

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1985

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 15 - Regular Meeting

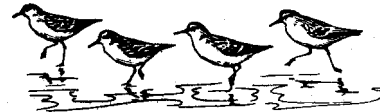
Geoffrey Hill of UNM has studied the delightful Blackheaded Grosbeak extensively and will bring us slides and insight into this bird. See Welcome Paragraph for time and place.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - Field Trip

Let Joann Philips (898-2568) show you around her 11-acre property in the North Valley. Meet her at Shady Lakes at 9 A.M. for a half day of leisurely birding. This is an excellent time to find a variety of migrants and perhaps some rarities. Five years ago in early September, she had a Prothonotary Warbler, a Northern Waterthrush, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler. Shady Lakes can be reached by taking the Alameda exit off I-25 and going north on US 85 until you come to the Shady Lakes sign.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - Regular Meeting

Ina and Maynard Miller have traveled the world extensively, both professionally and for pleasure. (See the Sunday, July 21 Albuquerque Journal.) In December of 1983, they took a Society expedition to the Falkland Islands and the west coast of Antarctica. They will show us slides of this trip, with many penguins included in the show. See Welcome Paragraph for time and place.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - Field Trip

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will be taking on the colors of fall, and the migrant shorebirds should be numerous at the Refuge. Join leaders Evelyn and George Price (831-5028) for a trip to the Bosque. Meet at 7 A.M. at the parking lot of the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Yale and Lomas, N.E. Bring water and food. We'll have a late lunch at the Owl Bar & Cafe.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 - Field Trip

Join Hart Schwarz (266-1810) for a journey to the spectacular 35-foot waterfall in Waterfall Canyon on the west side of the Sandias. Be prepared for some fairly steep climbing and rock scrambling, although the total distance is under four miles. We should still see Townsend's Warblers, as well as many other migrants and summer residents lingering in the Sandias. Meet at 8 A.M. at the intersection of Tramway Road and the Juan Tabo Picnic Ground road. Bring lunch and water.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 - Field Trip

Barbara Hussey (292-5626) will lead this trip to the Del Agua Overlook near North Peak on the Crest Trail. If Nature cooperates, you will see one of the largest stands of aspen in the Sandias arrayed in full autumn regalia. You may also experience the nostalgia of seeing the last Swifts and Turkey Vultures of the season. Meet at 8 A.M. at Mt. View Inn, Central and Tramway. Bring lunch and water. This is almost all level walking.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

1. Get ready for the October 17th meeting, "What I Did This Summer." Bring 10-15 slides for our show-and-tell meeting.
2. A picnic will be held on October 19 to dedicate our trail in the Sandias. Mark your calendar. More in next OWL.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On our recent trip to the Midwest, we visited the International Crane Foundation at Baraboo, Wisconsin. This is a nonprofit organization set up for the purpose of studying, propagating, and preserving endangered cranes from around the world.

Our guide showed us around the large circular pen where each species was

displayed in its own wedge-shaped area. Birds ranged from sacred cranes of the Orient to common Sandhills. There was one Whooping Crane, and it came to the fence as if to see us!

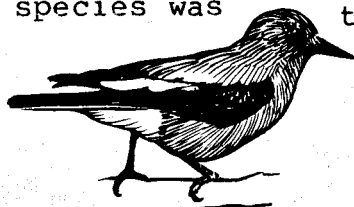
An unusual sight was the human "chick mamas" exercising the young cranes in an enclosed yard. Eggs are taken from the mother cranes, incubated, and taken care of by these "chick mamas." This is done to insure that as many as possible of the chicks will be brought safely to maturity.

We later went on a crane walk. Several of the young cranes with their human "mama" walked with us along the paths of the sanctuary, while the attendant answered our questions and gave us more information about the foundation.

In Marquette County, Wisconsin, we visited the John Muir County Park south of Montello. This park is near the farm where naturalist John Muir lived during his teen years after coming to the U.S. from Scotland with his family. A Montello granite monument tells of "this foster son of Wisconsin" coming to the state and describes Muir's place in history as a champion of the National Park system. No mention was made of the fact that Muir was one of the founders of the Sierra Club.

