Central New Mexico Audubon Society

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

Steven D'Amato

Message from the President

"Here is your lean, trim Summer Issue of the *Burrowing Owl*. Regular meetings resume in September (September 15 if you want to mark your calendar now!), with an even heftier weekend field trip schedule. Have a healthy, active, bird-filled summer!" — Beth

We are excited and pleased to announce that Judy Liddell is your new chapter Vice President! As Vice President, Judy is taking over the duties of planning the CNMAS monthly meetings, recruiting speakers and developing themes. Let her know your interests and ideas for dynamic and interesting speakers!

Another big "Welcome" and "Thank you" goes to Lefty Arnold. He will be taking over Judy's previous job as Publicity Chair for CNMAS, getting the word out to local print and airwave media about our meetings and field trips. Judy, however, will continue to

send out Facebook announcements. Thank you both -- volunteers like you are the pulse of our chapter! When you see either Judy or Lefty in the field, please let them know you appreciate them!

Science Fair Awards

We had the ideal full panel of four CNMAS volunteer judges this year to choose our chapter's awardees in the Central New Mexico Science & Engineering Research Challenge (Science Fair). Thank you to new judges Dave Hutton, Judy Liddell, and Dwayne Longenbaugh, with a special thanks to "senior" judge Ron Waitz for helping out again this year. The winners will each receive a \$100.00 savings bond from CNMAS; team members on the same project will split their award. Check the CNMAS Website later in June to read the abstracts of these award-winning projects.

Senior Division

Alex Heimgartner - Sue Cleveland High School Exhibit Title: "Antlion Habitat: The Final Chapter" Samantha Hilborn - St. Pius X High School Exhibit Title: "Water Quality Along the Rio Puerco"

Junior Division

Kaitlyn S. Eldred - Roosevelt Middle School Exhibit Title: "Can We Save the Birds?"

 $\emph{Team Exhibit}$ (Team Members Split \$100 Savings Bond)

Alex Flores and Christopher T. Baker-Airhart - Eagle Ridge

Exhibit Title: "Odds of Swainson's Hawk Rate After the Territory Has Been

Manipulated"

Meet Cameron McMillan, Winner of the 2010-2011 Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship

I first began working in caves in high school, doing research and explorations with Dr. Diana Northup, as well as Sandia Prep's Outdoor Leadership program. Dr. Diana Northrup founded and heads up The Northup Cave Geomicrobiology laboratory at the University of New Mexico; working in her lab has fueled my love of caves and brought the aspect of science into my perspective of the cave world.

During the summer, I will be one of Dr. Northup's students, exploring natural science questions about microbial life in caves, including work on projects such as researching White Nose Syndrome, a new threat to North American bats that just emerged in 2006. This summer the program's focus will be on exploring questions of "Who's Home" and what the resident microorganisms are doing to earn a living and produce some of the amazing deposits observed in the recently discovered Snowy River of Fort Stanton Cave, near Capitan, New Mexico. During the course of this program, there will be an opportunity to explore cave areas that were recently discovered and there is a good chance to discover microorganisms that are new to science, to begin to determine the role they play in the ecosystem, and to learn new molecular biology and microscopy techniques. At the same time I'll serve as a mentor to less experienced students in the techniques I've already mastered. There are very few programs that study cave microbial life in the United States, or even the world, so this is a rare opportunity.

My previous project involved characterizing the diversity of the microbial communities found in liquid inclusions of the large crystals in the Niaca mine shaft, located in Mexico. In addition to the microbiology and molecular biology skills, I learned about conservation of caves, informal science education, vertical training (dangling from ropes for science), and valuable research skills. Currently I am working in a laboratory at Northern Arizona working with soil samples to better understand the DNA of microorganisms. In addition to my love of caves, I am an active snowboarder, hiker, backpacker, and mountain biker.

Find us on Facebook and visit our beautiful new website!

cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

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Thursday Birders Summer Schedule

PLEASE ARRIVE 10 MINUTES BEFORE THE MEETING TIME.

