

# Burrowing Owl



September, October, November 2004 Issue

Volume 33 No. 4

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

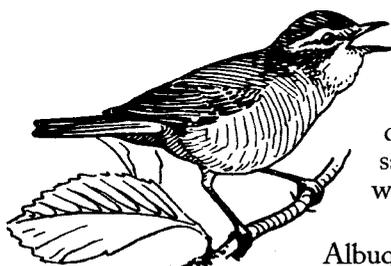
## Fall Audubon Programs

The Grand Introduction to the New Season of Delightfully Diverse, Enthusiastically Entertaining, and Undeniably Uplifting Programs Presented by Central New Mexico Audubon Society!

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of Sept., Oct. and Nov. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15PM and are FREE! For info, call Beth, 898-8514. All are welcome - todos bienvenidos.

### September 16

#### Sights & Sounds of Avian New Mexico



Laurel Ladwig, the Planetarium Manager of UNM's LodeStar Astronomy Center, will delight us with a calliope of birds and their calls, from whistles to warbles, from quacks to "kwii"s. (Or, as David Sibley might say, "a single, sharp klew or hard, nasal gaerrt," when referring to the Ruddy Turnstone.

That rarity might not turn up in Albuquerque on this night, but Laurel will feature the sights and sounds of the birds of New Mexico and give everyone a chance to practice their birding-by-ear skills.

Laurel is a new CNMAS Board Member and volunteer and a witty and engaging speaker who has shared her love of the night sky with children and the public for 22 years as a volunteer and staff member in observatories and planetaria from Texas to New Mexico. She became a Texas Master Naturalist in the Gulf Coast Chapter before moving to the desert to join the team at LodeStar. She's a dedicated educator, naturalist and conservationist, but with a gluttonous need for digital tools. Laurel also happens to make full-dome animations and graphics that set minds soaring with the wonder and beauty of the night sky. She inherited her love of birds and bird-watching from her parents, who were busy as charter members of the Houston Audubon Society the year she hatched.

*Fall Programs continued on page 4*



### What Makes Us Green (That's a statement, not a question)

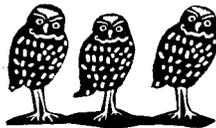
On Saturday August 7th, CNMAS cosponsored the public hearing "America Speaks for the National Parks." The sponsor for the event was the Campaign to Protect America's Lands which includes the Coalition of Concerned National Park Service Retirees. Supporters are concerned that the current political leadership of the National Park Service and the Department of Interior has been "tearing at the fabric of laws and policies that have made our national park system a model for natural, historic, and cultural preservation around the world." In New Mexico thirteen marvelous parks - such as Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Bandelier National Monument, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, and Petroglyphs National Monument - have

*Green continued on page 6*

Please use the enclosed flier about our upcoming meetings to spread the word - post them at your church, workplace, library, child's school bulletin board, the senior center near you. Help us spread the word. Nature - it's real!

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## Sandia Mts. Birdathon Report - June 6

Three Guns, Ojito de San Antonio open space, Museum of Archeology, Doc Long, Capulin Spring, Crest

Leader: Celestyn Brozek ("Celestyn's Singers")

Early in the day at Doc Long, we received reports of a Red-faced Warbler and fanned out to search for it, but found a Virginia's Warbler and numerous Warbling and Plumbeous Vireos instead. During lunch at Doc Long, the group was inspected by a curious Cordilleran Flycatcher. The Hermit Thrush's musical call was pervasive throughout the Capulin area. A short hike from the upper parking lot revealed many new birds for our list including a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Olive-sided Flycatcher and a brief glimpse of the Williamson's Sapsucker. "Birding is hard work", proclaimed our tireless leader, after spending over an hour sitting by the spring at Capulin and getting spectacular bath-time views of 17 species including the Williamson's Sapsucker and the (until then) elusive MacGillivray's Warbler.

With pine-sap on our pants, we continued on to the crest, where White-throated Swifts proved that they are accurately named. On the path to the Kiwanis cabin we happened upon a family with a well-intentioned little girl carefully carrying a baby bird. She was very receptive to returning the fledgling to the location where she had found it and placing it on a branch to await the hopeful return of a parent.

