

New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams III

Summer 2006 opened dry, but generous rains began in late June and spread generally statewide by late July, improving habitat for nesting and migrant species. Numerous rarities were found, including state-first Black-capped Gnatcatcher (found nesting) and Aztec Thrush, the state's second Green Kingfisher, and the state's third Berylline Hummingbird.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Hard-traveling whistling-ducks were in the news, with a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Deming 14 Jun (ph. LM) and 2 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Bosque 9 Jul (ph. MB, JP, NP, CR). Unseasonable waterfowl included a Lesser Scaup pair at Maxwell 9 Jun (WH) and a Bufflehead at French L., Colfax 22-29 Jul (DC). Up to 3 nonvolant juv. Hooded Mergansers at Bosque 6 Jul (ph. J. Vradenberg) documented another successful nesting there. The marsh at the Belen Taco Bell hosted a female Ruddy Duck with 3 young 11 Jun (CR). Partial surveys for White-tailed Ptarmigan in the Pecos Wilderness located 6 at several locales along the Santa Barbara Divide 12-14 Jun (C. Braun). Noteworthy for *Union* was a Northern Bobwhite on Perico Cr. w. of Texline 26 Jun (HS). Montezuma Quail were in evidence in *Catron*, *Grant*, and *Hidalgo*, including a pair with 8 chicks at Mogollon 22 Jul (CGL).

High count for Eared Grebe nests was 225

at Horse L., *Rio Arriba* 13 Jul (DS); 16 nests were at Stubblefield L. 19 Jul, where a pair was tending a chick 21 Jul (ph. DC). Both *Aechmophorus* grebes nested successfully at Stubblefield L., where there were one Western and three Clark's broods 27 Jun (DC) and two nests of each 13 Jul (ph. DC); elsewhere, 3 ad. Clark's were each tending chicks at Sumner L. 4 Jun (WH), and a large mixed-species colony was reported at E.B.L. 5 Jun (WW). Two Great Blue Heron nests on the Navajo R. near Dulce each had 3 large young 13 Jun (DS); three nests at Gila Hot Springs fledged 7 by late Jun (P. Yoder). Far-flung Great Egrets included 2 at Navajo Dam 20 Jun (J. Groves), 3 at three Albuquerque sites 8-13 Jun (DH), 3 at Peralta 6 Jul (E. Nunez), and one at Lordsburg 6 & 23 Jun (JO, JP). An ad. Little Blue Heron near Radium Springs 4 Jun (MS, ph. JZ) provided the lone report. Ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons were carrying sticks at Springer L. 12 & 16 Jun, where a small colony was established 1 Jul (DC). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron visited Bosque 10-11 Jun (L. Gorbet, CR). An ad. Glossy Ibis was among several transient White-faceds at Stubblefield L. 1-7 Jun (ph. DC).

In spite of a massive fish kill at Ramah L. 27 Jun, the Osprey nest there fledged at least one young by late Jul (DS); in *Rio Arriba*, 17 territories fledged 17 young from eight successful nests (DS). Single White-tailed Kites were s. of Rodeo 8 Jul (JP) and at Rodeo 23-31 Jul (RW), and 2 were in the San Simon Valley n. of Rodeo 23-31 Jul (RW). Mississippi Kites continued to increase in the middle R.G.V., including up to eight pairs in the Los Lunas area Jun-Jul (DH); n. to the upper R.G.V. was one at San Juan Pueblo 14 Jul (SF). Unusual in drought years, single Northern Harriers were near B.L.N.W.R. 5 Jun (WH) and Carlsbad 2 Jun (*vide* SW). A Common Black-Hawk was n. to Santa Rosa 14 Jul (ph. JO); 2 in a Silver City riparian area through the period were unusual (D. Beatty). Gray Hawks continued to populate *Hidalgo*, with one at Rodeo 16 Jul and later (RW), one in the middle Animas Valley 21 Jul (JP), and up to 2 in Guadalupe Canyon Jun-Jul (m.ob.). A Ferruginous Hawk nest n. of Roy 29 Jun (HS) contained both dark- and light-morph nestlings. Productivity counts at active Golden Eagle nests in ne. New Mexico found 26 of 46 were successful, producing 36 young (DS); searches in *Rio Arriba* determined five nests successfully fledged 6 young by Jun (DS). At least one ad. Aplomado Falcon was in s. *Luna* 6 Jun and 7 Jul (RM), where the species has been resident since 2000. A Common Moorhen with 2 chicks was at a marsh near the Camino Real Heritage Center, cen. *Socor-*

