

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE - JULY 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, JUNE 21 - Regular Meeting

V. B. price, well-known architectural critic and columnist for the Albuquerque Journal, will present an illustrated program entitled "Albuquerque's Natural and Built Environment." If you have read his penetrating works, you know we are in for an interesting evening. See Welcome above for time and place.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30 - Randall Davey Dedication - Put this date on your calendar right away. You'll not want to miss the dedication of the Randall Davey property, unofficially named the Davey-Audubon Conservation Center. The beautiful Davey property is located above a reservoir at the edge of the Santa Fe National Forest in Santa Fe.

The ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. with an Auduboner from the national office as speaker. Bring a picnic lunch. Beverages will be provided.

David Seymour, NAS Regional Representative, is permanently installed at the

Davey land. He invites you to come bird before or after the dedication, but if you want to come early, please let him know. David can be reached at 983-4609 in Santa Fe.

To reach the property, take the Old Pecos Trail exit until you reach Paseo de Peralta. Turn right (you'll see the Roundhouse at your left) and continue until you see Canyon Road, where you turn right again. Keep going - and going - and going - until you can't go any farther. You'll be there! Watch for a confusing jog about halfway up the road where you make a right and a quick left. It is marked, but not too well.

Any questions you have can be answered by Darwin Miller (265-6361) or Evelyn Price (242-6604).

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 14 & 15 - New Mexico Audubon Council Meeting and Field Trip - The NMAC meets at 1 p.m., July 14, at the Electric Co-op Building in Socorro. A field trip to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will take place on Sunday morning. Meet at Refuge headquarters at 7 a.m.

All Auduboners and other interested people are welcome to the meeting and/or field trip. Call Darwin Miller (265-6361) or Evelyn Price (242-6604) if you need directions or have other questions.

THURSDAY, JULY 17 - Regular Meeting

Slim Randless is an outdoor enthusiast and columnist for the Albuquerque Journal. He has promised not to talk about hunting, but the subject of a talk will be a pleasant surprise. Come see what Slim has to say about outdoor New Mexico. See Welcome above for time and place.

FIELD TRIPS

Because of poor attendance at many recent field trips (as well as at the Spring Count), a decision has been made not to schedule any field trips for June or July. Your editors or your Field Trip Chairman would be very happy to hear any comments you have. Call the Prices at 242-6604 or Hart at 266-1810. Written comments may be addressed as noted on the back page.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

It has finally come to my attention the weekend field trips are not being attended. This failure to partake in these activities can hurt the Central New Mexico Audubon Society.

I wish to thank all the past chapter officials for their hard work. It is seldom appreciated. I also wish to thank all those that have elected to continue their office with the chapter. At the last board meeting we voted to continue with the same officials. We felt this would be far more productive. It takes about a year to learn one's duties in the society, and we could see no reason to change officials so soon.

I wish to thank Edith Johnson, Mary Alice Root, and Evelyn Jones for their past dedication to our chapter. Edie was Wildlife Film Committee Chairman, Mary Alice was Program Chairman, and Evelyn was Hospitality Chairman and Director. I am sure all the members share this same feeling of gratitude. Those wishing to show their gratitude, please call 888-4661.

Two positions are now open for those interested. Wildlife Film Committee Chairman and Hospitality Chairman are needed. These are both "fun" jobs and very rewarding. Anyone interested, please call 888-4661 as soon as possible.

I wish to thank Marge and Dave Carrick for accepting the position of Program Chairman. To find interesting programs is not an easy job, so please help Dave and Marge and you will also help the society. If you have a program in mind, please call 266-0191.

Money is needed to help purchase chairs for the Randall Davey property. Those interested please call 888-4661 or 265-6361.
--Vic Brown

BIG BIRD BASH A SMASH

The birds and beauty of the Silver City area drew nearly 60 people to the First Annual Birding and Outdoor Fiesta, May 5, 1984. All agreed that the Bash was a smash success.

