



# Burrowing Owl

March, April, May 2010

Vol. 39 No. 2

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

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual CNMAS Birding Academy The More You Know...

**Thursday, March 18: Pinyon Jay  
With Cole Wolf**

The Pinyon Jay is one of the West's most fascinating and sought-after bird species. Flocks of hundreds of birds lead nomadic lifestyles, often traveling many miles in search of piñon seeds. Unlike most of our birds, the Pinyon Jay usually begins its courtship in November and breeds during the winter. Like most aspects of its ecology, the exact timing of the breeding season is dictated by the abundance of piñon seeds. Cole has been working on Pinyon Jays on Kirtland Air Force Base for over a year. He will look at the unique ecology of the species, its dependence on the piñon pine, and how to find Pinyon Jays in New Mexico.

**Thursday, April 15:  
Demystifying the Misidentified  
With Christopher Rustay**

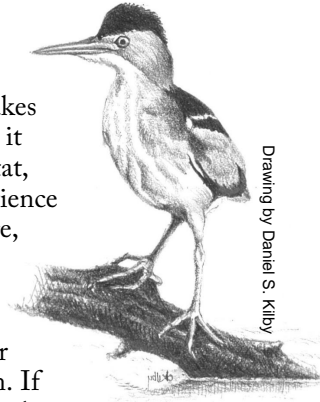
Learning to tell the difference between different types of birds is a learned skill. Learning to tell the differences between look-alike species can be very difficult, but there is a lot of learning involved in this as well. Christopher, who has reviewed many a rare bird picture or heard descriptions, will offer some insights into commonly misidentified birds; even some that come from completely different families! His focus will be on birds often misidentified in New Mexico and some tools of the trade for identifying these birds in the future.

**For this year's Audubon Birding Academy, pay \$7.00 at the door per class, or pay in advance (see registration form, page 2). Classes held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments).**



## Birdathon! 2010

Audubon, Birdathon, and your pledge: They're all for the birds! What was the last bird you saw? What's your most anticipated migrant? Which bird song makes your heart rise in your throat? And what's it worth to you to protect that bird, its habitat, and the chance for your grandkid to experience the same thrill? Join a team, make a pledge, and ask your spouse/parent/sibling/best friend/neighbor/co-worker to sponsor you or your favorite team as CNMAS raises money that stays in New Mexico for conservation and environmental education. If you join us, you'll have a day in the field with great people and great birds. If you can't be there in person, your support encourages your friends and betters your community. And either way, your gift is tax-deductible. Help keep us – and the birds – flying high!



Drawing by Daniel S. Kilby

### Team 1: Thursday Birder Team, April 29

The Thursday Birders will be attempting to see over 100 bird species in 14 hours and raise over \$1,000 for CNMAS. The group will meet at 4:45 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University and will end the day at 7:30 p.m. when they meet for dinner in Socorro to count the species seen. The itinerary will be Water and Box Canyons in the Magdalena Mountains, Turtle Bay on the NM Tech campus, and the Bosque del Apache NWR. (For more details see the April 29 write-up in the Thursday Birder schedule in this issue.)

For car pooling information contact the leader Rebecca Gracey at 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com

### Team 2: Celestyn Brozek's Birdathon

Celestyn and his group will spend 24 hours birding in mountains and lowlands of New Mexico sometime in May. It is a closed team, but we will provide our supporters with a detailed illustrated report. We appreciate greatly your previous support. Please, participate in our adventure by donating to

*Birdathon... continued on page 2*

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*Birdathon... continued from page 1*

CNMAS. Thank you for contributions to a worthy cause! To assure that you receive our report, please, send the note about your pledge and your e-mail address to Celestyn: cbrozek@unm.edu If you send your postal address as well Celestyn will send you one of his photo cards.

**Team 3: Earth Beat – Saturday, April 17th**

Michael Hilchey - leucosticte@gmail.com, (505)228-7439  
 Raymond VanBuskirk - trogon282000@yahoo.com, (505) 217-8514

“The boys,” Michael and Raymond, will be leading team “Earth Beat” this year in memory of Ryan Beaulieu. This year, instead of the usual young birders only team, Earth Beat will be an open birdathon and anyone who wants to participate is more than welcome to join the fun! The route will start with early morning owling in the Black Range west of T or C, and then the group will make their way down to Percha Dam State Park and eventually to Bosque del Apache NWR with lots of birdy stops along the way. Please contact either Michael or Raymond if you wish to participate and they will let you know when and where to meet in the morning for owling. Or, for those of you HOO don’t want to go looking for owls before first light, there will also be a time and place to meet after the sun comes up. Either way, it’s bound to be a Hoot!

