



Central New Mexico Audubon Society

# Burrowing Owl

February - May 2013 Vol. 42, No. 2

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.

## BIRDING ACADEMY

*Studying, Observing, and Conserving Birds: Think Internationally!*

Registration form on page 3

### February 21 – 7 pm Vermilion Flycatchers (note the date! (not 2/14 as previously published))

Jonathan Schmitt, a Master's student at Dr. Chris Witt's lab at UNM, will discuss his research on the Vermilion Flycatcher. Male Vermilion 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 Vermilion 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 Spectacular Wildlife of an Amazing Country

Dwayne Longenbaugh

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world and one of the most biologically diverse. This presentation will focus on the Pantanal region of Brazil. The number and variety of species here rivals the Serengeti of Africa. The Pantanal is an ancient seabed which during the wet season may be 80% underwater. As this water recedes in the summer, the more than 200 species of fish are concentrated in ponds, lake and rivers. This unbelievable wealth of aquatic food draws birds, animals, reptiles and insects in abundance. The open nature of the Pantanal means that you are able to see the birds and animals more easily and more clearly than anywhere else in Brazil. We will also look at the amazing Southern Amazon region and the beautiful and diverse life of the Amazonian Jungle. The rocky highlands of interior Brazil are home to yet another diverse group of birds and animals. Please join us with your questions, observations and enthusiasm.



Hyacinth Macaws, photo by 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.

#### In This Issue

<i>Birding Academy</i>	1	<i>Birding Academy Registration Form</i>	3	<i>Conservation Work Day Report</i>	6
<i>Birdathon announcements</i>	2	<i>High Desert Birding Adventures</i>	3	<i>Cats Indoors</i>	6
<i>Field trip and CBC reports</i>	2	<i>Great Backyard Bird Count</i>	3	<i>A Warm Rosy Welcome</i>	6
<i>e-Owl</i>	2	<i>Thursday Birders &amp; CNMAS Field Trips</i>	4-5	<i>Birds and Beers</i>	7



## Birdathon! 2013

### The Thursday Birders Birdathon Team

This year the team will start their Birdathon at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 9 and will end at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 10. They will attempt to see as many bird species as possible in this 24-hour period.

The group will visit birding locations in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and the Melrose Trap. They will spend Thursday night in Fort Sumner. The meeting place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, is the turn-off to Lake Sumner on NM 203 from US 84. This is a 2 ½ hour drive from Albuquerque. The group will bird at Sumner Lake State Park on both sides of the river, Sumner Lake, Bosque Redondo, Fort Sumner Monument and the Melrose Trap.

Please support the Thursday Birder team with a pledge of .25, .50, .75, or \$1.00 per species. If you prefer a set donation regardless of the number of bird species seen, that would be greatly appreciated also.

Rebecca Gracey will be the team leader. Contact her at 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com if you would like to join the Thursday Birder team. She will send you the names of hotels in Fort Sumner, the itinerary, and other details.

### Live, Breathe, Bird!!!

Raymond VanBuskirk, Michael Hilchey and Cole Wolf are at it again- they will be leading a closed Birdathon this year that aims to beat the all time New Mexico Big Day record of 202 species!! Last year the team ran into several unexpected problems and ended up one man short, but still managed over 190 species for the day! The team thinks that with a full team and a little luck, this year could be the year to break the 202 mark! The Big Day will start at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 5th in Clanton Canyon, in far southwestern New Mexico, and end in Albuquerque 24 hours later! Please help support CNMAS and Audubon New Mexico by pledging per bird or a lump sum to this Birdathon team! Contact Michael Hilchey (505) 228-7439 leucosticte@gmail.com, Raymond VanBuskirk (505) 217-8514 newmexicobirder@gmail.com, or Cole Wolf (505) 553-4831 colejwolf@gmail.com with your pledges!



## Electronic *Burrowing Owl*

Got e-mail? 213 of you recently received a personal letter from us asking this question, and so far 30+ of you responded affirmatively. Thank you! By switching to on-line delivery of our newsletter, "Burrowing Owl," you're helping us save trees (good for birds) and money (also good for birds, because we now have more to spend on conservation projects which preserve bird habitat!)

