

# The Mountain Chickadee

Newsletter of the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society  
Volume 46 Number 1, March, 2017



Photograph by Tom Taylor

## Upcoming Activities Mark your Calendar

### Illustrated Evening Programs

**Wednesday, March 8**

**Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary  
Brewster Mobley**

**Wednesday, April 12**

**Threats to Birds from Open Pipes  
Chuck Hadcock**

**Check the [Sangre Website](#) for information.  
Note the location at the Randall Davey  
Audubon Center and time: 6:30 PM.**

### Special Program

**Friday, April 7**

**Cat Wars, The Devastating  
Consequences of a Cuddly Killer**

**Peter Marra**

**See Inside for place and time**

### Field Trips

See Listing Inside

For details on Programs and Field  
Trips, go to

**[Sangre de Cristo Audubon  
Society on the World-Wide Web](#)**

## The Future of Conservation

The pace and magnitude of human-caused global change has accelerated dramatically over the past 50 years, overwhelming the capacity of many ecosystems and species to maintain themselves as they have under the more stable conditions that prevailed for at least 11,000 years. The next few decades threaten even more rapid transformations because by 2050, the human population is projected to grow by 3 billion while simultaneously increasing per capita consumption. Thus, to avoid losing many species and the crucial aspects of ecosystems that we need—for both our physical and emotional well-being—new conservation paradigms and integration of information from conservation biology, paleobiology, and the Earth sciences are required.

Rather than attempting to hold ecosystems to an idealized conception of the past, as has been the prevailing conservation paradigm until recently, maintaining vibrant ecosystems for the future now requires new approaches that use both historical and novel conservation strategies, managing ecosystems for functional integrity rather than focusing entirely on particular species.

Conservation success will also increasingly hinge on choosing among different, sometimes mutually exclusive approaches to best achieve three conceptually distinct goals: maximizing biodiversity, maximizing ecosystem services, and preserving wilderness. These goals vary in applicability depending on whether historical or novel ecosystems are the conservation target.

In the future, the choices will be starker, likely involving decisions such as which species are candidates for managed relocation and to which areas, and whether certain areas should be off limits for intensive management, even if it means losing some species that now live there. Developing the capacity to make those choices will require conservation in both historical and novel ecosystems and effective collaboration of scientists, governmental officials, nongovernmental organizations, the legal community, and other stakeholders.

Conservation efforts are currently in a state of transition, with active debate about the relative importance of preserving historical landscapes with minimal human impact on one end of the ideological spectrum versus manipulating novel ecosystems that result from human activities on the other. Although the two approaches are often presented as dichotomous, in fact they are connected by a continuum of practices, and both are needed.

Although adding this long-term perspective will be essential to sustain biodiversity and all of the facets of nature that humans need as we continue to rapidly change the world over the next few decades, maximizing the chances of success will also require dealing with the root causes of the conservation crisis: rapid growth of the human population, increasing per capita consumption especially in developed countries, and anthropogenic climate change that is rapidly pushing habitats outside the bounds experienced by today's species.

Science, 2 February 2017

# Audubon Activities

## Illustrated Evening Programs

**Wednesday, March 8**  
**Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary**  
**Brewster Modley**

National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary covers about 13,000 acres near Naples, Florida. A visit to the Sanctuary is a journey into the heart of the Everglades ecosystem. Discover the rugged beauty of this famed natural area including pine flatwoods, wet prairie, marsh, and the largest old growth Bald Cypress forest in North America.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of February, March, and April at 6:30 PM in the Education building at the Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary at the end of Upper Canyon Rd. in Santa Fe. Abundant parking is available. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge; the building is wheelchair accessible. A short update of environmental issues and chapter activities precedes the program.

**Wednesday, April 12**  
**Bird Conservation and the Threat**  
**from Open Pipes**  
**Chuck Hathcock**

Birds face a variety of natural and anthropogenic threats. Birds in particular are being hit hard and conservation is urgently needed. Conservation works at a variety of scales, both in the scientific community and from the general public. We'll discuss the unintended consequences that open pipes are having on our local birds. Our actions to protect birds, whether big or small, all make a difference.

## Special Event

**Friday, April 7**  
**Cat Wars, the Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer.**  
**Peter Marra**

Peter Marra, Ph.D. is the Director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Marra's research in avian conservation science has three broad themes, including the ecology of migratory birds, urban ecosystem ecology and disease ecology. He will be talking about his recent Book: Cat Wars, The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer.

