

# The Roadrunner



Volume 18 (8)

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Dec 1988-Jan 1989

## GENERAL MEETING

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society meets the third Monday of each month (Sept - May) at 7:30 PM in the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park. Visitors are welcome. [Please note that both board and general meetings for Dec have been moved forward a week to prevent conflicts with your holiday festivities.]

MON., DEC 12. For an old-fashioned good time, come to the early Christmas party and stupendous Bird Calling Contest. Prizes galore! Surprises! (1--a short film) You won't even want to go home. Bring the entire family.

Also, there will be a planning meeting for the chapter's Christmas Bird Counts. (See article on CBC's p. 5).

MON., JAN 16. BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA presented by Dolores Stafford. Mrs. Stafford, an exchange teacher from the Socorro Independent School District, lived in Port Lincoln, Australia for a year. The collection of slides that she plans to share with us was a farewell gift from Collin Gil, an expert wildlife photographer and a member of her host family. Don't miss this top-notch program from the land down under.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you, John Peterson, for your intriguing and educational presentation on the Mexican Spotted Owl. We have received many compliments on your program since the Oct meeting. Hopefully you will be able to come back again with a follow-up report on the crusade to save this beautiful owl.



Dear Ray (Waite) photographer, Bob (Johnson) fearless leader, Bart (Rumaker) entertainer, Anne (Hussmann) restaurateur, and Nancy (Wilson) philosopher:

Thank you for a beautiful slides-eye view of our lower Rio Grande Valley and Big Bend Nat'l Park. It was a super program enjoyed by all, and it brought back many happy memories.

## Program Chair

Ed note: As an added surprise at the Nov meeting, Anne and Nancy were presented awards for their heroic action during this trip---plunging into the water at Padre Island to free a Laughing Gull tangled in fishing line.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., DEC 5, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Anne Hussmann, 533 Stonebluff (584-4081). All members are welcome.

MON., JAN 9, 1989, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Larry Jordan, 732 Brisa Del Mar (833-5969).

## ORGANIZATION DAYS AT FEATHER LAKE

December 11

January 14

February 11



Remember folks, Feather Lake is now open every Sun, 3:30 PM until sunset, and on the 1st and 3rd Sat of each month from 8-11 AM. This schedule will continue through the end of April. The sanctuary will not be open on weekends of major holidays.

## FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

## BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

SAT.-SUN., DEC. 3-4. One of our most popular trips each year---with good reason. We should see Whooping Cranes, thousands of Sandhill Cranes and the early morning liftoff of Snow Geese in the tens of thousands. One of the refuge staff will lead us on a special tour into areas that are customarily closed to visitors. The Bird Watchers RV Park is located just outside the refuge for those wishing to camp; several good motels [Best Western (800) 528-1234, Motel 6 (505) 835-4300 and Del Camino (505) 835-1500] are located in Socorro, only 15 miles away, for the less hardy. Meet at 7:45 AM on Sat, Dec 3, at I-10 and Transmountain Rd. or at refuge hq. at 11:30 AM. Please call leaders Anne Hussmann (584-4081) or Nancy Wilson (833-3907) if you plan to go; they need a head count for the tour.

## RIO BOSQUE PARK

SUN., JAN. 8. A lower valley hot spot. Meet at Feather Lake (9500 N. Loop) at 8 AM. Gloria Basden is the leader (581-7432).

## HUECO TANKS

SAT., JAN. 21. We could see a Great Horned Owl, thrashers (Sage?) and winter sparrows in this most scenic area. Meet at Avila's restaurant (10600 Montana at Yarbrough) at 8 AM. Leader: Debbie Johnson (593-5442).

## UPPER VALLEY

SUN., JAN. 29. A good area for wintering birds; Red Crossbills and Red-breasted Nuthatches are possibilities. Meet at 8 AM at the Crossroads Pond (Doniphan and Country Club). Ann Schultis will lead this one (584-7382).

## FT. BLISS PONDS

SAT., FEB. 4. For good year-round birding, this is the place to go locally. We always see a variety of birds, sometimes unexpected ones. Meet at Furniture Country (formerly Furrows, 4801 Fred Wilson) at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bob Johnson (751-0125, 757-1876).

