



Box 1473
Silver City
NM 88062-1473

swnmaudubon.org

THE RAVENS

Newsletter

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society
is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

May — June — July 2022

Vol. 55, No. 3

Field Trip For Kids May 28th Along San Vicente



Megan Ruehmann photo

Kids' Nature Walk Saturday, MAY 28

Join us Saturday May 28th at 9:30—11am for a Kids' Nature Walk along San Vicente Trail in Silver City. We'll be taking a look at birds, bugs, and what kind of critters are living in the creek with local scientists.

Binoculars will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Families are welcome!

Program: Friday, June 3 - 6pm Zoom

Cliff Swallow Encounters

By Carol Ann Fugagli

As I witness the newly arrived Cliff Swallows (CLSW) congregating on the buildings at Western New Mexico University (WNMU), I feel conflicting emotions. Initially, I feel a welling of excitement and relief that my 'friends' have returned. I'm eager once again to see what mysteries unfold during the coming breeding season as they grace our skies with their balletic beauty. I'm also filled with a slight amount of apprehension. Will there be enough mud for them to build their nests? Will we need to confront those who wish to take down their nests? Will House Sparrows continue to be a problem?

Please join Carol Ann Fugagli, and students from Aldo Leopold Charter School Youth Conservation Corps eco-monitoring program on Friday June 3rd at 6:00pm for a zoom presentation. We will review findings of CLSW nesting activities on WNMU campus and in the Silver City area for the past four years.



CLSW waiting to be fed. Carol Ann Fugagli photo

Bird Walk to See Cliff Swallows In Action on Saturday, June 4

We will then have a follow-up field trip the next day, Saturday, June 4th for a walk on WNMU campus to observe these discoveries in action. Please meet in front of Light Hall at 6:30pm. It begins to cool off at that time of day, but you may wish to bring a water bottle and wear a hat. Please bring binoculars if you have them but we will have a few extra on hand for those who need them. We will be finished by 8:00pm.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022, NOON

Joint GNPS/Audubon Picnic at Gomez Peak Picnic Pavilion

The Gila Chapter of the Native Plant Society and the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society will hold a joint picnic for their members at the Gomez Peak Picnic Pavilion.

Come ready with your pot-luck dish to share, and your plates, cups and eating utensils.

Beverages and grilled meat and vegetarian items and the fixings will be provided.



SWNMAS Webmaster Change of Guard

After many years of service to Southwestern New Mexico Audubon, Teri Matelson is retiring from being our webmaster. Since 2003 Teri has kept our members and visitors informed with communication of news, photographs and events in our organization and surrounding areas.

The Board of Directors and general membership thanks Teri for her dedication and talent. We have had many favorable comments on the looks and content of our website and will miss her at our field trips, meetings and picnics.

We are very grateful in welcoming a new member volunteering to take over as webmaster.

Heidi Erstad, recent resident to Silver City, is looking forward to building on Teri's tradition, by keeping the SWNM Audubon web presence alive. She brings a love of birds and her iMac to the task.

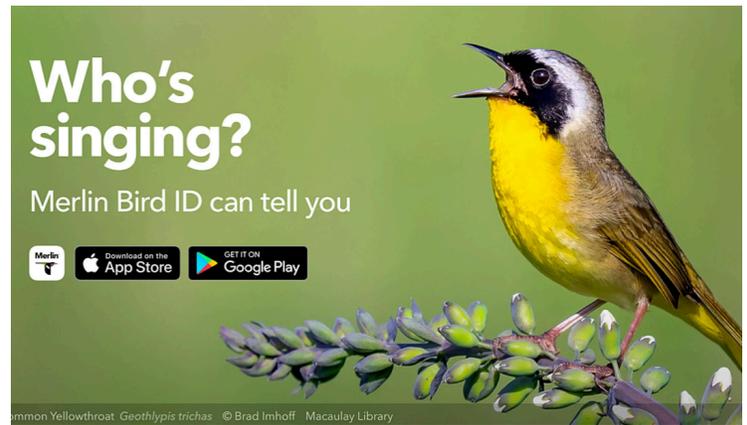
Members Invited to Board Meetings

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon invites members to our Board of Directors meetings. We meet every two months on the first Monday of the month at 5 PM via Zoom. The next meeting is June 6.

If you are interested in attending board meetings, please email swnmaudubon@gmail.org. We will add you to the list to receive the agenda and zoom link a few days in advance of the meeting.

Latino Conservation Week July 16 - 24, 2022

Latino Conservation Week was created to support the Latino community getting into the outdoors and participating in activities to protect our natural resources.



The Best Birding App, Powered By You

MerlinBirdID.com

Merlin features the best of community contributed photos, songs, and calls, tips from experts around the world to help you ID the birds you see, and range maps from [Birds of the World](#)—all powered by billions of bird observations submitted to [eBird](#).

