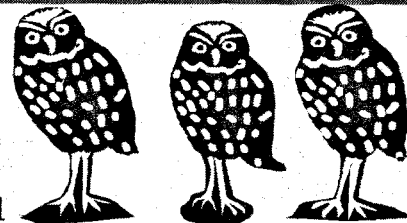


Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Burrowing Owl

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The Seventh Annual Audubon Birding Academy Better Than Ever - Picture Fireworks and Glitter! Birding By Habitat: Where To Go and What To Look For

Audubon Program
Thursday, January 20, 2005
"A New Year, A New Perspective"

THE FUN AND LEARNING CONTINUE, and so do the benefits of being a member of Central New Mexico Audubon Society. Become a new Audubon Society Member, and you get three free Birding Academy classes with your membership! Long-time members and friends, sign up early and sign up often - well, why not? We cherish your commitment. On to the birds!

All classes are held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 p.m. Pay in advance (see form, next page) or pay at the door. \$6.00 per class, or sign up for all three for \$15.00. Nonmembers: Pay \$20.00 to join National Audubon Society, and the classes are free!

"The Allure of Grassland Birds" Dennis Prichard, presenter Thursday, February 17, 2005

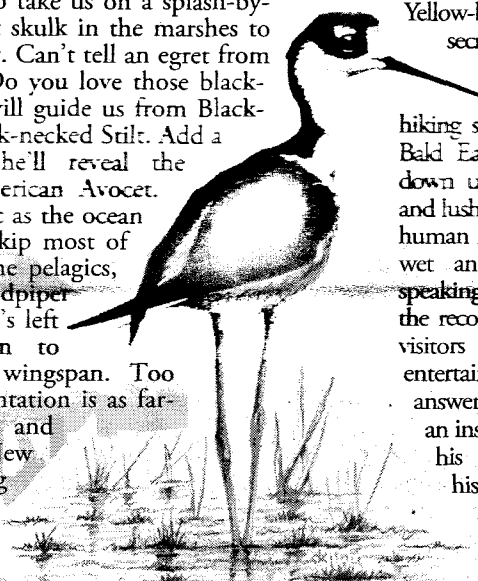
What do Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, and Mountain Plover have in common? Denizens all of prairie grassland habitat and on New Mexico's Bird Check Lists, these species are in the group of birds which has the lamentable distinction of being the fastest declining nationwide. Is that because they also feed, breed, and raise their young on the most threatened ecosystem in America - the prairie grasslands? Dennis Prichard will tell us the wonderful variety of birds that comprise this group and speak about the birds' habitats and threats to their populations. Not so much an ID primer as a "who's who" cataloging and featuring these birds, Dennis will also give us the good news about management techniques used to help correct these declines. Dennis is the Refuge Operations Specialist and Assistant Deputy Manager of Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. A birder since his college days in 1971, Dennis is a wonderful speaker who will enthrall, educate, and inspire as he goes beyond the human boundaries of "refuge," "national park," and "state," and takes us into the ecology of the grassland birds.

"The Music of Montane Birds" Steve Fettig, presenter Thursday, March 17, 2005

Steve Fettig is a biologist with more than 20 years working from Alaska to Florida and from Michigan to Arizona. His New Mexico contributions to the ornithological world include his leadership of New Mexico's Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and an autumn songbird migration banding study he started in 2004 at Bandelier National Monument. His presentation focuses on bird sounds of the Jemez Mountains, featuring Mountain Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Warbling Vireo, American Robin, using terminology developed by Dr. Jim Travis, editor of the Breeding Bird Atlas of Los Alamos County, New Mexico. He'll move on to birds that trill, such as Chipping Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler. And then he promises us some "easy"-to-identify songsters such as Townsend's Solitaire, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. There's even more, but you'll have to come and see - or hear - for yourselves! All sounds presented in this program will be Steve's digital recordings from the Jemez Mountains and are of exceptional quality, clarity, AND audibility. Bring your bird books and join us for an evening of delightful bird sounds.

"Wetlands: Waders and Wings" Art Arenholz, presenter Thursday, April 21, 2005

We're delighted to welcome Art Arenholz back for his unique blend of knowledge and humor, scientific data and storytelling, which makes him the epitome of a teacher - we absorb knowledge like a sponge instead of having it injected like a flu shot! Art is going to take us on a splash-by-splash tour of waterbirds that skulk in the marshes to ones that dive for their dinner. Can't tell an egret from a heron? Art to the rescue! Do you love those black-and-white marsh birds? Art will guide us from Black-crowned Night Heron to Black-necked Stilt. Add a touch of cinnamon, and he'll reveal the preferred habitat of the American Avocet. Birds of water is as big a topic as the ocean (pun intended), so Art will skip most of the ducks and geese, all of the pelagics, and not just a few of the Sandpiper peeps. But what an array that's left - from tiny Marsh Wren to Sandhill Crane of six-foot wingspan. Too common for you? Art's presentation is as far-ranging as the White Ibis and Reddish Egret seen here in New Mexico. Are you still puzzling about what dives for its dinner if it's not a duck - Northern Harrier, too, makes wetlands its home. If you want to find out what other birds nest in wetlands, but never get their feet wet, come "wade into" Art's presentation about diversity on the wing in wetlands!



