

Burrowing Owl

March, April, May 2005 Issue

Volume 34 No. 2

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

Let's "Spring" Into Birding! Audubon's Birdathon! 2005

BIRDATHON! IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE BIRD COUNT! It's a covey of dedicated birders who scour the New Mexico deserts, grasslands, mountains, and riparian areas, trying to find as many bird species as possible and trying to break their own, and each others', records. These hardy (some might say foolhardy) and intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats, and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day afield, for the chance to collect meaningful data for a nationwide census project, for a test of their birding skills, and – most importantly – for a better New Mexico environment.



The best way to support Birdathon! is to become a counter and join in the fun, while raising funds at the same time. If you are unable to be a counter, please

support Birdathon! with a generous contribution to one (or all) of the teams.

The money will be appreciated and every cent will be put to good use for Audubon Adventures kits, for tuition scholarships to ecology camps for area educators and talented youth, for co-sponsorship of joint programs at Rio Grande Nature Center – all here in New Mexico! Every donation is tax-deductible.

Support Thursday Birders: The longest-running alternative birding group around, they give you a birding option that keeps your weekends free.

Support Celestyn's Sandia Songsters: Enjoy the beauty of every feather, every song, and every individual bird with this gentle leader who has the knowledge to teach ornithology classes and the patience to teach college-level chemistry classes!

Support the Five Male Teenagers In One Car team: whew, just the imagery that brings to mind makes you realize they NEED all the support they can get!!

You'll find the Birdathon Pledge Form on page 2 in this issue

Team 1:

Five Male Teenagers In One Car (closed group) - Sat., April 30

Yes, "Youngbirders" are at it again – this year adding yet another birder to the team. Raymond VanBuskirk, Nick Pederson, Andrew Rominger, Ryan Beaulieu, and newcomer Matt Baumann will be birding from Clanton Canyon in the

Birdathon... continued on page 2

Being Exemplary

Some Ponderings by Beth Hurst-Waitz,
CNMAS President

Ah, 'tis spring, and to where does our fancy turn? Well, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report, if you're in New Mexico, the fancy of 371,700 of us turns to birding, birdwatching, bird phissing, bird chasing, or, in all too many instances, bird missing!

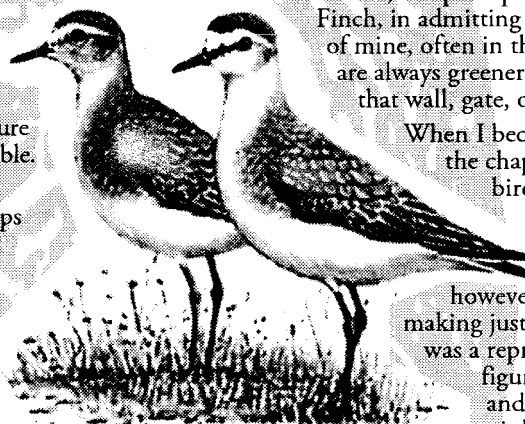
And if you're like me (this being the full monty of confessionhood), maybe you've stepped over that wall, unlatched that gate, or had your friends separate two strands of barbed wire fence just so you would have fewer of those "bird missing" experiences. Yes, I'll risk turning less red than the

Cardinal, but perhaps as pink as a House Finch, in admitting these errant faux pas of mine, often in the spirit of "the birds are always greener" on the other side of that wall, gate, or fence.

When I became the president of the chapter and extended my birding circle and birding opportunities, I became more cautious, however. Now, I wasn't making just a personal decision. I was a representative, a figurehead, an emissary – and that House Finch pink could indeed turn to

Cardinal red, maybe not to me as a person, but

Being Exemplary... continued on page 5



Would you like to be involved with CNMAS? Think about becoming a board member, trip leader or other volunteer. Call Beth at 505-898-8514 to find out how you can participate! Board of Directors elections are coming up this April!

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Birdathon... continued from page 1

Peloncillo Mountains (Hidalgo County) to Bosque del Apache NWR (Socorro County), counting as many birds as possible! Can they beat the record of 200 species in 2004? Perfect time of year, right? Yes, they will not only beat it, but smash it! And we challenge you to smash YOUR record of giving in support of these exuberant, enthusiastic, and irrepressible stewards of the future!

Team 2:

Thursday Birder Birdathon - May 12 & 13

In their never-ending quest for the perfect birdathon plan, the Thursday Birders have decided to return this year to a route which begins in the east mountains. In the past the Manzanitas have yielded a number of species that aren't as cooperative elsewhere, so the group will convene at Boettchers' at 10:00 AM on Thursday, May 12th for this year's event. They will then head south on Old 14, stopping quickly at Quarai for (hopefully!) the rock wren and great horned owl before heading on south to Bosque del Apache. They will bird the Bosque in the afternoon, stay overnight in Socorro, then check out Turtle Pond at Macy Center early Friday morning before heading out to Water Canyon. They will finish the Birdathon day at 10:00 AM at Water Canyon, hopefully with a gorgeous red-faced warbler on the list.

This is a fund-raising event for CNMAS and participants are asked to donate at least \$10 each for a chance to take part in this great 24 hour event! Please contact Karen and Gary Boettcher if you plan to participate: 505-281-6726, <nmkestrel@aol.com>.

Team 3:

Celestyn's Sandia Songsters - June 11

Join Celestyn Brozek on a beautiful singing day in Sandias! We will bird from the foothills up to the crest and hope to find about 70 bird species. We will meet at 6:00 AM at the Three Gun Spring trailhead (Monticello subdivision). From there we will move around and up the mountains. Latecomers can join us at Doc Long picnic ground around 9:00 AM. If we are not there by 9, please, wait, we might be caught up in some intense birding on the way. We will spend all day at the mountain. There is a possibility of listening to nighthawks and owls in the evening. This is a fund raising event for our Central New Mexico Audubon chapter. Please, be generous in your contributions. Spread the word among your friends and let them pledge a donation per species. We will have fun working hard to find as many species as possible. For more information contact Celestyn Brozek at 505-925-8611 or <cbrozek@unm.edu>.

