BURROUING OUL

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

June-July 1979

CALENDAR -- JUNE & JULY

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Ghost Ranch, & Sunday Echo Amphitheater, CanJune 2-3 jilon Lakes, El Rito.
Meet at Ghost Ranch Museum
north of Abiquiu on U.S. 84 on Saturday at 9 A.M. (Campsites at Echo

urday at 9 A.M. (Campsites at Echo Amphitheater). The trip will be a scouting expedition for the Southwest Regional Audubon Conference to be held in the area in June 1980. Leader: Dave Lange (266-4420).

Thursday

June 7

BOARD MEETING at the home
of Dustin & Sue Huntington,
ll Calle Pueblo Pinado, NW.

(831-5755). Take Coors Rd, north. At about 2 mi. north of I-40 enter Villa de Paz development on left (white buildings with fence). Go straight. Take the fifth left-Calle Pueblo Pinado (no sign). The last house on the right is #11. Park opposite, by the fence.

& Sunday from June 9-10: Camping June 16-17 trip to Burford Lake,

Heron Lake, Chama and the Chama River. Another scouting trip for the conference in 1980. Call Dave Lange (266-4420) for advance arrangements and carpooling. Meet at 9 A.M. Saturday on U.S. 84 at the

Thursday
June 21

REGULAR MEETING of the
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 P.M.

turn off to Heron Lake.

at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE. Fay Steele, Curator of Ornithology at the Rio Grande Zoo will give a presentation on the endangered pink pigeon of Mauritius and the zoo's efforts to breed it in captivity, the bird's life history in the wild and other wildlife of Mauritius.

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Saturday FIELD TRIP to Sandia

<u>June 23</u> Crest. Meet at 6:30 A.M.

at Western Skies Motel,

13400 Central SE. Call Bob Jost

(292-3625) by Thursday, June 21 if
you plan to go. (Half day).

Thursday BOARD MEETING, 7:30 P.M.

July 5 If you would like to
host this or a future
board meeting (you don't have to be
a board member) please call Dustin
Huntington (831-5755).

Saturday BEGINNERS' BIRD WALK at July 7 Capulin Springs in the Sandias. Binoculars available. Meet at 7 A.M. at Western Skies Motel, 13400 Central SE. Call leader Ross Teuber for more information (265-8962).

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Swain's July 14 Sueno. Marge and Bob Swain have invited us to bird their property in the cool Jemez Mountains again. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the La Cueva Picnic Area on NM-4 north of Jemez Springs. Bring lunch to eat in the yard and enjoy the mountain avifauna: Call Bob Jost if you would like to lead this one. (292-3625).

Thursday DEADLINE for the August-September Burrowing Owl. Send copy to Barbara Hussey, 2068-B Mercury Dr. SE 87118 (268-6547).

Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the July 19 CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDU-BON SOCIETY, 7:30 P.M. at St. Timothy"s Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE. The program will be a presentation by CNMAS member, Pat Turner on gardening to attract birds.

More Calendar on page 2

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Isleta Marsh.

July 28 Meet at 6:30 A.M. at the
UNM Physics and Astronomy
Bldg., Lomas & Yale NE. Dave Lange,
leader (266-4420). (Half day).

Thursday BOARD MEETING, 7:30 P.M. August 2 Place to be announced.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would like to thank the membership for electing me president at the last meeting. The excellent job Dave Lange has done over the past two years will be a hard act to follow.

For those of you who do not know me: I work for the Department of Energy as a physicist in the Classification and Technical Information Division (No, I have nothing to do with WIPP). I moved to New Mexico about a year ago from Maryland. Birds are my primary hobby. I seem to spend the vast majority of my free time in birding, bird photography or bird painting.

There is a great deal to be done in the next year. Along with the usual items that manage to keep an organization such as CNMAS busy, there is the planning for the regional meeting next summer. Fortunately, for me at least, Dave has left an organization that is working smoothly and has agreed to chair the conservation committee and to continue supervising the preparations for the regional meeting.