Hiking back along the service road, a Brown Creeper appeared briefly and provided the last new species of the day. Back at Doc Long, thirteen hours and 71 species after we started, Celestyn did not want to stop, but his team had dispersed in search of dinner. -Submitted by Laurel Ladwig

## Birdathon! 2004 - More Than Just Memories

Birdathon! is a great, fun excuse for us to go birding, and it's a great, important "nest egg" for our chapter. Thanks to the teams that went afield - to Ryan, Raymond, and Nick, who were the Youth Birders Team; to Karen Boettcher and Rebecca Gracey, who rallied the Thursday Birders Team; and to Celestyn Brozek, who enchanted his Sandia Singers team - you all contributed just over \$1600 to CNMAS this year. That means conservation education for our youth, more birding adventures for us, and protection of habitat for the birds themselves. Heartfelt thanks to one and all:

Dianne Cress, Art Arenholz, Mary Lou Arthur, Jack W. Courtin, Jeff Myers and Vickie Wilcox, "Sami" Sanborn, the Thursday Birders Treasury, George & Nancy Wang, John Tyson, Lena Finley, Glen Finley, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Wild Birds Unlimited West Side (Lynda Geron and Joseph Shumate), Celestyn Brozek, Mirella Burke, Ray Schaedler, Eileen Beaulieu, Julie Goodding, Charles L. Jensen, Sei Tokuda, John Esterl, Ray Baker, Sylvia Fee, Les Hawkins, Marjorie Williams, Sondra Williamson, Sally Burke, Cheri Orwig, Rebecca Gracey, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Bonnie Long, Ronald Waitz, Laurel Ladwig, Tina Van Dam, Virginia Taylor, Stacy Levy, Tim Porter, Wild Bird Center West Side (Lee Hopwood and Nicki Love)

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.

## Field Programs continued from page 1

### October 21

## eBirding - A New Way to Look at Birds with Christopher Rustay

Imagine a database that keeps track of your field records for you. Imagine a database that keeps track of other folks' field records and makes them available to you, too. Imagine a database that keeps track of continent-wide data-gathering projects - think Christmas Bird Counts, "Great Backyard Bird Count," "Project Feeder Watch" - and makes all THAT data available to you, too.

Whether you're a birder whose notes consist of check marks on a standardized list, or you're the "Monk" of birders, who makes detailed field notes about age and sex, behavior, vocalizations, field marks, nesting evidence, etc., YOUR entry is equally important to this database.

"eBird" is a joint project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, National Science Foundation, American Birding Association, and Bird Studies Canada. Christopher Rustay has been paid to bird for such centers of ornithological data gathering as HawksAloft, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture. PLUS, to our good fortune, he's given his time for years, for free, to Randall Davey Audubon Center and to CNMAS. Tonight he will give a presentation that's guaranteed to get you excited about submitting YOUR observations to eBird. He'll explain how to, why to, and what to. He'll educate you about all the constantly changing data that's available at your fingertips and - maybe best of all! - show you how your personal sightings are maintained by eBird and how they can be queried and edited by you in various ways. Christopher does all this with a sense of humor that delights and a knowledge of birds that amazes. Bring a notebook - spiral bound or battery charged - but do come!

### November 18

## Hope Is the Thing With Feathers & So Are Riparian Areas

Come see magnificent images photographed by Jess Alford, who will present a slide show of bird images photographed mostly in New Mexico along with a few from South Texas. Along with these beautiful images, the presentation will show the importance of riparian areas (rivers and streams) to birds and other wildlife of the western United States, the degradation of these areas over the last 100 years, and what can be done about it.

For more than 35 years Jess has been in the world of professional photography and has received numerous awards for his work, including New York's CLIO award for creative excellence. He also was coauthor/photographer of a book on East Texas wilderness areas called "Realms of Beauty" published by the University of Texas Press. A relative newcomer to New Mexico, he has finally settled into his love of the outdoors and, for the last two or so years, has devoted his photography almost exclusively to birds and the environment. Jess serves on the board of directors of Forest Guardians, presents beautiful and hopeful programs, and lives in the Manzanita Mountains south of Tijeras.

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



September - October - November 2004

## CNMAS Field Trip Reports

**Sunday, May 23: Fort Sumner area**

Leader Celestyn Brozek. About dozen people participated in the trip that "netted" 64 bird species. Highlights included excellent views of Red-headed Woodpeckers at the Melrose trap, Brown Thrasher at Bosque Redondo park, several Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Eastern Phoebes, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Cassin's Sparrows at Fort Sumner Lake, and Common Black-Hawks at Santa Rosa.

**Saturday, July 31: Jemez Mountains**

There were a total of 50 bird species seen or heard on this trip to Ponderosa, Jemez Falls, and the Dome Burn area. Five woodpecker species were seen including the Three-toed Woodpecker. Eight people were on the trip lead by Rebecca Gracey.

