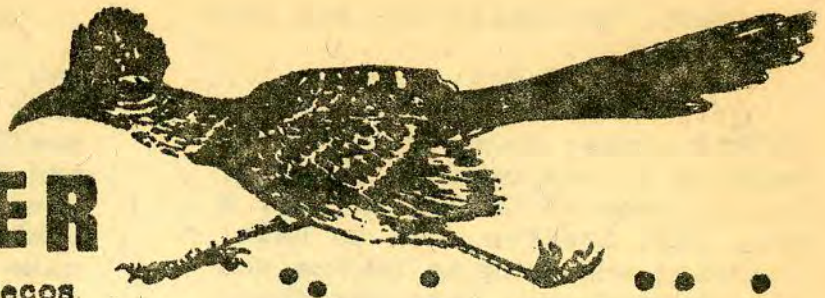


# the ROADRUNNER



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

Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

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## GENERAL MEETING

MON., JANUARY 21, 1985, 7:30 PM in Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. in Memorial Park. For the January meeting Stella and David Weinstein of the EPTPAS will give a slide presentation on their experiences at an Audubon Camp on Hog Island, Maine. If you've been curious as to what it's like at an Audubon Camp, come and find out.

## FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

### RIO BOSQUE/FEATHER LAKE

SAT., JAN. 12. Meet at 7:30 AM at Feather lake. We will bird the area, and then go on to the Bosque. Leader: Wanted! Call Tom Baker(562-9461).

### BOSQUE DEL APACHE

SAT. SUN., JAN. 19-20. Those who wish to drive up together meet at 7:30 AM Sat. at Transmountain and I-10. We should be at the entrance of the refuge for lunch. Please call if you can join us. For overnight lodging call any of the following for reservations.

Best Western Golden Manor	(800) 528-1234
El Camino	(505) 835-1500
Motel 6	(505) 835-1492
San Miguel	(505) 835-0211
El Rio	(505) 835--510

For camping there is KOA in Socorro or Natl. Forest and BLM land. Leader: Tom Baker(562-9461).

### DURLINGS FARM UPPER VALLEY

SUN., JAN. 27. Meet at 7:30 AM at the crossroads pond at Mesa & Doniphan, just over the RR tracks

and left on Charl Ann. Leader: Joyce Davis(581-9470 h, 544-6772 w

INDIAN HOT SPRINGS LOWER VALLEY  
SAT., FEB. 2. Meet at 7 AM at Feather Lake on North Loop. This is approximately a 90 mile drive down the river. For further details call Tom Baker(562-9461).  
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., JAN. 14, 1985, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Joyce Davis, 5900 Enterprise, Apt. B 9, El Paso (581-9470 h, 544-6772 w). All members are welcome.  
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## FEATHER LAKE NEWS

There are plenty of "ducks on the pond" at Feather Lake this winter. All of our favorites, Pintails, Mallards, Canvas-backs, and Shovelers are back along with Redheads, American Widgeons and Ruddy Ducks for added interest. A flock of more than twenty white Egrets and two Snow Geese spent November and at least part of December at the Lake. Red-winged Blackbirds were back by the first Sun. of December but no Yellow-heads yet. Juncos, Finches, and White-crowned Sparrows in larger flocks than usual are enjoying the shore growth.

"Thank you" to all of the volunteers who have helped - the Baker Jane Fowler, Joe Guinn and Bart Rumaker for November; Berttye

Barnhart, Ray Waite and Ken Beno  
for December.

\*\*\*

EPTPAS wishes to extend a warm  
welcome to new members Clara M.  
Neson, Roxanne Gunter and Mr. &  
Mrs. Bill Steffen, and to Beth  
Doerring and Johanan Levine who  
have transferred into our chap-  
ter.

\*\*\*

#### JINGLE BELLS

The phones were ringing the eve-  
ning of Dec. 9, as KCOS, El Paso's  
public television station, was  
in the midst of its most recent  
fund drive. On hand that night  
to answer calls and to receive  
pledges were 7 Audubon members -  
Joyce Davis, Sarah Jane Dodds,  
Jane Fowler, Joe Guinn, Bob  
Johnson, John Sproul and David  
Weinstein - who helped KCOS  
bring in some \$2,000 and who  
brought our chapter some good  
publicity in the process. Thanks,  
all!

