

Burrowing Owl

Central New Mexico



Audubon Society

September - November 2014 Vol. 43, No. 4

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

First Fall Program:

September 18 - 7pm

Save the Songs

If you have visited Percha Dam State Park during spring migration, you know how shocking it is to discover there is no water. The middle Rio Grande is critical to the health of birds. Come learn how the river has altered over time, how that has affected the bird species, and the exciting policy and advocacy actions of National and New Mexico Audubon to assure the health of the river and its birds. We have assembled a group of speakers to share their expertise: Karen Herzenberg, Natural History Educator; Dave Hawksworth, Research Wildlife Technician; and Sharon Wirth, Audubon New Mexico's Fresh Water Program Manager. The program will conclude with an exciting announcement from CNMAS President, Raymond VanBuskirk, who had the opportunity to participate in National Audubon's Climate Change Initiative.



Summer Tanager by Joe Schelling

Bird, Bird, Bird, 'Bird' is the Word: An Albuquerque Birding Rally!

Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 8am – Starting at the UNM Duck Pond

Have you heard about the bird – everybody's heard that the bird is the word!

Unfortunately this is NOT the case; millions of people across our country haven't heard about "the bird", or about birding for that matter. As members of Audubon we are the spokespeople for the birds and for their conservation, and therefore it is up to us to spread "the word." So grab your binoculars and your floppy hat and hit the streets of Albuquerque with CNMAS President Raymond VanBuskirk as we spend the day birding in some of the busiest areas of our city; talking with residents, promoting birding, and opening eyes to the natural world all along the way.

Where will we be birding you ask? I don't know for sure. We'll let the birds and our energy guide the way. I can tell you that we will not be birding at Valle de Oro NWR, Tramway Wetlands, Embudito Canyon, or at the Rio Grande Nature Center. We will focus our energy on under-birded sites in the metro area; birding city parks, busy shopping areas, neighborhoods, Downtown, the UNM campus, and more. Fortunately for you these urban environments are great places for birds! Come see for yourself.

Now, in order for this to really work (to really grab people's attention) we need to attract a large, diverse crowd of birders – yes, that means YOU. We need to stand out! Bring your scopes, bring your friends (young and old), and bring your family.

CNMAS will be providing materials to hand out to the public, including newsletters, patches, and more. You won't go home empty handed either. In addition to going home happy knowing that you did your part in promoting birding and conservation, you will go home with a brand spanking new CNMAS logo patch which you can place on your favorite birding bag or shirt. Wear it proud and spread the word wherever you go.

We will be meeting at 8am on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at the UNM duck pond. Since it is a Saturday there should be plenty of unmet-tered-parking at the duck pond or close by. Please RSVP to Raymond VanBuskirk at cnmaspresident@gmail.com or (505) 217-8514. If there is enough interest we may divide into teams and take different sections of the city. See you in Hawktober! Oops, I mean October!

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More Fall Programs

We welcome members and the general public to our free fall meetings, 7:00 p.m. at Adelante Development Center, 3900 Osuna Rd NE, west of Jefferson at the southeast corner of Gulton Ct NE and Osuna.



Gentoo Penguins, photo by Bonnie Long

October 16, 7pm

Penguins, Seabirds, Seals & Icebergs

Presenters: Bonnie Long & Don Giles

In November 2013 Bonnie & Don participated on an 18-day voyage with Quark Expeditions to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and the Antarctic Peninsula and several offshore islands. They witnessed the wildlife of the remote Falkland Islands (Las Malvinas) and visited the quaint British village of Port Stanley, experienced the spectacular wildlife paradise of South Georgia as well as the extraordinary beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula. They explored these areas on foot and by zodiac excursion and will share their experiences and photographs of this incredibly rich environment.

Bonnie and Don have avidly pursued the out-of-doors together, including hiking 800 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in California. While they were hiking there were a couple of bird songs that intrigued Bonnie; she later learned they were the songs of the Hermit Thrush and the Olive-sided Flycatcher. She became a confirmed birder after that. When they lived in Alaska, Bonnie served 8 years on the Anchorage Audubon Society Board of Directors. Since moving to New Mexico, Bonnie has lead trips regularly for Thursday Birders and does raptor surveys for HawksAloft.



HEARTFELT APPRECIATION, WARM WELCOME ...

In January 1998 Ed Dover answered the call for a new Membership Chair to maintain our chapter's membership database at the local level. Since then he has been meticulous with membership, dedicated to database, avuncular in accuracy, and conscientious in keeping. Ed, we express our respect and appreciation for your years of cheerful volunteerism and offer best wishes to you for health and vitality now that you've passed on your CNMAS duties to your apprentice, Marj Longenbaugh. We welcome and appreciate Marj, who shared this insight: "As a very young child, I'm told, my grandfather would show off my ability to do jigsaw puzzles. That aptitude for puzzles has carried me through a career as a computer programmer, years of NY Times crossword puzzles, and a passion for finding and identifying birds. Now it has brought me to the great puzzle of Central NM Audubon's Membership Chairmanship." -- Whether CNMAS is a puzzle or a flock, you've filled a big gap! Thank you both!



Horned Guan, photo by Dave Krueper

November 13, 7pm

Quetzals, Fer-de-Lances, and Guans ... Oh, My!

