

Arizona record, and one of the farthest s. reports for the species in the West.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak is considered a rare-but-regular spring migrant/visitor anywhere in the state, but this spring, no fewer than 46 individuals, an unprecedented number, were reported. Indigo Buntings also appeared to be more numerous than usual this spring. Single Painted Buntings were reported from Hereford 9 Apr (C. Anderson) and from Prescott 29 May (CST). Two Bobolinks were at C.S.L. 14-18 May (DD, CL), while another was at Kayenta 25 May (CL); this species has nested once in n. Arizona previously. A first-year male Orchard Oriole was at Cameron 15 May (DS, MMS), while another

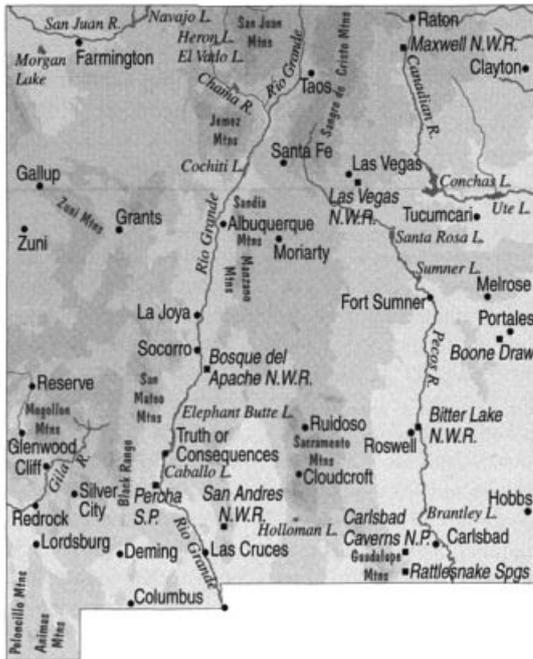
male was at Red Rock 27 May (C. Wood); these represent only the 2nd and 3rd N.I.R. reports. At least 3 different ad. male Baltimore Orioles were reported, with one in Tucson 9 May (†MMS, B. Koenig), one at Sipe Wildlife Area near Springerville 16 May (ph. DR, GC), and one in Cave Creek Canyon 16-17 May (†S. Heinl, S. G. Mlodinow et al.). Of interest were two late spring reports of Lawrence's Goldfinches, one from Paradise 21 May (George Walker House) and one from Patagonia 24 May (RT).

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# New Mexico



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The severe drought gripping New Mexico deepened in spring 2002, reaching conditions not seen in half a century; by season's close, forests were burning, lakes and rivers were drying, and everywhere dry topsoil was blowing away with the wind. Against this backdrop, birds and birders concentrated at shrinking wetlands and surviving oases, resulting in discovery of many rarities, especially shorebirds and water-

birds as well as eastern strays, particularly warblers. As always, in the following report all unusual species are supported by documentation unless otherwise noted.

**Abbreviations:** B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); Mills Canyon (Canadian R. canyon w. of Mills, *Harding*); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, *Eddy*).

## LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Surprisingly reluctant to leave, single Common Loons lingered at Ute L. 4 May (JO), Maxwell 20 May (DC), and Stubblefield L. 28 May (DC). Late Horned Grebes included singles at Holloman L. 29 Apr (CR) and L.V.N.W.R. 11 May (CR). Undetailed was a possible Brown Pelican at L. Avalon 27 May (*vide* SW). Two Neotropic Cormorants strayed n. to Sevilleta N.W.R. 7 Apr (WH). An American Bittern at Bosque 17 Apr (WW) and 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 3 May (GW) furnished the only reports for this now rare species. Great Egrets continued to appear in out-of-the-way places, including 2 at Peralta, *Valencia* 3 Apr (KC) and singles at Clanton Cienega, *Hidalgo* 11 May (NMC), Columbus 28 May (SOW), Mayhill 28 Apr (SW), and Jal 9 May (SW); a high 26 were at Bosque 12 Apr (JEP). Far n. was an ad. Little Blue Heron at Springer L. 8 May (ph. DC), another was at B.L.N.W.R. 25-27 Apr (JEP, JO, DK, GW) and one to 2 were at Bosque 2-28 May (WH, DE, BN, JO, CB). An imm. **Reddish Egret** at Holloman L. 24 May (BZ)—New Mexico's 18th overall—provided an *Otero* and May first. An ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** made a brief Bosque visit 26 May (T. Warren). An ad **White Ibis** split its time between Bosque and La Joya 12 Apr—28 May (m. ob., ph. JO). **Glossy Ibis** was documented for the 4th consecutive spring, with singles at Bosque 13 & 17 Apr (WW, ph. JO) and 10 May (DE, BN), near Bernalillo 1 May (ph. JO), and at L.V.N.W.R. 25 Apr (D & BF), where there were 2 on 5 May (ph. JO).

