

Burrowing Owl

June, July and August 2018

Vol. 47, No. 2

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.

Summer Field Trips

Birding by Boat—Sunrise Float

June 23, 5:30–10:00 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 3.5 hours, 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. On last summer's trip we found over 50 species of birds!

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

We will meet at 5:30 a.m. at the Quiet Waters office, 105 D Pleasant View Drive, Bernalillo, to begin training and loading up, then be shuttled to the starting location for a 6:30 put-in on the water.

Please RSVP by June 12 to Kim at firefinch@usa.net or contact her with questions. Maximum group limit is 15. Once you have RSVP'd, Kim will send you a link to pay and register online with Quiet Waters.

July and August trips are on the next page.

Central New Mexico



Audubon Society

They Created It

The story of Laurel Ladwig and L. Wren Walraven is on the next page.

Programs to Look Forward To

As the Car Talk guys used to say, the monthly CNMAS programs are on summer vacation, but we have a lot to look forward to:

- On September 20 we'll hear about what is happening for wildlife on the Turner ranches in New Mexico.
- Steve Siegel will be sharing his experiences and expertise in creating videos of birds at the October 18 meeting.
- On November 8, Dave Manning will share his knowledge and photos about North American vultures.
- A panel presentation about ecotourism is set for January 17 with panelists Terry Dunn, Dwayne Longenbaugh and Raymond Van Buskirk.

Meetings are from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Adelante Center, 3900 Osuna Rd NE in Albuquerque. See you there!

Two More Saturday Outings

Red Canyon in the Manzano Mountains

July 21, 7:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Four Hills Shopping Center by Einstein Bros. Please arrive a bit early if you'd like to carpool. And bring your lunch.

We will drive a little over an hour to visit Manzano Pond and then continue to Red Canyon where we will start the hike. This area did not burn in the recent years' fires and still has intact forest (fingers crossed! We will come up with a different location should this change between now and then.) We will look for montane species including Cordilleran Flycatcher, all three nuthatches and Western Tanager. It is a relatively unexplored area and who knows what else we may find!

The hike will last two and a half to three hours. It is classified as moderate, so please bring appropriate footwear. The trail is well marked but can be narrow in spots with some steeper climbs.

This trip will be limited to 10 participants. Please RSVP to Christopher Rustay at chrustay@gmail.com.

Rio Chama from Abiquiu Lake to Christ in the Desert Monastery

August 25, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Pack your lunch and meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot on the south side of the Abiquiu Lake visitor center on NM-96.

Join Judy Liddell to explore the riparian habitat below Abiquiu Dam that often hosts a plethora of migrating species in late August, then head to the area along Forest Road 151 along the Rio Chama, which serves as a migration corridor in late summer. Potential species include Sage Thrasher, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Townsend's Solitaire and sparrows and warblers.

Please RSVP by August 23 to Judy by phone, 505-220-7998, or e-mail jliddell@msn.com.



The Skinny About Our Logo

By Sara Jayne Cole

The Central New Mexico Audubon Society logo was created by two talented local artists who are also avid birders. I recently contacted each to learn how the inspiration for the logo came about and how they collaborated to produce this vibrant logo.

L. Wren Walraven:

My favorite and most inspirational subjects are wild birds and animals. I display these creatures in colorful, stylized, but species-specific ways. I want my work to convey my true passion for wildlife and perhaps influence the viewer to consider the wondrous world of wildlife that surrounds us all.

When I was living in Tijeras in 2012 I saw the CNMAS website with its black and white logo. I thought, "How could a chapter in a state full of color

and art have a black and white logo?" So I got to work. Because I always see more than one Burrowing Owl in the field, I used three owls for the logo. The Sandias are a stylistic vibrant purple in the background.

Laurel Ladwig:

Wren offered to do new art for a new logo and I did the text around her art. I made a mock-up with a variety of typeface options and she picked the one she thought worked best with the art.