Presenter: Janet Ruth

From 20 March to 2 April 2014, eleven members of New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) birded various sites in the state of Chiapas, Mexico on an NMOS fund-raising trip, with a highlighted visit to El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve. Janet Ruth will share stories and photos (hers, Dave Krueper's, and a few from other trip members) to give us a taste of this beautiful southern-most state in Mexico where the group saw more than 400 species of birds including 7 cracids, 27 raptors, 30 hummingbirds, 5 trogons, 5 motmots, 9 parrots, and 31 species of warbler!

Janet Ruth is a research ornithologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, based in New Mexico. She received her Ph.D from George Mason University and has conducted research on eastern riparian birds, Rocky Mountain warblers, desert grassland birds, and bird migration in the US-Mexico borderlands. She is the Partners in Flight Coordinator for USGS and a board member of the New Mexico Ornithological Society.



We Need a Web Guru! Is That You?

There are lots of new and exciting things happening at CNMAS and we are in search of a webmaster to keep our website updated on a regular basis. We are prepared to offer a monthly stipend for keeping the website up-to-date and working properly; we will discuss an amount with applicants, based on their experience. The following skills will be very helpful in the job:

- WordPress
- HTML
- CSS
- JavaScript is desirable
- Responsive and/or mobile-ready web design

Please email Raymond VanBuskirk at CNMASpresident@gmail.com if you are interested in the position, or if you know someone who might be! It will be very helpful if in your email you will provide an overview of your past experience in managing a website and list any of your skills from the list above.

Follow the Money:

The Economics of TNR Advocacy

By Nico Dauphiné, Ph.D.

The promotion of TNR (Trap Neuter Release) is big business, with such large amounts of money in play that conservation scientists opposing TNR can't begin to compete. Best Friends Animal Society, one of the largest organizations promoting TNR, took in over \$40 million in revenue in 2009 (BFAS). The group spent more than \$11 million on cat advocacy campaigns that year, including their "Focus on Felines" program, which promoted TNR and paid for 80,000 tons of dry cat food to feed feral cats. In 2010, the pro-TNR group Alley Cat Allies reported taking in more than \$5 million and spending \$3.3 million on public outreach, largely to promote TNR and its legalization nationwide through its "Every Kitty, Every City" campaign (ACA). Donations range from small contributions of individual cat lovers to large donations and grants supporting TNR initiatives. In some cases, conservation groups accept funding to join in efforts promoting TNR. The New Jersey Audubon Society, for example, had previously rejected TNR but began supporting it in 2005, acknowledging funding from the Frankenberg and Dodge Foundations for collaboration with TNR groups (NJAS). Pet industry giants such as PetSmart and PetCo also fund activities to promote TNR, and presumably profit from the huge amounts of cat food purchased by TNR practitioners. The global market for pet products—of which pet food represents about 80 percent—is valued at over \$50 billion and has been growing at roughly 4 percent per year (Combelles 2004, De Silva and Turchini 2008). PetSmart recently funded a study that Best Friends commissioned from a for-profit consultancy group to produce a "Feral Fiscal Impact Calculator," intended to help TNR advocates convince municipalities that they will save money by adopting TNR in place of traditional animal control (AV MA 2010). Cash-strapped legislators may buy that argument. However, as veterinarian David Jessup notes, "If you attach even a few dollars in value to the wildlife killed, and consider the costs of trying to recover sensitive species, environmental cleanup, and human health impacts associated with outdoor feral cats, any hypothetical savings disappear" (Nolen 2010). What of the value of lost wildlife? One group of researchers from Cornell University has estimated the economic value of birds killed by cats. At the time of their study a decade ago, they estimated that 71 million outdoor cats killed approximately 568 million birds per year in the U.S. (Pimentel et al. 2000, 2005). Based on estimates that bird watchers spent 40 cents per bird observed, hunters spent \$216 per bird shot, and biologists spent \$800 per bird in captive breeding programs (Tinney 1981, USFWS 1988), the researchers estimated the economic value of a single bird as roughly \$30. That would equate to a loss of about \$17 billion per year from cat predation of birds. There are large, as-yet unquantified costs associated with nui-

sance wildlife control of raccoons, skunks, opossums, and other animals drawn to cat feeding stations. Additional costs involve the rehabilitation of wildlife injured by cats, the primary cause of injury to incoming wildlife reported by some wildlife hospitals (Jessup 2004, Sallinger 2008). Cat-carried pathogens that affect public health, including rabies, may also lead to potentially enormous costs borne by citizens and taxpayers. Ultimately, the science suggests that cat removal is cheaper and more effective than TNR for managing large numbers of feral cats (Lloyd and DeVore 2010). However, the cost of removal is controversy—and that's a price that many cities and legislators appear unwilling to pay.

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10th Annual Gila River Festival - Sept. 18-21

One of the Southwest's premier nature festivals, the Gila River Festival attracts an audience of nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts eager to learn about and experience the Gila's natural wonders. The full festival schedule and registration are available at www.gilaconservation.org. For more information, contact the Gila Conservation Coalition at 575.538.8078 or info@gilaconservation.org

Happy 2nd Birthday, Valle de Oro NWR!

Saturday, September 27, 9AM-12PM

September 27th is Valle de Oro's second birthday. Enjoy cake and ice cream, nature walks, refuge tours and activities offered by our partner organizations. Learn more about our history and share your ideas for our future. This is a free, family-friendly event! See page 10 of the digital edition for directions and more information or visit VdeO's Facebook page or <http://friendsofvalledeoro.wildapricot.org/>

Sevilleta Open House - Saturday, Sept. 27

Join us at Sevilleta NWR for a variety of family fun activities. Exciting presentations and tours, poster contest awards ceremony, live animals and much more! Reservations are required for ALL tours. Please call 505/864-4021 to reserve your space today!

