

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1997

VOLUME 26 - No. 2

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Welcome! Central New Mexico Audubon Society invites you to join us.
All our meetings and field trips are free and open to the public.

BIRDATHON! BIRD AMERICA! BIRD BLITZ!

Whatever you call it, it's speeding toward us for 1997, and -- (we hired an ad writer to come up with this) -- it's **BIGGER** and **BETTER** than ever! **BIGGER** because we've expanded the birding window. Circle **April 17 through May 17** on your calendar! **BETTER** because we have a stellar cast of birding teams and leaders who will leave no tern unstoned -- that is, uncounted -- in our sole fundraising event of 1997.

Why raise money? To support education, conservation, and birds in New Mexico through the education outreach programs of our State Audubon office, **Randall Davey Audubon Center** in Santa Fe; and to instill enthusiasm and interest through the development of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society **birdwatching garden at the Albuquerque BioPark**, site of the new Rio Grande Botanic Garden.

Sound exciting? Well, read on for more details -- and get out your field guides and binoculars and plan to join us. **BIRDING . . . WHAT A GREAT SPORT!**

PROGRAMS

The holidays, SuperBowl, and Valentine's Day are behind us, so come join us for a Thursday evening meeting, where you'll find congeniality, entertainment, information, refreshments -- and other birders! Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments served from 7:15. Come to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Copper & Jefferson. All are welcome.

February 20 - Carolyn Cleveland, the Environmental Education Coordinator for City Open Space, will present a timely program on Open Space. City voters recently approved a one-quarter of one percent, two-year gross receipts tax increase, the funds from which will purchase 21 unique open space properties, develop 25 neighborhood parks, and purchase land for parks.

Carolyn will present slides, bring bird checklists and other literature, and talk about Audubon Camp of the West, which she attended in 1996, and how it ties in with her Environmental Education Program. Come learn about and help to celebrate the preservation of these unique areas for Albuquerque's future generations.

March 21 - Kathy Wood from Fish and Wildlife will speak about the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, a multi-state venture to preserve those prairie potholes, playas, and shallow lakes so important to waterfowl. The joint venture is part of the overall North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Kathy coordinates the program locally, sometimes working with the Panhandle Audubon Society in Amarillo. She works with private and public concerns to preserve these small bodies of water to benefit birds and other wildlife. You'll enjoy her story of success and cooperation for birds and others.



AUDUBON TRIPS

Everyone is welcome on field trips: Audubon members and nonmembers, novice and experienced birders.

TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 15-16: Farmington. This is a new trip for us. The members of the Farmington Bird Club will show us around. We'll visit Navajo Lake, San Juan River, and Bolack Farms to see raptors and Golden Eyes. Bring your lunch and warm clothing; it may be pretty cold. We'll stay overnight, so call Sei (266-2480) or Charlotte (345-1271) for information about carpooling and accommodations. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Far North Shopping Center, San Mateo and Academy.

Sat., Feb. 22: Corrales Bosque. Meet at the Northeast corner of Corrales Road and Alameda Blvd. at 8:30. Dress warmly. We'll be back by noon.

TRIPS FOR MARCH

Sat., March 8: Otero Canyon and Sandias. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center in the IHOP parking lot. Bring your lunch.

Sat.-Sun., March 22-23: Percha Dam State Park. This is supposed to be the best birding spot in the state. Meet at the Physics Bldg. parking lot, Yale and Lomas, at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch; we'll have supper out. This can be a day trip or an overnighter. There are campsites at the park, or lodging in T or C. Call Charlotte (345-1271) or Sei (266-2480) so we know how many plan to stay overnight.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

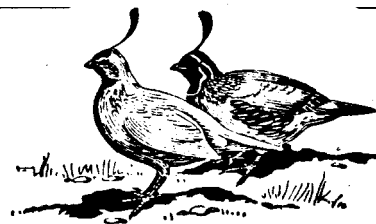
For information on Thursday morning outings to nearby areas, call Julie Goodding at 255-9366.

BOSQUE "FLY-ON-IN"

Did you know:

General refuge tours of Bosque del Apache are being offered, free of charge, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through February? Call (505)835-1828 to register, or sign up at the Visitor Center.

The Friends of Bosque del Apache have funded six \$125 scholarships to help pay for bus transportation to the refuge for nonlocal school groups who are using the Bosque education curriculum? Last we heard, there were still four scholarships available. Contact Ed Ericksen, Education Chair of Friends of Bosque, at (505)835-4488 if you're interested in applying or contributing.

