

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1988 - JANUARY 1989

WELCOME!

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, fieldtrips, and special events.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS BY DR. CELESTYN BROZEK

NO DECEMBER MEETING



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

—Thursday, January 19th

Philip J. Sonier, Albuquerque, will present beautiful nature slides and introduce his picture-taking techniques. An excellent professional photographer, Philip specializes in animal subjects. He is the recipient of numerous high awards. His work has been published in *New Mexico Wildlife Magazine*, *New Mexico Magazine*, and any other publications.

POPULARITY OF BIRDING SOARS, SWELLING RANKS OF ACTIVISTS

Birdwatching has become one of the fastest growing outdoor sports. Through birding, more and more people with an appreciation of nature are becoming concerned about the environment and getting actively involved in helping to protect it.

Ornithology is one of the few sciences to which amateurs can make a significant contribution. The 88-year old **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, started with 27 participants and grew to more than 33,000 in 1980. Today, it enlists in excess of 42,000 participants who census birds in 1,600 areas on a given day around Christmastime. Continent-wide results from the counts add to a longstanding and growing database on bird population trends that can be analyzed and examined for clues to environmental problems.

Birders have finely tuned eyes and ears — and a finely tuned understanding of the natural world. They are quick to notice the effects of pollution or habitat destruction — they know that birds are the first creatures to disappear when things go wrong in the environment. As birdwatching grows, the ranks of activists who monitor and protect the well-being of the planet will be strengthened.

The Sept/Oct *Audubon Activist* by Ann Stevens.

(For more information on Christmas counts in our local area, please turn the page.)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Christmas Counts will be held, even if the weather is less than ideal. In case of extremely bad weather, call the Count Leader or Donna Broudy for information.

Counters should be prepared to be out all day, if at all possible. If the weather is cooperative, lots of walking should be anticipated. While birders of all levels of expertise are encouraged to participate, competent birders are especially urged to come out.

Albuquerque Count Leader, Hart Swartz, feels that this year could be a very good year for unusual birds due to the warm fall weather. For example, a hooded warbler and winter wren (never recorded in a count) have been recently reported at Hondo Canyon on the south side of the Sandias. House wrens and Band-tailed pigeons have also been sighted--one month later than the latest date previously reported!

If you have bird feeders in your yard and spot any unusual species, please call the appropriate Count Leader or Donna Broudy. Also, please call if you have owls in your area.

Group leaders, who will make assignments for each count area, are encouraged to check out count areas in advance.

In addition to fieldguides and binoculars, bring lunch, snacks, warm beverages, and warm clothing!

Each count participant will pay a \$4.00 fee to cover the costs of compilation and publishing. Count Leaders will collect fees. Please have exact change. Individuals participating in more than one count will pay reduced fees. Please check with our group leader for the amount.

A copy of the 1988-89 Christmas Count issue of **American Birds** will be awarded to the individual on each count who records the most unusual sighting, as determined by the group leaders.

**ALBUQUERQUE COUNT**

—Sunday, December 18th

Meet at the Corrales Shopping Center, corner of Coors and Alameda NW, at 7:30 a.m. The count will end about 5:00 p.m. Count Leader is Hart Swartz (266-1810).

Hart reports that the Albuquerque count set a record of 95 species last year. He feels we should be able to best this record with a good turnout of counters.

Approximately six group leaders, all experienced birders, will lead groups in the Albuquerque count area, which is centered at Alameda.

Areas usually counted include San Gabriel Park, the Rio Grande Nature Center, Corrales, Shady Lakes, the Sandia foothills, and the West Mesa, including Taylor Ranch, Petroglyph State Park, Paradise Hills, and Rio Rancho.

Participants are invited to get together after the count to compare notes and get an approximate tally for the day. Meet at the International House of Pancakes, Montgomery and Carlisle, at 7:30 p.m.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE COUNT

—Saturday, December 24th

Meet at the Bosque del Apache Visitors Center at 7:00 a.m. Count leader is Steve Cox (345-2385).

