

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL - MAY 1998
VOLUME 27 - No. 3

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Welcome to Central New Mexico Audubon Society! Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are free and open to the public.

Welcome to our "Spring Fling" issue! (See Pages 7 & 8)
Programs and Field Trips - Page 9
Birdathon Teams and Trips - Pages 4-6

CNMAS YEAR IN REVIEW

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society celebrates its 27th anniversary this year! Formed in 1971, we look forward to sharing our anniversary celebration with you in May, with the annual installation of new officers at our meeting on May 19. May 31 also marks the end of our fiscal year, so this is a good time to look back at the year's accomplishments; to look forward to a new year of goals and their achievement; to thank you, each member, for your support; and to encourage your participation and activism in our Chapter's governance and activities.

Why, What, How, and Who? **WHY**

The Mission Statement of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society is "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats; to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."



WHAT - EDUCATION

We believe one of the best ways to fulfill that Mission Statement is through education. One powerful tool for accomplishing this goal is in your hands right now -- the Burrowing Owl! But our arsenal is even more far-reaching.

During school year 1997-1998 we distributed 21 subscriptions of Audubon Adventures to local classrooms, Grades 4 through 6. We awarded savings bonds to four young Science Fair winners and funded Audubon memberships to their teachers. We sent a teacher to Audubon's week-long Audubon Ecology Workshop in Wind River Mountains near Dubois, Wyoming. We funded a scholarship to the class of Joan Newsom at Wilson Middle School for an educational field trip to Bosque del Apache. Some 50 students, about half of whom are from low-income families, went on this exciting trip.

WHAT - CONSERVATION

Our Chapter's commitment to the preservation of birds and their habitats was exemplified by action and activism. The Chapter, led by President Jeff Myers, took an active role in the preservation of the integrity of Petroglyph National Monument. As a member of the New Mexico Audubon Council (the coalition of New Mexico Audubon Chapters), we continue to seek the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as an endangered species by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department.

Although unsuccessful in having legislation passed, we pressed for increased protection of New Mexico's reptiles and amphibians, and are prepared to commit our long-term efforts to this goal. Another

--Continued on Page 2

defeat was losing the battle to protect one of the last and best old-growth ponderosa pine stands in northern New Mexico. But we've united with other member groups in the Southwest Forest Alliance to monitor forest issues and to provide scientifically based goals and recommendations for our Southwest's National Forests.

An immediate high priority is the securing of the Valle Grande Caldera (Baca location) in the Jemez Mountains into public ownership so we can all appreciate the wonders of this special place. Local Auduboners can also howl at the progress we've made toward seeing Mexican wolves in the wilds of Arizona (could they then be far from New Mexico?) for the first time since they were extirpated in the 1950s.

An ongoing commitment was strengthened this year when the Chapter formally re-adopted Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge under the new National Audubon Society program referred to as ARK (Audubon Refuge Keeper). We look forward to working with Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR and other organizations to enhance public education, citizen science, volunteerism, fund raising, and advocacy.

Further, we provide financial support to various deserving groups -- among them, New Mexico Wildlife Legislative Council, FOTAP (Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs), New Mexico Environmental Law Center, New Mexico Conservation Voters Alliance, and Friends of the Rio Grande Botanical Gardens.

WHAT - THE BIRDS

And don't forget the birds! Besides our work to preserve the Lesser Prairie Chicken, we protect and enjoy birds in a flock of ways. Our Chapter sponsors the Albuquerque and Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Counts. Volunteers help with staffing of the Pond Room at Rio Grande Nature Center for various special events. The Chapter wholeheartedly supports The New Mexico Hummingbird Connection, and urges you to participate. Trip leaders Sei, Charlotte, and Julie cheerfully and reliably provide the means and the opportunity for our number one passion -- birding!

We provide financial assistance to many local organizations which support the conservation ethic for the benefit of birds and other wildlife: HawkWatch International, Hawks Aloft, The Nature Conservancy, Talking Talons, Wildlife Rescue, Rio Grande Bird Research, New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Friends of the Bosque Del Apache, and Friends of Rio Grande Nature Center.

HOW

All these conservation and education activities are funded from diverse sources:

- *Dues share from our 1350 members;
- *Proceeds from our annual Birdathon fundraiser;
- *Share-With-Audubon joint events with generous sponsors, such as The Mirage Gallery and Sculpture Park and Wild Bird Center;
- *Project-specific contributions from members supporting Audubon Adventures;
- *Advertising income from the Burrowing Owl;
- *Contributions through the Central & Northern New Mexico Combined Federal Campaign;
- *Bequests or memorial donations; and
- *Very modest interest from our small savings account.

