



# Burrowing Owl

June–July–August 2010

Vol. 39 No. 3

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

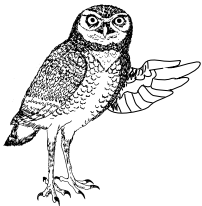
## Birdathon 2010

Thanks to these donors, windblown or not, who supported Thursday Birders Birdathon 2010 and CNMAS morale-wise, financial-wise, and behind-the-binoculars-wise. If we've missed anybody, watch for your public acknowledgment and appreciation in the next *Burrowing Owl*.

Cynthia & Karl Benedict, Gary & Karen Boettcher, Brave\_E, Inc, Madelon & Vic Brown, Robert & Nancy Buttery, Tom Cartledge/Judy Propper, Ken Cole, Dianne Cress, Albert & Bonnie Jeane Dugan, Patricia R. Echelmeyer/Randy Sue Fosha, John Esterl, Randy Floyd, Rebecca Gracey, Roger Grimshaw, Dave Hutton, Nancy Kassner, Florence A. Laird, Laura Lefkofsky, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Lannois F. Neely, Cheri Orwig, Gale Owings, Ben Porter, Donna Royer, Lou Prime, Gary Shirk, Bev Silber, Sei Tokuda, Laura West, Sondra Williamson, Charlie Wood

## Thursday Birders Birdathon Team Report

Remember that windy day on Thursday, April 29? Sections of both I-25 and I-10 were closed because of blowing dust resulting from 40 miles per hour winds and gusts of 60 miles per hour. That day included the 13-hour time period that the Thursday Birder team spent counting birds for their Birdathon. They went to Turtle Bay on the New Mexico Tech campus, Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains, 'The Box' off highway 60, and the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. This could have meant a disastrous effort, but not for the 24 birders making up the crack Thursday Birder team. The group saw 136 species. As of the time we're going to press, the team has raised about \$1500 for Central New Mexico Audubon! The team members were Lefty Arnold, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Bob Buttery, Larry Caldwell, Tom Cartledge, John Esterl, Randy Floyd, Rebecca Gracey, Roger Grimshaw, Rick Hudson, Dave Hutton, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Cheri Orwig, Gale Owings, Pen Porter, Lou Prime, Judy Propper, Donna Royer, Gary Shirk, Bev Silber, Sei Tokuda, and Sondra Williamson.



*Birdathon... continued on page 2*

## CNMA Fall Programs

**Thursday, September 16**

### Bird Migration: The Marvel and The Mystery

Each year billions of birds undertake demanding migratory journeys between their breeding and wintering grounds.

The mystery and marvel of these migrations intrigues scientists and laypeople alike.

Phred Benham, a graduate student at UNM's Museum of

Southwestern Biology, will present a talk/slide show that's both scientific and personal, as he explains how scientists unravel the mysteries of how and why birds wing their way not just across the continent, but across the globe. You will enjoy Phred's thoroughly engaging presentation, as his own love for the birds he studies is ebullient. Originally from New Hampshire, Phred has studied at Louisiana State University and participated in fieldwork in South America. His studies include work on the Canada Warbler, a species that illustrates some of the fascinating phenomena involved in migration and conservation issues facing migratory birds. Currently he is working on his master's thesis studying the evolution and biogeography of Metaltaill hummingbirds in the Andes.



Kirsten Munson

## October 21 - To Be Announced

**November 11**

(the second Thursday, not the third, due to Festival of the Cranes being Nov. 17-21)

**A panel of speakers will present**

**"The World of Cyber Birding:  
Using Devices That Make Us Better Birders"**

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).

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*Birdathon... continued from page 1*

## EarthBeat Birdathon Team Report

The first team out and the latest one to report, we're excited to report the success of EarthBeat Birdathon Team, and we acknowledge gratefully those sponsors whose donations have already been received: Lou Prime, Laura West, and Brave\_E, Inc. A short list of donors for a long list of birds? No, just a PARTIAL list of donors. Watch for the names of generous friends of Team EarthBeat in the next *Burrowing Owl*.

