

New Mexico



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Spring 2005 brought continued welcome precipitation early in the season, early arrival by many species, and continued expansion northward by warm-country species. Numerous rarities were discovered, thanks in large part to concerted vagrant searching in the east; 38 warbler species were credibly reported. Three species new to New Mexico were found, but only one—Little Stint—was photographed.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

PELICANS THROUGH FALCONS

A Brown Pelican at Ute L. 17 May (ph. DC)

provided a Quay first; one at E.B.L. 28 Mar (JEP, JO) had been present since Aug. Neotropical Cormorant continued to decline, with the few reports largely restricted to Bosque, where there was a "high" of 10 on 14 May (BN, DE); one was n. to Albuquerque 1 May (BV).

Now scarce, single American Bitterns were at B.L.N.W.R. 12 Mar–4 May (GW et al., ph. JO); one at Bottomless Lake S.P. 6 May provided the only additional report. Single vocal Least Bitterns were at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 14 May (CR), on the Ute Cr. arm of Ute L., *Harding* 22 May (JO), and at Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner 22 & 25 May (JO, JEP, WW). Great Egrets n. of usual included up to 3 in *Colfax* (DC), *Harding* (JO), and *Curry* (SW) Apr–May. Scarce n. to Socorro, an ad. Tricolored Heron was at Bosque 9–16 May (ph. JO, ph. CL, m.ob.); another was at E.B.L. 2 May (ph. JO). What was described as a white-morph Reddish Egret was at Bosque 6 May (PB); although nearly annual in recent years, this species is scarce in spring, and white morphs are scarcer still. Glossy Ibis made a strong showing, with a high of 3 at Bosque Redondo 22 Apr (JEP, ph. JO) and singles at Ute L. 2 May (ph. DC), Portales 19 May (ph. JO), Belen 1 May (MB), and Bosque 13 May (BN, ph. GF). Some 180 White-faced Ibis were at Laguna Madre near Stubblefield L. 9 May (DC),

where 20 were carrying nest material into flooded saltcedar 24 & 31 May (DC). Early Turkey Vultures were in the lower Pecos Valley, with 4 at Dexter 5 Mar (CR, BN) and one at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Mar (GW).

Internet reports of up to 5 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Bosque 22 Apr & 1 May were not substantiated; at least one escaped Bar-headed Goose was there 15 May (BN, DE). Last of the winter's Tundra Swans were 5 at B.L.N.W.R. 2 Mar (GW). West of usual haunts was a Wood Duck on the Gila R. at Redrock 6 May (JNP). Albuquerque's wintering Eurasian Wigeon was last seen 1 Mar (M. Means). Rare in spring, a Surf Scoter was at E.B.L. 15 Mar (J. & M. Hirth); the wintering White-winged Scoter at Clayton L. was seen 14 Apr (WH), while the last of the wintering *Colfax* Barrow's Goldeneyes was a male 7 & 11 Mar (DC).

Osprey continued its impressive recovery, with reports of migrants from all corners of the state; 64 were counted at the Sandia Mts. lookout 22 Mar–5 May (HWI), and 18 nests were active in n. New Mexico by 31 May (D. Stahlecker). Two White-tailed Kites were seen 2–10 May along State Line Rd. near Rodeo (REW), where scarce in recent years. Late was an ad. Bald Eagle at L. Roberts 10 Apr (CL); in *Catron*, a new nesting pair was discovered in early May but had failed, likely owing to disturbance, by 27 May (SOW). Northern Harriers suggestive of local breeding were a pair at Springer L. 27 May (DC), a pair plus singles in e. *Curry* 29 May (BN), 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 22 May (CL), and up to 4 along State Line Rd. near Rodeo in Apr–May (REW). After conflicts between nesting Cooper's Hawks and motel guests in 2004, the Rio Rancho Best Western instituted an educational campaign this year, complete with posters and informational flyers to all guests; guests were happy to watch nature in action and, although some "dive-bombing" occurred, no one complained (GG). One to 2 Gray Hawks were in upper Guadalupe Canyon 9 Apr+ (ph. JO, JEP, MB, AC). A Common Black-Hawk passed the Sandia Mts. lookout 2 Apr (HWI), the first there in 21 years of monitoring. Only 2 Broad-winged Hawks passed the Sandia Mts. lookout 30 Apr–5 May (HWI), but elsewhere singles were at Radium Springs 17 Apr (MS), at San Jon 24 Apr (CR), at Clovis 28 Apr (JA) and 4 May (JO), and at Tatum 6 May (JEP). Previously unreported in New Mexico, a light-morph ad. Short-tailed Hawk was seen twice in the Animas Mts. 24 May (JD, SOW); coming on the heels of growing presence in s. Texas and se. Arizona and recent documentation in n. Chihuahua (JD), the species was expected in New Mexico. Zone-tailed Hawk continued its growing presence in the ne., with singles in the Gallinas Valley at San Augustin, *San Miguel* (WW), s. of Mosquero 27 Apr (MM), and at Sumner Dam 8 May (ph.

