



Burrowing Owl

September, October, November 2009

Vol. 38 No. 4

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

Fall Programs

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

All are welcome – todos bienvenidos!

Thursday, September 17

“New Mexico’s Enchanting Hummingbirds”

Bill Talbot

Bill Talbot – CNMAS board member, licensed hummingbird bander, and biology doctoral student at UNM – learned hummingbird banding from Joan Day-Martin at Lake Roberts. Bill is an avid birder who is working on banding projects involving hummingbirds in several areas around New Mexico. His talk – “new!” and “improved!” with never-before-presented slides and maps – will address the fascinating adaptations of these winged jewels and review the list of NM hummers with hints for identification and localities where they may be found.



Thursday, October 15

“Changes in Latitude, Changes in Attitude: Global Warming and the Changing Distribution and Status of New Mexico’s Birds”

Sartor O. “Sandy” Williams

Using New Mexico bird data from multiple sources, Sandy employs maps, slides, historical data, and his amazing memory to give us a graphic and enlightening history of the changes in range, timing of migration and breeding, and population size of some of the 523 verified species in New Mexico. Statistics become enlivened and illustrated as we learn of recent and ongoing changes, which Sandy discusses in relation to global

climate change and the future of New Mexico’s avifauna. Sandy’s unique presentation style gives you the sense of being a time traveler, re-living first NM sightings while at the same time propelling your imagination into the future.

Sandy holds an illustrious perch in the Who’s Who of New Mexico ornithologists. He is retired from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, is New Mexico’s Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, as well as editor of *NMOS Field Notes*. He also maintains the NMOS Archives, including all written bird sighting submissions as well as the New Mexico Photo-Tape File, which includes prints, slides, audio tapes, video tapes, digital images, and compact disks. You don’t want to miss this one!

Thursday, November 12

“Going Batty In New Mexico”

Rob Yaksich

Did you know that bats are the most significant predators of night-flying insects (US Geological Survey 2003)? A bat will eat

Fall Programs... continued on page 2

Musings

by Beth Hurst-Waitz, CNMAS President

“Well, I might have gone birding...”

to paraphrase a Willie Nelson song. I’m alone at Melrose trap – me, my binoculars, my bird books, and my food. And birds and butterflies; and dragonflies and damselflies; and a stubborn, shy, young painted box turtle; and wildflowers galore after a week of welcome desert rainstorms. And, though hidden now, the shooting stars of the weekend’s Perseid meteor shower. What a delightful, astonishing, and abrupt awareness VERY early this morning in the dark of the high desert: The creamy, ribbonary Milky Way is still there! We’re still in our place in the galaxy.

President’s... continued on page 2

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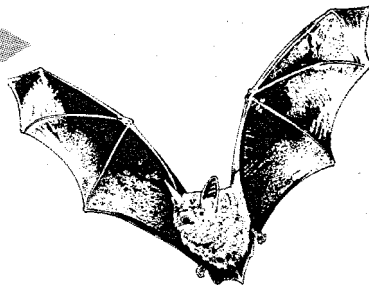
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half its weight in insects in a single night! On a summer evening 400,000 Mexican Free-tailed Bats emerge in an unforgettable display from Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico.

"But don't bats drink blood and like to fly into people's hair? They're just rats with wings, aren't they?" While it's easier to believe the gory and misguided myths, the truth about bats is probably even more fascinating and unusual. Rob Yaksich, New Mexico native and State Parks coordinator of the statewide Outdoor Classroom Program, will share LOTS of those fascinating facts with us. For instance, did you know that without a certain kind of bat, margaritas would have no tequila and some forests might have far fewer trees? Come discover the natural and cultural significance of bats and how vastly different the world we know would be without them.



Birdathon! 2009 Report

You've read the reports from our enterprising and enthusiastic teams in the last issue of *Burrowing Owl*. Together, the Thursday Birders and "Los Pajareros Locos" teams raised close to \$2400 for the education and conservation programs of Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Your donations go toward our own "in-house" projects, such as the Rosy-finch Banding Project, Science Fair Winners, and the Save The Belen Marsh Initiative. They also include support to specific local programs and organizations where symbiosis provides mutual outreach and education benefits; Rio Grande Bird Research and the local office of HawkWatch International (which supports our programs and answers our phones) are but a few. We are immensely grateful for everyone's generosity and, as always, we pledge to be wise stewards of your financial gifts, making the most impact (both short and long term) for the birds that we love, the habitat that they rely on, and for the youth whose passion ensures survival of this planet that's home to all of us in our incredible diversity.

Special thanks to the Birdathon Trip Leaders and to these generous donors:

Alfredo Aragon, Art Arenholz, Mary Lou Arthur, Karen & Gary Boettcher, Vic & Madlyn Brown, Celestyn Brozek, Jay Buckley, Tamie Bulow, Kenneth Cole, John Esterl, Pat Folsom, John Ford, Rebecca Gracey, Jan Gossage, Ellen Howard, Melissa Howard, Brave_E, Inc., Amy Jacobs, Wendy Kalberg, Nancy Kassner, Walter Kleweno, Nancy Klion & Mitch Coven, Larry Lattner, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, The Manzellas (Brynn, Emmett & Guthrie), Pam Micker, Bo Miller, Lannois Neely, Cheri Orwig, Gale Owings, Boyd Poulson, Lou Prime, Ray and Mary Reed, David Riteley, Jerome Romero, Donna Royer, Laura Saavedra, Louis Saavedra, Carolyn "Sam" Sanborn, Melvin Shibuya, Tova Shifberg & Jo Schuman, Bev Silfer, Virginia Taylor, Sei Tokuda, Mark Unverzagt, Abby & Dave Watson, Marge Williams, Charlie Wood

CNMAS Field Trip Reports

Thank you to all leaders!

