

The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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UTEP
Centennial
Museum



April meeting
on **Friday**,
April 23 at
7:00pm

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Parking available
in the lot at Sun
Bowl & University

Happy Spring, from John Kiseda!

Well, Spring has officially arrived (even though the higher than normal temperatures of late, make me think that Summer has already "jumped the gun"); I saw my first Turkey Vulture, Violet-green Swallow & Black-chinned hummingbird of the season today {3/20/4} & a fig tree, cherry sages & a penstemon in my backyard have begun to bloom.

Hopefully you're getting as "pumped-up" as I am, thinking about all the great activities that are in store for many of us in the next few months.....

a nice slate of in-town weekend birding trips
the resumption of reptile and insect live-trapping efforts at Keystone Marsh
the onset of the neotropical migrant bird northern migration thru our area
the resumption of the Wyler Tramway State Park Hawkwatch
the FeatherFest event at Keystone Marsh on April 3
Birdathon 2004 during the weekend of May 1&2
Women in the Outdoors event, May 8 (if interested, call Sylvia Price, 566-1275)
our annual Memorial Day weekend Arizona Birding Extravaganza

I encourage all of you to make the most of our great outdoors & wildlife, and come on out and participate in some of these activities with your family and friends; I assure you that it will be well worth your time.

I also encourage you to become active in the chapter's events and projects; you'll have fun, meet new & interesting people, probably learn a few things along the way & certainly reap a feeling of accomplishment. This is especially important in regards to the well drilling issue noted elsewhere in the newsletter!
PLEASE ACT!!!!

Our chapter was recently unable to be represented at the El Paso Zoo's very successful "Habitat for Wildlife Weekend" or the Wyler State Park's Anniversary Expo in part because of a lack of volunteers, and there was no International Migratory Bird Day event at the zoo for the first time in a number of years, because no one stepped forward to "champion" the event. Please help us to participate at future public education/information events (such as the upcoming FeatherFest event at Keystone Marsh) contact Bob Johnson to help out & thus share our knowledge and experience with our friends & neighbors.

THANKS FOR CONSIDERING BECOMING MORE ACTIVE IN PROJECTS!!

Here's hoping to see you out "in the field", John K. Chapter President

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Lois continues to undergo treatment, ... keep her in your thoughts.

**The April Audubon Society Meeting
will be combined with the
Native Plant Society 2004 FloraFest
Friday, April 23, 2004 7:00pm
Honoree & Speaker Judy Mielke
UTEP Undergraduate Learning Center, rm.216
(directly behind the Centennial Museum)**

"Plants AND More Than Plants."

Judy Mielke's presentation will focus on all the parts of a landscape that complement the native plants: walls, patios, paths, ramadas, boulders, water features, garden art, furniture, containers and lighting." She will show how the addition of color, texture and form through elements such as seatwalls, paving and pots can enhance your landscape."

Judy Mielke is a senior landscape architect with Logan Simpson Design in Tempe, Arizona and author of Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes. She has been designing desert landscapes for over twenty years, including parks, schools, roadways, municipal facilities, and residential projects. Judy spent nine years at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix as a horticulturist and has served as associate professor in Arizona State University's College of Architecture and Environmental Design teaching Arizona Native Plants and Landscape Plant Materials. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from Washington State University and a Master of Environmental Planning from Arizona State University. Reception in honor of Ms. Mielke to follow in the Lobby of the Centennial Museum where she will also be available to autograph her book "Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes" which will be on sale at the Museum Store.

The annual Native Plant Sale benefiting the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at the UTEP Centennial Museum will take place on Sat. April 24 and Sunday April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with plant sales and to provide information to visitors. For more information call 747-5565, or visit the Centennial Museum, Tues.- Sat. 10:00am - 4:30 pm

Thank you



BLACK BEAR

Thank you, Rink Summerday for the informative and entertaining presentation about bears. We were provided with much useful information to allow the proper differentiation between black bears and grizzly bears while on the birding trail. The scores from the PowerPoint Bear Identification Test are currently being compiled, results will be published in the next issue.



