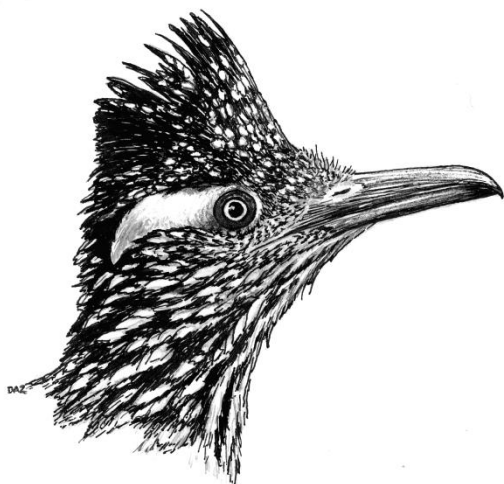


NMOS BULLETIN



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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer heat is upon us, swamp coolers are humming, and the air is full of bird song. That means BBS routes should be well underway or completed for many of us.

Our 51st NMOS Annual Meeting (27 April 2013 at Western New Mexico University in Silver City) was a great success. Many thanks go out to the organizers of the meeting, especially to past-President Roland Shook who masterminded the entire affair. Things went off without a hitch, as is usual when under the guidance of Roland. Friday night we listened to a thought-provoking presentation by Dr. Noel Snyder titled: *Endangered Species Conservation: Is Habitat Preservation the Central Issue?* Our Business meeting on Saturday morning was fairly well-attended, and members got caught up on what the Society has been doing for the past year. The Science Session, organized by Martha Desmond and Chuck Hayes, was filled with interesting presentations from around the state and was greatly enjoyed by all. Our evening banquet at the University was delicious, and we were all captivated by our keynote presentation by Dr. Dale Zimmerman who spoke on *Some Changes Over a Century in the Birdlife of Silver City, New Mexico*. We generated some extra funds for the Society through healthy merchandise and t-shirt sales, (many thanks to Lisa Walraven who donated the beautiful Olive Warbler artwork), as well as the limited edition Dale Zimmerman art prints and a Silent Auction. Thanks also go out to Larry Malone who organized and led a great Sunday morning fieldtrip to Cherry Creek Campground to locate some of the southwestern NM bird specialties. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and productive event. At this date, we can announce that the **52nd NMOS Annual Meeting will be at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn in Albuquerque on 26 April 2014**, so put the date on the calendar.

Many of you have heard some rumblings about our planned NMOS-sponsored trip to El Triunfo and central and southern Chiapas. The dates have been set for 20 March – 1 April 2014, and similar to the Cuba trip that we organized in 2012, I will be accepting “reservations” on a first come first served basis beginning at high noon on 1 August 2013. See more information regarding the trip in the announcement in this edition.

I wish you all a very safe and productive summer 2013. Make sure to get out and enjoy our wonderful state and our wonderful birds, and let’s hope for a wet monsoon season!

Dave Krueper
NMOS President

* * *

**ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRD SPECIES
RECORDED AT THE MELROSE MIGRANT TRAP
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO: 2007-2011**

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Abstract—This article summarizes 30 additions to the list of birds recorded at the Melrose Migrant Trap in northern Roosevelt County, New Mexico, from 2007 to 2011. The total list of species recorded at the trap through May 2013 now stands at 275.

INTRODUCTION

An annotated checklist of the birds of the Melrose Migrant Trap was published in the *NMOS Bulletin* in 2007 (Parmeter 2007), covering the 246 species known to have occurred at the trap from its discovery by birders in 1991 through 2006. This article summarizes records of an additional 30 species recorded at the trap through 2011, including one recorded in 2006 that had not surfaced when the annotated checklist was published. One new species for the trap, Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), while a first New Mexico record (Baumann et al. 2011), does not add another species to the trap list mathematically. This is because prior to the splitting of Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) into Eastern Whip-poor-will (*C. vociferus*) and Mexican Whip-poor-will (*C. arizonae*) by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in 2010 (AOU 2010), the unsplit Whip-poor-will was included on the trap list (Parmeter 2007). The net result is that the list of species recorded at the trap stands at 275 through 2011, which amounts to 51% of New Mexico's known avifauna of 538 species.

