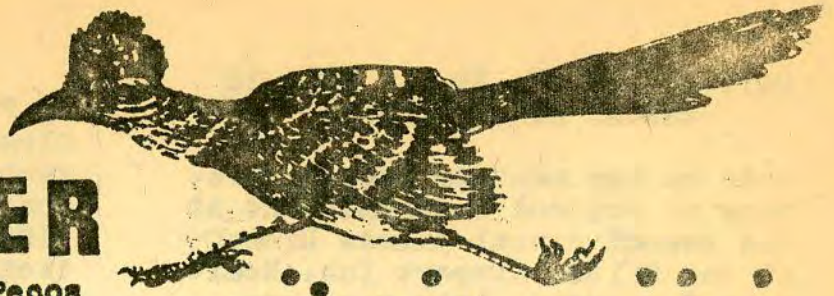


the ROADRUNNER



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

Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 14(8)

\$4.00 per year

October 1984

GENERAL MEETING

MON., OCT. 15, 1984, 7:30 PM, Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. in Memorial Park. The program will be "Where Rainbows Wait For Rain", the 2nd film of the Chihuahuan Desert Institute's Trilogy on the Chihuahuan Desert. This is considered by many to be the most outstanding film of the three.

Also at this meeting, we'll be passing out money! Not to you, to the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund of the state of Texas. Thanks to your generosity during last spring's Birdathon, our chapter is making a \$1,000 donation to the Nongame Fund. On Oct. 15 we'll have some special guests on hand, including Senator Tati Santiesteban, to accept the donation. Join us for the festivities!

* * * * *
* ...Yellow-breasted Chats, *
* Zone-tailed Hawks and you and I *
* have in common? *
* * * * *

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

SINGH POND/UPPER VALLEY
SAT., OCT. 6. Meet at I-10 and Transmountain Drive 7:30 AM. We may see migrating waterfowl and other passing birds. Leader: Joyce Davis (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w).

GUADALUPE MTS.
SAT., SUN., OCT. 21-22. Meet at 7:30

AM Sat. in the parking lot of the Bella Napoli Restaurant at Montana and Yarbrough intersection. We will spend Saturday in McKittrick Canyon, camp that night at Pine Springs and visit Frijole area and Rattlesnake Springs before returning home Sunday. Leader: Gloria Basden (532-7348).

MEMORIAL PARK

WEDNESDAYS, OCT. 3, 10. These are short ventures in the park. We meet at 7:15 AM southwestern corner near Garden Center. The past 2 Wednesdays were good for Western Tanagers, Wilson's and Audubon's Warblers, a Hermit Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Flickers.

FT. BLISS PONDS (N.E.O.P.)

SUN., NOV. 4. This might be the last scheduled trip to this area. The new treatment facility probably will begin operations in the spring, and the fall/winter of 85/86 will see a considerable decline in the water available for birds. Meeting place K-Mart parking lot, 9484 Dyer, at 7:15 AM. Leader: Bob Johnson (757-1876, 751-0125).

LOWER LOWER VALLEY

SAT., NOV. 17. Make room on your schedule for this trip from Esperanza to Tornillo. Good things will be seen. More details in next RR issue.

The deadline for the November Roadrunner is October 23.

OCT. 28 OCT. 28 OCT. 28
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Join us for another bang-up evening of fun and entertainment at the second annual Awards Dinner at the Hilton Airport Inn. Nominees for awards this year are Joe Guinn for his outstanding efforts in the conservation of Feather Lake, Joan Duncan for her tireless work in protecting the Franklin Mts. and Dickshire Coors for their recycling of glass and aluminum.

Our program will feature the first of a new series of Audubon TV programs called "The World of Audubon". Many of you won't have a chance to see this series on Cable TV so don't miss the special showing of this exciting program.

Please make reservations now! Call Peggy Riede (821-0989) or Joyce Davis (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w).

Sunday, Oct. 28, you'll come to the Hilton Inn at 5:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 6 PM. The buffet + tax and tips per person is \$9.95. The menu will consist of: Roast Steamship Round of Beef, Fried Chicken, Assorted Salads, Rice Pilaf, Parslied Snowflake Potatoes, Chef Vegetables, Assorted Puddings, Rolls, Coffee or Tea. Cash Bar available as well as beer, wine or soft drinks. Let's hear from all you out there!

