

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE - JULY 1986

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 19 - Regular Meeting

"Mac" McHarney, CNMAS member and naturalist, will present a slide show entitled "Spring Birding in Texas." Included in this show of the unique bird species found in Texas are scenes from the Greater Prairie Chicken's booming grounds and pictures from Big Bend National Park. See Welcome paragraph for time and place.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 27-29 - Meeting on the Outdoors

"New Mexico's Public Lands: Resources for the Future" is the theme of this meeting. See enclosed brochure for full information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28 - Discover the Sandias Day

CNMAS will participate in this activity. See article inside for information on how you can take part.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 - Field Trip

A half-day beginner's field trip to Hondo Canyon with Barbara Hussey (292-5626), who will take you to the cool and refreshing riparian oasis below the travertine waterfall and then along an easy path through juniper and pinon. Expect to find many of our summer residents, including Western Tanager, Solitary Vireo, and Black-Throated Gray Warbler. Meet at 1 p.m. in the Mountain View Hotel parking lot.

SUNDAY, JULY 13 - Field Trip

Field trip to Bland Canyon in the Jemez Mountains with Mark and Margie Amato (298-3227), who have seen Black Swifts there. If breeding can be established in this remote canyon, it would probably be a first for New Mexico. Meet the Amatos at 6:30 a.m. in the Physics & Astronomy parking lot, NE corner of Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch and water. Only 4-WD vehicles can make this trip. If you do not have one, call Mark or Margie to arrange for car pooling.



THURSDAY, JULY 17 - Regular Meeting

"Endangered Prehistoric Rock Art of Albuquerque's West Mesa" is the subject of Isaac Eastvold's program. Mr. Eastvold has been studying, teaching, and preserving rock art for 18 years and moved to Albuquerque partly because of our rock art treasures. See Welcome paragraph for time and place.

SUNDAY, JULY 27 - Field Trip

Enjoy Kiwanis Meadow in full bloom, graced by the diminutive Calliope Hummingbird and its even more brilliantly arrayed cousin, the Rufous Hummingbird. Trip leader will be Hart Schwarz (266-1810). We will also try to find the elusive Three-toed Woodpecker, but there are no guarantees! Meet at Mountain View Hotel parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Bring a little cash for lunch at High Finance.

MONDAY, JULY 28 through MONDAY, AUGUST 4

American Birding Association Convention, Tucson, Arizona.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4 through SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Rocky Mountain Region, NAS, Conference in Sierra Vista, Arizona. "Saving Riparian Habitats of the Southwest" will be the theme of the Conference. Field trips, workshops, speeches, etc., will be featured. Call Marge Carrick (266-0191) or Evelyn Price (266-4028) for registration and schedule information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our fifteenth annual meeting was a well-attended potluck supper and program held on Thursday, May 15 at our usual meeting place, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Five of our past presidents were in attendance: Chuck Hundertmark ('71-'72), Jim Karo ('73-'74), Jacque Hohlfelder ('74-'75), Craig Andrews ('76-'77), and Barbara Hussey ('80-'81 and '82-'83). Greetings were received from Dan Washburn ('75-'76) and Dave Lange ('77-'78 and '78-'79). Dan and Marian Washburn are on

a year-long trip to California and other western states; Dave Lange now resides and works in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lew Helm, Chairman of Nominating Committee, installed officers for 1985-'86. See Directory on last page of this OWL.

On behalf of the Society in appreciation of services to CNMAS, Ross Teuber presented bird books to Liz Broemel and Phyllis Schmidt, retiring members of the board.

The Washburn Award was presented to Orlando Sedillo, former Director of Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Albuquerque. Vi Hill, member of the Open Space Task Force, gave the introduction, outlining the accomplishments of Mr. Sedillo, particularly in the area of Open Space and Nature Parks acquisition. The award painting was a watercolor of Gambel's Quail by wildlife artist and CNMAS member Pat Basham of Socorro.

A slide talk presentation, "The Audubon Camps and Workshops," was given by David Henderson, Director of Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. Two of the Scholarship winners, Rolene E. Barnett and Katherine Wieseman, were present and introduced to members of the chapter. They will attend the Audubon Camp in the West located in the Wind River Mountains near Dubois, Wyoming.

I wish to thank all those who made the annual meeting such a happy occasion, Mark and Margie Amato, Hospitality Chairmen, Mary Lou Arthur, and all those who helped. Ethel Ringer again made our tables beautiful with her garden flower centerpieces. The anniversary cake, made by Barbara Hussey and fittingly decorated with our burrowing owl, was enjoyed by all.

It has been a pleasure to lead CNMAS during 1985-'86, and I look forward to 1986-'87. I extend my thanks to all, the board and membership alike who worked along with me to achieve the "Highlights of 1985-'86" listed following this letter. All of us appreciate the efforts of those who, through the years from 1971 on, built the

foundation on which this record of achievements rests.

My best wishes to all for a happy vacation time with many days spent in the out-of-doors, birding and enjoying nature!

