Sponsors:

New Mexico Northeast Region Tourism Board and Friends of Sugarite Canyon State Park

The publication of the North East New Mexico Birding Guide was Sponsored by

NEEDO-NM

North East Economic Development Organization of New Mexico

A Regional Economic Development Organization Representing the SEVEN counties of Colfax - Guadalupe - Harding - Mora - Quay - San Miguel - Union

Special thanks to: N.M. State Parks staff (Tony Godfrey, Patricia Walsh and Jared Langenegger).
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Front cover: Lake Maloya at Sugarite Canyon State Park by Patricia Walsh; inset Rufous Hummingbird by Tony Godfrey.

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Welcome to Northeastern New Mexico, a place trod by dinosaurs, Native people, Spanish conquistadors, Santa Fe Trail traders, pioneers, outlaws, cowboys, cattle barons, Route 66 cruisers, and now you!

From placid mountain lakes to prairie grasslands, striking mesas to rocky canyons, rippling streams to piney woods, our region boasts amazing landscapes and incredible birdwatching. In fact, 423 different bird species can be found here, as well as many wild animals.

In this free guide you’ll discover birding and nature destinations including state and national parks, wildlife areas, national grasslands, and forests.

This guide is sponsored by New Mexico State Parks, the New Mexico Northeast Region Tourism Board, the North East Economic Development Organization (NEEDO), and Friends of Sugarite Canyon State Park.
Respect birds:
- Observe/photograph birds with minimal disturbance.
- Limit use of recordings or other ways to attract birds.
- Avoid chasing or flushing birds.
- Keep distance from nests to avoid disturbance.
- Refrain from handling birds or eggs.
- Limit feeding to backyard feeders.

Respect wildlife:
- Stay on designated trails.
- Keep habitat litter free.
- Leave flowers for bees.

Respect others:
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Be courteous to other outdoor enthusiasts.
- Teach birding ethics by word and example.

Observe laws & rules:
- Leash pets. Pick up waste.
- Respect private property. Do not trespass.
This guide describes great places to watch birds and explore nature. For each location, you will find information on local bird species as well as: basic directions to the site; descriptions of campgrounds and trails; availability of bathrooms; etc.

Beginning birders and those new to our state may want to consult the safety tips and checklist on pages 6 and 7. We invite you to log your bird sightings on the checklist on pages 48-52. We’ve also included a four-page Nature Journal on pages 56-59 for notes and sketches. We hope you enjoy your time with our fine feathered friends and the natural world!
Safety Tips:

◊ Pay attention to your surroundings. New Mexico weather and terrain can change rapidly.
◊ Be aware that our higher elevation may affect your exertion levels and need for water.
◊ Stay on designated trails.
◊ If you must walk on a road, face traffic.
◊ Where dogs are allowed, keep them on a leash and bring bags for clean up.
◊ We’re blessed with wild places that are home to many species of wildlife. Those animals usually fear us more than we fear them. However, when exploring wild areas, remember these “rules of the road:”
  • Walk with a companion if possible.
  • Watch for wild animals.
  • Keep small children by your side.
  • Avoid recreating alone outdoors at dawn or dusk, when wild animals are most active.
  • If you see a black bear or cougar: STOP, raise your arms as high as possible, check behind you so you don’t fall, & back away slowly. NEVER run.

Other Tourism Resources by County

Colfax:
Raton Chamber of Commerce: 575-445-3689
www.raton.info
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/raton/
Cimarron Chamber of Commerce: 575-376-2232
www.cimarronnm.com/
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/cimarron/

Guadalupe:
Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce: 505-472-3404
www.santarosametrochamber.com/
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/santa-rosa/

Harding:
Roy Chamber of Commerce: 575-485-0064 or 575-485-0055
https://roychamberofcommerce.weebly.com
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/harding-county-attractions/

Mora:
www.countyofmora.com/

Quay:
Logan Chamber of Commerce: 575-487-2234
www.logannm.com
San Jon Chamber of Commerce: 505-357-2146
www.chamberofcommerce.com/san-jon-nm
Tucumcari Chamber of Commerce: 505-461-1694
www.tucumcarinm.com/
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/tucumcari/

San Miguel:
Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce: 505-425-8631
http://lasvegasnm.org/
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/las-vegas/
Pecos Business Association: 505-470-5057
www.pecosnewmexico.com
www.newmexico.org/places-to-go/regions-cities/northeast/pecos/

Union:
Clayton Chamber of Commerce: 919-553-6352
https://www.claytonchamber.com/
Other Birding Resources

**New Mexico:**
- New Mexico Ornithological Society:
  www.nmbirds.org/bird-finding-guide/
- New Mexico Tourism:
  www.newmexico.org/things-to-do/nature/birding/
- Visit Albuquerque:
  www.visitalbuquerque.org/things-to-do/outdoors/birding/
- Randall Davey Audubon Center/Santa Fe 505-983-4609
  https://randalldavey.audubon.org/
- Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society 505-988-1708
  www.audubonsantafe.org

