

# BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, Albuquerque, N.M.

April-May, 1978

## CALENDAR -- APRIL AND MAY

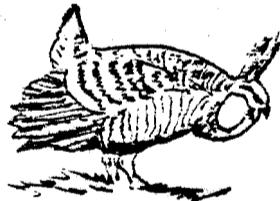
Saturday  
April 1 FIELD TRIP to San Gabriel State Park at the west end of Mountain Rd., NW. Meet at the park gate at 6:30 A.M. Trip leader: Granger Ward (243-3180) After the field trip, we need volunteers to knock on doors in the area to explain the city's new recycling program. (Details inside)

Tuesday  
April 4 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM at Popejoy Hall, UNM, at 7:30 P.M. Ty and Julie Hotchkiss will show their film LAND OF THE RIO GRANDE, which follows the Rio Grande 1900 miles from the San Juan Mountains of Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico with special attention to the plants, birds, and mammals along the banks.

Thursday  
April 6 BOARD MEETING, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Dave Lange 1800 Vassar, NE, Apt. B, (266-4420, home; 277-3842, office)

Fri., Sat., Annual meeting of the Sun. N.M. ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY in Portales (not Roswell) Open to non-members. Field trips include Lesser Prairie Chicken booming grounds. For details call Dot DeLollis (299-5384) or Ross Teuber (265-8962).

Lesser Prairie Chicken



Saturday  
& Sunday  
April 15-16 NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING in Santa Fe. Reservations due April 1st. Details inside.

Thursday  
April 20 REGULAR MEETING of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, NE, 7:30 P.M. Sterling Grogan, an engineer with the Utah International company mining in the 4-corners area will talk about strip mining reclamation.

Fri., Sat., S.W. REGIONAL AUDUBON Sun. CONFERENCE in Baton Rouge, La. Details inside.  
Apr. 21,22,23

Saturday  
April 22 FIELD TRIP to Hondo Canyon in the Sandias led by Dot DeLollis (phone 299-5384). Meet at 7:30 A.M. at Western Skies, 13400 Central SE. Be prepared for mountain hiking.

Saturday  
April 29 FIELD TRIP to Priest Canyon in the Manzanos. Trip leader: Darwin Miller (265-6361). Meet at 7:00 A.M. at the UNM Physics & Astronomy Bldg., Lomas and Yale, NE.

Thursday  
May 4 BOARD MEETING, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Dave Lange 1800 Vassar NE, Apt. B. (266-4420 home; 277-3842 office).

Saturday  
May 6 GILA RIVER VALLEY SPRING BIRD COUNT in Silver City. For more information call Ralph Fisher in Silver City (1-537-2148)

Saturday  
May 13 Espanola BIG DAY VALLEY COUNT. Participants call Bill Stone in Santa Fe (1-988-1454) by May 8th for assignments and final arrangements.

Thursday  
May 18 ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY at St. Timothy's Lutheran, Copper and Jefferson NE. Potluck dinner starts at 6:15 P.M.; meeting and election of officers at 7:30 P.M. Speaker will be Albuquerque Mayor David Rusk. (Details in this issue.)

Saturday  
May 20 First Annual ALBUQUERQUE SPRING BIRD COUNT, 6 A.M. See article in this issue for meeting places and details.

Monday  
May 22 DEADLINE for submitting copy for the June-July issue of the "Owl".

Tuesday  
May 23 A mid-week FIELD TRIP at 7 P.M. to Cienega Canyon in the Sandias for Flammulated Owls. This trip is limited to 4 people. Call Bob Jost 292-3625.

Sat., Sun., FIELD TRIP to Guadalupe Mon. Canyon, Ariz. A popular yearly trip for Mexican birds. Leader: Jim Karo (294-2777). Meet at 7:30 A.M. May 27,28,29 Saturday at the UNM Physics & Astronomy Bldg., Lomas and Yale NE. Self-sufficient camping equipment needed including water.

Saturday  
& Sunday  
June 3&4 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AUDUBON CONFERENCE in Sierra Vista, Arizona. For more details, see article in this issue.