Naturally, as is almost always the case, there will be people to do it. There are many proposed projects, too many to get into here, and anyone with some free time and the inclination is urged to contact me. (831-5755). A few extra people can make a big difference in the success of a project and there is even th possibility of enjoying it, however unlikely that may seem.

Dustin Huntington

OUTGOING PRESIDENT RECEIVES WASHBURN AWARD

The 1979 Washburn Award was presented to CNMAS immediate past president, David E. Lange at the annual meeting on May 18th. A citation was read by Dan Washburn praising Dave, an employee at UNM for his many years of conservation work with our chapter and on his own on the Albuquerque Spring Bird Count, the Whooping Crane Alert, the Oxbow, wildlife work at Elephant Butte Marsh and many other conservation activities. Dave was presented with a signed print of painted buntings by Ray Harm.

BOOK REVIEW

Flight to Freedom by Kent Durden

As a boy, Kent Durden watched the growth and development of the captured golden eagle, Lady. story starts with Lady leaving the humans who raised her for 16 years to follow a male golden eagle. The book presents the daily experiences of Lady in an interesting and sometimes humorous style. Factual information is woven into the story to add credibility to the supposed events. Durden nicely blends facts with fiction and all the while keeps the pace briskly moving. The book functions as a window into the natural world and all the interrelatedness which normally occurs in the life of an eagle. Indeed a pleasurable book to read.

Kay Anderson

Editor's Note: Author Kent Durden narrated his film, "Gifts of an Eagle," about this same bird here in Albuquerque last October as our first film in the '78-'79 Audubon Wildlife Film Series. If you missed the film, don't miss the book. Our reviewer, Kay Anderson plans to donate the book to the CNMAS library.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CNMAS

Seven years ago the Central New Mexico Audubon Chapter came into being, following hard work by Esther Tuttle. The Washburns were some of the charter members -- the beginning of seven years of making good friends, working and playing together with people of like mind.

On May 18, 1979 I was privileged to be "chairman" (I refuse to bow to the female chauvinists!) of the committee to plan the potluck supper for the seventh annual meeting. Without any great help or direction from me, the job was done. I can't begin to name all who offered and gave help; tables were set up and decorated, flowers were brought, arriving dishes were popped into oven or refrigerator, beverages were mixed and put out for consumption, the serving tables covered with delectable dishes — and the final cleaning up done, almost in spite of me! To those who helped so greatly go my heartfelt thanks. You know who you are; without you it could not have been the success it was. May there be stars in your crowns!

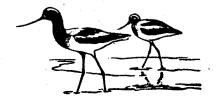
In some ways this was a sad occasion for the Washburns. We will probably not be with you in the coming year, unless gas rationing sends us home, but you will all go with us in our thoughts with the warmest of memories. The friends we have made, the acquaintances whom we wish we had known better -- all will travel with us.

Even though it was for us a rather sad occasion, it was even more a happy one, for it was beyond words to express the feeling we had of love and warmth flowing toward us and through the room. So we thank you for some of the happiest years of our lives for one of the most beautiful tributes anyone could dream of.

We wish each of you, the Chapter and the new officers the best Audubon year yet.

Love and luck to you all.

Marian Washburn



LETTERS

It was a very great honor for me to receive the 1979 Washburn award. The Washburn award is something very special to me having been able to work with Dan and Marian for the past several years and to intimately why the award was established. I am very proud to have served as president of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society for the past two years and hopefully I will be able to continue working for the chapter.

With greatest appreciation,

ALASKA PASSES HOUSE

In May, the House of Representatives gave final passage to the Udall-Anderson substitute bill for Alaska D2 lands in a stunning 350-65 vote: An earlier vote, which pitted Udall-Anderson against the much weaker Breaux-Dingell and Huckaby substitutes foretold ultimate victory, though by a slightly less impressive margin of 258-157.

Audubon Southwest Regional Representative, Dede Armentrout expresses her thanks to all who sent letters in support of the Udall-Anderson bill. Our success was due to effective grass roots lobbying combined with an organized coalition effort, both of which educated and persuaded Congress as to the worthiness of this legislation.

