



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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon's Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper at Little Walnut Picnic Area

All are invited to join us at our potluck picnic and annual meeting event. A great way to meet other Auduboners and make new friends, have a chance to bird the area and eat some fine food together.

The gate to the Little Walnut Pavilion picnic area (under the cover of a roof) will be opened at 4:30 for those wishing to look around at birds and plants.

Food and folks should be gathered at the pavilion by 5:30 to start to eat and enjoy the potluck. We will also vote on the new slate of officers. Bring food to share with others and your own plates, silverware, cups and drinks.

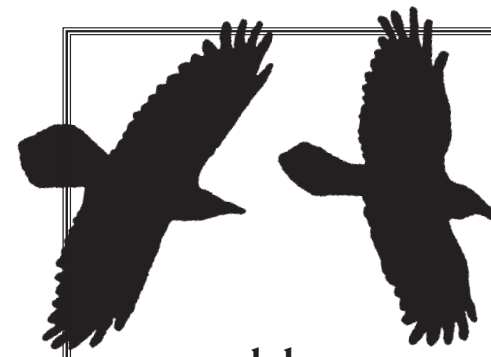
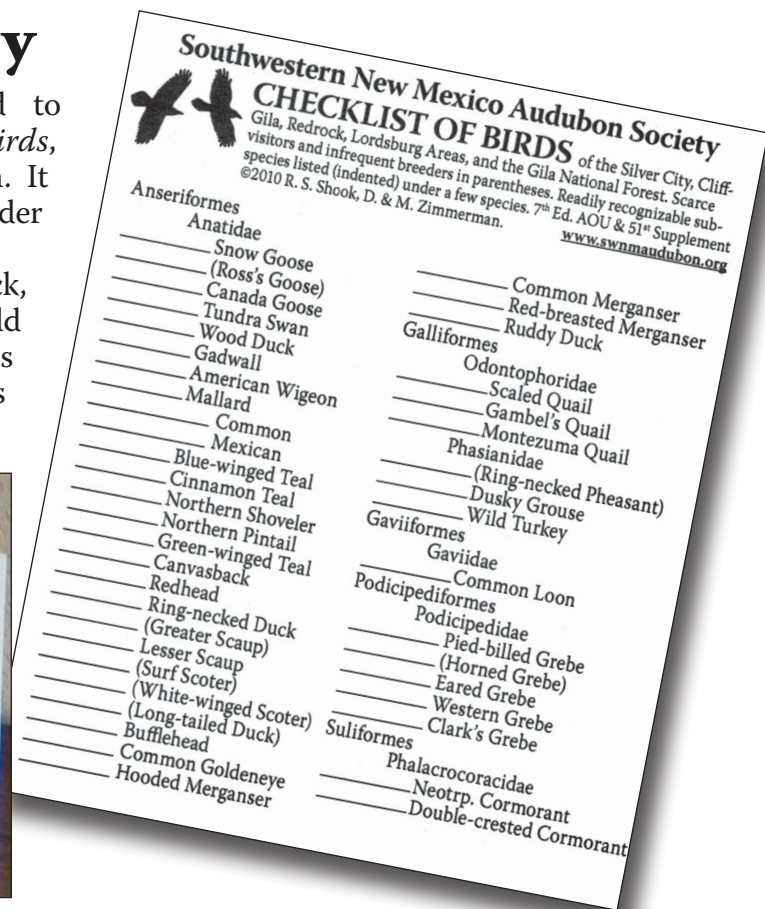
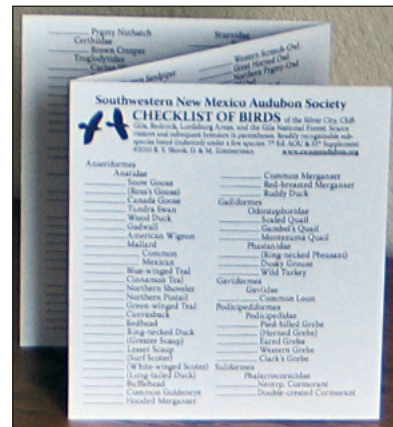
For further information call 534-0879.

New! Pocket-size Checklist of Birds Published by SWNM Audubon Society

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon is proud to announce its publication of the new *Checklist of Birds*, authored by R. Shook and D. & M. Zimmerman. It follows the latest AOU & 51st Supplement in the order of listings.

Covering the area of Silver City, Cliff-Gila, Redrock, Lordsburg and the Gila National Forest, the 3-fold card identifies visitors and infrequent breeding birds and notes readily recognizable sub-species. There is space to record date and/or number of birds seen, and yet is small enough to fit in your shirt or pants pocket measuring only 3 3/4" by 4 1/4".

