

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, along with a variety of cooperating entities for bird conservation, announces an “All-Bird” Workshop:

Charting a Course for Integrated Bird Conservation in New Mexico

The purpose of the workshop is to 1) understand NM’s important role in bird conservation, 2) understand the status of NM birds and bird conservation issues, 3) introduce national bird conservation plans, 3) learn about the tools and the variety of organizations working toward implementation of bird conservation, 4) understand agency mandates, needs, and capacities for bird conservation, and 5) strategize methods for moving state bird conservation forward.

When: Tues. Oct. 26th, 2004, 8:30 am (registration begins 7:30)-Wed. Oct. 27th, 3:00 pm.

Where: Best Western Rio Rancho Inn and Conference Center
1465 Rio Rancho Boulevard
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

For reservations call (505) 892-1700 or 1-800-658-9558.
Rooms are reserved under “Department of Game and Fish”.

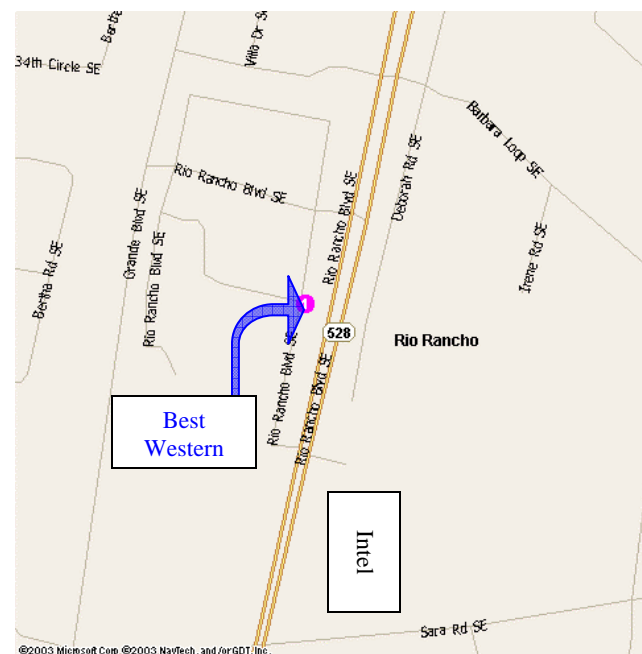
How Much: Room rates for the meeting are \$55 for one/room, and \$70 for two/room.
Meeting registration and attendance is **FREE!**

Who: Open to state and federal agencies and others involved in bird and habitat conservation and management in New Mexico.

RSVP: Because space for this workshop is limited, all participants must RSVP by October 15 to Monica Romero at 476-8101 or mtromero@state.nm.us.

Directions: see website at: www.innatriorrancho.com

- Take the Paseo del Norte exit (# 232) from I-25 in Albuquerque, or the North Coors Road exit (# 155) from I-40, to the intersection of Coors Boulevard and Paseo del Norte.
- Go north on Coors Boulevard as it turns into Coors By-Pass, keeping Cottonwood Mall on your right.
- Follow the road up the hill into Rio Rancho as it becomes NM Hwy 528 (Rio Rancho Boulevard), past the car dealer and Intel on the right.
- U-turn at Hilltop Plaza to Hwy 528 south, and turn into the Best Western on the west side of Hwy 528.



Charting a Course for Integrated Bird Conservation in New Mexico: An “All-Bird” Workshop

26 – 27 October 2004
Best Western Rio Rancho Inn & Conference Center
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- *understand NM’s important role in bird conservation*
- *understand status of NM’s birds and conservation issues*
- *introduce national bird conservation plans*
- *understand groups/tools/funds for implementation*
- *understand agency needs to build capacity for conservation*
- *develop ideas/plan for moving NM bird conservation forward*

AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:30 – **Coffee and Registration**
8:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. **Introductions** – Chuck Hayes (New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish)

8:35 a.m. **Welcome** – Bruce Thompson, Director (New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish)

8:45 a.m. **New Mexico and its Birds - Why is there a need for conservation?**
Sandy Williams (New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish)

BIRD CONSERVATION PLANNING 101

9:15 - National/Continental Planning
10:00 a.m.

The Four Main Bird Conservation Initiatives (9:15 – 9:45)
Carol Beardmore (FWS Sonoran JV)

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) (9:45 – 10:00)
Debra Hahn (Int’l. Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – IAFWA)

10:00 a.m. **Questions & Answers** (from audience)

10:15 a.m. **BREAK**

Tuesday, October 26 (cont.)

10:30 - State Planning

11:00 a.m.

New Mexico's place in National Bird Conservation (10:30-10:45)

Christopher Rustay (PLJV)

New Mexico Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (10:45-11:00)

Sandy Williams (NM Dept. of Game and Fish)

11:00 - International Planning

11:30 a.m.