Also, if you can’t join the team for a fun day birding, please show your support with a pledge!

**CNMAS Field Trip Reports**

*Thank you to all leaders!*

**Saturday, January 23: Bosque del Apache NWR**

Leader: Jim Mosley - After picking up a visiting birder from Calgary at 5:30 AM we headed down to Bosque del Apache. A mixture of sleet, snow, and fog didn’t seem promising on drive down, but once we got to the refuge things started off well with a White-Throated Sparrow at the visitor center. After a quick drive to the Flight Deck to see the morning fly-out we were treated to some great looks at an adult Bald Eagle. We continued to the Marsh Loop where we found four roosting Black-crowned Night-Herons and some Long-billed Dowitchers. We received a call that a Trumpeter Swan had been found on the refuge so we abandoned our plans in favor of chasing it. We arrived at the area and after a long walk we were treated to some great views of the bird. After that we made one last stop at the Boy Scout Deck to check out some more Bald Eagles. We then headed to Acosta’s in San Antonio for good food and to review our species list for the day. All in all it was a great day of birding in the Land of Enchantment.

**Sunday, January 31: Sandia Mountains**

Leader: Raymond VanBuskirk - Fifteen birders joined us for a frigid morning of owling/birding. The owling was mostly unsuccessful aside from a single Great Horned Owl at Capulin Springs. Doc Long Picnic grounds held six silly Steller’s Jays and a wacky White-breasted Nuthatch. A few Evening Grosbeaks were heard flying over but were never seen. At 10k Trailhead there was a pair of Clark’s Nutcrackers flying back and forth across the road. At the Crest House we saw all three species of Rosy-Finches both “in the wild” and “in the hand.”

*Reports... continued on page 4*

**Central New Mexico Audubon Society**  
**Birding For Dollars**

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

**Circle your pledge & Audubon can WIN!**

10¢	25¢	50¢
\$1	\$2 <sup>50</sup>	\$5
\$7 <sup>50</sup>	\$10	\$20

Or if you are feeling extra generous, fill in your Birdathon pledge here

THIS PLEDGE CAN BE DESIGNATED FOR TEAM/INDIVIDUAL

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY & ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

**The 12th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form**

- Mar. 18 - Pinyon Jay - - - - - \$7
- Apr. 15 - Demystifying the Misidentified - - - - - \$7
- Register for ALL 3 Birding Academy classes - - - - - \$20
- Become a **NEW** Audubon member and get the 3 Birding Academy classes for FREE - - - - - \$20

NAS chapter code C0ZQ510Z

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:

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



## Field Trip Schedule

### CNMASTrips 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, March 27: Percha Dam State Park, Caballo Lake, and Animas Creek

Leader: Cole Wolf, [colejwolf@gmail.com](mailto:colejwolf@gmail.com)

Meet by the Percha entrance gate at 7:30 AM (there are hotels available in T or C, about half an hour away). We'll spend most of the morning at Percha where we hope to find Vermilion Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, and Phainopepla. After checking Caballo for waterbirds we'll bird Animas Creek for Acorn Woodpecker and Bridled Titmouse. We'll finish the trip around Elephant Butte Lake looking for more waterbirds and desert species.

#### Saturday, April 17: Migrants in the Corrales Bosque

Leader: Jim Mosley, [ff1964@msn.com](mailto:ff1964@msn.com)

We will be looking for warblers and other spring migrants in north Corrales at several locations. We'll also check the river to see what's around. We will meet at the Flying Star at the corner of Corrales road and Alameda at 7:30 AM - please park in the north end of the lot. After birding we can stop for a snack and maybe check out the Alameda Bridge area. Please contact the leader if you plan on attending.

#### Saturday, May 15: Quarai (Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument)

Leaders: Cole Wolf ([colejwolf@gmail.com](mailto:colejwolf@gmail.com)) and Jim Mosley

Meet in front of the general store in Manzano at 7:00 AM (contact the leaders for more specific directions if needed). We'll spend the morning birding the riparian woods around Quarai. Our main target will be migrants (sixteen species of warblers have been reported here), but we also hope to see some of the area's breeding birds, including Phainopepla, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak. This trip will not involve any long or hard walking, and we will finish up around noon.

