

# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

June—July 1981

## CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, BOARD MEETING

Annual BOARD DINNER MEETING at the home of Barbara Hussey (292-5626) 705 Monte Alto, N.E. "Get acquainted" potluck supper begins at 6:30 p.m. for past and present board members and spouses. Bring food. If you can bring tables and chairs, call Barbara. Board meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH, REGULAR MEETING

REGULAR MEETING of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Tom Smylie of the US Fish & Wildlife Service will speak and show the new film, "Wetlands" including footage from Bosque del Apache.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST, FIELD TRIP

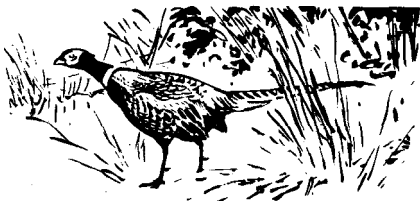
FIELD TRIP to Hondo Canyon and Mystery Trail at the south end of the Sandias. Meet at the parking lot of the Aladin Motel at 8:00 a.m. This will be approximately a 5 mile hike. Bring lunch and water. Call leader Hart Schwarz (266-1810) for more information.

## JULY

### NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH

### FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY, JULY 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH, NATIONAL CONVENTION

1981 National Audubon Society Convention, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. Keynote speaker: Arizona Governor Bruce E. Babbit.



### TUESDAY, JULY 14TH, BLM PUBLIC MEETING

BLM Public Meeting to discuss wilderness suitability of Sierra Ladrones and Petaca Pinta, 7 p.m. at Albuquerque Convention Center, Tesuque Room. Written comment period ends August 8. CNMAS will have maps and environmental impact statement available. Call Kay Anderson (898-2968).

### THURSDAY, JULY 16TH, REGULAR MEETING

REGULAR MEETING of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Lee Singer, Public Information Officer with the Cibola National Forest will speak and show slides on reforestation.

### THURSDAY, JULY 16TH

Deadline for Burrowing Owl copy.

### SATURDAY, JULY 18TH, FIELD TRIP

FIELD TRIP to our trail on the east side of the Sandias. This will be a combination work, fun and birding trip. Meet at the junction of Tramway Road and the road to Juan Tabo Park. Call leader Barbara Hussey (292-5626) for information.

### SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 25TH & 26TH, NMAC COUNCIL MEETING

New Mexico Audubon Council meeting in Las Cruces. Call Evelyn or George Price if you would like to know more. All Audubon members are welcome at the meetings and/or field trips.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 6TH, BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEETING, 7:30 p.m. A volunteer is needed to host the meeting. You need not be a board member. Call Kay Anderson (898-2968).

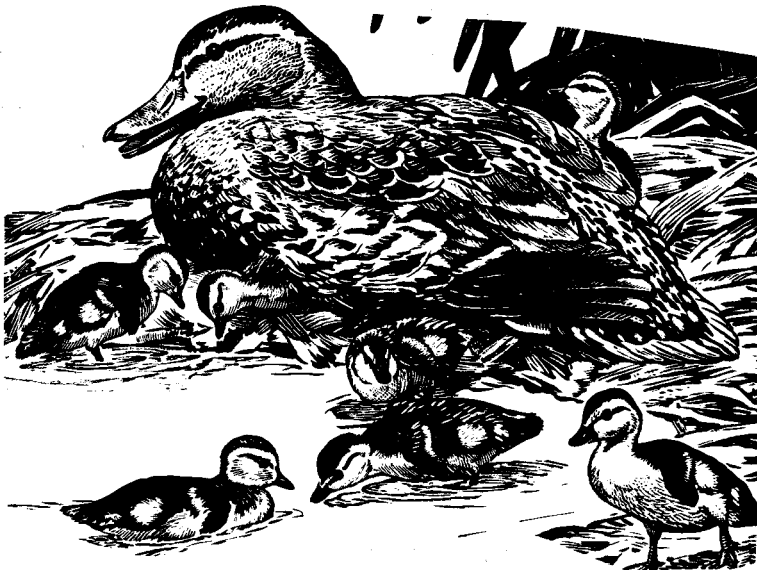
### YOUTH RAISES \$127 FOR BIRD-A-THON

David Stepetic, 13, a member of CNMAS, was our only Bird-a-thon participant for 1981. He saw 55 species at Bosque del Apache and the Albuquerque west mesa—and collected \$127.05 from 18 sponsors! The money will be divided evenly between the National Audubon Society, Southwest Regional Audubon and the Central New Mexico Audubon Society and used to finance programs of each of the groups.

