



SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO
AUDUBON SOCIETY
Box 1473
Silver City, NM 88062-1473

Live Feed Eagle Camera

You can watch LIVE the nest of a pair of Bald Eagles and their daily activities of feeding and caring for three eaglets. There is also a night-vision camera that captures the image of an occasional night flight of a Great Horned Owl over the nest. Watch at www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles.



Photo © Dale & Marian Zimmerman

Butterflies of the Silver City Area

This photo The Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*, is a southern species, scarce but increasingly frequent in Silver City over recent years, as more people plant passion vines (*Passiflora*), the sole larval food of this butterfly. It remains to be seen if the recent cold snap will have affected this trend.

FIELD TRIPS*

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011*

Field Trip to the Glenwood Fish Hatchery & Historic Catwalk

Join us for a favorite spring birding trip on Saturday, June 4. Because of the distance to Glenwood, we will meet at the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts building 7:30AM and carpool to Glenwood from there.

It will be an easy walk at both sites with some uphill walking at the Catwalk. We will be looking for the Com-

mon Black-hawk and the American Dipper along with any other interesting birds that we can find. We should arrive back in Silver sometime in the late afternoon. For more information contact Jerry Bird 575-590-4654

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2011*

Signal Peak & Sheep Corral Road

We will be looking for the montane species of these areas. Some species seen in the past are *Greater Peewee* and *Olive Warbler*, among others. Meet at the WNMU Fine Arts Center southern car park at 8AM to carpool. Both roads can be rough, so trucks/SUVs are suggested.

For more information contact trip leader Brian Dolton at 388-4210.

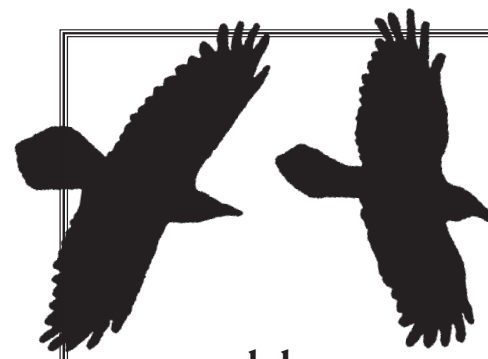
WATCH FOR

Upcoming SWNMAS Program: GHOST BIRD, the critically acclaimed environmental documentary from director, Scott Crocker, explores the remarkable rediscovery of the Ivory-billed woodpecker in the swamps of Arkansas, taking a closer look at the role politics, science and culture took in shaping the unprecedented recovery effort.

FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS:

Wear good walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the current weather. Wearing a hat is a good idea. Bring binos, water and any sunscreen or snacks that you may need while we are out.

*There will not be a SWNMAS field trip in May, due to the two annual Spring Bird Counts.



swnmaudubon.org

THE RAVENS
Newsletter

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

May – June – July 2011 Vol. 43, No. 3

PROGRAM MEETING FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011*

Dr. Dale Zimmerman Presents: Butterflies of the Silver City Area

Audubon's May program will be a slide show on our local butterflies, presented by Dr. Dale Zimmerman. Of New Mexico's 316 butterfly species, almost two-thirds are known from the southwestern counties. About 175 are recorded on the Gila National Forest alone – almost the same number known from Arizona's nearby Chiricahua Mountains, a premier locality for butterflies as it is for birds. Although the Silver City area does not exhibit the pronounced elevational or ecological variation of the Chiricahuas, over 150 butterfly species are documented within a radius of 15 or 20 miles of our town owing to the existing habitat and plant diversity. Most years, anyone can find a majority of these fascinating insects here if one is sufficiently motivated and knows where to look. Representatives of all butterfly families known in New Mexico, and all of the subfamilies but one, are present here.

