

# BURROWING OWL

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

October - November 1990

## WELCOME!

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society meets at 7:30 pm, on the third Thursday of each month, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Copper and Jefferson NE. Nonmembers are welcome at all meetings, fieldtrips and special events.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**CAVE CREEK, CHIRACAHUA MOUNTAINS**  
--Thursday, October 18th

Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona is a rare and delicate environment. Jim Black will give a talk and slide presentation on the ecology of the Chiricahuas, and on the pros and cons of an expanded campground and visitor facility being proposed by the Forest Service

**OLD GROWTH FORESTS--WHY DO WE NEED THEM?**  
--Thursday, November 15th

Our program this month will bring us up-to-date on the issues involving old growth forests, not only as the habitat of spotted owls, but as a unique and significant ecosystem. Come and learn why the preservation of old growth forests is a major issue at this time, and what specific actions are needed.

## FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

By Laura Jenkins

For out-of-town fieldtrips, please call Laura Jenkins (293-7527) for an update on any change of plans.

## STATE CONFERENCE

--October 12-14

There will be no regular field trip in October because of the State Conference at Hummingbird Music Camp, Jemez Springs. See you there!

## BOSQUE DEL APACHE

--Saturday, November 3rd, 6:30 am

Meet: UNM, parking lot behind Physics and Astronomy...North off Lomas on Yale, right into lot.

Let's get an early start for our annual trek to the Bosque. This is an opportunity for new birders to see birds that are not found easily, if at all, elsewhere. For those who know it well, a chance to lend your knowledge toward developing a larger pool of members who know and enjoy birds, and are glad to work toward preserving a habitat for them in New Mexico.

No field trip as such, in December. Do join in the Christmas Counts.



## **CONSERVATION NOTES**

By Lew Helm

### **Tip-toeing through the Oil Crisis**

The events of the past month or so have driven home the unhappy fact of our country's dependence on imported oil. Given the former low price of this oil, we have been on a binge of consumption which threatens to wreck the economy and leaves politicians wringing their hands. Until very recently, there has been little or no thought given to the demand side of the oil equation.

The Audubon Society for years has plugged for a sensible national energy policy. Our Society has continued to recommend a comprehensive program of energy conservation and much more attention given to development of alternative fuel sources. We cannot but be amazed at the way American cars can guzzle gasoline and by the utter dependence of American families on automobiles in their daily lives.

What is needed immediately is a comprehensive drive to engineer automobiles and trucks to standards of more miles per gallon of fuel. Just an average increase of two miles per gallon of fuel would obviate the need to find additional oil field supplies and would go a long way to cut our dependence on foreign oil. In addition, the American public must be somehow convinced that conservation of gasoline needs to be the first order of business. No doubt life styles of the majority of Americans will have to change. The high price of fuel at the service stations helps but does not seem to stem an insatiable demand for fuel.

Without a drastic cut in demand for oil, we face increasing threats to invaluable fish and wildlife habitat such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the outer continental shelf. Already the administration is drumming up the thought that oil exploration and drilling in these habitats will have to be carried out soon. What can be done? All Audubon members should let their senators and representatives know that we demand an immediate new energy policy based on a meaningful conservation program and a comprehensive search for alternative fuels.

### **A Wetlands Area at Our Back Door**

Thanks to a dedicated group of people in the Taylor Ranch area, the CNMAS has learned of a dandy little wetland which needs protection. The area in question is the Mariposa Basin just off Taylor Ranch Road and north of Montano Blvd. This Basin is a large floodwater detention facility which acts as a temporary flood control reservoir during periods of heavy runoff from surrounding streets and residences. Over the past few years, drainage from the Taylor Ranch Road area has gone into the Basin on a more or less continuous basis and the water has allowed establishment of aquatic and semiaquatic vegetation which has attracted a number of species of birds and other wildlife. On a visit to the wetland in August, we found two ducks and a host of other species.

The area has seen the establishment of many native wildflowers and other vegetation which enhances the wetland aspect. The Basin additionally has separate stands of cottonwoods and shrubby vegetation.

There is a problem which hangs in the balance at the present time. Because of the flood control feature, no permanent structures are allowed in the Basin, but the area can be used for other purposes. In response to an apparent demand by some area residents, the Parks and Recreation Department has developed a plan to turn the entire Basin into a so-called sports complex which would feature a number of soccer and baseball fields with adjacent parking lots and development of roads. At this stage of planning, the wetland is at risk and may be swallowed up by development of the sports complex.

