

Volume 17 (9)

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

November 1987

#### KOSCHMANN TO SPEAK AT A.C.T. MEETING

SAT., NOV. 14, 7:30 PM in the Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. High-lighting the Fall 1987 Meeting of the Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) (see p.3), El Paso veterinarian Jim Koschmann will speak on the "Thick-billed Parrot Release Project". The story behind this effort to reintroduce the endangered Thick-bill to the Chiricahua Mts. of s.e. Arizona is a fascinating one, and Jim Koschmann, an active project participant, tells it well. Did you miss his presentation at our May general meeting? You won't want to miss this one. And if you did hear Dr. Koschmann in May, you'll definitely want an update. The parrots have provided researchers with one surprise after another this summer and fall.

Before the program, we'll be hosting a catered dinner for the ACT delegates at the Garden Center, starting at 6:30 PM. Why not join us for dinner, too, and make an evening of it? For \$8, you can enjoy brisket, scalloped potatoes, vegetable casserole, rolls, dessert and a chance to meet Audubon leaders from throughout the state. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to "El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society", by Nov 6 to Nancy Wilson, 123 Mahogany, El Paso, TX 79922.

#### GENERAL MEETING

MON., NOV. 16, 7:30 PM in the Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. John Green (member of the Color Camera Club, Cactus & Rock Club, and Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition), will present the evening's program---"Some Flora of the Franklins". John is an artist with a camera, and if you love the Franklins as John does, you'll be thrilled by his beautiful slides of desert plants which are found there. Please join us.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., NOV. 9, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25 (545-5157). All members are welcome.

#### FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

#### LA CUEVA

SAT., NOV. 7. Hike in the Organ Mts. east of Las Cruces. Meet at Transmountain Rd. and I-10 at 7:30 AM. The Nature Conservancy is currently working on acquiring this area, including the Dripping Springs Resort ruins. Leader: Tom Baker (877-3365).

#### MEMORIAL PARK

SAT., NOV. 14. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. This is the first of 4 field trips for the Audubon Council of Texas meeting. It's shaping up as a good fall for montane birds in El Paso; come see what Memorial Park has to offer. Leader: Jo Nagel (566-2143).

#### (... Calendar cont.)

FEATHER LAKE/LOWER VALLEY
SAT., NOV. 14. Meet at 1 PM at the Garden
Center in Memorial Park, or join the group
at 1:30 PM at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 N. Loop Rd. in the lower valley.
The ducks are back! If you haven't seen
our chapter's wildlife sanctuary recently,
you'll be amazed at the changes. Leader:
Joyce Davis (581-9470).

HUECO TANKS STATE PARK
SUN., NOV. 15. Meet at 7 AM at Avila's restaurant, 10600 Montana. For out-oftown visitors, Hueco Tanks always offers a good variety of West Texas Birds. Many ACT meeting participants are particularly eager to see Crissal Thrashers. Help 'em find some! Leaders: Tom Baker (877-3365) and Larry Jordan (833-5969).

# FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS SUN., NOV 15. Meet at 7 AM at the Wilderness Park Museum, 2000 Transmountain Rd. on the e. side of the Franklin Mts. Well-known El Paso naturalist Clark Champie will join us for birding and botanizing in Oak Canyon. Leaders: Clark Champie and John Sproul (545-5157 h,

FEATHER LAKE
SUN., DEC. 6. Meet at 8 AM at Feather
Lake, 9500 N. Loop. (See p. 5, "Feather
Lake News").

HUECO TANKS & EL PASO CBCS SAT., DEC. 19 & SAT., JAN. 2

541-6126 w).

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR, N.M. SAT.-SUN., JAN. 9-10

BIG BEND NAT'L PARK
FRI.-SUN., APRIL 15-17. For those not
camping, the Chisos Mts. Lodge is already
booked for these dates. Lodge personnel
recommended the Big Bend Motor Inn which
is only 2 miles from the Park entrance
(intersection of hwys. 118 and 170). The
BB Motor Inn is already reserving rooms
for March and April, so call soon if you
wish a room for this trip. (915-371-2218)
Box 336, Terlingua, Tx 79834.

#### PAST FIELD TRIPS

Seven members birded Feather Lake and Rio Bosque Park on Sept 26. Feather Lake had a good number of various waterfowl, and there were Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks at Rio Bosque.

