



BURROWING OWL

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

June - July 1991

WELCOME!

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



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

THE RAINFOREST

--Thursday, June 20th

An issue of great concern to many of us, this program will discuss current problems and prospects for altering the devastation now occurring to rainforests throughout the world. Join us for an enlightening evening.

THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

--Thursday, July 18th

From the Boot Hill of New Mexico to Yellowstone Park -- Mary Stuever spent five months hiking this portion of the Continental Divide. Parts of her journey followed roads and trails but a fourth of the trip was cross-country. She frequently hiked alone on her 2,000 mile trek. Join us for an evening reliving this incredible adventure.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

JUNE

**--Saturday Night Moonlight Walk,
Tres Pistoles Canyon
June 22**

At 6:30pm, bring your own picnic dinner and join us at Louise Waldron's home. After dinner those interested can go on a sunset hike up Tres Pistoles Canyon, where they may hear poor-wills calling from the rocks or coyotes howling in the distance. Return to Louise's pond for an evening show, serenaded by toads. Four different types of bats (and possibly owls) may be seen flying and hunting over the pond. Golden eagles nesting nearby may add to the unrehearsed program.

You are welcome to join in at any point: picnic, hike or evening serenade. Remember to bring a jacket for cool canyon evenings. Those wanting to catch the evening serenade should be there by 8:30pm. Phone Louise for directions at 292-8272 or pick up a map at our June meeting. Those planning to attend any portion of this exciting evening please RSVP.

JULY

No field trip scheduled; check at the June meeting for any changes.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

For information on the Thursday morning birding group to nearby areas, please call Tamie Bulow, 298-9116.

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Lew Helm

Many of Nation's Wetlands at Risk

Developers are working overtime to severely limit the effectiveness of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. That Act is the federal law primarily responsible for regulating wetlands filling and development. Two bills now before Congress would classify wetlands according to their "supposed value." Those wetlands deemed "less valuable" would receive little or no protection under Section 404 and thus would be open for development.



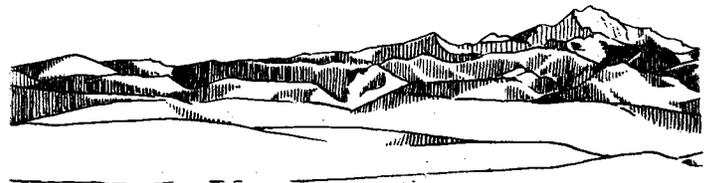
Here's a rundown on the two bills. HR 1330, introduced by Rep. Jimmy Hayes (D-LA), proposes a three-tiered ranking system. Low-quality Type C wetlands would be entirely deleted from 404 protection. Type B lands could be filled as long as the developer minimizes damage or compensates for lost acreage. And worse, Type A lands (those of the highest quality) could be developed if the Corps of Engineers determines a project serves an overriding public interest. In addition, the bill would eliminate entirely the role of EPA in the 404 process and would narrow the definition of wetlands by applying a 21-day "splash test" (whereby a 404 wetland would have to be inundated by water for at least 21 consecutive days).

The other bill, HR 404, introduced by Rep. John Hammerschmidt (R-AR) proposes a so-called compromise approach. HR 404 has a two-tiered classification system with much the same dangers as HR 1330. While retaining a limited role for EPA, it would restrict the definition of wetlands by using the 21-day "splash test."

What to do? Please write, wire, or call our Senators and Representatives and ask them to oppose any bills that could weaken Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Also write President Bush and ask him to renew his pledge to ensure "no net loss" of wetlands.

National Bottle Bill

There is a bill before Congress which deserves our support. This bill, HR 997, is called the National Recycling Resources Act. It would amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to require a deposit on most beverage containers and would provide funds for state pollution prevention and recycling programs. We should support this proposed legislation as a necessary and effective step for natural resource conservation. Again, write or other wise contact our Senators and Representatives to strongly support this approach to waste reduction.



