

# BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. V, No. 2

April-May 1975

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY

SATURDAY Field trip to Trigo Canyon, on the west side of the Manzano Mountains, April 12 site of the John F. Kennedy campground. Trip leader will be Darwin Miller. Meet at the First Presbyterian Church, just west of I-25, in the parking lot at the corner of Elm and Copper NE at 6:45 a.m. Bring a lunch, as you may want to hike a pleasant trail up the canyon about two miles, to a small waterfall.

THURSDAY Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m. in April 17 the UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale NE. J. E. Young will present a program he calls "Ecology and the Earthworm". Mr. Young commercially cultivates earthworms and sells not only the worms but also worm casts which are packaged and sold for potting soil. Program Chairman Craig Andrews is broadening our view of the Audubon Society, which is dedicated to preserving all of nature and not just the birds, as we tend to think. With our increasing understanding of ~~the interdependence of~~ all living things -- plants as well as animals -- this broader view becomes more important. *Earthworms, yet!*

SATURDAY Field trip to the Alameda ditch, just south of Indian Lakes. This is a April 26 fine birding area and it should be particularly productive at this time of year. Red-headed Woodpeckers have been seen in this area in the Spring. Chuck Hundertmark will be trip leader. Meet at the picnic area just east of the intersection of old US-85 and NM-422 at 7:00 a.m. Old US-85 is the extension of North 4th Street; NM-422 is the Alameda/Tramway Blvd. turnoff from I-40.

SATURDAY Field trip to the village of Manzano, 40 miles south of I-40 on NM-14. May 10 Birding will be in and around the village. A small lake attracts waterfowl, marsh birds and song birds. Meet Jim Karo, trip leader, in the parking lot of Western Skies Motel at 7:00 a.m.

THURSDAY Annual meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY will be held at May 15 St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, corner of Jefferson and Copper NE. Please use the Copper Street entrance to the building. There will be a potluck supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bring a generous amount of your favorite recipe to share and tableware for your own use. Beverages will be provided.

If you cannot come to the dinner, join us for the meeting at about 7:30 p.m. John Hubbard, project leader of the Endangered Species Program, N. M. Dept. of Game and Fish, will talk on a subject of his choosing. He has a wide range of subjects from which to choose, as he is also regional field notes editor for AMERICAN BIRD and he was formerly curator of New World Birds at the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

SATURDAY Field trip to Isleta Marsh. This is another fine birding area where May 24 water and cover attract birds all year round. Field trip leader will be Ross Teuber. Meet at the Post Office on the west side of Winrock Center at 6:45 a.m.

As noted above, four field trips are scheduled for the April-May migration period. Starting in June there will be only one field trip scheduled each month. If you have questions about any of the listed field trips, call the trip leader or Field Trip Chairman Ross Teuber.

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### TRUTH CAPSULE

A successful business executive retired from his job, sold his luxurious city co-op, and moved to the Maine woods where he took up pottery-making. In a letter to an old friend he explained why: "The trouble with modern life is that the urgent things crowd out the important ones."

### NOMINATIONS

At the March general meeting, the Nominating Committee submitted a full slate of nominees for the 1975-76 year. The committee members were Craig Andrews, Chairman; Ethyl Ringer and Jacque Hohlfelder. Nominees are:

<i>President:</i>	Dan Washburn
<i>Vice President</i>	Craig Andrews
<i>Treasurer</i>	Phyllis Scott
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Helen Riddell
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Robert Jost
<i>Director (4-year term)</i>	Jim Karo

Further nominations may be made from the floor (with the permission of the person being so nominated) at the annual meeting in May, as well as the April regular meeting, and elections will be held in May.

### WEEKDAY BIRDERS

If you are sometimes able to go birding on weekdays and would be willing to escort visiting birders to one of your favorite birding areas, please call Ross Teuber, Field Trip Chairman, at 265-8962. You do not have to be an expert birder. The visitors themselves are frequently experts but do not know where to look for birds in this unfamiliar area.

Some birders from Canada will be in Albuquerque on April 23rd and 24th and would particularly like to see Mountain Plover or Prairie Falcon! A man from the East Coast will be here from May 14th to 21st and would appreciate a chance to go birding with one of our members on a weekday or weekend. If you could help in either of these situations, or at some other time, call Ross.

### HUMMINGBIRD TIME AGAIN

Time to get out the hummingbird feeders and prepare them for another season. Black-chins have been seen in the northeast heights as early as April 12 and even earlier in the Valley.

### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Recent issues of *Science*, publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, have had articles of special interest to Audubon members. One told of a research project being conducted at the University of Florida, using the bodies of small birds which had been killed by striking tall television towers during nocturnal migratory flights. Birds killed in the autumn are generally quite obese and the fat deposits have been analyzed for pesticide residue. The peak year for finding DDT residue in birds was 1959 and the proportion of DDT has steadily declined ever since that year, coinciding with the decline of DDT usage in the United States.

Another article dealt with the deliberate killing of very rare birds, or the taking of eggs of such birds for research or for specimens. This matter was considered at the 16th International Ornithological Congress in Australia last summer and a resolution was prepared. It recognized that some collecting is essential but applicants for collection permits should show such collection is necessary and that taking specimens would not endanger the population of the birds concerned.

### LE MOT JUSTE

(That's French for "just the right word".)

From this month's issue of "WINGBEAT", Beaumont, Texas, comes a story of a hearing before the Corps of Engineers regarding flood-control dikes around some of that sea-level area. Many citizens aired their views, among them some 18 members of the local Audubon Chapter.

When the hearing was over and the crowd dispersing, a Corps of Engineers vehicle was seen leaving the scene wearing an obviously newly applied bumper sticker reading

CHANNELIZATION KILLS FISH AND WILDLIFE.

Well done, Beaumont!

ENDANGERED SPECIES

In our last issue, we printed an editorial from *The Ibis*, publication of the Orleans Audubon Society, which was critical of the fact that not a single state had requested funds provided for in the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

We have now received in rebuttal a letter from John P. Hubbard, Project Leader of the Endangered Species Program of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. We are glad to print parts of his letter. He reports that a state must "qualify" to retain jurisdiction over its endangered and threatened wildlife before it is allowed to apply for these funds. Even though Congress passed the Act in 1973, guidelines for qualification were not completed until late summer, 1974. New Mexico filed its application for qualification with the U. S. Department of Interior in September and was one of the first states to do so. No state application had been acted upon as of mid-February, 1975 and therefore no state had been able to apply for funds under the 1973 act. Dr. Hubbard adds:

"It is our understanding that the \$10 million that has been authorized by the Act has not actually been appropriated by Congress. In the meantime, New Mexico is pursuing its own endangered species program with state support and matching funds from other federal sources. We will welcome additional federal funding, but fortunately our other sources have allowed us to get down to business without delay."

There was a front-page article in the Albuquerque Journal on Sunday, January 19, 1975, explaining the work of the Endangered Species program which Dr. Hubbard heads. Twenty-six species of animals, including mammals, reptiles, birds and fish, have been listed as endangered within the state of New Mexico. Among the birds listed are the Bald Eagle, which is rare in New Mexico but still fairly numerous in Alaska (although considered endangered there, too), and the Peregrine Falcon, which species is in danger of complete extinction.

We are grateful to Dr. Hubbard for clarifying this situation, and are glad to know that New Mexico is working on the matter without waiting for the red tape to unwind.

RARE BIRD ALERT

If a rare or unusual bird is seen in the Albuquerque area, we would like to notified. Phone Dot DeLollis (299-5384) or Helen Riddell (294-6096) to report the sighting. If there is a chance other members can also see the bird(s), they will be notified as quickly as possible. For members who have signed for the Bird Alert, the schedule is given below. In event of notification of a rare or unusual bird, each person should phone the person or persons listed immediately below the member's own name.

Dot DeLollis 299-5384		---	Helen Riddell 294-6096	
:			:	
:			:	
Ross Teuber Office 766-2403 Home 265-8962			Mary Alice Root Office 277-2616 Home 298-1135	
:			:	
:			:	
Romola Reineke 344-5138	John Dürrie Office 277-2612 Home 255-4694		Jim Karo Office 264-8905 Home 294-2777	Mary Lou Arthur 256-7359
:	:		:	:
Linda Boers 298-9858	Marian Washburn Office 765-4040 Home 266-3078		Lila Lang 898-6077	Ethyl Ringer 266-6038

Call Dot DeLollis if you would like to have your name added to the schedule. She will assign your name to be called.

