



# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE - JULY 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, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips, and special events.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 16 - Regular Meeting

The 7:30 regular meeting of CNMAS will present an exciting new program, "Guess-A-Bird." Dustin & Sue Huntington have created this interesting slide show that will be both fun and instructive. Bring pencil and paper.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 18 - Field Trip

Sally Douglas, our "Trail Boss," will lead a trail maintenance group on Saturday, June 18, starting at 8:30 A.M. until around noon. Meeting place is at the corner of Tramway and the Forest Road to the Juan Tabo picnic area, about one mile north of the turnoff to the Tram. Bring water and a snack. Sally must know who is coming before June 17. 821-5551, evenings.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 25 - FIELD Trip

A field trip to the top of Mt. Taylor will leave Albuquerque at 7 A.M., reach Mt. Taylor around 11 A.M., and return to

Albuquerque around 6 P.M. Meet at the Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale, N.E., at 7 A.M. for car pooling, or you may join the group at the Ranger Station in Grants at 9 A.M. High clearance vehicles advised. Call leader Darwin Miller (265-6361) for more information.

### SATURDAY, JULY 16 - Field Trip

Marge Swain of Swain's Sueno in Jemez Canyon has again invited us to bird her lovely property and watch the fun at the feeders! Bring lunch. Meet at La Cueva Picnic Ground, 9 miles N.E. of Jemez Springs on NM4 at 8 A.M. Call Mary Lou Arthur (256-7359) or Ross Teuber (265-8962) for more information.

### THURSDAY, JULY 21 - Regular Meeting

The new New Mexico location of an Audubon Sanctuary (see article in this issue) will be the subject of tonight's meeting. A slide show will be presented with pictures of the new sanctuary as well as other Audubon sanctuaries. Experts will be on hand to tell us about the terrain, wildlife, etc., and to answer any questions.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 23 & 24 - New Mexico Audubon Council Meeting

The NMAC will meet in Santa Fe at the new Audubon Sanctuary. Details are not firm at this time, but a tour of the Sanctuary will probably be held on Sunday, July 24. Call Evelyn Price (242-6604) or Darwin Miller (265-6361) for more definite information. The whole plan will be revealed at the CNMAS July 21st regular meeting at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church!

SUNDAY, JULY 31 - Field Trip

Hart Schwarz (266-1810) will lead a trip to the Sandia Crest with a look at Capulin Springs on the way. The meadows should be at their best, attracting Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. Meet at the former Sandia Park Post Office at 8 A.M. We will walk the Crest Trail from the parking lot to the Tram terminal for a B-B-Q lunch.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 - Board Meeting

The board meeting will be held at the home of John Brown, 4608 Hilton Avenue, N.E. (888-4661). All members, welcome-- your ideas are needed.



PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I want to thank all of you for your support this past year. At the eleventh hour when it looked like a slate of officers for next year was hopeless, you came through. I particularly want to thank the nominating committee: Helen Riddell, Hart Schwarz and especially Edith Johnson for doing such a terrific job. Our officers for next year are a very capable group. (See back page.) Please give them and our new president Vic Brown your support! I plan to.

The chapter is looking for people who would like to attend meetings of coalitions in which CNMAS is a member. The Volunteers for the Outdoors (VFO)

is a group dedicated to maintaining our natural resources when government funding is not available. The Public Advisory Committee for Transportation-Related Air Quality (PACTAQ) is concerned with improving Albuquerque's air. And the NM Conservation Coordinating Council (NMCCC) meets to foster communication between the state's conservation organizations. If you are interested in any of these, call Vic (888-4661) to volunteer, or me to get more information.

CNMAS has a number of bulky items in its possession that need a home. If you have a corner of your garage you would like to allocate for the chapter to store a few things, call me at 292-5626.

Thank you again for a wonderful and rewarding year. My next job with CNMAS is greeter at the regular meetings. See you there.

Barbara Hussey

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

The May 19th annual meeting saw the installation of Vic Brown as President, Jean Dilley, Ed Jillson, and Scott Brown as Vice-Presidents, Larry Hanley as Treasurer, Irene Walkiw as Recording Secretary, and Phyllis Schmidt as Corresponding Secretary. Our congratulations to all of you.

Because of the large number of changes in the directory, some mistakes may be made in spelling, addresses, etc. Please let Evelyn Price (242-6604) know if you spot an error.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

As your new president, I wish to thank the many members who have been so helpful to me in my new position. I am sure this Audubon year will be very productive and, as time goes on, I know my knowledge of this area will increase.

It is my hope to see the membership increase, to take some of the Audubon

activities to our shut-in members, to take programs to the local schools, to have Audubon displays in the shopping centers, to continue in strong support of conservation, to attract younger people to our monthly meetings, at times to have our members give programs, and most of all to have a good time. I am sure there are many other ideas that can come from the membership and I would like to hear about them. So please feel free to pick up the phone and call 505-888-4661. Through communications our club will grow.

