



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
DECEMBER 1994 - JANUARY 1995

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

"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

Welcome, and greetings of the season! The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. 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

Speaking of Special Events, everyone is invited to join us for the 95th Annual Christmas Bird Count. Expert birders will lead all groups; we welcome and encourage amateurs, nonmembers, and all bird-lovers to participate in one or more of the following counts. We'll travel together in groups. Our compiled information is sent to American Birds, where results from all counters are totaled and published in a special edition. A fee of \$5 per participant is charged to cover cost of publication.



*Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro, NM - Sat., Dec. 17
Contact: Steve & Nancy Cox, 345-2385
Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 7:00 a.m.

*Sevilleta NWR (Five Points) - Sat., Dec. 17
Leader: Ross Teuber. Contact: Refuge Manager, 1-505-864-4021

*Zuni Mountains - Sat., Dec. 17
Contact: John Trochet, 916-736-3560

*Albuquerque - Sun., Dec. 18
Contact: Hart Schwarz, 266-1810
Meet at Corrales Shopping Center, NW corner of Coors & Alameda, 7:15

*Bluewater Lake, Zuni, NM - Sun., Dec. 18
Contact: Steve Ingraham, 1-505-863-4751

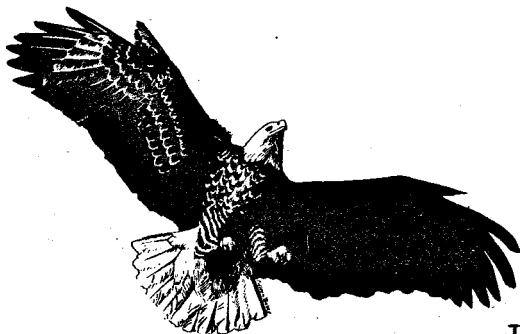
*Sevilleta NWR (West Side) - Thurs., Dec. 22
Leader: Ross Teuber. Contact: Refuge Manager, 1-505-864-4021

*Sandia Mountains - Sun., Jan 1, 1995
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)

PROGRAMS

DECEMBER - There will be no "general" meeting in December, but we hope to see all of you at one or more of the Christmas Bird Counts. Be sure to check with your Count leader for details on the "afterglow," when and where to meet after the count and share a hot beverage over hot birding stories!

Thursday, January 19, 1995 -- Happy New Year! **New Mexico Bats and the Possibility of their Conservation.** Scott Altenbach, UNM staff biologist, will share his expertise on our more than 20 varieties of bats. Come see his slide presentation and increase your understanding and knowledge of these useful little mammals. And although he can't promise, Scott is optimistic that he'll have some live bats on display for us to admire. Kids love bats -- bring them (the kids) along!



TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

DEC. 3 - Bosque del Apache. For those of you who missed last month's trip (we saw over 60 species), the Festival of the Cranes, or who can't get enough of seeing lots of great birds, join us at 10:00 at the Physics Parking Lot at Lomas and Yale. We'll stay for the evening fly-in, so bring your lunch, warm clothes, and maybe a Thermos with something hot inside. We'll stop somewhere for supper afterwards. If the weather is bad, we'll reschedule for next weekend, the 10th.

Dec. 10 - If the weather was bad last weekend, we'll try again this weekend. See above for details.

Dec. 11 - Breakfast for the Bird(ers) and Nature Center. Meet at Grandma's Restaurant, 141 Osuna NW, at 7:30 for breakfast, then we'll head to the Nature Center for the rest of the morning. Dress warmly. If you want to sleep in, meet us at 9:00 at the Nature Center at the end of Candelaria NW.

TRIPS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 7 - Cochiti to see the Eagles and Osprey. Meet at 6:30 at the Far North Theater, San Mateo and Academy. Bring your Thermos full of something hot to drink and dress very warmly! Also bring your lunch. Jim Place, an active member of both Audubon and Hawks Aloft, will lead this joint trip. If the weather does not cooperate, this trip will be rescheduled for next weekend, Jan. 14. Call Charlotte (345-1271) Friday night if you're not sure.

Jan. 14 - If the weather was bad last weekend, we'll try again this weekend. See above for details.

