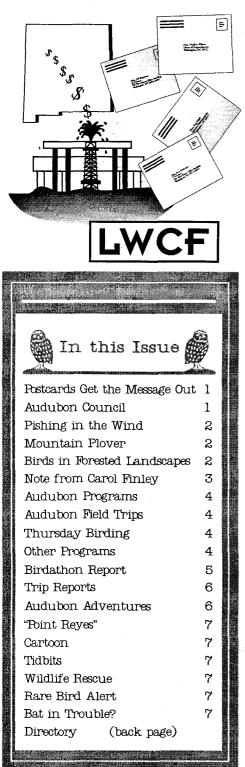


Welcome to Central New Mexico Audubon Society! Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are free and open to the public



Postcards Get the Message Out!

We need your help! We have inserted in this newsletter four postcards to send to our Congressional delegation asking for their support of important pending environmental legislation. National Audubon Society in New Mexico in conjunction with the Wilderness Society has created a special project, called Keep New Mexico Enchanting, to generate grassroots support for full and permanent funding of an existing federal program known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). In 1964 Congress created the LWCF to receive revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling and to distribute those revenues to federal and state agencies to preserve open space and parks, protect cultural and historical sites, set aside wildlife habitat and provide outdoor recreational facilities. However, Congress through its annual appropriation process has diverted revenues that should have gone to the LWCF and used it for other things. In fact, state agencies inNew Mexico haven't received any grant money from LWCF since 1995.

Congress is now reexamining its LWCF policy and a number of good and bad bills have been introduced. Your postcards will encourage Congress to do the right thing for New Mexico and our environment. For more information on how the LWCF has helped New Mexico in the past, and for a description of the pending legislation and Audubon's position(in the form of six basic principles) on the pending legislation, please contact Helga Schimkat, the project director, by e-mail at hcs@keepnmenchanting.org, or at (505) 474-5870 or visit the project's website at www.keepnmenchanting.org.

> Please sign and mail the four postcards! You can make a difference.

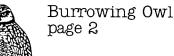
Audubon Council Corner by Jeff Myers

The June New Mexico Audubon Council meeting was held at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque. The majority had attended the Wilderness Society meeting on the Land & Water Conservation Fund the day before. In that Congressional action may be impending mandating spending the full \$900 million per year that is available, Auduboners are encouraged to write their congress persons encouraging this to happen.

The Council determined that its major priorities for the coming two years should be: (1) support of the Important Bird Area (IBA) project being run by Christopher Rustay, which may eventually lead to development of Birding Trails and other conservation/tourism efforts in the state; (2) push federal legislation to effectively spend LWCF funds and state and federal legislation to improve funding of non-game species protection in New Mexico; and (3) push state protection of reptiles and amphibians in the 2001 legislative session.

The next meeting will be at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 2, 1999. Christopher Rustay will tell us what we can do to assist identification of IBA's. Chapters will report on their activities over the past year. A birding trip to non-public areas of the Refuge is planned for Saturday morning. All Auduboners are encouraged to attend.

August/September 1999



Pishing in the Wind by Rotten Robin

According to news sources (i.e. my spouse), two or three plane crashes around the world each year are blamed on birds, presumably as a result of bird-plane collisions. On the other hand, in the U.S. and Canada alone each year almost 5000 bird crashes are blamed on planes. Officials in Quebec City have found a way to reduce the carnage at their airport. No, they didn't try the obvious solution of eliminating take-offs and landings at the airport, or even the more subtle approach of costuming each in-coming and out-going aircraft in a Northern Goshawk outfit.

The Quebec City folks came up with something that was even scarier to birds. Silhouettes of bird hunters on tripods near the runways spin around, emitting loud, gunshot-like bangs ever four minutes. This has proven to be quiet effective in discouraging the birds from hanging around. One unintended side effect is that a number of departing and arriving passengers feel like they're inside a giant shooting gallery in some madman's amusement park. Of course, we all feel that way here in New Mexico.



Mountain Plover Observations Sought

In February, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing the Mountain Plover as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Populations of this species have declined by about 50% since 1966, and only 8,000-10,000 birds now exist. The Audubon Society of Greater Denver, in conjunction with the Colorado Bird Observatory, is seeking reports of Plover sightings to better understand present populations, range, and migration patterns of species.

Information requested includes:

- 1) date of observation
- 2) number of birds
- 3) location of the bird sighting
- 4) whether other observers were present.
- 5) the bird's activities
- 6) the habitat where it was found.

