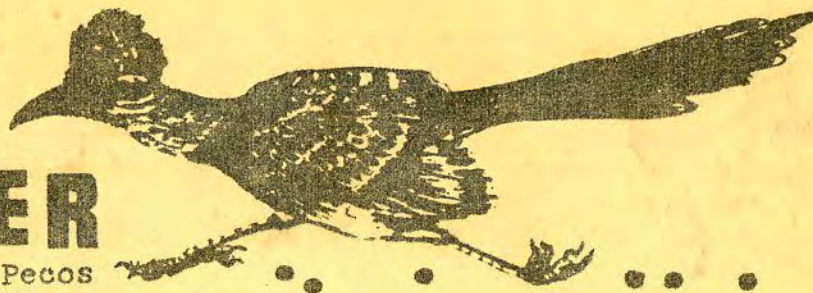


# the ROADRUNNER

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



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 16 (6)

\$4.00 per year

June 1986

## HAPPY SUMMER

You're all excused for summer vacation. Your next Roadrunner (Sept.) will tell you all about the General Meeting Sept. 15, 1986. Until then there's a full slate of field trips to tide you over. / Editors

### FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

**RANDALL DAVEY AUDUBON CENTER**  
FRI-SUN, JUNE 20-23 we will visit the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, NM. Campers will roll out their sleeping bags at the center, but many good motels are available in town on Cerrillos Rd. (about 5 mi distance) for those who prefer them. Last June I visited the Santa Fe area and saw Black-billed Magpies, Black-capped Chickadees, Gray Catbirds, Lazuli Buntings and Downy Woodpeckers. It is also possible to see Gray Jays, nuthatches. Red-naped Sapsuckers and others. Ray is going to show us slides from the Arizona trip on Sat. evening. For details and a reservation, call Bob Johnson(751-0125) or Ray Waite(751-1849).

**FORT DAVIS**  
SAT-SUN, JULY 12-13. Meet Saturday, 7:30 AM at Feather Lake, or at 1 PM MDT at Ft. Davis courthouse. We'll try again to find the Montezuma Quail. Lodging: Limpia Hotel(915-426-3234) requires advance payment; Stone Village Motel (915-426-3941); Prude Ranch (915-426-3202). Campsites: Davis Mts. State Park (915-426-3337); Crow's Nest (915-426-3300), also has cabins. Leader: Joyce Davis (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w).

### VADO & ANTHONY

SAT, JULY 19. Meet at Crossroads Pond (Doniphan and Country Club Rds) at 7:30 AM. Leader needed. Call Bill Doebele (779-7408).

*593-4835*  
**COUNTRY CLUB - RANDEL'S POOL**  
SUN, JULY 27. Meet at Crossroads 7:30 AM. Leader needed. Call Bill Doebele (779-7408).

**HUECO TANKS - SUMMER PICNIC**  
SAT, AUG 9. Meet at Hueco Tanks Campground, site #1, 5 PM or later.

**THREE RIVERS-RUIDOSO**  
SAT -SUN, AUG 16-17. Meet at K-Mart on Dyer at 7:30 AM. Leader: Gloria Woelfel (532-7348).

**LOWER VALLEY**  
SUN, AUG 24. Meet at Feather Lake 7:15 AM. Leader needed. Call Bill Doebele (779-7408).

**GILA - RED ROCK**  
SAT - SUN, SEPT 13-14. Meet at I-10 and Transmountain Rd at 7:30 AM. Leader needed. Call Bill Doebele (779-7408).

**WEST COTTONWOOD SPRING**  
SAT, SEPT 27. Meet at entrance to Tom May Park in west Franklins off Transmountain Rd. Leader: Tom Baker (566-9461W).  
Hang on to this Roadrunner.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS  
WILDERNESS COALITION

WED., JULY 16, 7 PM. The next meeting of the Coalition will be at the home of Donna and Gary Bloedorn, 2744 Gunnison, El Paso (755-6636).

