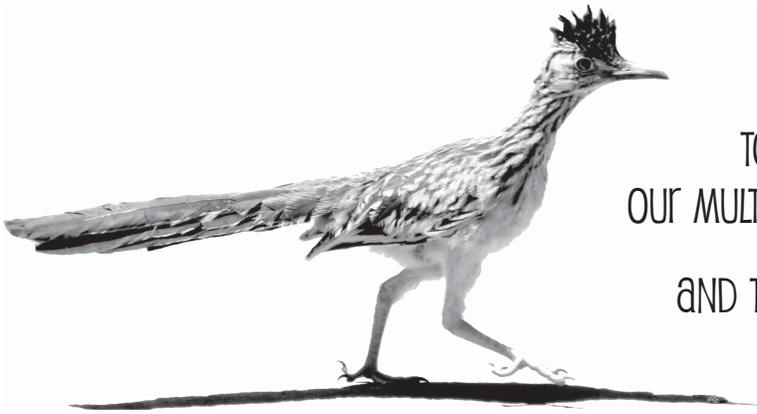




# Burrowing Owl

June - August 2012 Vol. 41, No. 3

Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society! A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.



THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED  
TO OUR FABULOUS FIELD TRIP LEADERS,  
TO OUR BIRDATHON TEAM PLANNERS, AND TO  
OUR MULTI-FEATHERS-IN-THEIR-CAPS VOLUNTEERS ...

AND TO ALL OF YOU FIELD TRIP ATTENDEES,  
BIRDATHON DONORS,  
JUST-READ-THE-NEWSLETTER-MEMBERS,  
AND OTHERWISE AVES-PHILIACS (BIRD-LOVERS) --

## YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

### SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, September 20 – 7 p.m.

### First CNMAS Fall Program New Mexico Butterflies in Migration

Steve Cary, author of *Butterfly Landscapes of New Mexico*, will discuss the two types of butterfly migration we observe in New Mexico – including the whos, hows, whys and wheres. He will illustrate his talk with photos of butterfly species seen in New Mexico during migration and where they can be seen. Monitoring of monarch butterflies migrating through New Mexico will receive special attention.



#### In This Issue

<i>Birdathon! Reports</i>	2, 3	<i>CNMASTrips</i>	5	<i>NM Important Bird Areas</i>	8-10
<i>Statewide Audubon Conference</i>	3	<i>Other Birding Opportunities</i>	5	<i>Whom to Contact</i>	11
<i>Grasslands Restoration Project</i>	3	<i>Field Trip Reports</i>	6	<i>CNMAST Directory</i>	12
<i>Thursday Birders</i>	4	<i>In Sympathy, Congratulations</i>	7		



## 2012 Birdathon!

*With two terrific teams and some of the most cooperative weather and birds in recent times, it looks like our donors and supporters have put their appreciation into \$\$\$ and that we may be on our way to an all-time high amount in pledges. Here and now, we thank you generically. In the next issue of Burrowing Owl, we will thank you publicly and personally, so watch for the announcement of our final fun(d)-raising tally and the names of all of you who are so generous!*

### 2012 Thursday Birders BIRDATHON REPORT

The first stop on May 3 for the team's 17 members was Turtle Bay on the New Mexico Tech campus in Socorro. A special treat there were flocks of Cedar Waxwings. Along US 60 west of Socorro a Prairie Falcon and Eastern Meadowlarks provided unexpected sightings. In Water Canyon of the Magdalena Mountains the resident warblers had arrived to breed and were spotted by the group. These included the Red-faced Warbler, Grace's Warbler, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. The third stop was a canyon called The Box where White-throated Swifts, Canyon Wren, and Rock Wren were seen. The rest of the day was spent at the Bosque del Apache where the birds were plentiful. A sight from the Flight Deck provided an array of birds that any birder would delight in seeing. There were flocks of Wilson's Phalaropes, many Franklin's Gulls, eight duck species, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, White-faced Ibis, Long-billed Dowitchers, and an introduced Mute Swan. The final sighting after a long day of birding was a Lesser Nighthawk as the group left the refuge.

A total of 133 birds species were seen plus the Mute Swan. The team members were John Arnold, Mary Lou Arthur, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Larry Caldwell, Tom Cartledge, John Esterl, Sylvia Fee, Rebecca Gracey, Paulina Inigo, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Jim Place, Judy Propper, Ellen Raimer, Joe Schelling, and Tresa Walker.

### 2012 Earth Beat Birdathon! Report

As with any good "Big Day" the trip started off with some bumps. Raymond was unable to join us at the last minute (literally a few hours before we left) and despite our attempts to lure in other top birders for the trip, nobody answered the call. So Phred Benham and I left Albuquerque on the afternoon of Friday, May 4th and headed to Clanton Canyon in the far South Western portion of the state where we would start our day at the crack of midnight! With only two birders on the team, our hopes of beating the NM Big Day record on 202 species were greatly diminished but given all the hours of prep work put into this one day of birding, we had to give it a try.

Just before midnight we arrived at Clanton and began tooting for owls. We quickly had a symphony of night birds responding including several WHISKERED and WESTERN SCREECH-OWLS, FLAMMULATED OWL, two NORTHERN PYGMY-OWLS, ELF OWLS, COMMON POORWILL, MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILL, and GREAT HORNED OWL! With a clean sweep of the owls we decided to try for a more difficult Clanton specialty and at around 1am we managed to get a DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER to respond to a recording! We left Clanton around 2am feeling really good about the day.

After a few unsuccessful Barn Owl stops and a quick fuel (and

coffee) stop in Lordsburg, we rolled into Red Rock on the Gila River and managed to even get an hour or two of sleep. At dawn we were woken by the sound of LESSER NIGHTHAWKS and CASSIN'S SPARROWS just outside of Red Rock. We spent a few minutes trying unsuccessfully for Bendire's Thrasher before driving down into the Gila River Valley. We spent about an hour and half in the Red Rock area and the check marks were flying onto our list as fast as we could write! We ticked GRAY VIREO, SCOTT'S and HOODED ORIOLE, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, NORTHERN CARDINAL, GILA WOODPECKER, BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, VERMILION FLYCATCHER, BLACK-TAILED GNAT-CATCHER, CRISSAL THRASHER, VERDIN, and a whole host of other birds! We missed a few birds like Common Merganser and Common Black-Hawk but overall we felt very good about the first few hours.

