

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL - MAY 1996

VOLUME 25 - No. 3

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. All meetings, field trips, and special events are free and open to the public.

ATTENTION: BIRDATHON NEWS FOR EVERYONE!

WE'RE COUNTING BIRDS -- AND COUNTING ON YOU!

CELEBRITY BIRDER BILL EISENHOO!

BIRDS, FUN, FOOD -- REFRESHMENTS ON US!

SATURDAY, MAY 18!

(You'd better bring us perfect weather, Bill!)

SEE INSIDE FOR THE COMPLETE FORECAST --

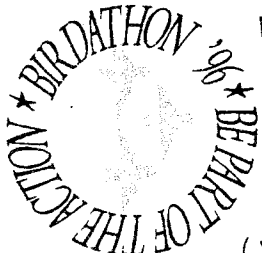
(er, all the details!)

PROGRAMS

Thurs., April 18: **Ray Powell**, New Mexico State Land Commissioner, will address current issues involving our public lands. These include efforts to privatize public lands, possible approaches to leasing grazing allotments for nongrazing purposes, and the State Land Office's involvement in the Environmental Education Project. A lot is happening in this area at present. Come hear the latest news and bring your concerns and questions for Commissioner Powell.

Thurs., May 16: Our Annual Meeting will begin early at 7 PM with a **dessert potluck**. Drinks and tableware will be provided. Our program will feature a star-studded cast of performers! We'll present our 1996 **Washburn Award** to an individual who, in his or her capacity as a government employee, has demonstrated a commitment to the environment. **David Henderson**, our State Representative from Randall Davey Audubon Center (soon to be field office) in Santa Fe, will tell us about big changes in store for the Audubon mission in New Mexico and introduce his new education specialist, **Amy Stix**. **Susan Ostliz**, our 1995 Camp of the West attendee and teacher at Madison Middle School, will be present with two of her students to explain how they are undertaking projects which demonstrate that even at a young age, people can contribute to environmental awareness in a mature fashion. We also hope to have our Science Fair winners in attendance to display and discuss the projects that caught the attention of the Audubon judges this year.

Please try to attend this meeting, in particular to support the efforts of these **young people** who are learning how to be the environmental leaders of tomorrow.



**You are hereby cordially invited . . .
To Bird Your Brains Out with Bill!**

Saturday, May 18, will be a day to remember! Join **Bill Eisenhood** and us, and help us count the birds! Yes, our very own amiable (and now avian) Channel 4 meteorologist, **Bill Eisenhood**, is leading our band of fun-seekers and bird-counters in our **Second Annual CNMAS Birdathon!**

This is our most member-friendly fund-raising activity for the year! It's easy: You sponsor Bill, and Bill finds birds (with a little help from his friends). The funds we raise stay right here in New Mexico, for the benefit of children right here in New Mexico.

How? Half of the funds will go to our beloved Randall Davey Audubon Center, newly designated as our New Mexico Field Office. They have a dynamic outreach program to children, both through in-house classroom and outdoor field seminars. The other half will remain with our own Chapter for environmental and birding education activities. We do this directly for the children through providing Audubon Adventures, our classroom publication for grades 3-6, to local classrooms; and indirectly, by providing an Audubon Camp in the West scholarship to a deserving and dedicated local teacher each year.

Join us! Help us! Support us! Come bird with us, and bring your family and friends! We count on your support, whether by participating or through donations. You're the one who empowers our vital efforts to bring environmental education and love of nature to the children and adults of New Mexico. We can do it! (And besides, Bill needs all the help he can get!)

Everyone is welcome on field trips:
members or nonmembers, novice and
experienced birders.



TRIPS FOR APRIL

Sat., Sun., April 13 -14: Weekend.
Roswell and Rattlesnake Springs. We'll go to Bitter Lake to see water and shore birds, then head down to Carlsbad to see what we can find at Rattlesnake Springs. We'll stay overnight in Carlsbad. Call Sei at 266-2480 for information on accommodations. There is a possibility that the Roswell Audubon group will see the Prairie Chickens do their thing on this weekend, but attempts at contacting them have not been successful. Try calling Dottie Russell at 622-2354 in Roswell for information. If you join the Roswell group, then meet us at noon Saturday at Bitter Lake Headquarters; otherwise, at 7 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center at the Video Store.

