

Burrowing Owl

Winter 2019–2020

Vol. 48, No. 4

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.

New Year Programs Will Take Us Far and Near

January 16, 2020

Birding in Thailand

Christopher Rustay

Thailand is fast becoming one of the go-to places for birders. With a country list of around 1,000 birds and with a well-developed infrastructure, Thailand can provide a rewarding birding visit. On top of all that, Thailand has unparalleled food and culture. So if you are looking to enjoy southeast Asian food and drink, wander among temples, climb mountains and visit beaches and see loads of birds, Thailand may just be the place. Christopher Rustay will talk about his recent Thailand birding trip and show off some of this delightful country.



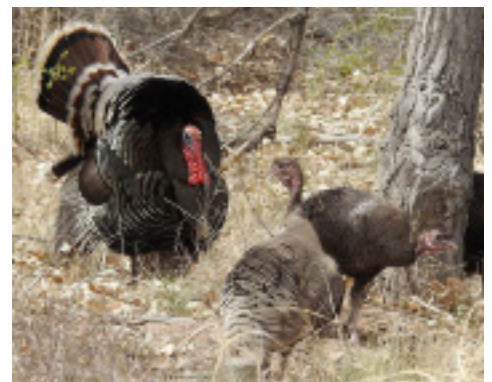
Black-naped Monarch
by Christopher Rustay

February 20, 2020

Restoration of Merriam's Wild Turkey
on the Pueblo of Santa Ana

Glenn Harper

For centuries, the Merriam's Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*) has had significant cultural and spiritual value to the people of the Pueblo of Santa Ana. For more than 40 years, however, wild turkeys had been extirpated from the Pueblo's land. As a result, the Pueblo partnered with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to restore this important species. Glenn Harper will discuss the restoration process, current status and what it might mean for other areas along the Rio Grande.



Wild Turkeys by Glenn Harper

Programs start at 7:00 p.m.
at the Adelante
Community Room,
3900 Osuna Road NE.

Let's Go Count Birds!

Take advantage of this year's 120th annual Christmas bird counts! See the partial list on the next page or go to this web site to for general information: <https://nm.audubon.org/conservation/audubon-new-mexicos-christmas-bird-count>. Scroll down to *View the New Mexico Christmas Bird Count Schedule*, an updated statewide list.

Christmas Bird Count Schedule

Saturday, December 14

Bosque del Apache

Dave Hawksworth

dlhawksworth@gmail.com or 505-507-5343

Meet in the parking lot in front of the visitor center at the refuge headquarters at 7:00 a.m. If possible, please contact CBC compiler Dave Hawksworth before the count, so he can coordinate with the refuge on how many people will participate.

If you haven't contacted Dave beforehand you will be assigned to a group when you arrive at the refuge. To be assigned ahead of time, contact Dave.

Most people stay out all day, so bring a sack lunch, water, snacks, etc. Afterwards, everyone is invited to meet at the Owl Cafe in San Antonio for dinner and sharing preliminary results.



Saturday, December 14

Bluewater Lake CBC

John Trochet

trochetj@gmail.com

Please consider joining a new count this year—participants are needed! Head west to Bluewater Lake, one of Cibola County's hot spots. Volunteers will meet nine miles west of Grants at Bowlin's Bluewater Outpost and Dairy Queen off Interstate 40 (exit 72, a one-hour and 10-minute drive from Albuquerque).

Contact John Trochet if you wish to participate and for more information. Carpooling from Albuquerque can be arranged. The compilation dinner will be celebrated at the Wow Diner in Milan.

Sunday, December 15

Albuquerque

David Mehlman

AlbuquerqueCBC@gmail.com, (505) 350-3616

Please RSVP if you plan to attend and note change in morning and evening meeting places from previous year.

Meet at the Flying Star Café, 8000 Paseo del Norte, Building D, by 7:00 a.m. unless we have made other arrangements.

I will assign most people to pre-set leaders and territories. I will have e-mailed checklists and Google maps of the territories to the leaders. Please print these and bring them with you as I will not have extras. I will also have sent information about reporting results.

