

# Burrowing Owl

June - August 2014 Vol. 43, 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](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)

**Central New Mexico**



**Audubon Society**

## Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds

It's official! Albuquerque has just been named as the latest partner city in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds, a program working with cities and partners to conserve migratory birds through education, hazard reductions, citizen science, conservation actions, and conservation and habitat improvement strategies in urban/suburban areas. Central New Mexico Audubon is one of the primary local partners which include Albuquerque Open Space, Open Space Alliance, Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center, and Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Watch for details of CNMAS involvement in our autumn issue.

The goals of the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds are:

- Protect, restore, and enhance urban/suburban habitats for birds
- Reduce hazards to birds
- Educate and engage citizens in monitoring, caring about, and advocating for birds and their conservation
- Foster youth environmental education with a focus on birds
- Manage invasive species to benefit and protect birds
- Increase awareness of the value of migratory birds and their habitats, especially for their intrinsic, ecological, recreational, and economic significance

*"The Urban Bird Treaty program is dedicated to conserving birds in or passing through our cities. Each of us makes decisions in our daily lives that have the potential to either help or harm wildlife. In the case of birds, it can be something as simple as keeping pet cats inside, turning off the lights of a high-rise office building at night, buying shade-grown coffee, and being sure to choose bird-friendly native plants for a backyard or schoolyard garden. Cities can become effective sanctuaries for birds and other wildlife, with an environmentally aware citizenry dedicated to conserving and enhancing natural resources. Urban Bird Treaties can help cities enhance the livability for the migratory birds that nest, overwinter, or pass through municipal and urban/suburban neighborhoods. This is not only good for the birds, but also for the quality of life of people living in and visiting our cities."*

—Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds Program Handbook

For more information, 'Like' ABQ Urban Bird Treaty - <https://www.facebook.com/ABQurbanbirdtreaty>

<https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/Partnerships/UrbanTreaty/urbantreaty.html>



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## We Are Honored and Humbled ...

by the generosity of Dean Rudoy. In a sweeping gesture of philanthropy, Mr. Rudoy has donated \$20,000 to the Ryan Beau-lieu Memorial Education Fund administered by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, thus assuring its viability beyond our lifetimes and into future generations. The Board handles the fund as an endowment, in accordance with the wishes of the family and previous donors, and thus the "seed" amount is ever protected. The award amount is issued from the interest or profit from the base fund. With the Scholarship Fund value now in the range of \$50,000, it is humbling and exciting to envision making a difference in young people's lives and in our planet's future, too. We thank you, Mr. Rudoy, for your gift and for your vision.

## Belen Marsh Cleanup Day

On Saturday, April 5, twelve people -- members of the Belen Marsh Task Force and other CNMAS members -- volunteered as the Belen Marsh Spring Cleanup Crew and spent a few hours picking up trash on Don Felipe Road in Belen. The road runs parallel to the Belen Marsh. The crew worked hard and picked up over 22 bags of trash. In addition, one member found a \$50 dollar bill and another almost mistakenly picked up a dead cat. The weather was perfect as the winds had not yet begun. While picking up the trash members had a chance to do some bird watching.. The American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts were out in full force to be enjoyed. We also had the privilege of having Belen's new mayor Jerah Cordova join us. The next cleanup day will take place in October.



## It's Not Just For Ducks!

New Refuge System habitat acquisition for \$15 a year -- what a bargain! With free access to those National Wildlife Refuges, too! Whether you hunt, bird, photograph, collect, or conserve, the so-called "Duck Stamp" has been a boon to our National Wildlife Refuge system since 1958.

