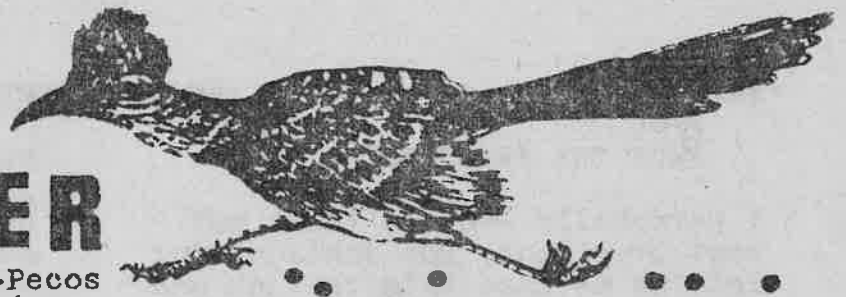


the ROADRUNNER

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



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 17 (3)

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March 1987

GENERAL MEETING

MON., MARCH 16, 1987, 7:30 PM in Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. Rex Gerald, Professor of Anthropology for nearly thirty years at UT El Paso and former Director of Centennial Museum on campus, will speak on INDIANS OF THE HISTORICAL PERIOD IN EL PASO with special emphasis and a progress report on the Socorro dig. Come and bring a friend.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

HOLLOMAN LAKE

SUN., MARCH 8. Meet at K-Mart on Dyer at 7 AM. Leader: (needed)
Call Bill Doebele (593-4835) to offer your services.

RIO BOSQUE

SAT., MARCH 21. Meet at Feather Lake at 7:30 AM. Leader: ?
Call 593-4835 to enlist.

VALENTINE, TEXAS AREA

SAT., SUN., MARCH 28-29. Meet at 7:30 AM Sat. at Feather Lake. We will camp out Sat. night. Leader: (needed) First one to call 593-4835 for info gets the job.

CASAS GRANDES

SAT., SUN., APR. 11-12. We hope to view the Casa Grandes Ruins and bird the Corralitos Ranch. Plan to stay overnight at a hotel in Casas Grandes, a town in Mexico 80 mi. south of Columbus, NM. (Driving time one-way is approx. 4 hrs.) More details in the Apr.

RR. Reservations will be necessary for planning transportation.

EAST FRANKLIN MTS.

SUN., APR. 19. Meet at Wilderness Museum at 7:30 AM.

AGUIRRE SPRINGS

SAT., APR. 25. Meeting place and time to be set later. We will walk the 4 mile nature trail.

BIRDATHON

SAT., MAY 2.

COUNTRY CLUB AREA

SAT., MAY 9.



TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S CONVENTION - El Paso

THURS., FRI., SAT., MAY 14, 15, 16

CAVE CREEK CANYON/CHIRICAHUA MTS.

SAT., SUN., MAY 30-31.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., MARCH 9, 1987, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Tom and Ann Hussmann, 533 Stonebluff, El Paso (584-4081). All members are welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members: Gerald C. Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bidwell, Robert W. Sekler, Evelyn Tarver, Mrs. Brenda Watson, William Hainline and D.C. Robertson.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S EYRIE

I personally want to thank our past president, Bob Johnson, for letting me ease into the job and congratulate him for his hard work and diligence during his tenure.

Bob Johnson will be looking for help in the first week of May when our chapter and city will host the Texas Ornithological Society's Convention. We have offered to help them register at a hotel, and we will lead several field trips in the area for their members.

Our chapter is in urgent need of committee chairs for Conservation, Programs, and our Birdathon. Duties are light, and we have assistance for each chair person. Please contact me or any board member if you can help. Our annual Birdathon is scheduled for early May. It is time to begin contacting your sponsors, forms are available.

