



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE - JULY 1982

CALENDAR

Welcome! Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets the third thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips, and special events.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17--Regular Meeting

The program for the June meeting will be a film titled "It Began With Birds," the story of the history and purposes of the Audubon Society. Darwin Miller will also give a brief report on the Southwest Regional Conference in Rockport, Texas, 7:30 at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

SATURDAY JUNE 26--Field Trip

A very special field trip that will include wildflowers, mammals, as well as birds. The locale will be a large ranch on the Rio Puerco. Meet leader Dan Scurlock (898-5257) at the Corrales Center at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water.

THURSDAY, JULY 1--Board Meeting

Board meeting at the home of Evelyn Jones, 1522 Erbbe, N.E., 298-9130, 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

SATURDAY JULY 10--Field Trip

Beginner's Field Trip to the Corrales bosque. Meet at the Corrales Center at 6:30 a.m. Call leaders Dustin and Sue Huntington (831-5755) for more information.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 10-11--New Mexico Audubon Council Meeting and Field Trip

The Council will meet Saturday afternoon followed by a Sunday morning field trip. All Auduboners are welcome to attend either event. Call Evelyn or George Price (242-6604) for more details.

THURSDAY, JULY 15--Regular Meeting

Hot off the presses! A new film the "Stronghold of Eagles" will reveal the life and present plight of Alaskan Eagles. 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

THURSDAY, JULY 15--Deadline

Deadline for Burrowing Owl material. Call editors Evelyn and George Price (242-6604) if you need help!

SUNDAY, JULY 18--Field Trip

Please see August 7 for complete details, except that Sally and Wade Douglas (281-1473) will be the trip leaders.

SUNDAY, JULY 25--Field Trip

Hart Schwarz (266-1810) will lead a trip to the Sandia Crest with a look at Capulin Springs on the way. The meadows should be at their best, attracting Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds. Meet at Sandia Park Post Office at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water.

(continued)

SATURDAY, JULY 31--Field Trip

A field trip to the top of Mt. Taylor will leave Albuquerque at 7 a.m., reach Mt. Taylor around 11 a.m., and return to Albuquerque around 6 p.m. Meet at the Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale, N.E., at 7 a.m. for car pooling. High clearance vehicles needed. Call leader Darwin Miller (265-6361) for more information.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5--Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. Board meeting will be at the home of Ross Teuber (265-8962), 1612 Kentucky, N.E. All members welcome.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7--Field Trip

Work party to our adopted trail in the Sandias. Meet at 8 a.m. at the cattleguard near the intersection of Tramway Boulevard and the road to Juan Tabo Picnic Area (about one mile north of the stop sign at the turnoff to the tram). Call Barbara Hussey (292-5626) by Thursday, August 5. Half day.

CNMAS HELP WANTED

State Fair Committee Help
 State Fair Booth Sitters
 Field Trip Leaders
 Suggestions for Field Trips
 Adopted Trail Workers
 Board Meeting Hosts
 Refreshments at Regular Meetings
 (Hospitality Committee)
 Conservation Committee Help (Clean Air,
 Endangered Species, State and Local Issues)
 Education Committee Help
 Membership Promotions Help
 Wildlife Film Committee Help
 (Including Lobby Table Sitters)
 Suggestions for Meeting Programs

Call appropriate committee chairman or CNMAS president. Phone numbers on page 8.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thank you for electing me president a second time. I am looking forward to serving the chapter in the coming year with Kay's help as treasurer and program chairman.

1982 is the beginning of a period in which Congress is re-authorizing several environmental acts passed in the early 1970s. The first two to be considered are the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act. Congress is just starting work on the Endangered Species Act so start thinking about writing soon. So far this year the Clean Air Act has taken quite a beating. Each section is being voted on separately and those who would like it weakened have been getting the upper hand. There are still some parts that have yet to be approved so it is not too late. The New Mexico Clean Air Coalition (CNMAS is a coalition member) has suggested a novel idea. Send a picture postcard of a scenic New Mexico view to Senator Pete Domenici (he is on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee) explaining how New Mexico is a place where distant vistas are still possible and you would like to keep it that way! His address is on page 8.

Right now CNMAS is suffering from a serious dearth of people willing to volunteer some of their time to the chapter. If you do not like the ways things are being run, come on out and help us change that; or at least let us know. You can be anonymous and use the suggestion box at our meetings. If you do like the way things are, come out and help. Even a small amount of your time will be greatly appreciated. I would really hate to see the chapter have to disband!