AUDUBON FILM SERIES SET

Dates and topics for the Film Series 1975-76 will be as follows:

- |             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| November 12 | Vanishing American Wildlife |
| December 9  | Exploring Big Bend Country  |
| February 2  | Naturalists Afield          |
| March 10    | Wild Scandinavia            |
| April 1     | The Bahamas - Top to Bottom |

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE

These are the people who have joined National and Local Audubon since we last published. Read over the list; if you know anyone there, encourage them to come to our meetings or form a carpool and come together. Anyone who is interested in the Audubon Society and what it stands for has just got to be interesting to know!

- Mr. Tom Corr 4211 Hannett NE
- Mr. John Davis 115-1/2 Princeton SE
- Mr. Wyman Edwards 217 Princeton SE
- Mrs. Jean Effron 1308 Dallas NE, #23
- Mrs. Ginger I. Gallegos 2845 Monroe NE
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Nale 9000 Zuni SE, W2
- Mr. Michael F. Hartshorne 310 Walter SE, #2
- Mr. James Horwitz 1522 Tijeras NE
- Mr. & Mrs. V. M. Kimmick 437 Val Verde SE
- Mr. David E. Lange 1800 Vassar NE, Apt. B.
- Mr. & Mrs. Myrri McBride 1614 Ridgecrest Dr. SE
- Ms. Anne Mitchell 1408-C Vassar NE
- Mr. C. George Mombell 1808 Kriss Place NE
- Mr. Walter B. O'Neal 1001 Richmond NE
- Dr. & Mrs. C. H. Palmer 601 11th St. NW
- Ms. Tina Sanford P. O. Box 3714, Sta. D
- Mrs. Hart Schwarz 920 Continental Loop 59 SE
- Capt. & Mrs. R. H. Shipman, Jr. 1933-B Mercury Dr., KAFB
- Mr. Dale H. Allen 3227 34th St. SE, Apt. S
- Mr. Glenn Chamberlin 3318 Tiley Drive NE
- Ms. Dorothy H. Clark 119 40th St. NW
- Lt. James L. Coleman, Jr. Bldg. 3225, Apt. P., 34th St.
- Ms. Melissa Epple College Inn, 303 Ash NE
- Mr. & Mrs. Simeon Hyde, Jr. 605 Wellesley SE
- Mr. David Scheibner 11513 Bellamah NE
- Mr. Robert M. St. John 1441 Columbia NE

We welcome these new members to the Audubon Society and extend a cordial invitation to all to attend our interesting meetings, as well as the field trips.

AVES RARAE in Albuquerque

We regret that the word came in too late to put on the Rare Bird Alert, but Judge E. L. Mechem was kind enough to write us that on March 24 a flock of 20-30 Bohemian Waxwings paid a visit to his yard. He reports that at first he took them for Cedar Waxwings, but they did not look just right for that, so he brought out the birdbook and Bohemians were what they turned out to be. He said he also had some Scaled Quail trying to nest in his yard, but he discouraged them because of a high cat population.

We are indeed grateful to Judge Mechem for taking time to write about his find. Bohemian Waxwings are something we don't see often in Albuquerque. If you want to try your luck, the Judge says there is a golf course near him (his address is 7400 Vista del Arroyo) and they might be there, though they are the "roamin' kind". According to the National Geographic bird book, their southern range is California, Arkansas and Nova Scotia in the winter. "A winter shortage of berries may send them into the Southwest or eastward into New England".

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I hope that I shall never see  
Our river shorn of every tree;  
No robins nesting in their hair  
Because the banks are straight  
and bare.  
What if Joyce Kilmer's verse lives on  
But all the trees and birds are gone?  
If Ogden Nash's billboard fall,  
There still will be no trees at all.  
Poems are made by foolish seers,  
But God -- who made the engineers?

This pointed and poignant poem was written by New Mexico's own well known and loved writer, Fra Angelico Chavez. His scholarly and interesting writings cover many subjects having to do with our Land of Enchantment, but this one, quoted in the "Action Line" of the Albuquerque *Journal* last fall, particularly appealed to the *Burrowing Owl*.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

A month ago at the Chapter meeting, announcement was made of the Whit-tell Challenge Grant Membership Campaign launched the first of the year by National Audubon. This grant offers a prize of \$1,000 to the local chapter in each Region which increases its membership by the largest number and a second \$1,000 prize to the chapter which increases its membership by the largest percentage.

We are the Region's sixth-largest chapter, with Houston, Dallas County, New Orleans, Travis County (Austin) and Fort Worth ahead of us.

In January we led the Region, with a 5.4% increase, though our numerical increase was only fifth.

