

# Burrowing Owl

Central New Mexico



**Audubon Society**

September - November 2015 Vol. 44, 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](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)

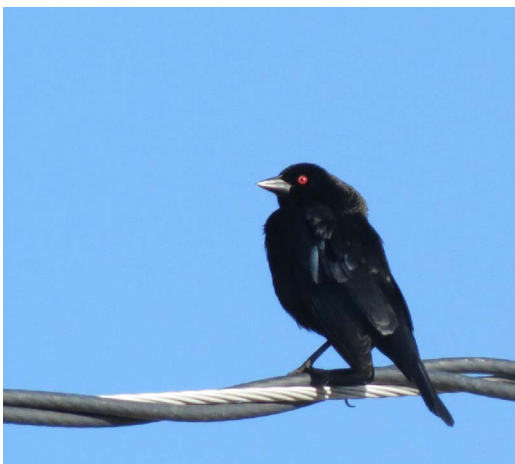
## Thursday Birders Birdathon Report - May 7th & 8th

Our team of 18 started our count at 10 am with a flock of Lark Buntings at the rest area along NM 203 into Sumner Lake. Heading into Sumner Lake State Park, highlights included Cassin's and Lark Sparrows and Scaled Quail. The groups that explored both sides of the river below the dam added Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Summer Tanager and three different warbler species. At the lake we enjoyed Clark's and Western Grebes, Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern. On the way back to Fort Sumner, we added a Ferruginous Hawk.

Highlights at Bosque Redondo Park included a Red-headed Woodpecker and a Brown Thrasher. We added Lazuli Bunting nearby.

During our evening and morning visits to Melrose Woods, we had the opportunity to see a wide array of warblers, three species of thrush and a juvenile Great Horned Owl. Along the highway, we picked up a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Back in Fort Sumner, we re-found the Bronzed Cowbird that Bonnie and Judy had located before the Birdathon, and wrapping up at Bosque Redondo Park, we enjoyed two Blue Jays.



The Bronzed Cowbird. Photo by Judy Liddell

Our Birdathon total was 108 species and our team raised \$3,409.52. One of the participants summarized the experience

with their donation, "Many thanks for a wonderful Birdathon and all the activities that CNMAS does to protect birds and educate our community."

--Judy Liddell and Bonnie Long, co-leaders

## Valle de Oro Open Houses

Tabling with the Conservation Committee is a fun way to share your love of birds. We have been tabling at the Open House



Events at the new Wildlife Refuge, Valle de Oro. These events attract a diverse communities of people and gives us an opportunity to teach ways to keep birds safe. Our emphasis is on two main hazards birds face in the urban environment. Collisions with glass and free-roaming cats. One does not have to be an expert on these topics. We always have a conservation person there with you. Here are the dates for the remain-

ing months of 2015. To volunteer for one of these dates contact Sara Jayne Cole [cats\\_birds\\_wildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:cats_birds_wildlife@yahoo.com) The added benefit is that you get to visit Valle de Oro!

### Valle de Oro Open Houses

\*\*September 26: All-day event  
9-11am  
11 am-1 pm  
1-3pm (take down)

### Themes

ValleDe Oro 3rd Birthday

Note that the following months are afternoon:

October 10: 1-4pm  
\*\*November 14: 1-4pm  
December 12: 1-4pm

Fall color  
Music & Migration  
Gifts for Wildlife

### In This Issue

Fall Programs	2-3	Burque Young Birders Update	4-5	National Wildlife Refuge News	9
Window Strike Survey Summary	4	Birding Opportunities	6	CNMA's Directory	10
Cats Indoors Article	5	Thursday Birders Schedule	7-8	**Membership form ** (last page)	



## A Message from NMAC

The New Mexico Audubon Council (NMAC) is a separate nonprofit of all of the local Audubon chapters in New Mexico and bird clubs in New Mexico. Its primary purpose is to share information among chapters, collaborate on joint projects and advocate for conservation issues, including recommending the Important Bird Areas that should be the focus for Audubon New Mexico.

At its July 25 meeting, boxes of the brochure *Cats and Wildlife – How You Can Protect Both*, a project of all local chapters funded through an Audubon New Mexico Collaborative Grant, were distributed. CNMAS members Sara Jane Cole and Erin Radcliffe, along with Christopher Rustay who wrote the grant, took the lead on designing the brochure and getting it printed.

In addition to sharing the conservation and education activities of each chapter and learning about Audubon NM updates from Julie Weinstein, the NMAC began a visioning process that will continue at the fall meeting.

## Cats and Wildlife

### HOW YOU CAN PROTECT BOTH



The best way to keep cats healthy and protect wildlife and human health is to

**Keep Cats Indoors**

## Fall Programs

All programs start at 7 pm and are held at the Adelante Community Room, 3800 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque.



Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker. Photo by Dwayne Longenbaugh

### **Expedition Borneo: Sept. 17 Dwayne and Marj Longenbaugh**

When a friend suggested we join them on a trip to Borneo, I realized I had only a very rough idea of where Borneo was, even whether or not it was a country in itself or was part of another country. I envisioned a rather primitive country (The Wild Man of Borneo, etc.) and really had no idea what we were getting into. We had previously seen a presentation on the Orangutan and the pressure that was being put on their environment. We really wanted to see Orangutans in the wild.

As it turned out, Borneo is an island divided among Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Our visit was to the Malaysian segment. There we found that the infrastructure is wonderful, the birds and animals are amazing and the people are absolutely delightful.

Our presentation will try to convey to you the many charms and delights of this warm and welcoming country. It will cover travel, accommodations and local sights as well as the birds, animals, trees and the environmental issues of Borneo. We hope to see you there to share our enthusiasm for this little known island and some of the positive activities taking place there.

Dwayne is a talented photographer. He and Marj have shared their natural history travels with us in the past.

**Oct. 15**

### **Dr. Erin Greenlee, Avian Ecologist How Reliable Is Nature's Refrigerator? Exploring The Impacts Of Climate Change On The Gray Jay**

In the last century we have experienced unprecedented changes in temperatures and precipitation patterns. It is clear that the changes in climate have had and will continue to have



substantial impacts on our biological systems. These climatic changes have the potential for large-scale impacts on the birds in New Mexico. In particular, the Gray Jay, a social, non-migratory, scatter-hoarding resident of boreal and subalpine forests, may be most vulnerable to the impacts of climatic warming. Gray Jays hoard a broad range of perishable food items and while they are not dependent upon a single food source, they rely heavily upon reliable food-storage conditions (i.e., consistently cold temperatures). Gray Jays rely on cold temperatures (Nature's Refrigerator) during autumn and winter seasons such that the effects of climate change pose a serious threat for the long-term survival of Gray Jays in New Mexico.

Erin Greenlee, Ph.D., is an avian ecologist from New Mexico. She received her BS from the University of New Mexico where she studied bat behavior and statistics. She received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University where her graduate work focused on the effects of climate change and anthropogenic forces on avian ecology and behavior. Erin has over 14 years of experience in researching and developing research methodologies for birds, bats and freshwater/riparian ecosystems. She currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



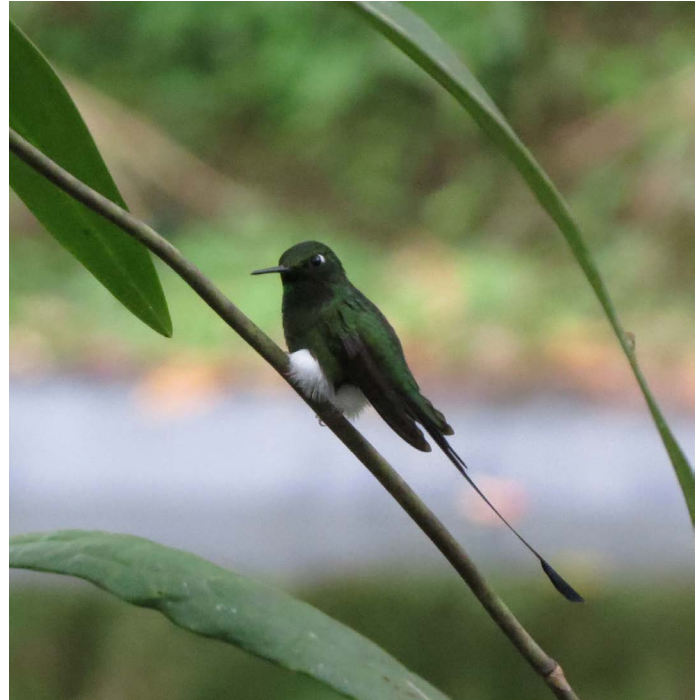
Erin with Grey Jay

**Nov. 12**

**Dr. Chris Witt**

### **Bumps on the Global Warming Elevator: Why High Altitude Adaptation Matters for the Future of Bird Diversity**

This talk will review recent research from Dr. Witt's laboratory at UNM, including collaborators Dr. Blair Wolf (UNM) and Dr. Jay Storz (U. Nebraska), and many students. Elevational distribution limits of bird species are determined by physiological adaptations to temperature and pressure and the consequences for interspecific competition. As temperatures warm, species distributions might move upslope. We have found species differences in nocturnal torpor behavior, an energy savings strategy employed by all hummingbird species. During torpor, hummingbirds drop their body temperatures to a reduced set point that is closer to air temperature and can approach freezing. Within the hummingbird communities, species vary in