From Red Rock we blasted through Forest Road 851 which goes over the Big Burro Mountains to Silver City. We made a few stops and picked up a number of good resident birds like GRACE'S and BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, JUNIPER and BRIDLED TITMOUSE, HEPATIC TANAGER, and MEXICAN JAY just to name a few.

We fueled up again in Silver City and then headed north through the Pinos Altos Mountains towards Lake Roberts. First stop was Cherry Creek Campground where we scrounged up nearly all of the Southwestern mountain specialties including RED-FACED WARBLER, PAINTED REDSTART, WARBLING VIREO, BROWN CREEPER, HOUSE WREN, WHITE-THROATED SWIFT, CANYON WREN, PINE SISKIN, HUTTON'S VIREO, VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, PYGMY NUTHATCH and so on and so forth. A few miles down the road, at the Signal Peak turn off, we refound the pair of GREATER PEWEES seen last weekend and managed to pick up OLIVE WARBLER in the same spot! Next stop was Lake Roberts where we picked up PURPLE MARTIN, EARED GREBE, RING-NECKED DUCK, and WESTERN BLUEBIRD. We then rushed through the rest of the Pinos Altos and up into the Black Range.

We were a few minutes behind schedule at this point due to a bike race that was going through Lake Roberts so we were rushing to get to the Rio Grande Valley. With only a few minutes to spare at Emory Pass we managed to miss a couple of important mountain birds like Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Zone-tailed Hawk. On a big day, the schedule is king and you can't spend all day worrying about a few misses, so we powered through to Percha Dam, stopping briefly for ROCK WREN and CEDAR WAXWING along the way.





*Earth Beat Birdathon! report continued...*

At Percha, the wind picked up and migrant numbers were very low but we did manage to get a number of good birds like BRONZED COWBIRD, SPOTTED SANDPIPER, AMERICAN GOLD-FINCH, CASSIN'S VIREO, YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, EASTERN BLUEBIRD and lots of other common riparian birds.

Leaving Percha we found ourselves back on schedule with about 150 species! Next up was North Monticello Point at Elephant Butte Lake. The water here was very low and the birds were very far out but there were plenty to see! We scored several good birds including CLARK'S GREBE, WILLET, NORTHERN PINTAIL, LESSER SCAUP, DOUBLE-CRESTED AND NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS, REDHEAD, FORSTER'S TERN, LARK BUNTING, and FRANKLIN'S GULL.

Our next and final stop was Bosque Del Apache. We first drove through the seasonal road looking for shorebirds and rails. We quickly added VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA, LEAST BITTERN, BONAPARTE'S GULL, and several species of shorebirds. We ran out to the Chupadera deck and refound the very responsive CAROLINA WREN and then shot down the farm loop where we picked up WILD TURKEY and STILT SANDPIPER. As the sun started going down we dashed out to the marsh loop where we spotted several new birds including WESTERN GREBE and SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. The last minutes of sunlight were spent watching the rookery in hopes of some new herons. We ended the day with BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, and WOOD DUCK!

All together we ended up with 190 species! We had some pretty major misses and were totally exhausted by the end of the day, but considering we only had two birders, we did much better than I expected us to do. Our success on the day was largely due to our scouting trip the weekend before. We got nearly all of the expected breeding birds on our route with a few exceptions. On the migrant front we did rather poorly with very few migrant passerines and some major shorebird misses such as Western Sandpiper and Greater Yellowlegs. We hope to try the route again next year, this time with a bit more help and hopefully a few more migrants.

Thanks everyone who pledged for this birdathon. 190 species brought us to just over \$1,400 raised for CNMAS!!

-Michael Hilchey

## Statewide Audubon Chapters Conference

This fall, all Audubon members are invited to participate in an all-day conference at the Rio Grande Nature Center in Albuquerque. The event will be held September 15, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Registration runs June 1 through September 7. Please visit our website: [cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org) any time after June 1 for the direct link to the registration form. We are still in the process of scheduling, but we plan on having a birding expert as our keynote speaker. The purpose of this conference is to strengthen our chapters and to have fellowship with other bird enthusiasts around the state. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a gardening project at the Nature Center. Please join us for what promises to be a memorable event.



## Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Grassland Restoration Project

Many of us who participate in the guided weekend bird walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park have noticed the big, weedy dirt field near the northwest side of the Candelaria Wetlands. Birders typically pass by the area without a second look, as we have become accustomed to the complete lack of birdlife in this denuded pasture. Even the Rio Grande Bird Research banding team has noticed the number of birds caught in this dirt lot slowly dwindling to near zero over the past several years. As the Nature Center is a real highlight of Albuquerque birding, CNMAS has collaborated with the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center, the City of Albuquerque, and other locally active bird and environmental groups to restore this parcel of land into a native upland grassland.

Over the past year, the CNMAS Conservation Committee has developed and spearheaded a plan to create a native upland grassland in this otherwise unproductive field. As our country and state continue to grow, grasslands are being eaten up at an alarming rate. These rich and unique ecosystems are quickly becoming rare and will surely disappear if nothing is done. CNMAS hopes that this project will greatly benefit the birds and other wildlife that rely on this crucial habitat to survive. And as an added bonus, this project will give local and visiting birders a chance to observe and enjoy grassland birds in our own backyard.

Having received the go-ahead from the city and state, the Conservation Committee is organizing and scheduling the initial planting, as well as the subsequent watering and other maintenance of the future grassland. CNMAS has procured all of the required equipment and plants and is planning to begin work sometime in July.

If you are interested in helping out with either the planting or the watering, please contact Raymond VanBuskirk, [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com), (505)217-8514; or Robert Munro, [robert.munro@earthlink.net](mailto:robert.munro@earthlink.net), (505)730-7762. They would love to hear from you!

-CNMAS Conservation Committee





## Audubon THURSDAY BIRDERS Trips Summer 2012

**JUNE 7** - Travel to Water Canyon in the Magdalena Mountains west of Socorro with Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, stokuda@juno.com. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 a.m. departure from the rear parking lot of the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch. The trip should end in mid afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

**JUNE 14** - Visit the Feltz Jemez Mountain cabin near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 856-1322, lvfeltz@comcast.net. Many montane bird species may be seen from the deck and nearby meadows. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 a.m. departure from the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy. Meet in the center of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$7 at five cents per mile.

