

# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 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.

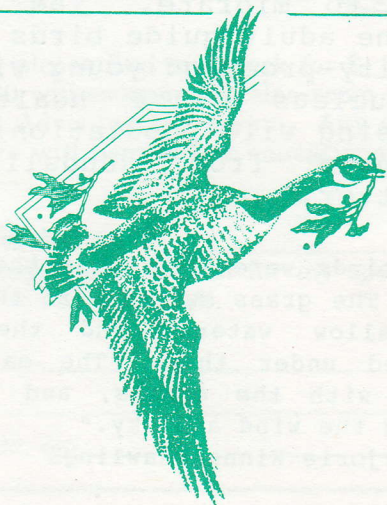
## BE SURE TO VOTE ON OCTOBER 5

That's when Albuquerque residents will have an opportunity to vote on a 2¢ gasoline tax which will be used to improve bus service, streets, and commuting and recreational trails. The tax would take effect on March 1, 1994.

Half of the tax will go to transit services -- more frequent service; capital investment in Sun Vans; bike racks on buses; bike storage lockers, etc. One-quarter will help fund pothole repairs. One-quarter of the tax will construct and maintain a network of off-road trails through the city and a better system for commuter cyclists.

Benefits: Less air pollution from gridlocked cars, trails for people to hike for health, energy conservation from reduced use of cars. This equals a bargainload of benefits!

2¢ MAKES SENSE!



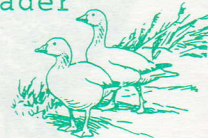
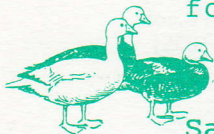
## PROGRAMS

Oct. 21: **Environmental Education Round-Up!!** Come learn what's happening in our community to educate our youth about the environment. This triple-header features a presentation by the award-winning **Talking Talons Youth Leadership Program**; a talk and slides by **Mia Pisano**, our **Wyoming Camp Scholarship winner**, telling how she imparts what she learned at camp to her students at Eugene Field Elementary School; and an explanation of environmentally-oriented programs implemented throughout APS by the Public Schools' **Science and Environmental Expert, Terry Dunbar**. Education from A to Z!

Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.: **HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND HUMMINGBIRDS!** What better nectar to lure you to our annual fund-raising bazaar than **DAN TRUE**, presenting new slides of dazzling hummingbirds, unpublished in his book (which, of course, he'll be glad to autograph for you!) **PLUS**, there will be tables of goodies, from books to baked goods, from art to stationery (birds can't spell!) Come early and enjoy this sparkling Holiday Program!

## 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. October 30** - Get a sneak preview of Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, Whooping Cranes. See Wild Turkey, Bald and Golden Eagles, Hawks, Pheasants, and more -- at **Bosque del Apache!** Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Astronomy & Physics Bldg. parking lot, N.E. corner of Yale and Lomas.

**Sat. November 13** - Rosy Finch, Pine Grosbeak, and maybe a dusting of snow -- that's what we'll look for in the **Sandia Mountains**, under the leadership of **Sei Tokuda**. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Baskin & Robbins, Tramway & Central. Dress warm, bring food!

## A MARATHON OF EVENTS

**Oct. 15, 16, 17:** **New Mexico Audubon Council Conference** in Silver City at Western NM University. The Council is a coordinating body for the chapters in NM. The theme of this year's statewide conference is Endangered Species, Threatened Habitats, hosted by SW New Mexico Audubon Society, PO Box 1473, Silver City, 88062. (505)538-9672.

