

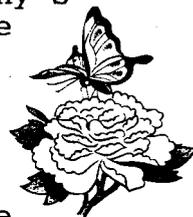
BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1993

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Welcome! The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson, N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, field trips, and special events.



PROGRAMS

August 19 - BUTTERFLIES OF NEW MEXICO! Steve Cary, Lepidopterist, will share his expertise and slides of these fragile flying jewels. Come learn about their ecology and tips on butterfly gardens, too. It will be an entertaining evening with these amazing creatures! Mark it on your calendars!

September 16 - A RIVER OF BIRDS IN MIGRATION: In the autumn each year, tens of thousands of raptors migrate south for the winter, passing along the Goshutes Mountains in northeastern Nevada. This slide show brings a detailed look at the birds themselves and the hardy volunteers who count and band them. Our guest speaker will be Robert Kruidenier, a photographer and volunteer with HawkWatch International. Join us for an extraordinary look at these birds!

TRIP TIPS

Field trips are open to all: members or nonmembers, beginning or experienced birders. Cancellation of a trip due to inclement weather is at discretion of leader. It is never a bad idea to pack a lunch even for half-day trips. Carpooling & ride sharing are encouraged. Check with Anne (266-8510) or field trip leader for field trip status.



FIELD TRIPS



Sat. August 28 - Migrating Sandpipers and Mountain Plovers below and open country raptors above, plus ducks, swallows, stilts and more. Join us at 8:30 a.m. at Isleta Bingo Palace for this trip to the Isleta Marsh and Grasslands!

Sat. September 18 - Hawkwatching in the Manzano Mountains -- it's become a fall tradition! The hardy (and hearty) raptor counters on the mountaintop will be our personal instructors in spotting, identifying, and observing these magnificent migrants. To get extra-special tutoring, bribes are encouraged -- bring homemade goodies to share with the field site personnel! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center, Tramway & Central, near Baskin-Robbins.

~~Sun. Sept. 26~~ - An out-of-the-ordinary day for an out-of-the-ordinary trip -- ~~Fort Sumner~~. But instead of Billy-the-Kid's grave, we'll be looking for open-field sparrows, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluejay -- and if we're lucky, maybe an Osprey at Lake Sumner! Meet at 7:00 a.m. at ~~Four Hills~~, Central and Tramway. Expect to return by ~~6:00 p.m.~~

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP -- For information on Thursday morning outings to nearby areas, call Tamie Bulow at 298-9116.

BIRDING GALORE!

August 20-22: The Southwest Wings Great Birding Festival, sponsored by the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the weekend a variety of programs, exhibits, children's activities and tours will take place, including hummingbird banding and cave exploration. Kenn Kaufman, author of Field Guide to Advanced Birding, is featured speaker on Saturday night. From The Trogon News, Huachuca Audubon.

September 8, 9, 10, 11, 12: Sky Island Institute, established by The Tucson Audubon Society. In the tradition of the 23-year-old Institute of Desert Ecology, Sky Island Institute will bring together 35 participants and 5 expert instructors for field studies of the fabled Chiricahua Mountains in SE Arizona. The Institute will be held at the American Museum of Natural History's Southwestern Research Station near Portal, AZ. One unit of college credit may be earned during the sessions. Registration includes accommodations and meals. Questions? Contact Cynthia Lindquist, (602)629-0757.

October 2-9: Big Bend! A car caravan trip to Big Bend National Park has been designed with flexibility to minimize your costs. Offered by Randall Davey Audubon Center, the trip includes all five ecozones of the Big Bend region while enjoying post-rainy season flowers, geology and the resident bird population, with a camping option to reduce costs.

THE 1993 NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CONFERENCE

15, 16, 17 OCTOBER 1993
WNMU CAMPUS, SILVER CITY

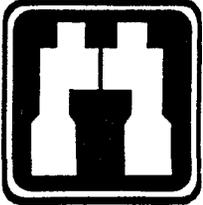
ENDANGERED SPECIES, THREATENED HABITATS

Hosted by SWNM Audubon Soc.
P.O. Box 1473, Silver City, NM
88062 (505) 538-9672



LET NATURE DO THE WORK - WILD GARDENS - UNM Continuing Ed.

The methods demonstrated include how to avoid spading, cultivating, weeding, spraying, fertilizing and lawn mowing; automatic creation of top soil; availability of free mulch and ground cover materials; and the use of predators to control pests. The design of natural gardens and the use of native edible plants will be emphasized. The first session is in the classroom with the other sessions in natural gardens and on field trips. Students must attend first class to obtain field trip info. Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 26 through Oct. 14. Call Jim Lewis, 881-7423.

