



Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Burrowing Owl

December 2011 - February 2012 Vol. 41, No. 1

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

It's Christmas Bird Count Season!



Central New Mexico Christmas Bird Counts

Join fellow CNMAS members on one of the five CBCs we sponsor.

See details below and join the fun! Prospective participants can find other CBCs by visiting this website: http://nm.audubon.org/CBC/cbc_schedule.htm

Five Points Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, December 15

Steve Cox, 505-345-2385, swcox@spinn.net
Meeting time is 6:30 a.m. at the Sevilleta NWR Headquarters

Bosque del Apache Christmas Count

Saturday, December 17

The Bosque del Apache Christmas Count will be on Saturday, December 17. Please meet at the refuge HQ at 6:30 a.m. A post count get-together will be held at 5:30 at a location TBD. To help me coordinate with the refuge, please contact me ahead of time if you wish to participate. Dave Hawksworth, davehawk1@msn.com or (505)507-5343.

Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 18

Details for the Albuquerque CBC are being finalized as this newsletter is being completed.

For More Information Contact:

Co-Compiler Raymond VanBuskirk, 505-217-8514
newmexicobirder@gmail.com

Co-Compiler Cole Wolf 505-553-4831
colejwolf@gmail.com

Sevilleta NWR Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 19

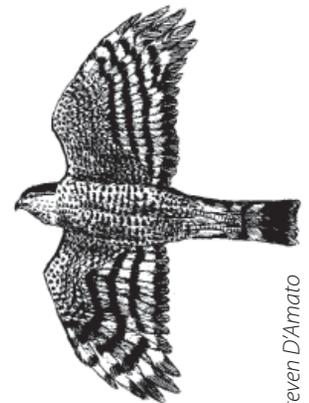
Steve Cox, 505-345-2385, swcox@spinn.net
Meeting time is 6:30 a.m. at the Sevilleta NWR Headquarters

Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 26

Rebecca Gracey (505) 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com (count organizer) and Nick Pederson (505) 417-8665 npederson4088@hotmail.com (data compiler).

Meet north of Albertson's in the Four Hills shopping 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 compilation party will be at 5:00 p.m. at O'Neill's Irish Pub at 3301 Juan Tabo NE, north of Candelaria on the west side of the street. There the group will eat and go over the results of the count. Contact Rebecca if you wish to participate.



Steven D'Amato

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January 19 - Michael Robinson *Will Politics or Science Determine the Future of the Mexican Gray Wolf?*

Join us at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE) for our winter meeting. Arrive at 7 p.m. for conversation and refreshments. The program begins at 7:15 p.m.

Mexican gray wolves were exterminated from the wild in the U.S. Southwest and Mexico during the 20th century, and only rescued from extinction by emergency captive breeding followed by reintroduction in 1998. Their eventual recovery will benefit their entire ecosystem, as seen in Yellowstone National Park where northern gray wolves reintroduced in 1995 keep elk from eating all the cottonwood saplings, as they had done during the preceding decades, enabling the growth of mature trees that stabilize streambanks, provide habitat for nesting birds and support beaver whose ponds in turn house fish. South of Yellowstone, in Grand Teton National Park, the wolves have reduced coyote numbers to the benefit of pronghorn whose fawns the coyotes actively hunt; once wolves arrived, pronghorns stopped declining and started increasing. But with just a few dozen Mexican wolves in the wild, and the powerful livestock industry arrayed against their survival, it is as yet unclear whether the lobo and its southwestern ecosystem will recover. Learn about the history, present status and possible futures for the Mexican wolf.

Michael Robinson works for the Center for Biological Diversity and is author of "Predatory Bureaucracy: The Extermination of Wolves and the Transformation of the West" (University Press of Colorado, 2005).

