



# Getting Started...



## Introduction To New Mexico's Birding Trail

The New Mexico Birding Trail is finally a reality. We have chosen more than 40 sites of the most attractive birding locations throughout southwest New Mexico. A guide has been created that includes maps, birding tips, site descriptions and contact information that should help you easily identify birding sites.

This project was created by the efforts of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Audubon Society and Council, New Mexico Department of Tourism, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, and the New Mexico Rural Economic Development Through Tourism.

This is a great way for people to get out and enjoy New Mexico's diversity and abundance of bird life as well as learn about the locations for various wildlife activities.

## Birder Vocabulary

**Birding by ear:** the ability to identify birds by their song or call

**Ecotone:** the interface between two habitat types

**Fallout:** the sudden appearance of large numbers of migratory birds, usually songbirds, as a result of a storm or cold front

**Forage:** to look for food

**Kettle:** a dense group of birds circling in a warm-air thermal to gain altitude (typically raptors in migration)

**Overwintering:** describes any bird that spends the winter in New Mexico but breeds elsewhere

**Peeps:** slang for any number of small shorebirds that forage in mixed flocks

**Scoping:** scanning with a spotting scope

**Stoop:** to plunge dramatically in flight, as in hunting peregrine falcons

**Stopover:** a location where birds rest and feed before continuing on their migration



[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Trail Tips

### When birding always remember to:

- Carry sunscreen, water, bug repellent, a blanket, a hat and shovel with you at all times. Take a first aid kit, tool kit and spare tire in your car.
- Make sure you have enough gasoline to get to desired location and back.
- Make sure that you are traveling to the site at the desired season in order to see the desired birds.
- Make reservations in advance for any “by-appointment only” sites.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not enter private property without the owner’s permission. Follow all laws, rules and regulations governing the use of roads and public areas.

### Remember the weather:

• New Mexico has diverse seasons. The summer rainstorms, strong spring winds and winter snowstorms can come with bad timing. In the warm sun remember to drink plenty of water, wear a hat and use sunscreen to prevent severe sunburn. Rainstorms and snowfall can sometimes make highways and roads slick and difficult to navigate. During winter snowstorms, chains are recommended. Dress appropriately and be prepared for inclement weather.

### Safety & well being:

- New Mexico’s altitude is relatively high and until you acclimate, you may suffer from shortness of breath or tire easily.
- **Insects & Snakes:** A bug repellent may prevent bites by mosquitoes and gnats. The majority of snakes that you may come in contact with will be nonpoisonous.
- **Bears & Lions:** Black bears and mountain lions are fairly common in many of the mountain ranges, however, it is unlikely that you will encounter them. If you do come in contact with them, do not run, stand upright, wave your arms in the air slowly and back away slowly. Do not attempt to touch or feed these animals.

## Legend



Camping



Fees



Handicap Accessible



Hiking



Information



Picnic Area



Restrooms



Water Available



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



## State Birding Trails and more...

Alabama Coastal Birding Trail  
[www.alabamacoastlbirdingtrail.com](http://www.alabamacoastlbirdingtrail.com)

Audubon Niagara Birding Trail  
[www.buffaloaudubon.org](http://www.buffaloaudubon.org)

Central Coast Birding Trail  
<http://home.att.net/~aibragg/CentralCoastTrail/btmas.html>

Colonial Coast Birding Trail  
[www.state.ga.us/dnr/wild/](http://www.state.ga.us/dnr/wild/)

Great Florida Birding Trail  
[www.floridabirdingtrail.com](http://www.floridabirdingtrail.com)

Great Pikes Peaks Birding Trail  
[www.greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org](http://www.greatpikespeakbirdingtrail.org)

Great River Birding Trail  
[www.audubon.org/campaign/umr](http://www.audubon.org/campaign/umr)

Great Salt Lake Birding Trails  
[www.wasatchaudubon.org](http://www.wasatchaudubon.org)

Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

Great Washington Birding Trail  
<http://wa.audubon.org>

John James Audubon Birding Trail  
[www.thinkwestkentucky.com](http://www.thinkwestkentucky.com)

Lake Champlain Birding Trail  
[www.lakechamplainbirding.org](http://www.lakechamplainbirding.org)

Minnesota's Pine to Prairie Birding Trail  
[www.mnbirdtrail.com](http://www.mnbirdtrail.com)

Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail  
[www.birdingtrail.org](http://www.birdingtrail.org)

Southeastern Arizona Birding Trail  
[www.seazbirding.com](http://www.seazbirding.com)

TNC Bear Mountain Lodge  
[www.www.bearmountainlodge.com](http://www.www.bearmountainlodge.com)

Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail  
[www.dgif.state.va.us](http://www.dgif.state.va.us)

## Other Related Sites

NM Ornithological Society  
<http://mvar.nmsu.edu/nmos>

NM Rare Bird Alert  
<http://mvar.nmsu.edu/nmos/hotline.html>

NM Audubon  
[www.audubon.org/chapter/nm/nm/rdac/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/nm/nm/rdac/index.html)

## Chambers of Commerce

Deming  
[www.cityofdeming.org](http://www.cityofdeming.org)

Glenwood  
[www.glenwoodnewmexico.com](http://www.glenwoodnewmexico.com)

Las Cruces  
[www.lascruces.org](http://www.lascruces.org)

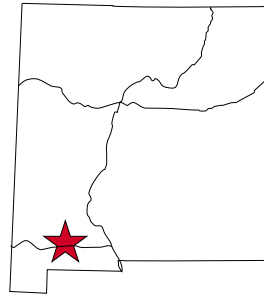
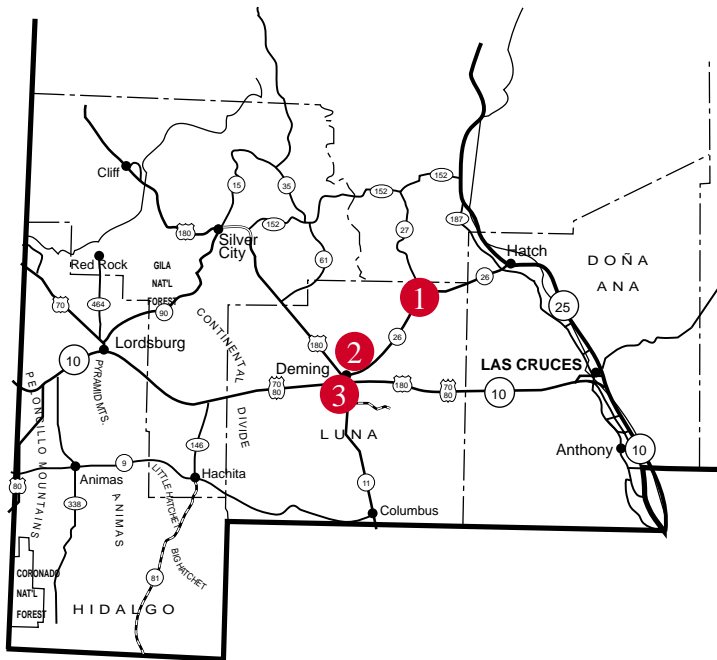
Silver City  
[www.silvercity.org](http://www.silvercity.org)

Truth or Consequences  
[www.truthorconsequencesnm.net](http://www.truthorconsequencesnm.net)

Lordsburg  
[www.hidalgocounty.org/lordsburgcoc/](http://www.hidalgocounty.org/lordsburgcoc/)



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



Directions: From US 180 just north of Deming, turn right on to NM 26 and drive toward Hatch. From Hatch take NM 26 toward Deming.

## Site 2 - Mount View Cemetery

City of Deming (505) 544-8386

All services are available in Deming.

Mount View Cemetery, open for cars 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, is located on the east side of Deming. The cemetery, with its irrigation, provides an oasis in the middle of the desert. Park to the side and out of the way along any of the numerous gravel lanes. The best birding is in the eastern section of the cemetery where the vegetation is mature and relatively dense. Possible migrants, particularly in fall, include hummingbirds; Red-naped Sapsucker; *Empidonax* flycatchers; Pyrrhuloxia; Black-throated Gray Warbler; Plumbeous, Hutton, and Warbling Vireos; Hermit Thrush; and various warblers and sparrows. Both Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers are typically resident in the desert areas of the cemetery. In winter, the cemetery sometimes hosts high-elevation species such as Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Cassin's Finch. Summer is a less productive time to visit, though a few breeding species such as Black-chinned Hummingbird, Bullock's Oriole, and Blue Grosbeak are often present.

Habitat: Grasses and trees such as Arizona cypress, mulberry, cottonwood, junipers and pine.

Directions: In Deming at Pine and Gold streets, go east on Pine Street for 2.2 miles. The cemetery is on the south side. Within the cemetery, park on the sides of the gravel lanes.

## Site 1 - Hatch to Deming - NM 26-Raptor Route

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

Food and gasoline are available in Hatch and Deming. Motels are available in Deming.

This route crosses the open grasslands of the Uvas Valley. In summer, look for Swainson's Hawk, Burrowing Owl, and Scott's Oriole (on the soap tree yuccas). The area is good for raptors in winter, when American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcon can be seen. White-tailed Kite and Rough-legged Hawk are rare but possible.

Habitat: Desert grasslands with yucca, cholla cactus.



Crissal Thrasher



## Site 3 - Deming Water Treatment Area

City of Deming (505) 544-8386

No services

This area, open to the public from 7:00am to 2:00pm Monday-Friday, is located southeast of Deming on 160 acres, which includes treatment ponds, farmlands, and desert shrub lands. Visitors are asked to check in at the office before birding. If the office is closed, one can still bird the area. Best seasons for birding are spring, fall and winter. The area attracts a large variety of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and sparrows. To view waterfowl and shorebirds, drive the embankment roads around the treatment ponds. To get to the best birding areas for raptors and sparrows, take the road behind the office next to the row of pine trees. Go south on this dirt road and turn left at the end of the treatment ponds. Proceed about 100 yards and turn right on the road that passes through a low sandy ridge. A large stand of four-wing saltbush usually harbors many sparrow species.

Habitat: Open water. Desert flora and introduced pine, cypress, and deciduous trees.

Directions: From the center of Deming at Pine and Gold Streets, go east on Pine St. for 1.5 miles and turn right on to Country Club Road. Go south on Country Club Road 1.7 miles to "J" Street Turn left on "J" Street and go 1.4 miles to the entrance of the treatment area on the left.

### CHECK LIST

- American Kestrel
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Blue Grosbeak
- Burrowing Owl
- Cassin's Finch
- Empidonax Flycatchers
- Golden Eagle

#### HAWKS

- Red-tailed Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk

- Hermit Thrush
- Mountain Chickadee

#### NUTHATCHES

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch

#### ORIOLES

- Bullock's Oriole
- Scott's Oriole

- Prairie Falcon
- Pyrrhuloxia
- Red-naped Sapsucker

#### THRASHERS

- Crissal Thrasher
- Curve-billed Thrasher

#### VIREOS

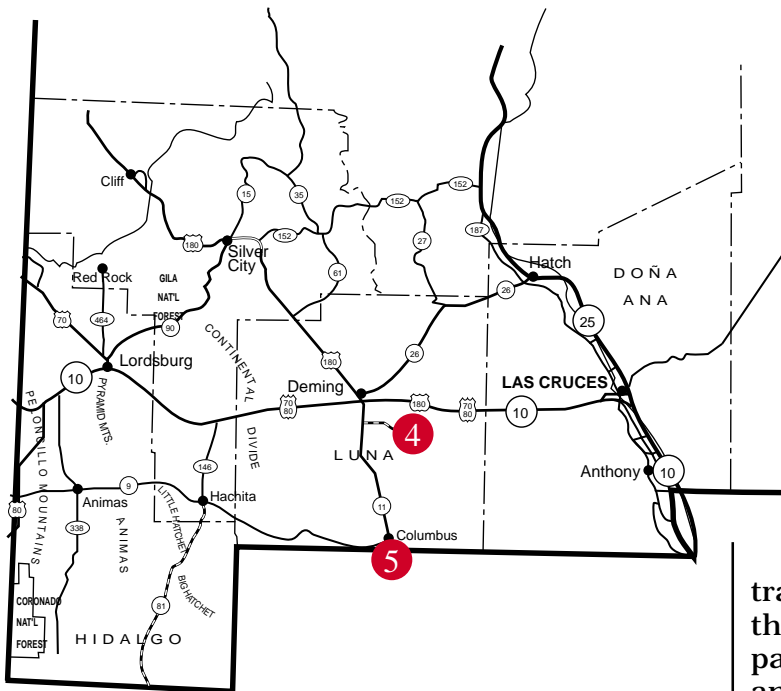
- Hutton Vireo
- Plumbeous Vireo
- Warbling Vireo

- White-tailed Kite





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



trance road to Rock Hound State Park. Following the signs, drive up into the canyon, ending at the park gate. If the gate is not open, park outside and walk through to bird in the park.