A note of thanks to the Congressmen who voted yes would be most appropriate, especially since some in Congress view conservationists as people with "short memories" once votes are cast.

It would also be appropriate to express disappointment in a "bad" vote and ask what the reasons were. When we gear up for the Senate debate, it will be helpful to know what our opposition's strongest arguments are.

Congressman Lujan voted with us; Congressman Runnels voted against the Udall-Anderson substitute. (Addresses on page 8)



SECOND ANNUAL SPRING BIRD COUNT

Twenty birders including several neophytes took part in our second annual spring bird count. In constrast to last year, we had good weather and turned in 119 species as compared to 100 last year. Among the more interesting species seen were a Forster's tern, a willet and a Lewis' woodpecker which was found on the east side of the Sandias. A thrush observed in the valley could possibly have been a Swainson's thrush however since opinions differed as to its idenity it was not included in the species list. All three groups noticed the abundance of yellow-rumped warblers with 276 having been observed making this the most abundant species. The count concluded at Shady Lakes with a picnic, a very fitting conclusion to a good day of birding.

PARTICIPANTS

Bob Jost Bill Stone Ruth Stone Bill Pike Kay Anderson Clara Teuber Ross Teuber Alice Andrews Craig Andrews Jim Karo Florence White Dave Tomasko

Joanne Phillips

Elizabeth Kuhn

Bobbie Posey Eric Jeffries Tom Bidell Sue Huntington Dustin Huntington Dave Lange

1980 REGIONAL MEETING

Last Sunday the first of three field trips to investigate birding areas around Ghost Ranch was held. Twelve members went up to Bandelier National Monument and spent an enjoyable day taking in some of the sights and doing some bird watching.

Although only 26 species were observed in the park I think Bandelier will provide good birding and a very scenic area for our visitors. Among the species seen were Hammond's flycatchers and solitary and warbling vireos. This weekend we will be going up to Ghost Ranch and in two weeks a little further north to Burford Lake and Chama.

Two other idems need to be worked on this summer regarding the 1980 Regional Meeting; 1) a list of good birding spots for the central part of the state and 2) a youth program for the meeting. If you would like to help on any of the above or have any ideas please give Dave Lange a call (266-4420).

