



Burrowing Owl



December 2008, January, February 2009

Vol. 38 No. 1

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

11th Annual Audubon Birding Academy: "Birds and Books"

Central New Mexico Audubon is proud to present this educational and exceptional palette that appeals to two of our fondest passions.

February 19 – Steve Shunk on Woodpeckers

Meet Steve Shunk. Specialty: Woodpeckers. In fact, Woodpecker Expert: He is nearing completion on the *Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America*. Steve is a naturalist with a background in environmental education. The merger of his teaching and birding skills begat Paradise Birding, the company out of Sisters, Oregon, through which Steve and his spouse and birding partner, Kris Falco, offer birding and cultural experiences from Oregon to Sicily and points in between (www.paradisebirding.com). He brings to this presentation his personal and business philosophy: to offer the highest quality birding program to enhance birders' skills and knowledge and to reinforce our appreciation for birds and their habitats. Plus he brings to CNMAS the most in-depth, scientific, personal, and intriguing perspective into the Woodpeckers of New Mexico imaginable. You will be



delighted and amazed at the depth of his presentation. This isn't "just" identification. It's the "tao" of woodpeckers, their ecological links, the "why this matters." In the (draft) conservation chapter of his book, Steve asserts that "Woodpeckers... represent one of the most important keystone organisms in a healthy forest. So many other organisms depend upon woodpeckers that their removal could cause the collapse of their respective ecosystems." Come learn woodpeckers as cavity excavators, insect controllers, decay facilitators, food

providers. And THEN sign up for Steve's extra-special one-day-long in-field workshop on Sunday, Feb. 22, for the low cost of \$30/person.

March 26 – Andrew Rominger on Natural Diversity: How it came to be and why it remains

Andrew Rominger has been a member of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society since age 9, shortly after he first saw a western tanager outside Silver

Birding Academy... continued on page 2

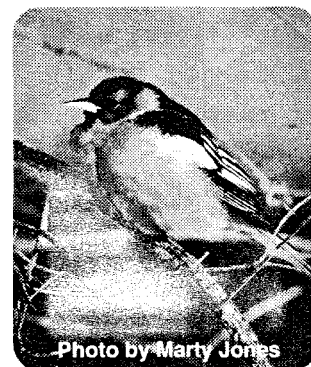
January Audubon Program

Neotropical Migratory Bird
Conservation Act in New Mexico

with Christopher Rustay

January 15, 2009

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act was passed by Congress and accepted into U.S. law in 2000. This little known act provides money for projects designed to benefit birds which breed north of the Tropic of Cancer and winter south of that line. Since 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has given out more than \$25 million to



support research, education, habitat restoration and protection across the Americas. We'll learn how New Mexico has benefitted from some of the projects and how you can help to increase the potential funding in the program.

A long time Audubon member and CNMAS board director, Christopher currently works for the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, a group dedicated to conserving wetland and prairie birds in the southern Great Plains. He was the NM Partners in Flight coordinator for several years prior to his current position.

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

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City and became instantly amazed by the diversity and beauty of birds. With Audubon he found a group of kindred nature lovers who mentored his growth and learning as a naturalist. He is currently pursuing research on the complex workings of nature from the desert grasslands of New Mexico, to the rainforests of southeast Mexico, from the valleys and mountains of Chile, to the specimen cabinets of the Smithsonian Museum, and to the laboratories of Stanford University where he is currently completing his Bachelors of Science degree in biology.



Andrew Rominger - 2nd grade
Ivory billed Woodpecker Project
photo courtesy of Judy Rominger

Andrew is excited to be able to share his research and experiences with CNMAS, a group that so profoundly influenced—and continues to influence—his course as a student of science and conservation. Like many naturalists, Andrew is fascinated by the question “why are there so many species—why have so many evolved over time and why do they coexist in local ecosystems?” He will speak on his research addressing this question, which has ranged from birds, to brachiopods and insects. Specific topics will include: why have birds evolved to range in size from

hummingbirds to rheas; why is the assemblage of species found in one place different from that of another place; and why do some groups of species repeatedly evolve similar morphologies through geologic time? The talk will include discussion of how studying the biological mechanisms underlying these observations helps us to understand the evolution and maintenance of biological diversity. At the possible dawn of another massive loss of species, such understanding is important in our efforts to conserve nature.

The “Books” part of Andrew’s presentation will be complemented by the availability of our own Chapter–published 3-ring binder–style notebook of a compendium of Andrew’s drawings and Art Arenholz’ articles from their outstanding and popular “Learning Look–Alikes” series. We’re delighted to have Art Arenholz as honorary co-guest for the evening. What a special evening for all of us!

