



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

JUNE - JULY 1985

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 20 - Regular Meeting

Edith and Butch Johnson have made many trips to and through the South. Edith will narrate a slide show of some of their experiences titled "From Albuquerque to Okefenokee." See Welcome Paragraph for time and place.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22 - Field Trip

Margie and Mark Amato will lead a trip and work party to our adopted trail on the west side of the Sandias. Meet at 10 a.m. at the junction of Tramway Road and the road to Juan Tabo picnic area. This will be a short work time, but bring water and shack just in case. Call the Amatos at 298-3227 for further information.

SATURDAY, JULY 13 - Field Trip

Explore Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains with Bruce Halstead. Acorn Woodpeckers are always conspicuous there; Red-Faced Warblers are a good possibility,

and with luck you might see a Bridled Titmouse. Bring lunch and something to drink for this all-day event. Meet at UNM Physics & Astronomy parking lot (Lomas & Yale, N.E.) at 7 a.m. Bruce can be reached at home (299-9397) or at work (766-2174).

(Editor's Note: While camping in the Burro Mountains in southwestern New Mexico recently, we heard the Acorn Woodpeckers called Clown Woodpeckers. This seems an apt name, both from their antics and from their looks! Don't miss seeing these characters.)

THURSDAY, JULY 18 - Regular Meeting

Wendy Aischlemann, an RN involved in bird rehabilitation, will present a program entitled "Repairing Wings and Things." See Welcome Paragraph for time and place.

SUNDAY, JULY 28 - Field Trip

Field trip to Kiwanis Meadow, primarily to enjoy Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds as well as the colorful display of wild-flowers, the lovely scenery, and the fresh, cool mountain air that is so welcome when the lowlands are baking hot. We will also walk some trails to find the elusive Three-Toed Woodpecker, but success can't be guaranteed, even though these

birds are residents of the Sandias above 10,000 feet. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mountain View Motel parking lot, bringing lunch and water. Hart Schwarz will be the leader. Call him at 266-1810 for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As newly-elected president of our Chapter, I look forward to coordinating the efforts of the membership toward accomplishing the goals set forth by the Society.

We've heard it said, "Audubon isn't just for birdwatchers anymore" -- and it isn't! As Russ Peterson, our national president, tells it in his editorial in the May issue of Audubon:

"Audubon's namesake organization, founded to protect birds from hunters and egg collectors, now numbers more than half a million members. Together with many other conservation groups, National Audubon Society has broadened its mission to include the protection of all life -- animal, plant, and human -- and the air, land, and water on which life depends."

The Owl goes out on a bimonthly basis to a mailing list of around 800 members of our local chapter. Although active membership makes up a rather small percentage of this number, many important and long-lasting projects have been accomplished by this faithful core group in recent years.

Our challenge to you as we start our new year is to become a participating Audubon member! Plan to join us in our monthly meetings, field trips, conservation projects, and other activities. Feel free to call anyone on the Directory on the back of this Owl for information. We'll be waiting to hear from you!

--Marge Carrick

A THANK YOU NOTE

Your editors were surprised--very!--to be the recipients of a beautiful book presented to us by CNMAS at the Annual Meeting. We thank you all very much. It is a fine addition to our library.

But five years as editors of the Burrowing Owl would have been impossible without all of you who have written articles, typed, made phone calls, run errands, and collated, stapled, folded, labeled, and mailed the Owl. It is cooperation like this that keeps our Society viable. We could always use more help, though. If you would like to donate a bit of time, call Evelyn or George at 831-5028.

Thanks again, CNMAS.

--Evelyn and George Price, Editors

OUR ADOPTED TRAIL GETS NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Margie and Mark Amato have agreed to be Trail Bosses to help keep up our adopted trail near the Tramway in the Sandias. We know you'll give the M&M's all the support you can. See the calendar for details of the first trail trip, scheduled June 22.

