

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE -JULY 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, 211 Jefferson NE (corner of Copper and Jefferson, NE). Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, fieldtrips, and special events.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
BY DR. CELESTYN BROZEK

ANIMAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (GRAY RANCH)

-Thursday, June 15th

The fate of Gray Ranch, which may become Animal National Wildlife Refuge, is a priority issue with Audubon activists in New Mexico. Gray Ranch, a 323,000 acre piece of property, is located in the bootheal of New Mexico. What is happening in the efforts to protect this highly diverse and unique ecosystem? Will it be included in the national refuge system? Charlie Ault, an Ascertainment Biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Department, to acquaint yourself with this important issue. Please note also that David Henderson, of the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, is trying to arrange a trip to Gray Ranch in September. Watch upcoming issues of the Burrowing Owl for further details.



NATURAL HISTORY OF THE ACORN WOODPECKER —Thursday, July 20th

Dr. Peter B. Stacey devoted many years of his research to Acorn Woodpeckers. This species was the subject of his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Colorado. His long-term studies, carried on also in Water Canyon near Socorro, resulted in publications in many journals, including Science and Scientific American. Presently, he is a professor in the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico.

The Acorn Woodpecker is a fascinating bird, living in groups with unique social structure and maintaining huge food storages. Dr. Stacey will present exciting details about Acorn Woodpecker life, illustrating his talk with slides. Come with your family and friends!

SANDIA MOUNTAIN DISCOVERY DAYS —July 29th - 30th

Join two days of fun activities all over Mountain with displays, demonstrations. storvtelling. appearances by Smokey the Bear at the Sandia Peak Ski Area's Day Lodge from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., both days. Bring a picnic, or buy food at the ski area. No admission charge! Complete schedules will be available at the ski area on the 29th and 30th. or call Nee1 Marsh. Sandia Ranger District, 281-3304. in Albuquerque, 800-284-2282, or outside of New Mexico.

CNMAS volunteers are needed to lead small groups of birders on short walks any time of the day, either day. Please call Donna Broudy, 242-7108, if you can help.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE BY LAURA JENKINS

please call Lau

For out-of-town trips, please call Laura Jenkins (293-7527) for an update on any change of plans.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING

For information on the Thursday morning birding group, please call Tamie Bulow, 298-9116.

BIRDS AND BREAKFAST—TREE SPRING TRAIL, SANDIAS —Saturday, July 15th

This trip is a short, easy hike up Tree Springs Trail in the Sandias to the rock pile, where we will settle in with our coffee and breakfast snacks to watch woodpeckers, and whatever else comes by. You may return home from the rock pile, or continue further up the trail. The crest is about 2 hours up, 1 hour down.

Bring food (no cooking fires) and beverages. Meet at 6:45 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center, north side, along Central, West of the Tramway intersection.

CANADA BONITA GRASSLAND, JEMEZ MOUNTAINS —Saturday, August 5th

Grass and a profusion of wildflowers in a mountain meadow at 9800 ft above Las Alamos, near the ski area, will be the focal point of this trip. If time allows, a short hike to the lookout over Valle Grande will be included. Return the same day, or camp, on your own, at Camp May, nearby. Restrooms and covered picnic tables are available, but there is no water or electricity in this beautiful setting.

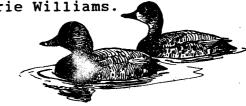
To reach the area, turn west at the stoplight at the Los Alamos National Laboratory sign. Go about one mile and turn right just past the brown Recreation Area sign. Watch for the ski symbol. Follow a good mountain road to the Pajarito ski area and park on the left. Meet at 10:30 a.m. Camp May is a short distance further. We will hike two miles, round trip, on a good road with a gentle grade. Bring food, beverages, and rainwear.

RESULTS OF THE 1989 GILA RIVER SPRING MIGRATION COUNT (BIG BIRD BASH)

Ralph Fisher, count coordinator, wants to thank all who took time to come to Silver City to do the count and hopes to see everyone again next year. He says it will take some doing to beat this year's total, especially if the drought continues and if good habitat continues to disappear. A total of 168 species (6739 birds) were counted. The total species since the count inception is 260. New species Baird's included sandpiper, Eastern bluebird, Nashville warbler, and Swamp sparrow. New highs were recorded for Great blue heron, Bufflehead, Common merganser, Least sandpiper, Rock dove, Black-chinned hummers, Cassin's kingbird, Bank swallow, Cliff swallow, Warbling Yellow warbler, Yellow-breasted vireo. chat, Northern oriole, Summer tanager, Lark bunting, and Lark sparrow. Extreme low numbers were recorded for Violet-green swallow and Rough-winged swallows. Plus, only one roadrunner and one Golden eagle were recorded--very sad indeed.