## CNMAS 'Earth Beat' Birdathon 2010

April 17th

by Michael Hilchey

Leaders Michael Hilchey and Raymond VanBuskirk and their official driver/roustabout Bill Talbot led 6 other team members on a rainstorm-to-sunshine, pre-dawn to post-dusk, mountaintop to river valley bird quest for EarthBeat Birdathon Team 2010. Lou Prime, Bev Silfer, Amber and Laura West, Cassidy Ruge, and Beth Hurst-Waitz followed our leaders to Emory Pass, Iron Creek Campground, Kingston, Hillsboro Bridge, Hillsboro, Percha Dam State Park, Caballo Lake State Park, Paseo del Rio Park, Elephant Butte State Park, and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge for a triumphant day of birding, with a species list totaling 153! Our "exceptional" birds included Spotted Owl at Emory Pass, a Broad-winged Hawk at Percha Dam, and a Brown Pelican at Elephant Butte Lake. Our surprises of the day – because they're missing from our list! – included Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Meadowlark, Horned Lark, and a few other common birds that we just couldn't get our eyes on! Overall it was great trip with great people and great birds! I hope ya'll can support our team and CNMAS this year by pledging funds for the EarthBeat team and by joining us next year for another exciting day of birding!



## Still To Come!

### Celestyn Brozek's Birdathon

Celestyn and his group will spend 24 hours birding in mountains and lowlands of New Mexico — but it didn't happen in May! Now scheduled for June, this closed team of birders will have fun meeting the challenges of the Thursday Birders and EarthBeat teams! They will provide everybody who supports them with a detailed, illustrated report. Celestyn writes, "We appreciate greatly your previous support. Please, participate in our adventure by donating to 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](mailto:cbrozek@unm.edu) If you send your postal address as well, Celestyn will send you one of his photo cards." Anticipation!!!

## CNMAS Field Trip Reports

*Thank you to all leaders!*

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

Led by Jim Mosley — The trip started in the Flying Star parking lot. The group went to Romero Road and was able to see a nice adult Peregrine Falcon across the river. Some of the other birds of note were Swainson's Hawk and Cooper's Hawks. The diversity of birds was a little low due to the inclement weather. Total species for the day was 33 birds. Thank you all who attended.

### Saturday, May 15: *Manzano and Quarai*

Led by Jim Mosley and Cole Wolf — Five participants joined the leaders to start at Manzano pond on a cold and rainy morning. Highlights in Manzano included Willow Flycatcher, several Dusky Flycatchers, and some fly-over White-faced Ibis. South of Manzano a pair of Blue-winged Teal was seen in a roadside pond. Quarai had good numbers of regular migrants, along with several singing Yellow-breasted Chats. A total of forty-three species were seen on the trip.

## Belen Marsh Report

by Judith Liddell

Central New Mexico Audubon received a collaborative grant from Audubon New Mexico/Audubon Council for \$435. This will provide funding to conduct studies on the hydrology on the pond and surrounding area, and document plant and invertebrate species that exist on the site to determine whether any there are any threatened or endangered species. The preliminary plant survey has been completed.

A clean-up was held on April 3, followed by a neighborhood meeting. This effort drew new participation and support from those that live in the area.

The Belen Marsh Committee will participate in the Tierra Bonita's (Belen organization) Adopt a County Road program. The Marsh Committee will be responsible for one mile of Don Felipe and must perform a clean up of the road three times per year. The cleanup that took place on April 3 will count as our first one. There will be one in the fall and another next January.

On Tues. Apr. 20, John Fleck's "Up Front" column in the *Albuquerque Journal* featured the efforts to preserve the marsh and elicited two new volunteers, including one who lives nearby.

## LISTS! (not of birds)

Ed Dover, our meticulous Membership Chair, is looking for an understudy! If you can help out, please send him an e-mail at [whitecliffs@comcast.net](mailto:whitecliffs@comcast.net). All we need is a volunteer who has a computer running Windows 7 who is willing to act as backup for the membership list. Ed, through our Chapter, will provide the Microsoft Office Suite 7 installation CD and the installation key necessary for activation. He'll help you install it on YOUR computer, and he'll be happy to work with you to bring you up to speed on using the Access database program. Our Chapter has a database of 1360+ members, and it's through Ed's diligence that it's kept updated and accurate. We'd appreciate your help!





## Field Trip Schedule

### CNMAS trips prepared by Cole Wolf

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

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

Leader: Jim Mosley, 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.

