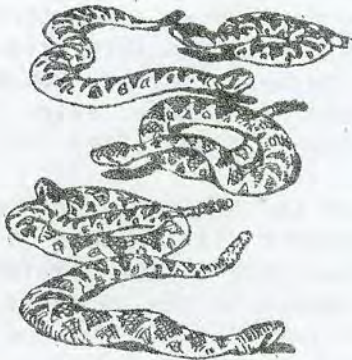


The Roadrunner

VOLUME 21 (2)

THE ROADRUNNER

APRIL-MAY 1991



GENERAL MEETING - 7:30 PM April 15, 1991.

So, how do you feel about -- snakes? They are probably not among your favorite creatures. Nevertheless, snakes are a very significant part of the ecosystem and are marvels of design.

The April general meeting will feature John Hansen (member of both the El Paso Herpetology Society and the El Paso Zoological Society) with a presentation about the snakes with whom we share the El Paso area. This may just change the way you look at snakes, if not the way you feel about them.

If it's any comfort, the snakes probably don't feel much better about us. The meeting will be held in the Garden Center, Memorial Park, 3105 Grant, El Paso.

GENERAL MEETING - 7:30 PM May 20, 1991

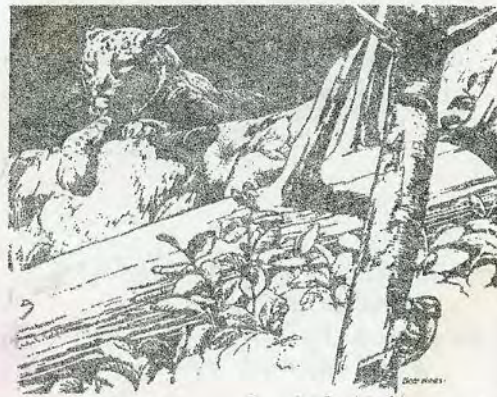
Bob Mena and Joanne Foster are the Audubon Scholarship winners from the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society for 1990. They will be discussing the Audubon Ecology Camps that they attended last summer.

Bob is a graduate of UTEP and is currently working on his doctorate at NMSU. He has a strong interest in preserving wilderness areas.

Joanne is also working on her doctorate at NMSU and teaches science in the elementary grades in the El Paso Public Schools.

As educators, they will be sharing the knowledge gained at the Audubon Camps with the children of El Paso.

The meeting will be held at the Garden Center, Memorial Park, 3105 Grant, El Paso.



Bobcat & Downy Woodpecker

EL PASO ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

The Environmental Center will have its Grand Opening and Open House on Friday, April 19, 1991, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The Center is located at 800 S. Piedras at Paisano. Refreshments will be served from 4:00 to 5:00, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Suzie Azar. Nancy Crowson will be the emcee and she will make a few remarks about the goals and objectives of the Center. Plan to attend, and wear your Audubon tee shirt or identification tag.

With its recycling program now up and running, the El Paso Environmental Center has a greater need than ever for volunteers to staff the office. If you can put in a few hours each week, please contact John Hamilton at 532-9645 or Terese Garcia at 833-4946.

MAKING TRAVEL PLANS?

If you have plans for a business trip or a family vacation, then we would encourage you to make your arrangements through P.S. TRAVEL. This agency has pledged a monthly donation to EP/TAS equal to 2% of the total spent. This is an excellent way to help your chapter while "getting away from it all".

Contact P.S. TRAVEL at 6593A Montana, El Paso; (915) 779-5403; FAX (915) 772-2631.

Be sure to use account number 2006 so our chapter will receive credit for your travel.



*By viewing Nature, Nature's
handmaid Art,
Makes mighty things from small
beginnings grow.
--John Dryden, 1631 - 1700*

COMING ATTRACTIONS

April 4-5 the 1991 AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS SPRING CONFERENCE will be held at the University of Texas Cancer Research Center, Bastrop, Texas. Alan Tennant, author of The Guadalupe Mountains of Texas, is the keynote speaker. A canoe trip on the Colorado River is being planned.

April 12-14 the 12th annual TEXAS WILDERNESS POW-WOW will be held in the Angelina National Forest. Nature guides will lead field trips into the Turkey Hill Wilderness. Andrew Sansom, Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife, will address participants. Campsites are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call or write Texas Wilderness Pow-Wow, c/o TCONR, 5934 Royal Lane, Suite 223, Dallas Texas, 75230. (214) 368-1791.

