

# Burrowing Owl

## Central New Mexico



## Audubon Society

December 2013- February 2014 Vol. 43, 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.**

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

### JOIN A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT NEAR YOU!

The 114th Christmas Bird Count will take place from December 14, 2013, through January 5, 2014 -- and it's FREE! 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!

#### Bosque del Apache NWR Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 14th

Dave Hawksworth, (505) 507-5343, [davehawk1@msn.com](mailto:davehawk1@msn.com)

Meet at the refuge headquarters at 7:00 a.m.

#### Albuquerque Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 15

Contact our compiler, Raymond VanBuskirk, at [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com) or by phone at (505) 217-8514 to help out!

#### Five Points Christmas Bird Count

Tuesday, December 17

Steve Cox, (505) 345-2385, [swcox@spinn.net](mailto:swcox@spinn.net)

Meet at Sevilleta NWR Headquarters at 6:30 a.m.

#### Sevilleta Christmas Bird Count

Friday, December 20

Steve Cox, (505) 345-2385, [swcox@spinn.net](mailto:swcox@spinn.net)

Meet at Sevilleta NWR Headquarters at 6:30 a.m.

#### New! Valle de Oro NWR Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 21

Compiler: Jennifer Owen-White

To RSVP send an email to:

[jennifer\\_owenwhite@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_owenwhite@fws.gov) or call (505) 933-2708



### Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, December 26

Rebecca Gracey (505) 242-3821, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com) (count organizer) and Nick Pederson (505) 417-8665 [ndpederson83@gmail.com](mailto:ndpederson83@gmail.com) (data compiler). Meet north of Albertson's in the Four Hills Shopping Village 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. If you live within the Sandia count circle, and have bird feeders, we are interested in having feeder watchers for the count. Please contact Nick or Rebecca to determine if your property is within the circle.

**For statewide and expanded information, check these websites:**

[www.rioembudobirds.org/nmcbc/](http://www.rioembudobirds.org/nmcbc/) # [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)  
[zcnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://zcnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org) # [www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org)

### Looking for a volunteer!

Can you give CNMAS a shout-out? Do you have a couple of hours a month to spare? We are looking for a volunteer to help publicize Central New Mexico Audubon programs and events through local physical and online media outlets. You don't have to start from scratch, just be willing to promote our fabulous programs. If you have an interest or question, please contact Adrienne at [birdinginfo@gmail.com](mailto:birdinginfo@gmail.com)

### NEW MEETING PLACE

CNMAS is now holding our program meetings in the Community Room at the Adelante Development Center, 3900 Osuna Road NE. The meeting room is accessed right off of their paved and well-lighted parking lot along Osuna. Come early for refreshments at 7:00 p.m., announcements and program at 7:15 p.m.



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## From our president:

### What's in a newsletter?

Paper, Ink, Postage and Money. Our Burrowing Owl is published 4 times a year and it is the single most expensive item in our chapter's budget. But more than this, it is the single most wasteful item in our chapter's behavior. We are shepherds of our environment and the wildlife that inhabit it, yet we are still producing a paper newsletter rather than embracing the many methods available to us to communicate our message today. E-NEWS is what we should be striving for! We should be producing the Burrowing Owl without paper and without ink and without the huge costs this small chapter must squeeze out of its budget. It is the digital age and CNMAS needs to join it to remain a viable and cost-effective chapter. The thousands of dollars we now spend annually on our newsletter could be earmarked for EVEN MORE conservation work, MORE student and teacher grants, and MORE awards for youth Science Fair winners – winners who are the future of global conservation and wildlife education. Our chapter is involved in many important conservation and education projects already, just imagine what we could do if we no longer had outrageous printing costs – think of the work we could do and the young lives we could touch.

The Rio Grande Nature Center (RGNC) is probably one of the most well-known birding spots in Albuquerque. It's the perfect place to slip away from the busy work week to get that "birding fix" we all need so badly, and more than that it is an Important Bird Area and an environmental education center for kids. But did you know that the RGNC, and adjacent Candelaria Wetlands, is the site for an important project that is restoring native grasses and other vegetation to the middle Rio Grande Valley? And did you know that the money for this project is coming from us at CNMAS? We have big plans to restore all of the vegetation around this Important Bird Area and to create a shorebird pond that is accessible to the public, but these projects require money. If we were able to convert most of our membership to E-NEWS we would have extra money in our budget to help make these ideas become reality.