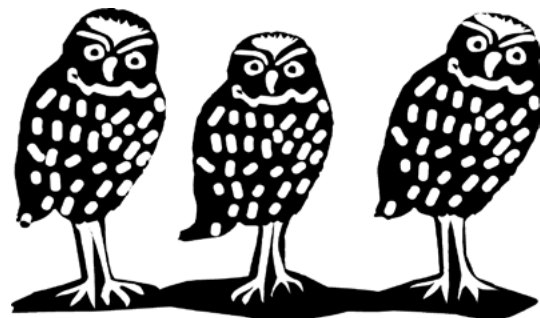
A bargain at \$15, fully ninety-eight cents of each dollar spent on a stamp goes directly to land acquisition (and immediate related expenses) for national wildlife refuges. This \$15 purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.

It's much more than ducks (though waterfowl hunters have long been the main supporters for the program—the stamps are a requirement for anyone over 16 who wants to hunt). But the funds benefit scores of other bird species, including shore-birds, herons, raptors, and songbirds, not to mention reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, native plants, and more.



Save wetlands; save grasslands. Since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used stamp revenues to protect "waterfowl production areas"—to the tune of 3 million acres—within the critical Prairie Pothole Region. The same program also protects declining prairie-nesting birds in the face of increasing loss of grasslands. As a result, refuges are among the best places to find grassland specialties such as Bobolinks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Clay-colored Sparrows, Sedge Wrens, and others.

A migratory bird stamp is a free pass for an entire year to all refuges that charge for admission—so your \$15 could even save you money. Buy your stamp at [usps.com](http://usps.com) after June 30th and save yourself a trip to the post office! Then go birding at your favorite National Wildlife Refuge!



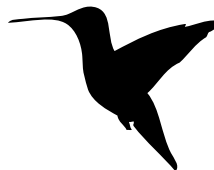


## Speak up now!

### Tell why we love & protect birds!

by the CNMAS Cats Indoors Committee

In 1997, the Central New Mexico Audubon Society first published articles in the Burrowing Owl newsletter about the negative impact on birds of free-roaming cats. We were not the only organization to get on board with scientific studies about domestic cat predation on wildlife. New Mexico Wild and Hawks Aloft joined with the American Bird Conservancy telling people to care for both their cats and wildlife by keeping Cats Indoors. Almost 20 years later, why are we still writing the same articles that begin with how the author loves cats, cite the latest studies on cat predation, and end by asking everyone to join in keeping their cats indoors? While cat populations nationwide have multiplied and feral cats have become part of the neighborhood, wildlife habitat has shrunk into islands in urban parks and backyards. Birds are even more vulnerable to cat predation! Those interested in bird conservation need a new approach. We know that 75% of the birds that fledge this year will not survive their first year! We know that habitat loss is huge and that the drought is causing more stress for birds. Feral cats receive more help than ever as their numbers grow. Cat care-takers think with their hearts, rather than responding to scientific research. The conservation community has not done enough to tell the world why we love and protect birds. We birders must speak from our hearts and tell someone every day why we love each bird species! Why do birds matter to us? Why is each and every species special? Why do these amazing creatures, who have flown thousands of miles to summer homes, deserve a place to rest and raise their young, free from non-native predators? Why do birds deserve protection even more than cats? Why do we care so much? Why should they care too? Let's not let another 20 years pass hoping that people will snap to all that scientific data. Let your heart speak with action and words! If we don't try a new approach, we will watch more birds join the Passenger Pigeon on the list of extinct species. The birds we love cannot afford for us to keep going down the same path for another 20 years. Now is the time for everyone who truly loves birds to start telling the civic leaders that Free-Roaming Cats can no longer be tolerated in our City.



## New Mexico True video

### "Migration"

The New Mexico Tourism Department recently released a webisode in its "New Mexico True Stories" series. The video, titled "Migration," follows Taos photographer Chris Dahl-Bredine as he flies with some of the birds that make their way down the Rio Grande corridor.

See the video at <http://bit.ly/WatchNMTrueStories>

## We bet you've noticed --

### Hummingbirds are back!!!

#### Hummingbird Feeding Tips!

**NECTAR SOLUTION** 4 parts water to 1 part sugar (no sugar substitutes or honey). Mix with warm or hot water and stir to dissolve sugar. (You may also boil the solution.) Let cool. You can keep unused nectar in the refrigerator. Do not add red dye. It is unnecessary and there are studies that indicate it is harmful to hummingbirds.

