

BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

June-July, 1977

CALENDAR FOR JUNE AND JULY

NOTE

NOTE

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All regular meetings of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society will now be held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE. Use the Copper Street entrance.

The Chapter is indebted to Dot DeLollis for obtaining the use of the First Unitarian Church as a meeting place for these past five months. Long evenings and large windows combine to make that location impractical for our type of programs during the summer; otherwise we might have continued to meet there.

Saturday June 4 FIELD TRIP to Rancho de Las Golondrinas (Ranch of the Swallows) at La Cienega, just south of Santa Fe. Meet in the parking lot of Camp Town, 5204 San Mateo NE (across from Rowlands Nursery) about 5:30 a.m., ready to leave promptly at 6:00. Leaders: Dan and Marian Washburn (266-3078) There will be early birding and then a tour of the Rancho. The Museum will not be in full operation as it is during fiestas, but there will not be the crowds, either. There will be a tour guide. Bring lunch; there are picnic areas and we may want to continue birding after the tour. Admission to the Ranch is \$1.00 per person.

Tuesday June 7 BOARD MEETING at 7:30 p.m., home of Dave Lange, 1800 Vassar NE, Apt. B. Please note that this is a Tuesday instead of the usual Thursday meeting.

Saturday June 11 FIELD TRIP to Water Canyon in the Magdalenas west of Socorro. Meet at the Vagabond Motel in the northern section of Socorro's main street at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Pat Basham (1-835-2432). Red-faced Warbler, Bridled Titmouse and Acorn Woodpecker all nest in Water Canyon. Anyone desiring to camp may stay at the Forest Service campground Saturday night and visit Sawmill Canyon or other areas on Sunday morning. It is suggested that you bring your own water.

Thursday June 16 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE, at 7:30 p.m. Speaker will be Don Sparks of the Albuquerque office of the U. S. Bureau of Land Management, who will discuss ecological effects of grazing along the Rio Puerco.

Saturday June 18 FIELD TRIP to Swain's Sueno at La Cueva in the Jemez Mountains. Meet at Goodwill Industries, 5000 San Mateo NE (old Gulfmart) at 7:00 a.m., or at the La Cueva parking area on NM-4, just south of the turnoff for Fenton Lake at 8:45 a.m. Marge and Bob Swain have again invited us to their year-round home in the ponderosa. Lazy folks can bird from the Swains' front porch while more athletic types go on a morning bird walk with Marge, an excellent and knowledgeable birder. Bring a sack lunch, as a highlight of the day is picnicking under the pines as the numerous varieties of birds lunch around you at the many feeders.

After lunch at the Swains', those wishing to camp overnight will proceed to Bandelier National Monument for birding Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Rendezvous at the Bandelier Visitor Center on Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. to bird the area. Beside the Indian ruins, we may see Water Ouzels, Lazuli Bunting, Rock Wren, etc. Phone Mary Lou Arthur (256-7359) if you need further information.

Saturday June 25 FIELD TRIP to Embudito Canyon in the Sandia foothills. Leader: Gary Parker (296-4754). Meet at the stile at the north end of Glenwood Hills Drive at 7:30 a.m. Gary knows the area well and hopes to find Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Crissal Thrashers and more.

Also on Saturday June 25 The Wildflower Society invites CNMAS members to join them on a trek up Mt. Wheeler, near Taos. Call Phyllis Scott (292-3409) for further details.

Saturday July 9 FIELD TRIP to Candelaria Meadows near the Rio Grande. Meet at the west end of Candelaria Road NW at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Craig Andrews (881-9387). This north valley area is being preserved in its natural state through the efforts of Mayor Kinney and the N.M. Department of Recreation.

- Tuesday BOARD MEETING at 7:30 p.m., home of Dave Lange, 1800 Vassar NE, Apt. B. Note the
July 12 change from the usual Thursday meeting.
- Saturday FIELD TRIP to Pecos Wilderness Area, almost. Meet at the UNM Physics & Astronomy
July 16 Building, Lomas and Yale NE, at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Mary Alice Root (266-0562).
Bring your own camping supplies, food and water. We will drive to the Teisher
cabin north of Pecos. The cabin has room on the floor for lots of sleeping bags and room
outside for tents.
- Sunday FIELD TRIP to Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the old
July 17 roundhouse on US-85 on the west side of Las Vegas. Leader: Dr. Walton Hank
(1-425-8458) who is an outstanding birder and who knows the Las Vegas area well.
- Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at St. Timothy's
July 21 Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE, at 7:30 p.m. Speaker will be Gerry
Zimmerman, a solar engineer with ERDA, who will talk about solar energy.
- Saturday FIELD TRIP to Tunnel Springs near Placitas. Meet at Goodwill Industries, 5000
July 23 San Mateo NE at 7:00 a.m. Leader: Dot DeLollis (299-5384). There was once a
fish hatchery at Tunnel Springs and there is generally enough water to bring in
a good variety of birds.
- Saturday FIELD TRIP to Juan Tabo Canyon. Meet at 7:00 a.m. near the cattle guard on the
July 30 road to the Juan Tabo picnic area just after turning off Tramway Boulevard.
Leader: Hart Schwarz (266-3225). Blue-throated Gray Warbler, Grace's Warbler,
Warbling and Solitary Vireos and Rufous Hummingbird.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

