

Burrowing Owl

March—May 2017

Vol. 46, No. 1

Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society!

A 501(c)(3) organization. cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

Come join us! All our meetings and field trips are open to the public.

Central New Mexico



Audubon Society

Bird Photography and Cats on the Agenda

Thursday, March 16

Doug Brown

Intro to Bird Photography

7:00 p.m., Adelante Community Room, 3800 Osuna Road NE

(Before the main presentation Conservation Committee member Bruce Dale will give a brief presentation on how homeowners can treat their windows to prevent collisions by birds.)



Come learn more about bird photography. In addition to providing tips on for getting the best bird photos in a variety of environmental settings, Doug will cover camera gear and basics.

Doug is a BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year honoree whose work has been displayed at the British Natural History Museum, among others. His images can be found in printed and digital field guides, including the iBird app for smartphones.

Thursday, April 6

Peter Marra

Cats as Killers

6:30 p.m., UNM Continuing Education, 1634 University NE

Dr. Peter Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, will discuss the consequences of free-ranging cats, suggest solutions, and comment on the controversy around this issue.

Dr. Marra is not anti-cat (nor is Audubon). However, field research shows that cats kill billions of birds every year and are a major factor in the decline of many species. Yet the public is largely unaware of the magnitude of this problem—which must be addressed with management policies that protect wildlife and public health while managing cats responsibly.

The event will be open to the community. A book signing sponsored by Bookworks will follow the presentation.



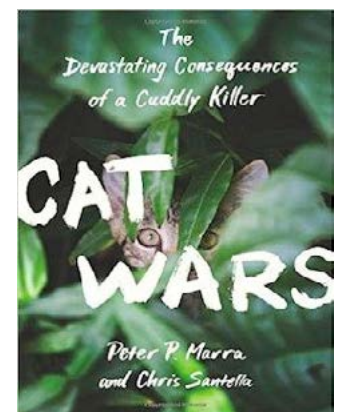
Author and Presenter Peter Marra

Cat Wars the Topic

CNMAS member Tomas Radcliffe will lead discussions on Peter Marra's *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*.

Sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Erna Fergusson library, 3700 San Mateo NE, on March 6 and April 3.

Chapters 4-6 will be covered at the March meeting and chapters 7-9 on April 3.



Attendees are encouraged to bring a discussion question rooted in the chapters for that day.

For more information contact Tomas Radcliffe, tradcliffe@cnm.edu

Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande NW, www.bkwrks.com, will sell *Cat Wars* at a 10% discount to those participating in the discussions.

Conservation and Public Policy Achievements

Story and photo by Judy Liddell

CNMAS has recently provided input about birds and habitat into a number of public agency planning processes.

Open Space Advisory Committee

CNMAS joined with neighbors to provide input on the Candelaria Farm Preserve and sent an action alert asking members to contact their City Councilperson in support of a resolution to resolve conflicting plans and goals for the area, which is adjacent to the Nature Center.

The resolution, which passed the council and was signed by the mayor, directs the City Open Space Division to convene a technical advisory council and to develop a new management plan.

The resolution “reaffirms that the (preserve) is to be managed as a nature study area and wildlife preserve.”

CNMAS will continue to provide input on the needs of birds and wildlife.

Cibola National Forest Council

CNMAS has been participating in the Cibola Shared Collaborative Coordinating Council for the Cibola National Forest, along with representatives from other interest groups, ranging from soil and water conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups and other users, for example off-road vehicle associations and rock hounds. The aim is to find common areas of interest that can be backed in the final management plan that will be presented for community review this summer.

Corrales Important Bird Area (IBA)

CNMAS attended a meeting January 27 with folks from Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, representatives from Audubon New Mexico, and a representative from the Corrales Bosque Advisory Committee to discuss their plans for clearing in the Riverside Drain and upcoming USACE certification. The group will continue to engage with them.



