

The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
Volume 49 Number 4, December 2020



Photograph by Tom Taylor

In This Issue

Valle de Oro Visitors Center

This Page

Partnering for Dark Skies

P. 2

Audubon Activities

P. 2

Probe of Bird Deaths Continues

P. 4

Citizen Scientists Provide Hope for China's Birds

P. 5

Proposed Changes Under ESA Draw Broad Outcry

P. 6

President's Message

P. 7



Red-breasted Nuthatch/Peggy Cadigan

The Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter represents a landscape that has been occupied for millennia by peoples of diverse cultural backgrounds. We honor that diversity and believe that just as we strive to protect biodiversity, we must include and respect the diversity of the many people and cultures that call northern New Mexico their home.

**Keep Up on Our Latest Events and Field Trips!
Sign up for Eblasts on our [Website](#)**

Valle de Oro Visitors Center - Setting a New Standard

New Mexico's newest national wildlife refuge is also its most eco-conscious: 570 acres of restored wetlands, community partnerships and a soon-to-be-completed, state-of-the-art visitors center. The building at [Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge](#), along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque's South Valley, aims to garner at least a silver LEED designation from the U.S. Green Building Council, but the visitors center and its surroundings are already setting the gold standard for wildlife refuges around the Southwest. Solar panels, walls made of untreated steel and beetle-killed pine, a passive solar roof that also captures stormwater, and bird-friendly windows are among the features of the \$7 million, 10,000-square-foot building.



A view from outside the almost-finished center

Valle de Oro was established in 2012, the first refuge in the Southwest created under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's urban wildlife conservation program. And no, that's not an oxymoron. "Valle de Oro was established to help people in the surrounding community learn about the land and become better stewards of it, and to focus on youth education and outreach and employment," said refuge manager Jennifer Owen-White. "We still care about wildlife, but we think of it in terms of how we can educate people."

Given its location – next to a neighborhood whose residents are burdened with auto salvage yards, asphalt plants and multiple Superfund sites – the refuge aims to provide a measure of environmental justice. But buy-in from community members – a majority of them people of color - was key. "So we wrote with our community members this economic and environmental-justice strategic plan," said Owen-White. "One of the big things it says is that we will facilitate early, ongoing, meaningful involvement of our community in decisions made on the refuge. We're the first wildlife refuge to have that kind of plan."



Artist's drawing of the visitors center

Wetland reconstruction and revegetation at the former dairy began in 2018. A pond will reuse stormwater runoff, and an onsite wastewater-treatment plant will help recharge the groundwater.

(Continued on P. 3)

A New Partnership for Bird-Friendly Dark Skies

By Albert Shultz

Light pollution is an unfortunate fact of life in modern night skies. It is the glare from an unshielded bare-bulb porch light that makes it hard to see into the shadows of driveway shrubbery. It is the upward-directed light from parking lots, billboards and buildings, which makes even a cloudless sky too bright to see the stars. (Most people in Europe, North America and the rest of the developed world cannot see the Milky Way from where they live.) It is a problem not only for astronomers and stargazers but also for birds and other animals whose nocturnal movements are disoriented by artificial light. And it's likely that it also affects human health by disrupting sleep cycles and neurosensory activity.



National Audubon Society has announced a new conservation partnership with the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), aiming to reduce light pollution by providing organizations and the communities they serve with tools and resources

to protect the night sky for birds and people. Light pollution is a major problem for all wildlife near urbanized areas, especially birds migrating at night, which die by the millions every year in collisions with needlessly illuminated buildings and towers. The IDA is a global leader in educating the public and promoting designs and policies that protect the natural nighttime environment, and Audubon has partnered with cities nationwide in the

Lights Out program since 1999 to reduce problem lighting during migration, so the new partnership is actually a rededication of shared interests.

One activity of IDA is designating Dark Sky Places, of which there are already eight in New Mexico, including Chaco Canyon and Fort Union. Bandelier National Park and Valles Caldera National Preserve are in the process of applying for this status, too, and have active outreach programs for expanding appreciation of the dark night sky. In addition, the recently formed Jemez Mountains Night Sky Consortium is dedicated to reducing light pollution in Los Alamos and the surrounding area through a variety of means that include revision and updating of local ordinances to regulate outdoor lighting.

