

The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 28 No. 8 April & May 1999



General Meetings

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF CASTNER RANGE?

Monday, April 19, 1999

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
9500 North Loop 6:30pm

Once again, our April general meeting will take place at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Please do not go to the Garden Center on April 19! The meeting itself will start at 7:30p.m. For those interested, a pre-meeting walk around the lake will start at 6:30p.m. Plan to join us at Feather Lake!

Castner Range covers 7,00 acres on the east side of the Franklin Mountains, including some of the most scenic and ecologically significant parts of the mountains. Thanks to the stewardship of the Army and the presence of unexploded ordinance, this former artillery range remains open space today. What about tomorrow? Slowly but surely, the Army is moving towards a decision on future use of these lands. At our April general meeting, you'll see the Franklin Mountains Wildreness Coalition's new Castner Range slide show. You'll learn about the remarkable scenic, biological, geological and cultural features of Castner Range and why the Coalition and Audubon believe these lands are a critical and necessary future addition to Franklin Mountains State Park.

Guadalupe Mountains

Monday, May 17, 1999 at 7:30pm
El Paso Garden Center Memorial Park
3105 Grant St.

Our May general meeting will feature Dr. Richard Worthington and his presentation of Mountain Island Biotic Diversity in the Southwest. He will discuss plant and animal populations and many other creatures of delight. Always one of our favorite guests, Dr. Worthinton teaches biology at U.T.E.P.

Special thanks to:

Dr. John Peterson for his slide presentation on the El Paso Environment at the February Awards Banquet

and to

Noreen Damud, Director of Bird Conservation for the Texas Audubon Society, for her presentation at the March general meeting



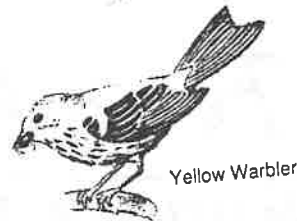
Eastern Bluebird

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BIRDATHON 1999

Birdathon 1999 will be here before you know it please contact John Kiseda at 833-6212 in the evenings if you would like to help us make this year's birdathon more successful than ever! Make sure to look over the insert so you can sponsor your favorite counter.



Yellow Warbler

IMBD FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY MAY 8TH

&

SUNDAY MAY 9TH

Contact John Kiseda to acquire field trip details; we will hopefully have trips going out to different sites on Saturday and possibly Sunday.

BIRD CHECKLIST ADDITIONS

RIO BOSQUE & KEYSTONE MARSH BIRD SIGHTINGS

by, John Kiseda

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

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Saturday May 8th & Sunday May 9th is International Migratory Bird Day(s) Weekend!! Saturday May 8th is The Official International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)

Contact John Sproul beforehand, if you want your bird observations for that day to be added to those that will be sent to the IMBD organization.

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Board of Directors:

President	Bob Johnson	757-1876
V-President	John Kiseda	833-6212
Secretary	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
Treasurer	Hugh Jameson	751-7952

Committee Chairs:

Conservation	John Kiseda	833-6212
Education	Elizabeth Chase	591-5119
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Membership	volunteer needed	
Programs	Nancy Wilson	877-4600
Publications	Kathleen Gonzales	822-1319
Publicity	Roxanne Schroeder	534-7019
Sanctuary	John Sproul	545-5157

About the Roadrunner:

Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. For further information, you may contact

Bob Johnson: 757-1875

Kathleen Gonzales 822-1319

Elizabeth Chase:

email: echase@socorro.k12.tx.us

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

For Feather Lake:

Cielo Vista Garden Club

AT FEATHER LAKE

by, John Sproul

Our visitors season at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary ends April 25, so hurry on down. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's lower valley, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. It's open Saturdays, 8:00am to noon, and Sundays, 2:00pm to dusk. Admission is free. If you can help staff the sanctuary when it is open, please call Charles Simpson (598-2274).