\*\*\*

#### WILDERNESS PARK COALITION

1985 promises to be a pivotal  
year for the Franklin Mts.  
State Park. What's on the hori-  
zon? Come to the Annual Meeting  
of the Wilderness Park Coalition  
and find out. It takes place  
Monday, Jan. 28, beginning at  
7:30 PM at the Garden Center,  
3105 Grant St. in Memorial Park.

The Coalition consists of 14 mem-  
ber organizations, including El  
Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon, dedi-  
cated to ensuring lasting pro-  
tection for the Franklin Mts.  
Membership is also open to all  
individuals who support the Coa-  
lition's goals. Annual dues are:  
Student/\$3, Regular/\$5, Contribu-  
ting/\$25-\$100, Sustaining/over  
\$100. Checks, payable to "Wilder-  
ness Park Coalition" may be  
sent to Betty Wallis, Treasurer,  
WPC, 1208-D Avalon, El Paso, TX  
79925.

#### CLEAN AIR COALITION NOTES

The El Paso Clean Air Coalition  
will prepare a report on its  
meetings for member organizations  
and will establish a telephone  
tree to reach interested indivi-  
duals who will write letters or  
make calls when political action  
is needed. City council members  
and county commissioners will be  
approached individually on clean  
air concerns.

The National Clean Air Coalition  
sent an action alert on EPA reg-  
ulations. They are requesting  
support for stronger standards  
on trucks and buses. Coalition  
members will write letters to the  
EPA administrator and to US Sen-  
ators and Representatives.

The American Lung Association  
will promote Clean Air Week in  
April, and the El Paso Coalition  
will assist in setting up dis-  
plays and making presentations  
at local schools.

The more that people become in-  
volved, the more we can accom-  
plish. If you are interested in  
action on clean air, please call  
Joyce Davis (581-9470 h, 544-6772w)

\*\*\*

#### SOUTHWESTERN BIRDING TOURS

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birds!

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(915)821-2242

Barry Zimmer  
(915)545-5184

ELECTIONS THIS MONTH

The Nominating Committee will present the following candidates for election at the Jan 21 general meetings:

- Vice-president: Tom Baker
- Secretary:
- Treasurer: Jean Coyle
- Elected Directors: Joyce Davis
- John Sproul
- Sid Shepperd

At press time the search is still on for a candidate for Secretary. If you have any suggestions or wish to volunteer, please contact the Nominating Committee.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on Jan 21. President-elect Bob Johnson will become Chapter President in Feb at our annual meeting. Thanks to Helen Barto (775-4744), Jeanette Cole (565-1957), and Sid Shepperd (566-2162) for serving on the Nominating Committee.

ATTENTION! GOURMETS

The most popular dish, by far, at the Dec 16 pot-luck dinner was John Sproul's Tomato Pie. We are printing the recipe for all those requesting it. Thanks, John, for sharing the secret ingredients with us. (John tells us the original recipe came from Maquette Kuper Kubey of Davis, Ca. but he has modified it, somewhat. Culinary license, ya know.)

TOMATO PIE

Mix 2 c Bisquick and 2/3 c milk. Spread into lightly greased 10" pie plate. Fill with mixture of:

- 3 large tomatoes, sliced
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 t salt dash pepper 1/2 T dill 1 T basil

Top the pie with mixture of 4 c shredded cheddar cheese and 1 c mayonnaise. Bake 35-40 min at 400°. (For a change of pace, you can also mix some of the topping into the pie filling.)

\* \* \*

The deadline for the February RR is Jan 23.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Chapter

Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join. Local Chapter:

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
W10 7XCH

Membership Category desired:

- Individual/\$30 (H)  Senior Citizen
- Family/\$38 (J)  Individual/\$21(N)
- Student/\$18 (K)  Senior Citizen
- Family/\$23 (P)

This is a \_\_\_ new \_\_\_ renewal membership.

Name.....

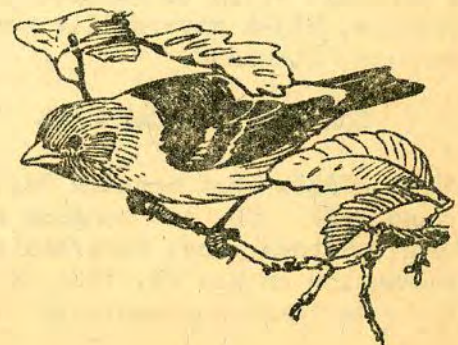
Address.....

City.....State.....

Zip.....Phone.....

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso, TX 79924.

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 "El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society" 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.



## AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS FOR '85

For more than 40 years the Audubon Society has conducted its Ecology Camps and workshop Summer Program, long recognized as one of its most rewarding educational efforts. One-week and two-week adult sessions are filled with activities that meet the learning and recreational needs of teachers, beginning and advanced naturalists, chapter activists, students, and others with an interest in the environment. Conducted at beautiful sites located in Maine, Connecticut, Wisconsin and Wyoming these programs are also available for University credit.

In addition to the traditional adult education programs, special sessions are held for children in Maine and Wyoming and for families in Wisconsin. The goal of Audubon Youth Ecology Camps is to establish a warm atmosphere in which young people ages 10 through 15 learn more about themselves, their environment, and how they relate to it. Children develop outdoor skills and learn ecological concepts that can be applied at home and in school for the rest of their lives. The Family Ecology Camp Session in Wisconsin is designed to allow parents and their children to share in this warm learning experience. Additionally, special sessions are scheduled for individuals wishing to pursue a particular subject, such as nature photography or field ornithology.

The cost of participation in these Workshops ranges from \$385 for one-week sessions (Connecticut, Wisconsin, Maine - Field Ornithology), to \$525 for the Youth Ecology Camps 10-day sessions; to \$625 for the two-week sessions (Maine, Wisconsin, Wyoming - Camp & Nature Photography). For a fully-detailed color brochure on the programs write to Audubon Camps and Workshops, 613-A Riversville Road, Greenwich, Ct 06830.

### CONSERVATION CAPSULES

**NONGAME STAMP:** Not Nongame Day. Not Nongame Week. No, not Nongame Month, either. Rather, Gov. Mark White's proclamation on Nov 26, 1984 declared 1985 to be Texas Nongame Wildlife

Awareness Year! 1985 is the inaugural year for Texas' new program to fund its nongame wildlife and endangered species activities through sales of special stamps, decals and art prints. In his proclamation, Gov. White stressed:

- the importance of nongame wildlife to Texas,
- the responsibility we all have for its management and protection, and
- the opportunity the new Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund presents Texans to support that management and protection directly.

How can you contribute? Buy a Nongame Stamp or Decal. Featuring Ken Carlson's striking painting of a Whooping Crane pair, they're available from El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon (P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986) and cost \$5 each (\$0.50 to our chapter, \$4.50 to the Nongame Fund).

**NONGAME ART PRINT:** Ken Carlson's Whooping Cranes grace not only the new Nongame Stamp and Decal but also will appear on a signed, limited-edition art print. You can order one locally from PRINTS CHARMING, 7040 N. Mesa, Space L, El Paso, TX 79912 (584-3808). The price (one stamp and one decal included) is \$145, \$50.50 of which goes to the Texas Nongame Fund. Obviously, print sales are an important source of income for the fund. The prints are also a good investment. The 1981 First Texas Duck Stamp Print, originally offered at \$130 with stamp, has a current secondary marked price of \$500 with stamp. Better act fast, though. The deadline for print orders is Jan 31. And that's just around the corner.

**WHOOPIING CRANES:** As anticipated (RR, Nov 1984), record numbers of Whooping Cranes are now wintering at both Aransas Natl. Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Texas and in the Middle Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. At Aransas, some 31 Whoopers are on the refuge, 67 adults and 14 young. This total compares with 75 birds last year and marks continued improvement from the

all-time low of 15 in 1941. Meanwhile, the New Mexico population stands at 30 or 31 this winter; 29 was last year's total. At press time, 10 of these birds were at Bosque del Apache NWR, site of our upcoming field trip (see p. 1).

**ST. MATTHEW ISLAND:** The Natl. Audubon Soc. has won a significant legal victory involving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska. In Aug 1983, then-Interior Secretary James Watt transferred land on St. Matthew Is. -- a part of the Alaska Maritime NWR and also a unit of the Natl. wilderness Preservation System -- to 3 Alaska native corporations in exchange for inholdings in the Kenai and Yukon Delta NWRs. The natives were then expected to lease the St. Matthew parcel to private industry for support facilities for oil and gas exploration and development in the Bering Sea. The Audubon Soc. brought suit immediately to nullify this land exchange, citing potential for harm to hundreds of thousands of seabirds and marine mammals and damage to the integrity of the Wilderness System (Audubon Action, Oct 1983). On Nov 30, 1984, Judge James M. Fitzgerald of the U.S. District Court in Anchorage acted in Audubon's favor and ruled the exchange invalid. Approval of the exchange, said Fitzgerald, represented "serious errors of judgment," a misapplication of federal law and a failure to act in the public interest.

