

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 23 (5)

Oct. - Nov., 1993

Bureau of Land Management

General Meeting - October 18, 7:30 PM at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. in Memorial Park.

Our guest at the October general meeting will be a speaker from the Las Cruces District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The speaker, who had not been designated at press time, will be discussing the BLM's current programs including "Wildlife 2000". There will be a 19-minute film titled "Back to the Future". Since the BLM controls so much land in the area we also discuss local wildlife viewing and birding opportunities.

At the conclusion of the program, the speaker will answer questions concerning the Bureau of Land Management's projects and policies.

☞ Craig Braginton ☞

El Paso- Juárez Clean Air Project

General Meeting - Monday, November 15, 7:30 PM at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. in Memorial Park.

The Environmental Defense Fund is about to launch its El Paso—Juárez Clean Air Project, and our November general Meeting will be your chance to learn all about it. Pete Emerson, Senior Economist for the EDF in Austin, will be our speaker.

The air-quality problems of our region sometimes seem intractable, but there are ways to start solving them. Often, the key is international cooperation among government, business and the public. The EDF will soon open a new field office in the El Paso-Juarez area, from which it will seek opportunities for such cooperation. At our meeting, Emerson will fill us in on EDF's plans and also address environmental implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

You won't want to miss it!

☞ John Sproul ☞

Audubon Activist

Tips for Activists

Green Living

Six ways to support sustainable industries

- Patronize green businesses, and buy environmentally sound products.
- Publicize local sustainable industries through letters to the editor, radio programs, and word of mouth.
- Hold a block party or other event and invite local green businesses to participate.
- Invest. A growing number of investment houses are devoted to environmentally and socially responsible investing, and traditional firms often have special portfolios with these investment options. (See below.)
- Support environmental legislation that can help sustainable industries, such as local recycling measures, pollution control bills, and tax breaks to encourage the use of renewable energy.
- Make your own home or business as environmentally sound as possible.

Publications:

Besides environmental magazines, some less known but helpful resources include the *Green Market Alert* (203-266-7209) and *Green alternatives for Health and the Environment* (914-876-6525). The

Institute of Business Designers publishes a newsletter of green architecture and design (212-421-1950).

Green Investing:

There are many options available for green investing, and you should thoroughly research as many as possible before making an investment decision. Here are two: Working assets (1-800-223-7010); New Alternatives Fund (involved primarily in mutual fund investments in alternative energy) (516-466-0808).

Publications include the *Green Money Journal* (509-328-1741) and the *Good Money Newsletter* (802-223-3911).

☛ Audubon Activist ☛

It Can Be Made To Work

Rice growers in California usually set fire to their fields to remove the remaining straw after harvest. This added about one million tons of pollution to the air. The practice was banned by the state last year.

The growers worked with environmentalists to work out a solution: flood the fields during the winter. This would help to decompose the straw and provide a feeding place for migrating waterfowl. It seems everyone will benefit: the growers, the birds, and the humans who live in the area.

☛ Audubon Activist ☛

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Supervisor, Arizona Ecological Services Office, USFWS, 3616 W. Thomas Rd., Suite 6, Phoenix, AZ 85019). The agency also plans three public hearings on the proposal, one of them in Las Cruces.

☞ John Sproul ☞

Festival of the Cranes

Among the most awe-inspiring sights in nature is the annual fall migration of tens of thousands of sandhill cranes and snow geese to their annual wintering grounds on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro, New Mexico. Birders can enjoy the spectacle of these migrating flocks, along with an impressive line-up of experts and events at the sixth annual Bosque Del Apache Festival of the Cranes November 18-21.

The action-packed four day program features authors Donald and Lillian Stokes, International Crane Foundation director George Archibald and other speakers, plus more than fifty exhibits, workshops, demonstrations and conducted tours, some in areas usually closed to the public.

Experts from 23 agencies and professional societies will offer demonstrations and exhibits, many with live raptors, reptiles and mammals, covering identification, rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife.

An illustrated lecture by veteran birder-photographer Gary Froehlich and three workshops by famed "National Wildlife Refuge Calendar" publisher-photographer Karen Hollingsworth will provide tips to amateur and serious bird photographers.

