

# Burrowing Owl

December 2007, January, February 2008 Issue

Volume 37 No. 1

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

January 17, 2008

## Kids In Nature: Inspiring Wonder

With Dennis Prichard, Wildlife Refuge Specialist

"Green Teens." "No Child Left Indoors." "Last Child in the Woods." "Birds For a Purpose." Yes, you're in tune with the theme: Kids need the outdoors. There is national and local attention being garnered on the disconnect between children and Nature. Richard Louv, in his book *Last Child in the Woods*, calls it "nature-deficit disorder."

Audubon is among the many organizations, both governmental and non, that is working to bridge the gap and heal the broken bond. Join Dennis Prichard as he gives us the good news: The dedication of the outdoor classroom at Sevilleta in October, the Girl Scout troops going to Hawk Watch banding, the Native American youth group who wants to do restoration work at Sevilleta. Dennis is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife representative for our region (OK, TX, NM, AZ) for the agency's new program, Children and Nature. Promote this program to educators, scout troop leaders, MESA students and leaders, Science Fair participants – and come ready to be inspired and "turned on" to the hope –

indeed, the promise – of a new generation of kids who love dirt, trees, mud, bugs, sand, squiggly creatures, and their own little place on Planet Earth.



Photo by Joel Sartore

February 21, 2008

## Wild Spirit: Wolves

Facts and Myths, Science and Nature

With film, slides, and informed commentary, CNMAS will present a roundtable discussion of Wolves in the Southwest particularly and in the West generally. Dave Henderson, retired Executive Director of

*Winter Programs... continued on page 2*

## The TENTH Annual Audubon Birding Academy A Two-Part Study of Sparrows

Presented by Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Mark your calendars: On ~~March 20~~<sup>27</sup> and ~~April 24~~<sup>17</sup>, Christopher Rustay and his co-presenter will split the limelight, with one presentation by each, to provide our most in-depth coverage ever of the occurrence, habitat, habits, calls, and identification characteristics of the Emberizine Sparrows and their allies, from Towhees to Longspurs. The subtleties of gray, brown, black, orange, pink, yellow, white, even red, of these often secretive birds will be brought into such focus that what you thought of before as LBJs will be revealed as masterpieces of detail and perfection that (hopefully) will no longer elude your binocular'ed eye. Bring your bird guides, your notebooks, even your binoculars. With 49 species in 17 genera (okay, you can subtract those not seen in New Mexico), if you learn and remember just 10%, that's four-plus birds that you can fall in love with all over again each and every time you see them in the field! Come and have fun, in the spirit of art, nature, and knowledge!

*Birding Academy... continued on page 2*



Song Sparrow photo by Hays Cummins, Miami University

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Mexican Wolf  
US Fish & Wildlife

Audubon NM, will give an overview of the history of Audubon's involvement in Mexican wolf recovery. Lisa Hummon, New Mexico Outreach rep for Defenders of Wildlife, will discuss Defenders of Wildlife's programs to reach out to the ranching community. Other panel experts will talk about the biology of the Mexican wolf and how it differs from its relatives, the importance of wolves as a keystone species in the ecosystem, current impediments to recovery, and the status of the reintroduction program. We'll feature lovely film footage and lively discussion, with opportunity for lots of audience

input and feedback. Just like the UNM Lobos fans, we can all howl together! Please join us.

These two free programs will be held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments).



Birding Academy... continued from page 1

Two classes only, preregistration available, but not required. Pay \$6.00 at the door per class, or pay in advance (see registration form, below). Classes held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM (7:00 for refreshments).

**The 10th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form**

**2-Part session on Sparrow Identification**

Mar. ~~20~~<sup>27</sup> & Apr. ~~21~~<sup>17</sup> ----- \$12

I want to be a new Audubon Society Member and get 2 free Birding Academy classes ----- \$20  
NAS chapter code Q51

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

I want to get the Burrowing Owl via the web - Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:

CNMAS Birding Academy  
P.O. Box 30002  
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

CNMAS ABA 2008

Feel free to make copies of this registration form.

