

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

APRIL - MAY 1984

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, APRIL 19 - Regular Meeting

Dr. Randy Thornhill will present a program on the controversial science of "Sociobiology." (Some would say that Sociobiology is not even a science!) Don't miss this fascinating program. See WELCOME above for details.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 - Field Trip

Evelyn and George Price will be camping in the Caballo Lake area for the weekend. If you would like to join them to bird the Percha Dam - Caballo Lake area, please call 242-6604 before Wednesday, April 18.

SATURDAY - APRIL 28 - Field Trip

Accompany Bruce Halstead on a trip to Manzano State Park, a 160-acre preserve, situated at 7200 feet on the eastern slope of the Manzano Mountains and claiming the largest concentration of Alligator Junipers in the state. The

park, complete with picnic facilities, is only about 60 miles from Albuquerque and 3 miles southwest of Manzano village. Gillis Stegemann, the Park's resident ranger, is more than happy to acquaint visitors with his domain; you can get in touch with him by calling 1-847-2820. Meet in the Mountain View Motel parking lot at 7 A.M., bringing an ample picnic lunch, and of course, water. Call Bruce at home (299-9397) or at work (766-2174) for more information or to arrange for a ride ahead of time.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 5 & 6 - BIG BIRD BASH: See enclosed flyer for details.

SATURDAY, MAY 12 - Spring Count

Meet at 7 A.M. at the parking lot of the Physics & Astronomy Building. Call count coordinator, Hart Schwarz (266-1810), for more information. Bring lunch.

THURSDAY, MAY 17 - Annual Meeting

Annual meeting of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Potluck dinner starts at 6:30 P.M., meeting and election of officers at 7:30 P.M.

The Washburn Award will be presented.

Bring a generous portion of your favorite dish and tableware for your own use. Beverages will be provided. Call Hospitality Chairwoman, Evelyn Jones (298-9130), if you can help with the setup, decorations, etc.

"The Sights and Sounds of Argentina" is the treat we are in for after the potluck. Mary Alice Root, Dustin and Sue Huntington spent 3 1/2 weeks in Argentina and will share their experiences with us.

SATURDAY, MAY 19 - Field Trip

If crepuscular and nocturnal birds fascinate you, Dale Stahlecker will take you to Cienega Canyon, and perhaps other suitable habitat, to hear, and most likely see, the Flammulated Owls. Contrary to popular opinion, this tame and endearing little creature with the soft black eyes is by far the most common and widespread owl in the Sandias during the summer, being found at all elevations above 7500'. Last year a pair of these owls even utilized a nest box put up by Dale and successfully fledged three young. Should the night be propitious, you might even hear the rhythmic call of the Whip-poor-will, which reaches the northern limit of its range here in central New Mexico.

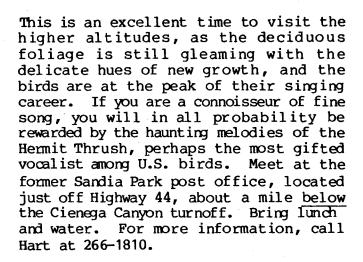
Meet at 7:30 P.M. at the former Sandia Park Post Office and bring a flashlight, preferably a powerful one to enhance the chance of getting a good look at the owls. The trip will probably conclude sometime before 10 P.M. Feel free to call Dale or his answering machine (345-2827) for additional information.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 1-3 -Southwest Regional Conference

See article entitled "Don't Miss The Fun."

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 - Field Trip

Hart Schwarz will lead an 8-mile hike (round trip) to Osha Spring, following the 10-K trail and the Osha loop trail.



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The Randall Davey property is a great gift. One seldom realizes all the work that has been done by Dede Armentrout in making this property a place that Audubon members will be proud of: the paperwork, the late hours beyond the call of duty, the days of living out of a suitcase, hours of interviewing people for the Davey directorship, and I am sure many other demanding duties. I know when I say, "Thanks, Dede," it is not only from my heart, but from the hearts of many other Audubon members.

THE RANDALL DAVEY PROPERTY NOW HAS A FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBER. Several days ago I called Mr. Dave Seymour, the new director of the Randall Davey property. We had a very enjoyable talk, and I feel Dave is going to be a great asset to the Randall Davey property and to Audubon. He is very well qualified and has the needed charisma.

As I typed this letter, my phone rang and it was Dave Seymour. Dave's first official day at Randall Davey will be April 1, 1984. Dave called to mention that his phone number is Santa Fe 988-3403, and he would be happy to receive calls from members.

