

The prolonged drought moderated somewhat during fall 2002, with widespread and locally plentiful rains early and substantial mountain snows later. The season produced numerous rarities and saw conspicuous incursions by several groups, notably corvids from the mountains, ground-doves from the tropics, and goldfinches from the west.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); 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.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

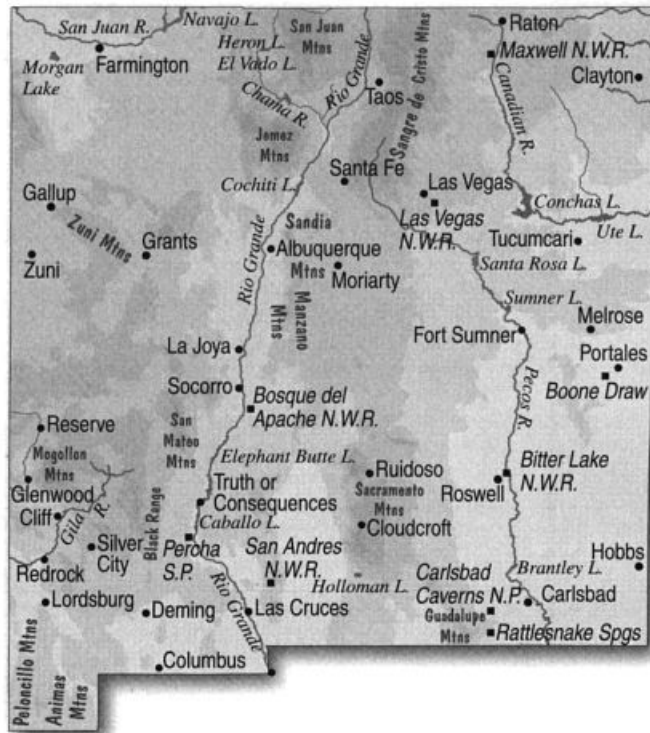
LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Single Pacific Loons visited Stubblefield L. 31 Oct—2 Nov (DC), Springer L. 4 Nov (DC), and Cochiti L. 16 Nov (WH). At least one Common Loon “summering” at Stubblefield L. lingered through Aug (DC); earliest migrants were singles at Ute L. 4 Oct (EL) and Sumner L. 11 Oct (JO). Single Horned Grebes wandered to Elida, Roosevelt 12 Oct (ph. JO) and Quemado L. 22 Oct (LM). Last reported in New Mexico in 1999, a Red-necked Grebe visited Sumner L. 11-13 Oct (ph. JO; JEP, DE, BN).

Notable concentrations of American White Pelicans were 770 at Springer L. 7 Oct (MW), plus 430 at E.B.L. and 175 at Caballo L. 10 Oct (MW). Scarce in the Pecos Valley, a Neotropical Cormorant was at Sumner L. 19 Oct (CR), and 3 were at Six Mile Dam, Eddy 23 Nov (SW). Only 3 American Bitterns were found, one each at Bosque 22 Oct (SG), B.L.N.W.R. 9 Oct (GW), and L. Avalon 26 Aug (SW). Single Least Bitterns were at Bosque Redondo 16-17 Aug (JEP, vt. JO) and 15 Sep (CR), where the species may have nested; another Least was near Radium Springs 4 Aug (JZ). Several Little Blue Herons were found, including an imm. at R.G.N.C. 6 Oct (B. Leonard). An ad. Tricolored Heron was at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Aug—11 Sep (GW et al.); an imm. strayed to Deming 28 Aug—9 Sep (LM, ph. JO). The season saw another strong showing by Reddish Egrets, with an imm. far n. to Maxwell 15 Sep—1 Oct (phs. DC, JO; m. ob.), another imm. that split its time between Brantley L. and L. Avalon 9 Aug—1 Sep (phs. TH, JO; m. ob.), and an imm. at B.L.N.W.R. 7 Oct (WW). Reports of a “white phase” at B.L.N.W.R. in Oct were undetailed and may refer to another species. Late was a Cattle Egret at Lordsburg 29 Nov (JEP, JO). Rare in New Mexico, an imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Tatum 21 Sep—1 Oct (ph. JO). At least one of the 2 imm. Roseate Spoonbills at B.L.N.W.R. in Jul lingered, with numerous reports 14 Aug—11 Sep (GW et al., ph. JO).

