

# BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## CALENDAR FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1975

- SATURDAY** Field trip to Capulin Springs on the east side of the Sandias. Jim August 9 Karo will be trip leader. Meet in the parking lot of Western Skies Motel at 8:00 a.m. to arrange car pools. Capulin Springs has been a good area for hummingbirds, including the scarce Calliope, for other small birds like the Mountain Chickadee and the Pygmy Nuthatch, and also for larger songbirds.
- THURSDAY** Meeting of the Board of Directors at the home of Helen Riddell, Secretary, 3010 Gen. Stillwell NE. August 14
- THURSDAY** Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., August 21 in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. The program will be a beautiful color film, "It Began with Birds," depicting the history of the National Audubon Society. This will be a pleasant way to learn more about the founding and growth of National Audubon.
- SUNDAY** Field trip to Embudo Canyon, led by Darwin Miller. This time you won't August 24 have to get up at the crack of dawn! Meet in the parking lot of the shopping center at Menaul and Juan Tabo NE at 3:00 p.m. Darwin Miller will lead the group, and there are good things to be seen up there.
- SATURDAY** Field trip to Bosque del Apache. The goodies should be starting to Sept. 13 arrive at the Refuge, so it should be an interesting trip, with Ross Teuber as leader. (He can always find something good.) Meet at the parking lot in the area of the Post Office at Winrock Shopping Center at 7 a.m. Don't forget lunch -- and possibly a can of bug-repellant, if there has been a lot of rain there.
- THURSDAY** Meeting of the Board of Directors. Time, 7:30; place still to be Sept. 11 determined -- Board members will be contacted. Members are always welcome at Board meetings; just please give an officer a call to be sure there is a chair for you. Some homes are somewhat small.
- THURSDAY** Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18 in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. Ralph A. Fisher, Jr. of Bayard, N. M., will show slides of birds and wildflowers. Ralph is a great birder and photographer. In 1962 he embarked on a project of photographing every species of bird which could be seen in the southwest area of New Mexico. Three years ago he had just about achieved his goal and he showed his series of pictures at one of our meetings. This year's presentation will have completely different pictures of birds and wildflowers which he has photographed during the last few years.

### GUNS IN THE SANDIAS

At our July meeting, Sydney Reid, member of Audubon and also the New Mexico Mountain Club, brought to our attention that the State Game & Fish Dept. has issued a proclamation for a hunting season for mountain lions in the Sandia Mountains. Rifles will be allowed. A hunter must have a special permit for the hunt but the only restriction on the use of guns is that they must not be fired within 50 feet of a roadway and may be used only during the daylight hours. Dates set for the Sandia Mountain hunt are February 1st to May 15th, 1976 and hunting permits are already on sale.

Most of the Sandias is within the Cibola National Forest and under the control of the National Forest Service. A prime purpose of the Sandia District of the forest is to provide recreational opportunities for the people of Albuquerque. At various times during the hunt period it can be expected that skiers, showshoers, children sliding on innertubes, hikers, birders, sightseers and family picnic groups will be in the mountains. Pumas have never been a threat in the Sandias but ~~missed~~ bullets can travel great distances and human tragedy may result. The game animals within the forest are under the control of the State Game and Fish Dept., but it has been their policy before this proclamation to

permit hunting only with bows and arrows as a protection for the great number of people using the mountains.

The CNMAS members present at the July meeting voted to have letters of protest sent on behalf of the club to various authorities. Ms. Reid suggested that all concerned individuals might also write individual letters to Governor Apodaca; to the State Game & Fish Dept., State Capitol, Santa Fe, N. M. 87503; and to Wallace Lloyd, Sandia District Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service, 10308 Candelaria NE, Albuquerque 87112. While the Forest Service can have no say about hunting of pumas, they should have some authority to protect the people who are using the facilities which the Forest Service has provided or approved for public use.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On the June 14th field trip to Sandia Crest, 23 species of birds were seen. The Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was the most interesting bird seen and a life-lister for several of the 12 adults and 2 children in the group.

