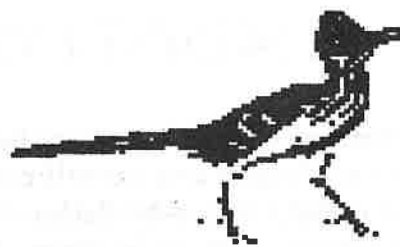


# The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 28 No. 7 February & March 1999

## General Meetings

### The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 20

UTEP Union building, 2nd floor faculty dining room

Guest Speaker Dr. John Peterson

Anthropological Environment

Our annual meeting and awards dinner will take place Feb. 20, 1999 at 6:30pm. We will recognize our Meritorious and Conservation recipients and have the installation of chapter officers for 1999-2000. This worthy event will take place in the UTEP Union building, 2nd floor faculty dining room. The dinner will be catered by University Food Services which provides the wonderful meals for the Union Dinner Theater. Your choice of Santa Fe Chicken, \$12.25 or Vegetarian Dinner, \$12.75. RSVP by February 15 to Jane Fowler by phone, 598-2448 and mail your check payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to Elizabeth Chase, at 3368 Freeport Dr. El Paso, Texas 79935.

Dr. John Peterson will be giving a presentation on the environmental history of El Paso. From prehistoric to contemporary times, the El Paso area has been both a refuge in the desert and fraught with environmental limitations. This presentation examines the evolution of the human settlement along the Rio Grande in the Chihuahuan desert from earliest prehistoric, through Spanish colonial, railroad era, and maquiladora periods of El Paso's history.

Dr. John A. Peterson is an Associate professor in the department of sociology and anthropology. He specializes in the historical ecology and anthropology of the southwest and northern Mexico. His research interests range from the Spanish colonial to the colonias settlement of the region.

Dr. Peterson received his Phd from the department of anthropology at UT-Austin. He has conducted research in the southwest United States, the Congo, and the People's Republic of China. His dissertation was a cultural history of the Lower Valley of El Paso.

Monday, March 15, 1999  
Memorial Park Garden Center  
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

### Bird Conservation in Texas

Our guest speaker will be Noreen Damud, Director of Bird Conservation for the Texas Audubon Society. Come prepared for an interesting presentation and find out what is happening around the state. As always, expect good friends and delicious refreshments as a bonus to the program!

### *Special thanks to:*

our panel of presenters,  
Sheri Spier, Henrietta Owen, Lea Vail, and Maj. Frank McNight for sharing their memories with us in December.

Also to Dr. Joseph Leach for his January slide presentation with us on his travels through the "Terrific Tongo".

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# BIRDATHON 1999

Birdathon 1999 will be here before you know it and the chapter and myself can definitely use quite a bit of help in pre-birdathon tasks; So if you are good at corporate or business fundraising, organizing events, sending out mailers, etc., etc., please contact John Kiseda at 833-6212 in the evenings. Help us make this year's birdathon more successful than ever!

## BIRD CHECKLIST ADDITIONS

If anyone has been birding at Rio Bosque or Doniphan Marsh sites during the past year, please contact John Kiseda and let him know what you found during your trips. I am attempting to "add to" the bird checklists that have been compiled for these two areas and there are still many gaps in the lists. For example, I have not yet been able to document that anyone has seen a ladderback woodpecker or any species of oriole, towhee or goldfinch at Doniphan Marsh and I would think that some of these birds should have been observed using this site. Many common to our area birds aren't documented for both sites. Please contact me in the evenings at 833-6212.

## Bluebirds are Back! Thanks to people like you!!!

Cornell Nest Box Network invites you to help all cavity-nesting birds. Thirty years ago bluebird numbers were declining. Thanks to the grassroots efforts of concerned citizens who took the simple step of putting up nest boxes around their homes and farms, bluebirds are now among the most rapidly increasing bird species in North America.

To sign up or for more information, call Cornell toll free at 1-800-843-2473 (BIRD), e-mail at <cornellbirds@cornell.edu>, or write Cornell Nest Box Network/BC, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. Visit the website at <<http://birds.cornell.edu>>.

