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Winter 2006-2007 was characterized by heavy snows in December and January, but a February warming trend ushered in early migration and breeding by several species. Improved grassland conditions across the south resulted in strong showings by many species, especially grassland raptors, pipits, and sparrows. Gulls were much in the news, including New Mexico's first Iceland Gulls and second confirmed Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); C.C.N.P. (Carlsbad Caverns N.P.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); G.B.A. (Gila Bird Area, riparian habitat along Gila R. below Riverside); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, *Eddy*).

SWANS THROUGH VULTURES

A good Tundra Swan season found 3 in the Maxwell area 2 Dec-7 Jan (ph. DC, JEP, MW), 3 at Cherry L., *Mora* 7 Jan (MW), 4 at L.V.N.W.R. 2 Dec (JEP), and one at B.L.N.W.R. 1 Dec (JH). An impressive 47 Wood Ducks were at Mesilla Dam 8 Dec (CGL); noteworthy for the sw. were 2 at Glenwood 21 Jan (*vide* D. Beatty) and one in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (JEP). Getting an early start was a Mallard nesting at Santa Fe 23 Feb (LS). High count for Greater Scaup was 9 at Ute L. 9 Dec (ph. DC), where there were 4 on 6 Jan (JEP) and 2 on 28 Jan (NP, MB). Continuing from Nov, 2 Surf Scoters lingered at Deming until 9 Dec (LM, JO). A White-winged Scoter was in the Maxwell-Stubblefield area 3 Dec-1 Jan (ph. DC, JEP, ph. MH). Up to 2 Long-tailed Ducks were at Stubblefield L. 7 Dec-28 Feb (ph. DC, JEP,

NP, MB, BN, CR). Noteworthy for s. *Hidalgo* was a Bufflehead at McKinney Tank w. of Antelope Wells 23 Feb (DG). Maintaining a *Colfax* presence were a male Barrow's Goldeneye at Stubblefield L. 2 Dec-6 Jan (JEP, ph. DC), where there was a female 1-6 Jan (ph. DC); a male was there again 23 Feb (DC).

Single Pacific Loons at Conchas L. 4 Jan (MH) and Sunland Park 17 Dec (BN, CR) provided the only reports. An impressive raft of 35 Horned Grebes was at Ute L. 4 Jan (MH); in the R.G.V., singles were at Cochiti L. 10 & 26 Dec (WH) and Caballo L. 16 Feb (JEP), and up to 2 were at E.B.L. 14 Dec (RD) and 27 Jan (BN, CR). North for the season were an American White Pelican at Ute L. 7 Jan (MW) and a Double-crested Cormorant at Farmington 16 Dec (AN). Neotropic Cormorant made a small comeback in the R.G.V., with highs of 14 at Bosque 28 Jan (WH), 16 at E.B.L. 19 Feb (CR), 24 at Caballo L. 3 Feb (WH), 8-9 at Burn L. 9-10 Feb (JEP, MS, JZ), and one at Sunland Park 5 & 12 Jan (MS, JZ,



Adding to a series of recent New Mexico records, this Crested Caracara was in the Animas Valley, Hidalgo County 31 December 2006. Photograph by Charles R. Britt.

JEP); noteworthy for *Eddy* was one at R.S. 25 Jan (ph. C. Riegelmayr). Single American Bitterns were at B.L.N.W.R. 2 & 13 Jan (SW, JB) and Mesilla 10 Dec (M. Brooks). North was a Great Egret at Socorro 20 Jan (JEP); high count for winter was 33 at Six Mile Dam 3 Feb (SW). Apparently wintering were a Snowy Egret near Doña Ana 11 Jan (MS) and 3 at Mesquite 22 Jan (CGL). Very late was an ad. Little Blue Heron at Caballo L. 3 Dec (DH). Providing a winter first, a Reddish

Egret was at B.L.N.W.R. 19 Dec-4 Jan (ph. JH), where one had been present in Oct. A Cattle Egret was n. to Bosque 7 & 15 Jan (BN, CR, RD); others were in *Doña Ana* Dec-Feb, including a high count of 74 at Las Cruces 16 Dec (TL). A White-faced Ibis wintered at Belen 16 Dec-24 Feb (m.ob.), and at least one was at B.L.N.W.R. 27 Dec-21 Feb (JH), where 2 were seen 2 Jan (SW). Late were 2 Turkey Vultures at Roswell 16 Dec (SB); unexpected in winter was one e. of Animas 12 Jan (JB).

