

THE SPACES WE SHARE



Audubon
NEW MEXICO

December, 2017

Dear Friend,

Thank you from all of us at
Audubon New Mexico!

Your support enables us to address our state's largest conservation challenges for birds and the habitat they rely on, now and in the future. We close 2017 with many milestones and exciting news. Jonathan Hayes will be joining us as our new Executive Director, and will lead us to continue the journey to be the most effective conservation network in New Mexico. Through our incredible chapters, partners, members, donors, and volunteers, Audubon New Mexico is a powerful force for nature. We are working hard to protect important bird habitat and invest in the education of our community around the state, but we cannot address these concerns without your help. You make that possible and we deeply appreciate you.



The stories shared within this book demonstrate how we have turned our mission into reality and a celebration of years of helping people protect our natural heritage in New Mexico. We hope you take the time to read the enclosed booklet and become inspired by the work we're doing.

Protecting birds and wildlife by engaging people in conservation action is more than just our mission, it is a means of making the world a better place. We know there are many issues in our country that need attention right now and we appreciate that you've chosen to support Audubon New Mexico.

*With gratitude and warm wishes for the
holiday season and upcoming year,*

Audubon New Mexico Staff



*“If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of
the big problems in the world.”*

– Dr. Thomas Lovejoy

Stewards of New Mexico's Natural Treasures

More than two-thirds of New Mexico bird species have been recorded using the Gila River Valley in New Mexico. The riparian forest, wetland, and open water habitat sustained by the Gila's natural undulating flows provide vital food, water, shelter, and nesting substrate for Common Black-Hawk, and Bell's Vireo to name just two of the species of conservation concern that abound along the river. Sara Boyett has seen generations of birds breeding and migrating along the Gila River and its tributaries and has worked tirelessly to protect 6700 acres of Important Bird Areas and over 250 miles of free-flowing freshwater—this ribbon of life for those birds.



Audubon New Mexico

Board Member and Former
President of the Southwestern
New Mexico Audubon Society



"Protecting the Gila River was the primary impetus for the founding of the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon chapter in 1968. Audubon has allowed me a public voice for encouraging others to protect this priceless river which supports such biodiversity in our arid region." — **Sara Boyett**



Freshwater Conservation

Water is the source of all life here in New Mexico and our rivers are especially critical for bird habitat and biodiversity. Central to Audubon's conservation work is the belief that where birds thrive, people prosper. Our work is centered on birds because they are a crucial link in the chain of life. The vast distances birds travel and their exposure to diverse ecosystems make them unique barometers of the earth's health and specifically, here in New Mexico, the health of our rivers. Many birds depend on healthy rivers, streams and springs, such as the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Bell's Vireo, which are all in decline because of a changing climate, over allocation of water resources and other changes to a rivers' natural flow. To that end, Audubon New Mexico remains committed to protecting our natural resources that are precious ribbons of life for both birds and people.

Water is the source of all life

Audubon's Western Water vision is to take actions to achieve a reliable water supply for birds and people throughout the West. We seek to address key water-related challenges by advancing balanced solutions to water use in the West to ensure birds, ecosystems, people and economies thrive. This means examining all options to allocate water to meet economic and human health needs, while securing environmental flows to sustain key ecological riparian and wetland assets.

Audubon is a leader in the state on innovative programs to restore nature's share of water. In partnership with irrigation districts, tribal nations and senior water users, Audubon has implemented first-of-its-kind voluntary water transfers and modernized water policies to restore vibrant swathes of river habitat benefiting more than one hundred miles along the Rio Grande and its tributaries. Our approach is collaborative and market-based, finding solutions which benefit fish and wildlife, support cultural traditions, and sustain working lands.