CLEAN AIR MEETING

The Texas Air Control Board will hold a public meeting Oct. 10 at 7 PM in the City Council Chambers. The purpose is to discuss revisions to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for ozone and carbon monoxide. Information on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements will be provided. EPA is requiring that the SIP for these areas be revised

by February 1985. The El Paso Clean Air Coalition plans to present a statement urging an Inspection and Maintenance Plan (IMP) and alternate transportation goals.

The Coalition would like to have all interested people attend this meeting to demonstrate the need for stronger regulations of carbon monoxide and ozone. Please try to attend this meeting if possible. For additional background, request the issue paper on El Paso County SIP revisions from the local TACB office (591-8128).

MEMBERSHIP

If you are too bashful to ask someone (a neighbor, co-worker or relative) to join Nat'l Audubon, just invite them to our next meeting. Let Bob Johnson ask them to join. As our hard-working Membership Chair, he has all the facts, and he is not bashful.

WORLD OF AUDUBON

The beauty and majesty of nature, as well as today's dangers threatening the earth's wildlife and environment, will be explored in "World of Audubon", the new series debuting this fall on Super Station WTBS. The series, which will air quarterly through 1985, will premiere on the SuperStation on Monday, Oct. 22 at 6:05 PM. Encore presentations will be telecast on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 3:35 PM, Sunday, Nov. 4 at 4:05 PM and Monday, Nov. 5 at 8:05 PM.

Hosted by veteran actor Cliff Robertson, each hour-long "World of Audubon" edition will use remarkable, on location wildlife photography, and interviews with noted conservationists and leading spokespersons to cover a variety of Audubon issues in a fast-paced, magazine style program.

The inaugural program will in-

clude magnificently-photographed segments on sea otters in Big Sur, CA, rare pink flamingoes in Great Inagua, West Indies, bald eagles in Alaska, and grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park.

Other segments will include revealing interviews with actor Richard Chamberlain on his efforts to preserve California's scenic Tuolumne River, actress Pam Dawber ("Mork and Mindy") on her work as a solar energy proponent, and Friends of the Sea Otter founder Margaret Owings.

The Program will also include a tribute to President Theodore Roosevelt, who championed wild-life conservation by establishing more than 50 natural sanctuaries and by creating the National Park System.

Please watch the premiere program on Oct. 22 and encourage your friends and neighbors to watch it too.



RARAE AVES

Whenever you are out birding, you are gathering data on distribution and status of birds of our area. Didn't know you were part of a lofty scientific enterprise, did you? These data can be of great value to ornithology, but only if they are properly recorded and maintained for others to use. One way to contribute is to submit your records to our Observation Editor for her monthly reports. Many of you do. Another is to document unusual observations with a written description and/or other supporting evidence

October 1984

(e.g., photos). Most of us don't.

For rare birds, such detail is needed if an observation is to receive the scientific acceptance it deserves. With this in mind, a group of El Paso-Las Cruces-area birders has formed a bird records committee. Its purposes are:

- to encourage careful documentation of rare birds in our area,
- to gain increased scientific acceptance for records from this area,
- to provide a mechanism for reviewing these records, and
- to provide a readily accessible repository for them.

The group consists of Jeff Donaldson, Bettie Roberts, John Sproul, Scott Wilson, and Barry Zimmer from El Paso and Lorraine Hartshorne, Randy Hill and Kevin Zimmer from Las Cruces. I encourage you to submit documentation of rare-bird sightings to them. I thank those of you who already have.

What species merit such treatment? What form should the documentation take? The committee has prepared a review list -- those species for which it encourages documentation -- that it hopes to present in a future Roadrunner. With the list, it plans to include guidelines for preparing good documentation and further background on the purposes of the committee. If you have questions in the meantime, give me (545-5157) a call.

/John Sproul/

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., OCT. 8, 7:30 PM The Board will meet at the home of Sara J. Dodds, 4011 Santa Anna (533-4150). All members are welcome.



AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS

Bexar Audubon Society of San Antonio will be the host for this fall's Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) meeting. It's scheduled for Oct. 27-28, and the agenda looks excellent. Delegates will learn about the sunset-review process for Texas state agencies from the Sierra Club's State Capitol Representative Ken Kramer; about the new Texas Heritage Program from David Diamond, staff ecologist with the Program; and about the Texas Water Plan (see p. 5) from Catherine Perrine of the League of Women Voters. Discussions of marketing strategies for the Texas Nongame Stamp and of future ACT projects are also on tap. Got any ideas for either discussion? Want to attend the meeting? Contact Chapter ACT delegate John Sproul (545-5157 h, 541-6126 w).

FIELD TRIP FOLLOW-UPS

The Golden Eagle soared over and the spring ran for a half mile in the canyon; the scarlet morning glories draped the desert vegetation. Buzzing over the fire red blossoms were numerous Rufous Hummers, one flashing a golden yellow throat. That was the scenery of the Franklin Mts. witnessed by eight members on a morning walk to Apache Springs.

We saw a total of 25 species on our trip from Feather Lake to the Fabens' port of entry. Rio Bosque did not yield many birds for the 13 birders who walked the length of the Park. Sid spotted a Burrowing Owl flying as we started down the levee. We were able to see him on the mound in front of his home on the river dike. There was a large flock of Cinnamon Teal further down the river near Clint, also Yellowlegs and Sandpipers. A Scrub Jay provided an unusual sighting.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter
Membership Application

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

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
W10 7XCh

Membership Category desired:

- Individual/\$30 (H) Senior Citizen
- Family/\$33 (J) Individual/\$21(N)
- Student/\$18 (K) Senior Citizen
- 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.

WELCOME to the following new members of NAS and our local chapter: Robin Collins, Jacob Schut, R.D. Tarang and transfer Barbara J. Walker.

OUR LIBRARY GROWS

The following books have been donated to our chapter library by Leon and Jane Kohlhoff and will be available at our Oct. 15 general meeting. Some of the titles are: "How to Attract, House & Feed Birds", Walter E. Schutz, "Bird Watching in the Americas" Donald S. Heintzelman, "Songbirds in Your Garden", John K. Terres, "The Bird Watcher's Bible", George Laycock, "Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico & Central America", L. Irby Davis, "A Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs & Nestlings of North American Birds", Colin Harrison. Thanks, Jane and Leon.

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

"NONGAME" STAMP: The 1st Texas Nongame Stamp goes on sale next month. Where can you get one? Right here! EP/TPAS is now in the process of becoming a bonded License Deputy, authorized to sell both the Nongame Stamp and its companion decal. The price for each item will be \$5, and our chapter can keep up to \$0.50 from each sale. The rest goes into Texas' new Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. A successful 1st year is essential to proving the viability of this new funding mechanism for nongame-wildlife programs in Texas. Let's make sure it succeeds! Next month's RR will tell you where in El Paso you can order the Nongame Stamp art print.

RAPTOR WEEK: In July, President Reagan signed a joint congressional resolution designating the week of Oct 7-13 as "National Birds of Prey Conservation Week." Celebrate in style: use the opportunity to tell a kid about the values of birds of prey.

MISSISSIPPI KITES: Speaking of raptors, Mississippi Kites appeared to have a relatively quiet summer at El Paso Country Club (EPCC). Fewer birds were present than last year, and there was far less diving on unwary golfers. The only known setback the birds experienced came in early June when an adult female turned up injured in a yard near EPCC. It died soon thereafter from internal injuries apparently caused by a sharp blow. How about our chapter's proposed educational program to help golfers coexist with nesting kites (RR, May)? EPCC declined our offer but did accept a set of educational posters on kites for use at the Club. We'll renew our offer next year.

RIO BOSQUE PARK: The Natl. Park Service was favorably impressed by our chapter's efforts to develop an environmental-education program at Rio Bosque Park, and it looks like El Paso will keep this undeveloped 286-acre city park in the lower valley (RR, Apr). We are now finalizing a cooperative management agreement for Rio Bosque with the City and hope to have the agreement presented

to City Council soon. Next step is development of a management plan for the area. If you would like to help in its preparation, contact Gloria Basden (532-7348) or John Sproul (545-5157).

