



Burrowing Owl

June, July, August 2008

Vol. 37 No. 3

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

Rosy-Finch Banding Project: The Flagship Research Project of CNMAS

For more info: <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>

The 2007-2008 Rosy-finch season is over, and what a season it was! Here's a taste, by giving you highlights of the "first" and "last," as condensed from reports by Nancy Cox.

November 25, 2007:

"We couldn't resist with the new snow falling, so we twisted Raymond [VanBuskirk]'s arm to start banding this Sunday...our 1st day for the Rosy-Finch Project 2007-2008 season.

"There was approx. 10 inches of snow from the Thursday - Saturday storm. It was a good day. We banded 19 Black Rosy-Finches, 12 Brown-capped and 1 Gray-crowned (Hepburn's) for a total of 32 Rosy-Finches. We did recapture 3 Black-Rosy Finches - 2 were originally banded in December 2006 and the 3rd was first banded in November 2005 as an after hatch year, making it at least 3 years old."

March 23, 2008:

"We almost did not band today. However, with Steve Fettig's persistence to get a few more photos we went to the Crest House one more time. In about an hour a flock of just over a hundred came into the feeder. We banded another 13 Rosy-Finches: 2 more Hepburn's (thanks to Cole [Wolf]), 4 more Gray-crowned Interiors and 7 more Brown-capped. We did recapture 13 Brown-capped and 2 Blacks but they were all from this season. That brings us to a season total of 462 Rosy-Finches. Brown-capped were the most numerous—295 new birds banded. We banded a total of 97 Gray-crowned (29 of which were Hepburn's) and 70 Blacks.

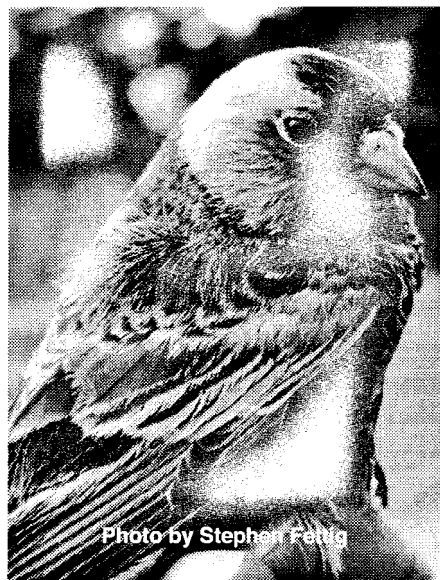


Photo by Stephen Fettig

"Devin and Justin Bosler (from Louisiana) counted at least 115 Rosy-Finches in the flock and that was while we had some in hand. [Crest House Manager] Gene

Rosy-Finches... continued on page 5

Newsletters... continued on page 9

Fall Programs

The CNMAS programs will resume in the fall. We will have three free presentations for you to enjoy. Our speakers will awe, educate and entertain. Stay tuned and save these dates:

Opening Season Presenter!

Thursday, September 18

Bruce Neville, experienced worldwide birder, will talk about - "Birds!" Whether they're local or exotic, mudflat or sky-borne, elusive or gaudy, New Mexico or worldwide - they're all feathered and they're all the subject of Bruce's knowledge and delight. Join us!

Thursday, October 16

Presenter TBA

Thursday, November 13

"The Armendaris Ranch, A Reptile Survey by the New Mexico Herpetological Society"

Ted Brown, president

All programs and presentations held at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, NW corner of Copper and Jefferson NE, 7:15 PM. For information call Beth, 505-898-8514. For updates, visit our website.

New Delivery of CNMAS Newsletters

Central New Mexico Audubon is interested in saving trees, keeping unnecessary paper out of your mailbox, and using our chapter's money wisely. The largest budget item that we face as a chapter is, and has always been, printing and mailing our newsletter,

In this Issue

Rosy-Finch Banding Project Report	1,5	Cats Indoors!	7
Fall Programs	1	An Opportunity to Serve	8
New Delivery of CNMAS Newsletter	1	1st Saturday Series at SMNHC	8
Birdathon! 2008 Reports	2	2008 Audubon Medal Winner	8
CNMAS Field Trip Reports	2,4	Whom to Contact	9
CNMAS Field Trip Schedule	3	Subscription Info	9
Thursday Birders Schedule	3,4	CNMAS Directory	(back page)
		Capulin Spring Log Report	5
		Additional Birding Opportunities	5
		Migration Information	5
		Learning Look-Alikes: Female Orioles and Tanagers	6,7
		Panama 2008	7



Birdathon! 2008 Reports

Thursday Birders Birdathon Team

We had a marvelous time and got some great birds, but best of all we raised over \$1000 for Audubon.

Bird highlights at the Melrose trap pre-Birdathon included red-headed woodpecker and superb looks at a worm-eating warbler and yellow-throated warbler sharing the same log adjacent to the parking lot. They were so cooperative and everyone had an opportunity to see them.

For the actual Birdathon we were a little late for peak season at Bitter Lake, but got marvelous looks at least terns, snowy plovers, and soaring Mississippi kites. Our species count there was lower than expected with only 70 species, so we moved on to evening birding at Rattlesnake Springs. This area had clearly been heavily impacted earlier by storms: downed leaves, twigs and berries everywhere, and some major branches as well. Fortunately, birds survived the storm sending our Birdathon total to 122 species.

