



## Central New Mexico Audubon Society Summer 2023

# The Burrowing Owl



*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 the health and future of the environment that sustains us all.*

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## Central New Mexico Audubon Society State of the Chapter Report, 2022—2023

**We** have had a busy year at Central New Mexico Audubon Society with many new developments, new members and new plans. We have also faced changes, unexpected family emergencies, and sadness. We have taken all of this in our stride, thanks to our core board members and to our three new board members who have all made invaluable contributions this year. As a group of volunteers, everything that any member contributes is because of their kindness and their commitment to birds, wildlife and the environment.

We continue our community education work, led by Sara Jayne Cole—our most experienced board member—and her volunteer committee, who visit wildlife refuges, open houses and festivals during the year, sharing information and educational materials about keeping birds safe, creating bird-friendly yards, keeping cats indoors and placing decals on windows so birds do not fly into them. There are also always some fun activities at our

tables to engage and interest children in birds. In addition, we had a display on bird migration at Cherry Hills Library this year, which coincided with a program on migration presented by Laura Banks.

Working with Audubon Southwest, we participated in our third year of bird surveys in the most important bird habitats along the middle Rio Grande river valley, the Isleta Reach. These surveys, conducted by 12 dedicated CNMAS volunteers, help sustain the work of protecting important irrigation outflows to the river that are the last, best riparian habitat when the remainder of the river evaporates in the dry season.

Judy Liddell and other volunteers also contributed to continuing surveys coordinated with Climate Watch for bluebirds and nuthatches. We have Judy to thank for creating the survey

protocols in collaboration with the National Audubon Society seven years ago.

We have increased our social media presence, led by a new board member, Jason Kitting, a wonderful communicator and font of knowledge on birds and birding. He is also associated with Rio Grande Bird

Research Inc. and Wildlife Rescue of New Mexico Inc. Jason uses Facebook and Instagram to spread the word about events and news on birds.

Our quarterly newsletter, *The Burrowing Owl*, is flourishing, thanks to our editor, Melissa Howard, and her eye for finding interesting articles and

for presenting a professional and informative periodical. We are also lucky to have many local birders, photographers and board members who make regular contributions.



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# State of the Chapter continued

The newsletter is sent to our membership by Marj Longenbaugh, whose computer skills are also of great benefit to CNMAS as keeper of our membership lists, currently standing at over two thousand.

Asher Gorbet, one of our new board members, took on the task of creating the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) Committee. Its work focuses on topical issues regarding inclusion and how our organization can incorporate EDIB into all of our work and goals. Asher brings their profession as a naturalist and their connections to important naturalist groups to their work with us.

We have completed some administrative reorganization this year, learning to use Google Workspace for meetings and records. Jamie Wells introduced us to this system as our president and she continues to help us manage it now that she has returned to her previous system as board secretary.

Laura Banks, our third new board member, has brought her knowledge of administration and leadership as well as birds and wildlife organizations to help us use new systems to achieve our goals. She has also begun work with our volunteer web master, Joe Schelling, on updating and enhancing our website. Joe patiently helps us communicate our long-term goals and regular updates, as well as all Thursday Birder schedules and eBird lists on the website.

We continue to manage Melrose Woods, an Important Birding Area in eastern New Mexico, ten miles west of Melrose. Long-time board member Robert Munro has been in charge of this project since its inception and continues to manage this unique stop-off for migratory birds as well as a small piece of heaven for birders. Laura Banks organized a clean-up with volunteers recently, and the group cleared accumulated tumbleweeds and other plants from paths and plantings before birds arrived to nest or just to take a break before moving farther north.

Kathy Carson, our Programs Committee chair and board member, once again organized many excellent Zoom programs this year, including such diverse topics as “critter cams,” sustainable agriculture and sparrows, with the help of Program Committee volunteers and knowledgeable presenters. Due to personal commitments, Kathy retired from the board in April, passing the baton of Programs Committee chair to Laura Banks. Kathy worked tirelessly during her time on the board and we are very appreciative of all she has done to keep us organized and to find wonderful programs, and she will be greatly missed.

Lee Hopwood, our board treasurer and one of our longest-serving board members, continued in that role this year, keeping our financial records, managing financial transactions, including donations, and overseeing our scholarship program, as well as sharing her wisdom with us all.



