

BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

August-September, 1977

CALENDAR -- AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Saturday & Sunday Aug. 6/7 FIELD TRIP to Sierra Blanca in the Sacramento Mountains near Ruidoso. Plans are to take the gondola ski lift to the 11,400 ft. elevation and then watch for birds on the hike back down to the parking area, which is at 9700 ft. elevation. Phone Mary Alice Root evenings at 266-0561 for further details.

Thursday Aug. 11 BOARD MEETING AT 7:30 pm at the home of Mollie Miller, east of the Sandias. Call her during the day at 264-1161 (Sandia Corporation) to get the directions to her house.

Saturday Aug. 13 FIELD TRIP to Capulin Springs in the Sandia Mountains, led by Paul Hlava (265-4178). Meet at 7:30 am at Western Skies. Capulin Springs always offers good birding and the Calliope Hummingbird is often seen here in August.

Thursday Aug. 18 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:30 pm. The film ARANSAS, prepared by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, will be shown. Aransas is the national wildlife refuge famous as the winter home for Whooping Cranes but it also shelters numerous other species of wading birds, waterfowl and songbirds as well as mammals such as the Javelina and the Whitetail Deer.

Saturday Aug. 27 FIELD TRIP to Fenton Lake area in the Jemez Mountains, led by Bob Jost (292-3625). Meet at 7:00 am at the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. This is a new area for a field trip but birding is usually good in the Jemez.

Saturday Sept. 3 FIELD TRIP to Isleta Marsh, led by Jim Karo (294-2777). Meet at UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE, 7:00 am. Shorebirds will be migrating in numbers at this time and there should be some in the marsh in addition to a good number of other species.

Thursday Sept. 8 BOARD MEETING at 7:30 p.m. Meeting place to be announced. Notify Dave Lange (266-4420) if you would like to host this meeting. (You need not be a member of the Board.)

Thursday Sept. 15 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:30 p.m. A gentleman from the Fish and Wildlife Service will talk about the Endangered Species Program being carried on by the State.

Saturday Sept. 24 FIELD TRIP to Bosque del Apache NWR, led by Bob Jost (292-3625). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the UNM Physics & Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE. The winter birds will not have arrived but there should be a good assortment of migrating shorebirds, ducks and songbirds.

Saturday Sept. 24 OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY, sponsored by the local chapter of the National Wildlife Federation. In two parts - Los Altos Park and Winrock Shopping Center. CNMAS has been asked to participate. If you can't make the field trip, stop by and see our display (probably at Winrock).

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

June 4th, Rancho de Las Golondrinas. Eighteen birders saw the promised Egyptian Goose. Some even lost part of their lunch sandwiches to the very un-wild inhabitants of the ranch. Some 20-odd species were observed and a conducted tour of the museum highlighted the visit.

June 11th at Water Canyon about 15 people found a good count, including Red-faced Warbler, the Acorn Woodpecker, Warbling and Solitary Vireos.

June 18, 31 people took advantage of the Swains' hospitality at La Cueva and almost outnumbered the birds. Except for hummers, there were fewer birds than usual, but Broadtails and Black-chins kept the group entertained. A Western Flycatcher was sitting on a nest under the eaves.

June 25th, Embudito Canyon. Five people saw many Rock Wrens, Black-throated Sparrows and a Crissal Thrasher.

July 9th at Candelaria Meadows, 17 people saw 32 species, including a Green Heron, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Bunting and Black-capped Chickadee.

July 16th. Pecos area. Only three people camped out but saw a Water Ouzel and a different view of bird life. A Western Bluebird stole food from a fledgling Mountain Bluebird just after the youngster had been fed by a parent.

July 17th at Las Vegas, Dr. Hawk led five hardcore birders on an interesting trip along the nature trail at the national wildlife refuge and to Lake McAllister. About 30 species, including Yellow-headed Blackbirds and White-throated Swifts were observed. Dr. Hawk knew not only all the birds but also all of the many wildflowers.

21 July 1977
Newby Bridge
Cumbria, England

Much of this refuge is now closed to the public except by special permit, which may be obtained by writing well in advance to the USF&WS office in Las Vegas. It is not known if Lake McAllister, on the refuge, will also be closed after the end of the fishing season. This refuge is a good area for sighting Bald Eagles during the early wintertime.

