

# 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 (9)

\$4.00 per year

November 1985

## GENERAL MEETING

MON., NOVEMBER 18, 1985, 7:30 PM,  
Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Me-  
morial Park. On field trips you  
have seen our fellow Audubon mem-  
ber, Ray Waite, carrying around  
a camera and tripod. Now come see  
the slides he has taken of birds  
in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.  
Bring a friend.

## FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

### W. COTTONWOOD SPRING

SAT., NOV 2. Meet at 7:30 AM at  
the entrance to the Tom Mays Area  
of Franklin Mts. St. Park, along  
Transmountain Rd. on the w. side  
of the Franklins. Leader: John  
Sproul (545-5157).

### FEATHER LAKE/ RIO BOSQUE

SAT., NOV 16. Meet at 7:30 AM in  
the Feather Lake parking area,  
9500 North Loop. Bird the Sanc-  
tuary then drive over to Rio  
Bosque Park for the rest of the  
morning. Good trip for late mi-  
grants and early winter resi-  
dents. Leader: Gloria Basden,  
(532-7348).

### MESILLA REFUGE

SUN., NOV 24. Meet at the Stuckey  
Store at Westview/Vinton Exit 2  
off I-10 at 7:30 AM. We will be  
looking for wintering hawks and  
sparrows, but we may scare up  
some owls. If the weather is nice  
we can picnic by the river. If  
not, we can go to La Posta in  
Mesilla. Leader: Joyce Davis  
(581-9470).

## MADDEN LAKE/ TORNILLO

SUN., DEC 8. Leader: Bob Johnson  
(751-0125).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., NOV 11, 1985, 7:30 PM. The  
Board will meet at the home of  
Annamarie Shields, 5416 Edmonton,  
El Paso (751-7456). All members  
are welcome.



## FIELD TRIPS FOLLOW-UP

5 members camped at Bonito Lake  
Sept 21 where heard but not seen  
were Northern Pygmy and Western  
Screech Owl. Best sighting was a  
flock of White Pelicans circling  
above the campsite.

\*\*\*\*\*

Maple trees ranged in color from  
yellow to bright red in Dog Can-  
yon. Variety and quantity of  
birds were low for the 9 attend-  
ees, but fall colors were at  
peak performance. Approximately  
500 Sandhill Cranes were observ-  
ed in a field in Dell City.

\*\*\*\*\*

The deadline for the December  
Roadrunner is Nov 23.

\*\*\*\*\*



## CONSERVATION CAPSULES

### ELECTIONS NOV 5: Vote!

**TEXAS WATER:** Among the measures on the Nov 5 ballot is Proposition 1, the statewide water-development proposition that the Natl. Audubon Society opposes (RR, Oct). Here's Southwest Regional Vice-President Dede Armentrout on the subject: "However, the Texas Water Plan, as it is proposed in Proposition 1, falls far short of a balanced approach to water development. It is short on the protection of bays and estuaries notwithstanding the enormous resources, economic, recreational, environmental and aesthetic, which are provided by Texas coastal waters. It is short to the point of non-existent in protecting the riparian systems of the state to insure that fish and wildlife that depend on rivers are not left high and dry by too many reservoirs holding back too much of our rivers' natural flows. It fails to make strong requirements for water conservation or environmental protection. Water project promoters are not required to analyze the environmental impacts of their projects, nor are they required to review alternative sites which might be less environmentally sensitive. There are no requirements for a favorable benefit-cost ratio. Projects can be premature, entirely unnecessary, inefficient, ill-designed and environmentally and financially disastrous, and yet still be allowed at the discretion of the Texas Water Commission."

**TEXAS NONGAME STAMP:** Duck-hunting season is here, and Texas waterfowl hunters must purchase both federal and state duck stamps before they can hunt legally. Most do so willingly. Duck hunters know that when they buy these stamps what they are really doing is funding research, habitat acquisition and management programs for a wildlife resource of high value

to them. For this same reason, many non-hunters also buy state and federal duck stamps. Now, consider the nongame wildlife resource in Texas, perhaps the richest of any state's. If you value this resource, how can you help ensure it is protected and managed properly? Buy a Texas Nongame Stamp or Decal! They cost \$5 each. When you buy one from EP/TPAS, \$4.50 goes to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD's) Special Nongame Wildlife and Endangered Species Conservation Fund, used solely for habitat acquisition, research, management and public education involving nongame wildlife, including endangered species. The remaining \$0.50 goes to EP/TPAS. When you buy a stamp or decal from TPWD, the entire \$5 goes to the Nongame Fund.

