

The



ROADRUNNER

VOL. 22 (4)

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Sept., 1992

The El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of every month, September through May. The General Meetings are held at the Garden Center, Memorial Park, El Paso, Texas. The public is cordially invited.

## WELCOME BACK TO EP/TPAS!

**GENERAL MEETING - Mon., Sept. 21, 7:30 PM** - Mr Charles Geach will speak at the September Audubon meeting at the Memorial Park Garden Center. Mr. Geach was the recipient of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society's summer scholarship award this past year. He attended the Audubon Camp in the West at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp in Wyoming. Mr. Geach at present is a biology teacher at Irvin High School in the El Paso Independent School District. He has taught in EPISD since 1974 and is a member of the Science Teachers Association of Texas. Mr. Geach is an advisor to the Irvin Science Club, a Biology coach for UIL Science Contest, and an EPISD faculty advisor for students with science projects aboard Space Shuttle flight 51-g in 1985. His presentation will address the adventures and learning from his experience at the Audubon Camp of the West.

### EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reide	589-1730
VICE PRES.	Larry Jordan	833-5960
SECRETARY	Carolyn Brown	778-4560
TREASURER	Betty Roberts	
DIRECTORS		
	Dayle Edwards	592-0860
	Hugh Jameson	751-7950
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SANCTUARY	John Sproul	545-5150
WAYS / MEANS	Jane Fowler	598-2440
PUBL.	Mary Ann Vernon	581-1380
OBSERVATIONS	Bob Johnson	757-1870
EDITOR	George Barnett	581-1820
ACT DELEGATE		



### FEATHER LAKE NEWS

Feather Lake has had another eventful summer. An immature Brown Pelican appeared in late June and an immature Tricolored Heron in late July. Both represented first records for our sanctuary, and the pelican was only the third ever for the El Paso area. Both birds were still present in early August.

Equally surprising as a first-time visitor was a beaver. It was present in late May and early June, then seemed to have left. But in early August, we began to see signs of it (or another one) again. Unfortunately, the signs were all young trees cut down around the edge of the lake. So far, it has chewed down at least 30 trees, favoring particularly the young willows we have planted over the past four years.

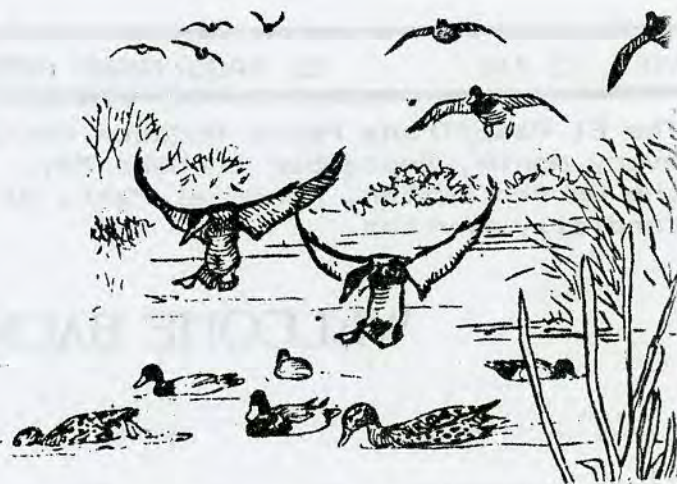
Opening Day at Feather Lake is fast approaching. That means we need volunteers to staff the sanctuary during visiting hours. Want to spend an enjoyable morning or afternoon at a unique local wetland and contribute in an important way to our chapter's programs? Call John Sproul (545-5157) or Betty Pagel (772-2686) if you can help.

Outside the sanctuary entrance, the Texas Department of Transportation continues to widen North Loop Dr. from two lanes to four. The work near the entrance is taking longer than hoped and now looks like it could create access problems at the time of our fall opening.

We'll keep you posted. Better yet,

why not see for yourself? Our upcoming workday on Saturday, September 19 presents a perfect opportunity to visit Feather Lake and help us get ready for Opening Day. Gates open at 8:00 AM. See you there!

// John Sproul //



### IN MEMORIAM: GERTRUDE ROSE

In 1947, Gertrude Rose joined the El Paso Bird Study Club, predecessor of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society. In July of this year, Mrs. Rose passed away a age 97, perhaps our last direct link with the early history of our organization. Her interest in birds of this region and in our Audubon chapter never flagged. For example, we've now held 12 Birdathons, and Mrs. Rose contributed to each of them, one of a very select group to do so. And she has graciously left to our chapter a set of framed bird prints from her home, something we greatly appreciate as a reminder of her and for which we sincerely thank her family.