Our last meeting was a great success, as it was our annual potluck dinner. There were so many great things to eat, I am sure we all went home thinking about a future diet. During the dinner, we had the pleasure of a visit from the mayor and his wife and we hope to see the Kinneys more often.

John V. Brown

#### RANDALL DAVEY PROPERTY UPDATE

I was informed on Monday morning, May 23, that the National Audubon Society will purchase the Randall Davey property on Upper Canyon Road in Santa Fe. I have not yet received details relative to the acquisition. I am sure the process will take a little time; therefore, I do not advise visits to the place until such time that the National office advises. Meanwhile, we can certainly do some planning. More information as soon as it is available.

Darwin D. Miller, President  
New Mexico Audubon Council

#### WHAT IS A WORD PROCESSOR?

Is it a machine? a human? a miracle? To your editor it's all of a miracle--especially with Beth Hurst, our volunteer word processor, a human who uses the machine to create the miracle. Beth is a whiz at the keys--and you can tell how great the OWL looks. Many thanks to Beth for her work.



#### THANKS TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY

For the last few months, CNMAS has had an official phone, duly listed in the phone book. We are able to do this because the Humane Society has graciously let us use their number, passing on the calls to the appropriate Auduboner. We have received many calls--and members--due to the listing. We are very grateful to the Human Society.

#### "EXPLORE THE ZOO"

"Explore the Zoo," a two-week Rio Grande Zoo summer program, is being offered three times again this year. Participants choose a specialty to work in--either birds, mammals, or reptiles and amphibians--and spend some time with a zookeeper in that area. They also do activities involving endangered species, conservation careers, food webs, introduced species, and other wildlife subjects. A Crepuscular, or evening, Tour is planned for the last week. The times are from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. June 6-16, July 11-21, and August 1-11. The fee is \$12 for New Mexico Zoological Society members and \$16 for nonmembers. Children who are sixth-graders or older may enroll, but enrollment is limited. To preregister, please call Catherine Hubbard at the Zoo, 843-7413.

#### HELP NEEDED FOR NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Would you like to be part of an exciting institution and help it grow into the fascinating museum that it is destined to become? The New Mexico Museum of Natural History needs volunteer help for all its departments. The most immediate need is for clerical help in the office, but all departments want and need volunteers. The volunteers needed for office work are receptionists, typists, filing clerk, Xeroxer, accountant/bookkeeper, transcribers and word processors. The design department has need of graphic artists, mechanical paste-up people, draftsmen/detailers and photographers. The paleontology department requests field people, cartographers, photographers, TV camera operators and resource people. If you

would like to donate several hours a week in any of these areas, please call the Museum office, 841-8836, 8 AM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday.



#### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

1. Six participants enjoyed good weather for the April 9 CNMAS field trip to Bosque del Apache NWR, led by Dustin and Sue Huntington. The refuge ponds are being allowed to dry out for the summer so water levels were quite low and there was plenty of exposed mud. We had good views of Soras and Virginia Rails. Twelve species of shorebirds were seen, most unusual being two Dunlin, part way into breeding plumage. Good numbers of Snipe (36) and Long-Billed Dowitchers (155) were present. A probable maximum of 9 Snowy Plovers indicates their preference for somewhat drier conditions at the refuge, as their numbers in spring in recent years seem to be slowly increasing.

Of the white geese only three Ross' Geese remained, and the Great Egret seen this past winter was also present. Spring migrants included two White-Faced Ibis and three Bonaparte's Gulls. High numbers of Black-Crowned Night Herons (18) were also noted.

Probably the high point of the trip was fine sightings of an adult Peregrine Falcon as it flew past us twice (once in

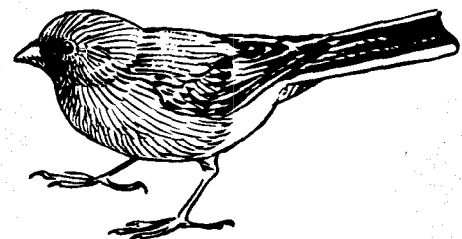
a half-hearted chase of a Killdeer).

The last stop of the trip was the south pond to view the White Pelicans, where their numbers were building as more flocks continued to arrive. Our count of the Pelicans before leaving them reached 252.

2. Lower Embudito Canyon was the destination of the field trip led by Hart Schwarz on April 22. A total of 21 species was seen on this cold, windy, wintery day by the eight people who braved the weather. The first Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher of the season was seen as well as the first Virginia Warbler. A prolonged and entertaining view of the secretive Rufous-Crowned Sparrow was a highlight, as was a Sharp-Shinned Hawk soaring above. A Roadrunner was heard singing.

3. Ten people enjoyed a fine time on April 30 in a trip to Priest Canyon in the Manzanos. Leader Darwin Miller reports that the weather was cold and windy, but water conditions were good and 24 species were seen, including several warblers. Because of the wind, identifying some of the birds was difficult! Darwin and the participants feel this is an outstanding day trip from Albuquerque.

