



Burrowing Owl

September - November 2012 Vol. 41, No. 4

**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.**

Fall Programs

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. Programs begin at 7:15 p.m.



September 20 – 7 p.m.

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 tell us where they can be seen. Monitoring of monarch butterflies migrating through New Mexico will receive special attention. Prior to joining Audubon New Mexico as a Community Naturalist, Steve was Natural Resource Planner and Chief Naturalist for New Mexico State Parks, where he created "Reach for the Stars" astronomy programs, co-created Parks' statewide interpretation and education programs, and was responsible for inventorying, protecting and interpreting natural resources. Most recently Steve helped Parks design and implement important ecosystem restoration projects. Meanwhile, in his spare time, Steve traveled all over the state to study and photograph New Mexico's 300+ butterfly species. By publishing scientific reports, popular articles and a poster, and through countless informal butterfly walks and talks, Steve became New Mexico's unofficial 'Butterfly Guy.'

October 18 – 7 p.m.

Albuquerque's Cooper's Hawk Research Informing Eagle Management Strategies

Brian Millsap, a raptor researcher for over 35 years, is the National Raptor Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) and in his spare time oversees the Albuquerque Cooper's Hawk Research Project, along with Kristen Madden. Brian will share his research findings and photos. In addition to overseeing the volunteers who gather data on nesting territories, nest

productivity and the survival rates of adults and chicks, Brian also tracks juveniles once they fledge and follows unmated second-year birds during the next breeding cycle. In addition to banding adults and juveniles, Brian has collected data from radio transmitters he has placed on selected females. Because hawks and eagles have similar behavior, the research is related to his professional research on eagles that is helping USFW to protect raptor species from damage from wind turbines and cell towers. Prior to becoming National Raptor Coordinator, Brian served as Chief of the Division of Migratory Bird Management for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., and as Assistant Director for Ecological Services and Deputy Regional Director for the USFWS's Southwest Region.



Cooper's Hawk photo by Judy Liddell

November 8 – 7 pm

Everything You Wanted to Know about the Christmas Bird Count – But Were Afraid to Ask

Steve and Nancy Cox and Dave Hawksworth will discuss and answer questions about how and where you can participate in one of central New Mexico's Christmas Bird Counts. Steve and Nancy Cox are the organizers and compilers for the two counts on the Sevilleta NWR and Dave is the organizer and compiler for the count at the Bosque del Apache. 2012 will mark 113 years that citizen scientists work in teams to collect data on the number of each species seen on their route within a given 15-mile circle. The 5 counts in central New Mexico are part of over 2,000 count-circles in the United States. The compiled results of each count are fed into the National Audubon Society's database and are used to track trends and identify birds that are at risk. Never participated in a count? Come and find out how you can become part of this important endeavor to track bird species in New Mexico; people of all birding abilities are welcome to participate. Are you a veteran of prior counts? Come and share your stories.

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CNMAS Grassland Restoration Project Update!

If you happen to join one of the intrepid volunteers on a weekend bird walk at the Rio Grande Nature Center you will notice a new patch of Blue Gramma and Buffalo Grass that is filling in nicely at the NW corner of the Candelaria wetlands.

The project has included a number of different steps to ensure the long term viability of the grassland. The restoration site was graded, and a berm was made with the help of Steve Cox and his tractor. In late June, a group of 10 volunteers joined the members of the Conservation Committee in spreading seed and a cotton-bur compost top dressing, and helped with a multi-week watering schedule. To conserve water we planted in early July in order to take advantage of monsoon rains.

As a result of the fields being flooded, a number of weeds have grown amongst the native grasses. Fortunately, the Gramma will out-compete the weeds now that we have stopped watering the field. We hope, by late next spring, to have a habitat that will complement the rest of the natural wonder that the RGNC provides!

This project could not have happened without the support of the RGNC, Friends of the RGNC, Rio Grande Bird Research, the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, and funding/product donation from CNMAS, Jericho's Nursery, and O'Niell's Pub.

