

BURROWING OWL

CENTRAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1997

VOLUME 26 - No. 6

UPCOMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

Welcome to Central New Mexico Audubon Society! All our meetings and field trips are free and open to the public. Join us for our monthly meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Copper and Jefferson Streets. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. Come at 7:15 for refreshments and socializing.

PROGRAMS

Thursday, Oct. 16: **THE** program of the year! **Phil Norton**, manager at **Bosque del Apache NWR**, will be speaking about "our" refuge and its management. October 12-18 is National Wildlife Refuge Week, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate and observe it! And we're very pleased that two other organizations will be joining us for Phil's special appearance. **HawkWatch International** and **Hawks Aloft** members and guests have been invited and are participating in this special joint meeting. Come early for refreshments and socializing!

Thursday, Nov. 20: Sandy Knight with the U.S. Forest Service has a timely and informative program of interest to us all. Sandy is the Assistant Regional Program Manager for Wildlife, and she'll bring us up to date on changes in grazing policies and riparian management on U.S. Forest Service lands, and discuss the impacts of these policies on Southwest Willow Flycatcher and other species.

AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome on field trips: Audubon members and nonmembers, novice and experienced birders. Bring field guide, binoculars, munchies & water. Join us!

TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Sat.-Sun, Oct. 4-5 - Join Auduboners and the folks from New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO) for a work day or weekend at Bosque del Apache NWR. There's a range of activities available, from picking up trash to repairing eroded trail tread; from the easy to the physically demanding. A call to Sei (266-2480) or directly to NMVFO coordinator, Tony Mattson (271-0213), will be appreciated, so they can plan for food and equipment needs. Camp at the visitor center or stay in Socorro. Bring mosquito repellent and firewood for the group fire. The Saturday evening meal will be served in the Bosque Lounge, behind the Visitor Center. What a wonderful way to observe National Wildlife Refuge Week (a bit early)!

MORE TRIPS

Sat. Oct. 25 - Bosque del Apache. Come this time just to see the birds! They're always great here. Meet at 7:30 at Physics Parking Lot at N.W. corner Lomas and Yale. Bring your lunch.

TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Sun., Nov. 9 - Santa Fe and Rosy Finches. Meet at 7:30 at the Far North Shopping Center behind the Village Inn, Academy and San Mateo. Bring your lunch. Dress warmly.

Nov. 13-17 - Don't forget to go to the Festival of the Cranes! Call Jeff (242-9677) to volunteer for the Audubon platform, where we greet people, help ID birds, share our enthusiasm, & have fun!

TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 6 - Bosque del Apache. This is always a rewarding birding trip. Meet at 7:30 at the Physics Parking Lot at Lomas and Yale. Bring your lunch and dress warmly. Supper at the Owl Bar afterwards. If the weather is bad, we'll reschedule for next Saturday, Dec. 13. Call Sei (266-2480) or Charlotte (345-1271) if not sure about the weather.

THURSDAY MORNING BIRDING GROUP

For information on weekly birding outings (every Thursday), call Julie Goodding at 255-9366. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary.

WILDLIFE RESCUE

If you find a sick or injured bird, call 344-2500.

RARE BIRD ALERT

To learn about sightings all over the state or to report a rare sighting, the number in Los Alamos is (505) 662-2101.

BAT IN TROUBLE?

Call Talking Talons before you intervene.
281-1133 281-1515

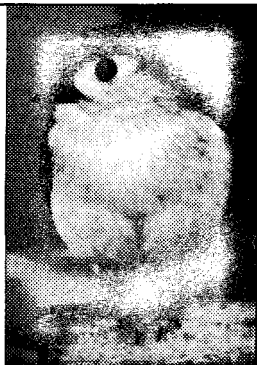
The *Burrowing Owl* is printed on recycled paper.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending society-sponsored activities and will not be held liable for such accidents. You attend at your own risk.

The natural alternative

Backyard birding is an increasingly popular entertainment option.

Share it with your friends and family, and enjoy **15% off** any bird feeder with this ad.



Wild Bird Center

The Promenade Shopping Center
5200 Eubank NE (Eubank at Spain NE)
(Just east of Marie Callendar's)
332-4737

PETROGLYPH MONUMENT TOUR/BIRD WATCH

During October, the Sierra Club's newly formed Petroglyph Protection Project will be sponsoring walking tours within Petroglyph National Monument.