## Site 4 - Rock Hound/Spring Canyon State Park

New Mexico State Parks (505) 546-6182



This dramatic canyon (elevation 4,500 feet) is surrounded by the rugged peaks of the Florida Mountains. Spring Canyon State Park is a unit of Rock Hound State Park and is the more interesting area for birders, although the list of birds seen at Rock Hound is impressive. Fall, winter, and spring are the best times for viewing. Resident or wintering species include: Gambel's Quail; Hutton's Vireo; Western Scrub Jay; Bewick's, Rock, Cactus, and Canyon Wrens; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Townsend's Solitaire; Phainopepla, Green-tailed and Canyon Towhees; Brewer's, Rufous-crowned, and Black-chinned Sparrows; and Lesser Goldfinch. Summer breeding birds include Lesser Nighthawk and Common Poor-will.

Habitat: Pinyon-juniper-oak; Chihuahuan desert scrub.

Directions: From Deming, take NM 11 south 5 miles and head east on NM 141 passing the en-

## Site 5 - Pancho Villa State Park

New Mexico State Parks (505) 531-2711



The 60-acre park (elevation 4,000 feet) is located in the small border town of Columbus. The flora and water from irrigation draw many birds including Crissal, Bendire's and Curve-billed Thrashers; Cactus Wren; Greater Roadrunner; Great Horned and Barn Owls; White-winged and Inca Doves; Ladder-backed Woodpecker; Verdin; Pyrrhuloxia; Scaled and Gambel's Quail; and Black-throated Sparrow. In summer, look for Bullock's and Scott's Orioles and Bronzed Cowbirds. During winter, look for Lark Bunting, Brewer's and Sage Sparrows and for Eastern Meadowlark and McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert with more than 30 species of cacti as well as cottonwoods, mulberries, junipers and pine.

Directions: Take NM 11 south from Deming for 36 miles to the village of Columbus. The park is on the west side of the road.



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## CHECK-LIST

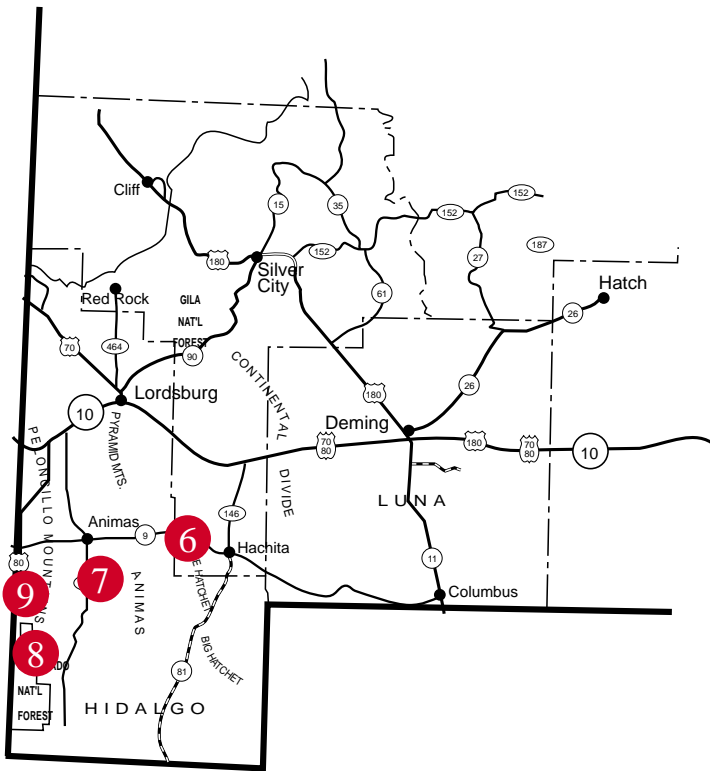
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White-winged Dove	<input type="radio"/>	Crissal Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
		Curve-billed Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Bronzed Cowbird	<input type="radio"/>	<b>TOWHEES</b>	
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Canyon Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Common Poor-will	<input type="radio"/>	Green-tailed Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Eastern Meadowlark	<input type="radio"/>		
Greater Roadrunner	<input type="radio"/>	Townsend's Solitaire	<input type="radio"/>
Hutton's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>	Verdin	<input type="radio"/>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>	Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>
Lark Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Western Scrub-Jay	<input type="radio"/>
Lesser Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>		
Lesser Nighthawk	<input type="radio"/>	<b>WRENS</b>	
<b>LONGSPURS</b>		Bewick's Wren	<input type="radio"/>
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Barn Owl	<input type="radio"/>		
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Phainopepla	<input type="radio"/>		
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Gambel's Quail	<input type="radio"/>		
Pyrrhuloxia Quail	<input type="radio"/>		
Scaled Quail	<input type="radio"/>		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<input type="radio"/>		
Scott's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>		
<b>SPARROWS</b>			
Black-chinned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>		
Black-throated Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>		
Brewer's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>		
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>		
Sage Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>		



Canyon Wren



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



## Site 6 - NM 9 Between Hatchita and Animas

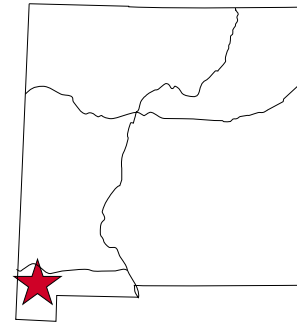
Private property. Bird from the public road only.

Food and gasoline are available in both Hatchita and Animas, but not between the two towns.

At an elevation of about 6,000 feet, NM 9 crosses the Continental Divide at one of its lowest points. NM 9 is a paved road with very light traffic. Watch for Burrowing Owls, Prairie Falcons, Short-eared Owls (rare winter), and Lesser and Common Nighthawks (summer) along the road. White-tailed Kite is rare.

Habitat: Semidesert grassland, Chihuahuan desert scrub, and agricultural farmland.

Directions: From Lordsburg, drive east on I-10, exiting at Exit 49. Drive south on NM 146 to the village of Hatchita. Turn on to NM 9 going toward the village of Animas. At Animas, you may go north on NM 338 back to I-10 or south toward Clanton Canyon.



## Site 7 - NM 338 South of Animas

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

Gasoline, tire shop, hardware store, and food available in Animas, but south of town there are no services.

At an elevation of about 5,000 feet, NM 338 is paved until about mile marker 42, where it becomes a good gravel road. Near mile marker 38, 14 miles south of Animas, Botteri's Sparrows have been found in the grass on the east side of the road. Look for this species in July or early August, after the summer monsoons begin. Lesser and Common Nighthawks are also summer birds. Park and walk the road in the morning, listening for the bird's song. Do not use tapes to lure these sparrows. A scope is useful for spotting them atop the shrubs. Cassin's and Grasshopper Sparrows may be found in the same spot.

In winter, the roadsides also can produce Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks; Western Meadowlarks, and Merlin and Prairie Falcon. In milder weather, Bendire's, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers; and Swainson's Hawks may be spotted. Common and Chihuahuan Ravens are year-round.

Habitat: Flora is semidesert grassland, with some desert shrubs, and giant sacaton floodplain. A cottonwood riparian corridor crosses the road just south of mile marker 38.

Directions: Go 10 miles west of Lordsburg on I-10 to Exit 11 (NM 338.) Drive south through the small towns of Cotton City and Animas, continuing south through the Animas Valley.





## Site 8 - Clanton Canyon

Coronado National Forest (520) 364-3468



**Services:** Primitive camping with no potable water on site. Nearest services are in Animas (about an hour's drive north and east) and in Douglas, AZ (about 1.5 hours' drive west).

Clanton Canyon is located in the Peloncillo Mountains, Coronado National Forest, in the bootheel of Southwestern New Mexico. During summer, Band-tailed Pigeon; Common Poorwill; Whip-poor-will; Elf Owl; Dusky-capped Flycatcher; Phainopepla; Grace's and Black-throated Gray Warblers; Hepatic Tanager; and Scott's Oriole are present. Year round residents include: Montezuma Quail; Whiskered, Western Screech, and Northern Pygmy Owls; Arizona and Acorn Woodpecker; Juniper and Bridled Titmouse; Bushtit; Hutton's and Spotted Vireo; Zone-tailed Hawk; and Canyon Towhee.

**Habitat:** Low mountains with pine-oak. Pinyon-juniper, oak woodland and sparse Apache pine at higher levels.

**Directions:** Take Interstate 10 Exit 11 (NM 338) 10 miles west of Lordsburg. Drive south through the town of Animas and continue south to mile marker 53 (about 30 miles south of Animas.) Fork to the right on Geronimo Trail. After 7.0 miles you cross a cattleguard and a sign indicating the entrance to the National Forest.

**Warning:** Carry plenty of food and water when traveling this area, have a full tank of gas, and a good spare tire and jack. It's a long walk out and you're out of cellular phone range in most of the area.

## Site 9 - State Line Road near Rodeo

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

**Services:** Gasoline, food, laundry and RV park available in nearby Rodeo.

State Line Road, with an approximate elevation of 4,100 feet, is a good dirt road under dry conditions. However, it becomes very slippery after heavy rain. White-tailed Kites have nested near Rodeo, and Bendire's Thrasher is easy to spot along the road in spring and summer. Cactus Wren and often Cassin's Sparrow are also easy to find here. North of Rodeo on NM 80, Harris's Hawk is a possibility on tall poles and in dead trees. New Mexico's only documented Black Vulture was photographed here in 1996.

**Habitat:** Semidesert grassland, desert scrub, and agricultural lands.

**Directions:** Rodeo, a small village on the New Mexico/Arizona border distinguished by having several art galleries, lies 30 miles south of I-10. The town is reached by driving west from Lordsburg on I-10 Exit 5.



Whiskered Screech Owl



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



Grace's Warbler

Nara

- American Kestrel
- American Robin
- Band-tailed Pigeon

## BLACKBIRDS

- Brewer's Blackbird
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Yellow-headed Blackbird

## BLUEBIRDS

- Mountain Bluebird
- Western Bluebird

## BUNTINGS

- Lark Bunting
- Lazuli Bunting

- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Brown Creeper
- Bushtit

## COWBIRDS

- Bronzed Cowbird (rare)
- Brown-headed Cowbird

- Cedar Waxwing
- Common Poorwill
- Common Yellowthroat

## DOVES

- Common Ground Dove (rare)
- Inca Dove
- White-winged Dove
- Mourning Dove

## Check-List

### FINCHES

- Cassin's Finch (sporadic)
- House Finch

### FLYCATCHERS

- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Buff-breasted Flycatcher (rare)
- Dusky Flycatcher
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher
- Gray Flycatcher
- Hammond's Flycatcher
- Vermilion Flycatcher
- Western Flycatcher
- Willow Flycatcher

### GROSBEAKS

- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak

- Golden Eagle
- Gould's Wild Turkey (rare)
- Greater Roadrunner
- Great-tailed Grackle

### HAWKS

- Cooper's Hawk
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk
- Zone-tailed Hawk

- Hermit Thrush
- Horned Lark



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## HUMMINGBIRDS

- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- Lucifer Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird

## JAYS

- Pinyon Jay (sporadic)
- Western Scrub-Jay

## JUNCOS

- Dark-eyed Junco
- Yellow-eyed Junco (rare)

## KINGBIRDS

- Cassin's Kingbird
- Thick-billed Kingbird (rare)
- Western Kingbird

## LONGSPURS

- Chestnut-collared Longspur
- McCown's Longspur

- Lesser Goldfinch
- Loggerhead Shrike

## MEADOWLARKS

- Eastern Meadowlark
- Western Meadowlark

- Merlin
- Mexican Chickadee (rare)
- Mexican Jay

## NIGHTHAWKS

- Common Nighthawk
- Lesser Nighthawk



## NUTHATCHES

- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch

- Northern Cardinal
- Northern Mockingbird
- Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker

## ORIOLES

- Bullock's Oriole
- Hooded Oriole
- Scott's Oriole

## OWLS

- Barn Owl
- Burrowing Owl
- Elf Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Whiskered Screech-Owl

## PHOEBES

- Black Phoebe
- Say's Phoebe

- Phainopepla
- Prairie Falcon
- Pine Siskin
- Pyrrhuloxia

## QUAIL

- Gamble's Quail
- Montezuma Quail

## RAVENS

- Chihuahuan Raven
- Common Raven

- Red Crossbill (irregular)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## SAPSUCKERS

- Red-naped Sapsucker
- Williamson's Sapsucker (rare)

## SWALLOWS

- Barn Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Violet-green Swallow

## SPARROWS

- Black-throated Sparrow
- Brewer's Sparrow
- Cassin's Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Rufous-crowned Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Vesper Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow

## TANAGERS

- Hepatic Tanager
- Summer Tanager
- Western Tanager

## THRASHERS

- Bendire's Thrasher
- Crissal Thrasher
- Curve-billed Thrasher
- Sage Thrasher

## TITMICE

- Bridled Titmouse
- Juniper Titmouse

## TOWHEES

- Canyon Towhee
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Spotted Towhee

- Townsend's Solitaire
- Turkey Vulture

## VIREOS

- Cassin's Vireo
- Hutton's Vireo
- Plumbeous Vireo

- Verdin

## WARBLERS

- Grace's Warbler
- Hermit Warbler (rare)
- Lucy's Warbler
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Olive Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Townsend's Warbler
- Virginia's Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Yellow Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

