

BOSQUE WATCH



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REFUGE MANAGER'S REPORT: SUMMER OF CHANGE

Tom Melanson

This has been a busy past few months with changes, events, and new projects occurring just about every week. Some of these were fortunate, while others were not so fortunate.



*BNSF
derailment
and spilled
VGO*

Photo courtesy Max Aldredge

On Tuesday, July 27th, a Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train derailed approximately 2 miles south of the refuge visitor center. Nineteen cars were involved, including three tank cars containing vacuum gas oil (VGO), which ruptured, spilling between 30,000 and 50,000 gallons of VGO into the refuge. The spilled VGO traveled east, through a dry arroyo for a distance of ¼-mile, flowing across NM highway 1 toward refuge wetlands. Refuge staff with heavy equipment were on site in less than 30 minutes after the incident occurred. They built earthen berms to prevent the VGO from reaching the wetlands and

ultimately the Rio Grande. Later, workers using vacuum trucks and earth movers successfully removed nearly 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. The threat to the refuge appears minimal, refuge biologist John Vradenburg told El Defensor Chieftain. "We're fairly confident," he said. "They've done a really good job getting the material into a (lined) containment site." The containment site is located within the BNSF railroad maintenance yard approximately five miles north of the refuge. See more photos on page 2.

On August 11, John Vradenburg convened a meeting of state representatives, FWS biological staff, and private conservation partners to discuss recent mountain lion activity occurring on the refuge. The meeting yielded cooperative results with several action items being agreed upon:

A). Periodic closures of some Public Use infrastructure may be needed until spring 2011.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

This has been a busy year for the Refuge and for the Friends. Evidence of some of the exciting work at the Refuge can be seen all around Headquarters and elsewhere. Your elected Board of Directors has done some exciting things as well. The Friends Annual Meeting is your chance to hear about the full sweep of Refuge and Friends activities and, importantly, to elect new Board members and officers. You can also hear about some of the research programs being done at the Refuge, and get an 'inside view' of what's been happening – from parking lots to trails, rattlesnakes to mountain lions, field guides to Festival. The Meeting will be on Saturday, October 16, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Lannan Education Annex of the Headquarters Visitor Center. Lunch (reservations requested) will be accompanied by a talk on Research Projects at the Bosque, and will be followed by an 'insiders' tour on the Refuge.

See you there,
Paul White, President

B). The Refuge will increase its education efforts for the general public through flyers, notices, print media, and in person at the visitor center (see also “Public Notice” page 14).

C). The Refuge will adopt the Arizona Mountain Lion Protocol in dealing with any subsequent lion activity and/or issues.

Construction progress continues at both the visitor center and Point of Lands. By the time this newsletter goes to print, both projects should be completed. The additions include a newly upgraded parking lot with three disabled access parking areas, new striping, a new concrete retaining wall at the bus parking area complete with built-in bench, and a new sidewalk in the upper plaza that will take visitors from the picnic area to the Desert Arboretum. A new roadway will exist at the historic Point of Lands vista, complete with parking areas for both cars and oversized vehicles. Long term plans for the Point of Lands area call for it to be developed into a scenic overlook complete with interpretive structures and visitor information.

Dixon Studios, who constructed the visitor information kiosk on Hwy. 1, will begin construction of a second kiosk at Point of Lands later this month. Dixon has already applied faux adobe façades to both the Prairie Dog and Taylor Memorial Overlook walls.

As I mentioned earlier, not all of the changes occurring at the Refuge are fortunate ones. It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to one of the Refuge’s long-time employees. Bernard Lujan started his Service career in 1997 at the New Mexico Fisheries Resources Office in Albuquerque. He transferred to Bosque del Apache NWR in 2000 as Water Manager, working under John Taylor. In 2004, Bernard accepted the Refuge Operations Specialist position at Bosque, serving in that capacity until this past August, when he accepted an Assistant Refuge Supervisor position at the Regional Office. In his new capacity, Bernard will work with refuges in both Arizona and New Mexico and will work directly under Tom Harvey, the Region Two Refuges Supervisor. Please join me in wishing Bernard much success in the future.

Presidential Reflections

Paul White

In the spring of 2009, I wrote about water in this column. It is time to do so again. The tragic explosion and fire, and the ensuing gusher of oil, at BP’s Deepwater Horizon well in the Gulf of Mexico have been distressing to all of us. Through daily news reports and shocking pictures we have been reminded once again of how precious water is to us and to all life on earth.

Even though the well is now capped and the leak stopped, the environmental impact will continue for years to come. Wildlife habitat has been damaged and no one can be sure of the long-term impacts or how long recovery may take. Scientists are still tracking oil plumes in Gulf waters; the worst environmental consequences could be occurring out of sight in the depths of the ocean.