JO, JEP); noteworthy for the Organ Mts. was one at Aguirre Springs 21 May (JNP). Very late Merlins were singles at Deming 30 Apr (LM), Socorro 1 May (CR), and Albuquerque 19 May (BN).

QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

Unexpected was a vocal Gambel's Quail at Santa Rosa L. 24 Apr (CR); a Gambel's Quail × Scaled Quail hybrid was noted 8 Mar at Sandia Heights (R. Slowen), where Gambel's was introduced several years ago. Common Moorhens were seldom reported were one e. to Clovis 6 May (JEP) and up to 2 in the R.S.-Black R. area 5-6 Mar (CR, BN, SW). An American Golden-Plover at Bosque 9 May (MB) provided the lone report. A high 11 Semipalmated Plovers were at Ute L. 24 Apr (CR, BN). The 31 Mountain Plovers at B.L.N.W.R. 16 Mar (GW) may have been grounded by a snowstorm; noteworthy were 13 near Logan 21 Mar (DC), one or 2 w. of Encino 28 Apr (JO) and 11 May (JEP), and one on Otero Mesa 8 Mar (RM). Willets made a strong showing 15 Apr-31 May, with highs of 45 near Cliff 2 May (CR), 39 at Springer L. 28 Apr (DC), 31 at Sumner Dam 9 May (JO), and 25 at E.B.L. 6 May (JNP). Very rare in spring, 4 Upland Sandpipers were at Lingo 14 May (LS). A Whimbrel at Ute L. 4 May (ph. DC) furnished the only report. Marbled Godwits were conspicuous from the R.G.V. eastward 6 Apr-18 May, including highs of 220 at Ute L. (CR, BN) and up to 90 at Bosque (JO, MB) 24 Apr.

The shorebird of the season was an ad. Little Stint, a species previously unreported in New Mexico, at B.L.N.W.R. 31 May (ph. JO, ph. M. Male, J. Fieth, GW). Very early was a Sanderling at Lordsburg 8 Apr (JEP, JO); latest were 4 at Ute L. 26 May (JO). Earliest White-rumped Sandpipers were 3 at B.L.N.W.R. 11 May (JEP); high counts were 15 at Portales 27 May (JEP) and 20 at B.L.N.W.R. 30 May (JO). A high count of 11 Pectoral Sandpipers came from Portales 8 May (CR, BN). A Dunlin was at Holloman L. 10 Mar (SW). Scarce in the R.G.V., a Stilt Sandpiper was at Bosque 23 Apr (JEP) and 3 May (JO); in the e., the high count was 157 at B.L.N.W.R. 18 May (GW).

Yet more Laughing Gulls reached New Mexico, with single ads. at Ruby Ranch n. of Las Vegas 18 Apr (WW) and at Sumner L. 8 May (ph. JO, JEP) and a second-year bird at Clovis 25 & 30 May (WW, ph. JO). Very early was a Franklin's Gull at the Socorro dump 16 Mar (JO); noteworthy for the nw. were 3 at Grants 11 Apr (M. Watson). Scarce in the sw., a Herring Gull was at Lordsburg 8 Apr (JEP, JO). Caspian Tern is a rare migrant in New Mexico, but this season produced singles at Bosque 2 May (ph. JO), Ute L. 5 May (ph. JO), and L. Avalon 6 May (ph. JO). Rare in spring, 2 Common Terns were at Clovis 30