Nicely described was an ad. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at San Antonio 10 Aug (SG); even more rare, an imm. Fulvous Whistling-Duck at L. Avalon 8-9 Sep (ph. JO; SW) furnished an Eddy first. Three Tundra Swans were at L. Maloya, Colfax 28 Oct (ph. DC); elsewhere, 2 each were at Maxwell 12 Nov (MW) and Ute L.

New Mexico



7 Oct (MW). An ad. male Eurasian Wigeon at Stubblefield L. 21 Sep (J & MH) provided a Colfax first; another was at R.G.N.C. 19-20 Oct (JEP), where regular in recent years. Single Greater Scaup at Stubblefield L. 30 Nov (DC), Roy 16 Nov (JO), and L. Roberts 6 Nov (EL) provided the only reports. An impressive scoter season found one to 3 Surfs at Stubblefield L (DC), Springer L. (DC), Conchas L. (JEP, ph. JO), Portales (WW), Quemado L. (B. Wittman), and Tyrone (EL) 30 Sep—16 Nov, plus 2 White-winged Scoters at Cochiti L. 29 Sep (MW) and another at Sumner L. 2 Nov (JEP). A Long-tailed Duck was at Bosque 16 Nov (RK). Notably early were 10 Common Goldeneyes at Eagle Nest L. 17 Oct (DC), as were 2 Hooded Mergansers at Stubblefield L. 2 Sep (DC).

Ospreys passed through the state on a broad front beginning in late Aug, with reports from mountains to prairies, including in deserts near Antelope Wells 11 Sep (RM) and Hermanas 29 Oct (RM). A White-tailed Kite was n. of Deming 26 Nov (J. Joseph). Up to 5 Mississippi Kites were at Corrales 4 & 18 Aug (WH), where there were 2 ads. and one juv. 21 Sep (DK). Suspiciously early Bald Eagles away from known nesting areas were singles at El Vado L. 8 Oct (MW), Ruby Ranch n. of Las Vegas 6 Oct (WW), and Santa Rosa L. 9 Oct (MW). Last of the Hondo Valley Common Black-Hawks was one 23 Sep (R. Troy); a migrant was on Animas Cr. 5 Oct (AC, NM-C, RW). Harris's Hawks continued to

Sartor O. Williams III

1819 Meadowview Drive, NW

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104-2511

(sunbittern@earthlink.net)

appear n. to the middle R.G.V., with singles at Lemitar 1 Aug (BO), Luis Lopez 24 Nov (JO), and Bosque Oct—Nov (m. ob.). An unusual sight for New Mexico was a kettle of 5 Broad-winged Hawks at Bosque Redondo 5 Oct (JEP); other Broad-wingeds were 2 at N.R.T. 5 Oct (JEP, vt. JO), plus a dark one there 7 Oct (WW), and singles at Portales 1 Oct (JO), and Tatum 30 Sep—2 Oct (JO). At the Manzano Mts. migration site, 9 Broad-wingeds were tallied 9 Sep—2 Oct (HawkWatch International). An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was tending a juv. near Willow Cr., Catron 4 Aug (ph. JO); others in unusual locales were singles at San Antonio 29 Aug (ph. JO) and near Mayhill 25 Aug (ph. JO). The resident Aplomado Falcon pair in s. New Mexico was observed with its 3 fledglings 2 Aug—3 Sep (RM), after which the young dispersed. Other Aplomados were a juv. not part of the family group 13 Aug (RM), plus unconfirmed reports of singles s. of Animas 7 Oct (S. Carol) and n. of Hachita 22 Nov (J. Martin).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

Encouraging reports of White-tailed Ptarmigan were 11 at Wheeler Peak 5 Sep (ER), 5 s. of Jicarita Peak 10 Aug (R. Gardner) and 2 there 15 Aug (ER), plus one on Truchas Peak 15 Aug (ER) and a feather collected on Santa Fe Baldy 17 Aug (J. Klingel). Three Blue Grouse were at Palo Flechado Pass w. of Angel Fire 12 Oct (DC). Single broods of Montezuma Quail were in P.O. Canyon 14 Oct and 15 Nov (CL) and Buck Mt., Lincoln 24 Aug (SW). An apparent Black Rail gave a "grrrr" response to a taped song on Ponil Cr., Colfax 25 Sep (JT). A Common Moorhen was n. to R.G.N.C. 10-11 Aug (JEP). A near-albino Sandhill Crane was near Hermanas 29 Nov (JEP, vt. JO). No Whooping Cranes returned to New Mexico this season; the demise over the summer of the last survivor of the experimental flock closed the book on a failed quarter-century effort to establish a western flock.