A total of 51 observers covered 11 routes, as listed below:

- 1. Ross Teuber, Jim Karo, Jane Cox, Sei & May Tokuda.
- 2. Tom & Carlin Jervis, Gregg Whipple.
- 3. Dale & Marian Zimmerman, Barbara & Wiley Peeples.
- 4. Harvey & Ruth Williams, Miriam Weber, Tony Davis, John Chambers.
- 5. May & Stuart O'Byrne, Victor Moitoret, Albert & Marjorie Hagen.
- 6. David & Mayetta Clawson, Sarton Williams III, Karen Copeland, Peggy & Charles Bailey.
- 7. Chris Rustay, Larry Gorbet, David Henderson, Evan Spiegel. (High count party with 94 species).
- 8. Steve & Orien McDonald, Janet & Jay Hammel, Moses Stamler, Madge Slavec.
- 9. Pat Insley, Lew Helm, Cap Naegle, Elma Leigh, James Landreth, Jack Devoe.
- 10. Hiram & Annette Parent, Dennis Murati.
- 11. Ralph Fisher, David Cleary, Terry & Marjorie Williams.

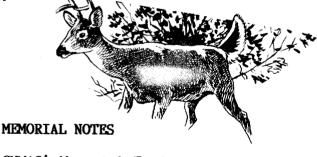


ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

May's annual potluck meeting was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to Jean Davis for coordinating the dinner and to Ethel Ringer for bringing containers for the flowers donated by several members for the tables. Ethel usually brings wildflowers from her garden, but the weather played tricks this year—most of the wildflowers booomed early!

A new Board of Directors was announced and are listed in the CNMAS DIRECTORY on page 7. Two vacancies remain: A Recording Secretary, who takes minutes at the monthly board meetings, and an Audubon Council Representative, who attends meetings of the New Mexico Audubon Council. If you would be interested in filling either of these slots, please contact any Board Member.

Our thanks go to several individuals who are leaving the Board. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated and will be missed: Celestyn Brozek, Vice President and Program Chairperson; Jean Dilley, Recording Secretary; Ethyl Ringer, Greeters Chairperson; Lillian Tenopry, New Mexico Audubon Council Representative; and Circulation Chairperson, Burrowing Owl, Elizabeth Broemel. Thanks to all of you!



CNMAS' Memorial Fund provides part of the endowment to send local teachers to Audubon Camp of the West each summer. We gratefully acknowledge the memorial contribution of Mr. Termaat in honor of James Park.

CNMAS has lost a good member, Terrence Word, who passed away recently. Our condolences go to his wife, Lila Word.

The Words have been active on the **Burrowing Owl** circulation committee for several years. Their contribution to that effort will be missed.

CNMAS LIBRARY BOOK INVENTORY

We will be conducting an inventory of the books in our library in June. If you have any books checked out, please return them by the June meeting. Thanks!



CNMAS SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Six winners were selected this year-three at the Senior Division and three at the Junior Division. The winners are:

1st Place, Senior: Andrea Allen, El Dorado High, whose project was "The Optimum Habitat for Aneides hardii" (a type of mosquito)

1st Place, Junior: Frederick Melendres, Jefferson Middle School, whose project was "Pesticides Affect Nitrogen-Fixing Bacteria."

<u>2nd Place, Senior:</u> Megan Russell, Albuquerque High, whose project was "Rio Grande Coliform Contamination."

<u>2nd Place, Junior:</u> Daniel Leckman, Jefferson Middle School, whose project was "Can Pillbugs Help Solve Crime?" (counting the number of pillbugs under dead things to determine how long the "thing" had been dead).

3rd Place, Senior: Elisa Garcia, Rio Grande High School, whose project was "Yuck! What's That? A Study of Owl Castings." (studied a Barn owl near her home).

3rd Place, Junior: Stacey Olson, Immanuel Lutheran, whose project was "Which Color Do Hummingbirds Prefer?"

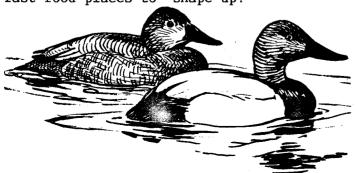
We congratulate all the winners!

