



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1992 - JANUARY 1993

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Joyous New Year!
The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. at
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, N.E.
Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips, and special
events.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Every year since 1900, National Audubon Society has sponsored its unique Christmas Bird Count, inviting novice and experienced birders for one day to list the birds they see. Joining together are counters in the U.S., Canada, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The counters travel together in designated areas, recording numbers and species. This information is sent to American Birds, where results from all counters are totaled and published in a special edition. A fee of \$5 per participant is charged to cover cost of publication.

LOCAL COUNT

The public is invited to take part in the count; Society membership is not necessary. Amateur birders are welcomed; expert birders will be leading all groups. Make plans to join us for one or more of the following counts:

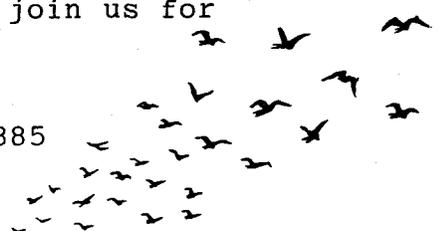
*Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro, NM
Sat., Dec. 19. Contact: Steve Cox, 345-2385
Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 7:00 a.m.

*Albuquerque
Sun., Dec. 20. Contact: Hart Schwarz, 266-1810
Meet at Corrales Shopping Center
NW corner of Coors & Alameda, 7:15 a.m.

*Sevilleta NWR
Thurs., Dec. 17 (5 Points) and Sat., Dec. 19 (West Side)
Contact: Ross Teuber, 265-8962, or the Refuge, 1-864-4021

*Sandia Mountains
Sun., Jan. 3, 1993. Contact: Tamie Bulow, 298-9116
Meet at Pete's Mexican Restaurant, 7:30 a.m.
(North Hwy 14. one-half mile north of Sandia Crest turnoff)

*Zuni, New Mexico
Sat., Dec. 19 (Zuni) and Sun., Dec. 20 (Bluewater)
Call Steve Ingraham, 1-863-4751



Plan on an all-day outing, rain or shine, blue or blizzard. Wear warm layered clothing, bring food and water, and JOIN THE FUN!



PROGRAMS

Dec. 10 - A week early this month, our meeting will feature plans for and presentations on the Christmas Bird Counts. Donna Broudy will present a slide show on what birds to look for in the Albuquerque area and how to identify them, with helpful hints on sharpening your birding skills!

Jan. 21 - We start out the New Year with flair! Photographer Philip Sonier will present his "Moments From Nature" Wildlife Workshop, a montage of photographic art from along the Rocky Mountain chain from New Mexico to Canada. The winner of numerous awards, Phil lives in Albuquerque and exhibits at Southwest Arts & Crafts Festival and Weems Art Fest, among others. Come enjoy this feast for the eyes!

FIELD TRIPS



Sat., Jan. 9, 1993 - Come join us for "A Celebration of Eagles." Jim Place will guide us to our annual trip to **Cochiti Dam** to see the Bald Eagles as they stage before migrating north. After the excursion with our national bird, weather permitting, we will bird around the dam and hope to see the Dipper, Western Bluebird, and much more. Dress warm, bring food, and meet at 7:00 a.m. sharp at Far North Theater, San Mateo & Academy.

Sat., Feb. 13 - Join Jim Place as he scouts out the **Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge** for Grebes, waterfowl, and much more. Maybe the Loon from last winter will return! Watch for details on meeting time and place in the next Owl, and mark your calendars now!

Thursday Morning Birding Group -- For information on Thursday morning outings to nearby areas, call Tamie Bulow at 298-9116.

March 21-30 - Rio Usumacinta Trip to benefit Randall Davey--Imagine more than 220 species of birds, the smell of vanilla orchids as you walk through the dense tropical rainforest, or the sound of howler monkeys as you sit in an ancient Mayan village. All your senses will be stimulated as you immerse yourself in the cultural and natural world along the Mexico/Guatemala border. We will float on the largest river in Mexico and Central America through North America's northernmost tropical rainforest through remote areas and explore Mayan ceremonial centers. Call 1-983-4609 for more information!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Anne Farley reports, "The trip to RGNC with the children from Van Buren Middle School was a wonderful experience for them and me, too. The birding was great, and the kids seemed fascinated with the concept of 'watching birds.' I believe a few of these kids will be leading these trips someday and fighting to save our remaining wildlife.

