

Spring Programs

CNMAS volunteers organize free lectures about birds and birding by invited speakers. The venue is the Adelante Community Room at 3900 Osuna Road NE; start time is 7:00 p.m. Upcoming programs are:

March 19

“...Towards a stable taxonomy of the birds of the world”

Dr. Michael Andersen

Ever wonder why the order of birds in your field guides keeps changing? On-going advances in DNA sequencing have led to new understandings of the relationships between bird families and how they evolved.

Dr. Andersen,

UNM assistant professor of biology and curator of genomic resources at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, will discuss this exciting area of research.



April 16

“Migrant Trap at the Melrose Woods”

Christopher Rustay

Not many of us have been fortunate to be at Melrose Woods during migration, but it is a remarkable oasis where an amazing 44 species of warblers can be found.

Rustay will share some of his experiences with this magical spot as CNMAS enters into a partnership to protect the area, discussed elsewhere in this issue.



Audubon For All

Story and Photo by Perrienne Houghton

“Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” was the theme of the National Audubon Society’s biennial convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last July. I was privileged to represent the CNMAS chapter at the gathering of 600 attendees from 100 chapters, including president and CEO David Yarnold.

I attended six sessions including a regional meeting, the poster session and a group conversation on motivation and activism in organizations. And I went on a field trip that included a bird walk (in the refreshing rain!) and tour of the LEED building of the Schlitz Audubon Center (above).

One of the most inspiring parts of the conference was the keynote address by Winona LaDuke, a rural development economist and author who works with organizations practicing sustainable, cultural-based food systems using renewable energy.

As the theme of this conference states, the strength of Audubon’s mission is enhanced when the experiences and values of a diversity of individuals and communities are included, just as biodiversity strengthens natural systems. By bringing more human diversity to our organization, perhaps we could be inspired by and learn from more people and protect more habitat.

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Spring Field Trips

Coyote del Malpais Golf Course

Sunday, April 19

Join Kim Score on a Sunday trip to Cibola County's famed hotspot, the Coyote del Malpais Golf Course. Located one hour west of Albuquerque in Grants, this beautiful golf course has 16 lakes that attract numerous breeding birds and many migrating species. In addition to waterfowl, we are likely to find gulls, dowitchers, avocets, stilts, ibis, phalarope and several species of sandpipers.

Participants will be walking nearly three miles round trip at 6,500 feet in elevation. We may also visit other hotspots like the El Malpais National Conservation Area.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the only gas station at exit 89 off Interstate 40. Please RSVP to Kim Score, firefinch@usa.net. Carpooling also can be arranged from Albuquerque.

Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve

Saturday, May 9

Visit the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve, part of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, with Lefty Arnold (505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com) on Saturday, May 9.

Meet at 7:51 a.m. for an 8:01 a.m. departure from the northwest portion of the Target parking lot at 1-25 and Paseo del Norte. Or meet at the parking area at the preserve entrance, which opens at 9 a.m. To get to the preserve from Albuquerque take exit 271 (La Cienega) from I-25 and cross the interstate then turn right (north) on the frontage road. The parking area is about 1.2 miles north on the west side of the frontage road. **Parking will be limited, so please carpool.**



Black-billed Magpie
 Photo by Joe Schelling



A \$5-per-person donation will be collected at the entrance; please have the exact amount.

When we arrive, Zac Carlson of the Botanical Garden will introduce us to the 35-acre preserve. eBird indicates that a total of 88 species have been seen there in May, including Black-billed Magpie, Mountain Bluebird and Willow Flycatcher.

The walk should end by noon. There are portable toilets in the parking area. Bring lunch, water, appropriate shoes and a sense of wonder.

... Audubon for All

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I was motivated by one of the sessions I participated in, "Climate Watch: Monitoring Birds in a Changing Climate." It was interesting to learn from other chapters what successes and challenges they have experienced.

In the session on "Renewable Energy, Climate and Birds," National Audubon's clean energy director, Gary George, outlined the North American Grasslands and Birds Report and reviewed Audubon's policy and clean energy goals. And Jon Hayes of Audubon New Mexico presented his research on the effects of wind and solar energy on Lesser Prairie Chicken populations in southeastern New Mexico.

I also had the valuable opportunity to network with dedicated people in our southwestern region and hope to build strong networks in the future as we all work together on the conservation of birds and enhance our environment through Audubon.

