



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1988

WELCOME!

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 211 Jefferson NE (corner of Copper and Jefferson, NE). Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, fieldtrips, and special events.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS BY DR. CELESTYN BROZEK



CIDER AT SUNSET

—Sunday, October 16th

Come be a bird guide and join in the fun on the North Golf Course, UNM, 5 to 7 P.M. We are asked to wear our Burrowing Owl T-shirts or bring our Central New Mexico Audubon Society identification, along with a copy of Larry Gorbet's bird list (found elsewhere in this newsletter), and lead one of the groups on the nature tour. Your buddy will be one of our hosts who knows the route. The first twenty Audubon Society members to arrive will be treated to free cider at the sunset site. Call the Broudys, 242-7108, if you plan to come and help identify birds.

Netherwood Neighborhood Association and North Campus Neighborhood Association. The Chairperson is Julia C. White, 268-8211.

THE NATURE OF GUATAMALA

—Thursday, October 20th

Neil and Jean Dilley traveled to this small Central American country late last year. The geology, flora and fauna, and some famous archaeological sites will be part of the slide program they present.

From the highlands in the south to the Biotopo del Quetzal, to the Peten with the incredible site of Tikal in the north—the trip was a special adventure. A side-trip was also made to Copan, another fascinating Maya site, in Honduras. Join CNMAS for an evening of travel adventure in Guatamala.

AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST

—Thursday, November 17th



Each year CNMAS provides grants for local teachers to attend the Audubon Camp of the West. This past summer, Sharon Belew and Nancy Hampton received



FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Hooray! We have a fieldtrip chairperson! Laura Jenkins, who has been in Albuquerque only about two years, has volunteered to organize fieldtrips for CNMAS. Laura says she doesn't know many of the local birding spots, but she's a "good organizer." If you have suggestions for trips, and/or would like to lead a trip, please give Laura a call at 293-7527, or see her at one of our meetings.

PINO TRAIL, SANDIA MOUNTAINS

—Saturday, October 15th

Come explore the new extension of the Pino Trail, east from Elena Gallegos Picnic Area, through the Sandia Mountain Wilderness area toward Sandia Crest. Fall colors and views will be a bonus.

Our leader will be Hart Schwartz, who lives in, and knows, the mountains as well as the birds.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the large parking lot south of the top of the loop drive to the picnic area. Bring water, lunch, trail food, if you wish, and of course, the "Audubon I.D.," binoculars. Dress for wilderness hiking. Return will be in mid to late afternoon.

At the end of 2 1/2 miles of easy to moderate hiking, you will have an opportunity to return, while the hardest hikers may continue up the difficult last 1 1/2 miles.

To reach the site, turn east off Tramway, north of Academy. Watch for the brown sign—Elena Gallegos Picnic Area. An entrance fee of \$1.00 per car will be charged.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE

—Saturday, November 19th

Bosque del Apache is the winter home of thousands of cranes, geese, and ducks, as well as raptors and other birds. The wintering birds should be arriving by mid-November, and some fall migrants should still be around. The geese and cranes put on a spectacular display at sunset when they fly into the refuge to roost for the night.

Join David and Donna Broudy (242-7108) for our chapter's first trip to the refuge this fall. Meet at the UNM Physics and Astronomy Parking Lot, northeast corner of Lomas and Yale NE, at 10:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, a telescope if you have one, lunch, and money for dinner in Socorro before returning home in the early evening. Warm clothing and hot drinks will also be useful. Little walking is required on this trip—most of the best birding will be done from the car, or from the visitor center at the refuge. A user fee of \$2.00 per person is charged by the refuge.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

NEW MEXICO STATE AUDUBON CONFERENCE

—October 21st - 23rd

This year our annual State Conference is being held at Camp Thunderbird within the Gila National Forest, 36 miles northeast of Silver City. Although the deadline for the Conference was September 23rd, it might still be possible to accommodate some late registrations. For more information, contact Lew Helm (821-8586), in Albuquerque, or May O'Byrne (538-9672), in Silver City.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES**AUDUBON ADVENTURES THANKS YOU!**

Thanks to generous members and other sponsors, our chapter has been able to provide the educational "Audubon Adventures" program to 20 schools this year. More sponsors are needed--it would be wonderful if we could provide the program throughout our schools.

