) where, according to local residents, they had summered for the past 3 years; another Blue-throated was at L. Roberts (RF). Eight–ten Lucifer Hummingbirds summered in Post Office Canyon (RTS); other Lucifers were in 3 additional Peloncillo Mts. canyons (v.o.). Early for w. Albuquerque was a Broad-tailed June 24 (WH); a Rufous near Tijeras June 28 (JDM) was the earliest ever there.

Unusual was a Lewis' Woodpecker at Belen June 12 (DM). Four Acorn Woodpeckers were notably northwest in the Chuska Mts., July 21 (DC).

Flycatchers to Phainopepla

About 130 Willow Flycatcher territories near Cliff June–July (RWS *et al.*) comprised perhaps the densest concentration of this species yet discovered in the s.w. United States. A breeding colony of Hammond's Flycatchers at Rinconada Canyon provided a Mt. Taylor first—eight adults were in oak-alder habitat June 16, where there was a nest with nestlings plus a family of fledglings July 3 (HS). Gray Flycatchers at the s.e. fringe of their range included two at Pinon June 10 (WH) and three at Robinson Draw, Guadalupe Mts., July 14 (SW, TJH). Notably west was an E. Phoebe near Taos June 24 and July 1–2 (JP); northeasterly were a Vermilion pair at Conchas L., June 3 (CR) and a vocal Dusky-capped Flycatcher s. of Hillsboro June 24 (SOW). A W. Kingbird was nesting on a moving oil well pumpjack near Hobbs June 7 (CP, TH). An E. Kingbird pair feeding three nestlings at Bloomfield July 14 (TR) provided one of the few *San Juan* nesting records. Far out of range were two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Carson, *Taos*, June 28 (GS).

Unusual (for New Mexico) were several Purple Martins nesting in martin houses at Luna June 28 (SOW); natural cavities are the norm in the w. states. Out of habitat were single Steller's Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers in pinyon-juniper on Rowe Mesa June 10 (CR), as was a Scrub Jay that persisted at Jornada until June 9 (CS). American Crows summering in peripheral areas

included a nest at Mills Canyon June 6 (HS), two at Gallegos June 2 (SOW), and one near Rosebud June 9 (WM)(all *Harding*), plus eight near Variadero June 3 (CR) and a southerly one at Pinon June 10 (WH). Common Ravens notably east included two near Rosebud June 16 (CR) and one at B.L.N.W.R., June 9 (WH); a pair with four juvs. was at Robinson Draw July 9 (SW).

Twenty Mexican Chickadees were at 7 Animas Mts. sites June 22–24 (AC, NMC). Black-capped Chickadees, including a pair with young, were at 6 sites near the Rio Grande Nature Center July 4, along with at least 2 pairs of Bushtits with young (WH).

Cactus Wrens notably northeast included three near Variadero June 3 (CR), two n. of Ute L., *Harding*, June 2 (SOW), and four e. of Corona June 11 (DM). Four singing Bewick's Wrens were in Albuquerque's Rio Grande bosque June 27 and July 4 (WH), where surveys a decade ago found none. Surprising was a **Winter Wren** in Frijoles Canyon near Los Alamos June 3 (JP, JO), the first summer report since one was in nearby Pajarito Canyon in 1987. The recently established Marsh Wren colony at Stinking L. continued to thrive, with 22 nests containing eggs or young June 10–11 (DS), and pioneers were discovered building nests 15 mi n. at Enbom L. in early July (DS); one was singing at Maxwell N.W.R., June 7 and July 8 (DM).

A ♂ E. Bluebird was noteworthy at Mills Canyon June 27 (*fide* HS). A Swainson's Thrush was late at Maxwell N.W.R., June 7 (DM). One–two Gray Catbirds persisted into July at Zuni (ph. DC) and eight were s. of Belen June 21 (WH). Summering Sage Thrashers were notably south in the San Agustin Plains June 3 (LE), June 24 (DM), and July 21 (CR); late was a Sage near Rosebud June 9 (WM), while unprecedented were two possibly nesting near Willard, *Torrance*, June 11 (DM). Unusual for summer were two Am. Pipits at Chuska L., *McKinley*, July 28 (DC). New Mexico's first Cedar Waxwing nest was found at San Juan Pueblo—adults were present June 23 & 26 (WH, DL), a nest with two nestlings was located July 19 (DL), and adults were feeding fledglings July 22 (DL, RM). Phainopeplas n. and e. of usual included one at Lake Valley June 9 (GS), 24 along the Rio Salado in June (J. Place), and two each at San Patricio, *Lincoln*, June 17 (SB) and near Pinon June 10 (WH).

