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.

**WE'RE GOING TO COUNT BIRDS --- CAN WE COUNT ON YOU??**

**BIRD AMERICA!** is the means our chapter chose to raise funds this year in order to support the educational systems we feel will best benefit New Mexico. But as a chapter effort, it requires participation at all levels. Your Board of Directors has been actively involved in organizing and planning for this chapter's involvement to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in New Mexico. Not everyone can participate on a board level. However, **EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE IN BIRD AMERICA!** If you can support a team of birders with a sponsorship or a gift in kind, you will be part of the solution, too. **YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE** -- Now turn inside to the Sponsorship Pledge and more info!

**PROGRAMS**

**APRIL 20** - "**XERISCAPING WITH NATIVE NEW MEXICO PLANTS.**" Spring is here, and it's time to think about those yards. Diane McMillen, from Plants of the Southwest, will show slides of how our yards could look without our water bills going up a penny! Diane's background was archaeology before she became a quick study of our southwestern botany.

**MAY 18**: **ANNUAL MEETING AND (DESSERT) POTLUCK.** Special time: 7:00 p.m. Skip the dinner, we're going right to dessert! So bring something to share, and maybe your own coffee mug and spoon or fork. We'll provide coffee and punch, napkins, paper plates -- and the entertainment! Election of Officers! The Washburn Award! Certificates of Appreciation! **AND (drum roll)...**

**NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS IN TROUBLE?**

New Mexico Audubon Council Annual Conference
8-10 September, 1995
Albuquerque, NM
Workshops, Speakers, and Field Trips for all
Jointly sponsored with NM Partners-in-Flight
TRIPS FOR APRIL

Sat. April 15 - Roswell and Prairie Chickens. We'll be joining the Roswell Audubon group to see the prairie chickens do their thing. Dan Baggao from the BLM will lead us to his special place to see this yearly phenomenon. There will be an optional excursion after the prairie chickens. We'll stay overnight. Call Charlotte at 345-1271 no later than April 5, so I can let Dan know how many of us will be joining him.

Sun. April 23 - Hawkwatch. Join us to see the Spring migration. Bring your lunch. It's a bit of a strenuous hike to the Sandia Hawkwatch site, so wear your hiking shoes and bring plenty of water. Meet at 9:00 at Four Hills Shopping Center at Hollywood Videos (formerly the Baskin-Robbins).

Sat. April 29 - Otero Canyon. We should see lots of birds doing their Spring rituals. Meet at 8:30 at Four Hills Shopping Center at Hollywood Videos (formerly the Baskin-Robbins). Bring your lunch.

TRIPS FOR MAY

Sun. May 7 - Bosque del Apache. Come for a day of great bird watching. Meet at the Physics Bldg. parking lot, Yale and Lomas, at 8:30. Bring your lunch.

Sun. May 14 - Blue Water. This trip will be led by Hart Schwarz and the Cibola National Forest Service. May should be a good month to see lots of interesting birds, and Hart will show us where. Rangers from the Mount Taylor Ranger District will take us to see some of the interesting results of their Range Management System. Meet at the Cibola Nat'l. Forest Supervisors Office, 2113 Osuna NE about a mile west of I-25 at 7:30 a.m. Bring your lunch. Bring your Mom, too.

Sat. May 20 - Silver City. This area of the state is a great place for seeing birds that we usually don't see here. Camp out or stay in Silver City. Meet in Silver City at the McDonald's (on Rt. 180 east of downtown) at 8:30. Call Charlotte at 345-1271 for car pooling and accommodations information and to let me know how many will be going.

SHARING A PASSION FOR BIRDS
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
Saturday, May 13, 1995

International Migratory Bird Day is the hallmark event for Partners in Flight, the international coalition made up of 15 federal agencies, 50 state agencies, 35 nongovernmental organizations, academia and industry. The mission of Partners in Flight is to maintain populations of migratory birds. The theme for IMBD 1995 is "Sharing a Passion for Birds."

