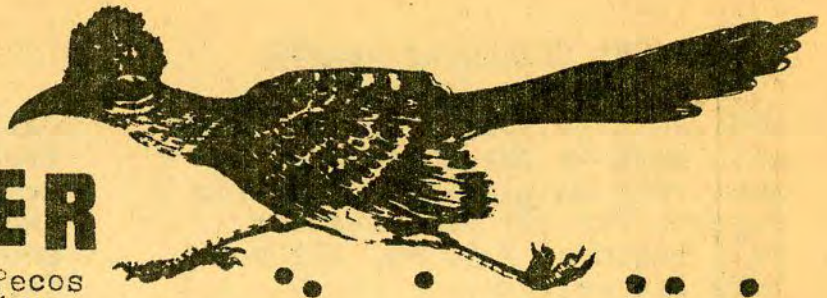


the ROADRUNNER

Newsletter of El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society - P.O. Box 9655
El Paso, Texas 79986



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 15 (6)

\$4.00 per year

June 1985

GENERAL MEETING

MON., SEPT. 16, 1985, 7:30 PM, Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. in Memorial Park there will be another top notch program for you. The Sept. Roadrunner will tell you all about it. Meantime take advantage of the field trips offered below.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS/LAKE ROBERTS
SAT-SUN, JUNE 15-16. This great trip hasn't been scheduled since June '82. Camping is at Scorpion Corral which is right by the road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile before Cliff Dwellings parking lot. Available is water and restrooms, but no electricity. Those wanting a cabin should call Doc Campbell's at Gila Hot Springs (505-534-9551) 4 miles distant.

One short hike will be to Cliff Dwellings, another along the river. Great birds can be seen including the Great Blue Heron rookery. This year we will have a special feature late Sat. afternoon. If you think you might attend, give the leader, Bob Johnson, a call before June 14 as he will be going up on Fri. He will give details, hold campsites and be on the lookout for you. Call 751-0125 or 757-1876.

CLOUDCROFT

SAT-SUN, JULY 13-14. We will use the Gilboe's cabin for headquarters as we search the Sacramentos for the high montane birds that summer there. Call leader, Bart Rummaker (544-6432) if you plan to go. Departure from K-Mart lot on Dyer will be 7 AM on Saturday.

ORGAN MOUNTAINS

SUN., JULY 28. Meet at 7 AM at Transmountain Rd and I-10 for this day trip up to Dripping Springs (La Cueva) on the west side of the mts. We'll bird our way back down the valley from Cruces in the afternoon. Bring lunch. Leader: Tom Baker (562-9461).

BLACK RANGE

SAT-SUN, AUG 10-11. The Red-faced Warbler is only one of several uncommon birds we hope to see on the eastern edge of the Gila. Camping should be available at Railroad Canyon or nearby. Trailheads there provide good access to the Wilderness. Meet at 7 AM at Transmountain Rd and I-10 on Sat. Call Tom Baker (562-9461) if you have questions.

HUECO TANKS

SAT, AUG. 17. Meet in the parking lot of Bella Napoli Restaurant at 7 AM, proceed to the State Park for a morning walk through the rocks. Good trip for beginners to observe summer resident birds of the El Paso area. Leader: Wanted! Call Tom Baker (562-9461).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., JUNE 10, 6:00 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Jo Nagel, 3020 Douglas (566-2143) for supper. The official meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome.



FEATHER LAKE WORKDAY

SAT., JUNE 8. We need your help. All projects do not require back-aching pick and shovel work. Our Sanctuary is slowly improving, and needs you to help it along this path. Some people will be arriving about 8 AM, but others cannot make it until 10 or later. Come when it is most convenient for you. Just 2-4 hrs. of your time is all that is needed.

SPONSOR A CLASSROOM!!!

Help sponsor the Audubon Adventures program in our classrooms! If you know of any teachers, or if you have any children in grade school who would be interested in nature study enhancement, you can give them a subscription to Audubon Adventures. You will also be giving them a chance to learn about wildlife and habitat, right in their own classrooms. Audubon Adventures is a new youth program that provides teaching supplements for each individual child in a class. Next fall, our El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon will be sponsoring five classrooms. This is great! But we need more sponsors to integrate this unique program in our schools. For just \$20 you can provide six to seven bimonthly issues to a class for a whole year! For more information please call Gloria Basden at 532-7348 or Ginny Baker at 562-9461.