# ON THE TRAIL

## HAWK WATCH

A weekend in the mountains. this will take place on Sat./Sun. Sep. 26/27. For those that heard Steve Hoffman tell about the HAWK WATCH at the May general meeting, this is your chance to see it live. If you missed the meeting come anyway and learn all about hawk counting. This takes place in the Monzono Mountains, south of albuquerque NM.

Camping in the Cibola National Forest at 7800 ft., 3 miles below the lookout. Also in Mountainair (15 miles from the campsite) are two small motels. Some of you may prefer to go up Fri. evening and stop in Socorro NM, which will leave an 80 mile drive for early Sat. to the campsite. We will leave the campsite on Sat. and Sun. morning about 9 AM.

For information and map call Bob Johnson h751-0125 or w757-1876.

Red-tailed  
Hawk



### MEMORIAL PARK

On Sun. Sep. 20th we will be looking for migrating passerines in Memorial Park. Some uncommon warblers could be present and ?? Meet at the garden center 3105 Grant St. at 7:45 AM. If good birds are not present, we will try other spots in Central El Paso. For Information call Hugh Jamison 751-7952.

### FOR YOUR PLANNING

Oct. 24/25. Davis Mountains State Park. These dates are a change from the Oct. 17/18 in the last ROADRUNNER. A surprise is being planned for Sat. AM.

Dec. 5/6. Bosque Del Apache NWR, see 30,000 Snow Geese and 12,000 Sand hill Cranes plus many thousand ducks.

### HUECO TANKS

Its good birding in the State Park this time of Year. We will do this on Sat. Oct. 10th. Some of the birds we will be looking for: Willow and Dusky Flycatchers, Verdin, 4 species of Wrens, and Green-tailed Towhee.

But first we will pick up some Trash along the highway, need a lot HELP. Meet Bob Johnson at the flying saucer building (Hueco Mt. Estates office), at the junction of US 62/180 and FM 2775 at 8 AM.

### THE JUNE WEEKEND

On June 20 and 21 twelve active people had fun in the Glenwood/Luna area. Camping in Pueblo Park in the Gila NF and birding all over the area. One highlight of the trip was watching a Lewis Woodpecker (feeding young?) continually going into a hole in dead tree with insects, by the country store

Don't forget to bring your Aluminum cans to the General Meeting Sep 21.

### THE BIRDATHON REPORT

Congratulations, Birdathon participants, you never cease to amaze! Our 12th annual event on May 2-3 was outstanding: 256 generous contributors, \$6,640 raised. Our expenses were \$260, so we netted \$6,380. Way to go!

What does a successful Birdathon mean? This year's event meant:

- > a scholarship to an Audubon Ecology Camp for some lucky local educator,
- > funding for 28 school classes to take part in the Audubon Adventures youth education program,
- > a major donation supporting the wildlife-rehabilitation work of Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue,

### 1992 BIRDATHON CONTRIBUTORS

Mary Lou Alcorn, Susan Anchondo, Ronald and Virginia Armstrong, Evy Arroyo, Georgena Askins, Donna Ayers, Baker Glass Co., Dave Baker, Gene Baker, Ginny Baker, Jenna Baker, Kate Baker, Leah Baker, Mary Baker, Naomi Baker, Neil Baker, Sarah Baker, Sunny Baker, Tom Baker, Loretta Ball, James and Sue Barber, George Barnett, Stacy Barnett, Bertha Barnhart, Berttye Barnhart, Anne Barnwell, Marie Baroz, Helen Barto, Judy Lynne Bellinger, Ken and Lois Beno, F. W. Bingham, Linda Bingham, Paul Bingham, Flora Bittick, Suzanne Blanchard, Bob and Patti Bleau, Betty Bowen, Mary Bradley, Craig Braginton, Carl Branen, Pat and Tom Brasfield, Ruth Braun, Carolyn Breck, Dan Breitbach, Rosemary Breitbach, John Bridges, Janet Brockmoller, Lou Burmeister, Art Byrd;

Connie Calvillo, Charles Capehart, Carol Cates, Jose Chaves, Mike Chintis, Peter Chrapliwy, Sally Christman, Jan and Carl Chumney, Jack Clark, Daryl Cole, Jeannette Cole, Marcia Conley, Elizabeth Constantian, Ida Corales, Nancy Cordes, Jean Coyle, Nanette Creamer, Barbara Crews, Dale Cunningham, Joyce Davis, Julia Decker, Jerry DeFrank, Bernie del Hierlo, Jim DeSantis, John and Sue DiCara, George and Mary Ann Dix, Sarah Jane Dodds, Mary Ann Dodson, Bill Doebele, Betty Duggan, Joan and Larry Duncan, Mrs. L. L. Dunwoody, Diane Dutton, Elaine Edwards, Pearl Ehrcke, Helen Emery, William Ertman, John Ferrell, Kate Flanagan, Fran Fleischer, Louis Foix, Muffy Folmer, Bill Fowler, Jane Fowler;

