

New Mexico Nature & Culture with Naturalist Journeys | Species List



December 2 – 9, 2021

With guides Dave Mehlman, Kathleen Hall, and Bryan Calk and 11 participants:
Anne, Charlene, Chris, Connie, Fernando, Gary, Gene, Jean, Kathy, Susan, and Vivian

(G) = Seen by guides only
(I) = introduced

Summary: 73 species of birds and 7 species of mammals were seen on this winter Sampler trip from Albuquerque up to Taos, New Mexico. Highlights were many!

BIRDS (73 species recorded):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (12)

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*—Seen in very large numbers in the Middle Rio Grande at Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*—Only a few birds definitely picked out of the crowd at the fly-in area at Bosque del Apache

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*—A large flock in the main pond at Rio Grande Nature Center

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*—Found on 3 days at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bosque del Apache, and when driving to breakfast on day 4

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*—A few in the back pond near the feeders at Rio Grande Nature Center

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—Very numerous in the ponds at Bosque del Apache

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—A few in the back pond at Rio Grande Nature Center

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—Seen on 2 days at Rio Grande Nature Center and at Bosque del Apache

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—Quite abundant in the ponds at Bosque del Apache

Redhead *Aythya americana*—A small group of 4 (2 males, 2 females) found with the scope at Bosque del Apache

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*—One bird swimming and diving in the main pond at Rio Grande Nature Center

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*—A small group in the big pond at Bosque del Apache

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

Gambel's Quail *Callipepla gambelii*—Seen quite easily in large numbers at the feeders at Bosque Del Apache

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (2)

Wild Turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*—A medium sized flock seen in a corn field on the North Loop at Bosque Del Apache

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (1)—One seen while driving out of Bernardo

GREBES: Podicipedidae (1)

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*—One found on the front pond at Rio Grande Nature Center

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* (1)—Seen on most days when in or driving through towns

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (1)—Seen and heard on the days in Taos

White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—Quite visible near the feeders at Bosque Del Apache

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Seen on the first days of the tour at Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque Del Apache

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (1)

Greater Roadrunner *Geococcyx californianus*—Although it's New Mexico's state bird and sometimes hard to find, one was spotted on the very first day of the trip at the Rio Grande Nature Center

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana*—Seen on the first days of the tour at Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque Del Apache

CRANES: Gruidae (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*—Seen on 3 days of the tour, most abundantly in the Middle Rio Grande Valley at Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (1)

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*—(G) Seen by Dave over the Rio Grande at the Rio Grande Nature Center

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (1)

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Very unexpectedly, one of these was unseasonably present at the fly-in site at Bosque del Apache after all the Snow Geese flew off and left this one white bird behind!

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (5)

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*—Several seen soaring over grasslands, shrublands, and ponds at Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—Seen on two days of the tour at Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque Del Apache

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—Fly over birds seen at Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque Del Apache and by Bryan and Dave at Bandelier

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—By far the most frequently seen raptor of the tour, a variety of ages and color morphs seen at several sites during the first 4 days, including at Sandia Crest

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*—Fabulous views of this very elegant raptor were had while it soared over the group on the north tour loop at Bosque del Apache NWR

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (5)

Williamson's Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus thryoides*—A female was well seen by everyone while drilling sap wells in a Ponderosa Pine at the picnic area at Bandelier

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*—Seen from the vans in the Jemez Mountains while driving to Bandelier

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*—One found at Rio Grande Nature Center

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—One found at Bandelier

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—Several seen at Bosque del Apache and another at Martinez Hacienda

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Found at both Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

Merlin *Falco columbarius*—One seen by the side of the wildlife drive very late in the day at Bosque del Apache

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—One perched on a telephone pole at Bernardo WMA

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (1)

Say's Phoebe *Sayornis saya*—Seen at both Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

Steller's Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—Seen at Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mountains

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—Seen on 3 days, at Bosque del Apache, Ghost Ranch, and Randall Davey

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*—Seen every day in Taos, mostly while driving

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Seen on the first 2 days of the tour

Chihuahuan Raven *Corvus cryptoleucus*—Identified at Bernardo; undoubtedly at other sites, too

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—Seen or heard on 4 days of the tour in the Sandia Mountains, Bandelier, Ghost Ranch, and Santuario de Chimayó

