

can Bitterns were at Bosque 10–13 Jan (JEP, WW, BZ, ph. JO) and B.L.N.W.R. 7 Jan (GW). At least 2 Great Egrets were n. to B.L.N.W.R. 10 Dec–26 Feb (GW), and small numbers overwintered in Eddy, where formerly absent in winter (SW). Late was a Snowy Egret at Belen 9 Dec (JO), as were 12 Cattle Egrets at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GE). Very rare in the winter season, single Green Herons were at Elephant Butte Dam 26 Dec (ph. DC) and Six Mile Dam 20 Feb (JEP, JO). Five White-faced Ibis lingered at Belen 9 Dec (JO), where there were 2 on 31 Jan & 12 Feb (JEP, JO). Turkey Vultures are not known to winter in New Mexico, so surprising were one in e. Sierra 2 Dec (ph. P. Mathis), 7 at Roswell 20 Dec (*fide* S. Bixler), and 2 s. of Animas 2 Jan (J. Krakowski).

Typically scarce in midwinter, one to 9 Greater White-fronted Geese were at nine sites in Colfax, San Miguel, Bernalillo, Socorro, and Chaves 13 Dec–25 Jan (m. ob.). Ross's Geese continued to increase in the Farmington area, where there were 40 on 20 Dec (AN); a rare blue-morph Ross's was at Clayton L. 27 Dec (CR). With fewer than six previous records, Brant is one of New Mexico's rarest waterfowl; a dark-bellied individual was among Canadas at Ute L. 24 Jan–14 Feb (ph. DC, ph. JO, JEP, DE, BN, CR). Tundra Swans made a good showing, with up to 6 at Maxwell 1 Dec–28 Feb, 2–4 at L.V.N.W.R. 1 Dec and 13 Feb, one to 3 at three R.G.V. sites (Cochiti L., La Joya, Williamsburg) 3 Dec–16 Feb, and one to 2 at three Pecos Valley sites (Bosque Redondo, B.L.N.W.R., L. Avalon) 2 Dec–20 Feb (m. ob.). A male Eurasian Wigeon entertained many at Albuquerque's Mariposa Park and vicinity 29 Jan–29 Feb (m. ob., many phs.); at least one Eurasian has wintered in Albuquerque eight of the past nine years. Shrinking lakes resulted in large waterfowl concentrations; at E.B.L., aerial surveys counted 3720 Northern Pintails 3 Dec (MW) and 14,570 Gadwalls plus 4300 Northern Shovelers 8 Jan (MW). A first for New Mexico was a male Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal at Bosque 18 Feb (RH, GF, JEP, ph. JO). Always a treat, single Long-tailed Ducks were at Maxwell 13 Dec (ph. JO), Brantley L. 3 Jan (ph. JO), and Holloman L. 10–17 Jan (MS, ph. JZ, ph. JO). Unexpected away from San Juan, single female Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported at Stubblefield L. 27 Jan (DC) and L.V.N.W.R. 5 Feb (WW). Red-breasted Mergansers were unusually prevalent in the Canadian and Pecos valleys; high counts included over 100 at L. Avalon 24 Jan (JEP), over 200 at Brantley L. 3 Jan (JO), and some 190 at Ute L. 17–18 Feb (DC), where there were also over 250 Commons (DC).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Far n. for the season was an Osprey at Nava-

