



Burrowing Owl

December 2012 - February 2013 Vol. 42, No. 1

*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.*

JOIN A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT NEAR YOU!

The 113th Christmas Bird Count will take place from December 14, 2012, through January 5, 2013 -- and it's FREE! For the first time since 1955, there is no \$5 participant fee. Central New Mexico Audubon sponsors five counts, and there are some 30 total in New Mexico alone, so you'll save a lot if you count a lot! Every citizen scientist who has ever braved snow, wind, or rain (or New Mexico sunshine!) to take part in the Christmas Bird Count has made an enormous contribution to ornithological history and to conservation. And if you're an annual participant, it's great to have those feathers in your cap! What an improvement over "notches in the gun" -- realizing that Frank Chapman organized the first Christmas Bird Count initially to replace the "sport" of Christmas Day gunning to slaughter small animals and birds. Come count birds with us -- it's fun, it's important, and it's FREE!

Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, December 26

Rebecca Gracey (505) 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com (count organizer) and Nick Pederson (505) 417-8665 ndpederson83@gmail.com (data compiler).

Meet north of Albertson's in the Four Hills shopping center on Central, west of Tramway, at 7:30 a.m. The compilation party will be at 5:00 p.m. at O'Niell's Irish Pub at 3301 Juan Tabo NE, north of Candelaria on the west side of the street. There the group will eat and go over the results of the count. Contact Rebecca if you wish to participate.

Sevilleta Christmas Bird Count

Friday, December 14

Steve Cox, (505) 345-2385, swcox@spinn.net
Meet at Sevilleta NWR Headquarters at 6:00 a.m.

The Bosque del Apache NWR Christmas Count

Saturday, December 15

Dave Hawksworth, (505) 507-5343, davehawk1@msn.com
Meet at the refuge HQ at 7:00 AM. A post-count get-together will be held at 5:00 PM at a location TBD. To help me coordinate with the refuge, please contact Dave ahead of time if you will be participating.

Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 16, 2012

Raymond VanBuskirk
newmexicobirder@gmail.com

Although it is not required, please try to RSVP by email ahead of time so that Raymond may begin to figure out who will go where on count day. We will all plan to meet in front of the Sprouts (previously Sunflower Market) at the northwest corner of the Alameda & Corrales Rd. intersection, between 6:45 and 7:15 am. Here, Raymond will pass out maps, divide up participants, and discuss plans to meet for the compilation party which will likely be at O'Neill's Pub.

Five Points Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 17

Steve Cox, (505) 345-2385, swcox@spinn.net
Meet at Sevilleta NWR Headquarters at 6:00 a.m.
Sevilleta NWR Christmas Bird Count

For statewide and expanded information, check the Web sites:
<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>
<http://nm.audubon.org>
<http://www.nmbirds.org>
www.christmasbirdcount.org

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January Program

*Join us at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE) for our fall meetings.
Arrive at 7 p.m. for conversation and refreshments. Programs begin at 7:15 p.m.*

January 17 – 7 pm

A South African Birding Travelogue

Pat Folsom and Christopher Rustay will talk about their recent birding trip to eastern and southern South Africa, which ranks as one of the top birding destinations in the world, with such exciting endemics as hornbills, bee-eaters, rollers, penguins and much more, not to mention the mammals. They will discuss and present pictures of the unique landscapes, animals, and, of course, the birds seen while visiting.

BIRDING ACADEMY

Studying, Observing, and Conserving Birds: Think Internationally!

February 14 – 7 pm

Vermillion Flycatchers

Jonathan Schmitt, a Master's student at Dr. Chris Witt's lab at UNM, will discuss his research on the Vermillion Flycatcher. Male Vermillion Flycatchers are strikingly bright red and the females have a pink wash throughout their range, from the southwestern United States to Argentina. However, in the heavily polluted city of Lima, Peru, over half of Vermillion Flycatcher individuals of both sexes have sooty brown plumage. Jonathan's research has focused on the genetic mechanism that has led to this differentiation.