The 14th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form

- o Feb. 16 - Ashli Gorbet - A Bird in the Hand... Banding Adventures with Rio Grande Bird Research \$6
- o Mar. 15 - Raymond Van Buskirk and Judy Liddell New Mexico's Migration Hot Spots \$6
- o Apr. 19 - Cole Wolf - "Splits, Lumps, and Hybrids: Why field guides keep changing" \$6
- o Become a NEW Audubon member and get the Birding Academy classes for FREE ----- \$20

NAS chapter code C1ZQ510Z • Source code 79M7

Total Enclosed: _____

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

o 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 2012

BIRDING ACADEMY 2012



Birds in the Hand Birds in the Field Birds in the Guides

Birding Academy classes will begin at 7:15 p.m.
at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church

New members: Join National Audubon for \$20 and get the Birding Academy included for free! Current members or nonmembers - \$6.00 per class in advance or at the door. Questions? Visit cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/ or call Beth at 508-4942.



February 16 - Ashli Gorbet *A Bird in the Hand... Banding Adventures with Rio Grande Bird Research*

From the bosque of the Rio Grande to the heights of the Sandia Crest, Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc., has been banding birds in New Mexico and educating the public on the importance of bird banding science for three decades. Ashli Gorbet will share the history and evolution of our all-volunteer banding group along with our various projects and interests including migration and winter ecology of songbirds on the Middle Rio Grande, Rosy-Finches, White-breasted Nuthatches and more. She will also illustrate the significance of bird banding to ornithological science and discuss some of the things we've learned along the way about the birds of New Mexico.

Ashli is a licensed bird bander, the secretary of Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc., and the project lead for the Black-throated Gray Warbler and White-breasted Nuthatch projects. She has been active with the group for over five years and considers her best days to be those she gets to spend banding birds with her friends and colleagues.

March 15 - Raymond Van Buskirk and Judy Liddell *New Mexico's Migration Hot Spots*

April 19 - Cole Wolf *Splits, Lumps, and Hybrids: Why field guides keep changing*



An American Bird Conservancy Opinion Editorial: Birds and Humans: When Worlds Collide

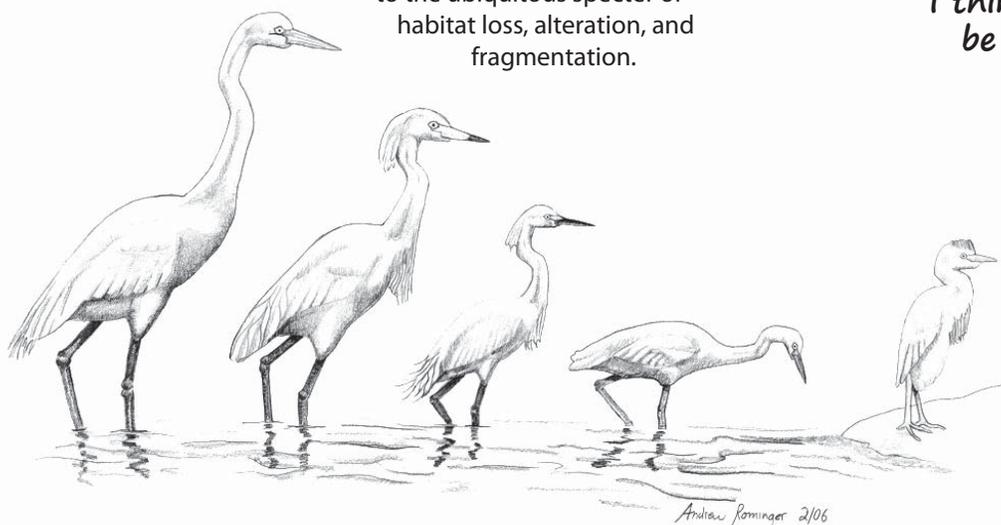
Reprinted with permission from American Bird Conservancy.

