



# Nature Notes

Pajarito  
Environmental  
Education  
Center

Your Nature Center in Los Alamos

Volume 8, Number 2

Spring 2009

PEEC, Mail: PO Box 547  
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## President's Message

by Chick Keller

Spring is fast approaching and with it an increased number of programs that take us and our children into the out-of-doors. Already the first flowers are blooming on the White Rock Canyon rim.

The two earliest are from the celery family (*Apiaceae*) – Indian Parsley (*Cymopterus bulbosus*) and Spring Parsley, with its perhaps more familiar hispanic name, Chimaja (*Cymopterus acaulis* variety *fendleri*). The display at PEEC, “**What's Blooming Now,**” has others to be looked for in the coming month, such as Easter Daisy and Dakota Verbena. Both may appear in White Rock and on the slopes of the canyon on the Red Dot Trail. The birds are also arriving – Feb. 29 saw White-throated Swifts whizzing along the rim of White Rock Canyon. Now, when will we see the first vulture and hear the first Broad-Tailed Hummingbird? Call in and let us know your sightings.

PEEC has other new activities. We plan soon to set up a **small greenhouse**. This will allow two efforts – starting plants for the children's garden and experimenting with how to grow our native plants from seed or cuttings. If the latter is successful, PEEC will be offering seedlings of native plants for sale. Anyone interested in helping with this, by all means, get in touch with Branden or Diane at PEEC.

On a more sobering note, PEEC's lease with the Los Alamos Schools for our space comes up for renewal at a School Board Meeting April 14th. The schools

are very positive about PEEC but are also attempting to cope with the loss of classrooms during the upcoming renovations.

PEEC has offered its classroom to the schools in the daytime (PEEC would use it evenings and weekends) to help, and so we believe a renewal of our lease is a good possibility. But it would help ever so much if satisfied and enthusiastic PEEC users would contact school board members to **put in a good word** for our staying in the present facilities.

One item of note is the marked energy savings our insulation program has made. Matt Dickens of the County Utilities has measured our energy usage and reports that our heating bill may have been reduced by as much as half due to the insulation in the ceiling and insulating blinds for the north-facing windows. Thus PEEC seems to be achieving a good result from its demonstration of **how to retro-fit old buildings** for energy efficiency.

Put Earth Day activities on your calendar. Lots going on. Stop by and visit with us at PEEC.

Chick and Yvonne Keller

## In This Issue:

Supplement: Earth Day Celebrations.

Insert: Programs for spring.

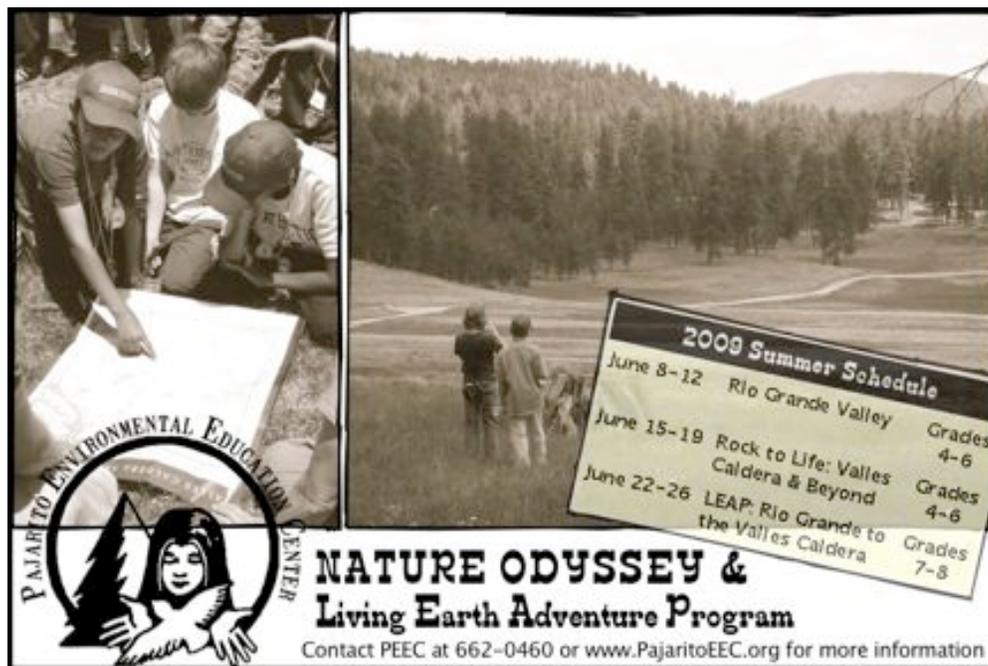
Endangered species, roadrunner and hawk, salamander, seeds, summer camps and kids' activities.