An ad. **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** visited a field s. of San Antonio 22-23 Apr (RK, PS, ph. JO). Noteworthy were 2 Greater White-fronted

Geese at Deming 27 Mar (LM). Ross's Geese lingered late, with 1000 still at Bosque 9 Apr (PS). Last of the winter's Tundra Swans were 8 at L.V.N.W.R. 17 Mar (CB), 5 at Maxwell 19 Mar (DC), and one at Bosque 29 Mar (WH, DK). Wood Ducks in obscure places included singles at Quarai 26 May (NV) and Bluit, *Roosevelt* 13 Apr (LS). At R.G.N.C., the wintering male Eurasian Wigeon and Greater Scaup were last seen 3 Mar (BV); noteworthy were 3 Greater at Brantley L. 2 Mar (JO) and 2 at L.V.N.W.R. 25 Apr (D&BF).

New Mexico's breeding Ospreys continued to increase, to 13 pairs in May—12 in the Heron-El Vado area and one at Cochiti (DS). In contrast to last year's multiple nestings, the dry spring produced few White-tailed Kites—singles w. of Columbus 15 Mar (RM) and 16 May (RM) and near Arrey 1 Apr (MW)—and no nests. Mississippi Kites were well represented in the Pecos Valley and e. plains; noteworthy for the R G V were 2 at Jacona near Pojoaque 31 May (BZ), one at Corrales 12 May (WH), and 2 at Isleta 27 May (DE, BN). An ad. **Gray Hawk** at Virden 19 Apr (DZ, MZ, RW) was the first there in over two decades. Common Black-Hawks in the Pecos and Rio Grande drainages were singles at Santa Rosa 14 May (WW), over the Rio Bonito near Lincoln 31 May (SW), in *Valencia* at Isleta 28 Apr (ph. JO), and at Percha 20 Apr (JS); in the Gila Valley, at least 2 black-hawk nests failed due to disturbance. An ad. Harris's Hawk was at Bosque 8 & 29 Mar (GE, WH). The **Red-shouldered Hawk** that wintered near Turn was last seen 17 Mar (ph. JO). Four Broad-winged Hawks passed the Sandia Mts. lookout 14-23 Apr (HWI); farther e. were singles at Roswell 14 Apr (CR) and R.S. 25-26 Apr (JEP), plus a late one at Fort Sumner 27 May (JO). Notably early Swanson's Hawks were singles near Deming 20 Mar (RM), Luis Lopez 22 Mar (JO), and Las Cruces 23 Mar (GE), with nesting underway at Las Cruces by 14 Apr (GE). Three Zone-tailed Hawks passed the Sandia lookout 21-24 Apr (HWI) Late for the s. was a Rough-legged Hawk near Deming 11 Mar (LM); 2 at Maxwell 1 Apr (DC) were the last seen. Although dismissed by some as merely "occasional sightings," naturally-occurring **Aplomado Falcons** are now resident in s New Mexico; the pair that nested in 2001 nested again in 2002 (RM), a 2nd pair was observed mating 8 May, and single ads. were documented at two additional locales 3 Mar and 10-14 May (RM).

### PARTRIDGES THROUGH TERNS

A Chukar was at Hachita 26 May (SOW); no self-sustaining populations are known in New Mexico. Totally unexpected was a Blue Grouse seen at close range on South Baldy, Magdalena

Mts. 19 May (D. Kinney). A **Black Rail** was tape-recorded on Ponil Cr. e. of Cimarron 29 Apr (DC); if conclusive, this would be the first verification of the species for the state. Late was a Sandhill Crane at Los Lunas 28 May (DH). Impressive were 12 Black-bellied Plovers at Maxwell 20 May (ph. DC). Snowy Plovers made a good showing, including 216 at B.L.N.W.R. 3 May (GW) and 87 e. of Loving 11 May (SW), the latter the most found there in years; Snowies lingering at prairie wetlands included 4 at Maxwell 28 May (DC), 3 at Springer L. 29 May (DC), and one at L.V.N.W.R. 11 May (CR). High counts for Semipalmated Plovers were 11 at Maxwell 3 May (DC), 10 at B.L.N.W.R. 27 Apr (JO), and 3 at Holloman L. 28 Apr (SW). American Avocets pioneering isolated locales included 3 each at Carrizozo 12 May (JO) and Columbus 28 May (SOW); highs included 248 at Maxwell 3 May (DC) and 400 at B.L.N.W.R. 13 Apr (CR).

