



August 2024 Update

This Month's Features

- ✦ Sing Like a Bird
 - ✦ Thursday Birder Donations
 - ✦ Birding in Western New Mexico
 - ✦ Lights Out for Fall Migration
 - ✦ NM Water Management Needs Your Input
-

Thursday Birders

August 1st

Balsam Glade and Capulin Springs
Sandia Mountains
7:50am - 12:00 Noon
Perrienne Houghton

August 15th

Durand Open Space, South Valley
8:00am - 11:00am
Leader: TBD

August 22nd

Cienega Canyon
8:00am - 11:00am
George Perry

August 8th

Alameda Bosque Trail
8:00am - 11:00am
Mary Rajc

Please Check

<https://www.bacnm.org/thursday-birders/>
For last minute change and updates

August 29th

Otero Canyon
7:50am - 11:00am
Perrienne Houghton

Calendar

August 15th and 22nd

Learn to Birdwatch Classroom Sessions

ABQ Open Space Visitor Center
6500 Coors NW, ABQ
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Hands-on practice with binoculars, field guides, cameras, smartphone apps, and websites
Registration required at: <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/events>

August 16th and 23rd

Learn to Birdwatch Outdoor Sessions

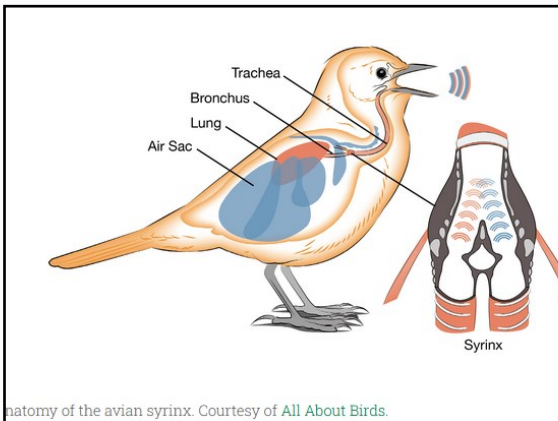
Candelaria Nature Preserve
Rio Grande Blvd at Arbor Rd entrance, ABQ
Time: 8:00am - 10:00am
Guided bird walk with birders from Albuquerque Open Space Division and Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico. Binoculars available to borrow.
Registration required at: <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/events>

<https://www.bacnm.org/calendar/>



Sing Like a Bird

By Dr. Laura Banks



Anatomy of the avian syrinx. Courtesy of All About Birds.

What does it mean when someone is said to “sing like a bird?” It usually means that the person’s voice sounds lovely. Or it means that the person really loves to sing and sings all the time. Sometimes it even means the person is confessing to a crime! Regardless of what we mean when we say it, a person can’t really sing like a bird. Birds make many different sounds. They screech, grunt, trill, warble, laugh, whinny, tweet, chirp, croak, caw, drum, buzz, and make sounds with their wings. When they sing, which is a specific type of sound that birds make to attract a mate or repel an enemy, they are using a part of the respiratory system that people don’t have. People use their larynx to make vocal sounds like

singing. The larynx also helps us manage the job of eating, breathing, and talking – sometimes all at once. Birds have a larynx, too, but they don’t use it for singing. For that, they have a syrinx. The syrinx is near the base of the trachea and has two chambers. Birds can control the air that flows from their lungs through these two chambers separately, which can result in two sound being produced at once. Combining that with their amazing ability to modulate tone, volume and intensity, results in some truly spectacular sounds. Birds in the Suborder Passeri, which are also called Oscines or songbirds, also have an incredible ability to learn songs from other birds throughout their lives. Other birds can make some spectacular sounds, but the singing of a songbird is truly a work of art. And none of us can match it!

Thursday Birder Donations

By Glenda Morling

Thanks to the generous weekly donations of Thursday Birder participants, we have been able to support the following local wildlife organizations this year:

Wildlife Rescue Inc.

<https://wildliferescuenm.org/>

Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org>

Friends of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org>

Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve

<https://www.friendsofcandelarianaturepreserve.org>

All these organizations are engaged in important work in our community to support and sustain wildlife. This work intersects with our birding activities, the mission and goals of Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico, and the National Audubon Society Flight Plan. You can read more about the NAS strategic plan here: <https://www.audubon.org/about/welcome-flight-plan>

Thank you to all Thursday Birder attendees and leaders, and to the volunteers who have collected donations each week! Please let us know if you have suggestions for future donations.