Participants will be allowed to count in areas normally off-limits to visitors, such as the north side of the refuge. Other count areas include the ponds, the feeder and grounds at the Visitor Center, the mesas on the west side of the refuge, and the east side of the Rio Grande (cross at San Antonio--requires a pickup or 4-wheel drive).

The group will reconvene at the Visitors Center about 5:00 p.m. to give the day's tallies and decide if a stop at the Owl Bar and Cafe would be an appropriate ending for the day.

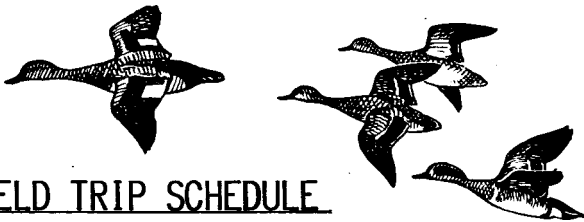
SANDIA MOUNTAINS COUNT

—Saturday, December 31st

Meet at "Pete's Home of the Half-Breed" restaurant on N. Hwy 14, 1/2 mile north of the Sandia Crest turnoff at 7:30 a.m. Count Leader is Kay Anderson (821-1606).

The center of the count area is San Antonio. Areas to be counted include Sandia Crest, where birds seldom seen at lower elevations such as rosy finches, pine grosbeaks, Clark's nutcracker, and the 3-toed woodpecker may be sighted; San Pedro Wash and Gutterez Canyon; Canyoncito for grassland birds such as sparrows, sage thrasher, ladder-backed woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, and meadowlark; Doc Long picnic area for woodpeckers, creepers, and pygmy nuthatches; and Cienega Canyon for woodpeckers, including Williamson's sapsucker, pine siskin, and Cassin's finch.

If time and schedule permits, participants will meet at Pete's for lunch.



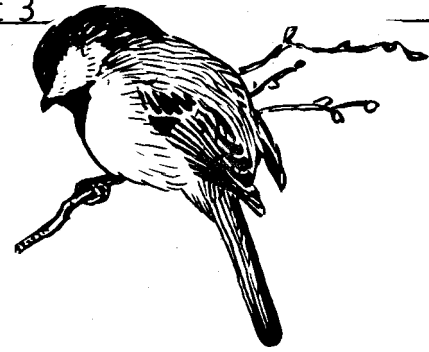
FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER

—Sunday, January 22nd

The January fieldtrip is a little different than usual—it will be a family affair! Bring the children to the Rio Grande Nature Center to see waterfowl in the pond and to explore the trails by the Rio Grande. Learn new ways to share nature with your children or grandchildren. Don't have children or grandchildren? Come and enjoy a winter afternoon in the bosque No long hikes on this trip. Bring binoculars and fieldguides if you have them.

Leaders will be Patrice Johnson, mother and outdoor person, assisted by staff of the Rio Grande Nature Center. Meet at 2:00 p.m. inside the Visitors' Center. The Center is located at the west end of Candelaria, off Rio Grande Boulevard.



Bosque del Apache Fieldtrip Report

About 20 people attended the Bosque del Apache fieldtrip held on November 19th. Forty-nine species were sighted, including many hawks. Identifying the hawks was somewhat difficult due to sporadic cloudiness. Interesting species included one, and perhaps two, ospreys. One of the ospreys dived into the pond and caught a fish while being watched! Two whooping cranes were sighted (for sure), while feeding in standing corn with sandhill cranes. A black phoebe was also sighted, and several pyrrhuloxias were seen around the feeders at the Visitors' Center.