David is a seventh grader at Cleveland Middle School and has been birding for about one year. His life list is now 145. Other hobbies include frisbee, golf, and trombone playing. David has been told that his first word was "Rabe" the German word for raven. His babysitter taught him this at a U.S. Air Force Base in West Germany where he was born. David says it's a coincidence, but we say it was a prediction!

David was presented with our chapter's patch and copies of John Hubbard's *Revised Checklist of the Birds of New Mexico* and Chuck Hundertmark's *Breeding Birds of Elephant Butte Marsh* at our annual meeting in May.

Thank you, David, for a job well done!



### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NEEDS HELP

CNMAS wishes to thank all who helped this year with refreshments and chair set-up. We particularly want to thank outgoing Hospitality Chairman, Natalie Hechter for a terrific job!

If you are interested in keeping our meetings as refreshing as they have been in the past, please call Kay Anderson (898-2968) to volunteer.

### SHARE A RIDE TO MEXICO CLOUD FOREST

Ross Teuber (265-8962) wants to hear from birders interested in sharing a ride to Rancho del Cielo in the cloud forest above Gomez-Farias, Mexico. The trip is \$250/person from December 29, 1981 to January 4, 1982 and includes the Gomez-Farias Christmas Bird Count (170-190 species seen).

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thank you to all the people who have volunteered to work on the various committees. The more people who help, the less work for everyone. There is still a need for a Hospitality Chairman. If you are interested in the position, or in helping on any of the committees, please inform me or any of the chairmen about your willingness to help.

We are part of the "Adopt a Trail" program in the Sandia Mountains and I hope that on our field trip to maintain our trail, everyone will be able to come and help. Let's show the Sandia Ranger District and the community that we care about our mountain.

This summer the Audubon Ark is coming to Albuquerque. The date is not set yet so keep a lookout in the papers for its debut at Coronado Center.

I look forward to your continued support and help in the coming year.

**Kay Anderson**

### OUT-GOING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I would like to thank all of you who helped make my job easier this year. I will continue to work with CNMAS as the next Education Committee Chairman.

CNMAS hopes to arrange to have the National Audubon Society's Endangered Species Mobile Education Program dubbed "The Audubon Ark" visit Albuquerque. The exhibit will be set up at shopping centers around the country and should be in our area this summer. If you are interested in helping, give me a call at 292-5626.

Don't forget the National Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, July 3 through 5.

Let us know if you would like to help with the Audubon State Fair Exhibit. This year it will be bigger and better than ever as it is being financed by the New Mexico Audubon Council!

Again thank you for a terrific year as your president. If Kay receives the same kind of cooperation, we will definitely have a productive coming year.

**Barbara Hussey**

### WASHBURN AWARD FOR 1981

At our annual meeting on May 21, John Hubbard of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish became this year's recipient of CNMAS' Washburn Award for government employees actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation. The award this year was a signed and numbered lithography of snowy owls by Richard Evans Younger.

Dr. Hubbard, Project Leader for the New Mexico Endangered Species Program has worked for NMDG&F since 1974 and in that time has coordinated state programs on the recovery of endangered species including the whooping crane.

## BUDGET IS IN; LETTERS TO CONGRESS NEEDED

President Reagan sent his budget-trimming proposals to the Congress this week. One way or another, much of what he asks could affect wildlife and natural resources, and it is time for concerned members of the National Audubon Society to start writing their congressmen. Included in the proposed cuts are some which conservationists can support wholeheartedly, and some which are penny-wise but pound-foolish, and should be fought. In addition, the President has passed up opportunities for saving billions of dollars by cutting other programs that are economically wasteful as well as environmentally destructive.