We plan to continue to restore areas around the Candelaria Wetlands until it is a healthy, thriving, ecosystem for the wetland's winged visitors. Interested in volunteering for the 2nd phase of this project or others of its kind? Contact Raymond at newmexicobirder@gmail.com to be added to the conservation committee working group email list. For a full report and overview of the restoration project please check the CNMAS website in the coming months.



Help Steer the Future of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society!!

As many of you know, May 31, 2013 marks the end of Beth's distinguished fifteen-year role as the President of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society. This means we need your help now, more than ever, as we search to find a new President for our chapter and others to help lead the charge towards the future.

We will begin the transitional process by delegating some of the President's duties to current board members or chapter volunteers.

Now is your chance as a member to get involved in the day-to-day workings of the chapter. We, the Central New Mexico Audubon Society Board of Directors, invite you to join us at our next board meeting on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the St. Timothy's Church meeting room at 211 Jefferson St. NE 87108. All are welcome to drop by, have a few cookies, and see how the board functions. If you have any questions please contact Robert Munro at (505) 730-7762.



CNMAS volunteers hard at work at RGNC

2012 Birdathon!

Just for nostalgia's sake, go back to the June-August 2012 issue and read the Thursday Birders and Earth Beat teams' Birdathon reports -- what great memories! Now give yourselves and the team leaders and planners a warm thank-you for your generosity of time and money. Combined, both teams raised a total of \$2,931.50 to benefit habitat conservation and environmental education, and it all stays right here in New Mexico. You are an awesome group of people. As National Audubon says: "Birdathon! -- the most fun you'll have saving the planet!"

2012 Birdathon! Donors: Art Arenholz, John Arnold, Mary Lou Arthur, Jonathan Batkin, Karen & Gary Boettcher, Celestyn Brozek, Bruce and Patricia Dale, Tom & Judy Cartledge, Kathy Chavez, Ken Cole, Nancy Cox, Judy Emerson, John Esterl, Joe Fitzgibbon, Rebecca Gracey, Cheryl Grindle, Neal Halpern, Bill Howe, Lee Hopwood, Melissa Howard, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Paulina Inigo, Laurel Ladwig, Lane Leckman, Susan Mathias, Gale Owings, Donna Royer, Eric Keller, Judy Liddell, Bonnie Long, Sterrett & Lynn Metheny, Jerry Oldenettel, John Parmeter, Jim Place, Ellen Raimer, Donna Royer, Christopher Rustay, Cathie Sandell, Joe Schelling, Lynn Schuler, Bill Talbot, Sei Tokuda, Treca Walker, Adrienne Warner, Sandy Williams, Sondra Williamson, Chris Witt



Field Trip Reports

June 16th, Water Canyon

The trip started at the McDonalds in Socorro after Jim Mosley met the lone participant and carpooled to Water Canyon. Upon arrival we found the campground empty of people and birds except for an Ash-throated Flycatcher. We proceeded up the Canyon where we stopped and after a short hike we were rewarded with a Red-faced Warbler which was a life bird for the participant. We drove up the road further and found a single Zone-tailed Hawk and a plethora of Yellow-rumped warblers. After going our separate ways back in Socorro I took a short trip to Bosque del Apache NWR where I had excellent views of the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. All in all it was a good day for birding and getting two lifers for the sole participant was the highlight.

July 7-8th, Glenwood & Mogollon

On the weekend trip of July 7-8 to the Glenwood & Mogollon areas, led by Christopher Rustay, eight folks braved the possibility of torrential downpours, raging floods and being stranded to have a lovely weekend in southwestern New Mexico. A total of 90 species was seen, even though some areas such as the Catwalk had been closed due to flooding concerns. Highlights included a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, returning Rufous Hummingbirds, several looks at Magnificent Hummingbirds (including a stunning male), calling Poorwill and Mexican Whip-poor-will, excellent looks at Gray Vireo, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart and Hooded Oriole.

