

NEWSLETTER
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CHAPTER
DECEMBER 1973/JANUARY 1974

The officers of the Central New Mexico Chapter of the National Audubon Society join in wishing all members and friends who receive the Newsletter a

*Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy, Prosperous, "Birdy" New Year*

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¡ BIENVENIDO, EXTRANJERO! ¡

Don't forget to go out and welcome the wanderer to our universe, Comet Kohoutek. It may be seen very early in the morning (5:30 a.m. last Sunday) before daylight. It should be an interesting sight -- one to tell your grandchildren about, if you don't have any yet. (If you do, show 'em!)

The comet will be closest to the sun on December 28; on January 15, it will be closest to Earth -- only 75 million miles -- and we might be able to see its tail. At present it looks simply like a very bright star and can, to the uninitiated, seem to be one of the planets; it rises just as they do.

There is an interesting article in the current issue of the National Wildlife Magazine concerning this phenomenon. If you do not belong to the NWF, perhaps you can borrow a copy and read the short article.

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RARE BIRD ALERT

We are planning to organize a "Rare Bird Alert" to notify interested members if there is a rare bird seen in the Albuquerque area. Often, if word can be spread quickly enough, a number of birders are able to see a "goodie" that otherwise would only hear about it.

If you would like to participate, phone Dot DeLollis at 299-5384, or write to her at 3600 Piermont Drive NE, Albuquerque 87111. She will need to know name, home phone and also office phone if you wish to be called there. Early in January the arrangements should be worked out. Each person who signs up for the Alert agrees to call two people, who in turn will call two other persons each. The names and numbers will be assigned, so there is no great amount of work for any one person.

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A few excerpts from "The World of Birds" by James C. Fisher and Roger Tory Peterson --

"In 1962, according to our own researches, 8,580 good, full species of birds were known to be alive on earth."

"There is no square mile of the surface of our planet, wet or dry, that has not been crossed by the shadow of a bird -- except perhaps some of the Antarctic Continent."

"Within their limits of speed and height, birds are more efficient aircraft than man has yet been able to design."

COMING EVENTS -- December/January Calendar 74

December 7
Friday AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - 7:30 p.m. at Popejoy Hall -- "HAWAII, PARADISE OF THE PACIFIC" filmed and narrated by Walter H. Berlet. See the rare and beautiful nene geos, sooty and noddy terns, wandering tattlers and golden plovers, in addition to beautiful scenery in this "most southern of the 50".

December 13
Thursday REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING (second Thursday this month only, due to the proximity of Christmas) at UNM Physics/Astronomy Building, 7:30 p.m.
Featured on the program will be a motion picture of a float trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon of Arizona. Mike White and John Cox of the Albuquerque Public Schools and Bill Stamm of Sandia Labs will discuss the film. The footage was shot by Ronald Blair of Houston, who also made the film presented last year covering an egret rookery and other birds of the Central Gulf Coast. This film has been pronounced as being even better photography than the film seen last year at the Audubon Wildlife Film Series on the same subject.

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CHRISTMAS COUNT, 1973

The Big Event of the year, bird-wise, is the Christmas Count. Three of these will be taking place in the Albuquerque/Bosque del Apache areas. The leaders can use all the help they can get, spotting birds, identifying and even "pencil pushing" -- if you don't think you are good enough at identification. Pick a leader -- or all three -- and go along; it's really great fun. Each individual taking part is assessed \$1.00, to defray cost of publishing the count results.

Call the leader of your choice to learn which day he plans the count, Saturday or Sunday. Following are dates, leaders and locations:

December 15 or
16 - Saturday
or Sunday BOSQUE DEL APACHE WILDLIFE REFUGE: Leader, Chuck Hundertmark
Call him at 842-9664 or 277-2631. Call daytimes
Meet at Headquarters of the Refuge at 9 a.m. with warm clothing, lunch, binoculars and bird books.
Go east off US 25 at San Antonio exit onto NM 380. In the "center" of town, follow the turn-off south about 10 miles to Refuge HQ. Transit time from NE Heights, approximately 2-2-1/2 hours.

December 22 or
23 - Saturday
or Sunday ALBUQUERQUE AREA: Leader, Dr. Alan Engberg -- 243-8811 (Office)
Meet at the Corrales Bridge at 7 a.m. -- again, with warm clothing, binoculars, lunch and bird books.

December 29 or
30 - Saturday
or Sunday SANDIA MOUNTAIN AREA: Leader, Ross Teuber -- 265-8962
Meet at the San Antonito School on North Highway 14, at 7 a.m. DRESS WARMLY, bring lunch, binoculars and bird books.

All this, of course, is dependent on the gasoline shortage.

January 19
Saturday LOCAL FIELD TRIP to Riverway Park, Albuquerque, near the River, led by Jim Karo.
Follow Mountain Road to its west end; it dead-ends in the little state park. Meet there at 8 a.m.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON BIRD ALERT - Jan. 1974

DOT DELOLLIS
299-5384

Marian Washburn
842-2040 (office)
266-3078 (home)

John Durrie
277-2612 (office)
255-4694 (home)

Esther Tuttle
265-3274

Brownie Hibben
255- 5119

Mary Arthur
256-7539

Mildred Walters
or Maude Rupp
298-9756

Mary Alice Root
277-2616 (office)
298-1135(home)

Dorothy Mercer
266-5385

Monnie King
344-4523

Maurice Mackey
843-6910

PAT BASHAM
344-5042

Ross Teuber
766-2403 (office)
265-8962 (home)

Helen Riddell
294-6096

Craig Andrews
266-6616 (office)
344-2214 (home)

Ethyl Ringer
266-6038

Rita Nicklas
242-9560 (office)
247-8206 (home)

Chuck Hundertmark
~~242-9564~~

Jim Karo
264-8905 (office)
294-2777 (home)

Doris Hendryx
255-8854

Bert Lindsay
264-3145 (office)
299-7454 (home)

If you see something you think is out of the ordinary -- in the wild or at a feeder -- call either Dot or Pat. If you can't get one, call the other; they are cooperating on calling so that the chain is started. Each person on the list has obligated himself or herself to call the people listed immediately below his or her name on the chart. If you can't reach the person(s) assigned to you, go to the name immediately below those people, so that the chain is unbroken. This will give the largest possible number of people an opportunity to see something that may be unusual or new. Be sure to give the address or approximate location where you saw the bird. True -- it may not stay there long, but it may remain for weeks. That's part of the fun of birding -- you never know what when you'll see -- or whether!

Mon
GOOD LUCK!

"A bird is a feathered piece of song".

*5 W Peckham
265-1079
Steve Custer*