GRIZZLY BEAR

Chapter Web Site

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>

El Paso Audubon Online supplements the Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet.

Make bird sighting reports at
ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: John Kiseda, 533-4615
Vice President: Paul Hyder, 751-2408
Secretary: Nancy Wilson, 747-8614
Treasurer: Carol Nelson, 544-2521



Directors

Feather Lake: John Sproul, 545-5147
Education: Beth & Bob Garcia, 755-9119
Membership: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: Flora Pittard, 852-2353
Conservation: Paul Hyder, 751-2408
Field Trips: Bob Johnson, 757-1876
Programs: Lois Balin, 774-9603 and
Virginia Galarza, 727-6399
Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
Special Events: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Hospitality: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
Projects: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725 and
Carol Maxwell-Moreno, 593-0967
Publications: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408

The Roadrunner is published six times a year.
Contributions are welcome.

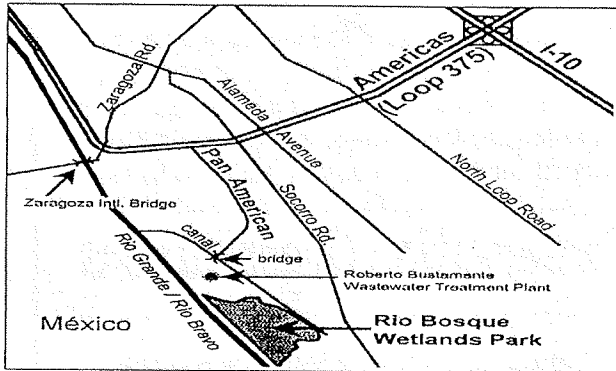
Please email to whelenk@aol.com or mail
6120 Quail Ave. El Paso, Texas 79924 (915) 751-2408

AT FEATHER LAKE

The rain on March 11-12 actually put water in the central area at Feather Lake, but it lasted less than a week. Still, it was nice to see a few ducks using our sanctuary for the first time this year. The rain also put a temporary hold on cattail clearing in the basin, with the work now approximately 50% complete.

Due to lack of water, Feather Lake continues to be closed to the public. Want an insider's look at current lake conditions? Join us for our annual breakfast on Sat., June 5, starting at 8:30 a.m. You'll enjoy elegant dining under our spacious ramada, then get the chance to work a few hours on sanctuary projects.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, .3 miles west of Americas Ave



RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

UTEP offers free walking tours each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso's Mission Valley. Coming up:

- 9 a.m. Sat., Apr 10 (Birds)
- 9 a.m. Sat., Apr 17 (Workday)
- 4 p.m. Sun., Apr 18 (Introductory)
- 4 p.m. Sun., Apr 25 (Introductory)

- 8 a.m. Sat., May 8 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., May 15 (Workday)
- 9 a.m. Sun., May 16 (Introductory)

For all of the tours and workdays, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt. Information: 747-8663.



Keystone Heritage Park

If you can arrange to go birding at Keystone a few times during the next few months, I'd really appreciate it. The site checklist is now up to 181 species seen [go to the Keystone website for the current list] & I hope that if I get some more good help from people such as yourself throughout this year, we can bring the list up to the 200 species mark.

Please call if you see any of the birds listed below....("theoretically possible" species to be sighted in the next few months):

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Harris's Hawk | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Barn Owl |
| Common Nighthawk | Common Poorwill | Willow Flycatcher |
| Cordilleran Flycatcher | Any vireo | Rock Wren |
| Lucy's Warbler | Northern Parula | Northern Waterthrush |
| Summer Tanager | Cassin's Sparrow | Dickcissel |
| Indigo Bunting | Painted Bunting | Eastern Meadowlark |
| Hooded Oriole | Scott's Oriole | |

If you're interested in coming out to the site when I do my weekly check, you're more than welcome to join me. Just call me during the week to verify my schedule & when /where we should meet. If you have any interest in learning about (and handling, if desired) the reptiles and invertebrates of the site, come on out & volunteer to participate in this live trapping project. Contact Charles Mayer, 833-4140 or John Kiseda.

