

# BURROWING OWL



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

Dec. 1979-Jan. 1980

## CALENDAR -- DECEMBER & JANUARY

**WELCOME** - CNMAS meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE. Non-members are welcome. Non-members and beginners are also welcome at all field trips. All members and guests are welcome at board meetings.

**Wednesday** Air Quality Planning **December 5** LIC ADVISORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE meeting, 7:30 PM at the Chamber of Commerce, Otto Miller Conference Room, 401 2nd St., NW. The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments has asked representatives from organizations in the Albuquerque area to advise them on what air quality control measures will be acceptable to the public. If you are interested, call Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

**Thursday** BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM **December 6** at the home of Jan and Chip Mansure (821-4898), 7300 Malaga NE. Go north on Wyoming past Academy. Turn right on Loma del Norte. The second right will be Malaga Drive.

**Saturday** SANDIA MOUNTAINS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Meet at **Dec. 15** 6:30 AM at San Antonito School on NM 14 just north of the turn off to Sandia Crest. Participation fee: \$1.50. Compiler: Ross Teuber (265-8962). After the count meet at the Hussey's, 705 Monte Alto NE to compile lists and warm up with a chili supper. If you can bring a salad or bread, call Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

**Thursday** REGULAR MEETING of the **Dec. 20** CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 PM at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE. The program will be a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service film, "Flyway" about migrating waterfowl in the Atlantic and Central flyways. Duck watchers who plan to go on the January 27th beginners duck trip (see below) shouldn't miss this.

**Saturday** BOSQUE DEL APACHE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Meet at **Dec. 22** 7 AM. Participation fee: \$1.50. Compiler: Chuck Hundertmark, phone 266-9402.

**Saturday** ALBUQUERQUE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Meet at **Dec. 29** Corrales Shopping Center at 7 AM. Participation fee: \$1.50. Compiler: Jim Karo (294-2777).

**Wednesday** Air Quality Planning **January 2** PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 7:30 PM, place to be announced. Info: Barbara Hussey (292-5626).



MORE CALENDAR ON PAGE 2

CALENDAR CONTINUED

Thursday BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM  
January 3 at the home of Elizabeth Forbes (293-7630), 321 Gen. Stillwell NE. (Between Central and Copper).

Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the  
Jan. 17 CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 PM at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper & Jefferson NE. Dustin Huntington will present a slide program on his "Big Year in New Mexico" an intensive search to list the most birds in one year for the state.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to the Rio  
Jan. 19 Grande Zoo. We may be able to see the Mauritius Pink Pigeons if it can be arranged. Meet at the zoo at 10 AM. Call Sue Huntington (831-5755) to sign up. Limit 10 people. (Admission fee).

Sunday Beginners' FIELD TRIP to  
Jan. 27 Bosque del Apache. Much time will be spent looking closely at and comparing ducks. Other winter species and whooping cranes are expected. Call Dustin Huntington to arrange rides (831-5755). Trip may be cancelled if fewer than 3 people sign up. Meet at 7 AM at the UNM Physics & Astronomy Bldg., Lomas & Yale NE.

Saturday Beginners' FIELD TRIP  
February 2 along the Rio Grande. Meet at Corrales Center at 7:30 AM. Leader: Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

Thursday BOARD MEETING, 7:30 PM.  
February 7 Any volunteers? You don't have to be a member of the board. Call 831-5755

RARE BIRD INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE

A two-page instruction sheet on what to do if you find a rare bird in New Mexico is available at the regular meetings or by calling Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

CORRECTION

In the last issue of the OWL we listed those who helped with the state fair exhibit. CNMAS would like to thank George Price for his work at the exhibit. We failed to include his name last time.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Field trip to Bosque del Apache on November 10th: About a dozen people made the trip identifying at least 43 species of birds. Geese were most abundant - several thousands - mostly snow geese - but there were a few Canada geese. We also saw nearly as many sandhill cranes. The group was fortunate in seeing 3 whooping cranes - one immature flying - one immature feeding in a field with sandhill cranes and one young or sub-adult feeding with sandhill cranes. The size of the whooping cranes compared to the sandhill cranes was evident as were the black primary feathers....Terrence Word.

(Editor's Note: Written field trip reports are guaranteed to be published -- telephoned reports may or may not be.)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well it's Christmas count time again. As usual there will be three counts in our area; Sandias, Bosque del Apache, and Albuquerque. The schedule for these is in the calendar section of this issue. All counts will be run when scheduled regardless of weather. Everyone is encouraged to participate. It is not necessary to be an "expert," beginners are welcome.

