

The



# ROADRUNNER

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 24 (3)

June - August, 1994

*It's  
Summer-  
time, and  
the Livin'  
is...*

It's summer in the El Paso/Trans Pecos area, and it has started with a vengeance. Already several record temperatures have been set and the rainy season seems to have started early. As this is written, it is not only hot, but humid. We're not used to that sort of thing. Birds handle the hot weather by breathing with their beaks open to gain efficiency from a greater exchange of air. Your editor handles this by perspiring rather heavily to gain efficiency from, uh...

If it is possible, set up a bird bath or other convenient container for the birds to bathe or drink. Sometimes it's not easy making a living in the desert. Be sure to change the water frequently so as to avoid providing a breeding area for mosquitoes.

As usual, there will be no general meetings during the summer months, but there will be a number of other activities to keep you busy. Nancy Wilson, our Field Trips Chairperson, has set up a number of excellent field trips during the summer into early September. Check out page 3 for more information on the trips. If you would like to lead a trip this summer, give Nancy a call. It isn't necessary to be a master birder to lead a field trip. Just be available to take calls before the trip, and greet your fellow birders at the designated meeting place.

Feather Lake is closed till next season, but you can still enjoy the lake by helping out at one of the work days scheduled during the summer. The dates are listed in the Calendar on the back page.

If you're looking forward to air conditioning (this is attractive to your editor), your computer can give you some summer activity. Audubon and CompuServe, a nationwide electronic mail and bulletin board system, have partnered together to provide Audubon members with the ability to communicate, via computer, with staff, chapter leaders and fellow Audubon activists. Fact sheets, press releases, policy papers, and more are all available on the Audubon Network. America On Line, another nationwide computer system, also has a bulletin board dedicated to bird watchers.

However you choose to spend your summer, we'll look forward to seeing you at our next general meeting in September. Happy summer!

# Audubon Activist

## ***The Audubon Cause***

*(Continued from the April-May Newsletter)*

*Together with the Mission Statement, the Audubon Cause expresses our major concerns and targets for Audubon advocacy. It bonds the entire organization together with a sense of common purpose and commitment.*

### **Seek Solutions for Global Problems Involving the Interaction of Population, Resources, and the Environment**

- Increase awareness of the potential effects of stratospheric ozone depletion and global warming on the world's biotic resources and develop appropriate strategies to deal with these challenges.
- Increase awareness of the long-term, worldwide biological consequences of nuclear war.

### **Promote Rational Strategies for Energy Development and Use, Stressing Conservation and Renewable Energy Sources**

- Push for private and public energy policies and practices that recognize the conservation of energy as essential to economic vitality, environmental quality, and national security.
- Recognize the regional and local aspects of energy problems and encourage at all government levels those solutions that are responsive and appropriate to the long-term needs of communities.
- Call on Audubon members, and commit our organization, to demonstrate by example sound energy-use principles and practices.
- Promote the appropriate decentralization of our nation's energy production systems, including the decentralized use of renewable energy sources.
- Aggressively seek government and private funding for — and the rapid development of — the various renewable and life-supporting sources of energy.
- Make the nuclear fission period as brief and limited as possible. And, during that period,

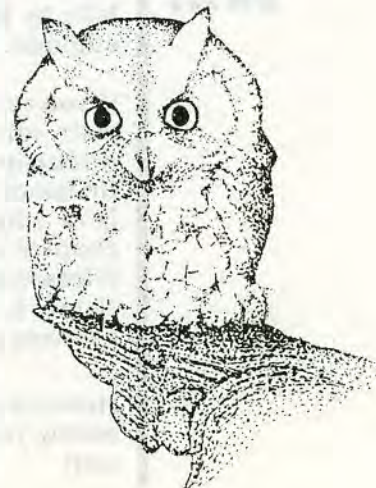
strive for improved safety, emergency planning, and nuclear waste disposal in all parts of the fission cycle.

- Support measures to protect air and water quality and ecological integrity, and to eliminate waste in development, transportation, and use of fossil fuels.
- Insist on diligent concern for the environmental effects of technologies used in the generation, transmission, and consumption of electric power.
- Support transportation policies that emphasize energy efficiency in the movement of goods and people.
- Monitor and support the implementation of state and federal laws to effect sound environmental controls over mining of fuels and reclamation of mined lands based on specific uniform federal standards.
- Monitor the construction and relicensing of hydroelectric dams to protect instream water flows.
- Promote the development of a national and global energy strategy that deals with the Greenhouse Effect.