M O R E

CALENDAR -- CONTINUEDRARE BIRD ALERT

Thursday  
June 8 BOARD MEETING, 7:30 P.M.  
at the home of Barbara  
Hussey, 2068-B Mercury  
Drive SE, (268-6547). Meeting de-  
layed one week due to Arizona con-  
ference.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On February 4th, 5 people saw about 12 species including Red Cross-bills, Clark's Nutcracker and Red-breasted Nuthatch on the field trip in the Sandias.

February 18th about 13 people (out-numbering the birds) spent a chilly morning crossing cables to the Oxbow where Black-capped Chickadees and Cinnamon Teal were seen. Later the group failed to find Chestnut-collared Longspurs on the West Mesa but found many Horned Larks.

March 5th, 4 people on cross-country skis found 6 species including Evening Grosbeaks in the Jemez Mountains.

A large turn-out of 21 birders saw 34 species including Brown Creeper, Black Phoebe and Great Blue Heron on March 18th at Shady Lakes, Indian Lakes and the Alameda bosque.

FOR THE TRAVELING BIRDER

A new edition of the Tahoma Audubon Society's "Operation Nature Guide" is available, bigger than ever and professionally printed. It is basically a directory of persons across the United States (and in some other countries as well) whom the "nature-seeking traveler" can write or call for advice and information on local birding, wildflowers, geology and the like. The price is \$2.95 including postage, from: NATURE GUIDE, 34915 4th Ave., South, Federal Way, Washington 98003.

from Sangre de Cristo Newsletter

NEW EDITOR TAKES OVER

CNMAS wishes to thank Paul Hlava for his two years of service in his capacity as editor of the Burrowing Owl. With this issue, Paul turns over the duties of composing and editing the chapter newsletter to Barbara Hussey.

The new editor hopes to include a book review in each issue as well as continuing the other features. If you have read any good books lately (nature topics preferred), how about jotting down a few short thoughts about it for publication? (It's not necessary to sign your name.) Send book reviews and any suggestions for articles to the editor, Barbara Hussey 2068-B Mercury Dr., SE, Albuquerque, NM 87118.

A Bare-throated Tiger-heron at Tingley Beach? An Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush at Doc Long Picnic Area? Well, maybe not, but if they were ever seen you could hear immediately. CNMAS member Joan Phillips is taking names of people interested in participating in a "telephone pyramid" to spread the word. It would work like this: The person making the sighting would call the number at the top of the pyramid; that person would call 3 or 4 numbers; each of those people would call 3 or 4 numbers; and so on.

If you would like to be on the list of persons to be called and would be willing to make 3 or 4 calls to others, please give your name and number to Joan Phillips (898-2568) or Barbara Hussey (268-6547) as soon as possible so we can get the phone chain started.

CITY TO BEGIN RECYCLING PROJECT

Albuquerque will implement a pilot recycling program this spring in the Old Town and Albuquerque Country Club areas of the city. Items to be recycled include paper and cans (both aluminum and steel). The city has asked the Central New Mexico Audubon Society and other conservation organizations to go door-to-door and pass out instructions explaining the project to the residents in the area. Volunteers are needed to come out and do his or her part in making this program a success. This is your chance to actually do something about the environmental crisis! We need all the help we can get to cover the 300 residences we have been assigned.

Meet at San Gabriel Park after the field trip on April 1st. For more information, call Dave Lange (home, 266-4420 and office, 277-3842.)

## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM

Charles Hotchkiss

"Land of the Rio Grande"

Flowing nearly 1900 miles, from the San Juan mountains in southern Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico, the Rio Grande is one of the longest and most scenic rivers in the United States. Because this river supports an incredibly rich variety of habitats and wildlife, and because few other rivers have been so used and manipulated for irrigation, Ty and Julie Hotchkiss filmed this exploration of the Rio Grande and its changing moods and of the abundance of plants, birds, and mammals that are dependent of it. A beautiful film.