Rattlesnake Springs and Washington Ranch highlights included eastern phoebe; brown thrasher; indigo, lazuli and painted buntings; summer, western and hepatic tanagers; Bullock's, hooded and orchard orioles; verdin; black-throated sparrow; lots of great-horned owls; scissor-tailed flycatchers; and too many vermilion flycatchers to count. What an amazing palette of colors!

From Cheri Orwig, Sei Tokuda, and the 2008 Birdathon team: Vic and Madelyn Brown, Bud and Holly Hodgkin, Karen and Gary Boettcher, Sondra Williamson, Sylvia Fee, Bonnie Long, Mary Lou Arthur, Abby and Dave Watson, Bev Silfer and Lou Prime.

Youth Birders Team Triumph!

by Michael Hilchey

Members: Raymond VanBuskirk, Cole Wolf, Michael Hilchey, Bill Talbot

The Young Birder's Birdathon was once again struck by misfortune this year. Only this time, instead of flat tires and bad directions, we succumbed to poor planning. The trip was twice postponed because of Raymond's school finals and Bill's trip to Arizona. A few days before the trip, Cole Wolf learned that he had to pick his mom up from the airport on the day of the Birdathon. With only a few days' notice we decided to go ahead with the Birdathon without Cole. But with Cole gone, we also decided not to try for the New Mexico official Big Day record and instead we headed out for the eastern plains early on Saturday, May 10th.

We started at the famed Melrose Migrant Trap where highlights included Yellow-throated Warbler (a new state bird for Raymond) and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We then headed south to the migrant trap Boone's Draw where we saw a female Hooded Warbler (a new state bird for Bill and me) and a Black-and-white Warbler. A quick stop at Bitter Lake produced a few shorebirds, but not much else. After that, we headed over to the Lincoln National Forest with several stops for some mountain species. The best of these stops was along the river in Lincoln where we found another

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Around four in the afternoon we got a call from Matt Baumann who, along with Nick Pederson, had found a Whimbrel at Bosque del Apache NWR. Luckily, we were only a few miles away. We quickly re-found the bird (a new state bird for all three of us) along with many new species for our list, including an adult Little Blue Heron (a new state bird for Bill). After a brief drive around the refuge we headed to our final stop, Turtle Bay Park in Socorro. When we got there it was loaded with migrants, many of which were new for the day. The best bird however was a Prothonotary Warbler found by Raymond.

We left Turtle Bay right around dark and by the time we got to Belen had an accurate count for the day. All in all, 144 birds were seen and/or heard. Not as many as last year but not bad considering our route.

Thanks to one and all for your support by pledge and donation. If you haven't already donated to Birdathon, please consider assigning your pledge to our team - then we'll all be winners again! (See the form on page 8.)



CNMAS Field Trip Reports

Saturday, February 23: San Antonio, NM

Leader: Rebecca Gracey.

Rebecca lead a group of seven people on a Longspur Quest to a site 16 miles east of San Antonio. The group sat at a watering tank for cattle where Horned Larks and Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen. The longspurs were getting their breeding plumage and the reddish brown collar and black breast and belly were in evidence. Some raptors of the plains seen were a Golden Eagle, two Prairie Falcon and three Northern Harriers. When the group returned to the highway, one of the falcons circled over our heads for a perfect view of its field marks.



Photo of Prairie Falcon
by Nancy Hetrick

Saturday, March 1: Elephant Butte Area

Leaders: Cole Wolf and Beth Hurst-Waitz. About ten people joined this trip during the day. We enjoyed clear skies and temperatures in the upper seventies for the whole trip, though the wind picked up in the late afternoon. Our first stop was Animas Creek for the Rufous-backed Robin that wintered

CNMAS Reports... continued on page 4



Field Trip Schedule

CNMAS trips prepared by Celestyn Brozek

Check <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html> for more field trips and updates. Always check with the leader before the trip.

Saturday, June 14: Villanueva State Park

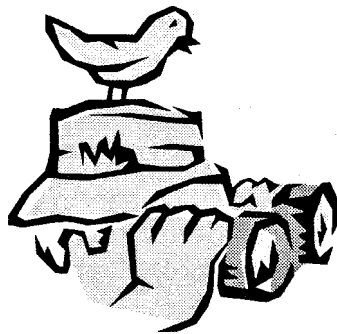
Leader: Rebecca Gracey. Meet at the Four Hills shopping center west of Tramway on Central in the parking lot north of Hollywood Video at 7:00 AM to car pool. Directions: east on I-40 for 65 miles, then north on Highway 3 for 20 miles. We will be birding all along Highway 3. The target birds will be Cassin's Sparrows, Bullock's Orioles and Yellow Warbler. Very little walking will be involved. Bring lunch. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee to the park if you don't have a state parks pass. We should be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 PM. Contact Rebecca Gracey at 505-242-3821 or mrgracey@earthlink.net for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22: Overnight trip to Chama

Leader: Sylvia Fee. The participants will leave from Far North Shopping Center (to the West) at 6:30 AM on Saturday. We will bird along the highway to Chama with stops at selected areas, Heron Lake and other depending on bird reports. Road routes will be available at meeting place. Early Sunday morning we will drive to Apache Creek, some areas there will require high clearance vehicle or 4-wheel drive. Possible birds include Boblinks, Clark's Nutcrackers, Red Crossbills, Lewis Woodpeckers, Evening Grosbeaks, raptors, owls and much more. Bring your lunches and Sunday breakfast. The trip will end around noon in Chama. Information about of the area lodging will be available from the leader in late May. Call or e-mail trip leader, Sylvia Fee, at that time for more details: nmsylvia@peoplepc.com or phone 294-4073.

