

# BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

October-November 1975

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sat.-Sun. FIELD TRIP to Elephant Butte Reservoir and the Middle Rio Grande Valley for both good birding and inspection of the damage done by the Bureau of Reclamation. This is a combined pleasure and information trip, and should be of great interest. It will be a two-day expedition and you can camp out somewhere in the area or stay at a motel in Truth or Consequences, which will be closer than Socorro at the end of the day.

Meet at the Physics/Astronomy Building parking lot at 7 a.m. Some of the trip will be over somewhat sandy roads, though Chuck Hundertmark, leader, feels that most cars, if not too heavy, will make it through. There are no guarantees; however, if enough people go there should be help if needed.

Thursday BOARD MEETING at the home of Ross and Clara Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE.  
October 9 Either Ross or Dan Washburn will call Board members to remind them.

Sat./Sun. FIELD TRIP to Water Canyon, led by Pat Basham, well known to most of our members before she moved to Socorro recently. Plans are to meet in the parking lot of the L&M Feed Store in Socorro at 7:30 a.m. (It is about a two-hour drive to Socorro.) The feed store is just before the turn-off to Magdalena on the road through town. Take the first Socorro exit, go down the main street and as you approach the south side of town, keep an eye peeled for the L&M Feed Store. Saturday night may be spent at the Canyon by those wishing to camp out; others may return to Albuquerque Saturday evening. There is good birding at the Canyon and there is water available as well as primitive conveniences.

Thursday Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m.,  
Oct. 16 in the Physics/Astronomy Building of UNM, Lomas and Yale NE. The meeting will be conducted by the president, covering the phreatophyte suit the Chapter is presently involved in, and will be accompanied by slides.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge -- maybe to  
Nov. 15 see Whooping Cranes! Meet at the Post Office in the northwest corner of Winrock Shopping Center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to volunteer as leader for the trip, please contact Ross Teuber at 265-8962. It is not necessary to know where the Cranes may be seen, or identify any of the other birds to be a leader. Ross can explain what is involved; give him a ring.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Estancia -- a one-day trip to areas southeast of Albuquerque in search of the Mountain Plover and any early hawks who may be migrating through or who have decided to spend the winter with us.

Meet in the parking lot of the Western Skies Motel on East Central at 7:30 a.m. Mary Lou Arthur, trip leader, thinks this is early enough, since we will be off Daylight Saving Time by then.

Wednesday The first Audubon Wildlife Film of the season -- "VANISHING AMERICAN  
Nov. 12 WILDLIFE", with Burdette White who, with his wife Violet, have been searching for, finding and filming some of the endangered wildlife of the U.S. This is an engrossing program which features threatened U.S. wildlife, explains some of the reasons for the predicament of these species and offers suggestions for their preservation.

May we remind you to buy your tickets from a member of the Film Board -- Bill Stamm, President (contact him at 255-2640) or Dan and Marian Washburn (266-3078) in order that the Series may receive 40% of the ticket proceeds. Only those tickets which is sold by the Series itself net anything to the Series -- the rest goes to Popejoy Hall.

Thursday BOARD MEETING. Time and place will be announced later. Members of  
Nov. 13 the Chapter who are interested in attending are invited to do so. The Board would like to have input from the members.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge -- maybe to  
Nov. 15 see Whooping Cranes! Meet near the Post Office in the northwest corner of the Winrock shopping center at 7:30 a.m.

Thursday  
Nov. 20 Regular meeting of the CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., Physics/Astronomy Building, UNM, Lomas and Yale NE. Program Chairman Craig Andrews has planned a real goodie for us again: Dr. Phyllenore Howard, on the subject of water pollution in the Albuquerque area. Mrs. Howard is a member of the New Mexico Mountain Club, the Sierra Club and the Citizens for Clean Air and Water. She knows whereof she will speak and will undoubtedly bring us some very enlightening (and perhaps disturbing) information.

Tuesday  
Dec. 9 Audubon Wildlife Film, Popejoy Hall, 7:30, "EXPLORING BIG BEND" with Charles Hotchkiss. At a meeting of the Chapter some months ago, we explored parts of the Big Bend country with Ro Wauer; Mr. Hotchkiss will undoubtedly show us even more of a part of the country some of us still are dreaming of visiting.