Another chance to visit Feather Lake, of course, will be our April general meeting on Monday, April 19 (see page 1). Or join us Saturday, May 15, for breakfast at the lake. Stop by at 8:30am, and enjoy some of Bob Johnson's famous pancakes. Quite by coincidence, May 15 is also the day of the next workday. We'll start right after breakfast.

Finally, speaking of good work, we thank the students from St. Luke's Episcopal School and Hanks High School who helped with saltcedar removal, trash clean-up and other needed tasks at Feather Lake on February 1st and March 20th, respectively.



**Breakfast & Workday
at
Feather Lake
Saturday, May 15, 1999
8:30am**

Supporting Local and State Parks

THE LONE STAR LEGACY FUND

Looking for a way to make tax-deductible contributions to your favorite Texas state parks? You can, through the Lone Star Legacy Fund.

The Legacy Fund is administered by the private, non-profit Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, which accepts tax-deductible contributions and applies them in support of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department programs. Established last year, the aim of the Legacy Fund is to create a permanent endowment for every state park, wildlife management area and fish hatchery in Texas.

Within the Legacy Fund, each state park has a separate account representing the endowments for that park. The endowments are permanent investment funds. Only the interest generated from the endowment can be spend, so contributions for a specific park continue to benefit that park year after year.

Say you want to support Franklin Mountains State Park. Or Hueco Tanks State Historical Park. Or Davis Mountains State Park. Just send a check, payable to "Lone Star Legacy Fund", to: Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Please indicate, with a cover note or a notation on your check, that it is for the "Legacy Fund of _____ State Park", filling in the blank with the name of the appropriate state park. Donations to the Legacy Fund are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

DONIPHAN MARSH

Contact: Carol Miller at 584-7088

Visit the KAPPA website at: www.keystone-site.org

KEYSTONE MARSH

KAPPA has helped to preserve four acres of the Keystone archaeological site. (Thanks Chris Cummins, owner of the site!) KAPPA is currently investigating the possibility of having approximately 7.5 acres of the actual wetlands being donated to some group by Chris Cummins (HORRAY!) and has been exploring this potential donation with your local Audubon chapter. You'll be kept abreast of these events as they transpire.

If you want to help with the efforts to preserve the Keystone Marsh and archeological site, contact Bernie Sargent at 581-7099 or Carol Miller at 584-7088. Also contact members of the city's planning commission and encourage them to preserve this important El Paso site.

The next KAPPA meeting will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday, April 27 at the West side Police Command Center at 4801 Osborne (at Sunset & Osborne).

Audubon Camps and Workshops

Each year hundreds of educators and chapter leaders from Audubon chapters, schools and garden clubs attend Audubon Camps and workshops. These individuals return to their communities with a renewed sense of dedication and enthusiasm for the Audubon Cause.

AUDUBON NATURE CAMPS

for families, adults, and kids

FOR A FREE CATALOG: 203-869-2017

e-mail: aew@audubon.org

SPECTACULAR SETTINGS:
MAINE, WYOMING,
CONNECTICUT, VERMONT,
WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA

- WILDLIFE VIEWING
- HIKING
- KAYAKING
- GEOLOGY
- NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY



Feather Facts

presented by
Eastwood Heights Elementary
Junior Audubon Club

Robins

by Oscar Lopez

Robins are Americas prettiest birds. They have two or three eggs a year and their song is the song of May. They build their nest of twigs; grasses and other materials. If no mud can be found she fills her bill with dust and then dips it in water; and she usually does most of the construction while the male stands guard and feeds her sometimes. Male robins fight loud and spectacular battles with each other during the courtship season. While robins are the traditional heralds of spring in the northern states, many of them spend the winter in New England.