FIELD SIGHTINGS

256-7359

Mary Lou Arthur



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BOSQUE DEL APACHE PROGRAM PRESENTERS AND ESCORTS NEEDED

CNMAS has been receiving many requests for programs on the Bosque del Apache. If you would be interested in showing slides of Bosque del Apache birds, using a prepared script, please call Donna Broudy (242-7108)

In addition, requests are often received for tourguides to accompany Albuquerque groups to the Bosque del Apache. The staff at the Bosque cannot handle all the requests and have offered to conduct a training program for interested escorts. Again, please call Donna Broudy know if you would be interested in being a tourguide.

CONSERVATION NOTES BY LEW HELM

SWAMPBUSTERS

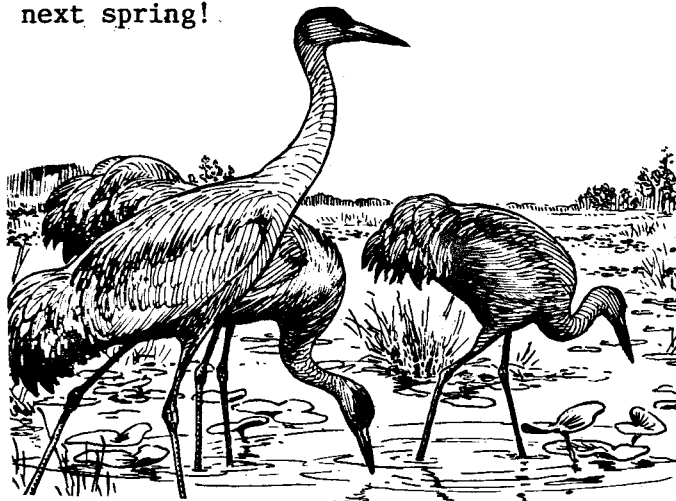
Most of us need no explanation of the values of wetlands for fish and wildlife. Congress has recognized these values in a far-reaching provision of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Farm Bill). The provision, known as the "Swampbuster," has to do with conversion of wetlands to agricultural production. If a farmer converts naturally occurring wetlands and uses it to produce agricultural commodities he will lose U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits in the year such commodities are produced. The Audubon Society is cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in monitoring this provision as it applies to wetlands. If anyone is aware of potential or ongoing violation of the "Swampbuster" provision, please write or call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service In New Mexico, contact Chuck Mullins, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3530 Pan American Hwy, NE, Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87101 (Telephone 883-7877).

WETLANDS AND WATERFOWL

Speaking of wetlands, it has been another bad year for waterfowl, particularly ducks. The lack of spring rains, compounded by destruction of wetlands, has caused the loss of much waterfowl nesting habitat in the prairie pothole regions of the United States and Canada. These regions, which encompass approximately 300,000 square miles between Minnesota and Alberta, are so important for duck production that the area is called the "duck factory." Summer drought killed so much shoreline vegetation that species, notably the mallard and pintail, were vulnerable to loss of cover and making their nests open to predation. This year's dry spell not only means near-disaster for duck populations that depend on wetlands, but also for the potholes themselves. As they dry out, the potholes are easier for farmers to drain and cultivate.



What can we do here in New Mexico to alleviate the condition? For one thing, we should support the efforts of the Canadian and United States governments to restore and protect wetlands in the prairie pothole regions (and for that matter, everywhere). State conservation agencies also need support, as well as the conservation program of "Ducks Unlimited." And, pray for lots of rain next spring!



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REAUTHORIZED

After three and one-half years of wrangling and politicking, both houses of Congress have passed a strengthened Endangered Species Act. Over the years the Audubon Society, Audubon activists, and other conservationists supplied Congress with thousands (maybe millions) of letters, phone calls, and personal appears to update the program and get the Endangered Species Act off dead center.

The House of Representatives passed its bill in December 1987 by a vote of 399 to 16. On the Senate side, the bill faced a real challenge, with resistance mainly from western quarters such as loggers, ranchers, farmers and mining interests. Much of the argument centered on protection of wolves and grizzlies. However, the law as passed requires that populations of endangered predators be protected, recovered, and even reestablished where possible in their former range. This could be a "shot in the arm" for the reestablishment of the Mexican wolf and the efforts of the Mexican Wolf Coalition.

