



Central New Mexico Audubon Society Winter 2023–2024 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.

And Now We Are Becoming:

Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico

From the Board of Directors, November 15, 2023

We are extremely pleased to announce that we are changing our name to Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico. This name reflects our mission rather than one individual, focusing on the importance of being allies to birders, individuals, community partners and other chapters throughout the United States who see the urgency of conserving birds and wildlife habitat.

We are proud to be joining a growing number of alliances, such as Goldengate Bird Alliance, Badgerland Bird Alliance (formerly Madison Audubon), Chicago Bird Alliance and Detroit Bird Alliance. Many other chapters are also changing their names or are considering a name change.



Our attention is on all current projects and adding more educational events and birding opportunities for youth and new birders. We are also adding more outreach to community partners and environmental groups. We will share more about new initiatives as they progress.

For more information on our name change, as well as on the importance of our continued association with the National Audubon Society, please see the home page of our website cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.

Finally, please be patient as we continue to change our website, our publicity and our marketing materials.

If you have questions, suggestions or comments we can be reached at Contact@cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.



Year-end Get-together:

Join us for some fun!

Let's celebrate another year of enjoying amazing birds and working with our friends to protect them!

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Location: the 377 Brewery and restaurant, 2027 Yale Blvd. SE in Albuquerque (just north of Gibson)

You can purchase dinner or just a beverage from the delicious menu and enjoy it in our private gathering space. We'll talk about birds, the weather, good shoes, books, our kids and grandkids, and life in general.



Chapter Member Programs for Winter 2024

Scouting for Birds

By Laura Banks

In September and October, the Central New Mexico Audubon Society partnered with the Great Southwest Council of the Boy Scouts of America to spark the interest of young birders. We worked together to help six Scouts, both boys and girls, earn their Bird Study Merit Badge.

Our chapter has advocated for youth birding for decades through the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund. The idea of working directly with Scouting programs, however, began at our 2023 annual meeting with a discussion with Mary Mazza-Andersen, a chapter member and district director of the Scout council.

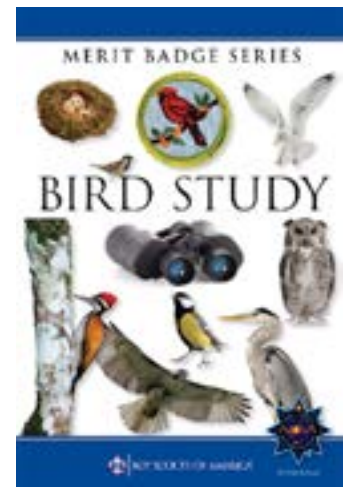
Scouts often earn merit badges with the help of adults who are experts in the topic, through attendance at a “badge clinic.” A bird study clinic seemed a perfect fit, and a new program was hatched and fledged.

Young people are a fast-growing group of new birders. Traditionally an activity enjoyed primarily by adults, birding can be a digital wonderland for plugged-in youth with curious and competitive spirits.

This serves birds well, as these new bird enthusiasts will become the natural scientists and conservationists of the future. Early, positive experiences with birding and conservation guided by supportive adults can be the key to unlocking a lifetime of service to birds and the environment. Indeed, many ornithologists and avid birders credit their love of birds to early experiences and the support of enthusiastic and knowledgeable adult birders.

The Bird Study Merit Badge leads youth to explore habitat conservation, bird anatomy and field marks, adaptive structures and behaviors, bird song, supporting birds with feeders and water sources, and the use and care of binoculars and other devices.

With the help of Mary and Scout councilor Allison Martin, CNMAS volunteers Robert Munro, Lee Hopwood, Glenda Morling and Laura Banks conducted the bird study clinic at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. The six Scouts, from Troops 1010, 410, 166 and 53G, were provided a pair of good quality binoculars and a field guide and then headed into the park with their adults to identify over 25 species of birds over two morning sessions.



They even got to meet birds up close and learn about bird research thanks to the Rio Grande Bird Research experts at the banding station. They also worked on their own over the course of several weeks to build bird feeders and water stations at home, do on-line research about birds and identify and log birds seen in their neighborhood.

In addition to the bird study badge clinic, volunteers from CNMAS also provided an information table at the “Girl Scouts Love State Parks Day” at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park in October. At that event, members of various Girl Scout troops explored the park, learned about habitats and wildlife including birds and earned a Scout patch.

