

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

February — March 1981

CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Saturday
February 28**

FIELD TRIP — work party to CNMAS's adopted trail in the Sandias. A two and a-half mile hike and clean up party. Bring a trash bag and a sack lunch. Children (accompanied by adult) are encouraged. More information from Barbara Hussey (292-5626). Meet at 9 a.m. at the turn off to Juan Tabo Recreation Area on Tramway Road.

**Wednesday
March 11**

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM, 7:30 p.m., UNM Popejoy Hall. Charles Hotchkiss narrates "Wilderness Trails" a look at the contrasts among the wildlife of the Rockies, glaciers, geysers, tundra, mangrove swamps, and glades in North America. Discount tickets available from Dot DeLollis (299-5384).

**Saturday and Sunday
April 11 and 12**

Annual meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society, UNM Biology Department. Business meeting Saturday morning; identification workshop Saturday afternoon; evening program. Field trip Sunday morning. More information from Mary Lou Arthur (256-7359).

**Saturday and Sunday
April 18 and 19**

New Mexico Audubon Council will meet in Roswell. More information in the next OWL.

May

Celebration of tenth anniversary of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Be ready to join the fun.

**Thursday
February 5**

MEETINGS
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Phyllis Schmidt, (821-5790) 6408 Pepperdine, N.E. All members are welcome.

**Thursday
February 19**

Regular meeting of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Speaker will be Scott Brown of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Topic will be wildlife management in New Mexico in the future.

**Thursday
March 5**

Board meeting. A volunteer is needed. You do not have to be a board member to host a board meeting. Call Barbara Hussey (292-5626).

**Thursday
March 19**

Regular meeting of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Dustin and Sue Huntington will present a program on their trip to Maine last June including slides and tape recordings of puffin colonies on Machias Seal Island.

Deadline for BURROWING OWL copy. Call editors Evelyn or George Price (242-6604) if you have any questions or problems.

**Thursday
April 2**

Board meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Neil and Jean Dilley, 13 Mill Road, N.W. (La Luz del Sol—three miles north of I-40 on west side of Coors Road) (897-0854. All CNMAS members are welcome.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday
February 14

Field trip to the University of New Mexico Biology Department. Jim Bednarz, creator of the collection, will show us the UNM bird skin collection as well as the bird eggs in the display. This should be an especially interesting and informative field trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Biology Building on the UNM campus. Call Sue or Dustin Huntington (831-5755) for more information.

Saturday
February 21

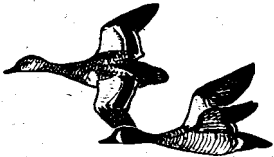
Field trip to Cochiti Lake. Hopefully, we will get a good look at the wintering bald eagles. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Physics and Astronomy Building, Lomas and Yale, N.E., on the UNM campus. Bring lunch. Call leader, Tom Bidell (243-3319) for further information.

Saturday
March 14

Field trip to the Rio Grande Zoo to see the new raptor exhibit. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the zoo entrance. Call Sue Huntington (831-5755).

Saturday
March 28

Field trip to Three Gun Springs Trail at the south end of the Sandias. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Aladin Motel at Central and Tramway. Bring lunch and water. Call Phyllis Schmidt (821-5790).



THE ROYAL "WE"

From this issue on, your newsletter will have two editors. Since I began editing the OWL, my husband, George, has done fully as much work as I have in getting the OWL written, printed, and mailed. So it is time to make it official. From now on the *Burrowing Owl* will have two editors, so when we say "we" its for real—not a royal "we."

We would like to extend our thanks to Edith and Butch Johnson who have been steady members of our mailing team. We just could not have done it without them! Also, thanks to Ross Teuber for continuing to write his fine column and to Dustin Huntington for the beautiful new owl on the masthead as well as for his helpful and informative columns and to PNM who has made our beautiful new format possible.

Your editors welcome all suggestions, comments, or contributions. If you disagree with a position expressed with a newsletter, please do so in writing and we will be happy to print other views. This is your paper. □

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

1981 marks the tenth anniversary of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society (CNMAS). We will be celebrating this event with a series of activities throughout the coming year. In particular, our tenth anniversary annual meeting will be held May 21; "old timers" and interested newcomers are urged to attend.

