

New Mexico Nature & Culture | Species List

December 4 – 11, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With guides Dave Mehlman and Kathleen Hall and 10 participants:
Dori, George, Janice, Kathy, Phil, Ron, Sandy, Steve, Susan, and Susana**

Compiled by Dave Mehlman

(G) = Seen by guides only

(I) = introduced

Summary: A total of 76 species of birds and 7 species of mammals were found during this tour of New Mexico. The weather was fairly typical for this time of year, with cool to cold nights and warmer days. The first days of the tour had the best birding possibilities, visiting places in and near Albuquerque and Socorro, though birds were seen throughout. Perhaps the best birds of the trip were some White-faced Ibis at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge; these are very unusual in New Mexico in the winter months. We also had great luck with our visit to the Sandia Crest when a few Black Rosy-Finches showed up at the feeders; recent winter storms had created opportune conditions for this species.

BIRDS (76 species recorded of which 7 were seen by the guides only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (13)

- Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*—Large flocks, as usual, were at Bernardo and Bosque del Apache
- Ross's Goose** *Anser rossii*—(G) Dave found a few mixed in among the Snow Goose flocks at Bosque del Apache
- Cackling Goose** *Branta hutchinsii*—A flock was at the front pond at the Rio Grande Nature Center
- Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*—Small to medium numbers seen at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache
- Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*—Quite visible at close range at Rio Grande Nature Center
- Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*—A few in the ponds at Rio Grande Nature Center and many scattered about the wetlands at Bosque del Apache, where it was the most numerous duck visible
- Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*—Found at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*—Found, although not very many, at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache and again in the Rio Grande Gorge
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*—Many in the impoundments at Bosque del Apache NWR
- Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca*—A few were visible with some searching at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache
- Redhead** *Aythya americana*—One found by Dave with the scope at Bosque del Apache NWR
- Bufflehead** *Bucephala albeola*—Several males and females were swimming and diving at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache
- Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*—A few spotted among the duck hordes at Bosque del Apache

NEW WORLD QUAIL: Odontophoridae (1)

- Gambel's Quail** *Callipepla gambelii*—Very common around the feeders at the Bosque del Apache visitor center

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)

- Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* (I)—Found every day when driving through towns, particularly Albuquerque

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* (1)—One spotted on a phone line at Bernardo
White-winged Dove *Zenaida asiatica*—Found at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache
Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*—Large numbers at Bernardo, mostly perching on phone wires

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (1)

American Coot *Fulica americana*—A few at Rio Grande Nature Center and many at Bosque del Apache

CRANES: Gruidae (1)

Sandhill Crane *Antigone canadensis*—Heard at Found at Rio Grande Nature Center; thousands seen at Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (2)

Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*—One flew over us at Rio Grande Nature Center and several were in the boardwalk pond at Bosque del Apache

White-faced Ibis *Plegadis chihi*—Unusual at this time of year, a flock of four was foraging in one of the marsh ponds at Bosque del Apache NWR

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (6)

Northern Harrier *Circus hudsonius*—Several of these “marsh hawks” were foraging at Bosque del Apache

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*—(G) One seen by Dave in the Sandia Mountains

Cooper’s Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*—One flew over at the Rio Grande Nature Center and another was at the Bosque del Apache visitor center

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*—Found at Bosque del Apache and in the Rio Grande Gorge

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*—Seen at Bosque del Apache and on the road to Sandia Crest

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*—Fabulous views of this elegant raptor were had when one soared over the platform where we had lunch at Bosque del Apache NWR

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (3)

Downy Woodpecker *Dryobates pubescens*—One visited a feeder at Rio Grande Nature Center

Hairy Woodpecker *Dryobates villosus*—A pair of these were foraging along the Sandia Crest Road

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*—Seen at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache; all were of the red-shafted (western) form, except for a yellow-shafted at Bosque

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (1)

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*—Several encountered during our drive around Bosque del Apache

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: Tyrannidae (2)

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*—Nicely seen at both Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache

Say’s Phoebe *Sayornis saya*—Found at Bosque del Apache NWR

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (5)

Steller’s Jay *Cyanocitta stelleri*—Found at Sulphur Canyon in the Sandia Mountains

Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*—One was seen at Rio Grande Nature Center and another on the Ghost Ranch tour

Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia*—These are very common around Taos and we saw them on at least two days at various places around town

American Crow *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Regularly encountered throughout the tour in many places

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—Probably the most frequently encountered species during the tour, these were seen on six days at many places

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (3)

Black-capped Chickadee *Poecile atricapillus*—Visiting the feeders at Rio Grande Nature Center
Mountain Chickadee *Poecile gambeli*—Found on the Sandia Crest Road and at Randall Davey Audubon Center
Juniper Titmouse *Baeolophus ridgwayi*—Well seen coming to the feeders at Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet *Corthylio calendula*—(G) One seen by Dave in a conifer in front of the San Francisco de Asis church

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (3)

Red-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta canadensis*—(G) One found by Dave in a small flock on the Sandia Crest Road
White-breasted Nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*—Seen on 3 days at Rio Grande Nature Center, on the Sandia Crest Road, and at Randall Davey Audubon Center

