

# BURROUUG OUL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1983

# CALENDAR

Welcome! Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy's Lutheran Church recreation room, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips, and special events.

# THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17--Regular Meeting

Dr. J. David Ligon of the UNM Dept. of Biology will present a program of Kenya research. He will show slides of African birds and mammals.

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19--Field Trip

Field trip to Coronado State Park and Bernalillo. The park is a great vantage point to watch crane migration. Meet at Hacienda de Baca Steak House in Bernalillo for breakfast at 9:30 a.m., or in the parking lot at 10:15 if you are not interested in a good breakfast in this charming adobe. We will bird around Bernalillo until 12 o'clock when we will go to the State Park to bird and watch for cranes. Meet us there if you are a real sluga-beds'. Call Evelyn or George Price (242-6604) if you'd like more information.

# THURSDAY, MARCH 3--Board Meeting

Board meeting at the home of Edith Johnson (255-0307) 917 Truman, N.E., 7:30 p.m. All members welcome.

# SATURDAY, MARCH 5--Field Trip

Two mile hike (one way) to Tunnel Springs at the northern end of the Sandias. Meet at the house of Cheryl & Ken Boll in Placitas at 8:00 a.m. where we will do some preliminary birding. This may be a good look out for observing hawks. To get to the Bolls, take the Placitas exit from I-25 N, go 5.5 miles east on Highway Turn right (south) at Placitas 44. Heights sign, continue for one-half mile on a paved road to a pinkish house with white trim near a dog kennel. Bring lunch. For more information, call Cheryl (867-2003) or leader Hart Schwarz (266-1810).

# SUNDAY, MARCH 13-- Lecture

Arch McCallum will speak on "Social Behavior of Mountain Chickadees." Arch is president of the Gallup Area Audubon Society and Editor of the NMOS Bulletin. This presentation will be held at the Albuquerque Academy 3 to 5 p.m. For information call the Academy 821-1155. Child care will be available.

# SATURDAY, MARCH 19--Workshop

CNMAS and NAS is sponsoring a natural history field trip leaders workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria N.W. Open to the public. Free. Bring a sack lunch. Workshop will cover techniques for conducting nature hikes and other outdoor activities. Workshop will include indoor and outdoor sessions. Instructor: National Audubon Southwest Regional Representative, Rhea Copening. For more information contact Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

# SATURDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 26-27--Field Trip

A field trip to the Monte Vista NWR just over the border in the San Luis Valley in Colorado. This is a great refuge where "our" cranes stay for a few weeks before going to Idaho. The Valley hosts many eagles during March. This will be a joint trip with the Sangre de Cristo chapter. Details of time and place are sketchy at the moment, so call the Prices (242-6604) in March for details.

# THURSDAY, APRIL 7--Board Meeting

Board meeting at the home of Barbara Hussey (292-5626) 3708 General Chenault, N.E. at 7:30 p.m. Please note new address. All members welcome.

# SATURDAY, APRIL 9--Field Trip

Field trip to the Bosque del Apache NWR. This should be shorebird time and leaders Dustin and Sue Huntington are great at helping unravel the mysteries of these difficult birds. Other migrants may be coming through as well. Meet at the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building parking lot, corner of Lomas and Yale, at 6:00 a.m. Bring lunch (and breakfast!).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16-17 New Mexico Ornithological Society meeting. Silver City. April 23-24 New Mexico Audubon Council Bosque del Apache NWR. May 19-21 Cooper Ornithological Society, UNM Campus. Mark your calendars now. M. More details in the next <u>OWL</u>. It is time again to be thinking about nominating officers for next year. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please contact one of our board members listed on page 8. Also if you would like to help with the nominating committee, please notify any board member. This chapter is in need of some more people who are willing to help it continue. Many of the members who are leading it now have been doing so for too many years and are becoming victims of 'burn-out." We need you! I don't want to see our chapter fail, but it will if we don't get more people interested in its continuation.

In May, we try to present our Washburn Award to a federal, state or local government employee who has been outstanding in contributions to wildlife or the environment. If you have a nomination, please notify CNMAS. Nominations will close April 7.

