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ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE MELROSE MIGRANT TRAP, ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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Since its discovery by birders in the spring of 1991, the Melrose Migrant Trap has been one of the most heavily birded localities in New Mexico. This oasis is located on New Mexico's eastern plains approximately ten miles west of the town of Melrose near mile marker 354 of US Highway 60 in northwestern Roosevelt County, ca. 200 yards north of the highway. The migrant trap is on State Trust Land. This land is not "public" in the usual sense of the word, but is administered by the State Land Office and leased to provide revenue to support education in New Mexico. This particular property is leased to a local rancher. However, the State Land Office has issued a Right of Entry permit allowing access to all birders. This annotated checklist is the first attempt to compile a complete list of the bird species recorded at this location.

Nomenclature.—The Melrose Migrant Trap is more often referred to as the Melrose Trap, and in this article it will usually be referred to by the shorter name, or even more simply as "the trap". In the two journals of record for New Mexico bird records, *North American Birds (NAB)* and the *New Mexico Ornithological Society Field Notes (NMOSFN)*, it is often referred to as the North Roosevelt Trap or N.R.T. This name was adopted in order to avoid confusion with the town of Melrose, which is in Curry County. In the early 1990s, for obscure reasons, it was sometimes referred to as the Hoffman Migrant Trap or Hoffman Trailer Park. It has also been referred to at times as Melrose Woods, Cottonwood Grove, and Cottonwood Spring.

Description of the Melrose Trap.—The Melrose Trap is located in an area of arid plains at an elevation of approximately 4350 feet. The approximate latitude and longitude are 34° 26' 5" N and 103° 47' 55" W. The trap has been described in general terms previously (Howe and Parmeter 2004). It contains a stand of cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) and dense silver poplar (*Populus alba*) that is ca. 100 yards long and 50 yards wide. There is substantial understory, primarily in the form of poplar saplings, and two smaller stands of smaller trees slightly to the southwest and southeast of the main grove. Between the two smaller stands of trees is an open metal cattle tank that serves as a source of water year round. Seepage from the south end of this tank provides additional access to water for many birds. The surrounding plains are widely utilized for cattle grazing and include open areas of short grass and stands of saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) and

sand sage (*Artemisia filifolia*). The trap is well removed from other large stands of trees, and this isolation and the availability of water make it highly attractive to migrant birds.

Birding Coverage at the Melrose Trap.—For the first few years after its discovery by birders, the trap received fairly heavy but sporadic birding coverage during migration. It was covered more heavily starting in the mid-1990s. Since approximately 2000 it has been the state's premier site for locating rare land birds, surpassing Rattlesnake Springs (south of Carlsbad Caverns in Eddy County) and Boone's Draw (southwest of Portales in Roosevelt County). The heavy coverage of the trap reflects not only its potential for rarities, but also its location within an easy day's drive of both Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Birding coverage of the trap is heavy from mid-April to early June and from mid-August to late October. There is much less coverage from November through early April, and especially from December through March. There is also little coverage in summer from approximately mid-June to early August. The periods of high coverage correspond to those of peak passerine migration through New Mexico's southeastern plains, and particularly to periods that are most likely to produce stray Neotropical migrants that normally migrate through eastern North America. It should be noted that the list that follows reflects these coverage biases. For example, there are few records from the trap of some species that probably occur somewhat regularly during the winter. Furthermore, early dates for some species in both spring and fall may be skewed by the fact that there is little coverage in early April or in late July and early August.

Visiting birders should be aware of a few other facts. First, birders are not the only persons with access to this land. In particular, dove hunters have access during open hunting seasons. Second, rattlesnakes are encountered frequently at the trap, so visitors need to constantly watch where they step to avoid being bitten. Finally, a box on a wooden post containing a sightings log has recently been erected at the south end of the main grove, near the eastern end of the open area that serves as a parking lot. All visiting birders are encouraged to record their observations.

Annotated Checklist.—The annotated checklist that follows contains accounts of 246 species that have been recorded at the Melrose Trap through 2006. This amounts to approximately 48% of all species recorded in New Mexico (Williams 2006). This is a remarkably diverse list considering the small geographic area covered and the fact that the trap has essentially no habitat for water birds. Five additional species, listed at the end of the main list, are considered hypothetical. The list covers birds seen on or from the State Trust Land that contains the trap. Thus birds seen flying by are considered part of the trap's avifauna, even if they may not have actually passed through air space directly above the State Trust Land.

Each species account contains information on abundance and seasonal pattern of occurrence. Months are abbreviated by their first three letters, e.g. Jan = January, etc. For species with five or fewer records, I usually list all records along with dates and observers. However this is not a hard and fast rule. For some species that are common on New Mexico's eastern plains and where the paucity of records for the trap probably reflects birder coverage patterns and perhaps incomplete record keeping, I do not list all records even when there are five or fewer. In contrast, for some eastern vagrants I list all documented records, even when there are as many as 10-12. I have taken this approach because I believe that most readers of this checklist will be more interested in the status of (for example) Wood Thrush than in the status of American Pipit. Wood Thrush is casual in New Mexico but remarkably there are ten records for the trap, while American Pipit is common throughout the state in winter and migration, but there are only five records for the trap.

For species with more than approximately five records, I give a general description of the abundance along with extreme dates and high counts. The terms that I use to describe abundance and frequency of occurrence are as follows:

Common: Seen on virtually every visit at the appropriate season, with numbers often exceeding ten per day

Fairly Common: Seen on most visits at the appropriate season, with four to nine individuals per day being most typical

Uncommon: Seen on many visits at the appropriate season, but it is usually not a surprise when such a species is missed. Numbers are typically one to three per day.

Rare: Seen annually or virtually annually at the appropriate season, but often missed on a given visit even at the best time of year. Records usually involve one or two birds.

Casual: Seen less than annually and often much less frequently than annually at the trap during the season considered. Records usually involve single birds.

Accidental: Only one record and the species seems unlikely to occur again. I have applied this term to only four species: Elegant Trogan, Black-capped Vireo, American Dipper, and Golden-crowned Warbler.

Note that it is often difficult to apply abundance terms to such a small geographic area, so the terms need to be considered approximate. For example, I refer to Wood Thrush as casual but to American Pipit as rare, even though there are more records of the Wood Thrush. In the case of Wood Thrush, I am using the term that reflects the species' status on the eastern plains generally, because I believe using a term based solely on the number of trap records would be misleading. Another special case involves water birds. There are many ducks, shorebirds, and other water loving species that are common migrants on New Mexico's eastern plains *where there is appropriate habitat*. Many such species are encountered very rarely if at all at the trap due to the lack of suitable habitat. For

example, there is only a single trap record of Blue-winged Teal, and none of Green-winged Teal or Cinnamon Teal. Based solely on the number of records, Blue-winged Teal could be referred to as “casual” at the trap. However, since it is actually a fairly common and even locally common migrant on the eastern plains, I believe that using this abundance term would again be misleading. Thus in the case of some water birds I do not utilize an abundance term at all, but simply list the few records without comment.

A comment is in order regarding the terms “migrant” and “visitor”. I use the term “migrant” to refer to species that are strongly migratory, for example, most members of the family *Parulidae*, whether these are common or very rare at the trap. I use the term “visitor” to refer to species that also appear at the trap during migration periods, but which are not strongly migratory. This includes many montane and foothill species that are normally resident or limited altitudinal migrants, but which stray to the trap occasionally.

In trying to put certain records in context I sometimes refer to the status of the bird on New Mexico’s eastern plains generally or at specific locations on the eastern plains. When I do this I put the names of counties in *italics*. Thus Sumner Lake, *DeBaca* indicates that the locality mentioned is in DeBaca County. The term “southeastern plains” refers to that portion of the eastern plains in New Mexico within Eddy, Lea, Chaves, DeBaca, Roosevelt, and Curry counties.

When citing specific records, I identify observers by their initials. This is straightforward when only one or two observers are involved. However, when a bird is seen by a large number of observers, it becomes unwieldy to try to list all observers. In crediting observers for records, I have tried to adhere to the following rules. The first observer listed is the one who, to the best of my knowledge, first found the bird. Second priority goes to observers who provided photos, videotape, or written documentation to support the record. Third priority goes to anyone else; I rarely list more than three or four observers for a record. A “+” after the final listed observer indicates that others did see the bird. In any list with this much detail, there will inevitably be cases where individuals will have different recollections about who found a bird, so I apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.

This checklist provides a picture of the trap’s avifauna *based on the information available to me*. The primary sources of data for this checklist are NMOSFN, NAB, and records provided to me by a number of New Mexico birders. I have made a search of NMOSFN from 1990 through 2004, the latter year being the most recent one for which NMOSFN has been published. For winter 2005 through the spring of 2006 I have consulted NAB, which contains many records from the trap although it generally has fewer records and less detailed information than NMOSFN. More recent records are available only from birders’ personal records. Furthermore, many regularly occurring species are not covered in either NMOSFN or NAB, since these journals are forced by space limitations to focus on the more

unusual records. Thus for many species I have had to rely almost entirely on personal records. Individuals who provided me with bird records are recognized in the acknowledgment section. I have also received information on some records through Dr. S. O. Williams III, the *NAB* regional editor for New Mexico.

In considering what reports to include, I decided not to include reports of species that are on the review list of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee (NMBRC) unless these reports are documented either by hard evidence (photos, video, taped calls) or substantive written details. Including undocumented reports of these rarities seems inappropriate from a scientific perspective, and would almost certainly lead to the inclusion of incorrect reports in the checklist. This is especially true with species that can be difficult to identify – for example, Eastern Wood-Pewee, rare *Empidonax* flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, certain fall warblers – and where it is impossible to form any opinion about the validity of the record without documentation. Furthermore, it seems to me that it would be unfair to observers who make the effort to document their reports and submit them to the NMBRC for review if I were to accept uncritically reports from other observers who make no such effort. While this policy will certainly result in some valid records being omitted from the checklist, I think it is best to take this conservative approach. Fortunately, most active New Mexico birders are conscientious in their efforts to document the rarities that they report, so the number of reports omitted is not very large. The list of species reviewed by the NMBRC is available several places, including the annotated checklist included in the New Mexico Bird Finding Guide (Parmeter et al. 2002). I accept all records that have been accepted by the NMBRC. I also accept many records of review list species that the committee has not reviewed, but where I know that substantial documentation exists. I also note which records are photographically documented when such information is available.