BIRDATHON '86, THE AFTER-GLOW

Many thanks to all who were able to participate in this year's local Birdathon as sponsors and/or counters, who made this year our best ever. Contributions received as of May 30th totaled \$3,590.00, with an additional \$300.00 - \$400.00 still outstanding. All money should be turned in by early June.

Certificates were awarded at May's general meeting to some of our deserving counters. Certificates for the new counters with the most species went to Yvonne Zimmer(105), and Roxanne Gunter (78). This was the first time for these birders to participate in Birdathon. We hope to count on them next year. The award for the most species seen was shared between Jeff Donaldson and Barry Zimmer who both identified 135 birds in a 24 hour period in the El Paso checklist area. Jeff Donaldson also took honors for the most money raised, over \$700.00. The certificate of award for having the most sponsors went to John Sproul who signed up 54 individuals. These efforts are what made this year a success.

During the potluck supper held on May 4 when all met to compare notes and totals (151 species in EP area), the drawing was held for the Grand Prize for which all sponsors were eligible. Congratulations to Dave Brown whose name was drawn from the 250 plus entries to win the signed, limited-edition print of the first Nongame Stamp painting. Second prize, a Jansport bag, went to Howell McCullough. Both were sponsors of Jeff Donaldson./Tom Baker

NPS RELEASES DRAFT  
MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The National Park Service (NPS) has developed a draft Mountain Lion Management Plan for Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mts. national parks. The plan relies heavily on findings of a 3-year research study of mountain lion ecology in the vicinity of the 2 parks, and it clearly rejects the notion that mountain-lion-control programs should be extended into the parks.

In 1982, acting at the request of 3 local sheep ranchers, the New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish (NMDGF) sought permission to enter the 2 parks to either trap and remove or kill "problem" mountain lions (RR, Jan 1983). The ranchers contended lions were killing their sheep, then retreating to the safety of the parks, where they could not be hunted. NMDGF later withdrew its request (RR, Jun 1983), but the issue remained.

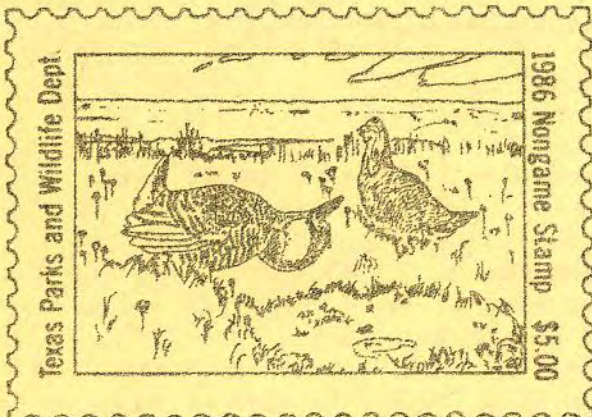
Was it a valid issue? The research study indicated clearly that mountain lion numbers in the region are not significantly affected by the protection lions receive in the 2 parks. Rather, the principal factor governing lion numbers and distribution appears to be the abundant mule-deer prey base. Moreover, the regional lion population is capable of sustaining itself even on lands fully open to both legal and illegal control efforts. "Removal" of lions from the parks would not affect the regional lion population and would have little impact on sheep losses due to predation. Based on these findings, the NPS has reaffirmed in the draft plan its existing policy of protecting all native wildlife, including lions, within the parks.

The comment deadline on the draft plan is June 11. Even if that deadline is past by the time you read this, a short note thanking

the NPS for its position and commending the agency for basing its plan on sound scientific data would be appropriate and appreciated. Write: Rick Smith, Supt., Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mts. Natl. Parks, 3225 Natl. Parks Hwy., Carlsbad, NM 88220. /John Sproul/

**SUPPORT TEXAS WILDLIFE!**

Please buy a 1986 Texas Nongame Stamp. You'll be contributing directly to the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. You'll be investing in the future of Texas wildlife. The Nongame Fund is used solely for research, management, habitat acquisition and education involving nongame wildlife and endangered species in Texas.