As you probably know the counts census birds in a 7.5 mile radius circle. Count data over the years can show population trends, range expansion, invasion or the effects of unusual weather patterns. If you live in one of the count circles, one way to participate in the comfort of your own home is to be a feeder watcher. Watch and count the birds that come to your feeder.

Unfortunately there is one catch in participating -- it costs \$1.50 per person per count. The fee must be collected from all participants both in the field and as feeder watchers. The money goes towards the publication of the data. Each year "American Birds" publishes a Christmas count issue, which looks like a small phone book. It contains the data from all counts and lists participants. The Christmas count issue is one of the best sources of data on winter birding in the U.S.

Your \$1.50 will not get you a



copy of "American Birds"; but it will get your name listed. To get a copy of the count issue you must have a subscription.

For those not familiar with "American Birds," it is published by the National Audubon Society. It has excellent articles on birds and birding topics, seasonal reports of unusual sightings for all parts of the U.S., bird artwork and an annual photo contest. Over the past 6 months there has been an obvious attempt to vastly upgrade the quality of the magazine. It was good, now it is excellent. I highly recommend you try a subscription if you haven't seen an issue in a while.

One last word about Christmas counts. Many of you will be traveling to other parts of the country for the holidays. Counts are run throughout the country at about the same times as the local counts. If you're going to be away for the local counts there is a good chance there will be one wherever you are. All counts are glad to get another birder. It's a good way to get some birding in on your trip and to meet other birders. If you know a birder in the area, they should know the schedule of their local counts. If not, give me a call (831-5755) and I can tell you how to get in touch with the compiler of last year's count for the area.

Dustin Huntington

BIRD FINDING GUIDE TO NEW MEXICO

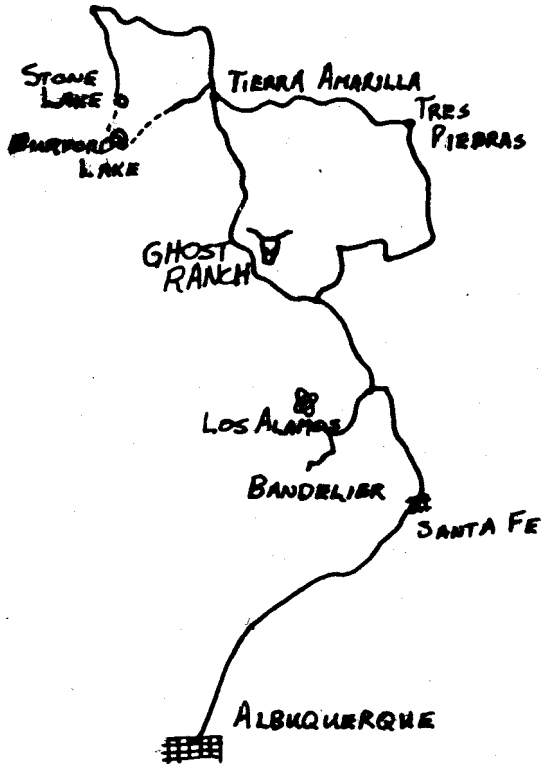
Steve West is working on a guide to the best birding areas in the state. He reports that the southern part of the state is nearly finished, but he still needs more information on the northern third of New Mexico. If you have any suggestions, he would greatly appreciate hearing from you. Contact Steve West, Box 104, Loving N.M. 87256; phone (505) 745-3653.

JEEP CAMPING TRIP TO BAJA CALIF.

Ethyl Ringer tells us there will be a jeep camping tour to Baja California in Mexico conducted by Questers Tours and Travel, Inc., 257 Park Ave., South, New York, N.Y. 10010. It will run for 10 days starting on March 21, 1980 and include migrating birds and desert in bloom (if it has rained recently). Itinerary will be available after Christmas.

