



NEW MEXICO TOUR REPORT

13th Nov to 20th Nov
2014

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- 1000'S Snow Geese
- Ross's Goose
- Cackling Goose
- Hooded Merganser
- Bufflehead
- Gambel's Quail
- Western & Clark's Grebes
- Bald Eagle
- Ferruginous Hawk
- 1000's Sandhill Cranes
- Greater Roadrunner
- Northern Pygmy Owl
- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Williamson's Sapsucker
- Woodhouse's Scrub Jay
- Bridled Titmouse
- Juniper Titmouse
- Pygmy Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- American Dipper
- Mountain Bluebird
- Townsend's Solitaire
- Crissal Thrasher
- Sage Thrasher
- Phainopepla
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Brewer's Sparrow
- Black Rosy-Finch
- Brown-capped Rosy-Finch
- Cassin's Finch

SUMMARY:

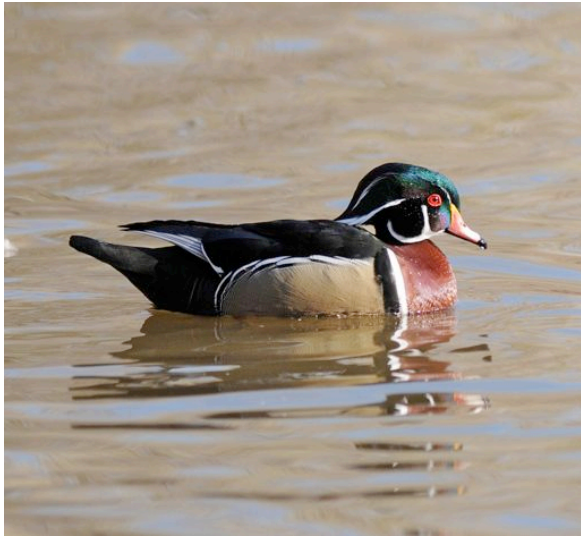
The focus of this visit was to scout out some new areas for our tour here next year. Our arrival was slightly too early for some of the more regular wintering species and coincided with the first cold snap and snow of the season. We found New Mexico to be a fascinating state both culturally and scenically with the highlights being our excursions to Sandia Crest for the rosy-finches and the spectacular number of cranes, geese and other waterfowl at Bosque del Apache. Add some interesting desert environments home to Crissal Thrasher and Roadrunner, secret river valleys in the mountains near Santa Fe home to American Dippers and vast open prairie and grasslands that abound with raptors. Particular favourites and localised species included Juniper & Bridled Titmouse, Phainopepla and Cassin's Finch, whilst delightful flocks of Mountain Bluebirds were just arriving. We also discovered a great valley where two species of sapsucker and the recently split Northern Pygmy Owl were located amidst some spectacular scenery. New Mexico is a wonderful new addition to the ZOOTHERA birding programme and a great destination for a birding holiday, with superb light for taking photos, huge concentrations of birds and easy travelling.

Day 1 Thursday 13th November

Took a morning flight from Heathrow to Atlanta and the onward connection to Albuquerque in New Mexico. After picking up the rental car it only took us 15 minutes to arrive at a wonderful hotel in the historic old town of the city. The first of many fine meals followed at a charming 'wild west' style restaurant nearby and as we walked back to the hotel realised that there was a distinct chill in the air – well we are at 1,619m (5,312 feet)...!

Day 2 Friday 14th November

After a 7.30am breakfast (what?), an **Audubon's Warbler** (a recent 2-way split from Yellow-rumped Warbler) and a flyover **Eastern Bluebird**, we drove to the Rio Grande Nature Centre about 10 minutes



Wood Duck

away. This lovely little reserve proved to be a great place to start our birding in New Mexico, as along the trail to the lake we found **Downy Woodpecker**, both **Black-capped** and **Mountain Chickadees**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Oregon & Pink-sided Juncos**, **White-crowned Sparrow**, **Spotted Towhee** and **White-breasted Nuthatch**. Out on the lake were numerous **Wood Ducks**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Mallard**, a cracking little female **Bufflehead**, **American Coot**, **Pied-billed Grebe** and a **Belted Kingfisher**. We then took the River Loop Trail, where we saw **Northern Flicker**, **House Finch** and out on the Rio Grande River were a pair of **California Gulls**, 3 **Killdeer**, 3 **Sandhill Cranes** and a flock of **Horned Larks**. Returning to the lake beside the Visitor Centre we spent a little while scanning through the waterfowl which had now been joined by lots of

