

IDRUMER

Volume 17 (5)

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

May 1987

GENERAL MEETING

MON., MAY 18;1987, 7:30 PM in the Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. The May program will be presented by a "Mystery" Guest. Come and bring a friend to this last meeting of the season.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

BIRDATHON SAT. MAY 2

CHIRICAHUA MTS.

COUNTRY CLUB AREA SAT., MAY 9. Meet at the crossroads in Upper Valley at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bart Rumaker (544-6432).

SAT.-SUN., MAY 30-31. Our outing

to s.e. Arizona is ready to roll. The Chiricahua Mts. are among the most outstanding in the state, and many national birders consider them to be the best birding spot in the U.S. Following are a few birds we should see: Strickland's Woodpecker, Elegant Trogon. Hagnificent and Blue-throated hummingbirds, Olive and Red-faced warblers, Brown-crested and Sulphur-bellied flycatchers Pygmy Nuthatch and Painted Redstart. Some of our die-hard birders (including your leader) will be going on Thur. or Fri. May 28/29. If you are unable to leave then, be sure to come up Fri. evening or Sat. morning; the trip takes 4 hours. We will be camping in the natl. forest campground, but if you desire more comfort, make reservations at Cave Creek Ranch (602) 558-2334 or Cathedral Rock Lodge (602)558-2254. If you plan to go contact Bob Johnson (751-0125 or 757-1876) for meeting times and places, and to have a campsite held if you will be a late arrival. Bob is also going to Guadalupe Canyon in the extreme s.w. corner of New Mexico on Mon. morning and returning to El Paso on Tuesday.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., MAY 11,1987,7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Tom Baker, 958 Kelso, El Paso (877-3365). All members are wel-

Please note • Our chapter is in need of chairpersons for both our publicity and program committees. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please contact one of our board members.

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Ray Waite and daughter, Diana, Bart and Bob Johnson made the 3 hr. trip from Feather Lake to the old army post in the canyon behind the Clay Miller's ranch house. The roaring fire on Sat. night was very welcome. When snow flakes appeared about 9:30 AM on Sun. it was decided we should leave in case it came down heavier. Forty species were seen, and highlights were a Ferruginous Hawk, N. Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and 3 young Golden Eagles found along the pole line into the ranch.

(cont. on p.3)

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Things are heating up in Austin, with only a month now left before the 70th Texas Legislature ends its regular session.
Here's a quick status report on selected environmental bills. Keep in mind that a bill's status could change markedly between the time this newsletter goes to press and the time it reaches your hands.

Franklin Mountains (H.B. 1839). Apr 7, the House Environmental Affairs Committee heard testimony on the bill to remove 5 square miles of land from Franklin Mountains State Park. On Apr 14, the committee reported the bill favorably to the full House. El Paso's Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition made a compelling case before the committee against H.B. 1839, but the prevailing sentiment in the House is that the bill serves a useful purpose. As long as H.B. 1839 is alive, the pressure is on the City of El Paso to either commit promptly to conveying the land in question to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. at a bargain price or else see it removed from the Park.

Agency Funding. The Senate passed a \$39.9 billion appropriations bill Apr 15. A \$38.4 billion proposal has emerged from the House Appropriations Committee and awaits action by the full House. Gov. Clements has said he will veto any budget above his \$36.9 billion spending plan.

Groundwater. The House and Senate natural resources committees have been holding hearings on the key groundwater-protection bills. None have gotten out of committee yet, and their chances in the full House and Senate are not yet clear.

Texas Rivers (now C.S.H.B. 1250/C.S.S.B. 702). It's going to be an uphill battle to pass the Texas Rivers Conservation Act in 1987. Opponents were out in

force at House and Senate committee hearings on the Act, and they have also generated much negative mail to the Legislature. These folks contend the Rivers Act would take away private property rights and water rights. They are wrong — the bill was carefully crafted so that it would not affect such rights — but large crowds and loud voices can sometimes weigh more heavily with the Legislature than facts. Rivers Act proponents need to make themselves heard.

