

17–18 May (P. Wang, J. Haynes). Two MacGillivray's Warblers at Madera Canyon 29 May (RH) and another along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 31 May (RH) were late for spring migrants. Another warbler that is much more likely to occur during spring is Hooded Warbler; this season one was at Ramsey Canyon 16–17 Apr (D. Flower), a female was at Kino Springs 8 May (MS), and another was in Prescott 15–19 May (E. Moore, J. Morgan). The Rufous-capped Warbler in French Joe Canyon last winter was seen throughout the period, albeit sporadically.

An apparent Flame-colored × Western Tanager was present in Garden Canyon 15–16 May (ph. BZ, KZ, MS); this cross is interesting, as the only region where the two species potentially overlap is s. Arizona. The **Eastern Towhee** that wintered along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia was last reported 14 Mar (MS). Of great interest was the report of a Field Sparrow from Willow Tank 13 Mar (†R. Taylor); if accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent only a 4th Arizona record. Late were 2 Swamp Sparrows during May, one at Kingfisher Pond along the upper S.P.R. 3 May (JWh) and another, singing (!), along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 25 May (RH). No fewer than 9 White-throated Sparrows, most of which likely wintered, lingered into spring in se. Arizona, the last one being reported 8 May. A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Granite Cr. near Prescott 9 May (CST). The Lapland Longspur that was reported during the winter season from Vaca Ranch in the San Rafael Valley was last reported 4 Mar.

Five male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, about average, were seen around the state during Apr/May. Above-average numbers (8) of Indigo Buntings were reported around the state 11–29 May. Three Bobolinks were reported, one at Page 13 May (B.&K. Bobowski), a male in the Dome Valley, Yuma, (fide JW), and another male w. of Phoenix 28 May (M. Chew). Still considered casual in the state, May seems to be an excellent time for this species to occur in Arizona.

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# new mexico



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The dry winter gave way to an even drier spring, culminating in some rather well-publicized fires in May, notably at Los Alamos. Generally poor water and poor cover conditions were the rule, and migrations of most groups (shorebirds, wood-warblers) were unspectacular. Nevertheless, remnant water bodies and scattered green oases attracted several genuine rarities.

**Abbreviations:** B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque N.W.R. (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); 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, Eddy); Zuni (Zuni Indian Reservation).

## LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A quiet loon season found a Pacific at Brantley L. 28 Apr (DE), a late Common at Nutria L. 27 May (DC), and another Common coping with a fishing lure in its bill at Roberts L. 5 May (MS, JZ); last season's **Yellow-billed Loon** was last seen at Cochiti L. 11 Mar (WH). An ad. male **Anhinga** put in a brief appearance at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Apr (JEP, JWM), providing the 3rd well-documented state record and the first since 1981. Increasingly rare, a single American Bittern was at Bosque N.W.R. 12–24 Mar (DE, BN, JEP); 1–2 were at B.L.N.W.R. 7–14 Apr (GW, JWM). High counts for Little Blue Herons were 2 each at Los Lunas 23–30 May (J. Kelly) and B.L.N.W.R. 21 Apr (GW, JWM). Always a rare treat, 1–2 Tricolored Herons were at B.L.N.W.R. 18 Apr–14 May (v.o., ph. JO). Single ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**

were at B.L.N.W.R. 20 May (JWM) and Clanton Cienega, **Hidalgo**, 13 May (NMC); undetailed was one at Ft. Sumner 6 Apr (S. Smith, fide PS). Ibises were much in the news, including ad. and imm. **White Ibises** at B.L.N.W.R. 11–26 May (JWM et al.); the adult was last seen 19 May (JEP, JO), the imm. 26 May (JWM). A **Glossy Ibis** attaining breeding plumage was at Bosque N.W.R. 21–22 Apr (JEP, DE, BN, ph. JO) and another (or the same?) in full breeding plumage was there 12–13 May (DE, BN, JO). High count for White-faced Ibises was 500 at Percha 21 Apr (MS, JZ). Some 1000 Snow and Ross's Geese were the victims of pesticide poisoning near Dexter 12 Mar (USFWS); carbofuran sprayed on alfalfa was the likely culprit. A female Barrow's Goldeneye was on the Rio Grande at Pilar 7 Mar (WW); the species is unexpected away from the San Juan R. An unusual, brown Ruddy-like duck was at the Deming sewage ponds 10 May (LM); details included black face mask and white eye ring but, apparently, no white in the wings.

