



# THE RAVENS

## Newsletter

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

May — June — July 2018 Vol. 51, No. 3

### “In the Americas” host David Yetman Presents May 4<sup>th</sup> Program

The May monthly meeting of SWNMA will feature David Yetman, writer, host and producer of the series “In The Americas with David Yetman.” The program will feature Dr. Yetman talking about and screening his recent episode, “Brazil’s Pantanal Wetland: The world’s largest fresh water wetland,” to be aired in season 7. The program starts at 7PM on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at WNMU’s Harlan Hall, 12<sup>th</sup> and Alabama Streets,



*David Yetman, will screen a recent episode from his series, “In the Americas.”*

“In the Americas with David Yetman” is an Emmy Award-winning television series that presents a new approach to travel and adventure, weaving together the landscapes, culture and history of the Western Hemisphere. The series is based on the premise that each country embodies features that have not received the attention they deserve on the world stage. The series, by multiple Emmy Award-winning producer & director Dan Duncan, along with David Yetman, airs on PBS in the United States and Arte France in France, Germany and Austria. Past programs can be viewed at the website for the series, <http://intheamericas.org>

David Yetman is a research social scientist who has been with the Southwest Center since 1992. The Southwest Center is a research unit of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Arizona. He received his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Arizona in 1972. Yetman’s research has been primarily directed towards the state of Sonora, its indigenous people, their history, and how they have incorporated native resources into their lives. Yetman received an Emmy Award in 2007 for his documentary television work. He has authored numerous books and is also the host of the PBS series “The Desert Speaks.” The epitome of a “desert rat,” Yetman has lived in the Southwest for over 50 years

The presentation is free and the public is welcome. Light refreshments follow.

Our first Friday programs will resume in October.

### Successful Plant Share at Earth Day



T. TIMME PHOTO

*A long line of people waited patiently to obtain a free plant.*

SWNMA handed out 100 bird-friendly native plants and 200 packets of sunflower seeds at Earth Day April 21 in Gough Park.

Sharing native plants with the community coincided with Mayor Ken Ladner’s proclamation of April 21, being **Bird, Butterfly, and Bee Friendly Day in Silver City**. In addition to distributing plants, SWNMA also handed out our new B3-friendly brochure that explains why we need birds, butterflies and bees and what people can do to help them and protect them.

The plants included a shrub, Autumn Sage, whose red flowers attract hummingbirds and bees. There was also a selection of perennial flowering plants such as yarrow, purple coneflower, blanket flower, Mexican hat, and Black-eyed Susan. All are beneficial for birds, butterflies and bees.

The plants were purchased locally from Country Girls Nursery. Funding for the event was provided by a grant from the “Plants for Birds” program of the National Audubon Society’s Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants. SWNMA was one of only 39 chapters nationwide to receive funding. Generous support was also obtained from the Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce.

### Mayor’s Proclamation



RACHELLE BERGMANN PHOTO

*At the Town of Silver City’s April 10 Town Council meeting Mayor Ladner read a proclamation declaring Saturday, April 21 as “Bird, Butterfly and Bee Friendly Silver City Day”*

Raising funds for local conservation and education

## BIRDATHON to Raise Chapter Funds

Audubon NM is sponsoring a statewide 2018 Birdathon. This will be an opportunity for SWNMA members to help earn donations for our chapter and support citizen science. The Birdathon is similar to previous Big Weekends that SWNMA has held but is limited to only one day during the first three weeks of May.

There are five teams from Northern and Central New Mexico and three from our chapter going head to head to find as many birds as possible within a continuous 24-hour period. Descriptions of all the teams are on the website <http://nm.audubon.org>. You can also make a donation for the team(s) of your choice at this website.

We are fortunate to have some of the top birders in our chapter on the teams. Each of our teams consists of two people and they have chosen a mascot to represent their team. Team Buff, made up of Jarrod Swackhamer and Jess DeMoss, chose the **Buff-breasted flycatcher** as their mascot, since Jarrod has the first Grant County sighting of the bird. Team Black-cap has the **Black-capped vireo** as their mascot. Julian Lee and Lynn Haugen make up the team and chose this mascot because Julian has one of the few documented sightings in New Mexico of this rare bird typically only found in Central Texas. Our third team, Team Megan and John, is comprised of Megan Ruehmann and John Moeny. Their mascot is the **Mexican spotted owl** because it is a beautiful raptor that makes the Gila Wilderness its home.

Please support our teams in their competition with other birders in the state. Half of your donations made at: [nm.audubon.org](http://nm.audubon.org) will be returned to the chapter.