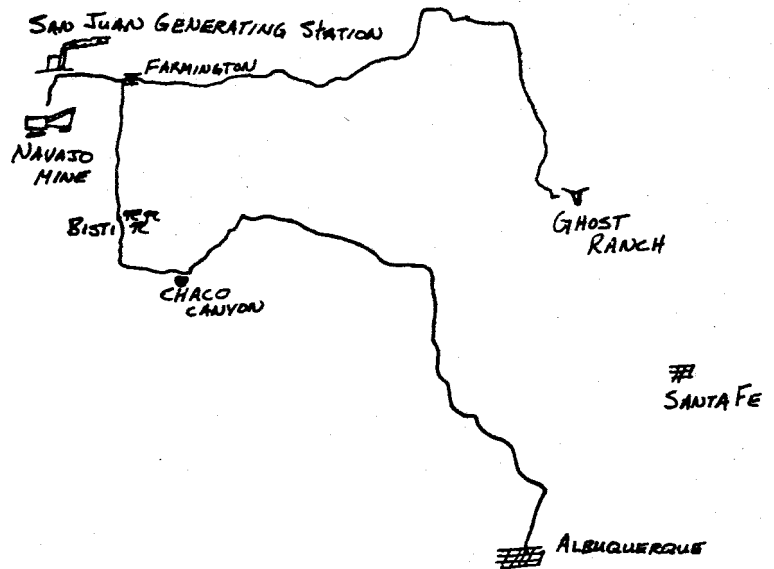
1980 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

The 1980 Southwest Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society will be held at Ghost Ranch in northern New Mexico, June 23 through 30, 1980. Ghost Ranch, located 65 miles northwest of Santa Fe on U.S. 84, is a conference center owned by the United Presbyterian Church.



The conference will consist of workshops, field trips and meetings. Workshops and meetings with National Audubon staff from New York and Washington will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29. Workshops being scheduled at this time include public lands and nuclear energy. No field trips will be held on these days other than before-breakfast walks around Ghost Ranch.

A wide variety of workshops (solar energy, environmental education, publicity, slide show production, field trip organization and leadership, membership drives and perhaps others) will be set up by the Southwest Regional office and held during the week from Tuesday (June 24) to Friday (June 27).



A large number of field trips are being planned, both pre- and post-conference, as well as some to run during the conference week. These include:

Pre-conference

1. Coal development in the San Juan Basin (June 22-23)  
Visits to Chaco Canyon National Monument, Bisti Badlands, Navajo Coal Mine and San Juan Generating Station are planned along with lectures on the archeology, paleontology, culture and reclamation efforts.
2. Rio Chama float trip

Day-long Conference Trips  
(Tues, Thurs and Friday)

1. Bandelier National Monument
  2. Burford and Stone Lakes
  3. Tierra Amarilla - Tres Piedras
- Before Breakfast Hikes
1. Chimney Rock
  2. Box Canyon
  3. Mesa
  4. Echo Amphitheater

Post-Conference Field Trips

1. Rio Chama Float Trip
2. Bandelier National Monument
3. Tierra Amarilla - Tres Piedras
4. Los Alamos Science Museum & other facilities
5. Santa Fe and Los Alamos solar home tours

Continued on next page.

1980 REGIONAL CONFERENCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society and the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society will serve as local hosts for the conference. Help is needed in the following areas to provide support to regional and national staff:

1. Registration - largely taken care of by the regional office but some help will be needed at Ghost Ranch.
2. Hospitality - responsible for refreshments and helping people to their rooms, etc.
3. Audio-visual - run slide and movie projectors.
4. Transportation - arrange and provide transportation to and from airports, bus and rail stations to Ghost Ranch.
5. Information - assemble information packets which will be made available at Ghost Ranch and sent out to pre-registrants; also prepare a road guide from Albuquerque to Ghost Ranch.
6. Local publicity - handle newspaper, radio and TV announcements.



LETTERS NEEDED FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POSITION

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish tells us they are suffering from a budget crunch which could result in the curtailing and/or cancelling of some worthwhile projects.

Currently, the Department is funded almost totally by sportsmen's dollars. Hunters and fishermen who buy licenses and pay excise taxes on sporting equipment are the source of Game and Fish funds. Apparently, with today's inflationary costs, this source cannot keep pace with the expenses of running the Department and its programs.

The solution the Department is considering for this problem is an appropriation from the state's general tax fund. The Department feels such an appropriation is justifiable since many of its programs benefit the general public and do not directly

7. Youth program - an environmentally oriented youth program for 6 to 14 year olds is being set up by Alana Gallagher and Kay Anderson.

8. Child care - for pre-school children, parents using this service are expected to help but others are welcome to help, too.