Reports of White-tailed Kites have increased over the past decade, but nesting remained undocumented; this season found 2 (one perched on a nest) n. of the Cedar Mts, **Luna**, 11 Apr (RM), 2 near Hermanas 10 Mar (RM), 2 n. of Hachita plus a single nearby 19 Mar (RM), 2 at Glenwood 23–24 Apr (B&DM), and an undetailed one in **Chaves** in early May (fide SB). The three **Colfax** Bald Eagle nests each had nestlings 25–26 May (SOW). Only 2 Northern Goshawks passed the Sandia Mts. hawkwatch lookout this spring (HWI), down considerably from previous years. Peripheral Common Black-Hawks were singles n. to Isleta 3 May (J. Drummond) and e. to R.S. 11 May (SW). An ad. Harris's Hawk near Riverside 20–25 May (RSS) provided a Gila Valley first; in the

R.G.V., Harris's were n. to Williamsburg 7–21 Apr (JEP, JO, DE) and Percha 29 Mar (WW). At the Sandia lookout, 19 Broad-winged Hawks were counted 2 Apr–1 May (HWI); far w. was one at Mangas 4 May (ph. JNP). Noteworthy was a territorial Zone-tailed Hawk in Bear Trap Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 24 May (HS); meanwhile, a record 10 passed the Sandia lookout 25 Mar–5 May (HWI), raising questions as to just where they were headed. Single Rough-legged Hawks were above 8000 ft. in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. at Eagle Nest 4 Mar (JEP, JO) and Black L. 1 Mar (SOW); prairie-dogs were the likely attraction. Remarkable if accurate was a possible **Aplomado Falcon** cruising n. past the Sandia lookout 15 Mar (N Vulgares); details were suggestive but the location was mystifying.

#### GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

Four to five White-tailed Ptarmigan had roosted in snow at 12,450 ft on Kachina Peak 7 May (E. Rominger), providing further evidence of persistence of native stock in far n. New Mexico. Perhaps a result of favorable rains in 1999, Montezuma Quail were relatively numerous, with reports from the San Mateo, Mogollon, Pinos Altos, Burro, and Peloncillo Mts. (v.o.). Among the thousands of Sandhill Cranes migrating over Albuquerque 4 Mar were 3 Whooping Cranes (WH); these, the last of the discontinued experimental flock, were soon reduced to 2 when one collided with a powerline and died in Colorado (USFWS). An **American Golden-Plover** visited B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr–5 May (JWM, DE, JEP). Peripheral Snowy Plovers included 3 at E.B.L. 24 May (JO) and one at Lordsburg 5 May (JZ). Mountain Plovers noted in areas where rarely reported were 8 near Bernardo 23 Mar and 12 near Escondida 16 Mar (DH); late for the RGV were 2 at Los Lunas 26 May (DS), and w. of normal was a nest with eggs near Datil, w. Socorro, 28 May (S&NC). Willets passed through on a broad front 14 Apr–24 May (v.o.); highs included 34 at Los Alamos 5 May (J. Takamine), 30 at Moriarty 4 May (DE), and 32 near La Union 29 Apr (JNP). Notably early Long-billed Curlews were 6 at Moriarty 4 Mar (CR) and 7 at Vado 5 Mar (MS, JZ). Single **Whimbrels** were at Morgan L. 8 May (ph. TR) and B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (JWM) and 14 May (DE). Very rare, 1–2 **Hudsonian Godwits** were at B.L.N.W.R. 17–27 May (JWM, JEP, DE, ph. JO). High count for Sanderlings was 4 at EBL 24 May (JO); one at Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel*, 13 May (CR) was a local first. Rare w. of the Pecos R., a Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Bosque N.W.R. 25 Apr (DE). On schedule, 2–5 White-rumped Sandpipers were at

