

BURROUIIG OULL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 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, AUGUST 18 - Regular Meeting

Dr. Terry Yates, Dept. of Biology at UNM, will present a video program on "Traveling Moles and Chromosomes," with information on rare species of mammals in New Mexico. Terry was part of the team who taped the mole segment of <u>Life on Earth</u>, and will tell us of this experience.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 - Field Trip

Sally Douglas, our "Trail Boss," will lead a trail maintenance group on Saturday, August 20, starting at 8:00 A.M. until 10:30. 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. Sally must know who is coming before August 19. 821-8551, evenings. Free donuts!!!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 - Field Trip

Join Dustin & Sue Huntington as they search for shorebirds at the Bosque del Apache NWR. For this all-day trip, meet at 6:30 A.M. at the Physics & Astronomy Bldg., Yale & Lomas NE. Call the Huntingtons at 831-5755.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - Field Trip

One-half day beginners' trip to San Pedro Wash in the Sandias, a rich riparian environment not often visited because it is on private property. We should find many interesting migrants there. Meet at 8 A.M. at Pete's Restaurant on Highway 14, north of the intersection of Highway 44. Bring lunch. Leader to be announced, but call Hart Schwarz for more information, 266-1810. Nonbeginners welcome!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - Regular Meeting

Videotapes and slides of the newest Audubon Sanctuary will be shown. Come see how fortunate we are to have this beautiful property so near to us.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 - Deadline

Deadline for <u>Burrowing Owl</u> material. Call Evelyn Price (242-6604) for information. Weekday mornings or Mon. thru Thurs. evenings are your best bet for reaching her.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 - Field Trip

Hart Schwarz will lead a 4-mile (one way) trip to Oso Pass just below South Sandia Peak. Expect to see many migrants and a variety of resident birds as we trek across three life zones: Upper Sonoran, Transition, & Canadian. Meet at the Mountain View Hotel at 8 A.M. with lunch & water. Call Hart at 266-1810 for more information.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 - Board Meeting

The October board meeting will be at the home of Jean & Neil Dilley, 13 Mill Road NW (897-0854). We will meet at 7:30 P.M., when all members, board or not, will be welcome.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 - Field Trip

Watch the fall hawk migration with Steve Hoffman in the Manzano Mts. Meet at 7:30 A.M. in the parking lot of the Mountain View Hotel, Tramway & Central. This is an all-day excursion involving a 65-mile drive (one-way) and a 2/3 mile hike through brush to the lookout ridge just west of Capillo Peak. Bring food, water & warm clothing, as it can be cool & windy up there. In case of very bad weather, the trip will be postponed to the following Saturday, so call Steve (766-3972 work, 266-0193 home) to verify date and for other details.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

On May 28 a dinner was held in honor of Mr. Brock Evans, Vice-President for National Issues of the National Audubon Society. The dinner was held at the Sheraton Old Town and sponsored by the Sierra Club of Albuquerque. Mr. Evans is an excellent speaker and he imparted a message we should never forget. He spoke of the grassroots people, the people of the Sierra Club, Audubon and other conversation-minded groups and the tremendous effect we have in Washington. While listening to Brock Evans, I realized we had a great nation, a nation where we can express our opinions, where we can lobby and where we can fight to protect our pristine lands. Reflecting back and with some knowledge, I know there are lands where the people cannot speak out to protect the pristine, where voices are silent and speakers like Brock Evans are never heard. To all those that were unable to hear Mr. Evans speak, a videotape was made and can be seen at a later date. To learn about a future viewing date, contact Vic Brown (505-888-4661).

As a newcomer to the Albuquerque area, I have been taking short half-day trips into the Sandias and find each day filled with new wildflowers and new birds to add to my lifelist. To see a singing western meadowlark perched atop a cholla cactus, or a speckled-colored grasshopper become cryptic on the desert floor reminds me of what was said by the poet William Blake:

"To see a World in a Grain of Sand And a Heaven in a Wild Flower Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand And Eternity in an hour."

Just about two weeks ago a hearing and reception was held for Mr. William Ruckleshaus (E.P.A.) by Senator Domenici. The hearing lasted about five hours. The subject matter discussed was waste disposal and pollution. I found the hearing to be of great interest as I learned new facts about New Mexico. Several Audubon members attended the above event and I wish to express my thanks for their attendance. A turnout in number is often important, as it shows our concern.