For more information visit us on the web:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta/> or visit our friends group on the web, <http://amigosdelasevilleta.org/>

Las Vegas NWR Fall Flight Festival

Sundays in November - http://www.fws.gov/refuge/las_vegas/

Bosque del Apache NWR - November 18 - 23

Festival of the Cranes - Call for Volunteers!

The festival brochure is now online at www.festivalofthecranes.com And we invite YOU to be volunteers for CNMAS, as well. Contact Jeff Myers, jmyers@peacocklaw.com, to volunteer for shifts helping visitors find birds on either Saturday or Sunday. CNMAS does Saturday 9-11, Saturday 11-1, Saturday 1-3, Saturday 3-5, Sunday 9-11, and Sunday 11-1. But if even hours work better for you, you can represent CNMAS at the Audubon Council site on Saturday 8-10, Saturday 10-12, Saturday 12-2, Saturday 2-4, Sunday 8-10, or Sunday 10-12.

We stagger the shifts because of substantial overlap in membership and interest in doing multiple locations on the same day. Tentatively CNMAS is assigned to the Eagle Scout deck and Audubon Council to the Marsh deck. These may change based on where Friends of B del A needs us, where they expect high visitor traffic, and WHERE THE BIRDS ARE!, depending on current water and food conditions. But wherever our assignments are, we hope YOU will join us. If you haven't done it before, you can't imagine the fun of greeting and sharing with the diverse and enthusiastic crowds who come to Festival -- both people AND birds! See you at the Festival!



AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

Autumn 2014

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

SEPTEMBER 4 Drive to Las Huertas Canyon on the north side of the Sandia Mountains for a potluck picnic lunch with Rebecca Gracey: maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com, 505-242-3821. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 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. Las Huertas is reached by driving north on I-25 then taking exit 242 to Placitas. A secondary meeting place will be the large USFS parking area at the west entrance to Forest Loop Road on the south side of NM 165, 2.8 miles after exiting I-25. Meet at that location at 9:15 a.m. Drive east on NM 165 through Placitas for nine miles of paved road, and then for four miles of unpaved road, slow driving but suitable for all types of vehicles, to the lower parking lot of the Los Huertas Picnic Area. People are asked to bring a dish to share with the group plus any meats or vegetables one may want to grill on the three grills that will be lit. Canned iced tea, paper plates and eating utensils will be provided. A \$3 parking fee or Federal Pass is required per car. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$2.50 at five cents per mile. The trip should end in the early afternoon.

SEPTEMBER 11 Hike the Ellis Trail in the Sandia Mountains with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lfneely@aol.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 8:45 at the Ellis Trail parking lot. The walk is one mile in length over fairly level terrain and will end before noon. 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.

SEPTEMBER 18 View the Belen Marsh and then visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Linda Heinze: 505-565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard or 8:30 at the marsh. To reach the marsh, take Exit 195 to Belen from I-25. Drive east one mile to the Taco Bell parking lot on the south. The hike at WWCA is an easy 1.5 mile walk. Lunch will be at El Rancho de Valencia in Los Lunas on NM 6 near the intersection with NM 314. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

SEPTEMBER 25 Travel to the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:17 for an 8:27 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. Bring lunch. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$6 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the mid afternoon.

OCTOBER 2 Drive to Cochiti Lake with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 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. The group will access the lake from NM 16 in order to take the Tetilla Peak Road on the north side of the lake. People can meet the group on NM 16 at the turn off to Tetilla Peak at 8:30. Bring lunch. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The main part of the trip will end after lunch. For those that are interested, there will be the option of driving through Pena Blanca after lunch. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the mid afternoon.

OCTOBER 9 View the Bigtooth Maples in the Fourth of July Camp-

ground area in the Manzano Mountains with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, 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 Tramway and Juan Tabo or meet Bonnie at the intersection of NM 337 and NM 55 at 9:50. There will be a one-mile walk up the trail and back. Bring lunch. A parking fee of \$7 per vehicle is required at the campground, \$3.50 with a Federal Pass. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque by mid afternoon.

OCTOBER 16 Hike the Open Space at the east end of Copper in the foothills of the Sandias with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, brhussey@flash.net. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking areas along Copper for an easy 1 1/2 -mile walk ending before noon.

OCTOBER 23 Walk around the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the east side of Coors Boulevard. The entrance road is located north of Montano Road and south of Paseo del Norte. It will be an easy 1 1/2 - mile walk. The trip will end before noon.

OCTOBER 30 Visit Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the south end of the refuge on Salida Sandia at the intersection with the interior drain road. The refuge is accessed from Albuquerque by driving south on I-25, taking the Rio Bravo Exit, and turning south on 2nd Street. Drive 3.4 miles south to Salida Sandia. After driving and walking about a mile on the refuge, the group will visit the Brent Baca Memorial Frisbee Golf Course near Montessa Park where there are ponds. The trip will end before noon.

NOVEMBER 6 Walk around the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfairns@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 at the Candelaria Wetland Blind in the Northeast corner of the Nature Center parking lot. A \$3 parking fee, State Parks Pass, or Friends of the RGNC Pass is required per car. Both passes may be purchased inside the Visitor Center after 10:00. The walk will end before noon.

NOVEMBER 13 Walk the perimeter of Los Poblanos Open Space with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot. To reach the fields turn north from Montano Boulevard onto Tierra Viva, east of the Rio Grande River. There is a sign for Rio Grande Community Farms. It will be an easy one-mile walk ending before noon.

