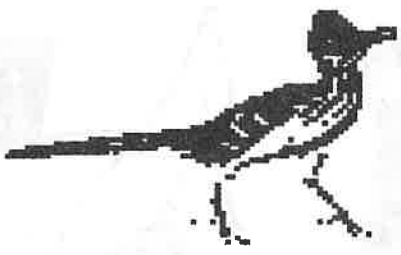


The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society
Volume 28 No.5 October, November 1998



General Meetings

Monday, November 16, 1998
Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

This program will be an interesting treat for all who attend. Please join us for a great time and come get involved in your local chapter. We always have refreshments and great birding updates.

Birdathon 1998 News

by, John Kiseda

Be extremely proud of the accomplishments of our chapter's 1998 Birdathon efforts! Through Herculean efforts of Birdathon helpers, counters and sponsors, we achieved the following.....

- Our chapter raised the seventh highest dollar amount in the country, approximately \$5000.00.
- Our chapter raised the second highest dollar amount in the country for a chapter of our approximate size.
- Our chapter was judged to have the sixth best "ask" letter for sponsor support, in the country.

Once again, congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all that helped!



More Birdathon Trivia

Nationwide, a total of \$1,012,000 was raised by birdathon 1998. Local chapters raised \$358,000.

National Audubon Society "leadership" raised \$360,000.

National Audubon Society staff raised \$248,000.

Corporate raised \$16,000.

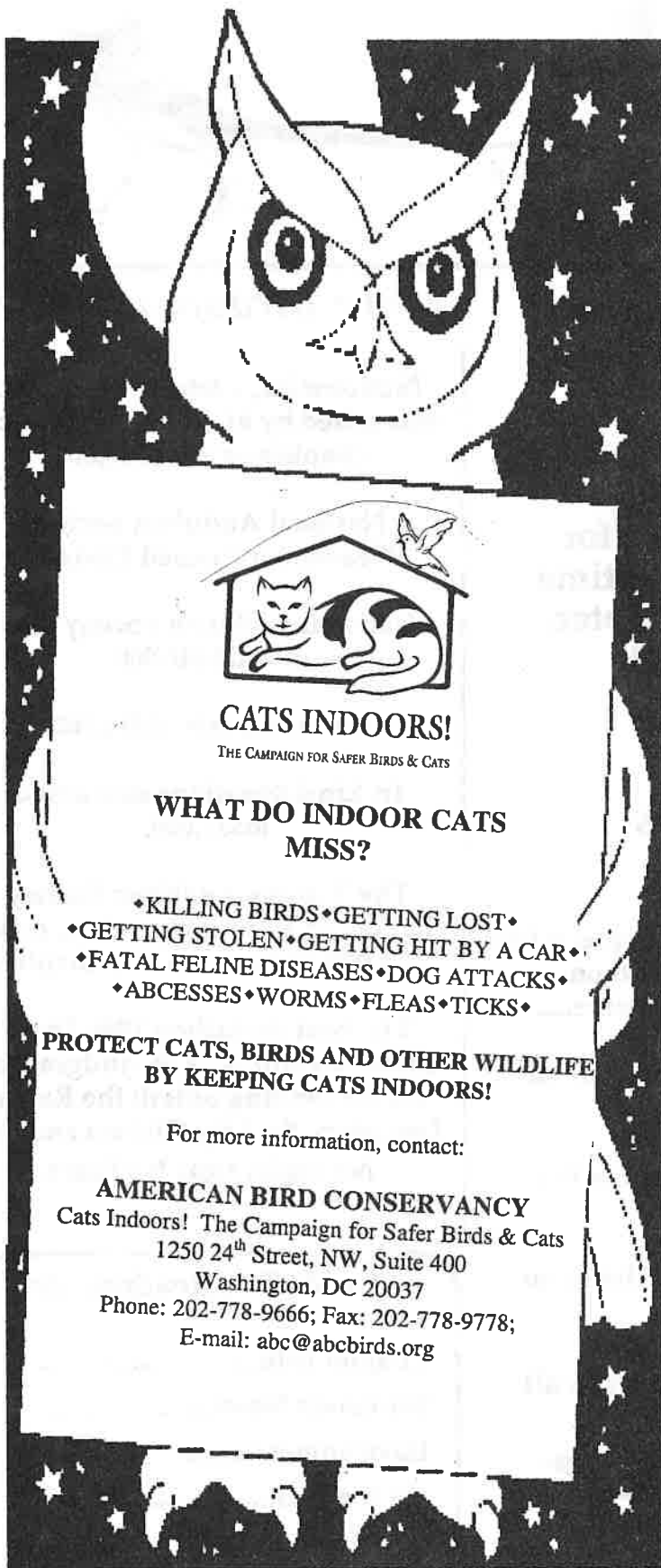
In-kind donations amounted to \$30,000.