John V. Brown

NM CONSERVATIONIST SPEAKS OUT

Arch McCallum of Thoreau, NM, has been an aware and informed activist in environmental affairs for some time. His efforts on behalf of the Bisti are well known. Arch recently wrote a letter summarizing some of the important conservation issues in which our New Mexico politicians are involved. Following is most of his letter:

"SEN. PETE DOMENICI (202-224-6621): Sen. Domenici should be thanked for voting on June 22 against further funding for the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota. Unfortunately, the funding was approved 62-35. Sen. Domenici should also be thanked for supporting a strong Clean Water Act in a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee vote on June 28. However, you should be aware of what he actually did. Sen. Domenici did not attend the Committee Meeting that day,



but gave his proxy to support whatever the Committee agreed upon. This action might be seen as an attempt to avoid offending either side on this issue. The Committee passed a very strong bill reported by Sen. Chafee's subcommittee; hence the thanks.

Sen. Domenici should be taken to task for working against passage of the Bumpers amendment to delete funding for federal coal lease sales in fiscal year 1983. And he should be urged firmly to support a similar amendment to delete funding for such sales in FY 1984, when the San Juan Basin lease sale is expected. Finally, Sen. Domenici should be asked to oppose the Alaska National Hunting bill (S. 49) of Alaska's Sen. Ted Stevens, which would convert 12 million acres of National Parks in Alaska to National Preserves in order to allow trophy hunting there. Sen. Domenici is on the key Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which will consider this bill. Please ask him to oppose it.

SEN. JEFF BINGAMAN (202-224-5521): This section is much briefer because Sen. Bingaman is not on key committees for any of these issues. He should be thanked for voting against funding for Garrison on June 22, and especially for proposing wilderness status for Bisti, Denazin, AND Ashislepah Wilderness Study Areas, and for advocating reform of the Reagan/Watt coal-leasing program along lines suggested by the GAO. You might relate to him your concerns on clean water and Alaska hunting, too, for he will vote on both issues when/if the bills reach the Senate floor.

REP. BILL RICHARDSON (202-225-6190): Rep. Richardson should be thanked for securing the May 21 field hearing on coal and wilderness in the San Juan Basin, and for his subsequent statement favoring wilderness for the three WSAs and a 'cooling-off period' before any federal leasing is done. I am sure he will appreciate a note of thanks even if you don't live in his district. P.S.—It was Richardson's sticking his neck out to get



that hearing that indirectly led to Bingaman's coming to the hearing and then making a favorable statement of position. Bingaman had been very cautious before the hearing.

GOV. TONEY ANAYA (State Capitol, Santa Fe 87503): Gov. Anaya is taking a lot of heat for his strong and well-publicized opposition to Watt's coal-leasing program. Although some may object to his motivation, since it seems that he may aspire to higher office or greater prominence than he now possesses, I certainly have no quarrel with his choice of this issue as an attention-getter or his position on it. Whatever you think of Anaya's ambition (it doesn't bother me a bit, as long as he doesn't resign and leave us with Mike Runnels), it would be well to write him personally and thank him for his strong stand. It now appears that we may well win in the San Juan Basin, at least for a few years, a possibility that seemed remote to the point of hopelessness a year ago. Anaya has done more than anyone else to change the state of He deserves our thanks and affairs. support."

GUIDE REVISED

The 8th edition of Nature Guide, updated and expanded, has been published. A guide to aid traveling birders and other nature buffs, it lists volunteers in 50 states, 12 Canadian provinces, and 27 other countries, who are willing to give local information about what to see and where to see it. There's much more, such as listings of hawk watches and Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers. The price is \$6, plus a postage and handling charge of \$1.50. Write to Nature Guide, 34915 4th Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington, 98003.

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1984

Tue., Jan. 10

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GOOD NEWS ON CONDORS

There has been a lot of news from the California Condor Research Center lately, and all of it is encouraging. There are now seven condors in captivity. They are being held for potential use in the captive breeding program to produce condors to be reintroduced in the wild in the effort to save this gravely endangered species.

And the best news is that natural reproduction has not been impaired. One egg has been hatached in the wild this season and another is being incubated and is due to hatch early next month. This number—one or two chicks per season—is what the condors have been producing on their own in recent years.

