

# Burrowing Owl

Central New Mexico



**Audubon Society**

June - August 2015 Vol. 44, No. 3

**Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society!**

*A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

**Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.**

**[cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)**

Dear Friends,

Two years ago, it was hard to believe that I was writing to you as the newly elected president of Central New Mexico Audubon Society. As I look back today, I am honored to see the advancements that CNMAS has made, and through it, the personal and professional growth that I have experienced.

In 2013, CNMAS was in need of new energy. The powerhouses that built the chapter up to what it is today were ready to step out of their leadership roles and take a moment to smell the flowers and enjoy the birdsong. With no new blood chomping at the bit I somewhat reluctantly stepped up as the youngest chapter president in Audubon history. As expected, my new role was one of the most difficult and also one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. At first, feeling a bit like a fish out of water, my goal was quite honestly to not to let my naivety at running a non-profit organization drive the chapter into the ground, at least for long enough to find another energetic person with more time and expertise to take over. As I became comfortable with my new surroundings I saw other ways in which I could help move the chapter forward. For starters, with rising printing costs and as we continue to move ever deeper into the digital world it seemed only right to make the large-scale change from printed to digital newsletter. This single achievement alone will allow us to save thousands of dollars a year that will be reallocated to chapter conservation and education efforts. As a second goal, with many leaders stepping off the board, it was clear that we needed to attract new faces. I'm happy to say that not only have we inspired lots of new volunteerism within the chapter but we have some on the youngest Chapter leaders in the entire Audubon network. And lastly, with the designation of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), the first urban NWR in the Southwest, we were able to make Albuquerque urban bird conservation a priority by partnering with multiple local organizations and agencies to apply for a \$100,000 grant through the National Refuge Systems to be used for migratory bird conservation, habitat restoration, and education in the Albuquerque Metro Area. It's only with your active involvement and incredible support that we were able to achieve all of these goals and more.

My journey as chapter leader has been filled with happiness, excitement, heartache, headache, laughter, tears, success, defeat and everything in between. I am now thrilled to embark on a new journey, continuing on the path that has, and will continue to link us all: our love for birds and our desire to protect the environment we hold so dear. As the new Product

Specialist and Birding Outreach Coordinator for Leica Sport Optics I'm enjoying travelling on a national and international scale to help connect people to the environment, foster a love and respect for birds among people young and old, and to promote and sell Leica optics.

I owe so much to Central New Mexico Audubon Society. I extend my deepest thanks to the incredibly hardworking Board and Chapter Leaders, to Beth Hurst-Waitz (past president) who has been a role model and best friend since day one in Audubon, and to you, the membership. I hope you will join me in a warm and enthusiastic welcome to our new president, Karen Herzenberg. Let us continue our advancements as community leaders in conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental respect.

Cheers and Good Birding,  
Raymond L. VanBuskirk

### **A Warm Welcome to New President, Karen Herzenberg**



Dear Friends,

I'm very glad to have this opportunity to serve as the CNMAS chapter president. I would like to extend my thanks to Raymond and Beth for providing a great trail to follow, and to the board for their support as I get up to speed. For those of you who may not know me, my background is in education. I was

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a classroom teacher with APS at the elementary level for ten years and then served as one of the two educators on staff at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for seven. Since February 2014, I have been working independently as a contractor and I've had the pleasure of working with many different agencies teaching school kids and adults about birds and local natural history. I've also served as a volunteer on the Advisory Committee for the NM Master Naturalist Program for the last six year. This program has trained about 150 citizens to help various agencies accomplish their education and restoration goals.

I am a birder thanks to my parents, although the bug remained dormant for many years. I attended CBCs in northwest Illinois and bird walks in Chicago's parks as a child and years later found myself on bird walks at the RGNCSNP where one Sondra Williamson encouraged me to begin volunteering there as a bird walk guide.

I've attended various events sponsored by CNMAS over the years and last year led my first CNMAS field trips. I look forward to working with the excellent group of individuals who make up the CNMAS board and hope to have the opportunity to work with many of you as well. If you've been a CNMAS volunteer, thank you for your service. And if you haven't, there are many great opportunities.

If we haven't met, I look forward to making your acquaintance at the next CNMAS event!

Sincerely,  
Karen Herzenberg  
CNMAS President

### Community Service in Belen



Families volunteered to pick up trash in Belen on Apr 25. Pictured are Elvira Toca, Logan King his wife and children, along with Camden and Etta Baiv and children.