In addition, CNMAS is fortunate to have invested, some years back, in a green fund, the Pax World Fund. This fund has shown healthy growth from its tentative beginnings, and both the principal investment and subsequent earnings have been held in trust for future Chapter projects and for the Chapter's financial security.

--Continued on Page 3



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WHO?

The hard work and dedication of your Board of Directors, including the various Committee Chairs, produces tangible results -- as you've just seen. With the new CNMAS year comes the "changing of the guard." Jeff will continue his leadership in the conservation arena, but from a different vantage -- as Conservation Chair. Beth will follow Jeff's outstanding example to assume his role as President. She'll have the help and experience of Donna, as Vice-President, to rely on.

"Reliability" is a great descriptor for other key personnel, and "thank you" is a pale expression of our gratitude to

- *Sei and Charlotte, our Audubon ambassadors as trip planners and leaders.
- *Dianne as taker of the minutes (i.e., history) of the Board.
- *Ed as the keeper of the ever-changing membership roll.
- *Ron as the treasurer and compiler of an array of vital statistics.
- *Jonalyn as our Chapter's representative to the very effective New Mexico Audubon Council.
- *Pat as organizer of the entertaining and lively monthly meetings.
- *Julie as coordinator of the popular Thursday Birders outings, as well as competent, capable Education Chair.

If it sounds like you've been missing a lot -- well, we've been missing you! We welcome your fluffing up any of these empty nests:

- *Program Chair: Pat has programs planned through October -- she's that good! Arranging and planning for speakers is the epitome of networking, and the connections are already in place. Besides, Pat will still be there -- greeting our guests and providing the hospitality in the form of personal contact and refreshments that make everyone feel so welcome -- at the meetings that you'll arrange! Call Pat at 856-7443 or respond on-line to Jeff at peacmyer/cnmas.htm@rt66.com

*Education: Julie will be your mentor as Education Chair. She has capably handled everything from Audubon Adventures to Camp of the West scholarship, to being the intermediary between our Board and National Audubon. If you're enthused about environmental education in the schools and how you can help implement that, you can custom-tailor this job to reflect that enthusiasm and your interests. Again, e-mail Jeff or call Julie at 255-9366.

*Editor, Burrowing Owl: Bring your DeskTop publishing skills and your love of communicating here, and the Burrowing Owl will flourish and evolve under your guidance. Beth will help you every step of the way, and she's sure to learn a lot from you in return! Call 898-8514 or respond on-line to Jeff.

*Bosque del Apache Coordinator: Just a gleam in our imaginations, we hope it becomes a spark in your interest!

A huge "Thank You" to all of our members in the Audubon family. Let's do like everybody in a family does, and give each other big hugs and a pat on the back. Thanks for caring and sharing -- and Happy Birding!

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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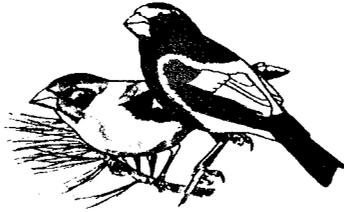
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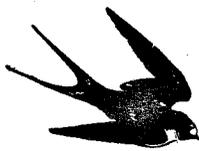
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BIRDATHON 1998

We have four great Birdathon teams this year. Join one or more -- for the fun of it!

- Team #1: What a combination -- Silver City and Birdathon! The other partners in this team make a winning combination, too: Mike and Cindy Clark of **Wild Bird Center** at the Promenade Shopping Center are sponsoring our wonderful weekend wanderers, **Sei and Charlotte**, for their weekend Birdathon outing to Silver City on **May 16-17**. Warblers were the highlight last year, and the team will stop at Percha for a look around before heading over to Silver City. Camp out or stay in Silver City. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Physics Bldg. parking lot, Yale and Lomas. Call Sei at 266-2480 or Charlotte at 345-1271 for car pooling and accommodations info and to confirm. And don't forget to visit Mike and make your pledge!
- Team #2: The **Thursday Birders** promise another high-count outing this year. They found 99 species last year -- will they have a bigger day this time? A good possibility -- since they'll be cheered on by sponsors Geni and David Krolick and their **Wild Birds Unlimited** at 7200 Montgomery! Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is again the destination, and **Thursday, May 14**, is the day. Meet at 7:30 a.m. to carpool from Plaza Inn, up on top of Medical Arts Hill east of I-25, south of Lomas. Call Julie at 255-9366 or Mary Lou at 299-2565 to confirm. Call Geni or visit her store to make your pledge!
- Team #3: Again this year, Celestyn Brozek leads the team sponsored by **Cranes & Crows** -- with an appealing twist: We're all invited to join him this trip! Plan to meet him on **Saturday, April 25**, at 8:00 a.m. at the pay station at Percha Dam State Park -- yes, Joel and Lori are invited, too! Call Celestyn at 925-8611 to confirm, and he'll put you in touch with others about car pooling -- but be sure that he hears from you before April 22, so you don't get left out! And when you see Lori and Joel at their shop in Old Town, tell them how glad you are to be birding on their team -- and make a pledge!
- Team #4: Welcome to the West Side **Wild Birds Unlimited**, owned by Lynda Geron and Joseph Shumate, as a new sponsor this year. Lynda invites you to join her and team leader Hart Schwarz for a full day of birding on **Saturday, May 30**. We'll explore Petroglyph National Monument, the Rio Rancho Golf Course, and the clear ditch north and south of Paseo Del Norte. We'll also visit what is probably the last remaining colony of Bank Swallows in the Albuquerque area. Call Lynda at 890-3668 to make your pledge and to sign up for this West Side Odyssey -- a necessity, since the group is limited to ten! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the store, 9231 Coors -- with your bird book, your binoculars, and your pledge!

