

the ROADRUNNER



newsletter of the
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986

Editor: John Sproul

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Volume 11, Number 2

CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING

MON. 16 FEBRUARY 1981, 7:30 PM, Garden Center, 3105 Grant St., in Memorial Park. BIRDERS' CALIFORNIA (with apologies to D. Roberson). Kevin Zimmer commuted between El Paso and California in 1980. In February, he will share the results of 5 West Coast trips with us. We'll learn about the varied avian habitats of southern and central coastal California. We'll see marine birds that frequent the state's coast and offshore waters. We'll find out what it is like to search for the California Condor. Kevin also will offer tips on how to bird this area: where to go, when to go, how to arrange pelagic trips, etc. California is a gold mine for the birder; come learn why.

This meeting also is our Annual Meeting and installation of officers.

MON. 16 MARCH. TNC IN TEXAS. A look at the programs of the Texas Nature Conservancy. #

FIELD TRIPS

SUN. 8 FEBRUARY. RANDEL'S POOL/DURLING'S FARM. Meet at 8 AM at the Good Time

Store, 1098 Country Club Rd., in the upper valley. There is a walk of about 1 mile along the river to Randel's Pool. We might see the White-throated Sparrow, Green Heron, Common Snipe or Common Gallinule and many other species. Durling's Farm is good for a variety of finches, sparrows and other birds in winter. Leader: Jeff Donaldson (755-2455).

SAT. 21 FEBRUARY. APACHE SPRINGS. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Wilderness Park Museum, 2000 Transmountain Rd. There is a walk of about 1½ miles to the springs. We should see a variety of sparrows, towhees and raptors, as well as many other species. Leader: Peggy Heisel (821-0989).

SUN. 8 MARCH. FORT BLISS PONDS.

SAT. 21 MARCH. AGUIRRE SPRINGS. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON. 9 FEBRUARY, 7:30 PM. We will meet at the home of Jo Nagel, 3020 Douglas, El Paso (566-2143) for the final meeting of the present Board. Approval of a 1981 budget (see pages 2 and 3) will be on the agenda. All Audubon members are welcome at these meetings. #

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT

A special "thank you": At the February general meeting, President-elect John Sproul will become president and my 2 years as president will end. I hereby, and again, express my deepest appreciation to John for his help as vice president and ROADRUNNER editor; to Jane

Fowler for her outstanding contribution to the chapter for the last 2 years as secretary/treasurer; to Joe Guinn as field trip chairman; to Al Gavit as sanctuary chairman; to Jo Ellen Warolin as membership chairman; to Josephine Nagel as publicity chairman; and to Elza Gilboe,

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who so wonderfully served as hospitality chairman.

I thank all who helped on our flea market sales, who through their donations helped our Audubon Cause, who supported us by their presence at the monthly meetings and on field trips, and all who, although they may not have been able to participate, supported us through their membership in Audubon.

Feather Lake: I am happy to announce that the El Paso City Council voted 20 Jan to renew our Feather Lake lease for another 5 years. So we can look forward to continuation of this bird sanctuary. Our chapter was pleased to have Barbara Horak and her Girl Scouts tour Feather Lake on 24 Jan. Assisting me with the tour were John Caraway, Jane Fowler and John Sproul. The scouts were able to see the birds through scopes that enhanced viewing of the many species now at the sanctuary. We welcome the Girl/Boy Scouts, school classes, senior-citizen groups, and interested citizens who would like to visit Feather Lake. Please call: Bob Bleicher (591-7261), Jane Fowler (772-0296), Kris Kohlhoff (581-3565) or John Sproul (545-5157) and we will arrange a time and place to meet for your visit.

The Chapter Budget: On 21 Jan, Bob Bleicher, Jane Fowler and John Sproul met to analyze last year's budget and prepare

1980-81 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

We closed 1980 with 1 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and opened 1981 with another. Thanks are due all involved, especially the compilers. Thanks also go to the Rio Grande Council of the Girl Scouts, Phelps-Dodge, St. Anthony's Seminary and Sunland Park Race Track for access to their grounds for the El Paso CBC; to the Diamond A Cattle Co. and T. Bunn & Sons for access during the Hueco Tanks CBC; and to Mary Margaret Davis for publicizing the counts in the EL PASO TIMES.

