

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

WELCOME!

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

There will be no regular meeting in August. Too many of us are on vacation! See you in September!

AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST ---Thursday, September 21st



This program, a departure from our usual slide program, will feature audience participation. Our guest speaker, Judy Gordon, is a teacher in the Albuquerque Public Schools and was sponsored by our Chapter at the Audubon Camp of the West in Wyoming this summer. Learn about Audubon Camps, which are open to all, not just teachers, and come away with some good ideas for sharing nature and an environment. appreciation of the Environmental gifts for children--remember that Christmas is just around the corner-will also be on display.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE BY LAURA JENKINS

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING

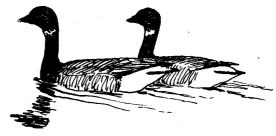
For information on the Thursday morning birding group, please call Tamie Bulow, 298-9116. August - September 1989

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

This trip, which was reported in the last Burrowing Owl, will take us to a mountain meadow at 9800 feet above Los Alamos. 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 10:00 a.m. We will hike two miles, round trip, on a good road with a gentle grade. Bring food, rainwear, beverages, and plant identification guides if you have them.

July's program on acorn woodpeckers was so interesting we thought a trip to see these unique birds and observe firsthand some of their behavior was in order. So, we'll travel to the Magdalena Mountains, west of Socorro to look for these birds as well as other young birds with "wanderitis" and any early fall migrants.

Meet at the University of New Mexico, corner of Lomas and Yale, at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch, beverages, and appropriate clothing. We'll be able to drive on a paved road to the Water Canyon picnic ground, where we'll take easy hikes or just "sit and observe."



Join the Zuni area birders at 8:00 a.m. at the El Morro Visitor Center to view, amongst other things, descendants of the same white-throated swifts Onate identified almost 400 years ago! Bring a sack lunch and beverages. No pets, please. For more information, call Dave Cleary at 782-4917.

FIELDTRIPS FURTHER A-FIELD

A beautiful weekend in the Gila National Forest was enjoyed by all on May 27-29th. Craig Andrews, past CNMAS President, and Sei Tokuda, who were birding up a canyon alone, sighted a brown throated house wren, which is listed as uncommon even in its only habitat, southeastern Arizona!

Bill Willard was rewarded in his trip to Michigan by seeing two Kirtland's warblers and hearing four more! The birds were sighted at Rifle River State Park, Tawas Point on Lake Huron and at Point Pelee on Lake Erie in Canada. He also saw 24 other species of warblers, as well as many other birds.

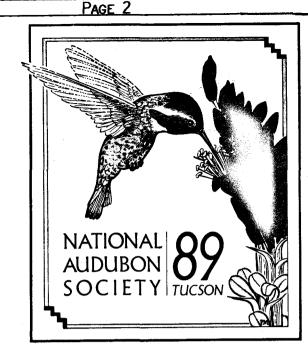
UPCOMING EVENTS

WOLF RALLY! ---Saturday, August 26th

The Mexican Wolf Coalition will hold a wolf rally in celebration of the birth of five wolf pups, after a four-year absence of captive breeding.

The rally will be held at Tiguex Park, 1800 Mountain Road, N.W., in Albuquerque. A march in support of Mexican wolves will begin at 11:00 a.m. and speakers and music will commence after the march.

Wolf, a full-blooded timber wolf, will provide an incentive for all two-leggeds to "get wild and howl." Recent statements that wolf reintroduction is a "dead issue" need clarification. Show that you support reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf by rallying to the "distant howl of the Mexican gray wolf."



NATIONAL AUDUBON BIENNIAL CONVENTION ---September 12 - 16, 1989

At last, a nearby convention focusing on the Southwest! Our National President, Peter Boyle, will inspire you and a great many other speakers and workshops will inform you.

