

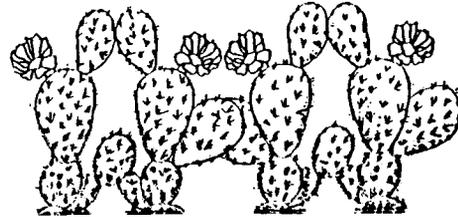
# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1989

## WELCOME!

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson N.E. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, fieldtrips, and special events.



## CACTI OF NEW MEXICO

—Thursday, March 16th

Karl H. Schwerin is a professor of anthropology at the University of New Mexico. As an anthropologist, cultivated plants are one of his special interests. However, he is also interested in wild plants and is preparing a book about cacti of New Mexico. This group of plants will be the subject of Dr. Schwerin's talk, which will be illustrated with slides. Expect an interesting evening!

## GILA NATIONAL FOREST BIRD COUNT

Last October, at our State Conference, Forest Service staff told us they must report the spotted owl population, if any, in the Reserve, New Mexico area. They would also like a bird count. Since they are involved in a major soil conservation project that is providing new habitat and they cannot spare the time, they asked Audubon's help. CNMAS has volunteered.

This trip will be an opportunity, not only for a wonderful, wilderness weekend with other expert birders, but also to make a real contribution and to show appreciation for the Forest Service's outstanding conservation efforts in the Gila.

Look for more details in the April-May issue of the **Burrowing Owl** or call Field Trip Chairperson, Laura Jenkins, at 293-7527 for more information.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

by Dr. Celestyn Brozek

### NEW MEXICO'S HIGHWAYS FOR HAWKS

—Monday, February 13th



This program is another in our series of day programs. Steve Hoffman, Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation, Inc., will present a slide/video program on his raptor migration studies in the west. Trends in raptor populations are being monitored by conducting season-long spring and fall migration counts at ridgetop lookouts in Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico. Steve will summarize the most important results to date as well as future plans, which include initiating raptor banding in the Manzano Mountains of central New Mexico.

Meet at St. Timothys, Copper and Jefferson, NE, at 2:00 p.m.

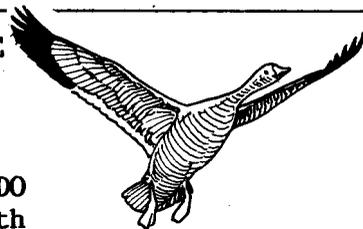
### A LOOK AT THE OUTDOORS

—Thursday, February 16th

Dan True, who lives in Albuquerque, is a meteorologist, writer, photographer, and pilot. He has written and illustrated with his photos, two books: Family of Eagles and Flying Free. Dan will show wonderful slides portraying eagles, coyotes, and hummingbirds. Plan to join us!

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

by Laura Jenkins



### SOUTH VALLEY TO BERNARDO

—Saturday, February 4th

This trip is an opportunity to see many of our winter residents. Bruce Halstead, one of CNMAS' top birders, will lead this all day trip.

Meet at 8:00 a.m., at the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building parking lot, NE corner of Yale and Lomas. Bring lunch and water. Dress for a moderate hike in cold weather. For more information, call Laura Jenkins at 293-7527.

### SOUTH HWY 14 AND THE BLUE TRIANGLE YWCA CAMP

—Saturday, March 11th

The Blue Triangle YWCA camp is located east of the Sandia Ranger Station on HWY 14 South. If the weather is good, we will also drive further south on HWY 14 for a picnic lunch and more birding.

To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m., SE corner of Juan Tabo and Skyline (vacant lot next to United New Mexico's drive-in window), two blocks south of I40. Or, you may join us at the Ranger Station on HWY 14 South about 9:00 a.m., before proceeding together to the camp. As a courtesy for using the camp, we will be compiling a bird list for the YWCA. For more information, call Laura Jenkins, 293-7527.

### WEEKDAY BIRDING GROUP

The Weekday Birding Group, announced in the last edition of the *Burrowing Owl*, has had several interesting outings to the following areas: Placitas, Rio Grande Nature Center, Bosque Farms, Juan Tabo Picnic Grounds, the bosque between Central Avenue and the Rio Grande Nature Center, and the west side of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of the Paseo del Norte bridge.