**Visit the El Paso Zoo website at:
www.whc.net\epzoo**

Happening at the Zoo

Sunday, May 9th ZOO DAY: Come to the El Paso Zoo and have fun, fun, fun (while you learn of course)

These are just some of the activities that will be taking place throughout the day:

- **Meet our local Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Warden and learn about their role in protecting wildlife.**
- **Receive a large two-sided, informative & beautiful full color IMBD poster.**
- **Learn proper hummingbird feeder care and maintenance & the best way to care for these seasonal yard guests!**
- **If you want to hear an eagle's call or learn what robins eat, explore the world of birds via multimedia CD-ROMs.**
- **Find out what garden plants are good for for feathered friends and how to care for them!**
- **Make your own bird feeder that you can take home and use!**
- **Learn how to start a hummingbird flower garden and then receive seeds to create your own "little patch of paradise"!**

COME ON DOWN AND HAVE A GREAT TIME> Call the zoo at 544-1928 or 521-1850 for more information.

ZOO NEWS

The zoo is hosting another International Migratory Bird Day event on Sunday, May 9, 1999. This event will be great fun for all involved, and everyone will have the opportunity to learn something about birds and factors that affect them. People that like to teach and interact with kids and adults will definitely be needed. You can help to give out information, lead local birding trips on May 8/9, help kids make bird feeders and more! Come on out and help support the birds. If you like to have fun while helping others to have fun and learn, please contact John Kiseda at the zoo at 521-1850

THE EL PASO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S TRIP TO EAST AFRICA is "on and you still have time to reserve your spot!!! This is a great opportunity to add many birds to your lifelist! See fantastic birds such as flamingos and "up close and personal" views of many animals such as zebra, elephants, lions and more

OH MY!!!

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

**Destination: Kenya, East Africa
Date: June 9-June 22, 1999
Cost: (from NYC) \$3,665
Local Leader: John Kiseda El Paso Zoo Curator/EP-TP Audubon Conservation Chair
Wildlife: fantastic birds & mammals; flamingos, elephants, lions, etc.
Phone: 521-1850 John Kiseda /or Beverly at Fun Safaris at 1-800-323-8020 for more information**



Ruby-throated
Hummingbird

**Visit the CDWR website at:
www.whc.net/cdwr**

**Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc.:
Board Meetings; all are "open"
meetings and held at the El Paso
Environmental Center at 800 S. Piedras.**

Special Features

LOOKING BACK:

El Paso/ Trans-Pecos Audubon Year of Celebration

The El Paso Bird Study Club was five years old in December 1943. What was the group's focus in those early years? In a brief history in that month's *ROADRUNNER*, Mary Belle Keefer wrote, "Our most intensive efforts were put into the procurement as a bird refuge of some 500 acres near El Paso on the west side of the Rio Grande, extending from the settlement of Courchesne to the Country Club Road, which came into the possession of the Federal Government with the straightening of the river. At one time we were told that the land was to be set aside for this purpose, but after three years the final steps have not been taken and we do not know if they ever will be."

Within a year, that refuge - - Mesilla Valley National Wildlife Refuge - - was established. It was administered through San Andres National Wildlife north of Las Cruces. Randel's Pool was in the refuge near its north end. Creation of the refuge was a remarkably far-sighted step, with promise to inject a new level of ecological thinking into land and water management in the river valley.

Yet, after just five years, the refuge ceased to be. In the October-November 1949 issue of the *ROADRUNNER*, Ruby Allen wrote, "It is with great regret that we announce the abandonment of the Mesilla Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Federal and New Mexican authorities state that the



refuge is too small to be administered without loss, that the arrival and departure of waterfowl is beset with hazard, and that an option to buy certain privately-owned contiguous tracts cannot be secured." The promise the refuge offered is little remembered today, and we're all the poorer for it.

The El Paso Herpetological Society

Contacts for the El Paso Herpetology Society are Mike Ross at 585-6947 and Stella Jimarez at 751-3772. Meetings occur at the El Paso Zoo at 7:00pm on the first Thursday of each month. Typically there is a guest lecturer at each meeting.