**HART SCHWARZ'S OASIS HOPPING IN APRIL**

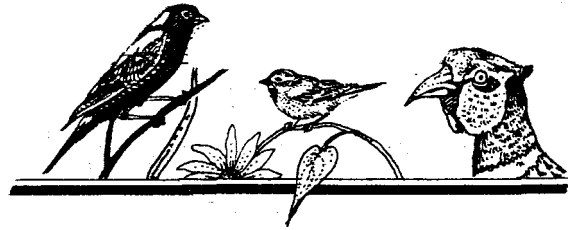
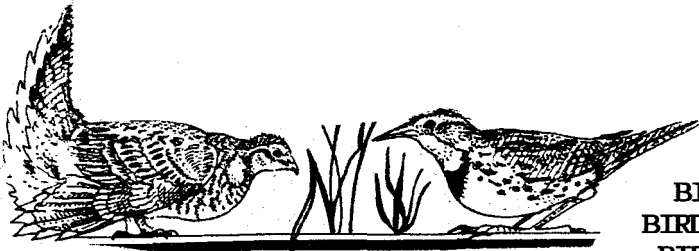
Once again, Hart teams with the Rio Grande Nature Center for a series of full-day field trips for beginning and experienced birders. There is a registration fee, so call Hart (266-1810) or RGNC (344-7240) to sign up.

Sat., April 5: Percha Dam State Park, a near-pristine riparian woodland just a bit south of Truth or Consequences.

Sat., April 12: Quarai at Pueblo Missions National Monument, a haven for birds at all seasons.

Mon., April 21: The Rio Rancho Lakes & Golf Course, opened to Hart's birding group by special permission.

Sat., April 26: Sawmill Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains, a ribbon of green and a spring-fed pond in the desert.



**BIRDATHON!
BIRD AMERICA!
BIRD BLITZ!**

April 17 through May 17 will be a time of unsurpassed birding opportunities for everyone this spring! Just look at the bevy of birding buddies you can join or sponsor during that time:

- Team #1: Celestyn Brozek, leader, sponsored by **Cranes & Crows**
- Team #2: Hart Schwarz, leader, sponsored by **Wild Birds Unlimited**
- Team #3: Mike Clark and the team of **Wild Bird Center**
- Team #4: **Saturday Birders**, with Sei Tokuda and Charlotte Green, leaders
- Team #5: **Thursday Birders**, with Julie Goodding, leader
- Team #6: **"The Mavericks,"** Bill Howe (leader), Steve West, Jonalyn Yancey

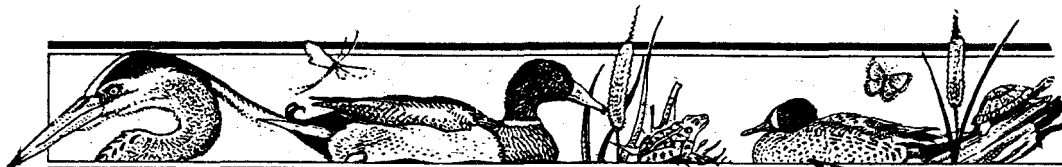
How does it work? You pick a team and make a tax-deductible pledge -- either an amount per species or a flat rate. You can join a team -- or more than one! \$5.00 lets you bird with the "open" team(s) of your choice and bird all day.

Or you can form your own team and get all your friends to sponsor you. (You know, all those friends you bought Girl Scout cookies from, or band candy, or jogathon T-shirts.) Ask them to pledge to their favorite birding store's team. Invite them to come along. It's all for fun, and . . .

It's all for the birds! This year's (bird) "seed" money will benefit two terrific and tangible projects of Central New Mexico Audubon Society:

- #1: Our beloved Randall Davey Audubon Center, located on Upper Canyon Road in Santa Fe. Their educational outreach programs touch kids and adults alike and foster the "Culture of Conservation" which National Audubon Society has adopted as its goal.
- #2: The fledgling Birdwatching Garden at the Albuquerque Rio Grande Botanic Park. This project, still in the development phases, would involve the dedication of an area for attracting and viewing birds, the publication of a Bird Checklist for that area, the installation of viewing benches and feeders, and the provision of bird seed for the many feathered visitors that will be enjoyed by the many human visitors.

Sound ambitious? Maybe. Can it be done? Absolutely. How? With a little help from our friends. Mark your calendars and send in those pledge forms. They'll be in your next Burrowing Owl, together with all the details on where to meet up with your favorite team to **GO BIRDING!!!!**



**AUDUBON WORKSHOP IN THE ROCKIES
SCHOLARSHIP TO BE AWARDED LOCALLY**

Central New Mexico Audubon Society (CNMAS) is offering one scholarship for a local educator to attend the week-long Audubon Ecology Workshop in the Rockies. The setting is a glaciated valley 7,500 feet high in the Wind River Mountains near Dubois, Wyoming.