Please submit Mountain Plover reports to: Plover Steering Committee, 17410 E. Nichols Place, Aurora, CO 80016.

Birds in Forested Landscapes

A request from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology could really use your help for a conservation project studying the effects of forest fragmentation on seven species of thrush and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. It's called Birds in Forested Landscapes (BFL). As you all know, I'm sure, some of these species are more widespread in your part of the country than others. Right now, we have only 5 participants in Arizona and only one (1!)

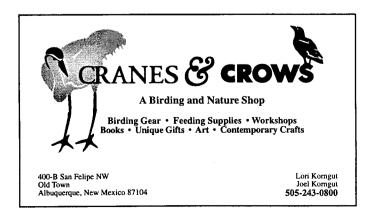
in NewMexico (and that person did not return data last year). This is real science, it's important for conservation, and it's a great way to gain "in the field" experience.

Do North American Forest Birds nest more successfully in large forests? Are nest predators and Brownheaded Cowbirds more numerous in small forests? By joining the BFL team, you can help answer these questions while learning about bird identification and avian ecology.

As a BFL participant, you'll survey thrush species and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. You choose study sites in forests of various sizes then census birds on at least two visits (using tape or CD of their vocalizations), search for indications of breeding success, and record landscape characteristics about your sites. Results from BFL are being used to develop conservation and management recommendations for sustaining healthy populations of these species.

This project is a great opportunity to "get out in the field." It's ideal for individuals, groups, class projects, and collaboration with ongoing research. If you're a student, it can be an important addition to your resume.

For more information: Allison Wells, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 254-2475, e-mail: amw25@cornell.edu



A Note From Carol Finley

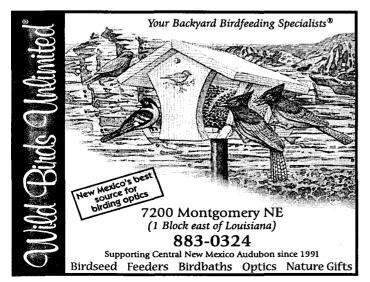
I would like to thank all of you birders who have sent me information on Burrowing Owls in the past months. I am continuing my count of Burrowing Owls in the state of New Mexico. I have recently moved to the Albuquerque area, and will be joining your group this fall. I am really looking forward to participating in the "fun"!

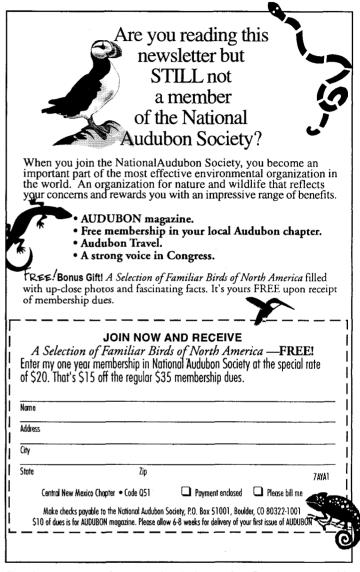
If any of you have seen Burrowing Owls this summer during your journeys and would like to share this information with me, I can be reached at (505) 891-1548 or e-mail: cfinley@psn.net. I have a good list going so far, but the more information we get, the better it will be for the Burrowing Owls.

I am currently working as the New Mexico Coordinator for the Colorado Bird Observatory's Prairie Partners project. Prairie Partners is a cooperative and voluntary program to work with landowners, leaseholders, and land managers to conserve shortgrass prairie and the birds that depend on it.

We are specifically looking for Burrowing Owls that live on prairie dog towns. I have been concentrating my search in the northeast portion of the state, but if anybody has information on the location of prairie dog towns in other parts of New Mexico, I could use that as well. I do know about the prairie dogs on Kirtland Air Force Base and the ones at the Socorro interchange.

I will be presenting an interesting slide program for Central New Mexico Audubon during the October meeting on my work with Prairie Partners, my research with Burrowing Owls at NMSU, and in general the status of the owls in New Mexico. I will be discussing many aspects of the Burrowing Owls' ecology, the trends we are seeing, and what the current status is in our state. I also have a great story to tell you about "Lucky" and his brush with death!