**United States:**
- Partners in Flight:
  www.partnersinflight.org
- North American Bird Conservation Initiative:
  nabci-us-org
- Migratory Bird Joint Venture:
  http://mbjv.org
- Migratory Bird Day:
  www.migratorybirdday.org
- Playa Lakes Joint Venture:
  www.pljv.org

**Citizen Science Websites:**
- eBird (bird observations)
  www.ebird.org/home
- Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count:
  www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count
- The Great Backyard Bird Count:
  http://gbbc.birdcount.org
- iNaturalist:
  www.inaturalist.org

Items to Bring:

◊ Binoculars (at least 8x35 advised; 8x42 ideal)
◊ Field guides or cell phone apps for birds, etc.
◊ Water (1 quart for each 2 hours)
◊ Appropriate Footwear
◊ Hat, Cap or Visor
◊ Sunblock
◊ Sunglasses
◊ Walking Stick
◊ Windbreaker or Rain Jacket
◊ Fleece or Sweater
◊ Digital Camera
◊ Food
◊ First Aid Kit & Medications
◊ Lip Balm
◊ Bug Repellent
Colfax County

With mountains, prairies, lakes and trout streams, Colfax County boasts Gel Fire Resort, live theater, and more. Raton offers the historic Shuler Theater and an Amtrak station. Nearby, Sugarite Canyon State Park provides camping, hiking and an historic coal camp. The Center offers shooting options. Cimarron hosts a Cowboy Music and Poetry Gathering from all over the country for summer outings. Anglers flock to Cimarron Canyon State Park provides boating, fishing and camping. In Angel Fire, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park provides boating, fishing and camping. In Angel Fire, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park provides boating, fishing and camping.
Bird Checklist/Accidental Species
Documented in northeastern N.M. five or fewer times.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Barnacle Goose
Trumpeter Swan
Eurasian Wigeon
Mexican Duck
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Gambel’s Quail
Sharp-tailed Grouse
Inca Dove
Mexican Whip-poor-will
Black Swift
Blue-throated Hummingbird
Common Gallinule
Black Rail
American Golden Plover
Piping Plover
Whimbrel
Hudsonian Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Ruf
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Black-legged Kittiwake
Little Gull
Laughing Gull
Mew Gull
Iceland Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Glaucous Gull
Least Tern
Red-throated Loon
Yellow-billed Loon
Blue-footed Booby
American Bittern
Least Bittern
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Reddish Egret
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Glossy Ibis
White-tailed Kite
Swallow-tailed Kite
Common Black-Hawk
White-tailed Hawk
Zone-tailed Hawk
Spotted Owl
Short-eared Owl
Boreal Owl
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Great Crested Flycatcher
White-eyed Vireo
Bell’s Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Cave Swallow
Pacific Wren
Sedge Wren
Carolina Wren
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Wood Thrush
Bendin’s Thrasher
Crissal Thrasher
Bohemian Waxwing
Common Redpoll
White-winged Crossbill
Snow Bunting
Golden-crowned Sparrow
LeConte’s Sparrow
Baird’s Sparrow
Henslow’s Sparrow
Bobolink
Hooded Oriole
Bronzed Cowbird
Ovenbird

Warblers:
Worm-eating
Golden-winged
Tennessee
Kentucky
Hooded
Northern Parula
Magnolia
Blackpoll
Black-throated Blue
Palm
Pine
Black-throated Green
Painted Redstart
Scarlet Tanager
Pyrrhuloxia

boasts three state parks, Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge, An-ler Theater, the Raton Regional Aquatic Center, Raton Museum, es camping, hiking and an historic coal camp. The NRA Whittington and Poetry Gathering, while Philmont Scout Ranch draws Scouts arron Canyon State Park to fly fish, while Eagle Nest Lake State vietnam Veterans Memorial honors all war veterans.
Straddling a 8-mile stretch of the Cimarron River, this park includes beaver ponds, trout waters, and mountains covered in pine and fir. Cottonwoods line the river bank. The park offers four campgrounds and nearly 20 miles of riparian and mountain trails.