Again -- buy your tickets from an Audubon source, so the Film Series corporation can realize some of the proceeds.

Thursday  
Dec. 11 Advanced monthly meeting, CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., Physics/Astronomy Building, UNM, Lomas and Yale NE. NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE. As we usually do in December, we have moved the meeting up one week to avoid conflict with Christmas arrangements. It will be on the second week of December, instead of the third.

The program will be a talk by Mr. Lloyd Barlow, a member of the Environmental Planning Commission of Albuquerque, about city-edge planning -- a kind of green-belt around Albuquerque. More details later.

#### THE TUCUMCARI FIELD TRIP

Seven made the trip to Tucumcari Marsh and Ute Lake on Saturday, September 27. While the marsh was found to be nearly dry, a small pond entertained many ducks and a solitary sandpiper, as well as a semi-palmated sandpiper. Several avocets added to the lifelist of one of the birders.

At Ute Lake two ospreys were spotted, one adult and one immature, as well as a clay-colored sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrows and several other species. At one point a couple of ravens were seen mobbing a young golden eagle, forcing it to the ground, though no injury could be detected. It was an eventful day for those seven enthusiasts.

#### NATIONAL OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY

On the same day as the Tucumcari field trip, September 27, at Winrock Shopping Center who knows how many thousands of people passed by the display mounted by the CNMAS at the Outdoor Skills Fair, a feature of National Wildlife Association.

The new three-winged display board, designed by Member Craig Andrews and built by Member Tom Warder, was inaugurated at this show. Three 3x4 ft. boards are hinged together at the center, to make six panels for mounting display material. Posters concerning the phreatophyte clearing, marsh conservation and predator control, the Whale Seminar and the Wildlife Films were featured in the display.

On another table, a continuous showing, with narrative, depicted the wildlife population and the results of channelization and clearing of the Rio Grande. This was assembled and narrated by Chuck Hundertmark, and will be an excellent aid in the educational work of the Chapter.

A petition to the United Nations to get busy on Earthcare was made available for signatures. Sample Audubon Magazines, membership materials and printed articles on several subjects were distributed to interested passersby.

Other participating organizations were Keep New Mexico Beautiful, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Sandia Search and Rescue Unit, Ski-Touring Club and the Emergency Communications unit.

There is no way to know how many people were really reached with the Audubon message, but we don't always know "how far that little candle throws his beams".

#### NOTE THE CHANGE

Be reminded early -- The December meeting will be moved ahead one week and take place on December 11. This is our usual practice, to avoid some of the congestion of the Christmas season.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

Point System on Ducks

In a letter to Acting Secretary of the Interior D. Kent Frizzell, Audubon President Stahr has served notice on the federal government that the Society intends to "proceed with legal action" to prevent future use of the "point system" for setting bag limits for duck hunters.

The so-called point system assigns different numbers of points to different species of waterfowl -- more points for the less-lentiful species, less for the more common ones. High hopes were held for the success of the system, but it has, on the contrary, encouraged violations (the unscrupulous shooter who shoots a bird then throws it in the marsh when he discovers it is a high-point species, so he can take home more low-point birds.)

Amended Pesticide Control Bill weakens EPA authority, etc.

The House Agriculture Committee has reported HR 8841, its amended version of the bill to extend the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act. If passed, the measure would stop the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to make emergency suspensions of pesticides found to be damaging; play down considerations of health, shifting the balance of consideration to agricultural and economic costs, and permit farmers to certify themselves competent to use restricted poisons. (!! Ed.)

Etcetera, etcetera

Hearings on the nomination of Thomas S. Kleppe as new Secretary of the Interior were scheduled September 23 and 25. As of press time, nothing had been observed in the media concerning the hearings.

Numerous problems of funding, personnel and other matters have been debilitating the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Senate Commerce Committee has scheduled oversight hearings September 22 and October 3. Audubon will have a representative present to testify.

