

# The Burrowing Owl

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

February-March 1974

With this issue, we assume a trial name for the newsletter. A newsletter without a name is almost as bad as a person without a name -- it has no real identity. This name was chosen, somewhat arbitrarily, from the Burrowing Owl which graces our letterhead. The editor trusts the new identity will meet with your approval and hopes that at some time in the future we can evolve a mastead befitting the stature of the publication.

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

- SATURDAY  
Feb. 9      FIELD TRIP - JUAN TABO CANYON AREA  
Meet at 8 a.m. in the Juan Tabo picnic area. To reach this, follow Tramway Boulevard north past the four-way stop sign at the entrance to Sandia Heights then take the first road to the right (east) into the picnic area.
- FRIDAY  
Feb. 15      AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES PRESENTATION - "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY COUNTRY?" with Frank Helms. A personal outcry against the despoliation of Australia's wilderness and wildlife; winner at the International Environment Conference in Stockholm, 1972.
- THURSDAY  
Feb. 21      MEETING OF THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CHAPTER, 7:30, UNM Physics/Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE  
Stewart Bryan will talk on his observations of birds last summer in the Truchas Mountains, where he spent several weeks.
- SATURDAY  
Feb. 23      FIELD TRIP - Indian Lakes area.  
Meet on the road at 8 a.m. To get there, take State 85 north. The lakes are visible from the road; go past the last one and park at the first exit. Jim Karo will be there waiting.
- SATURDAY  
March 9      N. M. O. S. ANNUAL MEETING -- UNM BIOLOGY BUILDING, 9:15 a.m.  
Details are given elsewhere in this issue.
- SATURDAY  
March 16      FIELD TRIP - ESTANCIA AREA.  
Take I-40 to Moriarty exit; turn south on State 41 about 7 miles to McIntosh; gather on the side of the road about a mile south of the town. Jim Karo will be there.
- THURSDAY  
March 21      MEETING OF THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CHAPTER, 7:30, UNM Physics/Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE.  
The feature of the program will be a film by the Central Clearing House, "LOOK WHAT WE'VE DONE TO THIS LAND." This should prove informative, interesting and possibly controversial. There will probably be someone from CCH at the meeting to explain and answer questions.
- SATURDAY  
March 23      FIELD TRIP -- ALBUQUERQUE'S VOLCANO AREA ON WEST MESA.  
Go west on I-40 to Coors Road; turn north to the Volcano Cliffs entrance, then west. This road goes into Petroglyph Park, where we will meet.
- WEDNESDAY      AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES PRESENTATION - "QUEEN OF THE CASCADES" by Charles T. Hotchkiss.  
Scenes of the country around Mount Rainier and the Cascade Range with pictures of the wildlife of the area, concluding with the speaker's 14,410-foot climb to the summit. Don't miss it!

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Looking ahead to April, on the week-end of April 20 and 21, at the Holiday Inn East, the Wilderness Study Committee will conduct a workshop which is intended to bring up to date on present and planned activities those individuals and organizations interested and concerned about preservation of our wilderness area, in order to enable them to work together and accomplish effective results instead of "scatter-shooting". More about this in the next issue of the Burrowing Owl.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the workshop in many ways. Call Mary Alice Root (298-1135) or see her at the meeting and ask if there is anything you do to help. Then attend the workshop.

## RESULTS OF THE CHRISTMAS COUNTS

At the January meeting results of the three Albuquerque Counts were reported. None set a record, but they were fairly good.

On the Bosque del Apache Count, Chuck Hundertmark leader, 90 species were observed, the second-highest count. A special delight, besides the Sandhill Cranes and geese were two Vermillion Flycatchers, a Golden Eagle.

On the Albuquerque Count, with Dr. Alan Engberg leading a small group, 64 species were seen, with some of the goodies being 100 Mergansers and 1 Magpie.

Ross Teuber led the Sandia Count, reporting 42 species, the third-highest count for that area. Their goodies were a Ring-necked Duck, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Mockingbird, six Pine Grosbeaks and more Robins than anyone could remember in this area.

## NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING -- March 9

As we go to press, the program has not been completely firmed up, but it sounds like a great day for birders and ornithologists alike. The morning will be devoted to a panel discussion on identification of Hummingbirds, Icterids (Orioles, and Blackbirds), and the Spizella Sparrows (Tree, Chipping, Clay-colored, Brewer's Field, Black-chinned). Sparrows are difficult to identify and any help we can derive from this discussion should prove very welcome. John Hubbard, Jim Travis and Roland Wauer will be the panelists.

In the afternoon, technical papers will be presented on subjects not yet known to us, along with some kind of special entertainment.

The evening will feature a discussion by Wayne Henson, an environmentalist from Los Alamos, on an environmental-related subject. Mr. Henson has done impact studies in Alaska and elsewhere and should have some thought-provoking ideas to present. His topic has not been received.

There is a good possibility that Roland Wauer will lead a field trip on Sunday morning, though this has not been definitely determined yet.

It is not necessary to be a member of the N.M.O.S. to attend this meeting; Audubon members will be welcomed.

Also of note is the fact that the N.M.O.S. has revised the New Mexico Bird Checklist, using the new names for local species, as determined recently by the American Ornithological Union. Like the metric system, the change is inevitable, and we might as well start learning the new names for familiar birds. Check lists will be obtained shortly from the Society and will be available at Audubon meetings, at 3¢ each.

The New Mexico Breeding Bird Census is ongoing. If you are interested in helping with this important project, cards are available from NMOS or the Chapter at no cost.

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## SANDIA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Once again the issue of the new road in the Sandias and its impact on the area has returned to consideration, and is of concern to us all. If you did not see the article in Sunday's Journal, Page G-3, dig the paper out of the recycling pile and read it. Note the times and places of the hearings and plan to attend one of them.

Also it would be well to express feelings in the matter to our representatives in Congress, which should reach them before March 1. A letter to the Forest Supervisor might also be in order. Address them:

W. L. Lloyd, Forest Supervisor  
Cibola National Forest  
10308 Candelaria NE  
Albuquerque, N.M. 87112

The Honorable Pete Domenici  
United States Senator  
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Joseph Montoya  
United States Senator  
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Manuel Lujan  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

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