## WOODPECKERS

- Acorn Woodpecker
- Arizona Woodpecker
- Gila Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker

## WRENS

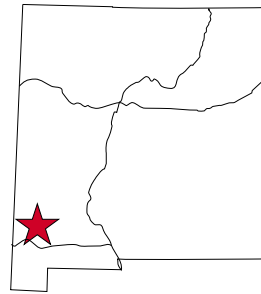
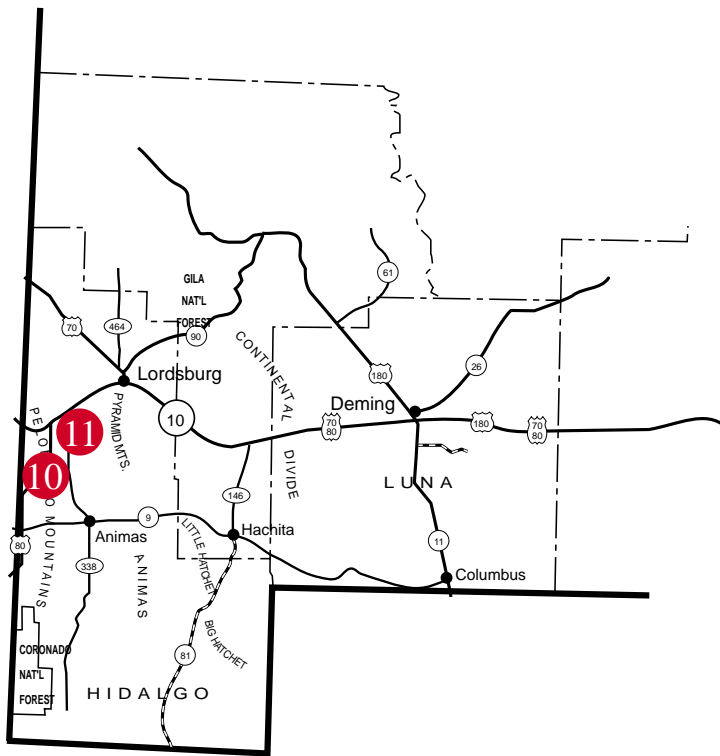
- Bewick's Wren
- Cactus Wren
- Canyon Wren
- House Wren
- Rock Wren

- White-tailed Kite
- White-throated Swift
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



south on NM 80 go 11 miles onto an unmarked dirt track, then turn right. At the entrance to the site is a wire gate. Be sure to close the gate after entering the property. Take the left fork, go about a half mile along the sandy road and park near the first large rock cluster. Do not drive past the cut in the rocks. The road is impassable in wet weather.

**Warning:** Bring water. The nearest gas station and water source is at Road Forks, 11 miles to the north.



## Site 11 - Lordsburg Playa

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

**Services:** Gasoline and food available about 5 miles away in Road Forks, and all services including motels can be found about 15 miles away in Lordsburg.

The Lordsburg Playa is a large alkaline lake 10 miles west of Lordsburg on I-10. Pull off the road on the west side of NM 338, south of the interstate. If there is water in the playa, scope the area. A number of shorebirds and waterfowl have been seen here.

**Habitat:** Very shallow, ephemeral, alkaline lake.

**Directions:** From Lordsburg go 10 miles west on I-10. Take Exit 11, turning on to NM 338. The playa will be visible just south of the interstate.



Rock Wren

## Site 10 - Granite Gap

Bureau of Land Management (505) 525-4300

**Services:** Gasoline, and food are in Road Forks, about 12 miles north, or Rodeo, about 18 miles south.

West of NM 80, some rock formations can be glimpsed at a distance. Seemingly insignificant when viewed from the road, up close these rock formations are a world unto themselves — 1,750 acres of boulders and ridges rising from the surrounding plains. Granite Gap is best in early spring/late fall. Early morning in summers can also be good. Birdlife includes Crissal and Bendire's Thrashers, Black-throated Sparrow; Cactus and Rock Wrens, Mockingbird, Verdin, Greater Roadrunner, hummingbird species, Gambel's Quail, and, in winter, Northern Harrier. Mule deer; ringtail, coyote, javelina, lizards, various snakes (including rattlesnakes), and a small herd of desert bighorn sheep are also seen here.

**Habitat:** Chihuahua desert scrub.

**Directions:** Go 15 miles west of Lordsburg on Interstate 10 and take Exit 5 (Road Forks). Drive





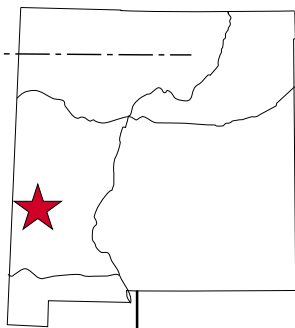
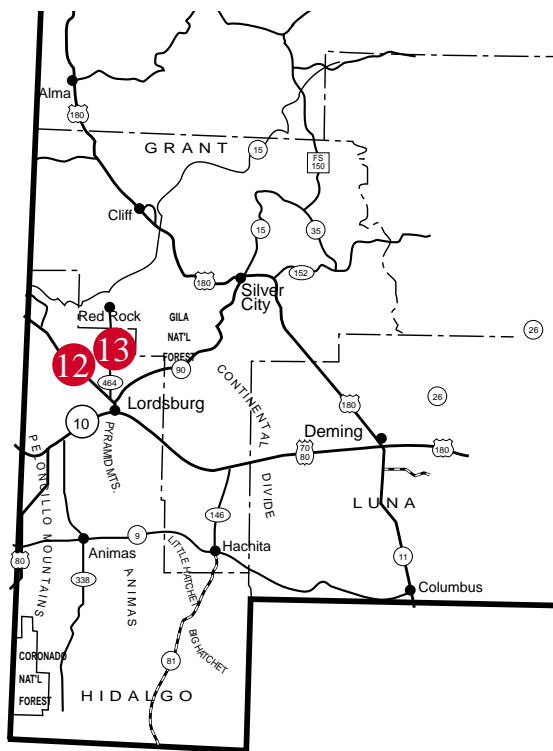
# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Check List

Black-throated Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Gambel's Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Greater Roadrunner	<input type="radio"/>
Hummingbird species	<input type="radio"/>
Mockingbird	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Harrier	<input type="radio"/>
<b>THRASHER</b>	
Bendire's Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Crissal Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Verdin	<input type="radio"/>
<b>WRENS</b>	
Cactus Wren	<input type="radio"/>
Rock Wren	<input type="radio"/>



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



Directions: From Lordsburg drive 25 miles on US 70 and turn right on NM 92. Three miles beyond the turn a bridge crosses the Gila River. The small village of Virden is 4 miles beyond the bridge.

## Site 13 - Lower Gila Box

Bureau of Land Management (505) 525-4300

No services

The Lower Gila Box is part of the Gila Corridor Riparian Area that provides a migration route for birds along the river. Approximately 170 species occur here throughout the year. Along the road look for resident Gambel's and Scaled Quail and Greater Roadrunner, Gila Woodpecker, and Prairie Falcon. In summer watch for Bell's Vireo, Bridled Titmouse, Vermilion Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, Hooded and Scott's Orioles, Brown-crested Flycatcher; Southwestern Willow Flycatcher; Gila Woodpecker; Common Blackhawk, and Zone-tailed Hawk.

Habitat: Slow-moving river, rocky cliffs, ancient trees.

Directions: Travel north of Lordsburg on US 70 for 2 miles and turn right on NM 464. Travel 14.1 miles on NM 464 to a point 50 feet south of the Grant County/Hidalgo County boundary sign. Turn left (west) on the only dirt road in the vicinity (Nichols Canyon Road) Drive 3.6 miles and turn right (north) at the first gravel crossroad for 4.9 miles to the BLM sign for the site. Continue 0.8 mile to the river and parking area.



Photo: Don MacCarter

Loggerhead shrike

## Site 12 - Virden Bridge

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

No services

In the riparian thickets at both ends of the bridge over the Gila River, look for Gambel's Quail; White-winged Dove; Gila and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; Vermilion Flycatcher; Black Phoebe; Bell's Vireo; Bridled Titmouse; Verdin; Phainopepla; Abert's Towhee; Northern Cardinal; Great-tailed Grackle; and Lesser Goldfinch during breeding season. During migration, you may see Green Heron; Snowy Egret; Least, Western, and Spotted Sandpipers; Red-naped Sapsucker; most swallow species; White-breasted Nuthatch; American Robin; Western Bluebird; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; American Pipit; Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's Warblers; Green-tailed Towhee, Bullock's Oriole, and Bronzed Cowbird. In winter, there are White-crowned, Song, and Lincoln's Sparrows. Look for the resident Inca Doves in Virden.

Habitat: Riparian. Fruiting mulberry and elderberry trees. The mulberry trees can be a huge draw.



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Check List

American Pipit	<input type="radio"/>
American Robin	<input type="radio"/>
Bell's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Black Phoebe	<input type="radio"/>
Bridled Titmouse	<input type="radio"/>
Bronzed Cowbird	<input type="radio"/>
Cedar Waxwing	<input type="radio"/>
<b>DOVE</b>	
Inca Dove	<input type="radio"/>
White-winged Dove	<input type="radio"/>
<b>FLYCATCHER</b>	
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>
Vermilion Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>
Greater Roadrunner	<input type="radio"/>
Great-tailed Grackle	<input type="radio"/>
Green Heron	<input type="radio"/>
Lesser Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>
Loggerhead Shrike	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Cardinal	<input type="radio"/>
Phainopepla	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ORIOLE</b>	
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>
Hooded Oriole	<input type="radio"/>
Scott's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>
<b>QUAIL</b>	
Gambel's Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Scaled Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Red-naped Sapsucker	<input type="radio"/>
<b>SANDPIPER</b>	
Least Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Western Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Snowy Egret	<input type="radio"/>

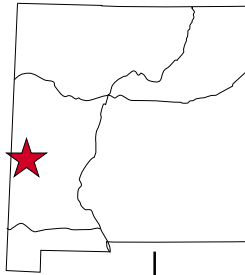
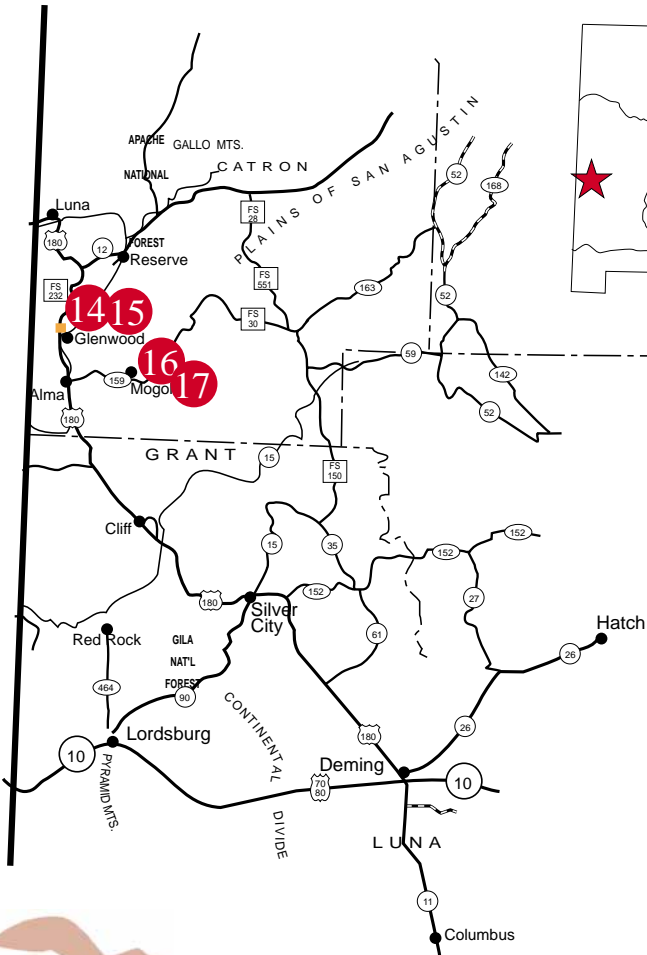
<b>SPARROW</b>	
Lincoln's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Song Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
White-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
<b>TOWHEE</b>	
Abert's Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Green-tailed Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Verdin	<input type="radio"/>
<b>WARBLER</b>	
Lucy's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
MacGillivray's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Wilson's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>
White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>
<b>WOODPECKER</b>	
Gila Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>



White-crowned Sparrow



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



Directions: From US 180 in Glenwood, turn right on to NM 174. Shortly after turn left, entering the fish hatchery property.

## Site 15 - Catwalk Recreation Area

Gila National Forest (505) 539-2481



The Catwalk offers birding and hiking opportunities along the banks of Whitewater Creek and Whitewater Gorge. In the parking lot and picnic area, Western Tanager; Bullock's Oriole and Cassin's Kingbirds are present in summer. Acorn Woodpecker is a permanent resident. On the 1-mile hike up the gorge, American Dippers can be seen along the creek. Other birds commonly seen on the hike include White-throated Swift, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Rock and Canyon Wrens; Hermit Thrush (winter), Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Painted Redstart and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Directions: From US 180 in Glenwood, turn right on to NM 174. Proceed to the end of the road to the pay station.

