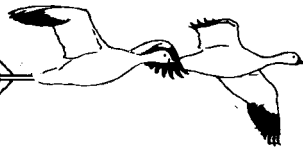


BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990

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.

This study has implications for future planning for the bosque. Citizens will have an opportunity for input on future preservation and/or development of the bosque and this program should provide important information for all of us.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

CHRISTMAS COUNT

—Thursday, December 7th

This meeting will provide members with an opportunity to meet Christmas Bird Count leaders, become acquainted with the count areas, and brush up on skills in estimating numbers in large flocks of birds. Please note that this meeting is the first Thursday in December, rather than the usual third Thursday of the month.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK

—Thursday, January 18th

Steve Hoffman, President of Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation, is completing a study of the Rio Grande bosque in the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Steve will discuss and show slides of wildlife, including birds, that live in and are dependent on the bosque. Expect to see pictures of birds we might never have suspected as visiting or living in the bosque!



FIELDTRIPS

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 Tami Bulow, 298-9116. Anyone out there interested in scouting out the Christmas count areas?

No fieldtrips are scheduled for December and January other than the Christmas Bird Counts.

The Christmas Bird Count: 90 and Counting!

On the eve of the new century, 90 years ago, Frank M. Chapman, then editor of *Bird Lore*, (precursor to our own *AUDUBON* magazine), had an idea that brightened an otherwise cold and blustery winter's day.

Rather than partaking in the traditional "Christmas Side Hunt" of birds, why not go out and take a census of them? Everyone could participate—old and young, women and men—and it would be a lot more fun for the birds!

So the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count was born, the most popular outdoor activity of its kind in the world. Twenty-seven birdwatchers pioneered that first count; today, more than 42,000 people are expected to brave sometimes inclement weather in search of their feathered friends. There are Christmas counts in all 50 states, in Canada, in Mexico and Central America, and in South America. All together, these counts will tally hundreds of species and millions of individual birds.

The rules for conducting a Christmas Bird Count are simple: each count selects a date within a two-and-a-half week period around Christmas (this year, December 16, 1989 through January 3, 1990). Each count area is restricted to a circle 15 miles in diameter, and no two count areas may overlap. Within the chosen 24-hour period, birders scour the area looking for as many species and individuals as they can spot. While not in the official rules, most counts end with a hearty, well-deserved dinner where the final results are compiled.

Because of its longevity and durability—90 uninterrupted years—the Christmas Bird Count has contributed a data base of immense importance to researchers and wildlife biologists. Its picture of early-winter avian population trends, published exclusively in *Audubon's* ornithological field journal, *American Birds*, is helping scientists determine the relative abundance of many species and may even lead to winning endangered species status for some.

Anyone and everyone can take part in the Christmas Bird Count. To find out the date and particulars of the count in your area, contact this chapter, or write Christmas Bird Count, *American Birds*, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Good Birding!



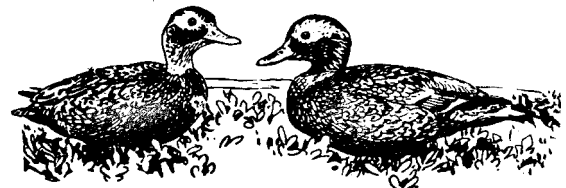
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

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 an update.

Counters should be prepared to be out all day, if at all possible. If the weather is cooperative, lots of walking should be anticipated. Birders of all levels of expertise (spotters are important!) are encouraged to participate. Competent birders are especially urged to assist in the counts.

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 the group leader for the amount.

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. Happy counting!



ALBUQUERQUE COUNT

—Saturday, December 16th

Meet at the Corrales Shopping Center, corner of Coors and Alameda NW, at 7:30 a.m. sharp, near the 1st National Bank. The count will end about 5:00 p.m. Count Leader is Hart Swartz (266-1810).

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.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE COUNT
--Saturday, December 30th



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

Counters will be allowed to enter 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 4-wheel drive or pickup.)

