

BURROWING OWL



CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. August-September, 1978

CALENDAR -- AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the
July 20 CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
 AUDUBON SOCIETY at St.
Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper &
Jefferson NE at 7:30 P.M. The pro-
gram has been changed. (Whooping
Crane film not available) Instead
Rio Grande Zoo director, John Moore
will report on the Zoo's future
plans and on research on the Aus-
tralian Brush Turkey conducted at
the zoo including films of the birds
building their mounds.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Hyde Park
July 22 and the Santa Fe Ski
 Basin. Leader Bob Jost.
Meet at 7 A.M. at the UNM Physics &
Astronomy Building, Lomas & Yale NE.
(On Thursday, July 13, Joanne Phillips
spotted a Goshawk at Hyde Park.)

Saturday WILDFLOWER CLUB FIELD
July 29 TRIP to Wheeler Peak at
 8 A.M. from Twinings (Taos
Ski Basin) The group may try to find
the White-tailed Ptarmigan. Call
Mary Alice Root (266-0561) for details.

Thursday BOARD MEETING at the home
August 3 of Dave Lange, 1800 Vassar
 NE, Apt. B. (266-4420)
at 7:30 P. M.

Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the
August 17 CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
 AUDUBON SOCIETY at St.
Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper &
Jefferson NE at 7:30 P.M. Lee Singer,
Public Information Officer for Cibola
National Forest will present a pro-
gram about RARE II (Roadless Area
Review and Evaluation II).

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Capulin Springs
August 19 in the Sandias led by Jim
 Karo (294-2777). Meet at
Western Skies Motel 13400 Central SE.
at 7 A.M. We hope to find the Rufous
and (possibly) the Calliope Hummingbird.

Thursday BOARD MEETING at the home
Sept. 7 of Bob Jost, 812 Eastridge
 NE (292-3625)

Saturday FIELD TRIP to a new area.
Sept. 9 Darwin Miller (265-6361)
 will lead a birding ex-
ploration of the Rio de Las Bacas in
the Jemez Mountains from San Pedro
Wilderness to Jemez Pueblo. Meet at
7 A.M. at Goodwill Industries, 5000
San Mateo NE.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Shady Lakes
Sept. 16 and Alameda area. Shore-
 bird migration should be
good at this time. Leader: Barbara
Hussey (268-6547). Meet at the UNM
Physics and Astronomy Bldg. at Lomas
and Yale NE at 7 A.M.

Thursday REGULAR MEETING of the
Sept. 21 CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
 AUDUBON SOCIETY at St.
Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper &
Jefferson NE at 7:30 P.M. Larry
Smith, Migratory Bird Coordinator
for the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
will talk about the Whooping Crane
Recovery Program and the Snow Goose
Hunter Education Program.

Saturday FIELD TRIP to Bosque del
Sept. 30 Apache National Wildlife
 Refuge. Meet at refuge
headquarters at 9 A.M. Shorebird
migration should be excellent.



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BIRDING

Ken Jacobsen reported for the "Owl" on the field trip to Guadalupe Canyon held on May 27, 28 and 29. Jim Karo led six birders camping in the famous Arizona-New Mexico canyon. Highlights of the trip included Mary Alice Root's & Mary Lou Arthur's sighting of a male and a female Montezuma Quail and Marilyn Jacobsen's discovery of a pair of Great Horned Owls bringing a ground squirrel to their nearly full grown young in broad daylight. The trip also turned up a Ridgway's Whip-poor-will A.K.A. Buff-collared Nightjar (vocalization only), Gila Woodpecker, and Thick-billed Kingbirds closely

observed during mid-air feeding habits and mating activities. All three western Myiarchus flycatchers were seen: the Wied's Crested, the Ash-throated, and the Olivaceous. Many Vermilion and a Northern Beardless Flycatcher were observed near camp.

Also spotted were: Mexican Jay, Bridled Titmouse, many Verdin, Bewick's and Rock Wrens, and Bendire's, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers. Phainopepla were seen as well as Granger Ward's sighting of a Bell's Vireo. Rounding out the list were the Lucy's Warbler, the Bronzed Cowbird, Cardinal, and Varied Bunting!

SUPPRISE VISITQUOTES

"The smallest foothold on the surface of the globe places us in contact with the whole world's unending web of life. There are no isolated fragments. There are only threads and links and fragments. Nothing is alone, nothing is unrelated, all are linked together."

