

BURROWING OWL



Central New Mexico Audubon Society, Albuquerque, N.M. February-March 1980

CALENDAR -- FEBRUARY & MARCH

WELCOME - CNMAS meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE. Non-members are welcome. Non-members and beginners are also welcome on all field trips. All members and guests are welcome at board meetings.

Saturday February 2 **Beginners' FIELD TRIP** to the Rio Grande bosque. Meet at Corrales Shopping Center at 7:30 A.M. Leader: Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

Thursday Feb. 7 **BOARD MEETING**, 7:30 P.M. at the Unitarian Church, Carlisle & Comanche NE.

ALL REGULAR MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND this meeting which will discuss the N.M. Dept. of Game & Fish proposal to declassify the Whooping Crane as an endangered species in N.M. Representatives from NMDG&F and the US Fish & Wildlife Service will be present.

Saturday Feb. 9 **FIELD TRIP** on snowshoes to Santa Fe Ski Basin & Hyde Park. Trip leader Dave Lange (266-4420) recommends you reserve snowshoes at sporting goods stores well in advance as rentals are often sold-out. Meet at Goodwill Industries, 5000 San Mateo NE at 7:30 A.M.

Thursday Feb. 21 **REGULAR MEETING** of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, 7:30 P.M. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE. A representative from the Chemical Nuclear Engineering Dept. at UNM will demonstrate a computerized energy simulator -- a desk model computer which can project the energy future.

Tuesday Feb. 26 **AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM**, 7:30 P.M. at UNM Popejoy Hall. Charles Hotchkiss will narrate "Return to the Tetons" about the abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery of Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. Discount tickets are still available -- call Craig Andrews (881-9387) or Dot DeLollis (299-5384).

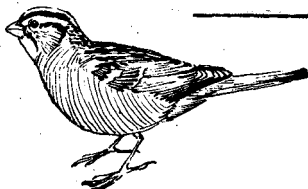
Thursday Feb. 28 **PLANNING MEETING** for the 1980 Southwest Regional Audubon Conference to be held at Ghost Ranch, NM and hosted by CNMAS and Sangre de Cristo A.S. If you would like to help plan the conference please come to Dave Lange's 1800-B Vassar NE at 7:30 P.M. (266-4420)

Thursday March 6 **BOARD MEETING**, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Alana Gallagher, 415 San Pablo, NE (255-7748). All CNMAS members welcome.

Saturday March 8 **FIELD TRIP** -- a half day bird hike to Three Gun Springs at the south end of the Sandias. Meet at 7:15 AM at Three Gun Springs parking area. For directions call leaders Dustin & Sue Huntington (831-5755).

Thursday March 20 **DEADLINE** to submit copy for the April-May issue of the "Burrowing Owl" Editor, Barbara Hussey, 705 Monte Alto Dr. NE, 87123 (292-5626)

MORE CALENDAR ON PAGE 2



CALENDAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thursday March 20 REGULAR MEETING of CNMAS, 7:30 P.M. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson, NE. Tom Smylie of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is planning a talk on the USF&WS project studying the effects of the Mexican oil spill. Mr. Smylie tells us that if by chance the oil spill program is not yet available, he will speak on his wildlife studies in Greenland.

Thursday April 3 BOARD MEETING. Any volunteers? You do not have to be a board member to host a meeting. Call Barbara Hussey (292-5626)

Friday April 11 ART EXHIBIT. Pat Basham, CNMAS member will show her wildlife watercolors at Lovelace Clinic, Gibson Blvd. SE. The exhibit continues through May 8.

Saturday Apr. 12-13 Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society in Farmington. Meetings & field trips. More details in the next OWL.

Mon.-Mon. June 23 1980 Southwest Regional AUDUBON CONFERENCE at Ghost Ranch, NM. Workshops include nuclear issues, solar energy, environmental education (and more). Field trips: birding and non-birding to strip mine, coal power plant, LASL geothermal site, LASL Meson facility, paleontology & geology trips, float trip and much more! Babysitting co-op available and daily environmental workshops and field trips for school age children. Also swimming and horseback riding. More info from Dave Lange (266-4420)

A NEW MEXICO BIG YEAR

A "Big Year Count" is an attempt to see the maximum number of bird species in one calendar year in a given area; in this case New Mexico. The previous record for New Mexico was 242 species set in 1978 by Rick Wilt. Last year, for the first time, the 300 mark was reached and passed by 4 New Mexico birders. Rick Wilt broke his previous record and he and I tied for the new record of 341 species; my wife Sue Huntington finished with a close 336 and Steve West ended up somewhere between 315 and 320.

