

BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

August-September, 1976

**** SPECIAL NOTICE ****

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SEPTEMBER 16th MEETING WILL BE HELD AT ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH AT COPPER AND JEFFERSON. Please use the Copper Street entrance, which will put you right at the meeting.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST and SEPTEMBER, 1976

Thursday August 12 BOARD MEETING at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Phyllis Scott, 806 Sagebrush Court SE, in Four Hills.

Saturday August 14 FIELD TRIP to the Ice Cave on the Continental Divide southwest of Grants; Mary Alice Root, trip leader. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE. This will be a combination birding and sightseeing trip, with an opportunity to visit the cave where perpetual ice has existed since prehistoric times. Birding in the area should be productive, as many species have been reported. Since this is privately owned land and the cave is maintained by the owner, the \$1.50 admission fee will be charged for each person on the field trip, whether or not the cave is visited. Bring lunch so you will have plenty of time to bird in this new area.

Thursday August 19 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE. The program will be the film "RIO GRANDE", prepared by the New Mexico Bicentennial Commission as its major project. It is an endeavor to show some of our state's more interesting features by following the course of the Rio Grande from the northern mountains to the southern farmlands of the Mesilla Valley. Along the way the film makers stopped to view some of the communities and to meet people of different cultures.

Saturday August 28 FIELD TRIP to the Oxbow, on the west side of the Rio Grande; Dave Lange, trip leader. Meet in the parking lot of the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building at 6:44-1/2 a.m.

Thursday Sept. 9 BOARD MEETING at 7:30 p.m. Board members will be notified of the meeting place. Interested members of the Chapter are always welcome at Board meetings.

Saturday Sept. 11 FIELD TRIP to La Madeira Canyon on the east slope of the Sandia Mountains; Darwin Miller, trip leader. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Skies Motel at 7:00 a.m.

Thursday Sept. 16 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at ST. TIMOTHY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Copper and Jefferson NE, at 7:30 P.M. The program will be a panel discussion of the proposed nuclear waste disposal in the salt beds in the Carlsbad, New Mexico area.

Speaking on behalf of the project will be Dr. Wendell Weart (Project Manager) from Sandia Laboratories. Speaking against the project will be Dr. Charles Hyder of the UNM Physics and Astronomy Department. Both speakers are well informed on this subject, so this should prove to be a very informative session. A question-and-answer period will follow panel discussion.

Friday October 1 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES -- First Show. Popejoy Hall, 7:30 a.m. Al Wool will narrate his film "THE COASTLINE OF CALIFORNIA". See below for ticket information.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

You will soon be receiving a schedule of the new films arranged for the 1976-77 season of the Audubon Wildlife Film Series. Subscription for five tickets (which may be used for several admissions to one show or one admission to each show) should be purchased through the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY if possible. Marian Washburn and Mary Alice Root will have subscription tickets at Chapter meetings. Audubon receives a percentage of the purchase price for all tickets purchased through our Chapter. Tickets may be purchased at Popejoy Hall at any time but we receive no benefits from tickets sold at the box office. Prices are \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for senior citizens and students.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On June 5th and 6th eight members birded in the Burford Lake area on a field trip led by Chuck Hundertmark. Around 200 Eared Grebes and the beginnings of three floating nests were seen on the waters of the lake. The nest of a Pied-billed Grebe was found attached to the weeds near the shore. There were also Western Grebe, Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, gulls, cormorants and various ducks. Many Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen in the nearby marsh.

On July 11th, 35 Audubon members and guests from Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Los Alamos gathered at the home of Marj and Bob Swain in the Jemez Mountains. Marj led the group on a morning bird walk, but the high spot of the day was, as always, eating a picnic lunch under the pines next to their home. The feathered and furry creatures in that area have learned to ignore people and flutter and move about as though they were alone in the wilds. The Swains keep hummingbird, suet and seed feeders filled, as well as a bird bath, and the birds and squirrels were all around. Birders who kept count saw over 30 species and most of these were at the Swains'.

COCHITI DAM

The July issue of AUDUBON starts off "The Audubon Cause" section with an article entitled "Cochiti: The Dam that Got Away". See Page 121.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Maurice Mackey is the new Program Chairman for CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON. If you have any suggestions for a prospective speaker or program you would like for a meeting, speak to him at a meeting or phone him at 344-1331. He would appreciate hearing from you.

WE ALWAYS WONDERED!

Add to your fund of nature lore, from Dr. Gareth Hardin, Kansas State convocation speaker, the probability that male songbirds don't sing for love but to warn other have-not males to stay out of their territory.

Romance enters only because the female has no interest in males without real estate, explains the lecturing biologist from the University of California.

What the tough proprietor is twittering, Dr. Hardin translates is, "If you can hear me, you're too damned close." (So now you know!)

From "THE AUDUBON LEADER", July 14, 1976

SIGNIFICANT GAINS AT WORLD WHALING MEETING

Significant gains were made at the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting last month in London, and it was widely acknowledged that the conservationists' boycott had helped to bring them about. Although it was a stormy session, in the end the IWC Scientific Committee's quota recommendations were adopted in their entirety. Sperm whale quotas for the Antarctic were more than halved and were substantially reduced in the other areas, and there were other reductions and tightening of restrictions. In total tonnage, the new quotas will allow only about half the amount of whaling that was allowed in 1973.