4. Arch McCallum and Father Terrance Rhoades led an unusual field trip on the Zuni Reservation in western New Mexico. Seven people explored the Reservation, seeing many water, shore, and wading birds in the ponds and lakes and some land birds in the nearby hills. A total of 71 species was seen. Some of the group camped over the weekend at El Morro National Monument and found it most enjoyable. Others of the group left Albuquerque at 2 A.M. to join the field trip! Who sees more sunrises than a birder?



### JAMES WATT'S QUIET GIVEAWAY PROGRAM

Behind his public bluster and posturing, Interior Secretary James Watt has been quietly developing policies that are giving Western ranchers and developers far more than they could have hoped to get from the Sagebrush Rebellion. Whereas the original rebels made a great public show of demanding ownership of federal lands, Watt is more than willing to settle for giving away the government's control of them. He gets right down to the bottom line of the Sagebrush Rebellion: Let ranchers and developers use the public lands as they wish--without hindrance from the federal government.

Watt's scheme began with changes in water policy which became effective last winter. Under the new policies, ranchers are being allowed to acquire private rights for water on Bureau of Land Management rangelands they lease. In much of the arid West, water is the key to management of the land. The range wars of the past were fought over water rights, not land.

Now, according to a draft memorandum leaked to National Audubon Society, Watt is planning "to reduce federal expenditures for management and improvement of the public rangelands by entering into Cooperative Management Agreements with livestock operators." Under the loose enforcement provisions detailed in the memorandum, this means the federal government would be relinquishing much of its control over some 170 million acres--almost a tenth of the land area of the Lower 48--and handing it to stockmen who, in some cases, are already under fire for overgrazing and other mismanagement of the ranges they lease from the federal government at low, subsidized fees.

Federal grazing permits are technically revocable if the ranchers abuse the land, but in practice the leases seldom change hands. Many ranching families have been grazing the same federal lands for several generations, and tend to think of the properties as their own. In fact, friction sometimes develops when these ranchers put up fences and gates and lock out the public from public lands.

The document that came into National Audubon's possession is a draft of an "instruction memorandum" from the office of Robert F. Burford, director of the BLM, Interior's land management agency. It specifies that cooperative agreements be granted only to "livestock operators or associations who have demonstrated good rangeland practices," and it provides for the agreements to be canceled if ranchers and associations fail to live up to their requirements.

However, the paragraphs that concern enforcement of those provisions border on the ludicrous. They read as follows:

"After an agreement becomes effective, the BLM, together with the livestock operator, will periodically monitor and review the condition of the operator's allotment at agreed-upon intervals. If their evaluation indicates that the operator's management practices may be failing to maintain the condition of the allotment, or multiple-use objectives are not being met, the authorized officer should discuss the monitoring results with the operator so that the operator may make necessary adjustments in the management program.

"The operator or the authorized officer may request that the terms and conditions of the agreement be modified whenever modification is mutually acceptable, or at the time the operator's permit or lease is renewed."

The water policy BLM adopted in December of 1981 allows a rancher to acquire private rights for use of waterholes on public lands for watering livestock. In addition, Interior is taking steps toward opening these waterholes for wider, private use. Conservationists fear that in some cases this could give the rancher the right to pipe water off the land and sell it, for example, to a municipal water supply or an energy company.

The pattern is clear. The Reagan Administration is giving private interests increased control of these public lands and of the water that is essential to their management. Without this control, BLM cannot protect the lands from abuse or manage them for the benefit of other public uses such as recreation and protection of wildlife habitat.

PROMISCUITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A startling comment by a White House advisor was revealed during a congressional inquiry into the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control. The survey is being conducted by a commission composed largely of business executives, and some members of Congress suspect possible conflict of interest. For example, the commission's task force, looking for ways to cut the cost of running the Environmental Protection Agency, is heavily dominated by officials from industries regulated by that agency.

A memorandum reported to have been distributed to members of the commission by its chairman, J. Peter Grace, chief executive of W. R. Grace & Company, warns against the influence of radio, television, newspapers, and magazines. It says, in part:

"The leading journalists are strong supporters of environmental protection, affirmative action, women's rights, homosexual rights, and sexual freedom in general, bordering on promiscuity. It is no wonder that traditional religious and family values have suffered such an erosion over this period of increased media influence."

Protection of the environment??

**WHAT KIND ARE YOU?**

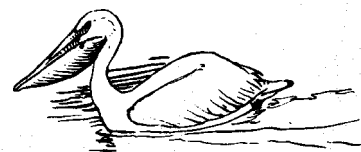
- Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed,
- Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
- Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
- Or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?
- Do you take an active part to help the work along,
- Or do you think it good enough merely to belong?
- Do you ever voluntarily help at the guiding stick,
- Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?
- Come out to the meetings often and help with hand and heart.
- Don't just be a member, but take an active part.
- Think this over, member, —you know right from wrong,
- Are you an active member . . . or do you just belong?