- April 3rd, Tingley Beach bike trip. 7 persons braved a snowstorm to walk, not bike, along the river.
- April 9th, Hondo Canyon. 10 persons saw 17 species, including a pair of Canyon Wrens building a nest.
- April 16th, Capulin Springs. 15 people saw two types of Sapsuckers, 3 types of Woodpeckers and a few early Warblers.
- April 22-23, Roswell/Prairie Chicken trip. 13 people had a fantastic weekend that not only included the Prairie Chicken, but also the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Cassin's Sparrow, Marbled Godwits, Peregrine Falcon, White-faced Ibis and 79 other species.
- April 30th, Manzano Poorwill trip. 20 people turned out to picnic and look for Poorwills. The Poorwills were not plentiful but everyone saw at least one. After dark both Poorwills and Whip-poor-wills were heard.
- May 7th, Silver City Spring Count. Quite a few CNMAS members participated in this count and 140 species were tallied.
- May 7th, Owl walk in Cienega Canyon. A Flammulated Owl showed himself to four people.
- May 15th, Espanola Spring Bird Count. 10 CNMAS members participated in this count and 121 species were tallied.
- May 21st, Sandia Crest loop. 8 people saw about 35 species, mostly at Capulin Springs.

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

CNMAS's most distant active member is Pat Basham, who has lived on a farm in Socorro for the past three years. Birds are attracted to irrigated farm land and Pat has encouraged them even more with feeders, the planting of fruiting shrubs and trees and the draping of nesting materials over one small tree where birds can shop for just the right pieces to complete their nests. Pat has been rewarded with a yard count of about 140 species so far and numerous birds nesting on the property.

One pair of House Sparrows took over an abandoned Barn Swallow nest under the house eaves, very close to that small tree. When renovating the old nest, Mrs. Sparrow was apparently overcome by Pat's largesse. Like many homes in the area, the nest was a simple little adobe. It is now three times as large -- a great ball of excelsior packing material, clumps of cotton batting, hanging streamers and tassels. But it really is in poor taste -- terribly overdone!

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY was held on May 19th at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Alice Andrews was chairman of arrangements for the potluck dinner, assisted by husband Craig, Marian and Dan Washburn, Dot DeLollis, Celia Mizel and others. Pat Basham exhibited some of her beautiful bird paintings and contributed one painting as a door prize. Many thanks to all these people as well as others who set up and took down tables and chairs, washed dishes and helped in many ways.

The annual Washburn Award was made and election of officers took place. These new officers are listed on the back page of the BURROWING OWL.

WASHBURN AWARD

Chuck Hundertmark, chairman of the Washburn Award committee, announced at the annual meeting that the second winner of the award to a government official actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation was again a member of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge staff, Gary Zahm. Chuck read the citation praising Gary for improving and expanding the water system at the Refuge to provide better conditions for waterfowl and marshbirds, keeping accurate records of silt problems which resulted in a new well for the Refuge, keeping accurate ornithological records which he submitted to Audubon and the publication of numerous photos, articles and letters by Gary supporting the work of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Refuge system.

Gary was reassigned this winter to Lake Andes NWR in South Dakota and was unable to be present at the meeting. Chuck read a letter from Gary, who said that his five years at Bosque del Apache had been a labor of love. Dan and Marian Washburn presented the award to Jon Venegoni of the Albuquerque office of USF&WS, who accepted the award for Gary.

The award was a numbered and signed print of a Great Horned Owl, purchased from the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The purchase price was met with triple-matching funds from a large company, so the award was doubly beneficial. Thanks for this idea go to Dave Lange, who spotted the story about the print in the Conservancy newsletter.

LETTER WRITERS NEEDED

An urgent plea has been sent by Dede Armentrout, Audubon's Southwest Regional Representative, who would like to have the names of CNMAS members who would, on short notice, write to their Congressional representatives about pending bills of concern to Audubon. If you would be willing to perform this service, please contact Dave Lange (266-4420) or Barbara Hussey (268-6547).

