

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society
Volume 28 No. 14 April & May 2000

General Meetings

THE RIO GRANDE PROJECT: 95 YEARS OF WATER RESOURCES HISTORY

Wayne Treers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Monday, April 17, 2000
Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
9500 North Loop 6:30 p.m.

In keeping with tradition, our April general meeting takes place at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Please do NOT go to the Garden Center on April 17! If you can, join us for a pre-meeting walk around the lake at 6:30 p.m. The meeting itself starts at 7:30 p.m.

Also in keeping with tradition, our program will involve the river-valley environment. Wayne Treers, Chief of Water Operations with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's El Paso Field Division, has assembled a pictorial history of the Bureau's Rio Grande Project. Approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1905, the Rio Grande Project consists of Elephant Butte and Caballo dams and their associated reservoirs, a power-generation plant, 4 diversion dams, and extensive irrigation distribution systems in New Mexico and Texas. These facilities provide irrigation water to 155,000 acres of water-rights lands in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, and El Paso County, Texas. Understanding the Rio Grande Project is essential to understanding our river-valley environment and prospects for improving its ecological health. Join us April 17 for a fascinating look at an important part of the river's history.

CONSERVATION OF THE MANED WOLF IN CAPTIVITY AND IN THE WILD

Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer
Monday, May 15, 2000 Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

Dr. Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Executive Director of the Las Cruces Desert Nature Park, will introduce us to the maned wolf, an endangered species native to Central South America. Efforts to preserve the species in captivity and in the wild have been hampered by a lack of information on its natural history. Between 1994 and 1999, Dr. Bestelmeyer studied captive maned wolves in the United States and free ranging maned wolves in Emas National Park, Brazil.

These studies were designed to improve the captive management of the species and allow for development of a recovery plan to preserve the species in the wild.

In this talk, Dr. Bestelmeyer will introduce us to the maned wolf, discuss her research on maned wolf behavior in captivity and in the wild, and introduce us to other species sharing the maned wolf's primary habitat in central South America. We will also learn about her current work with the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, a nonprofit organization that provides science-based, hands-on educational programs for over 2,000 students from southern New Mexico and western Texas each year.

*A special thanks to
Bernie Sargent & Carol Miller who
spoke at our Awards Banquet
and
to Dr. Joe Leach who shared his
presentation of Polar Bears at
the March General Meeting.*

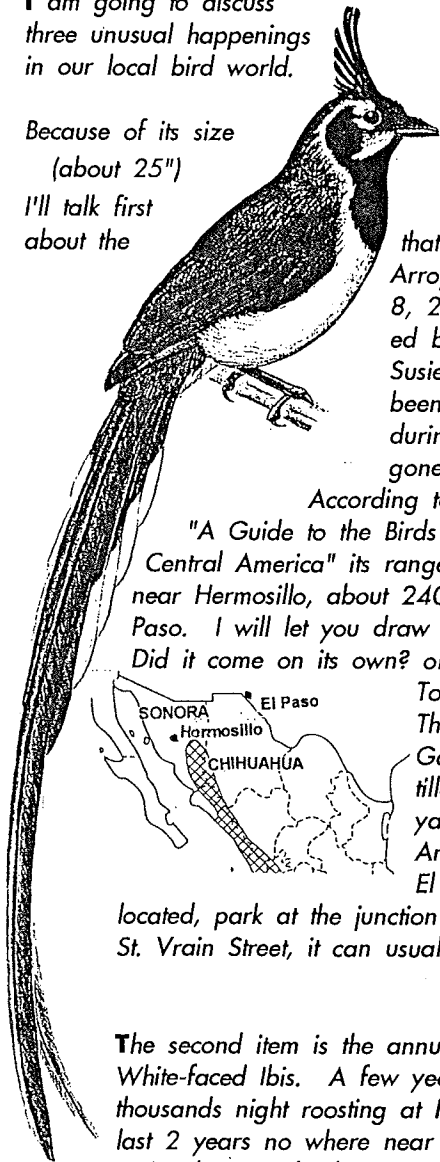
Inside The Roadrunner

President's Page	2
Chapter Info.....	3
Sanctuary News.....	4
Environment.....	5
Special Features	6
On the Trail.....	7
Observations.....	8 & 9
Calendar.....	10

From the Presidents Aerie

I am going to discuss three unusual happenings in our local bird world.