The Melrose Migrant Trap, also referred to as the North Roosevelt Trap (NRT), has been described in detail elsewhere (Parmeter 2007). It is a small (ca. 0.5 hectare) oasis of cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) and poplars (*Populus alba*) located ca. 200 m north of US Highway 60 at mile marker 354 in the arid plains of eastern New Mexico, about 16 km west of the town of Melrose (which is in Curry County). The site is on state trust land. The approximate latitude and longitude are 34° 26' 5" N and 103° 47' 55" W; the elevation is 1326 m. A metal cattle tank at the south end of the trap provides water year-round, but otherwise there is no aquatic habitat.

No attempt is made in this article to update the status of the 246 species covered in the previous annotated checklist. For the new species, I provide details on all records of which I am aware. Comments are made on records where this is felt to be useful, but for some - especially flyover waterbirds - none are provided. Reference is

sometimes made to records from other locations on New Mexico's eastern plains, especially to records from Boone's Draw, another important migrant trap which is also in Roosevelt County some 18 km southwest of Portales.

The first observer listed in parentheses following the date of each record is, to the best of my knowledge and recollection, the observer who found the bird. In many cases I list additional observers whom I know also saw and identified the bird. I also note those observers whom I know obtained photographs. The symbol "+" at the end of a list of observers indicates that others saw the bird in addition to those listed, since for some birds that are seen by numerous people listing all observers is not practical.

SPECIES ADDITIONS

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): One was seen in flight on 28 September 2009 (Rick Koehler), and details were provided to the author.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*): A flock of 12 flew past the trap on 25 September 2010 (Raymond A. VanBuskirk, Michael O. Hilchey).

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*): One female was seen in flight on 16 September 2007 (Nicholas D. Pederson).

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*): A female was flushed on an unknown date in fall 2010 (Jerry R. Oldenettel).

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*): Two flew past the trap on 6 August 2011 (Larry K. Malone).

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): One flew over on 21 May 2008 (Larry K. Malone). A flock of 12 flew over on 19 May 2010 (David J. Krueper).

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*): One flew over calling on 30 August 2008 (John E. Parmeter).

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*): One flushed from a puddle along the gravel entrance road on 13 and 15 May 2008 (John E. Parmeter, David J. Krueper). One was present 8 May 2009 (Andrew C. Fenner, Lawry A. Sager). One was seen on 1 May 2011 (Steve Collins).

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*): A flock of approximately ten flew over on 9 May 2009 (Jerry R. Oldenettel, David J. Krueper).

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*): One was present on 8 May 2010 (John E. Parmeter). This species is resident 16 km away in the town of Melrose.

Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*): One immature was present on 23 September 2007 (Nicholas D. Pederson, Cole J. Wolf, Matthew J. Baumann, William F. Wittman, photo Jerry R. Oldenettel). Another immature was present on 30 September 2011 (Matthew J. Baumann, John E. Parmeter, photo Jerry R. Oldenettel, photo Nicholas D. Pederson, John W. Shipman, Jonathan P. Batkin+). The 2007 record was the first for New Mexico since 1994. No more were found in the state until the fall of 2011, when a remarkable five were recorded on the southeastern plains from 28 September to 16 October. These records included the bird at the Melrose Trap, three

at Boone's Draw (Matthew J. Baumann, pers. comm.), and one at Hobbs, Lea County (Sartor O. Williams III, pers. comm.)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*): One was seen perched on the fence near the entrance gate on 11 May 2006 (James M. Black). This record did not come to light until after the annotated checklist was published in 2007.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*): There are now at least three fall and winter records for the trap, all of which are of day-roosting birds. The first was found on 20 October 2007 (Raymond A. VanBuskirk, William A. Talbot, Michael O. Hilchey+). The second was seen on 15 February 2010 (David L. Hawksworth). In fall 2010, singles - possibly the same individual - were present on 30 September (photo Jerry R. Oldenettel) and 10 October (photo Jerry R. Oldenettel, photo Matthew J. Baumann).

Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*): One was observed on 26 April 2009 (Christopher M. Rustay, Michael O. Hilchey), and Rustay provided the author with supporting details. The date alone suggests that this bird was a Lesser Nighthawk rather than a Common Nighthawk (*C. minor*), since the latter species is extremely rare in New Mexico prior to May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*): A day-roosting whip-poor-will discovered and photographed by Jerry R. Oldenettel on 8 October 2010 was later netted and measured in the hand, with feathers being collected for DNA analysis. The subsequent analysis confirmed that the bird was an Eastern Whip-poor-will (Baumann et al. 2011). This was and remains the only definite record of this newly split species for New Mexico. As noted by Parmeter (2007), three spring records of whip-poor-wills at the trap from 1995-2002 involved birds that could not be identified as either Eastern or Mexican whip-poor-wills, and there is currently no definite record of Mexican Whip-poor-will for the trap. Another whip-poor-will was photographed on 30 September 2011 (John E. Parmeter, Matthew J. Baumann, photos by Jerry R. Oldenettel and Nicholas D. Pederson). While that bird also could not be positively identified, it is perhaps noteworthy that it occurred on a day following strong overnight east winds that was marked at the trap by the appearance of multiple eastern vagrants, including the Black-billed Cuckoo noted above, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), a White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), a Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), and a Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*). Since there is currently no known way to distinguish non-singing Eastern Whip-poor-will and Mexican Whip-poor-will in the field, the status of the two species at the trap is likely to remain murky.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*): One was present 9-10 September 2010 (photo Jerry R. Oldenettel, Charles L. Black, photo Cole J. Wolf+). Another was present 4-9 September 2011 (John E. Parmeter, photo Jerry R. Oldenettel, William F. Wittman, Charles L. Black+). Both birds were extensively photographed at different angles so that all important features can be seen in the photos, including such fine points as the shape and color of the lower mandible, the shape and color of the eye ring, primary projection, and the spacing of the tips of the primaries. Both birds were

silent. Prior to 2010 there were only three New Mexico records of this species confirmed by photograph or specimen, possibly due in part to the difficulty of identifying vagrant *Empidonax* flycatchers. In September 2010 one was also found at Boone's Draw (Matthew J. Baumann, pers. comm.), and both that bird and the 2010 bird at the Melrose Trap have been reviewed and accepted by the New Mexico Bird Records Committee (NMBRC). In September 2011 five were netted at Boone's Draw, including a remarkable three on 4 September (Matthew J. Baumann, pers. comm.), the date of discovery of the 2011 bird at the Melrose Trap, and one was photographed at Milnesand, Roosevelt County on 24 September (Matthew J. Baumann).

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*): One was present on 4 October 2008 (Michael O. Hilchey+, photo Jerry R. Oldenettel). This species occurs irregularly in southwestern New Mexico in Hidalgo and Grant counties. The only other record from the state's eastern plains is of one photographed ca. eight km east of Moriarty in Torrance County on 11 September 1998 (pers. obs., photo by Jerry R. Oldenettel).

Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus couchii*): One was repeatedly heard calling and seen briefly by a single observer on 31 May 2008 (John E. Parmeter). The record has been reviewed and accepted by the NMBRC, though acceptance required three rounds of voting since there was some disagreement about whether the written descriptions of the calls were adequate to definitively rule out Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). Even if this record were treated as Couch's/Tropical Kingbird it would still represent a new species for the trap, there being no other trap record for this species pair. There are six well-documented New Mexico records of Couch's Kingbird from various locations, one well-documented Tropical Kingbird record from Dona Ana County, and six additional records of Couch's/Tropical Kingbirds.

