

Burrowing Owl

June - August 2013 Vol. 42, No. 3

Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society!

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.

cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

Central New Mexico



Audubon Society

We've Struck Gold: New Meeting Place! New Board Members! New Mascot Logo! New Urban National Wildlife Refuge!

September Program: "Gold In Our Valley"

September 19 – 7 PM

"Jennifer has a great reputation as a refuge manager!" "Jennifer is a top-notch educator!" "Jennifer is such a talented and passionate individual!" "Best of all, Jennifer is a BIRDER!"

Join us at our September meeting to welcome Jennifer Owen-White as refuge manager of the new Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque, which itself claims a first: Valle de Oro is the (so far) only urban refuge in the Southwest. At the site of the former Price's Dairy, it really is Albuquerque's own, located on Second Street south of Rio Bravo. (By the way, CNMAS and Audubon New Mexico were very active participants in meetings throughout 2010 and 2011 leading up to Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's dedication of Valle de Oro.)

Jennifer comes to Albuquerque from down river in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, but she's no stranger to New Mexico birders. Tamie Bulow, Michael Hilchey, Cole Wolf, Raymond VanBuskirk -- and probably many of you readers -- have raised binoculars with Jennifer, maybe at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in South Texas. These and other folks add to Jennifer's praise with quotes like "Fantastic!" "She's well-renowned and well-loved in her community." "Y'all are so lucky!" "AND she's a birder!"

Before taking the position at Valle de Oro, Jennifer was the Refuge Manager at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, a world-renowned birding hotspot. She also served as the Visitor Service manager in charge of all birding and other nature programs and activities at the South Texas Refuge Complex. The South Texas Refuge complex includes Laguna Atascosa NWR (the refuge with the highest bird diversity recorded of all refuges in the nation) and Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR (a corridor refuge protecting over 125 different tracts of land throughout the Southern tip of Texas). Before working for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Jennifer worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife and the World Birding Center at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park and Estero Llano Grande State Park, among others. In her talk Jennifer will share her experiences in South Texas

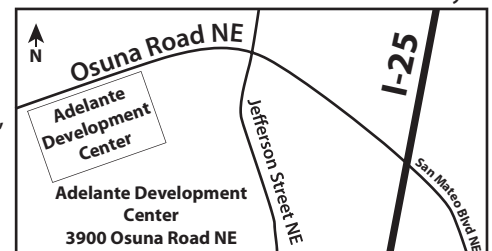
as well as her vision for developing Valle de Oro as a national wildlife refuge, a community mecca, and an education hub. Come join us in giving a warm "Bienvenidos a Nuevo Mexico" to Jennifer and counting yourself among the amigos of this refuge that will reach out to urban audiences and connect them to the important habitats and wildlife that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protects.

Become a "Friend" of Valle de Oro NWR!

The newly formed "Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge" is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation registered with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Besides initial start-up administrative matters, one long-term goal of the new group is to pursue lobbying activities to help raise money for the balance of the land of the Refuge. The Fish and Wildlife Service now owns 390 acres of the available 570 and their goal is to acquire the remaining 180 by July 2014. If you'd like to help them reach that goal by becoming a member of the Friends group, contact Ric Watson, Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, 225 Sunnyslope SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105, ric@edtnm.com For a chance to visit the new Refuge, read the August 22 Thursday Birders listing on page 4.

New Meeting Place!

Starting with our September program, CNMAS will be holding our program meetings in the Community Room at the Adelante Development Center, 3900 Osuna Road NE. The meeting room is accessed right off of their paved and well-lighted parking lot along Osuna. Your board felt that the parking would be more accessible and is conveniently located not far from I-25. Come early for refreshments at 7:00 p.m., announcements and program at 7:15 p.m.



