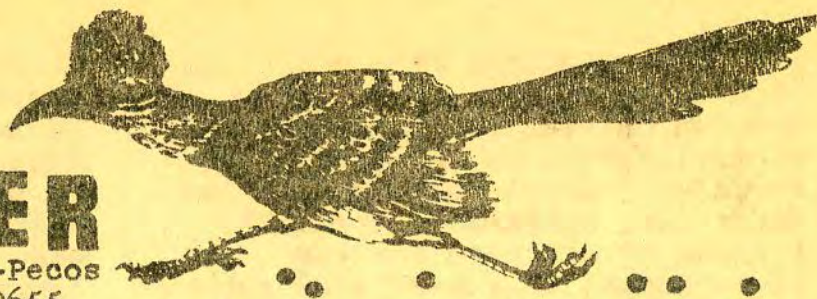


the ROADRUNNER

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



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 16 (1)

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January 1986

GENERAL MEETING

MON., JANUARY 20., 1986, 7:30 PM,
Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Me-
morial Park. Join us to see the
latest movie on Big Bend National
Park, "The Spiral Dance". Harry
Gordon was in charge of filming,
and Burl Ives is the narrator.
Excellent reviews precede it.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

BEGINNERS TRIP/ COUNTRY CLUB AREA
SAT., JAN. 11. Meet at 8 AM at the
crossroads of Mesa and Doniphan
(southwest corner just over the
railroad tracks). Look for an '85
white Chevy pick-up with white
shell. Tour will end before noon.
For more information, call leader
Bob Johnson (751-0125).

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

SAT - SUN., JAN. 18-19. Want to
see thousands of Snow Geese and
Sandhill Cranes? Bald Eagles and
Whooping Cranes are still not on
your life list? Come to the best
bird spot in New Mexico! Meet ei-
ther at 7:30 AM at Transmountain
and I-10 for the drive up or be-
tween 11 and 12 noon at the Park
Headquarters for lunch. Overnight
accommodations in Socorro at Best
Western Golden Manor (800) 528-
1234 and Motel 6 (505) 835-4300.
Just north of the Refuge is an
R.V. Park, P.O. Box 262, Socorro,
NM, (505) 835-1366. BLM land west
of San Antonio is available for
camping. Call leader, Jean Coyle,
if you plan to go (778-7238).

COUNTRY CLUB/ RANDEL'S POOL

SUN., JAN. 26. Meet at 7:30 AM at
the crossroads of Mesa and Doni-
phan (southwest corner just over
the railroad tracks). We will be
seeking winter waterfowl and pas-
serines. Leader: Tom Baker (562-
9461).

INDIAN HOT SPRINGS

SUN., FEB. 9 Details in next RR.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

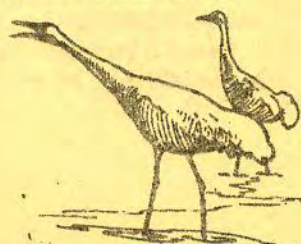
MON., JAN. 13, 1986, 7:30 PM. The
Board will meet at the home of
Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso,
(751-0125). All members are wel-
come.

FIELD TRIP FOLLOW- UP

On Dec. 8, seven hopeful birders
found Madden Lake dry and Ft.
Hancock Reservoir half-full. 55
species were seen which included
Golden Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, King-
fisher, Savannah Sparrows, Prai-
rie Falcon, 8 Snow Geese and 1
Ross' Goose, Snowy Egrets, West-
ern Grebe, Red-breasted Mergan-
ser and Common Snipe.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the
following new members of NAS and
the local chapter: Randy Patton,
J.P. Quarm, Richard & Cynthia Sim-
mons and Paula Mentzel.