NOVEMBER 20 No Trip is planned. Enjoy the Festival of the Cranes at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. www.friendsofthebosque.org

NOVEMBER 27
No Trip – Thanksgiving Holiday

THURSDAY BIRDER TRIP REPORTS:

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

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

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

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.



eBird

To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to 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

During September and the first week in 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. to begin each trip. The ranger station may be reached from I-40 by taking exit 175. Drive south one half mile on NM 337 to the ranger station on the east. From there the group will visit different locations in the mountains.

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.

See page three for Festival of the Cranes and more birding events!

CNMAS Weekend Field Trips

Field Trip to the Rio Grande Nature Center SP

Friday, September 12, 8AM*

Leader - Karen Herzenberg karen.herzenberg@gmail.com
505-563-0387

This is a fun time of the year to visit RGNC! We could see departing summer residents such as Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak, but we could also observe arriving winter residents like Sandhill Cranes, White-crowned Sparrows and all those colorful waterfowl! And of course there are opportunities for interesting fall migrants that are just passing through. We'll stop at Veranda Road just east of RGNCSP to see what's on the Candelaria Farms fields on our way in. Then we'll meet at the Candelaria Wetlands blind at the northeast corner of the parking lot of the RGNC. In addition to visiting the gardens, the visitors center observation room and the adjacent bosque, we have special permission to visit two areas that are closed to the public: the area behind the Visitors Center along the weekend bird walk route and the Discovery Pond area at the south end of the Park. This will not be a strenuous walk, but we may do 2-3 miles round trip depending on our route. We'll end before noon. Remember, the Park has an entrance fee: please display your NM State Parks annual permit or your Friends of RGNC annual permit (or purchase a one-day permit for \$3.00 cash or check at the self-pay station in the parking lot). Bathrooms and a water fountain are available in the Visitors Center beginning at 10AM. *For more information about our start time and place, and to sign up, please contact me by email (or phone).

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 20, 7:30AM

Leader - Karen Herzenberg karen.herzenberg@gmail.com
505-563-0387

September's cooler weather and fall migration make for a good combination at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. On the grounds of the Refuge, we'll observe meadowlarks and other farmland species as well as waterfowl, waders and shorebirds taking advantage of flooded fields. Perhaps we'll get to see some early Sandhill Cranes. Then we'll head into the bosque...this is new territory for birders because the bridge over the drain was just constructed and so who knows what birds we might encounter? The Refuge is located three miles south of Rio Bravo on Second Street in the South Valley. Turn right just past the Refuge on Salida Sandia Road. Drive about one half mile to the Raymond Barr Drain which bisects the Refuge. We'll meet just north of Salida Sandia on the Barr Drain road. There is no entrance fee, but the Friends of Valle de Oro welcomes your membership and volunteerism. This is not a strenuous walk, but there is no established trail in the bosque. We can drive or walk along the drain and then walk the bosque and back (about 2-3 miles round trip depending on our route). We'll wrap up before noon. There is a Porta-Potty on the premises. For more information and to sign up, please contact Karen by email (or phone).

Fourth of July and Tajique Canyons

Saturday, September 27

Leader - Bonnie Long - Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985,
cantrade_1@yahoo.com

Join Bonnie, who lives nearby this location, to explore the area along Tajique Canyon and Fourth of July Canyon at the north end of the campground. In addition to the possibility of color in the Big Tooth Maples, species seen at this time of year include lingering and migrating flycatchers and warblers, including Townsend's Warbler. In Tajique Canyon, the group will be alert for raptors. Meet Bonnie at 9:30 am at the intersection of NM 337 and NM 55. There will be a one-mile walk up the trail and back. Bring lunch. A parking fee of \$7 per vehicle is required at the campground, \$3.50 with a Federal Pass.

Hawkwatch International

The HawkWatch International Raptor Migration Count at Capilla Peak in the Manzano Mountains will begin the last week of August and continue until November 5. Daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the crew will monitor raptors flying south for the winter. Visitors are welcome at the observation point where an interpreter will be available to answer questions and display some of the raptors that have been banded before returning them back to the wild. Bring binoculars, food, water, your camera, sunscreen, and extra clothes. Contact Bobbie for more information: hwabq@hawkwatch.org or 255-7622.



The HawkWatch International Frontline Science project will take place on the last two weekends in September and the first two weekends in October. For information about working with the HWI crew for a weekend, contact Nikki at (801) 484-6808 or nwayment@hawkwatch.org.

Southwest Women in Conservation

Forum on Freshwater!

Friday, September 26th, 2014 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Randall Davey Audubon Center Santa Fe, NM

See page sixteen of the Digital Edition or visit <http://nm.audubon.org> for more information.



Thursday Birders Birdathon Report

Our team of 25 started our count at 10 am at two residences in the Manzano Mountains - those at Gary and Karen Boettcher's picking up some montane species, e.g. Pygmy Nuthatch and Evening Grosbeak, and those at Bonnie Long's adding Pine Siskin, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lesser Goldfinch, and a small flock of Pinyon Jays seen on the way out of her neighborhood. At Manzano Pond we were greeted by a flock of Brewer's Blackbirds, then braved the sleet as we watched the Red-naped Sapsucker take a bath, an Osprey fly over the pond, and a Spotted Sandpiper skim over the water. Three Great Horned owlets peeked down at us from a niche in the ruins at Quarai.

