



February 2024 Update

This Month's Features

- ✦ Thursday Birders 2023 Field Trips Report
- ✦ Varied Thrush
- ✦ Great Backyard Bird Count
- ✦ February Backyard Refuge Tips
- ✦ Urban Bird Project

Thursday Birders

February 1st

East Ella Drive, Corrales
8:30AM

February 15th

Alameda Bosque Trail (Alameda
Open Space)
9:00AM

February 22nd

Romero Road, Corrales
8:30AM

February 8th

Pueblo Montano Trail
9:00AM

Remember to check

<https://www.bacnm.org/thursday-birders/>
For last minute changes and updates

February 29th

Rio Grande Nature Center
8:30AM

Calendar

Feb 15th - Monthly Program

Location: Bernalillo County Extension Office, 1510 Menaul Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107 or join us via Zoom.

Time: 7PM to 8PM

Information: Conserving Birds in the Pliocene: The Burning Issue of Spotted Owls in the Southwestern United States. Dr. Gavin Jones, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

Feb 17th - Great Backyard Bird Count

Location: [Botanic Garden - ABQ BioPark](#), 2601 Central Ave. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87104

Time: 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Information: Join us for a walk around the Botanic Garden and help us complete this count! Entrance is free. [Visit Website](#)

Feb 17th - Backyard Refuge Program

Location: Valle de Oro

Time: 10am to 12pm Noon

Information: Backyard Chat with Backyard Refuge and Bird Alliance volunteers at Valle de Oro. Come and talk about native plants and bird habitat and safety. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Feb 24th - Birding for New Birders

Location: Candelaria Nature Preserve

Time: 9am to 11am

Information : Meet at the west end of Arbor road, off Rio Grande Blvd, at 8:55AM. Binoculars will be available from the City Open Space Department. Experienced birders welcome as volunteers.

THURSDAY BIRDERS 2023 FIELD TRIPS REPORT



Photo By Michele Weisz

A Thursday Birders report was submitted to eBird for each field trip, with some outings having more than one report due to more than one eBird hotspot in the field-trip location. Each eBird checklist report includes:

- ✦ A checklist report for each eBird Hot Spot the group visited.
- ✦ Each bird species seen (including the approximate number of each species)
- ✦ The number of participants on each eBird checklist report
- ✦ Field notes as appropriate

Here is a snapshot of Thursday Birders activities

- ✦ **Total number of field trips: 43**
- ✦ **Average number of participants per trip: 19**
- ✦ **Total number of eBird checklists submitted: 56** (some field trips visited more than one eBird Hot Spot, resulting in more than one checklist report for that field trip).
- ✦ **Total number of bird species reported: 181** (Not every bird was identified as to common name; some were reported as being a member of a specific family, for example reporting a Raven when it was not possible to note that it was either a Chihuahuan or a Common). The number 181 refers to birds identified as to a specific common name.



Audubon



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<https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/DH8fxTkoC0qHjXF9fZCtRw2>

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Photo: Loi Nguyen/ Audubon Photography Awards

Did you know?

Some birds will rub ants on their feathers and skin to act as an insecticide, miticide, fungicide, or bactericide. The process is called "Anting."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anting_\(behavior\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anting_(behavior))

Total number of counties visited: 6

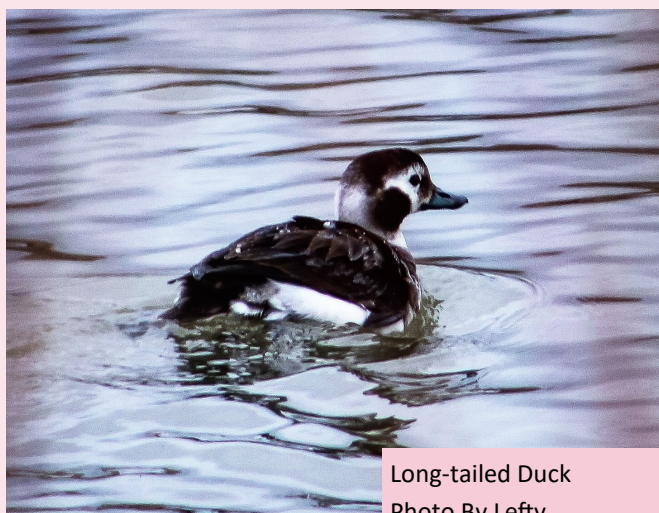
- ✦ **Bernalillo:** 31 field trips; 34 checklists; 159 species
- ✦ **Cibola:** One field trip; one checklist; 23 species
- ✦ **Sandoval:** Eight field trips; 16 checklists; 105 species
- ✦ **Socorro:** One field trip; one checklist; 42 species
- ✦ **Torrance:** One field trip; three checklists; 37 species
- ✦ **Valencia:** One field trip; one checklist; 33 species