Audubon Members are invited to join the tours and become acquainted with the environs of the Monument.

Since 1990, 106 different bird species have been sighted here.

If you would like to participate, please call 842-0238.

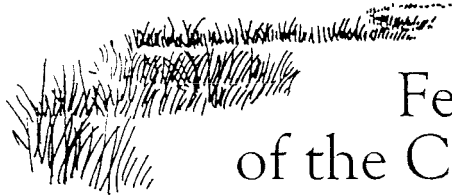
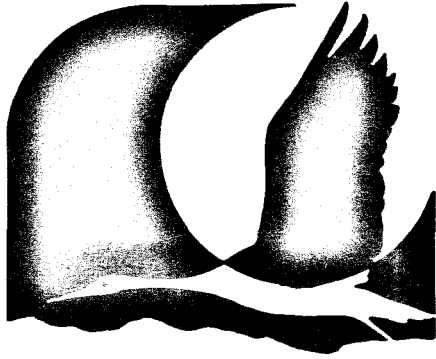
COME WATCH THE SKIES

Visit the Manzanos in the fall to share in the splendor of thousands of migrating raptors. HawkWatch International researchers and biologists will be monitoring the migration for the 13th consecutive year. The Manzano site is open to the public seven days a week through October 26, depending on the weather. Bring water, lunch, binoculars and extra clothes. Last fall, 7,137 migrating raptors were recorded over the Manzano Mountains lookout. Call 255-7622 for directions and more information.

CALIFORNIA CONDORS

Hawks Aloft will lead a field trip to the Vermillion Cliffs in Arizona to look for -- (no, at) -- California Condors. Departure is Friday, November 21, and returning the evening of November 23. You'll also get the extra perk of having experts help you identify late migrating raptors at the Grand Canyon. Registration is requested by calling 343-0111.

The *Burrowing Owl* Newsletter is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.



Festival of the Cranes

November 13-17, 1997

Socorro, New Mexico
Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

A PERFECT 10

"Synergism" means that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. To make your experience of **The 10th Annual** Festival of the Cranes add up to even more than its anniversary numeral, jump right in and add your number to the whole. Here are some ideas that you don't even have to put a calculator to:

- * Help staff the Audubon tent and greet visitors,
 - * Identify birds,
 - * Share your extra field guide or binoculars,
 - * Promote Audubon and its statewide chapters.
- To sign up, call Jeff Myers, 242-9677.

- * Take the Naturalist training for tour guides and Festival guides,
- * Or the Bird ID training for tour guides and Festival guides.
- * When you do, tell them you're a member of Audubon.

To do that, call Refuge Headquarters,
(505) 835-1828.

- * Get the spectacular 28-page Festival of the Cranes brochure and register early for as many events as you can squeeze into the weekend and still leave room for volunteering and birding.

To do that, call the Socorro Chamber of
Commerce, (505) 835-0420.

Have fun, but watch out -- the sum of synergism is awesome!

FEEDING FALL HUMMERS

QUESTION: If I leave my hummingbird feeder up, am I tricking the birds into staying longer than they should?

ANSWER: No. Nothing will entice hummingbirds to stay longer than their instincts tell them. In fact, many hummingbirds begin migrating even when there are plenty of nectar flowers and insects still available for food in northern regions.

Adult hummingbirds will generally migrate weeks ahead of the younger ones. Hummingbird feeders left up may actually help serve as refueling stations for birds journeying southward.

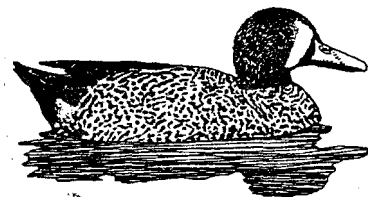
Though it's not the case here in Albuquerque, some places in the Southwest (Texas) and on the West Coast, hummingbirds will stay year-round and feeders may be kept up all the time. Enjoy them while you can!

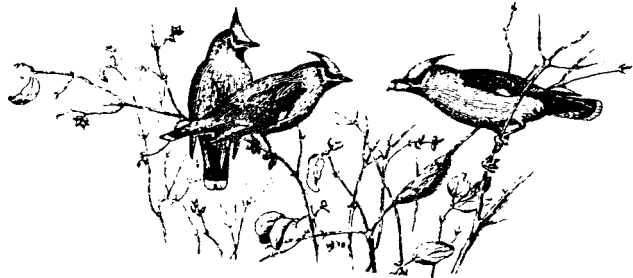
BACK FROM CAMP?