A juvenile Western Screech Owl hovered behind the foliage near the Bosque del Apache Visitor Center. We birded the tour routes until dusk and turned up such finds as Vermillion Flycatcher, Pectoral Sandpiper, Carolina Wren (heard), and Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Before calling it quits for the night, three participants drove to Walmart to add Lesser Nighthawk, since it had been too windy for them before dark at the refuge.

Most reconvened at 6 am the next morning on the NM Tech campus. Near Macy Center and on the golf course the group turned up a migrating Northern Waterthrush, as well as Lazuli Bunting, Phainopepla and Cedar Waxwings. One car went into the bosque at Riverine Park to add Lucy's Warbler.

At the Box west of Socorro we watched White-throated Swift and heard both Rock and Canyon Wren. Scott's Oriole was spotted on the piñon-juniper hillside. In Water Canyon, we added Acorn Woodpecker, Red-faced and Grace's Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

When we ended at 10 am, we tallied up an impressive 150 species! The team raised \$2,810 to support the conservation efforts of CNMAS.

Earth Beat Birdathon Report

By Crazy Cassidy Ruge

After last year's record-breaking Birdathon, the Earth Beat Team (composed this year of Cole Wolf, Raymond VanBuskirk, Jason Kitting, and myself), decided to take a slightly more relaxed approach for this year's Birdathon. "Relaxed", in our definition of the word, meant getting up at 3:30am and ending the day at 9:30pm, while concentrating our efforts in central/south central New Mexico.

Our first stop was Turtle Bay Park, in Socorro, where we got a few migrants and an array of common resident birds. Next we dropped by the Socorro Box and were treated to Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, multiple Scott's Orioles, and finally, just before giving up and moving to the next spot, we found a singing Gray Vireo (a life bird for me). Later in the morning, Water Canyon produced multiple new birds, including a Peregrine Falcon, a family group of Acorn Woodpeckers, two surprise Northern Waterthrushes, Red-faced Warbler, and a Hepatic Tanager. We were surprised to find a female Black-and-White Warbler with a mixed flock in the campground.

Our biggest stop of the day was at Bosque del Apache, where we spent four hours and saw 95 species. Highlights included California Gull, Lucy's Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. After Bosque, we made the drive up to Albuquerque and stopped at the Belen (Taco Bell) Marsh and Tingley Beach, neither of which ended up producing very much. With daylight waning, we raced (while maintaining the posted speed limit) up to Sandia Crest to see if we could nab any high elevation birds to end our day. After several attempts, we finally heard a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and saw Steller's Jay, Hairy Woodpecker, and Mountain Chickadee near the Crest House. It was around this time (7:00pm) that the temperature plummeted, leaving us all wishing we'd

brought more layers. Despite the cold, we spent a couple more hours looking for night birds, and were rewarded; our last birds of the day were Common Poorwill, Flammulated Owl, and a distant Northern Saw-whet Owl.

All said and done, we finished the day with 162 species, which despite being lower than last year's Big Day, was nothing to be ashamed of.

Who knows what next year has in store for us!

Thank you Birdathon! Donors

Earth Beat donors: Jerry Oldenettel, Ken Cole, John Parmeter, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Steve and Nancy Cox, Lynn Schuler, Robert Munro

Thursday Birder Birdathon Donors: Gary and Karen Boettcher, Madelon and Vic Brown, Cathy Carson and Michael Healy, Drs. Thomas P. and Kathryn A. Caudell, Sara Jayne Cole, Angela Healy Coryell, Catherine Currie, Jeane Dugan, Dan Ervin, Sylvia Fee, Rebecca Gracey, Charlotte Green, Cindy Harris, Karen Herzenberg, In memory of Carol Higgins, Barbara Hussey, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Kay Jackson, Florence Laird, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Nikki Mann, Dianna McEnnerney, Janice Micali, Lannois Neely, Lou Prime, Ellen Reimer, Joe Schelling, Tova Shifberg, Bev Silfer, Sei Tokuda, Steve Valasek and Ariel Virshup, Jan and Ernie Villescas, Michele and Reuben Weisz, Sondra Williamson



Great-horned Owlets, photo by Bonnie Long

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.

TWO WINGED SOULS AND AN ANGEL

It's our honor to share with you Dr. Dean Rudoy's donation letter addressed to Lee Hopwood, CNMAS Treasurer, reprinted here with his permission:

"Dear Lee -- Enclosed is a check for \$20,000 for the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society. I give this contribution in memory of two young men -- Ryan Beaulieu and Mikhail Rudoy -- both of whom were 17 years old when they disappeared from view, and yet, both of whom continue to influence the lives of others, inspiring, encouraging, and guiding them along the way.

"I met Ryan once. Despite the briefness of our encounter, he had a remarkable impact on me. Most of us know where we end and others begin, and we protect that boundary. Ryan did not seem to have a perimeter. His love of this life extended far beyond himself and his delight in the natural world was palpable and always present.

"I never met my cousin Mikhail. He died before I was born, in the autumn of 1941, in a cold ravine outside of Kiev, along with 34,000 of our brethren, murdered by the Nazis for one reason: they were Jews. And so, my heart has had to make up a story for him. I imagine, like most young men, he struggled with finding out who he was and who he was meant to be. I expect he had hopes for his future. I pray he knew love.

"Every evening, out under the stars, I speak the names of people about whom I care. Ryan and Mikhail, and other winged ones, escape my lips into the night air, floating up and up. "One thing I know for certain about this hard, sweet life: wherever there is light, there must be shadows. But, if we would just turn around and look, we will discover that it is equally true that, wherever there are shadows, there is bound to be light. The absence of these two young men will always be present to me, and yet, I do not despair, for the thought of them brightens the view, and in that illumination such beauty is seen.