ro 5 Jun (WW); elsewhere, 2 ads. were tending chicks at B.L.N.W.R. 21 Jun (GW), and one to 2 were at four *Doña Ana* sites 5 Jun-15 Jul (m.ob.).

PLOVERS THROUGH DOVES

Surprisingly late was an American Golden-Plover near Farmington 22 Jun (ph. J. Rees). Peripheral Snowy Plovers were singles at Stubblefield L. 9 Jun (DC) and Springer L. 12 Jun (ph. DC); high count was 295 at B.L.N.W.R. 21 Jun (GW), and 8 ads. were at Brantley L. 8 Jun (RD). Noteworthy Mountain Plovers were one on the North Plains, *Cibola* 2 Jun (DK) and up to 7 n. of Tres Piedras, *Taos* 4 & 11 Jul (JP, WW); 18 on the Grenville B.B.S. 25 Jun (CR) was the largest number there in several years. Scarce n. to Colfax in summer, 2 Black-necked Stilts were at Stubblefield L. 14 Jun (DC); w. were 2 at Bill Evans L. 13 Jun (RS). Noteworthy for the lower Pecos Valley in summer were one to 3 Spotted Sandpipers at B.L.N.W.R. 7 Jun-19 Jul (GW) and 5 at L. Avalon 3 Jul (SW). Early fall Solitary Sandpipers were singles at Vermejo Ranch, *Colfax* 5 & 8 Jul (DC) and Bosque 6 Jul (JP) and 2 at Holloman L. 7 Jul (CB); unusual was one at 2440 m w. of Datil 30 Jul (ph. JH). The 34 Lesser Yellowlegs at B.L.N.W.R. 5 Jul (GW) and the 22 at Bosque 9 Jul (CR) were large numbers for so early in the season. Unusual along the Mexican border in summer, 8 Long-billed Curlews were in wheat fields w. of Columbus 7 Jul (RM). Earliest Marbled Godwits were 15 at Springer L. 16 Jun (ph. DC); singles reached L. Avalon 3 Jul (SW) and B.L.N.W.R. 5 Jul (GW). Always a treat, a Red Knot at E.B.L. 29 Jul (JP, ph. JO) provided an early fall record. Also early were single Sanderlings at Vermejo Ranch 8 Jul (DC) and L. Avalon 10 Jul (SW). Impressive numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers passed through in early Jun, including a record 54 at B.L.N.W.R. 5 Jun (GW, J. Howland) and 52 at Stubblefield L. 5 Jun (DC), where there were 43 on 9 Jun (ph. DC); far w., and a *Rio Arriba* first, were 2 at Stone L. 10 Jun (JP). Stilt Sandpipers were more numerous than usual in the R.G.V., including 5 at Bosque 9 Jul (JP et al.) and 20 at E.B.L. 29 Jul (JP); farther e., high count at B.L.N.W.R. was 88 on 19 Jul (GW). Five vocal Short-billed Dowitchers were early at Stubblefield L. 19 Jul (v.r., DC). Summering Wilson's Snipe were one near Vadito, *Taos* 9 Jun (JP) and 2 each w. of *Taos* 2 Jul (JP) and at French L. 7 & 21 Jun (DC). Returning female Wilson's Phalaropes were 15 at E.B.L. (JO) and 170 at Holloman L. (CGL) 20 Jun.