**Local Christmas Bird Counts**

**Albuquerque: Sunday, December 16**

Hart R. Schwarz (505)266-1810, hschwarz@fs.fed.us  
Meet Hart at Corrales Shopping Center, NW corner of Coors and Alameda, between 7:00 & 7:15 AM. Participation fee remains at \$5.00. Bring cash or make out your check to Hart Schwarz. The compilation party will be hosted by Hal & Amy Wagnon at their Montgomery & Juan Tabo area home, (505)298-7350, at 6:45 P.M. They will provide some beverages as well as relish trays (vegetables, fruits, cold cuts) and desserts. Bring your bird list, a dish to share (optional) and your own beverage if you wish. Maps to their home will be handed out on the morning of the Count.

**Bosque del Apache NWR: Saturday, December 15**

Dave Hawksworth (505)507-5343,  
dlhawksworth@fs.fed.us

**Sandia Mountains: Wednesday, December 26**

Rebecca Gracey (505) 242-3821,  
mrgracey@earthlink.net (count organizer)  
Nick Vaughn (505) 265-1350,  
nickvaughn2000@yahoo.com (data compiler)  
Meet outside Dion's Pizza in the Four Hills chopping center on Central, west of Tramway, at 7:30 a.m. (There is a \$5.00 participation fee to cover Audubon's expenses for managing the collected data.) The group will meet back at Dion's at 5:00 p.m. to eat and go over the results of the count. Contact Rebecca if you wish to participate.

**Sevilleta NWR: Tuesday, December 18**

Steve and Nancy Cox (505)345-2385, sora@spinn.net

**Sevilleta/Five Points: Thursday, December 20**

Steve and Nancy Cox (505)345-2385, sora@spinn.net

Not all information about the local CBCs was available at press time. Please contact the leaders above for details about their counts and compilation parties.

For other Christmas Bird Count groups visit:  
<http://nmosbirds.org/>

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.

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



December 2007 - January - February 2008

## Field Trip Schedule - Including Thursday Birders

CNMAAS 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.

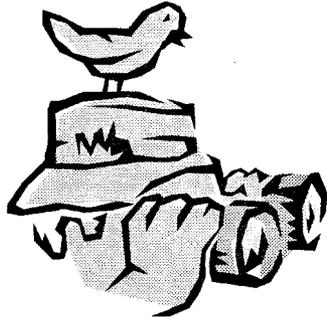
### Thursday, December 6: Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

With Sara Mathews: 291-3373, smathews38@yahoo.com

Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the west end of Candelaria Road. There is a \$3 parking fee if you don't have a state park sticker or Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center pass.

There will be a holiday pot luck lunch later at the Villescás's nearby home. Directions to the location will be given out then. They will furnish green chili chicken stew, hot apple cider, and coffee. Bring a dish to share. (Last year we were heavy on desserts and beverages.)

### Saturday, December 8: Socorro and Bosque del Apache NWR



Leaders: Jim Mosley and Cole Wolf. Meet at the Socorro McDonald's on California Street near exit 150 of I-25 at 9:00 AM. We will start the day at Turtle Bay park in Socorro, then continue on to Bosque del Apache, where we will spend most of the day looking for ducks, cranes, and other waterbirds. This will be an all

day trip, but walking will be minimal. Contact: Cole at [colejwolf@comcast.net](mailto:colejwolf@comcast.net) or 553-4831; Jim at [ff1964@msn.com](mailto:ff1964@msn.com)

### Thursday, December 13: Hike Embudo Canyon

With Judy Liddell: 271-0912, [jliddell5@earthlink.net](mailto:jliddell5@earthlink.net)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot. Directions: Take Indian School east of Tramway until it dead ends at the parking lot. This is an easy 2-mile walk.

### Thursday, December 20: A Longspur Quest east of San Antonio, NM

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, [mrgracey@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgracey@earthlink.net)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University or at 9:40 a.m. at the McDonald's in Socorro. We will do some waiting at a water tank for the longspurs so a chair might be appropriate for our vigil. We will also look for Sprague's Pipits by walking in nearby fields. Bring lunch. We will be back in Albuquerque around 3:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 27: Corrales bosque

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, [mrgracey@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgracey@earthlink.net)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the northeast quadrant of the shopping area at Coors/Corrales Road and Alameda (north of McDonald's). To reach the bosque drive 5.0 miles from the Corrales and Alameda intersection, past mile marker 11, then make a sharp right just after a yellow guard rail and a horse-crossing sign on the right. There is no street sign. Drive east on the dirt road to the parking area. Lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.