The facilities include original homestead cabins, providing wonderfully rustic yet comfortable accommodations at the Whiskey Mountain Wildlife Conservation Camp operated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

National Audubon has over 50 years of experience providing Ecology Workshops for adults. Each session offers a successful blend of expert and enthusiastic staff, sound scientific information, discovery-oriented learning experiences, and a host of resources related to Audubon's long-standing commitment to conservation. The Camps and Ecology Workshops provide natural history instruction that is totally ecologically based, as well as include a core element of training in citizen activism.

There are six week-long sessions to choose from: June 28-July 4; July 5-11; July 12-18; July 19-25; July 26-August 1; or August 2-8.

The \$800 registration fee for the seven-day session will be paid by CNMAS. Transportation and college credit fees must be furnished by the scholarship recipient. Please contact Julie Goodding at 255-9366 for more information and an application. Deadline for submission: **postmark by March 31, 1997.**

Please share with an interested teacher.

SANDIA MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS COUNT

Sunday, January 5, 1997

Compiler: Jonalyn Yancey

01. Mallard	41
02. No. Harrier	1
03. Cooper's Hawk	2
04. Red-tailed Hawk	7
05. American Kestrel	7
06. Merlin	1
07. Rock Dove	46
08. Mourning Dove	2
09. Ladder-b. Woodpecker	1
10. Northern Flicker	47
11. Horned Lark	75
12. Steller's Jay	4
13. Western Scrub Jay	59
14. Pinon Jay	240
15. Clark's Nutcracker	3
16. American Crow	131
17. Common Raven	81
18. Mountain Chickadee	39
19. Plain Titmouse	4
20. Bushtit	85
21. Red-br. Nuthatch	6
22. White-br. Nuthatch	1
23. Brown Creeper	1
24. Golden-c. Kinglet	1
25. Western Bluebird	40
26. Towns. Solitaire	34
27. American Robin	15
28. N. Mockingbird	1
29. European Starling	139
30. Spotted Towhee	14
31. Canyon Towhee	18
32. Song Sparrow	3
33. White-cr. Sparrow	20
34. Dark-eyed Junco sp.	616
Slate-colored	6
Oregon	267
Gray-headed	60
Pink-sided	49
35. Western Meadowlark	12
36. Cassin's Finch	315
37. House Finch	137
38. Red Crossbill	20
39. Pine Siskin	83
40. Amer. Goldfinch	10
41. Evening Grosbeak	147
42. House Sparrow	12
43. Lewis' Woodpecker	3

Think Of Your Backyard As A Stage

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is the "clown" of the
backyard feeder.*



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BIRDSEED • FEEDERS • BIRDBATHS • NATURE GIFTS

The Burrowing Owl Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS - BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Sunday, December 22, 1996 - Compiler: Steve Cox