If you'd like to view (in color!) and print your quarterly "Burrowing Owl," contact Membership Chair Ed Dover at whitecliffs@comcast.net or 242-5427. And even if you do prefer the hard copy, still share your e-mail with Ed for special notices from us. We keep your information confidential! Cheers and Good Reading!

### January Field Trip Report

Four hardy birders joined Judy Liddell in frigid weather to look for raptors in the Estancia Valley. The trip focused primarily on Clements Rd. east of NM-41 where the group was treated to 12 Ferruginous Hawks and 4 Red-tailed Hawks. Later we added 2 Rough-legged Hawks to the trip list. Total Ferruginous Hawks for the day were 19, Red-tailed Hawks, including one dark morph, were 7.

### Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count

#### Raymond VanBuskirk, Count Organizer/Compiler

This year's Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count was another huge success. The story starts a few weeks before the count with an unprecedented scouting effort. Birders all across Albuquerque chipped in and found a whole host of rarities. Among the highlights were not one, but two Black-chinned Hummingbirds, both of which were seen on count day, and an unbelievable 7(!!!) Pine Warblers found at various parks across the city, two of which stuck around for the count day. Some other highlights from the count were rarities such as Blue Jay, Fox Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Common Goldeneye, and a controversial "Eastern" Towhee that was likely a hybrid with both Spotted and Eastern Towhee parents. Having so many rarities on the count was not just a stroke of luck though. With over 60 total participants, this was by far the most attended year in Albuquerque CBC history! All that effort resulted in a spectacular total of 119 species for count day! That puts this year in the top 5 years for total number of species seen. A big thank you goes out to CNMAS for their support of this count and O'Neill's Pub for hosting the compilation party. And a GIANT thank you to each and every person who put in the time to make this count successful.

We can't wait to do it again next year!

### Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count Report

#### Rebecca Gracey – count organizer

#### Nick Pederson –count compiler

The Sandia Mountains count was held on Wednesday, December 26, 2012, with 41 people participating in the count, including a nine-year old future birder. The total number of species seen was 81, an all time high. Unusual birds seen were the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Saw-whet Owl, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Rock Wren, Pacific Wren, Sage Thrasher, Swamp Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak. This is the first time the Pine Grosbeak has been seen on the count since 1995, and this year and last year being firsts for the American Three-toed Woodpecker since 1985.

Three species that have become unusual in the circle in the past years are the Horned Lark, Red-winged Blackbird, and Western Meadowlark. These were seen last year when there was more snow on the ground but not this year.

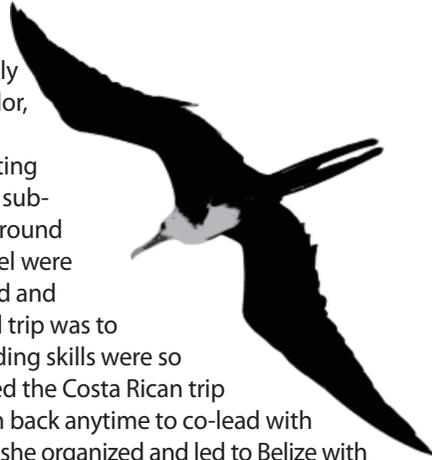
The rare birds spotted were a Rough-legged Hawk, Wood Duck, Brown Thrasher, and the reintroduced Wild Turkey.

The wrap-up party at O'Neill's pub was a perfect ending to a good day of birding.



## High Desert Birding Adventures

High Desert Birding Adventures is a home-grown birding tour company, locally owned and operated by familiar faces in the Albuquerque birding community. Raymond VanBuskirk, Michael Hilchey and Lee Hopwood launched High Desert Birding in October 2012. Lee, the owner of a wild bird store, met Raymond and Michael through their dear friend Ryan Beaulieu and then hired them to work in her store part-time. As all three began traveling internationally to Costa Rica, Belize, Ecuador, Panama and Mexico, they began thinking about starting their own tour company, a subject that they had batted around since Raymond and Michael were young teenagers. Raymond and Michael's first international trip was to Costa Rica, where their birding skills were so outstanding they impressed the Costa Rican trip leader and he invited them back anytime to co-lead with him. Lee's first trip was one she organized and led to Belize with a small group of birding friends; she now understands the phrase, "I had the time of my life." It was a fantastic experience worth repeating again and again. After several years of birding adventures Raymond finally said to Lee, "Let's start that bird tour company." That was all it took and the three of them began building the business.



