

Burrowing Owl

Central New Mexico



Audubon Society

December 2015 - February 2016 Vol. 44, No. 5

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

A Big 'Thank You' Sara Jane Cole



Thank you for the unique glass bird I received at the Oct 15 CNMAS meeting. I love contemporary lines and I love birds, so this was perfect. I was surprised and pleased to be recognized for the many hours I have spent working on the CNMAS Cats Indoors Campaign. At the time words eluded me, so I am using this

issue of the Burrowing Owl to say THANK YOU.

When I moved to Albuquerque in 2011 I had a goal to spend my retirement on birding and conservation. The CNMAS Cats Indoors Campaign has given me that opportunity. This is an issue that I relate to on different levels, because some 40 years back I too was someone who let their cat roam. All the while I was feeding back yard birds and ignoring nasty looks from my neighbors. I started keeping cats indoors, like most people, because it was better for the cats. Maybe I am looking for retribution? The Cats Indoors Campaign was and continues to be my way to help protect birds. I am thankful that CNMAS has given me this opportunity to plan and conduct the Cats Indoors Campaign.

The Urban Bird Treaty Funding gave the campaign money to spend but it also gave us a time line for completing the things CNMAS agreed to accomplish with the funds. Some weeks it has meant lots more hours spent on cats than bird watching. I knew that I was spending more time than was expected, but I could not stop or slow down because of the many challenges free-roaming cats present. Will I cut back on the cat thing now this UBT Grant is over? Maybe a little with your help. Talk to your neighborhood association, city representative and councilors to educate them about the wonderful urban environment we have here in Albuquerque and how these efforts to restore habitat are undermined by the domestic cats that roam free in our city. Domestic cats are a huge problem world-wide and curbing their impact on our biodiversity is something that we must make our priority.

Sara Jayne Cole, CNMAS Conservation Committee/Cats Indoors Campaign

Learn About Palm Oil Dwayne Longenbaugh

As many of you know, the forests of Malaysia and Indonesia are under great pressure due to the demand for palm oil. These forests have just the right temperatures, rainfall and soil type to grow the palm oil trees which are in such high demand. These forests are the last place where Orangutans still live in the wild.

A number of growers and the companies which use large amounts of palm oil have joined together to form the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). They have pledged to grow only on the lands which are already planted in oil palms and to only buy from growers who have committed to stop the cutting of forests for new palm oil plantations. It is a positive step but only a beginning. As you can imagine, there are many others who will ignore or circumvent this plan.



Mama and baby orangutan at Camp Leakey, Tanjung Puting. (Rainforest Action Network)

There is an app available for your phone which will help you learn more about this problem and will aid you in making informed choices about your use of palm oil. Palm oil has many different names so it is difficult to simply read labels. Roughly half of processed foods and cosmetic products use palm oil in varying amounts. This app will help you sort through the screen of misinformation and learn more about how palm oil is used and who is using it.

The app is from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. This app lets you search for a product to see how that product is rated in terms of palm oil use and practices. Many manufacturers and companies and their products are rated. There are also items which explain the palm oil issues, things you can do to help and a video.

The app can be found in the Play Store.

In This Issue

Winter Programs	2-3	Entanglements	6	Birders Needed	9
Les Hawks: Birder Extraordinaire	4	Thursday Birders Schedule	7-8	CNMAS Directory	10
Christmas Bird Counts	5	Winter Weekend Field Trips	8-9		



Winter Programs

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

Open House - Museum of Southwest Biology* A Showcase of Collections-Based Research on Birds

Sunday, Dec. 6 from 3-6 pm

UNM Ornithology invites CNMAS members 'behind the scenes' at the Museum of Southwestern Biology during this one-time open house. Students, faculty, and staff will exhibit their ornithological research projects and the specimens on which they are based and be available to answer your questions.

This was a popular event a few years ago when only a limited number of people could participate. UNM Ornithology has graciously volunteered to host this event on a Sunday afternoon so as many people can as attend as possible.



Museum of Southwestern Biology, UNM. Photo by Judy Liddell.

*The MSB is on the University of New Mexico campus in the CERIA building (building 83). The main door to CERIA is on SW side of the building facing the fountain. To locate CERIA, orient from the intersection of Central Ave. and Yale Blvd. From here, continue north onto campus along Yale Blvd. Cross Redondo South Dr. and continue along the promenade until you reach the fountain. CERIA is the building NE of you. Park along Redondo near Yale, or in the parking lots west of Castetter Hall.

