

Although some precipitation materialized in March, spring 2003 saw continued drought conditions over most of New Mexico. Migration was judged "slow," but persistent birding discovered several surprises, including at least one species potentially new to the state. Concentrated efforts along the Canadian River in eastern San Miguel County and the lower Mimbres River in northwestern Luna County provided numerous distributional records, as did continued work in Colfax and Hidalgo Counties.

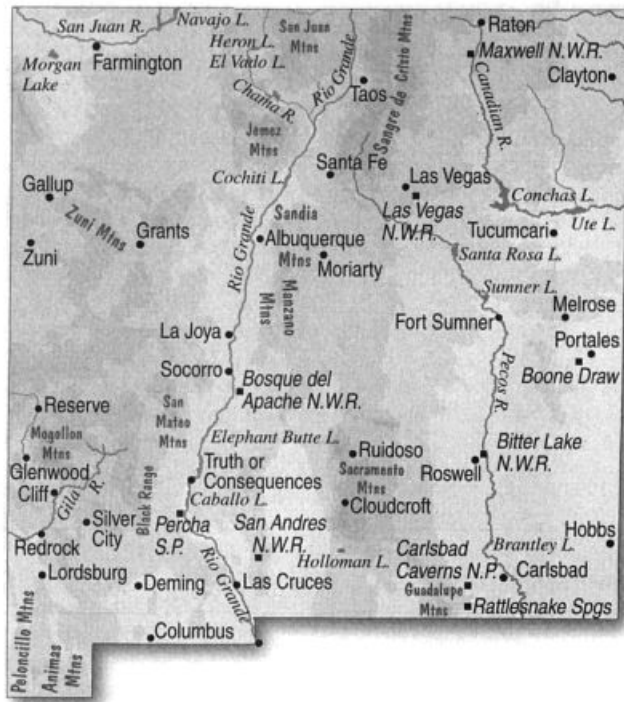
Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); K.K. (Katfish Kove, private ponds and trees adjacent to Mimbres R., nw. Luna); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

LOONS THROUGH CHUKAR

A bright Red-throated Loon at Conchas L. 30 Apr (WW) furnished a San Miguel first and New Mexico's 20th overall. Several Horned Grebes lingered, including one to 2 at Stubblefield L. 9 May (DC) and Conchas L. 10 May (WW). Far n. was a Neotropical Cormorant at Springer 21 Apr–3 May (ph. DC). An American Bittern at K.K. 23 Mar–11 Apr (MS, ph. JZ) provided a Luna first; one at B.L.N.W.R. 25 Apr (JEP, JO) furnished the only additional report. A vocal Least Bittern was at Springer L. 24–30 May (audiotape DC); another was at Clabber Hill marsh below Conchas Dam 16 & 25 May (m. ob.). A waterbird colony in drowned saltcedar at Truth or Consequences contained 60 pairs of Snowy Egrets and 35 of Cattle Egrets plus 3–5 each of Double-crested Cormorant and Black-crowned Night-Heron 28 May (WH); 4 Great Blue Heron nests were at Bosque 29 May (GE). Great Egrets continued to be widely reported, including one or more n. to San Juan, Taos, Colfax, and Grant 12 Apr–13 May (m. ob.). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Bosque 30 Apr–2 May (JEP, JO) provided the lone report. A Tricolored Heron was n. to Albuquerque 25–27 Apr (JEP, NC). A nesting Green Heron at K.K. 18 May (MS, JZ, JNP) provided a Luna breeding first. Single ad. Glossy Ibis were at San Antonio 10–11 Apr (JEP, vt. JO) and B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (JEP). An impressive three-hour flight of 8600 White-faced Ibis passed over Leasburg on the evening of 20 Apr (MS, JZ).