**TEXAS NONGAME FUND:** Purchase of a stamp or decal is not the only way people concerned about nongame wildlife and endangered species in Texas can contribute to the Nongame Fund. An alternative you may want to consider is a direct, tax-deductible donation. You can make one by sending a check, payable to "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department", to: Mr. Charles D. Travis, Executive Director, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744. Please explain in an accompanying note that you want the check deposited in the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

**DAM THE GILA?:** The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has announced its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Upper Gila Water Supply Project, a feature of the Central Arizona Project that Congress authorized in 1968. Originally this project took the form of Hooker Dam, proposed for the Gila R. about 7 miles n.e. of Cliff, New Mex-

ico. Conservationists strongly opposed Hooker Dam because of the environmental damage it would cause, and the USBR abandoned the Hooker site in Dec 1982. Since then, the agency has focused on the Conner site, 7 miles upstream from Redrock, New Mexico. Conservationists have serious reservations about a dam on the Gila R. at this site also. In its EIS, the USBR will evaluate the environmental impacts of 5 project alternatives: 2 involving dams at the Conner site, one involving a small dam at the Hooker site with offstream storage at a site on Mangas Ck., one involving direct pumping of Gila R. water to that offstream storage site, and a "no action" alternative. To get on the mailing list for the Upper Gila Water Supply Study, contact: June Gibbons, Arizona Projects Office, USBR, 23636 N. 7th St., ph. 602/870-2221.

**WHOOPING CRANE:** Good breeding conditions in Wood Buffalo Natl. Park in Canada led to 20 Whooper chicks hatching this summer, with 16 surviving as of early September. It appears approximately 90 birds should now be migrating to Aransas Natl. Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the Texas Gulf Coast. Also, 23 Whooping Crane eggs were transferred this spring from Wood Buffalo to Grays Lake NWR in Idaho to be raised by Sandhill Crane foster parents. Ten birds fledged, raising the population in the Whooping Crane flock that winters in New Mexico to about 40. And a final encouraging note: two 2-bird associations have been reported from the Grays Lake flock. Are these serious pair interactions? Time will tell.

**WEST TEXAS PEREGRINES:** Also having a good year in 1985 are Peregrine Falcons in and near Big Bend Natl. Park. Bonnie McKinney of Black Gap Wildlife Mgt. Area adjacent to Big Bend reports in a recent Texas Ornithological Soc.

newsletter that these birds produced 12 young this year, highest productivity since monitoring programs began in 1974.



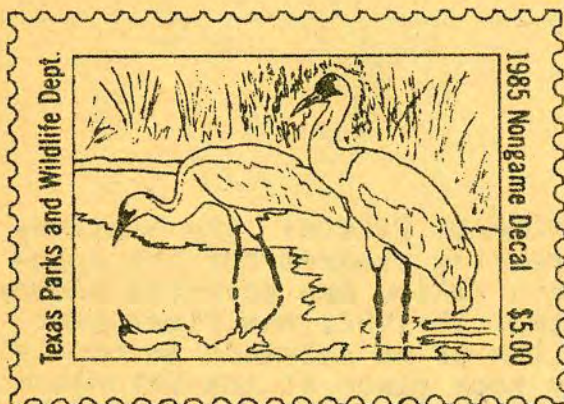
*Aplomado Falcon*

**APLOMADO FALCON:** The captive-breeding program for the Aplomado Falcon has advanced another step. In 1982, the first-ever birth of an Aplomado in captivity took place at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI) in Alpine, TX. (RR, Oct 1982). Soon thereafter, CDRI got out of the Aplomado-breeding business, and the program was picked up by the Predatory Bird Research Group (PBRG) at the Univ. of California at Santa Cruz. This summer, the PBRG released 4 captive-reared Aplomado Falcons in historic range in south Texas. Their post-fledgling movements will be monitored with telemetry to observe habitat use, survival and behavior. Additional releases of Aplomados, currently proposed for federal listing as an endangered species (RR, June), are planned. /John Sproul/

#### SW RAPTOR MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

The status, biology and management of southwestern raptor populations will be the subjects May 22-25, 1986, when the Southwestern Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop convenes at the Univ. of Arizona campus in Tucson. Principal sponsors of the symposium will be the Natl. Wildlife Federation's (NWF's) Raptor Information Center and the Arizona Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Symposium proceedings will be published as part of NWF's Scientific and Techni-

cal Series. For registration details, write to Brian Millsap, NWF, Institute for Wildlife Research, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036, or call 703/790-4268.