Our Feather Lake Sanctuary is in need of a caretaker. The government will be finishing their work soon. Joe Boerntreger still has his 3 bdrm mobile home for rent at the sanctuary. If you know of someone interested, please contact myself or Joe./Tom Baker/

FIELD TRIPS FOLLOW-UP

What can you learn on an EP/TPAS beginner's birding trip? How to break into a locked vehicle, for one thing. Besides getting training in this handy skill, the 8 participants on the Jan 25 outing to the Northeast Oxidation Ponds enjoyed finding Great Horned Owls, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats and 35 other species about the ponds. Those who stayed all morning were even treated to a Brown Thrasher and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Mild weather on Feb 7 helped draw 17 participants to our Hueco Tanks field trip. Great Horned Owls, Phainopeplas and Black-chinned Sparrows were among the 31 species found. Trip participants will be glad to know that Mary Koch is mending nicely after fracturing her right arm in a spill at the end of the outing.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Feb 15th, 18 people met at the Crossroads Pond. After viewing several waterfowl, the group moved on to Lake Willows/ Rancho de Rio where Cedar Waxwings, Lesser Goldfinch and Phainopeplas were observed. Thirteen species were spotted at the Doniphan Playa as the sun was sinking. From there the remaining members went on to Cement Lake to see thousands of blackbirds settling in for the night. Overall, 40 species were identified.

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers

President	Tom Baker 877-3365
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
Neil Keith	778-5937

Committees

Conservation	
Education	John Sproul 545-5157
Field Trips	Bill Doebele 593-4835
Hospitality	Anne Hussmann 584-4081
Membership	Neil Keith 778-5937
Programs	Peter Chrapliwy 584-1829
Publications	Sarah Dodds 533-4150
Publicity	
Sanctuary	Sid Shepperd 566-2162
Ways & Means	Larry Jordan 833-5969

ACT Delegate	John Sproul 545-5157
Clean Air Coalition Representative	Joyce Davis 581-9470
Franklin Mts. Coalition Representative	Gloria Woelfel 833-7523

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.



1987 Nongame Stamp \$5.00

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
1987 Nongame Stamp		\$5	
1986 Nongame Stamp		\$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

TEXAS NONGAME STAMP & ART PRINT

The 1987 Texas Nongame Stamp and associated limited-edition art print feature a magnificent Bald Eagle by Connecticut artist Bob Kuhn. Once again, you can place orders for the print through PRINTS CHARMING, 7040 N. Mesa, Space L, El Paso, TX 79912 (584-3808). The price (one stamp included) is \$130, of which \$41.50 goes to the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD). A special edition that includes a gold medalion will sell for \$255, with \$61.50 going to the Nongame Fund. The print image size will be 6½" x 9"; overall size, 12½" x 14". If you're interested, don't wait too long to order: the edition

size will be limited to the number of orders received by May 31.

To buy the nongame stamp, come to one of our general meetings or use the order form in this newsletter. All proceeds from EP/TPAS's stamp sales go to TPWD's Nongame Fund.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter. Send AUDUBON magazine and membership card to:

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Membership category desired:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$38	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$21
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/\$18	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$23

This is a new renewal membership.

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Neil Keith, 1525 Meadowview, El Paso, Tx 79925.

LOCAL CHAPTER

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS
W10. 7XGH

Audubon Adventures Update


Audubon Adventures tops 5,000 clubs!

With the start of a new calendar year, the youth program crossed the 5,000 club mark. A \$25,000 grant from the General Electric Foundation pushed the club numbers over 5,000, establishing 200 new clubs in communities where G.E. has facilities in New York, Connecticut, and Vermont.

Audubon Month

This year the April Audubon month focus will be on tropical forests. In addition to a special poster and leader's guide to be sent to all Audubon Adventures classrooms, a special packet is being assembled for each state information and education chief. Audubon chapter volunteers will assist by hand carrying the information to state capitols.

For more information on how you can sponsor an Audubon Adventures club, contact your chapter's education chairperson.



EXCERPTS FROM AUDUBON ACTIVIST-Jan.'87

Conservation Update:

Condor foraging territory, Hudson Ranch, was purchased by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; it will now be known as Bitter Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Captive-bred birds are expected to hunt carrion on the refuge when released sometime in the next 5 years. For more info contact: Hope Babcock, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 547-9009.

Did you know?

- * "The Forest Service is directed by law to manage national forests according to the doctrine of multiple use, which includes logging, but also includes-supposedly on an equal basis-watershed, recreation, and wildlife needs."
- * The first Audubon field research project involving endangered species was Robert Porter Allen's 3 year study, begun in 1939. His subject was the Roseate Spoonbill in Florida and Texas. Two other endangered species projects (also funded by Audubon) coincided with Allen's study. They were conducted by graduate students and focused on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the California Condor.

Today, projects study mixed-species communities of birds in regions where expanding human populations place great stress on wildlife. The goal is to discover the dynamics of raptors and waterbirds in key habitats and prevent these species from becoming endangered.