Our impressive diversity can't be appreciated on only one or two field trips, however. Different species fly at different times of the year, and flight seasons are quite brief for some. Many are closely linked to particular larval food plants, so they are not evenly distributed across the region. And simply finding the often unique food plant does not guarantee finding the butterfly. Not every cite supporting Soapberry trees, for example, has Soapberry Hairstreaks. In fact, only a few seem to. Other factors, not necessarily apparent, may limit a species' distribution so it may be decidedly local or rare. Populations also may fluctuate greatly over time, for reasons often obscure.

Dr. Zimmerman's program will show a large selection



Photo © Dale & Marian Zimmerman

Soapberry Hairstreak

of our frequently seen species, as well as some of the rarities and special ones to watch for in our area.

This program will start at 7PM upstairs in WNMU's Harlan Hall. Refreshments to follow. Everyone welcome.

*SWNMAS does not have programs for the summer months of June, July and August.

On September 2nd we will hold our annual Pot-luck meeting and programs will resume in October.

Take Part in Two Annual Bird Counts

Saturday May 7th – The Gila River Count

For this count, groups or individuals are assigned routes to cover along the Gila River from the Arizona border up to the Gila Cliff Dwellings. The first Saturday of May is the traditional date for the Gila River Bird Count.

If you are interested in participating, call Roland Shook at 388-3441 to be assigned a route to you or your party.

Saturday May 14th – International Spring Migratory Bird Count

This annual Migration Count is a single day event. It is similar to a Christmas Bird Count, but covers all of Grant County. This requires many birders to cover the large area. All birders are welcome to take part. There is also a need for drivers and recorders.

Contact compiler Jerry Bird 575-534-4940 or email him at silvercitypearl@yahoo.com

MORE PLASTICS TO RECYCLE!



A specific number in the center indicates the plastic resin from which the bottle is made.

All plastics designated types #1 through #7 (that's just about everything except Styrofoam) can now be recycled in Grant County as part of the expanded single stream recycling.

Just throw all the plastics along with papers and cans in your bin. No need to sort except glass should be kept separate. You can also take it all to the recycling drop-offs at the landfill or around the county.

San Vicente Outdoor Classroom Scheduled Thursday, May 12

This event is sponsored by the Gila Conservation Education Center, GCEC: Thursday, **May 12 – Outdoor Day at the San Vicente Outdoor Classroom for fourth graders** at Harrison Schmitt. The project is designed to promote awareness of the Silver City watershed. The San Vicente Outdoor classroom provides students the opportunity to discover the role of San Vicente Creek in the town's history, and about long-term effects of human interactions with the natural landscape.

The San Vicente Outdoor Classroom in Silver City, and starts behind Home Furniture store on Bullard Street.



SELINA GARCIA PHOTO

If you are able to help setting-up, presenting, or any other way, please contact GCEC at 388-8255, www.gcecnm.org or Tricia Hurley at 538-4345.

Got Nest Boxes?

You can help nesting birds by registering your nest box with NestWatch!

It's Easy! It's Free! It's Rewarding!

Here's what you do... Follow the steps below...

Set up a Nest Box. Get tips and plans for providing safe housing for bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, and other cavity-nesting birds at our resource center.

Join NestWatch at www.nestwatch.org to create your free account.

Register Your Nest Box. Click on "My Nests" and follow the instructions to locate and register each of your nest boxes.

Western Field Ornithologists Conference: Sierra Vista, AZ ~ August 17-21, 2011

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. We will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration. Non-member registration includes a one-year membership to WFO and a subscription to our publication, Western Birds.

The rains that come during late summer to southeast Arizona create breeding conditions for some species and, for others, ideal conditions for molting prior to movement to the wintering grounds. This phenomenon of molt migration will be the subject of a Keynote address by Peter Pyle during the conference, and will make the field trips particularly interesting. As always, we'll have Science Sessions Friday and Saturday afternoons, a wide variety of field trips, and workshops on topics like flycatcher identification, bird banding, study skin preparation, and wilderness first aid. Dan Fischer will give a talk about the first naturalists to visit the southwest. We are offering pre-and post-meeting field trips to the Chiricahua Mountains and California Gulch and a Sunday trip focusing on butterflies and dragonflies. Many local experts will be helping us out with workshops and field trips including Tony Battiste, Bob Behrstock, Homer Hansen, Melody Kehl, Michael Marsden, Ted Mouras, Heather Swanson, Wezil Walraven, Jack Whetstone, Sheri Williamson, and Erika Wilson. In addition, you'll have chances to bird with members of the WFO board like Ken Able, Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Dave Krueper, Kurt Leuschner, Dave Shuford, and Jay Withgott.