Sunday, May 10: Quarai at Salinas National Monument

Leader: Jim Mosley. We birded Quarai where the only highlight was a roosting Great Horned Owl. We did see a Ferruginous Hawk. The low bird count was due to heat and a lot of wind. After leaving Quarai we stopped at the pond in Manzano where Cole Wolf and I found a male Bobolink and seven Spotted Sandpipers.

Saturday, June 13: Villaneuva State Park

Leader: Rebecca Gracey. Nine people were on this trip to Villaneuva State Park on the Pecos River. Before going to the park the group stopped and birded on the bridge over the Pecos River in Villaneuva. A surprising sight was five American Avocets in the rushing river. Two Eastern Phoebes, a Lazuli Bunting and an Indigo Bunting were seen at the river's edge. The state park itself was crowded with more people than ever seen there before on previous trips. Perhaps the recession is prompting New Mexicans to enjoy their own state parks. We heard and saw several Yellow-breasted Chats along with the following species seen on the nest: Bullock's Oriole, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Western Wood-Pewee.

President's... continued from page 1

Today MY place is in a sunlight-dappled, shady spot in the damp woods. A buff breeze keeps the temperature moderate and the pesky bugs at bay. Earlier this week I read the Emerson essay, "Works and Days": "In stripping time of its illusions... we come to the quality of the moment... It is the depth at which we live and not at all the surface extension that imports. We pierce to the eternity, of which time is the flitting surface..."

Earlier, I wasn't here alone. I had the benefit of John Parmeter alerting me to what was present, including (his) "the usual": Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher. Happily, I was thus less frustrated at sorting out these birds – abundant, prominent, and active after the fresh rains roused tasty insects. Enjoyed the "blues": Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting. Laughed at roly-poly, round and BRIGHT! Yellow Warblers. Tick, tick – a nice little list growing. The fish in the stock tank alleluia'ed their way through the tasty, freshly tail-dipped eggs of the copper-red dragonfly, and the cicadas are chorusing me and their leaf-ed listeners as I write. All 'round about me, life is patiently, ceaselessly reaffirming itself, unapologetically, in all its diversity.

LIFE BIRD!!! Male and female Painted Bunting! I watch from my bowered reserve as they keep revisiting the tall grasses in sunny spot at forest edge. Both exhibit same feeding pattern: They fly at seed head atop tall, slender stem grass, alight or grasp it in their feet, and ride it as their weight brings the seed stalk to the ground or to a lateral branch, wherefrom they then anchor the stalk with their feet and harvest the seeds methodically with their beaks.

Note in the margin of my bird list: Take more lazy days. Ignore time. Watch for what discourse bouncing tall grass seed-heads, or birds, or turtles, or fish eggs, may be having with their own universe.



Field Trip Schedule

CNMAS trips prepared by Cole Wolf

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

Saturday, September 12: Shorebirds in the Belen area

Leader: Rebecca Gracey, 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com

Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University to carpool to the Belen Wetlands and the Whitfield Wildlife Conservancy Area in Belen in hopes of seeing shorebirds. There will be a one mile walk at Whitfield. We should be back in Albuquerque by 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24: Roosevelt and Curry Counties

Leader: Christopher Rustay, chrustay@aol.com

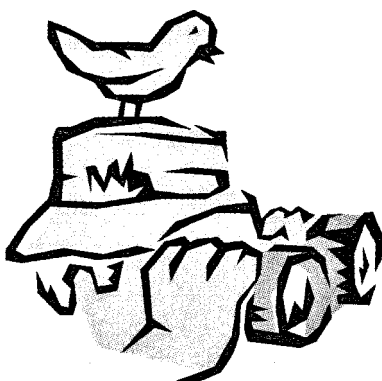
Meet at the Allsup's Convenience Store in Fort Sumner (there is only one on the south side of the main road through town) at 7:00 a.m. There are a few hotels in Fort Sumner - I recommend Billy the Kid Inn, but there is also a Super 8. Hotels are also available in Santa Rosa, about a 45-minute drive away. We'll start by looking for migrants at the Melrose trap. Sometimes late October can bring in some unusual birds. Depending on people's interests we will look in the grasslands and croplands east of Melrose for migrant longspurs and hope for some good looks. We may get lucky and hear Sprague's Pipits flying overhead. We will also scope any water we run into for late shorebirds or other waterbirds. There will be a minimum of about 50 miles of driving once we leave Fort Sumner. Folks should bring a lunch and snacks.

Saturday, October 31: Cochiti Lake

Leader: Cole Wolf, 553-4831, colejwolf@gmail.com

Meet at the Valero gas station at the corner of Tramway and Rainbow Roads (just east of I-25) at 7:00 a.m. From there it is about an hour's drive to the lake; we will try to carpool from the gas station if possible.