We hope to continue to expand our youth outreach and education activities. We will foster enthusiasm for birds and birding, as well as a conservation spirit, in a safe supportive environment. If you would like to help, please go to Contact@cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.

Chapter Launches Support Project for ABQ Backyard Refuge

By Glenda Morling

Five volunteers from CNMAS have formed a team to support the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program (BRP), run by Laurel Ladwig of Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.

We will work with Laurel and her team of master gardener and naturalist volunteers to increase the number of backyards certified as wildlife refuges in our community.

Our goal is to get at least 100 more yards certified by the BRP in 2024, thus increasing the acreage given over to wildlife habitat. We will support our chapter members and many Thursday Birders as they embark on the certification process and will promote the BRP in our neighborhoods. Our support will include answering questions via e-mail and message boards, visits to yards and open houses

and events that showcase native plants, irrigation systems, bird-safe environments, bird feeders and water features.

In preparation for our mentoring and support roles, we recently visited Brian Anderson's yard. He is an ambassador for the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program. He has lived in his home close to the bosque for 19 years and has well-established plantings.



Photos by Brian Anderson



We all learned a lot from our visit, which was followed by a visit to Gail Kaufman's yard. Gail recently moved to her west side home and is working on native plantings and encouraging birds into her yard.

Our next steps are to help each other get our yards certified so we can better help others. Since the five of us live in quite different locations, with different types of yards, and at different elevations around the city, this process is very useful, as well as fun!

If you would like more information on our ABQ BRP Support Project, would like to get your yard certified or would like to join our team of volunteers, please e-mail me at gmorling@cnmas.newmexicoaududubon.org.

Call for Photos

CNMAS wants to create an educational social media series, so we are looking for pictures of birds in urban areas. The picture should be in focus and the species must be easily identifiable. Credit will be given to the photographer(s).

We would like to start with wintering species: Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Raven, American Crow, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Ladder-

backed Woodpecker, Curve-billed Thrasher, Greater Roadrunner, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, White-breasted Nuthatch, Spotted Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, European Starling, House Sparrow, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Pictures should be e-mailed to Jason Kitting, jason1991.bnow@gmail.com with Urban Bird Project as the title.

Bureau of Land Management Proposal Raises Priority of Habitat

By Andrew McGlashen
Audubon Fall 2023

The agency responsible for one-tenth of the country's terrain aims to make healthy habitat a more prominent priority.

It's an old joke in the West that BLM stands for "Bureau of Livestock and Mining." In reality, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's mandate is far more expansive. It's charged with overseeing one-tenth of the nation's land while balancing competing uses—such as grazing, resource extraction, recreation, and wildlife—to keep it healthy and productive for future generations.

Still, critics say the BLM has earned its reputation for catering to industry. By one estimate, the bureau makes 90 percent of its land available for oil and gas leasing. A 2022 report found that 54 million acres of rangeland—about one-third of what the BLM manages for livestock—are unhealthy by its own standards, largely due to overgrazing. "For too long, land management planning has been dominated by extractive industries," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland told journalists in April.

The Biden administration aims to change that. In a draft rule likely to be finalized next year, the BLM plans to put conservation on equal footing with other land uses.

Viewed one way, the proposal merely clarifies the mission that Congress established for the BLM in 1976. Yet it also signals a reorientation: elevating habitat protection and restoration in the management plans that determine what happens on 245 million acres, from Arizona to Alaska. Advocates see the move as a once-in-a-generation chance to improve the outlook for ecosystems fractured and degraded by development, invasive species, drought, and wildfires.

"This is telling all of BLM at once: Conservation is a legitimate use of public lands," says Judy Calman, Audubon Southwest's New Mexico

policy director. "That's a message that has never come from Washington before."

To carry out that directive,

the draft rule creates a clearer process for tapping an underused land designation—Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or ACECs—to protect rare habitats, cultural artifacts and other special resources. Today, vague guidance

and patchy execution limit the designation's power, experts say. Calman, for example, has waited more than a decade for the BLM to designate ACECs on four tracts she nominated that are increasingly threatened by New Mexico's oil and gas boom.

