

# the ROADRUNNER

Newsletter of El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society - P.O. Box 9555  
El Paso, Texas 79986



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

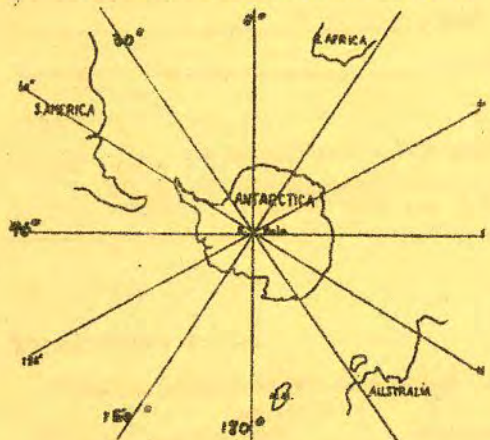
Volume 16 (8)

\$4.00 per year

October 1986

## GENERAL MEETING

MON., OCT. 20, 1986, 7:30 PM at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. The program, Research in Antarctica, will be given by Dr. Larry Jones. Aside from being Professor of Microbiology at UTEP, Dr. Jones has authored numerous papers. Come enjoy Dr. Jones talk about an area of our planet few of us get to see first hand.



## FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

**RIO BOSQUE PARK CLEAN-UP**  
SAT., OCT. 11. Meet at 8 AM at Feather L. Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 N. Loop Road. Regular visitors to Rio Bosque Park will be shocked to learn that a fair amount of trash has accumulated near Interpretive Site 12. Well, grab your work gloves 'cause we're going to clean it up. Trash bags, refreshments and live entertainment will be provided. For those interested, a visit to the scenic Clint landfill will complete the outing.

## MCKITTRICK CANYON

SAT - SUN, OCT 18-19. Meet at Bella Napoli, 10600 Montana at 7:30 AM Sat. Should see woodpeckers and jays to name a few. Leader - Gloria Woelfel (833-7523).

## UPPER VALLEY

SUN., OCT 26. Meet at Crossroads Pond at 7:30 AM. We should see ducks, water birds, quail and Phainopeplas. Leader-Joyce Davis (581-9470).

## HUECO TANKS

SAT., NOV. 8. Meet at Bella Napoli, 10600 Montana, at 7:30 AM. Leader-Jean Coyle (778-7238).

## NORTHEAST OXIDATION PONDS

SUN., NOV. 16. Meet at Furrow's parking lot, 4801 Fred Wilson, at 3 PM. We will have a pleasant afternoon looking for blackbirds, egrets, ibis, ducks and Pyrrhuloxia. Bring a friend. Leader-Bob Johnson (751-0125).

## APACHE SPRINGS

SAT., DEC. 6. Meet at Wilderness Park Museum at 7:30 AM. Will look for sparrows and other wintering birds. Leader-Joe Guinn (566-8438).

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

DEC. 20 and Jan. 3 (more info later.)

## BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

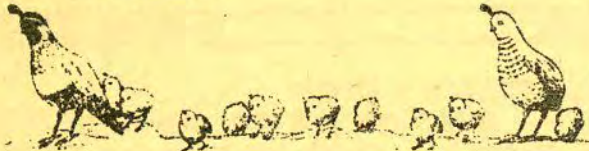
SAT.-SUN., JAN. 17-18. Meet at refuge near Socorro, NM. (More info later). Should see Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles and Whooping Cranes. Leader-Bob Johnson (751-0125).



For information on any field trip, call Bill Doebele (593-4835).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., OCT. 13, 1986 at 7:30 PM the Board will meet at the home of John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25, El Paso (545-5157). All members are welcome.



FIELD TRIPS FOLLOW-UP

August 24th six Audubonners made it to Feather Lake for the Lower Valley survey trip. 45 to 50 species were observed along the route from Fabens to Madden Lake with stops at the major flood control lakes near Tornillo and Ft. Hancock. There was abundant water in the Tornillo and Ft. Hancock lakes but none in Madden Lake. Notable were 3 Upland Sandpipers seen in a mowed field east of Tornillo; a Harris Hawk and nest (with young?) in trees west of the "4 mi. to Ft. Hancock" sign; Forster's Terns at Ft. Hancock lake. Cave Swallows seen nesting at the McNary I10 overpass in July were gone.

On the weekend of Sept. 20-21, 20 outdoor enthusiasts (well 16- as 4 stayed in a Lordsburg motel) toured Redrock and the Burro Mts. in the Gila Natl. Forest. Weather was ideal and many birds were seen including Nashville Warbler, Abert's Towhee and Townsend's Warbler.