In February, El Paso Zoo veterinarian, Don Gillespie, gave a great presentation on his work with Komodo Dragons, including some notable "catch 'em" videotape. The April meeting will have Mat McMillian & Alvaro Dominguez speaking on Black Tailed and Rock Rattlesnakes. May's meeting will be a Red-eared Slider presentation by Omar Barnes. In June there will be a picnic; call Stella or Brian for the details.

ON THE TRAIL

Friends of Hueco Tanks

April 10 7:45 PM, Slide Show Tour.

"Birds of Hueco Tanks"

April 11 7:15 AM Bird Identification Tour.

May 16 7:15 AM Bird Identification Tour.

Rock Art Tours; Thur. - Sun. 9AM & 11 AM.

Call for Tour reservations (857-1135). Park entry fee is \$4.00 per person, 12 years and under - free.

KEYSTONE MARSH

This is a trip to acquaint you with the **Wetland Marsh** and 5000 year old **Archaeological** site where many of us do a lot of birding. *Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, and Buffleheads* will still be present.

Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers and Common Snipe could still be digging in the mud. The thousands of *Blackbirds (Yellowhead, Brewers, and Redwinged)* coming in to roost is a sight you will not want to miss. Meet **Betty Fisbeck (581-0174)** at the **Crossroads Ponding Area on Sun. April 18, TIME- -4:34 PM.**

BIRDATHON

Saturday and Sunday May 1st and 2d.

See special insert for details.

MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT

(See page 2 for information)

Saturday May 8th Birding Tours. (Call John Kiseda 833-6212 or Bob Johnson 757-1876 for details)

Sunday May 9th - Activities at the El Paso Zoo.

CAVE CREEK

Sat. - Mon. May 29/31. Cave Creek is located in the **Coronado National Forest**, next to **Portal Az.** **Portal** is 7 miles west of **Rodeo NM** on route **US 80** reached from **Exit 5 (Road Forks)** on **I-10**. This is one of the best places in the **United States** to see the *Elegant Trogon, Sulpher-bellied Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, Gray-breasted Jay, Gila Strickland's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Cassin's Kingbird, Bridled Titmouse and Blue-throated Hummingbird.* On Sunday a trip up high to **Rustler Park** could find *Mexican and Mountain Chickadee, Yellow-eyed Junco, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Red-faced Warbler* and maybe *Olive Warbler*. We will be having our famous campground picnic on **Sat. evening** (no singing required). **Great camping** among the **Arizona Sycamores**, which line Cave Creek as it flows through **Idlewild Campground**. For those of you who like more comforts the following places are within a few miles of the Campground. Call Bob "Wildbird" Johnson (757-1876) for map and details.

Cave Creek Ranch (520) 558-2334

Geo. Walker House (520) 558-2287

Kraft Cottage (520) 558-2443

Portal lodge (520) 558-2223

Southwestern Research Station(520) 558-2396

Cathedral Rock Lodge (520) 558-

Ranger Station (520) 364-3468

The zip code for Portal AZ. is 85632

LOOKING AHEAD

See *Lewis' Woodpecker and American Dipper*. On July 10th and 11th we will have a weekend in the Gila National Forest. Details in the June Roadrunner.

Also planning a trip to the *Hawk Watch* in the Monzano Mountains for October 2d and 3d.

OBSERVATIONS

January 16, 1999 to March 15, 1999

Uncommon, Rare, and Very Rare sightings

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

Observers: Mary Lou Alcorn; Richard Hermosillo; Bob Johnson; Larry Jordan; John Kiseda; Kathy Kiseda; John Sprout; Barry Zimmer. Mob-Many observers; Var.- Various. -ft, on a field trip; -yd, in their yard.

Hancock: FLk-Feather Lake; Ftr-Frontera; GbV-Gibson Veck; Gsw-Gschwind; HTk-HuecoTank; KMa-Keystone Marsh; LGr-Las Cruces; McN-McNary; PtD-Painted Dunes; RBq-Rio Bosque Park; SRS-Stan Roberts Sr; TgE-Tiger Eye; WPM-Wilderness Park Museum; XRd-Crossroads.