SANDIA MOUNTAINS COUNT
--Saturday, December 30th

Meet at what was formerly "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). Please call Kay if you don't know where Pete's is located.

The center of the count area is San Antonio, on the east side of the Sandias. Areas usually counted include Sandia Crest, San Pedro Wash and Guitierrez Canyon, Canyoncito, Doc Long picnic area and Cienega Canyon.

ZUNI AREA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

For more information on the Zuni area Christmas counts listed below, contact Dave Cleary at P.O. Box 1045, Zuni, NM 87327, (782-4917). Participants in the Zuni area counts need to come well-prepared with food, water and extra clothing for a full day in possibly quite cold weather.

ZUNI CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
--Saturday, December 16th

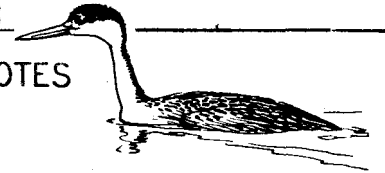


Meet at the PHS parking lot in Black Rock at 6:30 a.m. Compiler and contact person for this count is John Trochet, 633 46th St., Sacramento, CA 95819.

BLUEWATER LAKE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
--Saturday, December 30th

Meet at the CONOCO/KOA, I-40 Prewitt exit (#63) at 7:45 a.m. Compiler and contact person is Dave Cleary.

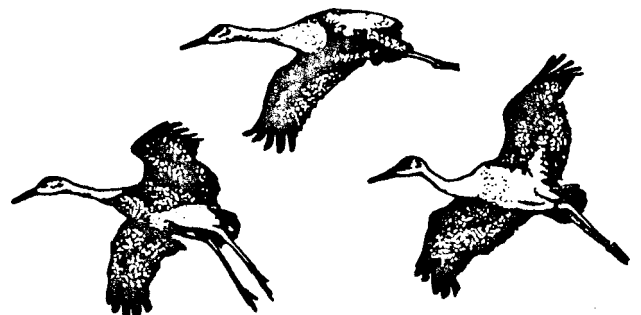
CONSERVATION NOTES
BY LEW HELM

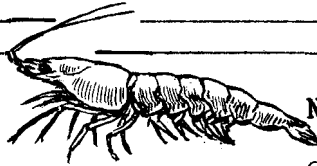


IS TWO FORKS DOWN FOR THE FINAL COUNT?

We can't say enough in support of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its stand on the proposed Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River in Colorado. This project has been in the planning stage for years. At one time it was proposed as a Federal project, but a combination of outright public opposition and poor cost-benefit ratios doomed that approach. Then the Denver Water Board and the Metropolitan Water Authority decided to build the dam themselves. However, a Federal permit from the Corps of Engineers is still needed. That is where the EPA comes in--it has the option of vetoing the proposed permit on grounds of water quality, wetland values, stream fishery, and recreational attributes. EPA Chief William K. Reilly started the veto process last March by deciding to review the permit application. Then in August, EPA formally proposed vetoing the construction permit. The next step is the final EPA decision which should take place sometime after November 17, 1989.

The weight of public opinion has played a powerful role in encouraging EPA to continue the veto process despite tremendous political pressure and appeals to the public by the Denver Water Board and the Metropolitan Water Authority. You can help to deliver the final blow to this potentially damaging project by writing or phoning the President to thank him for his administration's courageous effort in following through on the veto process. Just address your comments to the President, the White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.





AND THEN THERE ARE TEDs

On another front, the news is not so good from a Federal enforcement standpoint. Back in July 1989, the regulations of the Department of Commerce were illegally suspended by Secretary Robert Mosbacher regarding the requirement that shrimpers use turtle excluder devices (TEDs). The TEDs are designed to prevent drowning of juvenile and adult sea turtles, five species of which are endangered or threatened. TEDs allow turtles trapped in the nets of shrimpers to escape.