[Map available here](#)

Adelante Community Center

Bill Maley's 2015 Bernalillo County Big Year: Lessons Learned That Can Be Used By All Birders

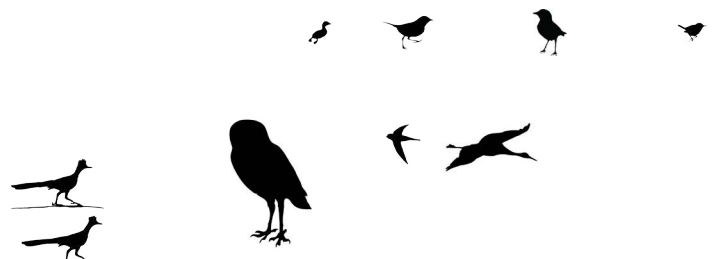
Thursday, January 21, 7 pm



Worm-eating Warbler. Photo by Bill Maley.

As the third-smallest yet most populous county in New Mexico, Bernalillo County provides unique birding challenges, with a surprising diversity of habitat and bird species. 2015 proved to be an especially interesting year, with unusual El Niño-related weather bringing in several rarities. Through stories, photos, and eBird reports, follow Bill's record-breaking attempt to observe as many bird species as possible in a single year. Included will be lessons learned, tips, and techniques that will apply to birders of all levels.

While Bill comes from a long family history of birding and ornithology, he came late to the party, not developing an interest in birds until 2013, when he moved to Florida and fell in love with the herons, egrets, and warblers in his neighborhood. As a lifelong musician, Bill is especially drawn to the songs, calls, and other vocalizations of birds, and makes it a point to go birding at least once a day.





Adelante Development Center

Priority Bird Species and Audubon New Mexico's Conservation Program

Thursday, February 18, 7 pm

Spend the evening with Beth Bardwell, Audubon New Mexico's new Director of Conservation, and Sharon Wirth, Freshwater Program Manager, to learn more about statewide conservation programming and its impact on New Mexico priority birds and habitats. Audubon staff is looking forward to having a conversation with CNMAS members about chapter priorities and opportunities to strengthen collaboration across the Audubon network of state office, chapters, and Important Bird Areas.

Beth has a MS in Biology from New Mexico State University (1999) and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon School of Law (1987). After seven years practicing law, she fell in love with birding and returned to school to study biology. While at NMSU, Beth completed her Masters' research on the adaptive significance of bill shape in Western Scrub Jays. Since receiving her Masters, Beth has been working to conserve freshwater and rivers within New Mexico and the Rio Grande basin through on-the-ground restoration and water policy reform at the local, state and federal level.

Sharon has a MS in Biology (1995) and a Juris Doctorate (2012), both from the University of New Mexico. As a graduate student, Sharon studied arid land ecology, with research focused on water cycling and the effects of drought conditions on Northern New Mexico pinon-juniper woodlands. Sharon then spent 15 years as a practicing ecologist, working in the area of environmental assessment and cleanup at sites in New Mexico and in places as far away as Guam and Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Photo by Janice Braud.



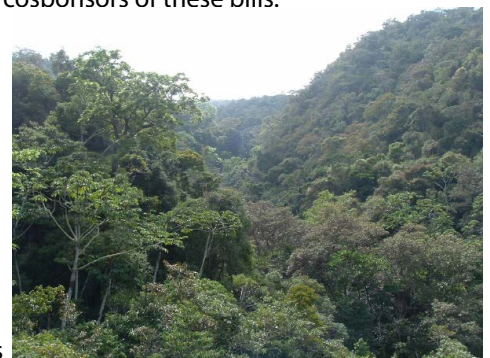
Bird-Safe Buildings Act

Did you know that **collisions with glass** claim the lives of **hundreds of millions of birds** in the United States each year? Birds that have successfully flown thousands of miles on migration can then die in seconds on a pane of glass. Luckily, we have the bird-friendly design strategies and technology needed to **make a difference now**.

Please urge your U.S. Representative to support the **2015 Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act**, which would help prevent the deaths of millions of birds - like this Painted Bunting - by including bird-safe building materials and design features across federal buildings.