#### Saturday, July 24: Corrales Bosque and Alameda Bridge area

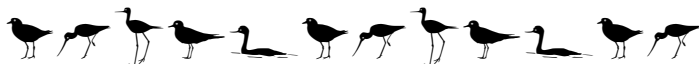
Leader: Jim Mosley, ff1964@msn.com



The trip will start at 7:00 AM and we will meet in the Flying Star parking lot (located on the east side of Corrales Road). We will be looking for early migrants and some summer residents. The weather can be variable so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks this trip will conclude around 11:00 AM.

Remember to record your sightings at  
<http://www.ebird.org/>

*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.*



### Thursday Birders Field Trip Schedule

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

#### June 17: Sandia Peak Ski Area and Balsam Glade picnic area in the Sandias

With Gale Owings: 255-8333

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway near Hollywood Video or at 7:45 in the lower parking lot of the ski area. The trip will end around noon. (Parking fee or pass required.)

#### June 24: Kit Carson Park, Tingley Beach, and Tingley pond

With Lefty Arnold: 514-9398, hoosierjohnarnold@yahoo.com  
Meet at 8:27 a.m. in the parking lot for Kit Carson Park (also called Rio Grande Park). To get there turn west to Central from Rio Grande Blvd. NW, go south on Tingley Drive from Central, then turn left at the first opportunity and immediately turn left again into the parking lot. The group will walk about two miles. Lunch at La Placita on the plaza in Old Town.

#### July 1: Capulin Springs in the Sandias

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras on Highway 337 to car pool to the mountains. Bring something to sit on while waiting for birds to come to the water. (Parking fee or pass required at Capulin.)

#### July 8: Hike Embudo Canyon

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

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the trail head parking lot at the east end of Indian School. Wear a long-sleeved shirt to ward off gnats. This is an easy 1.5 mile round trip walk and will end before noon.

#### July 15: Three-toed Woodpecker quest in the Sandias

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

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway near the Hollywood Video. The group will explore the trails between the crest and Kiwanis Meadow. Bring lunch or buy lunch at the Crest House. (Parking fee or pass required.)

#### July 22: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

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

Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University. This is an all day trip. Bring lunch. (Admission charge or pass required per car.)

#### July 29: Ojito de San Antonio Open Space in Cedar Crest

With Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway near the Hollywood Video. The trip will end before noon.

#### August 5: 10K Trail in the Sandias

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood video or 8:45 at the trail head parking lot. (Parking fee or pass required.) The walk will end before noon.

#### August 12: Simm's Ranch and Bonnie Long's house

In the Manzanos for hummingbirds, bluebirds, a potluck lunch, and 80th birthday celebration for Sei Tokuda.

The leader is Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade\_1@yahoo.com  
Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of



## Learning Look-Alikes: Mountain Warblers

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

Our Southwestern mountains lack the great variety of Wood Warblers found in the mountains of the Eastern U.S., but we have enough warblers to make things interesting. In this issue, we focus on the warblers we can see in our local forested mountains; we save the bosque (river forest) warblers for another time.

Wood Warblers are smaller than sparrows and most warblers are brightly colored, often a bright yellow. Warblers are very active and rarely sit still long enough to give us a good look. They prefer to nest and feed in wooded areas, which also makes a long, satisfying look uncommon. But three of our warblers are quite easy to see, which helps us identify them. Warblers, then, are tiny, nervous birds, often partly yellow, with a thin sharp bill; they feed on insects in dense foliage.

Let's learn about six of these energetic mites: Black-throated Gray, Virginia's, Grace's, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. Since different habitats can help us identify most birds, we will start at the bottom of the mountain and work our way up to higher altitudes and changing habitats.

Our first warbler nests only in the lowest forest: the pygmy or Pinyon-Juniper forest. The male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** is gray overall, with a black crown, cheek and throat separated by two white patches. He has dark wings and tail, and two bold white wing patches and white tail edges. The female is similar, but with more subdued color and a light throat. The only touch of yellow on this black, white and gray warbler is a bright yellow spot between the bill and the eye. This is a very handsome and crisp-looking bird!

Next on our trip up the mountain is the **Virginia's Warbler**, which nests both in the lower Pinyon-Juniper forest and a bit higher in the middle part of the mountain. Virginia's has yellow on the breast, rump and under-tail coverts. The back and head are gray and there is a distinct white eye-ring. The throat and belly are white and there are no wing-bars. Virginia's often feeds near the ground, so it is easy to get really good looks for identification.