## CNMAS Field Trip Schedule

<http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html>

compiled by Celestyn Brozek

*It is my honor and pleasure to be a new chair of the field trip program. I am deeply grateful to all trip leaders who have agreed to volunteer their time. Please, join us at these wonderful outdoor activities and enjoy the beauty of New Mexico!*

**4 September, Saturday - Manzanita Mts. & Quarai**

Karen and Gary Boettcher will lead this trip. Meet at the Four Hills Shopping Center at 8:00AM. The first stop will be at Boettchers in the Manzanita Mountains for coffee and doughnuts and hopefully some mountain birds. Next we'll bird our way south along the highway with a quick stop at Manzano Pond, then on to Quarai for more birds as we walk among the ruins and along the trails. Target birds: Band-tailed Pigeon, Pygmy Nuthatch, Great Horned Owl, Rock Wren, Blue Grosbeak. Bring lunch. The trip will officially end at Quarai after lunch. Contact the Boettchers at 281-6726 or nmkestrel@aol.com for details.

**19 September, Sunday - Las Vegas NWR** (trip organized by Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society)

Meet at Las Vegas refuge headquarters at 9:00AM. It is advisable to call a trip leader, David White, 466-3444 before the trip.

**25 September, Saturday - Manzano Mts. hawk watch**

Art Arenholz will lead this trip during one of the peak times for hawks flying south through this site. Dress for conditions at the site, bring water, snacks and lunch. Meet at 8:00AM at the Four Hills Shopping Center parking lot across the street from the Travelodge Motel (SW corner of Central SE and Tramway Blvd). Currently, we are not sure whether the hawk watch site will be open to public this fall. In case of the closure, Art will lead the trip to Sandia Mts. (the same time, the same meeting place). Call Art at 298-1724 for details.

**2 October, Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR**

This day trip will be led by Sondra Williamson and is for those who wish to get out of ABQ to do some birding during the Balloon Fiesta. Bring water, snacks, and food for lunch. Meet at 7:00AM at the UNM Department of Physics parking lot on the NE corner of Yale and Lomas Blvd. Call Sondra at 255-7674 for details.

**9 October, Saturday - Sevilleta NWR Open House**

For detailed activities, see page 7.

**16 October, Saturday - Tatum area, eastern New Mexico**

Christopher Rustay will lead a birding trip in Tatum area (Lea

county). Meet in Tatum at the Allsup's in the center of town at 7:30AM. It is best to spend the night before down in Roswell or Tatum (it is 72 miles from Roswell to Tatum). We will visit areas in Tatum and Lovington looking for migrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, vireos, warblers and others. Many sparrow species should be moving through as well and we'll hope to see a late Clay-colored Sparrow and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. If time allows, we will wind up at Bitter Lake NWR looking for late shorebirds. For more information contact Chris at 255-7786.

**23-24 October, Saturday-Sunday - The annual Bosque del Apache trail project by NM Volunteers for the Outdoors**  
Volunteers needed, see page 6 for details.

**13 November, Saturday - Maxwell NWR** (trip organized by Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society)

Meet at Maxwell refuge headquarters at 9:00AM. It is advisable to call trip leaders, Gary and Carol Johnson, 466-1303, before the trip.

**14 November, Sunday - Las Vegas NWR**

This trip will be led by Andrew Rominger and Sei Tokuda, and will end sometime in mid-afternoon. The back roads of the Las Vegas NWR are open for birders on each Sunday during the month of November. We will take this route as part of our activities for the day. We will lunch at the visitor center where there will be a special presentation by Bill West of "WingsWest" doing a talk on the birds of the backroads. Bring lunch, snacks and water and dress appropriately for cold and unpredictable weather. Meet at 8:00AM at the Far North Shopping Center behind the Village Inn (NE corner of San Mateo NE and Academy Blvd). Contact Sei at 266-2480 or at [stokuda@juno.com](mailto:stokuda@juno.com) for details.

*See page 7 for more activities at Las Vegas NWR this fall.*

**16-21 November, Tuesday-Sunday, Festival of Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR**

Audubon volunteers needed to staff tent (see page 4). For festival info go to <http://friendsofthebosque.org/crane/>

**4 December Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR**

For the past ten years we have scheduled a Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge trip on the first Saturday of December. Sei Tokuda will lead a trip to the Refuge. It will be a full day trip and participants will need to bring food, snacks, beverages and warm clothing. Meet at the UNM Physics Department parking lot on the NE corner of Yale and Lomas Blvd at 8:00AM. Contact Sei at 266-2480 or at [stokuda@juno.com](mailto:stokuda@juno.com) for details.

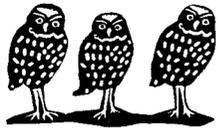
**8 January 2005, Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR**

Art Arenholz will take us to Bosque del Apache NWR. Meet at 8:00AM at the UNM Department of Physics parking lot on the NE corner of Yale and Lomas Blvd. We will see the typical birds of winter, including a few Bald Eagles, flocks of cranes, geese and other waterfowl. It is an all day trip, we should be back by 5:00PM. Bring snacks, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Mostly next to the car birding, not much walking. Contact Art at 298-1724 for more info.