In This Issue

<i>Birdathon reports</i>	2	<i>Thursday Birders & CNMAS Field Trips</i>	4-5	<i>Cats Indoors</i>	6
<i>New CNMAS President, eOwl</i>	3	<i>Science Fair Winners</i>	6	<i>Birds and Beers</i>	7
<i>Field trip report, Belen Marsh</i>	3	<i>Audubon Western River Initiative</i>	6	<i>CNMAS Directory</i>	8



Birdathon! 2013 Reports

EarthBeat Birdathon! Report A Really Big Day!

This spring, Raymond VanBuskirk, Cole Wolf and I set out with one goal in mind: to break the New Mexico Big Day Record of 202 species encountered in a single day. It was an all-out, go hard or go home, taking bird names and kicking little birdy butts kind of day!

The day started in Clanton Canyon in the far southwest corner of the state where we picked up 7 species of night birds and a surprise MEXICAN JAY. At dawn, we found ourselves standing on a bridge overlooking the Gila River. The birds started flying onto the list almost faster than we could count. We managed nearly all of our riparian specialties while missing several important desert and juniper scrub birds (like Gray Vireo and Scaled Quail). By the time we got to Silver City we were a few birds behind schedule but still optimistic about the day.

In the Pinos Altos Mountains we recorded all of our Mountain species like the gorgeous RED-FACED WARBLER and the majestic GREATER PEWEE. But overall we were missing birds, running out of wiggle room and our shot at Big Day glory seemed to be dwindling. As we shot over the Black Range and down into the Rio Grande Valley we were in desperate need of migrant birds, a LOT of them! And to our surprise, that's exactly what we got.

Everything from the weather to the timing (about 10 minutes ahead of schedule!) was perfect and the migrants started to roll in. Percha Dam State Park produced most of the Warblers, Vireos and Flycatchers that we still needed and then it was on to Elephant Butte Lake State Park, where we were met with a flood of shorebirds! We were finding new birds faster than we could yell out their names!

SNOWY and SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, BAIRD'S and WESTERN SANDPIPER! Wait! Take another look at those Westerns! Yep, a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER sneaking around in there with them! SANDERLING! (another good rarity.) MARBLED GODWIT, more WILLETS, both LESSER and GREATER YELLOWLEGS, some lingering SNOW GEESE! Check out that gull on the island, what is it? WHAT! A LESSER BLACK-BACKED?! No way, that's incredible!

We left Elephant Butte with 173 species and only 2.5 hours at Bosque del Apache NWR to find 30 species! It was a long shot but we were determined. We were adding new birds every minute at Bosque! Raymond yells out, "GLOSSY IBIS", and Cole and I each take a 2-second look before jumping back in the Jeep. The car comes to a quick stop a few minutes later and a small warbler flies up out of the road. PALM WARBLER! 194 species! Less than 10 birds away! If we could make it to 198 by the time the sun goes down we'd have a real shot. So it was off around the refuge again! With less than an hour of light left the birds kept rolling in. RING-NECKED PHEASANT (I have never been more happy to see one of these guys), and a FORSTER'S TERN coming in to roost. A CAROLINA WREN just moments before dark. We got back in the car to add up the total. I had to make Cole

double check just in case, but we both came up with the same number: 200! How the, what the.... that's awesome! But before we could finish our astounded outbursts Cole yelled, "CANVAS-BACK!" 201! 201!! We were beside ourselves. 201 species just as the sun went down. One. Single. Bird. away from the record!

Winded, we got back in the car and zoomed off to Alameda Open Space in Albuquerque and within seconds of getting out of the car we heard the squeaky voice of a male WOOD DUCK! We had tied the New Mexico Big Day Record in an instant and then bounced back to the car and headed up to the Sandia Mountains.

At 11:30 pm we got out of the car at Tree Springs Trailhead and started tooting for Northern Saw-Whet Owls. 10 minutes went by, then 15.... then 20.... "Where are they!?" We were starting to get nervous so Cole and Raymond came up with another plan. A complete shot in the dark (literally), they decided to play a Red-breasted Nuthatch tape. No sooner than the first yank came blasting out of the speaker, a half-awake little RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH couldn't help but shoot out a whiney yank in return! None of us could believe it. **203!** Unbelievable!