Different approaches were taken in doing the counts. Rick and Steve spent most of their time in the area around Carlsbad where they live and did little traveling. The Carlsbad area is by far the best in the state for birding and when covered as thoroughly as it was, produced a remarkable list of species. Sue and I had to travel a good deal since comparatively few species are in the Albuquerque area.

We drove about 20,000 miles in the state in search of birds. We went to the Sandias 34 times, Bosque del Apache NWR 22 times, Bitter Lake NWR 9 times, Lake McMillan 7 times, Rattlesnake Spring 5 times, Bandelier 6 times, Maxwell NWR twice, Santa Fe Baldy and Wheeler Peak once each, the Peloncillos twice, Guadalupe Canyon once, Percha Dam 3 times, Hobbs once, Farmington once, Bell Lake once and many other places on short or side trips.

Sue and I had decided to do a big year to see more of the state and because the 1977 record of 212 species seemed so low. Our original goal was to reach 300 which seemed possible. We started out birding in January and February fairly lightly but picked up a good number of common species. We made a major error in not going to the northern parts of the state at that time for Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and Harris Sparrow -- all of which were present then and none of which we found last year.

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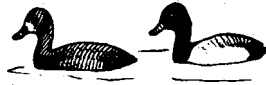
BIG YEAR CONTINUED FROM P. 2

Towards spring we started to bird more seriously although we did take off some time to spend a week in Arizona. On one spring trip to Carlsbad we ran into Rick Wilt birding. We mentioned we were doing a New Mexico big year and were quite surprised when he said he was too. At that point he was ahead although the lead shifted several times during the year.

Over the summer we again relaxed somewhat. We should have gone south to find Whip-poor-will and other species.

By mid-fall, all four of us had passed 300 and the birding was getting into the area known as "hardcore" (long trips dedicated to finding one, often unlikely species) to push the lists still higher. Sue and I had long standing plans to go to San Diego for a pelagic trip and a week of California birding. Unfortunately this was during peak migration and sure to result in missing at least a few species. (However, the California trip produced many pelagics, Condor, White Wagtail and Ruff; so it was well worth the time lost).

By the time we got back, Rick was well ahead and catching up seemed almost impossible. Fortunately we then happened to stop at Percha Dam which produced an incredible variety of eastern accidentals. We returned there twice more and added many species to our lists. By the end of fall, Rick and I were fairly close. However, Rick had seen most of the winter species in the Carlsbad area and didn't expect to find many more. On the other hand, since Sue and I had not birded very seriously the previous winter, we had many species to find though it meant a lot of running around to find them. We did find many through much searching and excellent scouting by Granger Ward who first discovered several of our last species. By early December, I had managed to take the lead. However in the last weeks, Rick came up for the Sandia Christmas Count and visited several other areas finishing at 341. Meanwhile Sue and I went to the Peloncillos



again to find Yellow-eyed Junco, Elephant Butte for California Gull, and the last weekend of the year -- a Winter Wren north of Espanola. The wren was number 341 for me and number 336 for Sue.

Having the count come out a tie was a good way to have it end. All of the participants put in a lot of work -- and what really matters is just seeing the birds.

The full list of species is in this issue -- some of the highlights were -- American Golden Plover, Sedge Wren (Short-billed Marsh Wren), Red-shouldered Hawk, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo and Whiskered Owl.

In looking at the list of birds we did not see, there are about 20 species that should have been fairly easy had we known where to go. With enough effort, I believe 370 species could be found in one year. But I'm not going to try to do it...not next year anyway. Maybe 1981.