## Comments on the Value of Getting Outside

### Learning in Nature's Classroom

The Nature Odyssey Summer Science Camp and Living Earth Adventure Program\* are unique opportunities for young people to become immersed in nature and learn with talented and enthusiastic environmental educators. With classrooms ranging from the riverbeds and canyons of the Rio Grande Valley to the headwaters of the Jemez River on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, there is no better place to explore the environment in Northern New Mexico. It is our goal that all students who participate in these programs will take an enthusiastic interest in the natural world. Besides, it's a great deal of fun!

—Branden Willman-Kozimor



**PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

**NATURE ODYSSEY & Living Earth Adventure Program**

Contact PEEC at 662-0460 or [www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org) for more information

June 8-12	Rio Grande Valley	Grades 4-6
June 15-19	Rock to Life: Valles Caldera & Beyond	Grades 4-6
June 22-26	LEAP: Rio Grande to the Valles Caldera	Grades 7-8

\*Go to PEEC's web site ([www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org)) to learn more about each session, read participants' opinions, and find out how to register.

### Why Do Children Need Field Experiences?

"Children and students of all ages have fewer opportunities to go on field trips to nature centers, to parks, and on boats, due to the cost and the concerns over liability and risk. For a scientist these trends are extremely worrisome," writes scientist Ellen Prager, in *Chasing Science at Sea*, University of Chicago Press, 2008, p. 151. "My colleagues unanimously agree that the opportunity to experience nature firsthand as a child strongly influenced their decision to become a scientist ... Whether it was investigating tide pools with their family, running wild in the woods, or taking part in a class trip, early experiences in the field had a profound

influence on their lives. As fewer wild places are left and children have fewer opportunities to explore those that remain, what does this mean for the future generation of natural scientists? Experiences in nature also make us aware and appreciative of its beauty, mystery, and complexity. Without opportunities to gain this appreciation, are we also at risk of, or have we already lost, humanity's stewardship ethic toward the environment?"

—selected by Esta Lee Albright

In a recent editorial by Leon Lederman and Shirley M. Malcom in the March 6, 2009, issue of *Science*, I was reminded of the importance of PEEC's work, "science must move to center stage. President Obama has recognized the challenges of recruiting and compensating science and mathematics teachers and of making science, as in post-Sputnik years, a more integral, inspirational part of national culture. Now we turn such far-reaching national vision into grassroots reality . . . think of expanding by orders of magnitude the numbers of retired scientists and engineers currently working with teachers and students in schools, or in museums and science centers . . . scientists advocating for science education to mayors, school boards, superintendents and supporting implementation with principals, teachers and students." Through PEEC, those of us at the grassroots levels are helping to bring this vision to reality. Join us by supporting PEEC in any way that you can.

—Michele

Altherr

### PEEC Interprets "Being Outside"

Whether it's a class, a hike, a lecture, summer camp, or just browsing through the nature center, PEEC offers natural history that enhances experiences, builds listening and observation skills, and piques curiosity. When you become a member or sign our visitors' book you are helping us collect data that will be useful when we apply for grants or otherwise raise funds. For instance, in 2008, PEEC offered 80 programs and 2695 people attended (1688 children and 1007 adults). Numbers of people who came to the center have grown steadily: 2311 in 2006, 2633 in 2007 and 3727 in 2008. To ensure these programs and keep the center open five days a week, volunteers gave 2593 hours.

— Diane Noveroske and Esta Lee Albright ✨

## The Standoff

by Terry Foxx

Over the 30 years that I have lived in White Rock, I have rarely seen a roadrunner. But one seems to have taken up residence in our neighborhood. Last spring we spotted him running at full speed down Glenview Drive right into our yard. We quickly surmised he was being chased by a hawk – but only a small sharp-shinned hawk, only half his size. Nevertheless, the chase was on and the road runner was doing what road runners do – running! This time he was running as if his life depended on it.

