

# Burrowing Owl

March, April, May 2007 Issue

Volume 36 No. 2

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

## Panama! Costa Rica! Alaska!

The Ninth Annual Central New Mexico Audubon Birding Academy takes us far afield. From the tropics to the tundra, this Birding Academy will awe, inspire, teach, and entertain.

March 15

### The Magnificence of Costa Rica

Jerry Goffe, presenter

"Resplendent" doesn't describe just a quetzal in Costa Rica. It's also apropos of Jerry Goffe's program about Costa Rica itself, the second in this year's CNMAS Birding Academy series of special presentations.

Jerry Goffe is a naturalist, guide, and photographer who loves to travel, teach, and share photography and photographs with people. He's been to Costa Rica before and, just in time for his March presentation, will be freshly back from another 12-day trip there. That means he'll have stunning photographs of birds, waterfalls, butterflies, and landscapes from cloud forest, rain forest, and Arenal Volcano areas.

Jerry is a volunteer at Bosque del Apache, acts as a guide on the Rio Grande Nature Center weekend bird walks, and is a member of Canon's Professional Services division and is soon to be one of the 88 "Explorers of Light." His photographs have been published in the National Audubon Society calendar, notecards, and magazine. In Jerry's words, it's okay to "shoot" the birds - but attend one of his photography workshops first and be sure to use a "canon". And in our words - don't miss this breathtaking travelogue.

April 19

### Alaska: Spectacular Beauty and Abundant Wildlife

Bonnie Long, presenter

Do you want to go to Alaska? Have you been there and want to go back? Do you daydream about visiting great wild places that are still home to great wildlife? Come and listen to Bonnie Long, an Audubon member who will tell

*Birding Academy... continued on page 2*

## Birdathon! 2007

What is Birdathon!? It's top-flight birding during the height of migration, with high-flying teams led by eagle-eyed birders. And it's the most successful fund-raiser we conduct here at your favorite Audubon chapter.

All your tax-deductible donations fund (to name two):

- Audubon Adventures program for local elementary schools. (Help those baby birds fledge!)
- Tuition Scholarships to Audubon ecology camps for an area educator and a youth birder - you're making an investment in the future!

Join us in person (pick a team and bring your binoculars) or in spirit (through your pledge.) Turn your love of birding into something other than buying birdseed.

*You'll find the Birdathon pledge form on page 2.*

### Team 1: Thursday Birders

The Thursday Birders Birdathon team will do their "traditional" Birdathon route May 17-18 with an overnight in Socorro May 17th. Last year we got a record 155 species without a double-crested cormorant, Bewick's wren or band-tailed pigeon. What will this year hold? Please join us and find out. Since the Birdathon is a fund-raiser for Audubon, a minimum contribution of \$10.00 is required. Starting place will be 10 AM, May 17th in the Manzanitas, with an extended visit to Bosque del Apache; and May 18th, Box and Water Canyon. Bring lunch for the first day and plan for your own lodging in Socorro the night of the 17th.

Leader Sei Tokuda and contact person: Cheri Orwig (505-994-2685, after March 10th) or (cherio47@yahoo.com anytime).

*Birdathon!... continued on page 2*

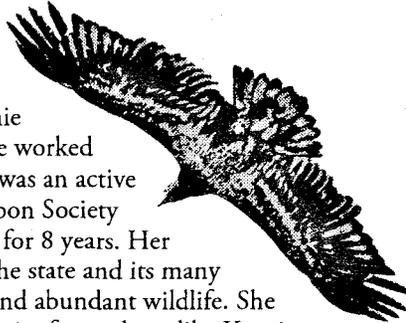
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about and show us some of the best places in Alaska to view birds and other wildlife. From 1986 until 2000, Bonnie lived in Anchorage, where she worked as a public health nurse. She was an active member of Anchorage Audubon Society and served as board secretary for 8 years. Her free time road trips covered the state and its many places of spectacular beauty and abundant wildlife. She will share her pictures and stories from places like Kenai Fjords National Park, Denali National Park, Katmai National Park, Glacier Bay National Park, Gambel on St. Lawrence Island, Nome, St. Paul Island in the Pribilof Islands, state game refuges of McNeil River and Round Island, and other less well known sites. And as if that's not enough, she'll tell you her secrets of great birding in Anchorage when you find yourself with extra time there! A big program about a big state - don't miss it!



*Thank you to Terry Dunn for presenting her talk and slide show on Panama's natural riches February 15th. It was a fine opening to the 9th Annual Audubon Birding Academy!*

All classes are held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM. Pay in advance or pay at the door (fill out the registration form, page 2). For information call Beth, 505-898-8514.