Third on our list is **Grace's Warbler**, which nests and feeds high in the tall Ponderosa Pine trees at the middle altitudes. Grace's may be hard to find, up so high in the tall trees, but this bird is vividly colored. A bright yellow stripe is above the eye, and more yellow paints the chin, throat and breast. The back, wings and tail are gray, with two white wing-bars and white tail edges. This is a colorful bird that is worth a search in the treetops.

Our fourth bird is the largest and easiest to see of our

nesting warblers: the **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. It nests on the upper third of the mountain, from the lower Ponderosa Pine area to the top of the mountain.

The Yellow-rumped is easy to see because it often perches in the open, showing its bright yellow rump. It also likes to catch flying insects, again making it more visible. The male Yellow-rumped is easy to identify with yellow on the rump, crown, throat and sides. Large white wing patches flash conspicuously while the bird fly-catches. The female, again, shows a similar but more subdued color pattern. Although they nest high on the mountain, Yellow-rumped are seen in any insect-friendly area during migration, e.g. from along the river valley to the top of the mountain.

Fifth on our list is our last locally nesting warbler: **Orange-crowned Warbler**. Like the Yellow-rumped, this warbler nests on the upper parts of the mountain, but shows up anywhere during migration. But very unlike the Yellow-rumped, the drab Orange-crowned shows no striking field marks. Perhaps the best field mark is the total lack of strong marks, combined with the size and bill of a warbler.

Orange-crowned is very common, so let's study it. First, we almost never see the orange crown of this warbler in the field. There are no wing-bars, no eye-rings, no tail marks. Overall, this small bird is a dull yellow-green or gray, with faint, blurry streaks on the breast and flanks. More helpful marks, perhaps, are a dark eye-line and some yellow under the tail. So a

warbler-sized bird that looks completely faded is likely to be an Orange-crowned. Look carefully for the above-mentioned faint marks.

Our last bird is all yellow!

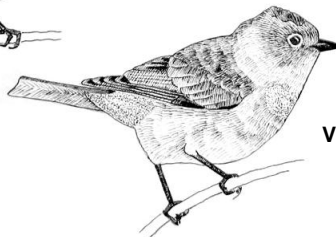
It is really bright and easy-to-**IDENTIFY**. It is **Wilson's Warbler**, which does not nest here, but is plentiful during both spring and fall migration. It appears from the valley to the top of the mountain.

Wilson's is yellow overall, but the under-parts are the brightest yellow. Look for a distinct dark cap on the male, and

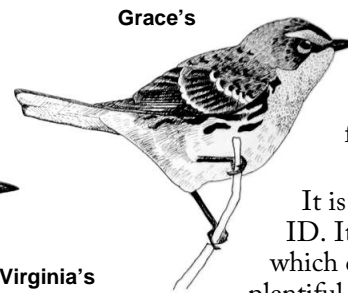
Warblers... continued on page 5



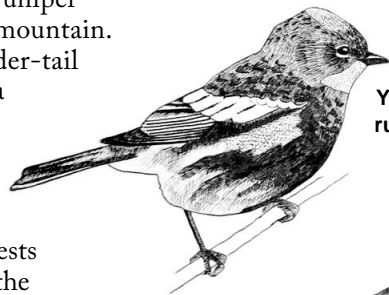
Black-throated Gray



Virginia's



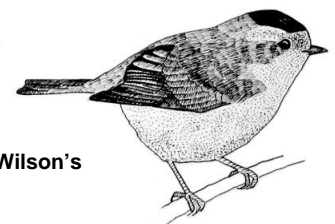
Grace's



Yellow-rumped



Orange-crowned



Wilson's



Thursday Birders... continued from page 3

Hollywood Video or the entrance to the Simm's Ranch on Highway 337, six miles south of Chilili, at 9:50. Bonnie will provide both chicken and meatless enchiladas, and iced tea, and everyone else should bring other dishes and drinks.

**August 19: Corrales bosque**

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

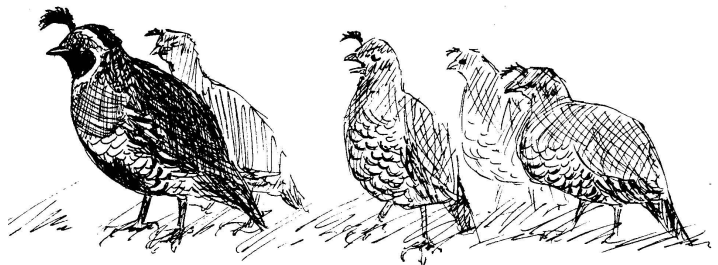
Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the shopping center north of NM 528/ Alameda Road and east of Coors/Corrales Road near Little Anita's restaurant. The group will walk 1.5 to 2 miles. Lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

**August 26: Sulfur and La Cienega Canyons in the Sandias**

With Sally Burke, 792-1788

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway, near the Hollywood Video to car pool. Very little walking involved. (Parking fee or pass required.)

