



# BIRD ALLIANCE BULLETIN

January/February 2025

## **Audubon Murals at the BioPark Zoo**

by Dana Loy

Climate and Conservation Committee

The Bird Alliance is working on something new: the Audubon Mural Project. Three large murals of birds threatened by climate change will soon be painted at the Albuquerque zoo through our partnership with the City of Albuquerque and the ABQ BioPark. The birds will be chosen from the Audubon report *Survival by Degrees*, which indicates that two-thirds (64%) of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from global warming.

The Audubon Mural Project started in New York City, where most of the project's 120 murals are located. Audubon chapters then carried it to communities throughout the country, and the Bird Alliance brought it to Albuquerque. The new paintings at the zoo will be the first Audubon murals in New Mexico and are being funded by the city's Public Art Department.

We've been working on the project during the past year. In September, the Albuquerque Public Art Department released a statewide call, which drew broad interest and excellent submissions from many artists. We selected two: Jade Cruz and Donny Kelley Currens. Both are talented, active in the community, and understand the threats of global warming. The painting is scheduled for spring.

The birds selected for the murals are commonly seen in the Albuquerque area, in our own yards and neighborhood parks, such as the Woodhouses's Scrub-Jay, the Western Bluebird, and the American Robin. Birds so common one can hardly believe that unless conditions change, unless we stop our dependence on fossil fuels and halt the rise in temperatures, they will vanish. Bird extinction is accelerating, mainly because of habitat loss and climate change.

It's unthinkable that we may be approaching a world without these birds! When families walk through the Albuquerque zoo—specifically, through the raptor roost, home to a Golden Eagle and soon, two Audubon murals—we hope the art will catch visitors' attention and encourage them to imagine and support a safer world for birds. The murals will include the message: *Birds Are Vanishing/Protect Wildlife Habitat*.

The writing is on the wall: If temperatures continue to rise, more than half of North American bird species *will become extinct* within this century. In 2025 the Bird Alliance will seek to create more murals for birds impacted by climate change, forge partnerships with other organizations, and advocate for solutions to global warming. Please join us! Our membership is large, has significant reach, and can be a powerful voice for birds.

### **Sources**

<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>

<https://abcbirds.org/blog/extinct-birds/>

## THURSDAY BIRDERS 2024 FIELD TRIPS OVERVIEW

We send a special thanks to all the Thursday Birders leaders, participants, and to Glenda Morling, Perrienne Houghton and Shannon Caruso for their efforts to schedule these enjoyable field trips throughout the year.

An eBird report was submitted for each field trip during 2024, with some trips recording more than one report if the group birded more than one location on a specific Thursday. All eBird reports can be accessed from the "Birding" page on the Bird Alliance's website: [www.bacnm.org](http://www.bacnm.org).

Each eBird field trip checklist report includes:

Each location the group birded

Each bird species seen (including the approximate number of each species)

The number of participants on each eBird field trip

Field notes as appropriate (such as duration of visit, distance covered, weather.)

**Here is a snapshot of Thursday Birders activities during 2024.**

**Total number of field trips: 45**

**Average number of participants per trip: 19.3 (let's call it 19)**

**Total number of eBird checklists submitted: 58**

**Total number of specific bird species reported: 193**

**Average number of species reported per report: 26**

**Total number of counties visited: 6**

**Bernalillo:** 27 field trips; 58 checklists; 144 species

**Cibola:** One field trip; one checklist; 35 species

**Sandoval:** Eight field trips; 12 checklists; 107 species

**Socorro:** Four field trips; eight checklists; 115 species

**Torrance:** One field trip; four checklists; 28 species

**Valencia:** Two field trips; two checklists; 63 species

**NUMBER OF SPECIES ADDED TO THE LIFE LIST DURING 2024: 22**

**Added from the earliest (February 12) to the latest (December 12) in 2024:** Wilson's Snipe, Chihuahuan Raven, Vermilion Flycatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Yellowlegs, Great Egret, Semipalmated Plover, Common Black Hawk, Common Grackle, Scaled Quail, Phainopepla, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Baird's Sandpiper, White-tailed Kite, American White Pelican, American Dipper, Merlin, Crissal Thrasher, Swamp Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia.