We will be selling them for 50 cents each or 5 for \$2 and they will be available for purchase at our Annual meeting Sept. 2, at program meetings 1st Fridays of the month and on field trips.



swnmaudubon.org

THE RAVENS Newsletter

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

August — September — October 2011

Vol. 43, No. 4

Audubon New Mexico Honors Southwest Women in Conservation

The Randall Davey Audubon Center, 1800 Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM will host the second annual event to recognize and honor the diversity of work done by women engaged in Conservation in our region. Save the date for this event — September 30th from 10 to 2.

Being honored is Eleanor Wootten, native to the Southwest and now living along the Gila River, Eleanor Wootten is a remarkable woman devoted to conservation and education initiatives through her personal



Eleanor Wootten

commitments. As an avid birder, she helped to found the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society in Las Cruces and has continued to work with other organizations across NM and AZ such as Audubon, the Native Plant Society, the Nature Conservancy, and others. She received the notable Charles Callison Award in 1997 for volunteer service from the National Audubon

MONTHLY PROGRAM Friday, October 7, 2011

Birds From Near & Far:

Turkey, Quail, Scarlet Macaw and Other Parrots In Mimbres Culture

Elizabeth Toney, Graduate Student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma and Archaeologist for the Gila National Forest, South Zone will be our featured speaker at this month's program meeting.

A variety of bird imagery adorns the different artistic mediums of the Classic Mimbres culture (1000-1130 A.D.) Of the many species of birds that are featured on Mimbres bowls, turkey, quail, scarlet macaws and other

types of parrots are among the most interesting because of their speculated ritual and economic significance. Similarly these birds are a featured part of other cultural groups across the southwest. While the turkey and quail are commonly found in southwestern New Mexico, the two species of macaws (scarlet and military) and thick-billed parrots are from more distant areas. The scarlet macaw is native to the lowland forests

found along the east coast of Mexico from southern Tamaulipas stretching south to the west coast in the state of Oaxaca. Thick-billed parrots are particularly associated with highland pine forests in western and



Society, which is given to people who personally demonstrate that the action of committed individuals can change the world. With the help of her family, Eleanor now runs T&E, Inc., a not-for-profit foundation giving small grants to college students for field biology studies in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico—motivating that next generation and embodying the vision of Women in Conservation. More information on the T&E foundation can be found at: www.tandeinc.com Any questions or more information regarding the event 505.983.4609 ext24, or mmiller@audubon.org

central Mexico. Military Macaws inhabit an area from Mexico southward, especially Colombia, northwestern Venezuela, northern Peru, and eastern Ecuador. Yet from these far distant places, these birds worked their way into Mimbres iconography.

In this presentation we will explore what patterns are present in the archaeological contexts of birds found both near (turkeys, quails) and far (scarlet macaw, military macaw, and thick-billed parrot), delve into the iconography of these birds in Mimbres art, and speculate on the role of these birds in Mimbres social life.

Programs are held at 7 PM, 1st Friday of the month at WNMU's Harlan Hall, Alabama at 12th Street, Silver City. Everyone welcome.

Slate of Nominees for Officers to the Board of Directors of Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society

On **Friday, September 2, 2011** during our Annual meeting, we will have the opportunity to vote on the slate of officers put forth by the Nominating Committee, headed by Terry Timme with help from Dennis Beaver and Patricia Taber.

The nominees are: Dennis Beaver, currently Vice President will step up to the Presidency. Nancy Kaminski is nominated for Vice President. Allison Boyd, nominated for Secretary, and Elroy Limmer for the open position as At-Large Member.

There is an open slot for a Representative to NM State Audubon Council and also for an At-Large Member.

Terms are for two years. Nominations are also open from the floor.



Top 10 Tips for Bird Friendly Living

American Bird Conservancy has gathered information that anyone can use to live cleaner, greener and be more bird friendly.

#10 Plan your yard for diversity. Instead of a “green desert” lawn of no benefit to wildlife, plant a mixture of native grasses, flowers and shrubs. Birds like native species best and they are best adapted to where you live.

#9 Provide birds with fresh food and clean water. By cleaning your feeders regularly it prevents mold and disease. Scrub them with a solution of 1/8 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water and rinse thoroughly. Change water every other day to keep it fresh. Visit www.backyard-birdcare.org for more details.

#8 Prevent window strikes. Hundreds of millions of birds die each year as a result of hitting windows. Keep outdoor lighting off during migration times. Place bird feeders within 3 feet of your windows. Move indoor plants far away from windows. Break up reflections of habitat in your windows by covering the outside of them with taut screens, window film or decals. See ABC's website for more information; www.abcbirds.org.