Visit our website: <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>

**Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form**

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

- Costa Rica (Mar. 15) \$6
- Alaska (Apr. 19) \$6

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to: **Total: \_\_\_\_\_**  
 CNMAS Birding Academy  
 PO BOX 30002 *NAS chapter code Q5!*  
 Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to get the Burrowing Owl via the web -

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CNMAS ABA 2007

*Feel free to make copies of this registration form.*

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.

*Birdathon!... continued from page 2*

**Team 2: Celestyn's Birdathon 2007**

You can join Celestyn Brozek for 24 hour birdathon on May 26-27. We will start at Percha Dam State Park at 11:00 AM on Saturday. Later we will move to Caballo Lake State Park, Elephant Butte Lake and Bosque del Apache. We will stay at the Bosque till late evening for nighthawks and owls. In the dark, we will drive to Sandia Mountains for owls and poor-wills. A short night will be spent at homes in Albuquerque. Early next morning (maybe even at dark, depending on the luck with owls during the previous evening), we will meet at Sandia again and "run" the mountain up including foothills until 11:00 AM on Sunday. It will be quite strenuous 24 hours with only snacking on the way. You don't have to stay for the whole event but you want to give a generous donation to Central New Mexico Audubon Society. We are all very grateful for helping our chapter and we hope that many of you will support this event by pledging "per species" or a specific sum, even if you cannot participate in the birdathon. Contact Celestyn Brozek at 266-9225 or 925-8611, or email [cbrozek@unm.edu](mailto:cbrozek@unm.edu).

**Team 3: Youth Birders - Earth Beat**

The youths are at it again for an all out 24 hour birding blitz. With no sleep and no adults! Our team name is "Earth Beat" in memory of Ryan Beaulieu and we plan on smashing our previous record. We're full of energy, excitement, and enthusiasm and can't wait to count those birdies. This is a closed group, but please be with us in spirit by pledging!

**Central New Mexico Audubon Society**

**Birding For Dollars**

*For every bird species the team identifies during Birdathon, CNMAS benefits!*

**Circle your pledge & Audubon can WIN!**

<b>10¢</b>	<b>25¢</b>	<b>50¢</b>
<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>\$7<sup>50</sup></b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$20</b>

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Or if you are feeling extra generous, fill in your Birdathon pledge here*

**THIS PLEDGE CAN BE DESIGNATED FOR TEAM/INDIVIDUAL**

To make a pledge or to make your tax-deductible donation, return this form with your payment made out to:

CNMAS  
 PO Box 30002  
 Albuquerque NM 87190-0002



March - April - May 2007

## CNMA Field Trip Schedule

prepared by Celestyn Brozek

Check <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html> for field trip updates. Although it rarely happens, trips can be changed or cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Always check with the leader before the trip.

### Sunday, April 29: Bitter Lake NWR

Meet at the Bitter Lake Headquarters at 7:00 AM. This should be the height of shorebird migration, we may even find a Least Tern or two. This is a New Mexico IBA and generally has the largest number of shorebirds of any place in the state. Contact Christopher Rustay (505)255-7786 for details.

### Saturday, May 19: Water Canyon

Meet at 6:30 AM behind the Hawthorne Suites (NW corner of Gibson and University Blvd.). In the fields and mountains west of Socorro, we will be looking for spring migrants, including Grace's, Red-faced and Virginia's warblers, Hepatic Tanager, and other. Bring lunch, snacks, water and sunscreen. There will be some walking. Contact Sei Tokuda at (505)266-2480 for details.

### Saturday, June 23: Villanueva State Park

Meet at the Four Hills shopping center on Central and west of Tramway near Hollywood Video at 7:00 AM. Very little walking will be involved. We will be looking for Cassin's Sparrows, Bullock's Orioles and Yellow Warblers. Bring lunch. We should be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 PM. Directions: east on I-40 for 65 miles, then north on Highway 3 for 20 miles. There is a \$5 entrance fee if you don't have a state parks pass. Contact Rebecca Gracey at (505)242-3821, or [mrgracey@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgracey@earthlink.net) for details.

### Thursday Morning Birding Group

Weekly birding outings every Thursday. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary. Call Margaret Wallen at 505-341-0928 for details of outings.

## Herbfest at RGNC a spring celebration

Saturday & Sunday, May 5th and 6th

The Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center offer speakers, guided walks, plants for sale, kids' crafts, and garden tours. There is a \$3 State Park parking fee.

2901 Candelaria NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
(505)344-7240

Need more information? Call FRGNC (505)343-1373  
Visit: <http://rgnc.org/>

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.

## Open Space Issues:

### Los Ranchos Open Space Bond Election

by Jeff Myers

As you know, the Middle Rio Grande Valley is becoming increasingly settled, with less and less open space. So, there is less and less habitat for wildlife, in particular wintering and migrating geese, ducks, cranes, kestrels, etc. The Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque is trying to be proactive and to protect as open space certain key parcels in the North Valley.