May (ph. JO). Unreported since 2002, single ad. Arctic Terns were at Sumner L. 9 & 11 May (ph. JO, JEP) and Tucumcari L. 26 & 29 May (ph. JO, BN). A Forster's Tern at L. Avalon 5 Mar (CR, BN) may have wintered locally. Very early was a Least Tern at Caballo L. 18 Apr (JO); other migrants away from known breeding areas were singles at Tucumcari L. 26 May (JO), Clovis 26 & 30 May (JO), and Bosque 25 May (WW); the first nest at B.L.N.W.R. was initiated 15 May (J. Montgomery), while the Brantley L. colony numbered 18 ads. 24 May (RD).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS

Early was a Band-tailed Pigeon in the Burro Mts. 5 Mar (JEP). Although the colonization's novelty has passed, observers are encouraged to continue reporting Eurasian Collared-Dove, especially breeding activity; 2 at Crownpoint 30 May (DH) provided a new locality, and an active nest was at Ned Houk Park, Curry 28 May (CR). White-winged Doves continued to expand northward, including to Thoreau 22 May (CR, BN), Maxwell 28 Apr-28 May (ph. DC), Roy 23 Apr (CR, BN), near Mosquero 28 Apr (MM), Conchas L. 14 May (CR), and N.R.T. 12 Apr-21 May (m.ob.), as well as upward into forested areas, including Armijo Canyon, Sandia Mts. 21 Apr (HS) and Water Canyon 26 Apr (HS). Up to 2 Common Ground-Doves persisted at Rodeo through 10 Apr (JEP, CL, REW, MB); 3 were in Guadalupe Canyon 14 May (AC). At least 5 of the wintering Ruddy Ground-Doves were at Rodeo 4 Mar (JEP, CL), and 4 were there 10 Apr (MB); the last reported was one there 25 Apr (WW).

Unusual were 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos in an oak-juniper canyon s. of San Jon 29 May (CR, BN); others were seldom reported were one on Ute Cr., Harding 22 & 26 May (JO), 2 s. of Mosquero 14 May (MM), one n. of Melrose 28 May (CR, BN), 3 near Lingo 20 May+ (T. McDaniel), one e. of Milnesand 14 May (LS), and one at Tatum 19 May (JO). Two Barn Owl nests at B.L.N.W.R. had fledged or near-fledged young 30 Apr (GW). Noteworthy for the Animas Mts. was a pair of Flammulated Owls 14 May (NM-C). The resident Eastern Screech-Owl at Portales entertained many 6-8 May (ph. DK, ph. JO, m.ob.). A Whiskered Screech-Owl was in Indian Cr. Canyon, Animas Mts. 23-24 May (SOW, JD). Early was a vocal Elf Owl in Clanton Canyon 11 Mar (CL); the species returned to the Ladder Ranch, Sierra 25 Mar (S. Dobrott), while in Eddy, singles were in Rocky Arroyo 15 Apr (JEP) and 5 May (JO). Likely responding to favorable environmental conditions, an unprecedented number of Long-eared Owl nests were found in widely scattered locales and varying habitats, including prairie woodlots, riparian cottonwoods, mountain pines, and

desert mesquite; nests with young and/or fledglings were at Vermejo Ranch 13 May (ph. DC), Maxwell 12 May (ph. P. Hoban), Santa Fe 17 May (JPB), Cerrillos 18 May (AF, LS), Corrales in May (GG), Bosque in Apr (U.S.F.W.S.), L. Roberts 13-15 May (ph. R. & E. Daily), and Rodeo 18 Apr (M. Brown, ph. M. Parmer). Two Short-eared Owls took up residence in remnant prairie grasses w. of Portales, where seen by many 7-13 May (JEP, m.ob.) and where still present 25-31 May (JPB, ph. JO, GK); another was at Boone's Draw 8 May (JD).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH SHRIKES

Lesser Nighthawks arrived at Radium Springs (MS, JZ) and Brantley L. (JEP) 15 Apr; n. were 3 vocalizing at Clabber Hill Ranch, San Miguel 14 May (CR). A vocal Whip-poor-will was at Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts. 18 May (JEP), where also present last year. Two Black Swifts were near the Gila Cliff Dwellings 7 May (DB). Rare e. to DeBaca, a White-throated Swift was at Sumner Dam 8 May (JEP). Broad-billed Hummingbirds in the Peloncillo Mts. were singles in P.O. Canyon 14 May (fide AC) and Cottonwood Canyon 25 Apr (WW). A Magnificent Hummingbird was at L. Roberts 14 Mar (J. Day-Martin); 3 were in the Animas Mts. 24 May (SOW, JD). Lucifer Hummingbirds away from P.O. Canyon were single males in Cottonwood Canyon 25 Apr (WW) and 25 May (REW). Earliest Black-chinned were singles at Radium Springs 28 Mar (MS, JZ) and Deming 31 Mar (LM). A male Costa's Hummingbird was in Guadalupe Canyon 9 & 11 Apr (ph. JO, JEP, MB); surprisingly early was a male Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Oliver Lee S.P. 4 Mar (MS, JZ).