National Audubon is getting a TV show! Ted Turner, owner of cable channel 17, WTBS in Atlanta, who shares the goals of the Audubon Cause, has offered to donate free air time to Audubon. Regular one-hour documentaries should begin sometime in the fall. National Audubon is asking for suggestions on ways in which chapters may take advantage of these broadcasts to enhance community outreach. If you have any ideas, let me know or write National.

National Audubon is also working on starting Audubon Youth Groups in all chapters. If you or your children are interested, let us know.

On Saturday, March 19, CNMAS is cosponsoring with National Audubon, a field trip leaders workshop to be held at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria, N.W. Rhea Copening NAS Southwest Regional Representative will conduct the session which will be open to the public. It will cover leadership techniques of all nature related field trips including birding. Even if you don't plan to lead any field trips, this could be an interesting class. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. Registration is limited.

Don't forget our last Audubon Wildlife Film of the season, "Romance of the West," narrated by Allen J. King on February 13, at 7:30 p.m., UNM Popejoy Hall. We will be presenting our Teacher Scholarship to the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West that evening.

Please note my new address is 3708 General Chenault N.E., 87111. Same phone number.



Barbara Hussey

### WHAT MAKES THE OWL FLY?

Or should I say "Whoo-Woo" makes the OWL Fly? Lots of people help with the OWL. Starting with gathering of the material until the Postal Service gets it, we have many people to thank for getting the OWL into your hands. Our president, Barbara, keeps track of what's happening and writes a column-or two or three. Our "bird editor", Ross Teuber must get his information from all of you then write his great "Ravins." He also contributes other articles to keep us up to date about the bird world. Other columnists contribute from time to time, and we are always happy to get items from our members.

Then the material goes to Salty and the great typists at PNM. Without them, the <u>OWL</u> would be handwritten! A horrifying thought! Then after the <u>OWL</u> is typed and put together, it goes to the printers. After that the mailing committee staples and labels the OWLS according to the Postal Service requirements. Edie and Butch Johnson have been faithfully stapling with us in the years we've done the <u>OWL</u>. I don't believe we would have lasted as editors without them. Then its off to the post office and into your mail box.

The 600 plus labels are the responsibility of Membership Chairmen, Marge and Dave Carrick. This is a difficult and not too glamourous job, but without the labels, the <u>OWL</u> would go nowhere.

Sometimes we hear complaints about the <u>OWL</u> being "late". With so many steps-and so many <u>volunteers</u> involved, it is impossible to predict exactly when your <u>OWL</u> will arrive in your mailbox. Delays can occur anywhere along the way. We hope this explanation will help you understand that the <u>OWL</u> is a cooperative venture.

Our thanks to all the people who help-and a special thanks to Mary Lou Arthur who did all the running around necessary to get the December-January OWL off.

UPDATE: Since writing this editorial, a blow has fallen. PNM can no longer do our typing. In order for the <u>OWL</u> to continue flying, we are going to have to have some more help. Can you spare a few hours every other month (that's only six times a year) to help? We can use typists and/or word processors, a copy person or two to run errands, and help with other miscellaneous chores. Please call Evelyn at 242-6604. We must have help.

### WASHBURN AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Again this year our chapter hopes to bestow the Washburn Award on a federal, state or local government employee in New Mexico who has been actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation.

Established in 1976 to honor Dan and Marian Washburn for their service to CNMAS, the award has been presented six times. Past recipients are: Dick Rigby, Gary Zahm, Dan Pursley, Dave Lange, John Hubbard and Rex Funk.

The award, if given, will be presented at the CNMAS annual meeting on May 19, 1983. Nominations will be accepted until April 7.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

Nominations are now being taken for the following offices: president, vice president, treasurer, corresponding secretary, recording secretary and director for 1983-87. All terms of office are for one year (except director).

If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) or would like to serve on the nominating committee, please contact Barbara Hussey (292-5626). Elections will be held on May 19 at the CNMAS annual meeting.

### THE LAND DOWN UNDER

The New Mexico Zoological Society is having a General Meeting, Wednesday, January 26, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 211 Jefferson N.E. A short business meeting will be followed by "The Land Down Under," a slide show of her trip to Australia in the spring of 1982, given by Ingrid U. Schmidt, General Curator of Rio Grande Zoo. The public is invited at no charge.