HELP WANTED - Male or Female (We're not sexist)

Host(ess) needed to serve refreshments at Chapter meetings. This is a one-shot proposition; you can choose your month to serve, do it once and get off the hook.

Duty: Prepare hot water for instant coffee/tea for refreshments after the meetings. (The chairman will see to having the "makin's" on hand.) Punch is optional with the host/ess. Cookies may be purchased or home baked. The chapter pays for these. The only dishwashing will be pot or pitcher.

If not enough volunteers come forward, the Chairman may resort to strong-arm methods -- so line up on the right. See Marian Washburn at a meeting or call her at 266-3078 and sign up to do your duty to John James (Audubon) and your fellow chapter members.

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HELP WANTED -- Also Male or Female

Fairly regular attendant at meetings who would take an easy job working only chapter-meeting nights.

Duty: Move the library out of the storage closet, receive checked-in books, check out books, order new ones from time to time and follow up on the occasional forgetful borrower.

The job would probably not take more than one hour per month, if that. (Fringe benefit: Would be able to read first all new books ordered.)

Applications will be received by Dave Lange, President, at meetings or call him at 266-4420.

AND STILL MORE HELP WANTED - Male AND FEMALE

Again this year the CNMAS has been invited to have an exhibit in the Flower Building at the State Fair, September 14-25. Our good friends of the Council of Garden Clubs liked what we whipped up last year on short notice and asked us to repeat this year, giving us more space this time. Martin Ruoss, chairman of the committee, has been hard at work and he and his committee have enlisted the help and advice of Mr. Mike Jergensen, Albuquerque landscape architect, to help us create and appropriate and appealing setting and plans are progressing.

There will need to be a whole force of "Exhibit-sitters" to keep the display manned (personed?) in order to answer questions, keep supplies replenished and generally be sure the display stays in order. A letter will be sent out soon to all members of CNMAS, asking for volunteers and it is expected to meet with the same enthusiastic, helpful response that was received by a similar request at the time of the Bicentennial celebration at the Convention Center last year.

Non-members offering help will not be turned away. Call Martin Ruoss at 294-6870 if you would like to volunteer.

After spending a cool, cloudy day on the English moors and hills in the Lake District, my day's checklist includes: Common Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull, Swift, House Martin, Swallow, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Robin, Swallow, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Robin, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Tree Creeper, Chaffinch, Jackdaw and Carrion Crow.

Getting back to matters more important to CNMAS, this year, with the help of as many of you as possible, I hope to introduce several new programs:

First, a fall picnic, probably to be held in October. Holly Kraynik has consented to serve as organizing committee chairperson. We will meet at a picnic area somewhere near Albuquerque for a picnic lunch and perhaps do a little birding. Please bring the family.

Second, provide a scholarship for an APS teacher to the Audubon Ecology Workshop of the West.

Third, conduct a birding class, hopefully to start this Fall with Ross Teuber as head instructor. Please contact me if you are interested in taking the class or if you wish to help with it.

Fourth, a spring bird count to take place principally in the Sandias but also to include the Rio Grande Bosque.

Another matter of interest to CNMAS members is the State Fair exhibit. We need helpers to sit by the exhibit in the Flower Building. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Martin Ruoss. (More information in the column to the left.)

We also need a librarian and a conservation chairperson. If you are willing to help with any of the above, or have input, please contact me.

-- Dave Lange

GOING BIRDING OUTSIDE OUR AREA?

Planning to go birding out of state? Or just somewhere else in the state? Or don't know where to go but it must have good birding? Maybe the CNMAS library can give you an idea.

We now have what we hope is only the beginning of a file containing checklists from national parks and monuments, state/local Audubon chapters, local bird clubs, etc., etc. We presently have lists scattered from Maine to California and from Kansas to the Gulf Coast. These are filed by states in a very large looseleaf notebook with room for lots more. If you can donate some, or lend them for copying, contact the Acting Librarian, Marian Washburn at meetings or by phone. We plan to check them out for consultation or copying.

