The Seventh Annual Audubon Birding Academy
Better Than Ever – Picture Fireworks and Glitter!

Birding By Habitat: Where To Go and What To Look For

THE FUN AND LEARNING CONTINUE, and so do
the benefits of being a member of Central New Mexico
Audubon Society. Become a new Audubon Society Member,
and you get three free Birding Academy classes with your
membership! Long-time members and friends, sign up early
data sign up often – well, why not? We cherish your
commitment. On to the birds!

All classes are held at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church,
NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 p.m. Pay in
advance (see form, next page) or pay at the door. $6.00
per class, or sign up for all three for $15.00.
Nonmembers: Pay $20.00 to join National Audubon
Society, and the classes are free!

“The Allure of Grassland Birds”
Dennis Prichard, presenter
Thursday, February 17, 2005

What do Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, and
Mountain Plover have in common? Denizens all of prairie
grassland habitat and on New Mexico’s Bird Check Lists,
these species are in the group of birds which has the
lamentable distinction of being the fastest declining
nationwide. Is that because they also feed, breed, and raise
their young on the most threatened ecosystem in America –
the prairie grasslands? Dennis Prichard will tell us the
wonderful variety of birds that comprise this group and speak
about the birds’ habitats and threats to their populations.
Not so much an ID primer as a “who’s who” cataloguing and
identifying songsters such as Townsend’s Solitaire, and Ruby-
rumped Warbler. And then he promises us some “easy”-
to-identify species are in the group of birds which has the
common for you? Art’s presentation is as far-
from tiny Marsh Wren to Sandhill Crane of six-foot wingspan. Too
common for you? Art’s presentation is as far-
 ranging as the White Ibis and Reddish Egret seen here in New
Mexico. Are you still puzzling over the secrets of the
human manipulations that keep the wetlands
and the corn fields growing? And
speaking of the bald eagle, haven’t you
noticed the record number of these over-wintering
visitors to Bosque del Apache? Daniel
entertains, teaches, and surprises you with
answers to these questions as he takes you on an
insider’s exploration of this refuge, where
his roles include volunteer trainer,
historian, cactus aficionado, naturalist,
and – of course, bird lover!
St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, NW
corner of Copper and Jefferson NE,
7:15 p.m. FREE! All Welcome!

“Wetlands: Waders and Wings”
Art Arenholz, presenter
Thursday, April 21, 2005

We’re delighted to welcome Art Arenholz back for his unique
blend of knowledge and humor, scientific data and story-
telling, which makes him the epitome of a teacher – we
absorb, knowledge like a sponge instead of having it injected
like a flu shot. And Art is going to take us on a splash-by-
splash tour of waterbirds that skulk in the marshes to
ones that dive for their dinner. Can’t tell an egret from a heron? Art to the rescue! Do you love those black-
and-white marsh birds? Art will guide us from Black-
crowned Night Heron to Black-necked Stilt: Add a
touch of cinnamon, and he’ll reveal the
preferred habitat of the American Avocet.
Birds of water is as big a topic as the ocean
(pun intended), so Art will skip most of the
ducks and geese, all of the pelicans, and
not just a few of the Sandpiper peeps. But what an array that’s left –
from tiny Marsh Wren to Sandhill Crane of six-foot wingspan. Too
common for you? Art’s presentation is as far-
ranging as the White Ibis and Reddish Egret seen here in New
Mexico. Are you still puzzling over what dives for its
 – 7:15 p.m. FREE! All Welcome!

Hawks Aloft Middle Rio Grande Avian Monitoring: 2004 Summer Season Results

Recently, the Rio Grande bosque has received considerable attention in the form of
restoration projects and fire prevention activities. In 2003, Hawks Aloft, Inc., a non-
profit research and education organization initiated a multi-year study to monitor bird
populations in various riparian vegetation types. The study area includes the Middle Rio
Grande Valley, from Bernalillo south to 5th
Street. This study replicates a survey conducted in 1981-82. When completed, the study
will identify vegetation changes and correlating bird densities over a 23 year period. Hawks
Aloft has completed the first full season of this three-year study.