The Booted Racket-tail is an Andean hummingbird found in Ecuador, where Dr. Witt conducts most of his research. *Photo by Judy Liddell.*

their set points by as much as 7 degrees C. Species with lower set points can save more energy during cold nights. Warming temperatures will reduce the degree of energetic advantage for cold-adapted Andean hummingbird species that employ low set points, potentially allowing lower elevation species to move upslope. However, genetic adaptation to atmospheric pressure might provide a countervailing force. We have uncovered predictable, genetically-based shifts in hemoglobin proteins of bird species that live in the high Andes. In hummingbirds, these hemoglobin adaptations are associated with increased ability to withstand low-oxygen, and the adaptations generally occur in species that are above ~2500 m. We hypothesize that adaptations to low oxygen pressure will allow high altitude hummingbird species to fend off low elevation competitors as temperatures warm. Genetic adaptations to temperature and pressure will determine the extent of species distributional shifts under climate change. Our findings to date suggest that individual species will show idiosyncratic responses that are influenced by their phylogenetic history and the breadth of their current elevational distributions.

Dr. Witt is Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and Curator of Birds at the Museum of Southwestern Biology of the University of New Mexico. He received his Ph.D. in 2004 from Louisiana State University. He uses museum specimens to study biogeography and evolution of birds, with a geographic focus on the Andes and the southwestern USA. His research approaches include comparative genomics, physiology, phylogenetics, and parasitology. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles.



## Albuquerque Downtown Window Strike Survey Summary

By Jessica Allen

The Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds is a program established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate collaboration between 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. This year, Albuquerque was designated a recipient of UCTMB funds.

As two of the main partners, CNMAS and Valle de Oro NWR decided to focus on allocating a significant portion of these funds towards reducing hazards to birds. One of our project goals in reducing hazards to birds was to begin developing plans for light-out/window strikes in the ABQ metro area. According to American Bird Conservancy, collision with glass is the single biggest known killer of birds in the United States, claiming hundreds of millions or more lives each year. Unlike some sources of mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on populations.

The problem of bird collisions with glass is greatly exacerbated by artificial light. Light escaping from building interiors or from exterior fixtures can attract birds, particularly during migration on foggy nights or when the cloud base is low. Strong beams of light can cause birds to circle in confusion and collide with structures, each other, or even the ground. Others may simply land in lighted areas and must then navigate an urban environment rife with other dangers, including more glass.

With this background knowledge of the extreme hazard posed to birds by window strikes, Jennifer Owen-White, Raymond VanBuskirk, and I set out to quantify the degree to which window strike mortality is impacting birds in the Albuquerque Downtown District. Working together, we established a protocol. Specific "problem" buildings were identified and a strategic route established between them. I conducted surveys three mornings each week during the month of May.

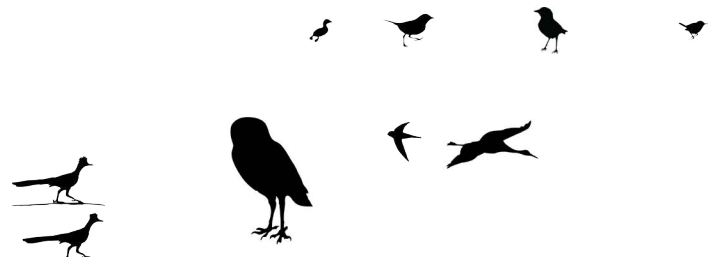
On our very first survey, Raymond and I found five bird casualties: Black-chinned hummingbird, House Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow; all of which had clearly perished as the result of a window strike. Over the course of the study period, a total of twelve casualties were found. These included: four White-winged Doves; one unidentifiable Nightjar sp.; two House Sparrows; one MacGillivray's Warbler; one House Finch; one Black-chinned Hummingbird; one Common Yellowthroat; and one Chipping Sparrow. Photos and notes were taken with every finding and a majority of the specimens were retained for further scientific use.

Our findings confirm our hypothesis that mortality due to

window strikes poses a significant threat to birds living in, or migrating through Downtown Albuquerque. The number of casualties discovered in our relatively small study area over a short period of time holds staggering implications for the magnitude of mortalities likely to occur throughout Albuquerque. Furthermore, even the entirety of Albuquerque is a very small portion of the urban areas of the world which we share with our avian friends.