April 16 Eldon Remy on Migration

Author Eldon Remy wrote *The Great Pageant* as the ultimate homage to his appreciation and enjoyment of one of the most profound events of Mother Nature, the mystery of migration.

His personal fascination with the world of birds evolves from being a young Boy Scout on bird-watching trips in summer to this book—not a guidebook, but a colorful, dynamic, and expansive chronicle of migration, “a script played out every year under the direction of Mother Nature.” Eldon explores and reveals mysteries of this compelling behavior from a personal and fixed vantage point, a year at Lake Ontario, but immerses us in the ancient rituals and the extensive geographic ranges of this fascinating phenomenon. He introduces us to the “actors” in this pageant, their exquisite internal clocks, compasses, personal travelogues, and original internal GPSs. Then there are the multiple costume changes to behold, the astounding cast of characters, the drama and the spectacle—truly a “Great Pageant.” Mr. Remy will have his book available for purchase at a special discounted rate.

For this year’s Audubon Birding Academy, pay \$6.00 at the door per class, or pay in advance (see registration form, below). Classes held at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments).



The 11th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form

“Books and Birds”

- Feb. 19 - Steve Shunk on Woodpeckers - - - - - \$6
 - Mar. 26 - Andrew Rominger on Natural Diversity - \$6
 - Apr. 16 - Eldon Remy on Migration - - - - - \$6
 - I want to be a new Audubon Society Member and get
3 free Birding Academy classes - - - - - \$20
- NAS chapter code Q51 • Source code 79M7

Total Enclosed: _____

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- I want to get the *Burrowing Owl* via the web - Email: _____

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:

CNMAS Birding Academy
P.O. Box 30002
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

CNMAS ABA 2009

Feel free to make copies of this registration form.



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.

Sunday, January 25: Sandia Mountains.

Leaders: Raymond VanBuskirk and Jim Mosley. Meet at the south side of Dion's in the Four Hills parking lot (south of Central and west of Tramway) at 5:15 AM to search for pygmy, saw-whet, and other owls. You can also meet the group later at 7:30 AM at Doc Long picnic ground. From there we'll work our way up the mountain looking for winter finches, and other forest birds. We will end up at the Crest House where we'll watch the Rosy-Finch banders and sip hot chocolate. Contact Raymond at 505-217-8514 or trogon282000@yahoo.com

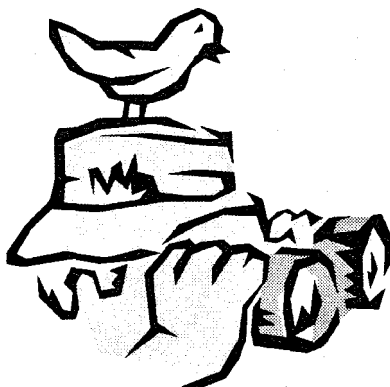
Saturday, February 21: San Antonio, NM, for Longspurs and the Ladd S. Gordon Wildlife Refuge in Bernardo

Leader: Rebecca Gracey. Meet at 8:30 AM behind the Hawthorn Suites motel on Gibson and University to carpool to the longspur site that is roughly 16 miles east of San Antonio, NM. The next stop will be the Ladd S. Gordon Wildlife Refuge in Bernardo on the return trip to Albuquerque. Very little walking will be required. A folding chair will be useful for longspur watching as the birds fly back and forth to a cattle tank. Bring lunch. We should be back in Albuquerque by 4:00 PM. Contact Rebecca at 505-242-3821 or mrgracey@earthlink.net

Sunday, February 28: Maxwell NWR

Leader: Jim Mosley. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Maxwell refuge headquarters (the building is closed on Saturday, however). **YOU HAVE TO CONTACT** Jim before the trip, 505-321-7488 or ff1964@msn.com

Maxwell is a wonderful place to visit in winter with plenty of waterfowl, raptors (including Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks and eagles), sparrows (including A. Tree Sparrow), possible longspurs and Northern Shrike. You may arrange on your own to spend a night in Las Vegas, Springer or Maxwell. You need to bring warm clothes, water and food for the whole day.



Sunday, March 8: Alamogordo

Leader: Chris Rustay. Meet at 7:00 AM in Alamogordo. **YOU HAVE TO CONTACT** Chris about the meeting place, 505-414-0342 or chrustay@aol.com (if e-mailing allow at least one week prior to the trip). Trip will be a day-long look at Oliver Lee State Park, Holloman Lakes, and, time permitting, also at Leasburg Dam State Park. Folks may stay all the way through or leave after any one of the locations.

While it's still pretty cold in the Albuquerque area, birds will already be returning in southern portions of the state. We'll be concentrating on finding those early migrants such as Snowy

Plover, hummingbirds, White-throated Swift and Lucy's Warbler, as well as the more common desert birds. Walking should be very easy within each area, but there will be driving over an hour involved between Holloman and Leasburg Dam.