We have two board members who work on field trips: Glenda Morling, along with volunteer Sharon Caruso, leads the Thursday Birder group, and Bob Wilcox, who plans an exciting out-of-town weekend trip every month for all who are interested. Bob provides a lecture about birds in the evening prior to each trip and his trips are normally overnight. Most recently, Bob took a group to Silver City and had a May trip planned to see migrant birds at Melrose Woods.

Thursday Birder trips are publicized on the CNMAS website and in the Burrowing Owl.

Thursday Birders collected \$1300 in weekly donations in the past year, which will be shared with local wildlife organizations. The group averages 20 participants on each walk, and in 2022 recorded 171 species of birds over the year, all seen on local walks.

**In** short, Central New Mexico Audubon Society is thriving and our 2,000-plus members are making a difference for birds, people and our natural spaces.

# 2023 Birdathon News Highlighted by a Red-head

By Kathy Carson

While we haven't yet totaled the donations raised, the birding results are in! This year's Birdathon had five teams and one individual participating.

The Thundering Titmice (Sara Jayne Cole and Lannois Neely) saw 50 species birding around Oak Flats and Manzano Pond.

The Old Odd Couple Birding Buddies (Sara Jayne Cole and Maurice Mackey) birded Tingley Ponds and found 42 species and earned a shout-out to Sara Jayne for being on two teams!

The team of Judy Liddell and Barbara Hussey birded Farm to Market Road and Bosque del Apache, finding 60 species.

Last year's winners, the Northern Shovelers (Joe Schelling, Rebecca Gracey, Joe Cairns and Leah HENZLER), found 81 species birding Elephant Butte, Animas Creek, and five other locations in Sierra County.

In the individual category, Vas Demas, visiting from Seattle, had a wonderful time at Bosque del Apache on her first trip to New Mexico and submitted her list of 63 species for our Birdathon.

The 3 Old Coots (Nolina Bryant, Allison Schacht and Jim Rhodes), in their first Birdathon, saw the most species with 98. They began birding on Nolina's property east of the Escondida Bridge and birded their way to Bosque del Apache, finishing up early the next morning at Embudo Canyon and yard birds in Jim and Allison's in Los Lunas.

The highlight for them was a group of three Great Horned Owlets perched vertically on a dead cottonwood, just when they realized none of them had a camera!

The three teams that submitted bird lists recorded 124 species. The Northern Shovelers added a number of water birds unique to the Elephant Butte habitat to the list. They also saw, and Joe Schelling photographed, a Red-headed Woodpecker along Animas Creek Road. In eBird there were only reports of Red-headed Woodpecker in that vicinity in 1996 and 2008, but after checking her birding journal, Rebecca realized she had seen one in the same location in May 1996.



Reviewing the lists, I was pleased that Common Blackhawk was seen by the 3 Old Coots and not mentioned at all in their trip report – further evidence that these graceful hawks are becoming relatively common in the Rio Grande Valley during breeding season.

Thanks to everyone who participated and to everyone who donated to support habitat restoration at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. There is still time to get your donations in to support this important work.

This year's Birdathon winners will receive their prizes at the annual meeting June 17.

## Update: The Isleta Reach

Audubon Southwest has added a footnote to Sara Jayne Cole's article in the spring issue of The Burrowing Owl:

“This water release involves the first-ever partnership between a non-governmental organization, Audubon, and municipalities for

restoring flows on the Rio Grande in New Mexico. (Partners releasing water included Belen - 97 million gallons of water, Bernalillo and Los Lunas - 65 million gallons, and the Club at Las Campanas - 97 million gallons from the Jicarilla Apache Nation.)”

Audubon Southwest has put the project on its web site:

<https://isleta-reach-audubon.hub.arcgis.com>

The Burrowing Owl article is at

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/newsletter/newsletter-archive/>

# Bosque Walk Yields 33 Species

New Trip Leader and Photographer Emerge

By Glenda Morling

On March 30, 2023, Thursday Birders took an interesting route from the trail bridge at Sagebrush Church Coors Boulevard, walking east toward the river, then south through varying habitat in the bosque, then west to the ditch and finally north back to the parking lot.