For species not on the NMBRC review list, I have accepted many records that lack formal documentation. In most such instances, the bird is not totally unexpected, it is readily identified, and the reports involve one or more experienced observers, leading me to the conclusion that the identification is as certain as a sight record can be. In such cases, I think that omitting the records or relegating them to hypothetical status would produce a misleadingly incomplete picture of the trap's avifauna. Some examples include Wood Duck, Golden Eagle, Wilson's Snipe, Band-tailed Pigeon, Williamson's Sapsucker, Black Phoebe, Cactus Wren, and Savannah Sparrow. For all these species there are only one or two trap records, and none is documented by photos or written descriptions. However, I have no doubt that these records are correct, and that the species in question should be included on the checklist. This admittedly introduces some degree of arbitrariness into decisions about what to include and not include, but it is necessary in order to produce a complete checklist.

The cutoff date for records included in this checklist is 31 December 2006. Records after that date are not included, though I hope to update the checklist in the future.

I hope that this checklist will increase interest in the birds of the Melrose Trap, and promote both a broader view of the trap's avifauna and more complete record keeping by birders. While the focus on birding the trap is usually on the discovery of glamorous rarities, developing this checklist has led me to a greater appreciation of other bird records from this location. One example is the remarkable concentration of House Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, American Robins, and Orange-crowned Warblers that occurred at the trap on the afternoon of 26 Apr 2003, a day when no rarities were present. Another is the occurrence in fall 2002 of record or near-record numbers of five different corvid species at the trap. A thorough review of this checklist will likely produce some interesting surprises for any student of New Mexico birds, and the list can serve as a foundation that will help us increase our knowledge of the birds of this unique location.

Dedication.—This checklist is dedicated to the memory of Ryan Beaulieu and Doug Emkalns, skilled and enthusiastic New Mexico birders.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*): One record. This species was heard flying over the trap on 22 Feb 2000 (SOW).

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*): Two records. (1) One male on 7 Oct 2005 (JEP, JRO+). (2) Pair on 14 Oct 2006 (JEP, WFWi). Both records involved birds that were flushed from the main grove early in the morning and had probably roosted overnight at the trap.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*): Two records. (1) Pair on 9 Apr 2003, with three present the next day (SOW). (2) Pair on 7 Apr 2004 (SOW). The species was noted intermittently at the trap through 13 May 2004, with a female with a brood of ducklings being seen below the tank on the last date (JEP).

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*): One record. A pair was seen in flight on 14 Apr 2006 (CJW).

Scaled Quail (*Callipepla squamata*): Uncommon resident. It is most numerous in fall after broods have hatched. High counts include 20 on 4, 10, and 30 Sep 2005 (JEP).

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*): Uncommon resident. Like the preceding species it is most numerous in fall, but detection is often easier in spring when this species is more vocal. High counts include 20 on 18 Oct 1997 (JEP) and 24 Oct 1998 (JEP).

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*): Three records. (1) One on 14 Apr 2000 (SOW). (2) One on 28 Apr 2003 (WHH). (3) One on 15 Aug 2004 (CMR), with possibly the same bird being seen again on 25 Aug (WFWi).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*): One record. One was seen flying over on 19 May 2005 (CGL).

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*): One record. Two were seen feeding with cattle on 5 Oct 2006 (DLH).

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*): One record. One was seen on 2 Sep 1996 (JRO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): Two records. (1) Four were present on 9 Sep 2000 (JEP, JRO). Possibly one of these same birds was found dead on 17 Sep 2000 (BDN, JRO). (2) One on 12 May 2002 (JEP).

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*): Fairly common migrant and summer visitor. Dates range from 18 Apr to 8 Oct, but this species arrives on the southeastern plains in March so the early date may reflect a lack of coverage in spring prior to mid-April. The high count is 10 on 1 Sep 2001 (JEP).

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Five records. (1) One on 9 May 1998 (JRO, JEP). (2) One on 19 May 2001 (JRO, JEP). (3) One on 7 May 2002 (WFWi). (4) One on 16 Sep 2003 (CGL). (5) One on 27 Sep 2005 (WFWi). This species migrates throughout New Mexico but is rarely encountered away from large bodies of water.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*): Rare to casual spring and fall migrant. Three records. (1) One on 15 May 2000 (BDN). (2) One on 18 May 2002 (BDN). (3) One on 5 Sep 2004 (JRO). This highly migratory species summers regularly in Clovis, Portales, and the Fort Sumner area, so the paucity of records from the trap is somewhat surprising.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of an immature seen perched on snags in some of the larger cottonwoods and then in flight on 21 Oct 2006 (JEP, WFWi, JRO). This species is rare in New Mexico away from major rivers, refuges, and larger lakes. On the southeastern plains, it is regular only at Sumner Lake, *DeBaca*.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. I am aware of only one spring record: one on 14 Apr 2000 (SOW). Fall records extend from 3 Sep to 17 Oct, and virtually all are of single birds.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Dates range from 26 Apr to 8 May and from 8 Sep to 30 Oct with more reports from fall than from spring. The narrow range of dates in spring probably reflects both incomplete record keeping and lack of coverage in March and early April. Almost all records are of single birds.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*): Rare to uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 3-7 May and fall dates from 21 Sep to 18 Oct. Once again the narrow range of spring dates probably reflects incomplete record keeping and lack of coverage in early spring. Most records are of single birds.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*): Casual fall migrant. Six records. (1) One immature on 4 Oct 2000 (WFWe). (2) One immature photographed on 22 Sep 2001 (JRO, JEP). (3) Two immatures on 5 Oct 2002, videotape (JRO, JEP). (4) One dark morph on 7 Oct 2002 (WFWe). (5) One on 1 Oct 2004 (JRO, ALL). (6) One dark morph photographed 2-11 Oct 2005 (MJB, NDP, JPB, JRO+). It is noteworthy that all six records fall within the narrow date range of 22 Sep to 7 Oct, and that two records are of the rare dark morph. It is surprising that there are no spring records, given that this species occurs regularly in small numbers in spring at other eastern plains locations, such as Rattlesnake Springs.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*): Uncommon spring and rare fall migrant. Spring dates range from 4 April to 2 June, and some of the later records could be of birds that summer locally. Remarkably, I am aware of only two fall records, one from 30 Aug 2003 (JEP) and one from 12 Aug 2006 (CMR). A few Swainson's Hawks linger into early October on the southeastern plains, so the lack of fall records after August is surprising.

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*): Casual spring migrant. The single record, supported by convincing written details, is of one bird on 10 May 1999 (LPG). This species is very rare anywhere on New Mexico's southeastern plains. However, a few pairs nest in the mountains and canyons of north-central and northeastern New Mexico, so its occurrence at the trap is not totally unexpected. There is also a record from below Sumner Dam, DeBaca, on 8 May 2005 (JEP, BDP, JRO).

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*): Uncommon at all seasons. Records may pertain to resident birds, birds that summer locally, birds that winter locally, or transients.

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*): Rare fall migrant. Three records. (1) One on 8 Sep 1992 (CMR). (2) One on 15 Sep 1995 (CMR). (3) One on 1 Oct 2005 (JEP). This species is a very local breeder and a widespread uncommon migrant and winter visitor to New Mexico's southeastern plains. More records might be anticipated with increased coverage from November through March.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*): Rare winter visitor. The single record is of one seen on 30 Dec 1996 (JEP). This species occurs widely but sparsely on the southeastern plains from October to March, and is a very local breeder. Increased winter coverage would likely produce more records.

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*): Fairly common resident. This species nests annually at the trap and is seen on virtually all visits, though numbers rarely exceed three or four birds.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*): Rare migrant and winter visitor. Seven records. Dates range from 30 September to 16 March, with five of the records being from September and October. Three have been reported as *richardsonii*, two as *columbarius*, and on the remaining two subspecific identification was not attempted.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Two records. (1) One on 15 Sep 2001 (JEP). (2) One on 20 Apr 2006 (WHH). The lack of additional records may reflect the tendency of birders at the trap to focus on small land birds in trees and near the ground, rather than on raptors flying overhead.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*): Rare fall migrant. Three records. (1) One on 15 Sep 1995 (CMR). (2) One on 7 Sep 2002 (JEP, WFWi). (3) One on 30 Sep 2005, with perhaps the same bird seen again on 3 Oct 2005 (both WFWi). Increased coverage from November to March would probably produce more records.

Sora (*Porzana carolina*): One record. A single bird was seen on 21 May 1995 (JRO).

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*): Rare fall migrant. Four records. (1) "Flocks overhead" on 12 Oct 2002 (BDN). (2) Two on 19 Oct 2002 (CMR). (3) Unspecified number present on 9 Oct 2003 (WFWi). (4) Two heard on 23 Oct 2005 (JEP). Increased coverage in November and February-March would likely produce additional records.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*): Rare migrant. I am aware of three spring records and three fall records, with dates ranging from 12 Apr to 29 May and 1 Aug to 9 Oct. All three spring records involve birds that were seen over periods of two weeks or more.

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*): Rare to uncommon early fall migrant. I am aware of approximately 14 records with dates from 18 Aug to 17 Sep. All records involve one to three birds. This species is almost always detected from its flight call.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Three records. (1) One heard on 30 Aug 1997 (JEP). (2) One on 31 May 2004 (JEP). (3) One on 12 Apr 2005 (SOW). This species nests locally on New Mexico's eastern plains.

Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*): One record. A bird was flushed near the north end of the trap (away from any water) on 16 Sep 2000 (BDN).

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of a bird flushed repeatedly on 22-23 Oct 2005 (RLV, BDN, CMR+). This was the 11th New Mexico record of this species.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*): One record. A flock of 40 flew north past the trap on 22 Apr 2005 (JEP).

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of one bird photographed on 24 Oct [not 24 Sep, NMOSFN 37:62] 1998 (JRO, JEP). This species breeds in many New Mexico mountain ranges but is a casual spring and fall migrant on the eastern plains.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*): Uncommon but increasing visitor at all seasons. The first record was of one on 9 Oct 1999 (JEP, JRO). There are now over 20 records involving one to three birds. This introduced species has recently colonized New Mexico from the east and it is resident in most eastern plains cities and towns, including Melrose and Fort Sumner.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*): Rare spring and fall visitor. There are at least eight records, all of single birds. Spring dates range from 11 Apr to 2 Jun and fall dates from 23 Aug to 26 Oct. The first record was on 11 Apr 2001 (SOW). This species has recently been expanding its range northward in New Mexico, and it is now established as resident in many eastern plains cities such as Fort Sumner, so a trend towards more frequent records in the future is likely.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*): Common resident, perhaps more numerous in summer than in winter. The high count is 50 on 30 Oct 2002 (CMR).