Continuing from Dec was a Red-bellied Woodpecker s. of Mosquero 3 Mar-14 May (ph. MM); another was w. to Springer 18 Mar (CB). Noteworthy for Colfax was a Red-headed Woodpecker near Cimarron 14 May (ph. DC). Up to 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were nicely documented s. of Mosquero 3 Mar-27 Apr (ph. MM); a Red-naped Sapsucker was e. to the Texas line in s. Roosevelt 9 Apr (LS). Scarce in the Sacramento Mts., an American Three-toed Woodpecker was in Philadelphia Canyon near Bonito L. 11 Mar (SW). Providing a first for the Magdalena Mts. was a vocal Greater Pewee in Water Canyon 1 (T. Brownell) & 10 May (JO, JEP). A vocal Acadian Flycatcher at N.R.T. 19 May (v.r. JO, MB, CL) provided the 5th well-documented state record. A Gray Flycatcher was early at Redrock 26 Mar (JEP, JO). Black Phoebes increased their northerly presence, including one below Navajo Dam 12 Mar (TR), one at Watrous 23 Apr (CR, BN), singles at two Cimarron sites 22 & 30 Apr (DC), 2 at Springer 12 May (DC), one at Conchas L. 14 May (CR), and 2 s. of Mosquero 24 Mar

(MM). Eastern Phoebe in likely breeding locales included 2 at Clayton L. 14 Apr (WH) and 30 May (JO), 4 s. of Mosquero 24–25 Mar and 13–14 May (MM), and up to 2 below Ute Dam 22 Mar and 8 Apr (DC). Vermilion Flycatchers continued to expand in the ne., including one far n. to Seneca, *Union* 29 May (ph. JO); others were at Cerrillos (AF, LS), s. of Mosquero (MM), Conchas L. (CR), Sumner Dam (CL, CR), Mesa, *Chaves* (RD), N.R.T. (SOW), Lingo (LS), and B.L.N.W.R. (JEP, JO, GW) Apr–May. Nicely documented were 2 vocal Dusky-capped Flycatchers n. to the Burro Mts. 13 May+ (v.r. RW, DB); very early Ash-throateds were singles at Carlsbad 23 Mar (SW) and Redrock 26 Mar (JEP, JO). Continuing from Feb, the Las Cruces Great Kiskadee was last reported 11 Mar (CL). Only one Thick-billed Kingbird was found in Guadalupe Canyon 14 May (AC). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers strayed w. to Farmington 8 May (J. Hamilton); others beyond usual range were singles near Cimarron 14 May (ph. DC) and Las Vegas N.W.R. 1–22 May (J. Arrott, DW), a pair s. of Mosquero 14 May (MM), and singles near Conchas L. 14 May (CR), San Jon 29 May (CR, BN), and Tolar 8 May (BN). Single Northern Shrikes were near Folsom 11 & 13 Mar (M. Stake, JO).

VIREOS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A good White-eyed Vireo season found singles at N.R.T. 21 May (JEP, JO), Crossroads 29 Apr (JEP, ph. JO), and R.S. 7 May (SW). A vocal Bell's Vireo was n. to N.R.T. 22 May (CL, JEP, JO), and up to 4 were at Bosque 30 Apr+ (m.ob.); others where seldom reported were singles at Deming 30 Apr (LM), the Little Hatchet Mts. 30 May (SOW), and Lordsburg 14 May (AC). Single Yellow-throated Vireos were at Percha 15 May (ph. CL) and Boone's Draw 28 May (ph. JPB). A Plumbeous Vireo at Mesilla 8 Apr (CL) was in an area where the species wintered; single Cassin's Vireos at Deming 12 Apr (LM), Hachita 20 Apr (WH), and Boone's Draw 21 Apr (JA) likely were early migrants. A Blue-headed Vireo at N.R.T. 18 May (ph. JO) provided the only detailed report of that species. A Pinyon Jay nest at Santa Fe 13 Mar (BF) was abandoned after a mid-Mar snowstorm; far e. were 62 Pinyons s. of Mosquero 25 Mar (MM) and 6 along the caprock s. of San Jon 14 May (SW).

