



Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Spring 2023

The Burrowing Owl



The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is committed to inclusion, equal access and diversity, and we encourage all individuals to join us to learn more about birds, to promote their well-being and the health and future of the environment that sustains us all.

Spring 2023 Programs



March 16
7:00—8:30 p.m.

Critter Cameras in and Around Albuquerque

Dylan Frentzel

Park Manager/Ranger Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and Manzano Mountains State Park

Ranger Frentzel will be sharing camera trap images and research from the Sandias, the Manzanos and the Rio Grande Nature Center.

*Photo by
Dylan Frentzel*

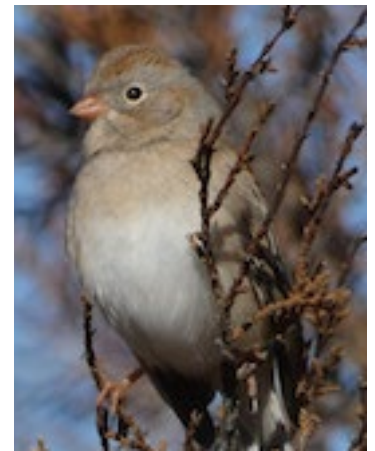
April 20
7:00—8:30 p.m

Sparrow ID in NM: Demystifying Those LBJs

Christopher Rustay

Sparrows can be challenging for those who are new to birding (and perhaps folks who have been watching birds for a while). Sparrow identification shouldn't be done only while staring at the brown and streaky thing in front of you, but rather should include understanding clues available to you in addition to plumage characteristics.

This talk will cover the basics of sparrow identification and several techniques that you can try before, during and after your sighting.



*Field Sparrow
Photo by
Christopher Rustay*

Good News: The Isleta Reach, Audubon Southwest and CNMAS

Directions to Three Lesser-Known Birding Sites

By Sara Jayne Cole

The CNMAS program on January 19, 2023, “The Isleta Reach of the Middle Rio Grande,” brought outflow survey locations to the attention of birders looking for new destinations.

Speakers were staff of Audubon Southwest: Paul Tashjian, director of fresh water conservation, and Quantina Martine, water resource associate.

The program was recorded and is available on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/mt6sTcBlrqc>.

The talk provided an overview of the Isleta Reach, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District restoration projects and the importance of CNMAS bird surveys.

The 48-mile Isleta Reach contains a native bosque forest and engineered water channels. Every year the habitat is visited by migrating birds that join resident nesting songbirds in spring and early summer.



The Rio Grande south of Belen

Photo by Quantina Martine

Over the past 10 years the area has experienced drought conditions and low river flows.

Audubon Southwest is working with the local irrigation district and other partners on a multi-year project to improve habitat for birds and other native species at six outflow sites where irrigation water is returned to the river. Audubon Southwest and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District have partnered to look at irrigation return drains, or outfalls, as a place for habitat

restoration for the endangered Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.

In the winter of 2019 CNMAS was invited to collaborate with the project by conducting bird surveys at six sites along the Isleta Reach. Kim Score became the survey coordinator and recruited two birders for each outflow who conducted surveys of bird diversity in June, July and August of 2021 and 2022. Because the Isleta Reach is the Rio Grande from Los Lunas to Bernardo, CNMAS was given a \$1000 grant from National Audubon to cover mileage in 2021.

CNMAS volunteers will continue to collect data for the duration of the project, both before and after restoration of native vegetation.