Manny Garcia, Terese Garcia, Abel Garduño, Eva Lee Garvin, Linda Gaunt, Al and Madeline Gavit, Loren Gearhart, Sue Gibson, Elza Gilboe, Nicholas and Sara Goldstein, Ruth Goodenough, Barbara Gorman, Keith Gorman, Pat Gorman, Albert Granados, Harvette Green, Patrick Greer, Joe Groff, Gene Groth, Frank and Julia Grubbs, Joe Guinn, Roxanne Gunter, Jean Hagesfeld, Chris Hahn, Pam Hahn, Virginia Hair, Rita Harlien, Mary Hasson, Barbara Heggem, Pam Henderson, Lola Herrera, Mary Ann Herston, Linda Holman, Bob and Leona Hosmer, Dennis and Mary Joe Hulse;

Anne B. Hussmann, Anne M. Hussmann, Harry Hussmann, Tom Hussmann, Robert and Barbara Hyland, Hugh Jameson, Barbara Johnson, Bob Johnson, Ken Johnson, Mark Johnson, Lena Kelly, John Kiseda, Ken Korn, Jim Koschmann, Rob Lassiter, Jody Lawrence, Joe Leach, Lena Leahey, Patrick Leahey, Alicia Lopez, Kathie Lopez, Robert Lopez, Bill and Norma Lorang, Virginia Lotspeich, Linda Luna, Mary Martinez, Tom McCabe, Linda McCain, Beverly McCall, Dick McConn, Paul McCoy, Howell McCullough, Charlotte Merritt, Barbara and Ted Mertig, Suzanne Michaels, Martha Milios, Paul Milios, Allan Mills, Margaret Mondore, Elizabeth Montes, Betty Morgan, John and Egina Murphy, Jo Nagel, Wendell Nash, Carlisle Navidomskis;

Neil and Sue O'Hara, Malcolm O'Haver, Zeoma Olszewski, Miles Osborn, Carl and Martha Ostertag, Cornelia Owen, Betty Pagel, Elsie Pannage, Jim Parker, Ron Peña, Iola Pennington, Robert Perez, Norma Peticolas, Bill and Shirley Phillips, Edmund Pierce, Matt Ponton, PPG Industries, Michael Quatrini, Bill Quinn, Winnie Quinzi, Ray Ramirez, William Reynolds, Dan Richey, Mark Riede, Peggy Riede, Bettie Roberts, Glenda Roberts, Fulton Robinson, Paul Robson, Rosario Rosas, Gertrude Rose, Bart Rumaker, Patricia Russell, Cathy Sarrow, Kay Sarrow, Ted Sawyer, Susie Schneider, Rafaela Schuller, Albert Schwartz, Earlene Shavers, June Shelby, Sid Shepperd, Annamarie Shields, Rita Slusser;

Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell Smigiel, John Somerhalder, John Sr. and Marjorie Sproul, John Sproul, Jr., Mike Spurlock, Heidi Stanton, Faye Still, David Stone, Eleanor Sullivan, Nancy Swanson, Lucile Swick, Carleton Talbot, Evelyn Talbot, Dennis Taylor, Virginia Terrian, Grace Thomas, Madeline Vallari, Mary Ann Vernon, Penny Vierras, Josie Villanueva, Ray Waite, Weaver Glass Co., David Weinstein, Frederick White, Geth White, Frances Whited, Rollin Wickenden, Dorothy Williams, Gary Williams, Nancy Wilson, Cecilia Wisbrun, Shirley Wray, Tom Wright, Mary and George Yelderman, Edna and Leo Young, Lou Ann Youngblood, Matt Youngblood, Kim Zernechel, Barry Zimmer.

> a significant boost to our Franklin Mountains Fund at a pivotal time for the mountains, and  
 > much needed support for Audubon's Southwest Regional Office.

It also meant a certain amount of notoriety, recognition and nice prizes for our chapter. Nationally, Birdathon raised over \$1.3 Million, with \$400,000 raised by 169 Audubon chapters. Our performance was again solid: second in our size category (300-999 members) nationally, first among all chapters regionally.