Festival information and tickets are available from:

Festival of the Cranes
P.O. Box 743 NR
Socorro, NM 87801
(505) 835-0424



AUDUBON BIRDATHON

We did it again! The El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society placed first in the Southwest Region in the 1993 Birdathon. Our 29 counters raised \$5,571 (and counting).

Nationally, the 1993 Birdathon proved the power of hundreds of dedicated volunteers: over \$1,300,000 has been raised by 429 events from 183 chapters across the country.

Each year we present awards to some of our counters in four important categories:

- Most money raised - John Sproul
- Most species sighted - Larry

Jordan

- Most sponsors - Jo Nagel
- Most unusual sighting (the famed Bart Rumaker Award) - Bob Johnson

Our thanks go to Jane Fowler, this year's Birdathon Coordinator, for the hard work that went into another successful year. The counters in the field deserve our admiration as well as our thanks. Above all, our sincere thanks go to the many contributors who were essential to Birdathon and the projects it supports.

☞ G.B. ☞

Donors

We gratefully acknowledge donations made by the following individuals to the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society:

For General Chapter Work

Donations were made by Mr. and Mrs. John Karr, Nellie Kingston, Ruth Graham, Leo Nordwald, and Margaret Benton in the name of Pearson Wosika.

News

Project Feeder Watch

Project Feeder Watch is a joint effort of two bird research centers: Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in New York. Every two weeks from November to March, thousands of "kitchen-window scientists" across North America count birds at their backyard feeders, noting which species visit, and how many.

Together, the volunteer FeederWatchers collect far more data than a single scientist ever could. Cornell ornithologists use the information to track bird population trends.

For example, this past winter many FeederWatchers thought they saw fewer birds than normal at their feeders. But the FeederWatch data, once analyzed didn't support this gut reaction. The "missing" birds were mostly invasion species and this past winter wasn't a big invasion year.

This coming winter, FeederWatchers will have a chance to expand the scope of their backyard investigations. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is launching a novel program, the National Science Experiments, that offers research opportunities for bird lovers of all abilities. FeederWatchers are especially invited to take part in one experiment, the Seed Preference Test—they'll help to find out which foods birds like best.



Thanksgiving Window-Watch Bird Count

This has been going on since 1966, mostly in

Project FeederWatch Wants You!

Sign up now for Project FeederWatch, and this November we'll send you a participant's kit with complete instructions.

Yes, I want to be a FederWatcher!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

____ \$14 Check enclosed. Make checks payable in U.S. Dollars to Project FeederWatch.

Charge \$14 to my:

____ Visa

____ MasterCard

____ Discover

Account No. _____

Signature _____

Send this form to:
Project FeederWatch
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

For more information, call (607) 254-2414

the East, but has expanded in recent years almost nationwide.

If you enjoy yard birds and have one hour on Thanksgiving Day to gaze out the window, at your house or wherever you are visiting, the data you collect will be useful.

It is done covering a 15 foot diameter circle for one continuous hour. If you are interested and/or would like more information and a copy of the simple form, contact Bob Johnson at 757-1876.

☛ Bob Johnson ☛

Observations

August 16, 1993 — September 15, 1993
Uncommon, RARE and **CASUAL** sightings

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

(Observers: Craig Braginton, Doug Enkalns, Sally Homan, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, John Kiseda, Al Olivas, Patricia Russell, John Sproul, Nancy Wilson, Barry Zimmer; M.ob=many observers, -yd = in their yard, -ft= field trip leader.)

DMr-Doniphan Marsh, FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds, FLk-Feather Lake, Mem-Memorial Park, Own-Owens Farm, SFk-Sunland Park, StT-Santa Teresa, XRd-Crossroads Pond.

