

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1984

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, OCTOBER 18 - Regular Meeting

At the October 18 meeting Neil and Jean Dilley, Audubon members, will give us a slide show of their April 1984 tour of Ecuador and the Galapagos. Neil is the photographer, Jean the narrator. The Dilleys were a part of the Questers, Worldside Tours, and were on the tour 2 1/2 weeks. The show will feature the plants, animals, birds and flowers of the area -- just the kind of show Auduboners love! Come and enjoy!

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, October 20-21 -- New Mexico Audubon Conference

Saturday, Oct. 20, Meetings - 10:00 - 5:00 - \$15 registration fee includes lunch, dinner meetings, and Sunday field trip.

Sunday, Oct. 21 - Field trip to Bitter Lake NWR.

For more information, see article inside and/or call Darwin Miller (265-6361) or Evelyn Price (831-5028).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21 - Field Trip

Enjoy an autumn ramble with Barbara Hussey who will lead a beginner's nature walk in the valley. Meet at 1 P.M. at the Rio Grande Nature Center parking lot at the far west end of Candelaria Street. For more information call Barbara at 262-5626.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - Regular Meeting

Val Christianson, teacher in the Cuba, NM, public schools, climbed Mt. McKinley in July. He will be at our meeting to tell us about the climb and to show slides of this adventure. See Welcome for time and place.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 - Field Trip

Join Bruce Halstead for a trip to the Bosque del Apache NWR where the cranes, geese, and ducks will again grace the New Mexico sky with their beautiful configurations. For those willing to be overwhelmed by something on the less spectacular side, you may find a Pyrrhuloxia, a Verdin, or perhaps even a humble little Savannah Sparrow. Meet at the Physics & Astronomy Bldg. parking lot near the corner of Lomas and Yale at 8 A.M. Also bring a lunch and perhaps some spare change for a world-renowned burger at the Owl Cafe. If you have questions, you can reach Bruce at home (299-9397) or at work (766-2174).

THERE ARE TWO U's IN THE WORD AUDUBON

We invite and indeed encourage our membership to alert us of environmental problems in our area and to ask that "you do something about it." That's the first "you" in Audubon. And we reiterate our pledge to act as watchdogs of the local environment. We will do what we can 1) to find out the exact nature of the problem; 2) to weigh the alternatives; and 3) to do what we can to influence the authorities involved. Unfortunately, in almost all situations, our role is limited to advising, educating, and requesting. We do not have the weight of law in our decisions. We have some resources but we are very limited in what we can do.

We are limited, of course, by the nature of our authority. We are further limited by the time and energy at our disposal. And this is where the second "you" in Audubon must play a part. For "we" are really "you." Without active support from our membership we will cease to exist, at least as a viable source of influence in the cause of environmental good sense. There is no magic in our group; no group of experts or paid personnel do our work. We are all volunteers who have only so much time to devote to Audubon. Our success must depend on numbers. We cannot sit back and "Let George do it" and then arrogate the right to complain that Audubon isn't fulfilling its pledge.

Briefly and emphatically, we need you. We are beginning to feel the shortage of manpower in many aspects of our activities. We need new faces, new ideas, renewed energy. Otherwise we run the risk of having people sit on our board of directors who are directors in name only. Our committees will be chaired by inactive people; our officers, and finally our whole organization will cease to function.

When that happens, we can all go bird-watching; we can enjoy what we see, but we won't be able to go to bed at night

