

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

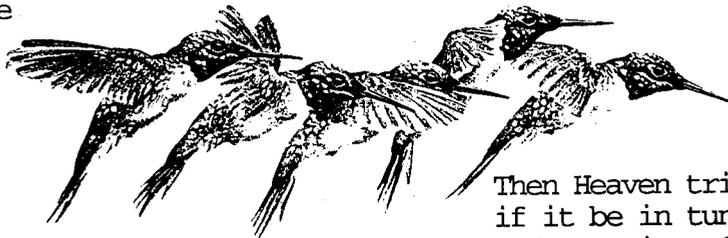
JUNE - JULY 1997

VOLUME 26 - No. 4

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.

"And what is so rare
as a day in June?
Then, if ever,
come perfect days;



Then Heaven tries earth
if it be in tune,
And over it softly
her warm ear lays."

--James Russell Lowell

PROGRAMS

Before you head off to that special vacation spot, join us for the last scheduled program of the summer. Then we'll take a break in July and August and reconvene in September with a special program to herald the fall birding season. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on June 19 at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Copper and Jefferson. Light refreshments will be served from 7:15. You are most cordially invited!

Thursday, June 19 - Partners in Flight is an affiliation of more than 60 state and provincial agencies, 16 federal agencies, 15 companies, and dozens of nonprofit groups, including National Audubon Society, that have allied themselves to promote conservation and preservation of birds internationally. **Bill Howe**, Nongame Coordinator of the Southwest Region of US Fish and Wildlife Service, will present a slide show and talk about Partners in Flight and the birds that need our help!

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

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

TRIPS FOR JUNE

Sat., June 14 - Zuni Mountains. We should see lots of breeding birds, including Wilson's Phalarope, Gray Catbird, Willow Flycatcher, and Indigo Bunting. Meet at 5:45 a.m. at the Physics Building Parking lot, Lomas and Yale. Bring lunch. We'll be back late.

Sat., June 28 - Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. This is the peak display time for many grassland birds. Meet at the Far North Parking lot, Academy and San Mateo, at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch; we'll have supper out. This will be a long day trip.

There are no trips scheduled for July. Have a great summer vacation, and happy birding!

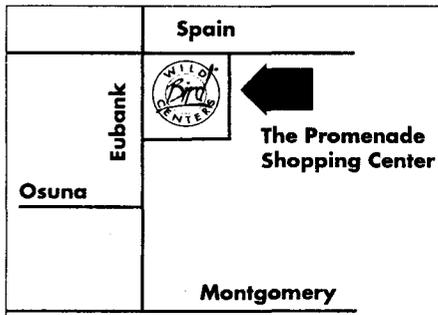
**WILD BIRD CENTER'S
BENEFIT SEED SALE**

Mike Clark and the folks at Wild Bird Center announce their Not-So-Lazy Days of Summer Benefit Seed Sale, going on from June 4 through June 18.

Our feeders' summer visitors will benefit from your purchases of seed from Wild Bird Center during this period, and so will **Central New Mexico Audubon Society**, as well as New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors and Hawks Aloft. Mike is generously donating a portion of his proceeds from bird seed sales during this two-week summer celebration to each of these lucky and grateful organizations.

So grab your "seed money" and come to Wild Bird Center! What a great way to share the benefits of bird feeding!

**How to find the
Wild Bird Center**



**A SHOW TO BENEFIT THE
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

June 14 thru July 13, 1997

Mirage Gallery & Sculpture Park announces their **Second Annual "For the Birds"** art show, to benefit Central New Mexico Audubon Society.

Bird-related artwork will fill the gallery, ranging from multi-media feeders and sculptures to oil paintings and colored pencil drawings.

Last year's "For the Birds" show attracted over 500 people. It featured local artists and benefited the arts community locally, as well as Audubon's conservation efforts -- locally, right here in New Mexico.

You are all most cordially invited to attend the Opening Night festivities or to visit the gallery anytime during the show. Mirage Gallery is located at 3301 Menaul Boulevard in Albuquerque. CNMAS most gratefully thanks Greg E. Reiche and Laura Telander, owners of Mirage Gallery, for their generosity and support.

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

Hurray for our team! Everybody was a winner in this year's Birdathon, which was our best and most fun yet. Enormous thanks to all of you who led the teams, coordinated volunteers, went on bird trips, and gave your financial support.

The final tally is still being compiled, so be sure to check the next Burrowing Owl for trip recaps from each team, the grand total of your contributions, and a list of our generous sponsors.