- Edwin Way Teal in
"Springtime in Britain"

MORE FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On June 24, Darwin Miller led the trip to Capulin Springs and Cañon Media in the Sandias. 25 species were seen by the 7 people attending. Highlights included: Band-tailed Pigeon, Williamson's Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker, Grace's Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak. Darwin says they only went about 700 feet down into the canyon, but all enjoyed the unexpected spectacular views proving that the loveliest places are often just a little ways off the beaten path.

The trip on July 8th was successful with 9 people spotting 7 to 9 Mountain Plovers. Leader Ross Teuber commented that the area has few other bird species to be seen illustrated by the short trip list of only 5 species.

On the field trip on July 15th 16 people enjoyed the cool Jemez Mountain air while they observed 34 species at the home of Marge and Bob Swain. Notable species were: a Goshawk's nest (the bird was heard but not seen), a Spotted Sandpiper, Western Flycatchers and Western Wood Pewees both feeding their young in nests in the Swain's backyard, and 3 Dippers at the trip meeting place, the La Cueva picnic area. Also, 3 prairie dogs were found. We thank the Swains for their gracious hospitality in allowing us to use their home for birding and picnicking again this year!

HELP

HELP

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We need your help in manning our State Fair exhibit. The State Fair will run from the 13th to the 24th of September and if you are planning to attend, or even if not, please help us with the exhibit. Our exhibit will be in the flower building with space donated by the Garden Clubs. If you can help please contact Helen Riddell at 294-6096. Three hour shifts will be set up, so indicate what days and hours you would be willing to work. Thanks.

CNMAS STATE FAIR EXHIBIT

An Aztec thrush, the second ever reported in the United States, was seen during the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference on June 3 and 4. The conference was in Sierra Vista, Arizona and the rare bird was spotted during a field trip to Huachuca Canyon. The Aztec thrush normally is found only high in the mountains of Central America.

About 200 persons attended the conference which was co-hosted by Huachuca and Tucson Audubon societies. As well as arranging field trips and various conference-related activities, the two chapters conducted the workshops that were a major part of the program. Tucson Audubon handled one on riparian ecosystems and Huachuca one on "sky islands," the term used since Fort Apache days to describe the mountains that rise as high as 10,000 feet from the Sonoran Desert and which, because of the altitude difference, are green and forested.

The workshops, along with panels by National Audubon staffers and a talk by National Audubon President, Dr. Elvis Stahr, were held on Saturday and Sunday. There was a cook-out and "owl-prowls" at night. The field trips were held the previous Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and the following Monday and Tuesday. Arizona's hummingbirds, trogons and other specialties provided many of the birders, including many CNMAS members, with several new life birds in addition to the Aztec thrush.

ALASKA'S LAST CHANCE - LETTERS NEEDED

Senator Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico will play a critical role in the mark-up of the Alaska National Interest Lands bill in the Senate, since he serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It is vital that New Mexicans inform the senator of their interest in Alaska. Let him know that his constituents consider this a very important piece of legislation, even though Alaska is a long way off. Point out that the House responded to the people by passing the House version (HR-39) by an overwhelming majority. Tell him you want him to view HR-39 as the very bottom line for National Interest in Alaska. Full Senate vote is projected to early August.

The National Audubon Society has had Alaska as its number one national issue for two years. We are down to the wire and need all the help we can get. The letters from home are so very important in this kind of a campaign. This will indeed be the biggest conservation accomplishment of the 1900's. Please be a part of it! (Addresses on page 6).

- Dede Armentrout, Audubon
Southwest Regional Rep.

NONGAME WILDLIFE

The Nongame Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent in May. The House version of the bill, H.R. 10255, was scheduled for a floor vote about a month ago but there was a last-minute postponement following a concerted lobbying attempt to kill it.

The bill is designed to provide for comprehensive planning, research, management, and some habitat acquisition for non-game species in the same manner that the government has long been committed to the game species, but there has apparently been considerable misunderstanding about the measure. Opponents say they fear the bill could become "another snail darter law" blocking or restricting government construction projects. Those who have voiced opposition include the United States Chamber of Commerce, American Public Power Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and three national labor unions. In fact, the bill has no such wording as is contained in the "snail darter" (Endangered Species) act and would be no more restrictive than the federal game-species-oriented programs that have been in effect for years.