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at a Crossroads

We hate to repeat ourselves so much, but the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), at least the coastal plain segment, is still very much at risk. Very soon, Congress will debate the future of the refuge, particularly the contested coastal plain. A number of bills to open the plain to oil drilling have been introduced. At the same time, some bills have been introduced to designate the coastal plain as wilderness and protect it from development.

Your Audubon Society has been in the forefront of efforts to protect the ANWR. Oil and gas leasing and development would cause destruction of critical habitat for sensitive species including the Porcupine Caribou Herd, muskoxen, snow geese, polar bears, wolverines, and numerous fishes. What is needed desperately at this time is a realistic energy policy and program which would lessen the nation's dependency on oil. A sensible energy conservation plan is long overdue. For instance, the amount of oil which can be produced on the ANWR is only a drop in the bucket. The alternatives are clear. Tighten fuel-efficiency in industry, offices, and homes, and develop renewable energy technology, such as solar. Let our Senators and Representatives know that the Audubon Society backs efforts to develop a sound energy program. Such a program is contained in the Bryan Fuel Economy Bill (SB 279) which may be debated soon in Congress.

EDUCATION NOTES

--by Marge Carrick

Audubon Adventures

The time has come once again to send our order to NAS for next school year. Marshall Case, Senior Vice President for Education, tells us that a national enrollment of 15,000 classrooms is anticipated for 1991-92. CNMAS started with 5 classrooms in 1985 and this past year sponsored 31. This goal was achieved through chapter budget and contributions of individual sponsors. We are striving for an even larger number of classrooms for 1991-92.

You can help with this important project by sponsoring a classroom with a \$30.00 tax-deductible donation. By doing so, you will be helping environmental education grow in a successfully proven way!

To fully sponsor one class, or make a partial donation, complete the form below. Make your check payable to Central New Mexico Audubon Society and indicate that it is for Audubon Adventures. Mail your check and form to

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON
Marge Carrick
808 Dakota, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108.

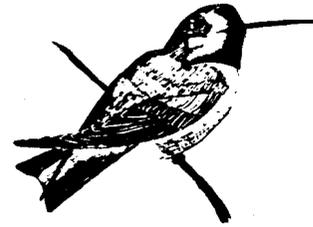


I would like to contribute to the Audubon Adventures Fund for the school year of 1991-92. (Orders are sent June 1 each year for the following school year).

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
(THANKS!)

Name _____

Address _____

**NOTES FROM THE CLASSROOM**

"I wanted to write you another thank you note for the Audubon Adventures again this year. The Comanche children and Special Ed staff appreciate and enjoy the materials.

Although I continue to use the Audubon Adventures as a focus for a language unit or as a mini unit as it relates to another unit of study, I used the publication in a different way this year. Working with one third grade and two fourth grade boys who were not having success in reading, I permitted them to select a subject of interest. They initially chose sea mammals. Their second interest area was snakes.

Using past issues of the Audubon Adventures as the focus of information gathering, the three boys began to enthusiastically take turns reading. After a few short months, these same boys were using the reading foundations they had learned earlier. They sounded out long and complex words, synthesized, used contextual cues, looked for small words within larger words and discovered that they were successful readers, understanding what they read!

I attribute much of their success to the high interest level the Audubon series provided, the format used that reinforces the information learned, the thrill of taking home what they had read and sharing it with parents, and to you, [CNMAS], for providing us with this wonderful educational series." --Joyce Moyer, Comanche Elementary

"After a recent slide show presentation on field markings of birds, I noticed my students much more observant of neighborhood birds, particularly as we took walks and played on the playground. Through the use of the April/May issue of Audubon [Adventures] they became more aware of the uniqueness of each bird's song. This opportunity for urban children to become more aware of the importance of birds to our environment is very important and essential."

-- Alice Hareland, Emerson, 4th Grade

Audubon Camp in the West

The winners of the Teacher Scholarships for Audubon Camp in the West near Dubois, Wyoming, were Jennifer Dotson of Dowa Yolanne Elementary School, Zuni, NM, a 3rd-4th grade teacher, and Dolores Varela-Phillips, a 5th grade teacher at Los Padillas Elementary in Albuquerque's south valley. These two teachers are well qualified to bring a worthwhile environmental program back to their students.

