

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1992

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

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, field trips, and special events.

PROGRAMS

August 20 - HUMMINGBIRDS!!! A slide show and presentation by Dan True, local author. This will be a spectacular first-time-ever show of the 16 species that breed in the U.S. Dan has slides of both males and females in flight and the only photographs of two species! Come and find out which ones they are and learn about hummingbird banding, feeding, and habits. New Mexico is absolutely unique when it comes to hummingbirds. Dan will tell us the secret for the first time!

September 17 - WILD AND NATURAL GARDENS - Where landscapes by nature are undisturbed, they are always beautiful. When we are trying to create a landscape, it is to our advantage to let nature do as much of the work as possible. Come learn how to create beauty and save work at the same time from this slide show and presentation of created natural landscapes by Jim Lewis.

FIELD TRIPS

For updates and last-minute info on all field trips, call Field Trip Chairperson Anne Farley at 266-8510.

Sat.-Sun., August 8-9 - **Magdalena Mtns.**, leaving around noon. Jim Place and I are considering an overnight in the Magdalena Mtns., depending on the interest. We plan to **owl by night** and bird by day, and there will be quite a bit of walking. The road in is dirt and gets a bit rough, but cars have made it in before. There are no camp facilities; this will be a definite wilderness outing. It's a wonderful birding site and has been great in the past this time of year. If you are interested or plan to attend, please RSVP to Anne as soon as possible.

Sat., August 29 - **Grasslands/Bosque del Apache**. Meeting time 7:30 a.m., Yale & Lomas parking lot, NE corner. Always a pleasurable trip is Bosque del Apache. Shorebirds will be the focus this trip. We will stop off at Grasslands either to or from, so bring your spotting scopes and a lunch to munch.

Sat., September 19 - **Hawkwatch trip!** Meet Anne at 8 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center Baskin Robbins. She'll take us "up the mountain" to meet Jim Place, who will once again share his expertise with us. The most common species this time of year are Cooper's Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, and American Kestrel. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, sunscreen and a hat, and bring food and water.



Thursday Morning Birding Group -
For information on Thursday morning outings to nearby areas, call Tamie Bulow at 298-9116.

**THE 1992 NEW MEXICO
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26 & 27 SEPTEMBER 1992
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SUNDAY: BIRD WATCHING TRIP - TBA

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LAS CRUCES, NM 88003 (505) 382-5767 OR 522-8068**



**MORE . . . FIELD TRIPS, EVENTS,
CLASSES**

*Sat., Aug. 15 - "Explore One of the Last Great Places - The Gray Ranch," Field trip by Nature Conservancy. Call 1-988-3867 in Santa Fe to reserve.

*Thurs., Aug. 20 - Lecture

*Sat., Aug. 22 - Workshop

*Sun., Aug. 23 - Workshop

"Wildflower & Nature Photography," held at Rio Grande Nature Center, sponsored by National Wildflower Research Center. Call 344-7240 for details and to preregister.

*Sat., Aug. 22 - "Birds of the Gila," Field Trip by Nature Conservancy to their preserve near Gila, NM. Sign up at 1-988-3867.

*Aug. 27 - Oct. 15: "Let Nature Do The Work - Wild Gardens" -- UNM Continuing Ed Class by Jim Lewis demonstrates methods on how to avoid spading, cultivating, weeding, spraying, fertilizing and lawn mowing; automatic creation of topsoil, 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. The first session is in classroom, with the other sessions in natural gardens and on field trips. Students must attend first class to obtain field trip info. Call 277-CLAS to enroll.

*Sept. 30 - Oct. 5: Natural history river float on the Rio Grande through Boquillas Canyon in Big Bend National Park. This 33-mile, leisurely paced adventure will look at the geology, botany, birds and wildlife of the area. This trip will be guided by professional boaters and a staff member from Randall Davey Audubon Center. Call them in Santa Fe at 1-983-4609 for an itinerary.