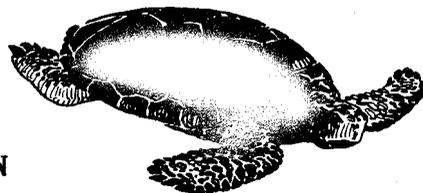
Most of the trips are 1/2 day. If you think you would like to participate in this group, call Tamie Bulow at 298-9116 to find out when and where the next trip is scheduled.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CNMAS BOARD MEETING

—Monday, February 6th

The next CNMAS board meeting will be held at Sunwest bank, corner of Adams and Central, at 7:30 p.m. All interested members are invited to attend.



### TELEVISION

The next World of Audubon TV Special is on poaching and illegal trafficking in wildlife. It airs on SuperStation TBS on Friday, March 3, at 10:50 p.m. Eastern; Saturday, March 18, at 8:05 a.m. Eastern; Tuesday

Vestron Video is releasing the Audubon Specials on the California condor, the black-footed ferret, and on biological diversity into the home video market. Look for them in your home video store! Also just published is a new Teachers' Guide for the four most recent Audubon TV Specials (grizzlies, whales, birds as messengers, and the Everglades). For more information contact Chris Palmer in Washington, D.C., (202)547-9009.

Audubon has a new product on the market! It is computer software on grizzly bears. If you have access to either Apple II or IBM computers, you may like to obtain this exciting software entitled "Audubon Wildlife Adventures—Grizzly Bears," published by Advanced Ideas. For more information, contact Chris Palmer in Washington, D.C., or Advanced Ideas (415) 526-9100. There's also a special teacher's edition. The software package contains four stories that involve the player in the social and scientific issues of grizzly bear conservation. Real situations faced by park rangers, research biologists, and developers are simulated on the computer so that students get a feeling of what it's like to be a conservationist. Each software package also includes a companion book with valuable information on conservation issues as well as a variety of activities that extend learning beyond the computer.