Once we get to Cochiti we'll check the lake for waterfowl, grebes, loons, and early gulls. We'll also check the surrounding areas for late passerine migrants and resident foothill birds. We should be back in Albuquerque by noon. The leader will have a scope but bring your own if you have one.



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

Central New Mexico Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for such accidents. You attend at your own risk.

Sunday, November 15: Las Vegas NWR

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Far North Shopping Center (NE corner of San Mateo and Academy Blvd.). The back road to Crane Lake will be open and there will lectures at the visitor center. The target birds will include wintering raptors (Bald Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks), mergansers, Common Goldeneye, and possibly Tree Sparrow. Dress warmly; bring water, food and snacks. The trip should end by 3:00 p.m. Contact for further information.



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.

Thursday, September 3: North Corrales bosque

With Gale Owings: 255-8333

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the shopping area on the east side of Coors/Corrales Road and north of Alameda near the Credit Union. We will go to a location on the far north end of Corrales. Lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.

Thursday, September 10: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Sylvia Fee: 294-4073, nmsylviafee@gmail.com

Meet at 7:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on University and Gibson. It will be an all-day trip. Bring lunch.

Thursday, September 17: Hike Embudito Canyon in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the trail head. To get there go east on Montgomery past Tramway Boulevard 0.4 miles. Turn left (north) on Glenwood Hills. Continue 0.4 miles and turn east on Trailhead Road. Go 0.2 miles to the parking lot. We will walk about 1.5 miles. The path is easy walking.

Thursday, September 24: Las Vegas NWR near Las Vegas, NM

With Mary Lou Arthur: 299-2565, marylarthur@yahoo.com

Meet at the Far North shopping Center on San Mateo and Academy behind the McDonald's at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Plan to return in the late afternoon.

Thursday, October 1: Belen Marsh and Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. The marsh is one mile east of Exit 195 from I-25. Lunch at Fat Sats across the highway from the Belen marsh.

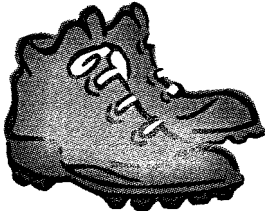
Thursday, October 8: Manzano Mountain Hawk Watch site

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of



Thursday Birders... continued from page 3



Hollywood video. High clearance vehicles will be needed for car pooling. Directions to the Hawk Watch site: Take Highway 337 south until it ends at Highway 55. Turn west toward Tajiقة and Manzano. In the town of Manzano you will see a County Road to Capilla Peak and the Hawk Watch site. The road is rough and not suitable for sedans. The money collected that day will be donated to Hawk Watch International on site. Hiking boots are appropriate for the rocky path from the car to the site. It can be cold and windy. Bring lunch.

Thursday, October 15: Pena Blanca and Cochiti Lake

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind McDonald's in the Far North shopping center at San Mateo and Academy. We will be able to visit Titilla Peak on the east side of the lake since the seasonal road will still be open to the public. Bring lunch.

Thursday, October 22: Hike Embudo Canyon in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains

With Melissa Howard: 286-9365, nmflicker@swcp.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the trail head parking lot at the east end of Indian School. This is an easy 1.5 mile round trip walk.

Thursday, October 29: Los Poblanos Open Space

With Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot. From east or west bound Montañño turn north on Tierra Viva just east of the river. You'll see a sign for Rio Grande Community Farm. It will be an easy walk of just over one mile.

Thursday, November 5: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, stokuda@juno.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on University and Gibson. It will be an all-day trip. Bring lunch.

Thursday, November 12: Cedro Campground and Sabino Canyon County Open Space south of Tijeras

With Karen & Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com
Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras, NM, on Highway 337.

Thursday, November 19: Hike Rinconada Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot on the west side of Unser Boulevard NW where Unser intersects with St. Joseph's.

November 26: THANKSGIVING - no trip planned

Thursday Birder Trip Reports

Judy Liddell has a blog where she reports on the Thursday Birder trips she attends. You may read about them at www.wingandson.wordpress.com

Additional Birding Opportunities

Tuesday Morning Guided Bird Walks

Tuesday morning bird walks in the Sandia Mountains will be sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and Audubon. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays during September, and at 8:30 a.m. in October. Directions: Exit 175 off I-40, go south on Highway 337, and drive south one half mile to the ranger station on the east. From there the group will visit different locations in the mountains.

Weekend Bird Walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Meet on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 a.m. during September, October and November (9:00 a.m. during winter months). 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



New Mexico, Grants County, El Malpais National Conservation Area, BLM

If you're not seeing enough hummers in the Rio Grande Rift, come on over to El Malpais NCA. We have three naturalists offering birding field trips. Call ahead to see if we can arrange a tour.

Paul Yoder Park Ranger, BLM El Malpais NCA
202 Smokey Circle or PO Box 846, Grants, NM 87020
505.287.6607 FAX 505.285.5041, Paul_Yoder@BLM.gov

HawkWatch International Observations

Observers began the raptor migration count in the Manzano Mountains on August 27. The banding project should be up and running early in September. The last day of the count is November 5. Although the HawkWatch International office has been closed, Bobbie Posey carries on at home at 255-7622. The new e-mail address for the New Mexico office is hwabq@hawkwatch.org



If you want to visit the site, please call the HawkWatch office ahead of time to find out about Forest Service restrictions.

