

# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY APRIL - MAY 1993 UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

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, field trips, and special events.

### PROGRAMS

April 15 - The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo! Come run the river from the headwaters to the Gulf with oral historian and specialist on the Southwest, Pat D'Andrea. This slide show and inspirational talk will introduce you to many of the peoples, animals and other inhabitants of the river. This river is vital to the life of its region, and Pat has a unique story to share!

May 20 - Audubon's Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper! Potluck at 6:00 p.m. Bring a generous dish to share and your own table service and cups. We will install the new officers and present the Washburn Award.

7:30 p.m. - Two guest speakers: Janice Hartley from the NM Land Use Project will update us on a joint adventure. David Henderson, National Audubon Staff in New Mexico, will report on state and national issues, what's new in the legislature, and exciting plans for the future. Come share, celebrate, and learn!



### TRIP TIPS

Field trips are open to all: members or nonmembers, beginning or experienced birders. Cancellation of a trip due to inclement weather is at discretion of leader. It is never a bad idea to pack a lunch even for half-day trips. Carpooling & ride sharing are encouraged. Check with Anne (266-8510) or field trip leader for field trip status.

# FIELD TRIPS



Sat., April 10 - Baskin & Robbins, Four Hills Shopping Center, Central and Tramway, 8:00 a.m. HawkWatch! Yes, it's time for our spring migrants once again. The Sandia lookout is always a great place to observe birds of prey, including Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Peregrines -- just to name a sampling! Our faithful leader and expert Jim Place will be with us to guide us and answer any questions. Wear layered clothing and sturdy hiking boots for this robust hike up the mountain. Sat., April 24 - Astronomy Building, corner of Yale and Lomas, 7:00 a.m. Water Canyon - one of the better birding spots in central New Mexico and a candidate for "Watchable Wildlife" listing. Join us as Sei Tokuda leads us on an exceptional spring birding outing. Nesting birds include Western Screech, Great-Horned, and Flamulated Owls, Acorn Woodpeckers. Warblers include Townsend's, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's -- just for a start!

Fri., May 7 - Sun., May 9 - Silver City Area - Overnight. We're really excited about this trip, as it is the second overnight birding excursion Anne has planned. Come for all or part of this trip, led by Jim Place, to Silver City and surrounding area. We hope to see Common Black Hawk, Montezuma Quail, Violet-Crowned and Broad-Billed Hummingbird, Gray-Breasted Jay, Bridled Titmouse, Red-Faced Warbler, and much more. We are still working on details for hotel and campground accommodations, so call Jim Place @ 821-5988 to coordinate. You must confirm to attend this trip.

Sat., May 22 - Astronomy Building, Yale and Lomas, 7:30 a.m. Blue Water Lake and Cottonwood Gulch. Cottonwood Gulch is the most thoroughly explored birding spot on the north side of the Zuni Mtns. AT least 56 species have nested here, and several others breed nearby. Bluewater Lake has an abundance of waterfowl and much more. This promises to be an excellent day of birding, led by that excellent birder, Jim Place!

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

### WELCOME BACK!

As Hart Schwarz says, "By the time you read this, hummingbirds all across New Mexico will be contributing their high-energy themosaic of lifestyle tosummer." First to arrive will be followed Broad-tailed, the shortly by the Black-chinned, the two common hummers in our area. encounter You might even а Calliope or a Rufous!

optimize your viewing То enjoyment and to enhance their high-energy diets, use one part four parts water. sugar to Replace with fresh nectar every days, more often in hot 3-5 Clean feeder with hot weather. water at each refill--no bleach! A planting of flowers will be the pièce de résistance for these iridescent jewels!

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.



"A gush of bird song, a patter of dew, A cloud, and a rainbow's warning. Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue, An April day in the morning."