EL PASO COUNT - 20 DECEMBER 1980

The weather for the El Paso CBC was not

the draft budget for 1981 (see page 3). I am happy to say that our chapter ended 1980, as it did in 1979, in the "black" in spite of increased costs. Here is a summary: Membership increased slightly but our membership rebate from National Audubon was far short of being able to meet total expenses--especially with current rising costs. The Garden Club, where we meet monthly, increased rent from \$10 to \$15 per meeting night, a raise that costs us an additional \$40 per year. Costs for most supplies needed to print the newsletter increased. Our liability insurance for Feather Lake went from \$141 to \$168 per year. Postage rates went up also and, as we raised the number of newsletters mailed, mailing costs "zoomed." It cost over \$11 just to mail our January newsletter.

We stayed ahead of the game largely through income from donations and flea market sales. In 1981, to continue our efforts at Feather Lake, provide the information link between the chapter and its members through the newsletter and continue as an effective chapter providing membership activities, we must strive to improve our membership, receive donations (which we appreciate) and be willing to volunteer some time, and possibly materials, toward an occasional flea market sale. Please continue your support--we need you! /Robert P. Bleicher/

in our favor. The early morning was cold and windy, and it remained cold throughout the day. The turnout, though, was more pleasing than the weather: the 32 participants equaled our highest ever. We didn't reach our goal of 100 species but did have unusually high numbers for a few species: Gambel's Quail, Common Snipe, Inca Dove, American Robin, Pyrrhuloxia and "Oregon" Junco. This was not a montane invasion year, as evidenced by the no-show chickadees, jays and nuthatches. We did have a few unusual species wander into our count, with the top prize going to the Long-eared and Short-eared owls. /Joe DiPasquale, Compiler/

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EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
1980 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND 1981 DRAFT BUDGET

	For the Years Ended 31 December	
	1980	1981
	<u>(Actual)</u>	<u>(Proposed)</u>
INCOME		
Member dues	\$1,017	\$1,050
Contributions	180	100
Newsletter subscriptions	54	50
Checklist sales	20	20
Rummage sales	506	430
Interest	-	50
	<u>1,777</u>	<u>1,700</u>
EXPENSES		
General meetings:	183	195
Hall rental	120	120
Program	38	50
Hospitality	25	25
Administrative:	69	163
Mailing/office supplies	34	85
Post office box	14	28
Other chapter administrative	21	25
Audubon Council of Texas	-	25
Publications:		
Newsletter	535	514
Mailing permit	80 ^a	40
Postage	100	115
Mailing labels	120	120
Materials (stencils, ink, paper)	235	239
Field Checklist	151	-
Feather Lake:	642	798
Lease	1	5 ^b
Liability insurance	168	168
Utilities	473	575 ^c
Improvements	-	50
Conservation	50	50
	<u>1,630</u>	<u>1,720</u>
EXCESS, INCOME OVER EXPENSES	147	(20)
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING	<u>1,248</u>	<u>1,395</u>
FUND BALANCE, ENDING	<u><u>\$1,395</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,375</u></u>

a - Includes payments for 1980 and 1981.

b - Payment for 5 years, 1981-1986.

c - Includes \$95 credit accrued by caretaker; Chapter's normal share of utility expense is \$480.

EL PASO CBC RESULTS: Grebe: Eared 1, Pied-billed 3; Green Heron 8; Black-crowned Night Heron 3; Snow Goose 21; Mallard 49; Gadwall 136; Pintail 6; Teal: Green-winged 23, Cinnamon 11; American Wigeon 165; Northern Shoveler 40; Redhead 40; Canvasback 30; Ruddy Duck 4; Hawk: Sharp-shinned 7, Cooper's 3, Red-tailed 13, FERRUGINOUS 1 (JD, SW); Golden Eagle 3 (3 ad.); Marsh Hawk 5; American Kestrel 53; hawk, sp. 4; Quail: Scaled 81, Gambel's 168; American Coot 28; Killdeer 63; Common Snipe 24; Sandpiper: Least 189, Western 1; Ring-billed Gull 2;