Have you ever heard a bird song and wondered who's singing? Well wonder no more! Whether it's the bird you hear every day or a song you've never heard before, our Merlin Bird ID app can help you identify who's singing. Just pull out your smartphone, press record, and watch as Merlin shows matches in real time.

Download Merlin Bird ID

Merlin can help you identify the songs and calls of 450+ species in the United States and Canada (with more species and regions coming soon). With a couple of taps you'll unlock a whole new world of bird songs. Merlin's newest feature is sure to improve your birding skills and give you a new superpower—identifying birds by ear. Every species you identify with the new Sound ID feature can also be saved to your life list, and you'll be able to share the recordings you make with friends and family.

Identify Bird Songs and Calls

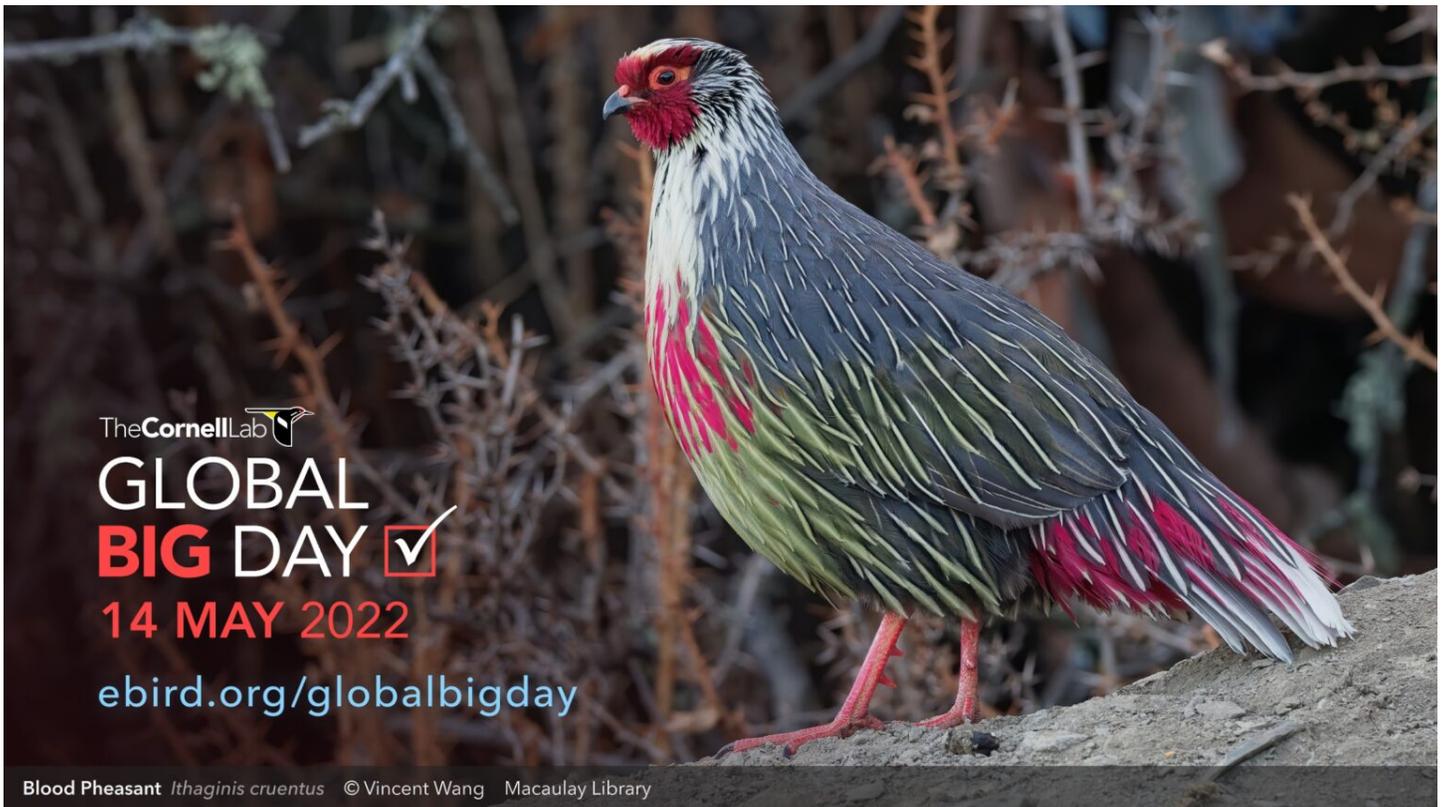
Sound ID listens to the birds around you and shows real-time suggestions for who's singing. Compare your recording to the songs and calls in Merlin to confirm what you heard. Available for birds in the US and Canada. More species and regions coming soon.

More About Sound ID

Merlin's new feature was made possible by thousands of citizen scientists who contributed recordings to the Macaulay Library and shared their bird sightings with eBird and we are so grateful. [Enjoy the sounds of Spring!](#)

Drew Weber
[Merlin Project Coordinator](#)

MAY 14, 2022 — World Migratory Bird Day



Be a part of birding's biggest team! [Global Big Day](#) is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us virtually on 14 May, help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#), and share the birds you find with eBird.