HERONS to SANDPIPERS

<u>LITTLE BLUE HERON</u>	8/16-8/28	(JS) FLk
<u>GREEN WINGED TEAL</u>	8/22	(BJ-ft)FBP
<u>OSPREY</u>	9/4	(JS) FLk
<u>LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER</u>	9/4	(LJ) FBP
	9/5	(CB) FBP
	9/6	(M.ob) FBP
<u>SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER</u>	8/22	(BJ-ft)FBP
<u>PECTORAL SANDPIPER</u>	8/22	(BJ-ft)FBP

RUFF to MAGPIE

<u>RUFF</u> (1st Trans-Pecos record)	9/5-9/6	(DE) FBP
<u>RED-NECKED PHALAROPE</u>	9/12	(JK) SPk
<u>SABINE'S GULL</u>	9/6	(BZ) FBP
Great Horned Owl	8/31	(PR) StT
<u>EASTERN KINGBIRD</u>	9/12	(SH) XRd
<u>BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE</u>	9/11	(NW-ft)DMr
	9/12	(SH) Own

VIREOS to REDSTARTS

<u>RED-EYED VIREO</u>	8/31	(BZ) FBP
Townsend's Warbler	8/31	(BZ) Mem
<u>GRACE'S WARBLER</u>	8/31	(BZ) Mem
Northern Waterthrush	8/23	(DE) HTk
	9/4	(BZ) FBP
<u>LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH</u>	8/23	(DE) HTk
<u>AMERICAN REDSTART</u>	8/22	(AO) HTk
	9/8	(PR) StT

A lot of good birds, keep your eyes open and get your reports in, you could be the one with a very rare bird next.

WORLD BIRDWATCH '93

The purpose of World Birdwatch '93 is to focus the world's attention on the tremendous diversity of birds in the world and on the need for conservation activities to preserve that diversity.

The top agenda item for the weekend of Oct. 9/10 is to go birding and to keep a list of what you see. Send your list of call 757-1876 (including the number of observers) to me at 5109 Paris El Paso, TX 79924. Do this on Mon. the 11th. I will compile the lists and send them on to ABA. The lists from throughout the world will be compiled and hope that the weekend will be the largest birding event ever in terms of number of participants and species.

The main focus of the weekend is to go birding and tell us what you see. However, the impact of your activity can be even greater if you take nonbirders along. //Bob Johnson//

HIGHWAY TRASH

Sat. and Sun. Oct. 30 and 31

Our fall pickup of trash along US 62/180 will be conducted this weekend. I only ask you to put in 2 hours on one of these days, that's what it takes to pick up 2/10ths of a mile.

Meet Bob Johnson (757-1876) at 8AM on either day. The meeting place is as usual the flying saucer building at the junction of US 62/180 and FM 2775, Hueco Tanks entry road. If you would like to come out both days, I won't object. We could have a birders surprise, so come find out.

Calendar

October

- Sat., 2** - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sun., 3 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Sat. - Sun., 9-10 - World Birdwatch '93, see page 7.
Sun., 10 - Feather lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Mon., 11 - Board meeting at Mary Ann Vernon's home, 7:30 PM, 6808 A Escondido, 581-1389.
Sat., 16 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sat., 16 - Feather Lake workday.
Sun., 17 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Sun., 17 - Potluck picnic at Feather Lake, see page 3.
Mon., 18 - General meeting, see page 1.
Sat., 23 - Field trip to Rattlesnake Springs, see page 3.
Sun., 24 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Sat. - Sun., 30 - 31 - Highway trash pickup, see page 7.
Sun., 31 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.

November

- Sat., 6** - Feather lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sat., 6 - Field trip to Ft. Bliss ponds, see page 3.
Sun., 7 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Mon., 8 - Board meeting at Craig Braginton's home, 125 Libby, Canutillo, 877-4138.
Sat., 13 - Feather Lake workday.
Sun., 14 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Mon., 15 - General meeting, see page 1.
Thu. - Sun., 18 - 20 - Festival of the Cranes, see page 5.
Sat., 20 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sat., 20 - Field trip to Ft. Hancock, see page 3.
Sun., 21 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.
Sun., 28 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to dusk.

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

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El Paso, Texas 79986

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THE ROADRUNNER is printed on recycled paper.

Nonprofit organization
U.S. Postage
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El Paso, Texas
Permit #2440

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