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. Please send any changes or corrections in name, address or telephone # to this address.

Note to Editors: Articles appearing in THE ROADRUNNER may be reprinted without prior permission. Credit is appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

1986 Nongame Stamp \$5.00

YES, I want to help support the nongame wild-life and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 1986 Texas Nongame Stamp(s) at \$5 each. Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers

President	Bob Johnson 751-0125
President-elect	Tom Baker 877-3365
Vice-president	Sarah Dodds 533-4150
Secretary	Joyce Davis 581-9470
Treasurer	Jean Coyle 778-7238

Elected Directors

Gloria Woelfel 833-7523
Bart Rumaker 544-6432
Jane Fowler 772-0296

Committees

Conservation	John Sproul 545-5157
Education	Gloria Woelfel 833-7523
Field Trips	Bill Doebele 593-4835
Hospitality	Nancy Wilson 833-3907
Membership	Neil Keith 778-5937
Programs	Peter Chrapliwy 584-1829
Publications	Jane Fowler 772-0296
Publicity	Sarah Dodds 533-4150
Sanctuary	Sid Shepperd 566-2162
Ways & Means	Bart Rumaker 544-6432

ACT Delegate	John Sproul 545-5157
Clean Air Act Coordinator	Joyce Davis 581-9470



## CONSERVATION CAPSULES

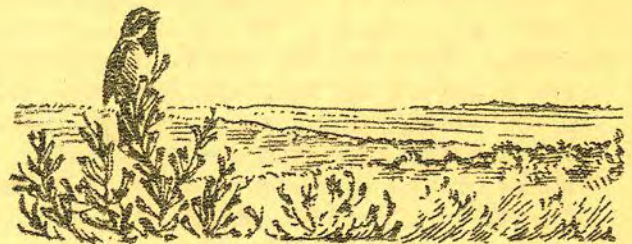
**GUADALUPE ESCARPMENT:** "Too good to be true," you said when the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced last March it would recommend wilderness status for the Guadalupe Escarpment between Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mts. national parks (RR, Apr)? Boy, were you ever right! The announcement prompted an outpouring of anti-wilderness sentiment from Carlsbad-area ranchers, followed by U.S. Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman and U.S. Rep. Joe Skeen exerting heavy pressure on the USFS to recant its decision. And, unfortunately, the USFS buckled. The final Lincoln Natl. Forest Plan (RR, Sept 1985), which may be out by the time you read this, is expected to include a non-wilderness recommendation for the Escarpment. The long battle to protect this important area will continue.

**TEXAS NONGAME FUND:** Buying a \$5 nongame stamp (see p. 2) isn't the only way to support the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. You can also make direct, tax-deductible contributions to the state's Nongame Fund. Checks should be made payable to "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department" and sent to Charles D. Travis, Executive Director, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744. Please explain in an accompanying note that you would like your contribution placed in the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

**EL PASO CITY PLAN:** Throughout 1986, El Paso's Planning Dept. has been seeking public input as it prepares to update the Comprehensive Plan for the City of El Paso. Our organization has participated in this process in a variety of ways and soon will submit to the City a package of written recommendations we believe should be incorporated into the updated Plan. Thanks go to Jean Coyle and Gloria Woelfel for presenting our views at public meetings on the Plan this past summer and to Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Neil Keith and

Gloria Woelfel for contributing to our package of written recommendations.

**MONARCH BUTTERFLY:** On Aug 25, the Mexican government declared the overwintering sites of the monarch butterfly in Mexico an ecological preserve. In doing so, it took an important step towards ensuring the continued existence of one of the most remarkable phenomena in the natural world. Most of the monarchs east of the Rocky Mts. migrate in fall to a few tiny patches of fir forest in mountains near Mexico City. A mere 100 million of these butterflies overwinter there. The remoteness of the sites long served to protect them, but in recent years they have come under increasing pressure from logging and agricultural development. Now, such activities will be prohibited at 6 sites totaling some 12,000 acres, and restrictions will be placed on land use in a surrounding 27,000-acre buffer zone. The Mexican government is to be commended for taking this action, as are the Mexican conservation group Monarca A.C. and the World Wildlife Fund for their roles in getting the overwintering areas protected.