Because of its size (about 25") I'll talk first about the



BLACK-THROATED MAGPIE-JAY

that has been inhabiting Arroyo Park since January 8, 2000. It was discovered by Estela Rodarte and Susie Schnieder and has been seen by many others during the weeks that have gone by.

According to HOWELL and WEBB "A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and North Central America" its range extends (see map) to near Hermosillo, about 240 miles southwest of El Paso. I will let you draw your own conclusions; Did it come on its own? or is it an escaped bird?



To add to the confusion The Bakers, who live off Gato Rd. west of Canutillo, have seen one in yard from March 11-28. Arroyo Park is where the El Paso Tennis club is

located, park at the junction of New York Dr. and St. Vrain Street, it can usually be seen from here.

The second item is the annual migrating flights of White-faced Ibis. A few years ago we had many thousands night roosting at Feather Lake. But the last 2 years no where near these numbers. THIS YEAR they are back, on Sat. and Sun March 25 and 26, we had over 4500 come in. The best time to see them is from about 6:30 PM until dark. This will continue until about mid April.

The third and rarest item is about an Anna's Hummingbird. We get Anna's every winter in El Paso and many people, especially in the foothills, enjoy them. On Feb. 20 a man on Piedmont reported to Helen Bigalow (Chief Dispatcher for the CDWR) that he had a Hummingbirds nest on his back porch with two young in it. John Kiseda checked it out and determined they were Anna's. He photographed and video taped the young and the comings and feeding by the mother. The young have now fledged and we hope they are doing well.

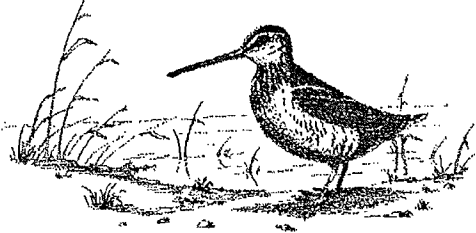
What makes this very rare, is that it is only the second breeding record in Texas. The other being in Fort Davis in 1976.

MISSION HILLS AREA

The Mission Hills area on the West side of town appeared to be the "in" place to be if you were a hummingbird this winter! Among the species sited were a Broad-billed Hummer, a Blue-throated Hummer & multiple Anna's Hummers at various locations! WOW! And if that wasn't enough, a female Anna's nested and successfully raised two youngsters that fledged by mid-March; eggs were in the nest in January and the birds hatched-out in February. The Anna's nest is only the second record in Texas; a nest was found in the Big Bend region in the mid-1970's.

We still have a number of the 3rd Edition (1999) of "National Geographic Birds of North America" available (\$21.00). Also "Birds of the Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville to Las Cruces" (\$24.00) and a copy of "Peterson's Western Birds" (\$18.00). You'll need these for your spring birding.

Conservation Corner



by, John Kiseda

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at the El Paso Zoo: Saturday, May 20th!!!

The El Paso Zoo will be hosting another IMBD event this Spring! This event will be great fun for all involved, and everyone will have the opportunity to learn something about birds and factors that effect them; won't you help make this event even better by volunteering your help? People that like to teach and interact with adults & kids will definitely be needed. You can help to give out information, lead local birding trips, help kids make bird feeders and more! Come on out and help support the birds! If you like to have fun while helping others, please contact John Kiseda at the zoo at 521-1850.

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

If you are not currently active in the chapter, WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!! There are many ways that you can help YOUR local chapter become better, so please consider it as a new, Fun and Worthwhile endeavor for yourself! Contact Bob Johnson (phone 757-1876) for more information about the many, many different ways in which you can become involved in the chapter.

Birdathon 2000.....WE NEED YOU!!!

It is already time to begin work on this year's birdathon fundraiser & bird-finding event! Please help us continue to make a difference not only in our community, but beyond! We need fundraisers, publicity people, bird counters & counter sponsors. Contact Jane Fowler (phone 598-2448) or John Kiseda (533-4615), for more information.

