

# BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, Albuquerque, N.M.

April-May 1976

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY

- Saturday  
March 27 FIELD TRIP to Trigo Canyon in the Manzano Mountains, with Darwin Miller as trip leader. Meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church at Copper and Oak. Bring lunch and drinking water.
- Sunday  
March 28 FESTIVAL '76 at the Convention Center, open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission, free. This is an eight-day celebration of New Mexico's unique heritage and our Nation's Bicentennial, Co-sponsored by the City of Albuquerque and the Junior League of Albuquerque. Many organizations, including our own CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, are participating by presenting historical displays, live entertainment, movies, slides and still photos.
- Thursday  
April 1 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at Popejoy Hall at 7:30 p.m. -- the last film of the series. Photographer Harry Pederson will present "THE BAHAMAS, TOP TO BOTTOM", first touring the islands like a travel film, then taking his camera underwater to study the creatures who live below the surface of the sea.
- Saturday  
April 3 FIELD TRIP to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Craig Andrews, trip leader. Meet at 7 a.m. at the parking lot of the Winrock Shopping Center Post Office, so that car pools can be arranged. Bring a lunch-snack. Water is available at Refuge headquarters, but not elsewhere on the area, so if you will need drinking water, better bring it. Birding should be good, this time of year, even if the Whoopers have taken off for points north.
- Saturday  
& Sunday  
April 10/11 ANNUAL MEETING of the NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Silver City. Originally scheduled for March in Portales, the date and time had to be changed, due to circumstances no one could have foreseen.
- Two field trips are planned for this week-end. One will be led by Dr. John Hubbard and will go to Guadalupe Canyon; the second will visit the lower Gila River, probably in the area of Redrock and Virden. Possibles -- Vermillion Flycatchers, Orioles, Kingbirds and some spring migrants.
- Thursday  
April 15 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the Physics/Astronomy Building, UNM, at Lomas and Yale NE. Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Forsythe will talk about "The Good News and Bad News About Canyonlands!" Tuck Forsythe is director of the Environmental Education Center in Canyonlands National Park, and Kay spends her summers as a park ranger at Arches National Park. If you have even glanced through the March edition of AUDUBON, you are aware of the danger, or bad news, facing the Utah parks. But there is good news too, and the Forsythes will tell us more about one of our newest National Parks.
- Saturday  
& Sunday  
Apr. 24/25 FIELD TRIP to Rattlesnake Springs and Slaughter Canyon. This will be one of the longest trips of the year, if not THE longest, but from all reports, it should be the most exciting.
- Meet in White City, N.M. at the main "Y" to Carlsbad Caverns at 8 a.m. Motels and food are plentiful and should not be croded at this time of year, if you don't plan to camp out.
- Saturday  
May 8 FIELD TRIP to Juan Tabo Canyon, with Ross Teuber as trip leader. Meet at the parking lot of the old Gulf Mart store on San Mateo at 7 a.m. to form carpools. Drinking water might be advisable -- and if it gets interesting enough, you may wish you had a sandwich in the bag with your bird book.
- Thursday  
May 20 ANNUAL MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, corner of Jefferson and Copper NE. Use the Copper St. entrance; it will take you almost right into the meeting room. A potluck supper is always a feature of these meetings, and everyone agrees that some of the best cooks in New Mexico are members of CNMAS. Bring a generous amount of a favorite recipe to share, and tableware for your own use. Beverages will be provided.

(More)

If you cannot come to the dinner, join us for the meeting at about 7:30 p.m. Members Martin and Marilyn Ruoss will show slides and tell us about their experiences in Thailand. A year ago they were on sabbatical from their duties at Zimmerman Library and went to that Asian country for six months to help set up library facilities at brand-new Payap College in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The main purpose, of course, was not birding -- but you can bet they got in a little of it, at least!

Saturday May 22 FIELD TRIP to Gran Quivira National Monument, Darwin Miller leading. Darwin says to meet at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church at Copper and Oak. Here again, carpools will be advisable, so keep your gear as compact as possible. There is water at the park, but no food, so pack a lunch.

Sunday May 23 BIRD WALK at San Gabriel Park, Hart Schwarz leading. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the west end of Mountain Road, where there is a sign saying "San Gabriel Park". We might see Indigo Buntings, Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, etc. Nuf sed?

Saturday & Sunday May 29-31 FIELD TRIP. Another long one, this time to GUADALUPE CANYON, with Jim Karo leading. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church, at Oak and Copper. NOTE: You will need to go prepared to "rough it" -- with food, shelter, water -- the whole bit. There are no motels closer than Douglas, and that's a "fur piece" from the Canyon. If you can manage this little matter, the trip will be well worth it. The canyon is hot and dry (bring plenty of water) but birds congregate in its band of green trees in great numbers. There should be Phainopeplas, Broad-billed Hummingbirds, Hooded Orioles, Beadless and Least Flycatchers, Bronzed Cowbirds and many other Southwestern and Mexican species. (A couple of years ago we also added the Thick-billed Kingbird to our list. Ed.)