However, CNMAS' dollars aren't just helping to restore habitat in the Albuquerque area. We are teaming up with the NM State Land Office and a private cattle grazer to take charge of restoring and re-vegetating the Melrose Migrant Trap in eastern NM. The Trap is one of the most important stop-over sites in NM for migratory songbirds and we will need dollars to make this vision a reality – some of those dollars can come from our budget simply by reducing our use of paper in our newsletter project. These are but two of the major projects CNMAS is working on that could use additional funding. Now, you might be asking yourself how I will get my Burrowing Owl if we don't print it and mail it to you. Well, it's digital! You can receive the whole newsletter and additional bonus pages ONLINE with the click of a button! Our digital version of the Owl is expanded to as many pages as we want because it doesn't cost more to produce more pages, more information, and more fun for our members in the digital news. It's a win-win! All you need to do is tell us at the next CNMAS program you attend that you want to change to E-News, or you can e-mail Raymond VanBuskirk at

CNMAPresident@gmail.com and tell him to make the change for you. It's that simple! And, if you really need to have a printed copy, go ahead and print your copy out at home. It looks just as good as if we did it ourselves and you can print it in color!

What if you don't have a computer? Well, we realize that everyone doesn't have a computer, even today in this electronic age. Do not worry. We will assure you a paper copy of the e-news in your mail if you have no other way to get the Owl. We definitely don't want to exclude you, or for you to miss out on important news from CNMAS. You, our membership, matter to us! All you need to do is to let us know that this is what you need. Let's each do our part to save the planet, support the chapter and help redirect money to important chapter conservation and education goals. Go Digital!

Cheers and Good Birding,  
Raymond VanBuskirk  
CNMAS President



## Winter Program Thursday, January 16 - 7pm

### *The Last Frontier*

#### Raymond VanBuskirk

Imagine living on a 165-foot crab boat, on top of the earth, in a world blanketed by fog and marked by restless seas; where the sun seldom sets, and where sea water is sculpted by the climate into floating statues of ice. An unforgiving world where birds rule the skies, bears rule the ice, and whales rule the sea. Join CNMAS President, Raymond VanBuskirk, as he recounts this past summer counting seabirds on a boat above the Arctic Circle. He will take us to a world mostly unknown to humans, where he will relive his encounters with muskoxen, polar bears, killer whales, walruses, and, of course, birds.

## 16th Annual Birding Academy

### Birding 101: Back to the Basics

February 20 - Christopher Rustay

#### The Basics of Bird Identification

– for Beginning and Intermediate Birders

This talk will focus on techniques that beginning birders should employ to help with identification, and should help intermediate birders improve their skills. Many people believe that all there is to bird identification is looking at the bird with binoculars and checking your guide book. Easy, right? As many who have started down that path know, it isn't always that simple. This will be the first lecture – in a series of three – intended to highlight some key elements of bird identification that are employed by all good birders. We will explore areas such as plumage, structure, range map use, and behavior, as well as look at some of the essential pieces of birding equipment.



(16 Annual Birding Academy, continued...)

### March 20 - Cole Wolf

#### Where to Go – New Mexico's Top 25 Birding Hotspots

Details in the Digital Edition of the Burrowing Owl...

### April 17 - Birding by Ear – How to Learn the Nuances of Bird Songs and Calls

Details in the Spring Issue of the Burrowing Owl...

### Birding Academy Registration Form on page 7

## Cats Indoors!

CNMAS is working to reduce the impact of free-roaming cats on wildlife. Cats Indoors Committee believes that first we must become a nation of people who care for their companion cats indoors so they do not contribute to the ever growing feral cat population. Albuquerque Animal Welfare & CNMAS want companion cats kept safe at home! The City's Heart Ordinance ask owners of cats to keep the cat confined to their property at all times, either indoors or inside a secure fence. The simplest way to keep your cat safe at home is to keep the cat indoors. There are many reasons cats should be kept safe at home indoors. The behavior that makes cats so much fun as pets, the playful kitten-like behavior, is retained by cats that are kept indoors. Cats that roam free encounter many dangers like cars, angry neighbors or hungry coyotes. Cats that roam free can also bring home diseases like plague and Hanta Virus, both carried by fleas that live on rodents. The Cats Indoors Committee has found one way to reduce free-roaming cats is to educate people about cat care and the City Ordinance. We looked at the challenge the city faced in enforcing the Ordinance: even with a "Spay, Neuter & Microchip" program they are still confronted with cat overpopulation and cat abandonment. The Committee has produced two educational brochures about companion cat care which they are donating to the City for their adoption program and for Animal Control Officers. Both brochures use information from the Humane Society of the U.S. and the American Bird Conservancy about cats, with links to cat-proof fencing and cat enclosures. These brochures offer solutions for cat owners who want to bring their cat in, underscoring what is most important, which is to spend time with the cat. If any CNMAS member would like a copy of these educational brochures to share, please contact [cats\\_birds\\_wildlife@yahoo.com](mailto:cats_birds_wildlife@yahoo.com) for the PDF. Together we can change attitudes about domestic cats.

## Great Backyard Bird Count 2014

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the birds! The 2014 GBBC will take place Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17. Please join us for the 17th annual count!

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are.

Visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc> to register and see page 12 of the digital edition for more details and a printable poster.