Mar. 21 – 7 pm

Wonders of Brazil: The Amazing Wildlife of a Spectacular Country

Dwayne Longenbaugh

April 18 – 7 pm

Conserving Migratory Birds through International Partnerships: A Full Life-Cycle Approach

Carol Beidleman, Audubon New Mexico's new Director of Bird Conservation, will talk about her past work in conserving shared migratory bird species through local, national, and international partnerships. Her program helped to protect migratory birds and their habitats in national parks and protected areas in the U.S., Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, employing a full life-cycle approach. Program efforts included: bird monitoring, education, and Hispanic/Latino community outreach projects; international exchange and cooperation through internships and technical assistance; and providing leadership in international bird conservation initiatives such as Partners in Flight. Carol's presentation will include New Mexico



projects and species shared with Mexico and Central America. Prior to joining Audubon New Mexico, Carol coordinated the award-winning Park Flight Migratory Bird Program for the National Park Service and University of Arizona, served on the inaugural Board of Directors of Audubon Colorado and as the Facilitator for the Partners in Flight Land Bird Conservation Plan Colorado, and worked for The Nature Conservancy. She is a Colorado native, with close personal and professional ties to New Mexico.



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



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES

The Nominations Committee is seeking candidates to fill vacancies on the Central New Mexico Audubon Society Board in the annual election next April 2013. For more information, contact Robert Munro at (505) 730-7762, robert.munro@earthlink.net.

OR, when you see any of your Audubon friends in the field -- Michael, Raymond, Judy, Cole, et feathera -- let them talk you into stepping up to do a one-time job or fill a vacancy. They have detailed job descriptions and fun chores they can describe to you!

Remember, it really does take a flock!

CNMAS Work Day at RGNC

The CNMAS Conservation Committee has been hard at work this past year restoring native grassland habitat at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park in Albuquerque. Last summer we successfully replanted a large field with native grass species to help improve bird habitat at the park. The plot is doing very well so far but there are a few stubborn weeds left that need to be taken out!

Join us on Saturday December 8th, 2012 from 10 am to noon (or whenever we finish) to help weed the new field. All you need is a pair of gloves. We will provide refreshments, water, and sunscreen. We will meet in the parking area at the start of the main trail to the building (by the bike racks).

This is a great opportunity to spend a few hours outside making a real difference in your local landscape. We promise it won't be hard work, and it will be fun!!!

Hope to see you there!



AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

For Winter 2012 – 2013

DECEMBER 6

Hike the open space at the east end of Copper followed by a Holiday Potluck

with Joe Schelling: 797-9018, joeschelling@msn.com

Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the open space parking area for an easy one-mile walk. Afterwards attend a potluck lunch at the home of Cindy and Joe Harris. Soup, coffee and tea will be provided. Everyone else should bring other dishes to share with the group. Unwrapped gifts for the Toys for Tots program will be collected from those wishing to contribute. Directions to the potluck location will be handed out at the hike.

DECEMBER 13

Walk around the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Maurice Mackey: 897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the center's parking lot. Turn east from Coors Boulevard between Montano Road on the south and Paseo del Norte on the north. The walk will end before noon.

DECEMBER 20

Walk the trails from the Shining River Bosque Open Space with Gary Shirk: 717-330-7063, gshirk748@gmail.com Meet in the open space parking lot at 9:00 a.m. It is located directly south of Paseo del Norte and north of El Pueblo Road on Rio Grande Boulevard. There is no exit from Paseo del Norte to Rio Grande Boulevard. Take the 2nd Street exit from Paseo and then take El Pueblo west to Rio Grande. The walk will about 1.5 miles and will end before noon.

DECEMBER 27

Walk around the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Becky Purvis: 877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com Meet at 9:00 a.m. in 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. The walk will end before noon.

JANUARY 3

Drive to several locations along NM 14 and San Pedro Estates in the east mountains with Lannois Neely: 890-7881, lfneely@aol.com Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure near the Carl's Jr. in the Four Hills Shopping Center on the south side of Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. The trip will end before noon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$2 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 10

Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Tarrant County with Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot on the west side of the Tijeras Senior Center. From NM 333 (old Rt. 66) turn north on Tijeras Avenue, just west of the Tijeras Library. The group will drive south of Moriarty and past Estancia to look for hawks. Lunch will be at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 17

Visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen with Linda Heinze: 565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com, for a 1.5-mile walk. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard or 9:45 at WWCA on NM 47. Lunch will be at Rutilio's, 455 N. Main, in Belen for Mexican food. The trip should end mid afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 24

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 from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on University and Gibson. Bring lunch. A \$5 entrance fee or Federal pass is required per car. The group should be back in Albuquerque in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 31

Hike up Embudito Canyon with Gale Owings: 255-8333. Meet at 9:00 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 miles before turning right on Trailhead Road. This is an easy one-mile walk that will end before noon.



