

Burrowing Owl

June/July 1998 Issue

Volume 27 No. 4

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

**National Audubon Convention
July 5-July 12, 1998 Estes Park, Colorado**

The National Audubon Society's National Convention, "Celebrating Success", will be held at the Estes Park Center YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. The National Audubon Society will be celebrating a century of commitment to birds, wildlife and habitat conservation and laying the foundation for conservation in the 21st century. The convention is a great opportunity for chapter members to acquire training to help achieve conservation goals in our area. Currently being planned are a series of concurrent sessions on interesting topics, a variety of panel discussions and presentations, and a variety of pre and post-convention field trips. Special keynote speakers and conservation awards for staff and volunteer will add excitement to the event. The registration fee will be approximately \$125.00 per person. Room and board expenses will vary. For more information, contact the National Convention office at 303-499-8622.

A Note From Your New Editor

You may have noticed that this issue of the Burrowing Owl newsletter looks very different. I hope you like the new design. As your new "Owl" editor I have taken advantage of computer technology to update the paper. My name is Browning Coke and although I'm a novice birder, I hope to contribute my professional skills of digital illustration and design and my enthusiasm for this very informative birding publication. That is why I have volunteered to be the new editor and really look forward to this opportunity of working with the CNMAS. Beth Hurst-Waitz, the former editor and your new president, has generously provided much of the content for this issue and is guiding me through the process of collecting newsletter materials. By the way, you will continue to hear from Beth in her new column in the "Owl". Check out Beth's column on page 2.

Beth suggested I might give you some background on my birding interest and after much thought I would like to credit my grandmother with instilling in me a love for birds. I grew up in the countryside of Lexington, Kentucky where I was surrounded by a menagerie of animals. When I was only six, my grandparents presented me with a pair of Mallard ducks that were to reside in our large pond. I was infatuated with the idea that these were my very own ducks and I spent hours by the pond watching the pair during the summer months. My heart was broken when Fall came and "My Mallards" migrated with all the other ducks. My grandmother consoled me as we studied the beautiful red Cardinals and Blue Jays frequenting the feeder outside her bedroom window. In my grandparents' winter home in Naples, Florida, my grandmother pursued her love of birds with yet another group of feeders and different species for me to learn about when I visited for a month in the winter. Forty years later, I still remember the vivid colors of the Painted Buntings that came to her feeders in Naples. Now after 35 years of living an urban life in Albuquerque, I am delighted to be redesccovering the beauty of birds. My husband, Robbie Heyman, also delights in birdwatching and we have been relandscaping our property

continued page 2

Title	Page
Spring Migration	1
Message From	
New President	2
Outgoing President	3
New Editor	4
Audubon Adventures	5
Programs	6
Audubon Field Trips	7
Other Field Trips	8
Science Fair Winners	9
CNMAS Scholarships	10
Winner	11
Safe Audubon	12
Important Info	13
Wildlife Rescue	14
Rare Bird Alerts	15
Bat in Trouble?	16
Washburn Awards	17
Selected Web Sites	18
Directory (back page)	



A Note from the New Editor cont'd

with a twenty foot bird creek and are being rewarded with more species visiting our backyard. By the way, I highly recommend Avian Aquatic bird creeks which are available at bird stores in Albuquerque.

An Emailed Account of
Spring Migration

This email message appeared recently in the Arizona-New Mexico bird chat line and is repeated here for those of you who didn't see it. It was posted by John Arvin who observed Spring migration from an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Up nearly all night marvelling. The river of birds continued unabated, ranging from 30-50 birds passing my position per second, in the illuminated air space I could see that extends maybe 100 m. out from the platform from within a few feet of the water up to about 200 m. Birds higher than that I could not see but there seemed to be far fewer very far overhead. I was on a deck about 80 feet off the water. Winds remained light N (15 kts.) all night and birds seemed to be having no problem..

