



Burrowing Owl

September, October, November 2008

Vol. 37 No. 4

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

Program Schedule Fall 2008: Birds, Bears, and Herps

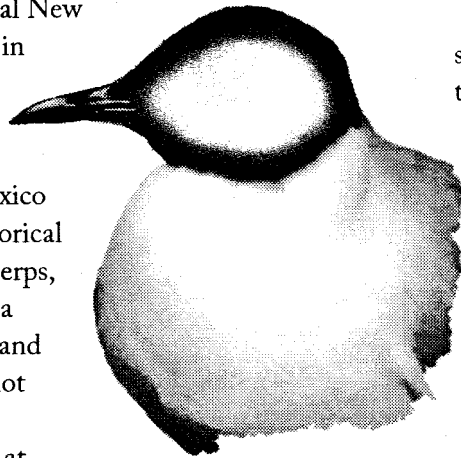
The Grand Introduction to the New Season of Delightfully Diverse, Enthusiastically Entertaining, and Undeniably Uplifting Programs Presented by Central New Mexico Audubon Society.

These three free programs will be held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments).

All are welcome - todos bienvenidos!

September 18 Presentation by Bruce Neville "What's in a Name? The Story Behind Birds' Names"

Bruce Neville is a regular presenter for Central New Mexico Audubon Society. He began birding in Florida and has been birding New Mexico intensively for 16 years now. He has bird lists for 49 of the 50 states and 4 continents. Bruce has been on the Board of the New Mexico Ornithological Society. Bruce's naturally historical interests extend beyond birds to butterflies, herps, seashells, and just about anything he can put a name on. His interest in the names, namers, and namees of organisms goes way back. When not birding, Bruce is Interim Director of the Centennial Science and Engineering Library at the University of New Mexico.



What's in a name? Bonaparte's Gull (and we don't mean Napoleon!)

October 16 Presentation by Lynn Schuler "Caring for America's Arctic: Polar Bears, Caribou, and Birds"

Lynn Schuler is the Central New Mexico Audubon Society's New Mexico Council Representative and a member of the Education and Scholarship Committee. In January she had the opportunity to participate in an advocacy

Election Year and the Birds by Beth Hurst-Waitz, President

Freely plagiarized, with permission, from Ellen Miller, President, Atlanta Audubon Society

Everywhere you look or listen, there is news on how the election of our next president is going. Upon investigation, Ellen Miller found that the National Geographic Society estimates there are 15 MILLION or more people of voting age who have a serious interest in the welfare of birds. Wow! What a collective voice for birds—a veritable chorus!

Compare that number to the strength of (a mere) million members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the United Kingdom. There, the RSPB sets the standard in terms of birders having an impact on government policies. They influence political issues and outcomes. Ellen reports they have been compared with the Teamsters in this country in terms of influence and that members of Parliament give serious consideration to issues important to the RSPB.

In this country, finding out the stances taken by politicians on environmental concerns and issues can be at least confusing, maybe misleading, and sometimes difficult. National Audubon Society does not endorse

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workshop at National Audubon in Washington, D.C., where she met with legislators to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Lynn is a teacher for Albuquerque Public Schools and in the summer teaches an animal behaviors camp for the Albuquerque BioPark.

**November 13 Presentation by Ted Brown
"Herps: Amphibian and Reptiles Surveyed at the
Armendaris Ranch"**

Ted L. Brown will be speaking on a herp survey of the Armendaris Ranch in Sierra County, NM, conducted by the NM Herpetological Society in 1998-99 for the Ted Turner Endangered Species Program. Ted is an Albuquerque native, a graduate of the University of New Mexico with BS and MS degrees in biology, and is one of the founders and current president of the New Mexico Herpetological Society. He and his slide show will be accompanied by a few live critters representative of the area.

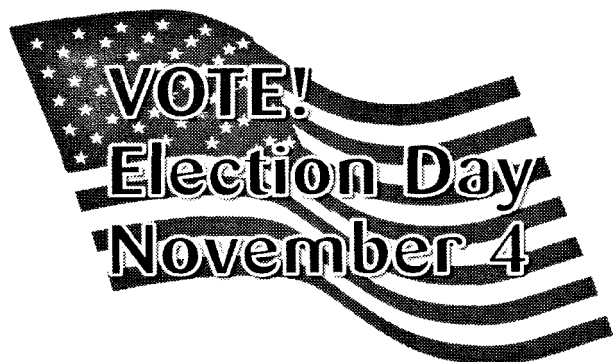


Election Year... continued on page 2

candidates, ever. But they do have a public policy office and a great deal of information on their Web site related to legislation and public policy. For more information, check out www.audubon.org/campaign/policyoffice.html.

Another group helping provide information and encouraging birders to vote as a block on bird issues is called Birders United. See: www.birdersunited.com. Birders United even has a free bumper sticker you can order that says, "BirdersUnited.com: Building a New American Political Force to Protect Birds and Their Habitats."

So in this election year, whether you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or whatever, find out where your candidate stands on bird-related issues and please be a voice for the birds.



CNMAS Field Trip Reports

Saturday, June 14: Villaneuva State Park

Rebecca Gracey lead eleven birders to this scenic park on the Pecos River. Soon after leaving I-40 and getting on to Highway 3 to Villaneuva, we heard a Cassin's Sparrow singing and saw him skylarking. At the Pecos River we saw a singing Eastern Phoebe, Cedar Waxwings fly-catching over the river, and a Yellow-breasted Chat sitting out in the open. Then at the park itself we added the Bullock's Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Cassin's Kingbird, and a Gray Catbird. A total of 47 species were seen.

Saturday and Sunday, June 21-22: Chama

Leader: Sylvia Fee. Twelve birders set off early Saturday morning for Chama. Our first stop was the Amphitheatre near Ghost Ranch where many nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and the White-throated Swifts were present. Then we move northward and east of Tierra Amarilla to walk and lunch with Ernie and Jan Villescas on their property near Brazos. We saw another 25 or so species and went on to the "Tree Swallow" Church at Los Ojos, and then on to Heron Lake to look for very few aquatics. We were very happy to see all the active Lewis's Woodpeckers at The Buckhorn Lodge on the roaring Chama River.

Early Sunday morning two birders were rewarded with life birds: Gray Catbird, Plumbeous Vireo and Lazuli Bunting. We observed nesting activity of the Catbirds, Common Grackles, Chipping Sparrows, Lewis's Woodpeckers and Yellow Warblers. The bird count was going way up and so were the mosquitoes. It was time to head to Colorado and Cumbres Pass. The mountain meadows produced good birding, but not our target species: Pine Grosbeak, Clark's Nutcracker and Gray Jay. We crossed county Hwy 17 to Trujillo Meadows where the bird of the day for many was the Willow Flycatcher, apparently nesting there. All in all a very beautiful two days of birding producing 85 species and two more life birds: the Willow Flycatcher and Bohemian Waxwing.