**This special lecture and book signing will be held at the Unitarian Church of Santa Fe on Barcelona St. at 7:00 PM**

## Field Trips

**Sunday, March 12**  
**Tingley Beach And Rio Grande**  
**Nature Center**  
Leader: Nancy Brandt  
505-982-2776, ex4mt@aol.com

**Saturday, April 29**  
**Las Vegas National Wildlife**  
**Refuge Area**  
Leader: Will Zaremko-Wright  
972-800-3950,

**Sunday, May 21**  
**Los Alamos : Water Canyon**  
Leader: Joe Fitzgibbon  
505-662-7707,  
fitzgibbon@newmexico.com

**Sunday, April 8**  
**Dusky Grouse : Los Alamos Ski**  
**Area**  
Leader: Joe Fitzgibbon  
505-662-7707, fitzgibbon@newmexico.com

**Saturday, May 6**  
**Santa Fe County Big Day**  
Leader: Roger Clark  
505-231-7369, rogercarolclark@gmail.com

**Saturday, June 10**  
**Bandelier : Frijoles Canyon**  
Leader: Joe Fitzgibbon  
505-662-7707, fitzgibbon@newmexico.com

**Saturday, April 22**  
**New Mexico Ornithological**  
**Society Meeting, Las Vegas, NM**  
www.nmbirds.org

**Saturday, May 13**  
**International Spring Migration**  
**Counts**

Leaders:  
Santa Fe: Sheila Gershen, 505-988-3143  
Los Alamos: Mouser Williams,  
505-850-6670  
Rio Arriba: Dale Stahlecker, 505-670-2138  
San Miguel: Cassidy Ruge, 505-425-2757

**For Details go to the**  
**[SdCAS Website](#)**

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society Field Trips are designed to promote understanding and appreciation of wildlife and their habitats. Our aim is to cultivate awareness of outdoor ethics in an atmosphere of friendly companionship. Field trips are free and open to the public. Some area entry fees are required and driving costs are shared. Participants are expected to carpool whenever possible. On all field trips, wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Bring water, lunch, and binoculars. No pets, please. Always call the trip leader before the trip. Trips may be cancelled for a variety of reasons.

# Audubon New Mexico

## Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary

The grounds at the Randall Davey Audubon Center are open Monday to Saturday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, closed Sundays. Stroll the gardens as birds visit the birdfeeders, or walk the trails and enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of the 135-acre wildlife sanctuary. Additionally, The Davey Center is an environmental education center and offer a variety of educational events. Please check our new [website](#) or call (505-983-4609) for information or to register for events. The Center is located at the end of Upper Canyon Road on the far east side of Santa Fe.

### Historic House Tours

Step back in time as you stroll through the old Santa Fe style home (originally a lumber mill built in 1847 by the U.S. Army), of the artist Randall Davey (1887-1964). This docent-led tour will give you an opportunity to view some of Davey's most spectacular works of art, as well as a beautiful collection of Spanish Colonial and European antiques. Tours are held each Friday at 2:00 PM. Reservations are recommended. Cost is \$5 per person. For information call 505-983-4609.



### Randall Davey Center Activities

Call 983-4609 for more information on these Events

Every Saturday, **Bird Walks** at the Davey Center. 8:30 AM

Sunday, March 19. **Urban Birding with Scot Pipkin.** Discover the array of birds that live in the City Different! We will meet at the Roundhouse north entrance for some birding at the Capitol and a walk toward the Santa Fe River. 8:30-11am

Saturday, March 25. **Nature Walk with Steve Hamp.** Snowpack measurements, stream flow forecast, Bear Canyon. Start time: 10:00 AM

Friday, April 14. **Wildflower Walk with George Cox.** RDAC Loop and Bear Canyon. Start time: 9:00 AM

Sunday, April 16. **Urban Birding with Scot Pipkin.** Discover the array of birds that live in the City Different! We will meet at the Railyard Park classroom for some birding in some great habitat in the heart of the city. 8:30-11am

Saturday, April 22. Earth Day, **Nature Walk with Steve Hamp.** Santa Fe Preserve, history of the Santa Fe River. Start time: 9:00 AM.