#7 Donate your old binoculars to conservation. Have any old birding equipment just lying around, never being used? You can help our long-distance migrants and rare Latin American endemics by donating your old gear to biologists across the hemisphere through the Birders Exchange Program. Visit the American Birding Association's website; www.americanbirding.org/bex.

#6 Take action for birds on ABC's website. As well as being a place to learn all about bird conservation, ABC's website is also the place to go to get directly involved

FIELD TRIPS*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

Field Trip to Tyrone Sewage Ponds

Don't let the title of this field trip stop you from going to one of the most productive bird areas around us. Meet at the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts building 8:00AM and carpool to Tyrone from there.

It will be easy walking and a scope would be helpful. We will be looking for a variety of birds at the ponds, shorelines and surrounding dryer areas.

For more information contact Field Trip Chair Brian Dolton, Field Trip leader, at 388-4210.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

Mimbres River TNC Property

This property, owned by The Nature Conservancy is located on and along the Mimbres River. A farm in it's earlier years, still has a standing barn and fields as well as wooded areas. A mixed habitat like this could reveal some interesting species. Walking is easy, but there may be muddy or wet river crossings. Dress accordingly.

Larry Malone is the field trip leader. For more info call Larry at 544-3683.

*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, sunscreen and any snacks that you may need while we are out. Meet at the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts building at 8:00AM.

in helping conserve wild birds. Visit www.abcbirds.org/action to see how you can make a difference..

#5 Drink shade-grown coffee. Coffee produced from shade-loving varieties means wintering habitat can be preserved for key migrant species such as Cerulean warbler. Ask your local grocery or coffee shop to stock shade-grown alternative..

#4 Reduce your carbon footprint. Do your part to help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels that cause global warming. Use an electric lawn mower, carpool, bicycle, or use public transport when possible, turn off lights when not in use, use low energy bulbs and Energy Star-rated appliances, call your power company and ask if you can buy your energy from renewable sources..

#3 Reduce your use of pesticides. Not only can they be toxic to birds, but they kill the insects that birds eat. Weed instead of spraying! If you must use pesticides, look for biopesticide alternatives. Prevent pests from entering your home by replacing worn weather stripping and screens, and filling gaps in floors and around windows and plumbing fixtures. More information at:

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 _____

BOOK REVIEW BY DAVE REMLEY

RAPTORS OF NEW MEXICO

Jean-Luc E. Cartron, ed.

Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2010. Cloth, 710 pp.

Cartron gathers the writings of 41 contributing authors to provide a comprehensive treatment of all hawks, eagles, kites, vultures, falcons, and owls breeding or wintering in New Mexico, or migrating through the State.

The first book to focus specifically on our birds of prey, *Raptors of New Mexico* draws on numberless scientific studies and surveys and includes data from rehab people and shelters across the State on diseases and injuries sustained by raptors. Included are stories from the field such as rare observations of skirmishes in the skies and clumsy fledglings crashing to the ground.

Profusely illustrated with more than seven hundred color photos, this wonderful book celebrates both New Mexico's birds of prey and our State's natural heritage.

All birders must own it!

Book review printed with permission from Gale Moore, Publisher, The Glenwood Gazette and Dave Remley.

www.abcbirds.org/pesticides

#2 KEEP YOUR CAT INDOORS!. Even well-fed cats kill birds. Keep them inside, and not only will the birds be safer, your cat will be healthier and safer too. For information on how to make your cat a happy indoor cat, local cat laws, and resources, see www.abcbirds.org/cats.

#1 Join an organization like Southwestern New Mexico Audubon or American Bird Conservancy. As individuals there is only so much we can do for birds. But as part of an organization with the expertise, broad reach and partnership capacity, you can make a difference for wild birds and their habitats, locally, nationally and internationally. Visit www.swnmaudubon.org

7th Annual Gila River Festival Sept. 15–18

¡Viva El Rio Gila – Wild and Free!

The untamed Gila River is one of the last of its kind in the southwest. Scrolling across its floodplain, the Gila nurtures healthy bosques of native trees and a diverse array of wildlife. Over 300 species of bird have been recorded in the Gila Valley. The river's streamside habitat supports wildlife ranging from the reclusive Mexican gray wolf to the threatened loach minnow and the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. No large dams impede the natural flow of water that is critical to the health of this riparian jewel.

There are hikes, workshops, exhibits, talks, cleanups, tours, films, parade and more—all relating to the river.

For more details and dates call 575/538-8078 or go to www.gilaconservation.org.



SAVE PAPER & POSTAGE:

Receive The RAVENS On-line

Please help us conserve by having your issue of The RAVENS sent directly to you on-line.

Contact Membership Chairman Terry Timme at terrydianna@live.com or 534-4389