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

CALIFORNIA CONDOR: The news from California is GRIM. Last October, 15 California Condors, including 5 breeding pairs, were known to be alive in the wild. Today, only 9 birds can be accounted for, and only 1 breeding pair. The cause of this sudden decline is a mystery. Possibilities include lead poisoning, collisions with power lines and, conceivably, a deliberate hunting of condors. Now under consideration are a variety of options for protecting the remaining wild birds. The most drastic of these calls for capturing all 9 birds and adding them to the 17 birds presently in a captive breeding program. Other options involve release of some captive-reared birds, either to supplement the wild population or to at least maintain it by replacing any birds taken into captivity.

APLOMADO FALCON: On May 20, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed listing the Northern Aplomado Falcon (Falco femoralis septentrionalis) as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This subspecies historically occurred in s.e. Arizona, s. New Mexico, s. and w. Texas, much of Mexico and the w. coast of Guatemala. Today, it is known to nest only in portions of e. Mexico. The last documented nesting in the U.S. took place near Deming, NM, in 1952. Brush encroachment into the Aplomado's favored desert grassland habitat appears the likely cause of this historic decline (RR, Jan 1984). Currently, continued use of DDT and other persistent insecticides poses the most serious threat to this falcon. According to USFWS, "Recent data strongly suggest such pesticide use is causing extreme eggshell thinning in some populations of

Northern Aplomado Falcon." The USFWS proposal is now out for public review and comment.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: Meanwhile, the process of reauthorizing the ESA has advanced another notch. On May 14, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee unanimously approved H.R. 1027, which would:

- reauthorize the ESA for 3 years;
- authorize funding of \$39.25 million in FY 1986 (same as the FY 1985 appropriated level), \$46.75 million in FY 1987 and \$54.2 million in FY 1988; and
- provide some increased protection for candidate species, i.e. species that are under review for endangered status but have not yet been proposed for listing.

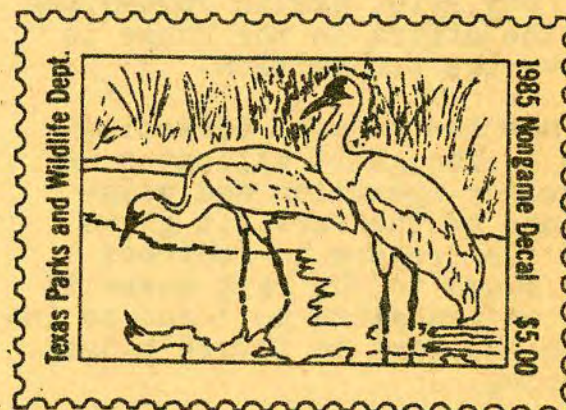
Conservationists wouldn't mind seeing those funding authorizations pushed still higher. The endangered species programs of the USFWS have long been underfunded. As a result, a huge backlog has developed of species that are biologically endangered but have not yet been put through the process that leads to a spot on the endangered species list. Similarly, recovery plans have been developed for many listed species, but there is little money available to implement them. To make a dent in the listing backlog and make real progress implementing recovery plans, conservationists would like to see the ESA reauthorized at \$80-\$100 million a year for the next 3 years.

WETLANDS: The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act is back. This legislation to increase federal efforts at wetland protection died in the last U.S. Congress (RR, Sept 1984) but has been reintroduced this year as S. 740 and H.R. 1203. Thus far, neither

bill is burdened with the "Oregon Inlet jetty" rider that crippled similar legislation in 1984. The Senate Environmental Pollution Subcommittee held a hearing on S. 740 on Apr 18, and the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee reported H.R. 1203 favorably on May 1. Both bills would authorize up to \$75 million a year for 10 years from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to be used for wetland acquisition, would increase the federal duck stamp price from \$7.50 to \$15 over a 5-year period and would allow the charging of entrance fees at selected national wildlife refuges.

RECYCLING: Don't forget:

- Fridays are recycling days in El Paso.
- EP/TPAS will happily recycle your aluminum cans. Save 'em this summer, and bring 'em to our next general meeting in September. /John Sproul/



YES, I want to help support the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Please send me:

	Qty.	Each	Total
1985 Nongame Stamp		\$5	
1985 Nongame Decal		\$5	
Amt. Enclosed			

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

FRANKLIN MTS. ST. PARK
SUCCESS ON TWO FRONTS!

Funding Prohibition Falls

Good news! The existing prohibition against spending state funds for operation and maintenance of Franklin Mts. St. Park will soon disappear. On May 16, the Texas House of Representatives passed an amended version of S.B. 464, the reauthorization bill for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD), and on May 21, the Senate concurred with the House amendments. The bill, including its provision to remove the Franklins funding prohibition, went next to Gov. White for his signature. He may have signed it by the time you read this.