1988 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

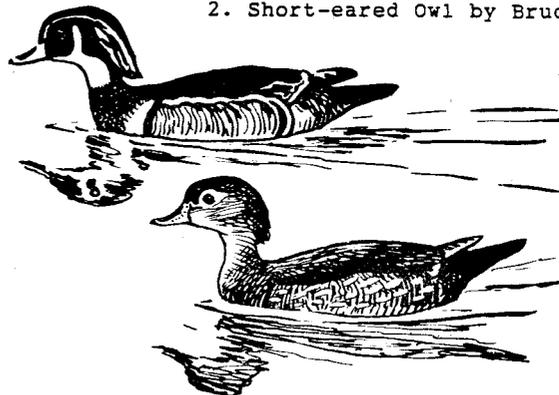
|                          |       |                             |        |                            |          |
|--------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|----------|
| 1. Pied-billed Grebe     | 1     | 31. Mourning Dove           | 17     | 66. Crissal Thrasher       | 2        |
| 2. Eared Grebe           | 3     | 32. Greater Roadrunner      | 12     | 67. Water Pipit            | 4        |
| 3. Great Blue Heron      | 28    | 33. W. Screech-Owl          | 3      | 68. Loggerhead Shrike      | 6        |
| 4. Canada Goose          | 228   | 34. Great Horned Owl        | 3      | 69. Eur. Starling          | 8,724    |
| 5. Wood Duck             | 142   | 35. Short-eared Owl         | 1      | 70. Yellow-rump. Warbler   | 9        |
| 6. Green-winged Teal     | 3     | 36. Belted Kingfisher       | 15     | Audubon's form             | 3        |
| 7. Mallard               | 1,142 | 37. Lewis' Woodbecker       | 1      | Myrtle form                | 1        |
| 8. N. Pintail            | 1     | 38. Ladder-backed Woodpeck. | 4      | 71. Blue Grosbeak          | 1        |
| 9. Gadwall               | 31    | 39. Downy Woodpecker        | 15     | 72. Green-tailed Towhee    | 1        |
| 10. Am. Wigeon           | 14    | 40. N. (Red-sh.) Flicker    | 171    | 73. Rufous-sided Towhee    | 52       |
| 11. Redhead              | 2     | 41. Say's Phoebe            | 1      | 74. Brown Towhee           | 18       |
| 12. Ring-necked Duck     | 43    | 42. Horned Lark             | 230    | 75. Rufous-crowned Sparrow | 1        |
| 13. Com. Merganser       | 49    | 43. Steller's Jay           | 7      | 76. Black-throated Sparrow | 5        |
| 14. Ruddy Duck           | 1     | 44. Scrub Jay               | 30     | 77. Sage Sparrow           | 5        |
| duck, sp.                | 2     | 45. Am. Crow                | 13,314 | 78. Song Sparrow           | 126      |
| 15. N. Harrier           | 6     | 46. Com. Raven              | 12     | 79. White-throated Sparrow | 6        |
| 16. Sharp-shinned Hawk   | 10    | 47. Black-capped Chickadee  | 31     | 80. White-crowned Sparrow  | 844      |
| 17. Cooper's Hawk        | 8     | 48. Mountain Chickadee      | 3      | 81. Dark-eyed Junco        | 436      |
| accipiter, sp.           | 4     | 49. Plain Titmouse          | 8      | Oregon form                | 543      |
| 18. Red-tailed Hawk      | 46    | 50. Bushtit                 | 40     | Gray-headed form           | 12       |
| Harlan's Red-tailed      | 1     | 51. Red-breasted Nuthatch   | 1      | 82. Red-winged Blackbird   | 1,850    |
| buteo, sp.               | 1     | 52. White-breasted Nuthatch | 12     | 83. W. Meadowlark          | 59       |
| 19. Am. Kestrel          | 34    | 53. Rock Wren               | 2      | meadowlark, sp.            | 52       |
| 20. Prairie Falcon       | 3     | 54. Canyon Wren             | 1      | 84. Brewer's Blackbird     | 19       |
| 21. Ring-necked Pheasant | 8     | 55. Bewick's Wren           | 11     | 85. Great-tailed Grackle   | 72       |
| 22. Scaled Quail         | 48    | 56. Marsh Wren              | 8      | blackbird, sp.             | 1,000    |
| 23. Gambel's Quail       | 21    | 57. Golden-crown. Kinglet   | 2      | 86. Cassin's Finch         | 5        |
| quail, sp.               | 1     | 58. Ruby-crowned Kinglet    | 25     | 87. House Finch            | 361      |
| 24. Virginia Rail        | 4     | 59. E. Bluebird             | 6      | 88. Pine Siskin            | 39       |
| 25. Am. Coot             | 5     | 60. W. Bluebird             | 49     | 89. Am. Goldfinch          | 48       |
| 26. Sandhill Crane       | 24    | 61. Mountain Bluebird       | 52     | 90. Evening Grosbeak       | 4        |
| 27. Killdeer             | 19    | 62. Townsend's Solitaire    | 3      | 91. House Sparrow          | 95       |
| 28. Spotted Sandpiper    | 1     | 63. Hermit Thrush           | 4      |                            |          |
| 29. Com. Snipe           | 1     | 64. Am. Robin               | 411    | DATE OF COUNT:             | 12-18-88 |
| 30. Rock Dove            | 512   | 65. Curve-billed Thrasher   | 1      | TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES:   | 91       |
|                          |       |                             |        | TOTAL INDIVIDUALS:         | 31,356   |
|                          |       |                             |        | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:    | 27       |

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- |                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Wendy Aeschliman | 15. Bruce Halstead         |
| 2. Tamie Bulow      | 16. Nadine Henrich         |
| 3. David Cleary     | 17. Steve Hoffman          |
| 4. Nancy Cox        | 18. Patrice Johnson        |
| 5. Steve Cox        | 19. Jim McPhee             |
| 6. Jim Daly         | 20. Mindy Mayfield         |
| 7. Lisa Daly        | 21. Gary Parker            |
| 8. Jean Dilley      | 22. Joanne Phillips        |
| 9. Neil Dilley      | 23. Hart Schwarz, compiler |
| 10. Dan Farley      | 317 Palomas Dr. NE #9      |
| 11. Greg Farley     | Albuquerque, NM 87108      |
| 12. Susan Farley    | Phone: 266-1810            |
| 13. Larry Gorbet    | 24. Evelyn Simpson         |
| 14. Bob Goycoolea   | 25. Dale Stahlecker        |
|                     | 26. Sei Tokuda             |
|                     | 27. John Tyson             |