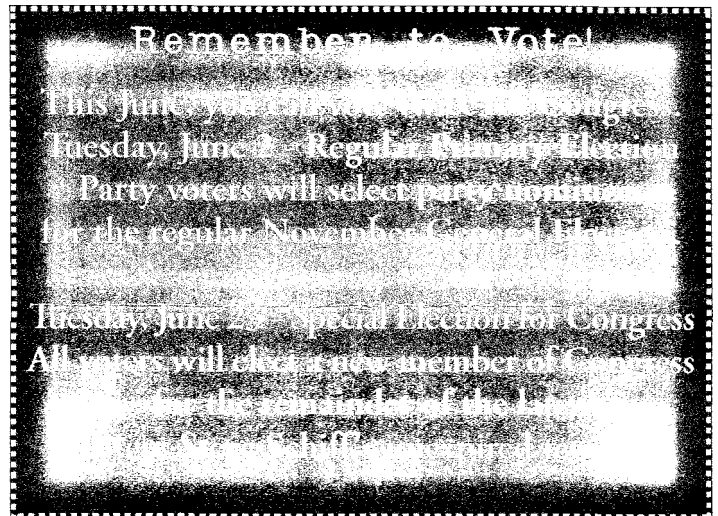
By 05:00 the rate had fallen off to about 10-15 birds/second. On my 05:00 round I found the well bay full of birds (at least 50 individuals) but due to lots of milling around it was difficult to get accurate numbers of identified birds. Relatively few birds were seen elsewhere on the platform though several Blackpoll Warblers were hopping around on the decks foraging under the lights well before it began to get daylight. In addition to the species I mentioned last night as being dominant add catbirds and Eastern Kingbird. The sheer numbers of Catharus thrushes was staggering. I could clearly identify Veeries flying by and the calls of Gray-cheekeds were constant all night. Relatively few Swainson's were heard. It is now just daylight and the flow seems to have stopped or to have gained enough altitude that I can no longer see

continued in next column

A New Vantage Point

Thank you, fellow Auduboners! What a vote of confidence and support you've all given me. I shall always be amazed and awed by the generosity of volunteers, the wide-ranging gamut of their expertise, the selflessness of their donation of time and energy, the optimism and originality of their ideas. And I'm surrounded by just such people, who make your Audubon chapter a creative and positive force in the environmental arena. I am truly grateful for the individuality and the friendship of each one of you. Let's have fun working hard, together!


—Beth Hurst-Waitz, President-Elect



Spring Migrations cont'd

them with the unaided eye though there are birds flying around the platform in random directions that had evidently put down during the night and now are being stirred up by human activity. I could see many tails of sleeping birds sticking out from the beams of the ceilings on the 05:00 round that I could not see enough of to identify. I figure I'll get them in daylight if they stick around. This has been the ornithological spectacle of my entire life. Intellectually I knew that this sort of thing had to happen, at least occasionally, but to actually stand in one place for hour after hour and watch a steady flow pass just a few feet from you is like watching a major river. And attempting to quantify the flow is about like trying to count water in a river. I'm a little rocky from no sleep but I have never been remotely struck by any other ornithological event like I have been by this one. I suspect that very few people on this planet have seen what I have seen in the last 12 hours. It is a spell-binding feeling I will carry to my grave."

—John Arvin



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June/July 1998

Words of Encouragement

Audubon Adventures

Some 1,900 years ago, Marcus Aurelius Antonius observed that: "The universe is change; our life is what our thoughts make it." And so it is with our Society: As the times and issues change around us, we are how we define ourselves.

And so I am very pleased that Beth Hurst, long our stalwart newsletter Editor but whose work has far exceeded that role, will help us define ourselves through the Presidency of our organization. Please join me in extending your thanks and congratulations to her, as well as your active assistance when possible.

I look forward to honing my skills as Conservation Chair of the Society, trying to make sense of the fact that "times do change and move continually" (Spenser). Fortunately, we have some measure of control over change. To paraphrase Frederick Moore Vinson's view of war, "Environmental degradation is not an 'act of God.' It is caused by humanity, by human-made institutions, by the way in which humanity has organized its society. What humanity has made, humanity can change."

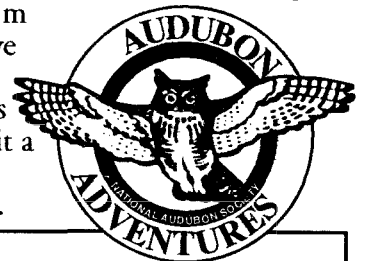
The various Audubon Societies, including ours, can help this change come about by both activism at the international, national, state and local levels and by educating youth and adults about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats at the same levels, with a serious dose of pessimism of the mind, optimism of the will" (Bakunin). Thank you for working to protect our environment for our posterity.—Jeffrey D. Myers President

Audubon Adventures— All-New for 1998-99
National Audubon Society's classroom program, Audubon Adventures, has new material for the next school year. The subjects include: Nature Goes to School; Home Sweet Home; Mississippi River and Other Rivers of the U.S.; and Colonial Nesting Water Birds. Along with individual student newspapers, classes will receive an educational video, Migration/Conservation Education Project, and a classroom resource manual. Most of the materials are shipped at one time to give the teacher the most curriculum flexibility.