Container Deposit (H.B. 210). Also an uphill battle. The bill to require a minimum 5-cent deposit on beer, soft drink and certain other beverage containers sold in Texas was the subject of a 5½-hour hearing before the House Environmental Affairs Committee on Mar 31. Conservation groups made a strong showing of support for the bill, but opponents were also numerous. The bill was referred to a subcommittee, and

TRANS-PECOS LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

Texas Senate P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711

- H. Tati Santiesteban (most of El Paso County)
- Bill Sims (rest of Trans-Pecos)

Texas House of Representatives P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78769

- Dudley Harrison (Brewster, Pecos, Presidio, Terrell and Val Verde counties)
- Larry Don Shaw (Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Reeves counties)
- Jack Vowell (El Paso County)
- Arves Jones (")
- Paul Moreno ("
- Nancy McDonald ("
 Nick Perez ("

Bill status info: 1-800-252-9693 Copies of Senate bills: 512-463-0252 Copies of House bills: 512-463-1155 whether it will emerge for further consideration is uncertain.

Golden Eagles (H.B. 2050/S.B. 997). The bill to clarify in the Parks and Wildlife Code that Golden Eagles may not be hunted or trapped without a permit is scheduled for an Apr 27 hearing before the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The House version was heard by the Environmental Affairs Committee on Apr 14 and is currently with a subcommittee. /John Sproul/

THE ROADRUNNER

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Publications Chair - Sarah Jane Dodds Editors - Jane Fowler, Jo Nagel

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Note to Editors: Articles appearing in THE ROADRUNNER may be reprinted without prior permission. Credit is appreciated.

PAST FIELD TRIPS (cont. from p 1)

Twenty one members spent the weekend of April 11/12 in Casas Grandes, Mexico. About 50 species were
seen. We saw several Harris' Hawks,
one on a nest. We parked on the
Casas Grande River north of the
Mormon settlement of Colonia
Juarez, and saw a variety of birds
dropping in for a bit of water
and food. Best of all, there were
no problems going in, traveling
and getting back home. We should
consider another trip in the future.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter. Send AUDUBON magazine and membership card to:

Address

City.....Zip....

Membership category desired:

Individual/\$30 Senior Citizen
Family/\$38 Individual/\$21
Student/\$18 Senior Citizen
Family/\$23

This is a __ new __ renewal membership.

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Neil Keith, 1525 Meadowview, El Paso, Tx 79925.

LOCAL CHAPTER

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS W10 7XCH

Bird Watchers, Bird Lovers.

Ornithologists, and

Natural History Enthusiasts...

The Birding Book Society, a unique special interest book club, is now under new ownership and is managed by Pathway Book Clubs.

If you enjoy keeping up-to-date and well-informed on the latest publications available from publishers in the U.S. and around the world, and would like to build up a comprehensive library of birding books, please write for membership information to:

Mike A. Tucker, President Birding Book Society 382 Main Street, P.O.Box 1999 Salem, New Hampshire 03079

BOOK FAIR

Remember the Book Fair is at B Dalton Bookseller in Cielo Vista Mall on June 20. Books can be good friends, and they make great gifts. (Father's Day is June 21!) Plan to pay the store a visit to buy a book or two.

EPTPAS VISITS CVM

Our chapter display was at Cielo Vista Mall April 4-5. Thanks to Neil Keith and Bob Johnson, we now have new, streamlined display panels, which we used for the first time.

Thanks are also due Jeannette Cole and Jean Coyle for organizing and arranging the panels featuring tropical rain forests and Birdathon '87, and to Je Nagel for creating the colorful, attractive maps and posters about chapter activities.

We had a successful 2 days, judging from the names on our petition to preserve the Franklin Mountains State Park boundaries. Also, a goodly number of visitors signed up to receive our chapter newsletter.

Volunteers who donated their time to talk to shoppers about the chapter and NAS were most appreciated: Tom & Ginny Baker, Helen Barto, Mary Bradley, Fat Brasfield, Jeannette Cole, Jane Fowler, Elza Gilboe, Joe & Liz Guinn, Jean Hagesfeld, Neil Keith, Iola Pennington and Bart Rumaker.

Neil Keith, Membership Chair, is certainly entitled to a chapter gold star for his patience and hard work---transporting the display, organizing volunteers, buying and collecting materials, and being available at all times to lend a hand or hammer to keep volunteers and materials in shape and in place.

OBSERVATIONS

March 21 - April 19

Nesting is well along. A mother duck with 5 babies was found in a back yard swimming pool on Lombardy Lane.