Many of the participants went with members of the Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society on their Spring Bird Count. Ralph Fisher, count coordinator, reports that 150 species were seen by the 39 counters. Four birds never seen on the count before were: COMMON GRACKLE (bronze variety), CATTLE EGRET, COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD, and CAVE SWALLOW. This brings to 249 the number of species seen over the years on the SWNMAS Spring Count.

Other Bird Bashers attended the Spring Fiesta Tour led by Evelyn and George Price. We toured the Pinos Altos Mountains, Lake Roberts, the beautiful Mimbres Valley, and the astonishing City of Rocks. We saw some 57 varieties of birds, as well as a variety of scenery.

A dinner was held Saturday evening, very nicely served by the Red Barn Steakhouse. Shared experiences showed a lot of enthusiasm for this event. Many people found "lifera," the weather was perfect, and the companionship was great.



FLAMMULATED OWL FIELD TRIP

At least 15 other people find the little Flammulated Owl as irresistible as I, so they joined me on the evening of May 19 to look and listen for these secretive inhabitants of Sandia Mountains. Two days previously I had located a tree cavity occupied by a "Flam," so the first order of business was to revisit the tree in hopes that it would again poke out its head for a look at us. On the trail up, we were treated to a Hermit Thrush singing from the top of a fir. The Flam cooperated, giving us all a soulful eye, and, for more than half the people, their first-ever look at this species. Although no one was satiated by this after 15 minutes, we agreed to go higher, playing the calls of various other owls. We were successful in hearing and calling in a Western Screech Owl, although we were only able to get glimpses of it. Returning to the Flammulated territory, we played its call and were able, after some effort, to get it in the flashlights at about 15 feet, where it responded to the tape with abandon until we felt we had stayed long enough in his home and moved on to the end of the field trip.

--Dale Stahlecker

FATE OF ARIZONA'S EAGLES IN CLARK'S HANDS

Arizona's unique desert-adapted Bald Eagle population has been given a reprieve by Interior Secretary Clark. On 3 April 1984 he withheld approval of the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Cliff Dam on the Verde River pending a six-month eagle study by the National Academy of Sciences.

Cliff Dam, part of a billion-dollar pork-laden multi-dam alternative to Orme Dam, would have the sole and single purpose of making possible a floodplain real estate development for metropolitan Phoenix. In the process it would destroy the habitat of two of the last 12-15 pairs of the world's only desert-nesting Bald Eagles.

Phoenix land developers propose to dangerously and foolishly introduce housing



for 36,000 people deep within the present floodplain along with luxury hotels, industrial parks, and golf courses. In the process they could very well force the relocation of established Hispanic and Black communities situated nearby.

Secretary Clark is aware that this federal "real estate" dam would inundate or disrupt the territories of two pairs of a singular, isolated desert eagle population -- the only bald eagles in a seven-state, thousand-mile diameter circle of the Southwest. Past federal Reclamation projects have dammed or diverted almost all of the Sonoran Desert streams, and the eagles are unable to use the crowded, turbid, vegetationally sterile reservoirs.

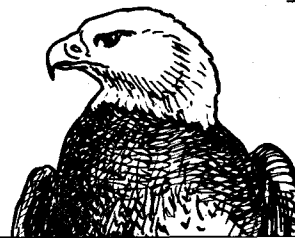
If the National Academy of Sciences study is unbiased, it will show that the construction of Cliff Dam is a clear violation of the Endangered Species Act. Both pairs of eagles would find their nesting territories and streamside foraging grounds underwater to varying levels and their presently undisturbed streamside foraging habitats destroyed by \$16 million in new access roads, power boat marinas, campgrounds, and other federal wildlife/recreational "benefits."

The dam's alleged water storage, flood control, and dam safety benefits are pure fiction. Nonstructural flood control through Phoenix could be had for 1/12th the cost and dam safety for 1/30th the cost (the Bureau's own study).

This \$360 billion eagle-destroying real estate dam for land developers may prove too embarrassing to the Reagan administration in this election year. Write to Secretary William Clark (Interior Bldg., Wash. D.C. 20240) and tell him enough is enough -- especially in this year of great federal deficit.

