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# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, Albuquerque, New Mexico -December-January, 1976

## CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

**TUESDAY**      **AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM** at UNM's Popejoy Hall, 7:30 p.m. Charles T. December 9 Hotchkiss will narrate his film "Exploring Big Bend". In contrast to many films which stress the losing battle to protect our wildlife and primitive areas, this film illustrates the gradual natural recovery of an area and its creatures since Big Bend was established as a National Park in 1944 and the area was removed from the ravages of overgrazing. Many members are familiar with the mountains and desert which make up this park in the big bend of the Rio Grande. Everyone should enjoy the views of the park and the Colima Warbler, hummingbirds, bats, javelina and other animals unique to Big Bend. Season tickets for this series are still available by calling Marian Washburn (evenings 266-3078) or Dot DeLollis (299-5384). Individual admissions may be purchased at Popejoy box office on the night of the film.

**THURSDAY**      Please note, this is the 2nd Thursday! Regular meeting of the CENTRAL December 11 **NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY**, 7:30 p.m., in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. Lloyd Barlow, City Planner with the Albuquerque Environmental Planning Commission, will discuss proposed plans for having a green belt around the outside edges of our city and other environmental plans which may affect us all.

### \*CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS\*

**SATURDAY**      Sandia Mountains. Meet at San Antonito School on State Route 14, December 20 north of the turnoff for Sandia Crest, at 6:30 a.m. The Count leader is Ross Teuber (265-8962).

**SUNDAY**      Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, about 100 miles south of December 28 Albuquerque. Meet at the Refuge Headquarters on the west side of the paved road at 7:00 a.m. This should be a historic count -- the first to record a Whooping Crane in New Mexico. Count leader: Chuck Hundertmark (256-1031).

**SATURDAY**      Albuquerque and Corrales. Meet at the west end of the Corrales (Alameda) Bridge over the Rio Grande at 7:00 a.m. Count leader: Alan January 3 Engberg. Dr. Engberg is a pathologist at St. Joseph's Hospital and can be reached there during normal office hours (243-8811, X-132).

**SATURDAY**      Regular January field trip will be a repeat of last winter's popular January 10 expedition in search of hawks and eagles. Meet Field Trip Leader Ross Teuber at Western Skies parking lot at 7:00 a.m. The trip will cover about 200 miles and lead south through the Estancia Valley to Carrizozo, west to the Rio Grande, and north on I-25.

**THURSDAY**      Regular meeting of the **CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY**, 7:30 p.m. January 15 in the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. Zane Dohner will show his movie "Wildlife in the Sandias". Zane is a photographer for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working in the Information Office with Tom Smylie. Zane became very familiar with New Mexico wildlife when he spent much of two summers on horseback in the Pecos Wilderness, working for the Forest Service. His film was shot entirely in the Sandias and depicts all types of animal life -- insects, birds, small mammals, deer and bighorn sheep. It also shows wildflowers, including the rare fairy slipper and various species of cacti.

**MONDAY**      **AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM** at UNM's Popejoy Hall at 7:30 p.m. Another "up-beat" happy film when Karl H. Maslowski presents "A Naturalist Afield". February 2 Here the emphasis is on flora and fauna in the different seasons of the year. Birds accent winter snow scenes; salamanders awaken and flowers emerge in spring; fledglings and mammal young abound in summer; and in the fall the animals prepare for winter.

\*CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY will again conduct three Christmas Counts. This is the 76th year that counts will be carried on all over the continent during the holiday season under the sponsorship of the National Audubon Society. Unlike our regular field trips, there will be a small charge to participants and fees have been changed from other years. All participants will be charged \$1 for each count in which they participate. Participants in the count who are not subscribers to AMERICAN BIRDS but who would like to receive the April, 1976, issue, which will report on all the Christmas counts, may subscribe for that one issue by paying an additional \$3.50 to the County Leader on the morning of the count.

