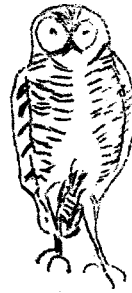


BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, Albuquerque, New Mexico February-March, 1976

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

- Sat.-Sun. FIELD TRIP to Elephant Butte Marsh, Chuck Hundertmark leader. Sunday
Feb. 6-7 trip optional. The marsh at the end of Elephant Butte Lake will be explored and the phreatophyte clearing inspected. Camping is possible and motels are available in Truth or Consequences. Meet at 6:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Physics/Astronomy Building of UNM, Lomas and Yale NE.
- Thursday BOARD MEETING at the Dan Washburns', 504 Princeton SE, Apt. 3. There
February 5 is a good-sized agenda, so all Board members are urged to be on time and business matters will be disposed of as expeditiously as possible in order not to make a late return home.
- Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY. 7:30 p.m.
February 12 at the Physics/Astronomy Building, UNM, Lomas and Yale NE. The speaker will be Jack Schaefer, famous author, who has had articles appearing in AUDUBON Magazine ("Interview with a Shrew") and will have more. He did not carve his career in nature writing, but has turned to it recently. More about him in this issue.
- Sat.-Sun. ANNUAL MEETING of the NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY in Portales.
March 6-7 On Sunday morning, following the all-day meeting on Saturday, it is planned to go out to try to find Prairie Chickens. They probably will not be booming; it is too early for that, but it is hoped to find a few of them and possibly some of their "lecks".
- Wednesday AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES PRESENTATION -- "OUR PACIFIC SHORES", with
March 10 Norm Wakeman. Norm has been in Albuquerque on the Series before this and will be replacing the late John Bulger, who was scheduled for that date on "Wild Scandinavia". Audubon Film audiences will be sorry to learn of Mr. Bulger's untimely death in an automobile accident recently.
In the film this month Mr. Wakeman will take us from San Francisco to Scammon's Lagoon, in Baja California, showing us flora, and fauna of the land and sea -- seals, sea lions, sea otters and whales on the southern part of the West Coast. Tickets are available by calling 266-3078, evenings, or 255-2640.
- Saturday FIELD TRIP to Shady and Indian Lakes, led by Mary Lou Arthur. Those
March 13 who visited the lakes on the last field trip reported a very good time and Mary Lou is an excellent leader. This is a close-by trip, being between Albuquerque and Bernalillo on Highway 85.
Meet at 6:45 a.m. in the parking lot of the old Gulf Mart shopping Center on San Mateo NE,
- Thursday BOARD MEETING, 7:30 at the home of Craig and Alice Andrews, 3416
March 11 Sierra NE.
All members are welcome to attend any Board meeting, but sometimes it is well to call the host before attending, since it may be necessary to bring a chair!
- Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m.
March 18 in the Physics/Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE.
The speaker will be Dr. Rod Drewien, of the University of Idaho Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, who has closely monitored the hatching and rearing of the Whooping Cranes now at and in the vicinity of Boseque del Apache NWR. He came south with the birds and will remain with them during their first winter and return flight. This will be a chance to get the "inside dope" on Whooping Cranes, how they live, how they are protected, and what may happen when they mature. Don't miss the chance!
- Saturday FIELD TRIP to Trigo Canyon in the Manzano Mountains, Darwin Miller
March 27 leading. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church. (The parking lot is at Copper and Oak.) Those who attended this field trip last year reported it was an extra-special treat, so let's hope for good weather and have a good turn-out.

The Calendar, continued:

Thursday AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM, "THE BAHAMAS - TOP TO BOTTOM" with Harry
April 1 Pederson. First we tour the Islands, then we plunge into the crystal-
(No foolin') clear waters to view the undersea life. Octopuses (--pi?), crabs,
lobsters and sinister barracudas -- all parade before the peering eye of the camera
as we go diving without getting wet.

Thursday REGULAR MEETING, CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 P.M., in
April 15 the Physics/Astronomy Building, UNM, Lomas and Yale NE. Two natural-
ists from Utah will tell about the various projects on which they
are working. More about this in the next issue of the Owl.