--Bob Witzeman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Witzeman is newsletter editor for the Maricopa (Phoenix) Audubon Society. The MAS has fought long and hard against the many destructive elements of the Central Arizona Project. This same



continued

boondoggle is reaching its arm into New Mexico as well with the proposal to build Conner Dam in southwest New Mexico, a project which would be very detrimental to the unique wildlife in that part of our state. Make your voice heard!

SPRING HAWK MIGRATION COUNT
IN THE SANDIAS

The Continuing Saga of Our Hawk Mountain
by

Steve (Hawkanan) Hoffman

For 43 days this spring, volunteers observed the hawk migration at the south end of the Sandia Crest. From Feb. 22 to May 13, we counted 1,640 raptors of 17 species. This effort constitutes the most thorough season-long raptor migration count ever conducted in western North America. The count totals are as follows: TURKEY VULTURES - 391 COOPER'S HAWK - 284; SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - 261; RED-TAILED HAWK - 181 GOLDEN EAGLE - 141 AMERICAN KESTREL - 124; NORTHERN HARRIER - 39; OSPREY - 35; PRAIRIE FALCON - 15; SWAINSON'S HAWK - 10; FERRUGINOUS HAWK - 10; BALD EAGLE - 7; PEREGRINE FALCON - 6; GOSHAWK - 5; MERLIN - 1 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK - 1 and ZONE-TAILED HAWK - 1. Interestingly, the relative proportions of the most common migrants in the Sandias this spring were remarkably similar to the fall flight in the Manzanos.

Migration activity reached a peak in mid-April. The big day was April 14 -- 232 hawks and 14 species! Individual species accounts follow below.

The first TURKEY VULTURE of the season appeared March 17. A peak flight of VULTURES was noted on April 4. Thereafter, daily number remained fairly constant through May 5. VULTURES preferred to migrate on warm, breezy days, and typically passed in small flocks of 2-7 birds. SHARP-SHINNED and COOPER'S HAWKS were first recorded at the lookout on March 9. Accipiters began moving in large numbers on April 1, when 34 were tallied. The best accipiter day of the spring was April 14, when 20 per hour

were observed for over 7 hours (145 total). As late as May 5, 25 were counted; two of these were immatures. RED-TAILS began moving in numbers on March 10; a peak flight of 28 adults was observed March 16, and the last significant push of adult RED-TAILS occurred April 1. Thereafter, immatures began to trickle past until May 5, when 5 were observed.

The adult GOLDEN EAGLE migration had already begun when the first observations were made on Feb. 22. The two best eagle days were March 8 and 10, when 18 and 16 were recorded. The adult migration was essentially complete by mid-March, when third- and fourth-year birds began moving through. These age classes were observed in small numbers through the first week of April. Thereafter, first- and second-year birds were the only eagles noted, with the last two counted April 23.

The first KESTREL was observed March 15; 35 were tallied on April 14. Small numbers were still moving as late as May 5. HARRIERS migrated through the area in low numbers between March 14 and May 5. The OSPREY migration began in earnest during the first week of April. Fourteen were recorded from April 11-13, but I was awestruck by a flight of 13 on April 22 (all in 1 1/2 hours in mid-afternoon)! None were observed after this date.

The first PRAIRIE FALCON was tallied Feb. 22, and the last one April 15. An early SWAINSON'S HAWK was observed March 17. Three were recorded April 14, with the last SWAINSON'S of the season counted May 5. FERRUGINOUS HAWKS were observed from March 17 - April 22. BALD EAGLES were seen between March 10 and April 14 (2 of the 7 were adults). PEREGRINES were observed April 5 - May 5, and GOSHAWKS from March 12 - April 22. An adult male MERLIN flew past April 14 late in the afternoon. A single ROUGH-LEGGED was spotted moving north March 28, the day after a snowstorm. A ZONE-TAILED HAWK was a nice surprise for Bill Howe on May 3.