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AUDUBON AT FESTIVAL '76

Did you know that the first recorded birds seen by a European in territory which is now the United States were those seen by Castaneda, a Spanish explorer near Zuni Pueblo in 1542? Our Audubon display at FESTIVAL '76 will be entitled "Birding in New Mexico for the Last 400 Years" and will include other historical data as well as a continuous slide show of present-day New Mexico birds and habitats in the area covered by the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY. Martin Ruoss, Chairman, could use more volunteers to tend the display. Call Martin at 243-4357 after 5 p.m. to offer your services.

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DANGEROUS SPORT?

Birdwatching is classified as a "hazardous hobby" by the British medical magazine THE PRACTITIONER. It reports the instances of a birder who was so oblivious to other forms of wildlife that he was eaten by a crocodile! We don't know if they can substantiate that claim (did they find his binoculars on the bank?) but guess it did not occur in New Mexico -- or Britain, either.

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VOICE OF AUDUBON

Several Audubon societies maintain telephone recorded messages so that birders may phone in at any time of day or night to learn what birds of interest have been seen in the area. It is not practical in New Mexico, because of vast sparsely populated areas. However, Dot DeLollis found the service of the Massachusetts Audubon Society so fascinating when she was in that state this winter, she asked for further details and even obtained a sample script.

Their Voice of Audubon has been in service for 17 years and now averages 4500 calls each month. During the winter, new tapes are prepared three times each week. During May migration, there are enough reports to prepare a new tape every day. The busiest of all was last March, when the Ross Gull was nationally publicized and almost 9000 calls were made to the Voice of Audubon.

This winter there was a great local interest in a Smew -- a European duck which suddenly appeared off the New England coast. Other birds featured on the February 11th tape (with locations listed) were the Ivory Gull, Red and White-winged Crossbills, Pileated Woodpecker, Short-eared and Snowy Owls, American Bittern, Lapland Longspur, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Fox Sparrow.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

On March 13 Mary Lou Arthur led 24 birders to Indian Lakes and then along the Rio Grande north of Alameda. About 40 species of birds were seen. A Great Horned Owl sitting on a nest drew a great deal of interest and later two medium-sized owls sitting together in a tree were flushed but not identified. Other species of particular note were a White-throated Sparrow, a pair of Ring-billed Gulls, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, several Black Phoebes and a lone early Rough-winged Swallow.

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WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF BIRDING?

The economic importance of several outdoor sports and hobbies, such as fishing, hunting, boating and skiing have been well studied. Birding (or birdwatching) is not among these, however, to the detriment of birds and birders. To a reviewer of an environmental impact statement or some equivalent report NO dollar value may be equated with a ZERO dollar value. Yet birders are growing in number and may contribute significantly to the economy while pursuing birds.

In an attempt to assess the economic importance of birding, Hal A. Beecher would appreciate your responses to the following questions:

1. How many nights were you away from home on birding trips?
2. How many nights did you stay in (a) hotels/motels; (b) private/commercial campgrounds (c) public parks?
3. How many meals did you eat in restaurants?
4. What was your average party size?
5. What total distance (round trip) did you travel by car? By public carrier?
6. If you traveled out of state, what states did you visit?
7. What is your average annual expenditure on equipment?

The request for information was published in "Birding" for September/October, 1975. Assuming that the gentleman can use all the information he can get, especially from a unique area such as ours, you might send your responses to these questions, along with any further remarks, to: Hal A. Beecher, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

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POSITION OPEN (No pay)

Paul Hlava has kindly consented to take over the editor/publishership of the "Burrowing Owl" from the present editor, who relinquishes this responsibility with sorrow as well as relief. It has been fun (mostly) compiling this newsletter (and making mistakes in it) as well as seeing that it was mimeographed and mailed. A helpful spouse has been a great assist, because the two of us are old hands at the business of folding, stapling, addressing and stamping.

Paul is new at this game, and is beginning his education with this issue. It has been compiled and made ready for mimeographing by the old editor, but he will be assisting from there on. He will need help, because it takes time and experience to learn the short-cuts. He could use some assistance in the mechanics of getting the Owl to its readers -- a process that can take two or three people, devoting an enjoyable evening of hand work.

One evening every two months is all it takes to be an assistant publisher. Wouldn't you like to give Paul a hand? Call him at 265-4178 and volunteer for the issue which goes to press the latter part of May for June and July.