--Harriet Prescott Spofford

### FARTHER AFIELD

INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY April 15 - 18, 1993

The Tucson Audubon Society invites you to the 23rd annual Institute of Desert Ecology. Since 1970, the Audubon Institute Desert Ecology has been a of means of bringing together 60-65 participants and six expert instructors for field studies of the Sonoran Desert. The institute will be held at Catalina State Park, at the base of the Santa Catalina Mtns. One unit of college credit may be earned theFor during sessions. а brochure, write: Tucson Audubon Society, 300 E. University Blvd., #120, Tucson, AZ, 85705.

# THIRD COLORADO PELICAN FESTIVAL

April 24 & 25, 1993 The return of the American White Pelican is a reliable sign of April in Weld County, Colorado. Each spring all eyes scan the skies near reservoirs for these huge gliders. They are North America's largest birds except for theCalifornia Condor. Members of the Greeley Audubon Society, Greeley, Col., want to share these sights with others. So if you're interested in attending third Colorado thePelican Festival write: Greeley Society, 2030 Audubon 44th Greeley, CO, Avenue, 80634. Phone (303)351-0166 or 330-5082.

# GILA BIRD & NATURE FESTIVAL

April 23, 24 & 25, 1993 You can get a list of talks, workshops, tours, and scheduled events for this fun and informative weekend from Beth Hurst, 243-7549; or for more information, contact Myra B. McCormick, Bear Mtn. Guest Ranch, PO Box 1163, Silver City, NM 88061, (505)538-2538.

# HUMMINGBIRD DAY - CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY May 8, 1993

Closer to home, and just in case you can't get away for the Silver City field trip, the Rio Grande Nature Center is featuring a slide show of hummingbirds, hummingbird walks in the Bosque, and a book signing by Dan True, author of <u>Hummingbirds of North</u> America. Phone 344-7240.



### MORE BIRDING

Anne has put together a tantalizing menu of birding trips for April and May, but for you enthusiasts who just can't get enough, we've got just the thing! CNMAS has entered into a cooperative venture with USDA Forest Service/Cibola National Forest to conduct a breeding bird survey in the Sandia Mountains this year. Hart Schwarz will be the lead compiler/coordinator, in conjunction with Beverly de Gruyter, Wildlife Biologist at Cibola 761-4650. The counts Forest, will focus on three areas: Las Cienega, and Bi11 Huertas, Springs (Doc Long).

Hart is looking for a core group of interested volunteers to help with the field work. He plans on reconnaissance and grid layout in late April, will record numbers during migration through Mav, expects the bird census to peak during breeding season in June, and will conduct the final field trips through about mid-July. This is a scientific and structured survey, held in conjunction with the "Partners in Flight" Sometime in the fall, program. CNMAS will use the compiled data educationa1/ to develop some interpretative public displays use at picnic areas for and trails in the Sandias.

If you can participate on a regular basis, including during weekdays, call Hart at 266-1810.

### EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

To celebrate Earth Day, volunteers from CNMAS will be staffing an information booth at Winrock on Saturday, April 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call Tamie, 298-9116, or Shelly, 345-7396, if you can volunteer for an hour or two.

Events will be held citywide through the weekend of April 24 to observe Earth Day, including special celebrations at Rio Grande Nature Center and the City Zoo. Plan to participate in one or all!



INTRODUCING . . . JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU "Rediscovery of the World"

That's the "Who?" When: Saturday, April 17, 3:00 p.m.

Where: Popejoy Hall.

How Much: \$5 to \$18.

From Whom: Popejoy Hall Box Office 277-3121 or Ticket Master at Smith's 884-0999.

Why: In conjunction with Earth Day Festivities.

Jean-Michel Cousteau uses What: breathtaking film footage to focus on the relationship between humans and our ocean environment and to take a fresh look at how impacting humanity is the environment worldwide. Come discover "Rediscovery of the World"!

# SPRING FEVER . . .

is contagious, and if you've got it, come share some with us! That's right, we know that with Spring comes new enthusiasm for new interests, and we're looking for a few good volunteers. Contact Tamie, Jeff, Shelley, or Beth, the Nominating Committee who would love to see <u>your</u> name in the New and Revised CNMAS Directory!!