The Rosy-Finches Are Coming!

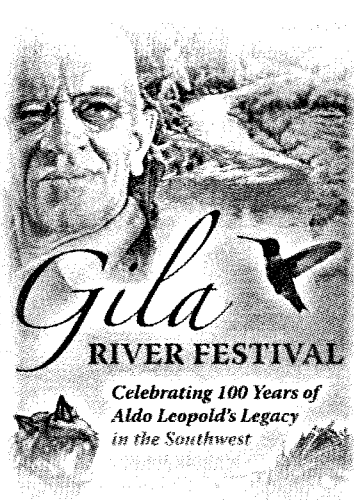
Rosy-finch banding: We can never be sure when Rosy-Finch banding will start, but we CAN be sure the news will be posted so hot that it will make the snow melt! Visit www.rosyfinch.com often and regularly (thank you, Ken Schneider!) – new design, new format, and new blog! See you at Sandia Crest when the Rosy-finch flag is waving!



Announcements

The Fifth Annual Gila River Festival September 17 to 20 Celebrating 100 Years of Aldo Leopold's Legacy in the Southwest

New Mexico's last wild river, the Gila flows through the heart of Aldo Leopold Country. The river originates in the Gila Wilderness, the first wilderness area in the U.S., originally proposed by Aldo Leopold. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Aldo Leopold's legacy in the Southwest, the 5th Annual Gila



River Festival will celebrate the historical connection of Aldo Leopold, America's most influential conservationist, to the Gila. The festival will bring together experts and laypersons, artists, and scientists from many disciplines to foster an appreciation of Aldo Leopold and the importance of his conservation ethic to the protection of the Gila River through an understanding of his influences on the creation of the National Wilderness Preservation System, his

relationship to the wild places he loved, and the legacy of wildness he represents.

The Gila River Festival occurs at a variety of locations in the Cliff-Gila Valley and in Silver City.

For more information or to receive a Festival brochure, contact the Gila Conservation Coalition at 575.538.8078 or info@gilaconservation.org

<http://www.gilaconservation.org/5thannualgrf.shtml>

Wilderness As Wildlife Refugia: Birding Field Trip Sunday, September 20

10:00 am-3:00 pm. Participant limit: 15. Fee: \$15. Meet at the Silver City Visitors Center at 9:45 am. Hike level: moderate. Registration required.

Mike Neal, Research Biologist with HawkWatch International, presents a brief lecture and discussion on the critical role designated wilderness areas play in wildlife conservation and the preservation of biodiversity, with an emphasis on avian communities. Mike then leads a brief birding field trip along the San Francisco River, a major tributary of the Gila River. Species of interest include: Common Black-Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Bullock's Oriole, Black Phoebe,

Cassin's Kingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and others. A potluck picnic at Mike's property along the San Francisco is a bonus attraction. The potluck will occur at 12:30; attendees are asked to provide their own main course and beverages. A BBQ grill, coolers, and side dishes will be provided. Forays to Southwest Birding Trail hotspots are efficient from this locale.

Bobbie Posey, N.M. Office Coordinator
HawkWatch International, 505-255-7622

Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Walk Sunday, September 20

Calling all birders, youth, family and friends. Ryan's memorial walk will be at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, September 20th. We come to celebrate Ryan's deep love for birding. We will meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 am. The trip will conclude at a restaurant that the group decides upon. If you have any questions please contact Jim Mosley at ff1964@msn.com



**Reminder: New Mexico Audubon Council
meets at Bosque del Apache at 10:00 AM on
September 12. Join us for Audubon's
conservation pulse in New Mexico.**

2009 River of Raptors Ecotour to Veracruz, Mexico October 10-18

Optional 3-day extension (October 19-21)

Cost: \$2,400 per person, \$500 deposit will reserve your spot!
REGISTER EARLY! SPACE IS LIMITED! Call Nikki at
1-800-726-HAWK X101 or visit www.hawkwatch.org

The Pronatura Veracruz River of Raptors tour witnesses the greatest migration spectacle in the world. Every fall, in central Mexico's historic port city of Veracruz, along the Gulf of Mexico, well over five million migrating raptors are counted from over 25 species! On a good day, over 100,000 migrant raptors and vultures can be seen, while during a big day, over 500,000 have been counted! Passerine and water bird migration is estimated at 10 million daytime migrants. Over 540 bird species are known to Veracruz, including over 25 endemics. In addition, butterfly and dragonfly migration is estimated at over one million individuals per day!

Also included in the trip are visits to local archaeological sites, including La Antigua and Cempoala, where Hernan Cortez had his first Spanish colony and initial contact with the local Indians, and side trips to lowland forests and coastal lagoons.

Costs are all-inclusive from Veracruz International Airport, but do not include international air travel from and to the participant's home city. Included are in-country transportation in air-conditioned vehicles with driver, local guide, hotels in Veracruz and on extension, all meals, snacks, and tips at meals, entrance fees, and a boat trip.