*Sept.-Dec. - "Introduction to Ornithology," popular course by Dr. Celestyn Brozek at Albuquerque T-VI Institute. Course focuses on local New Mexican avifauna. Exciting areas of bird biology will be explored in lectures illustrated with numerous slides. In addition, methods of bird observation and identification will be presented during several weekend field trips, including Bosque del Apache NWR. Register at T-VI, 224-3561, or call Dr. Brozek, 262-7155, for info.



Rio Grande Bird Research will begin its Fall banding schedule on Saturday August 1, 1992. The first day will be used to re-establish net sites, clear net lanes, etc. Every day thereafter offers a unique opportunity to learn bird identification "in the hand", so-to-speak. Banding will take place Saturdays and Sundays for the 5 weekends of August. If you are interested in learning, and providing much-needed help, call Steve Cox at 345-2385. Banding is only done twice a year for 1 month, so don't miss this great opportunity to increase your knowledge!

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Hummingbird Music Camp was filled with the sounds of music when Jim Place led our group there on June 13. Among the sightings were Mac-Gillivray's Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and a Dusky Flycatcher on her nest. Our group was very graciously welcomed by Marjorie Swain to her Jemez Mtn. Retreat, where we enjoyed lunch and birding from her back porch. Thanks, Jim and Marjorie, for sharing your time and hospitality!

We extend deepest sympathy to Louise Waldron upon the recent loss of her father. Our thoughts are with you, Louise, and we appreciate your effort in redirecting our field trip in the midst of your family crisis. To Adair and Don Peterson, we thank you for your down-home hospitality, and appreciate the last-minute diversion to your casa.

Sei Tokuda reported a good turnout, both by birds and people, to Capulin Springs on July 18. Both Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds made their appearance, but the show stoppers were two Peregrine Falcons at Kiwanis Meadow. We'll make reservations to show up at your next field trip, Sei!

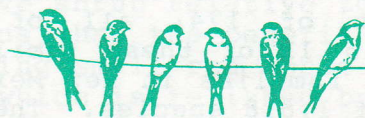
SCOPING FOR SCOPES, RADIOING FOR CBs - Is there an old spotting scope gathering dust in your closet? Perhaps even an old CB radio? These are two items that the chapter would like to acquire to enhance our field trips. For those new to birding, spotting scopes are similar to telescopes and are useful for studying distant birds. CB radios are currently being used by the Santa Fe chapter for communication between cars on field trips.

IF you have a scope or a radio that you'd like to donate, or if you are experienced with either type of equipment (particularly CBs), please contact Dorothy Brethausen (275-6113) or another member of the board -- 10-4!

**SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP, or . . .
ONLY 146 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!**

Our November general meeting is going to be combined with our biggest fund-raising event of the year -- a Holiday Bazaar at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church! We'll have books, gift wrap, T-shirts, baked goods, homemade canned goods, bird collectibles, and stationery for sale -- PLUS -- whatever you'd like to donate! So check those bookshelves, donate those bird-call tapes, pass along the stained glass Bluejay! Any Board member will cheerfully accept your donation.

AND we'll accept your bid! The centerpiece of the Bazaar is a donation by Marjorie Stamm of the 1928, now collector's edition, of Birds of New Mexico by Bailey, published by New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish. We are conducting a silent auction of Marjorie's nostalgic and historic book, with bids starting at a minimum of \$100. We can't thank Marjorie enough for her gift of such a personal and public treasure, and we know that somebody out there will treasure it as much as she has. Send your written bid to any Board member, and do come share the spirit of the season with us in November!



Early Morning Birders! For a treat, listen to KHFM radio, 96.3 FM at 5:55 a.m. to hear bird symphonies brought to you by. . .
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READERS' FORUM

In January newcomer **Betty Davis** happily installed a pole bird feeder in the backyard of her new home near Ladera Golf Course. Saturday morning she had two house finches; wonderful! Saturday afternoon she had 5; ecstasy! Sunday before church, 3 birds; after church, 7 or 8 more. What a success! After running errands Sunday after-noon, she came home to a nearly empty feeder. Wow! Must have been a zillion birds while they were gone!