BU/WRECK TRIES AGAIN

The plot to dam the last free-flowing river in New Mexico is steamrolling ahead. The river is the Gila in Southwest New Mexico; the dam the Bureau of Reclamation wishes to build is called Conner Dam. The project does not appear to have any redeeming features. Those "advantages" cited by the BuRec are:

- 1) Water for Silver City.
- 2) Recreation.
- 3) Flood control.

1) If Silver City should boom greatly, there might be need for more water. In light of the current depressed economy and the unlikelihood of increased need for copper, water does not seem to be needed in Silver City. It would also be very expensive to pipe over the Continental Divide from the Conner location.



2) The lake provided by damming the Gila River would be fairly full during spring runoff, but a mud or dust flat at other times. Recreation for mosquitoes?

3) Flood control is always a big selling point for dams. And indeed, those down-river from Conner had a bridge washed out at Redrock this year, causing great inconvenience. However, it would be disastrous, rather than inconvenient, for those whose homes, farms, and ranches would be flooded by the dam itself.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has this to say about the area to be flooded above the dam: "It contains important fish and wildlife habitat and supports a wide variety of resident and migratory species. This is the richest breeding riparian avifauna community in the lower Colorado [River] drainage and probably in the Southwest."

To cap it all off, the Gila River carries an unusually high amount of silt and sand. Any reservoir on the Gila would silt up and become unusable in 15 to 20 years. Secondly, \$300,000 of public money has recently been spent on a feasibility study that had already been done a few years ago, a study to determine if the last free-flowing river in the state of New Mexico should be dammed. A dam that would produce very few beneficial results and have a negative cost/benefit ratio. A river that, as rivers go, is relatively insignificant but is beautiful in the eyes of the appreciative beholder.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT INADEQUATE

That by the end of this decade the earth will lose more species each week than were estimated to have disappeared during the previous 300 years is a projection which may become fact if efforts are not taken to strengthen the Endangered Species Act. While we read of The Whooping Crane, California condor and Florida mantee, hundreds of lesser known and less spectacular plants and animals are being lost forever.

If aesthetics and stability of ecosystems are not justification enough for preserving all organisms, there are also the benefits of sustained vigor of food crops, organic compounds of medicinal use, and potential value in genetic engineering. Inadequacies in implementing various aspects of the Act are the specific reasons that it is failing. The basic problem is one of funding. Our Congress needs to know that we support a stronger, better funded program for protecting endangered species.

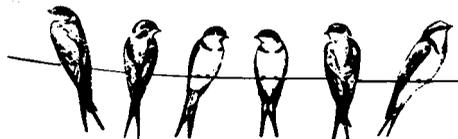
Write your Senator and Representative at U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20510, or call the Capitol switchboard, (202) 224-3121.

SOUTH SANDIA SPRING 1985 RAPTOR MIGRATION

Jim Daly
Steve Hoffman

As you may recall, last spring we counted a total of 1,640 raptors migrating over the Sandias (at a site northeast of Three Gun Spring trail bend) in 261 hours of observation. This spring, with financial support provided by a small grant from NM Game & Fish Department's "Share With Wildlife" funds, we monitored the Sandia migration more intensively. Observations began on 17 February and continued until 13 May. The watch totaled 74 days, with a final count of 2,806 migrating raptors in 547.8 hours of observations (5.1 per hour), marking the first complete coverage of a spring raptor migration anywhere in the western or southern United States.

Sixteen species were recorded this spring, with totals as follows: 643 Turkey Vultures, 474 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 454 Cooper's Hawks, 443 Golden Eagles, 283 Red-tailed Hawks, 148 American Kestrels, 55 Northern Harriers, 47 Swainson's Hawks, 28 Prairie Falcons, 26 Osprey, 22 Goshawks, 20 Bald Eagles, 11 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Peregrine Falcons, and one each of the Zone-tailed and Broad-winged Hawk. Absent from this year's count were the Merlin and the Rough-legged Hawk (one of each was recorded during the spring of 1984).



