



Central New Mexico Audubon Society

The Burrowing Owl

Summer 2022

Meet Us at the Nature Center

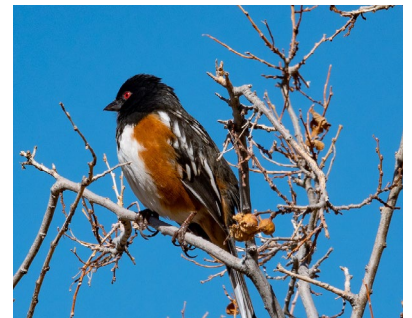
The Central New Mexico Audubon chapter will hold its 51st annual meeting on Saturday, June 18, starting at 8:30 a.m. in the education building at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria Road NW in Albuquerque.

“I’m looking forward to seeing lots of members in person instead of on a Zoom screen,” says Perrienne Houghton, chapter president.

The agenda includes:

- report from the president
- election of officers and board members
- a birdathon
- refreshments

Parking at the center requires a State Parks pass or \$3 in cash.



Birds of the Nature Center
by Joe Schelling:
Common Merganser,
Spotted Towhee and
Eastern Bluebird

See the President’s Annual Report

Perrienne Houghton, who is completing her third year as CNMAS president, writes about the year’s accomplishments on the next page.

Well, that year flew by! So once again I am honored to report on some of the achievements and experiences of the Central New Mexico Audubon chapter for the past year. A year ago mid-June, Thursday Birders walks happily resumed, thanks to organizers Glenda Morling and Shannon Caruso and all Thursday Birders leaders and participants. And in spite of a couple of Covid-relapse-caused breaks, group walks continue, although our state's dreadful wildfires have closed many favorite destinations.

Also continuing is the progress at Melrose Woods in eastern New Mexico, where CNMAS, the New



Mexico State Land Office and an agricultural lessee have collaborated to restore habitat and enhance recreational use of an Important Bird Area (IBA). Many of the planned improvements were celebrated on site with a dedication last September 18. Those joining the celebration were CNMAS and Audubon Southwest members, State Land Department employees and others including some from out of New Mexico.

Our monthly programs continued via Zoom from last summer through this spring, thanks to the creativity of Kathy Carson and the Program Committee. We were educated and entertained by programs ranging from birds' ancient dinosaur

ancestors to modern Lesser Prairie-Chickens, and from the language of birds to the Albuquerque Backyard Refuge program.

We were also informed and absorbed by highlights of our chapter's 50 years of history brought back by Sara Jayne Cole in past Burrowing Owl issues, arduously digitized by Marj Longenbaugh and Beth Hurst-Waitz. And we continue to be informed by this high-quality Burrowing Owl newsletter, imaginatively put together by Melissa Howard and all who contribute. And we continue to be kept up-to-date by the CNMAS website and social media sites maintained skillfully by Joe Schelling and Jodhan Fine.

The CNMAS Board of Directors has changed in the last year, as members Laniya Howe and Marissa Loya were unable to commit their time. And while Shannon Caruso will continue to work on Thursday Birders organizing and other volunteering when possible, she had to step down from a Board position. And the Board is gratefully gaining two new members, Bob Wilcox and Asher Gorbet.

Also in the past year, dedicated CNMAS members again participated in National Audubon's summer and winter Climate Watch Surveys, in the Fall Belen Marsh Clean-up, in tabling at Rio Grande Nature Center events and the annual Birdathon fundraiser. This year's money raised will again benefit Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area and will be important to help recover the loss caused by the devastating fire this April. All of these efforts help CNMAS achieve its mission statement: "To appreciate, experience and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats; and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico." So again, I am honored to summarize the significant accomplishments of CNMAS.

Field Trips Return With Spring Visit to Melrose Woods

By Robert Wilcox

Central New Mexico Audubon resumed doing field trips May 14 after a long hiatus. For once, COVID played no role in the calculations. We just scheduled the trip, signed people up, showed up and looked at birds.