Clearing the way for more ACECs is important, but the proposal goes further. For one, it aims to involve Indigenous people more explicitly in the BLM's decisions. The shift could weave tribal knowledge of the land into its management, says Gussie Lord, managing attorney of the Tribal Partnerships Program at Earthjustice and an Oneida Nation of Wisconsin member.

On top of sharpening existing land-protection tools, the bureau's proposal also creates a new one: Just as energy companies and ranchers can lease BLM acreage for drilling and grazing, it allows tribes, environmental groups and others to lease parcels for conservation. These leases, supporters say, could not only generate revenue for the BLM while improving habitat, but could also help the Biden administration to ramp up renewable energy production on public lands. If a solar project will damage habitat for a vulnerable bird, for example, its developer might offset those

continued on page 7





BLM and Conservation

continued from page 6

impacts by leasing nearby land and restoring native plants. “That seems like a recipe for avoiding conflict and potentially even litigation for a project developer,” says Drew McConville, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank.

Unsurprisingly, the plan to put conservation on par with other uses has stirred accusations of what Republicans in Congress call “a thinly veiled attempt to lock up more lands.”

Clean power companies support conservation leases but want the BLM to scrap the rest of the proposal, warning of more barriers to new projects. Other industries are flatly opposed, with groups representing ranchers and oil drillers characterizing the proposal as a radical shift. Lawsuits seem likely.

Public lands advocates counter that such claims are nonsense: The draft rule states that conservation leases don’t preclude grazing, mining, or drilling. Even the overhaul’s cheerleaders admit that fulfilling its promise will be a stretch for the understaffed agency. For example, a new requirement to gauge ecological health of all BLM lands, not just grazing allotments, could triple an

<https://www.audubon.org/news/proposed-reset-public-lands-could-be-big-boost-conservation>

“Conservation Remains a Common Bond”

By Judy Calman

The BLM’s impact in the country cannot be overstated, as it manages one out of every 10 surface acres and 30 percent of the nation’s mineral and soils. With more than 245 million acres of rolling sagebrush hills, deserts, grasslands, forest and wetlands, the BLM manages some of our nation’s most iconic and loved landscapes, as well as some of the most critical habitats for birds including Lesser Prairie Chicken, Pinyon Jay and more.



Congress tasked the BLM with managing public lands for a variety of uses such as energy development, livestock grazing, timber harvesting and recreation while ensuring maintenance of natural, cultural, and other resources. Historically, conservation has often taken a back seat to more consumptive uses, and this proposed rule takes the important step of putting it on equal footing.

BLM lands bring substantial recreational dollars to nearby communities, provide physical and mental health opportunities for people of all means and backgrounds, hold invaluable evidence of human prehistory, are rich in cultural heritage and sacred sites, provide critical wildlife corridors across the western United States as well as habitat for more than 3,000 species, many of which can be found nowhere else.

Americans love nature and the outdoors, wild landscapes and iconic wildlife, and conservation remains a common bond among us, regardless of where you live. We want our public lands managed sustainably so that

we may be able to pass them in healthy condition to our children, grandchildren and generations to come.

BLM should be commended for taking action to promote conservation and land health, which are consistent with its mission, authority and responsibility. While the federal agency has largely focused on oil and gas, mining and other extractive uses, we feel that these must be balanced with conservation, recreation, wildlife and watershed health, as well as cultural resource protection.

continued on page 8



Bird Names for Birds Scores a Victory

All bird names derived from people will be changed, the New York Times reported, so as not to honor figures with racist pasts.

The American Ornithological Society, the organization responsible for standardizing English bird names across the Americas, will rename all species honoring people.

New names will reflect a bird's physical features or habitat.

That means the Audubon's Shearwater, found off the southeastern coast, will not be tied to John James Audubon, a slave owner.

The Scott's Oriole, found in the Southwest and Mexico, will no longer honor the Civil War general Winfield Scott, who oversaw the forced relocation of Native Americans [in 1838 that became known as the Trail of Tears.](#)

Public Lands Rule Will Protect a National Treasure

continued from page 7

Audubon is supportive of the three main components of the proposed Public Lands Rule:

1. protect the most intact, healthiest landscapes
2. restore landscapes back to health and
3. ensure wise decision-making based on science and data.