#### Saturday, June 26: Breeding birds in the Sandia Mountains

Leader: Jim Mosley, [ff1964@msn.com](mailto:ff1964@msn.com)

Join us for breeding warblers (Orange-crowned, Virginia's, Audubon's, Grace's, and MacGillivray's) and other surprises. We will meet in front of Starbucks on Central and Tramway at 7:30 AM. The trip will consist of several stops as we make our way to the top of the Crest. At the Crest House we will stop for a snack before heading out to look for Three-toed Woodpecker and other mountain species. There will be some walks at high altitude, so plan accordingly. Please contact the leader if you plan on attending.

*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.*

## Remember to record your sightings at

<http://www.ebird.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 4: Corrales Bosque

With Lannois Neely: 890-7881, [lfneely@aol.com](mailto:lfneely@aol.com)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the shopping center north of Alameda Road and east of Coors/Corrales Road near Little Anita's restaurant. The group will walk in the bosque on the south end of town and then go to Village Pizza for lunch.

#### March 11: Hike Embudo Canyon

With Judy Liddell: 271-0912, [jliddell5@earthlink.net](mailto:jliddell5@earthlink.net)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the trail head parking lot located at the east end of Indian School Road.

#### March 18: Rio Grande Nature Center

With Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, [stokuda@juno.com](mailto:stokuda@juno.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. Coffee or an early lunch afterwards at the Flying Star on Rio Grande Blvd.



#### March 25: Pueblo Montañó Picnic Area and Sculpture Park

With Gale Owings: 255-8333

Meet at 8:45 a.m. in the parking lot on the south side of Montañó just west of the bridge over the Rio Grande and east of Coors Blvd. for a walk in the bosque.

#### April 1: Pena Blanca and Cochiti Lake

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the middle of the parking lot in the Far North shopping center on the north east quadrant of the San Mateo and Academy intersection. Bring lunch.

#### April 8: Hike in the Elena Gallegos Open Space

With Donna Royer: 869-6882, [dlroyer@earthlink.net](mailto:dlroyer@earthlink.net)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking area that is at the end of the road that runs straight north from the entry station. Look for the parking lot for Cottonwood Trail. There is a \$1 entry fee per car. This is an easy 1.5 mile walk.

#### April 15: Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen and Belen Marsh

With Linda Heinz: 565-1441, [manzanogal@gmail.com](mailto:manzanogal@gmail.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University or 8:50 a.m. at WWCA on



*Thursday Birders... continued from page 3*

Highway 47 on the east side of the Rio Grande River. Lunch at Fat Slat's Grill near the marsh.

#### **April 22: 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.

#### **April 29: The Thursday Birder Birdathon**

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

Meet at 4:45 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University or 6:15 a.m. at the McDonald's in Socorro. This will be an intensive day of birding that will end after dark. The itinerary will be Water Canyon, Box Canyon, Turtle Bay on the NM Tech campus, and the Bosque del Apache. At 7:30 p.m. the group will have dinner at Sofia's Kitchen in Socorro to tally the number of species seen. After dinner participants are on their own to either spend the night in Socorro or return to Albuquerque that evening.

Contact Rebecca if you need transportation or can provide transportation. Bring snacks, lunch and water.

ALL Thursday Birders and EVERYONE on the Thursday Birder email list is encouraged to make a financial contribution to Central New Mexico Audubon Society in this fundraising event. Mail your check to CNMAS, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190 and indicate you are supporting the Thursday Birder team. The team raised \$1,357 for the Birdathon in 2009 and the goal is to beat that in 2010.

#### **May 6: Hike Otero Canyon**

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras on Highway 337. The trail is fairly level.

#### **May 13: Hike in the Tres Pistolas Open Space - Tijeras Canyon**

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

A walking stick would be helpful with the uphill trail. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center on Central, west of Tramway, near Hollywood video to carpool since parking is limited at the trailhead.

#### **May 20: Ojito de San Antonio Open Space in Cedar Crest**

With Melissa Howard: 286-9365, nmflicker@swcp.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway near the Hollywood Video.

