



Burrowing Owl

March, April, May 2009

Vol. 38 No. 2

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

THE ELECTRONIC BURROWING OWL

The *Burrowing Owl* newsletter really truly is going to be an electronic newsletter! This link, <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>, will take you to the Central New Mexico Audubon website. Click on "The Burrowing Owl" and enjoy all the Chapter news in beautiful full color layout. Starting with the June-July-August 2009 issue, your printed copy will be in flier format, with only basic announcements of programs and field trips, etc. The full 10- or 12-page version of your newsletter will be online. Think how much we will save in printing and mailing costs! Think how much more education and conservation work we can accomplish with these savings!!!

We exist because of you, our members. You do have an option. You CAN continue to receive the full version of the *Burrowing Owl* in printed format, but you MUST notify our Membership Chair, Ed Dover, 1421 San Carlos SW, Albuquerque, 87104-1040, (505) 242-5427, whitecliffs@comcast.net, if you wish to do so. The time to make this preference known is NOW! It's like an election—you have to make your voice and your choice known! We appreciate your support. Cheers and good birding to all!

Birdathon 2009!

Team Members/Pledgers/Leaders—on your mark, get set, ready—Bird-a-thon! As National Audubon says, "It's the most fun you'll ever have saving the planet."

There are teams already formed, but if you can't join one of them, create your own! Pick your own day, plan a route, invite a friend—and don't forget to collect those pledges!

Besides the birding part of Birdathon is the fundraising aspect. It's kind of like a walkathon, in that you get your friends/family/teachers/supporters to pledge to you/your team. People will respond to your enthusiasm and will support you in your passion. Ask them to pledge per species—a quarter, a

Birdathon... continued on page 4

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.

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

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



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

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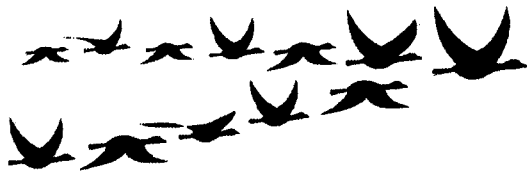
"why are there so many species—why have so many evolved over time and why do they coexist in local ecosystems?" He will speak on his research addressing this question, which has ranged from birds, to brachiopods and insects. Specific topics will include: why have birds evolved to range in size from hummingbirds 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, right). Classes held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments).



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

CNMAS Field Trip Reports

Sunday, November 16, 2008: Las Vegas NWR

Leader: Sei Tokuda. There were 16 participants on a beautiful day at the LVNWR and close to 55 species were seen. The notable species were Golden and Bald Eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Bonaparte's Gull, a number of Hooded Mergansers, a Common Merganser, a Common Goldeneye plus the usual array of wintering ducks, light and Canada geese and Sandhill Cranes.

Sandia Mountain Christmas Bird Count Report

The Sandia count was held on December 26, 2008. The weather that day was not conducive to birding. First there were strong winds and then it began to seriously snow around noon. The total number of individual birds seen and the total number of species seen were down from previous years. 59 species were seen this year by the 39 people who participated in the count. This was not bad considering the record for the Sandia count is 70 species which was recorded in 2006.

The most uncommon birds seen were a Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Western Screech-Owl, Prairie Falcon and Merlin. Two groups saw Red Crossbills and those had not been seen on the count since 2004.

—Rebecca Gracey and Nick Vaughn, co-chairmen

Go to <http://cbc.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> for data from the 2008 (109th) Christmas Bird Counts

The 11th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form - "Books and Birds"

- Mar. 26 - Andrew Rominger on Natural Diversity - - \$6
 - Apr. 16 - Eldon Remy on Migration - - - - - \$6
- NAS chapter C9ZQ510Z

Total Enclosed: _____

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- I want to get the *Burrowing Owl* through the mail (USPS)

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:
CNMAS Birding Academy
P.O. Box 30002
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002



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, April 18: Sandia HawkWatch site

Meet at 7:00 AM on the south side of the Dion's Pizza in Four Hills shopping center. We will carpool from there. Bring food and drink. Wear sunscreen. The trail to the site is 1.5+ mile long and includes 1000 feet elevation gain. We will take about 2 hours to reach the site watching the resident birds and early migrants along the way. We will eat lunch at the site and come down mid-afternoon or later if the group wishes. If the weather is bad the alternative date is Sunday, April 19. Contact the leader, Pat Franklin, about possible changes: 228-8813 (cell) and 856-7443 (home).

Saturday, May 2: Water Canyon

Meet at 6:30 AM behind the Albuquerque Hawthorn Suites (NW corner of Gibson and University Blvd) or at 7:45 AM at the McDonald's in Socorro, NM. This will be a day trip in search of spring warblers, vireos, tanagers, woodpeckers, etc. Dress appropriately; bring food, snacks, water, hat and sunscreen. Contact Sei Tokuda at 266-2480 or e-mail stokuda@juno.com for further information.

