

Burrowing Owl

June—August 2017

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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

Summer's Here—Let's Get Going!

The Calendar is Crowded

In this issue you will find details about a plethora of summer outings, as well as the annual CNMAS meeting on June 15, a workshop on owls, programs offered by our partner organizations, building of an outdoor cat enclosure (really!), a tribute to a CNMAS hero and a request for reports of sightings of Black-crowned Rosy-Finches.



Tabling: A New Opportunity for Volunteers

By Karen Hertzenberg

Central New Mexico Audubon's work on addressing threats to birds has helped lead us into doing more outreach in the community. We are tabling at least one event per month and hope to do more. We could use your help in making that a reality!

Most of us think tabling happens at a meeting: putting off a discussion until another time. The term can also mean working at a CNMAS information table during an event. Tabling is one way we are can reach out to educate our community about birds and their world.

Do you like talking to people about birds and conservation? Of course you do! That's all you need to take on the volunteer role of tabling at local agencies/events. And if you're an organized person, perhaps you might also be the tabling coordinator.

Here are some details: We have a booth/display that you would staff for two to four hours. You might also transport it, set it up and/or take it down. We could also help you find a "booth buddy."

The tabling coordinator will communicate between tabling volunteers and the contacts at agencies seeking our presence at their events.

CNMAS Annual Meeting and Potluck

Thursday, June 15

Adelante Development Center Community Room, 3900 Osuna Road NE, Albuquerque

Please join us for the potluck part of the evening beginning at 5:30. Afterwards, the board will provide a short “state of the chapter” presentation, and we hope you will be inspired to further your support of the CNMAS community as a volunteer or through donations. Also, we have time for you to offer your ideas and constructive criticism for making CNMAS a better organization and to vote in our annual board elections.

CNMAS will provide tableware and beverages. Please bring a dish to share and a serving utensil.



The Cat Enclosures Are Ready

By Sara Jayne Cole

CNMAS and the Albuquerque Public Schools Career Enrichment Center School collaborated to build a cat enclosure. The Conservation Committee, in a push to educate people about ways to keep their cats from roaming, proposed making an example enclosure so cat owners could protect their pets while protecting wildlife.



Although all we had to give them was a photograph and the measurements with the material list, instructor Steve Dolch and students made two very nice cat enclosures. One will be put up as a permanent display for Wildlife Rescue. Cat-caught wildlife are brought to them each year by the cat’s owner. Now Wildlife Rescue can show them how to give their cat a safe outdoor experience and protect wildlife. (Cat-caught wildlife seldom survive.)

This enclosure is made to be built against a house so the cat can come and go by way of a window pet door. Anyone interested in having one made should contact Steve Dolch, dolch@aps.edu.

Judy Liddell: Serving Birds by Speaking up in Meetings

By Barbara Hussey

Judy Liddell became involved with Central New Mexico Audubon in early 2007 when she was asked by Sylvia Fee to take over as publicity chair.

By 2008, it was clear to Judy that the president had too many responsibilities. So she offered to take over as program chair and find a replacement for publicity.

In 2009, the CNMAS board recognized the need for the position of vice president. Judy agreed to assume those responsibilities as well.

In January of 2011, Judy joined New Mexico Audubon Council (NMAC) as secretary. That was when she began to learn about the land management agencies’ role in decision-making that could affect birds.

In April 2012, Judy was elected president of NMAC, and she held that position for almost four years while also serving on the board of Audubon New Mexico, representing local chapters. Eventually NMAC became inactive and New Mexico Audubon strengthened its Conservation Committee. Judy now serves on the Forest Service Task Force of this committee, where the primary focus has been on forest management plans.

Some highlights of her efforts have been:

- providing comments on behalf of CNMAS on the Cibola National Forest Shared Partnership Collaborative, representing Audubon’s interest in species of conservation concern;
- attending meetings of the Open Space Advisory

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CNMAS Summer 2017 Field Trips

June

Birding by Boat—Sunrise Float

Sunday, June 18, 6:30 a.m.