## Site 14 - Glenwood Fish Hatchery

New Mexico Game and Fish (505) 476-8000



Located north of Glenwood on Whitewater Creek, the Glenwood Fish Hatchery raises trout for release. Common Black Hawk nests in the area can be seen during the months of April-September in the trees along the creek. Do not disturb these birds as they may abandon their nests. Acorn Woodpecker; Belted Kingfisher; Great-tailed Grackle; Common Yellowthroat; Yellow-breasted Chat; and Blue and Black-headed Grosbeaks also are found here.

Habitat: Riparian woodland with large cottonwoods.

## Site 16 - Mogollon

Private property. Bird from the public road only.



Mogollon (elevation 6,500 feet) is a former silver mining camp in Silver Creek Canyon north of Glenwood. Some residents maintain hummingbird feeders that attract several varieties of hummingbirds. Broad-tailed and Magnificent Humingbirds can be seen in spring and summer, and Blue-throated may make an appearance.

Rufous Hummingbirds appear in early July, and Calliopes are most likely from mid-July to August.





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

Directions: Drive 3.4 miles north of Glenwood on US 180, turning right (east) on to NM 159. During the 10-mile drive to Mogollon, the road climbs steeply and is narrow and winding, with sheer dropoffs and no guard rails. Be especially cautious in winter.



## Site 17 - Willow Creek Campground

Gila National Forest (505) 539-2481



Willow Creek Campground (elevation 7,950 feet) is located along Willow Creek in a remote part of the Gila National Forest east of Mogollon. Band-tailed Pigeon; Williamson's and Red-naped Sapsuckers; Cordilleran and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Greater Pewee; Warbling Vireo; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Violet-green Swallow; Steller's Jay; Red-faced, MacGillivray's, and Orange-crowned Warblers; Painted Redstart; Green-tailed Towhee; and Dark-eyed Junco are present in the summer. Blue Grouse and Three-toed Woodpecker are rare but may be in areas where there is little human activity. There also is productive birding along the road from Mogollon to Willow Creek.

Directions: From Silver City, go northwest on US 180 about 13 miles, turn left (south) on Mangas Valley Road towards the Tyrone Mine. After going 4.8 miles, turn right (southwest) on to Forest Road 851. Proceed 24 miles to NM 464, and turn right (north). Shortly you will come to the bridge across the Gila River. From Lordsburg, drive northwest for 2 miles on US 70, turn right (north) on NM 464 and proceed for 21 miles through desert terrain to the bridge across the Gila River.



Greater Pewee

**Warning:** A high-clearance vehicle may be required on the roads past Mogollon owing to frequent washouts during the summer monsoons. Due to the remote nature of this area and the high-altitude, weather can change very quickly. Visitors should carry ample food, water, and warm clothing. There is no cell phone service in this area.

## Check-List

- American Dippers
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Belted Kingfisher
- Blue Grouse
- Bullock's Oriole
- Cassin's Kingbirds
- Common Black Hawk
- Common Yellowthroat
- Dark-eyed Junco

- FLYCATCHER**
- Cordilleran Flycatcher
- Olive-sided Flycatcher

- GROSBEAK**
- Black-headed Grosbeak
- Blue Grosbeak

- Greater Pewee
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Hermit Thrush

- HUMMINGBIRD**
- Blue-throated Hummingbird
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- Calliope Hummingbird
- Magnificents Hummingbird
- Rufous Hummingbird

- Painted Redstart
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Red-breasted Nuthatch

- SAPSUCKER**
- Red-naped Sapsuckers
- Williamson's Sapsuckers

- SPARROW**
- Black-chinned Sparrow
- Rufous-crowned Sparrow

- Steller's Jay

- WARBLER**
- MacGillivray's Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Red-faced Warbler

- Violet-green Swallow
- Warbling Vireo
- Western Tanager
- White-throated Swift

- WREN**
- Canyon Wren
- Rock Wren

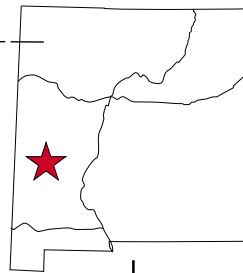
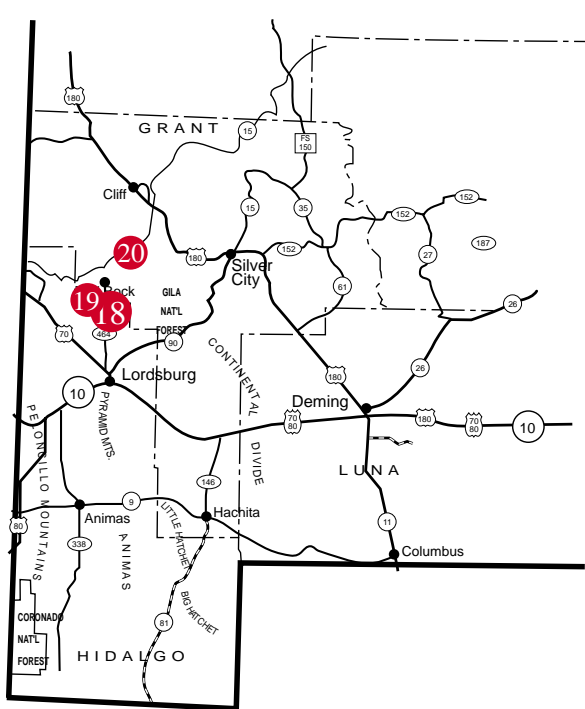
- WOODPECKER**
- Acorn Woodpecker
- Three-toed Woodpecker

- Yellow-breasted Chat





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



old house). Check with Game & Fish personnel (if present) to determine which parts of the area are open to the public. If staff are not present, birders may continue along the main dirt road for a mile in areas that are not posted. Do not leave the road.

**Habitat:** Riparian with large deciduous trees. Desert scrub covered hills.

**Directions:** From Silver City, NM, go northwest on US 180 about 13 miles, turn left (south) on Mangas Valley Road toward the Tyrone Mine. After going 4.8 miles, turn right (southwest) on to Forest Road 851. Proceed 24 miles to NM 464, and turn right (north). Shortly you will come to the bridge across the Gila River. From Lordsburg, drive northwest for 2 to 3 miles on US 70, turn right (north) on NM 464 and proceed for 21 miles through desert terrain to the bridge across the Gila River.

## Site 18 - Redrock Road

New Mexico Game & Fish (505) 476-8000

**NO SERVICES**

Red Rock Area. Private property. Bird only from public roads.

Bendire's Thrashers can be seen atop shrubs on Forest Road 851 or NM 474 on your way to Redrock. Birding in the riparian area along the Gila River is only possible from the bridge, as the remainder is privately owned. Residents include Gila Woodpecker, Abert's Towhee, Gambel's Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, Phainopepla, Black-throated Sparrow and Northern Cardinal. In summer, Common Black Hawk, White-winged Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bronzed Cowbird, Scott's Oriole, and Hooded Oriole are present. Zone-tailed Hawk is sometimes seen. To reach the NM Game and Fish area, cross at the bridge, turn right. At 1.5 miles the NM Game & Fish headquarters is visible (an

## Site 19 - Burro Mountains Forest Road 851

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201

No services

Forest Road 851 passes through a variety of habitats including scrub, oak woodlands, and pinyon-oak woodlands. In spring and summer, Mexican Jay; Plumbeous and Hutton's Vireos; Virginia's and Black-throated Gray Warblers; Gray Flycatcher; Hepatic and Western Tanagers; Crissal Thrasher; Black-chinned, Black-throated, Chipping, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows can be seen. An occasional Gray Vireo can be spotted.

**Habitat:** Desert scrub: oak and pinyon-juniper: oak woodland: ponderosa pine forest.

**Directions:** Drive northwest from Silver City on US 180 about 13 miles. Turn left on Mangas Valley Road as it heads toward Tyrone Mine. At 4.8 miles, turn right onto Forest Road 851. From Lordsburg or Redrock, Forest Road 851 [Corral Canyon Road] goes east off NM 464 a few miles south of the Gila River.



## Site 20 - Gila River Bird Habitat Area

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



The Gila River Bird Habitat Area, located at the base of the Big Burro Mountains, is an excellent birding destination. Amidst huge cottonwoods, lush willows and Arizona walnuts, the beautiful Gila River runs through the bird habitat attracting as many as 180 species. Summer Tanagers and Vermilion Flycatchers are regular breeders. During spring and summer Brown-crested Flycatchers are present but rare and Vermilion Flycatchers are common. Bridled Titmouse and Northern Cardinal are resident. Wild Turkey, Gambel's Quail, Belted Kingfisher, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Lucy's and Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Black Hawk, Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Bridled Titmouse, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher can be spotted along the river. Northern Harrier and Sharp-shinned Hawk can be seen in winter and during migration. The paved and gravel road leading to the area offers excellent riparian birding along the winding Gila River. All birding must be done from the road because the riverbanks are private property.

Habitat: Riparian areas with large trees, scrub hill-sides.

Directions: Take US 180 northwest of Silver City toward Cliff and Glenwood. At 25.7 miles turn left on Bill Evans Lake Road and travel through private property along the Gila River for 3.4 miles. Drive straight ahead on to a gravel road as the road forks, [the left turn goes to Bill Evans Lake]. The gravel road, which can be rough at times due to wash-outs, leads into the bird area. Drive across Mangas Creek (Note: Do not attempt during high water). After another 1.5 miles, you will reach the Gila National Forest boundary cattle guard, marking the bird area.



Hooded Oriole

Narca

## Check List

- Abert's Towhee
- Belted Kingfisher
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Black Phoebe
- Blue Grosbeak
- Bridled Titmouse
- Bronzed Cowbird
- Cassin's Kingbird

- FLYCATCHER**
- Brown-crested Flycatcher
- Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- Vermilion Flycatcher
- Gray Flycatcher

- Gambel's Quail
- Greater Roadrunner

- HAWK**
- Common Black Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Zone-tailed Hawk

- Mexican Jay
- Northern Harrier

- ORIOLE**
- Bullock's Oriole
- Hooded Oriole
- Scott's Oriole

- Phainopepla

- SPARROW**
- Black-chinned Sparrow
- Black-throated Sparrow
- Rufous-crowned Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow

- TANAGER**
- Hepatic Tanager
- Summer Tanager
- Western Tanager

- THRASHER**
- Crissal Thrasher
- Curve-billed Thrasher

- Verdin

- VIREO**
- Bell's Vireo
- Gray Vireo
- Hutton's Vireo
- Plumbeous Vireo

- WARBLER**
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
- Lucy's Warbler
- Virginia's Warbler
- Yellow Warbler

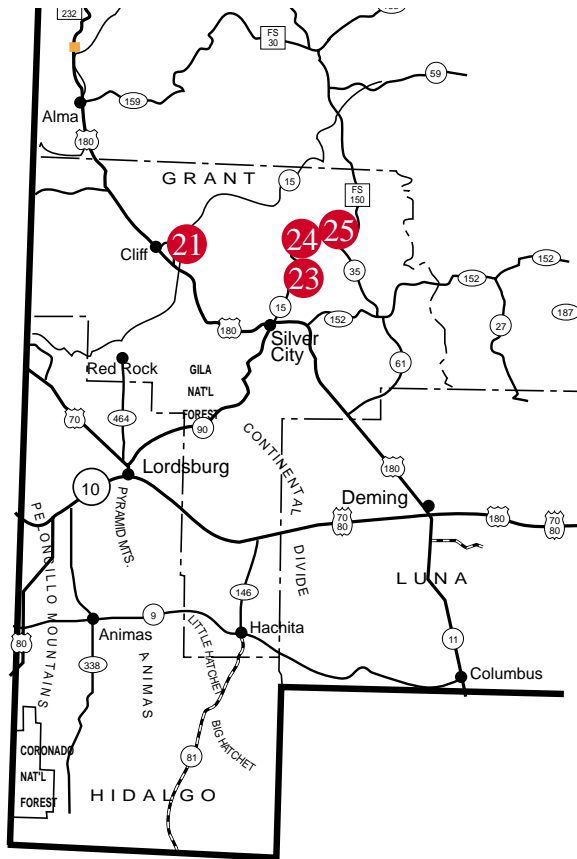
- WOODPECKER**
- Gila Woodpecker
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker

- WREN**
- Cactus Wren
- Canyon Wren
- Rock Wren

- White-winged Dove
- Wild Turkey
- Yellow-breasted Chat
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



## Site 21 - Gila River/Mogollon Creek Confluence

Gila National Forest (505) 539-2481  
The Nature Conservancy (505) 988-3867



Outstanding spring birding throughout the primitive campground, along the river, and in the areas beyond the two gates to the north. Possible species include resident Gambel's Quail; Acorn Woodpecker and Mexican Jay. In summer, Summer and Western Tanagers, Bridled Titmouse, Bullock's Oriole; Lucy's Warbler, Western Wood Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher (occasional), Zone-tailed Hawk, Common Black-Hawk; Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill are present. In winter, Townsend's Solitaire can be seen. Look for MacGillivray's Warbler during migration. Several pairs of Elf Owls nest in the Arizona Sycamores.