- * The current status of any federal bill can be obtained by calling (202) 225-1772. It's helpful if you know the bill's # or official title.

BIRD BRAINS

1. Accipiter - derived from the Latin word meaning "to seize" and was used by Pliny to refer to the hunting habits of hawks.
2. What is the hallux? It is the first digit or the "big toe" of a bird's foot.
3. Where does the name Phoebe come from? It imitates the call of the Eastern Phoebe ("fee-bee").

If you are "enraptured with raptors", you will find these articles interesting reading:

"A Harvest of Eagles" by Ted Williams
AUDUBON Magazine Sept. 1986

"Riddle of Gettysburg's Vultures" by Elizabeth Daniels
AUDUBON Magazine Jan. 1987
/Anne Husemann & Nancy Wilson/

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 ETPAS and mail to: RR Editor, PO Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986. Please send any changes or corrections in name, address, or telephone # to this address.

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THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

The 70th Texas Legislature is now well into its regular session, which ends June 1. For conservationists and everyone else, budget concerns have held center stage, but a number of other natural resource and environmental issues are also getting legislative attention:



Groundwater. Audubon's top legislative priority is strengthened groundwater protection and management. Bills relating to protection of groundwater quality, to formation of groundwater districts and to regulation of underground storage tanks are being drafted but at press time have yet to be introduced.

Texas Rivers Conservation Act. At press time, Sen. Tati Santiesteban of El Paso was poised to introduce legislation which would establish a Texas Rivers Conservation System to protect, in their free-flowing state, selected Texas rivers or river segments possessing extraordinary wild, scenic, recreational, fishery or wildlife values. This bill is another Audubon priority, and thanks are due Sen. Santiesteban for sponsoring it (see box for address).

If you live in Sen. Bill Sims' district, please urge him to support the Texas Rivers Conservation Act. Emphasize that the bill has been crafted so that it would not affect existing private property rights in any way. Sen. Sims has been getting the erroneous message from some of his constituents that the bill would allow the state to take over private land to provide river access. Not so. This misrepresentation needs to be corrected. Let Sen. Sims hear from you.

Container Deposit. H.B. 210, introduced by Reps. Lena Guerrero and Terral Smith of Austin, would require a minimum 5-cent deposit on beer, soft drink and certain other beverage containers sold in Texas and would also ban both non-

biodegradable six-pack holders and detachable pull-tabs on cans. On Feb 2, the bill was referred to the House Environmental Affairs Committee, an action conservationists view positively. In previous legislative sessions, container deposit bills were routinely referred to the unsympathetic Liquor Regulation Committee, where they routinely died. There are no Trans-Pecos legislators on the Environmental Affairs Committee; if you support the bill, you can best help it at this time by urging your representative to sign on as a co-sponsor to it.

Other bills important to Audubon are being drafted, addressing such issues as wetlands protection, energy efficiency standards for appliances, raptor protection, natural areas acquisition, and environmental impact analysis for major reservoirs and major oil or gas pipeline projects. Thanks to our new Texas Environmental Lobbyist, G. K. Sprinkle, Audubon is following these bills and

TRANS-PECOS LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

Texas Senate

P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711

- H. Tati Santiesteban (most of El Paso County)
- Bill Sims (rest of Trans-Pecos)

Texas House of Representatives

P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78769

- Dudley Harrison (Brewster, Pecos, Presidio, Terrell and Val Verde counties)
- Larry Don Shaw (Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Reeves counties)
- Jack Vowell (El Paso County)
- Arves Jones (")
- Paul Moreno (")
- Nancy McDonald (")
- Nick Perez (")

Bill status info: 1-800-252-9693
 Copies of Senate bills: 512-463-0252
 Copies of House bills: 512-463-1155

making its views known to the Texas Legislature more effectively than ever. Along with Southwest Regional Representative Murray Walton, G. K. is working hard on Audubon's priority legislative issues and is developing a grassroots lobbying network through the Texas Audubon chapters. Our chapter can be proud of its contribution towards getting this new lobbying effort started.

Want more information on Audubon's work with the 70th Texas Legislature? Contact me (545-5157) or Audubon's SW Regional Office (2525 Wallingwood, Suite 1505, Austin 78746; ph. 512/327-1943).
/John Sproul/

NAS BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Aug. 24 - 29, 1987
Western Washington Univ. Bellingham, Wa.

