

Burrowing Owl



April/May 2000 Issue

Volume 29 No. 3

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

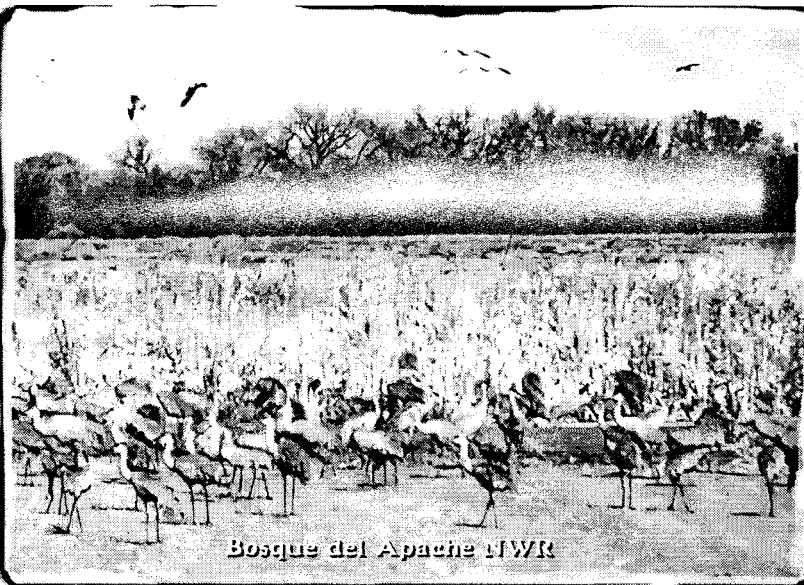
Legislature Endorses Birdwatching



one of the rockiest and tumultuous sessions of the New Mexico legislature, birdwatching got the unanimous and bipartisan approval of the Senate and House. Senate Joint Memorial 34, introduced by State Senator Ben D. Altamirano, Catron, Grant and Socorro Counties, asks the State Department of Tourism to promote birdwatching in New Mexico as an important tourism attraction. Senator Altamirano, a Silver City resident who is in his eighth term as a state senator and chairs the important Senate Finance Committee, is an avid birder. We thank him for his efforts and agree wholeheartedly with the words of the memorial that ecotourism "should present a powerful incentive to government policy-makers and local people to conserve natural and cultural resources that attract outside visitors."

A quick civics lesson: a joint memorial as opposed to a single body memorial, requires passage by both the House and Senate. S.J.M. 34 is called a Senate Joint Memorial because that was the body of the legislature in which it was introduced. A memorial, joint or otherwise, does not get presented to the Governor for approval or veto, and does not have the force of law.

The Department of Tourism does not have to comply with it. We have spoken with the Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Ms. Janet Green, and she already is taking steps to publicize New Mexico birding.



Bosque del Apache NWR

Wildlife Refuge Vote 2000 Goes Electronic

Last fall, Audubon released the America's Hidden Lands report, which calls attention to longstanding problems with the management and leadership of the National Wildlife Refuge System and introduces a solution: to establish a National Wildlife Refuge Service in the Department of the Interior that would focus on

the full-time job of managing the 93-million-acre Refuge System. This change would lift the Refuge System to a status equal to that of other major federal land systems, such as national parks and national forests. Over the past 30 years, a series of studies and reports have all arrived at a similar conclusion: Unless refuges receive greater autonomy and stature, they will be

unable to meet their conservation goals.

Refuge Vote 2000 is an opportunity for refuge supporters to vote for Audubon's proposal, which is designed to pressure Congress to establish a National Wildlife Refuge Service. We need you to cast a vote today go to:

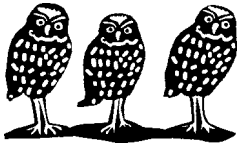
www.audubon.org/cgiwin/polyform.exe/refugevote.

Vote now and help put refuges on the map!

Also note two Bosque del Apache NWR field trips on pages 2 and 3.