Learning Look-Alikes

Turkey Vulture and Two Look-Alikes

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

At a local HawkWatch site, an observer called out: “I have a Golden Eagle over rock-pile two, about two binocular fields up, circling and gaining altitude. Uh-oh, sorry, my eagle just turned into a Turkey Vulture”. In this issue, we learn how to identify a Turkey Vulture (also called a TV), a Golden Eagle and another TV look-alike, the Zone-tailed Hawk.

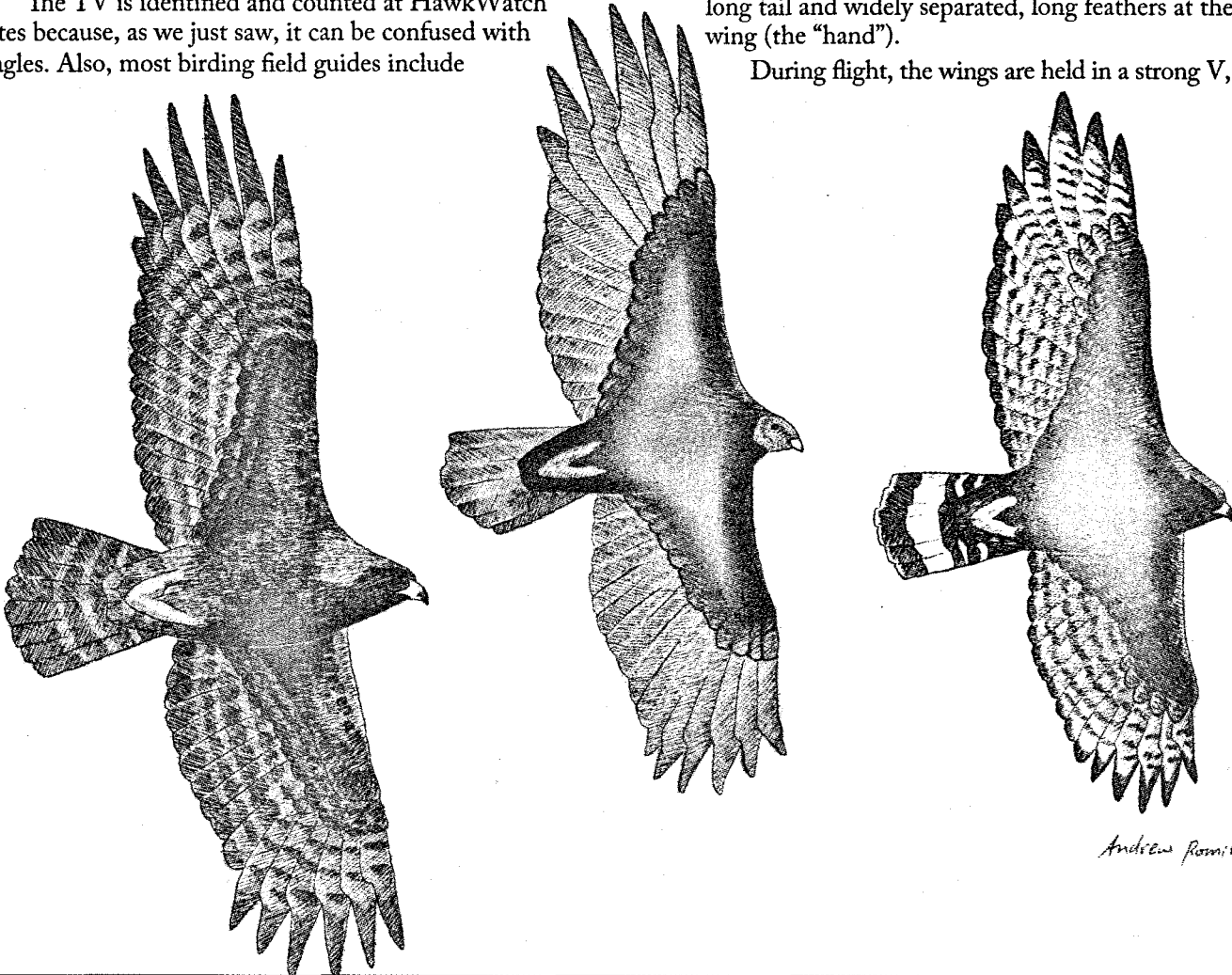
The TV is identified and counted at HawkWatch sites because, as we just saw, it can be confused with eagles. Also, most birding field guides include

vultures with hawks and eagles, even though vultures eat mostly carrion. Vultures thus are valuable members of Nature’s cleanup crew. You would not want vultures as dining companions, but they are very graceful fliers.

All three of our look-alikes often hunt in hilly grasslands with scattered shrubs, and all three hunt mostly by searching from the sky, soaring in lazy circles or cruising across the sky.

The Turkey Vulture is black-brown overall, with sharply two-toned wings. The under-wings are black in front (the wing linings) and silver-gray in back (the flight feathers). The adult has a red head and a white bill; the juvenile has a black head and a dark bill. In flight, the silhouette shows a small head, a long tail and widely separated, long feathers at the end of the wing (the “hand”).