The Village is working on identifying important properties, but the parcel initially at issue is the Anderson Fields property at the "buffalo corner" on Rio Grande just north of Montañó Boulevard.

An election is being held in the Village on March 13th (with early voting starting February 21st) to authorize \$3.6 million in bonds to help fund open space acquisitions. The Village can then seek matching funds from the state and federal governments under various programs or express authorizations. The Trust for Public Lands, who helped in the acquisition of the Tres Pistoles Canyon properties several years ago, will act as an intermediary to smooth transactions.

If you are a Village resident, please be sure to vote in the bond election on March 13th. If you have friends in the Village, please encourage them to do likewise!

*If we learn, finally, that what we need to "manage" is not the land so much as ourselves in the land, we will have turned the history of American land-use on its head.*

*- Gaylord Nelson, Founder of Earth Day*

## CNMA Field Trip Reports

### Sunday, November 12, 2006: Las Vegas NWR

Eighteen birders enjoyed this cool fall day with brisk winds. The species count for the day was 45. The significant sightings were the Rough-legged and Ferruginous hawks, Bald Eagle, Scaled Quail and unusual high numbers of Mountain Bluebirds and Canvasbacks. Fifteen species of ducks were seen, as well as large flocks of Horned Larks and Red-winged Blackbirds. A late Turkey Vulture was seen over La Bajada Hills. - Sei

### Saturday, February 3: Elephant Butte Lake

We had 8 people participating and 71 species on the trip. Highlights included both a dark-morph and light-morph Ferruginous Hawk, several different plumages of Red-tailed Hawk including a likely immature Harlan's Hawk, an Osprey, great looks at a variety of gull plumages including Ring-billed and Herring Gull, a Great Horned Owl on the nest, great looks at Neotropical Cormorants, several Phainopepla, at least four White-throated Sparrows, a Swamp Sparrow and for the lucky few who stayed till the bitter end at Rock Canyon Marina - a Lesser Black-backed Gull. - Christopher

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



## Learning Look-Alikes: Bluebirds

by Art Arenholz,

with artwork by Andrew Rominger

Finding a flock of bluebirds adds a lot to any birding trip. Most beautiful when seen in flight, bluebirds are near the top of most birder's "Favorite Birds" list. We will look at Western, Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds and will include both the easy-to-identify males and the more difficult females.

First, let's review the characteristics that all bluebirds share. Bluebirds are a bit larger than a sparrow, are plump, and have large eyes and a dark, slender bill. All have at least some blue marking; the males have lots of blue. All juvenile bluebirds have spotted breasts, similar to young robins. Out of breeding season, they are often seen in small, mixed flocks, perched on fences, wires or small trees, near open country. All have musical, low-

pitched calls ("phew") often given during flight and helpful in locating these birds. Bluebirds eat insects in season and add berries (e.g. Juniper) during winter.

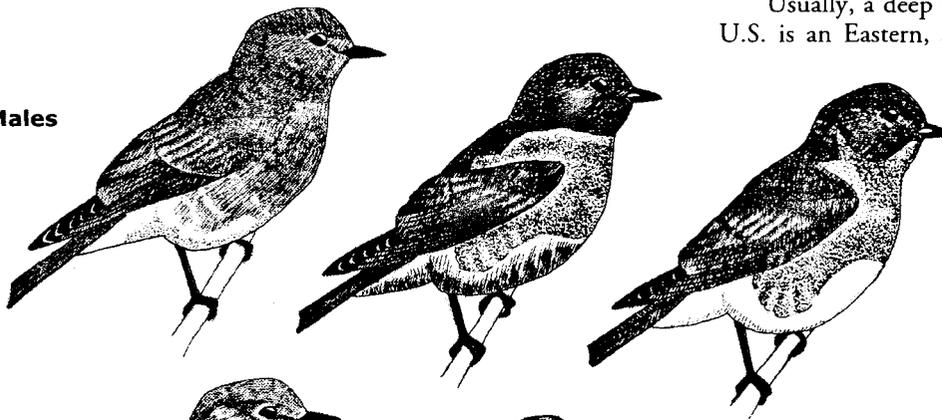
Western and Eastern Bluebirds look a lot alike, so let's review them first. Both males have a deep, beautiful blue on the head and the upper-parts. Their chests are rusty and their bellies are pale. There are two main areas to emphasize: the color of the throat and the color of the belly. A Western male has a blue throat and a gray belly, while an Eastern male has a rusty throat and a white belly. Also a Western male almost always has rusty on the scapulars and on the back.

Female Westerns and Easterns are similar to the males, except more subdued in color. You could take the "Female Teal identification" approach, and assume the female is with a nearby, easy-to-identify male. Or, you could take a long, good look, search for the gray belly of a Western or the white belly of an Eastern (just like the males).