NUMBER OF SPECIES ADDED TO THE LIFE LIST:

- ✦ 20

2023 RARITIES AND ODDITIES

- ✦ **Long-tailed Duck**, Bosque del Apache NWR, December 7
- ✦ **Eastern Kingbird**, Rio Grande Nature Center, September 7
- ✦ **Indigo Bunting**, Porcupine Trail Residence, June 8



Long-tailed Duck
Photo By Lefty

Cumulative totals from June 2021 through December 2023:

✦ **Field trips:** 103 ✦ **Checklists:** 127 ✦ **Species:** 199 ✦ **Counties:** Eight

Report by John (Lefty) Arnold



Photo By Lee Hopwood

Varied Thrush

We have some interesting rare birds around New Mexico this year! This beautiful Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*) recently spent some time in a thick patch of vegetation at Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area. Thanks to Lee Hopwood for having the patience to get this great shot.

Varied Thrushes are mainly a west coast specialty that rarely come this far inland. These birds breed in the wet pine forests of the Pacific Northwest from Northern California, up into central Alaska. They are particularly abundant in the Cascades and northern Rocky Mountains. In winter, they move further south and slightly inland, but generally stick relatively close to the west coast.

If you wanted to see this bird, you had to be prepared for a wait! It was very secretive and generally stayed within thick vegetation. The best tactic was to find one of the

slightly open spots it was frequenting (shown on eBird), and then to wait for the bird to re-emerge. Sightings of this bird were brief so moving between spots too much was a good way to miss it!

Whenever you are in an area where a rare bird has been reported, minimize use of mob tapes and playback to avoid disturbing or harassing birds.

Great Backyard Bird Count February 16-19, 2024

How to Participate

Participating is easy, fun to do alone or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds.

Step 1: Decide where you will watch birds.

Step 2: Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 16–19, 2024.

Step 3: Identify all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool for sharing your bird sightings:



eBird



<https://ebird.org/about/ebird->

If you are a beginning bird admirer and new to bird identification, try using the [Merlin Bird ID app](#) to tell us what birds you are seeing or hearing. If you have participated in the count before and want to record numbers of birds, try the [eBird Mobile app](#) or enter your bird list on the [eBird website](#) (desktop/laptop).

If you already contribute to Merlin or eBird, continue what you are doing! All entries over the 4-days count towards GBBC.

<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>

February Backyard Refuge Tips

- ✦ Review your landscape design and plant choices.
- ✦ Verify USDA hardiness zone map for your location. The downloadable map shows detailed information for location based on zip code. <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/> <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/pages/map-downloads>
- ✦ Check out the USDA Plants Database. A wealth of information about plants in U.S. and its territories. <https://plants.usda.gov/home>
- ✦ Identify microclimate areas in your space that may allow you to stretch the boundaries for plants outside of hardiness zone requirements.
- ✦ Check out the average last frost date. <https://www.weather.gov/abq/springfreezetable> <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates/>
- ✦ Review USDA hardiness zone, water, light, and soil requirements for trees, shrubs, or other perennials in your design. Purchased plants usually have this information on the label, otherwise check on line resources or a plant guide.
- ✦ Always group plants with similar water requirements together. This will help eliminate losses from improper watering. Xeric plants may die if overwatered or located in poorly drained soil.
- ✦ Check seed sowing dates for outdoor plantings for best chance at successful germination. Some seeds can be sown in winter and early spring.
- ✦ Start some seeds indoors to have your own plants ready to go!

