

*Herlan Hawk
this winter at Bosque*

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS & EVENTS

1972

January 20, 1972 - Meeting! 7:30 PM at the Physics & Astronomy Bldg., Yale and Lomas NE. Film: "A Good Birding Trip, Houston Area" presented by Dan and Marian Washburn.

January 29, 1972 - Field Trip to the Corrales area to find Lewis' Woodpeckers. Meet at 8:00 AM at the intersection of Corrales Road and Route 528. Leader: Dot DeLollis.

February 17, 1972 - Meeting! 7:30 PM at the Physics & Astronomy Bldg. Yale and Lomas NE. Speaker: Tom Smylie of the Forest Service.

February 22, 1972 - Audubon Wildlife Film Series at Popejoy Hall at 7:30 PM. "Mule Deer Country, Montana & the Rockies" - presented by Lyle Moss.

February 26, 1972 - Field trip to Isleta and Los Lunas area. Meet at 8:00 AM at the east side of the Isleta Bridge. Leader: Dick Tuttle.

SPECIAL REMINDER!!!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

March meeting will be on the Second Thursday, March 9, 1972 - 7:30 PM at the Physics & Astronomy Bldg.

The Last Audubon Wildlife Film will be March 16, 1972, 7:30 PM at Popejoy Hall. "Treasure of East Africa" - presented by Bower Rudrud.

Special Note From Long Island, New York:

Winter visitors have been arriving along the barrier beaches of Long Island on wings that have all the sound of drifting clouds. They are owls heading for the seashore as though it were their winter resort. Five species can be found on the sandy strips between the bays and ocean; snowy, short-eared, long-eared, barn and saw-whet owls.

This may be the biggest season for snowy owls since the huge flight of 1926 when more than 50 were recorded on Long Island. Reports indicate a big number of "snowies" wandering further south this year because there are not enough mouse-like lemmings to go around for all the owls in their northern habitat. The snowy owls do this every few years when their number apparently escalates until it is out of balance with the food supply. Individual owls even make it as far south as Texas and Florida.

During the incursion year, a dozen snowy owls can be expected on Long Island and most of them will be seen on the south shore marine barrier lands. At least 3 have been verified. Hofstra University biology professor, Paul Buckley thinks there are more to come. One snowy owl has adorned a television aerial above Dogwood Lane in Stoneybrook. Another has been hunting in the Shinnecock Inlet area. Three have been reported on Fire Island and three more on Jones Beach.

A generation gap has shown up in the Fire Island contingent. Mrs. Boch, editor of Great South Bay Audubon Society's newsletter, reports that one owl is young because it is attired in the brown plumage. Another is a "teenager" because it is whiter, but still flecked with brown, and the adult bird is absolutely storm-driven white.

One nearly 2 foot high white owl was recently observed on top of a dune attended by spears of beach grass, as it faced the ocean. The morning sun's reflections glimmering across the watery surface in front were highlighted in the bird's gleaming ermine plumage. This is not simply a sight on which you focus binoculars. It is also a vision. This is a spectacle that can transport one. (Taken from an article in Newsday, December 14, 1971.)