## 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.



### Audubon Adventures & Scholarships A Call for Teachers

Each year CNMAS and its members sponsor many educational opportunities for teachers and students and the 2004-05 school year will be no exception. Listed below are two opportunities for teachers – and we need your help! We need you to find teachers that are interested in these opportunities and have them contact us!

#### Teacher Scholarship Available

The Institute of Desert Ecology (IDE) is organized and run by the Tucson Audubon Society. For four wonderful days in April 2005 participants will explore the Sonoran desert in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains north of Tucson area. In small groups, participants learn about the relationships between desert plants, animals and the physical environment in which they exist. This four day camping program, with early mornings and the opportunity for evening activities too, is an amazing educational experience and CNMAS wishes to find a teacher interested in going. CNMAS is able to sponsor the Institute fee of \$375, which includes park entrance, camping fee, catered meals and expert instruction. The successful applicant(s) will have to cover travel expenses and university credit if interested (offered through University of Arizona's Desert Ecosystems).

CNMAS is looking for an interested classroom teacher, of any grade, who will use the content and experience gained in the IDE with their students. To apply, please send a short essay to Helen Haskell at the address below illustrating why you would be the ideal candidate, and how you would utilize the experience to enhance your teaching and your students learning. If you know of a teacher who may be interested, please pass on this information.

Send application to: PO Box 1453, Cedar Crest, NM 87008  
Deadline: November 1st, 2004

#### Audubon Adventures

This educational curriculum is produced by the National Audubon Society for use by teachers around the country. Each kit has educational newspapers that contain articles and activities for students (four issues), as well as posters and a teacher activity guide. This year's topics are: Sharing the Earth, Butterflies, Birds of Prey and Secret World of Plants.



Many teachers here in New Mexico use Audubon Adventures as a way to reach many of the educational standards, not just in science, but also language arts and other disciplines.

Do you know of a 3rd to 6th grade teacher who could use Audubon Adventures? Do you have children or grandchildren, nephews, nieces or neighbors who would love to read the illustrated newspapers? Do you have a classroom that you would like to sponsor? If you do, please fill in the form on this page and sent it in to CNMAS.

Send your check payable to CNMAS to: Audubon Adventures, c/o CNMAS, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002.

### Trail Days at Bosque del Apache NWR Saturday-Sunday, October 23-24



Audubon Fans of Hiking and Birding - come join the *New Mexico Volunteers For the Outdoors* for one day or both, when they meet at Bosque del Apache to maintain trails at one of our premier wildlife refuges. Trail work and pruning amidst fall splendor... and birds galore! (Work one day, go birding the next!) Contact Leonard Padilla, (505) 480-7303, leonardpadilla@hotmail.com - they'll provide Saturday dinner, which is always delicious and abundant, but you have to register! When you do, let them know you're a supporter from Audubon!



### Call For Volunteers 17th Annual Festival of the Cranes

CNMAS and the New Mexico Audubon Council need YOU to help us as we enjoy birdwatching and share our scopes, smiles, and love of Bosque del Apache, this special place for birding, with others. Please volunteer for a two-hour shift on Saturday, November 20 and/or Sunday, November 21. Contact Jeff Myers at jmyers@peacocklaw.com or at 998-1502 to sign up to help. You can choose your site: our chapter site at the Phil Norton Commemorative Photography Blind (funded by Central New Mexico Audubon) or at the State Audubon Council tent, which will once again be on the two-way middle road (so we'll see lots more birds this year!) We really need your help, as this is one of the major ways we show our support for the National Refuge System in general, and Bosque del Apache NWR in particular.



### Connect a child to nature with 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.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