CP - Crossroads Pond

H - Horizon City
 MF - Mountain Park area
 MS - Mt. Shadow Lake
 NEOP - Northeast Oxidation Ponds
 RG - Rio Grande
 V - Vado
 WR - Westside Road

LOONS - FALCONS

Eared Grebes were found at MS and Socorro Sewage Ponds 3/21 (AG, et al.) (BJ, et al.) and at NEOP 4/18 (BJ). Five White Pelicans flew over RG near Sunland Park 4/18 (JR). Great Blue Herons were seen at MS 3/21 (AG, et al.) in the upper valley 4/4 (TB), RG 4/5 (JR), and at NEOP 4/18 (BJ). Cattle Egrets in breeding plumage were seen in the upper valley 4/4 (TB), NEOP 4/18 (BJ) and at V 4/19 (JD). Black-crowned Night-Herons were spotted in the upper valley 4/16 (P/PR), NEOP 4/18 (BJ) and V 4/19(JD). White-faced Ibis were found at NEOP 4/18 (BJ). Male and female Wood Ducks landed at the El Paso Country Club 3/22 (JD). Two Canvasbacks were reported at MS 3/21 (AG, et al.). Redhead ducks were found at MS 3/21 (AG, et al.), CP 4/12 (JD) and NEOP 4/18 (BJ). Ring-necked Ducks were spotted at MS 3/21 (AG, et al.), and CR 4/12 (JD). Lesser Scaup were found at MS 3/21 (AG, et al.). Buffleheads were seen at MS 3/21 (AG, et al.) and CP 4/6 (BJ). Two Common Mergansers flew up RG near Ranchos del Rio 4/18 (JD). An Osprey was flying north of the country club bridge 4/5 (JR). A Sharp-shinned Hawk hung around an e. El Faso yard 3/29, 4/5 (BR). A Cooper's Hawk was seen in the upper valley 4/19 (TB). A rare sighting of a Rough-legged Hawk on Horizon Blvd. 3/21 (AG, et al.) gave some a new bird for their life list. A "Harlan's" Hawk was spotted near H 4/11 (A/MG).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS
Black-necked Stilts, Am. Avocets,
Lesser Yellowlegs and Long-billed
Curlews were seen at NEOP 4-19 (BJ).
Stilts were also seen in the upper
valley 4/4 (TB). A Franklin's Gull
was spotted at MS 4/11 (A/MG). A
Ring-billed Gull was found at MS 3/21

(AG, et al). Burrowing Owls returned to the upper valley 4/16 (TB). Male and female Broad-tailed Hummingbirds visited feeders in the MP this month (JB).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

A Townsend's Solitaire was seen in the Cielo Vista area 4/5 (AB). Cedar Wax-wings were at the main library several days, last day 4/15 (JD) and in e. El Paso 4/17 (JF). Phainopeplas were seen on WR 4/16 (P/PR).

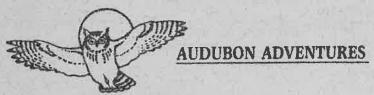
WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A very early sighting of a Townsend's Warbler was made on Lombardy Lane 3/22 (JD) and 4/6 (BJ). A Virginia's Warbler was in H 4/16 (MG). Rufous-sided Towhees were reported in H 3/25 (MG), MP 4/1 (JB) and Owen's 4/19 (JD). A large flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was seen along WR 4/16 (P/PR).

Notes: First sightings - Turkey Vultures 3/21 Rio Bosque (JD,et al.), Black-chinned Hummingbird 3/26 (DA), Solitary Vireo H 4/14 (MG), Wilson's Warbler 4/15 H (MG), Orange-crowned Warbler 4/16 H (MG), Scott's Oriole 3/27 MP (JB). Exotic birds: Chukars n.e. El Paso yard 3/30 (JC), Green Pheasant near Zaragosa Bridge 3/30 (LJ).

OBSERVERS: Donna Arteaga, Tom Baker, Anne Bowman, Janet Brockmoller, John Caris, Joyce Davis, Jane Fowler, Al & Madeline Gavit, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Peter & Peggy Riede, John Riley, Bettie Roberts, Anne Schultis.

/Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/ (581-9470)



There's good news today!!!!

