

1972-73

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY -- NEWSLETTER -- APRIL/MAY 1973

APRIL/MAY CALENDAR

April 7  
Saturday

**FIELD TRIP -- BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
Go south on I-25 to the San Antonio exit. Turn left on State 380 to San Antonio. Turn right in San Antonio and proceed to Bosque. Meet at the headquarters at 9:15 a.m.

April 19  
Thursday

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING** (third Thursday of the month) at UNM Physics/Astronomy Building, 7:30 p.m.

We are honored to have as our speaker Dr. Florence Hawley Ellis, for many years UNM professor of anthropology, specializing in working with and teaching about Indians of the Southwest. She says, "Birds certainly are one of the very most important of creatures to the Southwestern Indians. . . . Birds are not only used in decorative motifs but also have tremendous significance religiously -- which is why they are used decoratively." Dr. Ellis will display some Indian artifacts and crafts and will discuss the birds used in the designs.

Dr. Ellis asks our help in collecting bird feathers for use by her Indian friends in their ceremonials and in their preparation of prayer plumes. They particularly need strong wing feathers from mallards and other water birds; and soft breast feathers, especially black turkeys. The Indians also use other feathers. Contact Dot DeLollis, 299-5384, if you have any feathers or if you want more information; or, bring the feathers to one of our regular meetings.

**ALSO: ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** (See details in Chapter News item.)

April 28-29  
Sat./Sun.

**FIELD TRIP -- TUCUMCARI MARSH**  
Go east on Route 66 to Santa Rosa turnoff. Meet here at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. We will bird at Santa Rosa lakes and then proceed as a group to the Tucumcari Marsh.

May 5-6  
Sat./Sun.

**GILA BIRD COUNT**  
Those who wish to participate in this annual count, conducted on the first Saturday in May, may wish to stay at Myra McCormick's Bear Mountain Guest Ranch, just outside of Silver City. Myra is offering a special rate of \$12 per person (room and meals) providing we have ten or more people in our group. For reservations call 1-538-2538. For more information, call Esther Tuttle, 265-2374.

**BITTER LAKE BIRD COUNT**  
NMOS is conducting a bird count at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge the same weekend. Meet at the refuge at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 5.

May 17  
Thursday

**SECOND ANNUAL MEETING**  
Our annual meeting will be held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, corner of North Jefferson and Copper. There is adequate parking space. Please use Copper Street entrance to building. A potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m. Bring a generous amount of your favorite recipe. Members are also asked to bring their own table service. Beverages will be provided by the committee. For additional information call Ethyl Ringer, Committee Chairman, 266-6038. ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO REPORT AT THE CHURCH AT 5:00 p.m.

Following the dinner, Phil Hatton, a student at UNM, will show slides and tell about a birding trip, led by Roger Tory Peterson, to Antarctica and the Falkland Islands. We have a preview in the March Audubon magazine of some of the spectacular sights Phil will show us. He was not a birder -- he signed up because he wanted to visit Antarctica. It was the eleventh such expedition led by Peterson, who later reported that this expedition had the best weather and was the most productive for seeing birds.

*May 19-20*  
*Sat./Sun.*

**FIELD TRIP -- WATER CANYON CAMPGROUND**

Go south on I-25 to Socorro. Turn west on Route 60; continue 15 miles to Water Canyon Road. Meet at campground at 9:30 a.m.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

*June 2-3*  
*Sat./Sun.*

**FIELD TRIP -- CAVE CREEK CANYON (southeastern Arizona)**

Purpose: To see the coppery-tailed trogon! Meet at South Fork Campground at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

**CHAPTER NEWS**

The Nominating Committee, composed of Craig Andrews, Chairman, Jim Karo and Pat Basham, has submitted the following slate:

President -- Jim Karo  
Vice President -- Jacque Hohfelder  
Recording Secretary -- Virginia Fedder  
Corresponding Secretary -- Dot DeLollis  
Treasurer -- Dan and Marian Washburn

The election will take place at the April meeting, Chairman Andrews, who announced the slate at the March meeting, stated that nominations from the floor will be accepted; however, he urged that anyone making such a nomination should have the consent of the nominee.

Christmas Counts

Because of unusual conditions this winter, the three Christmas counts which CNMAS conducted produced a number of unusual records. Because of a new editorial procedure designed to improve the quality of reporting on Christmas counts, the count reports were screened more carefully than in the past by a regional editor. The regional editor for the Southwest is Dr. John Hubbard, who is very demanding in his standards for reports of sight records. While the high standards put additional demands on observers and compilers, they also improve the reliability of our reports and increase their value to professionals. The extra effort put into the task of substantiating observations by CNMAS members paid off. The Albuquerque count was accepted without substantial changes. All 68 species were accepted, including those which required supporting details. On the Sandia Mountain count, 47 of the 48 species reported were accepted. One species was rejected because of lack of supporting details. On the Bosque del Apache count, 97 of the 99 species were accepted. The species were rejected because details reported were not adequate to eliminate other possible identifications. The record on all three counts was outstanding, and the count participants have due cause for pride in their accomplishment.