Chapter and State Work Toward Melrose Trap Agreement

When you think of the best places on earth to see New World Warblers, your mind might wander to High Island, Magee Marsh or Cape May. While the sheer numbers of warblers you will see at those sites are enormous, three places have them beat for diversity of species, and one of them is right here in the Land of Enchantment: the Melrose Woods.

eBird tells us that High Island has recorded 41 warbler species while Magee Marsh and Cape May boast 33 and 38 respectively. Two other sites stand above all others: the Farallon Islands in California and our own Melrose Woods, both with 44 species.

Melrose Woods is a nine-acre grove of white poplar and cottonwood surrounded by the short-grass prairie of eastern New Mexico. More than 400 species of migrating birds have been reported there. This small parcel on New Mexico State Land Office property is leased for ranching, and the rancher leaves the gate on State Highway 60 unlocked for birders.

The CNMAS Board has been working toward restoring Melrose Woods so it remains viable for migrating birds. In 2011, a lightning-caused grass fire did considerable damage to the cottonwood trees. In the years following, CNMAS produced a restoration plan, but the Land Office could not reach an agreement with CNMAS. Then, last May, Christopher Rustay convinced the CNMAS board to revisit the restoration plan with the new administration.

CNMAS arranged a stakeholders' meeting, and the Land Office proved to be motivated to begin opening more state land sites to the public, and they saw Melrose Woods as the first of many such projects.

Blackpoll Warbler
 at Melrose Trap.
 Photo by Joe Schelling



Restoring Melrose Woods will require some legal maneuvers and significant commitments by CNMAS. The Land Office recommended that CNMAS enter into a five-year business lease of the site, requiring the Land Office to make improvements according to a CNMAS plan. CNMAS would be required to carry insurance, provide an interpretive kiosk and monitor use. The rancher would continue to hold his agriculture lease and cattle water tank, which would provide water for new plantings.

As a reminder to all birders, camping has never been permitted here, and crossing the fence at the north end of the property is still considered trespassing.

CNMAS and the Land Office have continued working over the past months to produce a plan, meeting twice at Melrose Woods to confirm a mutual understanding of how we would proceed. Robert Munro is the Melrose restoration coordinator for CNMAS and continues to work closely with New Mexico Land Office Recreational Director Craig Johnson as we move toward a signed lease.

As proof of the concept of opening trust lands to the public for birding and other recreational purposes, the Melrose Woods project is important not just for lovers of New World Warblers but also for the long-term future of birding on public lands in New Mexico.

If you would like to volunteer to work at this beautiful site, contact Robert Munro at Robert@sevenclover.com. To donate to the restoration use the Donate button on our home page, <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>.

It's Birdathon Time Again

By Rebecca Gracey

The Thursday Birders are planning a 24-hour Birdathon in the Truth or Consequences area on May 14 and 15. They hope to see as many bird species as possible since each species represents a donation to the recipient of this year's Birdathon effort, the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen.

Whitfield is a project of the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District. The Birdathon money will be used for

school and summer ranger programs and for a stipend for a college intern for the next school year. We heard a wonderful story when the Thursday Birders were there in January: After visiting Whitfield with his class, one Los Lunas High School student told Allison Martin, the education manager, the visit "changed his life." He has since conducted a clean-up project and started a recycling program. Last year, Allison visited 17 schools and saw about 3,000 students.

Details about the outing are in the Thursday Birder schedule in this issue.

New Look for Website

By Sara Jayne Cole

Have you looked at the CNMAS website recently? I like to check the calendar on the home page to see where Thursday Birders are going on any given week.

Joe Schelling began seeking a new look for <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org> this winter. In an all-volunteer chapter such as ours we are very fortunate to have a web master with the skills to make not only changes *on* the existing website but also changes *to* it.



I know that he found it confining to work with the Word Press template that he inherited. Joe found another Word

Press template and was able to transfer the content into it by consolidating some pages while retaining the features we like.

Many of you know that Joe is also an ardent photographer. He has used his beautiful bird photographs to give us one of the loveliest chapter web sites out there. The photos here are among the section headings on the homepage.



Twelve Chapters to Gather

Birding, interactive workshops and peer-to-peer networking are on the agenda for the April 24–26 gathering in Silver City of Audubon members from Arizona and New Mexico.

Keynote speaker Terry Root, professor emerita at Stanford University, will talk about what the latest science says about our warming world. Terry is the Nobel Prize-winning lead author of the "Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change 4th Assessment Report" and a former member of Audubon's national board of directors.

The registration fee is \$50. More information is available from Desiree Loggins, network action manager for the New Mexico chapter (dloggins@audubon.org.)