The target hotspot was our chapter's pet project: Melrose Woods. A tiny clump of trees in the great plains east of Fort Sumner, New Mexico, it is a favorite of migrating birds. Robert Munro of CNMAS has spearheaded an effort to perpetuate ecological quality with new tree planting



and to make it a comfortable birding destination as well. Paths have been cleared; seats and water features are there. A bathroom facility is provided.

We saw Audubon's, MacGillivray's, Yellow and Wilson's warblers and heard Yellow-breasted Chat.

Our focus, though, had to be the flycatchers. Before the trip we reviewed ways to identify Empidonax flycatchers visually and by sound. It's complicated, but we teased out a few key features. We found a number of Willow Flycatchers who sang, and a Least Flycatcher chipping. We saw Gray Flycatchers with tails dipping. Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewees, Say's Phoebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher were all noted.

We found three special birds. First, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were there for the whole morning. They flew back and forth over our heads several times. A Blue Jay chortled loud alarm calls from the highest cottonwood, and most of the group saw her. Everyone saw the Cave Swallows gathering mud for nest building.

My personal favorite was a bizarre green and red creature seen on the ground quite a distance away. I could not make out the silhouette very well. Jo March showed me illustrations of first-year Summer Tanager, and that solved the mystery. They really look like they got randomly splashed with paint.

I posted 53 species for that day: from ebird.org go to checklist [S110127502](https://ebird.org/checklist/S110127502).



Red-headed Woodpecker
Photo by Jo March

A Sound Asset for Birders: Merlin

The Merlin app has always seemed like a crutch to me. There's nothing wrong with an app providing the size, location, shape, etc., of a bird and giving some possible names. But a birder with any experience is usually ahead of this at first glance. Now, however, Merlin has added a game-changing sound ID mode. I was walking up Cienega Canyon Trail recently and heard a repeated energetic *chink*. Merlin said it was a Black-headed Grosbeak, and it was. The bird had been singing all around me for the last 10 minutes, but I did not recognize its alarm note.

Researchers at Cornell's Macaulay Library increased the speed with which neural network software could learn bird sounds by getting rid of the noise: the sounds *not* being made. Then they located and tagged for artificial intelligence each sound made in the thousands of recordings in the lab.

Upcoming Field Trips

No trip scheduled for June.

Saturday, July 9: Bosque del Apache: experimental Breeding Bird Survey outing. We'll compare birding techniques by ear and with Merlin.

Saturday, August 20, Big Tesuque Campground area near Santa Fe.

Fire Devastates Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area

Birds of the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area by Joe Schelling



American Kestrel



Phainopepla



Verdin

The Big Hole Fire burned 90 acres, including 80 percent of the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area near Belen on April 11.

The area is a favorite for CNMAS's Thursday Birders and received donations from the Birdathon in 2021 and this year.

WWCA is a unit of the Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation Unit. Teresa Smith de Cherif, board vice chair, toured the area with Charlie Sanchez Jr., a biologist retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who was active in the land's transition from dairy farm to conservation area, and wrote an article for the Valencia County News Bulletin. Sanchez pronounced the fire "an ecological disaster."

The area is still closed to the public, but Smith de Cherif wrote, "We are determined to look toward the future with confidence, and that is the true purpose of hope."

Four Birdathon Checklists Tally 264 Sightings

By Kathy Carson

Four teams participated in our 2022 Birdathon. Judging from their checklists, everyone had a good day of birding! The winning team with 77 species seen is the Northern Shovelers.

The team submitted six checklists to eBird from various locations during the 24 hours of May 9–10.

"Despite primarily hot and windy conditions, we ended up with a good number of species, including the rare Little Blue Heron seen at Percha Dam State Park and the most unusual sighting of a Barn Owl in a cavity

of the riverside cliff at Caballo Lake Riverside Recreation Area," they reported.