Barbara Hussey
 (292-5626)

HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN IS GRATEFUL

Evelyn Jones, our hard working Hospitality Chairman, wishes to thank all of those people who brought the delicious desserts for our meetings, as well as all of those who helped to make the annual meeting pot luck such a success. If you have not signed up for a cookie contribution for the coming year, please call Evelyn at 298-9130. She will be happy to hear from you.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

This spring has brought some interesting reports so far. The bird that has caused the most excitement is the Red-Faced Warbler which was discovered on April 18 by Gary Parker at Canoncito Springs in the Sandias. The bird has since been seen in that location by as many as 20 or more people as late as May 15. It was singing on territory and chasing other birds, but none seemed to be other Red-Faced Warblers. But, on May 20 two more birds were seen about a mile and a half away! Hart Schwarz and Bob Sanger, a visitor from Arkansas, heard and then saw both birds about 1.1 miles in from NM 14 on Forest Service Road 299 (the road to Canoncito Springs). Could they be nesting? It would be a record! Also on May 20, Hart and Bob spotted a pair of Hepatic Tanagers in the pines at the southeast corner of the Barn Dinner Theater grounds on NM 14.

Other Sandia Mountains sightings include at least two Scott's Oriole nests: one in the Juan Tabo area and one in the Three Gun Springs area. A rather late male Merlin (probably Richardson's race) was seen on March 21 at Capulin Springs by Hart Schwarz and Gary Parker. Hart reported a Golden-Crowned Sparrow coming to the feeder at the Treet's home near the Three Gun Springs trailhead on April 27.

The pond near Sandia Park has been a good birding area this spring. On April 25, Hart Schwarz found a Solitary Sandpiper, a Snipe, and was able to get some very close looks at six Cinnamon Teal. On April 29, the pond yielded another Solitary Sandpiper (or the same one), a Spotted Sandpiper, and a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. On May 6 and 7, Hart found a Northern Waterthrush (it stayed until May 11), another or the same Spotted Sandpiper, and a Lewis' Woodpecker on the utility poles nearby.

This spring Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks have been nearly abundant. In addition to the one near the pond, another one was seen by Fred Leckman in the Sandia Park area on May 19. A Rose-Breasted Grosbeak was coming to the feeder at the home of Elise and Tom Baker in the Manzanos on May 1 and 2. A small flock of them was discovered also on May 1 and 2 at Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains near Socorro by Ross Teuber and Pat Basham and by a group of students from a University of New Mexico bird study class.

In Albuquerque, Hart Schwarz had a surprise when his car scared up a Poor-Will at 10 p.m. on April 29 near the intersection of San Pedro and Central Avenue.

Joanne Phillips reports that two baby Great Horned Owls peeked over their nest at Shady Lakes for the first time on April 11. Joanne had a pair of Ospreys fishing in her ponds on April 2, and a Sora (possibly an immature) on April 24.

Bill Howe's survey group in the Rio Grande Valley found a Painted Redstart in early April. David Stepetic reported his father saw about 50 Snowy Egrets at Isleta Marsh on April 13.

On April 24 and 25 Chuck Hundertmark's Rio Grande Bird Research group banded an Ovenbird and a Townsend's Solitaire at the Nature Center at Candelaria Road and the river.

Farther south Pat Basham spotted a Worm-Eating Warbler in her yard in Socorro on April 27 and a Kentucky Warbler on April 28.

Ralph Fitz reported seeing a large flock of White-Faced Ibis and a Marbled Godwit at Bosque del Apache on April 26.

Joanne Phillips, Mary Lou Arthur and Billie Johnson had excellent looks at a Sora at Bosque del Apache on April 29. The bird, unaware it was being observed, bathed, scratched, and preened while they ate lunch in Joanne's camper. They also found at least two Townsend's Warblers that day, which is unusual for spring.

On May 1 and 2 Ross Teuber and Pat Basham spotted an immature Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher among a flock of Western Kingbirds at Bosque del Apache. Also on that weekend an adult Little Blue Heron was seen there and reported by many.

On May 10, Dustin and Sue Huntington, Hart Schwarz, and Dustin's mother Bonny Huntington (as a non-participating compiler) started at Bosque del Apache on their Big Day. Before they were done they had seen 153 species, a record for the state. They got around 100 species before they left Bosque. Then they did the Corrales area before finishing up with some great looks at a most cooperative Flammulated Owl at Cienega Canyon in the Sandias.

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Another interesting sighting comes from Hobbs, New Mexico. Carol Levine reported Mississippi Kites have returned to the same nesting area at the Ocotillo Golf Course on May 2. Even more interesting was the report of a White-Tailed Kite near Hobbs on May 3. Gary Parker reported a Varied Bunting at Rattlesnake Springs at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in early May, too.

