

the ROADRUNNER



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

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Volume 13 (2)

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February 1983

GENERAL MEETING

MON., FEBRUARY 21, 1983, 7:30 PM
Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. in
Memorial Park. Our guest speaker
will be Dr. Jim Koschmann, local
veterinarian and exotic bird spe-
cialist, who has owned and treat-
ed parrots since 1971. Dr. Kosch-
mann will emphasize the importance
of wildlife conservation, concen-
trating on the protection and
breeding programs of endangered
parrot species in the Americas.
His colorful slide program will
be a travelogue to various geo-
graphic regions of the world,
and he will have with him some of
his exotic friends.

New Chapter officers will be in-
stalled. Everyone is invited.

##

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

INTRODUCTION TO RAPTORS
SAT., FEBRUARY 12. Meet at 6:30
AM at Feather L. Wildlife Sanc-
tuary, 9500 N. Loop Rd., 0.3 mi.
n.w. of Americas Ave. This trip
will introduce beginning bird-
ers to our winter-resident birds
of prey: their biology, their
status, how to identify them.
John Caraway will be our guide
as we cruise the lower El Paso
Valley and see what raptors it
might hold. A formal introduc-
tion to a Great Horned Owl and
a Harris' Hawk will conclude
the trip. Bring lunch and li-
quids. Coordinator: John Sproul
(545-5157 h, 541-6126 w).

INDIAN HOT SPRINGS

SAT-SUN., FEBRUARY 19-20. We will
meet at Feather Lake at 7:00 AM
and proceed down the valley by w
way of I 10 (60 min.) then on
county roads (40 min.). This
will be an over-night trip so
bring your camping equipment and
water. Birds previously reported
in this area have been Sandhill
Cranes, Cattle Egrets and others
of the same ilk. Joseph Leach,
our leader, knows this area well.
Please call him after 7:00 PM
(584-2969) if you have any que-
ries.

ARROYO PARK

SUN., MARCH 6: Meet at New York
and Ste. Vrain Streets. Perhaps we
will see early migrants and other
surprises. Art Arteaga will lead
this one. Call 598-5723 for in-
formation. The safari will get
under way at 8:00 AM.

Great trips have been planned for
the rest of the year---You'll see
/Art Arteaga/

##

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., FEBRUARY 14, 7:30 PM. The
present Board will hold its fi-
nal meeting at the home of Jane
Fowler, 8212 Parkland, El Paso
(772-0296). Attendance is MANDA-
TORY. Board members not attending
will be subjected to incessant
public ridicule by a flock of
trained grackles. Others who don't
attend face no such fate, but we
encourage your presence just the

same. Approval of a 1983 budget (p. 4) will be on the agenda.

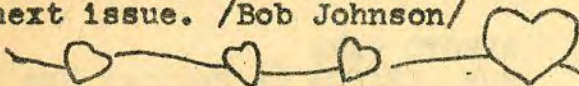


VALENTINE DISPLAY & BOOK FAIR

FRI.-SAT., FEBRUARY 11, 12 we will be at the Cielo Vista Mall with our Chapter display. Also on Feb. 12 we will be participating in a Book Fair at B. Dalton Book Store in the Mall.

We welcome all members and friends to come to Cielo Vista Mall any-time Sat. 10 AM to 9 PM to see our display and BUY SOME BOOKS. If you have been wondering what gift to buy for someone, what's better than a Book? If you need a new Book (for birding or just for reading - any Book counts) come and get it on February 12. Be unique! Give a Book for Valentines Day.

The display will be featuring Raptor protection and our annual BIRDATHON which will be on Saturday April 30. More on this next issue. /Bob Johnson/



MEMBERSHIP

If you have had trouble understanding repeated receipts of delinquent dues notices or not getting your Audubon Magazine, do not give up. Renew if its due and all will be straightened out. National changed to a new computer system 1st of Aug. We have this past week finally received data for Sept., Oct. and Nov. and it is not entirely correct. Many changes have to be reported. If your address or name is not correct, please call Bob Johnson (751-0125) or send a memo to 5109 Paris, El Paso, Tx. 79924. /Bob Johnson/

NOTICE: The deadline for the March Roadrunner is February 23.

February 1983

WHAT HAPPENED?