The Isleta Reach

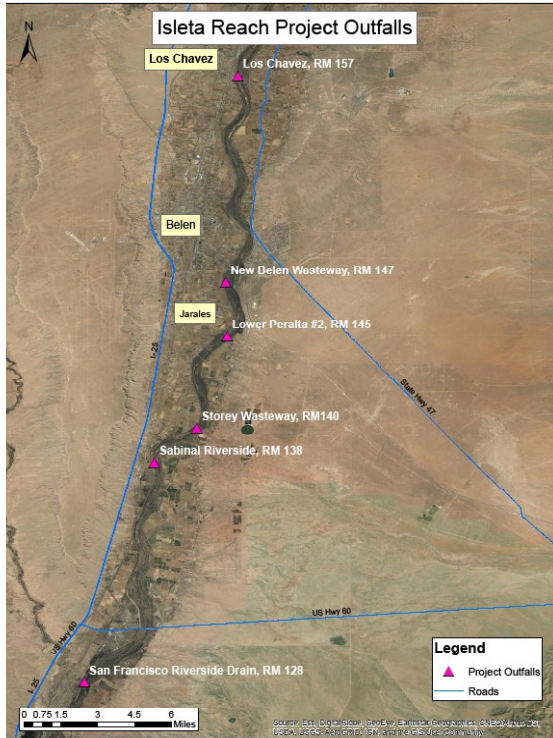
Photo by Paul Tashjian

continued on the next page

More on Birding at Isleta Reach

continued from the previous page

The most accessible outflow sites are Los Chavez, Lower Peralta 2 and San Francisco.



Los Chaves

Coordinates 34.743272°, -106.746831°

From Albuquerque take I-25 south to exit 203. Head east to NM 314 west, then south to Camino de Los Chavez and then to Banco Road until you reach the drains and a locked gate. Walk north along the levee road until you reach the outfall and follow the drain to the river.

Lower Peralta 2

Coordinates 34.590523°, -106.747337°

From Albuquerque take I-25 south to exit 195 (North Main Street) and make a left turn at West Reinken Avenue. Then head east to NM 304, south to Rio Communities and turn west onto Lagrima Road. Go down the road until you reach the drain. There is parking near the south side of the drain.

San Francisco

Coordinates 34.389884°, -106.834170°

From Bernardo at the intersection of I-25 and NM 60, go a short distance and turn south onto Ramon Lopez road, a small dirt road west of the highway bridge. Follow this road as it curves and goes over the railroad tracks. Take a right immediately after the tracks and drive along the east side of them until you reach the railroad truss. Drive up on the levee road and head east until you reach the drain.



And More on Effects of Drought

In the Zoom presentation Paul Tashjian described the “inset floodplain” (above) phenomenon that has developed during the last 15 years of drought. River bars and islands have formed due to lower flows in the river. These features have developed into a new floodplain with new vegetation—some of it pretty tall.



River near Bernardo

Photos by Paul Tashjian

Tidings From Our Neighbor Chapters

From The Mountain Chickadee,
Sangre de Cristo Audubon

The State of the Birds 2022 report notes that several projects around the nation effectively restoring habitat for troubled “tipping point” species are being carried out by broad regional collaborations among private conservation groups and public agencies. Often called “joint ventures,” these partnerships can advise, coordinate and focus efforts to conserve habitat across a wide area; they can also access funding earmarked specifically for collaborative efforts.

In New Mexico, the city of Clovis has partnered with Playa Lakes Joint Venture to restore more than 4,100 acres of playas—shallow, temporary wetlands found in the western Great Plains—and surrounding grassland buffers. The playas are key to recharging the local aquifer and also provide crucial habitat for 185 species of birds, including the Lesser Yellowlegs, a “tipping point” species.



From The Raven, Southwest
New Mexico Audubon

From May to June, students from Aldo Leopold Charter School (ALCS) and Cobre High School assisted SWNMAS to study and monitor the Cliff Swallows nesting on the campus of Western New Mexico University (WNMU). The students are members of the NM Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The goal of this study was to determine how many young are produced when their nests are left undisturbed.

Cliff Swallows are colonial birds, meaning they congregate in large groups. They overwinter in South America, arriving in our region in early April to nest, then leave with their new families in early August.

More than 400 Cliff Swallows fledged from their campus nest sites in 2018, said Carol Ann Fugagli, director of the study.



And Tidbits Too

For the first time since 2019 the **New Mexico Ornithological Society** will have an in-person annual meeting, president Kathy Granillo reports.

It will be April 29–30 at Washington Ranch near Carlsbad. The registration fee covers field trips, dinner Saturday evening and sack lunch Sunday.

Registration is at <http://nmbirds.org>.

CNMAS is planning several **Melrose Woods** clean-up events in March. Says Laura Banks, “We need lots of hands to keep this Important Bird Area in top shape for birds and birders who will be arriving soon.”

The dates have not been set, but prospective volunteers may e-mail LBanks@cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.

The American Ornithological Society accepted a proposal to split out a new species—*Sturnella liliana*—from the Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*).

The bird’s common name is the **Chihuahuan Meadowlark**.

