

BURROWING



OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

June-July, 1976

Calendar for June and July

Saturday & Sunday June 5,6 FIELD TRIP to Burford Lake on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, Chuck Hundertmark trip leader. Meet at 6:00 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE. Burford Lake is particularly noted for its nesting colony of Eared Grebe. Chuck cautions all participants to bring along insect repellent. There is camping at Heron Lake State Park and motels (reservations advised) at Chama. It is not necessary to stay overnight, but it is a 4 to 5-hour drive from Albuquerque.

Thursday June 17 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., in the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE. The speaker will be Frank Bond of Santa Fe, who has taken part in the Peregrine Falcon breeding program, sponsored by Cornell University. An attempt is being made to save this endangered species by breeding the birds in captivity, and this is one of the first such programs with raptors to achieve successful breeding.

Sunday July 11 FIELD TRIP to the Jemez Mountains. Marj and Bob Swain have again invited Central N. M. Audubon and Sangre de Cristo Audubon Societies to their year-round home, Swains Sueno, near La Cueva, for a day of birding. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in front of the old Gulf Mart building, 5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE, or at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of La Cueva picnic area on N.M.-4 in the Jemez, just south of the turnoff for Fenton Lake. Marj will take the combined group on a birdwalk in the morning. Bring a lunch to enjoy on the porch or under the trees of their yard as you watch the numerous species of birds and little animals who visit the Swains for drinking water or a bite of favorite food.

Thursday July 15 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE. Craig Andrews will report on what he learned about Desert Ecology at a short course he attended on May 7-10. This short course was run by the Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology and was held at Aravaipa Canyon, Arizona.

HELP WANTED!

The six CNMAS members who have volunteered to assist visiting birders are being overwhelmed by the number of calls received. Evidently the OPERATION NATURE GUIDE published by the Tahoma Audubon Society, which lists the volunteers, has been widely distributed to traveling birders. If you would be willing to help by taking a visitor on a birdwalk in your favorite birding spot, we would appreciate hearing from you. Phone Dot DeLollis (299-5384), Ross Teuber (265-8962) or Mary Alice Root (266-0561).

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Nineteen people traveled down to Trigo Canyon on March 27th. Many Townsend's Solitaires, a Canyon Wren, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Hermit Thrush were among the approximately 40 species counted.

Nine people went to Bosque del Apache on April 13 and saw 64 species. About 50 American Avocets and some Black-necked Stilts drew the most attention.

Twelve adults and a child spent the weekend of April 24 and 25 in the Carlsbad area. Vermillion Flycatchers were numerous and were seen on nests. Rufous-crowned Sparrows were a new species for most and Pyrrhuloxia a rare treat for many.

Six hardy birders braved unseasonably cold weather to scout Juan Tabo Canyon on May 8. Only about ten species were counted, but these included both Black-chinned and Black-throated Sparrows.

Ten people went to Gran Quivira on May 22nd. They were fascinated by the sight of hundreds of Cedar Waxwings, flying in waves to a water tank to drink in a unique fashion.

Eight intrepid birders braved a rock concert in San Gabriel Park and dodged noisy motorcycles along the ditches to take a Sunday afternoon bird walk on May 23. In spite of all the noise and people, the bird count was good -- Black-headed and Blue Grosbeak were among the song birds and a screech owl was found perched in a cottonwood.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY was held on May 20 at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Mary Lou Arthur was chairman of arrangements for the potluck dinner, assisted by Barbara Hussey, Ethyl Ringer and Dot DeLollis. Tom Hussey and Nick DeLollis set up the tables and chairs. Jim Karo and Dorothy Calvert provided displays. Marian Washburn greeted guests at the door and conducted a drawing for door prizes. Many thanks to these people as well as others who washed dishes, swept floors, put away chairs and tables, etc. The food was delicious and somehow magically came in just the right proportions of main dishes, salads and desserts.

The principal order of business was election of officers for the 1976-77 chapter year.