**KEEP NECTAR FRESH** It is a good idea to change the nectar every 2-3 days in the summertime even if the hummingbirds haven't consumed all the nectar. Nectar can spoil quickly in the heat. Be sure to change the nectar any time that it looks cloudy or if ants or other insects have gotten into it. An ant moat filled with water will keep ants out of your feeder.

**KEEP FEEDERS CLEAN** Sugar water creates mold, so even rinsing your feeders each time you fill them will not be enough to make sure they are really clean. There are special hummingbird brushes available to use in cleaning out the little holes of the feeding ports. If you get stubborn areas that won't clean with scrubbing you can soak the feeder in a very mild solution of bleach and water. Be sure to rinse thoroughly before refilling the feeder with nectar.



## Loving Hummingbirds to Death

Posted by: Kimberly Mason on June 8, 2012

condensed from <http://www.almostdailynews.com>

/2012/06/08/hummingbirds-dont-love-them-to-death/

Hummingbirds are easy to attract to a backyard garden, a cinch to keep well fed, and a joy to watch. These sparkling jewels of summer are easy to love.

But if you don't take proper care to provide healthy nectar and clean feeders, they're also an easy bird to love to death.

Hummingbird feeders must be kept clean and free from mold and fungus, or the tiny hum-buzzers you so enjoy could develop a serious and deadly fungus infection. This infection causes the tongue to swell, making it impossible for the bird to feed. Starvation is a slow and painful death.

But, just in case you need more motivation to keep your feeders clean, think of the children. A mother hummingbird can pass a fungal infection to her babies — who will also die of starvation.

Fermented nectar creates liver damage, which will also cause death. When you go on vacation this summer, take down your feeders or leave your feeders in the care of a trusted neighbor.



## AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE SUMMER 2014

TO CHECK FOR POSSIBLE TRIP CANCELLATIONS, visit the Audubon web site: [www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas](http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas). Click on TRIPS, then go to THURSDAY BIRDERS.

**JUNE 5** · Visit the Feltz family's Jemez Mountain cabin near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 505-856-1322, [lvfeltz@comcast.net](mailto: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 Boulevard. 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 12** · Walk in Tunnel Canyon south of Tijeras with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, [lfneely@aol.com](mailto:lfneely@aol.com). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station on NM 337 to carpool 2.2 miles south to the canyon. (Tunnel canyon is north of Otero Canyon.) Nesting Black-chinned Sparrows were seen here last summer. The group will walk one mile and the trip will end before noon.

**JUNE 19** · Visit Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, [wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com](mailto:wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com). This 570-acre area is the Price's Dairy property that is now an urban refuge. The Bobolink was seen at the refuge last year at this time. Meet at 7:19 a.m. for a 7:29 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson SE, just west of University Boulevard or 7:50 at the refuge. To reach the refuge, drive south on I-25, exit on Rio Bravo, and turn south on 2nd Street. Drive 3.2 miles to the parking area by the refuge mailbox. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.00. The trip will end before noon.

**JUNE 26** · Visit the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center in Cedar Crest with Melissa Howard: 505-286-9365, [nmflicker@swcp.com](mailto:nmflicker@swcp.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard or 8:30 at the Center located in Cedar Crest, 2.6 miles from the I-40 exit, on Columbine Road, just north of Coffee at Dawn. The Center consists of 128 acres owned by the Albuquerque Public Schools and borders the Cibola National Forest. The group will walk 1.5 miles on fairly flat trails. The walk will end before noon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1 at five cents per mile.