**Directions:** From Cimarron, go west 16 miles on Hwy 64 to the park entrance. Or from Eagle Nest, go east 3 miles on Hwy 64 to the park.
Bird Checklist—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abundance</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

Willow Flycatcher U S
Least Flycatcher R S
Hammond’s Flycatcher U S
Gray Flycatcher U S
Dusky Flycatcher U S
Cordilleran Flycatcher F S
Black Phoebe U P
Eastern Phoebe U S
Say’s Phoebe C P
Vermilion Flycatcher R S
Ash-throated Flycatcher F S
Cassin’s Kingbird C S
Western Kingbird C S
Eastern Kingbird U S
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher U S
Loggerhead Shrike F P
Northern Shrike U W
Gray Vireo R S
Cassin’s Vireo U FM
Blue-headed Vireo R FM
Plumbeous Vireo F S
Warbling Vireo F S
Canada Jay U P
Pinyon Jay F P
Steller’s Jay C P
Blue Jay U P
Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay C P
Black-billed Magpie F P
Clark’s Nutcracker U P
American Crow C P
Chihuahuan Raven U P
Common Raven C P
Horned Lark C P
Northern Rough-winged Swallow C S
Purple Martin U S
Tree Swallow F S
Violet-green Swallow C S
Bank Swallow U M
Barn Swallow C S
Cliff Swallow C S
Black-capped Chickadee F P
Mountain Chickadee F P
Juniper Titmouse F P
Bushtit F P
Red-breasted Nuthatch F P
White-breasted Nuthatch C P
Pygmy Nuthatch F P
Brown Creeper F P
Rock Wren F P
Canyon Wren F P
House Wren C S
Winter Wren R W
Marsh Wren F WM
Bewick’s Wren F P
Cactus Wren U P
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher F S
American Dipper U P
Golden-crowned Kinglet U P
Ruby-crowned Kinglet F P
Eastern Bluebird U P
Western Bluebird F P
Mountain Bluebird F P
Townsend’s Solitaire F P
Swainson’s Thrush R M
Hermit Thrush U P
American Robin C P
Gray Catbird U S
Curve-billed Thrasher U P

Climax Canyon Nature Trail

Address: 801-899 Apache Ave
Raton, N.M. 87740
GPS: 36.900207, -104.449533
Phone: 575-445-4271
Web: ratonrecreation.com

Target species:
All year: Common Raven, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Canyon Wren.
Summer: Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Turkey Vulture, Plumbeous Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Spotted Towhee.
Winter: Dark-eyed Junco.

Amenities:
Parking lot, maps, benches.

Nearest food & lodging:
Raton

This three-mile, figure-eight trail explores the pinyon pine-juniper hills on the western flank of Raton. The canyon walls host nesting ravens and singing canyon wrens. The trail offers great views of Raton and nearby mesas. Trail maps are available at the trailhead, and three Boy Scout-installed benches are found along the trail, including at the overlook.

Directions: From downtown Second Street in Raton, turn west (uphill) on Apache Avenue and go six blocks to the park entrance.
In the Moreno Valley, the patio of Eagle Nest Lake State Park Visitor Center offers a breath-taking view of Touch Me Not Mountain and surrounding peaks. The patio is a great place to look for American White Pelicans and other waterfowl on the lake, while the Lake View Trail provides opportunities to see Brewer’s Blackbirds and shorebirds. Gunnison’s prairie dogs can be seen around the park, which includes one campground and picnic shelters.

**Directions:** From Eagle Nest, go west about 1 mile on Hwy 64. Turn left on Marina Way to the park entrance.

---

**Address:** 42 Marina Ln.
Eagle Nest, NM 87718

**GPS:** 36.533055, -105.265266

**Phone:** 575-377-1594

**Web:** nmparks.com

**Target species:**
- All year: Canada Geese, Brewer’s Blackbird, House Sparrow.
- Summer: American White Pelicans, Tree Swallow, Common Grackle.
- Migrant: California Gull, American Pipit.

**Amenities:**
- Visitor center with restrooms, camping, vault toilets.

**Nearest food & lodging:**
- Eagle Nest, Angel Fire.

**Fees:** Park fees apply

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**Eagle Nest Lake State Park**

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- Visitor center with restrooms, camping, vault toilets.

**Nearest food & lodging:**
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**Directions:** From Eagle Nest, go west about 1 mile on Hwy 64. Turn left on Marina Way to the park entrance.
Bird Checklist—Northeastern N.M.

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- Snow Goose U W
- Ross’s Goose R W
- Greater White-fronted Goose U W
- Brant R W
- Cackling Goose U W
- Canada Goose C P
- Tundra Swan R W
- Wood Duck U P
- Blue-winged Teal F S
- Cinnamon Teal F SM
- Northern Shoveler F P
- Gadwall F P
- American Wigeon F WM
- Mallard C P
- Northern Pintail F WM
- Green-winged Teal F P
- Canvasback F WM
- Redhead F P
- Ring-necked Duck C WM
- Greater Scaup U W
- Lesser Scaup F WM
- Surf Scoter R W
- Long-tailed Duck R W
- Bufflehead C WM
- Common Goldeneye F W
- Barrow’s Goldeneye R W
- Hooded Merganser U W
- Common Merganser C WM
- Red-breasted Merganser U W
- Ruddy Duck F P
- Northern Bobwhite R P
- Scaled Quail U P
- Ring-necked Pheasant UP
- Dusky Grouse U P
- Wild Turkey F P
- Pied-billed Grebe F P
- Horned Grebe U W
- Red-necked Grebe R W
- Eared Grebe U P
- Western Grebe F P
- Clark’s Grebe U P
- Rock Pigeon C P
- Band-tailed Pigeon U S
- Eurasian Collared-Dove C P
- White-winged Dove U P
- Mourning Dove C P
- Greater Roadrunner U P
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo R S
- Lesser Nighthawk R S
- Common Nighthawk F S
- Common Poorwill U S
- Chimney Swift U S
- White-throated Swift F SM
- Black-chinned Hummingbird C S
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird C S
- Rufous Hummingbird C FM
- Calliope Hummingbird C FM
- Virginia Rail U P
- Sora U SM
- American Coot C P
- Sandhill Crane F WM
- Black-necked Stilt U S
- American Avocet F SM
- Black-bellied Plover R M
- Snowy Plover R SM
- Semipalmated Plover R M
- Killdeer F P
- Mountain Plover U S

Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge

Address: Lake 13 Rd.
Maxwell, NM 87728
GPS: 36.576232, -104.584717
Phone: 575-375-2331
Web: fws.gov/refuge/maxwell/

Target species:
All year: Wild Turkey, Wilson’s Snipe.
Summer: Burrowing Owl, Eastern Kingbird.
Winter: Cackling Goose, Tundra Swan, Common Goldeneye, American Tree Sparrow.
Migrant: Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher.

Amenities: Visitor center, primitive camping, vault toilet.

Nearest food & lodging: Cimarron, Raton, Springer

The refuge’s mix of short-grass prairie, lakes, playa wetlands and woods attracts many species. Spring and fall bring migrating sandpipers. Summer attracts flocks of American white pelicans. Provided the lakes are not frozen during winter, good numbers of waterfowl can be observed.

Directions: From I-25, take Maxwell Exit 426. At the stop sign, turn right (north) on Hwy 445 for 0.8 miles. At Hwy 505, turn left (west) for 2.5 miles. Turn north on Lake 13 road at the refuge entrance sign. Go 1.25 miles to the visitor center.
Springer Lake

Springer Lake is a privately owned, man-made lake fed by the Cimarron River. Under an agreement with N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish, access to the 450-acre lake is via the dam road on the east side of the lake. Parking is to the north and south, with vault toilets. The lake provides a good stopover for shorebirds during migration. Interesting duck and grebe species can be found during winter.

**Directions:** The lake is about 5 miles northwest of Springer via Hwy 468 & C-17. From downtown Springer, go north on Railroad Avenue for .3 miles, turn left on Hwy 468. Follow the paved highway and continue onto the dirt road C-17.

**Target species:**
- **All year:** American Coot, Loggerhead Shrike.
- **Summer:** Savannah Sparrow.
- **Winter:** Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Marsh Wren, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.
- **Migrant:** Franklin’s Gull, Black Tern.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets

**Nearest food & lodging:** Springer
**Perico Creek/Kiowa National Grasslands**

GPS: 36.444784, -103.274788  
Phone: 575-374-9652  
Web: www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/perico-creek-kiowa  
Target species:  
All-year: Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Common Raven, European Starling.  
Summer: Swainson’s Hawk, Cliff Swallow, Cassin’s Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel.  
Parking: Unpaved near windmill  
Nearest food & lodging: Clayton

Perico Creek is an intermittent creek in a shallow grassy canyon. The stream channel hosts cottonwoods, willow, hackberry and sumac, providing rich habitat. Although the creek flows sporadically, cliff swallows use residual pools to build their mud nests.  
**Directions:** High-clearance vehicle required. From Clayton, go 6.4 miles south on Hwy 402. Turn left (east) on unmarked road for 5.1 miles. At "Unit 33" sign, go through gate (close behind you). Head toward windmill to park. On foot, look north for vegetation. Walk half mile to creek. Step carefully over electrified fences.

**Stubblefield Lake**

GPS: 36.582468, -104.655758  
Phone: 888-248-6866  
Web: wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/open-gate-program/  
Target species:  
All year: Pied-billed Grebe, Red-winged Blackbird.  
Summer: Cinnamon Teal.  
Winter: Long-tailed Duck (rare).  
Migrant: Baird’s Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-faced Ibis.  
Amenities: None  
Nearest food & lodging: Raton, Cimarron

This privately owned, 911-acre lake is open to the public under an agreement with N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish. Just to the north is Laguna Madre, 340 acres, accessible under the same agreement. The area attracts large numbers of bald eagles during winter. A spotting scope is a necessity, helping to view distant shorebirds and waterfowl.  
**Directions:** From I-25, take Maxwell Exit 426. At the stop sign, turn right (north) on Hwy 445 for 0.8 miles. At Hwy 505, turn left (west) for 7 miles. Turn right (north) on a dirt track (unmarked).
Sugarite Canyon State Park

Address: 211 Hwy. 526, Raton, NM 87740
GPS: 36.940043, -104.380110
Phone: 575-445-5607
Web: nmparks.com

Target species:
All year: Red-naped Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco, Woodpecker (Lewis’s, Hairy); Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay, Steller’s Jay, Black-capped Chickadee; American Goldfinch; Pine Siskin.
Summer: Broad-tailed & Black-chinned Hummingbirds; Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird & Cedar Waxwing.
Migrant: Rufous & Calliope Hummingbirds, Bald Eagle, Osprey.