Grebes thru Mergansers

Western/Clark's Grebe	Var.	Var.	
McN/FHc			
<u>White Pelican</u>	<u>2/6</u>	BJ	McN
	<u>2/21</u>	LJ	McN
Great Egret	Var.	Mob.	FLk
White-faced Ibis	Var.	Mob.	FLk
Snow Goose (100+)	<u>2/6</u>	BJ-ft	Esp
Wood Duck	1/16	JS	FLk
Cinnamon Teal	<u>2/28</u>	MLA-ft	KMa
Common Merganser	<u>2/28</u>	JK	GbV

Eagles and Falcons

Golden Eagle	Var.	RH	SRS
Merlin	Var.	BJ	Gsw
Prairie Falcon	<u>2/23</u>	BJ	Gsw

Rails thru Owls

Sora	<u>2/27</u>	JK	KMa
	<u>2/27</u>	LJ	Xrd
Black-necked Stilt	<u>2/21</u>	LJ	FHc
	<u>2/28</u>	BJ-ft	Ftr
	Var.	Mob.	FLk
American Avocet	Var.	Mob.	FLk
<u>Bonaparte's Gull</u>	<u>2/21</u>	LJ	McN
Long-eared Owl	<u>1/22</u>	BZ-yd	TgE

Hummingbirds to Junco's

<u>Broad-billed Hummer</u>	Var.	RH	LGr
Anna's Hummingbird	2/3	KK-yd	Cor
No. Rough-wing Swail	<u>2/28</u>	MLA-ft	Ftr
Western Bluebird	2/21	BJ-ft	HTk
Mountain Bluebird	<u>2/6</u>	BJ-ft	Esp
<u>Bell's Vireo</u>	<u>2/28</u>	JK	Ftr
Sage Sparrow	2/13	LJ	WPM
Dark-eye Junco (<u>Slate Color</u>)	<u>2/27</u>	LJ	HTk

Vultures to Hawks

Turkey Vulture	<u>3/11</u>	JS	RBq
Osprey	<u>2/21</u>	LJ	McN
Harris' Hawk	Var.	BJ	PtD
	Var.	JS	RBq
	Var.	RH	FBP
Swainson's Hawk	<u>2/18</u>	KK	Bst
<u>Red-tail (Harlan's) Hawk</u>	<u>1/19</u>	JS	RBq



OSPREY

WITH THE ADVENT OF SPRING & THE ACCOMPANYING CHANGES TO "OUR WORLD" (SOME BIRDS HAVE BEGUN TO NEST, OTHERS ARE MIGRATING THROUGH AND WE ARE GOING OUT MORE OFTEN TO SEE & ENJOY IT ALL), I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO POST THIS REMINDER TO ALL OF US THAT HAVE A PASSION FOR BIRDS & NATURE, TO BE THOUGHTFUL AS WE ENJOY THEIR BEAUTY & BOUNTY!

Enjoy! John K.

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

We, the Membership of the American Birding Association, believe that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. We therefore pledge ourselves to provide leadership in meeting this obligation by adhering to the following general guidelines of good birding behavior.

I. Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.

- * *Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.*
- * *Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.*
- * *Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not use these methods in heavily birded areas.*
- * *Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.*
- * *Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.*

II. Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment.

- * *Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.*
- * *Leave all habitat as we found it.*

III. Birders must always respect the rights of others.

- * *Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.*
- * *Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.*
- * *Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.*
- * *Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.*

IV. Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.