In response to the Gulf tragedy, the Friends have acted. The other Friends groups associated with New Mexico National Wildlife Refuges joined the Friends of the Bosque in writing to the incoming CEO of BP. We appealed to BP to “clearly and publically accept full financial responsibility for remediation of affected wildlife and wildlife habitat from the damages caused by the Deepwater Horizon accident.”



Vacuum Gas Oil in dry arroyo



Contaminated sediment at BNSF San Antonio maintenance yard

The Friends of the Bosque has also joined with other NM Friends groups in making a contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA). The NWRA is channeling such donations to cleanup efforts by Friends of affected Refuges along the Gulf coast. It would be inappropriate here to belabor the implications of this tragedy for offshore drilling and associated regulation. However, this experience also reminds us of how much better outcomes can be when we act together. At one level, letters and contributions can be more significant, and have greater impact when they come from groups of people acting in concert. More importantly, though, we all benefit when we take collective responsibility for our water. We should all be thinking about the consequences of watering lawns, of using plastic bottles, of sinking wells (water and oil), and of dumping waste in our lakes, rivers and oceans. If we all think and act together, we will be much more effective in preserving, protecting, and advocating for this precious resource.

We're all in this boat ('spaceship earth') together. We have only one planet – and it's the water planet.



NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/view_rec.php?id=2429

FROM THE EDITOR

Bob Merkel

It is early September as I write and each successive day is a minute or two shorter than the last. Our weather is still hot in the days but now cooler in the evenings. As Manager Tom Melanson writes, a lot of improvement projects are underway this summer. I've poked my camera here and there to share with you readers what they're looking like now, just before this issue of Bosque Watch is put to bed.



New walls at the Bosque:

- **At the Prairie Dog viewing area**
- **Between bus parking and upper plaza at the Visitor Center**



Our Friends of Bosque del Apache ANNUAL MEETING is only days away - - Saturday October 16th. That is why a page of this newsletter is devoted to brief bios of several at-large nominees to serve on our board. According to the bylaws, they stand for election by you, the Friends membership, at this meeting.

Greg Freidline was chosen by the Friends board to step in as Friends treasurer some months ago when

Tom Sizemore resigned. He was ready to run for a full term but then, weeks ago, Greg was offered and accepted a finance position in Texas. He was willing to carry on as treasurer til a replacement could be found. That, however, doesn't seem to be necessary because our Nominating Committee found an excellent candidate for the position - - just like that! Her bio is included with those of the other nominees.

Another big change for the Friends just happened. Alex Rykken has run our public school education program, Mapping the Rio, ever since I've been here. But no longer. She's moving on - - to a teaching job far away. She will surely be missed. By us. By the children she's worked with. By the

teachers. In this newsletter, though, is a story of the exceptional legacy Alex has left us, namely "Bosque del Apache Through the Eyes of Children: A Field

Guide." We expect it to be available for purchase at the Bosque Nature Store by Festival time this November. Bon Voyage, Alex, and a river-ful of thanks.

btw Also available at the Nature Store are lots of other books including several others reviewed herein. Of particular interest to readers might be a fantastic one about cranes reviewed by expert birder John Shipman.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN: A FIELD GUIDE

Alexis Rykken

Our field guide grew out of the Friends Mapping the Rio Watershed Education Project. It was a way to involve students in an intensely focused task and also to honor Bosque del Apache. We purchased three digital cameras and some very nice field journals. Coincidence also worked its magic. One day I happened upon Jill Bachman, a refuge volunteer with the right skills, lurching near the arboretum. Jill accepted, with



photographs and field notes from the week before. This gave us time to discuss composition and other aspects of photography as well as attend to the details of our field notes. We had a specific plan, with a particular site in mind. We selected three photographers for the day and discussed the specifics of the site we would be visiting. We outlined concepts that would be helpful to their field notes. We placed a great deal of emphasis on behavior and ethics and walking with awareness. Observation was the key. The kids took their work seriously and saw their work as important.



very little persuasion, the mighty task of laying out the field guide. I then met with Cynthia Romero, educator at San Antonio Elementary School. She and her class of 13 fourth and fifth grade students jumped on board. They already had the knowledge to make this happen. This group of children has been Mapping the Rio students since they were in first grade.

