



Burrowing Owl

September, October, November 2003 Issue

Volume 32 No. 4

Welcome to Central New Mexico Audubon Society! Come join us. All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats. To encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society (CNMAS) is one of 510 National Audubon chapters in the Americas. New Mexico has four chapters covering different regions of the state as well as a State Council that brings together all its chapters to share information and energies. In addition, the Randall Davey Audubon Center, on Upper Canyon Road in Santa Fe, has acres of mountain habitat for hiking and birding, as well as educational programs and summer camps for children, educational programs and special events for adults, and a visitor center and nature store that are open daily.

The CNMAS region covers the Middle Rio Grande Valley and its surrounding environments: the cities of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho, including West Mesa and South Valley communities; towns of Bernalillo, Placitas, Corrales, Ranchos del Albuquerque, Los Lunas and Belen (including all bosque communities); all Tijeras Canyon, East Mountain communities and unincorporated areas; and mountain ranges of the Sandias and Manzanos, and regions east. The area also includes Indian Pueblos such as Sandia and Isleta, and many old acequias and drainages.

From desert, to river valley, to mountain top, the CNMAS area encompasses many habitats for wildlife.

Your participation is needed to ensure that the natural areas of our CNMAS region as well as those of the state and nation are preserved for wildlife and our future generations. One way to participate is to join your local Audubon chapter

(see the coupon on page 9). Your money goes toward supporting conservation, education, and activism efforts locally and nationally.

Conservation efforts include:

- Helping identify areas of the state important to bird populations
- Supporting organizations involved in focused work, such as HawkWatch International (raptors)
- "Adopting" our local area National Wildlife Refuges

Education efforts include:

- Field trips
- Birding Academy, and evening programs
- Grants to young birders, students, educators, and organizations for various projects and programs
- Fund bus trips to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge for school children
- Audubon Adventures educational kits for classrooms

Activism efforts include:

- Support for New Mexico herps legislation
- Support for other state and national legislative efforts protecting the environment
- Alerting our citizens to harmful legislation and actions

Sneak Preview:
The Audubon Birding Academy returns in 2004 with Hummingbirds by Joan Day-Martin, Hawks by Art Arenholz, and ??? - watch for registration forms in the Winter issue of the Audubon State Newsletter!

CNMAS Member Benefits Include:

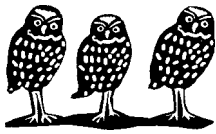
Quarterly newsletter (pdf e-newsletter if preferred)
 Advance notice of:

- CNMAS field trips (upwards of 30 a year are offered, including overnight trips and 5 local Christmas Bird Counts)
- Thursday Birder field trips via their e-mail list if requested
- Other monthly CNMAS evening programs (September

CNMAS continued on page 9

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CNMAS Field Trip Report by Sei Tokuda

Saturday-Sunday, April 19-20: Roswell and Carlsbad areas

Sixteen birders made this trip on a rather windy weekend.

Friday-Sunday, April 25-27: Great Bend, KS

Thirteen CNMAS members, including teenagers Raymond VanBuskirk and Michael Hilchey, attended the Wings N Wetland Festival. It was a well-planned event with guided bird tours to the Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivera Wildlife Refuges. The youngsters tallied over 160 species with at least 50 lifers for Michael Hilchey. The outstanding sightings included Least Grebe, mating ritual of Western Grebes, Upland Sandpipers, Field, Grasshopper and Harris's Sparrows. As a bonus, Raymond won a special door prize of a knapsack loaded with goodies from the Nature Conservancy.

Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29: Las Vegas and Maxwell NWR

There were on 5 birders on this trip. It was rather windy but at least 10 degrees cooler than Albuquerque. Although the species count was just over 40, we saw a number of chicks in their nests. They included Swainson's Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Barn Swallow, and Cassin's, Eastern and Western Kingbirds. We also had wonderful close-up looks at a pair of Great Horned Owls. As a side bonus we had very close up views of bison and Prong-horned antelopes.

Sunday, August 3, 2003: Bandelier NP and Jemez Falls

Eight birders were on this trip. It was a very slow birding with only 30 species seen. We did not see our target birds, the Three-toed Woodpecker and the Black Swift.

A New Subscription Option - Save the Trees!

We're working on an option for you to save paper and cut CNMAS mailing costs. We will soon be making the *Burrowing Owl* newsletter available via our website as a PDF download (get Acrobat Reader to open the pdf - www.adobe.com/reader/). If you would like to sign up for this option let us know - send your requests to Ed Dover at edover@juno.com. Give your name, address and email address. New members can fill in the membership coupon on page 9.