Saturday, May 13. **Birding 101.** Start time 10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 16. **Nature Walk with Steve Hamp.** A healthy watershed, Bear Canyon. Start time 10:00 AM

Saturday, May 20 **Watercoloring with Erik Speyer.** Join Erik Speyer, painter, and author of *The Adventures of Kubi* a children's book about the true story of a dog who befriends a water buffalo in Vietnam. 1:30-4pm, Fee: \$25

Sunday, May 21. **Urban Birding with Scot Pipkin.** Discover the array of birds that live in the City Different! We will meet at the Roundhouse north entrance for some birding at the Capitol and a walk toward the Santa Fe River. 8:30-11am

### SdCAS Advocates for Birds on the Santa Fe National Forest

The Santa Fe National Forest is in the process of rewriting its Forest Plan, last revised in 1987. The Forest Plan sets the tone and establishes guidance for all project-level actions on the Forest. The 1987 Forest Plan was heavy on extractive uses like timber and grazing and prioritized these uses over environmental stewardship and ecological health. What we have seen of the Plan so far is a refreshing change. Instead of focusing on timber, the focus is on restoration of resilient forests that are stable to the inevitable fires and climate change.

Sangre de Cristo Audubon has been active and engaged in the process, encouraging the kinds of changes that we believe are important to the long-term future of the Forest. Our more specific focus is of course on birds and their habitat. We are arguing strongly that a number of birds found on the Santa Fe should be considered Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). We base our arguments on the analysis of the [New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners](#) (NMACP) which recently updated the New Mexico Bird Conservation Plan, assessing the threats to and status of all species of birds found in New Mexico. Many species of birds in New Mexico are declining, some, like the Piñon Jay, dramatically. We believe that any bird species found on the Santa Fe prioritized by the NMACP as most threatened should be included as SCC. These birds include Bendire's Thrasher, Piñon Jay, Lewis's Woodpecker, Black and Brown-capped Rosy Finch, Grace's Warbler, Juniper Titmouse, Virginia's Warbler, Flammulated Owl, Scaled Quail, and Woodhouse's Scrub Jay (formerly Western Scrub Jay)

We are also trying to build in a recognition of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Fish and Wildlife Service guidance on the MBTA limits vegetative activities, cutting trees or brush, to periods outside of the breeding season for birds, roughly April 15 to August 1. The Forest Service has been almost alone among Federal agencies in ignoring this guidance, which unfortunately does not have the force of law.

Finally, we are advocating for the conditions that are necessary for the processes that underlie a healthy forest ecosystem; stable soils, vegetative cover, fire, nutrient cycling, healthy stream morphologies.

The Draft Forest Plan is anticipated late next Summer or early Fall. We will continue to engage and work to incorporate protections for birds in the Plan.

# Environment News

## Coal Fading Fast

As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump promised to help revive the struggling coal industry. It's looking like a tough promise to keep.

In the past month, owners of two of the nation's biggest coal-fired power plants have announced plans to shut them down, potentially idling hundreds of workers. One plant in Arizona is the largest coal-fired facility in the western United States.

Yet even with his efforts to roll back Obama-era energy regulations, a lot of coal jobs won't ever return, mainly because of harsh economic realities.

Case in point: The decision in February by the utilities that own the Navajo Generating Station outside Page, Ariz., to decommission the plant at the end of 2019, decades earlier than expected. The 2,250-megawatt plant has faced increasing financial pressure in the face of record-low natural gas prices, which have made it more expensive to produce electricity at the facility than to purchase it from cheaper sources.

Environmental activists welcomed the prospect of closing the plant, one of the biggest polluters in the country. The Navajo Generating Station was third on a 2014 Environmental Protection Agency list of major carbon-emitting facilities.

Less than three weeks ago, Dayton Power and Light reached an agreement with the Sierra Club to close its Killen and Stuart coal-fired power plants in Ohio due to economic reasons. The plants would close in June 2018, the company and nonprofit said. Together, the two plants have a capacity of over 3,000 megawatts. Dayton Power and Light submitted a closure plan for approval by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

The Sierra Club applauded the moves, which it said would save \$37 million a year in health-care costs by avoiding more than 1,200 asthma attacks, 100 heart attacks and nearly 100 deaths linked to the two plants' emissions. Both facilities are among the largest sources of pollution in the United States, affecting residents as far away as the Atlantic coast.

"The economics of coal are increasingly bad," said Bruce Nilles, a Sierra Club lawyer. State governments and utilities commissions "will do a lot to prop up" ailing plants, he said, but "it gets increasingly expensive."



