

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

November 2019

## Bringing Back Our Birds

In September, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology released a startling report that concluded that, since 1970, the U.S. and Canada have lost 29% of their bird populations. Fifty years ago, there were about 45 birds for every person in both countries; now there are closer to 20. Three billion birds have gone missing from our skies.

This accelerating extinction event has many causes, including climate change, but the largest single factor is loss of habitat. That explains why some types of birds have been hit harder than others: more than half of the birds that depend on grassland have vanished as their habitat has been converted to agriculture, oil and gas extraction, or urban development.

One notable finding in the Cornell report was that some bird species have not declined, and have even increased over the past few decades: they are the species we have focused on conserving.

Bald eagles and other birds of prey, and waterfowl like ducks and geese, were once jeopardized by pesticide use and overhunting. But people noticed the decline and took action to stop it, like banning DDT and enacting hunting regulations.

Now that we know about the crisis facing so many other bird species, what can we do to help them rebound like bald eagles rather than vanishing like passenger pigeons?



First, we can engage with public land management agencies and encourage them to manage our public lands in ways that protect and restore bird habitat. (On this note, there are still a few days left to submit your comments on forest planning for the [Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests!](#))

We can also get more people involved and trained in the sort of ecological restoration that AWF does, improving wetland and riparian habitat, bringing back wet meadows and grasslands that have been lost through years of poor land management.

Finally, we can build habitat in our own small corners of the world. The [National Wildlife Federation](#) and [Audubon Society](#) have put together guides about how to create bird-friendly habitats in our yards and gardens by doing things like reducing chemical use, leaving leaves on the ground, and cultivating native plants.

If the biggest threat to our birds is loss of habitat, then the solution is relatively simple: create more of it, wherever we can.

*Kristina G. Fisher*  
AWF President

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## RECAP OF OCTOBER 19, 2019 CEDRO CREEK PROJECT

*Thanks, Volunteers!*

Braden Belliveau  
Marlynn Canales

Phil Carter

Ian Daitz

Bev deGruyter

Todd Filler

Kristina G. Fisher

Scott Jackson

Theo Keller

Robert Long

Laurie Marnell

Sharon Miles

Lawrence Moreno

Barbara Rosensimon

Scial

Marilynn Szydowski

Bee Watson

Cameron Weber

Jim Wilson

Daniel Ziegler

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps



It was great to partner with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for our final project of the 2019 season. We returned to Cedro Creek, an area that AWF has been working to restore since 1992. We were pleased to see many of our old structures doing great work catching sediment, growing vegetation, and widening the streambed so that the water will slow and spread out when it flows. The bottom of the creek was rocky and eroding when we began working in it; now it is filling with soil and grasses. We also found thriving stands of willows that AWF volunteers had planted years ago.

During this year's project, we repaired several rock structures, added layers to others, and built a few new ones in strategic locations. Our work was one small piece of a landscape-scale restoration effort that the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and others are completing throughout Cedro Creek watershed, supported by the Rio Grande Water Fund. This area provides critically important wildlife habitat and water management, and the work being done now will improve its resiliency in the face of climate change.

After our work was done, we celebrated a successful year of restoration work with a potluck lunch at Pine Flats picnic area. We wish all our volunteers a wonderful winter and we look forward to having you join us for more restoration projects next year!



See lots more photos of this and other restoration projects at: [abq.nmwildlife.org](http://abq.nmwildlife.org)!

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



### **Threats to Our Desert Grassland: Tour of Otero Mesa**

**SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, Las Cruces, NM**

Kevin Bixby, Executive Director of SWEC, will lead an all day tour of Otero Mesa and teach how the ecology and wildlife of this very special place is threatened with oil and gas development. Along the way we should see pronghorn, raptors and other wildlife that take refuge here, one of the largest desert grasslands left in North America. More info: <https://www.wildmesquite.org/index.php/node/1307>

### **Explore the Geology of Southwestern New Mexico Calderas**

**PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9-MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

Local geologists Fraser and Cathy Goff and PEEC are offering an exciting three-day field trip to examine the geology and volcanology of southwestern New Mexico calderas from Truth or Consequences to Silver City to the Gila Cliff Dwellings to Glenwood. More info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=32475>

### **Public Meeting on Highway 64 Improvements**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Angel Fire Community Center**

Learn about and comment on planned improvements to Highway 64 in the important elk corridor of Palo Flechado Pass near Eagle Nest, New Mexico. For more info, email Phil Carter at [phil@wildlandsnetwork.org](mailto:phil@wildlandsnetwork.org).



### **La Mancha Wetland Restoration**

**SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Las Cruces, NM**

Volunteers are needed to remove weeds, perform trail maintenance, trim trees and cattails, install tree fencing, and clear pond debris. La Mancha is a wildlife sanctuary that provides habitats for many native and migratory species. More info: <https://www.wildmesquite.org/index.php/node/1319>

### **New Mexico Wetlands Roundtables**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Las Cruces, NM**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Santa Fe, NM**

The New Mexico Wetland Roundtables are conducted as part of a Wetlands Program Development Grant from EPA Region 6 to foster partnerships and collaboration for the restoration and protection of wetlands and riparian resources in New Mexico. For more information, contact Karen Menetrey at [Karen.Menetrey@state.nm.us](mailto:Karen.Menetrey@state.nm.us)

### **Regenerate Conference**

**NOVEMBER 19-22, Albuquerque**

The Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and American Grassfed Association are collaborating to convene ranchers, farmers, environmentalists, land managers, scientists, medical professionals, nutritionists, students, teachers, and others for an inspiring four-day conference. Learn more and register to attend: <https://quiviracoalition.org/regenerate/>

*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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**