This will be my last column in this series. Ross Teuber has very kindly consented to take over. Please continue to report bird sightings to him as you have to me this past year. I could not have done it without all of you! Ross's phone number is 265-8962.

Barbara Hussey

FOREST SERVICE OFFERS
INFORMATION ON FOREST CONDITIONS

Beginning May 27, the Southwestern Regional Office of the Forest Service will have available 30- and 60-second recordings describing recreational conditions on the National Forests in New Mexico.

The recordings will be updated every Thursday through the Labor Day weekend. Stations may call any time for late information on camping conditions, fire danger, special events, areas that are receiving heavy use, and other information important to people who use the National Forests.

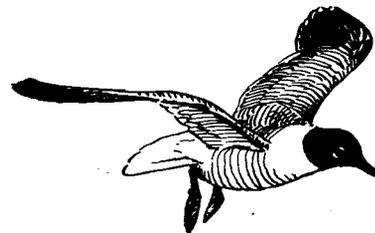
The Albuquerque number to call is (505) 247-2333. If you have questions or comments on this service, please call (505) 766-2444.

LEGAL VICTORY

National Audubon, in a suit filed jointly with three other environmental organizations, has won a settlement that prevents the spraying of chemical pesticides on two National Wildlife Refuges and a National Seashore in Long Island, New York. Local residents and health officials had sought the spraying to control mosquitoes, but now federal officials have agreed to use integrated pest management instead of chemical poisons. The other organizations in the suit were Environmental Defense Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, and National Parks and Conservation Association.

Mrs. Dixie M. Propp, a teacher at Ocate Elementary School, is our winner for the 1982 Teacher Scholarship to the Audubon Ecology Camp in the west. Mr. John Polinko and Ms. Jennifer Ware, the runners up, received copies of Roger Tory Peterson's World of Birds by James Fisher at the awards ceremony at our final Audubon Wildlife Film of the season on April 5. Mrs. Propp's scholarship for \$575 was paid for with proceeds from the Audubon Wildlife Film Series. She will spend two weeks in the Wyoming mountains learning environmental education.

CNMAS plans to give the scholarship again in 1983. Watch for the announcement in the fall. Meanwhile plan to buy season tickets to our 1982-83 Audubon Wildlife Film Series when they go on sale in late summer. The scholarship money comes from season ticket sales only--not from tickets sold at the door. Contact Film Committee Chairman, Edith Johnson (255-0307) in late August for more information.



FASCINATING TEXAS PRESERVE
TO ADD VISITOR FACILITIES

National Audubon's Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, in Texas near the mouth of the Rio Grande, is full of delights for nature-minded visitors: species of Mexican plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians rarely seen north of the border. Unfortunately, though, the sanctuary's entrance road is so difficult and the facilities for visitors so limited that visiting is possible only by special arrangement.

Now, thanks to a grant from the Atlantic Richfield Foundation, a better road, parking space, and other visitor facilities are on the way. It will take some months to complete the work, but after that the sanctuary will be able to handle from 100 to 200 visitors a day.

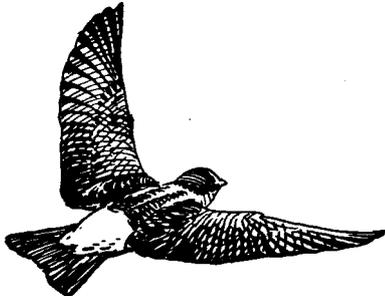
THE PORKBARREL WARS:
GOOD NEWS AND BAD

There is good news to report this month in the fights against two porkbarrel water projects, but meanwhile the Reagan Administration is pushing ahead with its plans (see Leader, 10/23/81) to repeal federal regulations adopted in 1979 to remove the nation's dam- and canal-building programs from politics.

One of the victories was an amendment the House of Representatives added to the Dam Safety Act. Conservationists had feared this law would be used to fund new dams under the guise of safety needs. The amendment simply requires the project beneficiaries to pay part of the costs. Since repair of an unsafe dam normally is far less costly than building a new one, the cost sharing provision will help assure the dam-safety money is used to repair dams, not to build bigger ones.

The other item of good news concerns the proposed O'Neill irrigation unit in Nebraska. The project would dam the free-flowing Niobrara, a river that qualifies for national wild and scenic river designation. The project suffered an embarrassing political setback last month when its sponsors failed to win passage of a resolution of support in the state legislature.