An ad. Laughing Gull at Brantley L. 3 Jun (SW) continued the recent proliferation of records. High count for California Gulls sum-

mering at Eagle Nest L. was 20 on 21 Jun and 1 Jul (DC). Surprising for the early date was a juv. Sabine's Gull at Stubblefield L. 31 Jul (DC). Least Terns experienced their worst breeding season in recent history—at the B.L.N.W.R. colony, 13 pairs made 21 nest attempts but fledged only 2 young (JM), while at the new Brantley L. colony, where seven pairs were present, four pairs initiated nests, but rising water inundated them all by 12 Jun (JM, RD). Least Terns w. to the R.G.V. were singles on the Rio Grande in Albuquerque's South Valley 15 Jun (DH) and at Bosque 1 Jun (ph. BZ). Southbound Black Terns arrived at multiple locales 27-28 Jul; noteworthy were 14 at Quemado L. 28 Jul (JH), 10 at Deming 30 Jul (LM), and a high 50 at Stubblefield L. 31 Jul (DC). Single ad. Arctic Terns at L. Avalon 3 Jul (SW) and E.B.L. 29-30 Jul (JP, JO, NP, MB, JB) provided New Mexico's 10th and 11th records. A determined Rock Pigeon was nesting atop the moving robotic arm inside a car wash at Los Lunas 13 Jul (DH). Continuing to expand their horizons within New Mexico, White-winged Doves in new locales included singles at Embudo in Jun (*vide* RT), Bluewater 23 Jun (HS), Bear Mts., Socorro 2 Jun (HS), and upper Nogal Canyon 6 Jun (HS). The female Common Ground-Dove that wintered at Las Cruces was last seen 13 Jul (DG); one vocal in the middle Animas Valley 25 Jun (JP) provided the only additional report.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoos are relatively scarce in n. New Mexico, so noteworthy were 2 at Velarde 6 Jun (RT), one near Folsom 24 Jun (CR), and, in the upper R.G.V., singles at Dixon 8 Jun (*vide* RT) and San Juan Pueblo 14 Jul (MM); in the se., single cuckoos were in saltcedar at Brantley L. 22 Jun (RD) and former L. McMillan 6 Jul (RD), but none was in the Six Mile Dam area, where saltcedar has been killed (SW). A Northern Pygmy-Owl in the P.O. Canyon area was giving single-note calls 5 Jun (CDL). Elf Owls have only recently colonized Eddy, where one was entering a nest cavity in Last Chance Canyon 7 Jun (SW). Unexpected away from the low desert, Lesser Nighthawks were found to invade upper P.O. Canyon on evening foraging flights, including 3 there 15 Jun (CDL); similarly unusual was one in upper Guadalupe Canyon 24 Jun (JP). At least five Black Swift nests were being incubated at Jemez Falls 1 Jul (JP). A **Berylline Hummingbird** banded in the Mimbres Valley 25 Jul (ph. JD-M) furnished New Mexico's 3rd record and the first away from *Hidalgo*. A Blue-throated Hummingbird at L. Roberts 24 Jul (JD-M) provided the lone report; n. was a Magnificent w. of Datil 5 Jun (JH). Efforts to count



Impressive numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers passed through New Mexico in early June 2006, including these, part of a flock of 43 at Stubblefield Lake, Colfax County 9 June. Photograph by David J. Cleary.



Far north of historic New Mexico breeding range, this Dusky-capped Flycatcher was found lining its nest at Cherry Creek Campground, Grant County 17 June 2006 (here). Photograph by Dale A. Zimmerman.

Lucifer Hummingbirds at P.O. Canyon feeders yielded 31 males 1 Jul and 8 females 21 Jun and 7 Jul; first fledglings were 2 there 26 Jul (CDL). A hapless female Black-chinned Hummingbird became a Green Heron's meal near Radium Springs 4 Jun (MS, ph. JZ). An ad. male Anna's Hummingbird visited a Santa Fe feeder 7 May-8 Jul (L. Herrmann), the same feeder where one spent last fall. Earliest Calliope Hummingbirds were single males at Radium Springs 5 Jul (MS), Maxwell 7 Jul (DC), and Las Cruces 8 Jul (DG); earliest Rufous were males at El Rito 24 Jun (JO) and Grey

Feathers Lodge, Grant 26 Jun (L. Galloway) The status of Allen's Hummingbird became clearer with 2 banded at L. Roberts 16 Jul (JD-M, JP, ph. DZ), where the capture ratio of Rufous to Allen's was 40 to one; one to 2 apparent Allen's were there 27 Jul (NP, MB, ph. JO) and another was in Cottonwood Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 28 Jul (NP, MB).

