

The



Roadrunner

VOL. 22 (1)

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

~~Feb - Mar~~ ^{Apr - May}, 92

The El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society meets on the third Monday of every month, September through May. The General Meetings are held at the Garden Center, Memorial Park, El Paso, Texas. The public is cordially invited.

GENERAL MEETING, April 20, 7:30 PM - At 2,635 miles, the Finlay-Peace-Mackenzie River system is the longest in Canada. The Mackenzie River runs from the Great Slave Lake to the Arctic Ocean. It is unique among Canadian river systems because it never freezes completely. That fact and its location as it runs through Canada's Northwest Territories makes it home to an incredible variety of wildlife and plants.

On Monday, April 20, we will be treated to a beautiful film documenting an elegant web of life which has the Mackenzie River as its focus. Please join us for a look at a part of the world so very different from the desert Southwest.

And don't forget your non-disposable cup for refreshments!

GENERAL MEETING, May 18, 7:30 PM - While living in the Appalachian foothills below Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Steve Hoffman witnessed one of nature's truly spectacular phenomena -

hawk migration. After moving to Utah, Steve was convinced that there must be a "Hawk Mountain" in the West. In 1973 he began searching for that unique western mountain range where raptors "funnel" through in large numbers. He was rewarded in 1976, when he discovered the autumn raptor flight just east of the Great Salt Lake, in the Wellsville Mountains of northern Utah. Three years later Steve found an even larger concentration of migrating hawks: The largest raptor flyway in all of western North America, the Goshute Mountains in eastern Nevada which harbors 12-17,000 migrant raptors each fall season. He went on to discover several other western raptor lookouts. In 1986 Steve founded HawkWatch International, a nonprofit group dedicated to monitoring and preserving raptors throughout western North America.

Steve's entertaining and educational slide presentation will describe HawkWatch International's raptor monitoring and banding program now underway in seven western states and Mexico. He will discuss HWI's work from the perspective of today's global ecological crisis.

CONSERVATION

NORTH FRANKLIN EYED FOR TOWER

In June 1990, El Pasoans approved a \$13.5-million bond issue for a new public-safety communication system. The City is moving forward with planning for this system, and it's a process with potentially serious implications for Franklin Mountains State Park.

The City recently released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for installation of the new system. The RFP seeks bids for two alternatives: 1) a tower on North Franklin Peak, plus one-to-three towers at low-elevation sites away from the Franklins; and 2) six towers, all at low-elevation sites.

No decisions have been made yet, but at the Sierra Club's January 29 meeting, Police Department representatives made it clear their eyes are focused firmly on North Franklin. They portrayed the possible North Franklin tower as a minor, inconspicuous facility and suggested repeatedly that the alternative that avoids North Franklin could be unacceptably expensive.

According to Lockard & White, the City's telecommunications consultants for the new system, a tower on North Franklin would be anything but minor. Or inexpensive. It would be some 80 feet tall, include two microwave dishes and have running lights for visibility at night. A 10-foot by 20-foot building would house ancillary equipment. A power line to the summit would be needed, as would an all-weather road to enable emergency servicing of the tower under all conditions.

Sound hard to believe? If we don't make our views known, it will happen. And more will likely follow.

Lockard & White says the alternative that best meets the City's needs is the one that uses multiple low-elevation sites and avoids the Franklins. But the lure of being on the highest peak around apparently remains irresistible to some folks within the City.

Wasn't Franklin Mountains State Park created in large measure to prevent further degradation of North Franklin? Once again, citizen action will be crucial to steering the City away from a bad idea. Please contact Police Chief John Scagno (El Paso Police Department, 911 N. Raynor, El Paso 79905), Mayor Bill Tilney (2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso 79999) and your city representative (Gene Finke, Jesus Terrazas, Tony Ponce, Stan Roberts, Joe Pickett or Jay

Armes; same address as mayor), and tell them North Franklin Peak should not be a tower site for the new public-safety communication system. Emphasize that technically, environmentally and economically superior alternatives exist.
// John Sproul //

MOUNTAIN LION REGULATIONS SOUGHT

The mountain lion is found in 11 western states, 10 of which classify the lion as a game animal and regulate its taking. The 11th state is Texas, where the mountain lion lacks any form of protection. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) considers it a "nonprotected nongame species."