SPECIES			_		æ		~		ល		>
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	Sandi. Mtns.	East Mesa	Valle		Sandi.	East Mesa	Valley		Sandia Mtns.	East Mesa	Valley
Green heron	(<u>) 5</u>	면 관.	4	Cassin's kingbird	20	 -		Orange-crowned warbler		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Black-crowned night heron			5	Ash-throated flycatcher			1	Virginia's warbler	2	4	1
Mallard	•		29	Black phoebe			1	Lucy's warbler	~	ī	ī
Gadwall			2	Say's phoebe	12	2	i	-		_	<u>,</u>
Green-winged teal			1	Hammond's flycatcher	1		-	Yellow-rumper warbler	144	17	115
Northern shoveler			10	_	3			Black-throated gray w.		1	
Ruddy duck			12	-	15			Grace's warbler	2	-	
Common merganser			3		4		6	MacGillivary's warbler	4	1	7
Turkey vulture	15	3	,	Olive-sided flycatcher	2		2	Common yellowthroat	•	-	3
Sharp-shinned hawk		,	1	-	59	18	39	Wilson's warbler	4		4
Cooper's hawk		2	-	Tree swallow			6	House sparrow	•		21
Red-tailed hawk		2		Bank swallow			6	Western meadowlark	31	9	13
Swainson's hawk		•	1				. 33	Red-winged blackbird	-	•	29
American kestrel	8		8	Barn swallow	20	3	12	Northern oriole	. 1	2	11
Scaled quail	Ū	2	21		9	. •	7	Brewer's blackbird	3	_	1
Gambel's quail			9	Steller's jay	29			Great-tailed grackle	_		13
Ring-necked pheasant			5	Scrub jay	44	13		Common grackle			4
American coot			2	Common raven	14	4		Brown-headed cowbird	16	2	21
Killdeer			10	Common crow	26		2	Western tanager	13	3	36
Spotted sandpiper	1		2	Pinon jay	86			Black-headed grosbeak	64	4	36
Willet			1	Black-capped chickadee			1	Blue grosbeak			1
Long-billed dowitcher			5	Mountain chickadee	11			Evening grosbeak	3		
Ring-billed gull			12	Plain titmouse	2	4		Cassin's finch	2		
Forster's tern			1	Bushtit		1		House finch	. 32	9	3
Band-tailed pigeon	3			White-breasted nuthatch	2		3	Pine siskin	2		
Rock dove	. 1		26	House wren	1			Lesser goldfinch			1
Mourning dove	28	5	59	Rock wren	2			Green-tailed towhee	9	3	5
Roadrunner			1	Mockingbird		1	1	Rufous-sided towhee	5	6	
Great horned owl			3	Gray catbird			1	Brown towhee	3	7	1
White-throated swift	1	24	20	Crissal thrasher		1		Vesper sparrow	3		
Black-chinned hummer	1		10	American robin	39	2	30	Lark sparrow	5	1	
Broad-tailed hummer	. 8	3	1	Hermit thrush	2		3	Cassin's sparrow			4
Belted kingfisher			3	Western bluebird	11			Black-throated sparrow		5	
Common flicker	31		7	Mountain bluebird	21			Dark-eyed junco	6		
Lewis' woodpecker	1		2	Townsend's solitaire	6	1	1		29		3
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	1			Blue-gray gnatcatcher		7	1		40	1	
Williamson's sapsucker	1			Ruby-crowned kinglet	3	2	1	Brewer's sparrow	30	30	8
Downy woodpecker			1	Starling	36		75	•		1	
Ladder-backed woodpecker		2		Solitary vireo	3		1	White-crowned sparrow			3
Western kingbird	11		3	Warbling vireo	3	2		Total # of species	65	41	83

PHREATOPHYTES AND THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Six years ago our chapter along with the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water and Southwest Research and Information Center filed suit to stop the Bureau of Reclamation from further clearing of "phreatophytes" along the Rio Grande and Pecos. Burkec had been removing woody vegetation from thousands of acres around Elephant Butte Lake and along the Pecos in an effort to "salvage" water. This water salvage has not been established and another government agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, says that they cannot see any water salvage along the Pecos River from the extensive clearing done there. In fact in many areas of the Middle East woody vegetation is planted along streams to conserve water.

Although BurRec efforts were mainly directed at saltcedar extensive areas of cottonwoods and willows were removed and continued maintenance has not allowed other woody vegetation a chance to grow. As additional clearing was planned, the thin ribbons of green passing through our state were to be greatly reduced. These thin ribbons of green are not only aesthetically pleasing to us and provide recreation for us but are invaluable to wildlife providing food, shelter, nesting sites and migratory

BIRD QUIZ

What bird has a name which is the same as or sounds the same as the following?

- 1. Where a gardener plants extra seeds
- 2. Harvester of grain
- 3. What theives are doin'
- 4. A decoy
- 5. Useful in lifting
- 6. Is a sad letter
- 7. Is a church official
- 8. Is fast
- 9. Is a highway sprinter
- 10. Had a husband named Charles William
- 11. Must precede gastric digestion
- 12. British fuel
- 13. Is an old-time movie
- 14. Is a country
- 15. Has 144 bills

Answers on page 6

routes. Riparian woodland areas are among the most intensely used habitats in the state for nesting purposes with up to 600 breeding pairs of birds per 40 hectares recorded near Albuquerque. Loss of some of what little remains of this habitat in the Southwest would quite adversely affect many species.

In the summer of 1973 we received a court injunction stopping additional clearing until Environmental Impact Statements had been filed. Burkec completed the final EIS for the Rio Grande in the spring of 1977 and for the Pecos this spring. As a result the suit has been dismissed. This does not mean that we have won or lost the battle nor that we have given up the fight. We have won major victories in getting Burkec to; 1) look more closely at the value or riparian woodland, 2) set up management plans for these and seek public input and 3) greatly reduce the acreage proposed for clearing.