Perhaps the most unexpected aspect of this spring's count was the large number of



BURROWING OWL

June - July 1984

ALBUQUERQUE SPRING COUNT

MAY 12 1984

AREAS:

- 1 - RIO GRANDE VALLEY AND WEST MESA
- 2 - SANDIA MTS.

SPECIES AREAS: 1 2 TOTAL

SPECIES	AREAS:	1	2	TOTAL
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH		-	14	14
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH		5	4	9
PYGMY NUTHATCH		-	3	3
BROWN CREEPER		-	2	2
ROCK WREN		3	1	4
CANYON WREN		-	3	3
BEWICK'S WREN		-	10	10
HOUSE WREN		2	14	16
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET		-	3	3
WESTERN BLUEBIRD		-	2	2
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD		-	2	2
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE		-	2	2
HERMIT THRUSH		1	11	12
AMERICAN ROBIN		66	66	132
GRAY CATBIRD		1	-	1
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD		2	38	40
CRISSAL THRASHER		-	5	5
CEDAR WAXWING		5	38	43
EUROPEAN STARLING		194	16	210
SOLITARY VIREO		1	26	27
WARBLING VIREO		-	26	26
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER		1	10	11
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER		-	68	68
YELLOW WARBLER		3	1	4
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER		35	63	98
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER		1	6	7
GRACE'S WARBLER		-	14	14
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER		4	12	16
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT		3	-	3
WILSON'S WARBLER		4	7	11
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT		2	-	2
WESTERN Tanager		15	28	43
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK		48	106	154
LAZULI BUNTING		-	2	2
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE		2	16	18
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE		6	67	73
BROWN TOWHEE		-	19	19
RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW		-	2	2
CHIPPING SPARROW		21	6	27
BREWER'S SPARROW		-	2	2
BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW		-	5	5
LARK SPARROW		-	1	1
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW		-	6	6
LINCOLN'S SPARROW		-	2	2
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW		20	2	22
DARK-EYED JUNCO		21	12	33
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD		87	-	87
WESTERN MEADOWLARK		18	17	35
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD		-	9	9
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE		5	-	5
COMMON GRACKLE		1	-	1
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD		12	12	24
NORTHERN ORIOLE		3	-	3
CASSIN'S FINCH		-	3	3
HOUSE FINCH		47	20	67
RED CROSSBILL		-	13	13
PINE SISKIN		23	16	39
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH		-	1	1
EVENING GROSBEAK		-	35	35
HOUSE SPARROW		37	13	50

125 SPECIES

2334

SPECIES	AREAS:	1	2	TOTAL
PIED-BILLED GREBE		4	-	4
GREAT BLUE HERON		1	-	1
SNOWY EGRET		1	-	1
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON		3	-	3
CANADA GOOSE		2	-	2
MALLARD		23	-	23
NORTHERN SHOVELER		6	-	6
GADWALL		-	3	3
COMMON MERGANSER		2	-	2
TURKEY VULTURE		-	4	4
OSPREY		1	-	1
NORTHERN HARRIER		1	-	1
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK		1	-	1
COOPER'S HAWK		-	3	3
NORTHERN GOSHAWK		-	2	2
RED-TAILED HAWK		1	1	2
AMERICAN KESTRAL		5	1	6
RING-NECKED PHEASANT		10	-	10
SCALED QUAIL		-	4	4
GAMBEL'S QUAIL		11	1	12
VIRGINIA RAIL		2	-	2
SORA		1	-	1
AMERICAN COOT		4	-	4
KILLDEER		6	1	7
LESSER YELLOWLEGS		1	-	1
SPOTTED SANDPIPER		2	2	4
COMMON SNIPE		2	-	2
ROCK DOVE		4	3	7
BAND-TAILED PIGEON		-	6	6
MOURNING DOVE		91	56	147
GREATER ROADRUNNER		10	-	10
BURROWING OWL		3	-	3
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT		-	27	27
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD		45	7	52
BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD		-	41	41
BELTED KINGFISHER		4	1	5
LEWIS' WOODPECKER		3	-	3
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER		-	4	4
LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER		1	4	5
DOWNY WOODPECKER		3	-	3
HAIRY WOODPECKER		-	2	2
NORTHERN FLICKER		7	10	17
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE		3	15	18
DUSKY FLYCATCHER		-	4	4
WESTERN FLYCATCHER		4	1	5
BLACK PHOEBE		2	-	2
SAY'S PHOEBE		2	4	6
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER		2	3	5
CASSIN'S KINGBIRD		-	2	2
WESTERN KINGBIRD		3	7	10
HORNED LARK		-	1	1
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW		40	10	50
NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW		41	1	42
BANK SWALLOW		1	-	1
CLIFF SWALLOW		1	-	1
BARN SWALLOW		1	8	9
STELLER'S JAY		-	22	22
SCRUB JAY		-	42	42
CLARK'S NUTCRACKER		-	5	5
AMERICAN CROW		18	1	19
COMMON RAVEN		10	11	21
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE		2	-	2
MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE		-	24	24
PLAIN TITMOUSE		-	10	10
BUSHTIT		-	8	8