During flight, the wings are held in a strong V, or



Andrew Rominger 8/09

BIRD	FIELD MARK	SILHOUETTE	BEHAVIOR	SEASON	FREQ
Turkey Vulture	Dark. Two-toned wings: black and silver-gray.	Small head, long tail, long “fingers”.	Soars in strong V. Rocks & teeters. Flexes “hands”.	Not in winter.	Common.
Golden Eagle adult	Dark. Gold wash on back of head & neck.	Large head, long wings, long “fingers”.	Soars in shallow V. Does not rock or teeter. Does not flex hands.	All year.	Uncommon.
Zone-tailed Hawk	Like TV, but has: white tail stripe, barred flight feathers, dark stripe on trailing edge of under-wing.	Large head, fingers not prominent.	Like TV, but no hand flex.	Not in winter.	Occasional.



dihedral. That is, the wingtips are lifted high above horizontal. TVs soar lazily; they rarely flap, but when they do flap, the wingbeats are clumsy and slow. The most helpful behavior for identifying a flying TV is its teetering or rocking flight, like a beginning tightrope walker. Another helpful behavior is the frequent closing and opening of the wingtips or "hands" during flight. The wingtip is bent down and toward the body and then flipped back up. Other birds of prey do not display this behavior.

A TV is about two feet long, with a wingspan of five and one-half feet. It is somewhat smaller than an eagle and larger than a hawk. The TV is silent and it is not in our area during winter. It weighs about four pounds versus the Golden Eagles weight of about ten pounds. This is a major reason that the TV rocks and teeters and the eagle does not.

The adult Golden Eagle is dark brown overall, with a golden wash on the back of the head and neck. A tawny bar marks each upper-wing. The juvenile Golden Eagle is mostly brown with a white patch near each wingtip (at the base of the primary feathers). The white tail of the juvenile has a wide, dark terminal band. In silhouette, the wings of the eagle are much longer, compared to the body length, than a vulture or any hawk. The head is larger and the tail is shorter than that of the TV. But, like the TV, the "hands" of the eagle are long and widely spread.

While soaring, the wings of the eagle are held in a shallow V. The eagle wingbeats are smooth, strong and shallow. Even in strong winds, the eagle does not rock or teeter. Also, the eagle does not close and open the hands as the TV does.

A Golden Eagle is longer than a TV at two and one-half feet, and its wingspan is wider at seven feet. (But size is usually helpful only at close distances or when both birds are seen at the same time). The rarely heard eagle voice is a yelping bark

and the Golden Eagle is in our area all year.

The adult Zone-tailed Hawk is black overall with TV-like, two-toned wings. But there are some helpful differences. The tail of the adult Zone-tail has one or more bold, white stripes. Also, the flight feathers are strongly barred and the trailing edge of the entire under-wing has a dark stripe. Look at the two drawings to see the differences. (The juvenile Zone-tail does not have the bold tail stripes.) In silhouette during flight, the Zone-tail has a large head, and the wing-to-body-length ratio is like that of any hawk: the wings are proportionally much shorter than that of the eagle. Also, the feathers on the "hands" of the Zone-tail are not long or widely spread.

During flight, a Zone-tail behaves like a TV, rocking and teetering on wings held in a wide V. Most of the Zone-tails I have seen have been alone, but when one is flying with a flock of TVs, it is usually off to the side, somewhat apart from the TV flock.

A Zone-tail is smaller than a TV at one and one-half feet long, with a four-foot wingspan. It weighs only two pounds and thus can teeter at any time. The call of the Zone-tail is a loud, down-slurred whistle, like the call of a Red-tailed Hawk. Zone-tails are not here during winter.

Some biologists believe the Zone-tail mimics TV behavior to gain a hunting advantage, i.e., to surprise prey which usually ignore vultures. Whatever is true, the Zone-tail looks and behaves like a TV, and when we search for a Zone-tail in a flock of TVs, it enlivens our birding day.

Remember! If a large, dark bird rocks or teeters in flight, it is not a Golden Eagle. If it looks and behaves like a TV, but it has a white stripe on the tail, it is not a TV. And don't be too quick in calling out your identification!



Learning Look-Alikes Order Form

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Inscription _____

Quantity _____

Learning Look-Alikes \$25.00 _____
 with 18 installments of the Learning Look-Alikes

Shipping and handling \$7.00 per notebook

Total \$ _____

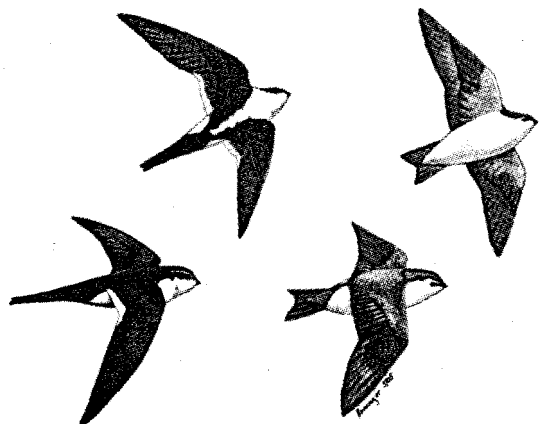
Shipping charge only for shipment of the original notebook. The remaining installments will be mailed to you annually at no additional cost.

Learning Look-Alikes RECEIPT

Name _____
 Quantity _____

The sale of this collectible edition is a fund-raiser for CNMAS, and part of the proceeds will go to the Ryan Fund.

Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871, pbgrebe@gmail.com
 Beth Hurst-Waitz at 505-259-0709





2009 Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Ian McMillan, the 2009 winner of the Ryan Beaulieu Youth Memorial Scholarship. Ian's passion is biospeleology. He was sponsored by Diana E. Northup, Ph.D., Visiting Associate Professor, The University of New Mexico Department of Biology, and by Helen Haskell in her role as Science & Outdoor Program Faculty at Sandia Preparatory School (Helen recused herself from the CNMAS selection process). Ian's winning application essay is published here. For the glowing recommendations of his sponsors and for a photo of Ian, please see the CNMAS website, www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/

Ian's statement:

This summer I plan to work with Dr. Diana Northup, from the University of New Mexico, on microbiological studies in the unique natural environment of caves. I have had the opportunity to experience natural scientific research both in high school as well as in my college career. During high school I spent two separate periods of time working with Dr. Northup on projects involving the characterization of microbial life in the lava tubes of the El Malpais by Grants, New Mexico, and identifying microbes that indicate human impact in Fort Stanton Cave near Capitan, New Mexico. This work during my high school career inspired me to pursue microbiology as my course of study at Colorado State University.

At Colorado State University I am currently working in a lab dedicated to the study of the organism *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, the causative agent of melioidosis*. In this lab I learn many microbiological and molecular biological techniques and apply them to real research. This opportunity has given me much insight into the complete understanding of some of the techniques I did during my first endeavors with Dr. Northup.

I wish to return to the area of study that inspired me to pursue microbiology as a course of study. The area of unknown that is beneath the surface of the Earth's crust draws me to it. My primary interest in the world of natural science is to understand how the microbial members of this lightless ecosystem function. This summer research internship with Dr. Northup is the best way for me to gain more experience in the world of microbiological research in the specific areas that I am interested in – caves.

**Editor's note: melioidosis: an endemic bacterial disease.*

Obama at the National Academy

Only once before has a newly elected president—John F. Kennedy in 1961—traveled the 10 blocks from the White House to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to explain his policies on science and innovation to the nation's most prestigious scientific organization. In April, President Barack Obama made the trip, and the symbolism was as important as the message: Many of the promises Obama made—to increase research spending, achieve energy independence, improve science education, and remove ideology from science decision-making—were not new, but having the President himself deliver them made all the difference. —*Science 5/1/09*

And The Winners Are ...

This is such a great issue of your newsletter! And it's the perfect time, when we are thanking our generous Birdathon contributors, to highlight some of the education outreach programs that your donations help to fund.

In 2009 your board, with the advice of the Education Committee, voted to fold the reserved funds from the Teacher Professional Development Grant (Institute of Desert Ecology) into the CNMAS Educator Resource Grants. That's because we had MANY applications for the teacher resource grant and none for the Institute of Desert Ecology, and we wanted to encourage and reward as many of the worthy applicants as we could in order to maximize their effect in the New Mexico communities where they live and teach.

A total of \$763 in grants was awarded to:

- Nava Elementary, Santa Fe, New Mexico: Growing and studying various insects
- Snell Middle School, Bayard, New Mexico: Twelve copies of *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Southwestern States: Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah*
- Zimmerly Elementary, Socorro, New Mexico: Construction of a bird and butterfly garden
- Shining Stars Preschool, Rio Rancho, New Mexico: Purchase of materials used for growing butterflies and observing their life cycles

In this issue we are highlighting the report of the Shining Stars Preschool Phonological Cycling Program, Butterfly Life Cycle Unit. We don't have room to print their entire report that was submitted by Fatima Mendoza and Cheryl Fehringer, but please do look on the CNMAS Web site for the letter of appreciation and the entire report with photos. You will be encouraged and enthused that your donations touched the lives of these appreciative youngsters – as well as the lives of this generation of butterflies! Please do flutter on by to www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/

See page 9 for the 2010 Education Grant Opportunities.

Climate Change/Global Warming

If you think that climate change/global warming is being addressed in the faraway halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., you're only partly right. Here in New Mexico, Staci Stevens is our own team member of Audubon New Mexico as the Climate Change Outreach Coordinator. Staci grew up in Santa Fe, got her BA in Conservation Management from College of Santa Fe in 2001, and yes, she has worked in D.C. – for the National Environmental Trust and The Pew Charitable Trusts as an associate and campaign coordinator on forest and marine conservation campaigns. But now she's back in Santa Fe, she's with Audubon, and she's a tireless and eloquent spokesperson and advocate for grassroots involvement in the effort to achieve a national, comprehensive clean energy and climate plan. For fact sheets on global warming visit: www.audubon.org/globalWarming/GetTheFacts.php To get involved locally or to contact Staci for ideas for your classroom or book club, contact her directly:

Staci Stevens, C: 202-294-3101, sstevens@audubon.org



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.

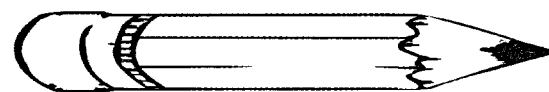
Deadlines

For application: DECEMBER 1st 2009

Money awarded by JANUARY, 2010

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 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: December 1st 2009 (for money awarded by January 2010).

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'.

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 2010.



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.