"I will begin a monthly field trip for children, possibly in spring. All young people are welcome to attend any of the current trips planned. Please call me with ideas or questions."

And this news flash from Sei Tokuda as the OWL goes to press: A scouting trip by Sei, Tamie Bulow, and Mary Hewitt to Sandia Crest on Friday the 13th was good luck indeed. Those three saw the Pine Grosbeak (SW end of service road to Kiwanis Meadow), which was absent on Saturday's field trip. But Saturday's group of 11 (including 5 new birders!) saw Three-Toed Woodpecker, Brown-Capped Rosy Finch, and male Black Rosy Finch -- very up close for Paul McConnell and Bob Kegel! Also observed were Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and Red Crossbill. Call Sei (266-2480) for details on specific observation sites.

WILDLIFE RESCUE

If you find a sick or injured bird, call 344-2500.

RARE BIRD ALERT

To learn about sightings all over the state or to report a rare sighting, the number in Santa Fe is 662-2101.



What? No mice?

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

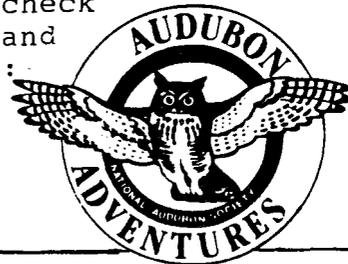
By Marge Carrick

"Elekwah! Thanks! We've just got our first set of 5 Audubon Adventures packets. That means 160 individual copies, which is enough to cover all the fourth-graders at Dowa Yalanne and Aishiwi Elementary Schools. David Cleary." That's the enthusiastic response from just one of the schools we sponsor. But remember, respect for the environment doesn't always come naturally; often it has to be learned. And Audubon is there to teach it, to 550,000 students in 17,000 elementary school classrooms across the country -- through Audubon Adventures. Much more than an acclaimed curriculum program, Audubon Adventures is a revolutionary new way of teaching children environmental awareness. Now in its seventh year, Audubon Adventures is already the largest program of its type.

Like everything else Audubon does, Audubon Adventures works so well because of the commitment of our members. Isn't it exciting to know that our Chapter is a part of this great environmental program? CNMAS, in cooperation with NAS, is providing 44 subscriptions to 48 schools in Albuquerque, Zuni, Gallup, Algodones, and Jemez districts.

Now we must plan for 1993-94. You can help with this important project by sponsoring a classroom with a \$30 tax-deductible donation. By doing so, you will be helping environmental education grow in a successfully proven way!

Please make your check payable to CNMAS and send with form to:
Marge Carrick
808 Dakota, SE
Albuquerque, NM
87108



Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____
(Each \$30 will sponsor one classroom in the Audubon Adventures Program. Any amount you contribute will benefit our educational activities.)

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(designation is optional).

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EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

Marge Carrick, 808 Dakota SE, 87108; 266-0191

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

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GREETINGS CHAIRPERSON

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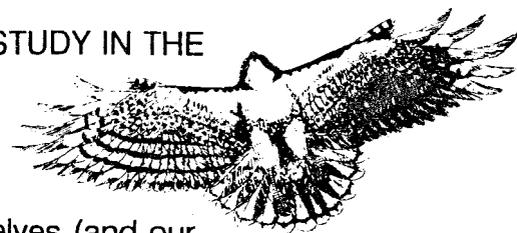
SECRETARY

Pat Snider, 2435 C 45th St, Los Alamos, NM, 87544; 622-3530



HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL'S 1992 RAPTOR MIGRATION STUDY IN THE MANZANO MOUNTAINS

by Eric Meyer



The winds bore down on us as we tried to balance ourselves (and our binoculars) in order to identify migrating bullets (*Raptorus fastis*). The previous day, the mountain was rainy and covered with fog. On this particular day, the fog lifted at 11:00 and when we arrived at the lookout the winds were already at 50 mph. During the next five hours, we counted over 90 migrating raptors, most of whom came by at high speeds with their wings tucked against their bodies.