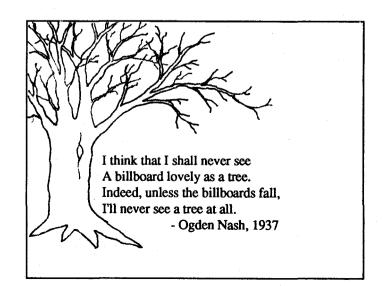


### BABY BIRDS

'Tis spring, and a young bird's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of -- flight! If you find a baby bird, naked or covered only with pinfeathers, the first thing to do is to RETURN IT TO ITS NEST. It is a myth that human handling will cause the parents to reject the baby bird. If it's a nestling and you can't find the nest, construct one, using a margarine tub punctured with drainage holes and lined with tissue. Nail the container to the tree, as close theto nest location as Be sure it will remain possible. shaded and protected as the sun moves.

If the bird is a fledgling (fully feathered, but not able to fly), and uninjured, put the bird back where it was found. Hide it in a bush or surrounding vegetation its natural habitat is best.

If the bird is injured or found in an inhospitable environment, such as the street, call Wildlife Rescue for help. But do think twice before you "rescue" a baby bird -- you may be "kidnapping" it instead!



# SPACE: THE MOST ENDANGERED HABITAT OF PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

### By Hart R. Schwarz (January, 1993)

Although the PNM will be three years old on June 27, it is nevertheless still under siege by internal and external pressures that threaten to diminish the "cultural and natural resources" that are the raison d'etre for its establishment in the first place. Of particular concern to me are the incomparable natural resources within the Monument that informed Native American spiritual life and the rock art that was its expression. Presently PNM is a living shrine, still connected to the natural world, but it is in imminent danger of dying, little by little, as residential communities saturate the perimeter on three sides, while the Double Eagle Airport remains a slumbering behemoth along the western edge, threatening by its expansionist plans not only more noise pollution, but the virtual elimination of corridors necessary to feed the increasingly isolated biological communities within the Monument. Seeing PNM as a future island within a sea of urbanization, should make it obvious that even small disturbances can have a disproportionate effect on the biodiversity of the Monument. Proposed roadways, such as Paseo del Norte which in effect would isolate the Piedras Marcadas Unit, and Park management plans that seek to maximize recreational activities--all would seriously compromise the biological integrity of PNM and leave us with far fewer species in the future than we have at present.

During the past three years I have "birded" the Monument extensively and catalogued ninety-eight bird species, of which about forty nest in or in very close proximity to PNM. Although none of the breeding birds are "endangered" or "threatened," many are, nevertheless, "sensitive," occurring in small numbers and requiring specialized habitats. Government agencies when preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) or merely an Environmental Assessment (EA), need address only the possible impact of their project on federally endangered species in order to be in compliance with federal law. This minimal and perfunctory concession to environmental concerns is no longer adequate today when the number of declining species is far too great to be addressed by the Endangered Species Act. What is urgently needed is the safekeeping of ecosystems, habitats and landscapes that fall within the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and the National Park System, both of which are specifically enjoined to be stewards of the land. Thus, by preserving a variety of unique habitats, the birds and other animals that are inextricably associated with them will have a chance to survive.

An ecosystem well represented at PNM is the extensive mixed-shrub grassland at the base of the escarpment, as well as in the "canyons" and arroyos. Many species utilize this habitat at all seasons, but two breeding species, the Crissal Thrasher and the Loggerhead Shrike, are particularly sensitive in that they require a high degree of density in the vegetative cover, a quality that is easily lost through fragmentation and patterns of frequent disturbance. So far the shrike is doing fairly well on the Monument, but unless its needs are taken into account by Park Service planners, the species could easily fast-forward into local extinction, a phenomenon already documented for many parts of its range.

