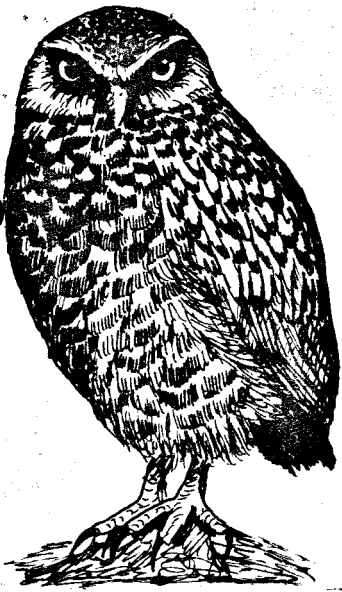


BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1986

Welcome! Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets the third Tuesday 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, OCTOBER 16 - Regular Meeting

Dan True, meteorologist and weather casting for Channel 13, will present a program of slides and narration about "his" eagles. Dan has studied eagles as an avid avocation for some time and is the author of two books on the subject: *A Family of Eagles* and *Flying Free*. (These books will be available for purchase and autograph.) See welcome paragraph for time and place.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 & 26

The New Mexico Audubon Council is sponsoring The Rio Grande: Lifeline of the Land of Enchantment. If you have not received a flyer of events and field trips call Evelyn Price (266-4028) or Mary Lou Arthur (256-7359).

Among the several field trips scheduled for October 26:

Meet Bob Goycoolea (865-0367) at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for a ½-day outing in Pine Canyon. You should find lots of Pin Jays, Mt & W Bluebirds and perhaps Cassin's Finchs. The turnoff to the parking area is on Tramway, two miles north of Montgomery.

Call Evelyn or Mary Lou about the other trips.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - Wildlife Film

Birds of Seven Continents by 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 form throughout the Seven Continents. Popejoy Hall, 7:30 p.m. Call Craig Andrews (881-9387) for ticket information.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - Field Trip

Visit the Crest with Hart Schwarz (266-1810), perchance to find Pine Grosbeaks and Rosy Finches. These birds are always a special treat during the winter months, when their appearance at the Southern limit of their winter range adds life and color to a muted world. Mid-November is a good time for this venture, offering the possibility for success and before the heavy snows set in. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Four Hills Shopping Center (near 31 Flavors) a few blocks west of Tramway on Central. If the weather is bad, call Hart to check on cancellation or postponement.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - Regular Meeting

Gary Graham of the UNM Department of Biology will present a program concerning the effects of the drastic reductions of the rain forest in Central and South America on our North American birds and other wildlife, see Welcome paragraph for time and place.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Join Donna and David Broudy (242-7108) for a trip to the Bosque del Apache MWR, the winter homes of thousands of cranes, geese and ducks. These birds usually put on spectacular display at dusk when they fly into the refuge to roost at dusk. Little walking is required—in fact, most of the sights can be enjoyed from your car. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the UNM Physics and Astronomy parking lot, northeast corner of Lomas and Yale NE. Bring lunch and cash for dinner at the Broudy's favorite restaurant in Socorro.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Share With Wildlife

If you have checked off and donated a part of your 1985 income tax refund for the Share with Wildlife program, you will be interested in learning where the funds go. Some \$198,000 was donated in 1985. For 1987, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has proposed to use that money plus \$224,400 from the program's cash balance. Nongame birds, mammals, and fishes will be the main beneficiaries. Here are some of the projects planned:

- \$15,000 for generic and taxonomic studies of the least shrew, bats, voles, meadow jumping mouse, wild turkey, least tern, Bell's vireo, whiptail lizard, salamanders, round-tailed chub, Mississippi silvery minnow, speckled chub, stickleback, and mollusks.
- \$5,000 for the care of injured and abandoned wildlife for eventual release back into the wild.
- \$11,000 for surveys of various wildlife species including the long-nosed and spotted bats.
- \$22,700 for ecological investigations of various rodents, the mountain lion, Gould's turkey, spotted owl, raptors, and amphibians.
- \$224,400 for ecological investigations of waterbirds, leopard frog, native fishes, turtles, mollusks, and crustaceans.
- \$224,400 for land acquisitions to purchase Tucumcari Lake. When preparing your 1986 tax return, just remember this relatively painless way to help a wide array of our nongame species.

