



BURROWING OWL

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

April - May 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.

ANNUAL MEETING

—Thursday, May 17th



Come join CNMAS for our annual meeting, election of officers, and presentation of the Washburn Award.

6:00 P.M. Potluck—bring a generous dish and table service.

7:00 P.M. Meeting and Program

The program for the evening will feature Steve Hoffman, who will discuss and show slides of the wildlife of the Rio Grande bosque. Steve was originally scheduled to present this program in January, but due to severe weather, the January meeting was cancelled. Steve has now completed his one-year study and will present the results. Expect to see pictures of birds we might never have suspected as visiting or living the bosque. 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 will provide important information for all of us.

NOTE: If you have suggestions for candidates for the Washburn Award, please contact any CNMAS Board member. Candidates must have experience in the government arena (federal, state, or local) and must have made a significant, positive contribution to environmental concerns.

NEW MEXICO HAS A RARE BIRD ALERT

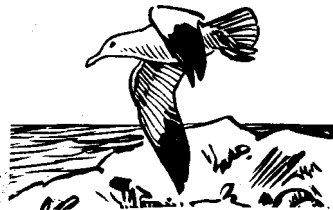


Just call 1-505-662-2101 to get the latest sightings of rare and unusual species seen all over the state. The recording will be updated on Thursdays at noon.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

—Thursday, April 19th



This program is in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 1990. Heidi and Howard Snell have spent 11 years working in the Galapagos Islands. While their research has been focused on reptiles, the Snells have gained an appreciation of all the flora and fauna of this unique island group located off the coast of Peru in South America. Not only have they monitored the process of natural selection shaping the populations of reptiles, but they have witnessed the growing awareness of local residents who not only appreciate this biologically rich and diverse area but have developed an enlightened conservation plan which would be the envy of any industrialized nation. Over these 11 years, the Snells have acquired an important slide collection which they will be sharing with us. Dissolving slides against a background of music will take us on an armchair tour of the Galapagos and give us a glimpse of the long-term research work the Snells will be returning to this summer.



FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE BY LAURA JENKINS



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

Two very special trips are planned for April and May.

MIGRATING RAPTOR COUNT, SANDIAS **—Saturday, April 7th**

Steve Hoffman, President of the Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation, has again invited us to visit the count site on a mountain top near the Three Gun Spring trailhead. Last year we saw more than 200 birds, hawks, vultures, and an owl or two riding thermals over the Sandias.

The trail is steep but there is no rock climbing and people of all ages have been going up for years. Sturdy shoes are a must and dress for cold wind at the top. Take lunch and enough water for the day.

We will meet WFRC staff at the Four Hills shopping center, Central and Tramway, at 7:30 a.m. Park along Central, east of Baskin Robbins.

CIENEGA CANYON, EAST SIDE OF SANDIAS **—Saturday, May 5th**

This trip is special because we can invite family and friends who cannot manage a regular trail. A short drive on a paved road into the canyon leads to a meadow where we hope to see migrating warblers. Beside the meadow is a paved, curbed trail easily accessible to wheelchairs. The legends along the trail are also in Braille, making an enjoyable nature walk for the blind. This is a lovely picnic area. Bring a sandwich! Those who wish may continue up Cienega trail to the top. In case of rain, this trip will be held the following Saturday (May 12th). Meeting time 8:00 a.m. at Four Hills shopping center, Central and Tramway. Park along Central, east of Baskin Robbins.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

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

ADDITIONAL WEEKEND BIRDING TRIPS

If you would be interested in participating in weekend birding trips when no regular fieldtrips are scheduled, please call Jean Ann Olds at 265-0653 (evenings) or 843-2153 (days).



PARK YOUR CAR

Everyone can participate in Earth Day 1990. Simply park your car and walk, bicycle, ride with a friend or use public transportation on one day during the "Celebration of the Outdoors" April 22-29th. Encourage your co-workers or neighbors to participate with you by sharing a ride on consecutive days. You can make a difference with an action as simple as parking your car.