July 21-27 the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION will be held in Estes Park Center YMCA of the Rockies. The theme "Audubon in the Americas" focuses on the relationship between people, wetlands, forests, and wildlife in the western hemisphere. There will be field trips, speakers and workshops. Ted Turner, president of Turner Broadcasting System, will be the keynote speaker. For further information, write or call the National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO, 80303. (303) 499-0286.

DONORS

Recent donations by the following individuals/organizations are gratefully acknowledged by the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society.

FOR FEATHER LAKE

- Ana Alrich

FOR GENERAL CHAPTER WORK

- Bill and Tanya Hoppes

ON THE TRAIL

SEE THE ELEGANT TROGON

Southeast Arizona on Memorial Day weekend, May 25, 26 and 27. If you cannot be there all three days, come when you can and enjoy the best birding and the companionship of the greatest birders around. The leader, Bob Johnson, will be arriving on Fri. the 24th to secure campsites. You will be able to see Blue-throated & Magnificent Hummingbirds, Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers, Painted Redstarts, and the Yellow-eyed Junco, But the best will be the **Elegant Trogon**.

If you do not care to camp, try the Cave Creek Ranch (602-558-2334), Cathedral Rock Lodge (602-558-2254), or the Portal Store/Bed & Breakfast (602-558-2223). If you plan to go call Bob 751-0125/757-1876.



ADOPT-a-HIGHWAY

Spring cleaning time is here, so meet Bob Johnson (751-0125/757-1876) at the "flying saucer building" at the junction of US Highway 62/180 and FM 2775 at 7:30 AM on Sat. April 6. The clean up will last until about 10 AM.

MEMORIAL PARK

This place is always good for warblers, flycatchers, vireos and other rarities during spring migration. Meet at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. at 7:30 AM on Sunday April 28th. Any Questions Nancy Wilson 933-3907.

BREEDING BIRD CENSUS

The census this year will be conducted in the Hueco Tanks Quadrangle. See page 5 of the Feb. Mar. ROADRUNNER for an explanation of this program.

Meet John Sproul (545-5157) at the "flying saucer building" at 7:30 AM on Sat. Apr. 20 and again on Sat. May 18 for your assignments. This is a great chance to learn more about the birds of the area.

ALUMINUM CANS

You have not read to much about our recycling program lately, so it was felt a reminder was due. Not only does it help the environment, but it adds a little income for our budget.

Bring your cans (please no cat food or aluminum foil) to the meetings or call the "CAN MAN" (751-0125/757-1876) for a pickup.

GREAT AMERICAN TRASH-OFF

After the Feb./Mar. issue went to press, we found out that the Great Texas Trash-Off had been changed.

It all started in TEXAS, the Adopt-a-Highway program in 1985. Since then more than 40 states have joined us in cleaning up the highways and byways.

Now, it has all started again. Texas, the party host, added 42 more states to its guest list this year. The event is the **GREAT AMERICAN TRASH-OFF**. The day is Sat. June 1, 1991.

Mark your calendars now, so that you do not schedule anything else. Meet the Adopt-a-Highway coordinator at the "flying saucer building", junction of US Highway 62/180 and FM 2775 (Hueco Tanks SP access road) at 8 AM on Sat. the 1st of June. ??? call 751-0125.

PELAGIC TRIP

The date - Sat. Sep. 7, 1991

The place - San Diego, CA.

The cost - \$55.00.

Expected birds: Pink footed & Sooty Shearwaters; Leach's & Black storm Petrels; Pomarine & Parasitic Jaegers; Arctic Tern & Cassin's Auklet, and more.

A FOUR day driving round trip, but a stop at the Salton Sea is planned, see the Wood Stork and Yellow-footed Gull. Motel accomadations will be coordinated.

Boat reservations must be made by early July, so please get in touch with Larry Jordan 833-5969, Bob Johnson 751-0125/757-1876, or Nancy Wilson 833-3907.

DON'T FORGET THE B I R D A T H O N. WEEKEND MAY 4/5, SEE ATTACHED BROCHURE. GET GOING

EARTH DAY 1991

Once again, Earth Day weekend will be a full one for El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon. We hope you'll celebrate it with us.

Friday, April 19. The weekend will kick off with the long-awaited open house at the El Paso Environmental Center from 4 to 6 PM. It promises to be a spectacular event! The Center is at 800 S. Piedras (corner of Piedras and Paisano). Plan to attend this formal opening of a major new focal point for recycling programs and environmental action in El Paso.