Otero Important Bird Area (IBA)

The sign designating the area as an IBA had been missing. A new sign was obtained from New Mexico Audubon and has been installed.

New Mexico Avian Partners (NMAP)

CNMAS President Karen Herzenberg and Vice President Judy Liddell attended a day-long meeting sponsored by NMAP. The group had invited a wide range of land managers. The focus was on habitat management and species at risk, including:

- arid habitats (Bendire’s Thrasher)
- Piñón-Juniper (Pinyon Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay)
- Ponderosa pine (Grace’s and Virginia’s Warblers, Flammulated Owl, Mexican Whip-Poor-Will, Lewis’s Woodpecker)
- grassland (Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Scaled Quail, Chestnut-collared Longspur)
- mixed-conifer (Mexican Spotted Owl, Red-faced Warbler)
- and riparian (Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo).

Thursday, June 15: Save the Date

This will be the CNMAS annual meeting and potluck—watch for details on cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.

Thursday Birder Spring 2017 Schedule

MARCH 2

Walk in the bosque near the Rio Grande and Bridge Boulevard SW with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the National Hispanic Cultural Center located at 1701 4th St. SW. To reach the center, take the Caesar Chavez exit from 1-25 and drive west on Caesar Chavez that becomes Bridge Boulevard as it nears 4th Street. The group will walk about one mile along the ditch and levee. The walk will end before noon.

MARCH 9

Walk the perimeter of Poblanos Fields Open Space with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lfneely@aol.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot. To reach the fields turn north from Montano Boulevard onto Tierra Viva Place, east of the Rio Grande River. It will be an easy 1.5-mile walk ending before noon.

MARCH 16

Visit Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the south valley with Becky Purvis: 505-688-1998, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking area on 2nd Street by the refuge sign. To reach the refuge, drive south on I-25 and take the Rio Bravo exit. Drive west on Rio Bravo to 2nd Street. Turn south on 2nd and drive 3.2 miles to the entrance.

The group will drive to different areas of the refuge and take a couple of half-mile walks. The trip will end before noon.

MARCH 23

Walk around the Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center and nearby bosque with Sara Jayne Cole: 505-503-5599, birdlajoya@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the center's parking lot on the east side of Coors Boulevard. The entrance road, Bosque Meadows Road, is located north of Montano Road and south of Paseo del Norte. It will be an easy one-mile walk. The trip will end before noon.

MARCH 30

Hike the Copper Trailhead Open Space at the east end of Copper Avenue NE, east of Tramway Boulevard, in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains with Barbara Hussey: 505-385-1165, brhussey@flash.net. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the small parking area. There is also parking along Copper. The one-mile walk winds uphill and downhill on disintegrating granite, so a walking stick might be helpful. The walk will end before noon.

APRIL 6

Drive to Pena Blanca, NM, and Cochiti Lake with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the middle of the parking lot in the Far North Shopping Center on the west side of San Mateo and north of Academy Boulevard. Carpooling is encouraged since it could be worrisome to the residents of Pena Blanca to have a caravan driving through their village. If you want to meet the group west of I-25 on NM 22 to Santo Domingo and Pena Blanca, contact Judy before April 5. Bring lunch. The trip should end in the mid afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

APRIL 13

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, lotterson300@comcast.net. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the north end of the Tingley Beach parking lot. To reach the area, drive west on Central Avenue past Rio Grande Boulevard, then turn left on Tingley Drive. Take the first right from Tingley Drive, and then turn right to the dirt overflow parking lot. This leaves the few parking spots by the concession stand for people who want to fish. The walk will be about one mile in length ending before noon.

continued on the next page

More Spring TB Outings

APRIL 20

Travel to the Belen Marsh in Belen, NM, and the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Linda Heinze: 505-565-1441, manzanogal@gmail.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorne Suites on Gibson SE and University Boulevard or 8:30 at the Belen Marsh. To reach the marsh, take the first Belen exit from I-25, Exit 195, drive east one mile, turn south and park in the Taco Bell parking lot. After birding at the marsh, the group will visit the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area on NM 47. Participants are invited to have lunch together at the Bamboo Express located at 143 Hwy 314 in Los Lunas. After lunch the group will stop at "Owlvile" near Los Lunas to look for Burrowing Owls. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile.