Last year, three lions were found in the East Texas piney woods, where they have been absent for years. All three were shot. In the wake of this development, the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter petitioned the TPWD to adopt rules regulating the taking of mountain lions in Texas.

The Sierra Club petition hasn't resulted in any regulatory changes yet, but it has started a vigorous dialogue on lion management in Texas. The TPWD's Wildlife Division has expressed the opinion that Texas lion populations are currently healthy and expanding and that, therefore, no change in the lion's regulatory status is needed. It has also proposed:

- o a roundtable meeting, scheduled to take place in Del Rio on April 8-9, to discuss development of mountain lion management and research plans, legal status and related subjects;
- o expanded efforts to collect harvest and distribution data on lions; and
- o an intensive campaign to educate Texans about mountain lions and promote greater appreciation of them.

The TPWD acknowledges that more information on mountain lion ecology in Texas is needed, but as yet it has made no commitment to significantly increase and broaden the scope of its lion research. Conservationists hope firm plans to do so will emerge from the April 8-9 roundtable meeting.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon supports the Sierra Club's petition and has urged the TPWD to develop rules regulating the taking of mountain lions in Texas. To express your views, write TPWD Executive Director Andy Sansom (4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744). // John Sproul //

ON THE TRAIL



Gray
Hawk

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Fri.-Sun., April 24-26 - Its been 4 years since we've had an outing to Big Bend. Too long! Gray Hawk, Thick-billed Kingbird, Colima Warbler and Lucy's Warbler will be among the many birds we'll seek in this spectacular West Texas setting. We'll spend Friday night at Rio Grande Village, Saturday at the Basin Campground, and visit Cottonwood Campground on Sunday. Call leader John Sproul (545-5157) for reservations and trip details.

WILDERNESS PARK MUSEUM

We will start out from the museum parking lot at 7:30 AM on Sun. April 12. This morning only tour will cover about 2 miles of fairly level and not too rough terrain. Birds that should be seen will include Cactus and Rock Wrens, Black-throated, Chipping and possibly Cassins Sparrows, and maybe Crissal Thrasher, many other species will also be seen. The leader is Joe Guinn (566-8438)

TEXAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Sat., April 18 - The Canutillo topographic quadrangle will be the focus of our first 1992 data-gathering effort for the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project. We'll look for evidence of breeding by birds on the west side of the Franklin Mts. and in the adjacent river valley, then review our findings over a picnic lunch in the Tom Mays area of the Franklin Mts. State Park. Meet the leader, John Sproul (545-5157) at the corner of I-10 and Transmountain at 8 AM

UPPER VALLEY

The Owen's/Durling area on Gardner Road, West of Canutillo, is often good for a rare specie. Meet Peggy Riede (833-4881) at the crossroads (Doniphan and Mesa) ponding area at 7:15 AM on Sat. May 9. a scan of the pond followed by a walk in the Love Road, Lombardy Road area will precede the trip to Owen's/Durling. Mississippi Kites and Phainopepla, plus Orioles and Thrashers are possible

SECOND BREEDING BIRD PROJECT

Sun., May 17 - On our second field trip for the Breeding Bird Atlas project, we'll cover the Clint topographic quadrangle in the lower valley. Meet the leader John Sproul (545-5157) at Feather Lake, 9500 North Loop, at 7:15 AM. Lunch (bring your own) in the shade of our new ramada at Feather Lake completes the trip.