We still had 10 minutes and we did finally hear a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL at about 11:58 pm: icing on that cake. Or maybe more like a cherry on the icing. Either way an incredible end to an incredible day. For a full report and a species list go to www.highdesertbirding.com and look for the blog post, "A Really Big Day."

-- Michael Hilchey



The Thursday Birders Birdathon

Team Thursday Birders consisted of 17 tireless birders from Albuquerque, Grants, and Waitsfield, Vermont. The group racked up a total of 137 bird species from Sumner Lake, the State Park below Sumner Lake Dam, Bosque Redondo Park, flooded farm fields in Fort Sumner, Melrose Trap, and a BURROWING OWL colony seven miles east of the trap. That stretch of seven miles also produced two SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS!

Other ornithological delights included a BLACKPOLL WARBLER, a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, a SORA far from water at the Melrose Trap, a BROAD-WINGED HAWK, a PEREGRINE FALCON, an OSPREY, a nesting FERRUGINOUS HAWK, a LAZULI BUNTING, an INDIGO BUNTING, a COMMON POORWILL, an EASTERN PHOEBE, an EASTERN KINGBIRD, and a male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Fort Sumner is also the home of the RED-HEADED WOODPECKER and BLUE JAY, which the team was fortunate to see, and not home to the ROCK PIGEON, which was seen once along the highway far from any town.

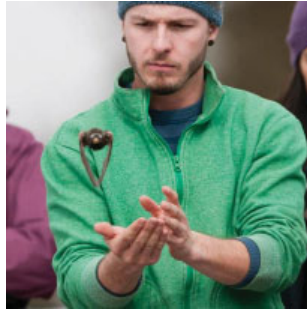
The team members were John Arnold, Ken Babcock, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Larry Caldwell, Pat Folsom, Rebecca Gracey, Kay Jackson, Judy Liddell, Lou Prime, Ellen Raimer, Joe Schelling, Kim Score, Mike Shoop, Bev Silfer, Sei Tokuda, and Sondra Williamson.
-- Rebecca Gracey



Introducing our new CNMAS President!

Thinking back to my very first Central New Mexico Audubon Society field trip, not all that long ago, when I was a young naturalist itching for information on researching and protecting birds, it's hard to believe that here I am today, writing to you as the new President of the society. What an honor and a privilege it is to represent such an amazing organization composed of birders, conservationists, ornithologists, artists, environmentalists and everything in between, all devoted to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems for our beloved birds and wildlife. I owe so much of my success as a birder, field ornithologist, and person to this society and its members, and especially to Beth Hurst-Waitz, former CNMAS President, for introducing me to this society and providing me with the tools I needed to spread my wings and soar in this organization. Of course, I could never fill her spot in the environment we call Audubon but I'm excited to discover my own niche and flourish. It's with excitement and enthusiasm that I begin my journey as your chapter leader, but look to all of you, the Membership, for your support and active involvement in this society's conservation and education projects.

--Raymond VanBuskirk



Field Trip Report

Eleven participants joined Judy Liddell on April 6 to explore Pena Blanca and Cochiti Lake. Highlights of the trip included watching lots of courtship behavior, discovering Long-billed Curlews in a flooded field, and watching the Osprey bringing sticks to rebuild their nest on the platform along the highway. For a full report, see - <http://wingandsong.wordpress.com/2013/04/08/birds-in-breeding-mode-at-pena-blanca-and-cochiti-lake/>

Electronic Burrowing Owl

Got e-mail? We recently expanded our letter-writing campaign so that 610 of you received personal letters asking this question. As of this writing, out of our membership list of 1615, 176 of you have opted for e-mail delivery of the Burrowing Owl. Thank you! By switching to on-line delivery of our newsletter, you're helping us save trees (good for birds) and money (also good for birds, because we now have more to spend on conservation projects which preserve bird habitat)! We respect your choice, whatever it is. But we'd love to see the number rise from less than 11 percent of you. Besides the advantage of saving paper and money, choosing electronic delivery means you can view in color the beautiful artwork and photographs. If this appeals to you, contact Membership Chair Ed Dover at whitecliffs@comcast.net or 242-5427. And even if you do prefer the hard copy, do still share your e-mail with Ed for special notices from us. We keep your information confidential! Cheers and Good Reading!

