

Volume

27

No. 5



The

Roadrunner

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society
October 1997

Birds of Costa Rica

At the general meeting, on Monday
October 20, 1997 at 7:30 pm., the topic will be
Birds and Other Wildlife of Costa Rica.
Our guest speaker will be Dr. Joseph Leach.

Thank you to those of you who participated
in the Feather Lake Appreciation Day.
We appreciate you!!

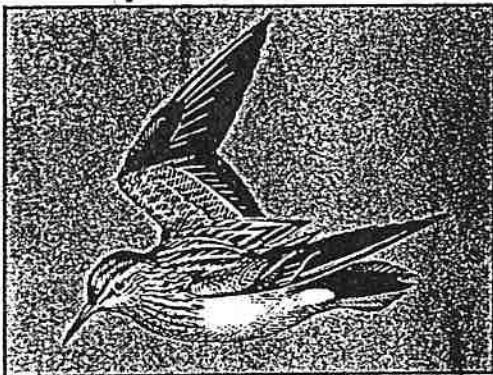
Newsletter

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by, Bob Johnson

MEMORIAL PARK

The park is a good place to look for migrating warblers and other species. The Solitary Vireo has been split into three separate species and two of them could be found here. Meet John Kiseda at the Garden Center in Memorial Park at 7:32 AM on Sunday, October 5th.



MORE FIELD TRIPS AND INFORMATION

Saturday, November 8 - McNary Reservoir.

Meet Betty Fisbeck at Feather Lake at 7:27 AM.

Sunday, November 16 - Bird ID Tour at Hueco Tanks.

Meet Bob Johnson at 8:00 AM.

Sunday, December 7 - Go up the river to Mesilla, then to the mountains and Dripping Springs. Meet Larry Jordan at I-10 and Trans Mt. at 7:39 AM.

Note: The Bird Observations from August 16 to the present will appear in the Dec/Jan issue.

FEATHER LAKE POT-LUCK

Head out to Feather Lake on Saturday, October 11 for food, fun and fellowship. The chapter provides the burgers, hot dogs, rolls and condiments; we ask that you bring your beverage, silverware and a favorite dish to share - salad, dessert, vegetable, etc. The grill will be fired up at 5:30 PM, but plan to come early and take a walk around the lake to check on arriving winter visitors. Please call Betty Pagel (772-2686) if you plan to come.

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

Opens Beginning October 4th

Feather Lake, the El Paso area's only designated wildlife sanctuary, opens to the public this year on Saturday, October 4, with new, expanded hours. It will be open 8:00am to noon every Saturday and 2:00pm to dusk every Sunday until the end of April. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop Drive in El Paso's lower valley, 0.4 miles west of Americas Avenue. Admission is free.

Feather Lake is a cooperative venture of the City of El Paso and the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. The basin is part of the City's storm-water control system; the Audubon Society leases the basin from the City and manages it as a wildlife and environmental education area. The sanctuary's wetlands and woodland fringe provide, within the City's limits, examples of highly productive wildlife habitats once much more common in the El Paso area.

Each winter, the lake attracts thousands of ducks and other water birds. Over the years, 178 different species have been found there. Bird numbers are just now building up at Feather Lake as fall migrants move into the area. Among the highlights are large numbers of Cattle Egret and Yellow-headed Blackbirds that arrive at the end of each day to roost for the night.

Feather Lake is also available by appointment during the week for tours by school classes, scout groups, civic groups and others. For information, contact 532-9645.

The El Paso and Hueco Tanks Christmas Bird Counts are scheduled for Saturday, December 27 and Saturday, January 3. We don't know which count will be on which day yet, but we do know we want you to join us. Please mark your calendars for some fun days afield. The next ROADRUNNER will have full details on these counts and others.



Fall Is For The Birds At Feather Lake

by, John Sproul

In late August and early September, as migrants headed south, the mix of birds changed daily at our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Included were 4 species new to the sanctuary -- Virginia's Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Scott's Oriole and Lesser Goldfinch -- bringing the species total for Feather Lake to 179. In early September, numbers of roosting Cattle Egrets climbed quickly, and, later in the month, Yellow-headed Blackbird numbers began to build.