Jan. 28 - Breakfast for the Bird(ers) and Corrales Bosque. Meet at Grandma's Restaurant, 141 Osuna NW, at 7:30 for breakfast, then we'll head out to the Corrales Bosque for the rest of the morning. Dress warmly. If you want to sleep in, meet us at Grandma's at 8:30.

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

BATS SPREAD LIFE

By Julie Goodding, Audubon Adventures Chair

A great tree called the baobab grows on the plains in Africa. It is also called the "Tree of Life" because so many animals and other plants depend on it for survival. But that giant tree needs bats! Why?

The flowers of the baobab open at night. They attract nectar-loving bats. As the bats move among the flowers, the bats pollinate them and help produce fruits and seeds for future trees. Without bats, all the lives depending on this giant tree would be threatened.

In Mexico, long-nosed bats come at night to the flowers of the giant cacti. The pollinated flowers form seeds that grow into new cacti. These prickly plants provide food and shelter for the animals of the desert.

Bats may even affect the world's climate. In the rain forests of Asia and South America, fruit-eating bats spread seeds of many kinds of fruiting trees. Those seeds generate new trees, helping the rain forest to replace the trees that die.

--from Audubon Adventures



Like some trees need bats, New Mexico's schoolchildren need opportunities to learn about the natural world. Luckily, National Audubon provides one such resource, Audubon Adventures. This newspaper is written for grades 3-6 and includes stories, games, resources and projects. The issue on bats included diagrams and instructions for building a bat house. Each participating class receives 32 copies of the paper and a leader's guide six times in the school year.

Local subscriptions are funded by individuals and our chapter. Some people give to the program in general, while others give for a specific school, teacher, or student. These \$35 subscriptions can aid a teacher through the year and provide some needed environmental information to our community's children. Whether you donate for a child you know or ones you don't, we'll pass your support on to New Mexico's next generation of nature watchers.

These schools have at least one class receiving Audubon Adventures this year:

Sandia Base Elementary; Governor Bent Elementary; Taft Middle School; Sierra Vista Elementary; La Mesa Elementary; Comanche Elementary; Emerson Elementary; Arroyo del Oso Elementary; Adobe Acres Elementary; Ernie Pyle Elementary; Whittier Elementary; Kirtland Elementary; McCollum Elementary; Alvarado Elementary; Osuna Elementary; McCoy Elementary in Aztec; A. Montoya Elementary in Tijeras; Dowa Yolanne School in Zuni; Rio Grande Nature Center and the Natural Resources and Wildlife Education Center.

Donations you make now will fund a classroom subscription for school year 1995-'96. Please make your check payable to CNMAS and send with form to:
Ron Waitz
804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87114



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 _____

**AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING:
UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

New Mexico Audubon Council will meet at Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe on **January 27-29, 1995**. Saturday's session will be a presentation of the upcoming bills that will be presented to the Legislature, hopefully to provide us with a better understanding of the bills themselves and their ramifications. By understanding the political process, we will be able to lobby more effectively when contacting our legislators. Also attending this meeting will be our Regional NAS Representative, **Ted Eubank**, who was recently elected to the Board for NM, Texas, and Louisiana. If you are interested in attending, please contact our Audubon Council representative, Jonalyn Yancey.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION . . .

Volunteer to save a bird!

"How," you say? Well, after careful research, we're able to recommend our number one choice among organizations that are involved in the preservation of our avian population -- **CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY**.

We're currently accepting volunteers for a variety of positions -- no experience necessary. From recording secretary to mailing party organizer, from hospitality greeter to librarian, from conservationist to fund raiser -- no matter how you choose to give, you're promised to receive in return -- appreciation, fellowship, a chance to make a difference, community involvement -- and what you started out to do, helping the birds!

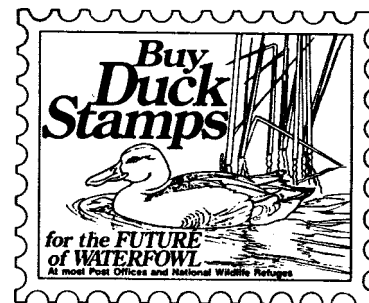
Flip now to the Directory and call Jeff, Shelley, Jonalyn, Tamie, or Beth -- you'll be glad you did!