Sunday, May 10: Quarai at Salinas National Monument

Meet at the McDonald's in Moriarty at 7:00 AM. We will bird at Quarai for migrating warblers and other birds. Bring a lunch and we can picnic at the conclusion of the trip. This will be a half day trip. Please contact Jim Mosley by e-mail ff1964@msn.com before the trip for further information.

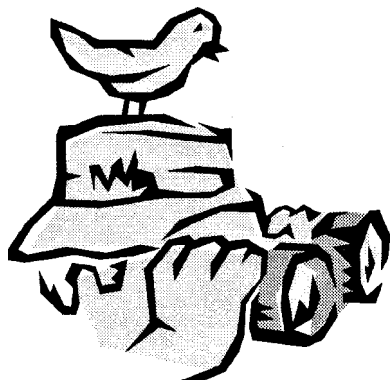
Sunday, May 17: Union County

Meet in Clayton at the Eklund Hotel at 7:00 AM. We will carpool from this location north to explore areas in central Union County including Corrupa Creek and Clayton Lake SP. We will be seeing a variety of migrant species and hope to find something unusual, but grassland and riparian birds will be for certain. Likely eastern migrants will include Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Swainson's Thrush, but there are many more possibilities. The trip will consist of walking, mostly easy and some driving of at least 50 miles round trip.

Hotel possibilities include the Eklund (expensive but historic) and the Holiday Motel (not historic but reasonable). Those wishing to bird the afternoon before should contact Christopher Rustay at 414-0342.

Saturday, June 13: Villanueva State Park

To carpool meet at the Four Hills shopping center west of Tramway on Central in the parking lot north of Hollywood



Video at 7:00 AM. Directions: east on I-40 for 65 miles, then north on Highway 3 for 20 miles. We will be birding all along Highway 3. The target birds will be Cassin's Sparrows, Bullock's Orioles and Yellow Warbler. Very little walking will be involved. Bring lunch. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee to the park if you don't have a state parks pass. We should be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 PM. Contact Rebecca Gracey at 242-3821 or e-mail mrgracey@earthlink.net for more information.

Weekend Bird Walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Meet on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 a.m. during March, April and May. 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.

March 12: View the Apache Wildlife Collection of mounted birds and mammals at Apache Elementary School

With Ray Baker: 331-2952

Meet at the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video at 9:15 and drive the short distance to the school on Copper between Tramway and Chelwood. Ray says that you will be amazed at the collection. Our host and the taxidermist of the collection is retired teacher Wayne Prentice. A suggested donation of \$3 will be collected to aid in helping with the costs of adding new specimens to the collection. Coffee afterwards at Einstein's Bagels in the Four Hills shopping center.

March 19: Rio Grande Nature Center

With Marge Williams: 262-1646, margiew12@aol.com

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Nature Center parking lot at the end of Candelaria N.W. There is a \$3 parking fee if you do not have a State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass.

March 26: Hike the foothills at the end of Copper (east of Tramway)

With Roger Grimshaw: 407-319-0280, rpgbirds@aol.com

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.



Birdathon... continued from page 1

dollar, ten dollars a species! Or ask for a flat amount. Either way, we appreciate you and them. AND we'll get back to folks with our CNMAS "Thank You" at the end of the event. If you, too, want to send your sponsors a bird list or a paragraph describing your day and the fun you had, that's another great way to share your enthusiasm and to make your friends not just supporters, but loyal fans. It's also fun to come up with a fun/silly/descriptive/innovative team name—but I think "Beaks, Feet, and Feathers" is taken!

Oh, and for the details: Birdathon contribution checks should be made out to CNMAS, with "Birdathon Team So-and-So" written in the "for" line.

Good luck, have fun, and collect \$\$\$—Wings Away!

The Thursday Birders Birdathon

Team leaders Cheri Orwig and Sei Tokuda will be going to Bitter Lake NWR in Roswell and Rattlesnake Springs outside of Carlsbad. The group will start at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, May 7 at Bitter Lake in the parking lot near the resident ranger's house. We will overnight in Carlsbad and the Birdathon will end at 10 a.m. Friday, May 8 in Carlsbad. Call Cheri at 994-2685 or e-mail cherio47@yahoo.com if you wish to be on the Thursday Birders Birdathon Team. She will arrange car pooling and provide a list of accommodations. Since the Birdathon is a fund-raising event for CNMAS, a minimum contribution of \$10.00 is required from each participant.

Celestyn Brozek's Birdathon

Celestyn and his group will spend 24 hours birding in Water Canyon, Socorro, and the Bosque del Apache area sometime in May. This is a closed team, but we will provide our supporters with a detailed report and a photo card. Please, participate in our adventure by donating to CNMAS. We appreciate greatly your contributions!

Thursday Birders... continued from page 3

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the trail head. Copper is just north of Central. It will be a two mile walk and it will probably end around 11:00 a.m.

April 2: Pena Blanca and Cochiti Lake

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Village Inn in the Far North shopping center on the north east side of the San Mateo and Academy intersection. Lunch afterwards in Bernalillo at The Range Café.

April 9: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Mary Lou Arthur: 299-2565, marylarthur@yahoo.com
Meet at 7:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. This is an all day trip. Bring lunch.