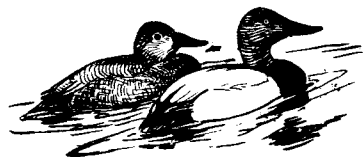
--Marge Carrick

CONSERVATION NOTES

Lew Helm

Gramm-Rudman Reductions at Work. Two most important programs for conservation purposes, as well as sport hunting and fishing, face cutting under G-R rules for the federal budget. Federal aid in Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Restoration depends upon taxes paid by sportsmen (and women) on fishing tackle, arms, and ammunition. Under G-R, some \$10.5 million will be impounded this fiscal year and would be available in fiscal year 1987. However, if Congress does not hold federal spending within Gramm-Rudman guidelines, automatic deficit reductions go into effect, and up to 25 percent of these funds could be impounded for next year. Raiding this program to control government excesses is a completely inappropriate maneuver. A word to your Congressman to object to this outlandish scheme would be most appropriate.

Saving Money the Hard Way. For conservationists, the federal budget crunch seems like a never-ending series of setbacks. For fiscal year 1987, the following slashes are in the works: The Bureau of Land Management would lose \$2.16 million and 20 positions for wildlife habitat management. The U.S. Forest Service would lose \$189,000 and two positions for range, wildlife, and fish habitat research. The National Forest Service's system to support wildlife and fish habitat management would lose \$4.9 million and 74 positions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have overall funding reduced by \$49 million and would lose 361 positions! It is doubtful that these agencies can withstand these cuts and still maintain their statutory obligations for sound management of fish and wildlife resources.



Garrison Update. There is a ray of sunshine on the conservation front. After years of negotiations, legal hassels, and downright shouting matches, it appears that reauthorization of the Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota will be authorized with important compromises to protect wetlands. The National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and many others joined hands to force a scaled-down version of the project. The original proposal would have devastated a vital portion of waterfowl breeding and migratory habitat in the upper Midwest. Late word is that the reauthorization bill has been passed by both houses of Congress and is on the way to the White House for the President's signature. Our hats are off to the staff of the National Audubon Society (and to all the others) who worked so hard on this landmark issue.

Conner Dam and Gila River Alternatives. From information supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation at a series of public hearings, it appears that any project involving structures on the Gila River is going to strangle on just the economics alone. The best benefit-to-cost ratio of any of the alternatives would be only .6. In other words, for every dollar spent, only 60 cents of benefits would be realized. In this day of fiscal restraints, it is inconceivable that our Senators and Congressmen could consider supporting such an unwise undertaking. Let them know your thoughts.

WASHBURN AWARD FOR 1986

The Washburn Award was established in honor of Daniel and Marian Washburn in recognition of their five years of service to the chapter, and particularly, in recognition of their work during 1975-76 in establishing a smoother functioning organizational structure for the Central New Mexico Audubon Society. The award is given to an employee or official of a government agency or body who has demonstrated outstanding abilities



in the areas of environmental protection or education.

This year's recipient is Orlando Sedillo, who as Director of Albuquerque Parks and Recreational Department from 1978 to 1986, provided leadership in promoting Albuquerque's Open Space Program. During this time, the following was accomplished:

- Acquisition of the Elena Gallegos land grant and construction of the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area;
- Acquisition of major portions of Volcano Park;
- Establishment of the Rio Grande Valley State Park;
- Establishment of Carolino Canyon Park;
- Acquisition of the Petroglyph area at Piedras Marcandas Canyon.

Mr. Sedillo worked closely with the Open Space Task Force acting as a resource person and in an advisory capacity. In recognition of his efforts, he was presented with a citation and a water-color of Gambel's Quail by wildlife artist and CNMAS member Pat Basham of Socorro.

Past honorees are: Dick Rigby, Bosque del Apache; Gary Zamm, Bosque del Apache; Dan Pursley, NM Game and Fish; Dave Lange, University of New Mexico; John Hubbard, NM Game and Fish; Rex Funk, Albuquerque Public Schools.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1985-86

BURROWING OWL went out on a bimonthly basis and by the middle of the year we were sending the OWL to 1,000 members!

EDUCATION Introduced Audubon Adventures and gave bird talks to 11 classrooms in the APS system. Underwrote Scholarships to three teachers for the Audubon Camp of the West. Gave camperships to 20 children to the APS summer camp. Sponsored a ten-week beginners' bird course taught by member Ross Teuber. Contributed funds to the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center for educational purposes.

RESEARCH Set up and funded, in part, a Scientific Research Committee for the

purpose of supporting appropriate research on NM wildlife. Crane migration and hawk watch were the two specific programs this year.

CONSERVATION Representatives of CNMAS attended and took part in hearings relative to conservation issues, the latest being on the Gila River. Conservation Chair Lew Helm kept us informed of the issues with his Conservation Notes in the OWL and with talks at the general meetings. Letters were written on the Superfund and other issues. Speakers were invited to come and air their views at general meetings.

COMMUNITY Gave donation to KNME in recognition of its fine nature programming. Provided judges and prizes for the Science Fair at UNM. Continued work on our "adopt-a-trail" project in the Sandias. Provided a booth at the Endangered Species Fair in September. Gave the Washburn Award to Orlando Sedillo for his conservation efforts.

FILM SERIES Continued sponsorship of the Nature and Wildlife Film Series at Popejoy Hall. Teacher Scholarships are financed by the proceeds. Series now in its 26th year!

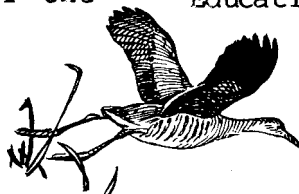
LIBRARY Added to our library of approximately 150 books.

