

BURROWING OWL

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

October - November 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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



BIRDS OF BOSQUE DEL APACHE

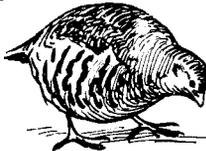
—Thursday, October 19th

Bosque del Apache is the winter home of thousands of cranes, geese, and ducks, as well as raptors and other birds. A number of other birds make their homes at the Bosque the year around, while other birds visit during the spring and fall migrations.

This slide program, arranged by Donna Broudy, features one of the most famous birding spots in New Mexico and will no doubt contribute to your decision to take the field trip to the Bosque scheduled for November 11th!

NEW ZEALAND

—Thursday, November 16th



Neil and Jean Dilley have just completed a trip to fascinating New Zealand. The geology, flora, and fauna will be part of the slide program they present. They report that they were able to take some especially nice slides of New Zealand's unique birds.

Join CNMAS for an evening of travel adventure in New Zealand featuring the Dilley's excellent slides and narration.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

BY LAURA JENKINS



For out-of-town trips, please call me (293-7527) for an update on any change of plans.

Regarding Bill Willard's trip to Michigan reported in the last issue of the **Burrowing Owl**-- no, he did not come home with a tall bird tale; and yes, the Kirtland's warblers are still in Central Michigan, where they have always nested.

Your input in planning trips is gladly received! Many of you have asked for Hart Schwartz to lead a trip; unfortunately Hart now works weekends for the Forest Service. While we will not have an expert birder on all trips, leaders are needed for trips. You don't have to be a Roger Tory Peterson, just willing and handy with a guidebook! I do all the planning, the leader just looks for birds. Call me if you would be interested in being an occasional leader.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING TRIPS

For information on the Thursday morning birding trips, call Tamie Bulow 298-9116.

BLACK ROCK RESERVOIR

—Saturday, October 7th



Join Zuni area birders at Black Rock Reservoir, two miles east of Zuni, just off Highway 53.

Low water levels at Black Rock Reservoir this year mean good opportunities for viewing shorebirds. The group will also spend some time in the bosque looking for migrant songbirds.

Meet at the Public Health Service (PHS) parking lot in Black Rock at 8:00 a.m. Bring water and food. Trip will end at noon. For more information, contact Dave Cleary at 782-4917.

RAPTOR COUNTING, MANZANO MOUNTAINS

--Sunday, October 8th

Some of you have asked for Sunday trips. Here's the answer to your request!

Steve Hoffman, President, Western Foundation for Raptor Research, has invited CNMAS members to visit the fall count in the Manzanos. This trip will last all day. Expect to see Sharp-shinned, Coopers, Redtailed, Golden Eagles, Merlins, and perhaps Ferruginous hawks and Peregrine Falcons!

This trip will not be a hard climb like the spring count in the Sandias. We will drive to within 3/4 mile of the site and walk the rest of the way on a fairly level trail.

Meet at 8:30 a.m., Four Hills Shopping Center, Central and Tramway, near Baskin Robbins, along Central Avenue. East mountain residents meet the group at the Forest Service Ranger Station on S. HWY 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Wear warm clothing as the elevation is 9,000 feet. Bring lunch and water to last the day. Also, don't forget bird guides and binoculars.

SANDIA PARK, LECKMAN'S PLACE

--Saturday, October 28th

The Leckmans will again open their mountain cabin property in the Sandia Park area for a CNMAS fieldtrip. This outing has been much enjoyed in the past.

Meet at 8:00 a.m., Four Hills Shopping Center, Central and Tramway, north side of parking lot, along Central Avenue. Bring lunch and water. We will return after lunch. East mountain residents call Laura Jenkins (293-7527) for directions.



BOSQUE DEL APACHE WILDLIFE REFUGE

--Saturday, November 11th

We've missed the winter bird visitors at the Bosque del Apache these summer months. Come and greet our little friends, back from their northern nesting grounds, as well as the "stay-at-homes." The whooping cranes should be here this year, but their future winters in the Bosque are in jeopardy!