July 14th, Jemez Mountains

Five birders met trip leaders Judy Liddell and Barbara Hussey at the La Cueva Picnic Area on July 14 in hopes of American Dipper. Unfortunately, heavy rains and flash flooding in the Jemez the prior day muddied the water in the fast-moving stream making it too murky for dipper fishing. All was not lost with sightings of Cordilleran Flycatcher, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets and MacGillivray's Warblers, among other species. Our next stop was just west of La Cueva where we pulled off at Twisted Juniper for almost an hour. Highlights included a female Belted Kingfisher, Song Sparrows singing, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Bluebird and three

species of swallow. We met another birder at Jemez Falls. Before heading down to the falls, most of the group had the opportunity to watch two Black Swifts soar over the parking lot. Other species included Pygmy, Red-breasted and White-Breasted Nuthatches and singing Hermit Thrush. The Black Swifts put in another brief appearance over the falls area. After lunch we walked for about a mile along the Las Conchas Trail, spotting Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow and other species. Several watched two juvenile Red-naped Sapsuckers in a bush near the trailhead stairs. In Los Alamos, Joe Fitzgibbon led us up the Mitchell Trail and back across a Forest Service road to a water tank behind his home where we were delighted to watch 21 Band-tailed Pigeons, before heading down to his patio where we were treated to four species of hummingbirds and other feeder birds before heading back to Albuquerque. It was a wonderful day – and the hospitality of the Fitzgibbons' was the icing on the cake.

August 4th, Jicarita Peak Ptarmigan Trek

Sixteen participants made the hike up Santa Barbara Ridge to search for White-tailed Ptarmigan. The trip got off to a great start with flyover Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks at the trail head parking lot. We had only made it a little way up the trail when we encountered a nice mixed flock that contained, among other species, Hammond's Flycatcher and the first Townsend's Warblers of fall. As we continued up the mountain the group began to split up but most saw American Three-toed Woodpecker and Gray Jay. When we finally made it above the treeline at the base of the ridge several Pine Grosbeaks allowed close looks and a Clark's Nutcracker flew by. As the group soldiered up the ridge several Wilson's Warblers were seen and we heard many singing White-crowned Sparrows, along with calling Pika and Yellow-bellied Marmots. Fortunately for us several participants made it to the top before the rest of the group and had already found the ptarmigan before everyone else arrived! The whole group was treated to close-up views of a hen and her chick foraging among the boulders as we ate lunch. The last participants to make it up the ridge saw the ptarmigan just as a storm hit and we were forced back down the hill. A total of 38 species were seen on the hike.



Jicarita Peak Ptarmigan Trek participants, photographs by Cole Wolf



AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE For Autumn 2012

SEPTEMBER 6

Walk around the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Paulina Inigo: Cell 269-8963, Home 899-9316, cpinigo@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the east side of Coors Boulevard. Turn east north of Montano Road and south of Paseo del Norte. It will be an easy 1.5-mile walk.

SEPTEMBER 13

Visit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Sei Tokuda: 266-2480, stokuda@juno.com Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure behind the Hawthorn Suites on University and Gibson. Bring lunch. An entrance fee or pass is required per car. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the late afternoon.

SEPTEMBER 20

Hike the lower mile of the La Luz Trail with Donna Royer: 869-6882, dlroyer@earthlink.net Meet at 8:00 in the trailhead parking lot. It is located off Forest Road 333 near the Juan Tabo Picnic Grounds off Tramway Boulevard. A \$3 parking fee or pass is required. The walk will end before noon.

SEPTEMBER 27

Cochiti Lake with Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell@msn.com Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the center of the parking lot in the Far North Shopping Center located on San Mateo and Academy. The group will access the lake from NM 16 in order to take the Tetilla Peak Road on the east side of the lake. Bring lunch. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque in mid-afternoon.

OCTOBER 4

Walk around the Fourth of July Campground area in the Manzano Mountains with Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure by the Carl's Jr. in the Four Hills Shopping Center on the south side of Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard or meet Bonnie at the intersection of NM 337 and NM 55 at 9:50. Bring lunch. A parking fee of \$7 per vehicle is required at the campground, \$3.50 with a Golden Age Pass. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque by mid-afternoon.

OCTOBER 11

Travel to the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe with Lefty Arnold: 514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com Meet at 8:17 for an 8:27 departure from the center of the parking lot in the Far North Shopping Center located on San Mateo and Academy. Bring lunch. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$6 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque in mid-afternoon.