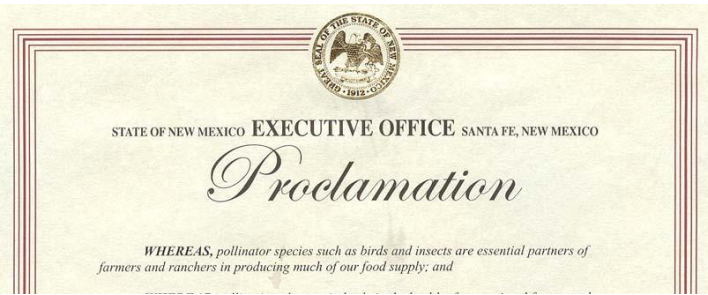
*Judy Liddell has a blog where she reports on the Thursday Birder trips she attends. You may read about them at [www.wingandsong.wordpress.com](http://www.wingandsong.wordpress.com)*



Kirsten Munson

**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 in Albuquerque's North Valley. The walk starts at 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)



**June 21 - 27, 2010 proclaimed "New Mexico Pollinator Week"**



Warblers... continued from page 4

a yellow stripe above the eye for both male and female. Wilson's is easy to see because it fly-catches and feeds on the outside of leafy branches. It often feeds low enough to give us good, long views. Look for a bright yellow bird with a dark cap.

Look for these six mountain warblers on popular hiking trails, especially near any water source. For example, in the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque, the water log at the lower Capulin Springs Picnic Ground is a productive birding location, which often attracts warblers who come to drink and bathe in the cool water.

**Learning Look-Alikes Order Form**

Contacts: Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871, [pbgrebe@gmail.com](mailto:pbgrebe@gmail.com)  
Beth Hurst-Waitz at 505-508-4942

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.

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



# Focus on Education

## 2010 Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Cassidy Ruge, winner of this year's Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship. Cassidy migrated here two years ago after he and his family took a year-long camping adventure in order to get to know some of the natural wonders that surround us. Their journey lasted from July 07-July 08 and took them 30,000 miles, through 51 campgrounds and 3 countries. from their home in Massachusetts, through the Yukon Territory of Canada, up to Alaska, and south through the Rocky Mountains into Mexico. The Ruges resettled in Las Vegas, NM, and Cassidy has become a "regular" on the New Mexico birding scene. You may have "spotted" him at the Crest during Rosy-finch banding; doing a program or weekly bird count at Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge; or even participating in some of our CNMAS field trips.

Cassidy will be attending the "Maine Coast Birding Studies for Teens" session at Hog Island Audubon Center in Maine — the same camp Ryan himself attended! It's such an honor to have the scholarship now endowed as part of Ryan's legacy. Cassidy's letter reflects his appreciation and enthusiasm — and we're all looking forward to hearing of his adventures in Maine, as well as continuing to have his company on birding excursions throughout New Mexico. Cheers and good birding to you, Cassidy!



Photo courtesy of Cassidy Ruge



## Teacher Resource Grant Awarded by Helen Haskell

Congratulations to Stephanie Smith and her students of Dragonfly School in Santa Fe, this year's recipient of the 2009-10 CNMAS Educator Resource Grant. Stephanie and her students were awarded \$247.50 towards the purchase of gardening gloves and plastic bins to help them as part of their Adopt-the-Santa-Fe-River program. Regularly the students (pre-school through 2nd graders) clean up trash in the river and recently won an award from displaying the trash in a recycled art show. The Santa Fe River bed is adjacent to the school campus and our contribution will also help tie in to their garden curriculum, where they grow vegetables and have a butterfly/hummingbird garden. Stephanie wrote, "Dear CNMAS Board, Thank you so much for your contribution of gloves & sorting bins for our work in our garden and in the Santa Fe River. On Earth Day our entire school body worked together to remove debris from the river's paths. Your help allowed us to do so in a safe & organized way. Many thanks. Stephanie Smith, Dragonfly School."