In this Issue

Leg. Endorses Birdwatching	1	Audubon Refuge Keepers	2	Share With Wildlife	5
Wildlife Refuge Vote	1	Spring Birds of NM Class	2	Hummingbirds	5
Audubon Field Trips	2	Birdathon 2000	3	Burrowing Owls at Kirtland	5
Audubon Programs	2	Earth Day 2000	3	Wildlife Rescue	5
Thursday Birding	2	Trip Reports	4	Rare Bird Alert	5
Audubon Birding Academy	2	Native Plant Sale	4	Bat in Trouble?	5
Inter: Migratory Bird Day	3	Hawkwatch Observation	4	Directory (back page)	



Audubon Field Trips

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

Saturday-Sunday, April 22-23 Roswell and Carlsbad
This is our annual spring migration trip for the shorebirds at Bitter Lake and for the passerines at Rattlesnake Springs. We will overnight in Carlsbad. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Four Hills Shopping Center in front of the Hollywood Video. Call Sei for details.

Saturday May 27 Annual Long Day of Birding. This will be noncompetitive and leisurely day of birding to see if we can find at least 100 species of birds before 6 PM. The areas to be covered will include Socorro, Water Canyon and Bosque del Apache. Bring lunch, water, munchies, sun screen, bug repellent, hat, etc. Meet at the UNM Physics Building parking lot at 6:00 AM. Call Sei for details.

Thursday Morning Birding Group

For information on weekly birding outings (every Thursday), call Margaret Wallen at 291-1595. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary.

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



332-4737
The Promenade Shopping Center 5200 Eubank
(Eubank at Spain NE, Just East of Marie Callender's)

International Migratory Bird Day May 13, 2000

This Big Day, dedicated to the Joy of Birding and Environmental Awareness, will again be celebrated at Quarai on May 13, 2000. Quarai is always a hot spot for birds, eager to touch down at this oasis of cottonwoods, dense shrubbery and perennial springs. The event, always scheduled on the second Saturday in May when birds are on the move, will be jointly sponsored by the Cibola National Forest and Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument for the third straight year. Events will begin at 8:30 AM, include birdwalks, a presentation on bird migration, help for beginners on bird identification and lots of camaraderie. Call Hart Schwarz at 346-2650 Ext. 1070 for more information.

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.

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. Third Class in Audubon's Birding Academy 2000— Birds of Spring by Song taught by Jim Place using a methodology developed by Jim Travis. Class price \$5.

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 p.m. Science and Dessert
This year's Science Fair winners will have their exhibits on display. Jim Bailey, former Director of the Endangered Species Program with New Mexico Game & Fish, will update us on the status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken in New Mexico and Dave Henderson, from Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe will define Audubon's role—past, present, and future—in fighting to protect this species in New Mexico. Bring your favorite desserts to share with everyone.



Other Programs



Spring Birds of New Mexico Class Offered

UNM-Valencia Campus is offering a community education course "Spring Birds of New Mexico" taught by Celestyn Brozek. This course includes one evening class at the Valencia Campus in Tome on May 3, and two field trips: to Water Canyon on May 6 and to Bosque del Apache on May 13. This is a prime time to see the great variety of species including migratory warblers and shorebirds. The participants drive individually to both locations. The cost is \$35. For details call Celestyn at 925-8611. To enroll call the Community Education Program at 925-8970.

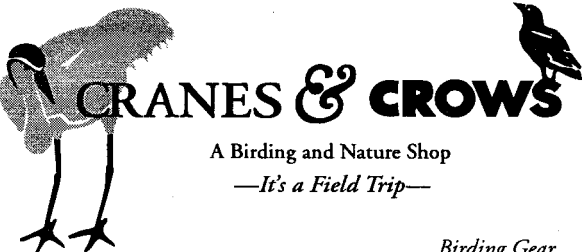
Audubon Refuge Keepers (ARK) Workshop

National Audubon Society's Wildlife Refuge Campaign and the New Mexico State Office will be presenting an Audubon Refuge Keepers (ARK) workshop at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, May 20th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.. We would like to invite all chapter members to participate in this worthwhile event. This is one of six ARK workshops that will be held around the country this year.

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.




April/May 2000



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Earth Week 2000

Earth Day Coalition of New Mexico is sponsoring an Earth Day Fair at the UNM Centennial Plaza on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 4p.m., booths, entertainment and presentations. Join in!



Birdathon 2000 Let's raise \$2K in Y2K!