Addressing the issue of window strike mortality is a necessity in our quest to reduce hazards to migrating birds in urban areas. Increasing awareness and involving the community is of utmost importance. Our thoughts on further action are as follows:

- A number of the casualties were found in the same building where USFWS offices are located. We would like to conduct a survey of people in the 500 gold building who have window offices to ask if they have ever seen or heard a bird strike
- American Bird Conservancy and other resources have ideas on what buildings can do to prevent bird strikes. Organizing and promoting this information among citizens, architects, and city planners is a daunting, but vital task.
- We would like to begin planning for a downtown lights out event, again, to increase awareness.
- We would like to partner with the Downtown Action Team to plan for an acknowledgement system for buildings that institute bird friendly practices.
- To link our efforts to the bigger picture, we are excited to partner with FLAP, a Canadian-based organization that works to safeguard migratory birds in the urban environment through education, policy development, research, rescue, and rehabilitation. We have entered our findings in FLAP mapper, their online database, and are thrilled to begin collaborating with the developer, who is clearly a wealth of knowledge and an incredibly valuable ally to have in our quest for making our modern world a safer place for birds.
- The framework created through this activity will allow further surveys to be conducted during Fall migration (August 15th - November 30th). Plans are already in place to train two additional surveyors.





### Using cats for rodent control is not Eco-friendly

If we are to encourage responsible pet ownership by asking folks to keep their cats indoors for the protection of felines and the preservation of wildlife we undermine that commitment by saying that some cats can and should be working cats or barn cats or mousers. Cats do not add to biodiversity - they deplete it.

Domestic cats are not native to North America. They were brought here by the Europeans years ago and they've been decimating our wildlife ever since. The domestic cat is a prolific hunter of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Cats do not distinguish among species they kill, killing many song birds and threatened species. The rodents that the cat kills may be the exotic house mouse or it may be one of the many native animals that complements the biodiversity of our State. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in their 2014 Review of Threatened & Endangered Species included Rodents: Southern Pocket Gopher, Meadow Jumping Mouse, Least Chipmunk and Arizona shrew among threatened species. These rodents are native to New Mexico and they have natural predators that keep their populations in check, hawks, snakes, coyotes and owls to name a few. Domestic animals are not governed by the same natural laws that govern wildlife. In a natural population, the number of prey animals determines the number of predators.

A pet cat's survival is not dependent upon its hunting success. They can always return home. Cats also kill animals without eating them. In this way, cats kill many more animals than a native predator. Pet cats also receive some protection from disease, predation and competition-- factors that affect native predators like hawks, foxes and owls. Because of this, cats may out-compete native predators for food. Native predators are not in abundance and therefore do not deplete the food supply or wreak havoc on wildlife populations. Their effect on wildlife has an ecological basis unlike that of domestic cats, whose population is out-of-control.

Those who choose to allow their cats to hunt should be concerned about their family's health. Plague, Hantavirus, salmonella and rabies are potentially fatal human diseases that cats can bring home. Cats are the only species to shed the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* in their feces. According to the CDC, this parasite can live in the environment for many months and contaminate soil, water, fruits and vegetables, sandboxes, grass where animals graze for food or any place where an infected cat may have defecated. More than 60 million people in the U.S. carry the *Toxoplasma* parasite. Most people do not realize they have been

infected. In people with weakened immune systems, the parasite can migrate to other areas of the body, including the brain, causing severe neurological disorders, including paralysis. Toxoplasmosis is of particular concern to pregnant women, since it has been linked to miscarriage and brain damage in children.

Scientists have discovered that this *T. gondii* parasite can influence the brain of the mouse making the normally fearful mouse unafraid of the smell of cats. The parasite wants the mouse to be caught by the cat because it needs to be in the cat's stomach to reproduce.

An animal where it does not belong becomes a problem. Be it a cat or a mouse or a gopher. The pocket gopher makes many contributions in the meadows and forest. A typical pocket gopher can move approximately a ton of soil to the surface each year. This enormous achievement reflects the gopher's important ecological function. In mountainous areas, snowmelt and rainfall are temporarily held in gopher burrows instead of running over the surface, where they are likely to cause soil erosion. Many mammals, large birds, and snakes eat gophers and depend on their activities to create suitable living conditions. Salamanders, toads, and other creatures seeking cool, moist conditions take refuge in unoccupied gopher burrows. The pocket gopher in your yard should be humanely trapped and moved to its natural environment. If you have a problem with mice it is most likely the exotic house mouse which came to America on those same ships that brought the cat. This little mouse leaves the fields and woods to our native mice preferring to live near humans. The best way to keep house mice from being a pest is to remove the food source, store bird seed & pet food in a metal container and plug any entry holes. Allow our native predators to take care of the mice in the barn.