The bad news is that the administration is pressing its attack on the federal Water Resource Council's Principles and Standards, the new rules to combat the political pork-barrel practice in which dubious water resource proposals--and fat contracts for Congressmen to take home to their districts--are justified by juggling cost benefit figures. The council's binding rules require only that the proposals be weighted by the professional standards private businesses use as a matter of course, but the administration wants the rules replaced by non-binding guidelines. Comments may be sent to: James Watt, Chairman, Water Resources Council, 2120 L Street N.W., Washington, DC 20037.



FALSIFIED CLAIM BY EPA?

A University of California scientist who has done research on Compound 1080, once widely used as a coyote poison, has charged the Environmental Protection Agency with falsifying his findings. EPA had contended that 1080 breaks down rapidly into non-toxic substances and is therefore unlikely to cause secondary poisoning--the poisoning of animals that feed on the carcasses of animals killed by 1080. As evidence, the agency has cited studies by Dr. Ernest Kun.

The university issued a press release declaring: "EPA obviously had a conclusion it wanted to reach. So it took (Kun's) statement out of context, misconstrued it, and made it just plain wrong, to get the results it wanted."

National Audubon opposes reinstatement of 1080 and has been deeply involved in the hearings that began March 30 and are expected to continue into July.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION
SUMMER SEMINARS

The Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Inc.--in cooperation with the National Park Service, Colorado State University, and the University of Northern Colorado--invites you to participate in the summer seminar program at Rocky Mountain National Park. These week-long sessions are professionally taught, are offered for college credit, and are limited to 20 adult participants.

Because these enjoyable and worthwhile courses are becoming more popular each year, we urge those interested to apply as soon as possible. The fee for each week's seminar is \$100, payable when applying. Make checks payable to Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Inc. (additional \$45 tuition per week charged for credit on opening day).

June 14-19--Bird Ecology, Dr. Richard Beidleman, Colorado College.

June 21-26--An American Look At An American Landscape, Gary Keimig, Colorado State University.

June 28-July 3--Nature Writing, Ava Heinrichdorff, The Colorado Springs School.

July 5-10--Alpine Tundra Ecology, Dr. Beatrice Willard, Colorado School of Mines.

July 12-17--Plant Identification, Dr. Joyce Greene, Boulder High School.

July 19-24--Ecology of Furry Things, Dr. William Alldredge, Colorado State University.

July 26-31--Natural Resources Issues, Dr. Dale Hein, Colorado State University.

August 2-7--Mountain Geology, Dr. Kenneth Hopkins, University of Northern Colorado.

August 9-14--Rocky Mountain Ecosystems, Dr. Richard Beidleman, Colorado College.

ANOTHER EGG LOST

The good news was short lived. The California condors that lost their first egg this season and then produced a second one now have lost the second. This time the egg was pushed off the cliffside nesting site as the incubating condor attempted to fight off a raven that was after the egg.

SUMMER COURSES

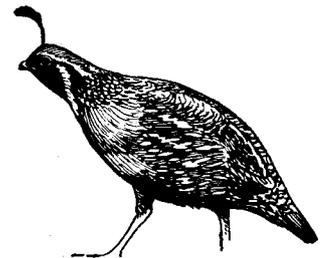
The Audubon Expedition Institute still has some openings in its summer courses during July and August: three- and four-week youth hostel cycling, hiking, and canoeing trips in the Pacific Northwest, American Southwest, New England, and Newfoundland; a three-week expedition in Maine, both coastal and interior, for 11- to 14-year olds; and a three-week session in New England for teachers. For information on these programs and how to apply for scholarships, write or call the Audubon Expedition Institute, RFD 1, Box 149B, Lubec, Maine 04652; (207) 733-8811.

BULLETIN

The Garrison Diversion project has been halted again, this time by a lawsuit brought by South Dakota landowners. A federal district court judge issued a temporary order barring further work on the billion-dollar irrigation project until he has heard arguments on the case. The project is in North Dakota, but the South Dakotans contend it would cause flooding and water pollution in their state. National Audubon is supporting their suit as a friend of the court.

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

President Reagan's lack of understanding of energy problems has never been made clearer than in his speech at the Knoxville World's Fair, a fair with an energy theme. The President charged that the Carter Administration's policies had brought gasoline shortages, whereas the production-oriented Reagan policies--including decontrol of oil prices and reliance on "the magic of the market place"--have improved the energy picture. Virtually all the experts agree that the present oil glut is the result of conservation and the recession which have combined to bring a sharp drop in demand for oil. True, decontrol of oil prices--which, incidentally, was begun by President Carter--brought realistically higher prices and thus encouraged conservation. But Reagan's faith in free enterprise has been selective. In his budget request he left energy conservation to the magic of the market place--he requested virtually no government money to encourage conservation--but he asked for more than a billion dollars of public funds to bail out the ailing nuclear power industry.



