



# 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.gmfsh.state.nm.us](http://www.gmfsh.state.nm.us)

## 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.buffaloudubon.org](http://www.buffaloudubon.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/)