**Oct. 23 and 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** **Birds of a Feather Weekend** at Rio Grande Nature Center. Featuring bird seed sale, nature walks, live educational birds, bird banders, Dan True on Hummingbirds and Geni Krolich on feeding and attracting birds. Our chapter will be identifying birds in the pond room. Call RGNC at 344-7420 or Anne Bancroft at 822-8536 for info.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Like opening a present early, here's a sneak preview of tentative dates for this year's **Christmas Bird Counts:**

- Albuquerque - Dec. 19  
Hart Schwarz - 266-1810
- Bosque del Apache - Dec. 18  
Steve & Nancy Cox - 345-2385
- Sandia Mountains - Jan. 2  
Tamie Bulow - 298-9116
- Blue Water Lake  
Steve Ingraham - 1-863-4751
- Sevilleta  
Ross Teuber - 265-8962



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN WHOOPING CRANE PROGRAM IN FLUX

While the population of whooping cranes that migrates each year from Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas continues to increase, now numbering 136, up from a low of 16 in 1941, the population that winters in Bosque del Apache continues to decline. Only eight cranes remain!

Currently, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is rethinking the project. One idea is to discontinue the cross-fostering program (the placing of whooping crane eggs in sandhill crane nests, allowing the sandhills to raise the young whooper chicks), and instead use the remaining whooping cranes as guide birds to teach young whoopers bred in captivity to migrate. The hope is that the adult guide birds and the captivity-produced young will form the nucleus of a healthy and increasing wild population. (Reprinted from Randall Davey newsletter.)

"Magic birds were dancing in the mystic marsh. The grass swayed with them, and the shallow waters, and the earth fluttered under them. The earth was dancing with the cranes, and the low sun, and the wind and sky."

--Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

## A POTPOURRI OF BIRDS IN THE CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

Sponsored by the Rio Grande Nature Center (344-7240) and led by Hart R. Schwarz (266-1810)

Three all-day Saturday field trips and one overnight weekend trip will be conducted in four different mountain ranges on the Cibola National Forest. Call for fee info, registration, and meeting times and places.

Sat., Oct. 9 - Pine Shadow Spring in Upper Priest Canyon of the Manzanos

Sat. and Sun., Oct. 16 & 17 - A Weekend Trip to the Zuni Mountains

Sat., Oct. 23 - Copper Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains

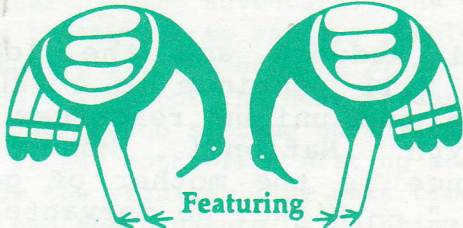
Sat., Oct. 30 - Three Gun Spring Canyon in the Sandia Mountains

**Socorro**

BOSQUE DEL APACHE  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

## FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

Come and visit New Mexico's largest and oldest Wetlands Refuge, winter home to ten thousand Sandhill Cranes, thirty thousand Snow Geese and the endangered Whooping Cranes. See Wild Turkey Flocks, Bald and Golden Eagles, Hawks, Pheasants and many species of wild ducks and other native wildlife.



Featuring

Donald and Lillian Stokes

Authors: Stokes Backyard Nature Books

George Archibald

Director of the International Crane Foundation

Gary Froehlich

Birder and Photographer of the Southwest

**Join Us! November 18 - 21, 1993**

### REFUGE TOURS

Birdwatcher's Lookouts • Wildlife Photography  
Native Plants Conservation • Nature Workshops  
Arts and Crafts • Wildlife Demonstrations

Call or Write:

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES  
P.O. Box 743 Socorro, NM 87801  
Telephone (505) 835-0424

Funded through city of Socorro Lodgers Tax  
Presented in cooperation with:



U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Forestry Dept.

Call Tamie Bulow (298-9116) to volunteer at our Waterfowl Viewing Tent Sat. & Sun.

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR -- HOLIDAY RAFFLE Not just another chance to go shopping!

At CNMAS, we have fun, but our goal is serious -- educate, advocate, appreciate. Look at our budget, and you'll see financial support of Hawk Watch International, FOTAP, Randall Davey, Talking Talons, conservation legislative efforts in NM -- plus lots more! And don't forget our in-house expenses -- our annual Washburn Award, Camp of the West Scholarship, printing and mailing this newsletter. These are all good reasons for fund raising -- but you want to know the best reason of all? Because it's FUN!