Extreme weather events such as wildfires, droughts and severe storms are occurring at increasing frequency and intensity. This proposed rule will help us have healthy intact landscapes that are more resilient and able to recover more easily from natural disasters. In keeping with the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act the proposed rule would allow federal land managers to identify and prioritize lands and waters that require ecosystem restoration work, such as removing invasive species.

Where there are existing intact landscapes, the use of conservation management tools should be encouraged. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) is an existing administrative tool available to the

BLM which has historically been under-utilized and inconsistently applied, and we are happy to see that the rule provides clarification on and expansion of its use. With the adoption of the rule, ACECs can play a critical role in protecting important natural, cultural, and scenic resources, intact landscapes, habitat connectivity, and ecosystem resilience.

We are also encouraged to see habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors emphasized in the proposed Rule. Such connectivity is essential to allow migrating wildlife – including birds – to adapt to a changing climate.

America's public lands are a national treasure. This rule-making is an important opportunity for BLM to restore balance to its land management priorities and to encourage an inclusive approach to conservation that includes co-management with tribal nations and the consideration of land health in all decision-making. Public comments on the rule are currently due June 20, but this deadline may be extended.

Structural Racism Damages Biodiversity, Study Shows

From the New York Times

At a meeting of urban wildlife researchers in Washington, D.C., in June, one diagram made it into so many PowerPoint presentations that its recurrence became a running joke. The subject, though, was serious: The diagram illustrated the links between structural racism, pernicious landscape features such as urban heat islands, and impacts to biodiversity, and it came from a study published in the fall of 2020 in the journal *Science*.

Madhusudan Katti, an ecologist at North Carolina State University, said, “Often the interests of other species and marginalized humans align. It’s very much a colonial perspective to think about humans and wildlife as separate.”



Dr. Katti’s Ph.D. student Jin Bai has documented several surprising species, including a yellow-billed cuckoo, an American redstart and a magnolia warbler, while birding in formerly redlined neighborhoods.

National Audubon Appoints EDIB Officer

The National Audubon Society has appointed Lisette Martinez to be its Chief Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Officer.

Martinez has more than 18 years of experience in launching, scaling and championing successful equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) programs. She joined Audubon as a member of the executive team. She was most recently the executive vice president and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for Jefferson Health.

Audubon Had a Predecessor

The New York Times reviewed a new edition of Audubon’s *Birds of America*, noting that despite recent criticism of his views “the book proves the man’s artistry itself unimpeachable.”

The reviewer, Walker Mimms, also cited *Birds of the World*, a new anthology of the lithographs of Elizabeth Gould of Great Britain. Ten years older than Audubon, she illustrated books by her husband John Gould and by Charles Darwin: her “neon lorikeets from Australia next to the quiet Galapagan finches that taught Darwin natural selection.”



Above: American White Pelican from *Birds of America* (1827) by John James Audubon

Jason's Avians

Rio Grande Bird Research and Wildlife Rescue

White-crowned Sparrows

These two were the first members of their species to be banded this fall. Although they are most likely migrants, White-crowns are one of our most common wintering sparrow species. They are the most widespread member of their genus and can be found breeding at high elevations in the western U.S. and Canada. In winter they form flocks and visit bird feeders.

Some new birders mistake the birds with black and white crowns as males and birds with brown and tan crowns as females. This is not a gender difference but an age difference. The bird on the left is an adult after-hatch-year bird and the one on the right is a young hatch-year bird. They will replace these brown and tan crowns in late winter and early spring, and by the time they are ready to breed they will look just like the adult birds.



Text and photos
by Jason Kitting

Flammulated Owl

It was a privilege to band this beautiful after-hatch-year Flammulated Owl that was rehabilitated at Wildlife Rescue and released in the nearby Manzano mountains.

Flammulated Owls are small birds found in the mature pine forests of North America's western mountains. They eat almost exclusively insects (especially moths) which is why they are one of the few migratory owls. They breed as far north as southern British

Columbia, but mainly winter in southern Mexico and other parts of Central America.

This bird came into Wildlife Rescue after being found in a backyard unable to fly. It might have hit a window or was weak from migration, but though dehydrated had no injuries. Once rehydrated it spent a couple of days in a flight cage before being banded and released to continue the journey to Mexico.



