

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Burrowing Owl

December 2002 - February 2003 Issue Volume 32 No. 1

Welcome to Central New Mexico Audubon Society! Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.
 Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats. To encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

Birds of Colfax County

Dave Cleary invites birders statewide, regardless of skill level, to join him for any or all of these field trips. No pets, please. Call Dave at (505) 375-2971 for more information.

Saturday, December 7 MAXWELL NWR AND STUBBLEFIELD DAM for some of the best raptor and waterfowl viewing in the state. Meet at the entrance to Lake #13 on the refuge at 8:00. Evening activities depend on weather and interest. No picnic facilities are nearby.

February 14-17 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Participate by counting birds on any of these days in your backyard, school yard, park, or Saturday, Feb. 15, count the birds at Maxwell NWR. Meet the new refuge manager, Rick Gooch, who will be serving coffee at 7:30 in the refuge HQ before heading for the field. This continent-wide activity is a joint project of National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc or birds.cornell.edu/pfw for more info.

Saturday, March 15 MAXWELL NWR AND STUBBLEFIELD/LAGUNA Meet at the entrance to refuge Lake #13 at 8:00. Hopefully, the lakes will all be full of water and ice-free this year. PM birding, weather permitting, will be out to historic Dawson Cemetery for thrushes, jays, etc.

Saturday, April 19 CIMARRON CANYON, EAGLE NEST LAKE, AND PALO FLECHADO PASS Meet at the Visitors' Center kiosk on U.S. 64 in Cimarron at 7:30. Bring a sack lunch for this full-day outing.

Saturday, May 3 SPRINGER MEMORIAL PARK, SPRINGER LAKE, PONIL CREEK MARSH, AND PONIL CREEK (along NM 204 to the Barker WMA) Leave from the Brown Hotel restaurant in Springer by 7:30. Evening birders may be interested in spring migrants at Stubblefield/Laguna and Maxwell NWR.

Saturday, May 10 NORTH AMERICAN SPRING MIGRATION COUNT The second Saturday in May is the annual North American Spring Migration Count. This is a great opportunity for us to add Colfax County bird sightings to this continent-wide event. Field participants and feeder watchers are both welcome. The May 2002 count for Colfax County was 135 species. With decent weather and enough help, we can easily top 150 species for the day. Contact me if you are willing to help for even part of the day.

January Program

Free and open to all! Join us at 7:15 p.m. at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE. Refreshments are on us!

Thursday, January 16 FLAMMULATED OWL MIGRATION PROJECT This fall, John DeLong of HawkWatch International and his crew conducted the second year of their full-time, nocturnal mist-netting program for migrating Flammulated Owls. Now John and helpers are "down from the mountain" at their site near Capilla Peak in the Manzano Mountains, with lots of valuable new data and results. Join us for close-up photos and exciting info about population and migration trends of this secretive little owl—the most common owl species in our state!

CNMAS CBC (Comestibles, Birds, and Camaraderie) Plans

Saturday, Dec. 14 BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR Meet Steve and Nancy Cox (swcox@spinn.net, 345-2385) at the Bosque del Apache Visitor Center at 7:00 a.m. Owl Bar burgers at the end of the day!

Sunday, Dec. 15 ALBUQUERQUE Meet Hart Schwarz at Corrales Shopping Center, NW corner of Coors and Alameda, at 7:15, or contact him at 266-1810 to get early assignment. Compilation party at 6:45 p.m. at Beth and Ron's, 898-8514. They'll have hot apple cider and hot posole—bring a dish to share!

Sunday, Dec. 29 SANDIA MOUNTAINS Meet outside of Dion's at Four Hills shopping center (Central and Tramway). You may sign up early with Rebecca Gracey at mrgracey@earthlink.net, 242-3821. Wrap-up party back at Dion's in Four Hills at 5:00 p.m.

The 5th Annual Audubon Birding Academy

It's a class! It's entertainment! It's inspiration! And it's definitely birds! It's the CNMAS Annual Audubon Birding Academy, with instruction and more by experts who, yes, teach, entertain, and inspire. All classes are held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 per class payable in advance or at the door. Pre-register for all three classes and the price is only \$15.00. Mark your calendars and register early. Send in the registration form on page 9.

Feb. 20 GULLS—*The Basics* Bruce Neville, from UNM, lived in Florida for many years and has experience with both eastern and western gulls. This will be an introduction to the highly challenging world of gull identification. (Yes, there are gulls in New Mexico.) February is the perfect time to learn about gulls. Many of the rarer gulls are here in the winter and it is also when we have the highest number of gulls in the state on the larger reservoirs. Learn how to tell a Franklin's from a Laughing Gull. Learn what gull is the gull with which all others should be compared.

Mar. 20 TAKING FIELD NOTES Many folks have requested a session on what to do when you see a bird in the field that 1) you can't identify or 2) you have identified as a rare bird for the state and want to have folks believe you. Audubon member Christopher Rustay will go through a few pointers on taking notes in the field, how to write your notes up for the rare bird committee and also go through a short session on field drawings for documentation.