Just as songbirds require a certain unvitiated minimum for their living space, birds of prey require several thousands of acres for their survival. Already thirteen hawk species have been identified on PNM, seven of which probably nest on or near the Monument. This surprising diversity of raptors, however, cannot be maintained without a management plan that guarantees the birds ample, undisturbed foraging space, especially along the upper and lower margins of the escarpment. Equally important is the protection of nesting sites, actual or potential, such as the sheer cliffs of Mesa Prieta that give mute evidence of previous occupancy by Prairie Falcons and possibly Ferruginous Hawks, the latter species uncommon in New Mexico and inexorably diminishing throughout its range. It was petitioned for "listing" as recently as last year. Collectively, these raptors lend the Monument a certain aura of wilderness that can bring people into a true spiritual connectedness with the place. I've seen that happen numerous times, but particularly memorable was the afternoon of October 24, 1992 when a small group of us was perched atop the mesa above Ladera Wash. Looking towards Mesa Prieta, we witnessed a pair of territorial Prairie Falcons repeatedly diving on a Red-tailed Hawk, but no sooner had the hawk given way than a pair of Golden Eagles materialized, soaring majestically and unmolested above the mesa top. It doesn't get much better than that, but this was yesterday--what about tomorrow?

**CONSERVATION NOTES** - By Verne Huser, with NM Legislative Update by Dave Henderson

State Legislature: The bottle bill once again was defeated. The beverage industry's strong lobby is good at preventing legislatures from doing what the people My best advice is to vote want. with your money for environsound mentally products and packaging.

Two bills supported by so-called wise-use/multi-use groups were the "takings" defeated. Both which legislation. would have inhibited enforcement of environmental laws, as well as the Statelevel effort to thwart the federal Endangered Species Act, were cut off before they ever reached full hearings. Other good news is that a compromise hard-rock mining law was passed!

important Two bills Congress: before Congress will be the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act; and the Wetlands Reform Act (HR-350), which would regulate more wetland-destroying activities, such as drainage, flooding, excavation, dredge-andfill. Also to be considered is legislation requiring greater energy efficiency in numerous electrical appliances; and proposed increases in energy taxes that will encourage conservation as well as the use of alternate resources.

<u>Golf Course Rip-off:</u> What does "Audubon" have to do the name with golf courses? Nothing. This despite the fact that for \$100, an organization called "the Audubon Society of New York State, Inc.," will certify a golf course as "environmentally sound." The National Audubon Society, with which the Central New Mexico Chapter is affiliated, does not certify golf courses and opposes this denigration of its name.

Albuquerque Amphitheater: Even violate it would noise though and existing standards zoning regulations, the County Zoning Commission approved the proposed amphitheater for the West Mesa, I-40 between and Petroalyphs National Monument. FOTAP plans the decision at to appeal an appeal hearing in late April, which should be open for public Keep posted through comment. coverage partinewspaper and cipate in the process--if you are interested in making the system work!

Mayoral Race: CNMAS has drafted letter to Mayoral candidate, a Sen. Marty Chavez, opposing his that would have provided plan million to purchase \$1.5 land Petroqlyphs. within Whv? Because the moneys would not be if anyone sued available to prevent Paseo del Norte's going through the Monument. We oppose this political maneuvering of holding the Monument hostage.



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"The worst thing that can happen-not will happen--is energy economic depletion, collapse, limited nuclear war, or conquest by a totalitarian government. As terrible as these catastrophes would be for us, they can be within a few repaired generations. The one process ongoing in the 1980s that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us." --E.C. Wilson, ecologist, Harvard University

Part V By Ross L. Teuber

Our last installment left us in muddy roads and poor weather conditions, forcing cancellation of the Christmas Bird Counts in both Sevilleta CBC areas for the last three years. The saga continues:

One of the techniques we decided to implement for the Christmas Bird Counts was to establish two 25-mile survey routes similar to those used by the Fish & Wildlife Service for the National Breeding Bird Surveys. We planned to use these not only for Spring counts, but periodically throughout the year.

It would seem a simple task, on an area as large as the Sevilleta, to locate and establish one 25-mile route on each of the two large divisions of the refuge. However, many possible routes were explored before we were able to settle on locations which included as many as possible of the various habitats, and which conformed as nearly as possible to the rules for establishing Breeding Bird Survey Routes.