### Thursday, January 3: Alameda Open Space

With Mary Lou Arthur: 299-2565, [marylarthur@yahoo.com](mailto:marylarthur@yahoo.com)

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the open space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard. It is directly east of the Rio Grande River and west of the traffic light on Alameda and Rio Grande Boulevard.

### Thursday, January 10: Coronado State Monument

With Lannois Neely: 890-7881, [lfneely@aol.com](mailto:lfneely@aol.com)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Corrales in the northeast quadrant of the shopping area at Coors/Corrales Road and Alameda (north of McDonald's), or at 9:20 a.m. at the Coronado Monument. The monument is just west of Bernalillo on Highway 550/44 on the north side of the road. There will be a \$1.00 admission charge.

### Thursday, January 17: Eastern plains roads - Torrance County

With Bonnie Long: 379-1985, [cantrade\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:cantrade_1@yahoo.com) Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the library in Tijeras, NM, on Route 66 (north side of the highway). The group will drive south of Moriarty past Estancia to look for longspurs and hawks. Bring lunch and expect to return in the early afternoon.

### Sunday, January 20, 2008: Sandia Crest

Leaders: Jim Mosley and Cole Wolf. Meet at the south side of Dion's in the Four Hills parking lot (south of Central and west of Tramway) at 7:00 AM. We'll work our way up the mountain

*Field Trip... continued on page 4*



## CNMAAS Field Trip Reports

### Saturday, September 8: Melrose Trap, Sumner Lake

Leaders: Laurel Ladwig and Bill Talbot. About 25 people met at 6:30 at the trap. We divided into two groups and went in opposite directions around the trap. Among the birds spotted were a Baltimore Oriole, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Two Black-and-White Warblers put on a nice show while foraging on a cottonwood while a Curve-billed Thrasher was seen hopping around on a cholla cactus. A group of Lark Sparrows who only wanted to show their bellies were finally positively identified when one tilted his head. A few members of the group got a beautiful, if brief, view of a Philadelphia Vireo and others found a female Western Tanager. There were many Wilson's Warblers and other empidonax flycatchers. A prairie rattler drew a large crowd. On the way home, a stop at Sumner Lake State Park produced the highlight of the day (for many). Thanks to Michael Hilchey's stubborn persistence, everyone still with the group saw a beautiful Yellow-throated Vireo.

### Saturday, September 29: Bosque del Apache NWR

Leader: Sei Tokuda. There were nine in the group including three visitors from New York. It was a fairly windy day and yet we managed to see 60 species. Some of the most exciting sightings were: Merlin; a female Dickcissel; Baird's, Least and Solitary Sandpipers; Green-tailed Towhee, and everyone had a good look at the white on the neck of the Chihuahuan Raven.

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.



## Bosque del Apache NWR Fall Events

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

### 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.



## RioFest International Environmental Film Festival

Take a fresh look at our environment

January 25 & 26, 2008

Come see the world anew, from the Rio Grande headwaters to the Arctic oil fields, from submerged Glen Canyon to the Australian outback — all through the eyes of independent filmmakers. Seventeen films in all will move us to continue the quest to keep the planet's wild places WILD!

Come to Socorro, N.M., for the second annual RioFest International Environmental Film Festival on January 25 and 26, 2008, at Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech campus. Among the offerings are *Gimme Green*, an Academy Award-winning documentary about America's fatal fascination with The Verdant Lawn, plus several avant-garde, award-winning Dutch animation shorts.

RioFest takes place during two evenings and one day, for \$20 per person. If you come only Friday night, it's \$5; \$10 will get you either the day's screening on Saturday or Saturday night alone. But plan to attend the entire Festival for just \$20! From your elegant theater seat, you'll additionally see films of Telluride, New Zealand, Death Valley, and a trek from Chile to the Bering Sea.