Dear Mrs. Nagel,

Thank you for the Audubon Adventures. I really enjoy them very much and for the card and stickers.

Sincerely,

Ana Ramirez

So wrote another satisfied Audubon Adventures participant recently to the sponsor of her classroom. How would you like to have a similar fan club?

Audubon Adventures is the youth education program of the National Audubon Society. Geared for elementary school classes and other groups of kids in grades 3-6, it has proven phenomenally successful. Today, some 150,000 youngsters in over 5,000 classrooms participate.

The program is built around Audubon Adventures, a newspaper for children that is issued bimonthly during the school year. Each issue features a different natural history theme: migration, owls, tropical rainforests, constellations, conifers, animal communication — the whole breadth of our natural world. An enrolled class gets up to 32 copies of each issue, plus a companion Leader's Guide of background information and activity ideas for the teacher. Each student also gets a membership card and sticker.

This school year, our chapter has enrolled 15 Trans-Pecos classrooms in the Audubon Adventures program. For 1987-88 we hope to do at least as well. Some, we'll be able to fund through our education budget. But for other classrooms, we'll need to seek sponsors among our members and friends.

The enrollment fee for the 1987-88 school year will be \$25 per class. Do you have a child or grandchild in elementary school? Consider sponsoring his or her class. Do you have a friend who is a teacher? Why not sponsor your friend's class? Or consider sponsoring any one of the Trans-Pecos classes that seek enrollment in Audubon Adventures through our chapter.

We're signing up classes now for 1987-88. If you know a teacher you think might like to participate, tell

(cont. Audubon Adventures)
him or her about the program. If you are
a teacher and would like to enroll your
class, contact our Audubon Adventures
coordinator Peggy Riede (833-4881).

And if you would like to sponsor a class, not only will Peggy accept your contribution gratefully, she'll also set you up with your very own fan club.

/John Sproul/

NEW MEMBERS

Due to lack of space in our last 2 issues, we were unable to publish the names of our new members and welcome them into our chapter. We apologize for the long delay: February-Jimmy Allslip, J. Arnold, Donald R. Beene, Jackie S. Chrismer, Billy Cress, Mrs. C.F. Davis, W. Day, R. J. Deblieck, B.L. Dodd, Robert H. Eagon, Ursula Featherston, Patricia Field, Beverly Fischer, Bill Follett, Mr. Jack W. Goss, Gerardo Guevara, M. Hamilton, D. R. Heckerman, Arthur W. Knoll, Ms. E. I. Lawrence, Pete Leggett, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Long, J. R. Madrid, Dan Martinez, F. H. McKinstry, Martha B. Miller, Mrs. J. V. Millsapps, Ms. M. Moore,

Clara Odom, Thomas Ogle, Sharon L. Olive, William Radford, Dr. Donald Rathburn, Dr. Albert C. Reynaud, Mrs. Richard A. Shutes, Glenda T. Simpson, C. Solis, Mrs. E. L. Teal, Clair G. Theriot, Mr. Martin B. Thirman, Richard J. Thompson, Mrs. H. E. Tistadt, Mr. William Tole, Mrs. R. E. Walkenmeyer.

MarchHector Almeida, P. Ashbrook, Pedro Bejarano,
Claude Boring, Mrs. M. E. Davis, Mrs. Glenda
Evans, Mrs. J. Hamilton, Clarence Otto,
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Kenneth Duryee, Walter G. Family, Mrs.
Judith L. Fuentes, the Hartmans, R. Hatchel,
Ms. Karen L. Kaplan, C. T. Lambert, Scott
Loder, Mr. & Mrs. John Rindt, Albert
Weisenberger.

AprilMiss M. B. Bennet, Mrs. Billie E.
Bickley, Robert W. Brown, Dr. Patti
Canaris, Mary L. Clapp, William A.
Conrad, Jerry Martin, John L. Pilkinton, Mrs. Eve Prukop, Mrs. Stapher,
Dr. T. L. Willmon II, Mr. Emilid
Bruna, J. D. Manderscheid, Ms.
Lorraine Snelling, X. Thompson, Mrs.
William Updike, Mr. Glenn A. Vogel.
Transfer in- L. Iola Pennington.

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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ACT Delegate John Sproul 545-515/
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