Discovery of a pair of Elegant Trogons in a Peloncillo Mts. canyon s. of Skeleton Canyon 21 Jul (RV et al.) provided the first evidence of apparent breeding away from Skeleton. A Belted Kingfisher entering a streambank hole

below Jemez Falls 17 Jun (JP) suggested local nesting. Well described was an ad. male **Green Kingfisher** on the Gila R. near Cliff 5 Jul (K. Brodhead), but no photographs were obtained; this is the 2nd state report in less than a year for this unverified species. A small Lewis's Woodpecker colony at Sugarite S.P., where at least one nest was active 20 Jun (CH), was found abandoned by Lewis's 30 Jun and in their place were up to 4 Acorn Woodpeckers (CH), which were actively nesting there by 12-13 Jul (CH, ph. DC). Other Acorns of interest were 2 or more in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona Jun-Jul (DL) and one far e to N.R.T. 1 Jun (R. Floyd), where it was severely harassed by the local nesting Red-headed Woodpeckers. Additional Red-heads of note were 2 near Romeroville 23 Jun (JS, MW) and up to 7, including imms., in e. *San Miguel* s. of Mosquero 19-20 Jul (MM). Encouraging for the Cliff-Gila Valley were one to 2 Gila Woodpeckers near Cliff 23 Jun (LM) and 23 Jul (CGL) and a nest at Gila Bird Area 7 Jun (RS), the first there in a decade. Although resident s. to the Mogollon Mts., American Three-toed Woodpeckers are rarely reported there; this season, 2 were near Willow Creek Campground 21-22 Jul (ph. CGL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH RAVENS

Up to 6 vocal Greater Pewees were n. in the Black Range to Dark Canyon 9 Jul (CGL, CB). Willow Flycatchers in recently established summering areas were one on Ponil Cr. e. of Cimarron 3 Jun-1 Jul (DC) and a pair on the Mimbres R. s. of San Lorenzo 25 May-14 Jul (R. Rasmussen). An ad. Dusky Flycatcher carrying food at Sugarite S.P. 22 Jun (CH) and two pairs carrying food on the e. edge of Johnson Mesa 24 Jun (CR) strongly suggested nesting in those two areas; elsewhere in *Colfax*, summering Dusksies were in Dean Canyon w. of Cimarron 28 Jun (v.r., DC), at Raton Pass 5 Jul (CH), and Bartlett Mesa e. of Raton Pass 4 Jul (CH). A silent Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher lingered in Guadalupe Canyon 5 & 14 Jun (NP, MB, JO), a time and place when Pacific-slope Flycatcher is a possibility. For the 3rd consecutive year, Black Phoebes nested near Cimarron Jun-Jul (ph. DC). Up to 7 Vermilion Flycatchers were n. to Trigg Ranch s. of Mosquero 17 Jun and 19-20 Jul (SF, MM), and a male was displaying at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Jun (WH). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers found at Cherry Creek Campground 16 Jun (MF) was observed nest-building in a tree cavity there 17 Jun (ph. DZ) and continued there into mid-Jul (m.ob.); one or more were n. to the Jack's Peak area, Burro Mts. 20 Jun (RS) and 7 Jul (CGL), where first found in 2005. Maintaining their presence e. to *Sierra*, three

pairs of Brown-crested Flycatchers were along Las Animas Cr., Ladder Ranch 5 Jun (WW). Following several years of declining numbers, multiple Jun-Jul visits to Guadalupe Canyon found no Thick-billed Kingbirds in the New Mexico portion of the canyon. Noteworthy Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included a local first single near Lakewood 3 Jun (SW), one to 2 on the Delaware R. 4 Jun and 9 Jul (RM), and a nest at Waldrop Park, e. *Chaves* 2 Jun (SOW); beyond expected range were one at Raton 14 Jun (*fide* DC), one near Sabinoso 19 Jun (CR), 2 s. of Mosquero 17 Jun (SF), 5 at San Jon 16 Jul (MW), one near Melrose 15 Jul (CR), and 2 near Portales 1 Jun (SOW).