I grew up with Houston Audubon. My mom was a founding member and on the board in the early 70s. I've been on the advisory board for Bernalillo County Master Naturalists since the first year. I'm the co-chair for the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center Summer Wings Festival and have organized the BioBlitz since 2015. I also volunteer with Valle de Oro NWR.



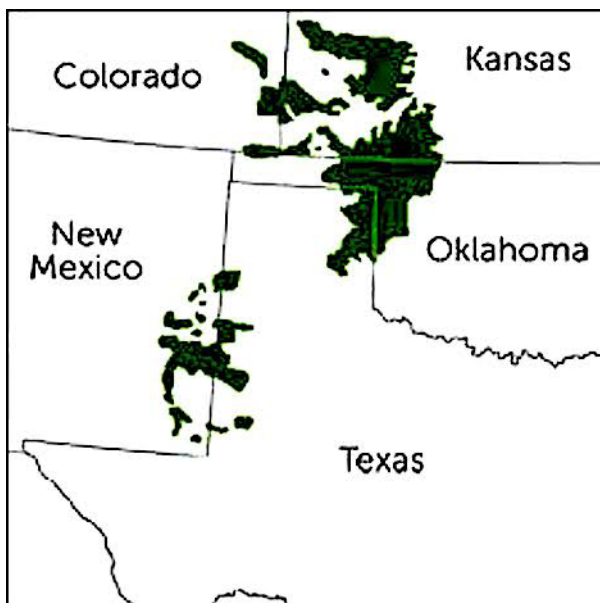
Conservation Corner

By Bruce Dale, Conservation Action Committee Chair



On May 2, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission approved the Sagamore wind energy project application

proposed for Roosevelt County, home to the largest remnant population of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken in our state. Tom Jervis, president of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter, intervened as an individual in the proceedings and valiantly argued for increased buffer zones from Prairie-Chicken leks. Unfortunately, the expert witness who was to testify in support could not attend, which was a major blow to Tom's effort. Nevertheless, it is likely that his testimony and the many comments from concerned citizens (thank you!) reduced the scale of the project somewhat and exempted some areas from development. How badly the project will affect the Lesser Prairie-Chicken in the long term is something that time will tell.



Lesser Prairie-Chicken Habitats

Last quarter we announced that Representative Michelle Lujan-Grisham had signed on as a co-sponsor of the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act, which would require buildings constructed or acquired by the General Services Administration (GSA) to incorporate bird-safe materials and design features. We recently learned that Senator Tom Udall has become a co-sponsor of the bill on the Senate side (S.1920).



Please call his local office (505-346-6791) and leave a message thanking him for that support.

Several months ago, staff at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden approached us asking for advice on how to treat a glass facade on a building that was a major bird-killer from collisions. We did an evaluation and prepared a report listing options for retrofitting the glass with collision-deterrent materials. We are pleased that the Botanic Garden followed through and treated the facade with Solyx Bird-Safety Film, which uses thin horizontal lines to break up image reflections. Next time you visit the Botanic Garden be sure to take a look at it. It is the building immediately on the right after the entrance.

Conservation Action Tip

If birds collide with your window, make sure your bird feeder is not part of the problem. Feeders (and bird baths) should be located 18 inches or closer to the window (or, alternatively, greater than 30 feet away). This may seem counter-intuitive, but birds striking glass from a distance of three feet or greater are likely to be injured or killed.

This website has good information on other ways to prevent window collisions at your home: www.flap.org/residential_new.php.

Thursday Birders Log 103 Species for Birdathon

The Thursday Birders' Vermilion Flycatcher Birdathon Team spent 24 hours birding in May in southeastern New Mexico to raise money for educational signs about birds and their habitat for the Doc Long Picnic Area.



Bitterlake NWR with its diversity of habitats was a rewarding place to start the 24 hours, with a variety of songbirds, ducks, shorebirds and raptors. Rattlesnake Springs was alive with birds and the group enjoyed many pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers, an Indigo Bunting and a Gray Hawk. After taking a break to sleep(!), they got an early start, exploring Slaughter Canyon and Washington Ranch before the 24 hours was up. A total of 103 species, life birds for many and a great trip!