The *Audubon Cause* was approved by the NAS Board in June, 1993. The rest of the *Audubon Cause* appeared in February-March and April-May editions of *The Roadrunner*.

For more information please contact:

**National Audubon Society**  
**700 Broadway**  
**New York, NY 10003**



JUN 94

# On The Trail

## Central El Paso Parks

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Garden Center in Memorial Park on Saturday, June 18 for a tour starting in Memorial Park and continuing on to Arroyo Park and possibly Tom Lea and Mission Hills Parks. We may see early migrants and perhaps some late nesting birds. These parks have a reputation for turning up some unusual finds at any time of year. Join us for a for a pleasant stroll on a Saturday morning with like-minded individuals.

## Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey

Meet at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 North Loop in El Paso's lower valley, at 6:30 AM on Saturday, June 25. Western populations of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo are highly dependent on riparian forests, and the species has declined drastically over much of the West due to loss of this scarce habitat. How is the cuckoo faring locally? On this trip, you'll take part in ongoing efforts to monitor the status of the cuckoo population in the river valley near El Paso. Sure, the starting time is early, but the survey work has to be done early. Though the trip will focus on cuckoos, we won't ignore the rest of river-valley avifauna. Yellow-breasted Chats, Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks and Painted Buntings are among the other nesting species in the area we'll be visiting. Bring lunch and liquids. John Sproul (545-5157) will be the trip leader.

## Silver City

It's time to cool off in the mountains. Join us for the holiday weekend (July 2, 3 and 4) at Sally Homan's Cabin in Willow Creek, north of Silver City. Three days of birding, or maybe just enjoying the company. Space is limited, so it is imperative that you contact Nancy Wilson (833-3907) as soon as possible if you would like to join us in the mountains.

## Aquirre Springs

This beautiful State Park on Highway 70 east

of Las Cruces is an oasis tucked into the Organ Mountains. This trip will last 6 - 8 hours and will include a hike of about two miles (medium steep trail). Bring lunch and refreshments. We can expect to see Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers as well as Golden Eagles. Meet at I-10 and Transmountain Road at 7:30 AM on Saturday, July 23.

## Hueco Tanks State Park/Picnic

This most scenic State Park often holds some pleasant surprises. We may see thrashers, owls and other exciting finds. Meet at the "flying saucer" building at Hueco Tanks Rd. and US 180/62 at 7:30 AM on Saturday, August 6. This is a trip that shouldn't be missed.

## Gila Cliff Dwellings/Lake Roberts

This will be an overnight trip on the weekend of August 20 - 21. We'll visit the Gila Cliff Dwellings and take a short hike into the Gila Wilderness. We'll also visit Lake Roberts for a completely different set of birds. We can expect to see Tree Swallows, hawks and numerous mountain birds. Migration may turn up some surprises. Camp sites are available and, for those of us who prefer indoor plumbing, lodging is available in Silver City. Meet at 7:30 AM at I-10 and Transmountain Road on Saturday, August 20 to begin the trip to the mountains.

## Upper Valley

Meet at the Crossroads Pond (Doniphan at Country Club Rd.) at 7:30 AM on Saturday, September 3 for a refreshing tour of El Paso's Upper Valley. We can expect to see many swimming birds at the Crossroads Pond and then we may see towhees, Wood Ducks, Rufous Hummingbirds and other migrants as we make our way through the Upper Valley. This is always a good trip, so plan to be there.

For more information on all of these trips please contact Nancy Wilson, the Field Trips Chairperson, at 833-3907.

# News



The EP/TPAS Wildlife Sanctuary is located at 9500 N. Loop, El Paso.

With Feather Lake now closed for the season, hearty thanks are due the folks who staffed our sanctuary during visitor hours this past year: George Barnett, Mary Bradley, Craig Braginton, Jeannette Cole, Jean Coyle, Dayle Edwards, Jane Fowler, Frances Gutierrez, Hugh Jameson, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Gil Kellner, Jo Nagel, Betty Pagel, Peggy Riede, Bettie Roberts, Roxanne Schroeder, Charles and Helen Simpson, John Sproul, Dennis Taylor, and Mary Ann Vernon. All contributed in an important way to the success of our sanctuary as an educational resource.