It seems we are "adopting" a trail in the Sandias as one of our anniversary activities. John Southwick, a volunteer with the Forest Service, has asked local organizations to agree to take over some maintenance activities of each numbered trail. Ours will be Tramway Trail 82, which begins at the base of the tram and joins La Luz Trail 2½ miles north. Tramway Trail, which gains very little elevation, claims the largest cholla in the Sandias and passes by at least one archeological site. Our duties will be to remove litter twice a year, repair minor erosion, clear obstructions, and install markers.

On February 28, CNMAS has a field trip scheduled to our trail. John Southwick will show us the points of interest while we pick up litter. This should be very interesting, so don't miss it! Kids are welcome too. Don't forget a trash bag. Call me for more details (292-5626). Later the Forest Service plans an orientation program explaining trail maintenance to participating groups.

I mentioned in my last column that I would be counting birds on the Fort Lauderdale CBC this Christmas. Preliminary species total was over 160—including EVERGLADE KITE, greater and lesser BLACK-BACKED GULLS, GANNET, and over 1,000 WOOD STORKS. My husband Tom spotted 13 FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCKS—the first seen on that count in 14 years. Totals for the three counts in our area are listed in this issue.

At this writing we still have not received more information on the BIRD-A-THON, but save April 25 and 26 on your calendars. Details should be available by the April-May OWL.

And finally, we owe thanks to Dustin Huntington for the handsome owl on the masthead and to editors Evelyn and George Price for the beautiful new typeset format. □

Barbara Hussey

HAVE YOU REGISTERED LATELY?

Yes, we know the big election season is past and you are no doubt registered to vote, but there are other very important places where you should register. **Every time** you visit a National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) it is **very important** that you sign the guest register. Funding allocations are based on visitors' use of the refuges. For example, if more hunters register than birders and wildlife observers, more funding will go toward hunting activities. Congressional funding has been based on visitor-use records. So next time you visit the Bosque del Apache or any other NWR, take that 60 seconds and sign the register. All of the above applies to state and federal parks, monuments, etc. as well. □

SAGEBRUSH REBELLION UPDATE

The Sagebrush Rebellion (SBR) is still very much with us, and the list of supporters is growing. As you no doubt are aware, the greatest potential threat of the SBR is the transferring of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) lands out of federal control and into the control of the individual states. Most analyzers of the issue feel that, for a variety of reasons, the states will not be able to maintain control over and/or successfully manage the lands they gain. It is then feared that the millions of acres of BLM and FS land will be eventually turned over to private interests (individual, corporate, American, and foreign). It is important to remember that the lands in question are public lands, belonging to you and me: the citizens of the United States. Any actions by special interest groups that result in a loss of public use of public land should be vigorously resisted.

The National Audubon Society feels that, even though understandable frustration exists over cumbersome federal land regulations, the transfer of public lands from the federal government to the state is the worst of all possible alternatives.

The SBR issue is complex and controversial. It is an issue that many people support philosophically and emotionally while not clearly understanding the long-term implications and ramifications.

Following is a list of questions, comments, and thoughts that touch on the many facets of this issue. It is intended to both clarify the issue and to give credible points for opposing the SBR. It is time to expose the SBR for what it really is—a movement makeup of only antifed rhetoric, lacking in historical support and facts.

- Federal ownership reflects the national perspective of public land use and lessens the chance of state or local bias, chicanery, and prejudice influencing public use. History shows that state interests would respond to local, rather than national, needs and concerns. Do you think the federal government or state government could better resist local development pressure?
- Western supporters of the SBR feel that the land use should not be determined by the demands of the East and West Coast urban centers. They feel that their concerns about public lands have been ignored or drowned out by the bureaucracy in Washington. Historically, and to date, western Congressmen have been thoroughly involved in the conservation and preservation of federal lands and have dominated, controlled, ripped off, and greatly influenced public land decisions. The "Easterners" have traditionally taken the back seat.
- Many counties presently receive significant federal funding based on the amounts on nontaxable, federal lands within their boundaries. Will the counties and states be able to afford the loss of those funds if lands are transferred?
- Some supporters of the SBR feel the states can afford to buy the public lands, but the question still remains concerning management money. At a conservative cost of \$100/acre, BLM lands would cost the western states over \$30 billion.