Hutton's Vireo (*Vireo huttoni*): One was seen and heard calling on 27 April 2007 (John E. Parmeter, William F. Wittman, Raymond A. VanBuskirk). This species is resident in a number of mountain ranges in southern New Mexico with some seasonal elevational movement, but this appears to be the only record for the eastern plains.

Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*): One was discovered on 10 September 2010 (John E. Parmeter, William F. Wittman) and remained until 11 September, with photographs being obtained (Jerry R. Oldenettel, Cole J. Wolf). This montane species has little tendency to stray to the eastern plains, though there was one previous Roosevelt County record of a bird netted and photographed at Boone's Draw 8 September 1976 (Sartor O. Williams III, pers. comm.).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*): One was photographed on 25 September 2011 (Jerry R. Oldenettel). This species occurs annually in New Mexico west to the Rio Grande Valley in very small numbers, and given that the species has turned up at many less heavily birded locations on the eastern plains a record from the trap seemed long overdue.

Lucy's Warbler (*Oreothlypis luciae*): One was seen on 9 April 2011 (Sonia Santa Anna, Matthew O'Donnell), and Santa Anna provided written details to the author. This species is a locally fairly common breeder in southwestern New Mexico, but apart from

a small, recently established summering population at Rattlesnake Springs in Eddy County, it is quite rare on the eastern plains. There is at least one record from Boone's Draw on 13 May 1995 (pers. obs.). This species, the most recent of the five new warblers listed here, brings to 43 the number of species of *Parulidae* recorded at the trap.

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*): One was photographed on 3 April 2011 (Celestyn M. Brozek, photos by Nancy E. Hetrick). Another was seen on 29 August 2011 (Steve Collins). This latter record is currently under review by the NMBRC. There are fewer than 25 records of this species for New Mexico, and the Melrose Trap does not provide optimal habitat.

Red-faced Warbler (*Cardellina rubrifrons*): One was photographed on 20 August 2009 (Jerry R. Oldenettel). This species breeds locally in the mountains of southwestern New Mexico east to the Sacramentos, but is casual on the eastern plains.

Painted Redstart (*Myioborus pictus*): One was found on 17 April 2009 (Christopher M. Rustay, photo Mark L. Watson) and remained until 19 April (photo Jerry R. Oldenettel). This species breeds locally in the mountains of southwestern New Mexico but is casual on the eastern plains.

Fan-tailed Warbler (*Euthlypis lachrymosa*): One was present and photographed 18-19 May 2009 (Gary K. Froehlich+). A detailed article on this record has already been published (Froehlich and Parmeter 2010). This is the only New Mexico record of the species and the northernmost record of the species anywhere.

Black-chinned Sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*): One was present on 7 May 2011 (John E. Parmeter, Benjamin D. Parmeter, William F. Wittman, photo Jerry R. Oldenettel). This partially migratory species breeds in a number of mountain ranges in the southern two thirds of New Mexico including some, such as the Guadalupe Mountains, that border the eastern plains, but it shows little tendency to stray to the plains. The spring of 2011 was characterized by strong and persistent west winds which led to a number of species appearing at the Melrose Trap that do not normally migrate through the far eastern plains, e.g. several Scott's Orioles (*Icterus parisorum*). Two Black-chinned Sparrows were also recorded at Boone's Draw that spring (Matthew J. Baumann, pers. comm.).

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*): One was seen on 16 October 2010 (John E. Parmeter, Charles L. Black, William F. Wittman), and two were present on 22 October 2010 (John E. Parmeter, Jerry R. Oldenettel, William F. Wittman, A. Lane Leckman). This species summers locally on the plains in Roosevelt and Curry counties and migrates throughout the eastern plains, and records from the trap seemed long overdue.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*): One immature was present on 10 October 2010 (photo Matthew J. Baumann, Nicholas D. Pederson) and 14 October 2010 (photo Jerry R. Oldenettel). In 2011 at least one immature was present from 3-16 November (photo Jerry R. Oldenettel, Charles L. Black) and on 27 November (Christopher M. Rustay), and an adult was present on 16 November (photo Charles L. Black). This