Saturday, June 21: Los Alamos and Jemez Mountains

Leader: Jim Mosley. Meet at the White Rock Fire Station at 8:00 AM. We start with birding in the Dome Fire and Cerro Grande burn areas which attract woodpeckers including Three-toed. We will visit other areas in Jemez Mts. to check for high-elevation species. Our day will end at Jemez Falls searching for Black Swifts. The walking will be fairly easy except for the Jemez Falls area where the path goes over uneven terrain and changes altitude. Bring water and a snack. If participants choose so, we can have lunch at Homerun Pizza. If you stay to see Black Swifts it will be a full day trip. Contact the leader by e-mail: ff1964@msn.com



Saturday, August 23: Bitter Lake NWR

Leader: Sei Tokuda. This will be a day trip to seek out the early migrating shorebirds and possibly the Upland Sandpiper. Bring lunch, sunscreen, etc. Meet at 6:30 AM at the NE corner of the Four Hills Shopping Center (Tramway Blvd. NE and Central Avenue SE). The trip should end by 3 PM. Please help limit the number of vehicles traveling by carpooling. Contact Sei at 266-2480 or stokuda@juno.com

Saturday, September 27: Socorro & Bosque del Apache NWR

Leader: Celestyn Brozek. We will meet at Turtle Bay at the NM Tech campus in Socorro at 8:00 AM. We will continue to Bosque del Apache through Luis Lopez and San Antonio. This will be a good time for fall migrants including warblers and shorebirds. This will be also a last weekend when the seasonal tour loop is open at the Bosque. Very little walking will be involved. Bring food, water for the whole day. For more information e-mail Celestyn cbrozek@unm.edu

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



Thursday Birders Field Trip Schedule

Check <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/trips.html> for more field trips and updates. Always check with the leader before the trip.

Thursday, June 19: Santa Fe Ski Basin

With Rebecca Gracey (242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net). Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Far North shopping center (east of San Mateo and north of Academy) behind the Village Inn. Bring lunch.

Thursday, June 26: Belen wetlands & Los Lunas River Park

With Rebecca Gracey (242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net). Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. We will return to Albuquerque by noon.

Thursday, July 3: Box & Water Canyons west of Socorro, NM

With Rebecca Gracey (242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net). Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. Bring lunch.

Thursday, July 10: Sandia Crest & Kiwanis Meadow in the Sandias

With Gale Owings (255-8333). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras, NM, on Highway 337. Bring lunch or buy lunch at the Crest House.

Thursday, July 17: 10K Trail in the Sandias

With Mary Lou Arthur (299-2565, marylarthur@yahoo.com). Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood video or 7:45 at the 10K parking lot. This will be a two-mile hike ending in the late morning.

Thursday, July 24: Simms Ranch & Bonnie Long's house in the Manzanos

For hummingbirds, bluebirds, and a potluck lunch. Leader is Bonnie Long (379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com). Meet at Four Hills shopping center at 9:00 a.m. or at 9:50 at entrance to the Simms Ranch on Highway 337 six miles south of Chilili

Thursday Birders... continued on page 4

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.



CNMAS Reports... continued from page 2

there: this species has only been recorded in New Mexico seven times previously so it was at the top of the list for our target birds. After three hours of searching we found it on our final attempt, and the whole group got good looks. During our search we enjoyed many other good birds including Acorn Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker (very rare this far west), Red-naped Sapsucker, Verdin, Bridled Titmouse, Crissal Thrasher, Phainopepla, and Pyrrhuloxia. From Animas Creek we headed to Caballo Lake State Park, where, after a picnic lunch, we found Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, a Belted Kingfisher, returning Rough-winged Swallows, and Lincoln's Sparrow. The trip concluded at Elephant Butte Lake with Common Mergansers, American White Pelicans, and good numbers of Ring-billed Gulls. We ended the day with a total of sixty-eight species seen.

Saturday, March 22: Sevilleta NWR

Leader: Bob Merkel. Nine folks came down from Albuquerque to explore Sevilleta NWR. We spent the morning along a 3-mile stretch of the Rio Grande inside the Refuge which includes some productive bottomland areas. Part of that reach is also the site of efforts to remove salt cedar and replant with Goodding's willow and cottonwood trees. After lunch, we made our way over the main road across grassy prairie lands on the east side of the river and looped back close to the Los Pinos mountains. Not so many birds were seen at places like Five-points, Palo Duro Canyon, or the route back (if we exclude the numerous flocks of Horned Larks), but they were, as one would expect, different from the ones seen along the river. Three of the group spent some time late in the afternoon driving the birding route through the Ladd Gordon wildlife management area just north of US 60 east of Bernardo. The total of 46 species was recorded.

Saturday, April 26: HawkWatch site in Sandia Mts.

Leader: Pat Franklin. The weather and the birds really cooperated for this outing. It was calm, sunny and just cool enough. Nine birders, including one visiting from Utah, met early and started up the trail before anyone else, including the HawkWatch observers. They later passed us handily after we made numerous stops, tallying 22 species before reaching the observation site. The lone coyote watching us from a distance seemed singularly unimpressed. A real treat was seeing one male and one female Western Tanager atop the same piñon, with a male Scott's Oriole perched nearby in the top of another tree. All were nicely highlighted by the morning sun. We reached the top before 10:00 and just before that were greeted by a resident Red-tailed Hawk. It was awhile before our next bird of prey happened by, but before heading down at noon, we had seen Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks and a resident Peregrine Falcon in the distance. Giving us a thrill was an immature Goshawk which performed a close enough flyby that binoculars were optional. Thanks to Kevin and Carissa, the HawkWatchers on duty that day, for their expertise. On the way back we picked up more species, ending the day with 28.