Late were 4 Greater Scaup at Stubblefield L. 9 May (DC). Single Surf Scoters were near Storrie L. 10 May (CR) and below Elephant Butte Dam 24–31 May (MS, JZ, PRS, JEP). A Long-tailed Duck was at L.V.N.W.R. 29 Apr–4 May (WW). Unusual was a female Barrow's Goldeneye e. to Stubblefield L. 16 Mar (vt. JO). Notable for Hidalgo were 3 Red-breasted Mergansers at Lordsburg 28 Mar (JEP); late was one at Conchas L. 10 May (WW). Migrant Ospreys were widely reported 29 Mar–31 May, including 2 "in the middle of nowhere" at the U.F.O. "crash site"

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in Chaves 1 May (BN). A Mississippi Kite was at Mesilla 10 May (CB), where scarce in recent years, and another was at Rodeo 26–27 May (RW, RAR); up to 7 were along the Canadian R., e. San Miguel 10–17 May (WW, JEP, JO). A pair of Northern Harriers engaging in prey transfer at B.L.N.W.R. 31 May (SOW) suggested local nesting. More evidence of Common Black-Hawk range expansion was provided by a pair nesting at Clabber Hill Ranch 10 May+ (WW et al.); there are no previous Canadian R. records. In the R.G.V., another Common Black-Hawk pair nested at Isleta, Valencia in May (H. Smith). Rare in Dona Ana, a Harris's Hawk was at Sunland Park 19 May (JNP). Single Broad-winged Hawks were at Santa Fe 20 Apr (T. Rahm), K.K. 20 Apr (MS, JZ), Las Cruces 24–25 Apr (CB), and Jal 10 May (JEP). Early Swainson's Hawks included singles in Dona Ana 20 Mar (GE) and the Animas Valley 23 Mar (AC, NM-C, RW). Early Zone-tailed Hawks included singles at Cochiti Dam 27 Mar (RG) and Wall L., Grant, 30 Mar (JO); noteworthy for the Sacramento Mts. was a Zone-tailed nest at Timberon 29 May (T. McDaniel). Suitable nest sites for Golden Eagles are scarce on the e. plains; at Taiban, a pair was nesting on a 100-m tower in Mar (D. Krueper, W. Ostheimer). Single Chukars at Sandia Park in early May and higher in the Sandia Mts. 6 May (fide KS) indicated continued releases there.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

A vocal Black Rail in an extensive Canadian R.

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marsh below Conchas Dam 10–25 May (WW et al.) provided the 2nd credible state record 'in two years. Far n. and a Colfax first was a Common Moorhen at Springer's Allen L. 10 Apr–12 May (BP, ph. DC). High count for Black-bellied Plovers was 6 at Stubblefield L. 16 May (ph. DC). Well-described were single American Golden-Plovers at Bosque 2 May (JEP) and B.L.N.W.R. 22–26 Apr (GW, JEP, vt. JO). Migrant Snowy Plovers included singles at Springer L. 21 Apr (DC) and Bosque 10 May (DE, BN), 2 at Lordsburg Playa 5 Apr (CR) and one at Lordsburg 6 & 15 May (AC, NM-C), a high 17 at Brantley L. 19 Apr (JO), and 5 at L. Grande 1 Mar (JO); peak at B.L.N.W.R. was 273 on 26 Apr (GW). Semipalmated Plover "concentrations" included 8 at Springer L. 7 May (DC) and 6 at L. David, San Miguel 4 May (WW); 3 near Antelope Wells 26 Apr (AC, NM-C) provided a local first. Two Mountain Plovers were on Otero Mesa 18 Mar (fide B. Locke), where recent records are scarce.

High count for American Avocets was 478 at B.L.N.W.R. 23 Apr (GW). The season produced several sizable flocks of Willets, including 78 at

SA Making national news was a **Thick-billed Parrot** that took up residence in a grove of exotic pines on the Armendaris Ranch at Engle, Sierra from 8 May into Jun (except for a three day absence 23–26 May; T. Waddell et al.). By the end of May, over 400 birders from at least 20 states and six countries had enjoyed the bird. Many hundreds of excellent photographs leave no doubt as to the parrot's identity, but origin was—and continues to be—hotly debated.