URBAN BIRD PROJECT

Here's a look at the diverse Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)! During the Urban Bird Project, a new bird species which can be found in urban areas in central New Mexico will be introduced on our Facebook page every one to two weeks. Special thanks to those who provided these amazing pictures! Those people include Kaleb Anderson, Susan Hunter, Dwayne Longenbaugh, and Judy Liddell. These 4 pictures represent the 4 most common Junco subspecies we see in central New Mexico in winter.



The Oregon Junco, known for having a black head, rufous sides and back, and a pinkish beak. These birds breed along the west coast from northern California up into northern British Columbia.



The Pink-sided Junco looks the most similar to the Oregon. These birds have more pink/rufous in their sides and have gray heads and black masks. They breed in the central US Rockies.

Dark-eyed Juncos are a small sparrow species found across most of North America. They breed in pine forests in the mountains and northern forests of the US and Canada. Each subspecies has its own breeding range, though they often form mixed flocks when they aren't breeding. In winter, these birds often leave the mountains and far north in search of food. This is when these birds occupy the widest variety of habitat types and often visit bird feeders in many urban settings. One thing that all of the different subspecies have is the obvious white outer tail feathers which they often flash as they land.

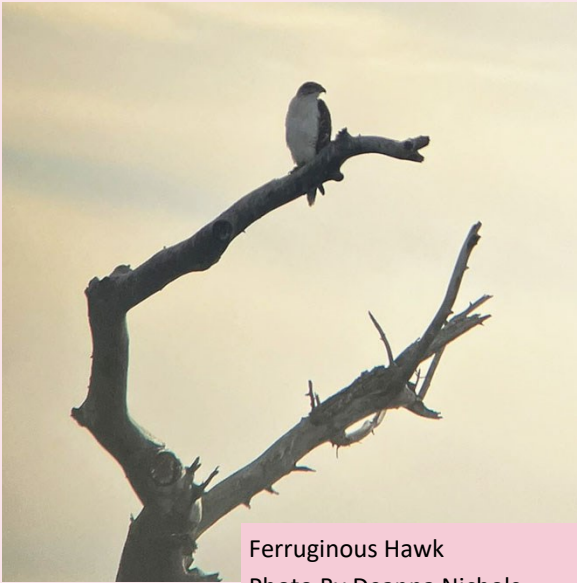


The Gray-headed Junco has a gray head/body, black mask, and red back. They breed in the southern Rockies and other mountain ranges of the southwestern US. They are also slightly larger than all of the other juncos



The Slate-colored Junco has the largest range of Dark-eyed Juncos: light gray to almost black color with white bellies, they breed throughout the northern Boreal and along the Appalachians. This Junco winters throughout the eastern US.

Members' Photos of the Month



Ferruginous Hawk
Photo By Deanna Nichols



Winter Wren
Photo By Bo Olcott



Red Crossbill
Photo By Jordan Graham



Shoveler
Photo By Jan Phil

We would love to show off your bird photos!

For the "March Update" we want to see your pictures of Bendire's Thrashers or any bird photo you have recently taken that you would love to share.

Email your photos to Jordan Graham- thisnomadiclife@gmail.com

PLEASE PUT "BACNM MARCH PHOTO - 'YOUR NAME'" as the header/ subject!

*Not all pictures can be posted. I might have to do some minor cropping for formatting and layout. By sending us your pictures you give Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico permission to use said photos with credit in their newsletters and on their website.

Editor's Note

Please bear with us as we get the formatting and layout for the monthly update nailed down. We want to make this as easy to read and enjoyable for everyone.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or criticisms feel free to reach out to Glenda or myself, Jordan. We are currently trying to hammer out regular content for each month along with engaging stories and articles relative to the month ahead.

