

Burrowing Owl



March, April, May 2004 Issue

Volume 33 No. 2

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

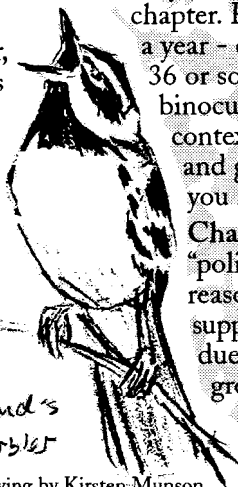
Birdathon! 2004

You'll find the Birdathon coupon on page 2 in this issue

Team 1:

Youth Birders (This Time With Driver's License) - April 24

Raymond VanBuskirk, Andrew Rominger, and Ryan Beaulieu are at it again, but this year adding a new member to their team! Nick Pederson will be joining the team to make a four-man crowd of pure birding! This year the team will be using one of the classic Big Day routes and putting a little twist on it! They will start by owling Clanton Canyon and making their way up, through the Gila, ending in Water Canyon. This Birdathon will go strictly by the rules of an ABA Big Day. Rules can be accessed from the ABA website (www.americanbirding.org). Please support these enthusiastic young birders as they try for a day of no sleep!



To-Uvasead's Warbler
Drawing by Kirsten Munson

Team 2:

Thursday Birders Birdathon - May 5 & 6

The birding fun begins at noon on May 5th. Meet at the Plaza Inn, 1-25 and Lomas, southwest corner of parking lot, for a 24 hour birding adventure. We will carpool to Bosque del Apache NWR, stay overnight in Socorro, bird Water Canyon May 6th. Call Karen Boettcher, leader, to sign up for the team, 281-6726. Each team member is asked to make a contribution to the CNMAS (\$5 min.).

President's Report

by Beth Hurst-Waitz

Birdathon! 2004! Support it! Support us! Bring yourself and your contribution for a day's birding with your favorite *Birdathon!* team(s), send a *Birdathon!* pledge/contribution if you can't take to the field, and get your friends who know you're a "bird nerd" to support you in supporting the local Audubon chapter. Remember, we have some 24 or so FREE weekend field trips a year - open to one and all! The Thursday Birders sponsor another 36 or so FREE field trips a year - open to one and all! So focus your binoculars (and your thinking and your pocketbook) on the "global" context of all the free birding opportunities you have with CNMAS, and give as generously as you can for *Birdathon! 2004!* It'll make you feel good!

Chapter Dues Share 2003-2004: If you've been following the "politics" of National Audubon Society, you'll know that another reason why it's important for your chapter to receive this extra support is because of the small percentage of your National Audubon dues that we as a chapter receive back from National. We have great support from our state field office, Randall Davey Audubon Center, and we are working with National (not against them) to get them to reevaluate their policy. But right now, we get back only about \$1.98/member renewal from National. We have received this year's dues share check from National, and we do encourage your continued membership in National Audubon Society, which automatically makes you a member of our chapter.

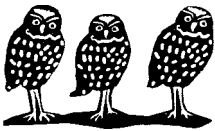
Chapter Dues Share 2004-2005: Further good news is that the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, at its meeting on January 25, 2004, approved extending the present payment schedule for one additional year, until June 30, 2005. Good news, yes - but still a sharply declined dues share from the previous \$5.40/per member which chapters enjoyed five years ago. (And without this extension, our dues share would have dropped to 92 cents per member.) This approval came with the implementation of the change that next year's funds will be distributed to state offices. That means that in 2005, Randall Davey Audubon Center (RDAC) will send us our money! This procedure for distributing funds is intended to improve the alignment and integration of Chapter activities and state office activities. We're indeed fortunate that we already enjoy a warm and mutually collegial

Birdathon! coupon on page 2

President's report on page 6

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CNMAS Field Trip Reports
compiled by Sei Tokuda

Team 3:

Celestyn's Sandia Singers (the Birds, not the Birders!) - June 5

Join Celestyn Brozek on a beautiful singing day in Sandias! We will bird from the foothills up to the crest and hope to find about 70 bird species. On June 5th, Saturday we will start at 6:30AM at the Three Gun Spring trailhead. If it's too early, you can join us at 9:30AM at Doc Long picnic ground (we may be a little later if birds hold us at other places; please, wait). We will drive up to the crest stopping at picnic grounds along the way. We may even do some owling in the evening! This is a fund-raising event for our local Audubon chapter and Celestyn asks that you make a donation to the chapter. Even better, encourage your friends and relatives to contribute certain amount per each bird species seen by you! We will work hard to find those little skulkers! Please, let Celestyn know that you are coming by calling 925-8611 or e-mailing cbrozek@unm.edu

HawkWatch Observations
<http://www.hawkwatch.org/>



Observation at the Sandia hawkwatch is underway and will run through May 5. If you would like to help with the set-up for banding on March 6, please call Bobbie Posey at 255-7622. (Please call Bobbie if you would like to donate any articles for the garage sale.)