**JUNE 21** - Visit Isleta Marsh, Los Lunas River Park and a heron rookery with Donna Royer: 869-6882, dlroyer@earthlink.net. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 a.m. departure from the rear parking lot of the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University. The trip should end around noon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3 at five cents per mile.

**JUNE 28** - Visit the Circle A Ranch and Hostel located five miles north of Cuba, NM with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 a.m. departure from the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy. Meet in the center of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. A secondary meeting place will be the McDonald's in Cuba at 8:15 a.m. Some people may want to spend the night before or after the trip at the hostel. The website for the ranch is [www.circlearanchhostelry.com](http://www.circlearanchhostelry.com). The trip should end in the mid afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$8 at five cents per mile.

### July 5

Sandia Ranger Station and Ojito with Judy Liddell - 271-0912, jliddell@msn.com  
Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station on NM 337 at 7:30 a.m. The group will bird around the ranger station for 30 – 40 min. and then car pool to Ojito Open Space, since parking is limited. In addition to birding in the riparian/orchard area at Ojito, we will walk about .5 mi. in the piñon-juniper habitat. The trip should end before noon.

**JULY 12** - Travel to Bluewater Lake State Park west of Grants with Becky Purvis: 877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 a.m. departure from a parking lot on Coors Boulevard and Quail NW. (Exit I-40, take north Coors, drive north to the light at Quail. Turn right, go one block, and turn left into the parking lot of a vacant building at 5201 Quail.) The next stop will be the McDonald's in Grants around 8:15 a.m. Bring lunch. The trip should end in the late afternoon. There is a \$5 entrance fee if you don't have a state parks pass. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$13 at five cents per mile.

**JULY 19** - Travel to Villaneuva State Park on the Pecos River with Karen and Gary Boettcher: 281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 a.m. departure from the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras on NM 337. Bring lunch. The park is 65 miles east on I-40, then 20 miles north on NM 3. There is a \$5 entrance fee if you don't have a state parks pass. The trip should end in mid afternoon. If you don't drive the shared gas expense is \$8 at five cents per mile.

**JULY 26** - Visit the Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzano Mountains for hummingbirds, bluebirds, and a potluck lunch with Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade\_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. departure from the Four Hills Shopping Center on Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway near the Carl's Jr. or 9:50 a.m. at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chilili. Bonnie will provide chicken and meatless enchiladas and iced tea, and everyone else should bring other dishes and drinks. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

**AUGUST 2** - Walk the trails in the Sandias from the Crest to Kiwanis Meadow and other surrounding trails with Gale Owings: 255-8333. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the Four Hills Shopping Center on Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway near the Carl's Jr. The trip should end before noon. A \$3 parking fee or pass is required. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3 at five cents per mile.

**AUGUST 9** - Walk in Embudito Canyon with Joe Schelling: 797-9018, joeschelling@msn.com. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot. To reach the canyon drive east on Montgomery past Tramway, then turn left on Glenwood Hills. Continue 0.4 mile before turning right on Trailhead Road. This is an easy one-mile walk that will end before noon.



**AUGUST 16** - Walk in the Corrales bosque with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 a.m. departure from the shopping center north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of NM 448/ Coors/Corrales Road near Little Anita's Restaurant. Lunch afterwards at the Village Pizza in Corrales.

**AUGUST 23** - Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Lefty Arnold: 514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:57 a.m. in a parking area located further south on Tingley Drive from the parking lot by the fishing ponds. The parking area is directly across Tingley Drive from a building at the zoo with a blue mural on it. To reach Tingley Drive, turn south from west Central. Lunch afterwards at the Red Ball Café on 4th Street.

**AUGUST 30** - Birding in Sulphur Canyon and La Cienega in the Sandia Mountains with Sally Burke and Lannois Neely: 890-7881, flneely@aol.com. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 a.m. departure from the Four Hills Shopping Center on Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway near the Carl's Jr. Very little walking is involved. A \$3 parking fee or pass is required. Bring lunch or a snack. The trip will end before noon.



## CNMAS Weekend Field Trips - Summer 2012

Check for updates or additional field trips on our website:  
[www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas](http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas)

### Saturday, June 16 Water Canyon

Leader: Jim Mosley, [ff1964@msn.com](mailto:ff1964@msn.com), 505-366-3410

Meet in the McDonald's parking lot in Socorro (take I-25 exit 150) at 6:30 a.m. We'll start at Water Canyon Campground and work our way up the canyon in search of Acorn Woodpecker, Red-faced Warbler, and other breeding birds.

### Saturday & Sunday, July 7-8: Glenwood & Mogollon Areas

Leader: Christopher Rustay, [chrustay@aol.com](mailto:chrustay@aol.com)

We'll meet at the Glenwood Post Office at 7 a.m. on July 7th. For folks wishing to head up to the Mogollon area we'll again meet at the Glenwood Post Office on July 8th at 7 a.m. The road up to Mogollon is \*very\* narrow at places with steep drop offs, but is paved all the way up to Mogollon. Some expected species for the weekend include Common Black-Hawk, Painted Redstart, Brown-crested Flycatcher, and possibly Gray Vireo. We will listen for Mexican Whip-poor-wills and owls on the evening of the 7th. There are several overnight options in the Glenwood area, including camping. Bring comfortable shoes for hiking a ways and be prepared for hot days and cool to cold nights. Folks should email me prior to the trip so I know whom to expect.

### Saturday July 14: Jemez Mountains

Leaders: Barbara Hussey & Judy Liddell [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com)

We will bird at several locations in the Jemez Mountains, starting near La Cueva and ending at Bandelier National Monument. Potential birds for the trip include Black Swift, American Three-toed Woodpecker and other high elevation birds, plus riparian species in Frijoles Canyon. The trip will involve some moderate hiking. Meet at 5:50 a.m. for a 6:00 departure from the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy. Meet in the center of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. We will be back to Albuquerque by 6 p.m. Contact Judy at [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com) for more information and to confirm your participation.