Dustin Huntington

Common Loon	Lesser Scaup	Sandhill Crane
Horned Grebe	Common Goldeneye	Virginia Rail
Eared Grebe	Bufflehead	Sora
Western Grebe	Oldsquaw	Common Gallinule
Pied-billed Grebe	Ruddy Duck	American Coot
White Pelican	Hooded Merganser	Semipalmated Plover
Dbi.-crst. Cormorant	Common Merganser	Snowy Plover
Olivaceous Cormorant	Red-br. Merganser	Killdeer
Great Blue Heron	Turkey Vulture	Mountain Plover
Green Heron	Mississippi Kite	Black-bellied Plover
Little Blue Heron	Goshawk	L. Golden Plover
Cattle Egret	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Common Snipe
Great Egret	Coopers Hawk	Long-billed Curlew
Snowy Egret	Red-tailed Hawk	Upland Sandpiper
Bl-crown Night Heron	Swainson's Hawk	Spotted Sandpiper
Least Bittern	Rough-legged Hawk	Solitary Sandpiper
American Bittern	Ferruginous Hawk	Greater Yellowlegs
White-faced Ibis	Red-shouldered Hawk	Lesser Yellowlegs
Whistling Swan	Harris' Hawk	Williet
Canada Goose	Golden Eagle	Red Knot
Wh-frnt Goose	Bald Eagle	Pectoral Sandpiper
Snow Goose	Marsh Hawk	Wh. Rumped Sandpiper
Ross' Goose	Osprey	Baird's Sandpiper
Mallard	Prairie Falcon	Least Sandpiper
Mexican Duck	Peregrine Falcon	Dunlin
Gadwall	Merlin	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Pintail	Amer. Kestrel	Western Sandpiper
Green-winged Teal	Blue Grouse	Sanderling
Blue-winged Teal	Lesser Pra. Chicken	Long-billed Dowitcher
Cinnamon Teal	Bobwhite	Stilt Sandpiper
American Wigeon	Scaled Quail	Marbled Godwit
Northern Shoveler	Gambel's Quail	American Avocet
Wood Duck	Ring-necked Pheasant	Black-necked Stilt
Redhead	Chukar	Wilson's Phalarope
Ring-necked Duck	Turkey	Northern Phalarope
Canvasback	Whooping Crane	Herring Gull
Greater Scaup*		

* Dustin Only

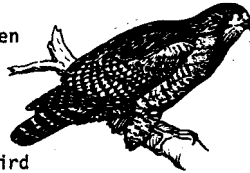
continued on p. 4

BIG YEAR LIST
CONTINUED FROM P. 3

California Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Laughing Gull
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Common Tern*
Forster's Tern
Least Tern
Black Tern
Band-tailed Pigeon
Rock Dove
White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove
Inca Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Roadrunner
Barn Owl
Screech Owl
Whiskered Owl
Flammulated Owl
Great Horned Owl
Pygmy Owl
Elf Owl
Burrowing Owl
Long-eared Owl
Short-eared Owl
Poor-will
Common Nighthawk
Lesser Nighthawk
Chimney Swift*
White-throated Swift
Black-chinned Hmgbird.
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird
Broad-billed Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Common Flicker
Gila Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Acorn Woodpecker
Lewis' Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Williamson's Sapsucker

Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Arizona Woodpecker
Northern 3-toed Wdpker.
Eastern Kingbird
Western Kingbird
Cassin's Kingbird
Thick-billed Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flychr.
Great Crested Flycatcher
Wied's Crested Flychr.
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Olivaceous Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Willow Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher*
Western Flycatcher
Coues' Flycatcher
Western Wood Pewee
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Vermilion Flycatcher
Beardless Flycatcher
Horned Lark
Violet-green Swallow
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Cave Swallow
Gray Jay
Blue Jay
Steller's Jay
Scrub Jay
Mexican Jay
Black-billed Magpie
Common Raven
White-necked Raven
Common Crow

Pinyon Jay
Clark's Nutcracker
Bl.-capped Chickadee
Mountain Chickadee
Plain Titmouse
Bridled Titmouse
Verdin
Bushtit
White-br. Nuthatch
Red-br. Nuthatch
Pygmy Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Dipper
House Wren
Winter Wren
Bewick's Wren
Cactus Wren
Marsh Wren
Sedge Wren
Canyon Wren
Rock Wren
N. Mockingbird
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Bendire's Thrasher
Curve-billed Thrasher
Crisall Thrasher
Sage Thrasher
Amer. Robin
Hermit Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Eastern Bluebird
Western Bluebird
Mountain Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby Crowned Kinglet
Water Pipit
Sprague's Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Phainopepla
Loggerhead Shrike