## "A NIGHT TO REMEMBER"

AWARDS BANQUET and ANNUAL MEETING--Sun, Feb 19, 1989, at the Coronado Country Club, 1044 Broadmoor, 6 PM. Buffet dinner to include 4 entrees, choice vegetables, several salads, and delicious desserts. Wine is included with your meal, plus a cash bar will be available. The price is \$15. Please make reservations by sending your check, payable to Anne M. Hussmann, to Anne at 533 Stonebluff, El Paso (79912) by the deadline, FEB 9.

At this event we'll install new officers for 1989-90, recognize outgoing officers and directors, and present 2 important awards, our Meretorious Service and Conservation Achievement awards. The Meretorious Service Award recognizes chapter members who, through devotion of time, effort and expertise, have made outstanding contributions to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon and its programs. The Conservation Achievement Award recognizes government officials, civic organizations, businesses or individuals outside the chapter for specific achievements that have furthered the Audubon Cause in Trans-Pecos Texas.

To top off the evening, Helen Bigelow and Jim Koschmann will give us a special presentation on the art and science of caring for injured wildlife. They'll also talk about the role Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue (see p. 3) will be playing in supporting wildlife rehabilitation work in the El Paso area.

Nominations are still open for our 2 awards. We welcome your suggestions. Please submit nominations to Tom Baker (958 Kelso, El Paso 79932, phone 877-3365), then join us Feb 19 for a very special evening.

If you have questions about the Awards Banquet or want more info, call Anne (584-4081) or Nancy Wilson (833-3907).

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT WILDLIFE RESCUE  
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue (CDWR), the new group supporting local wildlife rehabilitators, will hold its first Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Jan 10 in the board room of the El Paso Zoo, Evergreen at Paisano, beginning at 7:30 PM. You are cordially invited to attend.

Approval of bylaws and election of officers and directors will be the main orders of business, as CDWR gets ready for its first full year of operation. Membership in CDWR is open to anyone interested in furthering the organization's purposes:

- To support efforts to rescue and rehabilitate native wildlife.
- To provide education and instruction in wildlife rehabilitation.
- To stimulate awareness of wildlife conservation problems and explore means of solving them.
- To encourage and support scientific investigations relating to rehabilitation and conservation of native wildlife and its habitats.

Membership categories are: Individual/\$10, Family/\$15, Contributing/over \$15. Please send checks, payable to "Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue", to Joyce Davis, Treasurer, CDWR, 200 N. Mesa Hills Dr. #1505, El Paso, TX 79912.

Our chapter recently contributed \$1286 to CDWR, most of it raised specifically for this purpose through our 1987 Birdathon. We want CDWR to get off to a great start, and we're hoping you do, too.

1989 EP/TPAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Audubon Ecology Camp sessions, held each summer in Wyoming, Maine and Connecticut, are something special. They are fun, they're challenging, they take place in beautiful settings, and they'll give you a whole new perspective on the world of nature and our place in it.

Great for anyone, Audubon Ecology Camps are especially worthwhile for teachers and other educators. Our chapter's scholarship program, now entering its 3rd year, gives Trans-Pecos educators an opportunity to attend these camps and thereby increase their environmental education skills. They can then better inspire others in our community to understand, enjoy and protect the world around us.

If you are a teacher, scout leader, zoo docent or are otherwise active as an educator, or if you are a student pursuing a career in education, you're invited to apply for a 1989 Audubon Ecology Camp scholarship. If you know someone you think would be a good candidate, let them know about our scholarship program and encourage them to apply. The deadline for applications is March 1, 1989. For an application form, contact Jeanne French, 10925-B Sagebrush, El Paso, TX 79936 (915/592-1660) or John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25, El Paso, TX 79902 (915/545-5157).

Even if you aren't eligible for a scholarship, you may still be interested in Audubon Ecology Camps. If so, contact Jeanne or John, and they'll be glad to send you a brochure. /John Sproul/

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

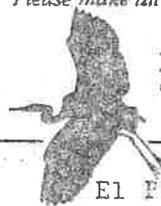
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.

Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society**  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001 • Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001  
LOCAL CHAPTER



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

W10  
Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA

1989 OUTDOOR FILM SERIES SET

From the Rocky Mountain high country, to Sri Lanka, to New Zealand, to the U.S.-Mexican borderlands, we're going to show you the world in 1989, the world of nature. We're most pleased to be co-sponsoring with the El Paso Zoological Society a series of 4 excellent outdoor films, each personally narrated by a well-known photographer/naturalist. The schedule:

- Mon., Jan. 30. HIGH COUNTRY. Join John P. Wilson for a look at the land near and above timberline -- the geology, the flora, the scenery, the wildlife, the wilderness of the Rocky Mountain high country.
- Tues., Feb. 21. NATURAL WONDERS OF CEYLON. The island nation of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) in the Indian Ocean will be Jerzy Grabowski's subject. You'll visit game parks, tropical beaches, jungle, mountain high country and the remains of great civilizations.
- Mon., Apr. 3. SUMMER IN KIWI LAND. Native New Zealander Grant Foster will introduce the people and wildlife of his homeland. Kiwis, wekas and keas will be among the many stars of the show. Wekas? Keas? Be there Apr 3 and find out for yourself.
- Wed., Apr. 26. NATURE ALONG THE MEXICAN BORDER. From Baja California to the Gulf of Mexico, we'll explore the borderlands with Dick Massey. You'll see many places you recognize, and many you'll want to know better.

All films will be shown at the El Paso Civic Center. For Zoological Society or Audubon members, season tickets are \$16 for adults, \$8 for children. For non-members, they are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Tickets for individual films can also be purchased. You can get tickets at upcoming Audubon meetings, at the Zoo Cart in Cielo Vista Mall (through Dec. 31) or by sending a check to the El Paso Zoological Society (P.O. Box 10628, El Paso 79996). For more information, call 532-8156.

TEXAS NONGAME STAMP/DECAL

There are a lot of Texans depending on the Nongame Wildlife and Endangered Species Program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD) -- some 135 species of mammals, 540 birds, 144 reptiles, 60 amphibians and 214 fishes, to name a few. Conservation of this rich wildlife resource is a big job, but the Nongame Program has only a small budget. Can you help? Sure! Make an investment in Texas wildlife: Buy a Texas Nongame Stamp or Decal. Stamps are available now; decals should be available in January. When you buy these items, you are contributing directly to TPWD's Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund, used solely to provide needed supplemental support to the Nongame and Endangered Species Program.



Are nongame wildlife and endangered species important Texas resources? You bet! So help ensure their future: buy a TEXAS NONGAME STAMP or DECAL. You'll be contributing directly to the nongame and endangered species conservation efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

	Qty.	Each	Total
1988 Nongame Stamp		\$5	
1988 Nongame Decal (front adhesive)		\$5	
1988 Nongame Decal (back adhesive)		\$5	
Amt. Enclosed			

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
 El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986

## OBSERVATIONS

(uncommon, rare &amp; accidental sightings)

September 19 - November 11

AP - Alum Park  
 CP - Crossroads Pond  
 FB - Ft. Bliss Ponds  
 FL - Feather Lake  
 H - Horizon City  
 HT - Hueco Tanks  
 LA - Lombardy Ave.  
 Ow - Owen's  
 RP - Randel's Pool

Sightings by a field trip member are noted by "+" after the leader's initials. Sightings in an observer's yard are indicated by an "\*" before his/her initials.

## LOONS - FALCONS

A Green-backed Heron was seen at FL 9/24 (JD) and 10/30 (JS). Black-crowned Night-Herons were found at RP 9/25 (LJ+) and at FL from 10/16 - 11/5 (JS). Cattle Egrets were reported at FL 11/5 (JS). An imm. White-faced Ibis was spotted near Ow 10/9 (SJD,JD). A female Wood Duck was seen at RP 9/25 (LJ+). Three Ospreys were seen at FL 9/24 (JD+); at least one but often two were seen 9/27 - 10/30 (JF,JN,JS).

## QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Lesser Yellowlegs were reported at FL 10/23, 10/30 (JS). Long-billed Dowitchers were found at FL 10/30 (JS). Common Snipe were reported at FL 10/30, 11/5 (JS). A close look at a Bonaparte's Gull at FB 10/29 by DT. BR reported 3 Common Terns on 9/15 and 4 Forster's Terns 9/16 at Pico Norte Pond. An early Anna's Hummingbird was seen in e. El Paso 9/14 (BR+). A Belted Kingfisher was seen at AP 9/16 (BR).

## FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at RP 9/25 (LJ+). Six Tree Swallows were seen at AP 9/15 (BR). A Mountain Chickadee was spotted on LA 11/5 (JD). Curve-billed Thrashers were reported at Ow 9/25 (LJ+) and 10/15 (SJD+). Phainopeplas were found at RP 9/25 (LJ+) and 10/15 (SJD+).

## WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A Common Yellowthroat was found at FL 10/30 (JS). Rufous-sided Towhees were seen in e. El Paso 9/16 (\*BR), at H 9/20 (\*M&AG), and at RP 10/30 (JD). A flock of Lark Buntings

was seen at HT 10/8 (AA). A pair of Scott's Orioles was found at Ow 10/9 (SJD,JD) and 10/15 (SJD+). Large numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen gathering at FL 10/16 - 11/5 (JS). A Pine Siskin was spotted in H 9/20 (\*A&MG).

OBSERVERS: Art Arteaga, Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Al & Madeline Gavit, Larry Jordan, Jo Nagel, Bettie Roberts, John Sproul, Dennis Taylor.  
 /Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/  
 (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w).

## AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS FALL MEETING

Coastal Bend Audubon Society did itself proud hosting the Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) in Corpus Christi on Nov 18-20. Good food, classy meeting facilities (at the Welder Wildlife Refuge), good birding (e.g. Roseate Spoonbills, Crested Caracara, Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Cranes; American Oystercatchers) and friendly hosts all made for a fine weekend. During the meeting, ACT:

- approved by-laws changes expanding the size of ACT's board of directors, making the regionally selected Natl. Audubon Society board member (if a Texan) a member of ACT and its board, and making the Natl. Audubon staff's slot on ACT and its board an ex officio position.

- elected 1988-89 officers and at-large board members. Jean Lauder (Frontera A.S.) is ACT's new president, Missy Jackson (Travis A.S.) is vice-president, John Sproul (El Paso/Trans-Pecos A.S.) secretary and Bill Schmidt (Coastal Bend A.S.) treasurer. At-large board members are Edith Hoyt (Dallas Co. A.S.), Dan Jones (Huntsville A.S.) and Thelma Nungesser (Bexar A.S.).

- discussed fund-raising needs for the year ahead. ACT committed once again to raise through its chapters the salary and fringe benefits for Audubon's southwest regional representative.

(cont. on p. 7)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Bob Johnson (751-0125 h, 757-1876 w) will compile the El Paso count scheduled for Dec 17, and Joyce Davis (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w) is compiler for the Hueco Tanks count slated for Dec 31. The compilers will assign leaders (who enlist supporting team members) to cover given sectors in the count areas. Leaders and their teams will fan out and spend the day counting as many birds as possible in their designated areas. Novices and newcomers are welcome to join a team and sharpen their birding skills. All participants are asked to pay a \$4.00 fee for each count which helps defray cost of printing the CBC results in AMERICAN BIRDS.

On Jan 2, we'll have a pot-luck dinner at the Garden Center which will be open at 5:30 PM; we'll have dinner at 6 PM. In addition to enjoying good food and good company, we will record the data participants have gathered from the 2 counts.

If you live within the EP count circle, but can't get out on Dec 17, you can help by recording the birds seen in your yard. The Am. Robin or Cedar Waxwing in your yard may be the only one found that day. Also record your sightings 3 days preceding and 3 days following count day; we can report a sighting as occurring during count week provided the bird is not seen on Dec 17. Call Bob for more details if you plan to be a yard counter. If you wish to take part in the counts, but are unable to attend the planning meeting Dec 12, contact Bob or Joyce.

## WHO SAID THE ELECTIONS WERE OVER?

With chapter elections set to take place in January, our Nominating Committee of Helen Barto (755-4744), Betty and John Bowen (584-6750) and Betty Pagel (772-2686) is seeking your suggestions for candidates for the following positions: vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 3 directors. Please contact any committee member with your ideas.



## THE ROADRUNNER

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Publications Chair - Sarah Jane Dodds

Publisher - Mary L. Bradley

Editor - Jane Fowler

When you join the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of the chapter in your area. El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society meets on the 3rd Monday of each month (Sept - May) in the Garden Center, 3105 Grant. THE ROADRUNNER is published at least 6 times per year and is sent to all chapter members. Nonmembers can subscribe for \$4 per year. Make check payable to EPTPAS and mail to RR Editor at address above. Also, please send us any changes or corrections in your name or address.