We are working with the Parks and Recreation planners and the ad hoc group of concerned Taylor Ranch residents to try to find a way to preserve at least the wetland. Besides the intrinsic value of the wetland, the area could be used by the Albuquerque Public Schools in environmental education. If chapter members are interested in birding or viewing the area, please do so. Parking is permitted along the adjacent streets. Also, let the Parks and Recreation Department know of our concerns that the wetland should be preserved.



**EDUCATION NOTES**

**By Marge Carrick**

**Audubon Adventures In Our Schools**

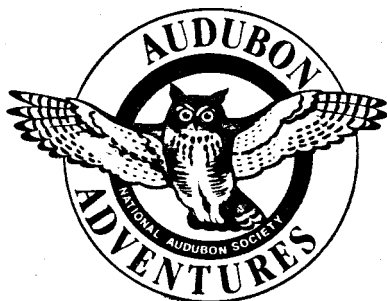
Audubon Adventures is the youth education program of the National Audubon Society for elementary school students in grades 4 and 5. Each issue of the newspaper emphasizes a special theme and students in an enrolled class receive a membership card, decal and the newspaper. The teacher receives the companion Leader's Guide; each class is also presented a certificate.

NAS' cost to produce and distribute the Audubon Adventures is about \$100.00 a year per class; the local class subscription of \$30.00 contributes toward this cost. This school year (1990-91) and last (1989-90) CNMAS has sponsored 31 classrooms, including four at Zuni Pueblo and has participated in this program yearly since 1985. NAS began the program in 1984.

CNMAS is now starting its fund for the school year 1991-92. You can help with this important project by sponsoring a classroom with a \$30.00 tax-deductible donation. By doing so, you will be helping environmental education grow in a successfully proven way!

To fully sponsor one class, or make a partial donation, complete the form below. Make your check payable to Central New Mexico Audubon Society and indicate that it is for Audubon Adventures. Mail your check and form to

EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON  
 Marge Carrick  
 808 Dakota, SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87108.



**Audubon Adventures Nation-wide**

A recent letter from Marshall T. Case, NAS Vice President for Education:

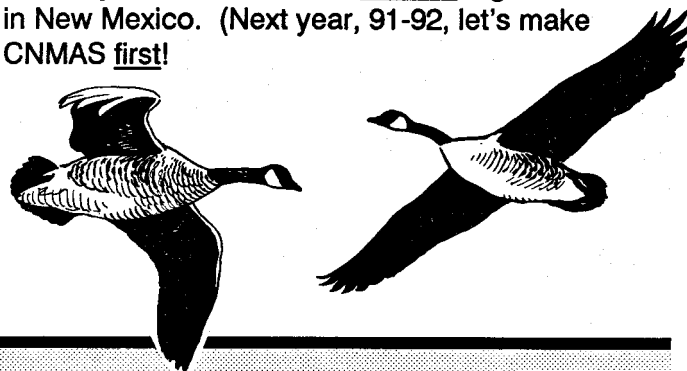
"I am delighted to report that we wound up with 76 percent of all National Audubon chapters participating in Audubon Adventures this school year.

Three hundred twenty-eight thousand children in 11,100 classrooms and over 50 Indian villages and reservations participated during the year. Seventy thousand of these students were from the minority sector.

Our million signature campaign resulted in a presentation to EPA Administrator William Reilly on Earth Day Sunday by a delegation of the youth. John Denver joined us and sang a special tribute to the Adventurers. We had 700,000 signatures from every state bound in booklets for the ceremony at the Capitol mall. Administrator Reilly promised to deliver the presentation booklet to President Bush.

Your chapter was part of the great success story as we enrolled the one millionth child in October since starting the program in 1984. We anticipate 400,000 children next school year."

He ends with a personal note to CNMAS: "Congratulations on sponsoring 31 classrooms this school year. You have the second highest number in New Mexico. (Next year, 91-92, let's make CNMAS first!



I would like to contribute to the Audubon Adventures Fund for the school year of 1991-92. (Orders are sent June 1 each year for the following school year).