Other high points of the trip included loon watching as we canoed on a Boundary Waters lake, observing a pair of bald eagles as they tended their family in a huge nest in an old dead tree at Cass Lake, and wading across the small stream that is the origin of the Mississippi at Lake Itasca. What fun that was! We were in the company of people of all ages -- from toddlers on up, happily wading or walking on the stepping stones across the infant Mississippi.

Back now to plans for our Chapter for the coming year. We are in process of sponsoring classrooms in five schools in APS for participation in the Audubon Adventures Program. This is a successor to the old Junior Audubon groups that



much interest in past years. We have found teachers who are eager to use this program in their classrooms, and we feel that the \$20 per classroom cost of sponsorship by our Chapter will be money well spent.

--Marge Carrick

FIELD TRIP REPORT

A grand total of five folks met at the University of New Mexico parking lot on Saturday morning, July 13, 1985, for an all-day trip to Water Canyon and the Magdalena Mountains. After arriving at the Water Canyon campground, the group hiked up the creek and back down the road to the campground in search of red-faced warblers. No warblers were seen or heard, but acorn woodpeckers were spotted, as well as several Empidonax flycatchers. Even though the flycatchers cooperated by giving us excellent looks, we still were unsure as to what species they were. Our consensus guess was that at least one was a dusky flycatcher. We also flushed one bat, which was one of the big-eared species.

After eating lunch in a cool spot by the creek, we drove to the mountain top, where the Langmuir Thunderstorm Research Laboratory is located. We spent the afternoon birding the laboratory area and met one of the New Mexico Technology students working at the lab for the summer. The student passed on to us several stories of some exciting storms they had encountered there at the lab. We remarked to him how cool it was up there, and he said they were in the midst of a heat wave, as it was 75 degrees Fahrenheit that day. It is normally only 65 degrees at this time of year up there. We thought about this 75-degree heat wave we were in, while all the good birding folks were home sitting in front of their air conditioners, with the outside temperature hovering near 100 degrees.

A total of 49 species were positively identified on the trip, as well as several other animal and plant species. Although this is not a large number of

species and nothing unusual was encountered, it was a beautiful cool day and a good time to be away from the flatland hots. Hope to get more of you out next time around.

--Bruce G. Halstead

RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER NEWS

The auction of Randall Davey paintings was a success, with all 100 WORKS selling for a total of \$700,000. This money will be invested by National Audubon and an endowment will be set up for the Randall Davey Center.

Beginning August 1st, David Henderson will become the new Director of the Center. For the past five years, he has been the Environmental Educator for the Western Region of Audubon, based at the Richardson Bay Sanctuary in Tiburon, California. Janie Cox, who has been the interim Director since April, will stay on the staff as the Program Director. The increase in staff size will enable the Center to develop a more dynamic on-site and outreach program. This summer's natural history workshops have been very successful. There are more workshops planned (see below), so consider a trip to Santa Fe during August. The Randall Davey house will continue to be open each Sunday from 1-4 P.M. this summer. The 135 acres of the sanctuary include an easy walking trail; the property is open every day. If you have any questions, please call the Randall Davey Center, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, at 983-4609.

AUGUST WORKSHOPS

Saturday 17th, 9 A.M. - Wildflowers and Medicinal Uses - Terry Foxx. A wonderful walk exploring the 135 acres of the Center.

Saturday 24th, 10 A.M. - Endangered Species of New Mexico - John Hubbard. Wildlife issues facing New Mexico.

Saturday 31st, 10 A.M. - Nature Photography - Jim Bones and Karen Copeland. Encounters with a photographer.

Be sure to call the number above for reservations. The workshops are free to Audubon members.



NATIONAL OFFERS INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP

Beginning July 1, the National Audubon Society will offer a special introductory membership, one year for \$20. This is quite a saving over the regular membership dues. Now is your chance to acquaint your friends and relatives with the benefits of the National Audubon Society (and, of course, the Central New Mexico Chapter). The special application will be available at our regular meetings of CNMAS, or you may call Lew Helm at 821-8586 for an application or more information.