OCTOBER 18

Visit several South Valley birding locations with Becky Purvis: 877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the southeast quadrant of the Rio Bravo and Coors SW intersection near the Panda Express. The group will drive to various locations and do some walking at each place. The trip will end before noon.

OCTOBER 25

Walk around the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Gale Owings: 255-8333. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Candelaria Wetland Blind near the parking lot.

There is a \$3 day use fee if you do not have a State Parks pass or Friends of the RGNC pass. Both passes may be purchased inside the visitor center after 10:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 1

Hike Rinconada Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument with Gary Shirk: 717-330-7063, gshirk748@gmail.com Meet at 9:00 in the trailhead parking lot on the west side of Unser Boulevard NW where Unser intersects with St. Joseph's Avenue. It is a 2.2-mile walk over even terrain.

NOVEMBER 8

Walk around the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area and Belen Marsh in Belen with Linda Heinze: 565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard or 9:15 a.m. at WWCA on NM 47. Lunch will be at Teofilo's in Los Lunas on Main/NM 6, near the intersection with NM 314. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

NOVEMBER 15

Walk the perimeter of Los Poblanos Fields Open Space with Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot. To reach the fields turn north on Tierra Viva just east of the Rio Grande River from either west or east bound Montano. There will be a sign for Rio Grande Community Farm.

NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving Holiday

NOVEMBER 29

Tour the Bernardo Wildlife Area, part of the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex, with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard. Bring lunch. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque by mid-afternoon.

THURSDAY BIRDER TRIP REPORTS:

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

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

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

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



CNMAS Weekend Field Trips - Autumn 2012

Fall Frenzy: A Search for Eastern Vagrants Saturday & Sunday, October 6-7

October is a great time of year for discovering vagrants on New Mexico's eastern lakes and at its many migrant traps. We will travel to multiple "hot spots" over the course of the weekend, but the birding will be fairly leisurely, and we will spend some time picking through difficult fall identifications. Raymond and Robert will help the group learn how to sort out the fall plumaged warblers and look for vagrants among the more common shorebirds and terns. October is also a great time of year for sparrow watching and we'll have the chance to look at many mixed sparrow flocks during the weekend. Raymond and Robert will plan to leave on Friday, October 5 at 2:30 p.m. from the Starbucks in the Four Hills Shopping Center, in Albuquerque. We will try to make it to Ft. Sumner Lake before sunset and we will spend the night in Ft. Sumner on Friday. Participants are welcome to meet us at Starbucks and travel out with us on Friday or they can plan to meet us Saturday morning, around 7:30 a.m., at the Melrose Migrant Trap. We'll spend Saturday night, October 6, in Carlsbad and we'll return to Albuquerque late Sunday. For more specific directions to the meeting places, a detailed list of birding stops, or to RSVP for this trip please contact Raymond VanBuskirk at (505) 217-8514 or email him at newmexicobirder@gmail.com.

Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge Saturday, November 10

We will meet at the Headquarters at 8 am. We will be looking for Winter Shorebirds, including possibly an interesting Grebe or Loon. This is an excellent Refuge for Raptors as well as Tree Sparrows and maybe a Northern Shrike for good measure. This will be a half day trip with a possible stop at Las Vegas refuge on the return. Please e-mail Jim Mosley at ff1964@msn.com to let him know you will be attending.

Other Birding Opportunities

National Wildlife Refuge Day Saturday, October 13, 2012 Sevilleta NWR

Festival of the Cranes November 13-18 Bosque del Apache NWR

See page six for details about the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Day and the Festival of the Cranes!



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.

September 13 – 16, 2012 8th Annual Gila River Festival Presents The Wild River Speaks!

The 8th annual Gila River Festival – planned in and around Silver City, September 13-16, 2012 – will celebrate through storytelling the natural and cultural heritage of the Gila River, New Mexico's last free-flowing river. One of the Southwest's premier nature festivals, the Gila River Festival attracts an audience of nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts eager to learn about and experience the Gila's natural wonders. Festival attendees will enjoy a variety of expert-guided field trips in the Gila National Forest and along the Gila River, a keynote talk by author Craig Childs, workshops, horseback riding, kayaking, visual and performing art exhibits and performances, a three-minute film fest, a downtown art walk, and more. Visit www.gilaconservation.org to learn more and to register for events.