Team members Rebecca Gracey, Joe Schelling, Leah Henzler and Joe Cairns drove between locations, working each area as a group. The name Northern Shovelers reflected the "previous day's scouting of Elephant Butte Lake during which we'd each separately managed to bury our vehicles in the sand, a situation only resolved by somehow locating and employing a good-sized shovel (and relying on the amazingly wonderful help of others) to dig ourselves out."

The other teams were the Black-Throated Blue Warblers with 64 species, the Thundering Titmice with 53 and the Melrose team with 70.

Prizes will be awarded at the annual meeting June 18. It's not too late to honor the teams' efforts by donating through the web site: cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org or by mail to CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002.

Travel in Mexico: Account of a Trip and Tips for More Trips

Stories and photos by Bonnie Long

Part 1: Our trip to Mexico

My husband, Don Giles, and I started our trek with friends on Feb. 28. Our first stop was in Celestino at an RV park on the coast, where there was a beautiful beach and excellent seafood.

We continued north staying at Hotel Mr Moro and RV Park near Guasave, Huatabampito RV



Park, both on the beach. We took a day trip to Alamos, a lovely colonial city, and had excellent food at the Dona Lola (Koky's) Restaurant. From there we stayed at Hotel Playa de Cortez in Guaymas and our last night at Punta Vista Trailer Park in Santa Ana. We crossed the border at 10:00 a.m. on March 9 at Nogales, AZ.

Meet the CNMAS Board, Installment 2

By Kathy Carson, Program Chair

My love of birds was influenced by two beloved aunts who were founding members of an Audubon chapter in their hometown in the 1950s. They knew the birds on their property—where they were nesting, who were successfully raising young—as well as they knew their human neighbors. I loved to go with them looking for birds. Later, with working and raising children, my birding adventures were inconsistent, but always enjoyed by the whole family. After I retired I wanted



to spend more time birding and I got that opportunity by spending half the year in New Mexico.

I became involved in CNMAS through Judy Liddell after I ran into a Thursday Birders group at Elena Gallegos. Judy invited me to come again, and I did. She was the program chair then and my husband and I would go early to the meetings to help set up. In 2017 she asked me if I would take over doing the

programs and I agreed if I could work with a committee because I couldn't hope to have all the contacts Judy had been able to draw on.

Let me make a plug for the Program Committee. We are always looking for new members and new ideas about speakers and topics. Ellen Lenz, Claude Vallieres and I would love to have a bigger group! We so appreciate it when people tell us of speakers they've heard or topics they think are timely.

During Covid, CNMAS programs were taken to Zoom, and we have expanded the number of people attending as well as the pool of potential speakers. And it has allowed me to continue serving on the committee, even though family responsibilities are keeping me in Seattle.

CNMAS will be adding some face-to-face events, but we will continue to provide virtual programs as long as they are meeting a need, measured by attendance, which continues to be good. And having the presentations available on the website allows even more people to benefit.



Over all, it was a wonderful trip. Mexico is a beautiful and interesting country. The Mexican people are friendly and helpful. The beaches and food are excellent. We put 3000-plus miles on our truck. Our biggest expenses were for gas and tolls. The major toll roads were basically in good shape, but the roads through small villages and the "libre" (free of tolls) roads are not so good.

In retrospect, we would not recommend traveling this far in three weeks. A month would have been better with fewer hours of driving (sometimes stressful) and more time enjoying the people, wildlife and countryside.

continued on the next page

Travel Tips for Mexico—and Some Birds of Mexico

continued from the previous page

Part 2: Thoughts on travel in Mexico

Mexico is a wonderful place to visit in your RV. Not only is it a beautiful country with wonderful wildlife, but the people are also friendly and helpful and the food excellent.

However, it is important to do your homework. There are requirements for you to meet at the border—check the Internet for up-to-date rules.

A current passport is essential. So is Mexican auto insurance. Your U.S. auto insurance doesn't work in Mexico if your vehicle is damaged.