Environmental Education Materials

Last Owl we gave information on Living Lightly in the City but inadvertently omitted the address, which is:

Schlitz Audubon Center
1111 East Brown Deer Road
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Another source is:

National Audubon Society
Rt 1, Box 171
Sharon, CT 06069

Their materials include 5 colorful environmental posters, Audubon Adventures information, a unit on recycling and songbook and tape with environmental folk songs sung by Bill Oliver.



Ease the Paper Squeeze

--The ZPG Reporter, Dec 1990

Each year, Americans use 65 million tons of paper or about 580 pounds per person. Recycling is an important part of responding to the landfill shortage and loss of valuable resources--trees, in particular. Changing our shopping habits is another: half of our paper consumption is used solely to package and decorate consumer products.

Most often overlooked, however, is the people impact. By the year 2000, the 20 million people projected to be added to the US population could generate an additional 80 million tons of trash. Even our most aggressive efforts to recycle or reduce waste will be continually undermined with population growth.

RICHARD AND DOROTHY LAMM TO SPEAK ON POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT

CNMAS is co-sponsoring a special presentation by Richard and Dorothy Lamm, former Governor and First Lady of Colorado. The program, "Population and Environment: Living in a Finite World," is scheduled for Monday, June 24, at 7:30pm at UNM Continuing Education Center, 1634 University Blvd, NE. Admission is \$5.00 and tickets may be purchased from CNMAS Board Members directly; they will also be available at our June meeting. Other co-sponsors include Rio Grande Planned Parenthood, the Sierra Club Albuquerque Group, and the NM Public Health Association. Mutual concern for overpopulation and environmental deterioration brought these health and environmental groups together to organize this event.

World human population, now at 5.2 billion, grows by almost 90 million people each year. It is projected to exceed 6 billion before the year 2000. This population explosion has severely disturbed the ecological relationships between mankind and the environment as well as degrading the standards and quality of life, and increasing human suffering worldwide.

This presentation will consider the dilemma created by the surging human population and deteriorating environmental conditions. Richard Lamm, Governor of Colorado from 1975 until 1987, has directed the Center for Public Policy and Contemporary Issues at the University of Denver since its inception in 1987. Dorothy Lamm is a faculty member at the University of Denver. Her specialties include population study and societal changes.

A salmon buffet dinner with the Lamms is being held by Rio Grande Planned Parenthood prior to the speech. The cost is \$30.00, which includes the program. Tickets are available through Rio Grande Planned Parenthood by calling 265-5976.



WEEKEND BIRDERS

When no regular weekend field trip has been scheduled, contact Jean Ann Olds, 265-0653 (evenings) or 843-2153 (days) if you are interested in birding with a group.

How to Undermine Overpopulation**--Monte Paulsen**

. Cherish fewer children
Support the decisions of relatives and friends who have two, one, or even no children. Avoid pressuring your children to bear grandchildren. And don't buy the stereotype that says single kids and single adults are unhappy--it ain't so!

. Spread the love around

If you've got a strong parental urge, consider adopting children rather than having your own. Make enriching the lives of other people's kids a part of your life.

. Onlies are O.K.

If you decide to have children, consider having only one; definitely stop at two. Each child born in the US has an enormous impact on the environment, due to our heavy consumption of water, energy, and goods.

. Don't overconsume

The use of a disproportionate amount of resources in developed nations aggravates overpopulation in developing nations. As the saying goes, "Use it up, wear it out. Make it do, or do without."

. Mandate equal opportunity for women

Where women have better education and economic opportunity, the birthrate has declined. Whether or not the fellows in the US Congress ever pass the Equal Rights Amendment, it should be honored by everyone.

. Limit development

Due to population growth, the world's farmers have to feed 95 million more people with 24 million fewer tons of topsoil each year. Use your vote to promote land-use policies that preserve open space and farming, not only as a means of production, but also as a local way of life.

[Monte Paulsen is editor and publisher of Casco Bay Weekly in Portland, Maine.]