B.L.N.W.R. 23–27 May (WW, JWM, JO), but late were 5 Dunlins there 5 May (GW, JWM). High count for Stilt Sandpipers was 283 at B.L.N.W.R. 13 May (GW, JWM). A possible **Short-billed Dowitcher** was vocal among Long-billeds at B.L.N.W.R. 10 May (JWM). Common Snipe were winnowing at Springer L. 28 Apr (SOW). Rare in spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Bosque N.W.R. 9–13 May (DE, BN, JO).

Two ad. **Laughing Gulls** were at E.B.L. 24 May (JO). California Gulls found in areas where rarely reported were one at Ruby Ranch 13 May (CR) and 2 at Nutria L. 22 Apr. (DC). Eleven migrant Least Terns appeared at B.L.N.W.R. 9 May but were gone the following day (JBM); 4 local breeders arrived 19 May, increasing to 8 by 31 May (JBM). An early Least Tern was at Brantley L. 27 Apr (DE); w. was one at E.B.L. 24 May (JO).

#### PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Far e. was a Band-tailed Pigeon at Jal 6 May (JEP, ph. JO); far from normal habitat were 6 at Redrock 31 May (SOW). Eurasian Collared-Doves consolidated their grip on e. New Mexico, including  $\leq 8$  at Fort Sumner, 1–2 at Portales,  $\leq 25$  at Roswell, and 2–3 at Carlsbad (v.o.), plus one at Sumner L. 11 Mar (JEP, JO) and 3 at Lovington (ph. JO), 2 each at Eunice (ph. JO) and Jal (ph. JO) 20 May; w. were singles at Santa Fe 3 Apr (SOW) and Alamogordo 11 Apr (*vide* PS). Continuing their push n., 1–3 White-winged Doves were at Glenwood 29 Mar (SW) and 15–16 Apr (CR), near Mt. Taylor 27 May (HS), and at Galisteo 18 May (B & DF); one at Petroglyph N.M. 21 Apr (NV) provided a local first. North in the Pecos Valley was an Inca Dove at B.L.N.W.R. 19 May (JWM). Earliest Yellow-billed Cuckoo was one at R.S. 12 May (SW), where there were 3 on 20 May (JO); cuckoos found where rarely reported were singles at Taiban 27 May (JEP, JO), N.R.T. 21 May (JO), and Eunice 20 May (JO).

Whiskered Screech-Owls occupied 15 territories in four Peloncillo Mts. canyons 16–17 Apr (SOW), the highest count yet for New Mexico. North of expected was an Elf Owl at Roswell 7 Apr (ph. SB); the species has only recently colonized se. New Mexico. A Short-eared Owl was at B.L.N.W.R. 14 Apr (GW); another was nearly hit by a car n. of Hachita 19 Mar (RM). Far n. was a silent Lesser Nighthawk at Moriarty 28 Apr (JEP). A vocal Common Poorwill at Carlsbad 12 Mar (SW) was early. One–two Chimney Swifts were at Roswell 29 Apr and 19 May (JEP, DE); a pale, silent *Chaetura* at Luis Lopez 16 Apr (JO) was possibly a Vaux's, a

species unverified in New Mexico. A Magnificent Hummingbird at Ruidoso 8 May (DE) documented the continuing presence of the species in se. New Mexico. Lucifers returned on schedule to P.O. Canyon 30 Mar (RTS), where 5 adults were captured 25–28 May (JDM). An ad. male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen at a Carlsbad feeder 19 May (SW); there are but 3 previous credible New Mexico reports, all in autumn. Representing post-breeding dispersal from farther w., 4 Anna's were at P.O. Canyon 13 May (RTS). Unexpected in spring, single male Rufous Hummingbirds were at Luis Lopez 3 Apr (JO), San Lorenzo 21 Mar (L. Garrison, *vide* D&MZ), and Las Cruces 25 Mar (*vide* LS). Two Lewis's Woodpeckers in the R.G.V. at Los Lunas 27 Apr (RC) were s. of normal; 2 at Monica Cabin, San Mateo Mts., 22 May (HS) were in an area where rarely reported. Wandering Acorn Woodpeckers included singles e. to Curry 13 May (J. Lofton) and R.S. 27 May (SW). Noteworthy was an imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Cedro Canyon, Manzanita Mts., 19 Mar (NV); late for the se. was a Red-naped at R.S. 1 May (JEP).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

