



The Burrowing Owl

Newsletter of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY December 1974-January 1975

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The officers and committee chairmen extend to all members of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society their best wishes for a happy holiday. May this Holy Season bring you joy and the coming year be an especially good one for all.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY

Sunday AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at UNM's Popejoy Hall at 7:30 p.m. Richard C. Kern will narrate the film FLORIDA CYPRESS SANCTUARY: FISHEATING CREEK, telling about a sanctuary which Kern and nine others established to preserve the land and its wildlife. Sequences in time-lapse photography reveal the unfolding of ferns, mushrooms and other growth. Many animals, from insects to alligators, are shown including such birds as the Barred Owl, the Red-Shouldered Hawk, and the Caracara with nestlings. Season tickets for the Audubon Film Series are still available at the box office, and may be used for single admission to each film or for several admissions to a single film.

Thursday
December 12 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. Note: This is the second Thursday evening of the month. It will be a full and interesting program. First, there will be a National Park Service film on Gran Quivira National Monument. Gran Quivira, featuring extensive Spanish mission ruins, is south of Mountainair and can be reached easily for a one-day picnic excursion from Albuquerque. Then Dan and Marian Washburn will report on the Southwest Region Audubon meeting which they attended in Beaumont, Texas, in mid-October. They will show slides of the trip taken by delegates into the Big Thicket and also have movies of a new Audubon Sanctuary being developed just off the coast near Beaumont.

*CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

*Saturday Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Refuge Headquarters, on the west side of the paved road, at 7:00 a.m. Camping is no longer allowed anywhere on the Refuge. If you would like to go down the night before, there are motels and a KOA Kampground in Socorro, about 15 miles north of the Refuge. Count leader: Chuck Hundertmark (242-6482).

*Sunday
December 22 Albuquerque and Corrales. Meet at the west end of the Corrales (Alameda) Bridge over the Rio Grande at 7:00 a.m. Count leader: Dr. Alan Engberg (243-8811). This phone number is Dr. Engberg's answering service and you may leave a message. Or call Field Trip Chairman Ross Teuber, at 265-8962.

*Saturday
Dec. 28 Sandia Mountains. Meet at San Antonito School on State Route 14, north of the turnoff for Sandia Crest at 7:00 a.m. Count Leader: Ross Teuber (265-8962).

Saturday
January 11 Something new will be tried for our regular January field trip -- a caravan of cars to search for hawks and eagles. Meet at the Post Office on the west side of Winrock Center at 7:00 a.m. to form car pools. Ross Teuber will lead the caravan east to Moriarty, south through the Estancia Valley, where Bald Eagles frequently winter, through Corona to Carrizozo, west to San Antonio, and north on I-25. It should be a full day, with about 300 miles of travel.

Thursday
January 16 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building. Jim Karo, past president of our society, will discuss Bird Photography. Jim is a professional photographer at Sandia Labs and enjoys photographing birds as a hobby. He will talk about the use of various cameras and lenses for bird photography, discussing merits and shortcomings of the different lenses. His slides will include both good and poor pictures to illustrate the problems involved and he will tell how to solve some of the problems.

*CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

As it has for the past several years, CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY will conduct three Christmas Counts. Counts are carried on all over the country during the holiday season, with the results reported to the National Audubon Society for compilation. Last year was the 74th year that National Audubon has sponsored Christmas counts and a record 25,000 birders participated last year. The rules for the counts are strictly laid out by National so that the year-to-year statistics have validity and significance in computing bird populations. We need all the observers we can get to help with this vital work. You do not need to be experienced. More eyes spot more birds, and other members of the group can make the identifications. Just show up at the designated time and place, carrying binoculars and your lunch, and dressed for cold weather. (Several layers of lighter clothing, which can be removed gradually as the day warms up, are more practical than one heavy coat.)

Unlike our regular field trips, there will be a small charge to participate in the counts. If you are not a subscriber to AMERICAN BIRDS, the charge is \$2 for your first count and \$1 for any additional count, or \$1 for any additional family member on the same count. For this fee you not only are allowed to take part in the count but also you will receive the April issue of AMERICAN BIRDS, listing the Christmas count results from all over the United States and Canada. You do not need to notify anyone in advance if you plan to participate. However, if you do need a ride or can supply transportation for others, please call the leader of that count. The count areas are circles, generally in a ten-mile radius of the meeting point. If you live within a count area and maintain a bird feeder in your yard which you could watch during the count day, please notify the leader. We prefer your active participation in the field work, but will accept feeder observations.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

- October 12 Five hearty souls braved rain and dark weather to seek birds at Indian Lakes and along ditch banks in the north valley. 25 species were seen in spite of inclement conditions, all birds common to the area. Leader: Pat Basham.
- October 26 Six bird watchers enjoyed a cold morning scrambling around the rocks of the Sandia foothills. As expected for that area in cold weather, the count was small, with 11 species seen, including the Western Bluebird, Brown Creeper, Common Titmouse and Rufous-sided Towhee. Leader: Darwin Miller, who took over when the assigned leader was grounded by car problems.
- November 9 Fifteen people travelled down to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. 52 species of birds were seen, including Green Heron, American Bittern, Cattle Egret, Rough-legged Hawk, Double-crested Cormorant and, of course, Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese. Leader: Ross Teuber.
- November 16 Twelve bird watchers travelled up to Tent Rocks on a warm and pleasant day. 20 species of birds were seen with the Canyon Wren and Williamson Sapsucker creating the most interest. Leader: Darwin Miller.

