

# The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society  
Volume 23 (3) June - August, 1993

## *Welcome to Summer!*

"It's summertime, and the livin' is easy." Well, we hope it will be for you. As this is written, it is closing in on 100 degrees and there is no doubt that summer is here.

There will be no general meetings during the summer months, but the board meetings will be held as usual - every second Monday of the month. Members are always welcome at board meetings. Dates and places are listed in the calendar on the back page. Field trips will be conducted as usual and they are listed on page three. And if you will be birding on your own, as many of us will, call in your unusual sightings to Bob Johnson, our Observations Editor, at 757-1876.

Speaking of birding, summer would be good time to get that trusty set of binoculars back in shape. A very reasonable source for binocular repair is Elmer Bowman, who can be reached at 779-7719.

If you will be planning a trip, either for business or a family vacation, then we would encourage you to make your arrangements through P.S. Travel. This agency has pledged a monthly donation to your chapter equal to 2% of the total spent. They can be contacted at 779-5403 or by fax at 772-2631. P.S. Travel is located at 6593 A Montana. Be sure to use account number 2006 so the chapter will receive credit for your travel.

No matter what your plans are, we hope you enjoy the summer months and that the livin' is easy.

## Audubon Activist

### ***Reality Check for Ancient Forests***

*by Peter Berle, President, National Audubon Society*

Expert testimony at the April 2nd conference called by President Clinton to discuss the future of Pacific Northwest ancient forests conclusively demonstrates that the timber industry's vociferous arguments to continue logging not only defy environmental concern, they defy economic and social realities.

Only ten percent of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests remain, and all of it is on public lands. Testimony at the conference made it clear that preservation of the remaining ancient forest ecosystem is an economic as well as an environmental necessity. Representatives of Northwest commercial and sport-fishing groups - which employ more workers than the timber industry - testified that 60,000 jobs related to salmon fishing are in jeopardy if logging of the ancient forests continues unabated. The logging erodes hillsides, causing siltation of salmon streams. Thus the issue is not jobs versus owls, so much as jobs versus jobs.

The timber industry complains about shortages of wood supplies. However, a year's supply of federal timber is currently under contract - and they still continue to export one-quarter of their own logs to Japan. The industry complains about rising lumber prices; yet, timber prices are as low today as they were in the 1970's.

The timber industry has suffered, but not for the reasons it states. The majority of the losses have been due to

automation of timber mills and of raw log exports which are not milled here, but sent directly to Japan and other Pacific Rim countries. Between 1979 and 1988, 195 mills closed, and over 25,000 jobs were lost, mostly due to these causes.

Our remaining public ancient forests are biological and wildlife treasures. We cannot permit further destruction.

As a result of the conference, it is clear that our national campaign to save the ancient forests has now reached a critical point. The President charged his Cabinet to come up with a plan in sixty days. Your effort now to maintain the momentum of the conference is critical. Demand the permanent protection of ancient forests. You can do it by phone (202-456-6224) or letter addressed to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500.

### ***EPA Office Proposed for the U.S./Mexican Border***

U.S. Congressman Ronald D. Coleman, (D) Texas, recently introduced HR 118 to establish an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office for the U.S./Mexican border region. According to Representative Coleman, this region faces acute environmental obstacles which would be best addressed by devoting the efforts of a single office to the whole region.

Currently the border region is divided among different administrative units within the EPA. For example, while El

(Continued on page four.)

Rio Bosque Park

This will be a local 4 - 5 hour field trip into El Paso's Lower Valley. The Rio Bosque Park is noted for being the westernmost point of migration for the Painted Bunting. That alone makes it worth the trip. Meet John Sproul at Feather Lake at 7:30 AM on Sunday, June 13. It's a good idea to bring refreshments. For more information, contact John at 545-5157.

Gila Cliff Dwellings

The beautiful mountain country in the vicinity of

Silver City, New Mexico will be the destination of this overnight trip on the weekend of June 26 and 27. We'll be visiting the Cliff Dwellings, the Gila Wilderness, and Lake Roberts. We expect to see a large number of montane birds including the Mountain Bluebird and the Tree Swallow. Camping will be available and, for those of us who prefer indoor plumbing, motels are available in Silver City. If you would like to be the leader for this trip, please contact Hugh Jameson at 751-7952. In any case, we'll be departing from the intersection of I-10 and Transmountain Rd. at 7:45 AM on Saturday, June 26.

