

# Burrowing Owl

Summer 2019

Vol. 48, No. 2

Welcome to the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) organization.

[cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org)

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

## Let's Celebrate Birds and Birding on June 8

The 2019 annual meeting of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society will be held Saturday, June 8, at Doc Long picnic ground in the Sandia Mountains and will feature the dedication of four signs that teach visitors about birds.

The brief business meeting, with introductions of new CNMAS board members, will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Next will be a one-hour birdathon for members to compete for prizes as well as a Junior Ranger program for kids aged 5 through 11. Forest Service volunteers will lead kids on a walk through Doc Long to learn about flora and fauna, answer questions on a work sheet and earn prizes for correct answers.

Refreshments will be provided.

The signs — the first introducing common birds of the Doc Long area and others describing birds' needs for food and shelter and the threats they face — were funded by CNMAS members' donations, including proceeds of the 2018 spring birdathon.

"While this project has taken a year to conceptualize and complete," said Judy Liddell, project coordinator, "it is exciting that Central New Mexico Audubon can create awareness of birds and their needs, as well as promote our vision.

"We are grateful for the collaboration and cooperation with Esther Nelson, U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist, and Crystal Powell, Sandia district ranger."

The signs were designed by Chris Musello of Sightworks in cooperation with Liddell and her team of researchers and writers: Melissa Howard, Barbara Hussey and Reuben

Weisz. Photographs were provided by Bonnie Long, Joe Schelling and Michele Weisz. The signs were produced by Musello's Rio Rancho-based company.

Doc Long is on the Crest road, State Road 536. Visitors must pay a \$3 amenity fee or display a federal pass: annual, senior, military or disabled. However, free amenity receipts will be given to the first 10 members without a pass.



## CNMA Fall Programs Preview

Join us September 19 when Robert Murphy and his colleagues will share their research on Golden Eagles in the Southwest.

On October 17 Tim Wallace will present on the interesting and sometimes surprising history of bird photography.

And on November 14 Wendy Brown will discuss her research on crane behavior, just in time for the Festival of the Cranes the following week.



# CNMAS Summer Weekend Field Trips

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July 27–28

## Mimbres Hummingbird Festival

Enjoy a weekend getaway to the Gila National Forest and join in this local hummingbird celebration. The event is free and runs from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day at the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site, 35 minutes east of Silver City. There will be vendors, lectures, education, children's activities, a raffle ice cream sale and archaeological tours led by the Heritage Site's museum staff. And hummingbirds, of course! Rivoli's, Calliope, Rufous, Broad-tailed and Black-chinned are all possible here. If you're feeling adventurous, the Gila Cliff Dwellings are in the neighborhood, as well as several birding hotspots, like Lake Roberts and Cherry Creek Campground. For more information about the festival call 575-536-3333 or copy and paste this link into your browser: <http://www.silvercity.org/events/details/hummingbird-festival-4839>.



*Rufous  
Hummingbird*  
by Matt Zmuda

August 24

## Bandelier National Monument

Beat the heat and join Jim Mosley for a day trip in the beautiful Jemez Mountains. The group will meet at the Smith's grocery store in White Rock at 8:00 a.m. and from there will explore pull-outs above Bandelier National Monument and Frijoles Canyon as we head to the Jemez Mountains. Montane target species include Hepatic and Western Tanagers, Empid Flycatchers, Warblers and Zone-tailed Hawk. Also, in the burn scars from the 2011 fire we can find Lewis's, Acorn and American Three-toed Woodpeckers. This trip will last at least six hours so bring lunch, snacks and water. The summer monsoon weather can be variable in the mountains, so plan accordingly with extra layers and rain gear. Those interested in carpooling should meet at the Sandia Casino parking lot at Tramway and I-25 at 6:00 a.m. Call Jim at 505-366-3410 or copy and paste this e-mail address: [nmbirder1964@gmail.com](mailto:nmbirder1964@gmail.com) to RSVP and let him know you're interested in carpooling.