Twenty Thursday Birders attended and we were lucky to see 33 species, including some we expected: Western and Eastern Bluebirds, Black and Say's Phoebes, three species of woodpecker, a Cooper's Hawk and an American Kestrel. We also saw a pair of Belted Kingfishers flying along the ditch, a Warbling Vireo and a Townsend's Solitaire, which has been reported more than usual this year in the foothills and the bosque.

For a trip list go to <https://ebird.org/checklist/S132235629>.

Brian Anderson, a new volunteer leader, took us round the trails.

Brian moved from Tucson to Albuquerque in 1981 to pursue a media career before retiring. During the pandemic, he became more aware of birds, particularly those visiting his west side home.

Today his list of volunteer titles includes trail watcher, hike leader, master gardener and ambassador for the Backyard Refuge program. He is also a leader with the New Mexico Mountain Club.

While walking the bosque one day Brian met Sara Jane Cole, who invited him to Thursday Birders.

Several talented photographers were on this walk, including Cheryl Burns, who provided photos for this page and shared a link to her life list of birds in photography at <https://cherylburns.smugmug.com>.



*Red-winged Blackbird*

Cheryl is a fourth-generation rancher's daughter from western Colorado. She attended college in Abilene and then lived in the Fort Worth area. After photographing birds for several years she started taking birding photography trips to South Texas in 2017.

Since retiring in 2021, Cheryl has lived in Placitas where she loves to walk, watch birds and photograph the natural beauty around her.



*Yellow-rumped Warbler*



*White-winged Dove*

# Jason Kitting Leads a Walk for Thursday Birders

Banding, Breeding Trends—and Farewell to Bonnie Long

Story and Photo by  
Glenda Morling

On Thursday, April 27, some forty Thursday Birders turned out as Jason Kitting, birding and banding expert, led a guided walk behind the Rio Grande Nature Center.

Jason, who works with Rio Grande Bird Research Inc. and New Mexico Wildlife Rescue Inc., showed us banding areas, talked about the banding projects his group is engaged in and discussed trends during his ten years of banding at the Nature Center.

It seems some species, including Lucy's Warblers, are moving farther north to breed. We also learned a new term—mountain invasion—for those higher-elevation species that turn up intermittently in the Rio Grande valley.



For example, Rio Grande Bird Research Inc. banded their first Juniper Titmouse.

Many Thursday Birders also attended to say goodbye to Bonnie Long, who is moving to Oregon. Bonnie has been part of the group for many years, and she and husband Don welcomed Thursday Birders to their home each summer for the past 20 years to share the hummingbirds that flock to their feeders.



## From the Melrose Woods Conservation Committee:

The spring clean-up at Melrose Woods on April 7 was a great success. A huge thank-you for their hard work goes to Gail Kaufman, Ellen Lenz, Karen Canon, Lee Hopwood, Sara Jayne Cole and Perrienne Houghton as well as Denise Jones and Kelly Aldridge, shown in this photo by Laura Banks.

We plan another clean-up at this Important Bird Area for late summer.



New to the CNMAS website is a form for submitting questions or comments. It's under the About Us heading at <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>.

# Another Breeding Bird Banding Season Completed on Banks of Rio Grande

Story and Photos by Jason Kitting

MAPS: for the seventh year Rio Grande Bird Research banded breeding birds caught temporarily in mist nets. MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship and is a standardized effort run by the Institute for Bird Populations (<http://birdpop.org>) that looks specifically at the breeding ecology of birds.

There are over 1,200 MAPS stations across the U.S. and Canada which gather data annually on species diversity and numbers of breeding birds. This research helps scientists understand potential causes of population declines (breeding grounds vs. wintering grounds) and how communities are changing in response to climate change and habitat loss. It can even help identify which species are in most need of conservation efforts.

Rio Grande Bird Research currently operates two MAPS stations in riparian habitat along the eastern banks of the Rio Grande: Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.

Here are some of the breeding birds we encounter during MAPS season:



- Left column: Yellow-breasted Chat and Summer Tanager
- Middle column: Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak and Black Phoebe
- Right column: Blue Grosbeak, Lucy's Warbler, and Bewick's Wren

Other species regularly encountered during MAPS banding include Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Mockingbird, American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Spotted Towhee, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Bushtit, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch and Common Yellowthroat.



