

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2023

## Pinyon Jay & the International Effort to Preserve Biological Diversity

There has recently been some excellent and devastating media coverage of the plight of the pinyon jay, a keystone species of our piñon-juniper ecosystems that disperses seeds and creates habitat for other species like the Woodhouse's scrub jay and the gray vireo ([read the Santa Fe Reporter's cover story here](#)).

Unfortunately, pressure from drought and insects, as well as trees being cleared for grazing land and urban development, is dramatically reducing the number of nuts that piñons produce, which in turn is reducing the number of pinyon jays. In the last 50 years, their population has declined by about 80%, and it is projected to fall by half again in the next dozen years, making pinyon jays one of the most rapidly disappearing birds in the nation. Flocks that once commonly numbered in the hundreds rarely reach 100 birds today.

The pinyon jay is one of around 1 million species at risk of extinction that have been included on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

This list comes out of the International Convention on Biological Diversity, which was negotiated in 1992 at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, alongside the much better known U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Just as the parties to the climate treaty meet regularly, so too do the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, who gathered in Montreal last month to hash out goals for 2030.



The biodiversity crisis receives far less attention than the climate crisis. In fact, while there was great consternation over the Trump administration threatening to leave the Paris Climate Accords, our nation has never formally joined the biodiversity convention since there have not been the votes to ratify it in the U.S. Senate (the only other government that is not a party to the agreement is the Vatican).

Last month's meeting in Montreal resulted in nations agreeing to meet about two dozen targets by 2030, including reducing pesticide use and farm runoff, and the big one, protecting 30% of the world's land and water for wildlife by 2030, known as 30 x 30. The U.S. and New Mexico have already agreed to achieve 30 x 30.

However, these targets are only as meaningful as the actions we take to meet them. The lack of attention paid to the biodiversity crisis relative to the climate crisis has so far resulted in even less progress being made towards addressing it. So now we need to spread the word to friends and fellow voters and keep the pressure on lawmakers to enact the land and water protections they have promised. We still have time to prevent the pinyon jay from going the way of the passenger pigeon, if we do more to protect our piñon-juniper forests today.

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Kristina G. Fisher  
AWF Secretary

## 2023 VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting later this month to develop the schedule for this year's volunteer ecological restoration service projects. If you have ideas for projects or would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact our President Cameron at [cameron.weber@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.weber@gmail.com). Look for the 2023 project calendar in next month's newsletter!



## NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY — SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Do you have ideas about speakers, topics, or educational workshops you would like to see at AWF's public meetings this year? Please email any suggestions to [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)! AWF is planning a mix of online and in-person presentations in 2023.



## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE 2023 AWF BOARD!

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF's board is responsible for organizing our restoration service projects and educational presentations, as well as carrying forward the legacy of this 108-year-old organization.

AWF continues to thrive thanks to the energy, care, and dedication of our volunteer board. We are grateful that many of last year's board members are continuing their service, and we are excited to welcome three new members to the AWF board for the coming year: Abe Aufdermauer, Steven del Favero, and Sean Solowiej.

### AWF BOARD 2023

#### OFFICERS

*President – Cameron Weber  
Vice President – Phil Carter  
Treasurer – Laurie Marnell  
Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

#### DIRECTORS

*Abe Aufdermauer  
Steven del Favero  
Lia Griesser  
Toby Rosenblatt  
Barbara Rosensimon  
Paul Ross  
Michael "Scial" Scialdone  
Sean Solowiej  
Hamish Thomson  
Bob Tilley  
Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



### **Backcountry Film Festival**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 6:00 p.m., SALA Event Center, Los Alamos  
PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

The Pajarito Environmental Education Center and the SALA Event Center are teaming up to host the Backcountry Film Festival LIVE for the first time in 3 years! The Backcountry Film Festival is produced by Winter Wildlands Alliance as a celebration of the human-powered experience and a gathering place for the backcountry snowsports community. Winter Wild-

lands Alliance is a national nonprofit organization that partners with groups at the local level to inspire and educate the backcountry community to protect and care for their winter landscapes.