The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) (11:00-11:15)

Robert Mesta (Sonoran JV Coordinator)

Mexico/New Mexico bird habitat work (11:15-11:30)

Martha Desmond (NMSU)

11:30 a.m. **Questions & Answers** (from audience)

11:45 a.m.- **LUNCH**

1:00 p.m.

BIRD CONSERVATION in NEW MEXICO: An Overview

1:00 - The Players

2:30 p.m.

An Overview of the Legal Framework for Bird Conservation (1:00 – 1:20)

Dave Krueper (FWS)

Non-Government Organization (NGO) Involvement (1:20 – 1:45)

- Stan Baker (National Wild Turkey Federation)
- Bob Findling (The Nature Conservancy – TNC)
- Dave Henderson (New Mexico Audubon)

Joint Venture (JV) Primer (1:45 – 2:30)

- Greg Esslinger (FWS JV Coordinator) (1:45-2:00)
- Jim Cole (Intermountain West JV Coordinator) (2:00-2:15)
- Mike Carter (Playa Lakes JV Coordinator) (2:15-2:30)

2:30 - Means to Accomplish Bird Conservation

3:30 p.m.

Habitat Management (2:30 – 3:00)

Terry Riley (WMI – Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership)

Research and Monitoring (3:00 – 3:30)

- Federal agencies, Universities – Janet Ruth (USGS)
- State agencies, NGOs – Sandy Williams (NM Dept of Game and Fish)

3:15 p.m. **Questions & Answers** (from Audience)

3:30 p.m. **BREAK**

Tuesday, October 26 (cont.)

3:45 - **Recent NM Bird Conservation Efforts**

5:15 p.m.

Brief presentations (15 minutes each)

- Carson National Forest - Chirre Keckler (USFS)
- Malpais Borderlands Group - Ben Brown (Animas Foundation)
- Creamer Ranch - Bob Findling (TNC)
- Middle Rio Grande NAWCA project - Jim Cole (IWJV)
- NM Avian Protection (NMAP) Program - John Acklen (PNM)
- Pueblo of Santa Ana - Brian Bader (Santa Ana Dept of Natural Resources)

5:15 p.m. **First Day Wrap-Up** - Chuck Hayes (NM Dept of Game and Fish)

5:30 p.m. **BREAK FOR EVENING**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

FUTURE DIRECTION for NEW MEXICO CONSERVATION

8:30 - What Does Implementation Look Like?

9:30 a.m.

Panel Comments (8:30 – 9:00)

Panel - Kathy Granillo (USFWS Refuges), Dave Henderson (NM Audubon), Chuck Hayes (NM Dept. of Game and Fish), Tish McDaniel (Phalarope Consulting), Jim Silva (BLM) Moderator - Janet Ruth (USGS)

Open Discussion - between Panel and audience (9:00 – 9:30)

Questions for Panel and Audience [and Breakout Groups in p.m.]

1. What do you/your organization see as the conservation needs for NM Birds – management, research, monitoring, education?
2. How should bird conservation planning be implemented? How should all bird conservation activities be coordinated?
3. What does the future of NM bird conservation look like to you/your organization?
4. What are the impediments to implementation for you/your organization? Others? What are your suggestions for overcoming them?
5. What are the educational needs associated with implementing bird conservation? For land managers, lawmakers, the public, etc.
6. Where are the gaps in regional bird conservation coverage? Where/what are the greatest needs?

9:30 a.m. Colorado example of All-bird Coordination: a Summary

David Klute (All Bird Coordinator, Colorado Division of Wildlife)

10:00 a.m. **BREAK**

Wednesday, October 27 (cont.)

10:15 - Identifying Needs and Problems in Furthering Bird Conservation in New Mexico
12:00 p.m. – Breakout Groups

Organization of and Instructions to Breakout Groups (10:15 – 10:30)

Janet Ruth (USGS)

Breakout Groups meet (10:30 – 12:00)

Questions for Breakout Groups [same as for the panel/audience above]

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**

1:00 - Planning Future Bird Conservation Actions in New Mexico
2:30 p.m.

Summation of Breakout Group results – Report from each Breakout Group

Recommendations for moving forward – Audience Discussion

Moderator – Janet Ruth (USGS)

Questions for Audience

What are the key needs for bird conservation in NM?

What are the best ways to address needs and overcome problems identified?

What are some specific actions to be taken? Who will take them? By when?

How will the results of this workshop be disseminated?