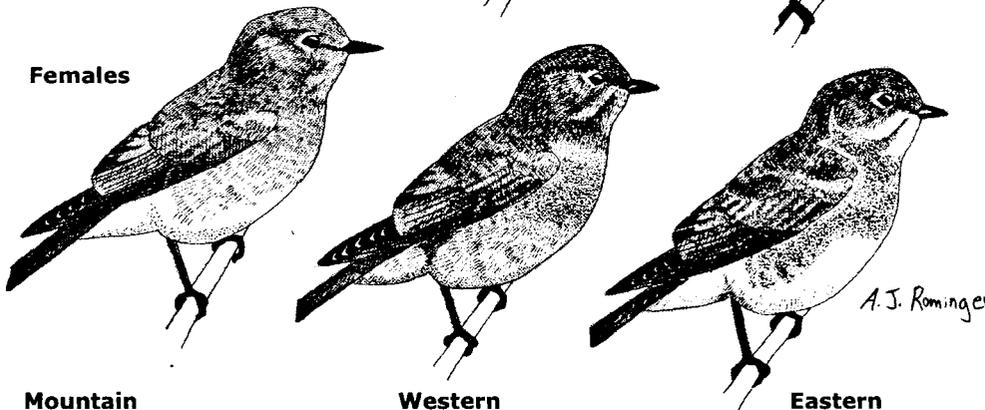
Usually, a deep blue male bluebird in the eastern part of the U.S. is an Eastern, and a similar bird in the western U.S. is a Western. But in New Mexico in winter, it is not difficult to find both, sometimes even in a single flock. So study the throat and the belly, and you can sort out the Western and Eastern Bluebirds.

The male Mountain Bluebird is considered by many birders to be among the most gorgeous birds. He is quite different from his two lower altitude cousins. Overall he is a powder blue (or turquoise blue), with lighter blue underparts. In good light, especially when hovering, he is stunning. Another good clue for the Mountain Bluebird: no rusty color anywhere, unlike his two cousins. Female Mountain Bluebirds are also quite different from their cousins. She looks uniformly gray, with hints of blue in her wings and tail. Once again, just like the male, the lack of any rusty color is different from the rusty under-parts of her two cousins. So, to identify a female Mountain Bluebird, look for overall gray, with hints of blue in her wings and tail, and no rust color anywhere.

Males



Females



Mountain

Western

Eastern

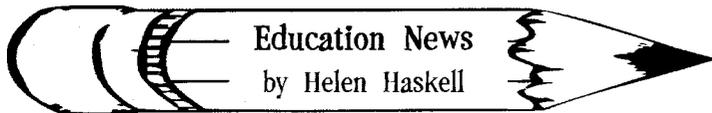
I.D. Feature	Western male	Western female	Eastern male	Eastern female	Mountain male	Mountain female
Color of head, wings & tail	Deep blue	Gray-blue	Deep blue	Gray-blue	Powder blue	Gray-brown; touch of blue in wings, tail
Color of throat	Deep blue	Gray	Rusty-red	White	Light blue	Gray-brown
Rusty-red on breast?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Rusty-red on back?	Almost all do.	No	No	No	No	No
Color of belly	Gray	Gray	White	White	White	White
Rusty-red anywhere?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Hover to catch insects?	Rarely	Rarely	Rarely	Rarely	Often	Often
Juvenile-spots on breast?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Juvenile-spots on back?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Bird behavior can also give a useful clue for bird identification. While not usually diagnostic by itself, it can help confirm a bird's identification. For example, Mountain Bluebirds often hover-hunt, while the other two species either fly-catch from a perch or flutter down from a perch to the ground to catch insects.

So my suggestion is to enjoy any bluebirds you find and gradually learn to tell them apart. Perhaps the summary table will help you recall the key identification clues.



March - April - May 2007



**CNMAS Educator Resource Grant**

CNMAS is proud to announce that the brand new Educator Resource Grant has been awarded to Patrick Huggins, from Alvarado Elementary School in Albuquerque. Patrick is going to use the award to purchase binoculars for his students to observe wildlife in the open areas near their school. The summer Burrowing Owl will have an article from Patrick and his students about their adventures and observations, thanks to this grant.

This grant will be available again for the 2007-08 school year. Watch for more information in the next Burrowing Owl and on our website. Please encourage teachers that you know to apply.