Generally scarce in spring, Solitary Sandpipers enjoyed a good season, with one to 10 near Las Vegas, Corrales, Isleta, Bosque, and B.L.N.W.R. 19 Apr—3 May (m. ob.). Willets made an impressive showing nearly statewide 19 Apr—28 May (m. ob.); notable maxima were 26 at Stubblefield L. 4 May (JEP), 20 at Bosque 10 May (DE, BN), 40 at B.L.N.W.R. 27 Apr (GW), 76 at Deming 1 May (LM), and 120 at Brantley L. 27 Apr (JO). Whimbrels likewise were much in evidence, with one at Cochiti L. 1 May (ph. JO), 3 at Stubblefield L. 13 May (ph. DC), one at Ruby Ranch 22 & 24 May (WW), and 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 24 May (GW). An ad. **Hudsonian Godwit** at Springer L. 25-26 May (CR, DE, BN) relocated to Maxwell 28 May (ph. DC). High count for Marbled Godwits was 40 at Sumner L. 27 Apr (WW). Earliest White-rumped Sandpipers were singles at Portales 17 May (JEP) and near Melrose, *Curry* 18 May (JO); maxima were 23 at Wetherly L., *Union* 25 May (CR, DE, BN), 18 at Springer L. 25 May (CR), and 5 each at Stubblefield L. 28 May (ph. DC) and Maxwell 30 May (DC). Very early was a Baird's Sandpiper at Bosque 10 Mar (WH); noteworthy were 2 Pectorals w. to Deming 22 Apr (LM) and 2 Dunlins at Maxwell 8 Apr (DC). A probable **Ruff**, described as an ad. male in basic plumage, was at Springer L. 24 May (BN); there are but 4 previous (one certain) reports. A vocal Short-billed Dowitcher was among Long-billeds at B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (JO, J. Malcom). Scarce in spring, 5 Red-necked Phalaropes were at Ruby Ranch 24 May (WW).

A **Laughing Gull** "invasion" produced singles at Sunland Park 30 Mar (B. Whitman, ph. JNP), Brantley L. 27 Apr (ph. JO) and nearby L. Avalon 30 Apr (SW), Sumner L. 5 May (NP, sketch NV), and Springer L. 24 May (CR, DC). Lingering California Gulls included 3 at Maxwell 20 May

(DC) and one at Springer L. 24 May (CR) A Caspian Tern at Brantley L. 12 May (ph. JO) provided the only report; and ad. **Arctic Tern** there the same day (ph. JO) furnished New Mexico's 6th credible report and the first since 2000. Exceptionally early was a Least Tern at Bosque 6 Apr (JEP), where there were also singles 29 Apr & 15 May (JO); other Least away from their B.L.N.W.R. breeding grounds were one at Brantley L. 12 May (JO) and 2 there 28 May (WW), plus 4 at Six Mile Dam, *Eddy* 11 May (SW).

### DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued their remarkable colonization of New Mexico, with numerous reports (many supported by photos) of vocal, courting birds from at least three dozen communities from the R.G.V. east; farther w. were one at Magdalena 28 May (BZ), 5 at Deming 7 May (ph. BZ), a courting pair at Columbus 28 May (SOW), and several in and around Silver City (DZ, EL). Peripheral White-winged Doves were singles at Maxwell 30 Apr—27 May (ph. DC) and Manzano L. near Quarai 10 Mar (NV, NP); large increases were noted in Albuquerque's North Valley (DM), while in Silver City, White-winged had largely replaced Mourning Doves at feeders (DZ). Inca Doves increased their presence at Albuquerque, including 3 in the University area 5 May (GM) and one in the Heights 31 Mar and 2 there 4 May (JEP), Incas on the edge of range were singles n. to Ute L. 4 May (JO) and in P.O. Canyon 18 May (CL), plus 2 at Hillsboro 21 Apr (CR). The only Common Ground-Dove was near Radium Springs 6 Apr (MS, JZ).