ELECTION EVE

The nominating committee composed of Neil Keith, Chm, Al & Madeline Gavit and Carlyle Navidomskis has spent many hours to put together a slate of officers for 1986 that, it is hoped, will meet with approval. President Elect: Tom Baker; Vice President: Sarah Jane Dodds; Secretary: Joyce Davis; Treasurer: Jean Coyle. Elected Directors: Jane Fowler, Gloria Basden, Bart Rumaker. Everyone come out on Jan. 20th and cast your vote. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

1985 NONGAME STAMP: Now that we're into 1986, a look back at the first year of the Texas Nongame Stamp program is in order. From Nov 1984 through Nov 1985, some 1,098 stamps and 1,249 decals were sold statewide. Locally, our chapter sold 23 stamps and 51 decals. The statewide totals translate to \$5,422.50 raised through stamp sales and \$6,136.50 through decal sales for the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Obviously, there is plenty of room for improvement. TPWD's Nongame and Endangered Species Fund also received \$4,000 in donations, including \$1,000 from El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon. And, finally, it will receive \$250,000 in guaranteed royalties from Collectors Covey of Dallas for sales of the art print based on the stamp design. To all who bought stamps, decals or art prints or made donations to the Nongame Fund in 1985, thanks.

1986 NONGAME STAMP: TPWD recently signed a 3-year contract with Collectors Covey for the 1986-88 Nongame Stamp artwork. The 1986 stamp will feature another of our state's endangered bird species,

Attwater's Prairie Chicken. John Cowan of Rockport, TX, who also designed the 1985 Texas Duck Stamp, is the artist. TPWD hopes to have the stamp available by March; whether there will be a 1986 decal is as yet uncertain. Meanwhile, the 1985 stamp and decal remain available.

RIO BOSQUE PARK: Our proposed cooperative agreement with the City of El Paso to manage Rio Bosque Park as a wildlife sanctuary and environmental education area has taken another step forward. On Dec 17, City Council approved the agreement, which now needs the approval of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior to become effective. Interested in helping with educational programs that use Rio Bosque or with developing a management plan for the park? Contact Gloria Basden (532-7348) or John Sproul (545-5157).

RECYCLING: El Paso's recycling program has been under fire lately. Participation has been low, and, the way the City keeps the books, the program isn't making money. The City's Sanitation Advisory Board and some within City government have recommended killing the program, a move El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon opposes. We have urged City Council to retain the program, pointing out that recycling works well in other cities throughout the country. The sensible course of action is not to end El Paso's program but to learn how successful programs operate elsewhere, then make the necessary changes here. Still, without improved participation, the days of El Paso's program may be numbered. So, if you live in El Paso, remember: Fridays are recycling days. You can put your recyclables (newspapers, cans, corrugated cardboard) at curbside by 7:30 AM for pickup on either the 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th Fridays each month. To learn

what recycling zone you are in, contact the Sanitation Dept. (594-8625).

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: On Dec 4, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee voted unanimously to report an Endangered Species Act (ESA) reauthorization bill (S. 725) to the full U.S. Senate. As with H.R. 1027, the bill passed by the House in July (RR, Sept 1985), S. 725 would reauthorize the ESA for 3 years, but it would do so at slightly higher funding levels than called for in the House bill. S. 725 also differs from H.R. 1027 in that it proposes no other changes to the ESA, whereas H.R. 1027 would provide some increased protection for species that are candidates for endangered status. /John Sproul/

CALIFORNIA CONDOR: WILD POPULATION TO ZERO?

In a surprising reversal of previous plans (RR, Nov 1985), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) now intends to take into captivity the 6 California Condors still remaining in the wild. Trapping is to begin in January and, if carried out, will bring to 27 the number of condors in captivity.

The Natl. Audubon Society strongly opposes this move, which USFWS Deputy Director Eugene Hester authorized in mid-December. According to Audubon, the decision to trap all of the birds was made without consulting other cooperators in the California Condor recovery program, including Audubon, and without consulting the USFWS's own Office of Endangered Species. The USFWS says it is taking this step based on new information obtained since an agreement was reached last fall to capture 3 of the remaining 6 birds and leave 3 in the wild. Audubon contends there is no information available now that

wasn't available and taken into consideration then.

Audubon argues that without wild condors, pressures to develop condor habitat will become overwhelming. Also, future releases of captive-reared birds are less likely to be successful if there are no wild birds present to serve as "guides". And, obviously, further study of wild birds in their natural habitat will be impossible.