In addition, we decided to make regular visits to at least several of the permanent waters, both wells with windmills and springs. All of this took up most of our time during the first two or three years of the project. Of course, we kept track of all of our bird observations on each trip and developed a system for keeping computerized records.

Somewhere along the line we started making an occasional trip to Bosque del Apache to get some idea of how bird occurrence there compared with our observations on the Sevilleta. Eventually this worked into spending half of our time on each refuge. But that is another long story.

During that time Dr. DeBoer left the project, and Pat Basham joined the activities. She has exceptionally good "ears" and can readily identify most local bird species. From time to time, one or the other of us could not be there on our scheduled days and Paul Steel would fill in.

By the end of the fourth year we had identified and verified the occurrence of about 160+ species of birds on the Sevilleta and prepared a tentative checklist with indications of season and frequency of occurrence. The project had been changed from a permit basis to a volunteer basis, and I was doing some other things on my field trips, relative to refuge management activities, besides out-and-out bird observation.

It has been learned that some species of birds occur on a very regular and predictable basis, but some have been seen only once or very few times over the eight years this study has been going on. Over the years the bird list continues to grow. In late 1990 a tentative checklist of 189 verified and 12 unverified species of birds was prepared. This list was published in the NMOS Bulletin, Vol. 19, No. 1, March 4, 1991. It was further revised, and new species observed during the years were added. The new list containing 217 species was published the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in March 1992. A list of this sort is never static; observations have been continued, and the list is currently being revised and updated. As of this writing, the list is now up to 229 species, 22 more than it was originally thought might occur there.

Other people have recently done some related studies. Between 1989 and 1991 William H. Baltosser did a study of the Birds of the Bernardo and LaJoya State Wildlife Refuges. Since the narrow neck of alienated land where the LaJoya Refuge is located extends southwards between the two major portions of the Sevilleta, many of his findings are applicable to the Sevilleta. Also in connection with the LTER program, mentioned earlier in this series, Greg Farley has been doing some more intensive investigation on several smaller areas within the refuge. To date, his data and mine seem to pretty well confirm and complement each other.

So endeth this Saga of the Sevilleta. Much remains to be learned and reported.

(Thanks, Ross, for such an interesting and personal insight into this alluring area! We'd be glad to "publish" you any time!)



NO QUETZAL By Katherine B. Hauth

Although I was in Costa Rica in April, one of the best months for spotting the quetzal, I did not. And I didn't mind, for my experience was full.

I'm not a hardcore birder who readily distinguishes among hawks, sparrows and gulls, and so I was delighted that a Pacific Coast flourish of blue tail garnished with a crest that looked sort of like a jay, sort of like a magpie, turned out to be a white-throated Likewise, magpie jay. the impressive, larger-than-a-hawk, smaller-than-an eagle on the fence post of a cattle ranch was, in fact, a hawk-eagle. (Without Stiles and Skutch's A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica, I couldn't make specific identification.)

Encouraged that my meager store of identification clues had been successful, I proceeded to jot down the characteristics of birds by day. Each night I tried to identify my delightful companions. Even though a Pacific Coast local said I couldn't have seen a stork, consultation with Birds of Costa Rica Locational Checklist, which I picked up at Traveler's Store in San Jose, confirmed that indeed I could and had seen a wood stork. I was beginning to feel my oats --excuse me, birdseed.

With a guide at Carara Biological Reserve on the Pacific Coast, I was able to see (long after hearing their raucous calls in the jungle canopy) a pair of scarlet About 1,000 survive in macaws. Costa Rica, the result of strong preservation effort similar to our work to save the spotted owl. Their survival is fragile because they produce only one egg every other year, and their daily trip

to the mangrove swamp for salty vegetation leaves unfledged young vulnerable to poachers.