A pair of Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets was tending a Guadalupe Canyon nest 13 May (AC); noteworthy was a probable tyrannulet n. to P.O. Canyon 30 Mar (RTS), as there are but 6 credible New Mexico reports away from Guadalupe Canyon. Very early was a Western Wood-Pewee in s. Otero 4 Apr (R. Rasmussen). Extremely rare, a singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was w. of normal at Clanton Cienega 13 May (NMC). Least Flycatchers typically are scarce in spring; 6 were at N.R.T. 12 May (WH) and 2 were there 21 May (JO); singles were at Pep 21 May (JO) and R.S. 16 May (SW). Gray Flycatchers were much in evidence in the w. half of the state; high counts were 15 in Otero Canyon, Manzanita Mts., 25 Apr (HS) and 8 in the Burro Mts. 19 May (CR). Single Eastern Phoebe in potential breeding habitat were at Santa Rosa 2 May (WW) and Sumner Dam 5 May (JEP). A vocal Dusky-capped Flycatcher on Cherry Creek, Pinos Altos Mts., 7 May (S. Stoleson, *vide* D&MZ) furnished the 2nd *Grant* record. Unusually s. was an Eastern Kingbird in the R.G.V. at Bosque N.W.R. 13 May (DE, BN); w. of normal was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Cliff 19–20 May (RSS). Lingering Northern Shrikes were singles near Raton and Yankee 4 Mar (JEP, JO). Bell's Vireos n. of expected were one at Bosque Redondo 7 May (JEP) and 2 on Berrenda Cr. 5 May (CR). Two Gray Vireos were near Madrid 10 May (LAS),

where rarely reported. A Yellow-throated Vireo was w. of normal at Socorro 1–2 Apr (DH, ph. JO); another was singing at N.R.T. 7 May (JEP, ph. JO). Early Cassin's Vireos were singles at Socorro 2 Apr (JO) and Silver City 10 Apr (D & MZ). A Hutton's Vireo at Water Canyon 28 Apr (B&DF) was n. of normal. A Red-eyed Vireo on Berrenda Creek 5 May (CR) furnished a local first; other Red-eyed were singles at N.R.T. 15 May (DE, BN), Anthony 30 Apr (JNP), and R.S. 6 May (JEP, JO).

Blue Jays staged a conspicuous movement through cen. New Mexico 20 Apr–8 May, with 3 at Los Alamos (R. Nelson), 2 near Ute Park (SOW), and singles at Cowles (J. Burton), Cochiti (MW), Albuquerque (J. DeLong), Tajiue (PS), and Luis Lopez (JO); others west of usual were singles at Cimarron 4 Mar (JEP, JO) and Socorro 27 Mar (JS). Some 60 Pinyon Jays in the Gila Valley near Riverside 3 Mar (RSS) were at the s. edge of their range. Purple Martins where rarely noted were one near Velarde 25 May (CR) and a pair in Bear Trap Canyon 24 May (HS). About 35 Bank Swallows arrived at their Calabacillas Arroyo breeding site 23 Apr (NV). The Carlsbad Caverns Cave Swallow population was estimated at 1500 birds in May (SW); farther w. the species continued to thrive under *Doña Ana* bridges (MS, JZ, GE). Maintaining last year's beachheads, single **Carolina Wrens** were singing at Socorro's Riverine Park 2–21 Apr (JO, JEP) and R.S. 3 Mar–13 May (SW, NV, JO, JEP). Last of the Corrales Winter Wrens were 2 on 12 Mar (NV); another was on the Gila Middle Fork, *Catron*, 18 Mar (HW). Easterly Golden-crowned Kinglets were singles at Sumner Dam 11 Mar (JEP, JO) and N.R.T. 14 Apr (SOW), one was unusual in pinyons in the Sandia Mts. 21 Apr (WH); 6 singing in spruce-fir at Bear Trap Canyon 24 May likely were local breeders. Extremely early was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Petroglyph N.M. 2 Apr (HS); continuing their presence in sw. New Mexico were 2 Black-taileds at Redrock 31 May (SOW). A pair of Eastern Bluebirds feeding young in a cavity at Mesilla 11 Apr (J. Eidel) provided one of few breeding records for the lower R.G.V. A possible **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at R.S. 27 May (SW); there is but one certain record for New Mexico.

#### THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Long-billed Thrasher was singing at Bosque Redondo 11 Mar (JEP, JO) and 7 May (JO), where one has persisted since 1997. A singing Bendire's Thrasher was n. of usual in the R.G.V. to Caja del Rio, *Santa Fe*, 31 May (WW). At Eldorado near Santa Fe, a notice in

the community newspaper requesting Curve-billed Thrasher sightings resulted in reports of 19 active nests by 1 May (DS); the species is a recent arrival to the area. An early Crissal Thrasher nest at Petroglyph N.M. fledged 2 on 9 Mar (HS), implying initiation of incubation by 10 Feb. Latest Cedar Waxwings were 3 at Coyote Creek S.P. 22 May (SOW, PM), one near Velarde 25 May (CR), and 3 at R.S. 27 May (SW). Small numbers of Phainopeplas were nesting at Luis Lopez by mid-May (JO) and the species was conspicuous n. to Socorro (JS) and Bernardo (RC); high counts elsewhere were 22 near Sunland Park 5 Apr (GE) and 48 at R.S. 13 May (SW), while far e. was one at Bell L., *Lea*, 20 May (JO). Two to five Olive Warblers were n. at Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., 28 Apr (B & DF) and 13 May (DE, BN) and 2 were at Springtime, San Mateo Mts., 29 Apr (B & DF); a nest with 2 nestlings was at Signal Peak, Pinos Alto Mts., 20 May (CR).

The wood-warbler migration was judged mediocre by most observers; nevertheless, 30 species were reported, including several rarities. Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were at Quaria 13 May (NV, HS) and B.L.N.W.R. 25 Apr (JWM); single **Golden-winged Warbler** were at N.R.T. 12 May (WH) and sw. *San Miguel* 13 May (WW). Notably early Lucy's Warblers were 2 each in the Gila Valley near Riverside 17 Mar (RSS) and in the R.G.V. at Las Animas Cr. 18 Mar (JO); 1–2 were n. of normal in the R.G.V. to Luis Lopez 26–27 Mar (JO) and Socorro 2 Apr and later (v.o.). A remarkable Northern Parula season produced 13 individuals at 12 sites 31 Mar–31 May, with singles at Ruby Ranch (WW), Glenwood (D&MZ), Guadalupe Canyon (AC), Socorro (JO, DE, BN), Luis Lopez (JO), Bosque N.W.R. (DE), Leasburg (GE), Organ Mts. (C. Benkman), White Sands Missile Range, *Doña Ana*, (D. Holdermann), B.L.N.W.R. (JWM, SB), and R.S. (SW), and 2 at Moriarty (DE, JEP, ph. JO). Stray *Dendroica* included single Chestnut-sideds at Velarde 25 May (CR), Eldorado 5 May (vt. T. Streifert), Galisteo 18 May (B&DF), and Roswell 13 May (SB), a **Magnolia Warbler** at Ruby Ranch 13 May (CR), a possible **Pine Warbler** at R.S. 29 Apr (SW), and a Yellow Palm at Luis Lopez 8 May (JO). A Black-throated Gray at Silver City in Feb remained until 7 Mar (RWi, *fide* D&MZ). Early was a Grace's in the Sandia Mts. 8 Apr (HS). The high count for American Redstarts was 3 at N.R.T. 15 May (DE, BN); w. were singles at Silver City 15 May (D&MZ) and Columbus 29 May (CR). Other e. strays included 1–2 Black-and-whites at Velarde (CR), N.R.T. (WH), Waldrop Park, *Chaves*, (DE), and R.S. (DE, JO) 28 Apr–25 May, single