In September, the Commerce Department reinstated the regulations, but it is doubtful whether shrimpers, especially in waters off Texas and Louisiana, are obeying the law.

The National Audubon Society has been pursuing a boycott by its members of the buying of shrimp to protest the slaughter of turtles in shrimpers' nets. The boycott continues and will be in place until TEDs are in all shrimp nets in all offshore waters from North Carolina to Texas. For the time being, Audubon urges its members and the general public to refrain from buying shrimp. What a sacrifice for us confirmed shrimp lovers!

NOTE:

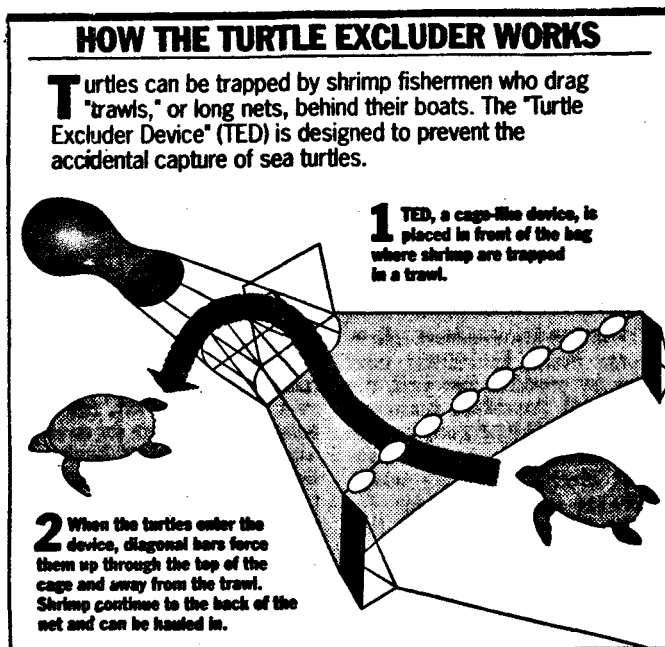
Shrimping accounts for 47,000 sea turtles dying in the nets. In addition, five to ten pounds of fish are caught as by-catch for every one pound of shrimp, for a total of 1.6 billion pounds of by-catch annually. Most of the fish caught as by-catch die. According to National Marine Fisheries endangered species biologists, by-catch is a serious threat to the survival of at least 13 species of fish, since the shrimp nets scoop up whole year classes of fish, allowing fewer and fewer fish to reproduce. Obviously, other animals which depend on the fish for food [such as birds] are being severely affected. On August 21 the NAS, joined by other conservation organizations, filed suit against the Commerce Department asking to restore the order that TEDs be used. For additional information, contact the NAS Southwest Regional Office at (512) 327-1943. Also, call President Bush (202) 456-7639 and ask him to enforce the TED regulations.

Excerpted from "Roadrunner Ramblings," the newsletter of the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, August-September 1989.

THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH TAKES A BEATING

We all take for granted the principle of the right of free speech embodied in the First Amendment. Apparently, some powerful interests believe that free speech does not belong to everyone. This summer and fall, a group backed by the timber industry started a campaign to prevent the nationwide broadcast of "Rage Over Trees," the Audubon television special about the Northwest's ancient forests. This group launched the attack even though they had not seen the documentary and despite the fact that one third of the film is devoted to statements and views of timber industry officials and another third covers findings by independent experts on old growth forests and spotted owls.

The group pressured the Stroh Brewing Company to drop its place as the long-term underwriter of the Audubon television series. The group also pressured eight major corporations to pull ads they had



purchased during the four broadcasts of the film. Fortunately, Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) is sticking with Audubon and has broadcast "Rage Over Trees" without advertising at a loss of \$250,000. Our hats are off to Ted Turner for his courageous, unselfish support of the Audubon series. We urge you to write Ted Turner at Turner Broadcasting One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348-5366.