The Annual HawkWatch Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, March 27 at 3707 Camino Don Diego NE.

NOTICE: The next issue of the Burrowing Owl will be incorporated into the statewide Audubon-New Mexico Newsletter. The next regular issue of the Burrowing Owl will be published in September 2004.

The *Burrowing Owl* newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, December, by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.

Sunday, November 9, 2003: Las Vegas NWR
Sixteen birders were on this trip. Mountain Bluebirds, Ferruginous Hawk, Magpie, Horned Larks plus crows and ravens were sighted between the I-25 off-ramp in Las Vegas and the refuge headquarters. The notable species seen in the ponds were Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, Eared Grebe, and Bonaparte's Gull. The raptors sighted were Prairie Falcon, mature and immature Bald Eagles and a Krider's among the Red-tail Hawks. The total number of species seen was just over 40 species.

Saturday, December 6, 2003: Bosque del Apache NWR
Eleven people joined Art Arenholz on a slightly breezy sunny day. Raymond VanBuskirk was the official bird spotter for the day and over 50 species of birds were sighted. The notable birds were Eastern Bluebirds, Swamp Sparrow, 6 Bald Eagles, 10 Roadrunners, thousands of Light Geese, Sandhill Cranes and Ducks. Also seen were 7 mule deer and 2 coyotes.

Saturday, January 3, 2004: Bosque del Apache NWR
Eight birders made this trip to Bosque del Apache. Trip Leader Art Arenholz reported that there were several Greater Roadrunners, 12 Bald Eagles, and 5 species of shorebirds, Eastern Bluebirds and a very large number of light geese.

Saturday, February 7, 2004: Sandia Crest and Rosy-Finches
(submitted by Laurel Ladwig)

Sixteen birders joined Art Arenholz, Ryan Beaulieu and Raymond VanBuskirk on this trip. The drive to the Crest House was full of excitement and surprises. The Doc Long parking lot was the site of the beginning of a day-long sporadic snowball fight, but snowballs were forgotten when we reached the lower parking lot of the ski area. Ryan's call for a Northern Pygmy Owl was answered! Up the road, everyone pulled to the shoulder for great views of Red Crossbills (1 male, 3 female). At the Crest House, the Rosy-Finches held their appearance until after Ryan and Raymond reported on their Rosy-Finch Project; and Beth Hurst-Waitz, Ryan, Raymond and Ken Schneider presented

Continued on page 3

To make a pledge or to make your tax-deductible donation, return this form by May 15, 2004.



- I will sponsor Team # ___ for ___ per species (75 species at 10¢ each is a \$7.50 donation).
- I would like to make a flat contribution of \$ ___ for Team # ___
- I am part of a birding group, Team# ___. I will sponsor myself for a minimum of \$5.
- I will collect pledges and send them all in together. The pledges total \$ ___ for Team # ___.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please make all checks payable to CNMAS.
 Send your payment to:
 CNMAS Birdathon
 PO BOX 30002
 Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Please refer to the newsletter article for team descriptions



March - April - May 2004

CNMAS Field Trip Schedule

Saturday, March 13: Las Vegas NWR

This is a day trip to seek out early migrants at the Las Vegas NWR. Bring lunch, snacks and water and dress appropriately for the late winter weather conditions. Meet at 7:30AM at the Far North Shopping Center behind the Village Inn (NE corner of Academy and San Mateo NE). Call Art Arenholz at 298-1724 for details.

Saturday, March 20: Bosque del Apache

Meet at the refuge visitor center at 8:30AM. A large variety of waterfowl, sparrows, and early migrants should keep the participants happy. Stay for the whole day or part of it. Take food and proper clothing for the day. Please, contact Celestyn Brozek at 925-8611 or e-mail: cbrozek@unm.edu for more information and to let him know whether you need a ride or can take other people with you.

Saturday-Sunday, April 3-4: NMOS annual meeting

Go to New Mexico Ornithological Society website for details: www.nmosbirds.org

Saturday, April 24: Youth Birders Birdathon

Please see accompanying *Birdathon! 2004* article.

Saturday-Sunday, April 17-18: Eastern NM/Lesser Prairie Chickens

Please join Christopher Rustay in a weekend of birding that is designed to search for the threatened Lesser Prairie Chickens. The exact location of the site(s) to be covered has not been determined at press time. Birding will start in the Ft. Sumner area and work towards the Milnesand area for an overnight stay. The group will reconvene very early Sunday morning and drive to the lek site(s). Meet on Saturday at 7:30AM at the Four Hills Shopping Center parking lot (SW corner of Tramway Blvd and Central Avenue SE) and across the street from the Travelodge Motel. Please call Christopher



All Central New Mexico Audubon Society meetings and field trips are open to the public.

Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form

I/we would like to register for the following classes (check boxes):

- Hawks, Falcons, Eagles (Mar. 18)\$6
- Owls of New Mexico (Apr. 15)\$6

Name/s: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:
 Birding Academy
 PO BOX 30002
 Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Total: _____

CNMAS 2/04

Sixth Annual Audubon Birding Academy (The next two classes)

The more you know, the more you want to know. And the more you know about birds, their identification, their vocalizations, their behavior, and their habitat, the more you'll enjoy your birding trips with CNMAS and beyond. Join us as experts present these classes designed to encourage the beginner and challenge the experienced.