2:30 p.m. Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

Workshop Synthesis - Chuck Hayes (NM Dept. of Game and Fish)

Response/Comments from two NM Game Commissioners

- Jennifer Montoya

- Dave Henderson

3:00 p.m. **ADJOURN**

New Mexico All Bird Conservation Workshop Summary

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, with financial support from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, hosted an All Bird Conservation Workshop at the Best Western Rio Rancho Inn and Conference Center 26-27 October 2004. Playing significant roles in the organization and conduct of the event were Janet Ruth (USGS), David Krueper (USFWS), David Mehlman (TNC), Christopher Rustay (PLJV), Monica Romero (NMDGF), Chuck Hayes (NMDGF), and Sandy Williams (NMDGF). The workshop was attended by approximately 100 biologists and managers representing federal, state, and tribal agencies as well as non-government and private organizations. The two day program included over 20 different speakers representing a broad spectrum of bird conservation interests in New Mexico.

Workshop participants were welcomed on the first day by Bruce Thompson, NMDGF Director, who suggested the workshop be dedicated to John Taylor, former biologist at Bosque del Apache NWR who recently passed away. Closing remarks on the second day were provided by Commissioner David Henderson of the New Mexico State Game Commission, who emphasized the need to move forward with partnerships to effect bird conservation on a broad scale.

The objectives of the workshop were to provide an overview of the status of New Mexico birds and bird conservation issues, outline federal, state, and other initiatives, mandates, needs, and capacities for bird conservation, identify the necessary resources and the numerous entities working toward bird conservation, and develop methods for advancing bird conservation in a manner that would meet common federal, state, tribal, and other bird conservation interests.

The program began with a summary of avian diversity in New Mexico and the needs for conservation. Participants were then provided overviews of the four major national/hemispheric bird conservation plans: North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight Land Bird Plan, North American Shorebird Plan, and North American Waterbird Plan, and how these are in turn coordinated through the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). NABCI is an umbrella system of regionally-based, biologically-driven, landscape-orientated partnerships. Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) are ecologically distinct planning units used for furthering bird conservation; the four BCRs in New Mexico are Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau (BCR 16), Shortgrass Prairie (BCR 18), Chihuahuan Desert (BCR 35), and Sierra Madre Occidental (BCR 34).

Following those presentations, speakers provided background information on New Mexico Partners in Flight (which has functioned in an “all bird” capacity in New Mexico) and on its Bird Conservation Plan and a summary of the status of the New Mexico Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. International bird conservation initiatives were introduced, with a focus on cross-border connections, and included examples of cooperation with Mexico from the Sonoran Joint Venture, and from on-going bird conservation activities between New Mexico and Chihuahua.

Attendees were provided with an overview of the federal and state legal framework which governs bird conservation, including effects of historic and recent legislation. The involvement of non-governmental organizations in bird conservation was summarized by representatives from The Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society. The role of the Joint Ventures (JVs) was described, and participants were encouraged to become more involved with the two JVs in New Mexico: Intermountain West JV which is responsible for the western two-thirds of New Mexico and the Playa Lakes JV which is responsible for the eastern one-third of the state. The basic mission of the JVs is to help partners implement bird conservation projects on the ground. A presentation on the means to accomplish bird conservation emphasized the numerous funding and incentive programs, including funds available through the Farm Bill, the State Wildlife Grants, and other initiatives. An overview of who is engaged in bird research and monitoring programs in the state was provided, and included contact information for federal, state, and other entities. The first day concluded with examples of recent successful bird conservation activities in the state, and included presentations on a North American Wetlands Conservation Act project involving multiple partners in the middle Rio Grande Valley, forest-wide bird monitoring on the Carson National Forest, The Nature Conservancy's program to identify and protect significant lands including Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat in eastern New Mexico, the efforts of Public Service Company of New Mexico and other utilities and entities to identify and solve bird electrocution and collision problems, and a riparian habitat restoration program on-going at the Pueblo of Santa Ana.

The second day began with a facilitated panel/audience discussion regarding implementation of bird conservation, with the panel consisting of representatives of National Wildlife Refuges, BLM, NMDGF, New Mexico Audubon, and private landowners. The importance of forging bridges between the agencies and private landowners and between the agencies and the tribes was highlighted, as was the need for improved coordination and communication among all parties to further bird conservation. David Klute, the All Bird Coordinator for Colorado Division of Wildlife, provided insight into how all bird coordination functions in that state. The participants then divided into breakout groups to identify needs, problems, and potential solutions regarding furthering bird conservation in New Mexico. Participants brought forward a number of recommendations and needs for future bird conservation efforts in the state. Many of these needs related to a need for a centralized source of bird-related information and assistance. These included a dedicated all bird coordinating position, effective data management and dissemination, increased education and training on all levels (particularly for tribes or small conservation-related organizations), improved communication among all groups and agencies, and the necessity of closing gaps in species and habitat information.

Information provided at the workshop and other all-bird related information will be available on the NMDGF website (<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/NewMexicoAll-BirdWorkshopDocuments.htm>, currently under construction). This includes the agenda, a list of participating individuals, copies of all handouts, and Powerpoint presentations of talks