April 16: Bernardo Wildlife Refuge

With Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell5@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Lunch in Belen near the Belen Marsh at The Sheriff's Posse restaurant.

April 23: Belen Marsh and Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen

With Linda Heinze: 565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com
Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University or 9:00 behind the Taco Bell in Belen. (Take exit 195 from I-25. Go east one mile.)

April 30: Manzano pond and Quarai National Monument

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 8:50 a.m. at the junction of Highway 337 and Highway 55. Bring lunch.

May 7 & 8: The Birdathon

With Sei Tokuda and Cheri Orwig: 994-2685, cherio47@yahoo.com - see announcement, left.

May 14: Box and Water Canyons west of Socorro

With Karen and Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com
Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch.

May 21: The plains around Stanley, NM

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net
We hope to see Long-billed Curlews, Lark Buntings, Burrowing Owls, and Mountain Plovers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video. Lunch in Moriarty at Los Anayas restaurant.

May 28: Visit Lou Feltz's cabin on Thompson Ridge above La Cueva in the Jemez Mountains

With Lou Feltz: 856-1322, lvfeltz@comcast.net
Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Far North shopping center on San Mateo and Academy behind the Village Inn. Bring lunch.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Birding For Dollars

For every bird species the team identifies during Birdathon, CNMAS benefits!

NAME	10¢	25¢	50¢
ADDRESS	\$1	\$2 ⁵⁰	\$5
CITY & ZIP	\$7 ⁵⁰	\$10	\$20
PHONE	<p>Or if you are feeling extra generous, fill in your Birdathon pledge here</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> \$ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>THIS PLEDGE CAN BE DESIGNATED FOR TEAM/INDIVIDUAL</p> </div> </div>		
EMAIL			

To make a pledge or to make your tax-deductible donation, return this form with your payment made out to: CNMAS, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque NM 87190-0002



CNMAS Education Opportunities Abound

Teacher Resource Grant Awardee Reports by Rich Anderson

The sun is getting low in the sky and the bird activity is on the rise. I hear the harsh call of an American Crow as it comes to drink. A female Black-chinned Hummingbird dips among the brilliant salmon colored blooms of a Parry's Penstemon while an outsized hawk moth hovers at the bright royal purple flower spike of the Rocky Mountain Penstemon. There is a riot of color and form. What was once a monoculture of high-water-use turf grass is now a diverse and much more sustainable 'xeriscape' full of native grasses and an incredible diversity of flowering plants. The project, initiated in the spring of 2007, is part of a new Outdoor Learning Center on the Albuquerque Academy campus that builds on our existing seventh grade vegetable garden and apple orchard. The new additions will include an expanded xeriscape garden, an arboretum, and a permaculture-inspired 'edible schoolyard.' The water feature that so many birds were attracted to this year was made possible by an Educator Grant from the CNMAS. Many bird species have been attracted to the habitat and the water source, including Chipping Sparrows, Western Wood-Pewees, Cooper's Hawks, Bushtits, Lesser and American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and Dark-eyed Juncos.

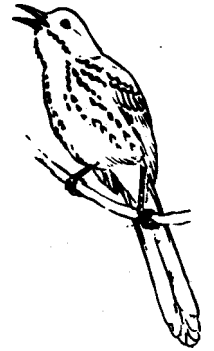
The landscape work is entirely done by students and their teachers. Seventh grade students prepare the soil beds by removing turf and loosening the soil. They then plant drought tolerant, and in many cases, native plants to replace the high water use turf grass. We talk about water use and the amount of water we will save as we remove the 20 to 30 sprinkler heads in the planned landscape area. We also discuss the change in plant diversity and how that affects animal diversity on the site. Our first observation actually happened on the very day we planted the first section of our landscape. It was a most miraculous event! I had dismissed the kids for lunch then stayed back to assess the planting work and to survey the area for stray shovels when I caught the fluttering of a bird. A Say's Phoebe, who had a territory nearby, noticed the new hunting grounds taking shape in the area. It took a particular liking to the new 5 foot tall whip of a Desert Willow. The phoebe sat there and sallied a couple times as I watched. On its third attempt, this highly adept hunter had in its beak a juicy moth for its very own lunch. It returned to the Desert Willow sapling to eat it - a tree that just one hour before wasn't even there. Imagine my excitement when I announced to the kids at lunch what I had witnessed in their new wildlife garden! We have had a lot of exciting wildlife sightings since then.

The addition of the

pond, an essential water source the CNMAS helped to fund, has brought an amazing diversity of life to our landscape. It seems we are routinely encountering new species in the garden. Late last summer, we observed a pair of western spadefoot toads courting on a humid summer evening, their calls resembling the bleating of sheep. During one of my classes this fall a student excitedly called me over to look at a "mystery creature." I ran over, reached in carefully, and showed the whole class the first dragonfly larvae to be found in the pond. These are beautiful and important members of the rich, wetland ecosystem we are building. I look forward to the new creatures we will discover this spring!