## DONATIONS

We wish to thank former members Tanya and Bill Hoppes for their recent donation to the chapter. The couple, and son William, now reside in Bluemont, Va. They are expecting a second little Hoppes in February. Congratulations!

## MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

According to NAS President Peter Berle there will be an increase in dues to begin with memberships which expire in Feb '89. "This is necessary to keep our budget in balance and is occasioned in part by inflationary increases in the cost of paper, postage, salaries, etc. which average about 5% per year." There will be a transition period before the new dues structure is implemented.

Dues for Family members currently at \$38 or higher will remain the same.

Dues for Senior Citizen members at \$21 and \$23 will remain the same.

New members who joined at the special \$20 introductory rate will be asked to renew at \$30.

Current members at \$30 will be asked to renew at \$35.

The \$16 Publisher's Clearing House introductory membership offer is discontinued.

(ACT cont.)

- discussed priority conservation issues. Of particular interest to our chapter: a proposal to build a powerline across the Rio Grande within Big Bend Natl. Park; management plans for the 215,000-acre Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area in Presidio and Brewster counties, acquired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. last summer; and ill-conceived proposed legislation that would prevent future acquisitions such as Big Bend Ranch by restricting state park and natural area acquisitions to urban centers.
- accepted the invitation of Travis Audubon to meet next in Austin on May 5-7.  
/John Sproul/

#### CANADIAN SHRIKES BANDED

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is undertaking studies to gather more information on the Loggerhead Shrike whose numbers have been severely reduced on its northern and eastern breeding ranges to such an extent that it has been classified as "threatened". Edmund S. Telfer, Research Scientist for CWS, informs us that it would be very helpful "to know where the birds winter so that we can assess the impact that changing conditions on the winter range may be having on the species." A thousand nestlings were color banded this past summer; shrikes from Manitoba have red bands, eastern Saskatchewan, blue and western Saskatchewan, yellow. Birds from Alberta have white bands. Keep a sharp eye for banded Loggerhead Shrikes. If you see any, please note the color of the band, area where the shrike was seen and the date of the sighting. Give this info to Bob Johnson (751-0125), and he will pass it on to Mr. Telfer.

#### RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS

Our Nov 6 rummage sale raised \$380 for the chapter treasury. Thanks to all who donated items for the sale, and a BIG Texas hug to Tom and Ginny Baker, Jean Coyle, Jane Fowler, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Bart Rumaker, Sid Shepperd and John Sproul for moving rummage to the flea market site and for being such super salesmen. And just in case you're doing some winter house cleaning or plan to in the spring,

would you save any castoffs or saleable items for our '89 sale. It's never too early to start. If you would like anything picked up and stored, call Larry Jordan (833-5969) or Bob Johnson (751-0125, 757-1876).

#### GRAY RANCH A TOP AUDUBON PRIORITY IN NEW MEXICO

A remarkable opportunity exists right now for creation of a superb new national wildlife refuge in southwestern New Mexico. Realizing that opportunity is a top priority for New Mexico Audubon chapters.

Gray Ranch is a 320,000+ acre ranch located in the bootheel of New Mexico in Hildago County. It is an area of majestic beauty and tremendous biological diversity. Its unique geographic setting provides habitat for the greatest variety of plants and animals found anywhere in New Mexico and perhaps the Southwest. It is an area well worth protection for all people.

The ranch is on the market, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants very much to acquire it, but congressional authorization will be necessary. New Mexico conservationists hope Congress will appropriate funds next year for a Gray Ranch acquisition. Let Rep. Ron Coleman and Senators Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm know you support funding for such an acquisition.

The thought of protecting 300,000+ acres of some of the most biologically rich habitat in the country is indeed exciting and a cause that deserves Audubon's attention. With some committed effort on our part, by this time next year Gray Ranch will have joined the ranks of the truly wonderful wildlife areas in this country, areas like the Bosque del Apache and the spectacular birding areas of southeastern Arizona.

(cont. on p. 8)



(Gray Ranch cont.)