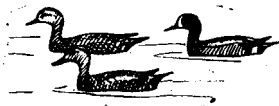
Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (THANKS!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## COMMENTS FROM ALBUQUERQUE TEACHERS:



"We make great use of all the issues of Audubon Adventures, and also share them with another class.

The issue on Trash was particularly helpful, because we were (and will continue to make) making a big effort to create less trash in our classroom, using fewer resources in the process. We began using cloth towels (washed daily), thus eliminating a trash can full of paper towels every day. We used no paper products for our parties, and did some collecting of aluminum cans. The students also tried to make better use of paper and supplies. During the discussion prompted by "Adventures" one student made a very telling comment. He had just been to Mexico where he observed with great surprise "There they use cloth 'Pampers'!" In other words, his basic concept of 'diaper' is that it is something disposable.

The Migration issue was very interesting, not only because we had observed the sandhill cranes, but also because we had done many hours of crow observation in a project with Bill Willard. It was exciting to see the crows arrive in the fall, and sad when they began leaving this spring.

This year we were able to visit the Randall Davey Center, an absolutely delightful experience for the students. We worked specifically on riparian habitat, and continued more on wetlands after the trip." -- Teddi Borrego, Valle Vista Elementary

"Audubon Adventures has generated a lot of discussion here in class about the crisis facing wildlife. Perhaps one of the simplest projects we did as a direct result of Audubon Adventures was to bring in several bags of garbage and separate according to what could be recycled or composted...As simple as this was, it had quite an impression on the children--virtually none of the trash could not be recycled.

The issue on spiders inspired many of my students to bring specimens to class for identification.

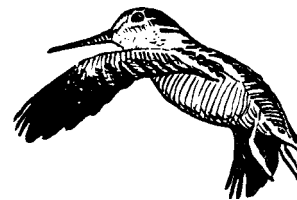
The vocabulary is appropriate for fourth grade and the illustrations are good. I would very much like to receive these again next school year." -- Jim McCullough, Pajarito Elementary School

"We integrated one issue on the decline of rainforests into our study of plants and our environment. There was a lot of interest in what the animals will do when their homes are destroyed. Our study extended into many thoughtful projects on the relationship between plants, animals and people." Nancy Davenport, Mary A. Binford Elementary School

"As Head Teacher of Special Education at Comanche and as an ancillary speech/language pathologist, I work in three special ed classrooms four times a week. I build a language unit around the Audubon Adventures.

This semester we have had an ongoing language unit on wild animals in all three classrooms. We've had several exciting guest speakers including Dan Shaw and Cynthia Daily. Therefore, the publications have been very relevant this Spring.

The children have become much more aware of what is happening to wildlife and our natural resources throughout the world. I personally feel conservation should be a curriculum requirement." -- Joyle Moyer, Comanche Elementary



## AND ZUNI MID SCHOOL STUDENTS:

"Thank you for giving us the Audubon Adventures. I liked them all but my favorites were Endangered Species and the Mammals. The others were nice too. While we were reading the one on conifers a man named Roger Jensen came in and talked about the different trees in New Mexico.

Also, thanks for the Audubon Adventure stickers and membership cards." -- Melanie Farmer

"Thank you for the Audubon Adventures magazines. I really enjoy reading about different kinds of animals and insects. I also enjoyed the stickers and the Audubon Adventures club card." -- Faith Enacho

"Thank you for Audubon Adventures. I really liked the one on the Endangered Species. I really care for animals and stuff that are Endangered." -- Chad Nastacio

**Resource Fair**

An environmental education fair will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 2:00 to 5:30 pm at the UNM Continuing Education Center, University Ave., NE. Primarily for teachers and students of the Albuquerque area, the fair will feature exhibits in the areas of water, solid waste, biological diversity and global warming. Seminars, workshops and other activities will complete the program. Senator Jeff Bingaman has sent invitations to all teachers of the area. Janie Cox and Karen Copeland of the Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe, are in charge of arrangements. Call Marge Carrick, 266-0191, for further information.

**RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER RECEIVES EDUCATION GRANT**

The Randall Davey Audubon Center, in Santa Fe, has been awarded an \$8,500 education grant from Chevron (the New Mexico branch office) for teacher workshops in natural history sciences. The workshops will take place during the 1990-91 school year and will focus on riparian and forest habitats. Teachers will receive research materials on these respective topics and hands-on activities for implementing environmental science curriculum in the classroom.