continued

The first week of April proved to be the peak of the migration, with over 1,000 raptors tallied in seven days. The "big day" came on 6 April, when 245 individuals of 8 species were recorded (last spring's peak was 14 April, with 232 birds of 14 species). Six days yielded 100+ migrants, with five of those days coming during that first week of April, and the last one occurring on 30 April.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the migration this spring was the Golden Eagle migration. The total of 445 is the largest seasonal total of Golden Eagles recorded from a single observation point anywhere in North America during either a fall or spring migration count. Two obvious peaks occurred in this spring's Golden Eagle flight. The first appeared during the first 10 days of March, consisting of adults (85% were adults en route to their northern breeding areas). The second flight was noted during the first ten days in April, with third-year birds comprising 32%, and first-year, second-year, and adult age classes each comprising about 22%. Also of interest is that Golden Eagles appeared to have already begun their northerly movements before observations began on 17 February, and continued until the count ended -- a migration period spanning more than three months! The most spectacular flight came on 13 March, when 44 eagles (39 Golden, 4 Bald, and one unidentified eagle) were seen.

Osprey were down 28% from last year's count of 36. Swainson's Hawks increased from 10 individuals last year to 47 this spring. Of particular interest is that nearly 30% were dark-phased birds. Unusual sightings included 5 Peregrine Falcons (7, 8, 10 April, and 4, 7 May); one Zone-tailed Hawk on 2 April and an adult Broad-winged Hawk on 10 March, an extremely early date for this species.

This spring's count was conducted by the authors and Penny Rodefer.

(Editor's Note: A complete day-by-day summary is available, which includes weather, hours observed, and number of

species seen. If you would like a copy, send an SASE to the editors at the address on the back page.)



HISTORIC TOURS OF RANDALL DAVEY'S HOUSE

Tours of Randall Davey's home will be available starting in June, ending approximately September 2. The house will be open on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Fee: \$3 general public, \$1 Audubon members, \$1 Senior Citizens, Free to volunteers. Fee includes both tour of house and admission to the 110 acres of the Center. The property includes an easy walking trail through native New Mexican landscape, with views of Santa Fe Canyon. We are looking for additional volunteers to help with tours of the house. The docent coordinators are Howard and Meriom Kastner (982-3255), or call the Randall Davey Center at 983-4609. --Janice Cox, Interim Director, Randall Davey Center

ALBUQUERQUE SPRING COUNT

5/12/85

AREAS: 1 - SANDIA MTS.
2 - RIO GRANDE

SPECIES	AREAS:	1	2	TOTAL
MALLARD		-	11	11
TURKEY VULTURE		11	-	11
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK		1	1	2
COOPER'S HAWK		1	-	1
RED-TAILED HAWK		4	-	4
KESTREL		6	4	10
SCALED QUAIL		-	2	2
GAMBEL'S QUAIL		-	8	8
RING-NECKED PHEASANT		-	6	6
KILLDEER		-	2	2
SPOTTED SANDPIPER		1	1	2
BAND-TAILED PIGEON		12	-	12
ROCK DOVE		7	-	7
MOURNING DOVE		26	74	100
ROADRUNNER		-	2	2
GREAT HORNED OWL		-	1	1
WHITE-THROATED SWIFT		2	-	2
BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD		2	22	24
BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD		31	3	34
BELTED KINGFISHER		1	3	4
COMMON FLICKER		11	11	22
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER		1	-	1
HAIRY WOODPECKER		1	-	1
DOWNY WOODPECKER		-	2	2
WESTERN KINGBIRD		33	2	35
ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER		13	3	16
SAY'S PHOEBE		5	-	5
DUSKY FLYCATCHER		2	-	2
EMPIDONAX SPECIES		-	2	2
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE		1	1	2
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW		37	1	38
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW		-	5	5
BARN SWALLOW		19	13	32
CLIFF SWALLOW		-	8	8
STELLER'S JAY		26	-	26
SCRUB JAY		19	-	19
COMMON RAVEN		14	1	15
COMMON CROW		9	4	13
PINYON JAY		14	-	14
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE		-	6	6
MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE		34	-	34
PLAIN TITMOUSE		8	-	8
BUSHTIT		8	-	8
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH		12	5	17
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH		11	-	11
PYGMY NUTHATCH		6	-	6
BROWN CREEPER		1	-	1
HOUSE WREN		12	-	12
BEWICK'S WREN		3	-	3
CANYON WREN		4	-	4
ROCK WREN		6	-	6
MOCKINGBIRD		5	1	6
CATBIRD		-	2	2
CRISBAL THRASHER		1	-	1
ROBIN		54	35	89
HERMIT THRUSH		7	-	7
WESTERN BLUEBIRD		16	-	16
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD		3	-	3
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER		1	-	1
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET		21	-	21