Meet at UNM, behind the Science and Astronomy Building on Yale, just north of Lomas, at 7:00 a.m. to carpool. Return directly to Albuquerque, or stop for dinner at San Antonio or Socorro. Donna Broudy will lead this trip.

BLUEWATER LAKE

--Saturday, November 11th

Join Zuni area birders at Bluewater Lake. Loons, mergansers, and even swans can be seen on the lake at this time of year. After birding the lake, the group will pursue some high country species in the Cibola National Forest.

Meet at the Thoreau exit (I-40) at 8:00 a.m. or at Giant Truck Plaza for breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Dress warmly, bring warm drinks and food. The trip will end at noon. For more information, contact Dave Cleary, P. O. Box 1045, Zuni, NM 87327, or call Dave at 782-4917.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

December--Christmas Bird Count



January--Cochiti Dam for Bald Eagles

See the next issue of the **Burrowing Owl** for information on coming attractions!

UPCOMING EVENTS



ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIR

--Saturday and Sunday, September 30th and October 1st

This annual event, as reported in the last issue of the **Burrowing Owl**, will be held in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.



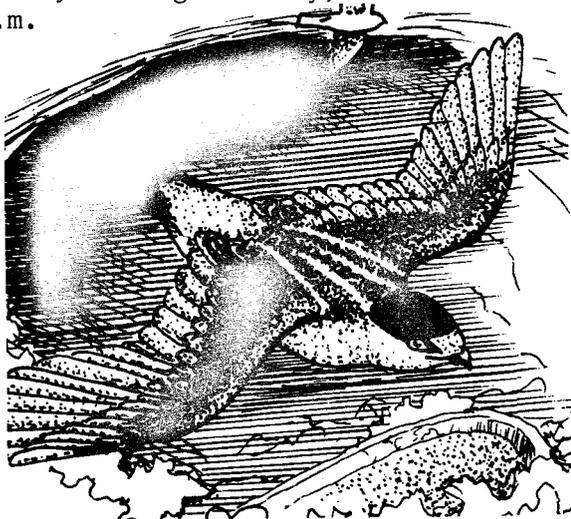
"BIRD DAZE"

--Saturday, October 7th

Join the staff at the Randall Davey Audubon Center on Canyon Road in Santa Fe for the annual birdseed sale combined with fun "birding" activities for the whole family. This year, the Randall Center staff is doing things differently. It will not be necessary to preorder birdseed. Instead, seed will be available on a first come, first served basis. They are planning to have sufficient supplies for all Saturday visitors. Prices have been reduced this year.

"Birding" activities include a Bird Art Exhibit with Brian Bari Long, 10% discount on all bird-related items in the gift shop, a 9:00 a.m. Bird Walk with Sandy Williams, Making Bird Feeders with Janie and Karen at 11:00 a.m. (for children of all ages!), LIVE Birds of Prey with Pat Insley at 12:00 noon, and a repeat of Making Bird Feeders at 2:00 p.m.

"Bird Daze" starts at 9:00 a.m. and continues through 3:00 p.m. For more information, call the staff at 983-4609, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



1989 NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CONFERENCE

--Friday through Sunday, October 13th - 15th

The 1989 New Mexico Audubon Conference is being held at the Tres Rios Christian Growth Center, located south of Carlsbad, New Mexico. This quiet, secluded site is on the banks of the Black River and nearby to many birding spots. To reach the Center, drive south 13.4 miles from the intersection of US 285-US 62-180. Then turn east on state highway 396 for 4.4 miles. Check-in at the conference will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 13 October.

The 337 acres surrounding the Center provide activities for all. A nature trail runs through the area and there are many other nature activities and interesting localities to visit nearby, including Carlsbad Caverns and Living Desert State Park. Field trips are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday mornings. Special speakers are scheduled for Saturday afternoon and some free time is scheduled for Saturday evening. The conference will end at noon, Sunday.