We need as many observers as will volunteer to help with this vital work. It is a service you can contribute to National Audubon, while enjoying a good fellowship (personship?) with other birders. You do not need to be an expert. More eyes see more birds, and other members of the group can make identifications. Show up at the designated time and place, carrying binoculars, lunch, \$1 registration and dressed for cold weather. You do not need to notify anyone in advance if you plan to participate in a Christmas Count. If you do need a ride or can supply transportation for others, please call the leader of that count, or Field Trip Chairman Ross Teuber, before that day.

The count areas are circles, generally in a seven and a half 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 4-5, Elephant Butte and Bosque del Apache NWR, led by Chuck Hundertmark. This was a two-day outing with car camp to survey the damage done by the Bureau of Reclamation and to examine good birding spots in the area. It proved to be an exciting two days for the eight birders, with car breakdowns, New Jersey-sized mosquitoes and a foot race with the Santa Fe Railway on a trestle. But the missions were accomplished. The work of the Bureau of Reclamation was surveyed and -- on the happier side -- a Cormorant rookery with Cormorants, a Prairie Falcon, Great-horned Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Snowy Egret and other species were seen.

October 11, Water Canyon, led by Pat Basham. Fifteen adults and a child saw 37 species of birds, including the Acorn Woodpecker and the Townsend's Warbler.

October 11, Estancia, led by Mary Lou Arthur. In spite of the wrong date being published, 7 birders managed to show up for this field trip. It proved to be too late for Mountain Plover, but the prize sighting was a Chestnut-sided Warbler. About 25 species were seen, including the White-throated Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hermit Thrush, and three species of Hawks. A Ferruginous Hawk had been seen in the area earlier in the week, although not seen on that day.

November 15, Bosque del Apache NWR, led by Ross Teuber. 44 species of birds were seen by 30 people, in perhaps the best-attended field trip in several years. The big draw, of course, was the Whooping Crane whose arrival at the Bosque had been much publicized. Birders were not disappointed, and once seen, there was no doubt that the Whooper was a new and different species. The Sandhill Cranes are almost all gray. The immature Whooping Crane has no gray but is an interesting cinnamon color with large white splotches in its plumage. As winter progresses, the Whooper will become entirely white except for black wing tips and color on the head.

"THE HUMMINGBIRD LADY"

Many Albuquerque birders have enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Esther Clarke and birded on her farm in the South Valley. She was forced to give up her home this summer because of ill health, and moved to Oregon to live with her daughter. If you would like to remember Mrs. Clarke with a Christmas greeting, her address is:

Mrs. E. B. Clarke  
c/o Georgine Barte  
Home Economics Department  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

### NOMINATION TIME AGAIN

Tempus fugits -- and it will soon be time for the Nominating Committee to meet to select nominees for the next chapter year. Darwin Miller has agreed to chair that committee.

The roster of officers and chairmen is distressingly repetitive. The ongoing success of the Chapter would be greatly promoted to have some new names on the list of those who are willing to help. When the committee calls and asks you to take a part in the operation of the Chapter, will you say "yes"? Or, even better, would you walk up to Darwin and say "I'd like to help on the ----- Committee if you need me, or hold an office." (Think how that would surprise him!) It might well be a lot more fun than you think.

### AN APOLOGY

Ye Ed apologizes for the look of the heading on this issue of the "Owl" in that said Owl looks as though he had crawled out of his hole backward. The reason is that a very inexpert stencil-artist (Ed.) tried to draw the heading because we ran out of the specially cut headings.

It is the present plan of the Board to have the Owl printed and mailed by a printer, beginning early next year. This is by no means because we are not satisfied with the excellent Mimeographing job we have been getting from Martha's Letter Shop, but simply that the fact that the mailing list has grown to such proportions that such a procedure is deemed advisable. As soon as we can get our non-profit organization permit, we will be going the other route.

We hope to keep the special talents of Dot DeLollis in compiling and composing the interesting and timely information, as well as the calendar and field trip reports and many of the other goodies which keep us informed of Chapter events.