Feather Lake opened to the public October 4 and will be open through the end of April. Hours are 8:00am to noon on Saturdays and 2:00pm to dusk on Sundays. Feather Lake is located at 9500 N. Loop in El Paso's lower valley. Admission is free.

Remember, keeping Feather Lake open to the public depends on volunteers. Like you! Can you spend a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon this year staffing out sanctuary during visitor hours? Please contact Charles Simpson (598-2274) to volunteer. The work is easy, enjoyable and an important part of our education efforts.

Another great chance for a sunset visit comes Saturday, October 11, when our annual pot-luck dinner at Feather Lake takes place. Check out the details in "On the Trail" and please plan to join us.

A Wild Weekend!

Looking for a chance to get outdoors and celebrate our local environment? You've got lots of options the weekend of October 17-19. Three major events will be on tap in the El Paso area; the annual Interpretive Fair at Hueco Tanks State Historical Park, Día del Río and the Celebration of Our Mountains.

Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair

On Friday, October 17, take in a slide show on birds of Hueco Tanks, beginning at 8:00pm in the Park amphitheater. On Saturday, the Buffalo Soldiers (a Texas Parks & Wildlife living-history group) arrive to set up camp, including an evening campfire. On Sunday, tours, speakers, demonstrations and exhibits will keep you going throughout the day. On both Saturday and Sunday, there will be a bird identification tour starting at 8:00am.

Día del Río

This event takes place Saturday, October 18th throughout the Rio Grande Basin, from Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico. The aim is to focus attention on the river and our need to take better care of it. In the El Paso/Juárez area, the day starts at the Chamizal National Memorial at 10:00am. A participatory arts celebration will include river banners, mural making workshops, sculpture, storytelling, a forum on "The Role of the Arts in Community Spirit and Environmental Awareness" and more. At 1:00pm, there will be a lively procession across the Cordova Bridge to Juárez, where festive, artistic, ceremonial and educational activities will continue throughout the day.

Volunteer activities are an important part of Día del Río. Earlier in the week, students from St. Clement's School will be helping at our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary as a Día del Río undertaking.

Celebration of Our Mountains

The mountains of our region are the focus of this event, which features field trips throughout the October 18-19 weekend. Some will emphasize archeology; some geology, some biology, and some all three. Destinations include the Sierra Tarahumara, the Samalayuca region, the Jornada Experimental Range north of Las Cruces, Alamo Canyon near Ft. Hancock, and multiple sites in the Franklin Mountains. For a full schedule, watch the local papers or contact Dr. Philip Goodell at UTEP (747-5593).

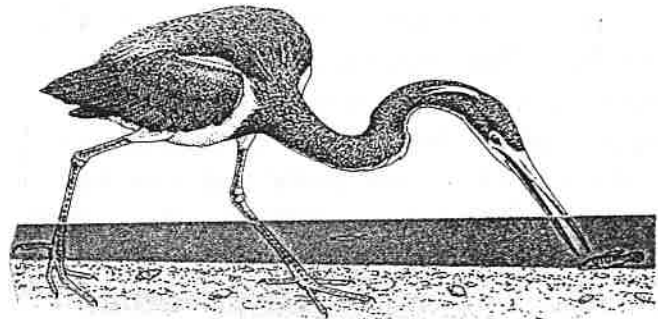
****The Successful Money Management Seminar
has been canceled ****

In its place, the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society will offer a 2 hour workshop called;

Focus on Financial Management

This workshop is tentatively scheduled for the evening of November 12, 1997. It will be offered at a much reduced cost of approximately \$25.00. Watch your mailbox for a brochure containing complete details on this opportunity.

LOUISIANA HERON



SEEN ANY BANDED BURROWING OWLS?

