



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

JAMES S. PRITCHARD

James S. Pritchard, 78, entered eternal rest on October 18, 2011.

Jim will be missed by this chapter of Audubon where he was on the Board of Directors as Member at Large for many years. He enjoyed distributing our newsletter THE RAVENS to places in Silver City and surrounding towns.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...Interesting Upcoming Events

2011 Festival of the Cranes November 15-20, 2011



For the 24th year, the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge celebrates the return of the cranes with this popular and acclaimed Festival! Over 100 lectures, workshops, displays, tours, hikes and hands-on activities

are planned, ranging from the popular Sandhill Crane Behavior to special photography tours to socializing with locals on the Plaza. 2011 promises to be one of the greatest years yet, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Join the excitement of another great FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES! See www.festivalofthecranes.com for updates.

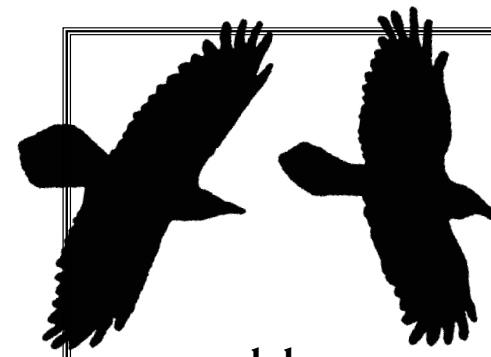
**Save the Date: April 19–22nd
Sonoran Desert Ecology Institute**

Catalina State Park, Tucson AZ is the location for this outdoor nature study program put on by Tucson Audubon. Camp out and study how the Sonoran desert ecosystem works. Includes studies on plants, animals and physical characteristics of the desert. Fee is \$460 per person. Online registration and more information at the website: www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/education.html

Save the Date: March 31, 2012

50th Annual NMOS Meeting

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.



swnmaudubon.org

THE RAVENS
Newsletter

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

November — December 2011 Vol. 43, No. 5

PROGRAMS*
Friday, November 4, 2011

Citizen Science: Environmental Monitoring and Community Stewardship in San Vicente Creek



Dan Hinz on San Vicente Creek

Dan Hinz, an Americorps OSM/VISTA volunteer working with the Gila Resources Information Project will give our November presentation. Dan's program will explore the wide array of stewardship activities that are taking place in and along San Vicente Creek in Silver City. These projects include trail development, outdoor education, wetland restoration, farming, youth conservation corps crews and environmental

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

FIELD TRIPS*
Saturday, November 5, 2011

Birding Destination: Lake Roberts

Gather at 8AM in the south parking lot of the Fine Arts Building at WNMU to carpool for a trip to Lake Roberts where we will be looking for wintering duck, late fall migrants, and other early winter visitors. Scouting the lake found several duck had already arrived (including 30+ mergansers) while other fall migrants included three marsh wrens (no guarantees they'll still be around), but there were excellent, close-up views of them.

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

There will be no organised field trips in December or January due to the two Christmas Bird Counts and the Annual Raptor Count. Regular first-Saturday of the month Field Trips will resume in February.

***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.

monitoring. Most of this work is performed by non-profits, community volunteers and students. He will discuss the history of the Silver City Watershed Keepers (SCWK), a program started by GRIP in the summer of 2010 to train citizen volunteers in water and environmental monitoring while collecting valuable data about the health of San Vicente Creek, which is impacted by legacy mining and non point source pollution. Dan will share his perspective from his involvement in many of these stewardship projects and present the many opportunities available to get involved and make San Vicente Creek a thriving riparian area that can provide many beneficial functions to the community, including excellent bird habitat.

See next page for photo of the Watershed Keepers



This photo was taken at the SCWK (Silver City Watershed Keepers) event this past March on the location in the Big Ditch which is the first of three monitoring locations on San Vicente Creek.

PROGRAMS* cont'd Friday, December 2, 2011

Ghost Bird—Ivory-billed Woodpecker

This month's program will show a DVD about the "re-discovery" of the Ivory-billed woodpecker. This critically acclaimed environmental documentary from director, Scott Crocker, explores the much publicized remarkable re-discovery 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.