AND DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY 20, 6:30 p.m. the
ANNUAL MEETING at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jef-
ferson, NE.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORTS

Once again the Annual Christmas Bird Count has come and gone. New Mexico will not have the largest count in the country, but it will have the only list outside the Texas Gulf Coast that lists the Whooping Crane!

The first of three counts covered the Sandia Mountains, under the leadership of Ross Teuber. Seventeen hardy observers took to the field early in the chill dawn at the turnoff for Sandia Crest, and one observer watched a feeder for city-type birds. In the course of the day they carded 42 species, 2 races and one form. A yellow-shafted Flicker was one of the outstanding finds, along with a Williamson's Sapsucker, Sage Thrasher (Sage on Sandia Crest?), Slate-colored Junco and Song Sparrow. They also saw 13 Townsend's Solitaires, 610 Pinon Jays, 9 873 Darkeyed (Oregon) Juncos and 1650 Robins.

(It is said that a non-birder who noticed what they were doing, upon being told they had seen 1650 Robins, asked how they knew how many there were. Anxious to be of assistance and perhaps interest another in his hobby, Ross told his questioner, "Oh, that's easy ... you just count the legs and divide by two!")

Chuck Hundertmark captained 18 counters, who had the temerity and hard-core birding instinct to gather at Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge at 7 a.m. in the just-breaking dawn. He reported that many of the regulars which nearly always appear on the Counts were missing this year -- it was a cold, cold, windy day, which kept small birds pinned down -- and the Count was smaller than usual. In spite of the weather, 82 species were checked in, with the chief goody being, naturally, the two immature Whooping Cranes. One Merlin (Pigeon Hawk) was spotted; a Pyrrhuloxia, a possible Redheaded Woodpecker and two Hermit Thrushes were some of the other goodies noted. When the Sandhill Cranes and two Whoopers had flown over and tucked themselves into the roost for the night, a tired group of watchers wended its way back to Albuquerque, pretty well satisfied with the success of the day.

Dr. Alan Engberg, leader of the Albuquerque Count, reports that this year's Count was the best yet, with the most observers and the largest list. (They tend to go together.) 19 people met in the 8-degree cold of a Saturday morning and were dispersed to various areas of the Valley for the morning. Probably because of the cold, the list was not as large as it might have been, although the total was 68. Goodies seen were Marsh Wren, Rock Wren, Sage Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Redhead, Gadwall and Mallard ducks, Common Merganser. No owls were seen this year, which is unusual.

The Albuquerque Count will be needing a new leader next year. If you think you could help out in this important contribution to science, please contact Ross Teuber, who will pass on the word to the next Count Chairman.

Many people wonder why the Christmas Bird Counts and how they got started. It all began in 1900, when Frank M. Chapman, an ornithologist and editor for Audubon, suggested an alternative to the practice of holding bird-shooting competitions on Christmas Day. Twenty-seven persons responded that year. Last year --75 years later -- about 27,000 people turned out all over Canada, the U. S. (including Hawaii), Central America and the Carribean. They observed and counted nearly 80 million individual birds, representing at least 1,000 species.

We are indebted to the December edition of Women's Day for this information, which was compiled for them by Robert Habib, editor of American Birds.

ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Our Program Chairman has done it again. For this month our speaker will be Mr. Jack Schaefer, journalist, novelist and nature writer.

Born in Ohio, Mr. Schaefer became a newspaperman on the East Coast and achieved the ideal of every writer, wrote a book which became a best-seller and eventually a movie. He has heard so much about that book that it shall nameless be in our pages; he's sick of it.

In 1954 he showed the utmost good sense in moving West and settled in New Mexico, residing near Cerrillos, then in Santa Fe and finally in Albuquerque, where he lives in the North Valley. He wrote many books about the West, both fiction and fact.

Tiring of writing about people and deciding that we are all "bad guys" regarding what we are doing to our environment, he became a nature writer and has just published "An American Bestiary", for which, we presume, he received an award for distinguished achievement from the Western Literary Association last year. AUDUBON Magazine has acquired rights to four articles which he has written, the first of which appeared recently, "Interview with a Shrew".

An environmentalist and conservationist, Mr. Schaefer will be welcomed at the February meeting.

