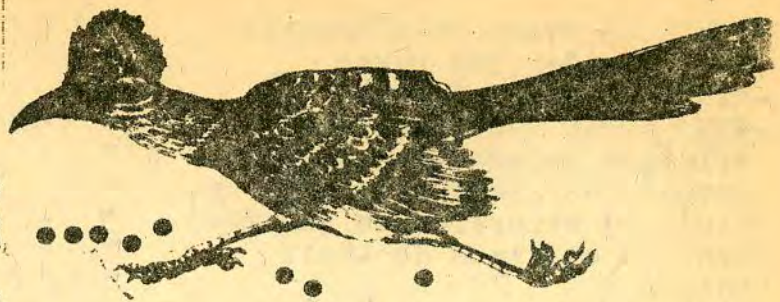


the ROADRUNNER



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

Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 14 (2)

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February 1984

GENERAL MEETING

MON., FEBRUARY 20, 1984, 7:30 PM,
Garden Center, 3105 Grant St., Me-
morial Park. The first title for
our program which came to mind
was "Show and Tell", but no, no,
Nannette, better yet is SING and
TELL! After all, how many Audubon
Society chapters have their very
own in-house songwriter? We are
most fortunate to have Jo Ellen
Warolin who plays and sings pro-
fessionally and who wrote the mu-
sic and lyrics for the tribute
to John Sproul which she sang at
the Audubon Awards Dinner. It is
she who will be writing and sing-
ing the lyrics about the seven
chapter committees which will be
highlighted in an Audubon Fair
evening. The committee chairmen
who will each have a display on
his/her committee's work are:
John Sproul, Gloria Basden, Jo
Ellen Warolin, Tom Baker, Bob
Johnson, Jane Fowler and Jo Nagel
and Joe Guinn. Learn what we have
accomplished in the past; listen
to the plans for the future. So
come for an informal but informa-
tive Audubon Evening. The refresh-
ments will, as always, be delicious!
S.J.D.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

TORNILLO PONDS

SUN., FEB. 5. A field trip designa-
ted for beginners will be led by
John Sproul (541-6126 w, 545-5157 h).
This is an excellent outing for
all birders to familiarize them-
selves with our winter waterfowl,
raptors and passerines. Meet at
Feather Lake, 9500 North Loop, at
7:30 AM, and pack a lunch.

HOLLOMAN LAKE/IMAX THEATRE

SUN., FEBRUARY 19. Meet at 6:45
AM at the Richard Burgess Libra-
ry, 9300 Diana, in the south-
west corner of Northgate Shop-
ping Center. Holloman Lake is
located about 12 miles south-
west of Alamogordo. Bring lunch.
A Great Horned Owl, Hooded Mer-
gansers, and a Tundra Swan were
seen in this area 2 yrs. ago.
After lunch we will be going to
the Space Museum in Alamogordo.
Highlight: the IMAX Theatre.
For more details or if you need
a ride call Bob Johnson (757-1876
or 751-0125).

INDIAN HOT SPRINGS

SAT., FEBRUARY 25. Dr. Joe Leach
(584-2969) will be the leader
again this year for our trip
way down the valley. Meet at
Feather Lake, 9500 North Loop,
at 7:00 AM. We will go I-10 to
below McNary and turn off to
continue down the Rio Grande
Valley to the former resort.
This is a full day outing so be
sure to bring a picnic lunch.

SINGH POND/UPPER VALLEY

SUN., MARCH 4. Meet at Trans-
mountain and I-10 at 7:00 AM
with leader Joyce Davis (544-67
72 w, 581-9470 h). We will drive
on to a private pond near An-
thony Country Club. Afterwards
we will bird other areas in the
valley, so bring a lunch if you
wish. ### T.B., B.J.

TENTATIVE FIELD TRIP SPRING SCHEDULE

SAT., MARCH 10 Arroyo Park-lea-
der Jo Ellen Warolin

SUN.-MARCH 25 Hondo Pass/Franklin Mts. -leader, Tom Baker
 SAT.-MARCH 31 Hueco Tanks
 SAT.-SUN. APRIL 7-8 Bitterlakes Wildlife Refuge-leader, John Sproul. Overnight trip will include an excursion to see the prairie chickens do their thing.

SUN.-APRIL 15 Dog Canyon-leader, Sara Jane Dodds
 BIRDATHON

SUN.-MAY 6 West Cottonwood Springs (beginners trip) leader, John Sproul

SAT.-MAY 12 Organ Mts. leader, Tom Baker

SAT.-SUN.-MAY 19-20 Ramsey Canyon/Patagonia, AZ-leader, Bob Johnson. Anyone wanting to stay in a housekeeping cabin at the Nature Conservancy Mile Hi Ranch in Ramsey Canyon, should contact The Mile Hi, RR 1 Box 84, Hereford, AZ 85615. (602) 378-2785.