All classes are held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15PM. Pay in advance (see coupon) or pay at the door. Nonmembers: Pay \$20.00 to join National Audubon Society, and the classes are free!

Thanks to Joan Day-Martin for presenting "Those Amazing Hummingbirds" on Feb. 19!



Thursday, March 18
 • **Hawks, Falcons and Eagles - Mastering Identification** •
 with Art Arenholz



Identifying hawks is a difficult skill to acquire. Often, we see a hawk from a distance, sometimes in poor light, and sometimes only briefly. As with other birds, plumage marks are important, but with hawks we need to use several other clues. In this presentation, augmented with color slides, hawk enthusiast Art Arenholz will point out the plumage marks as well as the silhouette of the bird, what it is doing, where it is, what time of the year it is here, how large it is and combine these clues into an identification. We will learn how to identify 15 of the most common hawks, falcons, and eagles in our area. You'll enjoy the challenge of mastering identification of these masters of the air!



Thursday, April 15
 • **Owls of New Mexico** •
 with John DeLong

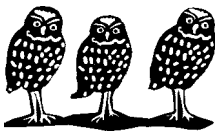


Ever wake up in the middle of the night, lying in your tent out in the woods, and wonder what all those barks, screeches, hoots, and moans are? Well, you're not the only one. In this presentation, raptor biologist John DeLong will discuss the strange art of owl identification, preferably without getting out of your sleeping bag. New Mexico has many owl species, and we'll cover important visual, and especially vocal, clues to identifying them. In addition, John will talk about owl migration and present findings from HawkWatch International's ongoing Flammulated Owl Migration Project.

Thursday Morning Birding Group

Weekly birding outings every Thursday. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary. Call Margaret Wallen at 341-0928 for details of outings.

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.



Summer Birds Of New Mexico

a bird class organized by the UNM-Valencia Community Education Services

Celestyn Brozek, a well known birder and tour guide will lead field trips into two different habitats and discuss the identification, songs, and biology of the observed birds. The birds are very active, vocal and in their best plumage in the spring. It is a most exciting time of the year for birdwatching. About 100 different species can be found at both locations.

On 22nd May, Saturday, we will explore Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Visitor Center at 7:30 AM. The tour will last all day. Stay for as long as you wish. There are few human visitors at the refuge in May. It is a quiet and beautiful place, yet it is teeming with waterfowl, herons, shorebirds, and songbirds. It is still a migration time and many surprises are possible!

On 12th June, we will visit Sandia Mts. (entrance fee \$4 per car). Meet at 7:30 AM at the Doc Long Picnic Ground along the crest road. We will drive up to the crest stopping at picnic grounds along the way. The tour will last till about 2 PM. This is a prime time to find numerous breeding forest birds which are dramatically different from the bosque species. They include colorful warblers, tanagers, jays, and woodpeckers.

There is a separate fee for each field trip and you can sign up for both or either one. Bring binoculars (most important!), food and drink, comfortable shoes for moderate walking, and proper clothing for the whole day. You may also carry an insect repellent, just in case. For more information, call the leader, Celestyn Brozek, at 925-8611 or e-mail him at cbrozek@unm.edu

Sandia Owling Tours

RYAN BEAULIEU
&
RAYMOND VANBUSKIRK

DAYS: SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

TIMES: MORNINGS & EVENINGS

(TIME OF DAY DEPENDS ON THE SPECIES BEING SOUGHT AFTER)

POSSIBLE SPECIES:

1. GREAT HORNED OWL
2. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL
3. NORTHERN PYGMY-OWL
4. FLAMMULATED OWL
5. WESTERN SCREECH-OWL
6. COMMON POORWILL
7. WHIP-POOR-WILL
8. BARN OWL

CONTACT RAYMOND: (505) 298-7945

RYAN: (505) 249-4905

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!!

Herbfest at RGNC a spring celebration

Saturday & Sunday, May 1 and 2

The Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center offer speakers, guided walks, plants for sale, kids' crafts, and garden tours. Admission is free!

2901 Candelaria NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505)344-7240 or (505)265-1164
<http://frgnc.org/>

Trips continued from page 2

at 255-7786 or Sei at 266-2480 for details.

Sunday, May 2: Water Canyon

This trip will be led by Andrew Rominger and will be part of a scouting trip for the annual Water Canyon/Magdalena Mountain Summer Bird Count. He will search for migrants and returning nesting species such as the Red-faced and Grace's Warblers, Hepatic Tanager and Lark Sparrow at the canyon bottom and Olive Warbler and Clark's Nutcracker at the higher elevations. Call Andrew at 243-7355 for details.

Wednesday-Thursday, May 5-6: Thursday Birders Birdathon

Please see accompanying *Birdathon! 2004* article.