NM'S FIRST ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIR

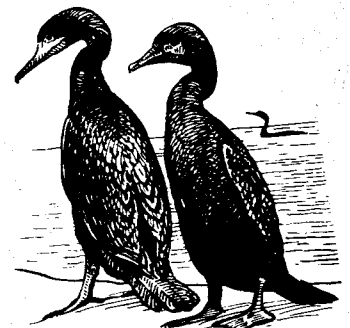
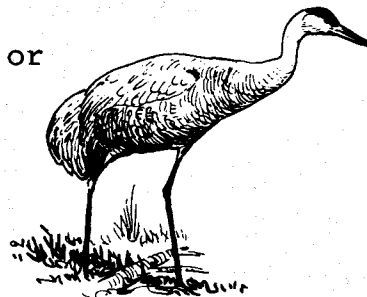
The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, and the Sierra Club are joining forces to sponsor this state's first Endangered Species Fair on September 7 from 1 to 8 P.M. at the museum, 1801 Mountain Road, N.W., Albuquerque.

Financed by Share with Wildlife funds from the Department of Game and Fish, the fair is a free public event to promote an awareness and appreciation of New Mexico's endangered species, their needs, and prospects for survival.

The fair will offer several special events including a personal appearance by Roy Geiger of the National Wildlife Federation and his bald eagle, Migisiwa; an illustrated talk on the Mexican wolf by Norma Ames, leader of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team; and an hour around a campfire with storyteller Joe Hayes.

Throughout the afternoon there will be games and activities for children, as well as a continuous program of talks, films, music, and exhibits including displays of live, endangered creatures such as the Socorro isopod and endangered plants.

For more information call 265-5506 or 345-1412.



AUDUBONERS OFFER COURSES OF INTEREST

Gardening Without Work - Wild Gardens

Jim Lewis will be teaching this course. The methods demonstrated include: How to avoid spading, cultivating, weeding, spraying, fertilizing and lawn mowing; automatic creation of top soil; availability of free mulch and ground cover materials; and the use of predators to control pests. The design of natural gardens and the use of native edible plants will be emphasized. One session is in the classroom with the other sessions in natural gardens and on field trips. Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 p.m., August 28 to October 16. For information call UNM Community College 277-3751 or Jim Lewis 881-7423.

Winter Birds of Bosque Del Apache

This course taught by Chuck Hundertmark will concentrate on the field marks, behavior, and life history of the more common winter birds of Bosque del Apache. Color slides will be used to illustrate lectures. Emphasis will be placed on Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes; geese, ducks, and other waterfowl; marsh birds; raptors, including Bald and Golden Eagles; and a few songbird species. The field trip will be via University van and will include dinner on the return trip at the well-known Owl Bar and Grill in San Antonio (not included in course fee). Binoculars and the Birds of North America, Expanded Revised Edition, by Robbins, Brunn, Zim, and Singer are required. This course is designed to be an advanced sequel to "Birds of New Mexico." Prerequisite: Assumes knowledge of bird identification and field guide use. Thursdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., November 7 - December 5. No class November 28. Field trip, Saturday, December 7. Call the Community College at 277-3751.

A PLEA FOR HELP FROM OVERSEAS

Dear Audubon Society Member:

I write to ask your help in an urgent campaign to protect the Yorkshire River Derwent, one of Britain's most important rivers for wildlife.

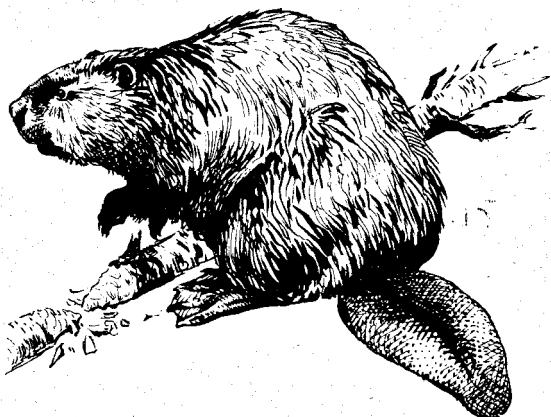
In a crowded island like ours, there are so very few places where wildlife can thrive. Our historic landscapes have been changed dramatically in recent years.

The Yorkshire River Derwent is an exception. There is no other river like it. Its living system, from freshwater crayfish and internationally important bird populations to the nationally endangered otter, is virtually intact.