At the border you can obtain your Mexican Tourist Permit (FMM) for six months for around \$30 U.S. as well as a Temporary Vehicle Permit (TIP). The cost varies with the type of vehicle. Cars and motorhomes are much cheaper than a truck towing a trailer or fifth wheel. We had to pay a \$400 U.S. deposit for our truck. It is important to have all the proper paperwork required to enter Mexico and to get the refund of your TIP when you exit.



Bare-throated Tiger Heron

Returning to the U.S. is more complicated. Most fruits are banned as are uncooked meat and eggs. Be sure to check with immigration on what's allowed in the U.S. before going on your trip. You don't need to take a lot of food—Mexico has plenty of good supermarkets in cities. Beer is plentiful and very good. Wine produced in Mexico has improved the last few years.

Mexico is a safe place to travel as long as you use common sense. Never camp in isolated areas, always lock your rig and vehicle when not in it, and camp in designated places where other RV'ers are. Most of the RV parks mentioned in the Church's book are still operating. It is safe to stay in Pemex gas stations, particularly those that also are truck stops. Ask permission first. They usually have a security guard at night and sometimes locked gates. They have no hook-ups so be sure you are equipped to dry camp. The charge is usually about \$5 U.S. (Pemex, which is owned by the Mexican government, is not the only gas station anymore so competitors may charge different prices.)

The roads are rough in many areas, particularly in small communities, with potholes and rough patches. Instead of traffic lights or stop signs, most villages have several "topes" (speed bumps) which are not always marked.

Conditions are better on the highway toll roads (with the letter D in the name) but the tolls are expensive in some areas. The new highway from Durango down through the mountains was pretty expensive. One of the tolls



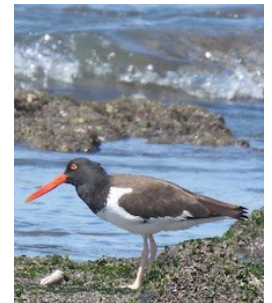
Magnificent Frigatebird

we paid was \$36 U.S. for about 20 miles. Often there is a free road that parallels the toll road and is used by the locals, but it is much slower, in poor condition with multiple topes and heavy traffic.

Make sure your rig is in good shape and take spares with you, particularly tires.

Mexico does not have replacement parts for RV's if you have a breakdown.

Mexico has military check points on the major toll highways, particularly close to the U.S. border. Sometimes there is no problem and you get waved through. However, at times they do a thorough check of your credentials and what's in your RV. They may be looking for drugs, guns or even people. They are young men with rifles. Do as they say!



American Oystercatcher

Resources for RV Travel in Mexico:

1. [Traveler's Guide to Mexican Camping by Mike and Terri Church, fourth edition updated in 2009](#)
2. [Facebook websites for RVs in Mexico:](#)
 - [On the road in Mexico](#)
 - [RV'ing in Mexico](#)
3. [Overlander.com on the internet](#)

A Fugitive from Photography Turns to Video

Story and photos by Steve Siegel

“I’ve never really gotten into video.” This is the refrain of photographer after photographer whenever the subject of video comes up. The discussion usually ends right there. Photography is a different party. But sometime you may decide to join the video celebration. It happened to me thirty years ago, and I have not taken a still photo of a bird since.

I recently made a video* featuring North American and Central American hummingbirds. It captured the interest of members of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society who wanted to know more.

* https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk526ePJH_DmBSat8KMtZvQ



Images of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (left) and the Calliope (above right) were taken from the video.

More Steve Siegel

cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/citizen-science/

Hummingbirds can be easy to film since they love to go to feeders. In the rolling hills near the Manzano Mountains of New Mexico, Bonnie Long and her husband, Don Giles, maintain a hummingbird haven.

With numbers peaking in July, a cloud of hummingbirds surrounds their house visiting a score of feeders. Fifty birds at once is not unusual. Nearby, a meadow with penstemons and other native plants also attracts more hummingbirds.