An apple tree in our back yard had not yet leafed out, but was gnarled and dense with branches. That is exactly where the roadrunner headed, right under the apple tree with the hawk nearly on his tail. The hawk of course did not follow pursuit under the tree. The roadrunner took up refuge in the top of the tree, sheltered by the branches. The hawk settled on the fence right next to that tree.

The standoff lasted for over an hour. The roadrunner eyed the hawk, and the hawk patiently waited for the roadrunner to get out of the tree. The standoff was broken when a neighbor's cat began to approach the hawk.

That roadrunner stayed in our apple tree for at least another hour. When he finally decided it was safe, he ran back down Glenview Drive, every so often looking over his shoulder.

The roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) is related to the cuckoos. This large ground-dwelling bird is 20-24 inches long with a long, mobile tail, sturdy long legs, and streaked plumage. It has a blue or red streak behind the eye. The bird can run 15 miles per hour and flies only when necessary. It eats snakes, lizards, and small birds.

Roadrunner is a favorite character in cartoons, but long before that the roadrunner was a hero in various Native American stories.

A Native American story gives Roadrunner the hero status for bringing fire. The story goes that when the world was new, the people returned from the hunt to find their fire had gone out. They asked Roadrunner to quickly go to Lightning God, keeper of fire, and get a fire stick. Roadrunner agreed but the god refused to give him a lightning stick. But

because Roadrunner is quick, he grabbed a stick and placed it on his back and scurried away as Lightning God shot fire arrows. Roadrunner's beautiful feathers on his head were burnt off; his eyes were red from the smoke, and his back was singed brown. But Roadrunner out-ran the fire arrows and managed to bring fire back to the people, and that is why he appears as he does today: red eyes, a short topknot, and streaked brown feathers.

The sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) is a small woodland raptor (9 - 13 inches long). It is a common visitor to bird feeders, not for seed but for the seed-eaters. This habit of hunting around bird feeders has been an explanation for seeing fewer birds in hawk watches. Instead of migrating south, they may stay near the dependable food source of small birds at bird feeders.

This bird can fly through brushy confines and is quick and swift. The sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are similar in coloration, but the "sharpie" is smaller. The sharp-shinned has a square tail, while the Cooper's hawk's tail is more rounded.

After the hawk young leave the nest, adults pass food to the young in mid-air. They hover briefly and kick the prey outward so the fledglings can capture it.

✧

Sources:

*Handbook of Native American Myths*, Dawn E Bastian and Judith K. Mitchell, 2004.

*North American Birds*, Reader's Digest, 1990.

*All About Birds*, www.birds.cornell.edu, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

*The Sibley Guide to Birds*, David Allen Sibley, 2000.



# The Jemez Mountain Salamander

by Jennifer Macke

The Jemez Mountain salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*) is a small woodland salamander that lives in the mountains surrounding the Valles Caldera. This salamander belongs to the genus *Plethodon*, which includes a total of 55 species, all in North America. Some readers may be familiar with its relative, the red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*), which is a very common and widespread species in the eastern half of the United States. In contrast to the wide distribution of the red-backed salamander, the range of the Jemez Mountain salamander is very small, with the species only existing in very specific habitats within a small geographical area (see map page 5).

The Jemez Mountain salamander, like all members of its family, lacks lungs and instead obtains oxygen directly through its skin. Since its skin serves as its only breathing organ, the skin has to be very thin and must stay moist in order for respiration to occur. Desiccation is quickly fatal, and thus the salamander requires a cool moist environment at all times.

## How can a moisture-requiring salamander survive in New Mexico?

Several details of the animal's habitat allow its survival here. This salamander is found in mixed conifer and spruce-fir forests above 7,200 feet in very specific microhabitat conditions. Preferred microhabitat is generally characterized by relatively high humidity and soils that lie above a specific type of rock. Cracks in hard rock allow the salamander to take refuge underground, where cool moist conditions are available year round. They do not live in areas characterized by tuff rock. They occur only in shady wooded sites, particularly steep north-facing slopes that have a good cover of soil and plant debris. They have been found at altitudes above 11,000 feet. Thus, they are restricted to only the coolest and most moisture-retentive microhabitats that exist in this area.