**JULY 3** · Tour the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro, NM, with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, [maryrebecca-gracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebecca-gracey@gmail.com). Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson SE and University Boulevard. Bring Lunch. The trip should end in the late afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

**JULY 10** · Walk among the Tijeras Pueblo Ruins at the Sandia District Ranger Station with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, [brhussey@flash.net](mailto:brhussey@flash.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the ranger station located .5 of a mile from exit 175 from I-40 on NM 337. The group will walk about 1/3 of a mile along the interpretive trail and the outing will end by 11:00 a.m.

**JULY 17** · Travel to Villaneuva State Park on the Pecos River with

Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, [moemackey@comcast.net](mailto:moemackey@comcast.net). Meet at 6:50 for a 7:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. The park is 65 miles east on I-40 and 20 miles north on NM 3. There is a \$5 entrance fee per car if one does not have a State Parks Pass. Bring lunch. The trip should end in mid afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$8 at five cents per mile.

**JULY 24** · Visit the Balsam Glade Picnic Area and Capulin Springs in the Sandia Mountains with Donna Royer: 505-463-7380, [pumaroja@hotmail.com](mailto:pumaroja@hotmail.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. A \$3 parking fee or Federal pass is required per car. The group will walk a half-mile in the Balsam Glade area and then will sit quietly at Capulin Springs while waiting for the birds to visit the water. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3. The trip will end before noon.

**JULY 31** · Visit the Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzano Mountains for hummingbirds, bluebirds, and a potluck meal with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, [cantrade\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:cantrade_1@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway or 9:50 at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chilili where Bonnie will meet people. An event at the lunch will be the celebration of Les Hawkins's 100th birthday. Bonnie will provide chicken enchiladas, cheese 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.

**AUGUST 7** · Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Leah Henzler: 505-293-0191, [lfcairns@gmail.com](mailto:lfcairns@gmail.com). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Tingley Ponds main parking lot by the concession building. Take the first right turn from Tingley Drive, south of Central Avenue SW. The walk will end before noon.

**AUGUST 14** · Visit Cienega Canyon in the Sandias with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. The group will park in the lower parking lot in Cienega Canyon and walk up the road to the spring at the upper parking lot and back for a total of 1.5 miles. A \$3 parking fee or Federal pass is required per car. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1.50 at five cents per mile. The trip will end before noon.

**AUGUST 21** · Walk in the Corrales bosque and view the Mississippi Kites in Corrales with Joe Schelling: 505-797-9018, [joeschelling@msn.com](mailto:joeschelling@msn.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the shopping area north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of NM 448/Coors/Corrales Road. The parking lot is across Alameda Boulevard from McDonald's on the south. Participants should park away from the businesses. The group will carpool from there. All are invited to have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

**AUGUST 28** · Rio Chama from Abiquiu Lake to Christ in the Desert Monastery with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com). Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the center of the parking lot in the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy Boulevard. The group will explore the riparian area below Abiquiu Dam that often hosts a



plethora of migrating species in late August and then head to Forest Road 151 west of Abiquiu Lake as far as Christ in the Desert Monastery where potential species include Sage Thrasher, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire and a variety of sparrows. Bring lunch. The trip should end in the late afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$13 at five cents per mile.

#### THURSDAY BIRDER TRIP REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Judy Liddell's Blog: [www.wingandsong.wordpress.com](http://www.wingandsong.wordpress.com)

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

NM Rare Bird Alert: [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)

Rare Bird Alerts for all states: [www.birdingonthe.net](http://www.birdingonthe.net)

To report NM Rare Birds, contact Matt Baumann at 264-1052 or [mb687@yahoo.com](mailto:mb687@yahoo.com)

## eBird

To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org). Click on 'Explore Data', then 'Range and Point Maps', and type in the species name and general location. To obtain

current information on eBird Hotspot sightings, use Hotspot Explorer on the Explore Data tab and enter the name of the Hotspot. Or, use the Find Nearby Hotspots on the BirdsEye app.