The other day, a member of the public called ABC's offices in Washington, DC to follow up on a story we had reported on. More than 500 birds had been killed at a West Virginia wind power facility, just one of many similar events occurring across the country throughout the year, every year. The caller asked several questions specific to this incident, and then asked another, more general question: why can't the birds simply learn to avoid the wind turbines? We explained that the first encounter most birds have with a turbine – or for that matter, a tall tower, glass building, or any other structure responsible for more than a billion collisions each year – is usually fatal, and so there is little opportunity for them to learn from the experience.

The caller's seemingly innocent question is not uncommon, but behind it lies evidence of a troubling philosophy: that it is up to wildlife to adapt to each new human change on the landscape. If species can't keep up, it's their fault.

There are two problems with this notion. The first is that changes in nature take time, whereas human impacts are nearly instantaneous. It took the Golden Eagle millennia to evolve its highly effective hunting strategy of soaring above the ground, scouring the landscape below for prey. It has never had reason to look up to see what lies in its flight path because there has never before been anything else there to collide with. But suddenly the eagle's airspace is peppered with turbine blades spinning at 100-plus miles-per-hour. How can it suddenly change to cope with this new paradigm?

The second problem is that each human-created threat does not occur in isolation. Collision with man-made structures is only one of many new and growing hazards that birds now face; hazards that run the gamut from environmental contaminants such as pesticides and lead, to overfishing, invasive species, and introduced disease, to the ubiquitous specter of habitat loss, alteration, and fragmentation.



Asking animals to adapt to all of these threats at once is asking the impossible.

Nature is totally unaware that it is engaged in a deadly game of chicken with the human race. The juggernaut of human progress is careening down the road towards it at break-neck speed, giving species no time to get out of the way. Our impacts on the environment are outstripping the pace at which populations can naturally adapt; we cannot expect birds to simply evolve their way out of the onslaught.

But extinction is a perfectly natural phenomenon, so why should it matter if bird species disappear for good? Behind this second question lies another dangerous assumption: that the loss of birds and other wildlife has no impact on us; that we are somehow immune to the impoverishment of our environment. It is certainly hard to convey, other than perhaps in emotional terms, how the loss of a single bird species – for example the Po'ouil, a small Hawaiian songbird that went extinct in 2004 – affects humans, particularly when most of us would never have seen it anyway. But cumulatively, species loss amounts to death by a thousand cuts. Each tiny incision produces a barely noticeable drop of blood, but together, they contribute to the slow, inevitable exsanguination of the planet we inhabit.

Birds pollinate our crops, control our pests, disperse our seeds, and fertilize our earth; they alert us to environmental contamination; they bring joy to millions and income to millions more in the form of the birdwatching and bird feeding industries. Instead of asking why birds don't adapt to the changes we cause, we should be asking how we can adapt our behavior and technology to protect birds, their habitats, and our shared planet. Their conservation should be a significant long-term priority for our society—a promise to keep for the generations that will follow us.

www.abcbirds.org

*I think the environment should
be put in the category of our
national security.
Defense of our
resources is just as
important as
defense abroad.
Otherwise what is
there to defend?
--Robert Redford*



Thursday Birders Winter Schedule

DECEMBER 1

Hike the open space at the east end of Copper, then attend a Holiday Pot Luck with Toys for Tots gifts with Rebecca Gracey: maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com, 242-3821. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the open space parking area for an easy one mile walk. Afterwards attend a potluck lunch at the home of Cindy and Joe Harris. Soup, coffee and tea will be provided. Everyone else should bring other dishes to share with the group. Unwrapped gifts for the Toys for Tots program will be collected from those wishing to contribute. Directions to the pot luck location will be handed out at the hike.

DECEMBER 8

Have a late lunch in Los Lunas and then view the Sandhill Crane fly-in at the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area (WWCA) near Belen, NM, with Linda Heinze: H. 565-1441, C. 270-1779, manzanogal@gmail.com Meet at 12:50 p.m. for a 1:00 departure behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University or 1:40 p.m. at the Green House Bistro and Bakery in Los Lunas. The address is 5 Thomas Road, on the west side of NM 47, 1.7 miles south of the El Cerro and NM 47 intersection.