Conservation Committee ...HELP

I am supposed to have put together a stalwart, hard-working committee to help the chapter plan and achieve its conservation goals, but as of yet this is still a committee of one. Many EP/TP board members and officers help out in many ways, but this active group is a very small one and is not getting any desperately needed "new blood". Please give me a call and let me know that you give a "darn" and want to help out! Without the good conservation work you can help perform for our community and our chapter, the coming year will not be as productive and fun as it could be. Contact John Kiseda in the evenings at 533-4615.

UPCOMING ZOO CONFERENCE

The El Paso Zoo will be hosting the American Zoo & Aquarium Association's Western Regional Conference during the April 5-8, 2000 time period. Much help will be needed in diverse aspects of conference planning, management and logistics (from leading bird watching trips, to being an AV aide at conference sessions, to helping be a zoo host on Zoo Day). Please contact Program Chair, John Kiseda, at 521-1850 for more information if you are willing to help out.

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Board of Directors

President	Bob Johnson	757-1876
V-President	John Kiseda	533-4615
President Elect	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
Secretary	****volunteer needed****	
Treasurer	Hugh Jameson	751-7952
	Craig Braginton	877-4138

Committee Chairs

Conservation	John Kiseda	533-4615
Education	Elizabeth Chase	591-5119
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	****volunteer needed****	
Membership	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Programs	Nancy Wilson	877-4600
Publications	Kathleen Whelen	751-2408
Publicity	Roxanne Schroeder	534-7019
Sanctuary	John Sproul	545-5157

About the Roadrunner:

Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. For further information, contact;

Bob Johnson: 757-1876

Kathleen Whelen: 751-2408 email: whelenk@aol.com

FEATHER LAKE NOTES

by, John Sproul

EIS FOR REGIONAL WATER PROJECT OUT SOON

IBIS NUMBERS BUILD AT FEATHER LAKE

Keep your fingers crossed. The low water levels at Feather Lake in February and early March created good roosting conditions for migrating White-faced Ibis. Their numbers increased throughout this period, and, by mid-March, over 1400 were returning to the lake each evening. If the habitat remains suitable, we could see even larger numbers in April.

The ibis return to the lake in the last hour before sunset. To see this spectacular display, visit our sanctuary on a Sunday afternoon when it is open to the public. Or come to Feather Lake for our special April 17 general meeting (see p. 1).

The visitor season at Feather Lake is winding down. The last day our sanctuary will be open before closing for the summer is Sunday, April 30. So far, the response to our request for volunteers to staff Feather Lake during visitor hours has been great: 25 folks have helped in this way. There are still a few dates available; please call Charles Simpson (598-2274) if you can help.

Our annual Breakfast at Feather Lake takes place Saturday, June 3. Join us at 8:30 a.m. for some of Bob Johnson's famous pancakes, then stick around for a few hours to help with sanctuary projects. If you've only seen Feather Lake in winter, you'll be surprised at how lush and green it is in summer.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's lower valley, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. It is open every Saturday, 8:00am to noon, and every Sunday, 2:00pm to dusk. Admission is free.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project is scheduled to be released in early April. This is the project intended to deliver Rio Grande water to El Paso, Las Cruces and other local communities year-round for municipal and industrial use. The project will play a central role in shaping the future of the Rio Grande in this region. One of the key questions still under discussion: To what extent will measures to improve the river ecosystem be incorporated into the project?

Current plans call for a 60-day comment period on the draft EIS. Public meetings to receive comments are tentatively scheduled for Las Cruces (May 2), Anthony (May 3) and El Paso (May 4). To get on the mailing list for the draft EIS, contact Mike Fahy, El Paso Water Utilities, P.O. Box 511, El Paso, TX 79961, (915) 594-5681.

Support Local Wildlife Conservation Organizations

The El Paso Herpetological Society

The El Paso Herpetology Society now meets at the El Paso Zoo on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. For more information contact Stella Ramirez at 751-3772 or Al Dominguez at 747-5844 or 566-3598.

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc. :

Board Meetings are all "open" meetings and held at the El Paso Environmental Center at 800 S. Piedras.

Visit the CDWR website at:
www.whc.net/cdwr

Visit the El Paso Zoo website at:
www.whc.net/epzoo

KEYSTONE MARSH

Contact: Carol Miller at 584-7088

Visit the KAPPA website at:
www.keystone-site.org

Breakfast at Feather Lake
Saturday, June 3, 2000 8:30am

Keystone Marsh

ENDANGERED STATUS FOR WESTERN YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO?

