

# New Mexico Nature & Culture | Species List

## December 3 – 10, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



**Guides Kathleen Hall and Bryan Calk with participants Karen, Ann, Lynne, Howard, Joan, Margaret, Charlotte, Bill, and Kathy**



Canyon Wren by Bryan Calk

**Summary:** A week of touring the Land of Enchantment started with exploring Old Town Albuquerque and birding along the Rio Grande bosque and the Sandia Mountains. Here we learned about the ecology of the cottonwood-lined river corridors and stood in the snow at Sandia Crest watching three species of Rosy-finch float in and out of view. Down in Socorro our attention turned to waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes as multitudes of each impressed us, with the pre-dawn fly-out of the Snow Geese and the rare Long-tailed Duck. Raptors also put in an impressive showing, including White-tailed Kite and more common specialties like Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcon, and Bald Eagles. In Santa Fe, we spent more time focusing on the culture of the area by touring the Taos Pueblo, visiting Abiquiu, and hiking Bandelier National Monument. Some of our favorite moments were standing at the edge of the Rio Grande Gorge, our resident-guided walk through the Pueblo, a landscape tour through Ghost Ranch's painted desert, and the Bradbury Science Museum at Los Alamos National Lab. These were rich

experiences that showed us just a taste of the diversity of stories the region has to tell. Along the way we had some great wildlife encounters, like two flocks of Pinyon Jays, some majestic Mule Deer, and a nice diversity of birds along the cliffs and in the Ponderosa Pines at Bandelier.

**Birds (97 species):** A full list of the birds and their corresponding locations can be found here:

[New Mexico Nature and Culture | December 3 – 10, 2023 | Ebird Trip Report](#)

### **Mammals (5 species):**

**Abert's Squirrel** *Sciurus aberti* – Seen well first at Doc Long picnic area in the Sandia Mountains, and again at Bandelier National Monument

**Cliff Chipmunk** *Neotamias dorsalis* – One darting around the feeding area at Sandia Crest

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* – A few at Bosque del Apache seen on our drive around the refuge, and a herd including a beautiful buck at Los Alamos

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – A couple seen lounging out in a field full of waterfowl and cranes at Bosque del Apache

**Bobcat** *Lynx rufus* – One seen running down the road and quickly into the brush at Bosque del Apache along the auto tour route