Saturday, May 8: Moriarty, NM and Pecos Monastery Lake

This will be a day trip to search for raptors along the way and to seek out Willow Flycatchers and American Dippers at Pecos Monastery. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Meet at 7AM at the Four Hills Shopping Center parking lot across from the Travelodge Motel on the SW corner of Tramway Blvd. and Central SE. Call Lou Prime at 821-3145 for details.

Sunday, May 23: Fort Sumner area

Meet at 7AM at the Bosque Redondo Park in Fort Sumner. We will go from there to Melrose trap and to Sumner Lake. This is a great time for eastern migrants and resident Blue Jays, Redheaded Woodpeckers, and Brown Thrashers. There could be a few surprises. You may choose to stay overnight in Fort Sumner either before or after the trip on your own. Take food and proper clothing for the day. Please, contact Celestyn Brozek at 925-8611 or e-mail: cbrozek@unm.edu for more information.

Saturday, June 6: Celestyn's Sandia Seekers Birdathon

Please see accompanying *Birdathon! 2004* article.

Friday-Saturday, June 5-6: Water Canyon/Magdalena Mountain Summer Bird Count

This is the annual bird count led by Andrew Rominger. For those interested in owling, please be at the campground at 6:30PM. Owlers would need to be prepared to camp in Water Canyon or get a motel room in Socorro. The meeting time will be at 6:15AM for those interested in the diurnal count on Saturday. Bring water, snacks/food, sunscreen, hat, etc. Call Andrew at 243-7355 for details.



March - April - May 2004

National Wildlife Refuge Bulletin Board

Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR Educational Events

Saturday, March 27, 6:30pm - Visitor Center
Planets on Parade (limit 30 participants, reservations required)

Come to the refuge for an evening of planet watching and hands-on activities designed especially for children in grades 3-8. Make a scale model of the inner solar system and learn why the Moon has phases. View four planets through sighting tubes, binoculars, and telescopes. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, April 17, 9:30am-afternoon - Pavilion adjacent to Visitor Center

ArboretumFest (reservations required)

Bring the family to this annual celebration of the brilliant red claret cup cacti and hummingbirds that feed on them in the Laura Jean Deal Desert Arboretum. The day will include presentations, tours, plant workshops, art projects for kids and cactus refreshments for all. Bring a lunch, water, and sun protection.

Saturday, April 17, 7:30pm - Visitor Center

Beyond the Milky Way (limit 30, reservations required)

In spring the Milky Way appears along Earth's horizon. The Bosque's dark sky above provides an expansive porthole to the universe beyond our home galaxy. Visitors of all ages will learn to use a star chart to find the circumpolar constellations and look through the porthole with binoculars and telescopes to view other galaxies!

Saturday, May 8, 8am-12pm - Visitor Center

Migratory Bird Day: Sounds of the Bosque (reservations required)

May is the height of the spring migration for neotropical migrants. Join refuge staff Daniel Perry for a 4-hour intensive tour looking and listening for these migrants. Bring binoculars, water and a snack. Older children accompanied by adults are welcome.

Saturday, May 8, 1-4pm - Boardwalk Trailhead

A Naturalist's Walk Along the Boardwalk Trail (reservations required)

Join naturalist Nancy Daniel for this easy one mile walk through three different habitats. In each we will see what thrives and why, how important these different plant communities are for wildlife and how they sustained our Native Americans and early settlers.

Saturday, May 29, 9am-12pm - Canyon Trailhead

Tracking the Canyon Trail (reservations required)

This plant walk will be lead by native plant expert Nancy Daniel and will include a lot of natural and cultural history thrown in for good measure. The trail is an easy to moderate 2? miles with some sandy areas and changes in elevation which provides for an interesting and wide variety of vegetation.

Saturday, June 19, 7-10am - Visitor Center

Hummingbird Banding Workshop

Join Master Hummingbird Bander Joan Day-Martin for a close up view of hummingbirds as she processes them. Learn about these creatures, listen to their tiny heart beats, and perhaps experience releasing one of them. Following the banding session, Joan will present a slide program entitled "Banding New Mexico Hummingbirds" and give a few identification pointers to assist you in your own identification skills with this tiniest of avian species.

All events are free and open to the public.

We recommend that you confirm the time and date in advance.

For reservations, information, confirmation or updates please call: 505-838-2120, 505-835-1828

Rita Barker, Friends of the Bosque del Apache Office

Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor Center

Also please visit our website: <http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/>



Congratulations, John Taylor

The National Wildlife Refuge Association has just announced its honorees for 2004, and we at CNMAS are pleased to add our congratulations and gratitude to John Taylor, who has been chosen 2004 Refuge Employee of the Year. John is wildlife biologist for the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, NM. He has researched, pioneered and implemented innovative techniques for conserving river water during severe drought while converting salt cedar monocultures back to native vegetation. He works extensively and effectively with other refuges, with conservation organizations, land management agencies and universities throughout the southwest and in Mexico.