Mark your calendar today for Socorro's International Environmental Film Festival, Friday evening, Jan. 25, through Saturday night, Jan. 26, 2008. For more information call Carol Lynn Tiegs, 575-418-8642, and visit the RioFest web site: [www.riofilmfest.com](http://www.riofilmfest.com).

### Field Trips... continued from page 3

searching for pygmy-owls, winter finches, and other forest birds. Our trip will end around 10:00 at the Crest House, where we'll watch the Rosy-Finch banders and hopefully get up-close looks at all three species. Contact Cole at [colejwolf@comcast.net](mailto:colejwolf@comcast.net) or 553-4831; Jim at [ff1964@msn.com](mailto:ff1964@msn.com)

#### Thursday, January 24: Cochiti Lake

With Pat Franklin-Henden: H. 856-7443, C. 228-8813

Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Village Inn in the Far North Shopping Center on the north east side of the San Mateo and Academy intersection. Bring lunch.

#### Thursday, January 31: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, [stokuda@juno.com](mailto:stokuda@juno.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. This is an all-day trip.

#### Thursday, February 7: Sandia Crest for Rosy-Finches

With Karen and Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, [nmkestrel@yahoo.com](mailto:nmkestrel@yahoo.com)

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras, NM, on Highway 337 to arrange car pooling. We can buy snacks or lunch at the crest restaurant as we wait inside for the Rosy-Finches to arrive at the feeders.

#### Thursday, February 14: Hike Bear Canyon

With Melissa Howard: 286-9365, [nmflicker@netzero.net](mailto:nmflicker@netzero.net)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the trail head parking lot east of Tramway on Spain. (Spain is north of Montgomery and south of Paseo del Norte.) Follow Spain until it dead ends on High Desert. Turn right for a short distance to the parking lot. Expect an easy, two-mile walk.

#### Thursday, February 21: Visit New Mexico Raptors, Inc., Los Lunas

With Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, [mrgracey@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgracey@earthlink.net)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites motel on Gibson and University. We will be visiting Laura Simmons and injured/nonreleasable hawks and owls that are used for educational purposes. The facility is located at 20 Avenida Valencia Road in Los Lunas. Lunch afterwards at Jason's in Los Lunas.

#### Saturday, February 23: San Antonio (for longspurs and Sprague's Pipit)

Leader: Rebecca Gracey. Meet at 8:30 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University to carpool to the site 16 miles east of San Antonio. If you want to meet the group at 9:40 at the McDonald's in Socorro, let Rebecca know in case of a trip cancellation. This is a Longspur and Sprague's Pipit quest east of San Antonio, NM. Very little walking will be involved except in walking the fields in search of the pipits. A chair might come in handy for waiting the arrival of the Longspurs at the cattle tank. Bring lunch. We should be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 p.m. Contact: Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, [mrgracey@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgracey@earthlink.net) (If you are unable to attend the trip, Rebecca will email specific directions to you.)

#### Thursday, February 28: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Gale Owings: 255-8333

Meet at 8:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. This is an all-day trip.



December 2007 - January - February 2008

## Rosy-Finches Return and So Do the Birders!

Start planning now to visit the rosy-finch feeders. Snow has dusted the Sandias a few times already, and there are hints that winter finches may show up in better numbers – already flocks of Pine Siskins, several Cassin's Finches and Red Crossbills (along with Red-breasted Nuthatches) have been reported in North Central New Mexico.

The Sandia Crest House, just east of Albuquerque, is on the market, but there is no information yet as to a possible buyer. Let's hope that it keeps its birder-friendly ambiance (with great chili and early access for the banders, not to mention tolerance for scopers and photographers who linger long near the windows as their coffee gets cold) and is not bought by a cookie-cutter fast-food chain. Avi-tourism has meant good business for the Crest House and also for other East Mountain businesses since the feeders were installed in 1999. Over 1000 sighting reports have been recorded in the Crest House logs by birders, and staff there have told me that fewer than one in 10 birders ever sign it. I have seen organized groups of as many as 20 birders leave without ever recording any observations. Even the workers' conservative estimate translates into over 10,000 customers who otherwise may never have ventured up to the top of the mountain.