SHOULD YOU BE GETTING ACTION ALERT?

National Audubon Society's Washington, DC office publishes a bulletin, Action Alert, that is available without charge to members who want to become actively involved in the fight for sound environmental legislation. Action Alert is mailed when there is urgent need to rally conservationist support: it could be, for example, that a key amendment to the Clean Air Act was about to go to the floor for a critical vote. Alerts are one-page bulletins with background information that includes the latest developments and suggests what to do--usually, call your Congressman. There are 15 to 20 Alerts a year.

It is an action bulletin, not a free Washington newsletter. The Washington staff can afford to send it only to those who are prepared to write the letters and make the calls. They hope that means you. If so, fill out and mail this coupon (please print).

ACTION ALERT
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
645 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE S.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20003

Please put me on the Action Alert mailing list.

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Phone: _____ (home); _____ (office)

Congressional District _____
(we will fill in, if you wish)

My special fields of interest are:
 Energy Air
 Public Lands Population
 Wildlife Water
 Other _____

HOW TO CUT \$8.5 BILLION OFF THE BUDGET

Now that budget negotiations between the White House and Congress have broken down, the budget-making process is virtually starting over. This gives conservationists a second chance to sell Congress on their proposal for trimming the deficit by \$8.5 billion.

The conservationists' proposal was drawn up last winter by 11 national organizations, including National Audubon, and sent to the President and members of Congress. It is a detailed set of suggested revisions of the administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1983, which starts October 1, and deals only with conservation-related federal budget items.

The revisions would reduce federal government expenses by cutting subsidies for energy, transportation, and natural resource development. And they would increase revenues by closing tax loopholes and charging realistic user fees and royalties for government services to special-interest users. These proposed cuts and increased charges would total \$9.1 billion, but the proposal also includes \$600 million in added outlays for environmental protection programs which conservationists contend would result in savings in the long run.

Energy is a major area in which the conservationists propose cuts in environmentally harmful programs. The administration asked for more than a billion dollars for development of nuclear power. The conservationists propose reducing that figure by \$300 million--there would be plenty of money left for necessary research in nuclear safety and waste management--and investing the savings in solar power development and energy conservation. In future years, the conservationists say, the investment would be paid for many times over in reduced pollution, strengthened national security through reduced dependence on foreign oil, and eventually in lower dollar costs for energy.

Other major cuts are proposed in funding for highway construction, dam and canal projects, and the Forest Service budget for increased timber cutting.

Cut "Giveaway" Programs

Getting rid of "giveaway" programs was one of Ronald Reagan's principal campaign promises, and, indeed, the administration has sought some increases in user fees. The conservation budget proposal supports Reagan's request for somewhat higher fees for users of ports and waterways, but goes much further. It asks an increase of \$1.3 billion in heavy-truck user fees in 1983, contending: "Numerous studies have shown that heavy trucks are not paying enough taxes to cover the costs of the damage they do to roads." The conservationists ask that a part of these new revenues be applied to aid for urban mass transit and railroads.

Other revenue increases proposed include higher royalties for hard rock minerals--such as gold, silver, uranium, copper, and lead--mined from public lands; higher charges for oil and gas leases; and fair-market pricing for grazing livestock on public lands and for the services of the federal government processing plants that enrich uranium for the nuclear power industry. The proposal asks that a part of these increased revenues be used to restore funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, to strengthen the Superfund for cleanup of toxic wastes, and for other environmental programs.

The budget-making process in Congress is in such disarray it is difficult at this point to suggest what calls and letters by Audubon members might help bring about wiser budget policies. Letters to Representatives (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) and Senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) pointing out the general message of the conservationists' alternative budget could help.

FOREST POLICY ENDANGERS
REMAINING OLD GROWTH

The Reagan Administration's plan for a big increase in road building and logging in the National Forest threatens to wipe out the nation's remaining old growth lands, Audubon Senior Vice President Rupe Cutler told a Wildlife Society audience in Alaska last month. He called for a balance between timbering and other forest values such as wildlife.

