

# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
DECEMBER 1993 - JANUARY 1994  
UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HANUKKAH! JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

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.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

This year marks the 94th anniversary since 27 conservationists decided to protest the traditional bird shoot, and instead of shooting birds, they counted them on Christmas Day 1990. Today, volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda the West Indies will count and record every bird and bird species they see in one calendar day. More than 1600 individual Christmas Bird Counts will be held during a 2 1/2 week period. Besides being fun, social, sporting, and competitive, the annual count reveals interesting scientific data on the distribution patterns of various bird species and the overall health of the environment.

## LOCAL COUNT

You're invited to take part in the count; Society membership is not necessary. Amateur birders are welcomed; expert birders will be leading all groups. The counters travel together, and the compiled information is sent to American Birds for compilation and publication. A fee of \$5 per participant is charged to cover cost of publication. Plan to join us, and contact one or more of our Count leaders:

\*Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro, NM  
Sat., Dec. 18. Contact: Steve & Nancy Cox, 345-2385  
Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 7:00 a.m.

\*Albuquerque  
Sun., Dec. 19. Contact: Hart Schwarz, 266-1810  
Meet at Corrales Shopping Center  
NW corner of Coors & Alameda, 7:15 a.m.

\*Sevilleta NWR  
Fri., Dec. 17 (5 Points) and Tues., Dec. 21 (West Side)  
Leader: Ross Teuber. Contact: Refuge Manager, 1-864-4021

\*Sandia Mountains  
Sun., Jan. 2, 1994. Contact: Tamie Bulow, 298-9116  
Meet at Pete's Mexican Restaurant, 7:30 a.m.  
(North Hwy. 14, one-half mile north of Sandia Crest turnoff)

\*Bluewater Lake, Zuni, New Mexico  
Date to be announced. Contact: Steve Ingraham, 1-863-4751

Plan on an all-day outing, rain or shine, blue or blizzard. Wear warm layered clothing, bring food and water, and JOIN THE FUN!



## PROGRAMS

DEC. 9 (A week early): CHRISTMAS COUNT POTPOURRI - Not just for Christmas Bird Counters, this program is for those of us who can't count, featuring tips on how to tell a Raven from a Crow AND how many of each were in that "big bunch" that just flew over. Of course, stir in some zesty flavor from our Count leaders to make just the right recipe for this pre-Christmas (Count) program!

JAN. 20: NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE: Presenter Dayton Moltzen will delight your senses with his visual and audio travelogue through Alaska, Canada, Montana, and Wyoming. A famed wildlife photographer, Dayton specializes in everybody's favorites -- the fuzzy, furry, and frisky babies!



## PROGRAMS

Sat., Jan. 8 - "A Celebration of Eagles" at Cochiti Lake! Bring food, dress warm, and come early for this annual excursion to Cochiti to see the Bald and Golden Eagles staging for their trip North. Jim Place, active member of both HawkWatch International and Audubon, will lead this joint trip of members from both organizations -- a winning combination! Meet Jim at 5:45 a.m. sharp at Far North Theater, San Mateo & Academy.

Sat., Feb. 5 - "The Last Hurrah." Just one more trip to Bosque del Apache as our migrant visitors get restless. Meet at 6:00 a.m. in front of the Physics & Astronomy Building at Yale and Lomas. Plan on lunch at Owl Bar before we return home. Call Anne to confirm (266-8510).

"Now days are short, nights long and raw,  
With pinching frost, and slabby rain and snow;  
But let good rousing fires, and Christmas cheer,  
Still mixed with charity, conclude the year. . ."

--John Nathan Hutchins



## COUNCIL CORNER

Thanks and kudos to the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon--Silver City Chapter for their cordial hospitality and outstanding slate of speakers at The Audubon State Conference in Silver City the weekend of October 16. Attendees were informed, stimulated, and challenged by the knowledgeable speakers who spoke on the theme, "Endangered Species and Habitats - Birds, Plants and Reptiles."

New officers were elected as follows:  
--Cathie Sandell, Las Cruces, President  
--Gene Lewis, Silver City, Vice President  
--Bernard Foy, Santa Fe, Secretary  
--Tom Wootten, Las Cruces, Treasurer

Randall Davey Center in Santa Fe will be hosting the next Council meeting. Everyone is invited and urged to attend this very special meeting, where we will learn about the State Legislature, the process for getting legislation introduced or defeated, and what upcoming environmental issues we need to be aware of. Plan now to attend the weekend of **January 28-29** and become an activist!

## Eco-Shareware

Excerpts from a Review by the Knight-Ridder News Service

Following is a review of six environmental shareware programs for IBM and compatible computers. For copies of all six of these programs, send \$20 to Shareware, P.O. Box 7037, Long Beach, California, 90807. You may order by credit card by calling 800-395-7797. A shareware catalog on a disk costs \$2. You will need to specify a 5.25 or a 3.5 disk.