The three rosy-finch feeders will go up on October 30 – when they do appear, the flag on the rosy-finch website will start waving. The rosy-finches usually arrive during the first two weeks of November, and we hope to see the Rio Grande Birding Research banding crew at Crest House some weekend mornings, beginning later in December. We will keep you informed when they develop their schedule. For more information about arrival and departure dates, and patterns of abundance since 2000, visit <http://rosyfinch.com>.

— Kenneth C. and Mary Lou Schneider

### Update:

The flag on [rosyfinch.com](http://rosyfinch.com) is waving – the rosy-finches have arrived on Sandia Crest, just east of Albuquerque.

This is the earliest arrival date for rosy-finches at Sandia Crest House since we began keeping records in 1999. Two members of the Crest House staff, who are now quite reliable observers, said they thought they had seen small flocks over the past couple of weeks, but didn't get a good enough look to be positive.

Fran Lusso and Dave Weaver wrote (October 31, 2007):  
*"Well, we put the feeders up today and within 5 minutes there was a gray crowned chowling down! So I think you can start the flag waving! Dave also saw 2 black rosies, mt chickadees and dark eyed juncos. A turkey vulture was also seen circling. Ours was the only entry into the log..."*

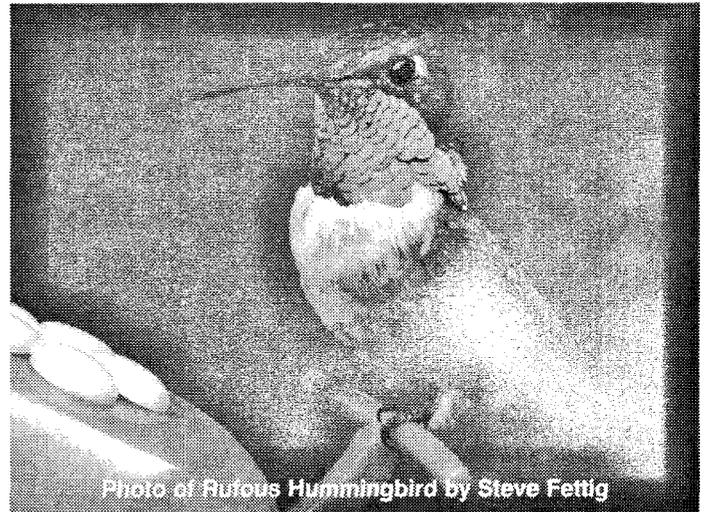


Photo of Rufous Hummingbird by Steve Fettig

## Is It REALLY Time to Take Down the Hummingbird Feeders?

by Joan Day-Martin

I am finding that the folks that are hosting wintering hummingbirds have repetitive visitors from year to year, in the fact that they have winter hummingbirds show up and stay. There is always fresh fluid in feeders and bugs and water where the little survivors choose to over-winter. The wintering hummingbirds appear to be birds that are not breeders in the area (although there have historically been exceptions). All the wintering hummingbirds I band are very healthy; most are quite heavy. Bugs are still abundant enough to satisfy their protein needs during the New Mexico winter months.

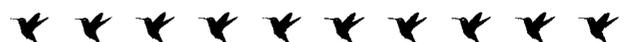
There is a need for more folks that are willing to keep their feeders out and tend them instead of taking them down, as another season seems to begin. It is only through the continued study of these wintering hummingbirds that we will learn more about where they are coming from. I take small feather samples from these birds for Isotope and DNA testing. These samples are sent to the University of Arkansas to Dr. William Baltosser. With the aid of these scientific tests we stand to gain much more knowledge about these tiny little birds.

Please send any reports of over-wintering hummingbirds to me at [hbnm@gilanet.com](mailto:hbnm@gilanet.com).