species is an annual fall and winter visitor to New Mexico in very small numbers, with several being found in a typical year, and trap records seemed long overdue.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): One female was present at the trap from 15 May 2007 (Nicholas D. Pederson, photo Matthew J. Baumann) until at least 1 June 2007 (David J. Krueper). This species was treated as hypothetical on the previously published annotated checklist based on a bird that was reportedly heard singing but never seen. The nearest known resident birds are along the Pecos and Canadian rivers; the populations in northeastern New Mexico may be increasing (Sartor O. Williams III, pers. comm.).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank all of the observers cited above and all others who have reported and documented their observations at the Melrose Migrant Trap. Jerry R. Oldenettel especially deserves recognition for photographically documenting many birds at the trap over the past decade and a half. I am indebted to Sartor O. Williams III for providing various pieces of data and for reviewing the manuscript prior to its submission. Matthew J. Baumann also reviewed the manuscript and provided me with information on records from Boone's Draw. For responses to various inquiries I thank Jonathan P. Batkin, James M. Black, David J. Krueper, Jerry R. Oldenettel, and Christopher M. Rustay. I finally thank the members, past and current, of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee who were involved in the evaluation of many of the above records.

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NMOS FUNDRAISING TRIP TO EL TRIUNFO, CHIAPAS, MEXICO

We are pleased to announce that NMOS will be offering a two-week trip to Chiapas and to the spectacular El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve from March 20 – April 1, 2014. This field trip will concentrate on some of the most diverse and spectacular habitats that Chiapas has to offer. Participants will meet in the capital Tuxtla Gutierrez. We will explore the forests on the Atlantic Slope to search for the highly localized and endangered Nava's Wren, and then journey to spectacular Sumidero Canyon and San Cristobal for a wide variety of dry forest and higher elevation specialties such as Belted Flycatcher, Mountain Trogon and Pink-headed Warbler. Then it is on to Jaltenango where we will meet up with representatives from Pronatura Chiapas for the next leg of the trip. We will have our gear hauled to the rustic camp within El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve by mules and caballeros and so this 7 ½ mile hike will require only carrying a daypack with food and water so that we can bird the entire way. Once within the Reserve, all meals are cooked for us by cooks while we explore the trails with a skilled local guide. Our many targets will include Fulvous Owl, the outrageous Horned Guan, White-faced Quail-Dove, and the exquisite Resplendent Quetzal. Our exit will be by hiking portions of four days down the Pacific Slope of the mountains, with mules, caballeros and cooks carrying our gear and doing the cooking (we bring our own tents and sleeping bags). Here our primary target is the elusive and highly endemic Azure-rumped Tanager which can reliably be found on the Pacific Slope at mid-elevations. At the conclusion of the hike, we will be picked up and transported by van to Tapachula where the trip will conclude. In 2004, on a trip with a similar itinerary, we recorded well over 300 species including scores of endemics, 28 species of hummingbirds, both Solitary Eagle and Black Hawk-Eagle, and 5 species of motmot.

We are estimating that the total cost of the trip will be roughly \$3900, which includes a donation to NMOS. This total will cover the cost of van rental, gasoline, entrance fees to parks, hotels (shared rooms), guide fees, all meals, snacks and water, cost of entrance to the Reserve, cooks and mule transport by caballeros. This does NOT include airline costs or costs of items of a personal nature (participant responsibility). The trip will be limited to ten NMOS participants and two leaders (David MacKay – Solipaso Birding Tours) and Dave Krueper (NMOS President).

Reservations will begin to be accepted at noon Mountain Time on 1 August 2013. Trip will fill on a first-come first-served basis, with a waiting list maintained for those not making the first cut. Send an email indicating your interest to Dave Krueper (dkrueper@comcast.net) **on 1 August 2013 starting at noon.** Reservations will not be accepted prior to this date and time! The Cuba reservations filled in less than a day so be forewarned.