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE STATE FAIR

CNMAS will have an exhibit at the State Fair in Albuquerque this September. In the 100 square feet of space we've been granted (within the Garden Clubs' Flower Show Building) we plan to exhibit bird sounds, bird sights and a simple, direct display.

People are needed to "babysit" this exhibit. So -- plan to spend a few extra hours with the Audubon exhibit when you visit the Fair (it'll give you a chance to rest between forays) -- or even make a special trip just for the purpose. Sign up now, put it on your calendar and beat the rush that will begin when the committee starts collaring volunteers. Contact Mary Alice Root, Marian Washburn and/or Martin Ruoss, chairman.

FROM OUR ENVIRONMENTALLY ACTIVE PRESIDENT

On May 14th, Senator Domenici held a hearing in Albuquerque on the proposed Sandia Mountain Wilderness and the Manzano Mountain Wilderness. Sen. Domenici, along with Senator Schmitt, introduced two bills (S.782 and S.786 respectively) to establish a 30,700-acre wilderness area in the Sandia Mountains and a 37,000-acre wilderness in the Manzanos. Neither of the proposed wildernesses includes any of the presently developed areas (Tram, ski or picnic areas). A lot of opposition was expressed at the hearing. Senators Domenici and Schmitt need your support.

President Carter has proposed deleting Hooker Dam from the Central Arizona Project. Hooker Dam would be built above the town of Gila, New Mexico and would back water up into the Gila Wilderness. It would destroy invaluable riparian habitat, further reducing the habitat of the zone-tailed and black hawks. In addition, nearly a third of the water supposedly saved would be lost through evaporation each year. Write to your congressmen and to the President, indicating your support for deletion of the Hooker Dam and stopping of the Central Arizona Project altogether.

OPERATION GAME-THIEF -- A NEW CRIME-STOPPERS PROGRAM

1-800-432-4263 -- that's the toll-free telephone number that you call when you have information on big game and other wildlife-law violators. According to Operation Game-Thief Coordinator Dan Pursley of the Game and Fish Department's Conservation Enforcement Division, this number will be staffed during regular working hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and will be only for calls relating to Operation Game Thief. (Others will be rerouted.)

The program provides rewards for anonymous information leading to the arrest of a suspect. Although primarily intended for big game (I think) the project encompasses essentially all phases of wildlife. Rewards vary from \$50 to \$250 or more.

LAMENTATIONS OF A LAME DUCK

Being President of an Audubon Society is not quite as disturbing as being an EX-president. As President, your unattained goals can still be attained; your sins and failures atoned for and rectified. As ex-president, it's too late!

But it has been wisely said, Never apologize! Your friends don't need it and your enemies won't believe you anyway! (and the birds don't care). The human race, without its redeeming ability to rationalize, would soon be extinct, killed by sheer worry alone, and would follow the Passenger Pigeon into history. I suppose the Cincinnati Zoo wouldn't be such a bad place to spend one's last days, at that. I've heard that during the summer they present glorious symphony concerts, with the lions chiming in on the extended codas.

Thus, without apology I thank the Central New Mexico Audubon Society for the privilege of serving as its President, and I'll shuffle my way into extinction, binoculars in hand and a smile on my beak. Yet I vow to continue doing the things I wish I had had the time and ability to do -- or to get someone else to do. With fewer duties to perform, my chances of performing one or two of them are greater.

Whatever private remorse there may be, the pain has been eased by the wonderful Spring we have experienced and by the fact that I have been able to go on more bird trips than in recent years. I've listened to the Poorwills all night long in the Manzanos; sought out the Red-faced Warblers at MacMillan Campground in the Gila; helped with the count in Espanola and have seen the largest flock of Cedar Waxwings ever, along the Rio Grande (150 Cedar Waxwings -- 150!) and, finally, I plan to whiz down to Guadalupe Canyon over Memorial Day, hoping to see - je ne sais pas - but if only a couple of dozen Vermillion Flycatchers it will be well worth the trip.

There comes a time in life when things should not be postponed until circumstances are more convenient. For me, the time is now. Look out, Avifauna! Here comes a Lame Duck!

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OFFICERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Dave Lange, 1800 Vassar NE, Apt. B, 87106 - 266-4420
 Vice President: Maurice Mackey, 4812 Goodrich NE, 87110 - 861-6019
 (also Program and Publicity Chairman)
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WORTH CONSIDERING

"When man continues to destroy nature,
 he saws off the very branch on which
 he sits, since the rational protection
 of nature is at the same time the
 protection of mankind."

--Extinct & Vanishing Animals