Use the above form for new subscriptions only. Contact Membership Chairperson for changes of address or correction 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-Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., 87114-1710

Burrowing Owl Subscription

You can subscribe to our newsletter without being a member of our chapter. In fact, if you live outside our region you will have to subscribe separately in order to receive the newsletter. The Burrowing Owl Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December. Subscription is free to Central New Mexico Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers. Send checks to: Central New Mexico Audubon Society, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190-0002



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Audubon Field Trips

Everyone is welcome on field trips: Audubon members and nonmembers, novice and experienced birders.Call Sei for more information 266-2480.

August Trips

Saturday/Sunday, August 14-15 Fort Sumner and Bitter Lake Our target birds are the Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Jay and thrashers at Fort Sumner and migrating shorebirds at Bitter Lake. Day trip or overnight stay in Roswell. Meet at 6:45 am at the west entrance of the Four Hills Shopping Center (Tramway and Central SE).

September Trips

Sunday, September 12 Corrales and West Mesa Target birds are migrating sparrows, passerines and waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 am at the northwest corner of the Corrales Shopping Center (Alameda Blvd. and Corrales Road). This will be a half-day trip.

Saturday, September 25 Quarai State Park and the HawkWatch site on Capilla Peak in the Manzano Mountains Target birds will be the migrating passerines and raptors. Be prepared for the cold winds of Capilla Peak. Bring lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. Meet at 6:45 am at the west entrance of the Four Hills Shopping Center (Tramway and Central SE).

Thursday Morning Birding Group

For information on weekly birding outings (every Thursday), call Julie Goodding at 255-9366. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary.



Audubon Programs

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments are served from 7:15. Come to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Copper and Jefferson.

August Program

No Meeting

September Program

Thursday, September 16 Audubon's Important Bird Area Program National Audubon Society's Important Bird Area Program (IBA) is coming to New Mexico! Christopher Rustay, IBA State Coordinator, will present a slide show about the national IBA program, as well as slides of potential New Mexico sites and their avian residents. Audubon encourages all interested birders and volunteers to participate in identifying and nominating potential sites which, once designated, become targets of a variety of focused conservation strategies, all aimed at maintaining high-quality habitat for birds. After hearing Christopher's goals and plans for IBA New Mexico, you'll be excited about participating in this proactive program with focused goals that is sure to yield tangible results!



Bosque del Apache NWR 1999 Summer Interpretive Program

Saturday, August 28, 7-10 pm The Heart of the Galaxy On a dark, moonless night the summer Milky Way arches across the sky. Its glimmering star clusters and wondrous nebulae leave a lasting impression on those who take the time to look. In this observational astronomy program visitors will look toward the heart of the Milky Way galaxy and examine, through telescopes, some of its richest treasures. Meet at the Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor's Center.

Rio Grande Nature Center Summer Wings

Saturday, August 7, 1999 8am-4 pm The Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center present Summer Wings, a festival celebrating hummingbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, and bees of New Mexico. A special mix of nature education and entertainment, the festival will offer guided walks, speakers, bee displays, banding and release of hummingbirds, baby birds up close and personal with Wildlife Rescue, children's crafts, and tips on hummingbird gardening. For more information, call the Nature Center at 344-

For more information, call the Nature Center at 344-7240.



Birdathon 1999 Results

Your generosity has raised \$1,223.25 to help Audubon help the birds. Thanks to all you folks for your financial support. Feathers to all of you!

Dorothy R. Rogan, Carol M. Parker, M. Rebecca Gracey, Paul McConnell, Julie Goodding, Nick Vaughn, Lee Danielson, Jim & Pat Raquet, Jean Dilley, Ann Schowalter, Dianne C. Cress, Sei Tokuda, Charlotte Green, Melenda Armstrong, Tara S. Allen, Christine K. Nyce, Andrew Rominger, Timothy L. Berkopec, Ruth Burstrom, Shannon Dort, Medea Hoeschen-Stein, Susan L. Homer, Marjorie Williams, Margaret L. Wallen, Mary Lou Arthur, Heidi Michaels, Lori and Joel Korngut at Cranes & Crows, Nettie Ireland, Linda Cummings, Mickey Gibson, Mary Hewitt, Karen & Gary Boettcher, Melinda Davenport, Cynthia D. Harris, Jan Villescas, Sylvia Chattin, Beth Hurst-Waitz & Ron Waitz, Mary Loughran, Sydney Huseby, Jr., Jeffrey Myers, Samuel Tuma, George E. Walker, Andrea L. Mays, Deborah A. Peacock, Stephen and Karen Durkovich and Greg Racca, Vickie Wilcox, Tim Porter

