

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Bodacious Butterfly and Bird Fest at Sugarite Canyon State Park

Raton, NM – Help catch-and-release amazing butterflies, take part in a hummingbird banding, and check out live hawks. Sugarite Canyon in the summer offers a bounty of butterflies and birds, including one butterfly found only here! Join us for this year's Bodacious Butterfly and Bird Festival June 25-26, 2016 at Sugarite Canyon State Park.

“Even if you don't know much about butterflies, this festival is a lot of fun,” said Pat Walsh, Regional Interpretive Ranger based at Sugarite. “Participants take butterfly walks on beautiful trails, and try their hand at the martial art of catching butterflies! Festival participants also get to see live birds up close, including hummingbirds and hawks.”

Sugarite Canyon State Park has hosted a butterfly festival for many years, featuring butterfly expert Steve Cary leading 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 including one found only in this area.

Last year the festival expanded to include some bird programs. National Park Service rangers from nearby Capulin Volcano National Monument will conduct hummingbird banding, while Laura McCann of N.M. Raptors will present live birds of prey.

The festival schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, June 25:** 7:45-8:30 a.m. - Hummingbird Banding, Visitor Center
9-10 a.m. - Coffee with a Live Hawk, Lake Alice Campground
9-11 a.m. - Butterfly Walk, Soda Pocket Trailhead
1-3 p.m. - Butterfly Walk, Lake Maloya Dam Trailhead
8 p.m. - The Butterfly Guy Tells All! Lake Alice Campground
- Sunday, June 26:** 9-11 a.m. - Butterfly Walk, Lake Dorothey, CO
1-3 p.m. - Butterfly Walk: Visitor Center

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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