You are urged to write your Congressman and assure him that a careful reading of the bill will show the opposition's fears to be unfounded. (Address on page 6)

- Audubon Leader

NEW MEXICO STATE HERITAGE PROGRAM

The June 15th regular meeting of CNMAS was presented by Bill Isaacs, Program Coordinator for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The New Mexico State Heritage Program is part of the National Heritage Program advocated by the Carter administration, the Senate Bill 1820 (the Natural Diversity Act), and House Bill 8650 (the Natural Diversity Preservation Act). With funds provided by these acts each state will be able to acquire natural areas and fund programs to inventory natural heritage.

New Mexico has a long way to go in the area of cataloging its natural phenomena. The program can use some help. If you know of any plants or animals which may be unique to New Mexico, the Heritage Program would like to hear about it. Contact Bill Isaacs, Head of the Heritage Section, State of New Mexico, Natural Resources Department, Villagra Building, Santa Fe, N.M. 87503. Phone (505) 827-5531. Mr. Isaacs told the "Owl" that he welcomes visits to his office by anyone interested in learning more about the program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As of this time 57 questionnaires have been turned in with much useful information which we will try to put to good use. I will summarize some of the responses here and continue in later issues of the OWL.

Question 1 regarded the degree of activity desired with CNMAS. Responses were as follows: a) leave me alone - 13, b) doing as much as I can - 15, c) interested in doing more - 9 and d) would be delighted - 9. The first answer would probably be checked much more often if more of our membership had responded as 57 responses represents only 12 percent of our membership.

On question 2 as a primary reason for being a member of CNMAS: a) obtain AUDUBON - 24, b) field trips - 21, c) monthly meetings - 11, d) to get involved - 23 and e) meet people - 18. Many people responded to more than one and it is gratifying to see the number of people who wanted to get involved.

Some comments to questions 1 and 2 ran from; "Your chapter is a bit to bird-oriented for me." to "We think they go overboard on this (conservation)". Evidently we must be close to the right mix. Several members indicated that they were involved with other organizations ("already very active with Sierra Club") and did not have time to help with CNMAS activities but wanted to "support CNMAS with dues and Membership". Some people don't understand why they are members of CNMAS - "I have never joined CNMAS - someone just sends me the newsletters. I suppose its automatic since I belong to Audubon." Membership in the National Audubon Society does not bring automatic membership in CNMAS if you live within our territory. If the membership application you filled out had our chapter stamp on it you automatically became a member of CNMAS otherwise you must make a request to National to belong to our chapter. If you have moved to Albuquerque and have a membership in a chapter from the city in which you previously lived, you must make a request to be transferred to our chapter.

Most people were satisfied with our monthly meeting place, though someone wished "somewhere other than a church" and two members living in the far northeast heights commented "closer to my home". St. Timothy's was chosen a little over a year ago because it has good facilities, is large enough, plenty of parking, convenient, centrally located and could be reserved for a specific day each month.

I will close with a couple of members' comments:

"I'm an old lady, crippled by heart and a broken leg - and I don't see well enough to identify birds! But I'm all for you!!" and:

"I am willing to be an active member but I'm a stranger in the crowd. My capabilities are limited (birds don't need hand knitted sweaters) and I am not familiar with your committee's. But keep me in mind." We will keep you in mind and we can use all the help we can get to make our chapter and Audubon more effective. Don't be afraid to join in and anybody has the ability to help with something.

Dave Lange

REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS:

Operation Game Thief toll free number is 1-800-432-4263. A reward of \$250 for big game and \$50 for other wildlife if the report leads to arrest.

STILL ENDANGERED

As reported in the June-July issue of the Burrowing Owl, Congress is still seeking to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Since then the Tennessee Valley Authority has been directed by the Supreme Court on Thursday, June 15, to stop construction on the 95% completed Tellico Dam. The court ruled that the Endangered Species Act expressly protects the home of the three inch long snail darter and to complete the dam would destroy its habitat.

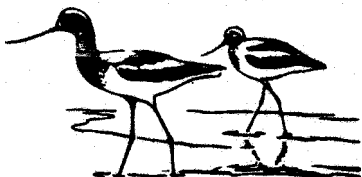
This may be only a temporary victory for environmentalists as the court's ruling has stirred the wrath of many congressmen. Congressional supporters of the dam are already seeking to amend the act itself, seeking to create a "special board" with authority to grant exemptions where the project's value clearly out weighs the value of the endangered species. Such amendments would cripple or effectively destroy the act where large amounts of money have already been spent on projects, or where strong lobbies can push for their construction. As of now there is legislation to amend the act in both houses of Congress, with a Senate version going before the full Senate, having been approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

In a letter to CNMAS, Senator Pete V. Domenici assured us that he voted against the weakening amendment in committee and will continue to oppose all weakening amendments in the full Senate. Senator Harrison Schmitt told CNMAS that he has not as yet made his decision. Currently, CNMAS has not received word on Congressman Manuel Lujan's position.

