



January 2018 REFUGE UPDATE

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Calendar

Annual Meeting

January 27th 2018

See flyer on page 4

Sevilleta and the El Camino Real lecture part 1

Saturday, February 3, 2018

11 am – 12:30 pm

Learn about the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro from historian Tom Harper. View images from Tom's research and learn fascinating facts.

Sevilleta and the El Camino Real tour part 2

Saturday, February 10, 2018

9 am – 2 pm

Join us for part 2 of our El Camino Real series with Tom Harper and Refuge staff. Walk the El Camino and enjoy the views and fascinating facts about the area. Hiking will be limited and over uneven surfaces.

Great American Bird Count

Saturday February 17, 2018

8 am – 12 am

Join us for the Great Backyard Bird Count – February 17, 2018, at Sevilleta NWR Visitor Center and surrounding trails. We will be counting birds from 8 am to about 9:30 am at the Visitor Center, and then take a hike on one of the trails and be back at the Visitor Center by noon. Come join us for part or all of the morning. **No fee and no reservation required.**

Line shacks of Sevilleta NWR

Friday, March 2, 2018

9 am – 2 pm

Join Refuge staff and naturalist for this presentation focusing on line shacks of Sevilleta then join us for an opportunity to explore the Silver Creek area line shack. Line shacks are small rustic cabins used by the ranchers when out with the herds. Typically, they are located near a well or other water. Hiking will be over uneven terrain; dress for the weather.

A RSVP is requested for the hikes, call 505-864-4021.

Space is limited

Managers Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

Happy New Year! 2018 is the Year of the Bird. One hundred years have passed since The U.S. codified the Migratory Bird Treaty Act with Canada, and later added Mexico, Japan and Russia to the treaty. This Act was one of the earliest environmental laws enacted anywhere in the world, and still serves as the umbrella for all bird protection in the US. But birds still need each and every one of us to do our part to keep them healthy and common. The Year of the Bird is an effort by the National Audubon Society, National Geographic Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BirdLife International, US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service to celebrate the importance of birds in our lives and to inspire all of us to take actions that benefit birds. We will highlight birds here at Sevilleta throughout the year, and will offer tours and events that give the public a chance to see birds, learn about birds, and also learn about simple things that we can all do to help birds thrive. The first bird event of the year will be a Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), on February 17. Our event is part of a larger effort to count birds across the country over a 4-day period in February (February 16-19, 2018). Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded. I hope that many of you will come join us for this event and/or take part in your own backyard. For more on this effort please visit the website www.birdcount.org.

Celebrate Sevilleta Photo Contest Winners



Joel Lusk, Finding Fossils On Dr Love's Geology Tour



Joel Lusk, Talking Geology With Dr Love



Joyce O'Connell, White-Crowned Sparrow On Kathy's Birding Tour

Celebrate Sevilleta

Haiku Contest Winner, Jeanne Favret:

Off in the distance

Running herd of antelope

Mirage of heat waves

Many thanks to our recently departed interns, Maggie Sinner & Brennan Radulski, the did a great job with “Drawn to Sevilleta” contest. There were 508 entries from 10 elementary schools in Belen and Socorro. The winners in each grade are:

1st Grade; Logan Medina, Arian David, and Lincoln Wilkinson

2nd Grade; Jovana Sanders, Elizabeth Landry, and Jouan Quintana

3rd Grade; Calyton Mitchell, Sophia Zhang, and Manuel Torrez

4th Grade; Prisala Dominguez, Anna Roma. And Isabel Maestes

5th Grade; Adrain Escobedo, Olivia Hidalgo and Antonio Saava=edra

The 508 entries were from the students of Central, La Merced, La Promesa, Rio Grande , Gil Sanchez, Jaramillo, Midway, Zimmerly Cottonwood Valley Charter Elementary schools

117th Christmas Bird count

On December 15 and 19, 22 volunteers participated in the 2 Sevilleta Bird counts,(CBC) 198 volunteer hours contributed!

On the two days of the count the number of species found on each count were:

Sevilleta CBC (west side of the refuge plus the riparian areas along the Rio Grande) had 90 species. Normally we average about 78-80 species, so we had a high count this year.

Five Points CBC (east side of the refuge plus La Joya / Contreras area) had 58 species. This is about the average for this count.

History of the CBC, The first count was held on Christmas Day in 1900, when Frank Chapman, an ornithologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, proposed it as an alternative to hunting birds on Christmas. This annual bird survey is one of the largest, longest-running citizen scientific efforts in the world.

Twenty-seven people in 25 different locations across the continent participated that first year

Today the Christmas Bird Count takes place annually from December 14 to January 5, and typically more than 30,000 people worldwide count over 2,400 species—about 65 to 70 million birds each year.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP SEVILLETA

The Amigos de la Sevilleta provide valuable support to this unique refuge. There are several ways that you can help.

- Consider increasing your membership contribution to the next level or higher.
- Give an Amigos membership to a friend or family member.
- Make an annual or semi-annual donation.
- Include the Amigos de Sevilleta in your will.
- Donate appreciated property or stock.
- If you are 70½ you can donate a part of your required minimum IRA distribution and avoid paying taxes on it. Your broker can handle all the paperwork for you. You will need the Amigos’ tax ID number (06-1819138) and the mailing address (Amigos de la Sevilleta, Box 1248, Socorro, NM 87801.)

Since the Amigos are a 501c(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible. Your generosity will ensure that Sevilleta continues its mission to provide for the wildlife in this spectacular refuge.

Amigos Contacts

Amigos Web Site

<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/>

Amigos On Face Book

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

Refuge Web Site

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sevilleta/>

Jeannine Kimble

Visitor Services Manager

505/864-4021 X 106



Please join the Amigos for their Annual Meeting. Enjoy food, conversation, and a talk by Dr. Olivia Carril. New Mexico is a hotspot of biodiversity for native solitary bees, with an estimated 1000 species in the state, representing about 1/4th of all the bees found in North America. Unlike the honeybee, these bees do not make honey, do not live in hives, and there are no queens and worker bees. Dr. Carril will discuss their role in pollinating the majority of New Mexico's flowering plants, and reveal how they are essential to ecosystem health. She will also share results of her field research on some of the more interesting solitary bees that occur in the Sevilleta.

Dr. Olivia Carril is a coauthor of The Bees in Your Backyard: A Field Guide to North America's Bees. She is currently working on surveys of the bees of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and Bandelier National Monument.



January 27, 2018, 1-4 pm
Visitor Center at Sevilleta

Members and non-members are welcome
No cost, but please R.S.V.P. 505-864-4021
or members@amigosdelasevilleta.org