I am very excited to work on our next phase of the project, a native shrub area that we hope will provide habitat for spotted towhees, curve-billed thrashers and many species of sparrows on our campus. Thank you, Central New Mexico Audubon Society, for awarding us the grant money to pay for the new pond and recirculating stream. Visitors are welcome - please email Rich at 'anderson@aa.edu' for directions to or more information about our garden.

Rich Anderson teaches seventh grade science at Albuquerque Academy.

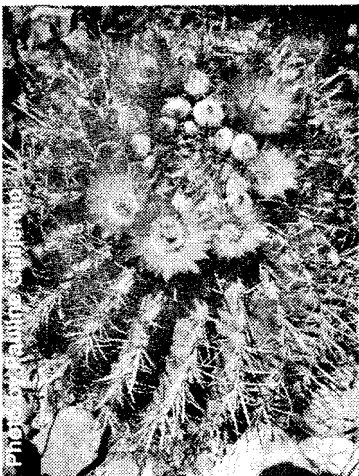


Hope Grows

by Katianna Zaffery, Seventh Grade student
Albuquerque Academy

The garden is an escape hole from life and all of its dire situations. The wind whispers through my hair, an initiation to the warmth hidden in the apple trees. The powerful vacuum of nature swallows me into its extraordinary beauty. Summer radiates off each vibrant flower. It warms the unique creatures taking refuge under the silky blades of grass. Soaring lazily above the rock garden, butterflies seize the opportunity to stretch their wing before the breeze send them into dizzying spirals and helixes. Sunshine sweeps the lands, the last of spring cleaning. It coaxes the new sprouts out of the fertile soil, its rays chasing melancholy thoughts into the sky until they dissolve. A frigid wind soon shoves its way through the flawless garden, stripping leaves and petal off of trees and once graceful flowers. Each unique plan begins to turn dry and brown in dejection. The wind lingers here and there until winter arrives.

The trees wave to me with their lonely and scraggly fingers. It seems as if they are searching for the light and warmth that once illuminated their luscious leaves. The garden is silent, abandoned and alone. Vigorous storms rattle the trees with little effort and shake the bushes bare. The garden whisper grievances in utter despair as thoughts of the sun slip to the back of their minds. All seems to be lost, but wait, a warm draft slides through the blistering winds. The barrel cactus flexes its thorns as the Butterfly Bush begins to bloom. The hardships of winter will soon end, and with that ending will come hope.





Learning Look-Alikes: Five Easy Flycatchers

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

For many birders, flycatchers are in the same category as gulls and sparrows: "Too hard to learn". Today, we learn how to identify five easy flycatchers, and we build a foundation that will help us identify difficult flycatchers (and other birds) later.

First, let's review some common features shared by almost all flycatchers. Most of these agile birds are drab in color, suitable for an ambush predator. The standard pattern has dark upper-parts, light under-parts and, sometimes, light wing bars. This group of birds uses a "sit and wait" hunting style. She sits quietly, upright and alert. Periodically, she darts out to catch a flying insect and return to a nearby perch. This flight is fast and agile, with dogged pursuit of fleeing insects. Also, in this group, both sexes are usually alike in appearance.

When we identify any bird, we often combine several clues before we settle on a bird's identification. We use: 1. Field marks (e.g. peach belly or rusty tail), 2. Behavior (e.g. hovering or perching on the highest branch), 3. Habitat (conifer forest or dry area), 4. Season (e.g. here in winter), and 5. Voice (e.g. "Peeeeeer" or "Quick, three beers"). Sometimes, size and silhouette can also be helpful clues.

Let's apply appropriate clues to our five flycatchers: Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher. These five are not hard to find and are reasonably easy to identify.