Saturday, May 17: Quarai (Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument)

Leader: Jim Mosley and Cole Wolf. Only three birders attended this trip, but they were rewarded with great diversity and an abundance of migrant and breeding species. We started the morning at Manzano Pond where the leaders caught a glimpse of a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and several Scott's Orioles were seen on the hills above town. The group was also treated to good looks at a singing Virginia's Warbler and many migrants in the brush around the pond. At Quarai our good luck continued when one of the leaders found a male Magnolia Warbler that allowed everyone great looks. This eastern species is a rare vagrant to New Mexico and has never before been recorded at Quarai. Other species seen at Quarai included a roosting Great Horned Owl, a Green Heron in the creek, Gray Catbird, and ten species of wood-warblers, the most interesting of which were a Northern Waterthrush and several Yellow-breasted Chats. We saw an impressive eighty species during the trip, not bad for just two hours of birding!



Thursday Birders... continued from page 3

(west side of the highway).

Bonnie will provide chicken enchiladas and iced tea, and we should bring other food and drink.

Thursday, July 31: Capulin Springs in the Sandias

With Lannois Neely (890-7881, lfneely@aol.com). Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video. The trip will end in the late morning.

Thursday, August 7: Manzano Pond & Quarai

With Karen and Gary Boettcher (281-6726, nmkestrel@yahoo.com). Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video. The first stop will be birding at the Boettcher's home. Bring lunch.

Thursday, August 14: Hike Embudo Canyon

With Rebecca Gracey (242-3821, mrgracey@earthlink.net). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the trail head parking lot at the end of Indian School. This is an easy 1.5 mile round trip walk.

Thursday, August 21: Sulfur & La Cienega Canyons in the Sandias

With Sally Burke (792-1788). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Four Hills shopping center north of Hollywood Video. The trip will end in the late morning but some may want to stay longer and bring lunch.

Thursday, August 28: Bosque del Apache NWR

With Sei Tokuda (266-2480, stokuda@juno.com). Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University. This is an all day trip. Bring lunch.



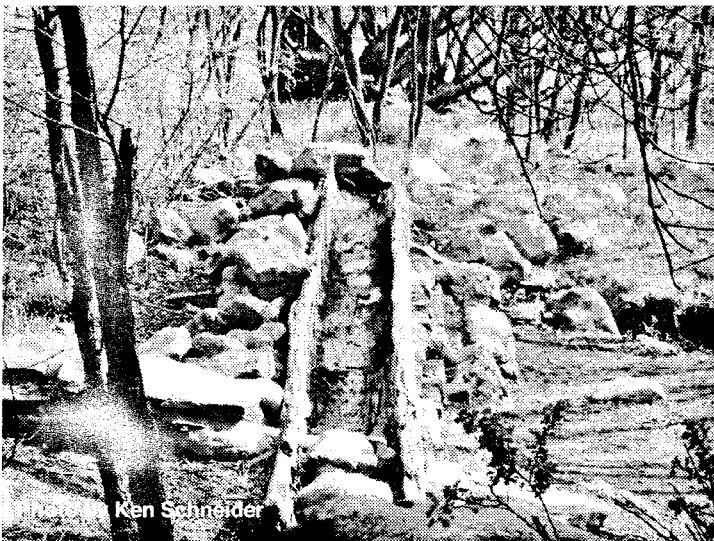
Construction On "The Bird Log" At Capulin Spring by Ken Schneider

A decision that should be welcomed by birders, despite some temporary inconvenience, was announced this past week by the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. Improvements will be made to the Capulin Springs Picnic Area, site of the "Bird Log" that attracts many photographers and birders.

The Capulin access road intersection with Highway 536 will be reconfigured and relocated about 250 feet to the south in the interest of traffic safety, as it also serves the Snowplay area and is heavily used during the winter. Of interest to birders, the one-lane side road that ends at the loop where "The Log" is located will be permanently closed to public vehicles at the existing seasonal gate. Six parking spaces would be constructed above the gate, making the one lane road available for walk-in traffic by the public. The road would be left for administrative uses only. The existing deteriorating log at Capulin Spring would be replaced with a natural log cut from a dead tree in the local area.

According to the decision paper, the majority of the sites northeast of the gate would be removed and the sites replanted. There would be five tables which would be placed east of the gate near the lower bathroom. Pedestal grills would be installed near the five picnic tables. The table at the end of the existing loop will be replaced. The cinder-block toilet near the gate will be demolished and the existing toilet towards the end of the one lane road be replaced.

Links to the decision document and a map of the proposed changes are available at <http://blog.rosyfinch.com>



Migration Information

Visit the ENature.com website and be sure and click on individual birds for info on migration.

http://www.enature.com/birding/migration_home.asp

Rosy-Finches... continued from page 1

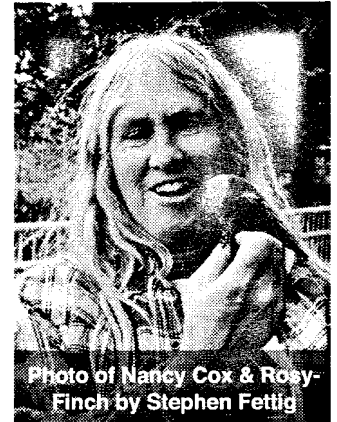
Romero had promised us a large flock and he was right.