**Teacher Professional Development Opportunity**

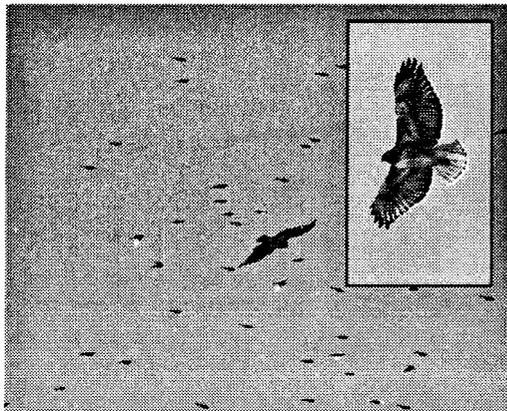
If you have ever had the opportunity to see local educator Melanie Keithley in action, you'll realize that CNMAS's Teacher Professional Development Grant is going to the right person. Melanie, a long time educator and volunteer for HawkWatch International, here in Albuquerque, and educator for the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Project, is off to the Institute of Desert Ecology in April.

As a fellow educator and attendee of the workshop I know that Melanie is not only going to relish the four days of Sonoran desert exploration, but will also contribute to other attendees'



**At the Crest House, January 28, 2007**

Around 10:30 AM a Red-tailed Hawk approached the Crest House from the south. When it was within 40 meters of the feeders the entire flock of Rosy-finches took off and started flying around it. The Rosy-finches didn't touch the hawk but they came by within inches of it as they flew by. The hawk did not seem bothered by the flock of Rosy-finches swirling around it, but it turned around and headed away from the Crest House.



After it was about 50 meters away the Rosy-finches stopped harassing the hawk and returned to the feeders. The whole confrontation lasted only two or three minutes, and no one got any pictures. While I was outside taking pictures of Rosy-finches at 2:00 PM, a Red-tailed Hawk (probably the same individual from earlier) came by and I got a few pictures of the Rosy-finches harassing it. — Cole Wolf

experiences and bring back a wealth of knowledge to pass on to her students. Congratulations Melanie, and we look forward to hearing about your experiences.

If any of you are interested in more information about the Institute this year, please contact Matt Brooks, Institute Director at (520) 622-2230, mattbrooks@tucsonaudubon.org, or visit <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/education>.

**The Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund**

Due to the dedication, hard work, and generous contributions from many individuals and organizations, the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund has been established and is accepting applications from the New Mexico community starting March 2007, for use in summer 2008. The fund provides scholarships for youth between the ages of 13 and 20, or educators of youth, to attend a specific program, camp or course pertaining to the candidate's interest in the natural sciences.

For more information about applications, please contact Helen Haskell at [helenm@yahoo.com](mailto:helenm@yahoo.com) and visit <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> where you can follow links to the application form and instructions.

CNMAS thanks the Lannan Foundation for its generous support of the fund, as well as the family and friends of Ryan. Ryan Beaulieu was a young ornithologist, environmentalist and conservationist who filled his life with the joy of exploration and discovery of nature. This scholarship fund was established to give testimony to the living legacy of what Ryan gave to all of us as family, friends and community.

*Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive, and even spiritual satisfaction. Each species is a masterpiece, a creation assembled with extreme care and genius.*

*- Edward O. Wilson*

**The Northern Aplomado Falcon,**

listed as an endangered species in New Mexico since 1990, is the subject of a release program that has been initiated on the Armendaris Ranch east of T or C. Eleven birds have successfully fledged and are exploring their new territory. A release of up to 150 birds a year over the next 10 years in NM is hoped for. All of the falcons carry leg bands inscribed with letters and numbers that are sometimes readable through a spotting scope. Anyone who sees an aplomado falcon is encouraged to make note of the bird's characteristics, its location, activity and surroundings, and then pass on the information to Angel Montoya at 505-523-5550 or Patricia Zenone at 505-761-4718. Photos are always welcome.





## Friends of the Bosque del Apache NWR 2007 Education Series

*Please call 505-835-1828 for reservations where required.*

### Bosque Spring Wildflower Hike

Saturday, March 31, 9:00 am - noon

Parking area east of I-25/exit 139 (San Antonio)

(limit 20 participants, reservations required)

Led by naturalist Bob Merkel. This is a spectacularly scenic canyon west of San Antonio. It is very rich in wildflowers and evidences of the geologic history of the Rio Grande Rift Valley. Expect to walk a mile or so in the canyon, see a wide variety of wildflowers, improve your identification skills, learn a little about local geology, and enjoy a wonderful spring day in our northern Chihuahuan desert. The road to the canyon is poorly maintained. Please come in high clearance vehicle if you can or be prepared to accept a ride with another participant. Bring water, snack or lunch, sun protection.

### Explore the Night Sky with Amy Estelle

Saturday, April 21, 7:30 pm

Meet at Visitor Center

(reservations required)

This program is designed especially for children ages 8 - 12. Through hands-on activities and observation they will learn the Moon's phases, major constellations and bright stars of the season. Binoculars and telescopes will be available for close up study of the Moon.

### International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday, May 12, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Visitor Center

(limited participants, reservations required)

The Bosque Springtime and International Migratory Bird Day Celebration will be May 12th. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will be offering three activities each limited to 24 people. Call 505-835-1828 for reservations and indicate if you are signing up for one activity or all three.