Canada Geese. Across the parking lot is Candelaria Lake and I was very pleased to finally nail **Cackling Goose**. Also here was **Green-winged Teal**, a few **American Wigeon**, **American Kestrel**, **Say's Phoebe** and a confiding **Bewick's Wren**. So by now it was almost 11am and we decided that with the forecasted snow for Sunday potentially affecting our plans to head up into the mountains, we would drive up to Sandia Crest now. On the road out we stopped to admire a large flock of some 25+ **Bushtits**.

The drive up to the turn off into the Sandia Mountains only took half an hour and we headed the 13 miles along the winding road to the parking area at the top, which is at an elevation of around 10,263 feet. Once here we wasted no time in entering the famous Sandia Crest House and scanning for rosy-finches. Despite the area being shrouded in low cloud and a thick frost on the pine trees we could watch **Grey-headed Juncos** and **Steller's Jays** from the heated restaurant and shop complex. But



At just over 10,000 feet it can be quite chilly at Sandia Crest

we didn't have to wait long before a group of **Black Rosy-Finches** flew to the feeder on the veranda just 10 feet away from us. All of a sudden the frozen fingertips were forgotten as 8 of these beautiful gems totally enthralled us. So when they had flown away a hot cup of coffee was called for before venturing outside again and around the car park were many **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Mountain Chickadees** to keep us entertained. A flock of **Red Crossbills** flew in and landed nearby and on closer inspection there was also a **Pine Siskin** accompanying them.



Black Rosy-Finches at Sandia Crest

Driving back down the mountain we found a **Hairy Woodpecker**, a huge congregation of several hundred **American Robins** and our first **Townsend's Solitaire**. And that was our mountain birding done for the day as we headed north to Santa Fe along a quiet 'back' road. Flocks of **Western Bluebirds** adorned the telegraph wires as we drove through rolling hills until we couldn't take it any longer and frustration got the better of us and we pulled over at the basically the first safe bit of parking space we came to. What a superb decision this was as no sooner had we stepped out of the car than another **American Robin** appeared, but right next to it was a female **Cassin's Finch**. A lifer for yours truly and I took my time studying the bird – not wanting to make an error in identification. I needn't have worried as there were several others present, and at least one male bird to clinch things. As if things couldn't get any better, a **Canyon Towhee** appeared and shortly after a pair of **Sage Thrashers** showed nicely. A close **Townsend's Solitaire** was pretty cool as well! So that was it and with the light fading at 4.30pm we drove just under an hour to Santa Fe and our base for the next two nights.

Day 3 Saturday 15th November

We were away by 7.15am and heading to the scenic Pecos River Valley and a search for our main target bird, **American Dipper**. Along the way we had seen our first **Western Bluebirds** and **Black-billed Magpies** – and quite bizarre too seeing this latter species in the US. Once in the valley, the road meandered its way up alongside the river and there were many



Pecos River

places to stop and scan. We paused briefly from dipper duty to check out a lake but only found **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** (a recent split from Western Scrub-Jay), a flock of **Bushtits** and a **Slate-coloured Junco** so didn't linger. Anyway, after about our 12th check of suitable river stretches we finally managed to



American Dipper

find an **American Dipper** bobbing on a rock mid-stream. It wasn't that bothered by our presence and we watched it for quite some time. Our next stop was at the delightfully named Holy Ghost where the deserted campsite set amidst large pine trees was practically devoid of birds, apart from several **Brown Creepers** and **Steller's Jays**. Oh and **Townsend's Solitaire** was very common here. So we decided to return to the main road and check out Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, which was only 40 minutes from the start of the Pecos River Valley. This turned out to be a good move as once on a quiet road in the rolling grasslands we found a flock of **Mountain Bluebirds** and stunners they were too! Overhead we saw **Red-tailed** and **Ferruginous Hawks**, plus there were several **Northern Harriers** quartering the vast open prairie. A marshy area held some **Snow**

Geese and a flock of 50+ **Sandhill Cranes**, whilst a lake held a pair of **Clark's Grebes**. Then we drove back to Santa Fe and drove up into the Santa Fe Mountains where some recent snowfall created another wonderful wintry scene. We didn't get much up here, apart from a fine male **Cassin's Finch**, but we had just came to check the site out, although a **Northern Flicker** was very obliging.