### Saturday, August 4: Jicarilla Peak Ptarmigan Trek

Leader: Cole Wolf, [colejwolf@gmail.com](mailto:colejwolf@gmail.com)

We'll hike four miles to reach the tundra habitats on Santa Barbara ridge to search for White-tailed Ptarmigan. Along the way we have a chance of encountering many high-elevation forest specialties including Dusky Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Hammond's Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red Crossbill, and Pine & Evening Grosbeaks. At base of the ridge where the forest ends the willow thickets hold breeding Lincoln's & White-crowned Sparrows, and maybe Wilson's Warblers. As we get higher birds

*Ptarmigan Trek, continued...*

will become scarcer, with American Pipit and the occasional raven the only species frequently seen in tundra habitats (although there is a chance of encountering Bighorn Sheep). Once we get to the top of the ridge the group will split up to cover more ground. Small groups will search for ptarmigan and stay in contact via radio (provided).

Note: this is a strenuous hike. We will probably cover 9-10 miles in around 8 hours. The hike up to the ridge is along a well-maintained trail, but the last part of the trail is very steep. Along the way we will gain about 2000 feet in elevation. Once we reach the top of the ridge there are not any maintained trails. Although not as steep as the hike up, we will be walking through typical ptarmigan habitat – uneven rock fields and meadows. You are welcome to join us for the early portion of the hike (6-8 miles roundtrip) if you do not want to hike to the top. Please email the leader if you have any questions about the trip. We'll meet at the trailhead at 7:30 a.m. An early start is necessary to beat any afternoon thunderstorms to the ridge. It takes around 2.5 hours to drive to the trailhead from Albuquerque (130 miles); participants are encouraged to spend Saturday night in Taos if possible (<30 miles from trailhead). Contact the leader for directions to the trailhead.

### Thursday Birder Trip Reports and Photographs

Judy Liddell's Blog: [www.wingandsong.wordpress.com](http://www.wingandsong.wordpress.com).

Joe Schelling's Blog: <http://joeschelling.wordpress.com> and photo website: [www.sandianet.com](http://www.sandianet.com).

Phil Trine's photographs: [www.flickr.com/photos/thbirds](http://www.flickr.com/photos/thbirds).



## Other Birding Opportunities

### Sandia Bird Walks

May through mid October, Tuesday morning bird walks in the Sandia Mountains are sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. every Tuesday. Directions: Exit I-40, drive south one half mile on NM 337 to the ranger station on the left.

### Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Bird Walks

From May through September, the Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park located at the far west end of Candelaria. A day use fee of \$3, State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass is required.

### Osprey Festival July 13-15

Heron Lake State Park near Chama, NM. For more information go to [www.ospreyfest.com](http://www.ospreyfest.com), call 1-800-605-2411, or email [ospreyfest@yahoo.com](mailto:ospreyfest@yahoo.com).

### Southwest Wings Birding & Nature Festival

August 1-4, in Sierra Vista, AZ.

For more information go to [www.swwings.org](http://www.swwings.org).

**Central New Mexico Audubon Society** assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society sponsored activities and will not be held liable for such accidents.

*You attend at your own risk.*



### CNMA's Trip Reports

#### Southeastern Plains – April 20-22

Nearly 20 lovely participants from all over the state, along with leaders Raymond VanBuskirk and Michael Hilchey had an exciting and birdy weekend trip to the Southeastern plains of New Mexico in search of migrants and Prairie-Chickens. The trip began with a Friday afternoon drive from Albuquerque to Carlsbad. The groups made a few short stops on the way down. A quick check of the Mesa rest area North of Roswell produced great looks at a Northern Parula. At Bitter Lake NWR in Roswell the group was treated to great numbers of shorebirds including nearly 100 Marbled Godwits! The end of the day was capped off nicely by an unusual encounter with a Virginia Rail hiding in a saltbush along on the dikes at Bitter Lake!

The next morning was spent at Rattlesnake Springs and Washington Ranch south of Carlsbad where the trees were alive with birds! Everyone was treated with great looks at some of the resident birds as well as a few rarities. Some of the group favorites were a pair of Gray Hawks building a nest, a bright male Varied Bunting, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, and of course the multitudes of displaying Vermilion Flycatchers! The rest of the day was spent at Brantley Lake north of Carlsbad. The birding here was a bit slower but the group did manage to get some excellent, up close and personal looks at many of the regular migrant shorebirds including Semi-palmated Plover, Baird's, Western, Least, and Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, and many more!

The next morning, with Michael and Raymond cracking the whip, everyone got up several hours before dawn and drove out to Waldrop park. The group split into two and were treated with spectacular views of leking Lesser Prairie Chickens! We sat in our cars and watched the chickens dance and fight for the chance to woo hens for nearly 2 hours! The birds thought little of us and even walked up within ten feet of our vehicles! After this amazing early morning performance the group spent the rest of the day checking various migrant traps out on the plains. We were treated with lots of great rarities like Broad-winged Hawk in Tatum, and at Melrose Trap we found a Yellow-throated Warbler and Ovenbird just to name a few! In addition to the rarities, the group was thrilled to see some of the more spectacular regular birds such as Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Summer Tanagers, and Indigo Buntings!

It was a long and tiring trip but the birds were more than worth it, and by the end of the weekend we managed to rack up an impressive total of 163 species! Raymond and Michael would like to thank everyone who went along (and the birds too!) for helping make this a wildly successful trip! Everyone (including the leaders) had a great time and got to see tons of amazing birds!

-Michael Hilchey

Find CNMAS on Facebook and visit our beautiful website!  
 [cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)

#### Percha Dam State Park and Animas Creek

Fifteen enthusiastic birders took to the field on a beautiful southern New Mexico spring morning. The trip began at Percha Dam State Park where a number of wonderful birds were seen. As always the Vermilion Flycatchers and Phainopeplas were happy to give good looks around every other corner. A pair of Gray Vireos gave a show near the river south of the dam. Bronzed Cowbirds and a single Black-throated Gray Warbler were the other highlights from this always productive area. I was lucky enough to get a fleeting view of a Mountain Lion in the brush just north of the State Park entrance. One car load of birders was able to catch a solid view of a Red-headed Woodpecker on the drive out of the State Park.