Audubon, with significant support from local chapter leadership and members, is also advocating to save the last free-flowing Gila River from one or more diversions. Supporting some of the highest numbers of bird species in the contiguous United States, the proposed diversions could be catastrophic to Important Bird Areas, the river's health and the unique river valley where many New Mexican families recreate. Fortunately, there is a better solution. Audubon is asking local governments to use their fair share of federal AWSA funds to pursue shovel-ready local water conservation and efficiency projects. The Southwest region's largest urban populations could secure their future water needs beyond 2060 and save ratepayers and taxpayers tens of millions in capital improvement costs while protecting New Mexico's last free-flowing river.



In calendar year 2017, ANM mobilized our Western River Action Network members and supporters in the NM Southwestern Water Planning Region to take over 1000 actions to demonstrate public opposition to the Gila River diversion including 100 higher-level actions like meeting with agency officials or decision makers, making public comment at public meetings, attending workshops and publishing a letter to the editor.



Ranney Ranch

For the past half century, the Ranney family has ranched in the high mesa country of central New Mexico near the town of Corona. In the early years of the twentieth century, this land provided some capacity for dryland bean farming, but like most of New Mexico's grasslands, the limited rainfall, rugged landscape, and depth to significant aquifers have precluded large-scale cultivation of crops. In agricultural terms, this is grazing land.

In 2003, inspired by the notion of raising healthy, grassfed beef and seeking to offer a local product (still, in 2015, less than two percent of New Mexico beef is consumed in-state), Ranney Ranch undertook new land management practices in the hope of restoring our high-country grasslands to their earlier diversity and richness. In five years' time and without any supplemental irrigation, external fertilizers, or manual seeding of grasses, Ranney Ranch documented the re-emergence of over thirty-five species of native grasses, measured an increase of over twenty-five percent soil organic carbon in our rangeland soils, and saw greatly increased water retention capability across the ranch. This, in addition to producing our healthiest and heaviest calves ever, even during extreme drought years.

To support Audubon's conservation efforts to restore grasslands for the benefit of birds, purchase Ranney Ranch beef certified under the Audubon Conservation Ranching program, contact Skarsgard Farms at 505-681-4060.



“Our hope is that this partnership will spread the word that carefully managed livestock are key to the ecologic health and resilience of our nation's grasslands. It turns out that grassland birds and grass-fed beef go well together, and each requires public support to survive.” —**Nancy Ranney**



Grasslands Conservation

Grasslands are among the most imperiled ecosystems in the world—and one of the least protected. The decline of grassland habitats causes a decline of grassland and arid land birds, which have suffered consistent population loss over the last 40 years—more than any other group of birds.

The Lesser-Prairie Chicken, Cassin's Sparrow, Scaled Quail, and Western Meadowlark depend on healthy southern shortgrass prairie grasslands to breed. Since the 1970s, many species have declined over 50%. Several species that winter in New Mexico Chihuahuan Desert grasslands have declined over 80%. The goal of Audubon New Mexico's Conservation Ranching Program is to enhance the biodiversity in grassland ecoregions in the state. We recognize the importance of restoring habitats and the plight of grassland birds is inextricably linked to working lands and grazing management.

The vast grasslands of New Mexico are part of the state's heritage, culture, and economy. Survival of healthy working lands and grasslands birds in New Mexico relies on engaging ranchers in solutions that mitigate economic and environmental threats to their livelihood. Audubon's Conservation Ranching program offers an incentive to help New Mexico ranchers manage their land for the benefit of grassland birds and ranching families by awarding a certification label on beef products. For the first time, consumers can contribute to grassland conservation efforts through their fork by selectively purchasing beef from Audubon-certified farms and ranches.

In November, Conservation Ranching launched its first ranch, Ranney Ranch. Through this collaboration and many others, we will enhance millions of acres of grassland bird habitat. For each participating ranch, Audubon production protocols are adopted and a Habitat Management Plan is implemented. These plans outline steps to diversify pastures, control invasive plants, and implement a rotational grazing approach that produces diverse cover across the land. Audubon will provide technical assistance to participating ranchers in production and rangeland ecology and use its network to build consumer awareness and interest.