For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=45312>

### **Birdwatching in New Mexico: Pinyon Jays**

**JANUARY 28-SEPTEMBER 9, 2023**

**GRAND CANYON TRUST**

The Grand Canyon Trust is looking for volunteers to help gather information about pinyon jays to inform sound management of pinyon and juniper forests in New Mexico and throughout the Colorado Plateau. This is an independent citizen science project. You do the training, then you choose where, when, and how many hours you want to contribute.

For more information: <https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/birdwatch-new-mexico>

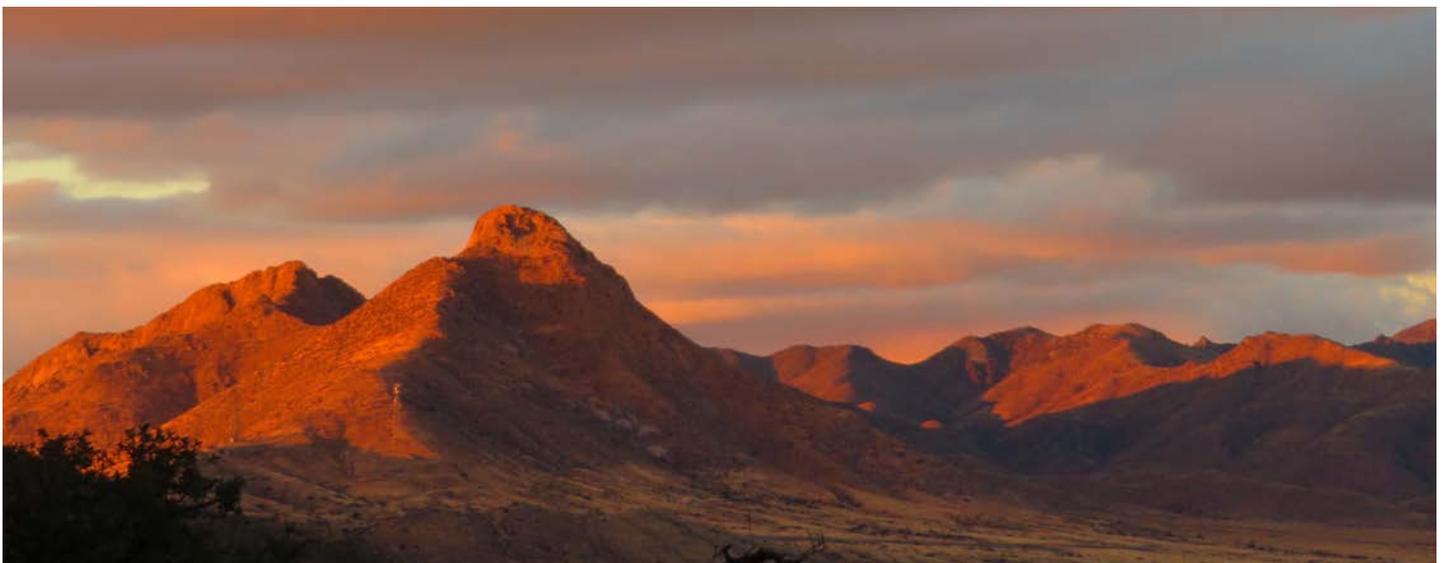
### **Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students**

**ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

**LEOPOLD WRITING PROGRAM**

AWF is a proud supporter of the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's student essay contest. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit an essay on an environmental topic. Learn more about the details of contest and how to participate at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/2023-writing-contest.html>

*Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)!*



# JOIN US!

## Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is an all-volunteer organization founded by Aldo Leopold and dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's wildlife and habitat resources.

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our members.

If you like the work we do, we hope you will help keep this legacy going by becoming a member or renewing your membership.



## AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | P.O. Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154

Yes, I'd like to join AWF!     This is a gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$10
- Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$25
- Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$35
- Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$50-99
- Patron \_\_\_\_\_ \$100
- Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 (*one-time payment*)

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_