Amenities: Visitor center, camping, trails, shower building, flush toilets, dump station.

Nearest Food & Lodging: Raton
Fees: Park fees apply.

This 4,000-acre state park offers two lakes, 20 miles of hiking trails, two campgrounds and the remains of a historic coal camp. The park Visitor Center has year-round feeders that attract resident species. The 120-acre Lake Maloya boasts many waterfowl species. In spring and fall, migrating osprey may be seen fishing. In the summer, the park typically hosts events on birds and butterflies.

Directions: From I-25, take Raton Exit 452. At the stop sign, turn right (east) on Hwy 72 for 3.8 miles. Where Hwy 72 turns sharply east, continue straight on Hwy 526. The park is about 6 miles from I-25.

Clayton Lake State Park & Dinosaur Trackways

Address: 141 Clayton Lake Rd., Clayton, NM 88415
GPS: 36.458331, -103.188087
Phone: 575-374-8808
Web: nmparks.com

Target species:
All-year: Green-winged Teal, Greater Roadrunner, Great Blue Heron, Bewick’s Wren.
Summer: Common Nighthawk, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird.
Winter: Common Merganser.
Migrant: Osprey.

Amenities: Visitor center, camping, showers, flush toilets.

Nearest food & lodging: Clayton
Fees: Park fees apply.

After scanning the lake for waterfowl, head to the west side of the park and look for birds along the Nature Trail. This is an excellent riparian area and is a magnet for passerines during spring and fall migration. One of the best examples of a dinosaur trackways in North America is located across the dam on the east side of the lake.

Directions: From Hwy 64 on the west side of Clayton, head north on Hwy 370 for 10.2 miles. Turn left (west) on Hwy 455 and go 1.4 miles to the park entrance.
Capulin Volcano National Monument

Address: 44 Volcano Rd.
Capulin, NM 88414
GPS: 36.781143, -103.969448
Phone: 575-278-2201
Web: www.nps.gov/cavo/index.htm
Target species:
All-year: Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Bushtit, Mountain Bluebird, Pine Siskin, Canyon Towhee.
Summer: Cassin’s Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Rock Wren, Chipping Sparrow.
Amenities: Visitor center, flush toilets, hiking.
Nearest food & lodging: Raton
Fees: Park fees apply.

Dominating the surrounding plains, Capulin Volcano offers amazing views of the surrounding area. The monument is run by the National Park Service. Several trails offer chances to seek birds in the pinyon-juniper habitat. The Rim Trail offers good opportunities to scan the skies for migrating raptors.

Directions: From Raton, take Hwy 64 east for 27 miles to the small village of Capulin. Turn left (north) on Hwy 325 for 3 miles. The park entrance will be to your right. Note: Vehicles that are 26 feet long or longer are prohibited beyond the visitor center.

Guadalupe County

Guadalupe County sits on the dry, grassy plains of eastern New Mexico, but is home to Santa Rosa Lake State Park and the “Blue Hole” — a tiny, rock-rimmed oasis with clear water plunging 82-feet deep. Native peoples and later cowboys used this water source only 80 feet in diameter. Now part of the Blue Hole Dive and Convention Center, it’s a year-round destination for scuba divers, anglers and swimmers. Santa Rosa, the county seat known as the City of Lakes, is also home to the Route 66 Auto Museum with vintage cars that once sped down historic Route 66 (now I-40). The Blue Hole Convention Center hosts the annual Route 66 Custom Car Show and the annual Pecos River Motorcycle Rally.
**Santa Rosa Lake State Park**

Part of the Pecos River system, Santa Rosa Lake is 4 miles long and covers 3,500 acres. The three northern arms of the lake, including the western Pecos River Canyon, are excellent birding habitat and well suited for kayak paddlers.

**Directions:** From I-40, take Santa Rosa Exit 273 and continue into town. Turn left on Hwy 91 and continue 7 miles north of the town to the park entrance.

**Address:** Hwy 91
Santa Rosa, NM 88435

**GPS:** 35.030756, -104.694841

**Phone:** 575-472-3110

**Web:** nmparks.com

**Target species:**
- All year: Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Red-tailed Hawk, Curve-billed Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler.
- Winter: Northern Harrier.