New CNMAS Logo by L. Wren Walraven!

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to L. Wren Walraven for creating our new beautiful logo!

Bird banding led Wren to begin painting bird portraits over a decade ago. She moved to the Albuquerque area this year and when she saw our single-color logo, she approached now-CNMAS President Raymond VanBuskirk and offered to paint a new colorful one. The beautiful result can be seen in color in the digital version of the *Burrowing Owl* (and black-and-white in the print version.) Treat yourself and check out more of Wren's work at www.happywren.com/

Belen Marsh Task Force Cleans Up While Serenaded by Spring Birds

As I stooped to pick up a piece of trash along Don Felipe Road next to the Belen Marsh, I was serenaded by a chorus of Great-tailed Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds. A Western Meadowlark sang from a utility wire almost above my head. It made the task of picking up after other people's thoughtlessness less painful. I was participating in the semi-annual clean-up with others from the Belen Marsh Task Force and members of Central New Mexico Audubon Society. The task force adopted Don Felipe Road as part of Belen's Adopt a Road effort.

Our interest is trying to keep trash from being a hazard to nesting and migrating birds that depend on the wetlands area. Several years ago when we first started our clean-ups, we were able to remove trash all around the marsh area; however, the Valencia County Fair Board, that manages the property, wants us to limit our efforts to the area next to the street.

I glance up to watch the antics of the Black-necked Stilts and notice one of them standing on a large piece of plastic that has made its way into the pond – and wish I could walk over and remove it. Birds have inadvertently ingested plastic, thinking it was food.



Black-necked Stilt on trash
photo by Judy Liddell

I am most troubled by the preponderance of cigarette butts that litter the roadside every few feet. Despite the high water table in the area, the grasses surrounding the ponds are tinder-dry. It would only take one still-smoldering cigarette to ignite the entire area – putting at risk the nests of Killdeer on the edges of the marsh, as well as the nests of the blackbirds and grackles in the still-dry marsh-reeds. In an hour and a half, the twelve volunteers amassed about 30 bags of trash.

The clean-up day always bring mixed emotions: frustration at having to pick up after the carelessness of others, worry that this 'accidental' wetland won't be preserved, and the joy at being able to experience the sights and sounds of the spring birds all around me.

-- Judy Liddell

<http://wingandsong.wordpress.com/2013/04/30/belen-marsh-task-force-cleans-up-while-serenaded-by-spring-birds/>



AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

Summer 2013

BE AWARE THAT TRIPS MAY BE CANCELED DUE TO CLOSURES FOR FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES. Call the leader if you hear of closures.

JUNE 6

Hike in the Manzano/Four Hills Open Space with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333.

Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Ave. between Juan Tabo and Tramway. The open space is at the end of Stagecoach Road on the east side of the Four Hills community. With luck the Gray Vireo may be encountered. The one-mile walk requires steep climbing in places. The walk will end before noon.

JUNE 13

Visit the Feltz Jemez Mountain cabin near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 505-856-1322, lvfeltz@comcast.net. Many montane bird species may be seen from the deck and nearby meadows. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy. Meet in the center of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$7 at five cents per mile.



JUNE 20

Visit Isleta Marsh, Los Lunas River Park and a heron rookery with Donna Royer: 505-869-6882, dlroyer@earthlink.net. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University. The trip will end before noon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3 at five cents per mile.

JUNE 27

Visit Manzano Pond and Quarai National Monument with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Ave. between Juan Tabo and Tramway. The route will be NM 337 from Tijeras and southwest on NM 55 after 337 ends. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY- No trip planned

JULY 11

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Joe Schelling: 505-797-9018, joeschelling@msn.com. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Tingley Ponds main parking lot, the first turn on Tingley Drive, south of Central Ave. SW. The walk will end before noon.