jo Dam 1 Jan (AN); at least one was in the E.B.L. area 5 Jan–7 Feb (WW, JO, JEP) as well. Single White-tailed Kites appeared at K.K. 6 Dec (MS, JZ) and Bosque 24 Feb (S. Grubelich). A notable concentration of 49 Bald Eagles was counted at Cherry L., Mora 5 Jan (MW); in contrast, the 36 counted in the drying Elephant Butte–Caballo area 28 Jan (D. Ahlers) was down considerably from counts there in previous years. Far e. was a Northern Goshawk at Ute L. 28 Jan (WW). A Harris's Hawk was n. to Bosque 13 Feb (T. Bulow); 5 Harris's were near Alamogordo 24 Jan (MS, JZ), where recently established. Some 18 Ferruginous Hawks plus one Rough-legged were at the Navajo farms s. of Farmington 21 Feb (AN). Merlins were noted at 18 sites primarily from the R.G.V. eastward; highs were 3 at Bosque 20 Dec (SC) and 6 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GE). One to 2 Peregrine Falcons wintered at Albuquerque Dec–Feb (m. ob.), and another was at Las Cruces 26 Dec (GE) and 17 Jan (MS, JZ); elsewhere, singles were at K.K. 6 Dec (MS, JZ), Sitting Bull Falls, Eddy 1 Jan (*fide* SW), Peloncillo Mts. 3 Jan (*fide* AC), and Eldorado 27 Feb (DS).

The escaped Chukar at Sandia Crest continued to compete with juncos and finches at feeders through Jan (KS et al.). Fifteen Soras were counted near San Marcial 23 Dec (RD), a large number for the winter season. Unusual for the season and locality was a Common Moorhen at L. Roberts 14 & 23 Jan (EL). Latest Snowy Plovers were one at B.L.N.W.R. 17 Dec (GW) and one to 2 near Loving 20 & 23 Dec (SW, C. Cranston); earliest were 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 11 & 26 Feb (GW). A flock of 191 Killdeer was in an Otis alfalfa field 27 Jan (SW). Very late were 12 Mountain Plovers w. of Gage, Luna 11 Dec (RM). Also late was an American Avocet at B.L.N.W.R. 3 Dec (GW), while apparently wintering were up to 4 at Caballo L. 4–11 Jan (BZ, JNP, JEP, JO). North for the season were single Spotted Sandpipers at Española 21 Dec (BF) and Santa Rosa 3 Jan (JEP). Late were 125 Long-billed Curlews in Luna 6 Dec (DH); unexpected were 6 in the Uvas Valley near Nutt, Luna 11 Jan (MS, JZ). Northerly Least Sandpipers were 4 at Morgan L. 1 Jan (AN) and 3 at Hudson L., Quay 24 Jan (DC). Lingered Dunlin were singles at Morgan L. 1 Jan (AN) and Bosque 13–18 Jan (BZ, WW, JO) and 3 at Hudson L. 31 Jan–18 Feb (ph. DC).

Far n. for midwinter were 3 Bonaparte's Gulls at Springer L. 5 Jan (DC), as was one at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WW); a remarkable 252 Bonaparte's were in the Avalon–Brantley area 26 Dec (TH), with at least 19 at L. Avalon 31 Jan (CR) and 50 there 16 Feb (DE, BN). The Sunland Park racetrack again proved productive for gulls, with a first-winter Mew Gull there 17 Dec–1 Jan (JNP, MS, JZ) and an ad. Mew there 16 Jan–16 Feb (JNP, ph. JO). Also

at Sunland Park (and lingering from Nov) was a first-winter Thayer's Gull 1–18 Dec (ph. JNP, MS, JZ); an ad. Thayer's was at E.B.L. 17 Jan–15 Feb (ph. JO, WW, JEP). Noteworthy for midwinter were 3 Forster's Terns at L. Avalon 24 Jan (JEP, JO).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Moderate numbers of Eurasian Collared-Doves were found virtually statewide, including on 18 C.B.C.s located in all corners of the state and including an impressive (or disturbing?) 938 at Roswell 20 Dec (SB); evidence of early nesting was noted in Sierra 4 Jan (MS, JZ) and Union 24 Jan (JB). Continuing a trend, White-winged Doves were much in evidence in the n. half of the state, including one at Maxwell 15–22 Dec (ph. DC), a high 41 at Santa Fe 4 Jan (D. Einspahr), and one singing at Los Alamos 14 Feb (C. Jervis); a mere 42,521 were tallied at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GE et al.).