The CNMAS Birdathon is an annual event to raise money and have fun in the process. It's a great race to count as many bird species as possible. You can join any of the following teams on their Birdathon outing, we ask you to pledge, then and there, a minimum of \$5.00. Your tax-deductible pledge can be a flat rate or an amount per species (75 species at 10¢ each is a \$7.50 donation). Join one or more teams, pledge to one or more, and support your Audubon Chapter's education and conservation activities right here in New Mexico.

If you pledge per species, you'll receive a postcard with the pledge amount calculated or the team(s) you sponsored. If you birded with a group, pay up front or send your pledge with the form below by May 26. If you're making a tax-deductible donation, **do it now!**

Team 1

Saturday/Sunday May 6-7 Silver City and Percha Dam Sei Tokuda will lead this trip. There is a good likelihood that we still see the Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Greater Pewee and the Black-Hawk. Other possibilities include the Olive Warbler and Zone-tailed Hawk. We will overnight in Silver City. Meet at 7:00 AM at the UNM Physics Building parking lot. Call Sei at 266-2480 for details.

Team 2

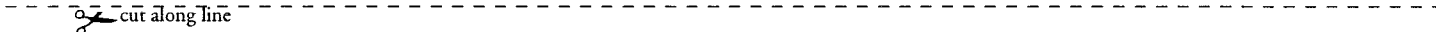
Thursday, May 4 Bosque del Apache NWR Thursday Birders will lead this trip. Meet on Thursday, May 4 at the Plaza Inn parking lot, I-25 and Lomas, at 7:00 a.m. for a full day of birding at Bosque del Apache. There will be birding opportunities along the way as well. Call 299-2565 to confirm and for carpooling information. These folks leave right on time so get there early.

Team 3

Saturday, April 29 Percha Dam Celestyn Brozek will meet us at 8:00 a.m. at the Percha Dam entrance for a day filled with spring migrants — warblers, orioles, tanagers —and with White-winged Doves ever in the background. An afternoon departure assures a stop at Bosque del Apache, where we'll quickly increase the species tally as we add ducks and shorebirds to our lists. Call Celestyn Brozek at 925-8611 to join this team.

Team 4

Saturday, May 27 Rinconada Canyon /Mt. Taylor in the National Forest Hart Schwarz will lead this group. Besides Acorn Woodpeckers, tanagers, and warblers, our target species include nesting Hammond's Flycatchers; Gray, Cordilleran, Dusky and Olive-sided Flycatchers; Western Wood Pewees, Cassin's Kingbirds — well, come see for yourselves! An easy five-mile round-trip walk. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Pendleton Men's Store at Fashion Square, NE corner of San Mateo and Lomas. Call Hart Schwarz at 266-1810.



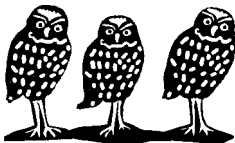
To make a pledge or to make your tax-deductible donation, return this form by May 26, 2000.

- I will sponsor Team # _____ for _____ per species (75 species at 10¢ each is a \$7.50 donation)
- I would like to make a flat contribution of \$ _____ for Team # _____.
- I am part of a birding group, Team# _____. I will sponsor myself for \$ _____ a minimum of \$5.00.
- I will collect pledges and send them all in together. The pledges total \$ _____ for Team # _____.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please make all checks payable to CNMAS.

Send your payment to CNMAS, c/o Ron Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., Albuquerque 87114-1710



Trip Reports by Sei Tokuda

Saturday-Sunday, January 29-30 *Las Vegas and Maxwell NWRs.* Eleven birders were on this trip to view wintering birds at the Las Vegas and Maxwell National Wildlife Refuges. The weather was on the cold side with single digit overnight lows. It was breezy at times, but the roads were clear. Over 50 species were sighted. The highlights of the weekend were a number of outstanding views of Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks and a close up view of a Prairie Falcon feasting on a road-kill Horned Lark. In addition, relatively large numbers of Common Goldeneyes and American Tree Sparrows were seen.

Sunday, February 13 *Cochiti Lake* Eleven birders were on this trip on a clear but cold February day. 24 species were sighted. The highlights of the day were a beautiful display of over 200 Mountain Bluebirds, close up views of a flock of Cedar Waxwings and a Sage Thrasher. Only 2 Bald Eagles were sighted plus a mystery bird which looked like a Gray-breasted Jay. At least, it was not a typical Scrub Jay.