On Saturday, April 25th, 15 adults and 5 children came down to the Belen Marsh and helped clean up Don Felipe Road. The road runs parallel to the marsh. It was one of our biggest cleanup days. We picked up close to 40 bags of trash. The volunteer were primarily from the local community. Elvira Toca who lives close to the area recruited children and members from her church. The day was beautiful and there were lots of birds in the area. Black-necked Stilts were nesting in the area. The Valencia County Roads Department provided the gloves, bags, and vests. In addition, they provided tee shirts, coloring books and crayons

for the volunteers. Our next clean up will take place in October.

### A Message from the Conservation Committee

You can save birds from window collisions!

CNMAS received funds to reduce hazards for birds from the Urban Bird Treaty. Window Strikes is one of the three hazards the Conservation Committee is addressing. We are working to educate the community about the big impact Window Strikes has on our migratory bird populations. And what techniques work best to make windows safe for birds. Each of us can reduce window collisions and save birds right in our own homes. Start by evaluating which windows around your home are problem windows. If you see trees and sky then birds do too. Even small windows can be dangerous, as many birds fly into small spaces as tree cavities or between branches.

Millions of birds die every year flying into windows, because they can't tell reflections from trees, plants and sky. Most of these windows are on houses. Often a collision will temporarily stun a bird that flies off, seemingly recovered, in a few moments. But many times these birds die later, from internal bleeding or hematomas. Collisions happen more frequently during spring and fall migration periods. Another time birds collide with windows, though less common, is during the mating season, a male bird may attack a window when he sees his own reflection.

Research has identified solutions to alert birds to windows. The easiest of these involve applying visible markings to the outside of windows in patterns that birds can see while requiring minimal glass coverage to keep your view unobscured. We know most birds will avoid windows with vertical stripes spaced four inches apart or less, or horizontal stripes spaced two inches or less apart. Stripes should be at least 1/4" wide and light colors are generally more visible. More complicated or irregular patterns will also work as long as they follow the general spacing guidelines specified above.

[Three tips for using decals and paint on windows.](#)

1. Use multiple decals; create a pattern that covers the window uniformly. Elements arranged in columns should be four inches apart. Elements placed in rows should be two inches apart. That is often called the 2 x 4 rule.
2. Elements should be at least one-eighth inch in width and should contrast as much as possible with the windowpane.
3. If the window is reflective, the pattern must be applied to the outside.

### Three bird deterrents that don't work

1. Hawk silhouettes: One window decal in the shape of a hawk will not frighten birds. Shape is not important.
2. Single window decals: Affixing a single decal to a window will not deter birds.
3. Plastic owls: Birds learn quickly that a motionless plastic owl

is not a threat.

### How to make your windows safer:

1. Relocate feeders either closer to windows (3 feet) or far away (30 feet)
2. Avoid apparent visual tunnels created by windows on the opposite wall.
3. Break up external reflections by creating a pattern with stickers, tempera paint or soap on the outside of the glass.
4. Use tape to create patterns on the outside. [www.abcbird-tape.org](http://www.abcbird-tape.org)
5. Attach hanging objects to deter birds. Acadian Birdsavers a.k.a. Zen Curtain [www.birdsavers.com/](http://www.birdsavers.com/)
6. Reduce reflections with trees or awnings.
7. Cover windows with netting. [www.birdscreen.com](http://www.birdscreen.com)
8. Install windows tilting downwards.

### How to Help a Window Collision Victim

If the bird has a noticeable injury, get it to a rehabber as quickly as possible. For wildlife rehabilitators in the greater Albuquerque area call Wildlife Rescue Inc. 505-344-2500 or On a Wing and a Prayer 505-897-0439.

"Meanwhile, place it in a dark container such as a paper sack or cardboard box and leave it somewhere quiet, out of reach of pets and other predators, for 15-minutes. If the weather is extremely cold, you may need to take it inside, but don't keep the bird too warm. Do not try to give it food and water, and resist handling it. The darkness will calm the bird while it revives, which should occur within a few minutes unless it is seriously injured. But do not open the box indoors to check on it! Take it outside every 15-minutes or so and open the box—if it flies off, that's that! If it doesn't recover in a couple of hours, take it to a wildlife rehabilitator. Remember that, technically, it is illegal to handle a migratory bird without a permit. Few state or federal officials are concerned with keeping a bird for a few minutes or hours in the process of bringing it to a licensed facility, but in the United States it is absolutely illegal, as well as cruel and unethical, to keep in captivity any bird protected by the Migratory Bird Act."