Saturday, June 21: Jemez Mountains

Leader: Jim Mosley. The trip started at the Whiterock Fire Station where we were entertained by some Violet-green Swallows. After introductions of the nine people in attendance we caravanned out to the La Mesa fire burn in Bandelier National Monument. Some of the birds that were a surprise was a pair of Clark's Nutcrackers and Red Crossbill (a lifer for me)! Another stop in the burn area produced a female American Kestrel tending to a nest.

Leaving the burn area we went to Pajarito Ski area, and after a short walk we found a beautiful male Western Tanager. After a little detective work in the pines, we concluded that we had a Hairy Woodpecker (we tried to turn it into a Three-toed, but no luck). While doing the birding, we were constantly being reminded of the fact that it was getting close to lunch due to

CNMAS Reports... continued on page 4



Field Trip Schedule

CNMAS trips prepared by Celestyn Brozek

Check <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html> for more field trips and updates. Always check with the leader before the trip.

Saturday, September 20: Sandia Mountains

Leader: Jim Mosley. Meet at 7:00 AM at Dion's Pizza in the shopping center at Tramway and Central. This will be a relaxed half day trip for warblers and other migrants passing thru. We will caravan up to some productive locations off NM 14 and the road to the Crest. At the Crest, we will walk out to Kiwanis Meadow and have a chance to see a Three-toed Woodpecker. Weather can be variable so dress accordingly. Walking will be moderate due to altitude. The trip will end at the Crest House for some good food and company. Please contact Jim by e-mail ff1964@msn.com

Saturday, September 27: Socorro & Bosque del Apache NWR

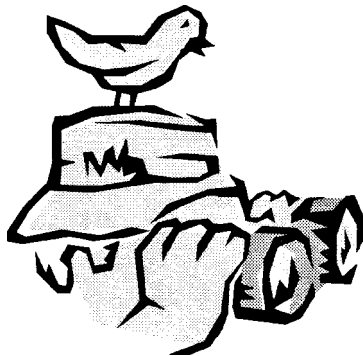
Leader: Celestyn Brozek. Meet at 8:00 AM at Turtle Bay at the NM Tech campus in Socorro. We will continue to Bosque del Apache through Luis Lopez and San Antonio. This will be a good time for fall migrants including warblers and shorebirds. This will be also a last weekend when the seasonal tour loop is open at the Bosque. Very little walking will be involved. Bring food, water for the whole day. For more information e-mail Celestyn cbrozek@unm.edu

Saturday, October 11: Bosque del Apache NWR

Leader: Jim Mosley. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 AM. We will be focusing on Shorebirds, Ducks and any migrants. Walking will be minimal. If you have any FRS radios please bring them. Also, remember to bring water and snacks. We will have lunch at either Acosta's or Owl Café, to be decided by group vote. If you have any questions please e-mail Jim at ff1964@msn.com

Sunday, November 16: Las Vegas NWR

Leader: Sei Tokuda. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Far North Shopping Center. The back road to Crane Lake on the refuge will be open during the Sundays in November and there will be a couple of lectures at the Visitor Center on those days. The target birds for the day will include the wintering raptors (Bald Eagles, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks), Tree Sparrows, Common Goldeneyes, etc. Dress warmly and bring water, food and snacks. The trip should end about 3:00 PM. For further information contact Sei at 266-2480 or stokuda@juno.com



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

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.

First Saturday Series at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

Guided Hikes- September 6, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hike with a SMNHC instructor and learn about the diverse ecology of the Sandia Mountains. Please call ahead to reserve a spot; space is limited. Spend the day in the mountains hiking our trails, visiting two hands-on exhibit rooms and observing birds and animals from our wildlife observation deck. For directions and more info: (505) 281-5259, chris.modelski@state.nm.us, or check the website www.NMnaturalhistory.org/smnhc/

Additional Spring Birding Opportunities

Tuesday Morning Guided Bird Walks

Through October, in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and Central New Mexico Audubon. Birders meet at 8:00 a.m. (8:30 in May and October) at the Sandia Ranger Station, 1176 Highway 337, in Tijeras.

Weekend Bird Walks at the

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Meet on Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. during September, October and November. Call 344-7240 or visit www.rgnc.org

Thursday Birders Field Trip Schedule

Check <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html> for more field trips and updates. Always check with the leader before the trip.

September 4: Hike the Albuquerque Open Space ditch trail

With Ray Baker: 331-2952. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the west side of Central SW just west of the Biopark. Turn right on Tingley to the parking lot. (An easy 1.5 mile walk). Potluck at Joe and Cindy Harris's house in the evening: 271-2216, cindyjoeharris@yahoo.com

Meet in the Four Hills parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to car pool to their nearby home. Drinks will be provided. A few folding chairs will be needed.

September 11: Belen and Isleta Marshes

With Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell5@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University or at 8:30 a.m. behind the Taco Bell/Pizza Hut building in Belen. Directions: Drive south on I-25 and take exit 195 to Belen. Drive east one mile. Park in the Taco Bell parking lot. We will stop at Isleta Marsh on the return trip.

September 18: Las Vegas NWR near Las Vegas, NM

With Mary Lou Arthur: 299-2565, marylarthur@yahoo.com
Meet at the Far North shopping Center on San Mateo and Academy behind the Village Inn at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Plan to return in the late afternoon.

September 25: Visit Lou Feltz's cabin on Thompson Ridge above La Cueva in the Jemez Mountains

Lou will be the leader: 856-1322, lvfeltz@comcast.net
Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Far North shopping center on San



2008 Birdathon

May 30 – 31 Team:

David Buckley, Celestyn Brozek, and John Esterl

We departed Albuquerque Friday evening and drove to the Black Range. In the middle of the night, past Hillsboro, we started off with a bang (or should I say “hoot”) of Elf Owl. Common Poorwills and Whip-poor-wills added to the night chorus. Next morning we woke up to the call of Spotted Owl at the Iron Creek campground. It was a life bird for David! We also woke up to a COLD morning, about 40 degrees. After picking up local specialties such as Painted Redstart and Red-faced Warbler and other mountain birds we drove down back to the Rio Grande Valley. At one place, near some cliffs and a small riparian area east of Kingston, we hit the “sweet spot”. Within 15 minutes we saw White-throated Swifts, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, three species of tanagers, three species of wrens, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Cassin’s Kingbirds, Hooded Oriole, and a variety of warblers. Not bad for a random spot along the road.

We visited Percha Dam and Paseo del Rio State Parks and by early afternoon we had wended our way to Bosque del Apache. The temperature was now hovering around 100 degrees, quite a contrast from the frigid morning in the mountains.