Bosque 7 May (JB), 50 at Bill Evans L. 3 May (LM), and 35 near Deming 6 May (MS, ph. JZ). Among the few Whimbrels were 3 at Maxwell 16 May (DC) and 7 at B.L.N.W.R. 3 May (vt. JO). Wasting no time, a Long-billed Curlew pair had produced 2 fledglings near McAlister, Quay 26 May (CR). A **Hudsonian Godwit** visited Bosque 17–18 May (vt. JO). A **Ruddy Turnstone** at Stubblefield L. 14 May (ph. DC) provided a *Colfax* first. Remarkable was a single flock of 34 Sanderlings at L. Isabel, San Miguel 10 May (CR). The earliest White-rumped Sandpiper was one at Portales 16 May (WW); highs were 32 at Stubblefield L. 21 May (ph. DC) and 30 at B.L.N.W.R. 24 May (JEP). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were w. to Deming 24 Apr (LM). Late were 2 Dunlins at B.L.N.W.R. 3 May (JO).

An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Conchas L. 10 May (WW) furnished a San Miguel first and New Mexico's 10th overall. Bonaparte's Gulls were more numerous than usual, with several lingering into May; last were one at Tucumcari 16 May (JEP) and 9 at Lordsburg 10 May (AC). No gull breeds in New Mexico, but California Gull is a potential candidate; interesting were 20 at Eagle Nest L. 31 May (ph. DC). A Thayer's Gull visited E.B.L. 23 Mar (vt. JO). Undetailed was a Caspian Tern in San Juan 10 May (fide SW). Absolutely unexpected was an apparent Sandwich Tern at L. Avalon 13 May (ph. T. Hines); written details and distant photos of this coastal species are under review. Earliest Least Terns at B.L.N.W.R. were singles 16 & 23 Apr (GW); another Least strayed to Sumner L. 16 May (WW, JO), while 2 were at Brantley L. 24 May (JEP). Scarce in recent years, a notable concentration of 120 Black Terns was at Sumner L. 17 May (JEP, JO).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Unusual was a Band-tailed Pigeon at R.S. 9 May (JEP); another at Upper Ash Spring 22 May (ph. MW) provided a San Andres N.W.R. first. Eurasian Collared-Doves were found statewide, including w. to San Juan, Grant, and Hidalgo (m. ob.), and in barely eight years they seem to have effectively colonized all corners of the state; an Albuquerque nest had a large nestling 30 Mar (WH). A White-winged Dove was n. to Maxwell 2 May (ph. DC). Inca Doves were seldom noted were 2 at Hillsboro 4 & 12 Apr (CR, JEP), 3 at Kingston 6 Apr (CR), and one in Guadalupe Canyon 31 May (JEP). Good news for Common Ground-Doves included 2 at Redrock 24 Apr (ER), where singing was reported (fide DZ), up to 4, including singing birds, at Rodeo 21–27 May (RW), another near Rodeo 30 May (RW), and a singing individual in Guadalupe Canyon 31 May (JEP). The remarkable Ruddy Ground-Dove invasion that began in Oct continued into

spring, with one singing at Luis Lopez 9 Mar–1 Apr (JO), a male at Silver City 14 Mar (D&MZ) and a female there 4 Apr (D & MZ), at least 4 persisting at Cotton City 28 Mar (JEP), and a female plus a "full-tailed juvenile" in Guadalupe Canyon 17 May (D&MZ).

Surveys in recent years documented numerous Yellow-billed Cuckoos in saltcedar along the lower Pecos R., but a government-sponsored herbicide program initiated in late winter may have ended that; no cuckoos were found in their usual haunts there through 31 May (SW). A Barn Owl nest in a streambank cave along Ponil Cr. (ph. DC) provided one of the few *Colfax* breeding records; a Barn at Quarai 25 May (NV, NP) furnished a local first. A vocal Whiskered Screech-Owl near Aspen Spring 10 May (NM-C, RAR) furnished only the 3rd Animas Mts. record. The 7 vocal Elf Owls in Last Chance Canyon, Guadalupe Mts. 20 Apr (SW) were the most yet found in Eddy. Three Long-eared Owls were roosting in dense saltcedar at Bosque Redondo 8 Mar (JEP, JO); for the 2nd consecutive year, a Long-eared pair nested in the Sandia Mts. at La Madera, Sandoval 23 May (RG).

