

The Burrowing Owl -

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

October-November, 1974

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Saturday
October 12 Field trip in the North Valley. Meet at the home of Pat Basham, 924 Fairway Road NW at 7:15 a.m. and Pat will lead the group along the ditches where she regularly watches for birds. Pat says the birding can be very good or rather poor, depending on the amount of water, if any, in the ditches and whether the banks have recently been cleared. However, there are always some birds moving in the Valley and it should be an interesting morning. Fairway Road is in Lee Acres. Turn west on Solar Road at the light at about the 6200-block of 4th Street NW and then take the third right turn off Solar to find 924 Fairway.

Thursday
October 17 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building. Samuel H. Lamb, formerly a biologist with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, will talk about "Trees of New Mexico". Here is an opportunity to learn more about the types of trees which supply home, food and cover for the birds in our state. Mr. Lamb, now retired and living in Santa Fe, uses his knowledge of trees and wood grains in his hobby of carving useful and decorative items of wood.

Saturday
October 26 Field trip to the Juan Tabo picnic area on the west slope of the Sandia Mountains. This is another "close-in" area but there should be a different variety of bird in the foothills than those seen in the valley. Meet at the intersection of Tramway Road and the road which leads to Juan Tabo and La Cueva picnic areas at 7:30 a.m.

Saturday
November 9 Field trip to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. The Sandhill Cranes, Canada and Snow Geese, and a variety of ducks should be on the Refuge in great numbers. A good place to bring a scope if you have one. Trip leader: Ross Teuber. Meet at the Post Office on the west side of Winrock Center at 6:45 a.m. to arrange car pools.

Thursday
November 21 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building. Watch for newspaper announcements on this program. Before the program, preliminary plans for the Christmas Bird Counts will be discussed. Dates for the Counts must be set during the period from December 14th through 31st.

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TIMELY (OR TIMELESS?) THOUGHT

We tend to think of conservation as a relatively new concern in the world; that is, only in the last generation or so has it become a real subject of concern. Read this:

"Woe to you who join house to house
and add field to field,
till there is no more room,
and you are left to dwell alone
in the midst of the land!"

Check that out in Holy Writ, at Isaiah 5:8.

CONFERENCES

The Southwest Region of the National Audubon Society will be holding its regional meetings October 18 to 20 in Beaumont, Texas. Highlighting the conference will be Sunday field trips into the Big Thicket Biological Preserve. Dan and Marian Washburn are our official delegates, but other members will be welcome to attend also. Phone the Washburns if you would like further details.

The 68th National Audubon Convention will be held in New Orleans next April 17 to 20. Theme of the convention will be Ecosystems and Audubon Goals: The Gulf Influence. See pages 106 and 107 in the September issue of AUDUBON magazine for further information.

RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Mrs. E. B. Clarke, "the hummingbird lady", graciously hosted nineteen of our members who visited her home and farm in the South Valley on August 10. All crowded into her dining room and kitchen to watch the hummingbirds at the many feeders lined up just outside the windows. There were Black-chinned, Broad-tailed and Rufus hummers, and a probable female Calliope. Then on a walk around the farm 26 species of larger birds were seen, including Quail, Pheasant, Killdeer, Kingfishers, Swallows, Warblers, Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Blue Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting. Returning to the house, Mrs. Clarke brought out of her freezer a box of birds which had met their demise in the last few years near her home. Each bird had a story. There were, for instance, a Blue Grosbeak and a Lazuli Bunting which had been chased together by a hawk and hit a window simultaneously. A fine chance to compare the difference in the plumage color between the turquoise and the deep blue! Mrs. Clarke invited the group to come back next year -- earlier in the summer when the Hummers are more numerous and many Orioles are bringing their young to the feeders.