Habitat: Riparian habitat with large cottonwoods,



junipers, mesquite and scrub hillsides.

Directions: From Silver City drive northwest on US 180 about 28 miles to Cliff. Turn right on NM 211 for about 1 mile past the high school. Take the left fork in the road (NM 293) and continue

for about 5.8 miles, crossing a cattle guard and then entering the Gila National Forest. Continue 1.1 miles to a three-way fork, turning right. Parking and a primitive campground are located at the road's end



## Site 22 - Big Ditch Park

Silver City (505) 538-3785

Once the main street of Silver City in the late 1800s, this unique park was created by a series of floods in the early 1900s. The area offers pleasant birding near historic downtown Silver City. The Visitor Center has feeders. Ladder-backed Woodpecker is resident. Black-chinned Hummingbird; Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, Summer Tanager, and Bullock's Oriole are present in summer. In winter look for Townsend's Solitaire; migrants include Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, and Cassin's Finch.

Habitat: Cottonwood woodland with box elder, plus many introduced species.

Directions: Near the Silver City/Grant County Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center on NM 90 (Hudson Street.) You can park here and access the park via a footbridge.



## Site 23 - Cherry Creek/McMillan Campgrounds

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



The birds in Cherry Creek (elevation 6,800 feet) and McMillan Campgrounds are generally similar





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

although McMillan is at a slightly higher elevation. Cherry Creek is one of the best spots in the state to find Painted Redstart while McMillan is a reliable spot for Greater Pewee. In summer you may see Band-tailed Pigeon; White-throated Swift; Broad-tailed Hummingbird; Cordilleran Flycatcher; Violet-green Swallow; Plumbeous Vireo; Virginia's, Grace's, Red-faced and Yellow-rumped Warblers; Painted Redstart; Western and Hepatic Tanagers; and Black-headed Grosbeak. Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Junco are resident. Spotted and Flammulated Owl, Poorwill and Whip-poor-will can sometimes be heard on summer evenings.

Directions: From the junction of US 180 and NM 15 in Silver City, take NM 15, 5 miles beyond Pinos Altos. Cherry Creek Campground is on the right side of the road. McMillan Campground is 1.5 miles farther up NM 15.

## Site 24 - Signal Peak Road

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



This fire lookout access road climbs to 9,000 feet. The summit, Signal Peak, offers dramatic views of the Gila National Forest and Gila Wilderness. Initially, the fire road passes through stands of ponderosa pines, and later, large groves of aspens. At the junction with NM 15, Greater Pewee, Grace's Warbler, Hutton's Vireo, and Hepatic Tanager are possible. Up the road a short distance, Olive Warbler may be foraging in the ponderosa pine as early as March. At the higher elevations, Northern Goshawk is possible. The fire tower crew sometimes maintains a hummingbird feeder in summer at the fire tower. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds are regular and Magnificent Hummingbird is possible.

Habitat: Aspen and mixed-coniferous forest, including Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine.

Directions: From Silver City take NM 15 north. Turn right on to Forest Road 154, 3 miles past

Cherry Creek Campground. At its upper range, Forest Road 154 may require a high-clearance vehicle. The summit is a short walk beyond the locked gate. Restrooms are at summit.

## Site 25 - Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

National Park Service (505) 536-9461



The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (533 acres) is located in the Gila National Forest. Birding can be productive in the area around the Visitor Center, in the campgrounds, along the trail by the stream, and on the trail leading to the cliff dwellings. Birds include: Warbling Vireo, Painted Redstart, Western Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, Steller's Jay, Blue and Black-headed Grosbeaks, Indigo and Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, Pine Siskin, Western Tanager, American and Lesser Goldfinches, and Canyon Wren.

Habitat: Riparian and scrub forest.

Directions: From US 180 in Silver City take NM 15 north through Pinos Altos. After 45 miles the road ends at the Cliff Dwellings.



Flammulated Owl



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Check List

Band-tailed Pigeon	<input type="radio"/>	<b>GROSBEAK</b>		<b>SPARROW</b>	
<b>BLACKBIRD</b>		Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Lincoln's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Red-winged Blackbird	<input type="radio"/>	Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Song Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<input type="radio"/>	<b>HUMMINGBIRD</b>		White-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Bridled Titmouse	<input type="radio"/>	Black-chinned Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Swamp Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Bushtit	<input type="radio"/>	Blue-throated Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	<b>SWALLOW</b>	
<b>BUNTING</b>		Calliope Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Cliff Swallow	<input type="radio"/>
Indigo Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Magnificent Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Violet-green Swallow	<input type="radio"/>
Lazuli Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Rufous Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	<b>TANAGER</b>	
Canyon Wren	<input type="radio"/>	<b>JAY</b>		Hepatic Tanager	<input type="radio"/>
Cedar Waxwing	<input type="radio"/>	Mexican Jay	<input type="radio"/>	Summer Tanager	<input type="radio"/>
Common Black Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Pinion Jay	<input type="radio"/>	Western Tanager	<input type="radio"/>
Common Loon	<input type="radio"/>	Steller's Jay	<input type="radio"/>	Townsend's Solitaire	<input type="radio"/>
Common Poor-will	<input type="radio"/>	Western Scrub Jay	<input type="radio"/>	<b>VIREO</b>	
Dark-eyed Junco	<input type="radio"/>	Killdeer	<input type="radio"/>	Hutton's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
<b>DUCK</b>		Lesser Nighthawk	<input type="radio"/>	Plumbeous Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
American Widgeon	<input type="radio"/>	Lesser Scaup	<input type="radio"/>	Warbling Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Bufflehead	<input type="radio"/>	Mountain Chickadee	<input type="radio"/>	<b>WARBLER</b>	
Common Merganser	<input type="radio"/>	Northern Cardinal	<input type="radio"/>	Grace's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
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Ring-necked Duck	<input type="radio"/>	White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>	Virginia's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Ruddy Duck	<input type="radio"/>	<b>OWL</b>		Yellow-rumped Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
<b>EAGLE</b>		Elf Owls	<input type="radio"/>	Yellow Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Bald Eagle	<input type="radio"/>	Flammulated Owl	<input type="radio"/>	Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>
Golden Eagle	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Owl	<input type="radio"/>	White-throated Swift	<input type="radio"/>
<b>FLYCATCHER</b>		<b>PEWEE</b>		<b>WOODPECKER</b>	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Greater Pewee	<input type="radio"/>	Acorn Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Western Wood-Pewee	<input type="radio"/>	Hairy Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Pied-billed Grebe	<input type="radio"/>		
Gambel's Quail	<input type="radio"/>	Pine Siskin	<input type="radio"/>		
<b>GOLDFINCH</b>		Purple Martin	<input type="radio"/>		
American Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>	Painted Redstart	<input type="radio"/>		
Lesser Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<input type="radio"/>		
		Say's Phoebe	<input type="radio"/>		





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

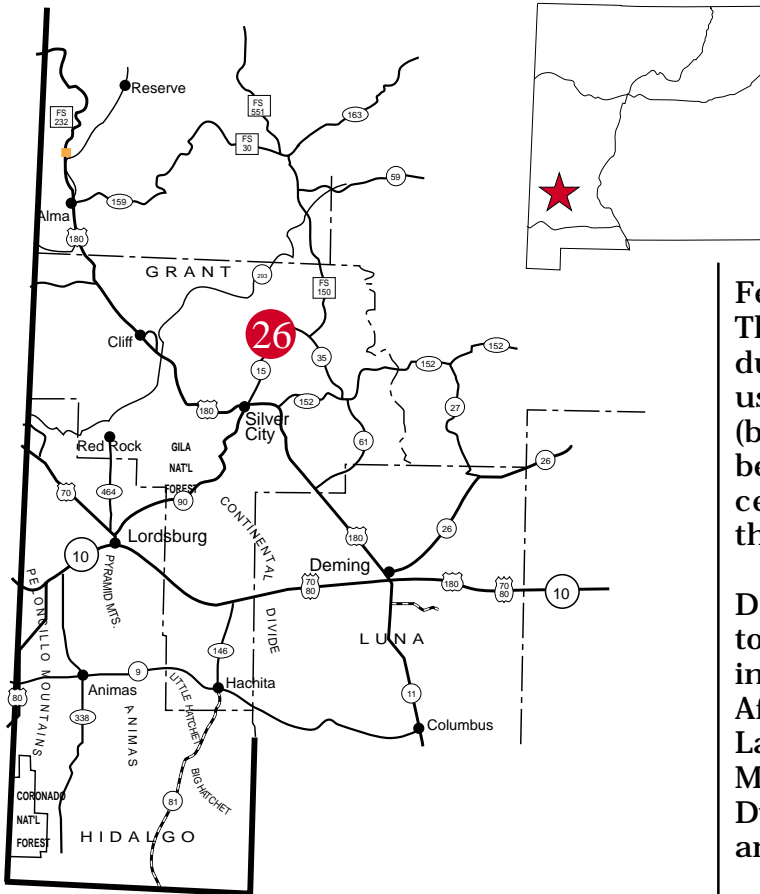


Painted Redstart

Sparrows, and Lesser Goldfinch. Hummingbirds are a big attraction at feeders located at Spirit Canyon Lodge (505) 536-9459) and Grey

Feathers Lodge (505) 536-3206) along NM 35. The hummingbirds are banded at both locations during the summer. The following species are usually present: Broad-tailed and Black-chinned (both April-August); Rufous (July-early September), and Calliope (mid-July-August). Magnificent Hummingbird is possible, and Blue-throated is rare.

Directions: From Silver City, take US 180 east to Central. Turn left on NM 152 and after reaching the Mimbres Valley turn left on to NM 35. After approximately 32 miles you will reach the Lake Roberts area. If you are at Cherry Creek/McMillan Campgrounds, Signal Peak, or Gila Cliff Dwellings, take NM 15 to its junction with NM 35 and take NM 35 a few miles to Lake Roberts.



## Site 26 - Lake Roberts Area

Gila National Forest (505) 536-2250



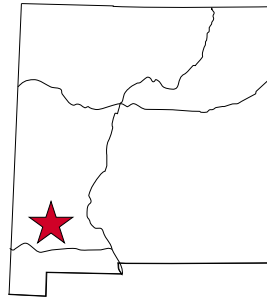
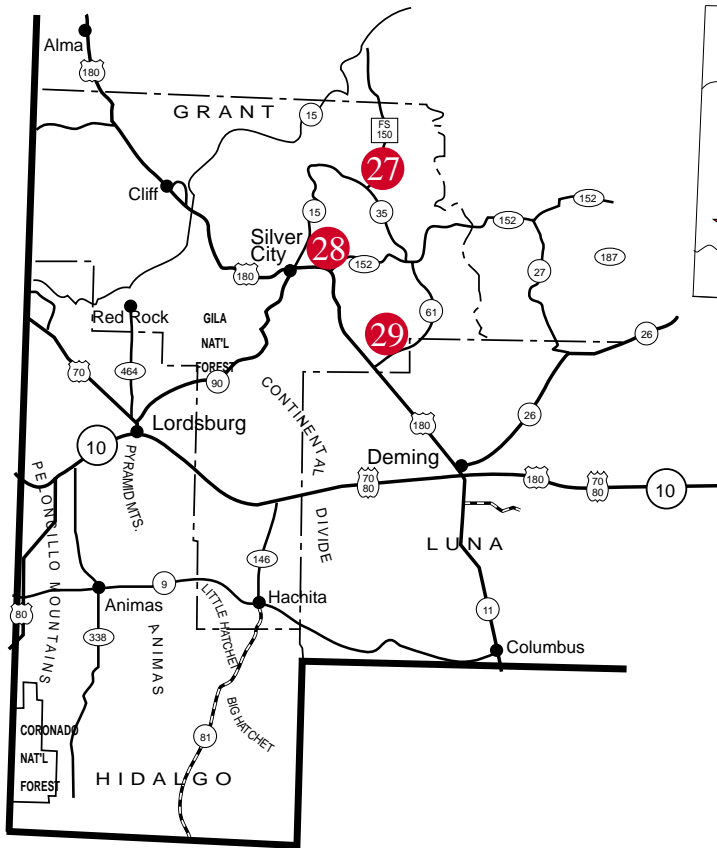
Best waterbird location in southwest NM. Lake Roberts is located in the Gila National Forest near the Continental Divide. Birds on or near the lake include Pied-billed Grebe; Gadwall; American Widgeon; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; Common Merganser; Northern Shoveler; Northern Pintail; Ruddy Duck; Ring-necked Duck; Spotted Sandpiper; Common Black Hawk; Bald Eagle; Common Loon (winter); Say's Phoebe; Killdeer; Violet-green Swallow; Cliff Swallow; Townsend's Solitaire; Bridled Titmouse; Bush-tit; Purple Martin; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Western Bluebird; Yellow and Yellow-rumped Warblers; Western Tanager; Cedar Waxwing; Swamp (uncommon), Song, Lincoln's, White-crowned

### Check-List

<b>BLACKBIRD</b>	
Red-winged Blackbird	<input type="radio"/>
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<input type="radio"/>
<b>BUNTING</b>	
Indigo Bunting	<input type="radio"/>
Lazuli Bunting	<input type="radio"/>
Canyon Wren	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GOLDFINCH</b>	
American Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>
Lesser Goldfinch	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GROSBEAK</b>	
Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>
Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>
<b>JAY</b>	
Pinion Jay	<input type="radio"/>
Steller's Jay	<input type="radio"/>
Western Scrub Jay	<input type="radio"/>
Painted Redstart	<input type="radio"/>
Pine Siskin	<input type="radio"/>
Warbling Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Western Tanager	<input type="radio"/>



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



has two national recreation hiking trails as well as roadways around the fort on which to look for birds. In April-September you may see birding opportunities including: Montezuma Quail (uncommon), Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks, Band-tailed Pigeon, Great-horned and Long-eared Owls (rare), Western and Cassin's

Kingbirds, Western Bluebird, and Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks. Eastern Meadowlarks nest here, and Mountain Bluebirds winter.