Pygmy Nuthatch *Sitta pygmaea*—Several coming to the feeders at Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*—Seen by Dave at Rio Grande Nature Center and by some in the group at Bernardo

STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (I)—Found on the first 2 days of the tour and again at the San Francisco de Asis Church

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: Mimidae (1)

Curve-billed Thrasher *Toxostoma curvirostre*—(G) One seen by Dave at the Bosque del Apache feeders

THRUSHES: Turdidae (3)

Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*—One seen during the Ghost Ranch tour

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*—Seen on 5 days of the tour at Bosque del Apache, Sulphur Canyon, Bandelier National Monument, Ghost Ranch, and Randall Davey

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*—Seen at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bernardo, and Bandelier

WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae (1)

Cedar Waxwing *Bombycilla cedrorum*—(G) One seen by Dave at Rio Grande Nature Center

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (I)—Found at Bosque del Apache and the San Francisco de Asis Church

FINCHES: Fringillidae (5)

Black Rosy-Finch *Leucosticte atrata*—Three individuals came into the feeder at the Sandia Crest

House Finch *Haemorhous mexicanus*—Seen at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bosque del Apache, and the San Francisco de Asis Church

Cassin's Finch *Haemorhous cassinii*—One observed by some in the group at Randall Davey Audubon Center

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—A great winter for these, several flocks were seen on the drive up to the Sandia Crest

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*—Encountered at Rio Grande Nature Center and Bosque del Apache

NEW WORLD SPARROWS: Passerellidae (7)

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis*—These were found on 4 days of the tour at a variety of sites; probably the most frequently encountered form was Gray-headed (at higher elevations and in Taos and Santa Fe), but the Pink-sided and Oregon forms were also seen

White-crowned Sparrow *Zonotrichia leucophrys*—An abundant wintering sparrow in New Mexico, many of these were seen at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bernardo, and Bosque del Apache

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*—Two individuals foraging around one of the feeders at the Rio Grande Nature Center

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*—(G) One seen by Dave at the San Francisco de Asis Church

Lincoln's Sparrow *Melospiza lincolni*—Seen by a few in the group at Bernardo, where one perched very nicely

Canyon Towhee *Melospiza fusca*—Found by some in the group at Poshuouinge

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*—Best seen near feeders at Rio Grande Nature Center, Bosque del Apache, and Randall Davey

NEW WORLD BLACKBIRDS: Icteridae (4)

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*—Found on the same day at Bernardo and Bosque del Apache

Red-winged Blackbird *Agelaius phoeniceus*—Seen at very close range at the feeders at Rio Grande Nature Center (where almost all were female-plumaged) and large numbers at Bosque del Apache (on the refuge and at the feeders); a few individuals flew over San Francisco de Asis Church

Brewer's Blackbird *Euphagus cyanocephalus*—Seen at Bosque del Apache mixed in with large flocks of mixed blackbird species

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—A few at Bosque del Apache

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: Parulidae (1)

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*—Seen during the Rio Grande Nature Center walk and at Bosque del Apache

CARDINAL-GROSBEAKS: Cardinalidae (1)

Pyrrhuloxia *Cardinalis sinuatus*—A female came in briefly to the visitor center feeder at Bosque del Apache NWR

Mammals (7 species)

Desert Cottontail *Sylvilagus audubonii*—One seen at Rio Grande Nature Center

Abert's Squirrel *Sciurus aberti*—Seen by some of the group at Sulphur Canyon in the Sandia Mountains

Least Chipmunk *Eutamias minimus*—One (or more) visiting the feeder at Sandia Crest

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*—Seen at Bosque del Apache late in the day and again right in Los Alamos, where a small herd were grazing and lounging on someone's front lawn, including a huge buck!

Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis*—Reintroduced over much of its former range in New Mexico, we found 15 of these famous sheep (4 rams, 11 ewes) along the highway while heading to the Rio Grande Gorge bridge and another 5 (3 rams, 1 ewe, 1 lamb) in the gorge itself

Common Raccoon *Procyon lotor*—Two individuals were seen at Bosque del Apache from the boardwalk trail apparently foraging in the mud

Coyote *Canis latrans*—Seen at Rio Grande Nature Center and at Ghost Ranch

LOCATIONS AND NOTES:

Day 1: December 4, 2022; Rio Grande Nature Center (Albuquerque)

Day 2: December 5, 2022; Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

Day 3: December 6, 2022; Sandia Mountains: road, Sandia Crest, Sulphur Canyon

Day 4: December 7, 2022; Bandelier National Monument, Los Alamos

Day 5: December 8, 2022; Rio Grande (county line river access), Poshuouinge Ruin, Ghost Ranch (Abiquiu)

Day 6: December 9, 2022; Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, Millicent Rogers Museum (Taos)

Day 7: December 10, 2022; San Francisco de Asis (Ranchos de Taos), Santuario de Chimayó, Randall Davey Audubon Center (Santa Fe)