The most alarming of the President's proposed cuts is a two-thirds slash in funding for the Council on Environmental Quality, an agency which has been a giant of the environmental era. The biggest areas of waste in which he failed to call for cutbacks are porkbarrel dams and canals, and highway construction. And the parts of his program most deserving of support, in respect to protection of the natural environment, are cuts in synthetic fuel subsidies and increases in waterway and aviation user fees.

The National Audubon Society has contended from the start that the federal government's synthetic fuels program has been grossly overfunded in relation to other energy programs. So it is welcome news that Reagan proposes an end to virtually all direct subsidies for synfuel plant construction, a cut that would save \$2.7 billion over the next five years. There would still be what conservationists consider an overly generous loan guarantee authority available to the Synfuels Corporation to encourage private development of synthetic fuels. As explained in the budget suggestions sent to the President last month by a coalition of conservation organizations, including National Audubon, loan guarantees can support economically unsound plants and projects, and thus subsidize inefficient use of natural resources.

Conservationists can applaud Reagan's proposal to increase user fees for aviation and for barges that use federally built and maintained waterways. Commercial and private airplanes are currently paying only a small part of the expense of the airports and services the government provides for them. For example, private planes and company jets pay only about one-tenth of their share of the cost of the general aviation services, such as air traffic control and navigation beacons, which they receive; the other 90 percent comes out of the taxpayers' pocket. Likewise, barge operators are paying only about 6 percent of what it costs the government to construct, maintain, and operate the nation's extensive inland waterway system.

A welcome, last-minute addition to the Reagan proposal was a significant cut in the Federal Insurance Program. Conservationists have fought the program because it encourages construction of buildings in unsuitable areas, such as barrier islands.

A user fee which Reagan does not propose to increase is the charge on outsize trucks. Highways take such a pounding from these trucks that every state in the Union is finding it difficult to pay for maintenance of the highways already built. Yet Reagan has not sought a cut in the \$2.3 billion currently budgeted for still more highways. The conserva-

tionists' coalition recommends raising the truck fees and budgeting funds only for repairing and maintaining the present roadways.

For conservationists, the biggest disappointment in the Reagan proposals are his token cuts in water projects. The minor trimming he seeks for the \$2.37 billion in the holdover Carter budget is mostly "deferral" of funds for recreation and wildlife mitigation (the latter provides suitable lands to make up for habitat destroyed by the water project). Cutting out just a handful of the more outrageous porkbarrel projects now on the books like the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, a shortcut to save barges time on their way to the Gulf of Mexico could save the government close to a billion dollars in the coming year.

Two other areas where Reagan has spared the budget ax are nuclear power, including the breeder reactor, and the MX missile system.

The conservationist coalition contends that the deep cuts Reagan asks for solar energy and energy conservation, urban parks, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund that supports state recreation programs and national parklands acquisition, are out of scale with his proposed cuts in other programs. Parks and conservation should be asked to take only their fair share of the burden of economizing, the coalition says.

The budget that finally emerges from the Congress will govern federal programs for the fiscal year that starts October 1st, and will begin to shape policies for the following years. This early stage of the budgetmaking process is a vital time for conservationists to let their Representatives and Senators know their views. Write to them at U.S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510, and House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515, or telephone their offices in their home districts.



## GOVERNOR BABBITT OF ARIZONA WILL KEYNOTE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The keynote speaker at the National Audubon Convention this summer at Estes Park, Colorado, will be Governor Bruce Babbitt of Arizona. He will address the opening session on Friday evening, July 3, and will talk about the Sagebrush Rebellion, the effort by a number of western states to take over a large share of the federal public lands. The Arizona legislature passed a Sagebrush bill last year, Babbitt vetoed it, but the legislature overrode his veto.

The closing session on Sunday morning, July 5, will tie in with Babbitt's remarks and the convention theme, "Pressures on the Land." Two highly placed federal officials will present the Reagan Administration's views on public lands and they will be answered by a leading critic of those views, Charles H. Callison, former Executive Vice President of National Audubon Society and now President of the Public Lands Institute.