Monday morning, fix coffee, watch the housefinch on the perch. Drink coffee, and the bird hasn't moved yet. Go to investigate, and guess what? The orangey thing was not a bird -- it was an orange golfball! The errant golfball had broken the side in a perfect circle, exited the base in a perfect circle, and lodged in the tray. All that seed those zillion birds had eaten -- had poured out onto the ground! Welcome to Albuquerque backyard birding!

Martin and Marilyn Ruoss wish CNMAS a Happy Anniversary and say "Thanks for the pleasures of bird-watching!" They were introduced to our birdwatching family in 1970 by Ross Teuber, Jim Karo, Chuck Hundertmark, and Mary Alice Root. Martin reports what their "occasional" birding in two decades has yielded: 131 bird families seen, out of 174; all of the species in 12 of these families; 48 of the families in New Mexico; a total of 1,818 species. They've done birding in 57 countries and with Audubon chapters all over the U.S. We thank you, Martin and Marilyn, for your letter.

Louise Waldron reports Burrowing Owls, prairie dogs, and a pond full of Killdeer and Red-Winged Blackbirds behind the Smith's on Tramway/Central. She also thanks all Auduboners for writing Congress about Three Guns/Tres Pistolas Canyon!

Have you got a copy of the First Edition of the Golden Guide to Birds of North America gathering dust on your shelf? If so, **David Hart** will buy it from you so he can complete his project of flash cards for school children. Call him at (H)344-3743 or (W)277-2223.

EDUCATION, ETC.

Contributed by Marge Carrick

National Audubon has just completed production of its first in a series of "How to Make a Difference" home videos. The first, entitled "Saving Endangered Species," provides a mix of news, instruction, and motivation, plus an environmental "Home Video" exclusive. In fact, NAS is looking for home videos on such subjects as forest destruction, inspiring eco-success stories, endangered wildlife, hazardous waste sites, etc., for inclusion in future videos. To submit your home video or to order this 30-minute program, send \$9.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling to Audubon Video, Box SES, 950 Third Avenue, NY, NY 10022.

A big feathered "thank you" goes to **Edie and Butch Johnson** for their contribution of books, videos, and materials from various wildlife and conservation organizations to our chapter for placement in school libraries. We join in their hope that "these items will further the education of our youth and adults to our urgent need for conservation of our land, animals, and birdlife."

WILDLIFE RESCUE

If you find a sick or injured bird, call 344-2500.

RARE BIRD ALERT

To learn about sightings all over the state or to report a rare sighting, the number in Santa Fe is 662-2101.

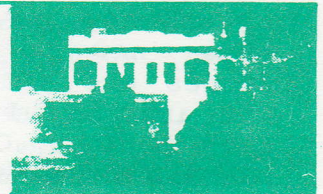
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HAWKWATCHING - SANDIA STYLE
By Eric G. Meyer

It was a slow, rainy day in April at the Sandia HawkWatch site. Above the cliff a Sharp-Shinned was spotted. "It dropped something," exclaimed an observer. Focusing binoculars lower on the cliff, we saw the resident Golden Eagles were cooperatively hunting again. Near enough for all to see, they were after -- a mule deer! The male was chasing it, and when the deer turned, the eagled pulled up for the other to swoop in. The female came in, talons outstretched, and then -- the deer rose up on its hind legs and swung its front hooves at the eagle! The female Eagle pulled up and the deer ran to safety. The eagles hung around for a few minutes and then gave up. Since they're incapable of lifting anything much heavier than a rabbit, we presumed they were trying to scare the deer into taking some false steps over the boulders. So much for a slow day at the lookout!

HawkWatch International logged record numbers this spring for Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks, Swainson's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Peregrine Falcons. They saw migrant Golden Eagles on more days than any other species. They've monitored a large Turkey Vulture increase. And they invite you to participate in their valuable research by becoming a member for only \$25 per year or by "adopting" a wild banded hawk. They invite you to visit the Fall HawkWatch site in the Manzano Mountains, where the Fall Count begins August 25 and continues until November 5. Contact their office at P.O. Box 35706, Alb., NM, 87176-5706, or call 255-7622. CNMAS is proud to support this exciting research, and we encourage any interested members to do so, too.