The Audubon certification seal is expected to bring a broad market appeal to consumers who want options for beef that is sustainably raised and benefits wildlife habitat.



[AUDUBON.ORG/RANCHING](https://audubon.org/ranching)

PROTECTING BIRDS
- BY RESTORING -
GRASSLANDS

Audubon New Mexico Educates eager learners across the state.



Brenda Dominguez,
3rd Grade Teacher
– **Amy Biehl**
Elementary School

Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary is unique because it brings text-based concepts to life through hands-on experiences in a natural context. As educators, we are able to build upon RDAC's experiential education. Concepts and vocabulary are presented in engaging ways, breaking through any language barriers. When we get back to the classroom, we are able to delve deeper into our instruction in more meaningful ways, while connecting to texts across different content areas.



Audubon New Mexico's education program gets assistance from 26 multi-generational state-wide volunteers who have donated over 2,000 volunteer hours.

Through our City of Santa Fe funded programs, our small team of educators provide over 4,800 hours of inquiry-driven science education each year.

Dozens of afterschool teachers in Santa Fe and Española have been trained to deliver this curriculum as part of the federally funded 21st Century Learning Centers program.

These combined projects amount to nearly 40,000 hours of student learning throughout the state!



State-wide Education

Audubon New Mexico utilizes our enchanted land's abundant beauty and diverse ecosystems to develop and deliver place-based science programs for our state's youth. By emphasizing science practices through interaction with the natural world and leveraging collaborative efforts with our education partners, we are able to reach thousands of students each year. Our approach helps build a strong foundation for students to be competitive in the 21st century economy by giving them STEM-related skills as well as building confidence, thinking independently, and connecting them to a network of professionals and experts.

Fostering science-literate community members who recognize the value of biodiversity, the value of scientific decision making, and the joys of a mind that is both curious and critical are the cornerstones of Audubon New Mexico's education philosophy. Take a look at how we are working with schools, communities, and partners to provide New Mexico's youth with the best set of tools available to become competitive in the global workforce and to be responsible leaders in the future. With your help, Audubon New Mexico will continue to spread its wings and provide even more of our state's youth with enriching, hands-on science content.

Our Future:
Engaging the
Next Generation
of Nature Stewards

Plants for Birds

The Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary showcases a wide variety of native plants of Northern New Mexico. These plants attract over 190 species of birds ranging from common to rare. Birds depend on native plants for food, shelter, and nesting habitat. Protecting native plant habitat is vital to preserving New Mexico's rich biodiversity and aligns directly with Audubon's mission. With a shared vision and powerful partnership with the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association (SFMGA), we are making a difference on the ground and in the sky.

Award Winning Gardens



Thanks to our partnership with the Santa Fe Master Gardeners, the Audubon Pollinator Garden Project has been recognized with the third place award in the 2017 International Master Gardener Search for Excellence Recognition Program in the Demonstration Garden category. We are so grateful for our unique partnership and for the expertise they bring to the Randall Davey Center & Sanctuary.

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Create your own bird-friendly backyard with native plants by learning more about Audubon's Plants for Birds program.

audubon.org/plantsforbirds



Grasslands Education

Audubon New Mexico is developing a high school curriculum teaching the significance of shortgrass prairie and sand shinnery oak prairie in eastern New Mexico and west Texas. Funding for this program has been provided through a grant from The Center of Excellence in Hazardous Materials Management.