The proposal was submitted by Penn State doctoral candidate Johanna Beam, whose research included genetic data showing that Eastern and Western Meadowlarks are more closely related to each

Chihuahuan Meadowlark
Photo by Joe Schelling

More Adventures for Jason Kitting—and Lessons for Us

Editor's note: Jason Kitting does media work for both Rio Grande Bird Research Inc. and Wildlife Rescue Inc.—the first at the Rio Grande Nature Center and the other next door. This winter he also joined the RGBR Rosy-Finch banding team at Sandia Crest.

Blue Grosbeaks and Molt

My topic here is longer-term molt cycles, more specifically delayed plumage maturation (DPM).

This occurs when a bird (usually male) does not grow in its full breeding plumage until after its first potential breeding season. Male Blue Grosbeaks are a good example.

The top row of photos shows birds in the first months of life. Top left is a very young bird in full juvenile plumage that likely just left the nest (FCJ=First Cycle Juvenile). Top right is a slightly older bird that has molted in its formative feathers, which starts to happen shortly after they leave the nest (FCF=First Cycle Formative).

At bottom right is a photo of a second-year bird in the middle of his first breeding season. The brown feathers are mostly formative feathers which he grew the previous fall. His new blue feathers are his first breeding or alternate feathers (FCA=First Cycle Alternate). Only second-year birds show this plumage until they molt at the end of their first breeding season.

The photo at bottom left shows a fully mature male bird during breeding season. This guy is in full breeding or alternate plumage (DCA=Definite Cycle Alternate). Many males attempt to breed in their second year but most successful birds are fully mature males.



More of Jason's Birds in the Hand

Common Poorwill

Like the pictured bird, the Common Poorwill is the most common Nightjar that comes into our clinic. Nightjars are nocturnal birds known for their huge



mouths (despite their tiny beaks) that they use to catch insects on the wing. Common Poorwills get their name from the song of territorial males.

Because these birds hunt flying insects, they can often

be seen at night. Nightjars and bats discovered how easy it is to catch confused moths near street lights. Unfortunately, many are killed and injured, but some are treated and released.

Common Poorwills are also unusual because of their ability to brave cold winters by entering into a hibernation-like state called torpor.

CNMAS would like to apologize for a social media post in November that mistakenly gave the impression that our chapter is officially aligned with a group in Albuquerque working to prevent proposed additional development at the Elena Gallegos Open Space. The CNMAS board has not endorsed any group's efforts but will continue to work diligently to serve the best interests of birds and wildlife in our community.

Black Rosy-Finch

This handsome male was banded as an after-second-year bird in early 2020. We saw him again the next season, did not see him in 2022, and he was back in 2023.



This was one of two previous-year repeats we encountered. Both were after-fourth-year males. They may have been in this flock since December and we just missed them, but we don't think it's a coincidence that they were seen after storms hit.

Because Rosy-Finch movement is dependent on snowfall, we often see new birds after storms hit farther north. This pattern is particularly true for adult birds who seem to try to stay as close to their breeding grounds as possible, until snow finally forces them to move.

Cassin's Finch

Because we used mist nets at the Crest, we got more bycatch species. This let us sample some of the other species up there. Birds like this hatch-year Cassin's Finch brave high-elevation winters just as the Rosy-Finches do.

Cassin's are another western "mountain finch" that breed from central British Columbia down into northern New Mexico and Arizona. Like the Rosy-Finches, they flock up and then wander the mountains and surrounding valleys looking for food. These nomads don't show up at the Crest every year, but this year there have been quite a few.



Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging:

a round -up of efforts toward a goal

National Audubon

Elizabeth Gray was appointed chief operating officer in 2021. An ornithologist whose career included heading the Nature Conservancy's global climate strategy, she is the first woman in the post. The next year Sarah Rose, then executive director of Audubon California, was named vice president of climate.

Members of the National team created a video series titled "I Saw a Bird" early in the pandemic. It was available on Zoom and Facebook Live and is now offered on You Tube.

In addition to "stump the experts," the show's episodes covered wider topics important to birds and birding; presenters included Audubon staffers as well as Kenn Kaufman and Jane Goodall, among others. Examples include:

- an interview with the leader of Audubon's Indigenous Bird Initiative
- organizers of the first-ever Black Birders Week
- a panel discussion in honor of Latinx Heritage Month and
- members of the Galbatross Project, who counted only female birds in the World Series of Birding

Audubon's annual photo contest launched a prize for shots of female birds and drew about a thousand entries in 2021 and 2022.