CNMAS is happy to have had the opportunity to send a Zuni, NM teacher to the Audubon Ecology Workshop in the Rockies. Robert Cummings of Dowa Yalanne Elementary was our 1997 scholarship recipient. We hope the workshop charged him with plenty of information, inspiration and energy.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Karen Browne/Dee Marfe
Charles & Josephine Beckel
Audrey M. Eaton





BIRDATHON BIRDATHANKS!

WHAT A TEAM! With the support of all of you, we at Central New Mexico Audubon have a team that can't be beat! Thank you, one and all, for your generosity! You contributed a grand total of \$1,507.55! And when you read the trip reports below, you'll remember how much fun it was and get all excited about joining us again next year -- Birding is fun!

Thanks from all the team leaders to: Tamie Bulow, Jack W. Courtin, Les G. Hawkins, Mary Lou Arthur, Rebecca Gracey, Melissa Howard, Margaret McClure, Carol & Bob Scothorn, Susan DeGrand, Vanessa Dargain, Mary F. Bunker, Annette M. Turk, Paul Adams, John R. Gee, William G. Gilstrap, Mary K. Loughran, Yvonne C. Gonzales, Tim Porter, Beth & Ron Waitz, Clay Johnson, David Knott, S.E. Douglas, Sei & May Tokuda, Jacquelyn G. McConachie, Carolyn M. Robbins & W. Freeman, Mary & Tim Jackson, Gregory L. Candela, Robert Blake, Ella J. Fenoglio, Patricia Gegick, Sally B. Burke, Julie Goodding, Sid Sommers, Jana George, Karen & Gary Boettcher, Cynthia Anderson-Harris, Margaret L. Wallen, Catherine I. Sandell, Marjorie & Don Cromer, Linda Jaramillo, Shannon Dart, Kristin R. Weir, Shirley Lambert & Carol Alfs, Patricia Blaylock, John Menicucci, Terry L. Johnson, Reinaldo A.Z. Garcia, Celestyn M. Brozek, George E. Walker, Michelle Le Beau, Deborah A. Peacock, Jonalyn Yancey & Steve West, Thomas J. Joyce, Cranes & Crows, Lariene M. Treat, Nancy & Bill Wygant, Lois Reinstein, Star Hill Inn, Paul McConnel, Michael Means, A. Lane Lerkman, and Dianne Cress.

And especially, a big thanks to all the team leaders and their sponsors! All of us who birded with you had a great time, and the rest of us wish we could have been there! Congratulations to Steve West's team for the highest species count, with a whopping 133. Thanks to Celestyn for bringing the spice of competition to the event. Congratulations to Hart Schwarz for being the highest-pledged team, and perennial thanks to Sei, Charlotte, and Julie for being the teams we love to join year-round!

Team #5 - Steve West, Leader Jonalyn Yancey, Doug Enkalns

Team #4 - Julie Goodding, Leader The Thursday Birders

On Saturday, May 15, the Birdathon Team #5, led by Steve West and Doug Enkalns, had a wonderful day of birding. Jonalyn Yancey and Steve picked Doug up around 4:00 a.m. and headed for Langmuir Peak. We were there at sunrise, and so were the birds. Several species were singing. We then slowly drove down the mountain to Water Canyon, Bosque del Apache, and back to Albuquerque. All three of us saw a total of 133 species. A very special "Thank you" to everyone who helped make Birdathon '97 a success!

The Thursday Birders had a great Birdathon day, May 15, at Bosque del Apache NWR. We were close to hitting our 100 species goal, hitting 99 -- a record for a Thursday outing! The group was fortunate to have a tour by Daniel Perry, refuge staff member. Daniel showed us a cliff hole with Barn Owl and owlets. Another highlight was the pair of Black Terns. More than one person got a "lifer" that day, but we all shared some great birding.