Getting the Lead Out

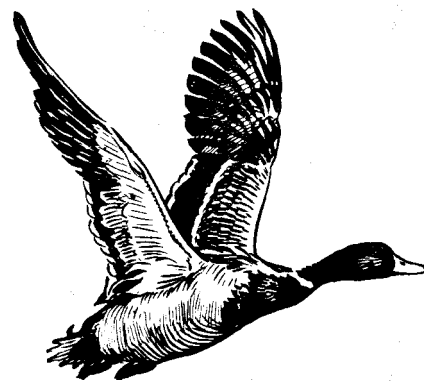
We all know the very heavy mortality of waterfowl, raptors, and other wildlife caused by lead shot used by hunters since about the beginning of time. Ingested lead shot nationally has caused an estimated loss to lead poisoning of 2 million to 3 million ducks and geese every year. In addition an unknown, but surely significant number of bald eagles and other wildlife die annually from lead shot picked up from crippled waterfowl. The Department of the Interior has decreed that by 1991 all waterfowl hunters must use nontoxic shot. The New Mexico State Game and Fish Commission has bravely gone one better. The Commission has directed that by 1987 all persons who hunt waterfowl in New Mexico must use steel shot. Good news for New Mexico, but I can hardly wait until 1991 when lead shot in waterfowl areas nationwide will be a thing of the past.

New Mexico Statewide Wilderness Study

The Bureau of Land Management has prepared a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Statewide Wilderness Study. The study is to determine whether some or all of 46 study areas should be recommended for wilderness designation by the Congress. The draft EIS is a hefty four volume set and contains much detail. Of 943,356 areas studied, a total

of 560,328 acres is being proposed by BLM as wilderness. A quick look at the proposals indicates that, in study areas nearest Albuquerque, the BLM is proposing all or nearly all as wilderness. In other areas, particularly southern New Mexico, a lot of compromising was done to accommodate other interests such as mining, livestock grazing, and land development. The complete set of four volumes with large map will be available in our library at the October and November meetings. Our comments if any are due to BLM by December 12, 1986, so let me know your interest before that date.

Lew Helm, Conservation Chairman



AUDUBON ADVENTURES PROGRAM

Some of you may remember participating in the Junior Audubon Clubs of years gone by. Audubon Adventures is the new version, now in its third year. Last year CNMAS sponsored 11 classrooms and this year 15 classrooms are involved. Each 4th or 5th grade student receives a four page newsletter 6 times a year which teaches environmental concepts focusing on wildlife and habitat related issues such as nesting, home range, birds of prey, etc. Each issue has its *Leader's Guide* for the use of the teacher which provides background information and activities to supplement the newsletter with practical hands-on experiences for the students. All of this is provided at no cost to the teacher and students. CNMAS underwrites each subscription at a cost of \$20.00 per classroom.

We welcome the assistance of any chapter member who would like to become a classroom sponsor by providing the subscription fee so more children may enjoy this learning experience. Another way to help would be to become a classroom consultant for Audubon Adventures. This would involve calling on the principal at a school near your home, who would then recommend a teacher for the program. In addition, the chapter provides bird slides and tapes for classroom viewing. If you're interested in helping out, call 266-0191 (Marge Carrick), 298-3227 (Mark or Margie Amato) or 247-8412 (Teddie Borrego).

CNMAS RARE BIRD ALERT REACTIVATED

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society Rare Bird alert has been updated and reactivated effective October 1, 1986.

Rare or unusual bird sightings, together with supporting information and location should be reported to the Rare Bird Alert network by calling, in the following order, 265-8962, 256-7539, 898-2568, or 292-5626 (after 6:00 p.m.) anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., but as soon as is reasonably possible.

Birds to be reported are those species on the Birds of New Mexico Field Check-list published by the New Mexico Audubon Council which are preceded by the symbols @, #, or *, or any birds not listed. Species on the list preceded by the symbol L, should be reported only if they are found outside the local area where they normally occur. These lists are available through the Chapter Librarian. In addition, even the more common birds which occur in exceptionally large numbers, or out of their normal range, season, or habitat, or are of unusual appearance, such as albinos should be reported.

Reports of all rare birds should be accompanied by details of identification and, if possible, photographs, drawings (field sketches at the time of sighting), or tape recording of songs or calls should be submitted as soon as after the report as possible. (This **does not** mean that reports without this documentation will not be accepted!)