The key figure in getting the funding prohibition removed was El Paso Sen. Tati Santiesteban (Texas Senate, P.O. Box 12068, Austin 78711). He deserves your thanks. Also deserving thanks is Rep. Arves Jones (Texas House, P.O. Box 2910, Austin 78769), who led the effort in the House to remove the prohibition.

The new law becomes effective Sept 1. Though it allocates no funds for operation and maintenance of the Park, it gives TPWD the freedom to redirect some funds to the Park where it sees an immediate need and to include the Park in future budget planning.

Commission Addresses McMath Lands

More good news! On May 2, a parcel of land formerly within Franklin Mts. St. Park took an important step towards regaining park status. In 1981, a 434-acre portion of state-owned land in A.G. McMath Survey 298, located on the west side of the Franklins near the Casitas Coronado development, was excluded from the Park by amendment to the original Park legislation. At first, few

El Pasoans realized the change had taken place, but it became widely known in 1982 when the Texas General Land Office (GLO) proposed trading the land to a local developer. The reaction to this proposal was loud and negative. The public wanted the land back in the Park.

Ultimately, the controversy over disposition of the land was resolved by a compromise (RR, Apr 1983). The 250 acres (since reduced to 246 acres) at the higher elevations next to the Park would be leased to the TPWD for eventual re-inclusion into the Park. The remaining acreage would stay available for trade. The GLO offered a lease to the TPWD in July 1983, but no action was ever taken on it until El Paso's Wilderness Park Coalition began a campaign this year to get the lease accomplished. That campaign paid off May 2 when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) voted to accept the lease.

Two more steps remain, though. First, the GLO mistakenly provided the TPWC a lease for the entire 427 available acres rather than just the high-ground 246 acres. It would have been nice, but it was not the GLO's intent. The TPWC probably will have to approve a corrected lease at its next meeting. Second, an act of the legislature is needed to return this land to the Park. It could come during the 1987 legislative session. /John Sproul/

The deadline for the Sept. RR will be Aug. 23.

No issues of the RR will be published during July and August.

Have a good summer!

GOOD SHOW!

We learned a lot about local reptiles and amphibians at our last general meeting. Thanks go to Dwight Floyd, John Hanson, Bill Howe and Danny Lehman of the El Paso Herpetological Society for an entertaining and informative presentation. Lively, too, what with the Trans-Pecos rat snake, the various rattlesnakes and the other species that put in guest appearances. Thanks are also due Jeff Donaldson for making the initial arrangements for this program.

The purposes of the El Paso Herpetological Society are:

- e education to increase public understanding and appreciation of reptiles and amphibians, and
- e conservation of these animals and their habitats.

Membership is \$7.50 a year for individuals, \$10 for families. To join or for more information, contact: Danny Lehman, Pres., El Paso Herp. Soc., 3200 Shetland, El Paso, TX 79925 (598-0879).

FIELD TRIP QUIZ

Here are the birds (and one mammal). Where were they seen? The answers are upside down below. (Hint: 22 field trip participants had a great time and found approximately 118 bird species in and around these areas May 16-19.)

1. Zone-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Common Ground-Dove, Broad-billed Hummingbird, N. Beardless Tyrannulet, Vermilion Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Varied Bunting.
2. Elf and Flamulated owls, Blissthroated and Magnificent hummingbirds, Elegant Trogon, Greater Pewee, Mexican Chickadee, Olive and Red-faced warblers, Flame-colored Tanager.
3. Ringtail.
4. avocado falcon.

Answers: 1. Guadalupe Canyon, AZ
 2. Chiricahua Mts., AZ
 3. Baker Campsite, IDLEWILD Campground, Chiricahua
 4. The location cannot be determined.

**KEEP AN EYE ON WORLD OF AUDUBON
 TWO NEW PROGRAMS COMING THIS SUMMER**



June 24 at 8:00 PM Eastern	August 29 at 8:00 PM Eastern
June 30 at 8:00 PM Eastern	September 7 at 8:00 PM Eastern
July 1st at 8:00 PM Eastern	September 10 at 8:00 PM Eastern
July 9 at 8:00 PM Eastern	September 14 at 8:00 PM Eastern

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Chapter**

Membership Application
 Yes, I'd like to join. Local Chapter:

**El Paso/Trans-Pecos
 W10 7ECH**

Membership Category desired:

- Individual/\$30 (H) Senior Citizen
- Family/\$38 (J) Individual/\$21 (N)
- Student/\$18 (K) Senior Citizen
- Family/\$23 (P)

This is a new renewal membership.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

Zip.....Phone.....

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso, TX 79924.

