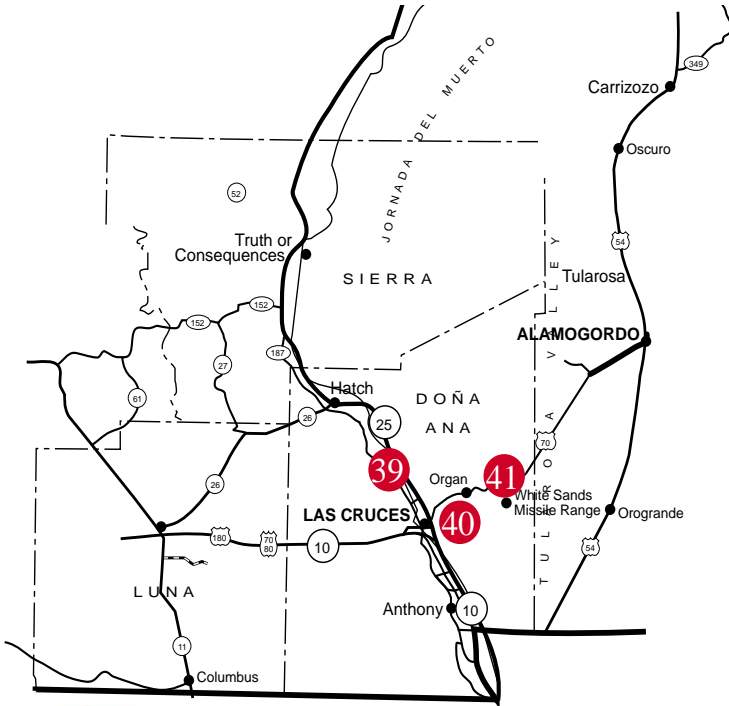




# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail



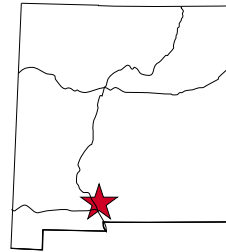
## Site 39 - Leasburg Dam State Park

New Mexico State Park (505) 524-4068



The 240 acre state park (elevation 4,200 feet) is located on the Rio Grande about 20 miles north of Las Cruces. Flooded fields can produce Wilson's Snipe; Franklin's Gull; American Pipit; Long-billed Curlew; and various ducks. The first campground is about 0.4 mile from the intersection of NM 185 and Ft. Selden Road. A trail runs along the river's edge between campgrounds (about 0.5 mile.) Check the area at the dam and the small willows and salt cedar lining the irrigation canal that parallels the river. Resident species include Rock Wren; Verdin; sparrows; Crissal Thrasher; Canyon Towhee; Pyrrhuloxia; Black Phoebe; and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. In summer look for warblers; Phainopepla; Bullock's Oriole; and Warbling Vireo. In winter Western and Mountain Bluebirds may be present.

Directions: Take I-25 to Exit 19 (Radium



Springs). Proceed west on Fort Selden Road about 1.5 miles or almost to the intersection with NM 185. (You will pass the main entrance the Leasburg Dam State Park and the entrance to Fort Selden

State Monument.) Just after crossing a bridge over an irrigation canal make a sharp right turn onto Leasburg Dam Road and continue down the paved road until you get to the dam area (about 0.9 mile). Watch for birds along the canal and in the fields. Be sure to visit both sides of the river.

## Site 40 - Dripping Springs Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management (505) 522-1219



Dripping Springs is located east of Las Cruces on the west side of the Organ Mountains. The best areas for birding are the Dripping Springs Trail and the trail through La Cueva picnic area located near the visitor center. On the Dripping Springs Trail, possible birds include: Black-chinned, Black-throated, White-crowned and Brewer's Sparrows (winter), Black-headed Grosbeak, Scott's Oriole (both likely in summer), Spotted and Canyon Towhees, and Bushtit. Areas with thick shrubbery contain Western Wood-Pewee (summer), Western Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch. At the La Cueva picnic area, the following birds are possible in winter: Eastern and Western Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit Thrush, Sage Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, and Phainopepla. In summer, the Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting are possible. During migration, several flycatchers, vireos, warblers, and sparrows are likely. Ladder-



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

backed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Cactus and Bewick's Wrens, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, and Pyrrhuloxia are also often seen in the area.

Directions: In Las Cruces, take University Boulevard east from I-25 toward the Organ Mountains. University becomes Dripping Springs Road. The visitor center is 10.1 miles from I-25. Local bird sighting information is available at the visitor center.