### HAND YOURSELF A PRIZE

How would you like to have for your own a \$25.00 book -- which you can, as a member of NAS, obtain for \$12.95 -- but which cost you nothing?

The National Office is offering a copy of the AUDUBON ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN BIRDS by Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., edited by Dr. Olin Sewall Pettengill, Jr. This is available FREE -- yes free -- to any member of Audubon who submits three NEW memberships -- be they gift, student, adult, life, whatever category.

These memberships must be accompanied by check(s); the memberships must be routed through the Membership Chairman; and the name and address of the book recipient must be included. Each membership counts as one unit.

A membership in National Audubon makes a wonderful gift for Christmas. Why not make up your list and gift yourself at the same time? Send your three subscriptions, accompanied by a check to Marian Washburn, 504 Princeton SE, #3, 87106 right away. We will forward the subscriptions as fast as they are received.-- in threes, that is. National will not accept them single on the book deal.

### ANYONE FOR A TRIP TO INDIA?

A chance for a tour of India is being offered by the National Office in connection with the Audubon/Wildlife Federation Ecology Workshop Seminar. It is scheduled for February 6-28, 1976, and would be conducted by Audubon experts.

The tour combines the best of Indian wildlife with the rich experience of seeing many other aspects of that country's 5,000 year old culture.

Fliers on the tour are available on request to the president at the next meeting or by calling Dan Washburn any evening at 266-3078.

### EAGLE ROOST

Recently designated as a National Wildlife Refuge were 1123 acres of land along the Missouri River in South Dakota. Tall cottonwood trees beside the bountiful fish supply in the Missouri River attract as many as 300 Bald Eagles each winter ... about 15 per cent of all the eagles still living in the United States outside Alaska.

It is good to know that our national emblem is at last finding a safe place to roost -- somewhere.

What a field trip!

TOXIC SUBSTANCE BILLS

Once again, after previous defeats, the Congress is working on Toxic Substances legislation. The Senate Commerce Committee has been considering S. B. 776, which is a step in the right direction, and which may reach the Senate floor before the end of this year.

Two bills are before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee -- H.R. 7548 and H.R. 7220. The former is stronger and more comprehensive, but it is not expected that the House Committee will act until the spring of 1976.

Meanwhile, the chemical industry relentlessly battles the legislation, particularly objecting to pre-market testing. Although legislation is supported by labor, environmentalists, health and consumer groups and the Administration, pressure from the industry to water down or defeat the bills is intense.

Proponents of strong legislation feel that it should include the following basic elements:

1. Pre-market testing of chemicals is essential. There is absolutely no justification for allowing chemicals on the market that may prove to be hazardous after the damage is done. The Environmental Protection Agency should also gather data on existing chemicals to determine which of them are hazardous and should be removed from the market or stringently restricted.
2. As with pesticides, EPA should have authority to regulate the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of hazardous or potentially harmful substances.
3. EPA should also have sufficient enforcement authority to seize products which violate the law and citizens should be allowed to bring suit to force EPA to enforce the law if it is failing to do so. In line with this, EPA should be empowered to issue strong penalties against violators. All too often, penalties for violations of regulatory acts have not been commensurate with the nature of the offense, but have been mere tokens. Thus stiff penalties are a must.
4. Manufacturers should not be allowed to conceal health and safety information under the guise of "trade secrets".

This is a matter which concerns each of us. Pressure from us -- the people who have only the axe of our own and our children's futures to grind and no giant profits to be made -- is just as effective as that of the manufacturers, if we but use it. A letter to your representatives in Congress urging strong legislation on the above points would help tip the scales in our favor, but we can't just sit by and "let George do it". Here is the ammunition -- shoot it!

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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THE AUDUBON CAUSE

*To promote the conservation of wild-  
life and the natural environment.  
To educate man regarding his relation-  
ship with, and place within, the  
natural environment as an ecological  
system.*

*"The time was never better; the cause  
was never greater."*

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