This is especially important for out of town trips when the group will be carpooling. The group will depart very near to the meeting time. If you know you will be late, call the leader the night before and find out where the first stop will be.

JUNE 2 - Open land north of Clines Corners and Stanley, NM, with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail. com for possible Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Barn Owl and Burrowing Owl. Meet at 6:50 a.m for a 7:00 departure in the Four Hills shopping center on Central, west of Tramway, near the Carl's Jr or at 7:50 at the Clines Corners gas station 60 miles east on I-40. Lunch in Moriarty at El Comedor Los Anayas restaurant. The trip will end in mid afternoon.

JUNE 9 - Jemez Mountain cabin near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 856-1322, lyfeltz@comcast.net

Many montane species may be seen from the deck and nearby meadows. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure in the Far North shopping center located on the east side of San Mateo and North side of Academy. Meet in the middle of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon.

JUNE 16 - Walk the trails in the open space at the east end of Copper with Lannois Neely: 890-7881, Ifneely@aol.com Meet in the parking area at 7:00 a.m. The 1 ½ mile walk is over fairly level terrain and will end in the late morning.

JUNE 23 - Isleta Marsh and Los Lunas River Park with Donna Royer: 869-6882, dlroyer@earthlink.net Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure in the parking lot at the back of the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University or the pull off on NM 314 at Isleta pond at 8:20. After visiting Los Lunas River Park, the group will have lunch at Henrietta's in Los Lunas. Then they will visit a heron and egret rookery in Bosque Farms. Rookery directions: From NM 47, turn west on South Bosque Loop and drive .4 of a mile. The rookery is at the intersection with Camino Del Chavez. The trip will end in mid afternoon.

JUNE 30 - Kit Carson Park, Tingley Beach, and bosque ponds with Lefty Arnold: 514-9398, hoosierjohnarnold@yahoo.com Meet at 7:59 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 Boulevard, NW, go south on Tingley Drive from Cental, then turn left at the first opportunity and immediately turn left again into the parking lot. The group will walk about two miles. Brunch at the Red Ball Café on 4th Street.

JULY 7 - Ojito de San Antonio Open Space in Cedar Crest with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the Four Hills shopping center parking lot near Carl's Jr. The center is on the south side of Central and east of Juan Tabo. The open space is located behind the San Antonio de Padua Church, one mile on the west after going under I-40. The walk will end before noon.

JULY 14 - Villaneuva State Park on the Pecos River with Karen and Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com Arrive

at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras on NM 337. Bring lunch. The park is 70 miles east on I-40, then north on NM 3 for 20 miles. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee if you don't have a state parks pass.

JULY 21 - Simm's Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzanos for hummingbirds, bluebirds, a potluck lunch. The leader is Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure in the Four-Hills shopping center located on Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway, in the parking lot by Carl's Jr 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.

JULY 28 - Walk the trails in the Sandias from the Crest to Kiwanis Meadow and other surrounding areas with Gale Owings: 255-8333. Meet in the Four Hills shopping center on the south side of Central, east of Juan Tabo, near the Carl's Jr. at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure or in the lower parking lot at the Crest at 8:15. (Parking fee or pass required.) The walk will end in the late morning.

AUGUST 4 - Pueblo Montano Picnic Area and Sculpture Park for a walk along the bosque with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 8:30 a.m. when the parking lot opens to the public. The park is located on the south side of Montano just west of the Rio Grande river and east of Coors. This will be an easy 1 ½ mile walk. Lunch afterwards at Hannah and Nate's in the Riverside Plaza on Coors.

AUGUST 11 - Walk the 10K trail in the Sandias with Gary Shirk: 830-5925, gshirk748@gmail.com

Meet in the Four Hills shopping center parking lot on the south side of Central and east of Juan Tabo near the Carl's Jr. at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure time. You can also meet the group at the 10K parking lot at 8:45. The trail may be winding and uneven. (Parking fee or pass required.) The walk will end before noon.