We were hoping to add a number of ducks and water birds to our list, but the refuge had very little water and our expectations were lowered a bit. We worked the refuge hard through the afternoon and did come up with a respectable percentage of the birds we were hoping for, including several ducks, shorebirds, and good numbers of egrets and nighthawks as the day turned to evening. By the time the sun had set, we took one last tour through the refuge looking for Great Horned Owls, but to no avail. We decided to head home, happy with 128 species, amazed at the great variety of avian life we had encountered in the last 24 hours, and especially grateful to the people who had generously sponsored our trip. Thanks to you, we raised well over \$700 for Central New Mexico Audubon.

Editor’s note: We would like to thank everyone who donated their money and time to this years’ CNMAS Birdathon! See page 11 for a list of cash donors.



CNMAS Reports... continued from page 2

the smells coming from the Ski area café.

Next stop was the Dome fire burn. After a stop at Graduation Flats which produced three Williamson’s Sapsucker and Hammond’s Flycatcher, we went into the Burn area. Nothing overly exciting with more of the same montane species seen earlier in the trip. After a brief rain shower and discussion of the new Floyd Field Guide, some participants headed back to Albuquerque. Nancy and I finished the day at Jemez falls after braving a torrential rain storm (okay, it was a light drizzle). I saw another lifer for me, the Black Swifts.

Personally, I want to thank everyone who attended for an excellent trip.

Thursday Birders... continued from page 3

Mateo and Academy behind the Village Inn. Bring lunch.

October 2: Corrales Bosque

With Gale Owings: 255-8333. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the shopping area on the east side of Coors/Corrales Road and north of Alameda. (north of McDonald’s). The exact location in the bosque to be determined because of area closures. Lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.

October 9: Fourth of July Canyon in the Manzano Mountains to see the turning Big Tooth Maples

With Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video or at 9:00 a.m. on Highway 55 at the turn off to the canyon in Tajique. There is a parking fee of \$7.00/car or \$3.50/ car with a Golden Age pass. Bring lunch.

October 16: Birds & Aspens along 10K Trail in the Sandias

With Melissa Howard: 286-9365, nmflicker@swcp.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood video or 8:45 at the 10K Trail head parking lot in the Sandias.

October 23: Coronado State Monument

With Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Corrales in the shopping area on the east side of Coors/Corrales Road and north of Alameda (north of McDonald’s) or at 8:30 a.m. at the Coronado Monument. The monument is just west of Bernalillo on Highway 550/44 on the north side of the road. There will be a \$1.00 admission charge.

October 30: Ponderosa, NM, near Jemez Pueblo

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Far North Shopping Center on Academy and San Mateo behind the Village Inn or at the Giant gas station on Highway 550 just before turning north onto Highway 4 at 8:45. Bring lunch. We should be back in town by 3:00 p.m.

November 6: Hike Rinconada Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument

With Gale Owings; 255-8333. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot on the west side of Unser Boulevard where Unser intersects with St. Joseph’s.

November 13: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on University and Gibson. It will be an all-day trip. Bring lunch.

November 20: Hike in the Elena Gallegos Open Space

With Tom Cartledge: 856-6844, tjcart@cs.com
This area is east of Tramway Boulevard on Simms Park Road and south of Paseo del Norte and north of Academy Road. There is a \$1 fee to enter the area.

There is more than one parking area; we will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking area at the end of the road that runs straight north from the entry station. Go left around the entry station to get to the meeting place at Cottonwood Trail. This is an 1.5 mile walk.

November 27: Thanksgiving Day - No trip planned.



Refuge Bulletin Board



Winning artwork by Ashlyn Knight, 8 years old

September 6 & 7

Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

www.friendsofbitterlake.com

Registration begins August 4. Call (575) 625-4011. Guided tours, Exhibit hall, Kids' activities, free lunch on Saturday. Programs include: Early Bird Tour • Refuge Discovery Tour • Dragonfly Tours • Ink Pot Sink Hole Tour • Slide Presentations

Bosque del Apache NWR Fall Event

“Window on the Universe” with Amy Estelle
September 20, Saturday at 7:30 pm

Meet at the Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor's Center
(limit 45 participants, reservations required)

We are all space travelers and our spacecraft is the living planet Earth. Looking out our window on a moonless night we can see planets, star clusters, galactic arms, bright and dark nebulae. Join amateur astronomers for a night with telescopes and binoculars. We'll look at the obvious (Jupiter and the Milky Way) and the obscure (Uranus and Neptune) from some of the darkest skies around. For ages 10 and up.

For reservations, information or updates please call: 575-835-1828

21st Annual Festival of the Cranes November 18–23, 2008

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/>



Festival Art - "The Gang's All Here" by Elli Sorensen

Friends of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge

You and your family are cordially invited to a Welcoming Reception for Rob Larranaga, new Refuge Manager of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge and the Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge. Mark your calendars now.

Date: Wed., Sept. 10, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Location: The Las Vegas Railroad Depot (tentative)

Light snacks and drinks will be served. Come and go as you please!

Hosted by the Board of Directors of the Friends of LVNWR.
Call Refuge Office, 505-425-3581 for more information.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge 11th Annual Open House October 10 - 12, 2008

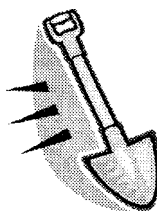


Refuge Tours • Field Trips • Exhibits • Speakers
Live Animals • Good Food • Local Art
For information & registration packets
call 575-864-4021

Photo: B. Brown

New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors at Bosque del Apache NWR

Saturday, October 18
through Sunday, October 19



Leader: Barbara Hoehne (505)
262-9059 nymphaea123@msn.com

Enjoy the beauty of autumn in the bosque while performing trail and other maintenance tasks in preparation for the annual festival. RSVP to Barbara and let her know you're with CNMAS. Work one day or a part of a day, then go birding!

Central New Mexico Audubon Volunteers at Festival of the Cranes 2008

CNMAAS relies on and appreciates your volunteering at Festival of the Cranes! You'll have so much fun! Please e-mail Jeff Myers at jmyers@peacocklaw.com or call him at 998-1502 to sign up for a shift on either Saturday or Sunday, Nov. 22 or 23, at the NM Audubon Council Tent and/or the CNMAS Phil Norton Blind. Fly on in —we'll see you there!





Learning Look-Alikes: Three Large Falcons

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

Many civilizations hold a special respect for falcons as powerful hunters. Peregrine Falcons nest on every continent except Antarctica and have been a symbol of power for many centuries.

We know we are looking at a falcon by its long, narrow, pointed wings, which often bend back sharply at the wrist (about half way out on the wing). The tail is long and narrow, and the wing-beats are strong and rapid, but shallow. Falcons fly very fast, and they chase and catch their prey in flight.