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT UPDATE

By Tamie Bulow

Central New Mexico Audubon will be the host chapter for the 1995 STATE Audubon Conference to be held next September. The theme for this conference will be "Neotropical Migratory Birds." One day will be devoted to more scientific information (data gathering, various methods, banding programs, etc.) while Day Two will be more educational -- What are Neotropical Migrants? How can we help?

I have been working with a core group of Partners in Flight people (Bill Howe/US Fish & Wildlife, Jim Silva/BLM, Cathie Sandell/Audubon Council President, Karen Williams/Randall Davey Audubon Center) to get the process started. The goal of Albuquerque's Partners in Flight program is to get assorted groups working together rather than duplicating efforts when there are such precious few dollars available for environmental issues, then to ultimately disseminate the knowledge gained to any agency and organization interested, hopefully increasing awareness in both the public and private sectors, schools and civic groups alike. We all win!



"NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY USING NATURAL LIGHT" is a day-long workshop by internationally noted bird photographer Arthur Morris.
When: Sunday, December 11
Where: Rio Grande Nature Center
Info: 344-7240 to register

The Hummingbird Connection



A New Mexico Hummingbird Survey

Sponsored by the New Mexico Audubon Council and Partners in Flight

Help us learn the who, when and where of New Mexico hummingbirds with fellow backyard hummingbird watchers.

Join now! Next March we will send you a set of instructions along with a packet of flower seeds to attract hummingbirds. A newsletter with survey results will follow later.

To sign up, complete and return the form below along with a stamped, self-addressed legal-sized envelope and a \$5.00 donation (to defray our costs). *Make checks payable to New Mexico Audubon Council.*

Mail to: The Hummingbird Connection
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504-9314

Name _____

Address _____

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1995
National Audubon Society



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- January**
___ Costa Rica \$2395 from Miami Jan 5-15
- February**
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___ Wolf Ecology Northern MN \$1250 Feb 11-18
___ Yellowstone Winter Ecology \$1250 Feb 25- March 4
- March**
___ Death Valley CA \$1150 March 4-11
___ Belize \$2295 from Miami March 20-27
- April**
___ Big Bend TX \$1150 April 22-29
- May**
___ Southeast Arizona \$1150 May 6-13

artwork by
Hannah Hinchman

- June**
___ Yellowstone Endangered Species \$1150 June 10-17
___ Yellowstone Nature Photography \$1375 June 17-25
___ Trinidad/Tobago \$1995 from Miami June 17-27
- July**
___ Olympic Peninsula Ancient Forests \$1150 July 8-15
___ Venezuela: Llanos, Coast and the Andes \$2395 from Miami July 5-16
- August**
___ Mt. Ranier/Mt. St. Helens \$1150 Aug 5-12
___ Badlands/Black Hills \$1150 Aug 12-19
___ Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe \$995 Aug 19-26
___ Upper Mississippi River Canoe \$1095 Aug 26-Sept 2



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___ Ecology of the Wine Country CA \$1750 Sept 16-23
___ Boundary Waters Canoe \$995 Sept 16-23
___ Yellowstone Nature Photography \$1375 Sept 16-24
- October**
___ Yosemite/Sequoia Nature Photography \$1250 Oct 22-29
___ Churchill Polar Bears Photo (call for current cost) Oct 26-Nov 1
___ SW Canyonlands, UT \$1150 Sept 30-Oct 7
- November**
___ Kenya: African splendor \$3195 plus air Oct 28 -Nov 13
- coast extension available
- December**
___ Amazon Rainforest Holidays Dec 23-30

(The following is reprinted from Roadrunner Ramblings, Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, Las Cruces, NM)

HOTLINE BIRD COLLECTED - AGAIN

During the week of 10 October 1994, the Glaucous-winged Gull at North Monticello Point on Elephant Butte Lake was collected by Bob Dickerman of the Museum of Southwest Biology at UNM in Albuquerque. Mr. Dickerman claims to have been unaware the gull was there, although it has been on the Hotline off and on since February when it was first discovered and has been well photographed, written up, and seen by many birders, including inclusion in the latest issue of Audubon Field Notes. Mr. Dickerman collected the gull because he was unable to identify it in the field, although many birders were able to correctly ID it.