"It pleases me to know that this contribution will help Ryan's Fund to provide scholarships to young people and to teachers, pursuing and extending their love and appreciation for the natural world -- out of which we all arise and to which we all return. As always," signed Dean Rudoy.

We encourage you to go to <http://cnmas.newmedicoaudubon.org> to check out the Ryan Scholarship Fund application. See Dr. Rudoy's original letter on page thirteen of the digital edition.

Contacting National Audubon

For questions regarding magazines, pestering renewal notices, 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. Remember that renewals are NOT handled at the chapter level, ONLY THROUGH National. If you'd like to renew early, send your check with your magazine mailing label and your instructions for renewal to National Audubon Society, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL, 32142-2250. Audubon membership questions answered six days a week (Mondays-Fridays 8a.m.-9p.m., Saturdays 9a.m.-6p.m. EST) 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.*

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.**



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?)
- Many extra pages of news

Contact Membership Chair Marj Longenbaugh, centralnmaudubon@peoplepc.com, 345-7588 to say, "Yes, Please switch my subscription to on-line delivery!"

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002
NAS Chapter C1ZQ510Z

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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."*

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MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)

Marj Longenbaugh, centralnmaudubon@peoplepc.com, 345-7588

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Lee Hopwood PLHopwood@gmail.com

PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

Su Piatt birdinginfo@gmail.com

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Adrienne Warner ranchodelibro@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

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

<i>Valle de Oro NWR 2nd Bithday Celebration!</i>	<i>page 10</i>	<i>CNMAS Teacher Resource Grant Awardee</i>	<i>page 15</i>
<i>BRANT Field Workshops</i>	<i>page 11</i>	<i>Southwest Women in Conservation</i>	<i>page 16</i>
<i>Costa Rica Fundraising Tour</i>	<i>page 12</i>	<i>ABQ Urban Bird Treaty</i>	<i>page 17</i>
<i>Dr. Dean Rudoy's donation letter</i>	<i>page 13</i>	<i>Fall Programs printable poster</i>	<i>last page</i>
<i>Buy a Duck Stamp!</i>	<i>page 14</i>		

!!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) <http://oniells.com/>

NEW LOCATION and NIGHT!

WHEN? Usually the **last Monday 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

NEW MEETING PLACE

CNMAS is now 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. Come early for refreshments at 7:00 p.m., announcements and program at 7:15 p.m.



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
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/>



Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc. is banding at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park again this Fall.

If you're serious about birding and want to observe licensed banders at work, or gain some experience yourself with recording, protocols and scientific data collection, consider joining them one morning. To get a glimpse of the ongoing work, join one of the weekend morning bird walks at RGNC (see page 5). The bird walk route goes past the banding station and can provide an excellent introduction to RBGR's work.

Valle de Oro

National Wildlife Refuge

Open House

Happy Birthday Valle de Oro!!

Come celebrate the refuge's second birthday with us & learn more about our history and future! Enjoy food vendors, FREE cake and ice cream, live music, tours, and refuge partner games and activities!



Food and activities- 9am-noon
Special welcome - 9:30am-10:00am
Tours- 10:00am (Bilingual) and 10:45am
Music- 10:15am
Cake and ice cream- 11:30am



Saturday Sept 27th
9am-12pm

Located at Valle de Oro NWR
7851 2nd Street SW
Albuquerque, NM
(About 3 miles South of Rio Bravo Blvd)

Check us out on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/ValleDeOroNationalWildlifeRefuge>
or at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/

For more information contact
Refuge Manager at
248-6667 or
Jennifer_OwenWhite@fws.gov





Birding Research And Nature Tours



Field Workshops

BRANT and CNMAS have teamed up to offer New Mexico locals a series of birding Field Workshops! These workshops include an evening classroom session followed by an all day field outing and are designed to teach you some great new birding skills! We run multiple workshops throughout the year, each focusing on a different group of birds or birding skill. Best of all 20% of all profits will go straight to CNMAS!

Our next workshop, "Fall Out," is in September and it's all about birding during migration! And in October we'll be holding "Shades of Brown" where we'll learn to separate those difficult winter sparrows! For more information on these workshops and more, check out the Field Workshops Article in the online edition of visit: <http://www.branttours.com/workshops>

Costa Rica Tour

There are only 4 spaces left for the CNMAS fundraising trip to Costa Rica next March!

Join CNMAS, Hawks Aloft Inc., and BRANT as we explore the tropical paradise of Costa Rica! BRANT will be generously donating nearly 100% of profits from this tour to CNMAS and Hawks Aloft to support local conservation and education! The CNMAS portion of the proceeds will be deposited into the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship Fund to help support our aspiring youth biologists and birders from around the state! For more information on the trip check out the Costa Rica Article on the online edition of this newsletter or visit: <http://www.branttours.com/tours/setdepartures/centralamerica/cr-cnmarshai/>



Collared Aracari, photo by Linda Chittum

Fall Out - Migration Birding!

September 20th (lecture on the 18th)
\$125

Migration is that magical time of year when birder's everywhere get a little crazier than normal. So many birds, so little time! And of course we all want to make the best of the time we do have. Join BRANT as we teach you the ins and outs of birding during migration!



Sabine's Gull, photo by Jerry Oldenettel

Shades of Brown – Confusing Sparrows

October 25th (lecture on the 24th)
\$125

Little brown jobs are a notoriously difficult and often drab group of birds. But there is light at the end of the tunnel and we're confident that you too can learn to ID and appreciate the subtle beauty of these birds! Join BRANT as we explore the world of the LBJ!