Currently, Natl. Audubon is trying to get the decision overturned. You can help. If you support retaining a population of wild condors, express that support to Interior Secretary Donald Hodel (U.S. Dept. Interior, Wash., DC 20240), Rep. Ron Coleman (U.S. House of Reps., Wash., DC 20515) and Sens. Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm (U.S. Senate, Wash., DC 20510). /John Sproul/

AIR QUALITY MEETING

On Jan 14, the Texas Air Control Board (TACB) will hold a public meeting in El Paso to discuss proposed revisions to the Texas State Implementation Plan for carbon monoxide (CO) in El Paso County. It will begin at 7 PM at City Council Chambers, 2nd floor, 2 Civic Center Plaza. The TACB invites comments on proper design and implementation of a program to reduce CO emissions from autos and light-duty trucks in the county. It particularly seeks input on design characteristics for an expanded vehicle-inspection-and-maintenance program. The agency has prepared an issues paper that presents useful background information for the meeting. You can get a copy by calling TACB's El Paso office (915/591-8128).



SUPERFUND: HOUSE PASSES STRONG BILL

Nationally, Audubon's top priority for conservation action in 1985 was reauthorization of a strong "Superfund", the law designed to provide for clean-up of inactive hazardous-waste disposal sites and of hazardous-substance spills. On Dec 10, the U.S. House of Representatives did its part by passing a strong reauthorization bill, 391-33.

Rep. Ron Coleman (U.S. House of Reps., Wash., DC 20515) voted for final passage of the bill and also supported the position of conservation groups on most, though not all, amendments offered during floor debate. He deserves your thanks, particularly for his vote for final passage of the Edgar-Sikorski amendment that strengthened the "right-to-know" provisions of the bill.

The Edgar-Sikorski amendment came up twice. When first considered late on Dec 5, with many House members absent, it passed 183-166. Rep. Coleman voted against it. On Dec 10, it was considered again. This time, Rep. Coleman, after re-evaluating his position, voted for the amendment, and again it passed ...212-211!

House and Senate conferees now must iron out differences between this bill and a somewhat weaker Superfund bill passed by the Senate last September. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (U.S. Senate, Wash., DC 20510) is on the conference committee. Urge him to support the strongest possible provisions (generally, those in the House bill) for the final Superfund reauthorization legislation.

/John Sproul/

OBSERVATIONS

November 23 - December 28

Reports for the first one-half of this period continued to be interesting with the last one-half reflecting the usual holiday lull.

LOONS - FALCONS

Five Western Grebes were at Northeast Oxidation Ponds (NEOP) 11/28 (BJ,Rw)

and 1 at Fort Hancock Reservoir (FHR) 12/8 (BJ,mob). An American Bittern was observed on 2 occasions at Feather Lake 12/7, once when it was flushed from the shore near FeatherLite and again when it arose and flew to another corner of the lake at dusk (JS) (details to Rare Bird Committee). Seventy-five to 100 Cattle Egrets were noted coming in to roost at Feather Lake 11/29, 12/7 and 12/11(JS). Eight Snow Geese and 1 Ross' Goose were at FHR 12/8 (BJ,mob). On 12/1, 23 Canada Geese were seen flying over an area near Owen's (JS). An incredible 17 Wood Ducks were present regularly at the Gary Lane Pond in the upper valley throughout the period(NH). A Common Goldeneye was at the Crossroads Pond 12/12 (BJ). Hooded Mergansers were reported on 3 occasions; a pair at the Crossroads Pond 11/24 (JoD), a male and 2 females at a pond in Los Nogales 12/12 (BJ) and on 12/28 it was reported that at least 6 had been present at the Gary Lane Pond(NH). Common Mergansers were at FHR 12/8 (BJ,mob) and the Gary Lane Pond as of 12/28 (NH). A Sharp-shinned Hawk paid a visit to a n.e. El Paso yard 11/30(RH). A Cooper's Hawk was being seen regularly at a Cielo Vista residence as of 12/17 (EG). A Golden Eagle was noted near the Faben's exit 12/8, and a Prairie Falcon near McNary that same day (BJ,mob).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Western Sandpipers were at FHR 12/8 (BJ,mob). Long-billed Dowitchers were noted at NEOP 11/28 (BJ,Rw) and in the lower valley 12/8 (BJ,mob). A rather late wilson's Phalarope was in the upper valley 12/1 (BJ,Rw). Also rather late were 4 Bonaparte's Gulls at NEOP 11/28 (BJ,Rw). A pair of Anna's Hummingbirds was still in Mountain Park as of 12/28 (JB). A male Rufous Hummingbird was there 11/28 (JB) and another 1 was frequenting a feeder in the Cielo Vista area 12/17 (AB). Of interest is a Northern Flicker (most likely a hybrid) that was observed with 4 "Red-shafted" Flickers in n.e. El Paso 12/12. It was described as having the exact appearance of the "Red-