#### **May 27: Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve**

With Sandra MacGillivray: 505-699-4966, mcglvry@hotmail.com

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the middle of the parking lot in the Far North shopping center at San Mateo and Academy or 8:00 at the preserve. The preserve is located south of Santa Fe near La Cienega, exit 271 from I-25. It is sponsored by the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens. A docent will show us around the gardens. Bring lunch. Their web site is [www.santafebotanicalgarden.org](http://www.santafebotanicalgarden.org)

*Judy Liddell has a blog where she reports on the Thursday Birder trips she attends. You may read about them at [www.wingandsong.wordpress.com](http://www.wingandsong.wordpress.com)*

## **Weekend Bird Walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park**

Join Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks at the RGNC located at the far west end of Candelaria Road. The walks start at 9:00 a.m. during the winter months, 8:30 a.m. during March and April, and 8:00 a.m. May through August. 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](http://www.rgnc.org)

### **Restoration Project Benefits**

#### **Lesser Prairie-Chickens**

**April 24 - 25**

In a partnership between Audubon New Mexico, our state office, and the New Mexico Audubon Council – representatives of New Mexico's four Audubon chapters and other independent bird clubs – we have set up a restoration project and camping weekend related to the Lesser Prairie-chickens in eastern New Mexico. Together, we will host a fence-marking weekend and Audubon gathering near Milnesand, New Mexico over the weekend of April 24th and 25th. There will be more details that follow, but please mark your calendars and check with your local chapter. Of course, we'll watch some birds at the leks too!

Karyn Stockdale, (505) 983-4609, ext 32, [kstockdale@audubon.org](mailto:kstockdale@audubon.org)  
Vice President and Executive Director, Audubon New Mexico  
<http://nm.audubon.org>



*Reports... continued from page 2*

A few intrepid explorers hiked out to Kiwanis Meadows in search of the elusive Three-toed Woodpecker, to no avail. We did however find a Hairy Woodpecker and hear Pine Grosbeaks in the lower parking area. Overall another great day atop the snow swept Sandia Mountains.

#### **Sat.-Sun., February 6-7: Maxwell and Las Vegas NWRs**

Leader: Sei Tokuda - There were only 3 of us on our trip. The weather forecast did not look good for Sunday. We missed the storm but a light fog started forming when we got close to Maxwell. It was overcast and 26°F when we arrived in Maxwell at about 12 noon Saturday. The main roads were clear, but the roads in the refuge were either packed snow or a little muddy. The visibility was low, i.e., 1/4 mile to about 1 mile. The fog was so bad near Stubblefield Lake that we did not see it and there were no tire tracks in the snow to point us the way to the lake. The best birds we saw at Maxwell were a Northern Shrike, over a hundred Horned Larks and a few Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles. In addition we saw a herd of 40-50 mule deer. We stayed in Las Vegas on Saturday night and we drove to the Las Vegas NWR on Sunday morning - better luck there. The best birds there were 7 Bald Eagles and over 100 Common Mergansers at Crane Lake, lots of Pintails, Mountain Bluebirds, a few Western Meadowlarks, a pair Magpies and very good looks at a pair of Ferruginous Hawks and a Golden Eagle. We found close to 50 species for the trip.



## Learning Look–Alikes: Small Gray Birds of the Southwest

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

The arid Southwest has several small, gray birds that lack distinctive markings: Bushtit, Verdin, Juniper Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Black-chinned Sparrow. However, we can identify these birds readily if we combine the field marks they do have with their behavior, habitat, season and voice.

Our first bird, the **Bushtit** (4.5 inches long), is the easiest of these birds to find and identify. During the non-breeding season, especially in winter, small flocks of 10 to 20 twittering Bushtits will suddenly be feeding in your yard. They are very active, moving quickly from bush to tree to bush, calling frequently. In five minutes or so, they are gone.

Bushtits are quite plain: dark gray above, light gray below, with a long tail and a short, stubby bill. So your best clue is the behavior of a flock of small, gray, long-tailed birds that visit your yard for a few minutes and then are gone.

Our second bird, the **Verdin** (4.5 inches long) is not likely to ever visit your yard. You can find the Verdin in brushy areas, with thorny shrubs, especially Mesquite. They do not migrate, and good places to look include Mesquite patches at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. and Caballo and Percha State Parks. Verdin lives in southern parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and California.

Thankfully, an adult male Verdin has some color: yellow head and throat. It is dull gray everywhere else. The tail is shorter than the tail of the Bushtit, and the Verdin’s bill is thin and pointed. It forages for insects and larvae like a Chickadee, often hanging upside down.

Our third small, gray bird is the **Juniper Titmouse** (5.25 inches long). This bird prefers Oak, Juniper and Pinyon woods, and we see it fairly often in the foothills of Sandia Mountain near Albuquerque. It has a surprisingly loud voice for such a

small bird. The song is a sequence of repeated syllables and the call is “tschick-a-dee-dee”. The Titmouse is here all winter.