To learn more about the National Wildlife Refuge System Awards and the incredible work being performed throughout the country, please visit their website (www.refugenet.org) and click the "Events" link.

Established in 1975, the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to protect, enhance and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands and waters set aside by the American people to conserve our diverse wildlife heritage.

New Las Vegas NWR Friends Group

Kristin Kuyuk, Recreation Outdoor Planner at Las Vegas NWR, and Refuge Volunteer Lou Myers invite you to become part of the nationwide network of volunteers who work to "protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands set aside by the American people to protect our country's diverse wildlife heritage," by getting involved with or supporting the newly formed Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge. Call the Refuge office at 505-425-3581 ext. 20, contact loumyers@starband.net or Kristin_Kuyuk@fws.gov, or visit this beautiful Refuge and be "friendly"!



Learning Look - Alikes • Western & Cassin's Kingbirds

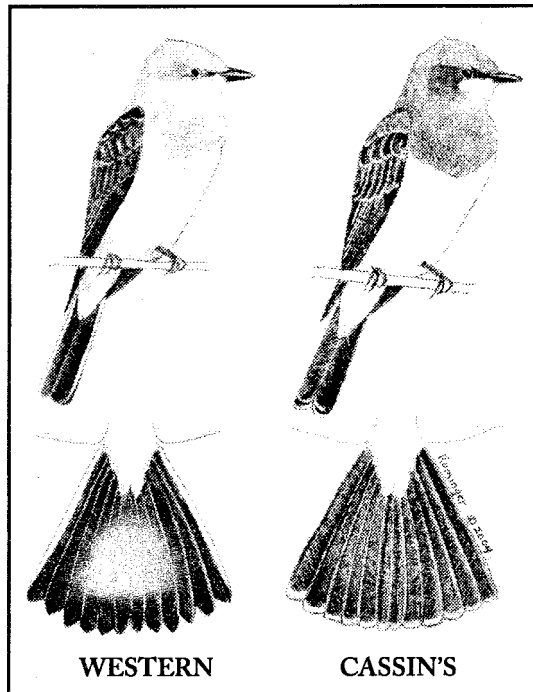
by Art Arenholz - with drawing by Andrew Rominger

If you have ever seen a Kingbird riding the back of a Red-tailed Hawk, pecking furiously at the hawk's head, you will not be surprised to learn these flycatchers are called Tyrant flycatchers for their aggressive behavior. When I see a smaller bird chasing a hawk during spring or early summer, I think "Kingbird", and often that is the case. If a Raven or Red-tail comes too close to a Kingbird's nest, a chase is almost a sure bet.

Both the Western and the Cassin's Kingbird are Robin-sized birds, with a gray head and chest, dark wings and tail, and a lemon-yellow belly. Males and females look alike, and they are only here during the warm months. They feed mostly on insects, usually caught by flying out from a prominent perch to snatch the bug out of mid-air. They do look a lot alike, but we have enough plumage differences and vocal differences that we can tell them apart with a little effort.

The Western Kingbird is the most widespread Kingbird in our area. It prefers open country with some trees or poles for nest sites. In the city, a favorite location for building a nest is the cross-arm of a pole. If one nests near your house, you have a new alarm clock, for this bird sings persistently just before dawn. The song and calls are not musical; descriptions vary from "sputtering notes" to "squeaky chatter". To me, it sounds like a broken audio tape being rewound. Distinctive plumage marks include a dark tail with distinct white outside edges, and a light gray head and chest with no marked change in color between the head and chest.

The Cassin's Kingbird prefers higher altitude and denser woodlands than the Western does, but their habitats overlap a bit. The Cassin's call is described as "ki-deer" or "ka-dear", but I think of it as saying, (like a concerned mother calling emphatically to an errant child): "Come here!" The noises they make are not very musical but are quite different from the Western's. Useful plumage differences exist, too. Cassin's tail is also



WESTERN

CASSIN'S

dark, but it does not have white tail edges (it does have a light colored terminal band). Also, the head and chest of the Cassin's is quite dark, which makes the white chin stand out much more than the Western's. Overall, Cassin's is a darker gray than a Western.

So if you are in the right habitat, e.g. along a road, near a field, with fences and wires or scattered trees nearby, look for a gray bird with a yellow belly. Watch for the characteristic fly-catching behavior: leaving a perch, catching an insect in mid-air and returning to the perch. Once you've decided Kingbird, look at the tail and the chin areas and decide: Western or Cassin's? The tail is often most visible during flight. But don't quit too soon; wait a bit and listen for one of the distinctive calls. These are noisy birds, and they are not silent for very long. If you hear: "Come here! Come here! Come here!", you can confirm a Cassin's. If you here a sputtering rewind of a broken audio tape, it is a Western Kingbird.

Both of these birds are very aggressive, and both migrate to Mexico or Central America toward the end of summer. And you know spring is here when you see your first Kingbird of the season.