Day 4 Sunday 16th November

With heavy snowfall overnight we decided to head south and the hour long journey to Albuquerque was an adventure in itself as the road was covered in the white stuff. So slow going indeed but not much traffic on the road at 7am and with the temperature at a cool 18°F I was a little worried there would be ice on the road. But it was fine and we ploughed on, stopping at our favourite little spot on the back road to Albuquerque where the snow clung to the juniper bushes making the wintry scene look very splendid indeed. We had a nice male **Cassin's Finch** perched on top of one of the nearby



Townsend's Solitaire



Cassin's Finch

bushes, along with **Townsend's Solitaire** and some **Western Bluebirds** making for great photographic opportunities. Moving on, a **Canyon Towhee** flew across the road in front of us and we had it in the back of our minds to go up to Sandia Crest and get another species of rosy-finch, but the weather was getting worse by the time we reached the turn off into the Sandia Mountains.



The Magdalena Mountains

So instead we drove down I-25 for just over an hour to Socorro and on up into the Magdalena Mountains. The road went up onto a vast open prairie/grassland with views of snow-capped mountains in the distance before we turned up into Water Canyon. There was a strong cold wind blowing which kept the temperature down to about 48°F for most of the day. But once in the canyon, which was bounded by tall cliffs and covered in pine and juniper we had a great time as there were lots of birds. Our first stop to check out a flock of birds produced (apart from a rush of blood!) a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** pecking away at a spruce tree. Wow! Finally we'd managed to find one of the scarcer peckers after all of that searching in the north and in lovely sunshine and blue skies we spent a while watching and photographing this little beauty. There was also **White-breasted Nuthatch**, our first **Curve-billed Thrasher**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a flock of **Pine Siskins**, **Oregon** and numerous **Pink-sided** and **Grey-headed Junco's**. I wanted to check out the camping sites just a little further up the road but it was quiet, apart from **Acorn Woodpecker**, some **Mountain Chickadees** and loads more junco's. So we drove back down to the first site and duly scored with our first **Juniper Titmouse**, quickly followed by a cracking **Red-naped Sapsucker**. I was over the moon with this latter species, as not only was it a lifer but a simply stunning bird. In fact, there were lots of birds moving through the trees below us and we had further views of solitaires and bluebirds, **Hairy Woodpecker**, and a few **Woodhouse's Scrub Jays** that posed nicely. Elated with our findings here we drove up through the valley, in a half-hearted search for **Pygmy Nuthatch** – a species I know is here but have seen plenty of times before over the years.



Williamson's Sapsucker

By now it was 3.15pm and we decided to head down to Bosque del Apache, arriving at 4pm. We had the bonus sighting of several **Pronghorn Antelopes** in the grassland before reaching the highway. Heading into the reserve we drove to the parking area known as the Flight Deck where there were hundreds of common ducks out on the water, but we were more interested in the **Snow Geese** and **Sandhill Cranes**. It has been an ambition of mine for many years to visit this place and must admit, I was very excited to be here! So we took a few photos of the geese and then I noticed a much smaller



Ross's (left) and Snow Goose (right) at Bosque del Apache

white goose which was (of course) a superb **Ross's Goose**. The small rounded head and tiny bill were very noticeable and it posed nicely next to a **Snow Goose** so you could see the size difference easily. The light was superb and it was very enjoyable watching the geese flying around with the late afternoon sunshine making the backdrop of trees and bushes literally glow a

wonderful golden colour. There were lots of other birds here with hundreds of **Red-winged Blackbirds** flocking in the marshes and a couple of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** and **Common Grackles** were in amongst them as well. Several **Northern Harriers** quartered the marshes, a **Red-tailed Hawk** was perched in a dead tree and a **Cooper's Hawk** flew over us.



Just a few Sandhill Cranes

A quick drive around the Loop Trail failed to give us anything new so we headed back up the main road to some pools where hundreds of **Sandhill Cranes** were flying in to roost. The cacophony of noise as they bugled their presence high overhead as they flew down in skeins to land noisily in front of us was fantastic. Several of them lowered their 'undercarriages' and almost seemed to hang in the air with the backdrop of mountains making a lovely scene. It really is difficult to describe how

evocative the sound of cranes is until you've experienced it yourself and this definitely ranks as one of those never-to-be-forgotten moments I will mentally file away forever. With the light almost gone we drove 30 minutes back to our motel in Socorro and prepared for an early departure tomorrow.