You can help make this year's birdathon even more of a success by donating to the effort. Send a check to Central NM Audubon or follow this link: <http://nm.audubon.org/get-involved/birdathon> and scroll down to the Thursday Birders link.

Read more about the birdathon and see many more pictures on Judy Liddell's blog, <https://wingandsong.wordpress.com/2018/05/07/24-hour-birdathon-raising-funds-for-audubon/>



Vermilion Flycatcher at Rattlesnake Springs and American Avocets at Bitterlake NWR

Photos by Michele Weisz

News from Our Partner Organizations

Sevilleta NWR

Hummingbird banding: June 16 and August 18, 8:00–10:00 a.m. No reservations required.

Raptor tour: June 29, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Reservations are required—call 505-864-4021.

Butterfly count: August 25, 8:00–10 a.m. Details will be available soon on the refuge website: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Sevilleta/>.

Valle de Oro NWR

The refuge will hold an interactive community update meeting on August 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

In other news, Valle de Oro's first major habitat feature, a wetland, was constructed this spring and the first bit of water added in April. Many partners joined with the refuge to make this dream a reality.

Once vegetation is established this unit will be managed as a playa: a shallow depression usually found in upland areas that are only seasonally wet. Playas are important habitats for dragonflies, amphibians and migrating shorebirds.

Visitors to the playa should park at the barn and walk only on the levee and only go as far as the signs that designate the end of pedestrian access.



Rio Grande Nature Center State Park



The annual Summer Wings Festival and BioBlitz will be on Saturday, August 4. Experts on birds, dragonflies and bees will give talks and lead walks.

For details, visit www.rgnc.org or call 344-7240.



Owl's Pick for Bird of the Quarter:

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Embudito Open Space

by Joe Schelling



Summer Clean-up at Belen Marsh

Thanks to the efforts of twenty energetic volunteers, the Belen Marsh, on Don Felipe Road in Belen, is looking good! The Belen Marsh Committee organizes April and October clean-ups of this area that has become one of New Mexico's premier birding destinations. The volunteers spent the morning of April

28 on the clean-up, an effort that has been going on for over 10 years.

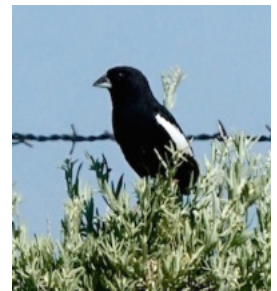
Interested in helping? When the next date is set, it will be announced in the Burrowing Owl.



Thursday Birders Say Thanks

Every week the CNMAS Thursday Birders chip into a fund that is used to make small gifts to wildlife and conservation organizations. In the 2017-18 fiscal year, \$100 was donated to each of 11 organizations:

Audubon New Mexico, Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center, Friends of the Bosque del Apache, Friends of Valle de Oro, Friends of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Hawks Aloft, Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, On a Wing and a Prayer, Rio Grande Bird Research, Share with Wildlife and Wildlife Rescue Inc. of New Mexico.



THURSDAY BIRDERS SUMMER SCHEDULE

JUNE 7

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 Boulevard. Meet in the center of the large parking lot. Bring lunch. The trip will end in the early afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$7 at five cents per mile.

JUNE 14

Walk in the Oak Flat picnic area in the Manzano Mountains with Glenda and Jim Morling: 269-420-8322, glendamorling@gmail.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. To reach the Open Space, exit I-40 at Tijeras and take NM 337 south. Drive south 8.5 miles. Turn left on Oak Flat Road and drive 0.9 mile. Turn left at the Group Use Picnic Area sign and then make another left to the parking lot at the end of the road. The walk will end before noon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$1.25 at five cents per mile. The walk will end before noon.