Let them know how you feel!
(Addresses on page 6).

ERRATUM

On page 4 of the June-July issue of the Burrowing Owl, an article reported that we just had our sixth annual meeting. In fact it was our seventh!

**AUDUBON MAGAZINE**

AUDUBON is such a beautiful magazine that many members save them for years or feel guilty if they do consign the magazines to the trash. Now there is another alternative. Bring your old AUDUBONS to the monthly meetings. We would like them to give to visitors at our meetings and also to give to people who stop at our booth at the NM State Fair or at our display tables at the Audubon Wildlife Film Series and who express real interest in our society. Call membership chairman, Dot DeLollis, (299-5384) if you have any question about this project.

WATER SHOWDOWN?

President Carter has warned he would veto H. R. 12928, the public works appropriations bill, unless "unnecessary" water resources projects were cut out of it. His threat had little apparent effect on the House of Representatives, which two days later proceeded to pass the measure, 263-59, without dropping a single project. Included were the eight from the original 1977 Carter "hit list" that the Congress agreed to drop a year ago but which have been added to this year's bill.

Earlier there was a closer vote on a proposed amendment offered by Rep. Robert W. Edgar of Pennsylvania to delete the eight projects. The amendment was beaten 234-142, but 234 is 17 votes short of the two-thirds majority that would be necessary to override a veto. Congressman Lujan voted against the "Edgar Amendment" and Congressman Runnels was absent during the vote.

Carter's threat was made during a televised press conference. He said he was determined to fight inflation by restraining spending, and that he was "concerned in particular" about the public works bill because it would add more than \$1.4 billion for new dams, canals and irrigation projects, and would restore outlays for projects Congress had already agreed to defer.

We need to urge the President to carry out his threat of veto on public works funding for the projects included in Edgar's amendment. And we need to contact our congressmen, urging re-examination of their position. (Addresses on page 6)

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?

Send address corrections for the Burrowing Owl to Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Dr. NE, Albuquerque, N. M. 87111.

BOOK REVIEW

WATCHING BIRDS: An Introduction to Ornithology by Roger F. Pasquier, with illustrations by Margaret La Farge. 301 plus 18 pages. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1977. \$9.95.

Reviewed by Roland Goodman, Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society

This book was born because the author has a friend who teaches ornithology to high school students, and complained that there was no satisfactory introductory textbook. Pasquier, a young and enthusiastic member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History, was happy to fill this gap with a highly readable volume that any birder should enjoy. And his work is ably supplemented by the black-and-white drawings of Miss La Farge (she is a great-granddaughter of the painter John La Farge; the late Oliver La Farge was John's grandson).

Most of us birders in the Audubon Society were attracted to birds initially by their beauty and variety, and then responded to the considerable challenge of learning to identify them in the wild. As our fascination grows, we travel to see as many different birds as we can. The implication is clear -- birds are adapted to a variety of habitats, and each species has its own life style -- but in our concentration on enlarging our lists we often pay little heed to the underlying meanings.

As Pasquier puts it, the hobbyist "may never consider the reasons for (the birds') appearance, behavior, and distribution; this book gives him the tools to do so, by posing the questions he should ask himself while in the field, and providing some of the answers ... Bird watching is much more fun when you stop to really watch the birds, hence the title of this book."

Pasquier has a delightfully clear and straightforward writing style. He avoids scientific jargon,

"Everything in the universe is hitched to everything else."
- John Muir

CLUB PATCHES

The official Central New Mexico Audubon Society patches are available again! These beautiful cloth patches were designed by CNMAS artist-member Pat Basham. They are three inches in diameter with dark red lettering on a turquoise background. The center of the emblem depicts a white egret flying in front of a yellow and red New Mexico sun symbol. They are available at \$2.00 each from Librarian, Marilyn Jacobsen at the regular meetings.

but uses technical terms without apology where necessary. He does not write down to us, nor does he commit the sin of oversimplification. And he packs an amazing amount of information into three hundred pages. An example: I read nature writing voraciously but haphazardly, and often can't remember where I ran across a particular fact. Recently I wanted to check on the remarkable courtship and nesting habits of the bowerbirds and megapods; Pasquier had succinct descriptions of both.