We must continue to work to preserve the remaining riparian woodland and to convince BurRec of the value of this habitat and hopefully to reestablish some of the lost habitat. This will not only benefit wildlife but also reduce wind and water erosion and make the areas more aesthetically pleasing and valuable to man as well.



BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE OFFERED

CNMAS member Chuck Hundertmark will teach an introductory course on bird identification in the Continuing Education Division at the University of New Mexico. The course runs from June 13 to August 1 on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 P.M. It will cover aspects of New Mexico bird identification including silhouettes and will include at least one field trip with a possibility of two additional optional trips. For more information call the UNM Continuing Education Division at 277-2931. The course will be limited to 20 people.

NOISE POLLUTION

Councillor Marion Cottrell is asking the environmental groups to write to Mayor Rusk asking to budget more funds to our noise pollution program. At this time we have one man responsible for all noise problem complaints and all studies on Albuquerque noise patterns. He claims that there is money which could be allocated, but that Mayor Rusk doesn't believe the public is concerned about noise pollution.

Kay Anderson

ANSWERS TO BIRD QUIZ ON PAGE 5

T2. grosbeak.

1. sparrow; 2. thrasher; 3. robin; 4. wood duck; 5. crane; 6. blue jay; 7. cardinal; 8. swift; 9. roadrunner; 70. chuck-will's-widow; 11. swallow; 12. petrel; 13. flicker; 14. turkey;



CORRECTION

Joanne Phillips would like us to clarify her invitation (see page 6, Apr.-May '79 "Owl") to birders at Shady Lakes. She welcomes birders before or after business hours if you will call her first. Birders are always welcome during business hours and they need not call first. Shady Lakes hours are 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily (except Thursday). Remember to park by the house on weekends.

The Audubon Society has discovered a group of intellectual swallows. The birds are doing research on why people come back to Capistrano at the same time every year.

Parade Magazine



30 MOST WANTED BIRDS

Last issue the "Owl" asked for your ten most wanted birds. From the few responses we received, we came up with 30 species -- the first ten each had more than one vote with number one getting the most responses:

1. Spotted Owl

2. Montezuma Quail

3. White-tailed Ptarmigan

4. Blue Grouse

5. Mississippi Kite

6. Sage Grouse

7. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher

8. Lawrence's Goldfinch

9. Flammulated Owl

10. Varied Bunting

Wood Stork Screech Owl Surf Scoter Poor-will Goshawk Varied Thrush Aplomado Falcon Sprague's Pipit Chukar Bohemian Waxwing Yellow Rail Phainopepla Purple Gallinule Northern Shrike Hudsonian Godwit Olive Warbler Red Phalarope Rosy Finch Groove-billed Ani Baird's Sparrow

Now the "Owl" would like to compile a set of locations for any of these species (particularly the top ten) which would be published in future issues. The locations should:

1. Be in or near New Mexico.

2. Not involve trespassing on private land unless the owner welcomes all birders.

3. Be in a place where one has a reasonable chance of seeing the bird (not a spot where one just happened to be seen).

4. Be described in sufficient detail to allow someone else to find the area where birds are

likely to be.

If you know of any places that meet the criteria please send them in. Responses may help in planning future field trips, etc. Send to Dustin Huntington (831-5755), ll Calle Pueblo Pinado NW Albuquerque, N.M. 87120

Hi Folks! Well, the peak of spring migration has come and gone. Most of our transient visitors have already passed thru. Only a few of the normally late arrivals have not put in an appearance and been re-Now we're into the season ported. when our summer residents are nesting and rearing their young. provides much pleasure in discovering and reporting new nests and the success in raising the young birds -or just watching the nestlings grow, and the interaction between them and their parents. A word of warning: Too many people watching too closely or for too long a time frequently causes the old birds to become neryous and abandon the nesting efforts.