**ECOMASTER** - a game in which one to four players try to predict how different animals from wapiti to caribou to great horned owl to web-footed gecko will survive in a series of different environments. You will need to send a \$20 registration fee if you use the program regularly.

**SAVE THE PLANET** - is a program written by dedicated environmentalists to explain global warming and ozone depletion with graphics, text and maps. The program includes a word processor for writing quick letters to representatives in Congress, with an updated list to show all the current members and the voting records of those who have been around for a while. There is a \$24.95 registration fee.

**IMAGES OF A CHANGING PLANET** - was written by the same computer capable environmentalists as the previous program. This program offers images of Earth from space with more information about ozone and climate. This comes at no charge when you register for **SAVE THE PLANET**.

**SHARKS!** - is a colorful demonstration of feeding fish while the sharks seek to find and eat the lower sea animals. Players can control the breeding rates of sharks and the length of time sharks can go without eating. The fish and shark populations grow together, but when the fish decline, the shark population drops also. There is a \$10 fee to register the program.

**ECO-TUTOR** - uses simple charts and drawings to illustrate some basic elements in environmental studies. There are no games, but good basic information about ocean and grassland ecosystems, forest stratification in a rainforest, water cycles and the nutrient cycle. There is no registration fee.

**ECOBBS** - is a list of nationwide environmental network bulletin boards that concentrate on environmental topics. You will find the file on some computer bulletin boards with some variation of the name "ECOBBS.ZIP."

## ARE YOU BEING COMPU-SERVED?

Audubon has now established an exclusive forum on CompuServe for those who wish to communicate better with Audubon chapters, individual activists, and staff. The Audubon Forum can be joined only through Audubon. Present CompuServe subscribers, contact Phil Schaeffer (212-979-3193) or Connie Mahan (202-547-9009).

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES!

In October we began our drive to provide Audubon Adventures for our 4th and 5th grade students in the Albuquerque area. Each packet of Audubon Adventures consists of 32 papers plus the teacher's guide. Many teachers share with more than one classroom. If only one classroom uses each packet, over 1,000 children are reached six times a year by this excellent environmental awareness program.

We are now accepting your tax-deductible donations for our 1993-1994 schoolyear. To fully sponsor one class, or make a partial donation, complete the form below and send your check, payable to CNMAS, with form  
to: Ron Waitz  
804 Guadalupe Cir.  
Alb., NM 87114 N.W.  
Thanks!



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.)

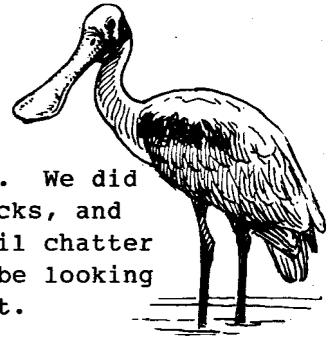
I choose to designate \_\_\_\_\_  
Elementary/Middle School for my sponsorship  
(designation is optional).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

THE THURSDAY BIRDERS SAGA - PART IV  
UNTIL NEXT YEAR  
By Tamie Bulow



Our first visit to "Rail Road" produced the fleeting back side of a Sora. We did better the second time, with several Sora, a Clapper Rail with three chicks, and yes, they walked across the road. Sondra's ear was so in tune to the Rail chatter that she could lead us to them like she had a magnet. The trick was to be looking at the right spot at the right time. She couldn't tell us how to do that.

To say that we saw Blue-winged Teal on our trip would be a gross understatement. We saw them everywhere we went. We hardly saw a duck that wasn't a Blue-winged Teal. We saw one Red-breasted Merganser, one Common Loon on the Bay, the aforementioned whistling ducks, but the remainder were the "Texas state duck," as we started calling it.

Along the channel, Appfel Park was a good place for terns. Mary Lou searched for the Gull-billed, from tern to tern to tern, but to no avail. The ferry ride across the channel was our excuse to get out of the car, check out the gulls and cormorants, and other miscellaneous flocks. Our van automatically stopped at the pond by the lighthouse on the north end of the ferry ride, where we focused on lots of Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Black-crowned Night Heron, Egrets, Ibis, and Herons.

Just past the pond is the entrance to Bolivar Flats, another place to really study the shorebirds. We added Wilson's Plover here, which was amazing because it was so windy we could barely stand up. Scopes were out of the question that day -- I was afraid Mary and Marge would take flight if we didn't hold them down. How those Snowy Plovers hunkered down was amazing, one behind the other to break the wind. Away from the channel, on the entrance road, the sandpipers were good -- Least, Pectoral, and Solitary. We left one unidentified, because it looked like a Purple Sandpiper looks.