Sat., April 27: **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, Owl Bar afterwards.



TRIPS FOR MAY

Sun., May 5: **Breakfast and Otero Canyon.** We should see lots of birds doing their spring rituals. Meet at 7:30 at the IHOP in Four Hills Shopping Center. If you don't want to get up that early, meet us at IHOP at 8:30.

Sat., May 11: **International Migratory Bird Day** (see article).

Sat., May 18: **Bird America!**

Sat., Sun, May 18-19: **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 MacDonald's (on Rt. 180 east of downtown) at 8:30 Saturday. Call Sei at 266-2480 for car pooling and information on accommodations and to let him know how many will be going.

TRIPS FOR JUNE

Sat., Sun., June 1-2: **Annual Water Canyon Bird Count.** Join us for the day or camp out. Meet at 7 pm Friday night (May 31) at the campground in Water Canyon west of Socorro to search for Owls and/or meet at 6:30 am Saturday at the campground for the Saturday bird count. Novices are welcome and will be matched with experienced birders. For more information about the count, call Jim Black at 255-9925. For info about car pooling and accommodations, call Sei at 266-2480.

COUNCIL CORNER - GOOD NEWS!!

The New Mexico Audubon Council has been busy with planning activities related to the recently adopted Strategic Plan for National Audubon. In keeping with the plan's emphasis on strengthening the grass roots of the organization, a network of Field Offices is planned across the country to bring National Audubon closer to its members. Council delegates and Dave Henderson of Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe were quick to seize the idea and, after months of planning and proposing, have seen the opportunity become a reality. At its meeting in Texas in March, National Audubon's Board voted approval of the designation of Randall Davey as a Field Office. Implementation is a process that's ongoing, but we can expect more staffing, greater education outreach, and expanded opportunity for grassroots activist involvement as the results.

The plan, developed by Dave and Council members and approved by National Audubon Society, is based on the success of the Davey Center in creating a "Culture of Conservation" in the state, the state's diverse cultural history, and the unique ecosystems that are found in New Mexico. Advocacy, education, and activism are sure to be the benefits to chapters statewide.

The Burrowing Owl Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.

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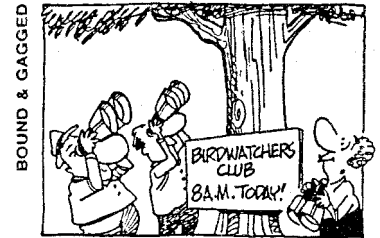
BIRD-AND-BUTTERFLY GARDEN TOUR

A garden devoted to plants attractive to birds and butterflies will be open to the public on May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The garden, at 7715 Rio Grande Boulevard, NW, is owned by Sieglinde Neuhauser; the tour is sponsored by the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of New Mexico. Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions.

The \$3 per person fee, payable at the entrance, will benefit the club's Student Assistance Fund. Children 12 and under accompanied by an adult will be admitted free. For more information, call 268-7738.

BIRDS! BILL! BIRDATHON!!!

What, you ask, is a Birdathon? It's 24 hours (or less) of birding. Participants ask for pledges of ten cents per species from neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers. Then they BIRD, BIRD, BIRD! And keep a count of all the species they see. The money collected goes for important causes, and you get a great day and good memories.



How you can join the crowd:

Get five pledges of only TEN CENTS or more a species, or one pledge of \$.50 or more a species if you have a rich uncle, and join us for a fun-filled Birding day.

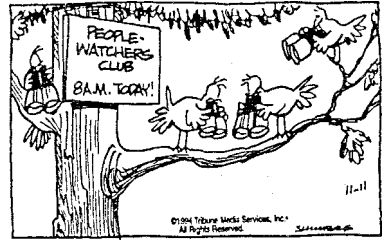
What if you are an armchair birder? You can send a flat donation to Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Or SPONSOR OUR CELEBRITY BIRDER, BILL EISENHOOD! Yes, we'll be out there, pointing out birds right and left to Bill. If you sponsor him, we guarantee you'll be helping Audubon educational activities and our new Field Office.

This year, we'll be birding as a group, but splitting into smaller groups as we bird. Plus, there will be refreshments on us.