COUNCIL Have provided leadership and active support to the five-chapter council made up of chapters of the state.

FIELD TRIPS Sponsored over 30 field trips aside from the Christmas and Spring counts. Participated in the "Big Bird Bash," a council-sponsored event held yearly at Silver City. Field trip leaders for the year were: Bruce Halstead, Mark and Margie Amato, Hart Schwarz, Mary Lou Arthur, George and Evelyn Price, Joanne Phillips, Barbara Hussey, Kay Anderson, Steve Hoffman, Dustin and Sue Huntington, Karen Peterson, Chuck Hundertmark. Hart Schwarz is Field Trip Chairman.

SOME CHANGES ON THE BOARD

A big welcome to the following who are either new on the board or are taking a new position: Vice President and Program Chair, David Broudy; Jean Dille, Recording Secretary; Joanne Phillips, Treasurer; Publicity Chair, Trail Boss and members of Education Committee, Mark and Margie Amato;





MEETING ON THE OUTDOORS

P.O. Box 8717, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

1986 SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Sierra Club • Southwest Research and Information Center

Audubon • Soil Conservation Society • Wildlife Society

Nature Conservancy • Wildlife Federation • American Fisheries Society

ABOUT THE MEETING

The Meeting On The Outdoors was created to provide an opportunity to improve communication between government and groups and individuals concerned about New Mexico's environment. This year's meeting is being sponsored by Sierra Club, Southwest Research and Information Center, Audubon, Soil Conservation Society, Wildlife Society, Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Federation, and American Fisheries Society. This unique gathering will bring together concerned New Mexicans and representatives of a wide range of the state's environmental interests to discuss today's pressing natural resource issues in an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding. The discussions and personal interactions stimulated by this gathering will increase cooperation among environmental concerns and in the long run further the wise and efficient use of New Mexico's public resources.

PUBLIC LANDS — RESOURCES OF THE FUTURE

The theme of this year's Meeting is "New Mexico's Public Lands — Resources of the Future." The Meeting will explore the many interests that compete for use of the state's lands and how those competing interests may be reconciled to maintain and protect the public lands for the enjoyment of all people — today and

tomorrow. The program promises to provide lively panel discussions, relevant and useful information, and a chance for participants to learn more about the challenges that face New Mexico's public lands.

A NATURAL SETTING

Picturesque Camp Frank Rand will host the Meeting again this year. The facility is owned by the Boy Scouts of America and combines enclosed meeting and dining areas with wooded campsites. In addition to the Meeting agenda, free time will be provided for hiking, swimming, and other outdoor pursuits. Camping at Frank Rand is comfortable with restrooms and showers available. The Boy Scouts will provide tents and cots for attendees who choose not to bring their own camping gear. (Participants must bring their own sleeping bags.) The camp is conveniently located north Santa Fe and east of Nambe, N.M.

REGISTRATION COST

The \$35 cost for the weekend includes the meeting registration fee, meals, and the use of all camping facilities. Complete details and a registration form are provided on the reverse side. For more information, call (505) 299-0741.

1986 MEETING ON THE OUTDOORS

New Mexico's Public Lands: Resources of the Future

THE PROGRAM

Friday - June 27

- p.m. 5:00 Registration and Dinner
(A buffet will be open all evening for late arrivals.)
- 7:00 **WELCOMING REMARKS**
The Concept of Multiple Use of New Mexico's Public Lands
- 7:30 **PANEL I — MULTIPLE USES OF PUBLIC LANDS**
- 9:00 Campfire and social hour

- 2:00 Free time (nature hikes, wildlife viewing, swimming, and other recreational activities encouraged)
- 5:30 Dinner and **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
(A representative of the U.S. Department of the Interior)
- 7:30 **PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**
- 9:00 Campfire and social hour

Saturday — June 28

- a.m. 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 Late Registration
- 8:30 **PANEL II — THE MANY USES OF RANGE RESOURCES**
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:30 **PANEL III — THE FUTURE OF NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE HABITATS**
- p.m. 12:00 Lunch
Speakers to be announced

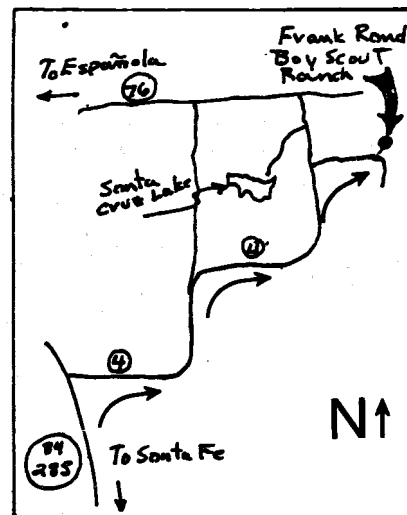
Sunday — June 29

- a.m. 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:30 **PANEL IV — NEW MEXICO'S WATER RESOURCES**
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:30 **PANEL V — PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
- p.m. 12:00 Lunch
(Recap of meeting and feedback from participants)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

Please complete the attached registration form and return it along with your payment to the address printed below by June 13, 1986. **Make checks payable to the Sierra Club.** The \$35 registration fee entitles you to attend all three days of meetings, panel discussions, and presentations; to camp with your own gear or to use the camp's tents; to use all available recreational facilities; and to partake in six meals, beginning with dinner Friday evening and ending with lunch on Sunday.