The hues of red and orange were there, but our chapter's field trip to the Guadalupe Mts., Oct 17-18, was a week or 2 too early for peak autumn colors. The scenery and hiking rivaled the birding for our attention. The Snellings had to bird after the sun went down to see quail and an owl. There were 14 of our group in Mc-Kittrick Canyon on Sat morning; 5 finished out the trip at Rattlesnake Springs on Sun. /TB/

#### DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions made by:

Joyce Davis to the chapter Scholarship Fund, and

John Sproul for wildlife rehabilitation programs.

Ed. note: Joyce and John are prime examples of chapter members who form the backbone of our organization and NAS. They realize the importance of informing others of our fragile natural environment, and they devote their resources and time to this end. They write articles for this newsletter each month; they are always available to give programs, lead field trips, work at the sanctuary and represent the chapter at a variety of public functions. They are dedicated, enthusiastic and quietly "live" their philosophy of protecting wildlife and promoting a healthy environment for all. Never do we hear them complain about having too much to do. We are very fortunate to have you, Joyce and John; we're glad that you belong to us--EP/TPAS!

#### A.C.T. MEETS IN EL PASO NOV. 13-15

There will be something for everyone when the Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) meets in El Paso Nov 13-15. Join us for all or part of the weekend's events.

Want to learn about the exciting effort now underway to reintroduce the endangered Thick-billed Parrot to Arizona's Chiricahua Mts.? Come to Jim Koschmann's presentation Saturday night. Are field trips your thing? We've got 4 of them scheduled. How about good food? Join us for dinner at the Garden Center before Dr. Koschmann's talk. See page 1 for details on all these activities.

Throughout the day on Saturday, ACT delegates will be meeting at the Garden Center. Feel free to sit in on any or all of the meetings. You'll learn the latest on Audubon's recent reorganization of its field staff and the steps ACT is taking to ensure Audubon stays strong in Texas and the Southwest. You'll hear about recent nongame wildlife and endangered species initiatives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and about Audubon strategies for promoting the state's Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund. You'll be introduced to the current concerns and interests of Audubon chapters statewide. And you'll meet a lot of nice people.

Our chapter is working hard to make Nov 13-15 a memorable weekend for our out-of-town visitors. Why not get into the ACT? Join us and help make the meeting a success. /John Sproul/

Audubon Council of Texas Fall 1987 Meeting 13-15 November 1987 Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Friday, 13 November 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Dinner and get-together for Fri. arrivals 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. ACT Board meeting Saturday, 14 November 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Birding in Memorial Park Registration (Garden Center) 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Welcome Tow which 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Dave Corson 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. ACT business 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. Discussion - The National Audubon Society reorganization/funding Audubon in Texas 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break Call 10:45 - noon Discussion continues noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch (at Garden Center) 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Workshop - Promoting the Texas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund (1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Field trip to Feather Lake and lower El Paso-Juarez Valley for those not attending afternoon meetings) 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break Fruit Duly 3:15 - 5:15 p.m. ACT business, continue a.m. = discussion to tables 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner (at Garden Center) 7:30 - 7:45 p.m. Recognize dignitaries 7:45 - 9:00 p.m. Speaker: Dr. James R. Koschmann, "The Thick-billed Parrot Release Project" NOELSMYDER Sunday, 15 November 7:00 - 11:00 a.m. Field trips: 1) Franklin Mountains 2) Hueco Tanks State Park West lohen

#### **NEWS FROM NAS**

by Peter A. A. Berle President, National Audubon Society

The decision by the board of directors at their May meeting to reduce Audubon field staff in order to meet budget goals generated a lot of confusion and turmoil. This was understandable, because we did not at the time have a workable plan for maintaining chapter liaison services, and Audubon's work on

- a regional basis. In addition, we did not do a good job of communicating with chapter leaders. After a healthy internal debate, some positive results emerged:
- First: The restructuring of the field offices, while still painful, has not been as drastic as it seemed at first. We lost some valuable people, but we still have 9 regional offices and 4

state offices. In some areas, chapters are helping with the fundraising to keep offices open.

- Second: A board committee and an advisory group made up of chapter leaders developed a plan by which chapters will directly elect 9 of the 36 board members. This is an important and complicated process that must be accomplished quickly this first year. Your chapter leaders have been fully briefed on the process, and we hope all of you will participate.
- Third: Any consideration of changing the way members are assigned to chapters or the formula by which chapters and National share dues will be deferred and will only take place (if at all) after the election of chapter-selected board members. This election will take place at the annual meeting, Dec 4, 1987.
- Fourth: We have resolved to improve communications within Audubon. This column, prepared especially for chapter newsletters, is one part of that effort.