One to 3 Black-bellied Plovers were at Stubblefield L., Springer L., E.B.L., B.L.N.W.R., and Holloman L. on various dates 5 Aug—17 Nov (m. ob.); unusual was one with orange legs at E.B.L. 19 Oct (ph. JO). Unprecedented were some 15 American Golden-Plovers at B.L.N.W.R. 15 Aug (SW); there were no additional reports of this rare species. An ad. Snowy Plover was tending a juv. at Springer L. 8-27 Aug (ph. DC). High count for Semipalmated Plover was 7 at Sumner L. 7 Sep (JO). Migrant Killdeer peaked with 56 at Maxwell (DC) and 89 at B.L.N.W.R. (GW) 10-12 Aug. Rarely recorded at B.L.N.W.R., 2 Mountain Plovers were there 28 Aug (GW). American Avocets lingered late in numbers, including 200 at Sumner L. 16 Nov (JEP). Solitary Sandpipers defying their name were "flocks" of 5 at Sumner L. 14 Sep (CR) and 8 at Holloman L. 7 Sep (GE); far w. was one at Tyrone 27 Aug—1 Sep (EL, JO). Upland Sandpipers were notably scarce and restricted to the Pecos Valley in *Chaves* and *Eddy* 9-29 Aug (JEP, JO, SW); the high count was 7 at Dexter 20 Aug (WW).

Single Red Knots were at E.B.L. 2 Sep (ph. JO) and Brantley L. 8 Sep (ph. JO). Sanderlings were at 10 locales statewide 12 Aug—14 Oct, including one at Albuquerque 15-17 Sep (BV, JO) and highs of 7 at B.L.N.W.R. 25 Sep (GW), 9 at Ruby Ranch 27 Sep (WW), and a remarkable 25 at Deming 21 Aug (LM). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was w. to Isleta 25-26 Aug (CR, JO). A Dunlin at Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel* 27 Sep (WW) provided a local first. Stilt Sandpipers had an extended passage through e. New Mexico Aug—Oct; high count was 340 at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Oct (GW). Carefully described were a vocal Short-billed Dowitcher at Sumner L. 6-7 Sep (JEP, ph. JO) and 2 others at B.L.N.W.R. 6 Sep (JEP). An American Woodcock observed briefly at R.S. 30 Nov (SW) provided New Mexico's 10th overall. Red-necked Phalaropes made a fine showing, including one w. to Zuni 28 Sep (CR, BN) and 3 at Deming 9 Sep (LM); highs included 16 at Stubblefield L. 4 Oct (DC), 15 at Portales 1 Oct (JO), and 14 at Elida 7 Oct (WW). Single Red Phalaropes visited Stubblefield L. 24-25 Sep

(ph. DC), Ruby Ranch 27 Sep (WW), and L.V.N.W.R. 12-14 Oct (AC, WW).

Nicely documented was a Laughing Gull at Brantley L. 7 Sep (ph. JO). Early were 3 Franklin's Gulls at Maxwell 5 Aug (DC); very early was a Bonaparte's at L. Roberts 13 Sep (J&MH). A Thayer's Gull was among Herrings at E.B.L. 15 Nov (WW). A good showing by Sabine's Gulls found one to 3 at Stubblefield L., Miami L., L.V.N.W.R., and Sumner L. 15 Sep—6 Oct (m. ob.), including single ads. at Stubblefield L. 21-25 Sep (J & MH, ph. DC) and Sumner L. 29 Sep—6 Oct (JO, JEP, ph. WH). Two Caspian Terns at Springer L. 21 Sep (J & MH, ph. DC) provided the lone report. Common Terns were reported at six sites from the R.G.V. eastward, including 6 at Springer L. (DC) and 4 at E.B.L. (SG) 21 Sep and an early 12 at Sumner L. 23 Aug (JO). An Arctic Tern was at Sumner L. 5 Oct (ph. WH).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