Saturday, April 20. Our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (9500 N. Loop, 0.3 mi. n.w. of Americas Ave.) will be open 8-11 AM. In addition, we'll offer birding field trips for the public at 8 AM and 2 PM at Hueco Tanks State Park. The morning trip will emphasize data gathering for the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Sunday, April 21. It all happens this day! Once again, we'll offer field trips for the public at Hueco Tanks at 8 AM and 2 PM. Feather Lake will be open from 3:30 PM until dusk. And, from noon to 4 PM, we'll join numerous groups at an Earth Day fiesta in the Tom Mays Area of Franklin Mountains State Park.

This Earth Day weekend, give some thought to our environment and how it sustains us. Think about what you can do to take better care of our planet. Then make every day an Earth Day!

FEATHER LAKE NEWS

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is 15 years old this year! On February 12, we received the best possible present when the El Paso City Council renewed our lease for the area for another 5 years. Our thanks go to the City for continuing this unique relationship

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT WILDLIFE RESCUE

Spring always brings an upsurge in injured or orphaned wildlife. If you find an injured critter, who you gonna call? Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue has a healthy network of cooperators:

CDWR CHIEF DISPATCHER

Helen Bigelow 882-2910

AREA WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

Las Cruces

David & Sherri Byrd (birds/mammals) . . . 524-2314

West El Paso/Canutillo/Anthony

Helen Bigelow (birds/mammals) 882-2910

Dr. Jim Koschmann (birds) 584-3459

John & Sylvia Weyenberg (birds) 877-3215

East El Paso

Laura Hamel (birds) 592-7377

Gay & Michael Kozusko (birds) 857-3787

Northeast El Paso

Charles & Carol Bella (birds/mammals) . . 755-9667

Dr. Gail Patrick (birds/mammals) 532-5966

Marcia Wheatley (birds) 757-1723

COOPERATING VETERINARIANS

Anthony

Dr. Joseph Kincaid 886-4558

Anthony Animal Clinic

West El Paso

Dr. Jim Koschmann 584-3459

Crossroads Animal Clinic

Central El Paso

Dr. Roger Kendrick 545-1148

Animal Emergency Center

East El Paso

Dr. Robert Colvin 855-4100

Desert East Animal Hospital

Dr. Bernie Page 592-6200

Johnsen Animal Hospital

Dr. Donna Robinson 593-0713

Eastwood Animal Clinic

Northeast El Paso

Dr. J. R. Bridges 755-8314

Bridges Animal Hospital

Dr. Tom McCabe 755-2231

Northeast Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Rob Moreland 755-7647

Skyline Veterinary Hospital

Lower Valley

Dr. Alfred Ellis & Dr. George Navar . . . 778-5355

Animal Clinic

Dr. Jim Wentworth 533-5513

El Paso Veterinary Hospital

TRANSPORTERS

Northwest

David & Sherri Byrd 524-2314

Anne Hussmann 584-4081

Nancy Wilson 833-3907

Northeast

Joe & Inga Groff 755-2957

East

Myrna House 877-2228

John White 598-2269

that benefits both wildlife and the citizens of El Paso.

Spring is a wonderful time to visit Feather Lake, but you had better hurry. The sanctuary is only open for another month before closing for the summer. See the calendar on the back page for the dates and times when it will be open in April.

Sadly, vandalism is sometimes a concern at Feather Lake, and energy better spent elsewhere must be used to repair the damage. Fortunately, we have friends. This month, our sincere thanks go to Daryl Cole and the El Paso Streets Department for repairing the chain-link fence on the east side of the basin and to Sam Silvas and the Del Valle Community Graffiti Task Force for cleaning graffiti from the rock wall on the west side.

If you really want to see Feather Lake up close and personal, try one of our monthly work days. Upcoming dates are April 13 and May 11. The gates will open at 8 AM. See you there! /John Sproul/

TEXAS NONGAME STAMP/DECAL

April 15 is fast approaching. In New Mexico and many other states, the state income-tax form gives you the opportunity to donate all or part of any tax refund to state wildlife programs. Since Texas doesn't have a state income tax, Texans don't have this option.

We do have another option, though, and you should take advantage of it. It's the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund, and it helps support the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. You contribute to this fund whenever you buy a Texas Nongame Stamp or Decal. The current stamp and decal, featuring a trio of Montezuma Quail, are available for \$5 each at our general meetings.

NM ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The New Mexico Ornithological Society will hold its annual meeting Sat., April 27 at the Dripping Springs Natural Area on the west side of the Organ Mts. It should be a good one.

