Field Trip to Lake Roberts
Saturday, January 29th

Join local birders for a SWNMF Audubon birding field trip to Lake Roberts. Waterfowl will be plentiful and we'll also be looking out for other species such as Bald Eagle and Osprey. This trip is for birders of all abilities and we plan on having experienced birders available to help novice birders. Families are welcome to attend and experience the wonderful beauty of ducks, geese, grebes, etc.

Spotting scopes will be on hand, as well as binoculars and bird ID books for those without.

Participants should meet at 8:00 am at the south side of the WNMU Fine Arts parking lot. Masks and safe distancing, as appropriate, and carpool as you feel comfortable.

We'll be caravan birding until around noon, but participants are welcome to explore on their own afterwards.

Please, NO DOGS on field trips. Trip organizer Don Graves hopes to see you there.

Ruddy duck.
Elroy Limmer Photo

Manakins (Pipridae) are a family of 54 species of Neotropical birds most of which have a lek mating systems (like sage grouse). They occur from S Mexico to N Argentina. Many of the species are highly colorful and do elaborate courtship displays. In one species, the Long-tailed Manakin (subject of my dissertation work), males form lifelong partnerships to sing in unison and perform coordinated backwards leapfrogs to attract females.

I will show high-speed video of displays that are so rapid they are invisible to the human naked eye, discuss some of the hows and whys of their bizarre behaviors and talk about Golden-winged Manakins (understudied gems) in the mountains of western Ecuador – a tiny country that is 4th in the world for bird species, but has almost as many species as its three huge neighbors – Colombia, Brazil and Peru.

Dave McDonald was born in two places at once – Trinidad and Tobago, grew up in Venezuela, Brazil, and Mexico, and spent his deformative years in British boarding school. After college, he built a log cabin in Alaska, then did his Ph.D. on manakins in Costa Rica. In recent years, his research has focused on Golden-winged Manakins in the mountains of western Ecuador. After he retired from the University of Wyoming, he and his wife Beth moved to Silver City, where he pursues his passion for birding and indulges his bad taste in music.

Members will receive an email invitation with a link to join the Zoom program about a week in advance.

THE MANAKINS: Neotropical birds that moonwalk, do backwards leapfrogs, and dances that are too fast to see.
SWNMA lost two influential figures with the passing of Eugene Lewis and Dale Zimmerman within two days of each other. Gene on November 8, 2021 and Dale on November 10, 2021.

**EUGENE (GENE) LEWIS**

Gene Lewis was born March 10, 1925 near Manhattan, Kansas. He served in the Marines in WWII. After the war he returned to Kansas to marry his (now late) wife Eulalia. He was chief chemist for Road Materials Lab until 1950 when he once again returned to the Marines to serve during the Korean War. After the war, he continued as chief chemist at a new laboratory in Topeka, until retirement in 1990.

In 1991, he and Eulalia moved to Silver City, New Mexico. They did a lot of traveling about the country and around the world until settling down to stay at home to get involved with the local Audubon, Native Plant Society, Town and Country Garden Club and its thrift store, the Silver City Museum, WILL classes, and Marine Corps League. Gene was an avid birder and collected 21 years of bird data at the Tyrone Sewage Ponds and nearby area.

**MEMORIES FROM FORMER SWNMAS BOARD MEMBERS**

“I met Gene on one of my first Audubon field trips when I moved to Silver City in 2005. Gene and his late wife Eulalia, had a habit of “adopting” new arrivals to town and inspiring them to have as much love for birding as they did. For many years Gene and Eulalia hosted the post-Christmas Bird Count pot luck, encouraging camaraderie among their birding friends.”

“He was a major supporter of Audubon and it was Gene who came up with the idea to have Birds and Brews. He was a regular attendee at the program meetings as well, along with his wife Eulalia, before her death.”

“One thing that came to mind immediately about Gene is that he really loved cookies! Particularly double chocolate cherry cookies. Also he and his wife hosted many post CBC count dinners at their home and provided us with yummy chili.”