Another characteristic that allows the survival of this salamander here is its reproductive strategy. Salamanders of the genus *Plethodon* do not require standing water in order to reproduce. Their eggs are laid on land, and the embryos pass through the larval stage while still inside the eggs. Thus, these salamanders can live in areas where there are no bodies of water of any kind. An interesting

fact is that no one has ever seen a clutch of eggs of this species in the wild. Most likely, the eggs are deposited underground, perhaps in the rocky cracks underground where the salamander takes refuge much of the time.

## How did this salamander get here?

Looking at the distribution of the genus *Plethodon*, it is clear that the Jemez salamander was not a geologically "recent" arrival. It is a slow-moving creature that cannot cover large distances in the course of its life, so it didn't walk here from a nearby population. It has no nearby relatives from which it could have recently evolved. So how did it end up here?

The distribution of this salamander tells us something about past climate changes in North America. Members of the genus *Plethodon* occur on both the eastern and western sides of the continent. Interestingly, some other groups of animals with a low dispersal ability also have this pattern (certain spiders, for example). It is likely that periods of cool, wet climate allowed for the spread of these animals across the continent and that plethodontid salamanders were once widespread in the Southwest. In contrast, periods of warmer climate were associated with restrictions in the animals' ranges to small areas of suitable habitat. Because separation of a species into isolated units fosters the evolution of that species into multiple separate species, drier hotter periods in the geologic past probably produced the abundance of species found in the genus *Plethodon*. The hot dry climate of the Southwest within historic times has kept the Jemez Mountain salamander restricted to its small niche of suitable habitat. This species serves as a reminder that the climate of the Southwest has not always been as we know it.

## Why is this salamander an endangered species?

In the state of New Mexico, the Jemez Mountain salamander is listed as an endangered species. The reason that the species is considered endangered is described as habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. The loss of habitat has been largely the result of logging and fires. However, the underlying reason for the vulnerability of this salamander is its restricted range of suitable habitat. Even before human impacts, this salamander was holding out within small "islands" of suitable habitat. This salamander appears to need a very specific geology and forest cover in order to survive in New Mexico.

The forests with known populations of this salamander are now protected from further logging. Future threats to this salamander include any other changes that may further the loss of its habitat. Fire is an ever-present danger, as it destroys both the tree canopy, which keeps an area cool, and the ground cover that the salamander uses for refuge. There was a documented decrease in the population of these salamanders following the Dome Fire of 1996.



Drawing by G.Harris

Other threats come from human impacts, such as climate change and the use of land for recreation.

Our region of New Mexico is host to a number of threatened and endangered species, and these species are all deserving of our protection. The Jemez Mountain salamander is truly a local treasure.

#### References

Vietites, DR, Min, M-S, Wake, DB. 2007. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA. 104(50):19903-19907.

Nieman, M. 2004. New Mexico Wildlife. 49(3):11-13.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M), New Mexico Game and Fish. Accessed March 12, 2009. <http://www.bison-m.org/>



The map shows the present-day range of all 55 salamanders of the genus *Plethodon*. The Jemez Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*) is very geographically isolated from all other salamanders of its lineage.

## Endangered, Threatened, Extirpated, What!

By Esta Lee Albright

When Charles Darwin was born in 1809, people mostly believed that the kind of organisms they saw on earth had always been here and always would be. Since then Darwin's theory has shaken the world and still is in controversy. And we now are losing some organisms that kept going a hundred years after his birth, perhaps due to natural disasters, but mostly to man's negligence. Not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century did we realize nature contains many delicate systems and removal of one organism may seriously upset the balance. For instance, the decline of prairie dogs has impacted black-footed ferrets, burrowing owls, ferruginous hawks, golden eagles, mountain plovers, rattlesnakes and salamanders that frequent prairie dog towns.

