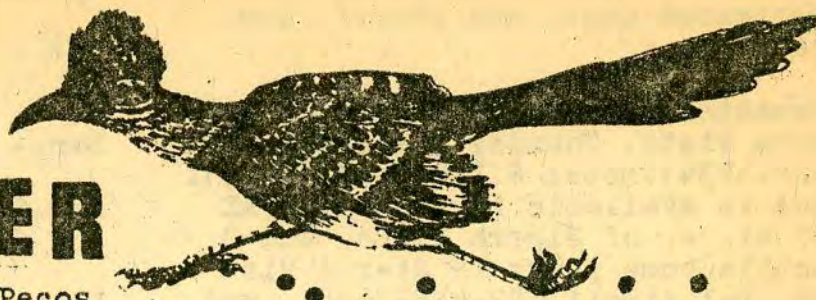


the ROADRUNNER

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



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 14 (5)

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May 1984

GENERAL MEETING

MON., MAY 21, 1984, 7:30 PM, Garden Center, 3105 Grant St., Memorial Park. The program this evening will be Birds of New Zealand presented by David Ellis. Mr. Ellis recently arrived in El Paso and is on the staff of the El Paso Zoo. He and his wife and son came to El Paso after a 3 yr. stay in New Zealand where he was Director of the Wellington Zoo. We are most fortunate to have him both on the staff of our local zoo and as a new and artistically talented member of El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Come for an outstanding program from the land down under./S.J.D.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT MEMORIAL PARK
WED., MAY 2, 9, 16 meet by Garden Club Bldg. at 7AM. We will be watching for spring migrants and early summer resident birds coming through the city. In years past these mornings have produced sightings of various warblers, tanagers and flycatchers. Lucy's Warblers have been seen this April and could still be here in early May. Try to make at least one of these - a good way to start your day.

W. COTTONWOOD SPR. BEGINNERS TRIP
SUN., MAY 6. Meet at 6:45 AM at the entrance to the Tom Mays Area of the Franklin Mountains St. Park, along Transmountain Rd. on the w. side of the Franklins. The emphasis on this beginners trip will be on learning the songs and calls of

common breeding birds in the Franklins. Plan to walk 2 miles, some of it steep. Leader: John Sproul (545-5157 h, 541-6126 w).

ORGAN MOUNTAINS

SAT., MAY 12. We will be hiking in the southwest Organs through a scrub pine habitat including part of Soledad Canyon. Meeting time and place will be 7:30 AM at Transmountain and I-10 for the drive up. The entry area will be a point south of the road going to La Cueva (NMSU exit) in the next canyon down. Comfortable hiking shoes should be worn as the trails are somewhat rocky. Leader: Tom Baker (562-9461 h, 566-9461 w).

RAMSEY CANYON/PATAGONIA -SONOITA CREEK SANCTUARY, AZ

FRI., SAT., SUN., MAY 18, 19, 20. Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary is a mile and half of year round creek on 300 acres, lined with Fremont Cottonwoods (some 100' high). Seen here last May were seen the Gray Hawk, Gila Woodpecker, Brown-crested and Western Flycatchers, Eastern Bluebird and Thick-billed Kingbird. At Ramsey Canyon, the Hummingbird Capitol of the U.S. (14 species have been seen and photographed) we saw Magnificent, Blue-throated and Broad-billed Hummers also Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Virginia's Warbler. Possible sightings could be Allen's and Violet-crowned Hummers, Cardinals, Bell's Vireo, Gray-breasted Jay and, who knows,

maybe the Rose-throated Becard,
Montezuma Quail and Abert's Tow-
hee.

Repeated here are 2 motels in Si-
erra Vista: Thunder Mt. Inn(1-800-
528-1234);Motel 6(1-602-459-0666).
KOA is available in Tombstone,AZ
17 mi. e. of Sierra Vista, and 2
mobile home parks in Sierra Vis-
ta, Bel Aire(1-602-458-5688), and
Sierra Grande(1-602-458-6908) al-
so take overnigheters. Down-to-earth
campers will be in Miller Canyon
2 mi. s. of Ramsey and 9 mi. from
Sierra Vista. Some participants
will leave El Paso Friday, some
on Saturday. The main meeting
place will be the parking lot at
Thunder Mt. Inn at 12 noon,Sat.
May 19. If you intend to go,call
Bob Johnson(757-1876 or 751-0125).

