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

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

September - October - November 2007 Issue
Volume 36 No. 4

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Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Fall Programs

These programs will amaze, delight and enlighten! A hearty welcome to our presenters who will bring you closer to our wondrous natural world.

Our fall programs will be held on the third Thursday of September and October, and second Thursday of November at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments) and remember, these meetings and programs are FREE! For info, call Beth, 898-8514.

Thursday, October 18

Hummingbirds of the High Andes
With Dr. Christopher C. Witt
Curator of Birds, Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico

This talk will be a 1 hour slide presentation providing an overview of the high Andean hummingbird fauna, with reports on our 2006 and 2007 expeditions to Peru. Can hummingbirds fly higher than Mt. Everest? This and other exciting new scientific results will be divulged!

Christopher Witt was born in Philadelphia and started birding in 5th grade. He got his start in ornithology working with Frank Gill at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Witt got his bachelor’s degree at College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME, and his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. He was a postdoctoral researcher at University of California-Berkeley until 2007 when he started as an Assistant Professor of Biology and Curator of Birds at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico. His

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research interests are bird systematics, biogeography, comparative physiology, and hummingbirds.

This presentation will feature the art work that has been submitted for the annual High Plains Prairie-Chicken Festival, along with many photos that participants have shared with her over the past 6 years. Ongoing research and the biology of the bird will also be highlighted through a variety of mixed media.

Tish McDaniel is the “Southern Shortgrass Prairie Coordinator” for The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico. She graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 1975 with a B.S. in biology and chemistry. In 1976, she received another B.S. degree in Agriculture from New Mexico State University with an emphasis in wildlife biology and range conservation. As the owner of a consulting firm, Phalarope Consulting, Tish worked for 15 years, prior to her employment with TNC, as an environmental educator, and also contracted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Partners Program, Otero Soil and Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Grasslans Charitable Foundation and Wildlife Plus, an environmental consulting firm.

As a third generation eastern New Mexican and the granddaughter of one of the original sod busters, Tish spends most of her time “re-stitching” the soils on the southern short grass prairie. As a TNC employee she works with a variety of federal and state agencies and other interested parties to implement habitat restoration. She is also the project manager of the Milnesand Prairie Preserve, a working ranch that has a large population of Lesser Prairie-Chickens.

Tish’s interest in nature probably began with her first viewing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken at the early age of 9 months when her mother carried her in a cardboard box in the back on a pickup on an early spring morning to watch the annual display.

Realizing that education through experience is the best way to convince people of conservation issues, six people, including Tish, sat around a dining room table in late winter of 2002 and organized the “High Plains Prairie-Chicken Festival”. It was created without any knowledge of how a festival should be designed—a total success! “We have been over-capacity for the six years that we have held the festival in Milnesand, NM. Our 7th Annual High Plains Prairie-Chicken Festival will be held in Milnesand on April 11-13, 2008.”

Birdathon! 2007
Wrap Up

Many thanks to the generous donors to this year’s Birdathon! Your donations will go toward our CNMAS education programs. We will list all of you in the next Burrowing Owl.

Also, many thanks to our Birdathon teams. Below are reports from Celestyn’s Birdathon trip and the Thursday Birders group.

Celestyn’s Birdathon, 26-27 May 2007
by Celestyn Brozek

Four participants, Celestyn, David Buckley, John Esterl and Chris McIntosh, met before 11 AM at Percha Dam State Park. David spotted Bronzed Cowbird right at the beginning! Good start! Percha delivered its usual specialties including multitude of Lucy’s Warblers, Vermillion Flycatchers and Phainopeplas. However, migrant warblers were missing which turned out to be the case throughout the Birdathon.

We drove next to Caballo Lake and Paseo del Rio State Parks. It was a middle of the day, the holiday crowds large and noisy. We hit the doldrums, spirits were down. The only highlight were late White-crowned Sparrows, but we couldn’t find many common birds such as Cactus Wren or a gull! Luckily, Bosque del Apache delivered as usually: 13 duck species, 4 grebes, and rare Glossy Ibis and Red-necked Phalarope. Lesser and Common Nighthawks sailed out in the evening and we didn’t have to wait for Great Horned Owl since it showed in bright daylight! We drove to Sandia Mountains for more owls and poorwills. Flammulated Owls were in force in the Sandias but a prolonged search yielded only one Common Poorwill. We got home after midnight and decided to meet at 5:30 AM at Embudo Cañon in Sandia foothills. Everybody came on time! What a team! It was not easy to get up after barely four hours of sleep!

We were rewarded with calling Great Horned Owls and an easy find of Cactus Wren by its nest. Another foothill location, Three Gun Spring, yielded more expected birds, beautiful Scott’s Oriole (which was a life species for Chris), thrashers, sparrows and wrens. Los Ojitos open space hosted another rarity: Red-eyed Vireo. Next we drove all the way to the Sandia Crest, stopping frequently. We found almost all nesting warblers and many other forest species. At the crest White-throated Swift and a cooperative family of Red Crossbills topped the total list of 144 species (for the list you may e-mail cbrozek@unm.edu). 24 hours of birding were over! The report wouldn’t be complete if I didn’t mention our biggest miss: American Kestrel and a gull!