Join the crowd around Bill Eisenhood and help him see more birds in one day than he has ever seen before! (And yes, he's promised good weather!)



2nd ANNUAL CNMAS BIRDATHON



I want to help CNMAS support environmental education in New Mexico. I wish to sponsor Bill Eisenhood for _____ per species.

I'm sending a donation of \$_____ to help my Audubon chapter and environmental education in New Mexico. My donation is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to CNMAS)

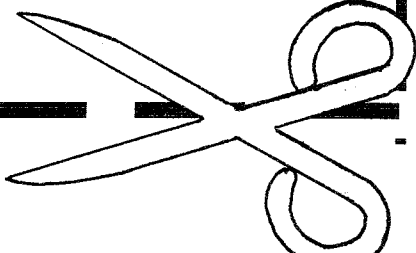
I want to BIRD! I'll find at least five sponsors to equal \$.50 per species. Send me an information packet! After our big day of birding, I will collect my sponsor money (again payable to CNMAS) and mail it in.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ ZIP _____

Mail to CNMAS Birdathon
POB 30002
Albuquerque NM 87190-0002

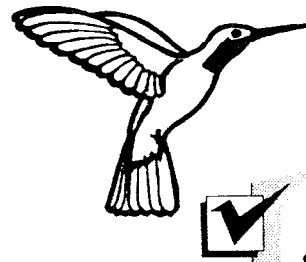
OR REGISTER BY PHONE: call Christy or Hardy at 281-7776
OR REGISTER BY FAX: to Christy or Hardy at 281-7778.



HawkWatch International Spring Migration Field Trips - You're Invited!

HawkWatch International, Inc., is currently conducting its twelfth season of daily raptor migration counts in the Sandia Mountains. The spring promises an awe-inspiring flight of Turkey Vultures, Golden Eagles, and Cooper's Hawks. HawkWatch will band raptors daily from March 10-April 25. Although visitors are always welcome, you can join staff for a guided tour to the site during the peak weekends of the flight.

Plan to join HawkWatch any Saturday or Sunday now through April 14. All field trips leave from the Smith's parking lot on Central and Tramway at 9:00 a.m. Call the HawkWatch office at 255-7622 by the Thursday before the weekend you plan to come up, in order to arrange for a volunteer to meet you. It's an unforgettable experience!



SHARE WITH WILDLIFE

Do you want to make just one contribution that will:

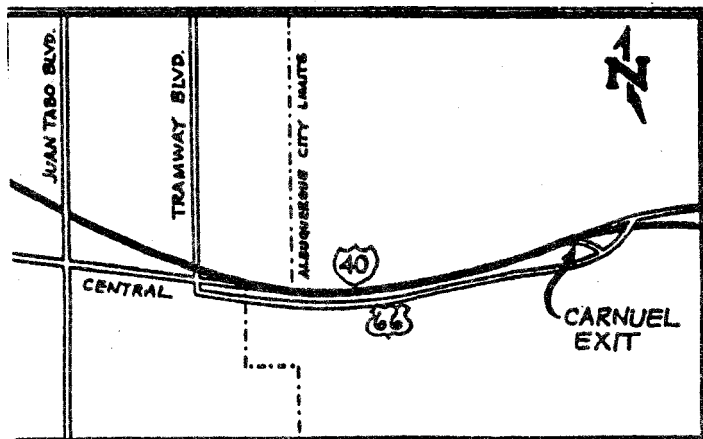
- *Monitor raptor migrations in the Sandia and Manzano Mountains?
- *Help environmental education and the development of youth leadership?
- *Rehabilitate injured wildlife to be released back into the wild?
- *Count breeding and nesting waterfowl at Stinking Lake?
- *Acoustically census New Mexico's many species of bats?
- *Study the rare Gila monster, as well as endangered reptiles and amphibians in Guadalupe Canyon in southwest New Mexico?

