

BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

December 1976-January, 1977

**** SPECIAL NOTICE ****

The winter meetings of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY will be held at the First Unitarian Church on the southwest corner of Carlisle and Comanche NE. Use the parking lot off Comanche, just west of Carlisle. The meeting will be in the main church auditorium.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Chaco Canyon National Monument, Darwin Miller trip leader.
December 4 Chaco Canyon is the site of the Pueblo Bonito ruins and also contains the remains of the earlier pit homes of the Basketmakers, ancestors of the Pueblo Indians. It is located 167 miles northwest of Albuquerque, with the final 26 miles over dirt roads which are rough but can be driven by passenger car. Camping facilities are available, but no motels close by. Meet at the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale, NE at 6:00 a.m. or phone Darwin (265-6361) before the 4th.

Saturday & Field trips and a meeting in Socorro in connection with the formation of a
Sunday New Mexico Council of Audubon Societies. Delegates will be present from
Dec. 11/12 CNMAS as well as from societies in Silver City, Roswell, Santa Fe and Los Alamos, and a student group from Las Cruces. All Audubon members are welcome to participate. See further details in this newsletter.

Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at the First Uni-
December 16 tarian Church, Carlisle and Comanche NE at 7:30. Dr. David Ligon, ornithologist at the University of New Mexico, will show slides of birds and animals of Africa and tell about his experiences there. Dr. Ligon was on sabbatical last year and spent much of that time in Africa.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - more information on next page.

Saturday Sandia Mountains. Meet at San Antonito School on N.M. Route 14, north of
December 18 the turnoff for Sandia Crest, at 6:30 a.m. The count leader is Ross Teuber (home phone 265-8962, office phone 766-2403).

Sunday Albuquerque and Corrales. Meet at the west end of the Corrales (Alameda)
December 19 Bridge over the Rio Grande at 7:30 a.m. Count leader is Jim Karo (phone 294-2777).

Saturday NO BIRD COUNT TODAY, but it is suggested that all birdwatchers keep a close
December 25 eye peeled to the north, close to the horizon, about dusk of the evening before. It is possible that flying objects might be observed at this time.
Meantime, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR from the officers and Board of the CNMAS to members, and all interested readers of the "Burrowing Owl".

Sunday Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the UNM Physics and
January 2 Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE, at 6:00 a.m. or at the Refuge Headquarters south of San Antonio at 8:00 a.m. Count leader is Chuck Hundertmark (phone 266-1031).

Wednesday AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at Popejoy Hall at 7:30 p.m. Greg and Linda McMillan
January 5 will present their film "Papua, New Guinea: Twilight of Eden", which examines the agricultural and social life of man and also the tropical jungle wildlife in this unfamiliar and wild land of Papua, New Guinea. Dan and Marian Washburn will have tickets at the December meeting.

Saturday FIELD TRIP, the annual Hawk caravan, led by Ross Teuber (Phone 265-8962).
January 8 Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Western Skies parking lot. 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. Bald and Golden Eagles, as well as numerous hawks and other birds, have been seen by the caravan in previous years. Participating drivers on this and other trips along state highways are cautioned to pull cars well off the road before stopping to view a bird.

Thursday BOARD MEETING at 7:30 p.m. Meeting place will be announced.
January 13

Saturday
January 15

FIELD TRIP on snowshoes in the Sandias. Snowshoes may be rented for the occasion. Phone leader Dave Lange (266-4420 in the evenings or 277-3842 during the day) for further details.

Thursday
January 20

REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at the First Unitarian Church, Carlisle and Comanche NE, at 7:30 p.m. Program to be announced at the December meeting.

Sunday
January 23

Building.

FIELD TRIP to Petroglyph State Park, near Volcano Cliffs on the West Mesa. This is a good area to see Hawks and Brown Towhees. Ethyl Ringer and Bob Jost will be co-leaders. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the UNM Physics & Astronomy

Saturday
February 12

FIELD TRIP by bus to Bosque del Apache to see the Whooping Cranes. Fare will be about \$5 per person, depending on number signing up. Please call Mary Lou Arthur (256-7359) for reservations as early as possible.

TEXAS, ANYONE?

Several members have indicated an interest in a trip to the Brownsville, Texas area between Christmas and New Year's Day. Details will be available at the December meeting or call Jim Karo at 294-2777.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

One of the most important things that you, personally, can do for the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY is to participate in one or more of the Christmas bird counts. A census is taken of North American birds during 16 days of the holiday season. This will be the 77th consecutive year of such work and the data accumulated is increasingly more significant and more useful to ornithologists, environmentalists, etc.