Starling
Bell's Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Black & White Warb.
Prothonotary Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-cr. Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Virginia's Warb.
Lucy's Warbler
Olive Warbler*
Yellow Warbler
Bl-thr Blue Warb.
Yellow-rumped Warb.
Bl-thr Gray Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Blackburnian Warb.**
Grace's Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warb.
Bay-breasted Warbler
Northern Waterthrush
MacGillivray's Warb.
Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-breasted Chat
Red-faced Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
American Redstart
Painted Redstart
House Sparrow
Bobolink
Eastern Meadowlark
Western Meadowlark

Yellow-headed Blbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Hooded Oriole
Scott's Oriole
Northern Oriole
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Bronzed Cowbird
Western Tanager
Hepatic Tanager
Summer Tanager
Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia
Rose-br. Grosbeak
Bl-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Lazuli Bunting
Varied Bunting
Painted Bunting
Dickcissel
Evening Grosbeak
Cassin's Finch
House Finch
Pine Grosbeak
Brown-capped Rosey Fnh*
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch
Red Crossbill
Green-tailed Towhee

Rufous -sided Towhee
Brown Towhee
Abert's Towhee
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Baird's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Cassin's Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Sage Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Gray-headed Junco
Yellow-eyed Junco
Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Black-chinned Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Golden-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Song Sparrow
McCown's Longspur
Chestnut-col. Longspur

* Dustin only
** Sue only

February-March 1980
AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is pleased to announce it will again be offering a scholarship for an APS teacher to attend the Audubon Ecology Camp of the West. The camp is located at Trail Lake Ranch in the Whiskey Basin Big Game Sanctuary, 12 miles southwest of Dubois, Wyoming, in the Wind River Mts.

The \$400.00 scholarship covers meals, housing, field trips and instruction. It does not cover transportation or University credit, (which is available.)

This is an excellent opportunity to expand your knowledge and appreciation of the environment and bring this knowledge back to your students.

For further information and an application blank, contact:
Dave Lange--266-4420,
Ross Tueber--265-8962,
Dustin Huntington--831-5755,
Elizabeth Forbes--293-7630,
or write CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002,
Albuquerque, N. M., 87190.

IF YOU KNOW OF A TEACHER YOU THINK WOULD MAKE A GOOD CANDIDATE, PLEASE LET THEM KNOW OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP. LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

**Audubon
Wildlife
Film**

Tuesday
February 26, 1980

Charles Hotchkiss

"Return to the Tetons"

Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park receives millions of visitors each year, and for a park that was born in controversy, that's a significant vote of approval. Ty and Julie Hotchkiss are two of those who have been repeatedly drawn back to the spectacular beauty of the Tetons over the years. Ty was a Seasonal Ranger-Naturalist in the park in the early 50's, and Teton Trails was the Hotchkiss' first Audubon Wildlife Film. Now, after 20 years, they have returned to record the changes, the abundant wildlife and the beauty of the alpine scenery that originally inspired them.

7:30 P.M. UNM POPEJOY HALL

Whooping Cranes

At the New Mexico Audubon Council meeting in Socorro last month, it was brought up that the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish was attempting to get the experimental flock of Whooping Cranes declassified from its endangered species status. The reasons for this move are uncertain and we think this move might possibly pose additional dangers to the experimental flock. To learn why the NMDG&F is attempting this, we plan to meet with them and representatives from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at our next board meeting on February 7th. The outcome of this meeting will appear in the next OWL and anyone (members and non-members) is encouraged to attend the board meeting (see calendar).

Nongame Bill

On other fronts, the U.S. Senate version of the nongame bill has been introduced. It is stronger than the House bill and provides funding through an excise tax on such things as bird seed, bird houses, baths and feeders. This bill would provide matching funds to states so that a state can inventory and assess its wildlife (both game and nongame -- more than 80% must be directed towards nongame) and to develop a comprehensive plan for wildlife. Our state's, like many state's fish and wildlife programs are directed almost entirely at game species. National Audubon and our chapter think that it is about time for a change in philosophy and to provide some way to do something about it. Write Senators Domenici and Schmitt (addresses on page 8) and ask them to support Senate bill 2981 for nongame wildlife.

Wilderness

On the wilderness front, Representative Foley of Washington has introduced H.R. 6070 which would:

- * Instantly commit all 36 million acres of roadless areas recommended

as "non-wilderness" by the Forest Service (FS) to non-wilderness status permanently.