On another day, as we scanned the distant horizons, someone noted a large flock of birds. Our first inclination was that they were Turkey Vultures, but a longer look revealed white from their undersides. Soon it became apparent that they were Swainson's Hawks!. In the subsequent weeks we saw more Swainson's than ever noted before in the Manzanos. The previous record for a season was 58 birds, with nine seen in one day. This year we saw 379 birds with flocks of up to sixty seen in one day. The exact reason for this is yet unknown and breeding success can not possibly account for that great of an increase. The spring and summer were wet along the Rocky Mountains and quite productive for grasshoppers. It may be possible that birds from the Great Plains area moved towards the Rockies, where they were able to find an excellent food supply.

Between August 25th and November 5th, HawkWatch International biologist documented many other exciting records including Ferruginous Hawks (25), Merlins (28), Red-tailed Hawks (667), Osprey (26) and the total season flight (5116). The previous season record was 4,682, set in 1989. We also had more people visit the site than ever before and we were able to pass off more banded birds for release. This was due to a very successful banding program.

This season we added a third station to our banding effort. As we set it up, it quickly got the nickname - "Hell" for the 400 foot drop down from the observation deck. But as soon as it was operating the name changed back to the original - "West". The station proved its value as it caught one Peregrine Falcon, two Prairie Falcons, two Merlins, two Golden Eagles, one Northern Goshawk and two dark morph Red-tailed Hawks. A total of 1,047 raptors were captured this season, more than double the amount trapped in 1991.

The U.S. Forest Service recently presented HawkWatch International with an award for the Manzano site. As the best "Watchable Wildlife" location in the Southwestern region of the Forest Service, most of the visitors who came to the lookout were rewarded with beautiful vistas and incredible close-ups of migrant raptors.

Membership is \$25/year and members receive HWI's informative quarterly newsletter, as well as discounts on books, t-shirts, hats, etc...Or, better yet for a donation of \$35 to \$500, depending on the species, you can "adopt" a wild, banded eagle or hawk -- and receive a color photo, attractive certificate with all your bird's vital statistics, and educational updates on the activities of your species. For more information about HWI's Adopt-a-Hawk program, or directions to the hawk lookouts please call 255-7622, or write HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 35706, Albuquerque, NM 87176-5706.

MANZANO MOUNTAIN COUNT RESULTS, 1985-92



	AVE	1985-91	1992	CHANGE
Obs. Hours		474.2	537.4	+13%
Raptors/hr		7.8	9.5	+6%
Total Raptors		3706	5116	+20%

Species	1991	#/100 Hrs.		
		Average 1985-91	1992	%Change
Turkey Vulture	267	48.0	49.7	4%
Osprey	26	3.3	4.8	45%
Bald Eagle	4	0.5	0.7	40%
Northern Harrier	69	11.2	12.8	14%
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1540	261	286	10%
Cooper's Hawk	961	157	179	14%
Northern Goshawk	16	2.6	3.0	15%
Broad-winged Hawk	5	1.0	0.9	-10%
Swainson's Hawk	379	5.7	70.5	1137%
Red-tailed Hawk	667	108	124	15%
Ferruginous Hawk	25	3.6	4.6	28%
Zone-tailed Hawk	2	0.2	0.4	100%
Golden Eagle	119	21.1	22.1	5%
American Kestrel	705	115	131	14%
Merlin	28	2.5	5.2	108%
Peregrine Falcon	18	2.4	3.3	38%
Prairie Falcon	17	2.5	3.2	28%
TOTAL	5116	786	951	21%

ACADEMY AWARDS NIGHT

And the winner is . . . CNMAS! If we tried to thank individually each person who made our Holiday Bazaar such a success, our list would be endless, and we would still probably miss somebody! So we'll thank all donors, doers, contributors, collectors, bakers, purveyors buyers, browsers, helpers, members, supporters, Randall Davey Audubon Center, and a partridge in a pear tree!

ORCHIDS TO . . .

