

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1997 - JANUARY 1998

VOLUME 27 - No. 1

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

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



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS -
A TRADITION



In 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman and other conservationists were disturbed by the slaughter of birds in an annual Christmas event called the "side hunt." The team that shot the most birds and other small animals was the winner. As a protest and an alternative, Chapman, then editor of *Bird-Lore* magazine (predecessor of *Audubon*), organized 27 friends in 25 locations on Christmas Day, 1900, to count birds rather than shoot them. The results were published in *Bird-Lore*, February 1901: "The results of the census are both interesting and instructive . . . On the one hand the almost entire absence of such northern species as the Crossbills is noticeable; on the other, the mild season and prevailing absence of snow evidently accounts for the presence of a number of species rarely observed in December . . ." Counts that first year were held in 13 states and two Canadian provinces.

Have fun and give a special Christmas to yourself (and to the birds) by participating in one or more of the Christmas Bird Counts listed below. You'll be contributing to the collection of scientific data and having a good time. Amateur birders are welcomed; expert birders will be leading all groups. Our compiled information is sent to National Audubon Society and published locally in the NMOS bulletin, and next fall in National Audubon Field Notes. A fee of \$5 per participant is charged to cover cost of publication. So grab your field guides, dress warmly, bring food and hot cocoa, and come celebrate Christmas the Audubon way!

Saturday, December 20 - Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro

Contact Steve Cox, 345-2385

Meet at Refuge headquarters, 7:00 a.m.

Owl Bar afterwards for treats and tallies

Sunday, December 21 - Albuquerque

Contact Hart Schwarz, 266-1810

After December 16, Contact Jonalyn Yancey, 286-2949

Meet at Corrales Shopping Center, NW corner of Coors and Alameda

7:15 a.m.

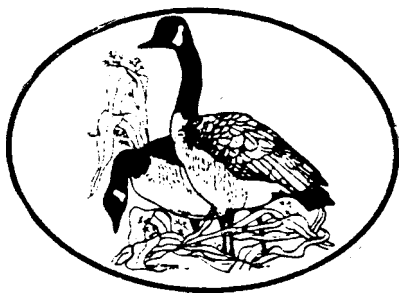
Saturday, December 27 - Sandia Mountains

Contact Jonalyn Yancey, 286-2949

Meet at parking lot of now-closed Pete's Mexican Restaurant,

north Hwy. 14, 1/2 mile north of Sandia Crest Road turnoff

7:30 a.m.



PROGRAMS

FOR DECEMBER

Christmas Bird Counts are the seasonal interactive programs for the month, offering you great opportunities for birding and socializing. Happy counting, enjoy the holidays, and join us in January for:

Thurs., Jan. 15 - John Parmeter from New Mexico Ornithological Society will present a talk on documentation of rare and unusual birds in New Mexico, complete with vivid slides. Based on compilations finalized in December, this will be the most up-to-date information available. John is one of seven voting members of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee and an expert birder. You're sure to learn a lot from his entertaining program.

7:30 p.m. - Program. Light refreshments provided from 7:15. St. Timothy's Lutheran Church Northwest corner of Copper and Jefferson

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.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome on field trips: Audubon members and nonmembers, novice and experienced birders. Bring field guide, binoculars, munchies & water. Join us!

TRIPS FOR JANUARY

Sun., Jan. 11 - Kit Carson Park and West Mesa. Meet at Kit Carson Park at 8:30 a.m. To get to the park, take Laguna Blvd. south off Central. We'll move on to the West Mesa and be back early afternoon. We're hoping to see some unusual sparrows.

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 1 - Las Vegas and Maxwell National Wildlife Refuges. Bring your lunch and lots of warm clothing; it can get pretty cold. This can be a day trip or stay overnight in Springer. This trip is a must to see Hawks and Eagles! Call Sei (266-2480) or Charlotte (345-1271) to let us know who is going and for information on car pooling and accommodations. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Far North Shopping Center behind Village Inn, San Mateo and Academy.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

For information on weekly birding outings (every Thursday), call Julie Goodding at 255-9366.

Meeting times and locations, as well as duration of outings, vary.

The natural alternative

Backyard birding is an increasingly popular entertainment option. Share it with your friends and family, and enjoy **15% off** any bird feeder with this ad.