The company offers a variety of tours locally, nationally and internationally. In New Mexico they will offer a winter tour to see Rosy-Finches and Bosque del Apache's crane flocks. Coming this March they will venture to the tropical forests of Belize where they will hike to a Scarlet Macaw roosting area, and make stops that will yield several globally endangered species such as the Yellow-headed Parrot and the Orange-breasted Falcon. In the next year they will be offering trips to South Texas, Southeast Arizona, and Costa Rica! Michael can't stop talking about the wonderful lodges and the birds in Costa Rica; look for it on the website soon.

They also offer Field Workshops based in Albuquerque. These workshops will focus on identifying specific sets of species, including a lecture and presentation followed by a day in the field to put your new skills into action.

High Desert Birding is committed to bird watching tours/eco travel and environmental conservation and gives back 10% of their profits to community birding and conservation projects both here at home and to local groups in the faraway places they visit. Here in New Mexico both The Ryan Beaulieu Education Fund and The Rio Grande Bird Research Bird Banding projects have been earmarked to receive donations from all of the tours and workshops held in New Mexico. Lee says, "This is our way of giving back and thanking those who do the work that keeps the birds and their environments preserved so we can have the privilege of enjoying them."

You can visit Lee, Michael and Raymond on their website, [www.highdesertbirding.com](http://www.highdesertbirding.com), and follow them on Facebook for their Trip Blogs and upcoming news. Cheers and good birding!

## CNMAS Supports Local Great Backyard Bird Count

According to the National Audubon Society's website, "the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of winter bird populations." You can participate by counting birds at your feeder for as little as 15 minutes on one or more days of the event, Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18, 2013, and reporting your sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Anyone can take part, from beginning bird watchers, to experts.

You can also participate in one of the organized GBBC events sponsored by the Albuquerque Botanical Gardens where CNMAS will be leading walks:

- Saturday, Feb. 16 – Judy Liddell will be leading a walk in the bosque starting at Tingley Beach at 9 am.
- Sunday, Feb. 17 – Bill Aragon, the garden's Curator, will be leading a walk within the Botanical Gardens starting a 8 am. Pre-registration is required – 848-7180.



## The 15th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form

- o Feb. 21 – Jonathan Schmitt  
"Vermilion Flycatchers" \$6
- o Mar. 21 – Dwayne Longenbaugh  
"Wonders of Brazil: The Spectacular Wildlife  
of an Amazing Country" \$6
- o Apr. 18 – Carol Beidleman  
"Conserving Migratory Birds through International  
Partnerships: A Full Life-Cycle Approach" \$6
- o Become a NEW Audubon member and get  
the Birding Academy classes for FREE \$20

NAS chapter code C1ZQ510Z • Source code 79M7

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

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

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

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

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

**o I want to get the Burrowing Owl via the web**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW** member checks (exclusively) make payable to  
**National Audubon Society.**

If you're **not** a NEW member, make it payable to **CNMAS.**

**Everybody send your check to: CNMAS Birding Academy,  
P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002  
CNMAS ABA 2013**



## AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

### 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.

### FEBRUARY 28

Hike up Embudo Canyon with Rebecca Gracey: 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the trailhead 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.

### MARCH 7

Visit the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot. There is a \$3 parking 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 one-mile walk will end before noon.

### MARCH 14

Bosque del Apache NWR with Rebecca Gracey: maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com, 505-242-3821. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the back parking lot of the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson, just west of University Blvd. Very little walking is involved, as the group will view the refuge mainly by car. Bring lunch. A \$5 entrance fee or Federal pass is required per car. The group will return in the late afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

### MARCH 21

Visit the Durand Open Space in the South Valley with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet in the open space parking lot at 4736 Isleta SW. From I-25, exit on Rio Bravo. Drive west on Rio Bravo and turn south onto Isleta Boulevard. Drive two miles to the property on the east. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

### MARCH 28

Walk the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in the open space parking lot. To reach the area, turn east from Coors Boulevard between Montano Road on the south and Paseo del Norte on the north. The walk will be about 1.5 miles in length and will end before noon.