Vireos to Finches

Seldom noted in the Sacramento Mts., two Gray Vireos were singing near Pinon June 10 (WH). Warbling Vireos are not known to nest in the middle R.G.V., so noteworthy was one singing near Belen June 21 (WH);

two at Mesilla June 5 (RM) were late.

Several rare warblers were discovered, including a ♂ N. Parula near Cliff June 7–12 (S. Pelikan, ph. RF) and another singing near Los Lunas June 21 (WH), a singing **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in Otero June 21 (RM), a singing Ovenbird near Belen July 13 (DM), a ♀ **Kentucky Warbler** at Silver City June 3 (D&MZ), and a singing **Hooded Warbler** near Belen June 21 (WH). Other interesting warblers included two Lucy's at Lake Valley June 9 (GS), single Am Redstarts at Ghost Ranch June 16 (C Brozek) and near Belen June 21 (WH), a late Wilson's near Sedan June 5 (KM), and a Painted Redstart e. to Rattlesnake Springs June 7 (M. Ellison).

A Hepatic Tanager was notably east near Sabinoso June 16 (CR); n. was a singing Summer at Peña Blanca June 4 (PRS). Continuing a northeasterly trend were three N Cardinals near Conchas L., June 3 (CR). The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a male consorting with Black-headed at San Andres N.W.R., June 28 (M. Weisenberger). Indigo Buntings were conspicuous in the north, including single males at Blanco June 29 and July 22 (TR), Sugarite S.P., July 7 (DM), Maxwell N.W.R., June 9 and July 5 (DM)—where apparently paired with a Lazuli, *Mora* June 28 (CR); and two were near Conchas L. June 3 (CR). A ♂ Lazuli x Indigo was at High Rolls in July (L. Schulte). A Painted Bunting near Caballo L., June 30 (JO) was the most northerly R.G.V. report. A survey at Maxwell N.W.R. found only three Dickcissels June 7 but produced an unprecedented 33 singing males when repeated July 5–6 (DM); other Dickcissels included two at Fort Sumner June 1 (SOW) and one near Floyd June 4 (BN, DE).

First verified in New Mexico only in 1991, a thriving colony of **Botteri's Sparrows** was documented this summer in giant sacaton in the Animas Valley, with 21 territories identified and nesting activity noted June–July (ph. SOW). Generally dry early summer conditions in the south reduced numbers (or, at least, detection) of Cassin's Sparrows, *e.g.*, 17 at Lakewood June 13 (SW) compared to 240 last June, but numbers were closer to normal in the more verdant northeast; at Zuni, none were noted in early June, but 25 were singing July 17 (DC). Brewer's Sparrows notably south included ten near Datil June 3 (LE) and one at Quemado July 21 (CR); one was late at Mills Canyon June 6 (HS), as was a Vesper at Rosebud June 9 (WM). First evidence of Lark Buntings nesting in *San Juan* was obtained near De-Na-Zin wilderness, where adults were carrying food July 2 and 11 birds, including adults feeding fledglings, were present July 14 (ph. TR). Also in the

west were two at Zuni July 18 (DC). Savannah Sparrows were feeding fledglings at Los Ojos July 14 (CR) and were detected in moderate numbers elsewhere in the north, including 22 at Angel Fire June 28 (CR) and 43–45 on surveys at Maxwell N.W.R., June–July (DM). The same Maxwell surveys found 60 singing Grasshopper Sparrows June 7–8 and 77 July 5–6 (DM) and others were at 8 additional locales in 6 e. counties (v.o.), including a nest with young near Clayton June 22 (ph. HS). In the southwest, 39 in the Animas Valley and 19 in the Playas Valley June 8–9 (SOW) further documented a 4-year decline there. In the Animas Mts., 28 Yellow-eyed Juncos—including one group of 12 juveniles—were at 9 sites June 22–24 (AC, NMC).