Join Kim Score for a sunrise river trip to take advantage of the morning bird chorus and practice your birding-by-ear and bird-language skills. We will be on the water for three hours (0630-0930), ear birding and eBirding our way through the scenic Corrales bosque. We will be canoeing and kayaking an 8.5-mile stretch of the Middle Rio Grande from the North Corrales bosque to the Alameda bridge.

Kim is contracting with Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures, which will provide the passenger shuttling, canoes, kayaks, life vests, and safety and instructional training. Cost per person is \$40 to \$45, depending on boat rental. If you bring your own watercraft there is a \$10 discount. Visit the website for more info: www.quietwaterspaddling.com/

We will meet at the Alameda bridge at 0500, where we will be shuttled to the Quiet Waters office to begin training and will load up at 0530, then shuttle to the starting location for a 0630 put-in. The trip should wrap up by 1000. Contact Kim with specific questions at firefinch@usa.net. Maximum group limit is 12. Please RSVP by June 12 to reserve your slot. Once you have RSVP'd, Kim will send you a link to pay and register for the trip online.

Note: this Sunday is Father's Day—check your schedules!



... Judy Liddell

- Committee to advocate for better management of Candelaria Farms Open Space as a wildlife preserve; and
- Since January 2016 Judy has coordinated the Climate Change point counts for CNMAS.

While she will no longer be a CNMAS board member, Judy plans to become a member of the Conservation Committee, continuing her efforts to focus on environmental advocacy.

July

Sandia Mountains

Saturday, July 15, 7:30 a.m.

Join Robert Munro for a birding trip to the Sandia Mountains. Meet at 7:30 in front of the Einstein Bros Bagels in the Four Hills Shopping Center on Tramway and Central. We will carpool to our first stop at Sulphur Canyon Picnic Area, then make several birding stops on the road up to the Crest, including Capulin Spring and the 10K area. Once at the Crest we will hike to the stone house at the far end of Kiwanis Meadow. And if time and energy allow, we may walk the path adjacent to the communication towers. The expedition will end around the lunch hour.

Please feel free to contact Robert Munro at robert@oniells.com with any questions.

August

Upper Pecos River

Saturday, August 19, 7:30 a.m.

Explore sites along the Upper Pecos River with Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com. Meet in the parking lot of the Pecos National Historical Park (NHP) at 7:30 a.m. (approximately 1.5-hour drive from Albuquerque). From there we will work our way up the Pecos valley, stopping at a number of locations that offer good birding, including the hummingbird feeders at the Terrero Store (Rufous, Broad-tailed and Calliope), until we reach Jack's Creek Campground at 9,000 feet.

Since thunderstorms can materialize, we will bird the trails at the NHP on our return, weather permitting. A variety of species can be seen in the various habitats and we will test our juvenile sparrow skills. American Dipper is possible.

If you are interested in carpooling from Albuquerque, please contact Judy no later than August 16 so she can put you in touch with others.

Workshop: Hoo Are You?

BRANT Nature Tours and Central New Mexico Audubon Society present a "Hoo Are You?" workshop

Owls are among the most mysterious and sought-after families of birds in the world, but heading out in the dead of night to find them can be a little intimidating.

Not to worry, BRANT will teach you the skills you need to make your next night out a night to remember.

June 24, 2017

\$150

\$25 from every registration goes to a local conservation, research or outdoor education group.



To learn more about this workshop, please visit BrantTours.com/tours/workshops/owls or call (708) 87-BRANT.

Peter Marra's "Cat Wars" Program a Success

By Bruce Dale

On April 6 CNMAS hosted a talk for the community by Dr. Peter Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and co-author of *Cat Wars: Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*.

Marra's presentation reviewed the research on the environmental and public health impacts of free-ranging cats. Outdoor cats kill billions of birds every year, yet the public is largely unaware of the magnitude of this problem.

It was an excellent talk, and Marra's passion for conservation was clear. Although overall attendance was disappointing, key stakeholders were represented, including the city's Animal Welfare and Environmental Health departments, Animal Protection of New Mexico, Street Cat H.U.B., Albuquerque Bio Park, Wildlife Rescue, and UNM students and faculty.

We believe that the event succeeded in introducing wildlife as a legitimate concern with respect to local policy on feral cat management.