Spring Migration Birding Opportunities

Rio Grande Nature Center Walks

Sunday, April 16, 8:00 a.m.: Catch the Wave

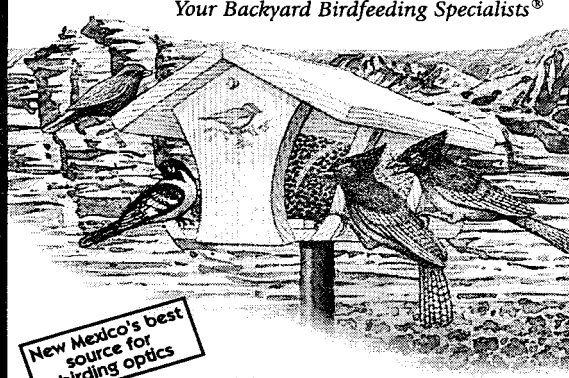
Sunday, April 30, 8:00 a.m.: The Wave Continues

Hart Schwarz is leading two bird walks, sponsored by the Rio Grande Nature Center, that promise a broad spectrum of spring migrants. Sunday the 16th features a leisurely, all-day bird walk at the Quarai Oasis, looking for Virginia Rails, Marsh Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, warblers and more. The April 30 trip is an easy five-mile bird walk in Otero Canyon, featuring Gray Flycatchers, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Grace's Warblers, Pygmy Nuthatches, and perhaps a nesting Cooper's Hawk. Preregistration is required. Pick up a fact sheet at Rio Grande Nature Center, or call Hart at 266-1810.

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, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., 87114-1710

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Plants and Spring Events

Herb, Wildflower and Native Plant Festival

Saturday and Sunday May 20 and 21 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., This is the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center annual fund-raiser for the Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW. Entrance to the center is free. The events include a speaker program; guided bird and bosque walks; storytelling; tours of the centers of specialized gardens; herbal foods, soaps, and aromatherapy products to sample; arts and crafts to make and purchase; rare native plants to cultivate in the home garden; and goat kids to pet. For more information, call the Nature Center, 344-7240.



Native Plant Society Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Boulevard NE (in Los Altos Park) Put on by The Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Albuquerque Chapter, in conjunction with the annual Albuquerque Garden Center Garden Fair.



HawkWatch Observation



HawkWatch International invites everyone to participate in their important work. Please call Bobbie Posy at 255-7622 for a map to the site in the Sandia Mountains or for more information.

April/May 2000



You Can Help New Mexico's Wildlife *Send your contribution directly to them now!*

Endangered species, research and recovery, raptor migration counts, wildlife rehabilitation, and other wildlife projects are made possible by voluntary contributions. You can make a contribution to Share With Wildlife by completing this form and mailing it to Share With Wildlife State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 141 East DeVargas, Santa Fe New Mexico 875012701 Please accept my contribution of _____.

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Believe it or not, hummingbirds are already reported in the Albuquerque area. Be ready for their return to your yard by providing a nectar mixture of 1 part plain white sugar and 4 parts water. Stir the sugar water mixture until all the sugar is dissolved, refrigerate unused portion and avoid harmful food coloring. Wash your feeder regularly with warm soap and water. For you green-thumbed birders, a Southwestern hummingbird wildflower garden could include Indian paintbrush, skyrocket, larkspur, pink wild snapdragon, lupine, scarlet bugler, beebalm, Rocky Mountain penstemon, toadflax, scarlet runner bean, desert beardtongue, and Rocky Mountain columbine.

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 in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

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

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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 Owls at Kirtland

Burrowing Owls, and Carol Finley, need your help! You'll remember Carol's entertaining and informative program for us in October about her Burrowing Owl research statewide. With spring upon us, she's hard at work at Kirtland Base, continuing that research. On March 1 she reported that eight owls had returned in one week! Carol needs help with behavior observations, trapping and banding the owls. Volunteers would even get to hold the owls and help with documentation of measurements. Call Carol at work 343-0111 or home 891-1548, or e-mail cfinley@psn.net

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in the June/July 2000 issue of the Burrowing Owl must be received by **May 15**. Contact Browning Coke at 256-9130 or email bcokenm@aol.com.

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