The Canadian Wildlife Service has been banding Burrowing Owls in Saskatchewan. Each bird wears a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service metal band plus some combination of color bands. Observers are asked to note the colors and exact sequence of all bands. The colors used in recent years are red, yellow, green, black and white. It is important to note which leg carries particular color(s) (and it may be three colors) and, where used together, whether the color band is above or below the metal band. Should you encounter one of these birds, please report your observation, including as much information as possible, to;

Helen Trefry
Environment Canada
Environment Conservation Branch
Room 200, 4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
<Helen.Trefry@EC.gc.ca>

Next Feather Lake Appreciation Day

Want to help with habitat management at Feather Lake? Join us at the sanctuary at 2:00pm on Saturday, November 22 for a couple of hours of work, then stick around to view the birds at day's end.

**El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society
Board of Directors:**

President	Elizabeth W. Chase	591-5119
V-President	John Kiseda	833-6212
Secretary	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
Treasurer	Larry Jordan	833-5969

Committee Chairs:

Conservation	John Kiseda	833-6212
Education	Weldon Fisbeck	581-0174
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	Betty Pagel	772-2686
Membership	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Programs	Nancy Wilson	833-3907
Publications	Theresa Fanney	584-5221
Publicity	Hector Montes	565-4032
Sanctuary	John Sproul	545-5157

President's Corner

I hope to see you at the next General Meeting on October 20, 1997. The presentation given by Dr. Joseph Leach should be quite informative.

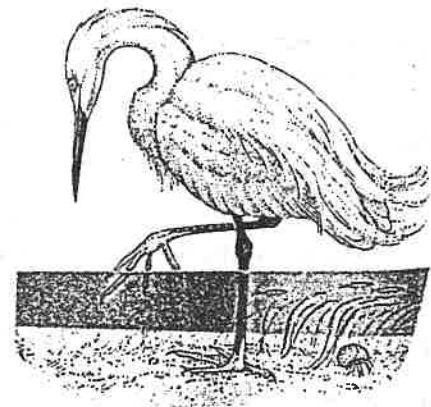
About the Roadrunner

Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. The next deadline is on November 10, 1997. For further information, you may contact Elizabeth W. Chase:
W: 857-4323
fax: 857-4324
email: echase@socorro.k12.tx.us



GREEN HERON

SNOWY EGRET



Help Wanted!

We are looking for members who would like to volunteer. We encourage you to join any of the committees listed above. The El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon is operated entirely by volunteers. Please consider becoming more involved. We need classroom speakers, Feather Lake Tour Guides and assistance with the monthly meetings. Your contributions are vital to our organization.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Thirty El Paso area teachers already receive Audubon Adventures in their classroom!

Thirty El Paso area teachers in grades 3 through 6 have been enrolled in the 1997-1998 Audubon Adventures program. Audubon Adventures is a curriculum enhancement program that teaches children science, environmental topics and respect for nature. The classroom materials are written and developed by professional educators and present basic scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habits and needs. The program develops student skills in multiple disciplines and supports the teaching standards recommended by the

National Academy of Science and the National Research Council.

There is a cost of \$35.00 for each classroom kit and your Board of Directors has approved the funding for this educational endeavor. (A complete listing of the participating teachers and their schools may be found in another article). Chapter members who may wish to sponsor any of the participating teachers may do so by sending the name of the teacher along with your check for \$35.00 to the Education Committee, El Paso/Trans.Pecos Audubon Society, P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, Texas 79986.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES PARTICIPANTS

Allegro, Bonnie
LeBarron Park Elementary

Baldera, Marita
Montwood Middle School

Cruncleton, Chris
Salvador Sanchez Middle School

Cruz, Trene
Lamar Elementary

Davis, Nanette
Travis Elementary

Dillard, Jamey
Morehead Middle School

Favilla, Judy
Capistrano Elementary

Guardian, Carmela
Blessed Sacroment

Hiat, Jerry
Milam Elementary

Hoobler, Cheryl
Crosby Elementary

Johnston, Emily
Montwood Middle School

Kennedy, Jeannie
Carlos Rivera Elementary

Kennel, Barbara
Morehead Middle School

Kettel, Letty
Travis Elementary

McGuire, Allison
Rosa Guerrero Elementary

Martinez, Janet
Bliss Elementary

Martinez, Frances
Clendenin Elementary

Martinez, Vivian
LeBaron Park Elementary

Molina, Grace
Hughey Elemenatry

Muñoz, Lydia
Our Lady of the Valley

Olmos, Norma
Roosevelt Elementary

Portillo, Jaime
Socorro Middle School

Raymond, Celina
Western Hills Elementary

Shelton, Lia
Hornedo Middle School

Vandergriff, Kim
Rusk Elementary

Welch, Allison
William Slider Middle School

Whitaker Diane
Canutillo Elementary

Zubia, Bea
Rusk Elementary

You can sponsor a class for \$35.00 a year to receive Audubon Adventures.