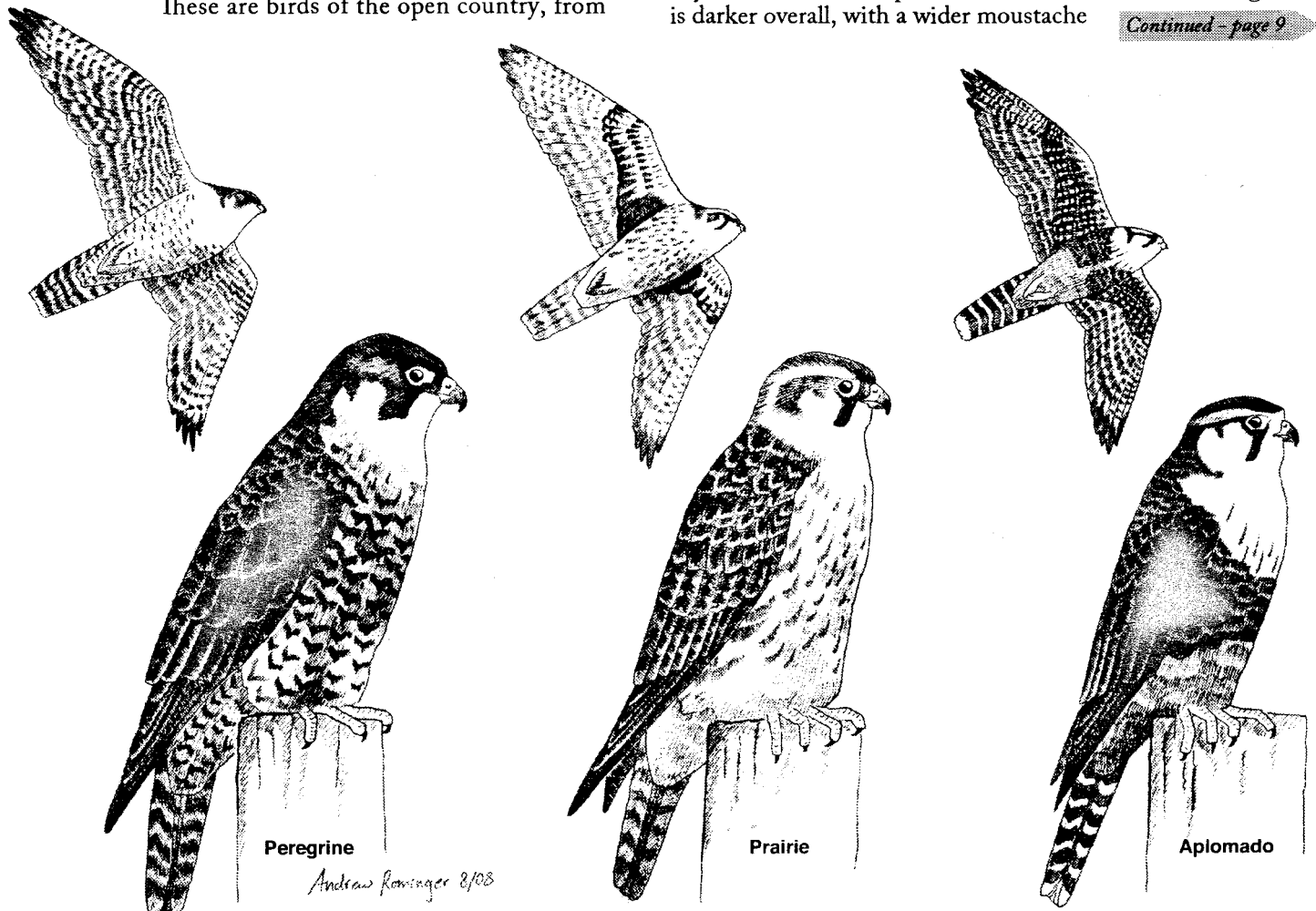
These are birds of the open country, from

mudflats to grasslands to prairies. Falcons in our area avoid dense forests, but live almost everywhere else. A few Peregrines even live in cities, nesting on ledges of buildings and feeding on city pigeons.

We are going to study three large falcons: Peregrine, Prairie and Aplomado. These birds are between 15 and 20 inches long, which is much larger than the Merlin or the American Kestrel but smaller than a Red-tailed Hawk. As with most birds of prey, the female is larger than the male but appears identical otherwise.

First, let's look at the Peregrine Falcon. Any birding trip that includes seeing a Peregrine Falcon is automatically an excellent trip. Although widespread, this falcon is not common anywhere. When compared with a Prairie Falcon, a Peregrine is darker overall, with a wider moustache

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FALCON	TOTAL COLOR	HEAD COLOR	BODY COLOR	WING COLOR	HABITAT	BEHAVIOR
Peregrine	Dark	Dark helmet, dark wide moustache.	Adult: slate above, white chest, reddish below.	Evenly patterned dark.	Mudflats and other open areas.	Chases down and often dives on prey.
Prairie	Pale	Dark, thin moustache. White area behind eye.	Sand above, creamy white with spots below.	Light, with dark "wing-pits" and dark "wing-struts".	Semi-arid prairies.	Hunts by flying low over open areas.
Aplomado	Strong dark and light pattern on head & body.	Dark, thin moustache. Strong dark and light stripes.	Light chest, dark belly- band, rufous abdomen.	Evenly patterned dark.	Yucca flats and other arid areas in southern NM, AZ, & Texas.	Often hunts from a conspicuous perch.



CNMMAS Education Opportunities Abound!

CNMMAS Educator Resource Grant Application

Educator Name _____

School/Work _____

Grade and subject taught _____

Address: _____

Phone # day: _____ evening _____

Email _____

Fax# _____

Principal* (unless home schooled, etc.) _____

* If no principal, please provide name and contact information of one reference.

List below or attach a list of what you need and the cost of the supplies (budget)

Describe why you need these materials, how you will use them and how they will benefit your students

Eligibility & requirements

This grant is open to all educators of students age 18 and under. Funding can be used for supplies for a project/lesson/unit about natural history/sciences, such as bug boxes, books, lab supplies. At the end of the school year, the grantee must supply CNMMAS with a short report on how the money was used and an itemized budget with receipts. A short article will be placed in the *Burrowing Owl* Newsletter for our membership, written by the teacher/students involved.

Deadlines

For application: DECEMBER 1st 2008

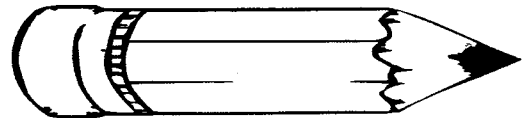
Money awarded by JANUARY, 2009

Mail the application to: CNMMAS, c/o Helen Haskell, PO Box 36741, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Questions? Email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com, and title the email 'CNMMAS Educator Resource Grant'.