SPECIES	AREAS:	1	2	TOTAL
CEDAR WAXWING		-	3	3
STARLING		17	55	72
SOLITARY VIREO		9	1	10
WARBLING VIREO		8	1	9
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER		2	1	3
VIRGINIA'S WARBLER		10	-	10
YELLOW WARBLER		-	6	6
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER		46	35	81
GRACE'S WARBLER		20	-	20
PALM WARBLER		-	1	1
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH		-	1	1
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER		2	1	3
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT		-	5	5
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT		-	2	2
WILSON'S WARBLER		1	1	2
HOUSE SPARROW		45	23	68
WESTERN MEADOWLARK		16	6	22
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD		-	25	25
SCOTT'S ORIOLE		1	-	1
NORTHERN ORIOLE		3	5	8
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD		20	-	20
GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE		-	6	6
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD		10	19	29
WESTERN Tanager		49	15	64
BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK		94	49	143
BLUE GROSBEAK		-	3	3
INDIGO BUNTING		-	1	1
LAZULI BUNTING		-	1	1
EVENING GROSBEAK		63	37	100
CASSIN'S FINCH		11	-	11
HOUSE FINCH		12	3	15
PINE SISKIN		109	17	126
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH		2	19	21
LESSER GOLDFINCH		2	-	2
RED CROSSBILL		33	-	33
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE		3	-	3
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE		27	1	28
BROWN TOWHEE		6	-	6
LARK SPARROW		6	-	6
RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW		6	-	6
BLACK-THROATED SPARROW		15	-	15
DARK-EYED JUNCO		6	-	6
CHIPPING SPARROW		20	1	21
BLACK-CHINNED SPARROW		4	-	4
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW		-	1	1
				1788
105 SPECIES				



AN AUDUBON SUMMER

A Series of Lectures and Workshops

at the National Audubon Society's Randall Davey Center
Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe

JUNE

Saturday 22nd 10:00 a.m. Rare and Unique Plants of New Mexico - Bill Isaacs
Much more than pinons and chamisa . . .

JULY

Saturday 13th 10:00 a.m. The Origin of Birds - John McLoughlin
Are dinosaurs the ancestors of birds?
*Early morning bird walk, 8 a.m., with Pat Insley.

Saturday 20th 8:30 p.m. Summer Skies over Santa Fe - Chick Keller
Stargazing in Santa Fe Canyon.

Saturday/Sunday 20th-21st Chama River Raft Trip - Spend two days floating the Chama River, through forests and meadows, from El Vado to Abiquiu. Dependent upon water flow.

AUGUST

Saturday 3rd 10:00 a.m. History of Upper Canyon Road - Jack Loeffler and Octaviano Alarid.
A swimming pool built for trapeze antics; a sawmill; and an electric plucking machine for chickens . . . a unique history . . .

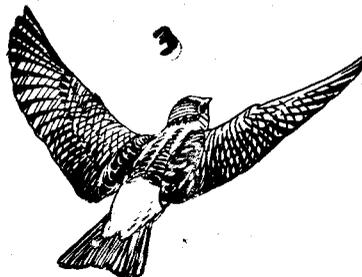
Saturday 10th 10:00 a.m. Geology of Santa Fe Canyon - Kathleen Affholter
The land under our feet . . . past and present changes.

Saturday 17th 9:00 a.m. Wildflowers and Medicinal Uses - Terry Foxx
A wonderful walk exploring the 110 acres of the Center.