JULY 18

Visit Capulin Springs in the Sandia Mountains with Sei Tokuda: 505-266-2480, stokuda@juno.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Ave. between Juan Tabo and Tramway. Capulin Springs is a wonderful place to sit and observe the birds coming to the water. A \$3 parking fee or Federal Pass is required per car. The trip will end before noon.

JULY 25

Walk in the Willow Creek Bosque that is part of the Rio Rancho Bosque Open Space with Gary Shirk: 717-330-7063, gshirk748@gmail.com.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Willow Creek Bosque parking lot. For people not living on the west side of the river, drive north on I-25 or NM 313, take the exit to Bernalillo and US 550. Drive west on US 550 to the traffic light where the highway intersects with NM 528. Turn south for 1.8 miles. Turn east at the traffic light on Willow Creek Road. Drive four blocks. After Spruce Mountain Lane, take an unpaved road into an arroyo. Follow it to the parking lot. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

AUGUST 1

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com.

Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. The trip should end in the mid-afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

AUGUST 8

Walk the trails in the Sandias from the Crest to Kiwanis Meadow and other surrounding trails with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Ave. between Juan Tabo and Tramway. The trip should end before noon, but people may want to bring a lunch. A \$3 parking fee or Federal pass is required per car. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3 at five cents per mile.

AUGUST 15

Visit the Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzano Mountains for hummingbirds, bluebirds, a potluck lunch with Bonnie Long, and a celebration of the Simms's 50th wedding anniversary: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Ave. between Juan Tabo and Tramway or 9:50 at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chillili.

Bonnie will provide chicken and meatless enchiladas and iced tea, and everyone else should bring other dishes and drinks. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

To demonstrate our appreciation of the hummingbirds we will see, each person is encouraged to bring a four-pound sack of sugar to give to our hosts.

AUGUST 22

Visit Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. This 570-acre area is the Price's Dairy property that was recently made a refuge. Upland Sandpipers were seen here last year at this time.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson, just west of University. To reach the refuge drive south on I-25, exit on Rio Bravo, and turn south on 2nd Street. Drive 5.4 miles to Salida Sandia on the south end of the refuge. The trip will end before noon.



AUGUST 29

Visit the Balsam Glade Picnic Area in the Sandia Mountains with Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Ave. between Juan Tabo and Tramway. A \$3 parking fee or Federal pass is required per car. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3. The trip will end before noon.

THURSDAY BIRDER TRIP REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Judy Liddell's Blog: www.wingandsong.wordpress.com

Joe Schelling's Blog: <http://joeschelling.wordpress.com> and photo website: www.sandianet.com

Phil Trine's photographs: www.flickr.com/photos/thbirds

NM Rare Bird Alert www.nmbirds.org

Rare Bird Alert for all states www.birdingonthe.net

To report NM rare birds contact Matt Baumann at mb687@yahoo.com, 505-264-1052

eBird To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to www.ebird.com

Click on 'View and Explore Data', then 'Range and Point Maps', then type in the species name and general location.

To get a listing of birds reported in a given location, after clicking on 'View and Explore Date', choose 'Bar Charts', and select the location.

Other Birding Opportunities

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Bird Walks

Join Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park located at the far west end of Candelaria. The walks start at 8:00am May - August. There is a \$3 day-use fee without a State Parks Pass or Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center Pass. Both may be purchased in the visitor's center after 10:00 a.m.



Sandia Mountain Bird Walks

From May through mid October there are Tuesday morning bird walks in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. by taking Exit 175 from I-40 and driving south one half mile on NM 337 to the ranger station on the left.

Southwest Wings Birding & Nature Festival

July 31 - August 3, in Sierra Vista, AZ.

For more information go to www.swwings.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.