## 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 2014).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*



## AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE Winter 2013 – 2014

TO CHECK FOR POSSIBLE TRIP CANCELLATIONS DUE TO BAD WEATHER, go to the Audubon website: [www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas](http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas). Click on FIELD TRIPS, then go to THURSDAY BIRDERS.

DECEMBER 5 - Hike in the Manzano/Four Hills Open Space with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com), followed by a holiday potluck at the home of Cindy and Joe Harris. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trailhead at the end of Stagecoach Road on the east side of the Four Hills Community for an easy one-mile walk. To reach the area drive one block east of Tramway on Central, turn south on Four Hills Drive, then proceed east and south on Stagecoach until it ends at the Open Space. After the walk the group will attend the potluck. Soup, coffee and tea will be provided. Everyone else should bring other dishes and beverages 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 12 - Hike the Ellis Trailhead followed by a drive to the Crest to view the Rosy-Finches in the Sandia Mountains with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, [lfneely@aol.com](mailto:lfneely@aol.com). Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the parking lot on the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Village located on the south side of Central Avenue between Tramway and Juan Tabo. The group will carpool to the Sandia Mountains. After walking about a mile on the Ellis Trail the group will drive to the Crest House for lunch and viewing of the Rosy-Finches as they come to the feeders. A \$3 parking fee or Federal pass is required per car. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3 at five cents per mile. The trip will end in the early afternoon.



DECEMBER 19 - Visit Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com). This 570-acre area is the Price's Dairy property that was recently made an urban refuge. To carpool meet behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson SE, just west of University Boulevard at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure. The refuge is about 4 miles south of Rio Bravo SW on 2nd Street just south of Lagunitas Lane. The group will drive down the roads of the refuge with many stops along the way. The trip will end before noon.

DECEMBER 26 - Participate in the Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com). Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Four Hills Shopping Village on the south side of Central between Tramway and Juan Tabo in the parking lot near Albertson's. Notice that this parking lot is east of the usual meeting place for the Thursday Birders. Everyone participating will do little walking since the areas being covered are the east mountain communities north and south of I-40, and will be accessed by car with many stops along the way. Spotting scopes are welcome, and bring lunch since the group will be counting birds until 2:00 p.m. Meet back at O'Niell's Irish Pub located at 3301 Juan Tabo NE, north of Candelaria, at 5:00 p.m. for the compilation party where one may purchase dinner. The event will end around 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY 2- Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Joe Schelling: 505-797-9018, [joeschelling@q.com](mailto:joeschelling@q.com). Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Tingley Ponds main parking lot. Drive west on Central Avenue past Rio Grande Boulevard, then turn left on Tingley Drive. Take the first turn to the parking lot and park near the concession stand. The walk will end before noon.

JANUARY 9 - Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Torrance County with Bonnie Long: 379-1985, [cantrade\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:cantrade_1@yahoo.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot on the west side of the Tijeras Senior Center on NM 333/ Rt. 66. To reach the parking area turn north on Tijeras Avenue, just west of the Tijeras Library. The group will drive south of Moriarty and Estancia to look for raptors. Lunch will be at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Tijeras in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 16 - Walk in one area of the Corrales bosque with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, [rpurvis3@yahoo.com](mailto:rpurvis3@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the shopping center located north of Alameda Blvd./NM 528 and east of NM 448/Coors/Corrales Road. The parking area is across Alameda Blvd. from McDonald's on the south. The exact bosque area to be explored will be determined later. The group will have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

JANUARY 23 - Visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen with Linda Heinze: 505-565-1441, [manzanogal@gmail.com](mailto: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 the new location of Rutilio's Mexican Food in Los Lunas near the intersection of NM 47 with NM 6. The trip should end mid afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 30 - Visit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on University and Gibson or 9:15 a.m. at the McDonald's in Socorro. 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.

FEBRUARY 6 - Hike Embudo Canyon in the foothills of the Sandias with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, [brhussey@flash.net](mailto:brhussey@flash.net). Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the trailhead, located at the east end of Indian School Road NE. It will be an easy one-and-a-half mile walk ending before noon.

FEBRUARY 13 - Walk the perimeter of Los Poblanos Fields Open Space with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, [wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com](mailto:wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:57 a.m. in the open space parking lot. To reach the fields turn north on Tierra Viva, east of the Rio Grande River, from either west or east bound Montano. There will be a sign for Rio Grande Community Farms. It will be an easy one-mile walk ending before noon.

FEBRUARY 20 - Walk in the Alameda Open Space with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, [moemackey@comcast.net](mailto:moemackey@comcast.net). Meet at 9:00



a.m. in the Open Space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard. The lot is directly east of the Rio Grande River and west of the traffic light at Alameda and Rio Grande Boulevards. FEBRUARY 27 - Hike up Embudito Canyon in the foothills of the Sandias with Donna Royer: 505-869-6882, droyer@earthlink.net. 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.