Apr. 24 ICTERIDS Icterids is a strange word for a group of birds which includes all the blackbirds, meadowlarks and orioles. Dave Krueper, a renowned bird biologist now with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, will explain the identification subtleties of the group of birds which many folks think are easy to identify. Do you know the differences between Eastern and Western Meadowlarks by sight? What about female orioles? April is a great time to study this group of birds as a few wintering species may still be around while summering birds are just arriving!



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CNMAS Field Trip Schedule

Saturday, December 7
BOSQUE DEL APACHE

This trip will be led by Art Arenholz and will end some time in the late afternoon. The Bald Eagles are expected to be gaining in numbers and should be easily seen. Meet at 8 a.m. in the UNM Physics Department parking lot on the NE corner of Lomas and Yale Blvd. Bring food, snacks, water and dress appropriately for changes in the weather. Call Art (298-1724) for details.

Saturday, January 4, 2003
BOSQUE DEL APACHE

If you miss Art Arenholz's December trip, here is another chance to see a great number of Bald Eagles, other raptors, Sandhill Cranes and waterfowl. The trip will again be led by Art and end some time in the late afternoon. Meet at 8 a.m. in the UNM Physics Department parking lot on the NE corner of Lomas and Yale Blvd. Bring food, snacks, water and dress appropriately for changes in the weather. Call Art (298-1724) for details.

Saturday, January 18, 2003

LADD S. GORDON WATERFOWL COMPLEX in Bernardo

Meet at the UNM Physics parking lot just north of Lomas and Yale at 8:00 a.m. to carpool or at the entrance to the complex at 9:00 a.m. Bernardo is located 50 miles south of Albuquerque. Our target birds will be waterfowl, cranes, and raptors. We should be finished before noon. Call Rebecca Gracey (242-3821) for details.

Sunday, February 2, 2003

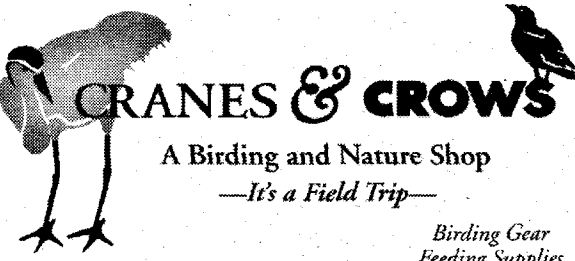
CORRALES AND THE WEST MESA

This is a great time to see the wintering sparrows in the bosque and on the West Mesa. This will be a half-day trip. Call Sei at 266-2480 for details.

Thank You From Friends

The Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center want to thank CNMAS for your support of our Summer Wings Festival. We also would like to thank those who spent the day in the observation room identifying the birds on the pond for our visitors: Ruth Burstrom, Les Hawkins, Carol Higgins, Turtle-Bear Guillermo and Beth Hurst-Waitz. Our special thanks to Sei Tokuda for scheduling everyone and spending the day helping out. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Ginnie Silva and Charlotte Green, Coordinators




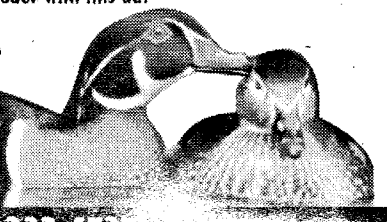
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The 5th Annual Audubon Birding Academy REGISTRATION FORM

YES! Please sign me up for the Birding Academy. All classes are held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$6 per class, or \$15 for all three, payable in advance or at the door.

- Feb. 20 - GULLS "THE BASICS" - \$6
- Mar. 20 - TAKING FIELD NOTES - \$6
- Apr. 24 - ICTERIDS - \$6
- All 3 classes - \$15



CNMAS ABA 2003

Name _____
Address _____
City, St, Zip _____
Phone or Email _____

Please make checks payable to CNMAS

QUESTIONS? Call Beth at (505) 988-8514.

Please mail to CNMAS, Attn: Birding Academy, 804 Guadalupe Circle NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-1710

CNMAS FIELD TRIP REPORTS: Rattlesnake Springs

Saturday-Sunday, September 21-22

Christopher Rustay of Central New Mexico Audubon led a field trip to Rattlesnake Springs south of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Thank goodness we began Saturday afternoon, as the next morning's birding was literally blown away by high winds. Almost forty species were seen between Rattlesnake Springs and a late afternoon visit to Lake Avalon. Highlights included Great Crested Flycatcher and Prairie Warbler! Other species included Swainson's Hawk, Forster's and Black Tern, Hammond's, Dusky, Least and Vermilion Flycatcher, Red-naped Sapsucker, Bell's Vireo, Phainopepla, Summer and Western Tanager, Black-throated Gray and Townsend's Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow.

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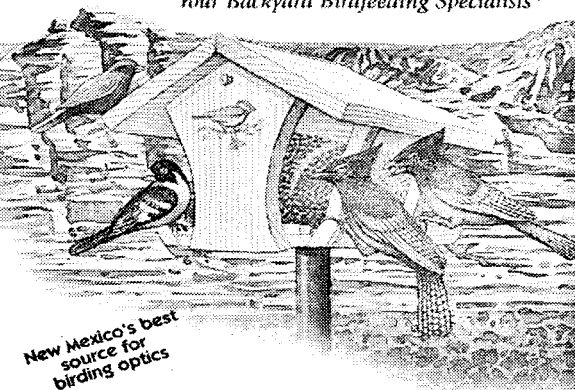
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