

## Conference Highlights

- On Thursday evening everyone is invited to tour the University of New Mexico's Museum of Southwestern Biology and to attend a reception and no-host bar in the ballroom in the UNM Student Union Building.
- Field trips led by outstanding, knowledgeable leaders are planned to 25 locations. Trips are set to the Sandia and Jemez Mountains, Valles Caldera, Bosque del Apache, the Manzano Mountains, Pecos Canyon, the Black Range, and the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Fifteen field trips are for a half day on Friday and Saturday. On Thursday and Sunday, there are 13 full-day trips. An optional 3-day trip after the conference



heads to Carlsbad and the Sacramento Mountains in southern New Mexico, (August 25-27), led by David Krueper and Jon Dunn. Vans are available for most field trips.

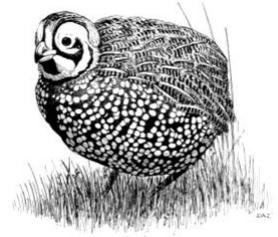


- Workshops by acknowledged experts focus on such topics as Warbler Identification; Identifying Birds by Sound; Preparing Museum Specimens; Birding in the Digital Age; Data Mining; and Bird Sketching.

- Talks by researchers and students at the Friday and Saturday afternoon Science Sessions describe studies of birds carried out throughout the west.



- Keynote speaker Dr. Christopher Witt (University of New Mexico) will deliver a presentation on Saturday evening at the banquet highlighting his studies of bird speciation and the role that avian parasites may play in this process. Dr. Witt conducts field research in the southwest and high in the Andes Mountains.



- Panels of experts, including talented young birders, will compete in the main ballroom to identify species from photographs and sound recordings. This congenial competition challenges teams of skilled birders to detect subtle clues in order to identify common and uncommon birds. This event is always a humbling yet educational experience for all those

watching as the experts draw on their vast knowledge of field marks and sounds!

- Bird sound expert Nathan Pieplow will give a workshop on songs and calls, and his recordings are used to challenge panels during afternoon group “competitions”.



- On Friday night, Wezil Walraven will lead an owling field trip.
- A Silent Auction featuring donations of natural history books and other items takes place on Saturday, with proceeds going to benefit the Mike San Miguel Youth Scholarship Fund.
- Vendors and artists will display binoculars, other optics, books, and artwork.

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Note: Ink sketches are by noted wildlife artist Dale Zimmerman. At the conference, New Mexico Ornithological Society will have Zimmerman prints for sale.

Photographs by Peter Hurley, Placitas, NM