FEBRUARY 7

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Lefty Arnold: 514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com Meet at 8:57 a.m. in a parking area located further south on Tingley Drive from the parking lot by the fishing ponds. This 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. The group will have lunch afterwards at the Red Ball Café, 1301 4th Street SW.

FEBRUARY 14

Walk in the Alameda Open Space with Judy Liddell: 271-0912, jliddell@msn.com Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard. It is directly east of the Rio Grande River and west of the traffic light at Alameda and Rio Grande Boulevards. The group will have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

FEBRUARY 21

The location for the February 21 trip has been changed since the Crest House will be closed for the winter and the group would not be able to sit inside to see the Rosy-Finches. Here are the new plans: Drive to locations between Moriarty and Estancia, NM, to look for hawks with Rebecca Gracey, 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 9:20 a.m. for a 9:30 departure near the Carl's Jr. in the Four Hills Shopping Center on the south side of Central between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. Bring lunch. The trip should be over in the late afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.



Thursday Birder Schedule continued...

FEBRUARY 28

Hike up Embudo Canyon with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the trail-head parking lot located at the east end of Indian School Road in the Sandia foothills. This is an easy one-mile walk that will end before noon.

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

eBird! To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to 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 select the location.

Other Birding Opportunities

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Bird Walks

Join Saturday and Sunday morning bird walks at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park located at the far west end of Candelaria. The walks start at 9:00 a.m. in the winter. There is a \$3 day-use fee without a State Parks Pass or Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center Pass. Both may be purchased in the visitor's center after 10:00 a.m.



CNMAS Weekend Field Trips

Saturday, January 12: Estancia Valley Raptors

Leader: Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com

Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the Four Hills Shopping Center near Carl's Jr. The group will drive south of Moriarty and past Estancia to look for wintering hawks, falcons, and possibly Golden Eagle. Lunch will be at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Albuquerque by the late afternoon. Carpooling will be important since we will be birding along country roads and don't want to impede local traffic. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5.00 at five cents per mile.

Sunday, January 26: Sandia Mountains

Leader: Raymond VanBuskirk, trogon282000@yahoo.com, 505-217-8514

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

Saturday, February 16: Holloman Lakes & Otero Mesa

Leader: Cole Wolf, colejwolf@gmail.com

Meet at Holloman Lake (west of Alamogordo, just north off of highway 70) at 9:00 a.m. We'll spend about an hour birding the lake before heading to the Otero Mesa grasslands. There is a good chance of seeing Harris's Hawk on the drive. Our main targets on the Mesa are Sprague's Pipit and Baird's Sparrow, but both these species are fairly uncommon and can be extremely difficult to see. We hope to encounter other wintering grassland species such as Ferruginous Hawk, longspurs, and Cassin's and Grasshopper Sparrows. Bring lunch and snacks – there are no services south of Alamogordo or on the Mesa.

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



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.



ROSY-FINCH FLAG FLIES, CREST HOUSE FLAG IS LOWERED

By Michael Hilchey and Beth Hurst-Waitz

Confirmed sightings of "our" Sandia Crest Rosy-Finches were reported as of Tuesday, November 13. We received notice just as we were going to press that the first official day of banding is (was, by the time you read this) Sunday, November 18, at the Crest House.

After the startup, there are several changes coming to the comfortable, WARM arrangements we've enjoyed as the guests of Gene Romero, manager of the Crest House, for the past 10 years. The Crest House will be closed this winter for a number of reasons. They have been struggling financially (especially in the winter) for several years due to the recession and because the building's heating and maintenance bills are very high during the winter. Gene has been an incredible host and supporter of the Rosy-Finches, but having to work as hard as he does in such a difficult location has been challenging, not only financially, but physically as well.