YES, I want to help support the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 1986 Texas Nongame Stamp(s) at \$5 each. Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**SPECIAL AGENT SLOT GOES UNFILLED**

In its southwest region (AZ, NM, OK, TX), the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service (USFWS) has 16 positions authorized for special agents, folks responsible for enforcing federal wildlife laws and investigating wildlife crimes. Logically, one of those authorized positions is in El Paso. It's the 5th largest city in the region. Illicit importing of wildlife and wildlife products through Cd. Juarez is a continuing concern. El Paso still has more than its share of people who view birds of prey as targets. A strong wildlife-law-enforcement presence is needed here.

Not so logically, the special agent position for El Paso is now vacant. It hasn't been filled since the very capable Tom McKay transferred to Oklahoma in March. Moreover, there are no plans to fill the position. Budget cutbacks, you know. The USFWS still has its other 15 special agents in the southwest, but it will fill the El Paso slot only if its Division of Law Enforcement can get additional funding to do so.

Additional funding. Who makes the decisions on USFWS funding? Congress, of course. And what is one of the key committees in this regard? The House Appropriations Committee. Who sits on this committee? Right, Ronald D. Coleman. If you think it is important for the USFWS to maintain a law-enforcement presence in El Paso, please let Rep. Coleman (U.S. House of Reps., Wash., DC 20515) know. Ask him to do all he can to ensure that the USFWS special agent position for El Paso is funded and filled as soon as possible. /John Sproul/



Sanderlings.

OBSERVATIONS  
April 22 - May 27

Spring migration was well under way the last week of April and interesting reports were still being received at the end of the period. Many summer residents also arrived during the first week of May.

LOONS - FALCONS

Two imm. Double-crested Cormorants were at Madden Lake 4/30 (JS) and a Double-crested was also at Fort Hancock Reservoir 5/3 (JS,MC,JF,JN). Two Great Egrets were at Madden Lake 5/3 (JS,et al.). The only Cattle Egrets reported were 2 at Ashley's Ponds 5/2 (JS). Twelve White-faced Ibis were at Madden Lake 4/30 and 1 noted at Ashley's Ponds 5/2 (JS). Single Lesser Scaup were at Northeast Oxidation Ponds (NEOP) 5/2 (JS) and Madden Lake 5/3 (JS,et al.). A male Bufflehead was also at Madden Lake 5/3 (JS,et al.). An Osprey was noted at Madden Lake 4/30 and another 1 at NEOP 5/2 (JS). On 5/3, a Peregrine Falcon was observed near Vado (RW,BJ), and on 5/4, a Prairie Falcon was seen harassing a Great Horned Owl at Hueco Tanks (JS).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

A Black-bellied Plover was at NEOP 5/3 (BJ,RW) and 5/10 (BJ). Single Lesser Yellowlegs were at Madden Lake and Fort Hancock Reservoir 4/30 (JS), NEOP 5/2 (JS) and Tornillo 5/3 (JS,et al.). On 4/30, 11 Forster's Terns were at Tornillo Reservoir (JS), 5 were at NEOP 5/2 (JS), and 2 at Fort Hancock Reservoir 5/3 (JS,et al.). A Common Barn-Owl was heard calling at Hueco Tanks 5/3 (JS). The first Lesser Nighthawk was reported from east El Paso 4/28 (JF).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Hueco Tanks 5/3 (JS,et al.) and another 1 at Horizon City 5/11 (AG,MG). A Hammond's Flycatcher was reported from Horizon City 5/13 (AG,MG). Two Dusky Flycatchers were at Hueco Tanks 5/2 and 1 there on 5/4 (JS). The first Ash-throated Flycatchers reported were 2 at Madden Lake 4/30 (JS). A Brown-crested Flycatcher was noted at McNary 5/3 (JoD,SJD, fide JS). Single Cassin's Kingbirds were observed at Hueco Tanks 5/2 (JS)(details to RBC) and 5/4 (JS). Twenty to thirty