The state-first Eastern Screech-Owl, discovered at Portales in Nov, remained there through the period (J. Avery et al., ph. JO). Five Long-eared Owls were roosting in junipers in the Los Pinos Mts. 16 Dec (SOW, WH, WW). A Short-eared Owl at Zuni 20 Dec (JT) provided the lone report. Leading the hummingbird news was an ad. male Calliope Hummingbird present at an Albuquerque feeder Nov–15 Feb (ph. D. Foreman), the first to overwinter in the state. Elsewhere, a late Magnificent was banded at L. Roberts 2 Dec (JD-M), single Black-chinneds were at P.O. Canyon 19 Dec (CL) and near Carlsbad 26 Dec (SW, TH), and single Rufous were at Las Cruces 8–14 Dec (b. JD-M) and near Carlsbad 26 Dec (SW, TH). An Anna's at Las Cruces since Oct remained until at least 16 Jan (L. Schulte, b. J-DM), another was at Albuquerque 14 Dec (HS), and another was at a White's City feeder 14 Dec–31 Jan (m. ob.). Lewis's Woodpeckers continued in evidence s. of expected, including singles at Deming 1 Dec–3 Feb (LM), Mesilla 30 Dec (GE), and Otis 20 Dec (SW). Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers found their way to Santa Rosa 14 Dec—a male in town (D. White) and a female s. of town (WW). Unusual for the lower R.G.V. were 2 Hairy Woodpeckers at Percha 4 & 11 Jan (BZ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Several Empidonax flycatchers lingered well into the season, including an apparent Dusky at Bosque 20 Dec (DH, PB) and 10 Feb (PB) and an apparent Hammond's at Elephant Butte Dam 10 Jan (JEP, vt. JO) and possibly 7 Feb (JEP); at least one probable Dusky was in the G.B.A. 5 Dec, 9 Jan, and 14 Feb (RS). Eastern Phoebe were at nine sites from the R.G.V. eastward; w. were singles near Cliff 4 Dec (C. Fugalai) and K.K. 15 Jan (JZ). Vermilion Flycatchers were conspicuous in the

R.G.V., with up to 2 at Luis Lopez (JO, WW), Bosque (m. ob.), Palomas (GE), and Percha (BZ) Dec–Feb. One to 4 Northern Shrikes were at eight locales, including singles s. to Sevilleta N.W.R. 18 Dec (PB), Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WW), and Bosque Redondo 20 Dec (JEP, JO). Noteworthy was a Hutton's Vireo at Radium Springs 29 Jan–21 Feb (MS, JZ). A Steller's Jay wandered to Percha 4 Jan (BZ), but, in sharp contrast to last winter, the species was otherwise absent from lowland areas. Lingering swallows were 12 Trees and one Northern Rough-winged in the Caballo–Percha area 4 Jan (BZ, GE). Most unusual were 4 Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Cavern 2 Jan (R. West). Early swallows were a Northern Rough-winged at Mesilla 11 Feb (GE), a Barn at Bosque 18 Feb (RH), and 4 Trees at Loving 22 Feb (SW).

Unusual was a Black-capped Chickadee in the Sandia Mts. 21 Dec (NV, RG). Two Cactus Wrens in the Manzano Mts. foothills e. of Bernardo 15 Jan (JS) furnished a new locale for this expanding species. Late was a House Wren n. to Corrales 13 Dec (JEP); apparently wintering were single House Wrens at Carlsbad 4 Jan (SW), G.B.A. 9 Jan (RS), and Alamogordo 1 Feb (SW). A good season for Winter Wrens found singles at Santa Rosa 14 Dec (WW), Albuquerque 14 Dec (DM), G.B.A. 19 Dec (RS), Silver City 16 Dec (RS), and Mesilla 11 Feb (GE). Late for the n. were 3 Marsh Wrens at Morgan L. 1 Jan (AN); notable were 33 at C.H.R. 28 Dec (WW). Scarce n. to Socorro and Sierra, one to 2 Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were at Sevilleta 18 Dec (DH), Bosque 20 Dec (NC, SC), E.B.L. area 10 & 22 Jan (JEP, WW), and Caballo L. 4 Jan (BZ).