NOTE:

Peter A. Berle, President, NAS, has advised that the industry backlash was carefully orchestrated by an organization calling itself the Western States Public Lands Coalition, based in Pueblo, Colorado. He also states that "we must find ways to be sure that the threat of economic blackmail does not become a vehicle for preventing major national issues from being aired on television." He suggests that we "thank Mr. Turner for his commitment to both National Audubon and free speech, and let him know your concern about efforts to censor national discussion of the destruction of a national treasure--the old growth forests of the Northwest. Tell him of your displeasure with the advertisers, the Stroh Brewery Co., Exxon, Sears Roebuck & Co., Ford Motor Co., Omni Magazine, Citicorp, New York Life Insurance Co., and the Michelin Tire and Rubber Co., who gave in to this type of pressure. You might point out that the National Audubon Society is a mainstream environmental organization, renowned for its good science and careful development of policy positions based on sound science. Please encourage him to share your letter with the advertisers both past and present who might be affected by this outrageous incident."

CNMAS President, Donna Broudy, has researched the addresses of the advertisers and they are listed below. Donna also suggests that you write local branches of any of these advertisers and express your displeasure.

Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Edward A. Brennan, Chairman
Sears Tower, Chicago, IL 60684

Ford Motor Co.
Donald E. Petersen, Chairman
The American Road, Dearborn, MI 48121

Exxon Corporation
Lawrence G. Rawl, Chairman
1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020

Citicorp
John S. Reed, Chairman
399 Park Ave., New York, NY 10043

New York Life Insurance Co.
Donald K. Ross, Chairman
51 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010

Omni Publications
Kathy Keeton, President
1965 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-5965

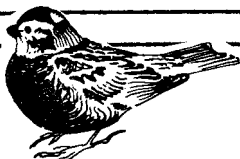


**MANZANO MOUNTAIN (CAPILLA PEAK) FALL
RAPTOR MIGRATION PROJECT**

—LisaBeth Daly

A record number of raptors were spotted from the lookout this fall--4680. This count may be due to the addition of a second full-time observer. However, the Goshute Mountain Raptor Migration Project in northeastern Nevada also had a record year--approximately 14,500 spotted by the same two observers that did last year's count, which totaled 13,055. And our third fall site, the Wellsvilles Mountains in north-central Utah showed an increase in raptors per hour over last season. All three sites seem to show, on a preliminary basis, a greater number of immature birds than has been tallied in past years. This finding seems to be especially true for red-tailed hawks and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks. If further analysis does not contradict this finding, then 1989 was an extremely successful breeding season for these species.

NOTE: An article by Brett M. Ewald summarizing the Manzano Mountain (Capilla Peak) Fall Raptor Migration Project and a table of species totals for all 5 years of the watch will be published in the next edition of the **Burrowing Owl**.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

If you noticed a big drop in the numbers of birds at your feeder last winter, you weren't alone. Thousands of observers contributing data to Project FeederWatch documented a decline in feeder activity that extended across the entire continent.

Pine Siskins remained in their normal haunts in the 1988-89 winter, after an amazing invasion the previous year to all parts of North America. Over 85 million siskins were estimated to visit feeders that winter, while the numbers in 1988-89 nose-dived to less than half that figure.

In eastern regions, conspicuous decreases at feeders were also seen for Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal and most blackbirds. Pygmy Nuthatch and White-crowned Sparrow were in short supply west of the Mississippi.

How do we know all this? Over 7,000 people across North America brought their hobby of bird feeding to new heights, by participating in Project FeederWatch. They recorded bird sightings from their feeders for ten 2-day periods between November and April, and sent data to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for analysis.

FeederWatchers are now embarking on a new season, and you are invited to join. You need not be an expert bird watcher to participate, but you must be able to identify birds that commonly visit your feeder. All you have to do is watch the birds at your feeders on one or two days every two weeks throughout the winter, and record the numbers you see on simple computer-readable forms.

In return for your participation you'll receive 2 issues of "FeederWatch News," featuring helpful information about feeding birds and analyses of the abundance and distribution of feeder birds in your region and across North America.