On February 17, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced it will conduct a status review of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo to determine if the species warrants listing as endangered. The status review is in response to a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity and 21 other groups requesting this listing based on major declines in cuckoo populations throughout the western United States. These declines are due to loss, degradation and fragmentation of the riparian-forest habitat on which the cuckoo depends in the western U.S.

In 1988, in response to a similar petition, the USFWS decided listing the cuckoo as endangered in California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Nevada was not warranted. It concluded that 1) western populations of the cuckoo were not a distinct subspecies from the more numerous eastern populations and 2) the petitioned area did not contain a distinct population segment of the species. According to the USFWS, though, the current petition presents enough evidence to support new investigation into whether listing all western cuckoo populations as an endangered subspecies or "distinct population segment" is warranted.

How does West Texas fit into this picture? There is divided opinion over whether the cuckoos nesting in Trans-Pecos Texas are part of the western or the eastern population. As part of the status review, the USFWS will be addressing this question.

The USFWS is now soliciting information on the taxonomic status, occurrence and distribution of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo to assist in its review. Submit data, information, comments or questions to: Field Supervisor, USFWS, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825. The deadline for submittals is April 17. For the Federal Register announcement initiating the status review: <http://endangered.fws.gov/frpubs/00feb.htm>

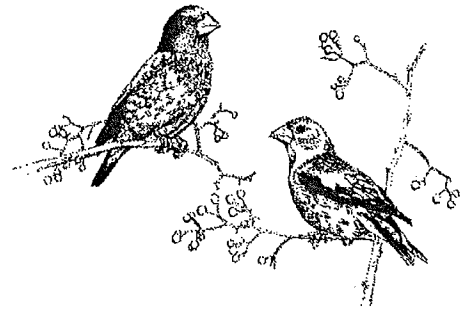
The marsh continues to maintain good water levels & approximately a dozen black-necked stilts, 100 + least sandpipers, and a good number of coots and killdeer are at the marsh!. On a recent field trip that included the marsh, a green heron and a number of snowy egrets, were also seen. The bufflehead ducks are still present in good numbers and are still going through wonderful courtship displays. Protection efforts for the wetlands & archaeological site continue, but nothing has yet been finalized. If you want to help with the efforts to preserve the Keystone Marsh & archeological site, contact Bernie Sargent at 581-7099 or Carol Miller at 584-7088. You can also check out their web site at www.keystone-site.org.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS

A call for your reports on bird sightings at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Keystone Marsh and the Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds: If you go birding at these sites, please contact me and let me know what birds you saw during your trips. I am still attempting to "add to" the bird checklists that have been compiled for these two areas & there are still many gaps in the lists. For example, I have not yet been able to document that anyone has seen a ladderback woodpecker or any species of oriole, towhee or goldfinch at Keystone Marsh & I would think that some of these birds should have been observed using this site. I have received information from only a very few people and am still in need of whatever information YOU may have! Please send me information that you have regarding bird species seen, the dates of the observations, the numbers of individuals of observed, etc. Contact John Kiseda in the evenings at 533-4615 (phone and fax).

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

With the "soft" arrival of this year's Spring season & the subsequent changes to "our world" (some birds have already nested, others are migrating through and we are going out more often to see & enjoy it all), I thought that it would be useful to post this reminder to all of us that have a passion for birds & nature, to be thoughtful as we enjoy their beauty & bounty! Enjoy! John K.



AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

We, the Membership of the American Birding Association, believe that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. We therefore pledge ourselves to provide leadership in meeting this obligation by adhering to the following general guidelines of good birding behavior.

I. Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.

- * Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
- * Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
- * Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not use these methods in heavily birded areas.
- * Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.
- * Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.

II. Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment.

- * Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
- * Leave all habitat as we found it.

III. Birders must always respect the rights of others.

- * Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
- * Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.
- * Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.
- * Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.

IV. Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.

- * Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
- * Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.
- * Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.
- * As group leaders, we will:
 - * Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
- * Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
- * Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquillity of others.
- * Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.