Black-chinned is the most common, but Broad-tailed with their Tinkerbelle flight and pugnacious Rufous are also plentiful.

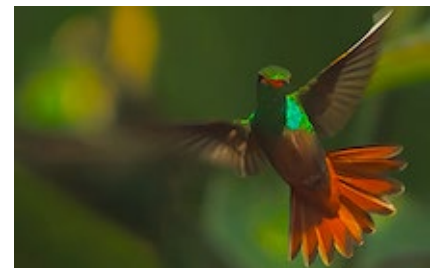


The gem, however, is the tiny and daring Calliope.

Shooting video here is a matter of setting up a tripod and pre-focusing where you expect a hummingbird to appear. They often hover at staging spots a few inches away from a feeder, allowing you to keep plastic out of your shot.

Setting the camera shutter at 1/1000th to 1/2000th of a second gives sharp videos, and shooting at 60 to 120 frames per second provides slow motion.

Video uses no flash, and there is plenty of sunlight at the Long's'. Once a year, they invite the Thursday Birders to have lunch near the feeders (see page 12), a perfect time to see this wondrous place and the breathtaking sight of so many hummingbirds.



This still image taken from the video shows that hummingbirds are rarely actually still.

That's a White-crowned Sparrow?

Story and photo by Jason Kitting

This funny-looking second-year White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) is in the middle of its first pre-alternate molt. Although this is happening throughout the bird's body, it is most obvious in the crown. The brownish feathers are the older juvenile feathers and the black and white feathers are the new alternate feathers.



Birds typically do their pre-alternate molt in late winter and early spring, right before spring migration. That is why many refer to this molt as the spring molt, which is usually not as extensive as the fall or pre-basic molt. Adult birds do this as well but the different ages of feathers are close enough in color that it isn't as easy to see the differences as in young birds.

Remember that while many migrant birds show alternate molt, many other species (especially residents) only molt

in late summer or early fall. Birds that beat up their feathers while migrating have to replace feathers more often than many species that don't migrate.

This photo was taken at Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for Rio Grande Bird Research Inc.

Dale Zimmerman Remembered

By Robert Wilcox

Last fall, we lost Dale Zimmerman, a legendary figure in the worlds of ornithology, botany and art. Dale and Marian had lived in Silver City, New Mexico, for over 60 years. He was professor of biology at Western New Mexico University.

His accomplishments included a catalog of bird species in East Africa and Papua New Guinea and a birding guide for New Mexico, as well as drawings and paintings of birds. A respected authority, he once voted against registering a rare-bird report that he himself had submitted.



This photo was taken in the Maasai Mara of Kenya in 2017 by Carol Ann Fugagli.

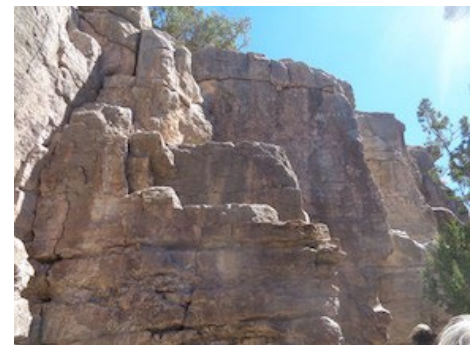
Kiosk Puts Ranger Rock on the Map

A trail that starts behind the new sign on State Road 337 leads to the top of a popular destination for rock-climbing practice.



Known as Ranger Rock, it is just south of the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras.

Volunteers from Friends of the Sandia Mountains worked with Russell Berman, right, trails foreman for the Sandia District, to dig 30-inch holes, fill them with concrete and place steel forms that were bolted to the the poles of the kiosk until the concrete set.