## Band of Brothers

Audubon members have already received their May-June issue of *Audubon*, the national magazine. Perhaps you put yours aside for later. Perhaps you didn't even open it based on the cover, a dark picture of an oil rig in northeastern Pennsylvania, thinking "This is just too depressing." Let us give you hope and a lighter view: Turn to Page 66 first. Yes, those ARE Rosy-finch photos taken in the Sandias. Keep reading. Yes, these are our very own, at-home-in-New-Mexico "young birders" and devoted researchers and activists. Take hope. Get involved. You don't have to have known Ryan to be affected by his magic. Find your own — and then spread some. We really are all in this together.

April 19, 2010

Dear CNMAS board members --

First of all, thank you so much for granting me the CNMAS Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship Award. The camp I will attend in June is going to be great. I think that it will be a great opportunity for me to improve my birding skills and I think I will make many new connections. One of the things that the camp does is expose young people to careers in bird conservation and monitoring.

I am very grateful that you approved my application request for Personal Expenses. That will make my trip a lot easier for my parents to afford. I have never been in a camp like this before and I think that it is good to go when you're young as opposed to waiting and missing the opportunity. I will share my experiences in either an article and/or a presentation to CNMAS when I come back. I will also take field notes throughout the camp so that I will have good records of all that transpired.

I feel honored to continue in Ryan's footsteps and keep up the work that he was doing. I am interested in getting more involved in banding and bird surveys and if any of you know of things I could do, please let me know. I want to contribute all I can to bird conservation in New Mexico.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

*Cassidy Ruge*

Cassidy R. Ruge



## Science Fair Winners Always Inspiring by Beth Hurst–Waitz

CNMAS offers its thanks to the dedicated people involved with the UNM STEM\* Education Outreach Programs who did the judging to choose this year's winners of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society Awards. And what great winners they are! Having personally spoken to either winners or parents, I can tell you that they are appreciative of and inspired by the recognition they receive. Our Chapter awards four \$100 savings bonds, two each in the Senior Division and the Junior Division. Although we didn't have volunteers this year to be judges, we're going to recruit early for judges for 2011. This is one of the most uplifting and positive experiences you can have (besides birdwatching) as a member of Audubon, and we encourage you to consider being involved. (\*STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

This year's winners and their abstracts are:

### SENIOR DIVISION

**Brandon J. Casaus, Grade 9 at Bernalillo High School**  
**Teacher: Leighann Gurthrie**  
**"Thermal Oceanic Comparisons"**

My experiment is that if ocean temperatures rise how will that affect the oceans living creatures, coral reefs, and the fish population. I believe that if the water temperature continues to rise, the living creatures would not be able to handle the change and will die. The death of the coral reefs would leave fish species homeless.

The materials used in my project included two 5.5 gallon fish tanks; ocean sand; two tukani live rocks from Fiji; two heat lamps; two thermometers; one hydrometer; ocean water; one overhead light; and a submersible aquarium heater.

Preparation for the project included the following:

1. Two separate 5.5 gallon aquariums were placed on a solid, level surface.
2. Each tank was filled with one inch of ocean sand.
3. Each tank was filled with ocean water (salt water).
4. In the control tank a standard aquarium heater was placed set at 75 F.
5. Each tank contained a thermometer to verify temperature changes.
6. The experimental tank contained two heat lamps placed overhead of aquarium.
7. Live rock from the island of Fiji was placed in each tank.
8. For the next six days the salinity levels were checked with the hydrometer.
9. Records were kept reflecting differences in the rocks, temperature changes, color of water, and sand changes.

In conclusion, data collected indicated that significant temperature changes affected the live rock and color of sand. Further, the salinity levels rose. This combination of changes killed the living rock and would have significantly affected any

form of ocean life. My overall conclusion is if ocean temperatures continue to rise due to the thinning of our atmosphere/ozone or man-made issues, the oceans temperatures will rise to a dangerous level which would cause a rise in the salinity levels, which in turn would kill the living coral reefs that house thousands of fish species. This causes a dramatic impact to the food chain.