Participants will meet at 7 AM at the Pan American Center parking lot (north end) in Las Cruces and carpool to the Cox Visitor Center. Field trips in the Dripping Springs area will occupy most of the morning, with a short business meeting just before lunch (bring your own lunch; drinks will be provided).

The afternoon will be devoted to papers presenting a broad range of information on regional ornithology, and the evening will feature a banquet at the Mesilla Valley Inn (901 Avenida de Mesilla) and special presentation on the Gray Ranch. The dinner is \$10 per person (checks payable to NMOS), and reservations, with payment in full, must be sent by April 20 to Lorraine Schulte, 1740 Mariposa, Las Cruces, NM 88001. Finally, a field trip to the Percha Dam-Caballo Reservoir area on Sunday will cap the weekend.

GRACIAS

Often over the past 2 years, I couldn't devote as much time to this organization as you deserved. You hardly noticed, though, thanks to the many contributions from our hard-working board of directors and other active members. I appreciate all the help I've received over the past 2 years. They've been banner ones for our chapter. In line for special thanks: Helen Barto, soon to step down as publications chair after 2+ years; Larry Jordan, rotating off the board after 4 years of service as field trips chair, ways and means chair, and vice-president; and Nancy Wilson, who remains on the board but has completed 3 outstanding years as program chair. Thank you, all! /John Sproul/

OBSERVATIONS

Jan. 13 - Mar. 10, 1991

uncommon, rare & casual sightings

CP - Crossroads Pond
 EPCC - El Paso Country Club
 EPNG - El Paso Natural Gas
 FB - Ft. Bliss Ponds
 FH - Ft. Hancock
 FL - Feather Lake
 GSL - Girl Scout Lane
 LA - Lombardy Ave.
 MD - Montoya Drain
 MN - McNary overpass
 RG - Rio Grande
 RP - Randel's Pool
 SP - Sunland Park Racetrack
 WCS - West Cottonwood Springs

Sightings by a field trip member are noted by a (+) after the leader's initials; sightings in an observer's yard or area are indicated by an (*) after his or her initials.

LOONS - FALCONS

Great Egret - 1/17, 2/23, 3/10 FL (JF, JS, BJ); 3/3 FH
Cattle Egret - 1/12, 1/19, 3/10 FL (JS, JD, BJ); 3/3 FH
Green-back Heron - 1/13 LA; 1/19 FL (LJ+, JD+)
Black-crowned Night Heron - 3/10 FL (BJ, JD) 3/3 FH (BJ+)
Tundra Swan - 1/17 GSL (LJ)
Snow Goose - 1/20, 1/26, 2/2 FL (J/LS, JS, BJ); 3/3 FH
Canada Goose - 1/12, 1/13, 1/26, 2/3, FL, CP (JS, LJ+, JD); 3/3 FH
Wood Duck - 2/23, 2/24 CP (LM, BJ+)
Bufflehead - 1/13, 1/27, 2/3, 2/24 CR (LJ+, JD, BJ+); 2/9 (BJ+)
Common Merganser - 1/13 RG (LJ+) 3/3 FH (BJ+)
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 2/24 RP (LJ+)
Harris Hawk - 3/3 FH (BJ+)
Golden Eagle - 1/27 I-10 (A/MG)
Peregrine Falcon - EPNG (RD, PM, JS)

QUAIL - WOODPECKER

Sandhill Crane - 2/12 (A/MG*)
Spotted Sandpiper - 1/13 MD (LJ+)

Common Snipe - 1/13 MD (LJ+)
Burrowing Owl - 1/12 FL (JF)

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Tree Swallow - 3/3 FH (BJ+)
Cave Swallows - 3/3 MN (BJ+)
Scrub Jay - 1/13 LA (LJ+); 2/24 RP (BJ+)
Cedar Waxwing - 2/24 EPCC (BJ+)
Phainopepla - 2/24 RP (BJ+)

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

Rufous-sided Towhee - 1/26 WC (LJ+)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1/13 SP (LJ+)
Bullock's Oriole, male - 3/1 (JB*)

Exotic: Red-crowned parrots - 1/28 Clark and El Paso Drain (DT)

OBSERVERS: Janet Brockmoeller, Joyce Davis, Richard Duarte, Jane Fowler, Al/Madeline Gavit, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Paul Milios, Lynn Mosley, John & Lorraine Snelling, John Sproul, Dennis Taylor.

