

The



Roadrunner

VOL. 22 (6)

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Dec. '92-Jan. '93

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
AND TO ALL, GOOD SPRING!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS AND BIRD IDENTIFICATION

General Meeting, Monday, December 14, 1992 - The General Meetings are normally held on the third Monday of each month. The December meeting has been moved to the second Monday to make accommodations for the holidays.

The Christmas Bird Count is just around the corner. December 19 is the Hueco Tanks count; January 2, 1993 is the El Paso Count. At the December General Meeting, Bob Johnson will be presenting Bird Identification in preparation for the Christmas counts. Bob will discuss identification of birds that are likely to be encountered along with slides of common local birds. Bob has been doing this for a number of years and is an exceptional resource for us all. He appreciates an opportunity to share his knowledge, so come on out and get involved in this year's Christmas Bird Count.

// Craig Braginton //

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE

General Meeting, Monday, January 18, 1993, 7:30 PM - One of our favorite spots to visit is the Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Some of us know the Refuge very well; some others of us not so well. Whatever the case may be, we all look forward to a trip to "the Bosque." To learn more about the Refuge, come to the January meeting and meet Mr. Phillip Norton, the Manager and Wildlife Biologist at Bosque Del Apache. Mr. Norton will be giving a 30 minute presentation with slides of the management activities at the Refuge. This will include discussion of the Refuge's Whooping Crane management program. What else can be found there? Find out at the January meeting. Be there to show your support for our guests from out of town. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.

The General Meetings are held at the Garden Center in Memorial Park, 3105 Grant, in El Paso.
// Craig Braginton //

FEATHER LAKE NEWS

The EP/TPAS Wildlife Sanctuary is located at 9500 N. Loop

Due to a combination of circumstances, Feather Lake is mighty low right now, perhaps dry by the time you read this. Water availability, we're reminded, can be highly erratic in a desert environment. Of course, the large temporary dam the Texas Department of Transportation built blocking the lake inlet has more than a little to do with the present conditions. The widening of North Loop Dr. continues to disrupt sanctuary operations in a big way this fall.

Both recent events at Feather Lake were highly successful. Some 40 members and guests took part in our potluck picnic October 17, and we had over 200 visitors for our November 15 Open House. Bob Johnson deserves special thanks for his efforts in connection with both events; securing food for the picnic, refinishing one of the picnic tables, refinishing the education shed door, and leading tours for the Open House.

Though many of you will be highly disappointed, we'll have no Feather Lake workday in December. Well earned thanks go to everyone who took part in this year's workday's: Craig Braginton, Jeannette Cole, Joyce Davis, Dayle Edwards, Jane Fowler, Bob Johnson, Betty Pagel, Jo Nagel, Bart Rumaker, John and Lorraine Snelling, John Sproul and Nancy Wilson. Due to the efforts of these good folks, we've accomplished a lot at our sanctuary in 1992.

We did leave some things for next year though. The first workday of 1993 takes place Saturday, January 23. Don't miss it.

// John Sproul //

AN APOLOGY TO OUR READERS

The best laid schemes o' mice and men / Gang aft a-gley.

- Robert Burns

This is an abbreviated edition of THE ROADRUNNER. Your editor had intended to present an improved newsletter produced with an advanced desktop publisher. Unfortunately, some software problems prevented the newsletter from being printed. So, at the last minute, we returned to our friendly Apple IIe computer. Perhaps by the next issue the problems will be corrected and we can provide you with a more readable and interesting newsletter.

HELP WANTED: APPLY WITHIN

Wanted: A retired or otherwise unencumbered person to raise orphaned songbirds in your home during May, June, July with the full assistance of your local wildlife rehabilitator. Requirements are only a desk or bench in a quiet area with lights and heat source. A sense of humor helps.... The hours are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seven days a week, with the birds needing some form of attention about every hour. Rehabbers will provide all dietary needs, housing, training, and care skills; and will be available by phone anytime you need help. This would be a fine project for those gardeners who have plenty of bugs to feed your baby birds.