## El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society Board of Directors:

President	Elizabeth Chase	591-5119
V-President	Weldon Fisbeck	581-0174
Secretary	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
Treasurer	Hugh Jameson	751-7952

## Committee Chairs:

Conservation	John Kiseda	833-6212
Education	Susan Schneider	542-3041
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	volunteer needed	
Membership	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Programs	Nancy Wilson	833-3907
Publications	Kathleen Whelen	544-7339
Publicity	Roxanne Schroeder	534-7019
Sanctuary	John Sproul	545-5157

## About the Roadrunner:

Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. For further information, you may contact Elizabeth W. Chase:

W: 849-5900

fax: 857-4324

email: [echase@socorro.k12.tx.us](mailto:echase@socorro.k12.tx.us)

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges recent donations to our organization from these thoughtful friends:*

For Feather Lake  
*Girl Scout Troop 307*

For Sanctuary Fund  
*Hugh Jameson*

For General Fund  
*Tom Baker*

## AT FEATHER LAKE

by, John Sproul

Don't forget! We need your help to keep Feather Lake open to the public on weekends. Want to spend a morning or afternoon helping visitors enjoy our sanctuary? The setting is beautiful, the birds are great, and the work is easy. To sign up, call Charles Simpson (598-2274).

We also always need help at our Feather Lake workdays. We had six in 1998, and the good folks who took part were Mario Acosta, Manny Aguilar, Lupe Barrera, Betty Fisbeck, Jane Fowler, Bob Johnson, and John Sproul. Many thanks, one and all! Also deserving thanks are the hard-working students at Hanks High School who helped remove saltcedars at the lake on December 13.

Plan to join us for one or more of our workdays in 1999. Our next session will be Saturday, March 20. We'll start at 2:00pm, work a few hours, then see what birds arrive at day's end.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's lower valley, 0.03 miles west of Americas Avenue. It is open every Saturday, 8:00am to noon, and every Sunday, 2:00pm to dusk. Admission is free.

*If you've been around a while, you may remember a time when small cards with bird portraits were included with boxes of baking soda. Mrs. R.C. Lovelace has an extensive collection of these unique items and she is willing to sell them. If you are interested, please contact her at 532-8200.*

## FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS COALITION DINNER

Little known fact: February is National Dinner Month for Organizations. Following our Annual Dinner on February 20th, you'll want to return to the Faculty/Staff Lounge in the Student Union at UTEP on Friday, February 26th, for the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition's special dinner meeting.

This event will begin at 6:30pm, with dinner served at 7:00pm. Join Coalition members and friends for an evening of fellowship. Learn what's happening with the Coalition, to which Audubon belongs, and with Franklin Mountains State Park. Hear special guest speaker Dr. Richard Worthington of UTEP speak on "Current Biological Research in the Franklin Mountains". Dr. Worthington is doing many of the biological studies needed to support the resource-management plan that the Texas Parks and Wildlife is now preparing for the Park. On February 26, he'll fill us in on what he has learned.

The meal options for the evening are fillet of salmon (\$14.50), beef burgundy (\$12.75), and vegetarian (\$12.75). To make reservations, send a check with the appropriate amount, payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition", to Jane Fowler, 3212 Kilkenney, El Paso, Texas 79925 by February 23rd. Please note your meal choice on your check. Questions? Call Jane Avner (565-5315) or Jane Fowler (598-2448).

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

The zoo will host another International Migratory Bird Day event this spring in late April or early May. If you like to have fun while helping others to have fun and learn, please contact John Kiseda at the zoo at 521-1850. People that like to teach and interact with adults and kids will definitely be needed.

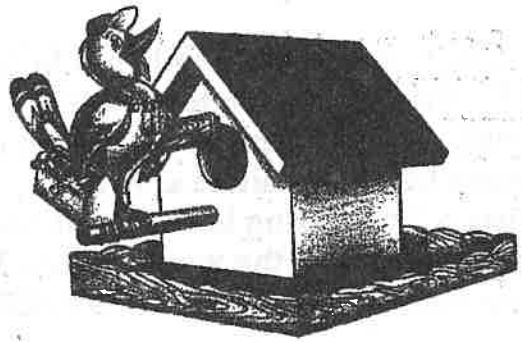
## DONIPHAN MARSH

Contact: Carol Miller at 584-7088  
Visit the KAPPA website at: [www.keystone-site.org](http://www.keystone-site.org)

Contact your city planning commission members, elected officials, etc. ASAP to tell them what you think about proposed development of the Keystone site because it may be coming before the city planning commission in February. Another way that you may want to help with the efforts to preserve Doniphan Marsh & the Keystone archeological site is to donate money to the cause (now possible due to the involvement of the El Paso Community Foundation in KAPPA). Recent "cool" wildlife sightings at the marsh have included coyote, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, common goldeneye & sora ( a species of rail).