Though Feather Lake is closed in summer, opportunities to visit don't disappear entirely. We've scheduled three summer workdays for your enjoyment: June 18, July 16, August 13. Gates open at 8:00 AM, but come whenever you can.

## Earth Day on the Border

The Audubon exhibit at Earth Day on the Border was superb and brought our organization plenty of favorable attention and compliments. Thanks go to Jane Fowler and Roxanne Schroeder for preparing the exhibit and to Craig Braginton, Jane Fowler, John Kiseda, Charles and Helen Simpson, and John Sproul for staffing it during the April 17 event at the Chamizal National Memorial.

☞ John Sproul ☞

## Audubon Ecology Scholarship Recipient

Irma Hernandez, Fourth Grade teacher at Coldwell School in the EPISD, will attend the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Greenwich, Connecticut on July 3 - 9.

Irma plans to use this workshop to improve her professional skills with practical teaching techniques to use in her class. As Irma has written, "I feel that a positive attitude toward science helps children recognize that it is interesting, enjoyable, relevant, and it means supporting children's curiosity about the world around them. I believe that science is worth the learning time and effort."

This workshop will provide total immersion in the major natural habitats and ecosystems of New England.

☞ Frances Guttierrez ☞

## Officers of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

<b>President</b>	Peggy Riede 589-1734
<b>President-Elect</b>	Craig Braginton 877-4138
<b>Vice President</b>	Dayle Edwards 592-0868
<b>Treasurer</b>	Larry Jordan 833-5969
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Lou Alcorn 584-8768
<b>Directors:</b>	Frances Gutierrez 584-2920 John Kiseda 833-6212 Charles Simpson

# Observations

March 16, 1994 - - May 12, 1994  
 Uncommon, RARE, and CASUAL sightings

(Observers: Craig Braginton, Helen Bigalow, Tom Baker, Doug Emkalns, Richard Hermosillo, Sallie Homan, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, John Kiseda, Karen Kaplan, Bruce Neville, Al Olivas, Iola Pennington, Ray Potter, Patricia Russell, John Sproul, John White, Barry Zimmer)

CnA-Canutillo area; CCA-Country Club area; DMA-Doniphan Marsh; Dur-Durlings; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; FHC-Fort Hancock; FkM-Franklins Mts; FLk-Feather Lake; HTk-Hueco Tanks; IHS-Indian Hot Springs; McN-McNary; MPk-Memorial Park; NEE-North east El Paso; RBq-Rio Bosque; Sun-Sunland Park; StA-Santa Teresa area; Tor-Tornillo.

## GREES TO GODWITS

<u>CLARK'S GREBE</u>	5/12	(JS)	Tor
<u>LITTLE BLUE HERON</u>	4/24	(JS)	FLk
SNOW GOOSE	5/1	(JK)	FBP
LESSER SCAUP	5/11	(SH)	CCA
OSPREY	4/13	(AO)	FBP
	5/12	(JS)	FBP
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4/9	(CB)	UpV
<u>COMMON BLACK-HAWK</u>	3/20	(TB)	IHS
FERRUGINOUS Hawk	4/5	(PR)	StA
<u>PEREGRINE FALCON</u>	3/16	(RH)	McN
	5/12	(JS)	FHC
VIRGINIA RAIL	5/12	(JS)	DMA
Golden Eagle (2)	3/20	(CB)	FkM
Solitary Sandpiper	4/12	(SH)	DMA
Willet	4/30	(JS)	FLk
(7)	5/4	(BZ)	FBP
Long-billed Curlew	3/20	(CB)	CnA
MARbled GODWIT	4/11	(AO)	FBP
	5/1	(JK)	FBP

