

Burrowing Owl

Central New Mexico



Audubon Society

December 2017—February 2018 Vol. 46, No. 4

Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society!
A 501(c)(3) organization. cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

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

Come One, Come All: Winter Programs

Water: Key to Bird Survival in the Southwest

January 18, 2018

Desiree Loggins, regional network manager, Audubon New Mexico

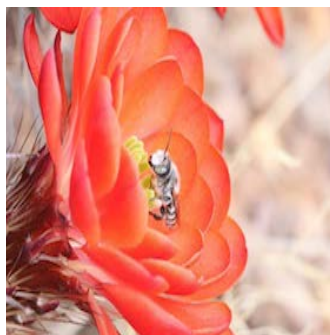
The National Audubon Society's 2016–2020 Strategic Plan identified water as a core priority and focused on landscapes where water scarcity and water quality are primary limiting factors for the survival of threatened and iconic birds in the Western Hemisphere. The water strategy engages Audubon's conservation, policy, and science teams and the Audubon network to influence water management decisions in order to balance the needs of birds and people living on or near habitats dependent on fresh water across the nation. Although Audubon has been a bird conservation leader in the West for decades, a more comprehensive scientific look into western water has been needed—in one place, and with an eye toward birds — to help guide our strategy moving forward.



Gila River Box by Jason Branch

Programs start at
7:00 p.m. at the
Adelante Community
Room, 3800 Osuna
Rd. NE, Albuquerque.

See more
programs—
and the
Christmas Bird
Count
schedule—on
the next page.



Let me tell you 'bout the birds and the bees...

February 15, 2018

Olivia Carril, co-author of *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees*

Bees are an integral part of most functioning ecosystems, as they work to pollinate many of the plants that form the center of the food web. Many birds also serve as important pollinators, and it has long been thought that birds and bees complement each other, divvying up floral resources between them. But it isn't so cut and dried. Birds and bees often compete for floral resources, and flowers shift their cues to manipulate both kinds of pollinators. Olivia Carril will give an overview of native bees in the U.S. and in New Mexico and their roles in pollination. Finally, she will discuss the intricacies of pollination in an ecosystem where the organism who hedges her bets the best wins.

'Tis the Season for Christmas Bird Counts



Be a part of the longest-running citizen science project in the country! Now in its 118th year, the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count will take place from December 14, 2017, through January 5, 2018. Every citizen scientist who has ever braved snow, wind, or rain (or New Mexico sunshine!) to take part in the CBC has made an enormous contribution to ornithological history and conservation. It's fun, it's important, and it's free!

There are 37 counts in New Mexico, and about 10 are within an hour and a half drive from Albuquerque. Five central New Mexico counts are listed below. For additional counts please visit <http://www.rioembudobirds.org/nmcbc/> to contact a compiler.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge CBC



Friday, December 15

Details are available from compilers Steve and Nancy Cox, sora@spinn.net.

Valle de Oro CBC

Saturday, December 16

To join the fifth CBC at Valle de Oro—the Southwest's first urban wildlife refuge, right in our own Albuquerque backyard—meet inside the refuge's main building (7851 Second Street SW) at 7:00 am. RSVP with Ariel Elliott if you wish to participate: vdocbc@gmail.com or 505-933-4924. The compilation dinner will be at Abuelita's New Mexican Kitchen, 6083 Isleta Blvd SW, at 5:30 p.m.

Bluewater Lake CBC

Saturday, December 16

Join a new CBC this year! Head to one of Cibola County's hotspots, Bluewater Lake. Volunteers will meet nine miles west of Grants at Bowlin's Bluewater Outpost and Dairy Queen off Interstate 40 (exit 72) at 6:30 a.m. Contact John Trochet at trochetj@gmail.com if you wish to participate. Carpooling from ABQ can be arranged. The compilation dinner will be at the Wow Diner in Milan at 5:00 p.m.

Albuquerque CBC

Sunday, December 17

Please join Dave Mehlman, (505) 350-3616, mehlmand@earthlink.net on the Albuquerque count and meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Sprouts on the corner of Alameda and Corrales Roads (as in past years), unless we've coordinated that you are heading directly to your area. Please contact Dave if you wish to participate, for more details on territory assignments, compilation party information, and to RSVP.

Five Points CBC

Tuesday, December 19

Details are available from compilers Steve and Nancy Cox, sora@spinn.net.

Two More Upcoming Programs

Bluebirds and nuthatches in NM

March 15

Judy Liddell, co-author of *Birding Hotspots of Central & Northern New Mexico*

Monarch butterflies and their ecosystems

April 19

Debbie Pike, Visitors Services Manager, Northern NM NWR Complex

CNMAS Winter Field Trips

There will be no field trips for the month of December so birders can participate in local Christmas Bird Counts (see previous page).