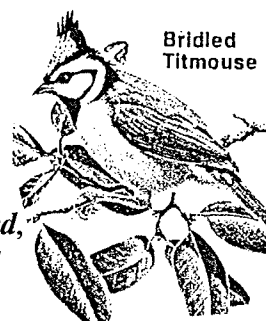
ON THE TRAIL

MEXICAN JAYS & PAINTED REDSTARTS



Gray Hawk

Southeast Arizona is one of the best birding locations in the country. Its deserts and mountains create a birding wonderland and combined with the closeness of subtropical Mexico allow for a diversity of birds found nowhere else in the USA.



Bridled Titmouse

We will concentrate on trying to find *Broad-billed, Violet-crowned, Magnificent, and White-eared HUMMINGBIRDS*. Also *Spotted Owl, Sulpher-bellied and Buff-breasted Flycatchers, Tropical, Thick-billed* and *Couch's Kingbird*. Most of these species are

found only in this Sky Island area of Southeastern Arizona. In addition we could see *Gray Hawk, Elegant Trogon, Bridled Titmouse, Bell's Vireo, and Abert's Towhee*. We will find the *Mexican Jay, Acorn and Gila Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird and Painted Redstart*.

This trip is going to take place on Memorial Day weekend, May 27, 28, and 29. Camping in the area is difficult (although some private RV parks are nearby) so most of us will stay at one of the many Motels in Sierra Vista. If you think you might like to take this trip contact, Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson (915) 757-1876, Email-bobwildbirderj@cs.com for itinerary, map and other details.

McNary Reservoir

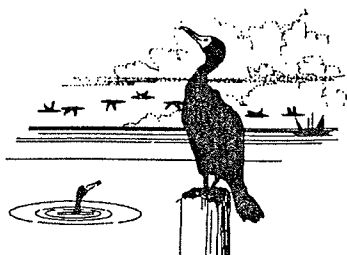
McNary, Fort Hancock, and Tornillo Reservoirs are always good for *Gulls, Ducks, White Pelicans, Egrets and Cormorants*. Quite a few species of passerines could also be present, along with some birds of prey which includes *Harris' Hawk* and *Swainson's Hawk*. Depending on time we might make a couple other stops

Date: **Sunday April 9, 2000**

Time: **7:39 AM**

Place: **Feather Lake**

Leader: John Sproul/Bob Johnson



HAWKS - WATER - DESERT BIRDS

A quick check of the birds found around the Wilderness Park Museum, these are *Cactus Wren, Curve-billed* and *Crissal Thrashers, Black-throated Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia, and Lark Bunting*. Then a trip through Hawk Alley to see a *Red-tailed Hawk* nest, some *Chihuahuan Raven* nests, and the *Swainson's Hawks* will be in by then and probably will have started nests. From the Alley on to Fort Bliss Ponds for migrating waders and other water birds. Possible are *Blue-winged* and *Cinamon Teal, Northern Shoveler, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellowlegs, American Avocets* and *Wilson's Phalaropes*. Resident birds that will be present are *Killdeer, Common Moorhen, Red-winged Blackbirds* and *Logger-head Shrike*.

Date: **April 22, 2000**

Time: **7:45 AM**

Place: **North side Walmart Parking Lot. 4530 Transmountain Road.**

Leader: Bob Johnson

Continued on page 9

OBSERVATIONS

September 16, 1999 to March 15, 2000

Uncommon, Rare, and Very Rare sightings

A very rare sighting has the full entry italicized, bold and underlined. Some of the listings may not be considered **RARE**, but because of the season or habitat the date and/or location will be **bold** and **underlined**. The listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition, October 1987. Leave sightings at (757-1876) Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson.

Observers: Mary Lou Alcorn, Helen Bigalow, Mary Bowman, Jane Fowler, Madaline Gavit, Harvette Green, Jess Groff, Jewel Hewet, Sallie Homan, Mary Homsley, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, John Kiseda, Kathy Kiseda, Dave Kruzich, Jim Paton, Flora Pitard, Gordon Robertstad, Patricia Russell, John Sproul, John White, James Zabreski, Barry Zimmer.

