



## Sept 2024 Update

### This Month's Features

- ✦ Goodbye to a Friend and Leader
- ✦ You Can Lead The Way!
- ✦ Wildlife Management Part 1
- ✦ Report From Camp Surfbird

## Thursday Birders

Check for instructions, last minute changes, and updates  
<https://www.bacnm.org/thursday-birders/>

### September 5th

**Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge**  
 7:50am-3:00pm  
 Leader: Susan and Jim Hunter

### September 12th

**Angostura/Algodones Diversion Dam**  
 7:50am-11:00am  
 Leader: Sara Jayne Cole

### September 19th

**Elena Gallegos Trail**  
 8:20am-11:00am  
 Leader: Barbara Hussey

### September 26th

**Jemez Road T rip**  
 7:20am-3:00pm  
 Leader: Sarah and Tom Peterson

## Monthly Program

### September 19th

Monthly Education Program  
 7:00pm - 8:30pm Zoom Only

### NM DarkSky and Lights Out For Birds

Speaker: Jim Price

Responsible lighting can improve safety, save energy and money, be healthier, have less adverse effect on birds and other wildlife, respect property rights, and enable greater human appreciation and scientific study of the night sky. Through programs like DarkSky and Lights Out for Birds, we can help birds at critical times of migration when excess nighttime lighting causes confusion, route interruption, and mortality. Jim Price is the local chapter representative of NM DarkSky and a member of the DarkSky State Council.

<https://zoom.us/j/3114440211>

Meeting ID: 311 444 0211

Passcode: 5566

## Calendar

### September 6th

**Bird Migration**  
 3:30pm-4:30pm  
 Taylor Ranch Public Library

### September 10th

**Bird Migration**  
 10:30pm-11:30pm  
 ABQ Main Public Library

### September 11th

**BACNM Board Meeting**  
 6:00pm-7:30pm  
[Contact for Zoom Link](#)

### September 13th

**All About Birds**  
 2:00pm-3:00pm  
 Taylor Ranch Public Library

### September 14th

**All About Birds**  
 11:00am-12:00pm  
 Tony Hillerman Public Library

### September 20th

**Bird Migration**  
 1:00pm-2:00pm  
 Central & Unser Public Library

### September 21st

**All About Birds**  
 3:30pm-4:30pm  
 Lomas Tramway Public Library

### September 26th

**Bird Migration**  
 3:30pm-4:30pm  
 Lomas Tramway Public Library

### September 27th

**All About Birds**  
 1:00pm-2:00pm  
 Central & Unser Public Library

### September 28th

### Learn to Birdwatch!

10am-12pm

Pueblo Montano Trailhead, 4112 Montano NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107



# Goodbye to a Friend and Leader

By Glenda Morling and Dana Loy

We were shocked and saddened this month to learn of the death of Bird Alliance member George Perry. George died at home of natural causes on August 10<sup>th</sup>, the day before he was due to leave for a vacation with friends in Mexico.



George Perry

George had become a great friend and ally of the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico since moving from Austin, Texas in 2022 to make Albuquerque his home. George attended Thursday Birders and began to lead walks recently, after insisting he first learn more about local birds through his volunteer work at the Rio Grande Nature Center. In June 2024, he joined the Bird Alliance board and was excited about working with others on outreach projects to enhance the work of the organization.

George had many interests and passions and was an avid and active supporter of environmental causes and organizations. He had a deep concern for our planet and the impacts of human-caused climate change and threw himself into volunteering to make a difference. His love of birds and the environment were reflected in his contributions to the Bird Alliance monthly newsletter, to which he frequently submitted articles and beautiful bird photos. George's love of life and the world around him will be greatly missed, but his commitment, enthusiasm and example will continue to be an inspiration to all who knew him.

- Glenda Morling

I met George last fall during a Thursday Birders outing at Tingley Beach. He joined our Climate and Conservation Committee and invited us to meet at his house. We gathered there every month for almost a year, with blueberry muffins, a standard poodle, and an old orange cat. Nearly everyone came, every time, and our group became a community.

Among his other achievements, George was a leader in our mural project, a collaboration between the Bird Alliance, national Audubon, and the City of Albuquerque to call attention to birds threatened by climate change. The murals will be painted this fall in the BioPark Zoo. When you visit, walk through the Raptor Roost and watch for George's influence. He helped select the location, the birds to be painted, and the words *Birds Are Vanishing/Protect Wildlife Habitat*, which will appear on each mural.

- Dana Loy



George regularly submitted photos for the newsletter. Above are a couple of his shots.



## You Can Lead The Way!

By: Dr. Laura Banks and Barbara Hussey

The Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico and our partners have many opportunities for people to get together and share their love of birds through bird walks and field trips. There are bird walks for youth, new birders, and experienced birding groups. Many people think that they are not qualified to be the leader of a bird walk because they are not a “bird expert.” I ask you: Who really wants to spend two hours with someone who thinks they’re an expert?? Not me! What people appreciate is someone who shares their feeling of wonder at these feathered beauties, is generous with their time, and values everyone’s engagement in birding. If you are willing to step into the role of a bird walk leader, follow these tips adapted from Barbara Hussey to make the experience go smoothly:



Photo By Evan Barrientos

### Before the trip:

- ✦ If you are willing to lead a walk, but are flexible about locations and events, let us know. You can lead an event that is already chosen and planned but just lacks a leader. Or you can propose a location.
- ✦ Talk to us about what dates you can lead and about locations that have good habitat, accessible birding and available parking.
- ✦ A few days before, scout the location to check for unexpected changes or problems and to get a preview of what birds will be expected.
- ✦ Be available to answer emails the night before and the morning of the bird walk. Weather can change rapidly, and sometimes last minute changes are needed.