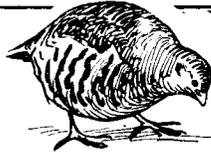
MOST UNUSUAL BIRDS:

1. Blue Grosbeak by Steve Cox
2. Short-eared Owl by Bruce H.



## CONSERVATION NOTES

by Lew Helm



### 1989 LEGISLATIVE PROSPECTS

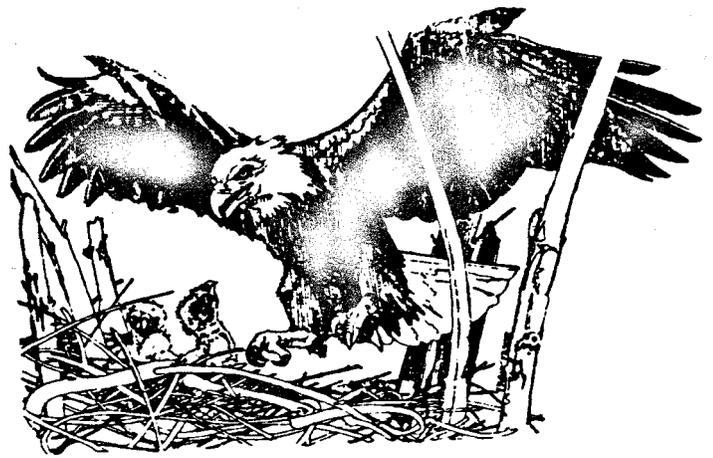
The legislature is now hard at work on a number of items which could affect New Mexico's environment. So far, we have learned of only three possible bills which will be introduced, but no doubt there will be more.

One bill which will attract a lot of attention is the so-called "Instream Flow" proposition. Since the time of statehood, New Mexico has apportioned water rights to users strictly on the basis of beneficial use, limited primarily to irrigation of agricultural lands and domestic and industrial uses. Water rights could not be used for protecting or enhancing fish and wildlife. This situation has prevented governmental agencies (or individuals for that matter) from releasing water from reservoirs for fish and wildlife. All conservation agencies and organizations, including your Audubon society, have lobbied for years to correct this situation. This year, we hope to see legislation passed which will acknowledge that providing water for fish and wildlife is a "beneficial use."

Another bill to watch for is a comprehensive approach to solid waste management. Although we do not have the details, it is thought the bill may have a provision for container deposit for return and recycling of bottles, cans, and the like. The present litter control legislation expires this year, and whether the solid waste effort will extend the litter control aspect remains to be seen.

We have also heard that a bill will be introduced to reorganize the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The bill would be designed to carry out at least some of the recommendations made by the Wildlife Management Institute in its exhaustive study of the Department.

Stay tuned for news on these legislative moves and others. Watch the newspapers for more developments, and above all, let your State representatives and senators know where your interests are.



### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Have you noticed the sudden attention being given to environmental problems by the media and some governmental leaders? It's almost as if they have just discovered what a fix we are in. As an example, Time Magazine came out with a whole end-of-the-year issue (January 2, 1989) that treats the earth as "Planet of the Year." The issue is well-organized and contains coverage of all the major environmental crises. The editors of Time have asked, "What should the U. S. do?" Here are their suggestions:

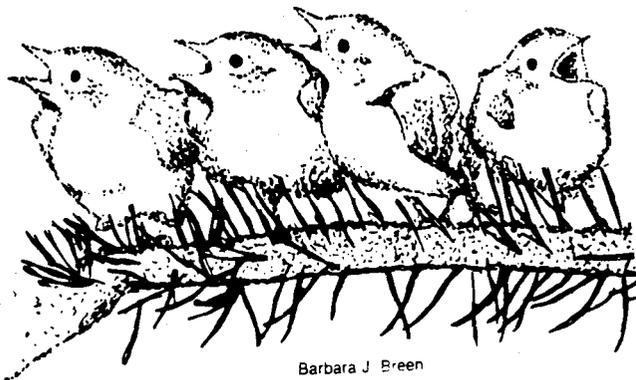
1. Raise the gasoline tax--as a means of inducing automobile drivers' interest in fuel conservation.
2. Toughen auto fuel efficiency requirements--to conserve fuel and help the clean air program.
3. Encourage natural gas usage--to complement clean air and water programs.
4. Encourage waste recycling--by setting national goals and standards.
5. Encourage debt for nature swaps--to persuade banks to participate in programs to reduce debts of Third World countries in exchange for efforts to protect tropical rain forests and the like.
6. Support family planning--to slow the growth of human populations.
7. Ratify the Law of the Sea--to learn the way for international pacts aimed at protecting ocean resources and the atmosphere.
8. Make the environment a summit issue--to focus attention of the entire world on global environmental issues.

Let us hope the American people will take the issues seriously.

**DEADLY BALLOONS**

Over 60 million Latex balloons are manufactured each year and a sizeable percentage of them are later filled with helium to be let go into the atmosphere, only to end up eventually as earthly trash. This form of legal littering is especially threatening to our marine wildlife. When millions of balloons burst and fall, often into oceans, sooner or later they come back to haunt us.

According to Dr. Al Manville, biologist with Defenders of Wildlife, "What goes up invariably does come down and what comes down is killing whales, dolphins, sea turtles, seabirds, migratory waterfowl, and probably other animals as well, either through ingestion and resultant intestinal blockage and starvation or through entanglement in strings...Latex balloons have been found lodged in the intestinal tracts of a number of dead marine wildlife...Plastic Mylar balloons have also caused particularly painful deaths to whales. The practice of balloon launches should be considered by authorities as a violation of several [federal laws]. New York State has already adopted a regulation banning the release of balloons. Connecticut and Massachusetts are considering adopting a similar policy. Balloons [themselves] need not be banned. There are many "un-launch" alternatives, including tethering helium balloons together in the shape of a giant rainbow, so they can be retrieved, or holding indoor launches...Balloon releases are a symbol of a much larger problem--our waste management crisis. Setting a responsible example...by not releasing balloons may help raise public awareness of our national problem...Please, for litter and wildlife's sake, hold those balloons!"  
**Audubon Leader**, December 1988.



Barbara J. Breen

**AUDUBON ACTIVIST**

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 THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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***"There is simply no substitute for the Audubon Activist when it comes to good, hard reporting on wildlife issues.***

***The Activist Network is speaking out and winning environmental battles. I urge all Audubon members to subscribe!"***

***-Peter A.A. Berle, President***

**WFRC WINTER CATALOG**

The Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation, Inc., a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats in North America, offers a number of new products in their 1988-89 Winter Catalog. Pen and ink drawings of owls (Burrowing Owl and Spotted Owl) and diurnal raptors (Merlin and Cooper's Hawk) are available in notecards--eight cards (two designs) per package with matching envelopes. If you would like a copy of the catalog or additional ordering information, contact: WFRC, Inc., P.O. Box 304, Albuquerque, NM 87103; (505)291-9224.

**NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS WANTED**

CNMAS is collecting newspaper clippings pertaining to Audubon-related activities, local or national. So, get out your scissors, snip any articles you see, and bring them to any of our meetings or send to Marge Carrick, 808 Dakota, SE, 87108.

**CNMAS NOMINATING COMMITTEE FORMING**

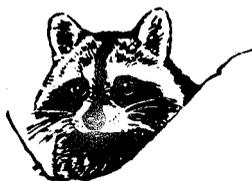
If you would like to be a member of the CNMAS nominating committee this year, please contact Donna Broudy at 242-7108.

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES**

**Audubon Adventures** is the bi-monthly newspaper for youth published by the National Audubon Society. Eighteen Albuquerque schools are receiving this year's classroom enrichment program : Valle Vista, R. F. Chavez, Eugene Field, Arroyo del Oso, Osuna, Apache, Hawthorne, Emerson, Whittier, Roosevelt-Montoya, Marie Hughes, M. L. King, Jefferson, Inez, Serra Vista, Bel-Aire, Mark Twain, and Design for Learning School.