CNMMAS continues in the 2008-09 school year with great opportunities for students and teachers. During the past school year these programs provided opportunities for many individuals. Educator Resource grants were granted to three teachers: Barbara Oats of Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro, Rich Anderson of Albuquerque Academy, and Carolyn Nesbitt of Manzano Day School. Cole Wolf was the recipient of the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund. Look in this issue and future issues of the *Burrowing Owl* to hear about their experiences and how they used our grants. Please pass on information about these opportunities to potential recipients. Thanks for your support of and interest in CNMMAS education.

Helen Haskell and CNMMAS Education Committee, August 2008



CNMMAS Educator Resource Grant

The Educator Resource Grant is available to all educators in New Mexico. The grant is available for purchase of resources to the classroom/lessons that school or personal budgets do not cover. The supplies must be used for a natural history/science lesson(s), project or experience.

This grant is open to all educators of students age 18 and under. At the end of the school year, grantees must supply CNMMAS with a short report on how the money was used and an itemized budget with receipts. A short article will be placed in the *Burrowing Owl* newsletter for our membership, written by the educator and students involved.

Amount available: up to \$250

Application deadline: December 1st 2008 (for money awarded by January 2009).

Application process: complete the application form in this newsletter, or download the application from the web site: <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>

Mail the application to: CNMMAS, c/o Helen Haskell, PO Box 36741, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Questions? Email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com
Title the email 'CNMMAS Educator Resource Grant'.

Teacher Professional Development Opportunity

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society has an exciting opportunity to offer a teacher from New Mexico. The Institute of Desert Ecology focuses on Sonoran Desert ecosystems with emphasis on relationships between plants, animals and the physical characteristics of the desert rather than on classification and identification. The days start early and optional activities such as owling, blacklighting for insects, and



star talks extend into the evening hours. Participants and faculty interact in small groups during the first three days. A final hike ties together the experiences of earlier sessions for the entire group.

When and Where: April 16-19, 2009, Catalina State Park, Tucson, AZ.

Accommodation: You must bring your own tent or camper.

Cost: Central New Mexico Audubon Society will pay full tuition. You must provide your own transportation to the site (car, air) and dinner on the Wednesday evening. We realize that this workshop is partly during school time. Please check with your principal before applying, to ensure that you can attend the Institute, and be out of school. Your school is responsible for providing substitutes and related costs.

Please send a one-page essay and cover letter detailing:

- How you would benefit from this opportunity
- How would you use the experience in your everyday teaching
- Details on where you teach and what grade you teach, name of principal (if applicable) and two references

Please send the application by December 1st 2008 to:

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
c/o Helen Haskell
PO Box 36741
Albuquerque, NM 87176

For more information on program content, visit:

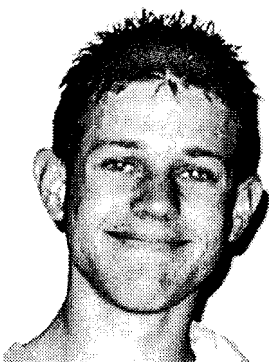
<http://www.tucsonaudubon.org>

Questions? Please email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com and title the email 'Institute of Desert Ecology'

The Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund

This is the third year CNMAS is able to accept applications for the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund. The fund provides scholarships for youth between the ages of 13 and 20, or educators of youth, to attend a specific program, camp or course, pertaining to the candidate's interest in the natural sciences.

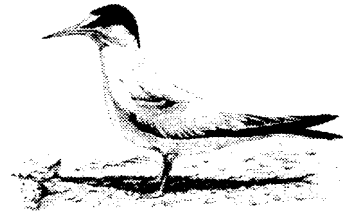
For more information about applications, please contact Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com and visit <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> where you can follow links to the application form and instructions. Applications are taken on an on-going basis but early applications are encouraged. The grant will be awarded by May 31st 2009.



Ryan Beaulieu was a young ornithologist, environmentalist and conservationist who filled his life with the joy of exploration and discovery of nature. This scholarship fund was established to give testimony to the living legacy of what Ryan gave to all of us as family, friends and community. CNMAS wishes to thank the Lannan Foundation for its generous support of the fund, as well as the family and friends of Ryan.

Ryan Beaulieu Fund Grantee Report: Maine Youth Birding Camp by Cole Wolf

I was fortunate enough to be the recipient of the 2008 Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Youth Scholarship; I used the scholarship to attend Maine Audubon's Youth Birding Camp on Hog Island, Maine.



Hog Island is a private sanctuary owned by Maine Audubon located off the state's southern coast. I spent five nights on the island with eleven other teens interested in birds and nature. On the morning bird walks around the island we heard dozens of Black-throated Green Warblers and Northern Parulas along with the occasional Blackburnian Warbler. White-throated Sparrows were also common. Common Loons, Black Guillemots, and groups of Common Eiders were often seen from shore. Unfortunately our group missed the Ruffed Grouse that wandered into camp one morning. On the final morning our leaders set up mist nets; we banded a Carolina Wren and several Purple Finches. Besides birds we also saw a Porcupine and several Garter Snakes on the island.

Although we stayed on Hog Island, during the day we usually went birding elsewhere. Several times we spent mornings on the mainland looking for warblers and other woodland birds. I saw fifteen species of wood-warblers during the camp, including Canada, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Pine. Besides the many warblers we saw Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blue-headed Vireo, and Baltimore Oriole. We also spent time in marshy habitats and had birds like Black Duck, Alder Flycatcher, Swamp Sparrow, and Bobolink. One of the most memorable experiences of the trip was having lunch overlooking a Bobolink colony. There were at least four pairs in the fields around us and the males sang and displayed almost constantly.

Of course we also visited Maine's most famous birding locations: Eastern Egg Rock and Acadia National Park. Eastern Egg Rock is one of the sites where Atlantic Puffins have been reintroduced to Maine. Although it was a foggy day, we still managed to see dozens of Puffins and Guillemots. We also saw four species of terns: Common, Arctic, Roseate, and Black. Though Black Terns are common in New Mexico, the species is endangered in Maine and had never before been recorded at Eastern Egg Rock. On the trip back we got close-up looks at all three species of Scoters.

We spent a full day at Acadia National Park. Besides spectacular scenery, highlights included the only Northern Gannet of the trip, a family of Peregrine Falcons, several Least Flycatchers, and a singing Veery.

I would like to thank the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Fund for paying to send me to Hog Island. I would also like to thank CNMAS's Education and Scholarships committee for selecting me to receive the scholarship. It was a very memorable experience and I saw lots of great birds. I encourage you to donate to the Ryan Fund; it makes experiences like mine possible.



Continued from page 7

mark and uniformly patterned dark wings. The head of a Peregrine appears to have a dark helmet, with a dark crown, nape and the areas below the eyes. A contrasting white throat and white cheek patch can often be seen, even in flight. The adult is slate-gray above and red-brown below. The juvenile is brown above and heavily streaked below. The tail is banded. In flight, a "bow and arrow" shape appears: strongly curved wings create the bow and the body and tail make up the arrow.