To reach the camp, take U.S. Rte. 64/84 north from Santa Fe about 15 miles to State Rte. 4 just south of Pojoaque. Head east on Rte. 4 past Nambe and toward Chimayo. Turn right off Rte. 4 onto a gravel road at the Santa Cruz Lake sign and follow the road for 8.2 miles to Camp Frank Rand.



REGISTRATION FORM

(Registration Deadline: June 13, 1986)

NATURE & WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

1986 - 1987



The Central New Mexico Audubon Society & Popejoy Hall Present:

NATURE AND WILDLIFE FILM SERIES 1986 - 1987

Mon. September 29, 1986

Jerzy Grabowski

A M A Z O N I A

Sun. November 9, 1986

Herman W. Kitchen

BIRDS OF SEVEN CONTINENTS

Sun. February 1, 1987

John Wilson

NORTH TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

Tues. March 10, 1987

Albert J. Wool

OUT WHERE THE WEST ENDS

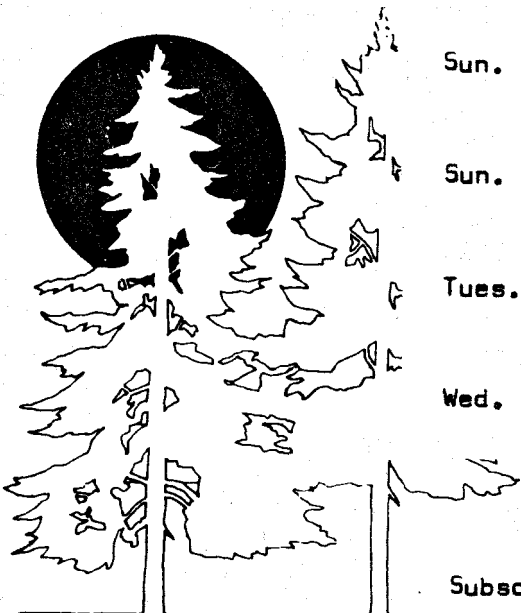
Wed. April 1, 1987

Thomas A. Sterling

AUTUMN JOURNEY TO ALASKA

All performances start at 7:30 p.m.

Subscriptions: Multiple-admission tickets (6 admissions)
\$17.00 Adult \$14.00 Student and Senior



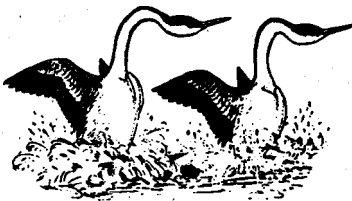
MON. SEPT. 29,
1986
7:30

AMAZONIA

JERZY GRABOWSKI

Come to the tropical rain forests of the Upper Amazon! In Venezuela you'll visit Pittier National Park and see howler and squirrel monkeys, giant anteaters, parrots and toucans. In the Llanos are storks, egrets, ibises, capybaras and anacondas; then a trip to famed Angel Falls by dugout canoe. In Columbia we'll find colorful butterflies, leafcutter ants and their underground gardens, and that kinky denizen of the jungle, the kinkajou. Jerzy Grabowski, born in Poland, survived many narrow escapes during World War II, is now an American citizen, naturalist, and a fellow of the famous Explorer's Club.

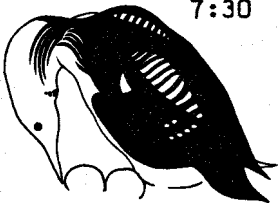
SUN. NOV. 9
1986
7:30

BIRDS OF SEVEN CONTINENTS

HERMAN W. KITCHEN

Roger Tory Peterson, famous ornithologist and painter of birds, has chosen Herman Kitchen, himself an accomplished wildlife photographer, to present this film of some of Peterson's finest movies of bird life from around the world. Including additional film footage by Mr. Kitchen, the film shows birds in an array of sizes, shapes and colors, from Arctic puffins and snowy owls to antarctic penguins and brilliant hummingbirds. You'll see cave-dwelling birds, bustards, emus and ostriches, all shown in their natural habitats from throughout the Seven Continents.

SUN. FEB. 1
1987
7:30

NORTH TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD

JOHN WILSON

Travel from Newfoundland up the Labrador coast, and into the High Arctic to within four hundred miles of the North Pole. Take close looks at the legendary narwhal, walrus, muskox and the white beluga whale. Share a campsite with an Arctic wolf. Then join John Wilson for a swim under an iceberg. Finally, at the top of the world, see pristine aerial views of mountains, glaciers fjords and the stark, lonely beauty of the Arctic wilderness.

TUES. MAR. 10
1987
7:30

OUT WHERE THE WEST ENDS

ALBERT J. WOOL

Our legendary "West" starts at a mythical line somewhere East of the Rockies, and comes to a glorious climax on the shores of the Pacific where wildlife, mountains and forests abound. Where Cliff Swallows plaster their nests above the pounding surf, Ospreys dive for fish. And here Al Wool has filmed what may be the last views in the wild of the stately California Condor, now facing extinction. In those same skies he's caught the graceful flight of Turkey Vultures and Golden Eagles. Wildflowers, insects, reptiles and the black-tailed deer add outdoor action and beauty to America's dramatic finale - Out where the West ends!!