- * Any roadless area which was recommended for "wilderness" by the FS and not acted on by Congress by 1984 would automatically lapse into non-wilderness status.
- * Set a similar cut-off of 1987 for all lands recommended for "further planning" if not enacted as wilderness by Congress.
- * All present primitive areas would lapse into non-wilderness if not acted upon by 1984.

Conservationists feel that Foley's bill is unnecessary as the roadless areas recommended by the President as non-wilderness are now open for full multiple use. This bill would also put strict constraints on Congress for establishment of wilderness which in some cases would not allow sufficient time for planning or Congressional action. Congress is making steady progress in resolving roadless area issues on a state by state basis to provide maximum local input -- not a drastic, once and for all effort like H.R. 6070 would do.

continued on page 6

CNMMAS BOARD ELECTIONS IN MAY

The nomination committee is now forming for the CNMMAS annual election of officers in May. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee or just would like to make a nomination call Dustin Huntington (831-5755).

Openings for president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer (one year terms) and board director (4 year term) are available.

Barrier Islands

1980 has been proclaimed the Year of the Coast and in this connection, Representative Burton of California has introduced H.R. 5981 which would provide funds to survey the barrier islands and to purchase undeveloped ones. A barrier island is a low-lying island a short distance off a coast providing protection from ocean storms. The lagoons which lie between the barrier island and the mainland are prime wildlife habitat as are the islands themselves. Extensive barrier islands lie off much of our Atlantic and Gulf coasts. This bill would also prohibit federal funds to be used to replace or repair storm damage to structures on barrier islands -- this is a very sound move since barrier islands are poor places to build and structures on them sustain frequent hurricane and wave damage. Write Representative Lujan to indicate your support for H.R. 5981. (Address on page 8).

Predator Control

Last fall Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus announced his decision on the federal Animal Damage Control (ADC) program. Andrus called for:

- * end of research on Compound 1080 which was banned several years ago
- * elimination of the practice of denning (killing coyote pups while they are still in the den)
- * research and use of non-lethal methods and better husbandry

Sheepmen do not like the Secretary's decision and are putting pressure on their Congressmen. Write your Senators and let them know that you support the Secretary's decisions. Also indicate your support to Secretary Andrus as well.

The Honorable Cecil D. Andrus
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

If you need additional information on any of the above call Dave Lange (266-4420).

FRIENDSHIP FORCE TO COSTA RICA

Do you need any of these birds on your life list?

White-necked Jacobin
Keel-billed Toucan
Collared Aracari
Blue-crowned Motmot
White-whiskered Puffbird
Slaty Spinetail
Dot-winged Antwren
White-ruffed Manakin
Paltry Tyrannulet
Montezuma Oropendola
Scarlet-rumped Cacique
Yellow-throated Euphonia
Black-headed Saltator
Blue-black Grassquit

From Turrialba, Costa Rica Christmas Count, 1978.

Host a Costa Rican (possibly a naturalist like you) and return their visit on next year's reciprocal exchange. Or better still get on the Friendship Force waiting list for the February 15, 1980 trip to Costa Rica.

Hosts to welcome Costa Ricans in their homes, either Feb. 15-20 or Feb. 20-25 are still needed by the Friendship Force.

For more information or to volunteer to be a host or to get on the waiting list contact Albuquerque Friendship Force, 206 Third Street SW, Albuquerque NM 87102 (243-6916).

There will be future trips to Korea and undisclosed destinations in May, June and September of 1980.

The ptarmigan is strange,
As strange as he can be;
Never sits on ptelephone poles
Or roosts upon a ptree.
And the way he takes pto spelling
Is the strangest thing pto me.

Anonymous

ROSS'S RAVIN'S

Hi Folks! Now that the Christmas Bird Counts are over, and the big year list is complete, we -- as one of my callers said -- are in the midst of the winter doldrums. So far we've had a fairly mild winter so even the activity at our feeders is not very impressive.

Speaking of feeders, remember water is just as important as food, and keeping an unfrozen supply available can be something of a challenge. Also a variety of kinds of feed, seeds, suet, and fruit attracts more varieties of birds than just seeds alone. Also, since birds have no teeth to grind their food, an available supply of gravel, fine enough for them to take into their gizzards is very desirable. Let me know if any unusual and interesting visitors come to your feeders (265-8962).