REGISTRATION FORM

**1989 NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 13 - 15
AT BLACK RIVER VILLAGE, EDDY COUNTY**

Name(s) _____

REGISTRATION FEE(S) ENCLOSED: _____
(\$5.00 - Individual or \$10.00 - Family)

Mail registration fee only to:

Steve West
Box 2489
Carlsbad, NM 88220
(505) 885-1153

Deadline: 2 October 1989

Please indicate number of meals needed (\$3.50 per meal)

- Friday, 13 October - Dinner _____
- Saturday, 14 October - Breakfast _____
- Lunch _____
- Dinner _____
- Sunday, 15 October - Breakfast _____
- Lunch _____

Number of Nights in Camp (\$8.00 per person per night) _____

2ND ANNUAL BOSQUE DEL APACHE AND SOCORRO FIESTA

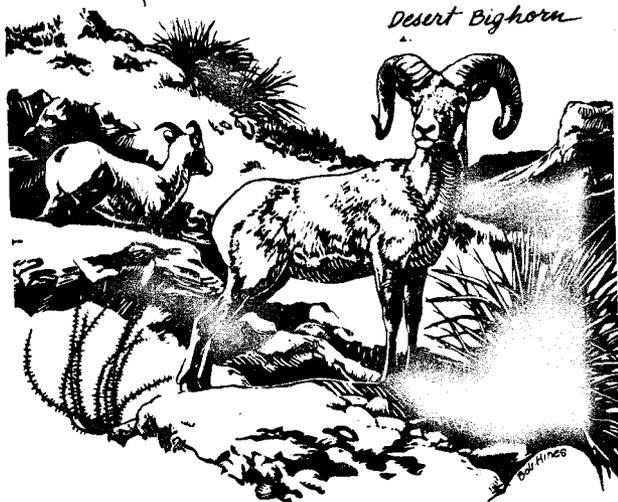
--Saturday and Sunday, November 18th - 19th

In case you missed this Fiesta last year, you now have a second chance to learn more about the endangered Socorro isopods as well as birds and other wildlife at the Bosque del Apache. (For more information on the Socorro isopods, see the article in this issue of the **Burrowing Owl**).

Most activities will occur around the Socorro plaza and the Socorro Opera House, which has been restored. On exhibit will be wildlife art by well-known regional artists.

The wintering birds should be arriving at the Bosque by mid-November, and some fall migrants should still be around. The geese and cranes put on a spectacular display at sunset when they fly into the refuge to roost for the night.

For more information, contact the staff at the Bosque del Apache Refuge at 835-1828 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



ISOPODS WILL HAVE NEW HOME

--Wildlife News

Socorro, NM, June 22, 1989. Work started this week on a facility to house an additional population of the state and federally endangered Socorro isopod, an aquatic relative of the sowbug or pillbug. The facility is being built below Sedillo Spring, a thermal spring west of Socorro,

said Charles Painter, endangered species biologist with the Department of Game and Fish.

Sedillo Spring is the only area where the Socorro isopod is known to occur in the wild, although a captive population exists at the University of New Mexico. The new facility, on an acre of land donated to the Department of Game and Fish by the City of Socorro, will contain eight small concrete tanks to hold the water at between 75 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit, the ideal temperature range for the crustacean.

Water from Socorro's water supply from Sedillo Spring will be diverted into the concrete tanks, which will have four-inch-thick walls. The tanks, four feet long by two feet in width and depth, will be placed on an incline with connecting pipes. The incline will be slight enough to allow the isopods to move between the ponds through the pipes. The pipes will be buried to conserve the heat of the water as it continues to the lower ponds, Painter said.

The facility is being built so that up to half the ponds can be removed from use at any time. This will allow for cleaning, repairs, and other servicing. Water that has cooled and passed through the ponds will flow into a sand-covered leach field below the ponds.