CNMAS Field Trip Reports

compiled by Celestyn Brozek

Several trips this winter had to be postponed or changed due to the adverse weather. Sei Tokuda and his group of two went to Las Vegas NWR on 28 November instead of 14 November. The weather did not cooperate on 29 January in northern New Mexico, and instead of the trip to Maxwell NWR, Sei took 8 birders to Bosque del Apache (don't we love this place?!).

Sunday, November 28, 2004: Las Vegas NWR

There were only three of us on this trip. It was cloudy, we could see signs of precipitation in the north as we drove to LV, but the roads were absolutely clear with the high temperature of 48. It took us just about 2 hours to get to exit 345 on I-25, i.e., about 120 miles from ABQ. Everything looked good viewing-wise, but the big problem was the wind - gusty. It was a nice drive, but few birds. We saw only a few species of passerines, the ducks were mostly shovelers, widgeons, buffleheads, few gadwalls and a couple of common mergansers plus coots. About a hundred Canada but several hundreds snowy and Ross' geese. Saw a couple of red-tails, a few kestrels and harriers and a couple of bald eagles. We could not go on the south tour route - there was a huge mud pond blocking the way just as the road turned west after going about a mile past the gate to McAlister Lake. We doubled back towards the visitor center and got on the south tour road from the west side and turned around before we got the mud hole. We returned to the visitor center to have lunch and waited for Steve Cox to give his 1 o'clock talk. We returned to the Far North parking lot about 4 PM.

Saturday, December 4, 2004: Bosque del Apache NWR

The twelve birders on this trip tallied a total of 70 species of birds

Reports... continued on page 11



Thursday Morning Birding Group

Weekly birding outings every Thursday. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary. Call Margaret Wallen at (505)341-0928 for details of outings.

The Burrowing Owl newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, December, by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.

To make a pledge or to make your tax-deductible donation, return this form by May 15, 2005.



Please refer to the newsletter article for team descriptions

- I will sponsor Birdathon Team # ___ for ___ per species (75 species at 10¢ each is a \$7.50 donation).
- I would like to make a flat contribution of \$ ___ for Birdathon Team # ___
- I am part of a birding group, Team# ___. I will sponsor myself for a minimum of \$5.
- I will collect pledges and send them all in together. The pledges total \$ ___ for Birdathon Team # ___.

NAME _____

Please make all checks payable to CNMAS.

ADDRESS _____

Send your payment to:
CNMAS Birdathon
PO BOX 30002
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____



March - April - May 2005

The Seventh Annual Audubon Birding Academy

Birding By Habitat: Where To Go and What To Look For

••• THE FUN AND LEARNING CONTINUE! •••

Thank you to everyone who attended our wonderful February Birding Academy class on Grassland Birds, given by Dennis Prichard. You and Dennis made it a success! There are still two more classes to attend – bring a friend!

All classes are held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 p.m. Pay in advance (see form, this page) or pay at the door.

"The Music of Montane Birds"

Steve Fettig, presenter

Thursday, March 17

Steve Fettig is a biologist with more than 20 years working from Alaska to Florida and from Michigan to Arizona. His New Mexico contributions to the ornithological world include his leadership of New Mexico's Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and an autumn songbird migration banding study he started in 2004 at Bandelier National Monument. His presentation focuses on bird sounds of the Jemez Mountains, featuring Mountain Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Warbling Vireo, American Robin, using terminology developed by Dr. Jim Travis, editor of the Breeding Bird Atlas of Los Alamos County, New Mexico. He'll move on to birds that trill, such as Chipping Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler. And then he promises us some "easy"-to-identify songsters such as Townsend's Solitaire, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. There's even more, but you'll have to come and see – or hear – for yourselves! All sounds presented in this program will be Steve's digital recordings from the Jemez Mountains and are of exceptional quality, clarity, AND audibility. Bring your bird books and join us for an evening of delightful bird sounds.

"Wetlands: Waders and Wings"

Art Arenholz, presenter

Thursday, April 21

We're delighted to welcome Art Arenholz back for his unique blend of knowledge and humor, scientific data and story-telling, which makes him the epitome of a teacher – we absorb knowledge like a sponge instead of having it injected like a flu shot! Art is going to take us on a splash-by-splash tour of water-birds that skulk in the marshes to ones that dive for their dinner. Can't tell an egret from a heron? Art to the rescue! Do you love those black-and-white marsh birds? Art will guide us from Black-crowned Night Heron to Black-necked Stilt. Add a touch of cinnamon, and he'll reveal the preferred habitat of the American Avocet. Birds of water is as big a topic as the ocean (pun intended), so Art will skip most of the ducks and geese, all of the pelagics, and not just a few of the Sandpiper peeps. But what an array that's left – from tiny Marsh Wren to Sandhill Crane of six-foot wingspan. Too common for you? Art's presentation is as far-ranging as the White Ibis and Reddish Egret seen here in New Mexico. Are you still puzzling about what dives for its dinner if it's not a duck – Northern Harrier, too, makes wetlands its home. If you want to find out what other birds nest in wetlands, but never get their feet wet, come "wade into" Art's presentation about diversity on the wing in wetlands!

Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form

I/we would like to register for the following classes (check boxes):

Montane Birds (Mar. 17) \$6

Wetlands: Wings & Waders (Apr. 21) \$6

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:

Birding Academy

PO BOX 30002

Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Total: _____

CNMAS 2005

All Central New Mexico Audubon Society meetings and field trips are open to the public.

CNMAS Field Trip Schedule

<http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html>

compiled by Celestyn Brozek

Saturday, March 19 - Las Vegas NWR

Meet at 8:00AM at the headquarters of the Las Vegas Refuge (approximate drive time from Albuquerque is 2-2.5 hours). You may also spend a night in Las Vegas. Be ready for either warm or bitterly cold weather. If a severe weather expected, call Celestyn at home at 505-266-9225 on Friday to check whether the trip may be cancelled. We will look for sparrows, waterfowl, raptors, and gulls. We will visit also nearby Storrie lake. Call Celestyn Brozek for more info at 505-925-8611 or e-mail at <cbrozek@unm.edu>. If you want to carpool, either offer a ride or get a ride, e-mail Celestyn in advance and he will arrange carpooling if possible.

Saturday, April 23 - Bosque del Apache NWR

Meet at 7:00AM in Albuquerque, at the NW corner of University and Gibson (behind the Hawthorn Suites hotel) to carpool. Bring food for the whole day. We will look for early migrants. Call Lou Prime at 505-821-3145 for details.

Saturday, May 7 - Owls and Stars in the Sandias

Meet at 7:00PM at the Four Hills shopping center parking center near Dion's pizza (on south side of Central, west of Tramway). We'll leave by 7:10 to carpool into the Sandias. Laurel will bring telescopes from LodeStar for exploring the moonless night and will point out great binocular objects of the astronomical variety. Ryan Beaulieu and Raymond VanBuskirk will call for owls and other night birds. Possible species include Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Great Horned Owl, Common

Field Trips... continued on page 10



Education News

by Helen Haskell, CNMAS Audubon Adv. Chairperson

Institute of Desert Ecology

It's my pleasure to announce to you that this year CNMAS is sending two teachers to the Institute of Desert Ecology (IDE), held in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains, north of Tucson. Hosted by Tucson Audubon Society, this excellent four day workshop allows participants to immerse themselves in the ecology of the Sonoran desert. By covering the fees for NM teachers, CNMAS is able to not just to provide the teacher with a great professional development opportunity, but also is secure in the knowledge that the students of these teachers will gain from the experience too.

This year the teachers are Jeremy Shreve, from Gallup Central High School, who teaches high school biology and ecology, and Rich Winkler, from Animas Public Schools, who teaches middle and high school science for the entire district. As a former IDE participant and current teacher, I know the benefits of opportunities like this, and look forward to hearing about their experiences, which will be shared with you in future Burrowing Owls.

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures still continues to be a success in NM. CNMAS has sponsored 12 classrooms this year thanks to the contributions from members and friends. The following schools and teachers have received the education kits which contains materials for teachers and students on various ecological topics:



- Apache Elementary, Albuquerque: Lette Galvez
- Arroyo del Oso Elementary, Albuquerque: Joyce Simpson, Judy Vinyard
- Hodgin Elementary, Albuquerque: Marcia Demento
- Mitchell Elementary, Albuquerque: Susan Sedillo
- Navajo Elementary, Albuquerque: Mindy Moyers
- Estancia Elementary, Estancia: Tracy Webb
- Stapleton Elementary, Rio Rancho: Laurie Adams, Dennis Brown, Dana Kirkland, Kelly Walls
- Dow Yalanne Elementary, Zuni: Thomas Roskamp.

If you have a classroom (3-6th grade is best) that you think would benefit from an Audubon Adventures Kit or if you would like to make a contribution to the program (each kits costs \$41.50), please fill out the form on this page. For more information on the Institute of Desert Ecology, contact Jessie Shinn at the Tucson Audubon Society, 520-633-5622.

Thank you to all who have contributed to CNMAS for Audubon Adventures.

Hummingbirds of New Mexico Festival

Lake Roberts, SW New Mexico

July 23rd and 24th

Banding both mornings 7:00 - 10:00a.m.

Educational slide presentations, programs, and guided bird walks



HBNM@gilanet.com
Hummingbirds of New Mexico
HC68 Box 169
Silver City, NM 88061-9311



Connect a child to nature with Audubon Adventures 2005-2006

Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____
(Each \$41.50 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 _____

Send your check payable to CNMAS with this form to:
Audubon Adventures, c/o CNMAS,
PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Winter Hummingbird Report

by Joan Day-Martin

Authorized Hummingbird Bander

A new hummingbird record for the state of NM was the Green Violet Eared up in Santa Fe mid November, located near The Randell Davey Audubon Center. I had gotten a "hands off" order from the State Department of Game and Fish, as they felt it was too far into the public eye, and if the bird left right after I banded it somebody would look bad.

I had my first ever over-wintering hummingbird this year at my home in southwestern New Mexico. It was an adult male Magnificent which I banded on Dec 2nd and he stayed until January 31st. In Albuquerque I banded an adult female Rufous which departed from that site on Jan 12th. Other hummingbirds that I had heard about through our winter months were a possible female Rufous in Williamsburg that I was unable to break away and get over to see. It departed Dec 18th. In Las Cruces there were a number of sightings. I banded an adult male Rufous (12-08) and also an adult male Anna's (12-09). I did not make it to a site in Las Cruces that had a return of a hummingbird that I had banded 2 years ago, but the person hosting that bird was able to read the first and last of the series off of the band to make a firm identification so we know it was indeed the same hummingbird. It departed from that site on Jan 9th—same date as last year.

I am finding that the folks that are hosting the wintering hummingbirds are repetitive from year to year, in the fact that they have them show up and stay. There is always fresh fluid in feeders, and bugs and water where they choose to over-winter.

