

# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
APRIL - MAY 1994

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.

"All nature wears one universal grin." --Henry Fielding



## PROGRAMS

April 21 - John Crenshaw, Chief of the NM Game and Fish Department's Public Affairs Division, will provide us with "hot-off-the-press" information regarding the new legislation and changes in the department. Mr. Crenshaw is an articulate and knowledgeable spokesperson. Known for his wit, John will welcome your questions, comments and opinions. Come learn the inside scoop on New Mexico's primary wildlife management agency.

May 19 - **Special Program! Special Time!** Yes, it's time for the REVISED, NEW AND IMPROVED version of our **Annual Meeting and Potluck**. 7:00 p.m. This year we're skipping the dinner and going right to **dessert**, so bring something devilishly delectable to share and come early to socialize. We'll provide coffee and punch, napkins, paper plates. You might want to bring your own coffee mug and a fork or spoon -- and if you turned up with an extra serving spoon from last year, bring it, too! Tamie is still missing hers!

7:30: Election and installation of new officers, presentation of Washburn Award and Certificates of Appreciation, followed by the ever-entertaining and well-versed David Henderson, our National Representative from the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. Dave will share a program on migratory birds entitled "Birds in the Balance," including slides, then update us on national issues facing Audubon, as well as his assessment of the State legislative session. Good people, good food, good entertainment! Y'all come!

## 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 16 - Lesser Prairie Chickens Booming Grounds.**

Leader: Dan Baggao, Roswell BLM office (1-624-1790). Meeting Place: Denny's Coffee Shop in Roswell. Time: 4:00 a.m. Call Dan so he can get an idea of how many people will be there. It is important to meet at that hour because the Lesser Prairie Chicken booming (lek) site is about an hour out of Roswell. Dan must position the viewers at a known booming/lek "station" well before sunrise! Also let Anne know so she can put you in touch with others who may be interested in carpooling.

**Sat., April 23 - Bosque del Apache,** led by Sei Tokuda. Meet at UNM Astronomy/Physics parking lot, NE corner of Yale & Lomas, at 7 a.m. Some shorebirds and the Vermillion Flycatcher should be at the Bosque by early April.

**Sat., April 30 - Join Hart Schwarz** on a unique adventure to the **Manzanita Mountains** -- that low-lying range connecting the Sandias with the Manzanos. We will see something of David and Bonito Canyons and, in particular, the beautiful ridge that separates them. Meet at 9 a.m. in front of Baskin-Robbins at Four Hills Shopping Center, Tramway & Central. Expect to return around 4 p.m. Call Hart at 266-1810 to make reservations on this trip, limited to about 10 people.

**Sat., May 21 -- Water Canyon/Copper Canyon:** A 2-3 mile hike in Water Canyon, led by Sei Tokuda, to search for the Red-Faced Warbler (about 9000 foot level). Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Astronomy/Physics parking lot (Sunrise comes early during the month of May!)

**THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP** -- For information on Thursday morning outings to nearby areas, call Tamie Bulow at 298-9116.

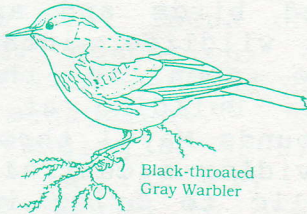
**International Migratory Bird Day/North American Migration Count**  
Saturday, May 14, 1994

"To give each and every birdwatcher the opportunity to enjoy a day's birding during spring migration with the knowledge that the result of their findings, together with the birds counted by others, would fit together like the pieces of a puzzle and reveal the status of bird migration on a specified date . . ."

--Chandler S. Robbins

Our Chapter will join in the festivities to put the Bernalillo County piece in that puzzle. Like a Christmas Count, only it's the entire county, it's the same day nationwide, and it's free! It's simple: Spend a day in the field counting birds in a specified area and keep track of hours and miles on foot, car, boat, feeder-watching. You can watch your own feeder, sit at a hawk-watch site, go owling, go to your favorite birding area -- whatever you like! Please call Tamie Bulow at 298-9116 if you want to be a part of the challenge. There is no reason we can't count more species than Grant County did last year: 164.