Far n. of expected were up to 11 probable Lesser Nighthawks, all frustratingly silent, at Clabber Hill Ranch, San Miguel 10–25 May (WW et al.). An early Chimney Swift was at Roswell 25 Apr (JEP, JO). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird strayed n. to Silver City 15 Apr (PT); others away from Guadalupe Canyon were one in P.O. Canyon (CL) and 2 in Skeleton Canyon (RC) 10 May. A female White-eared Hummingbird was along Indian Cr., Animas Mts. 10 May (NM-C, RAR), where one was last seen Jun 2001; a Blue-throated and 3 Magnificents were also there that day. Lucifer Hummingbirds were relatively scarce in P.O. Canyon, with only 4 males by 25 Apr and a single female by 3 May (CL); 2 were in Skeleton Canyon 10 May (RC), where there was a male 28 May (JB). Notably early were a Black-chinned Hummingbird at P.O. Canyon 14 Mar (R. Scholes) and a Broad-tailed there 8 Mar (CL). Both Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds seem to be increasing in spring in sw. New Mexico; this season found a male Calliope in P.O. Canyon 16 & 24 Apr (CL), an undetailed 2 Calliopes in Skeleton Canyon 10 May (RC), one to 4 Rufous in P.O. Canyon 23 Mar–8 May (CL), and another Rufous in Grant 10 May (BW). Lingering from winter was a Lewis's Woodpecker at Deming (MS, JZ), last seen 2 Apr (LM); another strayed to R.S. 8 Mar (SW) to 19 Apr (JEP, JO). A good showing by Red-headed Woodpeckers included the discovery of 10–15 along the Canadian R. below Conchas Dam in May (m. ob.), individuals or pairs at three Carlsbad locales in Apr and May (SW), and one near Eunice 31 May (SOW);

unusual was one in the Fra Cristobal Mts. 23 May (ER). A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Bosque 16 Mar (CR). Unusual for the e. plains was a Downy Woodpecker at N.R.T. 28 Apr (WH). Unexpected were one to 2 Hairy Woodpeckers at K.K. 23 Mar–18 May (m. ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

Unprecedented was a Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet at R.S. 19–25 Apr (JEP, SW, vt. JO), a first for se. New Mexico; early was one singing in Guadalupe Canyon 29 Mar (JEP, JO), where a pair was feeding a large young 16 May (D&MZ). Perhaps a winter holdover, an apparent Hammond's Flycatcher was at K.K. 9 & 23 Mar (MS, JZ), and 2 were there 6 Apr (CR). Easterly were single Gray Flycatchers at Caprock and Tatum 19 Apr (JO) and near Clovis 28 Apr (WH); noteworthy were up to 6 singing Dusks along Bluewater Cr., Zuni Mts. 28 May (HS). Surprising was a well-seen (but silent) Buff-breasted Flycatcher in upper Skeleton Canyon 10 May (RC). Lingering Eastern Phobes were w. to K.K. 3 Mar–6 Apr (MS, JZ, DE, BN, CR) and Isleta 9 May (SOW); suspected breeders were 2 at Mills Canyon, Harding 17 May (DC) and a displaying male near Tucumcari 24 Apr (WH).

Vermilion Flycatchers were unusually numerous and widespread in the s.; in the ne., several were along the Canadian R. (m. ob.), an active nest was at Conchas Dam 24 Apr (WH), and another nest was at Hondo, Lincoln 31 Mar (R. Troy). Very rare in spring, a Great Crested Flycatcher was at N.R.T. 18 May (m. ob., vt. JO); Brown-crested were unusually numerous in Guadalupe Canyon, with 10 there 10 May (AC). Early flycatchers included an Ash-throated at Virden 15 Mar (LM) and a Cassin's Kingbird in Guadalupe Canyon 29 Mar (JEP, JO). An active Western Kingbird nest was on the moving arm of a pumpjack near (aptly-named) Loco Hills, Eddy 19 May (CR). Only a single Thick-billed Kingbird had returned to Guadalupe Canyon by the end of the period (AC, NM-C, D&MZ, JEP). Rare in Roosevelt, an Eastern Kingbird was at N.R.T. 18 May (m. ob.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher strayed w. to L.V.N.W.R. in late May (fide K. Kuyuk).