End Quotes

"President Bush says that his policies will bring clear skies and thick forests. As opposed to his first term, which was thick skies and clear forests."

— Jay Leno, Host of The Tonight Show



March - April - May 2005

American Birding Association's PRINCIPLES OF BIRDING ETHICS

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- 1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- 1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.
- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.
- Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.
- Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
- 1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.
- 1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

- 2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- 2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- 2(c) Practise common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

- 3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean, and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.
- 3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
- 3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

- 4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities.

Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation, and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action, and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it, and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

- 4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
- 4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment, and does not interfere with others using the same area.
- 4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practises this code.
- 4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no tape recorders allowed).
- 4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Please Follow This Code and Distribute and Teach It To Others

The American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics may be freely reproduced for distribution/dissemination. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code with a link to the ABA website using the url <<http://americanbirding.org>>. Thank you.



Being Exemplary... continued from page 1

to my chapter as an Audubon entity. And guess what? My "bird missing" rate has never been lower!

Our chapter subscribes to the American Birding Association Code of Birding Ethics For Birders. It's here that we are reminded, "Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike." Exemplary: "Commendable. Deserving imitation because of excellence."

As you take to the deserts, grasslands, mountains, and riparian oases of New Mexico this spring to behold the miracle of migration and the wonder of flight, you probably won't see one bird stop to read a "Private Property" sign. That's our job. In fact, as private property owners, we often post our own "No trespassing" signs. We like it when they're observed. Likewise, we appreciate compliance with the wishes of the property owner who posts "No hunting" signs, the forest trail that announces "No ORV vehicles," and the lake waterfront that warns "No speedboats."

Let's live and let-live, let's give and take, and may you all have the best birding day, every day.

Please review the American Birding Association's Birding Ethics document on page 5 (English) and page 6 (Spanish).



PRINCIPIOS DE ÉTICA DE OBSERVADORES DE AVES De la Asociación Americana de Observadores de Aves (American Birding Association - ABA)

Todos aquellos que disfrutan de las aves y de su observación deberán siempre respetar la vida silvestre, su ambiente y los derechos de los demás. Si surgiera algún conflicto de interés entre aves y observadores de aves, el bienestar de las aves y su ambiente es prioritario.

CÓDIGO DE ÉTICA DE LOS OBSERVADORES DE AVES

1. Promover el bienestar de aves y su ambiente.

- a. Apoyar la protección de hábitat importante para las aves.
- b. Para evitar provocar tensión o exponer a las aves a peligros, proceda con cuidado y respeto durante sus observaciones, toma de fotografías, grabación de sonidos o filmaciones.
 - i. Limítese al usar grabaciones y otros métodos de atracción de aves. Nunca utilice tales métodos en áreas altamente visitadas por observadores de aves; o para atraer especies en peligro de extinción, de interés para la conservación o que sean raras en el área.
 - ii. Manténgase alejado de nidos y colonias de anidación perchas, áreas de exhibición de cortejo e importantes sitios de alimentación. Si es necesario extender el tiempo de observación, fotografiar, filmar o grabar aves en áreas tan especiales como las descritas, intente camuflajearse con la vegetación natural.
 - iii. Restrinja el uso de luz artificial al filmar o fotografiar, especialmente cuando intente lograr tomas de cerca.
- c. Antes de publicar la presencia de un ave rara, considere si ello ocasionará molestias al ave, sus alrededores o a otras personas en el área. Sólo proceda al anuncio si considera que puede controlarse el acceso, minimizar las molestias y si ha obtenido el permiso expreso de los propietarios del terreno. Los sitios de anidación de aves raras deberán reportarse sólo a las autoridades de conservación respectivas.
- d. Manténgase en carreteras, senderos y caminos donde los haya; si no, procure perturbar mínimamente el hábitat.

2. Respete la ley y los derechos de los demás.

- a. No ingrese a propiedad privada sin el permiso del dueño.
- b. Siga todas las leyes, reglas y normas que gobiernen el uso de carreteras y áreas públicas, tanto en su país como en el extranjero.
- c. Sea cortés al establecer comunicación con otras personas. Su comportamiento ejemplar generará buena voluntad tanto hacia los observadores de aves como hacia el público en general.

3. Asegúrese que los comederos, estructuras de anidado y otros ambientes artificiales para aves son seguros.

- a. Mantenga limpios recipientes, agua y comida. Vigile que estén libres de enfermedades o descomposición. Es importante alimentar continuamente a las aves durante temporadas de clima adverso.
- b. Brinde mantenimiento y limpie regularmente las estructuras de anidado.
- c. Si intenta atraer aves hacia determinada área, asegúrese de que no estarán expuestas a depredadores como gatos y otros animales domésticos, ni a accidentes artificiales.

4. La observación colectiva de aves, ya sea organizada o simple casualidad, requiere de especial cuidado.

Cada individuo del grupo, además de observar las normas de los numerales 1 y 2, tienen ciertas responsabilidades como miembros de un grupo:

- a. Respetar los intereses, derechos y habilidades de sus compañeros observadores de aves, así como de las personas que participan en otras actividades legítimas al aire libre. Comparta con libertad sus conocimientos y experiencia, excepto en ocasiones en que aplique la norma 1(c). Sea especialmente colaborador con los observadores de aves novatos.
- b. Si es testigo de comportamiento no ético de observación de aves, examine la situación e intervenga si lo considera prudente. Si decide intervenir, informe a las personas que sus acciones no son las apropiadas e intente, dentro de los términos de la razón, hacerlos desistir de dicho comportamiento. Si continúan, anótelos y notifique a los individuos u organizaciones apropiados.