Author unknown

**HAWK COMEBACK**

Reports from around the world indicate the endangered peregrine falcon is making a comeback after being driven to near extinction by DDT and other pesticides. The number of pairs nesting in Great Britain has climbed from 350 in 1963 to over 1000 in 1982--the highest known number there in this century. Numbers are nearing pre-DDT levels on arctic and boreal nesting grounds and the number of migrants winging by popular hawk watching areas in the eastern U.S. is up as well. Hawk watchers on Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, Virginia, counted more than 600 peregrines in the fall of 1982.



RARE, ENDANGERED, OR THREATENED SPECIES

by Ross Teuber

ARELBRAWSDNALTRIKCEGIKNMS  
 EJTOCOLORADOSQUAWFISHERTO  
 SJEVXFTNAXZCRELIVPGJKHDBU  
 KWRMRODNOCAINROFILACIWHIT  
 IYRAEJBWPPIRNEFRXLIRYOBQH  
 MCEEDZGTLEZMOCVETHGAJRLNE  
 OGF IWAMOWHOOPINGCRANERTCR  
 CKDMOEROAFAFKRGBKEJELENAPSN  
 UOEQLVIBUCKEAIIECMEPGPIKB  
 RUTSFXOCUNMRYRNOYRVTESBDA  
 LYOWSIUCAFTGIDGIDKRTEAQL  
 ESOOGNAIIAWAHMEOTRETIDCRD  
 WDFBKHWECHEIIZGETGCEKIWAE  
 BFKGOSBOSPREYNIERGILKSQUA  
 DHCKRKRKSSJKBNMSIOTERWABDG  
 APACHETROUTTLTNAEEHAJELNL  
 FOLMPMEPSLUXNERPLCENGSI  
 HSBQBTFNNOQDFYIUHANEPYRTW  
 JWYUAEHURNSAPCTBTQMASKEDA  
 LAFWTCJTRPLFVUKQKSYACSEGI  
 NHTGBOAEOCVESRMDMXBHUNLP  
 PTKJDLBROWNPELICANDJODOQS  
 ALPWIRLNBSUHVEOFOUFEOKETE  
 QADGREKCEPDOOWDEDACODERU  
 SZHSETNRDYJCEFRUIFLYMRVCW

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions--forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

Unlisted clue hint: FISH EATING RAPTOR

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| ATTWATERS PRAIRIE CHICKEN | PEREGRINE FALCON  |
| JEMEZ MOUNTAIN SALAMANDER | WHOOPIING CRANE   |
| RED COCADED WOODPECKER    | HAWAIIAN GOOSE    |
| BLACK FOOTED FERRET       | TULE ELK          |
| DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW     | BROWN PELICAN     |
| RED WOLF                  | ESKIMO CURLEW     |
| CALIFORNIA CONDOR         | KIRTLANDS WARBLER |
| SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE       | APACHE TROUT      |
| KEY DEER                  | GILA TROUT        |

TIPS ON WRITING TO CONGRESS

Every letter to a congressman or congresswoman counts. It takes only a minute or two to write one. Yet you can be much more influential by following these simple and time-tested rules for your letter:

1. Make it a page or less, covering only one subject, written in your own words and including thoughts of your own. It takes more time to condense your ideas into a single page, but it's worth it if you want it to be read. Handwritten letters on dime-store stationery are just as influential as letters handsomely typed on expensive stationery.
2. When your letter concerns a bill already being considered in Congress, refer to the bill by its number and name, if you know them.
3. Tell the legislator exactly what you want him or her to do, and give your reasons for adopting this position. Stress how the issue can affect people in your congressional district or state, and cite your own experiences and observations.
4. Ask the legislator to tell you his or her position on the matter: "Will you support this legislation?" or "Will you oppose this legislation?"
5. Show your awareness of the legislator's past actions. If possible, cite an instance of his/her recent voting on related issues.
6. Don't mention your membership in a citizens' organization. Legislators usually know the organization's position already. The individual citizen's letter is more influential than the letter obviously inspired by an organization.
7. Don't send in a form letter or pre-printed postcard unless you absolutely can't take the time to write your own letter, because a form letter has less than one-tenth the impact of the one you write.

8. Don't repeat slogans or phrases from a newsletter or form letter. Your own words will make the crucial difference.

-9- When the legislator replies, write a follow-up letter to reemphasize your position and give your reaction to the legislator's answer.