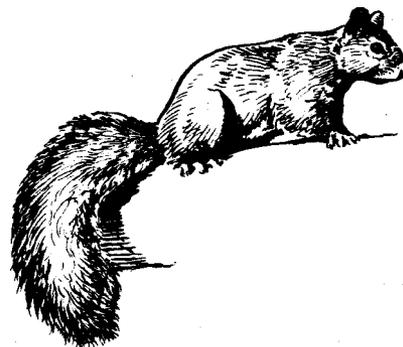
The term "old growth" refers to stands of 350- to 1,000-year old trees. They shelter communities of plants and animals that are allowed to grow and die naturally. To some administration officials this seems to mean that trees are "wasted" through rotting, disease, and insect destruction, Cutler said. He quoted John B. Crowell, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for natural resources and environment: "There should be no mistake about our intent to generate increased receipts through more timber sales. . . . The Reagan Administration's priority objective is to develop the timber, oil, and gas, to reduce the federal deficit, and to get the economy moving again."

But, said Cutler, a natural forest of mixed-age trees in the Pacific Northwest provides "cover, lichens for winter deer, elk and caribou food, and openings where old trees have fallen or broken and the light streams in to stimulate new growth." Dozens of wildlife species appear to require such habitat to survive, he noted. Clearcutting in virgin forests can produce erosion and pour sediment into streams. This destroys the breeding grounds of fish that are the food supply for eagles, grizzlies, and others, Cutler said. Humans are affected, too, when the sedimentation harms commercial and recreational fisheries, and the disruption of the watershed lowers drinking water quality.

Cutler noted that the Forest Service's proposed budget for the coming year asked for an increase of about \$100 million for road building and for administering increased timber sales. At the same time, substantial reductions are sought in research programs and assistance to state and local governments, he said. He questioned whether the reduced research programs could gather the data needed to predict what the increased logging would do to wildlife.

Cutler quoted a report from the National Association of State Foresters: "The simple fact is that the Forest Service has the bulk of the old growth timber in the northwest and industry wants to have access to this timber at bargain prices. It wants to get out of the high-priced contracts executed earlier. This would amount to a huge subsidy to the timber industry in the northwest. . . ."

Added Cutler: "That's the analysis of the hard-headed professional foresters heading our state forestry agencies--not the National Audubon Society."

REGULATORY REFORM BILL IS
NOT WHAT IT CLAIMS TO BE

Federal regulatory agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Consumer Safety Commission, write and enforce rules for carrying out laws passed by Congress. The number of powers of these independent bodies have been growing, and some improvements in the regulatory system may well be in order.

But S. 1080, the so-called Regulatory Reform Bill just passed by the Senate, is basically a fraud. It would not improve law enforcement, it would weaken it.

This bill would make it more difficult for the rulemakers to make rules and easier for the White House and industry to overturn them. It would make it more difficult for the public to take part in the rule-making process, or even to find out what rules the regulatory agencies were proposing. S. 1080 is being used as a cloak to disguise the efforts of those who are trying to repeal--not reform--laws that restrict industry in order to protect human health and safety and the environment.

The worst feature of the bill is that it would require the regulatory agencies to choose the most "cost-effective" means of accomplishing their goals. Under an executive order issued by the President last winter, these agencies' decisions are already subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. Now the Senate bill would direct OMB to use cost/benefit analysis as the basis for approval or disapproval of proposed regulations.

Obviously, cost must be a basic consideration in any regulatory program. But it should be equally obvious that some values cannot be computed adequately in dollars and cents: the life of a child that might otherwise die of lead poisoning, the beauty of a national park that might otherwise be obscured by smog.

S. 1080 would apply not only to major proposals for new regulations, it also would require the agencies to review regulations already in effect. Long-standing programs to protect human and environmental health could thus be questioned and might have to be fought for again under new ground rules that put dollar savings first.

The executive order the President issued in February, requiring OMB approval of regulations prepared by executive agencies, reversed a policy that had been in effect some 35 years. The threat posed by the Senate-passed bill would be even worse were it not for an amendment successfully introduced by Senator Carl Levin of Michigan. Under the President's order, OMB is not required to let the public know what regulations the regulatory agencies have proposed, or what changes OMB may have made in the proposals. OMB could even kill a proposed regulation without public comment, simply by filing and forgetting it.

Levin's amendment requires that all proposals sent to OMB by regulatory agencies, along with OMB's comments on them, be spread on the public record. A few additional improvements to S. 1080 were made on the Senate floor, but basically the measure remains a threat to the enforcement of the nation's health, safety, and environmental programs.

A similar bill, H.R. 746, is pending the House of Representatives, but as yet there has been no committee or subcommittee action on it. Audubon members are urged to write their Representatives (House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) in opposition to H.R. 746 and any other bill that attempts to use an OMB balance sheet alone to put a price tag on social and environmental values.