Photos by Cliff Giles and Sam Beard for Friends of the Sandia Mountains

Birding and the Environment, Part 1

By Sara Jayne Cole

1. Pick up trash while birding?

On May 17 Shannon Caruso and I scouted the Calabacillas Arroyo Open Space before a planned Thursday Birders walk. It was disheartening to see the trash in the parking area. The three trash cans were overflowing. I will pick up cans on trails but figure the parking area is the City's problem. However, when I returned on May 19 for the bird walk I brought my gloves, grabber, a bag and hand sanitizer. While I waited for the birders to come, I picked up as much as I could smash into the trash cans. I had a tinge of guilt putting some two dozen aluminum cans in the trash, thinking that is one sure thing that can be recycled.

Then on May 30 I returned to Calabacillas in search of the Great Horned Owl. It was good to see that the City had collected the trash and the parking lot still looked picked up. Hopefully as people come to enjoy the picnic tables and trails at Calabacillas they will see that no trash is dropped carelessly in the parking area and will feel a little more inclined to take home their trash.

I know when I pick up that deflated balloon on the trail that my action is not making a dent in the effect of plastic on the environment. But I do hope I have kept some bird from using that balloon as nesting material so their young will not get tangled in the attached string.



Every piece of trash that is taken away to be recycled or deposited in a landfill means there is one less dangerous item for birds to use as nesting material or feed their young. Picking up trash restores habitats. And a side benefit is how good you feel.



2. Thoughts about plastic

Compared to compostable food materials, plastic products can take hundreds of years to break down. In fact, plastic water bottles take 450 years to decompose. So although recycling is a great habit, it is best to reduce or reuse instead, especially because plastic can't be reused indefinitely to make new products. The Pacific Institute estimates that between 32 and 54 million barrels of oil are needed to meet the annual demand for bottled water products alone, and that's just in the United States. The resulting greenhouse gas emissions are equivalent to over a million cars on the road. On top of that, plastic that accumulates in stream water, for example, can transfer contaminants to birds, fish, other animals and to plants.

Reducing plastic use is challenging because it is everywhere. I did buy the mesh produce bags that are easier to open at the store, and I use washable totes for groceries. There are a few other ways to avoid plastic and when I can I put mine in the blue bin. In Albuquerque we can recycle clean, dry plastics # 1—7 but not Styrofoam, bubble wrap or plastic bags.

To be honest, recycling or repurposing plastic does not alleviate my anxiety about plastic pollution. But until things change this remains something I can do, and I need to know I did what I could.



Hummingbird Nests: Majesty and (Maybe Less) Mystery

Each spring, hummingbirds return to our gardens, farms and parks, bringing their sparkle and activity. Birders and non-birders alike

are excited to see these birds return. Their majesty is not without mystery, though—especially when it comes to their nesting habits.



Hummingbirds are masters at camouflaging their nests, making them almost impossible to spot, even when you are looking.

Hummingbirds can be picky about where they nest. While some species have adapted to urbanization, sometimes even nesting on wires, plant hangers and other human-made items,



most prefer the cover of deciduous trees growing near water.

Tree foliage provides shelter for the parents and their chicks, while water helps to keep the area cool. Hummingbirds also need to live near food sources such as nectar-rich flowering plants—another reason why sites near water are key for hummingbirds in dry regions.



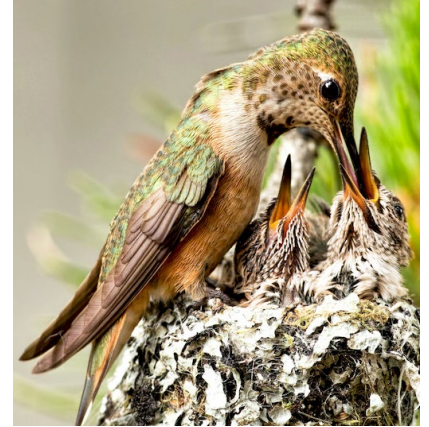
Due to the small size of hummingbird nests, you're not likely to find one in the crook of a large branch. Instead,

hummingbirds tend to “set up shop” on thinner branches roughly one foot from tree trunks, often at a fork. Nests can appear like a small knot of wood;

in general, they measure only a little over one inch in diameter. Their size depends on several factors, with larger species usually building larger nests than smaller species do.