I am very grateful to all participants for the great company, hard work and the contributions. In addition, David did a great job securing the pledges of $800 for our CNMAS chapter! Thank you everybody who pledged money to our team!
Central New Mexico Birdathon
by Judy Liddell

Published May 19th, 2007 New Mexico, Birds
at http://www.wingandsong.wordpress.com/

We were all milling around in Karen and Gary's kitchen, snacking and watching the bird activity at their myriad feeders. It was not yet 10 a.m., the start of the birdathon, a fundraising event for Central New Mexico Audubon. There were 19 of us participating on the Thursday Birder team. The team's goal was to beat last year's 24-hour record of 155 species. A species can only be counted if it is identified by two people.

As the big hand clicked onto the twelve and we looked out of the window, there were no birds at the feeders. Then a Mountain Chickadee flew in, and we had our first species. Several headed outside to scour the property, while the rest of us kept watch on the feeders that attracted a string of diverse species, such as Cedar Waxwing, Hairy Woodpecker, Stellar's Jay, Black-headed Grosbeak, Pine Siskin and Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

"We will donate an additional $5 for each bird we add to our New Mexico Big Year list," Lou and Bev announced. "We could really use a Band-tailed Pigeon." Before we left, they had their bird, and Audubon was $5 richer.

Sei Tokuda had master-mined the itinerary to capture the maximum number of birds. He allowed us 20 minutes at each stop. By time we left the Boettchers, we had a nice start of almost 30 species.

Our next stop was in the mountain meadow on the road near their house, where we picked up several more species, including a Cordillean Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird and Western Bluebird. By time we reached the highway, we added Brewer's Blackbird and American Robin.

It was starting to sprinkle. The further south we drove through the Manzano Mountains, the harder it rained. When we pulled into the marshy creek in Torreon that buzzed with bird activity the prior week, the birds had sought cover. The same was true at the Manzano Pond, where all we saw was an Olive-sided Flycatcher and White-winged Dove.

At Quarai National Monument, we donned our rain gear, but before we left the monument, the rain had slowed to a drizzle. We headed straight for the church ruins to look for the Great-horned Owl, but didn't see him in the niche where he sat the prior week. While some of us headed for the arroyo, Gary searched until he saw the owl sitting nearby on the branch of a cottonwood. Other new species included Western Wood-Pewee, Spotted Towhee and Plumbeous Vireo.

While some got coffee when we stopped in Socorro, others walked to the open space between the freeway off and on-ramps where Burrowing Owls regularly nest in prairie dog burrows. There was a prairie dog, but no owl.

On the Farm-to-Market road, we stopped to pick up a Phainopepla, Green Heron and Western Tanager, and then headed to Jerry Oldenettel's yard. A Barn Owl was sitting in the rafters of the neighbor's car port. It flew to a nearby tree when we walked closer, and then watched warily from the crook of some branches. A Bullock's Oriole flew in before we headed to the back yard. Barn Swallows had built their mud cup nests against the rear of the house. They swooped in and out over the pond plucking insects, then taking them back to the nest.

At the Visitor's Center at the Bosque del Apache, a Gambel's Quail stood vigil on a post, while calling to another quail on the far side of the residences. We stopped to admire the blooming cacti. As the damp air warmed up, the mosquitoes started swarming.

Our first stop on the tour loop was to scan the group of White-faced Ibis; however, we didn't see the Glossy that was mingling with them a month ago, so we proceeded to the Eagle Scout Deck to watch the Black Terns in breeding plumage flying and diving over the water in the seasonal wetland. A few Forster's Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls joined with them. We started ticking off waterfowl – 13 different species.

At the Boardwalk both Neotropic and Double-crested Cormorants were sunning themselves on a snag – and Pied-billed, Clark's and Western Grebe swam and dove lazily. Marsh Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat and Common Yellowthroat called from the bushes.

We added Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Summer Tanager and Vermillion Flycatcher as we made our way around the Marsh Loop. We batted furiously at mosquitoes as we stopped to look at a bare bush in the rookery pond filled with several species of swallows. Snowy and Great Egrets perched in another bare tree.

As we started onto the seasonal route, the air was filled with Lesser and Common Nighthawks, their white wing bars flashing in the dimming light of early evening. Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet stood in the muddy marsh. We encountered several Ring-necked Pheasants and hens.

The light was fading as we stood on the flight deck watching groups of Wilson's Phalaropes spinning to rustle up supper. Long-billed Dowitchers clumped together as they settled in for the night.

"We will reconvene at 6 a.m. at Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech campus," Sei announced before the group headed back to the motel.

Rebecca, Gale and Cheri were not done for the day. They grabbed a sandwich and headed out to the Magdalenas for owls. They heard both Flammulated and Western Screech Owl in the rear of the house. They swooped in and out over the pond plucking insects, then taking them back to the nest.

Friday started out soggy after two hours of rain during the night, and Macy Center and Turtle Bay were unproductive.

The next stop was Box Canyon in the Magdalenas where the group picked up a Canyon Wren, White-throated Swift, plus Rufous-crowned and Black-throated Sparrows. Then on to Water Canyon where many more species were added, including Grace's Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Gray Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Acorn Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, Horned Lark, Warbling Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike and two beautiful singing Scott's Orioles.

The day ended at 9:59 with 139 species. While less than the prior year's total, it was still impressive, given the rain and lack of migrating species.

Over brunch, Sei and Cheri began making plans for next year's birdathon!
Field Trip Schedule - Including Thursday Birders

CNMAS trips prepared by Celestyn Brozek

Check http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html for more field trips and updates. Always check with the leader before the trip.