Reducing light pollution can be a relatively simple fix. No action is too small, every bit helps, and results are immediate. So why not commit to a small action at your own home?

- Eliminate unnecessary outdoor lights, especially those shining upward;
- Shield or re-direct essential lights to reduce "light trespass";
- Whenever possible, use the least amount of light necessary, and of a low-color temperature (less than 3000K);
- Spread the word - promote night-friendly lighting among your friends and neighbors.

For more information, please see:

[International Dark-Sky Association](#)
[National Audubon Society](#)
[Santa Fe Stargazers](#)

Audubon Activities

Christmas Bird Counts

Audubon's traditional Christmas Bird Counts are scheduled to take place between Dec. 14, 2020 and Jan. 5, 2021. However, some counts may not take place this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. If you are interested in participating in a count in your area, please check the map at [AudubonCBCs](#) and zoom into New Mexico for info about counts around the state, and contact the count leader for the latest information on whether a particular count will be held. Note that traveling to participate in a count outside your home area is strongly discouraged.

Sangre de Cristo Chapter Cancels Field Trips

All field trips conducted by the Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter have been canceled for the coming months due to the coronavirus pandemic. Any updates or changes to this schedule will be announced via email and on our [Website](#).

Chapter Meetings and Programs

Birds of Thailand - Christopher Rustay Feb. 10, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Thailand has the 20th largest population among all countries in the world, yet nature is revered there, and there are some 95 national parks. Christopher Rustay will talk about a recent birding trip to Thailand where he saw almost half of the country's 1,000 recorded species.

The Pinyon Jay: Biology, Threats and Conservation - Kristine Johnson March 10, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Pinyon Jay is the fastest declining bird of piñon-juniper woodlands, and is a species of high conservation concern in New Mexico. This talk will cover Pinyon Jay biology, the bird's fascinating mutualism with piñon pines, threats and recommended conservation actions.

Sign up on our [email list](#) and receive advance notifications and instructions for our Zoom meetings

Audubon New Mexico

Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary

In consideration of health concerns, the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary will remain closed until further notice. All regularly scheduled programming and events have been cancelled or postponed. This includes the Saturday morning bird walks and weekend house tours. Please check our social media posts for virtual events, and check back for further information about reopening and resuming of regular programming. Thank you and stay healthy! [RandallDavey](#).



Climate Watch

Climate Watch bird counts are back for the Winter 2021 season, January 15 through February 15. After a suspension for the summer season, Audubon has announced it will allow this count series to resume. There are now 12 target species of North American birds, selected for being easily observed and having strongly predicted population trends.

A Climate Watch observer has only to dedicate one day per season to conduct "point counts" in selected habitat. Up to three observers are allowed per count, so the protocol is a good fit for pandemic safety. Last year our chapter had 12 observers spread over a wide variety of habitats in north-central New Mexico.

For more information on Climate Watch, contact Albert Shultz by email at shultzaw@gmail.com, or by phone: 505-757-2754; or see the website [AudubonClimateWatch](#).

Black Rosy-Finch Study

The Black Rosy-Finch Study is seeking volunteers for its winter 2020-2021 count season. Rosy-Finches are one of the least-studied birds in North America, and the study aims to fill data gaps for these colorful birds with the help of community scientists. Volunteers conduct 20-minute bird-feeder counts for Rosy-Finches once every three weeks throughout the winter and early spring. Volunteers can choose to do surveys at publicly accessible bird feeder locations, or at their own bird feeders. There is a recorded online training available. Rosy-Finches appear regularly in winter at Sandia Crest and Taos Ski Basin. To learn more and sign up, visit <https://wildutahproject.org/rosy-finch>.

Like Birds? Join Audubon!

Santa Fe and Taos Areas: [AudubonSantaFe](#)
New Mexico statewide: [AudubonSouthwest](#)

Valle de Oro Visitors Center (Continued from P. 1)

Meanwhile, the first of five wetlands - a low playa wetland - has already flooded twice with water from the Rio Grande. Thousands of newly planted cottonwoods and willows will help recreate bosque-style wetlands nearby. To date, 229 species of birds have been sighted.