LOTS OF HUMMINGBIRDS

Going to Sierra Vista Az., home to Mile-Hi in Ramsey Canyon, a Nature Conservancy Preserve, could be the best birding trip you ever went on. Here you will see many species of hummers, plus the Sulpher-bellied Flycatcher and a suprise could be in store. An added feature will be a trip to the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary where Gray Hawk, Gila Woodpecker and Bridled Titmouse will be seen. The final location to be checked will be the San Pedro River, where we have seen Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat and No. Cardinal.

This exciting trip will take place on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25. Trip headquarters will be the Motel 6 (505-891-6161) Many other good motels are available. Military can use the RV Park on Fort Huachuca (no reservations). Call Bob Johnson (h751-0125/ b757-1876) for map and itinery.



Magnificent
Hummingbird

ON THE TRAIL (CON'T)

TRASH OFF

Sat., June 6 will be our second pickup of the year along our adopted highway US 62/180. remember only 2/10ths of a mile each person. Meet Bob Johnson at the Flying Saucer building, Hueco Tanks State Park Road at 7:15 AM. a visit to a CDWR rehaber will take place afterwards. A great experience.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

June 20/21. Gila NF, Tour the Catwalk and see the Lewis' Woodpeckers in Luna.

July 3-6. Santa Fe NM. The Randall Davey Audubon Center and Dippers.

Aug. 15/16. Water Canyon, ??Red-faced Warblers and Turkeys??

GOOD BIRDING GONE BY

For those of you who could not make the trip to Indian Hot Springs in Feb., you missed 33 good species including Vermilion Flycatcher and Harris Hawk.

Tufted Titmouse



A great time camping in the old Army Barracks on Clay Miller's Ranch was enjoyed by 6 birders. The best of 39 species were Tufted Titmouse (Black-crested), Black-throated Gray Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Ferruginous Hawk. A Golden Eagle was along I-10 on the way down

REMEMBER YOUR ALUMINUM CANS



AUDUBON BIRDATHON

1992 BIRDATHON: OUR BEST YET!

With help from Suzanne Michaels, Russel Waterhouse and a host of dedicated birders, we're pulling out all the stops to make our 12th annual Audubon Birdathon something truly special. It happens May 2-3, and we hope you'll be part of it!

Birdathon is our annual fun and fund-raising event in which participating counters scour the countryside trying to find as many bird species as possible in a 24-hour period. They're backed by generous sponsors who pledge contributions based on the number of species found. Birdathon is vital to the success of Audubon's conservation and education programs. The flyer enclosed with this newsletter gives all the details.

All of our Birdathon counters are celebrities, of course, but some are more visible than others. This year, we're pleased and honored to have **Suzanne Michaels**, evening-news anchor for KVIA TV-channel 7, taking part in Birdathon as our special **celebrity counter**. How about sponsoring Suzanne? Make her day in the field a successful one!

When you make a pledge to sponsor Suzanne Michaels or any of our other hard-working counters, you give yourself the chance to win a prize in our annual Birdathon drawing, to be held May 3 at our post-Birdathon potluck dinner. And you'll definitely want that chance, for this year's **Grand Prize** is a stunning original watercolor by acclaimed southwestern artist and native El Pasoan **Russell Waterhouse**. It depicts a group of ducks descending on a marsh reminiscent of Bosque del Apache.

So make a Birdathon pledge! Better yet recruit some sponsors and be a counter,

too! If you are interested in joining one of our groups in the field on Birdathon weekend or birding on your own, contact John Sproul (545-5157).

True, many of our counters go all out to find staggering numbers of species. But you can also take a more leisurely approach, birding only part of the day, not worrying much about maximizing your species list. Birdathon has something for everyone, and it's all for a good cause: a healthy West Texas environment.
// John Sproul //

EL PASO ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

The El Paso Environmental Center (800 S. Piedras), which we help support, is striving to develop an effective, workable recycling operation that accepts a broad spectrum of recyclable materials. Slowly but surely, it's getting there. Recently, the Center began accepting glass again (sorted by colors), and it is now also accepting most plastic packaging except bags and styrofoam. Please keep beverage containers (milk jugs, soda bottles) separate from other plastic. Finally, during April, the Center will be one of the drop-off points Southwestern Bell will use for collecting old phone books.