Raymond VanBuskirk, Beth Hurst-Waitz, Gene Romero, Ryan Beaulieu and Ken Schneider

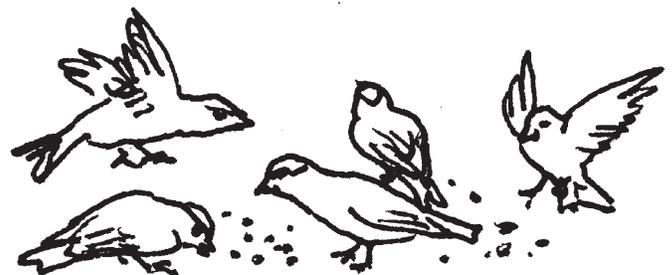
The Crest House will be closed starting December 1st. The Rosy-Finch team does indeed plan on maintaining the feeders, as well as the banding project, this winter. The feeders will be moved to a previous location very early in the project that is below the building (or somewhere nearby) sometime this week. Special recognition and thanks go to Dave Weaver and Fran Lusso for their steadfastness and reliability in being the feeder fillers and maintenance people, and additional WARM thanks go to them for continuing as volunteers during this transition and into what will be a much colder season -- something the birds are used to, but the volunteers aren't! Special thanks, also, to Lee Hopwood and Ken Schneider, whose interest and enthusiasm helped launch the fledgling project and whose loyalty and contributions continue to this day. Obviously the banding situation will be different (did we mention it'll be much colder?), but Steve and Nancy Cox,



Raymond Van Buskirk, Michael Hilchey, and the rest of the banding crew will still be out there on Sundays. The Winter 2012-2013 Banding Schedule will be posted both at <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org> and at www.rosy-finch.com. Further, Michael will put it on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandia-Rosy-Finch-Project/490170997667447?ref=hl>. We encourage everybody to check out the schedule and the conditions before venturing up to the Crest. And when you do go up, be prepared for cold, wind, snow -- and mountaintop New Mexico sunshine, too!

In spite of these challenges, the Rosy-Finch Project continues, with an open invitation to the public to visit and participate and continue your support. In fact, the influence of this project is spreading: There are plans in progress for Rosy-Finch banding to start up in Taos, probably this winter; and also in Santa Fe, but likely not until next year. Again, keep checking the Web sites for the most current information.

In summary, we are thankful to Gene for being such a warm, friendly, encouraging, welcoming host all these years, and for his continued support of us admittedly "crazy" birders and of these amazing birds themselves in the season before us. The Sandia Rosy-Finches have been an icon of Albuquerque birding for over a decade now and we are thankful for all the support from volunteers, visitors, and the Crest House staff during that time. We are very sad to hear that the Crest House will be closed, and things will surely be different this year, but the birds will still be there, the banders will still be there, and the birders will still be there too! In the spirit of Ryan Beaulieu, come join us, Cheers and Good Birding To You!





!!BIRDS and BEERS!!

Birds and Beers! events continue, and if YOU'RE interested in birds and birding in the Albuquerque area, then YOU'RE invited!

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**, 4310 Central SE (Nob Hill) Albuquerque, NM 87108 <http://oniells.com/> (park around back off of Washington St.)

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

FROM: Dave Krueper, New Mexico Ornithological Society
Janet Ruth, New Mexico Ornithological Society
Beth Hurst-Waitz, Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Robert Munro, CNMAS and O’Niell’s



2013 WINTER BIRD AND BAT FESTIVAL

On January 12, 2013, from 10am to 4pm, the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center will sponsor the annual Winter Bird and Bat Festival. The event will be held at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. The Park is located at 2901 Candelaria NW, a mile west of Rio Grande Blvd. The only cost is the Park’s day-use fee of \$3.00 per vehicle (cash or check).

The day’s presentations include:

- Talk and slide show on Raptors with Erin Greenlee, head Ornithologist at Hawks Aloft.
- Talk and slide show on Photographing Sandhill Cranes with photographer Sandra Corliss.
- A program on Bats to be announced later.