### APRIL 4

Walk in the Willow Creek Bosque that is part of the Rio Rancho Bosque Open Space with Lannois Neely: lfnely@aol.com, 505-890-7881. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Willow Creek Bosque parking lot. For people not living on the west side of the river, go north on I-25, take the exit to Bernalillo and US 550. Drive west on US 550 to the traffic light where the highway intersects with NM 528. Turn south for 1.8 miles. Turn east at the traffic light on Willow Creek Road. Drive 0.1 mile, take the road on the left, and drive 0.2 miles further to the bosque parking lot. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

### APRIL 11

Walk in the Corrales bosque with Judy Liddell: jliddell@msn.com, 505-271-0912. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the shopping area north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of NM 448/Coors/Corrales Road. McDonald's is on the south side of NM 528 and the parking area is directly north of McDonald's across NM 528. People should park away from the businesses there. The group will carpool from there to the bosque. Join the group for lunch after the walk at Village Pizza in Corrales.

### APRIL 18

Walk in the Alameda Open Space with Kathleen Rhoad: 505-225-9747, kathleen.rhoad@gmail.com. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard, just east of the Rio Grande River. The group will also look for birds in the Bachechi Open Space located nearby where Kathleen was a volunteer in the arboretum. The one-mile walk will end before noon.



### APRIL 25

Walk in Otero Canyon with Ashli and Larry Gorbet: antelope916@hotmail.com, 505-301-2294. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the Sandia Ranger Station on NM 337 in Tijeras. Ashli and Larry have spent the last three years studying the breeding biology of Black-throated Gray Warblers there. The Black-throated Gray Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Gray Flycatcher, and Plumbeous Vireo will be target species on the fairly easy two-mile walk along the bottom of the canyon. Bring water. The only bathroom accommodations will be at the Ranger Station. The walk will end before noon.

### MAY 2

Travel to the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe with Barbara Hussey; brhussey@flash.net, 505-385-1165. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the center of the parking lot in the Far North Shopping Center located east of San Mateo and north of Academy. If you live north of Albuquerque make arrangements with Barbara to meet the group elsewhere. 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 the mid afternoon.

### MAY 9 & 10

## **Thursday Birders BIRDATHON!**

See page 2 for details.



## MAY 16

Hike Embudito Canyon with Donna Royer: 505-869-6882, dlroyer@earthlink.net.

Meet at 8:00 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 of a mile then turn right on Trailhead Road. Drive to the parking lot. This is an easy 1.5 mile walk ending before noon.

## MAY 23

Visit Carlito Springs, a Bernalillo County Open Space, with Robert Munro: robert.munro@earthlink.net, 505-730-7762.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure in Tijeras, NM, in the Senior Center parking lot, adjacent to the Tijeras library. To reach the Senior Center, turn north from NM 333/Route 66 on Tijeras Avenue to reach the parking lot. We will carpool from there since there is limited parking at Carlito Springs. It is located beyond a locked gate. To gain entrance to the area the group will be accompanied by an employee of the Bernalillo County Open Space. The Open Space office requests that closed-toed shoes and long pants be worn because of Poison Ivy in the area. The trip will end before noon.

## MAY 30

Travel to the Belen Marsh in Belen, NM, and the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Linda Heinze: 505-565-1441, manzanogal@gamil.com. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson and University or 8:00 at the Belen Marsh. To reach the marsh, take the first Belen exit from I-25, Exit 195. Drive east one mile, turn south, and park behind the Taco Bell. Then the group will visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area on NM 47. The group will have lunch in Belen at Pete's Café at 105 North 1st Street, off Reinken Avenue. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

## THURSDAY BIRDER TRIP REPORTS

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)

**Find CNMAS on Facebook and visit our beautiful website!**



[cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)

## 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 February, 8:30am in March and April, 8:00am May - August. 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.