About a month ago I was approached by certain members of the New Mexico Zoological Society and asked if I would be interested in helping toward arranging







a tour to Panama and Costa Rica. It now appears the tour is becoming a reality, and yours truly will be leading this expedition into the wilds of the tropics. I will be happy to show to all those great wildlife spots I have found during my years in Panama. The tour would be about seven days in Panama and six days in Costa Rica. During this time, visits will be made to wildlife areas by car and boat. The tour will cover wildlife in the lowland tropics, as well as the cloud forest. All people that find this interesting are certainly welcome to contact me at 888-4661. Prices have not yet been established; however, I would like to make a list of those interested in such a This might be the chance of a lifetime. Just think of how many new birds could be added to your life list!

Are you interested in the 1984 Birdathon? For more information, just give a call.

Let your fingers do the walking in the BLUE pages of your phone book. The blue pages have the phone numbers of your representatives. With this in mind, DON'T FORGET THE MOUNTAIN LION, THE LEAD SHOT PROBLEM, GOOSE HUNTING ON THE BOSQUE, THE LA CUEVA/ROUNDS PROBLEM, AND OTHER ISSUES. . .KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL, COMPLAIN. When you do call, don't forget to leave your name and address.

J. V. Brown

CHAPTER HOSTESS THANKS MEMBERS

I want to thank the many fine people who brought our refreshments for this past year. We have a gracious group of people in our organization. I will need a new list of donaters after June 1, so please call Evelyn Jones at 298-9130.

For our May meeting/potluck dinner, I would appreciate it if everyone could bring a green plant to decorate a table. You will take them home afterwards. Donations of fresh flowers would be welcomed. We need door prizes, too. We will have some special guests, so let's look "springy."

Evelyn Jones, Hospitality Chairwoman



SOUTH VALLEY - 17 people joined leaders Evelyn and George Price on February 4th for breakfast at the Valley Cafe and for a great afternoon of birding. The weather was perfect. The first stop was the I-25 bridge over the Rio Grande, where a few peeps, thousands of ducks, and about 1000 CANADA GEESE were gathered. We then proceeded to the Isleta ponds and Los Lunas. KESTRELS, RED TAILS, and a PRAIRIE FALCON were the highlights here.

Kathryn and G. B. Burr welcomed us to their home in Adelino, where we birded their property and a nearby ditch. We added a number of birds to our list, including PINE SISKIN and WATER PIPIT.

The Belen and Casa Colorado State Refuges were our next stops. Large flocks of SANDHILL CRANES were in each refuge, with four adult WHOOPING CRANES in the Belen Refuge and three adults and one chick in the Casa Colorado Refuge. SNOW GEESE, GREEN-BACKED and GREAT BLUE HERONS, and a KINGFISHER brought our total to 40 species for a beautiful day of birding.

OXBOW - February 25 turned out to be windy, cold, and nasty. Ten people nevertheless joined Bruce Halstead for a trip to the Oxbow and West Mesa. The Oxbow turned out to be relatively sheltered, and birding better than might be expected for such a miserable day. A total of 31 species were seen, including CINNAMON TEAL, NORTHERN HARRIER, SAGE SPARROW, RED TAIL, KESTREL, COOPER'S AND SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS.

OWLING - Dale Stahlecker and the dozen people who joined him on March 9 had a clear, cold moonlit night for their attempt to call out some owls. The owls at first were elusive, and the expected GREAT HORNED OWL was never seen or heard. But a WESTERN SCREECH OWL made all the waiting worthwhile. This bird came repeatedly to the sound of the tape and was always closer to the observers than its voice appeared. By moonlight and flashlight the owl gave a wonderful performance. Dale will be hunting more owls in May. See the calendar for details.

By the time you receive this OWL, you should have a copy of the agenda for the Audubon Southwest Regional Conference in Many, LA. The Southwest Region consists of Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet some fellow Auduboners, participate in some interesting workshops, and bird some wonderul country — definitely different from New Mexico. If you've never been to Louisiana, you're in for a big treat. If you have visited, you've no doubt wanted to return. Mark your calendars NOW for June 1-3.

If you do plan to attend this conference, please let President Vic (888-4661) or Editor Evelyn (242-6604) know.

WILDLIFE ART CONTEST ANNOUNCED

A wildlife art exhibit will be held in conjunction with the Regional Conference (see article adjoining). Two-dimensional art of the Southwest Region will be shown. Our chapter has several fine artists. If any of you could enter this contest, please call Evelyn, Price (242-6604) for more information.