**Amenities:**
- Park office, camping, showers, flush toilets, dump station.

**Nearest food & lodging:**
- Santa Rosa

**Fees:** Park fees apply.

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**Union County**

Union County boasts dinosaur tracks, an ancient volcano, cattle ranches, Folsom Man sites, and national grasslands. Clayton Lake State Park attracts migrating waterfowl, and showcases some 500 dinosaur tracks. The town of Clayton includes the Union County Fairground plus museums, parks and a golf course. Nearby lies the grave of outlaw Black Jack Ketchum, plus sites on the historic Santa Fe Trail. The Kiowa National Grasslands offers great birding at Perico Creek. West of Clayton is the tiny town of Folsom, where in 1908, black cowboy George McJunkin discovered signs of Folsom Man from ca. 12,000 BC. Drivers who reach the top of Capulin Volcano National Monument find incredible views of New Mexico and four other states: Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.
Villanueva State Park

Address: 135 Dodge Dr.
Villanueva, NM 87583
GPS: 35.265712, -105.344499
Phone: 575-421-2957
Web: nmparks.com
Target species:
All year: White-winged Dove, Black-billed Magpie, American Robin.
Summer: Western Wood Peewee, Bullock’s Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, Says Phoebe.
Amenities: Visitor center, camping, flush toilets, showers, dump station.
Nearest food & lodging: Las Vegas

This tranquil park is nestled between high sandstone bluffs that form a canyon along the Pecos River. The large cottonwood trees along the river attract a good number of migrating passerines during spring and fall.

Directions: From I-25, take Exit 323 and head south on Hwy 3 for about 14 miles to the park entrance.

Harding County

Rolling prairie grasslands and star-studded night skies define Harding County. Homesteaders flocked here during Western expansion, but the population later dwindled. Ranching dominates the economy of this county—created the day Warren G. Harding became U.S. president in 1921. Mills Canyon, part of the Kiowa National Grasslands, straddles the Canadian River. With the remains of a homestead and orchard, Mills Canyon offers a cultural experience plus a chance to see various bird and other animal species. Further south on “La Frontera del Llano” Scenic Byway (Hwy 39), enjoy the colorful town murals in Mosquero painted by high school students working with muralist Doug Quarles. At the southern edge of the county, the Ute Creek Bridge offers great birding on state-owned...
Mills Canyon/Kiowa National Grasslands

GPS: 36.049066, -104.372245
Phone: 575-374-9652
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/cibola

Target species:
All year: Golden Eagle, Song Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow.
Summer: Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, Yellow-breasted Chat.
Migrant: Wilson’s Warbler, Lazuli Bunting.

Amenities: Camping, vault toilets. No drinking water.
Nearest food & lodging: Springer and Mosquero.

Mills Canyon is a great spot for hiking, birding, photography and camping, but beware of high daytime temperatures in summer. The two campgrounds are the Rim Campground above the canyon, and Mills in the canyon bottom with pit toilets, picnic tables, and fire rings. There is no running water or trash disposal. (Pack it in, pack it out!)

Directions: From Springer, take Hwy 56 east for 20 miles. Turn right (south) on Hwy 39 towards Roy for 15.5 miles. Turn right on the dirt road (posted) for 9 miles.

Storrie Lake State Park

Address: Hwy 518, MM 3.5
Las Vegas, NM 87701
Phone: 505-425-7278
GPS: 35.657400, -105.232604
Web: nmparks.com

Target species:
All year: Clark’s Grebe, Rock Dove, Ring-billed Gull.
Summer: Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Goldfinch.
Winter: Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser.

Amenities: Visitor center, camping, flush toilets, showers, dump station.
Nearest food & lodging: Las Vegas

This state park is situated between the Sangre de Cristo mountains to the west and the Great Plains to the east. The lake attracts a good number of migrating grebes and gulls, and can be good for loons in the winter. The best area for land birds can be found in the south-west portion of the lake. This 1,100-acre lake is a very popular area for recreationists and may become crowded on busy summer weekends.

Directions: From Las Vegas, head north on Hwy 518 for 4 miles and turn left into the park entrance.
Pecos Canyon

Address: Hwy 63 North
Pecos, NM 87552
GPS: 35.593906, -105.681805
Phone: 505-757-6121
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/

Target species:
All year: Northern Goshawk, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Pinyon Jay, Clark’s Nutcracker, American Crow, American Dipper, Western Bluebird.
Summer: Say’s Phoebe, Warbling Vireo.
Migrant: Rufous Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird.

Amenities: Ranger station, camping, vault toilets
Nearest food & lodging: Pecos

The majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the headwaters of the famed Pecos River in Pecos Canyon. The river flows 926 miles before joining the Rio Grande in Texas. Campers, hikers and anglers seek out the vast Pecos Wilderness Area, lying within two National Forests (Santa Fe and Carson). The name “Pecos” came from Spanish settlers who mispronounced the Native Keresan term, P’e’-a-Ku’—which referred to a “place where there is water.”

Directions: From I-25, take Exit 299. If approaching from the east (Las Vegas), take Exit 307. Continue to Pecos and follow Hwy 63 heading north.