Feel inspired to support other bird conservation efforts? A number of bills have been introduced in Congress to **conserve migratory birds**, and to **protect birds from threats** such as neonicotinoid pesticides. You can help by urging your elected officials to become cosponsors of these bills.

•Please urge your U.S. Representative to cosponsor the Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2015. The bill requires EPA to suspend the registration of neonicotinoid insecticides pending thorough review of the adverse effects on birds, bees, butterflies, bats, and other beneficial organisms. [Take action now!](#)



Species-rich cloud forest habitat protected through a grant project in upstream Los Negros, Bolivia. Supported by the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Credit: Fundacion Natura Bolivia

•The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has supported 451 conservation projects on more than 3.7 million acres of critical bird habitat. Tell your representatives: Let's build on this conservation success by reauthorizing the NMBCA! [Please act today!](#)

Thanks for taking action to conserve birds and their habitats!



Les Hawkins – Birder Extraordinaire

By Ruth Burstrom

(re-printed with permission from the Hawks Aloft newsletter)

Among the many noteworthy members of Hawks Aloft in particular, and virtually all nature related organizations in New Mexico in general, including Central New Mexico Audubon and New Mexico Ornithological Society, one person stood out: Mr. Leslie Hawkins, who alas passed on at the age of one hundred and one years.

Known to friends as “Les”, he was the quiet guy on the side who could tell you everything that was important, be it bird related, environmental or political.

While born in Maine – a place he always kept warmly in his heart – his family, driven by employment opportunities of his sea-captain father, Les was moved to sunny California: San Diego to be specific. Hearing him tell the tale of driving across New Mexico pre-paved roads as a lad was jaw dropping. His father moved the family to Oakland where Les attended high school. There he developed his passion for bird watching. He was the last man standing of the OOC – the Oakland Ornithological Club. Membership cost a steep five cents; its members were truly hard-core, disciplined authorities in the field. Les recalled using the then expansive public transportation system in the area to get to his sites. Other issues to fill Les’ colorful CV were his decision to attend the 1933 Chicago World Fair – getting there by tramping on trains and hitch hiking, as well as taking a grand tour of Asia – pre-war while working in the merchant marines, a Westerner’s dream.

He attended the University of California Berkley and transferred to UCLA when it first opened and graduated with a degree in business right during the height of the Depression. Jobs were scarce.

Young adulthood saw him married, operating a gas station in LA among the most notable Hollywood stars and landing a job in a shipyard – inside the hulls of riveted, steel-hulled crafts. His loss of hearing in later life doubtlessly took its origin there. In 1945 a horrific soft tissue injury on his leg took him to the hospital where his dad was the only thing preventing him from getting an amputation. While immobile with this injury, he was offered a humble desk job: Chief expeditor for some Manhattan engineering district, whatever the hell that was. He took the job and procured the weirdest, costliest stuff he had no idea of from all over the world. On August 6, the newspaper gave him and his staff quite the Aha!-moment.

Post-war, his performance in the office earned him an invitation to: New Mexico. Little place on a bluff, called

Los Alamos. Boss: Norris Bradbury. Employer: University of California. Job title: CFO. Les moved his growing family of his wife and two daughters, Sandra and BJ, up to “The Hill”.

His stories about life in Los Alamos, frequent air travel to Albuquerque, Washington DC and other high level, top secret destinations were hair raising: Antiquated aircraft, challenging weather, last minute arrangements and the like. This post kept him occupied until 1975; apparently not much time for bird-watching then. After retirement, Les dusted off his binoculars and moved his wife to Albuquerque. He was on the founding board of the Nature Conservancy in New Mexico – and until now one of its most faithful supporters; member of Central New Mexico Audubon Society and gentleman extraordinaire during field trips. His cocktail invitations on the evening of field trips, no matter how remote, still fill me with nostalgia.

Les was always in awe of the Sandia Mountains. While he could, he made a trip up to walk the foothills almost every day. In later years, Les became troubled by poor eyesight and balance problems. Even his love of bird watching suffered, and he could no longer participate in field trips. But you would not miss him in parties and functions. A true gentleman and jokester, we had the privilege of celebrating his 101st birthday; shortly thereafter, he suffered a fall from which he could not recover. His steadfast wish to remain in his own home, which until to the very end he largely maintained on his own, to his last breath was thankfully granted.

