

# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society  
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Photograph by Tom Taylor

## In This Issue

### Defending Pollinators

This Page

### A Finch with Rare Plumage

P. 2

### Hummingbird Nests 101

P. 4

### Urban Forests Could Help Battle Climate Change

P. 5

### Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Threats Persist

P. 6

### President's Message

P. 7



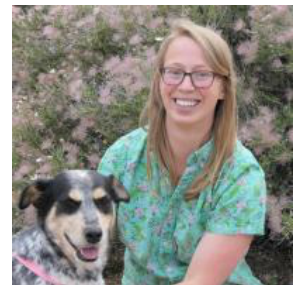
Ladder-backed Woodpecker

*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.*

## Defending Pollinators

Kaitlin Haase has her hands full. As Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist for the [Xerces Society](#) - the newest addition to the ranks of Santa Fe's environmental advocates - she's conducting webinars, authoring blog posts, developing lists of beneficial native plants, reaching out to local organizations and government agencies - and much more.

Named for the now-extinct Xerces blue butterfly, the first butterfly in North America known to die out as a result of human activities, the group is on a mission to protect invertebrate pollinators, including monarch butterflies, and the plants and habitat that support them. Backed by the locally-based Carroll Petri Foundation, the Xerces office headed by Haase is for now primarily focused on expanding conservation and education regarding pollinators in Santa Fe, although her territory includes all of New Mexico and Arizona, and a corner of west Texas.



Kaitlin Haase

Haase sees the Xerces and the Audubon societies as natural partners. Both are conservation nonprofits with a wildlife focus rooted in science and community, she noted. And while Xerces concentrates primarily on invertebrates - which Edward O. Wilson famously called "the little things that run the world" - Haase pointed out that "they won't survive without a native plant population. Birds obviously help disperse seeds, and (invertebrate) pollinators are a big source of food for them, too." Beyond this overall interdependence, hummingbirds in particular are important pollinators for certain plant species.

Since arriving here in May 2020, Haase has focused her efforts on creating and promoting the Santa Fe Pollinator Trail, which will feature native flowering plants along corridors through the urban area that link to broader expanses of vegetation on the city's edges. One such corridor lies along the Santa Fe River and could encompass Railyard Park, she said; another follows Arroyo Chamiso. The idea is to connect and expand on these existing green spaces with new plantings targeted at pollinators.

A key part of this project involves "habitat kits" - seedlings of perennial flowers, shrubs and even trees that together produce blooms from spring to fall, providing pollinator resources throughout the year, Haase said. Xerces will donate multiple kits to cooperating parks and nature preserves for large-scale habitat restoration, while individual kits - which include milkweed and bee balm - will be given to homeowners and renters along and near the pollinator trail who have at least 300 square feet to plant and meet other requirements.

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

(Continued on P. 3)

## A Finch with Rare Plumage

Over decades of birding and photographing birds, Tom Taylor has developed a good working knowledge of the avian world as well as a quick eye and trigger-finger for his camera. And he needed all of it this spring while birding at Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe. A fellow birder pointed out an unusual-looking finch at one of the center's feeders, and Taylor turned instinctively to capture images of the bird.

It turned out to be a rare orange variant of the Cassin's Finch. Taylor, a board member of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter, says this about the April 10 sighting:



Orange Variant Cassin's Finch - Photo by Tom Taylor

"Santa Fe is right on the cusp for the first wave of migrants, and the possibility of seeing some of the first migrating feathery visitors from the south was a principal reason why I wanted to stop by the Randall Davey Audubon Center that day. I was preparing to go home when the variant Cassin's Finch suddenly appeared at the large flat feeder in the garden. Mario Garcia, center assistant, had joined me at that time, and it was he who first caught a glimpse of the bird and quickly pointed it out to me as something very different. I immediately pivoted towards the feeder and simultaneously began taking photos - instantly seeing it was a finch and then using the color pattern, size and beak shape to ID it as a variant Cassin's. The bird flew into a nearby tree a short time later and for several minutes perched above us, partially hidden

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by a branch. It then flew away, giving me comfort that I hadn't tried for a clear - and likely missed - photo.

"Although not as dramatic as a rare bird species, it was quite a sight for someone like myself that could quickly make the unusual ID. This bird could be quite the puzzler



Typical Cassin's Finch Photo by Glenn Bartley

for a less experienced birder, as there are basically no opportunities to observe it. I was aware of the pigmentation variations sometimes seen in finches, as in past years I had seen both a yellow and orange House Finch. But seeing this pigmentation effect in a Cassin's Finch really caught me by surprise."