Among other things, the Endangered Species Act was improved in regard to funding. For fiscal year 1989, funding was set at \$61 million, compared to \$29.2 million in fiscal year 1987. Funding will be increased by 4.3 percent annually. This level of funding will be especially important for state programs which have dried up for lack of federal dollars. Other features of the new act are: greatly increased protection for endangered plants; a speed-up of paperwork to get threatened and endangered species on the official list; and a fuller backing of recovery plans for a host of species.



BOTTLE BILLS REDUCE MORE THAN LITTER

The New Mexico Public Interest Research Group (NMPIRG), a non-profit citizen's organization, will once again be leading the effort to pass container deposit legislation, or the "bottle bill," in the January 1989 session of the New Mexico State Legislature. This effort comes at a time of renewed interest, both in New Mexico and around the country, in bottle bills and other alternatives to traditional solid waste management techniques. The bottle bill was narrowly defeated in the 1987 session of the Legislature, and NMPIRG is confident that the time is right to pass this long-overdue piece of legislation.

According to a U. S. General Accounting Office report done in 1980:

- If a national bottle bill were implemented, 33% less energy would be used by the beverage industry;
- Deposit laws result in 90% return rate for all beverage containers;
- It takes 50.6 million BTUs to manufacture, fill and deliver 1,000 gallons of beverage in aluminum cans;
- It takes 22.9 million BTUs to recycle aluminum and package the same 1,000 gallons (an incredible savings of over 50% without even reducing the volume of beverage produced);
- Refillable bottles provide even greater savings! It takes only 17 million BTUs to fill and package again 1,000 gallons.

New Mexico will soon be passing new regulations to govern the siting and operation of landfills. These "regs" are intended to protect the environment and neighbors of existing and proposed landfill sites. Two likely consequences are that the number of landfills will be reduced drastically and the cost of operating them will climb steeply. Based on experience elsewhere, a New Mexico bottle bill would reduce the amount of garbage going into landfills by 6-8%. It is clearly in everyone's interest to save on landfill space, extend landfill life, and minimize the cost to taxpayers.

For more information on the New Mexico bottle bill campaign and what you can do to help, write NMPIRG, Box 66, Student Union Bldg., UNM, Albuquerque, NM 87131 or call 277-2758 or 277-2757.



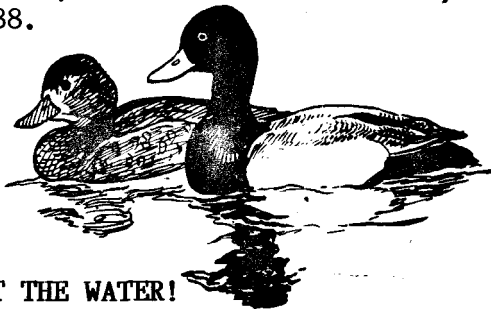
This drawing of the appealing black-capped chickadee is by CNMAS member, Lois Campbell.

CONGRESS APPROVES RIO CHAMA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER!

This legislation represents the first effort to protect a river flowing into a reservoir, and it sets a precedent nationally. It reflects a win-win solution for environmentalists, who fought for consideration of environmental and recreational values; and for the big, powerful water users, who promote water storage for industrial, municipal and agricultural uses. Our concession of a permanent pool provides the additional storage that Natural Resources Secretary Tom Bahr and Governor Carruthers wanted. Yet it means we will not see a lake as large as Elephant Butte in the future.

And we have protected the river. Our Wild and Scenic boundary may have been pushed farther upstream than most of us would care for, but we have secured solid protection for a four mile stretch with Wild and Scenic study status. That stretch of the river has to be managed as if it were Wild & Scenic until Congress determines otherwise. It means the Army Corps has to build environmental considerations into its flood control decisions. It can no longer completely disregard them as in the past. This represents a new day for flood control management as well as river protection.