El Triunfo – Brief Itinerary:

- March 20 (Day 1). Tour participant flights to Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. Introductions and dinner at hotel.
- March 21 (Day 2). Atlantic Rainforest and the Nava's Wren type locality, and then to Laguna Belgica within the El Ocote Ecological Reserve.
- March 22 (Day 3). San Cristobal and vicinity and return to Tuxtla Gutierrez.
- March 23 (Day 4). El Sumidero and Sumidero Canyon, then drive to Jaltenango (de la Paz) birding along way.
- March 24 (Day 5). Jaltenango to Finca Prusia, then hike into the El Triunfo Biosphere (mules and caballeros will transport all equipment).
- March 25-27 (Days 6-8). El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve.
- March 28 (Day 9). El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, then hike down to Cañada Honda.
- March 29 (Day 10). Cañada Honda hiking to Limonár.
- March 30 (Day 11). Limonár then hiking to El Pavál.
- March 31 (Day 12). El Pavál hiking to Tres de Mayo, driving to Mapástepéc and then on to Tapachula.
- April 1 (Day 13). Return from Tapachula through Ciudad de México and back to Albuquerque.

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2013 NMOS RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

The New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2013 Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant and the 2013 NMOS Research Grant. Each will receive \$1000 to support their research on New Mexico birds.

RYAN BEAULIEU RESEARCH GRANT

David J. Griffin, New Mexico State University - Demography and seasonal movement patterns of Band-tailed Pigeons in New Mexico. The Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) is a migratory species that inhabits montane forests and woodlands, making it difficult to study in these remote locations. Additional information on population status, demography, and seasonal movements is needed to inform management and conservation. The objectives of this project are to (1) provide reliable demographic data through banding and use of PIT tags (Passive Integrated Transponders); and (2) provide seasonable movement data using geolocators. This is part of a long-term program and they have identified three capture/banding sites across New Mexico. The project will be initiated at a rural residential site located 7.2 km north of Silver City, New Mexico. Geolocator data will be analyzed to reconstruct Band-tailed Pigeon migration routes and estimate winter locations. PIT tag data will be used to estimate survival probability and capture location fidelity. The money from the Ryan Beaulieu Research Grant will fund the purchase of geolocators.

NMOS RESEARCH GRANT

Cole Wolf, University of New Mexico - The ecological significance of cryptic diversity in New Mexico Yellow-rumped Warblers (*Setophaga coronata*). Recent studies of the Yellow-rumped Warbler complex have looked at genetic and morphological variation across the geographic range of the complex. This has revealed three distinct subspecies that share only two deeply divergent mitochondrial DNA haplotype clades. Nothing is known about the distribution of these clades relative to microhabitat, elevation, and functional morphology. New Mexico is an ideal location for studying these questions because the contact zone between the two clades spans several isolated mountain ranges in central and northern New Mexico. The objectives of the study are to study the functional, ecological and historical significance of cryptic

mitochondrial DNA diversity in this species. As an example, one of the hypotheses proposed by Wolf is that warblers from the northern-distributed clade will be more tolerant of cold temperatures and will occur at higher elevations and on cooler northern-facing slopes in comparison with the southern-distributed clade. Yellow-rumped Warblers will be collected from seven mountain ranges in central and northern New Mexico, including sites on both north- and south-facing slopes. The money from the NMOS Research Grant will support field travel expenses.

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**NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2012**

Balance as of 12/31/11:	
Checking account balance	\$ 33,043.24
Petty cash	32.29
Total	\$ 33,075.53

Net Transactions from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12:	
Dues	1,780.00
NM Bird Finding Guide sales	1,240.00
NM Field Checklist sales	58.70
Annual meeting	239.59
Donations and deposits	3,708.78
Postage and shipping	-561.97
Miscellaneous	-317.46
Grants	-2,000.00
Printing	-2,792.67
Storage unit rent	-900.00
Interest	8.95
 Total Transactions	 \$-6,953.64

Total 2012 beginning balance plus transactions	\$26,121.89
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Balance as of 12/31/12:	
Checking account balance	8,750.83
Savings account balance	17,131.77
Petty cash balance	32.29
Undeposited checks	207.00
 12/31/12 balance	 \$26,121.89

Petty cash income and disbursements (\$0.00 and \$0.00) are included in the income and expense categories and above.