**Directions:** Drive 6.5 miles east of Silver City on US 180. Turn left at the Fort Bayard intersection and continue 0.5 mile to the main gate of the facility. As you enter the grounds, look for brown Forest Road 536 signs posted on the fort's old buildings. Continue on the gravel road for 3 miles. After crossing a cattle guard, pass the Forest Service Administrative Area and Recreation site on your right and turn left at National Recreation Trails Road. Proceed 0.25 mile to the parking lot.

## Site 27 - TNC Mimbres Preserve

The Nature Conservancy (505) 538-2538

The Mimbres Preserve features old fields and a section of the Mimbres River. Resident birds include Montezuma Quail and Bridled Titmouse. In summer look for Common Black-Hawk; Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting; and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

**Directions:** From Silver City take U.S. 180 east for about 10 miles and turn left (east) onto NM 152. Take NM 152 east to NM 35 north, near the town of San Lorenzo. Follow NM 35 north to Mile Marker 11 up the west side of the Mimbres Valley. Turn right into an unmarked driveway and park on the left in front of an old barn.

## Site 28 - Fort Bayard Historical District

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201

Located in the Pinus Altos Mountains, Fort Bayard

## Site 29 - City of Rocks State Park

New Mexico State Parks (505) 536-2800



The 680 acre park (elevation 5,200 feet) lies amidst interesting rock formations. Birds include Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cactus Wren, Scaled Quail, Western Scrub-Jay, sparrows, finches, and Eastern Meadowlark. Also, possible are Lesser Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Great-horned Owl, and Blue Grosbeak. In winter Northern Harrier and Golden Eagle may be spotted.

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert grasslands.

**Directions:** From Deming, take US 180 northwest 24 miles, then drive northeast on NM 61 for 4 miles to the park access road. From Silver City, take US 180 southeast 29 miles to the junction with NM 61.



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Check List

Band-tailed Pigeon	<input type="radio"/>
Cactus Wren	<input type="radio"/>
Common Poor-will	<input type="radio"/>
Curve-billed Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Golden Eagle	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GROSBEAK</b>	
Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>
Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>
<b>HAWK</b>	
Cooper's Hawk	<input type="radio"/>
Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="radio"/>
<b>KINGBIRD</b>	
Cassin's Kingbird	<input type="radio"/>
Western Kingbird	<input type="radio"/>
Lesser Nighthawk	<input type="radio"/>
<b>MEADOWLARK</b>	
Eastern Meadowlark	<input type="radio"/>
Western Meadowlark	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Harrier	<input type="radio"/>
<b>OWL</b>	
Great-horned Owl	<input type="radio"/>
Long-eared Owl	<input type="radio"/>
<b>QUAIL</b>	
Montezuma Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Scaled Quail	<input type="radio"/>
Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>
Western Scrub Jay	<input type="radio"/>



Blue Grosbeak

Photo: Joe Roybal

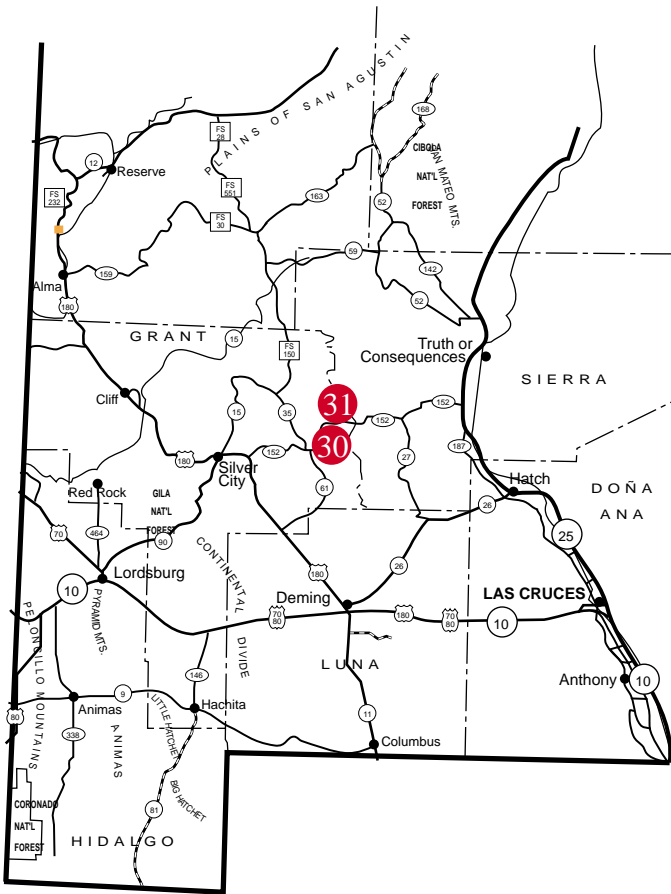


Black-headed Grosbeak

Photo: Jess Alford



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



## Site 30 - Iron Creek Campground to Lower Gallinas Campground

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



In the Black Range west of Emory Pass, the Gila National Forest maintains three campgrounds. Iron Creek is 3.5 miles west of the pass, Upper Gallinas is 1.6 miles west of Iron Creek, and Lower Gallinas is 1.6 miles west of Upper Gallinas. These campgrounds are good locations for Grace's Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, and Painted Redstart in summer. Night birding may produce Spotted and Northern Pygmy-Owls all year and Whip-poor-will in late April-August. Note: Using tapes to attract Spotted Owl is illegal.



Habitat: Mixed deciduous and coniferous forest.

Directions: From Silver City, take US 180 east to Central and turn left on NM 152. Stay on NM 152 to Lower and then Upper Gallinas Campgrounds on the south side of the road at 25.1 and 26.5 miles respectively. Iron Creek

Campground appears further east along NM 152 on the right.

From I-25 take the Hillsboro exit 63 (NM 152) and go west 27.5 miles to Iron Creek Campground.



## Site 31 - Emory Pass

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201



Located in the Black Range, Emory Pass (elevation 8,500 feet) affords panoramic views of the Rio Grande Valley to the east and the Black Range. Birding is best from May to September along the crest hiking trail. In summer look for Band-tailed Pigeon; Broad-tailed Hummingbird; Western Wood-pewee; Cordilleran Flycatcher; Violet-green Swallow; Northern Pygmy-Owl; Hermit Thrush; Virginia's, Grace's, Olive, and Red-faced Warblers; Hutton's Vireo; and Painted Redstart. Resident species include Western Bluebird; Steller's Jay; Common Raven; Mountain Chickadee; and Spotted Owl (rare). In winter, Cassin's Finch; Clark's Raven; Mountain Chickadee; and Spotted Owl (rare.) In winter, Cassin's Finch; Clark's Nutcracker; Evening Grosbeak; chickadees; and nuthatches may be seen along the road below the pass.

Directions: From Silver City, take US 180 east to Central and turn left on NM 152. Stay on NM 152 to the pass.

From I-25 take the Hillsboro exit 63 (NM 152) and go west 24 miles. Parking areas provided.





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Check-List

- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- Cassin's Finch
- Clark's Nutcracker
- Common Raven
- Cordilleran Flycatcher
- Evening Grosbeak
- Hermit Thrush
- Hutton's Vireo
- Mountain Chickadee

### OWL

- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Spotted Owl

- Painted Redstart
- Steller's Jay
- Violet-green Swallow

### WARBLER

- Grace's Warbler
- Olive Warbler
- Red-faced Warbler
- Virginia's Warbler
- Yellow-rumped Warbler

- Western Bluebird
- Western Wood-Pewee
- Whip-poor-will

### WOODPECKER

- Acorn Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker



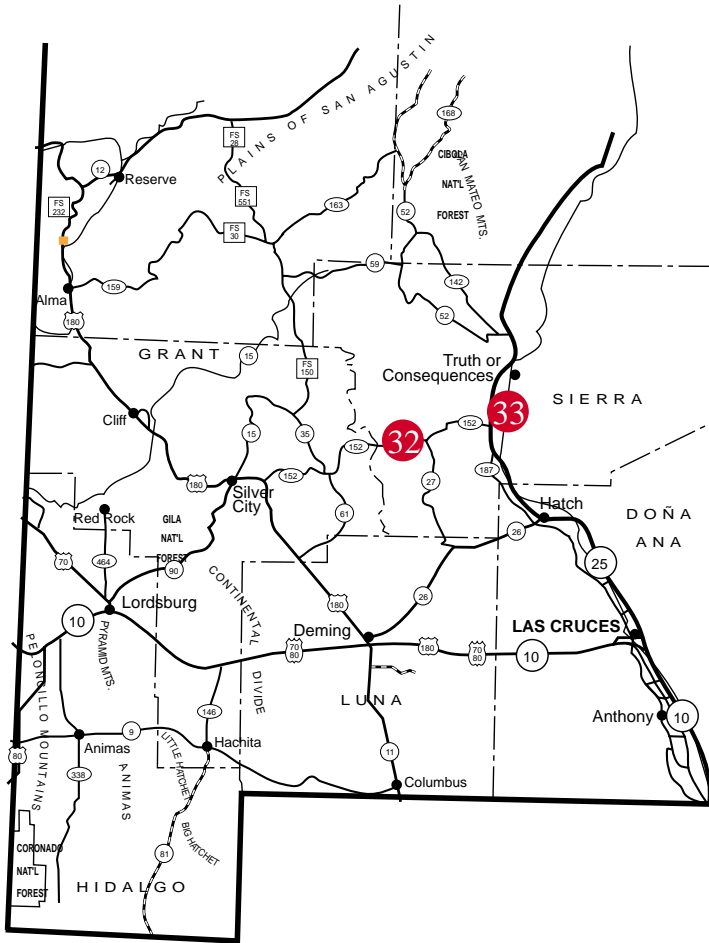
Mexican Spotted Owl



Whip-poor-will



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



patic Tanager; and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Between Kingston and Hillsboro (much of this is private property), look for resident Western Scrub-Jay; Juniper Titmouse; Bushtit; Canyon Towhee; Rufous-crowned Sparrow; Lark Sparrow; and Rock

and Canyon Wrens. In summer look for Cassin's Kingbird; Bridled Titmouse; Hepatic Tanager; Blue Grosbeak; Bullock's Oriole; and Lesser Goldfinch.

**Directions:** From Silver City, take US 180 east to Central and turn left on NM 152 proceeding 39 miles to Kingston.

From I-25 take the Hillsboro exit 63 (NM 152) and go west 17 miles to Hillsboro.

## Site 33 - Las Animas Creek

Private property. Bird from the public road only.

Las Animas Creek (also referred to as Animas Creek) is north and west of I-25 and flows into Caballo Lake. The creek bed hosts a beautiful stand of Arizona Sycamores, creating an ideal environment for such southwestern riparian species as Elf Owl, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bridled Titmouse. The first few miles desert scrub harbors Verdin, Cactus Wren, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, Rufous-crowned and Black-throated Sparrows. Farther west, sycamore groves host Acorn Woodpecker and Bridled Titmouse. Summer residents include White-winged Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Elf Owl, Lesser Night-Brown-crested and throated Flycatchers, Cassin's Kingbird, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer Tanager. Listen for Western Screech-Owl at night.

Habitat: Desert scrub; sycamore riparian woodland.



White-winged Dove

## Site 32 - Kingston-Hillsboro Area

Gila National Forest (505) 388-8201  
Private property. Bird from the public road only.



Kingston has a USFS campground on the north side of NM 152. In Hillsboro, stop at the public park just west of the bridge on the north side of the road and investigate the riparian area. The 10-mile drive between the two towns follows a riparian corridor that can be viewed from the road. Kingston summer birds include Gray Flycatcher, Bridled Titmouse; He-



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

Location: Take I-25 Exit 63 (NM 152) and drive east a short distance to a frontage road that runs north-south on the west side of Caballo Lake. Turn north about 1 mile. Before the bridge over the creek, turn left (west) onto a paved road passing under the interstate. Bird only on the roadway as the surrounding land is private property. After 5 miles the road comes to a creek crossing, where it becomes private and is closed to the public.