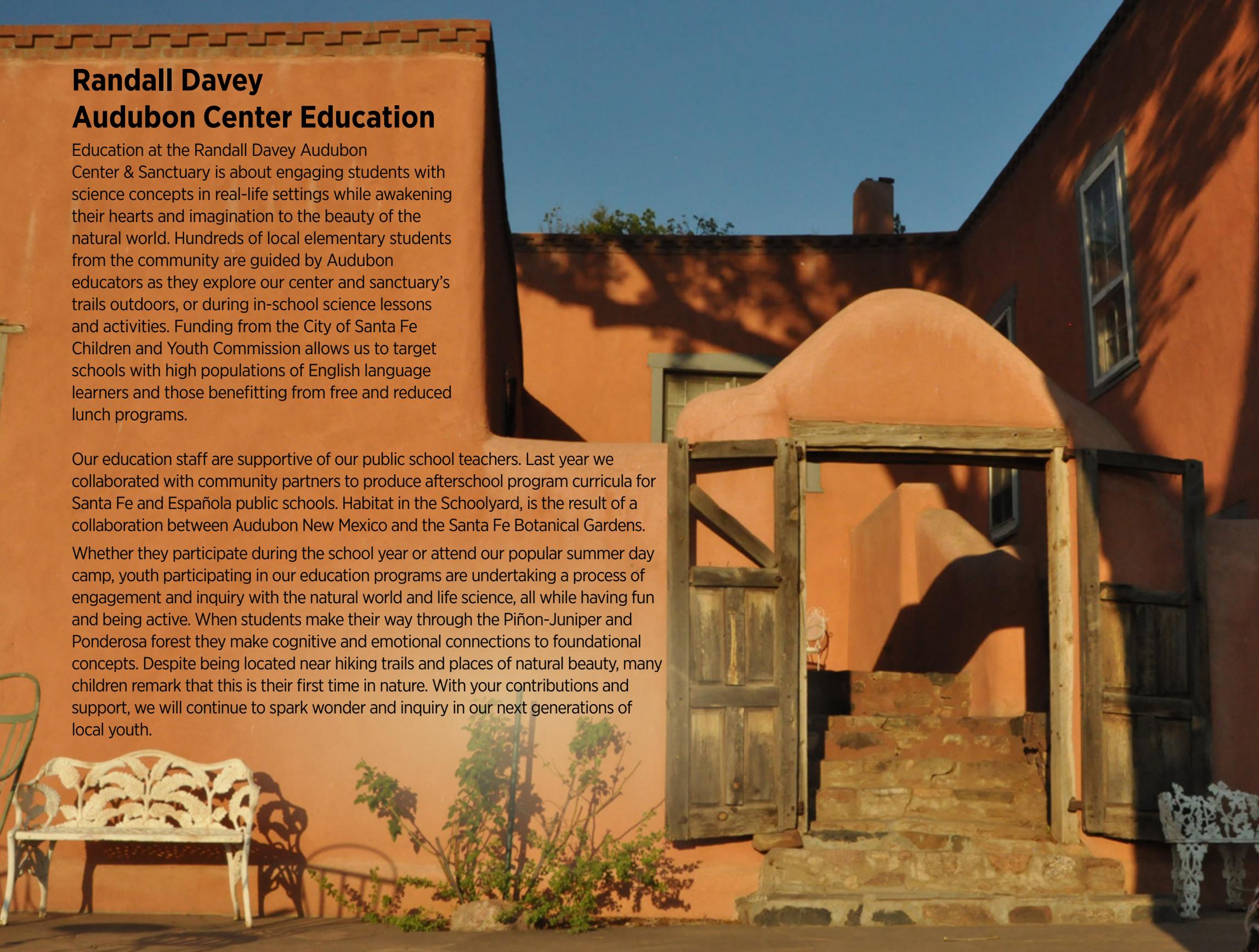
Audubon New Mexico's educational efforts dovetail with statewide and national Audubon conservation efforts including Audubon's Conservation Ranching program. This integrated effort will deepen the impact of our program by providing a real-world lens through which students are exposed to grassland conservation. Stewards of the Llano Estacado, focuses on teaching conservation science, collaborative conservation, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. The curriculum includes in-class activities, field trips, and group projects focused on the Llano Estacado grasslands of New Mexico and Texas. Students gain knowledge and experience showing that traditional land uses and conservation for birds and other wildlife can work to benefit humans and the environment. The curriculum includes a multigenerational approach allowing local landowners, land managers, researchers, and college students to assist with the delivery of content through in-class activities, field trips, and group project mentorship.