As part of this award, the Randall Davey Audubon Center will distribute a series of small grants, each approximately \$250, to any school, chapter, or individual in New Mexico that proposes an interesting environmental awareness program.

For more information on this award, contact Janie Cox, Education Specialist, Randall Davey Audubon Center, PO Box 9314, Santa Fe, NM 87504 [505] 983-4609.

**NEW MEXICO AUDUBON CONFERENCE  
--October 12-14, Hummingbird Music Camp,  
Jemez Springs**

Don't forget to join us at the annual statewide meeting of the New Mexico Audubon Council will begin on Friday, October 12, at Hummingbird Music Camp. CNMAS is hosting the State Conference this year. Hope you are planning to join us! Please contact Tamie Bulow, 298-9116, if you are planning to attend and have a few minutes available to help.

**NOTEWORTHY NEWS AROUND TOWN**

Continuing at the NM Museum of Natural History until October 16 is an outstanding exhibit of oil portraits of birds. Artist Benita Giller, from Austin, Texas, depicts southwestern birds as one might see them in the wild, through binoculars. In addition to these 40 paintings are museum study skins and mounted birds; this exhibit is located in the East Gallery.

Earth Day celebration continues through the Albuquerque Earth Day Coalition. The city-wide group formed last year agreed to continue the good work started with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. In an effort to increase the awareness of the general public about environmental issues, this Coalition will serve as a clearinghouse for grassroots concerns, using a quarterly newsletter to focus on local issues which we are now learning can build into global concerns. This group will continue to celebrate Earth Day each spring; once every twenty years is not adequate. Another goal of the coalition is to involve more members of our community, including teachers and political leaders. If you are interested in more information about AEDC, please contact Lorie Barzano, AEDC Chairperson, 883-1952, or Lee Stapp, Education Committee, 262-0161.

October is the month for the annual Union of Concerned Scientists Education Week. During the week of October 22-28, the Union of Concerned Scientists call upon the nation to participate in "The Billion Pound Diet," leading to the reduction of one billion pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. "Our dependence on fossil fuel is at the root of the global warming problem and is also at the heart of other serious environmental and economic problems including acid rain, smog, the nation's trade imbalance, oil spills, and the potential security threat posed by continued overreliance on foreign oil. To address these problems the United States must go on a fossil-fuel diet, and you can help." National Audubon Society has produced a "diet plan" of emissions of the major greenhouse gases (from cars, appliances, houses, and trash) as well as tips on how to cut these emissions by 20 percent over the next 10 years. A copy of this report is being donated to our library.

## Audubon's "CO2 Diet" Available at 20% Discount to Members

The Audubon Carbon Dioxide Diet is the first-ever practical guide to reducing your "greenhouse gases" — and slowing global warming. Developed by a team of Audubon scientists, the diet can be used by anyone concerned with this growing environmental problem.

The CO2 Diet is available in two forms:

**Policy Report.** Titled "CO2 Diet for a Greenhouse Planet: A Citizen's Guide to Slowing Global Warming," this 75-page report provides thorough details on the methods and rationale of the diet. Tables, graphs, and charts help you calculate your annual output of greenhouse gases and show you how to cut back. Price: \$4.95 (\$3.95 to Audubon members).

**Poster.** 15" x 24", 3 colors. Includes complete tables and charts for calculating CO2 emissions plus "Diet Tips" for reducing. Appealing illustrations, printed on recycled paper. Price: \$2.00 (\$1.50 to Audubon members).

**Policy report & poster together:** \$6.00 (\$4.80 to Audubon members).

To order the policy report and/or poster, send your check or money order to Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

### ALBUQUERQUE CHRISTMAS COUNTS

December 15—Bosque del Apache  
leader: Steve Cox, 345-2385

December 16—Albuquerque,  
leader: Hart Schwarz, 266-1810

December 29—Sandia Mountains,  
leader: Kay Anderson, 821-1606

December 15—Zuni Area  
December 16—Bluewater Lake  
contact Dave Cleary, PO Box 1045,  
Zuni, NM 87327; 782-4917

### THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

For information on the Thursday morning birding group to nearby areas, please call Tamie Bulow, 298-9116.