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Rosy-finches and Other Winter Species of the Sandia Mountains

8:30 a.m. –1:00 p.m.

Join Karen Herzenberg to observe all three species of Rosy-finches on Sandia Crest. Depending on the group's interest, we may spend some time at sites along the Crest Road and/or do a short hike near the Crest House to observe various montane species.



We will meet up at Tramway and Central at the Einstein's Bagels/UPS parking area in the Four Hills Shopping Center for an 8:30 a.m. departure. We can decide whether to carpool or drive individually. Keep in mind that the Crest Road between the Ski Area and the Crest House can be slick and prepare accordingly. In case of really bad driving conditions and a consequent change of plans, please provide your phone number and email address when registering so that I may contact you.

There is no cost but each vehicle will have to display a federal pass or pay a \$3 day use fee (check or cash) and, if carpooling, please help out your driver with gas money. If you will be purchasing food or other items, or donating to Rio Grande Bird Research for bird seed, please remember to bring some money. And please respect the Crest House's no outside food policy.

To register and for more info, please email karen.herzenberg@gmail.com or text/call 505-563-0387.

Saturday, February 3, 2018

Birding by Boat—Afternoon Float

11:45 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Join Kim Score for an afternoon river trip to view waterfowl wintering along the Rio Grande. We will be on the water for 3.5 hours birding our way through the scenic Corrales bosque. Participants will be floating together in two large rafts along an 8.5-mile stretch of the Middle Rio Grande from the North Corrales bosque to the Alameda bridge.

Target birds include gulls, mergansers, eagles and a variety of goose and duck species. Kim is contracting with Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures, which will provide the passenger shuttling, two rafts, life vests, and safety and instructional training. Cost per person is \$47. Visit their website for more info: <http://www.quietwaterspaddling.com/>

We will meet at 11:45 a.m. at the Quiet Waters office in Bernalillo to begin training and loading up. We will then be shuttled to the starting location for a 1:00 put in. The trip should wrap up by 4:30 p.m.

Contact Kim with specific questions at firefinch@usa.net. Maximum group limit is 16 people. Please RSVP by Friday, January 12 to reserve your slot. Once you have RSVP'd, Kim will send you a link to pay and register for the trip online with Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures.



Another Birding Opportunity

A bird ID workshop will be held at Valle de Oro NWR on Saturday, December 9. Please RSVP to ariel_elliott@fws.gov.

TIDINGS FROM OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

SEVILLETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



All tours are free but require reservations:
505-864-4021.

December 1: Full moon tour on the east side of the refuge to Cibola Canyon. Call the refuge for more details and to sign up.

January 5: Hike back in time. This three-mile hike will take participants along a portion of the Rio Grande and up a mesa through the remains of an ancient village, offering 360-degree views of the Middle Rio Grande Valley and surrounding terrain. We will also look for birds and other wildlife along the way. This is an arduous hike through steep, rocky, off-trail terrain. Sturdy hiking boots and hiking poles recommended.

January 27, 1–4 p.m.: Amigos de la Sevilleta annual members' meeting, including live music and a talk by Olivia Carroll on bees. Call the refuge to sign up.

RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER

Nature in Winter Festival

January 6, 2018

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park,
2901 Candelaria Rd. NW, (505) 344-7240



Events include:

- 8:30 a.m. Guided bird walk led by birders from Friends of the RGNC
- 10–11:30 a.m. “Hawk Talk” by Gail Garber, director, Hawks Aloft
- 1:00–2:00 p.m. “Nuts and Bolts of Being a Bat” by William L. Gannon, PhD., University of New Mexico Department of Biology and Museum of Southwestern Biology
- 2:00–4:00 p.m. Bird and plant nature walk (Laurel Ladwig, coordinator) led by Friends of RGNC, CNMAS and NM Master Naturalist volunteers

All Day in the Visitor Center:

- Live birds with Wildlife Rescue
- Bird ID with the Central NM Audubon Society in the Observation Room
- White Nose Syndrome in Bats, Justin Stevenson and Holly Smith
- Children's arts and crafts
- “Bosque Bits”: Identify items from the Rio Grande Bosque.

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

In mid-October New Mexico's wildlife refuges joined forces for a two-day event celebrating the 20th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge Act. The first day, at Valle de Oro, featured talks from Joy Blackwood from the National Wildlife Refuge Association, representatives from the offices of Sen. Martin Heinrich, Sen. Tom Udall, Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, and Rep. Steve Pearce. Also on hand were representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and refuges and friends groups from across the state.

The two-day event also included guided tours and networking events across the state's refuge network, including Sevilleta and Bosque del Apache NWR.

The event took place during Refuge Week, celebrated annually since 1996 to highlight the National Wildlife Refuge System and the network of lands and waters that protect wildlife and their habitats. The week is a chance for Americans to rediscover the rivers and trails that make national wildlife refuges accessible to all Americans.