We started our work in September when the whole Refuge is golden. Every Tuesday the big yellow school bus rumbled to a stop in the parking lot outside the Refuge. For the first hour we met in the Lannan education room to review



Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge
Through the Eyes of Children

A Field Guide

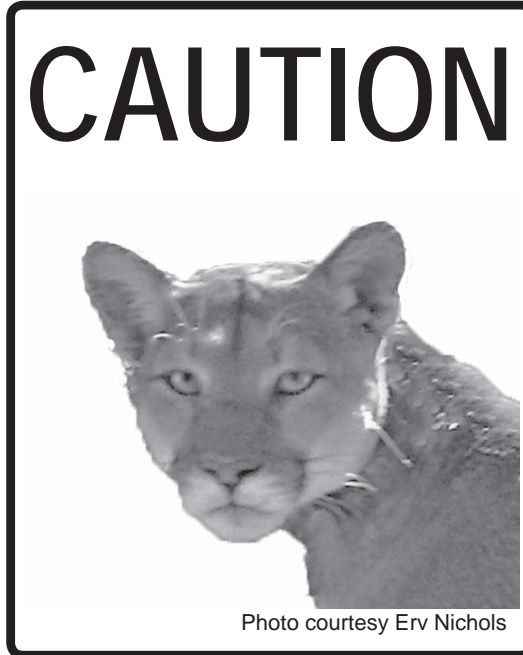
The full color, 106-page, *Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Through the Eyes of Children: A Field Guide* will be available from the Bosque Nature Store in mid-October. The price is \$12.95, with proceeds to benefit the outreach and education programs at Bosque del Apache. The book can be purchased in person, online (www.friendsofthebosque/) or by calling 575-835-1828.

MOUNTAIN LIONS ON THE REFUGE

In 2009, the refuge initiated a study to learn more about its mountain lion population. Because these cats have territories that can extend 100 miles or more, the study is a cooperative project with several conservation partners. They include Furman University (South Carolina), the New Mexico Department of Natural Resources, and San Andres NWR.

The researchers rely on using an advanced remote camera array and daily monitoring to trace habitat use and prey selection. The camera array has been especially helpful, providing population estimates more reliable than those available in the past. While the study is still ongoing,

several things have been discovered already. It is known that



several lions include the Refuge within their territorial ranges

and that at least one, possibly two, females have raised or are now raising cubs here. One male has shown a tendency to take down large prey animals such as elk and oryx (large African antelope), but most of the lions rely on smaller, easier prey animals such as raccoons, badgers, and coyotes.

Since mountain lions have always been a part of the Bosque del Apache NWR, and will always be a part of this unique ecosystem, it's important to remember that whenever you are on the Refuge, particularly on foot, that you keep in mind a few basic safety recommendations:

DON'T RUN!

- If you see a lion, face it and back slowly away
- Do Not Run from the lion
- Pick up small children and calm them
- Leave room for the lion to escape, do not approach it
- Make noise, make yourself look larger – lift arms and shout loudly
- If the lion attacks, fight back hard with backpacks, rocks, sticks, etc.

BE ALERT!

- Do not approach dead animals – lions defend their prey
- Hike in groups and make noise to prevent surprising a lion
- Carry a walking stick and bear spray, mace, or pepper spray
- Keep all pets leashed

PARENTS!

- Keep children close at hand
- Don't let children run ahead or fall behind

NOMINEES FOR FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Friends bylaws specify that board members can serve no more than two consecutive 2-year at-large terms and that board elections shall take place at the Friends annual meetings in October. This year, three at-large members are completing 4 years on the board (Steve Green, Phil Norton, and Brian Ivener) and Kale Batsell is stepping down after serving one term. Two at-large members (Lise Spargo and Karla Moore) are completing one at-large term on the board and are willing to serve another term. Greg Freidline, now holding an interim appointment as Friends treasurer after the resignation of Tom Sizemore, is stepping down from that post.

The Friends nominating committee (Terry Tadano, Karla Moore, and Cheryl Learn as chair) recommends reelection of Lise Spargo and Karla Moore as well as election of Patty Frisch to a full term as treasurer. They also offer Robert Moran and Jill Green as nominees for the open at-large board positions:

Jill Green

Jill was born and raised in Las Cruces and continues to live on the family farm. She has taught high school math in the El Paso school district for 23 years. Jill started visiting the refuge in 1984 and continues to enjoy each and every visit. She considers herself an avid naturalist and enjoys all varieties of wildlife viewing.

In 2009, Jill worked as a volunteer in the refuge's Visitor Center Nature Store during her summer

break from teaching. She also volunteered during her Christmas break and again this past summer. Jill will work again at the Nature Store during the Festival of the Cranes this fall to assist all the visitors with their questions and requests. She would be thankful to the Friends members for their support to "twist her arm" so she may serve as a Director on the Board.

Robert Moran

I have been a resident of New Mexico for 35 years after moving from Texas. I worked as an electrical engineer and co-owner of Coupland Moran Engineers, Inc. for approximately 40 years. Our firm was located in Albuquerque and I also operated a branch of CME in El Paso for approximately 13 years until we returned to NM. My wife Carole and I retired to Belen, NM, where we have lived for the last 4-1/2 years.

