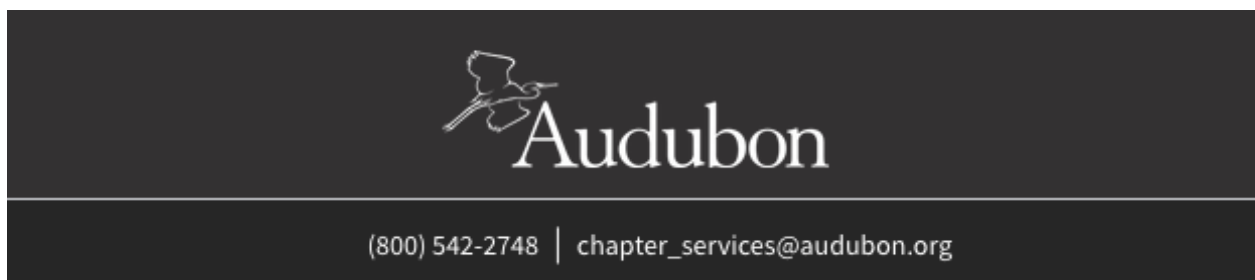


CNMAS Statement

On March 15th, 2023, the National Audubon Society released the results of their year-long evaluation process reviewing their association with the name of John James Audubon. You can read their statement below. In short, they have decided to retain the name ‘Audubon’ in their title.

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society is committed to inclusion, equal access, and diversity, and we encourage all individuals to join us to learn more about birds, to promote their well-being and to engage in the health and future of the environment that sustains us all. While we respect the National Audubon Society decision, we plan to conduct our own evaluation, with input from the CNMAS board, CNMAS members, and local interest groups. We will provide more details of this process soon.



Dear Chapter Leaders,

As you’re aware, the National Audubon Society (NAS) embarked on a process to reexamine our name, in light of the complex history of the organization’s namesake, John James Audubon. Today, the NAS Board of Directors announced the decision to keep the organization’s name moving forward.

Here is more information about the Board’s decision:

- [Letter from the CEO](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Press release](#)

The evaluation considered many factors to determine how the decision would impact NAS’s mission to protect birds and the places they need long into the future. Based on the critical threats to birds that Audubon must urgently address and the need to remain a non-partisan force for conservation, the Board determined that retaining the name would enable NAS to direct key resources and focus towards enacting the organization’s mission.

While John James Audubon had a significant impact on the field of ornithology, he was also an enslaver, whose racism and harmful attitudes toward Black and Indigenous people are now well-understood. We do not wish to ignore the importance of reckoning with the racist legacy of John James Audubon, the man. The organization will continue to promote an awareness and understanding of his problematic legacy as an individual and the inherent inequalities in the conservation movement as a whole.

In addition, we are pledging \$25 million over the next five years to expand our diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) work.

Chapters are an essential part of what makes NAS a strong and impactful force for conservation. We know the Board's decision prompts many questions and strong feelings. Some chapters have already announced their intention to change their name, while others may elect to keep Audubon in their name. I want to emphasize that the NAS board's decision impacts the name of our national organization. As independently incorporated entities, each chapter has the autonomy and authority to make decisions in respect to their naming as best serves their needs. Whatever your chapter's name, we hope to work closely with you to move forward as one unified community.

Thank you for your leadership,
Kim

--

Kim Brand

Interim Vice President for Network

Pronouns: She, her, hers