SAT-SUN. 8-9 JANUARY, 1983 Bosque Del Apache NWR. As usual, a grand time was had by seventeen birders from EP/TPAS at this vast NWR. The weather was beautiful! Unlike other visits, the great abundance of birds was not in evidence on this trip, or so it seemed to this observer. ##

SUN. 23 JANUARY, 1983, Ft. Bliss Ponds. Breezy and cool at first then the day improved. Fifteen people visited the ponds then proceeded to the Newman Generating Station water-cooling pond. On the way there, four Golden Eagles were "beheld" on power line posts, 2 immature and 2 adults! The White-throated Sparrow seen by this group was quite a find! - especially for ART! He finally added this sparrow to his list. Our thanks to Mr. Warren Skidmore of El Paso Electric Co. for allowing our group inside the station grounds. /Art Arteaga/

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

RAPTOR PROTECTION: Our chapter's raptor-protection signs are now available! Printed on bright orange heavy cardstock, these 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 signs make very clear that shooting birds of prey is illegal. Available in both English and Spanish, they're suitable for posting indoors or out. They're also free. We ask only that you post them in conspicuous places. You can get them at our general meetings or from Tony Worth (592-4926). We are also soliciting ideas for a raptor-protection message fro bumper stickers. Got a good one? Call Tony.

NO FIRE!
BUHOS
HALCONES
AGUILAS
ZOPILOTES

DON'T SHOOT
OWLS
HAWKS
EAGLES
VULTURES

NONGAME WILDLIFE: After extensive review, the Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) has finalized its Non-game Wildlife Plan for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD). For TPWD actually to incorporate the plan into its programs, a supplementary budget request now must be submitted to the legislature. Already moving through the legislative mill is ACT's bill to establish a Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. It has been sent to the Texas Legislative Council to make sure it has all the right language, is not illegal and does not otherwise conflict with existing statutes. Next step will be for Rep. Fred Agnich of Dallas to file the bill with the legislature.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: After 2 slow years, the process of placing species on the federal endangered species list appears to be getting back on track. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published Dec. 30 a notice that identifies over 400 vertebrate taxa, native to the U.S., that have been considered at 1 time or another for listing. Each is assigned to 1 of 3 categories: (1) probably will be proposed for listing, (2) could be proposed, but need more data, and (3) no longer considered. Of local interest: Category 2 - White Sands pupfish, White-faced Ibis (Great Basin pop.), Swainson's and Ferruginous hawks, N. Aplomado Falcon, Long-billed Curlew, S. Spotted Owl, Colima Warbler, spotted bat and Davis Mt. cottontail; Category 3 - desert and gray-banded king-snakes.

BOTTLE BILL: H.B. 136 is Rep. Terral Smith of Austin's bill to require returnable deposits on all soft-drink and beer containers sold in Texas. It also would outlaw ring pull tabs and

plastic "6-pack carriers." The Texas Coalition for Container Deposit Legislation is working to pass this bill. Want to be out chapter's liaison to the coalition? Contact Joyce Davis (581-9470).

RECYCLE: If you live in El Paso, remember to put your recyclables -- newspapers in 1 bag, cans in another, corrugated cardboard in another -- out next to your trash for the 2nd garbage pickup each week.

ADVISORY GROUP: Following up on last fall's meeting with local conservationists (RR, Oct 1982), State Sen. Tati Santiesteban has formed a 21-member Natural Resources Advisory Group. It has 4 areas of emphasis: agriculture, environment and energy, Franklin Mts. St. Park, and water. Given the senator's position as chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the group gives El Pasoans an important source of input to statewide environmental policy.

RIVERPARK: Efforts to establish an Omar N. Bradley Memorial Riverpark in El Paso are gathering steam again. The Riverpark Committee met with Natl. Park Service planners on Jan. 27 to discuss potential problem areas (e. g. crime prevention, water availability) and plan future actions. A likely next step: a search for an Executive Director, someone who can focus full time on establishing the park.



EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
1982 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND 1983 DRAFT BUDGET