Hummingbirds like their nests to be soft and flexible, and start construction with twigs and other bits of plants, using leaves for a base. However, hummingbirds will also use moss and lichen to camouflage their nests and make them softer. The real secret to a successful hummingbird nest, though, is spider silk, which these tiny birds incorporate by rolling it over the unfinished structure. The silk holds the nest together and anchors it to a foundation, and is inserted into nooks and crevasses to ensure attachment. Female hummingbirds spend up to seven days building these flexible, bowl-shaped nests.

Carefully observing hummingbird behavior is usually key to finding their nests. During incubation, females leave their nests only for brief periods to forage. However, you might be able to spot a female repeatedly visiting the same site during the process of nest construction. Keep in mind that in the United States, it is illegal to touch, relocate or remove an active nest. If you discover one, it's best to observe it from a distance to minimize disturbance and avoid tipping off a predator, such as a jay, to the location.



Hummingbirds use the night to sleep. In most cases, they will sleep on or by their nests, but not always. They do not reuse their nests, though; because the nests are flexible and expand as chicks grow, they eventually stretch, losing their shape and becoming unsuitable for new use. This means that every new set of eggs requires a new nest!

American Bird Conservancy

News from NMOS

The New Mexico Ornithological Society will have a booth at the Wilson Ornithological Society conference in Santa Fe July 17–20.

NMOS president Kathy Granillo welcomes anyone who will help staff the booth. Volunteers also may be needed to assist with field trips for the conferees on July 17 and/or July 20.

Granillo can be reached at kgbirder55@gmail.com.

Thursday Birder Schedule for June, July and August

Scheduled trips may be changed or cancelled. For updated information check thursdaybirders@gmail.com or the Thursday Birders calendar on the front page of cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.

June 9

Tingley Ponds and Bosque, 7:55–11:00 a.m.

Meet at the north end of the Tingley Beach parking lot

GPS coordinates (35.088596, -106.677003)

Difficulty level: one and a half miles, flat with sandy trails

Leader: Mary Rajé

June 16

Corrales Bosque, East Ella Drive, 7:55 a.m. – 12 noon

Meet at 7:55 a.m. in the parking lot north of Boxing Bear Brewery, 10200 Corrales Road, Albuquerque

GPS coordinates (35.203801, -106.644975)

Carpool to south end of Corrales for East Ella Drive access by 8:10 a.m., as there is limited parking.

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

No restrooms

Leader: Ginny Davis

June 23

Crick Avenue Greenbelt, 7:55–11 a.m.

GPS coordinates (35.002917, -106.619144)

Difficulty level: one mile, flat with mostly paved trails

No restrooms

Meet at 7:55 a.m. in southwest section of Fidelity Investment Corp. parking lot. Directions: from the intersection of Rio Bravo and University Blvds. go south on University for two miles and turn left on Crick Avenue.

Leader: Barb Hussey

June 30

Pueblo Montaña Trailhead, 7:55 7:55–11:00 a.m.

Meet in the trailhead parking lot on the south side of Montaña Rd NW, just east of Coors Blvd NW

GPS coordinates (35.147886, -106.684174)

Difficulty level: two miles, flat with some uneven, sandy trails

Leaders: Glenda Morling, Maxine Schmidt, David Watkins

July 7

Peña Blanca, 7:50 a.m.–12 noon

Meet at 7:50 a.m., northwest corner of Target parking lot at I-25/Paseo del Norte; park in spots facing Paseo

Secondary meeting place at 8:40 a.m., Pueblo Gas Inc., NM 22, west of Santo Domingo exit off I-25

GPS coordinates (35.473288, -106.307357)

The group will walk in Peña Blanca, then along the road and trail to the Rio Grande.