Trump's ability to save the Navajo plant and others like it is limited, despite his rhetoric. Even if his administration follows through on its promises to relax regulations on the coal industry, those changes

aren't likely to change coal's fading market. And if the owners of coal-fired plants lose money when they operate their facilities, keeping them running makes little economic sense.

Washington Post, 14 February, 2017

## Wood Fuel May Not Be Sustainable

A push to promote wood as a source of renewable, low-carbon energy has set off a debate among scientists about the implications for the climate and forest ecosystems. Much of the discussion has revolved around forests in the southeastern United States, where a wood pellet industry is booming as the region supplies wood for European power plants, where the fuel has been deemed "carbon neutral." Other parts of the world are also starting to tap into wood for electricity. Some scientists say that sustainable logging for energy recycles carbon as new forests grow back. But others caution this process could take decades, whereas large carbon emissions from burning the wood are happening right now.

Science, 5 January, 2017

## As Wyo. Drilling Increased, Bird Numbers Declined

A new federal study covering oil and natural gas development in Wyoming over a 25-year period found that as drilling density increased, the productivity of Greater Sage-grouse breeding grounds consistently declined. The conclusions in the latest peer-reviewed study — led by researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado State University and published in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* — analyzed male attendance at grouse breeding grounds near drilling sites in Wyoming between 1984 and 2008. They found that male counts at these sites, called leks, decreased by 2.5 percent every year during the study period. The decline in male attendance was "negatively related to oil and gas well density," the 12-page study concludes. The low male attendance did not appear to be influenced by other factors including the height of sagebrush cover or precipitation patterns.

American Bird Conservancy, 6 December, 2016

## Zebra Finch Parents Tell Eggs: It's Hot Outside—and They Listen!

By calling to their eggs, zebra finch parents may be helping their young prepare for a hotter world brought on by climate change. Learn [more](#). Watch a cool video [here](#).





# Climate Corner

## Another Record!

Marking another milestone for a changing planet, scientists reported in January that the Earth reached its highest temperature on record in 2016, trouncing a record set only a year earlier, which beat one set in 2014. It is the first time in the modern era of global warming data that temperatures have blown past the previous record three years in a row.

In reality, the Earth is heating up, a point long beyond serious scientific dispute, but one becoming more evident as the records keep falling. Temperatures are heading toward levels that many experts believe will pose a profound threat to both the natural world and to human civilization.

In 2015 and 2016, the planetary warming was intensified by the weather pattern known as El Niño, in which the Pacific Ocean released a huge burst of energy and water vapor into the atmosphere. But the bigger factor in setting the records was the long-term trend of rising temperatures, which scientists say is being driven by increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

NY Times



## Lakes in Antarctica Cause Concern

In a [new study](#), scientists who study the largest ice mass on Earth — East Antarctica — have found that it is showing a surprising feature reminiscent of the fastest melting one: Greenland. More specifically, the satellite-based study found that atop the coastal Langhovde Glacier in East Antarctica, large numbers of meltwater lakes have been forming — nearly 8,000 of them in summer between the year 2000 and 2013.

Moreover, in some cases, just as in Greenland, these lakes appear to have then been draining down into the floating parts of the glacier, potentially weakening it. The same phenomenon was previously spotted on the warmer Antarctic Peninsula and was likely part of what drove the shattering of the Larsen B ice shelf in 2002.

East Antarctica, however, has been assumed to be relatively stable. The research raises concern, for the following reason: Mounting evidence suggests one reason that Greenland has been melting so fast lately is precisely these kinds of lakes.

Geophysical Research Letters, Washinton Post, 16 August 2016

## Ocean Oxygen

A large research synthesis, published in one of the world's most influential scientific journals, has detected a decline in the amount of dissolved oxygen in oceans around the world — a long-predicted result of climate change that could have severe consequences for marine organisms if it continues.

The paper, published in February, found a decline of more than 2 percent in ocean oxygen content worldwide between 1960 and 2010. The loss, however, showed up in some ocean basins more than others. The largest overall volume of oxygen was lost in the largest ocean — the Pacific — but as a percentage, the decline was sharpest in the Arctic Ocean, a region facing Earth's most stark climate change.

The loss of ocean oxygen “has been assumed from models, and there have been lots of regional analysis that have shown local decline, but it has never been shown on the global scale, and never for the deep ocean,” said one of the authors.

Climate change models predict the oceans will lose oxygen because of several factors. Most obvious is simply that warmer water holds less dissolved gases, including oxygen.