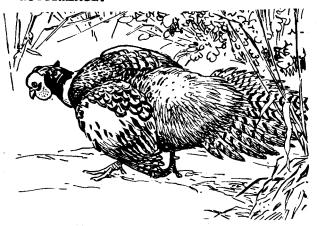
There are two reasons why it has been possible to build up the captive flock without interfering with the nesting success of the wild birds. One is that the scientists have taken eggs and chicks that were in trouble, thus saving condors that otherwise would have been lost. The other reason is double-clutching; if the first egg is taken from a nest, the parents in most cases will produce a second. (Condors normally lay a single egg.)

Of the seven birds in captivity, one is Topa Topa, now about 15 years old, who has long been kept at the Los Angeles Zoo because of an injury that prevents his being returned to the wild. There are two young birds that can fly, and they are being kept in a large flight pen, also in LA. One is a young bird taken from the wild a year ago. The other was rescued last year—while still a chick—from parents that were not feeding it adequately. It has grown into a healthy, flying bird.

The other four captive birds—all at the San Diego Zoo—were hatched this year from eggs taken from the wild. Of these, two were taken from a pair which, since last year, has been behaving erratically and failing to incubate its eggs. The third was taken from the pair now incubating another egg, in a successful case of double clutching. And the fourth was taken from a pair that was still caring

for a year-old chick. The scientists believed that the parents could not care properly for both, and that without human intervention either the chick would die or the egg would not hatch.

Of the seven captive birds, only one is known to be a female, a chick that was hatched this year. Four of the birds are known to be males, and the sex of the latest two chicks has not yet been determined.



ASPEN'S ASPENS

The Bureau of Land Management has proposed clearcutting large patches of aspen tress on mountainsides near Aspen, Co., in the belief this will provide a greater runoff of water. Carolyn Johnson of the Public Lands Institute charges the idea is to provide more water for the Union Oil Company's shale oil facility there. Coloradans love their aspens, and the proposal has stirred up a storm of protest. BLM is still working on the final draft of its proposal.

PATUXENT TO STAY

President Reagan's "privatization" review board, looking for surplus federal real estate that might be sold to help balance the budget, announced in April it was considering sale of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Laurel, Maryland. Interior Department officials vehemently protested the idea, pointing to the center's outstanding record in research on endangered species and migratory birds. The review board withstood mounting pressure for two months, then dropped the idea. The center will stay.

ROSS' RAVINS

Hi folks! How the summer is flying by! This is the exciting time when the birds are building nests and rearing young, and much can be learned of their breeding and family behavior. However, my telephone has not been ringing off the wall! I hope that just means that many of you have been off on trips, enjoying your vacations, and will have lots of exciting tidbits of bird news to share with all of us when you get back.

I have been impressed by the limited number of hummingbirds and hummingbird reports that have come in this summer. About the middle of June, Ann Cole called to tell of a hummingbird that nested in her carport, of all places, right on top of a circular fluorescent light tube. That is not unheard of, but always of Surprisingly, Pat Turner interest. called on July 2, to report her first male CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD in the North Valley, on June 30, but no RUFOUS! says she always has CALLIOPES about ten days ahead of RUFOUS. My experience has always been the opposite, with RUFOUS returning as much as three or four weeks before the CALLIOPES.

Other reports of first returns include first sightings of a RUFOUS on July 3, and of a CALLIOPE on July 9, in the Sandias by Gary Parker. Hart Schwarz had his first look at both on the Crest on July 15th.

Pat Basham had her first RUFOUS at Socorro on July 11, Joanne Phillips had her first RUFOUS at Shady Lakes on July 20, and it was only a day or two earlier that she had her first BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD there. On our field trip to Swain's Sueno, Marge Swain told me her first RUFOUS had come in on June 30. But in no place has anyone indicated the HUMMINGBIRD numbers are equivalent to what they have been in previous years. I have yet to see anything but BLACK CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS at my feeders this year, and only very few of them. There are now immatures coming in to feed.



The third weekend in May, Mary Alice Root was surprised to have a ROCK WREN on top of her house, as well as a pair of HERMIT THRUSHES, a GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, and a McGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER in her yard. On June 4, Pat Basham had a GRAY CATBIRD in her yard, the first in 7 years.

During the period June 16 to June 19, Joanne Phillips had a LEAST BITTERN at Shady Lakes along with an EARED GREBE in breeding plumage. Just a couple of weeks ago Joanne was up at Capulin Spring in the Sandias and enjoyed watching a pair of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS bathing in a

small pool. She says she has heard, but has not seen the YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS, and the GREAT HORNED OWLS which were hatched at Shady Lakes have long since fledged and left.