at 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday, April 4, 1978

UNM Popejoy Hall

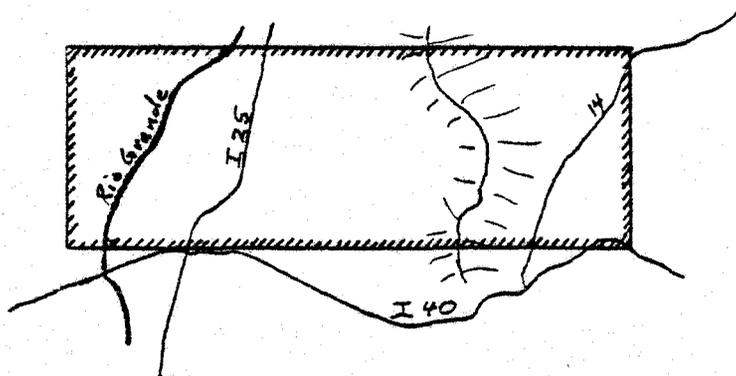
FIRST ANNUAL SPRING BIRD COUNT

Question: What do the other Audubon chapters in New Mexico have that we don't have? Before 1978, a possible answer would be: A spring bird count. Well, we may be last, but let's hope we're not least. That is, we need volunteers to help make our first spring count successful. It's similar to a Christmas count with three major differences: the area to be covered will be larger, there's no charge for participating, and the weather will be more pleasant (we hope).

Saturday, May 20th, the census will be divided into three count areas. Ross Teuber (265-8962) will lead the Sandia Mountains section which meets at San Antonito School on NM-14 north of the turnoff for Sandia Crest. From there, four groups will cover the Crest, the picnic areas, Sandia Park, and San Pedro Wash. Mary Alice Root (266-0561, home and 277-3411, office) and Jim Karo (294-2777) will be the leaders for the East Mesa area count which meets at Juan Tabo picnic area. Three groups will cover Juan Tabo, the east city, and Embudo and Embudito Canyons. We also need a volunteer to come down the La Luz Trail. Dave Lange (266-4420) will coordinate the third count area covering Corrales, the Alameda bosque, the Oxbow and the West Mesa. Three groups will meet at Corrales Center. ALL COUNTS MEET AT 6 A.M.

If you are interested, it is suggested that you call the leader of your preferred count area in advance so we can even out the coverage. Come on out, have some fun and help collect valuable ornithological and environmental data. Remember you do not need to be an expert -- more eyes see more birds. Bring binoculars and lunch and help make our first spring count a success!

Map of count area

NEW PUBLICATION OF THE N.M.O.S.

Just issued is CNMAS member Charles A. Hundertmark's, "Breeding Birds of Elephant Butte Marsh," N.M.O.S. Publication No. 5, 18 pages. Chuck describes this most important breeding area of cormorants and herons. In total some 64 breeders are discussed, along with 32 other species of birds recorded in summer. Cost: \$1.35 per copy (\$.85 -- 1st copy to N.M.O.S. members) from Henry M. Zeller, P.O. Box 870, Silver City, N.M. 88061.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING IN SANTA FE

The Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter is hosting the general meeting of the New Mexico Audubon Council, April 15 & 16. Saturday morning there will be a field trip to the new bridge at Espanola. John Hubbard of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be there to discuss bridges as birding spots.

At noon on Saturday there will be a luncheon meeting at the Desert Inn in Santa Fe followed by a panel discussion workshop on the improvement of wildlife habitat along New Mexico's highways. The luncheon will cost \$3.75 (collected at the door). Reservations must be made by April 1st. Call Pat Insley in Santa Fe (1-982-0796). Specify roast beef or baked chicken.

Saturday afternoon there will be a field trip to Hyde Park and the Santa Fe Ski Basin. On Sunday there will be a field trip to the Las Vegas area, including the Great Blue Heron rookery near Watrous and the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge and McAllister Lake. Lunch will be provided for those registered at the Council meeting.

For more information call Martin Ruoss (294-6870) or Barbara Hussey (268-6547). All Audubon Members are encouraged to attend.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last month Chuck Hundertmark and I attended a meeting in Truth or Consequences sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss a management plan they are working on for Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs. The development of the plan is the result of concerns expressed by our chapter and other conservation groups to protect the remaining marsh and riparian woodland along the central part of the Rio Grande. BurRec has stationed an environmental specialist (Wes Green) in T. or C. to study the biota in the area. One of our particular concerns is the Elephant Butte Marsh Rookery and its deteriorating condition. Following the meeting we set up an artificial nesting tree constructed by BurRec. Wes will be watching it closely to evaluate its effectiveness. I am planning to organize a field trip to the rookery and nearby problem areas in June; details will be in the next "Owl".