## Ibis Update

The Ibis is walking better and starting to use its wings but is still in rehab at Wildlife Rescue, reports Jason Kitting, a volunteer there.

# CNMAS Helps Educate Visitors on World Migratory Bird Day

Story and Photo by Sara Jayne Cole

May 13, 2023 was World Migratory Bird Day. CNMAS had a table at the Rio Grande Nature Center's Spring Garden Festival promoting this year's theme, "water sustains bird life."

We had cut out bird shapes for young people to decorate and hang on the dried sunflower stalks. When the bird was finished, they could choose a bird tattoo for themselves.

While the kids were busy, we told the parents how they could have a simple water place for birds in their yard.



## Agua Es Vida: Water Is Life for Birds in Your Yard

Offering a source of water is a fun and easy way to help birds thrive right outside your window. Anything from a plant saucer to a pond with a fountain can be attractive to birds.

**Keep it safe.** Birds are vulnerable when wet, so place your birdbath close to shrubs or other cover so a bathing bird can get away easily should a predator approach.



**Keep it low.** A birdbath that imitates a puddle or other natural water source is more likely to attract birds. Keep the level of the water around one to two inches deep, and add some rocks to give the birds something to stand on.

**Keep it clean.** Regularly empty the birdbath, scrub the surface with hot water and a brush, and refill with fresh water. Algal growth can occur quickly in an unattended birdbath, and this isn't good for the birds.



**Keep it moving.** Nothing attracts birds like the sight and sound of moving water. Make a simple dripper by punching a pinhole in a recycled plastic jug hung above the birdbath, or install a recirculating fountain. An inexpensive de-icer will winter-proof the fountain.

# Conservation Trust Fund Will Build a Nest Egg

By Melissa Howard

The future looks brighter for New Mexico's flora and fauna thanks in part to Audubon Southwest.

The 2023 Legislature passed and Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham signed a bill creating the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund.

Judy Calman, New Mexico director of policy for Audubon Southwest, was a leader of the lobbying team that secured victory after four years of negotiation. The trust fund will:

- provide a stable revenue source for restoration and conservation projects, which have previously depended on specific line items in annual budgets;
- address the backlog of hundreds of millions of dollars for this work;
- give the state access to substantial federal funding that requires a state match; and
- fund 10 existing programs, including riparian restoration, endangered species, soil health and noxious weed management, with more to come in the future.



The fund will receive \$100 million this year, half for projects during the next four years and half to generate interest for the future. The legislation also commits \$75 million for each of the next three years.

During the session “we worked really hard to get everyone in agreement,” says Calman, “and we expanded the coalition to include state agencies, the governor’s office and industry.”

New Mexicans themselves were part of the team, she adds. “Our state is different than others in the amount of access it grants citizens to the legislative process,” says Calman. Because legislators lack salaries and year-round staff “they really are more reliant on lobbyists and the public for information.

“We would literally have Conservation Voters and Chevron speaking in support of the bill. It was kind of amazing.”



Proceeds from the Land of Enchantment permanent fund will be available in 2027, says Calman.

“That means about 15 million dollars will be put on the ground for restoration and conservation programs, without using any of the principal.”

The legislature also provided \$7.5 million for the Strategic Water Reserve, the largest amount ever.

“The Reserve is one of the only mechanisms the state has to leave water in rivers,” Calman says. This allows the state to purchase and lease available water rights for endangered species protection and compliance with the Rio Grande Compact provisions that require releasing water to Texas and Mexico.



# What's in a Name?

## National Audubon Decides Not to Change

“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.

To put into action our important commitments on equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB), NAS is committing \$25 million over the next five years to expand our EDIB work, which includes increasing the diversity of our staff and Board and continuing to partner with communities of color hit hardest by the impacts of climate change.

While John James Audubon left a significant impact on the field of ornithology, he was also an



enslaver, whose racism is now well-understood and inconsistent with our values. We will not ignore the importance of reckoning with the racist legacy of John James Audubon, the man. The organization will continue to call out his views and actions and ensure that our organization prioritizes and embodies our equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging values in all that we do.

We remain steadfast in our non-partisan commitment to protecting birds and the places they need. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to our continued partnership.”