There is still time to sign up for the convention. For an application form, call the society's Rocky Office in Boulder, Colorado, at (303) 499-219.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

## Priest Canyon, April 25th

Darwin Miller led a group of six people to Priest Canyon for a pleasant but not too eventful trip. The dryness of the weather had kept vegetation from growing and the number of species lower than usually seen in the area. A total of 28 species was seen. Leader Miller reports that 55 species is not uncommon in a good wet year. The most startling sight was a pair of mallard ducks flushed from the creek bed!

## Bosque del Apache, May 2nd

Thirteen people enjoyed a beautiful day in Bosque on a trip led by Jim Karo. On arrival, the group was treated to the sight of a mixed flock of American and lesser goldfinches, pine siskins, and indigo buntings feeding on the lawn at refuge headquarters. A flock of about two dozen white-faced ibis in breeding plumage was a special sight. Some shorebirds were present including semipalmated plover and Wilson's phalaropes. Lazuli bunting was found in the brush on the north loop. The antics of the numerous swallows provided constant delight. The only sad (and puzzling) note was a number of small birds found dead on the lawn. Hail was conjectured as the culprit. A total of 70 plus species was seen.

## Juan Tabo Park &amp; Waterfall Canyon, May 2nd

Our Audubon field trip to the Juan Tabo area on May 10 started off on some good notes by black throated and lark sparrows in the lower, cholla dominated Juan Tabo area. We also encountered a lone white crowned sparrow there and several Brewer's Sparrows, the latter being very cooperative in allowing close scrutiny.

A couple of miles further up the road where the pavement ends, we parked our cars and walked another mile to the Piedra Lisa trailhead. Along the way, Bewicks wrens, black chinned sparrows, and the ubiquitous Virginia's warblers were singing. But the action did not really begin until we reached Waterfall Canyon, a lush oasis that joins the Piedra Lisa Trail from the east, only about a quarter of a mile above the trailhead. After spending a very rewarding time among the plethora of birds in this canyon, we continued north, not on the Piedra Trail (which would have taken us to Juan Tabo Ridge), but along the upper portion of Juan Tabo Canyon. At first the canyon is relatively wide and sandy, but it soon narrows into a path leading up a well-wooded slope. Before the trail became too steep, we ended our excursion in a beautiful forest glade where we had our lunch. It was an ideal spot: cool, remote, and alive with birds. Warbling and solitary vireos were most conspicuous, the latter putting the finishing touches on a nest only several yards from where we were sitting. Grace's warblers came down from the tall pines, often perching at eye-level, and one individual even flew to the ground for a drink from a nearby stream.

Collectively, our group of nine saw nearly fifty species, but of what value is such an abstraction when "experiencing" only a single western tanager can suffice to justify a day's birding.

Hart Schwarz

## ELDERHOSTEL BIRDING

Elderhostel is for those over 60 who wish to use educational and hosteling services of American universities and colleges. For detailed information write to Elderhostel, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 200, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

Here is a select list of elderhostel bird studies for summer 1981:

University of Arizona—July 26 through August 1—  
"Birds of Arizona."

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo—August 9 through 15—"Bird Migration."

Sonoma State University, California—July 26 through August 1—"California Birds."

Yale University, Connecticut—June 14 through 20—  
"Bats, Birds, and Porpoises."

Valdosta State College, Georgia—June 21 through 27—"Okefenokee Natural Wildlife."

Indiana State University—July 19 through 25—"Bird Watching."

Maine Conservation School—June 28 through July 4—"Birds and Their Environment."

Kearney State College, Nebraska—June 21 through 27—"What Bird is This?"

Houghton College, New York—June 21 through 27—"Birds; Their Beauty and Biology."

Mars Hollis College, North Carolina—July 5 through 11—"Appalachian Ornithology."

High Country School; Portland, Oregon—September 13 through 19—"Birds of the Mountain Lakes."

Edinboro State College, Pennsylvania—June 14 through 20—"Birds and Their Idiosyncracies."

Lambuth College; Jackson, Tennessee—July 19 through 25—"Birds in Field and Classroom."