## Other Birding Opportunities

### Sandia Mountain Bird Walks

May through early October, TUESDAY MORNING GUIDED BIRD WALKS in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. Birders meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station, 11776 Highway 337, in Tijeras, N.M. Take Exit 175 from I-40 and drive south one half mile on NM 337 to the ranger station on the left.

### 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 Road NW in Albuquerque. The walks start at 8:30 a.m. all year. 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.

### Summer Wings Festival

#### at Rio Grande Nature

#### Center State Park

Saturday, August 2

Visit the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center's website at [rgnc.org](http://rgnc.org) for more information.



### SOUTHWEST WINGS BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

July 31 – August 2, in Sierra Vista, AZ. For more information go to [www.swwings.org](http://www.swwings.org).

## 10TH ANNUAL GILA RIVER FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2014

"Celebrating America's First Wilderness River" is this year's theme, and the Festival will commemorate two momentous wilderness milestones: Nationally, we'll join with conservationists across the country to honor the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary. Locally in New Mexico, we'll celebrate the Gila Wilderness Area's 90th anniversary and the Gila River Festival's 10th anniversary -- and the Gila River, of course!

Dave Foreman, named by Audubon Magazine in 1998 as one of the 100 Champions of Conservation of the 20th Century, is the keynote speaker. The Festival will continue to feature expert-guided hikes on wilderness, native plants, endangered fish, birds, flora and fauna galore, plus the Gila River kayak trip, The Wilderness Film Festival, and more.

Mark your calendars NOW, then go online to:

[www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org) for more information and to register.

## Weekend Field Trips

### Sat. June 7 – Orilla Verde Recreation Area

Leader – Judy Liddell – [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com)

(505)220-7998

Explore birds along the Rio Grande in the southern-most part of the new Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and an Important Bird Area. We will explore birds in a variety of habitats. Nesting species include Plumbeous Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Canyon and Rock Wren, among others. Meet at the west end of the gas station across from Sandia Casino at 5:30 to carpool or in front of the Visitor Center at Pilar at 7:30. Bring lunch. For those interested, we will explore the plateau area west of the gorge and the Rio Grande Gorge Rest Area in the afternoon. For those carpooling from Albuquerque, please pay your driver \$15 (approximately 300 miles round trip at \$.05 mi.).

**CNMAS General Membership meetings are in hiatus until September. Enjoy your birding, enjoy your summer, join us again in September for a new lineup of great programs by interesting speakers!**

*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.*



## STUDENTS, CNMAS, AND THE FUTURE: ALL WINNERS IN SCIENCE FAIR

Central New Mexico Audubon Society was formed 43 years ago in August, and for 32 of those years, since 1983, we have been participating in judging and awarding prizes in the Central New Mexico Science & Engineering Research Challenge (Science Fair).

Thanks to our six enthusiastic judges this year, that tradition continues. We send our appreciation to Dave Hutton, who was the chief judge and organizer, and to the full complement of judges: Stephanie Botsford, Sara Jayne Cole, Mikal Deese, Peter Kelling, and Teresa Skiba.

We extend appreciation and encouragement to EVERY teacher and student who presented at the Science Fair, from whom our judges could (alas) choose only four winning entries, two in the Junior Division and two in the Senior Division. The students themselves each receive a \$50 check from CNMAS, plus a year's complimentary subscription to The Burrowing Owl and the Audubon-New Mexico State Newsletter. Team members on the same project split their award. We encourage you to check the CNMAS Website later in June to read the abstracts of these award-winning projects.

Congratulations to these Winners:

### SENIOR DIVISION

Ashley M. Dusenbery, Sue Cleveland High School  
"The Negative Impact of the Salt Cedar on the Rio Grande Bosque Ecosystem"

Team Members Eli J. Echt-Wilson and Albert N. Zuo, La Cueva High School

"Using Computer Processing To Model Tree Growth Based on Local Environmental Variables"

### JUNIOR DIVISION

Destiny A.A. Holien, Hope Christian  
"Producing Food in a Water-Scarce Environment"

Natalie M. Gannon, Jefferson Middle School  
"Bat Ecology: Are Bats Active in Winter?"