But another hurdle remains. The member nations have 90 days to decide whether they will object or abide by the new quotas. Russia and Japan between them take nine-tenths of the world's whale crop, and they could still, if they chose to, defy the world opinion and ignore the quotas.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES SCHEDULE

Friday, October 1, 7:30	THE COASTLINE OF CALIFORNIA	Al Wool
Tuesday, November 16, 7:30	THE HIDDEN WORLD of the BIG CYPRESS SWAMP	Richard Kern
Wednesday, January 5, 7:30	PAPUA, NEW GUINEA -- TWILIGHT of EDEN	Greg & Linda McMillan
Tuesday, March 8, 7:30	THE VANISHING EDEN	Stefan Kling
Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.	DEATH VALLEY - LAND OF CONTRAST	Kent Durden

HORSEFEATHERS

(Or, Chirpings from the Kingbird)

By now everyone who has been into the woods or mountains this summer is tiring of seeing birds in various stages of immaturity, and hence impossible to identify. Take heart dear friends! Summer is going fast; the Rufous Hummingbirds (those truculent bullies) are already back and in a short time all the birds will be on the way south again, except those of us who plan to overwinter in the Rio Grande Valley.

Soon, even we'll be coasting down to the Bosque del A. to see the new generation of Whooping Cranes, which I've been informed is eating everything in sight at Gray's Lake, Idaho. They'll be accompanying their big brethren and sistren on the jaunt down to New Mexico, starting in a couple of months.

Also, come Fall, the Audubon Wildlife Films will be returning to Popejoy Hall. Lest we forget, the Central New Mexico Audubon Society is a co-sponsor of those films and bears responsibility for assuring the success of the Committee, which does all the work in staging the films. Representing the CNMAS on the Committee are Dan and Marian Washburn, Dot DeLollis and Mary Alice Root. The Audubon Wildlife Film Series, Inc. (official title) still owes a debt to the National Audubon Society, incurred in previous years. Unless the advance ticket sales provide sufficient income this year to retire the debt, the CNMAS will be obliged to assume its share of that debt. So -- buy your season ticket now, from our representatives on the Committee. A purchase through Popejoy Hall returns not one red cent to the Committee or to CNMAS. Remember, contact Dan, Marian, Dot or Mary Alice, by phone or at the meetings.

-- Craig G. Andrews

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NEWS

Thirty-seven acres of cattail-tule marsh and woodland comprise the area known as "The Oxbow". It was home to beaver, muskrats, ducks, herons, fish, frogs and many other birds and animals. On June 30th the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) cut the flow of water to the Corrales drain from which the Oxbow obtains its water. The Corrales drain was dried up to allow heavy equipment into the area to clean out and dredge the drain, which has provided inadequate drainage for a number of years. As a result, of the loss of water to the Oxbow, hundreds of fish and crayfish and some ducks and muskrats have died.

On the 4th of July, the dry marsh was discovered by members of the Sierra Club. A few days later a pump was installed in an effort to keep the marsh wet. The pumping of water from the Rio Grande will continue until the water supply can be restored from the Corrales Drain, which should be about the end of August. It will take six months to a year for the Oxbow to recover. The damage to the marsh and its wildlife could have been prevented if the MRGCD had notified the land-owners of the Oxbow (the Sierra Club Foundation, Albuquerque Public Schools and the University of Albuquerque) ahead of time so that they could take steps to keep an adequate supply of water in the marsh.

-- Dave Lange

*E*D*I*T*O*R*I*A*L*

In the past few months there have several instances where people have brought nests, feathers and dead birds for members to peruse. I would like to remind the members of CNMAS that possession of such materials is a serious offense, punishable by fine and/or imprisonment unless the person has a valid personal or institutional permit to possess such items.

We are planning to have a speaker from the Law Enforcement Branch of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service speak to us about this entire subject this Fall. In the meantime, I understand that Dave Lange is applying for an institutional permit with which he hopes to maintain an educational collection for CNMAS. Until such time as he receives this permit, remember that IT IS ILLEGAL TO POSSESS the feathers, eggs, nests and/or dead bodies of migratory song birds.

-- Your Nasty Ol' Editor, Paul Hlava

HELP WANTED

DESPERATELY NEEDED! The Chapter is in dire need of a volunteer Field Trip Chairman for this year. Ornithological know-how not necessary; ability to organize trips and assign leaders desirable. For further information, contact Craig Andrews, President, and discuss with him what the responsibilities would be. It might be right up your alley!



"Good heavens! He's treed the entire Central New Mexico Audubon Society!"

OFFICERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

President:	Craig G. Andrews, 3416 Sierra Drive NE, 87110	881-9387
Vice Pres.:	David E. Lange, 1800 Vassar Drive NE, 87106	266-4420
Treasurer:	Mrs. Phyllis Scott, 806 Sagebrush Court SE, 87123	292-3409
Corr. Sec.:	Mrs. Barbara Hussey, 2068-B Mercury Drive SE, 87118	268-6547
Rec. Secy.:	Ms. Charlotte Rodriguez, 2717 Palomas Drive NE, 87110	881-7909
Program Chmn.:	Maurice Mackey, 510 Niagara Avenue NE, 87113	<u>344-1331</u>
Mbrshp. Chmn.:	Mrs. Marian Washburn, 504 Princeton Drive SE, 87106	266-3078
Educ. Chmn.:	Charles Hundertmark, 626 Dartmouth Drive NE, 87106	266-1031
"Owl" Editor:	Paul Hlava, 4904 Burton Avenue SE, 87108	265-4178
Librarian:	Mrs. Mary Alice Root, 1108 Columbia Drive NE, 87106	266-0561
Other Contact:	Mrs. Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Drive NE, 87111	<u>264-6470</u>

Field Trip: Coraugler Ward 6741 Edgewood Dr. NW

Directors: Tom Warden

264-6470
344-0227

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
Post Office Box 30002
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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.

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

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