**Cumulative totals from June 2021 through December 2024:**

**Field trips:** 146

**Checklists:** 185

**Species:** 222

**Counties:** Eight

# MEMBERS' PHOTO GALLERY



Melinda Marker - Mountain Bluebirds , Santa Fe

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Melinda Marker - Western Bluebirds, Santa Fe

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Western Bluebird—Lefty Arnold, Embudito Canyon

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## **We would love to showcase your photos**

Email your photos to Lee Hopwood at [leehopwood@bacnm.org](mailto:leehopwood@bacnm.org)

Please include your name, location of the photo and name of the bird in your email.

The Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico is a not-for-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to protect and conserve birds and wildlife habitats in our region, support responsible stewardship of land, promote environmental education, and welcome all communities to join us in the love and appreciation of birds. Please visit our website at [www.bacnm.org](http://www.bacnm.org).

# Demo Catio at Wildlife Rescue of New Mexico Repaired

by Sara Jayne Cole

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually chooses a city as an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds grant recipient. Albuquerque was this city in 2014. The grant was divided among several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). BACNM received \$15,000 to address Urban Hazards to birds. Raymond VanBuskirk, President at the time, chose “Cats Indoors” and “Window Strikes” as the focus projects.

The Cats Indoors Committee used the American Bird Conservancy’s program to form their campaign. Keeping cats indoors is the most effective way to lessen free-roaming cats’ impacts on wildlife. Keeping your cat confined to your yard follows the ABQ HEART (Humane and Ethical Animal Rules and Treatment) Ordinance that states that pets are not allowed to roam at-large. Turning the outdoor cat into a happy indoor cat is safer for the cat, wildlife, and people.

The Cats Indoors Committee chose to have a demonstration Catio built to show how to give cats a safe outdoor experience. BACNM Volunteer Bo Miller facilitated the project with the Career Enrichment Center and Early College Academy <https://cec.aps.edu/>, Albuquerque Public Schools. The school’s Construction Class made two modular Catos that could be assembled on site. The Catio at Wildlife Rescue is one and the other was donated to the ABQ Bio Park after first being displayed at the Rio Grande Nature Center. Wildlife Rescue takes in injured birds and small mammals. Last year alone, they received more than 200 wildlife animals that had been caught by cats. Sadly, cat-caught wildlife seldom survive due to the bacteria in the cat’s mouth.

The Catio at Wildlife Rescue was a good teaching tool but it needed to have repairs, like replacing the canvas roof with metal roofing. The design of this Catio is open on one end that was intended to be against the wall of a home so the cat could enter from the house via a pet door. The Catio could not be placed against the Wildlife Rescue building and it needed to be reinforced. This was accomplished by turning two of the panels, creating more of a box.

Now that the work is complete and the new sign with our new logo is in place, we invite you to stop by Wildlife Rescue and pick up the flyer with many DIY ideas and commercial Catos links that you can share with friends and neighbors who are looking for ways to let their cat safely enjoy the outdoors.





## Bird Alliance Scholarship Program

By Lee Hopwood

The Ryan Beaulieu Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 by The Central New Mexico Audubon Society and the Lannan Foundation to give testimony to the legacy Ryan gave to all of us as family, friends, and community. Ryan Beaulieu was a young ornithologist, environmentalist, and conservationist whose love of the Earth and all its creatures and his desire to protect them was but one example of his spirit and wisdom beyond his years. He was 17 years when a tragic accident took his life on August 27, 2005. Ryan was a member of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society (now Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico), New Mexico Ornithologist Society, The American Bird Association, The Rio Grande Bird Research group, and an originator and principal birder of the Rosy-Finch Research Project. So much accomplished in such a short life time.

The Scholarship Fund was established to share birding, nature, and conservation activities with other young people. The fund provides full tuition to youth ages between six and 20 years; and a stipend of \$300 to offset some of the other expenses associated with travel and camp programs.

The only obligations scholarship recipients have are to have fun, love and learn more about your interest in nature, and write a short report about your adventure for our news bulletin when you return.

You can find everything you need to apply for this scholarship at: [bacnm.org](http://bacnm.org). When you are on our website, click on "What we Do" then "Education and Outreach," then visit the "Scholarship" page. You also can email me at [Leehopwood@bacnm.org](mailto:Leehopwood@bacnm.org) with questions.

