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
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 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
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
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 or call (505) 933-2708

Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count
Thursday, December 26
Rebecca Gracey (505) 242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com (count organizer) and Nick Pederson (505) 417-8665 npederson83@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’Neill’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/ • www.nmbirds.org
zcnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org • 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

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.
**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 CNMASPresident@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

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**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.
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 abandonament. 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, underscoreing 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 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://newmexicoudubon.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://newmexicoudubon.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. 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, maryrebecca@lcsnms.com. Meet at: 7:30 a.m. at the Tingley Ponds main parking lot. Drive west on Central Avenue, and turn left on Alameda Blvd./NM 528 and east of NM 448/Coors/Corrales Road. The parking area is across Alameda Blvd. from McDonald's in Socorro. Bring lunch. A $5 entrance fee or Federal pass is required per car. 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.

DECEMBER 9 - Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Torrance County with Bonnie Long: 379-1985, cnmas. 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.

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, lfreely@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, maryrebecca@lcsnms.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 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.

DECEMBER 26 - Participate in the Sandia Mountains Christmas Bird Count with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebecca@lcsnms.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'Neill'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. 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 6 - Walk in one area of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, jlliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot on the east side of the Tijeras Senior Center on NM 333/ Rt. 66. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is $5 at five cents per mile.

JANUARY 9 - Visit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 505-271-0912, jlliddell@msn.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. The trip will end in the early 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. 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 McDonal'd'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, 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, jlliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 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.
Central New Mexico Audubon Weekend Field Trips

Saturday, January 11: Sandia Crest
Leader: Jason Kitting, 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
This trip will be a half day and will focus on winter specialties: 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
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) 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.
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.

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 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!*
Anyone who is interested in birds and birding in the Albuquerque area, then YOU'RE invited!

Birds and Beers! events continue, and if YOU'RE interested in birds!

Buskirk, CNMAS; Robert Munro, CNMAS and O’Niell’s

FROM: Dave Krueper & Janet Ruth, NMOS; Raymond Van-

WHEN? The last Tuesday of the month 5:00 p.m. - ???

WHERE?

Like bird I.D. quizzes  and contests); come hungry and thirsty!

Bring bird photos on a jump drive if you have  some to share;


The Basics of Bird Identification – for Beginning and Intermediate Birders

WHERE to Go – NM’s Top 25 Birding Hotspots

How to Learn the Nuances of Bird Songs and Calls

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: ______________________________

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

The 16th Annual Audubon Birding Academy

Birding 101: Back to the Basics

February 20 - Christopher Rustay $6

March 20 - Cole Wolf $6

April 17 - Birding by Ear – How to Learn the $6

Nuances of Bird Songs and Calls

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: __________________________________________

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

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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!


(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. 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.

☐ 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 genius in silhouette on page 4 to 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.
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
Post Office Box 30002
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190-0002
NAS Chapter C1ZQ510Z
Return Service Requested

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

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

CNMAS DIRECTORY

CNMAS  Phone (505)255-7622  Email jmmyers@peacocklaw.com
Webpage http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/
CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002
PRESIDENT
Raymond VanBuskirk newmexicobirder@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT
Judy Liddell  (505)271-0912  jliddell@msn.com
TREASURER
Lee Hopwood PLHopwood@gmail.com
RECORDING SECRETARY
Cole Wolf colejwolf@gmail.com
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY; PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Beth Hurst-Waitz (505)508-4942 cell: (505)259-0709 brave_e@juno.com
CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRPERSONS
Michael Hilchey (505) 358-0075 leucosticte@gmail.com
Jeffrey Myers work (505)998-1502 jmmyers@peacocklaw.com
CATS INDOORS CAMPAIGN
Sara Jayne Cole saracole6813@comcast.net
Mikal Deese mikaldeese@aol.com
BURROWING OWL
PRODUCTION WRANGLER
Laurel Ladwig BUROWLnm@gmail.com
CONTENT WRANGLER
Beth Hurst-Waitz (505)508-4942 cell: (505)259-0709 brave_e@juno.com
EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE
Lynn Lorrain Schuler cnmasgrants@gmail.com
Eileen Beaulieu dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net
Helen Haskell PO Box 36741, Alb. 87176-6741 cnmasgrants@gmail.com
FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON
Cole Wolf colejwolf@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)
Ed Dover 1421 San Carlos SW, Alb. 87104-1040 (505)242-5427 whitecliffs@comcast.net
NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
Lynn Lorrain Schuler onthepulse@msn.com
Lee Hopwood PLHopwood@gmail.com
PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON
Adrienne Warner birdinginfo@gmail.com
WEBSITE UPDATES
Judy Liddell  (505)271-0912  jliddell@msn.com
Cole Wolf colejwolf@gmail.com
DIRECTORS
Robert Munro  (505)730-7762 robert.munro@earthlink.net
Jason Kitting (505)379-6075 jrkitting@yahoo.com
Adrienne Warner birdinginfo@gmail.com
NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL
President - Judy Liddell  (505)271-0912  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
http://www.nmbirds.org/
Rosy-Finch Project
Alan Mickelson (505)281-3471 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.

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 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
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...
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 Christmas Bird Count
December 14 – January 5

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 or contact your local Audubon chapter for more information.

christmasbirdcount.org

Your local Audubon Chapter:
Central New Mexico Audubon Society
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-lighted 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 for more details.
cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org