Bell's Vireos were seldom reported included 2 each at Rodeo 8 Jul (JP) and in *Doña Ana* e. of San Augustin Pass 2 & 14 Jun (CGL) and singles in the middle Animas Valley 25 Jun and 21 Jul (JP), Lakewood 3 Jun (SW), and Jal 6 Jun (SW). Gray Vireos again summered in the *Oscura* Mts., where there was a pair with a fledgling 20 Jul (CGL, CB); in the San Andres Mts. were singles in Buckhorn Canyon and Cottonwood Canyon, both *Sierra* 11 Jul (CB, CGL) and San Andres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 15 Jun (WH). Unexpected in middle R.G.V. riparian habitat, a successful Plumbeous Vireo nest was at Bosque Village, *Valencia* 30 Jun-14 Jul (DH). An ad. **Red-eyed Vireo** with a begging young at Raton Pass 16 Jul (CH) provided the best evidence yet that the species nests in New Mexico; interesting were 2 on the Delaware R. 4 Jun, where a male was singing 9 Jul (RM). Noteworthy for the Black Range, a Clark's Nutcracker was just n. of Emory Pass 4 Jun (CGL). Often overlooked, small groups of American Crows breed widely in New Mexico's mts.; this season found an ad. feeding young on Bartlett Mesa 4 Jul (CH), several near Gila Hot Springs 28 Jun (SOW), 6 at Mayhill 16 Jun (SW), and 2 at Piñon 13 Jun (WH). Far w. was a Chihuahuan Raven e. of Fence L. 2 Jun (DK). Noteworthy for the Guadalupe Mts. was an active Common Raven nest near Queen 5 Jun (SW).

SWALLOWS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Purple Martin pair tending nestlings in the Gallinas Mts. near Corona 26 Jul (DL) provided a local first. A pair of Tree Swallows was nesting in a Wood Duck box at Sugarite S.P. 21 Jun-7 Jul (CH, ph. DC). Six Bank Swallows were at San Juan Pueblo 14 Jul (MM), where the species nested in past years. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was in the Burro Mts. 27 Jun (LM), where not known to breed. A Brown Creeper pair produced fledglings in Ponderosa Pine habitat at Sugarite S.P. 19 Jun (CH). The 27 Cactus Wrens on the Pastura

B.B.S. 4 Jun (WH) represented a large number for *Guadalupe*. Two family groups of Golden-crowned Kinglets were on seldom-visited Little Costilla Peak, *Colfax* 17 Jun (DC). Previously unreported, **Black-capped Gnatcatcher** finally arrived in New Mexico when 2 were found in Guadalupe Canyon 4 Jun (RV et al.), a male was tape-recorded there 9 Jul (v.r., R. Hoyer), and an ad. pair was feeding nestlings 22 (ph. Peg Abbott, ph. JO, JP et al.) & 24 Jul (RW); the intact nest was empty 28 Jul (JO, NP, MB).