Two Elf Owls were in Clanton Canyon 31 Mar (*vide* DZ), where there are few Mar reports, in the e., one Elf was vocal at Last Chance Canyon, *Eddy* 27 May (*vide* SW). A pair of Long-eared Owls that nested on a ledge in a sinkhole at B.L.N.W.R. had nestlings by 2 May (GW), the Long-eared that wintered at Columbus was last seen 29 Mar (LM). Four Northern Saw-whet Owls were on Signal Peak 20 May (RW), where 2 were tape-recorded 22 May (DZ, RW) but none were detected 29 May (DZ), which suggests the earlier birds may have been migrants. A Whip-poor-will was vocal in the Sandia Mts. 15 May (CB), where rare; in the e. plains, singles were at N.R.T. and Boone's Draw 26 Apr (JO).

West was a Chimney Swift at Raton 24 May (CR); east were 2 White-throated Swifts at Conchas L. 25 Apr (WH). Dry conditions caused hummingbirds to abandon the countryside, for the most part, in favor of feeders, delighting observers but probably reducing overall nesting success. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was n. to P.O. Canyon 23 Apr &

31 May (CL); a female was e. to Radium Springs 14 Apr—30 May (MS, JZ). Seven Magnificents were at *Grant* feeders 11 May (DZ). Lucifers returned to P.O. Canyon 31 Mar (R. Scholes, CL), at least 6 were present there through May, and a male was in nearby Beehive Canyon 26 May (CL). Highly unusual in New Mexico in spring, single male Calliopes were at Luis Lopez 21-24 Apr (ph. JO), near Pinos Altos 6 Apr (*vide* DZ), and in P.O. Canyon 31 Mar and 14 & 25 Apr (CL), where there was also a female 9-14 Apr (CL). Rufous Hummingbirds are equally unexpected in spring, but this season produced 2 males at Luis Lopez 22 Apr (ph. JO), 2 males at Silver City (EL, DZ) and another at Pinos Altos (*vide* DZ) 1-7 Apr, and one or more males in P.O. Canyon 2-23 Apr (CL).

A male Elegant Trogon was along Indian Cr., Animas Mts., 10-11 May (AC), where occurrence is irregular. A Belted Kingfisher was entering a nest hole on the Vermejo R. near Cimarron 18 May (DC); 2 at Bosque Redondo 26 May (WH) may have been local breeders. A tardy Lewis's Woodpecker was at Mesilla 5 Apr (GE), and another was at Socorro 11 May (DE, BN). An ad. male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was w. to Deming 15 Mar (LM). The Sacramento Mts. support the southeasternmost population of Three-toed Woodpeckers; this season, a male was on Sacramento Peak near Sunspot 5 May (ph. MB), and another was on nearby Alamo Peak 20 May (MB). A male Yellow-shafted Flicker was at Albuquerque 31 Mar—1 Apr (BV)

A vocal Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet at Double Adobe, n. Animas Mts. 23 & 27 Apr (AC, NM-C; banded) furnished one of the few records away from Guadalupe Canyon. Early was a singing Greater Pewee at Cherry Creek, Pinos Altos Mts. 7 Apr (*vide* DZ). An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at N.R.T. 19 May (DE, BN, vt. JO) was taped while singing, providing New Mexico's 3rd definite record. Early was a singing Gray Flycatcher at Water Canyon 5 Apr (JEP); e. was a Cordilleran at N.R.T. 27 May (JO). Black Phoebes pushing n. included one at Four Corners, *San Juan* 9 Apr (TG) and 2 near Cimarron 25 May (ph. DC). Eastern Phoebes in possible breeding locales were one at Mills Canyon 23 May (DC) and 2 at Tres Lagunas, Santa Rosa 14 May (WW). Unusual at 3210 m was a Say's Phoebe at Sandia Crest 19 May (CR). Vermilion Flycatchers were unusually abundant and widespread, especially in the R.G.V., where found from San Acacia (BV) s. and including fledglings at Percha 31 May (MS, JZ); in the ne., an active nest was at Conchas L. 25 Apr (WH) and a single was at Santa Rosa 14 May (WW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher wandered to House, *Quay* 8 May (WW).

