



BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1995
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

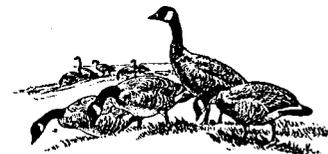
Thurs., Oct. 19: CompuBirding! Hardin and Christy Brothers, computer products reviewers, writers, and CNMAS members, will demonstrate how to use your computers to enhance your birding. They will demonstrate inexpensive birding list software and exciting CD-ROM technology, which can help you practice bird recognition by sight and sound. They will take us on a tour of the Internet and its many, many exciting birding information stops. Find out what is happening in birding around the world and in your own neighborhood. A question-and-answer period will follow, so bring any compubirding questions along for them to answer.

Thurs., Nov. 16: Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province: Exploring Ancient and Enduring Uses. Bill Dunmire will present a slide/talk on his and coauthor Gail Tierney's new book about the region's plant life and its vital interplay with cultures. There will be a special addendum on "some spectacular bird sightings in the Placitas area," with a book signing, too! Don't miss this illuminating show on "the finest book available to acknowledge the debt we owe to the Pueblo peoples for sharing with us the practical uses of plants."

TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Come one, come all! Everyone is welcome on field trips: Audubon members or nonmembers, novice and experienced birders.

Sun., Oct. 15: Isleta Marsh (Ducks, Teals, Sandpiper, etc.), the Turf Farm (Mountain Plover, Horned Lark, Sage Thrasher, Vesper Sparrow, etc.) and Willie Chavez State Park (Lewis' Woodpecker). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the UNM Physics parking lot on the northeast corner of Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch and expect to return by 3:00 p.m.



Sat., Oct. 28: Bosque del Apache. At about this time last year we saw over 60 species of birds, including three species of Grebes, Bonaparte's Gull, Pipit, Ladderback Woodpecker, plus the usual ducks, teal, etc. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Physics parking lot. Dress warmly and bring lunch. Expect to return in the late afternoon, or later if you include a mandatory stop at the Owl Bar in San Antonio.

TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Sat., Nov. 11: The Sandia Mtns. If weather conditions and sighting reports are favorable, we will go to Sandia Peak in search of Rosy Finches, Pine Grosbeak, and the mythical 3-Toed Woodpecker. Otherwise, we will go to lower canyon sites in search of other wintering birds of the Sandias. Meet at 8:30 a.m. east of Hollywood Video Store in Four Hills Shopping Center. Dress warmly and bring lunch. Expect to return shortly after lunch.

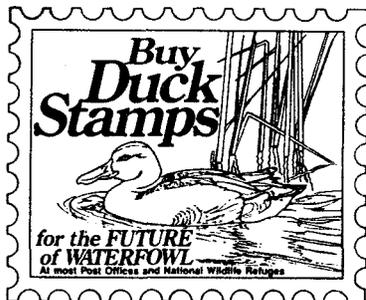
Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 16-19: Festival of the Cranes, Socorro, NM. Read further for details.

TEMPTING HORS D'OEUVRES

Oct. 26-Nov. 1: Institute of Tropical Ecology, held in Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, by Tucson Audubon Society and the U of A Southwest Center. Expert instructors and graduate or undergraduate credit available for field studies of the tropical deciduous forest. Contact Cynthia Lindquist, 520-629-0757.

Nov. 10-11: Alaska Bald Eagle Festival, Haines Alaska. Phone 1-907-766-2202, Haines Chamber of Commerce.

Feb. 11-20, 1996: Among The Great Whales - Baja, California. An extraordinary benefit tour for **Randall Davey Audubon Center** supporters. Explore isolated islands in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) and bond with the Gray Whales in Magdalena Bay on Baja's Pacific coast. Travel in luxury aboard the 70-passenger M.V. Sea Lion, but go places only small boats can go! Call 505-983-4609 for information.



"The wild gander leads his flock through the cool night,
Ya-honk! he says, and sounds it down to me like an invitation;
The pert may suppose it meaningless, but I listen closer,
I find its purpose and place up there toward the November sky."