## Thursday Birders Say "Thanks" Once More

By Reuben Weisz

Every week, the CNMAS Thursday Birders chip in to a fund that is used to make small gifts to wildlife and conservation organizations. In the 2018–2019 fiscal year, \$1,210 was donated. Those dollars were given to the following 11 organizations with \$110 given to each:

- The Randall Davey Audubon Center c/o 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
- Sandia Rosy-finch Project c/o Rio Grande Bird Research
- Share With Wildlife
- Wildlife Rescue Inc. of New Mexico

This year, the CNMAS Board of Directors matched the Thursday Birder contribution and distributed \$110 to each of the same organizations for a total of \$2420.



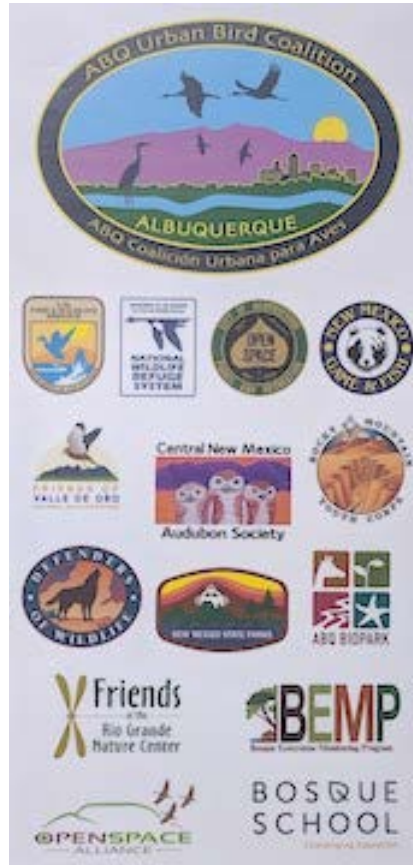
# Conservation Corner

By Bruce Dale, Conservation Action Committee Chair

CNMAS is a founding member of the Albuquerque Urban Bird Coalition, a council of conservation organizations, community groups and agencies with a shared interest in advancing the conservation objectives of U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Urban Bird Treaty (UBT) program.

UBT supports partners in 30 cities to conserve urban habitats for birds, reduce hazards to birds and educate and engage communities in bird appreciation, recreation and conservation. The coalition provides a bigger voice to advocate for conservation than other groups working alone.

The coalition held an event at the Rio Grande Nature Center on May 11 designating that date as Albuquerque Urban Bird Treaty Day, in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day. Representatives



from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other coalition partners, as well as the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, spoke on the importance of birds and habitats for urban environments. Both the city and county issued proclamations in support of the goals of the UBT program.

Dave Simon, director of Parks and Recreation, said the city will develop an urban forestry initiative with the goal of planting 100,000 trees in the coming years. CNMAS will have input to assure that the plan includes guidelines for placing trees in bird-safe locations.

On another note, we are pleased that Rep. Debra Haaland has signed on as co-sponsor of the federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act, H.R.919. Please call her local office (505-346-6781) and leave a message thanking her.

## Conservation Action Tip of the Quarter

By Sara Jayne Cole

Cats hunt naturally and cats who are outdoors usually hunt birds whether the cat is well-fed or not. "Species that evolved together over millions of years are thrown out of balance by cats and other invasive species, often with devastating results." The CNMAS website has more information on this issue: [http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/?page\\_id=1830](http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org/?page_id=1830).

CNMAS also distributes brochures on "How to Turn your Outdoor Cat into a Happy Indoor Cat" in places where cat owners can be found. If you would like to help take brochures once a year to places near where you live, we have a list. Please email Sara Jayne Cole at [birdlajoya@gmail.com](mailto:birdlajoya@gmail.com).



The CNMAS "catio" cat enclosure on permanent display at New Mexico Wildlife Rescue. Photo by Sara Jayne Cole.

# More Summer Outings and Events

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## Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, June 15, 8:00–10 a.m.

Local hummingbird bander Ann Adams will be at the Visitor Center for a morning of banding and to share her knowledge about these winged wonders.

Saturday, August 17, 8:00–10 a.m.

Ann Adams will be back for another morning of hummingbird banding.