A Northern Shrike was near Cimarron 4 & 21 Mar (DC). Well-described were single **White-eyed Vireos** near Amistad, *Union* 16 May (RG) and R.S. 5 May (SW). North was a Hutton's Vireo at Water Canyon 5 Apr (JEP); early was a Hutton's nest with eggs at P.O. Canyon 1 Apr (CL). Single Red-eyed Vireos were at N.R.T. 12, 19 & 24 May (JEP, JO), near Lingo 11 May (LS), and at R.S. 5 May (SW).

### JAYS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Steller's Jay at Santa Rosa 9 Mar (CR) was likely a winter holdover; unusual for the Organ Mts. was one at Aguirre Springs 26 Mar (GE). A Blue Jay that wintered at Albuquerque was last seen 24 Apr (M. Arthur); late was one at Maxwell 15 May (DC). American Crows continued to expand; noteworthy were an active nest at Mills Canyon 23 May (DC) and another at Paradise Hills in Apr (WH). Only one Purple Martin was w. of Raton 14 May (DC), where the species has nested in recent years. A pair of Tree Swallows was visiting a nest box at Eagle Nest 29 Apr (DC); e. was a Violet-green at the Mosquero escarpment, *Harding* 5 May (JO). Unusual at 3150 m were several Barn Swallows at buildings on South Baldy, Magdalena Mts. 24 May (HS). Although long considered resident in the Animas Mts., local breeding by Mexican Chickadees was undocumented until an active nest was found along Indian Creek 10-11 May (AC). A Juniper Titmouse nest in Guadalupe Canyon 11 May (NMC) was at the far s. fringe of the breeding range. Late for the R.G.V. was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Sabinal, n. *Socorro* 28 Apr (CR).

**Carolina Wrens** returned to the news, with singing singles at Sumner L. 28 Apr (JO) and Socorro 8 Mar (JEP). A Sedge Wren heard at Bosque 29 Mar (DK) provided the only report. A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was in the Little Hatchet Mts. 10 May (LM). Eastern Bluebirds where seldom recorded were one at Sugarite S.P. 28 Mar and 10 Apr (DC) and 3 at Mills Canyon 2 Mar (ph. DC); late was one at Corrales 12 May (WH). Noteworthy for the ne. was a Western Bluebird pair feeding nestlings at Mills Canyon 6 May (DC). With but one certain record, the Gray-cheeked is unquestionably the rarest thrush in New Mexico; fairly well-described was a possible one at N.R.T. 27 May (WW). A **Wood Thrush** was at N.R.T. 31 May (JEP, ph. JO). Gray Catbirds continued their southward expansion, including 5 territorial singers at Bosque Redondo 27 May (JO) and a pair at Quarai 12 & 19 May (NP, NV). Northern Mockingbirds coped with drought by moving higher in elevation, including 6 on territory at 2250 m along Bluewater Cr. 31 May (HS); one at Hatchet Gap 27 May (SOW) was giving a fine

"Pauraque" imitation. West was a Brown Thrasher at Clanton Cienega 20 May (NM-C) A (the?) Long-billed Thrasher was singing at Bosque Redondo 16 Mar (JEP, vt. JO), marking the 5th consecutive spring an individual has been there. North were 2 Crissal Thrashers at Eldorado near Santa Fe 13 May (DS). Late was a Sprague's Pipit on the prairie e. of Las Vegas 24 May (WW). Among 6 Cedar Waxwings at Mills Canyon 23 May was a pair possibly engaged in nest-building (DC). North was a male Phainopepla near Carnuel, *Bernalillo* 19 May (CB). At least 5 Olive Warblers were on Signal Peak by 29 Mar (*vide* DZ).