KITES THROUGH GULLS

Good grassland conditions proved attractive to White-tailed Kites in s. New Mexico, with reports from four counties, including one in the Animas Valley 9 Jan (SS, JY), a pair plus a single e. of Hermanas 22 Feb (RM), a pair near Isaack L. 7-24 Dec (ph. JO, ph. CGL, ph. DG, m.ob.), and one at Seven Rivers W.M.A. 9-21 Dec (ph. SW, JO). Another raptor that benefited from healthy grasslands was Northern Harrier, which was unusually numerous statewide, including detections on 26 of 29 Christmas Birds Counts. North in the R.G.V. was a Harris's Hawk at Sevilleta N.W.R. 19 Dec (N&SC); 4 were near Tularosa 6 & 22 Feb (CRB, CGL), while in the sw., 7 were in *Luna* (LM) and 2 were in *Hidalgo* (*vide* RSS) 2 Dec. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk, apparently one of the e. subspecies, was near Radium Springs 11-15 Feb (MS, ph. JZ, m.ob.). High counts for Ferruginous Hawk were 21 at the Navajo farms s. of Farmington 3 Feb (AN) and 13 at Las Vegas 27 Dec (DE). Far s., a Rough-legged Hawk was at Cloverdale 18 Feb (GB, SS), and 2 were at Six Mile Dam 23 Jan (SW). An imm. Crested Caracara was in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (ph. CGL, ph. CRB, CR), the 2nd consecutive winter for the species in *Hidalgo*. Merlins were well distributed Dec-Feb, especially in the sw., including a high 5 on the Peloncillo Mountains C.B.C. 31 Dec (AC); noteworthy for the e. was one at Jal 4 Feb (SW). Single Peregrine Falcons lingered into Dec at several s. locales, including 2 in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (AC); one in w. *Doña Ana* 7 Jan (MS, JZ) provided the only detailed Jan report.

Late for the n. were 3 Virginia Rails at Stubblefield L. 1 Jan (DC). Noteworthy for *Hidalgo* were 300 Sandhill Cranes at Virden 29 Dec (JEP) and over 1000 at Cotton City 31 Jan (DG); an albino Sandhill was near Hermanas 30 Jan (J. Krakowski). Black-necked Stilts again wintered at Sunland Park, including 5 on 2 Jan (MS, JZ) and 4 on 12-13 Jan (JEP, CGL); 14 were there 9 Feb (JEP). Late American Avocets were 5 at Lordsburg Playa 5 Dec (DG) and 2 at Sunland Park 10 Dec (NP); earliest were 2 in *Doña Ana* 15 Feb (LM) and 8 at