Early New Mexicans inherited one of the richest wildlife faunas of what would become the United States. Among the 50 states, New Mexico ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for its original number of native bird species (492) and 3<sup>rd</sup> for its original numbers of native mammals (151) and reptiles (98). With an additional 69 fish species and 25 amphibians, **pristine New Mexico once harbored 835 vertebrate species!**

Now, in New Mexico, 14 plant species and 27 animal species are endangered and 21 species have disappeared from New Mexico. Some of these might be termed 'extirpated' and some not. What do these words mean?

**Extirpated** means that a species has disappeared from a specific area but still exists in other areas. Among species that no longer occur in NM are the grizzly bear, mink, sage grouse, and Colorado river cutthroat trout.

**Extinct** means that a species no longer exists anywhere in the world and has no chance of ever returning; it is lost forever. Of course, the dinosaurs that were here are extinct, but so are the New Mexico sharp-tailed grouse, the Merriam's elk, and hot springs cotton rat.

**Endangered** means in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Examples: jumping meadow mouse, desert bighorn sheep, Mexican gray wolf, boreal owl, Jemez Mountain salamander, and Gila chub.

**Threatened** means it is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future. Examples: white-sided jackrabbit, American marten, gray and Bell's vireos, Pecos pupfish, Costa's hummingbird, and two snails.

Gradual and mostly unnoticed loss of New Mexico wildlife, large and small, jeopardizes important recreational, commercial, social, aesthetic and cultural values. A total of 884,000 people (residents and nonresidents) participated in hunting, fishing, observing, feeding and photographing New Mexico wildlife in 2001. Among New Mexicans, 19% hunted, 35% fished, and 45% observed, fed or photographed wildlife.

(Continued on page 7)

## Family Nature Connection: Planting Drupes

### From Seed to Tree

by Michele Altherr

If you think about it, the kitchen is a good place to find seeds. Just this past week, you might have eaten, beans, cucumbers, strawberries and apples. Soon you'll be able to eat cherries, apricots and peaches fresh from our local fruit trees. These fresh fruits and vegetables all have seeds. With some you eat the seeds and with others you don't. When you eat a peach, you might toss the pit into the compost bin after you gobble down it's delicious fleshy part. Next time, try saving the pit and growing it into a tree. The pit is actually a hard coat that protects the seed inside and is also called the stone. In nature the stone will eventually break open and the seed inside will germinate or sprout. This takes a long time, so you probably won't want to wait for this to happen naturally. You can speed up things by breaking open the hard coat and getting out the seed hidden inside. Next, get a pot and fill it to within an inch of the top with potting mix. Firm down the soil and water it. Then place the seed on top of the soil and cover it with half an inch of potting soil. Pat down the soil and water gently. Finally, place your pot in a warm sunny window and keep the soil moist until the seed germinates and grows.

Interestingly, a peach is called a drupe. They are fruits with a layer of skin, a fleshy middle, and a hard inner shell or stone. They usually have only one seed. All sorts of wildlife, including birds, squirrels and bears, eat drupes. Can you think of other drupes? (Some answers: cherries, nectarines, plums, almonds, apricots, avocados, coconuts and olives.) ☼

## Bags, Bears, Seeds and Earth Day

### Young People and Creativity at PEEC

by Michele Altherr

The Kinnikinnick Club is PEEC's after-school environmental service learning club for kids in grades 4 - 7, and they have been very busy this year. The kids continued their work on the Plastic Bag Free Los Alamos Campaign. Their clay animation film about plastic bags polluting a lovely meadow, and reusable bags coming to the rescue, debuted at the Reel Deal Theater. Thank you to Katie O'Donnell for helping us to make this possible. Then, the members reinvested the money they raised at their bake sale during last year's Earth Day Festival in the bag campaign. They used the funds to print stickers with the campaign logo and delivered these to many of our downtown merchants. The kids asked the merchants to post the stickers as a

reminder to customers to use their reusable bags.

Recently the club received good news from John Roberts at the Los Alamos Smith's Food and Drug Store. During the 52 weeks of the campaign, 865,170 fewer plastic bags were given out. This equates to 432 cases LESS in plastic bags making it to our landfill.