Sean O’Connor  
NAS Chief Development Officer

## CNMAS Will Pursue the Question

“In late April, the Arizona and New Mexico chapter councils held a meeting in Silver City, where much of the conversation focused on equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB). The recent announcement by the National Audubon Society (NAS) to retain Audubon in its name was part of this discussion and subsequently, the joint councils wrote to NAS asking them to reconsider their decision.

Members of CNMAS were at the council meeting and brought

back a lot of information on this issue, which will be shared with members to help our chapter make an informed decision in the not too distant future.

We will have a short discussion about the Audubon name during our annual membership meeting on June 17 and will follow with a survey of all our members about equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging, including the question of a name change.”

Glenda Morling and Asher Gorbet

## U.S. Chapters Are Weighing the Issue

Some Audubon affiliates voted for a name change prior to National’s decision, and more have followed.

In October 2020 the Audubon Naturalist Society of the nation’s capital area became Nature Forward.



Two chapters have changed their name: Birds Connect Seattle and Birds Connect Washington D.C.

Other chapters considering new names are New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Portland and Golden Gate.

The concern that renamed chapters might lose funding from the national organization was resolved by Elizabeth Gray, chief executive officer of the National Audubon Society:

“Each chapter has the autonomy and authority to determine their name to best serve their needs. We will continue to support and work closely with chapters and move forward as one unified community.”

# Agriculture Key to New Strategy to Help Migratory Birds

American Bird Conservancy Working in Latin America and Caribbean

Migratory birds in the Americas are in crisis, with roughly 2.5 billion disappearing from the United States and Canada in the past 50 years. Much of this precipitous decline is driven by habitat loss, including on many species' non-breeding grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean. That's why ABC is launching **BirdsPlus**, an innovative program to rapidly expand bird habitat conservation in Latin American and the Caribbean while also investing in sustainable development in the most important places for migratory bird species.

The program connects people on working lands to financing and markets that can help unlock large funding streams, enabling them to scale up habitat conservation and restoration. The program is also developing an affordable and user-friendly "Bird Index" tool for the private sector, investors, governments, and nonprofits to measure biodiversity benefits of management practices, using birds as indicators.

"When we look at what's driving habitat loss on birds' wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean, it's often conversion to agriculture and livestock grazing," said Marci Eggers, Director of Migratory Bird Habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean. "BirdsPlus will increase habitat conservation through investments

and will be a way to invest in sustainable agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean with positive impacts for birds, nature, and people."

BirdsPlus has a simple three-pronged approach:

First, BirdsPlus will incentivize and catalyze best management practices among farmers and ranchers using science-backed habitat standards.

While forest clearing has been a big driver of habitat loss for birds like the Wood Thrush, working lands can be managed to benefit both birds and people. If a diversity of vegetation is allowed to flourish on farms and ranches, it can contribute to a habitat mosaic that provides refuge to a wide range of resident and migratory bird species and other wildlife. Our staff recently helped develop the standards for the new Bird Friendly Cocoa certification, and we are also promoting sustainability standards for other crops such as rubber and cardamom, as well as cattle grazing.

These best practices will be most impactful if they are adopted on a large scale, which will require substantial financial resources. To address that need, efforts on the ground will be supported by the BirdsPlus Fund, allowing ABC to accelerate and scale up the

adoption of agricultural practices that would generate economic returns for communities and investors.

Over the last four years, we have been piloting conservation projects to demonstrate that the same projects that are good for birds can generate profits. For instance, in Honduras we are working with community-run company that helps cacao farmers improve their practices and sell to buyers in the U.S.

One key aspect of fostering investment in the fund is measuring its benefits. These results will be tracked by ABC's new Bird Index, a biodiversity assessment tool that uses birds as an overall indicator of ecosystem health.

Birds can serve as a convenient, efficient, and cost-effective measure of overall biodiversity in a landscape since they are relatively easy to survey and return more quickly to landscapes under restoration. For instance, more insectivores means there are more insects; more frugivores means there are more native fruiting trees.

With this information, we will be able to track habitat health over time and continuously refine our best management practices.



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This article appeared on <https://abc.org/>

## ABC's BirdsPlus Fund continued

Our hope is that more investors will be attracted to BirdsPlus agriculture and ranching projects because they will be able to track biodiversity impacts.