Lordsburg Playa 22 Feb (ph. J. Bird). Noteworthy for midwinter was a Lesser Yellowlegs with 3 Greaters at Bosque 7 Jan (BN, CR); another was with 2 Greaters near Loving 23 Dec (SW). Increasingly evident in winter, 83 Long-billed Curlews were in the Loving area 23 Dec (C. Cranston, SW); in *Luna*, 13 were ne. of Hermanas 16 Jan (LM), and 11 were there 22 Feb (RM), while 9 were w. of Columbus 27 Jan (DH). Nicely documented were single Dunlins at Holloman L. 8 Dec–22 Feb (JO, ph. JB, m.ob.) and Lordsburg Playa 3 Feb (ph. RFS). Typically scarce in winter, Bonaparte's Gulls this season included 15 at Santa Rosa L. 17 Dec (WW), 30 at Six Mile Dam 23 Jan (SW), and 40 at L. Avalon 21 Feb (SW); in the R.G.V., one was at E.B.L. 22 Dec (CGL), and one to 2 were at Caballo L. 9 Dec (CGL) and 3–19 Feb (m.ob.). A strong showing by Mew Gull produced an ad. at Farmington 16 Dec (ph. T. Reeves), one to 2 ads. at E.B.L. 3–11 Feb (JEP, DK, WH, ph. GF), an ad. at Caballo L. 29 Dec–27 Jan (ph. CGL, ph. MB, ph. MH), and an ad. at Sunland Park 6 Dec–12 Jan (JNP, MS, JZ, ph. CRB). Herring Gulls were unusually plentiful at E.B.L., with 12–22 counted on various dates 25 Jan–7 Feb (m.ob.) and a high 25 there 11 Feb (WH); noteworthy for *Mora* was an ad. at Calley's L. 10 Feb (BN, CR). The gull excitement at E.B.L. produced an ad. Thayer's 13 Jan–11 Feb (JEP, m.ob., ph.). Providing a New Mexico first was an extensively documented first-cycle Iceland Gull at Sunland Park 5 Dec–26 Feb (ph. JNP, ph. JO, ph. CGL, ph. GF, ph. JB, ph. MB, ph. JZ, m.ob.); another imm. Iceland was discovered at Caballo L. 4 Feb (ph. CGL), some 100 km nw. of Sunland Park. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at E.B.L. 24 Jan–7 Feb (GB, ph. JO, ph. MB, ph. MH, ph. CGL, ph. JB, ph. SC, m.ob.) provided the 2nd confirmed New Mexico record.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Now a conspicuous component of New Mexico's avifauna, Eurasian Collared-Dove was found on 27 of 29 C.B.C.s, including a high 929 at Roswell 16 Dec (SB) and, in the w., 102 at Farmington 16 Dec (AN), 33 at Zuni 30 Dec (JT), and 95 at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS). A vocal pair of Inca Doves was n. to Aztec 23 Jan+ (W. McNall). Another good Ruddy Ground-Dove season found a male at Cotton City 29 Dec–4 Feb (JEP, ph. CGL, CB, JO), a male in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (JEP), and a female near Radium Springs 15 Jan–3 Feb (MS, ph. JZ, DG); a Common Ground-Dove



Mew Gulls were documented at four New Mexico locales this season, including these two (left and background right, with Ring-billed) at Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra County 11 February 2007. Photograph by Gary K. Froehlich.

was with the Ruddy at Cotton City 29 Dec–27 Jan (JEP, CRB). Apparently another refugee from the cagebird trade, a Military Macaw was at Sunland Park 24 Dec (WW) and 9 Jan (JY). Up to 6 Whiskered Screech-Owls were active in Clanton Canyon 12 Jan (ph. MH). Some 25 Long-eared Owls were in a saltcedar roost near Santa Teresa 10 (CGL) & 16 Feb (MS, ph. JZ); other day roosts included 8 in saltcedar near Cimarron 27 Feb (DC), 5 in



Providing a first for New Mexico, this Iceland Gull split its time between Sunland Park, Doña Ana County (here) and nearby El Paso, Texas 5 (here 14) December 2006 through 26 February 2007. Photograph by Gary K. Froehlich.

sumac at Hiblar Tank near Las Cruces 16 Dec–11 Feb (DG, CGL), and 6 in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (JEP); very early, a Long-eared was incubating a nest in mesquite n. of Hachita 22 Feb (RM). Improved grasslands resulted in multiple Short-eared Owl reports: singles near Maxwell 10 Feb (BN, CR), Zuni's Tekapo L. 28–30 Dec (JT), and C.C.N.P. 16 Dec (SW), 3 near Rodeo 30 Dec (CR), and 4 in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (CR); one win-

tered Dec–Feb near Hermanas (DH).