Weekend Bird Walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Meet on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. during December, January and February. There is a \$3 parking fee if you do not have a state parks pass or a Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center parking pass. 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.

December 4: Hike Embudo Canyon

With Mary Lou Arthur: 299-2565, marylarthur@yahoo.com
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot. Directions: Take Indian School east of Tramway until it dead ends at the parking lot. This is an easy 2-mile walk.

December 11: Holiday Potluck, Manzano/Four Hills Open Space

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Four Hills shopping center north of the Hollywood Video or at the open space at the end of Stagecoach Road on the east side of the Four Hills community.

Afterwards attend a potluck lunch at the home of Cindy and Joe Harris. Posole or stew will be provided. Everyone else should bring side dishes to share with the group.

December 18: Corrales Bosque

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the northeast quadrant of the shopping area at Coors/Corrales Road and Alameda (north of McDonald's). Lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.

December 25 & January 1: no trips

January 8: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

With Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, stokuda@juno.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. This is an all day trip. (Admission fee or pass required per vehicle.)

Thursday Birders... continued on page 4

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.

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



Local Christmas Bird Counts

Albuquerque – Sunday, December 14

Hart R. Schwarz, compiler 505-266-1810,
hschwarz@fs.fed.us

Meet Hart at Corrales Shopping Center, NW corner of Coors and Alameda, between 7:00 & 7:15 AM.

Participation fee remains at \$5.00. Bring cash (preferred) or make out your check to Hart Schwarz. The compilation party will be hosted by Hal & Amy Wagon at their home near Juan Tabo and Montgomery (505-298-7350) at 6:45 PM. They will provide posole, as well as coffee and lemonade. Bring your bird list and a dish/drinks to share. Maps to their home will be handed out on the morning of the count.

Bosque del Apache NWR – Monday, December 15

Dave Hawksworth 505-507-5343, dlhawksworth@fs.fed.us

Participants should meet at the refuge headquarters at 6:30 AM. Participants can register for the count on-line at the NAS CBC website (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/getinvolved.html>) or on count day at the pre-count meeting. A post-count dinner will be arranged so participants can compare sightings.

Sandia Mountains – Friday, December 26

Rebecca Gracey 505-242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
(count organizer) and

Nick Vaughn 505-265-1350, nickvaughn2000@yahoo.com
(data compiler)

Meet outside Dion's Pizza in the Four Hills chopping center on Central, west of Tramway, at 7:30 AM. (There is a \$5.00 participation fee to cover Audubon's expenses for managing the collected data.) The group will meet back at Dion's at 5:00 PM. to eat and go over the results of the count. Contact Rebecca if you wish to participate.

IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU
CONTACT THE LEADER BEFORE THE TRIP.

Join Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) December 14, 2008 to January 5, 2009

A list of statewide CBCs is available at the
New Mexico Audubon Society website,
<http://nm.audubon.org/>

Check out "eBird" at

<http://www.ebird.org/> for birding
observation lists and custom birding maps

Thursday Birders... continued from page 3

January 15: Eastern plains roads in Torrance County

With Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the library in Tijeras, NM, on Route 66 (north side of the highway). The group will drive south of Moriarty past Estancia to look for hawks and eagles. We will have lunch at the Old Mill in Estancia. We should be back in Albuquerque by 3:30 p.m.

January 22: Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area near Belen, NM

With Linda Heinze: 565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com

Meet at 9:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Following a rest stop at McDonald's in Belen, we should be at the property around 10:05. It is located on Highway 47, one mile north of the Allsups on Reinkin Avenue and its intersection with Highway 47. Watch for WWCA signs on the west at the entrance.

January 29: Sandia Crest to look for the Rosy-finches

With Karen and Gary Boettcher: 281-6726,
nmkestrel@yahoo.com

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras, NM, on Highway 337 to arrange car pooling. We can buy snacks or lunch at the Crest restaurant as we wait inside for the Rosy-finches to arrive at the feeders. (Parking fee or pass required.)

February 5: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

With Sylvia Fee: 294-4073, nmsylvia@peoplepc.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. This is an all day trip. (Admission fee or pass required per vehicle.)

February 12: Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

With Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, stokuda@juno.com

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the west end of Candelaria Road. There is a \$3 parking fee if you don't have a state park sticker or Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center pass.

February 19: San Antonio, NM, for longspurs and Ladd S. Gordon Wildlife Refuge in Bernardo

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net

Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University to carpool to the longspur site roughly 16 miles east of San Antonio. A folding chair will be useful as we wait for the brief visits of the longspurs to the water tank. The next stop will be the Ladd S. Gordon Wildlife Refuge in Bernardo on our return trip to Albuquerque. Bring lunch. We will be back in Albuquerque by 4:00 p.m.