UPCOMING EVENTS



7TH ANNUAL BIRD BIRD BASH

—Friday and Saturday, May 4th-5th

Join birders from across New Mexico for a fun day in the Silver City area. This count is one of the premier events of the year. Participants meet on Friday night at Harlan Hall, Western New Mexico University campus, 12th Street at Alabama, 7:30 p.m. A program will be presented followed by assignment of routes to be covered in the Gila Valley for the count on Saturday. Refreshments will be served.

The count area will cover the Gila Valley from the Gila Cliff Dwellings to Red Rock. Total species counted in 1989 was 168. Total species for this count since inception is 260. A dinner will follow the count; then after dinner, the teams report the results of their counts and and of course do a little bragging!

Please make dinner reservations with Ralph Fisher, 535-2320 or May O'Byrne, 538-9672 or write to May at 3305 Tom Lyons Drive, Silver City, NM 88061 before April 29th.

For information on motels and camping facilities in the Silver City area, contact Lou Helm (821-8586).

EARTH DAY 1990



April 22nd marks the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, a grassroots expression of concern for a better quality of life and a healthier environment. Millions of people in thousands of cities, towns, and villages across America and worldwide will be participating. In Morris Udall's words, "At the start of this new decade we have a great opportunity to take the next steps--both here at home and globally--to rally the world's people to hold our institutions accountable."

Mark your calendar especially for the events listed below, which are free and open to the public. Since this list is changing frequently, contact Claudia Crawford at 277-1714 or 242-7081 for the latest information.

March 27th--Lois Gibbs, "Love Canal, Earth Day, and You," UNM Continuing Education, University Blvd, NE.

April 4th--Keep America Beautiful teleconference, "Let's Not Waste the '90," 12:00 noon, UNM SUB Ballroom, South

April 20th--Chris Maser, "Becoming Partners in Redesigning the World," 8:00 p.m., Kimo Theater

April 21st--UNM Faculty and NMPIRG, "Minding the Future," 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., UNM Rodey Theater, Concurrent Posters and Information Fair, Popejoy Lobby and the North and East Malls

April 22nd--Sunrise services, 5:58 a.m. at Elena Gallegos and westside Horse Arena, teach-ins around town, and a candlelight service at 6:00 p.m. at Old Town Plaza

April 25th--Sierra Club, Gubernatorial Environmental Forum

April 26th--People's Earth Day Town Meeting

April 28th--Family Earth Fair, Bag-a-Thon, and Kidfest celebration, Tiguex Park

April 29th--Corrales "Recycled Art" Fair; Earth Day Expo at Coronado Center

SPRING CLEANING? RECYCLE YOUR CASTOFFS!

Are you finding some sporting equipment you never use? What about that piece of furniture you just don't have room for anymore? Donate your white elephants, including toys, clothing, etc., to the Randall Davey Audubon Center's giant Rummage Sale to be held on Saturday, April 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please ensure that all items are in salable condition. Donations are welcomed at the Center between now and Friday April 27th. Call 983-4609 to arrange for pick-up or drop-off. P. S. Let your friends know too! We'd appreciate their donations as well. If you don't have items to donate, baked goods for the bake sale table would also be helpful. Then come shop! You never know what treasures you might find!



NORTHWEST REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

CNMAS recently assisted in the judging of science projects at the Northwest Regional Science Fair. Judges were Donna Broudy, Tami Bulow, Ross Teuber, and Elizabeth Broemel. Prizes were awarded by CNMAS as listed below. Congratulations to the winners!

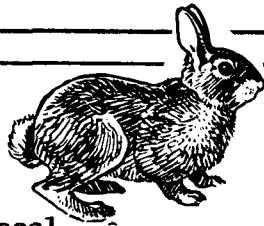
Senior High

- Matthew Custer, Sandia High School Environmental Category, \$25.00, "Dilution of Waste Water Along the Rio Grande."
- Ronald Hooks, Sandia High, \$15.00, "Alfalfa, The Organic Herbicide."
- John Gill, Manzano High, \$10.00, "Slime Mold--Proving A Hypothesis."