Birding in Western New Mexico

By Dr. Laura Banks

Birds abound in the western region of our chapter, which includes Cibola and McKinley Counties. Our chapter has over 50 members who reside in western New Mexico. Over the years, birders have logged 312 species in McKinley County and 305 species in Cibola County, so there is plenty to see. Many areas in the region can be enjoyed only by birders who are members or guests of the area's tribal nations. Birding for everyone, however, can take place in several federally-managed nature areas including the Cibola National Forest, El Malpais National Conservation Area, and the Continental Divide Scenic Trail, as well as at Bluewater Lake State Park and Red Rock Park. This summer and fall, the west is where it's at to see a great variety of raptors, migrating songbirds, shore birds, waterfowl, and grassland beauties.



Landscape view with ponderosa pines growing in pahoehoe lava flows.

Photo By NPS / SCPN



Join or donate to Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico

<https://www.bacnm.org/join-donate/>



eBird

Birders, inexperienced or experienced, can play a vital role in scientific research and conservation efforts by contributing their observations to eBird from Cornell. Every sighting matters, and your data can help researchers understand and protect bird populations globally. Watch how your growing life list can be a powerful tool for conservation and study:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKh9L6hjdIM>



<https://ebird.org/about/ebird-mobile/>

Join the Nation Audubon Society Today

<https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/DH8fxTkoC0qHjXF9fZCtRw2>



Photo: Loi Nguyen/ Audubon Photog-

Did you know?

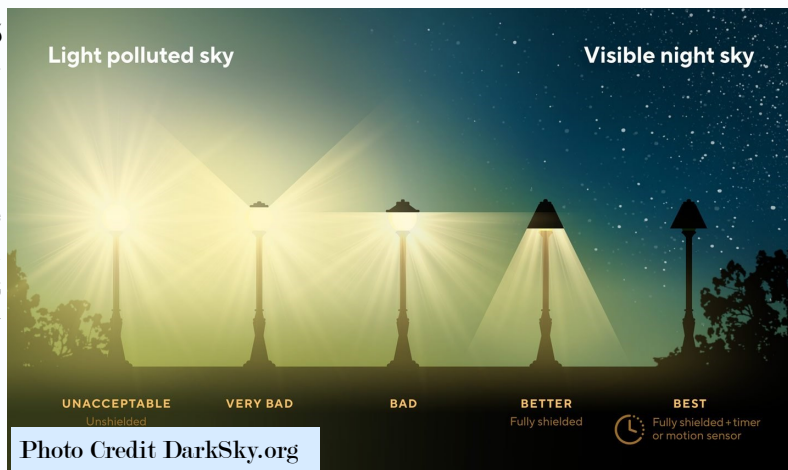
The Bee Hummingbird, which measures a minute 5.5 centimeters long and weighs no more than 1.9 grams is the smallest bird in the world. Another fact about this bird, is that it also lays the smallest eggs, which are pea-sized.



Lights Out for Fall Migration

By Sara Jayne Cole, Climate and Conservation Committee

Every year in North America, more than 3.5 billion birds move north in the spring, and four billion birds fly south in the fall. More than 80 percent of birds travel at night, navigating with the night sky. However, as they pass over towns and cities on their way, many become disoriented by bright, artificial lights and skyglow. Drawn off course by brightly-lit buildings, birds often die from window collisions or circle buildings until exhaustion overcomes them. Fall migration is the most hazardous for the young birds migrating for the first time.



An approximate date for fall migration is between August 15 and October 31. To get a better idea about timing for bird migration, look up your area on BirdCast, a website you can turn to for daily information. (<https://birdcast.info/>) Note: BirdCast forecasting will resume August 1, 2024. BirdCast applies weather surveillance radar to gather information on the numbers, flight directions, speeds and altitudes of birds aloft in order to expand the understanding of migratory bird movement.

The threat that light pollution poses to migratory birds is a relatively recent discovery, but luckily the solution is simple: reduce the amount of light that reaches the night sky.

Guidelines for EVERYONE:

- ✦ Turn off all non-essential lights from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night during migration season.
- ✦ Do not use landscape lighting to light up trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
- ✦ For essential lights (like security lighting) use the following dark skies-friendly lighting practices:
 - ✔ Aim lights down
 - ✔ Use lighting shields to direct light downwards and to avoid light shining into the sky or trees
 - ✔ Use motion detectors and sensors so lights are only on when you need them
 - ✔ Close blinds at night to reduce the amount of light being emitted from windows

Additional Guidelines for Buildings Taller Than 3 Stories:

- ✦ *Extinguish or dim: Exterior and decorative lighting (i.e. spotlights, logos, clock faces, greenhouses, and antenna lighting); lobby/atrium lighting; and lighting in perimeter rooms on all levels of the building*
- ✦ *Avoid: Floodlights; illuminating interior plants, fountains, and unoccupied floors; scheduling cleaning crews after dark; and blue-rich white light emissions (lighting with a color temperature of over 3000 Kelvin)*
- ✦ *Use: Desk lamps or task lighting rather than overhead lights; blinking lighting in place of continuously burning lights; and warm light sources (less than 3000 Kelvin) for outdoor lighting*

Some migrating birds will stop over to rest and feed for a few days before resuming their flight to wintering grounds. This is the time to make sure you have a bird-safe yard. Offer food, water and shelter. Take time to evaluate your windows and turn off unnecessary lights. Together we can make the 2024 fall migration safer for birds.