RIO BOSQUE PARK

SAT.,JUNE 2. Meeting at Feather
Lake at 7:30 AM, we will contin-
ue from there over to Rio Bosque.
After birding the Bosque area
those interested will continue
down the levee in search of addi-
tional summer inhabitants.
Leader: (needed)

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIPS FOR REMAINDER OF 1984

Sat.- June 2 Rio Bosque/Lower Val-
ley

Sat.Sun. - June 16,17 Ruidoso

Sun.-July 8 Ft.Bliss Ponds,Be-
ginners

Sat.Sun - July 14,15 Glenwood/
Luna

Sat.- Aug. 4 Upper Valley

Sat.Sun. - Aug. 18,19 Magdalena
Mt./Bosque del Apache

Sun.- Sept. 9 Apache Springs

Sat.-Sept. 22 Rio Bosque/Lower
Valley

Sat.- Oct. 6 Singh Pond/Mesilla

Sat.Sun. - Oct 20,21 Guadalupe
Mts.(McKittrick Canyon)

Sun.- Nov. 4 Ft. Bliss Ponds

May 1984

Sat.Sun. - Nov. 10,11 Caballo
Lake/Black Range

Sat.- Nov. 17 Madden Lake/ Es-
peranza

Sun.- Dec. 2 Hueco Tanks

...
Sat.Sun. - April 1985 Big Bend
Natl. Park

Leaders are needed for these out-
ings. If anyone is interested in
a particular trip please call
Tom Baker(562-9461 h,566-9461 w).

If anyone has any suggestions
concerning this schedule, call
Joyce Davis(581-9470 h) or Tom
Baker(562-9461 h). /T.B.

...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON.,MAY 14,7:30 PM, The Board
will meet at the home of Peggy
Riede,10423 Adonis,El Paso(821-
0989). All members are welcome.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

WED.,MAY 16, 7 PM. The Program
Committee will meet at the home
of Peggy Riede,10423 Adonis
(821-0989). If you'd like to be
on the program committee or if
you have suggestions for upcom-
ing programs, please come. Call
Peggy with your ideas if you're
unable to attend. /P/R.

RUMMAGE SALE

Time is growing short for you
to get your discarded household
items and clothing together for
our parking lot sale on Sun.,
May 6. Please bring your rummage
to the Woolco parking lot on
Dyer St. by 9 AM on May 6, or
call Joe Guinn(566-8438) to get
it picked up./ J.G.

Recycle

2-The Roadrunner

 *
 *
 * ...Mexican treefrogs,
 * night snakes, Ospreys,
 * Peregrine Falcons...?
 *

GOOD NEWS

EP/TPAS welcomes to our chapter and Natl. Audubon Sharon Osowski, Carl Ostertag, Harry Lord, Mary Ferrell, Bob Scott, Susan Telehany, Helen Weir, Rod Baird, Robert Byrd and Patricia Russell.

....

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.

FIELD TRIP FOLLOWUPS

A total of 22 species were seen by 8 birders who walked from Hondo Pass across the desert to Transmountain on March 25. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was also heard but not seen. Although not abun-

dant, there were several wildflowers and cacti in bloom. Our local members were joined by near by resident, W.J. Liles, who recently moved to El Paso from Washington State where he was an Audubon member. /T.B.

....

Our spring venture on March 31 to Hueco Tanks brought out 11 observers on a nice Sat. morning. Several birders saw their first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Lois Beno added several new birds to her life list. /J.F.

....

Snow, wind and rain were all much in evidence on the 1st day of our April 7-8 outing to s.e. New Mexico, but the 2nd day brought calm blue skies and sunshine. Rain or shine, the 19 participants enjoyed the Snowy Plovers at Bitter L. Natl. Wildlife Refuge, the Sanderling at Bottomless Lakes St. Park and the 60 or so Am. White Pelicans at L. McMillan. Among the mammals encountered: black-tailed prairie dog, either a kit or swift fox, striped skunk, bobcat and pronghorn. And, yes, included in the 70 or so bird species seen were the stars of the show, a group of displaying Lesser Prairie-Chickens. /J.S.