If you have any suggestions concerning this schedule call Joyce Davis (581-9470 h) or Tom Baker (562-9461 h). #####

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., FEBRUARY 13, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Jane Fowler, 8212 Parkland Dr, El Paso (772-0296). All members are welcome.



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MON., FEB. 27, 7:30 PM. The Conservation Committee will meet at the home of John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25 (545-5157). All EP/TPAS members are welcome. Gov. Richard Lamm of Colorado will speak.

Sierra Club Meeting

WED., FEB. 29, 7:30 PM, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere. El Paso's air --how it affects us and what we can do to improve it --will be the subject.

 * QUESTION: *
 * What do armadillos, bobcats, *
 * cardinals, Devil's River *
 * minnows, ...? *
 * *****

CANDIDATES CLAIM LANDSLIDE VICTORY

Elected by acclamation at our Jan. general meeting was a new slate of chapter officers for 1984-85. Congratulations to Peggy Riede, our new vice-president; Bob Johnson, our new president-elect; Gloria Basden, our new secretary; John Coyle, our new treasurer; and to newly elected directors Jane Fowler, Joe Guinn and John Sproul. Joyce Davis continues her 2-year term as president. Thanks are also due Berttye Barnhart, Elza Gilboe and Sid Shepperd. As our Nominating Committee, they handled with grace and aplomb the always challenging task of cajoling people into running for office. The new officers and elected directors will be installed at our Feb. general meeting.

NEW EP/TPAS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

How come we no longer have a combined secretary-treasurer, and where did the 3 elected-director positions come from? Well, the City of El Paso was not the only entity to receive a new "charter" recently. Last year, a Bylaws Revision Committee consisting of Jane Fowler, Joe Guinn and John Sproul drafted a proposed new Constitution and Bylaws for the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society, and at our Jan. 16 meeting the membership voted to adopt this document. Substantive changes from the previous Constitution and Bylaws were summarized in the Dec. ROADRUNNER. For a copy of the new version, contact Joyce Davis (581-9470) or John Sproul (545-5157 h, 541-6126w).
 /J. Sproul

FIELD TRIP FOLLOW-UP

In spite of threatening snow storms and cold weather some 18 hardy souls were treated to good birding at Bosque del Apache. There were Whoopers and Bald Eagles and to everyone's delight were easy to spot though far away. There were the usual thousands of Snow geese and Sandhill cranes, but overall populations were down from last year because of less crop production on the refuge. Red tail Hawks and Northern Harriers (Marsh Hawk) seemed to be over abundant. Our total number of species was near 60, but not everyone saw the same ones; there were several single bird sightings. A spectacular sight was afforded us on Saturday by a hungry coyote we observed in an open field. He charged the flock of geese in front of us causing many hundreds of geese to lift at once with thunderous honking and flapping of wings. Those who left early missed the narrow escape pulled off by a burning dove who flew by us to evade an acrobatic diving Prairie Falcon. The Falcon was identified by none other than Kevin Zimmer who, with his family, was up for the afternoon. He was able to show us some Ross' geese mixed with the Snow and Blue geese in the field.

The disappointing news from Fort Bliss Ponds was that no sighting was made of the immature Bald Eagle that had been there around the holidays. The good news was that the 12 birders were able to report a pair of Goldeneyes at both the oxidation ponds in the morning and the Electric Co. reservoir in the afternoon. Also seen was a Kingfisher, a dozen Mergansers, 15 Ringbilled Gulls and a pair of lesser Scaup along with regular array of waterfowl and raptors. /Tom Baker



EL PASO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Thirty observers in 9 field teams and 3 feeder observers spent 62 hrs. taking the census of the birds Dec. 17. They counted 92 species with 27,560 individual birds. 5 more species were seen in the count area but not on the count day.

The largest number of one species reported was 18,878 Brewers Blackbirds. Most of these were seen coming in to roost at Cement Lake. Four unusual species reported this year were N. Goshawk, W. Tanager, Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser.

Birds seen in count area but not on count day were Ringed Turtle-dove, Brown Thrasher, Bewick's Wren, Great Horned Owl and Scrub Jay. /Joyce Davis

HUECO TANKS CBC RESULTS

Hueco Tanks and the surrounding area yielded 52 species Jan. 31, and included 5 Great Horned Owls in the park itself, a pair of Golden Eagles and numerous other regulars of the area. We had a fine turnout with 28 people counting; 1,978 individual birds were seen (1971 last year), and the weather was great. A special thanks goes to the Tigua Indians for allowing bird counters on their land. /Jo Ellen Warolin

SOUTHWESTERN BIRDING TOURS

• experienced leaders • individually tailored tours • low prices • beautiful areas (west Texas, southern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona) • great birds!