Audubon Southwest

The Arizona–New Mexico chapter council will hold its first-ever meeting April 23–25 in Silver City. National Audubon's EDIB program director, Nadia Rodriguez, and Steven Prager of Audubon Southwest will present a program on the topic.

Albuquerque

The city is the first in the nation to join the federal Justice40 program, Mayor Tim Keller announced on Feb. 11.

The program's goal is to have 40 percent of the benefits of some federal investments go to "disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution," according to a White House web site. Investments will be made in clean energy and energy efficiency, housing, "legacy pollution" and infrastructures for clean water and wastewater treatment.

CNMAS

Asher Gorbet is the Equity Chair for New Mexico's largest Audubon chapter.

Here and There

A blog on workbuzz.com covers EDIB in workplaces, especially human resources strategies.

Harvard University has a graduate certificate degree, public forums and an office for EBID.

The Julliard School launched an EDIB initiative in 2018 that is now a core value in its strategic plan.

Red-winged Blackbirds at Dusk

Photo by Paul Tashjian



Annakacygna – The Ultimate Bird

Extinct swans with remarkable adaptations for a life at sea

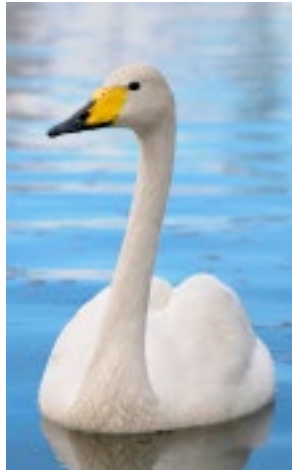
By Adé Ben-Salahuddin

Swans like this Whooper Swan are impressive animals. They're among the largest flying birds around today. But 11.5 million years ago, two extinct species from Japan took an even more epic direction.

Like today's swans, *Annakacygna hajimei* and *Annakacygna yoshiiensis* were quite large. But unlike their modern relatives, these birds lived most of their lives out at sea, and their fossils reveal remarkable adaptations to this unusual lifestyle.

They had wide spatula-shaped beaks somewhat like modern shoveler ducks. The dense bones of their wide hips let them remain stable on choppy waters while filtering plankton from the sea surface with their oversized heads.

Their wings weren't built for flight, but had the musculature and range of motion to suggest they weren't useless. In combination with the flexible tail, they could form a cradle for carrying chicks on their back, which some swans still do now with their young.



The remarkable anatomy of *Annakacygna* reveals a creature uniquely adapted to thrive in an environment quite unlike what you'd expect for a swan. To quote the scientists who named it in a 2022 study, "In a sense, it is the 'ultimate bird' that ever existed."

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from [BirdNote.org](https://birdnote.org). The on-line version has links to recorded sounds.

Cocoa Can Be Bird Friendly

Standards for cocoa farming have been set for the Smithsonian Bird Friendly certification program.

The certification assures buyers that 100 percent of the cocoa comes from farms where birds and other wildlife are conserved by protecting forests and native shade trees.

Most cocoa is grown in monocultures that destroy forests, remove native trees and use herbicides and pesticides.

In spring 2021, 17 cocoa farms in the Dominican Republic were inspected and certified as the first Smithsonian Bird Friendly cocoa producers in the world.

Cocoa joins coffee in the certification program.



Dodo, eagle, sparrow ... the 10 birds that changed the world forever

A veteran naturalist and writer picks the species that have played a key role for humans, from ancient civilisations to today's climate crisis

By Stephen Moss

For the whole of human history, we have shared our world with birds. We have hunted and domesticated them for food; worshipped them in our religions; placed them at the heart of our myths and legends; poisoned and persecuted them; and celebrated them in our literature, art and music. Even today, despite a very worrying disconnection between ourselves and the rest of nature, birds continue to play a role in our lives.

The current official list of the world's birds stands at roughly 10,800 different species. But there are 10 whose stories stand out, for the way they influenced a crucial aspect of our history, and shaped our lives.

Raven: Mythology

The raven—the world's largest species of crow—is at the heart of creation myths all around the northern hemisphere, from the First Nations of North America through Norse culture to the nomadic peoples of Siberia. It is also the first bird mentioned in the Bible, when Noah sent one out from the ark to discover if the flood was finally over; true to this bird's independent character, it failed to



return. The raven still resonates with us today: when Game of Thrones author George RR Martin wanted a species of bird able to see into the future, he chose the raven.