## Joint Picnic with GNPS May 13<sup>th</sup>

The third annual picnic, co-hosted with the Gila Native Plant Society, will be held on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> in the covered pavilion at Little Walnut, by the Gomez Peak trailhead. You are welcome to show up as early as noon, with food being served at 1:00. Audubon will provide hot dogs, buns and condiments. Gila NPS will provide drinks. Please bring a dish to share and your plates, cups and eating utensils. We also hope to have preliminary results from the Birdathon available.

Support  
SWNM at  
Give Grandly



Many of you have probably heard and participated in the annual Grant County fundraising event for local non-profits called Give Grandly. SWNMA will be participating this year for the first time. We will have a Give Grandly table on May 5, the opening day of the Silver City Farmers' Market, at 7<sup>th</sup> and Bullard Street from 8:30AM – 2:30PM. Come down to meet us, other nonprofits, and learn about the great work we're doing in this community.

If you can't make it downtown that day, you can also make donations online at: [givegrandly.org](http://givegrandly.org)

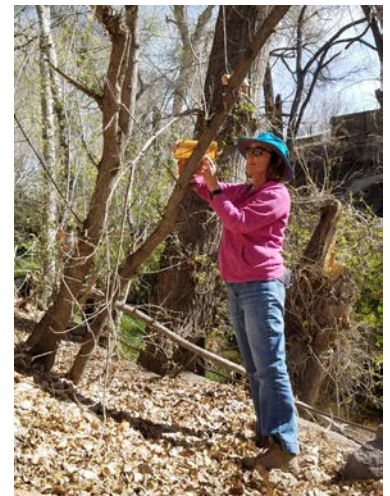
## Houses for WREnt

On a beautiful spring day in early April members of SWNMA gathered at the Big Ditch to provide new homes for wrens that live in Silver City's Big Ditch Park. Members who helped put up the houses were Greg Baker, Rachelle Bergmann, Allison Boyd, Sara Boyett, Susan Brown, Wiley Hudson, Diane Maughan, Chris Overlock, and Terry Timme. Steve Glass, visiting from Albuquerque joined in the fun.

A grant from New Mexico Clean and Beautiful to the Town of Silver City provided funds to purchase the cedar wren houses. Both House wrens and Bewick's wrens frequent the area. Both are welcome to take up residence. SWNMA will not be charging them any rent!



*Rachelle Bergmann stands under the wren house she hung in the Big Ditch.*



*Allison Boyd, above, and Chris Overlock, below, helped hang the wren houses.*





### *Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Appreciates Snakes*

*Attendees at the April chapter meeting lingered for over an hour with Melissa Amarello (center with glasses and dark blue ASP T-shirt) and Jeff Smith (to her left in plaid shirt) to chat about snakes.*

The April monthly program, The Social Lives of Rattlesnakes, was attended by a record crowd of people. Presenter Melissa Amarello showed numerous video clips and photographs of two different dens of Arizona Black Rattlesnakes. Detailed analysis of the videos, that took over two years to complete, indicates that they form relationships that can be termed “friendships.” The goal of ASP is to change people’s attitudes towards snakes, just as other groups have positively influenced attitudes about sharks, spiders and bats. The crowd was also enthralled by the two live snakes that Melissa and Advocates for Snake Preservation (ASP) co-founder Jeff Smith brought to the meeting as ambassadors of goodwill.

### **San Vicente Creek Trail Update**

On April 14th Jackie Blurton led a field trip with 4 other chapter members on the San Vicente Creek trail to both look for early spring migrants and to look for improvements that will keep ATVs off the trail.

Some early arriving birds were seen such as Wilson’s warbler and Common black hawk but the highlight of the trip was finding a nesting pair of Cooper’s hawks.

There did not appear to be any recent damage to the trail from ATVs, probably thanks to gates having been installed at the trailhead under the Hwy 90 bridge and at Corbin Street. The situation is not as good at the south end of the trail. Fences and several gates had been taken down by contractors working in the area. The town is attempting to get those repaired. If you find fences or gates that have been damaged, please call the town manager, Alex Brown, at 575-534-6358.