RARE, ENDANGERED OR THREATENED  
Solution

REL BRAWSDNALTRIK N S  
 EJT COLORADOSQUAWFISHE O  
 S E K U  
 K R MRODNOCAINROFILAC W T  
 I R E I O H  
 M E D Z H R E  
 O F W M WHOOPINGCRANER R  
 C D O O K E A N  
 U E L U E I P B  
 R T F N YR ES A  
 L O T ID R E L  
 E S O O G N A I I A W A H E E D D  
 W F R I E G K I E  
 K O S P R E Y N R L S A  
 C S S I E A G  
 A P A C H E T R O U T T N A E E L  
 L E U E L S E  
 B T O F U A Y  
 A R A T M K  
 W T L A S  
 T A C N U  
 T L B R O W N P E L I C A N D  
 A I N E  
 G R E K C E P D O O W D E D A C O C D E R

ALBUQUERQUE SPRING COUNT

A highly successful Spring Count was held on May 14. Fifteen people covered the West Mesa, Rio Grande Valley, and both west and east sides of the Sandias. This is a very large area for a few people to cover, but they found a total of 130 species, a record for the Albuquerque Spring Count. Three real rarities were seen: a Black-Throated Green Warbler, an Ovenbird, and a Golden-Winged Warbler. The Violet-Green Swallow was the most numerous species with 910 seen.

Compilers Hart Schwarz and Dustin Huntington hope for a larger turnout next year. They feel a count of 150 is very possible. (See elsewhere in this issue for a total list.)

ALBUQUERQUE SPRING COUNT

5/14/83

AREAS:

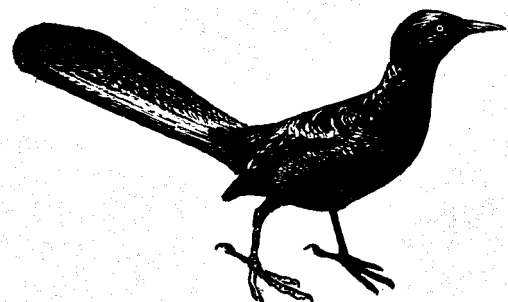
- 1 - RIO GRANDE VALLEY
- 2 - WEST MESA
- 3 - SANDIA MTS. - WEST SIDE
- 4 - SANDIA MTS. - EAST SIDE

SPECIES	AREAS:	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
PIED-BILLED GREBE		2	-	-	-	2
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON		2	-	-	-	2
MALLARD		29	-	-	-	29
BLUE-WINGED TEAL		1	-	-	-	1
NORTHERN SHOVELER		4	-	-	-	4
WOOD DUCK		2	-	-	-	2
TURKEY VULTURE		20	-	-	7	27
COOPER'S HAWK		2	-	2	-	4
ACCIPITER SPECIES		1	-	-	-	1
RED-TAILED HAWK		1	-	-	-	1
GOLDEN EAGLE		-	-	-	1	1
OSPREY		-	-	-	1	1
KESTREL		3	3	1	2	9
SCALED QUAIL		3	1	4	-	8
GAMBEL'S QUAIL		25	-	-	-	25
RING-NECKED PHEASANT		13	-	-	-	13
VIRGINIA RAIL		3	-	-	-	3
KILLDEER		5	1	-	-	6
SOLITARY SANDPIPER		1	-	-	-	1
SPOTTED SANDPIPER		2	-	-	2	4
ROCK DOVE		2	-	4	13	19
MOURNING DOVE		111	-	7	17	135
ROADRUNNER		1	-	-	-	1
GREAT HORNED OWL		3	-	-	-	3
BURROWING OWL		1	-	-	-	1
LONG-EARED OWL		2	-	-	-	2
POOR-WILL		-	-	-	1	1
COMMON NIGHTHAWK		1	-	-	-	1
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT		-	-	3	8	11
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD		47	-	7	-	54
BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD		1	2	5	12	20
BELTED KINGFISHER		5	-	-	-	5
COMMON FLICKER		16	-	1	3	20
LEWIS' WOODPECKER		1	-	1	-	2
HAIRY WOODPECKER		2	-	-	2	4
LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER		-	-	2	-	2
WESTERN KINGBIRD		11	7	-	13	31
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD		-	1	-	1	2
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER		8	-	2	1	11
BLACK PHOEBE		5	-	-	-	5
SAY'S PHOEBE		-	5	-	3	8
DUSKY FLYCATCHER		4	-	13	1	18
GRAY FLYCATCHER		1	-	-	-	1
WESTERN FLYCATCHER		1	1	-	-	2
EMPIDONAX SPECIES		11	2	-	-	13
WESTERN WOOD-PENEE		15	2	1	2	20
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER		3	-	-	-	3
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW		620	6	50	234	910
TREE SWALLOW		51	-	-	-	51
BANK SWALLOW		26	-	-	-	26
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW		26	-	-	-	26
BARN SWALLOW		18	4	-	26	48
CLIFF SWALLOW		11	-	-	-	11
SMALLOW SPECIES		105	-	-	-	105
PURPLE MARTIN		1	-	-	-	1
STELLER'S JAY		-	-	-	3	3
SCRUB JAY		-	-	9	13	22
COMMON RAVEN		-	-	1	3	4
COMMON CROW		9	-	-	15	24
PINYON JAY		2	-	3	12	17
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE		2	-	-	-	2
MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE		-	-	-	8	8
PLAIN TITHOUSE		-	-	9	1	10
BUSHTIT		-	-	6	-	6
WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH		6	-	-	3	9
RED-BREADED NUTHATCH		-	-	-	2	2
HOUSE WREN		3	-	1	7	11
BEWICK'S WREN		1	-	-	-	1
CANYON WREN		-	-	2	-	2
ROCK WREN		-	9	1	-	10

