

The Burrowing Owl

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

June-July 1974

CALENDAR FOR JUNE AND JULY

Friday to Sunday June 7-9 Field trip with Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society to Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona, one of the best birding areas in the country. The star attraction is the Coppery-tailed Trogon, which breeds in the canyon. There are also a tremendous variety of other birds, since the road follows the creek through yucca and mesquite of the desert, into sycamore woods, and finally up into the evergreen forests of the upper mountain. The group will assemble each day at Idlewild campground the first of several Coronado National Forest campgrounds, meeting on Friday at noon and at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

To reach Cave Creek Canyon, go west out of Lordsburg on I-10 for 17 miles. Turn south on US-80 and drive 27 miles to turnoff for village of Portal (to the west). Drive through Portal and you will be in Cave Creek Canyon and in the national forest.

Thursday June 20 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building. Stuart Pimm will show slides and tell about a British ornithological expedition in which he participated, which led researchers to an oasis in the deserts of Afghanistan and then across northern India in to the snow-covered Himalayan Mountains.

Pimm is an Englishman and he has been at NMSU this year completing requirements for his doctorate. Some of us had a brief preview of his very interesting talk at the NMOS meeting in March, but he will show additional slides and go into more detail at this June meeting.

Sunday June 23 Another field trip with Sangre de Criso Audubon Society to Swains' Sueno in the Jemez Mountains. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of La Cueva Campground, just south of the intersection of State routes 4 and 126 in the Jemez. We will be guests of Marge and Robert Swain. Bring a noon lunch to enjoy under the pines as you watch the many birds and squirrels who visit the Swains.

Thursday July 18 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building. Watch newspaper announcements for the program.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual potluck dinner at St. Timothy's Church on May 16th was a great success, with good food and a fine program about Africa presented by members Marilyn and Martin Ruoss. Their pictures and Martin's narration were almost as good as a visit -- without the expense! Animals, people and countryside paraded before our eyes, with running commentary by Martin. Many thanks to the Ruosses for a most pleasant evening.

At the brief business meeting no one consented to be nominated from the floor and so the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was elected by acclamation. Officers for the 1974-75 year are:

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jacque Hohlfelder | President |
| Dot DeLollis | Vice-president |
| Helen Riddell | Recording Secretary |
| Pat Basham | Corresponding Secretary |
| Marian & Dan Washburn | Treasurer (s?) |

Esther Tuttle was in charge of arrangements for the supper and thanks are due to her and to Ethyl Ringer for the striking decoration of multi-colored birds perched in a "tree". Their efforts made the annual meeting a delight to the eye and the excellent cooks in the Chapter contributed to the gustatorial delight of the evening. Door prizes of bird feeders, bird seed and geranium plants added to the entertainment.

FINANCIAL REPORT

An annual financial report comprises the last sheet of the "Owl" this month. This will show you exactly what happens to the money which comes in each month to us from the National Office.

MONK PARAKEETS

The May issue of the national AUDUBON magazine has a beautifully illustrated article on the monk parakeet, which deserves special attention. Monk parakeets were imported from Argentina as caged birds but some have either escaped or been released. They adapt very readily to life in city parks and elsewhere and have been breeding successfully in New York City since 1969, in spite of sub-freezing winter temperatures. They have also escaped in other parts of the country, or have expanded their range, and we can expect to be seeing them in Albuquerque. One Audubon member, living in the residential area just east of Bataan Hospital, reported that she saw a pair of parrots (probably of this species) in the trees near her home for about three months last fall. However, their presence was not reported at the time and no pictures were taken, so the report cannot be substantiated. The only confirmed sighting in the state, so far, was made by Refuge Manager Gary Zahm at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge on May 13, 1973. Gary collected the bird as a specimen.

In spite of the parakeet name, they are rather large birds -- 11"-12" in length -- mostly chartreus green in color, with gray front of head and breast. If you see such a bird in the Albuquerque area, or elsewhere in the state, please phone Pat Basham, at 344-5042, or Dot DeLollis, at 299-5384, so that others interested can be notified.

MORE ABOUT WHOOPING CRANES

Since Whooping Cranes are the rarest of the rare species in our part of the world, it was thought that there might be some interest in them; therefore we continue the article cribbed from the Corpus Christi (Texas) Newsletter of the Audubon Society there.