WWCA is located on the west side of NM 47, 7.5 miles south of the restaurant. The group should arrive at Whitfield around 3:00 p.m. and will probably be back in Albuquerque before 7:00 p.m.

For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

DECEMBER 15

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell@earthlink.net Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. This is an all day trip. (Admission fee or pass required per vehicle.) For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

DECEMBER 22

Various locations in the village of Corrales and a walk in the bosque with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure in the shopping center parking lot north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of NM 448/ Coors/Corrales Road near Little Anita's restaurant. Lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

DECEMBER 29

Shining River Bosque Open Space with Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com

Meet at the trailhead in the open space parking lot at 9:00 a.m. for a walk in the bosque. It is located south of Paseo del Norte and north of El Pueblo Road on Rio Grande Boulevard. (There is no exit from Paseo del Norte to Rio Grande Boulevard. Take the 2nd Street exit and take El Pueblo west to Rio Grande.) The walk will end before noon.

JANUARY 5

Raptors on the eastern plains of Tarrant County with Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com Meet at 8:50

a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot of the library in Tijeras, NM, on Route 66/NM 333 (north side of the highway). The group will drive south of Moriarty past Estancia to look for several hawk species and a possible Golden Eagle. Lunch at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Albuquerque by 5:00 p.m. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 12

Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the east side of Coors Boulevard, 1.3 miles north of Montano and 1 mile south of Paseo del Norte. It will be an easy 1.5 mile walk ending before noon.

JANUARY 19

Los Poblanos Fields Open Space with Lefty Arnold: wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com, 514-9398. Meet at 8:57 a.m. in the open space parking lot. From east or west bound Montano turn north on Tierra Viva just east of the river. There will be a sign for Rio Grande Community Farm. It will be an easy one mile walk ending before noon.

JANUARY 26

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Nature Center parking lot at the end of Candelaria N.W. There is a \$3 parking fee if you don't have a state parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass. Both may be purchased inside the visitor's center after 10:00. The walk will end before noon.



FEBRUARY 2

Hike Embudo Canyon with Donna Royer: 869-6882, dlroyer@earthlink.net

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot nearest the trail head which is located at the east end of Indian School Road N.E. It is an easy 1.5 mile walk ending before noon.

FEBRUARY 9

Sandia Crest to look for the Rosy-Finches with Karen and Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com Meet at 9:20 a.m. for a 9:30 departure from the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras, NM, on NM 337 to arrange car pooling. Snacks or lunch may be bought at the crest restaurant as the group waits inside for the Rosy-Finches to arrive at the feeders. (Parking fee or pass required.) The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$2 at five cents per mile.

FEBRUARY 16

Longspur quest on the plains east of Albuquerque with Gary Shirk: 717-330-7063, gshirk748@gmail.com Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the Four Hills shopping center near the Carl's Jr. on the south side of Central, between Juan Tabo and Tramway. Bring lunch. The trip should end mid afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.



FEBRUARY 23

Alameda Open Space with Judy Liddell: 271-0912,
jliddell5@earthlink.net

Meet at 9:00 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. Lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.

Thursday Birder Trip Reports

Judy Liddell's blog: www.wingandsong.wordpress.com

Joe Schelling's blog: <http://joeschelling.wordpress.com>

Matt O'Donnell's blog: <http://abqbirding.wordpress.com>

Phil Trine's photographs: www.flickr.com/photos/thbirds

NM Rare Bird Alert - www.nmbirds.org

Rare Bird Alert for all states - www.birdingonthe.net

To report NM rare birds, contact Matt Baumann at
mb687@yahoo.com, 505-264-1052

Other Birding Opportunities**Weekend Bird Walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park**

Join Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks at the RGNCSP, located at the far west end of Candelaria Road in Albuquerque's North Valley. The walk starts at 9:00 a.m. in the winter. There is a \$3 day use fee if you do not have a state parks pass or a Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center day use pass. Call 344-7240 or visit www.rgnc.org for more information.