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (3)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—Found at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Randall Davey

Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*—Seen at Cienega Canyon

Juniper Titmouse *Baeolophus ridgwayi*—Very nicely seen on the feeders at Randall Davey

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*—Seen by Jean at the Hotel Chaco and again by the group that visited Randall Davey

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula*—Several seen at Cienega Canyon

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (3)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*—Seen at Cienega Canyon

White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—Found on 3 days, at Rio Grande Nature Center, Cienega Canyon, and Randall Davey

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*—Found by some of the group at Bandelier

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)

Canyon Wren *Catherpes mexicanus*—One seen by a few at Bandelier

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (1)—(G) Small numbers seen by Dave at Bosque del Apache amid the blackbird flocks

THRUSHES: Turdidae (5)

Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*—One seen at Rio Grande Nature Center

Western Bluebird *Sialia mexicana*—Found on 2 days, first at Rio Grande Nature Center and again coming to the bird baths at Ghost Ranch

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*—A beautiful male observed while driving into Ghost Ranch

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*—Found on 3 days at Cienega Canyon, Bandelier, and Randall Davey

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Found on 3 days at Cienega Canyon, Bandelier, and Randall Davey

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (1)—At the feeders at Bosque del Apache

FINCHES: Fringillidae (2)

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Found on 3 days at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bosque del Apache, and Randall Davey

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—Found near the feeders at Rio Grande Nature Center

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (5)

Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*—Very nice views of a few of these very non-descript sparrows were had by the visitor center feeders at Bosque del Apache

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—Found on 4 days of the trip in the Sandias, Bandelier, Ghost Ranch, and Randall Davey; Gray-headed was the most frequently seen form, but Oregon and Pink-sided were also in various flocks and Dave and Bryan saw a Cassiar at Bandelier

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—Found on 3 days of the tour, most frequently at feeders, at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bosque del Apache, and Randall Davey

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—Observed at the Rio Grande Nature Center feeders

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—Found at Rio Grande Nature Center and again at Bandelier

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*—A few seen flying by when driving out of Bernardo

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—A group, all females, seen at the Rio Grande Nature Center feeders and very large numbers of both sexes found at Bosque del Apache

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—Good numbers mixed in with or adjacent to the Red-wing flocks at Bosque del Apache

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—Small numbers seen at Bosque del Apache

CARDINAL-GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae (1)

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*—One flew by at the Bosque del Apache visitor center feeders

Mammals (7 species)

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*—One seen near the visitor center at Bosque del Apache

Rock Squirrel *Otospermophilus variegatus*—An apparently starving individual (!) seen gorging itself at one of the Rio Grande Nature Center feeders

Abert's Squirrel *Sciurus aberti*—This elegant squirrel of the Ponderosa Pine zone was found at Cienega Canyon and again in Bandelier

North American Porcupine *Erethizon dorsatum*—One observed resting high in a cottonwood at the Rio Grande Nature Center

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*—Seen at Bosque del Apache (where Dave's van almost hit one when leaving at dusk) and in Bandelier

Elk *Cervus canadensis*—Large herd of about 200 animals observed in middle of Valles Caldera from roadside overlook

Pocket Gopher *Thomomys* sp—Observed pushing up dirt at Cienega Canyon and Bandelier, the latter inside the Kiva! There are two very similar species, identifiable only by examining cleaned skulls; Botta Pocket Gopher (*T. bottae*) and Northern Pocket Gopher (*T. talpoides*). Most likely we saw Botta in the Sandias and Northern at Bandelier, but it is not possible to definitely say for sure.

LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: December 2, 2021; Rio Grande Nature Center (Albuquerque)

Day 2: December 3, 2021; Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

Day 3: December 4, 2021; Sandia Mountains: Cienega Canyon, Sandia Crest, Capulin Spring

Day 4: December 5, 2021; Valles Caldera, Bandelier National Monument

Day 5: December 6, 2021; Poshuouinge Ruin, Ghost Ranch (Abiquiu)

Day 6: December 7, 2021; Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, Martinez Hacienda (Taos)

Day 7: December 8, 2021; Santuario de Chimayó, Randall Davey Audubon Center (Santa Fe)