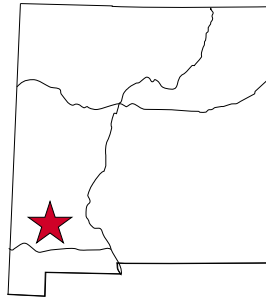
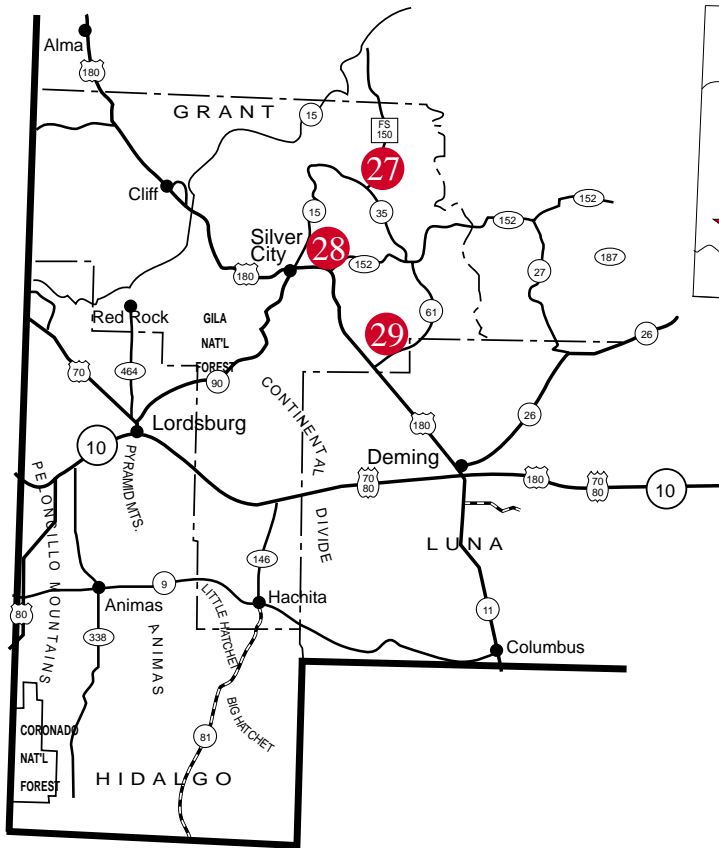




Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



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"/>
GROSBEAK	
Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>
Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>
HAWK	
Cooper's Hawk	<input type="radio"/>
Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="radio"/>
KINGBIRD	
Cassin's Kingbird	<input type="radio"/>
Western Kingbird	<input type="radio"/>
Lesser Nighthawk	<input type="radio"/>
MEADOWLARK	
Eastern Meadowlark	<input type="radio"/>
Western Meadowlark	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Harrier	<input type="radio"/>
OWL	
Great-horned Owl	<input type="radio"/>
Long-eared Owl	<input type="radio"/>
QUAIL	
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