#### 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)

Lou Feltz's photographs: [www.flickr.com/photos/lvfeltz](http://www.flickr.com/photos/lvfeltz)

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

**eBird** To find where reported bird species have been sighted, go to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org). Click on 'Explore Data', then 'Range and Point Maps', and type in the species name and general location. To obtain current information on eBird Hotspot sightings, use Hotspot Explorer on the Explore Data tab and enter the name of the Hotspot. Or, use the Find Nearby Hotspots on the BirdsEye app.

## 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 8:30 a.m. all year. 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.



## 2014 Winter Bird and Bat Festival

On January 11, 2014, 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).

Email Beth, [brave\\_e@juno.com](mailto:brave_e@juno.com), to sign up for a fun 1- or 2-hour volunteer shift with CNMAS in the pond room.

Check page ten of the Burrowing Owl digital edition or [www.rngc.org](http://www.rngc.org) for more details!

## SAVE THE DATE! NMOS 2014 Annual Meeting

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society will be held on April 26, 2014, at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn in Albuquerque. As they become available, details will be posted on the NMOS website: [www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)

## Central New Mexico Audubon Weekend Field Trips

### Saturday, January 11: Sandia Crest

Leader: Jason Kitting, [jrkitting@yahoo.com](mailto:jrkitting@yahoo.com)

Meet in front of the Einsteins on Tramway and Central at 8:30am. We'll spend the morning up at the Sandia Crest looking at all three species of Rosy-Finches and enjoy some coffee and snacks at the Crest House. After a nice Rosy show we can head out to the trails and look for other mountain birds such as American Three-toed Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker. The walk will end by noon.

### Saturday, January 18th: Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Jim Mosley, [ff1964@msn.com](mailto:ff1964@msn.com)

This trip will be a half day and will focus on winter specialities: Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawk and Northern Shrike. We will meet at the Maxwell Visitor center at 8am. Dress for moderate to frigidly cold weather. Bring water and snacks (the trip leader especially likes Brownies.)

### Saturday, February 1: Bosque del Apache NWR

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



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

### Feb. 22 – Ohkay Owingeh Fishing Lakes

Join Judy Liddell ([jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com)) to explore the fishing lakes and Rio Grande at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. This area attracts a wide range of waterfowl during the winter, including mergansers, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye, as well as often attracts rarities. Meet to carpool at 7:30 am in the Far North Shopping Center (northwest corner of San Mateo and Academy) in the lot north of Weinerschnitzel. Bring lunch. The normal \$10/ car fee will probably be waived.



Common Goldeneye - Laurel Ladwig

**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.



## CNMAS Education Grant Report- Friends of Whitfield

by Molly Madden

Education Coordinator, Friends of Whitfield

I have forwarded this article to illustrate our use of the \$239.40

grant we received last spring. We did not receive the Sibley's guides in time to use them during the 2012-2013 school year, but with the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the guides are in use. As my grant application stated, we use Sibley's *Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* in 4th grade classrooms in which students measure their wing span, and based on that measurement, study a bird with identical wing span. Students learn a lot about their birds, including where the birds live each season and whether they are likely to see their birds when they visit Whitfield. Students become very engaged with the Sibley guides and are always disappointed when we collect them to use with the next class. So our CNMAS grant allowed us to purchase an additional set of 10 Sibley's which we can now leave with the teacher to use in the classroom for a week after our visit. This photo shows the first class this year enjoying the Sibley guides at Central Elementary in Belen, NM.



## Belen Marsh Clean-Up Day

On Saturday, October 19th the Belen Marsh Committee had our largest number of volunteers to date come out to help us clean the Don Felipe Road in Belen. The road runs parallel to the Belen Marsh. Over 30 bags of trash were collected. Our volunteers also found a porcelain toilet and a dollar bill. The next Belen Marsh road clean-up will take place in April. Currently, plans are to clean Don Felipe Road twice a year during the months of October and April. We had four children participate with their parents. It's a great way to give back to the community and to beautify the area that surrounds the marsh. The weather was beautiful and it was a pleasure to hear the wading ducks quack as we cleaned. If you have any questions about future Belen Marsh activities please call Eileen Beaulieu. She may be reached at (505) 249-7929.



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.

## Sandia Crest Rosy-Finch Banding Schedule Winter 2013/2014

Banding will be on Sundays from 10:00am to 2:00pm



Traps are set on the deck and banding is conducted in the apartment underneath the restaurant at the Sandia Crest House. Please email us at [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com) with questions.