Birds reported from outside the typical 100 mile (approx.) radius of the Rare Bird Alert should also be accompanied by detailed directions how to get to the location, and name and telephone number of a local birding contact if such is known.

If you have any questions about reporting birds, or need help in any way when using the Rare Bird Alert, please call Ross Teuber (265-8962).

CRANE WATCH AGAIN THIS YEAR

I am again conducting studies on migrating sandhill and whooping cranes in the Albuquerque area. Please write down time, date, place and number of cranes you see during the fall migration. I can be reached at 345-2827 or you can send a copy of your field notes to me at the address on the back of the Owl. Any observations, no matter how few, will be appreciated. Thanks in advance!

Dale Stahlecker

FIELD TRIP REPORT

The Saturday, August 23, 1986, field trip to Bosque Del Apache NWR garnered eight participants all anxious to observe many shorebirds. We anticipated a good shorebird day when we stopped between San Antonio and the refuge to observe cattle egrets and several flocks of white-faced ibis flew over. When we got to the refuge, the visitors center was closed because of budget cuts, so we could not observe the new display they have set up. We, then, set out to find shorebirds, but discovered that all but one of the ponds was drained and that pond had no shorebird-type shore and hence, no shorebirds. We did pick up a few interesting birds including: Clark's grebe; Forester's tern; northern harrier; yellow warbler; black phoebe; black crownhead night-heron; barn cliff, violet-green, tree, bank and rough-winged swallows, and a pair of vermilion flycatchers. A total of 71 species were observed during the day. The highlight of the trip was a cold drink and a hot green chili cheeseburger at the Owl after leaving the refuge.

NATURE CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL FILM-LECTURE SERIES

The Rio Grande Nature Center will present a special series of films and activities for adults on the second Wednesday of each month.

October 15 - Nova: Still Waters
November 5 - Garden of Eden
November 19 - Eagle Come Home
December 3 - Rio Grande
December 17 - Greater Sandhill Crane Story

Call the center at 344-7240 for more information.

COPPER CANYON FEATURED IN NATURE TOUR

Dan Scurlock, naturalist and cultural historian, will lead a fascinating trip to Ciudad Chihuahua and the famous Copper Canyon right after Christmas. Call Dan at 242-1635 for more information about this fascinating trip.



CRANE BOOK IN PRESS

Seasons of The Cranes, written by Dale Stahlecker, local biologist, and Martin Frentzel, outdoor writer for the *Albuquerque Journal*, will be out before Christmas. Beautifully illustrated by local artist Lisabeth Daly, this book will make a fine Christmas present for friends and relatives.* Look for it at your local booksellers and at the Visitor's Center at Bosque refuge.

Contributors of \$25 or more earmarked for the crane project to the CNMAS Research Committee (see last issue of the Owl) will receive a signed copy of *Seasons of The Cranes* as a bonus. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Research Committee.

*The publisher is Heritage Associates, Box 6291, Albuquerque, 87197.

BURROWING OWL T-SHIRTS

CNMA will have our own T-shirts available for yourself and or Christmas giving no later than the November meeting. They will feature our Owl—both coming and going!

HOW YOU CAN HELP WILD ANIMALS

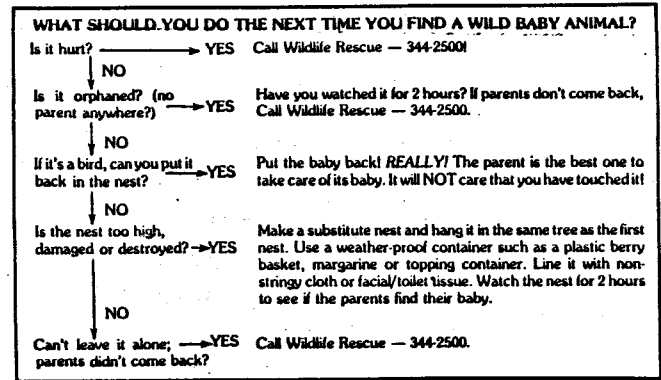
Did you ever want to take care of a baby bird, a cottontail bunny or other wild animal? Many people do want to help when they see an animal that they think has been abandoned or injured. But did you know that in New Mexico you must have a permit to take care of most wild animals?