Remarkable were 20 White-throated Swifts n. to Farmington 15 Jan (A. James, *fide* AN); other mid-winter concentrations were 25 at R.S. 8 Jan (SW), 100 at Davies Tank, *Doña Ana* 25 Jan (DG), and 20 near Radium Springs 27 Jan (CGL, CRB). A Broad-billed Hummingbird was e. to Carlsbad Dec–Feb (ph. SW), where an Anna's persisted until 28 Jan (SW); the Anna's at Eunice in Nov was last seen 4 Dec (P. McCasland). Nicely documented was a male Rufous Hummingbird at Silver City 17 Dec (ph. M. Murphy); undetailed was one at Las Cruces 16 Dec (TL). Unexpected were 2–3 Lewis's Woodpeckers at Virden 29 Dec–3 Feb (JEP, JO); another was s. to Mesilla 22–24 Feb (MS, ph. JZ, CGL, ph. CRB). Several Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were w. to the R.G.V. and environs, including singles at Los Alamos 3 Dec–16 Jan (ph. B. Swartz), Santa Fe 2 Jan (DE) and 20 Feb (BF), Bosque 22 Dec–28 Jan (m.ob.), Percha 9 Dec–4 Feb (CGL, CB, JEP), and Leasburg 27 Jan–10 Feb (m.ob., ph. JZ, ph. CGL); 2 were in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NV). North was a male Red-naped Sapsucker near Cimarron 18 Dec (ph. DC). Single American Three-toed Woodpeckers were at Sandia Crest 3 Dec (J. Joseph) and 29 Jan (J. Haw).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Wintering *Empidonax* flycatchers continued to increase, including single apparent Hammond's at E.B.L. Dam 13 Jan (JEP), Percha 17 Dec–13 Jan (BN, CR, CGL, LM, JEP), near



This Iceland Gull at Caballo Lake, Sierra County 4 February 2007 was the second to be documented in New Mexico this season. Photograph by Carl G. Lundblad.

Rincon 4 Feb (MS, ph. JZ), and in the Animas Valley 13 Jan (MH); apparent Duskiess were one at Bosque 15 Dec (WH) and another at a different site there Dec–Feb (DH), and one at Leasburg 14 Jan and 3 Feb (CGL). *Empidonax* flycatchers of undetermined species were up to 3 at Bosque 15 Dec (DH), 2 in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (*vide* AC), 2 at G.B.A. 9 Dec (RSS) and singles there 22 Dec and 2 Feb (RSS), and singles near Cliff 25 Jan (LM) and 11 Feb (SW), Percha 17 Dec (BN, CR) and 13 Jan (JEP), Roswell 16 Dec (*vide* SB), and C.C.N.P. 16 Dec (*vide* SW). Black Phoebees in the n. were 2 at Zuni's Blackrock Dam 29 Dec (JT) and singles at Grants 18 Feb (CG), Dixon 16 Dec (RT), and Española 23 Dec (BF); 2 Say's lingered at Farmington 16 Dec (AN). North was an Eastern Phoebe at Corrales 17 Dec (DK, CR); one was w. to Cliff 30 Dec (RSS). Vermilion Flycatchers increased their wintering presence across s. New Mexico, with multiple reports for Grant, Hidalgo, Socorro, Sierra, Doña Ana, and Eddy; n. were singles at Glenwood 23 Dec (R. Skaggs) and Albuquerque 24 Dec (CR). For the 2nd consecutive year, an Ash-throated Flycatcher wintered below Caballo Dam, where seen and heard 29 Dec (DH) and 10 Feb (JEP).

Northern Shrikes were conspicuous in Colfax, with singles reported from seven locales Dec–Feb (m.ob.) and 3 at Raton 25 Dec (DC); one was s. to Lamy 10–18 Feb (BN, CR, ph. JB). Wintering vireos with useful details were a Plumbeous at Percha 3 Dec (ph. CGL) and a Blue-headed near Aguirre Springs 8 Jan (MS, ph. JZ). Maintaining an Organ Mts. presence were 5 Hutton's Vireos at Aguirre Springs 25 Feb (MS, JZ) and 2 in Filmore Canyon 7 Jan (ph. CGL). Blue Jays were especially prevalent in Colfax, with reports from several locales and including 5 at Yankee 23 Dec (DC), 5 at Chase Ranch near Cimarron 18 Dec (DC), 4 on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron 11 Feb (BN, CR), 3 at Cimarron 21 Dec (ph.