Dale Stahleker has been doing some interesting studies on FLAMMULATED OWLS in the Sandias. In the spring he put up five nesting boxes in Cienega Canyon. One which was apparently suitably located was occupied by a pair of these interesting little owls. On June 3, there were three eggs in the nest. 16 days later three little owlets had hatched. These were banded on July 3. By the 11th, they had fledged and left. Of the other four nest boxes, one was occupied by a pair of COMMON FLICKERS, and the other three were unoccupied. Maybe if he leaves them up this winter, they will acquire tenants by next spring!

Hart Schwarz also had some other interesting reports of nesting in the Sandias. These included EVENING GROSBEAKS in Cienega Canyon, POORWILLS near Waterfall Canyon, a pair of WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKERS feeding young near the 10-K Trail, and a GOLDEN EAGLE, easily but briefly seen from the Tram, near the second tower.

Ruth Luhrs at Sandia Knolls had her first RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS on July 5th or 6th, a pair which arrived together--unusual, since the males usually arrive first, followed shortly by the females and later by the immatures. She reports lots of young birds including PINON JAYS, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS, TITMICE, HOUSE FINCHES, BROWN TOWHEES, AND BUSHTITS. There, as in many other spots around the state, there is an abundance of BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS this year.

Most interesting to me was a pair of WHITE-WINGED DOVES on Gibson Blvd. between Maxwell and Truman on July 13. Albuquerque is on the northern periphery of their breeding range. At this time of the year, could they have been a breeding pair?

Highlights of the Huntingtons' trip to Churchill, Manitoba, were ROSS' GULL and SMITH'S LONGSPUR. It sounds like they had a marvelous time!

About nine or ten, including guests, participated in the field trip to Swain's Sueno. I believe the birdlist for the trip included about 27 species. Although numbers of birds were less than usual, we did see a DIPPER, SPOTTED SANDPIPER, CASSIN'S FINCHES, and two RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS. As usual, Marge had several nearby nests spotted, including WESTERN FLYCATCHERS, WESTERN WOOD PEWEES, VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS, and HOUSE WRENS. She said the EVENING GROSBEAKS had been abundant the first three weeks of June, and then disappeared. We saw none. always, everyone had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed Marge's hospitality. Sharing our picnic lunch in her yard is always a highlight of the trip. Thanks again, Marge!

Other sightings by Hart Schwarz and Gary Parker in the Sandias include an HEPATIC TANAGER and a flock of RED CROSSBILLS (they've been scarce in the Sandias) in Armijo Canyon. Ruth Luhrs said the HEPATIC TANAGER which was with her so late last year had not returned.

Right now I'm busily preparing for a trip to Ft. Smith, N.W.T., Canada to participate in the Whooping Crane Conservation Association annual meeting. Included will be air and ground trips to the WHOOPING CRANE nesting areas in Wood Buffalo National Park, and a couple of general birding trips. Others expected to attend from this area include Larry Smith, U.S. F&WL Service, Bo and Woody West, and Dwight Clayton from Los Alamos, and several of our birding friends from Sierra Vista, Arizona. Immediately upon my return, we'll head for California and our son's wedding, and a trip up the coast to northern California to see the giant Redwoods and perhaps some different coastal and shorebirds. Somewhere in all

that travel should be something suitable for another story, or at least some grist for the column mill.

By August 15, I'll be back at the old stand, and the phone number is still 265-8962. Keep your eyes peeled for interesting fall migrants. They are already on the way. I'd like to hear what you see. Until next time, good luck and good birding.

R.L.T.

P.S. My first RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, an immature male, arrived on July 21 at 10 A.M.



MOUNTAIN LIONS SPARED

Under pressure from livestock owners, the former secretary of New Mexico's Natural Resources Department, Bill Huey, petitioned the National Park Service for permission for state wildlife agents to pursue and kill mountain lions in Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountain National Parks if the animals take refuge there after attacking livestock outside the park boundaries. Huey's successor, Shirley Hill Witt, has withdrawn his request.

Reports of attacks by lions have declined in recent months, Witt explained in a letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, G. Ray Arnett. She said she hoped further study would "allow an accurate assessment of the actual extent of the problem and provide a scientific basis for developing acceptable alternatives."

Earlier this year, Audubon activists in New Mexico helped defeat a proposal in the legislature to remove the mountain lion from the list of game animals. The hunting of species officially listed as game animals is subject to statecontrols, such as seasons and bag limits. Unlisted animals do not even have this protection.

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