Taken together, the three strategies should make a real difference for beloved migratory birds like the Cerulean Warbler, Northern Parula, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, as well as help local communities and biodiversity more broadly.



Given the dramatic losses of migratory bird populations, we have to act boldly to achieve conservation at the scale and urgency needed to restore migratory bird habitat. BirdsPlus provides a unique opportunity for win-win collaboration for nature and people. Stay tuned for more exciting news about this program!

## New Birds Are News in New York

The New York Times reported in mid-March:

If you need proof that climate change has altered the wildlife of the city, look no further than the black vultures soaring above Midtown Manhattan. These hulking, bald-headed scavengers have a wingspan that



measures nearly five feet and have traditionally inhabited South America, Central America and the southern United States.

But the black vulture seems to be here for the foreseeable future, along with 20 or 30 species that have recently expanded their ranges into New York City. As weather patterns have warped, and habitats have shrunk and food supplies diminished, the migratory patterns of birds have also changed.

Then in early May came this report: For two weeks a strange bird has perched in Brooklyn over the treetops of one of the Three Sisters Islands in Prospect Park Lake. It shows no signs of heading back to the place it most likely came from in the South.

Meet the anhinga, a large water bird with a snaky neck that has joined other high-profile vagrant birds in recent years by making a rare appearance outside of its typical migration range.



The bird's name comes from the Tupi Indian language of Brazil and means "devil bird." And according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, it's not from around here: they generally range from the Southern states along the gulf coast to Texas, stretching into the Carolinas in the summer.

# Five More Birds That Changed the World Forever

By Stephen Moss

The key turning-point in the rise of science came when Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Although Darwin's finches of the Galápagos islands are often said to have provided him with the "eureka moment" for his revolutionary theory of evolution by natural selection, in reality he showed little interest in these curious birds. It was not until long after his death that scientists realised their importance—they revealed that evolution can take place in a much shorter timescale than was once thought.

## **Guanay cormorant: agriculture**

We often assume modern agriculture began after the second world war, when chemical fertilisers massively increased crop yields. Yet a century earlier, droppings harvested from vast colonies of the guanay cormorant, off the coast of South America, provided the phosphate needed to launch a boom in intensive farming. This altered the landscape of North America and Europe forever, and hastened the decline of farmland and wildlife.



Editor's note: This concludes "Ten Birds That Changed the World," published in The Guardian newspaper on Feb. 23, 2023, and in the spring issue of this newsletter.

## **Tree sparrow: hubris**

The story of China's Chairman Mao is a salutary one: he took on nature and lost. Mao's war against the humble tree sparrow for eating grain seed resulted not just in the bird being wiped out, but the deaths of millions of his own people, too, in a terrible famine: the worst human-made disaster in human history. Crops were left vulnerable as the sparrows had controlled the insect population, particularly locusts.



## **Snowy egret: conservation**

The snowy egret of North America was one of many species of bird that fell victim to the fashion trade, its plumes adorning women's hats and dresses, and resulting in the murder of the brave men who tried to protect the birds. A backlash against such wanton cruelty was organised by pioneering women in Britain and North America. This led to the formation of today's bird protection organisations, which saved the egret and other victims just in time.

## **Bald eagle: politics**

Eagles have always been associated with the strength of nations and empires, through their symbolic use in ancient Greece, Rome and other early civilisations. They also appear on more flags around the world than any other bird. But the Nazis changed both the direction of the eagle—making it face right—and its meaning: turning it into a symbol of totalitarianism.

## **Emperor penguin: climate crisis**

The fate of the emperor penguin—the only bird that breeds during the harsh Antarctic winter — is now potentially the fate of us all. As we career towards oblivion, the world's largest penguin has become, along with the Arctic polar bear, the "canary in the coalmine" of the climate crisis. Bluntly, if they fail to survive, then so might we. Will the crisis result in the catastrophic extinction of thousands of species — including, perhaps, us — or will we manage to pull back from the brink?



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# Thursday Birder Trips

June, July and August 2023

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From Shannon Caruso and Glenda Morling, who have been preparing the TB schedule since June 2021:

We are excited to share the summer schedule with you. Thanks to all the leaders who have come forward to plan trips for us.

