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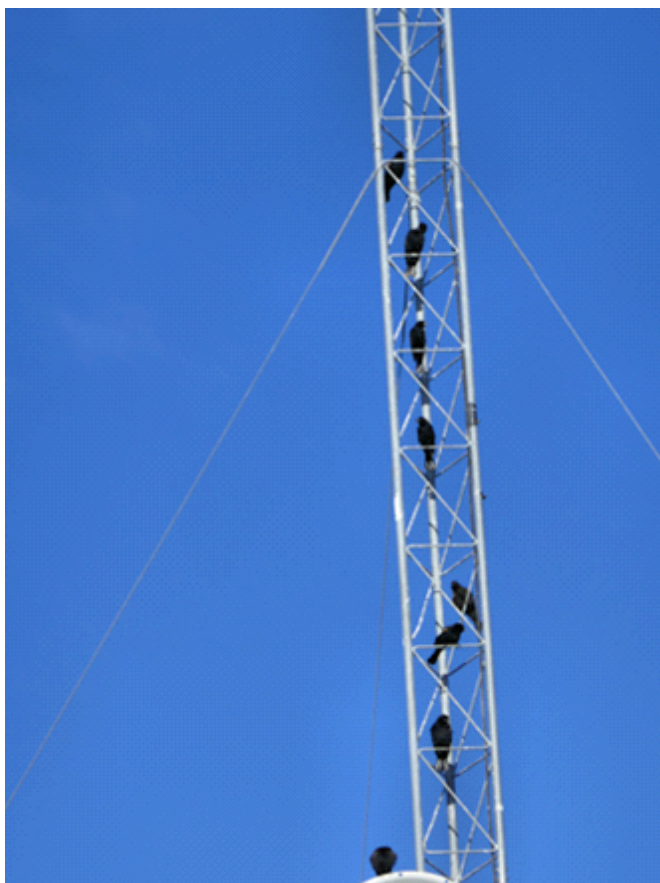
The winner of *State With The Best Clouds* is:





New Mexico!

Today we drove to Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge to hike the Mesa View Trail. Apparently all the wildlife had indeed taken refuge, at least from us, with the exception of four and twenty blackbirds (approximately, OK?) that were perched on the local microwave transmission tower. Hard to say what the attraction was unless they were NSA blackbirds listening to calls.



Along the Mesa View Trail there were all these benches. Dude! For miles. And somehow they all got up onto that mesa. We envisioned a guy carrying pieces of bench kit, a load at a time, until he could assemble each one on site. Look for them at Ikea.



(Sheila was supposed to sit on the bench but she said it was dewy. OMG.)

After we had passed 6 or 8 benches we encountered what can only be described as Tumbleweedagedon. Dude! Walls, heaps, aggregated masses of tumbleweeds blocked the trail.



The smaller piles we could circumnavigate or else pick apart by hand.



Later, on impassable switchbacks down the side of the mesa, we pulled out our trekking poles, flailing at the piles and flinging the little beasties over the edge.

We dutifully informed the staff at the Visitor Center that they were under all-out assault by an invading army of foreign plants. Their indifference was appalling.

D&S

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