February 26: Alameda Open Space

With Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell5@earthlink.net

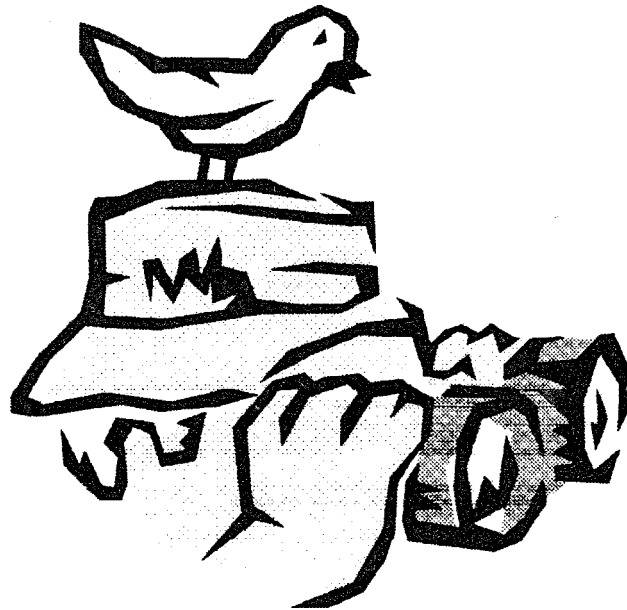
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard. It is directly east of the Rio Grande River and west of the traffic light on Alameda and Rio Grande Boulevard. Lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.



Errata



Page 2: The date of **Eldon Remy's talk** in the large print on the left side of the page should be **April 16**, not the 26th.



Page 3: The date for **Jim Mosley's Maxwell Refuge trip** is indeed February 28, but it's a **Saturday**, not a Sunday.



Election Results Bring Conservation Opportunity and Need for Action

Statement of Audubon President and CEO John Flicker following the election of President-elect Obama and the new Congress.

“Voters in this historic election cast their ballots not only for change, but for a new era of hope for our environment, and the people, birds, and other wildlife that depend on it. Washington has been ignoring critical environmental issues for too long. President-elect Barack Obama and a more environmentally aware Congress offer the promise of leadership and fundamental change that could usher in new protections for America’s great natural heritage, and a new lease on life for species in decline.

“Despite real reason for optimism, we cannot take conservation gains for granted. Audubon is committed to helping the new Administration and Congress to live up to their great promise; and to make conservation, clean energy and green jobs part of America’s path to a brighter tomorrow.

“Through our local Chapters, state offices and national grass roots efforts, Audubon will join with others in the environmental community to ensure that our newly elected leaders lead the way on issues vital to our environment, our economy and diversity of life on Earth.”

Issues demanding prompt attention include:

Presidential Appointments:

President-elect Obama should start by appointing to key environmental positions within his Administration qualified leaders who will defend our clean air and water, protect habitat and endangered species, aggressively address global warming, and steward our great natural heritage for future generations.

Scientific Integrity:

The Department of the Interior should systematically review and reverse decisions made by the past Administration under the Endangered Species Act that were influenced by political considerations and not based on sound science.

President-elect Obama should send a clear signal to everyone in his administration to restore and respect scientific integrity in all environmental decisions.

Global Warming and Renewable Energy:

President-elect Obama has said that: “We cannot afford more of the same timid politics when the future of our planet is at stake.” He’s right. We welcome the opportunity to help him deliver his promised \$150 billion plan for clean energy technologies that would protect our environment and stimulate the economy, creating up to 5 million new green jobs.

The Congress should pass legislation providing significant incentives for development of renewable energy such as a strong Renewables Portfolio Standard and a long-term extension of the Production Tax Credit, and pass significant legislation to address global warming with a comprehensive cap-and-trade program.

The new Administration and Congress must lead a transformation in American energy production and use through investments in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. This can minimize the fluctuation of gas prices while protecting our beaches, coastal ecosystems and the Alaskan landscape from the threats of oil and gas drilling.

Endangered Species Conservation:

We’ll work with the Administration to secure reversal of the Bush administration’s weakening of the Endangered Species Act, such as the controversial decision to allow agencies to self-consult regarding the impacts of federally-approved projects on endangered species.

Congress should pass new tax incentives to encourage private landowners to work toward recovery of endangered species.

Bird and Habitat Conservation:

The Administration and the Congress should reinvest in the National Wildlife Refuge System and address the unacceptable \$3.5 billion maintenance backlog crippling this critical tool for conservation.

The Congress should pass legislation to conserve neotropical migratory birds and address the steep declines in America’s common birds that are disappearing from parks, farms, and backyards across the country.