The Tacoma Audubon Society chapter, in Washington state, raised \$14,000, the most of any chapter.

The best Birdathon 1998 Team names, according to the judges were (in descending order): the Raven Loonatics, the City Flickers and See No Eagle, Hear No Eagle.

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CATS INDOORS!
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E-mail: abc@abcbirds.org

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society Board of Directors:

President	Elizabeth Chase	591-5119
V-President	Weldon Fisbeck	581-0174
Secretary	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
Treasurer	Hugh Jameson	751-7952

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Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	volunteer needed	
Membership	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Programs	Nancy Wilson	833-3907
Publications	Kathy Ditlevson	544-7339
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 Elizabeth W. Chase:

W: 857-4323

fax: 857-4324

email: echase @ socorro.k12.tx.us



The El Paso Herpetological Society

The El Paso Herpetological has once again been resurrected. Contacts for the 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.

It's Getting Wild Again at Feather Lake

By, John Sproul

Our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, located at 9500 N. Loop in El Paso's lower valley, is again open and awaiting your visit! Hours are every Saturday, 8:00am to noon, and every Sunday, 2:00pm until dusk.

Admission is free. Want to help staff the sanctuary during visitor hours on one or more days this fall or winter? Please contact Charles Simpson (598-2274) to volunteer.

Don't forget the special events in October at Feather Lake. On Saturday, October 10, bring your appetite and enjoy our annual pot-luck dinner at Feather Lake. We'll start serving at 5:30pm, but come early at 4:30 pm for a tour and inside look at habitat-restoration work at our sanctuary.

The tour will be a preview of public tours we'll be giving on Saturday, October 17 as part of Día del Río in the El Paso-Juárez area. This celebration of the Rio Grande will feature river clean-ups (to register, call Keep El Paso Beautiful, 546-6742) and a tree planting (info: Oscar Mestas, Texas Forest Service, 533-1884) in the morning and Feather Lake tours throughout the afternoon. Plan to take part!

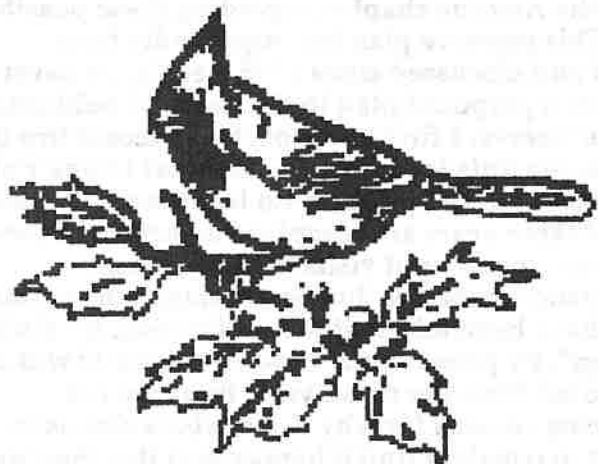
Finally, we're going to let you in on a little secret: In November, when the cottonwoods turn golden, Feather Lake is one of the prettiest places in El Paso. Come and see for yourself at our next Feather Lake Appreciation Day, on Saturday, November 21, beginning at 2:00pm. We'll work a few hours, then enjoy the lake and its birds at the end of the day. See you there!

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

For Feather Lake:

George Barnett
Larry Jordan
Baker Glass
Weldon Fisbeck
Hugh Jameson
Charles Simpson
Anonymous



*Next Feather Lake Appreciation Day:
Join us Saturday, November 21 to help
with habitat management
at Feather Lake.
We'll start work at 2:00pm.*

The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve: renovations and closure

The Nature Conservancy has decided to permanently remove the rental cabins from their property and renovate the habitat at the lower end of the property, especially the streamside areas. The store will be expanded and the Nature Conservancy has a lease agreement with B&B for guest use of the reserve. The various rationales for this decision include increased rental unit maintenance costs, concerns about deteriorating septic systems, Cochise County site use regulations/ordinances, increased fire risk to guests, etc. The preserve will be closed to some visitations from Fall of 98 through Spring of 1999. I personally have some concerns regarding this decision because....

There was a total lack of information provided to the Nature Conservancy membership that were not part of the Arizona chapter, regarding these possible plans. This preserve plan has supposedly been studied and discussed since 1995, yet I have never read of this proposed plan in the national publication or at the reserve. I first heard of it on a recent trip to the preserve (this is despite the fact that I have visited and or stayed at the preserve no less than five times in the past three years and despite the fact that I have also made a number of visits to other Nature Conservancy preserves during the same time period).