-----CLIP-A-TRIP-----

DIRECTIONS TO SANDIA HAWK WATCH (SPRING)

Drive EAST out of Albuquerque on I-40. Take the first exit - "Carnuel" - past Tramway Blvd. Continue EAST on US-66, approximately 1.8 miles. Turn left into the subdivision of "Montecello" - large white sign at entrance. Paved road jogs to right then to left. Continue uphill, north, turn left onto 5th sidestreet - "Allegre." Take second right - this deadends in parking area. From parking area hike north up the arroyo to the fence. Then turn EAST (right) and follow trail toward the southernmost end of the cliffs. Lookout is a large rock pile 2/3rds of the way up to the cliff face. Look for decoy owl atop pole at rock pile. Observer will man lookout daily, March 10-May 10, weather permitting, from 9am-5pm (MST). Bring water, hat, sunscreen, extra clothing, food and binoculars. Hike is 1-1/2 miles with a 1000-ft elevation gain and takes 1 to 2 hours (one way).

-----FOLD HERE-----
 -----PASTE ON 3-x-5 CARD FOR REFERENCE-----



Then Check It Off! All these programs, and more, are funded through grants from **Share with Wildlife**. The focus of the program is "Wildlife in Need" - and all funds go directly to education and wildlife research and rehabilitation. No Share with Wildlife funds are used for program administration.

So use the "check-off" box on your State personal income tax form, or donate directly to Share with Wildlife, Department of Game and Fish, 141 East DeVargas, Santa Fe, NM 87503 -- and do something that makes you feel good about your taxes!

O.K. HARRIS

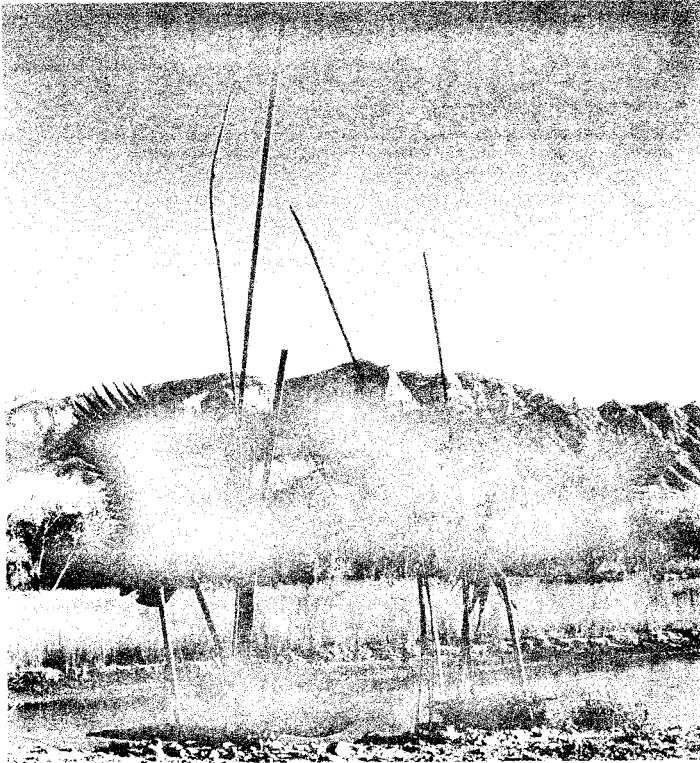


PHOTO BY CHUCK GALLAGHER

"RITES OF SPRING" COURTEN STEEL

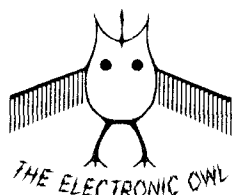
"FOR THE BIRDS"

Mirage Gallery & Sculpture Park, 3301 Menaul Boulevard, NE, is pleased to announce their upcoming show of mixed media, two- and three-dimensional artwork entitled "For the Birds." The show will run from June 15 through July 7 and will include the works of over 20 local and regional artists. It will consist of works ranging from sculptural bird feeders and realistically sculpted birds to oil paintings and colored pencil drawings.

This is the first "Bird" show Mirage has had, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event which will help support both local artists and conservation organizations. **Ten percent of all sales from this show will go to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society.** Interested artists are encouraged to contact Greg Reiche at Mirage at 883-7368 before June 1, for a review of their work. It is the intent of the gallery to make this as inclusive a show as possible. We hope to see you all there.

**AMERICAN BIRDS**

The Art of
TODD G. TELANDER



By Christy Brothers

Birding the Net is one of my favorite pastimes. In this and future Borrowing Owls, I'll tell you about some of my favorite sites and how to find and use them.

