



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

APRIL - MAY 1987

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, NE. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips, and special events.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 - FIELD TRIP

Come and watch the annual spring hawk migration with Steve Hoffman (work: 766-3972; home: 291-9224) from his lookout in the southern Sandias. On a good day over 100 raptors can be seen comprising a dozen or more species. Although the hike is only about 2 miles, it is a strenuous one due to an 1100 foot elevation gain (6400' to 7500'). Bring lunch and water; meet at 7 a.m. near 31 Flavors in the Four Hills Shopping Center on East Central, a couple of blocks west of Tramway Blvd.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 - REGULAR MEETING

Hal Hallett, president of the New Mexico Audubon Council will present a program to inform us of the activities and accomplishments of the Council in the environmental affairs of New Mexico. Following Hal, Janie Cox, Randall Davey Audubon Center, will present a program on the natural history of New Zealand. PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE FOURTH THURSDAY - NOT THE THIRD; still at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 - FIELD TRIP

Visit Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains near Socorro with Bruce Halstead (work: 766-2174; home: 299-9397). There is always a good possibility of finding the Red Faced Warbler which breeds there regularly and should be singing heartily at this time. The delightful Acorn Woodpecker (sometimes called the Clown Woodpecker) should also be present. Meet at 7 a.m. in the UNM Physics and Astronomy parking lot, Yale and Lomas northeast corner; bring water and picnic.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 2 and 3

The Fourth Annual BIG BIRD BASH in Silver City. See the enclosed flyer for details.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 2 and 3

"Meeting on the Outdoors" - see Conservation Notes and refer to flyer already mailed.

SUNDAY, MAY 10, FIELD TRIP

Field trip with Hart Schwarz (266-1810) to Yataghan, a towering rock formation up the La Luz trail. We should see a wide variety of summer residents and migrants as we will be covering three Life Zones: the Upper Sonoran; the Transition; and the

Canadian. With a little luck, we'll probably see the Prairie Falcons who have a summer home in the vicinity. Meet at 7 a.m. at the junction of Tramway Blvd. and the Juan Tabo Picnic Area turnoff. Expect to be trekking about 10 hours, don't forget food and water.

MONDAY, MAY 11, BOARD MEETING

The CNMAS board will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Radio Station KHFM, 5900 Domingo Road, NE. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS. Call any member listed on the back of the OWL for directions.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, REGULAR MEETING

Come join CNMAS for our annual meeting, election of officers, and presentation of the Washburn Award. 6:00 p.m. - Pot Luck. Bring a generous dish plus table service. 7:00 p.m. - Meeting and Program. Dale Stahlecker, a researcher and enthusiastic crane observer will share the results of his research on "our" Sandhill and Whooping Cranes as they migrate through the Rio Grande Valley. Dale is co-author of "Seasons of the Crane."

SATURDAY, MAY 23, FIELD TRIP

Enjoy the fullness of springtime in a liesurely one-half day walk along Cienega Canyon where running water and luxuriant foliage attract some of our most delightful summer residents, such as the Western Tanager, Grace's Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and Western Flycatcher. Trip leader will be Barbara Hussey (292-5626), a former CNMAS president. Meeting time and place: 7 a.m. near 31 Flavors in the Four Hills Shopping Center just west of Tramway Blvd.

COMING EVENTS, AUGUST 24 to 29

The National Audubon Society will hold its Biennial Convention in Bellingham, WA. A fascinating combination of programs and field trips make this an almost irresist-

able event. Brochures will be in the mail soon.