President:	Craig Andrews
Vice President:	David Lange
Treasurer:	Phyllis Scott
Recording Sec.:	Charlotte Rodriguez
Corresp. Sec.:	Barbara Hussey

This year, for the first time, there was a presentation of the Washburn Award. See below for further details about the award and the recipient.

Martin and Marilyn Ross showed slides of their trip to Thailand last year. They traveled the "scenic route", which, to dedicated birders such as they are, meant via the Fijis and Australia and every possible bird sanctuary. Martin had pictures of many of the birds and of the sanctuaries. (Once when he couldn't find a bird, he showed us a picture of whitewash on a rock where birds had been!) A very enjoyable presentation.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
May 1, 1975 -- April 30, 1976

Brought forward, April 30, 1975	\$1,313.72
Receipts:	+2,264.28
	<u>\$3,578.00</u>
Disbursements	-2,139.84
Balance on hand Apr. 30, 1976	<u>\$1,438.16</u>
In checking account	\$ 248.02
In savings account	1,188.86
In Petty Cash	1.28
	<u>\$1,438.16</u>

WASHBURN AWARD

Many harsh words have been spoken at Audubon meetings over the years against various government agencies for their policies of channelizing rivers, building roads through primitive areas, etc. It was noted at a CNMAS Board meeting recently that not all government officials are "bad guys" -- that some agencies and officials have been concerned about environmental issues. The CNMAS Board decided to establish an award to be presented to a government official who has been actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation and that award would be made at the annual meetings whenever there was a suitable recipient.

The Board also voted to name it the Washburn Award in honor of Dan and Marian Washburn, who have given so much of themselves in service to our chapter. Dan was CNMAS President this year and Marian was membership chairman and newsletter editor. Marian has been publishing the newsletter for several years and during these years Dan has assisted her in folding, stapling, labeling, stamping and mailing. Dan and Marian have also shared the position of treasurer for the chapter for several years. They have recently retired and plan to travel extensively.

Richard W. Rigby, Refuge Manager of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge since 1967, was named as the first recipient of the Washburn Award. He attended the CNMAS annual meeting and was presented an award citation and a print of one of Elliot Porter's beautiful bird photographs, which had been prepared for him by Mr. Porter. Also attending the meeting and award presentation were Marcus Nelson, Refuge Supervisor for Region 2 (Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico), Victor Kay and Paul Steel, all with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mrs. Rigby.

Dick Ribgy set up the tour route at the Bosque to aid the public and to facilitate management of the refuge. He has increased winter forage and thereby doubled the number of cranes and ducks using the refuge and increased the number of geese seven-fold. He waged a long campaign to have grazing cattle removed from refuge land on the east side of the river. With the cattle now gone, the land is restoring itself and

will provide good habitat for upland birds. He has been especially helpful to CNMAS and other environmental groups. He has participated in the CNMAS Christmas Count at the Bosque and provided valuable advice and assistance in CNMAS' efforts to preserve a large rookery of Cormorants and Black-crowned Night Herons.

In an acceptance speech, Rigby stressed the difficult situation of the national wildlife refuges because of federal budget cuts, in spite of the fact that additional lands have been set aside for refuges. Many of these newer areas remain undeveloped and unmanned and established refuges, such as Bitter Lakes near Roswell, are understaffed and underfunded. The National Wildlife Refuge Association is an association of citizens concerned about refuge conditions and Rigby suggested that CNMAS might be of help to that organization. Bosque del Apache receives supplemental funds for its endangered species program and is in better financial condition than many refuges. The main thrust now of the USF&WS is toward saving endangered species and the Bosque is involved with two endangered species -- the Mexican Duck and the Whooping Crane. Rigby announced that there should be more young Whoopers at the Bosque this fall. Sixteen or 17 Whooper eggs have been removed from nests in Canada and just that day were being placed in nests of Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake, Idaho.

MANY THANKS FOR THE HONOR!