9. Art exhibit and sale - provide information on local wildlife artists and select those to be invited.

10. Field trips - qualified leaders will be selected for the field trips.

If you would like to help with any of these activities for the 1980 Regional Conference, please contact Dave Lange (266-4420) or Barbara Hussey (292-5626). Your support and help can make this a truly worthwhile experience for everyone.

There will be a meeting of people interested in helping at the 1980 Regional Conference in Socorro on January 19 in conjunction with the New Mexico Audubon Council meeting there. More details at the December and January monthly meetings.



benefit hunters and fishermen.

Some of the programs that may depend on this source of support are: a full-time environmental education specialist position, the endangered species program, the state fair exhibit, educational publications, and others.

In seeking general fund monies for these programs, the Department of Game and Fish has asked for help. If you feel the full-time environmental education position (which would be the only one of its kind at the state level) is needed and worthy of taxpayers support, the Department asks you to write your state legislators urging them to support a general fund appropriation for the Department of Game and Fish. (See addresses on page 8 for New Mexico State Legislature.)

ROSS'S RAVIN'S

Hi Folks! Regardless of what else we may see or have seen in the course of fall migration, probably the highlight for most of us here is the return of the whooping cranes. Not all of the foster parent flock has returned as of this writing. Of the 17 that could have been expected, one is known to have been killed by a golden eagle in Colorado, three of this year's chicks and Ida are back at Bosque del Apache, and two have been seen more or less intermittently at Bernardo. One of these is a current year's chick and the other a more advanced sub-adult.

Among the more interesting of the other fall migrants that have come to my attention have been chestnut-collared and McCown's longspurs and a Sprague's pipit near Encino; long-eared owls north of Estancia; Baird's and fox sparrows and long-billed curlews in the SE part of the state. Sage thrashers have been numerous around the fringes of the city in the woodland areas this year, along with numerous Cassin's finches. Sage sparrows are reported from the West Mesa. Among the many sightings at Bosque del Apache were great and snowy egrets, white pelicans, vermilion flycatchers, solitary sandpipers, snow and Canada geese and many species of ducks.

We all followed with great interest Fay Steele's talk about the endangered Mauritius pink pigeons and his contribution to their survival at the June meeting. But one of our very own members discovered something even rarer and less likely to be seen, in her own back yard. Our librarian, Phyllis Schmidt, found some very unusual, pale pink, sparrow sized birds as she looked out into her yard, on that damp, stormy morning of October 29. They resembled very pale house finches, but had plain, unstriped breasts. Some had little black bibs like house sparrows. With a little more investigation, she found that that the neighbors had recently erected some new bird houses, painted with a red stain. Apparently there had been some house sparrows that had taken refuge from the storm in these

houses, and the moisture caused some of the new stain to run on the birds and color their feathers. Well, it was an interesting puzzle for a while anyway.

Pat Basham at Socorro says why not give the birds a Christmas present. String some shiny rope tinsel across the front of your picture window or glass patio doors to make them more visible, and keep the birds from flying into them and injuring themselves. She says she's tried it and it works like a charm.

Latest word from our competing listers reveals that we have at least four who have exceeded the 300 in New Mexico this year goal. As of November 12, Dustin Huntington was in the lead with 330 -- it looks like he has a wide open field from here on in. Rick Wilt had 326, Sue Huntington had 325, and Steve West had 311. Several more have more than 200, which is not too shabby a record either. Dave Tomasko has 212, Hart Schwarz has 231, Dave Lange has 221, and your humble correspondent has 251...and the Christmas Bird Count is still ahead of us.

Speaking of the Christmas Bird Counts, keep the dates in mind: Sandia Mountains, December 15 at 6:45 AM at San Antonito School, call me (265-8962) for details; Bosque del Apache, December 22, 7:00 AM at Refuge Headquarters, Chuck Hundertmark (266-9402) for details; Albuquerque, December 29, 7:00 AM at Corrales Shopping Center, Jim Karo (294-2777) for details. The participation fee is \$1.50 per person per count. Compilers will also accept subscriptions for American Birds should you care to help defray the cost of publishing the CBC results. See you there.

Ross L. Teuber

P.S. If you're interested in a mid-week Christmas Bird Count, there will be two in the SE part of the state, Delaware River on December 21 and Carlsbad Caverns on December 27. For details contact Steve West, Box 104, Loving, N.M. 88256, (505) 745-3653.