Stay at the Doubletree Hotel, headquarters for the convention, for \$50.00 per night, or stay where you please in Tucson. Sign up for fieldtrips, or sightsee on your own--and have fun! Come for all, or part, of the convention, but don't miss it!! Reservations should be made very soon. Laura Jenkins, CNMAS Fieldtrip Chair, is coordinating convention registrations for our Chapter. For more information, call Laura at 293-7527.

ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIR

--Saturday and Sunday, September 30th and October 1st

This annual event will be held in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

David E. Brown, noted author of <u>The Wolf</u> <u>in the Southwest</u> and <u>The Grizzly in the</u> <u>Southwest</u>, will be the guest speaker. He will address the differences between Europeans and Americans in their treatment of major predators such as wolves and grizzlies. (Yes, Virginia, Europe <u>does</u> have wolves and grizzlies). He has some

exciting slides of these animals in their native European habitats.

Other topics of discussion will cover various plant and animal endangered species programs in the Southwest.

Wolf, a timber wolf, will also be present at the fair. He has been known to be coaxed into howling by his owners, Ron and Janet McFarland. So, be prepared to exercise your vocal cords while accompanying Wolf in a howl!

Α children's art and essav wildlife display, а art display. storytellers, musicians, food, games, and environmental group displays will be enjoyment available for your and education.

For more information, contact Susan Larsen at 897-2527 or the Sierra Club office at 265-5506.

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL OCTOBER CONFERENCE

--Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14th

The New Mexico Audubon Council will hold its fall conference at the Black River Village conference center, about 15 miles south of Carlsbad. There will be opportunities for birding, attending informative talks, and eating good (and inexpensive) meals. And, the price is right too! Look for more information in the brochure enclosed. If you need more information, contact Lew Helm at 821-8586.

LET NATURE DO THE WORK---WILD GARDENS

This course will be offered by the UNM Community College starting August 23rd on Wednesdays, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The eight sessions will be conducted by CNMAS member, Jim Lewis. Methods demonstrated include how to avoid spading. will cultivating, weeding, spraying, fertilizing and lawn-mowing; automatic creation of top soil; availability of free mulch and ground cover materials; and the use of predators to control pests. The design of natural gardens and the use of native edible plants will be emphasized. One session is in the classroom, with the other sessions in natural gardens and on fieldtrips. For more information, contact Jim at 881-7423.



Twenty-seven classrooms in the Albuquerque Public Schools will be learning about environmental issues for the 1989-90 school year. We thank the sponsors who helped us this year. Anyone wishing to contribute to the 90-91 Audubon Adventures fund, please contact Marge Carrick at 808 S.E., Albuquerque, Dakota. 87108. Subscriptions are \$30.00 per classroom and subscriptions are partial gladly accepted. We have also had a request from a teacher in Zuni, Dave Cleary, to provide four subscriptions for Zuni. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Marge.

Subjects for the Audubon Adventures this year are: August/September--Spiders October/November--Endangered Species December/January--Conifers February/March--Mammals/Tracks April/May--Migration June/July--Invertebrates Audubon Month--Wetlands

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mr. Jack Dunn, an insurance underwriter for Northwest Mutual Life Insurance Co., recently donated to CNMAS a quantity of calendars (from past years) featuring reproductions of John James Audubon's bird paintings. These reproductions are of excellent quality and will be used in various ways--educationally, principally. We thank Mr. Dunn for his generous contribution. He states that he also has some large (18" x 13") prints that he would like to sell. These large prints haven't been reproduced since 1960. For more information, contact Donna Broudy.

CONSERVATION NOTES BY LEW HELM

THIS PREDATOR EFFORT IS HARD TO BELIEVE!

In this enlightened age of environmental and ecological awareness comes now an idea we thought was dead and buried. In the mid-May meeting of the New Mexico Game Commission. an agenda item and fish covered the question of controlling predators (primarily coyotes) in order to increase deer populations. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, to its credit. recommended against predator control, recognizing it as impractical, expensive, and biologically shortsighted in the management of wildlife populations. So, what did the Commission do? They promptly passed a resolution endorsing the concept of predator control!