2nd Annual Gila Bird and Nature Festival - April 29-30 and May 1. Remember the "Big Bird Bash"? Wish it would return, like your favorite rerun on TV? Well, then, this is for you! This is Silver City's equivalent of the Festival of the Cranes, with guided bird tours, bird and plant ID workshops, nature walks, bike tours, archaeological digs, and a feature program and photography workshop by Arthur Morris -- all in Silver City and her backyard of the Gila River, Gila National Forest, Mimbres Archaeological Site, and Aldo Leopold Wilderness. Call 1-800-548-9378 for a detailed schedule of events. Be an early bird -- register in advance to ensure participation!



Black-throated  
Gray Warbler

#### NEOTROPICAL MOUNTAIN BIRDS IN MAY

A Field Trip Series led by Hart Schwarz (266-1810) and sponsored by Rio Grande Nature Center (344-7240). Preregistration and payment of a fee are musts, so call for more info and to sign up.

Sat., May 7 - Tajique Canyon in the Manzanos, visiting a 100-acre private enclave featuring pristine riparian conditions.

Sat., May 14 - Sawmill Canyon in the Magdalenas, which marks the northern boundary of such "Mexican" species as Painted Redstart and Bridled Titmouse.

Sat., May 21 - Owling in Pino Canyon in the Sandias. Climbing from 6200 to at least 7600 feet, then descending after nightfall, listening for Flammulated, Sawwhet, and Screech Owls.

Sat., May 28 - Otero Ridge in Manzanitas, exploring pinyon/juniper habitat, home of Black-throated Gray Warbler.



#### NOTICING NEOTROPICALS

Many migratory songbirds are creatures of the deep forest, more often heard than seen: thrushes, vireos, warblers, orioles, flycatchers, tanagers. Some are what Roger Tory Peterson has called the "butterflies of the bird world": the American Redstart, a glossy black bird licked with orange flames; the golden, blue-winged Prothonotary Warbler, the Indigo Bunting, and the Scarlet Tanager. Others, like the Wood Thrush and the Veery, are virtuoso singers with melodic, flutelike voices.

Neotropical migrants typically make up two-thirds of the birds found in the forests of the Northeast. They breed in these woods in spring and summer when insects and spiders appear in great numbers, providing the abundant food needed to rear young birds. In autumn, they travel south in a broad, braided river, flying largely at night to escape the notice of hawks.

Most songbirds weigh between 11 and 18 grams, about as much as three pennies. Yet they can travel for hundreds of miles at a time, burning their fat reserves with enormous efficiency. (A car burning fuel with the efficiency of a Blackpoll Warbler would get roughly 720,000 miles per gallon.) The birds navigate by the stars, calibrating their innate sense of magnetic north with the movement of celestial bodies. As the sun rises, they use landmarks to correct their course, often dropping down to earth to rest and feed at staging sites along the way.

--from Nature Conservancy  
Magazine, March/April 1992

THEY'RE COMING, THEY'RE COMING --  
THEY'RE HERE!

"Hummingbirds have the gift of unmatched flying skills, the homing instinct of a carrier pigeon, the stamina of birds thousands of times their size, and engaging personalities. The little rascals are also ingenious, curious, perky, sometimes comical, always bright-eyed, confident and irrepressible. To top it off, they have colors pure as a rainbow. The bird may have a song, too, possibly a song of angel-voiced music beyond the range of human hearing." --Dan True

And the nectar to sustain those little cherubs is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Replace with fresh nectar every 3-5 days, more often in hot weather. Clean feeder with hot water at each refill. You don't need to boil the mixture unless you're making large quantities. Then, refrigerate unused portion after boiling. Red food coloring is not recommended.

Plants that attract hummers are Indian Paintbrush, Skyrocket, Rocky Mountain Penstemon and Columbine, Scarlet Sage, Butterfly Bush -- a whole array of choices!