If you have a computer, but haven't hooked on to the Net, either through a local carrier such as RT66, a local BBS (bulletin board service), or a service like CompuServe or America On Line, let me tempt you with what I found today. And let me reassure you that navigating the Net is quite simple. Honestly, placing an overseas phone call is more daunting.

The Internet is a giant collaboration of computers around the world. It offers several services, like Email (electronic mail) from computer to computer, newsgroups about every topic you can think of and more, and the World Wide Web (WWW). The Web is similar to a giant encyclopedia, where you can click on anything that interests you and go to a site (page) about it. There you'll see more you want to know about, so you continue to click your way through fascinating pages or sites on the Web. Each site may exist on a totally different computer in another city, state, or country.

At the web site, www/birder.com, is a page entitled Birding on the Web. The addresses might seem a little long or complex, but type them exactly right, and you'll get wherever you're going, even if it is in Israel or Pennsylvania or Australia.


From the Birding on the Web page, I chose CHAT first. In Chat, you can read a list of Hot Birds (RBA's or rare bird alerts). After checking those for New Mexico, I decided to do some preparation for my trip to South Texas next week. I went to the page on South Texas Information Source at www.caller.com.

There I read about birds I could expect to see in South Texas. I searched the archives and found pictures, descriptions, and where to find specific birds. Often, descriptions were as specific as park names. Then I took a quick look at the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens and noted their hours. It sounds like a definite stop on my itinerary. I read about the King Ranch, and decided to save it for another trip. A quick perusal of the Corpus Christi "Bayfront" told me it would be a nice dinner stop one evening. And I definitely will visit the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, now that I've read all about it and seen pictures of it on the Web.

Then I noticed an article by Phillis Yochem about Shamrock Island, a 100-acre island across the bay from Corpus Christi and a recent acquisition of the Nature Conservancy. It is a rookery for thousands of sea and shore birds. The list seemed endless, particularly for a novice birder like me -- tricolored, little blue, and great blue herons; snowy, reddish, and great egrets; white and white-faced ibis; roseate spoonbills; black skimmers; royal Caspian and gull-billed terns; laughing gulls; and Sooty terns. Her descriptions made me want to start packing immediately.

I could Email her and get more information, or I could go to the rec.birds newsgroup and ask for advice and direction from knowledgeable birding folks from Texas. I know husband Hardy will check the Texas weather maps online before I leave and every day I'm gone.

We'll explore more online birding next issue. Please Email any questions you have, sites you like, or suggestions for topics for this Electronic Owl column to me at christy@rt66.com, or call 281-7776.




Wild Birds
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GENI KROLOCK
DAVID KROLOCK
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LOUISIANA PLAZA
7200 MONTGOMERY NE
ALBUQUERQUE NEW MEXICO 87110
505-883-0324

TRIP REPORT
By Rebecca Gracey

On January 7, Central Audubon met for breakfast and then sought the Golden-crowned Sparrow at Kit Carson Park, without success. Later at the Petroglyph National Park, we saw two Great Horned Owls and 82 Mountain Bluebirds. The next stop was the Corrales Bosque, where we saw a Swamp Sparrow, and a visitor from New Jersey saw a Tree Sparrow. Two Bald Eagles and a Ferruginous Hawk were seen in flight.

On January 21 at Grasslands Sod Farm near Los Lunas, both Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspur were seen. Green-winged Teal and a Great Egret were seen at the nearby Isleta Marsh. Later, along the Belen to Bernardo corridor, we saw 16 Red-tailed Hawks (including rufous and dark morphs, as well as a Harlan's). A large flock of American Pipits and an adult Bald Eagle were seen at the Bernardo Refuge.

Over 200 raptors were seen on the Las Vegas-Maxwell Refuges trip on Feb. 10-11. Over 70 of them were Bald Eagles. There were 12 species of raptors seen, including the Western Screech Owl. Some of the other highlights were the Tree Sparrow, Northern Shrike, and Common Goldeneye.

The last trip was to the Corrales Bosque. American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Thrasher, and Mountain and Black-capped Chickadee species were seen.

The Hummingbird Connection
1996



A New Mexico Hummingbird Survey

Sponsored by the New Mexico Audubon Council, Partners in Flight and Share With Wildlife

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.