## Site 41 - Aguirre Springs Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management (505) 525-4300



Higher elevation habitat near Las Cruces, Aguirre Springs offers easy access to the higher elevations of the Organ Mountains. Look for Scaled Quail, Pyrrhuloxia, and Scott's Oriole (in yuccas) along the road leading to the area. On the recreation area's Pine Tree Trail, you can find Hutton's Vireo and Black-chinned Sparrows (summer). Gray Vireos are also a possibility. Higher up in the ponderosa pine and gambel oaks, the following species may be seen: Western Screech-Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl (rare), Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Bushtit. Summer breeding birds include: Broad-tailed Hummingbird; Western Wood-Pewee; Cordilleran Flycatcher; Plumbeous Vireo; Virginia's, Black-throated Gray and Grace's Warblers. Hepatic Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak are also present. Look for raptors along the road beyond Aguirre Springs. Do not trespass in private or military areas outside the entrance road.

In winter, Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks are regularly seen, and Northern Harriers can be seen flying low over the grasslands. American Kestrels, Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons are resident. Swainson's Hawk is regular in summer.

Habitat: Ponderosa pine forest with mountain mahogany; oak and juniper woodland.

Location: From Las Cruces, take US 70 (Exit 6A off I-25) toward Alamogordo across the Organ Mountains. Once across San Augustin Pass, watch for the signs for Aguirre Springs (1.1 miles past the sign at the pass, or mile marker 16.1) on the right. Turn onto a paved road and drive 6 miles into the recreation area. At mile 4 the road becomes a one-way loop, and climbs sharply.



Prairie Falcon



# Southwest New Mexico Birding Trail

## Check-List

American Kestrels	<input type="radio"/>	Ring-billed Gull	<input type="radio"/>
American Pipit	<input type="radio"/>	Scaled Quail	<input type="radio"/>
American Wigeon	<input type="radio"/>		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<input type="radio"/>	<b>SPARROW</b>	
Black Phoebe	<input type="radio"/>	Black-chinned Sparrows	<input type="radio"/>
		White-crowned Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
<b>BLUEBIRD</b>		Brewer's Sparrow	<input type="radio"/>
Eastern Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>		
Mountain Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>	Spotted Sandpiper	<input type="radio"/>
Western Bluebird	<input type="radio"/>		
		<b>TEAL</b>	
Bushtit	<input type="radio"/>	Blue-winged Teal	<input type="radio"/>
Cedar Waxwing	<input type="radio"/>	Cinnamon Teal	<input type="radio"/>
		Green-winged Teal	<input type="radio"/>
<b>FLYCATCHER</b>			
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	<b>THRASHER</b>	
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<input type="radio"/>	Crissal Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
		Curve-billed Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Franklin's Gull	<input type="radio"/>	Sage Thrasher	<input type="radio"/>
Golden Eagles	<input type="radio"/>		
		Townsend's Solitaire	<input type="radio"/>
<b>GROSBEAK</b>			
Black-headed Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	<b>TOWHEE</b>	
Blue Grosbeak	<input type="radio"/>	Canyon Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
		Spotted Towhee	<input type="radio"/>
<b>HAWK</b>			
Cooper's Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Verdin	<input type="radio"/>
Ferruginous Hawks	<input type="radio"/>		
Red-tailed Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	<b>VIREO</b>	
Swainson's Hawk	<input type="radio"/>	Gray Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
		Plumbeous Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
<b>HUMMINGBIRD</b>		Hutton's Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	Warbling Vireo	<input type="radio"/>
Black-throated Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>		
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<input type="radio"/>	<b>WARBLER</b>	
		Black-throated Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Hepatic Tanager	<input type="radio"/>	Grace's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Hermit Thrush	<input type="radio"/>	Gray Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Indigo Bunting	<input type="radio"/>	Orange-crowned Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Juniper Titmouse	<input type="radio"/>	Virginia's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Loggerhead Shrike	<input type="radio"/>	Wilson's Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Long-billed Curlew	<input type="radio"/>	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<input type="radio"/>
Mallard	<input type="radio"/>		
Mountain Chickadee	<input type="radio"/>	Western Scrub Jay	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Flicker	<input type="radio"/>	Western Wood-Pewee	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Harriers	<input type="radio"/>	White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="radio"/>
Northern Shoveler	<input type="radio"/>	Wilson's Snipe	<input type="radio"/>
<b>ORIOLE</b>		<b>WOODPECKER</b>	
Bullock's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Acorn Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
Scott's Oriole	<input type="radio"/>	Hairy Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
		Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<input type="radio"/>
<b>OWL</b>			
Northern Pygmy Owl	<input type="radio"/>	<b>WREN</b>	
Western Screech Owl	<input type="radio"/>	Bewick's Wren	<input type="radio"/>
		Cactus Wren	<input type="radio"/>
Prairie Falcon	<input type="radio"/>	Rock Wren	<input type="radio"/>
Pyrrhuloxia	<input type="radio"/>		