Beginning at 8:00 Naturalists will lead a one-hour \*birdwalk\* around the grounds of the visitor center including the arboretum looking for migratory birds such as warblers, orioles, kingbirds, etc. Beginning birders are welcome to join the group.

From 10:00-2:00 an \*arboretum\* visit with emphasis on cactus propagation by cuttings will be offered. We will also teach you how to harvest nopals (cactus pads) for nopalitos and how to prepare them. During this time we will break for lunch (bring your own) and give you an opportunity to sample nopalitos prepared in various ways. We will then continue the arboretum tour with desert plant identification and how to plant cacti from plants and cuttings.

From 2:00 - 4:00, a \*Refuge Tour\* in the refuge bus on the refuge to see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. This activity is limited to 24 people (bus capacity).

Come and enjoy Springtime in the Bosque and International Migratory Bird Day on your National Wildlife Refuge.

# FLYING

### Invertebrate Atlantis: The Amazing World of Aquatic Insects

Saturday, June 9, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Visitor Center

(limit 20 participants, reservations required)

Leigh Ann Vradenburg will show you a world that you may never have known existed- that of insects and other invertebrates living underwater and providing a vital link in the aquatic food chain. Participants will learn about various invertebrates found at the Bosque and their role as predator and prey in wetland dynamics. Leigh Ann will demonstrate sampling techniques and explain the use of aquatic insects as indicators of water quality. Participants will work hands-on with the equipment and microscopes to explore the humble beginnings of dragonflies, mosquitoes, beetles, and many other insects that we see at the Bosque on a summer's day. Leigh Ann will also have her personal collection on display so that participants can see the diversity of aquatic insects from the Midwest and Southern United States. Bring a hat and sunscreen for the field trip.

### 24th Annual Monte Vista Crane Festival

March 9 - 11, Monte Vista, Colorado

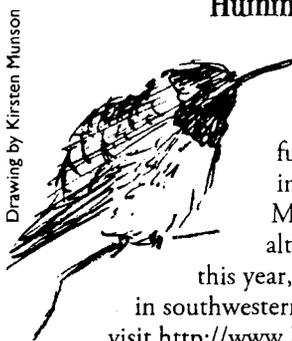
"Celebrating Spring in the Valley of the Cranes"



Why is it that virtually the entire population of Sandhill Cranes that follow the Rocky Mountain Flyway call this remote high-desert valley home in spring and fall? A free lecture will inform you. Also featuring sunrise and sunset tours,

workshops, tours of Baca National Wildlife Refuge (the largest in Colorado), birders' breakfast and more. For information and reservations, call 719-852-3552 Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit <http://www.cranefest.com> - reservation/payment deadline is March 5.

### Hummingbird Festival



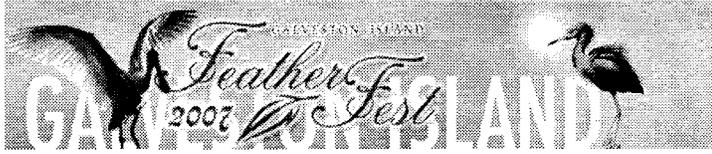
Drawing by Kirsten Munson

Hummingbirds of New Mexico is interested in putting together a Festival Planning Committee to plan future festivals and is encouraging all interested parties to contact Joan Day-Martin at (505)536-3866. Joan says, although the festival is not happening this year, you are invited to visit Lake Roberts in southwestern New Mexico. For more information visit <http://www.hbnm.org> or write to HBNM, HC 68, Box 169, Silver City, NM, 88061-9311.



March - April - May 2007

# FARTHER AFIELD



## You're Invited! FeatherFest 2007 Galveston Texas Birding Nature Festival March 29 - April 1

Travel to bird the Upper Texas Coast, out of Galveston, TX., during the City's annual celebration of nature, FeatherFest 2007, March 29th through April 1st. It is Upper Texas Coastal birding at its best!

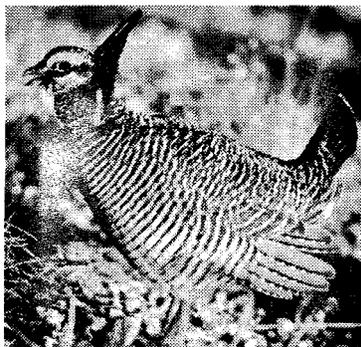
Interested persons should go to: <http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com>  
Mort Voller, Houston Audubon member and Chair of the Galveston Birding Festival: 409-392-0841, [vollernature@juno.com](mailto:vollernature@juno.com)

## 6th Annual High Plains Prairie Chicken Festival April 13 - 15, Milnesand, NM

The High Plains Prairie Chicken Festival celebrates the lesser prairie chicken and the Llano Estacado (staked plains) of eastern New Mexico. Festival participants see prairie chickens perform their remarkable early morning courtship dances, learn about the cultural and natural history of the southern Great Plains, take daily birding tours, and enjoy good food and western hospitality.