## THE EL PASO-LAS CRUCES REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE WATER PROJECT

The El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project has concluded its public scoping meeting and plans to have its draft environmental impact statement produced by the end of 1999. The project is being designed to bring year round Rio Grande water to our region, instead of the current "irrigation season" only system. If you would like more information about the critical to our future water plan, review John Sproul's article in a previous article in a previous issue of the Roadrunner and or contact the El Paso Water Utility's consultant Hector Gonzalez of Katz & Associates at 594-5661.



### Feather Facts

presented by  
Eastwood Heights Elementary  
Junior Audubon Club

## Mockingbirds

Mocking birds live in all but the northernmost parts of the United States. They are about 10 inches in length with a gray and white coloring.

Mockingbirds can be observed sing at all times of the day or night. They can sometimes sound like roosters, crows or even dogs barking or rusty gate hinges. The song of the mockingbird is special because they can change their tune eighty-seven times in seven minutes.

A male will attract a female by singing and waving his wings above his head. They use an assortment of nesting materials which might include weeds, grass, feathers, bark, and string. The color of their eggs are blue-green spotted with red and brown.

Visit the El Paso Zoo website at:  
[www.whc.net/epzoo](http://www.whc.net/epzoo)

### *New to the Zoo*

The zoo has recently placed a least bittern and a red-headed woodpecker out on display in the Americas Avlary; some bluebirds and three more thick-billed parrots will be placed out on display in the zoo's Americas section in the near future. Own newest female Mexican Wolves, *Mesa* and *Chiracahua* will soon be out on display.

## THE EL PASO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY IS PLANNING A TRIP TO KENYA, AFRICA

Destination: Kenya, East Africa  
Date: June 9-June 22, 1999  
Cost: (from NYC) \$3,665  
Local Leader: John Kiseda El Paso Zoo  
Curator/EP-TP Audubon Conservation Chair  
Wildlife: fantastic birds & mammals; flamingos, elephants, lions, etc.  
Phone: 521-1850 John Kiseda for more information

Jambo !!

(Swahili for Hello!)



If you have never experienced ....  
-the thrill of watching a pride of lions on the hunt  
-the smell of the Savannah after the rainstorm  
-the overwhelming beauty of the evening sunsets  
- the sight of exotic animals gathering at a waterhole

Then you have never experienced **Africa!**

according to some, if you haven't experienced AFRICA, you haven't really lived.

## The El Paso Herpetological Society

The El Paso Herpetological has once again been resurrected. Contacts for the society are Mike Ross at 585-6947 and Stella Jimarez at 751-3772. Meetings occur at the El Paso Zoo at 7:00pm on the first Thursday of each month. Typically there is a guest lecturer at each meeting.



Visit the CDWR website at:  
[www.whc.net/cdwr](http://www.whc.net/cdwr)

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc. :  
Board Meetings; all are "open" meetings and held at the El Paso Environmental Center at 800 S. Piedras. February 23 there will be a meeting at 7:00pm.

## *Attracting Birds and Butterflies to your Garden is Easy!*

Monrovia, a leading grower of container plants, and the National Audubon Society are making it easy for people to create a backyard environment that is friendly to a variety of birds and butterflies. Beginning in Spring, 1999, select garden centers nationwide will offer the Audubon Habitat Collection of plants. Posters and bed markers will identify the collection in the garden center and informational brochures that you can take home will have handy tips for success. Each of the 200 plant varieties in the collection was selected by the National Audubon Society.

To find the nearest garden center offering this collection, call toll-free  
1-888-Plant It.



### LOOKING BACK: TOM MILLER KIRKSEY

(Tom Kirksey was one of the founding members of the El Paso Bird Study Club and a key figure in its early history. His tragic death in November 1942 was a major loss for the young organization and local ornithology. This memorial, written by Lena McBee, appeared in the January 1943 issue of THE ROADRUNNER.)