- What will happen in the complex area of existing timber and mining leases presently honored on federal lands? How will it be mitigated? Enforced?
- What will happen to present hunting, fishing, and recreational use on federal public lands? What if the state loses or gives up control of management?
- The legal system in this country operates with federal laws having priority, or preempting, state laws. How will this arrangement be worked out in the legal transfer of public lands?
- Will existing state laws regarding state land be contradictory to proper public land management? For example, in many states the state land must be managed for the maximum benefit of school endowment. Will this force the sale of the lands?
- The federal government presently spends millions of dollars on public lands that return no revenue. Such expenditures are in the realm of fire prevention and suppression, range rehabilitation programs, timber management, wildlife programs, and watershed management. Could the state afford to not only spend the money in the first place, but also live with no revenue returns?
- Will the states be able to administer the present federal programs involved with maintaining the tens of thousands of miles of roads and trails on federal land? How about the administering of the thousands of federal campgrounds, picnic areas, and ski areas?
- How much will the state lose in direct payments of federal money from the Forest Highway funds, mineral leases, and grazing fees? What happens to the \$300 million federal rangeland rehabilitation funds?
- How do you think the small livestock operator or timber harvester will compete for land usage if they are forced to compete with large, wealthy concerns?
- The SBR may greatly weaken many environmental legal gains made during the 70's. Of special concern is the long awaited Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA).
- There will be growing focus for opposing wilderness designation with potential weakening of the 1964 Wilderness Act.
- Due to large livestock interests, there will be few or no grazing cuts on public lands where management of overgrazed lands is necessary for long-term productivity.
- The argument is often made by supporters of the SBR that the states are historically due them the "equal footing doctrine." In fact, the lands never belonged to the states but were always federal lands since the Louisiana Purchase and the Mexican Cession of 1848. The lands were indeed intended to be eventually transferred to private ownership, but changing social values at the turn of the century opted for large scale federal land conservation in the form of nonstate-owned public lands. This was supported by just about all interests groups.
- Federal regulations on public lands are generally standard. State control over the lands could result in new and differing regulations for each state, thereby

creating an even worse maze of regulations for energy exploration companies and mining and timber firms.

- The SBR will result in a decline in tourism as public lands are lost to vacation and recreation uses. Has this financial loss been figured into state's ledger sheets?
- State and local taxes will have to climb by millions of dollars to make up for present federal employee salaries and projected operating costs.
- The SBR will result in a fencing out of the majority in favor of small special interest groups with a breakdown in multiple-use programs.
- Federal agencies have consistently had a much better record of managing their lands in contrast to the failures of state management of state lands.

From the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the National Audubon Society □



NOTICES

WASHBURN AWARD. CNMAS is looking for government employees (local, state, federal) who have been actively involved in conservation and wildlife preservation to receive the chapter's Washburn Award. If you know someone who might be eligible, please send your nomination to CNMAS at Post Office Box 30002, Albuquerque, 87190.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS. New officers will be elected at our annual May meeting and tenth anniversary celebration. If you have a nomination for any chapter officer, please call the Prices (242-6604).

STATE LEGISLATURE. The "bottle bill" and the nongame wildlife bill will probably be presented to the legislature this term. Please watch the newspapers for more up to date information and let your legislators know your feelings regarding these bills.

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS. The Baton Rouge Audubon Society is sponsoring a photography contest open to all AUDUBON members. Wouldn't it be great to have one of our own fine photographers win a prize? Please see page 112 of the January 1981 issue of AUDUBON for details.

COMING ATTRACTIONS. Jeremiah Johnson has offered to write a column about birds of prey beginning with the next issue of the OWL. Needless to say, we accepted his offer without hesitation.