Team #1 - Celestyn Brozek, Leader

John Arnold, John Longley


On 10 May at 10:30 p.m. we drove from Albuquerque to Black Range Mtns. in Gila National Forest. It was after midnight when we stopped in Hillsboro to listen for owls. No owls were calling, but we got our first species -- a singing Northern Mockingbird. We drove up to the Iron Creek Campground, where both Common Poor-will and Whip-poor-will were calling. But we were really excited when we heard the voice of a Flammulated Owl! It was a good start. We retreated for a short rest in the car, to be awakened by the song of House Wren at 5:30 a.m. The campground is at the altitude of 7300 feet in ponderosa/mixed coniferous forest. Several southwestern warblers were common: Grace's, Red-faced, and Painted Redstart. A nice surprise was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak which appeared for a brief moment. It was probably the least expected species of the whole day. After a few hours at the campground and a few other stops in the mountains, we headed east and down to Percha State Park. As we moved on, we were constantly adding new species along the road. This was the most productive part of the day. From the car, we spotted a Golden Eagle, and then another one as we got out! Both were harassed by ravens and flew very close to us. At this lucky stop prompted by the eagles, we also added Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, and Rock Wren. None of those species was seen again during the day! With about 60 species, we arrived at a crowded, noisy Percha Dam after 11:00 a.m. We added several warblers, some water birds, Summer Tanager, and a few others. We headed for Bosque del Apache Refuge, where we arrived at 4:00 p.m. Our waterfowl list was greatly enhanced at the refuge; however, there were few shorebirds. A sitting Peregrine Falcon was a great sighting. As the evening came, Lesser Nighthawks emerged in great numbers. It was getting dark when we saw our first Spotted Sandpiper and Snowy Plover at the edge of a pond. Great Horned Owl flew across the cliff. We arrived in dark to Socorro, where we picked up our last, 122nd species -- a Burrowing Owl on the fence by McDonald's. It was a great day!

Team #2 - Hart Schwarz, Leader

Saturday, May 3, provided beautiful birding weather for Hart and his six eager companions. Three Gun Spring Canyon was rich with usual residents and spring migrants, with the Scott's Oriole perhaps the morning's most photogenic bird. Not-so-short stops at the ranger station and Otero Canyon yielded another dozen or so species. Truly a surprise were the Snowy Egrets in the valley from the Tajique turn-off up to Fourth of July Canyon. From there, a stop at Punta del Agua quickly gave us our "water" species for the day -- Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Redhead Duck and Killdeer. The delights multiplied at Quarai, where Great-Horned Owl and owlets, as well as Rock Wren, found the old church a perfect sanctuary. At Abo, elm trees were alive with Audubon Warblers, and we found the secret nest of a Black Phoebe hidden along the bank of a slippery redrock streambed. Heading north on Route 6 toward Belen, we thrilled to the piece de resistance of the day: a dark morph male Ferruginous Hawk vigilantly guarding the nest site of his light morph female mate, who was incubating on a nest atop a pole. The day slipped into dusk as we tallied the last of our 80 species at Willie Chavez State Park in Belen. Thanks for a great day, Hart!

Team #3 - Sei Tokuda & Charlotte Green, Leaders

What a great combination -- a weekend in Silver City and the Birdathon! Sei & Charlotte's team tallied a total of 97 species, including lots of warblers: Grace's, Painted Redstart, Chat, Orange-crowned, Lucy's, Yellow, Wilson's, Yellowthroat, and Red-faced. Also included in their total were the Black Hawk and the Greater Peewee.



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FOR THE Birds!

THANKS TO GO AROUND

We want to share this letter we received from Greg E. Reiche and Laura Telander, Owners of **Mirage Gallery & Sculpture Park**:

"Dear Friends: Please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$650.90, which represents 10% of the proceeds from our recent "For The Birds" show. Although we did not raise as much as last year, we felt that the show was a great success. We accepted 104 separate works by 51 artists from 12 states. Our attendance figures doubled over last year, with over 1,000 people who came to see the show.

"Once again, we would like to thank all of you at the Audubon Society who attended and helped make this show a success. We hope to see you again next year."

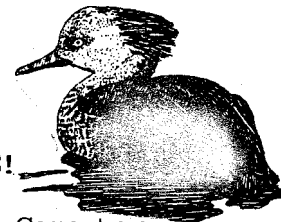
Greg and Laura, we thank you for your generosity and support -- for the birds, for the arts community, and for Audubon. We feel privileged that you share your goodwill, your good name, and your financial support with us. Birds and art -- Audubon knew a good alliance when he saw one! Creative birding to you!