LOCATIONS: Ant-Anthony; Ang-Angora; Ary-Arroyo Park; Art-Artcraft; Can-Canutillo; CEP-Central El Paso; Cor-Coronado; Emy-Emory; EEP-East El Paso; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; FBC-Fort Bliss Cemetary; FHc-Fort Hancock; FLk-Feather Lake; Hor-Horizon City; HTK-Hueco Tanks; Kil-Kilkenny; Mul-Mulberry; McN-McNary Reservoir; Mon-Montoya; McT-McNutt; NEE-North East El Paso; NSt-North Stanton; NPk-North Park; Own-Owens; Pdm-Piedmont; R28-NM Route 28; RBn-River Bend; RBq-Rio Bosque Park; STA-Santa Teresa Area; SRS-Stan Roberts Sr. Drive; Tor-Tornillo; Thn-Thorn; WCt-West Cottonwood Spring; Xrds-Crossroads (Doniphan/Mesa); XMt-Transmountain Road.

LOONS thru MERGANSERS

Common Loon	11/24	MB	EEP
Western Grebe	Var.	JS	FLk
	12/1	BZ	McN
White Pelican	12/1	BZ	McN
	1/8	JS	FLk
White-faced Ibis	1/8	JS	FLk
Snow Goose	2/21	BJ	FBP
Ross's Goose	12/1	BZ	FHc
Wood Duck	9/25	JK-ft	XRd
	10/18	MG-yd	Hor
	10/30	JS	RBq
<u>Black Scoter (F)</u>	<u>11/23</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>Tor</u>
Common Merganser	12/1	BZ	McN
Red-brstd Merganser	11/21	JS	FLk
	12/1	BZ	McN

CRANES to PARROTS

Sandhill Crane (Fly over)	Var(Oct)	JS	RBq
(3)	12/2	JS	RBq
Black-necked Stilt	Var	JS	FLk
American Avocet	Var	JS	FLk
Marbled Godwit	11/7	JS	RBq
	12/18	JP	RBn
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/17	BZ	FBP
Red-necked Phalarope	9/17	BZ	FBP
Bonapart's Gull	11/23	BZ	McN
Red-crowned Parrot	11/3	GR-yd	Emy
	3/6	MLA-yd	Emy

OSPREY thru FALCONS

Osprey	9/29	JS	RBq
	12/1	BZ	McN
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10/20	HB	Ant
Black Hawk	10/7	SH	R28
Harris' Hawk	Var	JS	RBq
	11/30	BZ	FBP
Rough-legged Hawk	1/16	LJ	FBP
Golden Eagle	3/11	BJ	SRS
Merlin	11/30	BZ	FBP
	1/29	JK	Ary
Peregrine Falcon	Var	JS	RBq
	10/5	SS	CEP
	11/23	BZ	Tor
Prairie Falcon	10/4	JS	RBq
	2/16	BJ	SRS

OWLS thru HUMMINGBIRDS

Burrowing Owl	10/10	SH	Thn
Long-eared Owl	1/1	BJ	HTK
Broad-billed Hummingbird	12/1	BZ	Pdm
Blue-throated Hummingbird	11/1	MLA-	Emy
	1/23	JK-yd	NSt
Anna's Hummingbird	10/11	PR-yd	STA
	10/15	KK-yd	NSt
Calliope Hummingbird	10-6	HG	Mul
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	12/18	DK	NPk

Continued on page 9

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Mary Lou, Lois, and Bob are going to Lajitas, purpose to enjoy the birds of the Big Bend area. This will be with the TOS at their Spring Conference. All hope to see the Colima Warbler this time. This will occur on April 27, 28, and 29. If anyone wants to tag along call Bob 757-1876 or Mary Lou 584-8768.

BIRDATHON

Don't forget the BIRDATHON, May 6/7 See insert

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Saturday May 13 is the actual day to count migratory birds. The activities at the zoo (see article elsewhere in this issue) on May 20 is to promote knowledge of them. This will be the Ninth Annual North American Migration Count. The count data is kept like the Christmas Count, in that total number of birds by specie are recorded. The difference is that areas are not restricted, just keep your numbers by county. The NAMC collects no dues. You do not have to join, only participate. THERE ARE NO FEES. Call any Board member for details.

FRIENDS OF HUECO TANKS

(A volunteer support group to help the Park)

Entry fee to Hueco Tanks State Historical Park is \$4.
\$2 for Seniors 65 and over, children under 12 free.