Tom Miller Kirksey was born March 16, 1918, the son of Colonel Guy Kirksey, now in command at Hammer Field, Fresno, California, and Helen Miller Kirksey, who fostered the boy's hobbies of bird study, water-color sketching and nature photography. In the Spring of 1938, bird students in El Paso became aware of the residence in their midst of a promising young ornithologist who was also a writer and an artist of considerable talent.

He was then engaged in preparing a list of birds of the El Paso area, which was to be presented to the newly organized Bird Study area, which was to be presented to the newly organized Bird Study Club of El Paso, when finished and checked by Dr. Oberholser. As an active member of the St. Louis Bird Study group, Tom had written two units of his "A Field Catalogue of Birds of the St. Louis Region" and had edited the bulletin of the Club. He helped the El Paso group with its first Audubon Christmas Bird Count, 1938, and put up feeding tables for birds in Highland Park. From its birth, the local club has profited by Tom's extraordinary skill in recognizing birds, his organized lore, his large bird library and technical equipment for bird study, his experience in bird banding and in the taking and preparation of specimens. He assisted in the procurement and upkeep of the Paso del Norte Bird Refuge. He founded THE ROADRUNNER and edited all the previous issues. He organized numerous field trips and brought speakers of distinction to address the Club.

In June, 1941, Tom was married to Jane Hondo Loomis of El Paso, who survives him. That summer the young pair lived in Starksville, Mississippi, and Tom was in charge of the Noxubee Bird Refuge. The summer of 1942 they spent in the vicinity of Taos, New Mexico, where they made a study of the birds of the area and, incidentally, built a summer cabin.

On receiving the appointment of Air Force cadet in October, Tom closed his photographic studio in El Paso and, with his young wife, moved to Fresno, to be near his parents while awaiting orders to report for training in Denver, Colorado. On November 29 occurred the fatal automobile accident in which Tom and his mother met their deaths. The bodies were taken to St. Louis for interment.

It was Tom's wish, expressed at the October meeting, that the Club meet regularly and continue the publication of THE ROADRUNNER. He expressed a desire, "If I come back", to build up the collection of bird specimens at the College of Mines. His private collection remains in the museum at present as his loan to the institution.

### Wildlife Drama

by, Hugh & Sally Jameson

Surely the drama we are relating to here occurs many times a day. Most of them take place without a human audience. However, in the late afternoon of December 26, 1998, Sally and I, among others, witnessed the following event. We were at the north end of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge at 4:30 pm preparing to enjoy the evening crane and geese flight from the corn fields to the roosting area.

The event began with a capture of prey, either an eagle or a hawk. We don't know which bird was in flight with the prey when it was challenged for the prey by the other bird. The in-flight challenge resulted in both birds on the ground fighting for possession of the prey. This struggle was interrupted by the appearance of two eagles that also wanted the prize. One of the original birds had taken possession by the time the new challengers appeared. One of the eagles fought with the bird in possession while the other eagle took the prey away.

Meanwhile, another observer decided to go for the prey. The birds were apparently unaware of the coyote which had been lounging on the irrigation ditch bank near where the geese and cranes were feeding. The coyote furtively approached the scene hoping to remain unnoticed by the combatants. It was not to be, however, that he might take one of them, for they took flight as he neared the scene of action. As the coyote approached the dead prey, he seemed confused and disappointed by what was left for him. He soon wandered away in search of a more promising reward. Our attention returned to the evening sky as the geese and cranes continued their ritual flight to the roosting area. Shortly we would begin our own journey back to our roost as well.

# On The Trail

## DOWN THE VALLEY

McNary, Fort Hancock, and Tornillo Reservoirs are always good for *Gulls, Ducks, ??Geese, Egrets and Cormorants*. Quite a few species of passerines could also be present along with some birds of prey to include *Harris' Hawk*. You will make a quick stop at Esperanza to check out a flood control ponding area where *Vermillion Flycatchers* are possible. Lunch break at the Tornillo Rest Area. **BOB "Wild Birder" JOHNSON (757-1876)** will lead the parade down Interstate 10 from **Feather Lake** (our sanctuary on North Loop Road) where you can meet him at **7:23 AM on Saturday Feb 6th**. This is about a 6 hour roundtrip so bring lunch.