The winter raptors are now here and active. Both bald and golden eagles have been reported from several locations including Cochiti Dam and Bosque del Apache. Some of the more interesting reports include wintering ducks such as common goldeneyes. There are no recent reports of the oldsquaws which were seen in several locations before the Christmas Counts. Early in January, Dustin and Sue Huntington saw brown-capped rosy finches near Kiwanis Cabin in the Sandias. If we get more severe weather, keep your eyes open and let me know if you spot any northern shrikes. There is an article on how to differentiate them from loggerheads in the winter issue of the quarterly "Birding News Survey," available in our chapter library. More severe weather could also reward us with cedar and/or Bohemian waxwings, evening grosbeaks, and who knows what else at our feeders. Please call and share your goodies with me and your fellow Auduboners.

It hardly seems possible, but by the time you read this it will be almost time for the whooping cranes, and of course the sandhills, to be

winging their way back north to their summering groundings. Keep your eyes open, and if you spot a big white one with black wing tips among the sandhills, either call the Bosque del Apache NWR (1-835-1828) and let them know, or call me and I'll get word to them.

From talking to other compilers, as well as my own experience, this was a good year for Christmas Bird Counts. At least five other counts that I know of resulted in finding more species than ever before, or at least more than for several years. In the Sandia Mountains, if all species reported are accepted, we will have exceeded species counts for all previous years by twelve species.... five of these -- common snipe, screech owl, great horned owl, Bewick's wren, and dipper were first ever occurrences for the count. Three -- merlin, pygmy owl and roadrunner -- were second occurrences, and turkeys which had been reported in the count area but not on the count day were reported as part of the count this year. The total number of individuals -- 6514 -- was second only to the 7753 counted in 1974. A complete tabulation of the count is available for those who participated, or are interested in having the results before the published report comes out in the July 1980 issue of "American Birds."

Top honors in the big year list were shared by Rick Wilt and Dustin Huntington with 341 species each. They lacked only one of beating Rick's last year's record by a full 100. I have a copy of Rick's list if you are interested in checking what he saw (Dustin's list is elsewhere in this issue). They were closely followed by Sue Huntington with 336 species, and Steve West with 311 was fourth. The rest of us trailed along far behind with totals scattered between 200 and 300. Dave Tomasko wound up with 219; Dave Lange had 221; Hart Schwarz had 235; and Ravin' Ross came up with 253. Congratulations y'all.



ROSS'S RAVIN'S CONT. FROM PAGE 7

In this year of the energy crunch and steadily increasing gas-line prices, it might be interesting to have a competition to see who could compile the longest list of yard visitors, feathered of course. This would not only provide our less mobile birdwatchers a challenging competition, and get some different people involved, but it could provide some valuable documentation of supporting data for our revised bird checklist for the Albuquerque area. All of us could contribute to the effort, and we might just discover some things we hadn't been aware of before. What do you say? --- Shall we do it???:!! Let me have your comments. See you next time.

Ross L. Teuber

WASHBURN AWARD NOMINEES NEEDED

CNMAS is looking for a federal, state or local government employee actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation to receive the Washburn Award.

In past years recipients were Dick Rigby (1976) Gary Zahm (1977) both formerly of Bosque del Apache, Dan Pursley (1978) of NM Dept. of Game & Fish founder of "Operation Game Thief" and Dave Lange (1979) formerly of UNM for his work with CNMAS as president (2 yrs) and conservation chairman (4, now 5 yrs).

The award, honoring Dan and Marian Washburn for their service to CNMAS is presented at our annual meeting (May 15) Nominations will be accepted in writing at CNMAS, P.O.Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190.

ADDRESSES

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

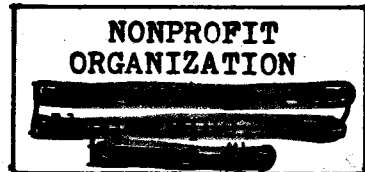
The Hon. Harold Rumlals
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

President	Dustin Huntington, 11 Calle Pueblo Pinado NW 87120	831-5755
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Treasurer	Alice Andrews, 3416 Sierra Dr. NE 87108	881-9387
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