Ute Creek Bridge/N.M. Interstate Stream Commission

GPS: 35.402299, -103.509549
Web: www.ose.state.nm.us/Basins/Canadian/isc_Canadian.php

Target species:
All year: Scaled Quail, Northern Bobwhite, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron. American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Roadrunner, Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Summer: Western Kingbird, Cliff Swallow, Blue Grosbeak.
Winter: Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Mountain Bluebird.

Amenities: none
Nearest food & lodging: Logan

This spot, also called Ute Creek Crossing, lies just north of Ute Lake State Park. The bridge on state land is the best site in Harding County to spot a variety of waterfowl during migration and winter. Be sure to scan muddy areas for migrating shorebirds. As you drive on Trigg Road, look for Northern Bobwhite. This species is sparse and patchily distributed in southern Harding County.

Directions: From Logan, head northwest on Hwy 39 for about a mile to the Harding County line. Continue about another mile and turn left on Trigg Road. (WARNING: do not drive this dirt road after heavy rain.) Continue west 4 miles to the bridge. Stay on the bridge to avoid trespassing on private land nearby.
Mora County

Tiny adobe villages with churches going back generations, green fields cut by the waters of traditional irrigation canals or lush valleys embraced by the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains—these are among the reasons for beauty. The Mora River watershed defines the county, from the eastern plains are home to large cattle ranches. The western part of the county is home to the Carson National Forest. The county seat of Mora offers several restaurants serving traditional New Mexican fare. Just outside town is the Mora National Fish Hatchery Technology Center, as well as llama farms that are open to the public. North of Mora lies Coyote Creek State Park, a beautiful mountain park historically known for its beaver habitat. History buffs can explore Valles Caldera National Monument located off of I-25.

Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge

Part of the Central Flyway, this 8,672-acre refuge provides resting, feeding, and wintering areas for migrating waterfowl. Bald eagles hunt ducks and coots. Wild turkeys wander the pinon-juniper woodlands. The prairies are home to burrowing owls.

Directions: The Refuge is located 6 miles southeast of the city of Las Vegas. Take I-25 Exit 345 and go east on Hwy 104 for 1.5 miles. Turn right (south) on Hwy 281 for about 4 miles to the Refuge headquarters. Then take the 8-mile auto loop tour.

Target species:
Summer: American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, Lark Sparrow.
Winter: Snow Goose, Sandhill Crane, Bald Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk.
Migrant: Willet.
Amenities: Visitor center, vault toilets.
Nearest food & lodging: Las Vegas
Conchas Lake State Park

This large lake located on the high plains features secluded coves, pink rock canyons, and sandy beaches. The lake, fed by the Canadian River, is a good area in winter to look for deep water species such as loons, grebes and a large variety of waterfowl. The graceful concrete dam was built in the Depression-era 1930s.

Directions: From Tucumcari take Hwy 104 for 31 miles to Conchas Dam. Turn right (north) on Hwy 433 to the main park entrance.

Target species:
All year: Scaled Quail, Lincoln’s Sparrow, Canyon Wren.

Amenities:
Visitor center, camping, flush toilets, showers, dump station.

Nearest food & lodging:

Address: 501 Bell Ranch Rd.
Conchas Dam, NM 88416

GPS: 35.395684, -104.242871

Phone: 575-868-2270

Web: nmparks.com

Nearest food & lodging:
**Charette Lakes**

GPS: 36.187581, -104.816376  
Phone: 888-248-6866  
Web: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/  
Target species:  
All year: Eared Grebe, Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark.  
Summer: Vesper Sparrow.  
Winter: Bufflehead.  
Amenities:  
Primitive camping, picnic tables, vault toilets. No drinking water.  
Nearest food & lodging: Springer.

The N.M. Dept. of Game and Fish owns and manages these two lakes, located atop a remote grassy mesa southwest of Springer. Aside from prairie birds and waterfowl, visitors may see browsing pronghorn. The lakes in this 2,000-acre refuge are fed with water from Ocate Creek. The 100-acre and 300-acre lakes are open March 1 through Oct. 31. Visitors need a current hunting, fishing or Gaining Access Into Nature (GAIN) permit. Pack it in, pack it out!

**Directions:** From I-25 take Exit 404 (Colmor) and head west on Hwy 569 (unpaved) for 13 miles.

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mes and great restaurants of downtown Las Vegas, **San Miguel** county seat, **Las Vegas** boasts more than 900 buildings on the Nace, an Amtrak station, an airport, antique shops, and traditional New Mexican cuisine. Nature enthusiasts have many choices, from the Pecos Wilderness, to the **Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge**, for boating and fishing opportunities. History buffs can explore **Pecos National Historical Park**. And just over the county line in Santa Fe County lies the Civil
San Miguel County

From the 220,000-acre Pecos Wilderness to the historic Victorian homes and great restaurants of downtown Las Vegas, County offers a plethora of natural and cultural attractions. The county seat, Pecos National Historical Park, is an ancestral ruin of Puebloan peoples at Pecos National Historical Park, known as the Gettysburg of the West.