**TEXAS WATER PLAN:** Water for Texas, the new amended Texas Water Plan, was adopted by the Texas Water Development Board on Sept 20, 1984, and the complete document is now available. Volume 1 is an executive summary, Volume 2 a hefty technical appendix. You can request both from: Texas Dept. of Water Resources, P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78711 (512/475-3187).  
/John Sproul/

#### OBSERVATIONS

November 23 to December 24

Exciting and interesting reports continued to come in particularly during the early part of this period. There is, however, a noticeable absence of some species normally reported.

#### LOONS - FALCONS

Seventeen Cattle Egrets were counted in the upper valley near Tennis West 12/16 (BJ,et al.). A lone Snow Goose appeared in the Canutillo area 12/9 and was still there as of 12/13 (TC), 2 immatures were at Feather Lake 11/21 (BJ,Rw) and 11/24 (BJ), and 32 counted in a field in the Frontera area 12/16 (BJ,et al.). A male Wood Duck was observed at a ponding area near Cross and Sun Valley in n.e. El Paso 12/7 (KB,LB) and 1 was present at Follett's Pond in the upper valley 12/16 (BJ,et al.). Two female Common Goldeneyes were at the Crossroads Pond 12/10 (BJ, RW), 1 there 12/16 (RW), and 2 on 12/18 (BJ,RW). A pair of Hooded Mergansers were at the same pond 12/10 (BJ,RW), a male there 12/16 (RW), and a male and female at the Gary Lane Pond the same day (BJ,RW). On 12/12, a Cooper's Hawk returned to the same roosting tree in n.e. El Paso for at least the fifth year in a row (BJ). An adult Golden Eagle seen in the west Cottonwood Spring area 12/16 was the only 1 reported (JS,et al.).

#### QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

A single Greater Yellowlegs and 2 Western Sandpipers were present to be counted in the river area off Frontera 12/16 (BJ,et al.). Reports of parrots come in occasionally, usually of single individuals and are considered escaped, but the report of a flock of 12 coming into the Tigua area from approximately 12/11 through the end of the period is of interest (EC,MG,AG). A male Anna's Hummingbird and 2 Rufous (1 ad. male & 1 imm. male) were still coming in to feeders at Mt. Park as of 12/24 (JB).

#### FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Two Scrub Jays were at Hueco Tanks 12/2 (BJ,mob). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in good numbers throughout the period (mob). Ten W. Bluebirds were seen in one area and 4 in another at Hueco Tanks 12/3 (BJ) and 25 counted in the Frontera river area 12/16 (BJ,et al.). On 12/3, 3 Townsend's Solitaires were seen at Hueco Tanks (BJ) and 1 in the Coronado Country Club area 12/16 (JoD,et al.). A Hermit Thrush was at West

Cottonwood Spring 12/16 (JS,JF,PP,JC). Unusually large numbers of Am. Robins have been reported from all areas during the period (mob). On 12/2, a Sage Thrasher was at Hueco Tanks (BJ,et al.). Unusual also have been the large numbers of Cedar waxwings reported from all areas (mob). A Phainopepla was noted at Hueco Tanks 12/2 and a pair in the upper valley 12/16 (BJ,mob).

**WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES**

An Orange-crowned Warbler appeared in Horizon City 12/5 (MG). Rufous-sided Towhees were at Hueco Tanks 12/2 (BJ, mob) and seen in good numbers 12/16 (mob). That same day, 3 Black-chinned Sparrows were observed in the west Cottonwood Spring area (JS,PP,JC). A rather late "Bullock's Oriole appeared at a bird bath in n.e. El Paso 12/1 (RW), and 2 Red Crossbills did likewise at a McKinley St. address 12/5 (LS,fide JN). Most exciting is the male LAWRENCE'S GOLDFINCH observed and photographed at Hueco Tanks 12/7. This is the first sighting of this rare species in the area since 1954. Also exciting was an adult male EVENING GROSBEAK observed and studied at Hueco Tanks 12/2(JN,BJ,mob).

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Ken & Lois Beno, Janet Brockmoller, Tess Cardenas, Elizabeth Clark, Jean Coyle, Joyce Davis, Sarah J. Dodds, Jane Fowler, Al & Madeline Gavit, Joe Guinn, Bob Johnson, Jo Nagel, John Nielson, Partick Pierce, Peggy Riede, John Sproul, Lucile Swick, Ray Waite. /Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/ (591-0421)

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