SPECIES	AREAS:	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
MOCKINGBIRD		5	3	10	-	18
CATBIRD		4	-	-	-	4
CRISSAL THRASHER		-	-	2	-	2
ROBIN		79	-	-	30	109
HERMIT THRUSH		1	-	-	-	1
WESTERN BLUEBIRD		-	-	2	3	5
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD		-	-	-	2	2
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE		-	-	-	1	1
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER		2	-	2	-	4
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET		1	-	-	7	8
CEDAR WAXWING		22	-	-	47	69
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE		2	1	1	-	4
STARLING		104	4	2	9	119
SOLITARY VIREO		7	-	2	-	9
WARBLING VIREO		11	-	-	-	11
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER		1	-	-	-	1
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER		5	-	-	-	5
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER		5	-	7	1	13
YELLOW WARBLER		11	-	-	1	12
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER		38	-	-	46	84
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER		-	-	1	-	1
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER		1	-	-	-	1
GRACE'S WARBLER		-	-	-	2	2
OVENBIRD		1	-	-	-	1
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH		1	-	-	-	1
MACBILLIVRAY'S WARBLER		9	2	12	-	23
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT		3	-	-	1	4
YELLOW-BREADED CHAT		5	-	-	-	5
WILSON'S WARBLER		19	-	2	2	23
HOUSE SPARROW		42	20	9	23	94
WESTERN MEADOWLARK		20	5	2	10	37
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD		111	-	-	4	115
SCOTT'S ORIOLE		-	-	2	-	2
NORTHERN ORIOLE		10	-	-	6	16
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD		4	-	-	10	14
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE		11	-	-	-	11
COMMON GRACKLE		9	-	-	-	9
BROWN-HEADED COBIRD		34	-	4	-	38
WESTERN Tanager		44	-	4	6	54
ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK		1	-	-	-	1
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK		62	-	6	30	98
BLUE GROSBEAK		3	1	1	1	6
LAZULI BUNTING		3	-	-	-	3
EVENING GROSBEAK		-	-	-	10	10
CASSIN'S FINCH		-	-	-	3	3
HOUSE FINCH		6	1	12	1	20
PINE SISKIN		8	-	-	33	41
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH		7	-	-	6	13
LESSER GOLDFINCH		-	-	-	1	1
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE		5	2	4	3	14
RUFUS-SIDED TOWHEE		-	-	7	10	17
BROWN TOWHEE		-	-	8	4	12
LARK BUNTING		-	1	-	-	1
VESPER SPARROW		-	-	1	-	1
LARK SPARROW		-	-	3	-	3
RUFUS-CROWNED SPARROW		-	-	4	-	4
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW		-	-	21	-	21
DARK-EYED JUNCO		1	-	-	8	9
CHIPPING SPARROW		-	-	24	3	27
BREWER'S SPARROW		-	3	5	-	8
BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW		-	-	7	-	7
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW		1	1	-	1	3
LINCOLN'S SPARROW		1	-	-	-	1

133 SPECIES

3104





ENERGY SCHEME

In a novel trade-off, a New York City sewage treatment plant will supply methane gas to a large private housing complex and will get hot water in return. Formerly, about half the gas was burnt off as a waste product. Now--in effect by using the excess methane gas jointly--the two parties to the agreement will, together, save the equivalent of a million gallons of oil a year.

## ROSS' RAVINS

Hi folks! First, a great big "Thank You" to all of you who called in to report and share unusual or early sightings. These past two months have been a very interesting and exciting beginning of spring migration. Not only have a lot of people called in, but I've had the opportunity to get around the state, visit with friends in other Audubon Chapters, and do a little birding in widely scattered areas. In spite of a cooler and drier spring than in most years, it apparently has not adversely affected bird migration to any marked degree, except that at least some species have arrived a week or two later than usual.

Although I saw BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS earlier at Socorro and Red Rock, they first appeared at my feeder on April 21. Pat Basham had her first at Socorro on April 3. Other first sightings in town were between April 21 and 27. The first BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD I saw was at Pat's on April 17. So far no reports of this species in town, though they have been in the Sandia Park area since about the end of April. My first in the Sandias was on May 6. I had a note from George Cole that the LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD had returned to the Biological Research Station (near Rodeo in the Peloncillo Mtns.) for the third straight year! Dr. Robert Scholes wrote to confirm the return date as April 2. They have 2 males and 2 females, and are hoping for a nesting.

