



# The Roadrunner

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EL PASO-TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Lucretia Chew, Editor

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 14 Citizens Water Quality Workshop, 9:30-2 at the Sheraton Inn, sponsored by EPA and GASF; co-sponsors are Environmental Council and Women's Political Caucus. Topics: El Paso's Water Resources, Citizen Participation in Water Pollution Control, and Overview of Water Pollution Control Legislation.
- Monday  
September 16 REGULAR MEETING, 7:30 p.m. at Centennial Museum at UTEP. Once again we announce the film, "The Private Life of a Kingfisher." This time it is reserved. This BBC film is an intimate study of a pair of kingfishers through the year, from mating to nesting to rearing of their young. It also examines dangers from pollution and fishermen.
- Friday  
September 20 Hearing on disposal of industrial solid wastes by Texas Water Quality Board. Check your newspaper.
- Saturday  
September 21 FIELD TRIP to Lower Valley. Meet at Denny's at I-10 and Geronimo at 7:30 a.m. Drive to the reservoir on Highway 20 east of Tornillo and then through the valley to the bosque area near Socorro. Sarah Jane Dodds is leader.
- October 5-6 Sierra Club Workshop. See article.
- Sunday  
October 13 FIELD TRIP through the Upper Valley. Meet at 7:30 a. m. at the bridge over the Rio Grande at Country Club. Charlie Jensen is leader.
- Monday  
October 14 BOARD MEETING, 7:30 p. m. at Berttye Barnhart's house at 2200 Febrero (take the Lomaland exit).
- October 18-20 Regional Workshop of the National Audubon Society in Beaumont. See any Board member for details.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Christmas Count edition of AMERICAN BIRDS has just been received by those who took part in the count. The tremendous mass of data is quite interesting. There are reports from 1044 parties in Central and North America of almost 25,000 participants. Although we in El Paso could not approach the count of 201 species at Freeport, Texas, our count of 102 was quite respectable, being topped only by Lubbock (113) and San Angelo (113 and 109) in the western half of the state. The highest New Mexico count, at the Gila River, was 93 species, edging Roswell by one. Hawks and falcons were found in unusual numbers in Texas. 34 Bald Eagles were reported along with 3 Peregrine Falcons, including one from El Paso.

### EL PASO HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

An organizational meeting of the committees for planning, resources, acquisitions and exhibits connected with the new Wilderness Park Museum was held August 29, 1974. This museum is being funded by a grant of \$150,000 on the part of Mayor Hervey. It will be located near Trans-Mountain Road on land to be donated to El Paso (Casner Range). There will be a building with archeological, meteorological and geographic exhibits. Also to be developed are museum environs (17 acres) with flora, fauna, archaeological and geological exhibits. There will also be a picnic area and nature trails. Various organizations are being asked to contribute time and ideas in development of the museum.

The Audubon Society was represented at the meeting by Charlie Jensen and Sarah Jane Dodds. Sarah Jane is also a trustee of the museum. Our role in contributing to the museum has not been totally defined, but anybody interested in participating should contact Charlie or Sarah Jane. Ideas on ways to attract native birds to the environs or to depict native bird life would be welcome.

### GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT WILDERNESS WORKSHOP

On Saturday, October 5, and Sunday, October 6, an important workshop on the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Proposal will be held in El Paso at the Student Union Building on the UTEP campus. The purpose of the workshop will be to discuss the various issues and problems concerning the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Proposal and to develop an action plan to work for its protection.

Although the Guadalupe Escarpment is one of the most unique and singularly important natural areas of the world, its protection as a wilderness faces a number of difficult problems. Even among knowledgeable conservationists there is disagreement on some of the issues associated with the Wilderness Proposal (such as the tramway in Guadalupe Mountains National Park) and over the political realities of the local situation. Accordingly, it is crucial for the workshop to receive wide participation from all members of the conservation community.

Participants will be asked to consider the priority issue problems such as scenic highway proposals, tramway proposal, Forest Service smaller wilderness area proposal, jeep trails, fears of hunters that wilderness would close the national forest to hunting, development of additional caves, local opposition and Congressional support. Participants will also be asked to consider ways to promote the Guadalupe proposal and problems facing such promotion.

The Workshop is sponsored by the El Paso Centennial Museum and the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. Other supporters of the event include The Wilderness Society, the National Speleological Society, the El Paso Sierra Club, and the El Paso Archeological Society.

Resource people attending the Workshop will include representatives of the U. S. Park Service and Forest Service, as well as national and regional personnel of the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, the National Speleological Society, and the Cave Research Foundation.