Eastern Bluebirds blanketed e. New Mexico, with multiple reports from 17 counties from the R.G.V. eastward, including a high 100 at Bosque Redondo 20 Dec (JEP, JO); w. were one at Zuni 18 Dec (JT) and 7 in the Florida Mts. 26 Feb (LM). Northerly Hermit Thrushes included one at Farmington 20 Dec (AN) and 2 at Española 21 Dec (BF); 9 were in a Russian Olive tree near Bernalillo 6 Jan (H. Walker). A well-described Varied Thrush near Gila Hot Springs 5 Feb (D. Russell) provided a *Grant* first. A Gray Catbird lingered in Cimarron Canyon, Colfax through 14 Dec (LH); another was at R.S. 31 Jan (CR) and 7 Feb (JO). Northern Mockingbirds typically are scarce (or absent?) in n. New Mexico in winter, so noteworthy were 2 at Farmington 20 Dec (AN), and singles at Clayton 27 Dec (CR), Ute L. 24–25 Dec and 24 Jan (ph. DC), and *Harding* 30 Jan (M. MacRoberts). Single Brown Thrashers were at Silver City 16 Dec (RS), R.G.N.C. Dec–Feb (m. ob.), C.H.R. 28 Dec (WW), and near San Jon 14 Feb (CR), and up to 3 were at R.S. 31 Jan–20 Feb (DE, BN, CR, JO).

Surveys for grassland birds found 2 Sprague's Pipits on Otero Mesa 21 Dec (RM)

and one there 21 Jan (RM), one at a site on White Sands Missile Range 9 Jan (NC) and 17 Feb (SC), one in the Five Points area of Sevilleta N.W.R. 16 Dec (CR, RV, J. DeLong), 2 near Deming 10 Dec (RM), and one w. of Gage 13 Dec (RM). Three Phainopeplas wintered n. to Socorro, where present Dec–Feb (PB). Additional evidence of wintering by Orange-crowned Warblers was provided by reports of singles near Cliff 3 Jan (RS), Silver City 16 Dec (RS), Caballo L. 4 Jan (BZ), and Carlsbad Caverns N.P. 14 Dec (SW), plus a hefty 13 at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GE). Single Yellow Warblers were reported at Las Cruces 14 Dec (GE) and near Santa Teresa 1 Jan (JNP). One to 2 Common Yellowthroats wintered at R.S. 14 Dec–8 Feb (SW, JEP, JO, CR).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

An Eastern Towhee at R.S. 16–20 Feb (DE, BN, JEP, vt. JO) provided the state's 8th overall record. Providing a first for the Zuni Mts. region was a Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Zuni 20 Dec (JT). An American Tree Sparrow was near Farmington 21 Feb (AN), where unusual, and another wintered s. to R.G.N.C. Dec–Feb (m. ob.); a high 15 were s. to C.H.R. 28 Dec (WW). Reflecting the effects of prolonged drought and poor livestock management, normally common grassland sparrows such as Chipping, Brewer's, and Vesper were conspicuously scarce or altogether absent in much of s. New Mexico. Two Black-chinned Sparrows were n. to the Los Pinos Mts. 16 Dec (WH). Searches for Baird's Sparrows on Otero Mesa found one on 22 Dec and 3 at the same site 15 Jan (RM), plus singles at three nearby sites 25–28 Jan (RM); another was near Deming 10 Dec (RM). Reddish Fox Sparrows were one at Maxwell 6–7 Dec (ph. DC) and up to 2 at R.S. 24 Jan–20 Feb (JEP, JO, DE, BN); a grayish Fox Sparrow was near Cliff 25 Feb (LM). Northerly Lincoln's Sparrows included 3 at R.G.N.C. 1 Jan (JEP) and singles in Cimarron Canyon 14 Dec (LH), Peña Blanca 12 Feb (WW), and Albuquerque's North Valley 25 Jan (DM). Swamp Sparrows were rarely noted in winter included 2 at Raton 16 Dec (DC) and one along Ute Cr., *Harding* 30 Jan (JEP); 5 were at Corrales 11 Dec (WH), and 20 were at C.H.R. 28 Dec (WW). Noteworthy *Zonotrichia* included a dark-lored White-crowned banded at R.G.N.C. 8 Feb (NC, SC), single Harris's at Bernardo 31 Jan (JEP) and e. of Tularosa 4–7 Dec (J. Hird), and single Golden-crowneds in the Sandia Mts. 21 Dec (NV, RG), at Albuquerque's North Valley 11 Jan (S. Norris), at Bosque 7 Jan (GF), and at Silver City 16 Dec (RS). A Lapland Longspur was s. to E.B.L. 6 Dec (JEP, JO); in the ne., Laplands were at seven sites in Colfax, *Union*, *San Miguel*, and *DeBaca*, including highs of 20 at Eagle Nest 30 Dec (ph. DC) and 44 at Stubblefield L. 28 Jan (DC).