AUGUST 18 - Shorebird birding at a location to be determined the day of the trip. The leader will be Matt O'Donnell: 814-360-7496, mjodon@gmail.com Meet at the Far North shopping center in the middle of the large parking lot at 7:20 a.m. for 7:30 departure. It is located on the east side of San Mateo and north side of Academy. A spotting scope would be helpful on this trip. It should end in the late morning.

AUGUST 25 - Sulphur and La Cienega Canyons in the Sandias with Sally Burke, 792-1788. Meet at 7:50 a.m for an 8:00 departure at the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway, near Carl's Jr to car pool. Very little walking is involved. (Parking fee or pass required.) Bring lunch or a snack. The trip will end in the late morning.

Thursday Birder Trip Reports

Judy Liddell's Blog: www.wingandsong.wordpress.com Joe Schelling's Blog: joeschelling.wordpress.com Matt O'Donnell's Blog: abgbirding.wordpress.com

Burrowing Owl June - August 2011



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Other Birding Opportunities

Sandia Bird Walks

May through mid-October, Tuesday morning bird walks in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and CNMAS. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. every Tuesday. Directions: Exit 175 off I-40, go south for one half mile on Highway 337 to the ranger station on the east.

Osprey Festival

July 8-10, at Heron Lake State Park near Chama, N.M. Volunteers are needed to help with the festival. Get more information at www.ospreyfest.com, call 1-800-605-2411, or email to ospreyfest@yahoo.com

Southwest Wings Birding & Nature Festival

August 3-6, in Sierra Vista, AZ.

This year's keynote speaker will be author Scott Weidensaul. For more information go to www.swwings.org

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 September. 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 for more information.

CNMAS Weekend Field Trips - Summer 2011

Check for updates or additional fieldtrips on our website: www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas

Saturday, June 11th: Sandia Breeding Birds

Leader: Matt O'Donnell, mjodon@gmail.com, 814-360-7496

Meet in front of Starbucks in the Four Hill shopping center at Central and Tramway at 6:30 a.m. We'll bird our way up the mountain in search of breeding species such as Band-tailed Pigeon, Pygmy Nuthatch, Grace's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Western Tanager. At the Crest we'll walk to Kiwanas Meadow looking for American Three-toed Woodpecker, Whitethroated Swift, and Green-tailed Towhee.

Saturday, August 13th: Water Canyon & Bosque del Apache

Leader: Jim Mosley, ff1964@msn.com, 505-321-7488 Meet in the McDonald's parking lot in Socorro (take I-25 exit 150) at 6:30 a.m. We'll start in Water Canvon in search of Acorn Woodpecker, Red-faced Warbler, and early migrants including possibly Hermit Warbler. After spending our morning birding the canyon we'll return to Socorro for lunch, then finish the day at Bosque del Apache NWR where we hope to find good numbers of migrating shorebirds.

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.

Western Field Ornithologists Conference: Sierra Vista, AZ August 17-21, 2011

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. To register and see full details go to www. westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page.



Call for Volunteers!

Sevilleta National Wildlife is currently in need of volunteers to assist us at the front desk/gift shop, perform light trail maintenance, assist with the monthly public programs and a wide variety of other duties. Should you have availability and interest we could definitely use your skills and talents, or if you know someone who is looking for a volunteer opportunity at an amazing Refuge, please pass my information their way! Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me! Thank you for making the Refuge a better place,

> Jeannine Kimble U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Visitor Services Manager Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge P.O. Box 1248, Socorro, NM 87801 505/864-4021 X 106 Office, 505/864-7761 Fax

Learning Look-Alikes Order Form

Own the entire series from the *Burrowing Owl*!

Contacts: Laurel Ladwig at BUROWLnm@gmail.com

Beth Hurst-Waitz at 505-508-4942	
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City, State, Zip	
Phone	
	Quantity
Learning Look-Alikes \$25.00 Shipping and handling \$7.00 per notebook	
Total Enclosed \$	

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

The Burrowing Owl newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$15 to nonmembers.