A partial list of the contents will indicate the scope of "Watching Birds": origin, evolution, feathers and flight, feeding habits, anatomy, voice, breeding cycle, migration, winter habits, distribution, conservation. There is even (pages 35-36) the American Ornithologists' Union's recent reclassification of many U. S. species.

Above all, Pasquier helps us to understand why birds behave as they do, why certain species require particular habitats, how their feeding and breeding habits determine where and when they can be found. And he suggests how even the least trained birder can contribute to scientific knowledge. In brief, he helps to reawaken in us the childhood awareness of the wonders of the world, when we asked "why?".

"Watching Birds" is a joy to read, and a book that you will constantly return to. I recommend it warmly.

A final commercial note: If you can't find it locally, it is offered by The Audubon Bookcase, 3890 Stewart Road, Eugene, Oregon 97402, for \$8.50 plus 35 cents for postage.

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Editor's note: "Watching Birds" can be borrowed at the regular meetings from the CNMAS library.



NMAC PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR TAIWAN

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS RETURN

Martin Ruoss, president of New Mexico Audubon Council and member of the board of directors of CNMAS will be leaving soon with his wife Marilyn for Taiwan. They will be volunteers-in-mission on assignment from the United Methodist Church in America to be librarians at the Taiwan Theological College in Taipei. They will stay for two years beginning in September 1978.

Ross Teuber, vice-president of NMAC will take over presidential duties until the new slate of officers is elected at the council meeting in October. Dave Lange, CNMAS president has appointed Helen Riddell to fill the director's position on the CNMAS board vacated by Martin.

The Ruosses have traveled to distant points of the globe several times before. This year they birded with the Flemings authors of the Birds of Nepal, on a trip in the Himalayas. In the fall of 1973, Martin and Marilyn made a visit to Africa and in 1975 spent a year setting up library facilities at Payap College in Chaing Mai, Thailand. After returning from both these trips they treated CNMAS members to slides of their travels at the 1974 and 1976 annual meetings. Maybe we'll hear about Taiwan, too.

Bon Voyage!

Owl Release - July 11, 1978.....
Audubon Wildlife Films are returning to Albuquerque again in 1978-79, this time under the sponsorship of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society and Popejoy Hall. It is important that all members of CNMAS support the Films by buying tickets for themselves, and by seeing to it that others buy tickets from CNMAS. You'll receive an information sheet within a week. More information then, but here is the very attractive line-up of films for the year:

Oct. 5 '78	GIFTS OF AN EAGLE	Kent Durden
Nov. 11 '78	FOOTLOOSE IN NEWFOUNDLAND	Tom Sterling
Jan. 3 '79	ADVENTURES OF A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER	Bob Davison
Feb. 21 '79	NORTHWEST ADVENTURE	Tom Diez
Apr. 1 '79	LAND THAT I LOVE	Eben McMillan
Apr. 10 '79	NORTH BY SOUTHWEST-EVENING IN CANADA (Bonus Film - in addition to the five Audubon Films)	Richard Fitch

Tickets available at the next meeting.
- Craig Andrews, Audubon Wildlife Film Committee Chmn.

ADDRESSES

- The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500
- The Hon. Manuel Lujan, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515
- The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515
- The Hon. Harrison H. Schmitt
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20515

<u>CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORY</u>		
President	Dave Lange, 1800B Vassar NE 87106 (off.277-3842) home	266-4420
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Recording Secretary	Karen Peterson, 12016 Indian School, NE, #3 87112	296-6262
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Program/Publicity Chairman	Maurice Mackey, 4812 Goodrich NE 87110	881-6019
Audubon Wildlife Film Chmn.	Craig Andrews, 3416 Sierra Dr. NE 87108	881-9387
Conservation Chairman	Tom Hussey, 2068-B Mercury Dr. SE 87118	268-6547
Education Committee Chmn.	Mary Lou Arthur, 728 Monroe Dr. NE 87110	256-7359
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Editor, <u>Burrowing Owl</u>	Barbara Hussey, 2068-B Mercury Dr. SE 87118	268-6547
Director/Membership Chmn.	Dot DeLollis, 3600 Piermont Dr. NE 87111	299-5384
Director	Jim Karo, 1621 Cedar Ridge Dr. NE 87112	294-2777
Director	Jacque Hohlfelder, 13009 Blackstone NE 87111	296-8197
Director	Helen Riddell, 3010 Gen. Stillwell NE 87111	294-6096
NM Audubon Council Rep.	Ross Teuber, 1612 Kentucky NE 87110	265-8962
<u>RARE BIRD ALERT</u>	report sightings to :	898-2568 or 268-6547

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