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY is committed to National to conduct three bird counts in different areas. Because of the fact that Christmas falls on a Saturday this year and therefore makes it impractical to schedule a count on that weekend, two counts must be conducted on the last day of the count period when many of the usual participants will be away. We need the help of every Audubon member who can participate in any one of these counts. Even if you are not a member of Audubon, we can use your help; you don't need to be an expert birdwatcher/ornithologist, either.

Each count lasts for at least eight hours. If you cannot participate for a whole day, it would be helpful if you could report at the scheduled time and participate for a few hours at least. You do not need to be an expert birdwatcher. More eyes see more birds, and other members of the group can make identifications. Dress for cold weather and bring your binoculars, lunch and \$1 registration fee. Counts are not cancelled if the weather is bad. If no one but the leader shows up, the count still must proceed as scheduled. But the counts are good fun if many participate. Do your bit and feel proud!

Our usual field trips are free. The \$1 registration fee for each participant in each Christmas count is used to defer the expense for National Audubon in compiling and analyzing all of the data and publishing the result of the North American counts in "American Birds". No orders will be taken locally for the Christmas County publication this year. You may subscribe to "American Birds" by writing directly to National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022. The subscription cost is \$8 per year for all six issues, or \$4.50 for only the Christmas Count issue published in July.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

October 9th, 13 people went to Shady Lakes and the Alameda Bosque. 33 species of birds; the Pectoral and Least Sandpipers among the more interesting species.

October 16th, 12 people went to Bosque del Apache. 50 species; Dowitcher, Mexican Duck and Lesser Nighthawk.

October 23rd, 7 people waited out a rainy cold early morning at Juan Tabo and found a good count. 30 species; Crissal Thrasher and Black-chinned Sparrow.

October 27th, five people turned out in freezing temperatures and 40 mph winds in Juan Tabo Canyon for the first weekday field trip. 9 species; Townsend Solitaire, Bushtit and Brown Towhee.

October 30th, 12 people found pleasant weather but muddy footing at Manzano Lake. 30 species; Sora and Virginia Rail.

November 6th, 19 people had lovely weather and dry footing at Coronado Monument and Corrales. 30 species; Whooping Crane, White Pelican, Curve-billed Thrasher and Lewis Woodpecker.

November 13th, eight people braved a cold, snowy day at Bosque del Apache. 51 species; Whooping Crane and Eastern Phoebe.

Field Trip Reports, continued

November 19th, nine people at Shady Lakes for the second weekday field trip. 25 species; Cooper's Hawk, Brown Creeper and Long-billed Marsh Wren.
November 20th, 10 people at San Gabriel State Park. Good count; Common Snipe and Merganser.

The November 6th field trip was notable for several reasons. Mary Grant of the Albuquerque Journal, asked to accompany the group. She took pictures and noted much of the conversation, her feature article about the field trip appearing in the morning paper on November 20th. Mrs. Grant had already left, however, when the big event occurred. The sky had been dotted all morning by Sandhill Cranes as flock after flock was migrating southward following the Rio Grande. The birders were ready to return home when a Whooping Crane chick was spotted among the Sandhills overhead. All had a good opportunity to observe the black-tipped white wings which distinguished the Whooper. Ross Teuber phoned Bosque del Apache NWR to alert the refuge managers. He reported later that the chick arrived safely at the Bosque just five hours after the Audubon sighting. (There is something rather incongruous about calling a bird a "chick" when the birdie is almost as tall as the birder!)

MEETING PLACE

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY will no longer be able to meet at the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building and we are seeking a permanent meeting place elsewhere. St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is available only during spring and summer months unless we change our regular meeting night. The First Unitarian Church would be available throughout the year but there is no way to darken the auditorium to show slides and films when it is still daylight outside. If you have a suggestion for a permanent meeting place, please contact CNMAS president Craig Andrews (266-6616 days, 881-9387 evenings).

DEDE ARMENTROUT APPOINTED SOUTHWEST REGIONAL REP

Dr. Dede Armentrout has been appointed Southwest Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society. She has been on the job since July 1, serving up to now as temporary Regional Rep, filling in for John Franson who was, and still is, on disability leave. Armentrout is a biologist who took her Ph.D. at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, and holds a B.S. in education from Southwest Texas State University, in San Marcos. Before joining the Audubon Staff she served as an assistant professor of biology at Howard Payne University, in Brownwood, Tex. She will be holding her first Southwest Regional Conference December 3-5 at the Holiday Inn, San Marcos (near Austin, Tex.).

Her office is in Brownwood. The mail address is Post Office Box 416, Brownwood, Tex., 76801; telephone number, (915 752-7331).