The refuges also pump \$2.4 billion into the national economy and support more than 35,000 jobs, according to the peer-reviewed report *Banking on Nature*.

Celebrating a Valuable Volunteer

By Sara Jayne Cole

Volunteers are the most important resource that CNMAS has to fulfill our mission, which is “To appreciate, experience and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats, and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico.” While compiling the statistics for the annual chapter report to National Audubon, I have once again been impressed with the hours of volunteer time given annually to this all-volunteer chapter: an average of 3,000 hours annually. At \$22.50 an hour this equals \$67, 500 in donated services. This article is an opportunity to bring recognition to one of those hard-working people who has given time and talent to bring CNMAS programs to the public.

Let me tell you about one volunteer, Joseph (Bo) Miller. I met Bo Miller at the Durand Open Space during the first “Soaring the South Valley” event in 2013. CNMAS had just launched its Cats Indoors campaign and we had two motion-activated cats, donated by Mikal Deese, on display. We had cat toys of small origami balls to give people who signed up to promote Cats Indoors. Bo signed up that day and he has been a steady member of the Conservation Committee for the past four years.



He has helped table at many events for the Window Collisions and Cats Indoors projects. During the two years CNMAS worked to fulfill the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds grant, Bo was the volunteer who organized the mailing insert. He enlisted his friend, the cartoonist/artist Don Paul Benjamin, to create the cartoon. He then found a printer and coordinated with the Water Authority to have the insert about Cats Indoors go out in their monthly statement to over 200,000 Albuquerque residents.

Bo was the volunteer who took the challenge of finding a way to have two cat enclosures made to fulfill the last commitment of the UBT grant. Bo worked with the APS Career Enrichment Center construction class to build the enclosures. He picked up the panels and, along with his brother, installed the enclosure that was on display last summer at the Rio Grande Nature Center.

Bo is retired and lives with his wife, two dogs and two indoor cats in the south valley. When you see Bo, please thank him for being an outstanding advocate for birds and for being so generous with his time given to CNMAS.

Duck ID Workshop Coming Soon

BRANT Nature Tours is offering a workshop on duck identification with Raymond VanBuskirk and Sandy Young on Saturday, December 9, with a classroom session the night before.

Registration information is available at BrantTours.com/tours/workshops/duckbutt or (505)708-87BRANT.

BRANT donates \$25 of each registration fee to CNMAS.



The next GBBC is
February 16-19, 2018

BirdCount.org

Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area Board Members Sought

As the new year approaches and you are thinking about New Year's resolutions why not think about becoming a member of the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area Friends Board?



The Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area is a 97-acre tract in Belen. It is a permanent conservation easement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetlands Reserve program.

Work completed on the land so far includes planting food crops for migratory birds, constructing a one-acre wetland pond and planting native trees and shrubs.

The Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area is supported by the Friends of the Whitfield, an independent, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the conservation area in the preservation of wildlife and habitats through environmental education, research and restoration. The Friends board is currently recruiting individuals interested in serving on the board in several capacities. If you are interested in learning more about the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area Friends board and/or serving please contact the new president, Eileen Beaulieu, at dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net or 505-249-7929.

Climate Watch Surveys Continue

The National Audubon Society (NAS) Climate Change initiative will again conduct bluebird and nuthatch counts between January 15 and February 15, 2018. Participating volunteers, counting either on their own or with a partner, will pick one day during that period to do 12 point counts in their assigned area.

Volunteers enter the numbers of each bird seen or heard at each point count into eBird using the Climate Change protocol. By tracking each species over several years, NAS is able to test projections about increases or decreases in a given habitat.

If you are interested in participating, and haven't been a volunteer on a past count, please e-mail to Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com. Past volunteers will receive an e-mail from Judy in mid-December. While a few people have volunteered to count in Valencia County, additional individuals are needed there.

Habitat for Birds Paired with Beef Buys

Audubon New Mexico aims to provide habitat for grassland birds with its Conservation Ranching program. For information on this new approach and for how to participate by purchasing beef from Skarsgard Farms please go to <http://nm.audubon.org/conservation/audubons-conservation-ranching-program>.

AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

WINTER 2017

DECEMBER 7

Walk in Calabacillas Arroyo with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. The group will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the west side of the Rio Grande. The area is reached by driving north on Coors, past Paseo Del Norte and Irving Boulevard, turning east on Westside Drive, the first right 0.28 miles north of Irving. Follow Westside Drive about 0.2 of a mile to an open gate on the left. Go through the gate and down the arroyo to the parking area. If driving south on Coors from Corrales or Alameda, get in the left lane and turn onto Westside Drive. The walk will end before noon.