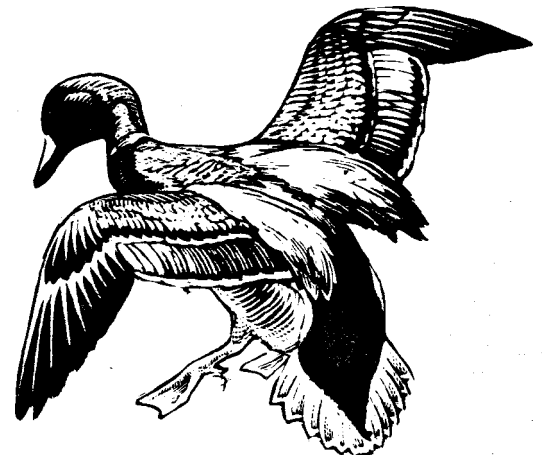
secure in the knowledge that we have done our best to assure our children and our grandchildren of the right to enjoy the same opportunities. --Bill Lamoureux
Thanks to the Long Island Audubon Society

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

I realize that I might be accused of being worse than the shopping mall merchants, but there are only 75 birding days until Christmas (Bird Count) time! This year we hope to have a great deal of participation on the three counts sponsored by the CNMAS. So we're letting you know well in advance so that you can write the dates on your calendar and NOT plan anything else on those days. So set aside the last three Saturdays of December right now for some of the most enjoyable birding of the year. First off the line will be the Sandia Mountain Count on December 15th. The 22nd of December we will gather at the Refuge Headquarters at 7 A.M. for the Bosque del Apache Count. We will put the finishing touch on our counting campaign with the Albuquerque Count on December 29th. There may well be a new midweek count starting at Sevilleta NWR this year. Details are as yet sketchy, but since most of this refuge requires four-wheel-drive vehicles for access, participation may be somewhat limited.

Plan on a full day of birding; dawn to dusk is possible, and even some nighttime owling will probably occur. Even if you can only participate for part of the day, you are very welcome to help count. Feeder watchers are also very welcome, particularly on the Sandia Mountain count. Final details will be printed in the OWL in early December. Start planning now!

--Dale Stahlecker



NOW PLAYING AT A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
NEAR YOU: AN OUTSTANDING WINTER SHOW -
NO ADMISSION CHARGE!

Each waterfowl species calls in its own particular voice, and together they raise a tumultuous clamor. A sky full of MALLARDS swirl downward and disappear among the tawny reaches of cattails and rushes. Diminutive TEAL DUCKS do quick turns, flipovers, and other aerial stunts. REDHEADS and CANVASBACKS buzz by in tight, swift vees. Long, clanging chains of CANADA GEESE festoon the bleak winter horizon. But the SNOW GEESE always steal the show with their famous "showstorm act," fluttering en masse by the thousands from great heights into the marsh.

Now is the time to see this great annual pageant on many of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's refuges and at numerous state wildlife management areas. Several refuges have interpretive motor routes or trails with specified observation points. Some have blinds for bird watchers and photographers. A few even conduct special tours. All refuges have rules for visitors to follow on the area which are available from the manager, but none charge admission.

Take along binoculars, camera, and lunch. Come early and plan to stay until dusk so that the waterfowl can be seen leaving and returning on feeding flights.

Many of the ducks have just arrived from the prairie potholes of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Dakotas; geese from the shores of the Hudson Bay, the tundra marshes of the Northwest Territories, Alaska, and from as far as northeastern Siberia.

These "northerns," as they are frequently called, are said to be larger, stronger, and noisier than their more sedentary local relatives, but they are not. There are just more of them. In normal years about 100 million ducks and from 4 to 6 million geese return to their wintering grounds.

There is no admission cost, but the show is not free. Most of the wetlands that make these performances possible are purchased with money accrued through the sale of MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMPS, or "Duck Stamps," as they are called. Anyone who enjoys waterfowl can purchase one of the beautifully designed pieces of art for \$7.50 at most post offices and some of the national wildlife refuges.

As more nesting habitat is lost to cropland and urban development in the north and more swamps are logged off and converted to similar purposes in the southern waterfowl wintering grounds, America's system of national wildlife refuges must carry an ever increasing burden -- or the show will certainly close.

