

# Burrowing Owl

September, October and November 2018

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Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) organization.

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

Come join us! All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.

## It's Time to Go Back to Birder School—But Better

### Turner Ranches

Thursday, September 20

In 2015 Ted Turner decided to open his three ranches in New Mexico—1.1 million acres—for ecotourism expeditions. David Barfield, activities manager for Ted Turner Expeditions, will describe the ranches and



the conservation efforts for the Mexican gray wolf, Bolson tortoise, Chiricahua leopard frog, desert bighorn sheep, black-footed ferret and black-tailed and Gunnison prairie dogs, as

well as efforts to return the Rio Grande cut-throat trout to its indigenous waters.

Programs start at 7:00 p.m. at the Adelante Community Room, 3900 Osuna Road NE.

### The Old Man and the Vultures

Thursday, November 8

Dave Manning, a birder for over 50 years, fell in love with vultures at age 65 when he stumbled upon a Turkey Vulture



chick peeking out of its nest cave. His program is about the three vultures of North America, with a special emphasis on a Turkey Vulture nest site that he observed from mating to migration on his home island, Pender, British Columbia, Canada. His Turkey Vulture book will be available for viewing and signing.

### Yes, They Really Do That:

#### The Joy of Bird Videography

Thursday, October 18

Have you ever wanted to push that lonely video button on your camera and capture the bird you are shooting in motion? Maybe with some sound? Steve Siegel is a recently transplanted Floridian who has shot bird video since the first portable camcorders became available and affordable in the early 1990s. He will show you some of what is involved in shooting wildlife video and what you can do with it once you have it. Three short finished pieces will be included in the program.



The first summer sighting near Taos of a Brown-capped Rosy Finch in 30 years: see the next page.

# CNMAAS Autumn Field Trips

## Bluewater Lake

Saturday, September 15

Join Kim Score for a trip to Bluewater Lake, located 1.5 hours west of Albuquerque. We will bird the south shore of the lake, as well as Bluewater Creek. In addition to waterfowl, we are likely to find migrating warblers, a few shorebirds, pelicans and raptors. Bring your spotting scope, camera and walking shoes, along with water, snacks and lunch. Participants will be hiking up to two miles on primitive trails at 7500 feet in elevation as we explore Bluewater Creek. We may also visit other hot spots like Upper Bluewater Gorge and Cottonwood Gulch. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the Dairy Queen gas station at exit 72 off Interstate 40, nine miles west of Grants. Please contact Kim at [firefinch@usa.net](mailto:firefinch@usa.net) to RSVP and let her know if you're interested in carpooling from Albuquerque.



## Bosque del Apache

Saturday, October 6

Join Judy Liddell and trade Balloon Fiesta crowds for the serenity of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Wintering waterfowl will be arriving and there

will be lingering shorebirds in the areas where water is being let into the ponds. It will be a particularly good time to practice fall sparrow identification. The time between seasons can bring surprises. Since we don't know where we will be at noon, bring a lunch that can be eaten without a table.

We will meet to carpool at 7:45 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on University Boulevard and Gibson SE or at 9:30 in the McDonald's in Socorro. When you RSVP to Judy ([jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com)), please let her know where you will meet the group.

## Rosy-finch Sighting: a Hopeful Portent or a Fluke?

It was mid-June, and at 12,000-plus elevation the sight of a pair of medium-sized brownish birds didn't have to raise heart rates even higher—but it did for Raymond VanBuskirk and two companions.

After a five-hour trek in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness they had found a pair of Brown-capped Rosy-finches, the first confirmed summer sighting in about three decades.

The birds were feeding on seeds and insects in a patch of frozen snow—and flying with nesting material to a crevice on a cliff perpendicular to the snowfield.



*Photos by Raymond VanBuskirk*

VanBuskirk, the CNMAS Rosy-finch coordinator, and a team of hardy birders/hikers, almost all volunteers, have visited five of 11 historic breeding sites in New Mexico, looking for the birds, which spend winters at places like Sandia Crest and Taos Ski Valley. Their survival is threatened by diminished food sources and fragmented habitat caused by higher temperatures and reduced moisture.

The team will keep searching, but as VanBuskirk told the *Taos News*, "We found this pair, but it's not a sign of them coming back. They're in steady decline."



# Conservation Corner

By Bruce Dale, Conservation Action Chair

The Conservation Action Committee is monitoring two issues of conservation concern: the proposed Gila River diversion project and the proposed alpine coaster at Sandia Peak Ski Area. Audubon New Mexico's state office is leading the opposition to the Gila project, and our chapter will support their efforts. We are studying whether the alpine coaster project would disturb any species of concern that may breed in the area, and we will comment to the Cibola National Forest if warranted.