Randall Davey Audubon Center Education

Education at the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary is about engaging students with science concepts in real-life settings while awakening their hearts and imagination to the beauty of the natural world. Hundreds of local elementary students from the community are guided by Audubon educators as they explore our center and sanctuary's trails outdoors, or during in-school science lessons and activities. Funding from the City of Santa Fe Children and Youth Commission allows us to target schools with high populations of English language learners and those benefitting from free and reduced lunch programs.

Our education staff are supportive of our public school teachers. Last year we collaborated with community partners to produce afterschool program curricula for Santa Fe and Española public schools. Habitat in the Schoolyard, is the result of a collaboration between Audubon New Mexico and the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens. Whether they participate during the school year or attend our popular summer day camp, youth participating in our education programs are undertaking a process of engagement and inquiry with the natural world and life science, all while having fun and being active. When students make their way through the Piñon-Juniper and Ponderosa forest they make cognitive and emotional connections to foundational concepts. Despite being located near hiking trails and places of natural beauty, many children remark that this is their first time in nature. With your contributions and support, we will continue to spark wonder and inquiry in our next generations of local youth.



Steward of the Randall Davey Audubon Center

The Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary utilizes over 60 volunteers a year who contribute over 8,000 hours.

The Center & Sanctuary sees approximately 10,000 visitors on a yearly basis.

Join us every Saturday morning at 8:30a.m. for a free hike with expert birders.

For fifteen years Natali Steinberg has brightened the Randall Davey Audubon Center's visitor center with her warmth and intelligence. Natali's favorite thing about volunteering is interacting with guests. "They come from everywhere—all over. It's fun being with them and helping them. The Center provides a beautiful outdoor experience right in the Santa Fe area all year around and it's very valuable for the students who come here."

Thank you Natali Steinberg for your many years of dedication to the Randall Davey Audubon Center!

For a full article on Natli please go to nm.audubon.org



“Art, when really understood, is the province of every human being. It is simply a question of doing things, anything, well. It is not an outside extra thing. When the artist is alive in any person, whatever his [sic] kind of work may be, he becomes an inventive, searching, daring, self-expressing creature.” ~ **Randall Davey**



Davey's studio contains his original art supplies and accessories, including a dress worn by Isabelle, his wife, muse, and favorite model.

There are 68 original Davey art works on site and 98 pieces of original furniture used by Davey and his family.

The oldest item in the house is a Spanish Colonial chest circa 1650. The bedroom contains a Diminutive George II chest of drawers from 1750.

We have two of the four known sculptures created by Davey and numerous colonial furnishing and artifacts from the mid-19th century.

The staff offices of Audubon New Mexico are housed in Davey's converted stables.

Historic Randall Davey House & Studio

An amalgam of nature, art and history.

In the summer of 1919 artists Randall Davey and John Sloan packed up a chain-driven Simplex roadster and made a road trip with their wives from New York to Santa Fe. The trip, which should have taken a week, took six, and in fact, the car did not weather the trip, but the passengers did.

Davey became enchanted by the light, colors, native cultures, and wild beauty of Santa Fe. Later that year he purchased an old lumber mill turned grist mill, originally built in 1847, and the surrounding 135 acres of property. He converted these into his home and studio where he created a body of work that has historical significance in the modernist movement.

When he died in 1964 the property was inherited by his sister-in-law, Kate Cullum. She resided there for a number of years keeping the house and studio as they were. Realizing Davey's vision of keeping the grounds and buildings preserved and free from urban development, Kate left it to the Randall Davey Committee which donated it to the Audubon Society in 1983. Now on the National Register of Historic Places and the Historic Santa Fe Foundation, Davey's house and studio are the centerpiece of our lower grounds with an orchard and striking cottonwoods providing habitat for a variety of wildlife.