A blog called onthewildside812 has this to say about oddly colored Cassin's Finches: "On occasion, yellow- or orange-colored males occur in the wild, perhaps due to diets deficient in carotenoids - the pigments responsible for the reds of both Cassin's and House Finches."

Meanwhile, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology notes that birds with abnormal plumage are "among the most difficult birds to identify... these variations aren't in any field guides, and sometimes the abnormality removes key field marks. Project FeederWatch collected data about unusual-looking birds from 2000 to 2011... The number of reports of unusual-looking birds (was) a very small fraction of birds seen by participants."



Photo by Tom Taylor

## Audubon Activities

### Sangre de Cristo Chapter Field Trips May Resume This Summer

Our field-trip program remains suspended due to restrictions and concerns related to the coronavirus pandemic. However, we hope to resume field trips this summer. Sign up for eblasts with the latest news about upcoming field trips on our [email list](#).



Western Tanager - Photo by Mick Thompson

### Chapter Meetings and Programs

#### The Salmon Seekers: Coastal Bears of Alaska - Ed MacKerrow September 8, 2021 - 7 p.m. via Zoom

Join nature photographer Ed MacKerrow on a photographic journey with the bears and other wildlife of coastal Alaska. Salmon are the lifeblood of Alaska, and symbiotic inter-species relationships form in salmon-choked rivers each year. This presentation will focus on these relationships. A discussion of the places visited, man's impact on the bears, and bear behavior will follow the multimedia presentation.

Ed MacKerrow, Ph.D. is a scientist who researches complex adaptive social systems, a professional nature photographer, and a wilderness explorer. His award-winning images of nature have been published in magazines and journals. He serves on the boards of scientific societies and the Bosque del Apache NWR.

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

The trails and restrooms at Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary have reopened! The visitor center and main



buildings will remain closed until further notice, however, and bird walks and house tours are on hold for the time being. Please check our social media posts for virtual events, and check back for further information

regarding regular programming. Thank you and stay healthy! [RandallDavey](https://www.audubon.org/locations/new-mexico/randall-davey-audubon-center-and-sanctuary).

## Climate Watch

By Albert Shultz

Spring migrants are arriving, the breeding season is upon us and our current spring Climate Watch season – which runs from May 15 to June 15 - is under way. If you are continuing counts that you have done in the past, you know the protocol – just be sure to drop me a note to confirm the date you have done your counts. If you are new, or if you would like to expand with a new square or additional species, please get in touch right away and let me know how I can help.

Climate Watch is a national community-science program, designed by Audubon to track long-term population trends and distributions for selected songbird species. It calls upon volunteer birders to perform a set of 12 point-counts of five minutes each in habitat for particular species. This is our chapter's third year of participation, and our target species are nuthatches and bluebirds.

For more information on Climate Watch, contact Albert Shultz by email at [shultzaw@gmail.com](mailto:shultzaw@gmail.com), or by phone: 505-757-2754; or see the website [AudubonClimateWatch](https://www.audubon.org/programs/climate-watch).

## Recent Donations

The Sangre de Cristo Audubon chapter is grateful for \$560 in contributions received so far in 2021, including a donation in memory of Penny Gregory. Our heartfelt thanks for the support.

## Like Birds? Join Audubon!

Santa Fe and Taos areas: [AudubonSantaFe](https://www.audubon.org/locations/new-mexico/santa-fe)  
New Mexico statewide: [AudubonSouthwest](https://www.audubon.org/locations/new-mexico/southwest)

## Defending Pollinators

(Continued from P. 1)

The kits are expected to be ready for pickup in September; interested individuals, organizations or agencies must sign up for the program by June 30. More details are available [here](#), or contact Haase at [kaitlin.haase@xerces.org](mailto:kaitlin.haase@xerces.org).

While a major focus of the Xerces Society is to protect monarch butterflies, most of New Mexico is not a major route for this iconic migrating butterfly, although Haase still recommends that local gardeners plant milkweed, which these insects depend on. Meanwhile, there are plenty of other pollinators here that hold her interest, including a huge diversity of bees; New Mexico alone has more than 1,000 species, she noted. Many are highly specialized; for example, one bee species collects pollen only from creosote or mesquite, while others have an exclusive relationship with globe mallows. There are evening bees that visit only plants that flower at that time of day, and others, like squash bees, that are active early in the morning, Haase said.