*\*Note that the Sandia Crest House is not the same as the Sandia Crest Tram. Access to the Crest House is via the Crest Road not by the tram!*

November 24th

December - 1st, 8th, 22nd

January - 5th (Tentative, Pending Permits),

12th (Tentative, Pending Permits), 19th, 26th

February- 2nd, 9th, 16th (Tentative), 23rd

March, 2nd (Tentative), 9th, 16th,

23rd (Tentative), 30th (Tentative)

*See page nine of the Burrowing Owl digital edition for more Crest House information and banding observation opportunities!*

## Whom to Contact

National Audubon Society  
Membership Hotline (800) 274-4201,  
[chadd@audubon.org](mailto:chadd@audubon.org)  
Activist Hotline (800) 659-2622  
Audubon Take Action  
[www.audubonaction.org/audubon/](http://www.audubonaction.org/audubon/)  
New Mexico Audubon Office  
Randall Davey Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 9314 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 983-4609 <http://nm.audubon.org>  
[newmexico@audubon.org](mailto:newmexico@audubon.org)  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
(202) 456-1111  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
(202) 208-3100, [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)  
Senator Tom Udall  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
505-346-6791 [tomudall.senate.gov](http://tomudall.senate.gov)  
Senator Martin Heinrich  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone Number: (202) 224-5521  
<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov>  
Congressman Steve Pearce  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) (202) 224-3121

Congressman Ben R. Lujan  
(202) 225-6190  
Congressman Michelle Lujan Grisham  
[lujangrisham.house.gov](http://lujangrisham.house.gov)  
Governor Susana Martinez  
State Capitol, Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505) 476-2200  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
500 Gold Avenue, SW, ABQ, NM  
87102 External Affairs Office  
(505) 248-6911  
New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish  
P.O. Box 25112 Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505)476-8000  
[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)  
Sandia Ranger District  
US Forest Service  
11776 Highway 337  
Tijeras, NM 87059 (505) 281-3304  
Bosque del Apache NWR  
(575) 838-2120  
Friends of the Bosque del Apache  
(575) 835-1828  
[www.friendsofthebosque.org](http://www.friendsofthebosque.org)  
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park  
(505) 344-7240  
[www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/riograndenaturecenterstatepark.html)  
Friends of RGNC  
[friendsofrgnc.org](http://friendsofrgnc.org), [www.rgnc.org](http://www.rgnc.org)  
Wildlife Rescue (505)344-2500  
<http://www.wrinm.org/>



### The 16th Annual Audubon Birding Academy

*Birding 101: Back to the Basics*

#### Registration Form

- o February 20 - Christopher Rustay \$6  
The Basics of Bird Identification  
– for Beginning and Intermediate Birders
- o March 20 - Cole Wolf \$6  
Where to Go – NM's Top 25 Birding Hotspots
- o April 17 - Birding by Ear – How to Learn the \$6  
Nuances of Bird Songs and Calls
- o Become a NEW Audubon member and get \$20  
the Birding Academy classes for FREE

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 2014**

### !!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; Raymond Van-Buskirk, CNMAS; Robert Munro, CNMAS and O'Niell's

### 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-Fridays 8a.m.-9p.m., Saturdays 9a.m.-6p.m. EST) through PCD.



#### 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.**

*Thanks to the Typo Wranglers, Beth Hurst-Waitz and Melissa Howard, from the Production Wrangler. Any errors that remain are my own.*

### Silhouette Challenge!

Email the name of the genus in silhouette on page 4 to [BUROWLnm@gmail.com](mailto:BUROWLnm@gmail.com) by February 5, 2013. Winners announced in the Spring issue!



Congratulations go to Gale Owings for correctly identifying last issue's silhouette as a Brown Creeper!



### Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in the Spring 2014 issue of the *Burrowing Owl* must be received by February 5, 2014.

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



*photo by Laurel Ladwig*

## Central New Mexico Audubon Society

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

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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."*

### CNMAS DIRECTORY

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#### MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)

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#### NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL

President - Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com)

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

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

#### New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

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

#### 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



**Welcome to the digital edition of the Burrowing Owl with extra pages of content and a printable poster of upcoming CNMAS programs.**

**Digital Extras**

*Rio Grande State Park Festival*

*page 10*

*Christmas Bird Count poster*

*Page 13*

*National Wildlife Refuge economic impact*

*page 11-12*

*CNMA Fall Program poster*

*last page*

## Sandia Crest Rosy-Finch Banding Schedule Winter 2013/2014

Banding will be on Sundays from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Traps are set on the deck and banding is conducted in the apartment underneath the restaurant at the Sandia Crest House. Please email us at [newmexicobirder@gmail.com](mailto:newmexicobirder@gmail.com) with questions.

\*Note that the Sandia Crest House is not the same as the Sandia Crest Tram. Access to the Crest House is via the Crest Road not by the tram!