Cave Swallows were at McNary 4/30 (JS) and 5/3 (JS,et al.). A Townsend's Solitaire at Mt. Park 5/15 (JB) was the first reported for awhile. A Brown Thrasher was observed at the Tornillo rest stop 5/3 (JS)(details to RBC). Bell's Vireos were singing at 4 different locations in the lower valley 4/30 (JS) and 5/3 (JS,et al.). Single Warbling Vireos were near Country Club Rd. in the upper valley 5/10 (BV) and Hueco Tanks 5/20 & 5/23 (LB,KB).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

The first spring Virginia's Warbler reported was from Hueco Tanks 5/2 (JS); Yellow Warblers were at Horizon City 4/28 (AG,MG) and Memorial Park 4/30 (JS,JF). A Townsend's Warbler was also at Memorial Park 4/30 (JS,JF). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Horizon City 4/28 (AG,MG), and a male Am. Redstart at Hueco Tanks 5/3 (JS)(details to RBC). A well described Ovenbird was observed at Horizon City 5/24 (AG, MG). A Yellow-breasted Chat was heard at Tornillo 4/30 (JS). A Hepatic Tanager at Hueco Tanks 5/2 (LB,KB) is of note. The first Summer Tanagers reported were 3 males at Madden Lake 4/30 (JS); another male at Hueco Tanks 5/2 (JS)(details to RBC) provided a spring record for that area. W. Tanagers were at Hueco Tanks 5/2 and 5/4 (JS) and Horizon City 5/11 (AG,MG). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Hueco Tanks 5/22 (LB,KB) is also of note. Black-headed Grosbeaks were at Hueco Tanks 5/2 and 5/3 (JS,et al.) and at Horizon City 5/6 (AG,MG). Male Blue Grosbeaks were at Madden Lake 5/3 (JS,et al.) and Hueco Tanks 5/4 (JS). A male Indigo Bunting was at Hueco Tanks 5/2 (JS) and 5/3 (JS,et al.)(details to RBC), and a male Painted Bunting was at Madden Lake 5/3 (JS,et al.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was observed at Hueco Tanks 5/1 and 5/3 (LB,KB). Single E. Meadowlarks were singing at McNary 4/30 (JS) and 5/3 (JS,et al.). Another 1 was singing near Hueco Tanks that same day (JS,et al.). At least 4 Bronzed Cowbirds were in Mt. Park as of 5/4 (JB). The 3 species of orioles were still in Mt. Park during

the period (JB), and an imm. Hooded was a first for a Horizon City yard 5/13 (AG, MG). Five "Bullock's" Orioles (3 males & 2 females) were at a Thunderbird Heights residence 5/3 (FB). Single Red Crossbills were seen again in e. central El Paso 5/12 and 5/20 (LS). A Pine Siskin was at Horizon City 4/28 (AG, MG). Am. Goldfinches were noted at Hueco Tanks 5/1 - 5/3 (LB, KB) and 2 at Horizon City as of 5/6 (AG, MG).

CONTRIBUTORS: Ken & Lois Beno, Flora Bittick, Janet Brockmoller, Mike Chintis, Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, Al & Madeline Gavit, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, John Sproul, Lucile Swick, Brad Vaughn, Ray Waite.

RBC - Rare Birds Committee.

/Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/

\* \* \*

Keeping you informed about the comings and goings of El Paso-area birds is no easy task. It takes time; it takes effort; it takes knowledge of the current and historic status of our local avifauna; it takes attention to detail; it takes an ability to convert a mass of data into concise, readable prose. And do it month after month after month. Bettie Roberts has done this job, and done it well, for 2½ years now. Not to mention the previous occasions on which she filled in briefly for others. With this issue, she is retiring as our observations editor, and we're going to miss her. THANKS, BETTIE! YOU'VE DONE GREAT WORK!

\* \* \*

There's one other essential ingredient in these monthly observations reports: YOU! We now welcome Joyce Davis as our new observations editor. To prepare her reports, she needs to hear from you. Please share your bird observations with Joyce (5900 Enterprise, Apt. B-9, El Paso 79912; ph. 581-9470). Her account of this summer's sightings will appear in the September ROADRUNNER.

