



April 2024 Update

This Month's Features

- ✦ April's Aria
 - ✦ Build your Backyard Refuge
 - ✦ Eight Years of Climate Watch Coordination
 - ✦ Save the Birds
 - ✦ STEAM Fair
-

Thursday Birders

April 4th

Location: Los Poblanos Field Open Space
Time: 8:30AM - 11:00AM
Leaders: Angela Hawthorne and Deanna Nichols

April 18th

TBA: Museum visit postponed until May 9th

April 11th

Location: Peña Blanca and Cochiti Lake
Time: 8:00AM-3:00PM
Leaders: Bob Wilcox

Please Check

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

April 25th

Location: Coyote del Malpais Golf Course – Grants
Time: 7:00am-2:00pm
Leaders: Peter Neils and Sue Chavez

Calendar

April 6th-7th

Petroglyph National Monument Visitor Center
9am-3pm

The spring Migratory Bird Festival sponsored by the Albuquerque Urban Bird Coalition. The event includes bird walks at 9 a.m. each day. There will also be talks and exhibitors, including Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico, Rio Grande Nature Center, City and County Open Space, Bosque School, Friends of Valle de Oro, ABQ Bio Park, New Mexico Dark Sky, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Come out and support this important event!

April 17th

Bow and Arrow Brewing Company
6pm-8pm

Beavers and Beers! Come enjoy some delicious beer and discussion about the importance of beavers to Central New Mexico's eco system with Emily Fairfax (University of Minnesota), Sarah Milligan (Bandelier National Monument), Anne Shaffer (Coastal Watershed Institute), Alexa Whipple (Methow Beaver Project), Elyssa Kerr (Beavers Northwest) and Laura Norman (USGS).

April 27th

Belen exit 195 from I-25. After 1/2 mile, turn right onto Don Felipe Road, at Taco Bell.

9am - 11am

Belen Marsh and Don Felipe Road Clean-Up

Safety vests, gloves, trash bags, water, and snacks will be provided.

For more information contact Eileen Beaulieu, Belen Marsh Committee, 505 249-7929

April 27th

Piedro Lisa Open Space Trail

10am-12noon

Open Space City Nature Challenge. Birding and clean up event. Bird Alliance members welcome to help with bird identification!

Please note there will be no monthly education meeting in April: UNM museum visit will be on May 9th -information to follow.

<https://www.bacnm.org/calendar/>



April's Aria

By Jordan Graham

Spring migration is upon us, heralding the arrival of tiny bundles of feathered curiosity, flitting through the dense foliage like a manic photon. Subtle palettes of greens, blacks, and yellows, their plumage blends seamlessly with the dappled sunlight filtering through the canopy, rendering it nearly invisible to all but the keenest observers. Symphony of trills and warbles, each note a tiny beacon of joy amidst the verdant tapestry of the forest. And then there's the songs—their magnum opus. It's a melody that speaks of hidden wonders and secret adventures, inviting all who hear it to join in the dance of discovery... and if you're a bird, you might find it kind of seductive.

Welcome to the enchanting arrival of spring's warbler virtuosos, where the forest comes alive with the whimsical opera-ballet of Yellow, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, Black-throated, and Yellow-rumped Warblers (along with many others,) each adding their own unique notes to nature's symphony of renewal and wonder.



Yellow Warbler— Adult Female
Photo By Kelly Colgan Azar/ Flickr (CC-BY-ND-2.0)

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)

Known for its bright yellow plumage and sweet, melodic song, the Yellow Warbler is one of the earliest migratory songbirds to arrive in Central New Mexico in April. Look for it in riparian habitats, woodland edges, and shrubby areas. [Click here to listen!](#)



Wilson's Warbler— Adult Female
Photo By Becky Matsubara / Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)

With its bold black cap and vibrant yellow underparts, the Wilson's Warbler is a cheerful visitor to Central New Mexico. Listen for its high-pitched, rapid trill as it forages for insects in shrubs and low vegetation. [Click here to listen!](#)



Orange-crowned Warbler Adult
Photo By Devin Grady / Audubon Photography Awards

Orange-crowned Warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*)

Although more cryptically colored than other warblers, the Orange-crowned Warbler makes up for it with its sweet, buzzy song. Look for this subtle beauty in a variety of habitats, including woodlands, thickets, and urban parks. [Click here to listen!](#)