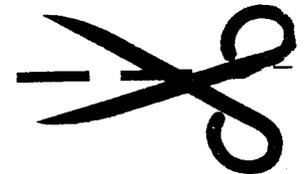


BIRDATHON 1998

How does it work? It's simple and fun. If you join any of the following teams on their Birdathon outing, we ask you to pledge, then and there, a minimum of \$5.00. Your tax-deductible pledge can be a flat rate or an amount per species (75 species at 10 cents each is a \$7.50 donation). The following teams will be giving it their all, on the days chosen, to identify as many species as they can. JOIN one or more, PLEDGE to one or more, and SUPPORT your Audubon Chapter's education and conservation activities right here in New Mexico.

- Team #1: Sei Tokuda and Charlotte Green, leaders, sponsored by **Wild Bird Center**
- Team #2: Julie Goodding and Mary Lou Arthur, leaders, sponsored by **Wild Birds Unlimited** East Side (Montgomery, NE)
- Team #3: Celestyn Brozek, leader, sponsored by **Cranes & Crows**
- Team #4: Hart Schwarz, leader, sponsored by **Wild Birds Unlimited** West Side (Coors, NW)

If you pledge per species, you'll receive a postcard with the pledge amount calculated for the team(s) you sponsored. If you birded with a group, pay up front or send your pledge with the form below by May 25. If you're making a tax-deductible donation, do it now! Many feathered thank you's!



**TO MAKE A PLEDGE, OR TO MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION NOW,
RETURN THIS FORM BY MAY 25**

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

____ I would like to offer the flat amount of \$ _____.
____ This is to encourage all the teams to bird their brains out.
____ This is to cheer Team # _____ on, since I can't be there.

____ I am part of a birding group, Team # _____. I will sponsor myself for a minimum of \$5.00.

____ I like this idea so much that I've collected a bunch of pledges from other folks I know. I will collect the pledges and send them all in together. They amount to _____ for Team # _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: CNMAS
(Central New Mexico Audubon Society)
Mail to: CNMAS Birdathon!
c/o Liz Miller
3900 Tulane, N.E., Apt. 39
Albuquerque, NM 87107



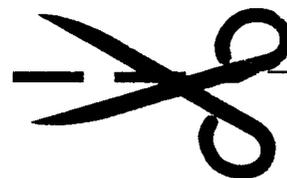
BIRDATHON 1998

Your Birdathon pledge money is almost magical -- it seemingly multiplies and keeps giving and giving and giving. All monies raised from this -- our only fundraiser -- are earmarked for special projects right here in New Mexico. This year, your pledge supports:

#1: The Randall Davey Audubon Center. Located in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on Upper Canyon Road in Santa Fe, Randall Davey is the New Mexico Field Office and Education Center for National Audubon Society. State Director Dave Henderson interacts with our Chapter as partner, leader, counselor, guru, collaborator, cheerleader, spokesman, supporter. Every year, thousands of New Mexico children participate in outdoor classrooms at the center, and it is a nature and wildlife sanctuary where you're invited to take refuge.

#2: Scholarships for interactive bus tours by school groups to Bosque del Apache. Last year we financed one classroom scholarship, which meant a tour for 50 students! This year, our goal is to fund four or five tours -- with your help!

----- CUT HERE -----



----- (FOLD) -----

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(STAMP)

CNMAS Birdathon!
c/o Liz Miller
3900 Tulane, N.E., Apt. 39
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A CORNUCOPIA OF SPRING FLINGS

Welcome, Hummingbirds! To welcome your winged jewels back after their long flight, clean your feeders and use the following mixture in them:

*Use one part white sugar to four parts boiling water. Put out small amounts at first, and add more as your hummer population expands. Store surplus mixture in your refrigerator.