WED. APRIL 1
1987
7:30

AUTUMN JOURNEY TO ALASKA

THOMAS A. STERLING

The brilliance and majesty of Autumn in Alaska is recorded in color film by Tom Sterling. Varied members of the deer and squirrel families serve as escorts, as a superb wildlife parade against Autumn's riotous background takes place . . . from kittiwakes, puffins, murre, magpies, ptarmigan, grouse and ravens, to salmon, grizzly bear, moose, caribou, pikas and the handsome Dall sheep. Those who, last year, saw Tom Sterling's lovely, poetic moving picture of the mysterious marshlands, will not want to miss this revelation of the magic Autumn season in our fiftieth state.

T I C K E T & F I L M I N F O R M A T I O N

THE NATURE AND WILDLIFE FILM SERIES includes five color films, presented and narrated in person by the nature photographer who made the film.

ALL FILMS ARE PRESENTED AT POPEJOY HALL on the campus of the University of New Mexico.

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7:30 P.M.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (MULTIPLE-ADMISSION tickets) are good for six admissions for one show, three admissions for two shows, or any other like combination. Bring a guest, using one of your admissions.

TICKETS FOR INDIVIDUAL SHOWS MAY BE bought from the Popejoy Hall box office on the night of each show.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE SERIES TICKETS MAKE wonderful gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, graduation, or because you like someone!

THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY receives a share of the revenue from ticket sales, but only from those tickets sold by the Society. These funds are used to finance scholarships for Albuquerque school teachers to attend the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West, located in the Wind River Range in Wyoming, each Summer. Thus, the message of conservation and nature lore is spread among Albuquerque's young people.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES ARE GIVEN AT EACH Nature and Wildlife Film after intermission. Those who purchase their tickets from the Audubon Society will be included in the drawings.

CHILDREN 12 YEARS OLD AND UNDER ARE ALSO eligible for a prize drawing when they register at the Audubon desk in the lobby of the auditorium.



CLIP HERE AND MAIL

O R D E R B L A N K

To order your Nature and Wildlife Film Series Tickets from the Audubon Society, just fill in this order blank and send it with your check to:

NATURE & WILDLIFE FILMS
c/ CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 30002
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. 87190

Your name _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

(A self-addressed, stamped envelope will be appreciated)

_____ Adult..... \$17.00
_____ Senior (62 & over) ... \$14.00
_____ Student \$14.00
_____ Total _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Craig Andrews 881-9387
Edith Johnson 255-0307

W E T H A N K Y O U

WE ARE NOT JUST BIRD WATCHERS

FROM 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 protect wilderness areas, refuges and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources.

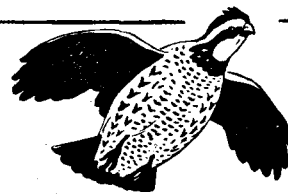
We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world, and to share in conserving its wonders forever.

We are beginning our seventeenth year of sponsorship of the NATURE AND WILDLIFE FILMS, providing family-type entertainment, as well as education in nature lore and conservation.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY meets the third Thursday each month, 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE, Albuquerque. Non-members are welcome at all meetings, field trips and special events.

The ptarmigan is strange,
As strange as he can be.
Never sits on ptelephone poles
Or roosts upon a ptree.
And the way he ptakes pto spelling
Is the strangest thing pto me.

Anonymous



ptommyrot !

THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY & POPEJOY HALL PRESENT:

1986 - 1987

NATURE & WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

AUDUBON
NATURE & WILDLIFE FILM SERIES
c/o THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 30002
Albuquerque, N.M. 87190

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
Albuquerque, N.M.
Permit #43

Directors Bruce Halstead, Darwin Miller, David Carrick, and Neil Dilley; Hospitality Committee, Mary Lou Arthur and Jean Davis; Greeters Committee, Ann Paff.

A warm word of appreciation to Liz Broenel who is retiring from the office of Treasurer, and Phyllis Schmidt who has filled the office of Recording Secretary for several years. Phyllis and her family are moving to Washington D.C. where her husband, who is with the Forest Service, has been transferred. Good Eastern birding, Phyllis!

HOSPITALITY AT MEETINGS

Mark and Margie Amato have done an outstanding job as Hospitality Chairmen during the past year. Now they are going on to be Publicity Chairmen, and their place will be taken by Mary Lou Arthur and Jean Davis. With more people working full-time, it has become more difficult to find those with time for baking all those goodies for refreshments! Unless someone volunteers to bring baked goods, Mary Lou and Jean will use a sum set aside in the CNMAS budget and purchase cookies, cake or crackers and cheese for snacks. Tea, coffee, and chocolate will be served as usual.

Because the meeting room at St. Timothy's is used during the daytime for puposes requiring tables, it is necessary each time before and after meetings to move tables and set up chairs. It would be much appreciated by Hospitality if a few persons came early (around 7 p.m.) and stayed a few minutes after the meeting to help arrange the room. Let Mary Lou or Jean know if you can do this.

THANKS AGAIN

Thank you to David Broudy for the cookies at the April meeting. A special thank you to Ethel Ringer, Barbara Hussey, Mary Lou Arthur, and Dave and Marge Carrick for helping with the setup of the potluck supper in May, and thanks to all you who contributed to the dinner.