Les is a man of remarkable intellect, an inspiring legacy both professionally as well as in advocacy, and a charming companion armed with the ways and wiles of prewar life. He serves as an inspiration to carry on the good fight for habitats, species and nature watching opportunities. And some good get together.





2015 Christmas Bird Counts

Five Points & Sevilleta CBC's Wednesday, Dec. 16 & Friday, Dec. 18

Both counts will start at 6:30 a.m. at the Sevilleta NWR headquarters.

We need to be back to the headquarters by 4 p.m.
Contact Steve or Nancy Cox, (505) 345-2385, swcox@spinn.net or sora@spinn.net

Bosque del Apache NWR CBC Saturday, December 19

Please meet at the refuge headquarters at 7 AM to divide up into groups. We usually stay out all day, so you will want to bring lunch, water, snacks, warm clothes, etc. After the count, we will meet at the Owl Cafe in San Antonio for dinner and to get a preliminary species count. For more information, contact Dave Hawksworth at dlhawksworth@gmail.com or (505) 507-5343. If possible, please contact Dave before the count, as the refuge likes to know how many people will be participating. Everyone is welcome!

Valle de Oro CBC Saturday, December 19

Please join our 3rd CBC at Valle de Oro, the Southwest's first urban wildlife refuge, right in our own Albuquerque backyard! Meet at the refuge's main entrance (7851 2nd St SW, ABQ, 87105) at 7:00 am.

Contact Kim Score if you wish to participate: firefinch@usa.net or 505-240-3294. The compilation dinner will be celebrated at Abuelita's New Mexican Kitchen on 6083 Isleta Blvd SW at 5:00 pm.

Bluewater Lake CBC Sunday, December 20

Head into the wild west of Cibola County. Only an hour and 10 minutes from ABQ! Meet 9 miles west of Grants at Bowlin's Bluewater Outpost and Dairy Queen off Interstate 40 (exit 72) at 7:00 am. Contact Kim Score if you wish to participate and carpool: firefinch@usa.net or 505-240-3294. The compilation dinner will be celebrated at the Wow Diner in Milan at 5:00 pm.

Sandia Mountains CBC Saturday, December 26

There will be no morning meeting location for the complete year. Please

contact Nick in advance so he can organize groups and territories, and arrange meeting locations and times for individual groups.

Contact Nick Pederson (505) 417-8665, ndpederson83@gmail.com as soon as possible if you wish to participate. The compilation party will be from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at O'Niell's Irish Pub at 3301 Juan Tabo NE, north of Candelaria on the west side of the street. There the group will eat and go over the results of the count.

Albuquerque CBC Sunday, December 27th

For more details on count day, territory assignments, compilation party, 2015 pre-count scouting effort, and to RSVP please contact the count compiler, Raymond VanBuskirk: AlbuquerqueCBC@gmail.com.

You can find more NM Christmas Bird Count Information on this website:

<http://www.rioembudobirds.org/nmcbc/index-ByDate.htm>

The next GBBC is February 12-15, 2016

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are.

For details, go to <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>





Entanglements!



Thousands of birds are injured or killed each year as the result of becoming tangled in a variety of man-made materials. If birds become entangled they are essentially trapped and cannot free themselves without assistance. They are prevented from flying, walking, feeding and avoiding predators.

Prolonged entanglement can cause permanent physical damage to skin, feathers, muscles, nerves or bones.

Entanglement Hazards include:

1. **Fishing line** and its associated hooks and tackle that have been improperly disposed of along beaches, lakes and ponds is the leading cause of wildlife entanglement. Line and tackle left behind in branches and bushes become tangled on the legs, wings and beaks of birds. Using proper disposal containers, cut disposed fishing line into small, safe pieces that will not become a risk to wildlife, spend some time cleaning up fishing line debris at a local pond, lake or beach, and support the use of biodegradable fishing line. More common use of a fishing line that did not have a prolonged life-span in the environment could reduce entanglement risks.

2. **Kite or balloon string** caught in overhead branches or bushes can fatally trap a bird. When a kite becomes snagged in a tree, always remove as much of the string as can be safely reached. Be careful to never release balloons into the environment where the balloons and string become hazards to wildlife.