**NOTEWORTHY NEWS AROUND TOWN**

The Rio Grande Nature Center is offering a variety of weekly programs for children during the summer. Contact them directly for times and subject matter.

Don't forget recycling at REI the third Saturday of each month. Each month a different environmental organization hosts this event. Details are available at REI.

Tree-Climbing Roadrunner**--Roger Conant**

Our home is situated only three squares from the busy Coronado Shopping Center in Albuquerque, with its large throngs of people and heavy traffic. It is scarcely a habitat where one would expect to see a roadrunner, but sightings have been reported in the neighborhood at rare intervals.

One day last summer my wife, Kathryn, and I were reading proofs in our glass-walled livingroom when a roadrunner came walking slowly toward us across our outdoor patio. It could have entered our relatively spacious yard only by flying over the perimeter wall. As we watched, the bird walked slowly back and forth, looking up occasionally as though seeking an escape route. Presently, it walked to the base of a large pine tree, and then ran up the bole. Its claws dug into the rough bark, and its wings flapped rapidly as they presumably helped to support its weight as it rose. When it reached a horizontal branch slightly more than ten feet above the ground, the bird stepped onto it, remained motionless for perhaps 15 seconds, and then flew out of sight across the top of our garage.

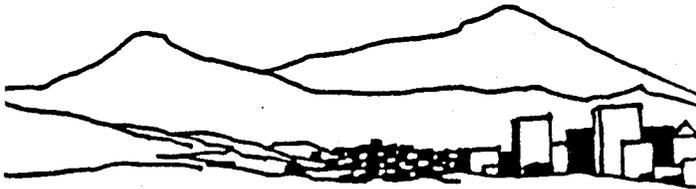
During extensive field work in both Mexico and the southwestern US, I have occasionally seen roadrunners in low shrubs, but never in a tree.

**Eagle Project, Bosque del Apache**

The Eagle Project consists of a 45' long and 20' wide Observation Platform located at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge overlooking a pond where Snow Geese and Canadian Geese feed. This project will provide tower observation access for handicapped visitors to the Bosque as well as an additional observation tower for the Refuge. The estimated cost of the project is \$10,000. Any pledges or donations are welcome. Contact Andrew Camillo at 11920 Leah CT, NE, 87112 (298-9649) or send donations to CNMAS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT**Environmental Education Awards Ceremony**

At the National Audubon Society's national convention in Estes Park, CO this July 23rd, the Education Division will present awards to individual volunteers for outstanding accomplishments and new initiatives in environmental education. Our CNMAS Education Chairperson, Marge Carrick, has been nominated "for initiating the Audubon Adventures program in Albuquerque, effective fund-raising, for giving the classrooms a lot of personal attention, for offering teachers natural history workshops and Audubon camp scholarships and for working to take the Audubon Adventures message out of the classroom and into the Albuquerque community." We wish Marge the best of luck in this competition and extend our thanks for all her hard work!

**Annual Potluck Dinner**

A special thanks to the founders and charter members who attended our annual potluck dinner last month. Among those attending were Craig and Alice Andrews, Elizabeth and Norm Broemel, Barbara Hussey, Jim Karo, Bea and Fred Leckman, Ethel Ringer, Ross and Clara Teuber, Marilyn & Martin Ruoss, and Dan and Marian Washburn. Wildflowers from the gardens of Ethel Ringer and Donna Broudy added a decorative touch. Barbara Hussey brought a beautiful cake (complete with burrowing owl) celebrating the 20th anniversary of CNMAS. Laura Jenkins shared two appropriate environmental poems with the group. Fred and Helen Riddell, long-time CNMAS members, also shared stories about the early days of CNMAS.

Marian Washburn presented the 1991 Washburn award to Ross Teuber in recognition of his contributions as a public employee for his service to the environmental community and for his efforts to increase environmental awareness in our community. Certificates were presented to the following retiring Board Members in appreciation of their service: Betty Balduc, Claudia Gayheart, Lew Helm (retiring as Conservation Chairperson), Murray Honeycutt, and Laura Jenkins.