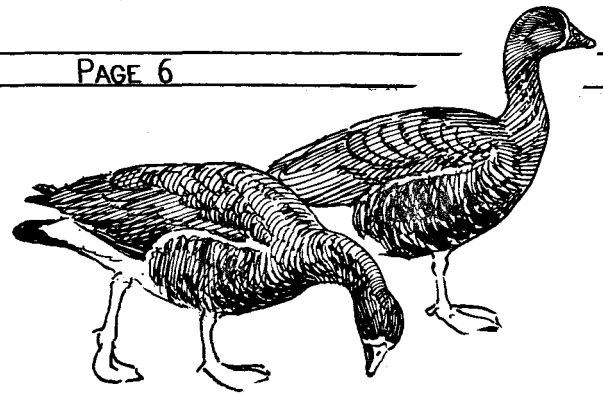
Jay B. Sorenson, *The Rio Chama Bulletin*, November 1988.



DON'T FORGET THE WATER!

We all think of food for our feathered friends when the weather begins to deteriorate in the fall. But what about something to wash down the food? Set up a winter watering station and enjoy watching the antics of our different species of feathered guests!

(Adapted from an article by Margaret Tuttle, Billings, Montana, 12/11/87)



STATE AUDUBON MEETING FUN AND INFORMATIVE

Those who attended the New Mexico Audubon Council meeting on October 21 - 23 had a weekend of pleasant weather, pleasant companions, and stimulating programs. The meeting at Camp Thunderbird near Silver City was in a beautiful forest setting, and the casual camp atmosphere was more congenial than our previous gatherings in hotels. Over the good meals, we all met Audubon members from throughout the state and looked forward to the mealtime conversations.

Lew Helm, of CNMAS, was re-elected President of the state Audubon Council. Jim Karo, also of CNMAS, was re-elected as treasurer.

Speakers included Pat Morrison biologists from the Gila National Forest, whom we will meet again for a spring bird count in the Reserve Area. She spoke on habitat improvement projects in over-grazed areas. Dr. James Hageman of NMSU spoke on little-known and interesting research on the uses of tumbleweeds. Tim Hayden of UNM taught us all new things about hawks. Marian Zimmerman gave the evening travelogue on birding in Morocco where both the birds and the country were new and exciting.

There were fieldtrips to Lake Roberts and a scenic hike on a forest trail, where everyone saw birds, fall foliage, and interesting geology.

Next year, the conference will be held near Carlsbad, at a conference center with inexpensive group rates. Fieldtrips will include McKittrick Canyon and a famous birding oasis, Rattlesnake Springs. Watch for further announcements in the *Burrowing Owl*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?**

CNMAS has Burrowing Owl T-Shirts available! Colors available in children's sizes include gold, bright orange, and tan. Adult sizes include turquoise, coral, and tan. Prices are \$7.00 for children's and \$8.00 for adult's. The T-Shirts feature the Burrowing Owl "coming and going" -- front and back! Contact Donna Broudy to place your order.

INTERESTED IN JOINING A WEEKDAY BIRDING GROUP?

Tamie Bulow, who has recently moved to Albuquerque from Denver, Colorado, is interested in organizing an informal group to get together on a weekly basis to bird in the Albuquerque area.

She has suggested meeting from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, or 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m. and bringing along a sack lunch or stopping for a quick restaurant lunch, depending on the area being birded. One person in the group would select the upcoming week's birding spot and pass along that information at the weekly outing. If you think you'd like to participate in this group, call Tamie at 298-9116.

**Audubon Adventures****CNMAS BOARD MEETING**
—Monday, January 9th

Items to be considered at the January board meeting should be presented to a board member before January 9th. There will be no board meeting in December. Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings—call any board member to find out where the meeting is scheduled, as a place had not been confirmed by press time.