A White-eyed Vireo was at N.R.T. 27–28 Apr (JEP, JO, ph. WH); the species has become increasingly frequent in New Mexico in recent years. Two Bell's Vireos in the s. Hachita Valley 29 May (SOW) provided a local first; n. in the R.G.V. was a Bell's at Bosque 2 May (JEP). Yellow-throated Vireos made a good showing, with singing singles in Guadalupe Canyon 10 May (AC), near Mimbres 17 May (T. & C. Jervis), and at R.S. 24–25 Apr (JEP, vt. JO). A Blue-headed Vireo was at N.R.T. 2 Apr (JO) & 18 Apr (BN). A Hutton's Vireo was in Water Canyon, n. Magdalena Mts. 11 & 27 Apr (JEP, CR), where only recently established; some 11 pairs were in the P.O. Canyon area (CL), and a pair was feeding nestlings in nearby Skull Canyon 13 May (CL). Red-eyed Vireos included singles at N.R.T. 16–24 May (WW, JEP) and R.S. 10 May (JEP).

The massive fall and winter Steller's Jay invasion of lowland areas continued to recede through Apr, and most had vacated such locales by early May. Single Blue Jays w. to the R.G.V. were singles at Albuquerque 15 Mar & 5 Apr (JEP) and Socorro 20–21 Mar & 15–26 Apr (PB); unusual for Taos was one at Penasco 8 May (ph. D. Williams). Pinyon Jays wandered far and wide, including 2 near San Jon 11 Apr (CR), one in Albuquerque's North Valley 26 Apr (DM), 5 at Luis Lopez 9 May (JO), and 11 in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Apr (CL). Remnants of the American Crow winter invasion of the lower Pecos Valley included 250 at Brantley L. 5 Mar (SW). The trend of early-arriving swallows continued, with a Tree at Maddox L., Lea 1 Mar (JO), a Violet-green in the Gila Lower Box 11 Mar (SOW), a surprising 5 Cliffs at E.B.L. 1 Mar (JEP), and a Barn at Carlsbad 10 Mar (SW). Cave Swallows continued to thrive in *Dona Ana*, with 42 at La Union 10 May (GE) and another n. to Leasburg 30 May (MS, ph. JZ); out of range was a Cave at Maddox L. 4 May (BN). Two ad. Bridled Titmice with 3 fledglings at K.K. 2 May (MS, JZ) provided a *Luna* breeding first, as did a fledgling White-breasted Nuthatch with ads. there 18 May (MS, JZ, JNP).

WRENS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Carolina Wren along the Pecos R. at Villanueva 9 & 18 Mar (JEP, vt. JO) furnished a *San Miguel* first. A possible Carolina Wren x Bewick's Wren hybrid was in the Gila Bird Area 25 May (JO), where a Carolina was noted in 2002. An estimated 75 House Wrens were at N.R.T. 26 Apr, but fewer than 15 were there the following day (JO). Suggestive of local breeding were 6 singing Golden-crowned Kinglets on South Baldy, Magdalena Mts. 30 May (HS). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers n. in the R.G.V. were one at Bosque 9 Mar (WH) and 2 at E.B.L. 1 Mar (JEP); noteworthy was a Black-tailed at Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 23 Mar (NM-C, RW). A pair of Eastern Bluebirds was feeding a fledgling at Conchas Dam 10 May (WW); unusual for *Luna* were 2 Easterns at Deming 5 Mar (LM) and 2 others in the Florida Mts. 11 Mar (LM). A Swainson's Thrush banded at Ropes Spring 2 May (MW) provided a *San Andres* N.W.R. first. An estimated 200 Hermit Thrushes packed N.R.T. 26 Apr, where fewer than 20 remained the following day (JO). A Rufous-backed Robin in Guadalupe Canyon 22–31 May (AC, NM-C, RAR, JEP, ph. RW, vt. JO) provided New Mexico's 7th overall but first away from the R.G.V.