## PHAINOPEPLAS

An afternoon trip for those who cannot get out in the morning. We will cruise the roads in the 79922 Zip Code area looking for *Phainopeplas*. Also while at the X-roads ponding area you will be shown how to tell a *Mallard* pair from a *Mexican Mallard* pair. *Gulls* are usually around the Race Track lake and this winter a rare *California Gull* was seen. Also a stop to see a *Barn Owl* is possible. Meet **MARY LOU ALCORN (584-8768)** at the X-roads ponding area, **Doniphan and Country Club Road at 3:03 PM on Sunday February 28th**.

## NORTHEAST EL PASO

One of the best locations to find birds in the northeast part of town is at the Fort Bliss Ponds. Good winter water birds and some shorebird migration will have started, often a *Barn Owl* and sometimes a rarity is in the area. We will also take a loop around **HAWK ALLEY**, where 10 or 12 *Red-tailed Hawks*, a *Golden Eagle*, a few *Kestrels*, and a couple of *Harris' Hawks* have been seen regularly this winter. Meet **BOB JOHNSON (757-1876)** in the parking lot of the **Big 8 Supermarket (NORWEST Bank in the corner) 9825 Dyer St. at 7:13 AM on Saturday March 13th**.

## PERCHA DAM

A trip up **I-25** (about 1 1/2 hours) to Percha and Caballo Dams State Parks. A *Herring Gull* and *Common Loon* were recently spotted at Caballo and a *Golden-crowned kinglet* and both *Eastern and Western Bluebirds* at Percha. *Mergansers* and *Cormorants* fish in the Lake just above the dam and many gulls are continuously flying by. Meet **JOHN KISED A (833-6212)** on the westside at **I-10 and Transmountain Road on Saturday, March 27th, the time 7:28 AM**.

## THINKING AHEAD

Our trip to Cave Creek, in the Chiricahua Mts. of southeast Arizona will be over Memorial Day Weekend May 29, 30 and 31. If you plan on staying in a motel you might want to make you reservations now. Call Bob (757-1876) John (833-6212) for data.

## FRIENDS OF HUECO TANKS

Regularly scheduled tours for February and March.

**Rock Art** - Every Sat. and Sun. at 10AM and 2PM.

**Bird Identification** -- Sun. February 21st at 8 AM.

-- Sun. March 21st at 8 AM.

**Slide Show** -- "*Birds of Hueco Tanks*"

-- Sat. February 20th at 3 PM.

It's best to call for tour reservations as the number of people allowed is limited.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Hueco Tanks count was very disappointing this year. Cause, not enough counters, only 6 people took part, we usually have 12 -15. The weather was ideal. Our species count of 46 was the 2d lowest of the last 12 years, the lowest was 42 in 1991.

The total number of birds recorded was the lowest of the 12 year period, only 1245, just twice before have we been under 2000.

Usually seen, but not this year, were Horned Larks, Scrub Jays, and Chipping Sparrows. High counts of Chihuahuan Ravens (25), previous high was 6, also seen was an adult Golden Eagle. Low counts were recorded for 11 species, some of which were Say's Phoebe, Cactus Wren, White-crowned Sparrow and Dark-eyed Juncos, had 2 Slate-colored subspecies.

# OBSERVATIONS

SEPTEMBER 16, 1998 to JANUARY 15, 1999

Uncommon, Rare, and *Very Rare* sightings

A **very rare** sighting has the full entry *italicized, bold and underlined*. Some of the listings may not be considered **RARE**, but because of the season or habitat the date and/or location will be **bold and under-lined**. The listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition, October 1987. Leave sightings at (757-1876) Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson.

Due to circumstances beyond the Roadrunner editors control, we did not have observations last issue. Please accept our apology.

Observers: Elizabeth Chase; Scott Cutler; Jane Fowler; Beth/Bob Garcia; Madaline Gavit; Harvette Green; Jewel Hewitt; Hugh Jameson; Bob Johnson; Larry Jordan; John Kiseda; Kathy Kiseda; David Kruzich; Nancy Milsaps; Janis Owens; Jim Paton; Flora Pitard; Patricia Russell; Susie Schlieder; John Sproul; Barry Zimmer. Mob - Many Observers; Var - Various dates in the period, -yd in their yard. (J/B - Jim Paton & Barry Zimmer on the McNary Christmas Bird Count).

A Change of designation for Doniphan Marsh (DMA), will be **KMa** for Keystone Marsh, to help identify it as the **KAPPA** site.