THE LAST HURRAH

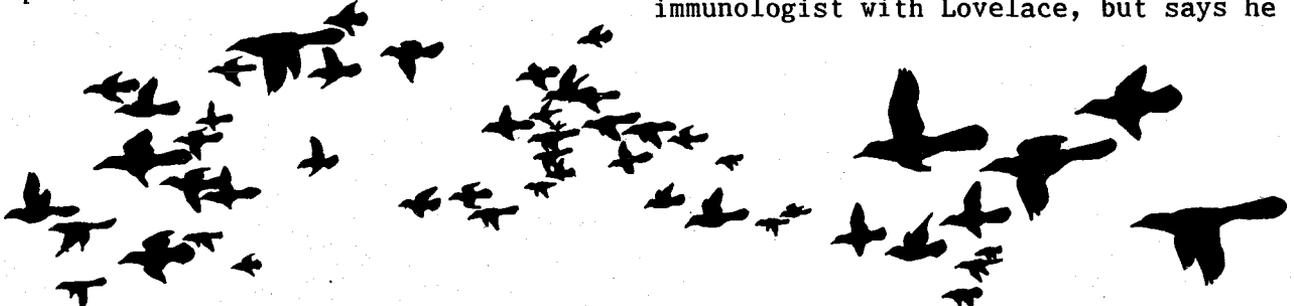
I begin to feel nostalgic as I prepare this last issue of the BURROWING OWL which I will edit. Since 1980 George and I have enjoyed doing the OWL. We have learned a lot and made some wonderful contacts during these years

I can't begin to list all the people who have made it possible to do this job. Beginning with Barbara Hussey's excellent tutelage, so many of you have typed, been Membership Chairmen, written columns, answered questions, and helped collate and label the OWL for mailing. I thank you all. Please continue your support to our new editor.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Donna and David Broudy have accepted the nomination for the presidency of CNMAS, sharing the duties between them. They came to CNMAS from the Gallup chapter (no longer active) and have made a real niche for themselves - David as Program Chairman and Donna handling membership chores. The Broudys are a birding family; she having come from such a background in Denver and being interested all her life. They first met on a field trip to Bosque del Apache and have carried that interest on. David is with the Indian Health Service, using his public health degree. Donna has been employed by the Chapparal Council of the Girl Scouts and is now connected with the Book Fare bookstore. We look forward to an interesting and productive year at CNMAS with this dynamic duo on charge.

The nominee for Vice President and Program Chairman is Dr. Celestyn Brozek, who, before immigrating to the United States five years ago, earned master's and doctoral degrees in Genetics. He now is an immunologist with Lovelace, but says he is



a naturalist at heart! Dr. Brozek presented a fine slide show in January, to the general membership meeting, on the natural world of the Carpathian Mountains south of Krakow.

CNMAS is fortunate to have two able secretaries who have agreed to serve another year. Jean Dilley will continue as Recording Secretary, keeping her excellent minutes of board meetings. Betty Balduc is Corresponding Secretary and picks up the mail at our mailbox, distributing it to the proper recipients.

Nearly as important as the President, the Treasurer must be a "watchdog" - minding the budget as well as merely signing checks. Joanne Phillips has been one of our best during the past year and the chapter is fortunate that she has agreed to serve another year.

Permission of all the nominees to use their names has been granted and this slate is presented to the chapter for election at the annual meeting on May 21.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE FILM COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Every year CNMAS co-sponsors, with Popejoy Hall at UNM, a series of 5 or 6 nature and wildlife films. We need a coordinator to work with Popejoy in presenting the films. Our primary responsibilities include arranging for the films with the speakers' agency; meeting the speaker and taking him/her to dinner before and ice cream social after the film; reserving a motel room; and letting our membership and others know what films are to be shown and how tickets can be purchased.

CNMAS receives 40% of the monies of all tickets we sell. From the proceeds, we have, each year, provided one or more scholarships to a local teacher for attendance at the Audubon Camp of the West.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR WANTED!

Since our present Membership Chairman, Donna Broudy, will be taking on the presidency with her husband, David, we will now need to replace her as Membership Chairman. Our membership-mailing list is now on computer which makes the job much easier than in past years. Please contact Donna at 242-7108 for details about the job. She is willing to give help during the learning-on-the-job. Marian Washburn (262-2631), nominating committee chairman, should also be contacted if interested.