There is a group of trained volunteers who care for wild animals in their homes. The state and federal governments allow the members of this group to care for these wild animals. These volunteers belong to the group called Wildlife Rescue Inc. of New Mexico. There are only a small number of volunteers who do take care of the animals brought to Wildlife Rescue. Each of the volunteers may have from 5-20 animals to care for! Plus, they take turns answering the Wildlife Rescue phone and working in the group's office at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Therefore, when a member agrees to take an animal he/she will ask YOU to deliver it to them. Usually, the member can't leave the animals/phone/office unattended.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Most baby animals are not abandoned, people just think they are. Baby birds that have left the nest but can't fly well are still being watched and fed by their parents. Baby mammals are often left alone while their parent is looking for food. Don't just think a baby is lost, or has no parents. If you're not sure, watch the baby from a safe distance (it may take as long as two hours) to see if the parent returns. If you're SURE the baby is lost, or if it is hurt, then call Wildlife Rescue — 344-2500.

Wildlife Rescue cannot always find a home for house sparrows and starlings, so if you can take care of a founding house sparrow or starling, Wildlife Rescue can tell you how. These two birds are "unprotected" which means that it's ok for anyone to take care of them. You don't need a permit from the government. Wildlife Rescue can sell you a baby bird kit to get you started. (The cost of the kit covers the cost of the supplies in the kit.)



Hello, Audubon Hotline?

DON'T BE SCOOPED. Keep up with environmental issues. Find out when decisions are being made in the nation's capital and what you can do to help.

The *Audubon Hotline*, (202) 547-9017, is ready to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A recorded message gives you background information and current status of Audubon's priority issues. The message is updated every week. The *Hotline* lets you know when sounding off will do the most good.

For more information on legislative issues, contact the National Audubon Society's capital office. Phone: (202) 547-9009. The address is: 645 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

(202) 547-9017

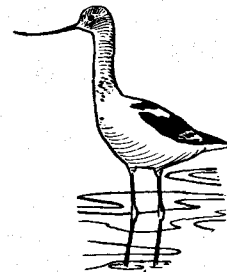
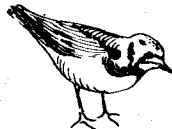
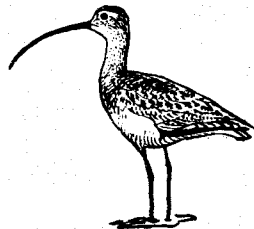
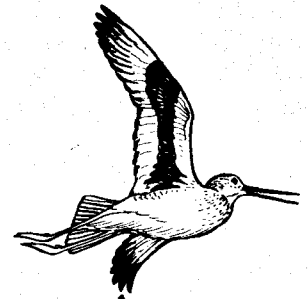
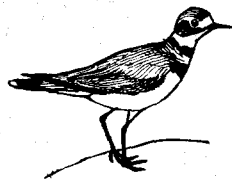
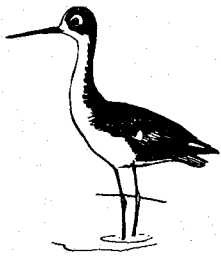
Audubon Hotline

SHOREBIRDS

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Find the listed shorebirds. Names run in all directions-- forward, backward, up, down diagonally. Unlisted clue GOSSIP

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| AMERICAN AVOCET | COMMON SNIPE | CURLEW |
| DOTTREL | DOWITCHER | DUNLIN |
| ESKIMO CURLEW | GOLDEN PLOVER | GREENSHANK |
| KILLDEER | MARBLED GODWIT | OYSRTERCATCHER |
| PHALAROPE | RED KNOT | REDSHANK |
| ROCK SANDPIPER | RUDDY TURNSTONE | RUFF |
| SANDERLING | SANDPIPER | SNOWY PLOVER |
| STILT | STILT SANDPIPER | STINT |
| SURFBIRD | WHIMBREL | WILLET |
| WILSON'S PLOVER | YELLOWLEGS | |



ROSS' RAVIN'S

by Ross L. Teuber

Hi folks! It seems only yesterday I was writing about mid-summer. Today there is a slight fall chill in the air. The autumnal equinox has occurred, and it is the first day of autumn. Fall migration is well under way. Last week Paul Steel and I went down to Bosque del Apache, and were told the first three, a family of, Sandhill Cranes, and two Snow Geese had arrived on September 10, about ten days ahead of the usual arrival date for the first of these species. Speaking of Bosque del Apache, we now have a new Refuge Manager. His name is Philip E. Norton. We visited with him for about an hour and a half. He is a "Bird Man," very personable, and a man we can talk to. He is not only interested in birds, but in public relations. He is interested in cooperating with the Audubon Society. In fact, he will be one of the speakers at the Audubon Council Conference here in Albuquerque on October 25. I believe all of us are going to like him.