Rufous-crowned Sparrow, photo by Michael Hilchey



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.



TWO WINGED SOULS AND AN ANGEL

It's our honor to share with you Dr. Dean Rudoy's donation letter addressed to Lee Hopwood, CNMAS Treasurer, reprinted here with his permission:

Saturday / 22 February 2014

Dear Lee —

Enclosed is a check for \$20,000 for the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society.

I give this contribution in memory of two young men — Ryan Beaulieu and Mikhail Rudoy — both of whom were 17 years old, when they disappeared from view, and yet, both of whom continue to influence the lives of others, inspiring, encouraging, and guiding them along the way.

I met Ryan once. Despite the briefness of our encounter, he had a remarkable impact on me. Most of us know where we end and others begin, and we protect that boundary. Ryan did not seem to have a perimeter. His love of this life extended far beyond himself and his delight in the natural world was palpable and always present.

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One thing I know for certain about this hard, sweet life: wherever there is light, there must be shadows. But, if we would just turn around and look, we will discover that it is equally true that, wherever there are shadows, there is bound to be light. The absence of these two young men will always be present to me, and yet, I do not despair, for the thought of them brightens the view, and in that illumination such beauty is seen.

It pleases me to know that this contribution will help Ryan's Fund to provide scholarships to young people and to teachers, pursuing and extending their love and appreciation for the natural world — out of which we all arise and to which we all return.

As always —

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to a dot.

Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
c/o Lee Hopwood
7522 Edith Boulevard NE
Albuquerque NM 87113



The Duck Stamp — Not Just for Hunters

CNMAS has been reminding you for years to buy your “Duck Stamp.” Now American Birding Association Asks Birders to Stand Up and Be Counted

The 2014-2015 Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp shows a pair of Canvasbacks painted by Adam Grimm. If you think the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly called the Duck Stamp, is just for waterfowl hunters, think again! In July the American Birding Association (ABA) sent out a call for birders to “stand up and be counted” by purchasing a Duck Stamp -- from their own shop!

In an email sent out to its members, the ABA talked about its concern that the true support of birders for habitat and bird conservation is not accurately assessed. “We use refuges, too. We are proud to support them. We want a seat at the table alongside our friends in the hunting community, because in the end, our common goals of habitat protection and healthy bird populations far outweigh the little that divides us.”

The ABA is trying to address this and get an accounting of birders—not just in numbers but in dollars and cents—by offering the 2014 Duck Stamp through their own shop. The total number of Duck Stamps purchased through the ABA should offer a more complete assessment of the total impact birders have on conservation initiatives.

So, whether you like to hunt, bird, photograph wildlife and scenery, collect stamps, or conserve habitat, CNMAS is also asking you to stand up and be counted. When you buy a \$15 Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp, as much as \$14.70 goes to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which supports wetland acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Each year, the sale of the stamp raises about \$25 million to provide critical funds to conserve and protect wetland and grassland habitats for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of people.

The Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is sold in many post offices across the country. You can also buy a stamp at www.duckstamp.com, through the American Birding Association, and at many National Wildlife Refuges, sporting goods and outdoor stores. Not convinced yet? Here are seven more reasons to buy a stamp today!

Seven Reasons to Buy a Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Buying a Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp is a simple and direct way for people to contribute to grassland and wetland conservation. Here are a few more reasons to buy a Stamp today.

A bargain at \$15. The Stamp costs only \$15, with 98% (or \$14.70) going toward conservation. And it's easy to purchase — nearly all large Post Offices, and some smaller ones, carry them. This \$15-purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.

5.5 million acres and counting. There are over 560 individual National Wildlife Refuge units within the United States, each one managed as a protected haven for birds and other wildlife. Since 1934, a huge proportion of the funds used to acquire over 250 of these refuges in the lower-48 states were provided through sales of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps — commonly called “Duck Stamps.”

Save wetlands and grasslands. The funds not only go to refuges. Since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used stamp revenues to protect “Waterfowl Production Areas”—to the tune of about 3 million acres—within the critical Prairie Pothole Region to our north. This is vital to birds that migrate through the Playa Lakes region. The very same program protects declining prairie-nesting birds in the face of increasing loss of grasslands.

More than just ducks. The funds benefit scores of other bird species, including shorebirds, herons, raptors, and songbirds, not to mention reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, native plants, and more. Densities of grassland bird species such as Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sedge Wren, are remarkably higher on Refuge System grasslands than on the landscape in general.

Beautiful natural areas. Some of the most diverse and wildlife-rich refuges in the nation have been acquired with Stamp funds. For example, 99.1% of the funds used to acquire Quivira NWR in Kansas were from Stamp purchases. Other refuges in our region supported through Stamp funds include Maxwell NWR in New Mexico (75.5%), Muleshoe NWR in Texas (33.45%), and Salt Plains in Oklahoma (3.5%).

A “free pass.” The Stamp is a free pass for an entire year to all refuges that charge for admission. Whatever sort of outdoor recreation you're into — wildlife photography, birding, fishing, hunting, hiking, kayaking, or just restoring your soul in communion with nature — connecting to a National Wildlife Refuge through a stamp is a great way to do it.

A beautiful collectible. The Stamp is a beautiful collectible and a great artistic tradition. Since 1949, the design of each year's duck stamp has been chosen in an open art contest.

By buying and displaying a Stamp you can show that you appreciate long-term habitat protection for all birds and other wildlife. Spread the word, and show that you care!