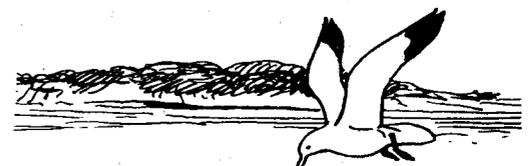
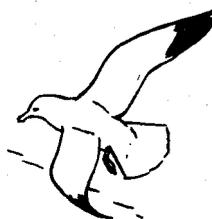
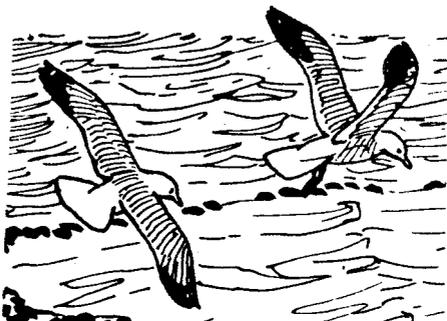
CONSERVATION NOTES

WIN SOME - LOSE SOME. Environmental issues were prominent in both the national and state legislative actions. We were pleased to see that Congress passed the improved Clean Water Act. Congress had to pass the Act over the President's veto, which leads one to cheer for our Representatives and Senators. The National Audubon Society has singled out Senator Pete Domenici for praise for his efforts to get the job done. A note to Senator Domenici thanking him would be in order.

Again at the national level, we are somewhat heartened that the President is now proposing a \$2.5 billion five-year effort to do something about acid rain. Just what that "something" is will bear watching.

At the State level, it was good to see that the legislature did not take the unwise steps of taking the Mountain Lion off the protected list or to prevent the reintroduction of the endangered Mexican Wolf. Also, we were pleased to see the Governor back off from a plan to make the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission subservient to political whims of the Natural Resources Department.

The Instream Flow Bill (which would make it possible to use water rights for fish and wildlife within streams) passed the



House. The Bill did not make it to the full Senate.

The Bottle Bill did not make it very far in the legislative process. We can always hope that another effort will be made next year.

ETHICS IN FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING. A joint resolution is in the works in Congress urging all Federal land management agencies to model their activities after the conservation ethic that Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, so eloquently put into words. All major national conservation organizations are supporting this effort. Let's hope that the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are listening!

MEETING ON THE OUTDOORS. The third annual Meeting on the Outdoors will be held this year May 2 and 3 at the Sandia Ski Basin Lodge on NM Highway 44, on the east side of the Sandia Mountains. Unfortunately these dates coincide with Audubon's Big Bird Bash at Silver City, but the meeting is an alternative for those not able to go to Silver City. This year's features of the Meeting on the Outdoors include an address by William Penn Mott, Director of the National Park Service; participation by either Governor Garrey Carruthers or Natural Resources Department Director Thomas Bahr; panels of experts on outdoor recreation opportunities; and lots of interesting talk. The theme of this year's meeting is Recreation and the Environment in New Mexico: A New Economic Frontier. For more information or a brochure, call Lew Helm at 821-8586.

SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Our team of judges was impressed with the variety and quality of projects at the Northwestern N.M. Regional Science and Engineering Fair in March. In selecting our society's special award winners, we looked for projects relating to wildlife, ecol-



ogy, and the environment. We examined many fine exhibits, and talked to the students, before making the following selections:

Senior division 1st, \$25 - Josh Vogel, St. Pius H.S., for his presentation on seven years of cumulative research on a stream in the Questa area, with this year's project on the use of stream-dwelling insects as an indicator of lead and molybdenum pollution.

Senior division 2nd, \$15 - Bertina Tenorio, Bernalillo H.S., for her survey on waste disposal in high school laboratories in New Mexico and Arizona - a project which brought some rather surprising responses from those schools polled. Most are careful with waste disposal, or re-use most materials, but some reported disposing of many substances, including benzene and carbon tetrachloride, down the drain.

Senior division 3rd, \$10 - Napavou Abeita, Rio Grande H.S., for her study of the host plant preferences of scale insects.

Junior division 1st, \$25 - Gary Diewald, Madison, for his research on the environmental requirements of lichens.

Junior division 2nd, \$15 - Patrick Thornhill, Belen, for his experiment on instinctive and socially learned behaviors in golden pheasant chicks.

Junior division 3rd, \$10 - Joshua Precek, McKinley, for his carefully controlled comparison of bird feeding habits at a feeder lighted with a string of Christmas lights, and an identical, but unlighted feeder (most birds were deterred by the lights for only a few minutes, and some actually seemed to prefer the decorated feeder).

This year's judges were Donna Broudy, Neil Dilley, Craig Andrews, and Elizabeth Broemel.