To see the full text of this press release, please
visit the Hawks Aloft, Inc. website:
www.hawksaloft.org. For more information,
contact Gail Garber, 505-898-9455.

Tuesday, January 20, 2005
“A New Year, A New Perspective”

Join Daniel Perry from Bosque del
Apache National Wildlife Refuge for a
different perspective on a familiar place. Yes,
you know about the thousands of Sandhill
Crane and Snow Geese over-wintering on
this beloved birding mecca of New Mexico.
But do you know about the unexpected and
unusual species the Refuge has hosted? Do
you know where to look for the possible
Yellow-billed Cuckoo in summer or the
secretive Sora in winter? Do you know where
to find the paw print of the
cougar? What trail to test your
hiking stamina on? Do you know what the
Bald Eagle sees from above when it looks
down upon this patchwork of desert scrub
and lush oasis? Do you know the secrets of the
human manipulations that keep the wetlands
and the corn fields growing? And
speaking of the bald eagle, haven’t you
noticed the record number of these over-wintering
visitors to Bosque del Apache? Daniel
entertains, teaches, and surprises you with
answers to these questions as he takes you on an
insider’s exploration of this refuge, where
his roles include volunteer trainer,
historian, cactus aficionado, naturalist,
and – of course, bird lover!
St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, NW
corner of Copper and Jefferson NE,
7:15 p.m. FREE! All Welcome!

Local Christmas Bird Counts
Sunday, December 18
BOOS K DEL APACHE NWR
Steve and Nancy Cox (505-345-2385,
swox@spinn.net)
Meet Steve and Nancy know you’ll be part of the count and/or
compilation party.
Saturday, December 26
BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR
Steve and Nancy know you’ll be part of the count and/or
compilation party.
Sunday, December 26
SANDIA MOUNTAINS
Rebecca Gracey (505-242-3821, megraceyeyeearthlink.net)
and Nick Vaughn (505-265-1350)
Meet at 7:30 AM in the Four Hills shopping center parking
lot near Dian’s pizza. The shopping center is located on
Central between Tramway and Juan Tabo. Compilation
party after.
Remember to call your CBC leaders for final details!
Winter Bird and Bat Festival!
Saturday, January 15, 2005, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
2901 Candelaria NW, 505-344-7240
Come join the festivities, featuring guided bird and nature walks starting at 8:00 AM, speakers program starting at 10:00 AM, live birds and bats, and New Mexico Audubon Society volunteers in the Pond Room. The cost for this event? Free!

CNMAS Field Trip Reports compiled by Celestyn Brozek
Sat-Sun, August 14-15: Ft. Sumner and Roswell/Bitter Lake NWR with Seti Tokuda
Fifteen birders made this trip to Fort Sumner, Bosque Redondo, Melrose Trap, Roswell and Bitter Lake. SeveraI of the participants returned to Albuquerque via Bosque del Apache. One of those vehicles reported 105 species of birds. Some of the highlights of the trip were Mississippi Kite and fledglings, Northern Bobwhite, Baird's and Sulf Sandpipers, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lark Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting.

Saturday, September 25: with Art Arenholz
We could not get to the Hawkwatch site as we had planned, because the road was closed for repair. Our backup site, the Sandia Mountains, was impractical, due to a skateboard race on the paved road to the Crest. So seven determined birders found enjoyable birding at the Belen Marsh, along highway 47, and along the back roads to Bosque del Apache NWR. Special birds we saw: Peregrine Falcons, Cooper's Hawk, baby Inca Doves, Cattle Egrets and a close, perched Peregrine Falcon.