I've thoroughly enjoyed working on this for the past 5 months and I look forward to hearing from all of you and continuing to work on this for months to come. Thank you for entrusting me with this task for the community

Sincerely



Jordan Graham

thisnomadiclife@gmail.com

CENTRAL New Mexico AUDUBON SOCIETY

October 2023 Updates

In this month's news

Restoring Melrose Woods
By Robert Munro

The Backyard Bird Program
By Glenda Morling

Thursday Birders

October 5th
Calabacillas Arroyo Open Space - 8:25AM - 11:30AM

October 12th
North Corrales Siphon Beach - 8:25AM - 12 noon

October 19th
Albuquerque Bosque Open Space Trails South - 7:55AM - 11:30AM

October 26th
Mariposa Basin Park - 8:25AM - 11AM park trail
<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/trips/thursday-birders/>

CENTRAL New Mexico AUDUBON SOCIETY

November 2023 Updates

This Month's Features

- About the Climate Team
- An Effort to Promote Environmental Justice for the South Valley
- Save the Birds from Excessive Light
- The Importance of eBird
- Sandia Crest Recreational Complex Renovation Project
- Have you joined the Audubon chapter?
- Photo(s) of the Month
- What is this bird?

Thursday Birders

November 2nd
Mariposa Basin Park - 8:30AM - 11AM

November 9th
Copper Trailhead Open Space - 9:00AM - 11:30AM

November 16th
Los Poblanos Open Space - 8:55AM - 12 noon

November 23rd
THANKSGIVING NO BIRD WALK

November 30th
Paseo del Bosque Trail: Alameda Trailhead - 8:30AM - 11:00AM

BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE AS SCHEDULES CAN CHANGE
<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/>

CENTRAL New Mexico AUDUBON SOCIETY

December 2023 Update

This Month's Features

- ABQ Christmas Bird Count
- Central New Mexico's Fall Migration
- Plumage of the Month
- What is this Bird?

Thursday Birders

December 6th
Paseo del Bosque Trail: Alameda Trailhead - 8:30AM - 11:00AM

December 13th
Los Poblanos Open Space - 8:55AM - 12 noon

December 20th
HOLIDAY SEASON - NO BIRD WALK

December 27th
HOLIDAY SEASON - NO BIRD WALK

WE HAVE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE AS SCHEDULES CAN CHANGE
<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/>

Calendar

Dec 13th, 2023
6:00PM - 8:00PM
377 Brewery 2023 Yale Blvd SE

Join us for some fun at our "Chapters Your Road Goes Together"

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

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

Dec 17th 2023
Chimney Rock Canyon
More Details are on the next page!

Bird Alliance Central New Mexico

January 2024 Update

This Month's Features

- Candelaria Nature Preserve Tour and Upcoming Bird Walk
- Bob's Bique and Birds
- ABQ Backyard Refuge Support Project Update
- Winter Back Yard Planning
- BACNM and Audubon Southwest Meeting
- The Rosy-Finch Project

As many of you are aware, we recently announced our name change to Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico. We are very excited to now share our new logo with you all too! We have been working on this logo over the last few weeks with Genetilla Guepita in Albuquerque and are very pleased with this final choice. We wanted a design that is representative of our region and felt the Curve-billed Thrasher and cholla are both indicative of Central New Mexico and a beautiful choice.

For more information on our name change, as well as on the importance of our continued association with the National Audubon Society, please see our website under the Home page. Thank you from the Board of Directors of the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico.

Thursday Birders

January 4th
Tingley Beach Trails and Ponds 6:45-8am

January 11th
Oso Grande Park and Rose Canyon Arroyo 6:45am

January 18th
Open Space Visitor Center 6:45am

January 25th
Los Poblanos Open Space and Fields 6:45am

Please Check
<https://centralnewmexicoaudubon.org/trips/thursday-birders/>
For last minute changes and updates

Bird Alliance Central New Mexico

March 2024 Update

This Month's Features

- One
- Two
- Three
- Four
- Five

Thursday Birders

March 7th
Location:
Time:

March 14th
Location:
Time:

March 21st
Location:
Time:

March 28th
Location:
Time:

Please Check
<https://centralnewmexicoaudubon.org/trips/thursday-birders/>
For last minute changes and updates

Calendar

Date	Date
Location: Time: Information:	Location: Time: Information:
Location: Time: Information:	Location: Time: Information:
Location: Time: Information:	Location: Time: Information:
Location: Time: Information:	Location: Time: Information:

<https://centralnewmexicoaudubon.org/events/>

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to get involved and help make a positive impact on bird populations and habitat, please contact us on our website or email Glenda Morling gmorling@cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org