The event will also include Bird ID with Central New Mexico Audubon, Children’s Activities, a Biobits Table, live raptors with Wildlife Rescue, and guided Bird and Nature Walks.

For more information call Peter Kelling at 505-856-2922 or email cloudsandwater@juno.com

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.

2013 Crawford Symposium

~ *Green Trails for the Next Generation* ~

A conference and celebration to share our research and ideas about the New Mexico bosque and landscape we cherish. This is an event for students and professionals to promote information sharing, networking and action to help create a sustainable future!

Save the Date: Tuesday, February 26th 2013

Location: Bosque School ~ Budagher Hall
4000 Learning Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120

Time: 4-7:00 pm; dinner included

Highlights: poster session, drought in NM, citizen science

Contact:

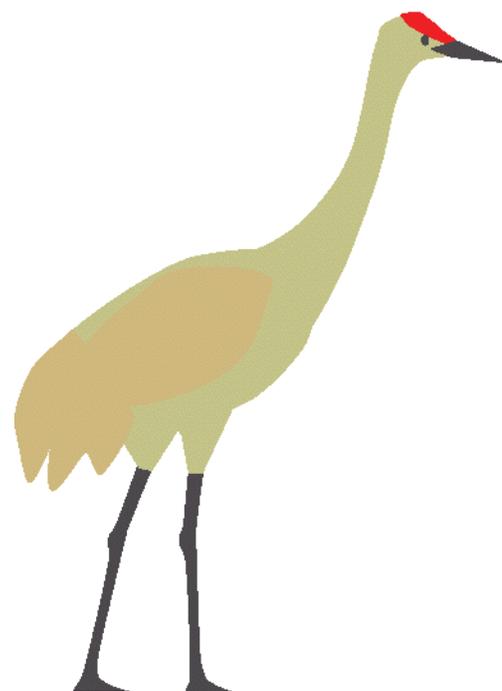
Kimi Scheerer, Education Coordinator
Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP)
www.bosqueschool.org/bemp.aspx
4000 Learning Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120
office: 505.898.6388 ext. 151

Board President, Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM) www.eeanm.org

Find CNMAS on Facebook and visit our beautiful website!



cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org





The GBBC is Going Global!

www.birdsource.org/gbbc/

We're thrilled to announce that in 2013, people from anywhere in the world will be able to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count!

Save the dates so you can participate in the first world-wide Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Friday, February 15 through Monday, February 18, 2013.

To make it possible for people everywhere to participate, the GBBC will be integrated with eBird, a citizen-science project created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society in 2002 that went global in 2010. Our partner, Bird Studies Canada, administers the eBird Canada portal.

Benefits to the new and improved GBBC:

- **Global access:** participants will be able to submit checklists from any location in the world, and in four languages!
- **Precise locations:** More accurate GBBC location data will make your observations more useful and easier for you to track over time.
- **Year-round access:** Although the GBBC is a four-day project, you will be able to use your account to track your bird sightings year round in eBird.
- **Better visualization:** Interactive maps will allow you to explore bird observations in much greater detail than ever before.
- **Corrections:** If you realize you've entered erroneous information, you can go back into your reports anytime to make corrections or changes.
- **No dual-entry:** eBird users will no longer have to enter their information twice and can simply enter their GBBC counts via eBird.

As February approaches, check www.Audubon.org for updates to the program and opportunities to get involved. Meanwhile, you can submit your bird checklists any day of the year at www.ebird.org. If you have never submitted a checklist to eBird before, you'll create a user name and password.

You'll be able to use the same user name and password for the Great Backyard Bird Count in February!



Black Phoebe drawing by Andrew Rominger



CHIHUAHUAN DESERT GRASSLAND PLAN

Last month, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory released the first-ever conservation plan for Chihuahuan Desert grassland birds.

Two-thirds of the Chihuahuan Desert lies in Mexico, and less than 15 percent of this area is grassland. In addition, many Chihuahuan Desert grasslands have been destroyed or altered by cropland conversion, inappropriate grazing, urbanization, or invasive species.

Since grassland birds have declined more steeply than any other group of North American birds, a closer examination of the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands was deemed appropriate. Moreover, the loss of suitable wintering habitat is likely a major factor accounting for population declines among key grassland species wintering in the Chihuahuan Desert.