Ruidoso and Cloudcroft

This will be another overnighter into some beautiful New Mexico scenery. We'll depart from the Popular Store parking lot in Northgate Mall at 7:45 AM on Saturday, July 24. If you don't wish to join the caravan, meet us the Inn of the Mountain Gods at about 10:00 AM. Camping will probably be at the South Fork Campgrounds located at

Bonita Lake. We'll gather for a picnic dinner at the campsite at 6:00 PM. Bring your own chow. We'll return on Sunday with a lunch stop in Cloudcroft.

A Pelagic Trip to San Diego

This is a weekend trip to San Diego, CA for a boat outing on either Saturday or Sunday, September 11 or 12. Stan Walens with Western Field Ornithologists is the organizer. The boat trip is all day on one of the two

dates. The boat accommodates 70 passengers and the cost is \$60.00.

## ON THE TRAIL

We need an indication of interest no later than June 30, 1993. The scope of this excursion may be expanded to include other sites if the interested parties have time available. Travelers should expect to spend up to \$300 per person per day depending on the transportation, lodging and food arrangements we make. After June 30, if little interest is shown, Mr. Walens will be so notified. Any arrangements after that date will be on an individual basis directly with Mr. Walens. He may be contacted at 1-619-450-0258 for details. Until June 30, contact Hugh Jameson at 751-7952 for information.



(Continued from page two.)

## Audubon Activist

Texas is administered by the regional office based in Dallas; Douglas, Arizona is administered from San Francisco. Such fragmentation often causes the special problems and needs of the region to be overlooked. This measure is particularly important now because of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

HR 118 provides a foundation upon which we can build a comprehensive plan to protect the border region and the advent of NAFTA. This will help ensure that the environment of the border will not be neglected due to the administrative divisions within the EPA. Under Representative Coleman's legislation, this new EPA region would cover the border area from San Diego, California to Brownsville, Texas.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Put your politics aside and write a letter of support to Representative Ronald Coleman, Congress of the United States, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

## Environmental Center

The El Paso Environmental Center (800 S. Piedras), in which our organization participates, needs volunteers to stay in operation. Can you contribute a few hours one day or more a month helping with office tasks and the recycling program? Contact the Center (532-9645) or John Sproul (545-5157) if interested.

The Center's biggest need? A manager to oversee its operation. Phyllis Caves worked ably in this position through

mid-April, but the funds the Sierra Club was using to pay her salary ran out, and she had to leave for financially greener pastures. Now, we must again seek a volunteer to fill this role (or find additional funding).

Thanks go to Phyllis for her outstanding guidance of the Center and to the volunteers who have been helping regularly in recent months: Amanda Beattie, Carol Fashing, Jane Fowler, Batty Pagel and Vic Ward. Finally, thanks are due the City of El Paso for recently relocating the fence on the east side of the building. With the east-side yard expanded, all of the Center's recycling facilities are now in one place, a more convenient arrangement for Center workers and customers alike.  
// John Sproul //



*The EP/TPAS wildlife refuge is located at 9500 N. Loop Dr., El Paso.*

The Feather Lake basin was 75% covered with water this spring, and the mix of shallow water and exposed mudflats made it a great year for shorebirds. We had good numbers of Black-necked Stilts for the first time since 1988, good numbers of American Avocets and Wilson's Phalaropes for the first time since 1983! The conditions also helped draw three new species to our sanctuary: Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers and Bonaparte's Gull. The bird-species total for Feather Lake now stands at 158.

Feather Lake also had lots of human

visitors before closing for the season April 25. Sincere thanks go to all the good people who staffed our sanctuary during visitor hours in 1992-93: Tom and Ginny Baker, Craig Braginton, Jeannette Cole, Sarah Jane Dodds, Dayle Edwards, Elizabeth Ezro, Jane Fowler, Hugh Jameson, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Neil Keith, Jo Nagel, Betty Pagel, Iola Pennington, Kyle Reidland, Peggy Reide, Bettie Roberts, Bart Rumaker, John and Lorraine Snelling, John Sproul, Dennis Taylor, and Nancy Wilson. We'll open again October 2.

