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THE RAVENS

Newsletter

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society
is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

August — September — October 2017 Vol. 50, No. 4

SWNMAS Monthly Program Meeting Friday October 6 at 7PM From River to Mountains; Silver City Monarch Aware*

By Steve Cary & Dale Zimmerman

Monarch migration is well documented in the eastern U. S. and on the West Coast, but what about Monarchs in New Mexico? How many do we have? Do they breed here? Do they migrate through New Mexico? Who is doing restoration for Monarchs? What lessons have we learned? What are the conservation gaps and resources available? Multi-generational migration is unique to butterflies and the diverse ecosystems within New Mexico provide ample opportunities for migrating Monarchs. However, many questions remain unanswered and more research is needed. Join Steve Cary and Dr. Dale Zimmerman where they will discuss current Monarch trends, information gaps and will show beautiful Monarch images.

DR. DALE ZIMMERMAN is a Professor Emeritus at Western New Mexico University. Although best known as an ornithologist, he earned three degrees in botany from the University of Michigan. He is a lifelong naturalist, accomplished artist, and photographer with broad biological interests. His life's work was recently recognized by the American Birding Association with the prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for Contributions in Regional Ornithology.

STEVEN J. CARY

Steve was born and educated in Wisconsin where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Geography from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with emphasis in river geomorphology. After arriving in New Mexico in 1980, Steve worked for 18 years helping to protect the State's rivers and aquifers as a water resource specialist and manager with the NM Environment Department and then Deputy Director of the state's Office of Natural Resources Trustee. In 1999, Steve became NM State Park's Natural Resource Planner and Chief Naturalist until recent retirement. While working for NM State Parks, he co-created the Park's interpretation and education programs which included natural resource inventories and interpretive presentations. He also created the "Reach for the Stars" astronomy program while working for NM State Parks.

Steve is passionate about butterflies and, in his spare



*Photo of pupae and larvae
by Dale Zimmerman.*



*Adult Monarch by
Mike Fugagli.*



time over nearly 30 years, studied and photographed them with many resulting scientific reports and popular articles. Steve has become New Mexico's unofficial "Butterfly Guy" and frequently gives butterfly walks and lectures, and is the author of *Butterfly Landscapes of New Mexico*.

***See last page for Associated Activities:**

• **Monarch Tagging Workshop**

• **Community Program**



Birds & Brews ~ on 4th Thursdays

SWNM Audubon's informal gatherings in the back room of the Little Toad Creek Inn, corner of Broadway & Bullard Silver City, at 5:15PM.

AUGUST 24-

KAREN BLISARD & RUSS KLEINMAN

Birds of Trinidad and Tobago

The islands of Trinidad and Tobago offer the best neo-Tropical birding in the Caribbean, being right off the coast of Venezuela. We spent a week there in January, birding and photographing the marvelous array of birds, including the Oilbird, the Trinidad Piping Guan, and thousands of Scarlet Ibis.

SEPTEMBER 28-LYNN HAUGEN

My Life Among Laughing Frogs in the Amazonian Rainforest

Tropical frogs exhibit an amazing array of reproductive strategies, including parental care by one or the other parent. For my dissertation research, I spent two years in a remote sector of the Peruvian Amazon searching for evidence of biparental care, in which both parents care for their offspring.

OCTOBER 26-PATRICIA TABER

Adventures in Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan mountains produce much high quality shade-grown coffee. What they also offer are excellent cloud-forest tropical birding. The "off-the-grid" El Jaguar Ecodge combines sustainable organic coffee growing with conservation and opportunities to observe the local flora, fauna and birds. The trip ended with tours of the old Colonial architecture of the capital, Managua, and Lake Nicaragua's Grenada.

We encourage attendees to order food and drink to support the Toad. Since the room capacity is limited, we require an RSVP to an email announcement of the meeting, which will be sent out a week ahead of time. Audubon members receive the announcement first, as a benefit of membership. If you are not a chapter member but would like to receive notification send your email address to swnmaudubon@gmail.com

August 5-6, 2017 Hummingbird Festival at Mimbres Culture Heritage Site

This year the Hummingbird Festival will be held at a new location. On August 5 and 6, the festival will be held at the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site, 12 Sage Drive, just off Highway 35. For more information, call Marilyn Markel at 575.536.9337 or Kathy Hill at 575.536.3161 or cell 307.640.3012



Grant County's Big Weekend- Migratory Bird Day

Migratory Bird Day celebrates one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird — the journey between its winter and summer homes. A mid-May date is celebrated worldwide with bird festivals, bird walks, education programs, and bird counts.