SANDIA MOUNTAINS, NEW MEXICO: SPRING COUNT 1992			
Total observed hours	600.6	Ferruginous Hawk	12
Total raptors	5,346	Golden Eagle	338
		American Kestrel	275*
		Turkey Vulture	1,785*
Osprey	70*	Merlin	5
Bald Eagle	17	Peregrine Falcon	25*
Northern Harrier	85*	Prairie Falcon	28
Sharp-shinned Hawk	807*	Zone-tailed Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	1050	Unid. Accipiter	201
Northern Goshawk	12	Unid. Buteo	32
Broad-winged Hawk	6*	Unid. Falcon	3
Swainson's Hawk	59*	Unid. Eagle	2
Red-tailed Hawk	389*	Unid. Raptor	142
		* record high count	

HUMMINGBIRDS AND GARDENS

We have a Hummingbird Program and a Natural Landscaping Program coming up, so an article on both is as natural as -- well, a hummer to nectar!



The color red attracts hummingbirds, but any tubular-shaped flower will feed them. Wild-flowers ranging from light pink to deep scarlet and magenta to the blue of the Rocky Mountain Columbine are a good start. Try Pink Wild Snapdragon, Indian Paintbrush, Skyrocket, Toadflax, Scarlet Runner Beans, any of the Penstemon or Beard-tongue species, or even Lupine for a change of color. Turk's Cap or Red Mallow, a native shrub relative to the hibiscus, has the benefit of producing small red apple-like fruit which is relished by numerous birds. Coral Honeysuckle (*lonicera sempervirens*) also produces scarlet berries which attract foraging songbirds. Hummingbird Plant (*Jacobinia carnea*) is an evergreen shrub with dense clusters of crimson tubular flowers. Several of the sages (*Salvia coccinea* or *Salvia greggii*) have the benefit of smelling good to us, too! Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*) will attract two kinds of bejeweled winged creatures. An important aspect of designing a hummingbird garden is to plan for continuous bloom from spring to fall, ensuring an endless supply of nectar for the birds and beauty for you!



CONSERVATION NOTES

By Verne Huser

I'm living in a tipi this summer on private land within Grand Teton National Park. Yesterday I toured Yellowstone National Park. Both experiences lead me to think about national parks and why they were created, what they are for (people or wild things), and how they should be managed.

George Catlin, who went west in 1832 to study the American Indian, first suggested the idea of "a great national park" in which all creatures, including the Indians, would live in harmony with nature. Thoreau also championed the idea two decades later, but it was not until 1872 that Yellowstone was established as our first national park.

There was no national park service in those days. Initially the U.S. Army was in charge. Hunting was allowed, and exploitation of the natural and scenic resources was common. It wasn't until 1916 that the National Park Service was established to protect the park -- and the few others that had been established during the 44 years between -- and their natural and scenic wonders.

But even then there was a mixed message: Protect the parks, their fauna and flora, scenic beauty and natural features, in a manner that would enable the public to enjoy them. A road system had been established through Yellowstone in 1895 by the Army Corps of Engineers. The idea was to make the parks accessible to the public, yet they were to be protected by such means as to preserve them for future generations.

When I first visited the Yellowstone area in the '40s and '50s, I counted between 50 and 60 bear every trip, always a one-day figure-of-8 loop, following the route laid out by Hiram Chittenden in 1895. Bear were plentiful, the black, brown, and cinnamon ones that people fed along the roadside. But the National Park Service was killing bear at the rate of 33 per year in control measures designed to protect the public from the bears. In those days I saw no grizzlies, few bison.

Yesterday the only bear I saw were two grizzlies, a sow and a cub perhaps a mile away, and my son and I had looked long and hard for them, sweeping the hillsides north of Mt. Washburn for more than an hour before we spotted the pair. Our biggest worry was not from bear attack but from the possibility of a bison -- which were abundant -- goring my vehicle as it crept past. Bison and elk have overpopulated since the major predator, the wolf, has been exterminated in the park. The balance of nature has been destroyed here, and ranchers have fought the return of the wolf to Yellowstone as they have the return of the lobo to the Southwest.