Please note there are several different starting times on this schedule.

Thank you to Lefty Arnold for a new feature: eBird hotspots for destinations when possible.

Happy birding!

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## June 1

Doc Long Picnic Area and Bill Spring Trail, 8:25—11:30 a.m.

Leader: Brian Anderson

eBird Hotspot: Cibola NF—Doc Long Picnic Ground and Bill Spring Trail

## June 8

Lou Feltz Cabin, 6:50 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Meet at the northwest corner of Target parking lot at I-25/ Paseo del Norte; park in spots facing Paseo del Norte

eBird location: Porcupine Trail residence (personal location)

## June 15

Tingley Ponds and Bosque, 7:55—11 a.m.

Leader: Mary Rajé

eBird locations: Rio Grande Valley SP—Tingley Beach Bosque Trail; ABQ Bio Park—Tingley Lagoon

## June 22

Durand Open Space, 8:30—11:30 a.m.

Leader: Sara Jayne Cole

eBird location: Durand Open Space and adjacent bosque trails

## June 29

David Canyon/Mars Court, 8:25 a.m.—12 noon

Leader: to be decided

eBird location: Cibola NF—Mars Court Wild Turkey Trail

## July 6

Ojito de San Antonio Open Space, 7:55—11 a.m.

Leader: Ginny Davis

eBird location: Ojito de San Antonio Open Space

## July 13

Ellis Trailhead, 8:25—11:30 a.m.

Leader: Perrienne Houghton

eBird location: Cibola NF—Ellis Trailhead Service Rd. No. 488

## July 20

Jemez Mountains, 7:25 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Reserve your spot by July 13 at [thursdaybirders@gmail.com](mailto:thursdaybirders@gmail.com).

Leaders: Susan and Jim Hunter

## July 27

Oak Flats, 8:25—11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Angela Hawthorne and Glenda Morling

eBird location: Oak Flat Picnic Area

## August 3

Sulphur Canyon, 8:25—11:30 a.m.

Leader: Bob Wilcox

eBird location: Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area

## August 10

Pueblo Montano Trailhead, 7:55—11:00 a.m.

Leader: Claude Vallieres

eBird location: Pueblo Montano bosque trails

## August 17

Willow Creek Bosque Open Space, 7:55—11:00 a.m.

Leader: Ginny Davis

eBird location: Willow Creek Bosque Open Space

## August 24

Jemez Road Trip, 7:25 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Leaders: Sarah and Tom Peterson

eBird locations: Santa Fe NF—San Diego Fishing Access; Fenton Lake SP; Seven Springs Hatchery

## August 31

Shining River Bosque Trails, 8:25—11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Maxine Schmidt and David Watkins

eBird location: Rio Grande Valley SP—Shining River bosque trails

Details on these trips are available on the CNMAS web site, <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>.

# CNMAS Directory and Contacts

Central New Mexico Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society Inc.

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

Mailing address: CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque NM 87190-0002

The CNMAS membership form is on the web site:

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>

## Officers and Directors

|  |   |
|--|---|
| President .....                        | vacant  |
| Vice President.....                    | Denise Jones  |
| Treasurer .....                        | Lee Hopwood   |
| Secretary .....                        | Jamie Wells   |
| Education Chair (interim) .....        | Lee Hopwood   |
| Program Chair.....                     | Laura Banks   |
| Field Trip Chair (interim).....        | Bob Wilcox  |
| Bird-safe Building Coordinator.....    | vacant  |
| Conservation Coordinators.....         | Katrina Hucks and Sara Jayne Cole   |
| NM Audubon Council Representative..... | Robert Munro  |
| Social Media Coordinator.....          | Jason Kitting   |
| Board Members .....                    | Katrina Adamczyk, Laura Banks,<br>Sara Jayne Cole, Asher Gorbet, Lee Hopwood,<br>Perrienne Houghton, Denise Jones, Jason Kitting,<br>Glenda Morling, Robert Munro, Jamie Welles, Bob Wilcox |

## Past Presidents

Beth Hurst-Waitz, Raymond Van Buskirk,  
Karen Herzenberg, Sara Jayne Cole,  
Perrienne Houghton, Jamie Wells