Peregrines nest in a hollow on an inaccessible cliff face (or sometimes on a building ledge). Most of their prey items are birds, which are always caught with the falcon's sharp talons. Often this falcon climbs high in the air and attacks in a steep, twisting dive. Researchers recently documented dive speeds above 200 miles per hour.

Peregrines are partial migrants, that is, some of the southern birds stay in the nesting area during the winter. A good bet to see one is the local Hawkwatch site during migration. Also, ask your fellow birders if they know any Peregrine hotspots.

Prairie Falcons are the most common of these three falcons, but even they are not plentiful. They are the same size as Peregrines, but their appearance is very different. A Prairie Falcon is a pale bird. It is sandy brown above, and a heavily spotted or streaked cream color below. Even from a distance, this bird from the front looks very light. So a light-looking raptor, visibly slimmer and shorter than a Red-tailed Hawk, should attract your full attention. A closer look reveals a long, narrow dark mustache mark and a distinct white area behind the eye. In flight, this falcon shows dark "wing-pits", where the under-wing joins the body. Also, a dark "wing strut" extends from the wing-pit toward the mid-wing. The tail is faintly banded, and the tail color above is paler than the color of the upper body. (Look at Andrew's drawings).

Prairie Falcons also favor cliffs for nest sites. They hunt in grasslands and other open country for birds and small mammals. They often hunt by flying low and fast, following land contours to surprise their prey.

Prairie Falcons are birds of the western U.S., and are found from Canada to Mexico. We see them in New Mexico all year. Las Vegas NWR and Bosque del Apache NWR often host one or two Prairie Falcons, especially during winter.

You might be surprised that we included the rare Aplomado Falcon here. But over a dozen of these birds were released in south-central New Mexico recently, mostly on the Armendariz ranch. And recently, folks on a birding tour got great looks at an Aplomado Falcon near Truth or Consequences.

This falcon nested in southern New Mexico 100 years ago, but it slowly disappeared. But in 2006, one of the released pairs fledged two Aplomado chicks in the wild and researchers expect more.

This is a trim and elegant-looking bird, dramatically marked. The adult has a strikingly striped head, a white chest, a dark bellyband and rufous color on the abdomen, legs and under-tail. The strongly banded tail has at least six thin light bands across the dark tail. The juvenile is also stunning with cinnamon on the chest, but it resembles the adult even as a

very young bird.

Besides this striking appearance, this bird perches conspicuously and often catches large flying insects in the air and then returns to the perch. It also preys on small birds and small mammals. It often flies low to the ground and frequently hover hunts. This sounds like Kestrel behavior to me!

This is a falcon of yucca grasslands and other semi-arid habitats. It uses abandoned crow's nests in trees and shrubs or poles. Armendariz Ranch borders Elephant Butte Lake on the east, and is also just south of Bosque del Apache NWR. An Aplomado Falcon was spotted on the refuge during 2006, and researchers released more birds near the refuge during 2007. Since the releases, "Aplomado Falcon" appears fairly often on the bird list of recent bird sightings at Bosque del Apache refuge.

So study Andrew's drawings and the summary table so you will be ready the next time you see a large falcon.

Lesser Prairie-Chickens To Be Hunted

by Tom Jervis

In July, the New Mexico Game Commission voted down an amendment to the upland game seasons that would delete a proposed special hunt for the Lesser Prairie-chicken. Defeat of the amendment means that fifty permits to hunt Lesser Prairie-chickens will be available, along with five falconry permits.

The Lesser Prairie-chicken is a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It has been extirpated from more than 90% of their historical range in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In our state, they are gone from about 56% of their historical range and persist in reasonable abundance across only 16% of that range. The reasons for this situation are many, abusive livestock grazing, conversion of grasslands to croplands, herbicide use, and oil and gas development. Drought can also be a factor in short-term declines but a few wet years can bring chicken numbers back quickly where there are established populations.

The current "crisis" in Lesser Prairie-chicken populations became apparent after 1989, when surveys showed a dramatic decline. The situation was highlighted by a New Mexico Audubon Council meeting in Roswell in 1991 that also shined an unfavorable light on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and their lack of attention to this species and to the precipitous decline.

In 1996, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish finally closed the season on Lesser Prairie-chickens, in part because so few could be found by hunters.

The last few years have blessed the core area where the chickens are still found (mostly Roosevelt County) with good rains, and populations have rebounded. However, a return to "normal" rainfall or a continued drought will again stress chicken populations-most of the other reasons for their decline are still major factors.

The Department's actions to authorize a "harvest" of this species flies in the face of extensive efforts by the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recover the species and avoid listing under the ESA.



CNMAAS 2008 Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to all of you! Two students from the Senior Division and two from the Junior Division were each awarded a \$100 savings bond. We're pleased to present their abstracts here. This year CNMAS was not represented by our own team of judges; those who had volunteered had scheduling conflicts with the Easter-weekend date of this year's event. They're on board for 2009, though, and looking forward to the uplifting experience of meeting and speaking to the bright young people who work so hard for this annual event. By all means, contact any board member if you'd like to be a judge!

We appreciate the volunteers from UNM Science Technology Engineering & Math (STEM) who responded to our request for alternate judges and who chose this year's winners of the CNMAS awards. Congratulations and good luck to these deserving winners and to all those students who pursue knowledge with curiosity, enthusiasm, humor, and their own personal sense of awe.

**Junior Winner: Gabriel T. Joachim
Taylor Middle School**

Exhibit Title: "The Effects of Microclimate on the Distribution of Two Dendrobates Species in a Secondary Forest"

In the summer of 2007, data were collected that focused on two species of poison dart frogs (*Dendrobates auratus*, and *Dendrobates pumilio*) in two forest fragments in Costa Rica. There were two purposes for the current study: (1) to figure out whether or not microclimate and habitat effect the distribution of frogs in a secondary forest fragment, and (2) to continue to census them in order to keep track of their population long-term. A Chi-squared analysis showed that since 2004 there have been more frogs in the primary forest than in the secondary forest Chi-squared = 26.381, (df) = 2, p = .01. Also, more frogs were found in the interior and riverine habitats than on the edge. More specifically, three-quarters of *D. pumilio* were found in the interior habitats, 100% of the *D. auratus* were found on the interior along with 85% of the other species of frogs. The results also showed that the majority of segments in the forest were undisturbed and that the majority of frogs preferred this kind of habitat. The majority of frogs preferred a temperature of 77.43 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 99.37%. The majority of frogs censused were found within 100 meters of a water source. T-tests revealed that microclimate was not a good predictor of frog presence. However, bio-diversity within 10 meters ($t = 5.2$, $df = 227$, $p = .0001$) and up to 100 meters ($t = 4.14$, $df = 228$, $p = .0001$) was an excellent predictor of frog presence.