We welcome Dr. Armentrout to the Southwest and look forward to meeting her in the near future.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

(Almost all the time) ((Ain't it the truth! Ed.))

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society can be said to be entering a new phase of its existence, starting in December. Since inception five years ago (or was it six?) our meetings have been held at the Physics and Astronomy Building on the UNM campus. Now that our "inside man", Mary Alice Root is moving to a different job on the campus, we have determined that it is time for the CNMAS to seek new (and larger) quarters. We all remember the number of times we've filled the classroom at the P&A Building, with interested visitors and members standing in the hall. We are moving to meet the challenge. New location temporarily at the Unitarian Church, Carlisle and Comanche NE. Same night, same time.

Before we depart, though, let us recall the time of our growth as a Society and express thanks to the P&A Department for its kindness in making the room available to us. And further, let us not forget the hard-working and tireless member who made it all possible. Our gratitude to you, Mary Alice.

The new meeting spot has been secured through the good offices of Dot DeLollis. We hope to continue meeting at the Unitarian Church for the next four or five months. When Spring comes, the sun goes down very late (due to Daylight Saving Time - we'll blame the Republicans for that) and the glass-walled meeting hall at the Unitarian Church remains too light to show slides or movies. We'll keep seeking a thoroughly suitable place to meet.

The president continues to speak:

A current activity which may be important is the pending meeting, on December 11, in Socorro, to explore the possibility of forming an Audubon Council for New Mexico. An Audubon Council provides a means of communication and cooperation between Audubon chapters within a state and can serve a useful purpose. Instigator of this effort is Bob Turner, NAS Regional Representative for the Rocky Mountain Region, who will show up with a National Director of the Audubon Society, two Regional Representatives and Assistants and a Director of Audubon's Western Environmental Science Program. The meeting is open to all Audubon members and since Albuquerque is closest to Socorro, we should try to be well represented. Several field trips to Bosque del Apache Refuge, guided by our own Pat Basham, are scheduled during the weekend. We certainly can't neglect our good friends the Whooping Cranes! See elsewhere in this issue of the B.O.* for full particulars of the meeting.

*For the benefit of all members (and officers!) of CNMAS, the official name of the journal is the "Burrowing Owl" which may be shortened to the "Owl". I personally find the nickname of "B.O." offensive. (P.F.H., Ed.)

O.K., Craig -- here's the "elsewhere in this issue" --

As many of you already know, a plan is afoot to form a New Mexico Audubon Council to enhance communications and foster closer ties between the Audubon chapters (present and future) in the state. A meeting has been arranged for the 11th and 12th of December in Socorro where the interested parties will organize themselves and discuss the feasibility of such a venture, aided by the expertise and well wishes of a lot of regional Audubon brass.

Convening of the business part of this meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 11, 1976 in the hospitality room of the First State Bank, 103 Manzanaras Avenue NE, Socorro. Present plans are to end the meeting when "it feels right" and if more time is required, the meeting will reconvene the next morning at the same location.

A large part of the success of any meeting such as this is the personal, one-to-one, contact made between people from different chapters. To encourage these contacts there are plans to have trips to the Bosque del Apache NWR Saturday morning and Sunday after any meetings that might be scheduled. Also, people are encouraged to dine together before the meeting.

All interested members are invited to attend. Craig Andrews, who has spearheaded this council, is the man to contact for more details. For his address and phone number(s) consult the list of officers elsewhere in this issue.

NEWS OF THE OXBOW

The peace and tranquility at the Oxbow was again broken last month by the braying of voracious bulldozers. The MRGCD (Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District) started construction of the Corrales-Arenal drain intertie. As of now, the MRGCD has cleared a path from the freeway bridge north to the southern part of the Oxbow. The path has been widened to 75 feet just north of the freeway for a distance of 1500 feet, nearly destroying a Russian-olive woodland. One of the worst fears expressed by groups in opposition to the intertie (opening up the area to vehicular activity) came true, as dirt-bike tracks were found in the cleared areas. It is hoped that the Corps of Engineers will be able to stop the construction through the use of the 404 Wetlands Act. The MRGCD has to cross several wetland areas to complete the project and they have not obtained permission from the Corps of Engineers for the work in the wetlands.

The October-November, 1976 issue of "National Wildlife" has an article in their Action column on two people, Allen Templeton and Rex Funk (CNMAS member), who have been active in the fight to save the Oxbow. You can read all about "New Mexico's Cattail Commandos" and their fight on page 16 of that issue.