"Thanks again to our wonderful banding team. You made it another successful year and we are looking forward to next year when we have radio transmitters to place on these gorgeous birds. We will miss them."

And to add another note about *Why We Band* (also courtesy of Nancy Cox), here's news from her on **March 15**:

"We just got a report from the Bird Banding Lab about a Cooper's Hawk that was one of Shirley Kendall's rehabilitated birds. We banded it on July 6, 2000, as a hatch year female. The hawk was released in the Corrales Bosque. It was found (dead, unfortunately) in Berkeley County, West Virginia, by someone from Winterhaven, Florida. It was found on March 10, 2008, almost 8 years later."

Friends, by reporting North American Bird Banding Program bands, YOU will help in the management of our continental migratory birds. Online: www.reportband.gov. Call toll-free: 1-800-327-BAND. Write: Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Rd., Laurel, MD 20708. Give information on when and where you encountered the bird or band. You can keep the band. You also will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for all reported bands. If you report on-line, you will immediately receive feedback on the band number reported.



The photographs above are of a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Hepburn's form, taken on December 11, 2005 at Sandia Crest, east of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The large gray cheeks characterize the Hepburn's form. Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches breed in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and Washington states, the mountains of western British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, and southern Alaska. They winter in the mountains and high-elevation valleys of the intermountain west of the United States. Northern New Mexico is the southeastern most part of their winter range. Thus, Gray-crown Rosy-Finches are one of our true avian signs of winter in the southwest.

The photos are courtesy of Stephen Fetting.

Additional Spring Birding Opportunities

Tuesday Morning Guided Bird Walks

May through October, in the Sandia Mountains sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and Central New Mexico Audubon. Birders meet at 8:00 a.m. (8:30 in May and October) at the Sandia Ranger Station, 1176 Highway 337, in Tijeras.



Weekend Bird Walks

June, July, August and September, Saturday and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park.



Learning Look-Alikes: Female Orioles and Tanagers

by Art Arenholz

drawings by Andrew Rominger

Four of our most beautiful Neo-tropical migrants are four male songbirds: Western Tanager, Summer Tanager, Bullock's Oriole and Scott's Oriole. Their female counterparts are more subdued in color, to help them hide from predators on the nest. Let's learn how to identify these female songbirds even when the easy-to-identify males are absent.

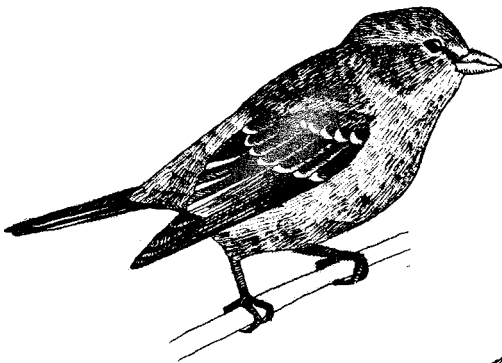
All four females share several characteristics. First, all show some yellow color on the body. Second, all have dark wings. Third, all are somewhat smaller than a Robin, but larger than the largest warbler. Next, they all forage for insects high in the tops of trees, in a slow, deliberate manner. This foraging behavior makes even the colorful males hard to see, except when they fly out to catch an insect in the air or when the birds fly from tree to tree.

Habitat can contribute to our identification efforts. For example, Western Tanager likes to nest in a conifer (evergreen) tree, and often nests in a high altitude conifer forest. In

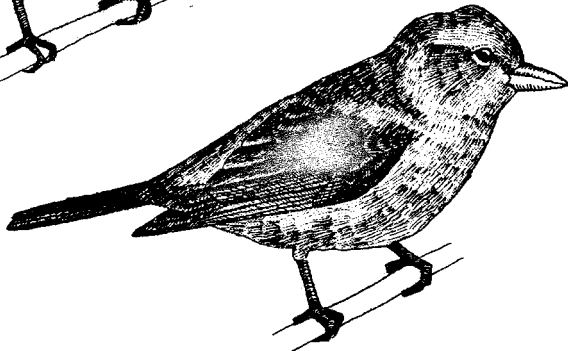
contrast, Summer Tanager prefers to nest in leafy trees, often near water. Bullock's Oriole also likes stream-side woods and is often found in Cottonwood Trees, just like Summer Tanager. Luckily for us, Scott's Oriole chooses a very different habitat: arid or semi-arid foothills, e.g. areas with Pinyon and Juniper trees. So near Albuquerque, we find Western Tanager in Ponderosa Pines or higher on Sandia Mountain, while Summer Tanager and Bullock's Oriole nest along the Rio Grande. To find Scott's Oriole, we go to the foothills of the Sandias. All of these birds are here only in summer.

Now let's look at each female in some detail. The Western Tanager female is dull yellow-green above (some books say olive), and yellow below. Her dark wings show two light wing-bars, one yellow and one white. (That yellow wing bar is going to be one of our key marks.) Her bill is orange and sturdy, and lacks a sharp tip. The song of the male is Robin-like but hoarse, like a Robin with a sore throat. Tanager calls are distinctive: a quick three note: "prid-i-dik". When you hear that sharp staccato call, (three notes very close together), look high in the trees for a tanager.