Two more pairs of Eastern Bluebirds were found breeding in the middle R.G.V.—a pair with fledglings in a burned area at Bernardo 20 Jun (DH) and a pair with fledglings in an area cleared of exotic vegetation at Bosque Farms, *Valencia* 18 Jul (DH). Veery was found at two dependable locales: one e. of Vadito 10 Jun (CR) and 2 at Chama 9 Jun (JP) and 11 Jul (WW). New Mexico's first **Aztec Thrush** was an ad. male described along Santa Fe's Bishop's Lodge Rd. 15 Jul (D. Doeppers), efforts to relocate it for photographic confirmation were unsuccessful. Noteworthy for summer in the lower R.G.V. was a Gray Catbird at Mesilla 8 Jun (JD). Summering Brown Thrashers were one singing in upper Mills Canyon, *Harding* 30 Jun (HS), one at Bosque Redondo 4 Jun (WH), and a vocal one in Walnut Canyon, *Eddy* 19 Jun (DG). A Curved-billed Thrasher nest with eggs was in the Caja del Rio area near Santa Fe 29 Jun (MR); a nest with eggs in the Bear Mts. 2 Jun (HS) provided a local first. A new breeding locale for Cedar Waxwing was established with the discovery of ads. feeding nestlings s. of Jemez Springs 19 & 21 Jul (GG, WH). Phainopeplas were first found nesting at Quarai in 1996, this year, an ad. was feeding nestlings 23 Jul (HS); farther n., a pair was near Cerrillos 21 Jul (LS).

Far from known range, an Olive Warbler was in Philadelphia Canyon n. of Ruidoso 24 Jul (SW), apparently a first for the Sacramento Mts. Lucy's Warbler only recently colonized *Eddy*; this season, a pair was on the Black R. near Rattlesnake Springs 3 Jun (RM). Noteworthy for *Union* were ad. Yellow Warblers feeding fledglings w. of Folsom 24 Jun (CR). Certainly unexpected on a New Mexico B.B.S. was a singing male **Cape May Warbler** at Sipapu Lodge 9 Jun (JP), the state's 11th record and first for *Taos*. A migrant Grace's Warbler traveling with Bushtits provided a P.O. Canyon first 31 Jul (CDL). An ad. male **Prairie Warbler** was singing at Albuquerque's Tingley Beach 2 Jun (T. Fetz). A Black-and-white Warbler near Cliff 6-7 Jun (DZ) provided the lone report, as did a young male American Redstart at Ladder Ranch 5 Jun (WW)

Intriguing was a probable Ovenbird heard (but not seen) singing at Sugarite S.P. 9 Jul (CR); although not known to nest in New Mexico, the species breeds just across the Colorado line. Late Northern Waterthrushes were singles near Radium Springs 4 Jun (MS, JZ) and at Riley Spring, Socorro 7 Jun (N. Cox). A singing Mourning Warbler was detailed at Sugarite S.P. 2 Jul (D. Elwonger); subsequent observers described a bird seen in that area as a possible Mourning Warbler × MacGillivray's Warbler hybrid 9 (CR) & 13 Jul (CH). Wilson's Warbler summered at the Taos Ski Village, where 4, including singing males, were present 9 Jun (JP), and 3 were there 3 Jul (JP). North were 5 Summer Tanagers on Trigg Ranch s. of Mosquero 16-17 Jun (SF) and one in upper Mills Canyon 28 Jul (HS); one was on the upper Gila R. at Gila Hot Springs 27 Jun (SOW). A male Western Tanager returned to Las Cruces by 3 Jul (DG).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Cassin's Sparrows appeared in numerous unexpected locales w. of usual, including 2 on Rowe Mesa s. of Pecos 3 Jun (CR), singles singing at El Rito 24 Jun (JO) and Taos 3 Jul (JP), and 35 singing at Caja del Rio near Santa Fe 29 Jun (MR). Brewer's Sparrows again nested e. to Stubblefield L., where three nests contained eggs 5 Jun (DC). Dry conditions in Jun resulted in no known Lark Bunting nesting activity in ne. New Mexico; early fall migrants reached s. Luna 7 Jul (RM) and Radium Springs 12 Jul (MS, JZ). One to 2 male Grasshopper Sparrows were singing in alfalfa near Cliff throughout Jun (MF, ph. DZ, JO), and at least one persisted there 8 (ph. CGL) & 23 Jul (CGL); a female was suspected, but no nesting was confirmed. Intriguing was a Fox Sparrow singing at Chama 11 Jul (WW). Five Song Sparrows were along upper Bluewater Cr. 20 Jun (HS), at the s. edge of the breeding range. Yellow-eyed Juncos summering in the Burro Mts. included up to 5 on 20 Jun (RS), an ad. with a juv. 23 Jun (JP), and others seen 27 Jun (LM) and 7 Jul (ph. CGL); *dorsalis* Gray-headed were also present (JP, LM).