That's why we hope you'll join us on November 18 for our very special Holiday Bazaar and Celebration. Come for the fun of it, come for the society of it, come because you like to shop, come for the birds -- but do come!

And then -- or even better, now -- snatch up those raffle tickets for chances at some sumptuous prizes:

**1st Prize** - Bausch & Lomb 7x26 Custom Compact Binoculars, endorsed by NAS and rated the best compact by Birders' Digest -- a \$370 retail value!

**2nd Prize** - A Deluxe, Super, Top-of-the-Line Feeder for all your feathered friends, plus bird seed for the hungry ones!

**3rd Prize** - Matted photo of Bald Eagle by famed naturalist photographer, Phil Sonier.

Look for the coupon to order raffle tickets by mail -- and while you're doing that, fill out your order for holiday stationery and cards! But even better, come see us in November -- a bird in the hand, you know!

"October might be called a god of travel, if we were to fashion a new mythology; for now come perfect days to get out and wander the hills and valleys of the latitudes."

--Hal Borland



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jeff Myers

Working for the environment is like practicing law -- years of hard work can be required to see positive results, and diligence is mandatory to maintain what has been accomplished.

A good example is Petroglyph National Monument, which both the local chapter and the National Audubon Society helped bring to fruition. Of course, nearly all the credit deserves to go to Ike Eastvold, President of the Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs (FOTAP). Brock Evans, National Audubon's VP for National Issues, wrote the following to Ike about four years ago (October 1989):

"I remember when you first approached me about all this, about two years or so ago. It seemed to me then like a very important and worthy idea -- but an awful long shot . . . . But you showed the greatest initiative, drive, and perseverance; you put together a powerful and strong coalition, roused your city, got the attention of your congressional delegation, and moved everything so far and so fast that now we are on the verge of a great victory."

That victory came, with President Bush's signature to establishing legislation in June 1990. "But all too often," in the words of Hart Schwarz in October 1990, "a step forward is nullified by going two steps backward as development inexorably pushes ahead like a juggernaut." The City of Albuquerque began pushing to drive Paseo del Norte through the Monument's volcanic escarpment, which would effectively destroy the ecological cohesiveness of the northern, Piedras Marcadas, area of the monument, eliminating usable habitat for the wintering Rock Wren, the Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, the Great Horned Owl, the Canyon Wren, and the Canyon Towhee, and foraging area for the Chihuahuan Raven, Prairie Falcon, and Northern Harrier. Obviously,

religious practices by Native Americans in Piedras Marcadas Canyon (which has the highest density of petroglyphs in the monument) would also become impossible. Tamie Bulow and Verne Huser worked tirelessly to emphasize to City government the unique ecological nature of the Monument.

Fortunately, the National Park Service, being possessed of better sense than the City, determined that extension of Paseo del Norte through the monument could have no legitimate park purpose. A major purpose of the park, according to the enabling legislation, is "to protect . . . the cultural and natural resources of the area from urbanization and vandalism." But elements in City government continue to push for the road, despite existence of reasonable alternatives which better suit projected population growth in Rio Rancho, and despite a conclusion by the City Attorney, David Campbell, that the road would be illegal in view of the determination by the National Park Service (a position he is now squirming to rewrite).

National Audubon and the local chapter will continue to work to preserve the unique resources of Petroglyph National Monument. "Diligence is the mother of good fortune." -- Miguel de Cervantes.

P.S. A million thanks to T.B. ("Thursday Birder") for the years of effort she put into being chapter President and for organizing a mass of information well, to the benefit of the chapter and future Presidents.