The spring produced 33 species of warbler, highlighted by an impressive array of e. strays, including single male **Blue-winged Warblers** at N.R.T. 14 May (WW) and San Andres N WR 20 May (CR) and a female **Golden-winged Warbler** at N.R.T. 19 May (DE, BN, ph. JO) Single Northern Parulas were at nine sites 13 Apr—6 May (m. ob.), including w. to Water Canyon 18 May (DM) and Clanton Cienega 23 Apr (AC, NM-C). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** made a good showing, with singles near Las Vegas 11 May (CR), near Belen 9 May (DS), Quarai 11-12 May (HS, NP, sketch NV), and N.R.T. 18-19 May (JEP, DE, BN, ph. JO). Two **Magnolia Warblers** were at N.R.T. 19 May (DE, BN), where at least one lingered 27 May (WW, JEP, ph. JO); w was another at Paradise Hills 9 May (J. DeLong). Early Black-throated Grays were singles at Water Canyon 5 Apr (JEP) and Cherry Cr. 7 Apr (*vide* DZ). A female **Blackburnian Warbler** was at N.R.T. 11 May (JEP, ph. JO). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was at Luis Lopez 29 Apr (ph. JO), another was singing at Sabinal (vt. D. Varela-Phillips). A **Prairie Warbler** was singing at R.S. 26 May (JO); there are fewer than 10 credible state records. A male **Bay-breasted Warbler** at N.R.T. 11 May (JEP, ph. JO) was followed by a female Bay-breasted there 18 May (JEP, ph. JO) and a female **Blackpoll Warbler** 19 May (JO, DE, BN). A **Louisiana Waterthrush** was tape-recorded at R.S. 13 May (JO); there are but 12 previous state records. Nicely detailed was a **Kentucky Warbler** at Corrales 6 May (DK), while single Hoodeds were at Albuquerque (JEP), Escondida (DH), B.L.N.W.R. (JEP, DK, ph. JO), Boone's Draw (JEP), and R.S. (JEP) 24 Apr—29 May. Most unusual for the R.G.V. was a Red-faced Warbler at Escondida 15 May (DH). Early was a Painted Redstart singing near Pleasanton 16 Mar (SOW). Among several easterly Hepatic Tanagers was a singing male at the Mosquero escarpment 5 May (JO). Single male Summer Tanagers were n. to Puerto de Luna, *Guadalupe* 26 May (WH) and near Las Vegas 11 May (CR). A male **Scarlet Tanager** at Quarai 25 May (J. Holmes).

## SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Previously unreported in New Mexico, a probable **Henslow's Sparrow** was at Bosque 28-29 Apr (J. Place, DH), reportedly singing on the latter date; details are under review. Notably late, a White-throated Sparrow was singing at Corrales 6 May (DK). Lingering from winter were single Harris's Sparrows at Luis Lopez 23 Apr (JO) and near L. Roberts 25 Apr (CR). A White-winged Junco at Sugarite S.P. 5 Mar (ph. DC) provided a local first. Very far n., a singing male Northern Cardinal at Maxwell 7-26 Apr (ph. DC) provided the first certain *Colfax* record. The season produced another strong Rose-breasted Grosbeak showing, with one to 3 at 18 sites 26 Apr—30 May (m. ob.), including w to Cliff (S. Stoleson), Silver City (DZ), and Separ (LM). Birders seeking Lazuli Buntings near Pojoaque 31 May found a male Indigo instead (BZ). Single Varied Buntings at Guadalupe Canyon 10 May (NM-C), San Andres N.W.R. 20 May (CR), and Walnut Canyon, Carlsbad Cavern N.P. 28 May (WW) implied that those three core populations were persisting. Early was a Painted Bunting at R.S. 26 Apr (JEP); n. were singles singing near Radium Springs 31 May (MS, JZ) and N.R.T. 27 May (JEP). Early was a Dickcissel at Fort Sumner 14 May (WW).