CNMAS TO PARTICIPATE IN "DISCOVER SANDIAS DAY"

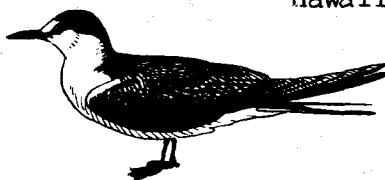
Saturday June 28th is Discover Sandias Day. The Audubon Society will assist with bird walks and will have a booth set up to distribute pamphlets and other information. We need volunteers to help with the bird walk and spend an hour or two at the booth. Please call Mark/Margie Amato at 298-3227 if you'd like to help. This year the event will be held at the base of the Ski Lodge. Events begin at 6 a.m. and will end at dusk with a Steak Fry. Along with our activities, there will be botany hikes, wildflower hikes, electrical site tours, films, and other events, including events for children. The activities are free except for the steak fry. The steak fry pieces are \$3 to \$7 depending on type of platter (vegetarian, child, or adult).

THE JOY OF BIRDING

Bird watching is a joy. For the past 15 years, Marilyn and I have discovered it in New Mexico and around the globe. We can never forget Ethel Ringer, who in May 1971, asked us to be charter members of CNMAS. We did. From then to now it has been a wonderful time of bird watching. We learned about birding "hot spots" along the Rio Grande, in the Sandia Mountains, at Bosque del Apache, Santa Fe, Canjilon, Silver City and the Gila, Chiracauhuas, etc. The patience of Jim Karo and Ross Teuber in helping us identify birds, their habitats is a joy of birding.

We have been amazed at the ease of birding along the Interstates as we frequently drove to Pennsylvania and California. So, too, during our volunteer assignments overseas in Thailand, Taiwan, Tanzania. And living so close to those exotic birds and introducing others to the birds of their native land has been a real pleasure.

During a few professionally led bird trips to Western Mexico, Costa Rica, Hawaii, Himalayas, North India and Nepal,



it has been a joy to know the infectious bird enthusiasm of these leaders. On our personal trips to South America, Australia, Indonesia, Alaska, birding has been a real bonus.

These 15 years have brought us a shelf of bird books and guides. We have so far together identified 268 NM birds, 477 in North America, and after our trip to the British Isles in June, we will have about 1500 worldwide birds identified.

Birds are great companions during trips. They are good neighbors. And we wish publicly to thank CNMAS for introducing us to the joy of birding. Keep asking others to join you and to go for a bird walk, and to travel around the world for the joy of it.

--Martin & Marilyn Ruoss
Members of the Mesilla Valley
Audubon Society in Las Cruces

FIELD TRIP REPORT

A dozen hardy souls braved a beautiful spring morning on February 22, 1986, to search for birds on a half-day field trip to the Albuquerque oxbow. Birding was not as spectacular as the weather, but a total of 25 species was sighted. Some of the more interesting were Cooper's hawk, northern harrier, great blue heron, green-winged teal, downy woodpecker, and several flights of sandhill cranes flying overhead, apparently on their way north to Idaho.

The oxbow is one of the few good diverse birding places left within the city of Albuquerque. Let's keep it that way. If and when the federal, state, or local governments, or private interests want to turn it into a parking lot or condominiums, let's make sure they know we like it just the way it is.

--Bruce G. Halstead

Editor's Note: Bruce got this report to the editor in plenty of time for the last issue. Your editor goofed!



AN AUDUBON SUMMER

The Randall Davey Audubon Center is sponsoring a series of natural history workshops at the Center during June, July, and August. Topics range from "A Close-up View of Bats" to "Dyeing with Native Plants." The workshops are free to Audubon members. The Center will send you a complete schedule if you call them at 1-983-4609 or write to: NAS Southwest Region, Santa Fe Office, PO Box 9314, Santa Fe, 87504.

IMPORTANT: ADDRESS CHANGES TO NOTE

Both your Membership Chairmen and your Editor have new addresses and phone numbers. Donna and David Brody's new address: 510 Laguna SW, 87104, 242-7108. Please make a note of this, as the Broudys are the ones to notify if you miss an OWL or if you move. Remember, the Postal Service does not forward the OWL. Renewals should be sent to NAS, Chapter Membership Data Center, PO Box 2664, Boulder, CO 80321.

Evelyn Price can now be reached at 201 Wyoming SE, #28, 87123, 266-4028. Any items for the OWL or questions can be sent to your Editor at the new address.

ROSS' RAVIN'S
By Ross L. Teuber

Hi Folks! This last couple of months has been a busy, fast-flying, intriguing period, with lots of birding activity and many interesting calls. This has not been an outstanding spring migration from the standpoint of the number of birds moving through. Most of the folks I've talked with have concurred with my observations. The birds are here, but with the exception of those like the BARN SWALLOWS and WESTERN KINGBIRDS, which are usually nowhere to be seen one day and everywhere the next, they seem to have dribbled in a few at a time, with no noticeable large wave of individuals, the last week of April or first week of May, which we have come to expect.

(Editor's note: Ross and Pat Basham had an interesting "Century Run," and Ross writes a great account of the Big Bird Bash in Silver City. Unfortunately, space considerations cause us to postpone these reports to the next issue. Something to look forward to!)