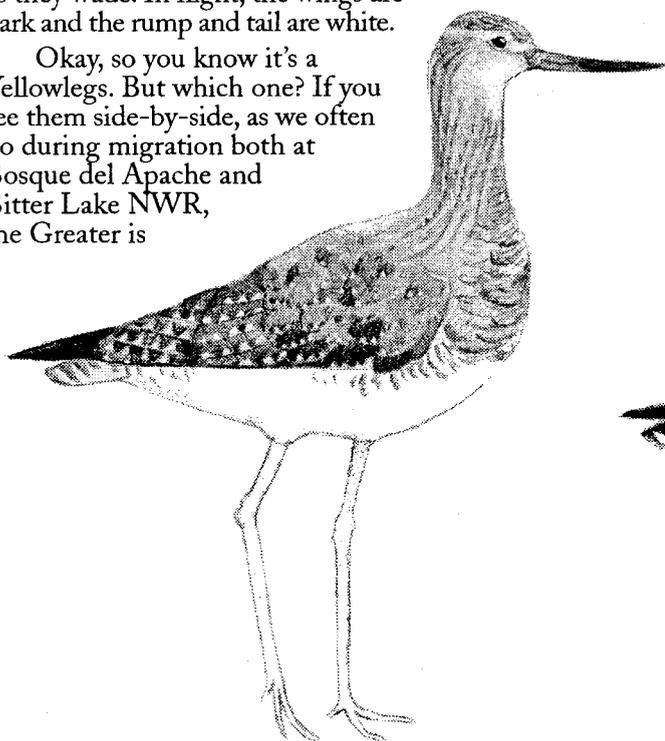


September - October - November 2004

**Learning Look - Alikes:  
Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs**  
by Art Arenholz  
drawing by Andrew Rominger

The ultimate shorebird look-alikes—that's what these two Yellowlegs are! Luckily, it is pretty easy to tell you are looking at one of the Yellowlegs. Both are tall, slim, gray sandpipers with long, bright yellow legs. The back is spotted gray, black and white and the slim bill is long. As they feed in shallow ponds or flooded fields, they usually peck at or just below the water surface; they seldom probe in the mud as many other shorebirds do. They often bob the head up and down as they wade. In flight, the wings are dark and the rump and tail are white.

Okay, so you know it's a Yellowlegs. But which one? If you see them side-by-side, as we often do during migration both at Bosque del Apache and Bitter Lake NWR, the Greater is

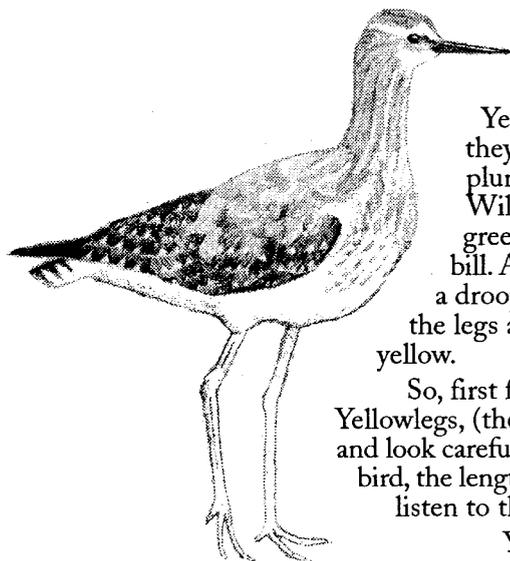


noticeably larger, (about one third larger), and it weighs twice as much. But how about when they are not together?

There are three good ways to identify the Greater Yellowlegs: 1- the long bill is about one and one half times as long as the bird's head, and the bill is also slightly upturned near the tip, 2- the call (which is given often and loudly) is a 3 to 5 note ringing whistle, and 3- the Greater Yellowlegs is about the same size as a Black-necked Stilt ( about 14 inches long in flight.).

On the other hand, the Lesser Yellowlegs has: 1- a shorter, thinner, straight bill which is only about as long as the bird's head, 2- the call ( which is given less often) is a softer, one or two note whistle, and 3- this bird is the length of a Killdeer, about 10 inches long. There is often a Killdeer nearby to provide a size comparison.

Both Yellowlegs stop by during both spring and fall migrations. During a mild winter, only the Greater Yellowlegs might stay here all winter.



A caution for intermediate birders: two other shorebirds can look like a

Yellowlegs in the fall when they are in non-breeding plumage. But note that the Wilson's Phalarope has shorter, greenish legs and a needlelike bill. And the Stilt Sandpiper has a droop at the tip of the bill and the legs are closer to green than yellow.

So, first find yourself some Yellowlegs, (they are usually not alone) and look carefully at the overall size of the bird, the length and shape of the bill and listen to the call.

You can do this!



Andrew Rominger 8/04

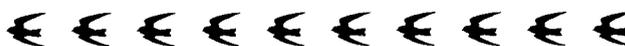
**New Federal Duck Stamp Available**

The 2004-2005 Federal and Junior Duck Stamps are available for sale at post offices, national wildlife refuges, some national retail chain stores, and various sporting-goods stores nationwide. This year's duck stamp features a pair of flying Redheads, painted by wildlife artist Scot Storm, of Sartell, MN.

The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the stamp's official name, began in the mid-1930s. The stamp has been used as a successful funding mechanism for the National Wildlife Refuge System, with sales from the duck stamp bringing in over \$670 million and funding more than five million acres of valuable wetland habitat. Approximately \$25 million a year is currently collected through stamp sales. For every dollar spent on Federal Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents go directly to purchasing vital habitat for the Refuge System. In addition to the waterfowl hunters who are required to have the stamp, stamp collectors, wildlife art enthusiasts,

wildlife conservationists, and birders often buy Federal Duck Stamps. The 2004-2005 stamps can be used through June 2005 to gain admission to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee – just display it on your dashboard. It's a great bargain for the ducks, for the wetlands, for the NWRs, and for you!