NM Rare Bird Alert [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)

Rare Bird Alert for all states [www.birdingonthe.net](http://www.birdingonthe.net)

To report NM rare birds contact Matt Baumann at [mb687@yahoo.com](mailto:mb687@yahoo.com), 505-264-1052

## CNMAS Weekend Field Trips

## Cochiti Lake – April 6

Meet at 8 am in the Far North Shopping Center (Academy and San Mateo) north of McDonalds to explore the Cochiti Lake area with Judy Liddell. Those planning to attend from further north can meet at the service station at the Santo Domingo exit (please contact Judy to let her know). The Osprey should have arrived at their nesting platform along NM-22. Eared Grebe and Red-breasted Merganser are often seen in early April, and Bonaparte's and Franklin's Gulls are possible in the flocks of Ring-billed Gulls. Bring lunch, or purchase something at the Cochiti Golf Course. This will be a leisurely trip. We will return to Albuquerque by mid-afternoon. Judy Liddell, [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com), (505)271-0912.

## Flycatchers, Shorebirds, and Prairie –Chickens, OH MY!

Raymond VanBuskirk and Jason Kitting will be leading a weekend trip to the southeastern plains of New Mexico from April 12th through the 14th. Rattlesnake Springs, Brantley and Avalon Lakes, Tatum Sewage Ponds, and Melrose Trap are among the many places we plan to bird on this trip. We will also be visiting an active lek near Roswell for some up close and personal looks at Prairie-Chickens! Targets for the trip (besides Prairie-Chickens of course) will be Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Snowy Plover, Least Tern, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and as many migrants as we can get our bins on!

The leaders will be leaving on Friday (4/12) at noon from the Four Hills Shopping Center (Central and Tramway). Participants are encouraged to meet the leaders there at 11:45 am for carpooling. We plan to bird Bitter Lake NWR and have dinner in Roswell on our way down. We will spend Friday night in Carlsbad, and start birding Saturday morning at Rattlesnake Springs south of Carlsbad around 7:30 am. From there we will make our way to Roswell where we will be staying on Saturday night. Sunday morning we will start very early at a nearby Prairie-Chicken lek and from there we will bird our way back towards Albuquerque, arriving home sometime early Sunday Evening.

Anyone not able to carpool on Friday is encouraged to call and meet up with the group anywhere along the way. Contact the leaders for times and locations to meet up.

Please contact one of the leaders for more info and to RSVP  
Raymond VanBuskirk (505) 217-8514, [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com) or  
Jason Kitting (505) 379-6075, [jrkitting@yahoo.com](mailto:jrkitting@yahoo.com)



**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.*



## Scat! Git!

By Sara Jayne Cole and Mikal Deese

"Cats Indoors" Coordinators of CNMAS Conservation Committee

Are you one of those property owners who does not like to have your neighbor's free-roaming cat visit your yard? Me, too. When my neighbor's cat comes into my yard to leave its "present" or to do its hunting, it's violating not just my yard, but City Ordinance as well. My tiny yard is fenced, with a birdbath and bird feeders. I've tried everything from squirt guns to cat repellent sold at pet stores, to putting orange peel along the fence, planting lavender, and then even extending the fence -- all to watch the cats find another way. Asking the neighbor to keep the cat out of my yard does no good.

Cats injured 80% of the injured wildlife brought in to wildlife rescue services. These wild creatures seldom survive the damage done by the cat. Even well-fed cats will hunt. And putting a bell or other devices on the cat does not deter the instinct. We no longer fear attack by packs of dogs because we have insisted that dog owners observe leash laws. Responsible dog owners use dog parks and scoop poop when they walk their dogs. But cat owners often just open the door, leaving their pets to fend for themselves against cars, disease, parasites, catfights, and me. Cats can safely enjoy the outdoors if owners build enclosed outdoor spaces. Plans are available from Safe Cat Outdoor Enclosure <http://www.just4cats.com/>. Modular units are available from Cats on Deck [www.catsondeck.com](http://www.catsondeck.com) or Cats On Line [www.cats-on-line.com](http://www.cats-on-line.com). Kitty Walk System, Inc. [www.kittywalksystems.com](http://www.kittywalksystems.com) has pre-assembled enclosures. Purrfect Fence [www.PurrfectFence.com](http://www.PurrfectFence.com) offers a freestanding cat fence system, used to "cat proof" existing fences.

