

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Bodacious Butterfly Festival at Sugarite Canyon State Park

Raton, NM – Imagine a tiny hummingbird in the palm of your hand, or a butterfly perched on your nose! Anything is possible at this year's Bodacious Bird and Butterfly Festival June 20-22 at Sugarite Canyon State Park.

"We have expanded the annual butterfly festival to include birds," said Pat Walsh, Regional Interpretive Ranger based at Sugarite. "The National Park Service is conducting a hummingbird banding session, and we also have a program with live hawks."

Sugarite Canyon State Park has hosted a butterfly festival for many years, featuring butterfly experts Steve Cary and Mark Yeager leading several two-hour butterfly walks along different trails. Sugarite—a canyon straddling the state's eastern plains and the central mountains—is home to a wide variety of butterfly species.

This year, Laura McCann of N.M. Raptors joins the festival with a program on live hawks. Park staff from Capulin Volcano National Monument will be on hand to conduct hummingbird banding. And David Elwonger of Colorado will offer a bird walk on Saturday morning. The festival schedule is as follows:

Friday, June 20: 7 p.m. - Live Hawks, Soda Pocket Campground Amphitheater (rainy day location: Mule Barn)

Saturday, June 21: 7 a.m. - Hummingbird Banding, Visitor Center
8-8:45 a.m. - Bird Walk, Visitor Center
9-11 a.m. - Butterfly Walk, Lake Maloya Dam Trailhead
1-3 p.m. - Butterfly Walk, Soda Pocket Trailhead
8 p.m. - The Butterfly Guy Tells All! Steve Cary at Lake Alice Campground

Sunday, June 22: 9-11 a.m. - Butterfly Walk, Lake Dorothey, CO
1-3 p.m. - Butterfly Walk: Visitor Center

This event is free, but regular fees apply for entry to the park. Sugarite Canyon State Park is located about six miles northeast of Raton, via state highways 72 and 526.

Camping reservations can be made online at nmparks.com or toll free at 1.877.664.7787.

Conditions are right for Adventure at your New Mexico State Parks!



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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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