Birdathon 2004

The 2004 El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Bird-a-thon will take place on May 1-2. As always we invite members and friends to donate a tax-deductible gift to the Bird-a-thon to support Audubon's mission of conservation education and wildlife habitat improvement.

If you know of a business or organization that might be willing to contribute to Bird-a-thon, please contact either Flora Pittard (852-2353) or Ursula Sherrill (526-7725) and one of us will contact them. If you wish to approach the business or group yourself, we have an official letter that you can take along to identify yourself as a member of Audubon.

Each contribution helps us recover disturbed habitat, and educate our youngsters about conservation. A list of donors will be published in this newsletter, and possibly in the El Paso Times as well. Donations may be mailed to Betty Fisbeck.

Some projects that benefit from funds raised during Bird-a-thon are the Franklin Mountains State Park, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Keystone Heritage Park, conservation education programs for children and adults, and Texas state conservation projects.

We hope to see you out birding in our beautiful Chihuahuan Desert! Thank you for helping Audubon Society to help wildlife and educate our youngsters about conservation!

Wyer Tramway Hawkwatch

John Kiseda has resumed his raptor migration observations at the Wyler Tramway State Park's Ranger Peak tramway observation platform.

If you want to add to the body of knowledge regarding raptor migration in this area & want to hone your bird identification skills, come on out & give it a try.

Please contact John at the zoo,
at 521-1850 during the day.

Crossroads Pond: Have you noticed changes?

If you haven't been to Crossroads Pond recently, at the junction of Doniphan & Country Club, on El Paso's West side, you may not know that almost all of the domestic/hybrid ducks and geese have been moved to a "retirement facility" in Ft. Hancock (3 ducks proved to have slightly more resourcefulness & more stamina than the catch-up teams & remain at the ponds).

At a recent community meeting it was determined that the animals continued presence at the pond was having a detrimental effect on the vegetation, the water quality & possibly the health of the wild birds, and that "their time had come".

A bird checklist was recently developed for the site by John Kiseda (~110 documented species seen); a number of rare unusual species have been noted at the site, but many "common" birds, have not been noted. Please give John Kiseda your sightings, if you visit this little gem of a birding spot (a site guide & bird checklist can be found on our Audubon website)

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
Keystonepark.com keystonepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
www.cdn.org (505) 524-3334

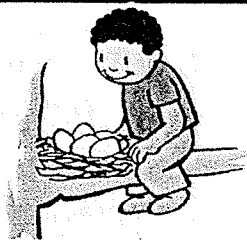
Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.cerm.utep.edu/riobosque

Friends of Hueco Tanks 857-1135

Southwest Environmental Center
Severn.swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.iloveparks.com/fmwc/

General Meeting
 May 17, 2004 7:00am
 UTEP Centennial Museum



Robert Newman, Game Warden
 Texas Department of Fish and Game

Our guest speaker for the May Meeting, Robert Newman, has promised to deliver a presentation sensation and provide up-to-date information regarding Texas rules and regulations as they relate to wildlife? Have you ever wondered if you would really be fined for collecting that bird nest that blew out of your backyard tree? What should you do if your cat brings a baby bird in the house? What if there is an endangered horned lizard in your neighbor's yard and the housewife is about to hack it up with a hoe? Should you rescue it and risk a fine for tampering with an endangered species? Come to the May meeting and learn what being a Game Warden involves on a day to day basis.

Mr. Newman has been a Texas Game Warden for 22 years. He began his career in Rockport, TX and then worked in Marfa for ten years. He has been in El Paso for the last nine years. From one edge of Texas to the other! You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear Robert share his experiences. See you then.

Local Results of February's, 7th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

This project was developed and is managed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The data collected will help to determine the status of birds throughout the continent.

