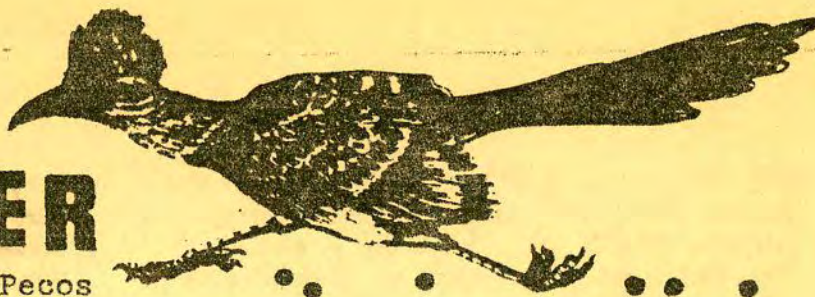


# the ROADRUNNER

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



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 17 (1)

\$4.00 per year

January 1987

## GENERAL MEETING

MON., JAN. 19, 1987, 7:30 PM in Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. The title of the program is "Toxic Heavy Metals in the El Paso Area". Dear readers, we're not talking about a musical presentation, we're talking about a pollution problem. Coming to us again to make this presentation is Dr. Larry Jones, professor of microbiology at UTEP. Dr. Jones received his doctorate at Oregon State and has taught at UTEP the last fourteen years. His research interest is in heavy metals. Come hear this expert talk about this increasingly complex problem.

## FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

### BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR

SAT-SUN, JAN. 17-18. Meet either at 7:30 AM at Transmountain and I-10 for the drive up or between 11 and 12 noon at the Park Headquarters for lunch. Overnight accommodations in Socorro are available at Best Western Golden Manor (800) 528-1234 and Motel 6 (505) 835-4300. Just north of the Refuge is an R.V. Park, P.O. Box 262, Socorro, NM, (505) 835-1366. BLM land west of San Antonio is available for camping. Call leader, Bob Johnson, if you plan to go. (751-0125 h, 757-1876 b).



## NORTHEAST OXIDATION PONDS

### SUN., JAN. 25. BEGINNERS TRIP

Meet at Furrows parking lot on Fred Wilson Rd. at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bob Johnson (751-0125 h, 757-1876 b).

## HUECO TANKS

SAT., FEB. 7. Meet at Bella Napoli, 10600 Montana at 7:30 AM. Bring lunch so we can picnic together before heading home. Leader: (needed). Call Bill Doebele to volunteer (593-4835).

## UPPER VALLEY

SUN., FEB. 15. Meet at the crossroads at 2:30 PM. We will look for water birds. Leader: Joyce Davis (581-9470).

## LOWER VALLEY

SAT., FEB. 28. Meet at Feather Lake at 7:30 AM. Leader: (needed). Call Bill Doebele (593-4835).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., JAN. 12, 1987, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso, (751-0125). All members are welcome.



## TRAINING SESSION SCHEDULED

On Jan. 13, 1987 a training session for the chapter slide program, "Birds of El Paso", will be held at the home of Jeannette Cole, 4608 Caples Circle. We plan to begin at 10 AM. For more information call Jeannette (565-1957). \*\*\*\*\*

## FIELD TRIPS FOLLOW-UP

On Oct. 26 seventeen people spent an enjoyable time looking at water birds at the crossroads pond and an area identified by a local person as Doniphan Bayou. The group drove out to Owen's and Durling's farm. At Durling's a cactus wren was seen carrying straw to a nest. Two sapsuckers were seen in the trees, and one was definitely identified as a red-naped sapsucker. A total of 50 species were recorded. \*\*\*\*\*

On Sun., Nov. 16 seventeen lucky birders gathered at Furrows on Fred Wilson Rd. for the trip to the Northeast Oxidation Ponds. Twenty-six species were seen including Long-billed Dowitcher, Water Pipit, Canvasback and the bird of the day----a Common Loon. \*\*\*\*\*

On Nov. 8th 9 Auduboners didn't believe the weatherman's report of 30 and possible rain. In spite of the prediction they bird watched their way to Hueco Tanks, and were rewarded with a warm, sunshiny day. They had the good fortune to see 27 species including: Starlings, Red-tailed Hawks, Western Meadowlarks, Scaled Quail, Loggerhead Shrike, a mated pair of Ladderback Woodpeckers, Cactus Wren, House Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Harriers, Say's Phoebe, White-crowned Sparrow, Flickers, Brown Towhee, Rufous-sided Towhee, Kinglets, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's and Brewer's Sparrow, Crissal Thrasher, Sharp-shinned Hawk,

and an unusual Red-tailed Hawk that possibly could have been s Krider's. (RZ, JC, JC, LJ, BR, VH, CC, PB, RJ) \*\*\*\*\*