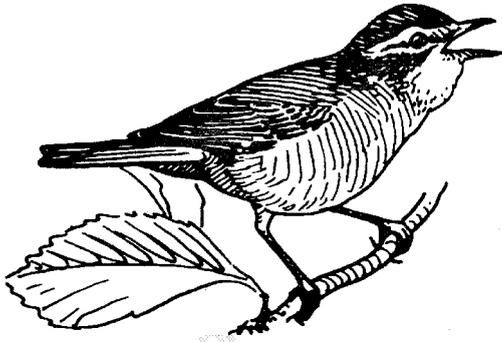
View the Stamps online at <http://duckstamps.fws.gov/>



**Electronic Burrowing Owl**

Just a short reminder that people who wish to receive the *Burrowing Owl* electronically should contact our Membership Chairman, Ed Dover, and let him know. Email him at [dover5427@msn.com](mailto:dover5427@msn.com). Right now we have only 11 people indicating they prefer this choice.

# Fall Audubon Programs - Central NM Audubon



**September 16**

**Sights & Sounds of  
Avian New Mexico**

**with Laurel Ladwig**

**CNMAS volunteer, LodeStar Planetarium  
Manager and Texas Master Naturalist**

Laurel will feature the sights and sounds of the birds of New Mexico and give everyone a chance to practice their birding-by-ear skills.

**October 21**

**eBirding - A New Way  
to Look at Birds**

**with Christopher Rustay**

**Master Birder who has collected  
ornithological data for HawksAloft and  
the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**

Christopher will give a presentation that's guaranteed to get you excited about submitting YOUR observations to "eBird", a joint project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, National Science Foundation, American Birding Association, and Bird Studies Canada.

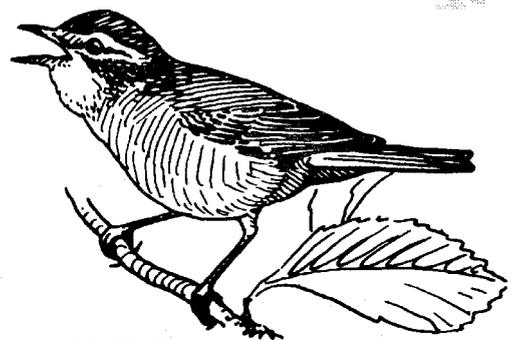


**November 18**

**The Hope of Riparian Areas  
with Jess Alford**

**Award winning Professional Photographer and  
coauthor of "Realms of Beauty" a book on East  
Texas wilderness areas**

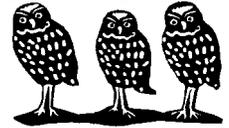
Jess will present us with a slide show of Southwestern Bird Photos. Along with these beautiful images, the presentation will show the importance of riparian areas (rivers and streams) to birds and other wildlife.



Our meetings are held on the **third Thursday** of Sept., Oct. and Nov. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, **7:15PM** and are **FREE!**

For info, call Beth, 898-8514.

**Bienvenidos todos - - - All Welcome**



September - October - November 2004

## National Wildlife Refuge Bulletin Board

### Friends of the Las Vegas NWR Calendar

September 8, Wednesday, 5:30p.m.

1st Annual Meeting of the Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge

All current & prospective members are encouraged to attend.

September 9, Thursday, 5:30p.m.\*

"The Birds of Las Vegas"

With Philip Garcia, Wildlife Biologist, Las Vegas NWR.

What are the most common birds found at the refuge and what are the species of concern?

September 18, Saturday, 9:30a.m.

National Public Lands Day: Refuge Cleanup Day

Join in the effort locally by working alongside other volunteers in our annual NPLD Refuge cleanup event.

October 14th, Thursday, 5:30p.m.\*

"All About Coyotes"

Presentation by Pat Jaureguiberry, USDA Wildlife Services.

November Sundays, 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Fall Flight Wildlife Drive Open

Every year the refuge back roads are open to the public on Sundays in November. Refuge Staff & Volunteer Roving Naturalists will be on-hand to help you with bird identification.

November 14, Sunday, 1:00p.m.

"Waterfowl & Wetlands" (see CNMAS Field Trip Schedule)

\*Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge Interpretive Series

We all think it's pretty exciting - the progress that our Friends group is making! Call the Refuge office at (505)425-3581 ext. 20, contact loumyers@starband.net or Kristin\_Kuyuk@fws.gov for more information and schedule confirmation.