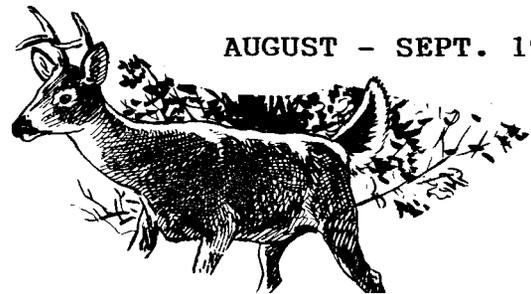
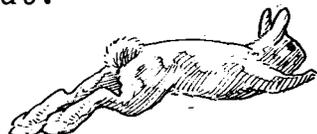


THE NEW MEXICO
WATCHABLE WILDLIFE
PROJECT

A new "binoculars" logo will be added to highways signs in New Mexico this year. Coordinated by the nationally-based conservation group Defenders of Wildlife, New Mexico's Watchable Wildlife program is part of a unique partnership, supported by public and private sector funding, which works together on behalf of wildlife conservation. Consultants on the project have included Randall Davey Audubon Center, The Nature Conservancy, and NM State University's Fish & Wildlife Science Department.

Site selection has been completed, and by around Christmastime, we can expect the publication of The New Mexico Wildlife Viewing Guide, which will showcase the 80 best places in New Mexico to see wildlife -- how to get there, what animals and birds to look for, best times to see wildlife, natural features at the site, and more. The 6"x9" full-color, 128-page reference book will encourage people to explore different areas of our state. Since New Mexico has six of earth's seven life zones, there is always some type of wildlife to watch, no matter where one visits in the state.

Watchable Wildlife is careful to address the impact of wildlife viewing on animals, so that humans do not crowd too closely or encroach upon a wild animal's sense of safety. Some potential wildlife viewing sites will never make it into the book because the habitat is too fragile or sensitive to permit human visitation. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the book will go to conserve wildlife habitat.



WILDLIFE WATCHING AND OUTDOOR
ETIQUETTE

- * Observe animals from a safe distance. Use binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto camera lenses to get "close up." You are probably too close if the animals are looking at you with heads up and ears pointed towards you, or are "jumpy" when you move or make a noise. Sit quietly or move slowly away if you see these signs. Be sensitive to adult animals with young.
- * Move slowly and casually, not directly at wildlife. Allow animals to keep you in view; don't surprise them.
- * Chasing or harassing wildlife is unlawful.
- * Leave pets at home. Pets hinder wildlife watching and may kill or injure wildlife.
- * Respect others who may be viewing the same wildlife. Approaching too closely will ruin everyone's opportunity for natural, relaxed photographs and observations.
- * Most wildlife (particularly most mammals and all waterfowl) should not be fed. When you feed birds at a feeder, make sure you feed them clean, appropriate food at appropriate times.
- * Respect private property; ask permission before entering.
- * Do not park your vehicle so that it blocks others.
- * Resting is critical time for most animals; don't force or encourage them to "do something" for you or your camera. If you spot a nesting bird, back off rather than flush it from the nest.
- * Avoid using bird recordings to attract birds during the nesting season; this may interfere with natural breeding.
- * Avoid animals that behave strangely or abnormally.

THE THURSDAY BIRDERS - PART II OF
THE SAGA - By Tamie Bulow

Our drive to Galveston via Jones Forest turned up a group of British birders who had just seen the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, but only the Pileated for us. The Red-cockaded eluded us (although we stared at his tree hole long enough), but we had nice looks at the Red-headed Woodpecker (which made it a great day in Marge's book), Eastern Kingbird, and Howard's first Cardinal. We arrived at the Beach House in time to settle in, eat a delicious dinner at the Sea Isle Marina, and take a walk on the beach. Joining us on the beach were Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, Willets, Semi-palmated Plovers, plus the Laughing Gulls and a Ring-billed.

Our next day trip was to High Island, where we birded enthusiastically but even less aerobically than usual: sitting on benches watching the Gray-cheeked Thrush, Wood Thrush and Swainson's Thrush share the same puddle! The common Eastern birds all around us were great, but the migrants were fantastic! We ooh-ed and aah-ed at the Scarlet Tanager, Swainson's Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Hooded Warbler, Northern Oriole, Northern Parula Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Philadelphia Vireo (plus Solitary and Warbling), and the Acadian Flycatcher. We discovered what "birder's neck" is, after spending hours looking up at the Cathedral section. But the views were spectacular! The sharing of bird identification and location was so helpful -- it was an experience in camaraderie as well. We were seeing so many birds and so enjoying ourselves that even Mary, our official lister, got carried away: Her list boasted a "Great-tailed Vulture" and an "Eastern Woodpecker"! That's okay, though, because she later found the Groove-billed Anis for us.