Further, if you have catalogs of bird supplies -- houses, feeders, etc. - that are fairly current, we plan to keep these on hand for reference. If you don't want to keep the ones you have, we can use them in the library.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES

CNMAS members will receive a mailing soon about the 1977-78 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES, to be shown at Popejoy Hall and narrated in person by the photographers who took the pictures.

Audubon members are very strongly urged to buy tickets in advance from the Film Series Committee by mail or to buy them at regular Audubon meetings. A portion of the sale price of tickets sold by the committee or Audubon is used to meet expenses and to provide hospitality for the speakers. This is not true of tickets purchased at Popejoy Hall, since the Hall retains the entire purchase price.

Mary Alice Root and Marian Washburn will have tickets for the Series at the chapter meetings. The first film, YOSEMITE, will be shown October 8, a Saturday evening.

OPERATION GAME THIEF

As noted in the last BURROWING OWL, the New Mexico Game & Fish Dept. has instituted a new telephone program to try to apprehend poachers and other wildlife violators. In the first five weeks of operation, 18 pertinent calls were received and a total of \$900 has been paid as rewards for information in three big-game cases and three cases involving protected wildlife illegally held. The names of informants are not disclosed and informants are not asked to testify in court.

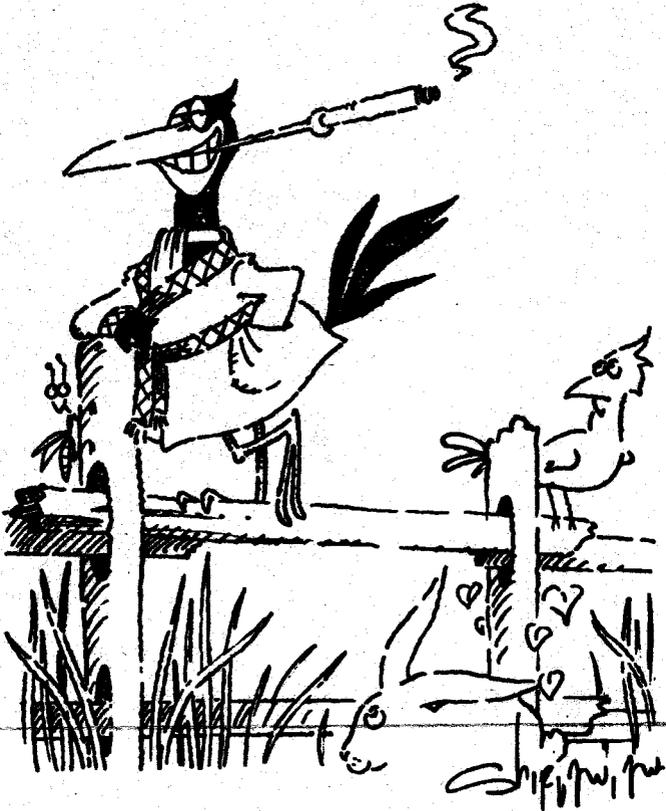
If you know of wildlife violations, dial the toll-free number: 1-800-432-4263.

DEAD OR INJURED BIRDS

-- And speaking of wildlife violations, it is against the law to keep dead or injured birds unless you are licensed to do so by the USF&WS. If you find an injured raptor (hawk) or migratory bird or if you find a dead bird of one of these types suitable for specimen use, phone Ross Teuber (265-8962) or Mary Alice Root (266-0561) who are licensed, and one will come for the bird. Ross is now completely recovered from surgery and is willing to be called any time during the day to assist you.

WHOOPIING CRANE MIGRATION

The Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society maintains a lookout station in Los Alamos during the migration period of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes to report the sighting of Whooping Cranes. CNMAS is considering setting up a similar lookout station in Albuquerque near the Rio Grande. If you would be willing to spend a few hours watching migrating cranes in late October or early November, please notify Dave Lange (266-4420) or Bob Jost (292-3625). Five Whooping Cranes remain from the first two years of the experiments and there may be as many as ten chicks from this year's crop at Grays Lake, which will join them to migrate to the Bosque del Apache area this fall.