Bird and Bat Festival at the Rio Grande Nature Center**Saturday, January 14, 10a.m. to 4p.m.**

Join us at the Rio Grande Nature Center as we celebrate birds and bats. Visit rgnc.org for more information.

Featured events:

- Talk and slide presentation on Rosy-Finches, by Michael Hilchey
- Talk and slide presentation on Bats, by Bill Gannon
- Talk and slide presentation on photographing birds by Pat O'Brien
- Bird ID in the observation room
- Live birds with Wildlife Rescue
- Live bats with Laurie Wearne
- Children's activities



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.

CNMA's Weekend Field Trips - Winter 2012

Check for updates or additional field trips on our website:
www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas

Saturday, December 3: Bosque del Apache NWR

Leader: Robert Munro, robert.munro@earthlink.net

Meet at the refuge visitor center at 9:30 a.m. or, to arrange carpooling from Albuquerque, at the parking lot at the south-west corner of Lomas and University Blvds at 8:00 a.m. The trip will consist of some light walking and driving both loops in search of winter resident birds. Dress for variable weather and bring a scope if you have one. We may stop at Turtle Bay Park in Socorro on the way back.

Sunday, January 22: Sandia Mountains

Leader: Raymond VanBuskirk, newmexicobirder@gmail.com
505-217-8514

Meet in front of Starbucks in the Four Hills parking lot (south of Central and west of Tramway) at 7:30 a.m. We'll start at the morning at Doc Long Picnic Area, and from there we'll work our way up the mountain looking for winter finches and other forest birds. At the crest we'll search for Three-toed Woodpeckers and finish the trip in the Crest House where we'll watch the Rosy-Finch banders while we sip hot chocolate.

Saturday, January 28: Maxwell NWR

Leader: Jim Mosley, ff1964@msn.com

This trip will focus on winter raptors (targets include Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, falcons, and eagles) and waterfowl. Maxwell is also one of the best spots in the state to see Northern Shrike and American Tree-Sparrow. The trip will conclude at around noon, which can afford us the opportunity to perhaps bird Las Vegas NWR on the return. You will be ****required**** to contact me if you are going on this trip. Dress for possible extreme cold. Bring snacks and water as well. Participants can meet at the gas station across from Sandia Casino for carpooling at 5:30 a.m. or at the refuge headquarters at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 11: Alameda Open Space

Leader: Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com, 505-220-7998

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot. We will be looking for wintering waterfowl on the river, checking the flocks of gulls for any vagrants and scouting for wintering sparrow, as well as enjoying normal winter species, e.g. Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and American Goldfinches. This is a trip that can be enjoyed by all levels of birders.

Saturday February 25: Rattlesnake Springs & Carlsbad

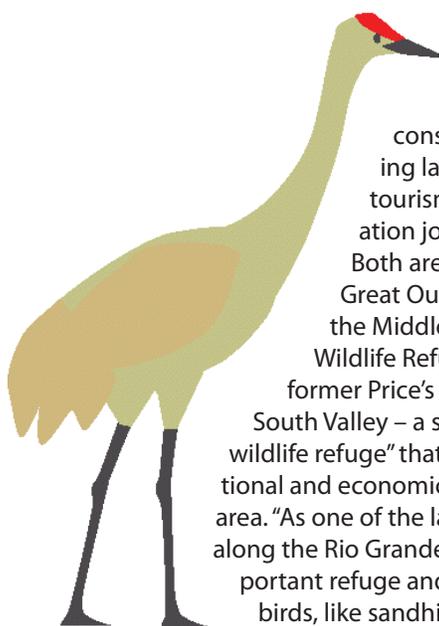
Leader: Cole Wolf, colejwolf@gmail.com, 505-553-4831

We'll be focusing on winter eastern NM specialties including Field Sparrow, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal, and Brown Thrasher. The relatively milder climate of the southeastern part of the state also makes it a great place to find rare warblers, sparrows, and others in winter. Contact the leader for a meeting time on Saturday morning and information on carpooling from Albuquerque on Friday evening. More adventurous participants should ask the leader about visiting the Guadalupe Mountains on Sunday.