December - 1st, 8th, 22nd

January - 5th (Tentative, Pending Permits), 12th (Tentative, Pending Permits), 19th, 26th

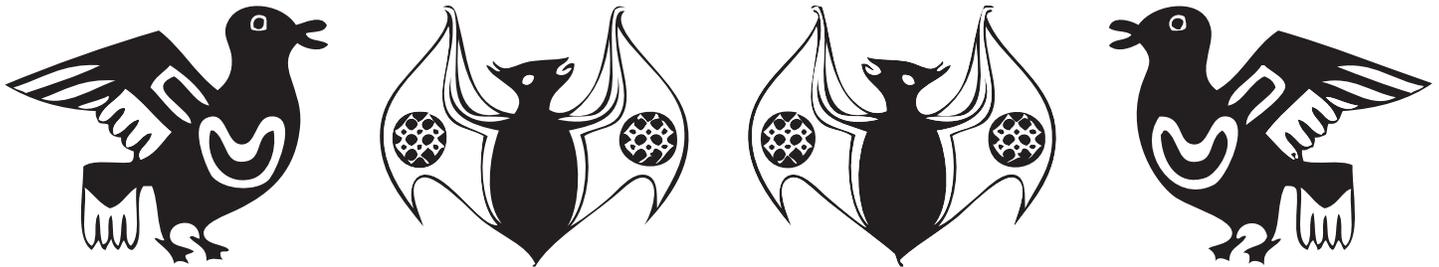
February- 2nd, 9th, 16th (Tentative), 23rd

March, 2nd (Tentative), 9th, 16th, 23rd (Tentative), 30th (Tentative)

For directions to the Crest House and more information about birding in the Sandias, visit:  
<http://rosyfinch.com/sandia.html>

Also, 'Like' the *Sandia Rosy-Finch Project* and *Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc.* on FaceBook for banding updates.





# Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Bird & Bat Festival January 11, 2014

## Schedule of events:

Saturday, January 11

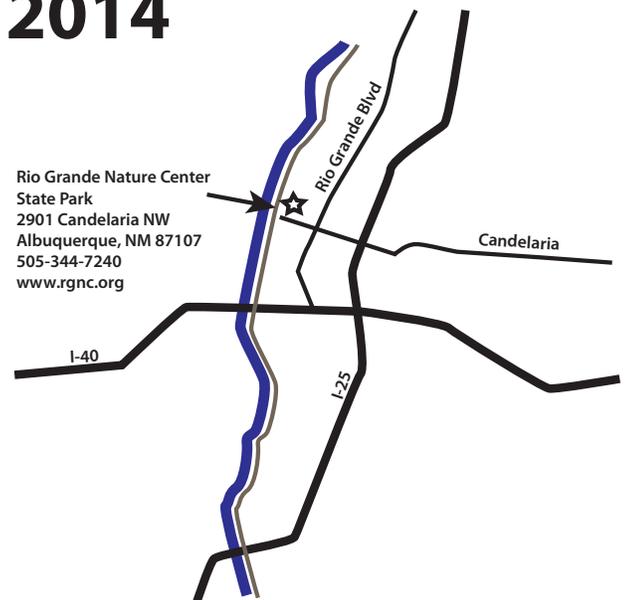
- 8:30am and 9:00am Guided Bird Walks
- 10:00am Guided Nature Walk
- 10:00am – 4:00pm Observation Room
- Bird identification with Central New Mexico Audubon
- 10:00am – 4:00pm Bosque Bits Table
- 10:00am – 4:00pm Children's Activities
- 10:00am – 4:00pm Live Birds with Wildlife Rescue

## Speakers and Presentations\*\*:

- 11:00am Michael Hilchey "Rosy Finches of the Sandias"
- 12:15pm—2:00pm Bosque School Poster "Bat ID by Echolocation"
- 12:30pm William Gannon "Nuts and Bolts of Being a Bat"
- 2:00pm Jerry Goffe "Painting the Wonders of Creation with a Camera"

\*\*Presentations held in the Education Building

presented by the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center  
www.rgnc.org  
505-343-1373





Press Release-

Date: November 5, 2013

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (DOI) 202-208-6416

Vanessa Kauffman (FWS) 703-358-2138

Martha Nudel (FWS) 703-358-1858

## **National Wildlife Refuges Support Over 35,000 Jobs, Pump \$2.4 Billion into Local Communities *Banking on Nature* Report Finds Refuges Continue to Be Powerful Economic Engines**

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – America’s national wildlife refuges continue to be strong economic engines for local communities across the country, pumping \$2.4 billion into the economy and supporting more than 35,000 jobs, according to a new national report released today by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. The report, released during a visit to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, comes on the heels of last week’s major speech outlining her conservation vision for the country and unveiling an ambitious youth initiative.

“Our National Wildlife Refuge System is the world’s greatest network of lands dedicated to wildlife conservation, but it is also a powerful economic engine for local communities across the country, attracting more than 46 million visitors from around the world who support local restaurants, hotels, and other businesses,” said Jewell. “In addition to conserving and protecting public lands for future generations, the report shows that every dollar we invest in our Refuge System generates huge economic dividends for our country.”

The peer reviewed report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), *Banking on Nature*, finds refuges contributed an average \$4.87 in total economic output for every \$1 appropriated in Fiscal Year 2011.

“This study shows that national wildlife refuges repay us in dollars and cents even as they enrich our lives by protecting America’s natural heritage and providing great recreation,” said FWS Director Dan Ashe. “That’s inspiring and important news, especially as our economy continues to gain strength.”