The Eastside rehabbers are particularly desperate for help, so we even build you a small (8'x4') aviary to acclimate your small charges. But all rehabbers could use assistance, so please call the Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue dispatcher, Helen Bigelow (882-2910), or, on the Eastside, Gay Kozusco (857-3787) to help your feathered friends.

ON THE TRAIL

Upper Valley - Meet at 7:30 AM on Sunday, December 13 at the Crossroads Pond (Doniphan at Mesa) for a field trip into El Paso's Upper Valley. A large number of interesting birds will be seen on this trip into "the country". Destinations include Randel's Pool and Sunland Park. Leader is Nancy Wilson (833-3907).

Hueco Tanks Christmas Bird Count - The first phase of the Christmas count takes place on Saturday, December 19. Five teams are needed to cover this area that always attracts a variety of birds. The compiler is Al Gavit (852-4217). Contact Al for more information about this phase of the count. Be sure to attend the General Meeting on December 14 for more details.

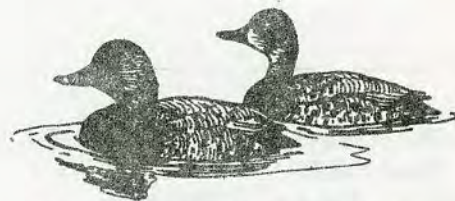
El Paso Christmas Bird Count - The second phase of the Christmas count takes place on Saturday, January 2, 1993. About twenty-five counters will be needed to fully cover this area which includes both El Paso and Juarez. If you cannot be in the field, you can record birds in your yard (feeder counter). If you are unable to attend the December 14 General Meeting, but wish to take part, give the compiler, Bob Johnson, a call (751-0125/757-1876).

Pot Luck Dinner - After all the work is done it's time to party. A pot-luck dinner will be held at 6:30 PM at the Garden Center on Sunday, January 3. The dinner is for counters, feeder counters, and those unable to count - in short everyone who would like to enjoy the congeniality of EP/TPAS.

Mt. Riley and Long-eared Owls - Meet at the Crossroads Pond at 7:30 AM on Saturday, January 16 for a trip into the desert west of Santa Teresa for the possibility of finding Long-eared Owls, among

other interesting creatures. Pack a lunch and refreshments as we will return about mid-afternoon. A leader has not been chosen, but you can contact Hugh Jameson at 751-7952 for details.

Volunteers are always needed to lead field trips. It isn't necessary to be a master birder to lead a field trip, just be willing to take a few phone calls prior to the trip and be there to meet the other birders at the designated place. That's all there is to it. Of course, if you know of some interesting places that we wouldn't normally visit, we would like to hear about that too. Contact Hugh Jameson to sign up to lead a future field trip. Hugh can be reached at (751-7952).



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 ACT DELEGATE

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1992

- Mon., 7 - Board Meeting at Peggy Riede's home, 104 Sun Season, Santa Teresa. 7:30 PM. 598-1734.
- Sun., 13 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
- Sun., 13 - Field trip to the Upper Valley, see page 3.
- Mon., 14 - General Meeting, see page 1.
- Sat., 19 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 to noon.
- Sat., 19 - Hueco Tanks Christmas Bird Count, see page 3.
- Sun., 20 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 dusk.

JANUARY 1993

- Sat., 2 - El Paso Christmas Bird Count, see page 3.
- Sun., 3 - Pot-luck dinner, see page 3.
- Sun., 10 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.
- Mon., 11 - Board Meeting at Craig Braginton's home, 125 Libby Dr., Canutillo. 7:30 PM. 877-4138.
- Sat., 16 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to noon.
- Sat., 16 - Field trip to Mt. Riley, see page 3.
- Sun., 17 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.
- Mon., 18 - General Meeting, see page 1.
- Sat., 23 - Feather Lake workday.
- Sun., 24 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.
- Sun., 31 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to dusk.

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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