Then there's the Yucca moth, a tiny white moth that has developed an intricate relationship with New Mexico's official state flower. The adult moths lay their eggs inside the blossoms, so when their larvae hatch, they can eat the seeds, Haase said. The next generation of adult moths emerges just as the flowers bloom again. The insects live for only a day or two, picking up pollen with their legs and flying to other yuccas, where they deposit the pollen intentionally on the flowers.

Haase said climate change is a particular threat to pollinators in this region, causing losses and shifts in vegetation, and also throwing off the delicate timing between plant blooms and pollinators' emergence. We humans can help forestall these changes in part by eschewing the use of pesticides and planting pollinator-friendly plant species, especially natives. "Even a small yard can be a haven for a wide diversity of invertebrates," Haase said.

\* \* \*

Providing wildflower-rich habitat is the most significant action you can take to support pollinators. Here are some resources for selecting pollinator-friendly plants for your garden:

[Pollinator Plants: Albuquerque and Santa Fe Region](#)  
[Pollinator Conservation Resource Center: SW](#)  
[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)  
[Pollinator Plant Recommendations for New Mexico - NRCS](#)  
[Audubon Native Plants Database - Santa Fe Area](#)

When buying plants, be sure to ask if they were raised without systemic pesticides, because these chemicals can threaten bees and other pollinators long after seedlings have left the nursery.



# Environment

## Citizen Scientists Help Find a Boatload of Bald Eagles

A new Bald Eagle population report - tabulated in part with eBird data contributed by birders across the country - has found more eagles than previously thought to exist in the Lower 48 states. A lot more.

The latest USFWS Bald Eagle Population Update report estimates 316,708 eagles throughout the contiguous United States, which is more than quadruple the eagle population reported in the 2009 report. The report also estimates 71,467 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the Lower 48 states, which is double the number of eagle nests noted in the 2009 report - and many multitudes higher than the all-time recorded low of 417 known eagle nests in 1963.



Nesting Bald Eagles  
Photo by Margaret Viens  
Macaulay Library

The rising number of Bald Eagles undoubtedly reflects the continuing conservation success story that stretches back to the banning of DDT in 1972. "This is truly an historic conservation success story," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "The Bald Eagle has always been considered a sacred species to American Indian people [and] sacred to our nation as America's national symbol."

The report also reflects a major advance by the USFWS in using citizen-science-powered supercomputing to generate better estimates for the eagle population. "I can honestly say that we would not have the most accurate population estimate available if we did not have the opportunity" to work with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and its eBird relative-abundance data on Bald Eagles, said USFWS Migratory Birds Program Assistant Director Jerome Ford. "The result of this partnership is the most scientifically robust, thorough population estimate of Bald Eagles in the Lower 48 states, and we look forward to continuing to work with Cornell in the future."

USFWS

## Hummingbird Nests 101

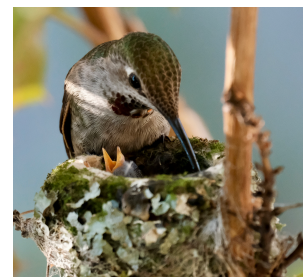
Each spring, hummingbirds return to our gardens, farms and parks, bringing their sparkle and activity. Birders and non-birders alike are excited to see these birds return. Their majesty is not without mystery, though - especially when it comes to their nesting habits. Hummingbirds are masters at camouflaging their nests, making them almost impossible to spot, even when you are looking.

Hummingbirds can be picky about where they nest. While some species have adapted to urbanization, sometimes even nesting on wires, plant hangers and other human-

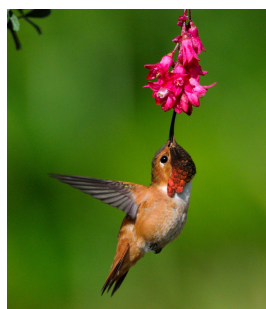
made items, most prefer the cover of deciduous trees growing near water. Tree foliage provides shelter for the parents and their chicks, while water helps to keep the area cool. Hummingbirds also need to live near food sources such as nectar-rich flowering plants - another reason why sites near water are key for hummingbirds in dry regions.