Juniper Titmouse used to be called “Plain Titmouse”, which is quite descriptive. It is dark gray above, light gray below, with a medium-length tail and a short bill. But we have some help. It has a crest on the head, which is usually raised. This is the only small, gray bird in our area with a crest. It calls often as it feeds: “Dee-dee-dee”. We see this crested mite alone or in pairs all year long.

The first three birds are here all year, but the next two leave during winter. Our fourth bird, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** (4.5 inches long) prefers woodlands, weedy fields and streamside thickets. Some migrate on north, but some nest here. We see this bird at Rio Grande Nature Center and from some Sandia Mountain hiking trails, e.g. Embudito and Three Gun Springs trails.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is slender, with a long, very active tail. The bird is dark blue-gray above, light gray below, with a long bill. The tail is distinctive: black above with white outer feathers, white below and very long. The bird cocks the tail up often and flicks it about as it feeds. Also, you hear the frequent calls, a thin, buzzy “spee”, often before you see the bird.

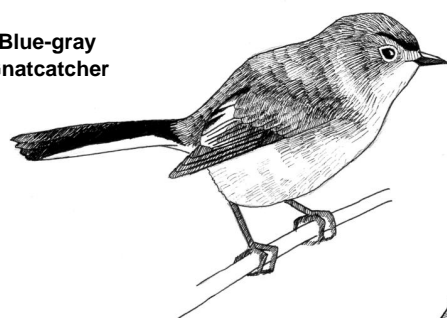
Our last bird is the **Black-chinned Sparrow**. (This is different from the better-known Black-throated Sparrow). Black-chinned Sparrow prefers arid, brushy areas, especially in canyons and foothills. We see this bird in Water Canyon west of Socorro and on the Three Gun Spring trail in the Sandias.

This sparrow looks quite a lot like a Junco. It is medium gray, with a pink bill and a dark tail. But it has a streaked back, and it lacks the white tail edges of the Junco. The male Black-chinned has black that surrounds the bill, including the chin.

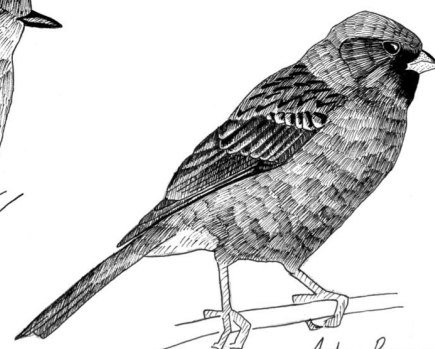
Black-chinned Sparrow has a musical song, which ends on a long trill. These birds are hard to see, except while the male is singing in the spring. That is the best time to find this bird, which we see alone or in pairs.

So each of these five gray birds gives us enough clues to help us make a correct identification. If we use field marks, behavior, habitat, season and voice, we can identify each one correctly. If you review the summary table on the next page, you should be ready to go!

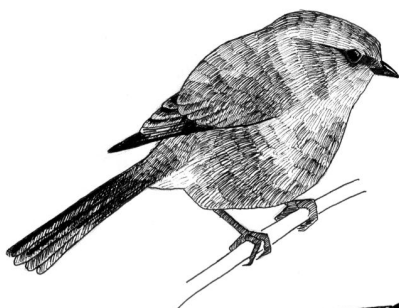
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



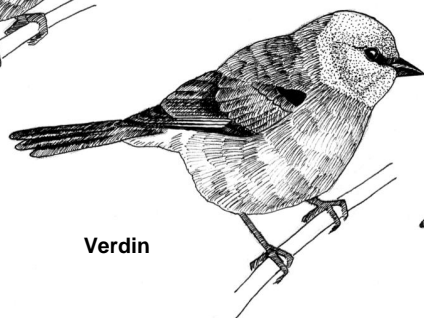
Black-chinned Sparrow



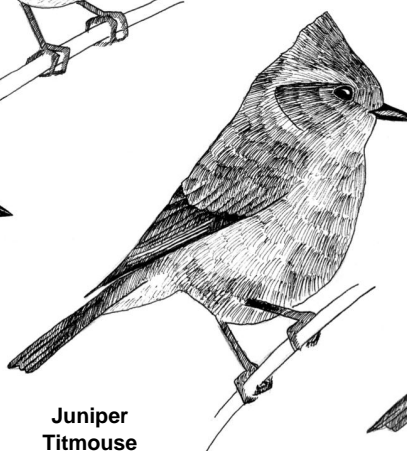
Bushtit



Verdin



Juniper Titmouse



Andrew Rominger 12/09



## Belen Marsh Update by Judith Liddell

The Belen Marsh Committee hosted a gathering on Saturday, January 23 for Don Felipe Rd. neighbors at the Graphic Arts Station, one of the local businesses along that road.

