

## Details on sightings for La Luz and Caballo CBC 2012

Ross's Goose-sighted with 4-5 Snow Geese in area near Tularosa Water Treatment Pond off Radio Rd.

Ross's was seen in front of the group of Snow's and was identified by the smaller size and a much smaller bill, the " grin patch" was non-existent, but I find that to be a poor way to identify. It was easier to tell species with both together. A picture is somewhere around and I could find it needed. This pond is always a good spot to check.

Redhead-male found near the Alamogordo Zoo and the caretaker stated it was a non-resident that just showed up the day before. This was also the location for the 2 Hooded Mergansers.

Wood Duck-2 pair seen at the Tularosa Water Treatment Plant.

Black Phoebe-male-near water in the area west of the town of Tularosa-this area always seems to have water, when most areas are dry.

Brown Creeper-spotted on a large pine at the edge of the National Forest off Labracita Canyon road-we found this while locating a Hairy Woodpecker seen and heard on the same tree.

Red Crossbill- spotted at the top of a large Pine-located by the Burro Flats fire Station-these were some of the first birds for the day and were easy to identify with the sun showing all of us the bills and we watched for about 4-5 min.

This was because, we were able to sit in a warm car, before starting a long cold walk. It was nice to see them, somewhat near the usual areas rather than the numerous sightings this year in the valley.

Eastern Bluebirds. Our group was identified by the pure white belly and pink throat. We were surprised to find this flock at this elevation. Donna was able to tell them apart also by the call. The light was very good to spot the difference in the two species. They were also not among the Westerns.

Brewer's Sparrow-per conversation with observers

Small, like Chipping, but without any distinct color in crown, more gray and less facial pattern than Chippers. Also an eye ring seen in many individuals. These were found in 2 large flocks in the lower elevations near the Western edge of circle. I always think of Brewer's as looking smaller the Chipping Sparrows-maybe because of less distinct markings on most of them

Caballo:

Sage Thrasher- smaller and with a straight bill and some streaking, yellow eye, just looks different than the other Thrashers, I am always amazed we don't see more of them on these counts.

Mexican Duck- my call after seeing a pair of Mallards somewhat separate from another group. We looked thru scope and the male was darker than most of the other males and had no sign of any green in the head. More like a Mottled or Black male. The female-I can't give you any good reason except with this male. If you have any good tips on how to tell female hybrids and pure apart, would sure like to know how.

Were they pure or hybrid-not sure.

Hope most of this helps and advise if more info needed and will provide if possible.