Thursday Morning Birding Group

Weekly birding outings every Thursday. Meeting time and location, as well as duration, vary. Call Margaret Wallen at 341-0928 for details of outings.

NOTICE: The next issue of the *Burrowing Owl* will be incorporated into the statewide Audubon-New Mexico Newsletter. The next regular issue of the *Burrowing Owl* will be published in March 2004.

The *Burrowing Owl* newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, December, by Central New Mexico Audubon Society, PO Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002. Subscription is free to National Audubon Society members, \$12 to nonmembers.

Fall Audubon Programs

Welcome back from Summer! We invite anyone interested in birds and birding, nature and the environment, to join us for the resumption of our *free fall programs* beginning in September. CNMAS members, bring a guest! Meetings are at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, northwest corner of Jefferson & Copper NE, just a block north of Central and about 7 blocks west of San Mateo. Meetings start at 7:15PM. Come early to socialize, enjoy light refreshments, and share your favorite news about birds with others.

Thursday, September 18

• Cooperative Breeding In Birds •

Dr. J. David Ligon, UNM professor and ornithologist, gives an illustrated talk about Cooperative Breeding in an African bird, the Green Woodhoopoe, that he and his wife Sandy studied in Kenya for several years. Many kinds of birds are characterized by this complex social system called 'cooperative breeding' (CB), most readily seen in the feeding of nestlings by all members of a social group, including the parents, near and distant relatives, and even unrelated birds. Dr. Ligon is a spirited and entertaining speaker, and his talk will take us from the tropics of Kenya to right here in New Mexico, where CB occurs regularly in Harris's Hawk, Mexican Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, and Bushtit.

Thursday, October 16

• Alone Across the Arctic •

Pam Flowers will give a presentation about a 2500 mile, solo, dog sled expedition that she and her dogs completed across Arctic America. It is the longest solo dog sled trek by a woman in recorded history. Their journey took her across the northern edge of the Arctic NWR in Alaska. You likely know that ANWR was saved again by a vote of 48 to 52 in the Senate a few months ago. Pam's presentation is a narrated slide show that is inspirational, educational, fun and funny and is suitable for people of all ages, including children. This will be a great family night program. Pam will also have her book *Alone Across the Arctic* available for purchase.

Thursday, November 20

• Birds of the Janos •

Bill Howe will talk about birds seen while conducting Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts and special trips to the Janos area. This is a unique area just a few miles south of the New Mexico border in Chihuahua, Mexico, and is home to the largest extant prairie-dog town remaining in the world.

All Central New Mexico Audubon Society meetings and field trips are open to the public.

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.



September - October - November 2003

CNMAS Field Trip Schedule

Saturday, September 6: Albuquerque area

This will be a half-day trip to an Albuquerque site not yet determined. Please meet at 7AM at the UNM Physics Department Parking lot (NE corner of Lomas and Yale Blvd.). Call Sei at 266-2480 for details.

Sunday, September 14: Tent Rocks (Kasha-Katuwe)

All-day fall migration trip to Tent Rocks (Kasha-Katuwe) National Monument near Cochiti with Hart Schwarz. Meet at 8AM in the UNM Physics Department parking lot (NE corner of Lomas and Yale). We will carpool, but those who drive will have to pay a \$5.00 user fee. Dress for the season, wear hiking boots for a two to three-mile hike, and bring water and lunch. We should be back in Albuquerque by 5PM. Call Hart for details, 346-3870.

Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28: Fort Sumner Area

Meet at 6AM in the Four Hills Shopping Center at Central and Tramway across from the Travelodge Motel. The first stop will be at Sumner Lake and the campground. Bring lunch for a picnic at Bosque Redondo Park. Two trips will be made to the Melrose migrant trap, 22 miles east of Fort Sumner; once in the afternoon and again the next morning. The group will head back to Albuquerque around 10:30AM. Call Rebecca Gracey at 242-3821 for information about car-pooling and motel reservations.

Saturday, October 4: Albuquerque area

This trip to an undetermined site within 50 miles of the city will last until 2 or 3PM. Please meet at 7AM at the UNM Physics Department Parking lot (NE corner of Lomas and Yale Blvd.). Call Art Arenholz at 298-1724 for details.