## Loons to Ibis

<u>Common Loon</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>J/B</u>	<u>MCC</u>
	<u>12/23</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Sun</u>
<u>Horned Grebe</u>	<u>11/13</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FHe</u>
	<u>11/16</u>	<u>JS</u>	<u>FLk</u>
Western Grebe	Var	Mob	<u>FLk</u>
	Var	BZ	M/H
Clark's Grebe	Var	BZ	M/H
White Pelican	Var	BZ	M/H
<u>Brown Pelican</u>	<u>11/17</u>	<u>BJ</u>	<u>McN</u>
Double-crested Cormorant	11/4	JS	FLk
Great Egret	Var	Mob	FLk
White-faced Ibis	Var	JS	FLk

## Geese to Ducks

Snow Goose	11/7	JK	Sun
Ross's Goose	<u>10/23</u>	JK	Asc
	11/13	BZ	McN
Wood Duck	11/20	HG-yd	LNg
Blue-winged Teal	<u>12/19</u>	<u>J/B</u>	<u>MCC</u>

**Locations:** Asc-Ascarate Park; AyP-Arroyo Park; Cor-Coronado Area; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; FHe-Fort Hancock; FLk-Feather Lake; FMt-Franklin Mts; GSc-Girl Scout; Hor-Horizon City; HTk-Hueco Tanks; Kkn-Kilkenny; KMa-Keystone Marsh; Krn-Kern Place; LNg-Los Nogales; McN-McNary; M/H-McNary and Ft. Hancock Resv; MtP-Mountain Park; **MCC-McNary Christmas Bird Count**; NSt-North Stanton; PtD-Painted Dunes; RBq-Rio Bosque Park; SOP-Skyline Optomists Park; SRS-Stan Roberts Sr. Drivel; STA-Santa Tersea Area; Sun-Sunland Park; Tor-Tornillo; Vul-Vulcan; Zoo-El Paso Zoo.

Canvasback	10/30	JK	KMa
Lesser Scaup (650)	11/13	BZ	M/H
Red-breasted Merganser	11/11	JS	FLk
	12/6	LJ	McN

## Birds of Prey

Osprey	9/23	JS	RBq
	9/26	JS	FLk
	<u>12/19</u>	J/B	MCC
Harris' Hawk	9/23	JS	<u>RBq</u>
	Var	BJ	PtD
	Var	BZ	FBP
Swainsons Hawk	<u>11/21</u>	JK	STA
Ferruginous Hawk	1/1	BJ	SRS
Golden Eagle		B/BG	SRS
	12/20	SC	HTk
	12/29	MG	Hor
	Var	BJ	SRS
Merlin	<u>12/4</u>	JS	FLk
	<u>12/8</u>	FP	Hor
	Var	BJ	SOP

&

Continued on page 9



OBSERVATIONS continued from Page 8

**Birds of Prey**

Peregrine Falcon	10/17	JK	KMa
	11/13	BZ	FHc
Prairie Falcon	11/18	BJ	FBP
	1/5	BJ	KMa

**Rails & Wading Birds**

Sora	11/20	JS	FLk
Sandhill Crane	10/19	JS	FMT
	10/21	JS	FLk
	<u>11/13</u>	BZ	FHc
Black-bellied Plover	10/20	BZ	McN
Snowy Plover	10/20	BZ	McN
Black-necked Stilt	Var	Mob	FLk
American Avocet	<u>12/6</u>	LJ	FHc
	<u>Var</u>	JS	FLk
Western Sandpiper	12/7	JS	RBq
<u>Dunlin</u>	<u>10/20</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>McN</u>

**Gulls & Terns**

Franklin's Gull	10/21	JS	FLk
	12/6	KK	Sun
Bonaparte's Gull	11/13	BZ	FHc
	12/1	JS	FLk
<u>California Gull</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FHc</u>
	<u>12/23</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Sun</u>
Herring Gull	12/23	JP	Sun
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	<u>11/13</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FHc</u>
<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	<u>9/16</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Sun</u>
Foster's Tern	10/23	JK	Asc
	11/3	BZ	Tor