Environmental News In New Mexico

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has cited two projects in New Mexico as among the nation's most promising ways to reconnect Americans to the natural world. Secretary Salazar says the projects represent some of



the "best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population,

conserve wildlife and working lands, and create travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the country."

Both are part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. One is the Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge designation for the former Price's Dairy in Albuquerque's South Valley – a so-called "urban national wildlife refuge" that would provide educational and economic opportunities in the area. "As one of the last undeveloped parcels along the Rio Grande, Price's Dairy is an important refuge and waypoint for migratory birds, like sandhill cranes, Arctic geese and varied duck species migrating along river from summer-breeding grounds in

the North to wintering havens in the South," Salazar said in a release. The second project is a pedestrian bridge over the Animas River that would connect Aztec to the Aztec Ruins National Monument.

In October a federal appeals court in Denver upheld the U.S. Forest Service's authority to restrict road development on millions of acres of public lands. The decision will reinstate 1.6 million acres of wildlands as roadless in New Mexico, mostly in the Gila Wilderness. President Clinton established the roadless areas at the end of his term, but President George W. Bush overturned the rule when he took office in 2005. Several states, including New Mexico, sued in support of the roadless rule, and in October the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals found in their favor. Of course, readers are probably aware that recently members of Congress including Rep. Steve Pearce have supported a measure, HR 1581, that would allow development on millions of acres of public land throughout the West. It is imperative that you, the public, keep yourselves informed and be proactive in letting your Representatives in the House and Senate know how important wildlands and their protection are to YOU!

And a political science current report, too:

Sens. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) are being praised for calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's damaging 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which gave corporations the ability to spend unlimited amounts of money from their treasuries to influence elections.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2012. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.



Why Count Birds?

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. Last year there were 92,218 checklists submitted from across the US and Canada reporting 594 species and 11,471,949 individual birds.

If you want to expand your definition of 'backyard' this year, check out the GBBC activities at the ***Rio Grande Nature Center***, including bird walks and a Big Sit or two! Visit our website or www.rgnc.org in February for more details.

To participate in this nationwide event, visit:

birdsource.org/gbbc/

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, The National Audubon Society and Bird Studies Canada.



In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace.

--Wangari Maathai



How to Lead a Field Trip

Barbara Hussey, a former president of Central New Mexico Audubon, shared information about how to lead a field trip with the participants gathered recently for the Thursday Birder trip at the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center.



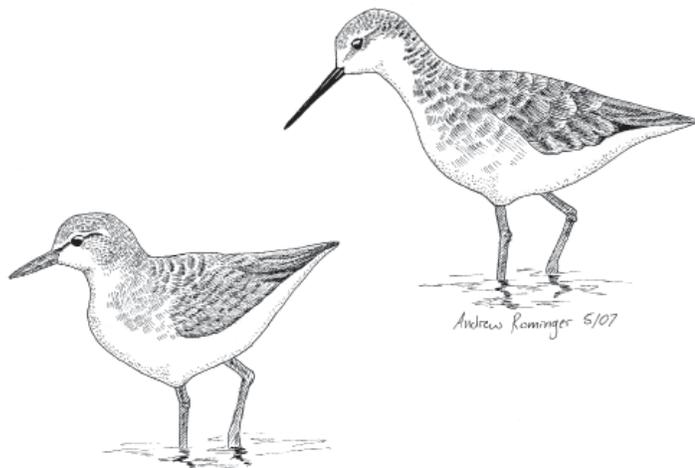
"You probably have a favorite place you like to bird," Barbara challenged the group. "Consider sharing your passion about this location with others."