Pigeon: Communication

As humans switched from hunter-gathering to agriculture, they began to domesticate wild birds. One of these was a shy, cliff-dwelling species of pigeon, the rock dove, originally bred for food but later used to communicate over long distances. Our relationship with pigeons is a complex one: often dismissed as “rats with wings,” they nevertheless carried messages that saved thousands of lives during the two world wars.



Wild Turkey Food and Family

Soon, birds were not just providing food but spiritual and social nourishment, too. Without the sustenance the wild turkey provided for the early European settlers of the Americas, it is likely that the colonisation of the New World might never have come about. It soon became the centrepiece of Christmas feasts in Britain and Europe, and Thanksgiving in North America.



Macaulay Library

Dodo: Extinction

From the Renaissance onwards, exploration and colonisation kickstarted the globalisation of our world. But there were casualties, most famously the dodo, a huge relative of the pigeons that lived on the oceanic island of Mauritius. This flightless bird could not survive the 17th-century invasion of humans and the dogs, cats, rats and monkeys they brought with them. At first, the church would not entertain the idea that the creator could let any living species go extinct. Ultimately, the dodo became an icon of extinction.

Editor's note: This article was published in The Guardian newspaper on Feb. 23, 2023.

Additional world-changing birds will be presented in the next edition of this newsletter.

Forest and Watershed Health Partnership: Tackling Enormous Needs Since 2016

By Kay Matthews

On February 8 the Taos County Commission chamber was filled with government officials, NGOs, non-profits and local stakeholders— all members of the 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership. The 2-3-2 refers to two watersheds (San Juan and Chama), three rivers (Rio Grande, San Juan and Chama) and two states: New Mexico and Colorado.

This partnership formed in 2016 to develop strategies for forest and watershed health that work collaboratively across public and private lands.

Collaborative Landscape Restoration Program funding was awarded to the 2-3-2 partnership in the amount of \$30 million over ten years. This landscape encompasses 3.77 million acres, half of them managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The other half is managed by tribal nations, the two states and private landowners. The funding is distributed through the Forest Service, but the partnership will oversee the planning and implementation of the Rio Chama restoration.

If this sounds complicated, it is. But the need is enormous. The San Juan and Chama rivers provide 75 percent of Albuquerque's drinking water and 50 percent of Santa Fe's. The overly dense forest understory is at risk for severe wildfire, while the forest overstory inhibits aquifer recharge. Forest and watershed restoration techniques include collaborative thinning and prescribed burning to reduce fire danger along with riparian treatments to improve both water quality and quantity.

Since its inception in 2016 the seven-partner 2-3-2 has treated 20,000 acres with prescribed fire, worked on defensible space, initiated collaborative mapping, increased market opportunities and developed monitoring and Firewise programs.

The goals of the Rio Chama restoration project are:

- reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire
- restore natural fire regimes
- increase forest diversity and old-growth characteristics
- improve fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity
- conserve critical habitat to help threatened and endangered species
- improve water quality and watershed function
- mitigate climate change impacts
- enhance economic sustainability
- improve quality of life; and
- build on existing partnerships and collaboration.

Adapted from La Jicarita News



Thursday Birders by the Numbers—60, 71, 181, 8

By John “Lefty” Arnold

Following a COVID-related pause, Thursday Birders, thanks to the efforts of Shannon Caruso and Glenda Morling, resumed field trips on June 17, 2021, with a visit to the Alameda Bridge and bosque trails in Albuquerque.



A Thursday Birders account was established on eBird for that and future trips. Each report includes:

- a checklist report for each eBird Hot Spot visited
- each bird species seen, including the approximate number of individuals
- number of participants on each checklist report
- some images if available and
- field notes as appropriate

2021 TB Snapshot

Field trips: 24

Participants per trip: average 22

eBird checklists submitted: 27

Bird species (common name) reported: 140

Counties visited: 5

Bernalillo: 14 field trips, 15 checklists, 111 species

Cibola: two field trips, three checklists, 46 species

Sandoval: six field trips, seven checklists, 83 species

Torrance: one field trip, one checklist, 18 species

Valencia: one field trip, one checklist; 20 species

No bird stands out as rare in 2021, but some not-so-common birds were:

Gray Catbird: Pueblo Montañó Bosque Trails, July 29

Golden Eagle: La Ventana Arch, September 2

Clay-colored Sparrow: Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center, September 16

Northern Goshawk: Balsam Glade, September 29

2022 TB Snapshot

Field trips: 36

Participants per trip: average 19

eBird checklists submitted: 42

Bird species (common name) reported: 171

Counties visited: 7

Bernalillo: 23 field trips, 25 checklists, 111 species

San Miguel: one field trip, two checklists, 27 species

Sandoval: eight field trips, 16 checklists, 103 species

Santa Fe: one field trip, one checklist; 31 species

Socorro: one field trip, one checklist, 52 species

Torrance: one field trip, three checklists, 27 species

Valencia: one field trip, one checklist, 21 species

One rare bird in 2022: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bosque del Apache NWR, December 1



Totals June 2021–December 2022

Field trips: 60

Checklists: 71

Species: 181

Counties: 8

Trip Leaders

Darlene Benedict

Shannon Caruso

Susan Chaudoir

Sara Jayne Cole

Ginny Davis

Lou Feltz

Angela Hawthorne

Lea Henzler and Joe Cairns

Perrienne Houghton

Susan Hunter

Barbara Hussey

Judy Liddell

Bonnie Long

Glenda and Jim Morling

Pauline and Bernie Morris

Linda Otterson

Sara and Tom Peterson

Mary Rajé

Maxine Schmidt and David

Watkins

Steve Siegel

Bob Wilcox

Thursday Birder Trips

March, April and May 2023

March 2

Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area, 7:55 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Meet at the South Valley Railrunner parking lot, Camino del Tren Avenue
GPS coordinates (35.030140, -106.6568077)
Bring a picnic lunch
Please arrange to carpool and e-mail us at thursdaybirders@gmail.com to let us know you will be attending.
Difficulty level: 50-mile drive each way, plus driving and viewing at the location. Depending on time, we may go on to Sevilleta and bird on the trails behind the Visitor Center.
Leader: Claude Vallieres

March 9

No Thursday Birders trip

March 16

Rio Grande Nature Center, 8:25–11:30 a.m.
Meet at the wetland blind in the northeast corner of the parking lot
GPS coordinates (35.1295, -106.6820)
Note that a \$3 parking fee, State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass is required per car, and that the Visitor Center and restrooms open at 10 a.m.
Difficulty level: one to two miles on flat, even trails
Guided walk behind the Nature Center, followed by walk in bosque if time allows.
Leader: Leah Henzler



March 23

Valle De Oro, 8:25–11:30 a.m.
Meet at the refuge parking lot
GPS coordinates (34.979651, -106.670435)
Difficulty level: two miles on flat gravel and sandy trails
This trip will begin with an orientation to the refuge by ranger Dakota Dominguez.
Leader: Mary Rajé

March 30

Albuquerque Bosque Open Space trails towards Montano Bridge, 8:25–11:30 a.m.
Meet in the east end of the parking lot of Sagebrush Church near the trail bridge: from Coors Boulevard NW turn east on La Orilla Road. Proceed to the end of La Orilla and turn left into the parking lot
GPS coordinates (35.161965, -106.675091)
Difficulty level: two and a half miles on flat trails, some uneven and some soft sand
No restrooms
Leader: Brian Anderson

April 6

Embudito Canyon, 8:25–11:30 a.m.
Meet in the trailhead parking lot
GPS coordinates (35.136202, -106.481973)
To reach the canyon, drive east on Montgomery from Tramway, turn left on Glenwood Hills, continue 0.4 of a mile, turn right on Trailhead Road to parking lot
Difficulty level: one and half miles, slight incline, some uneven ground
Leaders: Maxine Schmidt and David Watkins

April 13

Peña Blanca and Cochiti Lake, 7:50 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Meet at the northwest corner of Target parking lot at I-25/ Paseo del Norte: park in spots facing Paseo del Norte
GPS coordinates (35.173016, -106.582308)
Secondary meeting place: 8:40 a.m. at Pueblo Gas Inc. on NM 22, west of Santo Domingo exit off I-25
GPS coordinates (35.473288, -106.307357)
The group will walk in Pena Blanca, then drive to Cochiti Lake for lunch.
There will only be space for six cars. Please arrange to carpool and e-mail us at thursdaybirders@gmail.com by April 6 to reserve your spot and let us know at which location you intend to join the trip.

continued on the next page

More Thursday Birder Trips

April 13 trip continued

Difficulty level: 100-mile drive, driving and stopping to bird, with short, mainly flat walks at stops
Please bring a picnic lunch
Leaders: Barb Hussey and Judy Liddell

April 20

Corrales Bosque, Romero Road, 7:55 – 11:00 a.m.