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*): Casual spring visitor. Two records. (1) One on 26 May 1996 (BDN, DAE, CMR). (2) One on 11 May 1999 (WFWe). Like the White-winged Dove, this species is expanding its range northward in the state and it is now resident in a number of eastern plains cities. It is thus rather surprising that there are not more records.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. This is one of the state's latest spring migrants, and except for one very early record on 29 Apr 2001 (CMR) spring dates extend from 7 May to 10 June. I am aware of only three fall records ranging from 2 Sep to 2 Oct. All records are of single birds.

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*): Rare resident. This species is an uncommon to rare resident throughout New Mexico's southeastern plains, but it wanders into the trap very infrequently. I am aware of six records extending from 30 Apr to 16 Oct, with some birds staying for extended periods.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): Uncommon visitor at all seasons. Virtually all records are of single birds. I am aware of records from all months except March, July, November, and December. The lack of records from those months probably reflects lack of coverage.

Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*): Casual spring and fall migrant. There are at least four records. (1) One on 12 May 1995 (JEP, JRO). (2) One photographed on 10 Oct 1998 (JRO, JEP). (3) One on 2 Oct 1999 (JEP, ELC). (4) Up to three birds seen sporadically from 2-22 Oct 2005 (JPB, CMR, JRO+). Given the three-week duration of this group of sightings, there may have been more than three birds involved. All records are of day roosting birds.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*): Uncommon resident. Most sightings are of single birds, but pairs have been noted occasionally and nesting has been documented – e.g., one young bird on a nest 8 May 2004 (BDP, JEP).

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are at least ten records, all of one or two birds. I know of only three spring records that fall on 4, 5, and 6 May. There are more fall records, ranging from 20 Sep to 22 Oct with a peak in early October.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*): Rare to uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 9 May to 4 Jun. Fall dates range from 1 Aug to 3 Sep, though records on the southeastern plains substantially later into September are not infrequent. The high count is three on 15 Aug 2005 (CMR, RLV).

Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*): Casual spring migrant. There are two records of flushed day roosting birds. (1) One on 30 Apr 2005 (CGL). (2) One on 13 May 2006 (ELC, JEP). The dearth of records is surprising, since this species is encountered rather frequently in migration at Boone's Draw.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*): Casual spring migrant with three records of flushed day roosting birds. (1) One photographed on 10 May 1995 (JMB, CLB). (2) One on 4-7 May 1997 (BDN, JEP, JRO). (3) One photographed on 26 Apr 2002 (JRO, ELC, WFWi). It is not known whether these records pertain to the eastern or Mexican form.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelasgica*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of one seen on 14 Sep 2002 (JEP, WFWi, LKM). This species summers in a number of eastern plains cities including Clovis, Portales, and probably Fort Sumner, so more records might be anticipated.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of at least one immature photographed 12-15 Sep 2006 (JRO, JLD, MJB, WFWi+). New Mexico birders have been finding this species with increasing frequency at feeders on the southeastern plains in

August and September in recent years, though it is still considered casual in the state. This bird frequented a feeder, and more records may be forthcoming as birders maintain more hummingbird feeders at the trap during fall migration.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*): Rare to uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring records range from 5-26 May, though the species arrives in central New Mexico in the first half of April and the lack of earlier records may reflect incomplete record keeping. Fall dates range from 15 Aug to 17 Sep. The high count is two on two different occasions in August. Birds that are not adult males should be carefully checked for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, especially in fall.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*): Rare fall migrant. Five records. (1) One female on 23 Aug 1998 (JRO). (2) One female on 16 Sep 2003 (DJK). (3) One on 15 Aug 2004 (CMR, RLV). (4) One on 12 Aug 2006 (CMR). (5) One female or immature on 9 Sep 2006 (WFWi, JEP). New Mexico's eastern plains are at the eastern edge of this bird's normal fall migration route. Records appear to be increasing as more hummingbird feeders are being maintained at the trap.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 23 Apr to 4 Jun and fall dates from 15 Aug to 4 Sep. All records are of one or two birds, and several (from both spring and fall) are of adult males.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*): Rare fall migrant. Dates range from 15 Aug to 15 Sep. At present there are only ca. five records, but this is another species for which the number of records appears to be increasing with the regular maintenance of hummingbird feeders at the trap. All records are of one or two birds. Most records are of females or immatures, and for these records Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) cannot be ruled out rigorously.

Elegant Tropicbird (*Trogon elegans*): Accidental. The single record is of one female seen on 11 Jun 2005 (GJP). The record is supported by written details and is currently under review by the NMBRC. This species is a rare and very local summer resident in extreme southwestern New Mexico. There are no previous records for eastern New Mexico.

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*): Rare spring and fall visitor. Five records, all of single birds. The two spring records fall on 14 Apr and 4 May, while the three fall records range from 9 Sep to 19 Oct.

Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*): Casual spring visitor. The single record, supported by written details, is of one seen on 4 May 2002 (PEM).

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*): Uncommon to fairly common summer resident and breeder. Dates range from 3 May to 25 Sep. An active nest was noted on 2 Jun 2003 (SOW), and immature birds are

frequently encountered in fall. This species typically arrives during the first two weeks of May, though it often arrives by late April at Boone's Draw and in the Fort Sumner area.

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*): Casual spring visitor. The single record, supported by written details, is of one bird seen on 1 Jun 2006 (RLF). It was being chased by Red-headed Woodpeckers. This species is extremely rare anywhere on New Mexico's eastern plains.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*): Casual in spring and fall. Two records. (1) One male photographed on 28 May 1999 (JEP, JRO). (2) One female photographed 16-19 Sep 2004 (JRO, JEP, DJK, CMR+). This species is casual in the state as a whole, with most records coming from the southeastern plains.

Williamson's Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of one female seen on 30 Sep 2000 (JEP, JRO). This montane species is a rare and irregular fall and winter visitor to the New Mexico lowlands.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*): Rare late fall migrant. There are more than ten records. Apart from one unusually early (but well described) juvenile on 16 Sep 2004 (DJK, JMR), dates range from 6 to 31 Oct. Almost all records are of single birds, and most are of juveniles. Kaufman (1990) provides identification information.

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Spring dates range from 3 to 12 May and fall dates from 11 Sep to 24 Oct with most records in October. The high count is four on 14 Oct 2005 (JEP).

Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*): Uncommon resident. Behavior strongly suggestive of nesting has been observed, e.g., a pair entering a hole on 6 May 2003 (BDN).

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*): Casual spring visitor and rare to casual fall visitor. The two spring records are of single birds on 28 Apr 2003 (WHH) and 23 Apr 2005 (CGL). There are four fall records falling from 12 Sep to 15 Oct, all of single birds. The nearest resident populations are in various central New Mexico mountain ranges.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*): Uncommon to fairly common migrant and winter visitor, somewhat more numerous in fall than in spring. Records extend from 30 Aug to 29 May, though the species is rare after the first week of May. The high count is six on 19 Oct 2002 (CMR). Red-shafted Flicker is the commonly occurring form. The Yellow-shafted form is a rare fall migrant and winter visitor with dates ranging from 13 Sep to 10 Mar, and the majority of records in October.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 20 Apr to 3 Jun and fall dates from 15 Aug to 5 Oct. The high count is four on 22 May 1993 (CMR) and 4 May 1996 (JEP, JRO).

Western Wood-Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*): Fairly common to common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 20 Apr to 5 June and fall dates from 12 Aug to 30 Sep. The high count is 25 on 27 May 2006 (CMR). The highest numbers appear to occur in late May and early September.

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Two documented records. (1) One singing bird videotaped on 19 May 2002 (JRO, BDN, DAE, ELC). (2) One occasionally singing and frequently calling bird present 4-10 Sep 2005 (CMR, BDN, JEP+), photographed on 9 Sep (JRO).

Empidonax flycatchers (*Empidonax* sp.): This genus of flycatchers is probably the most difficult group of North American birds to identify, and there is universal agreement that many individuals cannot be identified in the field. With the exception of Acadian Flycatcher, the species accounts that follow are based overwhelmingly on sight reports, and should thus be regarded as probable rather than definitive. Detailed identification information has been given by Kaufman (1990), and even a cursory discussion of field identification is beyond the scope of this checklist. However, some aspects of identification are commented on below because of their importance in determining the status of a particular species. Note that mention of a particular call or characteristic emphatically does not mean that other characteristics should not be studied when trying to identify an *Empidonax*.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*): Casual spring and fall migrant. There are two records of calling birds that were videotaped. (1) One on 17-18 Aug 2004 (JRO, JEP, WFWi). (2) One on 19 May 2005 (JRO, MJB, CGL+). Both records are awaiting review by the NMBRC. In addition, a bird deemed a probable Acadian Flycatcher was observed and heard calling on 29 Sep 2000, but a majority of NMBRC members did not consider the documentation definitive.

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*): Fairly common spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. This is the latest arriving of the commonly occurring *Empidonax* flycatchers in spring when dates range from 11 May to 9 Jun, with a peak in the second half of May. This species sings regularly in spring migration, and thus many individuals can be identified easily from the diagnostic “fitz-bew” song. Reported fall dates range from 1 Aug to 19 Sep. Spring counts up to five birds are not uncommon, while fall counts rarely exceed one or two birds.

Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Reported spring dates range from 1 to 28 May and the records include one bird banded on 8 May 1997 (NMC, AMC). The highest reported spring count is six on 12 May 2000 (WHH). Reported fall dates range from 1 Aug to 7 Oct with a peak in the first half of September. The high fall counts are three on 15 Sep 2002 (CMR) and “about three” on 16-18 Sep 2004 (JRO). The relatively numerous status of this species in fall on the southeastern plains is in accordance with previously published information (Hubbard 1978).

Hammond’s Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Reported spring dates range from 3 May to 3 Jun and reported fall dates from 2 Sep to 13 Oct. The high count is four on 30 Sep 2000 (JEP). This appears to be the most likely *Empidonax* to be encountered in fall after mid-September. The Pygmy Nuthatch-like “peek” call of this species is distinct from the calls of other western *Empidonax* and is given by some birds in both spring and fall. Attention to this call supports the general outline of the status given here, particularly (1) that this species does not appear in spring before early May, and (2) that it is the most prevalent *Empidonax* in late fall.

Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Reported spring dates range from 18 Apr to 5 May and reported fall dates from 13 Sep to 12 Oct. Almost all records are of single birds. This appears to be the only *Empidonax* besides Dusky that is likely to be encountered in April. Given good looks and some experience with this species, it can be identified visually based on its persistent tail-dipping behavior.

