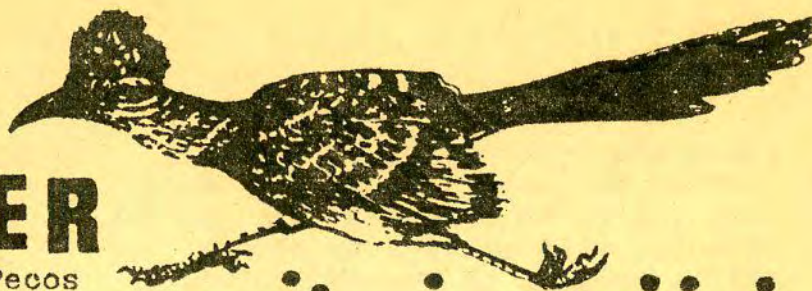


the ROADRUNNER

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



Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 17 (2)

\$4.00 per year

February 1987

GENERAL MEETING

MON., FEB. 16, 1987, 7:30 PM in Garden Center, 3105 Grant in Memorial Park. Dr. Joseph Leach, Professor Emeritus of English, who retired in 1986 after 33 yrs. teaching at U.T. El Paso, will present a slide program of his trip to Nepal in 1985 titled "Trekking Through the Himalayas". Dr. Leach is a past president of the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club and has traveled extensively. Come hear a program about an area few of us will be fortunate enough to visit.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

HUECO TANKS STATE PARK

SAT., FEB. 7. Meet at Bella Napoli restaurant, 10600 Montana at 7:30 AM. Plan on walking 2.5 miles as we look for common resident species and the Park's usual rich mix of wintering sparrows. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: John Sproul (545-5157).

UPPER VALLEY 15

SUN., FEB. 28. 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: Bob Johnson (751-0125).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., FEB. 9, 1987, 7:30 PM. The Board will meet at the home of Bart

Rumaker, 4847-B Excalibur Dr., El Paso (544-6432). All members are welcome.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MON., FEB. 23, 7:30 PM. The Education Committee will meet at the home of John Sproul, 601 W. Yandell #25, El Paso (545-5157) to begin planning 1987-88 activities. All members with an interest in environmental education are encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

HUECO TANKS STATE PARK -Dec. 20
On a clear day, twenty-one observers counted 2,092 individual birds of 52 species. This was a larger number of observers than usual for this count. The biggest change was having water in Mountain Shadows Lake which added many water birds. For example: 340 American Coots, plus Eared Grebes, American Wigeon, Red-heads, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks were counted. The group covering the park area was thrilled to see a large flock of Mountain Bluebirds.
/Joyce Davis/



AWARDS DINNER

Make plans to attend our annual Awards Banquet on Sun., Feb. 22, and you'll be glad you did. The evening will provide us with a slide program by Murray Walton, fantastic food and the company of 2 wonderful people who will be honored for their outstanding contributions to our chapter and to the community.

The recipient of the Meritorious Service Award will be Geth White, a true pioneer of our local chapter. Geth was responsible for giving our chapter new life in 1970. She recruited new members, participated in Christmas Bird Counts, published the first ROADRUNNER (1971) and got a provisional charter for the EP/TPAS in 1972. Our group today exists largely because of her efforts.

Clark Champie, local conservationist and author of 2 books, "Stranger in the Franklins" and "Cacti and Succulents of El Paso", will be honored for his efforts in educating El Pasoans about the natural environment and how important it is to protect it. He has devoted particular attention to the Franklin Mts., and he is playing an important role in their protection. He is the deserving recipient of the Conservation Achievement Award.

After a delicious treat to our taste buds, our Southwest Regional Representative, Murray Walton, will give a colorful slide presentation on several projects now before the Texas Legislature.

Come and say "hello" to Murray, Geth, Clark and other Audubon friends!



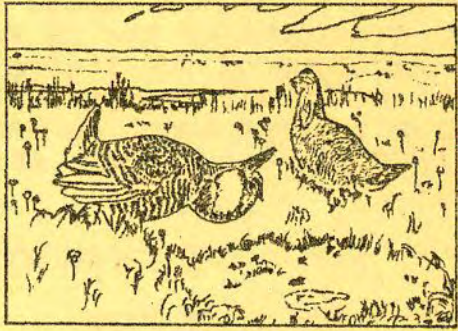
BUFFET STYLE DINNER

BBQ Ribs, Brisket, Sausage Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Beans Homemade Bread, Coffee or Ice Tea (Note: Delicious homemade ice cream \$1.50 extra.)

Where: State Line Restaurant
When: Sun., Feb. 22, 6:00 PM
Cost: \$11.50 (Make checks to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society)

Reservations: Call Helen Barto (755-4744) or Peggy Riede (833-4881). Reservations and checks must be received by Feb. 16, 1987. Send checks to Helen Barto, 3312 Moonlight, El Paso, 79904.