“Gene Lewis was a dedicated birder. I had the pleasure of partnering with him for several years during the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. He was excited about seeing every bird and had a really sharp eye for identification. Our route was in Silver City and he knew all the best places to look for birds for our count. At his home he had a platform feeder and no matter how many White-winged doves came to feed, every one of them was welcomed. He was distinguished, inquisitive, and compassionate. He taught me a lot and not just about birds.”
DALE ALLEN ZIMMERMAN

Dale Allen Zimmerman, 93, passed away at his residence in Silver City, New Mexico on November 10, 2021.

Dale Zimmerman was born in Imlay City, Michigan on June 7, 1928. Even as a child he displayed a passionate interest in birds, insects, and Africa. At the University of Michigan he continued his study of birds and continued his relationship with the Museum of Zoology. He met Marian Allen during a dendrology course. In July of 1950 they began a marriage that continued for 61 years. In his junior year he chose to major in botany, earning a B.S., an M.S., and finishing a PhD in botany in 1956.

In 1961 Dale rekindled his dream of traveling the world to study birds. That summer he took his first trip to Africa, tasting the mystery and magic of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. During his lifetime he traveled, many times together with his wife, to Mexico, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Guinea, South America, the Galapagos, Madagascar, Russia, Siberia, Mongolia, Himalayas, southeast Asia, Malaysia, Borneo, Morocco, Chile, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Antarctica and more.

He taught at WNMU for 31 years. In 2003 the herbarium at Western was officially named the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium.

A world traveler and scholar, Dale published many ornithological works from birds in New Guinea and Africa, to the local “The Birds of the Gila Checklist” which continues to be a U. S. Forest Service Publication and produced in cooperation with Southwestern New Mexico Audubon.

In addition to the above, Dale was an accomplished bird illustrator and was the primary illustrator of his books. His paintings have appeared in other works including the 1983 three-volume Audubon Field Guide to North American Birds. Dale was a generous teacher who touched the lives of many bird lovers though his studies, talks, and mentoring.

An exhibition of his paintings and a memorial will be held in the spring of 2022 in Silver City and will be announced in the local press. Memorial donations can be made to Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society. Checks can be sent to: SWNM Audubon Society, PO Box 1473, Silver City, NM 88062

MEMORIES FROM FORMER SWNMAS BOARD MEMBERS

“Since I was trained as a scientist, I looked up to Dale reverentially. He was a consummate

Continued on next page
naturalist. Not only did he have encyclopedic knowledge of flora and fauna, but he also was able to create artistic and educational tools to disseminate that knowledge. Dale’s late wife, Marian, was as passionate about nature as he was. As a team they were instrumental in the founding of this Southwestern New Mexico Audubon chapter and its ongoing success.”

“Dale loved sharing his knowledge and had a child-like wonder when making observations with a novice even if it was something that was common place. He was willing to take people under his wing and tutor them. I’d say the majority of my knowledge about birds in this region came from him.”

“Dale Zimmerman was a true Renaissance Man in his research, books and ability to see the connectedness of everything. I will always be inspired by his pen and ink drawings of birds. His work is eloquent and so helpful to me in my drawing, but I’ll never be as good as he. He always remembered me and greeted me warmly. He will be greatly missed.”

COUNT BIRDS

Gila River CBC – January 1 or 2, 2022
The Gila River CBC will be on the weekend of January 1 or 2, whichever day predicts better weather, hopefully the 2nd. Leader Linda Moore will need to know interested participants by December 20th.

The best way to contact Linda Moore is by email, raptors.linda@yahoo.com, or landline 575-535-2268.

Winter Raptor Survey – Jan. 15 –17
The Winter Raptor Survey will be the holiday weekend of January 15–17.

Linda Moore, leader, will need to know interested participants by January 3rd.

The best way to contact Linda Moore is by email, raptors.linda@yahoo.com, or landline 575-535-2268.

Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 18–21
Each year people from around the world come together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds. Check www.birdcount.org for more information.

How to Participate: Participating is easy, fun to do alone, or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds. • 1 Decide where you will watch birds. • 2 Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, Feb. 18-21, 2022. • 3 Count all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool for sharing your bird sightings. If you are a beginning bird admirer and new to the count, try using the Merlin Bird ID app.