CNMAS need lots of people taking turns leading trips. Don't let the same few volunteers bear the responsibility of doing it all the time! Anyone who likes to bird can be a field trip leader. It's easy! You don't have to be an advanced birder to lead, just a willing one. If you feel unsure of your ability to identify all of the birds, invite someone to co-lead with you. There will be lots of experienced birders on the trip who will know the birds and help with ID.

Here are a few tips from Barbara's hand-out:

Before the trip:

- 1) The field trip coordinator will need the following information: date, name of site to be visited, meeting time for possible carpooling, expected ending time, walking distance and type of terrain to be covered (plus possibly a brief description of what to expect – species, interesting facts, recommended attire, what to bring – sack lunch, binocs, covered dish, money for restaurant, etc.). You may not even have to do this if the coordinator already knows some of this info. Include your phone number and/or email.
- 2) The weekend (or the day) before the field trip, scout the location with a friend if possible to check for unexpected changes or problems. You can also get a preview of what birds will be expected on the trip.
- 3) Be available to take calls or email the night before.



At the start of the trip:

- 1) Show up at the meeting place early (rain or shine). If only one person shows up, do the trip anyway.
- 2) Greet newcomers. Introduce yourself as the field trip leader (say something about yourself). Ask people to introduce themselves. Speak loud enough for all. Stand so that your audience will not be looking into the sun when you talk.
- 3) Conduct any paperwork or fee exchanges. Mention sharing any carpooling gasoline expenses.
- 4) Explain where and how long the trip will be (plus type of terrain and conditions). Mention potential hazards or special considerations (private land, gates, etc.).
- 5) Wait for known stragglers, but don't delay the start time too long, penalizing those showing up on time.

During the trip:

- 1) Speak so that all can hear. Wait for everybody to catch up if the group is large. If you must, say it again when the rest are within earshot.
- 2) When a bird is spotted, make sure everyone who wants to see it, gets to. If the bird is still visible, don't move on until all who need it get a look.

You can do it! Consider leading an upcoming trip. Contact Rebecca Gracey, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com to lead a Thursday trip or Cole Wolf, colewolf@gmail.com to lead a weekend trip (it can be local or to another part of the state).

"Why do birds sing? ... there are several reasons, but the one that catches my attention is to establish and defend their territory. Think about that for a minute: Somebody tries to invade your space, so you sing to them ..."
--Pat Dillon, President, Travis Audubon Society

Learning Look-Alikes Order Form

Own the entire series from the *Burrowing Owl!*

Contacts: Laurel Ladwig at BUROWLn@gmail.com
Beth Hurst-Waitz at 505-508-4942

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____

	Quantity
Learning Look-Alikes \$25.00	_____
Shipping and handling \$7.00 per notebook	_____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

The sale of this collectible edition is a fund-raiser for CNMAS, and part of the proceeds will go to the Ryan Fund.



New Mexico Ornithological Society 50th Anniversary Meeting

The New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) will hold its 50th Annual Meeting on Saturday, 31 March 2012 at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn, located just north of the "Old Town" historic district of Albuquerque.

This meeting will include an NMOS business meeting, celebration of our 50th Anniversary, an NMOS general science session, and an evening banquet with a keynote speaker to be announced later.

Further details on the meeting, including the Call for Abstracts and Registration information, will be posted on the NMOS website (<http://www.nmbirds.org>) and published in upcoming issues of the NMOS Bulletin, as they become available.

The Rosy-Finches Are Here!

We know from Gene Romero, manager of the Crest House, that Rosy-Finches were spotted on Saturday, November 12 -- many of them sporting their "bling" -- previous bands, that is!