Some birds that were seen on the way to or from our destinations were as good as the ones at our destination. The American Oystercatcher was a treat, and the Catbirds were anywhere and everywhere. Willets were the bird we tried to make into other birds the most, until it flew away, and we knew it was just another Willet. The Seaside Sparrow bravely stood its ground along the dirt road, would fly ahead of us so we could look some more, then let us approach again. We saw White-winged Doves and Inca Doves, a pleasant switch.

We had some grueling days of up at 5 a.m. and home at 10:30 p.m. (or 11:00 the night Dan just missed the ferry). We'd drag ourselves into bed, then the next thing I know, Mary is tickling my toes for my wake-up call. Mornings came quickly, but the sunrises were so beautiful over the Gulf. By daylight the Knots, Sanderlings, Willets, Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones were already on the beach, so on the not-so-early mornings, we could enjoy our breakfast on the deck, spoon in one hand, binos in the other.

We all learned so much on this trip. Getting such good looks at birds to watch their behavior, see their detailed plumage, and compare their size with other birds was such an education. Being with a group of people who share their love of watching birds (as well as wildflowers and other wildlife) was a wonderful experience, and even though we kept a rapid pace, no one wanted to miss anything. Catnaps were permitted by everyone but the driver, and plenty of nights we had a van-full of tired campers. We learned how to divvy up the hot water so we all got hot showers, how to throw a picnic lunch together in the wee hours, how to look forward to a reward of Blue Bell at the end of the day. And Howard learned how to eat something besides chicken-fried steak!

## IN FOND MEMORY

The family of Murray Honeycutt sadly announces his death on September 30, 1993, from leukemia. Active for many years in CNMAS, most recently as Treasurer, Murray led an active and satisfying social life during his last year. He had just learned to play the harmonica and the autoharp -- at the same time!

All of us at CNMAS extend thanks to his family and friends for their generous contributions to our Chapter which were made in his memory. He will be missed by all of us.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN  
Jeff Myers

Diligence. That is the note on which I ended my last column, and must begin this one.

Opportunities exist for better safeguarding our environment with the Clinton administration in power. However, real dangers exist that expedient compromises will be made ending in net greater damage to the environment than may have occurred with the status quo. Furthermore, national environmental groups, including Audubon, face budget deficits because of membership loss from an unduly complacent public. For example, it was reported that the Wilderness Society may soon be forced to close its Santa Fe office.

An example of a dangerous compromise in the offing is the President's plan to "protect" the ancient forests of the Northwest. The compromise provides for zero inviolate ancient forest reserves. "Salvage" and "thinning" logging is permitted in the reserves, which the Forest Service is infamous for using to cut down trees. The plan also would allow logging in existing non-reserve roadless areas -- often the best remaining large and intact pieces of the ecosystem.



Now is the time to increase pressure on our elected representatives -- not the time to assume that all will be well because Bruce Babbitt is Secretary of the Department of Interior. Contact your representatives to provide maximum protection for the small remaining chunks of ancient forest; to keep cattle off public land riparian areas, especially in the Southwest; and to reauthorize an improved Endangered Species Act (mention support for H.R. 2043 and S. 921).

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the Audubon Activist, an important free publication keeping one timely posted on issues of environmental importance. And always recall that a Republican, Teddy Roosevelt, established the core of today's vital federal ownership of extensive tracts of Western lands. Although I am a registered Democrat, I have long realized that they are not to be trusted implicitly. Diligence is the watchword.



## 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 Wise Guide to "Wise Use:" The Greenpeace Guide to Anti-Environmental Organizations is the new guide to industry front groups that masquerade as environmental organizations, but actually work to destroy the environment. The self-styled "wise use" movement comprises the groups Audubon has dubbed the "resource abuse" movement. It comes with a money-back guarantee and is available for \$5 per book plus \$2 shipping per order from Odonian Press, Box 7776, Berkeley, CA, 94707. --From Bexar Audubon Society newsletter.

WONDER AND AWE  
WITH HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL

By Eric Meyer

We're high atop the Manzano Mtns. of central New Mexico. My partner and I have spent a rather slow day concealed in the West Blind, patiently luring in Raptors for measuring and banding. So far, some Sharp-Shinned, and currently, an adult male Prairie Merlin, which my partner is measuring as I continue to try to lure hawks into the traps.

I pop the pigeon (the main lure) a few times and return it to a position near the center of the trap. When I look to the left, I see it. I say nothing to my partner -- to do so at this point would be foolish. Besides, I'm dumbstruck.