The visitors center may be the crowning environmental jewel. Designed by Formative Architecture of Albuquerque, with construction led by CF Padilla-Brycon, a Native-American construction firm from nearby Isleta Pueblo, it has an oversize roof that will not only support solar panels and funnel storm runoff to a cistern that will feed the pond; it also shades sunlight in hot seasons and allows it to enter windows during cooler times. Special steel panels on the exterior walls rust gracefully as they age, eliminating the need for painting or other treatments. Beetle-killed pine is used for exterior accents and for interior ceilings and cabinetry.

Bird-friendly windows are etched with parallel, vertical lines that allow humans to easily see out. And warm-tone exterior lighting is shielded to avoid luring night-migrating birds. Owen-White said the visitor center may be the first building in the state to achieve LEED's demanding new bird-friendly designation.



Etched lines on bird-friendly glass

Meanwhile, roof-mounted solar panels that generate 30kW are expected to supply most of the building's electricity. Although the center is scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks, Owen-White noted that it won't open to the public before next spring, "partly to get past Covid, and partly to give ourselves a little time to move our staff in and know we're comfortable with it. We might even have to do a soft opening or a virtual opening," due to uncertainties imposed by the current pandemic, she said.

In time, though, the visitor center's auditorium and amphitheater will host educational and interpretive talks on the refuge's wildlife and ecosystem. Partnerships with a local elementary school - and with Audubon and other nonprofits - will bring kids and their families to the refuge for field trips and a range of other activities. And birders, horseback riders and other visitors will enjoy a four-mile perimeter trail.

"All wildlife refuges have an establishing purpose. Most are for migratory birds or for particular types of endangered species or habitat," Owen-White said. "We acknowledge the neighborhood that helped give life to this refuge, and the people who fought to establish it."

Environment News

Migratory Bird Deaths: The Investigation Continues

Researchers from a dozen or more universities and government agencies are continuing to investigate the deaths of hundreds of thousands of migratory birds in New Mexico that occurred in late August and early September. Experts from the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, the state Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and others are coordinating their efforts to determine why disturbingly large numbers of swallows, warblers, flycatchers and other birds were suddenly found dead, mostly in New Mexico, over a wide area that stretched from White Sands Missile Range to Clovis, Albuquerque and north to Colorado.

Among the earliest reports were sightings of dead birds at White Sands Missile Range, but in the following weeks, numerous reports from around the state appeared on social media. One posting from Velarde drew the attention of Jenna McCullough, a doctoral student at the University of New Mexico. Upon investigating with a colleague, she found 305 dead individuals of six species. Perhaps crucially, all were insectivores: 258 Violet-green Swallows, 35 Wilson's Warblers, six Bank Swallows, two Cliff Swallows, one Northern Rough-winged Swallow, a MacGillivray's Warbler and two Western Wood-Pewees.

To date McCullough has written the most authoritative analysis of the mass mortality event, published on the website of the [American Birding Association](#). Although some experts have speculated that the historic wildfires in the western U.S. may have led to toxic smoke inhalation by migrating birds, McCullough said wildfires alone were unlikely to have caused the deaths. Instead, a sudden and dramatic lack of food caused by a historic cold snap is, she said, a more probable explanation. She and her colleague weighed 234 dead Violet-green Swallows and found them, on average, dramatically underweight. The sudden onset of freezing weather in early September likely resulted in a mass die off of the insects that these and other migrating birds rely on for sustenance, which in turn led the birds to starve and succumb to hypothermia.



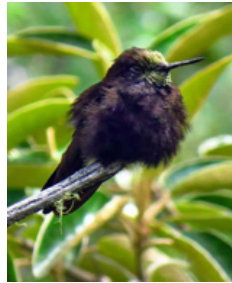
Photo: Allison Salas

It will likely take months to see if McCullough's hypothesis is confirmed, or if any other explanation of the bird deaths surfaces. The large group of agencies and institutions investigating "has not yet compiled a list of species/numbers/locations to share more broadly," Erin Duvuvuei, a biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, said in an email. "As a group, we are working towards

a collaborative publication in a peer-reviewed journal to summarize the mortality event."