Ecosystem Restoration:

The Administration and the Congress should fund significant new restoration projects to improve the status of America’s great natural ecosystems: The Mississippi River, the Everglades, Long Island Sound, and the Great Lakes.

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world.



“The best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants them to do, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”

—Theodore Roosevelt



Learning Look-Alikes: Five Feisty Wrens

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

Wrens are among our most endearing birds. They manage to be both energetic and secretive at the same time. The rollicking song, loud scolding and aggressive behavior show us that wrens don't know they are tiny.

Let's review some features all wrens share. These small bundles of energy are not colorful, showing mostly shades of brown and cream. The wren bill is slim and slightly curved, perfect for probing for insects (the main diet item). The tail is often cocked up and most wrens have dark, thin barring across the tail. Males and females look identical, and non-migratory wrens usually pair for life. Most wrens nest either in a tree cavity or an opening in a rock pile.

Our five wrens help us with their identification because they prefer different habitats. Canyon Wren is found high in rocky canyons, while Rock Wren is found either low in rocky canyons or in other rocky places. Two other wrens (Bewick's Wren and House Wren) nest in dense, brushy areas, often in forests. Our fifth wren, Marsh Wren, prefers marshy locations with cattails or bulrushes for cover.

Our first wren, Canyon Wren, (6 inches long) is rusty and white. The rust is everywhere except on the white throat and chest. This wren shows the strongest color contrast of any of the wrens: bright white against striking rust or chestnut.

Canyon Wren also has a beautiful song. You usually hear this bird before you see it. The song is a series of clear, whistled notes, descending the musical scale and slowing toward the end. Look high in the canyon after you hear this song. Soon, the wren should reappear on top of a boulder and serenade you again. Embudo Canyon trail, on the west side of Sandia Mountain, is a good place to listen and look. Canyon Wren lives in our area all year.

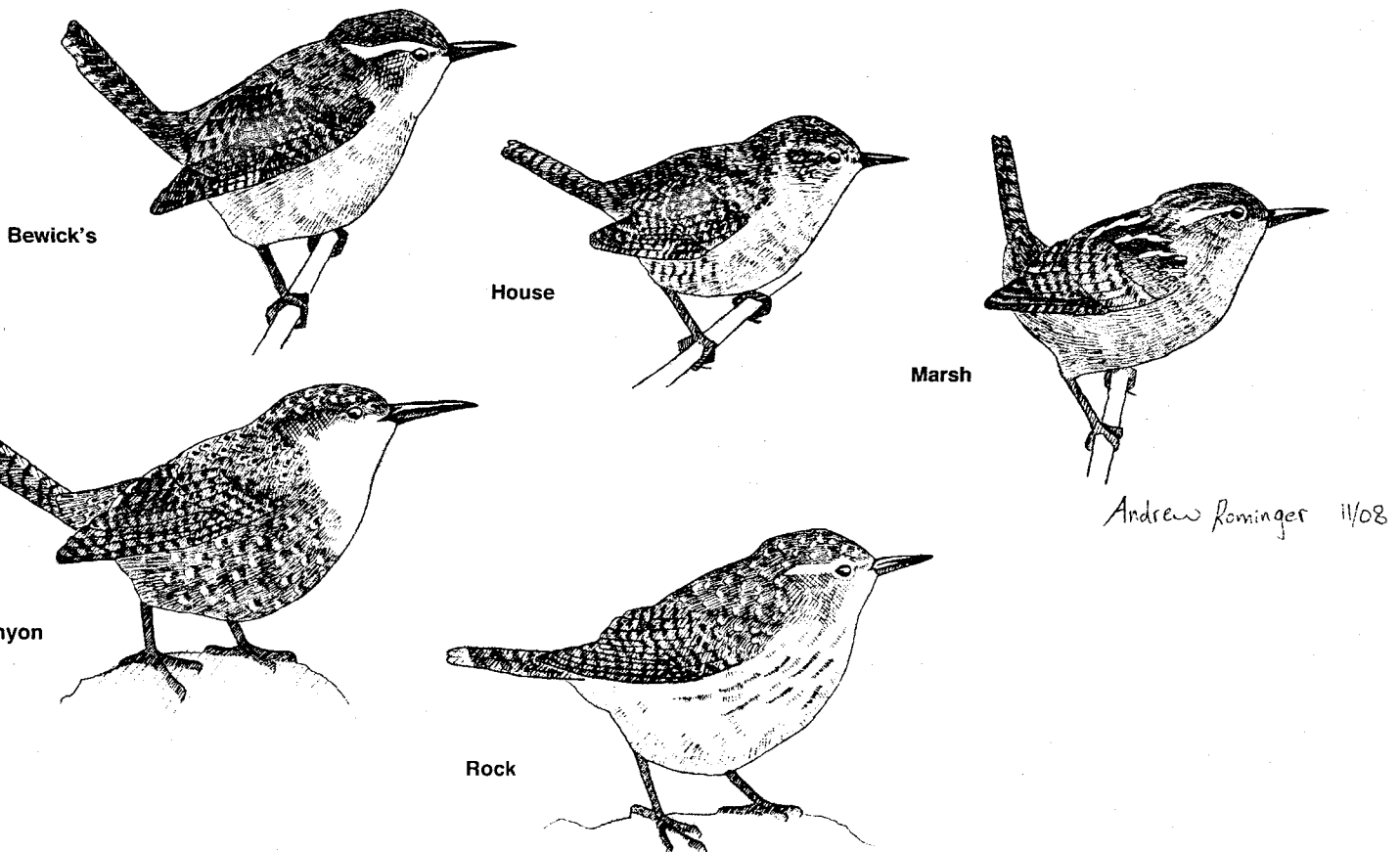
Rock Wren (6 inches long) shows much less contrast than Canyon Wren. Rock Wren is gray-brown above and lighter below. The chest is light with fine dark streaks; the belly is light and the dark tail shows tan corners in flight. There is also a light eye-stripe.