Day 5 Monday 17th November

Left at the ridiculously early time of 5am, stopping to get a coffee and breakfast burrito along the way and arrived at Bosque del Apache half an hour later. We parked up at the Flight Deck viewing



Sandhill Cranes at dawn in Bosque del Apache

platform and waited in the freezing cold darkness for the first rays of dawn to lighten the horizon. In fact within ten minutes it was getting visibly lighter and you could make out the silhouettes of



Snow Geese at Bosque del Apache

Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese out on the lake. A crescendo of noise was emanating from the near-darkness and around 6am it was light enough to scope the birds. We were stood with several photographers from around the world (including Japan) to witness the spectacle of the morning dispersal of thousands of birds and we were not to be disappointed. At first the odd one or two cranes took off, but slowly and surely more and more began

taking off and flying away into the distance, followed by the **Snow Geese** and other wildfowl. The light was getting better and better all the time and we soaked up the atmosphere. By 7.15am it was all over and we drove around the North Loop, getting some fine views of **Song, Lincoln's and Savannah Sparrows** – all of which were new for the trip. There was also an immature **Bald Eagle** eating a **Snow Goose**, **Spotted Towhee**, **Cooper's** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, close **Say's Phoebe**, plus a field with 3000+ **Sandhill Cranes**, and further on around a 1000 **Snow Geese** were feeding in a field beside the track. Back at the Flight Deck we scoped an adult **Bald Eagle** and all of a sudden around 6,000 **Snow Geese** began flying overhead and most of them dropped down into the lake behind us. This was a simply awesome spectacle and I cannot truly describe the volume of noise from so many birds. We then drove along the track and pulled up right beside all of these birds and spent a good long while watching them – they were almost at touching distance. Unbelievable! I was impressed by the numbers of **Ross's Goose** present and I estimated 400+ in this one flock alone.



Typical desert habitat

Eventually we went to the Visitor Centre for a nice hot cup of coffee and watched the feeders where a covey of **Gambel's Quails** were very nice. There was also a couple of **White-throated Sparrows** with the **White-crowns**, **Spotted Towhee**, **Mountain Chickadee** and **House Finch**.

Leaving here we drove just a few miles along the road to a nearby trail, seeing a **Roadrunner** doing its thing along the road and a **Rock Wren** greeted our arrival in the parking lot. The desert habitat here made such a pleasant change to what we

had been accustomed to on this trip so far but it was very quiet to start with.

However, things changed all of a sudden when a **Green-tailed Towhee** put in an appearance and no sooner had we seen that than my most wanted bird here, a **Crissal Thrasher** began singing from the top of a bush on the slope above us. Oh yes baby! It was very nervous and wouldn't allow a close approach at all so we settled down and watched it running between the bushes like a mini-roadrunner, with occasional sallies onto the tops to sing before he disappeared entirely. Whilst sat down here a flock of sparrows came into view, which proved to be **Brewer's Sparrows** and they showed nicely. We followed this with several **Black-throated Sparrows** and a flyby **Lesser Goldfinch** before returning to the parking lot. There were also a few **Verdins** around but they were flighty and disappeared pretty quickly.



Black-throated Sparrow

So we drove back to Bosque del Apache,

pausing at the Visitors Centre for more coffee before taking a slow drive around the reserve once more. This time we really soaked up the atmosphere as lake after lake had huge concentrations of waterfowl present and each provided an extremely tranquil scene. The light was stunning and we had lost the harsh midday glare, so we spent our time scoping each lake and pool in search of something new. The first lake was the best one of the afternoon in fact and had an adult **Bald Eagle** making sallies across the water in search of an easy meal. This led the ducks to take flight and settle again much closer to us. A fine **Bufflehead** was nice, as was **Lesser Scaup**, **American Wigeon** and **Western Grebe**, whilst a flotilla of **Ring-necked Ducks** stayed just out of range of the camera. There was also a **Black Phoebe** (oh joy!) and a confiding **Marsh Wren** here as well. Moving on, the concentrations of each species kept changing at each lake we scanned, but eventually we found a trio of fine **Redheads**, **American Avocet** and **Ring-billed Gull** to add to our list.