- * *Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.*
- * *Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.*
- * *Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.*
- * *As group leaders, we will:*
 - * *Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.*
 - * *Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.*
 - * *Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquillity of others.*
 - * *Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.*

WEB SITE UPDATED

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

Check it out at:

<http://www.whc.net/cdwr/tpashome.htm>

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

Dates to Remember

April

Board Meeting April 12 7:00pm
** General Meeting April 19th

Keystone Marsh

Sunday, April 18 at 4:34pm
Crossroads



Northern (Baltimore) Oriole

May

Board Meeting May 10 7:00pm
** General Meeting May 17th

Birdathon

Sat & Sun, May 1 & 2 (all day)
see insert for more information

Migratory Bird Count

Saturday, May 8

Cave Creek Chiracahua Mts. Arizona
Memorial Day Weekend - May 29, 30, 31
call Bob Johnson for details

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Rock Art Tours

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

Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks

Bird Identification Tours

SUNDAYS: APRIL 11 & MAY 16 at 7:15am

Slide Show Presentation:

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 at 7:45pm

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

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

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001

Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

W10

Local Chapter Code

7XCHA

The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to echase@socorro.k12.tx.us or mail to 10744 Sunstone St. El Paso, Texas 79924. Publication is assisted by Eastwood Heights Elementary Junior Audubon Society Club students. Printed by Superior Copy on recycled paper.

EL PASO TRANS/PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 9655
El Paso, Texas 79995

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, Texas
Permit #2440

Its here....Audubon's Birdathon 1999

Birdathon counters are already "in training", preparing for Birdathon 1999! What is Birdathon? It's not your average bird count or fund-raiser, that's for sure! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation & education programs.

Birdathon '99 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 John Kiseda at 833-6212 for details).

Birdathon '99 will benefit the following programs and projects:

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

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PROJECT. UTEP has moved forward with this project and an ~ 300 acre seasonal wetlands now exists in this previously neglected city "park". We need to demonstrate our continued support for this exciting and unique El Paso venture by providing UTEP with "local" funds to establish education and public information programs about this project

TEXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY. Our support helps to ensure that this NAS office based in Texas can 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 wildly scurrying about hither and yon, trying to find as many bird species as possible in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy (some might say foolhardy) & 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 afield, 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.

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

As usual, all Birdathon sponsors are automatically entered in our ever-popular drawings for a number of wonderful prizes such as binoculars, books and the like. Counters will also be eligible for some cool prizes.

So, whom can you sponsor? Last year's roster of outstanding counters were 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, give them a call if you are not yet sure if they will be a counter this year. If you don't want to pick your own counter to sponsor, call Jane Fowler and she will help you to do that!

We anticipate that most of these hardworking people will surely be back at it "fighting the good fight" this year and ready to do their all for the Birdathon 1999; **HOW ABOUT YOU? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?**

Birdathon Stalwarts: The Counters

Mary Lou Alcorn
 Berttye Barnhart
 Matt Bingham
 Paul Bingham
 Mary Bradley
 Craig Braginton

Elizabeth Chase
 Kathy Gonzalez
 Tara Ditlevson
 Betty & Weldon Fisbeck
 Jane Fowler
 Richard Hermosilla

Sallie Homan
 Bob Johnson
 Larry Jordan
 John Kiseda
 Peggy & George Laswell
 Mark Riede

Susie Schneider
 John Sproul
 Nancy Wilson
 James Zabriskie

Please pick one or more and give them your support!

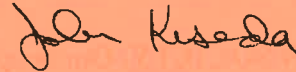
and Special Student Counters from
 Eastwood Heights Elementary School

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 Garden Center, **3105 Grant**, in Memorial Park in El Paso. 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 '99" 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,



John Kiseda
 Birdathon Coordinator



American Kestrel

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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

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

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

My tax deductible gift of \$ _____
 sponsoring _____
 is enclosed, payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos
 Audubon Society.

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.

BIRDATHON '99

From _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please clip & return this form by April 29th to:
 Birdathon '99
 c/o Jane Fowler
 3212 Kilkeny El Paso, TX 79925



House Wren

Thank you for your Generous Birdathon pledge!