Black-throated Sparrow

### AUDUBON REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND FALL A.C.T. MEETING

By now you should have received your registration form for the National Audubon Society's upcoming Southwest Regional Conference. It takes place Nov 7-9 at Mo-Ranch near Kerrville, Texas. This biennial gathering gives Audubon members from Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico a chance to get together; enjoy entertaining programs, workshops and field trips; and meet some of Audubon's national staff, including

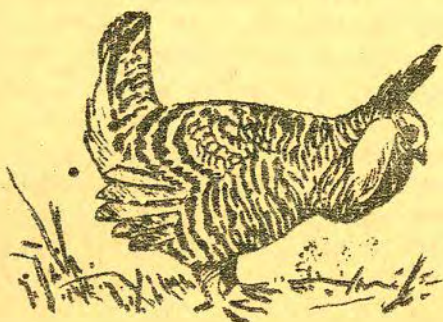


new President Peter Berle, Senior Vice President for Programs and Chapter Relations Dick Martyr and Audubon Magazine Editor Les Line. For further details, see your registration form.

In conjunction with the regional conference, the statewide Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) will hold its 1986 Fall Meeting, which will emphasize the upcoming regular session of the Texas Legislature. ACT will identify legislative priorities, and Pam Crocker-Davis, Audubon staff member in Washington state, will lead a workshop on effective lobbying. All Audubon members are invited to attend these activities along with the regional conference. Questions? Contact chapter ACT delegate John Sproul (545-5157).

TEXAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

Initial planning is now underway for an ornithological project of Texas-sized proportions: a detailed mapping of current breeding-bird distributions in our state, based on comprehensive field coverage of the whole state. It will require the contributions of many birders, both in data gathering and in financial backing. Dr. Keith A. Arnold, Curator of Birds for the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections at Texas A&M, is now establishing a network of volunteer birders who will cover specific blocks of the state and document, over a several-year period, which bird species currently breed within those blocks. For further information on the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas project, contact Dr. Arnold at: Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX 77843-2258.  
/John Sproul/



NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Membership Application

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

Name.....

Address.....

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

Membership category desired:  
 Individual/\$30       Senior Citizen  
 Family/\$38       Individual/\$21  
 Student/\$18       Senior Citizen  
 Family/\$23

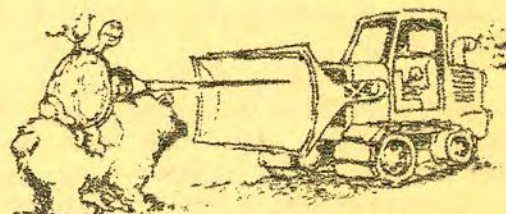
This is a  new  renewal membership.

LOCAL CHAPTER

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS  
W10                      7XCH

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

KEEP UP THE CRUSADE!



Pick up your lance and stay with those crusading to protect wildlife and the environment. Audubon Action (NAS newsjournal) has been replaced by our new national newsletter, the *Audubon Activist*, to give you all the information you need to slay the dragons. Sign up for the "Activist" corps today. Use the subscription envelope enclosed in the June (final) issue of NAS newsjournal, or send six dollars (for one year) to the *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



## OBSERVATIONS

August 20 - September 20

The fall migration is under way.

## LOONS - FALCONS

Two Pied-billed Grebes were still at the Crossroads Pond (CP) 9/6, 9/7 (JoD, BV); another was spotted at Tornillo (Tor) 8/24 (BJ, et al.). A Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.). Great Blue Herons were reported at Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.), Randel's Pool (RP) 8/31 (BV) and Ranchos del Rio (RdR) 9/6 (JoD). An immature Little Blue Heron was seen on the Zaragosa Bridge (good details) 8/30 (AT, DT). Many Cattle and Snowy egrets came into the rookery at Vado 9/14 (JoD, et al.). Green-backed Herons were reported at 3 locations: Cement Lake 8/30, RP, Feather Lake (JoD). Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at Tor 8/24, RdR 9/16, and Durling's Farm 9/7 (JoD). Flocks of White-faced Ibis were seen at RP and Vado 9/7 (JoD). Some 30 Blue-winged Teal in eclipse were spotted at the Socorro Sewage Ponds (SSP) 8/24 (BV). Thirty Northern Shovelers were also at SSP 8/24 (BV). Mississippi Kites nested somewhere in the area as immatures were seen at RdR 8/23 and Westside Place 9/7 (JoD). A pair of Harris' Hawks was at a nest 4 miles west of Ft. Hancock (Ft.H) 8/24 (BJ, et al.).

## QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

A Sora was seen at the canal on Lombardy Lane (LL) 9/7 (BV). Am. Avocets were reported at Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.). Upland Sandpipers were seen in the mowed alfalfa fields along Hwy 20 east of Fabens 8/24 (BJ, et al.). A Spotted Sandpiper was seen at SSP 8/24 (BV). Wilson's Phalaropes and Forster's Terns were seen at Ft.H 8/24 (BJ, et al.). An early Anna's Hummingbird was spotted in an east El Paso yard 8/29 (BR). They are usually seen in El Paso about the middle of Sep. Belted Kingfishers were reported at 4 locations: RP 8/31 (JoD, BV) RdR 9/6 (JoD), CP 9/7 (JoD, BV), Vado 9/14 (JoD, et al.). A Common Flicker was seen in LL 8/31 (BV).

## FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from 2 locations: Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.) and LL 8/31 (BV). Black Phoebes were seen at Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.) and RP 8/31 (JoD). A Bank Swallow was spotted east of Fabens 8/24 (BJ, et al.). A Black-billed Magpie--probably an escaped bird--was seen flying from Eastwood High School football field to Desert Ridge 8/28 (AB) (good details). A Marsh Wren was spotted on LL 9/7 (BV). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at RdR 9/14 (JoD). A Curve-billed Thrasher was spotted at RP 8/31 (JoD). A pair of Phainopeplas was seen at Lake Willows 9/14 (JoD). Solitary and Warbling vireos were reported at RP 8/31 (BV).

## WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at RP 8/31 (JoD) and 9/7 (BV). An unusual warbler, Townsend's, showed up at RP 9/7 (BV). Wilson's Warblers were seen several places: LL and RP 8/31 (BV, JoD), Feather Lake 9/1 (JoD), RdR 9/6, Owen's Farm 9/7 (JoD) and RP 9/7 (BV). A Western Tanager showed up in a yard in east El Paso 8/27 (AB). A Pyrrhuloxia was spotted at Tor 8/24 (JoD). Lark Sparrows were seen at RP 8/31 (JoD) and 9/7 (BV). Flocks of Lark Buntings were reported from SSP 8/24 (BV), Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.), RdR 9/6 (JoD). A rare Clay-colored Sparrow showed up at RP 9/7 (BV). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted at the CP 8/31 (BV) and at Vado 9/14 (JoD, et al.). Northern Orioles were seen at Tor 8/24 (BJ, et al.), RdR 9/6 (JoD) and 9/7 Owen's Farm. A Scott's Oriole stayed around a Mt. Park yard until 9/18 (JB).

CONTRIBUTORS: Anne Bowman, Janet Brockmoller, Joyce Davis, Bob Johnson, Bettie Roberts, Dennis & Ann Taylor, Brad Vaughn.  
/Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/  
(581-9470)





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S EYRIE

We are still looking for a caretaker for Feather Lake. If you have a prospect, please let us know.

Help is needed to promote the Audubon Cause in our community. Our chapter display will be located at the Bassett Center (west end of mall) Sat - Sun, Oct 25-26. We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting Oct 20. If you can donate some time (2 hour shifts), but can't attend the general meeting, call Neil Keith (773-5937).

Many thanks to those who showed up at Feather Lake Sep 13 for our work day; a lot was done. We could use your willing hands again Sun, Nov 2, at 1:30 PM. We should see some birds also.

World of AUDUBON Special - W T B S Nov 3. "Some Enchanted Islands" - a stunning special on the Galapagos narrated by Cliff Robertson. Check newspaper or TV guide for time.

Our fall rummage sale will be held Sun, Nov 9. Get your junk and your neighbor's junk together. We will pick up anywhere in the county. Just call me.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS--Sat, Dec 20 was selected for the Hueco Tanks count and Sat, Jan 3 for El Paso. Mark your calendars now; we will need your help. More details in the Dec Roadrunner.

Our chapter Awards Dinner will take place in early '87. If you wish to recommend an individual or organization (nonprofit or otherwise) for consideration by the Awards Committee, please call Peggy Riede (833-4881) or me. /Bob Johnson (751-0125)/

\* \* \* \* \*  
CORRECTION Due to an editing error, it was incorrectly reported in Sep's RR that improvements to Mesa Drain and Feather Lake would be accomplished as part of the Army Corps of Engineer's flood-control project for southeast El Paso. It is, in fact, the City's engineering dept. that's in charge of current dredging and expansion of the lake bed. The editor regrets this error.

October 1986



Aluminum cans are worth money.  
It pays to keep America clean.

Give a hoot.  
Don't pollute.

Forest Service, U.S.D.A.

The deadline for the Nov. Roadrunner is Oct. 22.

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

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

Forwarding and  
Address Correction  
Requested

ROBERT S JOHNSON  
5109 PARIS ST  
EL PASO TX 79924

W10  
JAN87