The Snoozing Hummers of The Andes

Hummingbirds live a life of extremes. The flitting creatures famously have the fastest metabolisms among vertebrates, and to fuel their zippy lifestyle, they



Black Metaltail
Photo: Peru Aves

sometimes drink their own body weight in nectar each day. But hummingbirds of the Andes in South America take that extreme lifestyle a step further. Not only must they work even harder to hover at altitude, but during chilly nights they save energy by going into a deep torpor, a physiological state similar to hibernation in which their body temperature falls by as much as 50 degrees F. Then, as dawn approaches, they start to shiver, rocketing their temperatures back up to 96 degrees.

Andrew McKechnie, a professor of zoology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, and colleagues including Blair Wolf, a professor of biology at the University of New Mexico, recently reported in *Biology Letters* that the body temperatures of Andean hummingbirds in torpor and the amount of time they spend in this state vary among species, with one particular set of species, particularly numerous in the Andes, tending to get colder and go longer than others.

On a trip to the Andes about five years ago, Wolf and his colleagues captured 26 of the little birds for overnight observation. They measured the hummingbirds' body temperatures as they roosted for the night and found that almost all of them entered torpor, showing a steep decline in temperature partway through the night. They also kept track of the birds' weights, because hummingbirds, like many other birds, lose weight between dusk and dawn as they burn through the calories consumed during the day. The researchers were curious whether the torpor of different species — six were represented — would look different, and whether longer, deeper torpor was linked to losing less weight.

Indeed, they found that birds using torpor only briefly could lose as much as 15% of their body weight. But birds that took a longer break of up to 12 hours lost only 2%. Birds that reached lower temperatures lost less weight, too. One Black Metaltail hovered around 38 degrees F, the lowest recorded temperature of any hummingbird, to the researchers' knowledge. This could help explain why the Black Metaltail and related species are more common at high altitudes — they have worked out ways to minimize the stress of living in an extreme environment.

New York Times

Climate News

Amazon.com: Will Huge Donations Offset Huge Emissions?

Jeff Bezos, the chief executive of Amazon and the world's richest man, recently announced a whopping \$791 million in donations to 16 groups fighting climate change. More than half of the donations from Bezos's Earth Fund went to established environmental groups, with \$100 million donations each going to the Environmental Defense Fund, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Nature Conservancy, the World Resources Institute and the World Wildlife Fund. Other donations went to groups concerned with environmental justice, including Dream Corps' Green for All and the Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice.

Much of the \$100 million grant to the Environmental Defense Fund will go toward fully funding a satellite that the organization plans to use to monitor emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The World Wildlife Fund said it would use its grant to "harness the power of nature" including the protection and restoration of mangroves in Colombia, Fiji, Madagascar and Mexico, and the restoration and protection of forests.

Amazon has long been a target of environmental activists, who say it has done too little to offset the emissions it produces. The company has a massive environmental footprint, delivering what some experts estimate is more than 1 billion packages a year to consumers in the United States. Its Amazon Web Services is also the leading provider of cloud-computing to corporate customers, with its giant data centers gobbling staggering amounts of electricity.



An Amazon fulfillment center
Photo: NPR

Current Amazon initiatives to speed delivery are likely to expand its impact on the environment. The race to get packages to consumers creates a competitive advantage for Amazon, whose rivals can't match its sophisticated logistics infrastructure. But that advantage conflicts with any effort to reduce its carbon emissions, said Josué Velázquez Martínez, a research scientist at MIT.

Amazon has taken steps to make its packaging and shipping more efficient, and reduce costs at the same time. Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post, said recently that Amazon aims to reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 on its path to net zero carbon by 2040. So far, Amazon has launched 15 utility-scale wind- and solar-energy projects, and installed more than 50 solar rooftops on its fulfillment centers and sorting centers worldwide. It is also ordering 100,000 electric delivery vans, and expects to start deliveries with those vehicles in 2021, with full deployment by 2024.