Saturday, September 8: Melrose trap and eastern plains
Trip leaders: Laurel Ladwig and Bill Talbot. We'll meet at the Four Hills Dion's parking lot (south side) and will depart promptly at 3:45 AM. We'll be at the trap for sunrise with the warblers, vireos, flycatchers, buntings and sparrows. Hopefully we'll spot Upland Sandpipers and some roosting owls. After Melrose, we'll hit some spots around the Portales/Clovis area before returning home by sunset. Bring snacks and lunch.
RSVP to Laurel Ladwig (pbgrebe@gmail.com, 362-6871) to arrange car-pooling.

Thursday, September 13: Ojito de San Antonio Open Space
With Karen & Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com
Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras, NM, on Highway 337 at 8:00 a.m. We will bird there and then drive to the county open space in Cedar Crest behind the San Antonio de Padua Church. (one mile on the west after going under I40.)

Thursday, September 20: Belen and Isleta marshes
With Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell5@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University or at 9:00 a.m. behind the Taco Bell/Pizza Hut building in Belen. Directions: Drive south on I-25 and take exit 195 to Belen. Drive east one mile. Park in the Taco Bell parking lot. Lunch at Jason's in Los Lunas and then a stop at Isleta Marsh on the return trip.

Thursday, September 27: Hike Embudito Canyon
With Pat Franklin-Henden: 856-7443, pfranklinh@comcast.net
Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the trail head. To get there go east on Montgomery past Tramway 0.4 mile. Turn left (north) on Glenwood Hills. Continue 0.4 mile and turn east on Trailhead Road. Go 0.2 mile to the parking lot. We will walk about 1.5 miles. The path is easy walking.

Saturday, September 29: Bosque del Apache
This will be the last weekend of the year that the seasonal road will be open to the general public. The water fowl should be getting out of their molting plumage and a few early migrants should be coming in. Meet at 8 AM behind the Hawthorne Suites on the NW corner of Gibson and University for car pooling. Bring lunch, water, snacks and expect to return before dark. Call Sei at 266-2480 for details.

Thursday, October 4: 10K Trail in the Sandias
With Melissa Howard: 286-9365, nmkestrel@netzero.net
Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of

Wild Bird Center Birding Field Trips

CNMAS is really grateful to Lee Hopwood and Nigel's other helpers at the Wild Bird Center for extending an invitation to all of you reading our Burrowing Owl to join Wild Bird Center for the following bird walks that they're leading. Lee was even kind enough to say we should advertise them as "cosponsored with CNMAS." Thank you, Lee! You're a great bird buddy, and so is Nigel (even though he's of the feline persuasion).

Wild Bird Center is in the Acequia de Corrales Shopping Center on the northeast corner of Corrales Road and Alameda Blvd. (NM 528). Their address is 10700 Corrales Road; they're to the north of the new Flying Star Cafe there.

Sunday, September 9th: Trip to East Mountains open space at San Antonio de Padua Church (Los Ojitos). Meeting at the Dion's at Four Hills Shopping Center at 7:15 AM. Phone 505-898-8626 to sign up.

Saturday, October 27th: trip in the Corrales Bosque. Meeting at the Wild Bird Center at 7:30 AM at 10700 Corrales Rd. NW. Phone 505-898-8626 to sign up.

Sandia Ranger District Tuesday Bird Walk

Tuesday Morning Bird Walks, discover birds in several distinct mountain habitats, from spruce-fir forests to riparian woodlands. Locations will be scouted weekly for best viewing. Meet at Sandia Ranger Station Tuesday mornings May 1 – Oct. 30.

Meet at 8:00 am until Sept. 25
Meet at 8:30 am Oct. 2 – Oct. 30
Sandia Ranger Station, 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM 87059-8619, (505) 281-3304

CNMAS Field Trip Reports

Saturday, June 23: Villanueva State Park
Rebecca Gracey lead seven birders on this trip. Soon after leaving I-40 and going north on Highway 3 to Villanueva, we saw two Cassin’s Sparrows skywalking and a flock of Pinyon Jays flew by. At the Pecos River we saw an Eastern Phoebe and two male Lazuli Buntings. Then at the park itself we added the Bullock’s Oriole, Yellow Warbler (many of both species), two Hepatic Tanagers, and two Cedar Waxwings. The Plumbeous Vireo and Western Wood-Pewee were seen on the nest. A total of 42 species were seen.

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.

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

The Manzano HawkWatch fall migration count got underway on August 27 and will run until November 5. Visitors are welcome daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The banding project should be up and running by the first weekend in September. Last fall the highlight of the season was an unusually large number of Swainson’s Hawks (4,695 of them); and on the 24th and 25th of September, half of this flight migrated through in small kettles and were seen chasing insects. Please call Bobbie at 255-7622 to get directions to the site or to arrange a field trip with the HWI field educator. The HWI website at www.hawkwatch.org has a brochure of the Manzano site that you can print.

Welcome One of CNMAS’s New Board Members

Hi, I’m Cole Wolf. I am sixteen years old and a junior at Eldorado High School in Albuquerque. I have always been interested in birds and other wildlife, but only in the last two years have I begun seriously birding and hanging out with the “birding crowd”. I spent this summer working for Dr. Chris Witt, UNM’s ornithologist. So far I have been to Mexico and several western states birding. I hope to continue my work for Dr. Witt by assisting with his research in Peru. I plan on majoring in biology when I go to college, and hopefully will go into a career in ornithology or herpetology. I love working with all aspects of birds, and look forward to making it my life’s work.