# RIO GRANDE ZOO'S SECOND ANNUAL WILDLIFE SAFARI

Rio Grande Zoo is presenting its annual Wildlife Safari for 4th and 5th grade students during Spring break. For \$4.00 for New Mexico Zoological Society members and \$6.00 for nonmembers, students will be stalking the zoo grounds guided by a docent, while learning about mammals, birds and reptiles. Making a wildlife craft to take home and earning a Wildlife Safari '83 button are two extra benefits of the day spent at the zoo. Students must <u>pre-register</u>, as enrollment is limited. Registrations are being accepted now for either Wednesday, March 30 or Thursday, March 31. For more information, or to preregister, call Catherine Hubbard, 843-7413.



### Hi Folks. The Christmas holidays are over, the Christmas Bird Counts are a thing of the past, and the pace of birding activities has slowed to a much more relaxed rate. This gives us time to settle down and watch our feeder visitors, (remember birds need water too!) and devote our attention to learning the new names and changes in taxonomic arrangement of species listed in a recent supplement to AUK Magazine, and included in the new ABA (2nd Checklist Edition). See my article about those changes printed below in this issue.

Speaking of the Christmas Bird Counts, Jim Karo says they had the largest count in the Albuquerque area since he has been compiling the report. 0f special interest, for the first time they found both SCALED and GAMBEL'S OUAIL: Hart Schwarz found a FOX SPARROW; the number of ROBINS was way down while the number of AMERICAN CROWS was much higher than ever. Tn spite of a small turnout and less than favorable weather conditions. Chuck Hundertmark says they had a good overall count with at least 87 species reported. Among the more interesting sightings were a BONAPARTE'S GULL, 3 FRANKLIN'S GULLS, a COMMON GOLDENEYE, a COMMON MOORHEN (Common Gallinule), a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW and two YELLOW-SHAFTED (Race) NORTHERN FLICKERS. The Sandia Mountains Count also had a disappointingly small turnout, even though the weather was beautiful. As

a result coverage was sparse resulting in the smallest count in the 12 years I have been compiler. Only 45 species (maybe 44) were sighted, and the total number of individuals was less than 2.000! Most interesting species were a RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW and 3 CRISSAL THRASHERS reported by Hart Schwarz and Dale Stahlecker, for the first time ever on that count. Kay Anderson reported a GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW. or what possibnly could have been a WHITE-CROWNED X GOLDEN-CROWNED Hybrid.

One of the most interesting rare bird reports was "A white-headed, verv sparrow-sized bird." at dainty, а feeder location in the far NE Heights. This bird turned out to be a probable partial albino OREGON (Race) DARK-EYED JUNCO. leads to speculation This about a white-headed CANADA type GOOSE seen on the Bosque del Apache field trip at the State Council Meeting. Could this also be a case of partial albinism, or would it be a rare hybred CANADA X SNOW GOOSE (Blue phase)?

Other reports in November were GOLDEN-CROWNED, HARRIS and FOX SPARROWS in the canyon near the rock cabin along the road going up to Juan Tabo Picnic Hart Schwarz also reported at Area. least 7 species of sparrows in that vicinity in late November. Ruth Luhrs called from Sandia Knolls to report she still had a male HEPATIC TANAGER in her yard on November 26. This bird had been there since Washington's Birthday, and with its mate raised a brood of young. Unfortunately it left before the CBC.

By the 27th, of November, 7 WHOOPING CRANES had arrived at Bosque de1 Apache. They are still there, all 7 were seen during the State Council Field Trip. Also, November 27 there were three at Edeal's Dairy Farm in Los Lunas. The 10 WHOOPERS not on the Bosque are scattered up and down the Rio Grande Valley all the way from Los Lunas to Elephant Butte and the Caballo Lake Area. Within a couple of weeks or so they will be leaving for Gray's Lake. If you should happen to spot any flying over let me know as soon as possible.