Read more about birds and glass:

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[American Bird Conservancy](#)



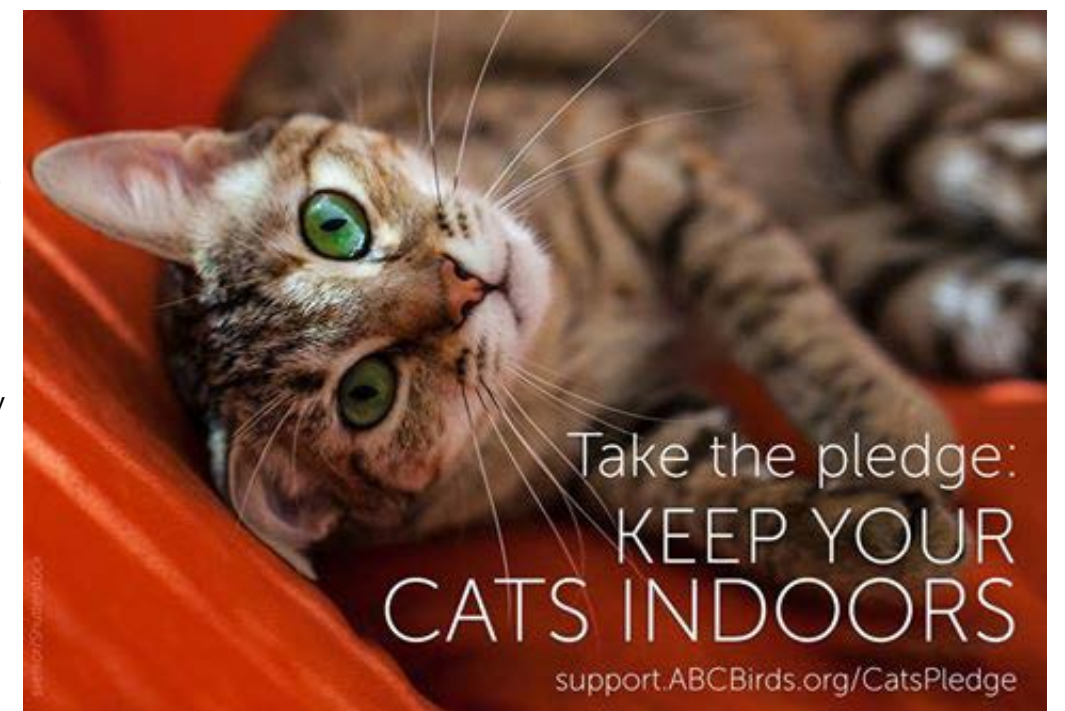
### Audubon Membership Meeting

Our annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18th at 5:30pm and will be in the community room at Adelante Development Center. It is located at 3900 Osuna Road NE which is on the south side of Osuna just west of I-25. Like last year our membership meeting will include a good old fashion potluck so please bring your favorite dish, dessert and/or drink to share with everyone. Each committee chair and board member will also give a short presentation to tell you what CNMAS is doing for the community and how you can get involved! Please bring ideas and feedback as well as we work with you and want to know how we can improve as an organization.



SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 17

EXPEDITION: BORNEO  
DWAYNE LONGENBAUGH



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### AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

TO CHECK FOR POSSIBLE TRIP CANCELLATIONS go to the Audubon web site: [www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas](http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas). Click on TRIPS, then go to THURSDAY BIRDERS.

#### JUNE 4

Visit the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center in Cedar Crest, NM, with Melissa Howard: 505-453-6444, nmflicker@swcp.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard or 8:30 at the SMNH Center located in Cedar Crest, 2.6 miles from the I-40 exit, on Columbine Road. The center consists of 128 acres now owned by the Museum of Natural History and borders the Cibola National Forest. The walk will be 0.5 miles uphill and return downhill and will end before noon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1 at five cents per mile.

#### JUNE 11

Visit the Feltz family's Jemez Mountain cabin near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 505-856-1322, lvfeltz@comcast.net. The elevation is 8,600' in case anyone has respiratory problems and one may view birds from the back deck if walking a mile is difficult. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy Boulevard. Meet in the center of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$7 at five cents per mile.

#### JUNE 18

Walk in Tunnel Canyon south of Tijeras with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lneely@aol.com. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station on NM 337 to carpool 2.2 miles south to the canyon. (Tunnel Canyon is north of Otero Canyon.) Nesting Black-chinned Sparrows have been seen there in the past. Participants are encouraged to bring their spotting scopes. The group will walk one mile and the trip will end before noon.