TRIP REPORTS - Charlotte Green

August 9, Jemez Falls - Twenty people saw 30 species on this trip, including good sightings of Black Swifts, Lewis' Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Solitaire, Gray Catbird, and Red Crossbills.

August 23-24, Bitter Lake - Eleven people spent the weekend getting great views of shorebirds. This is the best place in the state to see lots of them. We saw Western, Least, Spotted, Baird's, and White-rumped Sandpipers. The list grew, with Avocets, Stilts, Forster's and Black Terns, an immature Little Blue Heron, Semi-palmated Plover, Curlews, Willets, Mississippi Kites, and a one-legged Peregrine Falcon, for a total of 80 species.


Sept. 6-7, Percha Dam/Caballo Lake - Nineteen of us got up early for this trip. Although it was pretty hot, we saw some great birds, 65 species in all, including a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, lots of warblers (Prothonotary, Lucy's, Black and White, Yellow, Wilson's), a flock of Red-necked Phalaropes at Elephant Butte, Osprey, and Clay-colored Sparrows.



CLICK ON THIS!

Attention, List Keepers and Computer Compilers! We need your help! Christy Brothers, who for the past two years has capably compiled, coordinated, and computerized our mailing list, is stepping down as Membership Chair. She would love to turn over her floppy disk to someone who uses Microsoft Access or some other comma-delineated database for maintaining our chapter's membership list. The job entails about one afternoon every two months, updating our membership list and then modeming it to Richard's Printing, who prints the labels for our newsletters. Please, please give your Chapter an early Christmas present and say "yes" to Christy at 281-7776, or at e-mail address: christy@rt66.com. Thanks to you, and thanks to Christy for an outstanding job.



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Planning and Partnering for the Future
Monday, August 25, 1997

On this date, a cadre of people from Friends of the Bosque del Apache, National Audubon Society, New Mexico Audubon Society, and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge met at a Planning Retreat in Albuquerque to explore ways in which a Partnership among the participants could support and enhance their conservation and education goals.

Stanley Weinstein from Baxter Farr Thomas & Weinstein, Ltd., and David Heil from National Audubon Society were co-facilitators of the retreat. Attendants from New Mexico Audubon were Dave Henderson, Jeff Myers, and Beth Hurst-Waitz. The Friends of Bosque del Apache group was represented by Emerson Learn, Carl Centers, Clay T. Smith, Bob Kegel, and Bob Jones. Phil Norton and Laurie Rosenthal were present from Bosque del Apache NWR. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives were Diana Trujillo and Ty Arikan. Mary Ellen Broderick from the firm of Flatow, Moore, Shaffer, McCabe was our hostess and represented her firm.

This meeting was the first step in the ongoing process of defining and implementing a cooperative program among the organizations. Following is a distillation of the accomplishments of our meeting:

"Bosque del Apache, The Friends of Bosque del Apache, The National Audubon Society, and New Mexico Audubon Society agreed to strengthen their educational and interpretive programs through collaboration and joint planning. The aim of the organizations is to create synergy and to bolster their outreach programs focusing on conservation, restoration and wildlife.

"In addition to educational and programmatic joint planning, the organizations agreed to strengthen their ties by encouraging input into each others' facilities planning processes. Such input would be centered upon the educational and programmatic uses of those facilities.

"In recognition that the National Audubon Society - New Mexico and The Friends of Bosque del Apache have related missions and that both are preparing for capital campaigns, the organizations agreed to keep each other generally informed, as appropriate, concerning fund raising plans. To the extent possible and appropriate, the organizations also agreed to explore ways in which they can support each others' resource development plans."

This is an exciting and ongoing planning process. Your participation and input are welcome. If you're interested in getting involved, contact Jeff at 242-9677.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

THANKS TO YOU - Audubon Adventures is in our classrooms! It's National Audubon Society's major education program for children in Grades 4 to k6.

The materials are written and developed by professional environmental educators and present basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats and needs. This is all possible with your support. Many thanks to this year's contributors:

Lillian Tenopyr
Christy Brothers
Ron & Beth Waitz
Melissa Howard
Thursday Birders
Sei Tokuda
Julie Goodding
Beverly Ranken
Warren & Ellen Taylor
and the contributions
of our local chapter

Our students and teachers
thank you all.



A Plurality of Birds —Or— When is a Flock Not a Flock?