Net income from Cuba trip: \$4,200.00
Sales of Zimmerman prints: \$1,700.00

Date: 15 January 2013
Submitted by: Jerry R. Oldenettel, Treasurer

* * *

IN MEMORIUM: MARY ALICE ROOT

With sadness I would like to inform the membership of the passing of Mary Alice Root, one of our most stalwart and long-time members. On January 31, 2013 Mary Alice passed away peacefully in her sleep in Edina, Minnesota, surrounded by family members and loved ones. Her numerous contributions to NMOS and to the biological world in general, as well as her infectious energy for life affected many of us both personally and professionally.

Mary Alice Root joined NMOS in the mid-1970s when the organization was a little more than ten years old. She assisted with the planning and implementation of the NMOS Annual Meetings from 1982 through 2006. She also served as President of NMOS (1989 – 1992), and as Vice-President (1992 – 1996). Mary Alice was instrumental with numerous publication activities of the society, having served as the Editor of the NMOS Bulletin from 1990 – 2003. She also typed the entire text for the 1997 New Mexico Bird Finding Guide, all 352 pages of it! She remained involved in the sale and distribution of the bird finding guide for many years. Mary Alice represented NMOS at the Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge from 1992 – 2008 where she led field trips and gave lectures and presentations to hundreds of festival participants over the years. Mary Alice was also quite active at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. She played a key role in the funding and arrangement for the permanent exhibit of the giant fossil bird *Diatryma* (*Diatrymas gastronis*), first described from Eocene fossils found near Cuba, New Mexico.

Mary Alice will probably always be best known for her tremendous effort with the NMOS Field Notes avian database. From the beginning, when the idea to make the information in the NMOS Field Notes publication available to the public in a searchable database, Mary Alice had been instrumental in working with Natural Heritage New Mexico to develop the database and retrieval systems and to coordinate data entry. Since 2002, she entered thousands of avian records into this valuable resource, and continued to do this until moving to Minnesota for health reasons. To fully comprehend the depth and breadth of this effort, we urge you to visit <http://nhnm.unm.edu/partners/NMOS/> to see for yourself just how much work is involved. This searchable database is, and will continue to be, a valuable resource for New Mexican birders and researchers, as well as out of state birders and biologists interested in New Mexico's avian communities.

Dave Krueper
NMOS President

* * *

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Please take the opportunity now to pay your 2013 NMOS membership dues. To pay for membership, please download the membership form from our website (www.nmbirds.org), fill out, and mail to the following address, providing a check made out to "NMOS". Thank you!

New Mexico Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 3068
Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068

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NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

— *Founded 1962* —

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was organized to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership and Subscriptions: Membership in the New Mexico Ornithological Society is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Dues are: Regular Membership \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for the New Mexico Ornithological Society: Post Office Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3068.

NMOS BULLETIN

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The *Bulletin* is published quarterly; subscription is by membership in NMOS. The *Bulletin* serves two primary purposes: (1) to publish articles of scientific merit concerning the distribution, abundance, status, behavior, and ecology of the avifauna of New Mexico and its contiguous regions; and (2) to publish news and announcements deemed of interest to the New Mexico ornithological community.

NMOS members are encouraged to submit articles and news. Articles received are subject to review and editing. Published articles are noted in major abstracting services. Please submit articles in double-spaced electronic format, such as a Microsoft Word document, by e-mail to the Editor (see inside front cover). Refer to recent issues of the *Bulletin* for examples of style. News items may be submitted to the Editor by way of e-mail.

www.nmbirds.org

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