OBSERVATIONS
April 23 to May 22

Spring migration proceeded at a slow but even pace during the period with only one large wave of migrants reported the week of 4/28 to 5/4. Also of interest were some wintering species that remained in the area into early May.

LOONS - FALCONS

A Double-crested Cormorant was at the Northeast Oxidation Ponds (NEOP) 5/4 (BJ, RW, BaR). Several Snowy Egrets and at least 20 Cattle Egrets (carrying twigs) were noted at a bosque near Vado 5/11 (JS et al.). A Green-backed Heron was seen at the Crossroads Pond 5/5 and 5/12 (JoD), and a Black-crowned Night-Heron in the El Paso Country Club (EPCC) area 5/4 (JoD, SJD, AS). White-faced Ibis were at NEOP 5/4 (mob). A male Wood Duck at the Gary Lane Pond 5/4 was a treat (BJ, RW, BaR), and Redheads were seen at the Crossroads Pond 4/28 (JoD). An Osprey was observed back of the Good Time Store on Country Club Road 4/28 (GB, GW).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

A Virginia Rail and 2 Soras were present at Feather Lake 5/4 (JS, JF). Two Soras were heard calling there 4/28 and 1 on 5/5 (JS et al.). A WHIMBREL at NEOP was a real highlight 5/4 (BJ, RW, BaR). Ten-to-twelve Franklin's Gulls and 20+ Forster's Terns were also noted there that same day (JS et al.). A Common Barn-Owl was at his usual post at Huesco Tanks 5/4 (BJ).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

On 5/1, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen near Memorial Park (JF, JN). A House Wren was present at Horizon City 5/20 (AG, MG). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed at Huesco Tanks 4/27 (AG, MG), and a Townsend's Solitaire was there 5/4 (BJ, RW, BaR). Single Hermit Thrushes were reported from Mt. Park 4/28 (JB) and Horizon City 5/14 (MG). A number of Cedar Waxwings were in e. central El Paso 4/28 (TB), at least 100+ in Memorial Park 5/4 (JS et al.), and others noted in the EPCC area that same day (JoD et al.). On 5/22, a Warbling Vireo was at Horizon City (AG, MG).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

Single Townsend's Warblers were in e. central El Paso 4/29 (TB) and at Mt. Park 4/30 (JB). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was observed at Huesco Tanks 5/4 (BJ, JoD, et al.) and another 1 at Durling's 5/11 (JS et al.). Black-headed Grosbeaks were also at Huesco Tanks 5/4 (BJ, JS, et al.) and at Durling's 5/11 (JS et al.). Two Cassin's Sparrows were noted in the Huesco Tanks area 5/4 (JS et al.), a Lark Sparrow in the upper valley that same day (JoD et al.), and large numbers of Lark Bunting in the Fabens area 5/11 (JoD). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at the Crossroads Pond 4/28 (JoD). A male Hooded Oriole was reported from e. El Paso 5/11 (MWB). Red Crossbills were still being seen in Memorial Park into early May (fide JS), and a Pine Siskin was in that area 5/1 (JF, JN).

CONTRIBUTORS: Tom Baker, Gloria Basden, Ken Beno, Mrs. W.C. Bradford, Janet Brockmoller, Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Al & Madeline Gavit, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, Bart Runkner, Ann Schultis, John Sproul, Ray Waite, Greg Wolf.

Note: Please remember that your summer observations -- breeding records, species remaining late in the area, and early arriving fall migrants -- are important. Call anytime 591-0421. /Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/

NEW MEMBERS

Greetings to Joann Ferguson, Lola Herrera and Mattie Stewart, new members of our chapter family, and to Lance Sherwood, Thomas Carson and Ralph Lowe who transferred in from other chapters around the country. We also extend a hearty welcome to the 51 members living in our geographic territory that were recruited nationally. Please join us in some of our summer field trips and plan to attend our next general meeting which will take place in September. (You will receive a newsletter giving the details of the program prior to the meeting.)



EL PASO CLEAN AIR COALITION

League of Women Voters of El Paso • The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club • El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society • American Lung Association of Texas Trans-Pecos • District I, Texas Nurses Association • Bikeways Advisory Board of City of El Paso • Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, El Paso Area Chapter • Association for Retarded Citizens • The El Paso Bicycle Club • The El Paso County Pediatric Society

The above organizations are members of the El Paso Clean Air Coalition. Their combined efforts of study and comparative analysis of the air quality problem in El Paso have culminated in recommendations to the Texas Air Control Board. These recommendations were presented at a preliminary hearing Oct. 11, 1984 and were reiterated at the formal hearing, March 27, 1985.