For info on birding tours in and out of El Paso:

Jeff Donaldson (915)821-2243

Barry Zimmer (915)545-5184

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BUDGET

INCOME	1983	1984	
		Actual	Proposed
Member dues	1800.00	1409.50	1700.00
Contributions	250.00	917.60	300.00
Sales (net)	150.00	211.47	150.00
Rummage sales	500.00	235.00	250.00
Newsletter subs.	80.00	52.00	50.00
Book Fair	375.00	416.95	375.00
Birdathon	700.00	711.43	700.00
Interest	125.00	160.00	125.00
TOTAL	3980.00	4153.95	3650.00

EXPENSES

General meeting			
Hall rental	120.00	135.00	135.00
Program	225.00	25.00	125.00
Hospitality	25.00	4.98	25.00
Administration			
Mailing/office	60.00	37.25	50.00
Gift/Awards	70.00	90.06	90.00
Other	120.00	148.85	110.00
Aud. Council	110.00	130.30	150.00
Publications			
Newsletter		671.50	
Mailing permit	40.00	40.00	40.00
Postage	190.00	222.75	225.00
Labels	120.00	172.00	180.00
Printing Sup.	500.00	230.40	250.00
Feather Lake			
Liability	218.00	173.00	220.00
Utilities	480.00	699.73	550.00
Maintenance/Imp.	850.00	60.10	800.00
Conservation	500.00		500.00
Wilderness Park			
Nature Conser.		25.00	
Other		150.00	
Education	100.00	17.00	100.00
Library	100.00	47.22	100.00
TOTAL	3978	3080.14	3650.00

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

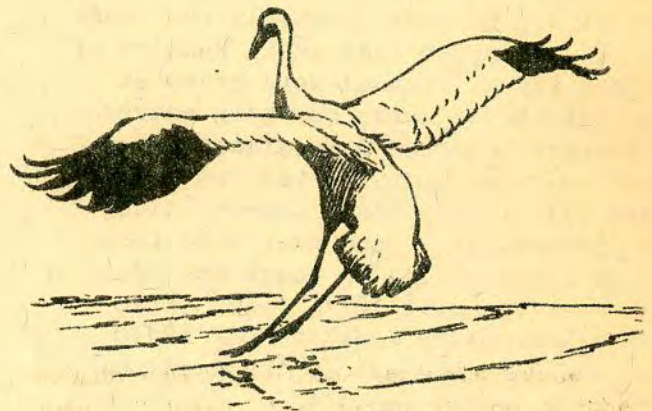
RAPTOR PROTECTION: As part of our continuing efforts to promote raptor protection, El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon recently awarded \$100 grants to 2 El Paso-area wildlife rehabilitators, Carole Beach and Helen Bigelow, to help support their activities in 1984. Helen promptly, and most generously, asked that we send her grant to Carole, who is now building an enlarged rehabilitation facility at her new home in Chaparral, NM. This we have done. Thanks are due both these fine women for their tireless work on behalf of wildlife in the El Paso area.

RECYCLING I: If you live in El Paso, don't forget that Friday is recycling day. All Green people are encouraged to have their recyclables -- newspapers in 1 bag, cans in another, corrugated cardboard in another -- out at curbside by 7:30 AM on the 1st and 3rd Fridays each month. Orange people are encouraged to do the same on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. Green and Orange, of course, refer to the 2 zones into which the Sanitation Dept. has divided the City for recycling purposes. Aren't sure which color you are? You can get a map that shows the zones from the sanitation Dept. (594-8625).

RECYCLING II: An alternative recycling practice for your aluminum cans is to donate them to EP/TPAS. We'll convert them into dollars for our chapter treasury. You can bring aluminum cans to our general meetings, or you can call Jo Warolin (532-4318) and arrange to have us pick them up. Aluminum cans only, please; no "tin" cans, no aluminum foil, no pie trays, TV dinner trays, etc.

CITY CHARTER: El Paso has a new city charter, approved by the voters Jan. 21. Section 3.15 of that charter deserves your attention. Titled "Conservation", it requires the City Council to enact within 2 years a "comprehensive plan for the conservation of water and other natural resources." Will the Council members take this mandate seriously? It's up to us to make sure they do.