Our thanks to Dave Henderson, Field Representative at Randall Davey, for rounding out the year with a review of NAS past, present and future. His slides summarized current environmental problems and issues in New Mexico: old-growth forests versus forests damaged from extreme logging and mining activities; healthy streams versus dammed streams. Yet victories have occurred, such as the Connor Dam on the Gila has been defeated for the moment; portions of the East Fork of the Jemez and upper Pecos were set aside as wild and scenic rivers; the Conservation Easement Act was passed; a proposal was submitted to designate areas of the upper Rio Grande above the Gorge as a National Conservation Area to protect the foraging areas of raptors; the number of commissioners for the NM Game and Fish Dept has been increased to seven members, including a representative of the environmental community; and a separate NM Dept of the Environment has been created, with Judith Espinosa as Secretary.

As our field representative, Dave Henderson continues to monitor environmental issues statewide. He has recently been appointed to the newly created Habitat and Environment Advisory Council for the NM Game & Fish Dept.

**NORTHERN NEW MEXICO****Darwin Miller, NM Audubon Council**

Several years ago the NM Audubon Council set up the "Big Bird Bash" in the Gila area (Silver City). This has been a big success right from the beginning. We are exploring an idea as to what sort of thing we can set up for the northern part of the state, possibly in August. This would be open to everybody (families, singles, retirees, etc.) A sort of field trip. Suggested areas so far are Chama-Tierra Amarilla, Rio Chama above Abiquiu Lake, Canjilon to Canjilon Lakes, Questa (Rio Cabresto and Red River), Raton, etc.

We would take into consideration accommodations (motel, RV and tent grounds, restaurants, etc.). maybe we are a little spoiled?? I know there are accommodations in Chama-Tierra Amarilla, Raton and Questa (probably not comparable to the Hilton or the Marriott, but adequate). I would like to solicit your ideas on this. Call me at 265-6361 (if I'm not there, leave your phone number and I will return your call as soon as I can).

UPCOMING EVENTS**Mountain Discovery Days
Sandia Ranger District, USFS**

July 27-28 at the Sandia Peak Ski Area. Mountain Discovery Days will replace Sandia Mountain Discovery Days of the last several years. The reason for the name change is the need to reach out to more of the lesser known mountain ecosystems and wilderness areas in NM. Admission is always free and there will be many conservation groups represented. There will also be a lot of environmental awareness activities for youth and the young at heart as well. People are needed to help man CNMAS' table for a couple of hours each day. Please contact a CNMAS Board Member if you are available either day.

The Magdalena Bird Count

--June 1991

The Magdalena Bird Count for the US Forest Service will be the first or second weekend in June. It is an exciting count, so if you want to participate this year, call Jim Black at 255-9925.

Fourth Annual White Mountain Audubon Campout--June 21-23

Families are welcome to enjoy a weekend in the cool pines of the White Mountains. Every year the White Mountain Audubon Group organizes and sponsors a weekend of workshops and hikes for outdoor enthusiasts. This year the campout will begin Friday evening, June 21 through Sunday, June 23. A get-together potluck will kick off the weekend at 6:00pm Friday. Following the potluck will be a special evening program. Saturday and Sunday will feature morning and evening walks. Saturday afternoon there will be two outstanding workshops, "The Geography of Arizona" and "Woodcarving Birds." Saturday evening will feature another special program.

Camping is primitive. Bring drinking water. Campfires may be prohibited. A \$5.00 donation per vehicle will help pay for portable toilets. Everyone is welcome, including children, and you can come anytime during the weekend. For more information contact Gary Alves, PO Box 1707, St. Johns, AZ 85936, [602] 337-2717, or Brian Heap, Box 294, St. Johns, AZ 85936.

CNMAS DIRECTORY**PRESIDENT**

Tammie Bulow, 8126 Northridge NE, 87109; 298-9116

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FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON**RESEARCH CHAIR/FIELD SIGHTINGS COMPILER****FIELD SIGHTINGS/RARE BIRD ALERT**

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