Due to the small size of hummingbird nests, you're not likely to find one in the crook of a large branch. Instead, hummingbirds tend to "set up shop" on thinner branches roughly one foot from tree trunks, often at a fork. Nests can appear like a small knot of wood; in general, they measure only a little over one inch in diameter. Their size depends on several factors, with larger species usually building larger nests than smaller species do.

Hummingbirds like their nests to be soft and flexible, and start construction with twigs and other bits of plants, using leaves for a base. However, hummingbirds will also use moss and lichen to camouflage their nests and make them softer. The real secret to a successful hummingbird nest, though, is spider silk, which these tiny birds incorporate by rolling it over the unfinished structure. The silk holds the nest together and anchors it to a foundation, and is inserted into nooks and crevasses to ensure attachment. Female hummingbirds spend up to seven days building these flexible, bowl-shaped nests.



Anna's Hummingbird  
Photo by William Thome



Rufous Hummingbird  
Photo by Leslie Scopes  
Anderson Arcata

Carefully observing hummingbird behavior is usually key to finding their nests. During incubation, females leave their nests only for brief periods to forage. However, you might be able to spot a female repeatedly visiting the same site during the process of nest construction. Keep in mind that in the United States, it is illegal to touch, relocate or remove an active nest. If you discover one, it's best to observe it from a distance to minimize disturbance and avoid tipping off a predator, such as a jay, to the location.

Hummingbirds use the night to sleep. In most cases, they will sleep on or by their nests, but not always. They do not reuse their nests, though; because the nests are flexible and expand as chicks grow, they eventually stretch, losing their shape and becoming unsuitable for new use. This means that every new set of eggs requires a new nest!

American Bird Conservancy



# Climate

## Urban Forests Have Overlooked Potential to Battle Climate Change

Urban forests in the United States are an underappreciated resource, saving an estimated \$18.3 billion annually by providing ecosystem services like air and water pollution removal, carbon sequestration and storage, energy savings for buildings, heat reduction and avoided storm water runoff. Urban trees also provide human health benefits by promoting increased physical activity, improved mental health and enhanced community walkability.

However, many locales are feeling the heat as urban forests - defined by the U.S. Forest Service as "the aggregate of all public and private vegetation and green space within a community that provide a myriad of environmental, health and economic benefits" - struggle against a multitude of stressors stemming from climate change. Forest pests and diseases are expanding their ranges, and heat, megadroughts and shifts in the amounts and timing of precipitation are changing water availability - all contributing to a looming urban tree crisis. To maintain the many benefits that these forests provide for people and wildlife, we urgently need clear strategies.

Albuquerque is one city experiencing a tree crisis: Most of its tree canopy is comprised of a single invasive species, the Siberian elm. The city suffers an urban heat island effect that, on average, adds 2.8°C during the day and 4.4°C at night to its "ordinary" (baseline) temperatures. Thus, the species that local arborists have been planting for years, like the pinyon pine and the Rocky Mountain juniper, are no longer viable options.



Planting trees in Albuquerque  
Photo: Roberto Rosales

To address this problem, a group that included state forestry experts, local government officials, nursery staff, landscape architects, county extension agents, university researchers and the Nature Conservancy recently ranked 136 tree species on the basis of the species' abilities to thrive under the

projected future climate in the metropolitan area. A key goal was to identify which species Albuquerque should - and should not - be planting now. Another aspect of the project was to work with the tree nursery industry to aid in exploring new species to bring into production.

After a year of meetings, conversations and debates, the team agreed on a list of 83 recommended species for planting in the Albuquerque area, now and in the future. The process generated buzz in the community about

climate change impacts, about how tree selection at the metropolitan-area scale involves more planning than simply choosing something to plant in one's front yard, and about challenges in caring for aging trees.

Albuquerque is now in the process of creating a video series to encourage community stewardship of local trees. And the local water authority is exploring the idea of building a demonstration site to monitor which trees will really thrive in the arid climate, and to showcase climate-ready trees so local residents can decide which species they like.

American Geophysical Union

## National Borders Threaten Birds and Other Wildlife as Climate Changes

As global temperatures rise, species in many parts of the world will be driven across national borders to find suitable habitat. Physical barriers like the USA-Mexico wall and fences between Russia and China aren't the only complication; countries with the greatest species loss may also be in the worst position to protect nature.

In collaboration with Durham University, Birdlife International modeled the climatic niches of more than 12,700 species of land birds and mammals, and projected how climate change would cause their distributions to shift by the year 2070. Researchers then related the projected changes in species richness to factors such as wealth, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, corruption, government effectiveness and political stability. The latter socio-political factors are key to determining how effective conservation can be, but haven't been widely considered in the context of climate change.