We had our lunch at the Caballo Dam Picnic area. There wasn't a great deal of bird activity but we had good looks at a Bullock's Oriole and dozens of Chipping Sparrows.

We continued on to Animas Creek Nursery and had good looks at Pyrrhuloxia, Crissal Thrasher, and Curve-billed Thrasher. Lee Newman, the owner of Animas Creek Nursery, was very accommodating and loved to share his thoughts on the bird life along the creek. He also told us stories of a mysterious tree lizard that looks like a alligator!!!

Although it appears we were a week or two early for the arrival of the Brown-crested Flycatchers at the Animas Creek crossing we did have a delightful hike and were able to find Acorn Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow, and an Ash-throated Flycatcher doing its best impression of the much sought-after Brown-crested Flycatcher.

That finalized the formal portion of the CNMAS trip. An ever dwindling group continued to points north including North Monticello Point and Bosque Del Apache. A total of 110 birds were seen by those who stuck it out until past sunset and caught the glare of a Great Horned Owl from a post just south of San Antonio.

-Robert Munro

#### Learning Look-Alikes Order Form

Own the entire series from the *Burrowing Owl!*

Contacts: Laurel Ladwig at BUROWLnm@gmail.com

Beth Hurst-Waitz at 505-508-4942

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Look-Alikes \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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.*



## IN SYMPATHY

On May 5, 2012, birders lost a good friend with the passing of Gary Gaintner of Billy The Kid Country Inn in Fort Sumner, NM. It was back in 1977 that Gary moved to Fort Sumner with his father and grandfather and built the Oasis Motel on East Sumner Avenue. In 1979 Elaine Vansickel went to work part-time for Gary so he could have Tuesday and Thursday nights off to go bowling! They married on Valentines Day in 1986 at Las Vegas, NV. The Oasis Motel was renamed Billy The Kid Inn, and from then on Gary and Elaine were partners as warm and welcoming host and hostess to a regular procession of itinerant birders. We know many individuals will want to join us in expressing our sympathy to Elaine and in saying "Thank you" for all the good memories and warm hospitality.



## Do you eBird?!

To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org). Click on 'View and Explore Data', then 'Range and Point Maps', and type in the species name and general location. To get a listing of birds reported in a given location, after clicking on 'View and Explore Data', choose 'Bar Charts', and from there pick the location.

## CONGRATULATIONS

CNMAS Audubon members have an extra incentive to add the 2013 Audubon Bird calendar to their Christmas wish and/or gift list this year! Congratulations to Jerry Goffe -- our very own "Birding Paparazzi" CNMAS member, Audubon supporter, past Friends of Bosque del Apache board member, and Costa Rica Bird/Photography Trip Guide Extraordinaire. We join with Jerry in expressing our delight to learn that National Audubon has chosen his photograph, "Dancing Broadtails," for their 2013 calendar.

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.

## SCIENCE FAIR 2012: THE FUTURE WINS

Four volunteer judges chose this year's CNMAS Science Fair winners. Entries need only "exhibit an interest in the natural world" to be eligible for consideration by our judges. Thanks to Ron Waitz, Judy Liddell, Dave Hutton, and Verne Huser, who donated their time and had fun choosing these winning entries:

### SENIOR DIVISION:

Ashley K. Hagenloh, Sue Cleveland High School,  
"Human Disturbance on Small Mammal Populations"

Team Winners, Elyse S. Torres and Myriah L. Mascarenas,  
Albuquerque Institute of Math & Science, "In the Dead Zone"

### JUNIOR DIVISION:

Melanie J. Cartron, Cleveland Middle School,  
"Longevity in Animals"

Joseph Q. Heinlein, La Merced Elementary,  
"How Rich Is Your Soil?"

Check our Web site later in June, where we expect to post the winning abstracts of these young people. Congratulations to all you winners! We commend you for your dedication to scientific inquiry and wish you continued success in your future endeavors!

## !!BIRDS and BEERS!!

had its FOURTH event in May! We're having a fabulous time at these events ... socializing and competing in bird song and photo identification quizzes. Although this event is not officially organized by either the New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) or Central New Mexico Audubon Society, we see this as an opportunity to work together and improve communications between our organizations. Our goal continues to be to host the event once a month on the last Tuesday of the month. We encourage you to mark your calendar, then check the CNMAS Web site monthly to confirm. We don't anticipate a hiatus during the summer months, but should the event take its own "summer vacation," <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/> is the place to find that out. We invite you to join us!

WHO? Anyone who is interested in birds and birding

WHAT? Birds and Beers

Informal gathering – bring bird photos on a jump drive if you have some to share; be prepared to share with your peers; be ready for fun (like bird I.D. quizzes and contests); come hungry and thirsty!

WHERE? O'Niell's – Event Space, <http://oniells.com>  
4310 Central SE (Nob Hill), Albuquerque, 87108  
Park around back off of Washington Street

WHEN? Fourth Tuesday of the month  
5:00 p.m. - ??? (any planned activities will start at 6:00)

FROM: Dave Krueper, NMOS; Janet Ruth, NMOS;  
Beth Hurst-Waitz, CNMAS; Robert Munro, CNMAS and O'Niell's



## **Audubon New Mexico's Goal: Protect & Restore Species**

Audubon's statewide goal is to protect New Mexico's best habitats and landscapes that are at risk and essential to birds and wildlife, with a particular focus on Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and riparian areas. Audubon New Mexico worked with the New Mexico Audubon Council to analyze the threats and opportunities facing the 62 designated IBAs within New Mexico. The following alphabetized list was created through these discussions and was guided by where Audubon is working to make a difference.

### *Priority IBAs for New Mexico 2012:*

#### **1. Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge IBA**

Situated along the Pecos River and comprising about 2,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands that encompass and sustain unique wildlife habitat, this IBA is managed as Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lakes State Park. Audubon New Mexico is working to increase the protection and awareness of this area's wetlands and lakes, recently nominated as a Global IBA for its global significance. Designated as New Mexico's first "Ramsar site" or Wetlands of International Importance in 2010, the refuge provides wintering and feeding grounds for a variety of waterfowl, including Wilson's Phalarope, Northern Pintail, and Sandhill Cranes, and nesting pairs of Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Least Tern, and Snowy Plover.

