

# New Mexico: Winter Birds & Grand Landscapes Species List | January 19- 27, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guides James Petersen and Vernie Aikins. Our clients included Jim, Betty, Chuck, Terri, Bob, Teresa, Carol**

We started the trip by birding the Rio Grande Park downtown picking up some of the more common species for the trip. From there, we slowly made our way south to Las Cruces with stops in the Sandia's for Rosy-finches, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and Bernardo Waterfowl Management for the large numbers of wintering Sandhill Cranes and Snow/Ross's Geese.. Here we witnessed a jaw dropping morning fly in by around 6,000 Snow and Ross's Geese. We then continued south, birding our way down to Las Cruces and witnessing a spectacular winter sunset in White Sands National Park. We spent the last 2 days of the tour birding the massive reservoirs around Truth or Consequences. We ended the trip having observed 130 species of birds and 7 mammal species.

The eBird link below details the 130 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[New Mexico: Winter Birds & Grand Landscapes | January 19-27, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of the mammals seen on this trip.

## **MAMMALS: — (7)**

**Desert Cottontail** *Sylvilagus aububonii* – Seen by only Vernie on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

**Abert's Squirrel** *Sciurus aberti* – These two large black squirrels with white on the tail were seen while waiting for the Rosy Finches up on Sandia Crest. They chased each other around a Ponderosa Pine tree before one settled on the feeder to eat the bird seed.

**Collared Peccary** *Pecari tajacu* – Seen at dusk while at Bosque del Apache NWR. The Peccary was in the back of a field that also contained both Coyotes and Mule Deer.

**Mule Deer** *Odocoileus hemionus* – Seen multiple times throughout the trip. The best sighting of these mammals was of 2 huge bucks walking close to the road while birding Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

**Coyote** *Canis latrans* – Also seen multiple times during the trip. The best views of this mammal came while birding at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, this one was sleeping in the open on a small island.

**Striped Skunk** *Mephitis mephitis* – Seen walking towards the forest while birding at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

**Oryx** *Oryx leucoryx* – These mammals were introduced in the 1950's and have since become more common. We came across 10 of these long-horned mammals sitting by the side of the road while on the way to White Sands National Park.

**LOCATIONS AND NOTES:**

**Day 1: Rio Grande Nature Park**

**Day 2: Sandia Crest-Tijeras Ranger Station (Cibola National Forest)**

**Day 3: Bernardo Waterfowl Mangement Area- Very Large Array- Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge**

**Day 4: Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area – Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge**

**Day 5: Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park – Soledad Canyon (Organ Mountains)**

**Day 6: Organ Mountains (Aguirre Springs Campground) – Hwy 70 – White Sands National Park**

**Day 7: Percha Dam State Park – Eagle Point (Caballo Lake)**

**Day 8: South Monticello Point- Lost Canyon – Hot Springs Cove – Main Marina – Dam Overlook – Paseo del Rio**