This year CNMAS will again participate in IMBD, counting birds in Bernalillo County. There were 10 counties in New Mexico that participated last year, with counties in all 50 states counting birds on that one day to get an inventory (a picture in time) of the bird populations of the United States. Last year we counted 128 species --not bad for our first official endeavor. Hopefully with increased participation we can add another 20 species! If you are interested in joining us for the Valley count, please phone Tamie Bulow at 298-9116. If the mountains are your fare, call Hart Schwarz at 266-1810. It's fun and it's free!
We support two very special causes with our chapter funds, as well as chapter energy -- one, a place; the other, an outreach. Both strive to educate New Mexicans on the ways of conservation and the importance of preservation.

The Randall Davey Audubon Center is located on Upper Canyon Road in Santa Fe. The lovely property, donated by the artist, is a peaceful haven for both birds and birders. It is the only "Audubon sanctuary" in New Mexico, and houses our state office. The staff at Randall Davey has been actively educating kids and adults alike there on the property itself, and by giving programs in classrooms, at meetings, in legislative forums, etc. We are very lucky to have this special place in our back yard, to enjoy as often as we like, and to have the talented personnel to help us with local issues, develop curricula for our classrooms, and represent our chapter in the most professional manner.

The outreach program, Audubon Adventures, is the ideal way to reach youngsters and increase their awareness of the natural world. The publication is in newspaper format, designed for the 3rd to 6th grade level, and offers news events, entertaining and educational stories, problem-solving challenges, and tips on how they can participate even at their age in conservation efforts -- how they can make a difference. For some children, this is their first exposure to the world of nature and its needs. By increasing children's awareness of the environment at this early age, it is our hope to encourage future generations to preserve and protect the beauty found in Nature.

BIRD AMERICA! A GREAT WAY TO PROMOTE EDUCATION!

BIRDING HOT SPOTS ON THE CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

A Field Trip Series led by Hart Schwarz (266-1810) and sponsored by Rio Grande Nature Center (344-7240). Field trips for birders who want to experience the full spectrum of neotropical bird migration in the Cibola Forest. You must preregister and pay a fee, so call now!

Sat. May 6 - Pajaro ("Bird") and Red Cloud Canyon in the Gallinas Mtns., located south and east of the Manzanos.

Sat. May 20 - Sawmill Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains for lots of birds -- between 70-80 species!

Sat. & Sun., May 27 & 28 - Zuni Mtn. Tour and Zuni Mtn. Lodge -- a weekend adventure to Zuni Canyon and Hausner Canyons and Bluewater Creek. Hope for Purple Martins!

NAS COMPUSERVE FORUM

More than 150 chapters are currently reaping the benefits of Audubon's CompuServe Forum, a private network of Audubon chapter leaders and activists. Through this network, Audubon members, using their home computer and a modem, are able to capture a variety of information and exchange electronic mail with other users and Audubon staff. Two of our board members, Jeff and Christy, are active travelers on the information highway. If this kind of activism is for you, write to Audubon Forum at 700 Brodway, NY, NY, 10003. If you already have a CompuServe ID, send an e-mail message to 71362,30 with your name, address, and chapter name.
As you may know, the National Audubon Society received a grant to put itself through a "strategic planning" process to determine the direction and structure of the organization for the next decade, and beyond. Individual member and chapter leaders may receive a survey phone call which is part of this process. As the process works best only if accurate information is received, please be generous with your time and candid in your responses if you receive such a call.

I was pleased to attend a meeting of chapter leaders of the Rocky Mountain Region in Phoenix in early March. Folks were there from Utah, Idaho, and throughout Arizona. We were gathered as one of several "focus groups," apparently one per region.