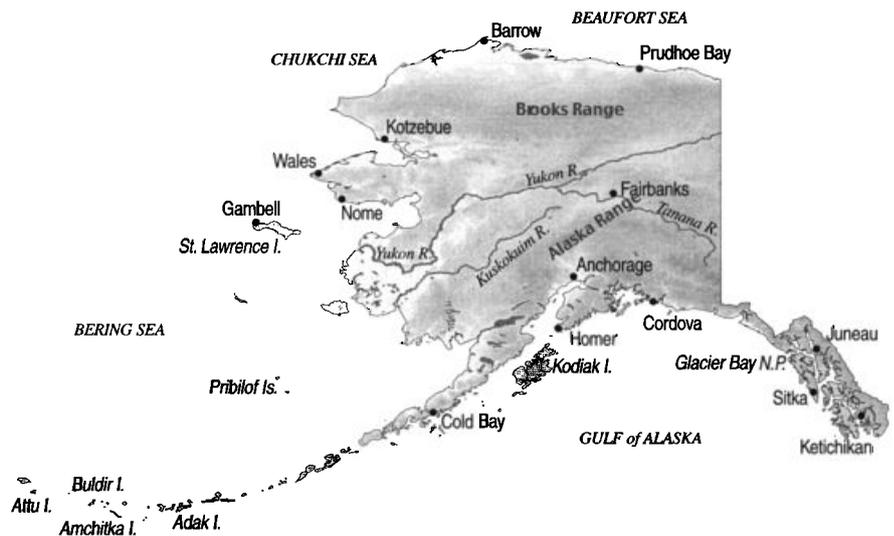
A singing Bobolink at N.R.T. 14 May (WW) provided a local first. Brewer's Blackbirds are rare nesters in c. New Mexico, so noteworthy were 6 breeding at the Paako Ridge golf course n of Sandia Park 6 May (HS) and another 6 breeding in e. Albuquerque 25 May (HS). Common Grackles pushing w. included singles at Quemado 7 Apr (ph. JO), Sapillo Cr., Grant 25 Apr (CR), and Deming 11 May (LM). Continuing a worrisome trend, Bronzed Cowbirds were at multiple sites in *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, *Dona Ana*, and *Eddy* (m. ob.); n. were singles at Silver City (EL), Percha (GE), Roswell (WW), B.L.N.W.R. (GW), and Oasis S.P., Roosevelt (JEP) 6-27 May. Another unfortunate sign of the times: the 517 Brown-headed Cowbirds in Grant 11 May (DZ et al.) made it the most numerous species counted in the county that day! Orchard Orioles increased their presence in n.-cen. areas, with one to 3 near Clovis 17-25 May (JEP, JO), one at Tolar 26 May (WH), and 2 at Fort Sumner 19 May (DE, BN); very far n. was an ad. male at Maxwell 12 May (ph. DC). A Hooded Oriole at Hillsboro 21 Apr was out of place (CR). An ad. male **Baltimore Oriole** strayed to Mills Canyon 22 Apr (DC); a young male was at N.R.T. 28 Apr (JEP, ph. JO). Scott's Orioles on their ne. frontier included singles at Quarai 11 May (HS) and near Sabinoso 5 May (JO) and 2 at N.R.T. 28 Apr & 4 May (JEP, ph. JO). Last of the Sandia

Crest rosy-finches were 2 Gray-crowns, 10 Blacks, and 5 Brown-capped 3 Mar (CB), while a mixed flock of 12 was at the Taos ski area 8 Apr (TG); unusual at 2100 m were 4 Brown-capped drinking from a puddle in the Manzano Mts. 1 Apr (V. Sutherland). A Pine Grosbeak was w. of Angle Fire at Palo Flechado Pass, *Colfax* 23 Mar (DC). Cassin's Finches were unusually prevalent in the sw., including 4 near Kingston 24 Apr (CR), 40 at Emory Pass 20 Apr (JEP), and one at Silver City 28 Mar & 2 Apr (EL); e. were 5 Cassin's at Mills Canyon 9 Mar (DC). Six Red Crossbills in the Manzano Mts. 10 Mar increased to 17 by May, when ads. were feeding fledglings (TH). Notably early for the n. was a Lesser Goldfinch at Mills Canyon 2 Mar (DC). Late American Goldfinches included 2 each at Silver City 31 May (EL) and Maxwell 28 May (DC), plus 11 at Clayton 25 May (CR).

**Initialed observers:** Mike Bradford, Celestyn Brozek, David Cleary, Kathleen Cotton, Alan Craig, Douglas Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Dana & Bob Fox, Tony Gallucci, Rebecca Gracey, HawkWatch International, William Howe, Tyler Huning, David Krueper, Robert Kruidenier, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Larry Malone, David Mehlman, Raymond Meyer, Gale Monson, Narca Moore-Craig (NM-C), Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nicholas Pederson, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, John Shipman, Patricia Snider, Dale Stahlecker, Brad Vaughn, Nick Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Mark Watson, Steve West, William West, Robert Wilcox, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer, Dale Zimmerman, Marian Zimmerman.



# Alaska



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**P**unctuated with several late-winter snowstorms, spring 2002 was cold, slow-to-warm, and relatively dull in the context of the past decade's seasons. Especially in the Bering Sea, where Asian species were sporadic and generally under-represented, rarer species and concentrations of migrants were fewer than what has come to be the norm. A season-long

weak and unfavorable storm track contributed to this poor showing in the western Aleutians and at Gambell; only the Pribilofs were productive, with a mix of offshore vagrants from both continents. Early snowmelt and subsequent open habitats were felt to be contributing factors in the rather weak passage of birds at Gambell and Nome. Elsewhere, from the Southeast and the south-central mainland, all but geese and shorebirds were notably, often significantly late by up to two weeks in several cases.