APRIL

Rock Art Tours every Sat & Sun at 10AM and 2PM.
Bird Identification Tour - Sun April 16 - 8AM.

MAY

Rock Art Tours every Sat & Sun at 9AM and 11AM.
Bird Identification Tour - Sun May 21 - 7AM.

RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED

Telephone 857-1135

WOODPECKERS to WRENS

Acorn Woodpecker	10/16	JW-yd	MNT
	2/6	JK	Cor
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11/27	BZ-yd	Ang
	12/18	JS-CBC	Art
Red-naped Sapsucker	9/30	JG-yd	NEE
	11/21	BJ	HTk
Eastern Phoebe	11/21	BJ	HTk
Cassin's Kingbird	9/22	JS	RBq
Scrub Jay	Var	Mob	Ary
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12/31	KK-yd	NSt
Brown Creeper	10-28	KK-yd	NSt
House Wren	9/30	JG-yd	NEE

GNATCATCHERS thru THRASHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1/15	JF	Ary
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	12/18	JS-CBC	XMT
Western Bluebird	11/26	JP	Mon
	12/18	BJ-CBC	FBC
	12/18	JS-CBC	WCT
Hermit Thrush	9/29	JF-yd	Kil
	10/15	KK-yd	NSt
Sage Thrasher	11/26	BZ	Ow
	1/1	BJ	HTk
Brown Thrasher	1/19	LJ	Ary
	3/13	BJ	Ary

VIREOS thru WARBLERS

Cassin's Vireo	9/17	BZ	FBP
Hutton's Vireo	11/26	JP	Mon
	12/18	JP	Mon
Orange-crowned Warbler	Var	PR	STA
	1/25	MG-yd	Hor
Virginia's Warbler	2/6	MLA-yd	Emy
Northern Parula	11/26	JP	Mon
	12/18	JP	Mon
Chesnut-sided Warbler	11/26	JP	Mon
	12/18	JP	Mon
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10/8	JG-yd	NEE
Prothonotary Warbler	9/17	BZ	FBP
	9/28	JZ	Can
Worm Eating Warbler	10/13	JG-yd	NEE
MacGillivray's Warbler	9/30	JG-yd	NEE
Common Yellowthroat	1/16	LJ	FBP

CARDINAL to SISKIN

Northern Cardinal	11/26	BZ	Mon
Pyrrhuloxia	11/29	JH-yd	NEE
Lazuli Bunting	9/17	BZ	FBP
Painted Bunting	9/17	BZ	FBP
Spotted Towhee	9/30	JG-yd	NEE
Black-chinned Sparrow	11/21	BJ	HTk
White-throated Sparrow	10/13	MG-yd	Hor
	11/30	BZ	FBP
Pine Siskin	11/13	MH	CEP

EP AUDUBON WEB SITE

Check it out at:

<http://www.whc.net/cdwr/tpashome.htm>

There is information for our chapter about upcoming events, Feather Lake, local birding, and links to other web sites of ornithological interest in Texas and New Mexico. There are other possible improvements; e-mail us your ideas through the web site.



Dates to Remember

See page 7 for details

April

Sun. Apr. 9 - McNary Reservoir
Mon. Apr. 10 - Board Meeting
Mon. Apr. 17 - General Meeting
Sat. Apr. 22 - NE Desert Birds

May

May 6 & 7 - Birdathon
Mon. May 8 - Board Meeting
Sat. May 13 - I MBird Day
Mon. May 15 - Board Meeting
May 27, 28 & 29 - Southeast Arizona

Friends of Hueco Tanks (see p.9)

Rock Art Tours

Every Sat & Sun 10:00am & 2:00am

Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks

Bird Identification Tours & Slide Show Presentations

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

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001

Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

W10

Local Chapter Code

7XCHA

The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to whelenk@aol.com or mail to 9856 Sidewinder St. El Paso, Texas 79924. Publication is assisted by Eastwood Heights Elementary Junior Audubon Society Club students.
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El Paso, Texas 79995

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It's Time to BIRDATHON! Audubon's Birdathon! 2000

Birdathon counters are already "in training & pumping-up", preparing for Birdathon 2000! What is Birdathon? One thing is sure, it's not your average bird count or fund-raiser!

Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation & education programs.