3. **Plastic six-pack rings** for cans or plastic bottles or any other plastic ring from a container should always be cut apart before they are disposed of so there are no openings that could get stuck on the head or limb of an animal.

4. **Soccer goal netting** can trap nocturnal wildlife such as owls or cottontails that do not see the netted barrier as they run or fly through an open field at night. Animals and birds will be

seriously injured or die as they struggle to free themselves once they become caught. If your park or school has soccer fields, please make sure the goal netting can be removed when not in use.

5. **Holiday decorations** can also be dangerous to wildlife. Birds became caught on loosely hung strings of outdoor holiday lights. The popular sticky, stringy spider webbing decorations placed across bushes at Halloween ensnare birds that live or

feed in the vegetation. Birds will panic and injure themselves trying to escape or be trapped until they die in the webbing. Please make sure your holiday decorations are safe for wildlife.

6. **Landscape netting** used for turf reinforcement, plantings, and erosion control can be particularly hazardous when placed where aquatic birds and their young exit the water to reach land. Areas that are netted should be frequently checked and should use degradable netting products that break down faster than standard plastic ground covers.

7. **Netting covers for trees** intended to keep birds from reaching ripening fruit often snag the birds they are trying to exclude. If you use a cover for a fruit tree, it is important to frequently check for trapped birds.

What to do if you find an entangled bird:

Call a wildlife rehabilitation center for advice if you encounter a bird in an entanglement situation (particularly if it involves a bird that would be dangerous to safely handle (e.g. herons, cormorants, owls, hawks).

Critical step: hold the bird while you cut/untangle the material that is restraining it. It may seem the most urgent thing to get the bird free from restraint but containing the bird is more important. If you cut/remove only enough material to free the bird- it may escape with hooks and string still attached to its body which will continue to harm it and in many cases eventually cause the bird's death.

Do not just cut a bird free!! Capture—then cut!

If the entangling material is embedded in the bird's skin or wrapped very tightly, do not attempt to remove it yourself. Doing so may cause even greater damage to the bird. Cut away enough of the material to get the bird loose and transport it to a wildlife rehabber where trained staff can safely remove entangling material.

If a bird is small enough and reachable: wrap/cover its body in a towel, pillowcase or net to contain it while you unwrap netting or cut string.

If the tangled bird is suspended out of reach: be ready to catch the bird if it falls after the restraining material is cut. Do not allow a bird to drop into an area where it may sustain further injuries, get away, not be able to be reached, or even drown if it falls into water still tangled!

Once you have contained the bird and cut away the entangled material - **Do Not Let the Bird Go!** It is likely that the bird has sustained an injury from the string, netting, or hook and needs to be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator for evaluation. The bird should be examined and treated for any damage that the entanglement may have caused. Birds can be safely transported



by placing them in a closed paper bag or cardboard box.

Numbers to call:

Hawks Aloft: 505-828-9455

On a Wing and a Prayer: 505-897-0439

Wildlife Rescue of NM: 505-344-2500

AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

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

DECEMBER 3

Walk in the Durand Open Space in the South Valley with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot at 4812 Isleta SW. To reach the open space, drive south on I-25 and exit on Rio Bravo. Drive west on Rio Bravo and turn south onto Isleta Boulevard. Drive two miles to the property on the east. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

DECEMBER 10

Hike down Bear Canyon with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com, followed by a holiday potluck lunch at the home of Liz and Larry Kuo. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Michael Emery Trailhead parking lot east of Tramway on Spain. (Spain is north of Montgomery and south of Paseo del Norte.) Follow Spain until it ends on High Desert. Turn right for a short distance to the parking lot. The group will walk a mile and then go to the Kuo's nearby home for lunch. Soup, coffee, and hot cider will be provided. Everyone else should bring other dishes and beverages to share with the group. Directions to the Kuo's home will be handed out at the hike. If not attending the walk, contact Rebecca for directions.

DECEMBER 17

Hike up Embudito Canyon in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:57 a.m. in the Embudito Trailhead parking lot. To reach the canyon drive east on Montgomery past Tramway, then turn left on Glenwood Hills. Continue 0.4 miles before turning right on Trailhead Road. This is an easy one-mile walk that will end before noon.

DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve, no trip planned.