Connie Farley, owner of Concetta D. Fine Art Gallery, for her help and support. She has graciously extended an invitation to CNMAS to feature the painting donated to us by Jazz Morgan, "Crane I," in her gallery at 20 First Plaza for the Arts Crawl on Sunday, December 6. This event is sure to attract collectors and buyers, and CNMAS will be accepting silent bids on this vibrant painting. So "crawl" on by the Concetta D. Gallery and join in our thanks to both artist and gallery for their generosity!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

*That Audubon's 100 sanctuaries protect more than 150,000 acres of diverse habitat and wildlife, including many endangered species? Our sanctuaries also serve as important platforms for public education, advocacy, and scientific research.

*That mixing glycerine, an alcohol-like chemical, as a birdbath antifreeze, could harm the birds that drink and bathe in the water? Don't do it!

*That the Columbia and Snake River system of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho has been named this year's most endangered river by American Rivers? Second on the list are the Alsek and Tatshenshini of northwest Canada. Quebec's Great Whale River is third.

*That you should report a banding recovery to Bird Banding Laboratory, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Laurel, MD 10708, together with your name & address, all numbers and letters on the band, and date and place you found the band? Place information and band in envelope marked "Hand cancel" and send to above address.

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CONSERVATION NOTES

By Verne Huser

The spotted owl controversy has raised questions about the **Endangered Species Act** and its pending reenactment in H.R. 4045, a bill sponsored by Rep. Gerry Studds. He plans to reintroduce the bill, designed to reauthorize and strengthen the Act, in the next session of Congress which begins in January. This is one of NAS's big pushes, along with the revision of the 1872 mining laws. Write to your newly re-elected delegates to let them know you support strengthening the ESA through H.R. 4045 and that you oppose H.R. 3092 & H.R. 4058, both of which would weaken the Environmental Species Act.

Speaking of the election, the only members of the Bush Administration I'd personally like to see retained are EPA Administrator Bill Reiley and Fish & Wildlife Director John Turner. Each man did a remarkable job despite being in a largely anti-environmental administration.

Petroglyphs National Monument may fare better under the new administration. Two major issues presently concern the monument: 1) Middle Unser/Paseo del Norte extension and 2) the Monument Management Plan. My understanding is that both the regional and the Washington, D.C., offices of the National Park Service have essentially told the local office to amend the alternatives to provide greater protection and to reduce the potential impact from recreational development.

The last issue of the Burrowing Owl carried an **Arby's** anti-environmental position found on the public bulletin board of an Arby's in Indiana. I have learned that the statement in question is not an Arby's position statement, but that Arby's allows its franchises to publish their own opinion statements, which this one apparently was: It was not an Arby's corporate policy statement, but rather the statement of a local franchisee.



THANK YOU!

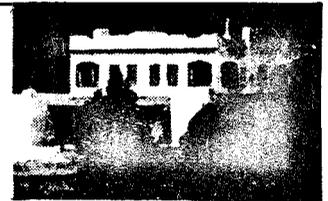
A big thank you to Wright Van Deusen and David Carrick for the CB sets presented to CNMAS for use on birding trips. This will make it much easier to keep contact when there are several cars in the caravan. We could use another set or two. If you have one stashed away, contact Tamie at 298-9116.

BOOK REPORT

By Dr. John Tyson
Vice-President Elect Al Gore addresses population-environment issues in his book, Earth in the Balance - Ecology and the Human Spirit, in the chapter "A Global Marshall Plan." We'll be featuring excerpts in upcoming issues of the Owl.

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SEVILLETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Part III

By Ross L. Teuber

A number of wells with windmills were developed during the height of the grazing activity on what is now Sevilleta NWF. Only a few of these are still operating, but several new ones have been developed since the refuge was established. There are a handful of live springs which now serve as watering places for the abundant wildlife.

One of the unique features of the Sevilleta is the three major biomes (biological communities and land forms): The Great Plains Grassland, The Great Basin Shrub Steppe, and The Chihuahuan Desert, which come together on the refuge. In addition, in many places there are patches of Pinon-Juniper Woodland Type. These areas are characterized by the presence of the skeletons of the many junipers which perished in the drouth period of the 1950s among the live junipers and pinons. In many cases new growth adjoins or surrounds them, indicating that this growth originated from the stumps.