Prothonotaries at Cochiti 29 Apr. (MW) and R.S. 19 May (SW), single Worm-eatings at N.R.T. 29 Apr–4 May (G. McDermott, DE), Portales 10 May (J. Kendall), and Las Cruces 26 Apr (LS), and single **Kentucky Warblers** at Tatum 29 Apr (DE), San Andres N.W.R. 26 Apr. (ph. M. Weisenberger), and Carlsbad 25 Apr (E. Pierce, *fide* SW). Another impressive season for Hooded Warblers produced a male at Corrales 23 Apr (WH) and single females 2–27 May at Ruby Ranch (CR), Moriarty (DE, BN), near Tolar (WW), N.R.T. (DE, JEP, ph. JO), and R.S. (SW).

#### TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Easterly Hepatic Tanagers were a male at N.R.T. 12 May (WH) and a female there 13 May (JEP); unusual was one at Moriarty 27 Apr (DE). Northerly Summer Tanagers were one at Quarai 13–16 May (NV, HS) and 2 in Sandia Mts. foothills 28 May (NV). A male **Scarlet Tanager** graced R.S. 11 May (SW). Green-tailed Towhees were breeding 22 May in shrublands in the San Mateo Mts. at 7500 ft and above 10,000 ft (HS), but were absent from intervening elevations. High count for Field Sparrows was 4 at N.R.T. 14 Apr (SOW), including 2 in full song. Two Black-chinned Sparrows were n. to Orilla Verde 24 May (CR); 2 others were e. to Corona 27 May (JO). South were 3 Vesper Sparrows singing at Monica Cabin, San Mateo Mts., 23 May (HS). Surveys for **Baird's Sparrows** on Otero Mesa found only one 3 Mar but at least 17 (plus 30 unidentified *Ammodramus*) 30 Mar–12 Apr, including 11 Baird's 5 Apr (RM); good grass cover seemed key to this now-rare migrant's well-being, as birds were found only in ungrazed areas. Among the Baird's on Otero Mesa was a well-detailed **Le Conte's Sparrow** 5 Apr (RM). Late was a Fox Sparrow at Taos 13 May (RWe), as were single Swamp Sparrows at Berrenda Creek 5 May (CR) and Sunland Park 14 May (JNP). White-throated Sparrows remained in evidence, including one singing at Glenwood 15 Apr (CR); latest were 4 at Corrales 7 May (WH) and singles at Luis Lopez 8–9 May (JO) and Berrenda Creek 5 May (CR). Single Harris's Sparrows were at Maxwell N.W.R. 4 Mar (JEP, JO), Eldorado 9 May (B&DF), and Lordsburg 27 Mar (SW). Very late was a McCown's Longspur at Eunice 6 May (JEP, ph. JO); w. were 2 Chestnut-sideds at Split Lip Flats, *San Juan*, 4 May (ph. TR) and 6 at Zuni 11 Mar (DC).

Continuing a trend were two Northern Cardinals n. in the Pecos Valley to Santa Rosa 11 Mar (JEP); another was n. to Macho Creek, *Sierra*, 7 May (CR). Notably far n. was a Pyrrhuloxia at Sumner Dam 11 Mar (JEP). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at 10 locales from the R G V east 30 Apr–25 May