## CNMAS Welcomes New Recording Secretary - Jessica Rose Allen to the Board

She says, "From a very young age, I could reliably be found in the great outdoors: playing in the grass; climbing trees; marveling at birds; examining ecological interactions; completely consumed and utterly enthralled by the natural world. Now that I am a senior biology student at UNM, not much has changed. I have found my niche in ornithology and ecology with an inherent passion for conservation. I am honored to receive such a kind welcome from the CNMAS board and am excited to contribute my part to the work of this brilliant organization."

## Beautiful Images, Interesting Data:

· Do you love space images? Do you love our National Parks? In honor of National Parks Week in April, NASA created a gallery of satellite images of ten national park lands. These picturesque views remind us why national parks are so special - and why similar places need to be protected. Check out the site and be impressed (and fall in love again with White Sands National Park!): [earthobservatory.nasa.gov](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov)

· It's all about us (well at least these 12 pages): "Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis" is a bi-annual addendum issued by the USFWS to its much-respected "National Survey on Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" -- that's where we birders come in! At only a little more than a dozen pages, active birders and those interested in birding business will learn a lot by perusing this updated 2014 report. For instance: We number 18 million "away-from-home birders" and 41 million "around-the-home birders." I found that the best way to find the article was simply to type "Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis" in the search bar, then choose.

## !!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**, 3301 Juan Tabo (In front of Defined Fitness just north of Candelaria) **NEW LOCATION!**


<http://oniells.com/>

(park around back off of Washington St.)


WHEN? Usually the last Tuesday of the month 5:00 p.m. - ???

(any planned activities will start at 6:00) Be sure to check the CNMAS website for date and location details in upcoming months  
FROM: Dave Krueper & Janet Ruth, NMOS; Raymond Van-Buskirk, CNMAS; Robert Munro, CNMAS and O'Niell's

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




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.



**CATS INDOORS!**  
The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats

**For more information:**  
[www.abcbirds.org/cats/](http://www.abcbirds.org/cats/)



## Burrowing Owl Digital Edition

**EXTRA!! EXTRA!!**

We now have an extra-special digital edition of the Burrowing Owl, so that YOU, Dear Reader, will be tempted, cajoled, influenced, and otherwise persuaded to switch to on-line delivery. Besides having all the "extras" delivered to your inbox, you'll be helping us to save trees (good for birds) and money (also good for birds, because then we'll have more to spend on conservation projects which preserve bird habitat!)

Check out our new digital edition for more articles, including...

- Color artwork! (who doesn't want to see more colorful birds?)
- Extra pages of news

Contact Membership Chair Ed Dover at [whitecliffs@comcast.net](mailto:whitecliffs@comcast.net) or 242-5427 to say, "Yes, Please switch my subscription to on-line delivery!"

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.

### Whom to Contact

National Audubon Society  
 Membership Hotline (800) 274-4201,  
[chadd@audubon.org](mailto:chadd@audubon.org)  
 Activist Hotline (800) 659-2622  
 Audubon Take Action  
[www.audubonaction.org/audubon/](http://www.audubonaction.org/audubon/)  
 New Mexico Audubon Office  
 Randall Davey Audubon Center  
 P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
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 Washington, DC 20510  
 505-346-6791 [tomudall.senate.gov](mailto: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](http://www.house.gov) (202) 224-3121

Congressman Ben R. Lujan  
 (202) 225-6190  
[Congressman Michelle Lujan Grisham](http://Congressman Michelle Lujan Grisham)  
[lujangrisham.house.gov](http://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](http://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  
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[www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)  
 Rio Grande Nature Center State Park  
 (505) 344-7240  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/)  
[riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html](http://riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html)  
 Friends of RGNC  
[friends@rgnc.org](http://friends@rgnc.org), [www.rgnc.org](http://www.rgnc.org)  
 Wildlife Rescue (505)344-2500  
<http://www.wrinm.org/>


### Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in the Autumn 2014 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by August 5, 2014.