Saturday 24th 10:00 a.m. Endangered Species of New Mexico - John Hubbard
Wildlife issues facing New Mexico.

Saturday 31st 10:00 a.m. Nature Photography - Jim Bones and Karen Copeland
Encounters with a photographer.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Number of participants will be limited, so call early: 983-4609, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission to workshop: \$1 general public, Free to Audubon members. Chama River Raft Trip: \$120 for two days/one night, food and transportation included.



ROSS' RAVIN'S

(Ross Teuber is taking a well-earned vacation this month.)

THINGS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW
ABOUT FEEDING HUMMINGBIRDS

WARNING: Do not use food coloring. It may be harmful. Red plastic or tape on the feeder accomplish the same purpose.

GOLDEN RULE: Keep feeders consistently clean and full. Ask a friend or neighbor to fill in if you go away.

SOLUTION: Use 3-5 parts water to 1 part white, granulated sugar. Honey presents problems of spoilage and mold and is not recommended. Never use sugar substitutes. Boil water first, mix, and let cool. Keep refrigerated up to one or two weeks. Change all food, if not taken, every 5 days.

PLACEMENT: Do not put feeders near an area that gets heavy traffic. Try to avoid exposure to all-day sun. Hummers like to have a nearby bush or tree to perch in. If one hummer takes over a feeder, add another feeder (6-15 feet apart) and experiment with distances apart until the hummer cannot successfully control both feeders. Bigger birds prefer special types of feeders, especially open jars with perches or hanging bottles with tube ends and perches. Hummer feeders usually have small feeding holes pointing up and are often non-spill types. It is good to have a variety of feeders, keeping some hummer-only types somewhat isolated so the bigger birds don't outcompete the hummers.

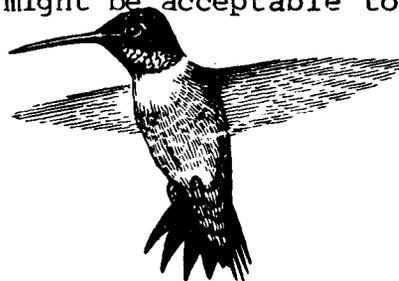
INSECT PROBLEMS: If you have ant problems, try petroleum jelly (or salad oil) spread liberally on the wire supports that the feeder hangs on. For bee problems: 1) If you just have a few (best to get at them early before they swarm), try, a) putting a liberal application of petroleum jelly on the feeder tube tip, around jar edges, or



around all feeder openings; b) if this does not work, try repellent from an animal supply center, the kind used to keep insects away from open sores on livestock. The stick-type works well. Put on feeder parts near openings but not where birds' feet or bills can come in contact with it. Repeat every few hours until, hopefully, the bees leave. 2) If you have a swarm of bees that won't break up by the above methods, cautiously apply a drop or two of 50-50 Malation (**WARNING: DANGEROUS CHEMICAL**) to a cotton swab and dab where hummers, other birds, and bees won't come in contact with it! Apply under feeder support, under bottom of feeder, or side of feeder away from openings. Bees do not like this chemical's unpleasant odor; this is the reason we use it. Birds have no sense of smell. Avoid drips, spills, or overuse. We need bees, hummers, and all our wildlife -- so take care. Try to wash treated feeders with mild detergent the day after application of chemical repellents and rinse extremely well to eliminate all traces. Please use the more severe methods only if the less harmful ones fail.

WASHING: Wash feeders that are exposed to more or less constant sunlight every 3-5 days; shady ones don't need it quite as often (5-7 days). Use baby bottle brushes to clean mold buildup from inside feeders. Use very hot water with no detergents (except as in special problems above). Vinegar may be used to help clean stubborn mold from the feeder. Add a small amount to the water and wash and rinse as usual.