A GREAT DOUBLE DEAL

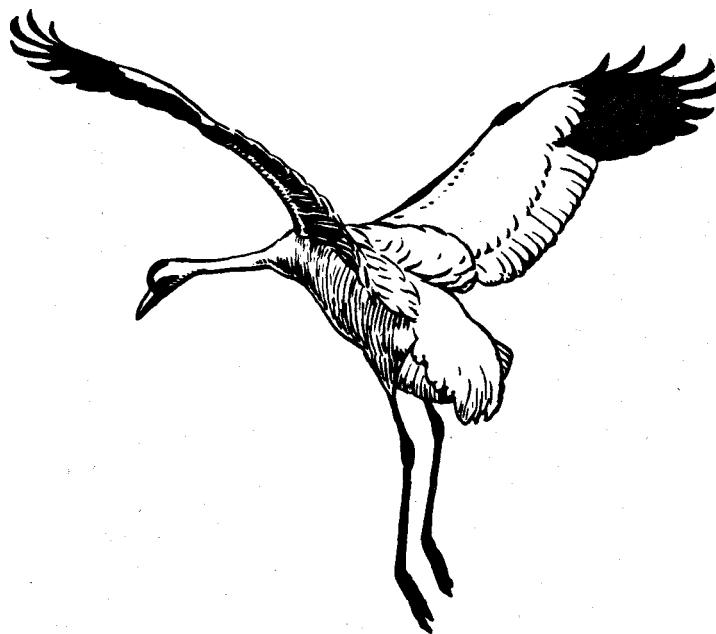
Feed your wild birds a gourmet diet and aid ill and injured raptors at the same time? It is easy. Just buy your specially mixed bird seed from Jeremiah Johnson.

Jeremiah is a licensed raptor rehabilitator. He and his wife Elaine have made their home and backyard a place strictly "for the birds." Both put in huge amounts of time and effort in caring for the wonderful birds who need much TLC. But it also costs a great deal of money to feed the hungry raptors. This is where you can help. Proceeds from the bird seed will go to caring for the birds. The seed mixture is equal parts of red millet, white millet, sunflower seeds, and cracked corn. The price is \$2.40 (including tax) for ten pounds. Please see Ross's Ravin's for more about special feeds.

Jeremiah has been interested in birds since he was a small child. In fact, he really wanted to grow up to be a bird! This somehow did not work out (maybe his parents did not approve so he turned to rehabilitation of wild birds as the next best thing. He has been doing this for 17 years. Jeremiah has the state and federal permits necessary to do this vital work.

But the Johnson's do not stop with rehabilitation of wild birds. They have an equally vital educational program. The program reaches all ages but especially grade school children. The essence of the program is helping children (and adults) understand the interrelation of all aspects of our environment and the job each individual plays in the ecology. The live raptors are used in his talks with great effect on the audiences.

Call Elaine or Jeremiah at 881-1560 for directions on where to pick up your bird seed. A sure added bonus would be a visit with "Grandpa," the famous American kestrel, and most likely other birds as well. A visit with the enthusiastic Johnsons is entertaining and educational. What if you do not have birds to feed? A donation of cash would be cheerfully and gratefully accepted. □



IDENTIFICATION OF NEW MEXICO BIRDS

by Dustin Huntington

OLIVACEOUS/DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

Two species of cormorant occur in New Mexico, the Olivaceous and the Double-Crested. The Double-Crested can be found in appropriate habitat in all of New Mexico. The Olivaceous, however, is generally limited to the southern portion of the state (Bosque del Apache NWR south). Both species can be found at any time of the year.

At reasonable viewing range, breeding plumage birds can be easily identified. The Olivaceous has a yellowish throat pouch with a white border going around it. The Double-Crested has a much more extensive orange pouch with no white border. This difference is well illustrated in the standard field guides.

In other plumages (winter and juvenile) there can be identification problems. Winter adults lack the bright facial pattern of the breeding birds, and in both species the immatures are gray-brown with a lighter throat and breast.

To identify Olivaceous/Double-Crested in any plumage, the shape of the throat patch and the overall size can be used. The Olivaceous is much smaller overall with a smaller, thinner bill. In mixed flocks the size difference is quite easy to see; however, size can be difficult to judge for an isolated bird. In the book *Rare Birds of the West Coast* (more about this book later), Don Roberson has pointed out an easy and useful field mark to separate Olivaceous and Double-Crested in any plumage. The Olivaceous has a throat pouch that comes to a point on the cheek forming a "V." The Double-Crested has a throat patch that is rounded on the cheek without any sharp angle. This difference in shape can be easily seen in the field and is diagnostic in any plumage.