Well done, Birdathon contributors! Take a long bow. Deserving extra-special recognition are our top counters, the folks who had 5 or more sponsors and/or raised over \$100: Tom Baker, George Barnett, Matt and Paul Bingham, Mike Chintis, Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Chris Hahn, Anne Hussmann, Bob Johnson, Suzanne Michaels, Paul Milios, Jo Nagel, Iola Pennington, Susie Schneider, John Sproul, Mary Ann Vernon and Nancy Wilson. Believe it, Birdathon works because of the effort these folks make.  
 // John Sproul //

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### GOING PLACES?

Don't forget that when you make travel arrangements through P.S. TRAVEL, this agency donates 2% of the total you spend to our Audubon chapter. It's a great way to help Audubon while "getting away from it all." You can contact P.S. Travel at 6593-A Montana, El Paso, (915) 779-5403, Fax (915) 772-2631. Be sure to use account number 2006 so Audubon will get credit for your travel.

### RUMMAGE, RUMMAGE EVERYWHERE

The rummage sale is still a long way down the road, but we have a word to say about it: HELP!

Bob Johnson has been keeping the items at his home before the sale. However, he says he is up to his ears in rummage and would like to have some help in storing the merchandise. We are looking for an enclosed space about 50 to 100 square feet in which to store the items until the sale. If you can help with a storage space, please call Bob at 757-1876 or the Ways and Means Chairperson, Jane Fowler at 598-2448.

If Bob doesn't answer his phone right away, be patient. It's under the rummage.  
 // G.B. //

### ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The chapter newsletter, THE ROADRUNNER, is published six times a year by the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society. The annual subscription rate for the newsletter only is \$5.00. The newsletter is included with your membership in the National Audubon Society.

Chapter members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in THE ROADRUNNER. The articles may be of any length and in any format but the editor reserves the right to modify submissions to fit space available.

Articles may be submitted to the editor:

George Barnett  
 600 Espina Dulce  
 El Paso, TX 79912

Day: 779-3835  
 Night: 581-1829  
 Fax: 778-2808

## AUDUBON ACTIVIST

### CONSERVATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

The National Rivers Coalition is accepting applications from local and state grassroots groups for "Seed Grants" to perform river conservation projects. The grants will range from \$200 to \$1,000. Applications should be two to three pages and include a description of the project, its goals and a proposed budget. Applications should be sent no later than September 20 or December 20 to Suzi Wilkins, American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Ste 400, Washington, D.C. 20003. For more information call (202) 547-6900.

### GREEN SHOPPING

The Council on Economic Priorities has just released the 1992 version of *Shopping for a Better Planet*. This pocket sized guide allows you to send manufacturers a message about their products by using the power of the purse. *Shopping for a Better Planet* provides information on hundreds of consumer products and companies, and rates their records on issues like the environment, animal testing, community outreach, and hiring practices. To order a copy, write to National Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 2865, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 or call 1-800-848-8876. Single copies are available for \$7.49, with a discount for bulk orders.

### ENDANGERED RIVERS NAMED

The Columbia and Snake River system of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho has been named this year's most endangered river by American Rivers, the Washington-based

conservation group. Dozens of dams, pollution from land-use practices, and other threats have put the Columbia and Snake at risk as well as severely endangering much of the rivers' salmon.

Second on American Rivers list are the Aisek and Tatshenshini of northwest Canada, threatened by a proposed copper mine. Quebec's Great Whale River, site of a hydropower dam (part of the James Bay project), is third.

### JOIN THE BRIGADE

Ten percent solar in 10 years. That's the message hundreds of activists have begun sending to their utility companies along with their monthly electric bills, as part of Audubon's recently launched Solar Brigade. Audubon hopes to have a million citizens by the end of the two-year campaign.

### BACKGROUND

A conversion to 10 percent solar by U.S. utilities would eliminate up to 170 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions a year, according to Jan Beyea, Audubon's chief scientist. Carbon dioxide is a leading greenhouse gas generated by the burning of fossil fuels. Solar energy is clean, safe, and renewable. Beyea says utilities can make the conversion at a cost of no more than 1 percent a year for customers.

### STATUS

The Solar Brigade was launched this spring and nearly 1,000 activists had joined, including 150 Solar Brigade Leaders who circulate brochures about the program.

## OBSERVATIONS

May 15, 1992 - Aug 15, 1992

Uncommon and RARE sightings

(An-Anthony, Cl-Clint, Cor-Coronado,  
 CC-Cottonwood Canyon, Fbn-Fabens, FL-  
 Feather Lake, FP-Fort Bliss Ponds, HL-  
 near Horizon Lake, MH-Mission Hills,  
 NE-Northeast El Paso, RB-Rio Bosque  
 Park, RGL-Rio Grande Lower Valley.)