Refuge Bulletin Board

Bosque del Apache Events

Visit <http://friendsofthebosque.org/>

Saturday, Oct 10, 7:00 pm

Meet at the Visitor Center

A Scavenger Hunt in the Night Sky: An International Year of Astronomy Celebration with Amy Estelle

A scavenger hunt involves searching for items on a list. Some of the objects are harder to find than others. That is part of the challenge and fun! Join amateur astronomers for a scavenger hunt in the night sky of Bosque del Apache. Visitors will look for a dragon, butterfly, red giant, dolphin, swan, galaxy, flying horse, and black hole! Star charts and binoculars will be available. Prizes will be awarded. Bring a flashlight. For ages 10 and above. Limited to 45 participants. Call 575-835-1828 for reservations.

Saturday, Oct 17, 10am-noon

Bosque Friends Annual Meeting, Visitor Center

Please come to the Annual Meeting!

Contribute your ideas and help us open the wonderful Bosque del Apache winter bird season.

Digital Photography With Long Lenses - Workshop with Jerry Goffe

Nov 14-17 (Sat Eve orientation, Workshop Sun, Mon, Tue)

This workshop is designed for those eager to learn how to photograph the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge using a digital SLR camera. Professional wildlife photographer and naturalist Jerry Goffe and his co-instructors will conduct a 3-day experience on wildlife and nature photography. Included are both classroom and hands-on experience at the Refuge. Proven techniques and tips will be utilized while photographing Sandhill Cranes, Geese, other animals and landscapes of the Refuge. The pre-workshop will begin at 7:00pm on Saturday for a short orientation and introductions. The actual workshop commences at sunrise each morning and goes through sunset. Limit 20, pre-registration a must. See website for more details.



Annual Sevilleta NWR Open House October 17 - 18



Start the day early with breakfast, then jump on your favorite tour to the wilds of this huge refuge. Tours happen all day Saturday and Sunday, and booths with several nature organizations will be in attendance. Special talks in the conference room will happen Saturday, while Sunday offers full-day birding and hiking trips. The talks and booths are open to all, but space is limited on tours that fill quickly. Tour reservations are required, so call the refuge at (505) 864-4021 to save your place.

RIO GRANDE BIRD RESEARCH, INC.

RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER - 2009 FALL BANDING SCHEDULE

September	Gate opens/ closes (a.m.)	Open Nets (a.m.)	Sunrise (a.m.)
5	6:00/6:15	6:19	6:39
6	6:00/6:15	6:20	6:40
12	6:00/6:15	6:24	6:44
13	6:00/6:15	6:25	6:45
19	6:00/6:15	6:29	6:49
20	6:00/6:15	6:30	6:50
26	6:15/6:30	6:34	6:54
27	6:15/6:30	6:35	6:55
October			
3	6:30/6:45	6:45	7:05
4	6:30/6:45	6:46	7:06
10	6:30/6:45	6:51	7:11
11	6:30/6:45	6:51	7:11
17	6:45/7:00	6:58	7:16
18	6:45/7:00	6:58	7:17
24	6:45/7:00	7:03	7:23
25	6:45/7:00	7:04	7:24
31	6:45/7:00	7:04	7:29
November			
1 DST	6:45/7:00	7:09	7:29

Taxonomic Notes

The 50th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) *Checklist of North American Birds*, published in the July 2009 issue of its journal, *The Auk*, listed two changes that involve New Mexico birds:

- 1) Finches that were moved in 1983 from the genus *Spinus* to the genus *Carduelis* (including Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and American Goldfinch) are now back in the genus *Spinus*. The Pine Siskin, for example, is once again *Spinus pinus* rather than *Carduelis pinus*.
- 2) Birds in the genus *Piranga* (including Hepatic Tanager, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, and Western Tanager) are moved from the *Thraupidae*, the tanager family, to the *Cardinalidae*, the family that includes cardinals, grosbeaks, and buntings. The question whether these birds should still be called tanagers is generating a fair amount of discussion. The committee's thinking? No changes in English names are implemented at this time.



WHOM TO CONTACT

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

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

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Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

Secretary Ken Salazar
Department of the Interior
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Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-3100
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703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(800) 443-8658
bingaman.senate.gov

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Washington, DC 20510

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

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502 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190

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

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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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Central New Mexico Audubon Is On Facebook!

In addition to providing current information to our members, CNMAS now has "Fans" from as far away as Michigan! Information will be posted about trips, post-trip reports, upcoming meetings, and other topics of interest to our members.

Already on Facebook? You can become a Fan and can share the page with other friends. Not a member? Go to facebook.com and join! In order to be a Fan, you must register and have a minimum personal profile. To become a Fan and get Facebook updates, go to the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/> and type "Central New Mexico Audubon Society" in the search box. Then click on the link "Central New Mexico Audubon Society" and it will take you to our page. There will be a button that you can click on that says, "Become a Fan."

Facebook is now providing an important communication link for people of all ages. Audubon chapters across the country are jumping on the band-wagon to provide exposure for our activities.

If you would like to receive an e-mail reminder about meetings, rather than joining Facebook, e-mail Judy Liddell, publicity chair who will add you to her e-mail notification list.

Check out "eBird" at
<http://www.ebird.org/> for birding
observation lists and custom birding maps

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 Winter 2009-10 issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by Nov. 5, 2009. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

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

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

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