CINNAMON/BLUE-WINGED TEAL FEMALES

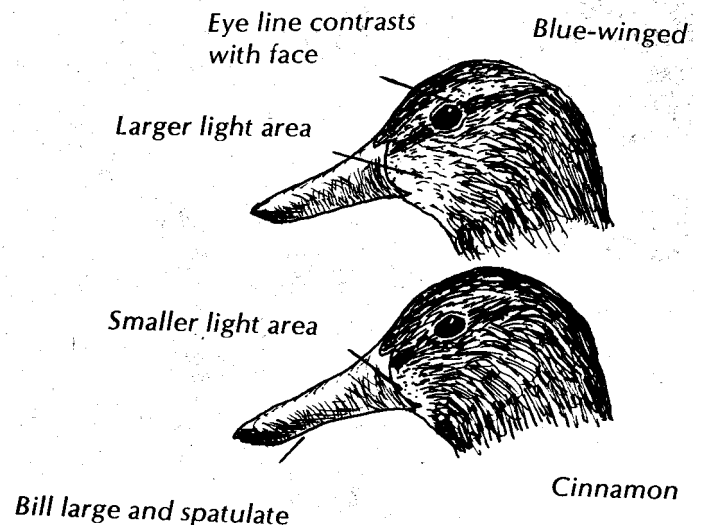
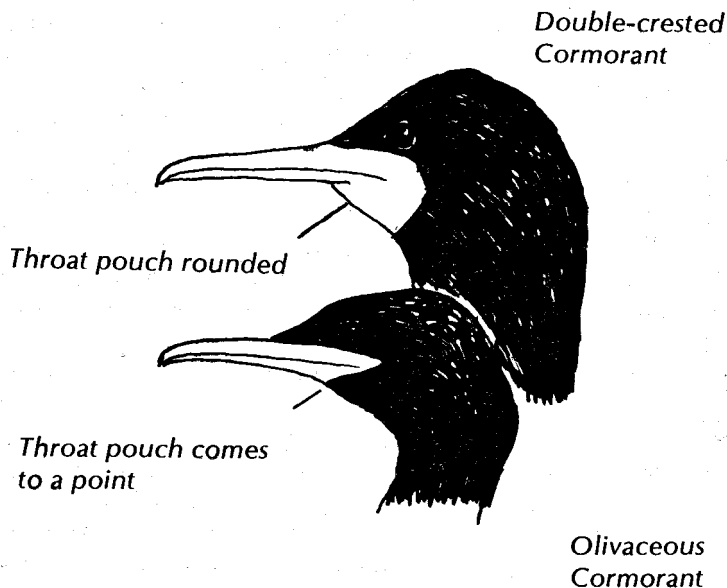
Both Cinnamon and Blue-Winged Teal occur commonly in New Mexico. The standard field guides state that the females of these two teal cannot be separated in the field. This leaves identification based only on the association with the male teal. Recent work by D. I. M. Wallace (*British Birds* 70:290294, 1977) summarized in *Western Birds* (Volume 10, Number 2) provides some characteristics that can be used to separate these difficult species.

The face of the female Blue-Winged is more strongly patterned. The light area at the base of the bill is whiter, cleaner, and more extensive. The superciliary and eyeline are more contrasty and sharply defined. The Cinnamon has less contrast overall on the head, with only a small light area at the base of the bill and a much more unpatterned appearance. The bill of the Cinnamon is larger and more spatulate than the Blue-Winged (more like a Shoveler). The Cinnamon's bill appears slightly too large for the bird. The Blue-Winged does not give this oversized bill appearance. The browns of head and underparts of the Cinnamon are warmer and redder than the Blue-Winged. The photos (numbers 152 and 153) in the western *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds* show the differences in the two teal well.

Three cautionary notes before we start identifying teal:

1. The field marks are "soft" and require experience and practice.
2. Not all female teal can or should be identified to species.
3. There are hybrids which would certainly cause confusion.

Bearing these cautions in mind and practicing on female teal that are with males, one can learn to identify individual female teal most of the time.



(continued)

RARE BIRDS OF THE WEST COAST

A new book on bird identification, after many delays, has been published: *Rare Birds of the West Coast* by Don Roberson. In keeping with last issue's review of field guides, I feel something should be said about this new book. It is not a field guide in the usual sense in that it covers only "rare species" that have occurred on the west coast of North America (Alaska to California).