*Do not use honey, brown sugar, or red food coloring.

Another way to help the hummers is to share your observations of them with **The New Mexico Hummingbird Connection**. This all-volunteer study was started in 1995, and already the compilation of data from this citizen-science project is impressive. To become part of this fun study, just send your name, address, and county of residence, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope, to: New Mexico Audubon Council, 26 Dogwood Lane, Los Lunas, NM 87031. A \$5.00 donation to New Mexico Audubon Council is requested to help with printing costs of the newsletter, special observation calendar, and packet of seeds you will receive.

April 25, Saturday - An Earth Day "March for Parks" is a walk event to raise money for trail renovation and bosque revegetation in the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Last year's event raised money for over one mile of improved trail and the planting of 350 trees and shrubs near Alameda and Rio Grande. This year's proceeds will be spent in the south end of the State Park. Call Ondrea Linderoth at 873-6620 or Rebecca Tydings at 344-7240 if you'd like to participate.

June 7, Sunday - The Flowering Desert Garden Tour will feature five beautiful Placitas gardens and is a fundraiser for the Placitas Open Space. Among its many sponsors are The Range Cafe and Rose's Pottery House in Bernalillo, both of which will donate 5% of their sales on June 7 for the protection of the Placitas Open Space. The tour is from 10:00-3:00, and tickets cost \$10. For information, call 867-3995.

The natural alternative

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Wild Bird Center

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HAWK WATCHING -- THE SPRING EXPERIENCE

With spring comes migration, and with migration comes the 14th season of HawkWatch International counting raptors at their Sandia Mountains site. Visitors are welcome to join HawkWatch research staff daily until May 5. Guided trips are offered every Saturday morning from March 22-April 26 for this 2-mile hike up to the site. Meet at Smith's parking lot at Central and Tramway, near the mailboxes, at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, snacks, and a layer of warm clothing. You can call 255-7622 for more information or to schedule a guided trip for a school group. You won't forget the incredible thrill of seeing a red-eyed hawk being released to flight again after being banded, or of seeing the resident Golden Eagles transecting their territory. Come experience a "wild" side of Spring that you won't soon forget!



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Leon Fager

TRIP REPORTS - Charlotte Green

Kit Carson, Jan. 11: Did you see us on television? While 16 of us were watching the birds at Kit Carson, Channel 13 news crew showed up and asked what we were doing. They got some shots of us looking through the binoculars and a few interviews. As far as the birds were concerned, we saw Audubon's Warbler, Bushtit, Brewer's Sparrow, and Bald Eagle, among others. We ended up on the West Mesa at Rinconada Canyon, where there were some Sage Sparrows.

Maxwell, Jan. 31-Feb. 1: Twenty-five people made the trip, and we had fun again this year. The weather was nice. Our first stop was at the Las Vegas Refuge, looking for Tree Sparrows. We didn't spot any there, but they were at Maxwell -- plus lots more! We got good looks at Bald Eagles (over 20); Hawks (too many to count, including Rough-legged, Red-tailed, Harlan's, Rufous Red-tailed, Harrier, Ferruginous, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon); and Great Horned Owls. There were also lots of waterfowl, including Bufflehead, Goldeneye, Merganser, and Gulls.

Corrales, Feb. 15: Five people actually showed up in the rain! We had breakfast at Wolfe's Bagels and went home.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING

Dr. Celestyn Brozek, Instructor

Enroll in this non-credit course at the UNM-Valencia Campus by calling 925-8970. For \$30, you will participate in:

- 1) Classroom Session, Tuesday, April 28, 7-9 p.m.
- 2) Field trip to Bosque del Apache, Saturday, May 2.
- 3) Field trip to Sandia Mountains, Saturday, May 16.

If you cannot come to all three meetings/field trips, you can still take the class, but notify the instructor, Celestyn Brozek, at 925-8611 -- or call him if you have any questions!

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

For information on weekly birding outings (every Thursday), call Julie at 255-9366. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary.

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 Albuquerque is 323-9323.

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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

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the national Audubon Society



Send this application and your check to:

National Audubon Society

CNMAS Chapter

P.O. Box 30002 • Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

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.

PROGRAMS

Put these entertaining and informative programs on your calendar. Note the times for each! Come to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Copper and Jefferson.