Roanoke College, Virginia—July 12 through 18—"Bird Study."

Pacific Lutheran University; Tacoma, Washington—July 5 through 11—"Birds of the Northwest."

University of Wisconsin, Green Bay—July 5 through 11—"Birds of Northeastern Wisconsin."

You must correspond with the institution for registration, which is \$140 a week for housing, meals, and up to three courses at each university. Martin Ruoss has additional information, telephone 294-6870.



## CNMAS SALES

Condor Prints by Dustin Huntington (proceeds go to Condor Fund)	\$5.00
Birds of New Mexico	\$0.03
Field Checklist	10 for \$.27
Four color CNMAS embroidered arm patches	\$2.00

Available at the regular meetings from the CNMAS librarian. Buy now—prices may go up.

## THE NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL

At the April meeting of the NMAC, it was agreed that all Audubon members in New Mexico had a right to know what the Council was up to! The Council is dedicated to furthering the Audubon cause throughout the state. Mr. Hal Hallett of Roswell attended the recent meeting as a guest and had the following to say:

### WHO SPEAKS FOR AUDUBON?

Many voices speak for Audubon, and in New Mexico one of the most effective is the New Mexico Audubon Council. I wish every member of Audubon in our state could have had the privilege, as I did, of attending the recent meeting of the New Mexico Audubon Council. At the present time there are six local Audubon chapters in new Mexico, and four of them belong to the Council. All four of the member chapters were represented at the April meeting.

The Council is involved in a variety of projects to further the Audubon Cause. Here is a summary of what happened at the meeting:

First on the agenda was a report from the committee which has been working on a revision of the field checklist of the birds of New Mexico. The work of this committee will be completed before the time comes for a new printing, and the result will be a checklist that is more convenient and more useful.

Another Council committee is monitoring developments in the Four Corners area, where an electric power company is building a new power station and has formed a subsidiary called "Sunbelt Mining," which is now authorized to the mine coal in the Bisti Badlands area. The coal is being tested for impurities and will eventually become the fuel for the new power station. An environmental impact statement is now in preparation, and it is expected that by the end of this decade the operation will be well underway. The Council will continue to keep a watchful eye on these developments.

The Council will have a commercial booth this year at the State Fair in Albuquerque. A Council committee has been at work on this project and has applied for space. A state Audubon newsletter is being prepared and will contain information about all of the local Audubon chapters in our state. This newsletter and other materials will be distributed at the fair and it is estimated that as many as 300,000 persons could be reached through this effort.

It was reported that the New Mexico Wool Growers Association has sent a request to the Animal Damage Control Department of the US Fish & Wildlife Service for permission to kill eagles where they are reported to be endangering lambs. Council members indicated it would be more desirable to have a responsible agency trapping and moving eagles than to have any relaxation of the laws which now protect them from would-be killers. A resolution was passed putting the Council on record as being in favor of the trapping and moving of eagles where predation has been reported to the Animal Damage Control Department, and providing that ranchers be advised of this practice and urged to give their cooperation.

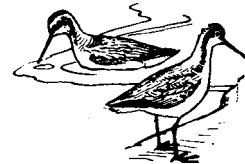
Council members from the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society reported progress in their efforts to control the use of four-wheel drive vehicles in the Gila Wilderness Area. A ruling has been obtained which extends the period when the wilderness is closed to RV's for several months. Audubon members in that area will continue to monitor this problem.

A representative of the New Mexico Audubon Council attended meetings of the Conservation Committee of the State Legislature and had the opportunity to meet with the committee chairman and make him aware of Audubon concerns.

The Council representative also monitored action by the State Legislature, and he gave an excellent report on legislation of interest to Audubon members. The New Mexico state income tax forms for 1981 will give taxpayers an opportunity to check off a specific amount for the State Nongame Protection Fund.