Rock Wren likes the bottoms of canyons, low rocky slopes or a big pile of boulders. A distinctive behavior helps us identify this bird. When alarmed, it bobs its body up and down, and accompanies each deep knee bend with a loud, metallic call note. A rocky slope in Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque is a good place to look for a Rock Wren, which stays in our area all year.

Let's look next at the two wrens that prefer dense brushy locations.

Bewick's Wren (5 inches long and which is pronounced "Buick's") is gray-brown above and light below, with a bold, white eye-stripe. Other identifying marks are the light edges of the tail and the light tail corners. This bird shows strong contrast on the head and body.

We find Bewick's Wren in dry thickets in the lower half of Sandia Mountain and in the Rio Grande Bosque. The





WREN	BODY COLOR	EYE STRIPE	TAIL COLOR	HABITAT	BEHAVIOR	SEASON	SONG
Canyon	Rusty and bright white.	No	Rusty	Upper half of canyons.	Sings from top of boulder.	All year.	Beautiful descending song.
Rock	Gray-brown and dingy white.	Faint	Tan corners.	Lower third of canyons, other rocky places.	Does deep knee bends.	All year.	Loud, repeated, trilled song.
Bewick's	Gray-brown and white.	Bold, white.	Light tail edges.	Lower half of mountains, in dense brush.	Slowly flicks tail sideways.	All year.	Song ends in long trill on one note.
House	Drab gray-brown.	Faint	Drab.	Upper half of mountains, in dense brush.	Loudly sings and scolds.	Not in winter.	Exuberant song.
Marsh	Light and dark stripes on back.	Light	Drab.	Marsh with cattails and bulrushes.	Very shy.	Not in summer.	Harsh descending scold.

song begins with two or three high notes and ends with a long trill, which is all the same note. A distinctive behavior is the slow, sidewise flicking of the tail while perched. But for me, the bold white eye-stripe is still the best clue. Bewick's Wren spends all year with us. Good places to search for Bewick's are the Rio Grande Nature Center and Three Gun Springs trail on the south side of Sandia Mountain.

House Wren (5 inches long) is like the Bushtit, in that its best identifying characteristic is its lack of any identifying characteristics. It has drab, gray-brown plumage, a faint eye-stripe and a plain face. However, its song is strong and sweet and its scolding is enthusiastic. It also flits about the brush restlessly.

House Wren leaves the lower Sandia Mountain to Bewick's Wren, because House Wren prefers to nest in the upper half of the mountain. We see this bird at Bosque del Apache NWR during migration, and good trails to search in the Sandias during summer are Kiwanis Meadow Road and North Survey trail. House Wren is not here during the winter.

Our final wren is here only during winter and migration. Marsh Wren (5 inches long) doesn't like rocks or dry brushy areas. Any wren you hear in our area during winter, scolding in a marshy area, is almost surely a Marsh Wren. After you endure your scolding, stand still for a short time and this inquisitive wren will probably climb a reed to look at you.

On that reed you will see a small wren with alternating dark and light stripes on its back. The rest will be a blur: dark and light brown body, a brown cap and a light eye-stripe. But you will only have a few seconds, so look mostly for the striped back.