Programs - Trans/Pecos Audubon Society 1997-1998

October 20th
Birds and Etc. of Costa Rica
Further Travels with Joe
Dr. Joseph Leach

November 17th
To Be Announced
Fisheries and Wildlife College
Dr. Zwank

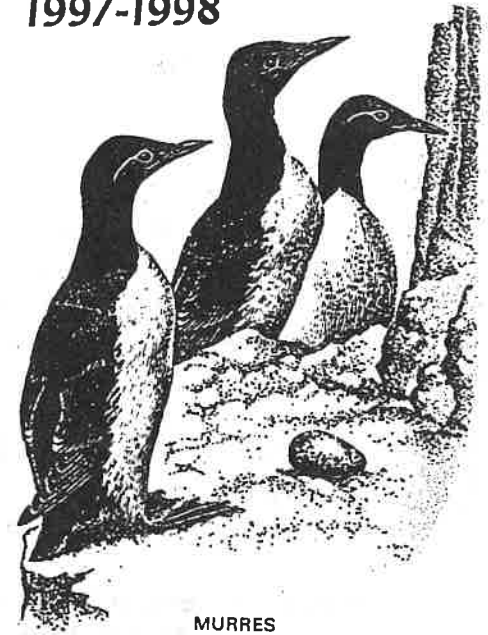
December 8th
Wildlife Studies in
Asia and Northern Mexico
The Jaguar & Spotted Owl
Dr. Raul Valdez

January 19th
Birds of Madagascar
Barry Zimmer

February 15th
Awards Dinner

March 16th
An Evening with the Stars
(astronomy)
Jesse Hyder

April 20th
Water Conservation
John Sproul & Tony Garcia



MURRES

*Meetings are held every third Monday of the month at 7:30 except for:
 Sunday, February 15, 1998 and 6:30 pm on April 20, 1998*

Meetings are held at the El Paso Garden Center at Memorial Park, 3105 Grant Street

Plan Now For Financial Success

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society has scheduled a Successful Money Management Seminar for three consecutive Wednesdays beginning November 5th and continuing through November 19th.

In three highly informative sessions (6:00 pm to 9:30 pm), the seminar will introduce you to the key concepts and practices of wise money management. You will learn ways to minimize your taxes, maximize your investment returns and provide a secure future for you and your family.

This seminar will teach you about different types of investments, how each one works and which are appropriate for your financial situation. The goal is to teach you how to gain maximum return from your money so you can accumulate more wealth and have more freedom in life.

Learn how to get the highest rate of return on investments and evaluate the relative safety of different investments. Learn why you do not have to be a "big" investor to make your money work for you and how you can invest small amounts to start building toward financial freedom. Now just ten and a half hours can make it all worthwhile. Register today. Seminars will be held at the Marriott.

Registration Form

Name: _____ **Guest Name:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone: (W)** _____ **(H)** _____

_____ check for \$49.00

_____ check enclosed for \$60.00 (After October 27th)

Cancelled

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

Saturday, October 11 at 5:30 pm
Feather Lake Pot-luck Picnic.
Call Betty Pagel, 772-2686.

November

Saturday, November 8 at 7:27 am
McNary Reservoir
Meet Betty Fisbeck at Feather Lake

Sunday, November 16 at 8:00 am
Hueco Tanks Bird ID Tour
Meet Bob Johnson

December

Sunday, December 7 at 7:39 am
Dripping Springs
Meet Larry Jordan at I-10 & Trans Mountain

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks

Every Saturday and Sunday
9:00am & 11am - Pictograph Tours

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

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