I have been told that the cabins used by visiting "bigwigs", by preserve staff and by scientists will not be removed from the preserve. If there are not convincing reasons for why these cabins should be allowed to remain, I find it hypocritical that they will continue to be used by "special" people. Are these cabins in such good physical condition that none of the concerns regarding rental cabins are valid for them? Why can't or why shouldn't these "special" people find lodging off site if visitors are forced to do so? This type of action if unjustified, can certainly be construed as "elitist" and as such, lends itself as proof of past criticism of environmentalists trying to preserve/conserves/protect the environment "for our use only" and not for the loftier goals to which we say we subscribe.

If you want to get more information regarding this significant change at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve, or want to provide comments to the relevant Nature Conservancy staff, contact:

Paul Hardy
Upper San Pedro Program Manager
27 Ramsey Canyon Rd.
Hereford, Arizona 85615
Phone # 520-378-2640
Fax # 520-378-2785



Feather Facts

presented by
Eastwood Heights Elementary
Junior Audubon Club

Peregrine Falcons

The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird that flies. Its wingspan is 2.5 to 3.5 ft. long. The Peregrine's whole body length is 15 to 24 inches. The Peregrine Falcon adults are slate blue to dark gray down its back. The falcon's head is black, the beak is yellow, and the feet are dark yellow.

The falcon's habitats are in open countries, cities, and cliffs. Peregrine's don't build nests, they lay their eggs on the face of a cliff.

Peregrines prey on other birds. Their favorite kinds of birds are Morning Doves, White-winged Doves, pigeons and ducks.

Peregrine Falcons are on the Endangered Species List. The falcons do not live in the El Paso area and it is not likely that you will see them here. They live in wetland areas near cliffs.

ON THE TRAIL

SPECIAL WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Saturday and Sunday - - October 24th and 25th.

Celebration of the Mountains.

See information elsewhere in this issue.

4th Annual Interpretive Fair.

Hueco Tanks State Historical Park. Buffalo Soldiers encampment on Saturday and Sunday. Many more activities, especially on Sunday, including Native American dancers and drummers, booths, displays and great **TOURS**. Information (915) 857-1135.

LOWER VALLEY RESEVOIRS

Sunday November 8th. All the way to McNary, some of you know how good this place is, for those that don't come meet us at **Feather Lake at 7:23 AM**. All kinds of waterbirds including many duck species and quite often this is the place to see rarities (just check past observation pages). On the way back along Texas 20 we will stop at the Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs. Bring lunch as we will not get back to Feather Lake until about 2.

THE SOD FARM

The Sod Farm is located near Santa Teresa Airport, it usually is a good place to see quite a few species. On the way there we will stop at a number of Upper Valley birding hot spots. Meet at the **Crossroads (Mesa/Country Club and Doniphan)** ponding area on **Saturday November 21 at 7:22 AM**.

FRIENDS OF HUECO TANKS

The slide show and **Bird Identification Tour** for Oct. has been cancelled. They were to be Oct. 17 & 18. We will have a **Bird ID Tour** on Sun, Nov. 15th.

SPECIAL NOTICE

CHAPTER BY-LAWS

A committee has been appointed to review the By-Laws. They would like input from the members, to get a copy to read please call one of the appointees.

Mary lou Alcorn 584-8768

Estela Rodarte 532-8514

George Barnett 581-1829

Joe Cancellare 833-8874

Bob Johnson (Ch) 757-1876

They would like your comments by Friday 6 Nov.

Please show interest in your chapter and participate in this project.

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th we will have tours all day at Feather Lake in honor of the Chapters 60th anniversary. this will be followed on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 6th** with 2 special field trips.

Fort Bliss Ponds - Meet at the former Walmart 9825 Dyer Street, 7:31 AM.

OR

Doniphan Marsh - Meet at the Crossroads, location detailed above, **7:31 AM.**

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The annual CBC's will be coming up next. Plan now to help us out.

Sat. Dec. 19th - Hueco Tanks.

Sat. Jan. 2d - El Paso.

Details in the December Roadrunner.

OBSERVATIONS

AUGUST 16, 1998 to SEPTEMBER 15, 1998

Uncommon, Rare, and *Casual* 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 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; Bob Johnson; Jim Paton; Flora Pitard; Susie Schnieder; John White; Barry Zimmer. Var - Various dates; Mob - Many observers; -yd - at yard feeder.

Locations: APk/Arroyo Park; Emy/Emory; FLk/Feather Lake; FBP/Fort Bliss Ponds; FHk/Fort Hancock; HTk/Hueco Tanks; Hor/Horizon City; STA/Santa Teresa Area; TgE/Tiger Eye.

Five very rare sightings occurred during the last reporting period and were omitted from this column in the Roadrunner.