You can support Audubon education in several ways. Sponsor a class, school, or teacher. For \$35 a class will have a year's worth of environmental education at their fingertips. Just fill out the order form. And you can recommend an area teacher (4th, 5th, or 6th grade) whom you think would like these resource materials. We're often looking for teachers who really want this program and like to teach about animals and nature.

If you have experience with Albuquerque area schools and/or an interest in environmental education, you could be the next Audubon Adventures coordinator. I'm leaving this job this summer, and CNMAS needs a replacement.

You would renew subscriptions for interested teachers, find new classes depending on our funding, and send the details to NAS. I'm happy to show you how I've done it, but feel free to adapt the job to your needs and interest. Want to give it a try? Give me a call: Julie Goodding, 255-9366.



National Audubon Society

Chapter Member Application

Yes, I'd like to join.
Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below
 My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.



Send this application and your check to:
National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 30002 • Albuquerque, NM 87114-1710

LOCAL CHAPTER
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Local Chapter Code— Q51 7XCH8

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)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Help support this educational outreach program! Send your check payable to CNMAS with this form to Ron Waitz, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87114.

Use the above form for new subscriptions only. Contact Membership Chairperson for changes of address or correction 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

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments are served from 7:15. Come to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Copper and Jefferson.

Thursday, June 18 - "Birding and Botanizing" with Donna Thatcher. Longtime CNMAS Board member Donna Thatcher offers a unique program with something for everyone. Donna will share with us her knowledge of native plants and their traditional uses in everyday life. She is also an accomplished birder.

Saturday, June 20

Donna Thatcher will lead a field trip to Las Huertas Canyon, where we will learn to identify the plants she talked about and the birds of the area. Get two for the price of one (and they're both free!) Join us for both events.

July No regular meeting. See you in August!



Thursday Morning Birding Group

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

Audubon Field Trips

June Trips

Friday & Saturday, June 5-6 Annual Water Canyon Bird Count. Join us for the day or camp out. Meet at 7 pm Friday night 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 more information about car pooling and accommodations call Sei at 266-2480.

Sunday, June 7 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 am 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.

Saturday, June 13 Chama. John Parmeter will lead us to find bobolinks and other birds of the area. We will meet John at 9 am at the Elkhorn Cafe on the South end of Chama. Or meet at the Physics Bldg parking lot, Lomas and Yale at 5:45 am to car pool. Don't miss this trip to see a new place to find birds. Bring lunch.

Saturday, June 20 Placitas and Las Huertas Canyon. Donna Thatcher will take birders to several sites in Placitas and Las Huertas Canyon to search for birds and native plants with traditional uses. This trip will be a follow-up of her presentation at the June 18 CNMAS general membership meeting. Meet Donna at the UNM Physics Building parking lot (northeast corner Lomas and Yale) at 8:00 a.m. for carpooling. Others may meet her east of I-25 on the Placitas turnoff road at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, binoculars, and hat.

Sunday, June 28 Zuni Mountains. Dave Cleary will show us around again this year. We should see lots of breeding birds, including Flycatchers (last year will saw the Willow Flycatcher) and Buntings. Meet at 5:45 am at the Physics Building Parking lot, Lomas and Yale. Bring lunch. We'll be back late.

July Trips

NO TRIPS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY.

The natural alternative

Backyard birding is an increasingly popular entertainment option. Share it with you friends and family, and enjoy **15% off** any bird feeder with this ad.




Wild Bird Center

The Promenade Shopping Center
5200 Eubank NE (Eubank at Spain NE)
(Just East of Marie Callendar's)
332-4737



June/July 1998

Audubon Field Trips cont'd

August Trips

Saturday, August 1 Bandelier National Monument.
Come and join us in our first time exploration of Bandelier. We'll leave at 6:30 am from the Far North Shopping Center at Academy and San Mateo, behind the Village Inn. Bring a lunch.

Other Field Trips

June 13 and June 27

Summer Birding with a Purpose

Two all-day Saturday trips to explore the breeding birds in two units of Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument: Gran Quivira on June 13 and Quarai on June 27. Lead by Hart Schwarz for the Rio Grande Nature Center. June is ideal for studying nesting birds because the picture is not confused by the presence of migrant birds, which can persist even into early June. Observing birds during the breeding period can provide information which is indispensable in managing for the conservation of our birds. Field trips are sponsored by Rio Grande Nature Center and cost \$20 each (\$18 for Friends of RGNC). Call 344-7240 to register, but feel free to call Hart at 266-1810 for more detailed trip information.