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A NEW BOOK FOR THE LIBRARY

Thanks to four people who joined our membership recently, the Chapter library will soon contain a copy of the AUDUBON ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN BIRDS. No one person sent in three new memberships, so it was decided to put the book into the library. Mary Alice Root, our Librarian, will announce arrival of the handbook, and let you know when it is available. The line will form to the right for borrowing the book!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Step right out to the kitchen now (or to the desk) and put a big fat circle around May 20 (the third Thursday in May). That's the date of the Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper. Mary Lou Arthur has graciously consented to act as Chairman for the supper. When she asks for your help, will you do what you can?

Business will be kept to a minimum, though the election of officers must take place this month. With cooks like we have in the CNMAS, the occasion will be a real feast.

Those who attended two years ago will remember the fascinating narrative produced by Marilyn and Martin Ruoss of their trip to Africa. This time they will tell about their year spent in Laos. This time the trip wasn't just for fun, but we are sure there was some birding on the agenda, besides exploring a new environment. It promises to be a memorable evening, so plan to be there.

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MEXICO BIRD COUNT

Owen Van Buskirk reports in a note to the editor that he, his wife, daughter and parents from New York spent two weeks at Christmas in San Blas, Mexico and participated in the Christmas Bird Count there. He was group leader for one of several groups, with assignment to some "scrub grassland, mangrove edges and the banks of an estuary."

The total count for the day, he says, was 250 species! He believes this will put San Blas in second place for the Christmas Count, exceeded only by Catemaco, where they found 294 species last year.

Thanks, Owen, for sharing this with us.

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LETTER WRITING

Most of us aren't wild about writing letters, though we like to receive mail. Moreover, the price of stamps is something else. However, in this day when it is important to let our representatives in government know how we feel about important issues, letters are the best way to communicate our concern and interest. Here are a few pointers that might help to make our letters of concern more effective. They are borrowed from "THE SANDPIPER", publication of the Great South Bay Audubon Society in Islip, Long Island. It is such a clear, concise presentation that it needs no embroidery or change. Our thanks to the editor of the SANDPIPER.

First of all, you should write. Letters and telegrams to members of Congress and other government agencies DO have an effect. Your letters help shape any future stand our government representatives may take on an issue. These persons need to know that their position is justified by the sentiment of constituents. Very often they want to do what is right environmentally, but do not hear from environmentally concerned constituents.

With this in mind, remember the following points:

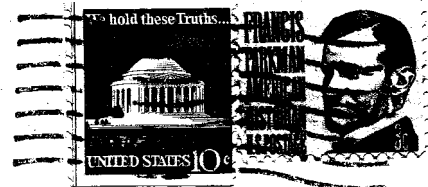
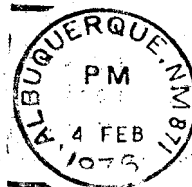
- 1) Be brief -- never more than one side of a typewritten page.
- 2) State what you are writing about clearly - use the number of the bill.
- 3) State what you want the representative to do - but be reasonable.
- 4) State why you want him to do it.
- 5) State what effect the action will have on you, your community and the environment -- be accurate with your facts.
- 6) State who you are and why you are concerned.
- 7) Do not threaten him with the loss of your vote - this seldom impresses him.
- 8) Thank him for his help. (This is particularly important; he gets more brickbats than he does bouquets. Ed.)

Individually signed letters have a far greater impact than a multitude of signatures on a petition. When time is short before a vote, telegrams are necessary. Western Union offers PUBLIC OPINION TELEGRAMS to elected officials only, at \$2.00 for 15 words. Call 800-325-5400 in Albuquerque; consult your local directory elsewhere.

*Tues. Nov 7 in
Sat & Sun 1-5
10-5*

*Museum of Albu.
Ira Grant
Exhibit -
Audubon Prints
from the Anna Carter
Museum -
Horn June 20
15 projects from
Birds of North
America (15)
(58)
Audubon Society of N.A.
Group from
2160.00
2151.72
12,258.60*

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Post Office Box 30002
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THE AUDUBON CAUSE

To promote the conservation of wild-life and the natural environment.
To educate man regarding his relationship with, and place within, the natural environment as an ecological system.

The time was never better; the cause was never greater.

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