EW), and 2 at Raton 19 Jan (JEP). Pinyon Jays continued scarce in the n. but were numerous in the sw., including 500 at G.B.A. 1 Dec (RSS), 953 at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS), and 70 at Bear Canyon L. 5 Jan (EL). Several swallows arrived unusually early; remarkable was an ad. male Purple Martin at Deming 27 Feb (LM). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow lingered near Santa Teresa 8 Dec (CRB, CGL) and 5 Jan (MS, JZ); presumably early were one at Radium Springs 9 Feb (JEP) and 3 there 16 Feb (MS), one to 2 at Mesilla 16 Feb (CRB), 2 at Percha 19 Feb (CR), and one at Caballo L. 19 Feb (CR). Also early were numerous Cliff Swallows in Doña Ana 25 Feb (CGL). Fourteen Cave Swallows returned to C.C.N.P. 5 Feb (*vide* SW), and an early Barn was at Carlsbad 25 Feb (SW).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Noteworthy at 2620 m was a Canyon Wren at Black L., Colfax 7–16 Feb (ph. P. Monk). North for the season were single House Wrens at Cerrillos 4 Feb (LS) and Madrid 7 Feb (LS). Winter Wrens were singles at two



Providing New Mexico's second confirmed record, this Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra County 24 (here 30) January through 7 February 2007. Photograph by Steven W. Cox.

upper Cimarron Canyon sites 1–26 Dec (DC) and at Cliff 21 Jan (E. Wooten). The American Dipper at Percha since Oct was last reported 9 Feb (JEP). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers with useful details were singles at Petroglyph N.M. 17 Dec (NP) and Santa Teresa 8 Dec (CRB, CGL). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher at E.B.L. Dam 3 Feb (JEP) provided a new R.G.V. locale, and 2 were at Leasburg 9 Feb (MS, JZ); noteworthy were 4 in the Mockingbird Mts., Socorro 4 Jan (CGL) and 2 in the Fairview Mts., Sierra 4 Jan (CGL). Eastern Bluebirds, presumably of the w. Mexican subspecies, were plentiful in the Peloncillo Mts.,

including 54 there 31 Dec (AC); others in the w. included 2 at Zuni 30 Dec (JT), 25 at G.B.A. 16 Dec (RSS), and 6 at Deming 6 Dec (LM); Easterns were plentiful from the R.G.V. eastward, including highs of 97 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HS) and 80 in the Caballo–Percha area 30 Dec (BV). Western Bluebirds were mating at Cerrillos 7 Feb (LS); a record 1033 Mountains were at Farmington 16 Dec (AN). Hermit Thrush remained n. in numbers, including 4 at Farmington 16 Dec (AN), 8 at Española 23 Dec (BF), 12 at Santa Fe 2 Jan (DE), and one at Cimarron 11 Feb (DC); 39 were at Albuquerque 17 Dec (HS). A Brown Thrasher at Corrales 17 Dec (DK) marked the 6th winter for the species there; another was at Eldorado 9 Dec–11 Jan (ph. J. Nelson-Moore). Pushing the northern envelope were single Curve-billed Thrashers at two Cimarron sites 15–16 Dec (ph. DC, ph. EW) and one at Dixon 16 Dec (RT); a Crissal was n. to Santa Fe 2 Jan (DE).

Lush grasslands produced record numbers of Sprague's Pipits in the sw., especially near Hermanas, where there were 42 on 2 Dec (DH), 9 on 16 Jan (LM), 13 on 27 Jan (DH), and one 17 Feb (ph. CGL, CRB); others included 4 in w. Doña Ana 7 Jan (MS, JZ), where there were 3 on 13 Jan (ph. CGL) and 2 on 17 Feb (CGL, ph. CRB), up to 2 e. of Hachita 17 Feb (CGL), 3 in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (CR), and 2 in McKinney Flats near Antelope Wells 5 Dec, plus singles there 20 Dec–25 Feb (DG); farther n., at least one Sprague's was in Socorro grasslands w. of Bingham 16 Dec and 5 Jan (JEP). A Phainopepla pair was n. to Socorro Dec–Feb (P. Basham), and singles were at two Bosque sites 15 Dec (WH, C. Brozek). Two Olive Warblers were vocal at Aguirre Springs 7 Jan (DG) and 25 Feb (MS, JZ).