**Hummingbirds thru Swallows**

Anna's Hummingbird	11/1	KK-yd	Cor
	11/20	HG-yd	LNg
Rufous Hummingbird	12/25	DK-yd	MtP
<u>Three-toed Woodpecker</u>	<u>11/19</u>	<u>JH-yd</u>	<u>Vul</u>
Western Wood Pewee	10/19	BZ	FBP
Hammond's Flycatcher	9/20	BJ	HTk
Eastern Phoebe	12/19	J/B	MCC
Western Kingbird	10/19	BZ	FBP
Tree Swallow	10/17	JK	GSc
Violet-green Swallow	10/17	JK	GSc

**Gnatcatcher thru Thrashers**

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher	12/19	J/B	MCC
Western Bluebird	12/20	SC	HTk
Hermit Thrush	9/20	BJ	HTk
	Var	JF-yd	Kkn
Sage Thrasher	10/19	JS	FMT
	11/3	BZ	McN
	12/20	EC	HTk
Brown Thrasher	10/22	MG-yd	Hor
Crissal Thrasher	12/31	<u>JH-yd</u>	Vul

**Waxwings thru Tanagers**

Cedar Waxwing	11/20	PR-yd	STA
Bell's Vireo	9/19	HJ-yd	MtP
<u>Hutton's Vireo</u>	<u>12/15</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>NSt</u>
<u>Blk-throated Blue Warbler</u>	<u>9/28</u>	<u>MG-yd</u>	<u>Hor</u>
	12/18	NM	CCC
Blk-throated Gray Warbler	9/19	PR-yd	STA
Townsend's Warbler	10/27	BZ	FBP
Summer Tanager	10/2	JK	Zoo
Western Tanager	9/26	SS	AyP

**Buntings to Goldfinch**

Painted Bunting	1/15	<u>JO-yd</u>	<u>Krn</u>
Dicksissal	9/20	BJ	HTk
Sage Sparrow	12/20	EC	HTk
<u>Fox Sparrow</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>J/B</u>	<u>MCC</u>
White-throated Sparrow	10/27	BZ	FBP
<u>Golden-crowned Sparrow</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>J/B</u>	<u>MCC</u>
<u>Harris' Sparrow</u>	<u>12/19</u>	<u>J/B</u>	<u>MCC</u>
Chesnut-collared Longspur	11/13	BZ	McN
Pine Siskin	12/30	PR-yd	STA
American Goldfinch	1/4	PR-yd	STA

Continued from page 7

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

The El Paso count didn't do much better in the number of counters that showed up - 17. However the specie count was our 2d highest at 114, topped only by last years 117. Total birds came in at 22,146, which is about average. No shows this year were Scrub Jay, Canyon Wren, Brewers Sparrow and Lark Bunting. High numbers for Common Goldeneye, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull and new records for all 4 Dove species (White-winged, Mourning, Inca and Rock), above average was Verdin & Pintail.

The Best sighting was by Jim Paton of a Bell's Vireo (National requires a special report on this).

## WEB SITE UPDATED

Thanks to the wizardry of Bill Howe, our chapter's Home Page on the World Wide Web is now updated and sports a bright new look.

Check it out at:

<http://www.whc.net/cdwrtpashome.htm>

There is information on our chapter, on upcoming events, on Feather Lake, on local birding, and links to other web sites of interest, especially ornithological interest, in Texas and New Mexico. There are many other possible improvements; e-mail us your ideas through the web site. Thanks, Bill!

## Dates to Remember

### February

**\*\*No General Meeting(Awards Dinner)**

McNary Resivoir  
Saturday, Feb 6 at 7:24am  
Feather Lake

Awards Dinner  
Saturday, Feb 20 at 6:30pm  
UTEP Faculty Dining Area

Upper Valley Area  
Sunday, Feb 28 at 3:03pm  
Crossroads

### March

**\*\*General Meeting March 15**

Board Meeting  
Monday, March 8 at 7:00pm  
Environmental Center

Ft. Bliss Ponds  
Saturday, March 13 at 7:11am  
Big "8" Food Store 9825 Dyer

Percha Dam  
Saturday, March 27 at 7:02 am  
North I-10 & Trans-Mountain Dr.

Friends of Hueco Tanks

**Rock Art Tours**

Every Sat & Sun 10:00am & 2:00pm

**Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks**

**Bird Identification Tours**

SUNDAYS: FEB 21 & MARCH 21 at 8:00am

**Slide Show Presentation:**

SATURDAY FEB. 20 3:00pm

## 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*

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001

Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

W10

Local Chapter Code

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