Washington Post

Citizen Scientists Provide Hope for China's Birds

A new study uses more than two decades of bird sightings by China's citizen scientists to map the ranges of nearly 1,400 species, from the endangered red-crowned crane to the pied falconet. Spinning those maps forward to 2070, researchers have determined what the birds' future ranges might be - and pinpointed 14 priority areas for new nature preserves.

Birding is a relatively new endeavor in China, but it has grown rapidly over the past 20 years. Many birdwatchers file their sightings on the website Bird Report, where experienced birders screen the contributions for accuracy. Using those data, Ruocheng Hu of Peking University and colleagues created distribution range maps for more than 1,000 species. Then they modeled what may happen to their ranges under two warming scenarios.



Red-crowned Cranes
Photo: Jie Zhao/Corbis via Getty

The model found that warming temperatures will drive many birds northward and to higher ground. Although nearly 800 species will enjoy expanded ranges, most of those ranges are in heavily populated and industrialized areas unsuitable for birds. Roughly 240 species will see their ranges shrink. In particular, the iconic red-crowned crane will lose half of its territory nationwide, the study's authors say. To counter such losses, they identified 14 areas for new conservation preserves scattered across the country.

Science

Seagrass Beds Recover

Since 1999, broadcasting more than 70 million seeds of seagrass into coastal lagoons in Virginia has led to the



A seahorse in seagrass

regrowth of more than 9,000 acres of previously lost seagrass beds. The seagrass recovery led to rapid increases in the production and diversity of animals (including bay scallops), increased carbon and nitrogen sequestration, and decreases in turbidity. This is one of the larger success stories of ecosystem restoration and demonstrates that reversing ecological collapse is possible with sustained efforts to support ecosystem recovery.

Science

Political Issues

Let Your Representatives in Washington
Know How You Feel!
See contact info on Page 8!

Proposed Changes under Endangered Species Act Draw Broad Outcry

Our chapter recently joined with other environmental organizations around the country to oppose two new proposed rules by the USFWS that would weaken the protection of habitat under the Endangered Species Act. One proposal would change the definition of the word "habitat" in ways that would limit the agency's ability to conserve species that may require habitat restoration or whose range may shift because of climate change.

The other proposed rule change would expand the agency's ability to exclude areas essential to the conservation of threatened and endangered species from designation as critical habitat. One provision states that the USFWS must exclude areas when the costs of designating them outweigh the benefits (except in cases where extinction will result). This is more restrictive than the ESA itself, which states the agency "may" exclude such areas. The proposal would also reverse a longstanding presumption against excluding areas based upon economic considerations on public lands.

In all, 179 environmental organizations representing millions of concerned voters and supporters signed a letter of opposition directed to the Department of the Interior. "Protecting our natural heritage - including threatened and endangered species - is a core American value," the letter read in part. "We urge you to help save our most imperiled plants and animals from extinction by strongly and fully implementing the ESA and by withdrawing these two proposed rules."

Invisible Menace: Methane Flares

In October, wildlife rehabilitators at the New Mexico Wildlife Center took in a Red-tailed Hawk with puzzling injuries. The raptor's wings, normally padded with thick, dark-brown feathers, were so badly burned that they looked skeletal. Its chest and head were also scorched. "It kind of looked like it ran through fire," says Hilary DeVries, a wildlife rehabilitator at the Espanola center. Staff thought the male bird had been electrocuted, perhaps by a power line. But he lacked entry or exit wounds, or other signs of such an encounter.

What burned the bird, as the rescuers soon found out, was methane flaring, a federally mandated practice for disposing of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Landfills across the country use a device called a methane burner to convert the gas into water and carbon dioxide. But as the burner's flames shoot out of a tall exhaust pipe at heights of up to 30 feet, they remain colorless - and birds

can fly directly into them without warning. The oil and gas industries rely on methane flaring, too, making it an all-too-common way that birds are killed "incidentally" in the U.S., even though currently firms can be prosecuted for it.