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*): Uncommon to fairly common spring migrant and rare fall migrant. Reported spring dates range from 18 Apr to 7 Jun with a peak in early May. This appears to be the most frequently encountered *Empidonax* in spring before the arrival of Willow Flycatchers in mid-May. Reported fall dates range from 3 Aug to 23 Sep. Spring counts of three to five birds are not unusual, while fall counts rarely exceed one or two birds.

“Western” Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis/difficilis*): Rare spring and fall migrant. This is a late spring migrant and reported dates range from 9 May to 5 Jun. Reported fall dates range from 11 Sep to 4 Oct. Almost all records are of single birds. Since there are no specimens, banding records, or videotaped vocalizations, it seems best to treat all records as “Western” (Cordilleran/Pacific-slope) at present. However, some spring birds at the trap do call and vocalizations have been heard that are probably indicative of Cordilleran. Given good views and experience, the “Western” complex is visually distinct from other western *Empidonax*. Confusion with Yellow-bellied

Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) and perhaps Acadian Flycatcher is possible, but these two species are so rare in New Mexico that they are unlikely to cloud the picture.

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*): Casual fall visitor. Two records. (1) One on 16 Sep 2003 (WFWi). (2) One on 17 Sep 2004 (DJK). This species is casual on the southeastern plains east of the Pecos River. The nearest resident birds are along the Pecos at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, *Chaves* and Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*): Casual spring migrant and rare fall migrant. The single spring record is of one bird on 24 Mar 2001 (JRO, JEP, ALL). There are more than 20 fall records ranging from 30 Sep to 7 Nov. Almost all records are of single birds; the high count is two on at least two different October dates.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*): Rare spring and fall visitor. It is likely that there are individuals of this species that both summer and winter in the general area of the trap, but I am aware of only ca. ten records with seven from 6 Apr to 31 May and three from September. This no doubt reflects incomplete reporting to at least some degree.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*): Casual early spring and fall migrant. Three records. (1) One male photographed on 24 Mar 2001 (ALL, JRO, JEP). (2) One female on 12 Apr 2005 (SOW). (3) One immature male on 9 Sep 2006 (SSA). This species has expanded its range northward on the eastern plains in recent years, and it is now frequently encountered in spring and summer below Sumner Dam, *DeBaca* and at Conchas Lake, *San Miguel*. The dearth of records from the trap is thus somewhat odd, perhaps reflecting how closely tied this species is to riparian habitats. The dates of the two spring records also suggest that most spring Vermilions pass through the trap before there is much coverage by birders.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*): Uncommon spring migrant and rare fall migrant, possibly also a rare summer resident. Spring dates range from 10 April to 1 Jun. One on 23 Jun 2001 (JRO) may have been summering locally. Fall dates range from 2 –11 Sep with two additional very late records: one on 30 Sep 2004 (JRO) and another from 2-4 Oct 2005 (NDP, JRO, JPB). This species departs early in fall and it is rare anywhere in the state after the first week of September. The lack of August records is puzzling. The high count is three on 9 May 2005 (BDP, JEP).

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*): Casual spring migrant and rare early fall migrant. The single spring record is of one bird photographed on 18 May 2003 (DAE, BDN, JRO+). There are at least seven fall records with dates ranging from 30 Aug to 18 Sep. All records are of single birds except for

two present on 13 Sep 1996 (CMR). The Melrose Trap is one of the best locations in the state to see this species.

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Dates extend from 6-30 May and from 20 Aug to 7 Oct. The high count is four on 23 Sep 2005 (JEP). This species lingers somewhat later in fall than Western Kingbird, and kingbirds found in early October are more likely to be Cassin's.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*): Common migrant and summer resident. This is one of the most numerous and conspicuous summering species at the trap. Dates extend from 18 Apr to 21 Sep. Counts of 20-30 individuals are not unusual in May. In Sep counts rarely exceed five birds, with the high count being 13 on 15 Sep 2002 (CMR).

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*): Rare to casual spring migrant and casual fall migrant. I am aware of six spring records with dates from 9 May to 2 Jun. The two fall records are 15 Sep 2003 (BDN) and 11-12 Sep 2004 (JRO, JEP, RLV+). Apart from two birds present on 22 May 1993 (JEP, CMR), all records involve single birds.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are at least ten records. I am aware of only three spring records with dates from 9-28 May. Fall records are more numerous and extend from 23 Aug to 2 Oct. High counts are three on 2 Oct 1993 (CLB, JEP) and three to four on 20 Sep 2005 (JRO). This species reaches the northwestern limit of its range on New Mexico's southeastern plains, and summers north regularly to the vicinity of Portales. It is observed regularly in September along US 60 between Fort Sumner and the trap.

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*): Rare fall visitor. This species is present on the southeastern plains at all seasons and could potentially occur at the trap at any time, but I am aware of only six records ranging from 21 Aug to 16 Oct. Lack of records from winter and summer probably reflects lack of coverage, while the lack of spring records may reflect incomplete record keeping.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Eight records. (1) One photographed 10-11 Oct 1998 (JRO, BDN). (2) One singing bird photographed 16-17 Sep 2000 (CMR, JRO+). (3) One singing male photographed 2 Jun 2001 (JRO, JEP, ALL). (4) One photographed 27-28 May 2003 (JRO, JEP, WHH+). (5) One photographed 30 Apr to 3 May 2004 (JRO, JEP, WHH+). (6) One on 21 May 2005 (SSA, JEP, JRO). (7) One on 23 Oct 2005 (MJB, NDP, RLV, JRO). (8) One singing bird photographed 5-6 May 2006 (CGL, ALL, JEP+).

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Two records. (1) One singing bird on 22 May 2005 (JEP, JRO+). (2) One on 26 Aug 2006 (JPB, JEP, WFWi, ALL). This species is generally rare on the eastern plains away from Rattlesnake Springs.

Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*): Accidental. One occasionally singing adult male was photographed 1-2 May 2004 (JDS, JRO, ELC+). This is the only photographically documented New Mexico record.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Six records. (1) One on 20 May 1997 (WFWe). (2) One singing bird photographed on 7 May 2000 (JRO, JEP). (3) One photographed on 12 May 2001 (JEP, JRO, JDS). (4) One photographed on 28 Sep 2004 (DJC). (5) One on 30 Apr 2006 (DLH). (6) One singing occasionally on 12-13 May 2006 (JEP, WFWi, BDP).

Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*): Uncommon spring migrant and rare fall migrant. Spring dates range from 23 Apr to 28 May with a peak in the first half of May. Fall birds have occurred from 30 Aug to 14 Oct. I have recorded this species 19 times in spring but only twice in fall, which gives some idea of how much more numerous it is in spring. All records are of one or two individuals.

Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant, reversing the seasonal occurrence pattern of Plumbeous Vireo. Fall records outnumber spring records by approximately two to one. Spring dates range from 18 Apr to 28 May and fall dates from 26 Aug to 16 Oct. The high count is five on 22 Sep 2001 (JEP).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*): Casual spring migrant and rare fall migrant. The difficulty of distinguishing some individuals from Cassin's Vireo clouds the status to some degree, and a number of birds have been reported as Blue-headed/Cassin's. There are at least 15 reports of Blue-headed by experienced observers that are supported by photos and/or written details. There are four spring reports ranging from 18 Apr to 18 May. The fall reports range from 16 Sep to 11 Nov, except for one very early record 29 Aug to 7 Sep 1998 (DAE, JRO, BDN, record accepted by NMBRC). Blue-headed Vireo on average occurs at later dates in fall than Cassin's, and I am aware of more October reports of Blue-headed than of Cassin's. All reports are of single birds.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 27 Apr to 4 Jun and fall dates from 17 Aug to 17 Oct. This species is rare after September. The high count is five on 9 May 2003 (JEP).

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*): Casual spring and fall migrant. The eight documented records include a single spring record and seven fall

records. (1) One on 25 Sep 1993 (CLB, JEP). (2) One from 22-24 Oct [not Nov, NMOSFN 36:65] 1997 (D. Nairns, JRO, JEP). (3) One photographed on 1 May 1999 (JRO). (4) One on 3 Oct 2001 (WFWe). (5) One photographed on 14 Sep 2003 (JRO, ELC). (6) One photographed on 17 Oct 2003 (JRO). (7) One on 30 Sep 2005 (JEP, JRO). (8) One on 15 Oct 2006 (JPB).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are more than 20 records. Spring dates range from 4 May to 2 June. Fall dates range from 30 Aug to 16 Sep, except for one exceptionally late bird on 14 Oct 2000 (JRO). The ratio of spring records to fall records is approximately three to two. All records are of single birds except for two present on 27 May 2001 (JRO).

Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of one present 30 Oct to 2 Nov 2002 (CMR, JRO, JEP, WFWi). In the fall of 2002, a massive influx of this montane species into lowlands throughout the state occurred.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are at least a dozen records, divided nearly equally between spring and fall. Spring dates range from 4-21 May and fall dates from 30 Sep to 22 Oct. High counts are three on 5 Oct 2002 (JRO, JEP) and 17 Oct 2003 (JRO). This species is a common resident in Fort Sumner.

Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*): Casual spring visitor and rare, sporadic fall visitor. The single spring record is of one on 29 Apr 2001 (JRO). This species has been recorded in three different falls. (1) Up to three from 2-30 Sep 2000 (JRO, JEP, BDN). (2) Up to two from 24 Aug to 21 Sep 2002 (JRO, CMR+). (3) One on 12 Sep 2003 (WFWi).

Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*): Casual fall visitor. Three records. (1) One seen on 4 and 14 Oct 2000 (WFWe, JRO, JEP) and photographed on the latter date. (2) Flock of approximately 80 flying east past the trap on 14 Sep 2002 (JRO, JEP, WFWi). (3) Two on 21 Sep 2002 (DAE, CMR).

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhchos*): Casual fall and winter visitor. Four records. (1) One on 5 Mar 1997 (PRS). (2) Two on 20 Oct 2002 (CMR). (3) Flock of 22 on 30 Oct 2002 (CMR). (4) One on 15 Oct 2006 (CMR, MOH). It is interesting to note that this species and all four jay species occurred in record or near record numbers during the fall of 2002.