**For more information about outdoor cats and human health visit the [Center for Disease Control web site](#).**





## BURQUE YOUNG BIRDERS

The Burque Young Birders Club (YBC for short) is growing and doing quite well! Each month on

the last Tuesday the YBC meets at the Flying Star on 8th and Silver starting at 5:30pm. Each month has a different theme and along with that theme usually comes with some type of activity or video. So far the YBC has learned about bird migration, why birds are important, the endangerment and extinction of birds and along with that watched the movie Rio, and other fun activities including the first ever Birds and Root beers! During summer however, we decided to combine the theme for the months of June and July. Because summer is the time that birds are breeding and in particular the migratory birds, we decided that summer should be about the many different strategies that birds use to raise their babies. During the month of June we learned about nest building and how difficult it can be to make even a simple little cup. The kids (and a few adults) used twigs, yarn, and pipe cleaners to create some elaborate and fairly accurate bird nests while watching the bird nest episode of the amazing series The Life of Birds. For the July meeting we stayed with the nesting theme but learned about a different group of birds called cavity-nesters or birds that use tree holes to nest. We not only learned about the different types of birds in NM that use cavities but also what we can do to help them and the number one way is to put out a birdhouse! Everyone got their own birdhouse to take home and was able to paint it at the meeting. So far this club has been a lot of fun for everyone involved so please join us at our next meeting! Remember it is always the last Tuesday of every month at the Flying Star on 8th and Silver so grab some food and join us!

--Jason Kitting



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 Conversation on Climate Change

Explore personal perspectives on climate change and

engage in the conversation with guest speakers

**Joan Brown, Margaret Hiza Redsteer & Alison Holloran.**

**Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 1:30 to 4:30 pm**

Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary, Santa Fe, NM

**Joan Brown** is a Catholic Franciscan Sister and Executive Director of NM Interfaith Power and Light. Joan works and collaborates with many local and national organizations in addressing climate change, stating that it is "the greatest moral, ethical and spiritual concern of our time."

**Margaret Hiza Redsteer** is a research scientist at the USGS Flagstaff Science Center, focusing on geology, climate and land use. Her research includes a unique combination of the Navajo elders' oral histories and conventional scientific investigations to document current impacts from climate change and drought.

**Alison Holloran** is the Executive Director of Audubon Rockies and coordinates their conservation and science programs, including Audubon's Climate Change Initiative. Prior to her 14 year tenure with Audubon, Alison's research focus was the potential effects of natural gas development on Greater Sage-Grouse populations in Wyoming, one of many species threatened by climate change.

*RSVPs will be accepted after invitations are sent out in August.*

*Please contact Maryam Miller with questions or to support Southwest Women in Conservation at (505) 983-4609, ext. 24, or [mmiller@audubon.org](mailto:mmiller@audubon.org). Thank you!*

Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary | 1800 Upper Canyon Road | Santa Fe, NM | (505) 983-4609 | <http://nm.audubon.org>

Thanks to a PNM Grant we will be planting quite a few more cottonwoods on the grounds of the Rio Grande Nature Center this fall. We will be planting in October. The specific date and time has yet to be made. Please contact Robert Munro at [robert@oniells.com](mailto:robert@oniells.com) to get on the volunteer list for this project. An email notice will also be sent out.



## AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

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

### SEPTEMBER 3

Visit The Narrows southeast of Grants, NM, with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the northwest corner of the parking lot of the Hotel Albuquerque, located at 800 Rio Grande NW. From I-40, take the Rio Grande exit, and drive south to the first stop light at Bellamah NW. Turn east toward the hotel and enter the parking lot on the right.

To reach the destination of the trip, exit I-40 by turning south on NM 117 on the east side of Grants, and drive south to La Ventana Natural Arch for the first stop. After some time there, the group will drive further west to The Narrows. Bring lunch. The distance is 90 miles, 180 miles round trip. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$9 at five cents per mile. The trip should end in the late afternoon.

### SEPTEMBER 10

Travel to Manzano pond in Manzano, NM, and Quarai National Monument with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade\_1@yahoo.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 Tramway and Juan Tabo NE or meet Bonnie at the intersection of NM 337 and NM 55 at 8:50. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

### SEPTEMBER 17

View the Belen Marsh and then visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Linda Heinze: 505-565-1441, manzano\_gal@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 and park there. The hike at WWCA is an easy one-mile walk. Lunch will be at Rutilio's Restaurant, 2350 Main St. NE, in Los Lunas near the intersection of NM 47 and NM 6/Main. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

### SEPTEMBER 24

Drive to Cochiti Lake with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998 (Cell), 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 Boulevard. 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, but PLEASE let Judy know to expect you there. 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 1

Travel to the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, NM, with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com Meet at 8:17 a.m. 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 Boulevard. The address at Randall Davey is 1800 Upper Canyon Road. 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 8

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the north end of the Tingley Beach parking lot. To reach the area, drive west on Central Avenue past Rio Grande Boulevard, then turn left on Tingley Drive. Take the first right from Tingley Drive, and at the stop sign, turn right to the dirt overflow parking. (The parking spots by the concession stand may be left for the anglers.)

For those interested, the group will meet at the Barelmas Coffee House at 1502 4th St. SW, for lunch.

### OCTOBER 15

Walk the perimeter of Poblanos Fields Open Space with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lfneely@aol.com. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot. To reach the fields turn north from Montano Boulevard on Tierra Viva, east of the Rio Grande River.