#### JUNE 25

Explore spots along Hyde Park Road (NM 475) in the Santa Fe National Forest with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998 Cell, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the center of the parking lot at the Far North Shopping Center located north of Academy and east of San Mateo. There will be an alternative meeting spot in Santa Fe. Please contact Judy no later than June 23 if you wish to meet the group there so she may give you a time and location. Hyde Park Road is designated as the Santa Fe National Forest Scenic Byway and passes through four different life zones. Bring lunch and drinking water. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$6 at five cents per mile. The group will return to Albuquerque in the mid-afternoon.

#### JULY 2

Tour the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge south of Socorro, NM, with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebecagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson SE and University Boulevard. Bring lunch. A \$5 entrance fee or Federal Pass is required per car. The trip should end in the late

afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

#### JULY 9

Hike Juan Tomas Open Space in the Manzano Mountains with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415 Home, 505-220-9003 Cell, momeackey@comcast.net. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. To reach the Open Space, exit I-40 at Tijeras and take NM 337 south. Drive south 9 miles to Oak Flats Road. Turn left and drive 2.5 miles to the Open Space sign and gate on the left side of the road. Park there. The group will walk along the Ponderosa Trail that is easy to moderate in difficulty. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1.25 at five cents per mile. The walk will end before noon.

#### JULY 16

Ojito de San Antonio Open Space in Cedar Crest with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebecagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village located on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway. The Open Space is located behind the San Antonio de Padua Church. Take the Tijeras/Cedar Crest Exit from I-40, drive toward Cedar Crest and go one mile north on NM 14 after driving under I-40. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$1 at five cents per mile. The walk will end around 11:00, and then the group will have lunch at The Lazy Lizard, 4.8 miles north of Ojito on NM 14 by the Shell gas station.

#### JULY 23

Visit the Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzano Mountains for hummingbirds, bluebirds, and a potluck meal with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade\_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway or 9:50 at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chilili where Bonnie will meet people near her parked vehicle.

Since this event has grown in size to over 35 people, at least six people are asked to bring a main dishes such as lasagna, enchiladas, macaroni and cheese, meat or vegetable casserole, baked beans or sliced meat. Please contact Bonnie if you can provide one of these main dishes. Other attendees should bring beverages and side dishes that would serve 8 - 10 people. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

#### JULY 30

Visit Capulin Springs in the Sandia Mountains with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:17 a.m. for an 8:27 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village located on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway. Capulin Springs is located on NM 536, one mile beyond the Sandia Peak Ski Area. People may want to bring something to sit on as they wait for birds to arrive at the water source. A \$3 parking fee or Federal Pass is required per car. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$2.50 at five cents per mile. The trip will end before noon.

#### AUGUST 6

Visit Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the refuge entrance on 2nd Street, by the refuge sign. To reach the refuge, drive south on I-25 and take the Rio Bravo Exit. Drive west on Rio Bravo to 2nd Street. Turn south on 2nd and drive 3.2 miles. The parking area is inside the fence on the refuge. The trip will end before noon.

#### AUGUST 13

Visit Cienega Canyon in the Sandias with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. The group will park in the lower parking lot in Cienega Canyon and walk up the road to the spring at the upper parking lot and back for a total of 1 mile. A \$3 parking fee or Federal pass is required per car. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1.50 at five cents per mile. The trip will end before noon.

#### AUGUST 20

Walk in the Corrales bosque and view the Mississippi Kites in Corrales with Joe Schelling: 505-797-9018, joeschelling@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the shopping area north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of NM 448/Coors/Corrales Road, near the Little Anita's Restaurant. Participants should park away from the businesses. The group will carpool from there. All are invited to have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

#### AUGUST 27

Walk around the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfcairns@gmail.com. The park is located at the west end of Candelaria Boulevard NW. Meet at 8:00 a.m. by the parking lot blind. There is a \$3 parking fee if one does not have a State Parks Pass or Friends of the RGNC Pass. Both passes may be purchased inside the Visitor Center after 10:00 a.m. The one-mile walk will end before noon.



### OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

Central New Mexico Audubon Society has occasional weekend field trips. For information about these trips go to [www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas](http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas).

From May through mid October there are Tuesday morning bird walks in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. by taking Exit 175 from I-40 and driving south one half mile on NM 337 to the ranger station on the left.

Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park located at the far west end of Candelaria NW. A parking fee of \$3, State Parks pass, or Friends of the RGNC pass is required.

SOUTHWEST WINGS BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL: July 29 - August 1, in Sierra Vista, AZ. For more information go to [www.swwings.org](http://www.swwings.org).