This fall, we thank the following sponsors: Marge Carrick, Georgianna Costley, Jean Davis, Ethyl Ringer, Sarah Sharpton, Lillyan Tenopyr, and the Parents' Club of Emerson School. The Parents' Club is an exciting addition to our corps of sponsors--if you are involved with such a group, perhaps they would like to consider being an Adventure sponsor, also. The cost is only \$25.00 per classroom for the year. For more information, contact Education Chairperson, Marge Carrick, 266-0191.

**IMPROVING SCIENCE EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO**

CHEVRON of New Mexico has awarded the Randall Davey Audubon Center a \$5,543.00 grant to conduct natural history science workshops for teachers. The focus of the grant is to strengthen science education for Native Americans and Hispanic elementary students. Fifteen hours of workshops will be conducted at Dowa Yalanne Elementary in Zuni, Mesa

In addition, the 3rd-5th grade classrooms at each school will receive the Audubon Adventures program. Over 100 teachers will be participating in these workshops; and 39 classrooms with approximately 1,170 students will be receiving Audubon Adventures. The Randall Davey Audubon Center has focused much of their efforts in New Mexico on providing educational opportunities for Native American and Hispanic youth.

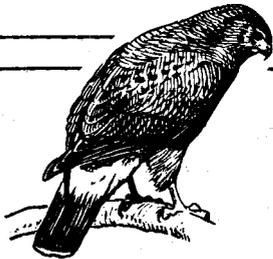
TRAVEL IDEAS**COSTA RICA**

—November 9 - 20th

Costa Rica, in Central America, is a land of unparalleled ecological diversity. Its lowland jungles, high-altitude rain forests, black sand and coral beaches, more than 40 volcanos and some of the finest tropical white water rivers in the world combine to make this tiny nation a natural paradise. And it's a paradise that has been preserved by a remarkable national park system, rightfully earning the nation its reputation as the wildlife sanctuary of the Americas.

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History is sponsoring this 11-day trip to Costa Rica, led by Dr. David Hafner, chairman of the Museum's Science Department, and Mary Alice Root of the New Mexico Ornithological Society. Dr. Hafner has conducted extensive field work in Costa Rica and is very familiar with its outstanding natural features. The trip is co-sponsored by Discover Travel of Albuquerque. To find out if there's still space available, call Melinda Dawe, 841-8837. The cost is \$1,950.00 per person, double occupancy.

CONSERVATION NOTES BY LEW HELM



ELECTION YEAR OPPORTUNITIES

Now is the time to find out the environmental philosophy of candidates running for both state and federal offices. You can start by writing each of the major candidates, requesting their views on support for—

- o the Endangered Species Act,
- o allowing oil drilling on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,
- o funding for acquisition of the Gray Ranch in southwestern New Mexico for establishment of the Animal National Wildlife Refuge,
- o controlling acid rain and protecting the ozone layer,
- o supporting Rep. Morris Udall's effort to move the Land and Water Conservation Fund into a new American Heritage Trust. (During the Reagan era, spending from the fund has been drastically reduced due mainly to political maneuverings.)

Another good source of information is the League of Conservation Voters. A quick phone call to their Washington, D.C. office at (202) 547-7200, will enable you to learn the League's tally of votes on key conservation issues by our Senators and Representatives.

LAWN CARE PESTICIDES—ARE THEY SAFE?

It used to be that 2,4-D was the only herbicide we had to wonder about. In recent years, some 600 active pesticides have been sold, and the EPA has tested only a handful of these. Chemlawn and other lawn care companies have argued dogmatically that these chemicals are perfectly safe. The New York Attorney

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO RAPTOR MIGRATION PROJECT

This project, headed by our own Steve Hoffman, deserves our support. Steve and his cohorts have been systematically recording season-long, spring and fall raptor migration counts in the Sandia and Manzano Mountains in order to study the status and population trends of western raptor populations. The underlying thrust of the project is to keep on top of population trends to document threats to raptors caused by human-induced environmental changes.