Cornell sponsors a Global Big Day on May 13 to help protect birds and the natural places needed for the health of our planet. This year's results reported 1479 species in all of North America with 633 in the Lower 48 states. All of South America reported 2497 species. Columbia the highest country count with 1781. Worldwide, 5974 species were counted.

Southwestern NM Audubon celebrated by having a Grant County Big Weekend event from noon May 12 to noon May 14, 2017. Individual participants or teams counted as many different species of birds as they could, inside Grant County borders.

Teams who participated were Jim and Jackie Blurton who tallied 56 species and the team of Karen Beckenbach, Teri Matelson, Greg Baker and Patricia Taber tallied 68 species.

Individual birders who reported were Megan Ruehmann with 111 species and Brian Dolton with 117 species. Congratulations Brian for winning the highest weekend total!

Taking part in the count provides a great opportunity to get outdoors to enjoy the spring weather. All are encouraged to join next year. The Big Weekend culminated with a joint picnic with the Gila Native Plant Society at the Little Walnut Picnic area — a time for sharing great food and friendships.

How the Shifting Timing of Spring Greenery Is Affecting Birds



Northern Parula.

Dennis Derby/Audubon Photography Awards

A new study in Scientific Reports shows that some migratory songbirds are struggling to keep pace with climate change, which is shifting the timing of spring flowers blooming and the first leaves emerging. Scarlet Tanagers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Northern Parulas, and Indigo Buntings are a few of the popular migrants discussed in this recent article on Audubon.org



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**SAVE THE DATE-FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1ST**

Potluck Picnic & Election of Officers

Please join your friends in Southwestern New Mexico Audubon at our annual potluck picnic at the Little Walnut West group-use pavilion on September 1st.

We will begin gathering at 4:00PM. That will allow time for birding and conversation—or, horseshoe game anyone? There is a horseshoe pit and volleyball area there. Bring your equipment and play! Plan to start eating our potluck picnic at 5:00PM.

Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, eating utensils and drinks.

After sharing the fine food we will hold a short meeting for our bi-annual election of officers. A nominating committee made up of Allison Boyd, Elroy Limmer and Jackie Blurton selected the following nominees to be on the board of directors.

President: Terry Timme

Vice President: Lisa Fields

Secretary: Rachelle Bergmann

Treasurer: Allison Boyd

Member at-large: Elroy Limmer

Member at-large: Jackie Blurton

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

If you are interested in serving on the board, we would love to have you join us. There are other appointed positions where you are also welcome to contribute your talents.



**13th Annual Gila River Festival
September 21-24, 2017, Silver City, NM**

The event offers a wide range of experiences to bring you closer to understanding the uniqueness of New Mexico's last free-flowing river. Check out the full schedule at www.gilariverfestival.org

From River to Mountains; Silver City Monarch Aware

***ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES**

Oct. 6th and 7th—

Two day Monarch Tagging Workshop

Sponsored by Butterfly Way (an activity of the Ella Jaz Watershed Project) and the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. Contact Patrice Mutchnick for more information: patriceontheroad@gmail.com

Oct. 6th afternoon —join NM lepidopterist, Steve Cary at Silva Creek Botanical Gardens where he will talk about the Monarch life cycle and conservation. Monarch tagging will be demonstrated and milkweed plants will be available to plant in your own garden. Check our website for more details as they become available or contact Patrice Mutchnick for more information: patriceontheroad@gmail.com

Oct. 7th morning—On Saturday morning, a follow-up field trip will take place to tag Monarchs, location TBA. Participation limit is 25. Check our website for more details as they become available swnmaudubon.org or contact Patrice Mutchnick for more information: patriceontheroad@gmail.com

Seaside Sparrows Caught Between Predators & Rising Seas

Sea-level rise is a problem for salt-marsh birds, but so is predation, and birds sometimes find themselves caught between two threats: They can nest lower in vegetation to avoid predators, putting them at risk of flooding, or move up to keep dry but risk getting eaten. A new study finds that pressure from predators increases flooding risk for seaside sparrow nests — but that protecting them from predators could also mitigate the effects of climate change.

“Nest predation rates are so high right now that even under extreme sea level rise conditions, more nests are likely to be eaten than flooded, any estimates of the negative effects of sea level rise on the nesting success of Seaside Sparrow or other species are likely underestimates if they do not also consider the negative effects of predation on flooding risk.

Regardless of the threat, it is increasingly clear that tidal marsh birds and their habitats are in trouble, and that we need to explore a range of potential solutions to find ways to help them persist in light of the many ways that humans are changing coastal habitats.

Elizabeth A. Hunter, The Condor, July 2017 (AOU)