Cave Swallows were frequenting a culvert at a new site n. of Las Cruces 5 May (R. Ketchum); three Cave nests were at a new Whites City site 12 May (SW). Encouraging was a report of 18 Mexican Chickadees, including one carrying food, in the Animas Mts. 14 May (NM-C). Scarce e. to *DeBaca*, 2 Bushtits were at Sumner Dam 8 & 22 May (JEP). Remnants of the winter's Red-breasted Nuthatch lowland invasion continued into spring, including singles at Mesilla 8

Apr (CL), Deming 12 Apr (LM), N.R.T. 8 May (DK), and Vaughn 15 May (CR). Two Pygmy Nuthatches were e. to Mills Canyon 3 Apr (CR, BN). Up to 2 Cactus Wrens were n. to the Mosquero area 3 Mar & 14 May (MM). A Carolina Wren on the CS Ranch e. of Cimarron 13 May (v.r. DC) provided a *Colfax* first. Single Winter Wrens were at La Joya 27 Mar (CR) and R.S. 6 & 20 Mar (SW). Late for the e. plains was a Golden-crowned Kinglet near Bueyeros, *Harding* 23 Apr (CR, BN). Noteworthy for *Luna* were single Black-tailed Gnatcatchers near Hermanas 4 Mar (JEP, JO) and in the Tres Hermanas Mts. 14 May (LM) and 3 in the Little Hatchet Mts. 13 May (LM).

Eastern Bluebirds continue to colonize the R.G.V., with a nest in an agave stalk near Radium Springs that fledged young 22 Apr (MS, JZ) and four pairs, including an active nest, in a burned area at Abeytas, *Socorro* 10 May (DH). Seldom noted in migration, a probable Veery was at N.R.T. 11 May (JB); migrant Swainson's Thrushes were there 3–31 May (JO et al.). Now almost dependable at N.R.T., a Wood Thrush was present 14–15 May (JO, JEP). Unexpected was a Varied Thrush found dead in San Andres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 13 May (RM). A pair of Gray Catbirds was s. to Bosque Redondo 30 May (JEP). Two Crissal Thrasher nests had small young at Petroglyph N.M. 10–11 Mar (HS), where singing began in Jan.

Following several winter reports, *Bohemian Waxwing* staged a respectable incursion into n. New Mexico 8 Mar–7 Apr, with reports from *Santa Fe*, *San Miguel*, *Bernalillo*, *Colfax*, *Union*, and *Harding* and including up to 50 at Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center 8 Mar–7 Apr (R. Ellenberg et al., ph. JO), up to 30 n. of Pecos 12–27 Mar (JPB et al., ph. GF), up to 27 in the Sandia Park-Cedar Crest area 28 Mar–2 Apr (J. Ligon et al.), with singles at Cimarron 25–26 Mar (ph. DC), Maxwell 4 Apr (DC), Capulin N.M. 13 Mar (JO), and Mills Canyon 3 Apr (CR, BN). Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings were found statewide Mar–May; among the last were over 700 at Corrales 15 May (J. Ruth). Continuing a northward trend, a *Phainopepla* was near Farmington 16 Mar (J. Tanner).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Among the highlights of a busy warbler season was a Blue-winged Warbler at N.R.T. 16 & 28 May (JB, JO, CR, BN). East of range, 2 Lucy's Warblers were conspicuous at R.S. 15 Apr+ (JEP, m.ob.); at their n. limit in the R.G.V., four pairs were tending fledglings at Veguita, n. *Socorro* 27 May (D. Varela-Phillips). Single Northern Parulas were at Miami L. 25 Apr (ph. DC), Sumner Dam 9 May (JEP, JO), and Boone's Draw 21 Apr (JA) and 10 May (DK) and up to 2 were at N.R.T. 14–16 May (m.ob.). Previously unreported