## 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.

\*\*\*\*\* CHAPTER FUNDRAISER \*\*\*\*\*

ORDER BEAUTIFUL RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS THROUGH CNMAS! ORDER BY OCTOBER 15, THEN PICK UP AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

GIFTWRAP (4 oversized sheets per pkg., 20 sq. ft.) \$3.50 each package



5503 Forest



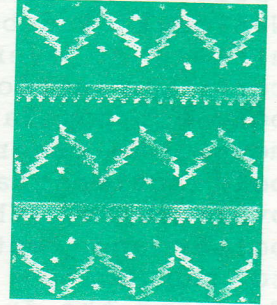
5504 Constellations



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5120 Waxwings  
Inside: Best wishes for a beautiful holiday season



5123 Swans  
Inside: Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of happiness



5182 Forest Friends  
Inside: Celebrate nature's magic this joyous holiday season



5151 Peaceful Desert  
Inside: And goodwill to all creatures



5129 Solstice Owl  
Inside: Celebrate the Seasons, Celebrate Life

Enter number of packages desired by each design number. Complete the total package amounts and dollar amounts; make checks/money orders payable to CNMAS. Mail order blank and payment to : CNMAS HOLIDAY, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002. Must be mailed by October 15th, and orders will be available for pick-up at the November meeting.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

GIFTWRAP: 5503 \_\_\_\_\_ 5504 \_\_\_\_\_ 5505 \_\_\_\_\_ 5521 \_\_\_\_\_ 5589 \_\_\_\_\_

CARDS: 5120 \_\_\_\_\_ 5123 \_\_\_\_\_ 5182 \_\_\_\_\_ 5151 \_\_\_\_\_ 5129 \_\_\_\_\_

# pkgs. giftwrap \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK IN OCTOBER

By John Tyson

We share excerpts from the Open Letter to President Clinton from Peter A.A. Berle, President of National Audubon:

"Dear President Clinton: The National Audubon Society has a history of over 20 years of concern and action on the linkages between population and environment. We congratulate you on the bold actions taken with regard to overturning the "Mexico City" policy and restoration of funding to the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation . . .

"The time has come for the United States to articulate a national policy on U.S. population growth and natural resource use. Rapid population growth and overconsumption of natural resources, particularly in the United States and other industrialized countries, exacerbates environmental degradation and undermines all efforts to improve the quality of life worldwide. The United States has the fastest growing population, the highest teenage pregnancy rate, and the highest rate of unintended pregnancies of any industrialized nation . . .

"The chief criticism of developing countries during the 1992 Earth

Summit was that the developed countries of the North are consuming the resource base. Although we comprise only 5 percent of the world's population, the United States uses one-third of the world's nonrenewable resources. We consume one-quarter of the gross planetary production of goods and services. The average U.S. citizen uses up to 300 times as much energy as a citizen of Bangladesh and produces 52 tons of garbage over a lifetime. Defined in new terminology, consumption overpopulation is threatening the global environment. It also threatens the U.S. environment.

". . . Reproductive health, urbanization, teenage pregnancy, growth management, energy and water conservation, and immigration are just a few critical issues. . .

"At the 1994 United Nations International Conference on Population and Development, the United States has an opportunity to regain global leadership in population by providing increased assistance for international population and family planning assistance. We also can set an example by adopting our own population and natural resource policy which addresses our national sustainability and our contribution to the global community."

You're a winner! I'm a winner!

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ book(s) of tickets @ 6 chances for \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me 1 chance for \$1 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about selling books of chances to my friends \_\_\_\_\_

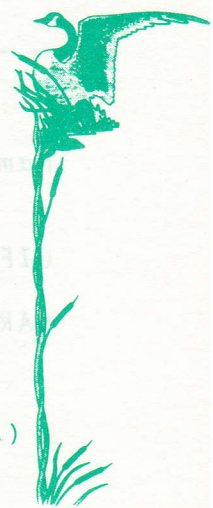
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Drawing will be held in January 1994. Winners need not be present to win.)

Special thanks to Frank at Bausch & Lomb and Geni at Wild Birds, Unlimited, for their support and generosity in contributing toward our Raffle Prizes!