OUR "HAWK MOUNTAIN" CONTINUES AT INTERESTING PACE

Steve Hoffman, who has a deep and enthusiastic interest in hawks, has discovered a hawk lookout point at the southern end of Sandia Crest that has proved to be very fruitful! Aided by about ten people, Steve and/or various members of his crew have been at the lookout point for 5 to 6 days per week since the first of March, less often since February 22. Their patience has been amply rewarded.

Early in the period, 10 to 20 adult Golden Eagles were seen per day. By mid-March, adult Red Tails predominated, with 7 Bald Eagles, 3 Goshawks, 6 Prairie Falcons, 2 Ferruginous Hawks, several Kestrels and Northern Harriers sighted. Male accipiters were just starting to migrate as the OWL goes to press, but

Steve expects many more as April nears. So far, March 16 was the top day, with 36 birds sighted. This, too, will no doubt be topped as spring advances.

Steve has a lot of other interesting data such as the time of day the hawks appear, a comparison of hawk migration watch points, etc. He will give us a full report in the next OWL.

In the meantime, you can still get in on the fun. Call Steve at home (243-6044) or at work (766-3972) and he'll tell you how you can join the hawk count. Even if you can just come once or twice, it would be a help.

TIPS ON TALKING TO YOUR LEGISLATORS

Your legislators in Congress want to meet you, because they think it may help them get reelected. You want to meet them because it will help win their votes on legislation that concerns you. When you meet a legislator face to face, you have the chance to get your views across directly.

- 1. Get an appointment. Call the legislator's nearest field office and ask for an appointment next time the legislator is in town. When you're in Washington, D.C., for business or pleasure, go and see your legislator there.
- 2. Don't be awed by the legislator or by the impression he or she gives of omniscience. You probably know more than the legislator does about your issue, because a legislator is a jack of all trades. Act confident, even if you don't feel it.
- 3. When you first meet the legislator, show that you're a friendly person by complimenting something he or she has done. It's just a pleasantry, but it gets you off on the right foot.
- 4. Show that you're serious about your issue. Know your facts, and make your pitch concisely in five minutes or less. Start by telling the legislator what you're asking him or her to do, then give your arguments. Stress how the issue



BIG BIRD BASH

THE FIRST ANNUAL NEW MEXICO BIRDING AND OUTDOOR FIESTA Sponsored by the New Mexico Audubon Council

When:

Saturday and Sunday, May 5 and 6, 1984

Where:

Silver City and Environs

Who:

- 1 Those who wish to participate in the Spring Bird Count with the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society. A number of bird species occur in southwest New Mexico which occur nowhere else in the State. You do not have to be an expert to participate in the count.
- 2 Those who would like to tour the Silver City area. Wild flowers should be at their peak; birds at their most colorful; and scenery as always is spectacular in this beautiful part of our State.

Schedule:

- 1 Friday, May 4, 7:30 p.m., Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus—assignments and briefing for the Spring Count—Dr. Ralph Fisher. Ralph can be contacted at 535-2320 in the evenings.
- 2 Saturday, May 5, Spring Count, as assigned by Dr. Fisher.
- 3 Saturday, May 5, Silver City Spring Fiesta Tour—meet leaders George and Evelyn Price at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the Red Barn Restaurant.
- 4 Saturday, May 5, dinner at the Red Barn, next to the Copper Manor Motel, at 7:30 p.m. Make reservations by April 27 (see slip below).
- 5 Sunday, May 6, informal breakfast and excursions according to plans formulated at dinner.

Suggested Motels

538-5392

The Drifter Motel

711 Silver Heights Boulevard

538-2916

Camping available at KOA (U.S. Highway 180 E; 388-3351), or

Cherry Creek and MacMillan campgrounds in the Gila National Forest.

The following people may be contacted for more information:

Pat Insley, Santa Fe	982-0796
Evelyn Price, Albuquerque	242-6604
Darwin Miller, Albuquerque	265-6361
David Wilson, Las Cruces	526-4194
Hal or Mary Louise Hallett, Roswell	622-4885
Harvey or Ruth Williams, Silver City	538-2792

affects you and others in your community.

- 5. Be a good listener. Let the legislator ask questions as you go along and answer them with hard facts and with understanding. You don't have to agree with the legislator's views, but you should show that you're willing to hear them.
- 6. Don't let the legislator evade the issue. If he* changes the subject, tactfully bring it up again and ask how he plans to vote on your issue.
- 7. Don't assume the legislator is against your cause just because he asks a lot of hostile-sounding questions. If he's going to back your position, he'll need to know how to answer your opponents' arguments. Use the questions as an opportunity to tell him more about the issue.
- . 8. If the legislator is on your side, make him feel good about it so he'll be willing to work harder for your goals. Make sure he knows how much the issue means to people back home.
 - 9. Press for a commitment, unless the legislator is clearly opposed to your views. Ask whether he will vote for your amendment, whether he will cosponsor your bill, or whatever it is you want. You're entitled to know what he plans to do about the issue.
 - 10. If you can't get to see the legislator in person, go and see a member of his staff instead. You can't press a staffer for a commitment, but you can do your best to persuade the staffer and show how serious you are about the issue, so he'll give a good report of your concern to the Congressman.