<u>Yellow-crowned N. Heron</u>	<u>8/11</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>
<u>Magnificent Hummer</u>	<u>7/30</u>	<u>MLA-yd</u>	<u>Emy</u>
<u>Allen's Hummer</u>	<u>8/10</u>	<u>BZ-yd</u>	<u>TgE</u>
<u>Clark's Nutcracker</u>	<u>6/28</u>	<u>FP-yd</u>	<u>Hor</u>
<u>Varied Bunting</u>	<u>8/10</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>

PELICAN to SNIPE

White Pelican	Var	Mob	FLk
Peregrin Falcon	Var	BZ	FBP
<u>Snowy Plover</u>	<u>8/22</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>EKk</u>
Pectoral Sandpiper	9/11	BZ	FBP
Common Snipe	8/20	BZ	FBP

GULLS thru FLYCATCHERS

<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	<u>9/11</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>
<u>Ruby-throated Humm</u>	<u>9/4</u>	<u>JW</u>	<u>STA</u>
Red-naped Sapsucker	9/11	BZ	FBP
Willow Flycatcher	8/25	BZ	FBP
<u>Least Flycatcher</u>	<u>9/4</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>
Gray Flycatcher	9/7	SS	APk

THRASHERS to REDSTART

Sage Thrasher	9/9	BZ	FBP
Brown Thrasher	9/9	BZ	FBP
<u>Blue-headed Vireo</u>	<u>9/11</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>
Cassin's Vireo	9/11	BZ	FBP
<u>Philadelphia Vireo</u>	<u>9/4</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>
American Redstart	9/8	JW	STA

WARBLERS

On September 11, at FBP, Barry Zimmer had 14 species of Warblers; Orange-crowned, Nashville, Virginia's, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Grace's, Black & White, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's.

BUNTINGS to ORIOLE

Lazuli Bunting	8/16	BJ	HTk
Painted Bunting	9/4	BZ	FBP
Dickcissel	8/16	BJ	HTk
Spotted Towhee	8/23	SS	APk
Hooded Oriole	8/25	BZ	FBP

Report from the State

Texas Audubon has been in existence now for over one year. One of the first things we had done was to draft by-laws that would provide us some guidelines for taking us where we are now. It's time to look at those by-laws that will lead us into the next developmental stage. We have asked John Whittle to Chair the by-laws committee and has agreed to do so. He is going to put together a full committee and begin work immediately.

The Texas Audubon Society Board is also due to change over the Board in October 1998. At that time all chapter designated representatives will need to come onto the Board. They will also be expected to attend most TxAS Board meetings.

Development of Committees

The Texas Audubon Society Board of Directors recently voted to reorganize the Committee structure. Texas Audubon will have three standing committees:

1. Natural Resources
2. Human Resources
3. Financial Resources

Each Committee will have two co-chairs and has the option of breaking into sub-committee to complete other projects. These committees will assume responsibility for implementation of the strategies adopted in the Strategic Plan.

Some of the initial issues that the three committees will address are:

1. Natural Resources - (co-chairs Jim Stewart and Selma Glasscock) the Important Bird Area Program, sanctuaries, science and related projects
2. Human Resources (Co-chairs, Dick Pipes and Orlan Ihms) education in general, Junior Audubon Outreach,

Policy, Bi-National Education Initiative
3. Financial resources (co-chairs Bob Warneke and Susan Highest developing partnerships of support, contacts for TxAs, Development and Fund raising Projects and chapter developments etc.

We have begun to develop that committee structure. Committee assignments will also be based on the committee need and every board member are encourage to participate in at least one committee. Being a part of the committee is one major way to be involved in the many programs and activities that Texas Audubon is involved in.

CELEBRATE OUR EARTH

Make note of how birds are faring in your community, because what's good for birds is good for people, too!

Learn about a migratory bird that uses your neighborhood as seasonal habitat. Learn how humans are affecting that bird's habitat in both its spring and fall home country.

Plant native species in your yard. It's better for the environment and the local birds.

Fix leaking faucets and turn off water in between uses - clean water is a valuable resource.

REMEMBER: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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/cdwt/pashome.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

October

Día del Río

Sat, October 17, 1:00-5:00pm
Feather Lake Tours

Celebration of the Mountains

Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair
Sat. & Sun. Oct. 24 & 25

November

McNary Reservoir

Sun., Nov 8
meet at Feather Lake

SOD Farm

Sat., Nov. 21
meet at Crossroads

Dec.

Ft. Bliss Ponds

Sun., Dec. 6
meet 9625 Dyer

Upper Valley

Sun., Dec. 6
meet X-roads

1998-1999 Christmas Bird Count

Sat, Dec. 19 - Hueco Tanks

Sat, Jan. 2 - El Paso

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Rock Art Tours

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

Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks

Bird Identification Tours

&

Slide Show Presentations

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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.

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EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

W10

Local Chapter Code

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The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to echase@socorro.k12.tx.us or mail to 1011 Moore St. El Paso, Texas 79902. Publication is assisted by Eastwood Heights Elementary Junior Audubon Society Club students.
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