Please mark the 18th and 20th of May on your calendars. On the 18th we are having our annual meeting with potluck supper and election of officers and on the 20th we are holding our first spring bird count. See you then.

-Dave Lange

### NEW FIELD GUIDE

Our librarian, Marilyn Jacobsen tells us we have acquired The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds, Western Region by Miklos D. F. Udvardy, (Alfred A. Knopf, 855 pp. illus., \$7.95).

In his review in the February 1978 issue of Natural History magazine, Michael Harwood compares it and its companion guide, the Eastern Region to earlier published guides by Roger Tory Peterson and Robbins, Bruun and Zim. Both of these list the birds in scientific order from the official Check-list of the American Ornithologist's Union. "Knopf and the National Audubon Society...have evidently decided to aim directly for the inexperienced birder to whom the science matters little and may even be confusing. They have ignored the checklist order to present the birds according to (roughly) shape, color and habitat." The illustrations are photographs instead of paintings.

Harwood states "The texts are good to excellent, and...each entry ends with a chatty note, which contributes to the enjoyment of the birds." There is a thumb-index keyed to "...bird category shapes, and each category (is) organized internally according to shapes and colors." On the other hand, the new guide has its drawbacks. The habitat keys are of limited use since few birds remain in only one habitat.

This new guide, however appears to be excellent for a beginning or casual birder, and may be borrowed from the CNMAS library at the regular meetings.

### BIRD SANCTUARY AT TUNNEL SPRINGS

Los Jardineros de Placitas, a local garden club, plans to establish a bird sanctuary at Tunnel Springs, near Placitas, Mrs. Arnold Slusher, club project chairman, has announced. The area is within land protected by the Forest Service. The club plans to attract birds which ordinarily come to the area by planting trees, shrubs and grasses. Details aren't complete, but the group expects to do the planting in the early spring, Mrs. Slusher said. Each year the group holds several fund-raising projects and then spends the money on a community project. Besides offering the birds an area free from disturbance by B-Guns and other dangers, the group hopes elementary school children will be able to learn more about nature through walks in the area.

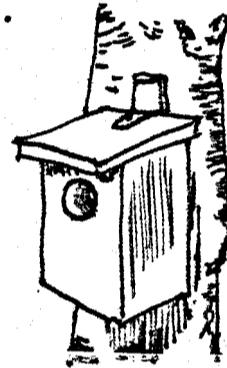
from the NMCCC Environmental News

### MAYOR RUSK TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society's annual meeting and election of officers will be held on Thursday, May 18, 1978 at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, NE.

There will be a potluck dinner beginning at 6:15 P.M. Bring a generous amount of your favorite recipe to share, and tableware for your own use. Beverages will be provided. If you cannot come to dinner, join us for the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Next year's officers will be elected and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Mayor David Rusk will be our guest; he is expected to talk about Albuquerque's environmental future.

If you would like to help with preparations (decorations, setting up tables, etc.) call Melinda Ebert at 242-6553.



BLUEBIRD TRAIL

The Western Bluebird has been included in the "Blue List for 1978" in the November 1977 issue of American Birds published by the National Audubon Society. Robert Arbib explains in the article that "the Blue List is essentially an 'early warning system'...for birds...approaching endangered species status."

We can assist the return of this desirable insect-eating bird by providing nest boxes. CNMAS is looking for suitable places for a "Bluebird Trail". We need people to volunteer their rural property for placement of the boxes. We also need volunteers to help construct the boxes. If you're interested, call Dave Lange (266-4420).

### RAFFLE FOR OPERATION GAME THIEF

The Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Inc. is sponsoring a statewide program, "Operation Ketcha Thief" to help restore funds in the Operation Game Thief program. The money will be raised by selling chances for prizes that will be awarded at a drawing held July 18, 1978. CNMAS gets 25¢ for each ticket we sell which will also be donated to Operation Game Thief. Some of the prizes are: a 12 foot boat and electric motor, a set of golf clubs, a spinning rod and reel, bait casting rod and reel, several rifles and guns and other sporting equipment. Tickets are \$1.00 and will be available at the CNMAS monthly meetings and the April Audubon Wildlife Film.