CNMAS members are always welcome to participate in the counts, which began this fall about September 1st, and will continue until about October 15th. In addition, a contribution to the effort would assist the project greatly. Donations, which are tax-deductible should be sent to the Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation, Inc., P.O. Box 304, Albuquerque, NM 87103. Steve and his hard-working associates would appreciate your help! For more information on the time and dates of the counts, call 291-9224.



THE WILDLANDS OF NEW MEXICO NEED YOUR VOTE!

Earlier this year, the state legislature passed a bill to provide funding for the Natural Lands Protection Act,

or endangered species and, those are identified by the natural resources department as the best remaining examples of native ecological communities.

Priority will be given to projects according to the degree to which the qualified land is threatened, the degree to which the ecosystem to be protected is unduplicated elsewhere, and the usefulness for teaching and research.

Perhaps even more important to a successful effort to protect natural areas is the significance of a decisive victory at the ballot box. Approval of this ballot question will send a clear message of statewide support for natural land and habitat protection, thus strengthening our ability to influence future efforts to advance natural area protection.

New Mexico has striking natural features and an impressive diversity of animal and plant life. By protecting the best examples of these lands and the habitats within them, we can protect the outdoor opportunities which make New Mexico such an outstanding place.

The wildlands of New Mexico need your vote. This year's election ballot will be lengthy and complicated. Following the list of candidates for public office and seven constitutional questions, you will be asked to vote on four statewide bond issues. The natural lands protection bond will be second on the list. Separate county bond issues will follow on the ballot. Vote to protect New Mexico's natural heritage by voting "yes" on statewide bond question #2. (Prepared by the New Mexico Chapter of the Nature Conservancy)

1988 DUCK FLIGHT FORECAST SECOND LOWEST ON RECORD

This fall's migrating duck population will be the second lowest on record, according to a status report issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Biologists from the two agencies said long-term drought and associated habitat degradation have combined to reduce the anticipated fall flight to 66 million birds--down from the 1987 index of 74 million birds--and exceeds only the record low 1985 index of 62 million birds.

The outlook for fall flights of geese, however, is considered favorable, with their numbers about the same or slightly higher than last year.

Another successful summer of nesting production of whooping crane chicks in Wood Buffalo National Park in the Canadian Northwest Territories is welcomed by Canadian and American biologists. Twenty to twenty-two chicks were produced this year. The previous four summers of 1984-87 have consecutively set records with 15, 16, 21, and 25 young, respectively, reaching flight age.

Water conditions remained good this summer in the far North where the whoopers nest. The good water levels in the Northwest Territories are in sharp contrast to southern Canada and the northern U. S., where drought conditions are worse than during the Dust Bowl days of the 1930's.

However, the experimental flock of whooping cranes that migrates each fall from Grays Lake NWR in Idaho to Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico, continues to do poorly. Ten of the twelve eggs

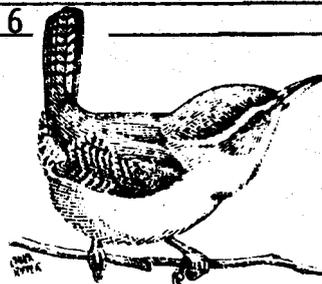
UNM NORTH GOLF COURSE BIRD LIST

The following list includes birds personally seen and positively identified at the North Golf Course since Fall 1985 by Larry Gorbet, UNM Department of Anthropology. Larry notes that others have seen birds he has not; for example, Richard Barish, between October 1986 and May 1987, saw the following, which are not on Larry's list: Cooper's hawk, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, American coot, killdeer, Inca dove, downy woodpecker, cliff swallow, Swainson's thrush, black-throated gray warbler, savannah sparrow, yellow-headed blackbird.