Below is a recap of the Summer Camp for Kids programs being held at Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe this summer. Remember: All of your Birdathon money stays right here in New Mexico, promoting conservation education and preservation. This summer camp program is just one of the activities your **Birdathon!** pledge goes to support. Feathered thanks to each and all of you for caring and sharing.

AGES	DATES	MORNING	AFTERNOON
	MON. TO FRI.	9:00 AM - NOON	12:30 - 3:30 PM
5 & 6 yr.	June 9 - 13	We've Got Bones To Pick!	Our Giant Friends
7 & 8 yr.	June 16 - 20	Critters' Corners	Nature By Design
9 -11 yr.	June 23 - 27	Prowling For Predators	Predators On Stage
9 - 11yr.	June 27	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Sleep Over (to 9:00 am Sat)
5 & 6 yr.	July 7 - 11	Circles Of Life	The Artist's Circle
7 & 8 yr.	July 14 - 18	Prowling For Predators	Predators On Stage
7 & 8 yr.	July 18	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	Sleep Over (to 9:00 am Sat)
7 - 11yr.	July 21 - 25	Earth Explorers	Chemical Detectives
5 & 6 yr.	July 28 - Aug 1	Critters' Corners	Nature By Design
7 & 8 yr.	Aug. 4 - 8	We've Got Bones To Pick!	Our Giant Friends



THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

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



**RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER
QUARTERLY THEME DAY**

Sat., June 14: Extinct is forever. The Rio Grande Nature Center staff and volunteers will be examining threatened and endangered plants, animals and habitats, especially the Southwest willow flycatcher, the Rio Grande silvery minnow, and the Rio Grande cottonwood. Activities are planned for children and adults. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., RGNC, 2901 Candelaria, N.W.

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, NM, 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.





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AUDUBON ADVENTURES - FROM THE TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVE

YOUR support of the Audubon Adventures program this past year has generated rave reviews!



Thank you's and kudos come from John Wayne Prentice, Apache Elementary School, who writes: "I use the newspapers with over 100 students. I teach my own 4th Grade and then 3 sections of 3rd Grade Science, so the newspapers get maximum usage in my classes." He invites any of our members to visit his school to view their extensive collection of birds and mammals.

"We were delighted with our Audubon Adventures subscription this year. It was very useful in supplementing and enriching our units of ecology and animals. Our 4th Grade children . . . loved it," writes Joyce Simpson, Arroyo del Oso Elementary.

Another thank you comes from Joyle Moyer, Comanche Elementary, who says:

"Over the years, the student newspaper has been used as the focus of thematic units, the foundation for individual reports, and I, personally, have used issues to facilitate articulation therapy as well as reading due to their high interest level for children."

Julie Goodding, Program Chair for the Audubon Adventures program, reports that improvements for next year include a new design for the student paper and an Audubon's Animal Adventures Video to each class. Topics for '97-'98 will cover: Wetlands, Migration, Nature in Our Neighborhoods, Amphibians, and a special spring edition on Audubon Wildlife Campaigns. To contribute, please mail your check, with coupon, payable to CNMAS to Ron Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle, NW, 87114-1710. Thank you for your support!

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 _____
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TRUE OR FALSE?

Brown sugar makes good hummingbird nectar for feeders.

Don't do it! Brown sugar, like honey, provides a medium for several kinds of bacteria that are lethal to hummingbirds. Making hummingbird food is easy. Simply mix four parts boiling water mixed with one part granulated white sugar. Nothing else is needed or desirable. Any effort to "improve" on this formula invariably creates problems.

--Bird Watcher's Digest

**PERSONAL PROFILE -
JEANINE DERBY**

Congratulations to Jeanine Derby, the recipient of this year's annual Washburn Award. Each year, CNMAS selects an employee or official of a governmental agency or body who has demonstrated outstanding creativity, courage, insight, or diligence in administering, initiating, or otherwise serving programs of environmental protection or education. The Washburn Award was established in 1976 in honor of Daniel and Marian Washburn in recognition of their years of service to the chapter.

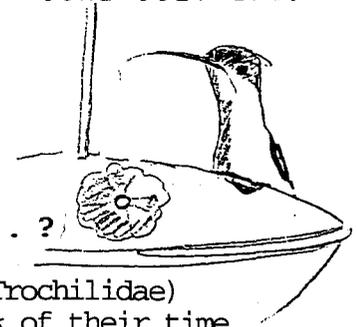
Jeanine has been Forest Supervisor on the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands for the past 4 1/2 years. Some of her notable accomplishments are working to acquire valuable habitat, including Three Gun Spring Canyon and the checkerboard area of Mt. Taylor; negotiating for reintroduction of Big Horn Sheep in two mountain ranges in her district; and restoration of riparian areas.