Under a high-emissions scenario, the study found that 29% of birds and 35% of mammals would shift over half of their ranges into countries in which they are not currently found. Key regions include western Amazonia for birds, and the U.S.-Mexico border and China-Russia border for mammals. The research also found that projected species loss under climate change will be greatest in countries with weaker governance, lower wealth - and a lower capacity for effective conservation. These countries also tend to have lower greenhouse gas emissions, raising questions of international justice: Should they have to deal with environmental damage largely caused by others?

The research strengthens the case for greater coordination of international conservation strategies for species whose ranges span national borders. Expanding, enhancing and managing habitat connectivity across borders, including trans-boundary protected areas, and coordinating appropriate legislation (such as hunting controls for targeted species), will be increasingly important.

Birdlife International

Let Your Representatives in Washington  
Know How You Feel!  
See Contact Info on Page 8!

## Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Threats Persist

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently designated nearly 300,000 acres in New Mexico and other western states as critical habitat for the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The designation includes many of the cuckoo's most important remaining nesting areas, including stretches of the Gila and Rio Grande rivers in New Mexico, but environmentalists lament that the habitat to be protected was reduced by more than 172,000 acres of "exclusions" in the final designation.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo once ranged widely in the western United States but has declined precipitously, with only an estimated 800 pairs remaining. It is a visually striking bird whose long tail has flashy white markings, and it is one of



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

few species that can eat spiny caterpillars, such as tent caterpillars, which adults and their chicks gorge on in spring and summer. The imperiled bird depends on healthy streamside areas for breeding, nesting and feeding; its disappearance from vast expanses of its former habitat is due largely to the damming of rivers, development, water withdrawal and livestock grazing.

Critical habitat designation requires federal agencies to avoid actions that result in damage or destruction of the bird's habitat. Among the key areas excluded by the recent decision, however, is one that encompasses over 8,000 acres in Elephant Butte Reservoir in southern New Mexico, at the request of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and other water managers. This exclusion was made despite findings from a 2012 survey that "the San Marcial reach of the Middle Rio Grande, and specifically the exposed portion of the Elephant Butte Reservoir conservation pool ... currently supports one of the largest remaining (Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo) populations in the Southwestern United States."

"We're thrilled these beautiful birds are finally receiving protections for their streamside homes," said Brian Segee, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "But we're disappointed the Fish and Wildlife Service willingly excluded so many key areas rather than give the cuckoo even more habitat protection. This failure reflects the real need for the Biden administration to bring in new leadership and reform the agency."

Center for Biological Diversity

## New Mexico Rivers and Wilderness Gain Protection, Attention

A wasteful diversion project on the Gila River got a final KO this spring after the state legislature passed House Bill 200 to end our state's participation in the proposed boondoggle. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the bill, directing the Interstate Stream Commission to withdraw from the group planning the diversion project, and on April 30 the commission followed through, officially ending its involvement. Now \$80 million in federal funds can be spent replacing aging infrastructure, conserving water and building sustainable supplies in the region. Further protection for the Gila is in the works; Sen. Ben Ray Luján plans to join Sen. Martin Heinrich in reintroducing legislation that would protect about 450 miles of the Gila and San Francisco rivers under Wild and Scenic River status.

Another one of New Mexico's rivers, the Pecos, was recently named one of America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2021 by American Rivers due to potential mining activity. The Colorado subsidiary of an Australian company has acquired 20 federal mining claims near Tererro and surrounding Santa Fe National Forest lands, in eastern Santa Fe County, and its proposed precious-metals mining project could adversely impact more than 5,000 acres along the Pecos and its tributaries. The Pecos River is home to increasingly rare native Rio Grande cutthroat trout, the critically endangered Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk, and elk, black bear, mountain lion and turkey.



Sabinoso Wilderness

Photo: NM Wildlife Federation

Meanwhile, in what would be the largest land donation to a designated wilderness area in U.S. history, the Trust for Public Land has proposed giving nearly 9,900 acres of land near Las Vegas, in San Miguel County, to the BLM. The donation for the Sabinoso Wilderness area would increase its size to 29,855 acres,

and includes land just outside the wilderness specifically for public parking and access. The donation includes the remnants of a historic military road and is home to mule deer, elk, mountain lion, black bear and Rio Grande turkey.