Observations Editor: Joyce Davis, 581-9470.

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Joyce Davis	581-9470
VICE PRESIDENT	John Snelling	592-9642
SECRETARY	Lorraine Snelling	592-9642
TREASURER	Bob Johnson	751-0125
DIRECTORS		
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	Betty Page1	772-2686
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SANCTUARY	Jane Fowler	598-2448
WAYS AND MEANS		
PUBLICATIONS	Helen Barto	755-4744
OBSERVATIONS	Joyce Davis	581-9470
EDITOR	George Barnett	581-1829
ACT DELEGATE		

CONSERVATION

Dede Armentrout, Southwest Regional Office, developed a one page paper giving generic information on oil spills. This was developed in response to requests from news teams who wanted background and quotes to go along with coverage on the oil spill in the Persian Gulf. The idea was that this information could be used by chapter spokespersons when contacted by the press about a local oil spill. However, we feel that this is useful information for any chapter member, whether talking to the press, that guy at the office, or friends at a cocktail party. These are "talking points" and not a dissertation. If you have additions, corrections, or would like further information, contact the Southwest Regional Office at (512) 327-1943.

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL SPILLS IN WATER OR WETLANDS:

There are two kinds of oil that are common in oil spills: Light and Heavy Crude.

Light Crude has a lot of volatile chemicals which float on the surface and evaporate quickly.

- The most volatile chemicals are usually also the most toxic.
- The heavier chemicals may not be as toxic but are more persistent.

Oil in a spill can hurt the environment in several ways.

The oil can be immediately toxic to plants including phytoplankton in the immediate vicinity of the spill.

- Killing the phytoplankton reduces the food available in the entire food chain.
- If phytoplankton take up the toxic substances, they may be eaten by animals and the toxic effects are passed up through the food chain.

The oil can be harmful to animals.

- Birds and furbersers that become coated in oil can lose the insulating capacity of their hair or feathers and die of exposure.
- Birds can lose their waterproofing.
- In an effort to keep fur or feathers clean, birds and mammals may preen or groom their oil contaminated areas, inadvertently ingesting toxic oil. It doesn't take much oil ingestion to kill a bird.

The oil can be harmful to habitat.

- Oil can get into wetlands where finfish and shellfish nurseries are located.
- An oily layer at the surface can interfere with some animals that need to come to the surface to breathe.
- Oil can coat plant material that provides food, shelter or an anchoring stratum for other life.
- Tar balls of weathered oil can release toxic materials slowly over a period of many years.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT TRASH

Look for the Trash Off Day. Here are some phone numbers that will be helpful at any time. These are provided by Keep El Paso Beautiful, Inc.

Special Pick Ups	594-8625
Tree Branches	594-8625
Vacant Lots	594-8625

Construction Litter	541-4560
Landfill Information	594-8625
Dead animal Pick Up	594-8625
Junked Cars (on street)	541-4211
(on property)	541-4812
Street Cleaning	594-1091
Traffic Signs	541-4044
Air Pollution	534-3658
Health Department	541-4989
Keep El Paso Beautiful	546-6742

CALENDAR

APRIL

- Sat. 6 - Trash pickup at Hueco Tanks, see page 3.
6 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11AM
Sun. 7 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon. 8 - Board meeting at Susie Schneider's home, 607 E. Blanchard, 542-3041, 7:30 PM.
Sat. 13 - Feather Lake work day.
Sun. 14 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon. 15 - General Meeting, see page 1.

EARTH DAY WEEKEND

- Fri. 19 - Environmental Center Open House.
Sat. 20 - Breeding bird census at Hueco Tanks, see page 3.
- Birding trips for the public at Hueco Tanks, see page 4.
Sun. 21 - Earth Day Fiesta at Tom Mays Park, see page 4.
- Birding trips for the public at Hueco Tanks.
- Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 9655
El Paso, Texas 79986

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- Sun. 28 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
- Field trip to Memorial Park, see page 3.

MAY

- Sat. 4 and Sun. 5 - BIRDATHON
See the insert to the newsletter.
Sat. 11 - Feather Lake work day.
Mon. 13 - Board meeting at the El Paso Environmental Center, 7:30 PM
Sat. 18 - Breeding bird census, see page 3.
Mon. 20 - General Meeting, see page 1.
Sat. 25, Sun. 26, Mon. 27 - Memorial Day Weekend.
- Field Trip to Southeast Arizona, see page 3.

JUNE

- Sat. 1 - Great American Trash Off, see page 3.

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