There will be space for ten cars. Please arrange to carpool and e-mail* us by June 30

Leader: Bob Wilcox

July 14

Valles Caldera National Preserve and back country, 6:50 a.m.–3 p.m.

Meet at 6:50 a.m., northwest corner of Target parking lot at I-25/ Paseo del Norte, park in spots facing Paseo del Norte

GPS coordinates (35.173599, -106.582156)

There will be space for six cars (high-clearance vehicles strongly recommended) and driver or passenger must have federal pass. Please arrange to carpool and e-mail* us by July 7 to reserve your spot.

Difficulty level: 160-mile drive, driving and stopping to bird and observe and learn about geologic and volcanic caldera features, with short, mainly flat walks at stops

Please bring a picnic lunch that does not require a table. Portable chairs are a plus.

Leaders: Judy Liddell and Barb Hussey

* thursdaybirders@gmail.com

July 21

Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's home, 9:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Meet at Tijeras Senior Center parking area (on NM 333/ Rt. 66) at 9:10 a.m.

GPS coordinates (35.08001350351708, -106.39133680689926)

Bonnie will be waiting by her green Subaru Forester to meet us at 9:45 a.m. at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on the west side of NM 337, six miles south of Chilili, past mile marker 5. Please bring a sack lunch and beverage.

Difficulty level: this is a seated event, outdoors at two private homes. You must e-mail Bonnie at trader@canyontraders.com or call her at (505) 379-1985 before July 19 if you plan on attending.

July 28

Willow Creek Bosque Open Space, 7:55–11 a.m.

Meet in trailhead parking lot: go east on Willow Creek Rd NE from SR 528, 1.8 miles south of 550 in Bernalillo. After 0.1 mile, turn left after Spruce Mountain Rd NE (gravel road marked Bosque Trail) leading to trailhead parking lot)

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

No restrooms

Leader: Steve Siegel

August 4

Villaneuva State Park , 6:50 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Meet at 6:50 a.m. far west end of Four Hills Village Shopping Center

GPS coordinates (35.068330, -106.500162)

Difficulty level: 180-mile drive, short walks to bird on Pecos River and at state park

There will be space for six cars. Please arrange to carpool and e-mail us at by July 28 to reserve your spot.

\$5 entrance fee or state park pass.

Please bring a picnic lunch.

Leader: Barb Hussey

August 11

Corrales Bosque Siphon Beach Access, 7:55–11 a.m.

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

GPS coordinates (35.20380109844676, -106.64497521211663)

Carpool to north end of Corrales to Siphon Beach bosque access (arriving at Siphon Beach by 8:15 a.m.) as there is limited parking at the trailhead.

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

No restrooms

Leader: Ginny Davis

August 18

Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe, 8:15 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Meet 8:15 at south side of Sprouts parking lot, Far North Shopping Center, to carpool to Santa Fe

GPS coordinates (35.151614, -106.582275)

Difficulty level: one mile, slight inclines, some uneven trails

For those making their own way to the Audubon Center, please meet the group there at 9:30 a.m.

Please bring a picnic lunch.

Leader: Lefty Arnold

August 25

David Canyon/Mars Court, 8:25 a. m.–12 noon

Meet in Mars Court Parking Lot

GPS coordinates (34.98416, -106.349736)

From I40@NM337 drive south approximately 8.5 miles; turn right onto Raven Road and follow 1.6 miles; turn right onto Mars Court to parking lot. Mars Court is short but in poor condition.

Difficulty level: a challenging three-mile walk on rocky trails down to David Canyon, returning up a steep dirt (potentially muddy) road to parking lot

We are limiting participants to six cars. Please arrange to carpool and e-mail* us by August 18 to reserve your spot.

By the beginning of August we will determine whether we must change the location due to fire danger.

Leaders: Tom and Sarah Peterson

* 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>

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