#### N.A.S. BOARD ELECTIONS

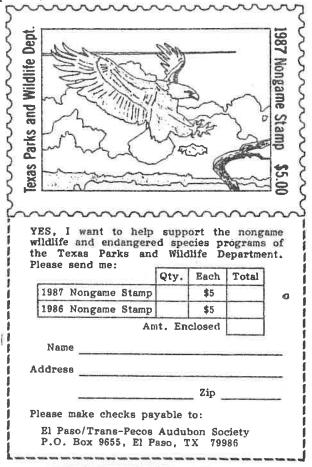
The controversy over the National Audubon Society's reorganization of its field staff (RR, Sept) is still having repercussions. When the election of new NAS board members takes place Dec 4, there will be 2 slates of candidates. One was developed by the nominating committee of the current board, the other by a group of Audubon members that remains dissatisfied with recent actions of the board.

As Peter Berle mentions in his column above, a new system is now in place for ensuring chapter representation on the NAS board. Under it, this year's slate of candidates developed by the nominating committee includes 9 candidates selected by the chapters in Audubon's 9 regions. Chapters in the Southwest Region, for example, have selected Wilma Anderson of Prairie and Timbers Audubon (McKinney, TX) as their candidate.

The Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) par-

ticipated in developing this system and believes it to be a fair one, one that should be given a chance to work.

You'll receive soon, if you haven't already, a proxy form from NAS for its annual meeting. You usually throw such things away, right? This year, please resist that impulse. ACT asks that you hang onto the proxy and send it in, directing that your vote be cast for the NAS slate of board candidates. /John Sproul/



#### THE ROADRUNNER

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Note to Editors: Articles appearing in THE ROADRUNNER may be reprinted without prior permission. Credit is appreciated.

#### FEATHER LAKE NEWS

During the past year, the City of El Paso has done major renovation work in the Mesa Drain Intercepting Basin, better known to most of us as Feather Lake. The City cleared and deepened the basin and expanded it from ~30 acres to ~40 acres. Once again, there's open water at Feather Lake.

That means ducks, and that means our chapter's Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (9500 N. Loop Rd., 0.3 mi. n.w. of Americas Ave. in El Paso's lower valley) will soon be opening again to the public. And that means we need your help to serve as volunteer Feather Lake hosts.

Beginning Nov 22 and extending through the end of April, we'll have the sanctuary open Sunday afternoons (3:30 PM to dusk), plus the first and third Saturday mornings (8 to 11 AM) each month. It will be closed on holiday weekends, however. The November-December schedule:

Sun., Nov 22 (PM) Sun., Dec 13 (PM) Sat., Dec 5 (AM) Sat., Dec 19 (AM) Sun., Dec 6 (PM) Sun., Dec 20 (PM)

We need volunteers to greet visitors, answer their questions and look after the sanctuary during the hours it is open. Want a good excuse to spend an afternoon or morning enjoying the waterbirds at Feather Lake? Please contact Jeannette Cole (565-1957) and offer your services.

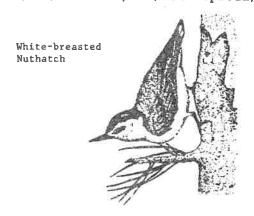
Also, if you want to flex your muscles, we've got 2 workdays coming up: Sun., Nov 8 and Sun., Dec 6 (along with a field trip). Our October work sessions were very productive, thanks to the stalwart efforts of Tom Baker, Jeannette Cole, Dayle Edwards, Jane Fowler, Jan Hartman, Anne Hussmann, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, Bart Rumaker, John Sproul and Nancy Wilson. For these next 2 workdays, come at 8 AM, or when you can get there. Spend the morning or stay as long as you like. Bring your work gloves and your enthusiasm. There's lots to do! /John Sproul/

#### 1988 EP/TPAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Audubon Ecology Camps, as Jeanne French and Nan Johnson told us so well at our October general meeting, are fantastic learning opportunities. Great for anyone, they are especially worthwhile for teachers and other educators. Our chapter's fledgling scholarship program is designed to give Trans-Pecos educators an opportunity to attend these camps and thereby increase their environmental education skills. They can then better inspire others in our community to understand, enjoy and protect the world around us.

Jeanne and Nan were our chapter's first scholarship recipients. This past summer, both attended the Audubon Camp in Wyoming, Jeanne taking part in a field ecology session and Nan a wilderness research backpack trip. Other Audubon Camps are in Maine and Connecticut. All offer unique outdoor learning opportunities in beautiful surroundings. Wouldn't you like to attend an Audubon Ecology Camp next summer?