During the session, we learned that the following are the most frequently mentioned strengths of Audubon:

* Grassroots network
* Audubon name and history
* Multi-pronged approach
* Common link with birds

We also found out that the following weaknesses most readily came to mind:

* Lack of focus
* Inadequate linkages
* Inadequate communication
* Inadequate funding

In our session, it became apparent that there is an underlying contradiction within Audubon between the "multi-pronged approach" strength and the "lack of focus" weakness. The former seems to feed the latter. This dichotomy played itself out in our focus group by division of the group into those who felt the mission statement of the society should be:

"Birds, appreciation and protection," versus

"Ensure long-term biodiversity, with an emphasis on birds."

The group concluded that the two missions were not mutually exclusive, and that both included the concept that the closer a project has to a direct relation to bird protection, the more effort the society should expend on such a project. This is, of course, all very abstract. Stay tuned for more details.

An interesting proposition put to me during the meeting by the Arizona delegation was the movement of New Mexico to the Rocky Mountain Region. Although I love working with the Regional staff in Texas, we are fortunate to have a state office (Randall Davey) with which we interact more often than with Regional. A move to the Rocky Mountain Region would have some benefits in that we are in the same Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife regions as Arizona. I would be happy to hear any feedback on this.

On a personal note, I was happy to be hosted by a local ornithologist (Kathleen Groschupf) and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife specialist (Frank Baucom), who were kind enough to introduce me to the Sonoran Desert. Added seven birds to my life list (Inca Dove, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Gila Woodpecker, Gambel's Quail, Black-Throated Sparrow, and Harris' Hawk). It's an extremely interesting habitat, as well as one threatened by Arizona's population growth and development. It was a little strange, though, to see a (Northern) Cardinal outside the Midwest -- I associated them previously with deciduous forests and small, sleepy towns.
The following teams will be giving it their all on April 30 to identify as many species as their 24 hours will allow. You can pledge a tax-deductible amount per species, a flat rate, or you can join in on a team.

Team #1: Hart Schwarz (leader), Jonalyn Yancey
Team #2: Steve and Nancy Cox (leaders), Greg Farley
Team #3: Bill Howe (leader), Dave Mehlman, Bill Maynard, Chris Rustay
Team #4: Larry Gorbert (leader)
Team #5: Saturday Birders (Charlotte & Sei, leaders)
Team #6: Thursday Birders (Tamie, leader)

RETURN BY APRIL 21 (DO IT NOW!!)

I want to help CNMAS support education in New Mexico. I wish to sponsor Team #_____ for _____ per species. (75 species at 10¢ is a $7.50 pledge.)

I would like to offer the flat amount of $_____ to encourage all the teams to bird their brains out. My gift check (made out to CNMAS) is enclosed.

I want to join in a birding group. I will get at least five sponsors, or I will sponsor myself for at least $5.00. Please call me with a group I can join.

I am part of a birding group (leader: ____________________). I will have at least $5.00 worth of sponsorships. After our day of birding, I will collect my sponsor money (payable to CNMAS) and mail it in.

Name: _________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________

___________________________________________ ZIP
Phone: _________________________________________

Mail to: CNMAS Bird America!
c/o Jonalyn Yancey
HC 69, Box 252
Moriarty, NM 87035
Once the counts have been tallied, you will receive a postcard with the pledge amount calculated for the team(s) you sponsored. Please make your check payable to CNMAS and mail to:

CNMAS BIRD AMERICA!
c/o Jonalyn Yancey
HC 69, Box 252
Moriarty, NM 87035

Keep the postcard as your receipt.

If you birded with a group, you need to contact your sponsors with the number of species you identified that day, so as to collect your sponsorships. Do this the first week of May, so you can send in your pledge money within the required time frame. Mail to the above address.

ALL MONIES MUST BE MAILED BY MAY 21. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CNMAS" OR "CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY."

--- (FOLD) ---

--- (FOLD) ---

STAMP

CNMAS BIRD AMERICA!
c/o Jonalyn Yancey
HC 69, Box 252
Moriarty, NM 87035

(STAPLE)
JANUARY/FEBRUARY TRIP REPORT

Seventeen people braved a cold January 7 to go to Cochiti to see Bald Eagles -- a total of 17! There were also some interesting birds at the visitors center, 3 beautiful Evening Grosbeak and a Crissal Thrasher drinking melting water from a gutter on the house next door. We saw 34 species in all, including a Prairie Falcon and a muskrat.