A block of rooms are available at the Murray Hotel, 200 West Broadway, (575) 956-9400.

NMOS Meeting March 28

The 58th annual meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW, Albuquerque.

The keynote speech, by Dr. Clint Boal of Texas Tech University, will cover the history of landscape change and its influences on raptors in the southern Great Plains.

Registrations may be made on the website, www.nmbirds.org.

Updates on Three Projects for the Birds

By Judy Liddell

Climate Watch

Thirty-five Audubon members, plus a group of students from Albuquerque Academy and their teacher, Rich Anderson, participated in the winter Climate Watch point counts between January 15 and February 15. This is the fourth winter CNMAS members have participated.

The summer count, which coincides with the nesting period, runs from May 15 to June 15. If you are skilled at differentiating among Eastern, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, or White-breasted, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches and would like to participate in this year's count along one of the established transects, please contact Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com, by April 10.

'Owlvile'

In an area nicknamed 'Owlvile' behind the Walmart in Los Lunas, birders have enjoyed viewing Burrowing Owls up close without disturbing them. In recent years visitors have noticed that the area is experiencing increased development. In fact, the property may be sold soon.

A group of Valencia County birders, along with a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began working with the property owner last spring to assure

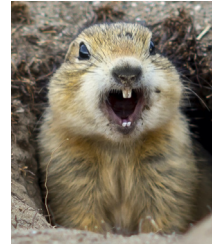


that the owls could finish the nesting season without being disturbed. The owner was told that if the land is to be prepped and burrows filled in, it needed to be done before the owls returned (usually middle to late February). The broker has been very cooperative and has been filling in the burrows east of Desert Willow Road during the winter. The group also urged

that rodenticides not be used, and they have not. At the end of last summer Prairie Dog Pals relocated the prairie dogs to Sevilleta NWR.

One Burrowing Owl has over-wintered. If you visit the area in hopes of seeing the owl, please pause only briefly along the curb, where there are now "No Parking" signs.

Also, please do not park or get out of your car to photograph the owls.



Cibola National Forest

Did you know that the Cibola spends \$10,000 on toilet paper to stock the restrooms across the forest? This was one of the startling facts that members of the Cibola Shared Stewardship Collaborative learned at their recent meeting. At the same time, funding for non-fire-related expenses within the forest has been decreasing, while the number of visitors has increased.



To continue to assure that facilities are maintained and will remain open to the public, the Forest Service is proposing to increase recreational user fees starting in 2021. They are seeking public input on this proposal. Ways to comment can be found at:

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/SusRec.

Ready, Set, Bag

The next Belen Marsh clean-up is scheduled from 9–11 a.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Report in at the Taco Bell on Don Felipe Road in Belen: take the first I-25 south exit and drive a short distance.

Participants will be provided with bags, gloves, safety vests, snacks, water and mosquito repellent.

Contact Eileen Beaulieu at (505) 249-7929 or dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count Summary

By Dave Mehlman

Many thanks to all the participants this year, especially to those who volunteered to lead sections.

- Number of individual birds: 34,184
- Number of participants: 67 (64 in field, three at feeders)
- Start time: 6:00 a.m.; end time: 5:30 p.m.
- Total party hours: 149.58 (by car: 41.9, on foot: 101.29, by canoe: 4.5)
- Total party miles: 451.69 (by car: 342.9, on foot: 101.29, by canoe: 7.5)
- Feeder hours: 12

The total number of species seen (115) was about average for the 20 years, but well

above the 58-year average of 92.7. Our all-time high was 124 in 2018.

Two more species were found during count week: Surf Scoter and Black-throated Gray Warbler, bringing the cumulative count list since 1961 to 208. Other unusual species found were: Greater Scaup (third year), Neotropic Cormorant (third year), California Gull (fourth year), and American Dipper (fourth year). Record high counts were set or tied for Herring Gull, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-winged Blackbird and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

The complete count report can be seen on the Events page at

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>.



Party to Kick off 'Birds of Burque' Mural

A kick-off party for a new mural will be held March 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at 1222 Mountain Road NW (corner of Twelfth Street and Mountain).

Muralist Andrew Fearnside was commissioned by Vicki Bolen to create a mural depicting birds seen in Albuquerque for her paper studio "The Little Bird de Papel."