The Beauty of a Flock

Just as a flock undulates as its leaders drop back from point positions and new leaders move up front, so our beloved Thursday Birders group is experiencing such a transition. Mary Lou Arthur will be taking a different position in the "V," dropping out as scheduler and co-organizer, with Rebecca Gracey succeeding Mary Lou. Likewise, the loudest "honker" in the flock, Les Hawkins, who, as the announcer, kept the e-mail list and sent out Thursday Birders trip lists (as well as various announcements for CNMAS), will be passing along his "bullhorn" to Melissa Howard, who has agreed to be the TBBB'er (Thursday Birders Bulletin Board). Les and Mary Lou - you've given us one heck of a ride! You've been two of the best photographers we could have for the "Migration of Birds" movie of CNMAS!

Rebecca and Melissa, thanks for flying to the front for this part of the journey, and thank you also for being graceful members of the flock all along. We know you'll lead us on to fun adventures, great birding, recognition and respect for Audubon, and best of all, lasting friendships.

Percha Dam Birding Event

April 23-24, at Percha Dam State Park

Guest speakers, birding walks, and other activities beginning Friday evening and continuing into Saturday evening. Cost is included with Park day use or camping fees. Please check the State Parks website at www.nmparks.com after March 15 for further information.

"Dear Central NM Audubon Thursday Birders . . .

Thanks so much for your efforts to decorate and feed the birds at the Sandia Ranger Station. The juncos, jays, finches, bluebirds, towhees, nuthatches, and chickadees gave us a great show. You have a wonderful group, and we look forward to the 3rd year of this beautiful tradition.

Sincerely, Beverly deGruyter and Sandia Ranger District employees (and winter resident birds)."



March - April - May 2004

Reports continued from page 2

Gene Romero, General Manager of the Crest House Gift Shop and Restaurant, with a plaque of appreciation. A flock of about 50 Rosy-Finches made many flybys, alighting in a pine for split-second and then swooping out of view.

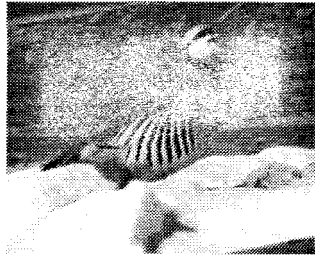


Photo by Laurel Ladwig

The Rosy-Finches (Black and one Gray-crowned) finally decided to ignore the 30-something gawking onlookers on the other side of the glass and sat at the feeder long enough for a few others to get a quick glance of the one Gray-crowned (Hepburn's) which Raymond had spotted during their previous flybys. A small group hiking along the crest was approached by a Chukar walking straight for the group and then along the crest before disappearing from view while Common Ravens performed aerobatics in a thermal. Ryan and Raymond's sharp young eyes caught many other birds in flight on the road.

Back at the lower parking lot of the ski area, the Northern Pygmy Owl did not answer, but Ryan's call excited both a Mountain Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch who twirled around in circles atop their respective pine trees.

Sandia Crest, NM February 7, 2004

On this beautiful morning, over 30 members of CNMAS and visitors assembled at the Crest House to view Rosy-Finches; listen to Ryan Beaulieu and Raymond VanBuskirk gave a presentation on their banding project; and participate in Elizabeth Hurst-Waitz's (President of CNMAS) presentation of an appreciation plaque to Gene Romero, General Manager of Sandia Crest House & Restaurant. The honor recognizes the growing reputation of Sandia Crest as the most accessible location in the world for birding enthusiasts to simultaneously see all three North American species of Rosy-Finch.



Photo by Ken Schneider

From left: Raymond VanBuskirk, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Gene Romero, Ryan Beaulieu, Ken Schneider

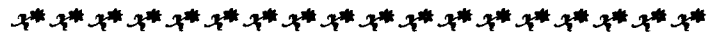
CNMAS Hosts a Web Calendar of Events

Audubon supports and networks with many other organizations giving you wide access to ways in which to enjoy nature through field trips, presentations, programs and other events. CNMAS has an ongoing project to list events that may be of interest to our members, in addition to CNMAS sponsored events.

So far, events for these groups are listed:

- Friends of the Bosque del Apache
- Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center
- Hummingbirds of New Mexico
- Petroglyph National Monument
- Sky Islands Alliance

Please visit the CNMAS Field Trip website (<http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html>) and click on the link to "View a web calendar of events" or go directly to: http://ical.mac.com/turtlebear/CNMAS_field_trips
In all cases, please use contact info provided for updates to events.



Attention 4-6th Grade Teachers

The National Wildlife Refuge System offers a FREE electronic field trip, eFieldTrip, that YOU can participate in. In this eFieldTrip, your students will learn about invasive species and why they are a menace, through its four interactive components. This program is a free educational outreach opportunity. There is no cost for schools or students to participate. Registration will open in March. For more information about this efieldtrip adventure, contact Deborah McCrensky at deborah_mccrensky@fws.gov. To learn more about efieldtrips visit the website www.efieldtrips.org.

You Can Help New Mexico's Wildlife

You can help endangered species research and recovery, raptor migration counts, wildlife rehabilitation, and other wildlife projects.