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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CALIF. CONDOR:  
 WILD POPULATION NOW 6  
 SOON TO BE 3?**

After months of heated discussion, some key decisions on the direction of the recovery effort for the California Condor were made in late August. Or were they?

The recent precipitous decline in the wild condor population (RR, June) had sparked a debate over how the condor recovery program should proceed. The California Fish and Game Commission and many scientists advocated taking all remaining wild birds (currently 6, after 3 were captured this summer) into captivity. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

November 1985

and the Natl. Audubon Soc., on the other hand, stressed the difficulty in protecting condor habitat from development with no birds in the wild and the value of having wild condors to serve as "guides" for captive-reared birds to be released in the future. The USFWS had proposed leaving 6 birds in the wild and releasing 3 captive-reared condors next year.

On Aug 30, a compromise was announced. Three birds, the only known breeding pair and a single 5-year old male, would stay wild; all other wild birds would be captured as soon as possible, bringing the captive population to 24. Next spring, 3 captive-reared 1-2-year-old females would be released.

Also part of the compromise is the 13,800-acre Hudson Ranch, a critical condor feeding area currently owned by a developer who has sought to subdivide the tract. It would finally be acquired by the USFWS as a new condor sanctuary. Congress has twice appropriated \$8.9 million to buy the ranch, but for the past 2 years the federal Office of Management and Budget has blocked the purchase.

The compromise announced Aug 30 is a tenuous one, and as yet it hasn't been implemented. One of the stumbling blocks is the aforementioned Hudson Ranch. The U.S. Dept. of the Interior appears to be hedging on acquiring the land. Interior now seeks just a one-year lease of the ranch and says it will proceed with a purchase only if the release of the 3 captive-reared birds next spring is successful.

/John Sproul/



## NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Robert Fritz, Rose Kringle, Henry Noe, C. N. O'Hara, Mary Pugh, Andrew Avila, Alma Blakely, James Brown, Lee Brown,

Nancy Cole, Paul Danenberg, Debbie Davis, Nada Dixon, Barbara Donaldson, Joyce Fisher, Richard Genest, Lewis Greene,

Jerry Kracher, Alice Kauffman, John O'Keefe, Eugenia Kistenmacher, Virginia Lotspeich, Dr. Gail Patrick, Eileen Scott,

William Shockley, Chalres Singer, Capt. C. L. Tyler, Mrs. M. V. Craig, Paul D. McCoy, A. F. Siebenaler, Earl Starbroad,

Jan Westbrook, Robin Bernat, Roy Davis, Juan Calderon, Maria Castillo, Sherry Creider, Virginia Downing, John Smith,

Barbara Hofacket, Brenda Jackson, Kandy Lopez, H. D. Neighbor, Suzanne Temple, and Sonja Roberts. Please join us on some of our field trips and plan to attend the next general meeting.

## ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Our Chapter's 1985 Awards Dinner will be held at Heins Restaurant, 5400 Montana, Sunday, Nov. 10, 5:30 PM.

This year's recipients of Conservation Achievement Awards are Helen Bigelow and Carole Beach. Helen and Carole have been authorized wildlife rehabilitators in this area for many years. They devote 365 days a year to caring for injured wildlife; they use their own money to buy medical supplies, food, and materials for cages as they receive no remuneration from federal or state funds.

Our Chapter Service Award recipients are Jo Nagel and Jane Fowler. Both have served our chapter in countless ways over the years. Among their many contributions, they have served as co-editors of THE ROADRUNNER for the past 3 years. As every reader of this publication knows, they have done this job

well and have maintained high standards.