THE WELL-GROOMED CROW

Most of us know how uncannily intelligent crows are. But you might be surprised to learn that crows actually medicate themselves. Not only that, they can quickly become addicted to cigarettes.

These obscure bits of information come from a new book, Crows of the World by Derek Goodwin (Cornell University Press, 1976).

It seems that many crows as well as magpies and jays innate practice something known as "anting." Anting consists of picking up an ant with the beak, squashing it and then rubbing it into the base of certain feathers that are not readily reached by regular methods of preening. Investigation shows that the ants used are usually those which, upon being squashed by the beak of the bird, eject either acid or pungent anal fluids.

And the purpose of all this? According to Goodwin, the chief purpose is probably to kill or at least drive out harmful parasites which often infect birds. Or in some difficult-to-understand way, it may simply be a part of the bird's feather maintenance.

Oddly, when tame crows are given access to hot cigarette ends, they quickly learn to use these smoldering butts to drive out the parasites. And once they get the cigarette habit, they never go back to using plain old ants again.

I remember when I was a kid I used to see people applying hot cigarette butts to ticks stuck on the outside of a dog's ear. Probably crows have noticed this too, and remarked to themselves how uncannily intelligent people sometimes seem to be.

-- Prevention Magazine, 5/77



THE JOY OF RECYCLING

Have you ever wondered what you could do to help out in this time of ecological awareness, energy shortages, etc.? You could start by recycling some of the stuff you usually put out for the city to cart off to the landfill. Like f'rinstance?

Well, like aluminum cans (that's obvious), steel cans, glass bottles and jars, old newspapers. Too much trouble, you say? Not at all! You can recycle all those things in one easy trip by trundling them off to the Keep New Mexico Beautiful recycling center at Broadway and McKnight NW (two blocks south of I-40 on Broadway). They will accept all this stuff and the proceeds go to maintain their program of trying to educate the public to keep New Mexico beautiful.

KNMB will buy the aluminum (cans, household foil, TV trays -- nearly all forms of aluminum) at the standard price of 15¢ per pound, though you can consider it your donation and just leave the sackful there.

They ask that the glass be reasonably clean (you don't need to sterilize it). Labels may be left on, but metal caps and rings should be removed. The glass can be broken (they crush it anyway, to ship it) but colors should not be mixed. You can separate green and brown from the clear when you deposit it at the center.

Maybe you think you don't accumulate enough of all these materials to make a trip worth your while. Just try it for one month! Save all your cans, both steel and aluminum (flatten them so they won't take up much room), bottles and old newspapers (brown paper sacks hold lots of papers, flat) and then take them to KNMB. You'll find you have generated sufficient recyclables to make a trip very much worthwhile.

There are other receiving centers, but this is a convenient, one-stop deal; no using up gasoline trying to find a place to drop off each of several items. So try recycling; you'll find it is very good for the soul.

OFFICERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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- President: Dave Lange, 1800 Vassar NE, Apt. B, 87106 -- 266-4420
 - Vice President: Maurice Mackey, 4812 Goodrich NE, 87110 -- 881-6019
(Also Program and Publicity Chairman)
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 - Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Hussey, 2068-B Mercury Dr. SE, 87118 -- 268-6547
 - Membership: Mollie Miller, P. O. Box 195, Cedar Crest, N.M. 87008 -- 281-3189
 - Education: Craig Andrews, 3416 Sierra Dr. NE, 87112 -- 881-9387
 - Field Trip: Robert Jost, 812 Eastridge NE, 87123 -- 292-3625 ~~281~~ 2309
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- Representatives to --
- N. M. Conservation Coordinating Council: Les Hawkins, 7532 Bear Canyon Dr. NE, 87108 -- 821-6989
 - N. M. Audubon Council: Ross Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE, 87110 -- 265-8962 (V.P.)
Dan Washburn, 504 Princeton SE, 87106 -- 266-3078 (Secy.)

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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*Board meeting
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"There may be times in the future when the Audubon Society will disagree with some of my decisions, but if and when that happens, it will not be disagreement on what is desirable; it will be disagreement on what's feasible."

-- Secretary of the Interior
Cecil D. Andrus