April's Aria Continues on Page 3



Join or donate to
Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico

<https://www.bacnm.org/join-donate/>





April's Aria Continued



Black-throated Gray Warbler— Adult Female
Photo By Tracey Lowrey/ Audubon Photography Awards

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

Distinguished by its striking black throat and gray plumage, the Black-throated Gray Warbler is a welcome migrant to Central New Mexico. Its song is a series of high-pitched, buzzy notes, often heard in oak woodlands and coniferous forests. [Click here to listen!](#)



Yellow-rumped Warbler— Adult Female
Photo By Sharon Dobben/ Audubon Photography Awards

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)

As mentioned earlier, the Yellow-rumped Warbler is an early migrant that arrives in Central New Mexico, even known to over winter in some parts. Its song is a series of high-pitched trills and buzzy notes, often heard in mixed woodlands and urban parks. [Click here to listen!](#)

Want to plant a few native species to help warblers along in their journey? Here are a few shrubs and trees for your consideration. These not only help you bring warblers to the yard, they will help you qualify for [“ABQ Backyard Refuge Program”](#)

- ✦ Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*)
- ✦ Mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*)
- ✦ Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- ✦ Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- ✦ Juniper (*Juniperus* species)
- ✦ Sumac (*Rhus* species)
- ✦ Elderberry (*Sambucus* species)
- ✦ Golden currant (*Ribes aureum*)
- ✦ New Mexico olive (*Forestiera pubescens*)
- ✦ Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)

In the elongation of daylight and the infusion of spring's melodies into the air, let's treasure the transient visitation of these feathered maestros. Their arrival not only couriers the seasonal shift but also underscores the intricate web of life's connections in the wild. Let's do what we can to safeguard their habitats, and endeavor to perpetuate their enchantment for posterity.

Did you know?



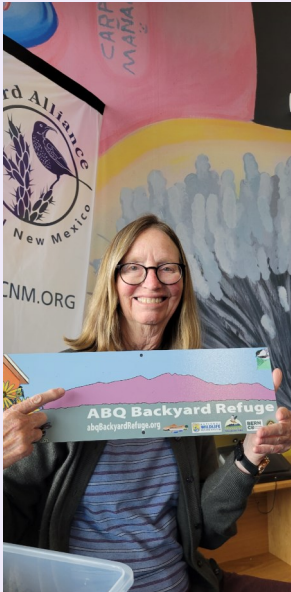
Photo By Loi Nguyen
Audubon Photography Awards

Female Cerulean Warblers steal caterpillar silk and spider webs to add to their nests. Meanwhile, the Baltimore Oriole gobbles up hairy and spiny caterpillars that most other birds avoid. Now who's hungry, caterpillar?



Build your Backyard Refuge, Valle de Oro

By Glenda Morling



The Bird Alliance Backyard Refuge Support Team attended the ABQ Build your Backyard Refuge event on March 23. Along with Bird Alliance volunteers there to promote cats indoors and window treatments to prevent bird collisions, our chapter had nine volunteers in all! Around 300 community members came along to this event to learn more about creating natural, safe, and sustainable habitats for plants, birds and other wildlife.

Our team spent the morning encouraging community members to consider certifying their yards as refuges, sharing recipes and ideas to attract birds, and listening to bird stories! It is very encouraging to see more and more people of all ages interested in creating natural wildlife habitats, as well as the growing enthusiasm for birds and their survival.

Please consider certifying your own yard as a haven for native plants, birds, and wildlife: we will help you with your ABQ Backyard Refuge certification. Email us at backyardrefuges@gmail.com

Glenda Moore, a volunteer with the Bird Alliance Backyard Refuge Support Team, picked up her yard sign while volunteering on Saturday. Glenda recently joined the growing number of Bird Alliance members who have certified their yards this year! Thank you to Bird Alliance members for supporting this project.

Eight Years of Climate Watch Coordination

By Judy Liddell

The National Audubon Society launched the citizen science project, Climate Watch, at the end of 2015 to track certain species over time and determine if the changing climate was affecting any of them and the habitat they depended upon for food and shelter. I agreed to coordinate the effort for what was then the Central New Mexico Audubon Society. I recruited birders who were skilled at bird identification to cover a variety of routes and we conducted our first point counts between January 15 and February 15 2016.