We have developed a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "How to Attract Birds and Keep Them Safe." It emphasizes the use of native plants for attracting birds while keeping birds safe by limiting pesticides, controlling cats and protecting against window collisions. On July 28 we gave the presentation in a workshop at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden. We would like to give this presentation to other groups, such as neighborhood associations. Let me know if you are aware of an organization that would welcome such a talk: [cnmasbirdconservation@gmail.com](mailto:cnmasbirdconservation@gmail.com)



*Raven Pond by Sara Jane Cole*

Jerry Lovato, executive engineer with the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA), met with the CNMAS Board on July 5. AMAFCA maintains the city's drainage infrastructure for alleviating flooding. Many of its drainage facilities are also bird-friendly habitat and are open for wildlife viewing. The north diversion channel outfall (formerly Tramway Wetlands) is one that we all know. Mr. Lovato described a new facility, Raven Pond, on Don Andres Road south of Rio Grande High School, that AMAFCA would like to encourage as a birding spot. Check it out!

## Conservation Action Tip

By Perrienne Houghton, Conservation Action Committee Member

### Birds and Plastic Trash

Did you know that about 90 percent of the world's seabirds have ingested plastic trash? The list includes bottle caps, bags and clothing fibers (*National Geographic*, September 2, 2015.) We have few seabirds here in the inland West but if you ever travel to a coast, there are some things you can do to reduce your plastic waste. And please: Do try these here at home too.



### REDUCE

- Don't use plastic straws (the #1 plastic trash item found) when ordering drinks (unless medically necessary and then try silicone straws)
- Don't use plastic wrap, use alternatives like "ete" reusable & biodegradable wrap
- Use reusable shopping bags (small, stuffable bags can be carried with you always)
- Use cotton, reusable and washable produce bags
- Instead of disposable water bottles, buy durable, refillable bottles (collapsible bottles can be carried with you wherever you go)

*continued on the next page*

## ... More Tips on Plastic Trash

- Don't accept Styrofoam or plastic to-go containers in restaurants; instead take your own reusable leftover containers, preferably glass with lids

### REUSE

- Bags or packaging whenever possible for trash bags instead of using plastic trash bags

- Plastic cups and utensils when you have to use them

### RECYCLE

- All allowable items



# Coming Events from Our Partner Organizations

## Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

### Moths & Other Insects

Saturday, September 8, 4–8 p.m.

Join us for an evening focused on moths and other insects that call Sevilleta home. Program will include hiking over uneven terrain.

### Geology of Cibola Canyon

Friday, October 12, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

We will explore the awe-inspiring geology of this canyon in the refuge and take in some amazing scenery. Bring your hiking boots, lunch and camera. Reservations are required.

### Valle de Oro NWR

“Build Your Refuge” Day is Saturday, September 29, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Participants will build the refuge's first trail; training and tools will be supplied. There also will be opportunities to suggest education and interpretive programs and to contribute to the design of the visitor center.

Refuge tours and children's activities will be available, along with food trucks and music.

The refuge is at 7851 Second Street SW; (505) 248-6667; [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle\\_de\\_oro/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/).

### Full Moon Photography

Wednesday, October 24, 2 –8 p.m.

Let's explore Sevilleta under the full harvest moon! The program will be vehicle-based with limited hiking over uneven terrain. Reservations are required.

### Drawn to Sevilleta! Awards Ceremony

Saturday, November 3, Time TBD

Contact the Visitor Center for more information and to make a reservation: (505)-864-4021.

### Rio Grande Nature Center

Bird Discovery Walks: guided by a volunteer interpretive naturalist. Saturdays and Sundays beginning at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the east side blind.

Bosque Storytime Hour: Join Dianne Rossback under the cottonwood for multi-cultural natural history stories and songs, especially for ages 5–10 and their adult companions. The first Saturday of the month, weather permitting. Meet at the Main Garden's Outdoor Classroom.

The Nature Center, a state park, is at 2901 Candelaria NW, (505) 344-7240; [rgnc.org](http://rgnc.org).



## Come join us November 14 - 17 for our 31st Annual Festival of the Cranes!

The 2018 Festival of the Cranes will have over 140 events that you can register for starting on September 5. Become a Friends Member and register early on Tuesday, September 4.