I've always been interested in photography and now have become an avid visitor to the Bosque. I have attended several seminars and programs there and, as a member of the Friends, I helped with last year's festival activities. I consider it an honor to be considered for this position and do have great interest in supporting this wonderful asset to our state. It provides a valuable service to wildlife and to those who visit us from around the world. Thank you and I wish the Friends of the Bosque continued success.

Karla Moore

I have been on the Board of Directors for two years as a member-

at-large. Recently I have served on the Nominating Committee. For the past two Crane Festivals, I organized the volunteer team to run the Macey Center lectures and events. I have thoroughly enjoyed doing so because it gives me opportunity to meet volunteers, members, and potential members as well as people from all over the world who attend the Festival. I grew up in the Socorro community working in my family's business, which has given me a deep connection with the valley. If elected again, I look forward to serving another 2-year term.

Lise Spargo

Lise Spargo retired from government service and returned home to New Mexico in 2007. She has served for two years as a member-at-large on the board of the Friends of Bosque del Apache. Last year she led a hike during the Festival of the Cranes to the top of Chupadera mountain and also assisted with publicity for the Festival. Lise has an undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico in Anthropology and a masters in Archaeology and Paleoclimatology from the University of Iowa. This year she will be leading two hikes to Chupadera Peak during the Festival. After two years "getting to know how the Friends organization functions" she is looking forward to continued work with the Board.

Patty Frisch

The last-minute recruitment of Patty Frisch as nominee for the Friends treasurer position did not leave time to include a proper biography in this newsletter. Board

members who live in Socorro, though, have been customers of the Manzanares Coffeehouse she owned and operated successfully for about three years. A few months ago, she sold that business and accepted the position of Curator for the Mineral Museum at New Mexico Tech. Information on Patty's education background and other accomplishments should be available at the annual meeting on October 16th.

Fire! (an invitation)

“Wind-whipped Twitchell fire leaps to 21,000 acres”

“Hundreds evacuated near California Canyon fire”

We've all seen headlines such as these. We've seen video footage of huge wildfires, billowing clouds of smoke, belching flames hundreds of feet high. Fire can be destructive

and disastrous, but it is also used by professional fire fighters as a valuable tool.

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is home to the New Mexico Fire District Office. The District encompasses 6 refuges and 2 hatcheries. There are crews at Bitter Lake NWR, Sevilleta NWR and Bosque del Apache NWR. During the New Mexico fire season fire fighting personnel stick around home, protecting our local refuges, but once our monsoons hit they may be called to help with wildfires and prescribed burns nationwide. This year we sent crews to Idaho, Minnesota, and Oklahoma as well as sending help to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf.

In addition to fighting fires, the fire crew also sets them, using fire as a resource and a tool to help benefit wildlife habitat. They employ specialized grenades, ignition pistols, drip torches, ditch dragons, and terra-torches (flame throwers)

as tools to set the Rx burns. The burns conducted on the refuges are set with a very specific prescription which includes seasonality, fuel conditions, and weather. When the conditions are right we implement the burns, all to create healthy habitat, to remove hazardous fuels in order to help prevent out-of-control wildfires, and to remove invasive species such as Salt Cedar. They're inviting you to experience an actual prescribed burn.

“Managing Fire” is offered during the Festival to educate Festival-goers about the usefulness of fire. Fire Management Officer Julian Affuso and his crew will demonstrate live fire techniques. It's your chance to see a terra-torch in action!

The workshop (FR63) is Friday, November 19, from 10:30 am to 1:00. It will give participants an opportunity to see first-hand how it's done, weather permitting.

Fire crew members use a terra-torch during a prescribed burn.



IN THE BOSQUE NATURE STORE

**HIKING NEW MEXICO:
A Falcon Guide.** Laurence Parent, 1998. 276 pages. \$14.95.

This book has descriptions of 91 different hikes scattered all over New Mexico; all on public lands. For each individual hike there is standard information about hike length, elevation change, water availability, and special attractions. The author then provides several paragraphs for each (under "Finding the Trailhead" and "The Hike") plus a detailed map. Three of the hikes are within an hour or so of Bosque de Apache. They are Mount Withington in the San Mateo mts, North Baldy in the Magdalena mts, and Datil Well on the west edge of the Plains of San Agustin.

**NEW MEXICO JOURNEY
GUIDE: A Driving &
Hiking Guide to Ruins,
Rock Art, Fossils &
Formations.** Jon Kramer & Julie Martinez, Adventure Publications, Inc., Cambridge, MN. 2009. 232 pages. \$16.95.

The 49 sites scattered all over the state are described in this guide alphabetically, from Abo Ruin to White Sands National Monument. Each site gets from two to eight (Carlsbad Caverns) pages and one or more photos. Standard information is given under "Directions," "Contact Info.," "Fee," "Hours," "Best Time to Visit," "Camping/Lodging," "Access," "Jon's Rating," and "Jon's Notes." The front matter includes brief background information on archaeology (including rock art), paleontology,

and geology in New Mexico as well as sections on Visitor Etiquette and Precautions. Only four of the included sites are near Bosque del Apache: San Lorenzo Canyon and the three ruins comprising Salinas Pueblos National Monument. Anyone who is touring New Mexico, however, can find plenty of good ideas for places to see.