APRIL 27

Hike Embudito Canyon with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:27 a.m. in the trailhead parking lot. To reach the canyon, drive east on Montgomery past Tramway, then turn left on Glenwood Hills. Continue 0.4 of a mile, turn right on Trailhead Road and continue to the parking lot. This is an easy 1.5-mile walk ending before noon.

MAY 4

Walk in the Pueblo Montano Open Space with Pauline and Bernie Morris: 505-369-1227, mtnbluebird@verizon.net. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot that is located on the south side of Montano Road and east side of Coors Boulevard. There is an entrance from both of those roads. It will be an easy two-mile walk ending before noon.

MAY 11

Travel to Manzano pond in Manzano and Quarai National Monument with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the west side of the Four Hills Shopping

Village on Central Avenue between Tramway and Juan Tabo NE or meet Bonnie at the intersection of NM 337 and NM 55 at 8:50. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

MAY 18

Walk in Calabacillas Arroyo with Maurice Mackey: 505-897-0415, moemackey@comcast.net. The group will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the west side of the Rio Grande. The area is reached by driving north on Coors, past Paseo Del Norte and Irving Boulevard, turning east on Westside Drive. Look for the Pi Brewing Co. sign. Follow Westside Drive about 0.2 mile to an open gate on the left. Go through the gate and down the arroyo to the parking area. If driving south on Coors from Corrales or Alameda, get in the left turn lane at Pi Brewing and turn onto Westside Drive. The walk will end before noon.

MAY 25

Visit Carlito Springs, a Bernalillo County Open Space on the southeastern face of the Sandia Mountain Range with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfcairns@gmail.com. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 departure from the parking lot on the west side of the Tijeras Senior Center on NM 333/Rt. 66. To reach the parking area, turn north on Tijeras Avenue just west of the Tijeras Library. There are few parking places at the open space so carpooling to Carlito Springs is necessary. The walk will be 1.5 miles in length on a good trail that is very steep in places. The walk will end before noon.

NMOS to Meet April 22

The New Mexico Ornithological Society (NMOS) will hold its annual meeting April 22 at New Mexico Highlands University. The agenda includes a business meeting, presentations by professionals and students on bird research in New Mexico and a dinner and speaker. Details are at www.nmbirds.org.



Owl's Pick for Photo of the Quarter:

Western Screech Owl by Michele Weisz



CNMA Spring 2017 Weekend Field Trips

Coyote del Malpais Golf Course

Saturday, April 29

Join Kim Score on a Saturday trip to Cibola County's newest hotspot, the Coyote del Malpais Golf Course. Located one hour west of Albuquerque in Grants, this beautiful golf course has 16 lakes, which attract numerous breeding birds and many migrating species. In addition to waterfowl, we are likely to find gulls, dowitchers, avocets, stilts, ibis, phalarope, and several species of sandpipers. Bring your spotting scopes and cameras! Participants will be walking over three miles round-trip at 6500 feet in elevation as we explore the golf course. Depending on level of interest we may also visit other nearby hotspots like Acomita Lake and the El Malpais National Conservation Area. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Shell gas station off I-40's exit 89. Please RSVP to Kim Score, firefinch@usa.net for more information. Carpooling can also be arranged from Albuquerque.

Glenwood

Saturday, May 20

Meet Christopher Rustay at the Glenwood Fish Hatchery at 7 a.m. To get there, turn onto Hwy 174 or Cat Walk Road from Hwy 180 in Glenwood and travel east for about 0.2 mile. We will bird there and then head to the Catwalk, where a Forest Service access fee or pass may be required.