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2: Trail Days at Bosque del Apache (see article on this page for details)

Sunday, November 8: Las Vegas NWR

The back roads of the Las Vegas NWR are open on Sundays during the month of November. We will take this route as part of our activities for the day. The trip will end sometime in mid-afternoon. Bring lunch, snacks and water and dress appropriately for cold and unpredictable weather. Meet at 8AM at the Far North Shopping Center behind the Village Inn (NE corner of Academy and San Mateo NE). Call Sei at 266-2480 for details.

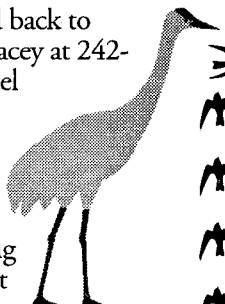
Saturday-Sunday, November 22-23: CNMAS at Festival of the Cranes (see article on this page for details)

Saturday, December 6: Bosque del Apache NWR

Art Arenholz will lead this trip which should end late in the afternoon. The Bald Eagle numbers should be increasing and there is a good likelihood that there will be several different morphs of Red-tail Hawks. Bring lunch, snacks and water and dress appropriately for cold and unpredictable weather. Meet at 8AM at the UNM Physics Department parking lot (NE corner of Lomas and Yale NE). Call Art at 298-1724 for details.

Saturday, January 3, 2004: Bosque del Apache NWR

This will be a repeat of the December 6th trip. Same place, same time. Call Art for details.



Celebrating Birds

Wednesday Morning Bird Walks

Come see what's flying in the Sandia Mountains!
by Ken Schneider

Celebrating Birds is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service to promote conservation and enjoyment of wild birds and their habitats on your National Forests. Meet at 8:30AM as shown below, or call the Sandia Ranger station at 281-3304 for more info. Hikes are free, though there is a parking fee of \$3.00 per vehicle at Forest Service trailheads and picnic areas along the Scenic Byway. Visit our website "Birding in the Sandias" at <http://home.att.net/~kschneider/sandia.html>

- September 10: Capulin Spring Picnic Area. Meet at the first parking lot at entrance.
- September 17: Cienega Picnic Area. Meet at the Nature Trail Parking lot.
- September 24: Sandia Crest Upper Parking Lot.
- October 1: Capulin Spring Picnic Area. Meet at the first parking lot at entrance.
- October 8: Cienega Picnic Area. Meet at the Nature Trail Parking lot.



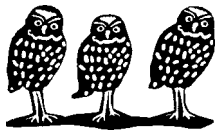
Trail Days At Bosque del Apache Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2

Auduboners, come join the *New Mexico Volunteers For The Outdoors* for just one day or both, when they meet at Bosque del Apache to maintain trails at one of our premier wildlife refuges. Trail work and pruning amidst fall splendor... and birds galore! (Work one day, go birding the next!) Contact Leonard Padilla, 835-3161, lpadilla@sdc.org - they'll provide Saturday dinner, but you have to register!

Festival of the Cranes Call For Volunteers

CNMAS and the New Mexico Audubon Council need YOU to help us as we enjoy birdwatching and share our scopes, smiles, and love of birding and Bosque del Apache with others. Please volunteer for a two-hour shift on Saturday, November 22 and/or Sunday, November 23. Contact Jeff Myers at jmyers@peacocklaw.com or at 998-1502 to sign up to help. You can choose your site: Our chapter site at the Phil Norton Commemorative Photography Blind (funded by Central New Mexico Audubon) or at the State Audubon Council tent, which will once again be on the two-way middle road (so we'll see lots more birds this year!) We really need your help, as this is one of the major ways we show our support for the National Refuge System in general, and Bosque del Apache NWR in particular.





National Wildlife Refuge Bulletin Board - Centennial Celebration

Bosque del Apache NWR Centennial Education & Exploration Series

Saturday, September 20: Star Party

Meet at the Visitor Center at Bosque del Apache 7PM for a *Star Party with Amy Estelle*. Scope out the birds earlier, then scope out the stars after dark!

Saturday, October 11: Butterfly Workshop

Bosque del Apache NWR presents *A Butterfly Workshop with Steve Cary and Nancy Daniel* at the Visitor Center, 1-4PM (For more information: (505)838-2120 or (505)835-1828).

Wings of Morning

Limited Edition Commemorative Plate
Honoring the 2003 Centennial of the National
Refuge Wildlife System
Only 1000 will be produced!

\$45, including shipping

Designed by acclaimed Bosque del Apache artist Skeeter Leard, each 8-inch plate is individually numbered.

Proceeds go to Friends of the Bosque del Apache Educational Wing Building Fund.



To order yours, fill out the order form below.
To order by credit card, call (505) 838-2120.

Make payable to: Friends of the Bosque del Apache, PO Box 340, San Antonio, NM 87832.