### **Some of the camps applicants have attended are:**

**Camp Surfbird San Diego**—Camp Surfbird is a joint project of the ABA camps and The San Diego Birding Festival. It takes place February 28-March 2, 2025. This is an overnight camp for youth between the ages of 13 and 17 years. It includes two nights at Camp Surf in Imperial Beach with daily trips to Marina Village, all meals, two festival trips to choose from, optional keynote presentation, and lots of birds! Learn more at <https://www.aba.org/camps/>.

**Audubon Hog Island camps**—Audubon Hog Island camps run through the spring, summer and fall seasons. Several teen camps are available and there are several adult-age camps as well. The Bird Alliance scholarships can be granted to young adults up to the age of 22 years. Once you 18 or older you are officially an adult and cannot attend camps with minors (age 14 to 17). So, take a look at these if you are getting over the hill. <https://hogisland.audubon.org>.

**Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours Camp Chiricahua**—Camp Chiricahua will take place July 2-14, 2025. This camp focuses on young birders (ages 14 to 18) experiencing the wildlife-rich ecosystems of Southwestern Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains. Although this camp is already SOLD OUT for 2025, they have a wait list in the event they have cancellations. <https://www.bsbo.org/youth-birding-camps.html>

**American Birding Association (ABA)**—Sadly, the ABA camps, Camp Colorado and Camp Avocet, will be taking a pause in 2025 while ABA does some internal evolving and improving of their programs to be introduced in 2026. If this is your dream to attend however, keep an eye on the camp late-2025 to early-2026 for the return at their web site (<http://www.aba.org>) and sign up for their Flight Calls Newsletter.

*Continued from page 4 Scholarships*

**Southwest Research Station**—The Southwest Research Station is a wonderful place to visit with nice accommodations and a wide variety of courses and/or tours in which to participate. The 2025 schedule of courses and tours will be announced in January. Typically, the programs begin in April and run through October, depending on your interest from Bats, Beetles, Herpetology, Bees, Trees and Birds, of course. <https://www.amnh.org/index.php/junior-rangers/>.

The 2025 Birding tours are:

Spring Migration: April 20-26 and May 11-17, 2025

Monsoon Birding: August 31-September 6, 2025

**Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Junior Ranger Camp**—The Junior Ranger camp in our very own backyard is a day camp that runs 9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily during the week of camp. It is open to youth ages 11 to 14. This is a great starter camp for younger participants. The 2025 schedule isn't out yet but the camp usually takes place during summer school break.

In addition to the website, you can contact the Nature Center directly: Karen Herzenberg at (505) 344-7240, or [karen.herzenberg@state.nm.us](mailto:karen.herzenberg@state.nm.us) for more information.

<https://www.rgnc.org/index.php/junior-rangers/>.

**Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions Summer Treks**—This camp offers a variety of activities that explore the American Southwest. The camps begin in June and run through July/August. They offer basic "Trekking" camps: Wild Country Trek, Prairie Trek, Southwest Art Trek, Turquoise Trek, Mountain Desert Trek, Paleontology Trek, and Family Trek. They also have the best website for family and participants to visit and learn everything you need to know about them and their camps. <https://cottonwoodgulch.org/programs/summer-treks/>.

## THURSDAY BIRDERS SCHEDULE

January 2, 2025

**Tingley Beach Trails and Ponds**

8:15 am - 11:30 am

**Leader:** Mary Rajc

February 6

**Torrance County Raptors - Clements Road**

7:50 am - 3:00 pm

**Leaders:** Susan and Jim Hunter

January 9, 2025

**Willow Creek Bosque Open Space**

8:50 am - 11:30 am

**Leader:** Perriane Houghton

February 13

**Los Poblanos Open Space and Fields**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Leader:** Pete Chandler

January 16

**Bosque Trails, Sagebrush church**

8:50 am - 11:30 am

**Leaders:** Asher Gorbet and Lee Hopwood

February 20

**Alameda Bridge Bosque Trails**

8:50 am - 11:30 am

**Leader:** Phil Dickinson

January 23

**Embudito Canyon**

8:50 am - 11:00 am

**Leaders:** Darlene Benedict and Connie Jo Baca

February 27, 2025

**Sevilleta NWR**

8:30 - 2:00 pm

**Leaders:** Asher Gorbet and Lee Hopwood

January 30

**Petroglyphs - South Point Day Use Area Trail**

8:50 am - 11:30 am

**Leader:** Sara Jayne Cole

**Check for instructions, last minute changes, and updates at:**

<https://www.bacnm.org/thursday-birders/>