A number of those original volunteers have continued to participate twice a year, for which I have been thankful. As some volunteers moved or developed health problems that precluded their continued participation, many new volunteers have joined.

During the recent Winter Count, our 9th, 41 volunteers did point counts, either by themselves, or with one or two other people. The most recent count included seven new participants! We were able to complete surveys twice a year, even during the first year of the pandemic.

After coordinating the Summer 2023 Climate Watch count, I decided that it was time to retire and pass the baton. I realized that I was the only one that had all of the information and if something happened to me, it would be hard for our chapter to start over. Fortunately, Glenda Morling was able to recruit Angela Hawthorne to take the reins. She and I have been working together closely for the past several months and she shadowed me during every step of the Winter coordination process.

Angela will take over for the Summer 2024 count. I will continue to do my route with Barbara Hussey. Please give Angela your support as she assumes the reins.



Judy Liddell



Save the Birds

By Dana Loy



Quick, what's your favorite bird and where does it go for winter? All my life I've heard about birds flying south, but I never pictured the Swainson's Hawk soaring to Argentina or the Ruby-throated Hummingbird making its way nonstop over the Gulf of Mexico in the dark.

Now we know that many birds take great risks in seasonal migrations. They go and go, some to Central America, some to the Caribbean, some all the way to the tip of South America. Many won't survive the dizzying light pollution, or the disappearance of favored insects, or their search for tree-lined meadows that became subdivisions.

Birds are losing their habitat and our world is losing its birds. Just because birds may be relatively safe in our region doesn't mean they're safe in their winter nesting place. They need protection in both their summer and winter homes.

We are asking you to help migrating birds in two ways. This is very important, more important than it would seem since it's so easy.

One: Send in the Action Alert called "Help Migratory Birds Across the Western Hemisphere." It's right here in the newsletter. Send it in and forward it to five people. This will tell your congressional representative and senators that we want laws that protect birds and are dedicated to making sure they have the places they need.

Two: Make two calls. Audubon has made this simple:

☛ Call (888) 829-4103 from your phone to connect with your Senator. It's easy, and once you call, Audubon provides talking points and all of the instructions. Your senator or representative will be identified according to your phone's area code. If your area code is not for New Mexico, this auto-connection won't work. But if your area code is for New Mexico, read on.

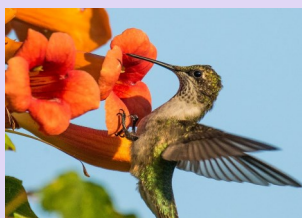
☛ You'll hear a brief message from Audubon. Then, once you are connected with your U.S. senator's office, tell the person who answers the phone your name, city, and state, and tell them: "I am calling because I care about migratory birds and am counting on you to support the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act."

☛ You may need to leave a voicemail. If you encounter a busy signal, try again later.

☛ Please note: In most states, you can call the same number again to reach your other senator. But New Mexico is a critical state in this campaign, and our call is set up to reach only one Senator, due to their importance in passing the bill.

☛ After you are done calling your senator, you can call your U.S. representative using this number: (888) 885-1750.

That's it! We want to complete this important work right away, certainly by early May. I know we're all concerned about birds, and their habitat, and the Earth, and sometimes it's hard to know how to help. But this is something we can do, and these actions will make a difference.



AUDUBON ALERT: Help Migratory Birds Across the Western Hemisphere

Urge you Members of Congress to advance conservation efforts for migratory birds.

<https://act.audubon.org/a/nmbca-2024>



STEAM Fair

By Glenda Morling

Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico joined a variety of local groups on March 8th at the Desert Willow Family School annual STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) fair. Other participants included EXPLORA, Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Air Force Research Lab, UNM Department of Science and Engineering, Sandia National Laboratories, Molten Metal, and Mind Research Network.



Dessert Willow Family School is a Kindergarten through 8th grade APS magnet school with around 300 students. Bird Alliance board members, Glenda Morling and Laura Banks planned a variety of activities for this wide age group and were lucky enough to recruit the help of local artist, muralist and educator, Haley Greenfeather English, who created bird mobiles with the children – this was very popular and turned out to be a great science activity! Laura Banks set up a listening station so that children could listen to bird sounds and match them to displayed bird photos. She also showed the students how to use binoculars and look for bird photos she had posted around the gymnasium. Children were also able to match bird species to different bird food. This was a very successful and fun community outreach event - children shared stories of birds they see and hear in their own yards and neighborhoods and were excited to learn more about birds and birding. We hope to have more events like this in the future and would love you to join us and share your excitement and knowledge of birds and birding!