Rio Grande Nature Center State Park photo by Laurel Ladwig

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Bird Walks

There are Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park located at the far west end of Candelaria Road NW. The walks start at 8:30 a.m. during the months of September, October and November, and 9:00 a.m. in the winter. A \$3 day use fee or pass is required.

Sandia Bird Walks

During September and the first week in October there are Tuesday morning bird walks in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:00 a.m. to begin each trip. The ranger station may be reached from I-40 by taking exit 175. Drive south one half mile on NM 337 to the ranger station on the east. From there the group will visit different locations in the mountains.

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



Dragonfly Festival and the 75th anniversary of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge!

Celebrate our 75th anniversary at our annual Dragonfly Festival scheduled for September 7-9, 2012. Our kick-off event scheduled for Friday, September 7 at the Eastern New Mexico University campus, 52 University Blvd. in Roswell will feature a banquet style fundraiser dinner followed by a guest speaker, Dr. Brady Barr, National Geographic reptile expert. Tickets can be purchased at www.mycommunityevents.com. The Dragonfly Festival will continue with a schedule of family events on Saturday and Sunday at the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge located at 4200 E. Pine Lodge Road Roswell, NM 8820 1. For more information on the Dragonfly Festival, tour and banquet reservations, or to be an event sponsor, please email us at bitlerakerefuge@gmail.com or call the refuge at (575)625-4011. For general information regarding the refuge visit us at www.friendsofbitterlake.com.



Sevilleta Open House Celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System! Saturday, October 13, 2012

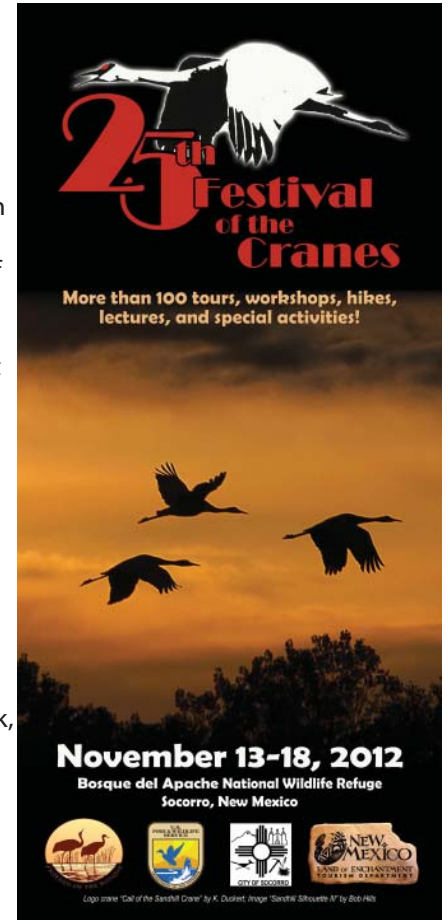
Join us at Sevilleta NWR for fun for the whole family! Live animals, informative presentations, interactive exhibits, kids' activities and Refuge tours. Tour reservations will be available soon. For more information please call 505/864-4021, or visit us on the web <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/sevilleta/index.html> or visit our friends group on the web, The Amigos de la Sevilleta <http://amigosdelasevilleta.com/>

Approximately 230,000 acres in size, the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge is a vast landscape in the heart of New Mexico. It supports four major ecosystems, touches two mountain ranges and embraces the largest river in the State. Its magnitude and austere beauty make the Refuge unforgettable, but its true significance lies in its function. The Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge is managed for the natural processes of flood, fire, and succession that sustain this huge landscape's functioning ecosystems. Coming together within the Refuge boundaries are the Chihuahuan desert, shortgrass prairie, pinon-juniper woodlands, Colorado Plateau shrubsteppe and Rio Grande riparian woodlands. These varied habitats provide homes to a diversity of wildlife and plants, many existing at the edge of their traditional home range. Central New Mexico Audubon Society is proud to be an exhibitor, together with HawkWatch International--you're invited!