Jeanine supports riparian and wetland enhancement through several projects in the Zuni Mountains. She is also a member of the multi-agency Board of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, a five-state effort to support habitat in the Southern Great Plains for migrating waterfowl.

Her interest in birdwatching led her to hire an expert in neo-tropical birds to help the Forest Service identify important bird areas and provide for appropriate revisions of the Forest Land Management Plan. She's also implemented preparation of bird lists for all Districts on the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands, an area which covers a wide variety of ecological zones throughout a three-state area.

Jeanine's first contact with the Forest Service was as a volunteer. The San Bernardino National Forest wanted to trade a parcel of isolated Forest land to a private party at Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains. As a volunteer botanist, Jeanine found eight species of potentially threatened or endangered plants on the parcel proposed for exchange. This stopped the exchange, and Jeanine was hired as a temporary biological technician to do more inventory work. After two years, she was hired into a permanent position, the first botanist ever hired on a National Forest.

We're glad you're here, Jeanine, and thanks for your dedication and devotion. Congratulations!



DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

- * Hummingbirds (Trochilidae) spend about 60% of their time perched.
- * The best hummingbird gardens are based on multilevel planting schemes. A good example of this scheme would be a trumpet vine on a trellis, with shrubs in front of the trellis and smaller plants in front of the shrubs.
- * Having red tubular flowers in your garden will actually increase the attractiveness of your feeders.
- * Many of the flowers most appealing to hummingbirds have no scent. Hummingbirds have no sense of smell, but are attracted to nectar-rich flowers because of color and design. Fragrance, of course, does attract the bees.
- * Hummingbirds attack much larger birds, including hawks!
- * The feat of flying upside down is attained by hummingbirds, only for a short distance, as part of a backward in-flight somersault.
- * Young hummingbirds know instinctively how to fly, but they have to learn how to perch.
- * Female hummingbirds choose their nesting site and prepare the nest alone. After the male's courtship display, he follows her back to her nesting territory, mates with her and leaves.

--Excerpted from Wild Bird News

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**CONSERVATION NEWS -
REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Jeffrey D. Myers



Bad Petroglyph Legislation: Senator Domenici and Representatives Schiff and Skeen have introduced legislation to permit the extension of Paseo Del Norte through the midst of Petroglyph National Monument. Our Chapter has consistently taken the position that, as a local matter, the extension of the road has unacceptable negative impacts on the bird habitat and cultural resources provided by the Monument. As a national matter, the legislation would, if passed, provide the first instance in which a road was permitted through a national park without having a legitimate park purpose associated with the road. This would be an unacceptable precedent.

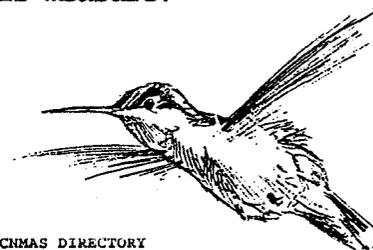
Please call or write both Senator Bingaman and Secretary of the Interior Babbitt to express your opposition to the legislation. It is vital that these two individuals not waiver in their historical opposition to extension of the road through the Monument. Their telephone numbers and addresses are:

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

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate - SH 110
Washington, D.C. 10510
(505) 766-3636

Protection of Reptiles and Amphibians: During the last New Mexico legislative session, our Chapter worked for passage of legislation which would protect native reptiles and amphibians from commercial exploitation, with certain stated exceptions. The bill sailed through the House of Representatives and through committees in the Senate, only to languish on the floor of the Senate behind the filibuster by Republican Senator William F. Davis. The filibuster, which killed a large number of bills, was done either at the sole behest of Senator Davis, or that of some other entity, depending on whom one believes.

In any event, we gained a great deal of experience in the legislative process and hope to follow a strategy which will ensure success for similar legislation in two years. Thank you all for your support of this measure.



