



[swnmaudubon.org](http://swnmaudubon.org)

# THE RAVENS

## Newsletter

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

January — February 2012

Vol. 44, No. 1

### PROGRAMS\*

#### Friday, February 3, 2012

#### Get Ready for Spring with Native Plants for Wildlife

Tricia Hurley's presentation will illustrate the importance of native plantings in enhancing habitat for our wild neighbors. She will emphasize the many aesthetic and ecological benefits of specific plant species. Learn why these often overlooked yet beautiful plants deserve prominent space in our healthy landscapes.

After working as a field biologist for Hawk Watch International, the Forest Service and AZ Game & Fish Department's Research Branch for 11 years, Tricia Hurley settled in Silver City with her husband Mark Cantrell, both avid bird watchers and botanists, to raise their children. Tricia was one of the founding members of the Gila Conservation Education Center and continues to provide education opportunities as the Education Chair of Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society.

Join us at 7PM at WNMU's Harlan Hall 12th & Alabama Streets, Silver City. Everyone welcome.

\* *There is no January Program meeting scheduled.*

#### *Chapter Awarded State Collaborative Funding for Cooperative Project*

Annually, the State Audubon Council has funding available for the four state chapters to propose a project they deem to be worthy. SWNM Audubon Board of Directors member Terry Timme and Dan Hintz (our November speaker and AmeriCorps/Vista staff member with Gila Resources Information Project) wrote a proposal that was recently awarded full funding. SWNM Audubon and GRIP, will create a brochure that highlights the birds, natural history, and hiking trails of San Vicente Creek, Boston Hill and La Capilla wetlands.

We are excited to be working with GRIP to create this excellent resource for our local area residents and visitors. The guide should be available this Spring and will be accompanied with a series of guided hikes.

### FIELD TRIPS

#### Saturday, January 7, 2012

#### *The Gila Bird Area & Bill Evans Lake*

Meet 8:00 AM Saturday 7th Jan, Fine Arts Center (south parking lot). We'll carpool to the Gila bird area and check along the river for wintering duck, as well as checking the fields and woodland edges for wintering birds. There's always a good variety of birds even without the migrants and summer visitors, and wintering species could include Green-Tailed Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Belted Kingfisher, various woodpeckers, and a range of possible sparrows. We'll also check Bill Evans Lake for wintering duck and grebes.

Note that travel involves dirt roads which, though usually in good condition, may be muddy given the wet winter we've had to date. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended. Bring drinks and lunch. Dress appropriately. We should be back by mid-afternoon.

### Saturday, February 4, 2012

#### *Animas Valley & Lordsburg Sewage Ponds*

Meet 7:30AM at the Fine Arts Center south parking lot. We'll carpool along Hwy 90 to Lordsburg where we'll make a brief stop to check the sewage ponds for wintering duck and grebes—cranes are also a possibility. Then we'll continue to the Animas junction of I-10 and south through Cotton City and Animas to the Diamond A Ranch area in the bootheel of New Mexico. Here we can expect large mixed sparrow flocks that should test our identification skills—several comparatively unusual species are possible in this area. There should also be a range of birds of prey; Prairie Falcon and Northern Harrier are strong possibilities.

The southern end of this trip will be on a dirt road which may be muddy; high clearance should not be needed but four-wheel drive is strongly recommended. Bring drinks and lunch; because of the distance, this will be a full-day trip, probably getting back to Silver City late afternoon/early evening.

For more information on field trips contact Field Trip Leader Brian Dolton at 388-4210.

# Showcase Display for SWNM Audubon at Silver City Public Library



*Education chairperson Tricia Hurley putting together display at the Public Library.*

The Silver City Public Library featured a display for SWNM Audubon Society during the month of December.

Tricia Hurley, Education Chair for SWNMAS with the help of Patricia Taber and beautiful photos of birds loaned for the display by member of the Board of Directors Elroy Limmer, all together made up an exciting display in the upstairs showcase.

Tricia focused on Bird Migration, her classroom instruction/game for 4th & 5th grade children to learn about the benefits and downfalls of migrating birds. The display also publicized the Annual Christmas Bird Count, Programs and shows the colorfully illustrated Bird ID cards available for sale at program meetings and our new Pocket-sized Checklist of the Birds available for sale at Program meetings and Field Trips.

Elroy Limmer's large color photographs of birds made the display quite attractive.