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE PLATE ORDER FORM

Number of plates _____ @ \$45/plate* = \$ _____
 Check# _____

Ship to: Name _____
 Street or Box# _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 *Price includes shipping and handling

Purchaser Name _____
 Street or Box# _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone _____

Sevilleta Open House 2003 Saturday - Sunday, October 11-12

Refuge Tours • Food • Booths
Presentations • Live Animal Exhibits

Generally closed to the public, the refuge is open for guided tours only at this Open House event! Reservations are required for tours and most events.

Cost is \$7 per person for guided tours

Tours will meet and activities will be held at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located off I-25 at exit 169

For more info call for a brochure today
(505) 864-4021

Sevilleta NWR

The Centennial Celebration Series offers the public a unique opportunity to visit the Refuge's back-country areas while being escorted by expert guides in a variety of fields. Series field trips are offered to the public free of charge, but reservations are required and space is limited on some trips. For information and reservations call Kim King-Wrenn (505)864-4021.

- September 13.....Wildflower Field Trip
- October 11.....Annual Open House (see above)
- November 8.....West Side Birding Field Trip
- December 27Sevilleta's 30th Birthday Celebration

Festival of the Cranes

Tuesday - Sunday, November 18-23

The Centennial Year
Our National Refuge System



FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES
November 18-23, 2003
Socorro, NM

This is the 16th year that the City of Socorro, NM and the Bosque del Apache NWR will be celebrating the return of the cranes with this Festival.

Education is an important part of the mission of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Throughout the year the Bosque is host to meetings, seminars, international film crews, tours, visits by groups of school children.

There are four major components to the Festival: tours, lectures, exhibits and the Refuge. The Friends of the Bosque website has full details on these and other events.

Please register early! (505)835-0424
www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/



September - October - November 2003

Birdathon 2003 - What A Terrific Team Effort!

You did it!!! You gave us our best Birdathon year ever - both in terms of dollars AND in team spirit! You contributed a total of \$2,031.80 to this year's teams - and what great teams they were! If you need to be refreshed on their (and your) fun days out, go back and read the team reports in your Summer issue of the Audubon New Mexico Statewide Newsletter. Thanks once again to the teams: Youth Without-A-Driver's-License, Thursday Birders Plus, and Celestyn's Successful Successors. Thanks to all you generous feathered friends below:

Sally Burke, Mike Ramos, Les Hawkins, John Estrel, Paul McConnell, Elizabeth Hurst-Waitz, Sei Tokuda, Julie Goodding, Marjorie Williams, Jeanne Hamrick, Carolyn Sanborn, MaryLou Arthur, Eileen Beaulieu, Pat Folsom, Ruth Burstrom, Jeff Myers, Vickie Wilcox, Niels Chapman, Marian Washburn, Virginia Taylor, Celestyn Brozek, Melvin Shibuya, Mirella Burke, Ernie Harris, Anne Fiberlin, Diane Cress, Bobby Posey, Sherry Hunt, Judy Rominger, Keener Marsha, Deborah Peacock, Sylvia Chartin, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Bonnie Long, Cheri Orwig, Jack W Courtin, Thursday Birders Treasury, Melissa Howard, Nancy Kirkwood, Rebecca Gracey, Laura Lefkofsky, Eric Robinson, Wally & Lena Finley, Lou Prime, Amy Neel, Glen Finley, Sharon Fullingim, William Gilstrap, Art Arenholz, Marcia DeLeon

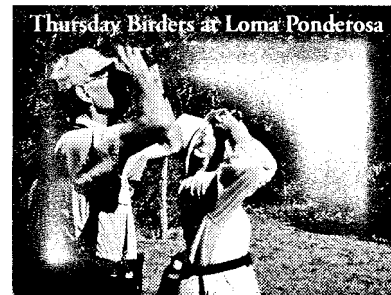
Citizen Science At Work Through Auduboners

Nine Open Space sites in the East Mountains are being surveyed by the CNMAS Thursday Birders led by Andrew Rominger.

The bird counts are part of the environmental/interpretive assessments of East Mountain Open Space (EMOS) conducted by Talking Talons and the Youth Conservation Corps. The data gathered from the Thursday Birders surveys will be presented in mid-September to the EMOS steering committee, representing Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Forest Service, National Parks and local residents, which will make decisions about site management, including public access, for the nine parcels of open space. Data from these counts will also be used to assess the sites for Important Bird Area designation based on species diversity and individual densities thus adding to the potential for conservation management and protection of bird species.

