

• RGNC BIRD NOTES •

An overview of bird walk results at the Rio Grande Nature Center during the year 2012
and a review of bird sightings in December 2012

Notes from John "Lefty" Arnold wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com; 505-514-9398

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

- *Two new species never before seen at RGNC were added to the overall list, bringing it to 304 species: Little Blue Heron and Blackpoll Warbler*
- *A new species was added to the nesting birds of RGNC, bring it to 66 species: Swainson's hawk*
- *A total of 149 species was recorded during weekend bird walks in 2012. This number is four more than the 145 species recorded in 2011.*
- *A total of 18 species recorded on bird walks in 2011 **were not seen** in 2012:*

American white pelican, barn owl, black-and-white warbler, black-throated gray, warbler, clay-colored sparrow, common nighthawk, curve-billed thrasher, eastern phoebe, grasshopper sparrow, gray catbird, gray flycatcher, gray vireo, great egret, marsh wren, northern mockingbird, Ross's goose, Townsend's warbler, and yellow-breasted chat.

- *A total of 22 species recorded on bird walks in 2012 **were not seen** in 2011:*

bank swallow, blackpoll warbler, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Bonaparte's gull, calliope hummingbird, eared grebe, Eurasian collared-dove, fox sparrow, Gambel's quail, greater white-fronted goose, house wren, indigo bunting, ladder-backed woodpecker, little blue heron, long-billed dowitcher, Nashville warbler, peregrine falcon, red-breasted nuthatch, red-naped sapsucker, sora, vesper sparrow, and western grebe.

- *Adding the 40 species listed above to the 127 other species that were seen in both years means that a total of 167 species were recorded during RGNC bird walks during 2011 and 2012.*

December 2012 bird walks add one species to the yearly total: The common goldeneye recorded during December 2012 brings the total number of species listed during 2012 bird walks to 149. The list below shows all the species seen by month during the 2012 bird walks, with three categories of birds highlighted: The common goldeneye not seen before December in, dark green, the two new birds added to the overall list (little blue heron and blackpoll warbler), in red, and the usual suspects, what I call the 19 species of birds that were recorded every month of the year, in yellow.

2012 RGNC BIRD WALK SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Ruddy Duck (10/12)		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gambel's Quail (1/12)											X	
Ring-necked Pheasant (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pied-billed Grebe (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eared Grebe (1/12)										X		
Western Grebe (1/12)										X		
Neotropic Cormorant (3/12)	X			X			X					
Double-crested Cormorant (1/12)								X				
Great Blue Heron (5/12)	X			X					X	X		X
Little Blue Heron (1/12)						X						
Snowy Egret (7/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Cattle Egret (3/12)					X	X	X					
Green Heron (6/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Black-crowned Night-Heron (8/12)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
White-faced Ibis (5/12)					X	X		X		X	X	
Turkey Vulture (5/12)			X	X	X				X	X		
Bald Eagle (3/12)		X									X	X
Northern Harrier (9/12)	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X
Sharp-shinned Hawk (7/12)	X	X	X		X		X				X	X
Cooper's Hawk (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swainson's Hawk (6/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Red-tailed Hawk (11/12)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X

2012 RGNC BIRD WALK SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
American Kestrel (11/12)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Peregrine Falcon (2/12)									X			X
Virginia Rail (1/12)										X		
Sora (1/12)									X			
American Coot (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sandhill Crane (7/12)	X	X	X						X	X	X	X
Killdeer (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spotted Sandpiper (5/12)				X	X		X	X	X			
Solitary Sandpiper (4/12)				X			X	X	X			
Long-billed Dowitcher (1/12)					X							
Wilson's Snipe (4/12)				X	X					X		X
Bonaparte's Gull (1/12)										X		
Ring-billed Gull (1/12)											X	
Rock Pigeon (4/12)	X	X			X				X			
Eurasian Collared-Dove (3/12)			X			X		X				
White-winged Dove (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mourning Dove (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greater Roadrunner (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-chinned Hummingbird (6/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Calliope Hummingbird (3/12)							X	X	X			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird (2/12)							X	X				

2012 RGNC BIRD WALK SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Rufous Hummingbird (3/12)							X	X	X			
Great Horned Owl (3/12)		X	X						X			
Belted Kingfisher (9/12)			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-naped Sapsucker (2/12)										X	X	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker (1/12)								X				
Downy Woodpecker (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hairy Woodpecker (6/12)						X	X	X		X	X	X
Northern Flicker (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Olive-sided Flycatcher (2/12)								X	X			
Western Wood-Pewee (4/12)					X	X		X	X			
Willow Flycatcher (1/12)								X				
Hammond's Flycatcher (1/12)									X			
Dusky Flycatcher (1/12)								X				
Black Phoebe (11/12)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Say's Phoebe (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ash-throated Flycatcher (5/12)				X	X	X	X	X				
Cassin's Kingbird (1/12)							X					
Western Kingbird (6/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X			

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Plumbeous Vireo (1/12)					X							
Cassin's Vireo (2/12)				X					X			
Warbling Vireo (1/12)						X						
Western Scrub-Jay (1/12)								X				
American Crow (9/12)	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
Common Raven (3/12)	X				X					X		
Tree Swallow (1/12)				X								
Violet-green Swallow (3/12)				X	X	X						
Northern Rough-winged Swallow (7/12)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Bank Swallow (2/12)							X	X				
Cliff Swallow (6/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X			
Barn Swallow (7/12)				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Black-capped Chickadee (11/12)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Mountain Chickadee (4/12)		X								X	X	X
Bushtit (9/12)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Red-breasted Nuthatch (1/12)									X			
White-breasted Nuthatch (11/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Brown Creeper (3/12)	X									X		X
Bewick's Wren (12/12)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Wren (1/12)										X		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2/12)						X			X			

2012 RGNC BIRD WALK SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Lesser Goldfinch (8/12)			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
American Goldfinch (2/12)				X							X	
House Sparrow (4/12)					X	X		X	X			
Total number of species reported: 149	55	51	57	70	73	59	63	74	85	71	60	64