And a trick from Dan True about distracting those fierce little Rufous Hummingbirds away from the others: Place feeders with a rich, 3.5:1 water-sugar ratio in feeders at a high location, and reduce the ratio in the lower feeders to 4.5:1. Dan has observed that the Rufous prefers the highest feeders, 10 to 12 feet above the ground, and will generally leave the lower, less-sugared feeders for the other species.

Note that on Saturday, May 7, the Rio Grande Nature Center has an array of events planned for "Spring Hummingbird Day" to welcome these little jewels back to the bosque.



## NATURE SHOP

- QUALITY BIRD SEED
- FEEDERS & HOUSES
- BIRD BATHS
- NATURE GIFTS

GENI KROLICK  
DAVID KROLICK  
OWNERS



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7200 MONTGOMERY NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110  
505-883-0324



### BABY BIRDS

Spring isn't a busy time just for the birds and the bees. It's also the busiest time for Wildlife Rescue volunteers, who care for and rehabilitate injured and displaced birds and animals. A central wildlife intake center will be open in the Natural Resources Building at the State Fair Grounds May 1 through August 20, providing a central place for the public to bring injured and orphaned birds.

But remember -- most baby birds do NOT need to be rescued. You may actually be kidnapping the bird, not rescuing it, which greatly reduces its chances of survival.

If the foundling bird is uninjured, put it back in the nest. If you can't find the nest, you can build one for a nestling, with pinfeathers, as follows: Puncture a margarine tub with drainage holes, line with tissue, and nail the container to the tree as close as possible to where you found the bird, making sure the location will remain shaded and protected as the sun moves. If the bird is fully feathered, but not able to fly, hide it in a bush or surrounding vegetation near where it was found.

If you find a baby hummingbird, call Wildlife Rescue. If you find any injured bird, call Wildlife Rescue. If you want to contribute funds, supplies, or time -- call Wildlife Rescue! 344-2500.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN  
By Jeffrey D. Myers

It's (somewhat) discouraging to (somewhat) carefully craft a letter to a public official, only to have it answered by autographed boilerplate or a deafening silence. Because that is the usual response, it's pleasant to see exceptions to that practice.

A recent positive example was the response of the Cibola National Forest, Sandia Ranger District, to a letter we wrote to District Ranger Floyd Thompson concerning planned improvements to Cienega Picnic Grounds, an area with which most of you are familiar. Biologist Beverly deGruyter called to ask whether she and Mr. Thompson could make a presentation to the Board of Directors in response to our criticisms of certain aspects of the plan. Somewhat surprised by the turn of events, I said, "Why not?" (a little more artfully).

Our chapter worked with Ms. deGruyter on last summer's migratory bird breeding survey in the Sandias, which was coordinated by Hart Schwarz. As an organization, we had not heard from her since that time, although we received reports on her positive impact on Cibola National Forest's overall outlook.

Our letter to Mr. Thompson was a response to a Draft Environment Assessment (EA), which included in its proposed action a three-acre paved equestrian trailhead, provision of potable water, and flush toilets. It turns out that since the release of the EA, determinations were made to provide a smaller, gravel equestrian trailhead and to eliminate extensive use of water. Good aspects of the plan include siting tables further from the stream, fencing particularly sensitive sections of the stream, and re-wetting a historically marshy area.

We found the meeting to be positive because of the Forest Service's apparent desire to make continued use of our expertise and an eagerness to respond to our concerns. It was also important symbolically because of the Forest Service's historic indifference to environmental criticisms. Hopefully a true, and not symbolic, focus on stewardship with regard to the well-being of wildlife will bloom and grow at the Forest Service from the bottom up.

"Think globally, act locally," is this month's watchword.