On September 14, seven adults and two children left Albuquerque in the pouring rain to go birding at the Isleta Marsh. (Now that the Post Office seems to have abandoned its motto about adverse conditions being unable to "stay these couriers from their appointed rounds", some dauntless CNMAS field trippers have taken the motto for themselves!) The rain stopped about the time the marsh was reached and there was good birding in spite of threatening skies, which complicated color delineation. Soras scuttling around the reeds were most fascinating. There were Mallard, Teal, Shoveler, Coot, Killdeer, Snipe, four species of Swallows, House Wren and Marsh Wren, Red-winged Blackbird and Great-tailed Grackle. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Kinglet, three species of Warblers, Western Tanager and Green-tailed Towhee obligingly paraded in view. A Cooper's Hawk flushed a covey of Scaled Quail just across the bank and then the hawk obligingly settled down on a fencepost nearby. These and other birds again brought the count to about thirty species.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Saturday, September 28, was National Hunting and Fishing Day, so proclaimed by governmental officials from the President on down. As such, the Albuquerque Chapter of the Wildlife Conservation Association offered citizens of our city a chance to see in action some of the outdoor organizations and those of a nature-oriented type. The Central New Mexico Audubon Society was asked to have a part by bringing a mist net and demonstrating the banding of birds. This being a little impracticable, in light of the fact that the Chapter has no mist net and no member is known to have a banding permit -- added to the fact that this is not the type of activity ordinarily followed in such places as crowded parking lots -- a more static display was worked out.

Books from a private library were displayed, Audubon membership brochures were passed out to passers-by, as well as folders describing the upcoming Wildlife Film Series. Jacque Hohlfelder, Dan and Marian Washburn manned the display table from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., acquiring a rich red sunburn in the process, and had a most enjoyable day, with who knows what interest created?

This being the first attempt the display was admittedly rather dull, we felt, in that no one was shooting arrows or demonstrating Scuba-diving suits and not too many people are terribly interested in books about birds, but some interest was evinced and several people requested sample copies of The Burrowing Owl. It is hoped that by the time next year's Hunting and Fishing Day rolls around, some type of more vivid, dynamic presentation can be worked out, with sample bird-houses and feeders, perhaps a nest or two, possibly a couple of mounted specimens and maybe charts on identification. A highly visual display will attract more interest and attention and should be more successful.

Anyone having ideas on this subject will find a ready ear in Jacque Hohlfelder or either of the Washburns.

BOUGHT YOUR DUCK STAMP YET?

Oh, you're not planning to go duck-hunting, you say? Well that's all right -- you don't have to hunt to buy a duck stamp. All you need is \$5 and the will to go to the Post Office to get it. Hunters need the stamp to get their licenses, but those interested in the welfare of the ducks of our country can help by buying a stamp because the greater portion of your portrait of Abe Lincoln will go toward habitat and research. Hunters, you know, do a great deal to help support refuges, research and habitat. They help make it possible for bird-watchers to go out and watch -- among other things -- ducks. So why not do your good turn for today and buy a duck stamp? It doesn't cost any more than five pounds of sugar!

RARE BIRD ALERT

There is need to reorganize the Rare Bird Alert and to set up guide lines if we are to continue this activity. Some members who registered for the Alert last year have wanted to be notified of any interesting bird. Others feel it is an imposition if they are called for any but the most rare birds. If you would like to be called when there is a rare (or interesting) bird in the vicinity and if you would be willing to phone two other people, will you please fill in this form and mail it to Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Drive NE, Albuquerque 87111, or bring it to the next Audubon meeting? Pat Basham or Dot, Co-Chairmen of the Bird Alert, have been notified this year of all of the birds noted in parenthesis below. Would you have wanted to be notified too?

Please answer the questions below.

Name: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Office telephone (if okay to call you there) _____

Do you want to be notified if...

the bird is uncommon but ^{new} to area? (Willet/Barn Owl)

Yes _____ No _____

a rare or endangered bird is reported in Albuquerque but there is little or no chance that you could see it? (Peregrine Falcon)

Yes _____ No _____

the bird is a common species but has some unusual aspects? (an albino Bullock's Oriole)

Yes _____ No _____

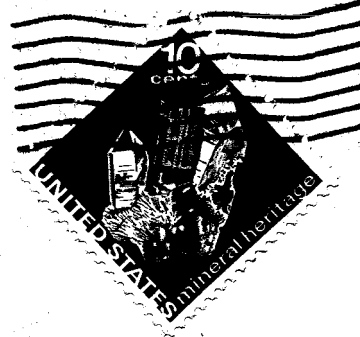
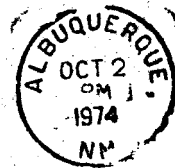
the bird is new in the state but can only be seen outside of Albuquerque? (White Ibis at Bosque del Apache NWR)

Yes _____ (within _____ miles) No _____

the bird is uncommon but can only be seen outside of Albuquerque? (Black-chinned Sparrow in the Manzanos)

Yes _____ (within _____ miles) No _____

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Handwritten signature and scribbles in a circle.

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