To address this concern, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory released the conservation plan for Chihuahuan Desert grasslands to provide an understanding of the distribution, abundance, and habitat associations of five declining species: Baird's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Lark Bunting, Sprague's Pipit, and Loggerhead Shrike. These are all species which nest farther north, but which winter in these grasslands.

The plan was developed with support from the Rio Grande Joint Venture and the American Bird Conservancy. You can view an explanation of the project and download the plan at: <http://www.rmbo.org/v3/OurWork/International/ChihuahuanDesertGrasslands.aspx>

-- From Birding Community E-Bulletin, November 2012

New Mexico Ornithological Society

51st Anniversary Meeting

27 April 2013

Silver City, New Mexico

Check www.nmbirds.org to get further details on the meeting, including the Call for Abstracts and Registration information, as these details become available.



THANK YOU!



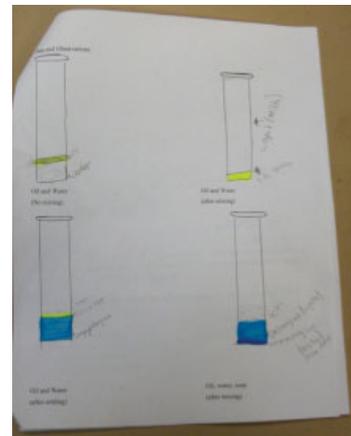
THANK YOU CNMAS!

On behalf of Mrs. Crawford's 8th grade science class, we want to say thank you for providing us the opportunity to purchase four chemistry kits. These kits contain over 150 different experiments that have allowed us to act like scientists in our very own classroom laboratory!



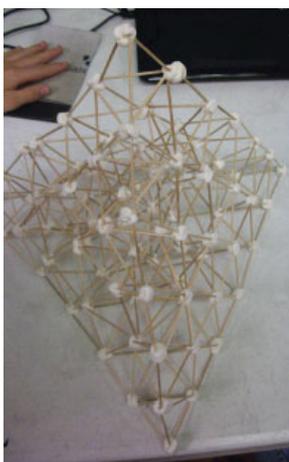
Students gathered all of the materials needed for the lab

Students used the lab sheet to answer questions about their experiments on mixing liquids



Students learned how soap works as an emulsifier

Students experimented by creating a tetrahedron with marshmallows and toothpicks.



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

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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 has joined forces with ConservAmerica, a leading conservative pro-environment group, on a campaign based on common ground called “Because Conservation Doesn’t Have a Party.” The Compact is a set of principles with a simple message: Conservation is too important to be held hostage by partisan politics.

Conservation is not left, or right, or center—it’s common sense.

We encourage you to join the 100,000 people who have already signed the American Eagle Compact and add your signature, too. Your signature will tell legislators that playing politics with nature and with our children’s future isn’t the right path forward. You can tell them that there’s a better way to move ahead, a way to support smart conservation practices that we agree on in communities across America. Supporters can sign the compact at www.EagleCompactUSA.org and can join the conversation at the Eagle’s Nest Blog. (<http://EagleCompactUSA.wordpress.com/>)

The next phase of the National Plan is twofold:

- to deliver the American Eagle Compact along with the full list of signers to President Obama and to key leaders in the House and Senate in early January, and
- to develop a bipartisan conservation agenda for 2013, in part based on your feedback. This will address nitty-gritty issues like climate change, energy independence and public lands conservation. We plan to present that to our lawmakers shortly after President Obama’s re-inauguration on January 20, 2013.

Supporters can sign the compact at www.EagleCompactUSA.org and can join the conversation at the Eagle’s Nest Blog (<http://EagleCompactUSA.wordpress.com/>)



Contacting National Audubon

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



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



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Your National Audubon membership RENEWAL cannot be processed by the Chapter; it must be sent directly to National Audubon.

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

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Winter 2013 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by November 5, 2012.

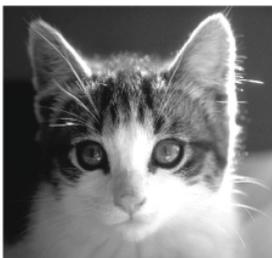
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*Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats;
and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."*

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