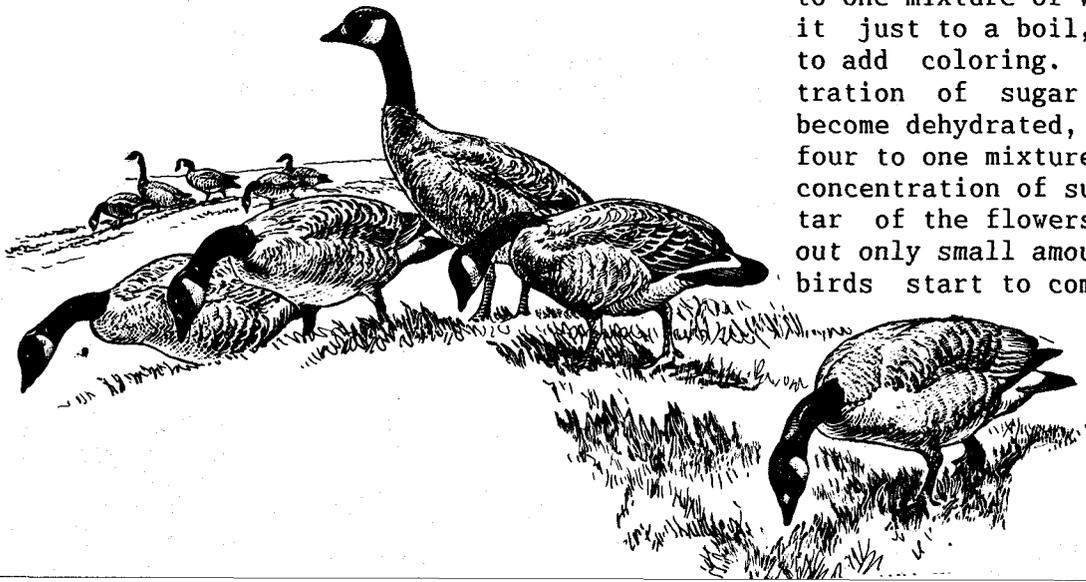
FIELD TRIP REPORT, SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Seventeen birders converged on the Albuquerque oxbow for a one-half day field trip to see what we could stir up. The first thing we found was a brand new, unpenetrable, locked gate at the usual access point to the oxbow birding area. We then activated Plan B and proceeded to the University of Albuquerque where we walked down the back of the campus to the oxbow. Over most of our hiking area, which is the bluff overlooking the oxbow, there were numerous survey markers. It would appear that this area is destined to be developed for its monetary values.

Birding at the oxbow was not fantastic that morning, but we did manage 23 species. None of these were unexpected, excepting a very good look at a Sharpshinned Hawk that circled over us for a while. While we were there we kept hearing a call - kid-ik, kid-ik, kid-ik - but no one was familiar with it, although it seemed to be the written sound for a Virginia Rail in the field guides. Of course we never saw the caller. Upon returning home I played my Peterson and National Geographic tapes and am now certain that the caller was a Virginia Rail. After all, they did have four of them during the Albuquerque Christmas count in December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank George and Evelyn Price for all of their time and efforts they have willingly given to the conservation cause. Everyone will miss them and I hope they keep active and in touch.

Bruce G. Halstead

RANDALL DAVEY SPONSORS A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

The Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe is sponsoring the following events:

1) New Zealand Natural History Tour, November 7 to 24, 1987 (18 days), is being sponsored by the travel department of the National Audubon Society. Janie Cox is lucky enough to have been designated as tour leader.

2) Children's Natural History Programs. Beginning June 15, a variety of workshops will be held for children - all nature related and "hands-on" experiences.

Please call 983-4609, or write to the Randall Davey Audubon Center, P. O. Box 9314, Santa Fe, NM 87504-9314, for brochures.

ROSS'S RAVIN'S - by Ross L. Teuber

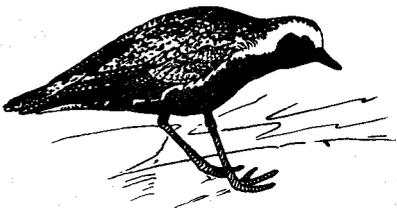
Hi Folks! A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I last wrote a column, and many things of interest to birders have happened. Thanks to all of you faithful people who have called to share your interesting sightings. Since space is limited, there may not be room to include everything that has been reported, but the reports are still important, and much appreciated.