The trip to Smith Oaks turned up the Painted Bunting, Black and White Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue and Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks, Great Horned Owl, Red-eyed Vireo, and enough mosquitos to get Jean and Mary ready for their upcoming trip to Alaska.

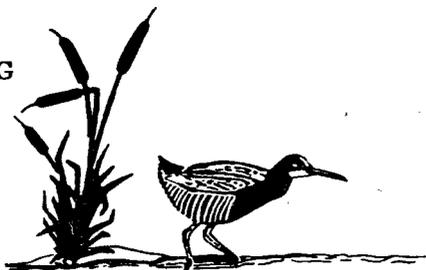
Bird rumor had it there was a female Ruff -- a Reeve -- on the road to Anahuac. We lucked out (although it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure this one out): We stopped where a flock of bird-watchers were standing alongside the road, and they presented her to us in their scope. We were starting to feel pretty cocky. Anahuac greeted us with a restroom (smile), with Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat and Dickcissels on the road in.

En route to Shoveler Pond, we stopped at a small pond to check it out: Northern Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler, Orioles, Scarlet Tanager. We enjoyed all the Purple Gallinules (their colors are breathtaking), Common Moorhens, and Green-backed Herons. The Sedge Wren eluded us again -- how can something so noisy be so invisible!?!?

(Read about Birder Nirvana in Part III next time!)



"It was early September, a red-bright day of Indian summer sun and stillness, and the beach bird stood immobile for a time, observing the turtles and a muskrat, two black ducks and a green heron, as if certain of its central place in a strange and beautiful universe." --Peter Matthiessen



AND YET ANOTHER GLOWING REPORT
FROM YET ANOTHER HAPPY THURSDAY
BIRDER . . . By Jean Dilley

An exhaustive report on the continuation of the Thursday Birders' trip to Texas in April of this year you won't get from me. What you will get are several personal highlights from that super special trip. Joanne Phillips and I had signed on toward the end of the planning process, so we made our own arrangements for transportation and a place to stay near the rest of the birders.

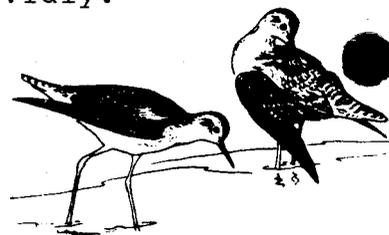
On our first full day of birding in the Galveston area it was decided that we'd all head for High Island -- a convoy of 3 vehicles. Before we'd arrived at that mecca of migratory birds, I spotted, in a roadside ponded area, some long-necked ducks among some more familiar shapes. For years, I'd searched in vain for a good chance to see whistling ducks. Was this the payoff? You bet! There were a half dozen fulvous whistling ducks foraging there in the wet. (I've wondered once in a while what "fulvous" means. Seeing these ducks prompted me to look up the word. It means reddish-yellow or tawny. Both whistling ducks are fulvous over a large frontal area, but the major distinction between the two species is that one has a black belly; hence, that species is the black-bellied whistling duck.)

A couple of days later, after a long day of getting oriented in Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and identifying some choice areas to return to, Joanne and I headed back to Galveston. Again, a long-necked duck was spotted on a fence post next to a pond. "Gotta check this out." Just as we got our binocs on the lone duck, five

others flew in and we had ourselves another life bird, with six black-bellied whistling ducks to get a very good look at.

One of the best birding spots in Anahuac is an area with two small ponds surrounded by willows and other (inviting) cool vegetation. "Let's see what's here today (in this rare patch of shade on this refuge)." I wandered around to the other side of the ponds and found an overgrown path that ran between them. Out of the corner of my eye I was aware of movement in a clump of reeds along the bank. Freeze! I waited, and out of the long grasses about 10' from me stepped a beautiful King rail. Well-named, this largest of the rails was totally unconcerned about my presence. I am sure of this, because after observing him for several minutes, I decided to go back and get Joanne and hope that he wouldn't have vanished into the reeds again. He was still probing in about the same spot when we tip-toed back. This was a rare sighting, as the King rails are one of the three rail species protected from hunting because of their scarcity. (The black rail and the yellow rail are the other two species.) Before we finally wore ourselves out that day in Anahuac, Joanne had added two more life birds to her list: both the seaside and the sharp-tailed sparrows, perched in adjacent small saplings for comparative purposes -- a nice bit of cooperation on their part.

Every one of the ten of us had special birding adventures on the Texas trip. Those who had never birded before in the eastern half of the States were swamped with "lififers," literally dozens of them. In future issues you'll be able to read about what they remember most vividly.