Cole Wolf at Rosy-finched Banding Project, Sandia Crest, by Steve Fettig

Hollywood video or 9:10 at the 10K Trail parking lot in the Sandias for a morning hike.

Thursday, October 11: Manzano Mountains Hawk Watch site
With Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video. High-clearance vehicles will be needed for car pooling. The secondary meeting place will be at Bonnie’s gate on Highway 337, five miles south of Chilili, between mile markers 3 and 4, at 8:50 a.m.

Directions to the Hawk Watch site: Take Highway 337 south until it ends at Highway 55. Turn west toward Tajique and Manzano. In the town of Manzano you will see a county road to Capilla Peak and the Hawk Watch site. The road is rough and not suitable for sedans. The money collected that day will be donated to Hawk Watch International on site. Hiking boots are appropriate for the rocky path from the car to the site. It can be cold and windy. Bring lunch.

Thursday, October 18: Los Poblanos Open Space
With Lannois Neely: 890-7881, Ijneely@aol.com
Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the open space parking lot on the north side of Montano Boulevard between 4th street and the Rio Grande bridge. To get there turn north on Tierra Viva Place where you will see a sign for Rio Grande Community Farm.

Thursday, October 25: Bosque del Apache NWR
With Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, stokuda@juno.com
Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on University and Gibson. It will be an all-day trip. Bring lunch.

Thursday, November 1: Ponderosa, NM, near Jemez Pueblo
With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, mrgacey@earthlink.net
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Far North Shopping Center on Academy and San Mateo NE behind the Village Inn or at the Giant gas station on Highway 550 just before turning north onto Highway 4 at 8:45. Bring lunch. We should be back in town by 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 8: Hike Rinconada Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument
With Gale Owings: 255-8333. It is an easy walk on fairly flat ground. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot on the west side of Unser Boulevard where it intersects with St. Joseph’s.

Thursday, November 15: Pena Blanca and Cochiti Lake
With Sylvia Fee: 294-4073, nmsylvia@peoplepc.com
Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Village Inn in the Far North shopping center on the northeast side of San Mateo and Academy. We should return in the early afternoon so bring a snack or lunch.

Thursday, November 29: Hike in the Elena Gallegos Open Space
With Tom Cartledge: 856-6844, tjcart@cs.com
Directions: Elena Gallegos is east of Tramway Boulevard on Simms Park Road, south of Paseo del Norte and north of Academy Road. There is a $1 fee to enter the area.

There is more than one parking area; we will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking area at the end of the road that runs straight north from the entry station. Go left around the entry station to get to the meeting place. This is an easy 1.5 mile walk.
Wildlife Refuge

**November 25:** Santa Fe Raptor center, Live Raptor Presentation

Seating is limited to 40. All seats will be available on a first come first serve basis.

NOTE: In case of inclement weather, it could be necessary for some events to be canceled or postponed. In that case, call the refuge at 505-425-3581 on the day of the event for the latest information.

**Bosque del Apache NWR Fall Events**
http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/

**September 22, Saturday, 7:30pm:** Meet at the Visitor Center
A Travel Guide to the Milky Way with Amy Estelle (limit 45 participants, reservations required)
Join amateur astronomers for a guided trip through the Milky Way: from double stars to star clusters and from nebulae to a great rift. Visitors will use the unaided eye, binoculars, and telescopes to experience an astonishing night sky. Ages 12 and up. Reservations required. Call 505-835-1828.

Milky Way Poster (download color pdf 236k)

**Oct 6, Saturday, 1-4pm:** Visitor Center
Artists of the Bosque Reception
Meet the Artists who convey the beauty of the Bosque, and see a few of their wonderful paintings, photographs, sculptures and more!
Festival artist Leon Miler (see 2007 Festival of the Cranes http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane)
Sharon Fullingim, Valerie Graves, Skeeter Leard, Sandy Seth (see Artists are Friends http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/artists.html)
Jerry Goffe (see Photographers are Friends http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/photographers.html)
And more!
It’s free. Refreshments and Live Music! No reservations are needed. Call 505-835-1828 for more information.

**Nov 2007 - Feb 2008, Sat. & Sun.: Visitor Center**
Free Weekend Refuge Tours
To help visitors enjoy thousands of cranes, geese and other birds wintering at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, the refuge has scheduled a series of Saturday and Sunday General Refuge Guided Tours in December, January and February. These two-hour tours give participants the opportunity to visit the Refuge with a knowledgeable guide.
The tours will be offered every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. There is no charge for these outings which will be conducted in Refuge vans.
Capacity is limited to 10 participants, and reservations will be taken at (505) 835-1828.

**Fall Events at Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge**
Call Jan Arrott at 505-454-6115 for more information

**Sunday, September 9, 1:00 PM**
Outdoor Annual “Concert for the Birds”
with the Chicken River Band
Bring folding chair, hat, water, sunscreen and enjoy a great concert.

**Sunday, October 7, 2:00 PM**
Richard Bodner portraying artist/photographer Ansel Adams, “Artist In Harmony with the Land”
Seating is limited to 40. All seats will be available on a first come first serve basis.