The last session of the Birding for Beginners class was held on May 7. In all, 20 people took advantage of 80% or more of the class sessions and field trips. There seemed to be a consensus the course was worthwhile, and that those who attended regularly got what they wanted from the class. Some would have liked more specifics on identifying local birds. More about that later. Most indicated that they (1) would like to see the course offered again; (2) would have been willing to pay a modest fee to attend; (3) would like to have an intermediate level course offered; and (4) would be willing to pay a modest fee for such a course. Most also indicated that they would like to see the course offered at about two-year intervals.

Now for the matter of giving more on identification of specific species of local birds. It is necessary to learn the basics and techniques of bird finding and identification if one is to become proficient at the identification of each species. After the course was over, while browsing in a book store, I found two brand-new books (published in 1986) which are written for beginners. One is Peterson First Guide to Birds of North America: Peterson, Roger Tory; Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1986, 128 pp. Paperback, \$3.95. The second is Getting Started in Bird Watching: Cronin Jr., Edward W.; Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1986, 216 pp. Both are directed at beginners and are written in a simple, direct manner which makes them easy to read and the information easy to remember. They are suitable for beginning birders of all ages from very young to adult.

The Peterson book devotes the first eight pages to the very basic rules of birding,

and the balance to colored illustrations of some of the most common birds. Featured, of course, is the Peterson Method of identification, using silhouettes and arrows to point out key characteristics for identification.

The Cronin book is divided into three main sections. The first covers the theory of birding in very simple and easily understood terms and gives three rules for bird identification and a short section on how the theory is applied. This is all covered in 35 pages of easily understandable and meaningful language. The second section is devoted to "Birding Tips," all very practical and meaningful. The tips cover seeing, binoculars, colors, sizes, hearing, abundance, field guides, and notebooks, and is covered in 19 pages. The remaining portion of the book is devoted to what he calls checklists. These consist of charts showing a thumbnail silhouette of a typical bird in the family or group listed; characters showing the season the birds are to be seen; and a tabulation of the cover type or habitat in which they are found. These charts are organized by nine geographical areas. The notebook section provides several pages for taking notes on new or unfamiliar birds, with key words provided to guide note taking. Both of these books are excellent for the purpose for which they were written. In my opinion they are must reading for every new birder. In fact, it wouldn't hurt some of us who are more experienced to go through them for a little refresher. Had these books been available for the beginners' course, we could have used them for prerequisite reading and gotten into some of the subtleties of separating some of the more difficult species to identify.

Now for some of the reports of interesting sightings since the last column. At the BFB class on March 19, Kathleen Killoran said she had seen three WHITE PELICANS at Bosque del Apache the previous weekend (3/15). Ralph Fitz saw them on the 17th, as well as a "big flock" of CATTLE EGRETS in one of the fields north of the refuge. On the 21st, Mark Amato mentioned seeing



a SHORT-EARED OWL on the field trip along the Piedra Lisa Trail on March 15. Mark, by the way, is to be congratulated. On a recent trip to Arizona, Mexico, and Texas, he found enough new birds to pass the 400 species milestone on his life list. Congratulations, our friend, and good luck on finding enough more to pass the 500 species mark and the threshold for national recognition!

Reports of the early arrival of hummingbirds include a call from Eleanor Wooten at Las Cruces on April 2 to tell me of the arrival of BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRDS at her neighbor's on March 29, and at her place on March 31. Pat Basham at Socorro also had her first BLACK-CHINNED on March 31. Ruth Luhrs called from Sandia Knolls to report her first BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD arrived on March 31. Liz Broemel had her first BLACK-CHINNED in the SE Heights on 4/6, Joanne Phillips had her first in the North Valley on 4/8, Paul Steel had his first in the NE Heights on 4/10, John Durrie had his first in the NE Heights on 4/12. My first did not arrive until 4/17. A male BROAD-TAILED passed through my yard on 4/22. It seems to me some of these were a bit late for first sightings.

More exciting than the first hummingbird was the CERULEAN WARBLER that showed up at Eleanor Wooten's feeder. These are rare enough in New Mexico to be exciting whenever and wherever they are found!

While vacationing at Lake Powell, on March 23 Liz Broemel saw a pair of OLDSQUAW and a HOODED MERGANSER. At Poncho Villa State Park on April 7, Joanne Phillips added four species to their bird checklist: LARK BUNTING, VERDIN, WHITE-WINGED DOVE, and LESSER GOLDFINCH. Ralph Fitz reported there were still 1500 SNOW GEESE at Bosque del Apache on April 9, along with 6-12 AMERICAN AVOCET, and still 3 WHITE PELICANS.

Eleanor Engwerson called on April 11 to tell of two BURROWING OWLS in a vacant

field south of "The Meadows" in NE Albuquerque. On the field trip of the BFB Class on the east side of the Sandias, about two dozen species were found and identified, including OSPREY, CEDAR WAXWINGS, EVENING GROSBEAK, and CASSIN'S FINCH. The same day there was a PINE SISKIN in my yard. Highlights of the BFB Class field trip to the west side of the Sandias on April 19 were BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW and SAGE THRASHER.