DECEMBER 14

Walk along the ditch and through the bosque from the Paseo del Bosque, Shining River Access Point, followed by a holiday potluck, with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot located directly south of Paseo del Norte on the west side of Rio Grande Boulevard. There is no exit from Paseo del Norte to Rio Grande. Take the Second Street exit from Paseo, drive south on Second to El Pueblo, and then drive west on El Pueblo to Rio Grande. Turn right (north) on Rio Grande to the parking lot.

After the walk, the group will go to the nearby home of David Watkins and Maxine Schmidt. Directions will be handed out to people after the walk. The hosts will provide soup, and the guests should bring other dishes and beverages to share with the group.

DECEMBER 21

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, lotterson300@comcast.net. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the north end of the Tingley Beach parking lot. To reach the area, drive west on Central Avenue past Rio Grande Boulevard, then turn left on Tingley Drive. Take the first right from Tingley Drive, and then turn right again to the dirt overflow parking lot. The walk will be about one mile in length.

DECEMBER 28

Walk around the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfcairns@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Candelaria wetland blind in the northeast corner of the Nature Center parking lot. A \$3 parking fee, State Parks pass, or Friends of the RGNC pass is required per car. The visitor center opens at 10:00. After that time one may use the restrooms and/or purchase either parking pass. The walk will be about one mile in length.

JANUARY 4

Visit Pueblo Montano Open Space for a walk along the bosque with Pauline and Bernie Morris: 505-369-1227, mtnbluebird@verizon.net. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot that is located on the south side of Montano and one block east of Coors. It can be accessed from either street. This will be a two-mile walk ending before noon.

JANUARY 11

Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Torrance County with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the Tijeras Senior Center on NM 333/ Rt. 66. To reach the parking area, turn north on Tijeras Avenue, just west of the Tijeras Library. A secondary meeting place is the Pilot Travel Center located on north NM 41 after taking the second Moriarty exit from I-40. Meet there at 8:30 a.m. The group will drive south of Moriarty to look for raptors. Lunch will be at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Tijeras in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

continued on the next page

JANUARY 18

Visit Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, brhussey@flash.net. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the refuge entrance on Second Street by the refuge sign. To reach the refuge, drive south on I-25 and take the Rio Bravo Exit. That exit may still be under construction, so there may be a delay. Drive west on Rio Bravo to Second Street. Turn south on Second and drive 3.2 miles to the entrance. The group will drive to different areas of the refuge and take a couple of half-mile walks. The trip will end before noon.

JANUARY 25

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard, just east of the Rio Grande. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

FEBRUARY 1

Visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen with Linda Heinze: manzanogal@gmail.com, 505-270-1779. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard or 9:45 at WWCA on NM 47. The walk will be about two miles in length. Lunch will be at Pete's Cafe, 1057 N. First Street in Belen. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

FEBRUARY 8

Visit Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on University Boulevard and Gibson or at McDonald's in Socorro at 9:15. Please tell Judy if you plan to meet the group there. The group will depart for Bosque

del Apache at 9:30. Bring lunch. A \$5 entrance fee or federal pass is required. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

FEBRUARY 15

Walk in the Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Susan Chaudoir: 985-302-2878, s.chaudoir@mac.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the east side of Coors Boulevard. The entrance road, Bosque Meadows Road, is located north of Montano Road and south of Paseo del Norte. It will be a two-mile walk ending before noon.

FEBRUARY 22

Walk in the Willow Creek Bosque in the Rio Rancho Bosque Open Space with Becky Purvis: 505-930-3424, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot. For people not living on the west side of the river, go north on I-25 and take the exit to Bernalillo/US 550. Drive west on 550 to the traffic light at NM 528. Drive south on 528 for 1.8 miles. Turn east at the traffic light on Willow Creek Road. Drive three blocks to the entrance just past Spruce Mountain Loop. Turn left on an unpaved road that follows an arroyo to the parking lot. The one-mile walk will end before noon.



Owl's Pick for Bird of the Quarter:

Cordilleran Flycatcher by Dan Benton



CNMAS Directory and Contacts

Central New Mexico Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society (CNMAS)

Mailing address CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Website <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>

Officers

President	Sara Jayne Cole
.....	cnmaspresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Jessica Garduno
Treasurer	Lee Hopwood
Secretary	Amber West
Web page	Joe Schelling
Burrowing Owl Newsletter	Perrienne Houghton
.....	and Melissa Howard
Membership	Marj Longenbaugh
Education	Lynn Schuler
Conservation Action	Bruce Dale
Programs	Kathy Carson
Field Trips	Kim Score
Thursday Birders	Rebecca Gracey
Rosy-finch Project	Raymond VanBuskirk
Belen Marsh and Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area	Eileen Beaulieu
Candelaria/Grasslands Restoration	Robert Munro

Past Presidents

Raymond VanBuskirk, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Karen Hertenberg

Contacts

Other birding and wildlife resources:

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>