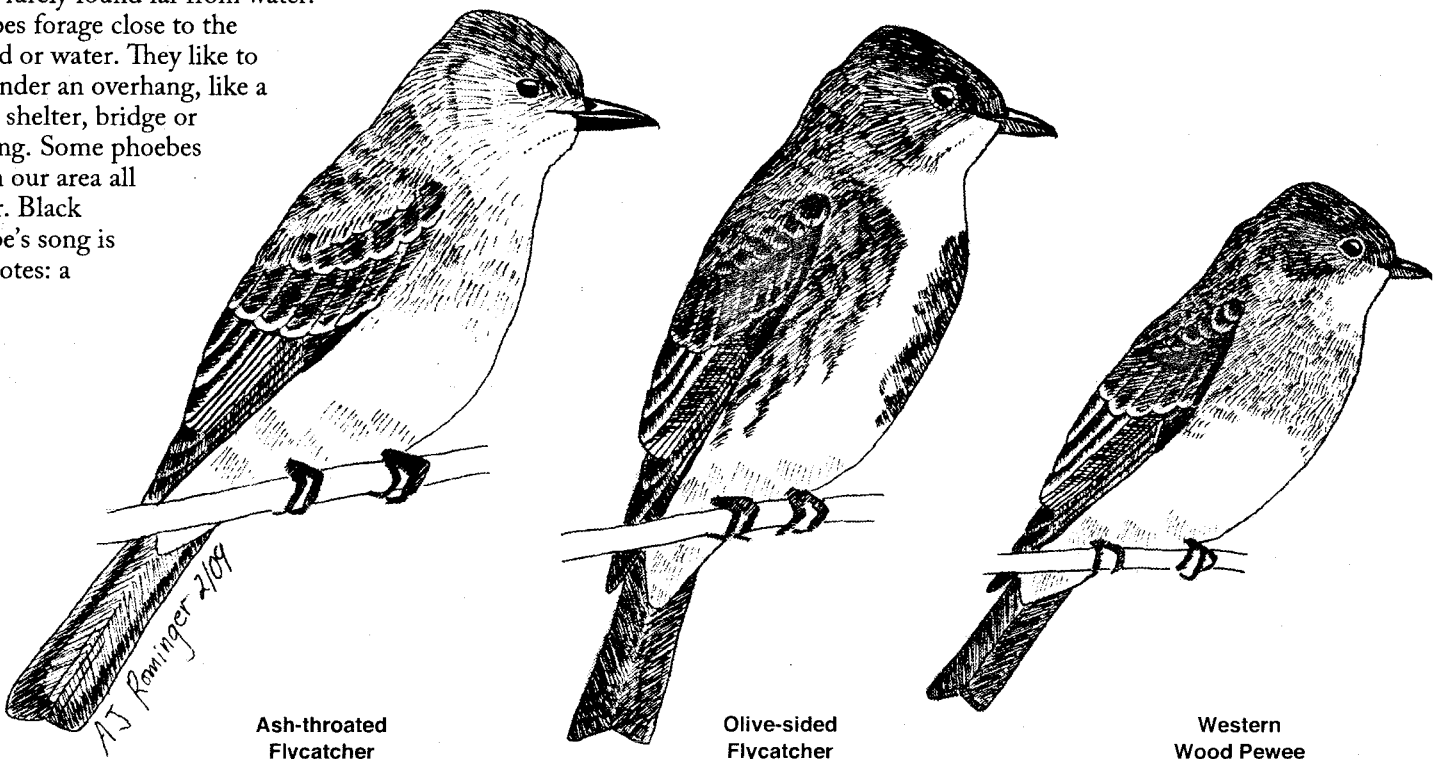
Black Phoebe is small (6-inches long) and all black except for a white belly and white under-tail. This bird, like all phoebes, dips the tail often. Black Phoebe often hunts from a shady branch over a stream or pond and is rarely found far from water. Phoebes forage close to the ground or water. They like to nest under an overhang, like a picnic shelter, bridge or building. Some phoebes stay in our area all winter. Black Phoebe's song is four notes: a

rising "pee-wee", followed by a descending "pee-wee".

Say's Phoebe (7-inches long) is only an inch longer than Black Phoebe, but its appearance and habitat preference are very different. Say's Phoebe is much lighter in color, with a pale gray back, throat and chest. Its tail is very dark and its belly is peach-colored, as is the under-tail. A key behavior is the tendency to hover-hunt, like an American Kestrel, when perches are scarce. It also takes insects from the ground as well as from the air. This bird does nicely without water and often nests and hunts in dry, open areas. We often see Black and Say's Phoebes during winter at Bosque del Apache NWR. A plaintive down-slurred "Peeeeeer" tells us a Say's Phoebe is nearby.

Ash-throated Flycatcher is the largest of these five birds at 8-inches in length. This also is a pale flycatcher, with a pale gray throat and breast, and a faint yellow belly. Part of the wing and the tail are rufous or cinnamon, i.e., a reddish brown. There are two white wing-bars and the back is dark. This is the only rusty-tailed flycatcher in our area. This bird shows the rusty color in the wings and tail best when it flies, often to catch a flying insect. Ash-throated prefers open, arid woods, e.g., Pinyon-Juniper woods. But we see this bird in riparian areas as well, like the Rio Grande Nature Center. This flycatcher is not here in winter, but some spend the winter in S.E. Arizona. Unlike most flycatchers, this bird nests in tree cavities. It is the third and last of our five birds that feeds low to the ground, giving us chances for good looks. The song is an abrupt "Ka-brick".

Western Wood Pewee is small (6-inches long) and plain looking. Darker upper-parts contrast slightly with dusky under-parts. When viewed from the front, this bird appears to have on a darker vest, with the top few buttons fastened. It has two faint wing-bars and no obvious eye-ring. It perches and



Ash-throated
Flycatcher

Olive-sided
Flycatcher

Western
Wood Pewee



BIRD	FIELD MARKS	BEHAVIOR	HABITAT	SEASON	VOICE
Black Phoebe	Black with white belly.	Perches low.	Near water.	Some all year.	"Pee-wee, pee-wee".
Say's Phoebe	Peach belly, dark tail.	Perches low.	In dry, open areas.	Some all year.	Plaintive, down-slurred "Peeeer".
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Light throat, pale yellow belly, rusty wings and tail.	Perches low.	Varied, often dry area.	Not in winter.	"Ka-brick".
Western Wood Pewee	Dark, with vest buttoned at top.	Perches in middle of tree.	Wooded areas.	Not in winter.	Rough, descending whistle.
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Dark, with unbuttoned vest.	Perches on dead tip of highest tree.	Conifer forest.	Not in winter.	"Quick, THREE beers".