CONSERVATION NOTES BY LEW HELM

Drowning in Trash

We Americans throw away enough in one day to fill 63,000 garbage trucks. This country produces more municipal solid waste per capita than any other country. Eighty percent of our trash goes into landfills, but the capacity to dispose of all this waste has dwindled. Here in New Mexico, cities and counties are rushing to close landfills in anticipation of tough new state regulations.

Two efforts in Albuquerque bring a ray of hope that something can be done to lessen the amount of trash going to landfills. First, the City of Albuquerque has started a pilot program in several neighborhoods whereby residents can separate materials i.e. which can be recycled, aluminum, and glass. Early reports are that there is a fairly good acceptance of this so-far voluntary effort. The goal is to have this program expanded city-wide and to make it mandatory. The second effort has not yet gotten off the ground. A bill has been introduced before the City Council to require food stores and fast restaurants to switch biodegradable bags or boxes which will break down in city landfills. At present. the plastic bag so common at food stores and the high-tech plastic foam boxes an at fast-food places containers threaten to clog landfill disposal because they do not disintegrate. These efforts need to be put into high gear. It is your City suggested that letters to Councilor and the Mayor are in order, urging action. In the meantime, ask for paper bags at food stores (or take your own food carrier, like folks in many other countries in the world) and tell the fast-food places to "shape up!"



Gray Ranch Future in the Balance

Could this be the year that Federal acquisition of the Gray Ranch, located in the New Mexico Bootheel, be approved or die? While we have some hopes that Senator Jeff Bingaman will be able to swing enough votes for approval, we need to keep the pressure on. Write to our Congressmen and Representatives urging full support for Senator Bingaman's efforts. This is a priority item for all Auduboners to act upon. Keep those letters, cards, and telephone calls going to our leaders!



Alaska 0i1

The tragic oil spill in Prince William Sound was an accident waiting to happen. Before Prudhoe Bay oil development and transport was approved, the oil companies promised the sky, saying that safeguards would be in place to prevent significant oil spill pollution. Now we know what a hollow ring those promises had. And the tragedy continues as Exxon and other big producers show an arrogance which is almost beyond belief. Birders around the world watch in horror as the slick moves into the Gulf of Alaska and the puny cleanup efforts are woefully inadequate. The National Audubon Society is in the forefront of new efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to mitigate the present damage and to assure no significant spills in the future.

At present, legislation to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to exploration has been stopped short, but only temporarily. Until the Exxon spill, bills were moving steadily through Congress to allow oil exploration. Now, public outrage has stopped the bills' movement, but we can be sure that efforts will be mounted in the future as the furor abates. Now is the time to be ever watchful and to get out views to our Senators and Congressmen, opposing opening of the Arctic NWR to oil development

Two Forks Dam on Hold

The administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, William Reilly, has demonstrated an environmental awareness which is unusual at top levels in Washington, D. C. Mr. Reilly will review the Two Forks project on the Upper Platte River in Colorado. People in the know say environmentalists (including Auduboners) will win the day and that Federal approval of the project will be vetoed. We are urged by National Audubon to write to President Bush to commend him for standing behind Reilly's decision and to ask him to continue his support. Write to: The President, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.

FIELD SIGHTINGS 256-7359 Mary Lou Arthur

(by subscription only)



special operating hours.



ATTENTION, CRANEWATCHERS!

A female whooping crane who migrated to Texas with her first chick was killed by a hunter in heavy fog in January. Aransas National Refuge officials termed this tragic because she could potentially have produced 10 to 15 more chicks during her lifetime.

1989 will be a critical year for the whoopers that winter in New Mexico, whose numbers are down to about 15 from a high of 33 in 1985. Late in the year, a decision is slated to be made whether to continue, modify, or abandon the cross-fostering porgram that produced these birds.

From the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society newsletter, March, April, May 1989.