01. Pied-Billed Grebe	14	58. Scrub Jay	2
02. Double-cr. Cormorant	8	59. American Crow	824
03. Neotropic Cormorant	66	60. Common Raven	4
04. Great Blue Heron	22	Raven sp.	2
05. Black-cr. Night Heron	3	61. Mountain Chickadee	3
06. Tundra Swan	1	62. Verdin	4
07. Snow Goose (blue form)	103	63. Bushtit	31
08. Snow Goose	13,670	64. Rock Wren	8
09. Ross' Goose	32	65. Canyon Wren	1
10. Canada Goose	325	66. Bewick's Wren	8
11. Green-winged Teal	131	67. Marsh Wren	18
12. Mallard	2,215	68. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11
13. Northern Pintail	902	69. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1
14. Cinnamon Teal	2	70. Western Bluebird	2
15. Northern Shoveler	590	71. Mountain Bluebird	69
16. Gadwall	45	72. Townsend's Solitaire	5
17. Canvasback	44	73. American Robin	74
18. Redhead	5	74. Sage Thrasher	1
19. Ring-necked Duck	17	75. Curve-billed Thrasher	1
20. Bufflehead	19	76. American Pipit	1
21. Hooded Merganser	27	77. Loggerhead Shrike	11
22. Common Merganser	1	78. European Starling	1,024
23. Ruddy Duck	35	79. Yellow-rumped (Audubon's)	
24. Bald Eagle	23	Warbler	4
25. Northern Harrier	36	80. Pyrrhuloxia	1
26. Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	81. Spotted Towhee	31
27. Cooper's Hawk	5	82. Canyon Towhee	3
28. Red-tailed Hawk	64	83. Rufous-Crowned Sparrow	2
Red-tailed (Harlan's)	2	84. Chipping Sparrow	3
29. Ferruginous Hawk	3	85. Brewer's Sparrow	135
30. Golden Eagle	1	86. Black-throated Sparrow	74
31. American Kestrel	21	87. Sage Sparrow	18
32. Ring-necked Pheasant	6	88. Savannah Sparrow	1
33. Wild Turkey	11	89. Song Sparrow	56
34. Scaled Quail	18	90. Lincoln's Sparrow	4
35. Gambel's Quail	36	91. Swamp Sparrow	5
36. Virginia Rail	1	92. White-throated Sparrow	2
37. American Coot	280	93. White-crowned Sparrow	2
38. Sandhill Crane	9,521	94. Golden-crowned Spar.	2,297
39. Whooping Crane	2	95. Slate-colored Junco	1
40. Killdeer	3	Oregon Junco	239
41. Greater Yellowlegs	2	Gray-headed Junco	1
42. Long-billed Dowitcher	3	Dark-eyed Junco	259
43. Common Snipe	3	96. Red-winged Blackbird	5,522
44. Ring-billed Gull	3	97. Western Meadowlark	97
45. Rock Dove	24	Meadowlark sp.	33
46. Mourning Dove	116	98. Yellow-headed Blackbird	12
47. Greater Roadrunner	4	99. Brewer's Blackbird	6
48. Barn Owl	1	100. Great-tailed Grackle	7
49. Western Screech Owl	2	101. Common Grackle	2
50. Great Horned Owl	6	Blackbird sp.	1,300
51. Long-eared Owl	1	102. Cassin's Finch	102
52. Belted Kingfisher	1	103. House Finch	86
53. Ladder-backed Woodpecker	7	104. Pine Siskin	103
54. Hairy Woodpecker	1	105. Lesser Goldfinch	4
55. Red-shafted Flicker	60	106. American Goldfinch	335
56. Black Phoebe	2	107. House Sparrow	5
57. Say's Phoebe	9		

BACKYARD BIRD FEEDER ALERT

As the Burrowing Owl goes to press in late January, Julie Goodding has passed along the distressing news that people have been calling with reports of dead birds found in their yards. Julie herself has found six fatalities, of which five were Cassin's finches.

Wildlife Rescue is interested in any dead birds you may find. Wrap the bird in newspaper, place it in a cold area (but do not freeze!), and call Wildlife Rescue at 344-2500. *Salmonella* was determined to be the cause of death in one of Julie's birds, but we at CNMAS are not aware of a widespread outbreak at this point. Thanks for your cooperation.

WatchList Highlights Species in Decline

In October, the National Audubon Society and Partners in Flight released a "WatchList" of birds that are not yet on the Endangered Species List but show clear evidence of being in decline or in danger. Compiled through the work of scientists and the observations of volunteer citizens, the WatchList documents noncyclical drops in bird populations and pinpoints rarer species whose habitats are threatened or disappearing.

There are 90 species on the list, which represents 14 percent of American breeding bird species. Many are already rare; some are still fairly common. Here in the Southwest, such familiar birds as the Yellow-headed Blackbird and American Bittern are of concern. Backyard birds like the Rufous Hummingbird and Lewis' Woodpecker, grassland birds such as the Mountain Plover, Baird's and Cassin's Sparrows and Loggerhead Shrike, and riparian species like the Black Swift, Lucy's Warbler, and Bell's Vireo are all in decline.

The alarm is being sounded, but what can we do? You have already taken an important step by lending your support to the important conservation and education work done by The Audubon Society, both nationally and through your local chapter. You can call 1-888-AUDUBON and order Audubon's free information kit, which includes a copy of the WatchList and other information geared to help conserve birds.


What else?

Landscape with native plants that flower and fruit. Hang bird feeders and nest boxes. Provide water in simple bird baths. Place hawk decals or reflective streamers on windows to prevent collisions. Keep your cat indoors.

Help protect urban woods and wetlands. Support your state and local government wildlife programs. Participate in citizen-science programs that help bird conservation, such as BIRDATHON! and Project FeederWatch.

Together, our power to do good is incalculable.

The New Mexico Hummingbird Connection



A New Mexico Hummingbird Survey

*Sponsored by the New Mexico Audubon Council, Partners in Flight,
Randall Davey Audubon Center, and Share With Wildlife*

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.

If you have not already joined, 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 _____

County _____

City and Zip _____

AUDUBON ADVENTURES - AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Audubon Adventures program last year. Your generosity made it possible for 24 Central New Mexico area classrooms to receive Audubon Adventures.