(v.o.), including one in the rarely-visited Los Pinos Mts. 17 May (HS); w. were singles at Cedar Hill 15 May (ph. TR) and Water Canyon 13 May (DE, BN). A female Blue Grosbeak near Riverside 8 Apr (RSS) was a month ahead of schedule. Indigo Buntings were unusually common in the south (D&MZ, SW); singing Indigos encroaching on Lazuli turf in the n. were 3 at Farmington 9 May (TR), 2 at Orilla Verde 24 May (CR), and singles at Pojoaque 31 May (CR) and Santa Fe 21 May (B & DF). Very early was an Indigo x Lazuli hybrid at Corrales 26 Mar (WH). A male Varied Bunting was at R.S. 13 May (SW), where occurrence is irregular. Far w. was a Dickcissel on Berrenda Creek 6 May (CR). A pair of **Rusty Blackbirds** lingered at Percha 18 Mar (JEP, ph. JO) and the male was singing 24 Mar (DE), but neither were found thereafter. Far w. was a male Common Grackle at Zuni 29 Apr (DC). Bronzed Cowbirds occurred across the s. tier of counties after late March (v.o.); n. was a male at Carrizozo 28 May (ph. JO). A male Hooded Oriole wandered n. to Zuni 24 Apr (ph. DC). An ad. male **Baltimore Oriole** was near Pep 13 May (LAS); the apparent Bullock's that overwintered at Carlsbad was last seen 8 Mar (SW). The only rosy-finches were at the Taos Ski Basin, where there were about 55 Blacks, 40 Brown-capped, and 25 Gray-crowned 7 Mar (WW). Cassin's Finches were exceptionally scarce, as were Red Crossbills, while Pine Siskins were plentiful in the west but scarce in the east; a siskin was nesting at Signal Peak 21 May (RWi, *vide* D&MZ). The 5 Lesser Goldfinches at Corrales 12 Mar (WH) likely overwintered. American Goldfinches lingering in potential breeding habitat included one at Zuni 26 May (DC), 2 at Orilla Verde 23 May (CR), one near Velarde 25 May (CR), and 3 at Coyote Creek S.P. 24 May (SOW, PM). High count for Evening Grosbeaks was 47 at Taos 13 May (RWe); the species was decidedly scarce elsewhere.

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# alaska



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**W**idespread, systematic, and season-long coverage of the Region's outposts, combined with a decent inshore storm profile, produced one of Alaska's more exciting spring migrations in years. Even with the hiatus of a storm-free high-pressure period in late May, the western Aleutians once again rallied with the most surprises and "quality" migrants, including yet another first for North America and a first for Alaska. Better coverage around Nome also produced more rarities than usual. The northbound push commenced and continued nearly on-average through the season, at least south of the Alaska Range, while decent concentrations of shorebirds and early passerines surfaced at most reporting stations. Onshore winds in the eastern Bering Sea pushed record numbers of Nearctic forms onto the Bering Sea coast and offshore islands. In the second half of May, the Aleutian Low shifted to a position that forced the anticyclone storm track far south of the western Aleutians, dulling bird passage in the process.

As has come to be a recent pattern, documentation of significant species continues to be sporadic, with marginal and excellent details and/or photos often interspersed with few or no details. I cannot publish reports or forward records of notable observations to the University of Alaska Museum without proper documentation.

This spring's Attu Island highlights will be the last installment of bird-tour reports from that long-established Aleutian outpost. From sporadic reports by pioneering souls in the early 1970s to the well-oiled, nearly "push" ATTOUR trips of the last 22 years, the tours as we have come to know them ended there after an autumn 2000 trip. Because of impossible logistics hurdles, military and FAA impediments, aging planes, and various other uncertainties, ATTOUR will close out its Aleutian trips. In the 22 years of continuous bird tours to Attu, some 17 species were added to North America's list, another three new Nearctic breeding records were confirmed, and dozens of first or second Aleutian records of notable Palearctic species were substantiated. Those individuals involved throughout the history of these visits were also fortunate to have observed profound natural-history changes in the Massacre Bay area and the steady decay of historical World War II evidence. An irreplaceable chapter of Alaskan and North American avifaunal history closes.

**Abbreviations:** ABO (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (n. Gulf of Alaska); S.E. (se. Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet); Y-K Delta (Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas). Details (t), specimens (\*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (vt.) referenced are on file at University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks.

## LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Gambell seawatchers reported an above-average 23 Arctic Loons off the point, mostly between 4-8 Jun, with a peak of 7/day (WINGS). At least 2 each were also found at