Also this spring, legislation was reintroduced to establish the 13,103-acre Cerro de la Olla Wilderness within the BLM's Rio Grande del Norte National Monument near Taos. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez, would protect an area known for its wild beauty, solitude and abundant wildlife. A previous version of the bill was introduced in the House and Senate in 2020 by New Mexico legislators; if the new version passes, Cerro de la Olla would become part of nearly 2 million acres in New Mexico that is protected as wilderness.



## President's Column

Tom Jervis

In recent weeks, I have been involved as part of a "community working group" to advise the City of Santa Fe on a project to replace the city's streetlights with light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. It has been a frustrating experience, marred by disinformation and confusion by the city's Department of Public Works and its contractor, Dalkia.

Nevertheless, the Santa Fe City Council recently approved a plan to replace the city's aging streetlights with LED fixtures. This is in itself a good thing, as the new lights will save money and energy, and reduce upward "fugitive light" that degrades our night sky.

However, the plan does not go as far as it should have to enhance the safety and security of our roadways, and does not respond to citizens' concerns about the "feel" of our community. The approved lighting fixtures are glary and have been shown in other cities to actually degrade safety by creating strong shadows that provide shelter for potential miscreants, and to foster insecurity for people who cannot see into those shadows. The plan will create a brightly lit environment that, while perhaps appropriate for some commercial parts of the city, is not appropriate for our residential neighborhoods and historic districts.

Both of these problems could have been addressed by consideration of lower-color-temperature lights in combination with higher-color-temperature versions in areas where they are appropriate. Such lighting would be less glary, would be more bird and wildlife friendly, and would further enhance our night skies. Lower-color-temperature lights would also give a warmer feel to our neighborhoods and historic districts.

The results of this project will be with us for a long time, so it behooved the city to get it right. In a rush to get it done, the city proceeded with this major infrastructure project without benefit of a review by qualified, disinterested lighting engineers who might have had useful suggestions beyond those mentioned above. The plan approved by the City Council thus represents a missed opportunity to get the right lights as communities such as Flagstaff and Tucson have.

Regardless, the next step for the city is to begin to address the excessively bright lights found at many businesses and parking lots, as well as athletic facilities. Contact your City Council representatives to encourage them to take action to further reduce light pollution and truly make Santa Fe a dark-sky-friendly community.

## Santa Fe Is Now a Bee City! Wait, What?

In March the Santa Fe City Council passed a resolution designating the city an official Bee City. So what, exactly, is a Bee City? The national certification program provides a framework for communities to work together to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites and reducing the use of pesticides. About 90% of wild plants and 75% of leading global food crops depend on animal pollinators for reproduction, and the great majority of that work is done by bees.

In joining the program, the city committed to creating a policy that obligates it to consider improvements to pest-management policies and practices that affect pollinator conservation, and to identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings. The ongoing effort is steered by a committee that advocates on behalf of pollinators; members include the Santa Fe Water Conservation Department and [Audubon Southwest](#), which will host the committee meetings at [Randall Davey Audubon Center](#).

The Bee City designation dovetails with a new effort by the [Xerces Society](#) to establish a Santa Fe Pollinator Trail, consisting of "corridors" through the urban area where plantings of native vegetation will help support more pollinators., including bees. There are some 3,600 different bee species across the country, and the Southwest has the highest diversity of any region.



Photo: Xerces Society

Nationwide there are currently 133 Bee City affiliates, including Albuquerque, and an additional 119 colleges and universities that have signed on as Bee Campus affiliates. You can keep up with the latest information and work on Santa Fe's Bee City initiative at [BeeCitySantaFe](#).

## Tracking Biden's Environmental Moves

An iconic bird of the Great Plains will benefit from Pres. Joe Biden's latest push to make climate action a central part of his presidency. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials proposed new Endangered Species Act protections for the Lesser Prairie Chicken that would designate the population living in Texas and New Mexico as endangered, setting up a potential fight with industry because the bird's range overlaps with the oil- and gas-rich Permian Basin. This step comes as Biden continues to transform the nation's energy and environmental landscape by overturning 34 of former president Donald Trump's policies and finalizing about two dozen of his own, from pausing new oil and gas leasing on public land and in public waters to rejoining the Paris climate accord.

Washington Post



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Tom Taylor  
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### Southwest Audubon Council Delegates:

Tom Jervis  
Mary Ristow  
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!

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

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