BIRDING HOT LINE NUMBERS

Northeastern States			Mid-Atlantic States		Western States		
C	onnecticut:	(203) 254-3665	Delaware:	(215) 567-2473 (BIRD)	Alaska:	(907) 248-2473	This info.
M	aine:	(207) 781-2332	Maryland/D.C.:	(301) 652-1088	Arizona:	(602) 798-1005	may be
M	assachusetts		Pennsylvania		California		helpful
	Boston:	(617) 259-8805	Philadelphia:	(215) 567-2473 (BIRD)	Arcata:	(101)020 100	-
	Springfield	(413) 569-6926	Western PA:	(412) 963-0560	Los Angeles:	(213) 874-1318	as you
	ew Hampshire:	(603) 224-9900*	Wilkes-Barre:	(717) 825-2473 (BIRD)	Modesto:	(209) 847-4432	travel.
N	ew Jersey		Virginia		Monterey:	(408) 375-9122	
	Cape May:	(609) 884-2626	N. VA/D.C.:	(301) 652-1088	Morro Bay:	(805) 528-7182	Taken
	Statewide:	(201) 766-2661	Statewide:	(703) 898-3713	N. California:	(415) 524-5592	from
N	ew York	(740) 000 4074	Midwestom Ctol		Sacramento	(916) 481-0118	the
	Buffalo:	(716) 896-1271	Midwestern Stat	.05	San Bernard:	(714) 793-5599 (610) 435-6761	
	Rochester:	(212) 832-6523 (716) 461-9593	Illinois	(010) 071 1500	San Diego:	(619) 435-6761 (415) 528-0288	Sept./
	Schenectady:	(518) 377-9600	Chicago:	(312) 671-1522	San Francisco:	(209) 782-1237	Oct.
RI	node Island:	(401) 231-5728*	Central IL	(217) 785-1083	San Joaquin: Santa Barbara:	(805) 964-8240	' 88
	ermont:	(802) 457-2779*	lowa:	(319) 524-3569 (316) 343-7061	Colorado:	(303) 423-5582	
	-	(002) 407 2773	Kansas: Michigan	(310) 343-7001	Idaho:	(208) 236-3337	Bird
Sc	wthern States		Detroit:	(313) 592-1811	Oregon:	(503) 292-0661	Watcher's
FI	orida:	(407) 644-0190	Statewide:	(616) 471-4919	Utah:	(801) 530-1299	Digest.
Ge	eorgia:	(912) 987-1052	Minnesota	(010) 471 4313	Washington:	(206) 526-8266	Digebe.
Lo	uisiana_		Duluth:	(218) 525-5952	Wyoming:	(307) 265-2473	
		(504) 293-2576	Statewide:	(612) 544-5016	,		
		(504) 246-2473 (BIRD)	Missouri	(0.12, 0.1.0010	Canada		
	orth Carolina:	(704) 332-2473 (BIRD)	Kansas City:	(816) 795-8177	Alberta	(400) 007 0001	
	outh Carolina:	same as NC	Statewide:	(314) 445-9115	Calgary:	(403) 237-8821	
	nnessee:	(615) 356-7636	Ohio		British Columbia:	(604) 876-9690	
It	xas Austin:	(512) 451-3308	S. Western:	(513) 277-6446	Vancouver: Victoria:	(604) 592-3381	
	Houston:	(713) 821-2846	Cleveland:	(216) 289-2473	Ontario	(004) 392-3301	
			Columbus:	(614) 221-9736 (WREN)	Ottawa:	(613) 596-4888	
	Rio Grande:	(512) 565-6773	Toledo:	(419) 877-5003	Windenr/Detro	it (313) 592-1811	
	San Antonio:	(512) 733-8306	Youngstown:	(216) 742-6661	Point Pelee	(519) 252-2473	
	Stinson:	(512) 364-3634	Wisconsin:	(414) 352-3857	Quebec	(0.0) 202 2	
- 81		(, 3			East:	(819) 778-0737 (in French)	
	orth American are Bird Alert	(800) 438-7539	*Some of these	hot lines have			
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1989 NEW MEXICO STATE LEGISLATIVE WRAPUP --David Henderson

Now that the dust has settled around the Fe Roundhouse, it seems appropriate time to review how the environment fared in the 1989 New Mexico legislative session. This review will cover the key environmental bills which I followed but represents only a mere drop in the bucket of the record 1,573 bills introduced and the record 468 bills that passed. I wish I could say that this year's session established a positive trend for environmental legislation and the environment in New Mexico, but that just isn't the case. It is clear, however, that in winning a few (very few), and in losing a few (we will be back!), environmental community established itself as a force to be reckoned with and will continue to gain strength in its efforts to protect our environment.

The four bills, which I followed most closely and lobbied on behalf of Audubon (either for or against), were SB 415-"Wildlife and Rangeland Research Act," (Game Ranching Bill), SB 491- "Instream Flow Protection Act," (Conservation Easement Act), and SB 2-"Resource Recovery and Waste Management Act, "(Solid Waste Bill). The following is a brief summary of the bills and their outcome in the Legislature. If anyone wishes greater detail on these or other bills, contact me at the New Mexico state office in Santa Fe.