Current hours at the Center are 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Wednesday through Saturday. The Center is looking at ways to extend those hours to better serve the public. The easiest way to accomplish this? Get more volunteer workers. Can you contribute a few hours each month helping to staff the Environmental Center? Please contact Center Director Linda Mahlow at 532-9645 or John Sproul at 545-5157.

// John Sproul //

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER?

Speaking of recycling, did you notice a subtle change that began with the previous issue of this publication? THE

ROADRUNNER now comes to you on partially recycled paper: Cross Pointe Halopaque which is 50% recycled material, including 10% post-consumer waste.

BIG BEND RANCH PLANNING DOCUMENT

In mid-February, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) released a draft planning document for the Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area, the nearly 265,000-acre area in Brewster and Presidio counties the TPWD acquired in 1988. The document is intended to guide management of the natural area over the next four to five years. Among the issues on which the TPWD seeks input: extent of development, visitor access, cattle grazing, private inholdings, land acquisition, predator management, and hunting. You can request a copy by calling 1-800-352-4406. The comment deadline is April 30.

OUTDOOR ETHICS: RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY

By Dede Armentrout, Regional Vice President, NAS Southwest Region

Recently an activist from an organization which has frequently opposed oft-proposed-but-yet-unpassed river protection legislation wrote me to ask for our cooperation. In a recent chapter newsletter he had seen directions to a rare bird sighting. The directions included encouraging the rare bird chaser to proceed on foot past a locked gate. It may be that permission to be in the area had already been given by the landowner, but there was no way to know from the article.

This landowner who is also representative of other landowners asked me to remind our members that "fences, gates, locked gates, 'Keep Out' signs, and the like are there to inform persons that entry is prohibited until invited in by the property owner". In Texas and Louisiana, where most of the land is private property, he's right. In New

Mexico, much of the land is public, but one must know the land ownership to be sure that entry is not trespass. In any state, please remember to respect private property rights in pursuit of the rare and illusive bird. If you are not sure whether you are on private property, or whether you have permission to be private land, DON'T GO!

Baker, Joyce Davis, Jane Fowler, Bob Johnson, Betty Pagel and John Sproul, \$531 was raised for the chapter. Any day now, we expect personnel managers of some local car dealerships to approach these hot shots about joining "their" team. Gracias to members and friends of EPTPAS who contributed their time and muscles moving goods on March 1st.
// Jane Fowler //

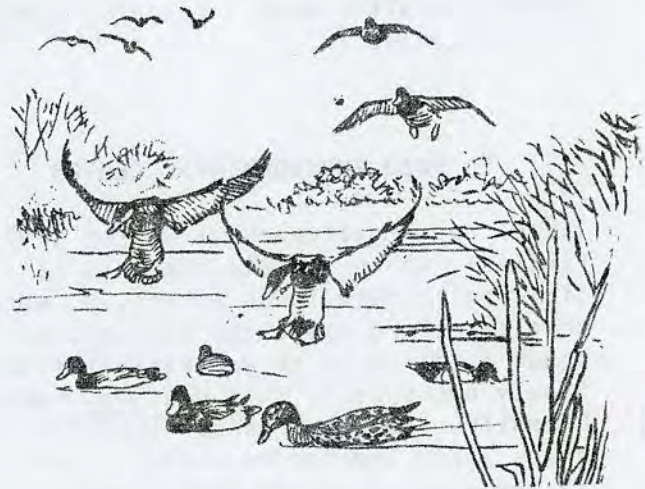
STRONG WETLANDS BILL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

On February 19, Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA) introduced H.R. 4255, titled the Wetlands Reform Act of 1992. Audubon played a key role in drafting this bill, which is designed to strengthen federal protections for wetlands while addressing complaints of regulatory uncertainty and delays which have been levelled against current wetlands regulations. H.R. 4255 would also delay the implementation of the Administration's politically motivated "delineation manual," which would remove a minimum of 50% of the nation's wetlands from federal protection, pending completion of a study by the National Academy of Sciences.