Even more disturbing is that Mr. Dickerman failed to follow the guidelines agreed upon in meetings held two years ago between NM Game & Fish and environmentalists and birders following the collection of the Yellow-green Vireo at Rattlesnake Springs -- meetings which Mr. Dickerman participated in.

These guidelines included:

1. No collecting in known regularly birded areas without first calling the Hotline at 505-662-2101.
2. No taking of birds first found by birders.
3. "...no birds appearing on the NM Rare Bird Alert shall be collected."
4. It is the responsibility of the collector to call the Hotline if they are going to be collecting in a known birding area.
5. "The sacrifice of vagrant birds solely for documenting occurrences is discouraged..."
6. No collecting in protected areas such as federal and state property, parks, refuges, etc.
7. "Permittees should carry out their operations in such a way as not to... abridge the legitimate rights of wildlife users in NM" which includes bird watchers, and "...should avoid creating situations that may reflect badly on them, their activities, or NMGF."
8. If a birder who finds a rare bird wanted it collected in order to confirm a difficult ID, he could so request

after a sufficient time period for birders to view the bird. "Sufficient time" was not defined.

Guidelines #1, 3, 5, and 7 are direct quotes from NMGF Conditions and Provisions for the Taking of Wildlife for Scientific and Educational Purposes, which every collector receives along with their permit, as do bird banders and wildlife rehabilitators. NMGF defines "taking" as "sacrifice, capture, salvage, and possession of protected wildlife."

Mr. Dickerman clearly ignored the above agreements by failing to contact the Hotline prior to collecting in a known birding locale. He cannot claim to be unaware that North Monticello Point is a regularly birded area, as he was there at the request of a birder to collect the Jaegers which were also on the Hotline. This is exactly the kind of incident which those of us who participated in the agreement meetings were trying to prevent. It appears our time and intent were wasted.

Letters protesting Mr. Dickerman's action should be directed to Bill Montoya, NMGF, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504, and to Richard Peck, President of UNM, Albuquerque, NM, 87102.

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



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COMING ATTRACTIONS

By Charlotte Green, Field Trip Co-Chair

Sei and I have been working on a tentative trip schedule for the year, and we've had some requests to print it so that those of you who like to make long-range plans can do so. Please remember that the dates are **TENTATIVE** and may change depending on our making arrangements with trip leaders and hosts. For firm dates and times, check the Burrowing Owl.

TENTATIVE TRIP SCHEDULE 1995

Feb 4 or 11 Maxwell
Feb 19 Breakfast/Kit Carson Park
Feb 25 Breakfast/West Mesa

Mar 4 Conchas Lake
Mar 18 Percha Dam

Apr 8 or 15 Roswell
Apr 22 Hawkwatch
Apr 29 Otero Canyon

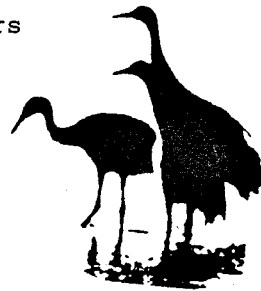


May 7 Isleta Marsh/Willie Chavez
May 14 Bosque del Apache
May 19-21 Silver City

Jun 2-4 Copper Canyon
Jun 10 Randall Davey
Jun 16-18 Clayton

Jul 1-5 Cave Creek, AZ
Jul 15 Sandias - Hummers
Jul 22 Mountaineire

Aug 12-13 Roswell
Aug 19 Jemez Falls
Aug 25-27 Antonito, CO



Sep 8-10 Gila
Sep 16 Ft. Sumner
Sep 23 Hawkwatch
Sep 30 Percha Dam/Caballo Lake

We want to add more trips, especially in the spring and early summer. If you have any ideas, please call Charlotte (345-1271) with your suggestions. Some of these trips will be overnight, either campout or motel. We are also considering a week- to 10-day trip next winter to the Brownsville, TX, area. Look for our **FIRST ANNUAL 100-BIRD DAY** trip this spring. The purpose is to see how many birds can be sighted in one day.

