

New Mexico Winter Birds & Grand Landscapes Species List | January 18 – 26, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide James Petersen and Vernie Aikins. Our clients included Steve, Marie, Ross, Margaret, Ron, Terry, Susan, Sue.

Upon meeting in Albuquerque, we slowly made our way down the state birding along the way. Our first full day of the tour, we made our way up to the top of the Sandia's, to view the spectacle that is the wintering, Rosy Finches. We watched in awe as they swirled around in the cold winter air, eventually landing and letting us get looks at all three of the Rosy Finch species! We finished that day birding our way down the sandia's, getting looks at Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Steller's Jays. Lower down we visited some native American ruins, which also had good looks at Juniper Titmouse and Williamson's Sapsucker. We continued working our way down south, with the next few days spent viewing the spectacle of wintering Sandhill Cranes and Ross's and Snow Geese. This included an early morning to view them at sunrise.

The second half of the trip, we spent birding the Organ Mountains, where we had half a day with 11 species of sparrows (including Juncos and Towhees)! Witnessed a fantastic sunset at White Sands National Park and relaxing in the Hot Springs after the 2 mornings of birding in Truth or Consequences. This led to a fantastic trip with 126 species of birds and 7 species of mammals.

BIRDS 126 species were recorded of which 2 were endemic and 2 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 126 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 Winter Birds & Grand Landscapes | January 18- 26, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

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

MAMMALS: (7)

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii* — Only seen on one day of the trip, where one ran in front of the lead car while heading out to see the cranes in the early morning.

Harris's Antelope Ground Squirrel *Ammospermophilus harrisi* — We observed this small squirrel on our last full day, while birding the Paseo del Rio Sierra area. It was running around on the rocks opposite the trail.

North American Porcupine *Erethizon dorsatum* — We only observed this species on the first day. The porcupine was sitting in the very tops of one of the Fremont Cottonwood Trees at the Rio Grande Nature Center.

Collared Peccary *Pecari tajacu* — This native species was only seen on both days in Bosque del Apache National Wildlife

Refuge. The first time, they were crossing the road with piglets. The second time was while on the wildlife drive, foraging in a field that also included Greater Roadrunners.

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus* — This species was also seen on both days in Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. We had one incredible sighting on our full day where we had a massive buck following a heard of female Mule Deers.

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor* — We only saw this species once, while walking the board walk on the southern part of the refuge drive. It was at the edge of the reeds before slinking away from us.

Coyote *Canis latrans* — We observed this species only while at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Our best sighting came late on our full day there, where we watched one stalk a few of the Sandhill Cranes in the field.