#### **2. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge IBA**

The "Crown Jewel" of New Mexico's Important Bird Areas is one of the most spectacular national wildlife refuges in North America and is also a favorite of birders with over 340 species of birds known to live there. Audubon has nominated this IBA for Global IBA status, and has included Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge as a part of this IBA in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Through the annual Festival of the Cranes, the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, the Audubon Council, and Audubon New Mexico continue to share the wonders of birding with the public and support the Refuge's efforts to continue providing sanctuary to these magnificent birds and other wildlife. Currently, Audubon New Mexico is concerned about the proposed SunZia Energy Transmission Project and the likely negative effects on the migratory, wintering, and breeding bird populations that use the Socorro Valley. Audubon is working to ensure water management in the Middle Rio Grande and maintain environmental flows in the 40-mile river reach that includes the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

#### **3. Elephant Butte Lake IBA**

Elephant Butte Reservoir, the largest lake in New Mexico, is a large, deep reservoir with fluctuating water levels. Elephant Butte, created by a dam in 1916 across the Rio Grande, was constructed to provide for irrigation and flood control. The lake is 40 miles long with more than 200 miles of shoreline. The area surrounding the lake is almost wholly managed by New Mexico State Parks. In high water years, this IBA hosts the largest concentration of wintering Aechmophorus grebes in the state. Large numbers of gulls and other waterbirds migrate through and winter here. When water levels are low, large shorebird numbers may congregate during migration, and the largest contiguous breeding population of federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher nests in the delta bottomlands. Audubon is working with federal agencies to enhance habitat and streamflows for New Mexico's endangered and candidate riparian obligate breeding birds both below and above the reservoir delta.

#### **4. Gila River IBAs: including the Gila-Cliff Area IBA, Gila Bird Area IBA, and Lower Gila Box IBA**

New Mexico's last free flowing river is threatened with a large-scale water diversion. The entire Gila River system in southwestern New Mexico provides one of the highest breeding bird concentrations in North America including rare species such as the Gila Woodpecker and the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. There are also numerous species of conservation concern such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lucy's Warbler and Summer Tanager. The Gila River encompasses three separate IBAs supporting extensive riparian habitat with over 200 documented bird species. Audubon's beginnings in New Mexico are connected to this area, as members organized to fight dams in the 1960s and formed the first New Mexico chapter. Partnering with this chapter, the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society, Audubon New Mexico is working to halt the diversion project and use available federal funds to design and construct sustainable regional water projects that meet the long-term needs of Southwestern New Mexico. The proposed diversion project would double current withdrawals from the Gila River, piping the water out of the basin across the continental divide to the towns of Silver City and Deming for economic development. Further research is needed to assess whether existing agricultural and municipal water users could afford to purchase water from the proposed diversion project.

#### **5. Holloman Lakes IBA**

Holloman Lake and the adjoining wetlands are located at the southwest corner of Holloman Air Force Base. Working with the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, Audubon New Mexico is reaching out to the new base commander and Air Force officials to express interest in making this valuable IBA more accessible to the public, through enhancements and management strategies that will improve and protect the irreplaceable wildlife habitat at the site. Although the water for this system is mainly waste water from the air base water treatment plant with sporadic contributions from rain, Holloman Lakes make up one of the most important shorebird areas in the state and the most important in the Tularosa Basin. This IBA is important specifically for Wilson's Phalarope and as a breeding area for Snowy Plover.



*Important Bird Areas, continued...*

### **6. Ladd Gordon Waterfowl Area IBA**

Ducks, geese and Sandhill Cranes find food and shelter at the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex located along the middle Rio Grande and composed of the Belen, Casa Colorada, Bernardo, and La Joya Waterfowl Areas managed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Nominated as a Global IBA because of the high numbers of Sandhill Cranes, these Waterfowl Areas totaling approximately 3,500 acres are farmed to provide feed for wintering waterfowl. Crops here include corn and grain sorghum, with winter wheat and alfalfa for green feed. Bernardo Waterfowl Area contains a wildlife trail complete with viewing and photography towers and is open to the public.

### **7. Lesser Prairie Chicken Areas IBA**

The natural habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken in New Mexico has almost disappeared and they have been extirpated from more than 90 percent of their historical range in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. In our state, they are gone from about 56 percent of their historical range and persist in reasonable abundance across only 16 percent of that range. The reasons for this situation are many, including livestock grazing, conversion of shinnery oak/grasslands to croplands and suburban development, herbicide use, and oil and gas development. This IBA encompasses lands owned by the NM Department of Game and Fish, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Nature Conservancy and has also been nominated for Global IBA status.

### **8. Lower Rio Grande Bosques IBA - including Selden Canyon/Swan Pond IBA (nominated) and Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park IBA (nominated)**

Operated as State Parks, the waters of Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs are a significant concentration point for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders as both stopovers and wintering habitat. The bosque and marsh habitats at Percha Dam State Park, Palomas Marsh, Selden Canyon, Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park, and scattered locations along the reservoir edges represent very rare habitats in southern New Mexico comprising a string of pearls along the Southern Rio Grande as the river moves through the Chihuahuan Desert. These state, federal, and private lands thus attract high concentrations of many landbird and neotropical songbirds as they migrate and provide breeding habitat for priority species. Over 300 species of birds have been seen along the lower Rio Grande corridor including breeding Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lucy's Warbler, Bell's Vireo and Painted Bunting. As with all sites along the Rio Grande, battles over invasive plants, water rights, regulated reservoir releases and channelization, and flood control threaten the function and health of the river and sustainability of these significant riparian wetland habitats. Audubon and partners, including the local chapter called Mesilla Valley Audubon Society, are actively restoring native riparian habitats along Selden Canyon and at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park including facilitation of voluntary water transfers to support riparian and wetland habitat.