National Wildlife Refuges close to Albuquerque are:

- 1) Bosque del Apache NWR, 16 miles south of Socorro, NM (about 100 miles total).
- 2) Bitter Lakes NWR, near Roswell, NM (about 200 miles).
- 3) Monte Vista NWR, south of Monte Vista, Colorado (about 200 miles).
- 4) Muleshoe NWR, east of Portales, NM (about 250 miles).
- 5) Las Vegas NWR, east of Las Vegas, NM (about 130 miles).
- 6) Maxwell NWR, at Maxwell, NM (about 180 miles).



C. L. Hoots in New Burrow

Your editors have moved and changed phones:
217 Sunset Road, S.W., #22
Albuquerque, NM 87105
831-5028

We welcome articles and suggestions from all interested parties.

NEW MEXICO STATE AUDUBON CONFERENCE

By now most Audubon members in New Mexico have seen the SCHEDULE OF EVENTS for the New Mexico State Audubon Conference. The schedule should have very careful reading. The registration fee of \$15 includes the cost of two meals, the conference luncheon and the conference banquet. The conference committee needs to know well in advance how many are coming in order to make adequate plans for meals and for seating arrangements. Your cooperation in sending your registration fee as soon as possible will be very helpful.

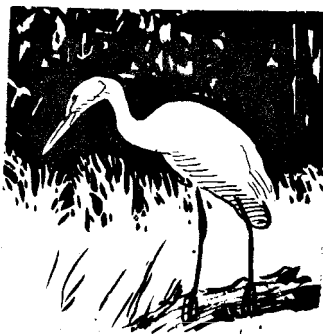
Send your registration to:

Hal Hallett
P. O. Box 396
Roswell, NM 88201

Those who don't have a schedule may contact any NMAC officer or representative listed on the back page.

A Conference Committee of 14 members has put in a lot of hard work to make the 1984 State Conference the best ever held in our state. It is certain this conference will be the one big Audubon event in New Mexico this year. You can help make the conference a success by sending your registration immediately.

It almost goes without saying that every Audubon member who seriously believes in the Audubon cause will be present and accounted for at the State Conference in Roswell, New Mexico, on October 20 and October 21, 1984. We are counting on you! From now on the motto is, "BE THERE!"



**Coming
October 22**

ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
EXAMINED IN NEW AUDUBON TELEVISION SERIES

The beauty and majesty of nature, as well as today's dangers threatening the earth's wildlife and environment, will be explored in "World of Audubon," the new series debuting this fall on SuperStation WTBS. The series, which will air quarterly through 1985, will premiere on the SuperStation on Monday, October 22. Encore presentations will be telecast on Sunday, October 28; Sunday, November 4; and Monday, November 5. Check your local listings for the broadcast times in this area.

Hosted by veteran actor Cliff Robertson, each hour-long "World of Audubon" edition will use remarkable, on-location wildlife photography and interviews with noted conservationists and leading spokespersons to cover a variety of Audubon issues in a fast-paced, magazine style program.

The inaugural program will include magnificently photographed segments on sea otters in Big Sur, CA, rare pink flamingoes in Great Inagua, West Indies, bald eagles in Alaska, and grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park.

Other segments will include revealing interviews with actor Richard Chamberlain on his efforts to preserve California's scenic Tuolumne River, actress Pam Dawber ("Mork and Mindy") on her work as a solar energy proponent, and Friends of the Sea Otter founder Margaret Owings.

The program will also include a tribute to President Theodore Roosevelt, who championed wildlife conservation by establishing

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society and
 Popejoy Hall
 present

NATURE & WILDLIFE

FILM SERIES 1984-85

All shows start at 7:30 p.m.



- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Sun., Nov. 11 | THE BLACK HILLS
Allen King |
| Mon., Jan. 28 | KIWI COUNTRY
Fran Hall |
| Sun., Feb. 17 | BIRD OF FREEDOM
Herman Kitchens |
| Mon., Apr. 1 | THE GALAPAGOS
John Wilson |
| Sun., Apr. 28 | QUEBEC WHALES
Tom Sterling |



ORDER BLANK

To order your Wildlife Film Series Tickets from the Audubon Society, just fill in this order blank and send it with your check to:

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 Albuquerque, NM 87190

A self-addressed, stamped envelope will be appreciated.