The Council is taking the initiative to encourage the Audubon chapters at Gallup and Las Cruces to join the New Mexico Audubon Council. The vice president of the Council attended a meeting of the chapter in Gallup to urge them to become active in the State Council. He attended the meeting of their board of directors just before the regular meeting and then stayed for the meeting of members. He was much impressed with the enthusiasm of Audubon members in that area and thinks there are hopeful signs that the chapter will become active in the Council. Plans are underway to have a representative from the Council attend a meeting of the Audubon chapter in Las Cruces in the near future.

The above narrative describes just a few of the things which the New Mexico Audubon Council is doing for you. The question is—what are you doing for the New Mexico Audubon Council?



Hallett

### A PAINLESS WAY OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

To paraphrase an old saying: You can't give your cake to National Audubon and eat it, too. But you can come very close to doing that by joining the society's newly revised Life Income Fund. You can make a gift to the fund now, take a tax deduction for it this year, and continue to enjoy its income, plus some other advantages, as long as you live (or as long as your designated beneficiary lives). Upon your death (or beneficiary's death) the money will go to the National Audubon Society and build up its endowment for future efforts to protect wildlife and wilderness.

There are additional financial advantages to this method of supporting the society's work. You get the benefit of professional handling of invested funds (the program is administered by the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York), and there are also capital gains and estate tax benefits. For further information, write Gomer Jones at Audubon headquarters in New York.

## A ONE HUNDRED BIRD DAY

By Ross L. Teuber

For two or three years Pat Basham has been telling me about her personnel, one-person spring bird counts, and trying to persuade me to join her. She has long had the thought that two of us could start in her yard in Socorro, move on to Water Canyon, and then back to Bosque del Apache, and easily record 100 species of birds in a single day.

So on Friday night, April 25, after school, Clara and I set out for Socorro, and arrived at Pat's in time for dinner with her and Bill. She was really enthusiastic, and eagerly anticipating our "big day." The warbler migration was on the move. She had seen yellow-rumped, Virginia's, Lucy's, Wilson's, and a Nashville warbler in her yard that day, and the Harris' sparrow which has been with her all spring was still around. Blackchinned hummingbirds swarmed at her feeders.

We made a few simple plans and rules for carrying on the count and retired early, for we planned to be up before the sun to get a good start. As soon as I could see, I was to check the yard and nearby area and let her know if I found anything she wasn't already aware was there. That would give Pat and Clara an opportunity to clear away the breakfast things, pack and load our lunch, and do their last minute feminine preparations.

The first birds of the morning were a pair of barn swallows, building a nest on Pat's front porch. These were quickly followed by western kingbirds, house sparrows, white-crowned sparrows, robin, mourning dove, road-runner, red-winged blackbird, black-chinned hummingbird, northern oriole, mallard, and Brewer's blackbirds. About the time the sun began to glow well the warblers began to move and we quickly found yellowrumped, orange-crowned, Lucy's, and Wilson's—but no Tennessee. We did find a lone pine siskin, a single gray-headed junco, and by carefully checking among the white-crowned sparrows we also found the Harris' and a white-throated sparrow. All in all we ticked off 28 species before we pulled out of Pat's yard at around 6 a.m.

Enroute to Water Canyon we picked up several more species like sage and curve-billed thrashers, scrub jays, canyon wren, horned lark, eastern and western meadowlark, black-throated, lark and vesper sparrows, acorn woodpeckers, violet-green swallows, Say's phoebe, ash-throated flycatcher, and brown-headed cowbirds. The canyon itself yielded house wren, solitary vireo, hairy woodpecker, mountain chickadee, plain titmouse, bushtit, rufous-sided towhee, a Cooper's hawk (nesting), broadtailed hummingbird, and western bluebird. A quick tally before we left the campground indicated we had gained 30 species. Our total now stood at 58, and it was well past 10 a.m. The best birding hours were past.

By keeping our "eyes peeled" we were able to add a turkey vulture and an American kestrel before we arrived at the Bosque del Apache Refuge. That left us 40 species to add. Now everyone knows 40 species is not an unusually large number to list for a day at Bosque. But when you do that you often have a number of species which are common other places too, and which we had already seen and included on our list. So at this point, success was not really assured.