Bosque del Apache Festival of the Cranes Celebrating 25 Years! November 13-18

The brochures are out! Registration is open! Festival of the Cranes celebrates 25 years. And the cranes themselves? Well, they've been doing their thing since time immemorial. Friends of Bosque del Apache encourages you to register online, using the registration button at <http://www.festivalofthecranes.com>. If you want a brochure, call 575-835-2077 to request one, or stop at the Rio Grande Nature Center or any of the birding stores in town to pick up your copy. We're thrilled and proud of our CNMAS members and volunteers who are leading tours or doing presentations at the Festival -- Raymond VanBuskirk, Michael Hilchey, Jason Kitting. Thank you!

And we invite YOU to be volunteers for CNMAS, as well. Contact Jeff Myers, jmyers@peacocklaw.com, to volunteer for shifts helping visitors find birds on either Saturday or Sunday. CNMAS does Saturday 9-11, Saturday 11-1, Saturday 1-3, Saturday 3-5, Sunday 9-11, and Sunday 11-1. But if even hours work better for you, you can represent CNMAS at the Audubon Council site on Saturday 8-10, Saturday 10-12, Saturday 12-2, Saturday 2-4, Sunday 8-10, or Sunday 10-12. We stagger the shifts because of substantial overlap in membership and interest in doing multiple locations on the same day. Tentatively CNMAS is assigned to the Eagle Scout deck and Audubon Council to the Marsh deck. These may change based on where Friends of B del A needs us, where they expect high visitor traffic, and WHERE THE BIRDS ARE!, depending on current water and food conditions. But wherever our assignments are, we hope YOU will join us. If you haven't done it before, you can't imagine the fun of greeting and sharing with the diverse and enthusiastic crowds who come to Festival -- both people AND birds! See you at the Festival!





!!BIRDS and BEERS!!

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 coming months, but should the event take its own "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? Last 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



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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PUBLICITY CHAIR

We're excited and enthused to welcome Adrienne Warner as our new publicity chair! You'd recognize Adrienne as a greeter at our Birding Academy this spring, and she's been an intrepid participant on weekend field trips, as well as a CNMAS representative volunteer at the Nature Center festivals. With her profession as a librarian, she brings communication skills and familiarity with the various community bulletin boards and other online publicity outlets, plus a passion for sharing the Audubon message of environmental conservation and education. Adrienne, we thank you!

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

Federal Duck Stamps

Birders interested in conservation and habitat protection can do no better than to participate in the Federal Duck Stamp program. Widely acclaimed as one of the most successful conservation initiatives in history, the Duck Stamp program has grown from a simple hunting license to a widely anticipated annual program for many naturalists.



The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp program is a project of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The \$15 stamps feature exquisitely detailed waterfowl, and while they are not valid for postage, Duck Stamps serve as migratory waterfowl hunting licenses for all hunters over the age of 16. Non-hunters can enjoy the stamps as well, as each one provides free admission into National Wildlife Refuges for hiking, birding and other activities. New stamps are issued annually and are valid from July 1 through June 30.

The first Duck Stamps were issued in 1934 for just \$1. Since that time, more than 120 million stamps have been purchased, raising more than \$750 million for the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. With that money, more than 5.3 million acres of habitat have been purchased and preserved, giving not only waterfowl but also other birds and wildlife suitable sanctuaries across the country. Approximately \$.98 from every dollar spent on Duck Stamps goes directly toward purchasing habitat to expand the National Wildlife Refuge system, making the program one of the most efficient conservation programs in history.



HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL Frontline Science in the New Mexico Manzano Mountains

Be a part of the HawkWatch Crew in the Manzano Mountains!

If you've ever dreamed of working with wild raptors while roughing it at 10,000 feet, this is your chance!

Come to the frontline with our new Frontline Science program--an all-access pass to HawkWatch International's migration monitoring.

Spend a weekend working side by side with our field biologists and get a glimpse of what it's like to live on a western mountain range monitoring raptors!