The GBBC site, www.birdsource.org, also highlight's the newly expanded "Audubon at Home" website, where people can learn about the best ways to improve the health and diversity of their backyards.

A number of local reports were submitted from the El Paso area, and here were some of the more interesting species noted:

Eared Grebe	Harris's Hawk [2]
Prairie Falcon	Great Horned Owl
Steller's Jay	Hermit Thrush [2]
Green-tailed Towhee	
White-breasted Nuthatch	
Acorn Woodpecker [4]	

Concerns Regarding Shallow Irrigation Wells to be Drilled Adjacent to Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Rio Bosque Wetlands Park:

PLEASE ACT NOW!!!!

The El Paso County Water Improvement District # 1, is planning on digging a number of shallow irrigation wells near Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.

We have concerns that these wells will have a negative effect on the water levels of both areas and the domino effect that these reduced amounts of water will have on the habitat and the wildlife. As most of you know, Feather Lake has remained closed for a number of months due to there being no water in the basin, and Rio Bosque only receives some water on a very limited basis throughout the year.

Please contact the people listed below, with your concerns as a citizen and taxpayer:

Board of Directors [Johnny Stubbs, Indar Singh, George Spence, Arthur Ivey, Jesus Reyes], El Paso County Water Improvement District # 1, PO Box 17489, El Paso, TX 79917

Edmund Archuleta, General Manager, El Paso Water Utilities
 Dr. Bill Torgerson, City of El Paso's Interim Director of Parks
 Your City & County Representative
 City of El Paso Mayor, Ray Wardy
 John Walton, Acting Director of UTEP's Center for Resource Management.



El Paso Native Plant Society

EL PASO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
THE CENTENNIAL MUSUEM on the
UTEP CAMPUS
THURSDAY, April 8th at 7:00pm

Wynn Anderson will present an informative, slide show preview of the plants that will be available for purchase at UTEP's Native Plant Sale.

This year UTEP has scheduled it's FloraFest for April 23 thru 25. The plant sale, which is a part of this festival, provides El Pasoans with their best opportunity to purchase a wide variety of drought tolerant native plants & trees.

Our preview will give folks a chance to peek at the coming event and gain some insight that may help them choose and care for their plants.

After our program, Wynn Anderson will conduct "Plant Clinic Services".

So, bring a photo a secure plastic bag containing your plant or problem samples, prepare your questions, and get ready to find the answers that your garden has been looking for.

Admission is free, and non-members are always welcome. For more information, call: 588-1562 or 533-6072

A small note from the editor,



I am sincerely grateful to have been selected for this year's Meritorious Award. I would like to express my thanks to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon not only for this honor, but for the wealth of information, time and experience that you are so will to share with others. It is a special organization that allows children and young people to become a part and even more, encouraged to participate. There are so many volunteers who contribute in so many different ways! The many experiences, of being a part of this organization has enriched my life and the lives of my children, those I teach and those in my home.

To my bird-loving friends, thank you for this award, thank you for an excellent dinner, and thank you for your friendship.

Kathy Whelen, editor

El Paso Native Plant Society
Field Trip to see the Famous Cacti of
Orogrande, New Mexico
Saturday, April 10, 2004 9:00am

Join us to visit the extremely rare and unique hybrid cacti of the area, usually in bloom this time of year.

Participants will meet in the parking lot of the northeast Walmart at the corner of Highway 54 and TransMountain Rd. for 4wd carpooling to Orogrande. Driving time is about one hour each way and the moderate to strenuous hike will last two hours, for a total trip time of about 4.5 hours.

Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water and a snack. Non-members are always welcome.

For more information, contact leader,
Peter Beste at 755-3558.

Birds Vs. Windows:
a Clear and Present Danger -
Audubon Magazine's March 2004 Issue Reports on the Terrible Toll Windows Take on America's Bird Life

New York, NY, Tuesday, March 2, 2004 - Everyone loves a room with a view - unless they happen to be a bird. Scientists have gathered an increasing amount of proof that collisions with glass windows account for several million-bird deaths annually. After several decades, biologists, builders, and architects are finally doing something about one of the leading causes of bird mortality.