The River Derwent rises in the North York Moors and flows near "Brideshead" of "Brideshead Revisited," the TV series. It was near the Derwent that Harold fought the battle of Stamford Bridge immediately before the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

This vital part of our natural heritage is now at risk. Boating enthusiasts are seeking to open up this undisturbed and unexploited river for recreational boating. To try to do this, they have brought a High Court Case in London. If this goes unchallenged, it could open the way for demands for marinas, fueling points, and other services, all out of keeping with the existing harmony of this fragile English landscape and the conservation of its wildlife.

In March the River Derwent Appeal was



launched to raise \$40,000 to defend the court case. This may not seem much by American legal standards, but it is a large sum for us to raise in England. That is why I write to ask your help.

I know we are a very long way away, but we believe that the spirit of the World Conservation Strategy - "Think globally; act locally" - is an ideal which will find favour with all who care about the conservation of wildlife. The future of an important place like the River Derwent matters to everyone.

If you agree that the time has come to put a halt to continuing loss of the world's precious wildlife, may I please ask you to consider sending a donation for the River Derwent Appeal. Every single donation helps.

I apologise for being so presumptuous, but the issue is so important that I have little alternative but to try to seek help from everyone who cares.

With many thanks, yours faithfully,

Ian Carstairs, River Derwent Appeal, c/o Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, 20 Castlegate, York, England, YO1 1RP.

P.S. Everyone who sends a donation will receive a photo of the River Derwent they are helping to protect.

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

CALIFORNIA CONDOR: The news from California is GRIM. Last October, 15 California Condors, including 5 breeding pairs, were known to be alive in the wild. Today, only 9 birds can be accounted for, and only 1 breeding pair. The cause of this sudden decline is a mystery. Possibilities include lead poisoning, collisions with power lines and, conceivably, a deliberate hunting of condors. Now under consideration are a variety of options for protecting the remaining wild birds. The most drastic of these calls for capturing all 9 birds and adding them to the 17 birds

presently in a captive breeding program. Other options involve release of some captive-reared birds, either to supplement the wild population or to at least maintain it by replacing any birds taken into captivity.

APLOMADO FALCON: On May 20, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed listing the Northern Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*) as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. This subspecies historically occurred in southeast Arizona, south New Mexico, south and west Texas, much of Mexico, and the west coast of Guatemala. Today, it is known to nest only in portions of east Mexico. The last documented nesting in the U.S. took place near Deming, NM, in 1952. Brush encroachment into the Aplomado's favored desert grassland habitat appears the likely cause of this historical decline (RR, Jan 1984). Currently, continued use of DDT and other persistent insecticides poses the most serious threat to this falcon. According to USFWS, "Recent data strongly suggest such pesticide use is causing extreme eggshell thinning in some populations of Northern Aplomado Falcon." The USFWS proposal is now out for public review and comment.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: Meanwhile, the process of reauthorizing the ESA has advanced another notch. On May 14, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee unanimously approved H.R. 1027, which would:

- reauthorize the ESA for 3 years;
- authorize funding of \$39.25 million in FY 1986 (same as the FY 1985 appropriated level), \$46.75 million in FY 1987, and \$54.2 million in FY 1988; and
- provide some increased protection for candidate species; i.e., species that are under review for endangered status but have not yet been proposed for listing.

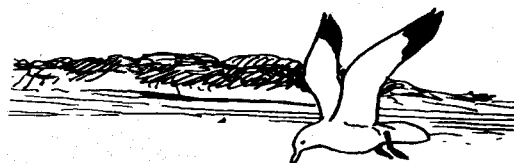
Conservationists wouldn't mind seeing those funding authorizations pushed still higher. The endangered species programs of the USFWS have long been underfunded. As a result, a huge backlog has developed

of species that are biologically endangered but have not yet been put through the process that leads to a spot on the endangered species list. Similarly, recovery plans have been developed for many listed species, but there is little money available to implement them. To make a dent in the listing backlog and make real progress implementing recovery plans, conservationists would like to see the ESA reauthorized at \$80-\$100 million a year for the next 3 years.

WETLANDS: The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act is back. This legislation to increase federal efforts at wetland protection died in the last U.S. Congress (RR, Sept 1984) but has been reintroduced this year as S. 740 and H.F. 1203. Thus far, neither bill is burdened with the "Oregon Inlet jetty" rider that crippled similar legislation in 1984. The Senate Environmental Pollution Subcommittee held a hearing on S. 740 on April 18, and the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee reported H.R. 1203 favorably on May 1. Both bills would authorize up to \$75 million a year for 10 years from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to be used for wetland acquisition, would increase the federal duck stamp price from \$7.50 to \$15 over a 5-year period, and would allow the charging of entrance fees at selected national wildlife refuges.