Middle School

- Lana Melendres, Jefferson Middle School, \$25.00, "Microorganisms Forms Trihalomethanes from Organic Materials."
- Sean Eidson, Hoover Middle School, \$15.00, "Effects of Acid Rain on Brine Shrimp."
- Shari Grossarth, Madison Middle School, \$15.00, "Will Plants Grow When Irrigated with Water From Coal Seam Gas Wells?"
- Justin Brown, Eisenhower Middle School, \$10.00, "Drifters and Spinners. Computer-Based Investigation of Natural Selection."

CONSERVATION NOTES BY LEW HELM



An Archaic Law Needs Repeal

The 1872 Mining Act is clearly out-of-date and continues to threaten environmentally valuable federal lands. Under this law, public lands can be purchased for only \$2.50/acre if certain minerals are present. After mining operations, either real or token, the land can be used for any purpose including development for homes, resorts, or most anything. Back in the last century, there was probably reason for this arrangement, but it is now being misused to the detriment of the general public.

A case in point is recent activity on the East Fork, Los Griego area of the Jemez Mountains, Santa Fe National Forest. The Copar Pumice Company has filed with the Bureau of Land Management for a mining permit (and eventual ownership) of 1,700 acres of National Forest lands for the nominal purpose of strip mining the area for pumice. Pumice is a material that is not in short supply, is not a precious metal, and is not critical to the nation's welfare or security. We understand that other mining claims have been staked out on an additional 7,000 acres (that's 11 square miles) in the same general area of the Jemez Mountains.

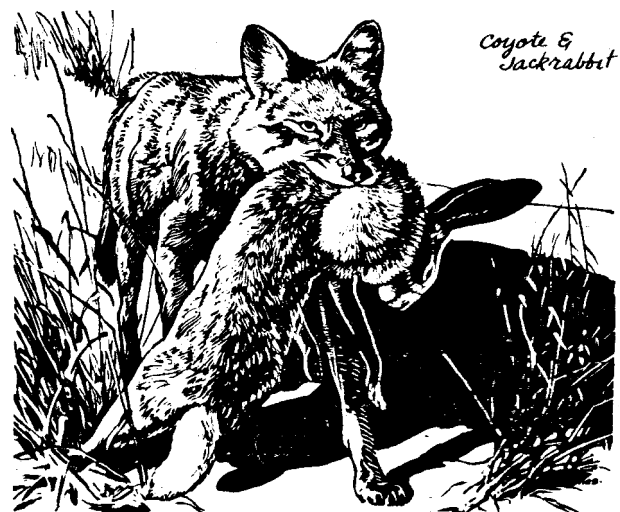
We need to start a campaign immediately to do several things. First, convince the BLM and the Forest Service to reject these pumice mining claims using whatever arguments that can be mustered, such as--not in the public interest, interference with a possible National Recreational and Wild and Scenic River application, possible jeopardy for an endangered species (the peregrine falcon). Secondly, we need to convince our Senators and Representatives that the time has come to mount an effort to (1) remove all types of pumice from the list of locatable minerals, and (2) repeal the obsolete patenting provisions of the 1872 Mining Act.

Black Bear Management in the Sandias

A Bear Task Force has been established to try to foresee problems which could arise

again this year. At the present time, no one can predict whether bears will come into Albuquerque in numbers which make many people nervous. The Task Force is comprised of agency and public representatives including the Forest Service, N.M. Game and Fish Department, wildlife groups, the Humane Society, Wildlife Rescue, Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society. At its first meeting, the group established goals based on values the public expects to be protected. People want to enjoy solitude and to interact with and understand the natural ecological systems of the Sandias. Clean air, open space, and respect for the land are cornerstones for a quality experience. With that as a background, the Task Force members realize that black bear management involves three basic aspects: habitat management, population management and public education. Handling transient and nuisance bears resulting from changes in food availability and expansion of home ranges is an important part of bear management.

The Task Force has developed a tentative contingency plan which needs to be approved by the Forest Service and the N.M. Game and Fish Department. After approval, the plan will aid in the decisions for capture, release, transport, and general handling of problem bears. It is generally agreed that supplemental feeding of bears in the Sandias as a means of controlling their movements would not be appropriate. The Task Force will continue to meet--keep tuned for further information.