**November Sundays Programming**

**November Sundays Wildlife Drive:**
Open 9:00AM to 4:00PM

**Interpretive Talks:**
2 talks each Sunday @ 12 noon and @1:30 PM

**Speakers and Subjects:**

**November 4:** Eric Frey, Fish Biologist, NM Game and Fish, Plans for McAlister Lake

**November 11:** Steve Cox, Rosy Finches of New Mexico

**November 18:** Sarah Wood, Plant-animal Interactions in New Mexico Grasslands
CNMAS Education – Opportunities Abound!

CNMAS continues in the 2007-08 school year with great education opportunities for students and teachers. During the past school year these programs provided opportunities for three individuals, Melanie Keithley, Patrick Huggins, and Michael Hilchey, to further their own education and those of others around them. This year we are looking for three (or more) people who would benefit from these opportunities. Please pass on the information below to friends and interested individuals and organizations to help us get the word out.

Helen Haskell and CNMAS Education Committee, August 2007

CNMAS Educator Resource Grant

The Educator Resource Grant is available to all educators in New Mexico. The grant is available for purchase of resources to the classroom/lessons that school or personal budgets do not cover. The supplies must be used for a natural history/science lesson(s), project or experience.

This grant is open to all educators of students age 18 and under. At the end of the school year, grantees must supply Central New Mexico Audubon Society with a short report on how the money was used and an itemized budget with receipts. A short article will be placed in the *Burrowing Owl* Newsletter for our members, written by the educator and students involved.

Amount available: up to $250

Application deadline: **November 1st 2007** (for money awarded by January 2008).

Application process: complete the application form in this newsletter, or download the application from the web site: http://www.peacocklaw.com/nmac/cnmas/

Mail the application to:

CNMAS, c/o Helen Haskell
PO Box 36741
Albuquerque, NM 87176

Questions? Email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com and title the email ‘CNMAS Educator Resource Grant’.

Teacher Professional Development Opportunity

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society has an exciting opportunity to offer a teacher from the New Mexico. Would you like to attend the Institute of Desert Ecology held in Tucson? Would you like to spend four days outdoors learning about the Sonoran Desert, immersing yourself and exploring all its exciting components? If you are, be prepared to be fascinated with how the saguaro cactus plays a key role for many species in the desert and look forward to meeting many other interesting people from around the United States, including other teachers.
Educator Resource Grant Application

Educator Name ________________________________________

School/Work __________________________________________

Grade and subject taught _________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________

Phone # day: ____________________________ evening __________

Email ________________________________________________

Fax# _________________________________________________

Principal*  * (unless home schooled, etc.)___________________________

* If no principal, please provide name and contact information of one reference.

List below or attach a list of what you need and the cost of the supplies (budget)

Describe why you need these materials, how you will use them and how they will benefit your students

Eligibility & requirements

This grant is open to all educators of students age 18 and under. Funding can be used for supplies for a project/lesson/unit about natural history/sciences, such as bug boxes, books, lab supplies. At the end of the school year, the grantee must supply CNMAS with a short report on how the money was used and an itemized budget with receipts. A short article will be placed in the *Burrowing Owl* Newsletter for our members written by the teacher/students involved.

Deadlines

For application: NOVEMBER 1st 2007
Money awarded by JANUARY, 2008

Mail the application to: CNMAS, c/o Helen Haskell, PO Box 36741, Albuquerque, NM 87176.
Questions? Email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com, and title the email ‘CNMAS Educator Resource Grant’.

When and Where: April 17-20, 2008, Catalina State Park, Tucson, AZ.

All participants are encouraged to arrive on Wednesday, April 16 between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. The Institute begins on Thursday April 17th at 6:30 a.m. (Arizona time!). The Santa Catalina Mountains are the backdrop for the state park the Institute is held. The park has a large variety of desert wildlife, including over 150 species of birds. Days should be hot and sunny, and evenings chillier.

Description: The program focuses on the Sonoran Desert ecosystem, looking at the interactions between plants, animals and the physical environment. The Institute faculty members are experienced teachers, working as consultants or professors at the various universities of Arizona. The days start early and optional activities such as ‘owling’ and star talks extend into the evening.

Accommodation: You must bring your own tent or camper. There are no electrical hookups, and no generators allowed. Solar showers and portable restrooms are provided. The food is fantastic, and accommodates vegetarians. Camping is shaded by mesquite trees.

Cost: Central New Mexico Audubon Society will pay for the tuition. You must provide your own transportation to the site (car, air) and dinner on the Wednesday evening.

Application: ** Due November 1st 2007**

Please send a one-page short essay and cover letter detailing:
• How you would benefit from this opportunity
• How would you use the experience in your everyday teaching
• Details on where you teach and what grade you teach
• Name of principal (if applicable)
• Two references

Please send the application by November 1st 2007 to:

CNMAS, c/o Helen Haskell
PO Box 36741
Albuquerque, NM 87176

We realize that this workshop is partly during school time. Please check with your principal before applying, to ensure that you can attend the Institute, and be out of school on these dates (16-20 April including travel time). Your school will be responsible for providing funding to cover substitute costs.

For more information on program content, visit:
http://www.tucsonaudubon.org

Any questions? Please email Helen Haskell at helennm@yahoo.com and title the email ‘Institute of Desert Ecology’.