THE 1984 NEW MEXICO STATE

AUDUBON CONFERENCE

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO - OCTOBER 20 AND 21, 1984

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT THE ROSWELL INN, 1815 NORTH MAIN STREET

8:00 A.M. Breakfast Meeting for Members of the New Mexico Audubon Council
Presiding - Darwin D. Miller, President of the Council

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Report of the Treasurer
3. Report of the Nominating Committee
4. Election of Officers
5. Establish Amount of Dues for Coming Year
6. Adjournment - Adjourn no later than 9:45 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, BONDURANT ROOM, ROSWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY
301 N. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

10:00 A.M. Opening Session of Conference - Registration and Coffee
Presiding - Harold W. Hallett, Conference Chairman

AGENDA

1. Welcome - Honorable Peter York, Mayor of Roswell
2. Greetings - Mildred Davis, President, S.E.N.M. Audubon Society
3. Introductions - Members of the Conference Committee
4. Speaker - Doctor Dede Armentrout, Vice President
National Audubon Society - Southwest Region

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 400 NORTH THIRD ST.

12:00 Noon - Conference Luncheon - Served by the United Presbyterian Women
Presiding - Darwin D. Miller, President Audubon Council

1. Introduction of Special Guests
2. Speaker - Milo Gene Hassel, Regional Forester
Southwest Region, United States Forest Service

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT ROSWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY
301 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

2:00 P.M. Speaker - David M. Seymour, Nat. Audubon Society Reg. Representative
Serving New Mexico and West Texas and Manager of the
Randall Davey Audubon Property in Santa Fe.

3:00 P.M. Conference Business Meeting - Presiding - Darwin D. Miller

AGENDA

1. Activities of New Mexico Audubon Council - Darwin Miller
2. Conference Delegates give Recommendations from their
Chapters for Action to be taken by the Council.
3. As the recommendations are made, those present at the
Meeting vote to approve or disapprove.
4. Adjournment - this Business Meeting should adjourn at 5:00 P.M.
sharp even if agenda is not completed.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT THE ROSWELL INN, 1815 NORTH MAIN STREET

6:30 P.M. Conference Banquet with Darwin D. Miller Presiding

1. Installation of the new Council Officers
Installing Officer is Bill Eastham, Immediate Past President
2. Speaker - Doctor Wayne Evans, Assistant Director for Research
State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, ROSWELL INN PARKING AREA, 1815 NORTH MAIN STREET

OSPREYS. In general, the migration was quite consistent from day to day, as were strong westerly winds. Warm days with strong westerlies brought the most hawks. Most of the migrants passed by the lookout at very close range, frequently allowing observers to determine the migrant's age and/or sex. Next spring I hope to fill in the gaps in this year's data (primarily early March and late April/early May). In the meantime, I hope you all will keep this fall's spectacular hawk migration in the Manzanos in mind. I will be looking for volunteers to observe as often as possible between late August and late October.