-submitted by Kristin E. Kuyuk, Outdoor Recreation Planner - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Rare Opportunity to Visit New Mexico's Largest National Wildlife Refuge

The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge is New Mexico's largest, encompassing 230,000 acres. This vast land area in the heart of the State includes two mountain ranges, the northern limits of the Chihuahuan Desert, short grass prairie, pinyon/juniper woodlands, Rio Grande bosque and numerous canyons, mesas and springs. It is home to a wide variety of wildlife, much of which is at the edge of its range. Eighty-nine species of mammals, 225 species of birds and 58 species of reptiles make the Refuge their home.

The Refuge is managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. As part of their efforts to restore the land and create quality wildlife habitat, nearly all of the Refuge is closed to public entry.

### Sevilleta Open House 2004

On Saturday, October 9th, 2004 the Service will host an Open House at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge and invites the public to come out and enjoy a guided tour. Half day tours will be offered in the morning and afternoon focusing on a variety of subjects from native plants, to human history, geology or wildlife management. Tours will include easy walks, extreme hikes, van tours and bring your own 4 wheel drive excursions.

Festivities will take place at the Refuge Visitor Center located at exit 169 off I-25. Local conservation groups will exhibit from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM and make presentations throughout the afternoon. Biologist, Maggie Dwire, from the Mexican gray wolf recovery team will speak about wolf recovery efforts at 10:00 AM. Local wildlife art will be on exhibit and there will be crafts, activities food and fun for everyone.

Tours include a hot breakfast or lunch and cost \$7.00 per person. Reservations are required and space is limited. Call the Refuge at (505)864-4021 or the Socorro Chamber of Commerce at (505)835-0424 for information and registration. Exhibits and speakers are FREE. This event is sponsored by the La Joya Community Association and the Socorro Chamber of Commerce.

### Quote of the Week

"The [Arctic drilling] proposal - all the [Arctic drilling] proposals I've seen provide a 10-year time frame for which this energy could be tapped. Who knows what the situation will be 10 years from now? Maybe we'll have hydrogen 10 years from now. For what little is gained - and I would add that it's a six-month supply once we've waited 10 years to get it - that's no solution."

-Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), May 18 when asked what consideration he would give to Arctic drilling proposals in the wake of high gas prices.

## 17th Annual Festival of the Cranes November 16 - 21

Bosque del Apache  
National Wildlife Refuge

For more information go to  
<http://friendsofthebosque.org/crane/>  
or call 505-835-1828.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

NOVEMBER 16-21, 2004  
SOCORRO, NM



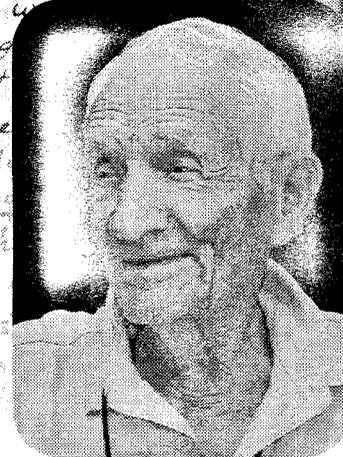
Artwork by Les Hawkins, - c.1930

### Quote for Wilderness

"Wilderness is an anchor to windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending our resources as we should - not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water."

-Former NM Senator Clinton P. Anderson, main sponsor of the Wilderness Act of 1964

*My start - My Career as a bird student began on wednesday, January 23, 1929. That is, as an active bird student. Gordon Bolander & I stayed after school at Technical High to play football. After awhile we left. Going out the South-east entrance to the grounds a bird about the size of a Jay flew across the way. It had white patches in its wings. I was already a bird student (alist) and was puzzled. So we chased the bird around the block and finally...*

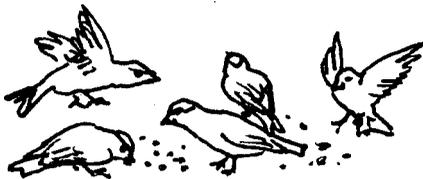


### Les, Happy 90th Birthday to our Original Youth Birder

Page from "California Birds" Field Notes 1930-31 by Les Hawkins

### A "Rosy" Welcome, and a Dozen Red "Roses" in Fond Adieu

Ken and Mary Lou Schneider, the keepers of the Rosy Finch Project, its website, feeders, goodwill, and international (yes, international!) reputation have left the Land of Enchantment for the Land of Granddaughter, moving to Florida to be near family and to start a whole new life list of birds. We wish them well and thank them, though inadequately, for all they have done to promote birding and conservation ethics in the East Sandia Mountains.