All interested Audubon members are urged to reserve the weekend of October 5-6 to attend and participate. If the Guads are to be saved for all their unique natural and ecological qualities, those of us in West Texas and Southern New Mexico must do our part. Local support is the most important.

For further information or registration, please contact by phone or mail any one of the following people:

Sarah Jane Dodds, The Sierra Club, 2609 E. Florence, El Paso TX 79902  
Phone: 533-7990

Nesley Leonard, New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, 3500 Sun Bowl #24,  
El Paso, TX 79902 Phone: 544-6340.

Registrations should be sent to Dave Foreman, Wilderness Consultant, The Wilderness Society, Box 157, Glenwood, New Mexico 88039 (505) 539-2697

## NEWS NOTES

Chapter Charter. At last! After two years of provisional status, our local society has been issued a charter as a chapter fully associated with National Audubon. It is hoped that John Franson, Regional Audubon Representative, will make the presentation of the charter later in the fall.

The Grand Canyon. The unmatched grandeur of the Grand Canyon National Park is once again being threatened, this time from the unlikely source of the Havasupai Indian Tribe. In a Senate-passed bill purportedly seeking to expand Grand Canyon lands, a House Interior Committee amendment was adopted for a transfer of 185,000 acres of Grand Canyon National Park and National Forest lands for economic purposes. This would be the first time national parklands would be cut out for this purpose. The land has little agricultural potential but does have great potential for commercial tourist development. Environmentalists are opposed to the transfer, even though it bars mining, as setting a precedent for allocations on other Indian land claims totaling over 57 million acres and for giving public lands to private groups for economic purposes. This is clearly at variance with the purposes of parks and public land usage. The bill is expected to come up for a vote in September and a floor fight to delete the objectionable amendment is anticipated.

Shell Dredging. The National Audubon Society has issued a statement that studies conducted by Texas A&M on shell dredging could lead to false conclusions, particularly in the San Antonio Bay area. The lack of base line studies and unusual climatic conditions during the study period could easily lead to misinterpretations and a premature endorsement of shell dredging.

"Our objections," said David R. Blakinsip, Audubon biologist in Rockport, "is that the studies were conducted during periods of abnormally high fresh water flows and in connection with other unusual conditions." John L. Franson, Regional Audubon Representative, said his organization will continue to support continuing research on shell dredging operations.

Las Uvas Planning Unit--BLM. The local chapter has been informed by the Las Uvas Planning Unit of the Bureau of Land Management of its plans to update and revise information and proposed usage of land in this area. The Las Uvas Unit extends south along the Mexican border, then north along the west side of the Rio Grande to Hatch, New Mexico, then along the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad southwest to near Deming, then east and south to a point near Columbus, New Mexico. According to J. M. Barker, District Manager, help from our chapter and others "will assist in developing a plan for the future management of multiple resources within this unit." A series of public meetings will be scheduled during the fall for public review and comment.

Hearings on Solid Waste Disposal. The Texas Water Quality Board has scheduled a series of 12 public hearings to explore the problems concerning disposal of industrial solid wastes. The first hearing was in Fort Worth in July and the final one is scheduled for longview on October 2. The El Paso hearing is set for September 20.

Hugh C. Yantis, Jr. TWQB executive director, suggested that the hearing should "set forth short-range and long-range plans to improve the state's industrial solid waste disposal picture by going to the origin of these wastes and trying to reduce their creation or increase the amount of salvage and/or disposal that can be done." A final report on the hearings is to be made in November.

BIRD SIGHTINGS (An incomplete list due to summer vacations)

|              |                        |                       |                 |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 5/28         | American Redstart      | Charlie Jensen        | Vista Clara     |
| late July    | Weid's Flycatcher      | Margaret McDaniel     | Rague St.       |
| July         | Lucifer's Hummingbird  | Luis & Sue Santaella  | Mesa Verde St.  |
| early August | feruginous owl         | Sarah Jane Dodds      | Girl Scout Camp |
| 8/14         | Phainopepla (2 pair)   | Anita Carter          | Dahlia Court    |
| 8/29         | Orange-crowned Warbler | Weldon & Louise Yerby | Wally Circle    |
| 8/29         | Solitary Sandpipers    | Al Gavit              | Horizon Lake    |
| 9/1          | Allen's Hummingbird    | Charlie Jensen        | Vista Clara     |
| 9/4          | Western Tanager        | Charlie Jensen        | Vista Clara     |
| 9/6          | Orange-Crowned Warbler | Eerttye Barnhart      | Febrero St.     |
| 9/7          | Orange-crowned Warbler | Al Gavit              | O'Possum Ct.    |
| 9/7          | Yellow Warbler         | Al Gavit              | O'Possum Ct.    |

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