

A renewed commitment to the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds

To celebrate the centennial of the signing of the first Migratory Bird Treaty between Canada and the United States, all the partners in the Albuquerque Urban Bird Treaty came together for a symbolic urban bird treaty signing at the Rio Grande Nature Center during the Summer Wings Festival in August 2016. This was a celebration of what the Treaty partners have already accomplished and a commitment to moving forward together to conserve birds and their habitats in the greater Albuquerque area.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made Albuquerque the 2014 Partner City Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds (Urban Bird Treaty). The Urban Bird Treaty program is a unique, collaborative effort designed to help municipal governments conserve migratory birds and facilitate migration in urban areas.

Treaty Partners:

- City of Albuquerque Open Space
- Central New Mexico Audubon Society
- Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center
- Friends of Valle de Oro NWR
- Open Space Alliance
- Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Highlights 2014-16:

- 6 partner organizations came together to spend \$100,000 from US Fish and Wildlife Service in grant funding to promote and facilitate conservation of birds and their habitats.
- Partners conducted 560 urban bird treaty events and activities, reaching over 17,900 Albuquerque residents.
- Partners contributed over 18,000 volunteer hours for bird conservation.
- 1,857 native shrubs were planted on 3 open space properties to provide habitat for migratory birds.
- Educational brochures, activities, outreach materials and media campaigns about Cats Indoors were created.
- The Burque Young Birders Club was established.
- Burque birding geoflight was created with 12 birding related geocaches and collectible bird trading cards on public lands and associated seasonal sightings calendar.

As an UBT partner, CNMAS received \$15,000.00 which has been spent over the past 2 years on reducing hazards for birds with a “Cats Indoors Campaign” and “Bird Window Strike Project”. The Conservation Committee is continuing this work of creating a bird friendly community with the second annual fall migration Window Strike Survey in downtown Albuquerque led by Perriane Houghton. The volunteers will begin the fall survey August 14 using the same route and protocol that was designed by Raymond VanBuskirk and Jessica Allen in May 2014. The volunteers will walk the route just after sunrise 3 mornings a week looking for birds that have hit a window. The survey will end Oct 15.