Documented cases of birds killed or injured by methane burners exist in dozens of states, but there are no official counts. "The unfortunate thing is we don't have a great solution to it. We just understand the problem," says Gary Siftar, director of the Oklahoma Raptor Center in Broken Arrow, which has seen about a dozen birds with methane burner injuries since 2005. Many rescuers fear that only a small percentage of burned birds are found.



A Red-tailed Hawk's wing
burned by a methane flare

Raptors are particularly susceptible to flare injuries, as they often perch on the methane burners to scan for prey. Red-tailed hawks and Great Horned Owls are among the frequent victims. Landfills also attract these birds because the sites can look like grassy hills - ideal hunting habitat.

Don Torino, president of the Bergen County Audubon Society in New Jersey, says installing cages around methane burners is likely the only way to keep birds safe - but he doubts most landfills will install such a barrier. Other suggestions include burying electrical lines to prevent birds from perching on utility poles near burners, or building taller structures for the birds to alight away from stacks.

As for the Red-tailed Hawk in Espanola, he'll likely be at the rehabilitation facility at least through winter. Still, DeVries thinks his prognosis is good, particularly because only his feathers were affected. "This bird was really lucky," she says.

National Geographic

New Move to Relax Rules on Bird Kills

The Trump administration in late November published an analysis finding that its rule easing companies' liability for killing birds would not cause significant environmental harm, clearing the way for it to finalize a major rollback before the president's term ends on Jan. 20. Officials at the Interior Department have sought for years to shield energy companies, construction firms and land developers from prosecution if their operations "incidentally" kill birds, weakening protections under the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty. Conservation groups argue that the administration is indirectly permitting the accidental deaths of potentially millions of birds that suffer fatal encounters with oil skim pits, communications towers, and telephone or power lines.

A legal opinion can be reversed quickly, while a final rule can take a new administration years to undo. But Eric Glitzenstein of the Center for Biological Diversity said he is confident that this one could be overturned in court if the agency issues it before Pres.-elect Joe Biden takes office.

Washington Post



President's Column

Tom Jervis

Whew! A small glimmer of rationality has appeared. The great orange one has decided that he will allow the democratic process to proceed and that a transition can go forward. It was nip and tuck for a while but it now appears that the election of Joe Biden will come to fruition in due course. It has been a bleak four years for those of us who love nature and revere the natural world in all its wonders, but what now of the next four?

While the foxes will no longer be actually running the henhouse, they will not go away, and they have all too many supporters in Congress, as they've always had. While Biden has indicated a return to "normalcy" and to science-based decision making, all the forces that twisted science for special interests remain and will be working to subvert even the best intentions.

The prospect of normalcy seems like such a breath of fresh air that we should not forget the many battles we were fighting in the years before - for protection of endangered species and wild places, for clean air and water, and for the recognition that many in our country have been systematically and unjustly denied the benefits of the environmental legislation of the early 1970s.

Biden's proposed cabinet members so far are solid, competent people with years of experience in running government agencies. That alone is a welcome change, but undoing the mischief of the last four years will take a while. Appointing John Kerry as "Presidential Climate Envoy" is a strong signal that climate issues will not just be given lip service. But forward-looking legislation to, for example, declare the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge permanently off limits to development, remains a heavy lift. Although it would end decades of flip-flopping policy, a move such as that probably hinges on the outcome of two runoff Senate races in Georgia, as do many other environmental initiatives. If you know someone in the Peach State, write them a letter encouraging them to vote Democratic in January, for the sake of the nation.

The election of Joe Biden is a great start, but we must not kid ourselves that our work is finished. There is plenty to be done, and Audubon, at the national, regional, state and local levels, will be out front and leading that work with your support and encouragement.

Beep Beep! Make Way for The New Roadrunner License Plate

A new license plate featuring a Greater Roadrunner is now available from the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division. A roadrunner was the most requested choice in a survey that asked residents what animal they'd most like to see on the next license plate in the Share with Wildlife series (the others depict Gambel's Quail, Rio Grande cutthroat trout and mule deer).