Dove: Rock 740, White-winged 20, Mourning 124, Inca 175; Roadrunner 4; Owl: Burrowing 4, LONG-EARED 2 (JS, JW), SHORT-EARED 1 (JS, JW; 1st count record); ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD 3; hummingbird, sp. 7; Belted Kingfisher 10; Flicker: "Red-shafted" 57, "Yellow-shafted" 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2; Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2; Phoebe: Black 6, Say's 2; Horned Lark 75; Verdin 1; Wren: House 3, Cactus 11, Long-billed Marsh 1, Canon 8, Rock 36; Mockingbird 32; Thrasher: Curve-billed 2, Crissal 7; American Robin 374; Hermit Thrush 2; Western Bluebird 58; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 50; Water Pipit 22;

Cedar Waxwing 10; PHAINOPEPLA 1; Loggerhead Shrike 36; Starling 188; "Audubon's" Warbler 52; House Sparrow 1092; Western Meadowlark 228; meadowlark, sp. 21; Blackbird: Yellow-headed 1, Red-winged 245; ORIOLE, SP. 2; Brewer's Blackbird 800; Great-tailed Grackle 562; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pyrrhuloxia 39; House Finch 1019; Lesser Goldfinch 43; Towhee: Green-tailed 3, Rufous-sided 32, Brown 10; Lark Bunting 2; Sparrow: Savannah 6, Vesper 2 (low), Rufous-crowned 12, Black-throated 242; Junco: "SLATE-COLORED" 3, "Oregon" 451, Gray-headed 27; Sparrow: Chipping 10 (low), Brewer's 152, Black-chinned 6, White-crowned 541, Lincoln's 2, Song 8; sparrow, sp. 10.

TOTAL: 92 species (2 additional races); about 7345 individuals. (In count area count week but not seen count day: yellow-legs, sp.; COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, White-throated Sparrow.)

PARTICIPANTS: Art Arteaga, Tom Baker, Helen Barto, Flora Bittick, Bob Bleicher, Janet Brockmoller, Jeannette Cole, Jean and John Coyle, Joe DiPasquale (compiler), Sarah Jane Dodds, Diane Dutton, Jane Fowler, Al and Chris Gavit, Ed and Elza Gilboe, Joe Guinn, Jan Hayse, Peggy Heisel, Howard Jackson, Kris Kohlhoff, Earle King, Jo Nagel, John Pierce, Jim Polk, Helen Ponder, John Sproul, June Teitelman, Greg Vetter, Jo Warolin, Scott Wilson. #

HUECO TANKS COUNT - 3 JANUARY 1981

A SUMMARY: The best of weather conditions...Lots of sparrows...Lots of people (29)...52 species...77 Sage Sparrows... Total 12 sparrow species...Oh, for 1 duck! ...Now that the forms have been sent in, I hope the editor finds a minimum of errors...For me it was a most pleasant day. /Al Gavit, Compiler/

RESULTS: Red-tailed Hawk 5; Golden Eagle 2 (2 ad.); Marsh Hawk 9; American Kestrel 3; Quail: Scaled 31, Gambel's 14; Common Snipe 1; Dove: White-winged 1, Mourning 7; Roadrunner 8; "Red-shafted" Flicker 4; Ladder-backed Woodpecker 6; Say's Phoebe 7; Horned Lark 77; Verdin 2; Wren: Bewick's 2, Cactus 19, Long-billed Marsh 4, Canon 5, Rock 35; Thrasher: Curve-billed 7, Crissal 1; Bluebird: Western 7, Mountain 11; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 8; Phainopepla 2; Loggerhead Shrike 42; Starling 1; "Audubon's" Warbler 3;

House Sparrow 67; Western Meadowlark 84; Red-winged Blackbird 30; Pyrrhuloxia 16; House Finch 374; Towhee: Green-tailed 2, Rufous-sided 24, Brown 13; Lark Bunting 25; Sparrow: Lark 2, Rufous-crowned 1, Black-throated 231, Sage 77 (all-time high); Junco: "Oregon" 337, Gray-headed 54; Sparrow: Chipping 422, CLAY-COLORED 1 (AG, EG, TW), Brewer's 92, Field 1 (AG, EG, TW), White-crowned 626, White-throated 1, Lincoln's 3, Song 27.

TOTAL: 52 species, about 2834 individuals. (In count area count week but not seen count day: Mockingbird.)