Open space—undeveloped land set aside for conservation and/or passive recreation—is managed to retain its natural character, conserve resources, provide opportunities for education and recreation and in some cases define the boundaries of the “built environment”, according to the EMOS steering committee. Bernalillo County voters approved a property tax mill levy in 1998 whose proceeds were used to purchase 1,500 acres in the East Mountains, North Valley and South Valley. A second levy approved in 2000 is providing funds for management of the sites.

The East Mountain Open Space includes three sites near Cedro Peak on State Road 337: Sabino Canyon, Loma Ponderosa and Juan Tomas. Other sites are San Antonito and Ojito de San Antonio (formerly Los Manzanares), both on Highway 14; Tres Pistolas (Three Gun) and Carlito Springs, both in Tijeras Canyon; Gutierrez Canyon north of Interstate 40, and a site south of Golden.



Thursday Birders at Loma Ponderosa



Birding in Sabino Canyon Open Space

Photos by Turtle-Bear

Bosque del Apache NWR: The Ecstasy and the Agony

Folks who read the June Audubon Magazine were thrilled to see national recognition given to what New Mexicans have known all along: That Bosque del Apache NWR, less than 100 miles south of Albuquerque, is one of the 10 crown jewels of the national wildlife refuge system. Featured for its beauty, its incredible array of birds, its recreational opportunities, and its accessibility, Bosque del Apache NWR comprises 57,191 acres on a riparian floodplain of the Rio Grande in the Chihuahuan Desert - talk about diversity!

And diversity is what's threatened, according to a new report released by Audubon, “Cooling the Hot Spots,” which recommends immediate investments to protect ten critical areas from invasive species. Thus it is that Bosque del Apache NWR has made it to the top ten in yet another list: it is one of those ten critical areas recommended to receive immediate investments to protect it from what has been blamed for bird extinctions and declining bird populations worldwide - invasive species.

“Invasive species are like a buzz-saw cutting through some of America's most valuable bird and wildlife habitat,” said Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's Senior Vice President for Public Policy. “If invasive species are not controlled, they will continue to wreak havoc on America's already declining birds and the natural places they inhabit. We need to target federal efforts in the most critical areas, that is why we identified these ten invasive species Hot Spots: it is a science-based road map toward meaningful protection of America's birds, wildlife, and habitat, on the ground where it counts.”

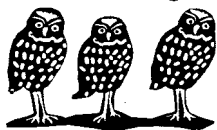


HawkWatch Observations

<http://www.hawkwatch.org/>

Observers will begin the Manzano HawkWatch count on August 27 and remain until November 5. Banding set-up will take place on August 30 and 31. Visitors are welcome. Call Bobbie at 255-7622 for more information.





New Mexico-Mexico Connections: A Study of 12 Migratory Birds

Fourth Graders Contribute to Bird Conservation by Andrew Rominger

Birds: inspiring, empowering and an excellent way to communicate the necessity for environmental protection. This became clear for me during the last spring semester, when I had the

incredible opportunity to design an environmental education project - "New Mexico/Mexico Connection: A Study of Twelve Migratory Birds" - as part of an Independent Study at Valley High School. Even more incredible was working with Stephanie Kasprzak's fourth grade students at Lew Wallace Elementary to make "New Mexico/Mexico Connections" a reality.

The purpose of the project was to provide a learning experience for students through which they could educate themselves, their peers and their community about migratory birds who utilize habitats in New

Mexico for breeding and then fly south to Mexico for the winter. The project was designed to encourage the celebration and conservation of these birds and their habitats and to instill an appreciation of the complex ecological networks that support bird life around the world. These intentions combined to form the larger purpose of the project-that of empowering these young people to have a positive impact on their local environment and the environment at large, through stewardship, education and community service.

For two weeks in April, the students worked amazingly hard researching their birds, discovering the habitat requirements and the conservation issues of each species. They created maps indicting the ranges of each bird in New Mexico and in Mexico and facts sheets with information from their research. These, along with their exquisite paintings showing the birds they researched pictured in their breeding and wintering habitats, went on display at the Rio Grande Nature Center beginning on International Migratory Bird Day, May 10 and will continue through the fall. It was rewarding to see how enthused the students became as their knowledge of birds increased and how proudly they shared their information and artwork with others knowing that they were contributing to the protection of the birds they had come to understand so well.

I would very much like to thank the incredible students and their teacher for what they have contributed to our

community. And thank you Central New Mexico Audubon for the grant you provided for purchasing art materials. I greatly appreciate your support and hope that this project is helping further the Audubon cause.