Now regular in winter in the lower R.G.V., Orange-crowned Warblers were noted at eight Doña Ana sites Dec–Feb (m.ob.); lingering into mid-Dec were singles at Silver City 17 Dec (RSS), Animas Valley 20 Dec (DG), the Avalon–Brantley area 17 Dec (T. Hines), and R.S. 16 Dec (SW). Remarkably late was an ad. male Black-throated Gray Warbler at Caballo Dam 26 Dec (*vide* BV). A Pine Warbler was a surprise at Velarde 16 Dec (ph. M. MacRoberts). Unexpected was a male Wilson's Warbler near Radium Springs 25 Dec (MS, ph. JZ); a female was seen earlier at Mesilla Dam 2 Dec (ph. CGL) and apparently wintered, as it was seen 8 Feb (CGL).



Historically scarce in New Mexico, Lapland Longspur has been found with increasing frequency in recent years; these were part of a flock of some 150 near Maxwell, Colfax County 3 February 2007. Photograph by David J. Cleary.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Cassin's Sparrow was singing e. of Las Cruces by 17 Feb (*vide* HS). A high count of 72 Rufous-crowned Sparrows came from the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AC). Two American Tree Sparrows were s. to Albuquerque 24 Dec (CR). Both Chipping and Brewer's Sparrows were abundant across the south; northerly Chippings included 2 at Farmington 16 Dec (AN), 12 at Albuquerque 17 Dec (MH), and 8 in the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (W. Rowe, NV), while northerly Brewer's were one at Zuni 27 Dec (JT), 4 at Petroglyph N.M. 17 Dec (NP), and 92 at Sevilleta N.W.R. 19 Dec (N&SC). Unexpected in winter, single Clay-colored Sparrows were at Rodeo 21 Jan (R. Webster) and Columbus 29 Dec (CR). A Black-chinned Sparrow was n. to the Sandia Mts. 26 Dec (NP, MB). An impressive 26 Lark Sparrows were at Virden 29 Dec (JEP), and 20 were there 26 Jan (JEP); other credible reports were 2 at Cotton City 4 Feb (JO) and singles at Columbus 29 Dec (CR) and near Mesilla 9 Dec (CRB) and 7 Jan (ph. CGL). Conditions favored Lark Buntings in the sw., with 2500 near Columbus 29 Dec (CR) and 1000 near Animas 30 Dec (JEP).

Grasshopper Sparrows were rarely encountered in winter were singles w. of Bingham 25 Jan (CRB, CGL), at San Simon Cienega 26 Jan (JEP), and at 1950 m above Owl Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 27 Dec and 22 Feb (CDL); a high count of 30 came from the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AC). Baird's Sparrows with useful details were 4 in the middle Animas Valley 31 Dec (CR), up to 5 in the s. Animas Valley 18 Feb (SS, GB), and 2 in McKinney Flats near Antelope Wells 17 Jan,