## **Audubon Membership Options**

There is probably a lot of confusion (or no knowledge) about membership in Audubon that hopefully we can clear up. There are two related Audubon organizations: National Audubon Society (NAS) and Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society (SWNMA) and you can be a member of either one or both. Both organizations share the mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity, wildlife and the earth's biological diversity.

Membership in NAS is \$20 per year and includes a subscription to Audubon magazine. It also supports the multiple activities of NAS throughout the United States. A small portion, about \$3, comes back to SWNMA directly or occasionally in the form of collaborative funding from the State organization, New Mexico Audubon, comprised of four New Mexico chapters. NAS shares its mailing list with SWNMA so that we may mail NAS members pertinent information. To become a member of NAS call 800-876-0994 or visit their website at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

The SWNMA chapter membership is \$15 per year and includes a subscription to the bi-monthly newsletter *The Ravens*. ALL dues paid to SWNMA are used locally to support activities of this chapter. Educational activities we have supported and been involved in include The Gila River Festival, Children's Water Festival, Earth Day, birding and wolf education in schools through the "trunk" program with Gila Conservation Education Center and our Education Chair's classroom instruction. The local chapter also promotes monitoring and identification of birds through the annual Raptor Count, Christmas Bird Count, and Migration Day bird



*Tricia ready to close the door on completed showcase.*

counts as well as monthly field trips. The chapter also strives to keep people informed through the monthly programs and our website [www.swnmaudubon.org](http://www.swnmaudubon.org).

You can join the SWNMA chapter by filling out the membership form in this issue of *The Ravens*. If you are a member of NAS we hope you will consider also joining SWNMA.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Annual NMOS Meeting 3/31/12**

Albuquerque will be hosting the 50th annual meeting of the New Mexico Ornithological Society at the Best Western Rio Grande. Details will be posted on the NMOS website.

## **Ghost Bird–Ivory-billed Woodpecker Documentary to be Rescheduled**

This documentary film was not shown on Friday, December 2nd as planned because the meeting had to be cancelled because of a winter storm.

A showing will be rescheduled in the future and announcement will be made in the *Ravens*.

# REMINDER: Recycling at SWNM Audubon's Monthly Programs

Recently the options to recycle in Silver City and Grant County have expanded considerably. You can get details on the websites of the town [www.townofsilvercity.org](http://www.townofsilvercity.org) or the county [www.grantcountynm.com](http://www.grantcountynm.com)

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon is striving to increase your recycling opportunities even further by offering a drop off for the following items at our monthly meetings:

- Inkjet cartridges
- Laser toner cartridges

- Burned-out, unbroken Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL's)
- Rechargeable batteries
- Cell phones

Just bring these items with you to our monthly program meeting and we will see that they are properly recycled.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Will be Held February 17-20, 2012

The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada. Visit the official website at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for more information.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the *Cornell Lab of Ornithology* and the *National Audubon Society* learn more about how birds are doing – and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 92,000 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to get outside with family and friends, have fun, and help birds—all at the same time. Anyone who can identify even a few species, from novice bird watchers to experts can provide important information that enables scientists to learn more about how the environment is changing and how that affects our conservation priorities. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

### SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORS

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**Birding Trail Map Coordinator**  
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**Publications**  
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ptaber@live.com

### 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  
PO Box 1473  
Silver City, NM 88062

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you have an email address you will receive THE RAVENS newsletter via email. If you prefer a print version mailed to you, please check here; YES\_\_ NO\_\_

The Chapter has a monthly online Bird Sighting Report available via email. Please check below if you wish to be on the mailing list to receive this report; YES\_\_ NO\_\_



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

## **Marian Allen Zimmerman**



*This photo of Marian was made 8 km. east of Arriaga, Chiapas, Mexico 18 March 2008, on her last foreign birding trip.*

Marian Zimmerman died in Silver City on November 26, 2011, at age 81.

Few of our current members are aware that Marian was a vital founding member of this organization (Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society) and that it was the first affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society in the state of New Mexico. She was also among the founders of The Gila Chapter of the New Mexico Native Plant Society.

In 2008 Marian was formally honored for her 40 years of active participation wearing many hats in this Audubon Chapter and numerous conservation efforts.

She accompanied her husband Dale on wildlife and birding trips to all the continents around the world resulting in Marian's "life list" of birds seen in the wild exceeding 4,000 species.

Marian will be missed by many.