Drawing by Daniel S. Kilby



Hawks Aloft Middle Rio Grande Avian Monitoring: 2004 Summer Season Results

"Recently, the Rio Grande bosque has received considerable attention in the form of restoration projects and fire prevention activities. In 2003, Hawks Aloft, Inc., a non-profit research and education organization initiated a multi-year study to monitor bird populations in various riparian vegetation types. The study area includes the Middle Rio Grande Valley, from Bernalillo south to La Joya. This study replicates a survey conducted in 1981-82. When completed, the study will identify vegetation changes and correlating bird densities over a 23 year period. Hawks Aloft has completed the first full season of this three-year study."

To see the full text of this press release, please visit the Hawks Aloft, Inc. website: www.hawksaloft.org. For more information, contact Gail Garber, 505-898-9455.

Join Daniel Perry from Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge for a different perspective on a familiar place. Yes, you know about the thousands of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese over-wintering on this beloved birding mecca of New Mexico. But do you know about the unexpected and unusual species the Refuge has hosted? Do you know where to look for the possible Yellow-billed Cuckoo in summer or the secretive Sora in winter? Do you know where to find the paw print of the cougar? What trail to test your hiking stamina on? Do you know what the Bald Eagle sees from above when it looks down upon this patchwork of desert scrub and lush oasis? Do you know the secrets of the human manipulations that keep the wetlands wet and the corn fields growing? And speaking of the Bald Eagle, do you know what the record number is of these over-wintering visitors to Bosque del Apache? Daniel entertains, teaches, and surprises you with answers to these questions as he takes you on an insider's exploration of this refuge, where his roles include volunteer trainer, historian, cactus aficionado, naturalist, and - of course, bird lover!

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 p.m. FREE! All Welcome!

Local Christmas Bird Counts Sunday, December 19 ALBUQUERQUE

Hart Schwarz (505-266-1810, hschwarz@fs.fed.us)

Meet Hart at Corrales Shopping Center, NW corner of Coors and Alameda, between 7:00 and 7:15 AM. Beth and Ron will host the compilation party at 6:45 PM at their house (505-898-8514). Get maps from your trip leaders and bring a dish to share, along with your bird sightings. Your hosts will provide hot food and drink to help defrost you!

Saturday, December 18 BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

Steve and Nancy Cox (505-345-2385, swcox@spinn.net)
Let Steve and Nancy know you'll be part of the count and/or compilation party.

Sunday, December 26 SANDIA MOUNTAINS

Rebecca Gracey (505-242-3821, mrgacey@earthlink.net) and Nick Vaughn (505-265-1350)
Meet at 7:30 AM in the Four Hills shopping center parking lot near Dion's pizza. The shopping center is located on Central between Tramway and Juan Tabo. Compilation party after.

Remember to call your CBC leaders for final details!



Winter Bird and Bat Festival!

Saturday, January 15, 2005, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
2901 Candelaria NW, 505-344-7240

Come join the festivities, featuring guided bird and nature walks starting at 8:00 AM, speakers' program starting at 10:00 AM, live birds and bats, and New Mexico Audubon Society volunteers in the Pond Room. The cost for this event? Free!

CNMAS Field Trip Reports compiled by Celestyn Brozek

Sat-Sun, August 14-15: Ft. Sumner and Roswell/Bitter Lake NWR with Sei Tokuda

Fifteen birders made this trip to Fort Sumner, Bosque Redondo, Melrose Trap, Roswell and Bitter Lake. Several of the participants returned to Albuquerque via Bosque del Apache. One of those vehicles reported 105 species of birds. Some of the highlights of the trip were Mississippi Kite and fledglings, Northern Bobwhite, Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lark Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting.

Saturday, September 25: with Art Arenholz

We could not get to the Hawkwatch site as we had planned, because the road was closed for repair. Our backup site, the Sandia Mountains, was impractical, due to a skateboard race on the paved road to the Crest. So seven determined birders found enjoyable birding at the Belen Marsh, along highway 47, and along the back roads to Bosque del Apache NWR. Special birds we saw: Pectoral Sandpipers, Cooper's Hawks, baby Inca Doves, Cattle Egrets and a close, perched Peregrine Falcon.

Saturday, October 2: Bosque del Apache NWR with Sondra Williamson

Six birders were willing to leave Balloon Fiesta and visit Bosque del Apache. Birds were scarce at Bosque due to the low water conditions. But a stop at the Belen Marsh netted us Wilson's Snipe, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, White-faced Ibis, both Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, A. Coots, and a few Pectoral Sandpipers.