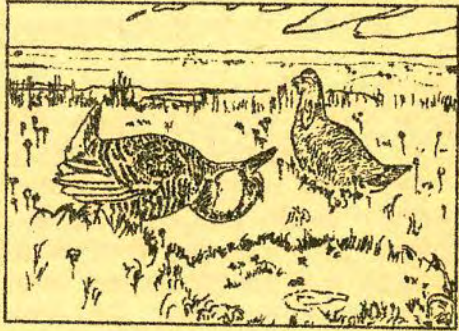
## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MON., JAN. 26, 7:30 PM. The Conservation Committee will meet at the home of Anne Hussmann, 5333 Stonebluff, El Paso (584-4081) to begin planning 1987 conservation activities. If you can, come at 6:30 for dinner before the meeting. \*\*\*\*\*

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 EPTPAS 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. \*\*\*\*\*

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

1986 Nongame Stamp \$5.00



YES, I want to help support the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 1986 Texas Nongame Stamp(s) at \$5 each. Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986

## OBSERVATIONS

November 21 - December 28

Some unusual sightings were reported in this period.

BR - Brockmoller's yard (in Mt. Park)  
 CP - Crossroads Pond  
 DP - Doniphan Playa FL - Feather Lake  
 HT - Hueco Tanks MH - Mission Hills  
 MS - Mt. Shadow Lake OW - Owen's yard  
 ST - Santa Teresa UV - Upper Valley

## LOONS - FALCONS

Great Blue Herons were seen at DP 11/27 (JS), 12/14 (JD) and frequently in UV (PR). Cattle Egrets were seen at FL 12/20 (JF) and UV (PR). Redhead ducks were reported at CP 11/27 (JS), MS 12/7, 12/20 (AG, et al.), 12/14 (JS, BV), DP 12/14 (JD). A Greater Scaup was sighted at MS 12/14 (JS, BV) - details reported. A first-time sighting for El Paso County was the view of 2 Surf Scoters at MS 12/7 by a group of birders (AG, et al.). Later viewers were able to get pictures of the birds. A Common Goldeneye was seen at CP 12/28 (JD). Buffleheads were seen at MS 12/7 (AG, et al.), 12/14 (JS, BV), DR 11/27 (JS), 12/28 (JD). Golden Eagles were reported on the CBC at HT 12/20 (TB, et al.) (BJ, et al.). A Sharpshinned Hawk was at BR this month (JB).

## QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Two Great Horned Owls were seen at HT 11/28 (JS). Eight White-throated Swifts were sighted at HT 11/28 (JS). An immature Anna's Hummingbird came into a Mission Hills' yard during the snowstorm 12/10 (EM). A male Anna's was at BR 12/28 (JB). Rufous Hummingbirds were reported at MH 12/10 (EM) and in n.e. El Paso 12/3 (BJ).

## FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

A Black Phoebe was seen near ST 11/27 (JS) and at DP 12/14, 12/28 (JD). A male Vermilion Flycatcher spent several hours at the entrance to ST 12/11 (PaR). A House Wren was heard at OW 11/27 and HT 11/28 (JS). Townsend's Solitaires were spotted at BR 12/6 (JB) and HT 12/20 (JD, et al.). Cedar Waxwings were reported at HT 11/26 and a Mt. Park yard

12/27 (BJ, RW). Two Phainopepla were found at HT 11/28 (JS).

## WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A Fox Sparrow was seen in an e. El Paso yard 12/15 (JF). A picture was taken of a Lazuli Bunting in a Mt. Park yard 12/27 (BJ, RW). (Sighting needs to be confirmed by a 3rd party.) Lesser Goldfinches were seen at HT 11/28 (JS).

## Exotic Birds

Flocks of 16-17 parrots were reported in the lower valley: Rose Lane and 7420 Franklin. A flock of all green parrots with red above the beaks was seen near North Loop and Lee Trevino. Dr. Jim Koschmann thinks the Blackhooded Conures in the upper valley are a family as he knows of an escaped pair.