There is a sign for Poblanos Fields Open Space. It will be an easy one-mile walk ending before noon.

### OCTOBER 22

Walk in the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Sara Jayne Cole: 505-554-1665, birdlajoya@gmail.com.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the east side of Coors Boulevard. The entrance road, Bosque Meadows Road, is located north of Montano Road and south of Paseo del Norte. It will be an easy one-mile walk. The trip will end before noon.

### OCTOBER 29

Hike the Copper Trailhead Open Space at the east end of Copper Avenue NE, east of Tramway Boulevard, in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains with

**Shades of Brown: Confusing Sparrows**  
Presented by CNMAS & BRANT  
Saturday, October 17th  
\$125  
[BRANTtours.com/workshops/sparrows](http://BRANTtours.com/workshops/sparrows)

LBJ's, little brown birds, another darn sparrow! Sparrows are one of the most diverse groups of birds in North America and one of the most frustrating. The intricate patterns of these little dull birds might be confusing but given some practice anyone can sort them out and even begin to enjoy them.

Join us for a sparrow hunt and soon you'll be beating the bushes in search of these beautiful birds.



Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, brhussey@flash.net. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the small parking area. Others must park along Copper. There will be a one-mile walk that winds uphill and downhill on disintegrating granite. The walk will end before noon.

**NOVEMBER 5**

Walk around the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfcairns@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. 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 12**

Walk in the Alameda Open space with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard, just east of the Rio Grande River. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

**NOVEMBER 19**

Tour Bernardo Waterfowl Area (part of the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex) with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites located north of Gibson and east of University Boulevard. The refuge is 50 miles south of Albuquerque on I-40, taking exit 175 to US 60. The group will view the ponds east on US 60 before entering the refuge. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The trip will end by mid afternoon.

**NOVEMBER 26**

No trip is planned for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



**Fall Weekend Field Trips**

**Saturday, September 26th**

Tetilla Recreation Area – Cochiti Lake

Join Judy Liddell (jliddell@msn.com (505)220-7998) to explore the Tetilla Peak Recreation Area of Cochiti Lake and along Tetilla Peak Road. The road leading to the Tetilla Peak Recreation Area is a migration corridor for Sage Thrashers and sparrows at the end of September. At the Recreation Area we will bird around the Overlook and then the riparian areas along the lake where Eared and Western Grebes are possible. There is usually a lingering juvenile Osprey. We will eat our lunches along the lake. In the afternoon, we will return to I-25 via Pena Blanca.

Meet in front of the gym at the Nar North Shopping Center on the east side of San Mateo and Academy at 7:50. Carpooling is encouraged since there are limited places for cars to pull off along Tetilla Peak Road. For those not driving, the shared

gas expense is \$5 based of \$.50 mile. We will return by mid-afternoon. If you want to meet the group further north, contact Judy to confirm meeting place and time.

**Saturday, October 10th**

Corrales Bosque

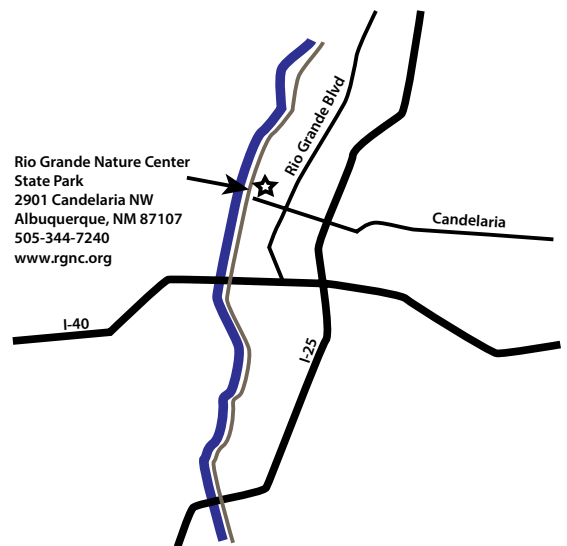
Walk in the Corrales Bosque to look for regulars and migrators with lee Hopwood 505-250-0581, plhopwood@gmail.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the Flying Star shopping center at Alameda and Coors. Participants should park at the north end of the lot near the dumpster. The group will carpool from there. The walk will last until about 11:00 and then all are invited to gather for brunch at Flying Star afterward.

**OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

There are Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park located at the far west end of Candelaria NW beginning at 8:30 a.m. A \$3 parking fee or pass is required. The pass may be purchased inside the visitors' center after 10:00 a.m.