PARTICIPANTS: Bertha and Berttye Barnhart, Bob Bleicher, Jean and John Coyle,

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Rick Demmer, Joe DiPasquale, John Dixon, Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Al (compiler) and Chris Gavit, Ed Gilboe, Elizabeth and Joe Guinn, Jan Hayse, Peggy Heisel, Howard Jackson, Earle King, Kris

Kohlhoff, Evan and Jo Nagel, Shawn Pierce, Sid Shepperd, Gay Shiver, John Sproul, Jo Warolin, Scott Wilson, Tony Worth. #

OBSERVATIONS - 1 to 28 January 1981

As new editor of the observations column, I would like to begin by thanking John Sproul for several months of in-depth reporting on the developments and trends in El Paso's constantly changing bird-life. I would also like to initiate a new feature. Each month I will include a piece on identification problems, with tips on sorting out some of our more difficult-to-identify birds. In this first article I wish to point out some of the problems inherent in field-birding.

Most of us who watch birds enjoy keeping lists of the species we have seen. These lists serve to satisfy our collecting or trophy instincts, provide incentive to get out in the field, and give us a sense of accomplishment as they grow. No one can dictate to us just what birds we can include on our lists, or what standards of integrity we must use in making our identifications. It really matters very little if Joe Lister misidentifies every bird he sees, as long as he is enjoying the pursuit of his hobby.

The problem arises when Joe decides to take part in the Christmas Bird Count sponsored by his local Audubon Society. Now Joe's wrongly identified birds will be added to the count, and made part of the official record. The count (along with Joe's bad birds) will be published in AMERICAN BIRDS, immortalized in print. Future researchers may take the published accounts at face value, and perpetuate an error in our knowledge of bird distribution. Joe's little mistakes have suddenly become big mistakes.

Accuracy in identification should be a goal for all of us. Not only to maintain reliability in the published record, but also because we can take more pride in our skills when we know that every bird on our list has been correctly identified.

It is good to start with the premise that not every bird can be identified under field conditions. It is with amusement that I notice many more "Empidonax species?" or "dowitcher species?" notations in my recent journals when compared to my journals of years ago. No, I really wasn't sharper at identifying those little flycatchers way back when, but today I realize when the identification can't be made with accuracy. Concede that there are birds that can not be identified on some occasions.

The 2nd premise to be kept in mind is, "expect the expected." This is my quaint way of saying that a common bird is much more likely to be seen than a rare bird. Always be aware of the possibility of finding a rarity, but don't go looking for them. The human mind has a tendency to see what we want it to see. Many people are so hung up on finding an unusual bird when they begin a field trip, that you can bet they will see one whether it is there or not. How about that little brown sparrow that perched for just a second before it flew? Mary Birder just KNEW it had to be a Baird's, even though she didn't get a good look. These people are not lying. The power of suggestion has just distorted the image their mind receives.

This brings us to our final premise: in birding, as in fishing, the big ones often get away! On many occasions I've glimpsed a bird that I was 95% sure was a real rarity. When it flies before I can get the clinching field mark I wrestle with my gut feeling that the identification was correct. In the end, however, the 5% doubt outweighs the rest, and I do not count the bird. Adopt this attitude and you may escape both ulcers and anxiety attacks.

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After taking all of this sage advice into account, what if you go out tomorrow and still see a rare bird? Fantastic! Now do yourself and me a big favor. Write down the details immediately (if possible while you are still looking at the bird). Don't wait 24 hours to do it; time erodes the sharpest memory. Items to make note of include: location; time of day; light conditions at time of observation; optical equipment used; number of observers; size of bird; body shape; bill shape; tail length; color; presence or absence of eye-rings, eye-lines or wing-bars; call-notes; song; behavior; distance at which the bird was seen; and length of observation. It is best to make written note of these things before looking the bird up in your field guide. This way you can avoid having your description biased by what you see in the book. Too many people report rare birds to me by saying, "It looked just like the picture in the book."