--Walt Whitman

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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OF THE CRANES**
Nov. 16-19, 1995




Featuring
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Victor Emanuel
Karen Hollingsworth

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◆ NEW MEXICO ◆
AMERICA'S LAND OF ENCHANTMENT



Once again, the New Mexico Audubon Council will staff a tent on the tour loop of Bosque del Apache during the Festival of the Cranes, November 18 and 19. It hardly seems like work volunteering to watch birds and help other visitors spot them, too! We will be manning the booth on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and would enjoy having anyone interested in helping to call me (298-9116). A two-hour shift would be most helpful. Last year we had a delightful spot on the pond, where we watched ducks, cranes, geese, and raptors put on wonderful displays! What could be better than watching birds with fellow birders, and sharing the thrill with others?

--Tamie Bulow

"FROM THE EDITOR - KEEPING THE FAITH"

Kathryn Wadsworth, Editor, Randall Davey
Audubon Center Newsletter
August-September 1995

"Everyday we receive appeals to call our representatives and plead with them to heed our views on the environment. Every day some new assault is made on our environmental protections. The Endangered Species Act, The Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency are all under attack.

Each day this Congress is enacting or repealing or funding or unfunding laws which will have a major impact on our lives. On our health, welfare, quality of life, and on the natural world in which we dwell.

I know I sometimes feel helpless, overwhelmed, and even battered by the onslaught. The need for constant vigilance can make me weary. It seems that I must call or write our congressional delegation almost daily.

At these times, it is a good idea to remember that there are 65 million of us who go bird watching. We spend \$5.2 billion a year enjoying the outdoors. Remember that these numbers give us a voice and give us clout.

So, in the midst of staying informed, of writing your letters and making your calls, also remember to enjoy the birds. Go for a hike with some of the other 65 million people who share your passion. Fill your bird feeder and watch the antics of your familiar backyard birds. Refresh your spirit and reflect on what you are fighting for. And remember that it is worth it."



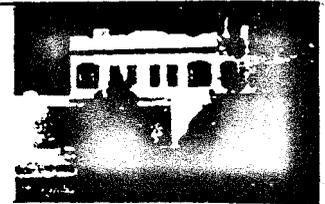
RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER . . .

will be holding early morning bird walks on Saturday mornings now through December. October walks start at 8:30 a.m., November walks at 9:00 a.m., and December walks will start at 9:30 a.m. Nature Center volunteers and staff will lead the walks to look for fall and winter migrants and local residents. No fee, but advance reservations must be made (344-7240).

And don't forget that Bird Banding goes on at the Nature Center every weekend through November 12-13. Call Steve Cox, 345-2385, to volunteer on weekends; or Wang Yong at 766-1047 if you can help during the week.

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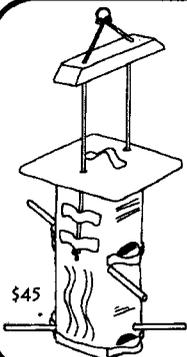
An 800 number was set up by the timber industry for anti-enviros to urge their Senators to vote for bills trashing the environment. But it can be used to voice concerns on ANY piece of legislation. Dial 1-800-444-1555. A computer will ask you to tell your senator to vote for some bill - hit "1" to skip this spiel; then it will ask for your zip code. Next it will ask which of your 2 senators you want to speak with and then it will connect you with the Senator's DC office.

--From Bexar Tracks, Bexar Audubon & Eric Resnick, Ohio Audubon via Internet

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If you think the Endangered Species Act protects only spotted owls, think again.

Jackie Buckley's leukemia is in remission thanks to medicines derived from the flowers of the rosy periwinkle.

Many of our medicines come from natural sources. The Endangered Species Act provides the best protection these sources have. But now the Act itself is in danger.

Call Congress to save the law that saves lives. For more information about how you can help, call (202) 547-9009.



THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTS

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Species Extinction Act?

House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK) and Don Pombo (R-CA) dropped in their Endangered Species Act reauthorization bill September 7, after much delay. HR 2275 significantly weakens protection for threatened and endangered species by making their recovery discretionary to the Secretary of Interior or Commerce. In addition, endangered vertebrate populations such as wolves, grizzly bears and salmon will no longer be protected. Critical habitat for species cannot be designated without the consent of a property owner or without payment of compensation. Destroying a listed species habitat on private land will no longer be illegal. And the bill includes a fiscally irresponsible takings provision that requires the federal government to compensate private property owners, or buy their land, if restrictions diminish the value of the land by 20% and 50% or more, respectively.