Cat owners -- my neighbor, your neighbor -- seem unaware of the Albuquerque City Ordinance, #9-2-2-2.

A) Leash Law: All owned animals must be restricted at all times by either a secure fence, a secure facility, a secure enclosure, secured in the back of a pickup, inside a vehicle with proper ventilation, or be on a leash no longer than 8 ft long accompanied by a person able to control the animal.

B) An At Large Animal shall be seized and impounded if the owner is not available or if the owner continues to intentionally allow his or her Animal to be at Large.

C) No person shall allow an animal to defecate upon public property or upon any private property other than the owner's without thoroughly removing and disposing of the feces.

What can you do? You might suggest to your councilman that cat owners receive the leash law city ordinance when applying for their cat's annual license. At your homeowners association meeting, ask that your neighborhood become a "Cat Indoors" neighborhood. Ask the Humane Society to instruct cat adopters about responsible ownership and the City Ordinance. And speak with your neighbors! We have the right to enjoy our homes (and our wild birds) without domestic predators.

Sara Jayne Cole ([saracole6813@comcast.net](mailto:saracole6813@comcast.net)) and Mikal Deese ([mikaldeese@aol.com](mailto:mikaldeese@aol.com)) are working together on the "Cat Indoors" Campaign. For more information about this important conservation project contact them or go to [www.abcbirds.org/cats](http://www.abcbirds.org/cats) or <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>



## Conservation Committee Work Day Report

On December 8th, 2012 CNMAS hosted a work day at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park to pull weeds from the newly planted native grass plot as part of an effort to restore native habitat to this beloved state park. The day was hugely successful with 20 people showing up to help out, who managed to weed the entire plot in about two hours! A big thank you to everyone who came out to lend a hand:

Steve Cox, Alex Kolberg, Andy Bankert, Jason Kitting, Bill Talbot, Bev Prime, Lou Prime, Raymond VanBuskirk, Michael Hilchey, Robert Munro, and a special thanks to Lynn Schuler and her middle school class from Washington Middle School.

## A Warm Rosy Welcome

All of us at Central New Mexico join in extending warm welcome and thank-you chorus to Alan Mickelson for volunteering to help keep the feeders filled at the Sandia Crest. It is such a help and another anchoring thread in the exquisite figurative weaving that this project has become. We also extend appreciation to Fran Lusso and Dave Weaver for their past years of service. They stepped in when Ken and Mary Lou Schneider moved to Florida in 2004. With dedication and sacrifice, Fran and Dave drove up to the Crest over 100 times in all kinds of weather, at their own expense and without asking for anything in return except to enhance the experience of the thousands of visitors who have been inspired by the sight and the story of the colorful and hardy little finches, juncos, jays, nuthatches, squirrels and chipmunks that visit the feeders. We think about all the people who have been brought to a greater understanding and appreciation of nature through this experience, and we welcome you as the newest member of the team whose service continues to this day.

**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.**



**!!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 sponsored by New Mexico Ornithological Society and CNMAS  
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 & Janet Ruth, NMOS;  
Beth Hurst-Waitz, CNMAS; Robert Munro, CNMAS and O'Niell's

**Whom to Contact**

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(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)  
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11776 Highway 337  
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(575) 838-2120  
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(575) 835-1828  
[www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)  
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park  
(505) 344-7240  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html)  
Friends of RGNC  
[friends@rgnc.org](mailto:friends@rgnc.org), [www.rgnc.org](http://www.rgnc.org)  
**Wildlife Rescue** (505)344-2500  
<http://www.wrinm.org/>

**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-



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Form For **New National Members Only**



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

- \$20 New Member, *special introductory rate for one year.*
- \$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.

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

- \$15.00 (Check delivery choice above.)

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*Muchísimas gracias to Melissa Howard and Beth Hurst-Waitz for their superb proofreading skills! I am solely responsible for any errors that remain. - Editor*

**Burrowing Owl Deadline**

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

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

We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.



photo by Laurel Ladwig

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

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#### New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

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

#### Rosy-Finch Project

Alan Mickelson (505)281-3471 [gonefishin820@earthlink.net](mailto:gonefishin820@earthlink.net)  
<http://www.rosyfinch.com/>

#### Wildlife Rescue

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