Chihuahuan Raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*): Uncommon to fairly common in spring and fall. This species is possibly resident, but winter data are lacking. Counts of up to ten birds have been recorded. The relative statuses of this species and the Common Raven are not yet fully understood.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*): Rare to uncommon resident. The high count is four on 28 May 2006 (CMR). Nested at the trap in 2005 and 2006.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*): Rare fall migrant. This species could occur at the trap at any time of year, but I am aware of only approximately ten records extending from 15 Sep to 30 Oct. The high count is five on 18 Oct 2003 (JEP). This species is invariably detected flying over, and the tendency of birders to focus on passerines in the trees and brush rather than birds flying over probably makes this species appear rarer than it is.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*): Rare fall migrant. Two records. (1) Three on 24 Aug 2002 (JEP). (2) One on 11 Sep 2004 (JEP, WFWi). Most swallow species are probably under reported at the trap due both to the tendency of birders not to focus on flying birds, and to incomplete record keeping for “common” species.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*): Rare spring migrant. Three records. (1) One on 18 May 2002 (BDN). (2) One on 16 May 2003 (JEP). (3) One on 9 May 2004 (CMR). This species is quite rare on the eastern plains away from the immediate eastern edges of large mountain ranges (e.g. Sangre de Cristos, Guadalupe).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are five spring records extending from 26 Apr to 14 May, all involving one or two birds. The single fall record is of one on 30 Aug 2003 (JEP).

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*): Rare spring migrant. The single record is of one on 6 May 2006 (JEP).

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*): Rare spring migrant. I am aware of seven records ranging from 27 Apr to 29 May. All records involve one or two birds.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): Fairly common to common spring and fall migrant; may also summer locally. This is by far the most numerous and frequently seen swallow at the trap. Dates range from 10 Apr to 19 Oct. Counts of 5 to 10 birds are not unusual.

Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*): Rare sporadic fall visitor. It has been recorded in four different falls. (1) One from 15-21 Oct 1995 (JRO, JEP). (2) One from 12-27 Oct 1996 (JRO, JEP). (3) One from 7-20 Oct 2000 (JEP, JRO). (4) Up to four from 20-30 Oct 2004 (JRO, JEP, CGL, WFWi+). Occurrences of this montane species correlate with periodic fall influxes into the New Mexico lowlands.

Juniper Titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of one present 20-23 Sep 2000 (WFWe, JEP). This sedentary species is resident as nearby as the vicinity of Santa Rosa, *Guadalupe*.

Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*): Casual fall visitor. Two records. (1) One on 9 Nov 1996 (JRO). (2) One on 29 Sep 2000 (WHH). This is another sedentary species that is resident as nearby as Santa Rosa.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*): Sporadic visitor, rare in spring and uncommon in fall. I am aware of records from five different springs, with dates ranging from 3-21 May and a high count of two on 4-5 May 2005 (JRO). Fall dates range from 15 Aug to 28 Oct with a high of eight on 2-3 Oct 2004 (CMR, BDN, JEP). This species is recorded virtually every fall and is perhaps the most regularly occurring of the various montane species that appear at the trap.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*): Rare fall visitor, recorded in four different years. (1) One on 1 and 19 Aug 2001 (CMR, JRO). (2) One from 6-21 Sep 2002 (JRO, JEP, CMR+). (3) At least one from 2 Sep to 14 Oct 2004 (JEP, BDN+). (4) One on 15 Sep 2006 (JRO).

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*): Rare fall visitor. I am aware of five records from four different years, all of single birds, with dates extending from 5 Oct to 9 Nov.

Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of one seen on 27 Aug 2000 (JRO). This species is rare and local on the eastern plains north of *Eddy* and *Lea*. It favors extensive stands of cholla cactus, a habitat that is lacking at the trap.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 10 Apr to 28 May and all are of one or two birds. Fall dates range from 4 Sep to 21 Oct with a high count of three on two separate occasions. This is the second most commonly noted wren at the trap, after the House Wren.

Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*): Rare spring and fall visitor. I am aware of only eight records, though this may reflect incomplete record keeping. All records are of single birds. The three spring records are from 10 Apr 2003 (SOW), 25 Apr 1996 (JEP), and 8 May 2006 (WFWi). The five fall records extend from 5 Sep to 19 Oct.

House Wren (*Traglodytes aedon*): Fairly common to common spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Spring dates range from 20 Apr to 2 Jun with high counts of approximately 50 on 26 Apr 2003 (JRO, JEP, ALL) and 40 on 2 May 2003 (JRO). Only five to ten were present on 27 Apr 2003, so the two counts above represent two different concentrations of migrants. Fall dates range from 27 Aug to 24 Oct with a high count of ten on 13 Sep 1997 (JEP).

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): Casual spring migrant and rare fall migrant. The single spring record is of one bird on 9 May 2001 (WFWe), a late date for this species anywhere in the state. It has been recorded in fall in at

least six different years with dates ranging from 3 Oct to 1 Nov. The high count is four on 24 Oct 2005 (JRO); most records involve single birds.

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of one seen in brush along the eastern edge of the main grove of trees on 11 Sep 2004 (JEP, WFWi). The scarcity of this species no doubt reflects the lack of suitable habitat.

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*): Accidental. One was photographed perched on the cattle tank on 14 Oct 2000 (JEP, JRO). This species is extremely rare anywhere away from fast flowing rivers and streams with exposed rocks. The nearest resident populations are in the Sangre de Cristo and Sacramento mountains.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*): Rare fall visitor recorded in at least seven different falls, casual in spring. The fall dates range from 1 Oct to 2 Nov and all records involve one or two birds. The single spring record is of one on 14 Apr 2000 (SOW).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*): Uncommon spring migrant and common fall migrant. Spring records range from 10 Apr to 23 May with a high of five on several occasions from 28 Apr to 7 May. Fall records range from 8 Sep to 28 Oct with a high of 32 on 1 Oct 2005 (CMR). This is often one of the commonest birds at the trap in October. The lack of records between 28 Oct and 17 Apr probably reflects lack of coverage to some degree, and it is possible that this species sometimes winters at the trap in small numbers.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 11 Apr to 9 May with a high count of “about ten” on 20 Apr 2003 (JRO). Fall dates range from 1 Sep to 16 Oct with a high of five on 4 Sep 2005 (CMR, BDN).

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*): Rare late fall and winter visitor recorded at the trap in at least six different years. Dates range from 23 Oct to 13 Jan, including two November records and one December record. The high count is 12 on 7 Nov 1998 (JRO, JEP).

Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of one female or immature on 21 Oct 2006 (JRO, WFWi, JEP).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*): Rare fall visitor. Four records. (1) One on 20 Oct 2000 (JEP). (2) Up to eight from 12-26 Oct 2002 (JEP, CMR). (3) One on 9 Oct 2004 (JEP). (4) One on 30 Sep 2006 (JEP, WFWi).

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*): Rare to casual spring visitor and rare to uncommon fall visitor. There are approximately four spring records from 26 Apr to 9 May, with a high count of three on 5 May 2001 (JEP). This species is much more frequent in fall when it is recorded almost

every year. Fall dates range from 21 Sep to 11 Nov with a high count of two on several occasions.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*): Casual spring migrant. There are three documented records. (1) One seen on 3 Jun 2001, calls taped (JRO). (2) One seen on 10-11 May 2005 (SSA, JMB, written details). (3) One on 16 May 2006 (MJB, NDP, written details). The first record is awaiting review by the NMBRC and the latter two are currently under review. This species is casual anywhere in the state away from a few very local summering locations in the north central mountains.

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*): Casual spring migrant. There are three reports with substantial written documentation. (1) One on 27 May 2002 (WFWe). (2) One on 17 May 2004 (MAP). (3) One on 23 May 2004 (CLB). Review of these records by the NMBRC is in progress. There remains but a single New Mexico record supported by hard evidence: a specimen was obtained near Clayton, *Union* on 13 May 1971 (Hubbard 1978). Any report of a bird this rare and this difficult to identify requires at a minimum thorough written documentation to be considered part of the official record.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*): Uncommon spring migrant and rare fall migrant. Spring dates range from 1 May to 9 Jun with a high count of nine on 26 May 2003 (CMR). Apart from one exceptionally late report on 28 Oct 1995 (JRO), fall dates range from 3 Sep to 9 Oct and all involve single birds. This species needs to be identified with caution outside of May and early June.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*): Common spring migrant and fairly common to common fall migrant. Spring dates range from 17 Apr to 9 Jun. Exceptionally high counts include an estimated 100-200 on 26 Apr [not May, NMOSFN 42:29] 2003 (JRO, JEP) and 150 on 3 May 2003 (JRO); numbers were much lower on intervening dates. More typical high spring counts involve 10-20 birds. Fall dates range from 3 Sep to 7 Nov with a high count of 20 on 7 Oct 2005 (JEP).

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): Casual spring and fall migrant. There are ten records supported by photos and/or written details, with five each from spring and fall. (1) One photographed on 12 May 1998 (JRO, JEP). Probably the same bird was seen again on 17 May (DAE, BDN). (2) One photographed on 24 Oct 1998 (JEP, JRO). (3) One photographed on 29 Sep 2000 (WHH). (4) One from 27 May to 3 Jun 2001 (JEP, JRO). (5) One photographed on 6 Oct 2001 (JRO, DAE, BDN+). (6) One photographed 31 May to 9 Jun 2002 (JRO, JEP). (7) One on 8 Oct 2002 (WFWe). (8) One on 14-15 May 2005 (JEP, JRO+). (9) One on 22-23 Oct 2005 (CMR, JEP+). (10) One videotaped on 19-21 May 2006 (MJB, NDP, WFWi, JPB). The 1998

record was the first for *Roosevelt*. Since then, there have been more records of this species from the trap than from the rest of New Mexico! The remarkable number of records from the trap reflects more than heavy birding coverage. It also reflects the apparent fact that the trap is exactly the right size to produce records: large enough to attract Wood Thrushes and hold them for several days, but small enough that birders can find and usually relocate this furtive species. It is interesting to note that there are no records from nearby (and heavily birded) Boone's Draw. The species no doubt occurs there, but the forested area at Boone's Draw is evidently large enough that detection of a Wood Thrush by birders is much more difficult than at the Melrose Trap.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*): Rare to uncommon spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant with occasional larger concentrations. Spring dates range from 1 March (possibly wintering?) to 27 May with a high count of 20 on 26 Apr 2003 (JEP, JRO). The second highest spring count is of only three birds on 28 Apr 2001 (JEP). Fall dates range from 21 Sep to 7 Nov with a high count of 14 on 30 Oct 2002 (CMR).

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of a male photographed 3-8 Oct 2005 (JRO, DJC, WFWi, JEP+).

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 3 May to 7 Jun and fall dates from 14 Sep to 23 Oct. The high count is two on numerous occasions.

Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*): Fairly common to common spring migrant and summer resident and uncommon fall migrant. Dates range from 10 Apr to 18 Oct. The high count is ten on several occasions from early May to early June. There is also a single winter record: one bird on 2 Jan 1998 (JRO).

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*): Rare fall migrant. Four records. (1) One on 2 Oct 1993 (JEP, CLB). (2) One on 30 Sep 2000 (JEP). (3) One on 6 Sep 2004 (JEP). (4) One on 13 Oct 2006 (WFWi).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant and possibly a casual summer resident. Apart from unusually early (wintering?) records of single birds on 22 Feb 2000 (SOW) and 1 Mar 1997 (JRO, JEP, ELC+), spring dates range from 1-22 May. In addition, there is a record of a pair on 18 Jun 1999 (WHH) that may have summered at the trap. Apart from an exceptionally early record on 3 Aug 1997 (BDN), fall dates range from 30 Aug to 9 Nov, with the bulk of records from October. The high count is three on 7 Oct 2005 (JRO, JEP).

Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*): Rare visitor at all seasons, possibly an occasional resident. This species is a local resident on New Mexico's eastern plains, and birds apparently wander in and out of the trap

from the surrounding area. It has been recorded in January, April, May, August, September, October, and November. Two immature birds were seen with an adult during September and October 2005 (JRO), providing evidence of local nesting. In the fall of 2006, Starlings at the trap were heard giving excellent imitations of the “whit-whit” call of this species, so care should be taken in making identifications based solely on calls.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Fairly common to common breeding resident. High counts are typically in the range of 10-25 birds.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*): Rare fall migrant. I am aware of only five records from 14 Sep to 13 Oct, all of one or two birds heard flying over. However, the species is probably more numerous than this indicates because few birders at the trap focus on calling species overhead.

Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*): Rare fall migrant. There are at least six records with dates extending from 21 Sep to 21 Oct, and a high count of four on 20 Oct 2002 (CMR). All records are of birds detected vocally as they flew overhead. Records might become more frequent as more birders become familiar with the distinctive “squeet-squeet” call of this species.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*): Rare spring and fall migrant. I am aware of four spring records from 12-28 May and three fall records from 10 Sep to 16 Oct. Most records are of single birds; the high count is four on 15 May 2004 (BDN). Incomplete record keeping and reporting perhaps make this species seem rarer than it is.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Four records. (1) One photographed on 4 Oct 1998 (JRO). (2) One singing male on 14 May 2002 (WFWe). (3) One female on 11 May 2005 (JMB, CLB). (4) One presumably different female on 28 May 2005 (CMR, BDN, JRO, RLV).

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Four records. (1) One male photographed on 12 May 2000 (WHH). (2) One on 6 Sep 2001 (JRO). (3) One female photographed on 19 May 2002 (ELC, JRO, BDN, DAE). (4) One female on 13 May 2004 (JEP, BDP).

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Three records. (1) One on 7-8 Oct 1995 (JRO, ELC). (2) One photographed on 16 May 2004 (RLV, NDP, JRO+). (3) One on 30 Oct 2004 (JPB). An additional report on 3 May 1992 lacks documentation.

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*): Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 11 Apr to 26 May with a high count of 25-40 on 26 Apr 2003 (JRO, JEP, ALL). This count was exceptional; the second highest spring count is of five birds. Fall dates range from 20 Aug to

30 Oct with a high count of eight on 30 Sep 2006 (JEP, WFWi) and 3 Oct 2004 (BDN, CMR, DAE).

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 23 Apr to 3 Jun and fall dates from 2 Sep to 26 Oct. Records are almost equally divided between spring and fall. Most records involve single birds; the high count is three on 23 Apr 1995 (JRO).

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 24 Apr to 19 May and fall dates from 24 Aug to 7 Oct. Almost all records are of one or two birds. My own records suggest that this species occurs at the trap two to three times more frequently than Nashville Warbler.

Northern Parula (*Parula americana*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are at least ten records. These are nearly equally divided between spring and fall, though in New Mexico as a whole spring records predominate by a ratio of approximately three to one (Parmeter et al. 2002). Spring dates range from 17 Apr to 25 May and fall dates from 5 Sep to 7 Oct. Almost all records involve single birds; the high count is of two or three on 30 Apr 1995 (JRO).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*): Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 28 Apr to 28 May with a high count of 14 on 15 May 2005 (CMR). Fall dates range from 12 Aug to 4 Oct with a high count of ten on 6 Sep 2004 (JEP). This is one of the first warblers to appear on the eastern plains in fall migration.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are at least 13 records, of which eight are from spring and five from fall. Spring dates range from 6-20 May and fall dates from 2 Sep to 19 Oct. The only record not of a single bird is of two or three present on 15 May 2005 (CMR, JRO+).

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Eight records. (1) One on 18 May 1996 (JRO). (2) One male and one female on 19 May 2002 (DAE, BDN). (3) One probably different female photographed on 27 May 2002 (JEP, JRO, WFWe, WFWi). (4) One male on 2 Jun 2002 (BDN, DAE). (5) One photographed on 3 Oct 2003 (JRO). (6) One female on 25 May 2004 (JPB). (7) One female photographed on 2 Oct 2004 (JRO, JEP, WFWi, BDN+). (8) One female or immature on 28 May 2005 (JEP, JRO, RLV+).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*): Casual spring migrant and rare fall migrant. There are at least 15 records, all involving single birds. I am aware of only four spring records: one female on 16 May 1997 (JEP), one male on 5 May 2001 (ELC, JEP, ALL), one female on 19 May 2004 (PEL), and one on 15 May 2006 (JPB, WFWe). The fall records range from 15

Sep to 31 Oct with the majority being in October. Records are divided approximately equally between males and females.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*): Common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 18 Apr to 4 Jun, but the early cutoff probably reflects a lack of coverage in the first half of April. The high count is 20 on 9 May 2003 (JEP) and 6 May 2005 (JEP). Fall dates range from 2 Sep to 30 Oct, and in this case the late cutoff may reflect a lack of November coverage and/or incomplete record keeping. The high fall count is 25 on 9 Oct 2004 (JRO). Most birds are Audubon's Warblers, but Myrtle Warbler has been recorded in both spring and fall. More work is needed to determine the status of the latter form.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 20 Apr to 15 May and fall dates from 24 Aug to 5 Oct. This western species normally migrates west of the eastern plains. At the Melrose Trap, it is slightly rarer than a number of eastern warblers, e.g. Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*): Casual spring migrant and rare fall migrant. The single spring record is of one male on 10 May 2005 (JMB). There are at least 12 fall records with dates ranging from 16 Sep to 29 Oct. The great majority of records are from October and all involve one or two birds.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon to fairly common fall migrant. Spring dates range from 24 Apr to 27 May and all involve single birds. Fall dates range from 17 Aug to 30 Oct with high counts of ten on 14 Sep 1996 (JEP) and 17 Sep 2004 (JEP). My records suggest that the ratio of fall records to spring records is approximately eight to one.

Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*): Casual spring migrant. The single record is of a male photographed on 3 May 1991 (JMB).

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Seven records. (1) One photographed on 4 Oct 1998 (JRO). (2) One female photographed 11-19 May 2001 (JRO, JEP, DAE, BDN). (3) One female photographed 11 May 2002 (JEP, JRO, WFWi). (4) One male on 26 May 2003 (DAE, BDN, CMR). (5) One female on 15 May 2005 (JEP, JRO, BDP+). (6) One female on 23-25 May 2006 (GKF, DJC, JPB, NDP). (7) One immature female on 13 Oct 2006 (JEP, MJB, NDP, WFWi).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*): Casual spring migrant. The single record is of one on 15 May 2006 (MOH, JPB, WFWe, WAT).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*): Casual fall migrant. Two records. (1) One on 9 Oct 1999 (JEP, JRO). (2) One male on 7 Oct 2001 (BDN, DAE).

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*): Casual fall migrant, and probably also a casual spring migrant. One immature female photographed on 29 Oct 1995 (JRO) was the first definite New Mexico record. In addition, a bird probably of this species was heard singing repeatedly, but never seen, on 19 May 2001 (JRO).

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*): Casual spring migrant and rare fall migrant. There are two spring records: one on 5 May 2001 (ELC, JEP, ALL) and one videotaped on 9-10 May 2005 (BDP, JRO, JEP, WFWi). There are nine fall records ranging from 17 Sep to 19 Oct, all of single birds. Most and possibly all records appear to be of the western form (there have been no reports of the eastern form, though for some birds no attempt was made to identify the form).

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Five records. (1) One male photographed on 11 May 2002 (JRO, JEP, WFWi). (2) One female photographed on 18 May 2002 (WFWi, JRO, JEP). (3) One male on 4 Jun 2003 (CLB). (4) One female on 16 and 28 Sep 2003 (DJK, RDB). (5) One female videotaped 14-15 May 2005 (WFWi, JEP, JRO, BDP+).

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*): Casual migrant. Eight records. (1) One male on 11 May 1997 (BDN, DAE). (2) One female photographed on 17 May 1997 (JEP, JRO). (3) One male on 3 May 1998 (BDN, DAE). (4) One female on 19 May 2002 (JRO, DAE, BDN, ELC). (5) One male on 21 May 2005 (SSA, WFWi). (6) One on 20 Sep 2005 (JRO). (7) One on 9 Oct 2005 (CMR, MOH, RLV). (8) One male on 2 May 2006 (BRF, CLB, JMB, WFWe).

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilla varia*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 27 Apr to 4 Jun and fall dates from 30 Aug to 29 Oct. Most records are of single birds. High counts include an estimated five on 14 Sep 1996 (JRO), three on 1 May 1999 (JRO), and three on 18 Sep 1999 (JRO). In addition, an immature male was seen on 18 Jun and 23 Jul 1999 (WHH). These two sightings may represent one bird that summered at the trap, or two birds that were a very late spring migrant and a very early fall migrant.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 2 May to 4 Jun and fall dates from 26 Aug to 19 Oct. The high count is three on at least five different occasions in May, September, and October. Most records are of females and immatures.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of one photographed 8-10 Oct 2004 (NDP, MJB, RLV, JRO+). This species is a regular vagrant to New Mexico, but its favored riparian habitat is lacking at the trap.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*): Casual spring migrant. The single documented record is of one seen on 29 Apr and 4 May 2000 (G. McDermott, DAE). There are two additional spring reports that lack documentation.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*): Rare to uncommon spring migrant and rare fall migrant, with the ratio of spring records to fall records approximately two to one. Spring dates range from 27 Apr to 3 Jun and fall dates from 2 Sep to 22 Oct. All records are of one or two birds. The trap is probably the best place in New Mexico to see this species.