If you did not join in 1995, 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 _____
County _____
City and Zip _____


Of Timber, Taxes and Tyranny

By Don Kimball

Determined to stem the tide of taxpayer-funded destruction of our National forests, environmental groups have banded together to form the Southwest Forest Alliance (SWFA). Over 50 groups through New Mexico and Arizona have joined forces to stop the abuses on our public lands. Over the next few weeks, and culminating on April 15, the Flagstaff-based group will be conducting a campaign throughout New Mexico and Arizona to increase public awareness of how the timber industry is destroying the forests, while the taxpayer is picking up the tab. Activists from coalition member groups such as the Sierra Club, Audubon, and Forest Guardians will be fanning out across Albuquerque April 13-14, distributing 25,000 door hangers urging citizen involvement to stop the taxpayer-funded (Continued on Page 9)

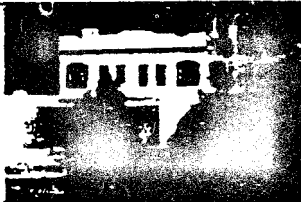
Bear Mountain Guest Ranch

6250' Elevation



Focus Your Binoculars On

- Grace's Warbler
- Greater Pewee
- Hawks
- Hummingbirds
- Red-faced Warbler



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P.O. Box 1163 **OWL**, Silver City, NM 88002 (505) 538-2538

Bring this ad for free room 3rd night, Sunday-Thursdays

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Saturday, May 11, 1996, will be the fourth annual International Migratory Bird Day. On the second Saturday in May each year, individuals and organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere will participate in activities dedicated toward the conservation of all migratory birds -- songbirds, shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. More than 330 species of birds embark on annual migrations across the Americas, breeding in the north, wintering in the south, and traveling between during the spring and fall. For time untold, seasons have turned with the melodious song of the thrush and the soaring of hawks. In recent years, however, spring has grown quieter and the fall skies stiller.

As an individual, you can take part in the effort to make a difference. Aside from various other activities like organized clean-ups of wetlands areas, habitat restoration projects, or planting of native trees and shrubs, you can also participate in the North American Migration Count!

The Count is divided by county lines rather than "count circles." In 1993, a lone counter, Dave Mehlman, took a hike up the Sandias and turned in his list for the day -- Bernalillo County's first year in participating! By the third year the count had grown to 41 observers and 147 species recorded! Knowing that we missed some fairly predictable birds, like a Northern Harrier, you can see that every pair of eyes helps gather valuable data.

If you would like to participate this year, please call Tamie Bulow at 821-3265 after April 10, or Hart Schwarz at 266-1810, to either get assigned into a group or to share your sightings if you have a birding outing planned. Bill Howe will be doing the compilation this year, and all sightings should be sent to him at P.O. Box 461, Albuquerque, NM, 87103. Help push Bernalillo County over the 160 mark!

Of Timber, Taxes and Tyranny (Continued from Page 8)

massacre on our National Forests. On April 15, activists will distribute information to taxpayers mailing their last-minute tax returns.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has been mandated by the Timber Salvage Rider to almost double the cut over previous years. President Clinton signed this death-warrant for our National Forests on July 27, 1995. Public Law 104-19 is the Timber Salvage Rider, or "logging without laws." This rider suspends ALL environmental laws for "salvage" timber sales on National Forests. Worse yet, citizens cannot appeal these horrible sales. Meanwhile, taxpayers pick up the tab. Federal auditors say the USFS below-cost timber sales have cost taxpayers \$1 billion over the past three years -- translating to a net operating loss of \$54.6 million in New Mexico and Arizona. Dr. Robin Silver of the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity says the loss of public money to subsidize the destruction of public lands is "criminal."

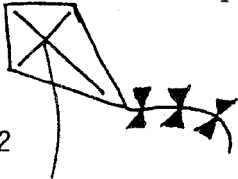
This ecologically, economically and ethically irresponsible legislation has already resulted in the destruction of beautiful native and old-growth forests across America, and threatens New Mexico's Gila National Forest Eagle Peak with the HB Timber Salvage Sale.