I'll be continuing this project in the coming spring with Mrs. Kasprzak's new class of fourth graders. Environmental education has claimed me, as I see clearer than ever its necessity in our struggle to insure that ecosystems remain healthy for generations to come. It is one thing to be told that we must work to preserve the Earth-it is another thing to understand why we must do this; herein lies the importance of environmental education. There is a saying, "I can only protect what I love; I can only love what I understand; I can only understand what I have learned."

What the Heck Is An E-Bird?

"E-bird". Funny, I can't find that one in my bird guide. Well, that's because it's not a real bird. It is however, a site on the internet where you can record real birds. E-bird is a new program launched recently by Audubon and Cornell University. It is part of a growing number of citizen science projects, promoted by National Audubon with participation from many Audubon members. The largest citizen science project is one called the Christmas Bird Count, with which most of you are already familiar. E-bird promises to become as important to researchers as the Christmas Bird Counts.

So what is E-bird? It is a web-based program where anyone who spends some time birding can enter their data by first finding their location on a map, entering information about how they did their birdwatching, and then the species and numbers of each that they identified. You can enter any bird information you have, from sightings in your back yard and your neighborhood to birds seen while driving, as well as any trip list of birds seen on a "formal" birding trip.

After that the information will be available to view over the web. You can keep track of your personal bird sightings. If you are interested, you can check what anybody else has put into the system for any area of the country for any species and for any specific date or range of dates. You can even see what birds have been seen where you'll take your next vacation or business trip in the U.S. if someone has entered bird sightings for that area.

While there is little information now, because the program has just begun, E-bird promises to become an extremely important research tool for looking at bird populations, distribution, abundance and timing across the continent!

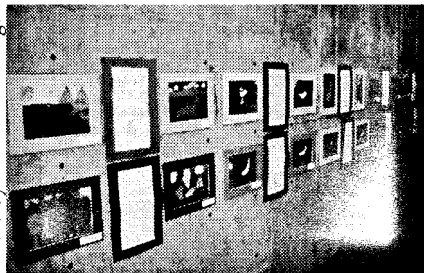
E-bird provides fascinating information in a very easy to use format. Check it out! Visit www.ebird.org/content/. Click on the E-Bird icon and start recording your bird sightings, from a view out the back window to a full day birding at your favorite locale!

If you have questions about getting started on the E-bird program you can contact Christopher Rustay at chrustay@aol.com.

Peregrine Falcon by Jazmin



Photo by Andrew Rominger



Cinnamon Teal by Paul



Bullock's Oriole by Joshua



September - October - November 2003

Coastal Maine Bird Studies Program by Ryan Beaulieu

Hello to everyone in the Audubon Society. I would like first to express my gratitude to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society for allowing me the opportunity to have this great experience. If it wasn't for these extraordinary people, my birding life as I know it would not exist. Thank you so very, very much! This trip was the most fun I have ever had in my entire life. I saw approximately 10 life birds and I also saw birds that I just couldn't stop looking at.

Well, let's start from day one, Sunday June 29. Everyone arrived at camp a little nervous and kind of quiet. We all got our luggage situated and then crowded on a boat to head over to Hog Island.

Once on the island a few of us went for a quick walk around to see what the island had in store for us. The first bird we heard and saw was a BLACK-THROATED GREEN-WARBLER. Then, a little later, we discovered Scott Weidensaul and Kenn Kaufman listening to a bird which later we find is a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER male in breeding plumage high in a white spruce. What a magnificent bird! We then headed back to the cabin, put some of our gear in place, and headed out for dinner. This is when we really learned how everything worked.

June 30: We all awoke for the early morning bird walk and found a NORTHERN PARULA nest with an almost fully fledged juvi just waiting to be fed. After breakfast we headed out on the vans for a field trip to Seawall Beach. Kenn Kaufman and Scott Weidensaul came on this trip also, which is how we really became friends with these extraordinary authors. On the van ride to the beach I taught my friends the Sibley Game, which is a quiz game to test and strengthen birding abilities.

We then arrived at Seawall Beach... what a beautiful beach! This beach is 3 miles from any houses and it is illegal to park at the parking lot unless one has a permit. We had the opportunity to see this place which has nesting PIPING PLOVERS. We were able to see the plovers with their young and study the parenting process of this amazing species of bird.

Heading over to Popham Marsh enabled us to have a distant view of both SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS and a flock of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS which fortunately flew overhead. We then returned to the island, ate dinner, and went to an evening program.