Photo: Joe Roybal



Summer Tanager

## Check-List

- Acorn Woodpecker
- Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
- Blue Grosbeak
- Bridled Titmouse
- Bullock's Oriole
- Bushtit
- Canyon Towhee
- Cassin's Kingbird

- FLYCATCHER**
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
  - Brown-crested Flycatcher
  - Gray Flycatcher

- Juniper Titmouse
- Lesser Goldfinch
- Lesser Nighthawk

- OWL**
- Elf Owl
  - Western Screech-Owl

- SPARROW**
- Black-throated Sparrow
  - Lark Sparrow
  - Rufous-crowned Sparrow

- TANAGER**
- Hepatic Tanager
  - Summer Tanager

- THRASHER**
- Crissal Thrasher
  - Curve-billed Thrasher

- Verdin

- WARBLER**
- Black-throated Gray Warbler
  - Lucy's Warbler

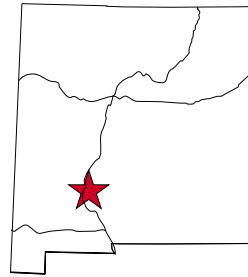
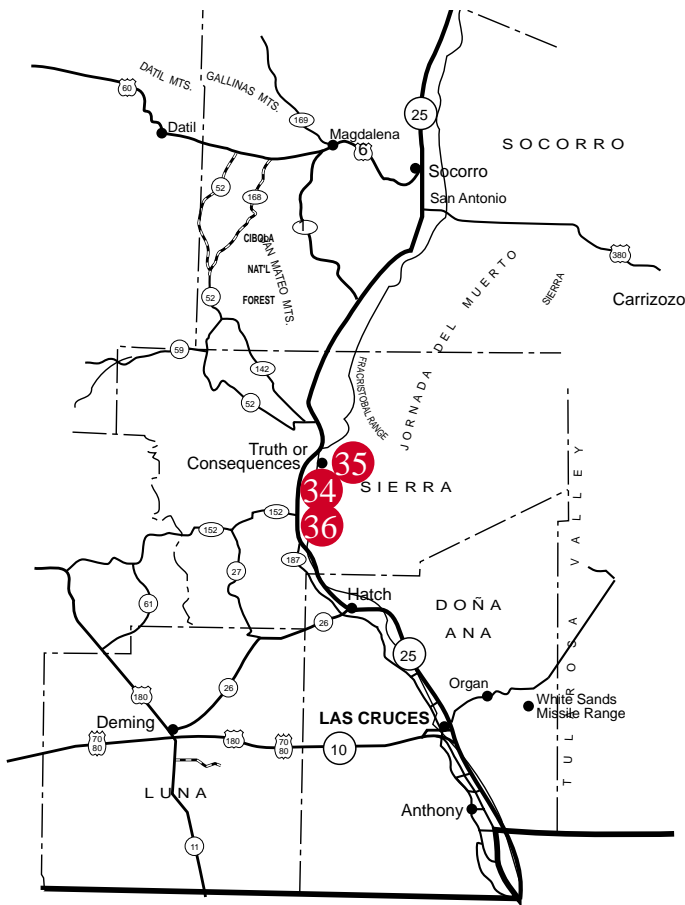
- Western Scrub Jay
- White-winged Dove

- WREN**
- Cactus Wren
  - Rock Wren

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Yellow-breasted Chat



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



that follows the river, passing beside a thick cottonwood bosque. This area is excellent for birds in all seasons. Watch the river for ducks, shorebirds and kingfishers; the bosque for passerines, hawks, owls and woodpeckers. Sparrows are abundant in the scrub and mesquite. Check the woodland directly north of the fee station and canal. You can access it by the road leaving the park through a gate or by the foot bridge across the canal. In this small woodland there are commonly flycatchers, woodpeckers and numerous warblers during migration. Accipiters and falcons often seek the smaller birds here. Note: In spring and summer, bring your mosquito repellent.

**Habitat:** Cultivated grass, dry scrub, riparian woodland.

**Directions:** Take I-25 Exit 59 for Caballo Dam and Arrey. Upon exiting, turn south on State Highway 85 and proceed about 1 mile to a left turn at the south side of an abandoned baseball diamond. Proceed east on this good gravel road, which traverses cultivated fields. These fields are commonly good for sparrows and raptors, especially in winter. After about .75 mile the gravel road turns right and traverses creosote scrub habitat that is good for desert birds. The left side of this road varies from dry scrub and grass to a cattail marsh. Percha Dam State Park lies across a canal.

## Site 34 - Percha Dam State Park

New Mexico State Parks (505) 743-3942



Located north of Hatch, where some riparian woodlands remain along the Rio Grande, the 11,000 acre park (elevation 4,100 feet) is one of the best places to watch birds in the state, especially excellent in migration. The central, developed area of the park is a relatively manicured, open bosque of cottonwoods with picnic tables and campsites. When not heavily occupied, this area is good for Phainopepla, woodpeckers, flycatchers and vireos. Flanking the east side of the park along the river is a thick growth of willow and cottonwood that boasts some of the best warbler watching in the valley during spring and fall migrations. You can park anywhere along the river edge of the park and walk along this riparian corridor. At the south end of the park near the river is a fence with a narrow gap. For about a half mile, there is a trail

## Site 35- Caballo Lake State Park and Caballo Dam

New Mexico State Parks (505) 743-3942



Caballo Lake State Park (5,326 acres) is located on Caballo Reservoir, a shallow lake about 12 miles south of Elephant Butte Reservoir along the Rio Grande. The lake, at an elevation of 4,100 feet, covers 11,500 acres of surface area and is about 25 feet at its deepest point. It provides excellent winter viewing of grebes, raptors, geese and ducks, quail, gulls, doves, owls, woodpeckers, phoebes, wrens, thrushes, thrashers, sparrows, and finches. The Caballo Christmas Bird Count (which includes





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

Percha Dam and Animas Creek) usually has the highest number of species in New Mexico. Just below Caballo, the Rio Grande looks the way it did 100 years ago. It's one of the best examples of riparian woodland left in the state.

Habitat: Narrow, quiet reservoir, flanked by bare, dun-colored mountains with screw-bean mesquite. Desert scrub and riparian woodland.

Directions: About 16 miles south of Truth or Consequences on I-25, take Exit 59. Turn onto NM 187 and follow signs to Caballo Lake State Park on left, less than 2 miles. The west shore of Caballo Lake has a paved road and two well-developed campgrounds for day or overnight use.

## Site 36 - Las Palomas Marsh

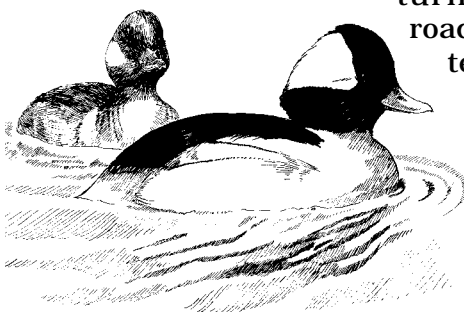
Bureau of Land Management (505) 525-4300

No services

Las Palomas Marsh, a cow pasture when Caballo Lake is low and a marsh when the lake is high, is a 40-acre livestock enclosure located south of Truth or Consequences. When marshy, it offers good shore and marsh birding. Desert scrub species and winter sparrows are numerous. The cottonwoods at the south end may be productive in migration. You may walk to the Rio Grande from here.

Habitat: Mix of mesquite scrub and marshy terrain with willows, cottonwoods and grasses.

Directions: Take I-25 Exit 71 (Las Palomas). At the top of the off ramp, turn right and go to boulevard stop (0.7 mile) and turn left. Go 0.2 mile and turn right on gravel road. Go straight. After 0.8 mile you will cross a road. Bear slightly to your left and then back to the right to cross. You are there; the fenced enclosure is on your left.



## Site 37 - Elephant Butte Lake State Park

New Mexico State Parks (505) 744-5421



A prime area for waterbirds and shorebirds, Elephant Butte Lake is the largest lake in New Mexico and is best birded between September and May. A scope is essential. Depending upon water level, you may see American White Pelicans, thousands of Western and Clark's Grebes, several terns and unusual gulls.

Birding on land is best from Rock Canyon south, where tall scrub and houses with plants and feeders attract numerous species. The roads through desert scrub contain a variety of sparrows. Check any migrating Horned Lark flocks for longspurs.

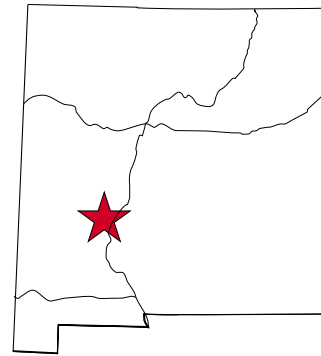
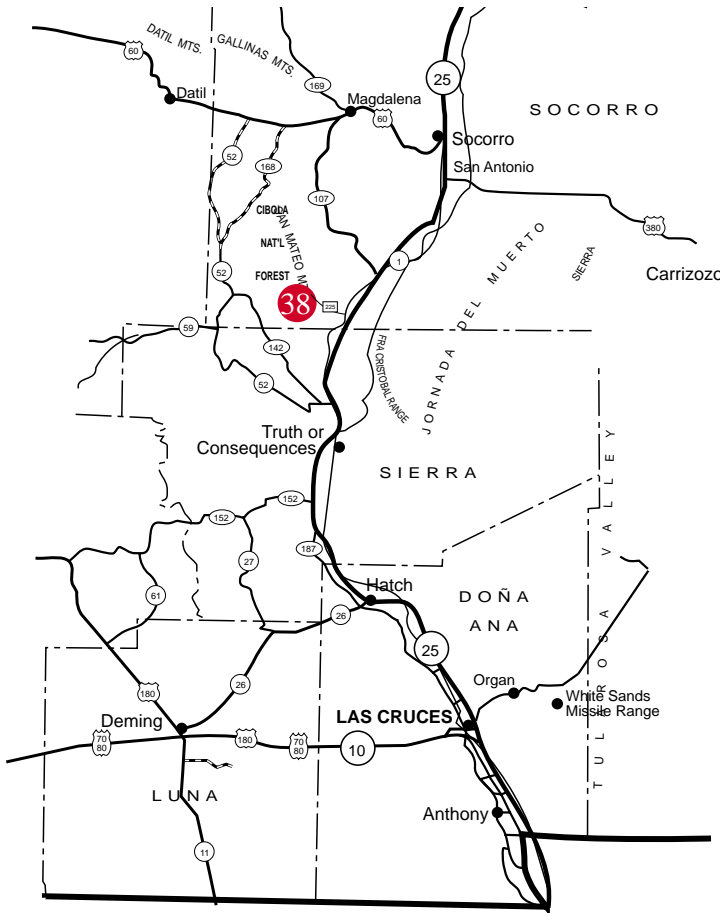
Below the dam, Paseo del Rio Park is situated in a riparian canyon along the river. Because many miles of open desert and lake stretch to the north, this area is a migrant trap. From Paseo del Rio Park, continue north on the west side of Elephant Butte Lake on a paved road with side-roads leading toward the lake. Some of the better birding spots are the Dam Site Marina, Elephant Butte Resort Marina, Hot Springs Landing, Rock Canyon Marina (check the breakwater for gulls), Long Point, Three Sisters Point, South Monticello Point, and North Monticello Point (check for shorebirds, gulls, terns, waders, and ducks). Loons are more common at the southern end of the lake. All of these are worth checking, but if time is limited, Rock Canyon Marina and North Monticello Point are the best birding spots on the lake.

**Note:** Due to the current drought, the lake has shrunk to the point that North Montecello Point is no longer accessible.

Directions: State Park Headquarters is 5 miles north of Truth or Consequences on Exit 83 off I-25. Maps are available at Park Headquarters.



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



## Check-List

Acorn Woodpecker

Bridled Titmouse

### WARBLER

Grace's Warbler

Red-faced Warbler

Hepatic Tanager

Montezuma Quail

## Site 38 - Springtime Campground

Cibola National Forest 505-854-2381



The San Mateo Mountains lie northwest of Truth or Consequences, (or southwest of Socorro) in the Cibola National Forest. Springtime Canyon is located at the southern end the mountain range. Summer birds include Grace's and Red-faced Warblers and Hepatic Tanager. Acorn Woodpecker; Montezuma Quail; and Bridled Titmouse are resident.

