



# July 2018

## REFUGE UPDATE

Published Bi-Monthly by the Amigos de la Sevilleta

### Calendar

**Saturday, July 14, 2018**

**7 AM**

Ladrones Vista Trail Hike.

No Reservations required. Meet at Visitor Center

Flyer attached page 4

**Amigos de la Sevilleta Board Meeting**

**Wednesday July 18, 2018**

**5:30-7:00 pm**

Meeting will be held at the visitor center conference room, pot luck and meeting start at 5:30

**Hummingbird Banding**

**Saturday, Aug 18**

**8 am – 10 am**

Join Ann Adams for a morning of banding hummingbirds! Learn some fascinating facts about these tiny birds and observe hummingbird banding. No reservations required. Flyer attached page 5

**3rd Annual Butterfly count**

**Saturday August 25**

**9 am-2 pm**

Take part in this fun count and learn fun facts about the many species of butterflies that call Sevilleta NWR home! Dress for the weather, bring plenty of water!

No reservations required for more information call 505/864-4021

**Moth night and friends**

**Saturday September 8**

**4-8 pm**

Join us for an evening focused on moths and other insects that call Sevilleta home. Program will be indoors and out-of-doors, dress for the weather, hiking will be over uneven terrain.

### Manager's Update

Kathy Granillo, Refuge Manager

If you visit the refuge over the next couple of months you'll see several new faces. Christy, Jess, Cesar and Lyle are our four summer seasonals and they are helping with Gunnison's prairie dog reintroduction, invasive species monitoring and retreatment, and monitoring our riparian restoration efforts.

Speaking of the riparian restoration project, it is almost done and the area will be back open to the public by September 1. This project provides habitat for three endangered species (Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Rio Grande Silvery Minnow), and also improved waterfowl hunting areas. We will now have designated parking areas and three hunting blinds, including one that is fully accessible for mobility-impaired hunters. Outside of the hunting season, this area will be open for wildlife observation.

For those of you who like to hike, we've added a new hiking trail to the trail system around the Visitor Center. The 2-mile Ladrones Vista Trail connects the Mesa View Trail with the Nature Loop Trail. This trail was built primarily by volunteers along with several days of help from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. Come check it out!

We truly could not accomplish nearly as much without our volunteers. Several members of the Backcountry Horsemen volunteered their time and effort one Saturday in June (think hot) to fix a significant stretch of boundary fence along the north side of San Lorenzo Canyon. Our boundary fence is crucial in protecting refuge resources, and deterring trespass by both people and cows.

**Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico, Socorro Chapter replacing 150' of boundary fence**



**2018 Seasonals/interns L to R  
Lyle Thomas, Cesar Ortiz, Jessica Daley, Christy Nelson**



## Amigos Board News

Ann Adams, Board President

Amigos!

Hot and dry!! If that's all that's keeping you from a visit to Sevilleta, get up a little earlier and take a cool morning hike on the trails by the Visitors' Center. Bring your lunch, eat, and siesta watching hummingbirds on the covered patio at the back of the Center. Check out the sunset behind the Ladrones. Even though the Visitors Center is not open before 8 or after 4:30 there is still plenty of access to trails, wildlife and fresh air...ok, maybe a little dust, too, but that's NM this year.

The following is borrowed from the Sevilleta webpage...

*Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge trails are open sunrise to sunset. Our Visitor Center's hours are 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, and our gate hours are 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Saturday. You are allowed to park at the entry gate and walk in to enjoy the trails when the Visitor Center and gate are not open. Restroom facilities are available at the Visitor Center during open hours*

The website is a good source of info about the refuge. There is a printable trails map so you can plan your walks. There's a new trail that will be added to the map this summer. You can also access a Field Guide to Flowers for help identifying all the flowering plants you can see along the trails. Cactus have been blooming recently, lighting up the landscape with their brilliant reds, pinks, and white. Desert marigolds are adding their happy yellow faces to the landscape as well.

I was planning to band hummingbirds on the back patio at the Visitors' Center on June 16 from 8 – 10. In a bittersweet turn of events, that didn't happen as it was pouring rain!! You can't band wet birds...they get cold and this endangers their future good health. So instead, I gave a bird-free demonstration and talk in the lobby of the visitors' center. I set up all my equipment and 25 or so visitors listened to the talk, frequently stopping it to ask questions...here's some of that talk.

This time of year, black chinned hummers dominate the feeders...and I DO mean DOMINATE! These tiniest of birds are feisty and tough as they defend their food sources from each other. The males put on a show to impress the girls with their beautiful plumage and acrobatic flying skills. The females like being courted...and make their own choices about whose genes they accept. Female hummingbirds build nests, lay eggs, raise their young all by themselves. Sometimes they will raise two or even three broods in a summer. They are seriously tough cookies!! So, how do I catch them? How big are their bands? Do they really have legs? The answers are: in a trap holding a feeder; really tiny and I have to make them myself; and, yes they have the shortest legs you can imagine...in fact, their feet are longer toe-to-toe than their legs.

If you want to know more and if it doesn't rain, I'll be banding again at Sevilleta when southward migration starts. Mark your calendars for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 10am!!

Best, Ann

### 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

### Help Needed

If you have social media skills consider becoming an administrator for the Amigos de la Sevilleta Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/amigossevilleta/>  
Contact Jeannine Kimble



Saturday, July 14

7 am

## Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

### Ladrones Vista Trail Hike

Join Refuge staff and Volunteer Naturalists to celebrate the completion of our newest trail- Ladrones Vista Trail! Get outside and enjoy the scenery, this trail has spectacular views of the Ladrones and the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Hike will be approximately 5 miles over uneven surfaces: lace up your boots, grab your hat, sunscreen and bring plenty of water. Reservations NOT required!







# Amigos de la Sevilleta and Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge



Join us for Hummingbird banding with Ann Adams  
on Saturday August 18, 2018 from 8 am—10 am.  
Sevilleta NWR Visitor Center I-25 Exit 169  
505/864-4021. Reservations not required!

## Amigos de la Sevilleta Nature Store



New items: Bookmarks, Bug Jars,  
Guides for Big and Small !



T- Shirt Sale: One for \$15.00 Two for \$25.00  
do you have one or two?

### 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 or older 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.