The primary recommendation of the Coalition is a tailpipe emissions testing program for El Paso. This program would analyze each car's emissions, certify cars which meet the standard, identify cars which exceed the carbon monoxide (CO) and/or hydrocarbon (HC) standard, and require the owners of these cars to have the cars repaired to meet these standards within a given time frame.

The standards vary according to the age of the car and the manufacturer's specifications for pollution control equipment. This means that no car would be expected to perform beyond its limitations and is therefore equally fair to all car owners. This program, if enforced properly, could reduce the CO and HC emissions in our ambient air by 33.9% and 24.3% respectively.

At the present time, a tailpipe emissions test is not included in the State Implementation Program and is not legislatively permissible but the El Paso Clean Air Coalition is still pursuing this goal.

Resolutions which support the tailpipe test have been obtained from El Paso City Council and El Paso County Commissioner's Court and at the TACB

hearing on March 27, a representative from EPA made comments indicating that a tailpipe test might be required for El Paso to demonstrate attainment. On the legislative front, the Sunset Advisory Commission Bill, H.B. 21 and its equal in the Senate, S.B. 725, would provide the legislative means for implementing this program in cities for which EPA has recommended this program.

Whether or not the tailpipe test becomes a reality in the near future, the El Paso Clean Air Coalition is encouraging all the citizens of El Paso to do their part in minimizing air pollution from vehicular sources. This can be accomplished by not tampering with the installed pollution control equipment on cars, by maintaining cars with an annual tune-up and frequent oil, oil filter and air filter changes, and by not using leaded gasoline. These practices will decrease vehicular emissions from the ambient air and if the tailpipe emissions test does become a reality, will better qualify cars for certification.

The El Paso Clean Air Coalition also encourages the increased use of mass transit, car pooling, van pooling and bicycling as effective means to minimize vehicular emissions.

The health, economics, growth and aesthetics of El Paso are dependent on clean air. Clean Air is our goal! (For further information, please contact the El Paso Clean Air Coalition, c/o Pat Fowler-Chairperson, 6512 Los Altos, El Paso, TX 79912.)

FRIENDS OF FEATHER LAKE

We wish to thank Shirley and Bill Phillips and Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Baker for their special contributions to our Sanctuary Fund. The Bakers' donation was in memory of Lena McBea. Thank you, folks, for caring and sharing.



WAYS AND MEANS

Were you at B. Dalton Bookseller on May 11? Sid Shepperd, Joe Guinn, Bart Rumaker, Jane Fowler, Lola Herrera, Bertha and Berttye Barnhart, Bob Johnson, John Sproul, Jean Coyle, Jo Nagel, Tom Baker and Joyce Davis were there representing our chapter, visiting with shoppers and buying books. Thanks to these fine people for donating their time, and thanks to all of you who made it a point to come in and buy a book or two. But most of all, our chapter wishes to thank B. DALTON BOOKSELLER for allowing us to participate in the Book Fair and for donating \$349 to the chapter. Their interest in the various organizations and groups that are represented throughout the year at the store's book fairs is most commendable.

MUCHAS GRACIAS, B. DALTON!

On May 12 EPTPAS had a wildly successful rummage sale. Bart Rumaker, Sid Shepperd, Jeannette Cole, Tom & Ginny Baker, John Sproul, Bob Johnson and Jane Fowler didn't seem to mind a little sunburn as they sold chapter merchandise. And when all the boxes were packed up and we called it a (long) day, the chapter treasury was richer by \$800!! Thanks to YOU for contributing your junkie and recyclable, resalable items and making this our best rummage sale ever.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
PO Box 9655
El Paso, TX 79986

Return Postage Guaranteed
Address Correction Requested



EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers

President	Bob Johnson	751-0125
Vice-president	Tom Baker	562-9461
Secretary	Gloria Basden	532-7348
Treasurer	Jean Coyle	778-7238

Elected Directors

Joyce Davis	581-9470
John Sproul	545-5157
Sid Shepperd	566-2162

Committees

Awards	Peggy Riede	821-0989
Conservation	John Sproul	545-5157
Education		
Field Trips	Tom Baker	562-9461
Hospitality	Annamarie Shields	751-7450
Membership		
Programs	Joyce Davis	581-9470
Publications	Jane Fowler	772-0290
Publicity		
Sanctuary	Sid Shepperd	566-2162
Ways & Means	Bart Rumaker	544-6430

ACT Delegate	John Sproul	545-5157
Clean Air Act Coordinator	Joyce Davis	581-9470

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, TX
Permit No. 2440

W10
JAN86

ROBERT S JOHNSON
5109 PARIS ST
EL PASO TX 79924