

The



# Roadrunner

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VOL. 22 (5)

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Oct. - Nov., 92

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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.

GENERAL MEETING - Monday, October 19, 7: 30 PM - The Denali National Park and Mt. McKinley area of Alaska will be the subject of our October General Meeting. Dr. Joe Leach spent the first two weeks of August traveling this area, from Fairbanks to Anchorage. He will be presenting a slide show of that trip as well as a discussion of the extensive wildlife of the area.

It's very possible that Dr. Leach's presentation will inspire you to pack up and move to Alaska. It is still possible to homestead in Alaska and Dr. Leach will be bringing information on homesteading to the meeting. Now's your chance, although we might suggest waiting until spring.

GENERAL MEETING - Monday, November 16, 7:30 PM - If you enjoy bird watching, hiking, camping, archeology, rock climbing, geology or many other activities then you are already familiar with the natural wonder called Hueco Tanks State Park. If you are new to the area then this is your chance to become acquainted with this truly remarkable park. Everything about it is extraordinary. Our meeting this month will feature Mr. Dave Parker, the Park Ranger at Hueco Tanks. His presentation will cover the flora, fauna, geology and history of this jewel in the state park system.

Whether you are new to El Paso or have visited this park many times, this promises to be a very informative and interesting presentation, which will be complimented with a slide show. Don't miss this one!

## AUDUBON ACTIVIST

### VOTING SMART

A non-partisan group of politicians, including former President Jimmy Carter and former Sens. Barry Goldwater and George McGovern, has come together to provide voters with accurate, unbiased information for the fall elections. Project Vote Smart features a toll-free hotline (1-800-786-6885) for instant access to detailed information on presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial candidates. The group also offers *The Voter's Self Defense Manual*, a reference guide to candidates. To order, call 1-900-786-6885. The cost of the call is \$3 and covers printing and postage.

The League of Conservation Voters has compiled its annual *National Environmental Scorecard*, which provides voting summaries for all incumbent senators and representatives on key environmental legislation. To receive a copy, send a \$6 check to League of Conservation Voters, 1701 L Street, N.W., Suite 550, Washington DC 20036.

Another essential guide for the fall election is *Voting Green*, by Jeremy Rifkin and Carol Grunewald Rifkin (Double-day, 1992). *Voting Green* grades all 535 members of Congress on their voting records on 300 pieces of "green" legislation and also gives detailed analysis on the Bush administration's environmental record. For a copy check your local bookstores.

### PALLADIUM MEDAL WINNER

For his contributions to river ecology and hydrology in both the

United States and Canada, Dr. Hsieh Wen Shen of the University of California, Berkeley has been awarded the Joan Hodges Queneau Palladium Medal for 1992. The annual Award is given jointly by Audubon and the American Society of Civil Engineers to an individual who helps find engineering solutions for tough environmental problems. Dr. Shen's work has been instrumental to Audubon's Niobrara, Platte, and Kissimmee River projects.

### WHAT WORKS

The Environmental Exchange, a nonprofit environmental organization and clearinghouse, has published profiles of 69 local laws, citizen campaigns, and innovative government and business programs that are effectively reducing smog, air toxics, and chemicals that destroy the ozone layer. "What Works, Report #1, Air Pollution Solutions" also explains major deadlines and opportunities for activists under the 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act, and highlighted initiatives to reduce transportation-related air pollution. To order, send \$17 to Environmental Exchange, 1930 18th St., N.W., #24, Washington, DC 20009.

## DONORS

For work at Feather Lake:

- Burwell C. Fox  
Aiken, South Carolina

Lindsay retains his strong commitment to protection of the Franklins. Limited-edition, fine art posters of two of his Franklin Mountain scenes are now in production, and Lindsay is donating all proceeds of up to 50 of each to the Coalition.

The two images, both striking close-ups of native vegetation on rocky slopes, capture eloquently the mix of ruggedness and delicate beauty found in the Franklins. Both have been on display at Jaxon's restaurant on North Mesa in El Paso since 1984. The fine-art posters will sell for \$50 each and must be ordered before December 31. If you wish to place an order, please contact Coalition President John Sproul (545-5157) or Doug Lutz of the Dallas Ford Gallery (833-8877).

#### LINCOLN FOREST LAWSUIT SETTLED

The long saga of our efforts to improve the Scott Able and Poison timber sales on the Lincoln National Forest came to a successful conclusion this past June when U.S. District Court Judge Juan Burciaga signed a settlement agreement that achieves most of our goals.