SEASON TICKETS are good for six admissions - to one show or to any combination of showings. We will also sell you a single ticket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
 Edith Johnson 255-0307
 Craig Andrews 881-9387
 E. Broemel 256-9481

GIFT SUGGESTION

Audubon Wildlife Film Series Tickets make wonderful gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, retirement, graduation or just because you like someone.

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 Address _____
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	<u>Single Admission</u>	
_____ Adult		@ \$ 4.00
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Total amount encl. \$ _____

WE THANK YOU

more than 50 natural sanctuaries and by creating the National Park System.

Please watch the premiere program on October 22 and encourage your friends and neighbors to watch it, too.

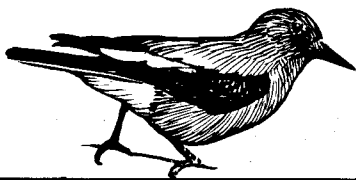
ROSS' RAVINS
By Ross L. Teuber

Hi Folks! The summer nesting season is winding down, and the fall migration is getting well underway. The next several weeks should be a time for many successful field trips and exciting observations. Please keep me posted, so you and I can share these sightings with the readers of this column. My telephone number is 265-8962, and I like nothing more than chatting with you about birds.

First let me say thank you to all of you who have sent in prepublication orders for the New Mexico Bird Finding Guide, and for the kind notes in regard to the column that you sent in with your orders. I've been around for so long, it is easy for me to assume that everyone knows who I am, and forget we have many new members who do not know me. Since I am no longer on the Chapter Directory on the back page of the OWL, it does, at times, create a problem. Please accept my apologies. However, the editor has agreed to give me a By Line, so the problem should be solved.

With the changing seasons, the time is rapidly approaching when you'll be swapping hummingbird feeders for seed and suet feeders. Usually I leave my hummingbird feeders up well into October to accommodate stragglers. Some of our most interesting sightings are dawdlers, or more accurately, post-nesting travelers. Remember a few years back when Myrtle Hilty had two MAGNIFICENT (RIVOLI'S) HUMMINGBIRDS arrive the last of October and stay until the BROADTAILS arrived in April?

Speaking of hummingbirds, have you ever wondered where our hummers come from in the spring or late summer, and where



they go in the fall? Basically our only local nesters, the BROAD-TAILED and BLACK-CHINNED, return to us in April from their winter homes in southern Mexico. The breeding area of the BROAD-TAILED extends northward from central Mexico along the mountains as far as Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. So we're centrally located in the breeding area. The BLACK-CHINNED breed in the northern tier of states in Mexico, central and southwest Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, southwest Colorado, most of Utah, Nevada, and California, and extreme northern Baja. There is also an isolated breeding area which includes parts of southwest British Columbia, western Washington, and parts of southwest British Columbia, western Washington, and parts of northwest Idaho and Montana.

The RUFIOUS, which winters almost throughout the northern three-quarters of Mexico and most of the Baja peninsula, skips right over us in the spring. It is our most northerly breeding species, nesting in western Oregon and Washington, British Columbia, the southeast corner of the Yukon Territory, and into the extreme southeast tip of Alaska. One leg of the breeding area extends southeastward along the south British Columbia/Saskatchewan border and into northern Idaho and northwest Montana. The CALLIOPES are also long-distance migrators. They winter in a restricted area in central Mexico in the states of Nayarit, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Michoacan, and the extreme southern tip of Zacatecas. Their breeding area includes mountainous areas of North America from Central British Columbia, SW Alberta, south through Washington and Oregon, northern California, and Nevada, just touching NW Utah and NW Wyoming. There is a resident (nonmigratory) subspecies which is confined to the Mexico state of Guerrero. The few MAGNIFICENT (RIVOLI'S) that get into New Mexico come as a part of their post-nesting northerly movement. Their northern breeding area barely extends into the SE corner of Arizona and extreme SW corner of New Mexico. There is a southern breeding population that gets into Central America as far as Panama. They winter in central Mexico.