July 1: We had to get up super early, eat breakfast, then make lunch because we were going to be out all day. Before we headed out to the vans, a few of us found a very conspicuous CAROLINA WREN singing and gleaning the lower brush of the area. We then left for Acadia National Park.

The park's wildlife was stunning. It offered such things as a singing WINTER WRENS, AMERICAN REDSTARTS, and MAGNOLIA WARBLERS. We also saw an amazing species of wood-boring wasp and some awesome plants. That evening we ate pizza and had ice cream in Bar Harbor... we were very hyper!

July 2: Half of the group, including myself, hopped on a boat and headed out for a rare opportunity to land on Eastern Egg Rock Island and see what Project Puffin is all about. Project Puffin is an organization started by Dr. Stephen Kress who

took seabird restoration into a whole new level. By making decoys and playing sounds the project was able to bring back many ATLANTIC PUFFINS to many islands in the Northeast. They were able to bring back the endangered ROSEATE TERN populations to reasonable numbers and the ARCTIC TERNS's population increased as well. Everything about the project can be accessed from the website www.projectpuffin.org. We had the opportunity to view ATLANTIC PUFFINS, BLACK GUILLEMOTS, ROSEATE TERNS, ARCTIC TERNS, and COMMON TERNS very close to the blinds.

After departing the blinds, we sat on the roof of the project interns' house and looked at terns. We identified fish that the terns were bringing in. I then had the opportunity to point out a RAZORBILL to Kenn, and as I was looking at it, a tern gave me a gift of guano right in the eye and on my binoculars. We headed back onto the boat and came to the main island where we shared our experiences with the other part of the group. The rest of the day we went to a few programs by Kenn and Scott, then rested.

July 3: Half of the group traveled to Eastern Egg Rock Island while we went to the Modomack Walk... a walk that Roger Tory Peterson mapped out on the main land. It consisted of exploring streets and looking in backyards for whatever we could find. We came upon such things as GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHERS, ALDER FLYCATCHERS, and a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON. We then met the other half of the group on Hog Island, ate lunch, and we were on our way to Clarry Hill Blueberry Barren where we saw birds such as UPLAND SANDPIPERS, VESPER SPARROWS, and SAVANNAH SPARROWS.

July 4: The whole group awoke early and headed for Wreck Island to see a large GREAT-BLUE HERON heronry. This was extraordinary because it was like being in "The Lost World" seeing and hearing ancient flying reptiles. We then had a tour of the entire island, and a little free time! Later, we ate dinner, went to an evening program showing all the fun things that occurred during camp, and packed for our departure on the following day.

July 5: We were all in tears as we waited for everyone to catch the last boat and leave Hog Island. We waved good-bye to the island, hugged each other and went our separate ways hoping to be reconnected some time in the future!

•• CNMAS Scholarships At Work ••

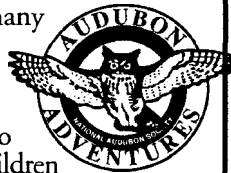
The Maine Audubon Society holds several summer programs, one of which is the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens. This year we were proud to sponsor the attendance of local young birder, Ryan Beaulieu.

From the society's description: This popular session, advised by Kenn Kaufman, is designed to provide a small group of interested teenagers aged 14 to 17 with opportunities to experience Audubon's bird fieldwork. Participants work alongside Maine Audubon biologists as they monitor endangered Piping Plovers on their breeding grounds; venture out to a seabird island with Project Puffin to learn more about their conservation and restoration methods; learn field identification tips, birdsong recognition, conservation practices, and more from nationally known ornithologists; and attend an array of field trips to various habitats which is combined with slide presentations, mini-workshops, discussions.



Audubon in the Classroom

As a member of CNMAS, one of the many chapter projects that you support is Audubon Adventures, the education resource kit for grades 3 through 6.



Materials are professionally designed to increase awareness and appreciation in children about birds, wildlife, and the natural systems of the earth and to create in them a sense of stewardship for the natural world. Audubon Adventures is aligned to National Standards for science and language arts. Each Classroom Resource Kit contains supplies for up to 32 students at a cost of \$35.00 per kit plus \$6.50 for shipping and handling.

Last year Central New Mexico Audubon provided Classroom Resource Kits for 18 classrooms in 10 elementary schools in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. Helen Haskell, coordinator of the program, hopes to increase the number of classrooms involved in this exciting program for our students.