By now most of the waterfowl, and the WHOOPING CRANES, have moved on to their nesting areas in the far north, and the shore birds are beginning to arrive. Spring migration is underway, and once again it is time to put out your hummingbird feeders. Remember, use a four to one mixture of water to sugar and bring it just to a boil, and it isn't necessary to add coloring. A too strong concentration of sugar can cause the birds to become dehydrated, with dire results. The four to one mixture closely duplicates the concentration of sugar in the natural nectar of the flowers. Also, remember to put out only small amounts of syrup until the birds start to come to the feeder. As the

outdoor temperatures get warmer, even syrup that has been brought to a boil will sour or ferment rapidly. Put out no more than the birds will consume in two, or at the most three, days. Then as the number of birds increases, and they use more syrup, increase the amount to as much as they will use before it is spoiled. Of course, if the finches and orioles find your feeders, they will probably drain them daily, or more frequently.

There have been some really exciting bird sightings reported since the last column. Probably the most unusual was a LITTLE GULL, a Eurasian species, first spotted at Lake McMillan on January 4 by Bill Howe. The bird was at the shallow, north end of the lake with a flock of BONAPARTE'S GULLS, as is frequently the case with winter occurrences of this species in this country. The markings on this bird indicate it to be a first winter bird. I believe this is the first and only reported sighting for this species in New Mexico. It remained pretty much in the same area until at least February 15-16 when it was my privilege to see it. By that time the flock had increased by at least 250-300 RING-BILLED GULLS, as well as 25-30 BONAPARTE'S. Steve West of Carlsbad had been out to check on it a time or two, but with the winter storms, and construction work going on in the area, access was difficult, so not too many people got to see it. The flock remained far enough out in the lake that it was practically impossible to get a picture. In fact, even with a good telescope it is like trying to pick a single flake out of a snowdrift to find it. To the best of my knowledge, no one got a picture, so the bird is destined to remain only a hypothetical species on the state list.

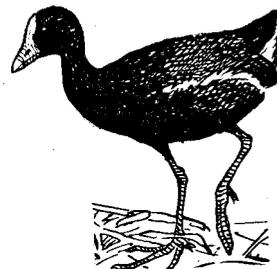
Not quite as rare, but almost as exciting was a probable TRUMPETER SWAN, near Percha Dam State Park. The bird was first discovered by Doris Miller of Alamogordo who took Pat Snider of Los Alamos to see it on



February 5. They were almost convinced of the identity of this bird, but wanted further confirmation. Paul Steel and I went down to look for it on February 7. It took several hours to find it. Apparently when we first got to the area, the bird was probably concealed in tall marsh grass. However, it did show up with a small flock of CANADA GEESE, 1 WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, and several SANDHILL CRANES. We studied the bird at a distance of about 60 yards for over half an hour and were able to distinguish the field marks which would identify it as a TRUMPETER. Later, after talking to Bill Howe, who had also seen it, and once more to Pat Snider, I learned that Dr. John Hubbard had also seen the bird on February 6, and seems pretty well satisfied that it was indeed a TRUMPETER.

As Dustin Huntington said when I talked to him the other day, this seems to be a pretty good year for scoters in New Mexico. The same day Paul and I went to check out the swan, we went over to Caballo Dam, and there, big as life, was a female SURF SCOTER. A short time later I was talking to Lorraine Schulte from Las Cruces, and she said the folks down there had known about the bird for nearly a month. The word just hadn't leaked down to us. About a week later, when coming back from looking at the LITTLE GULL, Clara and I stopped at Bitter Lake and were treated to an excellent view of two male WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS at a distance of no more than 30 feet. All of the field marks were plainly visible to the naked eye. Then on March 21, Cricket Kerr called from Belen to report they had seen a single BLACK SCOTER on a small pond about 17 miles north of Ruidoso. This is indeed unusual; this species, to the best of my knowledge, is seldom seen on small and/or shallow ponds.