For more information about Gray Ranch and how you can help, contact the Randall Davey Audubon Center, P.O. Box 9314, Santa Fe, NM 87504-9314 (505/983-4609).

[news from the New Mexico State Office]

#### NEW MEMBERS

EPTPAS welcomes these new members:

October

Lynwood J. Boyer, Mr. & Mrs. James Bryant, L.e. & Joan Duncan, Marie W. Fischer, Ms. Mildred L. Fulks, Julia R. Gedaly, Mickey Havens, Judith Lopez, Edward J. Mantzey & family, Tricia Tague Miller, Sue. B. Peterson, Raul R. Ramirez, Susan Schneider, Mrs. Arthur Simmons, Jim R. Waddle, Jody D. Davila, Sally Jameson, Dr. Evret C. Newman, Donna O'Leary, Shirley A. Osborne, W. H. Peters, Jr., Sylvia B. Taylor.

November

Beryl T. Baker, Ms. Jeannette Clack, R. Galick, Virgil C. Holt, Jerry Luebke, J. T. Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Seward, Don St.Germain, John C. Naber.  
Transfer in: Geth and Ed White

#### GOOD COOKIES

So many of you wanted Jo Nagel's recipe for cookies that she brought to the Nov general meeting, we are including it in this issue. Just in time for Christmas goodies.

##### Sara's Graham Crackers

Break graham crackers into single sections and place closely together on cookie sheet (be certain to use a cookie sheet with sides, Jo says).

Boil for 2 minutes and spoon over crackers:

- 2 sticks margarine
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Bake for 10 minutes at 350°. Makes about 4½ dozen.



## AUDUBON and Activism Work for Each Other

Readers of *Audubon* usually enjoy the magazine's beauty and the elegance with which it presents environmental topics. But activists should not forget that the magazine is also one of the finest political tools available. During the past year alone, the magazine has run more than a dozen articles focusing on the National Audubon Society's High Priority Campaigns, including six on wetlands, two on acid rain, and three on old-growth forests. The entire May issue was devoted to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The magazine also covered a broad array of other topics of NAS concern, including pesticides and international issues.

*Audubon* does more than provide nicely packaged information, however. It is also a vital tool for effecting change. For example, Washington lobbyists used the May issue on the Arctic Refuge to reach Capitol Hill, and the magazine's thorough analysis of the financial loss that clearcutting of Alaska's Tongass National Forest means to the federal government was bound to recruit budget-conscious congresspeople into the environmental camp.

Look for the upcoming March issue focusing on the world's oceans, and a spring issue about the problems of the Plate and Rio Grande rivers. Expect, too, more vital information on acid rain, wetlands, and other crucial issues. When honing your weapons for the next battle, don't forget that one of the sharpest tools at your disposal is *Audubon*.

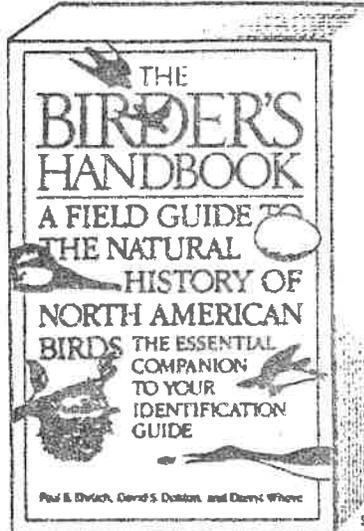
Activists who want to do even more—to get behind the scenes and into the fray—can join *Audubon's* Activist Network. The network gets you a subscription to the bimonthly newsjournal of environmental issues, *Audubon Activist*, and puts you on the mailing list for Action Alerts on especially urgent issues! You also receive National *Audubon's* Hotline number for up-to-the-minute news. For membership in the Activist Network, send \$9 to *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

#### EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY Officers

President	Tom Baker	877-3365
President-elect	John Sproul	545-5157
Vice-president	Sid Shepperd	566-2162
Secretary	Ann Schultis	584-7382
Treasurer	Bart Rumaker	544-6432
Elected Directors		
	Anne Hussmann	584-4081
	Larry Jordan	833-5969

"Required reading for all birders, naturalists, and conservationists."

—David S. Wilcove,  
Ecologist, The  
Wilderness Society



"Serious birders will gain enormously from this extraordinary new guide."