All RGBR banding is conducted under a permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey.

more on page 12

More of Jason's Avians

Cooper's Hawks

These little fluff balls came to Wildlife Rescue after tumbling out of their nest during a wind storm. We usually don't get many chicks this young unless an entire nest and/or tree comes down. Chicks this age are usually pretty good about staying in the center of the nest and away from trouble.



The most common age of Cooper's Hawk chicks we see are in the "brancher" or "branchling" stage—not quite old enough to fly but jumping from branch to branch to build flight muscles—when many take a tumble.

These guys only had superficial scrapes and were soon large enough to cause trouble in a big flight cage. Once they are able to feed themselves, they will have what wildlife rehabilitators call a "soft release." This means they will be set free but the rehabber will continue to provide food for a while. This ensures they can go out and practice hunting but with a safe source of food if they aren't able to catch enough on their own. This type of release is similar to the fledgling stage these hawks experience in nature. Their parents hunt and bring the food back to the nest while the chicks are free to explore and practice hunting on their own. Chicks may watch their parents hunt during this time but, like many teenagers, they rarely have the patience to watch adults hunt and often prefer to chase their siblings, small birds, and anything else that catches their attention.

American Goldfinch

Here's a species we don't see as often as we used to, but this year we saw a relatively small rise in numbers. This hatch-year American Goldfinch was taking advantage of the great sunflower crop this fall.



The American Goldfinch can be found across most of the United States and large areas of Canada and Mexico. In central New Mexico we may see them during spring and fall migration but mostly during the winter. They are usually in groups and often join flocks of similar species in areas of abundant food. They are particularly drawn to thistle feeders put up by humans.

They are famous for drastic wardrobe changes from season to season, and this is particularly noticeable in males. During fall and winter, young birds are in their formative plumage and adult birds are in their basic plumage. These plumages are also called their winter plumage which is mostly brown and drab. In spring they molt into their alternate or breeding plumages which in males is mostly yellow.



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Bonus: More Jason's Avians



Black-headed Grosbeak

This hatch-year male Black-headed Grosbeak may be young, but he definitely knows how to use that huge beak.

These birds are found throughout central Mexico, the western U.S. and southwestern Canada. They breed in a variety of forested habitats including thick deciduous forest, high-elevation pine forests and even urban parks and neighborhoods with mature trees.

Black-headed Grosbeaks have large, thick beaks designed for crushing hard seeds, which is what gives them their infamous bite. They are common visitors to bird feeders and show a particular fondness for sunflower seeds.

Hermit Thrush

The wintering thrushes, including this hatch-year Hermit Thrush, arrived in time to find ripe native berries.

Hermit Thrushes are one of the most common thrush species to overwinter along the middle Rio Grande valley. Eating berries from the bushes that grow along the river banks makes them important seed dispersers for native shrubs. Unfortunately these berries also turn their poop bright red or purple, which often stains the clothes and skin of bird banders.

Although Hermit Thrushes breed in the nearby Sandia and Manzano mountains, these wintering birds are most likely from farther north, because recent research showed they are a different subspecies. This means our breeding birds leave in the fall.



Common Loon

We we don't see many loons here but some migrate along the Rio Grande and some even overwinter in some of New Mexico's larger man-made lakes. This adult Common Loon was migrating south along the river when it crash-landed on a street in the middle of Albuquerque. This is a common occurrence for migrating loons because the sun reflects off of concrete and asphalt in a way



that makes it appear like water. Even if it is uninjured, the bird has almost no chance of getting back

into the air without human intervention.

Loons are designed for life underwater which, is why their legs are so far back on their bodies. This is perfect for jetting around through water after fish, but makes it very difficult to get into the air and almost impossible to walk on land. This is why loons require water to safely land and take off. To gain enough lift to fly they have to run across the water's surface.

Fortunately this bird was uninjured. After filling up on some fish and getting a clean bill of health from Wildlife Rescue, this bird was banded by Rio Grande Bird Research and taken up to Cochiti.

Audubon Southwest Studies Pinyon Jays and Their Habitats

The Pinyon Jay is an iconic bird of the intermountain west and was once common throughout the Pinyon–Juniper woodlands of northern Arizona and New Mexico, southern Utah and portions of Nevada and Colorado.