WATER FOR TEXAS: In June, after 2 years of preparation, the Texas Dept. of Water Resources (TDWR) released its amended Texas Water Plan. The Plan is intended to address water-resource-management needs in Texas through the year 2030. Compared to its predecessor, the 1968 Plan, it's a great improvement. Water conservation gets plenty of attention, and issues such as instream flow, protection of bays and estuaries, and mitigation for reservoir-construction impacts all are addressed. Compared to what it could be, though, the document still leaves a lot to be desired. The planned actions and policy recommendations for water conservation, while good, are not exactly aggressive, and some of the other issues get little more than lip service. Volume 1 of the Plan, a summary document titled "Water for Texas: a Comprehensive Plan for the Future," is available from TDWR (P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711). Volume 2, the voluminous "Technical Appendix," is at the Public Library and the UTEP library. /John Sproul/

OBSERVATIONS

August 24 to September 21

Consistent but slow with no evidence of any strong movement can best summarize this year's fall migration to date. There was, however, some indication during the past week of an interesting period ahead.

LOONS - FALCONS

Great Egrets were reported on two occasions: 2 seen along the levee road in the lower valley 8/26 (AG) and 2 at Los Nogales 9/18 (BJ). Three White-faced Ibis were at the Northeast Oxidation Ponds (NEOP) 9/16 (BJ, RW). A BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK appeared near a pond at Canutillo

on 8/31. It was joined by another the next day and both were seen regularly until 9/12. After almost a week's absence, 1 returned 9/18 (TC). This is the same area where 1 was present from Aug-Dec in 1982. Another sighting of a Black-bellied Whistling Duck was at the El Paso Country Club ponds 9/15 (JoD). A Northern Harrier seen at Durling's 9/18 (BJ) was the only 1 reported. Two Swainson's Hawks were seen near Fabens 9/13 (AG) and 1 at NEOP 9/16 (BJ,RW). At least 14 hawks (sp.) were counted between Tornillo and Fabens along with 2 Golden Eagles 8/26 (AG). On 9/9, 2 Golden Eagles were circling overhead in the Franklins near Apache Springs (JG,mob) and 2 were seen 9/18 near Executive Center off I-10 (BJ).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

An imm. Sora appeared in a Mt. Park yard 9/9 and was seen there daily through 9/18 (JB,BJ,RW). On 9/16, 12+ Am. Avocets were at NEOP as were 2 Lesser Yellowlegs (BJ,RW). Black Terns in winter plumage were there that same day (BJ,RW). At least 2 dozen Rufous Hummingbirds were observed feeding on Desert Morning Glory at Apache Springs 9/9 (JG,mob). Single Belted Kingfishers were seen at Randel's Pool and the Crossroads Pond in the upper valley 9/15 (JoD) and again in the upper valley 9/18 (BJ). A rather early female Williamson's Sapsucker was in an e. El Paso yard on 9/20 (BR).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Durling's 9/18 (BJ). Most exciting was a GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER well studied there that same day (BJ). It was seen and photographed by others and represents our first verified sighting for this eastern species in our area. A rather early Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared in an e. central El Paso yard 9/15 and was last seen 9/19 (LS). A Hermit Thrush was seen at Memorial Park 9/19 (TB). Of interest was an albino Northern Mockingbird observed at Mt. Park 8/22 & 8/25 (JB).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A Northern Waterthrush was observed at Durling's 9/18 and the first fall MacGillivray's Warbler to be reported was

seen there the same day (BJ). Only 5 species of warblers were reported during this period as compared to 16 for the same period in 1983. A male Western Tanager was at Horizon City 8/28 (MG). Western Tanagers were in the upper valley 9/18 (BJ) and 5 at Memorial Park 9/19 (JN,TB,et al.). An imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak was also at Memorial Park 9/19 (JN,TB,et al.). A male Painted Bunting in a central El Paso yard 8/28 was unusual (SW). Chipping, Clay-colored, and Lark Sparrows were seen in the upper valley 9/18 (BJ) and apparently migrating Lark Sparrows in the Apache Springs area 9/9 (JG,mob). Numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at NEOP 9/16 (BJ,RW). On 9/9, it was reported that a female Hooded Oriole had been observed feeding a young cowbird at Mt. Park (JB).

CONTRIBUTORS: Tom Baker, Janet Brockmoller, Tess Cardenas, Joyce Davis, Al & Madeline Gavit, Joe Guinn, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, John Sproul, Lucile Swick, Ray Waite, Sonny Wratten. /Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/ Please call 591-0421 to report your observations.



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

Return Postage
Guaranteed
Address Correction
Requested

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