### At the start of the walk:

- ✦ Show up at the meeting place early to get the lay of the land.
- ✦ If only one person shows up, do the walk anyway.
- ✦ Greet newcomers. Introduce yourself as the bird walk leader and say something about yourself. Ask people to introduce themselves.
- ✦ Speak loudly enough for all. Stand so that your audience is not looking into the sun when you talk.
- ✦ Conduct any paperwork or fee exchanges.
- ✦ Explain where and how long the walk will be and discuss types of terrain and conditions. Mention potential hazards or special considerations (muddy roads, private land, gates, etc.).

### During the trip:

- ✦ Be encouraging and welcoming and serve as an ambassador for the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico.
- ✦ Speak so that all can hear. Wait for everybody to catch up if the group is large. If you must, say it again when the rest are within earshot.
- ✦ If too large, consider splitting up the group with another regular bird walk leader.
- ✦ If you don’t know what bird you are looking at or hearing, ask the group, or just let the bird go unidentified!
- ✦ When a bird is spotted, make sure everyone who wants to see it, gets to. If the bird is still visible, don’t move on until everyone gets a look.
- ✦ Encourage and acknowledge when others spot birds and help the group see or identify them.

### At end of trip:

- ✦ Make it clear when the walk is over. Assemble to go over birds seen with a checklist.
- ✦ Thank participants; ask newcomers to come again. Mention other bird walk opportunities.
- ✦ Be the last to leave.

You can do this! Plus, hanging out with other bird lovers is always lots of fun. Please use our [Contact Us](#) link to let us know who you are and how you would like to volunteer.



# New Mexico Needs 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wildlife Management: Part One

By Judy Calman



The State of New Mexico is blessed as the fourth most biodiverse state in the country. Experiencing this wildlife contributes significantly to our economy through hunting and fishing, birdwatching, camping, hiking, and more. Thriving wildlife populations also provide many additional climate, community, and personal health and wellness benefits that are incalculable.

The Department of Game and Fish is responsible for management and protection of most wildlife in New Mexico, including most birds, and the statutes which govern it have not been updated in almost a century. In the meantime, New Mexicans' relationship to wildlife has changed. Hunting and fishing are still essential drivers for the state's economy, providing \$600 million in revenue per year. But today, more New Mexico residents and visitors enjoy watching, photographing, and appreciating wildlife. The most recent federal census on wildlife watching found that the United States has approximately 86 million wildlife watchers, and that they spend approximately 76 billion dollars per year on equipment, trips, and outings to see wildlife. Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge sees 160,000 thousand visitors per year alone.

The climate and biodiversity crisis has also taken hold, especially in drought-prone states like ours. Using outdated laws under these new circumstances means that the Department does not have the tools, the money, or the authority to make decisions about wildlife which will ensure its survival.

The Department is overseen by a Game Commission whose members are appointed by the Governor. This politicized process for appointing and removing Game Commission members has led to an unstable and ineffective commission, which often lacks a quorum to conduct business, and is subject to extreme swings in ideology with changing administrations. A bill to update the Commission's processes and appointments passed the legislature in 2023, but was pocket-vetoed by the Governor.

The Department's budget has remained flat even as wildlife management challenges are increasing. Hunting and angling license fees have not increased in New Mexico for nearly twenty years, and in most years the Department receives no general fund support, compromising its ability to manage and conserve all species.

Updating rules for the Game Commission, modernizing the Department's conservation mission, and securing additional funding for the Department will ensure it can do its job successfully with an eye toward the future. A large coalition of conservation, animal protection, and sportsmen's organizations have come together to advocate for a package in the coming session which will address these issues, and we will keep our membership informed of advocacy opportunities as it moves forward.

Judy Calman is Policy Director for Audubon Southwest.



# Audubon

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## Society Today

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





# Report From Camp Surfbird By Adya Radcliffe



Thanks to the generosity of the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico and the Ryan Beaulieu Scholarship, I had the remarkable opportunity to attend Camp Surfbird in San Diego in February of 2024. During the trip I not only made friendships with a number of other skilled, young birders and naturalists, but also had the opportunity to see a dozen life birds (mostly on a remarkable half-day pelagic).

The birding highlight of my trip was spying a Ridgeway Rail during our border outing near Tijuana. The rail remained conspicuous for minutes, screaming and pooping just a couple of dozen yards away in the middle of a dirt road. The rail's boldness allowed more serious photographers vivid, candid shots and even granted me a good enough look with my zoomless Polaroid to accurately capture the bird's essence.

The overall highlight of the trip was listening to Chris Cooper's keynote speech, in which he reflected on the need to replace bird names derived from people to avoid honoring figures with racist pasts. I also had the good fortune to speak with Cooper one-on-one for many minutes during the pelagic trip, and I am happy to report that he and I really hit it off.

I would like to give special thanks to former CNMAS president Sarah Jayne Cole, who has kindly and patiently encouraged me to apply for the Ryan Beaulieu Scholarship for many years. I'd also like to thank Bird Alliance treasurer Lee Hopwood, who worked long and hard hours to not only procure and transfer the scholarship funds but to seamlessly coordinate the finer details of the trip. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my debt to Ryan Beaulieu, whose life and legacy has long been an inspiration for me as a young birder growing up in the same birding circles he ran with in Albuquerque. Thank you, Ryan.



Join or donate to

**Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico**

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





Photo: Loi Nguyen/ Audubon Photography Awards

## Did you know?

The male Sandgrouse has chest feathers that absorb and store water, which he then carries back to his chicks to drink.