THE THURSDAY BIRDERS SAGA - PART III  
 BIRDER NIRVANA  
 By Tamie Bulow



All of a sudden, things started happening. The temperature dropped drastically, the wind kicked up, the sky to the north turned black, and the birds were everywhere! We took this as our cue to race back to High Island for birder nirvana: a fallout!

We arrived at Audubon Woods at 5:30 p.m. and spent the next hour and a half in ECSTASY. Over 35 species of color dropped in during that time period, thanks to that "norther." We were dazzled by the Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Gold-winged, Northern Parula, Cerulean, Blue-winged, Worm-eating, Tennessee, Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian Warblers; redstarts, orioles, tanagers, buntings, ovenbirds, and thrushes aplenty! Not only could we not look fast enough, but when we did look, there were three or four colorful little birds in each binocular! Josephine was too excited to even use her binos, as the naked eye was good enough to take in the spectacle.

Did I forget to mention the Veery, White-eyed Vireo and Kentucky Warbler? Or the Louisiana Waterthrush? There were some professional tour guides there aiding their groups with spotting, and Dan and I saddled up next to them to find that Cerulean. Their identifications sweetened the experience, which has to be the highlight of my birding career to date. We were more frenzied than the birds.

Another bird rumor had it that Hudsonian Godwits were seen along Highway 1985, which was all it took for us to load up and go. Yes, we saw both Godwits, Solitary Sandpipers, Red Knots and Dunlins, Whimbrels and Dowitchers. We resumed our visit to Anahuac to see King Rail, Sora, Tree Swallows galore, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Boat-tailed Grackle, and plenty of 'gators. Jean Dilley and Joanne saw their six Black-bellied Whistling Ducks standing on posts.

We enjoyed running into Les Hawkins and his birding buddies, just beginning their annual birding adventure. The first time we bumped into each other, we were on our way to the car to eat our picnic lunch. While eating, some friendly British birders casually pointed out the Black-billed Cuckoo in the tree across the street. I didn't know our Thursday Birders could move so fast! We had earlier seen the Yellow-billed Cuckoo sitting on a Blue Jay's nest, or a jay sitting on the cuckoo's nest, as we saw both birds sitting atop the same nest at various times. Only locals will know the results. The next time we ran into Les was just after we saw the Anis, so we had the pleasure of pointing out a life bird to Les, who already has a pretty healthy lifelist. (As if Les cannot get enough, he is off to bird the Tahoe area with his college birding chum.)

A favorite spot was San Luis Pass for wonderful looks at Skimmers, Forster's, Least, Sandwich, Royal and Caspian Terns, plus a real tired flock of Roseate Terns. The Red Knots and Dunlin were plentiful, both White and Brown Pelicans, Clapper Rail, Marbled Godwits, Black-bellied Plovers, hundreds of Avocets, all the egrets (including a white phase Reddish Egret), Semi-p's and Piping Plovers. Mary Lou and Marge both remarked how they enjoyed being able to study and compare all the shorebirds here -- they were very cooperative, for the most part.

On our way to Sportsman's Road, we finally found a Long-billed Curlew, walking along the seventh fairway of Pirate's Cove Golf Course. The ponds along Stewart Road gave us marvelous looks at Mottled Ducks, Roseate Spoonbills, Black-neck Stilts, both Cormorants, White-faced Ibis, Black-shouldered Kites, Yellowlegs, and White Ibis. A Common Nighthawk was resting atop a fence post, and the Upland Plover in the farmer's field were fun.

(Tune in next time, Folks, for the conclusion, but not the end, of the Thursday Birders' Saga!)



## THE BARN OWLS OF TORRANCE COUNTY

By Sharyl Holden



July is a special time here on the ranch. I know the first week of July will bring a call from Jean Dilley: "Are the Barn Owls there this year? Can we come see them?" My answer is an enthusiastic "Yes!"

To me, as a youngster, The Barn was a mystical place. Built in the late '30's, the adobe and tin barn towered 30 feet in the air and some 20x40 in size. It had been a youngster's "secret place." It was a place to hide and dream of growing up.