SB 415- "Wildlife and Rangeland Research Project." This bill, better known as the Game Ranching Bill, would have permitted a private landowner to "harvest" the surplus game animals on his or her property and market the wild meat through restaurants and grocery stores across the United States. Keep in mind that the wildlife in New Mexico is a public resource, which means that a landowner would be marketing our wildlife for profit. In order for this project to work, certain game laws would have to be changed or eliminated for those landowners participating in the program. Bag limits would have to be expanded, seasons changed or dropped altogether, and it is likely

spotlighting or night hunting would be considered. The concerns are obviously far reaching.

As a result of a concentrated effort by many environmental and wildlife groups and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, this bill was tabled in its first committee hearing, Senate Conservation. The sponsors of the bill quickly returned with a memorial bill which requested the State to ask that a study be conducted to analyze the impacts of a game ranching program. The memorial passed in the closing hours of the session. You can be assured Audubon will be following the progress of the study and will be offering input and expertise.

SB 491- "Instream Flow Protection Act." For years, Audubon has been working closely with other groups to enact meaningful instream flow legislation. It extremely important, especially considering that New Mexico is the only western state which does not have instream flow protection legislation. This year two instream flow bills were drafted. One, we supported for its broad-based approach to instream flow protection. A second, we opposed, because it was so narrow in scope as to render it almost helpless in protecting Unfortunately, it was the second bill which was introduced, putting Audubon in the uncomfortable position of opposing the bill that, at least in title, looked like something we should support. The key shortcoming in this bill was that nowhere in the act were instream flows recognized as a legal beneficial use. Thereby, now allowing equal standing with other uses, such as: agriculture, industrial municipal uses. First, we worked to amend the bill; but when unsuccessful, we worked to kill it, resolving to work hard in the interim for good legislation. SB 491 made it through the Senate and to the floor of the House, where, in the final hours, it was not heard and died. With any luck, meaningful instream legislation will be introduced in 1991.

PRESIDENT

Donna Broudy, 510 Laguna Bivd., SW, 87104; 242-7108

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Georgianna Costley, 825 Dakota, SE, 87108; 255-7107

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NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

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

CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL



New Mexico Audubon Council Directory

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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

SB 402- "Agricultural and Natural Land Use Act." This bill, sponsored by the Nature Conservancy, would have allowed private landowners to deed all or portions of their land to а second party for conservation purposes. Seems pretty simple and logical to me, but obviously, not to some members of the Legislature who killed it in the House. Since New Mexico is only one of six states not to allow conservation easements, you can bet that this bill will be back with our full support.

"Resource SB 2-Recovery and Waste Management Act." This solid management bill would have provided New Mexico and New Mexicans with much needed protection from the disposal of solid Ιt would waste. have required landfills be regulated and permitted by the State. Currently, New Mexico is the only state that does not require a permit which allows garbage from any state to be dumped here. The bill also provided for funds to be used by counties municipalities to design their landfills properly and included extensive recycling requirements. SB 2 had broad-based support, which allowed it to pass through both Chambers of the Legislature, only to have the Governor veto it in the 11th hour. The veto 1eaves New Mexico unregulated and unprotected. Now, we can expect states from throughout the union to look to New Mexico as a good place to dump their trash.

All in all, the session was an active one, and thank goodness it's over!

Audubon Specials Return to PBS This Summer

PBS will be airing eight Audubon Television Specials this summer on Sunday nights at 8:00. Check your local listings for details.

- July 9 Greed, Guns, and Wildlife
- July 16 Grizzly and Man: Uneasy Truce*
- July 23 Whales
- July 30 Crane River
- Aug. 6 Wood Stork: Barometer of the Everglades
- Aug. 13 Messages from the Birds
- Aug. 20 Sharks
- Aug. 27 Sea Turtles

*First place winner, 1989 North American Outdoor Film/ Video Awards, Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Sr. Citizen-Family/\$23

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☐ Student/\$18

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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 Steve Schiff 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
Espanola, NM 87532
Dr. Thomas Arvas, Member
9204 Menaul NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

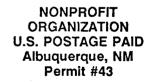
Randali Davey Audubon Center Mr. David Henderson P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504 (505)983-4609

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY Post Office Box 30002 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002

Local Chapter

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

☐ My check for \$ is enclosed.





Family/\$38

🔲 Bill me, please.