As so many discovered last year, you need to register very early to be sure to get your first choice of field trips and workshops, so visit the WFO web site www.westernfieldornithologists.org right away to see full details and to register.

Get certified. Take the Nest Monitor's certification quiz to learn best practices, then get outside and monitor your nests! Enter your data. Click on "My Nests" and then the "Breeding Data" tab to tell us who, what, when, and how many. Your data are used by scientists to learn more about nesting birds and how climate change is affecting them.

From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

SouthWestern New Mexico Audubon Society Chapter (only) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Includes membership in SWNM Audubon Society, THE RAVENS—local chapter newsletter, the NM Statewide Audubon newsletter, programs, field trips, bird counts, education and volunteer opportunities. A 1-year Chapter Membership is \$15. and the total amount is used here, in our local Chapter.



Make checks payable to SWNM Audubon Society
 New Member Renewal

Mail to: **SWNMAS**
T. Timme, Membership Chairman
811 Oak Street
Silver City, NM 88061

Date _____ Phone # _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____

Do you wish to receive the Chapter's local, monthly "Bird Sightings Report" via email? YES__ NO__
 Email address for Bird Sightings Report _____

Stray & Domestic Cats Threaten Birds and Wildlife

There is no question that birds are better off when cats stay indoors. Exact numbers are unknown, but scientists estimate that every year in the United States alone, cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, and more than a billion small mammals, including rabbits, squirrels, and chipmunks. Feline predators include both domestic cats that spend time outdoors and stray cats that live in the wild, sometimes as part of a colony.

Life for outdoor cats is risky. They can get hit by cars; attacked by dogs, other cats, coyotes or wildlife; contract fatal diseases, such as rabies, feline distemper,

or feline immunodeficiency virus; get lost, stolen, or poisoned; or suffer during severe weather conditions. Outdoor cats lead considerably shorter lives on average than cats kept exclusively indoors.

Free-roaming and feral cats also pose a health hazard to humans from the spread of diseases such as rabies and toxoplasmosis. The CDC states that "Unvaccinated dogs, cats, and ferrets exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized immediately." Even in 'managed' colonies all cats cannot always be vaccinated, and infected animals may be even harder to catch in a timely manner before they infect other animals or humans.

In April 2010, the Volusia County Health Department in Florida issued a rabies alert for 60 days following two unprovoked attacks on humans by feral cats within a month. Two cats had tested positive for rabies in the area.

Primary Birds Impacted

- Millions of common songbirds, such as the Cardinal, Jays, and Wrens and long-distance migrants such as Indigo Bunting, Yellow and other Warblers.
- Rare and endangered species, such as the Piping Plover, Florida Scrub-Jay, and California Least Tern
- Birds that nest or feed on the ground, such as Quail.

Solutions

Cat owners should keep their cats indoors. There are a number of ways that people can help their cats adjust to an indoor lifestyle, and ABC provides a wealth of resources to help them. Many veterinarians and animal welfare organizations support keeping cats indoors for their own safety, as well as to prevent them from killing wildlife. Outdoor cat colonies, sustained through the practice of Trap Neuter Release are also bad for birds, do not help reduce the overpopulation of feral cats, and are inhumane for the cats, who lead short, harsh lives. Instead, feral cats should be kept in enclosures, trapped and adopted to loving homes, or euthanized.

www.abcbirds.org for more information on Cats Indoors Program.



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