Birdathon! 2011 Reports

We're still receiving donations and tabulating results from all the 2011 teams. Everybody's names will be on our Birdathon Honor Roll in the Fall issue. Meanwhile, we thank you, Donors and Participants, each and every one!



Thursday Birders Birdathon Team

The Thursday Birder Birdathon was held on April 28 and the 22 birders participating in the fund-raising effort for Central New Mexico Audubon did a wonderful job of finding birds on the New Mexico Tech campus, Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains, the nearby Box Canyon, and the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. The group started at 6:30 a.m. and ended at 7:30 p.m. with a record breaking total of 159 species. A spectacular sighting was two Golden Eagles soaring over the Magdalena Mountains and a Northern Parula and Hooded Warbler at New Mexico Tech. The Bosque del Apache was rich with all types of birds.

Not all of the pledges of financial contributions were in by the time The Burrowing Owl went to press but the team is at \$1000 and more is expected.

The team members were Mary Lou Arthur, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Vic and Madelon Brown, Joe and Linda Brown Larry Caldwell, Sylvia Fee, Rebecca Gracey, Dave Hawksworth, Michael Hilchey, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Dave Hutton, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Matt O'Donnell, Ellen Raimer, Joe Schelling, Gary Shirk, Dave Watson and Abby Brown-Watson.

Southestern NM Birdathon Team

Rattlesnake Springs, Bitter Lake NWR, and other southeastern New Mexico birding spots played host to another Birdathon team on the windy weekend of April 30-May 1. In the true spirit of birding camaraderie, birding fun, and birding for a purpose, Sonia Santa Anna and her teammates enjoyed their weekend in the field and also made contributions to CNMAS.

New Mexico Migrant Trap

Despite horrific winds, rain, sleet, and even snow, nine intrepid birders managed to tally a total of 172 species on the May 1st Birdathon. A new CNMAS Birdathon record!!!! The conditions were tough but the birding was fabulous. In the morning at Rattlesnake Springs, after much searching, we were rewarded by fantastic views of a male Painted Bunting perched up and singing. We also managed a quick view of a Gray Hawk dive-bombing a Zone-tailed Hawk! Our next stop was Brantley Lake. The high winds made lake birding quite difficult although we still found most of our target birds and managed to turn up a Sanderling which was nearing full breeding plumage! At the Bitter Lake NWR headquarters we saw a male Nashville Warbler and a few people managed a look at a Gray Catbird. Shorebird numbers on the refuge were fairly low and there was considerable turnover from the day before. We were not able to re-find the Whimbrel, Pectoral Sandpiper, or the Caspian Tern, and one of our biggest misses was Semipalmated Plover, of which there were 15 the day before. After leaving Bitter Lake we headed up in to the mountains around Capitan. Here we added higher

elevation species such as Western Bluebirds and Common Ravens. At the Capitan Wetlands we had awesome looks at Sora and a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Now it was a race against the clock! Could we make it to Bosque del Apache NWR with enough light to see anything? Your answer, yes! In the fading light we managed to pick out a Glossy Ibis feeding with a large number of White-faced and with only minutes to spare, found an adult Little Blue Heron at the refuge rookery. What a trip! We finished the night off with beautiful views of a Western Screech-Owl and then dinner at Socorro Springs Brewing Co. Thank you to everybody who attended the trip and also to those of you who showed your support through your generous pledges. Until next year... Tweet tweet!!