Saturday, August 24, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

### Fifth Annual Butterfly Count

Join us for a day in search of butterflies as part of the North American Butterfly Association count. Hiking boots recommended; bring your own lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Hiking will be over uneven terrain. Meet at the Visitor Center and we will divide participants into an uplands team and a riparian team. No experience necessary!

Saturday, September 7, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

### Fourth Annual Moth Night

Moths are abundant at the refuge and we will try to find and identify as many as we can around the Visitor Center.



## Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

Please go to the Friends of Valle de Oro website at [www.friendsofvalledeoro.org](http://www.friendsofvalledeoro.org) to sign up for all events except June 6, July 12 and August 30.

June 6: Community update meeting, Mountain View Community Center, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Come learn about exhibit and wetland designs.

June 8: Refuge tour, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

July 12: Friends of Valle de Oro NWR beer fund-raiser, Canteen Brewhouse, 5:00–9:00 p.m.

July 13: Refuge tour, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

July 20: Birds and breakfast, 8:00–11:00 a.m.

August 10: Refuge tour, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

August 17: Birds and breakfast, 8:00–11:00 a.m.

August 30: Star party, 6:00–10:00 p.m.

## Take Your Green Thumb to the Library

Did you know that the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library has a Seed Library? The mission: to encourage a community of water-wise gardeners and seed savers.

The library gives 15 free seed packets per season to library card holders and offers free programs to foster all levels of gardeners through growing, harvesting and seed saving.



CNMAS President Sara Jayne Cole will speak on "Backyard Birds and Your Garden" at the Seed Library Saturday, July 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Seed Library is in the South Broadway Library, 1025 Broadway SE.



## Owl's Pick for Bird of the Quarter:

Summer Tanager  
in the bosque near Rio Grande  
Nature Center

by Judy Liddell



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# AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

## Summer 2019

### JUNE 6

Visit the Feltz family's Jemez Mountain cabin at 8,600' near La Cueva with Lou Feltz: 505-856-1322, [lvfeltz@comcast.net](mailto:lvfeltz@comcast.net). One may view birds from the back deck or nearby meadows. Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the south side of Sprouts in the Far North Shopping Center located on the east side of San Mateo and the north side of Academy Boulevard. Bring lunch. The group will be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 p.m. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$7 at five cents per mile.

### JUNE 13

Explore the wildlife habitats created by AMAFCA (Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority) at three locations in the South Valley with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com).

Those locations are Sanchez Farms, Raven Pond and Laguna de Cuervo.

Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the National Hispanic Cultural Center at 1701 Fourth Street SW and Bridge Boulevard. Park in the northwest corner of the parking lot along Bridge Boulevard. Carpooling will be necessary since parking is limited at each location. An AMAFCA staff person will meet the group at each location to explain the methods used to create the wildlife habitat before we explore the areas. The walk at each location will be about 0.75 of a mile. The walk will end before 12:00 p.m.

### JUNE 20

Travel to Villaneuva State Park on the Pecos River with Rebecca Gracey: 505-362-5095, [maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com](mailto:maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com). Meet at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure from the north side of the Sprouts parking lot in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center located on Central Avenue and Tramway Boulevard NE.

A secondary meeting place will be Clines Corners at 8:00. Let Rebecca know if you plan to meet the group there.

From Clines Corners we will take US 285 north, turning west on White Lakes Road in hopes of seeing a Mountain Plover. Then we will backtrack on White Lakes Road, turn north on US 285 for a short distance and then turn right on County Road 24C/B31A until it reaches NM 3. A south turn on NM 3 leads to the town of Villaneuva. The group

will stop in the town 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 group should be back in Albuquerque by 4:00 p.m. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$8 at five cents per mile.

### JUNE 27

Explore spots along Hyde Park Road (NM 475) in the Santa Fe National Forest with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, [jliddell@msn.com](mailto:jliddell@msn.com).

Meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the Target parking lot at I-25 and Paseo del Norte NE. Meet in the northwest corner of the parking lot and park in spots facing Paseo del Norte. The lot can be accessed from Paseo del Norte just east of I-25 or from San Pedro one block south of San Pedro/Paseo del Norte.