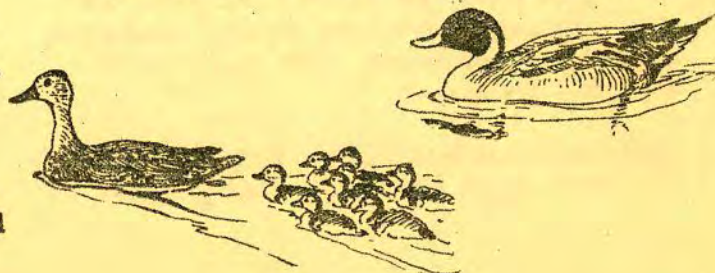
OBSERVERS: Tom Baker, Janet Brockmoller, Joyce Davis, Jane Fowler, Al Gavit, Bob Johnson, Eve McCullough, Peggy Riede, Patricia Russell, John Sproul, Brad Vaughn, Ray Waite.  
 /Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/  
 (581-9470)

## NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome these new members into our local chapter and NAS: Karen Ashbaugh, Carla Ault, Flora Bittick, David Boylan, H. M. Daugherty, Mrs. R. T. Dempsey, Doug Hammons, Irmgard Harness, Lynn Walsh, Richard Zinkosky.

## A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Our CONGRATULATIONS to Tom and Virginia Baker on the birth of little Genevieve on Dec 25. We know that she will be a joy and a blessing to them just as their other daughters are.



## CONSERVATION CAPSULES

**BLACK-CAPPED VIREO:** On Dec 12, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed listing the Black-capped Vireo as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. This bird formerly bred from Kansas through Oklahoma and Texas to central Coahuila in Mexico. But today, according to the USFWS, it no longer occurs in Kansas, is gravely endangered in Oklahoma (it was found in only 3 small areas in 1986) and is no longer found in several parts of its former range in Texas. Principal threats to the species are nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds and habitat loss. The heart of the species' breeding range is the Crosstimbers and Edwards Plateau ecological regions in Texas. The largest known concentrations are in the Austin area, where some 88% of the local vireo population is currently threatened with extirpation by development activity and road construction and where Travis Audubon Society is working hard to get the City of Austin to protect key parcels of vireo habitat. Comments on the USFWS proposal should be submitted by Mar 12 to Michael Spear, Regional Director, USFWS, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

**SPORTS COMPLEX:** A decision on where to locate El Paso's future city sports complex (RR; Nov, Dec 1986) is drawing near. At its Nov 25 meeting, the El Paso City Council directed the City's Planning Dept. to perform a site-selection study and make a siting recommendation within 45 days, i.e. by Jan 9. The Planning Dept. has identified some 21 potential sites throughout the City. It has given early preference to sites in n.e. El Paso but does not consider the controversial site on Castner Range land at the intersection of Transmountain Road and the North-South Freeway to be a good one. We agree. El Paso conservationists have long sought inclusion of the Castner Range site in Franklin Mts. St. Park.

**TEXAS AUDUBON LOBBYIST:** The 70th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature

begins Jan 13, and for the first time Audubon will have a lobbyist working to make our environmental concerns known. The Southwest Regional Office of the Natl. Audubon Soc. and the Audubon Council of Texas have hired G. K. Sprinkle of Austin to be our first State Environmental Lobbyist. Her diverse background includes a Master's degree in Paleontology from Harvard and previous experience as a lobbyist before the Texas Legislature. She knows the legislative process and is highly regarded by Texas conservationists who have seen her in action.

## EL PASO-LAS CRUCES RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE

The El Paso-Las Cruces Rare Birds Committee (RBC) was busy in 1986, reviewing documentation for some 198 local bird records. Among the new records now in the RBC's files: a Trumpeter Swan from the Las Cruces area (Dec 1985), an immature Reddish Egret (Jul 1986) and single Laughing and Western gulls (May 1986) from the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, single Lesser Golden-Plovers on 2 occasions from the Socorro sewage ponds (Sep, Oct 1986), a Groove-billed Ani from near the Tornillo rest stop (Oct 1986), a Greater Pewee from the Franklin Mts. (Jun 1986) and a Chestnut-sided Warbler from Durling's Farm (May 1986).