Showing is at Harlan Hall at 7PM. Everyone is welcome, light refreshments to follow, as will, most likely, a discussion about the film!

Recycling Now Available at SWNM Audubon's Monthly Program

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 or the county www.grantcountynm.com

We are 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.

COUNT BIRDS!

Raptor Count — Sat., December 3

This annual survey consists of various parties driving roads in the southwestern part of the state counting the various raptors they detect. There are always routes available so if anyone is interested in participating, call Roland Shook – 388.3441 for a route assignment.

Silver City CBC—Sat., December 17

The count in and around Silver City will take place Saturday Dec 17. For assigned territories contact Karen Beckenbach at 388.2386 or kbeck@signalpeak.net or Rinda Metz at 534.0160 or rindametz@wildblue.net

International Nature Photography Contest

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver brings you an opportunity to share your beautiful nature photos and have a chance to win up to \$1,000. Any images of the natural world are welcomed-including landscapes, flowers, wildlife, macro shots, aerials, behaviors, portraits, underwater, abstracts, black & whites, and even urban wildlife. Enter as many images as you like for an entry fee of \$10 per image. The top 10 entries will be awarded cash prizes and the best 250 images will be featured on the contest website throughout 2012.

Proceeds from the contest benefits the Audubon Society of Greater Denver's education, conservation and research programs--a great way to support a premier nature organization, show the beauty of your surroundings, and receive recognition of your photographic efforts.

Visit <http://denveraudubon.contestvenue.com> to enter your photos and register to receive email updates and contest tips.

November 15—

What is America Recycles Day?

It is a special day America has set aside to remind all of us how important recycling is.

Started in 1997, America Recycles Day (ARD), November 15, is the only nationally recognized day in the USA dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and to buy recycled products.

Join us in our effort to help us live on a cleaner planet.



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

Date _____ Phone # _____

Mail to: SWNMAS

T. Timme, Membership Chairman

PO Box 1473

Silver City, NM 88062

Name _____

Email* _____

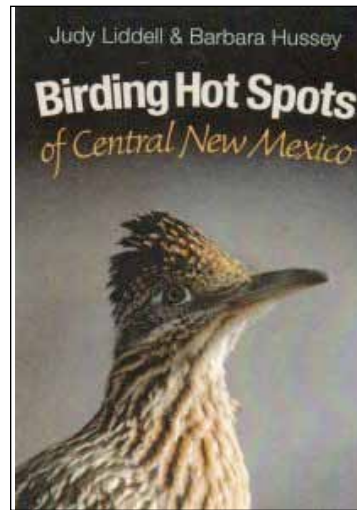
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

*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__



New Bird-finding Site Guide:

Birding Hot Spots of Central New Mexico

There are more than 300 bird species in central New Mexico, including sought-after specialties such as the Greater Roadrunner, wintering Sandhill Cranes and the three species of Rosy-Finch, the area is a draw for both visitors and residents alike. The mission of the book, published by Texas A & M University Press as part of their W.L. Moody Jr. Natural History Series, is to provide user-friendly resources to help both new and experienced birders locate convenient places to enjoy their passion, or to assist visitors and newcomers to locate specific bird species.

From pine forest to desert scrub, from alpine meadow to riparian wetland, Albuquerque and its surrounding area in New Mexico offer an appealing variety of wildlife habitat.

Judy Liddell and Barbara Hussey share their intimate

knowledge of the best places to find birds in and around this important region.

There are 29 different site descriptions organized by habitat, such as Sandia Foothills and Along the Rio Grande. Each site contains the following information:

- general description including habitat,
 - list of target birds and where and when to look for them,
 - other birds that can be seen,
 - driving directions and public transportation routes,
 - parking and fees,
 - special considerations and hazards, such as poison ivy, rattlesnakes and bears,
 - location of nearest restrooms, whether water and picnic tables are at the site, and nearest food and lodging.
- Maps are provided for many of the sites. The book includes a "helpful information" section that discusses weather, altitude, safety, transportation, and other local birding resources. The American Birding Association's code of birding ethics appears in the back of the book, along with an annotated checklist of 222 bird species seen with some regularity in and around Albuquerque. You will be able to purchase this book at the Silver City Museum.

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