As David Malakoff reports in Clear and Present Danger, they're joining together to come up with ideas that fix the problem, to help both people - and birds; photography by Robert McCaw.

For more on the March Audubon, visit
www.audubon.org

OBSERVATIONS

November 16, 2003 to March 15, 2004

Listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 8th Edition May 2003. Leave sightings at Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson ,E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com, phone (915) 757-1876

Observers: Dan Allen; Bob Johnson; John Kiseda; Jody Lawrence; Jim Paton; Jane Poss; John Sproul; Jimmy Zabriskie; Barry Zimmer. -y, in their yard.

Locations: Asc-Ascarete; BSc-Boy Scout; CCC-Coronado Country Club; FHc-Foet Hancock Resv; HdL-Hideaway Lake; Haw-Hawkins; Key-Keystone Heritage Park; KnJ-Kenyon Joyce; Mar-Marwood Park; McN-McNary Resv; McNcc-McNary Christmas Count, not necessarily the Resv; RBq-Rio Bosque Wetland Park; Sun-Sunnland Park Racetrack; Ton-Tonto; Tor-Tornillo; Xrd-Crossroads Pond.

LOONS THRU GEESE

Common Loon	2/22	JP	McN
Horned Grebe	11/22	JK	Key
	12/14	BZ	McNcc
Eared Grebe	2/22	JP	FHc
American White Pelican	11/24	BZ	McN
(66)	2/22	JP	McN
Turkey Vulture	3/8	BZ-y	Ton
Ross's Goose	11/17	JS	RBq

DUCKS

Wood Duck	11/25	JS	RBq
Blue-winged Teal	12/14	BZ	McNcc
Canvasback	11/24	BZ	Tor
Lesser Scaup	3/11	BZ	Asc
Bufflehead	11/20	JK	Key
	12/7	JS	RBq
Common Goldeneye	11/24	BZ	McN
	1/7	BZ	HdL
Common Merganser	11/24	BZ	McN
	1/14	DA	Mul
Red-breasted Merganser(20)	11/24	BZ	Tor

BIRDS of PREY

Bald Eagle (J)	12/3	JS	RBq
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Rio Bosque Eagle

Merlin	12/5	BZ-y	Ton
	1/10	JS	RBq
Peregrine Falcon	12/14	BZ	FHc
Prairie Falcon	1/12	JS	RBq
Western Screech-Owl	1/25	JP-y	BSc

WADING BIRDS and GULLS

Long-billed Curlew	12/14	BZ	McNcc
Wilson's Snipe	11/25	JS	RBq
Bonapart's Gull (16)	11/24	BZ	McN
	12/11	DA	Xrd
Mew Gull	12/18	JP	Sun
	1/7 - 2/16	JP	Sun
California Gull	2/16	JP	Sun
Herring Gull	11/30	JK	Key
Thayer's Gull	11/30	JP	Key

WOODPECKERS and JAYS

Great Horned Owl	2/16	BZ-y	Ton
Anna's Hummer (late)	3/8	BZ-y	Ton
Lewis' Woodpecker	11/?	JPo	CCC
(They were still being reported)	1/30	JL	
Acorn Wodpecker	11/?	JPo	CCC
Yellow-bellied Saosucker	11/26	JP	CCC
Steller's Jay	11/26	JP	CCC
Western Scrub-Jay	11/16	JS	RBq

SWALLOWS thru GNATCHATCHERS

No. Rough-winged Swl	3/1	JS	RBq
Cave Swallow	11/28	JS	RBq
(50)	2/22	JP	McN
White-breasted Nuthatch	11/28	JK	CCC
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	11/22	JK	Key
	12/8	DA	Haw
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher (23)	12/14	BZ	McNcc
	2/13	JS	RBq

Continued on page 9, second column

ON THE TRAIL

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND : FRI. MAY 28 - MON. MAY 31

The southeast trip to Arizona will be different this year, we will be going to **TUCSON** instead of Sierra Vista. There will be 4 or 5 field trips repeated each day (Sat. - Sun. - Mon.) this will reduce the large line of people so all will be able to be upfront and get the best views.