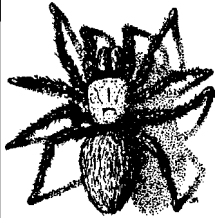
Wild Bird Center

The Promenade Shopping Center
5200 Eubank NE (Eubank at Spain NE)
(Just east of Marie Callendar's)
332-4737



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Contact:

Roseann or Jonathan Hanson,
Directors, at 520/624-4745 or
Tucson Audubon Society
300 E. University, Ste. 120
Tucson, AZ 85705
520/629-0757

FREE TEXAS BIRDING INFO

The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail map covers the Central Texas Coast (with the Upper and Lower coasts to follow in the next two years) and is free from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. To receive a map, call 800-792-1112, press 0, ask for extension 4937, and leave your name and address.

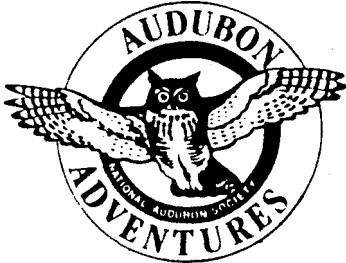
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS ACROSS THE STATE

- Caballo** - date not set
Contact Barry Zimmer, (915) 821-6737
- Carlsbad Caverns National Park** - Sat., Dec. 20
Steve West, (505) 885-1153
- Clayton** - Monday, December 29
Lois Herrmann, (505) 983-6036
- Espanola** - Sunday, January 4, 1998
Bernie Foy, (505) 466-1587
- Farmington** - Saturday, December 20
Alan Nelson, (505) 325-8619
- Five Points** - Saturday, December 20
Angel Montoya, (505) 861-2235
- Gila River** - Saturday, January 3, 1998
Roland Shook, (505) 388-3441
- Lakes Avalon/Brantley** - Monday, December 22
Steve West, (505) 885-1153
- La Luz** - Saturday, December 27
John Mangimeli, (505) 479-4102
- Las Cruces** - Saturday, December 20
Gordon Ewing, (505) 522-3934
- Las Vegas** - Sunday, December 21
George Blanchard, (505) 421-2381
- Loving** - Saturday, December 27
Steve West, (505) 885-1153
- Peloncillo Mountains** - Saturday, December 27
Alan Craig, (520) 558-2220
- Roswell** - Saturday, December 20
Sherry Bixler, (505) 622-0597
- Ruidoso** - Saturday, December 27
Anita Powell, (505) 257-5352
- Santa Fe** - Saturday, December 27
Pat Insley, (505) 982-0796
- Santa Rosa** - Tuesday, December 23
Bill West, (505) 473-2780
- Sevilleta NWR** - Tuesday, December 23
Angel Montoya, (505) 861-2235
- Silver City** - Saturday, December 20
Roland Shook, (505) 388-3441
- Zuni** - Saturday, December 20
John Trochet, (916) 736-3560

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.

WEB SITES: [Http://Home Pages of Interest](http://Home Pages of Interest)

THANKS TO YOU - Audubon Adventures is in our classrooms! These schools are receiving subscriptions to Audubon Adventures:



- *Wilson Middle School
- *Arroyo del Oso Elementary
- *Georgia O'Keefe Elementary
- *Kirtland Elementary
- *Apache Elementary
- *Dowa Yolanne Elementary,
Zuni
- *Sandia Preparatory
- *Rio Rancho Elementary
- *Bosque Preparatory
- *Lew Wallace Community Magnet
School
- *Roosevelt Elementary,
Bernalillo
- *Rio Grande Nature Center

Penny Morris at Georgia O'Keefe writes: "Thank you for renewing our subscription to Audubon Adventures. The kids really do enjoy it. They sometimes think it's just birds, but we found out last year it's wonderful information about all kinds of animals."

WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park is sponsoring this all-day event on Saturday, January 24, to focus on winter birds of the bosque and their habitats, as well as early migration. There will be guided bird and bosque walks, bird ID, demonstrations and children's activities. Stop by anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and join the festivities.

National Audubon Society/Partners in Flight WatchList (for updated information on birds at risk before they require federal listing):
<<http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/>>

The Peregrine Falcon Fund (for continuing information on the Arizona Condor population):
<http://www.peregrinefund.org>.

Friends of Bosque del Apache:
<http://sturgeon.iml.r2.fws.gov> (that's im ONE (1), click on "National Wildlife Refuges," find Bosque del Apache under New Mexico)

Share with Wildlife nongame protection program of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish:
<http://gmfish.state.nm.us> (Click on "Nongame")

UNM's Museum of Southwestern Biology bat study (for study updates, data, and even echolocation calls of New Mexico's bat species):
<http://sevilleta.urm.edu-wgannon/batcall.html>.