**BOSQUE DEL APACHE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE – A Photographer's and Visitor's Guide.** Ralph H. Wetmore II, Arizona Lithographers, Tucson. 2009. 104 pages. \$29.95.

Almost every page of this volume has at least one photograph. Background information includes an explanation and map of the "managed" floodplain areas of the Refuge and also a few pages on photographic equipment. Roughly half the pages are devoted to photos of charismatic birds seen by the author on his visits: raptors, snow geese, ducks, roadrunners, and the cranes (including a few shots of Whooping Cranes seen at the Refuge from the 1990s to 2001). Among the rest are several great scenic views and some photos of coyotes and mule deer. It makes a nice memento of a winter's visit to Bosque del Apache and won't take up too much coffee table space.

**CRANES: A NATURAL
HISTORY OF A BIRD IN
CRISIS.** Janice M. Hughes. Firefly Books, Buffalo, NY, 2008. 256 p. \$45.

Reviewed by John Shipman

This book is a must for any serious fan of cranes. My own history with cranes dates back to the year I got hooked on birdwatching. In December 1976 I was driving around the tour loop at Bosque del Apache and there, standing quietly in the morning mist, was an immature Whooper. Its cinnamon-colored head towered over the Sandhills nearby. I felt great awe in the presence of such a rare bird.

In subsequent years I photographed the Whooping Cranes from Gray's Lake, Idaho, that wintered here in the central Rio Grande Valley until the great cross-fostering experiment [in which Sandhill Cranes raised Whoopers from eggs] was over. Always hungry for more information about the why, the how, and the why not of this experiment, I can finally point readers at Dr. Hughes' fine book for the whole story in great detail.

The book opens with a detailed natural history of all fifteen extant crane species. In addition to a full range of scientific information, this chapter also deals with links between cranes and human culture: art, mythology, and such mundane topics as cranes' role in rodent control. The natural history treatment is extensive and the author discusses both those aspects common to all cranes and some of the variations among species:

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FRIENDSOFTHE-
BOSQUE.ORG/STORE

taxonomy, evolution, anatomy, behavior, communication, reproduction, migration, and demographics.

Much of the book, though, is given over to the Whooping Crane, from its recovery from near extinction to the many conservation efforts in its behalf. Here I found the story of the Gray's Lake cross-fostering project as well as the fascinating tale of William Lishman and Kent Clegg's experiments in using ultra-light aircraft to teach cranes how to migrate.

Reading this book gave me a new appreciation for the many people and organizations that have contributed so much both in labor and material resources to the conservation of these amazing birds. The book finishes with profiles of each living species, complete with notes on natural history and range maps showing breeding and wintering grounds and migration routes. To sum up, this is a book both beautiful and useful, suitable for the coffee table with its quality and stunning images but equally suitable for the reference shelf.

TRACKS & SIGN OF INSECTS and Other Invertebrates: A Guide to North American Species. Charley Eiseman and Noah Charney. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA. 2010. 582 p. \$39.95.

Reviewed by Bob Merkel

Insects and invertebrates such as worms, snails, spiders, shrimps, and many other creatures without backbones often leave tracks and trails (chapter 18) as evidence of their passage. Every other evidence of an animal's presence is "sign."

Thus "sign" includes such things as droppings (chapter 5), cocoons (chapter 7), webs (chapter 6), burrows (chapter 16) and even swollen and itchy bumps on people (chapter 4). Some tiny invertebrates spend their larval lives as miners between the top and bottom surfaces of a leaf (chapter 10), at the center of a plant gall (chapter 11), or inside a larger invertebrate as a parasite (chapter 3). This entire book is a vast collection of photos and explanations of various evidences for their presence. The only things missing are pictures of the adult animals and range maps for the 2000+ species covered therein. In their introduction, the authors acknowledge they could not avoid using scientific names in this book as so many of the animals covered don't even have common names.

Chapter 1 of the book, the longest single chapter, is on eggs and egg cases. The possibilities are classified: Eggs inserted in vegetation, terrestrial or aquatic; gelatinous egg coverings, eggs coated with resinlike substance, egg cases, egg masses covered with hairs, spider egg sacs, naked eggs, and egg predators and parasitoids. Within those categories the reader can leaf through to find a specific name or at least a group name of the producer. A similar approach is used in all the other chapters.

Eiseman and Charney have made a noble effort to help the reader identify origins of invertebrate tracks and "sign" seen in "the field." They tackled a bewilderingly diverse area of nature hardly explored in print before. They deserve congratulations for doing so and putting their finding in this book for the benefit of us all. A

browse through any few pages is likely to give you more than one "Aha, so THAT's what that is; I've always wondered."