Senate All Wet on Wetlands

Hearings took place in late July on S 851, the Senate wetlands bill. S 851 is very similar to the wetlands provisions contained in HR 961, the House "Dirty Water" Bill which passed in May and which Clinton has vowed to veto. Introduced by Johnston (D-LA) and Faircloth (R-NC), S 851 proposes a redefinition of wetlands. The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers estimate that the new definition would eliminate between 60 and 75 percent of the nation's remaining wetlands from protection under the Clean Water Act. Unlike HR 961, the Johnston-Faircloth bill would not require compensation to landowners whose property values were diminished by wetlands regulations. Senate action on redefining wetlands is possible in September, although that could slip into October. It's important to stop this attempt to define millions of acres of these precious habitats out of existence.

Back Door Attack on Arctic Refuge

The Senate Budget Committee has broken new ground by including revenue from oil production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the pending federal budget. This back door tactic to open the refuge buries efforts to ruin this pristine area in a budget quagmire. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which has been called America's Serengeti, is our country's largest wildlife preserve and is home to caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, foxes, musk ox and more than 130 species of shorebirds, loons, songbirds and geese. In May, senators in favor of drilling tied opening the refuge to the pending federal budget bill, making it more difficult to debate and vote on this crucial issue. President Clinton has pledged not to permit drilling, and needs to hear that he should veto a budget bill that allows development in the Arctic.

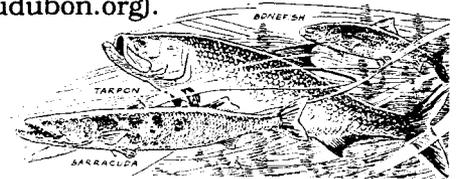
Opening the Arctic Refuge would mean offering 1.2 million acres of pristine coastal plain along the Beaufort Sea for energy exploration. Although this is only one-tenth of the refuge, the coastal plain is the most important calving ground for the Porcupine caribou herd and is considered the biological heart of the refuge. Oil exploration and drilling will also unalterably change the wilderness character of this arctic ecosystem.

Action: Write or call your senators and ask them to oppose the inclusion of oil production revenues from the Arctic Refuge in the pending federal budget. Such a sweeping policy decision should be thoroughly debated in full view of the American public, not buried in a budget bill. Let your senators know you support full protection for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Call the White House Hotline (202-456-1414) and ask the President to veto a budget bill that opens the Arctic Refuge or rolls back other environmental protections. Contact: Evan Hirsche, National Audubon Society, 202-547-9009 (ehirsche@audubon.org).

No More Fish in the Sea?

Congress is debating changes to the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, the most important federal law governing conservation of our nation's living marine resources and the management of domestic fishing activities. HR 39, the House Resource Committee bill has passed and is awaiting floor action, probably in late September or early October. HR 39 falls short in addressing and correcting two of the major problems facing our marine fisheries: overfishing, and "bycatch" (the unintentional catching and killing of nontarget fish and other marine wildlife in commercial fishing gear). In the meantime, the Senate Commerce Committee is working on a draft bill and may take action on it sometime in October.

Action: Call or write your representative and tell him/her that a strong Magnuson Act will revitalize fishery dependent jobs and help to repair marine ecosystems damaged by overfishing and bycatch. Insist that Magnuson be reauthorized this year. This important legislation has been delayed time and again. Stress that our marine fisheries are worth billions of dollars to the national economy, but that many are in such poor condition they are costing the government money, rather than fulfilling their economic and ecological potential. Contact: Marilyn England, National Audubon Society, 516-859-3032 (mengland@audubon.org).



"We need the tonic of wildness, to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground. . . . we can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor." --Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Editor's Note: Tamie wrote this column, so she modestly left her name off the litany. All of us who were involved in any way know that the biggest and most-deserved **THANK YOU** goes to Tamie Bulow - organizer, coordinator, planner, ambassador, cheerleader, and giver of the biggest smile. We love you!