If conditions remain suitable, the avocets and stilts could nest at Feather Lake this year. Will They? Join us for one of our summer workdays -- June 12, July 10, or August 14 -- and find out. Gates open at 8:00 AM.  
// John Sproul //

## *Off to Camp*

Congratulations go to Bob Calamusso, this year's winner of the Audubon Scholarship. Bob teaches at Lincoln Junior High School and will be attending the Audubon Camp of the West this summer. The scholarship is sponsored by your chapter.

Audubon camps are designed to teach educators methods of teaching about nature and ecology to their classes. There are several camps in various parts of the country. The scholarship pays for the cost of the camp and transportation for one recipient each year.

## *Two Chapter Officers Resign*

Two officers of our chapter have announced that they must give up their

positions. Carolyn Brown, our hard-working secretary, and Mary Bradley, a Director, have resigned. We would like to thank them for their service since being elected to these positions.

Obviously, this opens up a couple of positions on the EP/TPAS Board of Directors. If you would like to make a contribution to the chapter that goes far beyond the time involved, give Peggy Riede a call at 589-1734. As Secretary, you will be taking the minutes of the Board meetings. The position of Director also includes the Publicity Chair. The next Board meeting is June 21, so please give Peggy a call before that time.

## *About the Newsletter*

The chapter newsletter, THE ROADRUNNER, is published six times a year by the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society. The annual subscription rate for the newsletter only is \$5.00. The newsletter is included with your membership in the National Audubon Society.

Chapter members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in THE ROADRUNNER. The articles may be of any length and in any format, but the editor reserves the right to modify submissions to fit the space available.

Articles may be submitted to the editor:

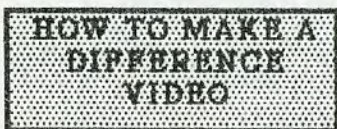
George Barnett  
600 Espina Dulce  
El Paso, TX 79912

Day: 779-3835  
Night: 581-1829  
Fax: 778-2808



# National Audubon Society

PRESENTS



## Wetlands

A new kind of tool for people who care about the environment.

An instructive, informative, and inspirational half-hour video that takes you behind the scenes with wetlands experts and citizens alike who have taken action for our precious wetlands.

We don't just tell you what you can do - we show you how.

### SPECIAL OFFER WITH THIS AD

Return the coupon below and your check for \$7.95 (\$2 off the regular price) plus \$3 shipping and handling (total of \$10.95) to Wetlands Video-RTP, National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

# National Audubon Society



## Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

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

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society.*

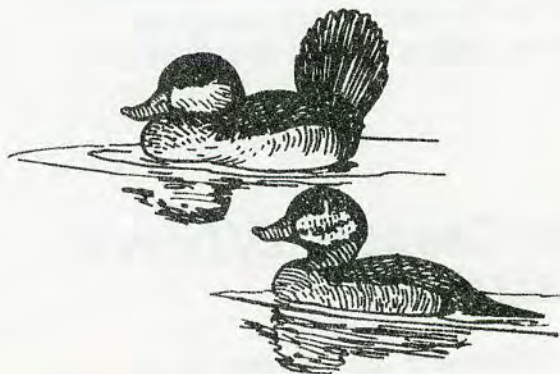
Send this application and your check to:

**National Audubon Society**  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

LOCAL CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOC.  
PO Box 9655  
El Paso, TX 79986

W10  
Local Chapter Code  
7XCHA





## OBSERVATIONS



March 16, 1993 - May 15, 1993  
 Uncommon, RARE and CASUAL sightings.

ArP-Arroyo Park area; CCA-Country Club area; DMr-Doniphan Marsh; Ewd-Eastwood area; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; FQOt-Fort Quitman area; Fhc-Fort Hancock area; FLk-Feather Lake; HTk-Hueco Tanks; NEP-Northeast El Paso.