CAN WE DO IT--A SEQUEL

About a year ago Pat Basham and I set out to see if we could see 100 species of birds in one day. My narrative of the exercise appeared in the June-July 1981 issue of the Owl. The closing statement in the story was: "Will we do it again next year?" Well, we are thinking about it--but next year we will try for 120."

At the NMOS anniversary meeting last spring, we got together and decided May 1, 1982 would be the day, and we would shoot for 120 species. So on Friday evening, April 30, Clara and I loaded our birding gear and various other paraphernalia into the car and headed for Socorro and Pat and Bill Basham's house. Clara and Pat had gotten their heads together and planned just who was going to do what so that preparation and consumption of meals would not conflict with the first priority activity of finding birds.

They had agreed that it would be 6:30 p.m. or so when we arrived in Socorro, and Pat would have dinner ready--something that would wait. And what a dinner Pat had prepared--roast beef with all the trimmings! And an excellent dinner it was.

After dinner we had a short conference on just how we would work the area, based on expected weather conditions, and where we might be most likely to find the greatest number of birds at a given time of day. Since wind was forecast for the afternoon, we decided we would do Water Canyon last--where it would be more protected and bird activity would be least affected. I had brought along a few taped owl calls in hope that if there were any local resident owls, I could get a response, and add one or more species to last year's list. So just before bedding down for the night I went outside and gave it a try. The results were negative, so the prospect of adding owls in the morning before daylight seemed remote. But we were not completely convinced nor discouraged.

Saturday morning we were up before 5 a.m., and by 5:40 I went out again to try for the owls. The first bird of the day was a Barn Swallow that flitted off its nest as I stepped out the door. This was followed very shortly by a Western Kingbird and a Black-Chinned Hummingbird. For about 20 minutes, while waiting for breakfast, I worked with the owl tapes, starting with the screech owl, then working up to the barn owl, and finally to the great horned owl. But the results were the same as the night before--nothing! However, before breakfast was over we had seen not only the hummingbirds at Pat's feeders, but Black-Headed Grosbeaks, Northern Orioles, Green-Tailed Towhees, and White-Crowned Sparrows.

Right after breakfast we made the rounds of Pat's yard and field carefully checking the plum thicket, Cottonwoods, Russian Olives, grape arbor and fruit trees, and the multi-flora rose hedge for migrating warblers, sparrows, buntings, and other songsters. Of course, we did not forget the fence rows and powerlines or other places for resident and migrant birds to rest and hide. By the time we had finished this survey we had added up a total of 26 species (not as many as last year). Among the more interesting birds were a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, White-Winged Dove, White-Throated Sparrows, and a Great Horned Owl.

It was nearly a quarter after seven when we left Pat's house and headed for Bosque del Apache. En route we stopped at a promising place, and sure enough we found a pair of Barn Owls. Of course we found the usual Redwings, Meadowlarks, Shrikes, Mockingbirds and Kestrels along the road. As we turned in on the tour route and paused at the front display ponds to observe and inventory the

species that were there, two excited people from Texas drove up, eager to tell us they had spotted a Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher at the north end of the middle road beyond the pump. They obviously were experienced and knew whereof they spoke. This certainly piqued our interest, and goaded us to hurry over there so we could add this unusual visitor to our list. But we proceeded with all deliberate haste, for we did not want to miss any of the obvious, regular species in our haste for the special one. It was well that we did not hurry, for we saw a number of waterfowl and wading birds as well as several Sora, a Virginia Rail, and a Common Gallinule carrying nesting material.

Our list was progressing nicely by the time we reached the purported location of the Scissor-Tail. As our informers had stated, there were many Western Kingbirds in that area and we saw no less than five, brilliant, male Vermilion Flycatchers as well as one or more females. But look as we would, the Scissor-Tail was not to be found. We did find it the next day, of all places, sitting on a low weed stalk, not more than a foot above the ground. And we almost missed it--or took it for a Western Kingbird, because of our interest in Water Pipits on either side, which we had missed on Saturday. It could very easily have been overlooked, for its tail was not fully emerged, and was about 2/3 the normal length.

This year for a change, Pat and Clara were receptive to stopping for lunch at 12:10 p.m., even though we had only 98 birds, and still had the whole south end of the tour loop to cover. When we finally did cover that area and the main road south to the railroad trestle, we found only one more species: Gamble's Quail. So we returned to the refuge headquarters for a quick stop one bird short of a hundred. As we pulled up and stopped, bird number 100 flew to a shaded spot under a fuel barrel beside the garage and sat in plain sight, waiting to be counted, a Brown Towhee.