Sandhill Cranes flying in at sunset

By the time we had reached the reserve entrance it was already 4.30pm so decided to drive up the road to some nice pools, watching several **Northern Harriers** quartering the fields and enjoyed the crane spectacle once more. Sure enough several thousand **Sandhill Cranes** could be seen flying across the golden-hued trees and against the distant mountains before many of them flew in and settled right in front of us. What a show they gave and, once again, I was in awe of one of nature's truly remarkable spectacles. The noise and sheer commotion of so many birds was very impressive indeed.

Official estimates today of 40,000 Snow and Ross's Geese, 10,000 Sandhill Cranes and 50,000 species of duck in the reserve!

So to sum up in words our experiences today has been very difficult indeed. Suffice it to say, Bosque del Apache – AWESOME! BRILLIANT! INCREDIBLE!

Day 6 Tuesday 18th November

A great day today as we explored areas to the south of Socorro. It only took just over an hour to reach Las Animas Creek and we were grateful for the sun's rays to finally reach our position beneath some huge Arizona Sycamore trees as it was decidedly chilly at dawn this morning. But we were soon warmed by the appearance of a cute little **Bridled Titmouse** that showed extremely well down to a few metres. A cross between a Crested Tit and Tufted Titmouse, this is a really good bird to get in

New Mexico and to say we were pleased is an understatement. There were also a few **Acorn Woodpeckers** here and some other commoner birds including lots of **Gambel's Quails** and a **Hermit**



The scenic Percha State Park

Thrush, but we didn't linger and headed further south to Percha State Park. The temperature gauge in the rental car read only 28°F at 8am today – no wonder we were shivering as we walked around the RV Park here, but it soon warmed up and in just a few hours the temperature actually rose by 33 degrees!! Anyway, we saw several

lovely **Phainopeplas** perched on the

treetops, as well as a **Green-tailed Towhee** and the commoner **Spotted Towhee**, a flock of **Brewer's Sparrows**, a nice male **American Kestrel**, and a **Pyrrhuloxia**.

A short distance up the road was Percha Dam, another great birding location and a rarity magnet in the past. This was a particularly 'birdy' site as the numerous trees were attracting lots of **Audubon's Warblers**. Along the creek we saw at least 3 **Greater Yellowlegs** and finally a pair of cute **Ladder-backed Woodpeckers**. Then we drove up to Cabello State Park, again just a few miles away, and at the entrance gate the helpful lady in the kiosk told us about a good restaurant just a few miles away – which was in fact superb! Then we returned to Cabello but it was not particularly great, with just distant views across the lake to some distant grebes and ducks (including a flock of 18 **Buffleheads** and a few **Common Mergansers**), although we did see our first **Chipping Sparrows** here.



Green-tailed Towhee

Moving on to Elephant Butte State Park we drove down to the Marina where we had really close views of **Western Grebes**, some of which were calling and displaying – how weird! In fact it was lovely and warm here so we watched the grebe's antics for a while and a few of them came within 15 metres of us. Further out were some **Clark's Grebes** and a pair of **American White Pelicans**. After our picnic lunch here we drove around the roads in the park and had a great time. At one spot we pulled over to look at a **Northern Mockingbird** perched up in a tree, and then noticed a **Crissal Thrasher** running into cover nearby. Hiding behind a bush we were delighted when the thrasher decided to

pose on top of another bush quite near to us! Wow! There were also more **Phainopeplas**, **Sage Thrasher**, **American Robin**, a superb flock of 40+ **Mountain Bluebirds**, and further stunning views of the **Crissal Thrasher**.



A cool-looking Phainopepla



Crissal Thrasher

Then we left here and drove down the road, where a small lake held both **Double-crested** and **Neotropic Cormorants**. Nearby, Paseo del Rio held 3 **Hooded Mergansers** but the habitat looked really nice and I would have liked more time to check it out. And that was our day as our proposed last-ditch visit to Three Sisters viewpoint higher up the lake was curtailed by a closed road. So we returned to the hotel in daylight for a change and then headed over for dinner at Denny's.