Plans are in the works to make this the biggest and best Audubon convention ever. Programs will focus on national and international conservation issues, with special programs on environmental leadership training and extra-special nature programs for kids. Field trips are scheduled before, during and after the convention. For info on convention registration, field trips and lodging write: Audubon Convention, 4150 Darley, Suite #5, Boulder, Co 80303-9976.

Audubon Camps and Ecology Workshops

Come join us in a celebration of nature . . .

. . . as we embark on Audubon's 50th year of excellence in environmental education and field natural history studies.

In superb natural settings, in the company of distinguished naturalists and fellow students who share your interest in nature, you'll search a pond for whirligig beetles and damselfly nymphs. Or dredge the ocean floor for starfish and sea urchins. Or investigate the riparian grotto home of the nocturnal oilbird. Or follow paths blazed by mountain sheep.

Field studies range from geology and marine life to birds, mammals, plants, insects, weather, astronomy, and renewable energy. For recreation you may explore a wild island in Maine, go rafting in Wyoming, roam the lovely, lush, deciduous woods of Connecticut. In Trinidad your studies will focus on such subjects as sea turtles, manakin leks, and tropical forest ecology.

Camp sessions for adults run for one or two weeks. College credit is available. There is also a session for children in Maine; introductory field ecology for educators in Connecticut; field ornithology in Maine; wilderness research and nature photography in Wyoming.

You'll learn to better understand and protect the wild creatures and wild places that we love. As it has done for so many others, this Audubon experience will enrich the rest of your life.

For a free color brochure write:
National Audubon Society
Audubon Camps and Workshops
613-D Riversville Road
Greenwich, CT 06831



OBSERVATIONS

January 17 - February 20

Birds are starting their courtship activities - singing, chasing, and displaying. Please let me know about any activities you observe.

AP - Arroyo Park
 CP - Crossroads Pond
 DP - Doniphan Playa
 HT - Hueco Tanks
 NEOP - Northeast Oxidation Ponds

LOONS - FALCONS

Cattle Egrets are still being seen in the upper valley (TB). Redhead ducks were spotted at CP 1-24, DP 2-8 and 2-15 (JD, et al.). Buffleheads were reported at NEOP 1-25 (JS, et al.) and DP 2-7, 2-15 (JD, et al.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen at NEOP 1-18 (BJ). A Cooper's Hawk was seen at AP 2-15 (JD). A Rough-legged Hawk posed for SJD at McNutt and Gardner 2-9. A Golden Eagle was reported at NEOP 1-18 (BJ). A Prairie Falcon was spotted near Rainbow Lakes 2-9 (SJD).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Several Greater Yellowlegs were seen at DP 2-8, 2-15 (JD, et al.). One Spotted Sandpiper was found at NEOP 1-25 (JS, et al.). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was seen in a n.e. El Paso yard 2-12 & 13 (LB). Great Horned Owls were spotted at NEOP 1-25 and HT on 2-7 (JS, et al.). A Long-eared Owl was reported at HT 1-31 (JS). Three White-throated Swifts were seen at NEOP 1-25 (JS, et al.). An Anna's Hummingbird was seen at a feeder in e. El Paso 1-30 (AB).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

A Black Phoebe was reported at CP 2-8 (JD). A Brown Thrasher was spotted at NEOP 1-25 (JS, et al.). Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings were seen at various locations: 136 in a n.e. yard 1-23 (BJ), 22 at Cielo Vista - Scotsdale 2-2 (AB), 59 at public library on Oregon St. 2-7, 2-20 (JD, JS). Townsend's Solitaires were reported at HT 1-31 and 2-7 (JS, et al.), 2-13 (EK) and at AP 2-15 (JD). Phainopeplas were found on Love Rd. 2-10 (IP) and at Ranches del Rio 2-15 (JD, et al.).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

An Orange-crowned Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat were spotted at NEOP 1-25 (JS, JB, JF). Two Black-chinned Sparrows were seen at HT 2-7 (JS). A Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco was spotted at HT 1-31 (JS, et al.). Several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at the Sunland Park Racetrack 2-15 (JD). A Rusty Blackbird was seen at HT 1-31 (JS). This is a first for the state park. Two were reported in the El Paso area in 1985. A male Cassin's Finch was seen on a fence south of Owen's 1-17 (LJ). Lesser Goldfinch were seen at Rancho del Rio 2-15 (JD, et al.) and in a n.e. El Paso yard 2-20 (RW).