This past Christmas, the Kinnikinnick Club members huddled outside Smith's Food and Drug Store, sang songs, and sold baked goods. They contributed these funds, \$250, to the World Wildlife Fund for the protection of polar bears. The club members followed this up by creating poems, games, and activities for a children's guide to the new PEEC Nature Trail that will be dedicated during PEEC's Earth Day Festival on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

For Earth Day 2009, the Kinnikinnick Club kids are working on three projects. They are preparing an Earth Day gift for over 1200 elementary students. Los Alamos students will receive a package of sunflower seeds and a flier about planting for wildlife. Hopefully, kids in Los Alamos will plant their seeds, which not only will be beautiful, but also provide for the needs of wildlife. Also in preparation for Earth Day, the members dressed as various animals from the Tree of Life and made a film, which will advertise our community Earth Day festival on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be aired at the Reel Deal Theater. Lastly, the members are putting final touches on their hand-made paper-mache bowls which will be auctioned off at our Party-for-PEEC. All proceeds will benefit PEEC's children's programs.\* We hope to see you there in support of PEEC.

As summer approaches, the kids look forward to putting their energies into their organic vegetable garden. Look for more to come from these talented and motivated young people.

\*In addition to the "K-Club" PEEC's children's programs include **Critter Club** (for grades 1 - 3), **Nature Playtime for Preschoolers**, summer camps, special programs and classes. See the 'Programs' page in this newsletter and the web site, [www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org), for more. ☼

This summer join the PEEC Kinnikinnick Club for

# kids gardening

Learn to grow vegetables and flowers from seeds \* Watch as worms turn our food \* scraps into fertilizer \* Make garden art from recycled materials \* Eat what you grow!

\*\*\*\*\*

Grades 4-6-Wednesdays 10-11:30 am  
Classes begin June 3rd - \$30 registration

**sign up soon! space is limited!**

Register by calling 662-0460 or online at <http://www.pajaritoeec.org>

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 Pajarito Environmental Education Center  
Preserving People with the Natural World of our Region

*(Threatened... Continued from page 5)*

The commercial value of New Mexico wildlife is substantial. Expenditures for wildlife related activities in New Mexico in 2001 exceeded a billion dollars. Nonresidents enjoying wildlife spent much more than 60 million dollars in our state in 2001! Beyond recreational and commercial values, wildlife are celebrated and enjoyed in art, literature, music and religion in New Mexico.

Primary source for this article was the web site for Animal Protection of New Mexico: "Vanishing Wildlife of New Mexico - A Legacy of Neglect," by James A. Bailey, 2003. Others: NM Game and Fish Biota Information System, Amigos Bravos, U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973.

## Science Fair Awards

by Jennifer Macke

Each year, PEEC awards small cash prizes to science fair projects that we feel are good examples of research related to the natural world around us. PEEC congratulates ALL Los Alamos science fair participants for a very interesting 2009 district science fair! From among the array of interesting projects about nature and the environment, it was not easy to choose just seven. This year's PEEC awards were given to the following students.

### *Senior Division*

Nathan Clements – Fishing Pressure on Trout Populations in No. New Mexico Streams and Lakes

### *Junior Division*

Daniel Ahrens – Does Noise Pollution Bug Insects?

Jenna Erickson – Traveling Turtles

Amanda Mercer – Should you Change your Bulbs?

### *Elementary Division*

Mrs. Altherr's class at Mountain School – Snail Response to Stimuli

Rebecca Davis – Butterfly or Moth?

Isabelle Runde – How Picky is Algae About Its Water?

☼

## Reporting Bird Sightings

by Esta Lee Albright

It is spring migration time, so look for familiar returning birds and some exciting, unusual ones. We hope you'll **phone PEEC or send an e-mail** (see the cover of this newsletter) with your sightings. A "white board" in the nature center records local sightings that are reported to us. PEEC's Administrative Assistant, Diane Noveroske, is an avid birder and quite helpful. The PEEC **web site** has a nature guide to local birds that offers a printable bird list, beautiful photos (most of them by Hari Viswanathan) and detailed information.

On the board in March are the following notes:

Sandhill Cranes: continuously since about 2/22/08

Red Crossbills: White Rock Canyon: 3/12/09

White Throated Swifts: start of Bayon Bench: 3/12/09

Mourning Doves: White Rock 3/16/09

Say's Phoebe: White Rock 3/16/09

Check the board so you'll know where to look; when Sandhill Cranes are migrating north, they tend to pass over White Rock, North and Barranca Mesa in beautiful flocks with their unique calls.