—Roger Tory  
Peterson

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## Birders Hail New Field Guide

*The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds* is a new book by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye. Originally previewed in *American Birds*, National Audubon Society's field-birding journal, the *Handbook* is a major new addition to every birder's bookshelf. Its 800-plus pages are a cornucopia of information, yet the book is compact enough to earn the "field guide" in its title.

Species accounts appear on left-hand pages of the *Handbook*; they summarize with words and symbols the key information on each bird's biology, nesting, feeding, eggs, habitat, conservation, etc. The right-hand pages contain fascinating essays on related topics, from bird migration to brood parasitism. The curious can find out how owls hunt in the dark or about birds and the law. Extensive cross-referencing and bibliographical information make this book an invaluable resource.

*The Birder's Handbook* costs \$14.95 and is available in bookstores. ■

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## Audubon Special Looks at Sharks

People have always behaved viciously and with seeming hatred toward sharks. As a result, several species are now greatly reduced in number. The gentle basking shark is severely threatened, and the great white, the supreme marine predator, is remorselessly hunted by souvenir collectors. There have also been setbacks in blue and thresher shark populations. The next Audubon Television Special on SuperStation TBS confronts the challenges facing these extraordinary marine creatures.

Sharks are an indispensable part of the marine ecosystem. They are no more unlimited than whales, dolphins, big cats, and other animals and birds for whom our concern has long been established. They have much more to fear from humans than we have to fear from them.

This Audubon Special contains dramatic footage shot in oceans around the world. Its message is clear: Unless action is taken, the story of sharks may be the story of whales all over again.

The air dates are December 16 (10:50 PM Eastern), December 24 (4:05 PM Eastern), December 27 (9:20 PM Pacific), and December 30 (10:05 PM Eastern). The program will premiere on Public Television in June 1989. Peter Benchley, author of *Jaws*, is the narrator. ■



## Audubon Adventures Reaches Out to Minorities

With the start of the 1988/1989 school year, Audubon Adventures, the youth education program of the National Audubon Society, is anticipating an enrollment of 250,000 youngsters in 8,000 classroom clubs.

A special outreach effort is expected to raise the enrollment of minority students to 30,000. Target cities include Cleveland, Ohio; New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Newark, New Jersey; Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut; and San Francisco, California. Among the minority groups, 4,000 Native American children are already enrolled, including 2,400 from Alaska.

Audubon Adventures and National Audubon's environmental education efforts were recently recognized with a prestigious Golden Eagle Award from the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. ■

\*\*\*COMING ATTRACTIONS\*\*\*

Don't forget the Awards Dinner!

When - Feb 19, 6 PM

Where - Coronado Country Club

Why - Annual Meeting and presentation of chapter awards.

Who - Helen Bigelow and Jim Koschmann will introduce us to Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue for the evening's program.

How Much - \$15.00 for wine and buffet dinner

Other Questions - Call Anne Hussmann (584-4081) or Nancy Wilson (833-3907).



## Season's Greetings

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

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## Scientists Explore Risks of Superconductivity

**D**r. Jan Beyea from Audubon's Environmental Policy Department recently joined a host of physicists and industry leaders at Robert Redford's Institute for Resource Management to ponder the implications of superconductivity. The last few years have seen enormous advances in superconductors—specialized materials that, when cooled to abnormally low temperatures, conduct electricity with little or no resistance. The current frenzy of research is expected to lead to the eventual development of room-temperature superconductors, making the technology more economical.

While scientists predict superconductivity will one day have a major impact in many areas of modern society, it will be some time before its applications reach a scale where they might be environmentally disruptive. Thus, Beyea feels that we still have an opportunity and an obligation to channel its growth into environmentally benign directions.

Despite the promise of enhanced electrical conductivity, the scientists concluded that the new technology will not significantly improve the efficiency of power transmission. In fact, calculations suggest that even if all long-distance transmission were based on superconductors, power losses would be decreased by only three percent.

Moreover, massive deployment of superconducting devices would greatly increase the intensity of magnetic fields in the environment. This poses potential human health threats, and could interfere with magnetic-based animal orientation, such as bird migrations. Clearly, Beyea asserts, further environmental research will need to proceed as the new technology evolves. ■

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