In February, we fell to third place, percentage-wise, and fifth place in numbers. Southwestern New Mexico beat us, with 7.9 and Frontera, Texas took a whopping lead with 21.1%. Nobody even came close to them.

Sangre de Cristo (Los Alamos/Santa Fe) is pushing right up behind us, coming up with 7.8% and if we don't look out, they may forge ahead.

The Chapter Board, with the approval of the Wildlife Film Series Board, has arranged to give with each new membership a 40% discount on a series ticket for the new season if purchased between now and the end of June. This will mean that each new member is entitled to buy a series ticket for \$4.20 instead of the price established for the Series by Popejoy Hall of \$7.00 for adult tickets. Student tickets, with discount, will be priced at \$2.40 for the five-show series, with each new membership. The new member may purchase in whichever category he chooses. The membership must be paid for, not charged. The offer will definitely close June 30.

Memberships must go through the hands of the Membership Chairman in order that credit for the discount can be given and the tickets can be delivered when printed.

Application forms for membership are available on request from the Membership Chairman, Mrs. Marian Washburn, 504 Princeton SE, No. 3, phone 266-3078 evenings or 765-4040 daytimes. Checks must be made to Central New Mexico Audubon Society and the membership fee will be forwarded to National Audubon.

Now what does the new member get for his \$19.20 (Individual membership)? Membership in one of the greatest conservation organizations in this country; the bi-monthly *Audubon* magazine, membership in the Central New Mexico Chapter of the Audubon Society, a 40% discount on one series ticket to the Wildlife Film Series, and the good feeling of being a part of the effort to make a better world -- plus, of course, receiving six issues of *The Burrowing Owl*.

Thus the gift of a membership -- either individual, family or student -- would benefit not only the recipient, but also the Chapter. If we win the prize, there are some plans of establishing a scholarship for a deserving ornithological student.

Here are the membership rates:

Individual	\$15.00 per year
Family	18.00 per year
Sustaining	30.00 per year
Student	7.00 per year

Students must be under 21 years of age OR enrolled in a full-time educational program including graduate school.

When calling for membership applications, please state whether adult or student material is needed. If you prefer to write for the material, address the Chapter at Post Office Box 30002, Albuquerque 87110.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE YOUNGER GENERATION

"Wildlife is animals you can't have for a pet."

In answer to the question: What is a government refuge? ---

"...Where birds fly to and people take care of them so they won't die.

"...Where birds can't get killed.

"...Where the birds fly to and they know that the men who work there will help and get them better if they are hurt or sick."

INTERIOR SECRETARY NOMINATION

On Saturday, April 5, your Board of Directors sent the following wire to the President of the United States, with copies to New Mexico Senators Domenici and Montoya.

*The Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500*

*The Central New Mexico Audubon Society, membership 350, wishes to go on record as being extremely opposed to the nomination of Stanley Hathaway for the position of Interior Secretary. Putting this man in that position would be locking the fox in the henhouse with the hens. His past record of total disregard for the natural resources of his own state as well as the country make him, in our opinion an improper custodian for the very resources which are now so endangered. We beg you, please consider this matter very seriously and find a better nominee for the position.*

*The Board of the Central New Mexico  
Audubon Society  
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

The action was taken at the request of the District Representative, John Franson, who informed us that Stanley Hathaway, former governor of Wyoming, is a highly industrial-minded politician, who believes that there should be a one-way conveyor belt to the industrialists, at whatever cost to the people. Hathaway was a promotor of the Bald Eagle shooting from airplanes, some two years ago.

The National Audubon Society is working against this nomination. If you feel strongly enough about the matter to write, there is probably yet time. The appointment must be approved by the Senate, so letters to your Senators, asking them to vote against the appointment may be in time. Since this is the administrative arm of the government, we will not be lobbying, which we cannot do.

Letters should be addressed to The Honorable Pete V. Domenici and The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya, Senator, The Capitol, Washington, D. C. 20510. A letter should be written to each man. Appointment of Hathaway would mean the complete undoing of all that has been accomplished in conservation to date, and could even mean the death of the Wildlife Refuge System, which is in bad straits already.

So now, when you lay this down, take pen in hand and WRITE!



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Post Office Box 30002  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

THE AUDUBON CAUSE

To promote the conservation of wild-  
life and the natural environment.  
To educate man regarding his relation-  
ship with, and place within, the  
natural environment as an ecological  
system.

Mrs. Nicholas DeLollis  
3600 Piermont Drive NE  
Albuquerque 87111