Sharp-shinned Hawk in the Manzano Mountains

Get hands on experience in:

- *Raptor ID observation
- *Trapping and banding
- *Recording data
- *Taking measurements
- *Raptor releases

Each extended weekend session kicks off at 6 pm on Friday at the migration site and ends the following Monday morning.

2012 Sessions

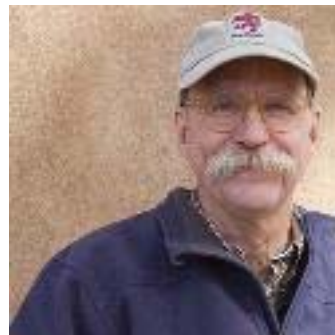
- August 31-September 3
- September 7-10
- September 14-17
- September 21-24
- September 28-October 1
- October 5-8

A tax deductible donation of \$300 per person is requested to cover the costs of this once in a lifetime experience. Food, water, and materials are included.

Contact Nikki Wayment nprice@hawkwatch.org for questions or to reserve your spot!

David Henderson

David Henderson, retired executive director of Audubon New Mexico, passed away on August 3, 2012. He had endured multiple battles with cancer, and his wife Juliana reported that the family were all there with him at home and that he fell asleep and never awoke.



David was a pioneer for Audubon in New Mexico, establishing its presence as a statewide organization. He will be missed as a leader, a strong voice for the environment, and a friend. A memorial service will be held for David at Randall Davey Audubon Center on September 3rd. Contributions may be made to the "David Henderson Conservation and Education Endowment Fund", c/o Audubon New Mexico, P.O. Box 9314, Santa Fe, NM 87504. You can express your sympathy to Juliana Henderson at 18 Old Dog Run, Santa Fe, NM 87508.



Illustration by Steven D'Amato



CNMAS Education Opportunities

CNMAS Educator Resource Grant

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

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

Amount available: up to \$250

Application deadline: December 28th (for money awarded by spring semester 2013).

Application process: Download an application from the CNMAS website <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> or email the CNMAS Education Committee at the email address below for an electronic copy. The application can be completed by hand or can be typed but must be submitted by email as a Word or pdf file. Send completed applications and questions you may have to the CNMAS Education Committee at: cnmasgrants@gmail.com. Title the email 'CNMAS Educator Resource Grant'.

Youth Education and Teacher Professional Development Opportunity

The Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Education Fund

This is the seventh 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 30th 2013.

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 commu-



nity. CNMAS wishes to thank the Lannan Foundation for its generous support of the fund, as well as the family and friends of Ryan.

Do you eBird?!

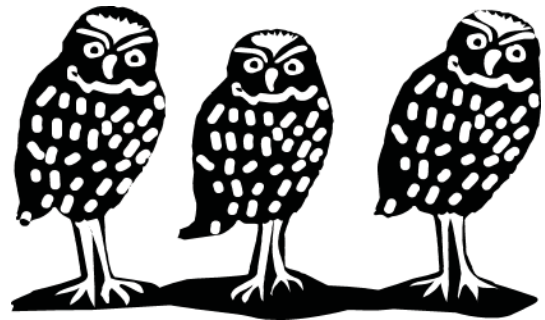
Why should I submit my observations?

Our knowledge of annual distribution, abundance, and movement patterns of North American birds is incomplete. By submitting your observations, not only can you keep track of the birds you see throughout the year from all over North America, but ornithologists can use your observations to help fill in the gaps in our knowledge about birds.

Why is a central repository of observations important?

For years bird watchers have recorded their observations and stored them on bookshelves, in closets, or more recently on computers. Birders are able to use their records to look for interesting patterns or trends, but lacked an easy way to put their results in the "bigger picture." A central database of observations allows you, as well as scientists and amateur naturalists, to look at large geographic areas and address questions on a larger scale. All of the observers out there can contribute more data in the form of regular observations than any scientist, or team of scientists, could collect on their own.

Go to ebird.org and start submitting observations today!



