

# New Mexico Birding & Culture December 6-13, 2025 | Species List with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by Bryan with guide Dave and guests Sarah, Jane, Gerard, Moira, Constance, Tom L., Linda, Dennis, Tom K., and Carol**

Over the course of the week, the trip took us north and south along the Rio Grande and out into the surrounding mountains, valleys, and high desert. We began in Albuquerque along the bosque and wetlands of the river corridor, then climbed into the Sandia Mountains before heading south to the wide-open fields and managed wetlands of the middle Rio Grande Valley. From there the route turned north again, crossing grasslands in the Estancia Valley, passing through historic mining towns, and settling into Santa Fe as a hub for exploring the region. Days branched out from there to places like Abiquiu, Ghost Ranch, Taos, Bandelier, and Los Alamos, each with its own character shaped by geology, history, and light. Wildlife was present throughout, whether moving across open prairie, concentrated in wetlands, or quietly sharing forested canyons.

What really tied the week together was how seamlessly the natural landscape and human history overlapped. We walked through ancestral pueblos and cliff dwellings, explored historic ranches and villages, visited museums and art sites, and learned from guides and local voices who helped bring context to what we were seeing. Meals in small towns and historic buildings became natural pause points in the day, spaces to reflect and connect before moving on again. By the time the trip came full circle and we returned to Albuquerque for departures, it felt less like a checklist of places and more like a shared experience shaped by colors, culture, context, and camaraderie.

## **BIRDS (95):**

During the trip, 95 species were recorded of which one was heard only and four were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 95 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[New Mexico Birding & Culture | December 6-13, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

#### **MAMMALS (8):**

**Rock Squirrel** *Otospermophilus variegatus* – seen in several locations throughout the week, especially around rocky slopes, canyon edges, and developed areas

**Abert's Squirrel** *Sciurus aberti* – single individual observed in Ponderosa Pine forest at Sulphur Canyon in the Sandia Mountains, another single individual seen at Bandelier National Monument

**Colorado Chipmunk** *Neotamias quadrivittatus* – active and approachable around feeders at the Los Alamos Nature Center

**North American Porcupine** *Erethizon dorsatum* – one resting high in a Cottonwood at the Rio Grande Nature Center, prolonged views

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – two individuals observed at Bosque del Apache, one actively hunting in open fields

**Collared Peccary (Javelina)** *Pecari tajacu* – group observed moving through a drainage ditch at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* – several individuals seen in fields at Bernardo Wildlife Area in evening light

**Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep** *Ovis canadensis canadensis* – family group including rams, ewes, and a lamb encountered along the Rio Grande Gorge canyon road near Taos

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (1):**

**Red-eared Slider** *Trachemys scripta elegans* – a couple of individuals basking and swimming in ponds at the Rio Grande Nature Center