Responsabilidades del Líder del Grupo (viajes y paseos amateur y profesionales):

- c. Sea modelo de ética para su grupo. Enseñe por medio de plática y ejemplo.
- d. Intente que sus grupos sean de un tamaño que no ejerza impacto negativo al ambiente y que no interfiera con los demás que utilizan la misma área.
- e. Asegúrese de que todos los miembros del grupo conozcan y practiquen este conjunto de normas.
- f. Conozca e informe a su grupo de circunstancias especiales aplicables a las áreas que visiten (por ejemplo, que están prohibidas las grabadoras).
- g. Esté consciente de que para las compañías de viajes profesionales deberán tener mayor importancia las aves y la divulgación al público que sus intereses comerciales. Idealmente, los líderes deberán llevar un registro de avistamientos de aves, documentar presencias inusuales y enviar sus registros a las organizaciones respectivas.

Agradeceremos que sigan estas normas y que las distribuyan y eduquen a los demás

El código de ética de la Asociación Americana de Observadores de Aves (American Birding Association - ABA) puede ser reproducido libremente para su distribución/diseminación. Les rogamos que den a ABA el crédito que se merece con respecto del desarrollo y promoción, por medio de la inclusión del nexo a la página web de ABA, <<http://americanbirding.org>>

Translation courtesy of Megan Hill, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
(011)(502)333-5066 tel/fax
20 Calle, 10-30, Zona 10, Guatemala, Guatemala





March - April - May 2005

National Wildlife Refuge Bulletin Board

Bosque del Apache NWR 2005 Educational Events

March 26 - Saturday - TBA

Geology at the Bosque (limit 15 participants)

Join New Mexico field geologist Richard Chamberlin for a look at geology at Bosque del Apache and learn how the earth works.

April 23 - Saturday - 9:30am-afternoon -

Pavilion adjacent to Visitor Center

Bosque Springtime

On this day we will celebrate Bosque Springtime. Observe cacti and other native plants in bloom both in the arboretum and in the field. There will be an opportunity for children to express their artistic talent, in addition to other activities. Come join us.

May 14 - Saturday - 8am-2pm - Visitor Center

Migratory Bird Day

May is the height of the spring migration for neotropical migrants. Learn about the song and flight of these spring visitors through workshops and tours with refuge naturalists and staff. Bring binoculars, water and a snack. Older children accompanied by adults are welcome.

May 14 - Saturday - 7:30pm - Visitor Center

Beginning Stargazing for Children (limit 30 participants)

Learn to use a Star Chart, find the North Star, and more! Hands-on activities for ages 8-13.

June 4 - Saturday - 9am-12pm - Canyon Trailhead

Tracking the Canyon Trail (reservations required)

This plant walk, lead by native plant expert Nancy Daniel, will include natural and cultural history thrown in for good measure. The trail is a moderate 2 miles with some sandy areas and changes in elevation which provides for an interesting and wide variety of vegetation.

July 23-24 - Sat. 12-5pm & Sun. 6am-12pm - Lounge

**Digital Nature Photography Workshop for
Beginning and Intermediate Photographers
(limit 15 participants, reservations required)**

Jerry Goffe presents the real-time mechanics of photography, including exposure control and how to use the histogram. You will also learn about backlighting, motion, depth of field, unusual light conditions and recording media & formats. Bring a tripod, digital camera media, water and mosquito repellent.

All events are free and open to the public. We recommend that you confirm the time and date in advance. Schedule is subject to change. For reservations, information, confirmation or updates please call: 505-835-1828 - Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor Center For more information about the Refuge see <http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/>

The Critter Corner:

A Monthly Feature Brought to You by the National Wildlife Refuge

The "Critter Corner" feature on the National Wildlife Refuge Association's refugenet.org website includes photos, vital statistics, fun facts, and a refuge spotlight. Each month you'll be notified of the new addition to the Critter Corner collection. We hope you'll enjoy learning more about the wild creatures that depend on the habitat protected by the National Wildlife Refuge System! To receive this feature via e-mail, write to Debbie Harwood at <dharwood@refugenet.org>.

Audubon New Mexico Partners with Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge

Audubon New Mexico is partnering with the Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge on the edge of New Mexico's eastern plains to provide the Refuge's first education outreach program for children. With funding from the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish Share with Wildlife Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Audubon New Mexico's educators are providing their Birds for a Purpose curriculum to local elementary classes using the Refuge's playa lakes and prairie grasslands as the classroom. Although this part of New Mexico has a wide range of habitats, schoolchildren in nearby rural schools have few opportunities for hands-on science exploration outdoors. Audubon's programs are offered free to the schools, including bus transportation to the Refuge. The Maxwell Refuge is a hidden gem in the National Wildlife Refuge system, providing an important stopover for migrating waterfowl, a safe haven in cattle country for grassland species, and a home to New Mexico's declining burrowing owl population. For more information on Audubon New Mexico, please visit <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/nm/nm/rdac/index.html>

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, April 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

Bird Migration Presentation With Art Arenholz

Ever wonder why birds migrate at night or how they find their way? Curious about how and why most young birds make their first migration without any help from adult birds? Now you can find out! Art will describe the fascinating world of bird migration, illustrated with high quality slides.

Saturday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m.

Sorting Out Sparrows With Lawry Sager

Those "little brown birds" are notoriously hard to identify and can give even the most experienced birder a headache. Learn how to identify sparrows during this illustrated presentation. If the weather is nice, this talk may be followed by guided ID in the field.

The above are both illustrated presentations. They will be held at the Refuge Visitor Center. For information, call Jan: 505-454-6115.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, May 21st, 8:00 a.m.