But another factor is the growing stratification of ocean waters. Oxygen enters the ocean at its surface, from the atmosphere and from the photosynthetic activity of marine microorganisms. But as that upper layer warms up, the oxygen-rich waters are less likely to mix down into cooler layers of the ocean because the warm waters are less dense and do not sink as readily. When the upper ocean warms, less water gets down deep, and so therefore, the oxygen supply to the deep ocean is shut down or significantly reduced.

The new study represents a synthesis of literally “millions” of separate ocean measurements over time. The authors then used interpolation techniques for areas of the ocean where they lacked measurements.

The resulting study attributes less than 15 percent of the total oxygen loss to sheer warmer temperatures, which create less solubility. The rest was attributed to other factors, such as a lack of mixing.

The new study underscores once again that some of the most profound consequences of climate change are occurring in the oceans, rather than on land. In recent years, incursions of warm ocean water have caused large die-offs of coral reefs, and in some cases, kelp forests as well. Meanwhile, warmer oceans have also begun to destabilize glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica, and as they melt, these glaciers freshen the ocean waters and potentially change the nature of their circulation.

When it comes to ocean deoxygenation, as climate change continues, this trend should also increase — studies suggest a loss of up to 7 percent of the ocean's oxygen by 2100. At the end of the current paper, the researchers are blunt about the consequences of a continuing loss of oceanic oxygen. “Far-reaching implications for marine ecosystems and fisheries can be expected,” they write.

Washington Post, 16 February, 2017



## President's Column

We are still at the beginning of the Trump Presidency but a number of trends are starting to emerge, many of which are of concern to those of us who care about the natural world.

As expected, the federal agencies are being led by individuals whose priorities are aligned with a view that natural resources are valuable only inasmuch as they are a source for exploitation. Moreover, the notion that many public "goods;" clean air, clean water, and a healthy natural environment, are available as dumping grounds for the detritus of extractive and manufacturing industry seems to have become the order of the day. For years, beginning in the early 1970s, we have moved in fits and starts to recognize the real costs, in human health and well-being, of despoiling the environment—in economic terms, of forcing industry to internalize the external costs of pollution and environmental degradation.

We have seen this before, most notably in the Reagan Presidency when a number of cabinet appointments were openly opposed to the missions of the agencies they were selected to lead. We may have thought we had learned from those experiences, and other somewhat less blatant examples from the second Bush Presidency, but apparently not.

The most unsettling trend in both the Administration and in the Congress, is a drive to not only ignore the results and implications of scientific investigations, but to rely on "alternative facts" as a basis for governmental policy. Magical thinking, and there is no other term that expresses this attitude more clearly, throws us not back to the rape and pillage of 19th century America, but back to pre-renaissance times in western Europe.

But there are glimmers of hope. Across the board, the agencies are populated with dedicated, patriotic professionals who deeply believe in the mission of their agencies and in the rule of law. They will need our support and vigilance to resist the darker forces that are currently in the ascendency. Audubon will be there as a voice for the environment at the local, state, and national levels. Times are tough, but the rule of law will prevail. Audubon and other organizations will demand accountability from our government.

More importantly, the American people are not dummies. Say what you will about the election, but the people do know better. For example, the President has supported the magical notion that vaccines are responsible for autism, a claim thoroughly debunked by science. But a poll last year by the Pew Research Center showed that 82% of Americans say the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine should be required for public school entry

because of the risks that unvaccinated children pose to their peers. This is up from a similar survey in 2014 when 68% of respondents supported a school entry requirement for childhood vaccines generally. Support did not vary appreciably between Republicans and Democrats.

So there is reason for hope. Things are bad, perhaps more so than at few times in the past, but with vigilance, active opposition and a retained faith in the primacy of evidence-based policy, we will prevail, and this too, will pass.

Tom Jervis

## It's Spring: 100 Plants to Feed the Bees

The Xerces Society is pleased to announce the arrival of their newest book, 100 Plants to Feed the Bees. Creating a pollinator garden should not be complicated, and this book introduces you to the most important first step: just plant flowers.

Beginning with an overview of the relationship between plants and bees and brief notes on selecting and growing pollinator plants—including the importance of keeping them free from pesticides—the book quickly moves on to profiles of one hundred plants that are great for bees (as well as for butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds).

The focus is on native flowers, shrubs, and trees to enhance your garden, farm, or meadow, but also includes some nonnative plants suitable for gardens. Each profile is accompanied by multiple photographs and provides planting tips, ways to use the plant, its range, and its bloom time, as well as notes on which pollinators will visit it.