We should let the Commission know that the resolution passed at their May meeting is not in the interest of the general public, the deer-hunting public, or the deer herds. Please write to the Chairman, Mr. Gerald Maestas, New Mexico Game and Fish Commission, Unit 1, Box 15, La Puebla Road, Espanola, NM 87532. If you need more information, contact Dave Henderson at the New Mexico Audubon Office in Santa Fe at 983-4609.



PHIL NORTON WINS WASHBURN AWARD

Each year CNMAS presents its Washburn Award to an individual in public service demonstrated who has outstanding accomplishments in conservation of our natural resources and to public service in general. This year, the award went to Phil Norton, manager of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. This honor is particularly fitting as Phil puts into effect a management plan, largely of his own doing, for water delivery and vegetation management to enhance wildlife habitat on the refuge. Phil's efforts have already been credited with an improved outlook for wildlife populations, both migratory and resident, in and near Bosque del Apache refuge. Out hats are off to Phil Norton and his staff!

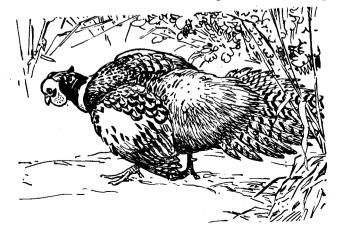
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HELP SAVE THE BOSQUE

Where is the last and best piece of riparian forest in the Southwest? We are looking at every day! The Rio Grande bosque stretching from Sandoval County to Belen is dedicated as the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Most of the park is being manager by the Open Space Division of Albuquerque's Parks and Recreation Department. The Division is at present working on a management plan for the bosque to fulfill an agreement with the State. The management plan is supposed to be developed in cooperation with a Citizen Planning Team whose membership includes our President, Donna Broudy.

An overwhelming number of people surveyed recently said that the bosque should be preserved as undisturbed wildlife habitat and natural vegetation. Study after study has shown the invaluable nature of the areas as an ecological unit best preserved intrusive minimum of human with а Despite these views development. and facts, the Open Space Division seems intent on a plan to develop the bosque, including intensive recreation facilities such as volleyball courts, picnic areas, and an increased number of access points. If the Division has its way, we will have lost a very unique ecosystem which should instead be preserved for nature study, birding, wildlife photographs, and other passive forms of recreation.

The fate of the bosque will be determined in the near future as decisions are made regarding the management plan. Please contact your city councilor, write letters to the major and the Open Space Division to let them know that any sort of intensive recreation development is not in the best interest of the public at large.

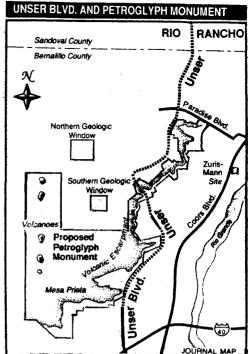


PETITION TO MAKE UNSER BOULEVARD A PARKWAY

To: City of Albuquerque, State of New Mexico, Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments

We, the undersigned, urge construction of Unser Boulevard as a Parkway between I-40 and and Sandoval County line in order to harmonize with the proposed Petroglyph National Monument and West Side residential neighborhoods by:

- Allowing truck traffic up to 5 tons only;
- Constructing a maximum of four lanes;
- Landscaping with native plants at the time of construction;
- Minimizing traffic noise impacts with noise walls and berms;
- Designing streetscape improvements with consistent parkway standards;
- Crossing the escarpment south of Indian Petroglyph State Park along the gas pipeline alternative;
- Planning for all of the above with one comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) and a single set of public hearings.



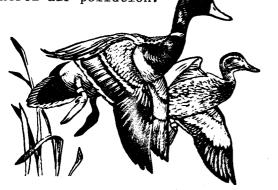
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RETURN by September 15, 1989 to **Petroglyph Parkway** • PO Box 75277 • Albuquerque, NM 87194 Anyone may sign, since all are affected. Feel free to duplicate for additional copies of this petition.