One trip will be north to CATALINA STATE PARK then to ARAVAIPA CANYON. For a number of years, up until 2000, this canyon had a *Black Hawks* nest and a *Zone-tailed Hawks* nest within a mile of each other. A second trip will be west to the ARIZONA - SONORA DESERT MUSEUM then on to SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK. The third trip will be south down the I-19 corridor with a stop at MADERA CANYON, then MONTOSA CANYON, where *Black-capped Gnatcatchers* have been reported regularly. Another trip will be northwest up to SWEETWATER WETLANDS WHERE A *Least Grebe* has been reported regularly over the last couple years, then birding along the LOWER SANTA CRUZ RIVER. Also short trips in Tucson to some of the birding hot spots in the parks.

The itinerary, which will include the details of and how to sign up for the various trips will be ready about the last week in April. If you think you might go call Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson (915) 757-1876 or e-mail bobwildbirderj@es.com for itinerary, map and sign up sheet.

The Red Roof Inn #225 (1-800-733-7663) will be the location of Bob and the trip coordination point, within 3 miles you can find a Motel 6 #271 (1-800-466-8356), Days Inn - Airport (1-800-329-7466), Super 8 - east D.M.A.F. area (1-800-800-8000), Best Western - Inn at the Airport (1-800-772-3847), and Quality Inn - Airport (520-623-7792). The nearest campground is Catalina State Park, about 20+ miles north. However some might be in closer and R.V. parks are nearby.

FEATHER FEST

At Keystone Heritage Park we will have a booth with pictures of the birds of Keystone, chapter handouts, scopes set up to view the birds on the water and those wading around the edge. Probable good looks at Pied-billed Grebe, Mexican Mallards, cinnamon Teal and Buffleheads. Also Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper and Long-billed Dowitchers. The large contingent of Ring-billed Gulls will probably drop in and could be accompanied by a rare one.

10 AM - 2 PM on Saturday April 3d

WATER ans WADING BIRDS

A trip down the valley to McNary, Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs. Herons, Egrets, White-faced Ibis, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, and Northern Shoveler. Its possible some White Pelicans could be around.

Date: Sunday, April 4

Time: 7:24 AM (this is Daylight Savings Time do not forget to set your clock ahead Sat.night)

Meet: Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
9500 North Loop.

DESERT BIRDS / BIRDS OF PREY

A chance to see some of the birds that inhabit the desert scrub, Cactus Wren, Pyrrhuloxia, Scaled Quail and Curve-billed thrasher to name a few. Then out along Hawk Alley for Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, American Kestrel, and Turkey Vulture. Sometimes there could be a Prairie Falcon on the poles.

Date: Saturday April 10

Time: 7:47 AM

Meet: El Paso Museum of Archeology
(formerly Wilderness Park Museum)
4301 Trans-Mountain Road.

BIRDS OF HUECO TANKS

We will tour the rocks and desert scrub of HTSHS for the birds that inhabit the area. Gambel's Quail, Black-throatd sparrow, Verdin, Rock Wren, Canyon Towhee, Say's Phoebe and many more.

Date: Sunday April 18

Time: 8:08 AM

Meet: Entrance Building, Hueco Tanks SHS,
20 miles east of the airport on US62/180
Then 8 miles north on FM 2775

ON THE TRAIL continued from page 8

OBSERVATIONS continued from page 7

ANNUAL BIRDATHON

Sat./Sun. May 1 and 2

See special insert to this newsletter.