When the facility is completed, between 1,000 and 1,500 Socorro isopods from the University of New Mexico population will be moved to the tanks.

The facility is being built with federal Endangered Species Act and Share with Wildlife funds at a cost of \$28,875. Share with Wildlife funds are monies donated by taxpayers from their New Mexico income tax refunds. The fund was started in 1982 to allow people to contribute all or a portion of their refunds directly to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for wildlife conservation.

A six-foot chain link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire will be constructed around the one-acre site. In addition, a six-foot chain link fence will surround the tanks.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**PREPARING FOR THE GREAT INVASION (BUT NO "CAWS" FOR ALARM)!**

—Bill Willard

It's that time of year again for the winged invasion of Albuquerque! The mass invasion of crows, that is. From the end of September through mid-March, thousands of American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) make the bosque along the Rio Grande their winter residence.

For several years, I have been studying our wintering crow population. Until recently I focused on happenings at their communal roost and the primary foraging sites (mainly the city dump). This year I will concentrate on other aspects of the crow's workday. To do this, I will need some help because my eyes cannot cover the entire city effectively.

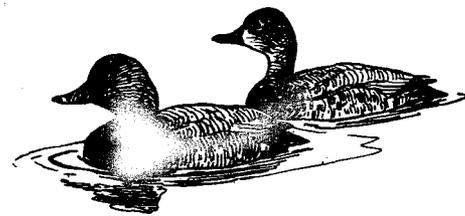
What I am asking for is simply this—whenever you notice groups of crows in your neighborhood, please let me know. The odds are good that such groups or individuals will return to the same areas numerous times. These individual crows and small groups (about 3 to 8 birds) intrigue me most, especially their aggressive behaviors toward each other.

Crows are usually interesting to watch, but be mindful that any crow you see is seldom just sitting there doing nothing, although it may appear that way. Observe patiently and you will notice behaviors that often escape the casual viewer. The scientific literature is replete with accounts of Corvid intelligence and their complex social activity.

I would be pleased to hear of any observations you wish to report, such as hiding food, stealing objects, teasing animals, or who knows what else! For example, once a group of crows near my house was snatching pecans from a yard, carrying them to another tree about 100 yards away, and then dropping them on the street below so passing cars could smash

the nuts for them! Certainly many of you also have crow stories to tell. If you start paying close attention to these amazing birds, you will soon have plenty of remarkable observations to pass along.

Crows, Ravens, and Jays have fascinated me for a long time. I doubt that my interests will soon change, because there are many new things to learn about the crow family. Please help me to learn more this winter by calling me at 256-0274 (home) or 262-6319 (work) or writing me at 3712 Smith SE, Albuquerque, 87108. Thanks and enjoy our treasure of local birds!

**LOS PADILLAS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

—Dolores Varela-Phillips

Los Padillas Elementary school in the South Valley has four acres in marginal river bosque vegetation which is called the "Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary." The goal for this area is to have it become an outdoor environmental classroom. The Ecology Committee of Los Padillas Elementary school has spent the last two school years establishing a philosophy of use, compiling an activity book around identified study areas, working with resource people to help plan the use of the Sanctuary, and soliciting proposal writing assistance.

The goal for the 89-90 school year is to have teachers start using this outdoor classroom. The most expedient way to make this happen is to engage the help of one or more volunteer docents who would work with the teachers 2 or 3 days a week this fall. The teachers would like for the docents to come up with an introductory interpretive program and model for enthusiastic teachers ways in which use of the Sanctuary could be incorporated into their classroom curriculum.

If there any anyone out there who is interested? If so, please contact Dolores Varela-Phillips, Los Padillas Elementary school, 877-0108, or 1-864-0830 (home).