The stories of the people who made their lives here are told by our knowledgeable docents every Friday during the months of February through December at 2:00 pm.



Audubon Chapters in New Mexico

For more than a century, Audubon has built a legacy of conservation success by mobilizing the strength of its partnerships, most importantly Audubon chapters.

In 1968, Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society was founded as a chapter of the National Audubon Society and marked the beginning of Audubon's presence in New Mexico. This was followed shortly by the founding of Central New Mexico Audubon Society in the Albuquerque area in 1971, Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society in Los Alamos and Santa Fe in 1972, Southeastern New Mexico Audubon Society in the Roswell area in 1975, and both the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society in Las Cruces and Gallup Audubon Society in 1978. The Gallup chapter faded after their primary cause (protection of the Bisti Badlands) was successful. The Roswell Chapter morphed into Friends of the Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge in 2001.

For diligent work on conservation, education and advocacy efforts in their communities, Audubon New Mexico would like to thank them for their energetic and effective grassroots activism without which our work would have no foundation to stand on.

To learn more about each chapter's local leadership, please visit:

nm.audubon.org/chapters

Central New Mexico Audubon Society

Sara Jane Cole, President
Albuquerque Area-
Socorro, Grants, Gallup
3000 volunteer hours

Central New Mexico Audubon Society has a mission that states in part “we strive to be not only a leader in the birdwatching community, but also an avenue to express your ideas and concerns about the environment in a productive way.” The chapter accomplishes this by offering a weekly morning “Thursday Birders” field trip, and weekend excursions all free of charge – roughly 98 opportunities to get out and enjoy birds a year. Bird nerds and other curious types enjoy a series of monthly education programming focused on a wide range of environmental topics from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and a member’s trip to watch rare birds in Ethiopia. CNMAS also awards grants and scholarships to local students and schools to advance bird conservation and community service. The chapter priorities conservation topics like bird window strikes, keeping cats indoors, and water conservation, but their biggest success this year was the Capulin Bird Log project. It was an effort to engineer a former cracked and leaking log at Capulin Springs into a usable structure that captures water for birds in the region. Contact the chapter if you would like to be a part of this great group of volunteers: cnmas.newmexicoaudubon.org.

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society

Jennifer Montoya, President
Las Cruces Area-
Sierra, Otero, Doña Ana
**545 families reached
through education activities**

Mesilla Valley Audubon Society happily accepts shy beginning birders along with seasoned life-list hunters. There are many ways to participate with this chapter at all levels. Members can take valuable classes on how to recognize common New Mexican waterfowl, attend monthly field trips, survey and tag monarch butterflies, or enter into the ongoing newsletter photo contest. The chapter also supports and encourages local conservation efforts by giving awards for excellence in teaching to science educators and providing scholarships that support habitat restoration along the Gila River. MVAS is always thinking of creative and innovative ways to bring people to bird conservation. Recently the chapter has recognized that binoculars are the gateway to new recruits and their outreach program has acted accordingly. Member CJ Goin runs this program and says, “I’ve known for some time that you can only bring home the importance and intrigue of our southwest New Mexico birds by being able to see them up close. The binoculars of course are available for all Audubon programs, but the real payoff for me as an educator is the excitement of kids when they first zoom in on a bird in the wild,” Does this sound like something you would like to be a part of? Visit their website here: new-mexico-birds.com

