

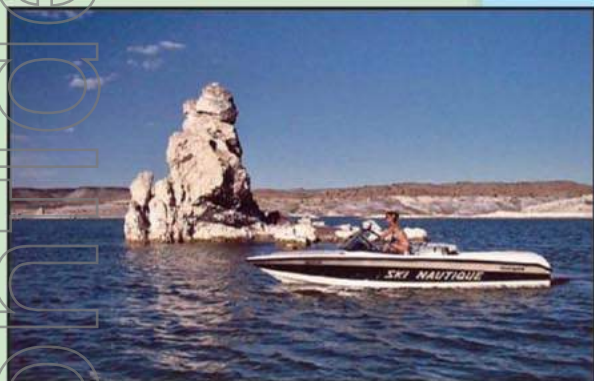
# Lakes and Rivers



Rio Grande River



Fish pond at Ralph Edwards Park



Elephant Butte Lake

## Birding in Sierra County

"Sierra County is one of the best birding counties in New Mexico, in terms of both habitat, diversity and potential for rarities. Percha Dam State Park offers excellent riparian habitat along the Rio Grande and because this habitat has been largely destroyed elsewhere in the southern part of the state, this site shows a much greater concentration effect for migrants than the riparian woodlands north of Sierra County. Percha Dam State Park is the best site for land birds along the entire length of the Rio Grande in New Mexico and one of the best sites in the state. Birding is excellent at any time of the year."

- New Mexico Bird Finding Guide  
Third edition  
John Parmeter, Bruce Neville,  
Douglas Emkalns

The Rio Grande, one of the West's greatest rivers, passes through Sierra County on its way through New Mexico. The river provides many recreational opportunities as well as a home for a wide variety of wildlife. Rafting, canoeing and floating down this gently flowing river are popular activities. Ralph Edwards Park, in downtown Truth or Consequences, is situated along the banks of the Rio Grande. This popular park is a focus for recreation, events and family fun.

The two largest lakes in the state, Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake, are reservoir lakes of the Rio Grande. They are major attractions in Sierra County, providing beauty and inspiration. Each is home to a state park.

## Elephant Butte Lake

Five miles north of Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte Lake is the largest and most popular lake in the state. Elephant Butte State Park provides a setting for sailing, canoeing, fishing, windsurfing, water-skiing, power-boating and personal watercraft. Camp year-round at one of more than 200 campsites and 150 RV hook-ups. The visitors center offers interpretive exhibits of the region.

## Caballo Lake

The Caballo Mountains serve as a majestic backdrop for Caballo State Park. The park offers a full array of water sports, fishing, waterfowl-watching, and cactus gardens in bloom. Camp year round in a developed campground on a bluff overlooking the lake or at primitive lake-side sites.

The area is known for majestic bald eagles and golden eagles migrating through the area. The birds begin arriving in late October. Golden eagles nest in nearby Caballo foothills. Bald eagles nest around and within the park. Caballo Lake State Park is 16 miles south of T or C along I-25.