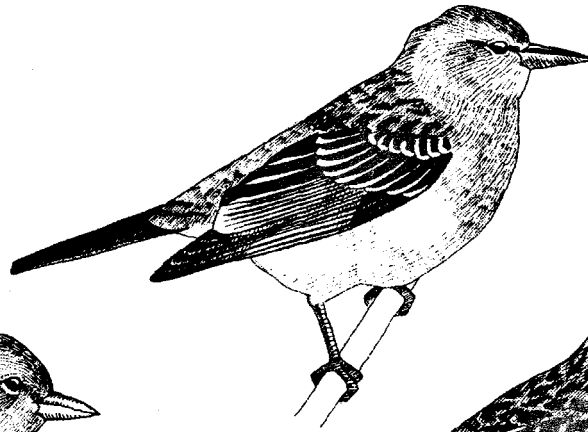
The female Summer Tanager is also olive above and yellow



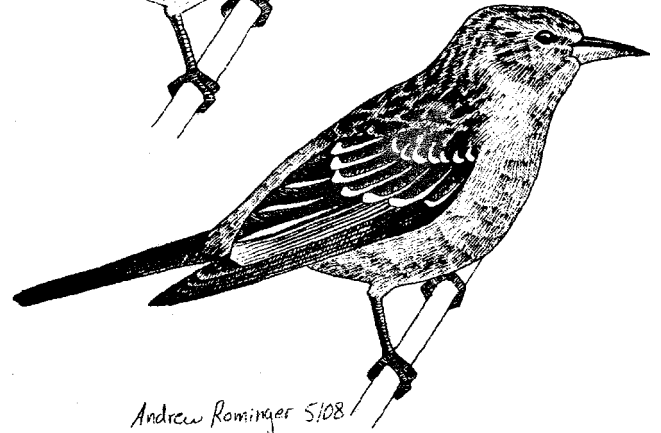
Western Tanager



Summer Tanager



Bullock's Oriole



Scott's Oriole

Andrew Rominger 5/08

BIRD	BODY COLOR	WING BARS?	BILL SHAPE	HABITAT	BEHAVIOR	VOICE (Male)
Western Tanager	Olive above, yellow below.	Yes, one white and one yellow.	Stout, but not as heavy as Summer Tanager's.	Conifer forest, often in mountains	Builds cup nest.	Like a hoarse Robin. Call: 3 quick notes.
Summer Tanager	Olive above, yellow below.	NO.	Heavy, long sturdy bill	Leafy trees often near water	Builds cup nest.	Clear, like a Robin. Call: 3 quick notes.
Bullock's Oriole	WHITE BELLY, yellow head and chest	Yes, two white.	Long, thin & sharp.	Same as Summer Tanager.	Builds deep bag-shaped nest.	Whistled song.
Scott's Oriole	Gray and yellow body, dark streaks on back.	Yes, two clear white wing-bars.	Long, thin sharp bill.	Dry, open hills with trees and shrubs.	Builds basket-shaped hanging nest.	Song similar to Western Meadowlark song.



below. But fortunately she does not have any wing bars and her bill is gray and much larger and sturdier than the female Western Tanager. Also, the Summer Tanager nests in leafy woods near water, not in a conifer forest up on the mountain.

The female Bullock's Oriole is gray-olive above, but the yellow below is limited to the throat and breast. Another key identification mark: her belly is white. Also, the oriole bill is quite different than the bill of a tanager. An oriole bill is thin and sharp at the tip. The Bullock's Oriole builds her nest in the same habitat as the Summer Tanager: leafy trees near water. Her wing-bars are faint, and she sports a small, dark eye-line.

A female Scott's Oriole is olive above, with dark streaks on her back and dull green-yellow under-parts. Overall, she is darker than a female Bullock's. She has two distinct wing-bars and the same oriole bill: thin and sharp. But once again habitat helps us. Scott's Oriole nests in semi-arid places, like our Pinyon-Juniper foothills. Scott's song is similar to the Western Meadowlark's well-known song. The call is a harsh: "shack". A complication: a few female Scott's females have some black on the throat, like the juvenile males do.

So we use the wing-bars, bill shape, belly color, song/call and habitat to help in our identification. Here is an example. "Hmmm, a yellow bird, too big to be a warbler. We're in a conifer forest; she has two wing bars and one is yellow. The bill is sturdy and not sharp. And I just heard that staccato three-note call. I'd say a female Western Tanager."

Or: "Look, a yellow bird, but it is too big to be a warbler. We're in a leafy, stream-side forest. I don't see any wing-bars, and it has a honking big bill that is not sharp at the tip. I just heard that quick "prid-i-dik" call. It has to be a female Summer Tanager."

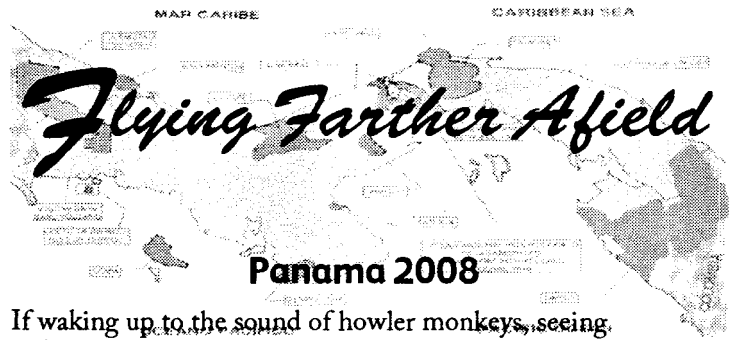
Or: "Okay, I see a yellow bird, not small enough to be a warbler. It has a thin sharp bill and a white belly. We are in leafy trees near water and it is summer. I see two white wing-bars. It has got to be a female Bullock's Oriole."