### Charter

CNMAS has been notified by Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice-President of National Audubon Society, that we have met the requirements for permanent chartering as a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our permanent charter is now in preparation.

### Nest Records

With April, the nesting season is usually well under way for New Mexico birds. Recording bird nests is another way in which birders can contribute to our knowledge of bird life. There are presently two organizations which solicit information from New Mexicans on nesting birds. The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology operates the North American Nest Record Program. Cornell records all of the information it receives in a computer. Many researchers have already tapped this computer for data on a number of species. The New Mexico Ornithological Society also conducts a nest record program which makes regional data available more readily to local researchers. Both programs provide cards for recording nest data. Cards will be available at CNMAS meetings through the spring and summer, or may be obtained by writing Chuck Hundertmark, 305 Arvada NE, Albuquerque, 87102.

Nests of common as well as unusual species are welcomed by both programs. Data on common species are often more useful because it is easier to obtain a statistically significant body of information on these species than on the less common species. It is not always necessary to locate the nest to submit a report on nesting. If young are seen being fed out of nest, this information should be reported also. Nest cards should be checked to make certain that all of the pertinent data is included. In particular, you should check the location, date (including year), species, contents of nest, and observer's name. Do not be deterred if you lack some of the information requested on the card. Record as much information as you have. If, for example, you see a woodpecker entering a nest hole with food but cannot check the contents of the nest, submit a record with whatever information you have.

The possibility of obtaining computer printouts from Cornell is currently being explored, and if this works effectively, we may be able to eliminate the present duplication involved in the two programs.

### New Mexico Marsh Survey

At a meeting March 7, the New Mexico Marsh Survey was organized under CNMAS sponsorship. The survey will attempt to organize information on New Mexico marsh areas, with a particular emphasis on wildlife values. New Mexico once had more extensive marsh areas than it presently possesses, but human activity, particularly reclamation, has eliminated many of these areas. Now many of the best surviving areas are threatened. By learning more about these areas, we may be able to save at least the more productive marshes.

Through the marsh survey, we hope to record the location of existing marshes, data on ownership, the breeding birds as well as other birds using the marshes, and any other data on wildlife and plants of the marshes. We need all of the help we can find. CNMAS members can help out in a number of ways. If you know

of a marsh which is not listed below, contact one of the survey coordinators. If you're looking for an interesting field trip, contact the coordinator for a marsh area that sounds interesting to you and arrange to visit the marsh. A list of the coordinators is provided below. If you wish to participate regularly in the survey, contact Chuck Hundertmark, and your name will be added to the list of survey participants so that coordinators can contact you when they need help in their areas.

#### NEW MEXICO MARSH SURVEY

<u>Coordinators</u>	<u>Areas</u>
James Karo, 1621 Cedar Ridge Drive NE 294-2777 87112	Santa Rosa Lakes
Tod Stevenson, 209 Wayne Road NW 898-3093 87114	Jicarilla Lakes
Shaun Nesbitt, 316 Homeland Road NW 898-2608 87114	Costilla Creek
Charles Hyder, 1007 Acequia Trail NW 898-1675 87107	Pena Blanca Marsh
John Woodworth, Box 145, Tijeras, N.M. 281-3726	Nutria Black Rock Lake Malpais Marshes
Julie Hunze, Box 312, Cedar Crest, N.M. 281-3857	Galisteo Lake
Lynn Mollet, 1800 Mary Ellen NE, Apt. D. 294-6788 87112	Conchas Lake
Chuck Hundertmark, 305 Arvada NE 842-9664 87102	Elephant Butte Marsh Tucumcari Marsh Ute Lake

#### MAST-HEAD

Our membership is growing rapidly and our newsletter is assuming considerable stature in informing members of Chapter activities. It has occurred to the "pressman" who types the excellent copy prepared by editors Marilyn and Martin Ruoss, that perhaps a "mast-head" might be desirable, now that we have reached the ripe old age of two.

(For those unfamiliar with the term, "mast-head" is the name of the heading, often pictorial, at the top of the first page of a newspaper or other publication.)

Suggestions for a pictorial heading can be given to Marian Washburn at the next meeting, and artistic assistance in working out sketches can doubtless be found. When we have several sketches to submit, they will be shown the chapter for a decision.