There are so many interesting reports it

is hard to know where to start. Joanne Phillips has GREAT HORNED OWLS nesting again at Shady Lakes. She called April 17 to say the owlets had hatched. Some of you may know the HORNED OWL also nested again at the Bosque del Apache headquarters. On April 25, Dale Stahleaker called to say the LONG-EARED OWL was nesting again north of Corrales Bridge, in the same area as last year. Let's hope the little boys with big guns don't get them!

The OSPREY we saw at Red Rock during the NMOS annual meeting was the first of several reports. Joanne Phillips had 2 at Shady Lakes between April 5-18. Dale Stahleaker saw one over the lake at Sandia Park on May 14. PEREGRINE FALCONS are always exciting. Dustin and Sue Huntington saw one at Bosque del Apache on April 9.

We saw our first SWAINSON'S HAWK of the season in Luna County on April 17. It seemed they were slow in coming back. The first I've seen in Bernalillo County didn't show up until May 8. Other interesting hawk sightings include an immature BROADWINGED HAWK spotted by Dustin and Sue Huntington near the Corrales Bridge on May 7, and a BLACK-SHOULDERED (White-Tailed) KITE sighted and photographed by Kathy Wood on the Bitter Lake NWR in April.

Again there are several widely scattered reports of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS. Pat Basham had one at her feeder on April 30, as well as a FOX SPARROW. Bea Allen's ROSE-BREASTED returned on May 5. She had BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS on April 20. Ruth Luhrs, at Sandia Knolls, had a ROSE-BREASTED on May 16.

Warblers are passing through in good numbers now, including YELLOW, YELLOW-RUMPED (both Audubon and Myrtle types), ORANGE-CROWNED, VIRGINIA'S, GRACE'S, BLACK-THROATED GRAY, MCGILLIVRAY'S, COMMON YELLOW-THROAT, and WILSON'S. Unusual were BLACK-THROATED GREEN and GOLDEN-WINGED, as well as NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH and OVENBIRD spotted near Corrales Bridge by Dustin and Sue

Huntington during the Albuquerque Spring Count. Bill Stone, et al, found a TENNESSEE WARBLER at Bandelier on a spring count up there, and we found LUCY'S WARBLERS at Red Rock at the NMOS meeting.

The Corrales Bridge has yielded a number of interesting reports, besides those mentioned above. Dustin and Sue saw a CHIMNEY SWIFT there, and just a little above there, Dale Stahleaker spotted a GRAY FLYCATCHER.

Other interesting reports from the refuges include BONAPARTE'S GULLS and DUNLIN on April 9; SOLITARY SANDPIPER, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, and SNOWY PLOVER on April 24; GREEN HERON and LITTLE BLUE HERON, and PECTORAL SANDPIPER on May 7-8 at Bosque del Apache. John Durrie also spotted a LONG-BILLED CURLEW there in late April. With the extremely low water level there now, it is very easy to get good looks at many VIRGINIA RAIL and SORA. Recent sightings at Bitter Lake include MARBLED GODWIT, DUNLIN, SEMI-PALMATED and SNOWY PLOVER, AVOCET, BLACK-NECKED STILT, and WILSON'S PHALAROPE on April 30-May 1. There are many EARED GREBES there now, as well as most of the above. There was a single BLACK TERN and a WESTERN GREBE there on May 9-10.

Lee Baker called from 10 miles south of Tijeras on April 9 to tell me of a CLARK'S NUTCRACKER at her feeder. It is unusual for these birds to come to feeders at any time, but especially so at this time of year. On April 25 Dale Stahleaker reported he'd seen MONTEZUMA QUAIL in the Magdalena Mtns. There were still WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS at Pat Basham's feeder May 8, and on the same date there were a WHITE-THROATED SWIFT and CANYON WRENS in Water Canyon. Hart Schwarz saw a HARRIS SPARROW at Sandia Park on May 2. Wayne Prentice reported lots of MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS at Cedro Peak on May 1. Since about that date or before the WESTERN and CASSIN'S KINGBIRDS, SCOTT'S ORIOLES, SOLITARY and WARBLING VIREOS have been back. The weekend of May 14-15 and for a few days before and

after there seemed to be a wave of DUSKY FLYCATCHERS and MCGILLIVRAY'S and WILSON'S WARBLERS passing through. They were everywhere. On May 7, Mary Lou and Jim Arthur saw a couple of LAZULI BUNTINGS along the Corrales ditches. And on the Audubon Spring Count Hart Schwarz, et al, saw RUFOUS-CROWNED, BLACK-CHINNED and BLACK-THROATED SPARROWS as well as LEWIS WOOD-PECKER in Emudito Canyon. Also seen on the Albuquerque Spring Count were LARK, CHIPPING, BREWERS and VESPER SPARROWS. Hart says the HEPATIC Tanager was back in Hondo Canyon on May 16, and the CURVED-BILLED THRASHERS hatched young at Monticello on the same date. Standouts on the April 22 field trip were RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW, VIRGINIA'S WARBLER and BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. A late report from John Durrie included SOLITARY SANDPIPER, LAZULI and INDIGO BUNTINGS in the North Valley on the day of the Albuquerque Spring Count.