Or: "Here we are in the foothills. We just saw a mid-sized, darkish yellow bird with a yellow belly and two distinct white wing bars. The bill was thin and sharp and we heard a song similar to that of a Western meadowlark. I'd bet it is a female Scott's Oriole."

I concede that identifying these four female birds is easier when each is with the male. But now you can identify one of these female tanagers or orioles even when she is alone.

If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.

-- Lyndon B. Johnson



If waking up to the sound of howler monkeys, seeing iridescent tropical birds directly out your windows, and hiking on muddy trails learning about tropical ecology is your idea of a perfect vacation, then you would have loved the first annual Panama trip!

This March, nine southwest bird enthusiasts spent three nights in the Canopy Tower and three nights at the Gamboa Rainforest Resort in the Panama canal zone. In total, we spotted 175 bird species, white-faced monkeys, howler monkeys, tamarins, agoutis, coati mundis, capybaras, crocodile, caiman, poison dart frogs, basilisk lizards, army ants, leaf-cutter ants, and blue morpho butterflies all with the help of a fantastic local guide.

The Canopy Tower (www.canopytower.com) is an intimate, one-of-a-kind inn set in the middle of the rainforest. The upper level and rooftop deck are above the rainforest canopy, where wildlife abounds and the clientele are all there to bird watch. For several days we birded on local trails, then spent a fascinating morning at the canal visitors center, watching the ships navigate the locks and learning about Panamanian history.

The Gamboa Rainforest Resort (www.gamboaresort.com) is a stunning hotel in the middle of one of the best birding areas in the world. We spent time birding on nearby Pipeline Road, went up the aerial tram and spent a day boating on the shores of Gatun Lake (getting exceptionally close views of snail kites, white-faced monkeys, and basilisk lizards). The final day was spent on Barro Colorado Island, the primary site of Smithsonian's tropical research efforts.

Overall the trip was a perfect balance of vigorous bird watching, relaxation, beautiful scenery, great food, and wonderful people.

If you are interested in learning more about the 2009 trip, please contact Terry Dunn as soon as possible at: Dunn27@juno.com or 505-821-8901.

Don't Let Sammy Be An Assassin



For more information:
www.abcbirds.org/cats/

Each year, thousands of cats die on the roads or are injured in fights outdoors, and hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals are killed by free-roaming cats. Cats live happier, healthier, longer lives indoors.



CATS INDOORS!
The Campaign for
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An Opportunity To Serve

Dear Chapter Members: After many years of service, our friend and fellow feathered guy, Glen Finley, is retiring from the position of CNMAS treasurer. His service has been long and appreciated. He is still signatory for the checking account and will continue to perform that duty until a volunteer steps forward to serve CNMAS in this role.

We are looking for someone with knowledge of QuickBooks, one who has the integrity, patience, and good humor we've appreciated in Glen. Of course, honesty and experience are essential, plus a willingness to support CNMAS in our conservation and education goals.

Please contact either Beth (brave_e@juno.com) or Glen (grf@nmlrc.com), preferably with a brief CV or resume of your qualifications. Your volunteer duties would include maintaining the checkbook register, handling deposits and signing checks, allocation of funds in QuickBooks to their appropriate accounts, attending board meetings (about 6 a year), and issuing Treasurer reports to the board.

We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your donation of time and dedication to our chapter.

**We Need A New
Treasurer**

First Saturday Series at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

GPS/Geocaching Session- June 7, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

The SMNHC's four geocaches are great for first timers honing their GPS skills or geocache veterans looking for a new challenge. Spend the day in the mountains hiking our trails, visiting two hands-on exhibit rooms and observing birds and animals from our wildlife observation deck.

Plant Identification Session- July 5, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Ever wonder what the names of all those wildflowers and plants are? Let a SMNHC instructor help you identify the trees, plants, and flowers of the Sandias. Spend the day in the mountains hiking our trails, visiting two hands-on exhibit rooms and observing birds and animals from our wildlife observation deck.

Orienteering Session- August 2, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Learn the proper way to use a compass to find your way through one of our many orienteering courses. Spend the day in the mountains hiking our trails, visiting two hands-on exhibit rooms and observing birds and animals from our wildlife observation deck.

Guided Hikes- September 6, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hike with a SMNHC instructor and learn about the diverse ecology of the Sandia Mountains. Please call ahead to reserve a spot; space is limited. Spend the day in the mountains hiking our trails, visiting two hands-on exhibit rooms and observing birds and animals from our wildlife observation deck. Limited availability.

For directions and additional information please contact the SMNHC staff at (505) 281-5259, or email chris.modelski@state.nm.us, or check the website www.NMnaturalhistory.org/smnhc/

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Summer Wings Festival - August 2
Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center
505-343-1373 <http://rgnc.org/>

Interview with Audubon Medal Winner, Richard Louv

Tiburon, CA-Audubon awarded author and naturalist, Richard Louv, with its 2008 Audubon Medal in January during a ceremony at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. A former columnist for the San Diego Union-Tribune and author of seven books, Louv gained wide attention through his acclaimed book, *Last Child in the Woods*. The book reveals a direct connection between the absence of nature in the lives of today's wired youth and its negative health and societal impacts, a phenomenon Louv terms "Nature-Deficit Disorder." Brooke Langston, the center's director, sat down with Louv before the ceremony to discuss his feelings on Audubon and nature-deficit disorder. Watch the interview at <http://www.audubon.org/nas/medal/>