“New Mexico water management is at a critical crossroads and needs your input”

By Paul Tashjian and George Perry

Over the last 2 years New Mexico has seen an unprecedented level attention given to our beleaguered water resources. Starting with the publishing of the 2022 report “Climate Change in New Mexico Over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources”, commonly referred to as “The Leap Ahead Report”, and followed by the Water Task Force’s “Facing New Mexico’s 21st Century Water Challenges Report” and the Governor’s “50 Year Water Action Plan”, our moisture-challenged State is finally receiving the focus on our water future it demands. In 2023 the New Mexico Governor signed the Water Security Planning Act, a critical step in regionalizing water planning and reshaping how we effectively balance water resources in the face of climate change.



The Water Security Planning Act provides a unique opportunity for your input. Like all western States, New Mexico Water Resources has historically evolved around consumptive use- often at the impairment of our water ways and associated ecosystems. Rivers have been treated as pipelines for water delivery and, until the Endangered Species Act, have had no standing within our water management priorities. The Water Security Planning Act provides an opportunity to reshape our priorities and ensure that our rivers are kept whole alongside farms, cities and interstate compact demands.

The Water Security Planning Act, through both in-person and meetings and a virtual survey, is asking for why, where, who what, how and when water planning happens. From their website, it asks:

- ✦ **Why:** Why are we here today and what do you consider the most important things to consider in regional water planning?
- ✦ **Where:** What are the water planning regions and do they need to change?
- ✦ **Who:** Who should be involved in regional water planning and how?
- ✦ **What:** What should be included in regional water plans, what should implementation look like and how can we measure progress?
- ✦ **How:** What should detailed procedures for regional water planning look like?
- ✦ **When:** How frequently should regional water plans be updated and are there any other process considerations?

If you want to see a better future for birds and people please add your voice to these opportunities for public engagement. The good people in New Mexico’s water agencies are eager to hear from you through in-person meetings or virtually through an interactive survey:

Information on the in-person opportunities can be accessed through the following link:

<https://mainstreamnm.org/>

Virtual participation can be accessed through the following link:

<https://mainstreamnm.org/online-open-house/>

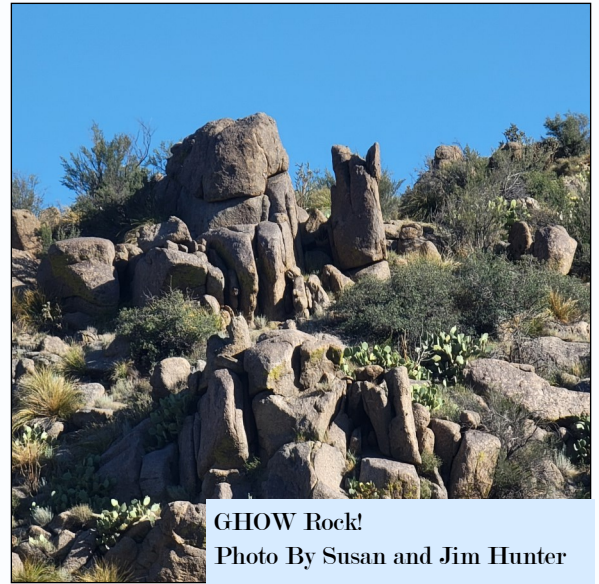
Paul Tashjian is the Director of Freshwater Conservation for Audubon Southwest



Members' Photos of the Month



Black-headed Grosbeak
Photo By Melinda Marker



GHOW Rock!
Photo By Susan and Jim Hunter



Female Black-headed Grosbeak
Photo By Melinda Marker



Brown-headed Cowbird
Photo By Jordan Graham

We would love to show off your bird photos!

For the "September Update" we want to see your pictures from Thursday Birding OR a birding/ nature photo you have recently taken that you would love to share.

[Click Here](#) or Email your photos to Jordan Graham- thisnomadiclife@gmail.com

PLEASE PUT "BACNM SEPTEMBER PHOTO - 'YOUR NAME'" as the header/ subject!

*not all pictures can be posted. I might have to do some minor cropping for formatting and layout. By sending us your pictures you give the Central New Mexico Audubon Society permission to use said photos with credit in their newsletters and on their website.