The Catwalk is a fascinating piece of history with a metal walkway that hovers above Whitewater Creek in a narrow slot canyon. It recreates the experience that early miners had when inspecting a pipeline leading from mines in the mountains to processing plants further downstream.

The trail is an easy walk as will be the birding. We will end around 11 a.m. to noon. In the afternoon, depending on people's interests, we could hit spots along the San Francisco River, the town of Mogollon, Pueblo Park, Apache Creek Campground and/or Quemado Lake.

I would like to limit the trip to the Catwalk to four cars. But others could meet us at the Hatchery and then drive solo to the Catwalk.

For more info, including lodging in Glenwood, and to arrange for car pools from Albuquerque contact Christopher at chrustay@aol.com.

Get Outside on Spring Weekends at Two Venues

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

2901 Candelaria Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Mother's Day weekend, May 13 & 14: Annual Herb & Music Fest

Every other second Saturday of the month beginning at 10:30 a.m.: Nature Walk to the Rio Grande—a leisurely exploration of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque ecosystem with one of the RGNC volunteer naturalists. Search for signs of animal life and discover how the Bosque and the Rio Grande provide habitat.

Get more information at rgnc.org

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

All tours are free but require reservations: 505-864-4021

Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m. to noon: "Tracks and Scat" program for kids and their parents. This is an indoor/outdoor activity to learn how to identify tracks and scat with a short easy hike.

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Earth Day. We will have a trip to San Lorenzo Canyon to clean up trash and enjoy the amazing geologic features of the canyon. Bring your lunch and water.

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: moderate three-mile hike in Pino Canyon. Bring lunch and water.

Saturday, May 13, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.: International Migratory Bird Day. This will be an easy birding walk of about 1.5 miles along the Refuge Rio Grande wetlands. Bring lunch and water.

**Asa Wright Nature Centre
Announces its 50th Anniversary with
Celebrity Birders!**

Make your 2017 trip to Trinidad especially memorable. Join a birding celebrity for a one-of-a-kind experience. Book with a group tour or come on your own!

- Scott Weidensaul, Author & Naturalist, March 18 – 25, 2017
- Edward Rooks, Naturalist & Trinidadian Wildlife Artist, June 24 – 30, 2017
- Keith Hansen, Artist & Field Guide Illustrator, October 6 – 15, 2017
- David Allen Sibley, Ornithologist, Author & Illustrator, October 26 – November 2, 2017

Call 800-426-7781 to book your spot today. Mention your chapter's name and earn a \$100 chapter donation from Caligo Ventures!



Photo: Rich Wagner/WildNaturePhotos

Documenting Climate Change

In January, 27 individuals conducted bluebird surveys on 16 routes along the Rio Grande, in the Sandia foothills, in the East Mountains and almost to Tajiique in the Manzano Mountains. Each survey consisted of twelve five-minute point counts. This is the third survey CNMAS members have participated in, along with teams from chapters across the country, to document species at risk due to climate change.



*Western
Bluebird at Elena
Gallegos Open
Space in January.
Photo by Judy
Liddell*

CNMAS Directory and Contacts

Central New Mexico Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit chapter of the National Audubon Society, Inc.

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

Central New Mexico Audubon Society (CNMAS)

Mailing address CNMAS, P.O. Box 30002, Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002

Website <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>

Officers

| | |
|---|--|
| President | Karen Herzenberg cnmaspresident@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Judy Liddell |
| Treasurer | Lee Hopwood |
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| Field Trips | Kim Score |
| Thursday Birders | Rebecca Gracey |
| Rosy-finch Project | Raymond VanBuskirk |
| Belen Marsh | Eileen Beaulieu |
| Candelaria/Grasslands Restoration | Robert Munro |

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Contacts

Other birding and wildlife resources:

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>

Central New Mexico Audubon Society
P.O. Box 30002
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0002
NAS Chapter C1ZQ410Z



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The CNMAS Membership Form is on the web site:

cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org

Click "About Us" on the home page