Team 1

Percha Dam/Silver City - Team Leader: Sei Tokuda, May 1, 2,1999

The day started windy and it was slow birding at Percha Dam State Park, but as always, Silver City produced some great bird sightings for our seven team members. Some of the weekend's most memorable sightings were: Common Black -Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Willet, Forster's Tern, Greater Pewee, Vermilion Flycatcher, Phainopepla, Red-faced Warbler, and the Painted Redstart. The Common Black -Hawk gave wonderful displays flying and soaring; the Virginia Rail stayed long enough for everyone to have excellent viewing in good light; the song of the Greater Pewee did at times sound like "Jose Maria"; and three of the team saw the Slate-throated Redstart. It was a great weekend, and we counted 93 species!

A bonus to our team was the "mini-marathon" conducted by Ruth Burstrom the previous weekend on our field trip to Bitter Lake NWR/Rattlesnake Spring. Ruth kept her own tally and garnered her own supporters to help raise money for Team 1's contribution to Birdathon.

Team 2

Thursday Birders - Team Leader: Margaret Wallen, May 6, 1999

Our team topped 100 species -- a goal we have attempted for several Birdathons. We had 114 species for the day, most of which were birds that we expect to see at Bosque del Apache. The group was excited to see a Glossy Ibis -- and such a good view! The most spectacular sight was at dusk, when over 100 Lesser and Common Nighthawks swarmed around us. Thanks to everyone on our team who helped make this a banner day. The weather was perfect. How can we top this next year, Birdathon 2000???

Team 3

Three Gun Spring Canyon and Sandia Mountains - Team Leader: Celestyn Brozek, May 15, 1999

As a member of Celestyn's group, I know factually that we had a beautiful day that ultimately resulted in a tally of 60 birds. But to share the experience of the day, leave behind your bird books and binoculars, and bring your senses. Delight with us in the bewitching experience of a peaceful flock of some 50 or more Cedar Waxwings, feeding, twittering, and being as unruffled in their demeanor as they are in their plumage. Get excited at the fortuitous sighting of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Sandias and share the common thrill of it being a first-time sighting there for all of us -- even Celestyn! And relax in the serenity of sitting on the ledge above Travertine Falls, the birds as restful and silent as we will be for a time.

Finally, stirring to leave, the day offers us its final jewel, symbolically and literally: An iridescent male Broad-tailed Hummingbird alights in a rushing ribbon of sparkling water. Sunlight is reflecting its finest hues of green and that indescribably red, rose-red gorget. That little bird just had a refreshing splash of its feathers. We just had one of our spirits!

Team 4

Escondida and Copper Canyon - Team Leader: Hart Schwarz, May 22, 1999

Nine Auduboners opted for this particular adventure that combined the joy of birding with FUNd-raising for the Audubon Society. In order to focus our efforts, we concentrated on terrestrial birds, first at Escondida, and then in Copper Canyon of the Magdalenas in the afternoon. By day's end, we had tallied a respectable 75 species.

Escondida lies just north of Socorro and along the interface where the cottonwoods meet a shrubby desert of creosote and mesquite. This is good country for the Verdin and the Lucy's Warbler, as well as Summer Tanagers and Phainopeplas, all of which we saw and/or heard well.

The latter part of the day was devoted mainly to Copper Canyon, where a brief shower stalled us on our way up to the 8,000-foot level, but which rewarded us in the end with the pungent, earthy fragrances of a brand-new day. But what made us stop in our tracks were the reverential vespers of the Hermit Thrush, which affected us more profoundly than any other song -- even that of the Red-faced Warbler.

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Trip Reports by Sei Tokuda

Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25 Roswell, Bitter Lake and Rattlesnake Springs Eleven birders made this outing very successful by finding over 110 species. Some of the best birds were the Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Osprey, Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, Dunlin, Red-necked Phalarope, Forster's Tern, Indigo Bunting, Vermilion Flycatcher and Orchard Oriole.