**Junior Winner: Laura A. Meurer
St. Mary's School**

Exhibit Title: "Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Mo"

The purpose of this project is to determine if hummingbirds see variations of the color red. If they do, will they choose purple or orange over red?

The hypothesis is hummingbirds will choose the color red over variations of red when choosing a feeder.

The procedure is:

1. Get 3 red hummingbird feeders from Wild Birds Unlimited
2. Spray paint 1 hummingbird feeder orange, 1 purple, and leave the last one red
3. Make the sugar water using 3 ½ cups of water and 1 ½ cup of sugar. Stir and boil.
4. Measure 300ml of sugar water and put in each hummingbird feeder
5. Set out hummingbird feeders. Each feeder is at a different height: low (44in.), middle (56in.), or high (64in.)
6. Measure how much sugar water is left each week and record.
7. Repeat steps 3, 4, 5, and 6 for 9 weeks
8. Change the height position of colors each week

The results showed height affects which feeder a hummingbird picks instead of the color of the feeder. Each week except for the first, the hummingbird feeder on the top had the least amount of sugar water remaining.

The conclusion is that the height of the feeder affects how much sugar water a hummingbird drinks. My hypothesis proved to be incorrect.

This experiment could be improved by controlling the height variable. That is, the height of the feeders should have been the same. Then color would have played a more important role.

**Senior Winner: Lauren C. Huey
Rio Rancho Mid High
Exhibit Title: "Cow Emissions"**

According to studies cattle are major producers of methane in the atmosphere. Methane, the third most abundant green house gas in the atmosphere, is a harmful greenhouse gas that is contributing to global warming. Methane is produced when manure is broken down by bacteria, and a chemical reaction occurs between hydrogen atoms and carbon atoms. Even though methane is such a bad greenhouse gas, it can and has been used to fuel homes.

This researcher wanted to know if a calf's diet could reduce or increase the amount of methane that the calf produces. If calves were slowly transferred from a pasture diet to a mostly grain diet, would the amount of methane released change? It was hypothesized that if the cattle were fed a pasture diet, less methane would be created than if the same cows were fed a grain diet. The calves were transitioned together from a mostly grass diet to a mostly grain diet because it allowed them to remain in the same environment.

Throughout the transition, samples of manure were collected, put into jars, and analyzed for methane content after two weeks. The hypothesis was supported because as the grain content was increased over the weeks the methane levels also increased. It was proven that diet affects the amount of methane released from the manure produced by a cow. In the future, experiments could be done to find factors affecting the amount of methane released from cow manure.

**Senior Winner: Nigel I. Brassington
Hope Christian School**

Exhibit Title: "Vermicomposting: The Recycling Properties of Red Worms/Phase III: Soil Improvement"

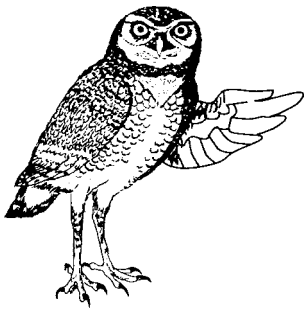
The hypothesis of this project was that 125 worms (1/8



pound) will enrich the nutrient content of soil naturally, without the addition of supplementary organic compost. Specifically, the hypothesis was that nitrogen levels would rise from an adequate amount to a surplus amount of the nutrient, phosphorous levels from a depleted amount to a surplus amount of the nutrient, and that the pH levels would be less acid and more alkaline (resulting in a reading of about 7.5). This experiment was conducted in a plastic bin with black construction paper taped around the sides so that the worms could be observed in their natural dark habitat. 25 worms were added to one bin. The control bin was set up in the same way except that no worms were added. Both bins were tested every four days by removing soil samples and testing for the various nutrients with the Rapitest Soil Test Kit.

At the end of the experiment, it was obvious the hypothesis was correct. The soil in the worm bin was noticeably darker and appeared richer, and the results of the testing proved that to be true. In the beginning the pH level was at 5.5 (acid), the nitrogen level was at N2 (adequate), and the phosphorous level was at P0 (depleted). At the end of the sixteen-day testing period, the pH level was at 7.5 (alkaline), the nitrogen level was at N4 (surplus), and the phosphorous level was at P4 (surplus), a dramatic difference, indicating definite improvement in soil quality.

A further project might include the use of different worms from the four main groups: flatworms, ribbon worms, roundworms, and segmented worms, and on a wider scale using different soil types and temperature changes.



Birdathon 2008!

Conserving birds and educating people: you make it possible. Generous donors and enthusiastic trip leaders and members make it apparent that you understand and value our natural world. With the tremendous support you gave us this year – You generously gave a grand total of \$2,679.88! – You

make it possible for us to provide educational scholarships, support the educational outreach program of Randall Davey Audubon Center, and continue to work to protect precious habitat. We thank each and all of you:

Alfredo Aragon, Art Arenholz, Mary Lou Arthur, Gary & Karen Boettcher, Celestyn Brozek, Madelon & Vic Brown, Aidan Saavedra Buckley, Elena Saavedra Buckley, Jay Buckley, Ken Cole, Dianne Cress, John E Esterl, Sylvia Fee, Jan Gossage, Rebecca Gracey, Annie & Shelly Gross, Holly & Bud Hodgin, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Kathy Jutila, Wendy Kalberg, Nancy Kassner, Mitch Coven & Nancy Kilon, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Brynn Manzella, C. M. MacIntosh, Pam Micker, Bo Miller, Sam Mouck, Lannois Neely, Cheri Orwig, Gale Owings, Jim Place, Lou Prime, Ray and Mary Reed, Jerome Romero, Barbara Saavedra, Laura Saavedra, Louis Saavedra, Bev Silber, Pat Snider, Sei Tokuda, Phyllis Trujillo, Jan Villescas, Ron Waitz, Abby & Dave Watson, Marjorie Williams, Sondra Williamson, Charlie Wood, BRAVE_E, Inc.

Belen Marsh Update by Judith Liddell

CNMAAS and Audubon's Thursday Birders are collaborating with several organizations, including two in Valencia County, in an effort to save the wetlands in Belen, just off I-25 and behind the Taco Bell. We became aware of the Valencia County Fair Management organization's plans to fill in the marsh and use it for parking when an article appeared in the Albuquerque Journal, but didn't realize their plans were imminent until a CNMAAS member stopped at the marsh two weeks later and found that backfilling already had begun. Dirt was pushed within a few feet of where Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets were sitting on their nests.

A concerned citizen called the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Special Agent who contacted the owners and informed them they needed to cease work on the area until August 1 in compliance with the Migratory Bird Act. That bought us time. The ad hoc group, or "Marshers," as Beth Hurst-Waitz, CNMAAS President, has referred to us, has met almost weekly at the home of Eileen Beaulieu who is grateful to be part of saving a place that her son Ryan loved to bird.