CLEAN AIR ACT WILL BE AMENDED THIS YEAR

Congress is now in the process of writing key provisions for amending the Clean Air Act. Our elected leaders, from the President on down, have promised clean air legislation in this Congress. Environmentalists are convinced that if there isn't wide-spread support from the general public, the amendments will not be tough enough to make a difference in the air we breathe and the toxics which fall as acid rain.

This is our opportunity to make things happen. First, write our representatives to ask them to co-sponsor HR 1470 (acid rain bill), HR 2323 (urban smog bill), and HR 2585 (air toxics bill). Secondly, let Congressman Bill Richardson know how much we care. Congressman Richardson sits on the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and all environmental legislation proposed in the House crosses his desk. He is a key player and he needs to know that people in New Mexico support strong laws to control air pollution.



WHOOPING CRANE RECOVERY TEAM MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS

At a recent meeting of the Canadian and U. Whooping Crane Recovery Teams in s. Jackson, Wyoming, recommendations were made to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the Rocky Mountain foster parent whooping crane flock. The team recommends to initiate further studies to see if cross-species foster-reared birds reproduce naturally; to continue can studies of markers that might reduce bird powerlines; collisions with and to continue monitoring the reproductive behavior of the captive-produced whooper released at Grays Lake, Idaho, in May 1989.

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If the FWS and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) concur with the team's recommendations, the new phase of studies include capturing cross-fostered will whooping crane females, holding them captive up to several months, and moving them to the territories of wild whooper males at Grays Lake during the nesting 1990 and 1991. The seasons of team recognized holding wild birds in captivity for a prolonged period is difficult and may lead to death or injury of a bird or birds, but believe the risk is justified. No additional whooping crane eggs will be transferred to sandhill crane nests at Grays Lake from Canada. The fate of the wild population will be determined at the end of the additional studies.

The CWS and FWS are partners in making the management and decisions on implementation of Recoverv Team the recommendations for the Rocky Mountain experimental whooping crane flock. The nine members of the Recovery Team that made the recommendations to the FWS are representatives of both Canadian and U.S. governments at the Federal, State, and Provincial levels. The team also commended the project leader, Dr. Roderick Drewien of the University of Idaho, his staff, and Dr. Elwood Bizeau of the University, for the excellent work done during the past 15 years trying to establish a second flock of wild whooping cranes. Their studies have added much knowledge and understanding of whooping and sandhill cranes, and provided a basis further recovery of the whooping for crane.

CONDOR HABITAT BIRDATHON

CNMAS member, Jean Davis, recently sponsored Linda Blum, habitat specialist, in the California Condor Habitat Birdathon. Jean thought we might enjoy Linda's letter on the Birdathon.

"Dear Ms. Davis,

I am long overdue on my promise to send a report on the Condor Habitat Birdathon, which I said I would produce as soon as I had dusted off from my day in the field. I have spent the last eight weeks working intensely on negotiations with the Sequoia National Forest and other interest groups

to resolve appeals of the Forest's Land Management Plan. I am part of a coalition of conservation groups taking part in the process. Although the negotiations are not yet complete, we are optimistic that the end result will be forest management with a strong wildlife habitat conservation element. Spending several days in the mountains with the Forest Service, dusty and sweaty, was just part of my job--the fun part!

As for the Birdathon, our three teams tallied a combined total of 123 different species of birds during our 24-hour period in Condor country. On the day of the count, that figure represented slightly better than a 4 to 1 ratio of bird species condor habitat for sharing everv individual condor then in existence. But with the recent hatching of the last three year, condor eggs this our species-to-condor ratio has dropped--and no one is complaining. There are now 32 California condors alive and well in captive breeding programs!!