On January 28, a lucky 13 people turned up at Grandma's for breakfast and then headed out to the Corrales Bosque. It was a wonderful day, weatherwise and birdwise. We saw 42 different species, including a Bald Eagle, Gulls, a great view of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet (we could actually see the ruby crown!), Rufous-sided Towhee, and Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers on the same branch for comparison. If you weren't there, you missed a good trip.

The weather for the February 11 Maxwell trip, unfortunately, was bitter cold. We couldn't spend too much time out of the cars, but 17 of us still saw some great birds. How about a Tundra Swan for starters, and lots of Rough-legged Hawks, Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Longspurs and, of course, Bald Eagles.

On February 19, after breakfast eight of us headed for Kit Carson Park. Not much bird activity, so we went to the Rio Grande Nature Center and got a great behind-the-scenes look at the banding project that is being done by Steve Cox and Rio Grande Bird Research. They have been banding small birds in this area for some time now. Although most of the banded birds show up pretty close to home, some have been found as far away as Canada and Alaska. They have caught a lot of Savannah Sparrows in their nets this year, and we got to inspect two of them close up before they were released. We also saw a Junco and an immature White-crowned Sparrow. As we were leaving, there was a Hermit Thrush in the net. We were amazed at how small these birds are. They look bigger through the binoculars!

Another fun breakfast get-together on February 25 before heading out to the West Mesa. We ended up at the end of Paseo del Norte. We couldn't believe the building that's going on out there. It was hard to hear the birds for the heavy equipment, but we did get some fine views of the Sage Sparrow. Along with lots of rabbits and lizards, we saw Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers.

WELCOME BACK, HUMMERS!

With spring so early this year, we may be welcoming back the little jeweled hummingbirds early, too! To be prepared, all you need to do is mix 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Replace with fresh nectar every 3-5 days, more often in hot weather. Clean feeder with hot water at each refill -- no bleach! First to arrive will be the Broad-tailed, followed shortly by the Black-chinned, the two common hummers in our area. You might even encounter a Calliope or a Rufous!

**The Hummingbird Connection**

A New Mexico Hummingbird Survey

Sponsored by the New Mexico Audubon Council and Partners in Flight

Help us learn the who, when and where of New Mexico hummingbirds with fellow backyard hummingbird watchers.

Join now! Next March we will send you a set of instructions along with a packet of flower seeds to attract hummingbirds. A newsletter with survey results will follow later.

To sign up, complete and return the form below along with a stamped, self-addressed legal-sized envelope and a $5.00 donation (to defray our costs). Make checks payable to New Mexico Audubon Council.

Mail to: The Hummingbird Connection
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504-9314

Name __________________________
Address _______________________
City and Zip ____________________

[Form continues with instructions]
**BURROWING OWL**

**WANTED:** Volunteers

**WHY:** Bird and Raptor Nest Surveys

**WHEN:** April–May

**WHO:** Contact Carla Alford
Wildlife Biologist - BLM
198 Neel Avenue
Socorro, NM 87801

(505) 835-0412 (W), 835-4965 (H)

**MOUNTAIN PLOVER SURVEYS:**

Observers look for birds for 5 minutes at each site of point counts conducted at 1/3 mile intervals along a driven route in Red Hill and Fence Lake areas (north and west of Quemado) and the San Augustine Plains. Surveys are conducted during early morning and late afternoon hours. You need good observational skills and a good pair of binoculars, since Mountain Plovers are secretive and hard to locate unless moving. They rarely fly!