Audubon

Join the Nation Audubon Society Today

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





Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico

BIRDATHON

2024

May 1st through May 12th

The time is fast approaching for Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico's primary fundraiser! Individuals and teams of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to get out in nature and count birds around New Mexico. Doing so will help our chapter's continuing efforts to protect birds and their habitats.

Click here for more information: <https://www.bacnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Birdathon2024.pdf>



BIRD ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

HOME ABOUT US WHAT WE DO NEWS BIRDING WHAT CAN I DO? CALENDAR CONTACT US FAQs

SITE MAP



A New Look!

By Laura Banks

We have a new look! Thanks to our amazing volunteer webmaster, Joe Schelling, the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico has launched a brand new website. The new site has a fresh, modern look and is rich with amazing and inspiring photos of local birds. It is organized into sections to allow the user to learn more about what we do, who we are, and what they can do to help birds and the places that birds live. Visitors to the site can learn about our youth scholarships, Melrose Woods, and how to create a

Backyard Refuge. The Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) list answers questions about injured birds, bird feeding, and other topics. There is also a large collection of resources for birding, including where to go birding in New Mexico, Thursday Birders information, tips for viewing the Rosy-Finches at the Sandia Crest, and links to expert resources for bird identification and technology. You can also use the Contact Us link if you want to learn more. If you have not already visited the site, please do so at www.bacnm.org. You'll be glad you did!

eBird



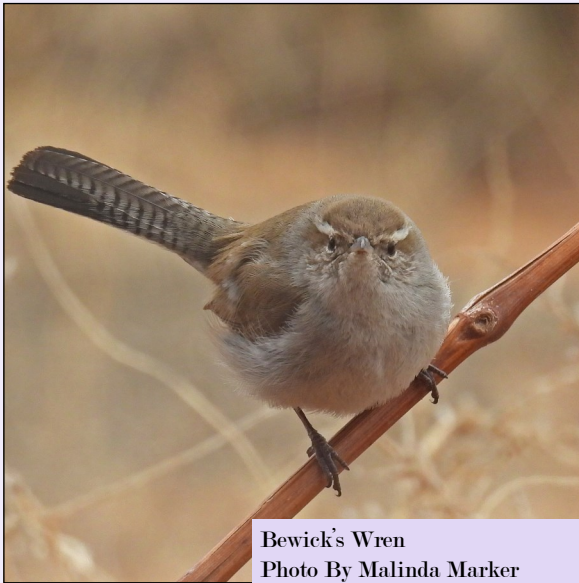
Birders, inexperienced or experienced, can play a vital role in scientific research and conservation efforts by contributing their observations to eBird from Cornell. Every sighting matters, and your data can help researchers understand and protect bird populations globally. Watch how your growing life list can be a powerful tool for conservation and study:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKh9L6hjd1M>

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



Members' Photos of the Month



Bewick's Wren
Photo By Malinda Marker



Western Bluebird
Photo By Malinda Marker

We would love to show off your bird photos!

For the "May Update" we want to see your pictures of Plumbeous Vireo, Grace's Warbler, and Bullock's Oriole OR a bird or Bird Alliance community photo you have recently taken that you would love to share.

[Email your photos to Jordan Graham- thisnomadiclife@gmail.com](mailto:thisnomadiclife@gmail.com)

PLEASE PUT "BACNM MAY 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 the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico (formally Central New Mexico Audubon Society) permission to use said photos with credit in their newsletters and on their website.

Bird Alliance Needs Your Help!



Photo By Bonnie Block
Audubon Photography Awards

It takes a flock of volunteers to run our chapter and keep the community engaged.

We need volunteers to:

- ✦ Participate in conservation efforts
- ✦ Guide bird walks
- ✦ Help with outreach and education
- ✦ Join fundraising events
- ✦ Complete local and national bird counts
- ✦ Assist with our public communication and messaging
- ✦ Advocate and engage in urgent local climate and conservation issues

If you would like to contribute to our mission to protect and enjoy birds

[Contact Us](#)