BOSQUE WHOOPER DIES: As this issue goes to press, the death of one of the Whooping Cranes that had been wintering at Bosque del Apache Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, NM, is gaining national attention. But the TV news spots and the wire-service reports are telling much less than the full story. Next month's ROADRUNNER will explore in depth the events surrounding the bird's death and air the current dissatisfaction of many conservationists with the state of Whooping Crane management in New Mexico.
/John Sproul/



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/\$30 Family/\$38
- Sr. Citizen, Individual/\$21
- Sr. Citizen, Family/\$23
- Student/\$18

This is a new renewal membership.

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

OBSERVATIONS - December 20 to January 19

Very unusual might best sum up the winter season to date. The trend set earlier showed little if any change, and many of the normally expected species are still notably absent.

LOONS - FALCONS

Four Great Blue Herons and 3 Snowy Egrets were seen in the Fabens-Tornillo area 1/2 (AG, MG), while a single Green-backed Heron was noted at Cielo Vista Golf Course 1/15 (AB). That same day, an imm. Snow Goose was observed standing in the shallows at Feather Lake (JS). Eight Canada Geese were at Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds (FBSP) 1/6 (SP, EP) and 6 were at a pond near Canutillo that same day (TC). Larger than usual numbers of Mallard and N. Pintail were noted at FBSP 1/4 (BJ). Water has been scarce at Feather Lake but approximately 1,000 waterfowl were enjoying the few pools there 1/15 (JS). The 4 Common Golden-eyes present at a pond near Gary Lane in the upper valley on count day remained there until 12/24 (NH). Four Common Mergansers were at FBSP 12/30 (BJ) and a female was at the pond near Gary Lane in mid-Jan. (NH). Top honors go to the imm. BALD EAGLE studied and photographed at FBSP 1/4 (BJ) and observed there later 1/6 (SP, EP) and 1/15 (PR, PeR). This is the second verified sighting of this species for our area. N. Harriers appeared in more normal numbers during this period particularly in the ne. El Paso area (BJ, RW, JF, KB). Of interest is a Harlan's race of the Red-tailed Hawk seen at FBSP 1/8 (BJ, RW, JF), and a very dark imm. Red-tailed Hawk observed at Rio Bosque Park 1/15 (JS). A Ferruginous Hawk was at FBSP 1/8 (RW, BJ, JF), a juv. Golden Eagle was there 12/30 (BJ), and a single Prairie Falcon was in the Hueco Mountains area 12/31 (TW, et al.).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Gambel's Quail, usually seen in good numbers at Rio Bosque Park, were notably absent 1/15 (JS). A Sora and 4 Sandhill Cranes were present at FBSP 1/8 (RW, BJ, JF). A single Greater Yellowlegs noted in the upper valley river area near Canutillo 1/17 was the only 1 reported (RW).

Two very late Bonaparte's Gulls at FBSP 12/30 (BJ) are of special note. Mourning Dove was another notably absent species at Rio Bosque Park 1/15 (JS). On 12/31, 5 different Great Horned Owls were heard calling at Hueco Tanks State Park (JS). Anna's Hummingbirds were still frequenting feeders in Thunderbird Heights and Mt. Park in late Dec. (FB, JB); a female was still being seen in Mt. Park as of 1/17, and a male Rufous Hummingbird was there as late as 12/30 (JB).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Numbers of Am. Crows were feeding in a cornfield just across the river from Rio Bosque Park 1/15 (JS). Five Western Bluebirds (BJ, et al.) and 1 Townsend's Solitaire (JoD, et al.) counted in the Hueco Mountains area 12/31 were the only ones reported. Counted that same day were 3-4 Sage Thrashers (TB, et al.) & 1 Brown Thrasher (JoD, et al.)

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

Based on the unusual numbers of calls received, Pyrrhuloxias appear to be frequenting feeders more often this year (MG, MS). Rufous-sided Towhees, usually present, were not seen on either Christmas Count day this year (fide JS). A single Swamp Sparrow was at FBSP 1/1 (BJ) and 3-4 noted there 1/8 (BJ, JF, RW).

CONTRIBUTORS: Ken Beno, Flora Bittick, Anne Bowman, Janet Brockmoller, Tess Cardenas, Joyce Davis, Jane Fowler, Al Gavit, Madeline Gavit, Nuala Heitzman, Gail Holt, Bob Johnson, Ed Pierce, Shawn Pierce, Peggy Riede, Peter Riede, Marie Smith, John Sproul, Ray Waite, Tony Worth.

/Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/
(591-0421)

TURN DISCARDS TO \$\$

If you have discards to donate for our pending spring rummage sale, contact Bart Rumaker (w. side 544-6432), Jo Warolin (w. side 532-4318) or Jane Fowler (e. side 772-0296).