CONSERVATION NOTES BY LEW HELM

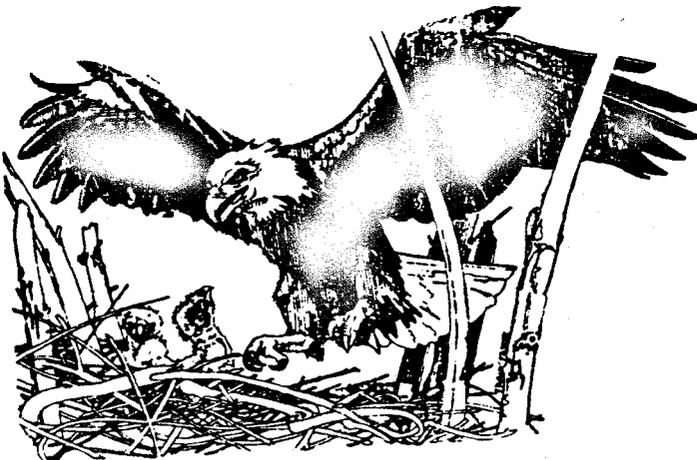


AMERICAN HERITAGE TRUST ACT

Over the years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been accumulating funds supposed to be earmarked for acquisition of parks, wildlife areas, and other open space. However, the past Federal Administration, continued by the present administration, has spend only about \$200 million out of about \$1 billion a year income from offshore oil drilling leases and royalties. The balance of the income has gone into the general treasury and spent for goodness only knows what.

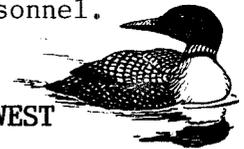
Congressman Morris Udall of Arizona is sponsoring a bill in Congress which would require the revenues to go into a dedicated trust fund and the interest from such a fund would be used for land purchases. The bill has created quite a controversy. Chief among the opposition is the American Farm Bureau Federation, which fears that local, state, and federal agencies would have too much money to make large-scale land purchases. Our own Secretary of the Interior, Manual Lujan, has come out against the bill.

With wildlife habitat and other open space being lost at a prodigious rate, this bill makes sense to most of the conservation community. What change has the bill to pass congress and be signed by the President? We really don't know, but the critical time is upon us. Please write to our Congressmen and Senators and even to Secretary Lujan supporting passage of the bill.



MEXICAN WOLF REINTRODUCTION UPDATE

We wish there were as many Mexican wolves running wild as there are (or were) black bears in the Sandias! With help from the conservation community, it is possible that could come about. The New Mexico Wolf Coalition, of which the Audubon Society is a part, continues to be active in promoting reintroduction of the lobo. Recently, even the New Mexico Secretary of State, Rebecca Vigil-Giron, has voiced support for the reintroduction. We salute her and continue to support the Coalition. Among several alternatives, the best site for releases is the White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico. Stock for the reintroduction is available in several zoos, including the Rio Grande zoo, but time is running out to have a viable wild stock available for release. The main opposition to the use of White Sands is the Commanding Officer of the Missile Range. He is concerned that there would be too many people involved in the release and monitoring of the wolves, once they are established. We say that this is a poor excuse, since the Army would have complete control of the minimal comings and goings of research personnel.

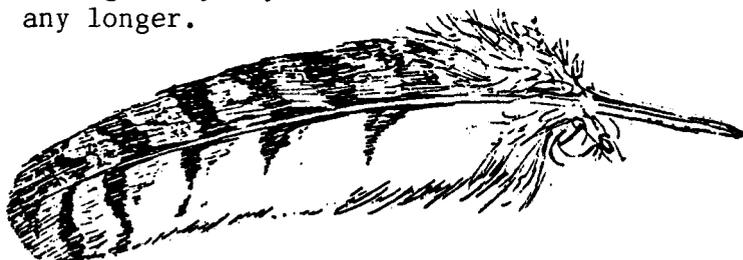


ACID RAIN PROBLEMS IN THE WEST

Most of us know that acid rain is damaging wildlife habitat, timber stands, waterways, buildings, and historical monuments in the United States and Canada. So far, we in the Southwest have thanked our lucky stars that the real problem areas seem to be in the Northeastern U. S. and in Canada. However, there is reason not to be complacent, even in New Mexico. Data collected in 1984 show that of the U. S. annual total of about 22.5 million tons of sulphur dioxide emissions, almost 1 million tons are emitted annually in Arizona and New Mexico. No doubt emissions today are significantly higher than in 1984.