JUNE 21

Travel to Villaneuva State Park on the Pecos River with Becky Purvis: 505-877-2517, rpurvis3@yahoo.com. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the far west end of the Four Hills Village Shopping Center located on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. From there the park is 65 miles east on I-40, then 20 miles north on NM 3. The group will stop in the town of Villaneuva to view birds on the Pecos River and then drive to the nearby state park. A \$5 entrance fee or state park pass is required per car. Bring lunch. The trip should end in the mid-afternoon. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$8 at five cents per mile.

JUNE 28

Visit Balsam Glade and Capulin Springs in the Sandia Mountains with Lefty Arnold: 505-514-9398, wanderingtattlerja@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:47 a.m. for a 7:57 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. Balsam Glade is located on

the right side of 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 at five cents per mile. Lunch is planned at the Greenside Cafe in Cedar Crest.

JULY 5

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Leah HENZLER: 505-280-2085, lfairns@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.

JULY 12

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, including the back country. The trip will be limited to 18 people and preference will be given to individuals who have not gone on this field trip in previous Thursday Birder outings. Since there is limited parking at birding spots along the way, participants must be willing to ride in the vehicle of one of the five designated drivers who will have back country permits. This will be an all-day trip. To reserve a spot and get a full itinerary, contact Judy.

JULY 19

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 Village Shopping Center located on the south side of Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. 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 at five cents per mile.

JULY 26

Visit the Simms Ranch and Bonnie Long's house in the Manzano Mountains for hummingbirds, bluebirds and a potluck meal with Bonnie Long: 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 Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo

continued on the next page

MORE THURSDAY BIRDERS SUMMER SCHEDULE

and Tramway Boulevard or 9:50 at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chilili, past mile marker 5, where Bonnie will meet people near her parked vehicle.

Since this event has grown to more than 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 at five cents per mile.

AUGUST 2

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. Park near the Boxing Bear Brewing Company. The group will carpool from there. All are invited to have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

AUGUST 9

Hike along the Ellis Trail in the Sandia Mountains with Lannois Neely: 505-890-7881, lfneely@aol.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the far west side of the Four Hills Village Shopping Center located on Central Avenue between Juan Tabo and Tramway Boulevard. Ellis Trail Head is the last parking lot on Highway 536 before reaching the Crest. A \$3 parking fee or federal pass is required per vehicle. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$3.00 at five cents per mile. The walk should end before noon.

AUGUST 16

Drive to Las Huertas Canyon on the north side of the Sandia Mountains with Bernie and Pauline Morris: 505-369-1227, mtnbluebird@verizon.net. Take I-25 north out of Albuquerque and take exit 242 to Placitas. Drive east on NM 165 for 2.8 miles. The group will meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Forest Service parking area at the west entrance to Forest Loop Road on the south side of NM 165. The group will bird there for a while looking for desert scrub birds.

Since the road up the mountain is deeply rutted, people with high-clearance vehicles will be asked to drive the group further east on NM 165 through Placitas for nine

miles on paved road, and then for four miles on unpaved, rough road until reaching the lower parking lot of the Las Huertas Picnic Area. Bring a picnic lunch. A \$3 parking fee or federal pass is required per car. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$1.50 at five cents per mile. The drivers should have their riders back to the Forest Service parking lot by 1:00 p.m.

AUGUST 23

Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Torrance County with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the Tijeras Senior Center parking area on NM 333/Route 66, just west of the Tijeras Library. A secondary meeting place is the Pilot Travel Center located on north NM 41 after the second Moriarty exit from I-40. Meet there at 8:30 a.m. The group will drive south of Moriarty to look for raptors. Lunch will be at the Old Mill in Estancia. The group should be back in Tijeras in the late afternoon. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

AUGUST 30

Visit La Ventana Natural Arch and The Narrows southeast of Grants with Rebecca Gracey: 505-362-5095, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. To arrange 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, 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 for birding and lunch. Bring your own lunch. The distance is 180 miles round trip. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$9 at five cents per mile. The trip should end in the late afternoon.