## News from NAS

### Challenges For Our Chapters by Peter A.A. Berle, NAS President

First came the summer of 1988: garbage on the beaches, holes in the ozone layer, drought in the Midwest. A nation awoke to the looming reality of environmental troubles.

In the dog days of 1989 we fared little better. Angry shrimpers refused to comply with the law, costing the lives of thousands of endangered sea turtles. The impacts of the country's worst oil spill, the Exxon Valdez, reverberated through the system.

This summer we are witnessing yet another full-scale assault on the environment:

- \* Citing "national security," the oil industry and some congressmen renewed their call for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, while the year-long rash of oil spills continued to proliferate.

- \* Following the listing of the northern spotted owl as a threatened species, the administration worked feverishly to circumvent the Endangered Species Act and allow continued high rates of logging in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest.

- \* Developers continued to pour millions of dollars into lobbying for the disastrous Two Forks Dam on the Platte River, despite a nearly sure veto by the EPA.

However, the summer of 1990 will also be remembered for its victories--many of them engineered by chapters and Audubon activists:

- \* Scenic designation was declared for 76 miles of the beautiful Niobrara River in northern Nebraska.

- \* Revisions to the Clean Air Act passed both houses of Congress that, over time, should stop acid rain.

- \* Oil spill liability legislation was signed requiring tankers to have double hulls and making oil spillers pay more of the true cost of spills.

- \* As of this writing, 123 representatives had signed on to Rep. Jim Jontz's landmark Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1990.

- \* Audubon chapters in Florida participated in unprecedented hands-on training workshops on wetland preservation, sponsored by National Audubon.

Many of the most crucial battles ahead of us will be fought at the chapter level, and your letters, phone calls, and appearances before public agencies will continue to make the difference on a whole host of local and national issues.

Now is our chance to help save the world. We can make a difference and we will.

## Help make a difference!

Joining the Audubon Activist Network has never been easier--or more urgent! By signing the Activist Pledge—a commitment to write two letters and make two phone calls during the year for Audubon issues—you can be part of a growing corps of Audubon activists who want to make their voices heard. By making the Pledge, you will receive the newly designed and monthly *Audubon Activist*, as well as *Action Alert* bulletins on key votes in Congress. Simply fill out the form below and send to: *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022.

YES, I'd like to be an Audubon Activist. I'll receive a complimentary subscription to the *Audubon Activist* news journal, plus *Action Alert* bulletins when my letter or phone call is needed, plus the chance to be part of a telephone network, and access to the Actionline phone number with taped updates on late-breaking environmental news. *For my part, I pledge to take action by writing at least two letters and making at least two phone calls for Audubon each year.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

It has been said by someone in the higher echelon of Audubon that "we are not just for the birds." We are for other matters concerning the good of the earth, including Recycling. One of our Board Members who belongs to Covenant Presbyterian Church, 9315 Candelaria, NE, tells us that they recycle the fourth Sunday of every month. They have a recycler who comes and carts away aluminum cans, clean glass (no lids), cardboard, tin (clean, no labels), plastic soda bottles, and milk jugs. Plastic items should be crushed. Time: 9:00am to 12 noon, the 4th Sunday of the month.

## CNMA'S DIRECTORY

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Tamie Bulow, 8126 Northridge NE, 87109; 298-9116

### PAST PRESIDENT & PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

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### CONSERVATION CHAIRPERSON

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### EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

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### FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

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### FIELD SIGHTINGS/RARE BIRD ALERT

Mary Lou Arthur, 728 Monroe NE, 87110; 256-7359

### GREETINGS CHAIRPERSON

Georgiana Costley, 825 Dakota SE, 87108; 255-7107

### LIBRARIAN

Verne Huser, 7106 Coors Rd NW, 87120; 897-3569 (h), 828-3382 (w)

### NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Darwin Miller

### EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

Claudia Crawford, 433 Maple-NE, 87106; 242-7081 (h), 277-1714 (w)

### CIRCULATION, BURROWING OWL

Betty Balduc, 5400 Montgomery NE, Apt 103-B, 87109; 883-1428



### NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL DIRECTORY

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#### Vice President

Donna Broudy, 510 Laguna Blvd SW, 87104; 242-7108

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#### Secretary

Pat Snider, 2435 C 45th St, Los Alamos, 87544; 662-3530