BLUEBIRDS thru SPARROWS

Eastern Bluebird	11/26	JP	Mar
Townsend's Solitaire	12/14	BJ	HTK
Sage Thrasher	3/15	JS	RBq
Sprague's Pipet	12/14	BZ	McNcc
Townsend's Warbler	1/1	JZ	KnJ
Swamp Sparrow	12/14	JS	RBq
White-throated Sparrow	11/15	JP-y	BSc
	12/1	JK-y	KnJ

TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 6, 7, and 8 the Texas Ornithological Society is having its Spring Conference at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

White City Cavern Inn/Guadalupe Inn (Best Western)

Thursday registration 12N - 8 PM,

Evening program **Birds of the Guadalupe Mts.**

Friday-Field Trips,

Eve. program **Birds of the Edwards Plateau**

by Mark Lockwood.

Saturday - Field Trips.

Social hour at 6 PM, Banquet 7PM.

Program - **Chasing Birds Across Texas**

by Mark Adams.

TOS web site <http://www.texasbirds.org>

or Membership Services

6338 N. New Braunfels Ave. PMB #189

San Antonio, TX 78209

FRIENDS OF HUECO TANKS

Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park - \$4.
\$2 for Seniors 65, Children under 12 - FREE.

Bird Identification Tours

Sunday	Apr. 18	8:08 AM
Sunday	May 16	7:07 AM
Sunday	June 20	7:07 AM

Please check in at the Headquarters.
Reservations and Information 857-1135.
Leader Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson 757-1876.

IN MEMORIAM

Our organization lost 2 dedicated and valued members in recent months, Jeannette Cole and John Caraway.

Jeannette Cole was a tireless friend of Feather Lake, the Franklin Mountains, and our education programs. For many years, she prepared the interpretive exhibits at Feather Lake and also exhibits on birds and birding for local libraries. In 1990, she received our highest honor for chapter service, our Meritorious Service Award. We gratefully acknowledge donations to our Sanctuary Fund in memory of Jeannette from Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Warden of Flagstaff, Arizona, and Walter J. Boyne of Ashburn, Virginia, and William H. Cole.

Some of the best public-event exhibits we ever had were the ones where John Caraway brought a captive-bred Harris's Hawk and talked raptors with the crowds that inevitably gathered. John knew birds of prey and was generous in sharing his knowledge.

Crusty, sometimes salty, John was also passionate about raptor conservation, a passion that rubbed off on many of us in Audubon. We'll miss them both.

An April of Arthropod Afternoons/Evenings

Workshops for Children with Parents

Franklin Mountains State Park Tom Mays Park Entrance

Call Danny Contreras, TX Parks & Wildlife, 566-6441 for reservations.

Park entrance costs \$3.00 per adult. Kids are free.

Saturday, April 3, 2004: Spying Spiders - 6:00pm

Spider photography workshop (bring a camera)

Movie; Tarantula

Saturday, April 17, 2004: Ant Activities - 7:00pm

Locate ant nests and determine their staple food source.

Recognize the nests of ant species in our area

Movie: Them

Saturday, April 24, 2004: Stalking Scorpions - 7:30pm

Scorpions are special Learn to find and identify common species.

Make plans to bring a picnic, this is the last night in this series.

Movie: The Black Scorpion

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20.00 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

W10
Local Chapter Code
7XCHA

Dates to Remember

Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

April

FeatherFest

Saturday, 3

Water Birds

Sunday, 4

Birds of Prey

Saturday, 10

Board Meeting

Monday, 12

Hueco Tanks

Sunday, 18

General Meeting

Friday, 23

May

Birdathon 1 & 2

Texas Ornithological

Society Thurs.-Sat 6, 7, 8

Board Meeting

Monday, 10

Hueco Tanks

Sunday, 16

General Meeting

Monday, 17

Southeast Arizona Trip

Fri. 28- Mon 31

June

Board Meeting


Monday, 14

Hueco Tanks

Sunday, 20

No General Meeting

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Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon! 2004
Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2004!

What is Birdathon, you might ask?

One thing is for sure, it's not your average bird count or fund-raiser! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation & education programs.

Birdathon! 2004 will occur on May 1st - 2nd

We hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding throughout the El Paso area by being a sponsor and possibly even a counter- if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" by becoming a Birdathoner yourself, contact Jane Fowler at 598-2448.