Lee Hopwood presented the three conceptual designs for possible Marsh preservation, based on input from the Valencia County Fair Association and discussions with Marsh Committee members. Community members added their input, including their desire that parking be limited as much as possible to the area closest to the I-25 Bypass to reduce traffic along Don Felipe.



Lee also described the activities undertaken by the Belen Marsh Committee over the past year and a half to try and preserve the area for wildlife and particularly birds, including the committee's participation on the Valencia County Fair Association and the two clean-up days activities - the amount of trash removed and describing large additional items still to be removed from

the Marsh. She then described the positive economic impacts birders have when they visit an area known for its unique bird species and informed those in attendance that the Belen Marsh is one of several important stops in New Mexico for migrating shorebirds.



Donna Royer described the mosquito abatement activities she has undertaken with permission from the Valencia County Fair Board. Neighbors in attendance described the work undertaken by Dr. Paul Sandoval supported by Valencia County to monitor the area for mosquitoes and that it is his opinion that the marsh is not a source of mosquitoes.

The neighbors encouraged the committee to host another neighborhood gathering and volunteered to help get the word out.

**NM Audubon Council Meeting  
Sunday, March 7th, 10AM - 3PM  
at Bosque del Apache NWR**



BIRD	BEHAVIOR	HABITAT	CALL	BILL	TAIL	COLOR	FIELD MARKS
<b>Bushtit</b>	Noisy, active flocks.	Deciduous and city yards.	Tsip.	Short, stubby.	Long.	Gray	Brown ear patch.
<b>Verdin</b>	Feeds like a chickadee.	Mesquite & other thorny shrubs.	Tsik.	Thin, sharp	Short.	Gray.	Yellow head & throat (male).
<b>Juniper Titmouse</b>	Often calls as it feeds.	Juniper, Pinyon & Oak woods.	Song is loud, repeated notes.	Short	Med.	Gray	Gray crest, usually erect.
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>	Often flips tail & calls while feeding.	Streamside thickets & woods.	Buzzy Spee.	Long	Very long.	Tail is dark above, white outer feathers, white below.	White eye-ring.
<b>Black-chinned Sparrow</b>	Only the singing male is easy to see.	Arid, brushy canyons & foothills.	Song is musical & ends on a trill.	Pink, stubby.	Med.	Dark	Black surrounds bill; back is streaked.

### Learning Look-Alikes Order Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Inscription \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Look-Alikes \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity  
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.

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



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/

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

New Mexico Office
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504
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Sandia Mountains CBC Report

The Sandia Christmas Bird Count was held on December 26, 2009. The count circle includes the northern canyons in the foothills on the west side of the Sandias, parts of Highway 165 from Placitas including Las Huertas Picnic Area, developed areas north and south of I-40, the towns of Cedar Crest and Tijeras, developed areas along NM 14 and Frost Road in the east mountains, Highway 536 to the Crest and the Crest itself.

This year there were 40 people covering these areas on a sunny but very cold day. The total number of species seen was a very respectable 67 since 70 species is the highest number ever seen on this count.

Rebecca Gracey – count organizer, Nick Vaughn – count compiler

Central New Mexico Audubon Is On Facebook!

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."

If you would like to receive an e-mail reminder about meetings rather than joining Facebook, e-mail Judy Liddell, Publicity Chair, at jliddell5@earthlink.net.



Central New Mexico Audubon Society
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Mail this form to the appropriate address as indicated below for the type of membership you wish to subscribe to. Your National Audubon membership RENEWAL must be sent directly to National Audubon.

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The following rates include subscription to the National Audubon Magazine and the Burrowing Owl:

- Input boxes for \$20 New Member and \$30 New Member rates.

Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

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The following rate includes subscription to the Burrowing Owl newsletter only:

- Input box for \$15 for subscription to the Burrowing Owl only.

This rate also applies to those outside of our Chapter area who still wish to receive the Burrowing Owl.

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We are encouraging members to opt to receiving their copies of the Burrowing Owl online. This will significantly reduce the amount of paper generated by mailing hard copies. We will, of course, honor those requests from members who wish to continue receiving the hard copies through the mail. Please indicate your preference below.

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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 2010 issue of the Burrowing Owl, must be received by May 5, 2010. 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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