**Angelica R. McCarron, Grade 10 at St. Pius X High School**  
**Teacher: Robert Lah**  
**"Wi-Fi and the Butterfly"**

(abstract not received as of press time)

### JUNIOR DIVISION

**Laurel Britt, Grade 6 at James Monroe Middle School**  
**Teacher: Turtle Haste**  
**"Water Evaluation in the Rio Grande and Chihuahuenos Creek"**

In this experiment I tested to see if there was metal in the Rio Grande and Chihuahuenos Creek and to see where there was more. I became interested in this idea when I found out the water I was drinking at my cabin near Chihuahuenos Creek in northern New Mexico doesn't go through any cleaning processes. My hypothesis was that there would be more metal in the Rio Grande than the Chihuahuenos Creek, but that there would be metals in both rivers.

For the Chihuahuenos Creek, I took two samples, both next to drainages. For the Rio Grande Sample 1, I went to the river under a bridge and took a sample. For the Rio Grande Sample 2, I went to a ditch from the Rio Grande.

With help from International Lubricants and Fuel Consultants in Rio Rancho, I tested my water samples in the laboratory using a mass spectrometer. My hypothesis was that there would be more metal in the Rio Grande, but that there would be at least some metal in both bodies of water. Results indicate that this hypothesis should not be accepted. There is measurable barium (0.111 parts per million) in the Rio Grande, but in the Chihuahuenos Creek the amounts of metal are not enough to count.

**Parker J. Magness, Grade 8 at St. Thomas Aquinas School**  
**Teacher: Eric Vigil**  
**"The Effects of Recycled Material on Plant Growth in Desert Soil"**

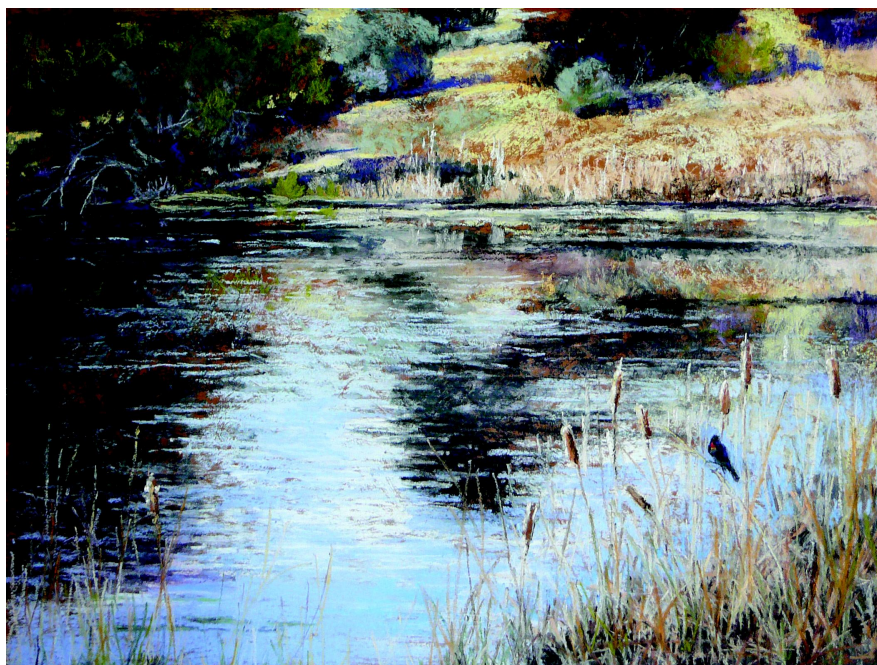
Recycled materials can aid in plant growth and when mixed with desert soil provide various growth rates and numbers. The hypothesis that recycled material, which was biodegradable, mixed with desert soil will help improve desert soil was proven false. Moreover, shredded tire, a petroleum based material, provided a better mulch like environment needed to net a growth of 34% in the overall amount of seeds planted. This is most likely due to the water trapping ability of the tire. Whereas, the shredded paper and



# Announcements

SECOND ANNUAL  
RANDALL DAVEY INVITATIONAL

## WILDLIFE ART SHOW



Margi Lucena, *Song for Leonora*, 18x24 inches

Susan Brooke • Adele Caruthers • Sharon Fullingim • Georgette Evans Grey •  
Natasha Isenhour • Skeeter Leard • Margi Lucena • Cate Moses • Charlie Sanchez Jr.  
• Heidi Snell • Bill Strickler • Beth Surdut • Susan Winkler • Jesse Wood

MAY 21 - JUNE 30, 2010

**Opening reception: May 21, 2010 from 5 to 7pm at the Audubon Center Gallery, 1800 Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe.**

*A portion of the proceeds from artwork sales will go towards supporting Audubon conservation and education programs.*

To learn more, visit [nm.audubon.org](http://nm.audubon.org)  
or call (505) 983-4609.