RAPTORS OF NEW

MEXICO. Jean-Luc Cartron, ed. with 41 contributing authors. UNM Press, 2010. 710 p. \$50.00.

This has to be THE go-to book if you are a raptor-loving birder in our state. It is a "comprehensive treatment of all hawks, eagles, kites, vultures, falcons, and owls breeding or wintering in New Mexico or simply migrating through the state." The book contains so much detailed information that a desk copy is kept available at the Bosque del Apache NWR Visitor Center for use in answering visitors' questions.

Part I consists of two introductory chapters. The first covers New Mexico's diverse topography and "floristic zones" from tundra to forests to grasslands, to desert. The second is about raptor migration patterns in the state with emphasis on long-term findings from the Sandia and Manzano mountain monitoring and banding sites. These sites are two among twelve similar ones in nine western states that are coordinated by Hawk-Watch International.

The remainder of the book, Part II, has separate chapters on 37 raptor species plus one on "Casual and Accidental Raptors" and a statement of conclusions. The individual species chapters are mostly between 12 and 20 pages long and average about one photo per page. Each features a general description of the bird followed by sections on distribution, habitat, life history, and "Status and Management."

FESTIVAL 2010: THE BEST YET!

Robyn Harrison

The 2010 Festival of the Cranes [Nov. 16-21] will be here before you know it. Events are posted on the web (www.festivalofthecranes.com) and the brochures have been mailed out. We've been processing registrations since September 1 and some workshops are already full. If you've called, you've probably talked to Judy. She's our volunteer Registrar who remains friendly and helpful under (sometimes!) difficult circumstances.

We're expecting more than 2,500 people to participate in Festival activities and throwing a party of this size is no small feat. The only paid employee is the part-time Festival coordinator (me!) who works year round with the Festival Committee (Bosque staff and Friends Board members) putting the Festival together, advertising it, and seeing that it runs as smoothly as possible.

The mission of the Festival is 3-fold:

- To promote the Refuge and all its resources,
- To support the communities of Socorro and San Antonio,
- To carry out the mission of the Friends "to support the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, and to promote appreciation and conservation of wildlife and habitat through environmental education and natural history experiences at the Refuge."

The Festival runs on a tight budget, with the goal of breaking even--though that is often difficult to realize. To that end, we strive to

keep our costs low and our fees low so that more people can enjoy what the Festival has to offer.

The City of Socorro contributes ~20% of the funding through an annual grant of Lodger Tax money. They also provide in-kind support: allowing us to use city venues free of charge; providing refreshments, instructors, and tour guides; and saving us additional expense through cooperative advertising. The remaining 80% of Festival funding comes from registration fees and donations. The Festival is subsidized by the Friends if we don't break even.

Most workshop presenters volunteer their time and expertise. More than 80 community and indefatigable Bosque resident volunteers handle everything from taking tickets and introducing speakers to stuffing envelopes to cleaning the bathrooms to leading tours. They run the fee booth, pick up trash, get the workshop rooms ready, answer phones, and do anything and everything else that needs to be done. Judy-the-registrar works four days a week from the first of September through Festival registering participants, keeping track of full classes and sorting out problems during Festival (especially if we have a sudden cancellation!).

Our tireless webmaster, Sandy Seth, gets the brochure online as soon as it is available, lists cancellations, and responds to any instant updates we need.

Even though the Festival is a small part of her job as Executive Director of the Friends, Leigh Ann Vradenburg pays the bills, designs merchandise and advertisements, helps with the shopping, and runs the art tent--a monumental task in itself! She is even making time to present a workshop on Sunday.

Then there is the Bosque Staff. They lead tours and workshops, direct traffic, coordinate volunteers, and water the roads so the dust doesn't become a burden. In all, Bosque staff will present 23 of this year's workshops. Before the Festival happens they whip the Bosque into shape by maintaining facilities and equipment and also seeing that those all-important Porta-potties are placed strategically.

Friends Board members are directly responsible for 13 of the workshops or hikes this year. Many of them also will lend a hand in the Friends tent and on the observation decks.

If you've been to a Festival in the past, you know what great experiences are in store. If you haven't, come and find out. Thanks for registering--and thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and talent to make it possible. This year promises to be the best yet!



In the Art Tent, Festival 2009

SPECIAL FESTIVAL WORKSHOP: BIRDS OF THE BOSQUE!

Did you miss registering for our **Birds of the Bosque del Apache** workshop at this year's Festival because you didn't see it in the brochure? Well, it's not too late to get in on it!

Dwayne and Marj Longenbaugh are longtime Bosque volunteers who know the Bosque birds inside and out and have the photos to prove it. They graciously share their knowledge and expertise with our resident volunteers at the annual orientation in October.