One more note on HUMMINGBIRDS. The current issue of Bird Watcher's Digest (Vol. 7 No. 1) Sept/Oct has an item stating that the North Central Plastics, Inc., manufacturers of the Red Snap'r fence supplies, no longer manufactures the red colored insulators. They are also advising people who already have installed the red insulators to paint them another color. The president of the company, Howard Langlie, said there was a twofold reason for discontinuing manufacturing the red insulators: they are concerned about the environment, and they strive to be responsive to their customers. So it appears some pressure in the right places does do some good. Earlier there was a report that a NORTHERN (BALTIMORE) ORIOLE had been electrocuted at a fed fence insulator.

Because of my vacation trip to the Ozarks and SE Missouri, and the press of other birding related activities, it has been hard to keep in contact with all of my contributors. Since the trip was not primarily for birding, not too many sightings were added to my list. One life bird did crop up -- a TRUMPETER SWAN at Mingo NWR in SE Missouri. Once again I did not find the SWAINSON'S WARBLER and missed the usual WOOD DUCKS and PILIATED WOODPECKER. Some of the interesting birds we did see were PROTHONTARY WARBLER, CAROLINA WREN, CAROLINA CHICKADEE, EASTERN BLUEBIRD, RED-EYED VIREO, an immature YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, also at Mingo; WOOD THRUSH, WORM-EATING WARBLER, and many CHIMNEY SWIFTS, BLUE JAYS, and RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS.

Now down to the nitty-gritty of recent local reports. Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc., resumed banding operations at the Rio Grande Nature Center late in August. Some of the more interesting things banded were two NORTHERN WATER-THRUSHES and, of all things, two RED CROSSBILLS, the first ever at that location. The bulk of the birds banded so far have been SPIZELLA SPARROWS: CHIPPING, BREWER'S, and CLAY-COLORED. There have also been good numbers of

LARK SPARROW, some VESPER SPARROWS, WILSON'S and MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLERS, DUSKY and TRAILS (probably WILLOW) FLYCATCHERS, AMERICAN ROBINS, BLUE and BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS, LESSER GOLDFINCH, LAZULI BUNTINGS, and a sprinkling of other birds. Visitors are welcome at the banding site when we are working, to see and hear explanations of what we are doing. The bug might even bite you and you'd want to volunteer to join us as regular workers on the project.

Reports of first arrivals of RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRDS since the last column include one at Maurice Mackey's on July 19, and my first was late -- on July 21. Joanna Phillips had her first YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO on July 20; she also had a WATER-THRUSH, probably a NORTHERN, on September 7. I talked to Kevin Zimmer at Las Cruces on August 25; two days earlier he had seen a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, LITTLE BLUE HERON, SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER, and SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER at Holloman Lake.

During the last few days of August on three different mornings there were COMMON NIGHTHAWKS along the route of my daily walks. The last few years they have been far from common in this part of the city. While at Joanne's, checking on the WATER-THRUSH, which I missed, I did see a LEWIS' WOODPECKER, BLACK PHOEBE, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, GREEN-BACKED HERON, WILSON'S and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS.

Pat Basham tells me the fall movement of SPARROWS and WARBLERS is very evident at her place in Socorro. Particularly prominent are CHIPPING and BREWER'S SPARROWS, EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS, PINYON JAY and SCRUB JAY. She's even had one SORA, and the first immature WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW has already arrived.