**WILDLIFE RESCUE**

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

**RARE BIRD ALERT**

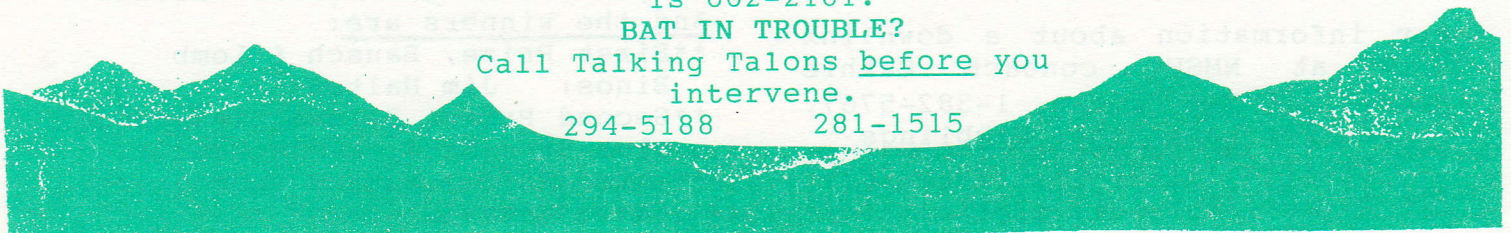
To learn about sightings all over  
the state or to report a rare  
sighting, the number in Santa Fe  
is 662-2101.

**BAT IN TROUBLE?**

Call Talking Talons before you  
intervene.

294-5188

281-1515



## POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

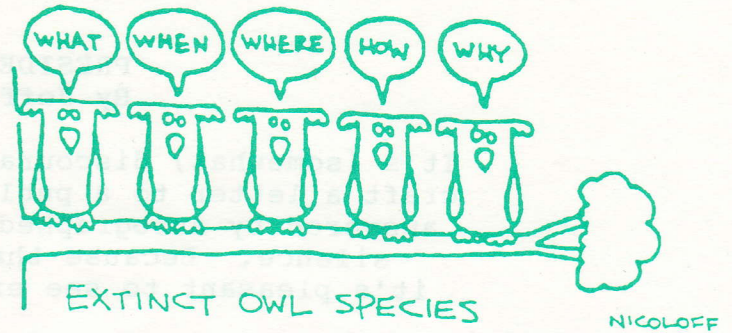
In the time it takes you to read this article, almost 400 people will be added to the world's population. Population is a crucial environmental issue. Whether you're worried about global warming, toxic pollution, species extinction or habitat destruction, that problem will grow as population doubles, especially if we in the US continue our wasteful ways.

This year, citizens have a unique opportunity to tell governments that they care about the environment, and that means demanding good population policy and universally available family planning.

From April 4-22, over 120 governments will send negotiators to New York to draft a world population plan of action. The plan will cover the next 20 years and will be signed next September in Cairo, Egypt at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

On the evening of April 14, television satellites will beam the National Wildlife Federation teleconference to activists all over the US. Teleconference attenders will participate in a nationwide public opinion survey on population. There will be reports from the floor of the United Nations, statements by top government officials such as Vice President Gore, and a report by Jane Fonda on her work as Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund. The teleconference will explain such issues as sustainable development, family planning, and the status of women.

For information about a downlink site at NMSU, contact Cathie Sandell in Las Cruces, 1-382-5767.  
--From Roadrunner Ramblings  
Mesilla Valley Audubon Chapter



## FROM THE EDITOR

As Editor of these pages, I have a unique opportunity to publicly thank all the people who make my job easy and fun. First, many thanks to the regular contributors whose interests and input are common to us all, yet so diversified: Jeff Myers, Tamie Bulow, Shelley Baquet and Anne Farley especially, plus all those folks whose names you see in the "By" lines.

Thanks to my fiance, Ron, for his cheerful patience at my bimonthly clutter and mania. And last, but far from being least, eternal gratitude to Lillian Tenopyr, who organizes the "Mailing Party" volunteers and coordinates the assembling, labeling, sorting, and bulk mailing. She's really the person who gets the newsletter to you!

Also, I'd like to mention our advertisers, whose support contributes a good portion of the cost of publishing this newsletter. We truly appreciate their contribution and hope you do, too.

And I saved the best for last: Warm fuzzy thank yous to all who made our Annual Holiday Bazaar such a success, to the donors of our Raffle Prizes, and to each one of you who bought raffle tickets.