In December Hart Schwarz reported PINE GROSBEAKS, RED-CROSSBILLS, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS and THREE-TOED WOOD-PECKERS from the Sandia Crest Area. Early this year the Huntington's saw GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE at Bosque del Apache.

That's about the crop for this time. Please keep the calls of sightings coming in (265-8962). I'm always glad to talk birds to whomever calls. By the next time we should be beginning to see and hear of a few early migrants. For now, goodbye and good birding!



R. L. T.

# ATTENTION ALL BIRD LISTERS---THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

Ross L. Teuber

Your life, annual, or State bird list may not total as many species as you The lumpers thought it did! and spliters have been at it again and have made some rather extensive changes. which will most certainly affect your list totals. These most recent changes, published in a supplement to the July 1982 issue of AUK MAGAZINE include combining two or more former species into a single species in some cases, downgrading some former species to races, and in a few cases upgrading some former races to species. or splitting a former species with several races into two or more species. In addition many common names have provide worldwide been changed to conformity. There also are many cases of combining what were formerly considered to be separate genera into a single genus, resulting in a change

in scientific names and rearrangement of taxonomic order of listing. Å change ornithologically maior is buntings, splitting the sparrows, cardinals, and Pheuticus grosbeaks from the finch family and combining them with the warblers, blackbirds and allies, orioles and tanagers into a single new family. This is indeed a radical and major change to the scientific community!

The lumpers and splitters, of course, are the group of professional biologists whose particular field of endeavor deals with the scientific discription of all forms of living organisms, and fitting them into the master scheme of classification. Their purpose is to make sure all forms of biota may be recognized in their proper relationship to all other forms, wherever and whenever they are found throughout the world. The changes are scientifically and 10gically justified, and were accepted the scientific community after by several years of review and discussion. Therefore the changes do have a purpose other than to confuse and frustrate the common, everyday bird watcher, like you and me.

AUK MAGAZINE is the official journal of the American Ornithologists Union, and the changes as published will be included in the new A.O.U. Annotated Checklist of North American Birds, 6th Edition, which is scheduled to be released later this year. The changes have been developed in joint consultawith representatives of tion the American Birding Association, as well as other concerned groups and individuals, and are included in the new ABA Checklist, 2nd Edition. Thus the discrepancies frustrating formerly between the AOU and ABA Checklists So it appears have been eliminated. we have no choice but to accept, live with, and learn to use the new names and species classification.

The changes which will most affect your lists are those which combine or



split former species, or which elevate former races to full species status. These include lumping both BRANTS into a single species; reducing the MEXICAN DUCK to a race of the MALLARD; combining the BROWN-THROATED and HOUSE WREN into a single species; as was done with the YELLOW-GREEN VIREO and the RED-EYED VIREO. In each of the above cases the name is that of the last named species. The GRAY-HEADED JUNCO was reduced to a race of the DARK-EYED JUNCO, and all species of ROSY FINCH became races of that species.

Those races raised to full species status were LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (a Northern European species); YELLOW-FOOTED GULL, formerly a race of the Western Gul; RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER, formerly a race of the Yellow-breasted Sapsucker; and COUCH'S KINGBIRD, formerly a race of the Tropical Kingbird. The WESTERN SCREECH OWL formerly several races, became a separate and distinct species from the EASTERN SCREECH OWL.

Probably more difficult to learn and remember are numerous name changes. Some are complete changes from previous names. Thus the New Zealand Shearwater becomes BULLER'S SHEAR-WATER; Whistling Swan becomes TUNDRA SWAN; Everglade Kite becomes SNAIL KITE; White-tailed Kite becomes BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE; Marsh Hawk becomes NORTHERN HARRIER; Northern Phalarope becomes RED-NECKED PHALAROPE; Whitefronted Dove becomes WHITE-TIPPED DOVE: Rivoli's Hummingbird becomes HUMMINGBIRD; MAGNIGICENT Copperytailed Trogon becomes ELEGANT TROGON; Arizona Woodpecker becomes STRICKLAND'S WOODPECKER: Short-billed Marsh Wren becomes SEDGE WREN; Northern Beardless Flycatcher becomes NORTHERN BEARDLESS TYRANNULET; Coue's Flycatcher becomes GREATER PEWEE; Olivaceous Flycatcher DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER: becomes Wied's Flycatcher becomes BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATHER: White Necked Raven becomes CHIHAUHAUN RAVEN and Black-headed Oriole becomes AUDUBON'S ORIOLE.