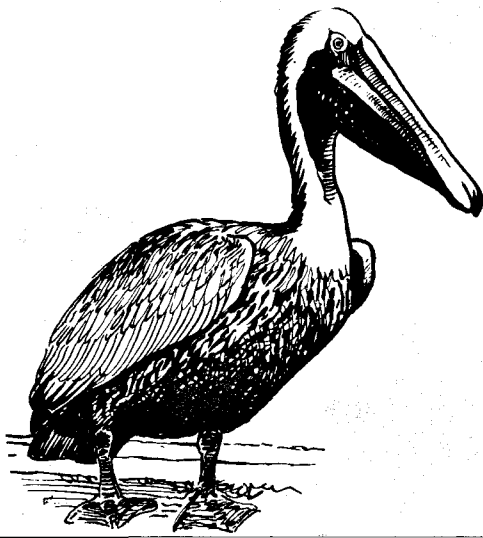
Steve Hoffman mentioned that among the first migrating hawks at the Capilla Peak lookout were two OSPREY, two PRAIRIE FALCON, and a RED-TAILED HAWK, as well as many SHARP-SHINNED and COOPER'S HAWKS. The first fall road count in the Estancia Valley on September 13 produced nine species, including an immature GOLDEN



EAGLE, COOPER'S, SHARP-SHINNED, RED-TAILED, SWAINSON'S and FERRUGINOUS HAWKS, a PRAIRIE FALCON, and several AMERICAN KESTRELS, as well as 63 TURKEY VULTURES and a BURROWING OWL. The fall hawk migration is definitely underway!

The bulk of the HUMMINGBIRDS seem to have left, at least from my feeders. Pat Basham says she's down to where they are using less than a quart of syrup a day. It has been at least ten days since the last adult male BLACK-CHINNED, and even longer since there have been any adult RUFUS here. The last adult female BLACK-CHINNED was here on September 1. As of September 19 there are still immature BLACK-CHINNED and RUFUS males feeding. The last immature male CALLIOPE was here on September 7, as was the last adult male BROAD-TAILED. I'll be interested in hearing of the last appearances of HUMMERS at your feeders.

Along with fall migration, it isn't a bit too early to start thinking about the CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, and setting aside one or more weekends to participate in them. I have recommended that Dale Stahlecker take over the coordination of the counts this year. After 13 years I'm getting tired, and would like to be free to take part in some other counts. No doubt, you'll be hearing from Dale elsewhere in this issue of the Burrowing Owl. The overall count dates this year are December 15, 1984, through January 2, 1985. That gives us three Saturdays and Sundays that are not holidays! In the meantime enjoy your fall birding and keep me up to date on your interesting sightings. Good luck, and good birding. So long. --R.L.T.



BROWN PELICAN SOARS

Not all environmental news is bad news. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the eastern brown pelican has made such a hearty comeback that the agency is recommending removing the bucket-billed bird from the endangered species list in some states.

Pelican populations crashed 20 years ago mainly because of pesticides like DDT and endrin. The bird was listed as endangered throughout its range in 1970. Many birds were poisoned directly, and all suffered reproductive problems due to heavy concentrations of pesticides. Since pesticide use has been controlled, several kinds of birds have rebounded.

The service proposes removing the pelicans from the endangered species list in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and elsewhere along the East Coast. The birds are still considered endangered in Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, California, Mexico, and in Central and South America.



**APPLICATION FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP
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AND THE**

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Joint membership offers you full membership in both the National Audubon Society and the Central New Mexico Audubon chapter at the same rate as membership in the national organization only.

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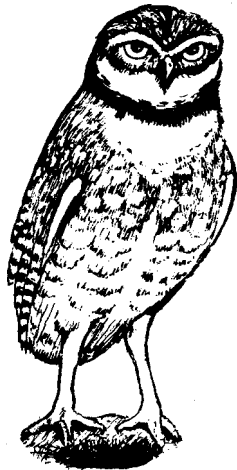
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Washington, DC 20515



**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 - 0002

DIRECTORY—CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

President

John V. Brown, 4608 Hilton Ave., NE, 87110; 888-4661

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Editors, Burrowing Owl - Evelyn and George Price,

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