As observations this season confirmed, Eurasian Collared-Doves are now nearly ubiquitous in the eastern two-thirds of New Mexico, with moderate numbers w. to Deming, Hurley, and Silver City. Inca Doves in the ne. included 5 at Ute L. 10 Nov (JO) and 10 at Texico 14 Sep (JO); one was banded at R.G.N.C. 21 Sep (S&NC). Single Common Ground-Doves were at Deming 20 Oct (LM, ph. JO), Columbus 29 Nov (JEP, JO), and Animas Valley 5 Oct (AC, NM-C). Outnumbering Commons (!), single Ruddy Ground-Doves appeared at four sites, first at Rodeo 8 Oct (RW), next at Deming 19-20 Oct (LM, ph. JO) and 21 Nov (LM), and subsequently at Luis Lopez 20-30 Nov (JEP, ph. JO) and Albuquerque 29-30 Nov (L. Berwick, CB).

Surprising was a Greater Roadrunner at 3450 m near Pecos Baldy L. 5 Oct (J. Hirsch). A second season of banding migrant owls in the Manzano Mts. produced 88 Flammulateds 19 Aug—16 Oct and 28 Northern Saw-whets 30 Aug—20 Oct (J. DeLong). Two Burrowing Owls adopted a burrow under a tombstone at Las Cruces 20 Sep (D. & B. McKnight). Single Short-eared Owls were at B.L.N.W.R. 31 Oct (GW) and Animas Valley 30 Nov (AC, JEP). The eight Black Swift nests, each with one nestling, at Jemez Falls 23 Aug (HS) were the most there since the colony was discovered. Vaux's Swift almost certainly migrates through sw. New Mexico, but to date there has been no confirmation of this; well-described this season were 2 likely Vaux's n. of Rodeo 19 Sep (RW) and 4 at Rodeo 28 Sep (WW).

One to 2 Broad-billed Hummingbirds strayed e. to Las Cruces 27 Oct—2 Nov (LS, GE). A Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Deming 19 Aug (LM) provided an unexpected Luna first. Noteworthy was a juv. Blue-throated banded near L. Roberts 10 Nov (JD-M); a female at P.O. Canyon 5-8 Oct (CL) furnished the only other report. Anna's Hummingbirds were in P.O. Canyon 16 Aug—14 Nov, with 8 there 22 Oct (CL); elsewhere, a male was at Gila 15-20 Oct (K. Brodhead), one to 2 were at Radium Springs 6-23 Oct (MS, ph. JZ), and 2 were at Las Cruces 23 Nov

(JEP). A male Costa's Hummingbird visited a feeder near Silver City 28 Aug (B. Norris, D. Friedrich, *fide* D&MZ). A Calliope was e. to Quay 11 Sep (WW). Late were single Rufous Hummingbirds at Rio Rancho 8 Nov (banded JD-M) and Carlsbad 23 Nov (SW); at a P.O. Canyon feeder, single Rufous fell prey to a crafty Sonoran Whipsnake 27 Aug & 17 Sep (CL). Lewis's Woodpeckers were conspicuous in non-breeding areas, particularly in the R.G.V. from Corrales and Albuquerque s. to Bosque 12 Sep—6 Nov (m. ob.); one was at Deming 16 & 29 Nov (LM, JEP, JO). Two Williamson's Sapsuckers were e. to Mills Canyon, *Harding* 4 Oct (CR), and one reached *Roosevelt* in Oct (A. Gennaro), and another was in saltcedar at Radium Springs 30 Sep (MS, ph. JZ). Far w. was an imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the Animas Mts. 10 Oct (AC, RW). A family group of Three-toed Woodpeckers was at Snow L., *Catron* 4 Aug (JO).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

Under review are photos of a possible Greater Pewee at Carlsbad 24 Aug (ph. TH), which would constitute an *Eddy* first. What was believed to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at R.G.N.C. 7 Sep (S&NC). Least Flycatchers drifted w. to the R.G.V., with singles at R.G.N.C. 25 Aug (banded S&NC) and Luis Lopez 22-26 Nov (JEP, JO). The status of Pacific-slope Flycatcher is unclear in New Mexico; possible Pacific-slopes were a vocal one at Corrales 3 Sep (DK) and one banded at R.G.N.C. 7 Sep (S & NC). A vocal Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in upper Clanton Canyon 28 Aug (WW) but could not be relocated. One to 2 Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers were dodging a Cooper's Hawk in Guadalupe Canyon 27 Aug (WW). An Eastern Kingbird was in a roost of 100 Westerns at Albuquerque's oxbow 2 Sep (SOW, PM); another Eastern was at San Antonio 4 Sep (SG).