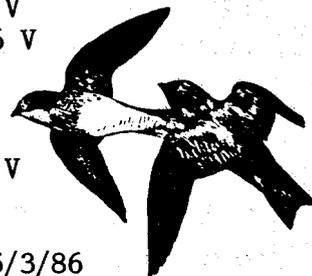
Larry would like to hear about sightings of other birds, sightings at other times of any of the less common birds, or interesting behaviors, etc., you may have observed at the golf course. He can be reached at 883-7378 (home) or 277-6423 (office), or a message can be left at 277-4524. If you'd like to be kept posted on unusual sightings, call Larry and he'll get your phone number and let you know about anything out of the ordinary at the golf course.

Ph = photo taken; S = singing; V = other vocalization, etc.; 1 = one sighting only (presumably only one bird or group of birds, possible over several days); dates are of Larry's first UNM sighting; first Golf Course sightings may be later.

Canada goose 4/15/88 V 1
 Turkey vulture 9/24/87
 Sharp-shinned hawk 10/22/87 1
 Swainson's hawk 4/15/88 1
 Red-tailed hawk 9/14/87 V
 American kestrel V Ph
 Scaled quail 4/30/87 V Ph



Dusky flycatcher 4/30/87 S
 Gray flycatcher 5/3/86 V
 Black phoebe 10/1/87 V 1
 Vermillion flycatcher 12/8/85 Ph 1
 Ash-throated flycatcher 5/3/86 1
 Western kingbird 5/3/86 V
 Eastern kingbird 5/15/87 V Ph 1
 Violet-green swallow 8/29/88 V 1
 No. rough-winged swallow 4/30/87 1
 Barn swallow 4/29/87
 American crow V
 Common raven 10/14/87 V 1
 Mountain chickadee 12/85 V
 White-breasted nuthatch 1/86 V
 Brown creeper 10/5/87 V
 Rock wren 5/3/86
 Bewick's wren 9/25/87
 House wren 5/6/87 V
 Ruby-crowned kinglet 11/12/86 V
 Townsend's solitaire 11/4/86 V
 American robin S
 Curve-billed thrasher 9/86 1
 Sage thrasher 10/7/86 1
 Northern mockingbird 5/2/86 V
 Loggerhead shrike 10/10/86
 European starling V
 Solitary vireo 5/6/87
 Orange-crowned warbler V
 Virginia's warbler 5/86 V
 Yellow-rumped warbler
 "Audubon's" 5/2/86 V
 "Myrtle" 5/6/87 V
 MacGillivray's warbler V
 Wilson's warbler S
 Western tanager 5/7/87
 Black-headed grosbeak 5/3/86
 Green-tailed towhee 5/2/86 V
 Rufous-sided towhee 4/27/88 1



Western meadowlark 9/86 S
 Brewer's blackbird 4/22/88 V 1
 Great-tailed grackle V
 Common grackle 5/11/88 1
 Northern ("Bullock's") oriole 5/4/86 V
 Brown-headed cowbird
 Cassin's finch 4/27/87 S
 House finch S
 Pine siskin 4/27/87 V
 American goldfinch 5/3/86 S
 Evening grosbeak 4/25/87 Ph
 House sparrow V
 White pelican 9/7/88 1
 Common yellowthroat 9/7/88 1
Total: 83 species, as of 9/7/88



NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON (NAS)

THE AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT 1988/1989, which is fast becoming the authoritative reference on wildlife management in the United States, is hot off the press. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is featured, a little-known but extremely important agency within the Department of Commerce. NMFS is responsible for one-fifth of the world's most productive marine waters, which includes fisheries and estuaries. As in other volumes, issues within the major natural resources agencies—Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, to name a few—are also covered.

A "Conservation Challenges" section has been added to keep the book's reporting on the cutting edge. This section features exhaustively researched chapters on topics that are making headlines today or that will be hot ones tomorrow. One stand-out chapter is on the Platte River, which is at the center of an emotionally charged water battle between the states of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado, and environmental groups. Other fascinating topics include plastics pollution, international trade in wildlife, restoring the Everglades, and the impacts of the 1985 farm bill on wetlands.