"Strictly through long hours of observation from boat or blind, Blankinship has discovered the natural food preferences of whooping cranes. The old method of examining the crops of dead birds was obviated by the rarity of the species. He says the gourmet delight of whoopers is the blue crab. The birds pull off the legs and eat them first, then swallow the body whole, shell and all, after removing the claws, which they eat last. That sounds like pass-the-Alka-Seltzer-time to humans, but for whoopers, not nearly so tough to digest as their next gustatorial preference, unshelled clams.....Fiddler crabs and small shrimp are relished also. When high salinity makes crabs scarce, and clams and shrimp are hard to find, the birds will eat acorns, snakes, fruits of sea plants and some crops.

"Population fluctuations of the whoopers are hard to explain....Nesting failures are extremely high; only one chick may hatch out of as many as four eggs, and even then, only one of half-a-dozen chicks may survive to make the 2,500 mile flight south. But the loss each year seems to be in young, non-mating birds who disappear from the area where the mature birds nest. The area is so vast that it is not possible to keep track of all the birds. It is known, however, that each nine to eleven years there is a population drop of eight to twelve birds, followed by a period of small annual gains.

"The outlook for the cranes' survival into the future is cautiously optimistic and it is hoped that an increase in the number of birds can be made through several approaches, including better management practices and hatching of 'stolen' eggs.

THE BIRD ALERT

Just a reminder: The Albuquerque Audubon Bird Alert is alive and doing well. If you are not currently listed and would like to be, call either Pat Basham or Dot DeLollis at the phone numbers listed in the article on the Monk Parakeet. If you see something interesting and don't know what it is, call one of them; either will tell you whether it is something rare and will identify it for you if at all possible. This is open to all Audubon-ers, whether you attend the meetings or simply get the magazine.

FIELD TRIP TO WATER CANYON

Five people enjoyed the field trip to Water Canyon; three spent two nights there. The weather was glorious, the birding excellent. Prize was a Red-faced Warbler spotted by Jim Karo, and his list for the week-end totaled some 25.

One especially notable sighting was the Acorn Woodpecker who was "at home" in a limb of a walnut tree. When we rapped on the trunk of the tree, he poked out his clown face to inquire "Who's that knocking at my door?" He will probably star in future identification slide shows.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Monthly Journal 1973-1974

Compiled April 30, 1974

NOTE: The books are available and open for inspection at any regular meeting.

Date	INCOME			DISBURSEMENTS									NET	PETTY CASH	SAVINGS		CHECKING		TOTAL ASSETS
	Dues	Split	Sales	Programs	Delegate Expense	News-letter	Postage	Library	Legal	Affiliations	Supplies	Grants			Deposits	Balance	Deposits	Balance	
1973																			
April																		776.01	776.01
May	96.50	15.55	28.62										83.43				112.05	859.44	859.44
June					63.27		35.20				7.07	132.00	-237.54					621.90	621.90
July	357.00	2.90				4.26	80.00		26.06		8.75		240.83				359.90	862.73	862.73
Aug.						3.43			227.67				-231.10					631.63	631.63
Sept.	107.00												107.00				107.00	738.63	738.63
Oct.	150.50					3.69		58.65			5.25		82.91				150.50	821.54	821.54
Nov.								17.21				100.00	-117.21					704.33	704.33
Dec.	140.50	.36	10.00			14.82	28.00						88.04				140.86	792.37	792.37
1974																			
Jan.							16.60			25.00			-41.60		500.00	500.00		250.77	750.77
Feb.	200.50	2.15	25.00			18.14	8.00	1.45					150.06	2.15	20.05	520.05	200.50	378.63	900.83
Mar.	225.00	1.66	18.50				1.00				3.00	132.00	72.16	1.66	222.72	742.77	227.15	228.56	972.99
Apr.	170.50	.06				12.84	50.00						107.72	1.72	17.05	759.82	170.50	319.17	1,080.71
TOTAL	1,447.50	22.68	82.12		63.27	57.18	218.80	77.31	253.73	25.00	24.07	364.00	304.70	1.72	759.82	759.82	1,468.46	319.17	1,080.71

\$1,470.18

\$1,165.48

\$304.70

\$1.72

\$759.82

\$319.17

\$1,080.71