in New Mexico, a singing *Tropical Parula* was described at the Gila Bird Area 30 Apr (JPB), but efforts to relocate it were unsuccessful. Very early was a Yellow Warbler at Percha 19 Mar (JEP), as was one at Bosque 26 Mar (CR). Also early was a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Albuquerque 2–17 Apr (N. Baczek, ph. JO, MB, JEP, DH); elsewhere, at least 2 Chestnut-sideds were at N.R.T. 13–15 May (ph. JO, m.ob.). A *Magnolia Warbler* stopped briefly at N.R.T. 28 May (JEP, JO, BN). The Black-throated Gray Warbler that wintered at Mesilla was still there 11 Mar (CL); the earliest migrant was one at Bosque 17 Apr (JO). A Black-throated Green Warbler at N.R.T. 10 May (JB) provided the lone report. Rare in spring, 2 Hermit Warblers were in the Animas Mts. 14 May (NM-C). With fewer than 20 records, *Blackburnian Warbler* is one of the rarer e. strays; this season found a female at N.R.T. 15 May (JEP, ph. JO, SW) and a male in Water Canyon the same day (ph. R. Reed, ph. C. Pasterczyk). Notably early Grace's Warblers were singles at Emory Pass and near San Lorenzo 8 Apr (JEP) and in the Manzano Mts. 14 Apr (HS). The Pine Warbler that wintered at Kirtland A.F.B. was seen 17 Mar (JEP, MB). A Palm Warbler of the nominate subspecies was at N.R.T. 9 May (JEP, ph. JO). Other rare strays included a Bay-breasted Warbler at N.R.T. 14–15 May (ph. JO, JEP, CR, SW), a Blackpoll Warbler at Sumner Dam 9 May (GK) and another at Bandelier N.M. 20 May (ph. JPB), a Prothonotary Warbler banded near Cliff 17 May (M. & C. Fugaglie), single Worm-eating Warblers at Albuquerque 3 May (ph. J. Stanek), Boone's Draw 8 May (JD), and near Gila 29 May (K. Brodhead), a Swainson's Warbler at Boone's Draw 27–28 May (JEP, JO, JPB), and single Kentucky Warblers in Otero Canyon, Manzanita Mts. 15 May (BV) and at R.S. 29 Apr (CL). Among the rare-but-regulars were single Black-and-white Warblers at six sites from the R.G.V. eastward, including one at San Andres Spring 13 May (RM), one to 3 American Redstarts at five sites, including singles s. of Mosquero 14 May (MM) and at Quarai 16 May (HS), and one or more Hooded Warblers at N.R.T. 6 (JEP, CR, BN), 12 (vt. JO), & 19 May (ph. CL), plus single Hoodeds at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Apr (GK, JA), Milnesand 29 Apr (JEP, JO) and w. to the Animas Mts. 24 May (SOW, JD).

Hepatic Tanagers where rarely encountered were one n. to the Ortiz Mts. 21 May (LS) and, in *Bernalillo*, a male in Hondo Canyon 22 May (RD) and a pair at Cedro Peak 30 May (JEP). A Summer Tanager was singing n. to Pilar, *Taos* 23 May (WH) A male Scarlet Tanager at Mesilla 4 May (J. Douglas) provided the 2nd for *Doña Ana* A wave of 248 Western Tanagers hit sw. Santa Fe 14 May (DW), but only 33 were there the following day (DW).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Responding to favorable conditions, numerous Cassin's Sparrows were singing early throughout e. and s. New Mexico, including in sw. areas where typically scarce or absent in spring. A Botteri's Sparrow was on territory in the Animas Valley 23 May (SOW, JD). Late and s. of expected was an American Tree Sparrow on Yeso Cr. s. of Yeso 29 Mar (WH). Six Black-chinned Sparrows were ne. to Corazon Hill, *San Miguel* 14 May (CR); noteworthy for *Harding* were 2 Black-throateds at Bueyeros 23 Apr (CR, BN). Early was a Sage Sparrow at Stubblefield L. 11 Mar (ph. DC). As expected in years of plentiful winter-spring rains, Lark Bunting remained in numbers in ne. New Mexico through May; singing males were found w. to Santa Fe in mid-May (M. Ristow, LS). A Savannah Sparrow was singing at Bluewater L. 22 May (CR, BN). Two Baird's Sparrows were in *Luna* grasslands 8 Mar (RM). Last Fox Sparrows were a grayish one s. of Mosquero 3 Mar (MM) and a reddish one at R.S. 5 Mar (CR). Harris's Sparrows were unusually well distributed, with singles at Aztec 6 May (Mary LaRue), Maxwell 14 Mar-5 May (ph. DC, ph. JO), w. of Datil 24-27 May (ph. J. & G. Hardie), s. of Mosquero 25 Mar (MM), near Portales 8 Mar (J. Nelson-Moore), Milnesand 29 Apr (JEP), Radium Springs 17 Mar-30 Apr (ph. MS, ph. JZ), and R.S. 20 Mar (SW), plus 2 at Boone's Draw 21 Apr (JA). Golden-crowned Sparrows were confined to *Colfax*, with singles at Maxwell 7-8 May (ph. DC) and the CS Ranch 13 May (DC). Four Yellow-eyed Junco territories were mapped in the Burro Mts. 3-4 May (JD); a nest with eggs was in the Animas Mts. 14 May (R. A. Rowlett, ph. NM-C), where a partial survey found five territories 24 May (JD, SOW). A bright Lapland Longspur at Ruby Ranch n. of Las Vegas 18 Apr (WW) was late, as was a Chestnut-collared Longspur near Hermanas 30 Apr (DH).