Before Ken and Mary Lou moved, they received the national-level "Eyes on Wildlife" viewing site award from the US Forest Service, Cibola National Forest,

Sandia Ranger District. In its letter of recognition to the Schneiders, the Sandia Ranger District recognized the Schneiders as coordinators of the Sandia Crest Rosy Finch Project, acknowledged them for their Weekly Birding Sandia trips, complemented them for their spectacular website, and praised them for bringing "superior communication abilities, leading to project stability and collaboration, attracting many other talented people to work with you on these projects." It's true that their leadership has inspired many others, and there is a cadre of volunteers who have, and will continue to, support the Rosy Finch Project. Even as we thank those folks, we are especially pleased and grateful to welcome Fran Lusso

and Dave Weaver (flusso@wfubmc.edu) as the new Rosy Finch Project caretakers, coordinators, and cheerleaders. As fellow USFS Volunteers with Ken and Mary Lou, Fran and Dave are already experienced in providing interpretation to the public at the Sandia Crest House Visitors Center. They're avid birders, new to New Mexico, whom we know will do a great job and continue to receive lots of support. We'll see the Rosy-Finches when the snow comes back to the mountains, but we sure hope to see you, Fran and Dave, way before then! Have fun, and a very "rosy" welcome with feathers!

#### Great national news!

suffered reduced budgets, loss of staff, and the continued decay that results from inadequate maintenance. Retirees of the NPS are hoping to block actions destructive of the national parks by their former agency.

Also in August, CNMAS joined the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition to support the creation of a wildlife corridor which will allow animals to safely cross Interstate 40 and Old Route 66 in the canyon. Crossing from one range to another is important for wildlife such as deer, elk, and bear to find food, a new territory, or a mate. A recent editorial in the Albuquerque Journal states that "at least 828 accidents - many of which kill the animal - occur each year, a number that easily could be doubled because so many encounters go unreported."

The coalition holds meetings the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras. If you would like more information, contact Louise Waldron at 292-8272.

- submitted by Nancy Murray



September - October - November 2004

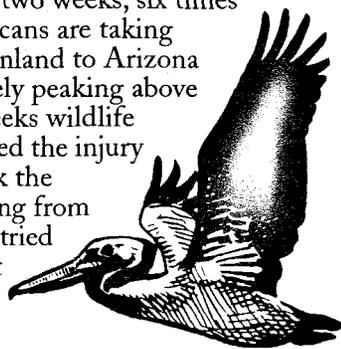
## The Albuquerque Bosque: Wetland/Wildland, or Shorn Golf Course?

Central New Mexico Audubon Society and Hawks Aloft, among others, have expressed concern, for diverse reasons, about the clearing of the Bosque that the City has undertaken this summer. Our concerns range from disregard for protection of native grasses, shrubs, and trees, as well as the destruction and disruption of habitat, during breeding season, of non-threatened and endangered species (T&E), including mammals, birds, and reptiles. Our concerns continue, but fire suppression needs appear to be trumping welfare of eggs and nestlings. The US Fish & Wildlife Service appears to be taking the position that it is acceptable "incidental take" of the non-T&E species under the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

To see the Mayor's response to our letter, please visit our Web site at <<http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>> We would like to add that we applaud and appreciate the Rio Grande Nature Center for its balanced science and ecological sensitivity in the clearing efforts that they are undertaking within the boundaries of the Nature Center property itself, independent of the City's clearing of other areas of the Bosque.

## From DDT to Hot Asphalt - Brown Pelicans Struggling

In 1970 the Brown Pelican was listed as an endangered species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The species that once flourished on both coasts and the Gulf of Mexico was rapidly declining due to the collapse of egg shell thickness and other reproductive complications. DDT was identified as the culprit. Now the Pelican faces a different problem. With record dryness and dying streambeds along coastal areas in the west the bird struggles to find fish to eat. Sea World Rescue Service is reporting that more than 100 emaciated and hungry birds have been treated over the last two weeks, six times the normal amount. Some Pelicans are taking desperate means and heading inland to Arizona where temperatures are routinely peaking above 110 degrees. In the last two weeks wildlife officials in Arizona have reported the injury of dozens of birds who mistook the shimmering heat waves radiating from asphalt highways for water and tried to land. Officials there have set up a hot-line to help rescue injured Pelicans.



-Defenders of Wildlife Rural Updates  
July 19, 2004

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 March 2005.



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- 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 \$15 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 Winter 2004-05 issue of the State Audubon Newsletter, Burrowing Owl section, must be received by Nov 5. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or [turtlebear@jensenbear.com](mailto:turtlebear@jensenbear.com). We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

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(505) 476-2200  
**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

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Albuquerque: 884-3269, Pinyonjay@aol.com  
http://www.nmosbirds.org/hotline.html

**Rosy Finch Project**  
Fran Lusso & Dave Weaver, flusso@wfbmc.edu

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

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