DECEMBER 31

Visit Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley with co-leaders, Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lfneely@aol.com and Sara Jayne Cole: 505-554-1665, birdlajoya@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. To reach the refuge, drive south on I-25

and take the Rio Bravo exit. Drive west on Rio Bravo to 2nd Street. Turn south on 2nd and drive 3.2 miles to the parking area by the refuge sign. The trip will end before noon.

JANUARY 7

Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Torrance County with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot on the west side of the Tijeras Senior Center on NM 333/ Rt. 66. To reach the parking area turn north on Tijeras Avenue, just west of the Tijeras Library. The group will drive south of Moriarty and Estancia to look for raptors. Lunch will be at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Tijeras in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 14

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfcairns@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 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 lot. This leaves the few parking spots by the concession stand for people who want to fish. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

JANUARY 21

Visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen with Linda Heinze: 505-565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard or 9:45 at WWCA on NM 47. The walk will be about 1.5 miles in length. Lunch will be at Henrietta's in Los Lunas, located at 740 Main St. NE. The trip should end mid afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 28

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333. 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.

FEBRUARY 4

Visit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on University and Gibson. A secondary meeting place



will be McDonald's in Socorro at 9:15 for a quick rest stop and just enough time to get food to go. The group will depart for the Bosque del Apache at 9:30. Bring lunch. A \$5 entrance fee or Federal pass is required per car. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

FEBRUARY 11

Walk in the Corrales Bosque with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the shopping area north of Alameda Road/ NM 528 and east of NM 448/Coors/Corrales Road. Participants should park away from the businesses. The group will carpool from there. All are invited to have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

FEBRUARY 18

Drive to Sandia Crest to look for the Rosy-Finches with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, brhussey@flash.net. Meet at 9:50 a.m. for a 10:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village located on Central Avenue between Tramway and Juan Tabo. Snacks or lunch may be bought at the Crest House restaurant as the group waits inside for the Rosy-Finches to arrive at the feeders. 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. The trip should end in the early afternoon.

FEBRUARY 25

Walk in Calabacillas Arroyo with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot that is located on the west side of the Rio Grande River. The area is reached by driving north on Coors, past Paseo Del Norte and Irving Boulevard, turning east on Westside Drive. Look for the Nicky V's Neighborhood Pizzeria sign. Follow Westside Dr. about 0.2 of a mile to an open gate on the left. Go through the gate and down the arroyo to the parking area. If driving south on Coors from Corrales or Alameda, get in the left turn lane at Nicky V's and turn onto Westside Drive. The walk will end before noon.

OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Central New Mexico Audubon Society has occasional weekend field trips. These are found in the Burrowing Owl and on the website, www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas.



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

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

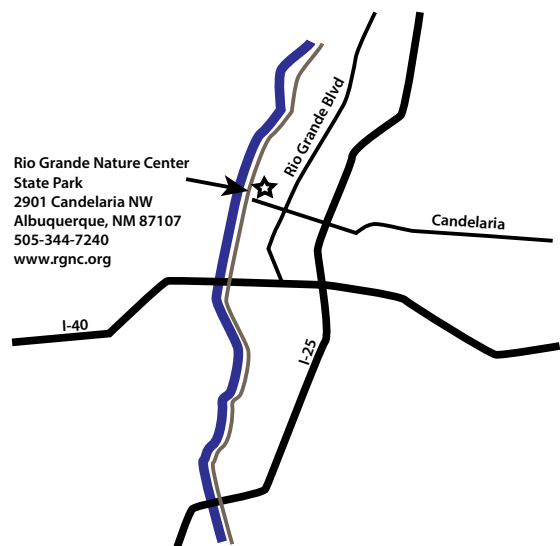
NATURE CENTER BIRD WALKS



Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Join 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. There is a \$3 parking fee without a State Parks Pass or Friends

of the Rio Grande NatuCenter Pass. Both may be purchased in the visitor's center after 10:00 a.m.



Winter Weekend Field Trips

December

There will be no scheduled weekend field trip in December so that members can participate in the annual Christmas Bird Counts.