Photographers, birders and wildlife enthusiasts from around the country come together in celebration of the return of the sandhill cranes to their winter home. Come on Saturday, November 17, for free fun for children of all ages.

This year we will also have special pre- and post-Festival workshops that will get you exploring New Mexico. Our pre-Festival events on Tuesday, November 13, include 'Antique Cars of Bosque with Nighttime Photography' in San Antonio and 'VLA Nighttime Photography.'

Our post-Festival events on Sunday, November 18, are 'Albuquerque Birding Hot Spots' and a special two-day (Sunday night and Monday morning) 'White Sands National Monument Intensive.' Please see our 2018 Festival of the Cranes brochure for more information on all our workshops and seminars.

# Farewell to Jessica Garduno

By Sara Jane Cole

Our vice president, Jessica Garduno, is leaving New Mexico. Jessica and her husband, Eli Garduno, will be moving to Virginia. While we are excited for this new chapter in their lives we are very sad to see them go.

Jessica began her involvement with the CNMAS Board as secretary in 2013 while she was a student and working part time as a Veterinary Tech. Jessica has a strong, passionate commitment to conservation. She was the leader of the downtown Albuquerque Window Strike Survey in spring and fall 2014–2016. Her report on the results of this survey may be viewed on the CNMAS Conservation page. Jessica also helped with the Cats Indoors Campaign and is seen in the Telemundo ad “Gatos Adentro,” at the vet clinic holding a cat on the examining table.

Jessica participated in CNMAS Board meetings, all the while typing the minutes into her computer as the board deliberated. Her efficiency with this technique was inspiring.

In the spring of 2017 she accepted the nomination as VP of CNMAS. She has assisted in creating our New Board Member Orientation Packet and has been the CNMAS representative to the Friends of Valle de Oro backyard refuge planning sessions. We thank Jessica for her contribution to the activities of the Board and for always being a shining face at our meetings.

## Forest Plan Revision in Final Phase

By Judy Liddell

For the past two years, the Cibola National Forest plan revision team has been reviewing input from community meetings and drafting a revision. The Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be approved by the Southwest Regional Forester, the Washington Office and the USDA secretary before formal comments can be submitted by the public.



However, in the meantime, a “soft rollout” of the draft will be on the Cibola National Forest website on September 4. This will be followed by four regional open houses, including one in Albuquerque, where there will be opportunities to get more information and ask questions. For the schedule go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/cibola/landmanagement/planning> and click on Forest Plan Revision, then scroll down to Open House.

The final draft plan will be released and the 90-day comment period will begin in early 2019.



## Owl's Pick for Bird of the Quarter:

Harlan's Hawk near Bosque del Apache

by Bonnie Long



## Fall Belen Marsh Clean-up

Eileen Beaulieu reports that the Belen Marsh Committee will have a work day on Saturday, October 27, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Taco Bell across the street from the Belen Marsh on Don Felipe Road in Belen.

Bags, safety vests, gloves, water and snacks will be provided, so all you have to do is show up!

Call or e-mail Eileen Beaulieu if you have any questions. She may be reached at (505) 249-7929 or [dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net](mailto:dulcebeaulieu@comcast.net).

# THURSDAY BIRDERS AUTUMN SCHEDULE

## SEPTEMBER 6

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, [lfairns@gmail.com](mailto:lfairns@gmail.com). Meet at 8:15 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot on the south side of Alameda Boulevard, just east of the Rio Grande. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

## SEPTEMBER 13

Travel to the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen Marsh and Owlville with Linda Heinze: 505-270-1779, [manzanogal@gmail.com](mailto:manzanogal@gmail.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson SE and University Boulevard or 8:50 at Whitfield located at 2424 Highway 47. After a 1.5-mile walk around the perimeter, the group will go to the Belen Marsh and then Owlville to look for Burrowing Owls, finishing around noon. Participants are then invited to have lunch at Teofilo's in Los Lunas. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

## SEPTEMBER 20

Visit Ojito de San Antonio Open Space in Cedar Crest with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, [brhussey@flash.net](mailto:brhussey@flash.net). Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the north side of the Sprouts parking lot in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue and Tramway Boulevard SE. Parking for the Open Space is just west of the San Antonio de Padua Church. Take the Tijeras/Cedar Crest exit from I-40, drive north toward Cedar Crest on NM 14 for one mile. Then make a left turn onto San Antonio Drive just before the church. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1 at five cents per mile.