On July 12th, a search for Mountain Plover was successful on mesa land off NM-22, east of I-25, with about 12 birds of this species being counted. This also was a life-lister for most of the 7 birders who participated. About 20 other species were also seen along the route.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jacque Hohlfelder presented a program at Eldorado High School in June. Craig Andrews and Dan Washburn presented a program at the *Detention Home*. Jim Karo has given a talk to the Museum Association of Albuquerque and will lead a birding trip for that group to Capulin Springs.

#### HUMMINGBIRDS AND FRIEND

Mrs. Esther Clark, "The Hummingbird Lady", has been in poor health lately and is now moving to Oregon to live with her daughter. She will be greatly missed by the community, by our Audubon Chapter, by "Action Line" and by the hummingbirds. With no formal education in ornithology, she became an authority on hummingbirds through reading every source she could find and through her own experiments. She is a gracious, generous lady and this corner of the world has beaten a path to her door. UNM students of ornithology have come to her for assistance. She has been a resource person for both the Journal and the Tribune. She has spoken to a CNMAS meeting and allowed us, as well as other groups, to visit in her home and to bird on her farm. We hope Mrs. Clarke's health will improve in Oregon and that she will be able to enjoy the Allen's and Anna's hummingbirds as well as other species familiar to New Mexicans.

#### CLUB PATCH

Pat Basham, artist-member of CNMAS who recently moved to Socorro, was asked to design a shoulder patch for CNMAS and submitted several designs. The Board has selected the design showing a white heron on a red and yellow New Mexico sun symbol, against a turquoise blue background. These patches will be 3" across and will be made up and available for sale within a few weeks.

#### NATURE GUIDE

Currently available for \$1 through Mary Alice Root, CNMAS Librarian, are copies of the 1975-76 "Operation Nature Guide", published by the Tahoma Audubon Society of Washington state. The Guide lists members and friends of Audubon societies throughout the country who are willing to assist visiting birders and others interested in various phases of nature. Several of our members have contacted people listed in the Guide when traveling in other parts of the country -- and several of our members have been contacted for assistance by visitors to the Southwest. These have been rewarding experiences for all concerned. If you will be traveling within the United States and have time for birding, you would be wise to carry along one of these guide books.

#### TELEPHONE BIRD ALERT

Mrs. Dorothy Calvert has graciously agreed to look into the possibility of establishing a tape-recorded telephone bird alert relating what to look for and where in the Albuquerque vicinity as well as whether something of the kind might be worked out in conjunction with other chapters in the state and covering all of New Mexico. This is still in the "Wonder if we could ----?" stage, We never know till we try!

DEPARTMENT OF "WOULD YOU BELIEVE --?"

On two separate occasions I have observed what I believe to be rather unusual animal behavior. This happened in the field below my mobile home space, located at University Village, just south of the UNM Stadium.

Around the last of May or first of June, I observed a pair of Scaled Quail just across the field. With them was a very young Jack Rabbit. The behavior of the bunny was such that it appeared it was trying to join the Quail family; that perhaps it was lost from its own family.

I thought no more about the incident until around the first of July, when I figured there would be some young Quail showing up. The Scaled Quail can be seen and heard daily in this field and sometimes they come into our yards. On July 3, about 5:40 p.m. I was looking for the quail. I spotted one parent and nine immatures, gathered in the shade of a large section of concrete pipe, 24" by 6' long, about two-thirds of the way across the field from where I stood and in an open area. As I counted the quail I noticed a young rabbit with them. The behavior of the quail indicated they were on friendly terms with the rabbit, and I thought it could possibly be the one I had seen earlier.

The rabbit would run through the pipe and come up behind one of the quail. Then as though he had said "Boo!", the quail would jump and the rabbit would repeat the performance. This went on for 15 or 20 minutes, until the cock called from farther down the field and the hen took off with her brood. The rabbit remained near the pipe, not following the quail.

A priceless experience, to say the least!

-- Rita Gray Nicklas, CNMAS Member

NOTE: Anyone wishing to write up a bird experience such as this would be welcomed with open arms by the Editor. Our thanks to Rita for her contribution.

THANKS TO THE BLM

It is not often we feel gratitude to the BLM for something they do, but recently we had occasion to be grateful -- for something they didn't do.