The species' diet is composed largely of Pinyon nuts, and they can be nomadic in pursuit of this food. Long-term drought, climate change and habitat conversions have resulted in astonishing Pinyon Jay population declines. From 1967 to 2015, populations fell by 3.69% annually for an estimated total loss of 83.5%.

It would seem ironic that as Pinyon-Juniper trees encroach into some grasslands, Pinyon Jays, specialists in this habitat type, are languishing precipitously. Although the specific reasons for this decline remain unclear, it is likely that Pinyon trees are suffering from long-term drought, increasing temperatures and other climatic shifts.

Research suggests that these changes are leading to pinyon pines that produce fewer nuts. The birds seem to be ranging further from historic colony sites and might be relying more heavily on other food sources such as juniper berries and insects.



Meanwhile, land managers find themselves in a double bind: needing to both preserve grasslands and protect Pinyon Jay habitat. Guidelines for grassland preservation with an eye to the jay are lacking.

How to help

You don't have to be an expert birder to help. Community scientists play a critical role in gathering crucial data on a scale not otherwise possible. Join Audubon in-person or virtually for an orientation to Pinyon Jays and to a simple protocol. We have a spectrum of engagement opportunities from birding in your neighborhood to visiting a pre-defined survey block.

<https://southwest.audubon.org/our-work/working-lands/pinyon-jay-conservation>

New Mexicans Make the News

- Anne Beckett of Rio Arriba County has joined the board of the National Audubon Society. Retired from a real estate career, she is a former member and chair of the state Audubon board. She is a master naturalist and works on Climate Watch and the Pinyon Jay Project.
- The U.S. Senate confirmed Xochitl Torres Small of Las Cruces as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. A former member of Congress from New Mexico, Torres Small currently serves as the Under Secretary for Rural Development at the department.

What's It Like to Live in a New Mexico Oil Field?

Associated Press

Santa Fe — A California research team is conducting a five-year ecological study of six songbird species in northwestern New Mexico oil fields to see how sensory intrusions affect the birds' survival, reproduction and general health.

The Santa Fe New Mexican says the study by avian researchers from California Polytechnic State University will zero in on the specific impacts of noise and light pollution.



As the human population swells and generates more light and sound, researchers are curious about how those multiplying stressors might compound the challenges of climate change in New Mexico's San Juan Basin, the newspaper reported.

Clint Francis, an ecology professor at California Polytechnic, said early studies that examined whether excessive noise and light decreased bird populations were done in urban settings, where the birds were threatened by prowling cats, toxic chemicals and speeding cars.

The next step is to isolate either noise or light in a rural area to see how one or the other affects the songbirds, Francis said.

He did such research in this same northwestern

New Mexico region in 2005. This time the aim is to observe how the two together affect the birds in a locale where the conditions can be clearly measured.

“We try to hold everything constant, but vary noise and light pollution to understand whether there are cumulative effects with both of those stimuli together,” Francis told the New Mexican.

The research will focus on six songbirds: ash-throated flycatchers, gray flycatchers, mountain bluebirds, Western bluebirds, chipping sparrows and house finches.

Francis hopes the study will uncover information that can help people adjust their noise and light to coexist better with birds.

The study is being funded by a grant of almost \$900,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Extinct Species off the List

From the Guardian

Twenty-one species have been removed from the Endangered Species Act list after going extinct.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the animals and plants. Among them were the Bachman's Warbler and eight birds in Hawaii.

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, once set for delisting, was kept amid debate of its extinction status.

The US secretary of the interior, Deb Haaland, said “Now is the time to lift up proactive, collaborative and innovative efforts to save America's wildlife.”



Rare Birds Saved from Fire in Hawaii

From the Washington Post

Staff and volunteers of the Maui Bird Conservation Society kept its building safe from the disastrous fires in Hawaii, including one in Maui that destroyed the town of Lahaina and killed 100 people.

They built a “landlocked Noah's ark” for two Akikiki: a simulated rainforest canopy including nesting material.

The Akikiki, natives of Kauai, are considered the most endangered bird in the U.S.