#### BOOK FAIR

Don't forget the Book Fair at B. Dalton Bookseller in Cielo Vista Mall Sat, Jun 14. How about calling and volunteering to sit an hour at the table in front of the store. Call Bart Rumaker (544-6432) or Bob Johnson (751-0125) to help out.

June 1986

#### MAGAZINE RECYCLING

In March, we identified the Child Crisis Center of El Paso as one of the few places locally where you can take old magazines for recycling. Unfortunately, the Center decided in April to stop accepting magazines and newspapers. Where can you take your magazines now? Try International Waste Recycling, 4532 Rosa Ave. (544-0917). This firm will pay ½¢ per pound for old magazines. Call ahead, as they sometimes don't take magazines when the market for them is down.

#### ABA CONVENTION

The 8th biennial convention of the American Birding Association takes place in Tucson, AZ, July 28-Aug 3. Numerous workshops, field trips and other opportunities for birding camaraderie will highlight the week. Interested? Write: ABA Convention 1986, P.O. Box 4335, Austin, TX 78765.

In addition, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) is offering a variety of pre- and post-convention birding tours (including 2 s.e. Arizona tours led by El Paso's own Barry Zimmer). For details, contact: VENT, P.O. Box 33008, Austin, TX 78764 (512/477-5091).

#### NM WILDLIFE COLORING BOOK

WILDLIFE OF NEW MEXICO is a coloring book featuring pictures and range maps for 30 wildlife species found in New Mexico. Its subjects are diverse: kit fox, ringtail, elk, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, collared lizard and black-tailed rattlesnake, to name a few. Albuquerque artist Pat Oldham did the drawings and Don MacCarter, Project WILD Coordinator for NM, provided the written commentary. To obtain a copy, write Don MacCarter, Villagra Bldg., Santa Fe, NM 87503 or call 505/827-7901. The price? It's free!

#### FIELD TRIPS FOLLOW-UP

Five people met May 11 for a trip to Owen's and Durling's farms. Thirty-two species were counted; a Swainson's Hawk was spotted on its nest. Several

Burrowing Owls were seen along McNutt Rd. The trip ended with the rescue of a W. Kingbird found tangled in strings and hanging in a tree.

From May 23 thru May 26, 19 birders enjoyed the Huachuca Mountains of Az. Our group included 2 old friends, Donna and Art Arteaga, who now live in Silver City, N.M. A total of 116 species were seen, including an adult W. Screech-Owl with 2 young, a Zone-tailed Hawk on its nest, a low flying Black Vulture and a pair of Rose-throated Becards building a nest.

WORLD OF AUDUBON ON PBS

The first program in the World of Audubon Specials, "Disappearing Dinosaur" (on the California Condor), narrated by Robert Redford, will be aired Sun, July 20. The second program in the series, "Unmasking a Mystery of Extinction" (on the Black-footed Ferret), narrated by Loretta Swit, will appear August 11. Check your local newspaper for times.

CONGRATULATIONS NEWLYWEDS!



Chapter members extend best wishes to Gloria Basden and Greg Woelfel who were married May 10, 1986 at St. Joseph's Mission in Mescalero, N.M. We wish you happiness in your new life together.

INTERNSHIPS AT NAS

Internships are available at National Audubon Sanctuaries around the nation, giving "hands-on" experience and an excellent way to develop references and job experience. A minimal salary and housing are provided. Each internship is about a season in length. For a brochure that gives more info, call Bryan MacKay 703/747-7131 weekdays in PM.

\* \* \*

No newsletter will be published in July or August. The deadline for the September Roadrunner is August 20.

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER

*Handwritten notes:*  
 2000 Dot Pass  
 J. J. Dos.  
 S. J. Dos.  
 Rx Gum  
 HARRY A  
 JAMES D  
 Bob Perry  
 S. J. Dos.  
 J. J. Dos.

THE ROADRUNNER is sent to all members of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Nonmembers can subscribe for \$4 per year. Make checks payable to EPTPAS and mail to: RR Editor, PO Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986. Please send any changes or corrections in name, address, or telephone # to this address.

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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 Membership Category desired:  
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