It would be helpful if people could walk the trail regularly and report any changes to trail access such as cut fences or open gates, or recent damage by ATVs. If you see ATVs on trails in Silver City where they are not allowed, call Central Dispatch, 575-388-8840. The SC police chief has made it a priority to cite ATVs for riding in restricted areas. If there are officers available, they will try to find the ATV. Provide the best description you can of the ATV and rider(s), and the location. A photograph would be useful. Even if no officer is available at the time, or they can’t find the ATV, the call does go into the records and builds up a history of concern, and helps identify areas where police might patrol later. Also let us know via email at [swnmaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:swnmaudubon@gmail.com)

**You can become a member of  
SWNM AUDUBON Online at:  
[swnmaudubon.org](http://swnmaudubon.org)**

### **SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY DIRECTORS 2017-2019**

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|--|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b><br>Terry Timme, 912-1303<br><a href="mailto:swnmaudubon@gmail.com">swnmaudubon@gmail.com</a>                                  | <b>AT-LARGE-MEMBERS</b><br>Elroy Limmer, 538-5513<br><a href="mailto:elroy.limmer@gmail.com">elroy.limmer@gmail.com</a>       |
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| <b>CONSERVATION</b><br>Lisa Fields, 534-9284<br><a href="mailto:lafields@powerc.net">lafields@powerc.net</a>                                   | <b>PUBLICATIONS</b><br>Patricia Taber, 534-0879<br>Editor- The Ravens<br><a href="mailto:ptaber@live.com">ptaber@live.com</a> |
| Ken Sexton, 919-548-4219<br>B3 (Bird, Butterfly & Bee)<br>Friendly – Coordinator<br><a href="mailto:ken_sexton@unc.edu">ken_sexton@unc.edu</a> | <b>RAVENS DISTRIBUTION</b><br>Nancy Evey, 534-9260  |
|  | <b>WEBMASTER</b><br>Teri Matelson, <a href="mailto:t@tmatelson.com">t@tmatelson.com</a>                                       |
|  | <b>WEBSITE:</b> <a href="http://swnmaudubon.org">swnmaudubon.org</a>  |



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

***SWNMA Has Produced New Brochure***

## Special Audubon in Deming Meeting

Audubon in Deming will host a special informative meeting at 5:15PM on May 3 at Andres Z. Silva Conference Center, 119 E. Pine, Deming. Guest Speaker, Jorge Figueroa, a senior water policy analyst, will return to Deming to talk about water conservation and reuse projects that Deming could invest in today with available federal funding from the Arizona Water Settlements Act.

He will describe four, well-proven, local water projects that secure a future water supply for Deming beyond 2060, while protecting the Gila River.

Figueroa focuses on the traditional and cultural heritage of southwestern New Mexico communities. After a summer break, Deming in Audubon programs will resume on a quarterly basis. Meetings will be announced in this newsletter and via email.



## Our Swallow Neighbors

In response to threats to Cliff swallow nests on buildings in the community last year we have produced a factsheet, *Our Swallow Neighbors*, with information on why swallows make good neighbors. A copy can be found on our website. It was made possible with a collaborative funding grant from National Audubon Society.

We have also initiated a citizen science project to survey the number of Cliff swallow nests in Silver City. This survey will focus on areas within Town limits, and will concentrate on the WNMU campus, where we believe most Cliff swallows nest. The campus has recently installed nesting barriers on buildings over high public use areas.

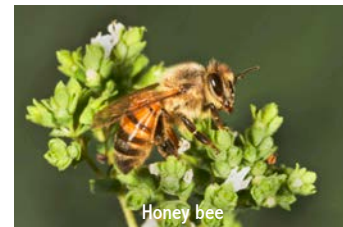
You can participate in this project by using the survey form that is on our website. Once we identify where the swallows are nesting, we will organize teams to monitor specific nest sites to see how the young fare over the nesting season.

If you would like more information, please call Carol Fugagli at 575-956-3301 or email us at [swnmaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:swnmaudubon@gmail.com)

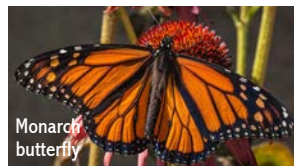


## We Need Birds, Butterflies and Bees!

- Birds eat insects that can harm people and damage crops
- Butterflies and bees pollinate food and flowering plants



Eloy Limmer photos



## What Can You Do for a Bird, Butterfly and Bee B3-friendly Silver City?

With collaborative funding from National Audubon Society, we have published a color brochure, *We Need Birds, Butterflies and Bees!*

The brochure offers guidance on providing them food, shelter and a safe environment along with some suggested native plants that do well here and are beneficial for birds, butterflies and bees.

The eight-panel brochure is available at local nurseries and other locations around town as well as online at [www.swnmaudubon.org](http://www.swnmaudubon.org)