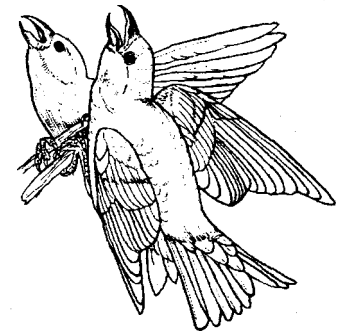
A good place to look for Marsh Wren during winter is along the auto tour loop at Bosque del Apache NWR. Good locations are near the beginning of the south (or marsh) auto tour loop, and next to the Marsh Deck.

Now when you see and hear a wren in a rocky or brushy or marshy area, you have a good chance of saying: "I know what that bird is!"

CNMA Field Trip Reports

Saturday, September 20: Sandia Mountains

Leader Jim Mosley. The day started off rather slowly with the Church access and our next stop closed because of bears. Doc Long produced some good looks at a Cooper's Hawk and Crossbills. Also, we saw Swainson's Hawks kettling. Just before Sandia Peak Ski Area we saw Band-tailed Pigeons and Red Crossbills. Red Crossbill was a lifer for John so that was great. At Capulin Spring we stopped and had some really close looks at Red-breasted Nuthatches, Juncos and several warblers enjoying the springs. The drive to the Crest House produced nothing of note. After a hike out to Kiwanis Meadow we ended the trip eating quesidillas and other goodies at the Crest House.



Saturday, September 27: Socorro & Bosque del Apache NWR

In the morning, Celestyn Brozek met 10 birders in Socorro at Turtle Bay where they had great looks at several Red-naped Sapsuckers. Several Wilson's Warblers were fluttering in the trees. The rest of the day was spent at the Bosque del Apache refuge. The water level was low, and migrants were scarce except for numerous Blue Grosbeaks and Barn Swallows. Pat and Nancy saw a Least Bittern which was a life bird for both of them. A low soaring Osprey provided an exciting view. A total of 62 species was seen.

Saturday, October 11: Bosque del Apache NWR

The day started with wind and rain. The leader, Jim Mosley met two participants at the Visitor Center and they set out on the Marsh Loop. At the Boardwalk they saw a Double Crested Cormorant and Western Grebes. After checking out some other pullouts on the Marsh loop the list of birds was pretty low. The Farm loop produced a Swainson's Hawk running in a field. The wind and cool temperature kept the birds in sheltered areas and not easily visible. But birding is like the lottery: you never know when you are going to get the big payday.





**Join the Great Backyard Bird Count
Count for Fun, Count for the Future
February 13–16, 2009**

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13–16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future."

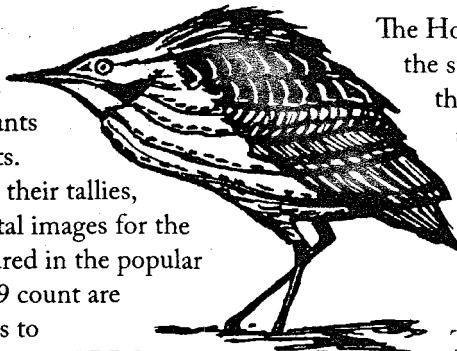
Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards--whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited.



Announcements

**8th Annual High Plains
Lesser Prairie–Chicken Festival
Friday – Sunday, April 17–19, 2009**

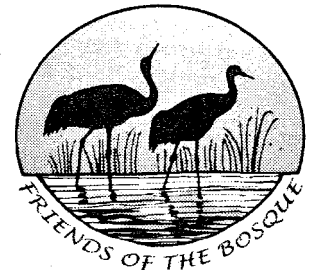
Milnesand, New Mexico may be a small dot on the map, but it is big in the heart of New Mexico's prairie grasslands. Each spring, the lesser prairie-chicken, an icon of the Southern Great Plains, congregates on traditional breeding grounds called leks to strut its stuff. Witnessing these birds perform their mating ritual is an experience that leaves memories permanently etched in the mind!

Contact Tish McDaniel (575) 762-6997 or chickenfestival@yahoo.com or pmcdaniel@tnc.org
Registration will open on January 1, 2009.

**Costa Rica with Friends of the
Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge**

We're returning to Costa Rica in 2009. It will be a 15 day trip. Info and links can be found on our website. The trip is a fund raiser for the Friends and a non-profit in Costa Rica which the group awards at the end of the trip.

[http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/
Friendsindex.html](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/Friendsindex.html)



**Hog Island Audubon Center
2009 Summer Sessions**

The Hog Island Audubon Center will not be open during the summer of 2009. To ensure a sustainable future for this historic and beloved property, Maine Audubon and the National Audubon Society are undertaking a joint evaluation and planning process that will seek input from a variety of Hog Island's stakeholders, including but not limited to donors, alumni, staff and instructors, scholarship-supporting chapters, and Project Puffin colleagues. The process will support thorough, thoughtful discussion that underscores our shared goal that this unique property be used in the best way possible to serve the Audubon mission of conservation and education.