Join thousands of observers working together to monitor winter bird distribution across our continent. Simply mail your annual registration fee of \$9

with your name and address to: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (make checks payable to "Project FeederWatch").

For further information, contact Dr. Erica Dunn, FeederWatch Coordinator, 30 Davidson Road, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 2B1 (416) 727-3519, or Colleen Lynch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 254-2414.

**CNMAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Does it seem a little early for the CNMAS Nominating Committee to begin its work? Your Board of Directors thought we might start early this year to avoid the vacancies on the Board we've encountered the past few years.

Like to serve on the committee? Have a suggestion for someone who'd make a great contribution to CNMAS by serving on the Board? If so, please call Jean Davis (821-6815) or Marge Carrick (266-0191), both of whom have graciously agreed to serve on the nominating committee.

Intern Opportunities at National Audubon Society Sanctuaries

The National Audubon Society offers students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain training and experience in sanctuary management, while providing Audubon with much-needed help.

Internships are available at participating Audubon sanctuaries in Maine, Connecticut, South Carolina, Kentucky, Florida, Arizona, and California.

Program benefits include:

- "hands-on" experience in wildlife sanctuary work
- valuable references and a stronger resume
- college credit, if desired
- personal instruction
- free housing
- eligibility for scholarships to Audubon Ecology Camps.

To learn more about intern and volunteer opportunities at Audubon Sanctuaries near you, write:

National Audubon Society, Sanctuary Department,
93 West Cornwall Road, Sharon, Conn. 06069.

NEWS FROM THE NM STATE AUDUBON OFFICE

--DAVID HENDERSON

As many of you probably read or heard, Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan asked that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) remove Gray Ranch from its list of acquisition priorities. He felt that it did not satisfy the priority requirements of being a wetland or near an urban area. However, FWS considers the area to be one of their very top acquisition priorities.

Because of lack of support from the Secretary and our Governor, Congress denied money to purchase the ranch. Senator Jeff Bingaman plans to introduce a bill that will authorize the enactment of Gray Ranch as a National Wildlife Refuge. Funding will follow authorization. We will all have to work much harder to educate the Secretary, and for that matter our Governor, that Gray Ranch is a treasure for the American people that deserves protection for its exceptional biological values.

From the Gray Ranch we venture to the forests of the state where many animals, such as the Mexican spotted owl, are found nowhere else. As is the case in all too many forests throughout the United States, our southwestern forests are under siege. The reason: the forest is simply being asked to do too much. The U. S. Forest Service and the forest products industry ask it to produce timber, in many areas at a higher rate than is biologically possible. To others, the forest is a cheap source of pumice, a "mineral" that is used to make our jeans appear old. And to still others, the forest is a place of solitude and worship. In addition, the forest is our source of clean water and the purifier of our air. The result is a forest that is threatened because a balance has not been found between the needs of humans for wood, water, solitude, and yes, pumice, and the need to maintain and enhance the delicacy of biodiversity. Chapters and members from throughout the state must continue to play a key role in the search for that balance and provide a strong voice in speaking for the wilderness so necessary to a healthy planet.



CNMAS DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tami Bulow, 8126 Northridge, NE, 87109; 298-9116

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Betty Balduc, 5400 Montgomery NE, Apt. 103-B; 87109; 883-1428

TREASURER

Murray Honeycutt, 2901 Dakota NE, 87110; 881-0452

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

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

LIBRARIAN

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

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

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

CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL

Betty Balduc, 5400 Montgomery NE, Apt. 103-B; 87109; 883-1428

MEMBERS AT LARGE

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

Jim McPhee, 200 Canconcito Rd., Bernalillo, NM, 87004; 867-5999



New Mexico Audubon Council Directory

President

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

Vice President

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

Treasurer

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

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.

7XCH

Local Chapter
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Q51

7XCH

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. Waln 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
(505)983-4609

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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Albuquerque, NM
Permit #43