If you are a teacher, scout leader, zoo docent, museum docent or are otherwise active as an educator, or if you are a student pursuing a career in education, you're invited to apply for a 1988 EP/TPAS scholarship. If you know someone you think would be a good candidate, let them know about our scholarship program and encourage them to apply. The deadline for applications is March 1, 1988. For an application form, contact Jeanne French, 10925-B Sagebrush, El Paso, TX 79936 (915/592-1660) or John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25, El Paso, TX 79902 (915/545-5157). /John Sproul/



#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Dec 19

Jan 2

It's almost time for our annual CBCs. I wanted to announce the dates now so that you will include them in your holiday plans. Joyce Davis, compiler for the Hueco Tanks count (581-9470 h/544-6772 w), and Bob Johnson, compiler for the El Paso count (751-0125/757-1876), will answer your questions. If you live within the EP count circle but can't get out on count day (Jan 2), you can help by counting birds in your yard. A bird identification program and a CBC planning meeting will be held Dec 14 at the Garden Center in Memorial Park. /BJ/

#### RUMMAGE SALE

The annual rummage sale will be held on Nov 22 at the old Woolco parking lot on Dyer St. We need people with pickups or similar vehicles who can load up at Bob Johnson's storage shed on Sat and come to the Dyer flea market site early Sun morning. More goods are always welcome. If you have rummage, contact Larry Jordan (833-5969), Bob Johnson (751-0125) or Bart Rumaker (544-6432). It would be very helpful if small items could be separated into 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1 categories. We also need volunteers to help at the sale. /LJ/

#### T-SHIRTS

As a fund-raising activity, we will be selling t-shirts to members of the Trans-Pecos Audubon Society and other interested groups. We need a good design (not necessarily bird-related) and invite you to submit either a design or the idea for a design to Larry Jordan (833-5969, 732 Brisa del Mar, 79912). We would like to get going on this, so, if you are interested, please send in your idea as soon as possible. /LJ/

#### WELCOME ABOARD

We wish to welcome these new members into our local chapter and NAS: Stacy Barnett, Julian Bernat, Carolina L. Chapa, Leilani Hackfeld, Tom & Connie Iacobelli, Jeff Kaake, Martha V. Keagle, Eula Mae Kraus,

Kathy M. Little, Mrs. Allan W. Mills, Bob Oppenheimer, P. D. Propeck, James Schoor and Helen Stoughton. Plan to join us soon and get acquainted.

#### NEW CHAPTER DIRECTORY

A 1987 chapter directory is now available at the general meeting each month. Are you still using the '84 edition? Isn't it rather rumpled and perhaps minus a page or 2? Plan to attend the Nov meeting and pick up a new edition. There is no charge. And for those of you who are lucky enough to have the '87 directory already, we are including these recent address changes so that you may update it if you wish.

W. D. Cornelius, Jr. 1170 Westmoreland # 204 (79925)

Zula W. Johnson 9312 W W.H. Burges (79925) 591-4368

Iola Pennington 500 Trans Mt. Rd. B 43 Canutillo (79835) 877-3827

#### NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter. Send AUDUBON magazine and membership card to:

Name	
Address	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
City	.StateZip
Membership categoryIndividual/\$30Family/\$38Student/\$18	desired:Senior Citizen Individual/\$21Senior Citizen Family/\$23

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Neil Keith, 1525 Meadowview, El Paso, Tx 79925.

LOCAL CHAPTER

EL PASO/TRANS\_PECOS W10 7XCH

#### **OBSERVATIONS**

September 20 - October 18

CP - Crossroads Pond

FB - Ft. Bliss Ponds

FL - Feather Lake

HC - Horizon City

MP - Memorial Park

RB - Rio Bosque

RP - Randel's Pool

WS - Whispering Spring Canyon

#### LOONS - FALCONS

Pied-billed Grebes were seen at FL 10/4, 10/10 (JS), CP 10/18 (JD). Two Western Grebes were spotted at FB 10/18 (BJ.RW). Great Blue Herons were seen at Lake Willows 9/27 and RP 10/4 (JD) and FL 10/10, 10/17 (JS). Green-backed Herons were found at FL 10/4, 10/10 (JS). Several Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at FL 9/26 (TB), 9/27, 10/4, 10/10, 10/17 (JS). A Cattle Egret was found at FL 10/10 (JS). Redheads were seen at CP 10/18 (JD) and FB 10/18 (BJ,RW). A male Ring-necked Duck was spotted at FL 10/4 (JS). Two Canvasbacks were seen at FB 10/18 (BJ,RW). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were found at RB 9/26 (TB). A Golden Eagle was seen over WS 9/26 (LJ).

#### QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Twenty-five Sandhill Cranes were seen at FB 10/18 (BJ,RW). Two Soras were spotted off Frontera Rd. 10/3 (LJ). Lesser Yellowlegs were found at FL 9/26 (TB), 9/27, 10/4, 10/10 (JS). Four Common Snipe were spotted at FL 10/4 and 6 others on 10/10(JS). An Am. Avocet was found at FB 10/18 (BJ,RW). A Barn Owl was harassed by 2 Am. Kestrels at MP 9/26 (AB). A Long-eared Owl was found at MP 10/18 (LJ). Two Anna's Hummingbirds are still coming to feeders in a Mountain Park yard (JB). Belted Kingfishers were seen at FL 9/26 (TB), 10/4, 10/10, 10/17 (JS). A Rednaped Sapsucker was spotted at WS 9/26 (LJ). A Williamson's Sapsucker was seen in HC 10/5 (A&MG).

#### FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

A Black Phoebe was seen at RP 10/4 (JD). Scrub Jays were reported from various locations: Mountain Park, Coronado Country Club, n.e. El Paso, Arroyo Park, Sunset Heights (JB,AA,JS,LJ). Mountain Chick-

adees were seen at MP 10/13, 10/18 (LJ). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in a w. El Paso yard 10/12 (AH), MP 10/13 (LJ) and a bosque south of Lake Willows 10/18 (JD). Two House Wrens were found in WS 9/26 (LJ). Two Brown Thrashers were seen in HC 10/5 (A&MG). A Brown Creeper was spotted in MP 10/13 (LJ). A Philadelphia Vireo was at RP 9/27 (LJ).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES
A Black-and-white Warbler was spotted
in MP 9/26 (AB). A Townsend's Warbler was found at Hueco Tanks 9/27
(A&MG). Yellow-headed Blackbirds
were reported in the Girl Scout camp
area 9/27 (JD) and FL 10/4, 10/10,
10/17 (JS). Am. Goldfinches were
seen at RP 10/17 (LJ). Lesser Goldfinches were found at FB 10/18 (BJ,
RW). Rufous-sided Towhees were seen
in an e. El Paso yard 10/3 and 10/7
(BR) and also at the bosque south of
Lake Willows 10/18 (JD). Vesper and
Sage sparrows were seen around the

OBSERVERS: Art Arteaga, Tom Baker, Anne Bowman, Janet Brockmoller, Joyce Davis, Al & Madeline Gavit, Joe Guinn, Anne Hussmann, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Bettie Roberts, John Sproul, Ray Waite.

/Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/ (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w)

Wilderness Park Museum in early

Oct (JG).

#### CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Your nominees are needed before the Jan election for the following positions: president-elect, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and 3 elected directors. Now is the time to call Jane Fowler (598-2448), Chair of the Nominating Committee, with your suggestions.

The deadline for the Dec-Jan ROADRUNNER is November 21!

### Student Intern Opportunities at National Audubon Sanctuaries

The National Audubon Society offers students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain training and experience in sanctuary management, while providing Audubon sanctuaries with much needed

help.

"Interns do everything from leading nature walks to running visitor centers; from collecting biological data for the sanctuary monitoring program to original ecological research; and from manual labor to building displays," says Frank Dunstan, Director of Audubon Sanctuaries. Program benefits for participants include:

•Career enhancing "hands on" experience in all phases of wildlife sanctuary work.

•Valuable references and a stronger resume.

•College credit can be arranged.

•Personal instruction.

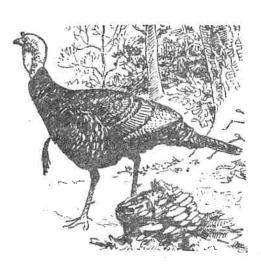
·Housing, utilities, and uniforms are provided.

 Eligibility for scholarships to attend one of four Audubon Ecology Camps.

Interships, usually for three-month periods, are available throughout the year at participating sanctuaries in Maine, South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, Connecticut, Arizona, and California. For additional program details and information,

write:

National Audubon Society Sanctuary Department 93 West Cornwall Road Sharon, CT 06069



## EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Clean Air Coalition Representative		
010011 (1111 0001	Joyce Davis	581-9470
Franklin Mts. Coalition Representative		
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