Contact Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871 or [BUROWLnm@gmail.com](mailto:BUROWLnm@gmail.com).



photo by Laurel Ladwig



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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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.*

CNMAS' *Burrowing Owl* newsletter is delivered digitally via email. Please be sure to enter your e-mail address above.

**For the *Burrowing Owl* Only**

For annual subscription to the *Burrowing Owl* within our Chapter area or outside of it:

- \$15.00 **Digital *Burrowing Owl* subscription**

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.



## 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](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com). Audubon is now providing service six days a week (Mondays-Fridays 8a.m.-9p.m., Saturdays 9a.m.-6p.m. EST) through PCD.



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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)

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

#### New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann 505-264-1052, [mb687@yahoo.com](mailto:mb687@yahoo.com)

<http://www.nmbirds.org/>

#### Rosy-Finch Project

Alan Mickelson (505)281-3471 [gonefishin820@earthlink.net](mailto:gonefishin820@earthlink.net)

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

#### Wildlife Rescue

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

#### Wild Bird Rescue in Corrales, Rio Rancho, or Sandoval County

ON A WING AND A PRAYER, Corrales NM, 505-897-0439





**Welcome to the digital edition of the Burrowing Owl with extra pages of content.**

Digital Extras

Science Fair Winner Abstract

page 10

Costa Rica Fundraising Tour

last page

## IN THE FIELD: PLAYBACKS REVISITED

Some birding debates seem to go on forever, such as the appropriateness of playing recorded birdsongs in the field. Indeed, some birders in the field today began the practice and the discussion when cassette tapes were a novelty and an innovation.

But today, it is even easier to access and play bird recordings in the field. Indeed, perhaps it is too easy, or simply too tempting.

The American Birding Association's Code of Ethics recommends that birders "limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area."

This may still seem vague to some folks, or leave certain circumstances unaddressed.

As Mel White recently summarized in a National Geographic blog: "Even in the field, in some situations it may be better to use recordings than not. What's more disruptive, for instance: To play a song and quickly and briefly bring a bird into view so that a group can see it, or to have a dozen people walking around near a nesting site for 20 minutes trying to find it?"

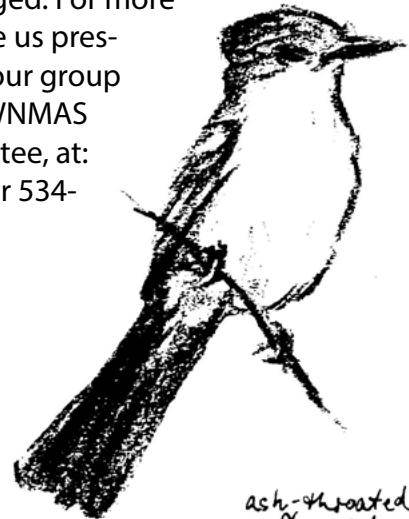
Read his measured approach here:  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/06/130614-bird-watching-birdsong-smartphone-app-ethics/>

If you want a standard to evaluate whether or not to use a recording in a place where it's not outright forbidden, try this: If you have any doubt, DON'T use it!

