

RGNC BIRD NOTES For April 2013

Note from John "Lefty" Arnold (wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com; 505-514-9398)

April Bird Walk Sightings Add 23 Species to the 2013 List

An impressive 84 species of birds were recorded during the Rio Grande Nature Center's eight weekend bird walks that were conducted in April 2013. And three of those birds were new to the January 2011 –April 2013 list of bird walk sightings (see sidebar box).

Most of the April additions to the list were migrants that were taking advantage of the Nature Center on their way to nesting grounds beyond Albuquerque. Some are migrants that have returned to nest in or near the Nature Center. And some were not-impossible-to-find birds at the RGNC that, for whatever reasons, had not been recorded during the past 28 months of bird walks (see sidebar box).

And then there are a couple of oddball birds not often seen: The eared grebe, which is the least surprising bird and is marked as occasional on the Rio Grande Nature Center's *Checklist of Birds*, and the hooded warbler, which is marked as accidental on that list. The hooded warbler was seen on two separate walks while the eared grebe was recorded on one April walk.

Three species are added to the January 2011- April 2013 list

During the 28-month period from January 2011-April 2013, a total of 169 species of birds have been recorded during the weekend Bird Walks. April 2013 sightings added three species that previously were not on that list: Osprey, northern mockingbird, and hooded warbler.

Species added to the 2013 list:

1. Blue-winged Teal
2. Ruddy Duck
3. Eared Grebe
4. Double-crested Cormorant
5. Swainson's Hawk (the birds seem to be interested in using last year's nest!)
6. Sora (Lefty has a confession to make: This bird was seen after most of the Bird Walk participants had left, leaving just three people from the walk seeing the bird)
7. Black-chinned Hummingbird (first reported on April 14)
8. Ash-throated Flycatcher
9. Cassin's Kingbird
10. Western Kingbird
11. Plumbeous Vireo
12. Western Scrub-Jay

13. Violet-green Swallow
14. Cliff Swallow
15. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
16. Northern Mockingbird
17. European Starling (this bird may not always be recorded)
18. Orange-crowned Warbler
19. Hooded Warbler
20. Green-tailed Towhee
21. Vesper Sparrow
22. Black-headed Grosbeak
23. Yellow-headed Blackbird