HawkWatch International:
www.info-xpress.com/hawkwatch

Northern Prairie Science Center (Award-winning site with >100 information sources, including bird checklists, data, literature):
www.npsc.nbs.gov/

Extensive list of World Wide Web sites of interest to ecologists:
www.biol.uregina.ca/liu/bio/ecology.html

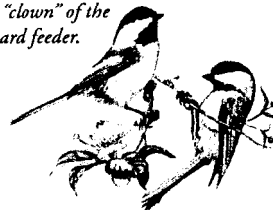
Point Reyes Bird Observatory:
www.igc.apc.org/prbo/

Ornithological Newsletter:
www.omith.cornell.edu/OSNA/ornnews1

Think Of Your Backyard As A Stage

(Nature provides the characters.)

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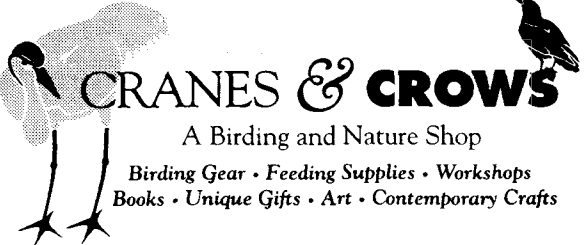
**FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES -
A REPORT BY JEFF MYERS, PRESIDENT**

I was one of the fortunate Albuquerque residents who escaped to Bosque del Apache on Friday afternoon, just before the big snow storm hit the city. Just as three years previously, the weather pattern stopped just north of Socorro.

On Friday night, a wonderful talk (including a striking video presentation) was given by Kent Clegg, the person orchestrating the ultralight-led flight of a flock of immature sandhill and whopping cranes to the Bosque from Idaho. Three of the immature whoopers have survived and are in the company of a 15-year-old adult at the Bosque (the fourth having become dinner for a coyote a few days before the Festival). It appears unlikely that the ultralight project will be used to establish a new flock at the Bosque, but rather will be used to reestablish a flock on the East Cost (wintering in Louisiana).

The New Mexico Audubon Council tent was staffed by the following volunteers: Jonalyn Yancey (Edgewood, volunteer organizer); Ken Stinnett (Las Cruces); Donna Thatcher (Albuquerque); Sei Tokuda (Albuquerque); May Tokuda (Albuquerque); Tamie Bulow (Denver); and Jeff Myers (Albuquerque).

The best sightings on our pond at the southwest corner of the Marsh Loop were arguably a Common Loon and a Verdin. Thanks to the council volunteers for helping staff another wonderful festival!



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TRIP REPORTS - Charlotte Green

September 9-10 - Vermillion Cliffs. The long drive was worth the sighting of three California Condors. Some were in the air being harassed by Ravens. They made the Ravens look the size of flies in comparison.

September 27 - HawkWatch and Quarai. Seventeen of us braved the cold and the clouds at the HawkWatch site. We saw a few hawks fly by, but the best part was getting long close looks at Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks before they were released. On the way back to the cars we saw a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons. Quarai was beautiful and a lot warmer. We spotted Orange-crowned Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, and a Porcupine.

October 25 - Bosque del Apache. This place is never disappointing. Thirteen of us had a great day seeing lots of Hawks (Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Harrier, Prairie Falcon), lots of Ducks, Geese and Cranes (although we didn't get a glimpse of the Whoopers), Ibis, Goldfinch, Sparrows and Pipits. The Coyotes checked us out, and there were Burrowing Owls in Socorro. Of course, there were owls at the Owl Bar afterwards. It turned a little cold and windy in the afternoon, but we had a wonderful day, spotting 63 bird species.

November 9 - Santa Fe. Eight people braved the weather to try to find the Rosy Finches. No luck, though -- saw Juncos, Titmouse and Chickadees instead!


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SEEN ANY BANDED BURROWING OWLS?