In an earlier column I mentioned that Dustin and Sue Huntington were preparing a book of location maps of sightings of rare and unusual birds in NEW MEXICO, and that the book would be published soon by NMOS. It was published in time for release at the NMOS annual meeting in Silver City on April 16-17. It contains location maps by season of 143 rare or unusual birds in New Mexico during the 20-year period 1960-1980. It also has graphs showing occurrence by number of sightings during each week of each month. This is a very limited edition, only 100 copies printed. Retail price is \$5, and it can be obtained, as long as the supply lasts, by writing to NMOS Secretary W. Burton Lewis, P.O. Box 665, Los Alamos, NM, 87544. There will be a small charge for postage and handling, probably 60 or 75¢. After June 11 I will have a small supply on hand for your convenience.

The new book provided an excellent incentive to visit other Audubon chapters, and give our friends there an opportunity to obtain copies without having to pay postage and handling charges. On April 20, I visited the Mesilla Valley Chapter in Las Cruces. Lorraine Hartshorne extended the hospitality of her home. Not only did we

have a great visit, but before we had finished breakfast Eleanor Wooten called to say she had an INCA DOVE at her feeder. It is 12 miles over there, and the dove had left by the time we arrived. However, Eleanor invited us to bird around her "yard"--more like an acreage. With a little looking we found a pair of PYRRULOXIA, two SCOTT'S ORIOLES, a WESTERN KINGBIRD, many BREWER'S SPARROWS, a pair of WHITE-WINGED DOVES, a GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, and finally the INCA DOVE. Both the birding and the hospitality were wonderful!

On Monday, May 21, I tootled over to Roswell to attend the Southeastern New Mexico Audubon Society meeting. This also provided an opportunity to spend some time at Bitter Lake NWR as well as visit with some old friends and meet some new ones. All it required was leaving home a little early. Kathy Wood, who chaired the meeting, is the receptionist and public information officer at the refuge. She invited me to come out early Thursday morning and bird around the residential area. By doing that I found several species of birds I had missed the day before. Most of the interesting ones are mentioned above. One rarity was a MALLARD X PINTAIL hybrid. When I stopped by the office to say thanks and visit for a while with Kathy, Lee Marlette, and his assistant--I believe his name is Jerry French--they mentioned that they and about seven others have seen a YELLOW RAIL on the refuge. However, so far they had been unable to obtain photographs. The only other report of a YELLOW RAIL in New Mexico was from Bitter Lake in February 1942. They also reported having RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS, which are still of doubtful status in New Mexico. I did mention above the BLACK-SHOULDERED (White-Tailed) KITE which Kathy saw and photographed on the refuge.

At the Audubon meeting they talked of a rest stop/picnic area 40 miles east of Roswell which they have adopted as a project to keep neat and clean. On their last cleanup day they had seen 3 SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS there. It seemed worthwhile to go out. The flycatchers

were there as well as several NORTHERN (Bullock's) ORIOLES, and the first pair of COMMON NIGHTHAWKS I'd seen this year.

I suppose many of you saw the Hummingbird article in IMPACT magazine in which I was misquoted. They said I had warned against the use of honey in hummingbird syrup--"because it would stick in the birds' throats." What I had said was it could cause the growth of a fungus which might infect the birds' throats, cause swelling, and possibly make it impossible for them to breathe.

It would hardly be fair to end this column without telling the outcome of Pat Basham's and my 100 bird day this year. Remember, last year we found 127, and the year before 104. The day we picked, May 7, turned out to be a poor day with strong gusty wind--and with the water very low at Bosque del Apache, we knew we would be hard-pressed to log 100 species. By the time we left Pat's at 7:20 AM we had 24 species. We decided with the wind we'd do better to go to Water Canyon first and hope for a calmer period later in the day at Bosque. As we left the picnic area at 12:15 PM we logged our 63rd bird, a WESTERN WOOD PEWEE. We picked up 5 more en route to Bosque. When we left there at 6:15 PM we had 104 species. The last 4 were COMMON MOORHEN (Common Gallinule), VIRGINIA RAIL, COMMON SNIPE, and LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER. Just before we pulled into Pat's yard we saw a flock of BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS, #105. A circuit of the back roads after dusk failed to yield a POOR-WILL. On Sunday, a much calmer day, in about three hours at Bosque del Apache we logged 70 species, at least 19 of which we had missed on Saturday. So we had 124 for the weekend. Considering the conditions we feel good about it. When I had talked to Hart Schwarz earlier in the week he told me Kevin and Barry Zimmer had done a big day the previous weekend and came up with 167 species! They are most certainly to be congratulated!

We should see a lot of interesting things in the days ahead. Thanks again to all of you callers. Please keep up the good work. So long and good birding. R.L.T.

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