Thursday Birder Trips

December 2023, January and February 2024

December 7

Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR: 7:50 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Meet at South Valley Railrunner station

Leader: TBA

December 14

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park: 8:55 a.m.–12:00 noon

Meet at parking lot

Leader: TBA

December 21 and 28

Holiday season: no bird walks

January 4

Tingley Beach trails and ponds

Departure Time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: north parking lot, Tingley Drive SW, park north of fishing ponds

Description: walk south along the riverside to ponds and return through bosque

Portable restroom at parking lot; restrooms by fishing ponds

Difficulty: 1–2 miles, flat, some narrow, sandy trails

Leader: Mary Rajé

January 11

Oso Grande Park and Bear Canyon Arroyo

Departure time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: spillover parking lot at CNM Montoya campus

Description: bird Oso Grande Park then east to Bear Canyon Arroyo

No restrooms

Difficulty: two miles; trail to and on Bear Canyon sandy and uneven with medium incline to and within Bear Canyon and medium decline back

Leader: Glenda Morling

New in This Issue:

Maps to TB Destinations

On the web site:

cnmas.

newmexicoaudubon.org

January 18

Open Space Visitor Center

Departure time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: 6500 Coors Blvd NW

Description: walk around Visitor Center property, along bank to Sagebrush Church and back

Restrooms in visitor center open at 9:00 a.m.

Difficulty: flat, some sandy, uneven trails

Leader: Deanna Nichols

January 25

Los Poblanos Open Space and Fields

Departure time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: Los Poblanos Field trails off Montano NW

Description: walk along roads around fields to community gardens

Portable restroom at south parking lot and community garden

Difficulty: 1–2 miles, flat, on dirt roads and trails

Leader: Sara Jayne Cole

February 1

East Ella Drive, Corrales

Departure time: 8:30 a.m.

Meeting location: Boxing Bear Brewery, 10200 Corrales Road, to carpool

Description: walk along ditches and through bosque

No restrooms

Difficulty: two miles, flat, some uneven and sandy trails, with some ditch bank climbing necessary

Leaders: Angela Hawthorne and Perriane Houghton

continued on the next page

Look for details about Thursday Birder trips—including last-minute changes—on the web site: cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

More Thursday Birder Winter Outings

February 8

Pueblo Montano Trail

Departure time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: Pueblo Montano Picnic Area

Description: walk south along ditch bank, return through bosque

Facilities: restroom at trailhead and more nearby at Sprouts Grocery

Difficulty: two miles, flat, some uneven sandy trails with some ditch bank climbing necessary

Leader: Brian Anderson

February 15

Alameda Bosque Trail (Alameda Open Space)

Departure time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: south side of Alameda just east of river

Description: walk along north valley ditches, through the park area and through bosque

Restrooms at parking lot

Difficulty: 1–2 miles, flat, some uneven, sandy trails

Leader: George Perry

February 22

Romero Road, Corrales

Departure time: 8:30 a.m.

Meeting location: Boxing Bear Brewery, 10200 Corrales Road

Description: 1–2 miles flat, along ditches, ditch bank and through bosque; some uneven, sandy trails

No restrooms

Difficulty: two miles flat, some uneven sandy trails with ditch bank climbing necessary

Leader: Robert Munro

February 29

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Departure time: 9:00 a.m.

Meeting location: 2901 Candelaria Road NW, northeast corner of parking lot

Description: behind the scenes with Nature Center volunteer

Restrooms open at 10:00 a.m.

A \$3 parking fee, State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass is required per car

Difficulty: 1–2 miles, flat, some narrow, uneven and sandy trails

Leader: Susan Hunter

Friends Spotting

Angela Hawthorne, a Thursday Birder leader, was visiting family in Tucson and took time out to bird at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds, where she came across some old friends of Thursday Birders, Reuben and Michele Weisz, who moved to Tucson a couple of years ago.

<https://tucsonaudubon.org/paton-center>



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/about-us/>

Officers and Directors

Contact@cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

President.....	Glenda Morling gmorling@cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org
Vice President	Robert Munro
Vice President	Laura Banks
Treasurer.....	Lee Hopwood
Secretary & Administrator.....	Jamie Wells
Weekend Field Trips Coordinator.....	????
EDIB Committee and NM Audubon Council Representative	Asher Gorbet
Conservation.....	Katrina Adamczyk
Monthly Program Coordinator	Laura Banks
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Thursday Birders.....	Glenda Morling
Scholarship	Lee Hopwood and Jason Kitting

Past Presidents

Beth Hurtz-Waitz, Raymond Van Buskirk,
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