The following individuals contributed their sharp eyes and enthusiasm to this spring's count: Jim, John, and Lisa Daly; Penny Rodefer; Dale Stahlecker; Jim Bednarz; Bill Howe, Bruce Halstead; Suzi Flenniken; Rick Tredman; and Shirley Kendall.

ROSS' RAVIN'S

Hi Folks! The first big wave of spring migration has passed, the balance has slowed more or less to a trickle which will continue for several weeks. Most of those species which nest at other latitudes and elevations are long gone. Some of our local nesters have established territories, built nests, and settled down to the routine of raising young. This is the season for studying, observing, and learning rather than spotting and listing. But first I want to say thank you to all of you who called or wrote to report first sightings of hummingbirds, and of other migrants and seasonal residents. Your response was most gratifying. Thank you very much, and please keep up the good work.

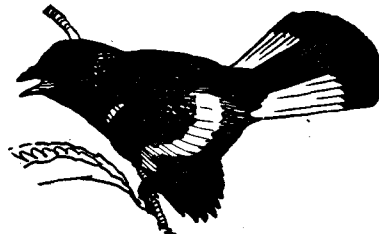
The very first HUMMINGBIRD spotted was an unidentified, probably female, that flew by the Hawk Lookout in the Sandias on April 7. Pat Basham had her first BLACK-CHINNED at Socorro on April 8. She also had a BROAD-TAILED just a couple of



days later, but it didn't stay. The first reported BLACK-CHINNED in Albuquerque was near Griegos School in the North Valley on April 9 (fide Terrence Word). Between April 12 and 21 many reports came in, sometimes 3 or 4 or more in a single day. So first arrivals fell within the normal time span for their arrival. Kathy Burr in Los Lunas had HUMMINGBIRDS and BARN SWALLOWS arrive on the same day, April 15. My first BLACK-CHINNED male didn't arrive until April 19, and two days later my first BROAD-TAILED arrived. Unusual was a spring migrating RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD at Pat Basham's on April 21. Her summer resident BROAD-TAILED didn't arrive until April 28. How many do you suppose were lost in that late snowstorm on April 26?

Many other interesting reports came in throughout the period. Kathy Burr saw a late adult WHOOPING CRANE north of the I-25 bridge on March 23. On March 28, Craig Andrews had a GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE in his yard for the first time ever. Paul Steel saw 8 WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKERS on Fenton Hill while cross-country skiing on March 31. The usual migrating OSPREY showed up at Shady Lakes and was spotted by Dale Stahlecker on April 2; Joanne Phillips saw it on April 12 along with a male WOOD DUCK, and it was still around when I went out on April 18. Joanne also has a pair of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES carrying on nesting activities, and she and Paul Steel spotted a pair of HAIRY WOODPECKERS who were house hunting, but apparently were not quite satisfied with the location.

While we were doing the spring road count for the Southwest Hawk Watch, Dale Stahlecker, Paul Steel, and I saw our first BARN SWALLOWS on April 5. On the same trip we spotted COMMON RAVEN and FERRUGINOUS HAWK nests. When Paul, Bruce Halstead, his son Glen and a friend, and I went back on April 15 to recheck the RAVEN nest, we saw WESTERN KINGBIRDS, spotted a second FERRUGINOUS HAWK nest, and observed a part of the courting behavior of a pair of SWAINSON'S HAWKS. Bruce had seen WESTERN KINGBIRDS near Hatch the previous day.



continued

On April 21, Pat Basham visited Bosque del Apache and reported seeing a NORTHERN GOSHAWK, WILSON'S PHALAROPES, SNOWY EGRETS, WHITE-FACED IBIS, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, and BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. The same day John Durrie was there and added OSPREY, SUMMER Tanager, MARBLED GODWIT, and SNOWY PLOVER to the list. On the 24th, Joanne Phillips, Billie Johnson, and Mary Lou Arthur were there and saw a LITTLE BLUE HERON and WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. I stopped there briefly on April 27, and must have arrived shortly after a wave of migrating swallows and shorebirds. There were literally thousands of VIOLET-GREEN, TREE, BARN, CLIFF, and ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS everywhere on the refuge. They were so tired they would sit on the road until the car nearly touched them. MARBLED GODWITS are never very common there, but on that day there were 30-50 of them in the front display ponds and the big marsh near the first observation tower. Also plentiful were WILSON'S PHALAROPES. One observer said there were hundreds there on April 30.