The spring field trip to Bosque del Apache coincided with the peak arrival of shorebirds and waders. And only about half-a-dozen people were there to take advantage of it. Among the goodies seen were a dunlin, semipalmated plover, little blue heron, Franklin's gull, barn and great horned owls, Bendire's, curvebilled and crissal thrashers and, of course, the vermilion flycatchers. I don't know what the official tally was, but Clara and I recorded 99 species on Friday afternoon and Saturday.

If you missed the State Audubon Council meeting, you missed out on some good birding. Not only did we see the booming of the lesser prairie chickens, but at least some of us saw clay-colored sparrows, scissortailed flycatchers and a gray hawk. We also found an odd duck which no one could identify. The best guess seems to be that it was a hybrid between a common golden-eye and a canvasback.

The first hummingbird, a black-chinned male showed up at Dot DeLollis' on April 6. Pat Basham had one at Socorro the same day. Bob Craig had his first at Corrales on April 8. Most of us had them back, male and female, black-chinned and broad-tailed by the 20th. It seems they were a little late this year according to my records. Don't be too sure

you have black-chins until you can get a good look in the sun-light and see the purple band on the throat below the black. The black throat patch may turn out to be red when the light hits it right -- and you have a broad-tail. Start looking for rufous humming-birds about the fourth of July. Calliopes should be about a month later. Let me know when you see your first ones. (265-8962)

Did you know birdwatching and birding activities are among the most rapidly growing hobbies in the U. S.? These activities vary from casual observation at backyard feeders and on auto trips, to detailed and extended studies resulting in comprehensive treatises on individual species. A currently popular approach is trying to see more species than anyone else in a given area or state in a limited period of time, like one day or one year. These may be highly organized and meticulously planned team efforts, timed to the Nth degree. Two such efforts currently in the news are one attempting to see more than 231 species in one day, and one attempting to see more than 700 species in one year. The team attempting to see 231-plus in one day felt that 300 in one day was possible. (They didn't make it -- weather, jet plane schedules and fuel shortage limited them to 183:) The other team is still progressing and still hopeful.

Speaking of 300 species in one day, that was Dustin and Sue Huntington's goal for the year in the State of New Mexico, and they are doing well: That goal is not out of reach: As of May 15th, Dustin had 230, and Sue had 224. The competition grows keener and more interesting. The first weekend in May, Dustin talked to Rick Wilt, naturalist at Carlsbad Caverns and Steve West a well known New Mexico birder. Last year Rick saw and

Continued on page 8

ROSS'S RAVIN'S

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

reported to the American Birding Association, 242 species for New Mexico, a new record for the state, not yet published. Steve West also beat the former record with 224 or When Dustin talked to them, Rick had 208. I just had a letter from Hart Schwarz, one of our members living in Hobbs, N.M., written on May 13th. At that time his annual list was 155, and he wants in on the competition. He said that both Rick and Steve now have annual lists of around 220. That puts my 195 and Dave Lange's 166 a ways down the I haven't heard from anyone else who had 100 or more listed by May 15th. The year isn't half over yet, and several regulars haven't made their appearance yet, so all

of our lists should grow -- but maybe not so rapidly in the next six months.

Hart also writes he's having good luck with eastern species like worm-eating warblers, wood thrush. rose-breasted grosbeak, and catbirds. He reports a recent mini-invasion of Mississippi kites. Maybe we should be planning a long weekend trip to Hobbs, provided of course, the gasoline shortage abates.

I just had a Gotta go now. call about some Scott's orioles in Juan Tabo Canyon. See you next time.

Ross L. Teuber

P.S. We found them: P.P.S. As of May 23rd, Steve West was up to 237 for NM this year.



The President The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Harrison H. Schmitt United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Manuel Lujan, Jr. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Hon. Harold Runnels House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

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•		•
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RARE BIRD ALERT - report sightings to: 265-8962, 268-6547 or 898-2568

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY Post Office Box 30002 Albuquerque. New Mexico 87190

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