### **9. Melrose Woods IBA**

This premier migrant trap and IBA is located approximately 10 miles west of Melrose. The area has remnant large cottonwoods and an exotic poplar-type tree, but had a fire in the past year. Leased to a private owner and sub-lessee from the State Land Office, access to birdwatchers is a current issue that both the Central New Mexico Audubon Society and the state office will work on in the coming year. A very large variety of migrants pass through each spring and fall. There is a small cattle tank which provides water and the area is surrounded by grasslands as far as the eye can see. In addition to normal migrants up the eastern plains of New Mexico this spot has a long list of migrating vagrants. Of particular interest are the species of warblers that have been seen at this site including: Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Virginia's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

### **10. Otero Mesa IBA**

Otero Mesa IBA encompasses the largest and wildest grassland left on public lands in America. This unique resource consists of 1.2 million acres and over 1,000 native plant and animal species. This expansive landscape is home to mule deer, black-tailed prairie dogs, mountain lions, coyote, golden and bald eagles, 200 species of migratory songbirds, the Aplomado falcon, and the state's healthiest herd of native pronghorn antelope. Primarily managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) these grasslands in the Chihuahuan Desert are at risk of mining and drilling, potentially putting at risk a freshwater aquifer below the Mesa. Audubon is part of the coalition to protect Otero Mesa.

### **11. Percha State Park/Caballo Reservoir/Las Palomas IBA**

The waters of Caballo Reservoir are a significant concentration point for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders. The bosque and marsh habitats at Percha State Park, Palomas Marsh and scattered locations along the reservoir edge represent very rare habitats in southern New Mexico, and thus attract concentrations of many migrants and priority breeding species. Over 300 species of birds have been seen in the Caballo/Percha/Palomas area. Percha Dam State Park is a relatively manicured, open bosque of cottonwoods with picnic tables and campsites. Flanking the east side of the park along the river is a thick growth of willow and cottonwood. Caballo Lake is 18 miles long with a surface area of over 11,000 acres amid the Chihuahuan Desert. The reservoir was created in 1938 and is New Mexico's second-largest lake. The dam was built for water retention, flood control, irrigation, and 1906 treaty obligations



*Important Bird Areas, continued...*

with the Republic of Mexico. The lake is the winter home of many species of waterfowl and a migratory stop for wading and shore birds. The Palomas Marsh is located at the northern most point of Caballo Lake. The enclosure includes two vastly different habitats. One is the typical mesquite shrub zone (dry) with the other being the marshy area. As with all sites along the Rio Grande, battles over water rights, seasonal flows, and flood control could impact riparian wetland habitats in the area.

### 12. Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary IBA

This IBA along the Santa Fe River encompasses both the 135 acres of piñon/juniper, ponderosa pine and mixed spruce-fir owned by the Audubon Society and the 525 acres of the Nature Conservancy's Santa Fe Canyon Preserve with a thriving bosque of cottonwood and willow trees and several beaver ponds. This IBA is adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest and thousands of protected mountainous acres. Home to more than 140 species of birds, the Randall Davey IBA also provides public education and outreach with over 10,000 annual visitors, another key goal of the IBA program. Through a seasonal feeder watch program in partnership with the Hummingbird Monitoring Network, Audubon is collecting data on hummingbird numbers with a focus on Rufous Hummingbirds. Audubon is advocating for healthy river flows and riparian habitat in partnership with TNC, the Santa Fe Watershed Association, and the City of Santa Fe.

### 13. Rio Grande Nature Center IBA

Located in the bosque, or cottonwood forest, and by the wetland bordering the Rio Grande, the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park in Albuquerque is an IBA that both Audubon New Mexico and the Central New Mexico Audubon Society value. The park offers opportunities to experience 270 acres of woods, meadows and farmland flourishing with native grasses, wildflowers, willows and cottonwoods. The Riverwalk Trail is an easy one-mile loop through the bosque and along the river, passing through open meadows and heavily wooded areas. The Bosque Loop Trail, about 0.8 mile, is an easy walk through the bosque with a spur to the river. The Candelaria Wetland is located east of the Nature Center, includes two ponds offering five surface acres of water and four more acres of meadow for visiting waterfowl and shorebirds. Planted with 98 species of native aquatic and riparian vegetation, Candelaria Wetland restores habitat once common in the Albuquerque part of the Rio Grande. Numerous birds make their homes in the park. Birds to be seen in winter are Ring-necked Duck and American Wigeon, Northern Harrier, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Sandhill Crane and Bald Eagle. Summer migrants include warblers, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Black Phoebe and Western Kingbird. Seasonal and year-round residents include Cooper's Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Canada Goose, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wood Duck, Black-capped Chickadee, Great Blue Heron, and Downy and Hairy Woodpecker.

### 14. Upper Rio Grande Gorge IBA

The Rio Grande Gorge in Taos County supports a great diversity of passerine birds, including the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The Upper Rio Grande Gorge starts at the Colorado border, extends along the river to below Taos and includes approximately 25 miles of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River. Canyon walls provide habitat and essential nesting areas for hawks and eagles. The bird life reflects the mixed habitats. Depending on whether you are closer to the river or up on the mesa, you may find American Dipper year-round, Bullock's Oriole in the spring and summer, Canyon and Rock Wrens, Rufous-crowned, Black-chinned, Black-throated, and Brewer's Sparrows, Piñon Jay and Bushtit all year, and breeding Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. Breeding pairs of Virginia's Warbler are found here — a neotropical migrant whose breeding range is restricted to the Intermountain West and southern Rocky Mountains and whose population size make it a species of concern. Partners in Flight estimates there may only be about 410,000 Virginia's Warblers in existence today, and during breeding season, about a third of them make their home in New Mexico. Audubon New Mexico is working with a coalition of other organizations, including the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society, to protect this public land and Upper Rio Grande Gorge IBA as the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area under legislation introduced by Senator Bingaman and Congressman Lujan.

### 15. Valles Caldera National Preserve IBA

The Valles Caldera National Preserve contains a stunning and unique mix of grasslands, forested mountains, and geologic features found nowhere else in the American Southwest. The land sustains one of the country's largest wild elk herds and provides habitat for a wide range of other wildlife, including 17 threatened or endangered species, and such animals as the black bear, mountain lion, goshawk, peregrine falcon and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Audubon New Mexico joined Caldera Action and a host of other organizations in a campaign for the National Park Service to take over management of the Preserve from the current Valles Caldera Trust managers in the face of ongoing management problems and threats of inappropriate development spurred by the legislation requiring financial self sufficiency. Breeding and resident bird populations at Valles Caldera National Preserve IBA include birds on Audubon's WatchList such as Lewis's Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Virginia's Warbler, and Grace's Warbler.