You could say that Clara and I literally went to bed and got up with the chickens when we went to Mescalero Sands on April 19-20. We visited a LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN lek, slept in our station wagon at the edge of it, and were awake and ready to hear, see, and photograph the CHICKENS as they carried on their "booming" dances. In the same general area we saw SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS and NORTHERN ORIOLES. Returning to Bitter Lake, we saw several BURROWING OWLS en route, and on the refuge an AMERICAN BITTERN; a rare, partial albino EARED GREBE; many species of ducks and shorebirds, and our first SWAINSON'S HAWK of the season. On April 21, Ralph Fitz reported seeing two pair of CANADA GEESE, one with 5 goslings and one with 3 goslings. Three days later Ruth Luhrs called to tell me Penny Elliston was rearing a family of ROADRUNNER chicks. It seems the adult birds had built their nest on a road paving machine. When the machine had to be used, the operator notified the Albuquerque Animal Rescue. The eggs were collected and hatched in an incubator and turned over to Penny for rearing. She was quite successful, and they grew rapidly in her care. She appeared with the chicks on TV on the late news two or three weeks later. On April 30, Wendy Aschelman, also of Albuquerque Animal Rescue, called to tell me she was rehabilitating an INDIGO BUNTING. She has been quite busy this spring, and is harboring and tending a houseful of birds.

One of the most interesting birds Pat and I saw on our "Century Run" was a PHAINOPEPLA at Bosque del Apache, very unusual for that area. Also of interest was a flock of 38 WHITE-FACED IBIS in a

field north of the San Acacia overpass.

On the way to the Big Bird Bash on May 1, Paul and I visited the Grasslands Sod Farm north of Los Lunas and found not only some MOUNTAIN PLOVER, but a LONG-BILLED CURLEW as well. The mulberry trees along the way into Percha Dam State Park were loaded with berries and birds. PHAINOPEPLA, NORTHERN ORIOLE, and BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK were predominant. We saw our first LESSER NIGHTHAWKS in the park that evening, and a little earlier a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. In the morning one of our best finds was two pair of WOOD DUCKS, and I was fortunate to catch just a glimpse of a ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. The RED-FACED WARBLERS in Cherry Creek are always a highlight of the Silver City trip, and the ABERT'S TOWHEE and BELL'S VIREO rank high on the list of expected species. This year we did not find LUCY'S WARBLER, but Pat Basham and I did find it at Caballo State Park on May 11.

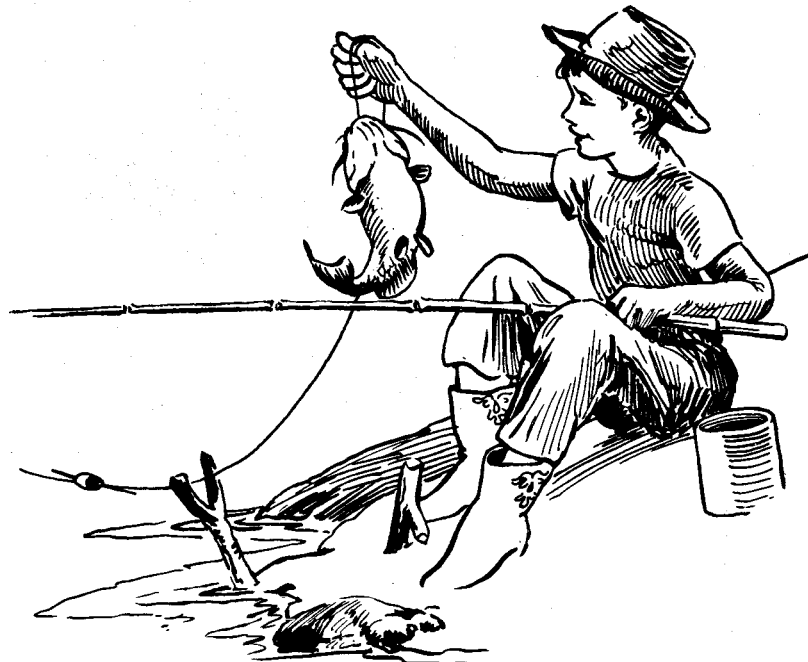
Dorothy Rogan sent a message on May 2 that she and Hart Schwarz had seen a LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER and a WILLET at the lake on the golf course at Kirtland Base. Joanne Phillips called to say the warblers were coming back to Shady Lakes on May 2. The WILD TURKEY have been quite visible at Bosque del Apache this spring. On May 7, Ralph Fitz reported seeing a group of 7, three Toms and four hens. Paul Steel reported encountering a minor wave of warblers at the Rio Grande Nature Center. The flock consisted primarily of YELLOW, YELLOW-RUMPED, MACGILLIVRAY'S, and WILSON'S WARBLERS. Among the YELLOW-RUMPED he was able to pick out one of the Myrtle type, but most interesting of all was a MAGNOLIA. The next morning I went out for a while. No wave of migrants was encountered, but I did call in a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER male, close enough for detailed observation at a distance of no more than six feet.

Time and space are running out, and surely this is enough to convince you that this has been anything but a dull spring migration, even though it has been

a bit slow. Now we can look forward to watching the breeding birds hatch and rear their young, and eagerly look forward to the arrival of the pugnacious RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS, the diminutive CALLIOPE'S and maybe, if we're lucky, one or more ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRDS in their post-breeding wanderings. When they arrive, please give me a call (265-8962), so we can share the wealth.

So long for now, good luck and good birding, Most of all, keep in touch.

--R.L.T.



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