## SEPTEMBER 27

Drive to Cochiti Lake with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the Target parking lot at I-25 and Paseo del Norte. Meet in the northwest corner of the parking lot and park in spots facing Paseo del Norte. The lot can be accessed from Paseo del Norte just east of I-25 or from San Pedro one block south of San Pedro/Paseo del Norte. The group will access Cochiti Lake from NM 16 in order to take the Tetilla Peak Road on the north side of the lake. People can also meet the group on NM 16 at the turn-off to Tetilla

Peak at 8:30, but PLEASE let Judy know by Wednesday, September 26, to expect you there. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The main part of the trip will end after lunch. For those who are interested, there will be the option of driving through Pena Blanca after lunch. The group should be back in Albuquerque by mid-afternoon.

## OCTOBER 4

Travel to the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, NM, with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, [wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com](mailto:wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:17 a.m. for an 8:27 departure from the parking lot on the south side of Sprouts in the Far North Shopping Center on the east side of San Mateo and north side of Academy Boulevard NE. The address at Randall Davey is 1800 Upper Canyon Road. Bring lunch. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$6 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque in mid-afternoon.

## OCTOBER 11

Visit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Rebecca Gracey: 505-362-5095, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com). Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on University Boulevard and Gibson SE. A secondary meeting place will be McDonald's in Socorro at 9:15 for a quick rest stop and just enough time to get food to go. The group will depart for the Bosque del Apache at 9:30. 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.

## OCTOBER 18

Visit Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge with Becky Purvis: 505-930-3424, [rpurvis3@yahoo.com](mailto:rpurvis3@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the refuge entrance on Second Street by the refuge sign. To reach the refuge, drive south on I-25 and take the Rio Bravo exit. Drive west on Rio Bravo to Second Street. Turn south on Second and drive 3.2 miles to the entrance. The group will drive to different areas of the refuge and take a couple of half-mile walks. The trip will end before noon.

*continued on the next page*

## MORE THURSDAY BIRDERS AUTUMN SCHEDULE

### OCTOBER 25

Visit Pueblo Montano Open Space for a two-mile walk on the ditch trail with Pauline and Bernie Morris: 505-369-1227, [mtnbluebird@verizon.net](mailto:mtnbluebird@verizon.net). Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the south side of Montano and one block east of Coors. It can be accessed from either street. The walk will end before noon.

### NOVEMBER 1

Hike in Embudito Canyon with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, [lotterson300@comcast.net](mailto:lotterson300@comcast.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 mile, turn right on Trailhead Road and continue to the parking lot. This is an easy 1.5-mile walk ending before noon.

### NOVEMBER 8

Walk in the Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Susan Chaudoir: 985-302-2878, [s.chaudoir@mac.com](mailto:s.chaudoir@mac.com). Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the

east side of Coors Boulevard. The entrance road, Bosque Meadows Road, is located north of Montano Road and south of Paseo del Norte. It will be a two-mile walk ending before noon.

### NOVEMBER 15

No trip is planned since this is the week of the Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache. Enjoy the festival!

### NOVEMBER 22

No trip is planned for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### NOVEMBER 29

Walk in the Corrales bosque with Perrienne Houghton: 505-321-2015, [Perrienne\\_h@yahoo.com](mailto:Perrienne_h@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the shopping area north of Alameda Road/NM 528 and east of Corrales Road/NM 448. Park by the Boxing Bear Brewing Company where parking is not restricted. The group will carpool from there to one of the bosque locations followed by lunch at Village Pizza in Corrales.

## Signs About Birds Coming to Doc Long Picnic Area

The popular Doc Long picnic ground in the Sandias will soon have illustrated signs introducing visitors to birds of the area.

Judy Liddell of CNMAS is heading up the project, assisted by Barbara Hussey, Reuben Weisz and Melissa Howard. Proceeds from last spring's Birdathon were directed to the project.

"Our goals are to tell people a little about birds like Steller's Jays and Western Bluebirds—what they look like and how they behave—and to help them appreciate the wonders of birds and the importance of their habitats," Liddell said.

The most common and visible birds of Doc Long will be selected based on e-Bird records and, in some cases, evidence of their conservation status. Photos of the birds are being solicited from long-time members of the CNMAS group Thursday Birders. The signs will be produced by the Los Ranchos firm Sightworks.

The CNMAS group is working with Sandia Ranger District Ranger Crystal Powell, Esther Nelson, wildlife biologist, and Kim Round, recreation staff director.



*Judy Liddell, right, at Doc Long with Dr. Chris Musello of Sightworks, left, Reuben Weisz and Barbara Hussey.*