Rio Grande Nature Center State Park



**HawkWatch International (HWI)** will monitor the fall migration of raptors at the Manzano Hawk Watch near Capilla Peak. Observation will begin on August 27 and continue daily, weather permitting, until November 5. Crew members will be on duty from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. so join HWI observers to identify hawks, eagles, and falcons as they fly south for the winter. Visitors are welcome, and an interpreter will be on duty to answer your questions. See raptors up close before they are released back to the wild after banding. For directions, call Bobbie at 255-7622 or for more information, [www.hawkwatch.org](http://www.hawkwatch.org).





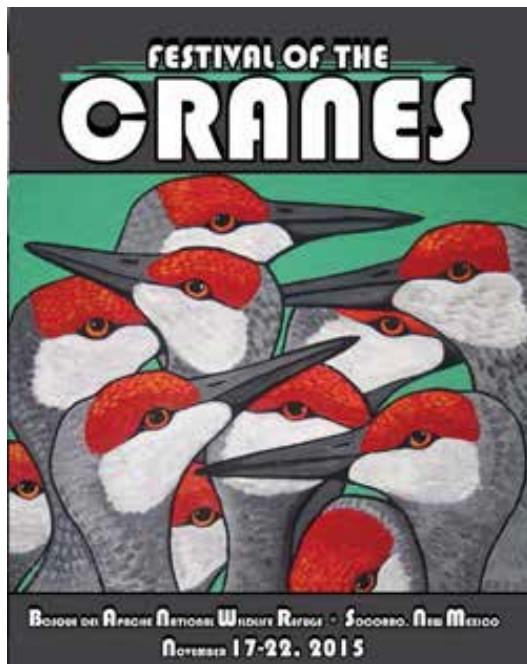
## National Wildlife Refuge Events/News

### Sevilleta:

Public Lands Day event on Saturday, Sept 26, to improve a trail that leads from our outdoor classroom to the Rio Grande. Please call the refuge for more info and to sign up: 505-864-4021.

Our annual event Celebrate Sevilleta will be held on Saturday October 24. There will be several tours offered, presentations, and exhibits. Please call the refuge for more info and to sign up. 505-864-4021

### Bosque del Apache:



This year's cover art is by Lisa Walraven.

The 28th Festival of the Cranes is coming! The expanded Festival brochure will be available in mid- August, and online registration for Festival events starts September 8. Here's how it works:

Friends of the Bosque members will be given online registration priority for one day starting September 8 at 9:00 AM. Non-member online registration then begins on September 9 at 9:00 AM. If you want to cash in on this membership perk, it's easy to become a member. Just visit our website ([www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)); click the green and blue 'Join Us' button, and in a few minutes you will be part of one of the strongest Friends groups in the country (and you can register early!).

The Friends encourages online registration but realize that this approach doesn't serve everyone. A hard copy registration form is available in the brochure. It can be faxed or snail-mailed to the Friends office. Starting September 9, after 1:00 PM, all faxed and snail mailed hard copy registrations will be manually

processed in the order they were received.

A taste of what's planned: There are more than 160 event sessions to choose from in over six days--including 47 NEW events, and over 70 special birding events. If you're a serious birder, you'll want to look for the brochure's Birder's Corner for information on these events. The BRANT group is back offering even more birding intensives than last year, including the ever-popular Owling Expedition and the new Sparrows Intensive. In the last few years, Festival has expanded its photography element to the point that many describe Festival of the Cranes as one of the top photography festivals in the country. This year a serious line-up of photography pros is joining us, with Roman Kurywczak, Maxis Gamez, Russell Burden, David Akoubain, Hazel Meredith, Keith Bauer, Wayne Pope, Kathryn Dow and Stephen Ingraham leading sixty photography sessions. As a very special event, the Friends and the Very Large Array (VLA) are bringing back the VLA Nighttime Photography workshop sponsored by Sigma and led by Roman Kurywczak.

Festival continues to bring you the best of crane and raptor workshops with over 25 offerings. And, no, Land, Sea, and Air did not go away. In fact you will have the opportunity to "bird by boat" four times during the week with one session as an intensive.

Our keynote speaker for the Friends dinner is Rich Beilfuss, CEO and President of the International Crane Foundation. Our Expo Tent once again expands with more camera, optic and ecotravel exhibitors.

Help us celebrate this national treasure and put the Festival dates of November 17-22 on your calendars. The fun is about to begin!

--Michael Hanauer, Festival Coordinator



e-mail: [friends@sdco.org](mailto:friends@sdco.org)

PO Box 340 San Antonio, NM 87832

To see the original version of the newsletter, go to: [www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)



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

Wildlife Rescue for injured birds: Wildlife Rescue at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 344-2500.

To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to [www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com)

**eBird** Click on 'Explore Data,' then choose one of the available options such as 'Explore Hotspots', 'Species Maps,' or 'Bar Charts'.