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 29 Apr to 10 Jun and fall dates from 24 Aug to 15 Sep. The ratio of spring records to fall records is approximately four to one. Almost all records are of single birds; the high count is three on 15 May 1999 (JRO). The trap lacks optimal habitat for this species, and perhaps as a result of this most birds are present only a single day.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Four spring records and one fall record. (1) One photographed 8-11 May 1996 (JMB, JRO, WFWe+). (2) One male photographed on 6 May 1999 (JRO, JEP). (3) One adult male on 17 Sep 2000 (NV, NDP). (4) One on 1 Jun 2001 (JRO). (5) One on 7 May 2006 (RLV, MOH, NDP+).

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphica*): Casual spring migrant. (1) One male on 7 May 1997 (JEP, JRO, record accepted by NMBRC). (2) One male photographed on 12 May 2001 (JEP, JRO, JDS). In addition, NMOSFN characterized as “possible” a report on 16 May 1998; a majority of NMBRC members considered the documentation for this record to be less than definitive. All reports of this very rare and difficult to identify species need to be carefully documented.

MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*): Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 24 Apr to 6 Jun and fall dates from 17 Aug to 16 Oct. High counts are ten on 12 May 2001 (JEP) and 12 May 2004 (JEP), and 15 on 3 Sep 2004 (JEP).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 30 Apr to 7 Jun with one exceptionally late record of a male on 23 Jun 2001 (JRO). The high count is three on 7 May 1997 (JEP). Fall dates range from 8 Sep to 13 Oct and all are of single birds.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*): Rare spring migrant and casual fall migrant. There are at least nine records. Apart from an exceptionally early male on 10 Apr 1998 (DAE), the dates range from 4-30 May. I am aware of only one fall record: one male photographed on 15 Sep 2004 (DJC).

Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*): Common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 14 Apr to 10 Jun with a high count of 20 on 28 Apr 2006 (JEP). Fall dates range from 17 Aug to 29 Oct with a high count of 40 on 17 Sep 2004 (JEP). This is one of the most common migrants at the trap, particularly during September.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*): Casual spring migrant. The single record is of one female seen on 9 Jun 1998 (CAM, record accepted by NMBRC). There are only ten records of this species for New Mexico.

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*): Accidental. One was photographed 8-10 May 2004 (JEP, BDP, JRO, WHH+). This is the only New Mexico record, and the only US record north of Corpus Christi, Texas. This record has been discussed in detail elsewhere (Howe and Parmeter 2004).

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*): Rare spring and fall migrant. All records are of single birds. The ratio of spring records to fall records is approximately two to one. Spring dates range from 1-31 May and fall dates from 9 Sep to 2 Oct.

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*): Rare spring and fall migrant. There are at least ten spring records with dates ranging from 28 Apr to 28 May. I am aware of five fall records with dates of 17 Sep to 7 Oct. The high count is two on three different occasions from 3-18 May.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant, slightly more frequent in spring. Spring dates range from 26 Apr to 18 May, with one exceptionally late record of a female on 10 Jun 2001 (JRO). Fall dates range from 12 Aug to 15 Oct. The report of one on 22-23 Oct 2005 (NAB 60:115) is an error; the observer reported a Scarlet Tanager. All records are of single birds except for two on 12 May 2004 (JEP, BDP).

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Five records. (1) One immature male photographed on 7 Oct 1995 (ELC, JRO, JEP). (2) One male on 25 May 1998 (GG+). (3) One male 7-10 May 2002 (PEM, WFWi, ALL). (4) One male on 17 Sep 2005 (JWS), with possibly the same bird seen again on 29 Sep (DJC). (5) One presumably different male videotaped 22-23 Oct 2005 (CMR, BDN, RLV, JRO+).

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): Fairly common to common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 28 Apr to 9 Jun with a high count of 20 on 9 May 2003 (JEP). Fall dates range from 12 Aug to 8 Oct with a high count of 17 on 3 Sep 2005 (CMR, BDN).

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 18 Apr to 17 May with a high count of five on 3 May 2002 (JEP). Fall dates range from 2 Sep to 8 Oct with a high count of three on multiple occasions.

Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant and at least an occasional winter visitor. Spring dates range from 18 Apr to 15 May with a high count of two on multiple occasions. Fall dates range from 20 Sep to 23 Oct with a high count of five on 14 Oct 2000 (JEP). There is also a record of two on 30 Dec 1996 (JEP).

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrrophthalmus*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Three records. (1) One male on 15 Oct 2004 (JEP, JRO, ALL). (2) One female photographed on 17 Oct 2004 (JRO, CMR+). (3) One female photographed 4-6 May 2006 (CGL, JEP, WFWi+). In addition, a probable female was observed on 27 May 1996 (JRO).

Canyon Towhee (*Pipilo fuscus*): Casual spring and fall visitor. (1) One from 1-8 Oct 2000 (JRO, JEP). (2) Two on 24 Mar 2001 (JEP), with one still present 28-29 Mar 2001 (WFWi). One of these birds may have been the same individual seen in October 2000. This sedentary foothill species has been recorded infrequently from other southeastern plains locations including Boone's Draw and Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassinii*): Fairly common summer resident. Dates range from 12 Apr to 22 Sep. This bird is usually detected from its song; birds summer throughout the surrounding plains but almost never enter the forested area of the trap. There are relatively few fall records, either because many of the birds have left by August or because they stop singing. The high count is ten on 24 May 2003 (JEP).

Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*): Casual spring and fall visitor. (1) One on 5 May 2001 (JEP). (2) One on 30 Sep 2002 (JRO, JLD). This species of rocky canyons and foothills with dense brush is normally sedentary. A few are resident as nearby as Sumner Dam.

American Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*): Casual fall visitor. The single record is of two on 9 Nov 1996 (JRO). This species winters regularly on New Mexico's northeastern plains as far south as Las Vegas, Conchas Lake, and Ute Lake.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*): Common spring and fall migrant, tending to be more numerous in fall, and at least an occasional winter resident. Spring dates range from 10 Apr to 31 May. The high count for spring is 30 on 9 May 2005 (JEP). Fall dates range from 15 Aug to 30 Oct with a high count of 50 on 30 Sep 2006 (JEP) and numerous other counts of 20-50 birds. The limited data for winter include ten birds on 30 Dec 1996 (JEP) and two on 11 Mar 2000 (JEP).

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Spring dates range from 30 Apr to 15 May with a high count of five on 30 Apr 1995 (JRO) and 6 May 2006 (JEP, BDP). Fall dates

range from 4 Sep to 22 Oct with a high count of seven on 15 Sep 2002 (CMR). This species is most numerous during September, when substantially larger numbers – e.g., 30 on 25 Sep 1993 (JEP) – have been noted at Boone’s Draw. The ratio of fall records to spring records is approximately two or three to one.

Brewer’s Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*): Rare spring and fall migrant. I am aware of approximately five spring records ranging from 19 Apr to 11 May and six fall records ranging from 8 Sep to 24 Oct. Most records are of single birds; the high counts are five on 11 May 2002 (JEP) and ten on 21 Oct 2006 (JRO, JEP).

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*): Rare migrant and winter visitor. Dates range from 30 Sep to 7 May. Most records involve one to three birds; the high counts are up to ten Dec 1996 to Feb 1997 (JRO, CMR+) and nine on 13 Feb 1998 (CMR). This species is at the western limit of its wintering range on New Mexico’s southeastern plains, where it is generally rare. The rate of sightings at the trap appears to have declined since about 2000, with most recent records being of single birds in October.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*): Rare to uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 20 Apr to 9 May and fall dates from 14 Sep to 9 Oct. Most records are of single birds.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*): Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 22 Apr to 4 Jun with a high count of seven on 27 May 2006 (CMR). Fall dates range from 1 Aug to 15 Sep; the high count is five on two different dates in early September. This species may also be present at the trap in summer, but data are lacking.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of one juvenile on 30 Aug 1997 (JEP, JRO).

Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*): Casual fall migrant. The single record is of one seen near the tank on 19 Oct 1997 (BDN).

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*): Rarely noted spring and fall migrant, but sometimes occurs in substantial numbers. I am aware of only seven records. Four are in spring with dates from 11 Mar to 9 May and a high count of 50 on 6 May 2005 (JEP), and three are in fall with dates of 10-15 Sep and a high count of five on 10 Sep 2005 (JEP). This species is a common migrant through New Mexico’s eastern plains and is often noted in large numbers in spring between Fort Sumner and the trap. The paucity of records from the trap probably reflects the tendency of birders to focus on the “forest” and ignore the surrounding plains.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*): Rare migrant. Remarkably, there appears to be only one record of this widespread and generally common species: one bird seen on 11 Mar 2000 (JEP). This is another species where the

paucity of records may reflect the tendency of birders to focus on the “forest”, and perhaps also incomplete record keeping. Nevertheless, this species appears to be genuinely rare at the trap for reasons that are not understood.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*): Rare late fall migrant and winter visitor. There are six records of single birds with dates from 12 Oct to 12 Feb; four of the records are from October. One on 12 Feb 2000 was photographed (JRO). All records are of red birds.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*): Uncommon fall migrant, rare winter visitor, and rare or casual spring migrant. Fall dates range from 4-28 Oct, with a high count of three on 28 Oct 2005 (JEP). Winter records include two on 30 Dec 1996 (JEP) and one on 1 Mar 1997 (JEP). I am aware of only two spring records: one on 10 Apr 2003 (SOW) and one very late bird on 3 Jun 2000 (JEP). This generally common species is usually found near water and hence the trap lacks optimal habitat.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Excluding two early March records that may pertain to wintering birds, spring dates range from 29 Apr to 1 Jun with a high count of four on 15 May 2005 (CMR). Fall dates range from 14 Sep to 24 Oct with a high count of four on 20 Sep 2003 (CMR). The species wintered at the trap in 1996-1997 when up to three were present 1 (CMR) and 22 Dec (JRO), 19 Jan (JRO), and 1 Mar (JRO).

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Three records. (1) One on 7 May 1997 (JRO). (2) One on 28 Oct 1999 (WHH). (3) One on 18 Oct 2006 (WFWi, DJC).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): Rare late fall migrant and winter visitor. There are six records with dates ranging from 7 Oct to 30 Dec; four of the records are from October. All records are of single birds except for two birds present 16-17 Oct 2004 (MJB, RLV, CMR+). It seems remarkable that there are no spring records.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*): Common migrant and winter visitor. Dates range from 14 Sep to 31 May. Counts up to several tens of birds are noted routinely.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*): Uncommon to occasionally common migrant and winter visitor. Dates range from 17 Sep to 3 May, with the species being seen most frequently in October. Examples of high counts include 25 on 30 Dec 1996 (JEP) and 30 on 14 Oct 2000 (JEP). The Pink-sided, Oregon, and Gray-headed forms are all noted somewhat regularly. The Slate-colored form has been noted at least once: a single bird on 30 Dec 1996 (JEP). The White-winged form has been noted once: a single bird on 13 Nov 2002 (WFWe).