The Canadian Wildlife Service has been banding Burrowing Owls in Saskatchewan. Each bird wears a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service metal band plus some combination of color bands. Observers are asked to note the colors and exact sequence of all bands. The colors used in recent years are red, yellow, green, black and white. It is important to note which leg carries particular color(s) (and it may be three colors); and, where used together, whether the color band is above or below the metal band. Should you encounter one of these birds, please report your observation, including as much information as possible, to:

Helen Trefry
 Environment Canada
 Environment Conservation Branch
 Room 200, 4999-98 Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
 <Helen.Trefry@EC.gc.ca>

NEW SANCTUARY DONATED TO NAS

Mrs. Jean D. Shehan of Talbot County, Maryland, has donated one of the largest remaining undeveloped parcels of land on Chesapeake Bay to National Audubon. The 953-acre site, known locally as Wells Point Farm and situated in the heart of the Eastern flyway, includes eight miles of frontage on the Chesapeake Bay and provides vital habitat for migratory birds. Mason and Jean D. Shehan were honored by Talbot Co., MD, and staff and volunteers from the nearby Pickering Creek Environmental Center, owned and managed by the Chesapeake Audubon Society, are already organizing educational programs for schoolchildren and conducting a natural history inventory of the site.

If you're interested in receiving information on making a bequest or donation to National Audubon Society, contact NAS Planned Giving Dept., NAS-DC, (202) 861-2242.



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John J. Audubon

The
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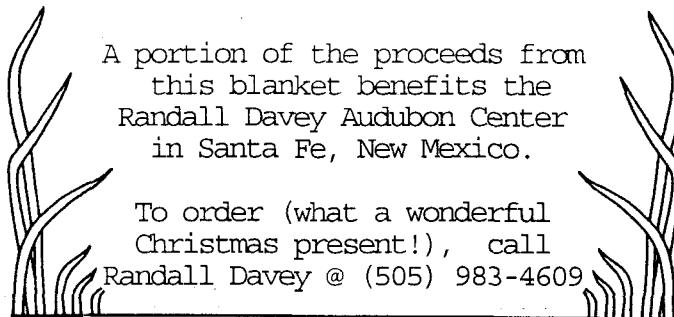
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COUNCIL CORNER

By Jeff Myers, Audubon Council
Secretary

The New Mexico Audubon Council met in Santa Fe on October 25, 1997, at the Randall Davey Audubon Center. John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society, was present for the festivities and gave a brief talk on the state and future of the National Audubon society ("National"). He reported that changes were going well to implement the strategic plan which was developed in 1995. One of its primary missions is to make National a more bottom-up organization and so more responsive to the members and the individual chapters. National will continue its emphasis on good science, under the directorship of Frank Gill, who is himself an ornithologist. National has teamed with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to work on a year-round way to share and input bird count information over the Internet.

Other issues covered by the council include: First, the effort to pass a "herp" bill failed due to the control of Senator Jennings over the Senate calendar during the final days of the last legislative session. We must now wait another year to bring the bill up again. Second, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is conducting an investigation into whether the Lesser Prairie Chicken should be listed as an endangered species in the state of New Mexico. Third, the council is considering the development of a state list of Important Bird Areas in conjunction with other organizations around the state focusing on birds. Finally, the council elected new officers, who are Tom Jervis, President; Steve West, Vice President; Earl Harvey, Treasurer; and Jeff Myers, Secretary. A date and place have not yet been set for the next council meeting.

CALENDAR RECAP

- Dec. 20** - Bosque del Apache Christmas Bird Count
Dec. 21 - Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count
Dec. 27 - Sandia Mtns. Christmas Bird Count
Jan. 11 - Birding trip to Kit Carson Park and West Mesa
Jan. 15 - General meeting featuring John Parmeter on Rare and Unusual Birds of NM
Jan. 24 - Rio Grande Nature Center Winter Bird Festival
Jan. 31-Feb. 1 - Birding trip to Las Vegas and Maxwell National Wildlife Refuges

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society

CNMA 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.

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Hon. Pete Domenici (202) 224-6621 (505) 766-3481 e-mail: senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov	Hon. Jeff Bingaman (202) 224-5521 (505) 766-3636

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

National Audubon Society

Membership Hotline (800) 274-4201	Activist Hotline (800) 659-2622
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New Mexico Office
David Henderson

Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. 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 · Bob Cordts, Acting 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.

CNMAS DIRECTORY

CNMAS Phone Number: 255-7622
CNMAS Home Page: <http://www.rt66.com/peacmyer/cnmas.htm>

PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Myers, 2200 Cutler NE, 87106; 242-9677(W); 268-8457(H)

VICE PRESIDENT and OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Donna Thatcher, 1128 Girard Blvd., NE, 87106; 255-1546

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Dianne Cress, 256 Zena Lona, NE, 87123; 841-2586(W); 298-0085(H)

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Charlotte Green, 808 Freeman Avenue NW, 87107

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Beth Hurst-Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle NW, 87114-1710; 898-8514(H); 243-7029(W); 242-7343 (Fax)

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL DIRECTORY

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