Once you've written down the details of your sighting, send me a copy at 5115 N. Mesa A-226, El Paso, TX 79912. If you have reason to believe the bird may still be around, call me at 581-0665 and I will spread the word so that others may see it too. Next month I will deal with some specific groups of birds and how to identify them. Good Birding! /Kevin Zimmer/

HERONS THROUGH QUAIL

A lone Green Heron was seen along the levee road near Tornillo 4 Jan (AG, TW). The single White-faced Ibis that has been frequenting Feather L. since 28 Dec was still there as of 28 Jan (fide AG). A single Snow Goose was found at Tornillo Lakes 4 Jan (AG, TW). Ducks have been noteworthy only in their absence this winter, although numbers of divers were moving into the area in the past week. Eight Common Mergansers at Feather L. 24 Jan (JS, et al.) are the most reported so far, unusually low for this time of year.

There were several reports of Golden Eagles during the month. Two at Hueco Tanks 24 Jan were probably the same 2 recorded on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

there 3 Jan (JD, PH). Two Golden Eagles were also soaring over the Franklin Mtns. 26 Jan (JD), and 1 was seen along the levee in the lower valley 4 Jan (AG, TW). There was an exciting but as yet unconfirmed report of an adult Bald Eagle near Santa Teresa Country Club 21 Jan (fide JD). One Osprey was reported from the Ft. Hancock area 4 Jan (AG, TW). Two adult Ferruginous Hawks were soaring over Randel's Pool 16 Jan (KZ). Rough-legged Hawks have been reported in small numbers from the Newman area throughout the period (JD). Fourteen Gambel's Quail on the Hueco Tanks CBC 3 Jan were very unusual for that area.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An estimated 20-25 Long-billed Curlews were near the border crossing at Caseta 25 Jan (AG, MG). A Great Horned Owl was found at Hueco Tanks 24 Jan (JD, PH). Burrowing Owls are infrequently seen during the winter months. One along the levee road in the lower valley 4 Jan (AG, TW) but was upstaged by the 1 that walked through the drive-through lane at Jack In The Box 17 Jan (JDIP)! Top honors for unusual owls went to 4 SHORT-EARED OWLS in n.e. El Paso 25 Jan (JD, KZ). When flushed from the ground they rose, caught a thermal and circled over the observers for 3-5 minutes at an altitude of 200-300 feet! At least 2 of these birds were in the same area 22 Jan (JD). White-throated Swifts are spending the winter in good numbers in both the Hueco Mtns. and the Franklins (JD, PH, KZ). Hummingbirds were the big news early in the month. Two imm. male Anna's were still coming to feeders on 10 Jan (DD), while 2 females were being reported from Mountain Park through 9 Jan (JB). A possible female Black-chinned was seen 13-14 Jan (JN). A Ringed Turtle Dove was in the Gilboe yard 19-28 Jan (EG, ELG).

CROWS THROUGH SPARROWS

American Crows are popping up with increasing regularity. A flock of about 15 was sighted near McNary 4 Jan (AG, TW) and 3 were at Indian Cliffs 10 Jan (JD, PH). A House wren at Santa Teresa 26 Jan

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was unusual (JD). Forty Western Bluebirds at Hueco Tanks 24 Jan (JD, PH) and 15 near Randel's Pool 16 Jan (KZ) were good numbers, but the hoped-for invasion of Mountain Bluebirds never materialized. A Mountain Chickadee was reported from the back yard of Helen Emery on 12 Jan (HE, fide JN). Sage Sparrows have been present in higher-than-usual numbers, with an impressive 77 being tallied on the Hueco Tanks CBC 3 Jan (m.ob.). A Clay-colored Sparrow and a Field Sparrow tallied by the same party were rare additions to that CBC (AG, EG, TW). A Black-

chinned Sparrow along the levee road in the lower valley 4 Jan was slightly out-of-place (AG, TW). White-throated Sparrows continue to turn up at Hueco Tanks, where there were few records prior to this season (JD, KZ). A Swamp Sparrow at Hueco Tanks 24 Jan was only the 3rd park record (JD). One at Randel's Pool 16 Jan was likewise unusual (KZ).

OBSERVERS: Janet Brockmoller, Jeff Donaldson, Joe DiPasquale (JDiP), Diane Dutton, Helen Emery, Al Gavit, Madeline Gavit, Ed Gilboe, Elza Gilboe (ElG), Peggy Heisel, many observers (m.ob.), Jo Nagel, John Sproul, Tony Worth, Kevin Zimmer. #

FIELD TRIP FOLLOW-UP

Despite threatening weather, 34 participants from the Sierra Club and our Audubon chapter drove to Bosque del Apache 17 Jan. It was most exciting traveling through the refuge. We saw birds in every direction: Whooping Cranes, Bald Eagles, numerous Canada and Snow geese, plus a herd of mule deer and 2 coyotes.