Sangre De Cristo Audubon Society

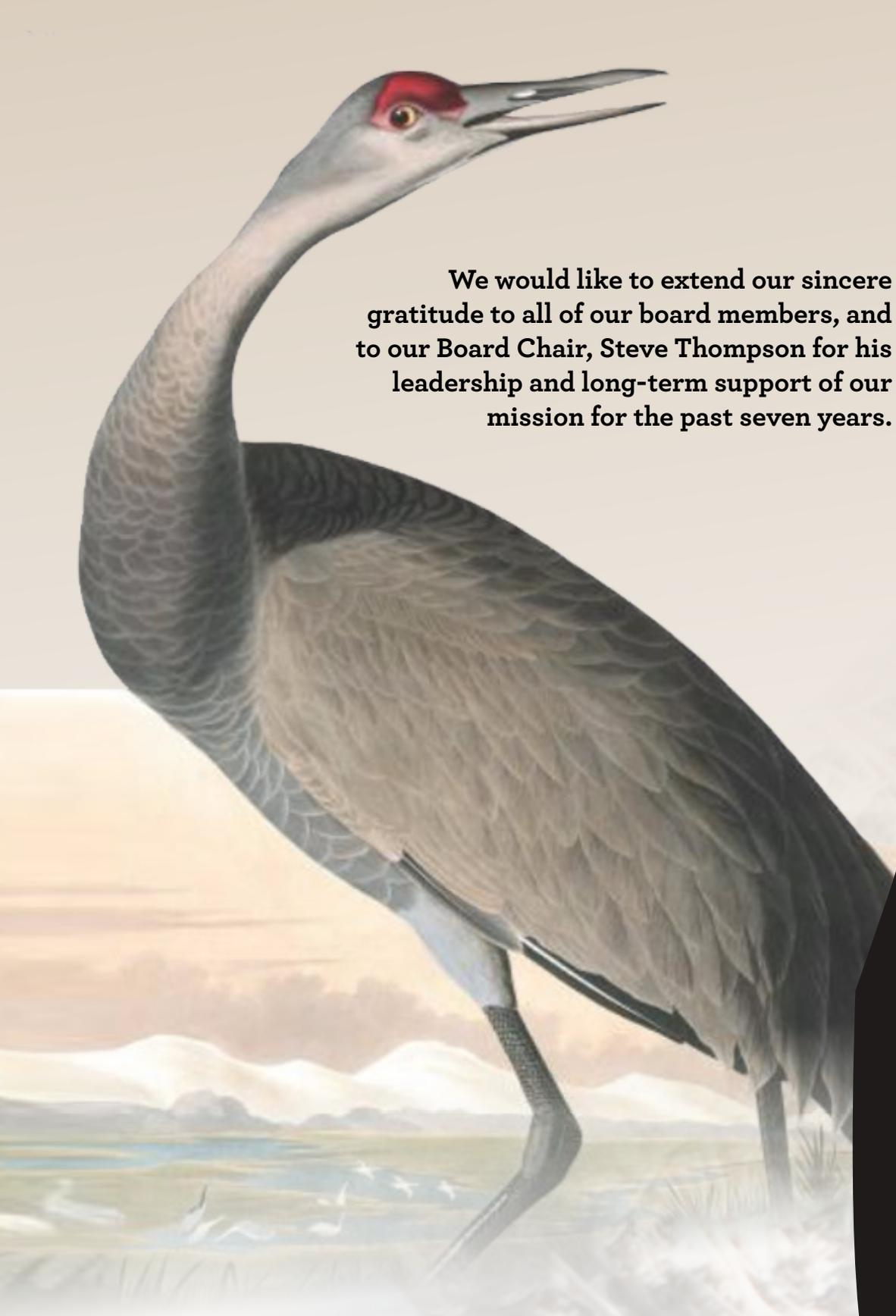
Tom Jervis, President
Northern New Mexico
and Santa Fe Area
1049 members

Sangre De Cristo Audubon Society's chapter territory covers most of the Santa Fe area, but their conservation focus is global. In addition to offering a variety of monthly programming and field trips locally, The Mountain Chickadee - the chapter's newsletter, features a reoccurring climate science column, news on national environmental policy, book reviews and recommendations, and new developments in conservation science overseas. Their website reads, "Our focus is on educational activities for adults aimed at fostering a culture of conservation in our communities. We sponsor field trips on a regular basis, evening programs, and offer the downloadable Mountain Chickadee. We also sponsor, along with Ski Santa Fe and Wild Birds Unlimited, the Santa Fe Rosy Finch Project to attract rosy finch species to a viewable area at the Santa Fe Ski Basin in the winter. We are also active in advocating for birds and the environment, basing our positions on sound science and careful analysis." To volunteer, visit their website: northcentral.newmexicoaudubon.org