Compiled with information from the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.





CNMAAS Teacher Resource Grant Awardee: Appreciation and Outreach

Students at Truman Middle School in Albuquerque participate in project-based learning in all science classes. Seventh graders studying life sciences conduct library research and complete large-scale projects on each of the world's biomes, creating display boards in which they propose a new habitat for the ABQ BioPark Zoo. In addition to their display board, they construct a diorama of the proposed zoo habitat and present their research to their class, parents, faculty, school administrators, and community stakeholders.

The CNMAS grant allowed Truman's library to purchase a collection of twelve up-to-date biomes atlases. These titles were a vital addition to our library, as they contain helpful maps and infographics to help students with their research. Thanks to these books, students were able to more fully understand the relationship between geography, animal life, and plants in each biome. The color photography and nonfiction text features enriched students' understanding of the Earth's biomes, motivating students in their research and helping them present high-quality work. We appreciate CNMAS's contribution to our library. Thank you so much for your support!

Angela Kunkel
Teacher-Librarian
Truman Middle School
Albuquerque, NM



SAVE THE DATE FOR  **Audubon** NEW MEXICO'S

Southwest
Women in Conservation

*engage with conservation leaders
establish new relationships
motivate the next generation*



Please join Audubon for a Forum on Freshwater!

**Friday, September 26th, 2014
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm**

at the Randall Davey Audubon Center Santa Fe, NM

Explore personal perspectives on today's critical water issues and learn how you can engage in water protection and decision making with guest speakers **Letty Belin & Beth Bardwell, moderated by **Laura Paskus**.**

Letty Belin – One of the few New Mexicans serving in a senior position at the Department of the Interior, Letty will share her national, state and on-the-ground perspectives on the evolving legal, institutional and cultural framework of how Westerners value and manage water.

Beth Bardwell – As Audubon New Mexico's Director of Freshwater Conservation, Beth is working to put water back in New Mexico's precious rivers through innovative, voluntary, market-based strategies.

Laura Paskus – A self-professed muckraker, Laura is an independent writer, editor, and radio reporter based in Albuquerque who covers water, wildlife, and climate change in New Mexico.

*RSVP's will be accepted after invitations are sent out in August. Please contact **Maryam Miller** if you have any questions, or if you'd like to make a contribution and support **Southwest Women in Conservation**, (505) 983-4609, ext. 24, or mmiller@audubon.org. Thank you!*



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>



Central New Mexico Audubon Society



Fall Programs

September 18 - 7pm

Save the Songs

If you have visited Percha Dam State Park during spring migration, you know how shocking it to discover there is no water. The middle Rio Grande is critical to the health of birds. Come learn how the river has altered over time, how that has affected the bird species and the exciting policy and advocacy actions of National and New Mexico Audubon to assure the health of the river and its birds. We have assembled a group of speakers to share their expertise: Karen Herzenberg, Natural History Educator; Dave Hawksworth, Research Wildlife Technician; and Sharon Wirth, Audubon New Mexico's Fresh Water Program Manager. The program will conclude with an exciting announcement from CNMAS President, Raymond VanBuskirk, who had the opportunity to participate in National Audubon's Climate Change Initiative.



Summer Tanager, photo by Joe Schelling

October 16, 7pm

Penguins, Seabirds, Seals & Icebergs

Presenters: Bonnie Long & Don Giles

In November, 2013, Bonnie & Don participated on an 18 day voyage with Quark Expeditions to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and the Antarctic Peninsula and several offshore islands. They witnessed the wildlife of the remote Falkland Islands (Las Malvinas) and visited the quaint British village of Port Stanley, experienced the spectacular wildlife paradise of South Georgia as well as the extraordinary beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula. They explored these areas on foot, and by zodiac excursion and will share their experiences and photographs of this incredibly rich environment.



Gentoo Penguins, photo by Bonnie Long

Bonnie and Don have avidly pursued the out-of-doors together, including hiking 800 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in California. While they were hiking there were a couple of bird songs that intrigued Bonnie and later learned they were the songs of the Hermit Thrush and the Olive-sided Flycatcher. She became a confirmed birder after that. When they lived in Alaska, Bonnie served 8 years on the Anchorage Audubon Society Board of Directors. Since moving to New Mexico, Bonnie has lead trips regularly for Thursday Birders and does raptor surveys for HawksAloft.

November 13, 7pm

Quetzals, Fer-de-Lances, and Guans ... Oh, My!

From 20 March to 2 April 2014, eleven members of New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) birded various sites in the state of Chiapas, Mexico on an NMOS fund-raising trip, with a high-lighted visit to El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve. Janet Ruth will share stories and photos (hers, Dave Krueper's, and a few from other trip members) to give us a taste of this beautiful southern-most state in Mexico where the group saw more than 400 species of birds including 7 cracids, 27 raptors, 30 hummingbirds, 5 trogons, 5 motmots, 9 parrots, and 31 species of warbler!

Janet Ruth is a research ornithologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, based in New Mexico. She received her Ph.D from George Mason University and has conducted research on eastern riparian birds, Rocky Mountain warblers, desert grassland birds, and bird migration in the US-Mexico borderlands. She is the Partners in Flight Coordinator for USGS and a board member of the New Mexico Ornithological Society.



Horned Guan, photo by Dave Krueper

These FREE events will be held 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. Come early for refreshments at 7:00 p.m., announcements and program at 7:15 p.m.

Visit our website or email birdinginfo@gmail.com for more details.

cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