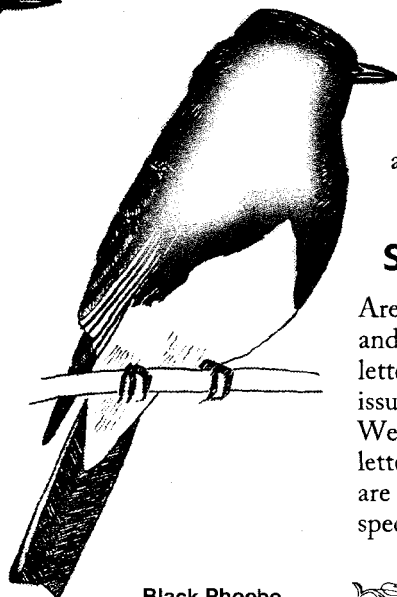
hunts in the shady middle of trees in wooded, sometimes riparian, areas. It shows the least contrast of our five flycatchers. It is not here in winter. Its song is a rough, descending whistle, which it sometimes sings all day long.

Our last flycatcher is Olive-sided Flycatcher, which is 7-inches long. It has dark upper-parts and, viewed from the front, appears to be wearing a dark, completely unbuttoned vest. That is, the throat is light and the chest is dark except for a light strip down the middle, thus, an "unbuttoned vest". Another I.D. clue: sometimes a white, cottony tuft of feathers is visible near the rump of a perched bird. This bird likes to perch on a dead tip at the top of the tallest tree in a conifer (evergreen) forest. It returns to the same, high perch after it darts out and catches a flying insect. This bird, unlike some of our other five birds, likes to hunt high, not near the ground. It is not here in winter. Its call is an insistent "pip-pip", "pip-pip". It sings three fast notes; the middle note is the highest. Some birds use this mnemonic for the song: "Quick, THREE beers!"

So if we think about our various clues, like appearance, behavior, habitat, season, voice, and perhaps size, we will find that these five flycatchers are easy to separate and identify.



Say's Phoebe



Black Phoebe

Rosy-Finch Research by Ken Schneider

The influx of the Coastal (Hepburn's) race of Gray-crowned Rosy-finches at Sandia Crest, New Mexico peaked in the winter of 2006-07, when the Rio Grande Bird Research team banded 104 birds (representing over 13% of all rosy-finches banded that winter). The previous winter marked the first captures of the Hepburn's race (5 birds) since they started banding in 2004. Last winter the percentage of the Hepburn's race decreased to 29 birds (6%). This winter, as of February 8, they represent only 6 of the 221 captures (less than 3%). Little seems to be known about the fluctuations



in species mix from one winter to another. We have seen unusual patterns of abundance in the Brown-capped species as well, both at Sandia Crest and in Estes Park, Colorado. This is an area ripe for research into possible factors, whether they may be related to climate fluctuations, local weather or habitat changes on breeding grounds or migratory routes, food supply, population pressures, and so on. Do they correlate with the irruptive behavior of other northern finches?

The spreadsheets at this link <<http://rosyfinch.com/RosyFinchPrjct.xls>> provide day-by-day banding statistics, compiled since 2004. Their analysis may provide a starting point for further research.

Seeking "Letter-to-the-Editor" Captains

Are you interested in stepping up your efforts to protect birds and other wildlife? We are looking for people willing to submit letters to the editors of our local papers about conservation issues, particularly in our campaign to address global warming. We will provide everything you need to get started: sample letters, talking points, and contacts for your newspapers. If you are interested, e-mail audubonaction@audubon.org to receive special, periodic alerts just for our Captains!





Announcements

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Events

400 Years of the Telescope: An International Year of Astronomy Celebration with Amy Estelle
April 4, Saturday, 7:00pm
Meet at the Visitor's Center

People around the world will celebrate astronomy this year in the U.N. designated International Year of Astronomy. This year was selected because it is the 400th anniversary of a simple but revolutionary act: In 1609 Galileo Galilei turned the new invention, the telescope, to the night sky. What he saw changed our view of the Earth and ourselves. Galileo's observations moved the Earth and humankind from the center of the solar system. Join amateur astronomers for a short history of Galileo's life and observations. Help construct a telescope modeled after the one he used to observe the Moon and planets. Then view the Moon and stars from a dark site on the refuge. For ages 10 and above. Bring a flashlight.

Limited to 45 participants. Call 575-835-1828 for reservations.

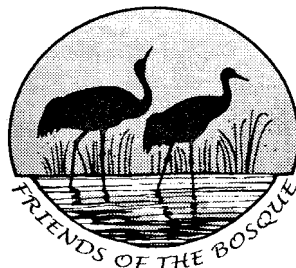
International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
May 9, Saturday, 8am - 4pm
Visitor Center 575-835-1828
Presenter, Daniel Perry

The Bosque Springtime and International Migratory Bird Day Celebration will be May 9th. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will be offering three activities each limited to 24 people. Call 575-835-1828 for reservations. Please indicate if you are signing up for one activity or all three. Bring: Water, insect repellent.