McCown's Longspur (*Calcarius mccownii*): Rare late fall migrant. Four October records. (1) One on 16 Oct 1999 (JEP). (2) One on 19 Oct 2000 (JEP). (3) One on 20 Oct 2002 (CMR). (4) One on 22 Oct 2005 (CMR+). All birds have been detected calling as they flew overhead.

Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*): Uncommon fall migrant. Dates range from 7-24 Oct. The high count is 20 on 13 Oct 2006 (JEP). This species is also usually detected from its calls as it flies over.

Pyrrhuloxia (*Cardinalis sinuatus*): Rare migrant and winter visitor. Dates range from 30 Sep to 29 Apr. The high count is two on 17 Oct 1998 (CMR); all other records are of single birds. The Melrose Trap is near the northern limit of this bird's wintering range.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*): Uncommon spring migrant and casual fall migrant. Spring dates range from 26 Apr to 2 Jun with a high count of three on 18 May 2002 (JRO). I am aware of only three fall records: one male on 12 Aug 1995 (JRO), one immature male on 7 Oct 2001 (BDN, DAE), and one on 16 Sep 2004 (DJK). The trap is one of the best spots in the state to find this species.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): Fairly common spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Spring dates range from 28 Apr to 2 Jun with a high count of five on three different occasions in early May. Fall dates range from 12 Aug to 9 Oct with a high count of three on 2 Sep 2000 (JEP). My own records put the ratio of Black-headed to Rose-breasted records at approximately five to two overall, but only at approximately three to two in spring.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*): Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 27 Apr to 5 Jun with a high count of five on three different occasions in early to mid-May. Fall dates range from 1 Aug to 6 Oct with a high count of ten on 4 Sep 2005 (JEP).

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 26 Apr to 18 May with a high count of five on 7 May 2000 (JEP). Fall dates range from 12 Aug to 8 Oct with a high count of three on 8 Oct 2005 (CMR+). My own records are equally divided between spring and fall.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*): Rare spring migrant and rare to casual fall migrant. Spring dates range from 29 Apr to 26 May with a high count of two on 7 May 2000 (JEP). I am aware of only two fall records with dates of 4-8 Oct and a high count of two on 7 Oct 2005 (JEP). My own records suggest the ratio of Lazuli to Indigo records is approximately three to one.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*): Rare spring and fall migrant, with fall records outnumbering spring records by more than two to one. I am aware of

only four spring records ranging from 14-28 May, all of single birds. Fall records range from 15 Aug to 24 Sep with a high count of two on several occasions. Almost all records are of “green” birds, though an adult male was present on 20 Aug 2004 (WFWi, JEP).

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*): Casual spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. The two spring records are of single birds on 31 May 2004 (JEP+) and 28 May 2005 (JRO, JEP). Fall records range from 5 Aug to 9 Oct with a high count of five on 1 Sep 2003 (JRO). This species is often detected by its distinctive flight call before it is seen.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*): Casual spring migrant. The single record is of a singing male seen on 14 May 2002 (WFWe, WFWi).

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): Uncommon to rare but probably overlooked spring and fall migrant, most often detected flying overhead. Spring dates range from 12 Apr to 31 May with a high of ten on 30 Apr 2004 (JEP). Fall dates range from 6 Sep to 22 Oct with a high count of 35 on 15 Oct 2006 (CMR).

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*): Fairly common summer resident and perhaps a permanent resident but there are no mid-winter records. Dates range from 22 Feb to 16 Oct. This is by far the more commonly encountered meadowlark in spring and it is heard singing on almost all spring visits, though the high count is only five on 30 Apr 2004 (JEP). The species tends to be noted less frequently in fall, either because some birds leave or simply because they become less vocal. The high fall count is ten on 14 Oct 2005 (JEP).

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*): Uncommon visitor recorded mainly in fall and early spring. Many records involve singing birds, but I am unaware of any spring records later than 9 May, even though this species is a common summer resident at some locations within a few miles of the trap (SOW, pers. comm.). High counts include nine on 20 Oct 2002 (CMR) and about five on 7 Apr 2004 (SOW).

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*): Rare spring and fall migrant, most often noted flying overhead. Spring dates range from 14 Apr to 14 May and all involve one to two birds. Fall dates range from 2 Sep to 9 Oct with a high count of ten on 7 Oct 2000 (JEP).

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*): Rarely noted fall migrant, most often detected flying overhead. Dates range from 15 Sep to 23 Oct with a high count of 32 on 22 Oct 2005 (CMR). I am unaware of any spring records.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*): Fairly common spring and fall migrant, occasionally present in large numbers. Spring dates range from 10 Apr to 2 Jun with a high count of ten on multiple occasions. Fall dates range

from 8 Sep to 21 Oct. An exceptional high count was 200 on 20 Oct 2002 (CMR); otherwise, the high count for fall is 30 on 19 Oct 2001 (JEP).

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*): Uncommon spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 19 Apr to 2 Jun with a high count of ten on 30 Apr and 1 May 2004 (JEP). Fall dates range from 3 Sep to 22 Oct with a high count of 20 on 7 Oct 2005 (JEP).

Bronzed Cowbird (*Molothrus aeneus*): Casual spring migrant. The single record is of one female on 28 May 2005 (JEP, WFWi). This species appears to be increasing on the eastern plains, so future records are anticipated.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*): Uncommon spring migrant. Dates range from 28 Apr to 2 Jun with a high count of five on 3 May 2002 (JEP). I am aware of only one fall record: one on 1 Oct 2005 (CMR+).

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*): Rare spring and fall migrant. Spring dates range from 29 Apr to 10 Jun and all involve single birds. Fall dates range from 17 Aug to 7 Oct with a high count of six – an apparent family group – on 30 Aug 2003 (JRO). Almost all records are of females or immatures.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*): Common migrant and summer resident. Dates range from 17 Apr to 19 Sep. The high count is 20 on several occasions in mid-May, when this is one of the most conspicuous species at the trap. Numbers decrease through August and the high count for September is only three.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*): Casual spring and fall migrant. Four records. (1) One male photographed on 2 May 1998 (JRO). (2) One immature male photographed on 28 Apr 2002 (JRO, JEP, BDP+). (3) One immature male videotaped on 17 Sep 2004 (DJK, JEP, WFWi, JRO). (4) One immature male videotaped 3-10 Sep 2005 (SSA, BDN, CMR, JRO+).

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*): Casual spring migrant. The single record is of a male and female on 28 Apr 2002 (JRO, JEP+). The male was photographed and was still present on 4 May 2002 (JRO). Though a fairly common summer resident in lower foothill and pinyon-juniper habitats in much of New Mexico, this species is remarkably scarce on the southeastern plains.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassini*): Casual fall visitor. Three records. (1) One on 19 Oct 1996 (JEP). (2) An estimated five to ten on 1 Oct 2000 (JRO) with one still present 14 Oct 2000 (JEP). (3) One female on 18 Oct 2006 (WFWi, DJC).

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*): Rare spring and fall visitor. This species likely occurs from time to time at all seasons, but winter and mid-summer records are lacking. I am aware of only three spring records from 14 Apr to 26 May, and seven fall records from 15 Aug to 23 Oct. The high count

is four on 29 Sep 2000 (WHH). Although incomplete record keeping may make this species seem rarer than it is, it nevertheless appears to be genuinely scarce at the trap.

Pine Siskin (*Carduelis pinus*): Uncommon sporadic migrant and uncommon or rare winter visitor. Dates range from 3 Sep to 28 May, with a high count of 25 on 3 Oct 2004 (CMR). The single winter record is of one on 2 Jan 1998 (JEP), though this may reflect lack of coverage.

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant; possibly also a rare summer resident. Spring dates range from 12 Apr to 4 Jun, the last record involving several singing birds on 4 Jun 1996 (SOW). Fall dates range from 4 Sep to 7 Nov and all appear to involve only one or two individuals.

American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*): Rare spring migrant and uncommon fall migrant. Spring dates range from 7 May to 2 Jun and all appear to involve only one or two birds. Fall dates range from 21 Sep to 21 Oct with a high count of five on 14 Oct 2005 (JEP).

Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): Casual spring visitor. One adult was seen on one date sometime from 10-15 May 2001 (CLB).

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): Uncommon visitor at all seasons. The high count is 20 on 14 Oct 2000 (JEP).

HYPOTHETICAL LIST

Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii*): A small owl observed briefly on 4 Oct 2000 was believed to be this species. However, definitive marks were not seen and the observer now believes the bird could have been a Flammulated Owl. Future reports of Western Screech-Owl at the trap must also consider the possibility of Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*), recently added to the New Mexico state list based on the presence of a red morph bird in Portales from 18 Nov 2003 through at least Mar 2006 (Avery and Keller 2006).

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*): One was seen an estimated 0.5 mile east of the trap on 28 Apr 2003 (WHH). While the identification is undoubtedly correct, it is uncertain whether this bird was on the State Trust Land and thus within the geographic bounds of this checklist. This migratory species summers in prairie dog towns along US 60 within a few miles of the trap, and future records are certainly to be anticipated.

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*): Two experienced birders have observed birds that were considered to possibly be this species. (1) One bird giving a “pipping” call on 9 Jun 1998 (CAM). (2) One on 10 Jun 2003 (WHH).

There are no definite records of this species for New Mexico, though there are records from the eastern plains of Colorado (Andrews and Righter 1992). Given the extreme difficulty of distinguishing this species from Willow Flycatcher any future records need to be extremely well documented, probably with tape recordings of vocalizations.

Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*): Julian Avery heard what was possibly a Carolina Chickadee at the trap in late Apr or early May of 2004, but the bird was not seen. There is no definite record of this species for New Mexico. The nearest resident birds are in the Texas Panhandle (Seyffert 2001).

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): One was reportedly heard singing but not seen on 26 and 28 Apr 2002. This species is locally resident on New Mexico's eastern plains (e.g. Rattlesnake Springs, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari area) and has been recorded at Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner. Thus it would appear likely to occur at the trap at some point. Confusion with Pyrrhuloxia is possible when identification is based solely on vocalizations.

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