....

April 15 was a good day for a trip to Dog Canyon and La Luz Canyon. Besides the El Paso birders there were 9 from Alamogordo including Jean Dodd, plant identifier, of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and Warren Bloys, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent who led us birding. Disappointment was felt by all to find we could go no farther than the board walk in Dog Canyon. 33 bird species were seen and outstanding were a Golden Eagle, Mountain Bluebird, Bustits and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird.



JULY WEEKEND ALERT-GLENWOOD/LUNA
 A great trip is planned for 14/15
 July to the Gila Natl. Forest
 past Silver City. We have ordered
 a Lewis Woodpecker and other sur-
 prises! 4 motels are available in
 Glenwood: Lariat; the Goldnugget,
 which has R.V.Park, too; Florida;
 Whitewater. Prices \$15 - \$30 for 2.
 Details in June RR. Call Bob John-
 son with questions (751-1876 or
 751-0125).

....
 THE "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC"
 GUIDE

The Natl. Geographic Society (NGS)
Field Guide to the Birds of North
 America (RR, Nov 1983) is drawing
 rave reviews as the state of the
 art in N. American field guides.
 But where, if you don't belong
 to NGS, can you get 1? The easi-
 est way is to call NGS toll-free
 at 800/638-4077 and place an or-
 der. They will send you the book
 and bill you \$13.95 + \$3.00 for
 shipping and handling.

DIRECTORY

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
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| President-elect and Membership | Bob Johnson* | 751-0125 |
| Vice-president and Programs | Peggy Riede* | 821-0989 |
| Secretary and Education | Gloria Basden* | 581-2365 |
| Treasurer | John Coyle* | 778-7238 |
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| Field Trips | Tom Baker* | 562-9461 |
| Hospitality | Annamarie Shields* | 751-7456 |
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| Publications | Jane Fowler** | 772-0296 |
| Publicity | Diane Dutton* | 562-7306 |
| Sanctuary and Ways & Means | Joe Guinn** | 566-8438 |
| Audubon Council of Texas Delegate | | |
| | John Sproul | 545-5157 |
| Clean Air Act Coordinator | | |
| | Joyce Davis | 581-9470 |

* - Board of Directors

** - Elected Directors

May 1984

DISPLAY ANNOUNCES BIRDATHON

Our chapter's Educational dis-
 play at Cielo Vista Mall, April
 12-14, was very successful. We
 advertised our Birdathon, ac-
 quainted passers-by with our Fea-
 ther Lake Sanctuary, and inform-
 ed interested shoppers of the
 Natl. Audubon Society and our lo-
 cal chapter.

Much of the credit for our suc-
 cess must go to Bob Johnson, Pres-
 ident-elect and Membership Chair,
 for his many hours spent in or-
 ganizing, transporting, assem-
 bling and dismantling the dis-
 play. Bob was also our trouble-
 shooter for the entire 3 days;
 he always had a solution to unex-
 pected problems that occurred.
 Other members who represented
 EP/TPAS at the display were: Har-
 ry Assad, Tom & Virginia Baker,
 Helen Barto, John & Betty Bowen,
 Jeannette Cole, Joyce Davis, Sa-
 rah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Elza
 Gilboe, Joe Guinn, Neil Keith,
 Jo Nagel, Betty Pagel, Patrick
 Pierce, Peggy Riede, Bart Rumak-
 er, Patricia Russell, Sid Shep-
 perd, John Sproul, Ray Waite,
 Stella Weinstein. Step up, folks,
 and take a bow.

The chapter also wishes to thank
 2 fine people who have added to
 the enjoyment and excitement of
 our Birdathon, Patti Canaris and
 John McDaniel. Patti painted and
 donated the Grand Prize for our
 Birdathon, Northern Orioles on
 Haviland china. And John (Am-Camp
 at Barley Square) donated a gift
 certificate from his fine store.
 These prizes were given away at
 the drawing at our post-Birdathon
 dinner, April 29. Muchas Gracias,
 Patti and John. /J.F.

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.

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

PRIMARY ELECTIONS MAY 5: VOTE!