CNMAS Weekend Field Trips

Bear Trap Canyon (San Mateo Mountains)

Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21

Leader: Christopher Rustay, chrustay@aol.com

Meet at 3pm on Saturday at the McDonald's in Socorro (off exit 150). We will travel to Bear Trap, camp overnight there, and bird the following morning. Folks must bring their own food for dinner and breakfast and provide their own camping gear. We will be traveling on dirt roads and folks should ensure that they can have enough gas to travel about 150 miles. We will look for species such as Mexican Whip-poor-will, Flammulated Owl, Purple Martin, Red-faced and Grace's Warbler, and Painted Redstart.

Rio Chama from Abiquiu Lake

to Christ in the Desert Monastery

Saturday, August 31

Leader: Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com, 505-271-0912

Explore Forest Road 151 through several different habitats as it winds along the Rio Chama, which serves as a migration corridor in late summer. Potential species include Sage Thrasher, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire and a variety of sparrows. Meet at 7:30 am in the Far North Shopping Center (Academy and San Mateo) north of McDonalds or 9:30 in the parking lot of the Abiquiu Lake visitor center on NM-96. Please call or e-mail Judy prior to the day of the trip to let her know where you will meet the group. Bring a lunch. The trip will end at Abiquiu by mid-afternoon.



Sangre de Cristo Audubon trips

And if you'd like to expand your Summer Field Trip choices, visit the website of our sister Audubon Society, Sangre de Cristo in Santa Fe, at www.NewMexicoAudubon.org/sdcas. They have summer field trips on June 8 at Pritzlaff Ranch, July 20 at American Springs/Water Canyon above Los Alamos, and August 4 at Watrous/Valmora Road. Check them out and be sure to contact the leader if you're interested!

A different kind of "field trip"

Saturday, July 27: Our friends at New Mexico Volunteers For The Outdoors are spearheading a project at The Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary (located at 1800 Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501). The project will run all day, with its objective being trail maintenance and possibly a bit of new trail construction. If you've hiked the trails at Randall Davey -- and we hope you have! -- you'll appreciate this unique opportunity. Do bring binoculars! Meet 8:00 am at Randall Davey; work usually "knocks off" around 4:00 pm, but you can leave whenever you need to. This is considered light-duty trail maintenance; tools and equipment are provided. Bring water, sunscreen, bag lunch. All interested volunteers, please contact Chris Fritzsche, our "trail boss," by email to sign up for the project: fritzsche.christopher@gmail.com. He needs a general idea of group size and your contact information. Prior to the project he will disseminate pertinent project requirements and information.



CNMAS 2013 Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to all of you! Two students from the Senior Division and two from the Junior Division were each awarded a \$50 check and a year's subscription to Burrowing Owl for their entries in the North West Regional Science Fair. These funds come from our general operating account and are earmarked by our Budget Committee for our Education Fund. As far as we can tell from our records, we started giving these awards in 1993 -- making this our 20-year anniversary! If anyone is as inspired by this project and these kids as we are, become an "Audubon Angel" by earmarking a special donation to the Science Fair.

And the winners are

Hanna M. Harper, Senior Division, "The Nitrate Nuisance"

Nicole A. Klein, Senior Division, "The Environmental Effects of Fertilizers on Plants"

Elena A. Rivera, Junior Division, "Leaping Lizards"

Paloma C. Ortega, Junior Division, "More Than Just a Parking Spot: Can Residue From Parking Lots Kill Aquatic Life Nearby?"

Congratulations and good luck to these deserving winners and to all those students who pursue knowledge with curiosity, enthusiasm, humor, and their own personal sense of awe.

We appreciate and acknowledge this year's volunteer judges for the CNMAS awards: Ron Waitz, Dave Hutton, and Steve Valasek. It's a fun and inspiring project, and we're committed to continuing our involvement and our awards next year.

(YOUR) Cat Indoors

(is healthier, happier, and obeying the law!)

It's a fact: Albuquerque's "Humane and Ethical Animal Rules and Treatment (HEART) Ordinance finds that the people of Albuquerque should



treat animals as more than just lifeless inanimate chattel property and recognizes that the relationship between human beings and animals is a special relationship that improves people's lives and reflects basic humanitarian beliefs."