Paul J. Baicich and Wayne R. Petersen | Birding Community E-bulletin | P.O. Box 404 | Oxon Hill | MD | 20750

## Gila River Advocacy Task Force -- *An Outreach of our Sister New Mexico Chapter, Southwestern Audubon Society in Silver City*

The Gila River Advocacy Task Force obtained a collaborative funding grant from National Audubon Society and Audubon New Mexico for pro-conservation and anti-diversion outreach and education. Part of this is an interactive educational program termed "Conservation Conversations" to reach audiences we have not traditionally engaged. Topics covered in our program include a look at the characteristics and capacities of our water resources in southwestern New Mexico, water resource terminology, local water use patterns, factors influencing future water needs, and specific, local examples of water conservation practices by households, farms and municipalities. Financial benefits of water conservation, the value of the Gila River and its meaning to the audience will be discussed along with citizens' role in municipal/regional water conservation planning. Preparation is well underway and engagements with interested groups is being arranged. For more information or to have us present this program to your group contact Lisa Fields, SWNMAS Conservation Committee, at: [lafields@powerc.net](mailto:lafields@powerc.net) or 534-9284.



ash-throated  
flycatcher  
Kirsten Munson



## Science Fair Winner Abstract

A Computational Model of Tree Growth to Maximize Carbon Sequestration

Team Members Eli J. Echt-Wilson and Albert N. Zuo,  
La Cueva High School

### Abstract

Global warming and increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are becoming a large problem for the world. Tree plantations sequester carbon at up to 30 times the rate of old growth forests, and are a common way of reducing carbon footprints. We have created a computational model of tree growth that can determine optimal conditions for the planting of trees and significantly increase the effectiveness and viability of these plantations. In our model, leaves on the tree generate biomass for growth using photosynthesis. This biomass is used for, in order, root growth, leaf replacement, growth in width proportional to stress, and growing new branches and leaves. Stresses are computed based on forces due to gravity and wind. Branching is proportional to light availability at the branching site. Where possible, biological parameters are taken from naturally observed values and previous research.

Extensive recursive algorithms and a voxel grid (3D index of space) are used to achieve efficient simulation and 3D visualization. We validate the model by confirming that generated trees exhibit allometric rules observed in nature, regarding leaf mass, stem mass, height, trunk diameter, and total mass. When exposed to varying light or wind conditions, statistical analysis confirms that the model successfully predicts characteristics of growth including phototropism and anemotropism. To our knowledge, our model is the first to exhibit these emergent properties without explicitly programming them into the model. We demonstrate one potential application of the model by determining the optimal tree spacing to maximize carbon uptake and timber production in a plantation.

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# Birding Research And Nature Tours



## CNMAS & HAI

# Costa Rica Fundraising Tour

### Overview

Dates: March 22nd to April 3rd, 2015

Duration: 13 Days, 12 Nights

Starting Location: San Jose, Costa Rica

Ending Location: San Jose, Costa Rica

Maximum Participation: 14 participants (+ 3 guides & 1 driver)

Minimum Participation: 6 participants

This tour is designed to encompass the great diversity of birds and habitats that Costa Rica has to offer. We will visit Caribbean lowland forest, Caribbean subtropical forest, Pacific temperate (cloud) forest, wetland systems and Costa Rica's central valley. In addition to some of the best birding in the world we will have the opportunity to experience incredible volcanoes & waterfalls, stunning scenery, delicious local food, canopy walks, boat tours and a breathtaking diversity of plants and animals.

### Basic Itinerary

#### Day 1 (March 22nd)

Arrival at San Jose International Airport. Transfer to Hotel Bougainvillea. Night at Hotel Bougainvillea.

#### Day 2 (March 23rd)

Morning birding at the hotel gardens. Then drive to Selva Verde Lodge with many birding stops along the way. Night at Selva Verde Lodge.

#### Day 3 (March 24th)

Morning birding at La Selva Biological Station followed by afternoon birding at Selva Verde Lodge. Night at Selva Verde Lodge.

#### Day 4 (March 25th)

Early breakfast followed by all day birding at La Paz Waterfall Gardens and surrounding area. Night at Selva Verde Lodge.

#### Day 5 (March 26th)

Morning birding at Selva Verde Lodge before transferring to Cano Negro. Birding along the way. Night at Natural Lodge Cano Negro.

#### Day 6 (March 27th)

All day birding at Cano Negro including morning wetland boat tour. Night at Natural Lodge Cano Negro.