RANDALL DAVEY **Audubon**  
CENTER & SANCTUARY



**Summer Wings Festival – Coming August**  
**Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center**

505-343-1373 <http://rgnc.org/>



**Dragonfly Festival**

**Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge**

**Sat/Sun, September 10 – 12**

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



**5th Annual OspreyFest**  
**Heron Lake State Park**  
**July 9 – 11**

OspreyFest has grown to be *the* outdoor educational event of north-central New Mexico. This year we are pleased to have as featured speaker Dr. Jean-Luc Cartron, of the University of New Mexico, who will also be on hand to sign his soon-to-be-released *Raptors of New Mexico*. Dr. Cartron will be joined in a panel discussion by noted raptor rehabilitator and former state veterinarian, Dr. Kathleen Ramsay, and biology researcher Dale Stahlecker, of Eagle Environmental.

OspreyFest takes place at Heron Lake State Park—home to more than 20 pairs of breeding osprey—and timed to provide an opportunity to view fledglings in the nest at close range. We are also pleased to have the participation of exhibitors such as Santa Fe Raptors, The Wildlife Center of Española, and New Mexico Raptors, who bring a variety of uncaged raptors for the education of visitors of all ages.

Sponsored by the Friends of Heron and El Vado Lakes and the New Mexico State Parks Division.

<http://ospreyfest.com/>

**2010 Hummingbird Festival**  
**of the Gila, July 24–25**

**by Joan Day–Martin, Hummingbirds of New Mexico (HBNM)**

I was approached this year by the new owner of the “Breathe Inn,” located at the intersection of Hwy 35 & Hwy 15. Jack wondered if I planned to keep the festival going. To tell the truth, it is becoming bigger than I can really handle here at our HBNM home base. We discussed the matter and he is willing to make this an annual event at the Inn, beginning this July 24th and July 25th.



The Festival’s banding portion and a couple of programs on hummingbirds will be presented through HBNM. All the rest of the festival planning will be done by The Breathe Inn. Their contact info and Web site, as well as other accommodations in the area, can be found by going to [www.silvercity.org/lodging](http://www.silvercity.org/lodging). I hope you all will come and enjoy the larger area, the hummingbirds, and each other. HBNM home base will be open for hummingbird viewing as always, just 4 miles down the road from the 2010 festival site.





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**Central New Mexico Audubon Society Application Form *For New National Members Only***



Make checks payable to the **National Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002**. FOR NEW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS ONLY. Your National Audubon membership RENEWAL cannot be processed by the Chapter; it must be sent directly to National Audubon.

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- \$20 New Member, special introductory rate for one year.
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As part of our commitment to protecting our natural environment we are encouraging members to opt to receiving their copies of the *Burrowing Owl* online, where they can read it on their computers or print it out at home. 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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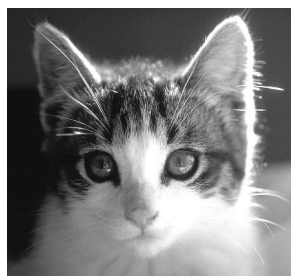
If you would like to receive an e-mail reminder about meetings rather than joining Facebook, e-mail Judy Liddell, Publicity Chair, at [jliddell5@earthlink.net](mailto:jliddell5@earthlink.net).



**Burrowing Owl Deadline**

Information and articles to be included in **Fall 2010** issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by **August 5, 2010**. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or [turtlebear@jensenbear.com](mailto:turtlebear@jensenbear.com). We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

**Don't Let Sammy Be An Assassin**



For more information:  
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Each year, thousands of cats die on the roads or are injured in fights outdoors, and hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals are killed by free-roaming cats. Cats live happier, healthier, longer lives indoors.



*Science Fair... continued from page 7*

Styrofoam did trap and hold water, it quickly dried out over the course of the day and resulted in a relatively equal performance of approximately 8% growth of seeds planted. Therefore when looking to improve desert soil for plant growth, material that not only can shade and trap moisture but is biodegradable, should provide the best solution when looking to prevent erosion and promote growth of plants. Future experiments should include other materials such as plastics and cloth. Extending the experiment to beyond what was already tested may promote additional growth but results would most likely be the same.

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