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the largest network of lands in the nation set aside for wildlife, with 561 national wildlife refuges – at least one refuge in every state – covering more than 150 million acres.

Wildlife-related recreation fuels much of this economic contribution. The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, which informs the *Banking on Nature* report and is published every five years by the Service, found that more than 90 million Americans, or 41 percent of the United States’ population age 16 and older, pursued wildlife-related outdoor recreation in 2011, and spent nearly \$145 billion.

Among other key findings from the USFWS *Banking on Nature* report:

Spending by refuge visitors generated nearly \$343 million in local, county, state and federal tax revenue; National wildlife refuges are seen widely as travel-worthy destinations: 77% of refuge spending was done by visitors from outside the local area; and

The combined economic contribution to communities nationwide is almost five times the \$492 million appropriated to the Refuge System in FY 2011.

*continued on page 12...*



*continued from page 11...*

Refuges showing standout economic returns or jobs include:

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, where recreational visitors produced nearly \$30 million in economic effects on a budget of \$801,000 – roughly \$37 for every \$1 in budget expenditure; Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma, where recreational visitors support 1,053 jobs and produced \$174 million in economic effects on a budget of \$3.9 million – about \$44 for every \$1 in budget expenditure; Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, spanning Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, where recreational visitors generated \$226 million in economic effects on a budget of \$4.9 million - about \$46 for every \$1 in budget expenditure. The refuge also supports the greatest number of jobs of all sampled refuges at 1,394 jobs; and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, where recreational visitors supported an estimated 907 jobs and produced \$106 million in economic effects on a budget of \$3.9 million – about \$27 for every \$1 in budget expenditure.

The Southeastern region of the U.S.– with the most refuges and many popular attractions, such as Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (GA), J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge (FL), and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (NC) – had the most visitors of any region – more than 12.4 million in FY 2011. The Southeastern region also generated the most combined jobs of any region: 9,455.

The Banking on Nature report used 92 national wildlife refuges for its economic sampling. Daily per-person spending data were drawn from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and the Service’s Refuge Annual Performance Plan (RAPP) for FY 2011.

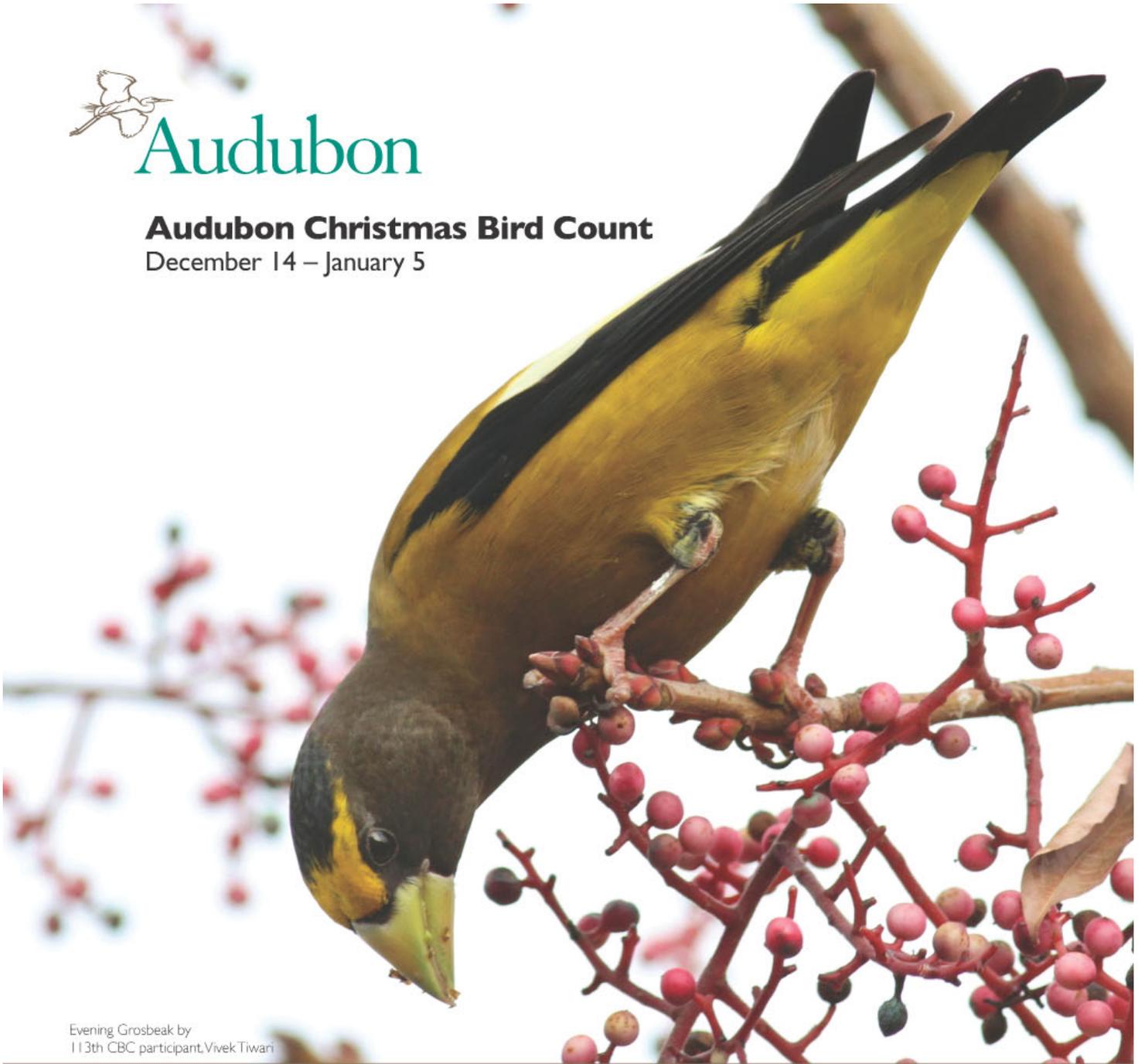
Researchers examined visitor spending in four areas - food, lodging, transportation and other expenses (such as guide fees, land-use fees and equipment rental). Local economies were defined as those within 50 miles of each of the 92 refuges studied. The national estimate was reached by extrapolating results for these 92 refuges to the Refuge System as a whole.