Now you can be a part of it as well! The Longenbaughs will present "Birds of the Bosque del Apache" on Thursday afternoon, November 18 at 2:30 at the Macey Center during Festival. If you've already completed your registration for the Festival and want to add this class, call Judy at 575-835-2077 to be added to the participant list. You can pay at the door (\$5).

If you haven't yet registered, the event code is TH435. You can find the complete description on the web by clicking "Thursday" at www.festivalofthecranes.com

And please don't wear out your Festival brochure looking to see why you missed it. I inadvertently left it out. I do want to be sure you have the opportunity to see this excellent slideshow presentation!

With apologies to the Longenbaughs,
Robyn Harrison
Festival Coordinator

RETURN TO THE LAND OF 'PURA VIDA'

Jon Morrison

The third Friends birding trip to Costa Rica will depart Feb. 5th and return Feb. 19th, 2011. The last trip netted over 400 species of birds and we expect the same this coming year.



Scarlet Macaws

Here's the plan if you join us: On February 5th we arrive in San Jose and head for the Hotel Buena Vista (the first year we stayed there we had more than 30 species before breakfast). We'll attend a class in using your camera in the rain forest. We travel by van to Braulio Carillo National Park where more than 500 species of birds, including Resplendent Quetzals and Bare-necked Umbrella birds, may be found. Then we go to Selva Verde Lodge, our home for three nights. While in that area we will visit both La Selva Biological Station and Tirimbina Biological Reserve.

Arenal, Costa Rica's most active volcano, is next. The volcano puts

on spectacular light shows at night and the place is alive with birds: Hummingbirds (28 species), 20 different tanagers, 43 members of the Tyrannidae family, 6 trogons and the Quetzal. That is just scratching the surface. We will also visit the Hanging Bridges trail in the cloud forest, which crosses over canyons and a fantastic waterfall. After Arenal the group heads for Hacienda La Ensenada on the Pacific coast. While there we take a boat trip out to see waterbirds and salt water crocodiles. Our last two days before returning to San Jose we'll be near Carara National Park, one of the last remaining nesting areas of the Scarlet Macaw. The area around the hotel is home to more than 400 species of birds, reptiles and mammals.

\$300 of the cost of your trip is a tax deductible donation. \$250 of it goes to support Friends projects at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and \$50 will go to the Costa Rican non-profit group we select.

Whether or not you've been to Costa Rica before, there will be new surprises in this land of pura vida. For further information go to www.holbrooktravel.com/FriendsoftheBosque. Clicking on "download itinerary" provides more details.



Bare-necked Umbrella Bird

SPANISH PLACE NAMES

Lise Spargo

Do you know your ABCs? Arroyo – Bosque - Chupadera? As a legacy of the Spanish Colonial period in North America, our nation is replete with Spanish place names from St. Augustine, Florida, to San Diego, California. But for those of us who live in the southwest, Spanish place names, many of which are descriptive of local habitat and landscape, are a daily reminder of the culture and long history of Spanish settlement here. The Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to see and describe the southwest region and their accounts and maps were archived and circulated throughout Europe. Over the years, the use of these names has become so pervasive that many have entered the scientific literature as formal descriptive terms. For example, in Spanish a caldera is a boiler or a boiling pot, which seems an apt description of its geologic counterpart: a steep-sided basin formed by the explosion and collapse of a volcano.

If you are depending upon a standard Spanish/English dictionary

to translate the local terminology, though, be aware that the long tenure of Spanish speaking people in New Mexico has resulted in some definitions that are unique to this once-remote region. Here's a short Spanish vocabulary list describing habitat and geologic features, many of which you can view at or near the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Bosque, by the way, translates as forest or woodland, but in New Mexico refers more specifically to woodlands fringing a body of water.

Arroyo - an intermittent stream-bed. Both the western and eastern sides of the valley at the Refuge are cut with arroyos that carry runoff from higher elevations to the valley floor, particularly during the summer rainy season.

Bajada - sloping ground or hillside. This is a standard geological descriptor in the region. If you have walked the trail to Chupadera Peak, the upward sloping ground from the first river terrace at the trail head to the base of the Chupadera Mountains is a bajada.

Cienega - a marsh or swampy area. In New Mexico this word

sometimes appears as a place name, but is also used as a geologic term, specifically for wetlands that form above seeps or springs.

Chupadera - sinkhole. This word is derived from the Spanish verb *chupar*, to suck. A chupadera is an insect, like a tick, that sucks blood. But in New Mexico it also means sinkhole, like the sinkholes on Chupadera Mesa to the north and east of the refuge. It is not clear, however, if the newly acquired Chupadera Peak was named for springs in the area or the annoying parasite.