Join Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge's annual Pinyon Canyon birding hike. Spend the day hiking an easy to moderate trail up the canyon with expert leader, US Forest Service ornithologist, Hart Schwarz. This pretty canyon has diverse plant life and a year-round water source. Birding is usually excellent. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. and carpool to Pinyon Canyon in the Los Pinos Mountains. Bring a sack lunch, wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather and be prepared to spend the day in the field. The trip will return to the Visitor Center at 3:00 p.m.

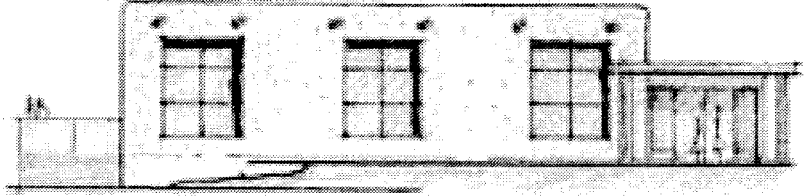
The program is free to the public but reservations are required and space is limited. Sign up at the Visitor Center or call 505-864-4021.

Located in the Chihuahuan desert 20 miles north of Socorro, New Mexico, the land that is now Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge has a fascinating and long history. The refuge is managed primarily as a research area, and is closed to most recreational uses. Visit <http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/newmex/sevilleta/>



Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Education Wing Campaign

When the existing Visitor Center was built in 1983, only 70,000 people visited Bosque del Apache NWR each year. At that time, the internet was still a decade away, compact discs were being introduced, and the first cellular phones were being tested. Like so many other things, the needs of refuge visitors, staff, and volunteers have changed in the past 22 years.



Conceptual exterior drawing of Education Wing

Today, more than 160,000 people from around the country and the world visited Bosque del Apache NWR -- more than twice the 1983 visitation. More than 2,500 students visited the refuge as part of a curriculum-based program that refuge staff and volunteers have developed. The refuge is nationally recognized for its efforts in saltcedar control, wetland management, and riparian restoration and hosts workshops for land managers, scientists, and landowners. The Friends of the Bosque del Apache and Refuge staff offer workshops, special events, and programs year-round, from geology hikes to wildlife photography to the six-day Festival of the Cranes.

The Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR is leading a capital campaign to construct an educational wing to host school groups, workshops, programs, and professional meetings. We plan to raise \$350,000 and have already secured \$75,000 from members, contributions, and store sales.

You can be part of the effort! Purchase a brick for \$75.00 that will be included with more than 6,000 others and prominently displayed as part of this project. What a great gift idea for a family member, an old friend, a business colleague or in memory of a loved one! It's a great way to honor that "person that has everything" while supporting the programs of the Friends and the Refuge.

Just fill out the attached form and mail to:

Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR
Attn: Brick Walkway
P.O. Box 340
San Antonio, NM 87832

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State, ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Payment: Check enclosed (Payable to Friends of the Bosque)
 VISA Mastercard Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Inscription: (up to 3 lines, 15 characters per line)

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____



March - April - May 2005

"Birds of New Mexico" Class

Celestyn Brozek will teach "Birds of New Mexico" class at the UNM-Valencia Campus in Los Lunas (30 miles from Albuquerque). One credit hour science class includes three Wednesday classroom meetings, 7-9 PM, April 20, 27, May 4; and two field trips: to Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, April 30, 8 AM - 2 PM; and to Sandia Mountains, Saturday, May 7, 8 AM - noon. The cost is \$ 44 (senior citizens 65 or over \$ 5). For more information contact Celestyn at 505-925-8611 or <cbrozek@unm.edu>. To register call Student Services at 505-925-8560.

HerbFest at RGNC a spring celebranon

Saturday & Sunday, May 7 and 8

The Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center offer speakers, guided walks, plants for sale, kids' crafts, and garden tours. Admission is free!

2901 Candelaria NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505)344-7240

Need more information?
Call Nancy Umbreit (505)898-4226

International Migratory Bird Day - May 14

Mark your calendars for the eighth consecutive International Migratory Bird Day celebration at Quarai on Saturday, May 14. The annual spring migration count occurs on the same day, but the two events are otherwise unrelated. IMBD at Quarai is sponsored by the Cibola National Forest and Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument. This all-day event kicks off at 8:00 AM with an easy, identification-focused, three-hour bird ramble (led by Hart Schwarz and Nick Vaughn) to which everyone is invited: young or old, novice or experienced. In past years, from 50 to 100 people have attended and seen almost 100 bird species, including fifteen kinds of warblers. In the afternoon Hart will give a presentation on the theme of the day (Birds in Collision), followed by the presentation of prizes, such as T-Shirts, bird guides for kids, the 2005 poster by Sibley, and much more. Throughout the day, shade-grown coffee and cookies will be served. Quarai is eight miles north of Mountainair, near the village of Punta del Agua. Call Hart (505-266-1810) in April if you have questions.



Photo of Eurasian Wigeon visiting Mariposa Basin Park, Albuquerque, NM on February 6, 2005 by Laurel Ladwig

Birding Observations: Tracking Arrival Dates

by Christopher Rustay

Spring is always an exciting time of year. Our winter birds leave while our summer birds start to arrive. We know that seasons have predictability. We can often say when that first hint of a fall crisp will be in the air, or when that first blast of cold weather will hit the state. But have you ever tracked arrival dates for birds that follow those seasons? One of the most satisfying "birding" experiences I have is to record the dates that I see birds in the yard or out in the field. Over the years I can look back through my notes and develop a pretty good idea of when birds arrive or depart.