A male Northern Cardinal persisted in Albuquerque's South Valley Jun-Jul (DH). Noteworthy for *Chaves* were 2 singing Pyrrhuloxias in the Salt Cr. area 5 Jun (WH) and one singing at Waldrop Park 2 Jun (SOW); in the middle R.G.V., a pair n. to Luis Lopez produced fledglings by early Jul (D. Perry). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak pair was observed mating and carrying nest material at Mesilla 2 Jun, and a 2nd male was in the same area 2 & 8 Jun (JD); a pair, possibly the same, was seen nearby 16 Jun (JD), but no confirmation of nesting was obtained; other Rose-breasted

were a female at Maxwell 12 Jun (ph. DC) and a male at Cedar Crest 4-17 Jul (DL). Apparent Lazuli Bunting × Indigo Bunting hybrids were single males at Cimarron 3 Jun (DC) and Sugarite S.P. 13 Jul (CH). Up to 5 Varied Buntings were in Guadalupe Canyon 24 Jun (JP), and one was singing in San Andres Canyon, *Doña Ana* 15 Jun (WH). Four Painted Buntings were w. to Rodeo 23 Jul, where there were 3 on 30 Jul (RW). Unusual w. to *Grant*, a singing Dickcissel seemed at home in alfalfa near Cliff 13-21 Jun (MF, ph. JO, ph. DZ).

Bronzed Cowbirds n. in the R.G.V. were one at E.B.L. Dam 28 Jun (JS) and 4 at Truth or Consequences 20 Jun (JO); 5 were e. to Jal 6 Jun (SW). A male Scott's Oriole was ne. to Burro Hill, *Harding* 20 Jun (CR); another was s. of Mosquero, e. *San Miguel* 19 Jul (MM). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was on Little Costilla Peak 17 Jun (DC). Noteworthy for the Sacramento Mts. was a Cassin's Finch singing near Sunspot 14 Jun (WH). Small numbers of Red Crossbills summered in the San Juan, Sangre de Cristo, and Jemez ranges, including 10-15 in the Jemez Mts. 2 Jun (BZ) and 1 Jul (JP); farther s., 2 were near Hummingbird Saddle, Mogollon Mts. 22 Jul (CGL), and one was s. of Cloudcroft 13 Jun (WH). Breeding in the lower R.G.V. were 2 ad. Pine Siskins with begging fledglings near Radium Springs 3 Jun (MS, JZ); the ads. had been in the area since May. A male American Goldfinch was singing/displaying s. of Jemez Springs 15 & 21 Jul (GG, WH), but no females were seen; multiple singing males were at two known breeding locales near Cimarron in Jul (ph. DC).

Initialed observers: Jonathan Batkin, Matt Baumann, Charles Britt, David Cleary, Joan Day-Martin, Robert Doster, John Douglas, Stacey Fradkin, Mike Fugagli, Gail Garber, David Griffin, Joan Hardie, David Hawksworth, William Howe, Charles Hundertmark, David Krueper, David Ligon, Carroll D. Littlefield, Carl G. Lundblad, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Raymond Meyer, James Montgomery, Jerry Oldenettel, John Parmeter, Nick Pederson, Mary Ristow, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Hart Schwarz, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, Dale Stahlecker, James Stuart, Robert Templeton, Raymond VanBuskirk, Gordon Warrick, Mark Watson, Richard Webster, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer, Dale Zimmerman. 🐦

Sartor O. Williams III, Southwest Natural History Institute, 1819 Meadowview Drive NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104-2511, (sunbittern@earthlink.net)



NET CONNECTIONS

The ABA's online birder resource to travel companies and destinations as well as birding products and equipment.

For rates and information, go to the ABA website at www.aba.org/netconnections



American Birding Association
www.aba.org



www.americanbirding.org/bex

Donated Lately?...
...Hmm?

Birders' Exchange