More mundane, but still unusual enough to be of interest were from 1 to 3 FOX SPARROWS and a HARRIS SPARROW at Pat Basham's in Socorro from mid-December un-

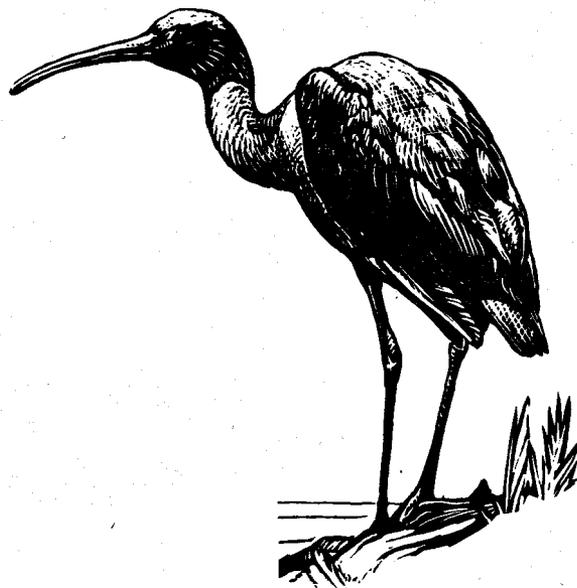


til at least January 21. On March 8, Jean Dilley called to say they had seen an eastern BLUE JAY in the river bosque near La Luz, so maybe some of those sighted in October are still around. Among others, David Narin called to say there were 2 GOLDEN CROWNED SPARROWS at the feeder at Bosque del Apache on January 23. Although I was there on January 27 and spent quite a little time at the feeder, birds did not show up for me. During the first half of March there has been an immature WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW at my feeder intermittently. There are enough yellow tinged feathers at the forward edge of its crown patch to catch one's attention, but I am convinced it is not a GOLDEN-CROWNED, much as I would like it to be.

Also of interest was a flock of 12 WHITE-FRONTED GEESE seen on January 24 by David Dale on a pond in Los Lunas, near the turn-off to Edeal's Dairy. These birds were in with a large flock of CANADA GEESE. He also reported at that time that REDHEADS, AMERICAN WIGEONS, and CANVASBACKS were coming in to the pond at the Rio Grande Nature Center. On February 20, Bill Howe called to tell me of a GREATER SCAUP on the pond at the Nature Center. It was with two female LESSER SCAUP. A day or two later, Paul Steel called to tell of a female GREATER which had come in and joined the others. On February 20, Wayne Prentice called to say he had seen a male HOODED MERGANSER at Bosque del Apache. Paul Steel also saw a pair of HOODED MERGANSERS at the Santa Fe Delta at Percha Dam on February 25. On March 5, Ross Rasmussen reported a BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE at Rio Rancho. That is far enough south of their normal range to be unusual. On March 17, David Narin was out on the hawk watch with Mary Lou Arthur and Tom Davis, when they saw a very early SWAINSON'S HAWK as well as a PEREGRINE FALCON. David also mentioned having seen the very rare (in the U.S.) BROWN SHRIKE at Point Reyes while there on March 9.

One final bit of news. It appears that your columnist has finally, after eight or ten years, reached the end of the trail. In the last issue of the BURROWING OWL your editor announced her retirement. Now it is my turn. With the next issue, your new editor will no doubt come up with not only a new staff, but probably with a new set of features. Some of you may have noticed that I have been so involved in other activities that I have been unable to come to the last several Audubon meetings. It has been a lot of fun writing this column, and best of all were the phone calls and chats about birds and bird sightings. I hope you will not hesitate to call (265-8962) any time you have questions or interesting sightings to share. However, the time has come for me to move on to other aspects of this exciting hobby of birding, so some things must be sacrificed to provide time to undertake others. You may be assured that wherever I am, I'll be involved in one way or another with something connected with birds and birding. Here's wishing all of you the best of luck, and good birding, not only in the exciting spring season ahead, but for the years to come. In the newspaper business, the number 30 indicates the end. So for me this is 30.

R. L. T.



**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 _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society, but send to: Donna Broudy, Membership Chairman, CNMAS, 510 Laguna, SW, Albuquerque, NM 87104.

Please send renewals directly to: National Audubon Society, Chapter Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 2664, Boulder, CO 80321.

All changes or corrections in name, address, or telephone number for membership files and mailing files should be sent to Donna Broudy. The *Burrowing Owl* cannot be forwarded by the post office.

ADDRESSES

The President

The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.

The Honorable Joe Skeen
The Honorable Bill Richardson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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