shafted" but with yellow wing and tail linings (BJ).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

A Black Phoebe was at FHR 12/8 (BJ,mob). In the late afternoon of 12/28, an estimated 4,000 - 5,000 American Crows were seen flying west just south of North Loop near Fabens (AG,MG). Two Mountain Chickadees (details to Rare Bird Committee) and a Red-breasted Nuthatch were observed at 2 different woodlots near Anthony 12/1 (JS). A male Phainopepla was at Durling's that same day (JS).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

At least 5,000 Red-winged plus 2,000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Feather Lake 11/28 and a combined total of 3,000+ there 12/7 (JS). Blackbirds numbering in the thousands were seen flying just below the large flight of American Crows near Fabens 12/28 (AG,MG). Lesser Goldfinches were noted at Indian Cliffs Ranch 12/8 (BJ,mob).

CONTRIBUTORS: Anne Bowman, Janet Brockmoller, Joyce Davis, Al & Madeline Gavit, Elza Gilboe, Nuala Heitzman, Richard Hermosillo, Bob Johnson, John Sproul, Ray Waite.
/Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/
(591-0421)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Jan 20-22: Conference on Integrating Wildlife Conservation and New Residential Developments, Tucson, AZ. Contact: William Shaw, School of Renewable Natural Resources, U. Ariz., Tucson 85721, ph. 602/621-7265.
- May 1-3: Texas Ornithological Society, Spring Meeting, Lajitas, TX.
- May 9-11 (tentative): Audubon Council of Texas, Spring Meeting, McKinney, TX.
- May 22-25: Southwest Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop, Tucson, AZ. Contact: William Mannan, School of Renewable Natural Resources, U. Ariz., Tucson 85721.
- July 28-Aug 3: American Birding Association, Biennial Convention, Tucson, AZ.
- Oct or Nov: Audubon Council of Texas, Fall Meeting, El Paso.

FRIENDS OF FEATHER LAKE

Thanks to all who came and worked at Feather Lake Sat, Dec 7. A lot was accomplished, but much more needs to be done. Mark your calendars now for the next Sanctuary work day on Feb 1!

* * *

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 "El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society" 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 same address.

* * *

The deadline for the February Roadrunner is January 22.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter

Membership Application

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

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
W10 7XCH

Membership Category desired:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$30 (H)	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$38 (J)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$21(N)
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/\$18 (K)	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$23 (P)

This is a new renewal membership.

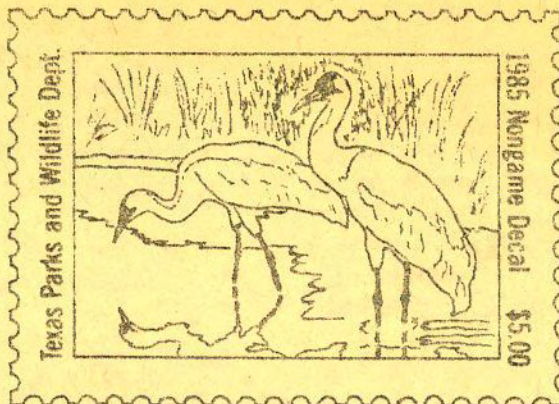
Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

Zip.....Phone.....

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso, TX 79924.



YES, I want to help support the nongame wild-
 life 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 _____

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