Beginning at 8:00 Naturalists will lead a one-hour birdwalk around the grounds of the visitor center including the arboretum looking for migratory birds such as warblers, orioles, kingbirds, etc. Beginning birders are welcome to join the group.

From 10:00 - 2:00 an arboretum visit with emphasis on cactus propagation by cuttings will be offered. We will also teach you how to harvest nopals (cactus pads) for nopalitos and how to prepare them. During this time we will break for lunch (bring your own) and give you an opportunity to sample nopalitos prepared in various ways. We will then continue the arboretum tour with desert plant identification and how to plant cacti from plants and cuttings.

From 2:00 - 4:00, a Refuge Tour in the refuge bus on the refuge to see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. This activity is limited to 24 people (bus capacity).



Common Herps of Bosque del Apache - Gary Froehlich
June 6, Saturday, 8am - 11am
Visitor Center

Join photographer and naturalist Gary Froehlich for a morning with the common reptiles and amphibians -or "herps" - of Bosque del Apache. Learn about "herp" natural history and field identification tips through a presentation and slides. Then locate, observe, and identify many of the species covered in the field. Easy walking (and perhaps driving) on the refuge. Bring close-focus binoculars if you have them.

Please call 575-835-1828 for reservations.

HawkWatch International



Conserving Raptors and Our Shared Environment

The count of raptors migrating north over the Sandias is underway. This year there will be no banding at the Sandia site. Two observers and an interpreter will be at the site daily, weather permitting, until May 5. Please call 255-7622 to schedule a field trip or to get directions. If you are going to the site with a group without the HWI interpreter, please let the office know when you plan to visit and how many people are in your group in order to avoid having two groups visiting at the same time.

The HawkWatch garage sale will take place in April. Please call Bobbie at 255-7622 (W) or 296-3477 (H) if you wish to contribute any items to this annual event. Location is to be arranged.

NMOS 47th Annual Meeting Announcement

The 47th Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be on **Saturday, April 25**, at Fuller Lodge, located at 2132 Central Avenue in the historic district of Los Alamos. It will include an NMOS business meeting and an NMOS general science session. The NMOS evening banquet, also at Fuller Lodge, will feature keynote presentation by Dr. Natasha Kotliar, Research Ecologist, USGS Fort Collins Science Center, Colorado, who will speak about her research on forest fire ecology and effects on birds. The NMOS Call for Papers and registration information are posted on the NMOS web site, www.nmbirds.org

Mark Your Calendars!

Randall Davey Events May 22-24

Prepare to celebrate Summer AND the birthday of Randall Davey, at special events planned May 22-24 at Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, our State Audubon Center. There will be outings on the lawn for families, hikes and presentations, and an exclusive Wildlife Art Show. Details will be posted on www.newmexicoaudubon.org as they become available. Join us as we move past the 25th anniversary into the next 25 years, celebrating the natural beauty and wildlife habitat, the historic Davey home and property, the Davey art and furniture collection, and much more. 1800 Upper Canyon Road, (505) 983-4609. Trails and grounds are open daily 8 AM to 5 PM.



Flying Farther Afield

7th Annual Galveston FeatherFest

April 2 - 5

Galveston Island, Texas



Visit one of the nation's top birding locations during spring migration! Join experienced and novice outdoor lovers to see some 200 species of birds and upper Texas coastal habitats restored or recovering from Hurricane Ike.

Cape May Bird Observatory Director Peter Dunne heads a team of expert naturalists leading beach and bay excursions, field trips, workshops, and kayak and photography expeditions.

Live birds of prey exhibits and popular socials make this nature festival like no other! For info call 1-888-425-4753.

<http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com/>

Fifth Annual Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival - May 14 - 17

Spring migrants and early nesters attract birdwatchers from across the nation to the Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival. Located in the Archaeological Center of America, many of the birding field trips visit spectacular archaeological areas such as Mesa Verde National Park and the Ute Tribal Park.

Diverse habitats from mountain high country, to river corridors, and rugged red rock canyons provide microcosms of several Colorado Plateau ecosystems providing opportunities for a wide variety of species. Due to the varied habitats found in southwestern Colorado, there are many opportunities to look for raptors and owls, and both are the focus of special birding tours.

A sample of other possible species include Lucy's Warbler, Black Phoebe, Wild Turkey, Western Tanager, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Roadrunner, Clark's Nutcracker, Green-tailed and Spotted Towhee, and many more. Previous festival checklists have totaled over 100 birds sighted.

Workshops, an art show, and a special dinner speaker round out the events for the festival weekend. Join the flock in the land of ancient cultures and modern day Native Americans for an incredible birding adventure.

<http://www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com/>



Festival Artwork © Copyright 2009 Chris Vest



Heron Lake State Park, New Mexico

July 10 - 12

Join Us This Summer in Cool Northern New Mexico and Watch the Ospreys Soar!