And the winners are:

- \*\*First Prize, Bausch & Lomb  
Binoculars: Jim Halten
- \*\*Second Prize, Deluxe Bird Feeder plus Bird Seed: Jane Caudill
- \*\*Third Prize, Matted Photograph: Tamie Bulow.

"...we judge bird song not by its musical quality nor even by its creativeness, but by its effect on the human spirit." --Len Eiserer

THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE 41ST NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE  
By Dave Henderson

Each year the environment assumes a higher profile in the State legislature, and this year was no exception. Of greatest interest to Audubon was a bill introduced by the Speaker of the House, Raymond Sanchez (D-Alb), to statutorily create a Conservation Services Division within the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. The passage of this bill created a non-game wildlife division whose priorities will focus on habitat protection, education, and non-game and threatened and endangered species management. The bill included funding of \$500,000 -- a start, but a far cry from the \$6,000,000 needed to operate the division effectively. But it's a big first step toward better protection and management of our state wildlife.

A tire recycling bill passed that will promote the conversion of old tires into road asphalt. The bill has a number of measures that will discourage the dumping of tires in landfills and arroyos and will fund various programs to encourage rubberized asphalt program for cities, counties, and state. The program is paid for by a \$1 hike in annual car registration fee.

We would all like to see the end of salt cedar in this state, and a bill to fund the pilot project for salt cedar eradication on the Pecos River near Carlsbad was passed with mixed feelings. The project calls for the clearing of 5,000 acres of salt cedar along the Pecos, to be replaced by native riparian vegetation. The down side is that the clearing will be accomplished through aerial herbicide spraying. We

should all watch this project very closely.

Many more pieces of legislation passed this year, and I can make a complete list available to you if you call (1-983-4609). Audubon is very much involved in wildlife legislative efforts, and your chapter is making a difference.

Did you know?

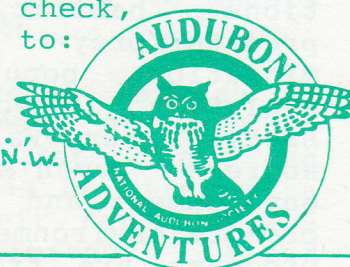
Artist Randall Davey bought the property, now owned by the National Audubon Society, in 1919 and lived there until his death in 1964.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES!

Remember, "Education cuts don't heal"! Nationwide, the total number of classrooms involved in the Audubon Adventures program is 18,000, with 57,600 students participating. Last year CNMAS, through YOU, sponsored 35 classrooms. Help us do it again!

Your tax-deductible donation of \$35 fully sponsors one classroom. Complete the form below and send it with your check, payable to CNMAS, to:

Ron Waitz  
804 Guadalupe Cir. N.W.  
Alb., NM 87114  
Thanks!



Enclosed please find my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Each \$35 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 \_\_\_\_\_



INTRODUCING . . .  
HAWKS ALOFT

An Organization for New Mexico  
By Eric Meyer

Hawks Aloft, Inc., is a new New Mexico organization dedicated to enhancing environmental health and protecting natural biodiversity through research, education, and conservation activities, using birds of prey as essential components of balanced ecosystems. Gail Garber and Eric Meyer, formerly with HawkWatch International, have joined Hawks Aloft in order to more effectively work toward raptor conservation in New Mexico. They are assisted by a strong Board of Directors, including Jim "Mr. Morph" Place, Jerry and Sally Mayeux, Betsy Church, Leroy James, Chuck Brandt, and David Harris, all of whom bring a wide range of expertise to the fledgling organization.

Classroom education programs with live raptors are a primary focus of Hawks Aloft. These interactive sessions begin with general discussions about raptor biology, then expand into other environmental topics, including adaptations, habitat, food chains, predator/prey relationships, migration, population dynamics, evolution theory, endangered species, survival needs. We also address human's role in the environment and ways students can promote environmental health. The programs are from 30 minutes to two hours in length and include age-specific activities for pre-kindergarten through high school.