The image on the new plate is taken from a photo of an actual roadrunner in an Albuquerque park by Cassandra Trevino in an Albuquerque park by Cassandra Trevino, who works as a cybersecurity specialist at Sandia National Laboratories. Trevino, an Albuquerque resident, photographed this particular roadrunner for years, not only because she liked it but because it seemed to have a sense of humor. "Believe it or not, if the roadrunner simply heard my voice, he would come up to me and start rapping his beak," she said. "I've seen this roadrunner with his mate and both of them raising multiple younger-to-juvenile roadrunners through the years."



Trevino even started her own "[Roadrunner Girl Wildlife Photography](#)" Facebook page. "I am often referred to as 'Roadrunner Girl' if people recognize me out in the open spaces with my camera," she said. "Every time someone sees a roadrunner, real or otherwise, they let me know."

The new license plate is available for \$27 from the [New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division](#). Fifteen dollars of the fee is distributed to the [Share with Wildlife](#) program, which has donated \$1.9 million over the last 10 years to a variety of projects and organizations, including research into little-known species. Focal species for 2020 include the Peñasco least chipmunk, which is found only in mountain ranges in southeastern New Mexico, and the Chihuahua chub, a state-endangered species found only in the Mimbres River in southwestern New Mexico.

Environmentalists' Green Wall

During the Trump administration, environmental organizations have collectively functioned as a kind of legal "Green Wall" against a tide of destructive and legally dubious environmental policies and decisions. Previous administrations typically won about 70% of their regulatory court cases, but the Trump administration has lost 85% - and 90% when it comes to environmental lawsuits.

Environmental Defense Fund

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
P. O. Box 22083
Santa Fé, NM 87502-2083

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Board of Directors 2020-2021

Officers:

President: Tom Jervis President@AudubonSantaFe.org
Vice President: VACANT
Treasurer: Carlyn Jervis
Secretary: Joanna Hatt

Committee Chairs:

Conservation: Joanna Hatt Conservation@AudubonSantaFe.org
Programs: VACANT
Newsletter Editor: Gordon Smith
Field trips: Rick Rockman
Webmasters: Tom Jervis/Meg Peterson
Membership: VACANT
Publicity: VACANT
ClimateWatch: Albert Shultz

Board Members at Large:

Sheila Gershen
Tom Taylor
Mary Ristow

New Mexico Audubon Council Delegates:

Mary Ristow
Tom Jervis
Gordon Smith

New Mexico Rare Bird Alert is on the Web

[New Mexico Rare Bird Alert](#)

Matt Baumann, Compiler
mbaumann22@gmail.com

Report sightings to
505-264-1052 (leave a message) or contact the compiler

Audubon en Español

Audubon ha lanzado su sitio web en español para conectar con las audiencias hispanas y disfrutar juntos de la naturaleza y la protección de las aves y sus hábitats. Visita Audubon en Español (<http://www.audubon.org/es>).

Es de nuestro reconocimiento que la Sociedad Audubon de Sangre de Cristo es digna representante de un precioso pedazo de tierra que ha sido ocupado durante milenios por personas de raíces culturales diversas. Respetamos profundamente dicha diversidad y creemos que del mismo modo bregamos por la protección de biodiversidad, debemos incluir y honrar la diversidad de los muchos pueblos y culturas que reconocen el norte de Nuevo Mexico como su propio hogar.

Contact your Congressional Representatives -

Let them know that protecting the environment is important to you!

Please note that updated contact information for newly elected U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan and U.S. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez will not be available until they are sworn in in January 2021. Until then the titles, names, addresses and phone numbers below still pertain.

Senator Martin Heinrich
U. S. Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202 224-5521 (office)
202-224-2841 (fax)
Toll free 1-800-443-8658
Santa Fé Office 505-988-6647
<https://www.heinrich.senate.gov/>

Senator Tom Udall
U. S. Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202.224.6621 (office)
202.228.3261 (fax)
Santa Fe Office 988.6511
<https://www.tomudall.senate.gov/>

Congressman Ben Ray Lujan
U. S. House of Representatives
2323 Russell HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6190 (office)
202-226-1331 (fax)
Santa Fe Office 984-8950
<https://lujan.house.gov/>