Your donation goes directly to wildlife projects across New Mexico. No contributions are used for administrative costs.

Please complete this form below and mail to:

Share with Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
P. O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

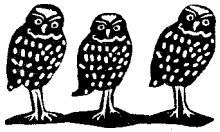
Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to *Share with Wildlife*.



Audubon Adventures . . .

is an educational resource kit about wildlife for students in grades 3-6. Produced by National Audubon it reaches over 8,000 classrooms nationwide. Containing student newspapers, a classroom resource manual for teachers, Audubon's Guide to a Healthy Schoolyard, and a Healthy Habitat poster, teachers utilize the kits in a number of ways to foster understanding of healthy ecosystems in their students.

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is one of the many chapters who participates in this program and sends out kits to interested teachers in central NM schools. Funding for the kits comes mainly from members like you. We sincerely thank all of you who have contributed to this school years funding. The following schools and teachers have received the kits in 2003-04 school year:

Stapleton Elementary School, RR	Hodgin Elementary, Abq
1. Laurie Adams	8. Marsha Demento
2. Dennis Brown	Dowa Yalanne Elementary, Zuni
3. Kelly Walls	9. Thomas Roskamp
Arroyo del Oso Elementary, Abq	Estancia Elementary, Estancia
4. Joyce Simpson	10. Tracy Webb
5. Judy Vinyard	Navajo Elementary, Abq
Apache Elementary, Abq	11. Mindy Moyers
6. Lette Galvez	Mitchell Elementary, Abq
7. Travis Zalinskaskas	12. Susan Sedillo

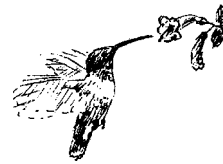
We are rapidly approaching the end of the school year and will continue our Audubon Adventures efforts in the 2004-05 school year. And we want to hear from you! If you know of a teacher (3-6 grade) whose students would benefit from Audubon Adventures, please contact Helen Haskell (see back page for contact information). In addition, if you would like to support this program, we would greatly appreciate your contributions. Each kit costs \$41.50 (as of this going to print). Any donations from this date will be put towards the 2004-05 school year. Many thanks.

Hummingbirds of New Mexico Festival

Lake Roberts, SW New Mexico

Banding both mornings 7:00a.m. - 10:00a.m.

Educational slide presentations, programs, and guided bird walks



HBNM@gilanet.com
Hummingbirds of New Mexico
HC68 Box 169
Silver City, NM 88061-9311

Presidents continued from page 1

relationship with RDAC, our state director David Henderson, and the talented and dedicated staff at RDAC in Santa Fe.

What We Do: AND we're in good shape because we have wonderful members who give lots of individual time to keeping our chapter so active and viable. We have no paid staff at CNMAS. Volunteers lead field trips, organize meetings, maintain our mailing list database, publish our newsletter, promote community publicity, judge at the Regional Science Fair, make Audubon Adventures available to teachers and their students. Volunteers promote our environmental education message by arranging the youth scholarship award and the teacher ecology camp award. Audubon volunteers network with our community by leading field trips for Petroglyph National Monument, Bosque del Apache NWR, Rio Grande Nature Center, the Forest Service. We reciprocally support other conservation groups such as HawkWatch International (thank you, Bobbie Posey!) and Rio Grande Bird Research. Your Birdathon pledge helps us do all this!

Otero Mesa: Audubon was also well-represented at the Otero Mesa Rally at the Kimo Theater on Saturday, January 31st. Otero Mesa has been chosen by the New Mexico Audubon Council, whose members come from all the New Mexico chapters, plus RDAC, as the most important conservation issue in the state. The event was a "freeout" - not a "sellout," because it was totally free. The place was full, the speakers were inspiring, the event was incredibly well-organized, the people were energetic, enthusiastic, and dedicated. Thank you to all Auduboners who attended, and a special thanks to Nancy Murray, who worked backstage for nearly six hours with New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, who organized the event.

Again, Governor Richardson demonstrated his commitment to protecting this area by publicly attending the forum and signing, on stage, an Executive Order which makes it State policy to protect and conserve the resources of Otero Mesa and prevent oil and gas development there. To read a copy of the Governor's Executive Order, visit the Otero Mesa Website (www.oteromesa.org) and click on the link.

Special People For the Birds: For those of you who don't know, *Ruth Burstrom* has accepted the vice-presidency of the New Mexico Audubon Council. Ruth, with her dedication, insights and intelligence, her passion, and her persuasiveness, will be an outstanding vice-president and supporter of the Council and Audubon conservation initiatives not only statewide, but

Audubon Adventures 2004-2005



Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____
(Each \$41.50 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 (optional)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Help support this educational outreach program! Send your check payable to CNMAS with this form to: Audubon Adventures, c/o CNMAS, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002



March - April - May 2004

nationally.

Andrew Rominger, our 17-year-old John Muir, has indicated his interest and willingness to be a member of the New Mexico Audubon State Council. Again, there is no way to say with what rejoicing Andrew's commitment has been accepted!