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 is established and will be accepting new
by Beth Hurst-Waitz, with some help from my friends

Just recently, I asked one of my best birding friends whether I should continue sending him e-mail updates about the status of this or that bird. His reply was that he always wants to hear about birds, but that it's discouraging because so much of the news is bad. So right away I sent him two cheerful articles about Yellow Loons nesting in Alaska and the remarkable rebound of Lear's Macaws in Brazil.

But then there's the National Audubon Society's recently released report, "Common Birds in Decline." You've seen it, I'll bet; it even made front-page in the Albuquerque Journal. And of course, you can check it out on the National Audubon Society website.

Go ahead and do that. Then see if this attitude helps: "It's not that I don't feel the pangs of world chaos deeply and have nothing serious to say about the agonizing needs of our present situation. But I believe my part in all this is to be as happy as I can be and spread the wealth by sharing that happiness with you all — so here's love in your face!" That little bubble of optimism was written by my friend, Ninette Mordaunt.

And here are some ideas and words from Ellen Miller, President of Atlanta Audubon Society, rearranged and pirated with her permission, which resonated with me and just have to be shared: "I believe making a difference in any area of our lives or in the world requires focus, passion and persistence" — and I believe that CNMAS members have these qualities in abundance. You CAN help, and here are a few “how-to” ideas:

Buy a duck stamp. Then display it. Wear it. Flaunt it in the field. It doesn't mean you're a hunter — it means that you're among the contributing states to the more than $700 million that have been raised, through Duck Stamps, to protect 5.2 million acres of wetland habitat. It means you care about conservation: Ninety-eight cents of every dollar of your $15 Duck Stamp goes directly to the purchase or lease of wetland habitat. Bonus! Your Duck Stamp serves as your entrance pass to ALL national wildlife refuges for the current year. Duck Stamps are available at post offices and national wildlife refuges. The current one features a swimming pair of Ring-necked Ducks and is good from 7/1/07 through 6/30/08.

Support bird-related organizations of your choice. Since you are receiving this newsletter, you already support Central New Mexico Audubon Society and our education programs for children and adults. You already help us advocate for reasonable and responsible laws and regulations affecting birds and their habitats. You already help us promote the enjoyment and understanding of birds. We thank you! And if your interests lead you to other conservation organizations — we thank you for that, too!

Participate in Citizen Science Projects. The aforementioned Audubon “Common Birds in Decline” report is based on an analysis of 40 years of annual Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Survey data. That’s citizen science: That’s YOU. Other projects coordinated by National Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, state and federal agencies, and (producly) CNMAS, include Project Feeder Watch, the Great Backyard Bird Count, Christmas Bird Counts, Rosy Finch Research Project, Rio Grande Bird Research Banding Project, Breeding Bird Surveys. Organizations aren’t the vitality behind programs like that — people are!

Make your yard bird friendly. Birds are like people: We all need clean water, fresh food, and safe shelter. Landscape with native plants. They provide more food for birds — seed and nectar. Cut down or eliminate insecticides. Insecticides kill more than insects. Birds eat insects. Sick bugs, sick birds. No bugs, no food.

The birds thank you.
Learning Look-Alikes:
Five Dark Soaring Hawks

by Art Arenholz, drawings by Andrew Rominger

Last fall, we studied three soaring hawks: Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk. We looked at the most commonly seen versions of these three large hawks, which are predominately lightly colored on the under-parts. This issue, let's look at the dark versions of these three soaring hawks and learn how to identify them. The dark Red-tailed Hawks (there are three of them) are the easiest of the dark hawks to find in our area. Both Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks also have dark versions, and we will study them, but they are harder to find here.

During late fall or early winter, all three dark Red-tailed Hawks visit us and spend the winter. The middle Rio Grande Valley, including Belen, Los Lunas and Bosque del Apache NWR, offers ideal winter habitat for these three dark hawks. Let's look at each in turn.

The most common dark Red-tail is the reddish-brown version, called the "Rufous Red-tailed Hawk". (In Sibley's book, he calls this bird the "Intermediate Red-tailed Hawk"). The Rufous Red-tail has rich, reddish-brown feathers in all the places that the most common, light Red-tail has light-colored feathers. So the Rufous Red-tail has red-brown feathers on the chest, under-tail and wing linings (the front of the under-wing). Sometimes you can see this color on the chest of a flying bird, but it is easier to see it on a perched bird. A Key Point: look for a distinct color change between the rich, red-brown color of the chest and the dark brown color of the belly-band. And of course look for a brick red tail.

The second most common of our dark Red-tailed Hawks is called, (even in Sibley), the "Dark Red-tail". Instead of the red-brown feathers of the Rufous Red-tail, these feathers (on the chest, under-tail and wing linings) are dark brown. In this hawk, the color of the whole underbody is the same shade of very dark brown. A Key Point: the Dark Red-tail does not have a color change between the chest and the belly-band as a Rufous Red-tail does.

For both the Rufous and Dark Red-tails, the adults have a brick-red tail, just like the tail of the light Red-tail that we see so often during the year. Similarly, the tail of a juvenile Dark or Rufous Red-tail is like the tail of the common, light Red-tail. The tail of any juvenile Red-tail is tan, with thin dark bands across the tail. There is no red in the tails of most juvenile Red-tailed Hawks.