H.R. 4255 is the first wetlands bill to present a viable and comprehensive alternative to the environmentally disastrous policies proposed in the Bush Administration's delineation manual and Rep. Hayes' anti-wetlands bill, H.R. 1330. Now is the time to write to your House member and urge him to support wetlands protection by cosponsoring H.R. 4255. For more information, contact Clark Williams, Audubon's wetlands lobbyist, 202-547-9009.

RUMMAGE CLOSE OUT

What do six super salespersons do on a Sunday? Well, I'll tell you. They get up in the wee hours, meet at the flea market on Dyer Street at 6 AM, and set up shop. Thanks to the high-tech sales strategy and bargaining prowess of Tom



EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Joyce Davis	581-9470
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Peggy Reide	833-4881
VICE PRESIDENT	Larry Jordan	833-5969
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	Hugh Jameson	751-7952
	Mary Ann Vernon	581-1389
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EDUCATION	Dayle Edwards	592-0868
FIELD TRIPS	Hugh Jameson	751-7952
HOSPITALITY		
MEMBERSHIP	Susan Schneider	542-3041
PROGRAMS		
PUBLICITY		
SANCTUARY	John Sproul	545-5157
WAYS AND MEANS	Jane Fowler	598-2448
PUBLICATIONS	Mary Ann Vernon	581-1389
OBSERVATIONS	Joyce Davis	581-9470
EDITOR	George Barnett	581-1829
ACT DELEGATE		

Audubon Activist

TEXAS COVERS DEADLY PITS

Thanks in large part to Audubon activists in the Southwest and elsewhere, Texas oil producers will now be required to cover most open oil-waste pits and tanks in the Lone Star state. The open pits and tanks have killed millions of birds, which mistake the pits for water ponds.

As of last November 1, a Texas Railroad Commission ruling requires all pits or tanks eight feet in diameter and larger to be covered. The ruling culminated more than a decade of struggle by activists to prevent bird deaths in the pits. Letters from activists responding to an Action Alert last spring helped persuade the commission to adopt the rule. Additionally, members of Texas Audubon chapters lobbied state leaders and organized a media blitz that resulted in editorials, letters to the editor, and dozens of front-page news stories. "What is so terrific about this is that Auduboners were so persistent and didn't give up," says Jane Lyons, Audubon's Southwest regional representative.

Lyons hopes the ruling in Texas, a state traditionally reluctant to impose restrictions on the oil industry, will convince other oil-producing states to adopt similar rules.

// Audubon Activist //

SUMMERTIME: THINK WATER

As we head towards summer we can look forward to water restrictions imposed to help conserve this area's most precious resource. In addition to being careful about when and how you water your lawn, here are some ideas that will conserve water (and your money):

< If you wash dishes by hand, use a dishpan and do not leave the tap running. This saves an average of 22 gallons per washing. Run the dishwasher

on short cycle.

< Repair leaks around pipe joints and fixtures. Though they seem a trickle, leaks can add up to thousands of gallons over time.

< Water your lawn after dusk, when less water is needed because of the lower evaporation rate. Design your yard to include plants that require little water.

< When shaving or brushing your teeth, do not let the tap run continuously. Combined, this can save nearly 20 gallons per use.

< Install low-flow showerheads and low flush toilets, which may use only a quarter of the water of conventional ones. Also, shut off the water while soaping in the shower.

For more information, send \$3 each for *A Citizen's guide to Community Water Conservation*, item # 77008, National Wildlife Federation, 1400 16th St., N.W., Washington, Dc 20036.

// Audubon Activist //

DONORS

Recent donations by the following individuals/organizations are gratefully acknowledged by the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society.

For General Chapter Work

- Edna Mae Lyons
- Tanya and William Hoppes

For Feather Lake

- Helen Bigelow
- Ed Drilling's students at LeBarron Park School



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

FEATHER LAKE NEWS

By the time you read this, the new ramada at Feather Lake will be essentially complete. Congratulations and thanks go to Eagle Scout candidate Matt Folmar of Troop 222 for a job well done!