Gray Ranch Victory

We are still very much upbeat about the news that the Nature Conservancy has obtained the Gray Ranch property for eventual transfer to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. What a plus for environmentalists of all stripes--birders, photographers, scientists, you-name-it. There is still a lot of opposition, mainly from the vested interests in the area, especially cattlemen. The opposition thinks that "tourists" will overwhelm the area thereby spoiling the land. Nothing could be further from the truth. We foresee a management plan which would allow appropriate cattle grazing and at the same time protect all of the natural and cultural resources of the land for the future with moderate public visitations. We need to keep the ball rolling to support an appropriation of federal funds to repay the Nature Conservancy so that a National Wildlife Refuge can be established at an early date. Please contact our Senators and Representatives.

You Can Help Wildlife!

April tax deadlines actually give us something to cheer about. By donating part of your state tax refund, you can help wildlife in New Mexico. Since 1982 generous citizens have checked the box that funds many programs

Check the Share With Wildlife box on your state income tax form (look for the special line)! Indicate how much of a refund you'd like to donate. If you're not receiving a refund, you can contribute directly by mailing a check or money order to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Your donation is tax-deductible the next year.

Game and Fish Department
Game protection Fund
Villagra Building
Santa Fe, NM 87503
(505)827-7959

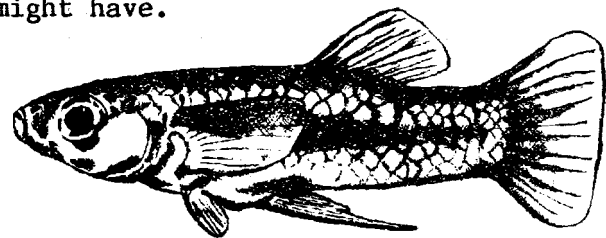


NOTEWORTHY NEWS

NATIONAL RIVERS COALITION--INFORMATION FOR REI SEED GRANT APPLICATION 1990

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) has voted to fund a rivers conservation program for the third year in 1990. Seed grants are available to state and local conservation groups through the National Rivers Coalition, comprising several national conservation organizations: American Rivers, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, National Association of State River Conservation Programs, American Canoe Association, National Wildlife Federation, and Wilderness Society.

The coalition considers proposals that focus on five criteria and have measurable results. Grants generally range between \$200 and \$1000. Funding should be used for printing, mailings, organizing grassroots meetings, travel and telephoning; it cannot pay salaries. The coalition meets to review applications in April, June, September, and December. Proposals must be received by the 20th of each preceding month. Applications go to Suzi Wilkins at American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003. She can also answer questions you might have.



Peccos Gambusia

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next issue of the Burrowing Owl will see a transition in editors. Claudia Crawford, currently CNMAS Membership Chair, will become the new editor. Claudia has lots of good ideas that you should soon see reflected in the Owl. Let her know what type of articles you would like to see more/less of and what changes might enhance the effectiveness of the Owl. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 3-year tenure as editor and wish to thank all those individuals who provided suggestions, constructive criticism, and copy for the Owl.



The Best Show In Town

by Hart R. Schwarz



Very soon now, certainly by the time you read this newsletter, hummingbirds all across New Mexico, from the valleys to the mountains, will be contributing their high-energy lifestyle to the mosaic of summer. And since these birds are not at all shy, you can enjoy them in your backyard or from your apartment window, provided you have an ample supply of sugar water advertised in red.