The book is intended to supplement field guides and provides information on species not in the usual field guides and new detailed identification information on many of the difficult United States' species.

At least half of the book is devoted to Eurasian species that have only occurred in the Aleutians and which are of little interest for New Mexico birding. However, many New Mexico species are rare in California and are discussed in detail. Empidonax Flycatchers, Peeps, and many other problem birds in New Mexico are discussed with much new (at least to me) information.

I believe the book would be a valuable addition to the library of anyone interested in the more difficult to identify species of New Mexico and the West Coast.

There are many photos, most of which were used to document the sightings of the rare species. In addition, there is a small section of quite nice color illustrations of species not in the United States' field guides.

The book will presumably be available through the standard bird book dealers, but at present the only ads I have seen are from the publisher (Woodcock Publications, Post Office Box 985, Pacific Grove, California 93950). The price is \$19.95 plus \$1.25 postage. □



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNOUNCES ITS 1980 TO 1981 ACTION PRIORITY GOALS

National Audubon's Board of Directors has approved a list of ten "action priority goals." They were chosen for top priority from the 45 "major environmental concerns" listed in the Audubon Cause developed in 1979 at the society's regional meetings across the country. The idea of the priorities, the board explained, was to help focus the society's efforts on the objectives that are currently "of greatest importance and most ripe for resolution." The board's full statement is a long and detailed one, outlining staff assignments and suggesting areas of action for chapters. Following is a brief summary:

Support Refuges: Work for optimum management and protection of federal wildlife refuges or other publicly owned wildlife habitat in chapter areas.

Identify Habitat: Identify and seek protection for lands of special value to wildlife, particularly nesting sites for colonial wading birds.

International Treaties: Continue working for international wildlife treaties that protect migratory birds and other migratory animals, including the caribou herds shared by the United States and Canada.

Energy Planning: Complete an Audubon Energy Plan outlining specific steps toward United States energy independence through conservation and development of solar power.

Toxic Pollutants: Support federal Superfund legislation to ensure cleanup of hazardous wastes and identify toxic dumps at local levels.

Acid Rain: Combat acid rain through public education and by strengthening the federal Clean Air Act.

Dams and Canals: Continue a long-standing campaign against wasteful and destructive government water projects, focusing particularly on the Garrison Diversion project in North Dakota, Dickey-Lincoln dams in Maine, the Mono Lake diversion project in California, and protection of the Atchafalaya Basin in Louisiana.

Coastal Resources: Work to protect coastal barrier islands and to promote full implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Eye on Washington: Keep a close watch on the federal budget and appropriations process to be sure the public interest in protecting public lands is adequately backed with manpower and funds.

Population and the Environment: Work for stabilization of world population and for further understanding of the relationships between population, resources, and environmental quality.

These "national action priorities" cover no more than the three words imply. They are only guidelines and do not preclude action in other causes. They are national priorities and do not mean any lessening in board and national staff support of the local and regional priorities of the society's chapters on state and regional organizations. And they cover only the environmental action part of the society's program; the Audubon Cause is also served by the far broader activities of education and information, sanctuary protection, research, and publications carried on by National Audubon's paid staff and its chapters. □

ROSS'S RAVINS

Hi Folks. Happy New Year—even though we are a full month into it already. So far, due to the weather here, this winter has not been the sort that brings in large numbers of unusual or irregular visitors to our bird feeders. However, this has not been the case with our neighbors to the north, northeast, and west. Most of the people in these areas have been experiencing periodic invasions of cold, Arctic air and, as a result, have been getting an influx of northern species like GYRFALCON, SNOWY OWLS, BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS, and EVENING GROSBEAKS. The experts are predicting a banner year for invasion of northern species. Wouldn't it be great if there'd be a slopover, and we'd get some of those rare northern visitors? We still have prospects for such occurrences in the couple of months ahead. Keep your fingers crossed and your eyes peeled, and let me know of any unusual visitors you should spot (265-8962).

My thanks to Mary Lou Arthur for a good job of organizing and directing the Sandia Mountains CBC while I was off in the wilds of southeastern Missouri giving away my daughter. Mary Lou overcame the vagaries of the weather, invading viruses, and conflicting interests, and in spite of it all turned in a good count. In addition she added a brand new, first time ever on the count species—a GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW. Congratulations! As for me, the most outstanding thing I saw on the trip was large numbers, literally hundreds, of winter hawks all the way across the plains: RED-TAILS, FERRUGINOUS, and ROUGH-LEGGED, primarily. And of course, a beautiful, big, PILIATED WOODPECKER in Big Oak Tree State Park in southeast Missouri. I also got some nice shots of CARDINALS.