Thursday, April 16 - "Birding by Ear" with Chris Rustay. Are you ready for some bird calls!? Chris will teach us how to get our ears more involved when we "watch" birds. We'll learn how to compare hard-to-distinguish songs and how to use listening techniques in general. You can't afford to miss this one! Program is at 7:30; come early for refreshments and socializing.

Thursday, May 21 - Annual Meeting and Dessert Potluck Featuring David Henderson, Director, Randall Davey Audubon Center. Bring your favorite dessert to share, and we'll provide beverages, at 6:30. At 7:00 p.m., while you enjoy the culinary delights, our program will proceed with a smorgasbord of its own, including presentation of the Washburn Award and Camp of the West Scholarship. This year's Science Fair Winners will be recognized and speak briefly about their projects which caught the attention of CNMAS judges. And David Henderson, the most prominent Audubon Society official in New Mexico, will report on statewide successes, the National Audubon Society meeting in Santa Fe, and what the State legislature did or didn't do this year. Please come and support our deserving award winners and take the opportunity to hear David Henderson!

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome to join us: members and nonmembers, novice and experienced birders.

TRIPS FOR APRIL

April 19, Sunday. Tres Pisos. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center by the Video Store. We'll be back by noon.

May 30, Saturday. Birdathon trip to Petroglyphs and West Side. See Page 4.

April 25, Saturday. Birdathon trip to Percha Dam State Park. See Page 4.

TRIPS FOR JUNE

June 5-6, Friday and Saturday. Annual Water Canyon Bird Count. Join us for the day or camp out. Meet at 7:00 p.m. Friday night at the campground in Water Canyon west of Socorro to search for Owls, and/or meet at 6:30 a.m. 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 more information about car pooling and accommodations, call Sei at 266-2480.

TRIPS FOR MAY

May 2-3, Saturday and Sunday. Roswell, 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 or Charlotte at 345-1271 to let us know how many will be going and for information on accommodations and car pooling. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Four Hills Shopping Center by the Video Store.

May 14, Thursday. Birdathon trip to Bosque del Apache. See Page 4.

May 16-17, Saturday and Sunday. Birdathon trip to Silver City. See Page 4 for details.

June 7, Sunday. The Third Annual 100-Count Day. We're going to try for 100 species in one day again. Last year we got well over 100. We'll leave at 6:00 a.m. from the Physics Bldg. Parking lot, Lomas and Yale, and head to Water Canyon and then Bosque del Apache. Bring your lunch. It will be a long but rewarding day. Don't miss the fun.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
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National Audubon Society

Membership Hotline (800) 274-4201
Activist Hotline (800) 659-2622

New Mexico Office
David Henderson

Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314 · Santa Fe, NM 87504 · (505) 983-4609

US Fish and Wildlife Service

500 Gold Avenue, SW · Albuquerque, NM 87102
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Habitat Conservation—(505) 766-2914

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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Sandia Ranger District

US Forest Service · Bob Cordts, Acting District Ranger
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The *Burrowing Owl* is printed on recycled paper.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for such accidents. You attend at your own risk.

CNMA'S DIRECTORY

CNMA'S Phone Number: 255-7622
CNMA'S Home Page: <http://www.rt66.com/peacmyer/cnmas.htm>

PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Myers, 2200 Cutler NE, 87106; 242-9677(W); 268-8457(H)

VICE PRESIDENT and OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Donna Thatcher, 1128 Girard Blvd., NE, 87106; 255-1546

SECRETARY

Dianne Cress, 256 Zena Lona, NE, 87123; 841-2586(W); 298-0085(H)

CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)

Ed Dover, 1421 San Carlos SW, 87104-1040; 242-5427

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON/PUBLICITY

Patrice Franklin, 72633 Tramway Vista Drive NE, 87122; 856-7443

TREASURER

Ronald Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle NW, 87114; 898-8514

AUDUBON ADVENTURES CHAIRPERSON

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

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPEOPLE

Sei Tokuda, 3008 Marble Avenue NE, 87106; 266-2480
Charlotte Green, 808 Freeman Avenue NW, 87107

NEW MEXICO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE/PARTNERS IN FLIGHT REP

Jonalyn Yancey, 10 El Prado Drive, Edgewood, NM 87015; 884-6807(W); 286-2949(H)

EDITOR, *BURROWING OWL*

Beth Hurst-Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle NW, 87114-1710; 898-8514(H); 243-7029(W); 242-7343 (Fax)

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL DIRECTORY

PRESIDENT - Tom Jervis TREASURER - Steve West, Carlsbad

60 Barranca Rd.
Los Alamos, NM 87544
(505) 662-5287 e-mail: Jervidae@AOL.com

TREASURER - Earl Harvey, Los Lunas SECRETARY - Jeff Myers, Albuquerque