Advice has been sought from a number of state and federal agencies, information has been obtained on geologic reasons for the high water table, mosquito control methods – a concern to many of the neighbors and fair-goers – has been researched, local businesses and political leaders have been contacted, and initial conversations have begun with the fair association.

The fair association is busy until the end of September. At that time the group hopes to meet with them to develop a solution that will meet their needs and still preserve the unique wildlife habitat.

Belen Marsh Committee Members with
Valencia News-Bulletin Reporter



Photo by Judith Liddell



Reminder: New Mexico Audubon Council meets at Bosque del Apache at 10:00 AM on October 25. Join us for Audubon's conservation pulse in New Mexico.



Announcements

An Opportunity To Serve CNMAS Treasurer Position Open

Dear Chapter Friends,

As you read in the last issue of *Burrowing Owl*, we are looking for a new treasurer to serve as an officer on the CNMAS board. However, since the last announcement, we have had the extreme good fortune to obtain the services of a certified QuickBooks expert and trainer, who is also an accountant. In cooperation with Glen Finley, our outgoing treasurer, and Beth Hurst-Waitz, chapter president, Geri Pohl, CPA, has assumed the duties of QuickBooks posting and ledger-keeping; compiling and presentation of financial reports; and automated correspondence with Glen and Beth.

How does this affect YOU, the person who is interested in serving on the board and helping to guide the strategy and focus of our chapter? It means that you would be an officer; that you would be signatory to the checking account; and that you, together with Geri, would be the overseer of our financial affairs.

Please consider volunteering. You will find it a most worthwhile way to actualize your commitment to the environment, to the protection of birds, and to the education of the excellent young women and men who share your passion. Please contact Beth (brave_e@juno.com) or Glen (grf@nmlrc.com), preferably with a brief CV or resume of your qualifications. Thank you!



NMOS 47th Annual Meeting Announcement April 25, 2009 – Los Alamos, New Mexico

The 47th Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Fuller Lodge, located at 2132 Central Avenue in the historic district of Los Alamos. Further details on the meeting, including the Call for Papers and registration information, will appear in upcoming issues of the NMOS Bulletin. Details will also be posted on the NMOS Web site, www.nmbirds.org, as they become available.

The New Mexico Ornithological Society was founded in 1962 to gather and disseminate accurate information concerning the bird life of New Mexico; to promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, to further effective conservation of the state's avifauna; to facilitate opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in birds and nature; and to issue publications as a means of furthering these ends.

Membership in NMOS is open to anyone with an interest in birds. Memberships are for a calendar year and annual dues are payable 1 January. Regular membership \$20; Family \$30; Student \$10; Supporting \$50; Life \$500. Address for NMOS is Post Office Box 3068, Albuquerque, NM, 87190-3068.

HawkWatch 2008 Fall Count In Manzano Mountains

Although the Manzano crew will be able to go forward with plans for this year's migration count, the whole area will be closed to the public. Here is a short excerpt from a recent e-mail to Mike Neal, HWI Southwest Migration Coordinator, from District Ranger Karen Lessard.



HawkWATCH

"As long as the area is closed to the public, only those with a bona fide need to be there will be allowed access. We will need the names of those involved in the research project, as a letter exempting them (each person specifically) from the Closure Order will be required. Public visitors will not be allowed; I do not expect to open the road to Capilla any earlier than next spring. Our Law Enforcement folks will be visiting frequently because of the number of folks trying to sneak up - especially during hunting season - and, yes, they are issuing citations for first offenses."

Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc. Rio Grande Nature Center 2008 Fall Banding Schedule

	Gate opens/ closes (a.m.)	Open Nets (a.m.)	Sunrise (a.m.)
September			
6	6:00/6:15	6:19	6:39
7	6:00/6:15	6:20	6:40
13	6:00/6:15	6:24	6:44
14	6:00/6:15	6:25	6:45
20	6:00/6:15	6:29	6:49
21	6:00/6:15	6:30	6:50
27	6:15/6:30	6:34	6:54
29	6:15/6:30	6:35	6:55
29	6:15/6:30	6:39	6:59
October			
4	6:30/6:45	6:45	7:05
5	6:30/6:45	6:46	7:06
11	6:30/6:45	6:51	7:11
12	6:30/6:45	6:51	7:11
18	6:45/7:00	6:58	7:16
19	6:45/7:00	6:58	7:17
25	6:45/7:00	7:03	7:23
26	6:45/7:00	7:04	7:24
November			
1	6:45/7:00	7:09	7:29
2 DST	5:45/6:00	6:10	6:30

DST = Daylight Savings Time



WHOM TO CONTACT

National Audubon Society
Membership Hotline
(800)274-4201, chadd@audubon.org
Activist Hotline
(800)659-2622
Audubon Take Action
www.audubonaction.org/audubon/

New Mexico Office
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ask.heather@mail.house.gov

Governor Bill Richardson
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 476-2200

US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
External Affairs Office (505)248-6911

New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)476-8000
www.wildlife.state.nm.us

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

Bosque del Apache NWR
(575)838-2120
Friends of the Bosque del Apache
(575)835-1828
www.friendsofthebosque.org

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
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Friends of RGNC
friends@rgnc.org, www.rgnc.org

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Subscription Tidbits

- Audubon Society renewals must be submitted to National Audubon and are not available at the low introductory price offered to new members.
- 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 \$15 to CNMAS, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002 - this does NOT include National Audubon membership or Audubon Magazine!
- You can also subscribe to the *Burrowing Owl* 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 *Burrowing Owl* (instead of a hard copy) give us your email address in addition to your name and address. Contact the Membership Chairperson.
- 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 Winter 2008/2009 issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by November 5, 2008. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

Mailing List Alert - To All Members!

We on the CNMAS board are concerned that we are mailing hard copies of our newsletter, the *Burrowing Owl* to folks who aren't interested in receiving it, or would rather save paper (and forests) by reviewing an electronic copy of the newsletter. An electronic copy of current and past issues of the *Burrowing Owl* reside online at <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> - click on the 'Newsletter' link.

Additionally, the quarterly printing and mailing of the newsletter is a very significant portion of our entire yearly budget. In order to economize so that we can support environmental and educational causes and issues, we are asking those who would like to continue to receive the newsletter by regular mail to notify Christopher Rustay, either written at 1824 Stanford Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, or via e-mail to chrustay@aol.com. If by email, include 'CNMAS newsletter' in the subject line. (If you have already done so, there is no need to do this again.) We will be running this announcement through next spring.

We ultimately expect to switch primarily to an online or electronic newsletter in less than a year. But we won't cut you off if you still want a paper copy! We will continue to mail paper copies of the *Burrowing Owl* to anybody who prefers that. And, of course, we will continue to use the printed *Burrowing Owl* as an outreach tool, distributing it to nature centers, birding stores, forest service ranger stations, etc. Thanks.

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Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Inc.

Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats; and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

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