The program for the evening will be presented by David Henderson, director of the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, NM. This new Environmental Education Center is also going to serve as New Mexico branch office for Audubon's Southwest Region. Dave will show us what is going on now and what is planned for the future at the Center. Dave graduated from Humboldt State Univ. in northern Calif. Prior to coming to New Mexico, he was warden naturalist at Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary in southern Calif., and was program coordinator at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center on San Francisco Bay. Come and hear about the plans to make the Randall Davey Audubon Center a center for environmental education and activism in New Mexico.

Please make your reservations NOW for the Awards Dinner. The price is \$11.50 and gives you a choice of 3 German dinners. Call Peggy Riede 833-4881, Sarah Jane Dodds 533-4150, Betty Bowen 584-6750 or Bob Johnson 751-0125 TODAY.

## EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

### Officers

President	Bob Johnson 751-0125
Vice-president	Tom Baker 562-9461
Secretary	
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	Gloria Basden 532-7348
Field Trips	Tom Baker 562-9461
Hospitality	Annamarie Shields 751-7456
Library	Berttye Barnhart 592-3651
Programs	Joyce Davis 581-9470
Publications	Jane Fowler 772-0296
Publicity	
Sanctuary	Sid Shepperd 566-2162
Ways & Means	Bart Rumaker 544-6432

FIELD TRIP FOLLOW-UP  
(cont. from p.1)

MEMO TO MEMBERS  
(from Dede Armentrout)

On Oct. 27, 9 mostly new birders showed up to tour the N.E.O.P. (sewage ponds). Over 3 hours were spent driving around the dikes; we identified many species. The highlights were 2 Dunlin and 4 Horned Grebes. Also a few Bufflehead, Canvasbacks, and 24 Ring-billed Gulls were seen. We then drove to the El Paso electric plant in Newman, ate lunch and checked out the lake. Birds seen were Lesser Scaup, Shovelers, a Cormorant and 3 Western Grebes./Bob Johnson/

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S EYRIE

Thanks to all who came to Feather Lake Oct. 12 to help in our continuing maintenance program. A lot was accomplished, but more still needs to be done. Dec. 7 will be the next work day. Plan to come.

Also thanks to the hosts of the chapter display at Cielo Vista Mall Oct. 25 - 27. The time was well spent making new friends for the chapter.

Don't forget the pigeon show Nov. 30 in Album Park!

RECYCLING can help the chapter.

Aluminum cans - bring to the meetings or field trips. If you are unable to, call any board member.

Rummage - recycle your old junk. Call and we will store it over the winter.

Read about the Awards Dinner at Heins on Nov. 10.

The Madden Lake/Ft. Hancock field trip Sun. Dec. 8 should be interesting. Come on out and join us.

The Nominating Committee is looking for people to be chapter officers. If you would like to volunteer or know someone that would take a position, call Neil Keith. (778-5937)

\* \* \*

THE ROADRUNNER is sent to all members of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Nonmembers can subscribe for \$4 per year. Make checks payable to EPTPAS and mail to: RR Editor PO Box 9655 El Paso, Tx 79986.

I have just learned that our good friend and warden of Green Island, Mr. W. J. "Friday" Fluman has suffered a serious stroke.

Friday has loved and protected the rich diversity of colonial nesting birds on Green Island for decades. He has lived on the island, suffering numerous personal privations in order to assure minimum human disturbance to the birds during their nesting period. He has also spoken out at public hearings against the legal trot lines which have wasted fishery resources and snaged waterfowl.

Friday cannot speak but is able to write with his left hand. I know he would appreciate cards from Auduboners, wishing him a speedy recovery and thanking him for his dedication to Texas wildlife resources. His address:

W. J. Fluman, Veteran's Medical Center,  
921 N.E. 13th St., Oklahoma City,  
OK 77104, B5516-2 Bed 2

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Chapter  
Membership Application

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

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
W10                      7XCH

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

September 24 - October 23

The fall migration to date has been the most interesting in recent years and although few reports were received for this period, four species of accidental or casual status appear.

## LOONS - FALCONS

A female Wood Duck was observed in an irrigation ditch near Randel's Pool 10/5 (JS,mob); surprisingly, 2 males and 4 females were at the Gary Lane Pond 10/21 (NH). Two Prairie Falcons were noted near Furrow's in n.e. El Paso 10/15 (BJ).

## QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

At least 4 different Flammulated Owls were reported 10/9 - 10/11. One was observed in e. central El Paso 10/9 and 10/11 (TB,BB) (#). An injured owl was picked up in e. El Paso 10/10 and another (also inj.) at Fort Bliss 10/11 (CB). That same day 1 died of injuries sustained when it flew into a window at an apartment complex in n.e. El Paso (JG) (\*\*\*) (1). A Great Horned Owl was present in Mt. Park from 9/28 - 10/4 (JB). A rather early female Anna's Hummingbird visited an e. El Paso feeder 9/30 - 10/2 (BR).

## FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

A somewhat late Western Kingbird was just south of the El Paso Country Club 10/5 (JS,mob). Of special interest is a Yellow-throated Vireo reported from Horizon City 9/30 (MG) (#).

## WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A Townsend's Warbler was in the Franklins 10/19 (JS) and an American Redstart was in e. El Paso 10/4 (BR). First fall junco reports were "Gray-headed" near Randel's Pool 10/5 (JS,mob) and a pair of "Oregon" in n.e. El Paso 10/17 (JN1). Two female Hooded Orioles were still in Mt. Park as of 10/4 (JB).

CONTRIBUTORS: Tom Baker, Carol Beach, Janet Brockmoller, Bob Bird, Madeline Gavit, Joe Guinn, Nuala Heitzman, Bob Johnson, John Nielson, John Sproul.


Please report your bird observations to

Bettie Roberts (591-0421). For rarities, you're encouraged to submit written details or photographs to the El Paso - Las Cruces Rare Birds Committee. In the account above, the following symbols are used to indicate records reviewed by the committee:

Documentation: \*\*\* - specimen  
# - no details  
Committee Evaluation: 1 - definite

The committee assigns a rating of "definite" only when a record is supported by photographs or a specimen.

/Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/




## Bird 'n Hand

Field Guide Carrier

Made of rugged, water-resistant, blue nylon pack cloth, the "Bird 'n Hand" is a convenient way to carry and use your field guide. This lightweight carrier hangs from your shoulder or neck, and your guide can be easily consulted without removing it from the carrier.

"Bird 'n Hand" features leather reinforced nylon straps, hook and pile closure, and a leather bookmark.

Sizes available for all major guides.  
Each is hand-finished.  
A great gift idea.



Special Introductory Price \$12.95

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Specify complete  Hardcover  
name of field guide \_\_\_\_\_  Paperback

@ \$12.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Sales Tax (Texas residents, 6¢ each) \_\_\_\_\_  
(In San Antonio, 7¢ each) \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & handling (\$1 each) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check or money order to:  
Bird 'n Hand  
P.O. Box 5380  
San Antonio, Texas 78201

No COD's - Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery



## WHAT IS OWL/TV?

The National Audubon Society and the Young Naturalist Foundation are launching an innovative new television series for children. Premiering on Sun. Nov. 3 on public television, OWL/TV will blend entertainment with humor to engender a reverence for nature and an interest in science among children, ages 7 to 11. We hope to inspire millions of children to feel at home in and contribute to their world, a world in which they must make technology compatible with nature.

In order to incorporate OWL/TV into its regular programming schedule, the management of your community's public broadcasting station must be made aware of their community's interest in watching this excellent show for children. You can help launch this effort by calling and urging the station manager to incorporate the series into their weekly programming schedule.

If possible, speak with the General Manager and the Program Director and advise them that everybody in your chapter will be watching for it, and that you will do whatever you can to encourage friend, neighbors and colleagues to tune in.

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

Forwarding and Address Correction  
Requested



Important - -  
dated material.

See p. 5 NOW!

OWL/TV employs a segmented magazine format linked by the wise and witty narration of an animated owl. In the various feature segments, young viewers will share the experiences of real children their own age. By highlighting its featured children in settings which encourage their spontaneity and positive responses, OWL/TV will seek to inspire in its audience a "can-do" spirit for environmental improvement.

We plan to follow the preview launch series with a new series of 16 shows in 1986! Together we can make OWL/TV a source of joy, wonderment and inspiration for millions of children.

Chris Palmer, Executive Director  
Audubon Television Programs

---

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

---

ROBERT S JOHNSON  
5109 PARIS ST  
EL PASO TX 79924

W10  
JAN86