A lucky few spotted a Hooded Merganser. Eleven hardy souls braved the frigid air and falling snow to camp out near the refuge. I was told there was no singing around the campfire, however. Those of us desiring our creature comforts camped in the motels of Socorro. /Jane Fowler/

THE HARRIS' HAWK IN THE EL PASO AREA

(Editor's Note: John Caraway, a member of the North American Falconers Association and long a promoter of responsible falconry in the El Paso area, has an unequalled knowledge of the local Harris' Hawk population. In this 2-part series, he first traces the growth of his fascination with the species, then offers his views on the local population's decline.)

My life-long love affair with the Harris' Hawk began in an instant and was complete --a case of love at first sight. It began not with a bird, but with a painting. In 1943, while training pilots for the old Air Corps Cadet training program, I received a copy of Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA from a family member. Although there are many marvelous paintings of raptors in this book, I still remember the electrifying thrill of discovering the Harris'. Over the years, and after many, many military moves, the binding of my Audubon's has become tattered and worn, but by far the grungiest page is

(Continued on p. 8)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

name

address

city state zip

phone

Membership category desired:

- Individual/\$20 Family/\$25
- Sr. Citizen, Individual/\$13.50
- Sr. Citizen, Family/\$15
- Student/\$13.50

This is a new renewal membership.

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Jo Ellen Warolin, 1406 N. St. Vrain, El Paso, TX 79902.

the 1 with the Harris'. Over and over I returned to this page--comparing features with the accipiters, speculating on the actual hunting capabilities, etc. The painting caption only gives a tantalizing hint of the actual potential of this very unusual bird as a man-trained hunter.

Fate entered this affair. In the early summer of 1944, I was transferred to Moore Field in the Mission-McAllen area of south Texas! I drove from my station in Kansas to the new assignment in Texas with another instructor-pilot. Just the 2 of us, a crow and a young Great Horned Owl!

Wonder of wonders, from Falfurrias down to the McAllen area, Harris' Hawks were everywhere! In fact, there were several groups of 4 and 5 birds, obviously families, right outside the main gate to Moore Field. Heaven! The love affair was now complete! Before leaving for combat in Europe in fall 1944, I had ample time to observe my Harris', and become completely convinced that this was THE bird for falconry!

But I was to be away from "Harris' Country" for 19 years. Then, in 1963, I was transferred to Biggs Field, and shortly after my arrival in El Paso, I located a single Harris'. I was ecstatic. It somehow never occurred to me that they might be this far from the warm habitat of the lower Rio Grande valley. For the next few years, I relentlessly worked the whole area--in both directions from where I saw that first bird. I am fairly certain I found all Harris' nests from El Paso to Little Box Canyon, well east of Esperanza.

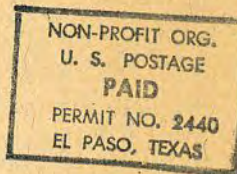
Although I will not pin-point nest sites, I feel I can safely generalize. The closest nest to El Paso--not used for many years--was across old Highway 30 from the County Line Bar, in a bosque adjacent to the lake a few miles east of Tornillo. The last nest area is on Joe Neeley's ranch, about 20 miles east of Esperanza. There are 2 very large bosques just east and west from Sid Cowan's ranch that have consistently held Harris' nests and have even produced young in

some years. During the summer of 1979, the site east of Cowan's contained a threesome--2 males breeding with 1 female--a situation not unusual with Harris'. Except for a sometime nesting area on J. B. Bean's ranch, between Neeley's and Cowan's, the other nests were scattered loosely in the area of McNary and near Acala.

That was the 1960's. Today the Harris' Hawk is in danger of disappearing as a breeding bird in the El Paso area. Why? My views on that subject next month.
/John Caraway/

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The ROADRUNNER is sent to all members of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Nonmembers can subscribe for \$3 per year. Mail payments to John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25, El Paso, TX 79902. Make checks payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society.

Deadline for the March ROADRUNNER is 25 February.



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