The goal of Audubon Adventures is to develop in young people an appreciation, awareness and understanding of birds, other wildlife species, their habitat requirements, and their essential connection to people. Such an awareness of nature creates in young people a sense of stewardship for the natural world.

Prepared by experts, subjects covered for study in Audubon Adventures include Spiders, Endangered Species, Contemplating Conifers, Meet the Mammals, Bird Migration, Soil Invertebrates, Animal Tracks, Wetlands, Hawks, Owls, Ducks, Animals That Use Cavities, The Nesting Season, Constellations, The Bald Eagle, The Wild Turkey, Mollusks, Tropical Rainforests, and Amphibians.

Six subjects are chosen for a year's study, and sent to teachers and students, in the form of teachers' guides and newspapers with study aids for students. Starting last year, the program is mailed at one time to aid teachers with subject planning.

Thirty-five dollars brings this excellent study program to one classroom for one year. National Audubon Society provides \$70 per classroom for each subscription submitted.

I hope you will see fit to help fund this program for the 1997-98 school year. You can donate for a specific school, teacher, or student. Plans are currently underway for this program in 1997-98. Funding must be submitted before the close of the school year.

For more information, call Julie Goodding at 255-9366. To contribute, mail your check, payable to CNMAS, with coupon to Ron Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle, NW, 87114. Thank you!

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 _____

**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 benefitting 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:

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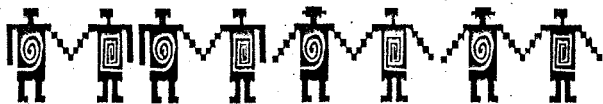
PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTER

The Public Lands Information Center, located at 1474 Rodeo Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is among the first projects of its kind in the nation. Its goal was to combine as many services and as much information as possible under one roof. It seems to have succeeded! It serves the US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers. Participating state agencies include Department of Game and Fish, Park and Recreation Division, Tourism Department, and State Land Office.

Here you will discover the recreational opportunities available on public lands, along with maps, books and guides. Agencies provide free publications, such as guides to national monuments and public fishing waters, and the Center photocopies some out-of-print reports.

Map seekers may purchase forest maps, several topographic maps, BLM state maps and 64 quadrant maps. Permits and passes for many public lands are sold here. There are books on geology, forestry, Hispanic and Native American culture, archaeology and wildlife. You will find the Golden series for children, *Haunted Highways*, *Pueblo Birds and Myths*, *Medicinal Plants*, *Carlsbad Caverns*, and *Fishing in New Mexico*. Music CDs and special T-shirts are for sale, as well. Phone (505)438-7403.

--New Mexico Wildlife



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 Los Alamos is (505) 662-2101.

BAT IN TROUBLE?

Call Talking Talons before you intervene.
281-1133 281-1515

CNMAS DIRECTORY

CNMAS Phone Number: 255-7622

CNMAS Home Page: <http://www.rt66.com/peacmyer/cnmas.htm>

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EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

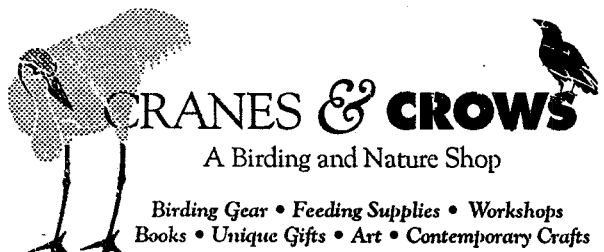
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898-8514(H); 243-7029(W)

CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL

Rebecca Gracey, 2400 Plaza Vizcaya NW, 87104; 242-3821

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email: President@WhiteHouse.GOV.

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

National Audubon Society

Membership Hotline
(800) 274-4201

Activist Hotline
(800) 659-2622

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 87503-0001
(505) 841-8881
Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Floyd A. Thompson III, District Ranger
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304

The *Burrowing Owl* is printed on recycled paper.

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

CNMAS Chapter

P.O. Box 30002 • Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

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 \$12 to CNMAS, c/o Beth Hurst, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., 87114-1710.

CALENDAR RECAP

Feb. 15-16: Birding trip, Farmington

Feb. 20: General Meeting: Alb. Open Space and Environmental Education Program

Feb. 22: Birding trip, Corrales Bosque

Mar. 8: Birding trip, Otero Canyon & Sandias

Mar. 20: General Meeting: Playa Lakes Joint Venture, USF&WS

Mar. 22-23: Birding trip, Percha Dam State Park

April: Hart Schwarz/RGNC Birding Classes

April 17-May 17: BIRDATHON!!!

May 10: International Migratory Bird Day

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