DAFFY DEFINITION: Bird watcher: talon scout. (Thanks to the Wall St. Journal)

OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNTS

As stated before, Christmas Counts will be conducted in all parts of the country during the count period. We do not want to take birders away from our own area, as we need as many observers as we can possibly get. However, if you will be traveling the end of December, you may be interested in two counts in southeastern Arizona -- the first on Saturday, December 28, at Ramsey Canyon, west of Bisbee, and the second on Sunday, December 29, at Cave Creek Canyon, near Portal. These two counts, about 100 miles apart, were planned for the same weekend so that participants could take part in both if they desired. Arrangements must be made in advance if you wish to participate in either or both of these counts. Phone Dot DeLollis, 299-5384, for further details.

OFFICER LEAVING

Pat Basham, our Corresponding Secretary, will be leaving Albuquerque with her family in mid-January and will eventually be settling in Socorro. Pat, who is a fine bird artist, has been one of our best birders, with keen eyesight and a great memory for bird calls. She has been a loyal attender of meetings and field trips and a very pleasant person to work with. She has been co-chairman of the Bird Alert and our principal speaker to Garden Clubs who have requested a speaker on birds. We hate to lose Pat, but wish her the best for the future!

YOUR SUPPORT IS ASKED

A citizens' proposal to set aside about 55% of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area as wilderness need your help. This segregation of wilderness area would still leave some 15,000 acres for developed beaches, dune-buggy use, etc.

WRITE BEFORE DECEMBER 15 to: Regional Forester, PO Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Don't feel that just because this doesn't directly concern New Mexico your help isn't needed. Pressure from all over the country can affect this situation just as it can help us in some of our own environmental fights. What affects any part of our country affects the whole. If we write about this issue, we can ask others to help us by writing on matters of concern to us.

And further: On September 26 the Senate passed S. 2233, the bill to establish the Hell's Canyon National Recreation area, setting aside some 70,000 acres to protect the Canyon and the Middle Snake River, the last free-flowing wild stretch of the Snake. Audubon members and chapters, along with other environmentalists nationwide, have been fighting to bar dams from the area. S. 2233 is now in the House Interior Committee (Rep. James A. Haley, Chairman, Washington, D.C. 20515) along with an equally strong bill submitted by Rep. Al Ullman (Oregon). Immediate action is essential.

-- from the Audubon Leader

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT A NATIONAL BOTTLE LAW?

At the Annual Members' Dinner of the Audubon Society in New York recently, Governor Tom McCall of Oregon received the Audubon Medal. Cited for demonstrating that "conservation makes good sense, good politics and good government", the Governor said that "The U.S. can have economic growth without sacrificing the environment, but the President, the Congress and state governments must put in writing their assurances that environmental sacrifices won't be made." He asked, "Will we have the moral courage to change our ways?"

In a press conference he reported that the bottle ban had increased jobs (lost in canning, added in bottling) plus added jobs plus energy savings and other benefits netted gains of \$1 million a year and he advocates a national bottling law.

A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

"Some people may feel that it isn't important for us to be activists in conservation matters; that the primary function of our society should be to further the enjoyment of and education about our environment and let others worry about saving it. While I do believe that one of the primary responsibilities of this society should be to further the enjoyment of and knowledge about our environment, we cannot afford not to do all in our power to save the environment we all care so much about. Not to do so would also be contrary with the original goals and purposes of our society.

"We must remember that in any society such as ours, our workers are volunteers, all with full-time responsibilities elsewhere, be they at home or on the job. Nobody should be expected to give his full time to any of our activities. The battles that we undertake must, therefore, be well thought out, the task we put before us realistic and the goals attainable. If this is the case, the volunteers will feel that the time they give and the work they perform will be fruitful, and perhaps in this area too we will find that success stimulates new ideas and generates the enthusiasm to take on yet another foe! Naturally there are going to be failures and disappointments even when the goals are realistic, but a few good victories will carry us through numerous defeats with the spirit still intact.

"Our chapter has focused its attention largely on birds as far as its meeting programs, field trips, educational series and newsletter are concerned. I would like to see a broader spectrum of our natural environment brought into our activities. What is on the land and under the water is often as beautiful as that which flies over them, and the interrelationships that exist between all these elements is equally fascinating. We have the talent and interest within our society to branch out into a fuller appreciation of the beauties and mysteries about us, and we should encourage our members and friends to share their interests with one another. This would encourage larger participation on the part of our membership and could contribute to a larger membership as well."

The preceding was an extract of a letter from their first president to the members of the Great South Bay Audubon Society of Islip, Long Island, with whom we exchange. The message was so pertinent, so timely, that we briefed it and included it, hoping that we were not infringing. Our thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Gaden.

ANOTHER BIRDING AID

From time to time as helpful aids to birding are advertised or discovered, we purpose to make our members aware of them. Input on this subject will be welcomed.

OB Enterprises, Box 21, Celina, Ohio 45822 offers a nice item for assistance in fast referral when identifying birds. Guide Index tabs help find the picture before the bird gets away. They attach to the color plates and identify every major family of birds. Priced at \$1 per set, postpaid, you may order them from OB Enterprises for any of the Peterson Guides as well as the Birds of North America, but BE SURE to specify which guide you wish to use the tabs on, as they are made specifically for certain issues.

They also have neat plastic covers which help to rain-proof and wear-proof your guides. These fit the standard size guides, and are also \$1.00.

OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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