TIDINGS FROM OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Jennifer Owen-White and members of her staff at **Valle de Oro** national wildlife refuge will speak at the CNMAS presentation on September 21 at 7 p.m. Topics will include the refuge's five-year history and what is in store for the future.



Summer Wings & BioBlitz will happen on Saturday, August 5, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., at the **Rio Grande Nature Center** State Park, 2901 Candelaria NW, Albuquerque.

Three summer workshops are scheduled this summer at **Sevilleta NWR**:

- Native Plants and Their Uses, Saturday, June 24, 8:00 to 11 a.m.
- Full Moon Hike, Sunday, July 9, 8:00 p.m.
- Third Annual Butterfly Count, Saturday, August 26, 9:00 to 3:00 p.m.

No reservations are required; participants meet at the visitor center.



Owl's Pick for Photo of the Quarter: Western Tanager by Joe Schelling



Sighting Reports Sought for Brown-Capped Rosy-Finches

Adapted from an article by Luke George, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

If you visit the high country of Colorado in the summer or have a winter feeder please keep your eyes out and report sightings of banded and unbanded Brown-Capped Rosy-Finches (BCRFs.)

BCRFs nest in alpine habitats above 11,000 feet and distribution is almost entirely limited to Colorado.



In winter BCRFs are common at high-elevation bird feeders, only moving to lower elevations for short periods during winter storms.

Their population has declined by as much as 95 percent over the past 50 years and unfortunately we don't know why.

To obtain a better understanding of movement patterns and connectivity of breeding populations, the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, in collaboration with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the University of California at Santa Cruz, Colorado Parks

and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service, has started placing color bands on birds at wintering and breeding grounds.

If you observe a BCRF, please report:

- date (we would especially like observations between mid-June and mid-August);
- time;
- location (latitude/longitude in decimal degrees from phone or GPS) or a detailed description;
- number of birds;
- if possible, photos of the bird and its location; and
- bands: If the bird is banded, record the color (silver, gold, blue, purple, red or green) and which leg (left or right) the band is on. Birds have been banded with a single color band on one leg and a numbered aluminum (silver) band on the other. Some birds may have only the numbered band.

Sightings can be entered into eBird, on the Rosy Finch page at www.CitSci.org, or using the CitSci app available for iPhones and Android devices.

For more information contact Luke George at: luke.george@birdconservancy.org.

Thursday Birder Summer 2017 Schedule

JUNE 1

Walk in the Doc Long Picnic Area of the Sandia Mountains with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, lotterson300@comcast.net. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Center on the south side of Central Avenue, between Juan Tabo and Tramway. The walk will be on an asphalt trail, about a mile long, and will end before noon. A \$3 fee or federal pass is required per car. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1.50.

JUNE 8

Visit the Feltz family's Jemez Mountain cabin at 8,600 feet near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 505-856-1322, lvfeltz@comcast.net. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the Far North Shopping Center on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$7.

JUNE 1

Visit Balsam Glade in the Sandia Mountains with Gale Owings: 505-255-8333. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway. Balsam Glade is on NM 536 past the Sandia Peak Ski Area. A \$3 parking fee or federal pass is required per car. The shared gas expense is \$2. The trip will end before noon.

JUNE 22

Walk in the Oak Flat picnic area in the Manzano Mountains with Maurice Mackey: home: 505-897-0415, cell: 505-220-9003, moemackey@comcast.net.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from Four Hills Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway. Or to reach Oak Flat exit I-40 at Tijeras and take NM 337 south for 8.5 miles. Turn left on Oak Flat Road and drive 0.9 mile. Turn left at the Group Use Picnic Area sign and turn left to the parking lot at the end of the road. The walk will end before noon. The shared gas expense is \$1.25.