I first discovered this many years ago when I birded Las Vegas NWR on a fairly regular basis. After about five years I noticed that American Tree Sparrows always seemed to arrive somewhere on the refuge by the 1st week of November, between the 4th and the 8th. I was amazed at the precision of their appearance, considering that weather further north could have been quite different from year to year. I started looking at other birds as well. Last year, I saw my first Turkey Vulture in the state on March 21, the year before on March 16. MacGillivray's Warbler, two years ago, appeared on May 4; last year it was May 8. It's a little harder to pinpoint departure dates without taking very good notes all the time, but it can be done. When did you see that last migrating Sandhill Crane family group or a Bald Eagle in the Spring?

After reviewing your notes over the years, you'll be able to amaze your friends when you can say with confidence "Wilson's Warblers won't be here now, but they'll likely be here next week." Also, knowing average arrival and departures can alert you to when seeing a regular bird is unusual, such as a Blue-winged Teal in February.

Try this kind of note-keeping. In the past, all my trip lists were kept in notebooks, but now I find that a database allows for easier retrieval of data. For organizational ideas, you might consider reading Kevin Zimmer's book "The Western Bird Watcher" which has a good chapter on note-taking. Additionally, consider entering your sightings on E-bird at www.ebird.org so that others can use your information. In any case, enjoy your birding this spring.

You Can Help New Mexico's Wildlife

You can help endangered species research and recovery, raptor migration counts, wildlife rehabilitation, and other wildlife projects.

Your donation goes directly to wildlife projects across New Mexico. No contributions are used for administrative costs.

Please complete this form below and mail to:

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P. O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

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Please make checks payable to Share with Wildlife.



**Learning Look-Alikes:
Western and Clark's Grebes**

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

Until the early 1980's these two graceful grebes were believed to be a single species, so it is easy to believe they look a lot alike. But they have a few clear differences that enable us to tell almost all of them apart.

First, let's consider their similarities. Each is a large (over 20 inches long), black and white, swan-necked diving bird. Each has a long, sharp, thin yellowish bill that is quite different from the stubby bills of our other grebes. Both nest in the Western U.S.; each nests in almost every western state. Both are practically unable to walk on land, and each has a bright red eye.

The Western Grebe is separated from Clark's Grebe by facial pattern, bill color and call. In the Western Grebe, the eye is surrounded by black feathers. The bill color of the Western is described in different field guides as "greenish-yellow" or "dull yellow". Sibley describes the call as a two-note "kreed-kreet".

Clark's Grebe is different in its facial pattern,

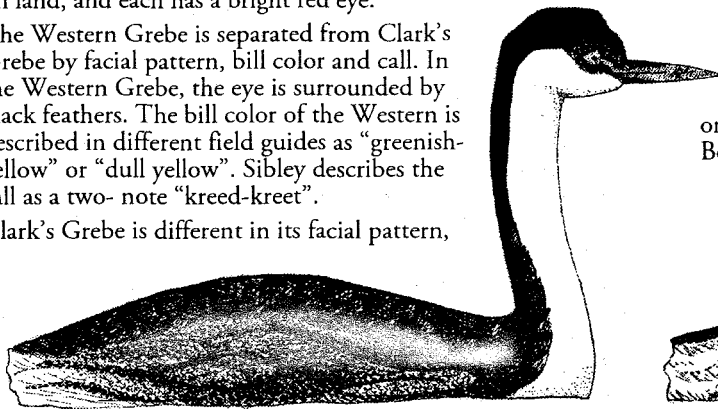
bill color and call. In the Clark's, the red eye is surrounded by white feathers, even above the eye. The bill color is variously described as either "orange-yellow" or "bright yellow". Sibley describes the call as a drawn out one-note: "kreeeeed".

Even during winter, many Western and Clark's Grebes keep the breeding facial pattern that helps identify them, but some of each grebe show gray above the eye. For these confusing facial patterns, the bill color alone will suffice to separate these two grebes.

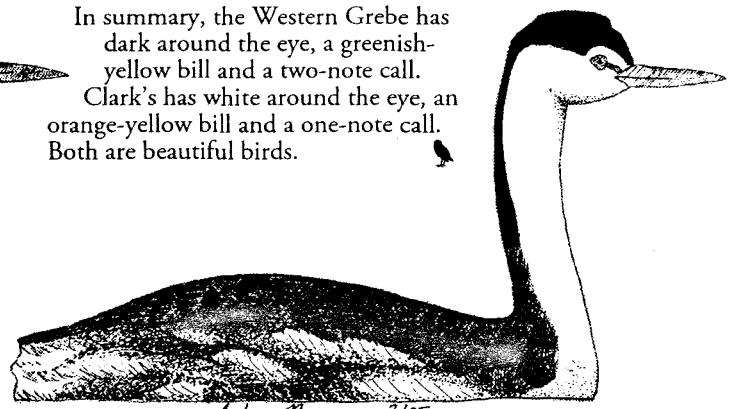
You can find these two graceful divers during winter at Elephant Butte Lake, and a few nest most years at Bosque del Apache NWR. During a memorable spring visit to Bosque del Apache, I saw a pair perform a courtship ritual, where both birds rose to an upright position and rushed across the water on their feet, leaving an impressive wake and then dove in unison at the end of the dash. A spectacular memory!

In summary, the Western Grebe has dark around the eye, a greenish-yellow bill and a two-note call.

Clark's has white around the eye, an orange-yellow bill and a one-note call. Both are beautiful birds.



Western Grebe - Breeding Plumage



Andrew Rominger 2/05

Clark's Grebe - Breeding Plumage

Field Trips... continued from page 3

Poorwill, Whip-poor-will. Contact Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-2616 for more information.

Thursday-Friday, May 12 & 13 - Thursday Birder Birdathon
See elsewhere in this issue for description.