RECYCLING II: Recycling took another step forward in El Paso recently when Dickshire-Coors announced its new program for recycling glass bottles. Long a leader in local recycling efforts, the firm now accepts any container glass (above 4 inches tall) at its 203 Chelsea headquarters. Your jars, bottles, jugs, etc. should be delivered rinsed and sorted by color, with all metal caps or rings removed. You don't have to remove labels. Dickshire-Coors will even pay you 1¢ per pound for your glass, except in the case of Coors bottles. For these you get 1¢ per bottle. Coors bottles are also the only glassware you can recycle at Dickshire-Coors' 15 satellite recycling centers around town. For other glass, you must deliver it to 203 Chelsea. Do it. You'll take another step towards a cleaner, more resource-conservation-conscious El Paso.

MISSISSIPPI KITES: Last summer, El Paso Country Club (EPCC) had 5 Mississippi Kite nests removed from its golf course because the club judged these graceful insect-eating raptors a serious hazard to golfers (RR, Sept 1983). El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon responded with an offer to help develop an educational program that would teach golfers about the birds and how best to avoid their surprise nest-defense swoops. Mississippi Kites will soon return to the El Paso area, so on April 25 we presented our proposal to the EPCC Board of Directors at its monthly meeting. We noted that kites and golfers do coexist at golf courses elsewhere (e.g. Amarillo, TX, and Clovis, NM), that serious injury from a kite swoop is highly unlikely, and that it is even less likely with a vigorous educational program in place. The central elements of our proposed educational program are signs for posting on the course and pamphlets that summarize Mississippi Kite biology and list simple actions golfers can take to avoid surprise swoops. We are hopeful that EPCC will accept the proposal and let the kites nest, should the birds return to the golf course in 1984.

DDT IN WEST TEXAS?: On Feb. 24, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a final report on its recently-completed study of "Impacts of Organochlorine Pesticides on wildlife of the Rio Grande and Pecos River Drainages of New Mexico and Texas." The conclusions are not comforting. The study looked at chlorinated-hydrocarbon residues in waterfowl, Western Kingbirds, House Sparrows, Black-crowned Night-Herons, whiptail lizards and free-tailed bats from a variety of west Texas-southern NM locations. This excerpt from the report summary tells it best:

"Collectively, the data presented in this report suggest that there is a major source of DDE [the major metabolite of DDT] contamination to wildlife in the Rio Grande and Pecos River Drainages. Kingbirds had significantly higher levels after 2 months than when they arrived from Latin America; some resident, nonmigratory house sparrows and lizards had elevated DDE levels; fledgling bats at Carlsbad Caverns were 13-fold higher in DDE than those from a relatively clean area in Texas; and DDE residues in black-crowned night-heron eggs were significantly higher at 2 sites on the Pecos R. in New Mexico than at a control site in Texas. Since most other parts of the nation have shown significant declines in DDE residues according to starling and duck-wing data from the National Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, local use of DDT or DDE containing products of a recent or residual nature is suggested in the terrestrial ecosystem."

Translated: It looks suspiciously like DDT is still being used illegally in certain parts of west Texas and southern NM.

WEST TEXAS PEREGRINES: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reports in a recent Endangered Species Technical Bulletin that Peregrine Falcon fledging success in west Texas was "disappointing" in 1983. The USFWS and the Natl. Park Service monitored 7 west Texas eyries last year, and, though 5 of the 7 were occupied, only



a single chick was successfully fledged. Seven young Peregrines had fledged from 4 of these eyries in 1982.

WOOD STORK LISTED AS ENDANGERED: On Feb. 28, the USFWS announced that, effective March 29, the U.S. breeding population of the Wood Stork will be listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. breeding population is now restricted to Florida, Georgia and S. Carolina. Nesting formerly occurred in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Wood Storks found in Texas today are believed to be migrants from Mexican breeding colonies. The USFWS took this action because U.S. populations of the Wood Stork have declined 75% from their 1930 levels. From 1975 to 1980, the decline was 5% annually.