CHRISTMAS COUNT HISTORY

This year and every year our three Christmas Bird Counts (see calendar page 1) will be part of 1300 similar counts taken from Hawaii to Labrador and from Alaska to Venezuela, during the period of December 15 - January 1.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the original Christmas Bird Count, taken on Christmas, 1899, by an intrepid group of strollers in 25 locations, mostly around major northeastern cities. Since then the annual event has grown from its original 25 to its present 1300, and the total participants from 27 to an estimated 31,000.

This year every Canadian province, every American state, many Central American countries, and numerous West Indies islands will submit their results to the national Audubon Society, which supervises the affair, and publishes all the counts in its journal, American Birds.

The count itself is undoubtedly the big birding event of the year, and for some groups, it means days and weeks of strategy, planning, and logistics in trying to amass, in a single calendar day, the biggest possible list of birds in the designated count area. By tradition that "count area" is a circle (which cannot overlap another count circle) of 15-mile diameter, or roughly 177 square miles.

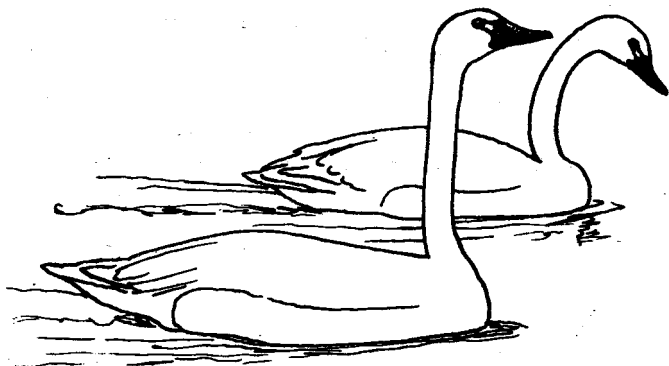
Within this circle of land and water, count organizers attempt to field as many competent birders as they can, who are grouped into "parties", each with a section of the circle, or points on the map, which

they alone will search. There is no limit to the number of participants: last year Oakland, California fielded 202, and there were 19 counts with 100 or more participants.

There seems almost no limit, either, to the numbers of birds Christmas counters can find in their designated circles. Obviously, at the Christmas season, the warmer climates hold an enormous advantage, as do all counts near salt water. In 1978, the count in the Atlantic area of the Panama Canal Zone scored an all-time high with 354 species; the highest U.S. count was Freeport, Texas with 216. By contrast the northernmost two counts, at Nani-sivik, and on Baffin Island, Northwest Territories, each recorded a single species: common raven. No less than 48 counts listed 150 or more species, almost all of them in the balmy climes of California, Texas and Florida.

All this information will be gathered, edited, and published in the July issue of American Birds, whose editors organize and run the annual extravaganza. Apart from its attraction as a social, sporting, and competitive event, the annual count sheds much light on the early winter distribution of the different species of our native birds: where they are, and in what numbers.

All counts are open to all birders. For information contact Ross Teuber (265-8962), Chuck Hundertmark (266-9402), or Jim Karo (294-2777).

YOUR BIRDING LISTS ARE NEEDED

Our chapter hopes to compile a printed checklist for Albuquerque and vicinity soon. If you have been keeping local or backyard records for a few years, the checklist committee may find them of use. Contact Ross Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE, 87110 (265-8962)



**THIRTY-FOURTH NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE**

All legislators have a common address and telephone: (name of legislator) ph. 1-827-3131  
 State Capitol Building  
 Santa Fe, N.M. 87503

LIST OF LEGISLATORS IN OUR AREA: (If you don't know your district number, call 766-4085 in Albuquerque)

N.M. Senate (partial list)

Bernalillo County

- District 9 Montoya, Theodore R. (D)
- 10 Gurule, Albert (D)
- 11 Olguin, Ronald G. (D)
- 12 Alarid, Michael (D)
- 13 Chavez, Tito D. (D)
- 14 Aragon, Manny M. (D)
- 15 Lang, Edmund J. (Joe) (D)
- 16 Rutherford, Tom (D)
- 17 Thompson, Donald L. (D)
- 18 Valentine, William R. (R)
- 19 Houston, Les (D)
- 20 Irick, John B. (R)
- 21 Mercer, Joseph H. (R)
- 22 Becht, Paul F. (R)

Sandoval County

- District 9 Montoya, Theodore R. (D)

Socorro County

- District 30 Fidel, Joseph A. (D)

Torrance County

- District 25 King, Don L. (D)