One to 2 Gray Catbirds were singing s. to Bosque Redondo 17 May (JEP, JO); w. was one at Aragon, *Catron* 26 May (JO). Single Brown Thrashers strayed w. to Hillsboro 6 Apr (DE, BN, CR) and Cotton City 28 Mar (JEP). One to 2 Crissal Thrashers were n. to Eldorado 20 Apr–16 May (DS), where there were about 40 pairs of Curve-billeds (DS). Unusual was a Phainopepla near Reserve 26 May (JO). One to 2 Olive Warblers were n. to Water Canyon 2 & 10 May (JEP, DE), where only recently estab-

lished; 6 Olives were in the Animas Mts. 10 May (NM-C, RAR). Very rare in spring, 2 Hermit Warblers were in the Animas Mts. (NM-C, RAR), and another was in *Grant* (BW) 10 May. Notable e. strays were a male Chestnut-sided at N.R.T. 7 & 9 May (DE, BN, JEP), a female *Magnolia* Warbler at Madrid 27 Apr (LS) and a male at Bosque Redondo 9 May (JEP), a *Blackburnian* Warbler at N.R.T. 26 May (BN, DE, CR), one to 3 Palm Warblers at Socorro 20–22 Apr (ph. PB), a singing *Prothonotary* Warbler at R.S. 10 May (JEP), a *Worm-eating* Warbler along Sapello Cr., *San Miguel* 4 May (WW), a *Kentucky* Warbler at Albuquerque 26 May (DM), a possible *Kentucky* at Virden 25 May (JO, AC, NM-C), and a male Hooded at Socorro 8–10 May (J. Shipman, BN, DE). Among the rare-but-regular warblers were single male *Northern Parulas* at B.L.N.W.R. 18–20 Apr (JEP, JO, GW), Socorro 27 Apr (D. Hawksworth), and N.R.T. 3–4 May (JEP, JO); single *Black-and-whites* at Albuquerque (DE, BN), N.R.T. (JEP, JO), Tatum (JO), and *Grant* (BW) 27 Apr–25 May; an *American Redstart* at N.R.T. 7 May (DE, BN); and an *Ovenbird* at Bosque 2 May (JEP). Rare in *Luna*, 2 *Painted Redstarts* were at K.K. 30 Mar (MS, ph. JZ); far e. was a *Painted* in Dog Canyon, Sacramento Mts. 28 Mar (H. Haskell). Similarly far e. were one to 2 *Hepatic Tanagers* at N.R.T. 3–9 May (JEP, JO), where there were also single *Summers* 26 Apr (JEP) and 17 May (JO); n. were 4 or more *Summer Tanagers* along the Canadian R. below Conchas Dam 10, 17, & 25 May (m. ob.).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Several Cassin's Sparrows were detected in the sw. (where absent in some years), including 3 at Tyrone 11 May (EL), one near K.K. 24 May (MS, JZ), 14 near Hatchet Gap 29 May (SOW), and 3 near Columbus 28 May (SOW). A *Botteri's Sparrow* singing at a Rodeo farm 27 May (RW, RAR) provided a new locality for this recently-established species. Last of the wintering *American Tree Sparrows* were 10 at Maxwell 15 Mar (DC). For the 2nd consecutive year, *Brewer's Sparrows* nested in *Colfax*, with up to 6 singing males and a female on eggs at Stubblefield L. 26 May (ph. DC). A *Field Sparrow* was near Milnesand 12 Apr (CR). Single *Black-chinned Sparrows* at Petroglyph N.M. 4 May (HS) and Quarai 10 May (NV) were local firsts. North was a *Black-throated Sparrow* at Maxwell 20 May (DC). A grassy ridge at about 2150 m in the s. *San Mateo Mts.* harbored up to 5 *Baird's Sparrows* 8 May (WW) and at least one *Baird's* plus about 3 *Grasshopper Sparrows* 11 May (JEP, JO); near McAlister, *Quay*, 2 *Grasshoppers* were in exotic weeping lovegrass 26 May (CR). Single *Fox Sparrows* were at Deming 6 Mar (LM), *Percha* 26 Mar (GE), and *White's City* 8 Mar (RN); of 3 that wintered in P.O. Canyon, 2 were present 31 Mar, and the last was seen 14 Apr (CL). Always a treat, single *Harris's Sparrows* were in *San Miguel* 10 May (WW), at Socorro until 18 Apr (PB), and at