TRIP REPORT
By Charlotte Green

We had two nice trips in October where the weather was beautiful and so were the birds. On the 8th, 11 of us visited Isleta Marsh and the Grasslands near Los Lunas and Willie Chavez State Park in Belen. Lots of shore birds and ducks, including three Avocets at the Marsh, Sparrows, Sage Thrasher, Killdeer and Mountain Plover at the Grasslands, and at Willie Chavez the Lewis' Woodpecker finally appeared just as we were getting ready to leave.

On the 22nd, everywhere we went (Otero and Hondo Canyons), we heard the beautiful song of the Townsend's Solitaire. They must have been fooled by the sunny day and thought it was spring! At the Tijeras exit, eight of us enjoyed watching a young Red-tailed Hawk try to balance on a fine wire. He almost turned a somersault before he gave up and flew down to more solid ground.

Bosque del Apache on Nov. 5 was spectacular! The day could not have been better, sunny and warm, and the lucky 13 birders who went were treated to over 60 species of birds plus several coyotes and a bat. We saw three varieties of Grebes (Horned, Eared and Pied-billed), Pyrrhuloxia, Bonaparte's Gull, Cormorant, lots of hawks, ducks and shore birds, and of course hundreds of geese and Sandhill Cranes. It was a great day, ending at the Owl Bar.

RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER, together with Far Flung Adventures, is again offering adventure on The Rio Usumacinta, the River of the Sacred Monkey, a boating trip through this birders' paradise (190 species on this trip in '93 and 221 in '92!) And for the botanists, there are orchids and bromeliads in this lush jungle. **March 24 - April 2, 1995.** Call 505-983-4609 for detailed itinerary.

**A LETTER FROM FRIENDS
OF THE RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER:**

"Birds of a Feather Weekend has come and gone six times since February 1, 1990. Audubon volunteers have staffed the Observation Room at the Rio Grande Nature Center at every event. Our thanks go to Tamie Bulow and the people she recruited for us over the years. The Audubon Identification teams are an essential part of our bird programs. We are indebted to your members for the contribution of their time and knowledge."

(Signed) Anne Bancroft
Howard Kimbrough

THREE GUN SPRING CANYON UPDATE

By Jeff Myers

Congress has allocated \$650,000 for acquisition by the Forest Service of wilderness at the mouth of Three Gun Spring (Tres Pistoles) Canyon, after intense lobbying by local, state, and national organizations (orchestrated by Louise Waldron). Please write Mayor Chavez, your city councilor, and/or your county commissioner asking that they support the federal action by allocating city/county funds to acquire open space in the canyon. For more information, contact me at 242-9677. --Jeff

**AT THE NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENCE . . .**

The exhibit, "Two Eagles/Dos Aquilas: A Natural History of the Mexico-U.S. Borderlands," features 130 photographs by well-known naturalist and wildlife photographer Tupper Ansel Blake. This traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution both celebrates and examines wildlife and nature along the almost 2,000-mile boundary between Mexico and the U.S. and includes artifacts from cultures along the border. Through January 2, 1995.

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

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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.

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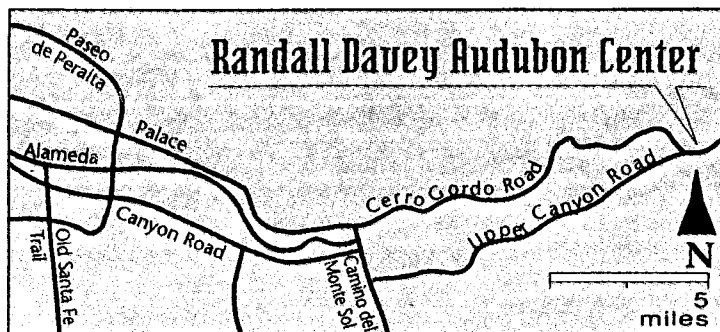
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(Information Only)
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(Comments for President)

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

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(505) 766-3481

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
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(505) 766-3636

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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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.

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