The RBC files, including both written details and photographic documentation of rare-bird sightings, are maintained at the UTEP Centennial Museum in El Paso and the NMSU library in Las Cruces. You can contribute to this valuable and rapidly expanding data base by submitting details of your rare-bird observations to the RBC. For a summary of the bird records the RBC reviewed and accepted in 1986 or for a copy of its Review List of bird species meriting documentation, contact John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25, El Paso, TX 79902, ph. 915/545-5157. Thanks are due El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon for providing funds to the RBC for slide duplication in 1986.  
/John Sproul/

## FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS COALITION

To preserve the scenic beauty and wilderness character of the Franklin Mountains;

to protect the plant and animal resources of the Mountains and preserve the whole range as an intact ecosystem;

to stimulate appreciation of the natural values of the Mountains and promote understanding of their biological, cultural and geological features; and

to encourage recreational, scientific and educational uses of the Mountains consistent with preserving their scenic beauty and wilderness character.

These are the purposes of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition. Sound like something you agree with?

The Coalition had some major accomplishments in 1986. Perhaps the most visible were its successes in convincing the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to protect the New Mexico portion of the Franklins and in convincing the City of El Paso there were serious shortcomings in a proposal to locate the city sports complex on Castner Range lands near the Wilderness Park Museum.

This year will be equally challenging, and the Coalition would welcome your support. Annual dues, covering the calendar year, are: Student/\$3, Regular/\$5, Contributing/\$25-\$100, Sustaining/over \$100. Checks, payable to "Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition", may be sent to: Betty Wallis, Treasurer, FMWC, 1208-D Avalon, El Paso, TX 79925.

The next regular meeting of the Coalition will be Wednesday, Jan 21, beginning at 7 PM at the home of Donna and Gary Bloedorn, 2744 Gunnison, El Paso (755-6636).  
/John Sproul/



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT  
DIRECTOR - AUDUBON CAMP IN MAINE

The position of Director of the Audubon Camp in Maine is available beginning with the 1987 summer season. The period of employment for this seasonal post is approximately 13 weeks, from mid-June to early September.

The camp's Director is responsible for efficiently planning, organizing, and supervising the implementation of the Audubon Camp in Maine's programs and activities which include a 10 day Youth Ecology Program, a series of 4 twelve day Ecology Camp Programs for adults, and 2 six day Field Ornithology sessions. These activities will be developed under the guidance of the Executive Director to insure that the goals and program objectives of NAS are properly and adequately presented. The Director is responsible for developing an academically sound program, acceptable for accreditation at the university level. Inquiries and resumes should be directed to: Philip P. Schaeffer, Executive Director, National Environmental Education Center, NAS, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, Ct. 06831.

# CHECKLIST

- News of environmental issues*
- Background information*
- Tips on how to become a more effective activist*
- Insider's information*
- Critical analyses and thoughtful essays*
- Reviews and references*

**Y**ou get all this and more with a subscription to *Audubon Activist*, the new, bimonthly newspaper for Audubon members who want to make a difference.

Subscribe today. Send your name, address, and zip code, along with six dollars (for one year), to: *Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society.

## AUDUBON ACTIVIST

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Audubon Activist*, 950 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

# WATCH IT!

**COMING SOON ...** The new Audubon Television Special, *"On the Edge of Extinction: Panthers and Cheetahs."* On cable SuperStation WTBS.

Thursday, January 8, 9:05pm EST

Thursday, January 15, 12:00am EST

Sunday, January 18, 5:35pm EST

Tuesday, January 20, 8:05pm EST

(Check local listings for schedule changes)

**F**uture programs will feature alternative agriculture, waterfowl, and the wood stork of the Florida Everglades. All Audubon TV Specials are shown on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) during the summer. Videocassettes are available. For more information: National Audubon Society, Audubon Television Programs, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20003.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter. Send AUDUBON magazine and membership card to:

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Membership category desired:

Individual/\$30       Senior Citizen

Family/\$38       Individual/\$21

Student/\$18       Senior Citizen

Family/\$23

This is a  new  renewal membership.

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Neil Keith, 1525 Meadowview, El Paso, Tx 79925.

### LOCAL CHAPTER

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS

W10

7XCH

The deadline for the Feb. ROADRUNNER is Jan. 21.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society  
PO Box 9655  
El Paso, TX 79986

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
El Paso, TX  
Permit NO. 2440

Forwarding and  
Address Correction  
Requested

ROBERT S JOHNSON  
5100 PARIS ST  
EL PASO TX 79924

W10  
JAN87