In 1989 and 1990, the El Paso/Trans Pecos and Mesilla Valley Audubon societies appealed the Scott Able and Poison sales, citing inadequate protection of wildlife habitat and failure to evaluate critically the cumulative impacts of multiple timber sales on the Lincoln. When the U.S. Forest Service rejected the appeals, our two Audubon chapters and Forest Guardians filed suit in District Court to force improvements in the sales.

With the settlement agreement, we have gained most of what we sought. The Forest Service agreed to

exclude 15 cutting units from the Scott Able sale, do no further cutting in five units and adjust the cut on three units. These measures will protect habitat for the Northern Goshawk, Mexican Spotted Owl and Mescalero thistle and help prevent degradation of water quality in the Sacramento River. To protect Spotted Owl habitat, three cutting units are also dropped from the Poison sale.

Finally, the Forest Service agreed not to re-enter the Scott Able sale area for future timber harvest for 10 years and to conduct a cumulative-impacts analysis in the upper Sacramento River watershed. With these concessions, we felt settling the suit out of court made sense.

Thanks are due Letty Belin of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger and Sam Hitt of Forest Guardians for their skillful handling of this lawsuit and to all of you who made contributions towards it.  
// John Sproul //

#### EXPERIENCE THE LLANOS OF VENEZUELA, FEBRUARY 13-21, 1993

Described as one of the great physical features of South America, the Venezuelan llanos resemble more the plains of Africa than the jungles of Amazonia. These plains are teeming with astounding wildlife, including herds of capybara and peccaries as well as troops of monkeys and solitary ocelots and anteaters. The birdlife boasts hundreds of species, easily seen as they congregate near diminishing water holes during the dry season. Travis Audubon Society will offer a birding trip to Hato Pinero, the world famous private ranch and wildlife sanctuary situated in the middle

of the llanos. Hunting has been banned on this large cattle ranch since 1950 so that such species as Scarlet Macaw, Scarlet Ibis, Jabiru and Maguari Stork, Savannah and Black-collared Hawks, Aplomado Falcon, Horned Screamer and Southern Lapwing are easily observed and photographed. The ranch's guest lodge provides luxury accommodations and excellent food and is surrounded by well-tended gardens where Crested Bobwhite, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Glistening-throated Emerald, Crane Hawk, Chestnut-vented Conebill and many other species abound. The river boat rides provide ample opportunity to see Hoatzin, Sunbittern, Agami and Boat-billed Herons as well as various species of spintails, woodpeckers, flycatchers and antbirds. The Travis Audubon tour will leave February 13 for Caracas, and spend six nights at Hato Pinero. Approximate cost from Caracas is \$1500, based on 14 participants. This trip will be led by Bob Barth and Jane Lyons. Please call Bob Barth at 512-327-1173 or 512-471-1675 to reserve a space on this trip. Deposits of \$200 per person are due by November 15, 1992.

#### FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES NOVEMBER 19 - 22, 1992

The EP/TPAS will have a field trip to the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in early December. In addition to that trip, or as an alternative, you may want to consider the Festival Of The Cranes in Socorro, New Mexico.

The Festival will feature Kenn Kaufman as the keynote speaker. He is now the Associate Editor of *American Birds*, published by the National Audubon Society; he also wrote and illustrated the guide *Advanced Birding*, in the

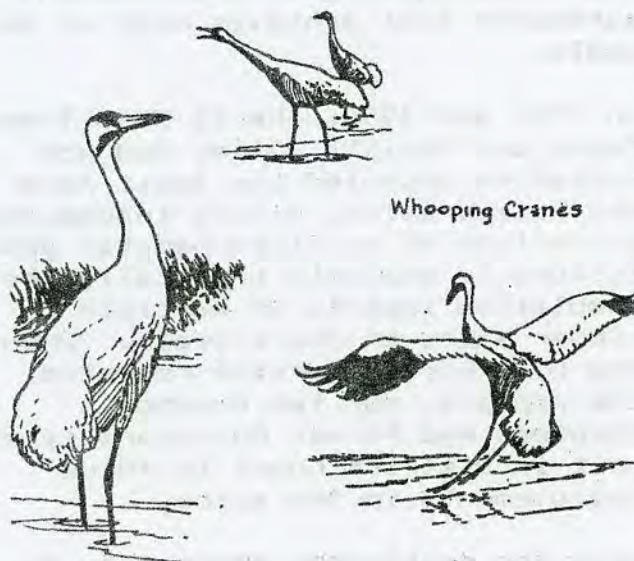
Peterson series, and has written scores of articles for popular bird magazines.