Northern Cardinal continues to expand northward, including in the R.G.V., with a male at Albuquerque 26 May (DH) and another male at Luis Lopez 21 Apr (ph. JO); in the ne., singles were at Santa Rosa 5 Mar (WW) and near Conchas L. 14 May (CR), while noteworthy for the sw. were single males in the Little Hatchet Mts. 30 May (SOW) and Lake Valley 21 May (PS). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited at least 17 locales from the R.G.V. eastward; singles were w. to Farmington 3 May (H. Richard) and Silver City 18 May (*vide* DB). Notably early were single Lazuli Buntings at B.L.N.W.R. and R.S. 15 Apr (JEP). Three Painted Buntings were n. to Conchas L. (CR) and one was at N.R.T. (JO) 14 May; in the R.G.V., 2 were n. to Radium Springs 11 & 25 May (MS, JZ). Single Dickcissels were w. to Socorro 13 May (PB) and the Ladder Ranch, *Sierra* 17 May (WW).

A male Bobolink was singing in Albuquerque's North Valley 15 May (K. Herzenberg); another male was in the San Andres Mts., e. *Sierra* 25 May (ph. CL). Bronzed Cowbirds were prevalent in *Grant*, *Hidalgo*, *Luna*, and *Doña Ana*, including 17 at Separ 17 May (LM), and one was n. to Socorro 5 May (BF). In the Pecos Valley, one was n. to B.L.N.W.R. 24 May (GW), while in the e. plains, one was at Oasis S.P. 7 May (GK), up to 2 were at Boone's Draw 1 (CL) & 29 May (JO, BN), and one was at N.R.T. 28 May (JEP). Orchard Oriole continued to appear n. and w. of usual, including one at Maxwell 17 May (ph. DC), 2 near Conchas L. 14 May (CR), and 2-4 at Ute L. 18-26 May (JO, DC). Far n. was a male Hooded Oriole at El Morro N.M. 7 May (C. Grimes); another was reported at Santa Fe 25 Apr (M. Grover). Extensively detailed was a first-spring female Baltimore Oriole near Radium Springs 19 Apr (MS), where an early Bullock's arrived 28 Mar (MS, JZ).

A three-species flock of 60 rosy-finches was at Sandia Crest 12 Apr, and 25 were there 13 Apr (*vide* K. Schneider); the last at Eagle Nest was a three-species flock of 52, primarily Brown-capped, 1 Apr (DC). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was at Chama 2 Mar (RD); 11 lingered s. to Sandia Crest 18 Mar (JEP). Moderate numbers of Cassin's Finches were widespread Mar-Apr, from Farmington e. to Folsom and s. to Guadalupe Canyon and Cloudcroft; noteworthy were 70 in the Burro Mts. 4 Mar (JO). Small numbers of Red Crossbills were similarly widespread, including 10 e. to Mills Canyon 3 Apr (CR, BN), 10 in the Sawtooth Mts. 7 Apr (SOW), 18 in the Burro Mts. 2-4 May (JD), and 2 at Timberon 1 May (C. Wagner). Pine Siskins lingered in nonbreeding areas through Apr; late were 2 near Clovis 28 May (CR, BN), one at Deming 21 May (LM), and 5 in the Little Hatchet Mts. 30 May (SOW). Astounding was a male Lawrence's Goldfinch n. to Corrales 9-12 Mar (J. Kneen).

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