**RAPTOR NEST MONITORING:** Monitor known nest sites of ferruginous hawks and other raptor species for current nest activity/status and ID of any other occupied nests/territories. Primarily Fence Lake area and San Augustine Plains. You need to be a good raptor IDer who can locate nests from topographic maps in unfamiliar area, drive a 4x4, and hike in rough terrain. Oh, and you might need to climb to access nests in trees and on cliff faces -- fun!

**DESERT-GRASSLAND BIRD SURVEYS:**

Establish monitoring transects, then count and record birds along a mile-long transect during first few hours after dawn. The hope is to run each transect twice during breeding season and twice a month in winter months (Nov.–Feb '96). The number of transects established will depend on number of people available and level of commitment anticipated. Birders with the required skill level are scarce. If you can assist with even one morning survey, it will make a substantial contribution! We need you birders who can identify by song, who know grassland and desert shrub species, their field markings and behavioral characteristics.
TO OUR NEW CONSERVATION CHAIR, Christy Brothers, we extend a warm welcome and a hearty thank you! With so many issues to be addressed and so many agencies to be monitored, her help is welcome indeed. And yours will be, too! If you'd like to help Christy, see her new listing under our Board Directory.

AND FROM OUR NEW CONSERVATION CHAIR: SENATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Thursday, Feb. 16, the Senate Conservation Committee considered SB 371 and SB 378 at a five-hour session in Santa Fe. Two major provisions of the bills, presented by Timothy Jennings (D) Roswell, would remove reference in the state law to the Federal Endangered Species Act and transfer plant protection to the NM Dept. of Agriculture, which has no botanists or enforcement people. The floor and the Gallery were SRO as interested parties spoke for and against the bills.

Jennings referred to the Endangered Species Act as economic blackmail with our own tax dollars and called for New Mexico to be in charge of New Mexico, by passing his bills and removing Federal control.

Susan Lowrey, an independent Albuquerque attorney, researched and assessed the impact of the bills at the request of Tom Rutherford, chairman of the Conservation Committee. All experts, including several from Fish and Wildlife and a representative from the AG's office, considered the implementation of the bills to have a negative effect upon New Mexico and its wildlife. Chief concerns were that the bills would cause increased trafficking in endangered species in New Mexico, with little or no ability to prosecute. Federal funding, contingent upon the adoption of the Endangered Species Act, could be lost, but New Mexico would still be required to enforce ESA regulations. Confusion between the Federal Endangered Species Act and these State Wildlife bills being considered was evident, particularly in proponents of the bills. Understanding of the possible effects of the bills was extremely varied.

Tom Rutherford concluded the session by indicating that the bills were vague, included serious technical flaws, and needed extensive revision both in approach and substance before being reheard. He tabled both bills.

--Christy Brothers

RX FOR ACTION

The Endangered Species Coalition (of which NAS is a member) has launched a Medicine Bottle Campaign through which citizens can voice their concern for the health of people and the environment by sending empty prescription bottles to their elected officials, along with a message to strengthen protection for endangered species. Many of today's most important medicines, as well as the foundation for research into future cures, come from a full range of species from the forests to the oceans. Protecting these species insures that the chemical treasury of nature will not disappear before we have the opportunity to assess it. Mailing empty medicine bottles to Congress sends the message that we want the Endangered Species Act strengthened to safeguard species we rely upon to fight life-threatening diseases and to protect cures that have yet to be discovered. Call or write the Endangered Species Coalition, 666 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Wash., DC, 20003, (202)547-9009, to obtain preprinted stickers for mailing the medicine bottles.
Whom to Contact:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Clinton-Info@Campaign92.org [Subject: Information Only]
President@WhiteHouse.GOV [Comments for President]

Hon. Bruce Babbitt
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
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Hon. Steve Schiff — (505) 766-2538
Hon. Joe Skeen
Hon. Bill Richardson —
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
Villaegra 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

The Burrowing Owl is printed on recycled paper.

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, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., 87114-1710.

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

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.

BAT IN TROUBLE?
Call Talking Talons before you intervene.
294-5188 281-1515