| | For the Years Ended 31 December | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | 1982 (Actual) | 1983 (Proposed) |
| INCOME | | |
| Member dues | \$1,627 | \$1,800 |
| Contributions | 630 | 250 |
| Sales, net (birdseed, books, etc.) | 29 | 150 |
| Rummage sales | 640 | 500 |
| Newsletter subscriptions | 98 | 80 |
| Book fair | 378 | 375 |
| Birdathon | 644 | 700 |
| Interest | 127 | 125 |
| | 4,173 | 3,980 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| General meetings: | 345 | 370 |
| Hall rental | 120 | 120 |
| Program | 211 | 225 |
| Hospitality | 14 | 25 |
| Administrative: | 341 | 360 |
| Mailing/office supplies | 41 | 60 |
| Gifts and awards | 81 | 70 |
| Other chapter administrative | 92 | 120 |
| Audubon Council of Texas | 127 | 110 |
| Publications: | | |
| Newsletter | 468 | 850 |
| Mailing permit | 40 | 40 |
| Postage | 180 | 190 |
| Mailing labels | 80 | 120 |
| Printing | 168 | 500 |
| Chapter directory | 28 | - |
| Feather Lake: | 1,156 | 1,548 |
| Liability insurance | 218 | 218 |
| Utilities | 625 ^a | 480 |
| Maintenance/improvements | 313 | 850 |
| Conservation: | 136 | 650 |
| Wilderness Park Coalition | 100 | |
| Texas Nature Conservancy | 25 | |
| Other | 11 | |
| Education: | 339 | 100 |
| Slide projector | 237 | |
| Feather Lake pamphlets | 60 | |
| Other | 42 | |
| Library | 9 | 100 |
| | 2,822 | 3,978 |
| EXCESS, INCOME OVER EXPENSES | 1,351 | 2 |
| FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING | 1,677 | 3,028 |
| FUND BALANCE, ENDING | \$3,028 | \$3,030 |

a - Includes \$145 reimbursed by caretaker in 1983; Chapter's normal share of utility expense is \$480.

OBSERVATIONS - December 18, 1982 to January 15, 1983

Brief observation reports are usual for this time of year mostly due to a lull in birding activity and for this particular period, the severe weather that hit the El Paso area during most of the observation period did nothing to encourage "birders" into the field. No new rarities appear but there are still items of interest to note.

LOONS - FALCONS

A Great Blue Heron was at Diez Lagos 1/9 (JD), and 8 Cattle Egrets were noted near Canutillo 1/11 (TC, fide JD). The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, present since last summer at a pond in the same area, departed 12/20 (TC, fide JD). Thirty-four Canada Geese were counted in the Mexican portion of the Chamizal 12/18 (TB). Present at Follett's Pond in the upper valley 1/9 were 1 male and 3 female Bufflehead (JD). A Harris' Hawk was in the lower valley 1/2 (MG). A Ferruginous Hawk was seen in the upper valley 1/10 and another in the n.e. 1/14 (JD). Single Golden Eagles were in the w. Franklins 12/18 (JS, et al), the Hueco Mts. 1/2 (JS, et al), in the upper valley 1/9, and in the n.e. 1/14 (JD). Single Prairie Falcons were noted in 2 different locations near Hueco Tanks 1/2 (AG, JS, et al), and 2 were in the Cielo Vista area 1/8 (JC fide JD).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Greater Yellowlegs were in the upper valley 12/18 (BJ, et al) and 1/9 (JD). Of great interest is the report of 100 LONG-BILLED CURLEWS seen near Tornillo 1/9 (AG, MG). Also of interest are reports from several different locations in e. El Paso of doves fitting the description of White-winged, but with the body, legs and feet very dark, charcoal or black. Most reports are of single individuals but 3 have been seen at 1 time at the same location. Further investigation will be made and reported later (JeC, JN, EG). Large numbers of White-throated Swifts were again seen in the upper valley 1/8 and 1/9 (JD). Hummingbirds were still being reported in late Dec. and early Jan. with 1 Anna's and 1 Rufous at a Mountain Park feeder 12/18 and 2 of each present 1/10 (JB), 1

Anna's on W. Yandell 12/19 (JS), 2 Anna's in n.e. El Paso 12/25 and 12/26, 2 Anna's at Thunderbird Heights 1/10 (FB, fide JD) and an imm. Rufous reported 12/19 as having been present for several weeks on W. Stanton (GH, fide JS). A male Williamson's Sapsucker was in the El Paso Country Club area 1/13 (BJ, fide JD).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

The BLUE JAY reported last month in n.e. El Paso remained to be counted 12/18 (HD) and was still present as late as 1/10 (BJ, fide JD). Scrub Jays were counted in the Coronado Country Club area 12/18, and Mountain Chickadees in the Coronado Hills area the same day (JoD, et al). Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Memorial Park and in the upper valley 12/18 (JG, BJ, et al), and White-breasted at Memorial Park 12/18 (JG, et al) and an e. central El Paso yard from 1/1 to at least 1/12 (TB). The only bluebird report was that of a single individual, Bluebird sp., seen at UTEP campus 1/11 (SW, fide JD). The GRAY CATBIRD was still being seen near Anthony as late as 1/12 (HB, fide JD), and 2 Brown Thrashers were at Durling's Farm 1/8 (JD).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