Also due thanks are Betty Pagel and Matt Ponton. Betty recently contributed a healthy supply of rocks for path borders and other uses. Matt generously provided, and helped plant, some Arizona ash seedlings.

Regular visitor hours at Feather Lake end April 27 (see back page), but we don't completely shut down for the summer. Already this spring, a steady stream of school, scout, senior-citizen, teacher in-service, and other groups have enjoyed special tours at our sanctuary. If you have a group interested in arranging a visit, give me a call at 545-5157.

We also offer special off-season opportunities to help with sanctuary maintenance. Due to our crowded schedule, we'll have no workday in April, but we'll make up for it Saturday, May 16 when we seed an area near the ramada with native grasses. Gates open at 8:00 AM. Come on down!
// John Sproul //

We're pleased to announce the new NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY VISA Gold and Scenic VISA cards!

The new Audubon VISA Gold and Scenic ("Puffin") VISA cards provide our members with many valuable benefits including \$1,000,000 in Travel Accident Insurance, high initial credit lines, buyers' protection, free additional cards, and much, much more! And to make it as easy as possible for you to try out the new Audubon VISA cards there's no annual fee for the first year.

What's especially important about these cards is that every time they're used, a portion of the purchase price is donated to the Audubon Society at no cost to the cardholder. Audubon also receives royalties for every account that's opened or renewed.

Applying for and using the Audubon VISA cards are wonderful ways to show your support for Audubon.

The bank, MBNA America, is the fourth largest credit card issuer in the country - widely respected for its success in affinity credit card programs like ours.

To apply for the card over the phone, call MBNA America anytime at 1-800-847-7378 ext. 5000.

Or for more information, please call or write to:
Stacy Weller - Marketing Department
National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 546-9143

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



It is far from easy to determine whether she (Nature) has proved to man a kind parent or a merciless stepmother.

-- Pliny the Elder, A.D. 23 - 79

AUDUBON BIRDATHON



Birdathon is coming May 2-3, and we hope you'll be a part of it! This full, rewarding weekend of birding throughout the El Paso area serves as our annual Spring Big Day Count. It is also El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon's most important annual fundraising event, each year supporting vital conservation and education projects.

Birdathon contributions are divided equally between National Audubon Society programs and local Audubon projects. Our 1992 Audubon Birdathon will benefit:

- ☛ Audubon Adventures. We enroll as many local 3rd-to-6th-grade classes as we can in this highly successful Audubon youth-education program, and Birdathon is crucial to that effort.
- ☛ Scholarships. Our scholarship program gives local educators the chance to attend Audubon Ecology Camps in Wyoming, Maine or Connecticut, where they can enhance their environmental education skills. Birdathon is our main source of scholarship funds.
- ☛ Franklin Mountains Fund. Through Birdathon, we established a Franklin Mountains Fund in 1986 to further protection of the Franklins and support Texas Parks and Wildlife in its administration of Franklin Mountains State Park. Today, with Park planning underway and the Park facing some severe threats, the Franklins are at a crossroads. Birdathon '92 will give us needed resources to act decisively on behalf of the Franklin Mountains environment.
- ☛ Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue. CDWR continues to shine in its wildlife rehabilitation work in the El Paso-Las Cruces area. Once again, we hope to support CDWR in a big way with Birdathon.
- ☛ Audubon's Southwest Regional Office. Audubon's Southwest Regional Office is an effective, respected voice for the Texas environment, including our Trans-Pecos environment. Texas Audubon chapters are committed to keeping that office at full strength. With your Birdathon support, we'll do it!

The counters on the reverse are ready to do their all for Birdathon. How can you help? (over)

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society BIRDATHON '92

Yes! I'll sponsor _____
for \$ _____ per species for each species
s/he finds on the 1992 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.