The research of Hawks Aloft encompasses many areas concerning birds of prey, including studies of breeding and wintering raptors, migratory habits, raptor habitat, and factors that affect the birds' survival. As we begin to spread our wings, we will actively seek research and conservation projects that reflect our goals and work

cooperatively with other New Mexico-based organizations to further environmental protection in the Southwest.

When you join Hawks Aloft, you will receive a quarterly newsletter with informative articles and notices of activities. These activities include membership meetings, field trips, raptor identification and handling seminars, and much more. Join us as a member or volunteer and help us work toward common goals. We are New Mexicans working to protect and enhance the environment, enjoy the hawks, and have fun! Annual membership rates are \$25 for regular members, \$35 for a family, \$75 for the Cooper's Hawk level of support, \$100 for the Red-tail member, and a special \$10 Kestrel Kids membership. You can contact our office at 343-0111 or PO Box 10028, Albuquerque, NM 87184.

WHAT'S GREENER THAN ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

Earth Day! And we're told it's being celebrated by Leprechauns and others at these events:

Sat., April 16 - Winrock Earth Fair featuring exhibits by non-profit environmental groups, government information agencies, and producers of environmentally sound products and services.

Friday, April 22 - Civic Plaza kicks off with a "Circle of Ribbons," an educational demonstration that interweaves colored ribbons to represent life's elements and aspects; a "Biodiversity Parade, where participants wear costumes of plants or animals; the "Annual March for Parks" sponsored by Tree New Mexico; and ongoing interactive educational activities.

Sat., April 23 - Rio Grande Nature Center celebrates with music, crafts, guided hikes in the bosque, and storytelling.



## NEW MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS

The annual Bald Eagle Count conducted by biologists from NM Dept. of Game & Fish in January tallied 478 birds, slightly under the count of 487 in 1993. This total represents an increase of about 120 percent over averages in the early 1980s and 60 percent over the late 1980s, according to Game Department Director Bill Montoya. He adds that overall, the increase in numbers of eagles wintering in New Mexico most likely reflects a gradual recovery of the North American population of the bald eagle. Notable concentrations were near Conchas, Ute, Navaho Reservoirs; Las Vegas-Maxwell area; Elephant Butte and Caballo; and the Chama River area.



*"Keep close to Nature's heart, yourself; and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean . . ."*

John Muir

## CHECK IT OFF!

### ON YOUR STATE TAX RETURN

**Share with wildlife** is a non-profit fund dedicated to the conservation of all wildlife in New Mexico. Although it is part of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the program is supported entirely by voluntary contributions—most received through the "check-off" on the state income tax form.

**Share with Wildlife** funds research, habitat protection, wildlife rehabilitation, and public education with a focus on projects benefiting wildlife that do not receive funding from other sources—mostly threatened and endangered species.

Give a portion of your refund to New Mexico's Wildlife by Contributing to:

# Share



# with Wildlife

or donate directly through:

**NM Dept. of Game and Fish**

Villagra Bldg. • P. O. Box 25112 • Santa Fe, NM 87504

The Wildlife Conservation Act marked its 20th anniversary in February. As a result of the 1974 legislation, 120 species of wildlife indigenous to New Mexico are now protected as endangered, including two crustaceans, 25 mollusks, 25 fishes, seven amphibians, 14 reptiles, 32 birds, and 15 mammals. One of these is the Socorro isopod, a crustacean. In the United States, the isopod is known to live only in Sedillo Spring, a thermal spring near Socorro, and in a captive laboratory population at UNM. The isopod is a relative of the terrestrial sowbug or pillbug.

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Washington, DC 20500

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Secretary of the Interior  
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Washington, DC 20240  
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Washington, DC 20510

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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

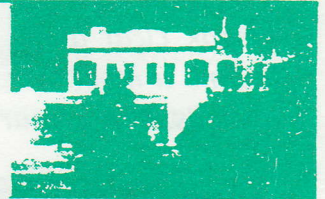
Local Chapter Code — Q51

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.

## Bear Mountain Guest Ranch

6250' Elevation



A Bed & Breakfast Tradition  
Since 1959



Focus Your  
Binoculars On

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- Greater Pewee
- Hawks
- Hummingbirds
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