Unusual was an Orange-crowned Warbler observed in the Phelps Dodge area 12/18 (AG, et al). The Northern Cardinal, previously reported, was still present near Anthony 1/14 (HB, fide JD). Three Black-chinned Sparrows were noted on the w. side and another 13 on the e. side of the Franklins 12/18 (JDP, et al). A single Lark Sparrow was near Tornillo 1/9 (AG, MG). Sage Sparrows appeared in higher numbers at Hueco Tanks 1/2 (fide AG), 3 were seen in the desert area near Santa Teresa Country Club 1/9, and 6 in the n.e. 1/14 (JD). A flock of 50 Lark Bunting was noted near Tornillo 1/9 (AG, MG), and 2 Chestnut-collared Longspurs in the upper valley 1/8 (JD).

CONTRIBUTORS: Tom Baker, Lois Beno, Helen Bigelow, Flora Bittick, Janet Brockmoller, Tess Cardenas, Jane Caraway,

Jeannette Cole (JeC), Helen Davis, Joyce Davis (JoD), Joe Di Pasquale (JDP), Jeff Donaldson, Al Gavit, Madeline Gavit, Elza Gilboe, Joe Guinn, Genevieve Hall, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, John Sproul, Scott Wilson. /Bettie Roberts/

(Our thanks to Bettie for doing her usual excellent job while Barry Zimmer was out of town for the holidays. Please resume reporting your observations to Barry 545-5184. Ed.)

ELECTION '83

Congratulations to Joyce Davis, Art Arteaga and Jo Warolin, our 1983-84 chapter officers. At our Jan. general meeting they were elected by acclamation to the posts of president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, respectively. Where do we find such qualified candidates? Our hard-working nominating committee ferrets them out. Thank, Peggy Riede, Sid Shepperd and Bob Johnson for a job well done.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the visit of the Audubon Ark last Feb. to the recent printing of our raptor-protection signs, it's been another full year for EP/TPAS. Thanks are due all of you who helped make it a success. Thanks are especially due our outgoing Board of Directors: Art Arteaga, Ginny Baker, Sarah Dodds, Jane Fowler, Joe Guinn, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, Peggy Riede, Jo Warolin and Tony Worth. Along with Audubon Council of Texas delegate Helen Barto, these people have done much of the extra work, the unseen things needed to keep Audubon alive and kicking in El Paso.

And we are alive and kicking. In 1983, we hope to start several new programs. One with great potential involves a new national activity, the Audubon Youth Program. Natl. Audubon bills it as "an instructional program, experiential in nature, through which children will learn about the environment." It will be open to all children up to age 15, with emphasis on 8- to 12-year-olds. Members will get a monthly newsletter, AUDUBON ADVENTURES, and have the opportunity to take part in national and local projects, competitions and activities.

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To realize fully the benefits of this program, we hope to form a local Audubon Adventure Club for kids. As Audubon members, you know the importance of making youngsters knowledgeable about the environment and how we fit into it. An Audubon Adventure Club can be a great way to accomplish this vital task. We won't start such a club, though, unless we can do the job right. And you know what that means. Right, we will need volunteers. I hope many of you will think this program sufficiently important to help organize and direct it. You'll hear more about the Audubon Youth Program in the months ahead. For more details now, call Ginny Baker (562-9461). /John Sproul/

1982-83 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Forget the Sun Bowl! The real holiday events in El Paso are our 2 Christmas Bird Counts. Their recent success was due to help from many sources. Thank you:

- Helen Barto and Tony Worth for hosting our post-count dinners;
- Liz and Joe Guinn for hosting the planning meeting;
- Joyce Davis, Janet Brockmoller and Al Gavit for compiling the counts;
- Phelps Dodge, Sunland Park Race Track and the Tigua Indian Tribe for access to your lands;
- Pat Henry of the EL PASO TIMES for some sparkling publicity;
- all who took part, particularly the non-chapter members; and, last but not least,
- Kevin Zimmer for an excellent bird-identification workshop at our planning meeting. The lack of questionable sightings from the counts can be traced directly to Kevin's enlightening presentation.

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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.

RUMMAGE IS GOLDEN

Note on p. 4 that a fat chunk of our chapter's income last year came from rummage sales; note that we hope for similar success in 1983. Our next sale will be April 10, and we are now accepting any and all junk. We are also looking for places to store it before the sale. If you are willing to help in this way, please contact Joyce Davis (581-9470). If you have discards to donate, contact Jane Fowler (e. side, 772-0296) or Bart Rumaker (w. side, 544-6432).