Valencia County

- District 29 Chavez, Willie M. (R)
- 30 Fidel, Joseph A. (D)

N.M. House of Representatives (partial list)

Bernalillo County

- District 10 Saavedra, Henry Kiki (D)
- 11 Nunez, Felix (D)
- 12 Gurule, Frank P. (D)
- 13 Aragon, Bennie J. (D)
- 14 Hundley, Adele Cinelli (D)
- 15 Sanchez, Raymond G. (D)
- 16 Mondragon, Fred E. (D)
- 17 Garcia, Robert N. (D)
- 18 Pratt, Judith A. (D)
- 19 Hillery, Daren R. (R)
- 20 Appelman, Ruby V. (R)
- 21 Padovaen, John S. (R)
- 22 Horan, Frank L. (D)
- 23 Peña, Dennis S. (D)
- 24 Buffett, George D. (R)
- 25 Thompson, John Lee (D)
- 26 Daly, John W. (R)
- 27 Cates, Brad (R)
- 28 Caudell, James A. (R)
- 29 Stratton, Hal (R)
- 30 McMullan, John J. (R)
- 31 Hill, Stuart C. (R)

Sandoval County

- District 44 Kloeppel, Richard J. (D)
- 45 Garcia, Silas T. (D)

Socorro County

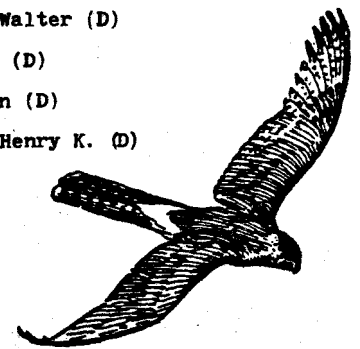
- District 49  
Martin, James L. (R)

Torrance County

- District 49  
Martin, James L. (R)
- District 50  
Bigbee, John F. (R)

Valencia County

- District 7  
Martinez, Walter (D)
- District 8  
Luna, Fred (D)
- District 9  
Gentry, Ron (D)
- District 10  
Saavedra, Henry K. (D)



ADDRESSES

- The President**  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500
- The Honorable Pete V. Domenici**  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510
- The Hon. Harrison H. Schmitt**  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510
- The Hon. Manuel Lujan, Jr.**  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515
- The Hon. Harold Runnels**  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY**

President	Dustin Huntington, 11 Calle Pueblo Pinado NW 87120	831-5755
Vice Pres./Social Chmn.	Diana Kinney, 909 Idlewilde Lane NE 87108	256-7401
Treasurer	Alice Andrews, 3416 Sierra Dr. NE 87108	881-9387
Corresponding Secretary	Alana Gallagher, 415 San Pablo NE 87108	255-7748
Field Trip Chm./Rec. Sec.	Sue Huntington, 11 Calle Pueblo Pinado NW 87120	831-5755
Program/Publicity Chmn.	Maurice Mackey, 4812 Goodrich NE 87110	881-6019
Audubon Wildlife Film Chm.	Craig Andrews, 3416 Sierra Dr. NE 87108	881-9387
Education Committee Chm.	Elizabeth Forbes, 321 Gen. Stillwell NE 87123	293-7630
Conservation Com. Chm.	Dave Lange, 1800B Vassar NE 87106	266-4420
Historian	Celia Mizel, 204 Madison Dr. NE, Apt. B. 87108	268-0376
Librarian	Phyllis Schmidt, 6408 Pepperdine NE 87111	821-5790
Editor, Burrowing Owl	Barbara Hussey, 705 Monte Alto Dr. NE 87123	292-5626
Director/Membership Chm.	Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Dr. NE 87111	299-5384
Director	Jacque Hohlfelder, 13009 Blackstone NE 87111	296-8197
Director	Helen Riddell, 3010 Gen. Stillwell NE 87111	294-6096
Director	Ross Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE 87110	265-8962
NM Audubon Council Rep.	Jim Karo, 1621 Cedar Ridge Dr. NE 87112	294-2777
NM Audubon Council Rep.	Bob Jost, 812 Eastridge NE 87123	292-3625
NM Conservation Coordinating Council Rep.	Kay Anderson, 6200 Indian School NE, Apt. 303 87110	881-9120

RARE BIRD ALERT - report sightings to: 265-8962, 292-5626 or 898-2568

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 Post Office Box 30002  
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Albuquerque, N.M.  
 Permit #43