Day 7 Wednesday 19th November

Left the motel at early o'clock and drove up into the mountains, arriving at dawn after a little 'discussion' with the local constabulary. Needless to say it was freezing and there was some ice on the



Northern Pygmy Owl

mountain track as we drove up to over 8,000 feet. At the first stop we heard a **Northern Pygmy Owl** in the distance, which was quite exciting. However, at the next stop a little higher up we heard and then managed to spot a calling **Northern Pygmy Owl** perched high up in a pine tree, and then followed it as it flew to a huge dead tree where we scoped it. I was particularly pleased to get this recent split from the Pygmy Owl of Europe.

Numerous juncos came in to mob the owl and it was amazing to see so many birds suddenly appear out of nowhere as the forest initially seemed devoid of birds. So we walked up the track in search of **Pygmy Nuthatch** and came across another **Northern Pygmy Owl** – wow! This one was much closer and drawing the attention of several **Mountain Chickadees** and we were treated to terrific views. Our luck was truly in as just after seeing

this I heard a **Pygmy Nuthatch** in the distance and then there they were, four of the little beauties flew right up next to us. Always a treat to see and a decent trip tick indeed! Walking back to the car

we had a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** and then drove lower down where numerous **Western Bluebirds** and **Townsend's Solitaires** were enjoying the morning sunshine.

From here we decided to forego the delights of the Bosque Grasslands and drive back up to Sandia Crest in the hope of some more rosy-finch action. Arriving at a decidedly chilly parking lot, we welcomed the heated restaurant from where we could view the feeders. Just a few **Grey-headed Juncos** and **Steller's Jays** were coming in and we were thinking of leaving after a two hour wait when 3 **Black Rosy-Finches** appeared. After another hour of waiting and again thinking of leaving a single **Brown-capped Rosy-Finch** flew in! We were so pleased to get our second rosy-finch species and I think coming here a few weeks later would definitely result in all 3 species.

All that was left was to drive to the airport motel and a final great evening meal.

Day 8 Thursday 20th November

Early morning flight back to Atlanta and onward connection to the UK, arriving the following morning.

Nick Bray



[Western Bluebirds in the snow.](#)



Hooded Merganser



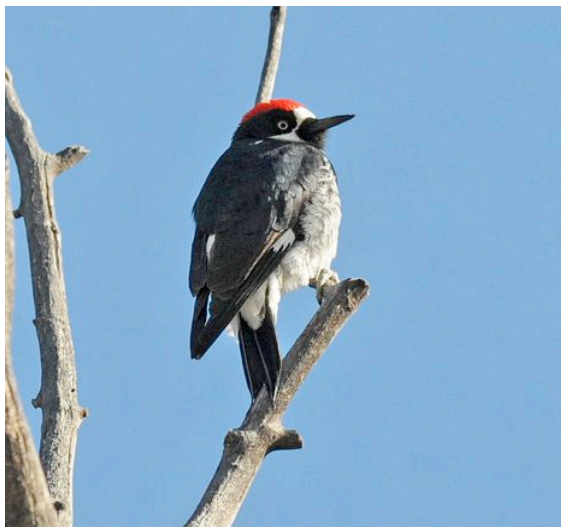
Western Grebe



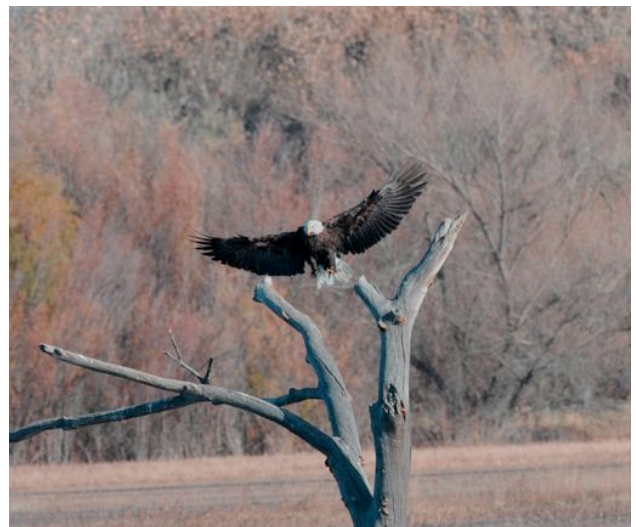
Mountain Bluebird



Brown-capped Rosy-Finch



Acorn Woodpecker



Bald Eagle

SYSTEMATIC LIST – NEW MEXICO NOVEMBER 2014

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>
Ross's Goose	<i>Chen rossii</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Cackling Goose	<i>Branta hutchinsii</i>
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>