From talking to refuge personnel we found out the Snow Geese hatch in the far northern region was a "bust." Many of the birds were in an emaciated condition when they arrived, lakes and ponds were frozen over, many birds died, and of the ones that made it, only a few successfully fledged young. There will be a marsh hunt again this year, but no field hunt. Hunt dates will be on Monday through Thursday, the first three weeks of November, and on Monday and Tuesday the fourth week. The north end of the refuge will be closed to visitors, other than hunters, from before sunrise until 3:00 p.m. on those days. It will be open evenings after 3:00 p.m. and weekends. If you are planning to visit the refuge you should keep these dates in mind.

The local hummingbird population has thinned out considerably in the last couple of weeks. Most of the adult males and females have left, and the number of immature birds visiting the feeders is "way down." Recently there have been a number of calls about when to take hummingbird feeders down, and "Will it delay the departure of the hummers if I do not take it down, and cause them to stay here and freeze?" There are differences of opinion, but I am convinced that the departure of the hummingbirds depends on changes in body chemistry related to "photo-period," the number of daylight hours each day. When the timing is right, they have accumulated the proper amount of body fat to provide energy for migration, and the "zugunruhe" (migrational restlessness) sets in, they will go. Those who keep their feeders up a little later are sometimes treated to visits from some of the post breeding wanderers, like Magnificent or Anna's Hummingbirds. Should any of these rare visitors show up, please let me know, (265-8962).

Speaking of hummingbirds, we never did get around to report on the first arrivals of Calliopes. Jan Noda called on July 18, to report the arrival of the first Calliope in Sandia Hills that day. Pat Besham told she had had her first in Socorro the last week of June. Celestyn Bruzek called on August 18 to tell me of his first here in Albuquerque on August 14. When I talked to Hart Schwarz on August 17, he had seen his first Calliope in the Sandias on July 11, and by the end of July there were lots of them there. I did not observe any adult Calliopes at my feeders this summer, but in late August and early September, I got brief glimpses of immature birds which were too small to have been anything else.

One of the most interesting reports to come in during the summer was a call from Kathy Wood at Bitterlake NWR on August 13. They had had a Ruddy Turnstone on the refuge for several days. I went over four days later, the first I could get away, but the bird had gone. It was last seen and reported on August 14.

Some of the more interesting birds at Bitterlake that day were an adult Little Blue Heron, one Ross's Goose (!), a Black-Bellied Plover, and a Black-Necked Stilt, and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers, at least one Eastern Meadowlark, and a single Olive Sided Flycatcher. There were several Snowy Plover, 15-17 Long-Billed Curlew, a small flock of Wilson's Phalarope, Forester's, Least, and Black Terns. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and several small flocks of Lark Buntings. In all we observed more than fifty species.

Mark and Marge Amato went to the Grasslands Sod Farm on August 15, and were disappointed to find no Mountain Plover. Later, Mr. Webb told me there were a flock of about 30 birds, but they were seeing them only in the middle of the afternoon. The Amatos did see a Swainson's Hawk, and many Water Pipits, Horned Larks, Lark Buntings, and Lark Sparrows (including young ones). Paul Steel and I were out on August 26, and had about the same luck, though we did see Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, and a couple Logger-Head Shrikes. The same day we did go to the Ladron Lakes and among other things saw a Red-Naped Sapsucker, a Red-Eyed Vireo, and a Virginia's Warbler, as well as Ruddy Ducks.



On August 18, Dianne Kinney called to tell me she had been surprised to have Band-Tailed Pigeons eating from her bird feeder at Pecos on August 10. The day she called she had Common Grackles in her yard here in Albuquerque. Also on August 18, Ross Rasmussen called to tell me signs of the fall migration along the Piedra Lisa Trail had been 3 Townsend's Warblers, 2 Wilson's Warblers, and 5 Olive-Sided Flycatchers. When I talked to Hart Schwarz on August 17, he said he had seen an Eastern Kingbird in the Juan Tabo area. These birds occur fairly regularly in lower country, usually near water, but are unusual at that elevation. On the 17th, while doing my daily walk in the Northeast Heights a migrant Merlin flew over.