A male Northern Cardinal was n. to Santa

Rosa 5 Feb (WW). Pyrrhuloxias at higher-than-usual elevations were singles at L. Roberts 25 Jan & 28 Feb (JO) and Ruidoso 20 Dec (A. Powell). A male Rusty Blackbird was at Clayton 27 Dec (CR), and single females were at R.G.N.C. from 18 Jan (JS) through Feb (m. ob., vt. JO) and Bosque 20 Dec (RV, RB). Common Grackles lingering in the n. included singles at Eagle Nest 1 Dec (DC) and Maxwell 15–21 Dec (ph. DC) and 5 at Clayton 27 Dec (CR); 5 were at Radium Springs 15 Jan (MS, JZ). Unusual for the season was a Brown-headed Cowbird at Zuni 17 Dec (JT). New Mexico's 2nd photographically documented Streak-backed Oriole put in a brief appearance near Radium Springs 20 Dec (MS, ph. JZ). Perhaps owing to poor snow cover, rosy-finches were generally scarce. About 60 mostly Black Rosy-Finches wintered at Sandia Crest Dec–Feb (KS et al.), where 21 Blacks and 7 Gray-crowneds were banded Jan–Feb (NC, SC); a three-species flock at Taos Ski Valley 6 Feb contained about 40 Blacks and 15 each of Gray-crowneds and Brown-capped (JEP, JO). Up to 4 Pine Grosbeaks were singing at Taos Ski Valley 6 Feb (JEP, JO), and 10 were s. to Sandia Crest 7 Dec (KS), where there were 4 on 30 Jan (*vide* KS); unusual was one w. to Zuni's Mullen Canyon 20 Dec (JT). Quite rare in New Mexico, single Purple Finches were documented at R.G.N.C. 8 Feb (RB, NC) and Eldorado 22 Feb (ph. JB). Cassin's Finches were scarce statewide and were largely absent from submontane areas. Red Crossbills likewise were scarce, with 65 in the Sandia Mts. 21 Dec (NV, RG) a notable exception. Lesser Goldfinches continued to winter in greater numbers and farther n. than previously known, including 3 at Costilla, Taos 6 Feb (JEP, JO) and 3 or more at Sugarite S.P., Colfax 9 Jan (JEP, JO). Lessers outnumbered Americans 65 to 38 at Farmington 20 Dec (AN), 30 to 6 at Maxwell 1 Jan–15 Feb (DC), and 45 to 40 at Albuquerque 14 Dec (HS), where Lessers largely replaced Americans in the North Valley Jan–Feb (DM).

Initialed observers: Pat Basham, Jonathan Batkin, Ryan Beaulieu, David Cleary, Nancy Cox, Steve Cox, Alan Craig, Joan Day-Martin, Robert Doster, Douglas Eymkals, Gordon Ewing, Bernard Foy, Gary Froehlich, Rebecca Gracey, David Hawksworth, Richard Heil, Lois Herrmann, Tom Hines, William Howe, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Larry Malone, David Mehlman, Raymond Meyer, Alan Nelson, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Christopher Rustay, Kenneth Schneider, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, James Stuart, John Trochet, Raymond Van-Buskirk, Nick Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Mark Watson, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer. ☉