### Don't Let Sammy Be An Assassin



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

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



### DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT



**Tax Receipt Given  
Not running OK  
FREE PICK UP  
Call 877-411-3662**

## 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](mailto: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.



### 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](#)

#### [New Mexico Audubon Office](#)

Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 983-4609

#### [Department of the Interior](#)

849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-3100

#### [Senator Tom Udall](#)

B40D Dirksen Senate Office  
Building Washington, DC 20510  
505-346-6791

#### [Senator Martin Heinrich](#)

B40D Dirksen Senate Office  
Bldg Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5521

#### [Congressman Steve Pearce](#)

(202) 224-3121

#### [Congressman Ben R. Lujan](#)

(202) 225-6190

#### [Congressman Michelle Lujan-](#)

#### [Grisham](#)

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

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

#### [Rio Grande Nature Center State Park](#)

(505) 344-7240

#### [Friends of RGNC](#)

[Wildlife Rescue](#)  
(505)344-2500

## Central New Mexico Audubon Society

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

**Return Service Requested**

Burrowing Owl

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



Central New Mexico Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit chapter of  
the National Audubon Society, Inc.

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

## CNMAS DIRECTORY

**CNMAS** Phone (505) 255-7622 Email [jmyers@peacocklaw.com](mailto:jmyers@peacocklaw.com)  
Webpage: <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/>  
CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

### **PRESIDENT**

Karen Herzenberg: [cnmaspresident@gmail.com](mailto:cnmaspresident@gmail.com)

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Judy Liddell: (505) 271-0912 [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com)

### **TREASURER**

Lee Hopwood: [PLHopwood@gmail.com](mailto:PLHopwood@gmail.com)

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Jessica Rose Allen: (505) 506-2191 [jrla@unm.edu](mailto:jrla@unm.edu)

### **CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON**

Jeffrey Myers: (505)998-1502 [jmyers@peacocklaw.com](mailto:jmyers@peacocklaw.com)

### **BURROWING OWL**

Jenna Stoff: [burowlnm@gmail.com](mailto:burowlnm@gmail.com)

(505) 999-7873

### **CATS INDOORS CAMPAIGN**

Sara Jayne Cole: [saracole6813@comcast.net](mailto:saracole6813@comcast.net)

Mikal Deese: [mikaldeese@aol.com](mailto:mikaldeese@aol.com)

### **EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE**

Lynn Lorrain Schuler: [cnmasgrants@gmail.com](mailto:cnmasgrants@gmail.com)

Eileen Beaulieu: [dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net](mailto:dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net)

### **FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON**

Jason Kitting: [jrkitting@yahoo.com](mailto:jrkitting@yahoo.com), (505) 379-6075

### **MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHAIRPERSON**

(for change of address only)

Marj Longenbaugh: [centralnmaudubon@peoplepc.com](mailto:centralnmaudubon@peoplepc.com)  
(505) 345-7588

### **NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

Lynn Lorrain Schuler: [onthepulse@msn.com](mailto:onthepulse@msn.com)

Lee Hopwood: [PLHopwood@gmail.com](mailto:PLHopwood@gmail.com)

### **DIRECTORS**

Robert Munro: (505)730-7762 [robert.munro@earthlink.net](mailto:robert.munro@earthlink.net)

Jason Kitting: (505)379-6075 [jrkitting@yahoo.com](mailto:jrkitting@yahoo.com)

Christopher Rustay: (505)255-7786 [chrustay@aol.com](mailto:chrustay@aol.com)

### **NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL**

President - Judy Liddell

### **OTHER**

Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

Call before you intervene: 281-1133

### [New Mexico Rare Bird Alert](#)

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann

505-264-1052

[mb687@yahoo.com](mailto:mb687@yahoo.com)

### [Rosy-Finch Project](#)

Alan Mickelson: (505)281-3471

[gonefishin820@earthlink.net](mailto:gonefishin820@earthlink.net)

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

Central New Mexico Audubon Society  
Application Form for NEW MEMBERS ONLY

Print and fill out this form and mail to the appropriate address as indicated below for the type of membership to which you wish to subscribe. Your National Audubon membership RENEWAL must be sent directly to National Audubon.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (with Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

(For notification when each new edition of our newsletter is available)

National Audubon

Chapter Code: C0ZQ510Z

The following rates include subscriptions to the National Audubon Magazine and the Central New Mexico Audubon Society Chapter newsletter, "The Burrowing Owl."

\_\_\_ \$20 New member, special introductory rate

\_\_\_ \$30 new Member, special introductory rate for two years

Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society: PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Local Audubon Chapter Membership Only

The following rate includes an electronic version to "The Burrowing Owl" newsletter but does not include a membership in the National Audubon Society.

\_\_\_ \$15 for subscription to "The Burrowing Owl" only

This rate also applies to National Audubon members of our chapter area who still wish to electronically receive "The Burrowing Owl."

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