The subscriptions, at \$25.00 per year per classroom, are provided by CNMAS and by Emerson Parents' Club and CNMAS members Lillian Tenopyr, Sarah Sharpton, Ethyl Ringer, Jean Davis, Georgianna Costley, and Marge Carrick.

We are now seeking sponsors for our 1989/1990 **Audubon Adventures** school program. Nationally, in the 1988/1989 school year, **Audubon Adventures** is reaching 8,000 classrooms and 250,000 youth members. If you would like to be a sponsor in 1989/1990, please contact Marge Carrick at 266-0191.



Raccoon

**INSERVICE WORKSHOP FOR AUDUBON ADVENTURES' TEACHERS**

This workshop is designed to help **Audubon Adventures'** teachers make the most of the April issue of **Audubon Adventures** on Rivers of Life. Instructors Karen Copeland and Janie Cox, Educators with the Randall Davey Audubon Center, will involve teachers in an interdisciplinary, riparian habitat study incorporating art, language, science and community politics.

The workshop, which is sponsored by CNMAS, will be held at Bel-Air Elementary. CNMAS expresses appreciation to Bel-Air Principal, Doug Carmichael, for hosting the workshop.

**TAX DONATIONS GO TO SHARE-WITH-WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

Between now and April 17, thousands of New Mexicans will fill out their state income tax forms. Many people will also donate part of their refunds to the Share with Wildlife program, thereby helping species that otherwise would be overlooked. Yet the program's income has been dropping, the Department of Game and Fish says.

Share with Wildlife rehabilitates injured birds for release back to the wild, and funds a study of the ferruginous hawk, a candidate for being listed as an endangered species. Lead poisoning is being investigated in upland birds.

Since the program began in 1982, more than \$1 million has been donated by generous New Mexicans. The average revenue was \$234,000 for the first five years.

But the figures from the last two years do not augur well. Income dropped to \$127,000 in 1987 and \$74,000 in 1988. The difference is attributable to changes in tax laws and withholding, and competition from two other tax checkoffs.

The Share with Wildlife budget has recently been about \$150,000 annually. That has funded the restoration of the Gila trout in the Gila National Forest. With five populations of fish now duplicated, the species may be taken off the endangered species list in three years, and limited sport fishing may resume. Fish surveys in the Rio Grande and Rio Chama have been made also.

Mexican wolves have benefitted from Share with Wildlife funds in a captive breeding program at the Rio Grande Zoological Park in Albuquerque. Other species that benefit include the boreal owl, mountain lion, leopard frog, Gould's turkey, whiptail lizard, and cooter turtles.

The average contribution to Share with Wildlife is under \$8, and donations are tax-deductible the following year. Persons may donate directly by mailing a check to Share with Wildlife, Department of Game and Fish, Villagra Building, Santa Fe, NM 87503.

**New Mexico Wildlife News**, January 4, 1989

## News from NAS

### A Time for Change by Peter A.A. Berle, President National Audubon Society

A new era may have begun for those of us concerned about wildlife and the environment. On November 30th, the executive directors of four other conservation groups and I met with President-elect George Bush. Since the door to the White House was firmly closed to environmentalists during the Reagan era, this meeting was seen as a turnabout rich in potential for positive change.

During his campaign, George Bush promised to give his attention to a number of environmental problems that face the nation and the world. At our meeting, the new President reconfirmed his commitment to environmental protection. Most important, he promised to take seriously the many recommendations the conservation community made in "Project Blueprint." These suggestions on a wide variety of environmental challenges were compiled for the new administration by an unprecedented coalition of 18 major conservation groups.

We are cautiously optimistic that George Bush will distance himself from the failed environmental policies of the Reagan Administration and chart a new course.

The Audubon Activist Network, led by our Capitol Hill office, includes Society staff, chapter leaders, and dedicated grassroots conservationists in every corner of the country. During the last congressional session, you and your nationwide team helped rewrite the Clean Water Act, reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, pass new pesticide legislation, stall oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, save wildernesses and wetlands, and perform countless other miracles large and small. Our expert lobbyists emphasize that they can not get far without your support, and your support so far has been terrific.

The *Audubon Activist* and your chapter newsletter will keep you abreast of important wildlife issues as the 101st Congress gets rolling.