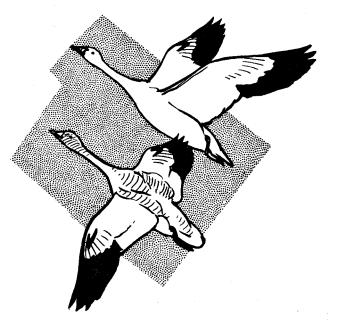
Other changes consist of adding, subtracting, or changing adjective modifiers to former names. Thus American FLAMINGO: Flamingo becomes GREATER White-fronted becomes GREATER Goose WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (to separate it from the Lesser white-fronted goose); Black Duck becomes AMERICAN BLACK DUCK; **Pintial** becomes NORTHERN PINTAIL: Green-winged Teal becomes AMERICAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL to equalize races, Green-winged Tea1 (Erurasian) and becomes EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL for European Wigeon becomes consistency. EURASIAN WIGEON; Swallow-tailed Kite becomes AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Black Hawk becomes COMMON BLACK HAWK; bcomes PLAIN CHACHALACA; Chachalaca Bobwhite becomes NORTHERN BOBWHITE: Lapwing becomes NORTHERN LAPWING: Eurasian Golden Plover becomes GREATER GOLDEN PLOVER; American Golden Plover becomes LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER; Black Oystercatcher becomes AMERICAN BLACK OYSTERCATCHER; Jacana becomes NORTHERN JACANA: GREAT SKUA; Skua becomes Greater Black-backed Gull becomes GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL; Black-headed Gull becomes OCMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL; common Puffin becomes ATLANTIC PUFFIN; Roadrunner becomes GREATER ROADRUNNER; Barn Owl becomes COMMON BARN OWL: Whiskered Owl becomes WHISKERED SCREECH OWL: Hawk Owl becomes NORTHERN HAWK OWL; Pygmy Owl becomes NORTHERN PYGMY OWL; Ferruginous Owl becomes FERRUGI-NOUS PYGMY OWL; Saw-whet Owl becomes NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL; Paraque becomes COMMON PARAQUE: Poorwill becomes COM-MON POORWILL: Northern Three-toed Woodpecker becomes THREE-TOED WOOKPECKER; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker becomes BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: Common Flicker becomes NORTHERN FLICKER: Kiskadee Flycatcher becomes GREATER KISKADEE; Skylark becomes EURASIAN SKLYLARK, Rough-winged swallow becomes NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW; Common Crow becomes AMERICAN CROW; Northern COMMON RAVEN; Dipper Raven becomes becomes AMERICAN DIPPER: Long-billed Marsh Wren becomes MARSH WREN; Wheater becomes NORTHERN WHEATEAR; and Tree Sparrow becomes AMERICAN TREE SPARROW.

The spelling of pinon and canon has been changed to pinyon and canyon to eliminate the need for the use of a tilde.

There are other change which are less likely to be of interest to you, since they apply to exotic, accidental, or very rare visitors.

Of more interest or concern to proornithologists fessional are many changes in scientific names and taxonomic order of arrangement. These will result in changing the order in which birds are listed on checklists and bird guides published after the revised A.O.U. Checklist is released. It will probably be some time before these changes take place, so don't concern yourselves with it now. Learning the new names will be enough to occupy you for a while.

Should you wish to dig into this matter in more detail, you should obtain a copy of Supplement to AUK, Vol. 99 No. 3, July 1982. Copies are available for \$3.00 each postpaid from G. E. University Wolfenden, Biology, of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620. 0r you may wish to order a copy of the ABA Checklist, 2nd. Edition available for \$9.00 (\$8.25 to ABA members) plus \$2.25 for shipping and handling from ABA Sales, P.O. Box 4335, Austin, TX 78765. The third alternative is to wait until the A.O.U. Checklist, 6th edition is released and acquire that.



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