Bosque until 27 Apr (JO); rare in *Luna* was another at K.K. 20 Apr (JZ). *Golden-crowned Sparrows* were singles at Bosque 9 Mar (WH), P.O. Canyon 1 May (CL), and R.S. 10 May (JEP). The last *Lapland Longspur* report was of 6 at Springer L. 20 Mar (DC).

Northern Cardinals continued their northward march, including at least 2 along the Canadian R., e. *San Miguel* 10 & 17 May (WW, JEP, JO) and singles at Santa Rosa 17 May (CR) and near Floyd 11 Apr (C. Hayes). Two *Pyrrhuloxias* were n. to N.R.T. 13 Apr (CR). A strong showing by *Rose-breasted Grosbeaks* produced one to 3 in 13 counties, including w. to *Grant* and *Hidalgo* 25 Apr–22 May (m. ob.). *Varied Buntings* had perhaps their best season yet in *Eddy*, with singles in *Walnut Canyon* 3 & 25 May (DE, BN, JEP) and *Slaughter Canyon* 3 May (SW), plus 6 in *Rattlesnake Canyon* 25 May (SW). A *Painted Bunting* was n. to N.R.T. 16–17 May (JEP), and 2 were along the Canadian R., e. *San Miguel* 10 May (WW), where a male was singing 17 May (JEP, JO).

Unprecedented was a flock of 14 *Rusty Blackbirds* at R.S. 2 Mar (vt. JO), with 25 there when last reported 8 May (SW, RN). Continuing their westward expansion were 2 *Common Grackles* at Magdalena 27 Apr (CR). *Bronzed Cowbirds* continued to increase in range and numbers, with reports from a record 14 counties, including 2 at Taiban 3 May (JEP) and singles near N.R.T. 26 May (DE, BN), near Clovis 6 May (DE, BN), and Lingo 21 May (CR). *Wandering orioles* included single *Orchards* at Luis Lopez 18 May (JO) and N.R.T. 17–26 May (m. ob.), 2 *Hoodeds* at Hillsboro 12 Apr (JEP) & 3 May (CR) and another at Luis Lopez 14–16 May (*vide* JO), and 2 *Scott's* near Madrid 20 Apr (LS) and one near Las Vegas 4 May (WW). The now-famous *Sandia Crest rosy-finches* gradually departed during Mar, with the last three-species flock of 24 birds noted 8 Apr (KS) and the last individual seen 14 Apr (*vide* KS); last at Eagle Nest was a three-species flock of 76 on 19 Apr (DC). *Red Crossbills* were notably scarce statewide; unusual were singles at Conchas L. 25 May (DE, BN) and at Luis Lopez 6 May (vt. JO). Last of the winter's *Lawrence's Goldfinch* incursion was a lone female at Leasburg 7 Apr (MS, ph. JZ).

Initialed observers: Pat Basham, Craig Benkman, James Black, Robert Chapman, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Nancy Cox, Douglas Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Rebecca Gracey, William Howe, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Larry Malone, David Mehlman, Narca Moore-Craig, Robert Neiman, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldennett, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nick Pederson, Brandon Percival, Eric Rominger, Rose Ann Rowlett, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Ken Schneider, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Patricia R. Snider, Dale Stahlecker, Pat Taber, Nick Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Richard Webster, Mara Weisenberger, Steve West (SW), William West, Bob Wilcox, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Dale & Marian Zimmerman. 🐦