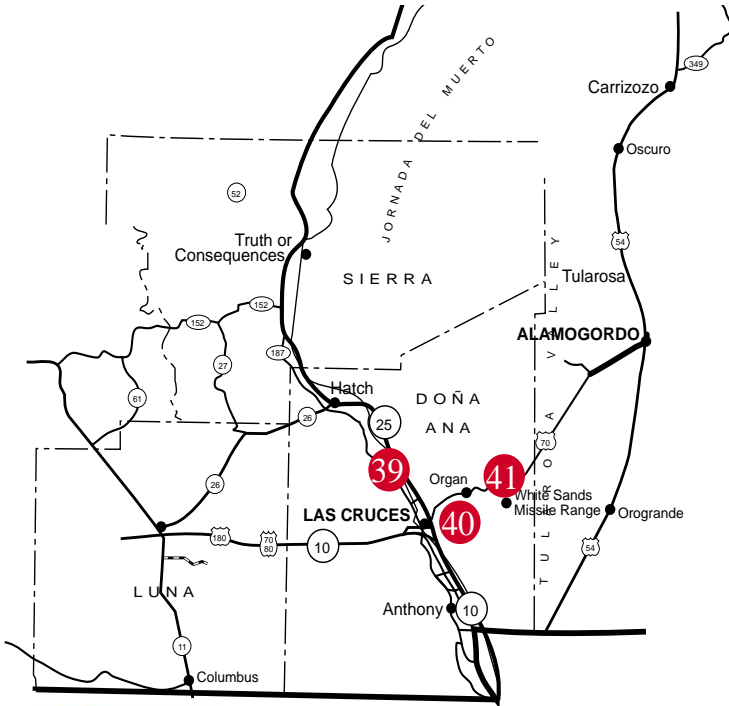
Directions: From I-25 take Exit 100. Go north on Hwy 1 (old US 85) about 8.5 miles. Turn left or west (sometimes sign is down) on the good dirt road for about 12.5 miles to the right (north) turn leading to Springtime Campground.



Olive Warbler



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



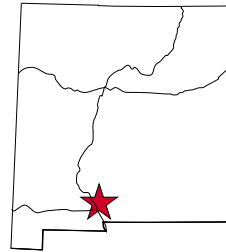
## Site 39 - Leasburg Dam State Park

New Mexico State Park (505) 524-4068



The 240 acre state park (elevation 4,200 feet) is located on the Rio Grande about 20 miles north of Las Cruces. Flooded fields can produce Wilson's Snipe; Franklin's Gull; American Pipit; Long-billed Curlew; and various ducks. The first campground is about 0.4 mile from the intersection of NM 185 and Ft. Selden Road. A trail runs along the river's edge between campgrounds (about 0.5 mile.) Check the area at the dam and the small willows and salt cedar lining the irrigation canal that parallels the river. Resident species include Rock Wren; Verdin; sparrows; Crissal Thrasher; Canyon Towhee; Pyrrhuloxia; Black Phoebe; and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. In summer look for warblers; Phainopepla; Bullock's Oriole; and Warbling Vireo. In winter Western and Mountain Bluebirds may be present.

Directions: Take I-25 to Exit 19 (Radium



Springs). Proceed west on Fort Selden Road about 1.5 miles or almost to the intersection with NM 185. (You will pass the main entrance the Leasburg Dam State Park and the entrance to Fort Selden

State Monument.) Just after crossing a bridge over an irrigation canal make a sharp right turn onto Leasburg Dam Road and continue down the paved road until you get to the dam area (about 0.9 mile). Watch for birds along the canal and in the fields. Be sure to visit both sides of the river.

## Site 40 - Dripping Springs Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management (505) 522-1219



Dripping Springs is located east of Las Cruces on the west side of the Organ Mountains. The best areas for birding are the Dripping Springs Trail and the trail through La Cueva picnic area located near the visitor center. On the Dripping Springs Trail, possible birds include: Black-chinned, Black-throated, White-crowned and Brewer's Sparrows (winter), Black-headed Grosbeak, Scott's Oriole (both likely in summer), Spotted and Canyon Towhees, and Bushtit. Areas with thick shrubbery contain Western Wood-Pewee (summer), Western Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch. At the La Cueva picnic area, the following birds are possible in winter: Eastern and Western Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, Sage Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, and Phainopepla. In summer, the Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting are possible. During migration, several flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and sparrows are likely. Ladder-



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

backed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Cactus and Bewick's Wrens, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, and Pyrrhuloxia are also often seen in the area.

Directions: In Las Cruces, take University Boulevard east from I-25 toward the Organ Mountains. University becomes Dripping Springs Road. The visitor center is 10.1 miles from I-25. Local bird sighting information is available at the visitor center.

## Site 41 - Aguirre Springs Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management (505) 525-4300



Higher elevation habitat near Las Cruces, Aguirre Springs offers easy access to the higher elevations of the Organ Mountains. Look for Scaled Quail, Pyrrhuloxia, and Scott's Oriole (in yuccas) along the road leading to the area. On the recreation area's Pine Tree Trail, you can find Hutton's Vireo and Black-chinned Sparrows (summer). Gray Vireos are also a possibility. Higher up in the ponderosa pine and gambel oaks, the following species may be seen: Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl (rare), Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Bushtit. Summer breeding birds include: Broad-tailed Hummingbird; Western Wood-Pewee; Cordilleran Flycatcher; Plumbeous Vireo; Virginia's, Black-throated Gray and Grace's Warblers. Hepatic Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak are also present. Look for raptors along the road beyond Aguirre Springs. Do not trespass in private or military areas outside the entrance road.

In winter, Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks are regularly seen, and Northern Harriers can be seen flying low over the grasslands. American Kestrels, Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons are resident. Swainson's Hawk is regular in summer.

Habitat: Ponderosa pine forest with mountain mahogany; oak and juniper woodland.

Location: From Las Cruces, take US 70 (Exit 6A off I-25) toward Alamogordo across the Organ Mountains. Once across San Augustin Pass, watch for the signs for Aguirre Springs (1.1 miles past the sign at the pass, or mile marker 16.1) on the right. Turn onto a paved road and drive 6 miles into the recreation area. At mile 4 the road becomes a one-way loop, and climbs sharply.



Prairie Falcon





# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

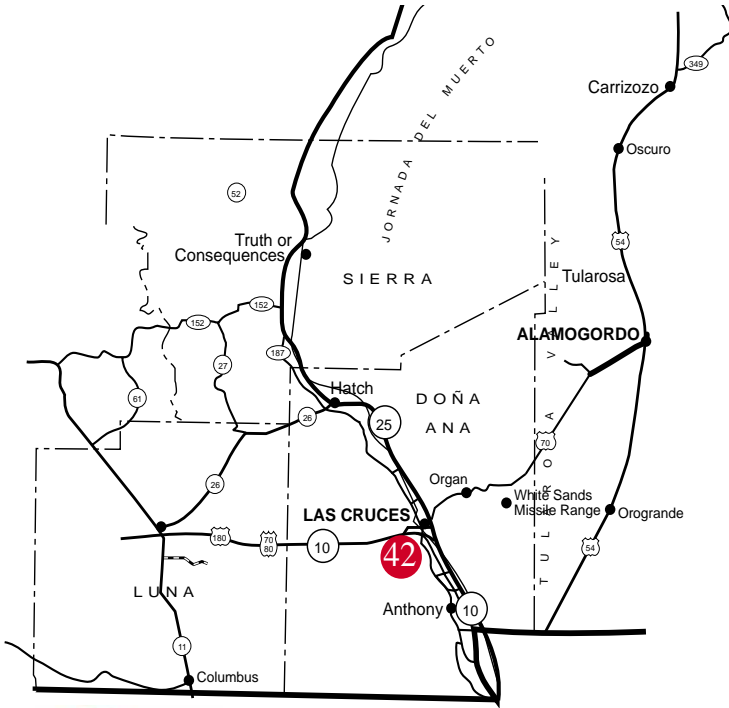
## Check-List

American Kestrels	<input type="radio"/>	Ring-billed Gull	<input type="radio"/>
American Pipit	<input type="radio"/>	Scaled Quail	<input type="radio"/>
American Wigeon	<input type="radio"/>		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<input type="radio"/>	<b>SPARROW</b>	
Black Phoebe	<input type="radio"/>	Black-chinned Sparrows	<input type="radio"/>
<b>BLUEBIRD</b>		White-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Eastern Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>	Brewer's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>		
Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
		<b>TEAL</b>	
Bushtit	<input type="radio"/>	Blue-winged Teal	<input type="radio"/>
Cedar Waxwing	<input type="radio"/>	Cinnamon Teal	<input type="radio"/>
		Green-winged Teal	<input type="radio"/>
<b>FLYCATCHER</b>		<b>THRASHER</b>	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Crissal Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Curve-billed Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
		Sage Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Franklin's Gull	<input type="radio"/>	Townsend's Solitaire	<input type="radio"/>
Golden Eagles	<input type="radio"/>		
<b>GROSBEAK</b>		<b>TOWHEE</b>	
Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Canyon Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
		Verdin	<input type="radio"/>
<b>HAWK</b>		<b>VIREO</b>	
Cooper's Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Gray Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Ferruginous Hawks	<input type="radio"/>	Plumbeous Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Hutton's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Swainson's Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Warbling Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
		<b>WARBLER</b>	
<b>HUMMINGBIRD</b>		Black-throated Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Grace's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Black-throated Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Gray Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Orange-crowned Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
		Virginia's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Hepatic Tanager	<input type="radio"/>	Wilson's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Hermit Thrush	<input type="radio"/>	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Indigo Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Western Scrub Jay	<input type="radio"/>
Juniper Titmouse	<input type="radio"/>	Western Wood-Pewee	<input type="radio"/>
Loggerhead Shrike	<input type="radio"/>	White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>
Long-billed Curlew	<input type="radio"/>	Wilson's Snipe	<input type="radio"/>
Mallard	<input type="radio"/>		
Mountain Chickadee	<input type="radio"/>	<b>WOODPECKER</b>	
Northern Flicker	<input type="radio"/>	Acorn Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Harriers	<input type="radio"/>	Hairy Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Shoveler	<input type="radio"/>	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
		<b>WREN</b>	
<b>ORIOLE</b>		Bewick's Wren	<input type="radio"/>
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Cactus Wren	<input type="radio"/>
Scott's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Rock Wren	<input type="radio"/>
<b>OWL</b>			
Northern Pygmy Owl	<input type="radio"/>		
Western Screech Owl	<input type="radio"/>		
Prairie Falcon	<input type="radio"/>		
Pyrrhuloxia	<input type="radio"/>		



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Additional Site



### Site 42 - Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

New Mexico State Park (575)523-4398

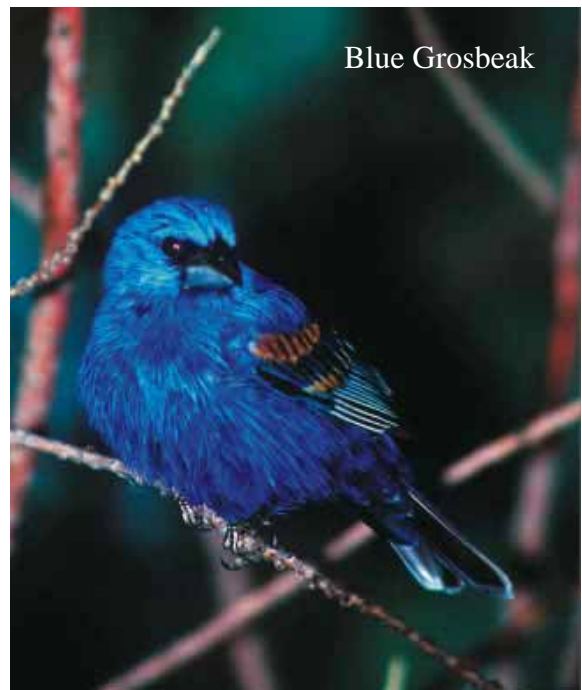


Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park encompasses 307 acres (elevation 3,890 feet) of Rio Grande floodplain and has long been known to local birders as the Old Refuge. It is a remnant patch of formerly common riparian habitat fronting the Rio Grande, and as such, it's an important protected area for wildlife. Habitat restoration has created a series of wetlands and open salt grass meadows that attract birds. You'll also find an amphitheater, gardens, a visitor center with exhibits, and wildlife viewing blinds. Groups are easily accommodated with a picnic shelter, meeting room, and private event and party facilities.

Every Saturday morning there is a bird-walk led by a Mesilla Valley Audubon Society member, park volunteer, or park ranger. These small groups provide lots of chances for interaction.

#### Residents:

Crissal and Curve-billed Thrashers, Great Horned Owl, Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxia, Greater Roadrunner, Black-throated Sparrow. Winter: many waterfowl and raptors - Northern Harrier, Swainson's Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Mexican Mallard, Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wren, Western and Eastern Meadowlarks, Long-eared Owl, Sora, Red-winged Blackbird, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and several sparrows. Summer: Barn Swallow (nesting at VC), Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Western Kingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Gambel's Quail, killdeer, Several varieties of Warbler's, Bullock's Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Scott's Oriole, Say's Phoebe (nesting at VC), Black-chinned and Rufus Hummingbirds, Whitewing and Mourning Dove, occasional Common Ground Dove.



Blue Grosbeak

#### Directions:

From east- or westbound I-10, exit at Avenida de Mesilla (Exit 140) and drive south to Calle del Norte. Turn right and drive two miles southwest until you cross the Rio Grande. The entrance to the park is on the left immediately after crossing the river.