Compiled by John Farrand

- A badelyng of ducks.
- A bazaar of murres or guillemots.
- A bevy of quail.
- A bouquet of pheasants.
- A brood of hens.
- A building of rooks.
- A cast of hawks.
- A chatter of birds.
- A charm of finches.
- A clutch of eggs.
- A company of wigeons.
- A congregation of plovers.
- A covert of coots.
- A covey of partridges.
- A deceit of lapwings.
- A descent of woodpeckers.
- A desert of lapwings.
- A dissimulation of birds.
- A drooping of shelducks.
- An exaltation of larks.
- A fall of woodcock.
- A flight of swallows or doves.
- A gaggle of geese (on water).
- A host of sparrows.
- A murder of crows.
- A murmuration of starling.
- A mustering of storks or peacocks.
- A nide or nye of pheasants.
- An ostentation of peacocks.
- A paddling of ducks (on water).
- A parliament of owls.
- A peep of chickens.
- A pitying of turtledoves.
- A plump of ducks.
- A raft of ducks (on water).
- A rafter of turkeys.
- A siege of herons.
- A skein of geese (in the air).
- A sord or sute of mallards.
- A spring of teal.
- A stand or wing of plovers.
- A tiding of magpies.
- A walk of snipe.
- A watch of nightingales.
- A whiteness of swans.
- An unkindness of ravens.

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LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN UPDATE

Recently David Henderson, Executive Director at the NM State Office of Audubon, received a letter from Jerry Maracchini, Director of the NM Dept. of Game and Fish, about Audubon's request to investigate the population drop of the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Mr. Maracchini has agreed to appoint a researcher, who will be assisted by the staff of the Conservation Services Division and the Division of Wildlife, to conduct an investigation under the Wildlife Conservation Act. The researcher's first task will be to determine if there is sufficient information to list this species and, if not, to oversee development of a study plan to obtain this information. According to Mr. Maracchini, the NM Department of Game and Fish has already initiated lek counts on state properties, contracted with the New Mexico Natural Heritage Foundation for additional research on the Prairie Chicken, and will be repairing and replacing fences to reduce livestock trespass.

--Roadrunner Ramblings
Mesilla Valley Audubon Society

BIRDWATCH WITH DON AND LILLIAN STOKES

KNME Channel 5, our local PBS station, will be presenting the premier episode of BirdWatch with Don and Lillian Stokes on Saturday, October 25, at 9:00 a.m. This is a unique 13-part series that promises to be entertaining and enlightening for all levels of birdwatchers. The series includes segments on bird identification and behavior, attracting birds to your backyard, North America's best birding hotspots, tips for improving your birding skills, and conservation success stories. In addition, viewers will be treated to special segments on bird photography, bird artists, bird banding, birding competitions, youth birding, and birding festivals. Hosts Don and Lillian Stokes have written over 20 books on birds that have sold over 3 million copies, including their just-released Stokes Field Guides to Birds. You won't even need your binoculars to enjoy this bird show!

National Audubon Society**Chapter Membership Application**

Yes, I'd like to join.

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LOCAL CHAPTER

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Local Chapter Code — Q51

7XCH8

Use the above form for new subscriptions only. Contact Membership Chairperson for changes of address or corrections in your Burrowing Owl label. Nonmembers can receive the Burrowing Owl by sending your name and address with \$12 to CNMAS, c/o Beth Hurst, 804 Guadalupe Circle, N.W., 87114-1710.

CALENDAR RECAP

- Oct. 4-5 - Bosque del Apache NWR work days
- Oct. 16 - 7:30 p.m., meeting. Phil Norton, manager, Bosque del Apache NWR, speaker
- Oct. 25 - Field trip to Bosque del Apache
- Oct. 25 - Audubon Council meeting @ Randall Davey in Santa Fe. John Flicker, guest
- Oct. 25 - Premier on PBS of "BirdWatch with Don and Lillian Stokes"
- Nov. 9 - Field trip to Santa Fe
- Nov. 13-17 - 10th Annual Festival of the Cranes
- Nov. 20 - 7:30 p.m., meeting. Sandy Knight, US Forest Service, speaker
- Nov. 22 & 23 - Placitas Arts & Crafts Fair
- Nov. 23 - Field trip with Hawks Aloft to Vermillion Cliffs, Arizona
- Dec. 6 - Field trip to Bosque del Apache

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Hon. Bill Richardson—(202) 225-6190
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National Audubon Society

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