*"Whatever you do will be insignificant and it is very important that you do it."*

— Mohandas Gandhi





## Hog Island Adventure

by Michael Hilchey

Nineteen lifers, two new bird families, and a once in a lifetime experience! In late June, Central New Mexico Audubon Society and the Ryan Beaulieu fund sponsored me to participate in the teen birding session at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. The camp was a week long endeavor spent at the famous Hog Island off the coast of Maine where eleven other teens and myself spent a week with famous birders such as authors Ken Kaufman, and Scott Weidensaul, ornithologist Sara Morris and the curator of the Macaulay Library of Sound at Cornell, Greg Budney. Every day we were given the amazing opportunity to bird with these and other spectacular birders in some of the best birding locations in Maine. Birding with such amazing birders, as well as birding with other teen birders, was a great experience. I never thought I would be learning from the best of the best of birding. It was also great to be birding in such an amazing place. My personal favorite day trip was our boat ride out to Eastern Egg Rock Island where several hundred pairs of Terns, Puffins and Razorbills breed. We circled the island several times and were afforded excellent looks at all these species as well as a few bonuses including Greater Shearwater and Wilson's Storm-Petrel.

The combination of birding in a breathtaking area with breathtaking birds and fun, knowledgeable people made this an experience of a lifetime. I'd like to thank CNMAS and the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund for sponsoring my trip and encourage other young birders to apply for the scholarship and participate in one of these awesome camps.



Raymond VanBuskirk, Michael Hilchey & Christopher Rustay  
Ecuador, 2007

## An Introduction From A Young Birder and Youth Board Member

Hello, my name is Raymond VanBuskirk. I'm a 17-year-old senior at Eldorado High School, and serve on the board of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society. I have been very active in the birding community since the fifth grade. I love birding and nature and this hobby has taken me to Ecuador, Costa Rica, and all over the United States. For the past five years I have been the leader of a banding research project studying rosy-finches at the Sandia Crest. I have also been working with Steve and Nancy Cox at their research site, at the Rio Grande Nature Center. I have so many friends in this community who have helped me through tough times, as well as who drove my friend Ryan and me around when we were without licenses. Thank you all. I plan to go into Conservation Biology and Ornithology, starting at UNM. With my wide range of interests in the natural world, I hope to work in all areas of the globe, to help save our precious planet. On a side note, the rosies have returned, earlier than ever.

We hope to see you at the Sandia Crest for hot chocolate, friends, and rosy-finches this winter!

*Editor's note: Welcome also to Michael Hilchey to the CNMAS Board of Directors.*

## The Magic of Synchronicity and Serendipity

*From Raymond VanBuskirk, 2006 recipient of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society Young Birders Scholarship (not connected with the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Fund Scholarship)*

Thank you Audubon – My trip to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine was absolutely amazing. I met many new people, both adults and teens, who shared my passion for birds. I met two girls, Kathryn and Britt, who I became very close to on the island. We have been talking of getting together soon for more fun and birds. I managed to tally about eighteen new species; some of the highlights being Black Guillemot, King Eider, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and of course the Atlantic Puffin. I also happened to find the second state record of Black Skimmer!

The scenery was breathtaking, although it was sometimes hard to appreciate as I was smacking mosquitoes off my head. It was not only a birding trip for me, but also a way for me to spend time reflecting on and enjoying life. Ryan's spirit was with me on the island and it was hard to leave a place that I had considered home for a week.

While there I had the pleasure of meeting Scott Weidensaul, a fantastic birder and author. He had met Ryan a few years earlier while Ryan was in Maine on an Audubon scholarship, so we would often sit at dinner and swap stories. He has just recently written a book titled *Of a Feather*, in which he mentions Ryan and me and our time together on Hog Island.

I thank everyone in Central New Mexico Audubon Society who made this trip possible!

**Find out about the Ryan the Beaulieu Memorial Fund**

Scholarship by visiting our website:

<http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>



December 2007 - January - February 2008

**CNMAS 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.

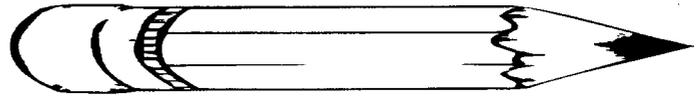
Funding can be used for supplies for a project/lesson/unit about natural history/sciences, such as bug boxes, books, lab supplies.

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: DECEMBER 31st 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](mailto:helennm@yahoo.com), and title the email 'CNMAS Educator Resource Grant'.**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 extended:****\*\* December 31st 2007 \*\*** (for money awarded 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](mailto:helennm@yahoo.com) and title the email 'CNMAS Educator Resource Grant'.

