

BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

February - March, 1975

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH

Saturday
February 8 Field trip to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, one of the best winter birding areas in the state. The Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese should still be abundant though they will have started their migration northward by the end of the month. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Post Office, west side of Winrock Center, to arrange car pools.

Thursday
February 20 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. "Ro" Wauer of the National Park Service will present a slide program comparing the birds of four different mountain ranges in the Southwest. Before transferring to the NPS Regional Office in Santa Fe, "Ro" was the naturalist at Big Bend National Park and prior to that, at Zion National Park in Utah.

Friday
February 28 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at Popejoy Hall at 7:30 p.m. The film ANIMAUX SAUVAGES ("Wild Animals"), an extraordinarily beautiful study of the wild animals of Africa, won an award for the best educational documentary at the Cannes Film Festival of 1971. It will be narrated by Henk Kegel, who filmed the picture with his colleague, San Schippers.

Saturday
March 1 Annual meeting of the NEW MEXICO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY at the UNM Biology Building, Room 139. The meeting will start about 9:15 a.m. (Plenty of parking space on west side of the building and the meeting room is next to the west door.) The meeting is open to non-members. Here is a chance to meet birders from around the state and to hear brief reports of ornithology studies being conducted in the state, as well as activities of other bird clubs. Call Mary Alice root (Home 298-1155 or office 277-2616) for further details after program is announced in mid-February.

Sunday
March 2 Annual meeting of the New Mexico Wildflower Association, a covered-dish luncheon, at 1:00 pm at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE. This meeting is also open to all. Call Ethyl Ringer, 266-6038, if you wish further details.

Saturday
March 8 Field trip to the Juan Tabo-LaCueva area on the west slopes of the Sandia Mountains. Meet field trip leader Ross Teuber at the Winrock Post Office at 7:00 a.m. or at the intersection of Tramway Road and the road to Juan Tabo picnic area at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday
March 20 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. Dr. William G. Degenhardt will talk about reptiles in this area. As the days become warmer, lizards and snakes will be coming out of hibernation and the lizards, particularly, will be seen in our gardens and on birding trips. Dr. Degenhardt is a herpetologist in the UNM Biology Department.

Thursday
March 27 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at Popejoy Hall at 7:30 p.m. Norm Wakeman will present his film PALM SPRINGS TO LAKE LOUISE. Norm follows the coming of Spring up through the western United States into the Canadian Rockies, beginning with the California desert and continuing up through the Sierras and the Cascade mountain ranges. There is a raft trip on the Snake River, visits to the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, and finally Banff National Park in Canada.

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NATURE

Nature is so many things:
Animals are part of nature,
God is part of all nature.
Nature is as green as
Grass and leaves.

Nature is a growing tree;
All creatures wild and free
Are nature.

By Terice Jackson, Grade 5, Brooklyn, N.Y.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

There was beautiful sunny weather for all three of the count days; fine weather for birding, but the birds did not cooperate. All three of the counts reported fewer species than the year before. This might be due to poor breeding season last summer or to the fact that the birds are wintering in other localities. A study of the nationwide Christmas Count statistics should reveal the answer, in part, at least, and reaffirm the value of having this yearly national bird census.

Bosque del Apache NWR; December 14; Chuck Hundertmark, leader.

83 species of birds were seen, with 16 people participating in the count. Strong winds during the middle of the day may have held some birds down. In spite of a determined effort, we lost out in our friendly rivalry with Roswell and their count at Bitter Lakes NWR where over 100 species were seen. Some of the more interesting birds at the Bosque were 5 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 10 Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, 2 Rough-legged Hawks and a Prairie Falcon. While the number of species was near average for this count, the total number of waterfowl was down considerably. For example, only 3500 Mallards were seen, compared to 16,000 the year before.

Albuquerque; December 22; Alan Engberg, leader.

58 species of birds with 18 people participating. (This was the best turnout of birders for this count in several years and their help was much appreciated.) A Prairie Falcon was the most interesting bird seen. The Leis', Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were all seen but in fewer numbers than usual and the Nuthatches were conspicuously absent.

Sandia Mountains: December 28; Ross Teuber, leader.

40 species of birds with 13 participants. Some of the more interesting birds were 3 Rough-legged Hawks, a Mourning Dove, 8 Eastern Bluebirds and 2 Pine Grosbeaks. 5358 Crows were the most, by far, of any species.

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HAWK TRIP

Birders on the hawk trip, led by Ross Teuber, on January 11, saw Golden Eagle and four species of hawk -- Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Marsh and Kestrel. (No Bald Eagles were seen, but Brownie Hibben later reported several had been seen near Las Vegas at about that same date.) 10 Rough-legged Hawks, an unusually large number for that species, were counted on the trip. Five Cactus Wrens were the most interesting of the thirty or more other types of birds seen along the route.

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BIRD ALERT

The Rare Bird Alert has been reactivated. If you see a rare or unusual bird in the Albuquerque area, please notify Dot DeLolliis (299-5384) or Helen Riddell (294-6096). If there is a chance that the bird can be seen by others, members who have signed up for the Alert will be notified promptly. If you have not signed for the Alert but would like to participate, call Dot or Helen.