Participating is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our [free eBird Mobile app](#). If you have more time, submit several checklists of birds throughout the day. You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations through products like these [animated abundance maps](#) brought to you by eBird Science.

Last year, Global Big Day brought birders together virtually from more countries than ever before. More than 51,000 people from 192 countries submitted 134,000 checklists with eBird, setting [four new world records](#) for a single day of birding. Will you help us surpass last year's records? However you choose to participate, please always [put safety first](#) and follow your local guidelines.

How to participate

- Get an eBird account: eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data to help scientists better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's 100% free from start to finish.
- Watch birds on 14 May: It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world.
- Enter what you see and hear in eBird: You can enter your sightings [via our website](#) or download the [free eBird Mobile app](#) to make submitting lists even easier. Please enter your checklists before 17 May to be included in our initial results announcement.
- Watch the sightings roll in: During the day, follow along with sightings from more than 170 countries in real-time on our [Global Big Day page](#): ebird.org/globalbigday

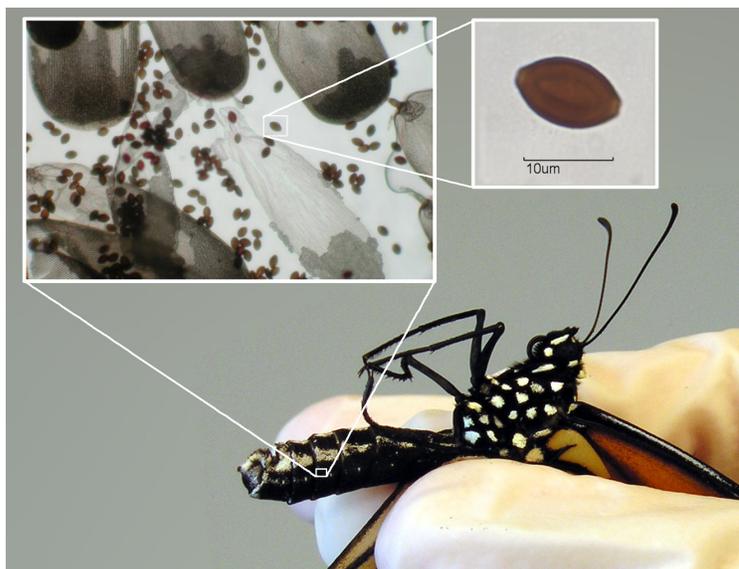
MONARCHS



Monarchs have a growing parasite problem, and it's not from natural causes.

Monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus*, along with their relatives, like the queen (*Danaus gilippus*) and other Danaids, are sometimes infected with a naturally-occurring protozoan (meaning single-celled) parasite called *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, or simply OE for short. This parasite has been found in all monarch populations around the world, at varying levels, and, it has been around for probably as long as the monarch has - for thousands of years, probably. We think it co-evolved with the monarchs and their relatives, because the parasite appears to be perfectly adapted to living on these butterflies. We don't think it lives anywhere else, just on these butterflies. For the longest time, we thought that this parasite was ONLY found in Danaid butterflies, but this actually turned out not to be true.

The OE parasite forms microscopic, football shaped, spores that hang out on the outer surface of the monarch abdomens, sandwiched between the butterfly scales (see the picture below)



When the adults land on, or fly close to, a milkweed plant, such as when a female lays eggs, these spores fall off onto the plant (think of it like glitter). When monarch eggs hatch, and the caterpillars start eating the plant, they also ingest these spores. Once inside the caterpillar, the spores “hatch” and become the reproductive stage of the parasite. They reproduce (a lot!) within the caterpillar and in the pupal stage, and then when the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, it has millions of spores on its abdomen, ready to begin the cycle again. And I'm not kidding when I say millions – we've counted.

The other thing that people should know about this parasite, is that it sometimes causes the butterfly to be deformed when it emerges, but then it sometimes does not. In fact, in a lot of cases, the infected butterfly looks completely normal to the naked eye. This is why the *only* way to truly know if a butterfly is infected with OE, is to take a sample of their abdomen scales using scotch tape (which is harmless), and then look at the tape under a microscope.

[A blog about Monarchs by a Monarch scientist-Andy Davis.]

Direct link to this blog entry:

<https://www.monarchscience.org/single-post/monarchs-have-a-growing-parasite-problem-and-it-s-not-from-natural-causes>

SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Directors 2021 – 2023

PRESIDENT
Vacant

EDUCATION
Miyoshi Renard

SECRETARY
Susan Slade

COMMUNICATIONS
Vacant

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP
Rachelle Bergmann

CONSERVATION
Vacant

PROGRAMS/EVENTS
Megan Ruehmann

PUBLICATIONS
Patricia Taber

FIELD TRIPS
Ynce Bourne

RAVENS DISTRIBUTION
Russell Wiegman

WEBMASTER
Heidi Erstad

swnmaudubon@gmail.com