CNMAS DIRECTORY**PRESIDENT**

Donna & David Broudy, 510 Laguna Blvd., SW, 87104; 242-7108

VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Celestyn Brozek, 1426 Adams, NE, 87110; 266-9225

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jean Dilley, 13 Mill Road NW, 87120; 897-0854

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Betty Balduc, 7010 Phoenix, NE, Apt. 112; 87110; 883-1428

TREASURER

Donna Broudy, Acting

DIRECTORS

David Carrick, 808 Dakota, SE, 87108; 266-0191
Neil Dilley, 13 Mill Road, NW, 87120; 897-0854

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Claudia Crawford, 433 Maple NE, 87106; 242-7081 or 277-3411
(UNM Biology Dept)

CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON

Lew Helm, 8213 Cherry Hills, NE, 87111; 821-8586

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Marge Carrick, 808 Dakota, SE, 87108; 266-0191

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

Laura Jenkins, 12505 Manitoba NE, Apt. D, 87111; 293-7527

RESEARCH CHAIRPERSON & FIELD SIGHTINGS COMPILER

Bruce Halstead, 1825 Zena Loma Cy., NE, 87112; 299-9397

FIELD SIGHTINGS/RARE BIRD ALERT

Mary Lou Arthur, 728 Monroe, NE, 87110; 256-7359

HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON

Jean Davis, 6421 Colleen, NE, 87109; 821-6815

GREETERS CHAIRPERSON

Ethyl Ringer, 5320 Marble Ave., NE, 87110; 266-6038

LIBRARIAN

Carol Davis, 2828 Don Pancho, NW, 87104; 243-4877

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**EDITOR, BURROWING OWL**

Sarah Sharpton, 6332 Buenos Aires, NW, 87120; 897-2883

CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL

Elizabeth Broemel, 3032 San Joaquin, SE, 87106; 256-9481

**New Mexico Audubon Council Directory****President**

Lew Helm, 8213 Cherry Hills, Ne, Albuquerque, 87111; 821-8586

Vice President

Steve West, P.O. Box 2489, Carlsbad, 88220, 885-1153

Treasurer

Jim Karo, 1621 Cedar Ridge Dr., NE, Albuquerque, 87112;
294-2777

Secretary

Pat Snider, 90 Royal Crest, Los Alamos, 87544, 662-4336

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter, Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Please send Audubon magazine, Burrowing Owl newsletter, and my membership card to the address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Gift Membership

Please enter a one-year gift membership in the National Audubon Society and send a gift announcement card.

To:
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

From:
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Gift Card to read " from _____ "
(Use extra sheet for additional gifts)

Membership category preferred:

- Introductory Membership (first year only)/\$20
- Individual/\$30 Sr. Citizen-Individual/\$21
- Family/\$38 Sr. Citizen-Family/\$23
- Student/\$18
- My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Bill me, please.

7XCH8

Local Chapter
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Q51

7XCH8

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society, but send your check with the application form to:

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Claudia Gayheart, Membership Chair
433 Maple NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Send renewals directly to National Audubon Society. All dues and contributions are tax deductible. Send all changes in name, address, or telephone number to Claudia Gayheart.

Who to contact:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.
Honorable Joe Skeen
Honorable Bill Richardson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Ave., SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Mr. Michael Spear, Regional Director
Mr. James Johnson, Endangered Species Chief
Mr. James Lewis, Whooping Crane Coordinator

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Villagra Building
Santa Fe, NM 97503
Mr. Harold Olson, Director
Mr. Wain Evans, Asst. Director
Mr. John Hubbard, Endangered Species

State Game Commission
Mr. Gerald Maestas, Chairman
Unit 1, Box 15
La Puebla Road
Española, NM 87532
Dr. Thomas Arvas, Member
9204 Menaul, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Randall Davey Audubon Center
Mr. David Henderson
P.O. Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504
983-4609

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