On May 2, Diana Kinney called to report a possible MOURNING WARBLER in her yard. I am unaware of the species ever having been verified in the Albuquerque area. But don't forget, Diana had the very first verified VARIED THRUSH in the state in her yard a few years ago! I spent a good part of a morning with her in hope of seeing and photographing the bird, but as is frequently the case, it failed to cooperate and put in an appearance. We did have a nice visit, and were treated to views of WILSON'S, MacGILLIVRAY'S and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS.

Joanne Phillips called on May 15 to tell me she had a GREAT EGRET at Shady Lakes for the first time ever. I believe that brings her "yard list" there up to 162 or 163 species. I know of only one other person who has a longer "yard list." In the seven years since Pat Basham has been in Socorro, she has recorded 186 visitors (avian) to her acreage.

While I was at Pat's before our Century

Run she shared her list of first arrivals in her yard this year with me. I thought it was quite an impressive list. On 3/8 she had SAGE THRASHER; 3/28 ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW; 4/1 BARN SWALLOW; 4/9 POORWILL; 4/10 WHITE-WINGED DOVE; 4/14 COMMON YELLOWTHROAT; 4/16 NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD and HAIRY WOODPECKER; 4/17 LINCOLN'S SPARROW; 4/18 BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD; 4/21 RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD; 4/24 DOWNY WOODPECKER and BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK 4/25 BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD; 4/27 LESSER NIGHT-HAWK and ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER; 4/28 BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD; 4/30 MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER; 5/1 WESTERN WOOD PEWEE, ORANGE-CROWNED, VIRGINIA'S, YELLOW and WILSON'S WARBLERS; WESTERN Tanager, BLUE GROSBEAK, GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, LARK BUNTING, LARK and BREWER'S SPARROWS; 5/2 INDIGO BUNTING and EASTERN MEADOWLARK. Doesn't that make you drool? She is still having HARRIS' SPARROW intermittently, and on May 8 a WHITE PELICAN flew over.

Between May 10 and 20, I felt lucky to have HERMIT THRUSH, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, PINE SISKIN, WESTERN Tanager, and for the first time ever BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK in my yard in addition to the ubiquitous HOUSE SPARROW, HOUSE FINCH, and now daily HUMMINGBIRDS. My flyover was a TURKEY VULTURE.

Last time I mentioned preparing to go to the annual WHOOPING CRANE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION meeting in Grand Island, Neb., March 22-24. The trip both ways was miserable with snow and ice storms, and icy roads nearly all the way. But the meeting was great! There were 84 members present, some from as far as England and Sweden. The member biologists have been called the "crane brains" of North America. There were many top-notch papers in regard to Whooping Crane management and Whooping Crane habitat management. We were privileged to a pre-release showing of the National Geographic/Gulf Oil film, "The Flight of The Whooping Crane," which I hope most of you saw on Channel 5, on April 4 or April 8. Tom Mangleson, the co-producer and chief photographer, as well as most of the principals in the film, are members and were at the meeting.