Single Northern Shrikes were s. to L.V.N.W.R. 9 Nov (JEP) and Bosque 11 Nov (RK). A Bell's Vireo captured at San Marcial 15 Aug (H. Walker) had been banded there as a juv. three years earlier. A late Plumbeous Vireo was at La Union 24 Nov (JNP), one to 2 Cassin's were e. to Pep 1 Oct (JO) and Crossroads 21 Sep (JO), and well-described Blue-headed were s. of Fort Sumner 7 Sep (JO), at Yeso 13 Oct (JO), and N.R.T. 2 Nov (JEP, vt. JO); undocumented were single Blue-headed at Tucumcari, Clovis, and Boone's Draw 11 Sep—8 Oct. A Philadelphia Vireo was described from Socorro 17 Sep (PB); a Red-eyed was at Maxwell 28 Aug (B. Percival).

Steller's Jays staged a massive lowland invasion that began in late Aug, increased through Sep, and reached almost all corners of the state by Oct—Nov, including s. to pecan groves at Deming and mesquite scrub at Malaga as well as e. to the Texas line at Nara Visa; origin of the jays was a mystery, as Steller's continued to be found in typical habitat in New Mexico's mountains. Blue Jays w. of usual were singles at Santa Fe 14 Oct (L. Herrmann), Socorro 8-11 Nov (PB), and Tularosa 27 Oct (JO). One to 3 Western Scrub-Jays were far e. to N.R.T., Nara Visa, Broadview, Clovis, and Crossroads 24 Aug—17 Nov (JO,

CR). Possibly because of dying Pinyon Pines, Pinyon Jays likewise were on the move, including 100 at Sumner L. 2 Nov (JO), 80 at N.R.T. 14 Sep (JEP, JO), 7 in the Peloncillo Mts. 29 Sep (CL), and 130 in the Florida Mts. 20 Sep (LM). Totally unexpected near the Mexican border were 2 Clark's Nutcrackers in the Animas Mts. 30 Nov (AC, NM-C, JEP, ph. JO). A Black-billed Magpie at Zuni 26 Sep (JT) provided a local first. Single migrant Purple Martins were at Albuquerque 14 Sep (JEP) and Deming 21 Aug (LM). Some 1300 Barn Swallows were at Sumner L. 20 Sep (CR); late was one there 13 Nov (WW). Both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous in lowland areas after late Aug; early was a Red-breasted at Corrales 15 Aug (DK), while far se. were 2 White-breasteds near Tatum 21 Sep (JO).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

A singing Carolina Wren near Riverside 5 Oct (RS) furnished a Gila Valley first as well as New Mexico's first w. of the R.G.V. One to 2 Winter Wrens were at N.R.T. 19-23 Oct (CR, WW); singles were in Cimarron Canyon 20-23 Nov (DC) and at R.S. 30 Nov (SW). An American Dipper entertained many at Bosque 11-30 Nov (m. ob., phs. JZ, JO). Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers lingered at R.G.N.C. 10 Nov (CR) and Bosque Redondo 13 Nov (WW); 2 Black-taileds were at Alamogordo 7 Nov (CD). Noteworthy was an Eastern Bluebird in P.O. Canyon 24 Nov (CL). A Wood Thrush stopped at N.R.T. 8 Oct (WW). A Rufous-backed Robin at Bosquecito, Socorro 17-19 Nov (G. Kendell, vt. JO) provided New Mexico's 6th record and first since 1994.

Among the numerous Gray Catbird reports were 2 w. to Mangas 2 Sep (JO) and one at Deming 18 Sep (LM); late singles were at Madrid 26 Nov (LAS), Sumner L. 16 Nov (JEP), Socorro 16 Nov (PB), Luis Lopez 22 Nov (JEP), and Radium Springs 30 Nov (MS, ph. JZ). Noteworthy were 25 Sage Thrashers in the seldom-visited Los Pinos Mts. 13 Oct (HS). Single Brown Thrashers were w. to Silver City 8-9 Nov (S. Brians) and Radium Springs 1-7 Oct (MS, ph. JO). Curve-billed Thrashers were feeding fledglings in P.O. Canyon 3 Sep (CL). A Crissal Thrasher was n. to Embudo 30 Nov (CR).