The 2007 festival will be April 13-15 in Milnesand, N.M., in southeastern New Mexico.

Attendance is limited to the first 100 participants who register and pay an entry fee of \$90 per person. Participants are encouraged to register early. Registration is limited because of the sensitivity of the lesser prairie chicken during the breeding season. The fee covers all field trips, five meals and a commemorative poster.



The festival is made possible through a cooperative effort of the Department of Game and Fish, the Nature Conservancy of New Mexico, the Grasslans Charitable Foundation, and the community of Milnesand. Registration forms and more information about the festival will be available soon on the Department's Web site at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us). To register, send a \$90 check made out to the 6th Annual High Plains Prairie-Chicken Festival, # 1 Pueblo Point, Clovis, NM 88101. No refunds will be available after April 5.

For more information, contact Tish McDaniel, (505) 762-6997 or [pmcdaniel@tnc.org](mailto:pmcdaniel@tnc.org); or the Department of Game and Fish, (505) 476-8000.

## Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival, May 10-13

Tours to Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Mesa Verde, McElmo Canyon, Bradfield Bridge, Owl Hoot, Talk Turkey, Greeting the Creator, Joe Moore Reservoir, Raptor tour, Eagle tour on Ute Reservation, Outdoor Photography tour and class, lectures, Bird Artists Show, Keynote speaker Ted Floyd. Great Festival. Contact Festival Chairperson 970-565-1151, [director-cultural@fone.net](mailto:director-cultural@fone.net)

<http://www.utemountainmesaverdebirdingfestival.com>



## More Western Festivals To Consider!

March 29 - April 1: Texas Tropics Nature Festival, McAllen, Texas - <http://www.mcallenchamber.com/visitors/naturefest/> 956-682-2871

April 26-29: Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival, Cottonwood, Arizona - <http://www.birdyverde.org/> 928-282-2202

May 17-22: Great Salt Lake Bird Festival, Farmington, Utah - <http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com/> 801-451-3286

May 18-20: Turtle Mountain Birding Festival, North Dakota, <http://www.misu-b.nodak.edu/birding.html> 888-918-5623

June 7-10: Potholes & Prairie Birding Festival, Carrington, North Dakota - <http://www.birdingdrives.com/> 888-921-2473

June 14-17: Sully's Hill Birding & Nature Festival, Fort Totten, North Dakota, <http://www.sullyshillbirdfest.com/> 800-233-8048

## Second Annual Osprey Festival July 13-14

### Heron Lake State Park in Northern New Mexico



Star parties, naturalist talks, presentations by osprey and heron experts highlight the evening programs. The Friday evening reception kicks off the festivities with entertainment, wine and cheese tasting, and an opportunity to meet and talk with presenters.

Visit <http://www.ospreyfest.com> for more information. Or Heron Lake State Park Visitors Center, 505-588-7470.

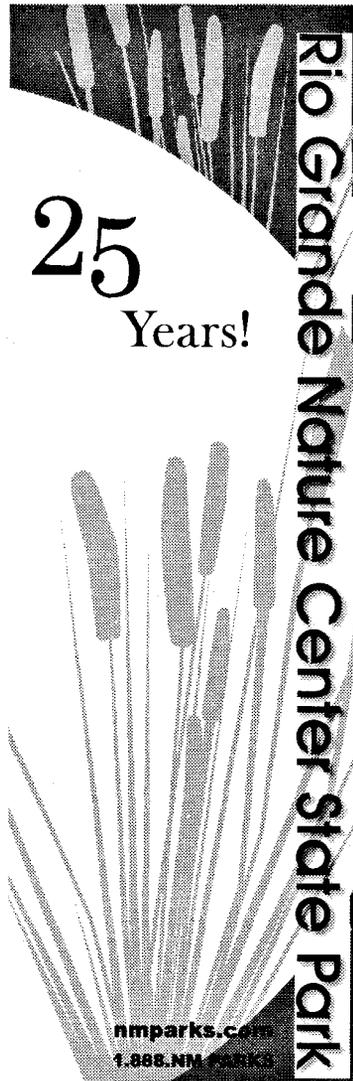


### Congratulations to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park on its 25th Anniversary!

CNMAAS has gladly participated in RGNC events such as Herbfest, Summer Wings, and Winter Bird and Bat Festivals.

Here's to RGNC's continued mission to educate about and preserve the Rio Grande bosque.

There are many 25th Anniversary Events taking place throughout the year. Call the RGNCSP at 505-344-7240.