The first banding day is November 20, with the Rosy-Finch banding team up on the Crest every Sunday from now until March, with a few exceptions -- notably, Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1. Banding starts at 10:00 a.m. at the Crest House and goes till around 2:00 in the afternoon. Join the banders and the birders for hot chocolate, quesadillas, and of course the birds! For confirmation of dates of banding (or dates OFF from banding), check on line at either <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas> or www.rosyfinch.com

From the Save The Belen Marsh Committee

Thank you to the nine students from Bosque Prep in Albuquerque, Rose Natzke, and Holly Wilson-Hooks and family who joined us in cleaning up Don Felipe Road in Belen on Saturday morning, November 12. The road runs parallel to the Belen Marsh. The volunteers did a terrific job and over 37 bags of trash were picked up. --Eileen Beaulieu



Thank you, Tom Jervis

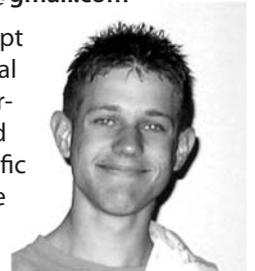
On Wednesday, Nov. 9, the Audubon-New Mexico Board of Directors held their meeting here in Albuquerque at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park -- what a wonderful way to make stronger connections among far-flung, like-minded people in this sprawling geography of a state! Honored at the luncheon was Tom Jervis for his commitment to the State Board as president for the past six years. Though most folks in CNMAS may not know Tom directly, all of us owe him respect and gratitude for his decades-long commitment to all things Audubon. Among other things, he was part of the group that lobbied for the RGNC State Park. To get inspiration about leadership and perseverance, be sure to read more about Tom in the next State newsletter. On behalf of all of us in CNMAS, Tom, we thank you -- for yourself, for your mind, your dedication, your fierceness, your intellect, your tirelessness, your "Audubon-ness."

Find CNMAS on Facebook and visit our beautiful website!
 cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

Youth Education and Teacher Professional Development Opportunity

The Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund
 On-line application only to cnmasgrants@gmail.com

This is the sixth year CNMAS is able to accept applications for the Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund. The fund provides scholarships for youth between the ages of 13 and 20, or educators of youth, to attend a specific program, camp or course, pertaining to the candidate's interest in the natural sciences.



For more information about applications and for a copy of the application, please contact the CNMAS Education Committee at cnmasgrants@gmail.com or visit <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> where you can follow links to the application form and instructions. Applications are taken on an on-going basis but early applications are encouraged as they are taken on a first-come-first-considered basis. The grant will be awarded by April 30 2012. **On-line application only to cnmasgrants@gmail.com**

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

The Burrowing Owl newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$15 to nonmembers.



Contacting National Audubon

For questions regarding magazines, national mailings, premiums (calendars, tote bags, etc), address changes for national mailing, requests for removals from mailing lists, or any other membership issues, please contact Audubon's Customer Service Partner, Palm Coast Data (PCD) at (800) 274-4201 or audubon@emailcustomerservice.com. Audubon is now providing service six days a week (Mondays-



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Central New Mexico Audubon Society Application Form For **New National Members Only**



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The following rates include the *National Audubon Magazine* and the CNMAS Newsletter the *Burrowing Owl*. Please check your preference.

- \$20 New Member, *special introductory rate for one year.*
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As part of our commitment to protecting our natural environment we are encouraging members to opt to receive their copies of the Burrowing Owl online, where they can read it on their computers or print it out at home. This will significantly reduce the amount of paper generated by mailing hard copies. We will, of course, honor those requests from members who wish to continue receiving the hard copies through the mail. Please indicate your preference below.

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Muchísimas gracias to Melissa Howard for her superb proofreading skills! I am solely responsible for any errors that remain. - Editor

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Spring 2012 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by February 5, 2012.

Contact Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871 or BUROWLnm@gmail.com.

We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.



photo by Laurel Ladwig

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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."*

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