It's the law: Yes, the leash law under the HEART ordinance applies to domestic cats: "(A) Leash Law. All Animals, other than wild Animals not owned by any human, must be restricted at all times by either a Secure Fence, a Secure Facility, a Secure Enclosure ... be on a leash no longer than 8 feet long accompanied by a person able to control the Animal."

It's a common-sense and scientific finding: "(H) The Council further finds that spayed and neutered animals are less likely to run loose ... Most importantly, altered animals do not add to the animal overpopulation problem. Altered animals are less likely to end up at animal shelters that have no other option but to destroy those animals."

Audubon's Western Rivers Initiative

If you're like most folks, your inbox is filled with petitions to help protect this or that. Truthfully, so is this article -- but in a first-hand experiential, fun way!

SAVE THE DATES!

9th Annual Gila River Festival

September 19 - 22, 2013

Experience it! Four days of guided hikes, birding, fishing, native plants, kayaking, river restoration workshops, New Mexico Rivers film fest, and a keynote speaker presentation by Kenneth Brower. Ken is the son of David Brower (1912-2000), called by some "the second coming of John Muir." In his time, David Brower directed and/or founded half a dozen conservation organizations (including Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, Earth Island Institute); worked to protect iconic places such as the Grand Canyon and the California redwood forests; helped establish some half dozen national parks and seashores, made films, published books, and was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize. *The Wildness Within: Remembering David Brower* is writer and environmentalist Kenneth Brower's tribute to his father a century after his birth.

Protecting the Gila River from a proposed dam is one of three major river restoration/protection projects supported by our New Mexico Audubon State Office, all four New Mexico Audubon chapters and our statewide members, plus a broad-based network of fellow organizations and individuals. The Gila River is New Mexico's last major free-flowing river, and it is under threat from a large-scale diversion and pipeline over the Continental Divide to Deming or Las Cruces. What's at stake is the largest contiguous stretch of multiaged cottonwood-willow riparian forest remaining in New Mexico; one of the highest concentrations of breeding birds in North America; an important flyway and breeding grounds for priority bird species like Bell's Vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and Common Black-Hawk; and a living river that supports outdoor recreation and tourism, the state's second largest industry.

So here's your chance to help Audubon's Western Rivers Initiative by signing up as an activist at www.audubonaction.org/westernrivers-nm, and to experience and enjoy what you're signing up to protect. Mark your calendars now to attend the 9th Annual Gila River Festival, Gila Conservation Coalition, www.gilasonervation.org, 575.538.8078, info@gilaconservation.org

Our sister chapter SWNM Audubon in Silver City is closest to this issue in location and activism. See their position paper at our website under the 'Conservation' tab.

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.



!!BIRDS and BEERS!!

Birds and Beers! events continue, and if YOU'RE interested in birds and birding in the Albuquerque area, then YOU'RE invited!

WHO? Anyone who is interested in birds and birding

WHAT? **Birds and Beers** - Informal gathering sponsored by New Mexico Ornithological Society and CNMAS
Bring bird photos on a jump drive if you have some to share; be prepared to share with your peers; be ready for fun (like bird I.D. quizzes and contests); come hungry and thirsty!

WHERE? **O'Niell's - Event Space**, 4310 Central SE (Nob Hill) Albuquerque, NM 87108 <http://oniells.com/> (park around back off of Washington St.)

WHEN? The last Tuesday of the month 5:00 p.m. - ??? (any planned activities will start at 6:00)

FROM: Dave Krueper & Janet Ruth, NMOS; Raymond Van-Buskirk, CNMAS; Robert Munro, CNMAS and O'Niell's

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 Audubon Office
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 983-4609 <http://nm.audubon.org>
newmexico@audubon.org
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-3100, www.doi.gov
Senator Tom Udall
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
505-346-6791 tomudall.senate.gov
Senator Martin Heinrich
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone Number: (202) 224-5521
<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>
Congressman Steve Pearce
www.house.gov (202) 224-3121