Based on the information available on distribution of wildlife in the state, and which may or may not have applied directly to the Sevilleta, it was thought that there were 85 species of mammals; 207 species of land birds (more about this later); 59 species of reptiles; that the geographic range of 47 of these species ends within the Sevilleta; and that there are 16 species of amphibians.

The presence of this variety of species provides a rich field for research. Although many of the mammal species are rodents and nocturnal, I have observed in the course of my research such widely diverse species as mule deer, pronghorn, coyote, jackrabbit, cottontail, antelope ground squirrel, also at times ornate box turtle, and rattlesnakes. The refuge has a picture of a small group of bighorn sheep photographed on the refuge a few years ago, and one day the refuge manager, my partner, and I were treated to the sighting of a cow elk in the LaJoya area.

The appropriateness of setting the Sevilleta aside as a natural and research area is shown by the amount and variety of environmental and ecological research which has taken place there since management of the area was taken over by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Researchers from around the world (with impressive research credentials) conduct a variety of research here. Sometimes more than 30 separate studies are being carried on simultaneously. No less than half a dozen Federal Government agencies have joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conducting studies such as soil classification, grazing, baseline studies of vegetation and soil erosion, sonic booms, geology, mammalogy, hydrology, and climatology, to name a few. Individuals or groups from no less than 16 institutions of higher learning from such widely scattered locations as Harvard, UC at Davis and San Diego, University of Michigan, as well as most of the universities in New Mexico and adjoining states, and representatives from foreign nations as far as Spain, Mexico, Morocco, Jordan, and Australia, have conducted studies. This research in some cases involves only a single species or aspect of ecology, but some has been as broad as a study done by a graduate student from the University of New Mexico, who, during 1977-78, determined the presence of 1140 Taxa (84 families, 328 genera, 728 species and subspecies). At least 54 of these terminate their geographic distribution within the Sevilleta. Even the lowly invertebrates, insects, and arachnids have come in for their share of scrutiny.

To date the largest single research project, or related group of projects, has been the LTER (Long-Term Environmental Research). The National Science Foundation has developed a LTER network of 18 sites across the country. Sevilleta is one -- I believe the largest -- of these sites. The objective of this program is to carry on long-term (several years) studies of all aspects of the ecology and environment on each of these areas and how they relate or differ from one another. The National Science Foundation finances these studies through a system of financial grants to researchers, primarily but not limited to educational institutions. The grantee on this project on the Sevilleta is the University of New Mexico. LTER accounts for the funding of 33% to 40% of all ongoing research on the Refuge.

Not all of the research is carried on by such prestigious entities, however. In some instances private individuals, such as myself, have been or are carrying on small, independent projects. If all goes well, the next article (or two) in this series will be devoted to a recital of what has been done to develop baseline knowledge and a check-list of the birds of the Sevilleta.

* * * (We look forward to hearing from you in February, Ross!) * * *

Whom to Contact:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary of the Interior
18th & C Streets, N.W., Rm. 6151
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-7351

Hon. Pete Domenici
(202) 224-6621
(505) 766-3481

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
(202) 224-5521
(505) 766-3636

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steve Schiff — (505) 766-2538

Hon. Joe Skeen

Hon. Bill Richardson — (505) 766-3481

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

National Audubon Society

Membership Hotline
(800) 274-4201

Southwest Regional Office
2525 Wallingwood, Suite 1505
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 327-1943

New Mexico Office
David Henderson
Randall Davey Audubon Center
PO Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 983-4609

US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Regional Director — (505) 766-2321
Refuges and Wildlife — (505) 766-2036
Habitat Conservation — (505) 766-2914

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Villagra Building
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 841-8881

Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Floyd A. Thompson III, District Ranger
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304

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National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the national Audubon Society



Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Local Chapter Code — Q51

7XCH8

Use the above form for new subscriptions only. Contact Membership Chairperson for changes of address or corrections in your Burrowing Owl label. Nonmembers can receive the Burrowing Owl by sending your name and address with \$10 to CNMAS, c/o Beth Hurst, 1260 Rosemont, N.W., 87104.

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