Saturday — Monday, May 22-24 Canyon, Texas and Palo Duro Canyon State Park Fourteen CNMAS birders were on this trip. In addition to the birds, we had two wonderful treats. We spent a couple of hours at the excellent Western museum in Palo Duro Canyon and, for those who stayed an extra day, we went on a guided tour to Buffalo Lake State Park led by two members of the Panhandle Birding Club from Amarillo, Texas. The friendly Texas birders were Rosemary Scott, the Records and Membership Chair, and Edward Kutac, the Field Trip Chair and author of Birder's Guide to Texas. We were traveling in fast company. Palo Duro Canyon is noted for its abundance of Mississippi Kites, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Painted Buntings and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. We were not disappointed, and with the help of Rosemary Scott and Ed Kutac we had excellent views of the Franklin's and Herring Gulls, Black Tern, Great Crested Flycatcher, Chimney Swift, Northern Bobwhite, and the Cassin's and Grasshopper Sparrows.



Saturday, June 12 Socorro, Water Canyon and Bosque del Apache NWR We started off the day with 7 Burrowing Owls and excellent views of the Carolina Wren. Our last bird of the day was the Peregrine Falcon. In between the notable species were the Inca Dove, Eastern Blue Bird, Phainopepla and the Red-faced Warbler. However, it was a hot day and much of the Bosque del Apache NWR was dry, and we did not reach our goal of 100 species.

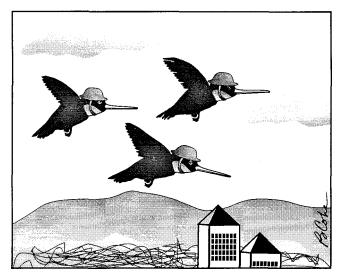
Sunday, June 27, 1999 *Chama* Seven CNMAS birders met at 9 am at the Elkhorn Lodge. The bosque behind the lodge is noted for its abundance of Lewis' Woodpeckers plus excellent chances of seeing Yellow Warblers, Cordilleran Flycatchers and Bewick's and House Wrens. Although we saw those birds and the American Redstart, we did not see or hear the Veery. We found the Bobolink at Parkview. It was windy at Heron Lake and there were few birds at the lake. However, we had a close up view of an Osprey chomping on a fish.



Help support this educational outreach program! Send your check payable to CNMAS with this form to Ron Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., Albuquerque, NM

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The Rufouses have arrived!

Tidbits

Australia: Dry cleaning for birds? Scientists in Australia have discovered a novel way to clean the feathers of birds that become covered in oil. They use a fine powder of iron and a magnetic comb. Experiments by researchers at Victoria University of Technology in Melbourn led to this technique.

Important Information

Wildlife Rescue

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

Rare Bird Alert

In Albuquerque is 323-9323.e-mail: Pinyonjay@aol.com Bat inTrouble? (Talking Talons)

Call before you intervene. 281-1133 or 281-1515

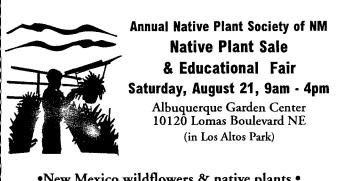
Central New Mexico Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for such accidents. You attend at your own risk.



"Point Reyes" by Gary Snyder

Sandpipers at the margin in the moon -Bright fan of the flat creek On dark sea sand, rock boom beyond: The work of centuries and wars, a car, is parked a mile above where the dirt road ends. In naked gritty sand, Eye-stinging salty driftwood campfire smoke, out far. It all begins again. Sandpipers chasing the shiny surf in the moonlight -By a fire at the beach.

by Gary Snyder



•New Mexico wildflowers & native plants • hummingbird plants • butterfly plants • native seeds • books about native plants & gardening • • insect & disease identification • Special exhibition of native dye plants by Tiana Scott.

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is a non-profit group whose purpose is to promote the conservation of our native flora and plant habitats, and to encourage the appropriate use of native plants in New Mexico. Join us today!

Call Carolyn Dodson at 268-7889 for information

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in the October/November 1999 issue of the Burrowing Owl must be received by September 15. Contact Browning Coke at 256-9130 or email bcokenm@aol.com. Central New Mexico Audubon Society Post Office Box 30002 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002

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Hon. Pete Domenici U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-6621 (505) 766-3481 senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov

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lew Mexico Office David Henderson, Randall Davey Audubon Center P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87 (505) 983-4609

Bosque del ApachedrwR

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

Sandia Ranger District US Forest Service Clifford Dils, District Ranger 11776 Highway 337 Tijeras, NM 87059 (505) 281-3304

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Villagra Building P.O. Box 25112 Santa Fe, NM 87503-0001 (505) 827-6681 http://www.gmfsh.state.nm.us

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