Almost local is the **Randall Davey Audubon Center** in Santa Fe, where sightings also can be reported. Trails and information are featured in the center and surrounding acreage.

**[www.nm.audubon.org](http://www.nm.audubon.org)**

Going a bit wider, the **New Mexico**

**Ornithological Society** is restructuring its web site at **[www.nmbirds.org](http://www.nmbirds.org)**. The home page has a place to click for their hotline. **[Pinonjay@aol.com](mailto:Pinonjay@aol.com)** is the e-mail address for reporting your sightings to that list, which then is passed on to other sites.

The site also has information about publications and activities. The Bird Records Committee was formalized in 1994 to "evaluate and archive records of unusual bird species that occur in New Mexico."

With a slightly different mission, **[www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)** tries to maintain lists of species, numbers and diversity. You can send your sightings and pull out your list each season to aid your own tracking records. Information goes to the publication, *North American Birds*, too.

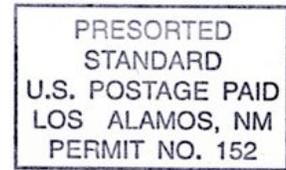
Not particularly a place for individual reporting, newsworthy sightings from all over the world, publication notes, name change alerts, and Rare Bird Alerts from state and regional lists are gathered at **[www.birdingonthe.net](http://www.birdingonthe.net)** (notice the placement of the periods.) Rare Bird Alerts are by region or state. Scrolling down to WEST: NM, there was, for example, a New Mexico Bird Report for 3/2/09, by county or region. In Santa Fe, there were sightings of a purple finch and a northern shrike, on Sandia Crest, a three-toed woodpecker, and at Cochiti Lake a mew gull and a Thayer's gull.

The site provides unusual links: "The Birding Community E-Bulletin" has conservation reports. There's fun from quizzes, "Birds in Science," and photos at **[//scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist](http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist)**. Links can be authoritative or personal, and that applies to birding, too.

*Sandhill cranes photo by E.Albright* ☼



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**PEEC This Week:**  
 weekly e-mail alerts about classes, events, nature and the environment. Anyone who has an e-mail account can receive them. To start, send a message to [Webmaster@PajaritoEEC.org](mailto:Webmaster@PajaritoEEC.org). These weekly e-mail alerts always include PEEC activities and local information about nature. You also can contribute appropriate notices, observations or questions.

**Contact PEEC:**

- **Attend classes, lectures, programs, events.**
- **Visit the Nature Center.**
- **Sign up for *PEEC This Week*.**
- **Volunteer in many ways.**
- **Donate.**
- **Exchange light bulbs.**
- **Join LA Green.**
- **Recycle printer cartridges.**
- **Stop using plastic bags.**
- **Shop in our store.**

**Become a member: use the form or web site, plus much more at [www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org)**

	<b>General Membership</b>	<b>\$35</b>
	<b>Living Lightly</b>	<b>\$20</b>
	<b>Non-Profit Sponsor</b>	<b>\$75</b>
	<i>1 Newsletter and PEEC This Week for up to 3 organization members.</i>	
	<b>Penstemon</b>	<b>\$60</b>
	<i>Benefits of membership plus t-shirt or canvas shopping bag.</i>	
	<b>Sunflower</b>	<b>\$100</b>
	<i>Benefits above plus additional t-shirt or canvas shopping bag.</i>	
	<b>Wild Iris Donor</b>	<b>\$250</b>
	<i>Benefits above plus Muench coffee table book.</i>	
	<b>Skyrocket Gilia Donor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
	<i>We will contact you to determine how to recognize this generous level of donation.</i>	
	<b>Wood Lily Donor</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
	<i>We will contact you to determine how to recognize this generous level of donation.</i>	

*Tear off this form, fill it out, and mail it in with your check.*

*Do it today! Thank you.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about volunteering.

*PEEC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.*

*Donations are tax-deductible.*

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Mail checks to:

PEEC

PO Box 547

Los Alamos, NM 87544

Att: Membership

\*\*\*\*\*

**Joining Is Easy!**