WHOM TO CONTACT

National Audubon Society
Membership Hotline
(800)274-4201, chadd@audubon.org
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The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
(202)456-1111
president@whitehouse.gov

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Rm. 6151
Washington, DC 20240
(202)208-7351
www.doi.gov

Hon. Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-5521 (505)346-6601
senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

Hon. Pete Domenici
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-6621 (505)346-6791
senator_domenici@domenici.senate.gov

Hon. Steve Pearce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-2365

Hon. Tom Udall
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6190 (505)984-8950
tom.udall@mail.house.gov

Hon. Heather Wilson
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6316 (505)346-6781
ask.heather@mail.house.gov

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External Affairs Office (505)248-6911

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Sandia Ranger District
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www.friendsofthebosque.org

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
(505)344-7240
Friends of RGNC
friends@rgnc.org, www.rgnc.org

Newsletters... continued from page 1

the *Burrowing Owl*. The Central New Mexico Audubon board looks at the number of causes and issues that the board would like to support, but increasingly, has been unable to because of the costs of the newsletter. As a result, we are proposing that we switch primarily to an online or electronic newsletter (e-newsletter). However, because many folks are still interested in receiving and using a paper copy, and because we use paper copies of the *Burrowing Owl* as outreach tools, we will still print (and mail) paper copies of our newsletter to those who are interested.

This is a large step and we fully expect that it could have some major impacts on our membership. Therefore, we are going to keep with the current system for a year and view the response from folks who want to continue receiving printed newsletters versus those who prefer the e-copy only. After a year, we intend to move to primarily e-copies of the newsletter, but will take a final review of the number of folks who would like to continue with paper copies being mailed to them, as well as any comments that come in during the year. (Our newsletter editor will keep the quality of the e-newsletter high enough for you to print out a copy.)

If you would still like to receive paper copies of the CNMAS newsletter, please send a note to Christopher Rustay, either written at: 1824 Stanford Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, or send an email to: chrustay@aol.com

And please remember, if you do choose to receive the newsletter via e-mail, that you will need to keep us informed of any electronic change of address, just as you would notify us of a physical change.

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Use this form for New Membership Subscriptions only

Burrowing Owl Subscription Tidbits

- For changes of address or correction to your Burrowing Owl subscription, contact the Membership Chairperson (see Directory on the back page of this newsletter).
- If you are in the CNMAS Chapter area, you can receive the *Burrowing Owl* by sending your name and address with \$12 to CNMAS, PO BOX 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002 - this does NOT include National Audubon membership or Audubon Magazine!
- You can also subscribe to our newsletter without being a member of our Chapter. If you live outside the CNMAS region, send \$15 to the above address.
- If you wish to receive notice of our downloadable PDF newsletter (instead of a hard copy) give us your email address in addition to your name and address. Contact the Membership Chairperson.
- Members can call (800) 274-4201 to sign up for National Audubon's Paper-Free Renewal Program. Those who sign up will have their membership automatically renewed each year and will receive only one bill approximately 2 months in advance of your membership expiration date.

Burrowing Owl Deadline

Information and articles to be included in Fall 2008 issue of the *Burrowing Owl*, must be received by August 5, 2008. Contact Turtle-Bear at 505-265-6094 or turtlebear@jensenbear.com. We are not accepting commercial advertising at this time.

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Central New Mexico Audubon is a
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Our missions: "To appreciate, experience, and conserve birds, other wildlife and their habitats; and to encourage and support environmental education in New Mexico."

Reminder: Area Code 575 has been added to New Mexico beginning October 2007 - check your local phone company information.

CNMAS DIRECTORY

CNMAS Phone (505)255-7622 Email jmyers@peacocklaw.com
Webpage <http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/cnmas/>
CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

PRESIDENT

Beth Hurst-Waitz 804 Guadalupe Circle NW, Alb. 87114-1710
home (505)898-8514 work (505)243-7029 fax (505)243-9136 brave_e@juno.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bill Talbot cell (505)363-1041 home (505)764-8272 flamm505@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Glen Finley 7404 Ankara Road NE, Alb. 87122 (505)450-3782 grf@nmlrc.com

SECRETARY

Cole Wolf colejwolf@comcast.net

CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRPERSONS ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Jeffrey Myers work (505)998-1502 jmyers@peacocklaw.com
Cathy Pasterczyk (505)710-1468 cpasterczyk@comcast.net

EDITOR, BURROWING OWL

Pauline Turtle-Bear Guillermo (505)265-6094 turtlebear@jensenbear.com

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE

Helen Haskell PO Box 36741, Alb. 87176-6741 helennm@yahoo.com
Lee Hopwood (505)898-8626 leewildbirdalq@yahoo.com
Bill Talbot cell (505)363-1041 home (505)764-8272 flamm505@yahoo.com
Lynn Lorrain Schuler onthepulse@msn.com

FIELD TRIP CHAIRPERSON

Celestyn Brozek home (505)266-9225 work (505)925-8611 cbrozek@unm.edu

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON (for change of address only)
Ed Dover 1421 San Carlos SW, Alb. 87104-1040 (505)242-5427
whitecliffs@comcast.net

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
Lynn Lorrain Schuler onthepulse@msn.com

PUBLICITY CHAIRPERSON

Judy Liddell (505)271-0912 jliddell5@earthlink.net

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dianne Cress work (505)841-2586 dianne.cress@state.nm.us
Christopher Rustay home (505)255-7786 chrustay@aol.com
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Rosy Finch Project

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Wildlife Rescue

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



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