THE NATIONAL ENDANGERED SPECIES SOCIETY has recently been formed. For more information, contact Box 1116, McCormick, South Carolina, 29835.

ROSS' RAVIN'S

Hi Folks! Spring migration is upon us! In fact, the vanguard has already passed us. Most of the big birds, CRANES, GEESE, BALD EAGLES, DUCKS, and some of the earlier shorebirds have moved on. All this reminds us it is now time to put out our hummingbird feeders. Remember, put out only a small amount of syrup until the first hummers arrive. Change it frequently enough that it does not sour or ferment before it is used. After the birds arrive, adjust the amount to what the birds will use in one or two days, and wash the feeders with plain warm water before refilling. DO NOT use detergent! And, please, let me know when your first hummingbirds arrive (265-8962).

It was my pleasure, in the company of Pat Basham, to accompany the members of the National Audubon Board of Directors and Staff on the early bus tour of Bosque del Apache NWR on February 3, 1984. The day before, I did a quick tour of the refuge to get an idea of what was there. On the way into the refuge, a pair of CHIHUAHUAN (White-Necked) RAVENS was spotted, sitting side by side on the cross-arm of a power pole. These are unusual at the refuge at any time, and especially so in winter. There were a few early LEAST and WESTERN SANDPIPERS and LONG-BILLED DOWLTCHERS, and at the feeder at the information center was a PYRRHULOXIA. Probably the thing that impressed our national visitors most was seeing big flocks of both SNOW GEESE (including a few BLUE phase) and SANDHILL CRANES with an adult WHOOPING CRANE. bare tree behind these large flocks sat two adult BALD EAGLES. We waited to watch the impressive spectacle of the cranes and geese taking off for the feeding grounds. Our visitors were also pleased to see both coyote and mule deer, and to get close enough to a flock of geese to be able to pick out ROSS' GEESE. Of course, a trip to New Mexico would not have been complete if they had not seen a GREATER ROADRUNNER.

Earlier, before daylight, Pat and I saw a BARN OWN and two GREAT HORNED OWLS, and were greeted by a pair of coyotes dashing

^{*}The pronoun "he" refers to both men and women.

across the road ahead of us. They even joined their voices in a predawn duet to entertain us as we waited.

As Basham's on the evening before the above trip, in a matter of a few minutes before dusk we found HARRIS', FIELD, WHITE-THROATED, and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE, and a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.

On March 1, Paul Steel and I had the privilege of escorting a distinguished visitor from British Columbia, Canada, on a short birding trip. We really did more visiting and enjoying the plants, geology, and scenery than looking for birds. But we were able to point out about 20 species of birds, most of which were unfamiliar to him, including SAGE, CRISSAL, and CURVE-BILLED THRASHERS. Our visitor was Mr. Fred Bard, who, as one of the founders and emeritus trustees of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, was largely responsible for the foster parent concept to restore numbers of whooping cranes. He was also one of the founders of the natural history museum at Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada. He is indeed a delightful and stimulating birding companion.

On March 8, Paul and I met Ted Stands, manager of the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, and made an extensive survey of the east half of the refuge, with the idea of trying to establish an area for a new Christmas Bird Count, and possibly a spring count. En route, while checking out a flock of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, two obviously different THRUSHES showed themselves. They were the size of Hermit Thrushes, but without the heavy breast spots and rufous tail. They had no distinct eye ring, and the streaking on the breast was very fine. The dark gray-brown dorsal side, with a faint wingbar, lead us to wonder if these might be the gray-brown western race of the VEERY. If they were, they were certainly out of their preferred habitat. As we turned off U.S. 60 above the north boundary of the refuge, we were pleased to spot a SAGE THRASHER and three

MOUNTAIN PLOVERS. The predominant birds on the refuge were BROWN TOWHEES and SAGE THRASHERS, but we did see a number of other species, including WESTERN and MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS, SCRUB JAYS, DARK-EYED JUNCOS (OREGON, PINK-SIDED, and GRAY-HEADED), RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEES, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, and probable BREWER'S and RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROWS. We saw several small herds of American Pronghorn Antelopes, totaling nearly 40 individuals.