As you'll see in this newsletter, *Sei Tokuda* has hardly retired. He and we thank all the trip leaders who have rallied round to help, but be reminded that we still need a Field Trip CHAIRPERSON to share the duties, with *Art Arenholz*, of that all-important central organizer CHAIRperson.

Birding Academy: Feathers flew and people hummed at Joan Day-Martin's presentation about hummingbirds at the first offering in this year's Birding Academy suite. 160+ people attended and 44 people became new members of our chapter - Welcome to you all! The bright images of tiny hummingbird feathers were the fireworks of the show! If you weren't there - don't miss the next one! Be there on Thursday, March 18, when Art Arenholz demystifies Eagles and Hawks, those Hunters of the Sky, with his humor and intensity. Special thanks to Jane Mahoney for the fantastic feature in the Albuquerque Journal; to Sylvia Chattin Fee for her publicity networking; and, of course, to Joan Day-Martin. See you in March!!!

???

Where are the

???

Christmas Bird Count Compilations?

With spring migration upon us, it may be hard to look over your shoulder at CBC, but the counting is done!

Check National Audubon's CBC website for results of your area count: <http://audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>

(Note: as we go to press, the results have not been posted, but please keep checking that link for changes.)

Bird Banding at the Rio Grande Nature State Park...


continues through March, headed up by Steve and Nancy Cox through Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc. This is the 25th year of gathering data on sex ratio, age, and overall population trends of avian migrants and winter residents by this organization, founded in 1979 by Chuck Hundertmark. Volunteers work at Nature Center sites and welcome your help. Collected data is sent to the U.S. Geological Survey's banding laboratory and also to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Go to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, at the western terminus of Candelaria.

March 7, 13, 21: Gates open at 6:00a.m. & close at 6:15a.m.


March 27: Gates open at 5:45a.m. & close at 6:00a.m.

Bird Banding of Rosy-Finches at Sandia Crest...

by Ryan Beaulieu and Raymond VanBuskirk, under the aegis of Steve and Nancy's licensure and their supervision, wraps up in March, with activities on Sunday, Marcy 14 and 28. Drive up to the Crest House as early as 9:30 to see the birds and observe the researchers at work.



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- Subscription to CNMAS Burrowing Owl

Yes, I want to join Audubon at the low introductory rate of \$20 for one year (a \$15 savings!)

Even better, sign me up for two years @ \$30

Senior citizen or student rate - only \$15/year

I want to download my Burrowing Owl newsletter from the website (fill in email address to get notice)

• Includes subscription to Audubon Magazine •


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\$10 of dues is for AUDUBON magazine.
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Use this form for New Membership Subscriptions only

Burrowing Owl Subscription Tidbits

- For changes of address or correction to your Burrowing Owl subscription, contact the Membership Chairperson (see Directory on the back page of this newsletter).
- If you are in the CNMAS Chapter area, you can receive the Burrowing Owl by sending your name and address with \$12 to CNMAS, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002 - this does NOT include National Audubon membership or Audubon Magazine!
- You can also subscribe to our newsletter without being a member of our Chapter. If you live outside the CNMAS region, send \$12 to the above address.
- If you wish to receive notice of our downloadable PDF newsletter (instead of a hard copy) give us your email address in addition to your name and address.
- Members can call (800) 274-4201 to sign up for National Audubon's Paper-Free Renewal Program. Those who sign up will have their membership automatically renewed each year and will receive only one bill approximately 2 months in advance of your membership expiration date.

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Summer 2004 issue of the State Audubon Newsletter, Burrowing Owl section, must be received by May 1. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

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NAS Chapter Code Q51

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Central New Mexico Audubon is a
Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats. To encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

WHOM TO CONTACT

National Audubon Society
Membership Hotline
(800)274-4201, chadd@audubon.org
Activist Hotline
(800)659-2622
Audubon Take Action
www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/

New Mexico Office
David Henderson,
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)983-4609, dhenderson@audubon.org

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202)456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

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Secretary of the Interior
18th & C Streets, NW, Rm. 6151
Washington, DC 20240
(202)208-7351

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Hon. Tom Udall
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6190 (505)984-8950
tom.udall@mail.house.gov

Hon. Heather Wilson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6316 (505)346-6781
ask.heather@mail.house.gov

Bosque del Apache NWR
(505)838-2120
Friends of the Bosque del Apache
(505)835-1828
www.friendsofthebosque.org

US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
External Affairs Office (505)248-6911

Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
Clifford Dils, 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)827-6681
<http://www.gmfsh.state.nm.us>

Wildlife Rescue
If you find a sick or injured bird, call 344-2500

Rare Bird Alert
Albuquerque: 884-3269, Pinyonjay@aol.com
<http://mvar.nmsu.edu/nmos/hotline.html>
<http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/rbas/NM.html>

Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)
Call before you intervene: 281-1133 or 281-1515

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Webpage <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>
CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

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Field Trip Leaders: Sei Tokuda, Christopher Rustay, Art Arenholz, Andrew Rominger
(among others)

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