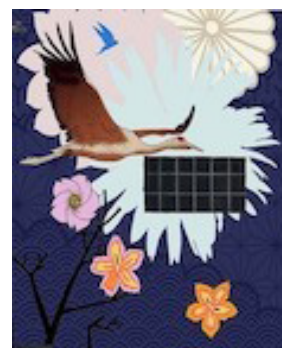
CNMAAS was invited to give input, and Summer Tanager, Spotted Towhee, Sandhill Crane and Eastern Bluebird are among those chosen from the suggestions.

Andrew has created a mural that complements Vicki's use of origami in her art, by incorporating the crease patterns made when folding the origami crane, while

choosing to use clear representations of area birds.

Present at the kick-off party will be:

- Denise Weaver Ross of the Tortuga Gallery Bosque Mural;
- Scribes 8, an artist collective planning a bird-based mural near the Rio Grande Nature Center;
- Plot Duckies, selling books by local authors;
- Sara Jayne Cole of CNMAAS, offering her origami silver jewelry;
- Cuisine de Corazon, selling cookies; and
- Scott Sharot, catering free food and drinks.



News from Our Partner Organizations

Rio Grande Nature Center

Saturday, March 21, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
 “What Can You Do?”

Volunteers from Wildlife Rescue will get us ready to deal with baby wild animals that may (or may not) need our help.

Saturday, April 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
 “Climate & Weather”

The complex terrain characterizing much of New Mexico offers unique forecasting challenges year-round.

Saturday and Sunday, May 9–10, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
 “Herbfest”

This annual event offers herbs, wildflowers, native plants and arts and crafts for sale, live folk music and a speaker program. The day also will include guided bird and nature walks, a raffle, crafts for kids, bird ID with Central NM Audubon Society, a biofacts table and unusual refreshments.

For information about paid parking, regular events and center hours call (505) 344-7240.

Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge

March 6, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
 “Sevilleta by Horseback”

Join us for a guided exploration and learn some fascinating facts about the diverse landscape of the refuge. Space is limited so make your reservations now: (505) 864-4021.

Saturday, March 28, 1:00–2:00 p.m.
 Lecture: “Once Upon a Time: A Ranch”

Spanish colonizers brought livestock that began the first grazing on this land and left their marks. Join us for a talk and slide program placing local livestock raising in the context of the western United States cattle industry up through the Campbell family ranch that became Sevilleta.

Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Field trip: “Once Upon a time: A Ranch”

This tour will highlight the ranching history of Sevilleta. Call (505) 864-4021 for reservations.

Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 “Los Pinos Hike”

This will be a strenuous hike to the crest of Los Pinos Mountains on the east side of the refuge. Reservations are required, so please call (505) 864-4021 to reserve a spot.

Saturday, May 9, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
 “Global Bird Day Walk”

Join us for a 1.5-mile walk near the Rio Grande to search for spring migrants. Meet at the Visitor Center. Reservations required; call (505) 864-4021.

Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge

March 6, 5–7 p.m.: Valle de Oro photo exhibit opening reception, Gutierrez-Hubbell House. The exhibit runs through May 9; visit <http://gutierrezhubbellhouse.org>

March 7 9 a.m.–noon: Weed Warriors

March 7: Finding Art in Nature Kids Day, Gutierrez-Hubbell House

March 14, 9–11 a.m.: South Valley Youth Summer Job Fair, Mountain View Community Center

April 4, 9 a.m.–noon: Weed Warriors/Second Street Clean-up, Valle de Oro NWR

April 18, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.: Abrazos: Environmental Justice Community Day, Mountain View Community Center

April 25, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.: Art Along the Rio Grande art fair, Gutierrez Hubbell House

April 25-27: City Nature Challenge Observations, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-abq>

May 2, 9 a.m.–noon: Weed Warriors, Valle de Oro NWR

May 16, 10 a.m.–noon: Refuge Transformation Tour, Valle de Oro NWR (reservations at www.friendsofvalledeoro.org)

Costa Rica: Any Biologist's Paradise

By Jack Parlapiano

This summer I attended Teen Week in Costa Rica with the assistance of the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund. I had an amazing time and it was easily the greatest birding and biological adventure of my life. From frogs and snakes with enough toxicity to kill a human to hummingbirds and tanagers seemingly derived from the imagination of an artist, Costa Rica is any biologist's paradise. Even though everything was amazing I of course had some favorites. Here they are.

Upon arrival in Costa Rica, our group headed north to the Selva Verde Lodge in Sarapiquí. On our drive, I spotted eight lifers, including Blue-gray Tanager, Gray-breasted Martin, Montezuma Oropendola and Red-billed Pigeon.