However, John Turner, a native of Jackson Hole whose family operates a working and dude ranch within Grand Teton National Park, recently told me that the wolf will return to the area of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the five surrounding national forests. Turner, who heads the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been supported in this statement by his boss, Sec. of the Interior Manuel Lujan, who said it is no longer a question of if, but when the wolf will be reintroduced. We'll wait and see how long it takes.

Meanwhile, a Wyoming rancher has upset his fellow ranchers all over the West. He charges that his herd of purebred beef cattle contracted brucellosis, which causes spontaneous abortion in domestic livestock, from the elk and bison grazing in the national forests. If he wins his suit, which he lost at the lower court level, it could lead to the Forest Service closing the national forests to domestic livestock grazing.

A word about the Yellowstone fires of 1988: The park is full of stark, dead trees, blackened by the fire but still standing, whitening with weather. Yet the vegetation has returned in grasses and forbs, wildflowers more abundant, richer in color and healthier than I've ever seen them, and the wildlife thrives, at least the species that graze and browse: the deer, pronghorns, elk, bison, moose, and beaver. I observed one dramatic event: a cow moose, her hackles raised, drove a huge bull moose into the waters of Yellowstone Lake to protect her calf from the big beast.



BEWARE OF WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Here is a sample of groups that should not be mistaken for environmental organizations:

*Alliance for Environment and Resources. Their number is answered by the California Forestry Association!

*Desert Conservation Institute. Sponsor: the mining industry.

*Environmental Conservation Organization. Their sponsors include the Land Improvement Contractors of America. Their aim: to "allow the creativity of free enterprise to protect true wetlands."

*Information Council for the Environment. Headquartered at Minnkota Power Cooperative, funded by coal and utility companies, its mission is to persuade Congress that global warming is a myth. "We're living in a CO₂ starved environment right now."

*National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition. Their "reform" is to weaken the Act.

*National Wetlands Coalition. This is the group behind current efforts to narrow the definition of wetlands protected by fed regs. Its logo is a duck flying over cattails; its mission is to open more wetlands to development.

*People for the West. Created with the support of the Northwest Mining Assn. to block reform of the 1872 Mining Act.

*Wilderness Impact Research Foundation. Mission: "Educating the public about the damage wilderness causes society, the economy, and even wildlife."

*Two bills in Congress, S2762 and HR5256, known as "Lujan's bills," titled the Northern Spotted Owl Preservation and Northwest Economic Stabilization Act, would amend the Endangered Species Act so the areas of prime owl habitat could be logged and the owl allowed to become extinct in certain parts of its range. Urge your Congressmen to oppose Lujan's bills. Urge support of Rep. Miller's HR4899 and of Leahy's and Adams' ancient forest protection bill.

MUSICAL (BOARD) CHAIRS

We just had installation of officers in May, and already there are changes to report!

John Tyson has resigned as vice-president to devote his considerable energy and enthusiasm full-time to the position of Population/Environment Chair. He also passed on the hat (or in his case, crown, he did it so well) of Program Chair to Shelley Baquet, who indeed is the Heir Apparent, judging by the excellent programs upcoming. Welcome, Shelley, and Thanks, John!

With the vice-presidency being vacant, there is an excellent opportunity for someone to step forward, become active, learn a lot, and help Tamie Bulow, the nicest Chapter president you could ever work with, as well as a very appreciate Board -- call us!

CNMAS DIRECTORY

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

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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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Albuquerque, NM 87102
Regional Director — (505) 766-2321
Refuges and Wildlife — (505) 766-2036
Habitat Conservation — (505) 766-2914

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Villagra Building
Santa Fe, NM 87503
(505) 844-8881

Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Floyd A. Thompson III, District Ranger
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304

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National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

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LOCAL CHAPTER

Central New Mexico Audubon Society


Local Chapter Code — 051

7XCH8

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