Saturday, October 16: Tatum with Christopher Rustay

Seven birders joined Chris for a trip to Tatum, continuing up towards Dora in Roosevelt county, and then west to Red Lake between Dora and Elida. We wound up with 70 species on the trip. The highlights were Barn Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Sprague's Pipit, Cassin's, Clay-colored and Swamp Sparrows. A very nice trip. In addition, for those who went on to Fort Sumner, this morning at the Melrose trap was fantastic with Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warbler, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher and a female Eastern Towhee! Pretty spectacular!

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.

With Recognition and Gratitude

Professor J. David Ligon will be retiring from his illustrious career at the University of New Mexico. We invite you to be among those honoring him. Tim Parker, former CNMAS Vice President, will be visiting from Kansas to give a talk at the symposium in Professor Ligon's honor on Friday, December 10, at the UNM Department of Biology. If you are interested in attending, please contact Beth at 898-8514 for more details.

CNMAS Field Trip Schedule

Our field trips, including Thursday Birders, can be found at:
<http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html>

8 January 2005, Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR

Meet at 8:00 AM at the UNM Department of Physics parking lot on the NE corner of Yale and Lomas Blvd. We will see the typical birds of winter, including a few Bald Eagles, flocks of cranes, geese and other waterfowl. It is an all day trip, we should be back by 5:00 PM. Bring snacks, lunch, water, and warm clothes. Mostly next to the car birding, not much walking. Call Art Arenholz at 298-1724 for details.

15 January, Saturday - RGNC Winter Bird & Bat Festival

See advertisement to left. CNMAS volunteers welcome.

29-30 January, Sat-Sun (overnight trip) - Las Vegas & Maxwell NWRs

The target birds will be the wintering birds of NE New Mexico such as Goldeneye, four species of Grebes, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Tree Sparrows. Bring food, snacks and water and dress appropriately for very cold weather conditions. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Far North Shopping Center behind the Village Inn (NE corner of Academy and San Mateo Blvd.). Call Art Arenholz at 298-1724 or Sei Tokuda at 266-2480 for details.

12 February, Saturday - Albuquerque West Mesa

This will be a morning trip to search for Sage Sparrows on the West Mesa. Meet at 8:00 AM at the SW corner of the parking lot of the Marriott Pyramid Hotel (SW corner of I-25 and Paseo del Norte). Call Sei Tokuda at 266-2480 for details.

26 February, Saturday - Cochiti Lake

Meet at 8:30 AM at the Far North Shopping Center near the Village Inn restaurant. Bring lunch and expect to return home around 3:00 PM. Target birds include Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Clark's and Western Grebe, Black-billed Magpie, and waterfowl, Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers among others. Call Rebecca Gracey at 242-3821 or email her at mrgracey@earthlink.net for details.

19 March, Saturday - Las Vegas NWR

Meet at 8:00 AM at the headquarters of the Las Vegas Refuge (approximate drive time from Albuquerque is 2-2.5 hours). You may also spend a night in Las Vegas. Be ready for either warm or bitterly cold weather. If a severe weather expected, call Celestyn at home at 266-9225 on Friday to check whether the trip may be cancelled. We will look for sparrows, waterfowl, raptors, and gulls. We will visit also nearby Storrie lake. Call Celestyn Brozek for more info at 925-8611 or e-mail at cbrozek@unm.edu. If you want to carpool, either offer a ride or get a ride, e-mail Celestyn in advance and he will arrange carpooling if possible.

23 April, Saturday - Bosque del Apache NWR

Meet at 7:00 AM in Albuquerque, at the NW corner of University and Gibson (a hotel parking lot) to carpool. Bring food for the whole day. We will look for early migrants. Call Lou Prime at 821-3145 for details.



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.

The 7th Annual Audubon Birding Academy Registration Form

To register for the following classes check circles:

- Grassland Birds (Feb. 17) ----- \$6
 - Montane Birds (Mar. 17) ----- \$6
 - Wetlands: Waders & Wings (Apr. 21) --- \$6
 - ALL 3 CLASSES (preregistration only) --- \$15
 - I want to be a new Audubon Society Member and get 3 free Birding Academy classes -- \$20
- NAS chapter code Q51

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I want to get the *Burrowing Owl* via the web -

Email: _____

Send your check, payable to CNMAS to:

CNMAS Birding Academy
P.O. Box 30002
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Total Enclosed: _____

Questions? Call Beth at 505-898-8514.

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Thanks to all who submitted articles and artwork for the Burrowing Owl. This newsletter would not be possible without your input. Please feel free to send something in for next time: The DEADLINE for the Spring 2005 issue of the Burrowing Owl is February 10. For submissions, contact Turtle-Bear - Editor or Beth - President. (See Directory, above.)