### Application Period Extended for Teachers: Desert Ecology Institute

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society has an exciting opportunity to offer a teacher from New Mexico. Spend four days outdoors learning about the Sonoran Desert at the Institute of Desert Ecology held in Tucson, Arizona.

**April 17-20, 2008, Catalina State Park, Tucson**

CNMAS will pay for the tuition.

**Application: \*\* Due December 31st 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

Mail to: CNMAS, c/o Helen Haskell

PO Box 36741

Albuquerque, NM 87176

Questions? Please email Helen Haskell at [helennm@yahoo.com](mailto:helennm@yahoo.com) and title the email 'Institute of Desert Ecology'.

For more information on program content, visit:

<http://www.tucsonaudubon.org>



## Great Backyard Bird Count Is Great Opportunity To Connect With Nature

In February, volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada are invited to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!"

Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their fascination with nature add up for science and for the future during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During "Presidents' Day" weekend, **February 15-18, 2008**, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

"These volunteers are counting not only for fun but for the future," said Tom Bancroft, Chief Science Officer for Audubon. "It's fun to see how many different kinds of birds can be seen and counted right in your backyard or neighborhood park. Each tally helps us learn more about how our North American birds are doing, and what that says about the health and the future of our environment."

"The GBBC is a great way to engage friends, family, and children in observing nature in their own backyard, where they will discover that the outdoors is full of color, behavior, flight, sounds, and mystery," said Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are—at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges, even counting birds on a balcony. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

The web site provides helpful hints for identifying birds. Participants can compare results from their town or region with others, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. They can also view bird photos taken by participants during the count and send in their own digital images for the online photo gallery and contest.

In 2007, Great Backyard Bird Count participants made history, breaking records for the number of birds reported, and the number of checklists. Participants sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species.

For more information on how to participate, including identification tips, photos, bird sounds, maps, and information on over 500 bird species, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

The Great Backyard Bird Count is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.



## Citizen Science

Your observations are important! Find out about more citizen science projects in which you can participate. Go to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/LabPrograms/CitSci/>

## Safe Computer Recycling

Guaranteed, safe, reliable, confidential, EPA-compliant: New Mexico Technet at 5445 Edith NE, Suite D, in Albuquerque gives you all these assurances when you take any of your computer hardware to them for recycling. Founded in 2003, their objective is two-fold: Environmentally, the recycling program provides a legal and environmentally safe way for all of us, whether individual or organizational, to dispose of outdated and unwanted computer equipment. Vocationally, they collaborate with the Bernalillo County Juvenile Justice Center to provide a vocational path to rehabilitate young offenders by giving them skills and experience that could lead to worthwhile employment opportunities.

Hard drive destruction is guaranteed to be complete and irreversible. They accept all hardware, including printers, scanners, fax machines, monitors, circuit boards, keyboards, mice, etc. Rebuilt/reconditioned computer equipment is donated to accredited schools and non-profits in New Mexico. They do all the hard drive scrubbing for such governmental agencies as CYFD, New Mexico Tax & Revenue, and several large law firms. Scrubbing of hard drives is guaranteed safe and secure! Visit [reruns.nm.org](http://reruns.nm.org) or stop by for a tour, (505) 345-5094, even if you're not donating your old computer equipment!

## Science and Nature

(From "The Sandpiper," Great South Bay Audubon Society, Sayville, NY)

In 1982, Alain Aspect, a French physicist, found something astonishing. Under certain circumstances, atomic particles, like electrons, can instantaneously communicate with each other. It doesn't matter if they are a fraction of an inch or billions of miles apart. It seems that Einstein might be off the mark when he postulated that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light.

There's more here than just exotic particle physics – a science spooky enough in its own right. David Bohm, an English physicist, took it a step further. He postulated that our universe is at its core a phantasm made up of what he called *eidolons*, the Greek for "spirit." The universe is a vast, detailed hologram. What is striking is that according to his theory, since a hologram contains ALL the information possessed by the whole, if you try to take something holographic apart, you don't get pieces. You get smaller wholes. *Everything* in the universe interpenetrates *everything* else. This is not only a startling view of cosmology, it also has profound implications for ecology. Nothing in our terrestrial nature exists in isolation from anything else. Everything we touch, tinker with, destroy or create, affects something else. Like it or not, Nature is indivisible – with liberty and justice for no one.