### Sandia Mountains - HawkWatch Observations

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

Banders and volunteers will start to set up banding stations for the Sandia Hawkwatch on Saturday, March 3. The observers began the count on February 24 and will remain until May 5. Last year's count resulted in a tally of 3,709 raptors, which included 17 species. Call Bobbie at 505-255-7622 for more information or to set up a field trip to the site.

The HawkWatch garage sale to raise money for food for the HawkWatch crew will be at Helen Haskell's home at 1806 Palomas NE on April 7, 9AM - 2PM. Please call Bobbie at 505-255-7622 if you would like to donate any items for the garage sale.



## HawkWATCH

HawkWatch International's mission:

*To monitor and protect hawks, eagles, other birds of prey and their environment through research, education and conservation.*

### International Migratory Bird Day Saturday, May 12

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), held annually on the second Saturday in May, is an invitation to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation.

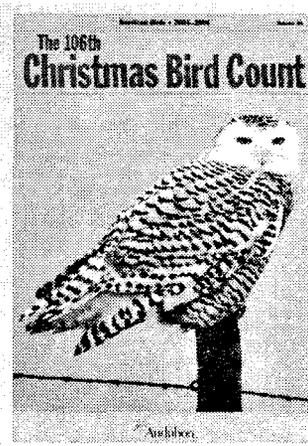
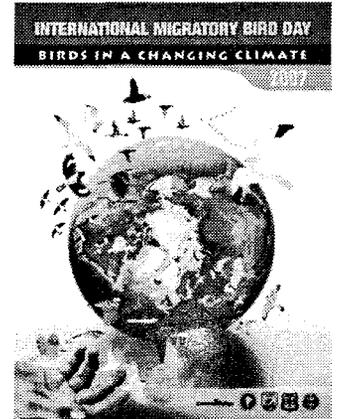
#### "Birds In a Changing Climate" - The IMBD 2007 Theme

Birds have long been indicators of environmental change, sounding the alarm about the impacts of pesticides, polluted water, and the loss of contiguous forest. While IMBD continues to promote the joy of birds, it will also tackle a challenging, yet pertinent topic in 2007 - climate change.

The reactions of birds to weather have long been noted. For hundreds of years, farmers have used the arrivals of migratory birds to make decisions about planting crops. Changes in the movements of some species is just one indicator of the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. Today, as the rate of warming increases, scientists are exploring how climate change will affect birds and how we can reduce our impact.

In 2007, as many as 300,000 people will learn about climate change at IMBD events. Find out what is happening in our area. Visit the IMBD website <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd> or call 703-358-2318. For IMBD Materials visit <http://www.BirdDay.org> or call 866-334-3330.

IMBD was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird - its journey between its summer and winter homes. Today, it is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day! We invite you to join us in this important celebration.



### The Numbers Are In For the 107th CBC!

This current season's Christmas Bird Count compilations can be found at National Audubon's website:

[http://cbc.audubon.org/cbccurrent/current\\_table.html](http://cbc.audubon.org/cbccurrent/current_table.html)  
The website listings are better than ever!

Get the 106th CBC in book form at: <http://audubon.org/bird/cbc/106thSummary.html>



March - April - May 2007

**Transitions**

***In Memory and recognition of Ross Teuber,***

long-time Audubon supporter, newsletter contributor, board member, and activist in field work, particularly at Sevilleta NWR. Ross passed away in August of a heart attack after a long bout with Alzheimer's. He had been living with his daughter in Missouri since his wife died 2 1/2 years ago. He was interred beside his wife in Albuquerque on August 26. Our condolences to the family, and our appreciation for his innumerable contributions to the birding and conservation community.

***In Memory and recognition of Darwin Miller,***

who passed quietly in his sleep on December 23, at the age of 96. Darwin's nearly life-long activism in Audubon is evident to this day in the living sanctuary that is Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. Darwin was one of the most vocal and energetic proponents for its acquisition by Audubon, and he was a member of the Board of RDAC until recently. Further, he was a vital conservationist both with the board of Central New Mexico Audubon Society and with The State Audubon Council. He always had a smile and a story, was a congenial and interesting man. He lived a good, long life.

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**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 [whitecliffs@comcast.net](mailto:whitecliffs@comcast.net)



**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 \$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 Summer 2007 issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by May 5, 2007. 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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(800)659-2622  
Audubon Take Action  
www.audubonaction.org/audubon/  
New Mexico Office  
David Henderson  
Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505)983-4609, dhenderson@audubon.org  
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president@whitehouse.gov  
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tom.udall@mail.house.gov

Hon. Heather Wilson  
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ask.heather@mail.house.gov  
Governor Bill Richardson  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(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  
11776 Highway 337  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
(505)281-3304  
New Mexico Department  
of Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505)476-8000  
www.wildlife.state.nm.us

**Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)**  
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**Rare Bird Alert**  
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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