# Audubon

## Audubon Christmas Bird Count

December 14 – January 5



Evening Grosbeak by  
113th CBC participant, Vivek Tiwari



Bog Hole, Patagonia AZ counters by  
113th CBC participant, Carla Stanley

### Help Us Count

For over 113 years, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count has been a time-honored tradition. Citizen Science data collected during the CBC have uncovered critical information for bird conservation.

It's free to participate!

Visit [christmasbirdcount.org](http://christmasbirdcount.org) or contact your local Audubon chapter for more information.

[christmasbirdcount.org](http://christmasbirdcount.org)

Your local Audubon Chapter:

**Central New Mexico Audubon Society**  
[cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)



# Central New Mexico Audubon Society

## January Program & Birding Academy



Thursday, January 16 - 7pm

### *The Last Frontier*

Imagine living on a 165 foot crab boat, on top of the earth, in a world blanketed by fog, and marked by restless seas; where the sun seldom sets, and where sea water is sculpted by the climate into floating statues of ice. An unforgiving world where birds rule the skies, bears rule the ice, and whales the sea. Join CNMAS President, Raymond VanBuskirk, as he recounts this past summer counting seabirds on a boat above the Arctic Circle. He will take us to a world mostly unknown to humans, where he will relive his encounters with muskoxen, polar bears, killer whales, walruses, and, of course, birds.

## BIRDING ACADEMY

### *Birding 101: Back to the Basics*

February 20, 2014 - Christopher Rustay

#### The Basics of Bird Identification – for Beginning and Intermediate Birders

This talk will focus on techniques that beginning birders should employ to help with identification, and should help beginning and intermediate birders improve their skills. Many people believe that all there is to bird identification is looking at the bird with binoculars and checking your guide book. Easy, right? As many who have started down that path know, it isn't always that simple. This will be the first lecture – in a series of three – intended to highlight some key elements of bird identification that are employed by all good birders. We will explore areas such as plumage, structure, range map use, and behavior, as well as look at some of the essential pieces of birding equipment.

Christopher has been involved with Audubon in New Mexico since 1986. He has served as a member of the New Mexico Bird Records Committee and on the board of the New Mexico Ornithological Society. He has worked for the Playa Lakes Joint Venture since 2003 and currently is the Conservation Delivery Leader.

March 20 - Cole Wolf

#### Where to Go – New Mexico's Top 25 Birding Hotspots

A major part of birding is being in the right place at the right time. New Mexico straddles east/west and north/south divides that give the state an exceptionally diverse range of habitats for birders to explore; from high mountain peaks to hot deserts and open plains. Cole Wolf will review the best sites for birds across the state, including when to visit and some of the expected species at each location. Along the way he'll describe how our bird community changes over the year, and helpful tips on picking the "perfect" date and location for your next birding trip.

Cole has been the CNMAS recording secretary and field trip coordinator for the past six years. He plans on graduating from the University of New Mexico this spring with majors in biology and statistics, and hopes to attend graduate school after that.

April 17 - Birding by Ear – How to Learn the Nuances of Bird Songs and Calls

Details in the Spring Issue of the Burrowing Owl...

These FREE events will be held in the Community Room at the **Adelante Development Center, 3900 Osuna Road NE.**

The meeting room is accessed right off of their paved and well-lit parking lot along Osuna. Come early for refreshments at 7:00 p.m., announcements and program at 7:15 p.m.

Visit our website or email [birdinginfo@gmail.com](mailto:birdinginfo@gmail.com) for more details.

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