Notes: The Townsend's Solitaires at AP were singing and displaying (JD). A Cactus Wren was seen turning over 2" - 3" stones looking for food HT(RW).

OBSERVERS: Tom Baker, Lois Beno, Jeff Bickle, Anne Bowman, Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Earle King, John Sproul, Ray Waite.
 /Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/
 (581-9470)

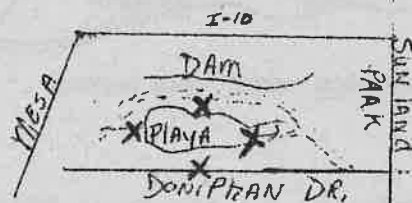
BIRD PEEPERS

Visit the
 Doniphan Playa



You should see Great Blue Herons, Northern Shovelers, Buffleheads, Mallards, Red-tailed Hawks, Belted Kingfishers, Black Phoebes, and more.

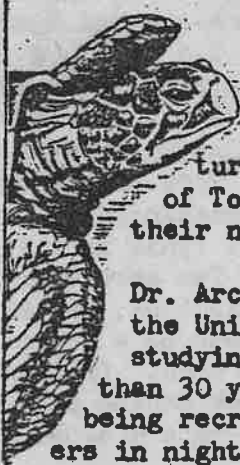
X - denotes good parking places.



Birding tip from Nancy Wilson

A VOLUNTEER-RESEARCH TRAVEL PROGRAM

THE TURTLES of TORTUGUERO

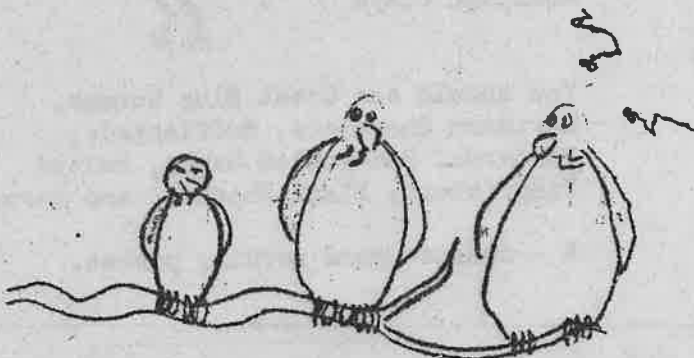


The El Paso Zoological Society is offering a unique opportunity to people in the El Paso area to help researchers count, tag, and study the 8,000 sea turtles that use the beaches of Tortuguero, Costa Rica as their nesting grounds.

Dr. Archie Carr, biologist at the Univ. of Fla. has been studying the turtles for more than 30 years. Volunteers are being recruited to help researchers in nightly walks to find turtles as they climb onto beaches and begin the prehistoric ritual of digging their nests and laying eggs.

The volunteers see an exotic rain forest and uninhabited beach, plus are able to feel excitement and a sense of purpose in their efforts to protect and understand these ancient animals. Groups leave in July and August from Miami. For more info, contact: Sally Christman, El Paso Zoological Society, P.O. Box 10628, El Paso 79996 (915) 532-8156

FAMOUS BIRD JOKE Nancy Wilson



A FAMILY THAT PREYS TOGETHER - STAYS TOGETHER.

DISPLAY IN MALL

The chapter display will appear in Cielo Vista Mall, April 4 and 5. At press time, the location in the mall was not known; this will be assigned to us by the mall office, hopefully by mid-March. Call Neil Keith (778-5937) if you can donate some time to appear with the display to hand out literature and answer questions of shoppers.

LOCAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

If you should find a sick or injured bird, contact one of the following ladies: Helen Bigelow 882-2910, Carole Beach 824-4906, Marcia Wheatley 821-9217. They are very busy, dedicated ladies, frequently hand feeding many little mouths. Any help that you can give them in transporting birds will be most appreciated.

DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge donations to the chapter from:

- Mrs. Edna Mae Lyons
Mr. & Mrs. D. E. Baker in memory of
Mary Belle Kiefer
Lena McBee
* * * * *

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

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Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

The deadline for the April ROADRUNNER is March 21.