## NAS Opportunities

### Summer Employment Opportunities

National Audubon Society announces the following exciting positions for chapter members and others:

*Instructors:* Qualified individuals with teaching experience in a wide range of natural science subjects and ecological disciplines can become a part of the prestigious staff at one of Audubon's camps and workshops. The programs run for eight weeks from late June to late August at our sites in Connecticut, Maine, and Wyoming. The positions include a starting salary of \$1,300 plus room and board.

*Student Assistants:* College-age students interested in a summer filled with learning opportunities, hard work, and comraderie in beautiful surroundings should consider joining the staff at the Camp in Maine or the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut. Students assist in the kitchen or with maintenance. In return they are provided with an opportunity to participate in the programs throughout the summer, room and board, and a salary of from \$600 to \$1,170, depending on the position and camp season.

Interested persons should send their resumes to **Philip Schaeffer, Executive Director, National Environmental Education Center, National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06831.**

Those selected for consideration will receive a detailed job description and application form.

### Internships Open the Doors of Power

College seniors, recent graduates, or graduate students interested in the inner workings of the federal government are invited to apply for an internship in National Audubon's Capitol Hill office. Interns in Audubon's Washington office are a part of the professional staff, learning and assisting in the fields of water issues, pollution, public lands, agriculture, pesticides, wildlife, population, and international issues. Each intern is assigned to a staff member in one of these fields and helps in substantive policy work, including lobbying, research, collecting materials, attending hearings, and helping to prepare testimony for Congress and administrative agencies.

Internships are from three to six months. The Audubon Society will cooperate with colleges and universities offering credit for intern programs and special projects. The intern is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to receive credit. Applicants must demonstrate maturity, initiative, and good writing ability. Knowledge of government workings is helpful.

If you are interested, submit a resume, a writing sample, and a letter stating your special interests and when you will be available. Materials for Summer 1989 internships must be received no later than the first of April. Write to: **Tracy Balch, National Audubon Society, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003.**

**FEEDER WATCHING IS MORE THAN FUN**  
 —Erica H. Dunn

Saturday morning, February 6. Blowing snow and 10 degrees F. A good day to sit around in pajamas, drink coffee, and read the paper. But today is also count day for Project FeederWatch, so we'll drink our coffee by the window overlooking our bird feeder. Let's see--2 chickadees, 1 Downy Woodpecker--here comes the grosbeaks, 6, 10, no 17. And there's the first Purple Finch of the season!

So goes the morning for participants in Project FeederWatch, a continentwide survey of bird feeders begun last year by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory. The project is an expanded version of one run in Ontario for 11 years, designed to answer questions frequently asked by feeder owners: "Why are there so few Evening Grosbeaks this winter?" "What can I do to discourage Starlings?" "Why does my neighbor get all the Blue Jays while I have none?"

Feeder surveys can start to answer such questions by documenting the numbers and kinds of birds at feeders. Moreover, work in Ontario showed that bird numbers at feeders could be used to help monitor winter bird populations. The continental coverage of Project FeederWatch should allow scientists to follow changing winter distributions throughout North America, both within and between years.

Last winter, over 4,000 participants from Alaska to Florida showed that the Dark-eyed Junco was the most widespread species at feeders, by a large margin. The House Sparrow was more than twice as abundant, even though it was seen at fewer feeders. An outstanding feature of last winter was the unusually large number of Pine Siskins in all parts of the continent.

The most abundant species are generally those that occur coast to coast, but detailed results from all regions show fascinating differences in the less common species. People in the deep south (whose daffodils may bloom in February) are able to attract orioles and hummingbirds along

with their juncos and Evening Grosbeaks, while FeederWatchers out west report Black-billed Magpies, Gambel's Quail, and Scrub Jays.

Anyone who can identify the birds at their feeders may join Project FeederWatch. Counts are made on one or two days every second week from November to April, and recorded on special computer-readable forms. FeederWatchers pay \$9.00 annually to support the project, and in return receive 4 newsletters, including a full report on results that is mailed a few months after the winter season.

FeederWatch is aiming for at least 50 participants in each state and province and about 10,000 overall, so we hope you'll join us! Find out how your feeder stacks up while also contributing important scientific data. Sign up by sending your name and address and \$9.00 to: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Now let's see--3 more American Goldfinches, 2 Tree Sparrows....