ETCETERAS: Are we stopping our hummingbirds from migrating? Protein, in the form of insects, is just one of the major food components needed by hummers. If your area does not have enough of these components (for example, if it gets too cold for insects), then the hummers will leave. We do not encourage the addition of protein supplements to the sugar solution, as it might discourage the hummers from migrating when their natural food sources are meager. If you are in an area that has only one or two frosts per year, it might be acceptable to add a



for the few days following a freeze. If your sugar water freezes, replace it immediately (even at dawn). Do hummingbirds get diabetes from our feeding? Many hummingbirds in zoos and in the wild have lived up to ten years and more, and all were known to regularly feed on sugar water at feeders.

Due to the pervasive use of pesticides (primarily in the past) and major habitat destruction (continuing today), we feel we owe it to our wildlife to feed and care for them as wild and free creatures.

--The Mile Hi and Ramsey Canyon Preserve Staff

(Thanks to The Huachuca Audubon Society for this.)

UP FROM THE EGG:
THE CONFESSIONS OF A NUTHATCH AVOIDER

Bird watchers top my honors list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic,
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we,
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly bird stands still.
And there's no enlightenment in a tour
Of ornithological literature.
Is yon strange creature a common
chickadee,
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?
You rush to consult your nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books --
Or if it once did, it has changed its
plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant
gloomage.
That is why I sit here growing old by
inches,
Watching the clock instead of finches,
But sometimes I visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audibin.

--Ogden Nash

(Taken from Boulder Audubon Newsletter)

KEEP AN EYE ON WORLD OF AUDUBON
TWO NEW PROGRAMS COMING THIS SUMMER

- Florida Wildlife
- California Condors
- Roger Tory Peterson
- Chesapeake Bay
- Peregrine Falcons
- Texas' African Wildlife
- Audubon's Wardens
- Idaho's Wilderness

Hosted By Cliff Robertson
Produced by the National Audubon Society
and Super Station WTBS

June 24 at 8:05 PM Eastern

June 30 at 3:00 PM Eastern

July 7 at 1:05 PM Eastern

July 9 at 9:05 PM Pacific

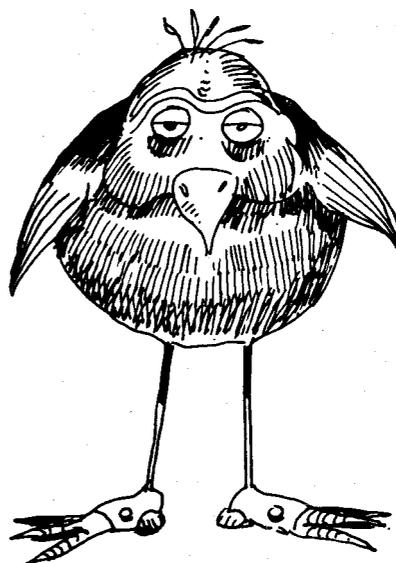
August 29 at 8:05 PM Eastern

September 7 at 7:05 PM Eastern

September 10 at 9:30 PM Pacific

September 16 at 1:05 PM Eastern

Check cable listings for channel



**APPLICATION FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP
IN THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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.

With one annual dues payment, you may enjoy the privileges of membership in, and the satisfaction of supporting, the local and national organizations. You will then receive bimonthly issues of the *Burrowing Owl* and the bimonthly *Audubon*, the most beautiful nature magazine in the world. A portion of your dues payment will be allocated to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society.

_____ Individual	\$30.00/Year
_____ Family	\$38.00/Year
_____ Senior Citizen	\$21.00/Year
_____ Sr. Cit., Family	\$23.00/Year
_____ Full Time Student	\$18.00/Year

Name _____
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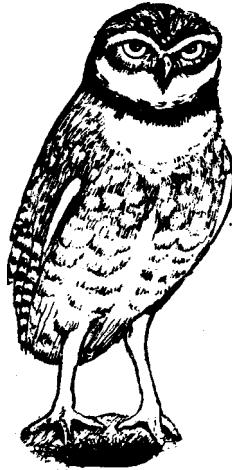
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or renewal? _____

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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190 - 0002 **Q-51**

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- The **Honorable Jeff Bingaman**
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- Editors, Burrowing Owl** - Evelyn and George Price,

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