Our third dark Red-tail is called a Harlan's Hawk. It is harder to find, but we see some in our area every winter. This Dark Red-tail is quite different from our previous two dark birds. The feathers of the Harlan's Hawk look black, not red-brown or dark brown. Harlan's often has white on the body, often as scattered spots or a white "necklace" caused by white streaks high on the chest and neck. And its tail is not red, even in the adult! It is, instead, a dingy white, with dark streaks and a blurry dark band on the tip of the tail.

Like all Red-tails, each of these three dark Red-tailed Hawks is about the size of a Common Raven. So, look carefully at every large dark bird you see this winter. If you see a red-brown chest, a dark brown belly-band and a brick red tail, you have found an adult Rufous Red-tailed Hawk. If you see a dark brown chest and belly-band, with no color change, and a brick red tail, you are looking at an adult Dark Red-tailed Hawk. If you see a blackish

Rufus

Dark

Harlan's
**Look A-Likes... continued from page 10**

bird, perhaps with white spots or white necklace, and a dingy white tail with a poorly defined (blurred) dark terminal tail band, you are looking at a Harlan's Hawk.

These dark Red-tails frighten more easily than the light Red-tail, so don’t get too close before you study them. Also, these dark hawks are rarely seen in the Eastern U.S., so show your Eastern visitors these beautiful, unusual hawks this winter. And enjoy them yourself; they will be flying North by spring.

If you see a dark hawk and it doesn’t match the descriptions of any of the three dark Red-tails, you should consider two other possibilities.

First, is it a Dark Ferruginous Hawk? This dark hawk offers two useful clues. First, the under-tail is all gray or dingy white, without a band. Second, just as in a light adult, the outer one-third of the upper-wing is light and contrasts with the rest of the dark upper-wing. So when this bird is soaring and makes a turn, you can see three points of light: the light tail and the two light areas on the upper, outer part of each wing.

Your second possibility: is it a Dark Rough-legged Hawk? Once again, the tail is our best clue. The tail of a Dark Rough-leg has a wide, dark, sub-terminal band. Sometimes, it also has three narrower dark bands. But the most important difference between a Dark Rough-leg and a Harlan’s Hawk is the sharpness of the tail band. The edge of the band is sharply defined in the Rough-leg and is blurred and irregular, even smudgy in the Harlan’s Hawks’ tail.

We have seen Dark Ferruginous Hawks in New Mexico and Arizona and Dark Rough-legs, too. They are just not as easy to find as the three Dark Red-tailed Hawks.

Now you are better prepared to identify one of these five dark soaring hawks when you see one this winter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADULT HAWK</th>
<th>COLOR OF TAIL</th>
<th>DARK TAIL BAND?</th>
<th>OTHER MARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rufous Red-tail</td>
<td>Brick red</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Rufous chest, dark belly-band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Red-tail</td>
<td>Brick red</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Dark chest, dark belly-band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlan’s Hawk</td>
<td>Dingy white</td>
<td>Yes, blurry edge</td>
<td>Scattered white body spots; streaky white necklace on some birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Ferruginous</td>
<td>Dingy white</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Light areas on outer one-third of upper-wing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Rough-legged</td>
<td>Dingy white</td>
<td>Yes, sharply defined edge</td>
<td>Some have 3 narrow dark bands on tail also</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Rough-legged](image1)

![Ferruginous](image2)

**In Memorium...**

Thomas Henry Wootten, passed away on August 7, 2007, while taking his morning walk near his home in Cliff, NM.

Tom was born March 20, 1939 in Chickasa, OK to John B. Wootten and Marion L. Bassett. He was raised at his family’s ranch in Clayton, NM, attended New Mexico State University, served in the military during the Cuban Missile Crisis and then became a banker in Kansas City, MO. He changed careers in the mid 1970’s to follow another passion. He moved his family to Las Cruces, his home for nearly 22 years. It was there that he started a native plant nursery in order to bring an awareness of water conservation to the community. Later in his life, he and his wife, Eleanor, started T and E, Inc. a non-profit foundation dedicated to the study, education, and preservation of our native flora and fauna. He was also active in and dedicated to numerous environmental groups.

A celebration of his life was held at 10:30 am on Monday, August 13, 2007 at the Lichty Center on Box Canyon Road in Cliff, NM.

(The previous is from the Las Cruces Sun-News, 8/11/2007)

His memorial service was remarkable in appreciating how his work has touched so many groups of people outside of his family. He promoted a conservation ethic with Eleanor by providing funding through their corporation for environmental and conservation research. He was always engaging people to take the next step in activism while educating and mentoring their progress with gentle teasing and encouragement. He is irreplaceable, yet he had given me enough projects to consider keeping the Council busy for years to come. I’m missing his e-mails, which always ended with a bagpiper joke and his thanking me for the work I do, which is much less than what he accomplished every day. This was the universal constant of his recent years—his humbleness while promoting habitat preservation. Tom will continue to inspire me, and everyone who knew him, for years to come. Tom will be sorely missed, yet we all need to step up and work to fill his shoes.

- Ruth Burnstrom
"Look at this one," said seven-year-old Malkolm. "A purple something."

Malkolm sat strapped in the back seat, thumbing through the bird book that we'd just bought him. We were in the middle of a six-month slideshow tour about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We tried to ignore the contradictions as we drove from the Yukon to Florida, up to New Jersey and west to California — burning gas while trying to prevent oil development in the Arctic Refuge. Back in 1999 global warming was a tiny, barely noticeable cloud on our horizons.