GRACIAS: EP/TPAS has been active on a number of conservation fronts recently. We've been active because many different people have chipped in and helped out. For example:

- Dave Ellis has designed for us a raptor-protection bumper sticker. Watch for it soon. Ralph Gomez and Bart Ruckmaker are now seeking printing estimates.
- Jo Nagel prepared the sample Mississippi Kite sign that we used in our presentation to El Paso Country Club (see above). Gloria Basden and Dave Ellis are collaborating on a pamphlet that tells how to get along with Mississippi Kites. Sarah Jane Dodds helped present our proposed educational program to EPCC.
- Joe Guinn, Jane Fowler and Gloria Basden represented EP/TPAS at last month's public meetings on the proposed American Canal Extension project.
- Diane Dutton drafted EP/TPAS's letter to elected representatives and Interior Dept. officials in reaction to the death of a Whooping Crane at Bosque del Apache Natl. Wildlife Refuge.
- Ginny Baker helped draft the letter that we are now sending to other organizations and to school districts encouraging use of Rio Bosque Park as an environmental education area.

To everyone who has helped with our conservation activities recently, thank you. You folks really are working for a better environment. /John Sproul/

May 1984

OBSERVATIONS March 20 to April 19

Excellent birding continued during this period. Spring migration was well under way; 5 species of accidental or casual status appeared, and there were several early arrival dates.

LOONS - FALCONS

Two Am. White Pelicans were at Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds (FBSP) 4/3 (BJ), and 2 cormorant sp. were seen there 4/1 (BJ, RW). On 3/24, 37 Great Blue Herons were counted along the levee road in the lower valley (AG, MG), and 7 were at FBSP 4/1 (BJ, RW). The only Snowy Egret reported was in the Fort Hancock area 4/7 (AG, MG). Of interest was the report that on at least 4 occasions from mid-March to mid-April, flocks of 50+ egret sp. were noted flying from Vinton into the Westside ponding area in the upper valley (LS, DS). Very notable was a TRICOLORED HERON (La.) observed at Randel's Pool 4/14 (JoD). This is the second sighting of this species in our area in recent years. Single Green-backed Herons were at the Crossroads Pond in the upper valley 3/20 (BJ) and at Esperanza 3/24 (AG, MG). A very out-of-place Black-crowned Night-Heron appeared in a Horizon City yard 3/31 (MG) while the only other 1 reported was at Randel's Pool 4/14 (JoD).

The male WOOD DUCK at Singh Pond was seen there again 3/20 (BJ). A male Blue-winged Teal at FBSP 3/21 (BJ) was the first reported and a pair was there 4/1 (BJ, RW). Very large numbers (1,000+) of N. Shoveler were at FBSP 3/21 (BJ). A female Bufflehead was seen there that same day (BJ), and on 4/1, 1 male and 3 females were there (BJ, RW). At least 25 Turkey Vultures (1st. spring) were present at Hueco Tanks 3/21 (AG, MG), 30 there 3/31 (JF, m.ob), and a single 1 noted in n.e. El Paso near Farrow's 4/2 (BJ). A lone Osprey was in the Fort Hancock area 4/7 (AG, MG). N. Harriers were being seen in fewer numbers at FBSP during the period (BJ, RW). A single 1 was at Hueco Tanks 3/31 (JF, m.ob). The first Swainson's Hawk to be reported was seen at Esperanza 4/7 (AG,