In 1990, the barn seemed such a waste. It was over a mile away from the house, which made it unwise to store our hay there. Snows made the mile-long trek inaccessible. We also could not use it for animals, as there was no water. The old well had dried up years before, and the windmill had weathered into a dilapidated tower. We had often talked about moving the barn closer to the house, but money, time, and effort had never been available at the same time. So there the barn sat, a mute testament to the days of homesteading and better times.

In June of 1990, my husband Butch had loaded up his truck with some old refrigerators and appliances that had been given to us. Though it was unsafe to store valuables at the barn, there was no reason we couldn't store junk. The old pickup had groaned and bounced its way over the pasture road that led to the old barn on the hill. The three old elm trees were green, not thriving, surviving their lonely vigil. Butch backed up to the 15-foot door on the north side. He got out, glancing around carefully. Every trip in years past had produced at least one rattlesnake.



The old doors squealed in protest as they slid open. Butch stepped inside, still watching the ground. There were hundreds of funny-looking pellets scattered on the floor.

A nearly silent thud drew his attention to the rafters. He stood in awe as seven birds dared him to enter their domain. The majestic Barn Owls were nearly silent as they flew from one end of the barn to the other. He watched for several minutes before turning and closing the door. The small barn on the west side would provide more than adequate storage.

When Butch got home, he was excited. We gathered up the two kids and drove back up. The sight was breathtaking. We called the Albuquerque Chapter of the Audubon Society. "What kind of owls are they?"

Jean knew by our amateur description of white and light tan with heart-shaped faces. "They're Barn Owls. This is exciting. Would you mind if we come to see them?"

Of course not. They were meant to be shared.

It was early August before the tour could be arranged. We opened the door, prepared for the ooohs and aaahs of our visitors, only to find . . . nothing! They had "flown the coop."

Since then, the tours have been in late July. This year, because of the drought, there were only two owlets with a parent. But even three owls are a breathtaking sight.

One of the old elm trees is the home of a family of Swainson's Hawks. The huge nest would make a comfortable bed for our youngest child, now two.



I have been up twice during these past two weeks of early August. The hawks are usually on the windmill tower, seemingly guarding the owls' sanctuary.

The hawks will be migrating soon. The owls will be left in peace. Except for one snake skin we found on this year's tour, I have not seen a sign of a snake up there since the owls moved in. They are more than welcome to live there undisturbed -- at least until next July when Jean calls and we go up to see next year's version of the Torrance County Barn Owls.

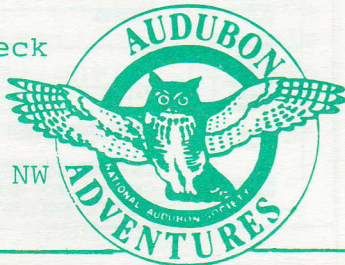
You all come. We look forward to seeing you.

**YOUR CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION -- VIA AUDUBON ADVENTURES!**

Our 1993-1994 drive for funds to support Audubon Adventures program in our local schools resulted in contributions for sponsoring 40 classrooms!

Now we must plan for 1994-95. You can help with this important project by sponsoring a classroom with a \$30 tax-deductible donation. By doing so, you will be helping environmental education grow in a successfully proven way!

Please make your check payable to CNMAS & send with form to: Ron Waitz  
804 Guadalupe Cir., NW  
Alb., NM 87114



THE FAR SIDE - LARSON



"Oh God, George! Stop! ... Stop the car! I've got another migration headache!"

CNMAS DIRECTORY

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(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  
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**New Mexico Office**  
David Henderson  
Randall Davey Audubon Center  
PO Box 9314  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 983-4609

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
500 Gold Avenue, SW  
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  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 841-8881

Sandia Ranger District  
US Forest Service  
Floyd A. Thompson III, District Ranger  
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### Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Local Chapter Code — Q51

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