

## Los Pinos Ranch News

[From the Song of Solomon 2:11-12] "For, lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone; ...  
Flowers appear on the earth; (And) The time of singing of birds is come..."

Greetings from Los Pinos Ranch,

The summer season of 2023 is about to begin. Happily, we have been blessed with abundant snow this past winter. And while the unfortunate circumstances of 2022 limited our activities last year, Los Pinos Ranch remained open. As always, we were thankful for the guests who chose to share their vacation time with us. Now, spring cleaning and the inevitable repairs have begun in preparation for welcoming this summer's visitors.

We are pleased to announce that, this past August, Los Pinos Ranch was added to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation's "Register of Properties Worthy of Preservation." This recognition was due to the work of Mac Watson who researched and wrote the nomination on behalf of Los Pinos. We greatly appreciate his determination and diligence in this beautifully written endeavor.

One of the great joys that come with daily life on the ranch is the chance to be living so close to nature. It is a reason to return here year after year. Among the many birds familiar to us, we had a new avian visitor in September. He (or she) was quite a sociable little fellow, busy sharing an evening meal with Rooster and Chico. Difficult to identify at first, it turned out to be a Yellow-headed Blackbird just dropping by for a snack and a visit on the way to somewhere else.

Extremely high winds in the early part of last summer were causing the Engelmann Spruce to drop their cones months ahead of time. This posed a potential problem for the Chickaree squirrels that depend upon those cones for winter sustenance. However, when harvest time arrived, those resourceful squirrels found a new food source in the form of immature Ponderosa cones, cutting them from the trees, pelting the roofs, and carrying them off to their middens and nests.

The snows are melting now, and spring rains are soaking the land. The Pecos and its tributaries are flowing with great gusto. Wild flowers will soon be in bloom. Hummingbirds have already begun to return. The tranquil mountains and meadows of the Pecos High Country are waiting to welcome you.

We look forward to your return to Los Pinos "where the road ends and trails begin." And send our best wishes to all,

Alice and Bill  
The McSweeney's  
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