BIRDATHON 1984

April 28 is fast approaching, so mark it down on your calendar now. We are striving for all members to participate, either as counters, sponsors or BOTH. The board has not settled on our Grand Prize for this year's Birdathon. Got any ideas? Contact Bob Johnson (751-0125). More details next month.

BOOK FAIR SET

Our chapter will be participating in a Book Fair on Feb 11 at B. Dalton Book-seller, Cielo Vista Mall. Why not give a book to that special someone on Valentine's Day, or to your nephew for his birthday, or to your Mom because you care. The reasons for buying a book are legion, but the DAY to buy books is Feb 11. B. Dalton will donate a percentage of the day's receipts to our chapter. If you can give an hour or two of your time to help man our mini-display and talk with customers, call Jo Warolin (532-4318).

WILDERNESS PARK COALITION

The Franklin Mountains State Park has the potential to provide lasting protection for a remarkable natural area. Will it? The wilderness Park Coalition is working hard to ensure the answer is "yes." WPC membership renewals are due now. If you are not presently a member, please consider joining. Dues are: Student/\$3, Regular/\$5, Contributing/\$25-\$100, Sustaining/over \$100. Please make checks payable to "Wilderness Park Coalition" and mail to: Betty Wallis, Treasurer, WPC, 1208-A Avalon, El Paso, TX 79925.

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 79936. Please send any changes or corrections in name, address, or telephone # to this same address.

The deadline for the March Roadrunner is February 22.

NEW MEXICO AUDUBON COUNCIL NOTES

The National Audubon Society's Board of Directors is meeting at the Sheraton Old Town on Rio Grande in Albuquerque Feb. 3-5. Board members and their spouses will take field trips to the Bosque del Apache on Friday, the 3rd. The various committees will meet on Sat., and the full Board will meet Sun. morning. A reception honoring the Board will be held Sun. 3:30-5:30 PM at the Randall Davey Nature Center in Santa Fe. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On May 5-6, the NM Audubon Council will sponsor a birding event at Bosque del Apache to acquaint the public with the refuge.

Edward Bottinelli, President of Zia Steel Co. has proposed to build a mini-steel mill near San Antonio, N.M. Questions on air and noise pollution, water damage, hazards in the flyway of migrating birds that use the refuge, and the financial aspects were brought up at a hearing. The Socorro City Council voted not to issue industrial revenue bonds, but Mr. Bottinelli has said he will find other financing.

Livestock growers met with representatives from Sierra Clubs, National Wildlife Federation and the Central New Mexico Audubon Society to discuss the mountain lion problem. They felt that more information was needed before they could come to any conclusion.
/Joyce Davis/

TPWC ACTS FOR "NONGAME" WILDLIFE

We're 1 step closer to having a viable "nongame" wildlife program in Texas! At its Jan. 12 meeting, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 1st Texas "nongame" art print, stamp and decal. The RFP is now being sent to wildlife art publishers throughout the country.

Sale of these items was made possible last year when the state legislature passed HB 1064, which created a Spe-

ial Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund for Texas. The fund is to be used solely for "nongame" and endangered-species programs, and sales of the art print, stamp and decal are to be the main sources of fund income. HB 1064 set the prices for the stamp and decal at \$5, but the price for the art print will be up to the person who submits the winning proposal.

What's in the RFP? For 1 thing, it presents design and artist criteria for the artwork. The design must depict in full color a "nongame" or endangered wildlife species native to Texas. It must be an original by a nationally recognized artist. The subject doesn't have to be a Whooping Crane, but the RFP makes clear that this endangered species "would be an especially appropriate subject for the first Texas Nongame Stamp and Decal."

The RFP asks persons who submit proposals to indicate the estimated number of prints to be marketed, their proposed advertising campaign, the selling price for the prints, the royalty that will go into the "Nongame" Fund from each print, and the guaranteed minimum royalty payment. The winning proposal will be the 1 the TPWC thinks will be the most effective in raising money for the "Nongame" Fund and enhancing the long-term potential of the stamp, decal and print program.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
PO BOX 9655
El Paso, Tx 79986

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Are you aware of any art publishers who may not have received the RFP but who might be interested? Let Audubon Council of Texas delegate John Sproul (545-5157 h, 541-6126 w) know about them. Proposals are due by June 29, 1984, and the TPWC will select the winning proposal at its 1st meeting after that date. If all goes well, the 1st stamp will be issued in Nov. 1984. Audubon chapters throughout the state are gearing up now to promote this program and make it a success.

/John Sproul/

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to Nancy and David Ellis who are new members of National Audubon and our local chapter.



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