CNMAS DIRECTORY

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

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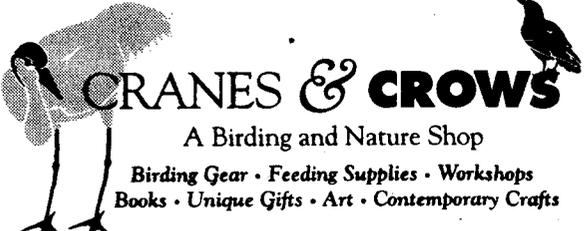
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Charlotte Green, 808 Freeman Avenue NW, 87107

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898-8514(H); 243-7029(W); 242-7343 (Fax)

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FLOCKS ARE NEVER HERDS

A Safari in Kenya and Tanzania
By Katherine B. Hauth

On my first game drive, my eagerness to "discover" the animals misidentified several trees for giraffes, stumps for quadrupeds, and baboons for huge flying birds. Between game preserves I saw Kingsize Pillow Birds and White-sheeted Flappers because someone had hung laundry where I was expecting to see storks.

Once, my imagination went into reverse. An apparent piece of wood transformed itself into a Kori Bustard in its courting pose. ("Bustard," I learned, does not negatively reflect on that species' parentage. Boubous were not owies, and Fiscal referred to shrikes, not currency.) I also added Widowbirds and Whydahs to my avian vocabulary.

Under our driver's tutelage, "rump rooster" (based on its most common location) progressed to "tick bird" and then advanced to specific species such as Red-billed Buffalo Weaver. Guineafowl were Helmeted and Vulturine. Vultures were White-backed, Nubian (Lappet-faced), and Ruppell's.

Even after correctly identifying several species, my herd instinct needed improvement. Once again our driver wasn't impressed with "piles" of impalas and "bunches" of baboons. He honed vocabulary to "troops" of baboons, "schools" of hippos, "clans" of hyenas, and "sounders" of warthogs. But to him, a flock was a flock was a flock, no matter what the bird.

I delighted when Life verified definitive behaviors that I'd seen only in documentaries. The dainty gerenuk is called "giraffe gazelle" in Swahili. Standing on pencil-thin legs and stretching its slim neck, the gerenuk neglects lower leaves to nibble those that are nearly beyond reach. This farthest-leaf-is-best syndrome (apparently related to our grass-is-greener equivalent) produces their characteristic anorexic stance.

By contrast, the ample-bodied warthog knelt to eat, as if prayerfully thankful

for anything it could reach. When the warthog ran, it raised its tail vertically like a "ham" radio antenna. I wondered what evolutionary process brought that about.

Vultures, true to expectation, had terrible dinner manners. They noisily and rudely squabbled over carrion while Marabou Storks stood in the background like butlers -- waiting. A Somali Bee-eater obligingly snatched an insect on the wing and presented the gift to its mate. And Weavers wove. Most weaver nests hung like Christmas ornaments from acacia trees, but a pair of Grosbeaks wove their residence in a cattail thicket.

Within 24 hours, a pair of Taveta Golden Weavers built their home near the Mara Safari dining room. As I photographed the construction, a waiter told me that the male is the primary builder. When he thinks he's done, the female must inspect the nest. If it doesn't suit her, she tears it apart. (The lioness could take lessons from the weaver about women's liberation.)

I was feeling confident about what was happening around me -- until I heard a hyena high in a tree. (Somehow, I had missed Fish Eagles in the African documentaries.) This species most resembles our national bird, except the white feathers extend from the head down the chest, back and tail. Its loud yelping call, given with head tossed skyward, is one of Africa's most distinctive sounds.

I also wasn't prepared for the long-tailed Speckled Mousebirds. They did not sit, but hung from branches as if waiting to engage in a contest of chin-ups. Some hung in groups, the proximity of their lower parts suggesting a menage-a-trois, or quatre, or six. I was assured that this was just how mousebirds hang out, not procreate.

I learned a lot in three weeks in Kenya and Tanzania. I'd love to return. Think of how much I could learn if I started out knowing something.

Whom to Contact:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
email: President@WhiteHouse.GOV.

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

email: senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov

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Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steve Schiff — (505) 766-2538
Hon. Joe Skeen — (202) 225-2365
Hon. Bill Richardson — (202) 225-6190
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Activist Hotline
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New Mexico Office
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Randall Davey Audubon Center
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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

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National Audubon Society

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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.

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Send this application and your check to:

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CNMAS Chapter

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Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Local Chapter Code — Q51

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CALENDAR RECAP

- June 4-18:** Benefit Seed Sale, Wild Bird Center
June 14: Birding trip, Zuni Mountains
June 14: Theme Day, Rio Grande Nature Center
June 14- "For the Birds" art show
July 13: benefiting CNMAS, Mirage Gallery & Sculpture Park
June 19: General Meeting: Partners in Flight with Bill Howe
June 28: Birding trip, Maxwell Wildlife Refuge

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