If you prefer to meet the group in Santa Fe, the first stop will be at Little Tesuque picnic area on the left just past mile marker 8 on Hyde Park Road (NM 475). Please let Judy know by June 26 if you will be there.

Hyde Park Road is the Santa Fe National Forest Scenic Byway and passes through four different life zones. At the Santa Fe Ski Area we will hope to find a Clark's Nutcracker. Bring lunch and water. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$6 at five cents per mile. The group will return to Albuquerque by 3:00 p.m.

### JULY 4

No trip planned for the July 4th holiday

### JULY 11

Walk around the Shady Lakes Fishing Ponds with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, [lotterson300@comcast.net](mailto:lotterson300@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Shady Lakes parking lot. The ponds are located in the far North Valley and are reached by driving north on Fourth or Second Street, going past the intersection with NM 556 (Tramway/Roy Avenue) at the traffic circle and continuing north on NM 313 to the parking lot on the west.

The group will walk about one mile around the ponds, ending the outing before 12:00 p.m.

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# THURSDAY BIRDERS CONTINUED

## JULY 18

Walk up Cienega Canyon in the Sandias with Glenda and Jim Morling: 269-420-8322, [glendamorling@gmail.com](mailto:glendamorling@gmail.com). To car pool, meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 departure from the north side of the Sprouts parking lot in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue and Tramway Boulevard SE.

We will park in the lower parking lot in Cienega Canyon and walk up the road to the spring at the upper parking lot and back for a total of one mile. 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 trip will end around 12:00 p.m.

## JULY 25

View the Mississippi Kites and walk in the Corrales bosque with Joe Schelling: 505-797-9018, [joeschelling@msn.com](mailto:joeschelling@msn.com). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end of Academy Drive, which is approximately four miles north on Corrales Road from Alameda Boulevard. We hope to see Mississippi Kites at the abandoned Academy School site. The group will then carpool to a nearby location for a walk through the bosque. The walk will end by 11:30 a.m. All are invited to have lunch afterwards at Village Pizza in Corrales.

## AUGUST 1

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](mailto:cantrade_1@yahoo.com). Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 departure from the north side of the Sprouts parking lot in the Four Hills Village Shopping Center on Central Avenue and Tramway Boulevard NE or 9:45 at the entrance to the Simms Ranch on NM 337, six miles south of Chilili, past mile marker 5.

Since this event has grown to over 35 people, at least six people are asked to bring a main dish. Please contact Bonnie if you can provide one. Other attendees should bring beverages and side dishes to serve eight to ten people.

For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$3.50 at five cents per mile. People should be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 p.m.

## AUGUST 8

Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Tarrant County with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, [cantrade\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:cantrade_1@yahoo.com).

[yahoo.com](mailto: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/ Rt. 66). To reach the parking area, turn north on Tijeras Avenue, just west of the Tijeras Library.

A secondary meeting place is the Pilot Travel Center on north NM 41 after the second Moriarty exit from I-40. Meet there at 8:30 a.m.

We will drive south of Moriarty to look for raptors. Lunch will be at Chili Hills Restaurant on the far west side of Moriarty, just east of the Motel 6. The group should be back in Tijeras by 3:00 p.m. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile.

## AUGUST 15

Walk in Sulphur Canyon with Ken Zaslow: 512-576-5309, [kzaslow88@gmail.com](mailto:kzaslow88@gmail.com). To car pool, meet at 7:20 a.m. for a 7:30 departure from the parking lot north of Sprouts in the Four Hills Shopping Village located on Central and Tramway Boulevard NE. A \$3.00 parking fee or pass is required. The walk will end around 12:00 p.m.

## AUGUST 22

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, [lfcairns@gmail.com](mailto:lfcairns@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 around 12:00 p.m.

## AUGUST 29

Drive to Las Huertas Canyon on the north side of the Sandia Mountains with Bernie and Pauline Morris: 505-369-1227, [mtnbluebird@verizon.net](mailto: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 to 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.

Since the road up the mountain is deeply rutted, people with high-clearance vehicles will be asked to drive the group further east through Placitas for nine miles on paved road and then for four miles on unpaved, rough road to the lower parking lot of Las Huertas Picnic Area.

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.