GALLIFORMES: Odontophoridae

Gambel's Quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>
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PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
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PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae

American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>
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SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

American Coot

*Fulica americana***GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Sandhill Crane

*Grus canadensis***CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

American Avocet

*Recurvirostra americana***CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Killdeer

*Charadrius vociferus***CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Greater Yellowlegs

*Tringa melanoleuca***CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

California Gull

*Larus californicus***COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Dove

Columba livia

Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

White-winged Dove

*Zenaida asiatica***CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Greater Roadrunner

*Geococcyx californianus***STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Northern Pygmy Owl

*Glaucidium californicum***CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Belted Kingfisher

*Megasceryle alcyon***PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Acorn Woodpecker

Melanerpes formicivorus

Williamson's Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus thyroideus

Red-naped Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus nuchalis

Ladder-backed Woodpecker

Picoides scalaris

Downy Woodpecker

Picoides pubescens

Hairy Woodpecker

Picoides villosus

Northern Flicker

*Colaptes auratus***FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

American Kestrel

*Falco sparverius***PASSERIFORMES: Tyrannidae**

Black Phoebe

Sayornis nigricans

Say's Phoebe

Sayornis saya

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Loggerhead Shrike

*Lanius ludovicianus***PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

Steller's Jay

Woodhouse's Scrub Jay

Black-billed Magpie

American Crow

Northern Raven

Chihuahuan Raven

*Cyanocitta stelleri**Aphelocoma woodhouseii**Pica hudsonia**Corvus brachyrhynchos**Corvus corax**Corvus cryptoleucus***PASSERIFORMES: Ptiliognathidae**

Phainopepla

*Phainopepla nitens***PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Bridled Titmouse

Juniper Titmouse

Mountain Chickadee

Black-capped Chickadee

*Baeolophus wollweberi**Baeolophus ridgwayi**Poecile gambeli**Poecile atricapillus***PASSERIFORMES: Remizidae**

Verdin

*Auriparus flaviceps***PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Horned Lark

*Eremophila alpestris***PASSERIFORMES: Aegithalidae**

American Bushtit

*Psaltiriparus minimus***PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae**

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

*Regulus calendula***PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae**

Rock Wren

Marsh Wren

Bewick's Wren

*Salpinctes obsoletus**Cistothorus palustris**Thryomanes bewickii***PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae**

Pygmy Nuthatch

Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch

*Sitta pygmaea**Sitta canadensis**Sitta carolinensis***PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae**

Brown Creeper

*Certhia americana***PASSERIFORMES: Mimidae**

Northern Mockingbird

Sage Thrasher

*Mimus polyglottos**Oreoscoptes montanus*

Curve-billed Thrasher
Crissal Thrasher

Toxostoma curvirostre
Toxostoma crissale

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird
Western Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Hermit Thrush
American Robin

Sialia sialis
Sialia mexicana
Sialia currucoides
Myadestes townsendi
Catharus guttatus
Turdus migratorius

PASSERIFORMES: Cinclidae

American Dipper

Cinclus mexicanus

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae

Black Rosy-Finch
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch
Cassin's Finch
House Finch
Red Crossbill
Lesser Goldfinch
Pine Siskin

Leucosticte atrata
Leucosticte australis
Haemorhous cassinii
Haemorhous mexicanus
Loxia curvirostra
Spinus psaltria
Spinus pinus

PASSERIFORMES: Parulidae

Audubon's Warbler

Setophaga auduboni

PASSERIFORMES: Icteridae

Yellow-headed Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Great-tailed Grackle

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
Sturnella neglecta
Agelaius phoeniceus
Quiscalus quiscula
Quiscalus mexicanus

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae

Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Slate-coloured Junco
Gray-headed Junco
Oregon Junco
Pink-sided Junco

Melospiza melodia
Melospiza lincolnii
Zonotrichia leucophrys
Zonotrichia albicollis
Junco hyemalis hyemalis
Junco hyemalis caniceps
Junco hyemalis oregonus
Junco hyemalis mearnsi

Savannah Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
Canyon Towhee

Passerculus sandwichensis
Spizella passerina
Spizella breweri
Amphispiza bilineata
Pipilo chlorurus
Pipilo maculatus
Melospiza fusca

PASSERIFORMES: Cardinalidae

Pyrrhuloxia

Cardinalis sinuatus



Another lovely day in New Mexico