Migrant Sprague's Pipits were noted in the e. and s. 17 Oct—15 Nov, including 4 at N.R.T. 20 Oct (CR), 5 on Otero Mesa 21 Oct (RM), plus 6 there 15 Nov (RM), and one n. of Hachita 24 Oct (RM). Early was a Cedar Waxwing s. to Radium Springs 17 Aug (MS, JZ); highs included 100 at Sumner L. 3 Nov (JO) and 42 at Deming 7 Nov (LM). Far n. and a local first were 4 Phainopeplas near Cerrillos, Santa Fe 5 Sep—1 Oct (LAS).

A cat-killed Blue-winged Warbler at Santa Fe 2 Oct (K. Holladay, A. Walker) furnished the state's 26th credible record but only the 3rd for fall and the 2nd specimen overall. Other rare warblers included a Yellow-throated Warbler at R.S. 25 Aug (vt. JO), a Pine Warbler at R.S. 21 Sep (CR, BN), singles Palms at N.R.T. 5 Oct (JO) and in Curry near Melrose 12 Oct (JO), a Swainson's Warbler at R.G.N.C. 8 Sep (E. Hamilton), a Louisiana Waterthrush at R.S. 1 Sep (CR), and

a Hooded in the Sandia Mts. 23 Sep (G. Sadoti). Other e. strays included single Northern Parulas at Sumner L., Socorro, Luis Lopez, Bosque, Riverside, and Animas Valley 19 Aug—23 Oct (m. ob.), single Black-throated Blues at Madrid 23 Oct (LAS) and Socorro 5-11 Oct (L. Howard, J. Shipman, ph. JO), single Black-throated Greens at Yeso 13 Oct (ph. JO), N.R.T. 6-7 Oct (RG, WW), plus notably late ones near Radium Springs 25 Nov (MS, JZ) and Redrock 29 Nov (JEP, ph. JO), and single Black-and-whites at N.R.T. 6-14 Sep (JEP, JO) and Cliff 29 Aug (GE).

Rare indeed was the spectacle of 2 Prothonotary Warblers together at Bosque 28 Nov (ph. K. & L. Granillo), where at least one lingered through 30 Nov (ph. WH). Scarce in fall, an Ovenbird was at Yeso 13 Sep (JO), and 2 were at N.R.T. 7 Sep (JEP, JO). One to 2 Hermit Warblers were in the far sw. 3 Aug—10 Sep, including Signal Peak in the Pinos Altos Mts. (JO) and Post Office (CL), Skeleton (RW), and Clanton (WW, ph. JO) canyons in the Peloncillo Mts.; late were 2 in Animas Valley 5 Oct (AC, NM-C, RW). A Painted Redstart in the Sierra de las Uvas, Dona Ana 12 Oct (MS, ph. JZ) provided a local first, as did another near Queen, Guadalupe Mts. 21 Sep (SW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Summer Tanager strayed n. to Zuni 28 Sep (CR); late was a Western at Bosque Redondo 26 Oct (JEP). Migrant Green-tailed Towhees returned early, including one at R.G.N.C. 18 Aug (S&NC). A new Botteri's Sparrow location was discovered n. of Rodeo, where at least 2 were present 7 Aug (CB) and 27-29 Aug (SOW, PM). Black-throated Sparrows were feeding unfledged young in P.O. Canyon as late as 15 Sep (CL). Surveys for grassland birds found several migrant Baird's Sparrows on Otero Mesa, including singles 13 & 16 Sep, 2 on 21 Oct, 5 on 31 Oct, and 7 on 15 Nov (RM); another was near Artesia 15 Nov (RM). Only Slate-colored Fox Sparrows were identified among the several reported; notable were 3 at P.O. Canyon 27 Nov (CL). Surprisingly early was a Song Sparrow near Riverside 31 Aug (RS). Swamp Sparrows where seldom reported were 3 on Ute Cr., Harding 16-17 Nov (JO) and one at Portales 13 Nov (WW). Early were one to 2 Harris's Sparrows at Maxwell 19 Oct—3 Nov (ph. DC); another was at Socorro 23 Nov (PB). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Bosque 26-30 Nov (phs. R. Ditch, JO). Noteworthy was a White-winged Junco s. to N.R.T. 13 Nov (WW). Yellow-eyed Juncos continued scarce in the Animas Mts., where only 2 were found 30 Nov (NM-C, JEP).