The Washburns wish to thank the Chapter and the Board for the signal honor accorded them in naming the annual conservation award after them. It has been an enjoyable year as president of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society and, as always, it is nice to be appreciated! We are grateful for your kind thoughts which will go with us as (hopefully) we journey about this beautiful country of ours. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

MUSEUM SHOW

Sixty-five original prints by John James Audubon are now on display at the Museum of Albuquerque and will be on display through Sunday, June 20. They are on loan from the extensive collection of the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth. The show features 15 engravings of birds and 50 lithographs of North American quadrupeds, all painted in water colors by hand. There are books and other related material (some of it borrowed from the CNMAS library) as well as animal figures. Children visiting the exhibit are encouraged to copy a painting and their art work is also hung in the area. The museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. and on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission.



I said EAT!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Tuck Forsythe, speaker at our April meeting, paraphrased a quote from John Muir, famous American naturalist and author: "When we try to pick out one thing to look at, we find it attached to everything else in the universe."

AMENDMENT TO AXE BAD BREAUX PROPOSAL TO BE OFFERED

An amendment to delete the ruinous Breaux proposal, which seeks to nullify the Army Corps of Engineers' wetlands protection program, will be offered on the floor when H.R. 9560, the package of amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, comes before the House the first week in June. Mail generated by the various ditch-digging interests has been flooding Congress in favor of the Breaux provision (Section 17 of the bill); it is expected that the substitute amendment will be offered by Rep. John D. Dingell (Mich.).

CRUCIAL DECISION NEARS FOR THE 'LOBBYING BILL' FOR TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS;
NOW IS THE TIME -- WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS, URGE THEIR SUPPORT

Revised legislation to clarify and liberalize the rules under which charitable and educational organizations may endeavor to influence legislation without jeopardizing their tax status has been introduced in both the House and Senate. Dr. Stahr, speaking as chairman of the Coalition of Concerned Charities which represents National Audubon and some 70 other organizations, testified in support of the measure at a May 12 hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee.

The new bill, H.R. 13500 (there's no Senate number yet), has taken nearly seven years to reach its present form and has won impressive backing; it has 20 co-sponsors in the House Committee, some strong supporters in the Senate, and the endorsement of the Administration. Up to now, charitable organizations have been hampered by value restrictions and uncertainties on legislative matters. The new bill would spell out the extent to which organizations such as ours can engage in attempts to influence legislation without loss of tax-exempt status. It would set top limits for such expenditures; clearly exempt communications between an organization and its members on legislation; provide guidelines for communications with the executive branch; establish clear rules on so-called "grass-roots lobbying," and all-in-all would give tax-exempt organizations many of the same rights which trade associations already have.

This is the one issue on which we can freely express ourselves to our legislators under present law, and Dr. Stahr appeals to all chapters and members of the Audubon Society to give this bill their highest priority. "For the first time in this long fight we have the Administration supporting us," he said. "We have some strong support in Congress and a united front among charitable organizations. This is the chance we've been waiting for; there's no time to lose. Right now, please wire or telephone your Congressman and Senators and urge them to pass this important bill, H.R. 13500, without delay."

From "The Audubon Leader"

What would this mean to CNMAS?

Ed.'s note: If this bill is passed, it is quite likely that CNMAS would qualify for tax-exempt status. With this status, we could save over 85% on our major expenditure -- postage. This saving could be applied to more beneficial uses -- educational programs and the like. In addition, people might be encouraged to donate to the chapter, since the donation would be tax-deductible. (Howard Hughes, do you have us in one of your wills?)

We urge strongly that you write to your Congressmen, as follows: The Hon. Joseph M. Montoya and The Hon. Pete Domenici, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; The Hon. Manuel Lujan, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20505.

NEW EDITOR TAKES OVER

With this issue of the Burrowing Owl, I am turning over the editorship to Paul Hlava, who has graciously consented to assume the business of composition and editing. The newsletter will be printed instead of mimeographed, thereby adding flexibility to the format.

It has been a happy association for me, and I bespeak for Paul your cooperation and assistance as needed. He will welcome all input from members and friends.

--Marian Washburn

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Post Office Box 30002
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 388
Albuquerque, NM

THE AUDUBON CAUSE

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. Craig G. Andrews
3416 Sierra Drive NE
Albuquerque 87108