In their August Newsletter, Rio Grande Bird Researchers, Inc. reported net collection on August 16th were abundant evidence that the fall migration was well underway. That weekend, Bruce Halstead banded a Northern Waterbrush. The same weekend they banded their first ever Northern Mockingbird and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, and of course, many Chipping Sparrows.

At the Bosque del Apache, Paul and I saw a total of 56 species of birds, including 2, possibly 3, Osprey, Sharpshinned and Cooper's Hawks, a Sora. But the real excitement of the trip was on the way. About .9 mile north of the refuge there was a field that had been flooded, and created an area of mud and puddles at the side of the road. This provided an excellent spot for shorebirds. In this one small area there must have been about 50 Killdeer, 3-4 Western Sandpipers, a Pectoral Sandpiper, two Solitary Sandpipers, 6-8 Common Snipe, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and a Stranger.

We spent the better part of half-an-hour observing this bird, comparing it with the others present, taking notes, and trying to key it out from the available field guides. We narrowed it down to three possibilities, but were not thoroughly convinced which it was. As we started home, we stopped at the spot, and sure enough the Stranger was there. We spent another ten minutes or so making further observations, and were nearly convinced as to its identification. I hesitate to say what, lest I be considered an incompetent, or a dreamer, the possibility, or more properly the improbability is so great. We tried to get photos, but the heavy stand off of sunflowers along the road made it nearly impossible to find a place where we could "shoot through." By the time we did the bird was gone.

We decided it was unusual enough that we should notify the refuge personnel, even though it was not on the refuge at that time. This we did, bringing three of

them with us. Unfortunately when we got back the bird was gone. When we got home we continued to search through the references. Each place we searched, we wound up at the same conclusion. The bird, both in regard to our notes, and recollections of what we had seen seem to fit most nearly the descriptions and pictures of a first year, male, RUFF???. If it were, to the best of our knowledge, it would be the first record for the state. It is possible, but highly improbable, at best with no better documentation than we have, it could only be listed as a hypothetical occurrence in the state.

With that, I believe it is time for us to turn to our bird name pronunciation exercise. First I have selected the Olivaceous Cormorant or Flycatcher (Now dusky-capped). Olivaceous (ah-lih-vay-shuss) refers to the greenish color, which is not particularly appropriate for either of the birds it names. Cormorant (Korm-er-ant or Kor-me-rant), the first listed pronunciation is preferred. The name means "Sea-crow." Next is the Roseate Spoonbill. Spoonbill is pronounced just the way it looks, and should give no one any problem. It refers to the broadened and flattened terminal portion of the beak. Roseate (Row-ze-ate), refers to the pinkish coloration on the breast, shoulders and wings. The intensity of the color is dependent upon the amount of shrimp in the bird's diet. Sprague's Pipit is named for a 19th century biological illustrator, Isaac Sprague, a friend of Audubon's, who produced the drawings for Gray's Botanical text, and for whom the bird was named. Sprague (sprayg) the man's name has no accented syllable. Pipit (Pip-et) comes from the Latin "pipio," meaning "to chirp." The little, crested black and white, silky flycatcher called Phainopepla seems to give some people trouble when it comes to pronouncing its name. It is really quite simple. Phainopepla (Fay-noh-Pep-la) is derived from the scientific name for the bird from the Greek Phainos, "shining" and Peplos, "robe;" for the glitter of the plumage. Finally we have the Pyrrhuloxia (peer-uh-Locks-ee-uh). This name also comes from the Greek, "pyrrhos," meaning flame colored, referring to the plumage; and "loxias," meaning crooked, and referring to the beak. There you have it. More names next time.

Before we sign off, just a couple of reminders. If you feed birds in the winter, and not yearlong, now is the time to be getting your fall supply of seed, suet, and whatever you feed, and get the feeders cleaned up and get started. If you make any late observations of hummingbirds, whatever species record the date, and let me know. The CMNAS Rare Bird Alert has been updated and revised, and goes into effect October 1. Details on what, when, and how to report are covered in an article appearing elsewhere in this issue of the *Burrowing Owl*. That's all for this time, so long, good luck, and good birding.

R.L.T.

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

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

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

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