We know the main culprits of sulphur dioxide are power plants which burn coal. Recently, there has been much concern about the haze which is destroying views in the Grand Canyon area. Most of the haze has been attributed to the Navajo

Power Plant in Arizona. This plant is 25% owned by the U. S. Government through the Bureau of Reclamation. Lesser amounts of the haze have been traced to sources in California. You can rest assured that where there is a power plant inducing haze, acid rain effects are accumulating. We hope the present federal administration will come to grips with the problem in the Southwest. One of the first things which should be done is to require the use of scrubbers in the Navajo Power Plant. If you care, write to Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan. With new risks coming every day, we cannot afford to wait any longer.



FIELD TRIPS: MANZANO MOUNTAINS HAWK MIGRATION

In case you are unable to attend the CNMAS field trip on Sunday, October 8th, to the Manzanos, you can still participate in the raptor counts.

The Western Foundation for Raptor Conservation is sponsoring a series of weekend field trips throughout September and October 1989. Participants will learn from an expert how to identify raptors. Dates of remaining trips are October 7, 14 and 15.

Meet a field trip leader at 10:00 a.m. in the town of Manzano and carpool 9 miles on a dirt road to the top of the Manzano Mountains. A brief lecture on the history and results of the project will be given. Bring binoculars, bird book, sturdy footwear, windbreaker, jackets and sweaters (you will be at 9,000 feet elevation), water, and a lunch (optional). A donation of \$15 from each participant (or \$20 includes a box lunch) is requested by the Foundation. Each trip is limited to 15 persons.

To register or request additional information, call Linda Kearns, 255-7622, or stop by the Foundations's office at 1420 Carlisle, NE, Suite 202, Albuquerque.

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EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

Sarah Sharpton, 6332 Buenos Aires, NW, 87120; 897-2883

CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL



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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter, Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Please send Audubon magazine, Burrowing Owl newsletter, and my membership card to the address below.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Gift Membership

Please enter a one-year gift membership in the National Audubon Society and send a gift announcement card.

To:
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

From:
 NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Gift Card to read " from _____ " (Use extra sheet for additional gifts)

Membership category preferred:

- Introductory Membership (first year only)/\$20
- Individual/\$30 Sr. Citizen-Individual/\$21
- Family/\$38 Sr. Citizen-Family/\$23
- Student/\$18
- My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Bill me, please.

7XCH

Local Chapter
 Central New Mexico Audubon Society
 Q51

7XCH

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society, but send your check with the application form to:

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
 Claudia Gayheart, Membership Chair
 433 Maple NE,
 Albuquerque, NM 87106

Send renewals directly to National Audubon Society. All dues and contributions are tax deductible. Send all changes in name, address, or telephone number to Claudia Gayheart.

Who to contact:

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 The White House
 Washington, DC 20500

Honorable Pete V. Domenici
 Honorable Jeff Bingaman
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Steve Schiff
 Honorable Joe Skeen
 Honorable Bill Richardson
 House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 500 Gold Ave., SW
 Albuquerque, NM 87102
 Mr. Michael Spear, Regional Director
 Mr. James Johnson, Endangered Species Chief
 Mr. James Lewis, Whooping Crane Coordinator

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
 Villagra Building
 Santa Fe, NM 97503
 Mr. Harold Olson, Director
 Mr. Wain Evans, Asst. Director
 Mr. John Hubbard, Endangered Species

State Game Commission
 Mr. Gerald Maestas, Chairman
 Unit 1, Box 15, La Puebla Road
 Espanola, NM 87532
 Dr. Thomas Arvas, Member
 9204 Menaul NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87112

Randall Davey Audubon Center
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 P.O. Box 9314
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