Chapters on wildlife management issues of fourteen species are also provided, including flamingo,

Beidler Builds on Success

A jewel in the crown of Audubon sanctuaries, the Francis Beidler Forest in South Carolina is situated on Four Holes Swamp north of Charleston and includes the largest known tract of virgin tupelo and bald cypress trees left in the world. With a hugely successful land acquisition campaign, the sanctuary now claims more than 5,443 acres—nearly 2,000 acquired in the last two years alone.

The campaign was largely the work of dedicated Audubon volunteers, and was boosted by a \$700,000 challenge grant from the Goodhill Foundation. It added critical forested wetland habitat to the Audubon sanctuary system. Wetlands protection is one of National Audubon's five high-priority issues.

Future acquisitions at Beidler Forest will target sections of the floodplain, critical bluff slopes that support several rare plant species, and important parcels of upland habitat. Buffering the upland areas helps ensure that the swamp's wildlife inhabitants have protected areas to escape to if prolonged flooding drives them from the lowlands.

The Francis Beidler Forest is open for visitation year-round. For information, write National Audubon Society, Francis Beidler Forest, Route 1, Box 600, Harleyville, SC 29448. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Audubon and Stroh Renew TV Partnership

The Stroh Brewery Company has extended its sponsorship of the Audubon Television Specials for another two years. Said Audubon President Peter Berle, "We are immensely grateful to Peter Stroh and The Stroh Brewery Company for their continued support."

Audubon's acclaimed television specials reach more than 20 million people on SuperStation TBS and on public television stations. A new Audubon Special, "Sea Turtles: Ancient Nomads," will air on TBS this fall. Air dates are October 7 (10:05 p.m. EST); October 15 (10:05 p.m. EST); October 22 (8:05 a.m. EST); and October 25 (9:05 p.m. Pacific Time).

A number of exciting new materials are also avail-

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter, Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Please send Audubon magazine, Burrowing Owl newsletter, and my membership card to the address below.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

Gift Membership

Please enter a one-year gift membership in the National Audubon Society and send a gift announcement card.

To:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

From:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

Gift Card to read * from _____
(Use extra sheet for additional gifts)

Membership category preferred:

- Introductory Membership (first year only)/\$20
- Individual/\$30 Sr. Citizen-Individual/\$21
- Family/\$38 Sr. Citizen-Family/\$23
- Student/\$18
- My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Bill me, please.

7XCH8

Local Chapter
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Q51

7XCH8

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society, but send your check with the application form to:

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Claudia Gayheart, Membership Chair
433 Maple NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Send renewals directly to National Audubon Society. All dues and contributions are tax deductible. Send all changes in name, address, or telephone number to Claudia Gayheart.

Who to contact:

Senator Pete V. Domenici 434 Dirksen Senate Office Build. Washington, DC 20510 (202)224-6621 or (505)766-3481	Rep. Manuel Lujan, Jr. 1323 Longworth Building Washington, DC 20515 (202)225-6316 or (505)766-2538
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Senator Jeff Bingaman 502 Hart Senate Office Build. Washington, DC 20510 (202)224-5521 or (505)766-3636	Rep. Bill Richardson 325 Cannon Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202)225-6190 or (505)988-6177
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NM Depart. of Game & Fish Villagra Building Santa Fe, NM 97503 Harold Olson, Director Wain Evans, Asst. Director John Hubbard, Endang. Species	State Game Commission Gerald Maestas, Chairman Unit 1, Box 15 La Puebla Road Espanola, NM 87532 Thomas Arvas, Member 9204 Menaul, NE Albuquerque, NM 87112
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Ave., SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Michael Spear, Regional Director
James Johnson, Endang. Species Chief
James Lewis, Whooping Crane Coord.

Randall Davey Audubon Center
David Henderson
P.O. Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)983-4609