Bobolinks again summered at Los Ojos, with \leq one present June–July (v.o.). Bronzed Cowbirds were n. to the San Francisco and Gila valleys, with \leq four at Glenwood June–July and several near Cliff (v.o.), and included parasitism of at least one Willow Flycatcher nest (RWS). Small numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were near Cumbres Pass July 15–16 (JE, JO), at the Santa Fe Ski Basin July 8 & 15 (JP, JO), and w. of Mora June 11 (TH). Cassin's Finches were in low numbers in the San Juan, Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, and Sandia mountains, with apparently locally produced young at Los Ojos July 14 (CR) and Cedar Crest July 27–31 (PES). Red Crossbills were in 6 mountain ranges statewide, including an apparent breeding pair in the Animas Mts., June 23 (NMC, AC).

Initialed observers: Steve Albert, Sherry Bixler, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Steve & Nancy Cox, Joan Day-Martin, Lisa Ellis, Doug Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Toby Hibbitts, Tommy Joe Hines, William Howe, David Leal, Michael Livingston, William Maynard, David Mehlman, Raymond Meyer, Kathleen Milne, Nanca Moore-Craig, Bruce Morrison, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, Charles Painter, John Parmeter, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Catherine Sandell, Greg Schmitt, Robert T. Scholes, Hart Schwarz, Roger W. Skaggs, Patricia R. Snider, Dale Stahlecker, Paul E. Steel, Steve West, S.O. Williams, Dale & Marjan Zimmerman.

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Alaska Region

T. G. TOBISH, JR.

For all sections of the Region, except for Southeast, summer 1995 was consistently wet, cool, cloudy, and windy, and could only be characterized as dismal. The usually dominating and influential Aleutian Low moved into a position in the Bering Sea-North Pacific interface more characteristic of a non-El Niño cycle, and regularly ushered low pressure systems across the Aleutians into the Gulf of Alaska. The resultant cool, cloudy, and wet conditions often reached well into the Interior. Southeast, miraculously, experienced sunny and warm conditions, with many near-record high temperatures on a regular basis, especially early in the season. As with most summer Alaska reports, rarities and extralimital reports outnumbered otherwise noteworthy breeding finds. The continued strong coverage in the Pribilofs provided more than the average summer highlights, and exhaustive (and exhausting) coverage throughout the eastern Interior led to a preponderance of the season's highlights. Coverage was sufficiently complete elsewhere—nearly all the hotspots and outposts were visited—that 1995 ended up with a near-record number of highlight species.

Abbreviations: SE (*Southeast Alaska*); North Gulf (*N. Gulf of Alaska*); UCI (*Upper Cook Inlet*); †, *, tape (*tape recording*), all on file at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Museum.

Loons to Rails

Another Manx-type shearwater was reported in the Gulf of Alaska from the Kodiak ferry July 17 (†CD), in the same time frame and general location as the previous >6 Alaska site records of similar pale-vented birds. As with essentially all of the Region's other rarer *Puffinus*, there is still no photographic or specimen documentation. Out-of-place Greater White-fronted Geese included one at St. Paul I., June 16 (VENT) and a group of four at Northway in the e. Interior into mid-June (SJ). The pair on Wonder L. in w. Denali N.P., June 8 (FIELD GUIDES) was probably from the recently discovered breeding population of "Tule" White-fronteds that nest in *Carex* pools of retreating glaciers n. from the Cook Inlet Basin into the Alaska Range foothills. The Region's first early summer Ross' Goose in a long time was a single reported in a flock of fly-by Snows at Pt. MacIntyre near Prudhoe Bay June 21 (RNF, KDB). Nearly all of Alaska's recent records of this casual visitor come in mid-summer from the Teshekpuk L. Snow Goose molting areas. The few noteworthy summer dabbler reports included Falcated Teal well to the east, including a single at Adak I., June 9 (LS) and a pair at St. Paul from June 19–24 (YO, SS), and extralimital Gadwall, with a pair at Nome's Safety Lagoon June 9, \geq five in the Prudhoe Bay area June 4–11 (RNF, KDB, CMS) and three at Barrow June 25–26 (both VENT). Although Ring-necked Duck is an occasional and local nester in the limited suitable habitat on the Mainland SE rivers, 2 broods