Laguna - lake. In the upper Chihuahuan desert, lakes are a rare feature. Laguna Pueblo was so named by the Spanish because of its location near a natural dam and lake on the San Jose River, north and west of Albuquerque.

Malpais - badland. This is a colloquial term that has entered the geologic vocabulary referring to lava beds. A spectacular example of this can be found east of the Refuge along Highway 380 near Carrizozo. The Valley of Fires lava bed is approximately 44 miles long and estimated to be less than 1,000 years old.

Mesa - table. Mesa is the word commonly applied to steep-sided, flat or table-topped hills or mountains capped with a resistant rock layer, often lava. Just to the south of the refuge and east of the Rio Grande, Black Mesa is easily visible from Highway 1. A small cone-shaped vent on the top was the source of the lava flow that "holds up" this feature. [Spanish travelers on the Camino Real del Adentro (royal road of the interior)



Mesa in northern New Mexico

also called it Mesa Contadero. It was a convenient elevation from which to count people, carts, horses, and cattle as they passed between the mesa and the river.]

Ojo – natural spring. The word ojo in Spanish means eye or a small flow of water such as from a spring. In contrast, the Spanish word fuente refers to a fast-flowing source of ground water. In New Mexico there are at least fourteen place names including the word ojo, four of which are designated “Ojo Caliente” or hot spring. South of the refuge, at the edge of the Gila Wilderness, one Ojo Caliente was the site of a military installation that in 1874 was the administrative center for the Warm Springs Apache Reservation. This region was the birthplace of the Apache leader Geronimo, and that Ojo Caliente was the site of his recapture after he escaped from the San Carlos reservation in 1877.

Playa - shallow lake bottom. In Spanish the literal translation of playa is beach, but in the high desert, it refers to dry lake bottoms in the region often surfaced with crusts of salt or gypsum. These shallow lakes fill intermittently with rain water, but as they have no external drainage the mineral precipitates are left behind when the waters evaporate. Several large playas are found in the Estancia Basin of eastern New Mexico.

Rincon - box canyon. The dictionary says that **rincon** means nook, corner, or cul de sac, but in geologic parlance it is a box

canyon or closed basin. The “Box Canyon” BLM recreation area on Highway 60 west of Socorro is a good example and a favorite destination for rock climbers. Also, while you’re on the way west, you can see the sabinal of the Magdalena Mts.

Sabinal - terrain covered with dwarf cedar and juniper. The sabinal often marks an ecological transition from the grass, creosote, and cacti of the plains or flatlands to the higher mountain plant communities including pine and fir trees.

For further information, please consider the following books: *Roadside Geology of New Mexico* by Halka Chronic; *A Dictionary of New Mexico and Southern Colorado Spanish* by Reuben Cobos; *Roadside History of New Mexico* by Francis and Roberta Fugate; and *The Place Names of New Mexico* by Robert Julian.

GHAZAL* FOR THE LOSS OF NATURE Valerie Bodell

Everything was green yesterday.
Brown was unforeseen yesterday.

I knew all things were possible. I
grew through my teens yesterday.

Intricate fabric tearing;
I did not intervene yesterday.

Nature disappeared as progress
continued, obscene, yesterday.

We all make choices, society
caught me in between yesterday.

* This poetic form contains at least 5 couplets rhyming and repeating. All must be the same meter, each couplet must be a complete sentence or several sentences, and traditionally it is about unattainable love.



Sunflowers at the Refuge

**PUBLIC NOTICE:
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HIKING TRAILS
AND CAMPING SITES; CLOSURES TO PETS**
Refuge staff

More than 150,000 visitors each year come to Bosque del Apache to observe and photograph wildlife. In addition to the thousands of sandhill cranes and snow geese that are staples of the refuge's wildlife offerings, some visitors will be lucky enough to see elk, mule deer, javelina, coyote, or other resident wild mammals. But Bosque del Apache's top predator, the mountain lion (aka panther, cougar, puma), is secretive and rarely had been

seen. This has changed recently, however, as more of these cats have included the Refuge in their territory.

The increase in recent mountain lion activity has prompted management to initiate several safety precautions. Some popular areas have been closed to all public use and others to pets only. Here's a look at the closures:

CLOSED TO ALL PUBLIC USE ACTIVITY

- Low Flow Conveyance Channel
- Rio Viejo Trail
- Cottonwood Education Group Camping Site
- Riverside Education Group Camping Site

CLOSED TO PETS ONLY

- Marsh Boardwalk Trail
- Marsh Overlook Trail
- Lagoon Trail
- John Taylor Memorial Trail

These are only precautionary closures and are expected to remain in effect through this winter and into early spring 2011.

The Friends of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a registered 501 (C) (3) non-profit corporation incorporated in New Mexico. The Friends promotes appreciation and conservation of wildlife and habitat through environmental education and natural history experiences at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

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