An Environmental Protection Agency study reports that the levels of DDT in human and wildlife tissues have dropped significantly since 1972 when the long-lasting pesticide was banned for virtually all U. S. uses. Levels vary considerably in different species and for some of the big predatory birds at the top of the food chain, residual DDT is still causing harm.

AN INTERIM REPORT FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Nearly six months have passed since you elected me president of CNMAS. In that time your Board of Directors has met five times. I cannot tell you in the space allotted all that the Board members have done; I can, however, assure you they are a hard-working group and one with whom it is a privilege to work. Here is a brief summary of what has been done during the nearly six months.

In May, a report on the Sandia land swap impact statement was filed with the Regional Office of the National Audubon Society in Austin. We took a firm stand against release of the Siberian Ibex in the Ladrone Mtns, which was effective. We also questioned the Bureau of Reclamation regarding their actions and intentions at Elephant Butte Marsh. A study of the Los Esteros Lake impact statement has been assigned. We solicited help for HR 5608.

In June, the Board assisted Member Prince Pierce in his efforts to save a very rare species of cactus from being completely destroyed on a hilltop in Northern New Mexico. His efforts were successful and the BLM was duly thanked. Matthew Meadow in Albuquerque was discussed briefly as a possibility for a city park. Jacques Hohlfelder was nominated for membership on the advisory board for the BLM Albuquerque District. We wrote the Game and Fish Department of our interest in saving Tucumcari Lake and Marsh and we wrote to Representative Lujan expressing the feeling of the Chapter regarding HR 3510, the Land Use Bill.

July saw the resurfacing of the Navy's "Project Seafarer" (formerly known as "Project Sanguine") and was assigned for study. A shoulder patch for the Chapter was selected from three designs submitted by Pat Basham and the order was sent off. Our Corresponding Secretary communicated our feelings for support of HR 5608, the bill to extend the authority to acquire wetlands, which passed the House.

August was a busy month, in contrast to the usual "lazy days of summer". Darwin Miller, member, explained in detail to the Board the need and possibilities of Matthew Meadows. Responsibility for a booth at National Outdoor Sk Skills Day was accepted and assigned. Two members of the Chapter attended a meeting concerning the proposed open season on mountain lions in the Sandia Mtns. and reported on results. We received and began circulation of a petition on Earthcare to assure human rights. A New Mexico Bird Alert program was assigned. We took a public stand opposing all hunting in the Sandia Mtns. and we gave our support to the Environmental Protection Agency concerning pesticide control.

September was another busy month. Chuck Hundertmark reported on the phreatophyte suit, which he has been closely following. He also was asked to write a paper on the subject, to be passed out on National Outdoor Skills Day. Jim Karo reported that at the present time a site in Nevada is favored for the "Project Seafarer" installation. (This is a network of underground transmitting cables for communicating with submerged vessels without the necessity of their rising to the surface for reception.) It was decided to try to broaden our scope among the younger generation by publicizing meetings and other activities in the Albuquerque High Schools. A comment on the Los Esteros Lake impact statement was filed with the Regional Office of the National Audubon Society in Austin. Study of the Resources Planning Act impact statement was assigned.

These activities, as you will realize, are in addition to our regular monthly meetings, with their fine programs and the well-planned, abundant field trips.

All in all, it has been a busy six months. As may be observed, we are truly more than just a "bird-watching club." Anyone who is interested in getting into the fight to hand on a better world to our children is hereby invited to join forces with us. It's a battle that needs all the help it can get.

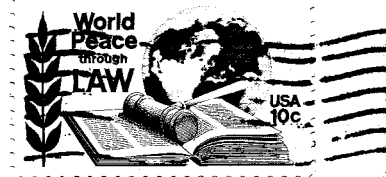
-- Daniel T. Washburn, President

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Please take note of the inserts included with the Owl. They are of special interest. The insert concerning the Elephant Butte Marsh is the result of our lawsuit forcing the Bureau of Reclamation to make an impact statement. The Chapter will testify at the hearing October 16 and members should feel free to submit their own comments.

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Hopefully, the shoulder patches which were ordered some weeks ago, will be reaching us soon. They will be announced at the Chapter meeting and in the next Owl.



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE AUDUBON CAUSE

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

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