January

**Sandia Crest
Sunday, January 17th**

Join Jason Kitting (jason1991.bnow@gmail.com) at the Sandia Crest to hunt for the three species of Rosy-finch from the comfort of the warm crest house! Rio Grande Bird Research will also be at the crest banding rosy-finches so you will get an up close and personal look at these amazing mountain birds. We will also make a trip out along the crest trail to look for other mountain specialties such as Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak, and American Three-Toed Woodpecker. We will meet in front of the Starbucks at Tramway and Central at 8am



and the crest house around 10am. There is food available at the crest house and please respect their no outside food rule. Trip will be over by 1pm.

January
Embudo Canyon
Saturday, January 30th

Join Judy Liddell (jliddell@msn.com, (505) 220-7998) to explore Embudo Canyon. Species seen regularly in January include Cactus Wren, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Rock and sometimes Canyon Wrens,

Canyon Towhee, Townsend's Solitaire and White-crowned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. The canyon often attracts rarities. We will only be exploring the base of the canyon. Meet at 9 am in the trailhead parking lot. We will be back to our cars before noon.

February
Alameda Bridge Open Space
Saturday, February 13th

Lee Hopwood (plhopwood@gmail.com, (505) 259-0581) will lead this field trip which in February can be surprising with winter birds and the occasional "what are you doing here" bird. We will meet at the parking area to the open space on Alameda. From there we walk in the bosque and/or along the adjacent ditch. The walking portion will probably be about one mile round trip in the bosque and on the ditch. We'll wrap up by 11:00 am. Restroom facilities are available at the parking area. For more information and to sign up, please contact me by email or phone.

Rosy-Finch Banding

Rio Grande Bird Research Inc. will resume Rosy-Finch banding at the Sandia Crest House in the latter part of November and will continue their research through the end of February. The Sandia Crest House is open to the public and the Rosy-Finch feeders are open for viewing during normal business hours (10AM to Sunset). It is always a good idea to call ahead to the Sandia Crest House: (505) 243-0605 and/or check road conditions before making the trip to the top of the mountain as winter storms can leave the road impassable. In the past, banding has run from 10am-2pm on Sundays but it may change this season. For more information or to receive a 2015/2016 Rosy-Finch Banding Schedule please contact Raymond VanBuskirk at (505) 217-8514 or newmexicobirder@gmail.com.



Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. Photo by Raymond VanBuskirk

Birders of All Skill Levels Needed

Our laboratory at Vanderbilt University is looking for birders of all levels of experience to participate in a project examining how perception and memory for birds differs between beginners and experts. We really do mean all levels of experience, from the true beginner to the expert with decades of study, and everything in-between.

These experiments are online on the web. They measure your ability to remember and identify birds and sometimes other animals or objects. Many experiments are fairly short. They can be done on any computer, wherever and whenever you decide to do them.

One of our current experiments is a bird identification test. Go online and test your birding skills.

This is the web site for our experiments:
<http://expertise.psy.vanderbilt.edu>

Once you register your own login id and password on the site, and complete a short survey of your birding expertise, you will be able to participate in any experiments that are available. We expect to add new experiments over time. Some future experiments may include modest compensation.

If you have questions, please contact Professor Thomas Palmeri (thomas.j.palmeri@vanderbilt.edu) at Vanderbilt University.

Thomas Palmeri, Ph.D
 Professor of Psychology
 Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN 37240 thomas.j.palmeri@vanderbilt.edu
<http://catlab.psy.vanderbilt.edu/>





NM Rare Bird Alert: www.nmbirds.org

Rare Bird Alerts for all states: 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

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/

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

PRESIDENT

Karen Herzenberg: cnmaspresident@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Judy Liddell: jliddell@msn.com

TREASURER

Lee Hopwood: PLHopwood@gmail.com

BURROWING OWL

Jenna Stoff: burowlnm@gmail.com

CATS INDOORS CAMPAIGN

Sara Jayne Cole: cats_birds_wildlife@yahoo.com

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

Lynn Lorrain Schuler: cnmasgrants@gmail.com
Eileen Beaulieu: dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Jason Kitting: jrkitting@yahoo.com
Rebecca Gracey: maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

(for change of address only)

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

DIRECTORS

Robert Munro: (505) 730-7762 robert.munro@earthlink.net
Jason Kitting: (505) 379-6075 jrkitting@yahoo.com
Christopher Rustay: (505) 255-7786 chrustay@aol.com

ROSY-FINCH PROJECT

Raymond VanBuskirk: newmexicobirder@gmail.com
Michael Hilchey: leucosticte@gmail.com

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

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