The bird lands on the pigeon and stands there. I can't pull the trigger yet; the bird has to be in the center of the bow net with its wings closed. My partner looks up, sees what's happening, and tells me to "center" the bird. Now, when a Cooper's Hawk or a Red-tail lands on your pigeon, it's easy to drag your lure, with hawk attached, to the center; but this is another story.

I put constant pressure on the line with one hand and put my other hand on the trigger. Finally, after a whole eternity (well, 5 or 10 seconds, anyway) the bird moves with the pigeon into the center of the bow. I pull the trigger and run out of the blind at the same second. By the time I reach the bow net, the bird is out of it and heading for the mist net -- thanks to the patron saint of trapping mayhem. Now the bird is going the opposite way, all the while flapping its immense wings. I push the bird to the ground and realize that the pigeon line is wrapped around the bird's wing. My howl of delight brings the observers, across the canyon at the observation site, to their cliff edge for a look as I catch -- my first GOLDEN EAGLE!

Earlier in the season, the tables were turned. Something was happening at observation that brought the banders to the edge of their cliffs. Late one afternoon, as a warm, calm day suddenly turned cold and windy, five thousand Swainson's Hawks descended from the sky! Imagine this sight of a lifetime: an immense kettle of large hawks swirling low over the fields to the west--no, in all directions! They were everywhere--a twisting, whirling mass. A sight like this has never been recorded north of Texas! The conditions must have been perfect to produce this miraculous flight. For days afterward, the observers counted hundreds more Swainson's Hawks as the population made its way south to Argentina.

At this date (Nov. 6), the observers are still up in the Manzanos, finishing an amazing season of hawkwatching. With over 11,500 raptors counted and nearly 900 trapped (including two recaptures), the season can certainly be called a success.

HawkWatch International is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting birds of prey and the ecosystems that support them. If your blood races and you get goosebumps considering these wild, free-flying creatures, sign up for our Adopt-A-Hawk program. Each adoption packet includes a certificate with a color photo of your hawk, including its species and vital stats -- age, sex, weight, band number, location and date your bird of prey was banded and released back to the wild; a fact sheet describing your species; a HawkWatch membership with subscription to Raptor Watch, plus member discounts and updates on your species. Cost is from \$35 (Sharp-shinned) to \$500 (Bald Eagle) -- a great gift idea! Call 255-7622 or write HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL, PO Box 35706, Albuquerque, NM 87176-5706.

TIDBITS AND TRIVIA



- PRESIDENT**  
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- POPULATION/ENVIRONMENT CHAIRPERSON**  
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- LIBRARIAN**  
Geni Krolick, 3301 Monroe NE, 8-9, 87110; 888-3901

The Trust for Public Land has donated 7 acres of bosque woodlands property in the Mesilla Valley, 5 miles northwest of Las Cruces, to NM State Parks for an outdoor education and interpretive center. They effected an exchange that secured a 12-mile stretch of Rio Bonito, a private, undeveloped riparian corridor in Billy-the-Kid country for the BLM Roswell Resource Area.

The Nature Conservancy secured the protection of the largest known bat population in the state, located in the Jornada Bat Caves in south-central New Mexico. They were able to protect the bats' habitat, home to eight different species and a peak population of 8 million, by acquiring mineral rights to the caves -- protecting them from guano mining!

And speaking of Nature Conservancy, the NM Cattle Growers' Association last spring expelled TNC from their membership for "engaging in activities detrimental to the livestock industry." A local columnist summed up TNC's presumed offenses as "conduct unbecoming a cowboy."

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

1st Prize - Bausch & Lomb 7x26 Custom Compact Binoculars -- \$370 retail value!

2nd Prize - Deluxe Bird Feeder plus Bird Seed

3rd Prize - Matted Photo of Bald Eagle



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!



## Whom to Contact:

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Hon. Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Interior  
18th & C Streets, N.W., Rm. 6151  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-7351

Hon. Pete Domenici  
(202) 224-6621  
(505) 766-3481

Hon. Jeff Bingaman  
(202) 224-5521  
(505) 766-3636

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steve Schiff — (505) 766-2538

Hon. Joe Skeen

Hon. Bill Richardson — (505) 766-3481

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

### National Audubon Society

Membership Hotline  
(800) 274-4201

Southwest Regional Office  
2525 Wallingwood, Suite 1505  
Austin, Texas 78746  
(512) 327-1943

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  
11776 Highway 337  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
(505) 281-3304

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Central New Mexico Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for such accidents. You attend at your own risk.

## Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Post Office Box 30002  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002



## 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.

My check for \$20 is enclosed

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to the national Audubon Society



Send this application and your check to:  
**National Audubon Society**

Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

### Central New Mexico 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, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., 87114-1710.

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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