ITEM OF INTEREST

Of interest to all Audubon chapters is the signing into law by the President on October 4, 1976, of the Conable Bill ("our" lobbying bill) as part of the Tax Reform Act. National Audubon Society has promised to provide to the local chapters as soon as possible an explanation as to how the new law affects our operations. We have been collectively warned not to go overboard on January 2, 1977 and create an unfavorable backlash in Congress. More on this issue will be published in future editions of the "Burrowing Owl".

QUOTE...UNQUOTE

"Simple-minded people will sometimes tell you that because extinction is natural, we ought not bother about the whooping crane. 'Why should we be concerned with endangered species,' you'll hear, 'when most of the species that ever lived are extinct.' There is of course no similarity between the obsolescence that accompanies long-term evolutionary competition or environmental change, and the dismal kinds of extinction perpetrated by modern man."

-- Archie Carr, in "OUR CONTINENT" a
National Geographic Society book

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS --

Since we last welcomed new members, the following have joined our ranks:

- Randolph V. Bock, 5320 Granite NE, 87110
Modesta Comeford, 3109 Central NE, 87106
Marion Deming, 720 Truman NE, #3, 87110
Cristina Dudak, 2003 Los Luceros NW, 87104
Ingrid Fuller, 4516 Zuni Rd. SE, #C, 87108
Ulton G. Hodgin, 3033 San Juanin SE 87106
Louise A. Linkin, 3000 Aztec Rd. NE, Sp. 261, 87107
Charles W. Martin, Carbon Coal Co.
3620 Wyoming NE, 87111
Mrs. Shirley McCall, 11401 Brussels NE, 87111
Floyd A. Nudi, 4108 Tracy NE, 87111
David Sanders, 3425 Smith SE, Apt. 6, 87106
Roger Simms, 912 Madison NE, 87106
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore H. Turner, 2720 Alcazar NE, 87110
Terry Lamm, PO Box 834, Corrales 87048
Col. & Mrs. Hugh Winter, PO Box 14812, 87111
Miss Jacquylynn G. Gallegos, Santa Ana Pueblo, Bernalillo 87004
Steven Hill, 7113 Springfield NE, 87109
Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Kinney, 3006 Vista Grande NW, 87120
T. R. Lyons, 2809 Kathryn SE, 87106
Kristina Sayen, 3832 Montgomery NE, #531, 87109
Rona Bauman, 2735 Kathryn SE 87106
John S. Dittmeier, 6200 Indian School Rd. NE, Box 309 87110
Cynthia G. Johnson, 1717 Anderson Place SE, 87108
Tad Lane, PO Box 267, Tijeras 87059
G. Thomas Manthey, 3815 Thaxton SE, 87108
Willy Nelson, 1709 Del Norte SW 87105
M. Varon, 1100 Alvarado SE 87108
George H. Whitehill, 2033 Lakeview SW
Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Whittington, 25836 Bradshaw Ave., Kirtland AFB, 87116



SEASON'S GREETINGS

OFFICERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

President:	Craig G. Andrews, 3416 Sierra Drive NE, 87110	881-9387 (Home) 266-6616 (Ofc.)
Vice President:	David E. Lange, 1800 Vassar Drive NE, 87106	266-4420
Treasurer:	Mrs. Phyllis Scott, 806 Sagebrush Court SE, 87123	292-3409
Corresp. Secy.:	Mrs. Barbara Hussey, 2068-B Mercury Drive SE, 87118	268-6547
Recording Secy.:	Ms. Charlotte Rodriguez, 2717 Palomas Dr. NE 87110	881-7909
Program Chairman:	Maurice Mackey, 510 Niagara Avenue NE, 87113	344-1331
Membership Chmn.:	Mrs. Marian Washburn, 504 Princeton Drive SE, 87106	266-3078
Education Chmn.:	Charles Hundertmark, 626 Dartmouth Drive NE, 87106	266-1031
"Owl" Editor:	Paul Hlava, 4904 Burton Avenue SE, 87108	265-4178
	(Mrs. Mary Alice Root, 1108 Columbia Dr. NE 87106	266-0561
Field Trip	(
	(Granger Ward, 6141 Edgewood Dr. NW 87107	242-0340
Co-Chairmen	(
	(Mrs. Mary Lou Arthur, 728 Monroe NE, 87110	256-7359
Historian:	Mrs. Celia Mizel, 204 Madison NE, 87108	268-0376
Librarian:	Mrs. Shirley McCall, 11401 Brussels Ave. NE, 87111	293-4714
Other Contact:	Mrs. Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Drive NE, 87111	299-5384



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To promote the conservation of wild-
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 ship with, and place within, the
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 system.

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

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