Purple-throated Mountain Gem
Photo by Jack Parlapiano

We stopped at a restaurant overlooking a canyon. Told this was one of the better spots to see hummingbirds, we raced toward the feeders. There were six species, ranging in size from a paperclip to a large sparrow. While I was observing a female Green Thorntail (the tiniest hummingbird I'd ever seen), a Northern-emerald Toucanet hopped into the tree ready to feast on the fruit at a feeder. The Toucanet is a medium-proportioned bird close to the size of a robin with bright green feathers covering its body and an abnormally large bill. He continued to dine for another 20 minutes.

On a humid morning, my roommates and I met the rest of the group about 5:45. Our plan was to go with our guide to a protected area of the forest where everyday wanderers and birders typically couldn't go. We hiked over the suspension bridge and entered the reserve. Overall it was quiet—very quiet for a morning in the tropics. In an hour we saw only 14 species in a habitat fit to hold dozens. Toward the end of the walk one of us found a bright blue egg. It lay fresh and half-broken containing a newborn that struggled to escape. Our guide told us it was a Great Tinamou egg. Then I spotted movement in the decaying leaves. It was the male Great Tinamou, and behind him were four chicks only a couple of hours old. Curious and naive about what we humans were, the chicks drifted toward us. Our guide said that in forty-some years of birding he'd never seen this before. The fuzzballs wandered around us for a couple of minutes until their father called them back and they disappeared into the forest. Our disappointment had turned into something extraordinarily rare.

On our last night, we chose to go herping around the hotel. A cacophony of Cane Toads called by a small pond. Roughly 20 individuals hopped into the water or swam toward the center. We left because we knew these toads' history of knocking out or even killing humans.

We saw some planks lying in the moist grass. We flipped one over and a Caecilian wiggled its way into the grass. In less than a second, we saw one of the rarest amphibians known to the tropics: small, blue, worm-like and now only a memory.

Energized, we moved on and within two hours we found five species of frog, including a poison-dart frog.

I am very grateful to CNMAS for helping send me to a camp in a foreign country. I made a ton of new friends and learned so much more than what's in a book.

From the chapter's education coordinator, Lynn Schuler: Jack is a tenth-grader at Albuquerque Academy.

THURSDAY BIRDERS SPRING SCHEDULE

MARCH 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 parking lot. A \$3 parking fee, State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass is required. One may use the restrooms and purchase parking passes inside the Visitors Center after 10:00 a.m. The walk will end before noon.

MARCH 12

Visit San Lorenzo Canyon in the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge with Rebecca Gracey: 505-362-5095, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on University Boulevard and Gibson SE. Bring lunch and a folding chair. The group should be back in Albuquerque by 2:00 p.m. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$7 at five cents per mile.

MARCH 19

Travel to the Belen Marsh and Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, brhussey@flash.net. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on University Boulevard and Gibson SE, or 9:00 at the Belen Marsh. To reach the marsh, take the first Belen exit from I-25, Exit 195. Then drive east one mile, turning south at the Taco Bell and parking in their lot. We will view the birds on the ponds and then drive to WWCA on NM 47. There the group will walk 1.5 miles. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile. We should be back in Albuquerque by 1:00 p.m.

MARCH 26

Walk in the Durand Open Space in the South Valley with Sara Jayne Cole: 505-503-5599, birdlajoya@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot at 4750 Isleta SW. To reach the area, take I-25 south and exit on Rio Bravo, then drive west on Rio Bravo and turn south onto Isleta Boulevard. There are no restrooms at Durand, so one may want to stop at the Twisters at 4275 Isleta SW. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

APRIL 2

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger District in Tijeras and then drive to the Oak Flat Picnic Area and perhaps the Juan Tomas Open Space in the Manzanita Mountains with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. To reach the Ranger District, exit I-40 at Tijeras and take NM 337 south for 0.5 miles; the Ranger Station is on the left. The walk will end before noon.

APRIL 9

Walk in the Corrales bosque off Dixon Road with Bernie and Pauline Morris: 505-369-1227, mtnbluebird@verizon.net. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure from the shopping area north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of Corrales Road/NM 448. Park by the Boxing Bear Brewing Company. The group will carpool to the parking circle at the end of East Ella. The walk should end by noon. Lunch is planned at Village Pizza in Corrales afterwards.