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"THE BUCKS STOP HERE"

While on the vacation which followed the Southwest District Conference at Beaumont last October, your delegates, Dan and Marian Washburn, visited the zoo at Topeka, Kansas. On the flight cage of the Golden Eagles was noted the following, which we thought just as appropriate to New Mexico as to Kansas.

"THE BUCK STOPS HERE"

"Each of these magnificent Eagles could eat a buck Jackrabbit every day in the wild. Eight Jackrabbits will eat as much grain in one year as an 800-pound steer. Every time a Kansas farmer shoots a Golden Eagle, he saves the lives of 365 Jackrabbits and starves 45 of his cattle.

"Conservation is everybody's business!"

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BOOK REVIEW

We hope to include brief reviews of some of the books in the Chapter Library in ensuing newsletters. There are many interesting books available, some scholarly texts, some light and easy to read.

One of the latter is "Birding from a Tractor Seat" by Charles T. Flugum. The author owned and operated a 240-acre farm near Albert Lea, Minnesota, was an officer of the Albert Lea Chapter many years. Each 2 1/2 page essay treats of a different bird or experience. Written in a folksy manner, with a touch of poetry, the book can be read in snatches or an evening devoted to it.

FROM THE "AUDUBON LEADER"

The "Leader" is a bi-weekly publication from National which briefs matters of environmental, ecological and legislative interest to the Society as a whole. Following are a few excerpts.

Whooping Crane News: The U. S. Air Force is finally closing down the Matagorda I. Texas practice bombing range, which lies on the edge of the wintering grounds of the critically endangered Whooping Cranes. Such closure was requested a year ago by the National Audubon Society, and now it is to be closed entirely, along with other military installations in various parts of the country.

This summer the property will be sold, with federal agencies -- including the Interior Department -- having first priority. It is hoped that the purchase can be made and the area made safe for Whooping Cranes.

(It was interesting, not long ago, when the report of the return of the Cranes to Texas was mentioned on the radio, to hear the announcer speak of them, not once, but several times as WHOPPING Cranes. That they are -- standing five feet tall! -- Ed.)

A Solar Energy First: Connecticut has been awarded a Federal grant of \$130,700 to cover the cost of designing a solar energy installation to heat and provide hot water for 20 out of 40 units in a \$1 million housing project for the elderly. The project, to be built in Hamden, Ct., will be the first public housing or multifamily housing project in the country to utilize energy from the sun for heating.

Train Urges Recycling: Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell E. Train has urged industry to "wipe out waste....to win the war on inflation and pollution." Recycling of wastes in larger cities could generate "the equivalent of 400,000 barrels of oil a day....nearly a third of the Alaskan pipeline's projected flow." He asked that industry take a new look at reusable packages and other alternatives to the current \$19.5 billion worth of packaging material that produces 40-50 million tons of waste, accounting for 30-40% of solid waste annually.

Florida Swamp Victory: A federal judge has ordered a Florida developer to restore a mangrove swamp by filling in drainage canals he dug, without permits, to build a trailer park on Key Largo. It was another sign that the era of reckless development and profiteering at the environment's expense is coming to a close in Florida.

Dyed Canvasbacks: If you see a weird-looking duck -- a color that a duck just shouldn't be -- it may be a dye-marked Canvasback. They are part of a study of the birds' movements. Send sighting reports with color of marking, location and date, total number of canvasbacks in flock and your name, address and phone number to: National Audubon, Route 1, Box 19, Mauckport, Indiana 47142. The studies are going on on the Mississippi River, but "ducks don't read books" and we might find an oddball that prefers to do his own thing, migration-wise.

Four New Books for Children A new nature book series, the Golden/Audubon Primers by Audubon Field Editor Frank Graham and his wife Ada, is now available. The four books are: Let's Discover Winter Woods, Let's Discover the Floor of the Forest, Let's Discover Changes Everywhere and Let's Discover Birds in Our World. Each has a "key" to provide the adult with background information to the stories about real children in real life situations, and has beautiful color photographs, including some by Audubon Editor Les Line. "Let's Discover" books are \$4.95 each and are published by Golden Press, Western Publishing Co., 850 Third Ave., New York, New York 10022. A good way to interest a child or grandchild in nature.

4. Recycle the grocery bags -- or carry a tote bag to the store. Keep a dozen large bags in the car and take them into the grocery with you. You'll be surprised how grateful the store owner or manager will be. As a matter of fact, do you really need a bag? A half-gallon or quart of milk can be carried to the car without being shrouded; the bread is already wrapped twice -- it doesn't need another wrapping. Whenever you can REFUSE THE BAG.

5. Turn off extra lights in the house. If no one is in a room, why leave the light burning? Could be it would even make a difference in your bill

6. Stop that drip in the bathroom or kitchen. Putting in a new washer is something even the lady of the house can do -- but don't forget to turn off the water first!

7. Recycle your steel and aluminum cans at Keep New Mexico Beautiful. They are open at Broadway and McKnight NE Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 to 5:00, and take glass and newspapers as well as the cans.

8. Buy and read "Our Corner of the Earth" (\$2.00), then put into operation some of the excellent ideas embodied therein. Available at most bookstores, it will help you save the cost of the book in a very short time.

9. Think up some good conservation ideas of your own, and share them with friends, neighbors and the Chapter.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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FIRST CLASS



Save May 15th
Annual Meeting CNMAS

More Information Later