## Checklists For Everywhere

Hitting the road and want to know what birds you are likely to see? No matter where you are headed, including many remote islands, you can get a checklist for the area on the Internet.

The service is courtesy of Denis Lepage's web site, Bird Links to the World, and includes more than 500 different checklists.

The lists can be found at [www.bsc-eoc.org/links/links.jsp](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/links/links.jsp).



December 2007 - January - February 2008

## WHOM TO CONTACT

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

New Mexico Office  
Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(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 20240  
(202)208-7351  
www.doi.gov

Hon. Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202)224-5521 (505)346-6601  
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

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

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

Governor Bill Richardson  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 476-2200

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

New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505)476-8000  
www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Sandia Ranger District  
US Forest Service  
11776 Highway 337  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
(505)281-3304

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

Rio Grande Nature State Park  
(505)344-7240  
Friends of RGNC friends@rgnc.org  
www.rgnc.org

## Place Matters



My toothpick bird dipped down to  
capture wooden splinters  
Its cousin sat on a wire  
oversized head and long beak dipped  
down to capture curious creature  
from the adobe thick water of a New  
Mexico ditch  
The muddy crawfish dripping from its  
beak spoke of science fiction  
not Cajun etoffee

Joann Sheets 9/26/07

## JOIN AUDUBON TODAY

- Get an Audubon Society membership
- Subscription to Audubon magazine
- Subscription to CNMAS Burrowing Owl

- Yes, I want to join Audubon at the low introductory rate of \$20 for one year (a \$15 savings!)
- Even better, sign me up for two years @ \$30
- Senior citizen or student rate - only \$15/year
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- 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. Contact the Membership Chairman.
- 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 **Spring 2008** issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by **Feb. 5th 2008**. 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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*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](mailto: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)898-8514 work (505)243-7029 fax (505)243-9136 [brave\\_e@juno.com](mailto:brave_e@juno.com)

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Bill Talbot cell (505)363-1041 home (505)764-8272 [flamm505@yahoo.com](mailto:flamm505@yahoo.com)

#### TREASURER

Glen Finley 7404 Ankara Road NE, Alb. 87122 (505)450-3782 [grf@nmlrc.com](mailto:grf@nmlrc.com)

#### SECRETARY

Christopher Rustay home (505)255-7786 [chrustay@aol.com](mailto:chrustay@aol.com)

#### CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRPERSON  
Jeffrey Myers work (505)998-1502 [jmyers@peacocklaw.com](mailto:jmyers@peacocklaw.com)

#### EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

Pauline Turtle-Bear Guillermo (505)265-6094 [turtlebear@jensenbear.com](mailto:turtlebear@jensenbear.com)

#### EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

Helen Haskell PO Box 36741, Alb. 87176-6741 [helennm@yahoo.com](mailto:helennm@yahoo.com)  
Lee Hopwood (505)898-8626 [leewildbirdalq@yahoo.com](mailto:leewildbirdalq@yahoo.com)  
Bill Talbot cell (505)363-1041 home (505)764-8272 [flamm505@yahoo.com](mailto:flamm505@yahoo.com)  
Lynn Schuler [onthepulse@msn.com](mailto:onthepulse@msn.com)

#### FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

Celestyn Brozek home (505)266-9225 work (505)925-8611 [cbrozek@unm.edu](mailto: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](mailto:whitecliffs@comcast.net)

#### NEW MEXICO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Cathy Pasterczyk (505)710-1468 [cpasterczyk@comcast.net](mailto:cpasterczyk@comcast.net)

#### PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

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#### Rare Bird Alert

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<http://www.birder.com/birding/alert/index.html>  
<http://www.nmosbirds.org/hotline.html>

#### Rosy Finch Project

Fran Lusso & Dave Weaver, [flusso@wfubmc.edu](mailto:flusso@wfubmc.edu)

#### Wildlife Rescue

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



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