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THE RAVENS

Newsletter

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

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**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Gila Gomez Peak covered picnic pavilion.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

SWNM Audubon Annual Meeting Pot-luck Picnic at Gomez Peak

Please join your friends in Southwestern New Mexico Audubon at our Annual Meeting/Pot-luck picnic at the Gila Gomez Peak Picnic Pavilion.

We will begin gathering at 4:00 pm and start our pot-luck picnic at 5. This will allow time to bird the area and visit with folks before we eat.

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

Gila River Festival — Sept. 22 – 25 **One Water, Many Currents**

The festival will explore the many ways in which water connects us and is the common thread weaving together the Gila River watershed's human and ecological communities of the past, present and into the future.

The hybrid (in-person and virtual) event will examine how the Gila River brings us together, investigate human relationships with the Gila River through our many uses of water and cultural perspectives related to water, and facilitate understanding of the ecological systems of the



Gila River watershed and human dependence on these systems. Leeanna Torres will be this year's Gila River Festival keynote speaker. More information at: www.gilariverfestival.org

OCTOBER EVENTS

Bird Walk For Kids



Megan Ruehmann photos

Stay tuned for another Kid's Bird Walk to be held on a Saturday morning in October! Once the date gets closer, we will announce the exact date, place to meet and time on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SouthwesternNMAudubon and by email. Gather up your friends and family for a short walk looking for birds, bugs and any other critters we may encounter.

At our last Kid's Bird Walk in late May, we played Bug Bingo and had many interesting discoveries along San Vicente Creek. A few people were able to see the bright flash of a male Summer Tanager flying overhead, we checked on the status of a Common Black Hawk nest, and found a fallen songbird nest from last year.





Accessible Outing at Silva Creek

Emily Pollom and John Gorey guided 10 bird watchers on this low-key outing in an emerging spring setting on a sunny Sunday. First-time and established members were fortunate to spot flitting warblers, a nesting Cooper's Hawk, noisy curve-billed thrashers, and a brilliantly red summer tanager.



“Our vision is that birding truly is for everybody and every body, regardless of disability or other health concerns.”

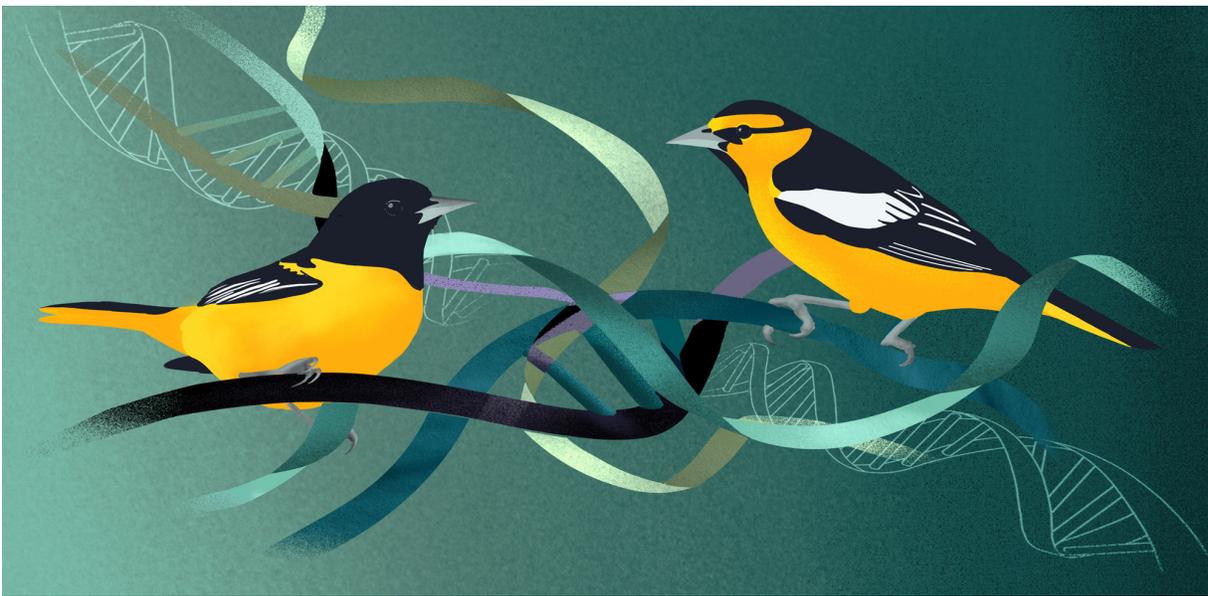
Birding is a wonderful activity that provides a healthy way for people to interact with and learn about wildlife and wild places. Inclusivity in birdwatching has been a mainstream discussion as of late and an organization that is highlighting ways birdwatching can be an activity for all is Birdability.

This non-profit lifts up the experience and expertise of birders with disabilities. They provide seminars on accessible birding and one of these was the inspiration for our local chapter holding an accessible birding event at Silva Creek Botanical

Garden in the spring.

At [Birdability.org](https://birdability.org) readers can find presentations, fact sheets, and an interactive map showing accessible birding sites across the country. The map is crowd-sourced and you can contribute your own knowledge of accessible birding spots by clicking the “Birdability Map” link at birdability.org.

Thanks to Birdability for all the resources they provide to help make birding more inclusive!



One Species or Two? A Winner Emerges in the Great Oriole Debate.

Illustrations by Jillian Ditner

[All About Birds](#)

A Deep Dive into the Oriole Genome Tackles the Mystery of Hybridization

Using the latest genome-mapping technology, a team of Cornell Lab of Ornithology evolutionary biologists set out to settle a decades-long debate—are Baltimore and Bullock’s Orioles two species, or one? Five years later the team got their answer—and in doing so, unlocked a new set of questions.

From the [Spring 2022](#) issue of Living Bird magazine.

By **Rebecca Heisman**

Between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains lies the open expanse of the Great Plains, originally a grassland ecosystem dominated by fire and bison. Today the bison are all but gone, the fires have been suppressed, and much of the grass has been plowed up and replaced by agriculture. Yet the Great Plains still form an ecological barrier between the forests of the eastern and western United States—and their bird populations. . . .

Use this link to read the whole story:

www.allaboutbirds.org/news/a-deep-dive-into-the-oriole-genome-tackles-the-mystery-of-hybridization/

Southwestern New Mexico Audubon
How to reach us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthwesternNMAudubon>



Bullock's/Baltimore Oriole hybrids at a feeder in Colorado. Photo by [Cathy Sheeter/Macaulay Library](#).

Board of Directors Invites Members

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 October 3rd.

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.