A number of interesting reports have come in since the last column. The movement of WHOOPING CRANES has been well marked. There were never more than seven at Bosque del Apache at one time all winter. Several were observed flying north during the first half of February; by the 15th, all of them had left the refuge. On the 18th, Bill Stone saw three at the Belen Refuge. On the 23rd, Rod Drewien said there were still 15 in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The last report I had was from Paul Steel, who saw two on March 6 and 7 -- one adult and a chick -- on the small island at the bend of the river above the I-40 Isleta bridge. I suspect these may have been two of the three cranes unaccounted for in the Rio Grande Valley all winter.

Several observers reported AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS and an immature HARRIS' SPARROW at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Various wild ducks, including NORTHERN SHOVELER, CANVASBACK, MALLARD, and TEAL were reported. The massacre of ducks and geese there by marauding neighborhood dogs was indeed sad and regrettable.

Joanne Phillips has had a number of interesting visitors to Shady Lakes. On January 24, she had an adult BALD EAGLE for the first time. On February 13, the pair of GREAT HORNED CWLS that has nested there the last 2 or 3 years returned and set up housekeeping. On February 7, while Paul Steel and I were there, we saw on Charlie Teas' property an unusual hybrid RED-SHAFTED X YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. It had some of the characteristics of males of both species, and was overall darker in color than either species.

Some of the more interesting birds at Bosque del Apache included a female COMMON GOLDENEYE, 3 SAGE SPARROWS, 2 LARK SPARROWS, and a PYRRHULOXIA on January 21. Diana Kinney reported a TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWAN there on January 23. Paul Steel saw 2 PYRRHULOXIA and a BLACK PHOEBE there on January 14.

Pat Basham still had TREE, HARRIS', WHITE-THROATED, and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS on January 13; and on the same day I saw an adult ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK at the south edge of Socorro. Unusual was a PEREGRINE FALCON near Phyllis Schmidt's home in the Northeast Heights in the middle of February. Ted Stands reported 5 TURKEY VULTURES at the Rio Salado crossing of I-25 on March 4. Beverly Steel found a flock of ROSY FINCHES at the Sandia Crest Parking lot on March 7. There were 2 GOLDEN EAGLES at LaJoya State Game Refuge on March 8. RinG-BILLED GULLS are moving up the river; and most recently, Joanna Phillips has had male CANVASBACK, REDHEAD, BUFFLEHEAD, and a YELLOW-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER, and as of March 15, a BLACK PHOEBE.

As I hurridly write this column, I am making preparations to leave for the annual meeting of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association meeting at Grand Island, Nebraska. Immediately upon my return, Clara and I will gather up clean clothes and the dog and head for Santa Anna NWR, to visit Nita Fuller and see some of the exotic birds of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Either or both of these trips should yield some good material for a future story. In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for all those interesting oddities that have a way of showing up during spring migration, and please keep me informed. It's your calls and reports that keep this column going. If by chance you should encounter one of the inevitable casualties that occur during this time of year, call me, and I'll come and get it. Dr. Ligon tells me the university appreciates any and all specimens. By the time you read this, I'll be back, so do call. Goodbye for now, good luck, and good birding. R.L.T.

THE AUDUBON PHILOSOPHY

We believe in the wisdom of nature's design.

We know that soil, water, plants, and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life.

We recognize that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature.

We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance.

We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost.

We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed.

So we will be vigilant to protectwilderness areas, refuges, and parks and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.

We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old, that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

BALD EAGLE SURVEY

Over 12,000 bald eagles were tallied during the National Wildlife Federation's 1983 winter bald eagle survey. This is essentially the same as the 1982 total, and up substantially from the 9815 counted in 1979 during the Federation's first such survey. Although bald eagles are still listed as endangered in 43 states and threatened in five others — there are many in Alaska and none in Hawaii — these surveys indicate the bald eagle is making a strong comeback in the United States.

APPLICATION FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND THE **CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Joint membership offers you full membership in both the National Audubon Society and the Central New Mexico Audubon chapter at the same rate as membership in the national organization only.

With one annual dues payment, you may enjoy the privileges of membership in, and the satisfaction of supporting, the local and national organizations. You will then receive bimonthly issues of the Burrowing Owl and the bimonthly Audubon, the most beautiful nature magazine in the world. A portion of your dues payment will be allocated to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society.

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United State Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Skeen

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Richardson

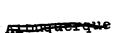
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515



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

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY Post Office Box 30002 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190 - 0002





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Editors, Burrowing Owl - Evelyn and George Price,

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