EGRETS TO DUCKS

GREAT EGRET: 4/28, 5/1 Fhc (JS)  
 4/30, FLk (JS)  
 CANADA GOOSE: 4/24, FLk (JS)  
 Blue-winged Teal: 5/15, FBP (BJ)  
EURASIAN WIGEON: 5/8, FBP (JP)

OSPREY TO FALCONS

OSPREY: 4/11, FLk (JS)  
 4/14, FBP (DE)  
 4/18, DMr (AH)  
 MISSISSIPPI KITE: 5/8, CCA (BJ)  
BALD EAGLE: 4/2, CCA (J )  
 MERLIN: 4/4, NEP (BJ)  
PEREGRIN FALCON: 4/19, FBP (DE)

RAILS TO GODWITS

VIRGINIA RAIL: 4/3, DMr (KB)  
 5/8, DMr (BJ)  
SNOWY PLOVER: 5/1, FBP (JS)  
 5/8, FLk(1st record) (JS)  
 SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER: 4/14, FBP (DE)  
 4/28, FLk(1st record) (JS)  
 SOLITARY SANDPIPER: 4/14, 4/19, FBP(DE)  
 Willet: 4/24, FLk (JS)  
WHIMBREL: 4/28, Fhc (JS)  
MARbled GODWIT: 4/19, FBP (DE)

GULLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

BONAPART'S GULL:  
 4/16, FLk (1st record) (JS)  
 Common Barn Owl: 5/15, FBP (BJ)  
 Great Horned Owl: 3/16, Ewd (MM)  
 First Black-chinned Hummingbird of  
 the spring: 3/20, Ewd (BR)

FLYCATCHERS TO ORIOLES

GRAY FLYCATCHER: 4/19, HTk (DE)  
 CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: 5/1, Fhc (JS)  
 RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: 3/24, CCA (BJ)  
 Virginia's Warbler: 4/19, HTk (DE)  
LUCY'S WARBLER: 3/20, FQOt (CB)  
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER:  
 4/19, HTk (DE)  
 Western Tanager: 5/8, MPk (JP)  
 NORTHERN CARDINAL: 3/24 ArP (SS)  
 HOODED ORIOLE: 3/23, ArP (RS)  
 4/3, ArP (SS)

(Observers; Craig Braginton, Karen Braginton, Doug Emkalns, Ann Hussmann, Bob Johnson, Judy , Meg Monaco, Jim Patton, Bettie Roberts, Susie Schnieder, John Sproul)

PLEASE HELP

Sat. and Sun. June 19th & 20th.

Don't forget our ADOPTED HIGHWAY, US 62/180 the Carlsbad highway. We will be collecting the trash that thoughtless and careless people leave along the roadside. As the mess is being picked up the Black-throated Sparrows and Pyrrhuloxias will serenade you.

Meet Bob Johnson(757-1876) at 7:30 AM, near the Flying Saucer Building located at the junction of US62/180 and FM2775. Bob will be their both Sat. and Sun., so that you will not have an excuse that one or the other was not good for you.

Remember only 0.2 of a mile to pick up, takes about 2 hours. Your reward for helping is knowing that our ADOPTED HIGHWAY is again clean.

REPORT YOUR SIGHTINGS TO BOB JOHNSON 757-1876 (recorder)

# Calendar

## *June*

Sat., 12 - Feather Lake workday.  
Sun., 13 - Field trip to Rio Bosque Park, see page 3.  
Mon., 21 - Board meeting at Frances Gutierrez' home, 305 Rio Estancia, 7:30 PM.  
Sat. - Sun., 26 - 27 - Field trip to Gila Cliff Dwellings, see page 3.

## *July*

Sat., 10 - Feather Lake workday.  
Mon., 12 - Board meeting at Peggy Riede's home, 104 Sun Season, Santa Theresa, NM, 7:30 PM.  
Sat. - Sun., 24 - 25 - Field trip to Ruidoso and Cloudcroft, see page 3.

## *August*

Mon., 9 - Board meeting, to be announced.  
Sat., 14 - Feather Lake workday.

## *September*

Sat. - Sun., 11 - 12 - Field trip to San Diego, CA, see page 3.  
Mon., 13 - Board meeting, to be announced.  
Mon., 20 - General Meeting, details in the September newsletter.

**El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society**  
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