Two Northern Cardinals were n. to Tucumcari 11 Sep (WW), where there have been persistent reports in recent years. Pyrrhuloxias wandering n. included singles at N.R.T. 30 Sep—7 Oct (JO, WW) and Lingo, Roosevelt, 26 Oct (JO). A female Yellow Grosbeak visited a feeder in the hills se. of Santa Fe 18-21 Oct (ph. D. & V. Erhart); while photos leave no question as to identity, Catch-22 informs us that since the occurrence does not fit the "established" seasonal pattern, natural origin must be suspect.

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Radium Springs on various dates 2 Sep—4 Oct (MS, ph. JZ) plus w. to Ojo Caliente, Cibola 28 Sep (CR, BN) and Silver City 29 Jul—2 Aug (D & MZ). Noteworthy for the R.G.V. was a female Varied Bunting near Radium Springs 12 Sep (MS). A remarkable Painted Bunting season found one to 2 in the east from Sumner Dam, Bosque Redondo, and N.R.T. s. to B.L.N.W.R., Carlsbad, and R.S. 24 Aug—7 Sep, while a similar few were scattered in the R.G.V. from Albuquerque s. to Socorro, San Antonio, Percha, and Radium Springs 22 Aug—14 Sep (m. ob.). Farther west, 8 were at Lake Valley 8-16 Aug (ph. J. Mayeux), and one was at Redrock 28-29 Aug (BO). Dickcissels were at 13 sites from the R.G.V. eastward 26 Aug—7 Oct (m. ob.), including at least 12 at Radium Springs 10 Sep (MS, JZ); west was one at Rodeo 29 Sep (RW).

Migrant Bobolinks were 2 at Sauz Cr., Colfax 16 Sep (DC) and one each near Willard 7 Aug (BO) and at R.S. 15 Sep (SW). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole at Tucumcari 11 Sep (WW) furnished the lone report. A mixed flock of 50 rosy-finches returned to Sandia Crest 19 Nov (fide K. Schneider). Among the very few Cassin's Finch reports were 6 in the Los Pinos Mts. 13 Oct (HS), plus singles on Buck Mt., Lincoln 1 Sep (SW), Tyrone 22 Sep (EL), P.O. Canyon 15 Nov (CL), and Animas Mts. 30 Nov (AC, NM-C, JO). Judging from reports, Red Crossbills were absent from most of New Mexico, although 24 were banded at Capilla Peak, Manzano Mts. 19 Aug—21 Oct (S&NC). Lawrence's Goldfinch last invaded New Mexico six years ago, so noteworthy were reports this season from seven locales, starting with one at Silver City 8 Aug—2 Sep (D&MZ, LM, ph. JO), followed by singles near Radium Springs 27 Sep and 12 Oct (MS, JZ) and at Double Adobe, Animas Mts. 5 Oct (NM-C, RW), up to 4 at P.O. Canyon 11-12 Oct (CL), a single at Lordsburg and 10-20 at Columbus 29 Nov (JEP, ph. JO), and about 20 at Leasburg S.P. 19 Nov (LS). The small population of American Goldfinches discovered on Ponil Cr. near Cimarron in Jul nested successfully in Aug, and several ads. were feeding begging fledglings 5-9 Sep (ph. DC); a late nesting there produced a final family group with 3-4 begging young 1 Oct (DC).

Initialed observers: Pat Basham, Celestyn Brozek, David Cleary, Steve & Nancy Cox, Alan Craig, Joan Day-Martin, Colin Dillingham, Doug Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Rebecca Gracey, Santiago Guallar, Tom Hines, John & Marty Hirth, William Howe, David Krueper, Robert Kriudener, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Larry Malone, Patricia Mehlhop, Ray Meyer, Narca Moore-Craig, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostyn, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Eric Rominger, Christopher Rustay, Lawry A. Sager, Lorraine Schulte, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, John Trochet, Brad Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Mark Watson, Richard Webster, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Dale & Marian Zimmerman. ☉