Birdathon! 2000 will occur on May 6th & 7th & we hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding throughout the El Paso area by **being a sponsor and possibly even a counter (if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" by becoming a birdathoner yourself, contact John Kiseda at 533-4615 for details).**

Birdathon! 2000 will benefit the following programs and projects:

EDUCATION. Birdathon is the main source of funding used in support of our Audubon Adventures youth program and our other conservation education endeavors such as those at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PROJECT. UTEP has continued to make progress with this project and an ~ 300 acre seasonal wetlands now exists in this previously neglected city "park". We need to demonstrate our continued support for this exciting and unique El Paso venture by providing UTEP with "local" funds to establish education and public information programs about this project.

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK. K.H.P. Inc. has made amazing progress with this preservation project! The ambitious plans to conserve and enhance the remnant native habitat (which includes a very productive marsh and its wildlife residents), and an important archaeological site, are becoming a reality! We need to demonstrate our continued support for this extraordinary local effort by providing K.H.P. Inc. with funds to aid them in retaining over a million dollars in promised grant money.

TEXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY. Our support helps to ensure that this NAS office based in Texas can be an effective, respected voice for the Texas (& especially our West Texas) environment.

How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of **May 6-7**, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy (some might say foolhardy) & intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day afield, for the chance to collect meaningful data for a nationwide census project, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment.** Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will see 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30.

Fully 95% of Birdathon income goes to projects; 5% pays for fundraising costs (printing, paper, postage, etc.).

As usual, all Birdathon sponsors are automatically entered in our ever-popular drawings for a number of wonderful prizes such as binoculars, books and the like. Counters will also be eligible for some cool prizes.

So, whom can you sponsor for Birdathon? Last year's roster of outstanding counters were a hardy and dedicated bunch, most of whom have been involved in a number of Birdathons. If you supported one of these people last year, give them a call if you are not yet sure if they will be a counter this year. If you don't want to pick your own counter to sponsor, call Jane Fowler at 598-2448, and she will help you to do that!

We anticipate that most of these hardworking people will surely be back at it "fighting the good fight" this year and ready to do their all for the Birdathon! 2000; **HOW ABOUT YOU? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?**

Birdathon Stalwarts: The Counters

Mary Lou Alcorn
 Berttye Barnhart
 Matt Bingham
 Paul Bingham
 Mary Bradley
 Craig Braginton

Elizabeth Chase
 Tara Ditlevson
 Betty & Weldon Fisbeck
 Jane Fowler
 Richard Hermosilla
 Sallie Homan

Bob Johnson
 John Kiseda
 Peggy & George Laswell
 Mark Riede
 Susie Schneider
 Marcy Scott

Charles Simpson
 John Sproul
 Kathy Whelen
 Nancy Wilson
 James Zabriskie

and Special Student Counters from Clarke Middle School
 & Eastwood Heights Elementary School

Please pick one or more and give them your support!

Pot-luck Dinner.

The prize drawings will take place at our annual post-Birdathon pot-luck. It will start at 6 PM on Sunday May 7th, at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park in El Paso. Reports of the weekend's best birds, great food and the results of our prize drawings await you! How about joining us? **ALL ARE INVITED!!!**

Whether it's \$.25 per species, \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a Birdathon pledge. Have you already made your Birdathon 2000 pledge? **Excellent!** If not, please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed card today. Your support makes the work Audubon does, possible. **Thank you very much, for your generosity and support!**

Sincerely,

John Kiseda & Jane Fowler
 Birdathon Coordinators

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

BIRDATHON! 2000

YES! I'll sponsor _____
 for \$ _____ per species for each species
 s/he finds on the Birdathon.

From _____

I'll sponsor _____ for a flat
 \$ _____.

Address _____

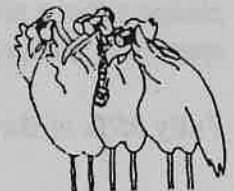
I will add a bonus of \$ _____ if my
 counter sees a _____.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

My tax deductible gift of \$ _____
 sponsoring _____
 is enclosed, payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos
 Audubon Society.

Please clip & return this form by May 1st to:
 Birdathon! 2000
 c/o Jane Fowler
 3212 Kilkenny El Paso, TX 79925



Thank you for your Generous Birdathon pledge!

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.