Inquire at your local bookstore or the Xerces Society for this and our other books, including *Attracting Native Pollinators*, and *Gardening for Butterflies*

[Xerces Society](#)



## Swapping Senses to Avoid the Din

Species that use sound for foraging or movement are at a disadvantage in our increasingly noisy world. However, some species have the capacity to operate despite background din. Fringe-lipped bats typically hunt frogs by listening for their breeding calls. In noisy environments, researchers found that the bats shift from passive acoustic reception of the frogs' sounds to using echolocation to detect the calling frogs' expanding throat sacs.

Science 16 September, 2016

# Political Issues

## Senate Begins Attack on the ESA

A Senate hearing to “modernize the Endangered Species Act” unfolded earlier this year just as supporters of the law had feared, with round after round of criticism from Republican lawmakers who said the federal effort to keep species from going extinct encroaches on states’ rights, is unfair to landowners and stymies efforts by mining companies to extract resources and create jobs.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) declared that the act “is not working today.” Barrasso’s view is in lockstep with the Trump administration, which wants to cut regulations that impede business, particularly energy development. In February, the Interior Department under President Trump delayed the start date of protections for the endangered rusty patched bumblebee, which has lost an estimated 90 percent of its population in the past two decades. The department said it is reviewing rules set by the Obama administration only weeks earlier, triggering a lawsuit from a nonprofit conservation group that called the delay and the review illegal.

The Endangered Species Act is a 43-year-old law enacted under the Nixon administration at a time when people were beginning to understand how dramatically chemical use and human development were devastating species. It has since saved the Bald Eagle, California Condor, Gray Wolves, Black-footed Ferret, American Alligator and Florida Manatee from likely extinction.

Referring to research published in the journals *Science* and *Conservation Biology* that the rate of extinction across species is 1,000 times the rate before human expansion, Sen. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.) asked the panelists whether they believed the finding that Earth is on the verge of a sixth mass extinction.

Each panelist who testified the act should be significantly changed said they weren’t qualified to answer such a question. Rappaport and Ashe, the most recent directors of Fish and Wildlife under presidents who are Democrats, emphatically answered yes.

“The Endangered Species Act is the world’s gold standard” for government conservation, Ashe said. “It’s not perfect. It can be better. Your goal is to make it ... stronger and better.”

Washington Post



## Killing Promotes Killing

As a way to reduce poaching and promote tolerance of endangered species, some governments have implemented policies allowing the legal killing of large carnivores. Researchers recently investigated this controversial idea by studying the relationship between wolf population growth and announcements of legal hunting periods (either for individuals or as government-led culls) in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. Contrary to the oft-stated argument that legal hunting reduces poaching, they found that population growth declined after both the announcements and the killing events. This suggests that legal killing may actually promote illegal killing, not tolerance.

Proc. R. Soc. London Ser. B, 10.1098/rspb.2015.2939 (2016).  
Reviewed in *Science* 27 May, 2016

The New Mexico Legislature is considering legislation, SB-268, that would outlaw animal killing “contests.” To identify your senators and Representatives, go to the Legislature’s Website ([https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find\\_My\\_Legislator](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator)) and let your feelings be known to your representatives. Santa Fe’s Senator Peter Wirth is in favor of the legislation.



## Congress Advances Bill to Kill Wolves, Bears in Alaska

The House of Representatives has just used the Congressional Review Act to try to strip protections from wolves, bears and other predators in Alaska wildlife refuges. It’s an unprecedented move that would let wolves and pups be killed in their dens, and bears could be gunned down from the air.

“Refuges are places where we celebrate biological diversity, not where wolves and bears are inhumanely killed for no reason,” said Center lawyer Emily Jeffers. “We’ll do everything in our power to fight this mean-spirited attack on these animals and stop it from becoming law.” [Read more.](#)

Center for Biological Diversity

Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society  
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## Sangre de Cristo Audubon Board of Directors 2017

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**[Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society on the World-Wide Web](http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/sdcas/)**  
**<http://www.newmexicoaudubon.org/sdcas/>**

## New Mexico Rare Bird Alert

is on the Web

**[New Mexico Rare Bird Alert](#)**

Matt Baumann, Compiler  
mbaumann22@gmail.com

## 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>).

Contact your Congressional Representatives  
Let them know that protecting the environment is important to you!

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