For More Info:

If you would like to submit comments about the future of Hog Island Audubon Center and sign up for planning updates, please visit [http://engage.maineaudubon.org/site/
PageNavigator/HogIslandSurvey](http://engage.maineaudubon.org/site/PageNavigator/HogIslandSurvey)



CNMAS Education Opportunities Abound

CNMAS 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

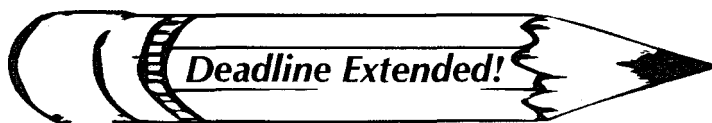
This grant is open to all educators of students age 18 and under. Funding can be used for supplies for a project/lesson/unit about natural history/sciences, such as bug boxes, books, lab supplies. At the end of the school year, the grantee must supply CNMAS with a short report on how the money was used 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: JANUARY 31, 2009
 Money awarded by March, 2009
 Mail the application to: CNMAS, c/o Helen Haskell, PO Box 36741, Albuquerque, NM 87176.
 Questions? Email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com, and title the email 'CNMAS Educator Resource Grant'.

CNMAS 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 CNMAS education.

Helen Haskell and CNMAS Education Committee, August 2008



CNMAS 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 CNMAS 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: January 31, 2009 (for money awarded by March 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: CNMAS, c/o Helen Haskell, PO Box 36741, Albuquerque, NM 87176.

Questions? Email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com
 Title the email 'CNMAS 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 January 31, 2009 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.

"Project FeederWatch" for Home Schoolers

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has just released its newly revised, FREE *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch*.

For more than 20 years, Project FeederWatch has been an easy, fun way for children to learn about birds and strengthen their skills in observation, identification, research, computation, writing, creativity, and more. FeederWatchers keep track of the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders through the winter and report what they see to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch* will guide you through bird-related activities that promote learning across many disciplines, including science, math, history, and the arts.

Examples of these activities include:

Natural history: Observe and research a bird's behavior and life cycle

Math: Calculate average seed consumption rate and graph data

Writing: Keep a nature journal to write stories and poetry

Geography: Research the geographic ranges of birds

Art: Keep a feeder-bird sketch book or create a papier mache mask

To download the *Homeschooler's Guide to Project FeederWatch*, visit www.FeederWatch.org and click on the "Education/Home School" button. You'll be able to download the PDF in low (2.2MB) or high (6.7MB) resolutions.

You may choose to use the free guide as a stand-alone resource, or sign up for Project FeederWatch to submit the data you gather. If you would like to be a project participant, the signup fee is \$12 for members of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, \$15 for non-members. There are discounts for group participation.

If you have any questions, please let us know how we can help by emailing feederwatch@cornell.edu.

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:

Share with Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
P. O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Share with Wildlife.

http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/share_with_wildlife/



WHOM TO CONTACT (We will have updates in the next issue)

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
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)983-4609
newmexico@audubon.org
www.nm.audubon.org

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202)456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

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1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 6151
Washington, DC 20240
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www.doi.gov

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Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-5521 (505)346-6601
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(202)224-6621 (505)346-6791
senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov

Hon. Steve Pearce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-2365

Hon. Tom Udall
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6190 (505)984-8950
tom.udall@mail.house.gov

Hon. Heather Wilson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6316 (505)346-6781
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
(505)344-7240
Friends of RGNC
friends@rgnc.org, www.rgnc.org

Newsletter Recipients - 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.

JOIN AUDUBON TODAY

Use this form for



****New Membership Subscriptions** only!**

- Get an Audubon Society membership
- Subscription to Audubon magazine
- Subscription to CNMAS Burrowing Owl

- Yes, I want to join Audubon at the low introductory rate of \$20 for one year (a \$15 savings!)
- Even better, sign me up for two years @ \$30
- I want to download my Burrowing Owl newsletter from the website (fill in email address to get notice)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

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PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

\$10 of dues is for AUDUBON magazine.

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue of AUDUBON

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 Spring 2009 issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by Feb. 5, 2009. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Post Office Box 30002
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002
NAS Chapter Code Q51

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Central New Mexico Audubon is a
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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NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL

President - Ruth Burstrom (505)856-2901 rburstrom@aol.com

Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

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

Rare Bird Alert

Albuquerque: Pinyonjay@aol.com
<http://www.birder.com/birding/alert/index.html>
<http://www.nmosbirds.org/hofline.html>

Rosy Finch Project

Fran Lusso & Dave Weaver, flusso@wfubmc.edu

Wildlife Rescue

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