NOTE: The 1987-88 FeederWatch Report is in the CNMAS Library and can be checked out at any regular meeting.

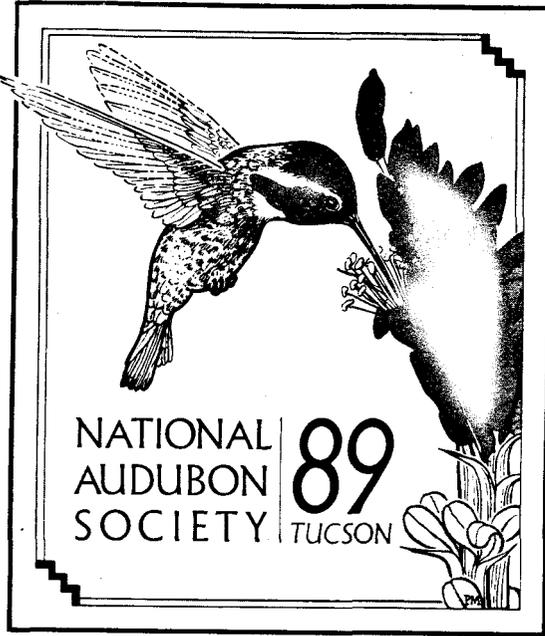


Table 1. Most widespread and abundant feeder species at North American feeders during winter 1987-88, as shown by Project FeederWatch.

Species listed are those seen at 50% or more of all feeders (column 1), or with an average weekly abundance per feeder of 1.0 or more birds (column 2). Column 3, "average where present", also shows the average weekly abundance, but includes data only from feeders where the species was actually sighted. Column 4 shows the average weekly number of each species at the single feeder where that species was most abundant.

| Species                | Percentage of feeders visited | Average weekly number | Average where present | Highest weekly average |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dark-eyed Junco        | 87                            | 5.2                   | 6.0                   | 60                     |
| Pine Siskin            | 65                            | 7.0                   | 10.8                  | 278                    |
| House Sparrow          | 64                            | 11.2                  | 17.5                  | 198                    |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 57                            | 1.8                   | 3.2                   | 44                     |
| American Goldfinch     | 56                            | 5.7                   | 10.2                  | 198                    |
| Downy Woodpecker       | 52                            | 0.5                   | 1.0                   | 7                      |
| European Starling      | 51                            | 2.3                   | 4.5                   | 112                    |
| Blue Jay               | 49                            | 1.2                   | 2.4                   | 28                     |
| House Finch            | 48                            | 5.5                   | 11.5                  | 172                    |
| Northern Cardinal      | 48                            | 2.4                   | 5.0                   | 46                     |
| Mourning Dove          | 40                            | 2.8                   | 7.0                   | 159                    |
| Red-winged Blackbird   | 40                            | 1.8                   | 4.5                   | 73                     |
| Purple Finch           | 34                            | 1.1                   | 3.2                   | 45                     |
| Common Grackle         | 34                            | 1.1                   | 3.2                   | 35                     |
| White-crowned Sparrow  | 26                            | 1.0                   | 3.8                   | 46                     |
| Evening Grosbeak       | 23                            | 2.5                   | 10.9                  | 128                    |
| Common Redpoll         | 13                            | 5.1                   | 39.2                  | 69                     |

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**—September 12-16, 1989**

The theme for this year's national convention—"Our Southwest: Challenged by Growth"—is especially timely as it focuses on a critical environmental subject, one that is germane to many parts of the country. What policies, goals, and objectives need to be established today to prevent land-use chaos tomorrow? Speakers and panelists will use particular cases-in-point from the Southwest.

The Convention program will throw light on the uniquely wonderful characteristics of the natural world of the Southwest United States. Regional arts and crafts, performing artists, exhibitors, and artisans will entertain and educate conventioners, and demonstrate the rich cultural and natural heritage past and present that is ours to protect. Many of the Southwest's top experts will be on hand to lead an impressive array of field trips and tours.

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For more information, contact Gail Turner, Convention Coordinator, 4150 Darley, Suite 5A, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

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