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BIRD QUIZ

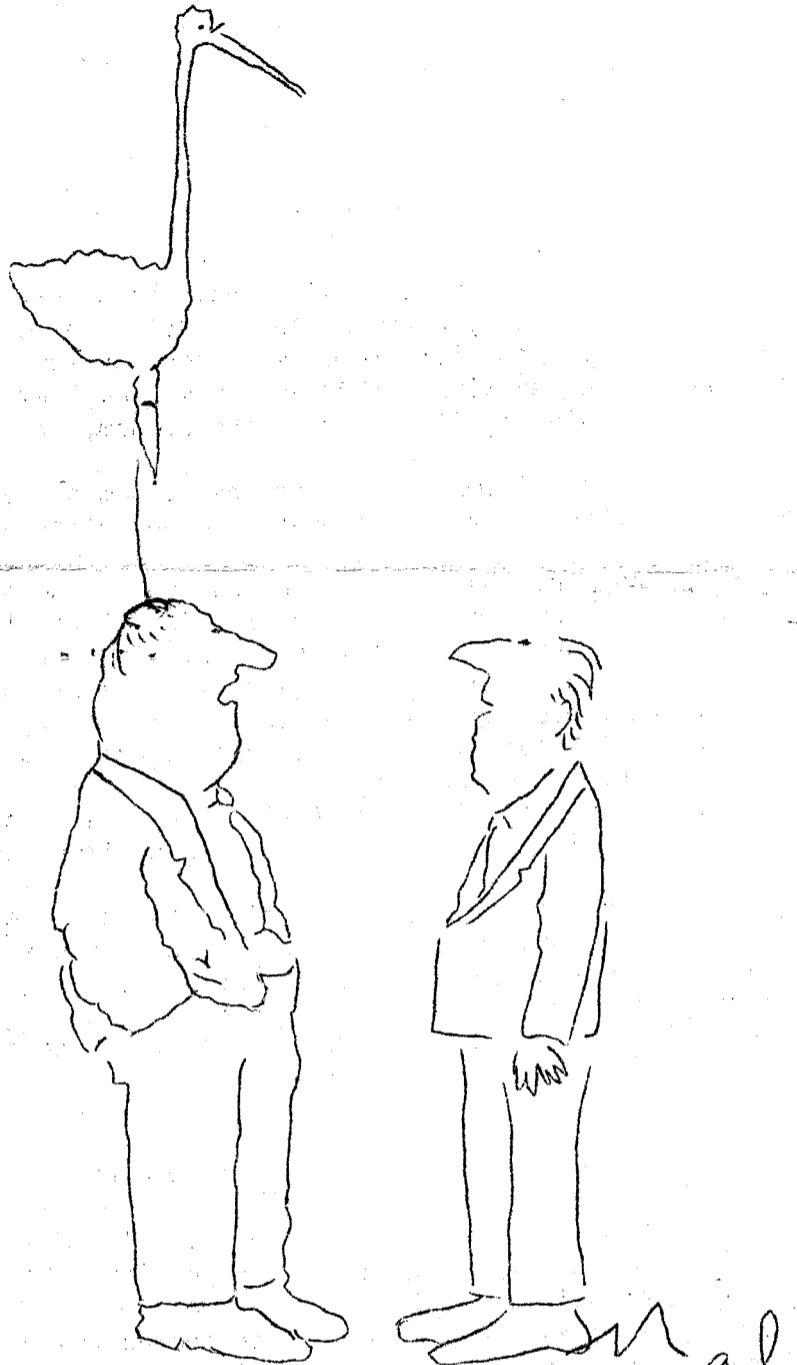
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- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. What are plump birds?                                   | Round robins.      |
| 2. What is an inactive bird?                               | Sitting duck       |
| 3. What is a digging bird?                                 | Coal myna          |
| 4. What is a one-sided bird?                               | Left-winger        |
| 5. What is a deserving bird?                               | One good tern      |
| 6. What are a bird's parting words?                        | Owl be seeing you[ |
| 7. What is an ailing bird?                                 | Ill-eagle          |
| 8. What is an artist-bird?                                 | Wrenoir            |
| 9. What bird is part of a St. Louis ball player's uniform? | Cardinal number    |
| 10. What sunflower seeds are (and so is this quiz)         | For the birds.     |

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have been added to our membership list during 1976.

- Thomas A. Baker
- Mrs. Dorothy Brandt
- Bill Chappel
- Ms. Linda L. Cole
- Ms. Barbara Ely
- Ms. Sarah G. Finan
- Ms. Ellen Flanders
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fletcher
- Col. W. H. Gauss
- Stewart Goodman
- Ms. Ronda Hageman
- Ms. Alice Anne Harsh
- Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Iden
- Willis Janssen
- Ms. Marianne Jones
- Mrs. Floyd Lair
- Ms. Marlene Lane
- Nancy & Gary Lawrence
- Bert Lindsay
- Glenn Lommasson
- Grant Martin
- Floyd H. Mathews
- Wm. M. Milburn M.D.
- Dr. & Mrs. Murphy Family
- John W. Parker
- M. F. Reget
- Von Robberson
- Mr. & Mrs. John W. Roberts
- Dennis Rodriguez
- Ms. Martha K. Sherbring
- Ms. Dorothy Swartz
- Kent Alan Skaggs
- Ms. Patricia Tabaka
- Ms. Mary Eileen Voss
- Ms. Monalynn Glazerger
- Ken Jacobson
- John Nilan
- Ms. Alice Wilkes
- Warren Willey



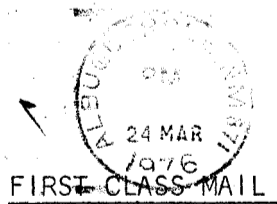
"It came with my membership in the Audubon Society."

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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THE AUDUBON CAUSE

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

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



Mr. & Mrs. Craig G. Andrews  
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