During the Festival you will be able to ride and drive with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff through the Refuge wetlands for a close look at thousands of Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese and waterfowl. Interspersed with the flocks will be the endangered Whooping Crane foster population. Bring binoculars, cameras, and spotting scopes. Bald and Golden Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Wild Turkey and many smaller birds who live and flourish in the wetlands can be seen through the tours.

As part of the Festival, there will be other exhibits, demonstrations and tours. Since the Festival will be advertised nationally you are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible. Write to:

Festival of the Cranes  
P.O. Box 743B  
Socorro, NM 87801

or call: (505) 835-0424



**OBSERVATIONS**

August 16 - September 20

RARE and Uncommon sightings

(Can-Canutillo; CEP-Central El Paso Parks; Ewd-Eastwood; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; FLk-Feather Lake)

TRI-COLORED HERON: Entire period, FLk (JF, BJ, JS)

Long-billed Curlew: 8/29, FBP (HJ-ft)

MARbled GODWIT: 9/13, FBP (BJ)

Black Tern: 9/13, FBP (BJ)

Red-naped Sapsucker: 9/20, CEP (HJ-ft)

Orange-crowned Warbler: 9/13, FBP (BJ)

Virginia's Warbler: 9/15, Ewd (AA-y)

Black & White Warbler: 9/13, Can (CB-y)

American Redstart(f): 9/13, Can (CB-y)

MacGillivray's Warbler: 9/12, CEP (SS)

Black-headed Grosbeak: 9/12, CEP (SS)

**Observers:** Art Arteaga, Craig Bragington, Jane Fowler, Hugh Jameson, Bob Johnson, Susie Schneider, John Sproul, -ft field trip leader, -y in yard.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST FIELD TRIPS**

Only 5 birders showed up at Memorial Park on Sun. Sep 20th. All the rest of you did not get to see the RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER or the MacGillivray's Warbler.

**HAWK WATCH**

During the weekend of Sep. 26/27 7 Hawk Watchers observed several hundred hawks flying by the lookout point in the Manzano Mts. One of the highlights of the trip, was seeing up close, the birds that were trapped for banding, and being able to hold one for release.

Good sightings of Zone-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle and landing on a close snag a Northern Goshawk and Clark's Nutcracker. In the campground at dawn on Sun. a Northern Pygmy Owl came in and sat on a branch 15' up.

If you feed birds in your backyard and you would like to contribute to an international effort to monitor bird populations, now is the time to sign up for the 1992-93 FeederWatch season. Participants receive a complete instruction packet, data forms, and a subscription to *FeederWatch News*, a biannual newsletter that covers not only FeederWatch results but bird feeding tips, notes on bird behavior, and more. For information on how to join, write to: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, or call (607) 254-2414.

## National Audubon Society



### Chapter Membership Application

**Yes**, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society**  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOC.  
PO Box 9655  
El Paso, TX 79986

W10  
Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

- Sat., 3 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.  
Sun., 4 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.  
Sun., 11 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.  
Mon., 12 - Board Meeting at Carolyn Brown's home, 5513 Bandy Ct., 778-4563, 7:30 PM.  
Sat., 17 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.  
Sat., 17 - Potluck Dinner at Feather Lake, see page 3.  
Sun., 18 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.  
Mon., 19 - General Meeting, see page 1.  
Sat. - Sun., 24 - 25 - Field trip to Ft. Davis, see page 3.  
Sun., 25 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.  
Sat., 31 - Feather Lake workday.

## NOVEMBER

- Sun., 1 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.  
Sat., 7 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 to Noon.  
Sun., 8 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.  
Sun., 8 - Field trip to Ft. Hancock, see page 3.  
Mon., 9 - Board meeting at Susie Schneider's home, 607 Blanchard, 542-3041, 7:30 PM.  
Sun., 15 - Feather Lake Open House, see page 4.  
Mon., 16 - General meeting, see page 1.  
Sat., 21 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.  
Sat., 21 - Field trip to West Cottonwood Springs, see page 3.  
Sun., 22 - Feather Lake workday.  
Sun., 22 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.  
Sun., 29 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.

December 5 - 6 - Field trip to Bosque Del Apache, see page 3.

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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