For the count compilation we will meet at Hops Brewery Los Ranchos Taproom, 7222 Fourth Street, Los Ranchos at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, December 20

Sevilleta NWR

Nancy or Steve Cox

sora@spinn.net

Meet at the refuge at 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 17

5 Points

Nancy or Steve Cox

sora@spinn.net

Meet at the refuge at 6:30 a.m.

CNMAS Winter Field Trips

Sunday, January 19

Percha Dam and Caballo Lake

Join Kim Score for a trip to Percha Dam and Caballo Lake State Park, 2.5 hours south of Albuquerque. Depending on level of interest we may also visit hot spots at Elephant Butte Reservoir. In addition to a variety of wintering waterfowl, we are likely to find Zonotrichia sparrows, gulls, loons and mergansers. Phainopepla and Pyrrhuloxia are residents, and Purple Finch and Lawrence's Goldfinch have been sighted.

Bring your spotting scope, camera and walking shoes, along with water, snacks and lunch. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Percha Dam State Park entrance near the pay station kiosk. Please contact Kim at firefinch@usa.net to RSVP and with specific questions. Also, let her know if you're interested in carpooling from Albuquerque. Camping is available at both parks, and hotel accommodations can be made on Saturday night in Truth or Consequences, 20 miles to the north.

Saturday, February 29

Ute Lake State Park

Join Christopher Rustay for this leap-year-day trip to Ute Lake State Park on year 2020's bonus day. The trip will include looking primarily for water birds. This can be a good place for Red-breasted Merganser and Horned Grebe as well as loons. But a few land birds, such as Northern Cardinal and Field Sparrow, also may be possible. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Ute Lake park headquarters (State Park Road and Highway 540, west of Logan, NM) and finish in early afternoon.

Bring a lunch, and a spotting scope would be helpful. We will hit various locations around the east and north sides of the lake. The trip will be relatively easy with little walking.

Please contact Christopher by e-mail (chrustay@gmail.com) by February 25 to ensure that he knows you'll be on the trip.

Needed: Bluebird and Nuthatch Sleuths

By Judy Liddell

The National Audubon Society's latest report from climate scientists, *Survival by Degrees*, indicates that birds are under threat from climate change, and they tell us we need to act now. Understanding how birds are responding to climate change is essential to protecting them. We need your help to do that by documenting how their ranges are shifting. Audubon's Climate Watch program contributes to scientific analysis by providing vital data on how birds are faring with climate change.

If you have previously participated in Climate Watch, thank you! We value your time and help in this important effort. The program has been growing



steadily and National Audubon received a great volume of checklists in 2019. CNMAS counts bluebirds and nuthatches as part of the ongoing documentation process and submits our data to National Audubon.

If you are skilled at differentiating Eastern, Western and Mountain Bluebirds or White-breasted, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches and would like to participate in this year's count along one of the established transects, please contact Judy Liddell, jliddell@msn.com by December 10.

The winter survey period is January 15–February 15, 2020.

CNMAS Scholars Came, Saw and Learned

This year's CNMAS scholarships were awarded to Jo Fine, a student at Albuquerque Academy, and Matt Benko, previously from Indianapolis. Both students attended summer camps in the West. Complete reports on their expeditions can be seen on the *Education* page of the web site, <http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>.



Female Dusky Grouse
by Jo Fine

Camp Colorado

By Jo Fine

I am so thankful for the generosity of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society that allowed me the opportunity to attend the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado. It's hard to pick a favorite part of the camp when most every event was a highlight. My three favorite features of this camp were the birding (obviously), the education and the free time.

Camp Chiricahua

By Matthias Benko

Heat. The first thing I noticed was the heat. I've been to mountains, to oceans, to plains; but nothing quite compares to the desert. And yet, in a land that is seemingly harsh and unforgiving, certain gems of nature thrive. . .

One major highlight of camp [was] a pair of Common Black Hawks at Rose Canyon Lake [but] the heart of the camp [was] the Chiricahua Mountains. . .



Elegant Trogon by Matthias Benko

CNMAS Partners with Educators



The Central New Mexico Audubon Society offers scholarships for both students and teachers, supports local science fairs and provides mentoring to nature-loving children in Albuquerque and across the state. The Education Committee is one of the standing committees on our board and one of our main focuses as an organization.