Coyote Creek State Park

Address: 925 Hwy 434
Guadalupita, NM 87722
GPS: 36.178436, -105.234453
Phone: 575-387-2328
Web: nmuparks.com
Target species:
All year: American Goldfinch.
Summer: Willow & Cordilleran Flycatchers, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Evening Grosbeak, Green-tailed Towhee, MacGillivray’s & Yellow Warblers.
Amenities:
Park office, camping, trail, showers, flush toilets, dump station.
Nearest food & lodging:
Angel Fire, Mora, Las Vegas
Fees: Park fees apply.

Situated along a meandering stream, Coyote Creek State Park is nestled in the scenic Sangre de Cristo Mountains at an elevation of 7,667 feet. The small, lush creek valley is a good spot to see flycatchers and warblers in the summer. A park trail takes hikers through a forest of spruce and pine.

Directions: This state park is located along Hwy 434, between Mora and Angel Fire at Mile Marker 17.
**Wagon Mound Wildlife Management Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPS: 36.010840, -104.706344</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 505-827-9903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/">www.wildlife.state.nm.us/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Target species:**
- **Summer:** Snowy Plover, Wilson’s Phalarope, Grasshopper Sparrow.
- **Migrant:** Red-necked Phalarope, Greater Yellowlegs, Brewer’s Sparrow.

**Amenities:** None

**Nearest food & lodging:** Springer

**Warning:** do NOT drive here after heavy rains! You may get stuck in mud. This site may not be suitable for some passenger vehicles with low clearance.

**Directions:** From I-25 take Exit 387 (Wagon Mound). At the stop sign, turn left (north) and go 1 mile. Turn left (west) and drive through the concrete tunnel.

This playa lake is along a birding flyway migratory route. Park along the dirt track on the south side of the playa. You’ll need a spotting scope to view water birds. This salt playa is shallow and may be dry during drought. Camping is prohibited and there are no facilities.

**Ute Lake State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address: 1800 540 Loop</th>
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<tr>
<td>Logan, NM 88426</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPS: 35.367107, -103.487605</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 575-472-3110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web: nmparks.com</td>
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</table>

**Target species:**
- **All year:** Mourning Dove, Killdeer, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal.
- **Summer:** Blue-winged Teal, Western Kingbird.
- **Winter:** White-crowned Sparrow.
- **Migrant:** White-rumped Sandpiper (late May/June), Forster’s Tern.

**Amenities:** Visitor center, camping, showers, flush toilets, dump station.

**Nearest food & lodging:** Logan

At nearly 13 miles long, Ute Lake is one of the largest bodies of water in the state. The best birding areas are located along the North Shore. Good areas to look for birds are the North Area, Logan Park and Rogers Park. This park is very popular with recreationists and can be quite crowded on busy summer weekends.

**Directions:** From Logan, take Hwy 540 Loop Road and go west for 2 miles. Turn left (south) to the main park entrance.
**Tucumcari Lake/Wildlife Management Area**

- **GPS:** 35.190337, -103.679890
- **Phone:** 575-445-2311
- **Web:** www.wildlife.state.nm.us/
- **Target species:**
  - **All year:** Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Virginia Rail.
  - **Summer:** Chimney Swift, Black-necked Stilt, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat.
- **Amenities:** Parking lot
- **Nearest food & lodging:** Tucumcari

This undeveloped, 770-acre WMA provides excellent wildlife viewing. The shallow lake and wetlands attract numerous birds, including ducks and geese, bald and golden eagles, doves, quail and pheasants. Plans are being made to add several developed trails to the preserve.

**Directions:** One mile east of Tucumcari on historic Rte. 66/Tucumcari Blvd.

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*Double-striped Bluet Damselflies in tandem at Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge*
Quay County

Known for Tucumcari and its vintage motels along Historic Route 66, Quay County also offers outdoor adventures on lakes, rolling plains, mesas and canyons.

Tucumcari boasts many motel rooms for the weary traveler, as well as two golf courses. In addition, Tucumcari Lake provides a nearby destination for birders.

About an half hour northeast of Tucumcari lies Ute Lake State Park, straddling the Canadian River. Near the town of Logan, Ute Lake offers prime boating, fishing, camping and swimming. Migrating waterfowl rest at Ute Lake, including flocks of Canada geese and sandhill crane.

Nearby grasslands, mesas, mountains and sandstone rock formations are home to herds of pronghorn and mule deer. The great plateau of El Llano Estacado, or "staked plains," covers much of southern Quay County. This large mesa covers about 32,000 square miles and extends into West Texas. Northern Quay County consists of grassy mesas and rolling plains cut by arroyos and canyons.
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