WASHBURN AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

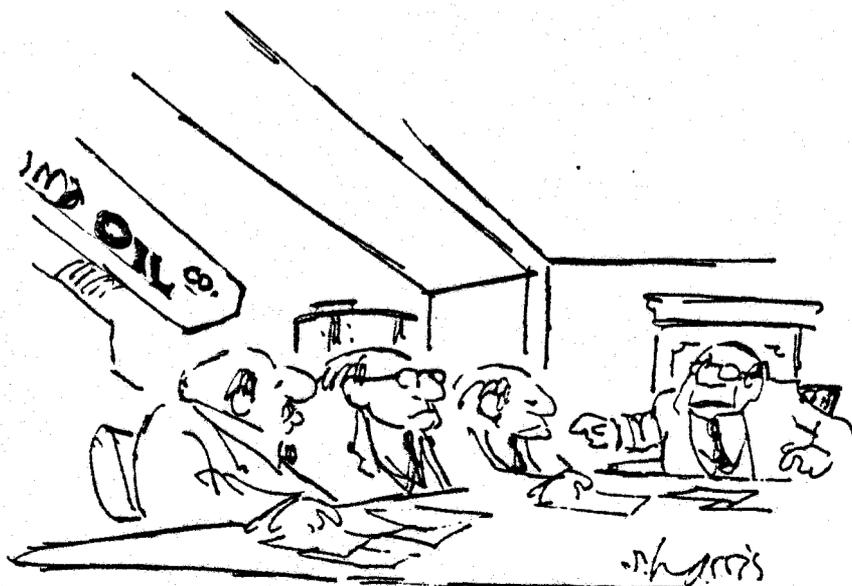
Members are asked to submit names for the Washburn Award. This award which honors Dan and Marian Washburn for their service to our chapter, was established in 1976 to be presented to a federal, state, or local government official in New Mexico who has been actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation. The award is presented at our annual meeting whenever there is a suitable recipient.

The Washburn Award was presented in 1976 to Dick Rigby, refuge manager of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, and to Gary Zahm, formerly on the staff at "Bosque" in 1977. Both of these individuals earned their awards for their work improving conditions at the refuge.

CNMAS is now accepting nominations of qualified government officials. Submit in writing, his or her name, stating reasons to Dave Lange or the chapter post office box.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Huachuca and Tucson Audubon Societies will co-host the Fifth Rocky Mountain Regional Audubon Conference (open to all members) to be held at the Sun Lodge Inn, Sierra Vista, Arizona, June 3 and 4, 1978. Programs will include talks with National Audubon President Elvis Stahr and other Audubon staff members. Field trips to this "ornithological mecca" will be repeated each day, May 31, June 1, 2, 5 and 6, to Cave Creek Canyon, Patagonia/Sonoita Creek Nature Conservancy Sanctuary, Ramsay Canyon Hummingbird Sanctuary, and Fort Huachuca's canyons. Possible species to be seen are trogons, 6 or 7 species of hummingbirds, Gray, Black, and Zone-tailed Hawks and many other rarities. Motel reservations should be made as soon as possible. If you plan to attend you must give your name, prior to April 30th to Barbara Hussey (268-6547) who can give you further details.



"Our problem, once solar energy is in operation, is to find a way to have the citizens whose homes are heated by the sun continue to pay us every month."

from American Scientist, Vol. 64, No. 4.

YOUR OWN WILDLIFE REFUGE

Even city and suburban people can help improve living conditions for wildlife. You can have your backyard declared a "Mini Wildlife Habitat," certified by the National Wildlife Federation. Your yard can become a link in the chain of Mini Wildlife Habitats across the nation (there are over 900 at present), by providing food, shelter, water and reproductive areas. For more information, application for certification and the free "Backyard Kit", write to: Backyard Wildlife Program, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

S.W. REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Southwest Regional Audubon Conference will be held in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area on April 21-23, 1978 at the Holiday Inn-Audubon, at St. Francisville, La.