The Platte River is part of the historic migration route, not only of the natural flock of WHOOPING CRANES, but of nearly all of the nation's population of SAND-HILL CRANES of 3 races, which number in excess of 500,000; scores of wintering BALD EAGLES, and hundreds of thousands of geese and ducks. Morning and evening field trips to the viewing blind of the Platte River Whooping Crane Habitat Maintenance Trust on Mormon Island were highlights -- an unforgettable experience. A bonus was the sighting of a flock of about 25 GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKENS. I'd recommend participating in these meetings to everyone. I know of nowhere where one gets more for the modest membership fee than from WCCA. The next meeting will be near Washington, D.C. (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center) in March 1985, and the following one at Regina, Saskatchewan, in October 1986. I have membership applications on hand if anyone is interested.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to make the planned trip to Texas and Santa Anna NWR. However, just a couple of days ago I had a call from Andy Kraynik, who had just returned from that area. Remember Andy and Holly? They were very active in this Audubon Chapter in the mid-'70s. Although the trip was not entirely devoted to birding activities, Andy added 25 life birds to his 500+ life list. Among them were LEAST GREBE, HARRIS' and WHITE-TAILED HAWK, GREEN KINGFISHER, BROWN JAY, HOODED and ALTAMIRA ORIOLE, and the prize of all, a very rare YUCATAN VIREO!

Pat Basham and I have renamed our annual 100-bird days our CENTURY RUN. This year the selected date was May 5. It was a miserable, windy day from the start, not at all conducive to bird finding. We were up at 5 a.m. and after a hasty breakfast started our birding activity. By the time we left Pat's at 7:02 a.m., we had a solid 30 species under our belts. This included such birds as HAIRY WOODPECKER, ROUGH-WINGED and BARN SWALLOWS, ORANGE-CROWNED, VIRGINIA'S, YELLOW YELLOW-RUMPED, MacGILLIVRAY'S,



and WILSON'S WARBLERS, and COMMON YELLOW-THROAT. We felt we could best get out of the wind by going to Water Canyon next. There we picked up an additional 24 species, including CANYON WREN, WHITE-THROATED SWIFT, ACORN WOODPECKER, ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, CASSIN'S KINGBIRD, MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE, HERMIT THRUSH, SOLITARY and WARBLING VIREOS, WESTERN and HEPATIC TANAGERS, RUFOUS-SIDED and BROWN TOWHEES, BLACK-THROATED, VESPER and CHIPPING SPARROWS. By shortly after noon we were back at Bosque del Apache with 66 species including what we had seen along the road. Six hours later we left Bosque with a total of 115 species. Many of the birds we'd expected to find were missed, but we did see both SORA and VIRGINIA RAIL, SEMI-PALMATED and SNOWY PLOVER, at least a dozen species of shorebirds, GREEN-BACKED HERON, SAVANNAH and BREWER'S SPARROWS. Last bird of the day was a COMMON NIGHTHAWK, out back after dinner. We'd missed several we'd normally expect to find, like WHITE-WINGED DOVE, HARRIS' SPARROW and SONG SPARROW.

On Sunday we slept later, had a leisurely breakfast, and went back to Bosque del Apache for a more relaxed half-day of birding. In five hours we had ticked off 85 species, of which 13 were ones we had missed on Saturday. Among these were WESTERN GREBE, SWAINSON'S HAWK, BURROWING OWL, CURVE-BILLED THRASHER, TENNESSEE WARBLER, and GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE. All in all, over the whole weekend we had logged a total of 131 species.

It appears that the new NMOS New Mexico Bird Finding Guide will be off the press in approximately 30 days. I am still authorized to accept orders and payments at the prepublication price of \$5. Just make your checks payable to NMOS, and send them to me (Ross L. Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE 87110). Once the book is released the price will go up to \$6. Call me if you have questions (265-8962).

That's it for this time. Thanks again for all your good phone calls and notes; they are the life blood of this column, so keep them coming. Have a good summer, and good luck in your birding. So long! R.L.T.



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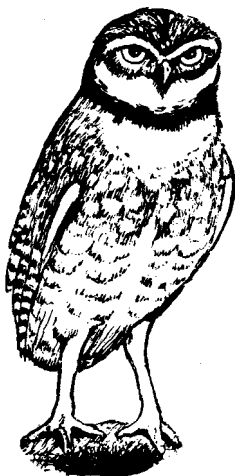
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