JUNE 29

Walk in the Willow Creek Bosque in the Rio Rancho Bosque Open Space with Becky Purvis: Cell, 505-688-1998, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:00 in the open space parking lot. For people not living on the west side of the river, go north on I-25 and take the exit to Bernalillo/US 550. Drive west on 550 to the traffic light at NM 528. Drive south on 528 for 1.8 miles. Turn east at the traffic light on Willow Creek Road. Drive three blocks to the entrance just past Spruce Mountain Loop. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

JULY 6

Join Judy Liddell: jliddell@msn.com, 505-220-7998, and Barbara Hussey: brhussey@flash.net, 505-385-1165, to explore the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The all-day trip will be limited to 18 people and preference will be given to individuals who did not go on this field trip last summer. Since there is limited parking at birding locations

participants must be willing to ride in the vehicle of one of the five designated drivers who will have back-country permits. To reserve a spot and get a full itinerary, contact Judy, 505-220-7998.

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JULY 13

TBs Continue to Support Birds' Cause

The following organizations recently received \$110 each from contributions made at Thursday Birder outings:

1. Friends of Rio Grande Nature Center
2. Friends of Bosque de Apache
3. Friends of Valle de Oro
4. Friends of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation area
5. Hawks Aloft
6. On a Wing and a Prayer
7. Audubon New Mexico
8. Rio Grande Bird Research
9. Share with Wildlife
10. Wildlife Rescue Inc. NM

Walk in the Pueblo Montano Open Space with Pauline and Bernie Morris: 505-369-1227, mtnbluebird@verizon.net. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot on the south side of Montano Road east of Coors. There is an entrance from both of those roads. It will be an easy two-mile walk ending before noon.

JULY 20

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:57 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 off Tingley Drive and turn right to the dirt overflow parking lot. The walk will be about one mile in length and will end before noon.

JULY 27

Visit the Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzano Mountains for hummingbirds, bluebirds and a potluck meal with Bonnie Long: cell: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway or 9:50 at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chilili.

Since this event has grown to over 35 people, at least six people are asked to bring a main dish such as lasagna, enchiladas, macaroni and cheese, meat or vegetable casserole, baked beans or sliced meat. Please contact Bonnie if you can provide one of these main dishes. Other attendees should bring beverages and side dishes that would serve 8 to 10 people. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50.

AUGUST 3

Walk in the Corrales bosque and view the Mississippi Kites with Joe Schelling: 505-797-9018, joeschelling@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the shopping area on the north side of Alameda Road/ NM 528 and east side of NM 448/Corrales Road, near te Anita's Restaurant. All are invited to have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

AUGUST 10

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Sara Jayne Cole: 505-503-5599, birdlajoya@gmail.com. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Open Space parking lot

on the south side of Alameda Boulevard, just east of the Rio Grande. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

AUGUST 17

Hike in the Elena Gallegos Open Space with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfairns@gmail.com. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot for Cottonwood Trail. To reach the lot, turn east on Simms Park Road from Tramway Boulevard between San Rafael Avenue on the north and Academy Road on the south. There are many parking areas there, so after paying the \$1 parking fee, drive counter-clockwise around the entry station and drive north toward the Kiwanis Group Reservation Area and parking for the Cottonwood Trail. This is an easy 1.5-mile walk that will end before noon.

AUGUST 24

Walk in Sulphur Canyon and Cienega Canyon in the Sandia Mountains with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lfneely@aol.com. Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway. Sulphur Canyon is the first turn from NM 536 after entering the Cibola National Forest. A \$3 parking fee or federal pass is required per vehicle. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$1.50. The walk will end before noon.

AUGUST 31

Visit La Ventana Natural Arch and The Narrows southeast of Grants with Rebecca Gracey: 505-242-3821, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. To arrange for car pooling meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the northwest corner of the parking lot of the Hotel Albuquerque, located at 800 Rio Grande NW. From I-40, take the Rio Grande exit and drive south to the first stop light at Bellamah NW. Turn east toward the hotel and enter the parking lot on the right. To reach the trip destination drive west on I-40 toward Grants and take exit 89 toward NM 117. There is a gas station/ convenience store there where participants will gather. From there the group will drive about 17 miles south on 117 to La Ventana. After birding there the group will drive 3.8 miles to The Narrows. Bring your own lunch. The distance is 180 miles round trip. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$9. The trip should end in the late afternoon.

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)

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Contacts

Other birding and wildlife resources:

<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>