Although New Mexico plays host to at least a dozen species of hummingbirds, only two of these breed in the central and northern part of the state. The Broad-tailed is usually the first to arrive, making its entry during the final days of March or in early April when the wild currant is in bloom at the lower elevations in the Sandias. At first this bird is more often heard than seen, since in flight the male's wings produce a relatively loud metallic trill. Often, as one tries to zero in on the sound, the bird streaks off at warp speed, leaving not the slightest visual confirmation of his erstwhile presence. Sooner or later, however, after settling into the routine of domesticity, the male can be observed for long periods of time, perched on his favorite twig and scanning his territory for rivals or intruders. Then, if the sunlight strikes the plumage at just the right angle, his seemingly black gorget (throat area) is suddenly transformed into a iridescent shield of gleaming rosy red. Primarily, the Broad-tailed is a denizen of mountain forests, usually above 6800 feet; in the Sandias you will surely make his acquaintance if you visit the spring at Capulin, have a picnic in Cienega Canyon, or hike up the La Luz Trail.

The Black-chinned is the other common hummingbird in our area. It generally arrives during the second week in April and can thereafter be found from the Rio Grande to the Sandia foothills. Any hummingbird seen in the city during May or June is most likely this species. But if you want to make sure, take a close look

at the Male's gorget, always the badge of identification. Again, as in the preceding species, the light must be just right because the colors are evoked by the structural makeup of the feathers and not by pigment. In any case, a good look will reveal a truly black chin and beneath it a lovely band of violet that looks like a detached fragment of a rainbow.

Though watching hummingbirds can be fascinating during the spring months, the show doesn't really get started until July, when the Fall migration begins for the Rufous and the Calliope hummingbirds, who nest far to the north of us in Washington and Oregon. First the colorful males arrive, usually around Independence Day; and then later in the month, they are joined by the females and immatures. By August the hummingbird population, now comprising four species, has increased markedly. Many people, much to their amazement, may find their besieged feeders emptied in an hour or two by a virtual army of birds, all contending with one another for a chance to take a quick sip before being driven off by the next in line.

One may well ask at this point what sort of solution to offer the little folk without adversely affecting their health. Actually plain old sugar water is best, having a proportion of one part sugar per volume to four or five parts of water. The mixture should be brought to a boil to dissolve all the sugar. It is also a good idea to replace the food and thoroughly clean the bottle at least once a week in order to prevent harmful mold. No food coloring should be necessary if the feeder is fitted with red appurtenances. If you are concerned about providing the birds with a nutritionally poor diet, the situation is really not as bad as it seems. Fortunately, wild creatures often have more instinctual good sense than many humans by not making junk food the mainstay of their diet. No matter how much sugar water is available, hummingbirds still visit the old-fashioned flowers for their sweet nectar and a variety of tiny insect.

People often wonder when to take the feeders in. The basic rule of thumb is: after the last of the hummers have departed, which is usually around

mid-October. As a matter of fact, most birds begin their migration long before their food supply, natural or otherwise, runs out; so obviously the urge to fly south is much stronger than the enticement a little sugar water can offer. If the availability of abundant food were so important, the hummingbirds would probably never have left the tropics in the first place.

Well, so much for the text. Now it's time to get that feeder out and let the show begin! (Reprinted from the June-July 1987 issue of the Burrowing Owl.)



NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON (NAS)

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT AUDUBON CAMPS

Audubon Camps are operated at sites in Maine, Connecticut and Wyoming. Workshop participants range in age from 18 to 80 and in knowledge from those with little or background to others with considerable field experience.

Qualified individuals with teaching experience in a wide range of natural science subjects and ecological disciplines can become a part of the staff at one of Audubon's Camps or Workshops. The programs run for eight weeks from late June to late August and the positions include a starting salary of \$1,500 plus room and board, at our sites in Connecticut, Maine or Wyoming. College-age students may also join the staff at the camps to assist in the kitchen or as maintenance assistants in making the program work. In return, they are provided with an opportunity to participate in the program throughout the summer, room and board, and a salary of from \$600 to \$1,170, depending on the position and camp season.

Interested persons should send their resume to: Philip P. Schaeffer, Executive Director, National Environmental Education Center, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831. Qualified persons who are selected for consideration will receive a detailed job description and application form.

CNMAS DIRECTORY

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

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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

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GREETERS CHAIRPERSON

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

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EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

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CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL

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



New Mexico Audubon Council Directory

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

Secretary

Pat Snider, 2435 C 45th St., Los Alamos, 87544, 662-3530

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. 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

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

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