FROM: _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Please clip and return this form by April 29 to:
Birdathon, c/o Nancy Wilson,
123 Mahogany, El Paso, TX 79922.

Thank you for your Birdathon Pledge!
Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

THE COUNTERS

We're pleased and honored to have **Suzanne Michaels**, evening-news anchor for KVIA TV-Channel 7, joining us as our celebrity Birdathon counter in 1992. Suzanne heads a great list of people planning to be in the field May 2-3:

Art Arteaga	Joyce Davis	Jim Harvey	Paul Milius	Bart Rumaker
Donna Arteaga	Sarah Jane Dodds	Anne Hussmann	Jo Nagel	Susie Schneider
Tom Baker	Dayle Edwards	Hugh Jameson	Betty Pagel	Sid Shepperd
George Barnett	Jane Fowler	Bob Johnson	Iola Pennington	John Sproul
Matt Bingham	Al Gavit	Larry Jordan	Mathew Ponton	Mary Ann Vernon
Paul Bingham	Madeline Gavit	John Kiseda	Mark Riede	Nancy Wilson
Mary Bradley	Joe Guinn	Suzanne Michaels	Peggy Riede	Scott Wilson
Mike Chintis	Chris Hahn			

We welcome additional counters. Would you like to participate? Please contact John Sproul (545-5157) for details.

HOW BIRDATHON WORKS

On the weekend of May 2-3, each counter will go all out trying to find as many birds as possible in a single 24-hour period. The effort will require sharp eyes and ears. It will take knowledge of avian habitats. It will demand endurance. It will suggest a general lack of common sense. But they'll do it. Why? Because each counter will be on a mission. They'll be backed by sponsors who have pledged tax-deductible gifts based on the number of species found. Every new species thus means another big boost for Audubon Adventures, our scholarship program, our Franklin Mountains Fund, Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, and Audubon's Southwest Regional Office.

Whether it's 25¢ per species, \$1 per species or whatever, we hope you will consider a Birdathon pledge. Your support makes Birdathon work. Some counters will see around 40 species, others over 100; most will be somewhere in between. Please use the form on the reverse of this flyer to sponsor one or more of our hard-working Birdathon counters. Don't forget celebrity counter Suzanne Michaels. Help make her day in the field a successful one!

PRIZES

We appreciate our Birdathon sponsors! One way we thank them is through our annual Birdathon drawing. All sponsors are entered and get the chance to win some great prizes, including this year's spectacular **Grand Prize**, an original watercolor generously donated by acclaimed southwestern artist and native El Pasoan **Russell Waterhouse**. It depicts a group of ducks descending on a marsh reminiscent of Bosque del Apache. When you make a Birdathon contribution, not only do our wildlife and our West Texas environment win, but you could, too!

POT-LUCK DINNER

The drawing will take place at our annual post-Birdathon pot-luck dinner, starting at 6 p.m. on **May 3** at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park in El Paso. Please join us. You'll enjoy great food, learn who saw what over the weekend and see if you're a winner in the drawing!

Approximately 95% of Birdathon income will go to conservation and education projects;
5% pays for the cost of fundraising.

OBSERVATIONS

Jan. 12 - March 8, 1992

Uncommon, rare and casual sightings

~~CA~~ - Canutillo area
~~CV~~ - Cielo Vista area
~~CO~~ - Cornudas
~~CP~~ - Crossroads Pond
~~DM~~ - Doniphan Marsh
~~E/S~~ - Emory and Sunset
~~FA~~ - Fabens Levee
~~FL~~ - Feather Lake
~~FB~~ - Ft. Bliss Ponds
~~FH~~ - Ft. Hancock
~~FR~~ - Frontera Road
~~GSR~~ - Girl Scout Road
~~HG~~ - Horizon Golf Course
~~HT~~ - Hueco Tanks
~~IHS~~ - Indian Hot Springs
~~TO~~ - Tornillo area

Sightings by a field trip member are noted by a (+) after the leader's initials; sightings in an observer's yard or area are indicated by an (*) after his/her initials.