1995 Audubon State Conference

This year's Audubon State Conference, hosted by CNMAS, tried a new format that was well received by the 70 attendees. The conference was held in conjunction with a Partners in Flight workshop, organized by Bill Howe of the USFWS, and was a terrific way for us to get to know each other. Participants came from the Forest Service, BLM, NM Game & Fish, NM Heritage Program, and National Parks, as well as organizations such as Audubon, Hawkwatch International, NM Ornithological Society, Natural History Museum, Randall Davey Audubon Center, Hawks Aloft, Rio Grande Bird Research, and representatives to the National Audubon board.

It was great to have the meetings at the Natural Resource and Wildlife Education Center in Cedar Crest - the surroundings were wonderful, the warblers in the trees overhead during our picnic lunch were a treat, and the camaraderie was the best.

MANY THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Bill Howe, Jim Silva, and Karen Copeland-Williams (organizing committee); the CNMAS Board, who sat through many lengthy meetings; Christy Brothers (registrar and Team Mom!), Jonalyn Yancey (the vans were great); Julie Goodding, Donna Broudy, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Pat Johnson, Jeff Myers were all sacrificial slaves; presenters Sandy Williams, Steve and Nancy Cox, Wang Yong, Jeff Kozma, Jesse Jewell, Hart Schwarz, Ann Henry, Dave Mehlman, Andy Gennaro, Patricia Manzano Fischer, Dr. Alberto LaFon, Kevin Holladay, Sue Bonfield, Jim Travis, Larry Brock, and Ted Eubanks, plus Bill and Karen; National Audubon folks - DeDe Armentrout, Ruth Russell, Ted Eubanks, and David Henderson; and field trip leaders Jesse, Hart, and the Coxes; and Beth Dillingham and her staff at the Resource Center; and unsung hero Hardin Brothers! MUCHAS GRACIAS!!!

ATTENTION BIRDERS HAVE YOU SEEN A COLOR-TAGGED WHITE-FACED IBIS (Plegadis chihi)?

A substantial number of juvenile and adult White-faced Ibis have been color-tagged in the northwest Great Basin as part of a long-term breeding ecology study. Five color combinations have been used, depending on colony location. Tags are red USFWS bands with different-colored terminal margins. In addition, each tag has a unique 3-number code.

NEED TO KNOW:

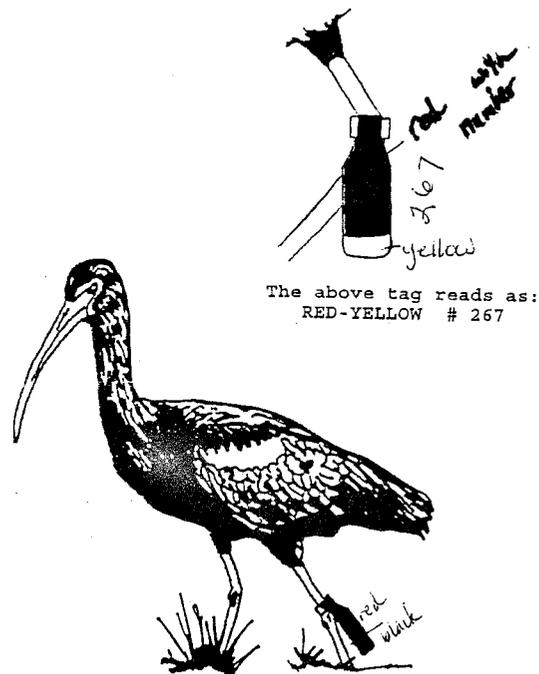
- 1) Date and location of sighting
- 2) Color combination
- 3) Number on tag (if possible)

COLOR COMBINATIONS:

- 1) Red-yellow
- 2) Red-white
- 3) Red-gray
- 4) Red-black
- 5) Red-red

If you sight any color-tagged Ibis, please contact:

Eric P. Kelchlin
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Stillwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
Fallon, NV 89406-1236
(702) 423-5128



The above tag reads as:
RED-YELLOW # 267

From JEFFREY D. MYERS, President, Central New Mexico Audubon Society

The National Audubon Society has completed development of a **Strategic Plan**, with adoption of the Plan on June 18, 1995, by the Board of Directors.