Four themes in the Audubon Adventures series will be released this fall. These are: Grasslands, Coniferous Forests, Fresh Water Environments, and Urban Habitats. What makes it particularly exciting to us in New Mexico is the inclusion with each kit of Audubon New Mexico's own "Wild Guide: Zooming In On the Southwest," which was developed by Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe and last year featured *Athene cunicularia* - the Burrowing Owl! The talented folks at Randall Davey are right now developing a new "Creature Feature" for the Southwest!

Help support this educational outreach program! Send your check payable to CNMAS with this form to Audubon Adventures, c/o CNMAS Treasurer, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002.



Connect a child to nature with Audubon Adventures 2003-2004

Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____ (Each \$41.50 will sponsor one classroom in the Audubon Adventures Program. Any amount you contribute will benefit our educational activities.)

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For more information: www.abcbirds.org

Birding For Fun = Birding For Science

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society (MVAS) is wrapping up its two-and-a-half year monitoring of birds at Leasburg Dam State Park and has an updated list of sightings, totaling 141 species through May 2003, available at the park and at their website, www.cybermesa.com/~mvas

Beginning in August, MVAS started work on a similar list for Caballo Lake and Percha Dam State Parks. Volunteers can participate in two ways: Sign up for whatever month(s) you want, bird there at least once during your month, and submit a complete list of species and numbers seen for each visit. Or if you can't sign up for a particular month, please go ahead and send a list anytime you bird the area. Also, if you have any records from past visits that you'd be willing to share, they would be most appreciated. To sign up for a month, or to submit reports, e-mail Nancy Stotz at nstotz@zianet.com. Thanks, and happy birding!

Still In Awe - A Summer Email by Maxine Feldman

i have just had the most amazing experience this morning.... since moving here to New Mexico i have had the joy of watching hummingbirds come to my feeders... there had been at least fifteen to twenty little delights for the past two summers.... well this year... no one came... :- (... i faithfully put out my feeders... changed the food every three days to keep it fresh.... but all i got was ants... :- (... wellllllll... three days ago i spied one hummer... and i quickly changed the food in hopes it would come by... i waited and waited..... nada zip zero zilch... just ten minutes ago there was the little guy again and by now because of the heat we have had here (in the three digits) the food was almost evaporated... so i grabbed the feeder... cleaned it quickly (no ants this time... lol)... and as i was walking back to hang it up... the tiny Anna's hummingbird flew right to my feeder as i was holding it... i stood stock still... i talked quietly to the little one... he kept going to the four holes taking drinks... as my hand was holding the feeder he decided to sit for a spell instead of moving those wings rapidly as he ate.... well damn he sat on my fingers... not a care in the world... no fear of me... i decided to keep walking to hang up the feeder... he flew to each hole again as i walked... he flew around my head as i hung the feeder up... just as i was about to let go of the feeder he once again rested on my hand... i brought my hand slowly up to my face... looked at this amazing little critter eyeball to eyeball... smiled and said "thank you you made my day" he then took off.... i am still grinning Max.... still in awe



September - October - November 2003

CNMAS continued from page 1

through April) and special events

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- CNMAS Grant Writer
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- "Bird Helpers" for various projects
- Partners in Flight Representative
- East Mountain Birding Group organizer, a la Thursday Birders Group
- Festival of the Cranes, Bosque del Apache NWR
- Rio Grande Nature Center Festivals: Winter Bird & Bat, Herbfest and Summer Wings

For more information about CNMAS visit our website at <http://newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/> or please call Beth Hurst-Waitz at (505) 898-8514.

The National Audubon website is at <http://audubon.org/>

The Randall Davey Audubon Center can be reached at (505) 983-4609, newmexico@audubon.org



Veracruz River of Raptors Pronatura Veracruz and HawkWatch International October 5-13, 2003

Join HawkWatch staff and guides from Pronatura for this ecotour featuring four-to-six million Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks and Mississippi Kites - almost the entire world population for these three species - as they pass through Veracruz. Besides viewing this River of Raptors, we will watch birds from the coast to wetlands to mountainous highlands. We will also visit several archeological sites, shade tree coffee plantations, and the colonial city of Xalapa. Price per person of \$1,995 includes all food, lodging, bilingual guides, entry fees, ground transportation in Mexico AND channels 25% of the price as a tax-deductible donation that goes to funding the research and environmental education efforts of Pronatura in the state of Veracruz. Visit www.hawkwatch.org, e-mail hwi@hawkwatch.org, or call Paul Grindrod at 1-800-726-HAWK (4295), ext. 111.

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Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Winter 2003 issue of the State Audubon Newsletter, Burrowing Owl section, must be received by **Nov 1**. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

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