Scholarship applications must be received by January 15 each year. Applicants should apply for a scholarship for any activity for which they would like to be considered. Applications will be reviewed and an applicant will be selected at the February CNMAS Board meeting each year.

Visit the CNMAS web site (<http://cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org>) and click on the *Education* link to earn more about CNMAS scholarships.

Audubon Helps Plant Seeds in Soil and in Young Minds

Story and Photo by Lynn Schuler

National Audubon and Central New Mexico Audubon were among donors of a collaboration grant of \$700 to Hawthorne Elementary School in Albuquerque as part of the school's green initiative. Environmental groups, the City of Albuquerque and Albuquerque Public Schools comprised the donor Green Team Committee.

This is a two-year project in which the University of New Mexico is helping to design areas of the school and a local park where the students will be planting natural habitat. Since the planning process is lengthy, I wanted my Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Genius Hour students (fourth and fifth grades) to again have hands-on opportunities this school year and thus a request for funding was made to Audubon to build a cinder block garden.

The students painted 90 cinder blocks, arranged them in front of the primary building, filled them with dirt and planted seeds suitable for fall. They did this with the help of first and second graders who also are part of the Hawthorne Green Team.



Aaliyah Travers painting her cinder block at Hawthorne Elementary School

With monies left over, the school has arranged with Wings of Enchantment to have a butterfly life-cycle display and a butterfly mini-encounter in the spring as part of a community showcase at the school.

We are extremely grateful for this grant to allow the students an opportunity to spend time outdoors, to grow vegetables and to experience a positive outcome of hard work for them, our school and nature.

But It's Not the Birds Who Leave the Trash . . .



With their bulging trash bags are, from left: Elias Rodriguez, Hyacinth Salas, Amy Erickson, Guy Dicharry, Eileen Beaulieu, Sofia O'Connell, Chuck Parlapiano and Jack Parlapiano. Photo by Elizabeth Dicharry

By Eileen Beaulieu

The Belen Marsh Committee sponsored its semi-annual cleanup on October 5, 2019. A total of 19 people attended and collected about 30 bags of trash.

The Belen Marsh is a popular birding destination and we encourage people to come out during our activities. The next clean-up event will be in April 2020. Look for an announcement in the future. We always appreciate the assistance of CNMAS in promoting and participating in the event.

AUDUBON THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

Winter 2019–2020

DECEMBER 5

Walk in the Calabacillas Arroyo area with Sarah and Tom Peterson: 505-228-8091, spetersoninabq@gmail.com. The group will meet at 9:00 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, then turning east on Westside Drive, the first right 0.28 miles north of Irving Boulevard. 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 lane and turn onto Westside Drive. The walk will end before noon.

DECEMBER 12: Bird Walk and Holiday Potluck

Walk in Poblanos Fields Open Space with Linda Otterson: 505-280-3123, lotterson300@comcast.net. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the open space parking lot. To reach the parking lot turn north from Montano Boulevard onto Tierra Viva Place, east of the Rio Grande. It will be an easy one-mile walk ending at 11:00 a.m. From there the group will drive to the First Unitarian Church at 3701 Carlisle NE (the southwest corner of Carlisle and Comanche NE) for the holiday pot luck in the church's Memorial Hall. The parking lot is on Comanche. Rebecca Gracey will be hosting the event, 505-362-5095, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Please bring your favorite holiday foods, and Rebecca will furnish the drinks (sparkling fruit juices, sparkling water, beer, wine and iced tea). The lunch should be over by 2:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 19

Visit Pueblo Montano Open Space for a walk along the bosque with Pauline and Bernie Morris: 505-369-1227, mtnbluebird@verizon.net. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot on the south side of Montano and one block east of Coors. It can be accessed from either street. The parking lot is small, so some people may find it necessary to park in the nearby shopping center on the south. This will be a two-mile walk ending before noon.

DECEMBER 26

Participate in the Sandia Mountain Christmas Bird Count in Bear Canyon, led by Joe Schelling: 505-205-7820, joeschelling@msn.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Michial M. Emery Bear Canyon Trailhead parking lot east of Tramway on Spain. Spain is north of Montgomery and south of Paseo del Norte. At the east end of Spain, turn right on High Desert Place a short distance to the parking lot. Participants will walk a two-mile loop and should be through with the count by 11:30 a.m.