## PELICANS TO HAWKS

BROWN PELICAN: 6/25-8/2, FL (CC,JS,M:ob)

Least Bittern: 5 obsv. May/Jun, FL (M.ob)

TRI-COLORED HERON: 7/25-8/6, FL (CB,JF,JS)

White-faced Ibis: 6/26, RB (MB,JF,JN,JS)

Coopers Hawk: 6/26, RB (MB,JF,JN,JS)

## SANDPIPERS to GULLS

Greater Yellowlegs: 4 obsv. Jun/Jul, RGL (JS)

Solitary Sandpiper: 7/29, FP (BJ)

Spotted Sandpiper: 7/19, FP (BJ)

Black Tern: 7/12, RGL (JS)

Franklin's Gull: 7/19, FP (BJ)

## OWLS to WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: 7/19, 7/29, FP (BJ)

Common Nighthawk: 5/31, HL (JD,BJ)

6/20, RGL (JS)

Belted Kingfisher: 5/31, RB (JF,JS)

CALIOPE HUMMER: 7/22, ST (PR)

Rufus Hummer: 7/9(m), An (FK)

7/21(f), NE (BJ)

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 5/17-7/21, Fbn (M.ob)

## SWALLOWS to TANAGERS

Cave Swallow: 5/17, Cl (EE,JS) nesting

Bewick's Wren: 6/20, 6/28, RGL (JF,JS)

7/21, CC (JS)

House Wren: 7/21, CC (JS)

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher: 5/31, HL (JD,BJ)

Phainopepla: 6/16, An (HB)

Summer Tanager: 5/31, 6/26, RB (MB,JF,JN,JS)

7/17, RGU (JS)

## CARDINALS to ORIOLES

NORTHERN CARDINAL: 5/15, 5/31, RB (JF,JS)

Painted Bunting: 5/31, RB (JF,JS)

Black-chinned Sparrow: 7/21, CC (JS)

Hooded Oriole: 5/20-5-31, MH (MP)

Observers: Helen Bibalow, Mary Bradley,  
 Craig Bragington, Sam Crowe, Joyce Davis  
 Elizabeth Ezro, Jane Fowler, Gene Groth,  
 Bob Johnson, Fay Kincaid, Jo Nagel,  
 Meribeth Peterson, Pat Russell, John  
 Sproul; M.ob Many observers.

## WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR SIGHTINGS

This month's Observations column has been compiled and composed by Bob Johnson, the new Observations Editor. Bob would like to encourage everyone to call him with their sightings (757-1876). If you're not sure if that bird that showed up in your backyard is "casual, rare or unusual", that's okay. Give Bob a call and he'll tell you if your bird observations should be included in this column. What's important is that you get out and keep looking.

Occasionally you may see something that is truly rare for the El Paso area. Please call Bob or one of the chapter officers as soon as possible so the sighting can be verified. Some out-of-the-ordinary birds do come through El Paso (see the Feather Lake column on page 2) and if you should happen to see one, pass the word.

// G.B. //

Forth of July weekend found ten El Pasoans roaming around the Santa Fe, NM area. Good birds seen were Lazuli Bunting, Black-billed Magpies, Gray Jays, Black-capped Chickadee, and the American Dipper. On Mon the 6th a visit to Sandia Peak, east of Albuquerque, found Red-breasted Nuthatches, Cassin's Finch and MacGillivray's Warbler. These listed are but a few of about 45 species seen.

In August the Bosque Del Apache, NWR and Water Canyon hosted seven birdwatchers for good birding. Seen were over 50 species including White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, and Great Egret, Goshawk, Red-faced Warbler and Pinyon Jays.

# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

Mon., 14 - Board meeting at Hugh Jameson's home, 7:30 PM.

Sat., 19 - Feather Lake workday.

Sun., 20 - Field trip to Memorial Park, see page 3.

Mon., 21 - General Meeting, see page 1.

Sat. - Sun., 26 - 27 - Field trip, Hawk Watch, see page 3.

Sat., October 10 - Field trip to Hueco Tanks.

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 9655  
El Paso, Texas 79986

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In August the Bosque del Apache NWR and Water Canyon hosted seven birdwatchers for good birding. Seen were over 50 species including White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, and Great Egret. Gosawk, Red-faced Warbler and Pinyon Jay

Observers: Helen Bishaw, Mary Bradley, Chris Rappington, Sam Crowe, Joyce Davis, Elizabeth Barr, Jane Fowler, Gans Groth, Ted Johnson, Jay Kinzaid, Jo Kozel, Meredith Peterson, Pat Swenell, John