Audubon at all levels, from grassroots up, is to direct its efforts to protect "birds, wildlife, and their habitats" as the central mission. There will be an increased development of local and regional "Audubon Centers," with more direction from the grassroots up, rather than vice versa. Please feel free to contact me if you would like a copy of the Strategic Plan.

The next challenge for Audubon is to develop implementation strategies and plans to effect the Strategic Plan's goals. The Summary of Recommendations of the Strategic Plan follows:

1. Audubon should focus its efforts and resources on a limited set of priorities directly linking birds, other wildlife, and their habitats to people. These activities should form a platform on which to promote the culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.
2. Audubon should use programmatic themes and campaigns as the vehicles for focusing its resources on Audubon Habitats and Audubon Issues directly affecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.
3. Audubon should involve people in its work by building on its distinctive grassroots network and creating a partnership between members, chapters, staff, and the Board to deliver effective conservation at local, state, regional, and national levels. The partnership should comprise a dynamic team capable of finding local solutions, building new and broad constituencies, and building a culture of conservation in their communities.
4. Audubon has a number of successful local education and nature centers. Audubon should expand and build upon this to create a network of "Audubon Centers" that are focal points in the community for building a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic which leads to conservation action through appreciation, awareness, and understanding of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats and their link to people.
5. Audubon should use education to develop an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats and their link to people that leads to conservation action, and thereby, build a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.
6. Audubon should influence public policies and private practices to conserve birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Audubon should work at all levels, reflecting the new era in conservation of driving action from the local to the national level.
7. Audubon should put into place a human resources strategy that builds teamwork and collaboration, emphasizes Audubon values, and makes Audubon an even more rewarding and inspiring place to work and volunteer.
8. Audubon should align all other major activities, sanctuaries, science, communications, and membership to support these recommendations, and help build a culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.
9. Audubon must improve its financial strength and practices by building income, investing only in strategically important activities, and appropriately leveraging the Audubon name. Audubon should seek to increase revenues, particularly unrestricted funding, and to diversify funding sources and earned income through increased marketing and licensing activities.
10. Audubon's Board of Directors are ultimately accountable for keeping Audubon focused on its mission and strategy. Board members must be committed to and have a passion for Audubon's mission and values. The Board's roles should be aligned with the strategy.

THE BARN OWLS OF TORRANCE COUNTY -

A Personal Perspective

By Sharyl Holden

It is amazing how every year's Torrance County Barn Owl Tour has been different. This year was no exception.

One of the major differences this year is that there were two separate tours. The Saturday Birders arrived 18 members strong on July 22. For two members, the owls were Lifers. One of the two chicks flew for a while before settling in his nest to play peek-a-boo. The second chick refused to let us see more than the top of his head.

Ten members of the Thursday Birders arrived on the 27th. With my family included, we marched up the hill to the barn. The Swainson's Hawks had moved on this year. Hopefully, they will return soon. Inside the barn, one owl chick gave us an amazing display of his flight skills. He caused a number of gasps, as his grip slipped on several occasions. We just knew he was going to hit the floor. He never did, though. His sibling never did put in an appearance.

Two things amazed both groups. Inside the barn, a raven had built a huge towering nest. We only saw its occupants from the distance.

Also, for the first time, as the adult Barn owls hightailed it at our intrusion, they did not fly off to parts unknown. Instead, they stayed close by, giving a majestic flying display. They even settled in the Swainson's Hawk tree for us to get a closer look on Thursday.

I want to thank everyone who came to this year's tours. It's hard to believe it's been five years since you first came. I can't wait to see the 1996 model of the Barn Owls of Torrance County.

You all come.