Osprey are plentiful in many areas of the United States, but their return to the rivers and lakes of northern New Mexico, after a long absence, has been exciting for both local residents and birders from around the country. OspreyFest 2009 at Heron Lake State Park celebrates their return and is designed to surprise and delight birders and wildlife enthusiasts of all ages. Whether you visit for a day, a long weekend, or plan to stay awhile, the beautiful Chama River valley has something for everyone.

OspreyFest is sponsored by the Friends of Heron and El Vado Lakes, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the staff of Heron and El Vado Lakes State Parks and the New Mexico State Parks Division create and maintain educational and recreational opportunities for the communities they serve.

Contact us! Leave a message at our message center (1-800-605-2411) and your call will be returned the next business day.

<http://www.ospreyfest.com/>

4th Bi-Annual Hummingbird Festival

July 2009

Lake Roberts, SW New Mexico



Watch for the Events Schedule:
<http://www.hbnm.org/events.htm>

For Kids, for Parents, for Teachers -
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www.penniesfortheplanet.org



2009 ALL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON GATHERING

AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, APRIL 4TH AND 5TH

REGISTRATION FORM

Name (s) _____
Adults _____

Children (include ages) _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

PLEASE RSVP BY MARCH 25TH

YES, I AM ATTENDING THIS FREE ALL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON GATHERING ON APRIL 4TH AND 5TH AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE, WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Saturday, April 4th

- 7:30 am: Meet at Visitor's Center for Habitat Restoration at the Bosque with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Staff. Bring work gloves.
- 10:00 am: Highlights of Audubon Chapters (in Classroom):
Mesilla, Southwestern, Central and Sangre de Cristo.
- 11:00 am: State Office updates including Strategic Plan Inquiry and Shared History.
- 12:30 pm: LUNCH BREAK. Please bring your own lunch.
- 1:30 pm: IBA's and e-Bird Training or Audubon Education Programs presentation.
- 2:30 pm: Citizen Action and Advocacy Training.
- 3:30 pm: Break for Afternoon.

Sunday, April 5th

- 7:30 am: Join Christopher Rustay and David Griffin for a Bird Walk. Meet at Visitor's Center.
- 10:00 am: NM Audubon Council Meeting

John James Audubon, naturalist and artist, is joining us for a dinner performance! Storyteller and author Brian "Fox" Ellis, in the persona of Audubon, brings history, ecology, art and literature to life in this meticulously researched program that celebrates the life work of one of America's greatest artists and naturalists! www.foxtalesint.com.

YES, I/WE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS DINNER EVENT AT SOCORRO SPRINGS BREWERY AT 5 PM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH FOR \$25/PER PERSON (PLEASE INDICATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING).

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO CAMP FOR FREE AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE'S RESERVED CAMPGROUND.

Please check in at the Visitor's Center on Friday, 5-6 pm or Saturday, 9-10 am.

We will have Audubon Membership forms available at the event.

Camp on a beautiful meadow. There are port-a-potties. No pets allowed. No RVs.

Please bring your own water; refills are available at the Visitor's Center.

NO, I WILL NOT BE CAMPING.

Here is a list of alternative lodging where we have blocked space/rooms.

- Bird Watcher's RV Park, (505) 835-1366. 10 sites reserved for \$20-\$23 depending on amp.
- Best Western, 1040 N. California Street, Socorro, NM, (575) 838-0556. 20 rooms reserved for April 3rd and 4th for \$85/per night. (Reservations must be made at least two weeks prior to event to receive rate).

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating Audubon together!

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORM WITH FULL PAYMENT FOR DINNER EVENT TO NEW MEXICO AUDUBON, C/O JEFF MYERS, P.O. BOX 26927, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125



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
 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

Secretary Ken Salazar
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20240
 (202) 208-3100
 www.doi.gov

Senator Jeff Bingaman
 703 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510
 (800) 443-8658
 bingaman.senate.gov

Senator Tom Udall
 B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Harry Teague
 1007 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-2365

Congressman Ben R. Lujan
 502 Cannon HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-6190

Congressman Martin T. Heinrich
 1505 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-6316

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

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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 membership/ subscription, contact the Membership Chairperson (see Directory on the back page of this newsletter).
- You must "opt-in" to receive a printed copy of the full-length *Burrowing Owl*. To do so, contact the Membership Chairperson.
- 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.
- Members can call (800) 274-4201 to sign up for National Audubon's Paper-Free Renewal Program. Those who sign up will have their membership automatically renewed each year and will receive only one bill approximately 2 months in advance of your membership expiration date.

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Summer 2009 issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by May 5, 2009. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

You Can Help New Mexico's Wildlife

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

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

Please complete this form below and mail to:

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 Santa Fe, NM 87504



Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

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

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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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<http://www.birder.com/birding/alert/index.html>
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Rosy Finch Project

Fran Lusso & Dave Weaver, flusso@wfubmc.edu
<http://www.rosyfinch.com/>

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



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