Field Trip Reports

April 23rd: Corrales Bosque with Judy Liddell

Ten individuals, several of whom were new to birding, gathered at the end of East Ella in Corrales on April 23 to look for migrants and new arrivals. We watched an abundance of Wilson's Warblers, just starting to migrate through, joined both 'Audubon's' and 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warblers darting between the top branches of the cottonwood trees. Blackchinned Hummingbirds appeared to be setting up their territory. In addition to numerous Spotted Towhees, we spotted several species of sparrow along the drain: Song, Lincoln's, Chipping, White-crowned and one White-throated. Also seen were American Robins and a Hermit Thrush. Violet-green Swallows swooped over both the drain, as well as the river. In the bosque, one person caught a glimpse of a Virginia's Warbler before it darted into the underbrush. We were surprised by a pair of Cassin's Finches and heard a 'first-of- season Black-headed Grosbeak. We ended the morning with 37 species.

April 30th: Whitfield & Belen with Linda Heinze

Four people, including a couple from Ontario, came on this windy and chilly trip. At Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area highlights included Plumbeous Vireo, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and 5 species of swallows. We finished the day off at Belen Marsh with returning Cinnamon Teal, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and some Wilson's Phalaropes.

May 7th: East Mountain Migrants with Cole Wolf

Seven participants enjoyed a sunny morning with lots of migrants. At Quarai we got excellent looks at a pair of Great Horned Owls and their chicks and saw lots of common warbler species, including the first Yellow-breasted Chats of the year. One sharp-eyed observer found a White-eyed Vireo that the group could not refind. At Manzano Pond a singing male Northern Parula was an unexpected find. To top off the day a Broad-winged Hawk allowed everyone a great (but brief) view at Ojito de San Antonio Open Space before winging its way north. We also spent some time watching a confiding pair of Mountain Chickadees at their nest cavity.



Field Trip Reports, continued...

May 21: King Ranch with Christopher Rustay

Fifteen participants joined Christopher Rustay at the King Ranch in Mora, New Mexico and saw 58 species. A highlight was an Eastern Phoebe at the bridge over the Mora River. Many of the more regular migrants for the northeast were present with an emphasis on flycatchers! 9 Flycatchers were seen during the day with Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird and a probable Alder Flycatcher being the highlights. Views of Lewis's Woodpeckers were also great.

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 www.nm.audubon.org newmexico@audubon.org The President The White House Washington, DC 20500 (202) 456-1111 president@whitehouse.gov Secretary Ken Salazar Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240 (202) 208-3100 www.doi.gov Senator Jeff Bingaman 703 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (800) 443-8658 bingaman.senate.gov Senator Tom Udall **B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building** Washington, DC 20510 505-346-6791 tomudall.senate.gov Congressman Steve Pearce www.house.gov

Congressman Ben R. Lujan 502 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-6190 Congressman Martin T. Heinrich 1505 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-6316 Governor Susana Martinez 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

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.

Name(s)
Address
City, State, Zip
Telephone (with Area Code)
E-mail Address:
The following rates include the <i>National Audubon Magazine</i> and the CNMAS Newsletter the <i>Burrowing Owl</i> . Please check your preference.
☐ \$20 New Member, special introductory rate for one year.
\$30 New Member, special introductory rate for two years.
As part of our commitment to protecting our natural environment we are encouraging members to opt to receive 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.
 I would like to receive the Burrowing Owl online. Be sure to enter your e-mail address on the address section above. I would prefer to receive the Burrowing Owl via printed copy by regular mail.
For the Burrowing Owl Only For annual subscription to the Burrowing Owl within our Chapter area or outside of it: \$\Begin{align*} \\$15.00 (Check delivery choice above.) \]
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Many thanks to Melissa Howard for her superb proofreading skills! I am solely responsible for any errors that remain. - Editor

Don't Let Sammy Be An Assassin



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For more information: www.abcbirds.org/cats/

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.
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Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Fall 2011 issue of

the Burrowing Owl must be received by August 5, 2011. Contact Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871 or BUROWLnm@gmail.com.

We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.



photo by Laurel Ladwig

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

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Central New Mexico Audubon is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Inc.

Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats; and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

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Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

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New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann

505-264-1052, mb687@yahoo.com http://www.nmbirds.org/

http://www.birder.com/birding/alert/index.html

Rosy Finch Project

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

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