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 _____
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Shipping and handling \$7.00 per notebook	

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



Audubon NEW MEXICO PRESENTS



Southwest Women in Conservation 2012

*engage with conservation leaders
establish new relationships
motivate the next generation*

Saturday, September 29th, 10-1 pm

*Speakers, followed by a gourmet lunch,
at the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary, Santa Fe*

Honoring Rachel Carson We honor biologist and writer Rachel Carson this year, for sounding the alarm for nature. Ms. Carson captured the attention of our country with compelling documentation of the hazardous effects of DDT and other toxic chemicals, with warnings such as imagining a child's grief at the thought of a future morning without bird song. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, which awakened Americans to dangerous pesticide use and galvanized an environmental movement that helped to stop the poisoning of our air, land, and water. Rachel Carson's work, including the truths she brought to light through her writing and the scientific research she inspired, stand as powerful proof of the difference that one individual can make to impact her community and motivate others to take action.

Elizabeth Grossman is an "eloquent scientific muckraker, outing the truth about commonly used hazardous chemicals that are leaching out of everything from plastic bottles to children's toys and infiltrating the biosphere and our bodies to deleterious effect." She is the author of several books, including: *Chasing Molecules: Poisonous Products, Human Health, and the Promise of Green Chemistry*; *High Tech Trash: Digital Devices, Hidden Toxics, and Human Health*; and *Watershed: The Undamming of America*. Her work has appeared in *Scientific American*, *Yale e360*, *The Atlantic.com*, *Salon*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, *The Pump Handle*, *Earth Island Journal* and other publications. She's been a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a science journalism fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Wood Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. A native of New York City and graduate of Yale University, she writes from Portland, Oregon.

Nadine Padilla who is of Navajo descent and grew up near Grants, New Mexico, remembers that being close to the sacred mountain was integral to every important moment of her childhood, including her coming-of-age ceremony at age 13. She began working with the Sacred Alliance for Grassroots Equality (SAGE) Council as a community organizer in 2006, focusing on Native American healthcare and environmental issues, stating, "The devastating legacy (of leaving hundreds of abandoned mines and radioactive waste after companies left town and refused to clean their mess) continues to haunt our communities, resulting in sky-high rates of various cancers, kidney disease, autoimmune disease, birth defects, and miscarriages." She also served as the Coordinator for the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE), a coalition of grassroots organizations working to address the uranium legacy that still plagues many communities. Today, Padilla is helping work on campaigns to elect progressive candidates who will help address environmental and health issues facing New Mexico communities.

Mission Statement: *Women are vital to the success of conservation in the Southwest.*

Audubon New Mexico is holding its third annual event to recognize and honor the diversity of work being done by women engaged in conservation in our region and beyond. Inspired by on-the-ground efforts, "Women in Conservation" provides the opportunity for women and men to share their interests and establish relationships.

Join us as we work to motivate all generations to value, protect and restore the health of our environment.

Invitations to the event will be sent out in August. Please contact Maryam Miller if you have any questions, or if you'd like to make a contribution and support Southwest Women in Conservation, at (505) 983-4609, ext. 24, or mmiller@audubon.org. Thank you!

Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary, 1800 Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM (505) 983-4609



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-



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
Activist Hotline
(800) 659-2622
Audubon Take Action
www.audubonaction.org/audubon/
New Mexico Office
Randall Davey Audubon Center
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 983-4609 <http://nm.audubon.org>
newmexico@audubon.org
The President
The White House
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bingaman.senate.gov
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Congressman Ben R. Lujan
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Congressman Martin T. Heinrich
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(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
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Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)476-8000
www.wildlife.state.nm.us
Sandia Ranger District
US Forest Service
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Tijeras, NM 87059
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Bosque del Apache NWR
(575) 838-2120
Friends of the Bosque del Apache
(575) 835-1828
www.friendsofthebosque.org
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
(505) 344-7240
Friends of RGNC
friends@rgnc.org, 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 Winter 2013 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by November 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

Don't Let Sammy Be An Assassin



For more information:
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.



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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."*

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New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

Compiler: Matt J. Baumann
505-264-1052, 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
<http://www.rosyfinch.com/>

Wildlife Rescue

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