Sunday, May 15 - Water Canyon & Bosque Del Apache NWR
This will be a day trip spending the morning at Water Canyon and the afternoon at Bosque del Apache. The target birds at Water Canyon will be the montane passerines such as the Grace's and red-faced warblers, hepatic tanager, pygmy nuthatch as well as acorn woodpecker. In addition to shore birds and waterfowls, we hope to see vermilion flycatchers and phainopeplas at Bosque del Apache. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc. Meet at the UNM physics department parking lot (NE corner of Lomas and Yale) at 7:00AM. Call Sei Tokuda at 505-266-2480 for details.

Friday-Saturday, June 3-4 - Magdalena/Water Canyon Annual Summer Bird Count

Meet in the Water Canyon campground on June 3rd at 6:30PM. Folks are welcome to come earlier for some independent birding. We will begin the owling portion of the count between 8:30 and 9:00PM. This will be the last time we can use this campground for the count as it will be being moved to a location in North Fork Canyon by next summer. On the 4th we will begin counting at 6:30AM. To participate in the morning, please make sure to be in the campground by 6:00. Our use of the road to Magdalena Ridge may need a special authorization by the Forest

Service—which they ARE willing to do—but it's important to keep in mind that we will be counting in a de facto construction area as work on the Magdalena Ridge Observatory takes place. The fact that this construction is occurring adds new significance to performing a good count in hopes that bird populations can be monitored in some capacity during and after the building of the MRO. Your participation in this citizen science endeavor is greatly appreciated and is contributing to our understanding of bird population trends in this highly diverse range. Please direct questions to Andrew Rominger, 505-243-7355, <ecopiranga@cybermesa.com>.

Saturday, June 11 - Sandia Mountains Birdathon
See elsewhere in this issue for description.

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.

HawkWatch Observations

<http://www.hawkwatch.org/>

The HawkWatch spring migration count project began on February 24. Observers are at the site daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the count will run through May 5. Call Bobbie at 505-255-7622 for directions or field trip reservations.





March - April - May 2005

The Numbers Are In For the 105th CBC!



This current season's Christmas Bird Count compilations can be found at Audubon.org: <http://cbc.audubon.org/cbccurrent/current_table.html>. The website listings are better than ever!

Get the 104th CBC in book form at: <<http://audubon.org/bird/cbc/104thSummary.html>>.

While you're online, check out eBird.org: <<http://www.ebird.org>> for birding observation lists and custom birding maps.

Reports... continued from page 2

seen on a beautiful December day. The best sights of the day were the eared grebe and the northern harrier. We had a great view of an eared grebe swimming underwater. The water was shallow and clear and the grebe was swimming almost directly below us. It scooted underwater like a frog. What a thrill it was. We were also impressed by having a very clear spotting scope view of the facial disk of the harrier. The other exciting birds were the ferruginous hawk, eastern bluebird and American pipit. There were quite a few of the latter and they came to within 30 feet of us.

Saturday, January 8: *Bosque del Apache NWR*

Art Arenholz had 15 (!) birders at Bosque del Apache on 8 January, another perfect weather day. Roadrunners (about 12) and bald eagles (8) seemed to run the place. Everybody enjoyed close-up views of raptors, including dark morph red-tailed and ferruginous hawks. Lesser goldfinches, pine siskins, waterfowl, and huge airborne flocks of snow geese added to the excitement.

Saturday, January 29: *Bosque del Apache NWR*

The trip originally scheduled for Maxwell, NWR was cancelled due to bad weather. Eight birders decided on going to Bosque del Apache since the weather at the refuge seemed promising for birding. It was a successful day with one vehicle reporting 70 species seen. Because of his keen eyes and ears and his persistence, young Michael Hilchey probably added a dozen more species to his list. The notable birds of the day included the ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, merlin, an early group of cinnamon teals, and of course, the bald eagles. In addition, the group had the pleasure of watching a red-tailed hawk and a ferruginous hawk interacting directly overhead for at least 2 to 3 minutes.



NOTICE: The next issue of the *Burrowing Owl* will be incorporated into the statewide Audubon-New Mexico Newsletter. The next regular issue of the *Burrowing Owl* will be published in September 2005.

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Burrowing Owl Subscription Tidbits

- For changes of address or correction to your Burrowing Owl subscription, contact the Membership Chairperson (see Directory on the back page of this newsletter).
- If you are in the CNMAS Chapter area, you can receive the Burrowing Owl by sending your name and address with \$12 to CNMAS, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002 - this does NOT include National Audubon membership or Audubon Magazine!
- You can also subscribe to our newsletter without being a member of our Chapter. If you live outside the CNMAS region, send \$15 to the above address.
- If you wish to receive notice of our downloadable PDF newsletter (instead of a hard copy) give us your email address in addition to your name and address.
- Members can call (800) 274-4201 to sign up for National Audubon's Paper-Free Renewal Program. Those who sign up will have their membership automatically renewed each year and will receive only one bill approximately 2 months in advance of your membership expiration date.



Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Summer 2005 issue of the State Audubon Newsletter, *Burrowing Owl* section, must be received by May 5. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

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ask.heather@mail.house.gov
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State Capitol, Room 400
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Bosque del Apache NWR
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Friends of the Bosque del Apache
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www.friendsofthebosque.org
US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
External Affairs Office (505)248-6911
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>

Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)
Call before you intervene: 281-1133 or 281-1515

Rare Bird Alert
Albuquerque: 884-3269, Pinyonjay@aol.com
<http://www.nmosbirds.org/hotline.html>

Rosy Finch Project
Fran Lusso & Dave Weaver, flusso@wfbmc.edu
Wildlife Rescue
If you find a sick or injured bird, call 344-2500

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