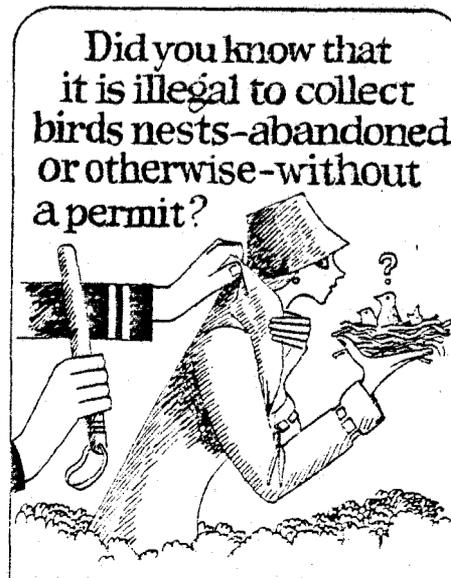
The conference will include films, workshops, and field trips to the home of John James Audubon, a canoe trip to the Atchafalaya Basin, and more. Open to all members. Early reservations are a must. For more information call Barbara Hussey (268-6547).

A WORD OF THANKS

In my capacity of Social Chairman, with the responsibility of securing hosts or hostesses to furnish eatables and set out drinkables for the social hour at the end of our monthly meetings, it has been my good fortune to have the greatest cooperation from the members.

As the chapter year draws to a close, I want to extend my personal thanks as well as those of the CNMAS to the members who have, or will at the next meeting, graciously served us with refreshments.

-Marian Washburn



WHOOOPER NEWS

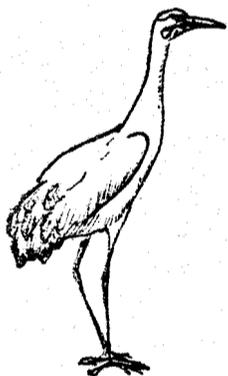
They haven't found all the pieces yet but if the Soviet spy satellite had crashed a few miles to the southwest, the Great Slave Lake nesting grounds of the last wild flock of Whooping Cranes could have been sprayed with radioactive material. This near miss points out the necessity for establishing other populations such as our Idaho whoopers which have just flown north after wintering along the Rio Grande.

Our flock has not been without its own near misses. Refuge manager Dick Rigby assured us the goose hunting season passed without any violations, and attributes this to the hunter training program at the refuge. However, a goose hunter outside the refuge last fall shot at two Whooping Cranes mistaking them for Snow Geese, but -- fortunately for him and for the birds -- he missed. He was arrested and convicted in January 1978 under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Without proof he knew he was shooting at an endangered species, he could not be prosecuted under the Endangered Species Act.) On February 27, he was sentenced to serve 30 days of a six-month jail sentence, given a three-year supervised probation and prohibited from hunting or using firearms for three years.

SCARE TACTICS FOR SONGBIRDS

Falcon silhouettes taped to large window expanses can prevent smaller birds from mistaking the window for open space and injuring themselves. The reproduced shape of the falcon was found by ornithologists to stimulate an instinctive fear. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is responsible for the protection of songbirds, felt the idea was of value for the safety of birds and is making a folder incorporating the falcon pattern available to the public free of charge. Cut out from the folder and placed at an angle on the window, the falcon silhouette will cause smaller birds to veer away. The folder outlines a way of constructing a life-size owl image and describes other scare-devices ranging from aluminum pie plates to balloons on a string to frighten birds from gardens. Hints are also included on how to prevent woodpeckers from hammering on the house and methods of preventing birds from nesting in undesirable places. Details are in the folders which can be obtained upon request from National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices, or the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103

from The Wingbeat  
Sabine Audubon Society



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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Director	Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Dr. NE, 87111	299-5384
Director/NM Audubon Council Rep.	Martin Ruoss, 10610 Central SE, #100, 87123	294-6870
NM Audubon Council Rep.	Ross Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE, 87110	265-8962
NM Conservation Coordinating Council Rep.	Les Hawkins, 7532 Bear Canyon Dr. NE, 87109	821-6989

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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