APRIL 16

Drive to Peña Blanca and Cochiti Lake with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the Target parking lot at I-25 and Paseo del Norte. Meet in the northwest corner of the parking lot. It is mandatory to have 3-4 people in each car to reduce the number of cars driving through Peña Blanca. If you want to meet the group west of I-25 on NM 22 to Santo Domingo and Peña Blanca, contact Judy by April 14. Bring lunch. The group should be back in Albuquerque by 2:00 p.m. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

APRIL 23

Travel to the Coyote del Malpais Golf Course at 2001 George Hanosh Boulevard, in Grants with Ken Zaslou: 512-576-5309, kzaslow88@gmail.com. Meet at 6:20 a.m. for a 6:30 a.m. departure from the northwest corner of the parking lot of the Hotel Albuquerque, 800 Rio Grande NW. To reach the hotel from I-40, take the Rio Grande exit and drive south to the first stop light, on Bellamah. Turn east toward the hotel and enter the parking lot on the right. From Albuquerque the group will travel west

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... more Thursday Birders

on I-40 for 75 miles. Take exit 89 from I-40 and stay on the service road to the service station on the north side of I-40 (600 McBride Road), where the participants will regroup at about 7:45 a.m. If one plans to meet the group there, tell Ken before April 23. The group will walk about three miles around the golf course and the ponds. One may bring lunch or buy it in the club house. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$7.50 at five cents per mile. The trip will end by 3:00 p.m. back in Albuquerque.

APRIL 30

Hike Embudito Canyon in the Sandia Mountain foothills with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:27 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot. To reach the canyon, drive east on Montgomery past Tramway, then turn left on Glenwood Hills. Continue 0.4 of a mile, turn right on Trailhead Road and continue to the parking lot. This is an easy 1.5-mile walk ending before noon.

MAY 7

Travel to Manzano pond in Manzano and Quarai National Monument with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the north side of the Sprouts parking lot in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue and Tramway Boulevard NE or meet Bonnie at the intersection of NM 337 and NM 55 at 8:50 a.m. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The group will be back in Albuquerque by 2:00 p.m.



MAY 14 and 15

Participate in the Thursday Birders Birdathon led by Rebecca Gracey: 505-362-5095, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. This year the group will meet at 10:00 a.m. on May 14 and will bird in the Truth or Consequences area until 10:00 a.m. the next day, with time out for dinner and sleeping. The team has a goal of seeing 100 species in 24 hours. We will stay together as a group, with the aim of most people seeing or hearing most of the species. Contact Rebecca if you would like to be a member of the team, and she will email you detailed plans and maps. It's good if we all know each other, so please attend some Thursday Birder outings prior to the Birdathon. This is a fund-raising event, with each participant pledging money per species seen. The money raised this year will fund school and summer ranger programs at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen. Non-participants who want to support the Birdathon's contribution to Whitfield are welcome to make additional donations. Donations may be made by clicking on the donation link on the CNMAS homepage, <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org> and including a comment that the donation is for the Birdathon. Or checks can be made it out to CNMAS with "Birdathon" in the memo line. Mail checks to Central Mexico Audubon Society, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM, 87190-0002.

MAY 21

Walk in the Pueblo Montañño Open Space with Susan Chaudoir: 985-302-2878, s.chaudoir@mac.com. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the south side of Montano Road and east side of Coors Boulevard. You can enter from both of those roads. The lot is small and another group meets there on Thursday, so it may be necessary to park in the shopping center on the south. It will be an easy two-mile walk ending before noon.

MAY 28

Visit the Doc Long Picnic Area and Bill Springs Trail in the Sandia Mountains with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, lotterson300@comcast.net. To carpool meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the north side of the Sprouts parking lot in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue and Tramway Boulevard SE. A \$3 fee or federal pass is required per car. The group should be back in Albuquerque by noon, but lunch is planned at the Green Side cafe in Cedar Crest.

CNMAS Directory and Contacts

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

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

Mailing address CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque NM 87190-0002

The CNMAS membership form is on the web site:

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>.

Click "About Us" on the home page.

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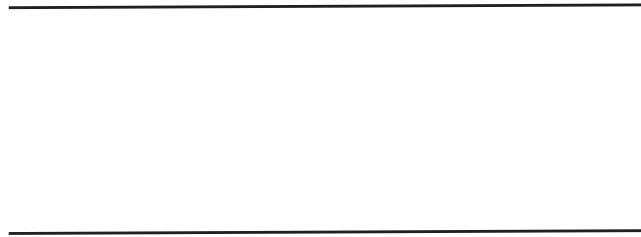
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Past Presidents

Raymond VanBuskirk, Beth Hurst-Waitz,
Karen Herzenberg, Sara Jayne Cole

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