THURSDAY BIRDER TRIP REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Judy Liddell's Blog: [www.wingandsong.wordpress.com](http://www.wingandsong.wordpress.com)

Joe Schelling's Blog: <https://joeschelling.wordpress.com> and photo website: [www.sandianet.com](http://www.sandianet.com)

NM Rare Bird Alert: [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)

Rare Bird Alerts for all states: [www.birdingonthe.net](http://www.birdingonthe.net)  
To report NM Rare Birds, contact Matt Baumann at 264-1052 or mb687@yahoo.com

Wildlife Rescue for injured birds: Wildlife Rescue at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 344-2500.

To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to [www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com)

eBird

Click on 'Explore Data', then choose one of the available options such as 'Explore Hotspots', 'Species Maps', or 'Bar Charts'.

**Hoo Are You?: Owling Field Workshop**  
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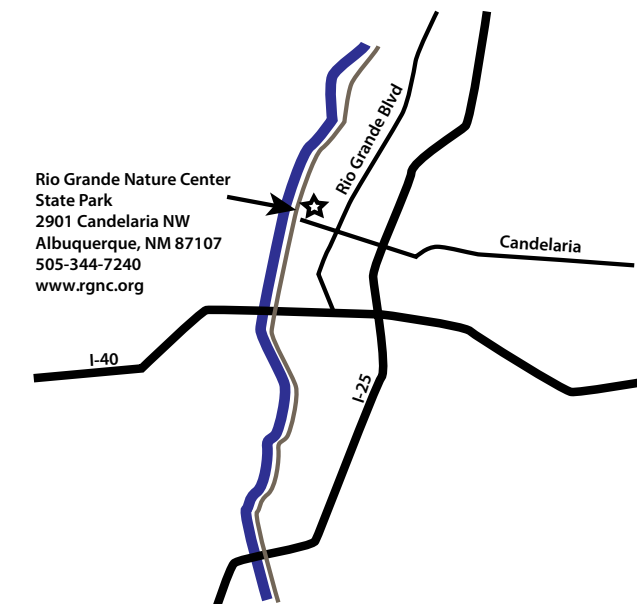
[BRANTtours.com/workshops/owls](http://BRANTtours.com/workshops/owls)

Elusive and beautiful, owls are a highly sought-after bird on any serious birder's life list. Their mysterious nocturnal lifestyle captures our imagination and fuels our desire to find them. But for that same reason they are often very hard to see; unless you know how to look that is.

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## Whom to Contact

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[www.audubonaction.org/audubon/](http://www.audubonaction.org/audubon/)  
New Mexico Audubon Office  
Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 983-4609 <http://nm.audubon.org>  
[newmexico@audubon.org](mailto:newmexico@audubon.org)

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[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-3100, [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)

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Washington, DC 20510  
(505) 346-6791 [tomudall.senate.gov](http://tomudall.senate.gov)

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Phone Number: (202) 224-5521  
<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>  
Congressman Steve Pearce

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) (202) 224-3121

Congressman Ben R. Lujan  
(202) 225-6190

Congressman Michelle Lujan Grisham  
[lujangrisham.house.gov](http://lujangrisham.house.gov)

Governor Susana Martinez  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 476-2200

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
500 Gold Avenue, SW, ABQ, NM  
87102 External Affairs Office  
(505) 248-6911  
New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish  
P.O. Box 25112 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505)476-8000

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

Sandia Ranger District  
US Forest Service  
11776 Highway 337  
Tijeras, NM 87059 (505) 281-3304  
Bosque del Apache NWR  
(575) 838-2120

Friends of the Bosque del Apache  
(575) 835-1828

[www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park  
(505) 344-7240

[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html)

Friends of RGNC  
[friends@rgnc.org](mailto:friends@rgnc.org), [www.rgnc.org](http://www.rgnc.org)  
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*Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats;  
and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."*

## CNMAS DIRECTORY

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BURROWING OWL  
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### Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

Call before you intervene: 281-1133 or 281-1515

### New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann 505-264-1052, [mb687@yahoo.com](mailto:mb687@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.nmbirds.org/>

### Rosy-Finch Project

Alan Mickelson (505)281-3471 [gonefishin820@earthlink.net](mailto:gonefishin820@earthlink.net)  
<http://www.rosyfinch.com/>

### Wildlife Rescue

If you find a sick or injured bird, call 344-2500

**Wild Bird Rescue in Corrales, Rio Rancho, or Sandoval County**  
ON A WING AND A PRAYER, Corrales NM, 505-897-0439