MG) and another 1 was at Rio Bosque Park 4/14 (JS). Single Prairie Falcons were at Hueco Tanks 3/21 (AG, MG) and 3/31 (JF, m.ob).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Three Black-necked Stilts seen at Esperanza 3/24 (AG, MG) were the first to be reported, 2 were at FBSP 4/1 (BJ, RW). Am. Avocets were reported on 3 occasions, 2 in breeding plumage at FBSP 3/21 (BJ), 15 at Esperanza 3/24 (AG, MG), and 18 at FBSP 4/1 (BJ, RW). Two Spotted Sandpipers were at Esperanza 3/24 (AG, MG). On 4/3, 2 Long-billed Curlews were at FBSP (BJ) and 16 noted near Vado 4/19 (JS). Long-billed Dowitchers reported during the period were 35 at FBSP 3/21 (BJ), 300 at Esperanza 3/24 (AG, MG), and 25 at FBSP 4/1 (BJ, RW). Several Common Snipe were in the Crossroads Pond area 3/20 (BJ). On 3/21, 22 Ring-billed Gulls were seen at FBSP (BJ), 8 were there 4/1 (BJ, RW). Fresh remains of a Caprimulgid found in a Coronado Country Club yard approximately the middle of Feb, were later confirmed to be those of a Common Poorwill (SJD). This is very early for this species. White-throated Swifts were at Hueco Tanks in numbers on 3/21 (AG, MG) and again 3/31 (JF, m.ob). Male Black-chinned hummingbirds arrived in the area mid to late March with the first on 3/18, at a feeder in the Rosemont area, rather early (LS). Many reports came in 3/27-4/3, females arrived the first week in April (JB, EG, JF, RW, DT, MAD, JN, FB, et al.). A male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was heard in n.e. El Paso 3/25 (JoD, m.ob). The only sapsucker reported was a female Yellow-bellied seen in a Coronado Country Club yard 4/14 (SJD).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Two Black Phoebes were noted in the lower valley 3/24 (AG, MG). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Hueco Tanks 3/31 (JF, m.ob) was the first reported this spring. At least 24 Tree Swallows were at FBSP 4/3, a single N. Rough-winged Swallow was there that same day (BJ), and Barn Swallows were reported from several locations during the period (BJ, RW, JF, m.ob). A pair of Verdin was observed in the Hondo Pass area 3/25 (TB, m.ob). House Wrens were seen singly at Hueco Tanks 3/21 and at Horizon City 4/13 (AG, MG). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was noted at

Hueco Tanks 3/31 (JF, m.ob). The WOOD THRUSH reported last month returned 3/16 and was seen on several occasions until 3/29 (DT). On 4/11, 6 Cedar Waxwings were in a Cielo Vista yard (AB), and a female Phainopepla was seen at Hueco Tanks 3/31 (JF, m.ob).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

Several notable parulid reports came in during the period. Of interest was a Nashville Warbler at Horizon City 4/14 (MG). A "Myrtle" race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Mt. Park from 3/24-4/7 (JB). A possible Grace's Warbler was seen at FBSP 4/1 (BJ). A Common Yellowthroat was at Randel's Pool 4/14 (JoD). Of special note was a female HOODED WARBLER observed and photographed at Durling's Farm 4/19 (JS). The first spring Wilson's warbler report was from Horizon City 4/13 (MG). Very exciting was the report from a visiting Pa. birder of 2 PAINTED REDSTARTS studied in a canyon area off Transmountain Rd. 4/3 (ES). This is the first sighting of this species in several years and probably a first spring sighting for the area. Single Green-tailed Towhees were in the Tornillo area 3/24 (AG, MG) and at Hueco Tanks 3/31 (JF, m.ob). Two Rufous-crowned Sparrows were seen at Hueco Tanks 3/21 (AG, MG), but numbers were in the n.e. El Paso area 3/25 (JoD, m.ob). A number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at FBSP 3/21 (BJ). On 3/24, a pair of Hooded Orioles was seen feeding together in Mt. Park (JB) and 2 males and 1 female were in an e. El Paso yard 4/6 (TB).

CONTRIBUTORS: Tom Baker, Flora Bit-tick, Anne Bowman, Janet Brockmoller, Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds, Mary Ann Dodson, Elaine Edwards, Jane Fowler, Al Gavit, Madeline Gavit, Ed Gilboe, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, Earnest Shieffer, John Sproul, Don Swick, Lucille Swick, Dennis Taylor, Ray Waite.

Call 591-0421 with your sightings.
/Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/

* * *

The deadline for the June Roadrunner is May 23.

UP FROM THE EGG:
THE CONFESSIONS OF A NUTHATCH AVOIDER

Bird watchers top my honors list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic,
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we,
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.
And there's no enlightenment so obscure
As ornithological literature.
Is yon strange creature a common chickadee,
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?
You rush to consult your Nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books-
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
watching the clock instead of finches,
But I sometimes visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audubin.

Ogden Nash

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(915)821-2242
Barry Zimmer
(915)545-5184

IN THIS ISSUE...

Painted Redstarts in Franklins...
David Ellis & Birds of New Zealand
on May 21

WANTED

The Education Committee still needs
colored pictures of local birds (at
least 5"x5"). Please bring them to
the May general meeting. There will
be a collection file on the display
table. If you can't attend but have
pictures to donate, call Jeannette
Cole (565-1957) or Virginia Baker
(562-9461).



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