The year's first condor chick hatched on April 19 and was named Mandan. It is a sobering but fitting name for a condor, because the Mandan Indian tribe, like the condor, was friendly to white men and was all but exterminated inadvertently as a result. The second and third chicks this year were named Towasinah and Kaduku, Indian words for "great strength" and "friend." The final condor hatched June 6 and was named Shasta which, as we all know, means "non-cola soft drink."

All kidding aside, the San Diego Wild Animal Park and Los Angeles Zoo are to be congratulated for the success of the 1989 condor breeding season. Five different pairs of captive condors produced a total of 7 eggs; even though some eggs were infertile, they nevertheless signal progress in pair formations and successful breeding behavior. The outlook for next year is very good.

But captive breeding is just the start of recovering the California condor. The surviving Andean condors in the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service's experimental release project have validated some of the release techniques being tested, and have also demonstrated an inherent ability to recognize historical California condor Page 6

habitat. Since learning to fly last winter, these birds have regularly used old Condor places outside the initial study area, thereby lending support to the argument for conserving former habitat.

Which brings me back to the habitat research and conservation work that the Birdathon proceeds will support. With your help, condor habitat research will be promoted through the use of a Geographic Information System which is now nearly completed. This computer mapping tool will enable us to better analyze and report on the characteristics of condor nesting, roosting, feeding, and movement habitats. The California Department of & Game Fish is considering funding additional field studies of environmental contaminants within the range of the condor--which will have direct implications not just for future condor health, but also for other bird and wildlife species occupying the same lands. And finally, as always, I and other cooperators in the condor program will continue to review and comment on proposed land use changes affecting condor habitat.

The Birdathon field results gave us just a glimpse--a 24-hour slice of life--of the variety of wildlife that lives in places considered critical to the recovery of the California condor. The hirders who covered the Santa Barbara backcountry where condors nested counted 86 avian species, including two pairs of spotted owls and five other owl species. The Carrizo Plains-Mt. Abel birders saw 53 kinds of birds, five lizard species, pronghorn antelope, and a San Joaquin kit fox. I split my day between Tejon Ranch and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada (all critical feeding areas for condors) and made positive identification of 55 species of birds. All three birding teams saw several species that are listed as rare or threatened, and one team reported three non-avian species that are listed as endangered. All of this wildlife will benefit from conservation of condor habitat.

Thank you for your help! Sincerely yours, Linda Blum."





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SANTA FE INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL

ArtFest Partners of Santa Fe has announced that its annual fine arts competition, to be held on June 4-10, 1990 in association with the National Audubon Society, will benefit the conservation and environmental movement while offering a world record cash prize list--\$1.4 million.

Awards to artists will total \$700,000. An additional \$700,000 is pledged to The Audubon Society via matching National Environmental Action Grants solicited from corporate sponsors. ArtFest various awards a \$130,000 Grand Prize and 339 other cash prizes to artists, including photographers. Prizes will honor the best interpretations of the festival's theme, Environment We Share--the "Nature--The Interdependence of All Species." Entrants are sought in all media, including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, printmaking, works in paper, works in fabric and experimental art. Entries may be either representational or nonrepresentational. Artists may submit up to five separate works per single The deadline for entry. entries is 1990. January 15, Additional prizes, beyond those offered by ArtFest, are being solicited from businesses who may wish to special awards in a specific sponsor medium, style, or subject matter.

Following ArtFest's Santa Fe closing, the festival will tour eight major North American cities to promote environmental awareness through admission-free exhibits of seven to 14 days each. A one-person exhibit of work by the Grand Prize winner is planned at a leading New York, London, or Paris gallery. The grand prize piece will also be featured on a promotional poster for use during the second annual festival and tour in 1991.

For further information about ArtFest, call or write ArtFest, 535 Cordova Road, Suite 208, Santa Fe, NM 87501, or call (505) 982-1132.

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CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL



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