Americans must band together to stop the greedy timber industry from destroying the last of our native and old-growth forests before it's all gone forever. Taxpayers should be outraged that, at a time of fiscal austerity in the 104th Congress, the treasury is being depleted by below-cost timber sales. This tyranny must be stopped. Join the SWFA Taxpayer Revolt Campaign against this waste of taxpayer dollars and our precious National Forests. For more information call SWFA at 505-281-3458.

Don Kimball is the Outreach Coordinator in Albuquerque for the Southwest Forest Alliance.



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY - April 22



CNMAS will join other organizations and celebrate Earth Day 1996 at the Rio Grande Nature Center on Monday, April 22, 10 AM - 4 PM. We will have a table, hand out Audubon information, identify birds at the pond, and talk with visitors. Activities planned for that day include kite building, a kite flying contest for kids, nature hikes, and storytelling.

If you can spare a couple of hours, I can use your help at the table. Please call Julie at 255-9366. Let's spread our love of birds and nature. And come fly a kite!

From our Audubon Adventures teacher at Wilson Middle School: "I've found the Audubon Adventures very useful in my classes. We're in the process of building bird feeders for our campus . . . Happy Birding!"

Help other teachers explore the Audubon world. Support Audubon Adventures in a classroom near you.

Please make your check payable to CNMAS and send with this form to:

Ron Waitz
804 Guadalupe Cir., NW
Alb, NM 87114
Thanks!



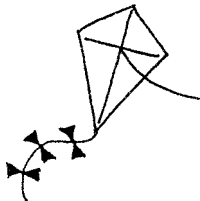
Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____
(Each \$35 will sponsor one classroom in the Audubon Adventures Program. Any amount you contribute will benefit our educational activities.)

I choose to designate _____
Elementary/Middle School for my sponsorship
(designation is optional).

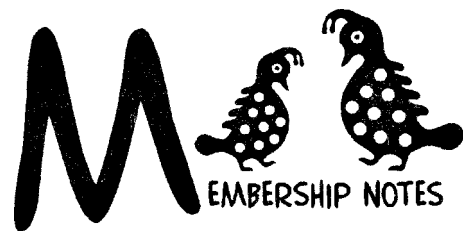
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A chance to Get Up Really Early


M.J. Mund-Meyerson, who is scheduled to speak at our June meeting about the effects on breeding birds of introduced trees in the bosque, is looking for a field assistant for the upcoming field season, May through August. She needs someone with good birding skills who is willing to get up really early. The assistant would live at Bosque del Apache and would receive a fair stipend for the summer. If you are interested, please call Ms. Mund-Meyerson at 256-3894. Her e-mail address is mjmund@unm.edu.



Central New Mexico Audubon Society Wants YOU to

- ☛ **Suggest topics** for our monthly meetings. And tell us what you'd like to read about in your Burrowing Owl. Write or call any board member, listed in this month's Burrowing Owl, and tell us what you want.
- ☛ **Join our fun weekly birding outings.** Enjoy our Land of Enchantment, its birds and wildlife, and meet old and new friends. You're welcome whether you are a novice or an expert birder.
- ☛ **Come to Audubon monthly meetings** and bring along interested friends.
- ☛ **Call Christy** at 281-7776 if you have a change of address, questions about your membership, or problems receiving your newsletter. Please call if you are receiving duplicate mailings.

HELP THE HERPS

Generously shared by Sangre de Cristo Chapter newsletter
AN AUDUBON INITIATIVE

The New Mexico Audubon Council, a coalition of the chapters around the State, has begun a campaign for a "Herps Bill" in the 1997 State Legislature. We propose a statute that would prevent private individuals from *commercially* exploiting wild-caught native amphibians and reptiles for profit. This statute will not prevent killing rattlesnakes for personal or public safety or keeping of amphibians and reptiles as pets.

As you learn more about our reptiles and amphibians, resolve to turn that knowledge into appreciation and protection. Let your State Representative or Senator know that you think this is an important issue that deserves his or her support. With education, we can succeed.



POIKILOTHERMY

We tend to think of cold-blooded creatures like the herps as primitive, not possessing the advanced technology of homeothermy (warm-bloodedness) that makes our lives so comfortable. Cold-bloodedness, or poikilothermy, is in fact a particularly useful thing in many environments, particularly in harsh ones. Nature sets its standards by what works best, the adaptations that best enable creatures and plants to make a living in their environment. In the desert, where water or food may be a feast or famine proposition, the ability to survive for long periods without either can be particularly adaptive.