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society (SNMAS)

Terry Timme,
Newly Appointed President
Silver City Area - Deming,
 Lordsburg, Glenwood, Cliff,
 Reserve, Mimbres Valley,
 and the Gila National Forest
2982 volunteer hours

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society is a chapter that most would not mind grabbing a beer with. Their highly successful "Birds and Brews" program gathers monthly at a Silver City brewpub and offers informal talks on a wide variety of topics. However, if you are less eager to spend your evening in a pub, there are plenty of other options for you. The chapter also hosts structured monthly programs on topics relating to birds including a series of restaurant talks in Deming titled, "Your Water, Your future" that tackle the very timely subject of water conservation. Founded in 1968 to protect the Gila River as a natural free-flowing river, SNMAS is now approaching its 50th anniversary and is the oldest chapter in New Mexico. Due in part to the 2004 Arizona Water Settlement Act, the future of the Gila is still uncertain, and so the chapter works hard to promote using federal funding to provide long-term water security for all the people and birds of southwest New Mexico. To learn more visit their website at swnmaudubon.org.



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of our board members, and to our Board Chair, Steve Thompson for his leadership and long-term support of our mission for the past seven years.

Steve Thompson, Chair
Carlton (Carl) M. Caves, Vice-Chair
Anne E. Beckett, Treasurer
Selena S. Connealy, Secretary
April Crosby
Chris Graeser
Tom Jervis
Linda Mowbray
Charlie Sanchez, Jr.
Gwen Perea Warniment
David Henderson, Emeritus Director

Message from Anne Beckett, Newly Appointed Board Chair

Like many folks, I originally thought of Auduboners simply as people wandering around with binoculars looking for birds. But then I learned of Audubon New Mexico's concern for the habitat birds depend upon for building nests, finding food, raising their young, and singing their songs. You and I share the same woods, fields, rivers and streams, mountains and deserts—and the same needs for home, food, and raising our young. As incoming chair, I pledge to support Audubon's commitment to birds and the places they need; not just for the birds, but for the well-being of us all. As Wendell Berry wrote

"... the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope."

Thank You

Our members, partners, supporters, and volunteers are important to all of us at Audubon New Mexico. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do, and for all that you have made possible through your generosity and support.

You have been vitally important to conserving and restoring the rich biodiversity of our great state of New Mexico. By investing in Audubon's thoughtful blend of science, education and policy expertise, you are playing a pivotal role in saving birds and the ecosystem upon which they depend.

You have helped us build an informed and inspired constituency for the environment in future generations. The support you provide to our diverse programming for students at our center and partner locations across the state help prepare the next generation for preserving the natural heritage of New Mexico. Your support ensures that critical bird and wildlife habitat is safeguarded so that we may enjoy our rich natural resources now and in the future.

The Audubon network of which you are a part has the knowledge, power and influence to make a significant and lasting contribution to protect the rich ecology of the state we love and the birds who make it their home. Thank you for your commitment.

Create Your Legacy

A gift through your will can be transformational. To ensure the long-term success of Audubon's conservation and education programs in New Mexico, please consider investing in the health and sustainability of our state's birds, wildlife and people by including Audubon New Mexico in your estate plan.

Sample Bequest Language:

"I bequeath ___% (or \$___) of my residuary estate to Audubon New Mexico, a not-for-profit conservation organization located at 1800 Upper Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501."



On behalf of the thousands of
school students, 10,000 overall visitors,
hundreds of miles of freshwater we serve,
and the 542 species of birds we all love,
we thank you for your support.



Audubon
NEW MEXICO

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