Forest Guardians

Imperiled Birds of the Southwest

Forest Guardians will host a series of presentations about vulnerable birds of the Southwest and each will be complemented with a follow-up field trip to see the bird itself and its habitat.

Forest Guardians 1413 2nd Street, Suite One, Santa Fe
For information contact Bryan Bird at 505-988-9126.

Mexican Spotted Owl

7 pm Friday, June 5

Presentation by Dr. Peter Stacey, UNM, Dept. of Biology

6 pm Saturday, June 6

Field trip. Tentative, call to confirm, 988-9126.

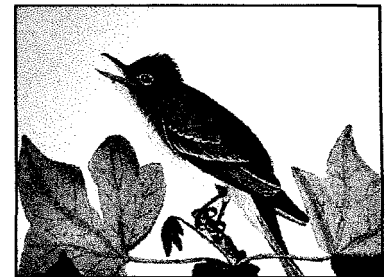
Southwest Willow Flycatcher

7pm Thursday, July

Presentation at Forest Guardians office, by David Leal, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.

7am Saturday, July 25

Field trip, meet at Forest Guardians Office



Audubon's Southwest Willow Flycatcher

Northern Goshawk



Audubon's Northern Goshawk

7pm Thursday, August 13

Presentation, speaker to be announced.

7am Saturday, August 15

Field trip, meet at Forest Guardians office.

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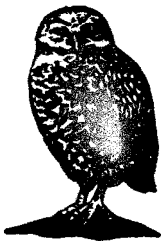
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Audubon Trip Reports

April 4-5 Percha Dam/ Caballo Lake. There were 11 of us plus a couple who were visiting from California that saw 65 species in all. Some of the birds we saw were Western and Clark's Grebes, Pelicans, Ibis, Krider's Redtail, Osprey, Verdin, Phainopepla, Lucy's and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pyrrhuloxia, and Goldfinch.

April 19 Tres Pisos. We were a little too early this year to see the Scott's Oriole, but we managed to see 18 species including Scaled Quail, Pinyon Jays, Plain Titmice and Bewick's Wren.

May 2-3 Bitter Lake/Rattlesnake Springs. Wow! What a trip this was. Sixteen of us saw 127 species including rare looks at Hudsonian Godwits and Blackpoll Warbler. There were so many birds at Washington Ranch near Rattlesnake Springs, birds like Scissor-tailed and Vermillion Flycatchers, Cassin's Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Lark, Painted and Indigo Buntings, Peregrine Falcon, Nashville Warbler, Chat, Cardinals, Summer Tanager, Orchard and Bullock's Oriole and Bell's Vireo to name just a few.



Congratulations to Our Science Fair Winners

Once again, this year's Science Fair Winners displayed dedication and imagination in their ambitious projects. CNMAS judges chose two winners each in the Junior and Senior categories. Each was awarded a \$50 savings bond, and the teachers each received a one-year subscription to National Audubon Society's magazine. Congratulations to all!

Junior Division Winners:

Erin Cook, Manzano Vista Middle School, "Pole Planting of Cottonwoods, A Comparison."
Teacher: Chris Chavez

Ry Hutchins, Roosevelt Middle School, "Bully Birds II: Risky Restaurants."
Teacher: Tom Arnold

Senior Division Winners:

Jonathan Clary, Los Lunas High, "Feeding Program to Reduce Mortality in Endangered Species Family Phasinidae."
Teacher: Rick Cole

Rose A. Galbraith, Manzano High, "Human Impact on Subterranean Pools."
Teacher: Ellen Wylie



Important Information

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. e-mail: Pinyonjay@aol.com

Bat in Trouble?

Call Talking Talons before you intervene.
281-1133 or 281-1515

Burrowing Owl Subscription

The Burrowing Owl Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
P.O. Box 30002
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190-0002

CNMAS Scholarship Winner

Presenting . . . Todd Wynward
1998 Recipient of the CNMAS Scholarship to
AUDUBON WORKSHOP IN THE ROCKIES

Congratulations to Todd, a teacher of Experiential Outdoor Education to Grades 6-12 at Albuquerque Academy. Todd is excited about attending Camp of the Rockies and sharing what he learns with hundreds of kids. He's especially eager to learn more about the Rocky Mountain ecosystem. His job consists of leading youth on multi-day wilderness trips that emphasize not only ecology, but character development and group cooperation. Todd wants to use what he learns at the Audubon Workshop to expand the ecological teaching focus of these backcountry trips -- not just for the students, but for his co-workers, as well.

Again, Todd, congratulations! We're looking forward to meeting you and learning from you, too!

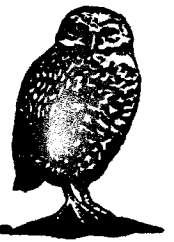
Welcome to Cafe Audubon!