Meet at 7:55 in the parking lot north of Boxing Bear Brewery, 10200 Corrales Road, Albuquerque, NM 87114

GPS coordinates (35.203801, -106.644975)

Carpool to Romero Road, arriving at drive-by 8:15 a.m., as there is limited parking

Difficulty level: one and a half miles on flat trails, some uneven

No restrooms

Leader: Ginny Davis

April 27

Rio Grande Nature Center with talk by Jason Kitting, 8:25–11:30 a.m.

Meet at the wetland blind in the northeast corner of the parking lot

GPS coordinates (35.1295, -106.6820)

Note that a \$3 parking fee, State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass is required per car, and that the Visitor Center and restrooms open at 10 a.m.

Guided walk behind the Nature Center with Jason Kitting, birding and banding expert, who will talk about trends during 10 years of banding.

Difficulty level: one to two miles on flat, even trails

May 4

Tijeras Arroyo trailhead, 8:00–11:00 a.m.

Meet at the west edge of the East Tijeras Canyon Open Space

GPS coordinates (35.055306, -106.511179)

From Central, head south on Juan Tabo Boulevard SE to the light at Terracita (where Southern Boulevard SE begins). Then turn south (left) continuing down Juan Tabo over the arroyo. Take the first left onto Monarchos to the u-turn at the edge of the Open Space to park.

Difficulty level: mainly flat, sandy trails with shrubs and brush

No restrooms

Leaders: Susan and Jim Hunter

May 11

Cienega Canyon, 8:25–11:30 a.m.

Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the hill at Cienega Canyon in Sandia Park

GPS coordinates (35.165154, -106.376320)

Note you will need to pay a \$3 parking fee or use a federal pass.

Difficulty level: one and a half miles on paved road, steep incline, downhill return

Leaders: Peter Neils and Sue Chavez

May 18

Crick Avenue Greenbelt, 8:25–11:30 a.m.

Meet in the southwest section of Fidelity Investment Corp. parking lot

GPS coordinates (35.002917, -106.619144)

From the intersection of Rio Bravo and University boulevards go south on University for two miles then turn left on Crick Avenue

Difficulty level: one mile, flat with mostly paved trails

No restrooms

Leader: Perrienne Houghton

May 25

Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, 8:20 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Meet at 8:20 for an 8:30 departure from the parking lot of Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

GPS coordinates (35.094668, -106.635956)

At 9:30 Laura McCann, Whitfield's environmental education manager, will guide us around the area. After the walk Laura will introduce us to raptors in her rescue program

Difficulty level: one and a half miles on flat trails, some uneven

No Leader

Trips may be rescheduled or canceled. For updated information check the Thursday Birders page on the CNMAS website <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/trips/thursday-birders> or e-mail thursdaybirders@gmail.com.

CNMAS Directory and Contacts

Central New Mexico Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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>

Officers and Directors

President	vacant
Vice President.....	Denise Jones
Treasurer	Lee Hopwood
Secretary	Jamie Wells
Education Chair (interim)	Lee Hopwood
Program Chair.....	Kathy Carson
Field Trip Chair (interim)	Bob Wilcox
Bird-safe Building Coordinator.....	vacant
Conservation Coordinators.....	Katrina Hucks and Sara Jayne Cole
NM Audubon Council Representative.....	Robert Munro
Social Media Coordinator.....	Jason Kitting
Board Members	Katrina Adamczyk, Laura Banks, Kathy Carson, Sara Jayne Cole, Asher Gorbet, Lee Hopwood, Perrienne Houghton, Denise Jones, Jason Kitting, Glenda Morling, Robert Munro, Jamie Welles, Bob Wilcox

Past Presidents

Beth Hurst-Waitz, Raymond Van Buskirk,
Karen Herzenberg, Sara Jayne Cole,
Perrienne Houghton