## GULLS TO THRASHERS

Franklin's Gull	4/11	(AO)	FBP
<u>HERRING GULL</u>	3/20	(JK)	FBP
<u>WESTERN SCREECH OWL</u>	5/12	(JS)	Tor
<u>BROAD-TAILED HUMBERD</u>	4/19	(JS)	HTk
	4/21	(PR)	StA
<u>RUFous HUMBERD</u>	4/5	(KK)	StA
	4/12	(JW)	StA
<u>WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUKR</u>	3/21	(SH)	CCA
GRAY FLYCATCHER	4/2	(BN)	HTk
<u>EASTERN PHOEBE</u>	4/2	(DE)	HTk
<u>CASSIN'S KINGBIRD</u>	4/9	(CB)	CnA
	4/25	(JS)	Tor
BANK SWALLOW	4/2	(JS)	FLk
CAVE SWALLOW	4/2	(JS)	FLK
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD	3/20	(JK)	StA
	4/13	(AO)	FBP
BROWN THRASHER	5/1	(HB)	Ant

## VIREOS TO GROSBEAKS

BELL'S VIREO	4/12	(JS)	HTk
Solitary Vireo	4/15	(JK)	MPk
NASHVILLE WARBLER	4/12	(SH)	(AO) MPk
<u>LUCY'S WARBLER</u>	4/13	(JK)	MPk
<u>NORTHERN PARULA</u>	3/29	(RH)	HTk
	4/3	(LJ)	HTk
<u>MAGNOLIA WARBLER</u>	4/10	(IP)	HTk
BLACK-THROATED GRAY	4/15	(JK)	MPk
<u>GRACE'S WARBLER</u>	5/1	(BJ)	HTk
<u>PALM WARBLER</u>	4/11	(AO)	FBP
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	5/2	(BZ)	NEE
<u>CONNECTICUT WARBLER</u>	4/11	(JK)	MPk
<u>PAINTED REDSTART</u>	4/1	(TB)	Dur
ROSE-BREADED GROSEK	5/8	(DE, BN)	Dur
Black-headed Grosbk	5/2	(AO)	HTk

## BUNTINGS TO GOLDFINCHS

<u>LAZULI BUNTING</u>	4/23	(JW)	StA
<u>INDIGO BUNTING</u>	5/1	(BJ)	HTk
	5/4	(JW)	StA
	5/13	(SH)	StA
Painted Bunting	5/11	(AO)	RBq
<u>GOLDEN-CROWNED SPW.</u>	3/20	(CB)	HTk
	3/22	(SH)	HTk
	(2) 3/29	(BJ)	HTk
	5/2	(AO)	HTk
BLACK-CHINNED SPW.	5/1	(BJ)	HTk
<u>FOX SPARROW</u>	3/9	(BZ)	FBP
<u>WHITE-THROATED SPW.</u>	4/11	(AO)	FBP
BRONZED COWBIRD	4/12	(JS)	FHC
ORCHARD ORIOLE	5/4	(BZ)	NEE
	5/5	(PR)	StA
Hooded Oriole	3/23	(BZ)	NEE
	4/2	(CB)	CnA
	4/7	(RP)	MPk
Lesser Goldfinch	4/26	(PR)	StA

Report your sightings to Bob Johnson 757-1876 (recorder)

# Calendar

## June

**Mon., 13** - Board Meeting at Charles Simpson's home, 2421 Gairlock, 598-2274, 7:30 PM.

**Sat., 18** - Feather Lake workday.

**Sat., 18** - Field Trip to Central El Paso Parks, see page 3.

**Sat., 25** - Cuckoo Survey, see page 3.

## July

**Sat., Sun., Mon., 2, 3, 4** - Field Trip to Sally Homan's cabin, see page 3.

**Mon., 11** - Board Meeting at the El Paso Environmental Center, Piedras at Paisano, 7:30 PM.

**Sat., 16** - Feather Lake workday.

**Sat., 23** - Field Trip to Aquirre Springs, see page 3.

## August

**Sat., 6** - Field Trip to Hueco Tanks State Park, see page 3.

**Mon., 8** - Board Meeting, to be announced.

**Sat., 13** - Feather Lake workday.

**Sat., Sun., 20 - 21** - Field Trip to Gila Cliff Dwellings and Lake Roberts, see page 3.

## September

**Sat., 3** - Field Trip to Upper Valley, see page 3.

**Mon., 12** - Board Meeting, to be announced.

**Mon., 19** - General Meeting, details in the September newsletter.

## El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

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