Saturday, October 2: Bosque del Apache NWR with Sandra Williamson
Six birders were willing to leave Balloon Fiesta and visit Bosque del Apache. Birds were scarce at Bosque due to the low water conditions. But a stop at the Belen Marsh netted us Wilson’s Snipe, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, White-faced Ibises, both Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, A. Coons, and a few Pectoral Sandpipers.

Saturday, October 16: Tatum with Christopher Rustay
Seven birders joined Chris for a trip to Tatum, continuing up towards Dora in Roosevelt county, and then west to Red Lake between Dora and Elida. We wound up with 70 species on the trip. The highlights were Barn Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapucker, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Sprague’s Pipit, Cassin’s, Clay-colored and Swamp Sparrows. A very nice trip. In addition, for those who went on to Fort Sumner, this morning at the Melrose trap was fantastic with Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher and a female Eastern Towhee. Pretty spectacular!

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.

With Recognition and Gratitude
Professor J. David Ligon will be retiring from his illustrious career at the University of New Mexico. We invite you to be among those honoring him. Tim Parker, former CNMAS Vice President, will be visiting from Kansas to give a talk at the symposium in Professor Ligon’s honor on Friday, December 10, at the UNM Department of Biology. If you are interested in attending, please contact Beth at 898-8514 for more details.

CNMAS Field Trip Schedule
Our field trips, including Thursday Birders, can be found at: http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html

8 January 2005, Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR
Meet at 8:00 AM 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 5:00 PM. Bring snacks, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Mostly next to the car birding, not much walking. Call Art Arenholz at 298-1724 for details.

15 January, Saturday - RGNC Winter Bird & Bat Festival
See advertisement left. CNMAS volunteers welcome.

29-30 January, Sat-Sun (overnight trip) - Las Vegas & Maxwell NWRs
The target birds will be the wintering birds of NE New Mexico such as Goldeneye, four species of Grebes, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Tree Sparrows. Bring food, snacks and water and dress appropriately for very cold weather conditions. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Far North Shopping Center and the Village Inn (NE corner of Academy and San Mateo Blvd.). Call Art Arenholz at 298-1724 or Seti Tokuda at 266-2480 for details.

12 February, Saturday - Albuquerque West Mesa
This will be a morning trip to search for Sage Sparrows on the West Mesa. Meet at 8:00 AM at the SW corner of the parking lot of the Marriott Pyramid Hotel (SW corner of 1-25 and Paseo del Norte). Call Seti Tokuda at 266-2480 for details.

26 February, Saturday - Cochiti Lake
Meet at 8:30 AM at the Far North Shopping Center near the Village Inn restaurant. Bring lunch and expect to return home around 3:00 PM. Target birds include Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Clark’s and Western Grebe, Black-billed Magpie, and waterfowl, Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers among others. Call Rebecca Gracey at 242-3821 or email her at mgracey@earthlink.net for details.

19 March, Saturday - Las Vegas NWR
Meet at 8:00 AM at the headquarters of the Las Vegas Refuge (approximate drive time from Albuquerque is 2-2.5 hours). You may also spend a night in Las Vegas. Be ready for either warm or bitterly cold weather. If a severe weather expected, call Celestyn Brozek at 925-8611 or e-mail chbrozek@nmlrc.com. If you want to carpool, either offer a ride or get a ride, e-mail Celestyn in advance and he will arrange carpooling if possible.

23 April, Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR
Meet at 7:00 AM at Albuquerque, at the NW corner of University and Gibson (a hotel parking lot) to carpool. Bring food for the whole day. We will look for early migrants. Call Lou Prime at 821-3145 for details.

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.

The 7th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form
To register for the following classes indicate circles:
- Grassland Birds (Feb. 17) - $6
- Montane Birds (Mar. 17) - $6
- Wetlands: Waders & Wings (Apr. 21) - $6
- All 3 CLASSES (pre-registration only) - $15
- I want to be a new Audubon Society Member and get 3 free Birding Academy classes - $20

NWS chapter code 051
Total Enclosed:
Questions? Call Beth at 505-898-8514.

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