Although colorful birds abound, Costa Rica's national bird is the relatively nondescript claycolored robin. Whether true or not, I heard that this selection was made by a botanist.

favorites One of my was Montezuma's Oropendola, whose presence was announced by a flash of yellow tail (I never was close enough to see its distinguishing cheek patch), exaggerated blue oriole-type nest high in jungle trees, or its liquid, gurgling song that bubbled up the scale, then down. My other favorite was the orange-collared manakin, which is exclusive to this part of the The mating call of a group world. of males as they jump from branch to branch in a circular or triangular pattern sounds like ъ string of miniature firecrackers exploding.

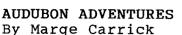
No matter what your avian preference, you're likely to find much to enjoy among Costa Rica's 850 species that represent ten percent of the world's bird population. Nature tours that educate have become popular. Among them, Horizontes Nature Adventures offers a 10-day course called Bird <u>Watching</u> in <u>Costa</u> <u>Rica</u> for <u>Beginners</u>, led by top naturalfor ists, augmented by field trips and slides. It's usually offered in May, the mating and nesting season for many species.



"The world's favorite season is the spring.

All things seem possible in May." --Edwin Way Teale

### THE BURROWING OWL



The current popular bumper sticker decries, "Education cuts don't heal." Your direct contribution to Audubon Adventures is a way to promote and impact education now that will make a difference later --environmental awareness in our children.

Last year we made AA available to 35 classrooms. Now is the time to sponsor a classroom for a child, grandchild, or friend for 1993-94. Just a small amount can make such a big difference! Thank you!

Please make your check payable to CNMAS and send with form to: Marge Carrick 808 Dakota, SE Albuquerque, NM 87108



Enclosed please find my check for \$ (Each \$30 will sponsor one classroom in the Audubon Adventures Program. Any amount you contribute will benefit our educational activities.)

I choose to designate

Elementary/Middle School for my sponsorship (designation is optional).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_

Population/Environment From Our Chair, Dr. Tyson:

Wednesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m. -(Population PEN meeting Network NM) Environment at. Bernalillo County Health Dept., 1111 Stanford, N.E. (across from the Law School use south entrance). The speaker will be the New Director of UNM Communications Dept., who has worked Communication with Population International, a group which has used radio/TV soap-type programs to help increase acceptance of family successful planning, especially in Mexico, Kenya, and Brazil.

### EAGLES IN NEW MEXICO

Bill Montova, According to Director of the Department of Game Fish, the annual survev of 2 wintering bald eagles in New Mexico shows a 58 percent increase over the 1992 count and is second only to the 1990 record of 512 The aerial surveys bald eagles. include seven areas that comprise much of the bald eagle's winter areas, including Ute Lake, Conchas Reservoir, Santa Rosa, Elephant Butte and Caballo, the Chama River Espanola and between Heron Reservoir, and the Las Vegas to The New Mexico Maxwell area. surveys were flown Jan. 12-15 in with theNational conjunction Wildlife Federation's annua1 census of bald eagles in the lower 48 states.



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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.

 $\Box$  My check for \$20 is enclosed

# NAME \_

ADDRESS \_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_ Please make all checks payable to the national Audubon Society

Local Chapter Code — Q51 7XCH8

Use the above form for new subscriptions only. Contact Membership Chairperson for changes of address or corrections in your Burrowing Owl label. Nonmembers can receive the Burrowing Owl by sending your name and address with \$10 to CNMAS, c/o Beth Hurst, 1260 Rosemont, N.W., 87104.

### Dear Fellow Club Members:

The form below enables our club to benefit when you purchase a new subscription to Bird Watcher's Digest. The terms are as follows: for every new one-year regular or gift subscription at \$17.95, we'll receive \$9.00; for a new two-year subscription (\$29.95) we get \$15.00; a new three-year subscription (\$39.95) nets us \$20.00. Simply fill out this form, and send it with your payment (and the name of our club — see the line provided) to Bird Watcher's Digest. What better way to give a nice gift (to yourself or someone you know) and help us finance our future projects!

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0	One Yaar (6 issues) \$17.95	Marietta, OH 45750 Plesse enter my subscription to Bird Watcher's Digest	The second second
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