with one there 24 Feb (DG); one or more passed through Otero Mesa grasslands in early Dec (RM). A Le Conte's Sparrow was at Carlsbad 17 Dec (SW); undetailed was another reported on Otero Mesa in early Dec (RM). Fox Sparrow made a strong showing, with one to 3 at 11 sites in nine counties, including singles n. to Montezuma 1 Feb (TB, ph. CB), e. to Ute L. 28 Jan (NP, MB), w. to the Peloncillo Mts. 17 Feb (CDL), and s. to Sunland Park 2 Jan (JNP). Lincoln's Sparrows were especially numerous in mountain foothills in the south, including a high 259 in the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AC); n. were 2 at Española 23 Dec (BF). Noteworthy Swamp Sparrows were singles n. to Cimarron 2 Jan (ph. DC) and Española 23 Dec (BF), one at Deming 22 Dec (LM), and a high 6 w. to the Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (AC). North were single White-throated Sparrows at Sugarite S.P. 25 Dec (DC), Yankee Canyon 25 Dec (DC), and Montezuma 20 Jan (TB, ph. CB). One to 2 Harris's Sparrows were at 10 sites in Colfax, Sandoval, Bernalillo, Socorro, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, and Eddy Dec-Feb. A good Golden-crowned Sparrow season produced singles at Santa Rosa 17 Dec (WW), Placitas 30 Dec (JM), Petroglyph N.M. 17 Dec (NP), and Peloncillo Mts. 31 Dec (P. Abbott). A White-winged Junco was w. to Zuni's Mullen Canyon 28 Dec and 1 Jan (JT). Continuing from Nov, Lapland Longspurs were conspicuous in the Maxwell area, with small numbers there Dec-Jan but an impressive 150 n. of Maxwell 3 Feb (ph. DC); away from Colfax, 8 were near Ute L. 6 Jan (JEP), and 2 were s. to McIntosh 18 Feb (CR). Impressive numbers of Chestnut-colored Longspurs made good use of s. grass-

lands, including some 3400 near Hermanas 2 Dec (DH), over 1860 at Sevilleta N.W.R. 21 Dec (DK, MH, N&SC), and about 1100 in the Animas Valley 31 Dec (CR). Two Northern Cardinals were at Santa Rosa 17 Dec (WW).

Historically scarce in winter, Yellow-headed Blackbirds numbered some 2200 at Deming 15 Dec (LM), 5000 near Hermanas 4 Feb (JO), 300 at Mesilla 5 Dec (CGL), and 500 at Sunland Park 12 Jan (JEP). Nicely documented were 4 Rusty Blackbirds at Ute L. 9 Dec (ph. DC) and at least 2 at Davies Tank, Doña Ana 20 Dec-8 Jan (ph. CGL, CRB, MS, ph. JZ). A record 326 Brewer's Blackbirds were n. to Farmington 16 Dec (AN). Far w. was a Common Grackle at Virden 29 Dec (JEP). A high 30 Bronzed Cowbirds were at Las Cruces 16 Dec (TL), and smaller numbers lingered there Jan-Feb; 5 Brown-headed were n. to Maxwell 5 Jan (ph. DC). Rosy-finches returned in numbers to Sandia Crest where, through 11 Mar, 773 had been banded this season: 579 Blacks, 186 Gray-crowns (including 104 Hepburn's), and 8 Brown-capped (N&SC); elsewhere, one Gray-crowned was at Placitas 29-30 Dec (JM), 14 Brown-capped were at Montezuma 20 Jan-12 Feb (TB, ph. CB), and a flock of 15 rosy-finches was on Mt. Taylor 18 Feb (CG). Lawrence's Goldfinch staged a mini-invasion in the sw., with singles at Radium Springs 15 Dec (JO) and the Carlisle Mine, Grant 31 Dec (ph. RFS) and 7 at San Simon Cienega 5 Jan (NP, MB).

Initialed observers: Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, Cathy Benavidez, Tony Benavidez, Gavin Bieber, Sherry Bixler, Charles R. Britt, David Cleary, Nancy & Steve Cox, Alan Craig, Robert Doster, Deanna Einspahr, Bernard Foy, Gary Froehlich, David Griffin, C. Grimes, David Hawksworth, Michael Hilchey, William Howe, Jeff Howland, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carroll D. Littlefield, Carl G. Lundblad, Timothy Lawton, Larry Malone, James McPhee, Raymond Meyer, Alan Nelson, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nicholas Pederson, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Scott Schuette, Marcy Scott, Hart Schwarz, Robert F. Shantz, Roland S. Shook, Robert Templeton, John Trochet, Brad Vaughn, Nick Vaughn, Mark Watson, Steve West, William West, Elton Williams, John Yerger, James Zabriskie. 🐦

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