After visiting the headquarters, and adding lesser goldfinches to our list (we had barn swallows, pine siskins, white-crowned sparrow, western kingbird, and yellow-rumped warbler, all of which were there. We had hoped to find a pyrrhuloxia and some Gambel's quail, if we were lucky!), we headed for the tour route at 11:30 a.m.

My vote was to stop for lunch—but as usual I was overruled by the ladies. I guess they were afraid all the waterfowl and shorebirds would take wing and leave the refuge, never to return, as soon as we set wheel within the gate. Nothing would do but that we take the central part of the tour route, across the middle marsh road, and tally as many species as possible. The first 25 ducks, geese, and waders came fairly quickly. From there on we had to look harder. Among the red-wings, and great-tailed grackles on the ground Pat spotted a water pipit, and as I was scoping some willets and a sanderling she discovered a Virginia rail. By 1:30 p.m. we had discovered 99 species, and look as hard as we would we just could not find the 100th elusive creature. The marsh wrens were not scolding, not a marsh hawk soared over the marsh, not a shrike was to be seen, no bitterns, egrets, or night herons; and my poor old stomach had collapsed. Finally I managed to beg a lunch break (a long time since 5:30 a.m. breakfast) on the argument that if we sat and waited, perhaps a yet unseen species would arrive.

Refreshed, we continued on around the north end of the tour loop and headed back south, but not one new species did we see. We stopped and walked a ways on the foot path. The air was hot, calm, and silent—not a leaf rustled, let alone a bird song. Still no more birds. Just as we got to the south end of the cultivated fields, before we got to the ditch on the left of the road we saw a small, dark, flycatcher-type bird sitting on a low bare branch near the right side of the road. We could distinguish no wing bars or eye ring. The back seemed dark enough for a black phoebe, but the size was small and the lower mandible was definitely yellow. We were stymied! No way could we get that bird to turn and show us its breast and underside or some other feature that would clinch its identification. Even when it flew across a ditch to a clump of willows, and flew out several times to catch insects, it always returned and perched with its back to us. Finally it flew beyond our visual range, and we still could not agree on identification. So by our rules that one did not count. We still had only 99!

We continued on to the big marsh directly east of the headquarters. Once more I sat up the telescope, and carefully, one by one searched through the many fluffed out clumps of feathers that marked the resting position of ducks and shorebirds. Ah! At last, there it was, number 100, a lone black-necked stilt, the only one we had seen all day. Anything we saw from here on would be an anticlimax.

However, we continued on south and around the lower end of the tour loop, like the farmer wanting one more rain, or the rancher looking for one more calf, we were looking for that one more bird. And we found—you guessed it—what the little boy shot at. Then on the edge of the north display pond as we returned to headquarters we stopped at the edge to take one more look at the peeps, and there, sure enough, was a different one, a pectoral sandpiper. Over 100 species for the day!

(next page)

At the headquarters, just over the bank from the laws, we found all those Gambel's quail we had been searching for all day. Then in a mixed flock on the lawn we found both American and lesser goldfinches as well as pine siskins. So this added one more goldfinch to the list, for a grand total of 103.

We were thoroughly surprised to have found no egrets, no ibis, and most of all no red-tailed or marsh hawks. A dozen other things we could just as easily have found as not, but they did not show. Even returning to Pat's house by the back road, which usually affords an additional species or two, we found nothing new. That was it! But we had achieved our goal—100 species of birds in a single day.

Will we do it again next year? Well, we are thinking about it—but next year we will try for 120.

A complete list of the species catalogued follows:

Pied-billed Grebe	Vermilion Flycatcher
Great Blue Heron	Horned Lark
Canada Goose	Violet-green Swallow
Snow Goose	Bank Swallow
Mallard	Rough-winged Swallow
Gadwall	Barn Swallow
Pintail	Scrub Jay
Green-winged Teal	Common Raven
Blue-winged Teal	Mountain Chickadee
Cinnamon Teal	Plain Titmouse
American Widgeon	Bushtit
Northern Shoveler	White-breasted Nuthatch
Canvasback	House Wren
Lesser Scaup	Canyon Wren
Ruddy Duck	Northern Mockingbird
Common Merganser	Curve-billed Thrasher
Turkey Vulture	Sage Thrasher
Cooper's Hawk	Western Bluebird
American Kestrel	Water pitit
Scaled Quail	Loggerhead Shrike
Gambel's Quail	Starling
Ring-necked Pheasant (White-winged)	Solitary Vireo
Virginia Rail	Orange-crowned Warbler
American Coot	Lucy's Warbler
Snowy Plover	Yellow-rumber Warbler
Killdeer	Common Yellowthroat
Spotted Sandpiper	Wilson's Warbler
Greater Yellowlegs	House Sparrow
Willet	Eastern Meadowlark
Pectoral Sandpiper	Western Meadowlark
Baird's Sandpiper	Red-winged Blackbird
Least Sandpiper	Northern Oriole
Western Sandpiper	Brewer's Blackbird
Sanderling	Great-tailed Grackle
Long-billed Dowitcher	Common Grackle
American Avocet	Brown-headed Cowbird
Black-necked Stilt	House Finch
Wilson's Phalarope	Pine Siskin
Rock Dove	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	Lesser Goldfinch
Roadrunner	Rufous-sided Towhee
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Brown Towhee
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Savannah Sparrow
	Vesper Sparrow

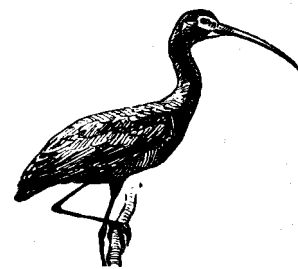
Common Flicker  
Acorn Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Ladder-backed Woodpecker  
Western Kingbird  
Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Say's Phoebe

Lark Sparrow  
Black-throated Sparrow  
Gray-headed Junco  
Chipping Sparrow  
Harris' Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow

### TUNE UP FOR CLEAN AIR

By June 1981 some 500 Albuquerque mechanics will have successfully completed the free 16-hour federal course on Emissions Systems Diagnosis. This is one of the first steps Albuquerque is taking to meet federal air quality standards. Beginning in January 1982, Albuquerque's Motor Vehicle Inspection Program (MVIP) will manage annual emissions inspections, and the MVIP is expected to reduce carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbon (HC) emissions 35 percent before 1987. All vehicles after 1967 that are less than 8,500 GVW (Gross Vehicle Weight), primarily cars and light or medium duty pickups, will be tested and those vehicles that exceed the maximum allowable CO and HC emissions must be repaired and returned for a free reinspection. Although officials expect one out of 5 inspected vehicles to fail the test in Albuquerque, statistics from the California program show that 3 out of 4 vehicles that fail can be repaired to meet emissions standards for \$30 or less. This cost is usually offset by gasoline savings since repaired vehicles can get 4 to 10 percent better gas mileage and increased engine life.

So TUNE UP FOR CLEAN AIR AND BETTER MILEAGE! More information can be obtained from the City of Albuquerque Motor Vehicle Inspection Program, Air Pollution Control Division, 924 Park Avenue, S.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico (505) 766-7432.



### MEMORY AID

Tucson Audubon Society has just opened a 24-hour telephone tape of bird information. It reports unusual sightings and also, for out-of-town visitors, gives more routine information about what's around and where to see it. Just call (602) 881-WING.

### NON-NUKE MUSHROOMS

An enterprising entrepreneur is marketing Three Mile Island creamy mushroom salad dressing. The ads claim it's devastatingly delicious and melts down on your salad with "a flavor explosion of mushrooms and spices." It's for real. For a sample packet, send a dollar to Catalyst Company, Box 4675, St. Louis, Missouri 63108.

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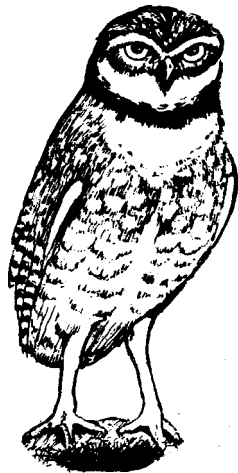
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**RARE BIRD ALERT—Report sightings to: 265-8962, 292-5626, or 898-2568**

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