LOONS - FALCONS

Great Egret - 2/2 FH (LJ); 2/23 IHS (BJ+); 2/27 FL (JS)
Snowy Egret - 1/18, 1/25 FL (JS)
Black-crowned Night Heron - 2/1 FL (JD)
Canada Geese - 1/16, 2/2 HGC (MG); 2/23 IHS (BJ+)
Wood Duck - 2/15 CP (JZ); 3/4 CP (RG)
Common Goldeneye (f) - 2/15, 3/8 DM (JD)
Bufflehead - 1/25 FB (BJ+); 2/23 IHS (BJ+); 3/8 CP (JD)
Hooded Merganser (2m, 1f) - 1/18 FL (JS)
Common Merganser - 2/2 FH (LJ)
Red-breasted Merganser - 2/2 FH (LJ)
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1/25 FB (BJ+)
Harris Hawk - 2/27 FL (JS)
 "Harlan Hawk" (form of Red Tail Hawk) - 2/28 FaL (CR)
Prairie Falcon - 3/5 CO (JS, JF, JD)

MERLIN

QUAIL - WOODPECKER

Black Neck Stilt - 1/23 GSR (BJ)
 2/9 - 2/29 DM (JD)
Lesser Yellowlegs - 2/28 TO (CR)
Common Snipe - 2/15 DM (JD)
Herring Gull - 2/2 FH (LJ)
Rufous Hummingbird - 1/18 (BR*);
 1/12 - 1/20 (BJ*)

FLYCATCHER - VIREO

Vermillion Flycatcher - 2/23 IHS (BJ+)
Western Kingbird - 2/22 CA (JZ)
Western Bluebird - 1/15 FrR (BJ)
Cedar Waxwing - 2/14 CV (SS); 3/8 E/S (HG)

WARBLER - WEAVER FINCH

Rufous Sided Towhee - 1/27 (HB*)
Lark Buntings - 1/25 FB (BJ+); 2/ IHS (BJ+)
White-throated Sparrow - 1/27 (HB*); 2/25 (A/MG*); 3/2 (RW)

Observers: Helen Bigelow, Joyce Davis, Jane Fowler, Al & Madeline Gavit, Roxanne Gunther, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, Craig Roberts, Susie Schneider, John Sproul, Ray Waite, James Zabriski // Observation Editor, Joyce Davis 581-9470 //



*And this our life, exempt from
 public haunt,
 Finds tongues in trees, books in
 the running brooks,
 Sermons in stones, and good in
 everything.*

- Shakespeare

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CALENDAR

APRIL

- Sat., 4 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11 AM.
- Sun., 5 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
- Sun., 12 - Field Trip to Wilderness Park Museum, see page 3.
- Mon., 13 - Board Meeting, 7:30 PM at Mary Ann Vernon's home, 6808-A Escondido, 581-1389.
- Sat., 18 - Breeding Bird Atlas, see page 3.
- Sat., 18 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11 AM.
- Sun., 19 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
- 1716AND** Mon., 20 - General Meeting, see page 1
- Sun., 26 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 to dusk.

MAY

- Sat., 2 and Sun., 3 - BIRDATHON, see page 4.
- Sat., 9 - Field trip to the Upper Valley, see page 3.
- Mon., 11 - Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Betty Pagel's home, 6328 Osage, 772-2686.
- Sat., 16 - Feather Lake work day.
- Sun., 17 - Breeding Bird Atlas, see page 3.
- Mon., 18 - General Meeting, see page 1
- Sat. 23, Sun., 24, Mon., 25 - Field trip to Sierra Vista, AZ, see page 3.

JUNE

- Sat., 6 - Texas Trash-Off, see page 4

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Hawk - 1/28 FB (B1+) (+)
 Hawk - 2/27 FL (B3)
 Hawk - 2/28 FL (B3)
 Hawk - 2/28 FL (B3)
 Hawk - 2/28 FL (B3)

MARLIN