Join other participants in the Sandia Mountain Christmas Bird Count at O'Niell's Pub for the after-count compilation dinner from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The pub is located at 3301 Juan Tabo Boulevard between Comanche and Candelaria NE.

JANUARY 2

Walk in the Alameda Open Space in the North Valley with Leah Henzler: 505-280-2085, lfcairns@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 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.



JANUARY 9

Drive to see raptors on the eastern plains of Torrance County with Bonnie Long: 505-379-1985, cantrade_1@yahoo.com. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure from the Tijeras Senior Center on NM 333/Route 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 9:00 a.m. The group will drive south of Moriarty on NM 41 and then east and west on Clements Road to look for raptors. Lunch will be at Chili Hills, 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.

Thursday Birders continued

JANUARY 16

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.

JANUARY 23

Visit the Belen Marsh and Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area with Rebecca Gracey: 505-362-5095, maryrebeccagracey@gmail.com. Meet at 8:50 a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on Gibson and University Boulevard SE or 9:30 at the Belen Marsh. To reach the marsh, take the first Belen exit from I-25, Exit 195. Then drive east one mile, turning south at the Taco Bell and parking in that parking lot. After birding at the marsh, the group will visit WWCA on NM 47 on the east side of the Rio Grande. The walk will be 1.5 miles in length. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$4 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque by 1:00 p.m.

JANUARY 30

Tour the Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area, part of the Ladd S. Gordon Waterfowl Complex, with Ken Zaslów: 512-576-5309, kzaslow88@gmail.com. Meet at 8:20 a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites located on the north side of Gibson and west side of University Boulevard SE. If you are not going to this meet-up location, please call Ken to let him know that you will meet the group at Bernardo. Bring lunch. For those not driving, the shared gas expense is \$5 at five cents per mile. The group should be back in Albuquerque by 3:00 p.m.

Directions: Drive south on I-25 about 51 miles to exit 175 Bernardo-Mountainair (US 60E). Proceed east for a short distance and then turn north on NM 116 at the intersection just east of the I-25 overpass. Follow NM 116 north for 1.7 miles to the wildlife area entrance on the right where the group will meet. Carpooling is encouraged.

FEBRUARY 6

Visit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with Judy Liddell: 505-220-7998, jliddell@msn.com. Meet at 7:50 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure from the parking lot behind the Hawthorn Suites on University Boulevard and Gibson SE. A secondary meeting place will be the McDonald's in Socorro at 9:15 a.m. for a quick rest stop and just enough time to get food to go. Please tell Judy by February 5 if you plan to meet the group in Socorro. The group will depart for the Bosque del Apache at 9:30. Bring lunch. A \$5 entrance fee or federal pass is required per car. The group should be back in Albuquerque by 5:00 p.m. For those not driving the shared gas expense is \$10 at five cents per mile.

FEBRUARY 13

Gather in the El Oso Grande Park and walk the Bear Canyon Recreation Trail with Glenda and Jim Morling: 269-420-8322, glendamorling@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking area just north of the CNM parking lot off Morris, east of Eubank and north of Montgomery Boulevard NE. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

FEBRUARY 20

Walk in the Willow Creek Bosque in the Rio Rancho Bosque Open Space with Ginny Davis: 719-229-4432, ginnydavis111@aim.com. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the open space parking lot. For people not driving from 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. Turn south on 528 for 1.8 miles. Turn east at the traffic light on Willow Creek Road. Drive three blocks past Spruce Mountain Loop, turning left on the unpaved road down the arroyo to the parking lot. The one-mile walk will end before noon.

FEBRUARY 27

Walk around the Tingley bosque ponds with Sara Jayne Cole: 505-503-5599, birdlajoya@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 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 again 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 and will end before noon.

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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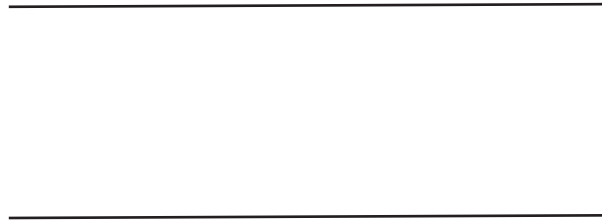
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The CNMAS Membership Form is on the web site:
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