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About a year ago, National Audubon, Smithsonian, and Eco Organic Coffee Co. joined together to create this unique product making an effort to protect biodiversity and delicate tropical ecosystems.

Coffee farming beneath shade trees can attract almost as many bird species as a natural forest. Unfortunately, in an effort to produce more and more coffee, farms in many areas have modernized by eliminating the traditional shade canopy and by using chemical fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. All of this transforms coffee farms, alive with birds and a host of other organisms, into a biological desert. Traditional shade tree growing methods provide natural habitat for a diversity of migratory birds. With each sip of this coffee, you will know you're helping to maintain an equitable partnership between farms, consumers, and the environment.

For more information about ordering, contact Eco Organic Coffee Company at 888-326-2633 or e-mail organic@ecocoffee.com. The web site can be found at www.ecocoffee.com.



June/July 1998

CNMAS 1998 Washburn Award Recipient:

1998 Washburn Award Recipient:
Sartor "Sandy" Otho Williams III

The recipient of this year's Washburn Award is Sandy Williams, an endangered species biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. He has been with the Department since 1987 and has statewide responsibility for non-game and endangered birds. Included in his oversight responsibilities are the Peregrine Falcon, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Mountain Plover, Common Black-Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Arizona Grasshopper Sparrow, Botteri's Sparrow, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Elegant Trogon, Least Tern, Bald Eagle, and Aplomado Falcon. Several of these species have been the subject matter of articles, pamphlets or publications authored by Sandy. In fact, he has been published over 75 times.

Sandy has also served as State Coordinator for the North American Breeding Bird Survey, as state agency representative to Partners in Flight, as regional editor for American Birds, and as secretary of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee.

As is clear from what has just been stated, Sandy is extremely active in conservation activities concerning birds in New Mexico. Moreover, he has also greatly contributed to the conservation of birds in other states and countries as well. He has served as a research associate with the School of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries at Louisiana State University; as Park Ranger and Naturalist at the Chiricahua National Monument in Arizona, Buffalo National River in Arkansas, Arches National Park in Utah, and Big Bend National Park in Texas; as research wildlife biologist with the Institute of Tropical Forestry in Puerto Rico; as special wildlife consultant to the National Audubon Society Western Environmental Program in Denver; faculty member of the National Wildlife Federation Conservation Summit in Estes Park, Colorado; and as Ranger-Naturalist at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

continued in next column

Think of Your Backyard As A Stage

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CNMAS 1998 Washburn cont'd

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is proud to have an ornithologist of Sandy Williams' caliber in a position of influence in state government in New Mexico. Sandy, as his friends and fellow birders are aware, has been highly influential in overseeing the gathering of scientific data needed to properly understand birds in danger and manners in which they may best be conserved. We look forward to working with Sandy in the future to protect our wildlife in this state and abroad.

Just A Few Web Sites

National Audubon Society/Partners in Flight WatchList (for updated information on birds at risk before they require federal listing):

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/>

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology BirdSource (a "weather map" of bird distributions, geographic densities, and migratory movements):

<http://birdsource.cornell.edu>

New Mexico Ornithological Society:

<http://biology.unm.edu/~nmos>

The Peregrine Falcon Fund

(for continuing information on the Arizona Condor population):

<http://www.peregrinefund.org>

Share with Wildlife nongame protection program of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish:

<http://gmfish.state.nm.us> (Click on "Nongame")

HawkWatch International

www.info-xpress.com/hawkwatch

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Leon Fager

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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

Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Bob Cordts, Acting District Ranger
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, NM 87059
(505) 281-3304

**New Mexico Department
of Game and Fish**
Villagra Building
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87503-0001
(505) 841-8881
<http://gmfish.state.nm.us>
(click on "Nongame")

DIRECTORY

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

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Beth Hurst-Waitz 804 Guadalupe Circle NW 87114-1710
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Ronald Waitz 804 Guadalupe Circle NW 87114 phone 898-8514

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FEDERAL JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST COORDINATOR

Susan Linnell 2941 Trelis NW 87107 phone 344-3043

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPEOPLE

Charlotte Green 808 Freeman Avenue NW 87107

Sei Tokuda 3008 Marble Avenue NE 87106 phone 266-2480

NEW MEXICO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE/PARTNERS IN FLIGHT REP

Jonalyn Yancey 10 El Prado Drive Edgewood NM 87015

work 884-6807 home 286-2949

EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

Browning Coke 609 Graceland Drive SE 87108 phone 256-9130

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