Prince Pierce, CNMAS member, called on Board meeting night in June to ask for backing from the Chapter in his fight to prevent the burning-off of a rare -- in fact, a brand new -- species of cactus which had only just been discovered in Northern New Mexico, one which was so new that it had never been described in botanical literature. It was in danger of being included in a burning-off project to be undertaken by the BLM, in an effort to improve grazing.

The cactus, Prince told us, was a particularly beautiful one, with heavy, colored spines and beautiful purple-red blossoms.

To make a long story short, Prince was able to reach the proper "brass" in the hierarchy of the BLM, who assured him that the cactus would not be destroyed and asked only that someone be present to show the workers what to stay away from. They kept their word, and this valuable addition to the world's botanical knowledge has been preserved -- without any great action by any one group. Perhaps the BLM does hve a heart after all!

There are only a few of these cactus, and collectors are legion, so the exact location is not being revealed for the sake of preservation.

MATTHEW MEADOW

Matthew Meadow would be one of the best places in Albuquerque to go and observe Nature, according to Darwin Miller, who inspected it not long ago and has pronounced it worthy of support by CNMAS as a City Nature Park. It offers much to birders and even more as a city-owned park. He suggested that CNMAS members might like to visit it, and perhaps the Chapter would wish to urge the city to buy it before it is cut up by a developer.

To reach it, go west on Menaul to 12th Street, turn north to the ditch. The street just after crossing is Matthew Street. The Meadows is the area between the 1200 and the 2100 blocks on Matthew.

If you plan to visit, it might be well to contact Mrs. Palmyer Anderson at 247-3589, who is in the forefront of the fight to save the Meadow, to make sure that you are in the right place and will be welcome in the area. This is, according to her, a haven for migrating birds.

GLEANINGS FROM THE AUDUBON LEADER

The President has signed an amendment to the Executive Order on Predator Poisons which for one year would permit the experimental use of sodium cyanide on public lands in the M-44 (coyote-getter) device and in "toxic collars", but only by federal agents and not by ranchers. After listening to both sides, the President firmly resisted the pressure from wool growers and their advocates in Congress to permit the use of toxicants which have secondary effects such as 1080 and strychnine. Sodium cyanide does not have "secondary effects".

Ford's plan for predator control also includes a very substantial increase in appropriations to enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to add to its staff a considerable number of professional biologists to experiment with the toxic collar which is hoped will be a completely selective approach. The amended Executive Order adds language intended to give the public interest increased weight and to give better protection to wildlife even in "emergency" situations.

Audubon remains firmly opposed to the use of the M-44 by anyone other than trained biologists.

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The Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution rejected a proposal to delay 1978 Clean Air Act statutory standards for hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide auto emissions until 1982 and to weaken the 0.4 nitrogen oxide standards. Both the Senate and House Subcommittees considering the Clean Air Act amendments are working to get the legislation reported to the full committees before the August 1 - Sept. 1 recess.

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There have been major gains on the conservationist fight to stop transfer of three game ranges in the West to the Bureau of Land Management. H.R. 5512, the bill to place jurisdiction for the ranges with the Fish and Wildlife Service, is waiting for a rule to be sent to the House floor. The House Appropriations Committee has asked for a delay pending action on the transfer issue. Meanwhile, a U.S. District Court has placed a temporary restraining order on BLM.

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A system of new protective measures for a selective moratorium, designed to keep all species of whales safely above endangered levels, was adopted by the required three-fourths majority June 27 at the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting in Lond. Japan and the USSR, however, can repudiate any of the new measures within 90 days.

Japan and the USSR, whose whaling fleets account for about 80% of all whales killed each year, opposed most of the new protective measures at the IWC meeting and sought more liberal compromises. Conservationists agree that during the next three months it is important to keep pressure on those whaling nations to make sure they don't repudiate any of the new measures.

Citizen pressure from conservationist and other groups worldwide strongly influenced the IWC's decision. If Japan and Russia do not repudiate the new measures, a suspension of the economic boycott seems possible on the part of most of the organizations endorsing the boycott.

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DAFFYNITION: Atmospheric pollution: When your air has turned to sulphur.

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