ANOTHER WAY TO MIGRATE: PARTNERS IN FREQUENT FLIGHT

You can support the migratory bird work of our Audubon colleagues in Latin America by donating your frequent flyer tickets. Tickets will be used to help Latin American environmentalists attend meetings in Latin America and the US, and help send professionals who have volunteered to work with chapters on training, leadership development, bird surveys and other projects. For more info, contact Audubon's Southwest Regional Office at 512-327-1943 or e-mail: 71634.20@compuserve.com. To donate a certificate or ticket, contact Audubon's travel coordinator, Sandy Clough, at 212-979-3180 or e-mail: sclough@audubon.org



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TRIP REPORT

By Rebecca Gracey

Central Audubon went to Arizona the first of July. Stops were made in Cave Creek, Ramsey, and Madera Canyons, along with Sonoita Creek Sanctuary and the famous Patagonia picnic table. The highlight of the five-day trip was hummingbirds. In addition to the Magnificent and Blue-throated, we saw Costa's, Lucifer, Broad-billed, White-eared, and Violet-crowned. Also seen were the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and Elegant Trogon.

August found us at Bitter Lake Refuge, where we saw the Tricolored Heron, and then into Roswell for the Mississippi Kite. A few of the birds seen on the Jemez Springs trip were Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Catbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and a very speckled juvenile Townsend's Solitaire.

COUNCIL CORNER

By Jonalyn Yancey
NM Audubon Council Secretary

The last meeting of the New Mexico Audubon Council was at the Audubon State Conference September 9, 1995. We elected officers to serve for the next two years:

President: Linda Mowbray, Santa Fe
Vice President: Catherine Sandell,
Las Cruces
Secretary: Jonalyn Yancey, Moriarty
Treasurer: Earl Harvey, Silver City

The upcoming conservation issue in the state of New Mexico that the Council voted to concentrate effort on is the Herp Bill. This will be our priority focus this year.

The discussion of the future of Audubon regions and NM Audubon Council's role in that future was discussed. Ted Eubanks, Ruth Russell, and Dede Armentrout, national Audubon representatives, all shared their views on what they thought our involvement could be as the Strategic Planning Process is implemented.

The Next Audubon Council meeting will be during Festival of the Cranes on November 19, 1995, and is open to all Audubon members.

COMPUTERS AND RECYCLING

(Ed. note: Quoted out of an article I tore from a magazine, but I forget which one.)

Unwilling to upgrade your home computer for the 12th time? Ready to toss it and start over? Congratulations. But where to toss it? The East West Education Development Foundation in Boston, and Computer Recycling Center in Mountain View, CA, take tax-deductible donations of used computers, modems, printers, scanners, even software -- no matter how obsolete or rundown. East West overhauls the computers and sends them to charities around the world. CRC ships to schools. Either way, it beats putting the PC out with the trash.

--Carla Koehl and Jennifer Tanaka



Hidden in the misty reaches of the Sierra Madres, a little known, only partially explored canyon, deeper and 5 times larger than our Grand Canyon. Called Copper Canyon, inhabited by secretive Tarahumaras, solitary cowboys, and lean prospectors who plunk down solid silver to buy goods, and leave at first light with heavily laden mules. Hidden on the tropical bottom, below the rapids that cascade over huge boulders in the forgotten village of BATOPILAS, is the fabulously restored Hacienda, the dream of American businessman Skip McWilliams. Maintained for a few select guests, who appreciate authenticity, privacy and isolation. At the end of an 8 hour rugged cliff-hanging dirt road, the Hacienda's shady courtyard fountains invite relaxation in another era. The life of the village goes on at it's own pace, just outside the massive adobe walls.

YOU are invited. Call Judy at our U.S. Office.

1-800-776-3942



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72446,1565

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Julie Goodding, 4907 Royene NE, 87110; 255-9366

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

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Rebecca Gracey, 2400 Plaza Vizcaya NW, 87104; 242-3821

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Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
email: President@WhiteHouse.GOV.

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

Hon. Pete Domenici
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(505) 766-3481

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
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(505) 766-3636

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steve Schiff — (505) 766-2538
Hon. Joe Skeen — (202) 225-2365
Hon. Bill Richardson — (202) 225-6190
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

National Audubon Society

Membership Hotline
(800) 274-4201

Activist Hotline
(800) 659-2622

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Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 327-1943

New Mexico Office
David Henderson
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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 87503-0001
(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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Yes, I'd like to join.

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Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

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Local Chapter Code — Q51

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