Among the interesting birds that have been reported in the last couple of months were a mixed flock of 75 to 100 ROSY FINCHES of all four types, a WHISTLING SWAN and a HARRIS HAWK at Bosque del Apache, and a couple of visits to Shady Lakes of a WOOD DUCK. Also reported were a PRAIRIE FALCON on the college golf course (I saw three in the Espanola Valley on January 13), CURVED-BILL THRASHER and AMERICAN GOLDRINCH reported by Hart Schwarz, and WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS reported by John Durry, Bertha Allen, and Dave Tomasko. Dave also reports numerous sightings of SONG, RUFOUS-CROWNED, BLACK-THROATED, and some GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS in the Juan Tabo area and ROCK WRENS in Embudito Canyon. There are still quite a few SAGE THRASHERS, CASSIN'S FINCHES, DARK-EYED JUNCOS, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, WESTERN BLUEBIRDS, and RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEES in the Juan Tabo area as of January 19. The VERMILION FLYCATCHER, BLACK, and SAY'S PHOEBES were at Bosque del Apache for the CBC and were still there on January 15. At the last report, there were about 19,500 SNOW GEESE, over 10,000 SANDHILL CRANES, and about 41,000 ducks of all species, including some COMMON MERGANSERS if you know where to look. Of course, the big attraction is the 11 WHOOPING CRANES wintering on the refuge, with half a dozen others up and down the river valley. There are still three unaccounted for. Lastly, Elizabeth Breomel reports

having seen a rare LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH at Bosque del Apache on January 17. Can anyone else confirm it for her?

Speaking of WHOOPING CRANES, the last count at Aransas NWR included 78 birds: 72 adults and 6 of this year's chicks. These added to the 31 known birds in captivity and the 20 Gray's Lake-Bosque del Apache flock make a world total of 123. That's a tremendous gain since 1938. May the tribe increase!

Now that the winter feeding season is on, much is being written about what specific feeds are best and/or attract the most desirable species to home feeders. There seems to be considerable agreement that peanut hearts, hulled sunflower (especially the small, black "oil seed"), thistle (niger), and white Proso millet attract more birds per cent spent and attract fewer of the less desirable species, such as HOUSE SPARROWS, than other varieties or mixtures. There also seems to be considerable agreement that the readily available packaged mixtures sold in drugstores, grocery, and pet stores are probably the least desirable and most expensive in terms of birds attracted and amount of seed wasted per cent of cost and attract more undesirable species. However, most of the research was done in the eastern part of the country, and the findings may not necessarily be applicable here. It might be fun to do some experimenting and see if we get comparable results feeding different types of seed on specific feeders and see what effect it has on the species and numbers of birds attracted. If you do try this, let me know what you learn. I'll be interested.

Must go now, I just got a call to come and pick up an owl. See you later. □

R.L.T.



THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Three Albuquerque area Christmas bird counts were held in 1980:

1. ALBUQUERQUE—Jim Karo, compiler. Seventy species, approximately 5,882 individuals. Jim reported that nothing unusual was seen this year.
2. SANDIA MOUNTAINS—Mary Lou Arthur, leader; Ross Teuber, compiler. Forty-two species, including golden-crowned sparrow and one additional race, approximately 2,387 individuals.
3. BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR—Chuck Hundertmark, compiler. Ninety-six species, including long-eared owl, white-throated sparrow, swamp sparrow, and nine whooping cranes. □

**APPLICATION FOR JOINT MEMBERSHIP
IN THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
AND THE**

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Joint membership offers you full membership in both the National Audubon Society and the Central New Mexico Audubon chapter at the same rate as membership in the national organization only.

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Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harrison H. Schmitt
United States Senate
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The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.
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RARE BIRD ALERT—Report sightings to: 265-8962, 292-5626, or 898-2568

TYPESETTING COURTESY OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO

TYPOGRAPHY—ANN ANDERSON AND AMY MAESTAS

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