## 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](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com). Audubon is now providing service six days a week (Mondays-



**Audubon**

Fridays 8a.m.-9p.m.,  
Saturdays 9a.m.-6p.m.  
Eastern Standard  
Time) through PCD.

### Whom to Contact

National Audubon Society  
Membership Hotline  
(800) 274-4201, [chadd@audubon.org](mailto:chadd@audubon.org)  
Activist Hotline  
(800) 659-2622  
Audubon Take Action  
[www.audubonaction.org/audubon/](http://www.audubonaction.org/audubon/)  
New Mexico Office  
Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 983-4609 <http://nm.audubon.org>  
[newmexico@audubon.org](mailto:newmexico@audubon.org)  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
(202) 456-1111  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)  
Secretary Ken Salazar  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-3100  
[www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)  
Senator Jeff Bingaman  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(800) 443-8658  
[bingaman.senate.gov](mailto:bingaman.senate.gov)  
Senator Tom Udall  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
505-346-6791  
[tomudall.senate.gov](mailto:tomudall.senate.gov)  
Congressman Steve Pearce  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)  
(202) 224-3121

Congressman Ben R. Lujan  
502 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6190  
Congressman Martin T. Heinrich  
1505 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6316  
Governor Susana Martinez  
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 & Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505)476-8000  
[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)  
Sandia Ranger District  
US Forest Service  
11776 Highway 337  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
(505) 281-3304  
Bosque del Apache NWR  
(575) 838-2120  
Friends of the Bosque del Apache  
(575) 835-1828  
[www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)  
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park  
(505) 344-7240  
Friends of RGNC  
[friends@rgnc.org](mailto:friends@rgnc.org), [www.rgnc.org](http://www.rgnc.org)  
**Wildlife Rescue** (505)344-2500

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



Make checks payable to the **National Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002.**  
FOR NEW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS ONLY.  
Your National Audubon membership RENEWAL cannot be processed by the Chapter; it must be sent directly to National Audubon.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone (with Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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.*
- \$30 New Member, *special introductory rate for two years.*

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.

- I would like to receive the Burrowing Owl online.  
Be sure to enter your e-mail address on the address section above.
- I would prefer to receive the Burrowing Owl via printed copy by regular mail.

#### For the *Burrowing Owl* Only

For annual subscription to the Burrowing Owl within our Chapter area or outside of it:

- \$15.00 (Check delivery choice above.)

For this subscription make checks payable to **CNMAS, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002.**

*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 Fall 2012 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by August 5, 2012.

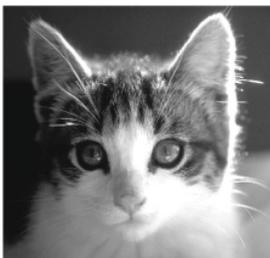
Contact Laurel Ladwig at 505-362-6871 or [BUROWLnm@gmail.com](mailto:BUROWLnm@gmail.com).

We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.



photo by Laurel Ladwig

### Don't Let Sammy Be An Assassin



For more information:  
[www.abcbirds.org/cats/](http://www.abcbirds.org/cats/)

Each year, thousands of cats die on the roads or are injured in fights outdoors, and hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals are killed by free-roaming cats. Cats live happier, healthier, longer lives indoors.



**CATS INDOORS!**  
The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats

## Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Post Office Box 30002  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002  
NAS Chapter C1ZQ510Z

**Return Service Requested**

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 43  
Albuquerque, NM



Central New Mexico Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit chapter of  
the National Audubon Society, Inc.

*Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats;  
and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."*

### CNMAS DIRECTORY

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

#### ACTING PRESIDENT

Beth Hurst-Waitz 1260 Rosemont Ave NW, Alb. 87104-2175  
(505)508-4942 fax (505)508-4998 cell: (505)259-0709 [brave\\_e@juno.com](mailto:brave_e@juno.com)

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 [jliddell5@earthlink.net](mailto:jliddell5@earthlink.net)

#### TREASURER

Donna Royer, [droyer@earthlink.net](mailto:droyer@earthlink.net)

#### SECRETARY

Cole Wolf [colejwolf@gmail.com](mailto:colejwolf@gmail.com)

#### CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Michael Hilchey (505)228-7439 [leucosticte@gmail.com](mailto:leucosticte@gmail.com)  
Jeffrey Myers work (505)998-1502 [jmyers@peacocklaw.com](mailto:jmyers@peacocklaw.com)

#### EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

Laurel Ladwig [BUROWLnm@gmail.com](mailto:BUROWLnm@gmail.com)

#### EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

Helen Haskell PO Box 36741, Alb. 87176-6741 [cnmasgrants@gmail.com](mailto:cnmasgrants@gmail.com)  
Lynn Lorrain Schuler [cnmasgrants@gmail.com](mailto:cnmasgrants@gmail.com)

#### FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

Cole Wolf [colejwolf@gmail.com](mailto:colejwolf@gmail.com)

#### MEMBERSHIP DATABASE 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 AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Lynn Lorrain Schuler [onthepulse@msn.com](mailto:onthepulse@msn.com)  
Raymond Van Buskirk [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com)

#### PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

Lefty Arnold (505) 514-9398, [hoosierjohnarnold@yahoo.com](mailto:hoosierjohnarnold@yahoo.com)

#### WEBSITE UPDATES

Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 [jliddell5@earthlink.net](mailto:jliddell5@earthlink.net)  
Cole Wolf [colejwolf@gmail.com](mailto:colejwolf@gmail.com)

#### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Christopher Rustay home (505)255-7786 [chrustay@aol.com](mailto:chrustay@aol.com)  
Raymond Van Buskirk [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com)  
Robert Munro (505)730-7762 [robert.munro@earthlink.net](mailto:robert.munro@earthlink.net)

#### NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL

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

#### Bat in Trouble? (Talking Talons)

Call before you intervene: 281-1133 or 281-1515

#### New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann  
505-264-1052, [mb687@yahoo.com](mailto:mb687@yahoo.com) <http://www.nmbirds.org/>  
<http://www.birder.com/birding/alert/index.html>

#### Rosy-Finch Project

Fran Lusso & Dave Weaver, [flusso@wfubmc.edu](mailto:flusso@wfubmc.edu)  
<http://www.rosyfinch.com/>

#### Wildlife Rescue

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