We taught Malkolm his schoolwork while we drove from show to show. He liked the bird book more than Math or English. By the time we found the "purple something" (a Gallinule) in the Everglades, he was hooked.

We've always read books out loud in the evenings. During a trip to the Arctic we read Kenn Kaufman's *Kingbird Highway*. Kaufman, like Roger Tory Peterson and other notable birders, was writing about his "Big Year," a year-long quest to see as many North American bird species as possible. I figured that Malkolm would eventually do his own "Big Year", but I didn't realize that he'd drag Wendy and me along with him.

We told Malkolm that he had to do three high school grades in two years if he wanted to take a year off school. One of his projects was a book report on *I Came, I Saw, I Counted*, by Sandy Komito. Malkolm calculated that Komito jetted and drove more than 270,000 miles — farther than a trip to the moon — on the way to his Big Year record of 745 species.

What about that small climate change cloud on the edge of our 1999 consciousness? It has grown into a hurricane storm front that we can no longer ignore. The entire planet will be affected, including the birds that Malkolm loves.

In the Arctic, predictions are that wetlands will be severely altered by melting permafrost and changes in precipitation. Migrants are hit twice by global warming — on the already changing breeding grounds and then on flyway stopover sites. Many of the coastal wetlands along migratory routes are predicted to be inundated by rising sea levels. Eighty percent of shorebird species already show downward population trends — Ruddy Turnstones, Red Phalaropes and White-rumped Sandpipers are among those declining alarmingly.

And so our family decided that we'd do our Bird Year without using any fossil fuels for our "migration." We'll cover 10,000 miles by bikes, boots and boats — from our home in the Yukon, south to California and east to Florida. Even Malkolm acknowledges that it won't all be fun. Maybe, like Kenn Kaufman, we'll end up sleeping in ditches and under overpasses (I hope we won't mimic him by dining on cat-food).

It may be a cliche, but our trip is "for the birds." We're dedicating our trip to bird conservation. We want to prove to ourselves that we can have fun, find birds... and do it in a way that doesn't harm the very birds we're traveling to see.

Ken Madsen, Wendy and Malkolm Boothroyd's journey will include giving presentations to schools, Audubon Societies and birding festivals along their route — speaking about their current trip and their birding experiences in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Please stay tuned by visiting their website: http://www.birdyear.com and keep up with their adventures on their travel blog: http://www.birdyear.blogspot.com/

They will be in New Mexico in November with the following schedule:

November 9 – Silver City. Aldo Leopold High School and SWNMAS.
November 13 – Randall Davey Audubon Center. Round Table dinner featured speakers.
November 14 – Bosque School bicycling, birding, day and evening presentations.
November 15 – A day to visit with local Albuquerque birders — everyone welcome to offer suggestions!
November 16 – Festival of the Cranes. Macey Center, Socorro.
November 25 – Chihuahuan Desert Conservation Alliance.

"Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world. Science is the highest personification of the nation because that nation will remain the first which carries the furthest the works of thought and intelligence."

— Louis Pasteur (1822-1892)
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Randall Davey Audubon Center
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(505) 983-4609
newmexico@audubon.org
www.nm.audubon.org

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

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 6151
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 208-7351
www.doi.gov

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3521 (505) 344-6601
senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

Hon. Pete Domenici
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6621 (505) 346-6791
senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov

Hon. Steve Pearce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2365

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

Honor. Heather Wilson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-616 (505) 346-6781
ask.heather@mail.house.gov

Governor Bill Richardson
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
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External Affairs Office (505)
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Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Winter 2007/08 issue of the Burrowing Owl, must be received by Nov. 5th. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.
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Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats; and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

Reminder: Area Code 575 has been added to New Mexico beginning October - check your local phone company information.

CNMAS DIRECTORY
CNMAS Phone (505)255-7622 Email jmyers@peacocklaw.com
Webpage http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/
CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

PRESIDENT
Beth Hurst-Waitz 804 Guadalupe Circle NW, Alb. 87114-1710
home (505)989-8514 work (505)243-7029 fax (505)243-9136 brave_e@juno.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Bill Talbot cell (505)363-1041 home (505)764-8272 flamm505@yahoo.com

TREASURER
Glen Finley 7404 Ankara Road NE, Alb. 87122 (505)450-3782 grf@nmcrc.com

SECRETARY
Christopher Rustay home (505)255-7786 chrustay@aol.com

CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON
Jeffrey Myers work (505)998-1502 jmyers@peacocklaw.com

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE
Helen Haskell PO Box 36741, Alb. 87176-6741 helennm@yahoo.com
Lee Hogwood (505)898-8620 leewildbirds@yahoo.com
Bill Talbot cell (505)363-1041 home (505)764-8272 flamm505@yahoo.com
Lynn Schulter onthepulse@msn.com

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON
Celestyn Brozek home (505)266-9225 work (505)925-8611 cbrozek@unm.edu

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)
Ed Dover 1421 San Carlos SW, Alb. 87104-1040 (505)242-5427 whitecliffs@comcast.net

NEW MEXICO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
Cathy Pasterczyk (505)710-1468 cpasterczyk@comcast.net

PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON
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Dianne Cress work (505)841-2586 dianne.cress@state.nm.us
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