

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Tommy Mutz, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2014

Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us
Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: jim.winchester@state.nm.us

State Parks Properties Selected as State's Newest Important Bird Area by Audubon New Mexico

Santa Fe, NM – Audubon New Mexico has selected a suite of properties owned or managed by New Mexico State Parks as part of a new Important Bird Area (IBA) called the Lower Rio Grande Bosques IBA. The IBA encompasses 7,000 acres including lands in Mesilla Valley Bosque and Leasburg Dam State Parks along with the Broad Canyon Ranch property owned by State Parks.

“These properties represent some of the most intact wetland and riparian habitats remaining on the lower Rio Grande in New Mexico,” said State Parks Biologist David Certain. “We are committed to their continued protection and honored that their uniqueness has been recognized.”

Examples of some of the more important birds that you may see at these parks include Bell's Vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Painted Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Many other species of birds and wildlife can be seen at these parks on a regular basis.

Birding programs and other wildlife-related activities are regular events at the two state parks. Access to the Broad Canyon Ranch property is restricted, but roadside wildlife viewing near the property can be very rewarding.

For more information about events at New Mexico State Parks, please visit www.nmparks.com

Conditions are Right for Adventure at New Mexico State Parks!

###

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

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3355 • Fax (505) 476-3361 • www.nmparks.com