SIERRA CLUB MEETING

WED., FEBRUARY 23, 7:30 PM, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere. What's new in the world of hiking equipment? Come to the Sierra Club's annual Backpacker's Show-n-Tell and find out.

EL PASO COUNT - 18 DECEMBER

The weather was good: Temperature 36 to 66° F., winds variable 0-5 mph, clear in the AM, mostly clear in the PM, no rain. With 37 participants, we had nearly as many as last years all-time high of 39.

Eared Grebe 13; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron 6; Green Heron 5; Canada Goose 24; Snow Goose 19; Mallard 11; Gadwall 147; Pintail 8; Green-winged Teal 3; American Wigeon 312; Northern Shoveler 240; Ring-necked Duck 11; Canvasback 22; Bufflehead 9; Common Merganser 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 18; Golden Eagle 1 ad.; Marsh Hawk 8; American Kestrel 31; accipiter sp. 1; hawk sp. 1; Scaled Quail 55; Gambel's Quail 150; Common Gallinule 3; American Coot 120; Killdeer 38; Common Snipe 3; Spotted Sandpiper 4; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Least Sandpiper 150; Rock Dove 867; White-winged Dove 51; Mourning Dove 235; Inca Dove 111; Roadrunner 4; Great Horned Owl 1; Burrowing Owl 2; White-throated Swift 57; Anna's Hummingbird 12; Rufous Hummingbird 2; Belted Kingfisher 6; Common Flicker 41; Ladder-backed Woodpecker 5; Black Phoebe 7; Say's Phoebe 6; Blue Jay 1; Scrub Jay 14; Mountain Chickadee 2; Verdin 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; House Wren 1; Bewick's Wren 12; Cactus Wren 25; Canyon Wren 3; Rock Wren 78; wren sp. 3; Mockingbird 32; Curve-billed

Thrasher 7; Crissal Thrasher 23; thrasher sp. 1; American Robin 22; Western Bluebird 16; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 19; Water Pipit 2; Cedar Waxwing 6; Loggerhead Shrike 5; Starling 85; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 28; House Sparrow 555; Western Meadowlark 153; meadowlark sp. 3; Yellow-headed Blackbird 802; Red-winged Blackbird 275; Brewer's Blackbird 6,540; Great-tailed Grackle 410; Brown-headed Cowbird 30; Pyrrhuloxia 28; House Finch 339; Lesser Goldfinch 9; Green-tailed Towhee 7; Rufous-sided Towhee 7; Brown Towhee 11;

Savannah Sparrow 30; Vesper Sparrow 21; Rufous-crowned Sparrow 26; Black-throated Sparrow 426; Dark-eyed Junco 278; Gray-headed Junco 29; junco sp. 23; Chipping Sparrow 555; Brewer's Sparrow 33; Black-chinned Sparrow 25; White-crowned Sparrow 528; Song Sparrow 2.

Total: 95 species; 14,332 individuals.

Participants: Joseph Arteaga, Tom Baker, Berttye Barnhart, Helen Barto, Ken and Lois Beno, Janet Brockmoller, Bob Byrd, Jack Burt, Jean and John Coyle, J.J. Devaney, Helen Davis, Joyce Davis (Compiler), Joseph Di Pasquale, John Dixon, Sarah Dodds, Jane Fowler, Al and Madeline Gavit, Edythe Ginn, Joe Guinn, Howard Jackson, Bob Johnson, Margaret McDaniel, Jo Nagel, Jack Niland, Delta Oliver, Henrietta Owen, Marie and Mary Pringle, Bart Rumaker, Sid Shepperd, Charlie Spevak, John Sproul, Lucile Swick, Margaret Burlingame./Joyce Davis/

HUECO TANKS COUNT - 2 JANUARY 1983

This count will be given in next month's newsletter. 48 species were seen.



THE AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS T-SHIRT
 It's 100% cotton and features a soaring white Whooping Crane with the legend "Support Texas Wildlife." It's for everyone concerned about our wild heritage. Price: \$7 (Non-El Paso residents, please add \$1 for postage and handling). Circle preferences:
 Color: Lt Blue Tan Yellow White
 Adult size: S M L XL
 Child size: S M L

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____

Please make check payable to "El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society" and mail to: T-shirts, P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to join the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Name

Address

CityState.....

ZipPhone

Membership Category desired:

Individual/\$25 Family/\$32

3r. Citizen, Individual/\$17

Sr. Citizen, Family/\$19

Student/\$15

This is a new renewal membership.

Please make your checks payable to National Audubon Society.

Mail to Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso, TX 79924.

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