UPDATE: THE LOS PADILLAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

By Dolores Varela-Phillips, Chair, Los Padillas Elementary Ecology Committee

In June, our school and community began to see a lot of activity on the 4 acres which Los Padillas Elementary in the South Valley has designated as "The Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary." With the \$225,000 appropriated last year from the State Legislature through the efforts of Rep. Kiki Saavedra and Senator Manny Aragon, construction on this environmental hands-on science center has begun. For the past 5 months, the whole team has been meeting and planning what we want to see happen on this site. The result is very exciting. There are going to be 4 ecosystems exhibiting native vegetation and arrangement: A desert grassland, a pinyon/juniper area, a riparian/wetland pond area, and a mesa/lava flow area. In addition, there will be a self-guided trail system, a 50-student seating area (a ramada), various viewing areas, and an adobe arch entrance-way and fencing. All this will be coupled with our Constructed Wetland (which will be fenced off). This Wetland will be a model for the South Valley as an alternative for treating septic wastewater and is being designed by Southwest Wetlands Group. This system is currently being used in many places in the country where the water table is high. It uses the age-old principle that wetland plants are capable of extracting pollutants from water and, more recently, it was found to clean up septic wastewater beautifully. We're looking toward September or October for the projects to be completed. WOW, we can hardly contain ourselves!

The Ecology Committee is also hard at work designing the environmental science curriculum which will go along with the outdoor classroom. The most exciting thing is, we received \$5,000 through the National Science Foundation. This money will be used to fund all the expenditures involved in developing a curriculum, including purchasing necessary scientific equipment. Mike Sanchez with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History's Rural Science Program is, as you read, helping us develop our curriculum. We're looking to have a rough draft completed by July or August. Haven't we been networking! For more info, contact me at 877-0108.

CRANES ARE:

- A SYMBOL OF FIDELITY. THEY MATE FOR LIFE AND ARE DEVOTED MATES IN ALL SEASONS.
- A SYMBOL OF LONG LIFE. JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY IMAGINED THE CRANE TO LIVE ONE THOUSAND YEARS. ACTUAL LIFESPAN OF THE CRANE IS 30-50 YEARS, ALTHOUGH 80 IS THE RECORD FOR ONE IN CAPTIVITY.
- A SYMBOL OF HAPPINESS AND GOOD OMEN.
- A SYMBOL OF PEACE.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF . . .

"Nenna" Edna Harvey Rutherford died at her home on Saturday, May 8, 1993. She touched many lives through love and caring, and was much loved by all who knew her.

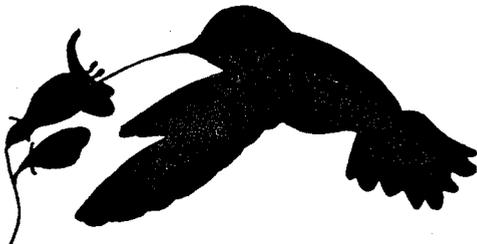
We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations of friends and family who have contributed to CNMAS through a Memorial Fund established to us by her family.



A RAINBOW OF THANKS

Even if the Owl were printed in a rainbow of colors, we would not be able to duplicate the color and imaginativeness and whimsy of the delightful collection of collages sent to us by the fourth-grade children of Dowa Yalanne and Aishiwi Elementary Schools, under Dave Cleary's "wing." These are just some of the kids who benefited from your donation to Audubon Adventures last year, and we just wish we could share with you their heartwarming, creative thank you's. This we do in our poor adult imitation.

"Everything about a hummingbird is a superlative." --Tom Colazo



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.

YOU ARX A KXY PXRSON

("Borrowed" from Bettie Guthrey)

Vxvxn though my typxwritxr (yxs, typxwritxr, not computxr) is an old modxl, it works vxry wxll -- xxcxpt for onx kxy. You would think that with all thx othxr kxys functioning propxrlly, onx kxy not working would hardly bx noticxd; but just onx kxy out of whack sxxms to ruin thx wholx xffort.

You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. No onx nxxds mx to hxlp out in Audubon." But it does makx a diffxrxncx bxcausx to bx xffxctivx, wx nxxd activx participation by you, to thx bxst of your ability. Comx to our nxxt board mxxtng at 6:30 p.m. on Mon. Aug. 9, at St. Tim's Church. Voluntxxr as Rxcording Sxcrxtary or Mxmbxrship Chair. For a minimum of invxstmnt, you'll gxt a maximum of rxturn!

And, thx nxxt timx you think you arx not immportant, just rxmxbxr my old typxwritxr. You arx a kxy pxrson.

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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 _____

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Please make all checks payable to the national Audubon Society



Send this application and your check to:
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P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

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Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Local Chapter Code — Q51

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