Consider the spadefoot toad. It survives the dry heat of summer and the cold of winter in a state of torpor, buried alive, more or less, in the mud. When, and if, the annual rains come, the toads emerge in a frenzy of life: eating, mating, being born, and developing; all before the water dries up again. Think about which is the more advanced creature for survival in the desert; humans with their enormous metabolic cost of homeothermy, or the spadefoot toad, that is able, because of its low metabolic rate, to just say no to activity.

The Gila monster, an endangered species in New Mexico, is another good example. These lizards are only really active in the spring, when they are most likely to find lunch. Their prey, bird's eggs and young, other lizards and even small mammals are much easier to find in the spring and allow the Gila monster to build up great fat reserves in their tails. Being cold-blooded, they can then relax until lunchtime again next year.

When we think of Africa, we think of the great mammalian predators; lions, cheetahs and the like. These animals truly are beautiful, but are they really the most significant predators? Leguaans, large (15 pounds and up) carnivorous lizards of southern Africa related to the Komodo Dragon of the far East, use their poikilothermy to be significant predators in

their chosen environment. Their low rate of metabolism allows them to exploit and survive the 8 months of famine that follow the 4 months of rainy season in Etosha National Park. Their biomass is comparable to the park's lions and exceeds that of the combination of cheetahs, jackals, hyenas, and leopards. Unfortunately for the leguaans, humans still see their beauty more in shoes and purses than in the wild.

So the next time you feel too hot or too cold, or hungry or thirsty, think about the advantages of poikilothermy, being able to slow down and mellow out till the weather turns more to your liking.

T. Jervis

GUADALUPE CANYON

Guadalupe Canyon is situated along the United States-Mexico border in extreme southwestern New Mexico and extreme southeastern Arizona. The Canyon drains to the southwest from its source in the Peloncillo Mountains and crosses the extreme southeastern corner of Arizona before entering Sonora, Mexico. The direct link with the biota of Mexico formed by this canyon and its tributaries creates a natural corridor through which many southern latitude plants and animals make their way into New Mexico.

Herpetologically speaking, Guadalupe Canyon may well be the most exciting place in New Mexico. The possibility of finding new species of reptiles and amphibians is greater in Guadalupe Canyon than any other part of the state. Over the past three years, the regal horned lizard and the yaqui blackhead snake both new discoveries in New Mexico, have been found in Guadalupe Canyon. Although previously found only in the Arizona portion of the canyon, at least three tiger rattlesnakes have been sighted less than 1/4 mile east of the New Mexico/Arizona border. Boa constrictors have been found less than 50 miles to the south in Sonora, Mexico.

During 1992, Game and Fish Department's Endangered Species biologists, with funding provided by Share with Wildlife, initiated a mark-recapture study to investigate the status of the seven state and federally listed species of amphibians and reptiles known in Guadalupe Canyon. With permission from landowner Drum Hadley, department biologists established a network of traps to capture amphibians and reptiles. Captured animals were identified, weighed, and measured. Their sexes were determined, and they were uniquely marked for future recognition. They were later released in Guadalupe Canyon where they had been captured.

These animals, when subsequently recaptured and identified, will provide data on growth rates, movement, activity patterns, habitat use, and reproductive status—information crucial in determining status of the species' populations.

Through their research, biologists have determined that Guadalupe Canyon populations of amphibians and reptiles seem to be healthy and secure. The capture of large numbers of varying ages of giant spotted whiptails and mountain skinks indicate their populations are stable. Incidental captures of Gila monsters and green rat snakes establish their existence in the Canyon, and biologists perceive no threats to these species. Only the Chiricahua and lowland leopard frogs are declining, and this phenomenon is not restricted to Guadalupe Canyon but is found range-wide.

Share with Wildlife

Whom to Contact:

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111

email: President@WhiteHouse.GOV.

Hon. Bruce Babbitt
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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 — (202) 225-2365
Hon. Bill Richardson — (202) 225-6190
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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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
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Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Floyd A. Thompson III, District Ranger
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Central New Mexico Audubon Society
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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:

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CNMAS Chapter

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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 \$12 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 Julie Goodding at 255-9366.

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.

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