Congressman Ben R. Lujan
(202) 225-6190
[Congressman Michelle Lujan Grisham](mailto:CongressmanMichelleLujanGrisham@lujangrisham.house.gov)
lujangrisham.house.gov
Governor Susana Martinez
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 476-2200
US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue, SW, ABQ, 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
www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html
Friends of RGNC
friends@rgnc.org, www.rgnc.org
Wildlife Rescue (505)344-2500
<http://www.wrinm.org/>

Contacting National Audubon

For questions regarding magazines, national mailings, premiums (calendars, tote bags, etc), address changes for national mailing, requests for removals from mailing lists, or any other membership issues, please contact Audubon's Customer Service Partner, Palm Coast Data (PCD) at (800) 274-4201 or audubon@emailcustomerservice.com. Audubon is now providing service six days a week (Mondays-



Audubon

Fridays 8a.m.-9p.m.,
Saturdays 9a.m.-6p.m.
Eastern Standard
Time) through PCD.

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 *National Audubon Magazine* and the CNMAS Newsletter the *Burrowing Owl*. 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:

- \$15.00 (Check delivery choice above.)

For this subscription make checks payable to **CNMAS, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002.**

Thanks to the Typo Wranglers, Beth Hurst-Waitz and Melissa Howard, from the Production Wrangler. Any errors that remain are my own.



Silhouette Challenge!

Email the name of the species in silhouette on page 4 to BUROWLnm@gmail.com by August 5, 2013
Winners announced in the Autumn issue!

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in the Autumn 2013 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by August 5, 2013.

Contact Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871 or BUROWLnm@gmail.com.



photo by Laurel Ladwig

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Post Office Box 30002
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002
NAS Chapter C1ZQ510Z

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
Albuquerque, NM



Central New Mexico Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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."*

CNMAS DIRECTORY

CNMAS Phone (505)255-7622 Email jmyers@peacocklaw.com

Webpage <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/>
CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

PRESIDENT

Raymond VanBuskirk newmexicobirder@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 jliddell@msn.com

TREASURER

Lee Hopwood PLHopwood@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Cole Wolf colejwolf@gmail.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Beth Hurst-Waitz (505)508-4942 cell: (505)259-0709 brave_e@juno.com

CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Michael Hilchey (505)228-7439 leucosticte@gmail.com

Jeffrey Myers work (505)998-1502 jmyers@peacocklaw.com

CATS INDOORS CAMPAIGN

Sara Jayne Cole saracole6813@comcast.net

Mikal Deese mikaldeese@aol.com

BURROWING OWL

PRODUCTION WRANGLER

Laurel Ladwig BUROWLnm@gmail.com

CONTENT WRANGLER

Beth Hurst-Waitz (505)508-4942 cell: (505)259-0709 brave_e@juno.com

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

Lynn Lorrain Schuler cnmasgrants@gmail.com

Eileen Beaulieu dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net

Helen Haskell PO Box 36741, Alb. 87176-6741 cnmasgrants@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

Cole Wolf colejwolf@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)

Ed Dover 1421 San Carlos SW, Alb. 87104-1040 (505)242-5427
whitecliffs@comcast.net

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Lynn Lorrain Schuler onthepulse@msn.com

Lee Hopwood PLHopwood@gmail.com

PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

Adrienne Warner birdinginfo@gmail.com

WEBSITE UPDATES

Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 jliddell@msn.com

Cole Wolf colejwolf@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Robert Munro (505)730-7762 robert.munro@earthlink.net

Jason Kitting (505)379-6075 jrkitting@yahoo.com

Adrienne Warner birdinginfo@gmail.com

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL

President - Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 jliddell@msn.com

Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

Call before you intervene: 281-1133 or 281-1515

New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann 505-264-1052, mb687@yahoo.com
<http://www.nmbirds.org/>

Rosy-Finch Project

Alan Mickelson (505)281-3471 gonefishin820@earthlink.net
<http://www.rosyfinch.com/>

Wildlife Rescue

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