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SEEKS TO DETERMINE IF IVORY-BILLED
WOODPECKER IS EXTINCT**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has initiated a status review of the ivory-billed woodpecker to determine if the species is extinct and should therefore be removed from the list of U.S. endangered and threatened wildlife. The agency will evaluate all data it presently has on the bird and will accept any new information from other governmental or private organizations, as well as individuals. Depending on the data collected, further surveys could be undertaken, or the species could be



declared extinct and removed from the endangered species list.

The ivory-billed woodpecker is the latest of North American wildlife that is near the brink of extinction. The ivory-billed was declared endangered when the first list was issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1967. The bird formerly occupied bottomland and swamp forests of the south central and southeastern United States, where it fed predominantly on wood-boring beetles found on large, recently dead trees. The primary reason for its decline has been the extensive logging of mature bottomland hardwood forests of the South. Young, living trees apparently fail to provide the insects required as food for the bird's survival.

A second subspecies, the Cuban ivory-billed woodpecker, may also be extinct and is also being considered under the current status review. The Cuban subspecies appeared to have been nesting through the 1950s in the pine forests of the eastern mountains of Cuba, but historically occurred over most of the island.

The ivory-billed woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in North America, averaging 20 inches in length. The bird is shiny black with a white stripe down the neck from its cheeks to the back. Its most distinctive feature is the large white triangular patch across the lower half of its back, clearly visible when the bird perches. The males have a red crest; the female crest is black. This bird's name was derived from its large bill which has a distinctive pale ivory color.

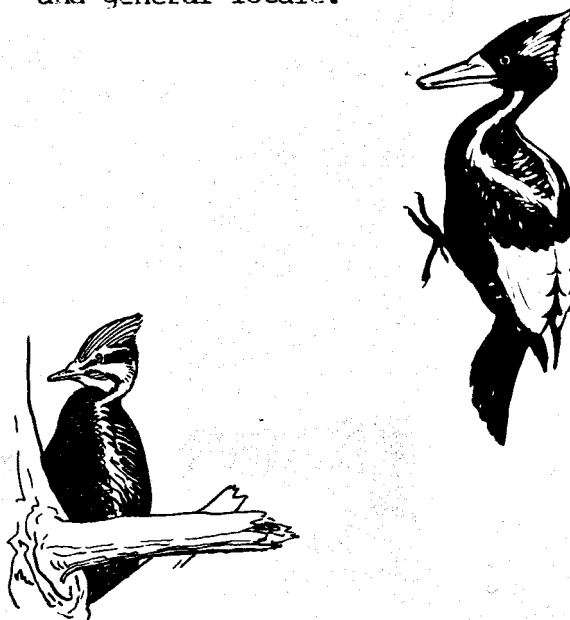
The ivory-billed woodpecker is often confused with the smaller, 17-inch long, pileated woodpecker. However, the relatively common pileated woodpecker shows no white across its back and in flight shows white only on the leading edge of the wing, rather than both the front and rear edges of the wing, as shown by the ivory-billed woodpecker.

There has been little evidence over the last 30 years that the ivory-billed

woodpecker still exists in the United States. From time to time, the Fish and Wildlife Service has received reports of sightings, but most are of the common pileated woodpecker. Infrequently, reports seemed to indicate the possibility that one or more ivory-billed woodpeckers still survived in the southeastern U.S. during the 1950s and, perhaps, later. To the Service's knowledge, however, there have been no confirmed reports of live ivory-billed woodpeckers since the early 1950s.

In the past, data on possible ivory-billed woodpecker sightings may have been withheld by some individuals on the assumption that the birds would be better protected if no one learned of their presence. While understandable, this approach has resulted in a lack of knowledge for those agencies that could manage the birds' habitat to benefit and possibly save the species from extinction.

This status review was announced in the April 10, 1985, Federal Register. Any individual, organization, or agency with biological information on the current status of this bird is encouraged to write the Regional Director, Region 2, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87103. Photographs and other confirming materials are requested. Observations should include supporting descriptions of the bird, its behavior, the habitat, and general locale.



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