By the time we headed for Water Canyon it was 2:30 p.m., and we needed a lot more birds. We saw only two additional species en route, a Horned Lark, and a Cassin's Kingbird. Perhaps I should mention here that we had agreed we would count only birds that both of us had seen and agreed on the identification. This led to some arguments (discussions?), but only when we arrived at a consensus and were in total agreement as to identification was a bird added to the list. This caused some going back, spending extra time, and in a few cases not counting birds which only one of us saw and was positive of the identification.

We were somewhat disappointed going up the road to Water Canyon that the sparrows and thrashers we normally expect to find were not to be seen. We did stop at our usual places. At our first stop we did not find the Acorn Woodpeckers that usually frequent the location in large numbers. At the second stop by the cattle guard, near the old, red windmill, as we got out of the car we spotted a small band of Bushtits, bird number 103, we had tied our total for last year! We walked down to the creek bed below the big, rocky bluff where we always find Canyon Wrens. Sure enough, Pat heard it, number 104 for her, she had surpassed last year's record. Unfortunately I did not hear or see it. This was the only bird counted on sound identification only. I could not count number 104 until we located the Hairy Woodpecker we had heard drumming and calling for several minutes.

When we arrived at the Water Canyon Picnic Grounds, our hearts sank, for a group of University of Texas Longhorns were holding a rather noisy party, which we were sure would scare away every bird within hearing distance. However, we filled a hummingbird feeder and left Clara to watch it while we

walked down the creek bed to see what we could find. Near the parking lot a pair of Western Bluebirds were feeding young in a nest high in a cottonwood tree. As we walked down the creek, Pat spotted a female Broadtailed Hummingbird on her nest (we later heard and saw a male). We also found several Acorn Woodpeckers and a pair of Cooper's Hawks. By the time we got back to the parking lot we had identified and listed 118 species--two short of our goal. While we were gone Clara had seen only a male Black-Chinned Hummingbird at the feeder.

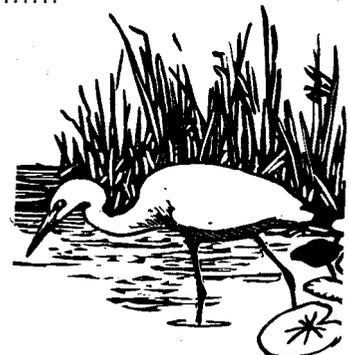
Up the creek we went, keeping our eyes peeled to find the two birds we needed. Just above the picnic area we found number 119, a very quiet and secretive Steller's Jay, which could very easily have been overlooked. To find that all important last bird was not so easy. Where the trail upstream became too rough and overgrown for reasonable passage we climbed the hill to the road, where we found a pine tree, literally alive with warblers. Some we had already seen, but bird number 120 was a Townsend's Warbler, and to make sure of surpassing our goal we also found a Grace's Warbler. By the time we left the area we had also found a Mountain Chickadee and a House Wren.

As we went down the canyon we ran into a little hot spot of bird activity. We stopped and carefully sorted through the birds. Nothing new was seen, but what a thrill it was to see a small flock of Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks with at least five strikingly marked, black and white males with brilliant rosey breasts, two or more less distinctly marked females, and another Summer Tanager.

As we once again reached the rock bluffs behind the red windmill, we finally found the Common Ravens which had eluded us all day. And listening very closely I was able to confirm the song of the Canyon Wren. As we got out into the flatter, more open grasslands, the sparrows we had missed earlier made their appearance. What we claimed for the last two birds of the day were number 125 a Black-Throated Sparrow and number 126 a Lark Sparrow. It was now 7:18 p.m., but still light enough for good visibility. As a bonus a small bank of five American Pronghorn showed themselves.

It was well after 8 p.m. when we got back to Pat's house. We were all very glad Pat had the foresight to prepare spaghetti sauce in advance. We all enjoyed a hearty Italian dinner very shortly after our arrival. But we still were not completely ready to quit. One more short circle around some of the unpaved roads yielded a final bird for the day: number 127 a Poor-Will. The time, 9:18 p.m. That tied my previous best ever day, and was the best day for both Pat and I in New Mexico.

What about next year? Well, we have talked it over and are in complete agreement. Neither of us is a competitive birder. We bird because we enjoy seeing and studying the birds we can find, see, and hear. We have no desire to outdo anyone but ourselves. So our only goal for next year is to equal or better our own best effort. Will we do it?!



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