Birdathon! 2004 will benefit the following programs and projects:

EDUCATION, CONSERVATION & "our" FEATHER LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Birdathon is the main source of funding in support of our Audubon Adventures youth program and our other conservation and education endeavors such as Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK ENDOWMENT FUND

Our "urban paradise" needs to reach a certain critical level in its endowment fund's principle before funds can be used for projects. Help us to help them, realize this dream.

TEXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY

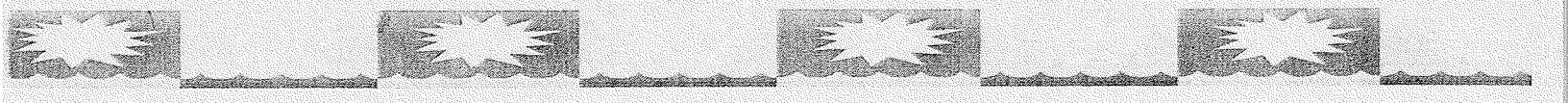
Our support helps to ensure that this NAS office based in Texas be an effective, respected voice for the Texas (especially our West Texas) environment.

How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of May 1-2, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy, energized & intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day out in the field, for the chance to collect meaningful data for a nationwide census project, for a test of their birding skills and most importantly, for a better West Texas environment. Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will see 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species, for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30.

95% of Birdathon income goes to projects; 5% to fundraising cost (printing, paper, postage, etc.).

All Birdathon sponsors are entered in our ever-popular drawings for a number of great prizes such as a Best Buy Gift Card, binoculars, books and the like. Counters will also be eligible for some cool prizes.



So, whom can you sponsor for Birdathon? This year's roster of outstanding counters are a hardy and dedicated bunch, most of whom have been involved in a number of Birdathons. If you supported one of these people last year, please give them a call & sponsor them again. If you don't know any of the counters personally and don't know whom to choose, please give Jane Fowler a call and she will help you to do that!

All of these hardworking people will be back at it, "fighting the good fight" this year and ready to do their all for the Birdathon 2004! HOW ABOUT YOU? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?

Birdathon Stalwarts: The Counters

Elizabeth Chase	Scott Cutler	Josh & Ben Ditlevson	Cliff Eidson
Betty Fisbeck	Jane Fowler	Richard Herмосilla	Paul Hyder
Hugh Jameson	Bob Johnson	John Kiseda	Carol Moreno
Jim Paton	Flora Pittard	Susie Schneider	Charles Simpson
John Sproul	Kathy Whelen	Nancy Wilson & <u>special Student Counters!</u>	

Please pick one or more individuals or groups and give them your support!

Pot-luck Dinner:

The prize drawings will take place at our annual post-Birdathon pot-luck. It will start at 6 PM on Sunday May 2nd, at the UTEP Centennial Museum. Reports of the weekend's best birds, great food and the results of our prize drawings await you! How about joining us? **ALL ARE INVITED!!!**

Whether it's \$.25 per species, \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a Birdathon pledge. Have you already made your Birdathon 2004 pledge? Excellent! If not, please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed card today. Your support makes the work Audubon does, possible. **Thank you very much, for your generosity and support!**

Sincerely,

Jane Fowler, Betty Fisbeck, Flora Pittard & John Kiseda, Birdathon Coordinators

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society BIRDATHON! 2004

YES! I'll sponsor _____
for \$ _____ per species for each species
s/he finds on the Birdathon.

From _____

Address _____

I'll sponsor _____
for a flat for a flat \$ _____.

City State Zip

I will add a bonus of \$ _____ if my
counter sees a _____.

Telephone _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$ _____
sponsoring _____.

Birdathon! 2004
c/o Betty Fisbeck
613 W Sunset
El Paso, TX. 79922

Please make checks payable to **El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society**. Return this form to the address listed by **April 28, 2004**. Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Thank you for your generous Birdathon pledge!