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

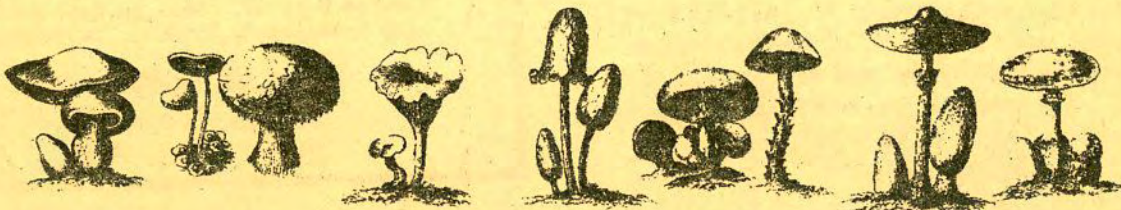
EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	Bob Johnson 751-0125
President-elect	Tom Baker 562-9461
Vice-president	Sarah Dodds 533-4150
Secretary	Joyce Davis 581-9470
Treasurer	Jean Coyle 778-7238

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY BUDGET

INCOME	1986 Proposed	1986 Actual	1987 Proposed
Dues	1950.	1844.50	2000.
Contributions	250.	274.85	300.
Sales	650.	605.17	650.
Rummage	750.	1004.17	750.
Newsletter subs.	75.	120.	100.
Book Fair	200.	442.82	200.
Birdathon	1250.	4532.05	3000.
Interest	125.	197.82	150.
Caretaker	400.	418.	250.
Other	00.	237.42	00.
	<u>5650.</u>	<u>9676.80</u>	<u>7400.</u>
EXPENSES			
Membership	60.	28.81	90.
Program	220.	27.26	250.
Conservation	550.	738.92	725.
Field trips	20.	00.	20.
Hospitality	20.	9.40	20.
Publicity	20.	86.93	20.
Education	230.	354.38	300.
Publications	850.	749.67	1100.
Ways and Means	400.	464.45	200.
Sanctuary	1030.	894.99	750.
Audubon Council of Texas	200.	157.40	215.
Library	80.	00.	00.
Birdathon	1250.	152.65	1500.(a)
Awards and gifts	200.	1972.92	1700.
General Administration			
Rentals	190.	212.	220.(b)
Office supplies	90.	83.35	90.
Insurance	190.	143.	150.
Other	50.	60.30	50.
	<u>5650.</u>	<u>6136.43</u>	<u>7400.</u>

NOTES: a. Birdathon income carried here until determined how to allocate.
 b. Includes phone, PO box rental, meeting hall.



CONSERVATION CAPSULES

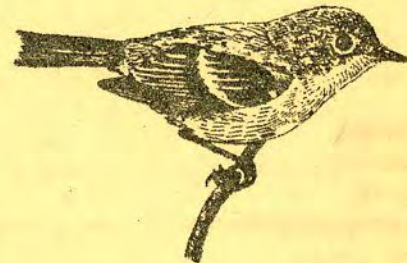
CONSERVATION \$\$: As the financial statement on p. 3 shows, El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon expended \$739 from its General Fund on conservation programs in 1986. Where did those dollars go? The largest chunk was the \$400 contribution to the Audubon Council of Texas to help hire an Audubon lobbyist for the current session of the Texas Legislature. Another \$200 went to local wildlife rehabilitators to help support their work in 1986. We sent the Texas and New Mexico offices of The Nature Conservancy \$25 each for their natural-area protection programs and gave \$75 to the Special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD). The final \$14 purchased stamps for the EP/TPAS Conservation Committee. And, in addition to these General Fund expenditures, we also contributed \$100 from our Franklin Mountains Fund to the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition for its successful campaign to protect land between the Organ Mts. and the Franklins as a recreation/wildlife corridor. Your support of EP/TPAS made it all possible. Thanks.

SPORTS COMPLEX: At its Jan 6 meeting, El Paso's City Council granted the City's Planning Dept. a 6-week extension on the site-selection study for the future city sports complex (RR, Jan). The likely date for the Planning Dept. to make a siting recommendation to City Council is now Feb 17.

TEXAS NONGAME STAMP: The Bald Eagle, an endangered bird showing signs of improvement in Texas and long the focus of research by TPWD's Nongame Program, will be the featured species on the 1987 Texas Nongame Stamp and associated art print. The stamp, designed by Bob Kuhn, should be available in March. Orders for the limited-edition art print will be accepted through May 31 (details will be in next month's RR). Meanwhile, we still have a few 1986 stamps available (p. 2). Get one while the supply lasts, and support Texas wildlife!

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS: Another milestone in the history of Franklin Mts. State Park may soon be upon us. Last fall, the TPWD selected Fred Bitting, currently at Ft. Lancaster St. Historic Site near Sheffield, to be the Park's first superintendent and Guillermo "Willie" Martinez, currently at Hueco Tanks St. Park, to be its first ranger. When will they begin work in the Franklins? The current target date is March 1...providing final bureaucratic details fall into place. Keep your fingers crossed. /John Sproul/

Ruby-crowned Kinglet



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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/\$38 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/\$21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/\$18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

ELECTIONS

Following the election at the Jan 19th meeting, the new officers are:

President - Tom Baker
 Vice-President - Sid Shepperd
 Secretary - Ann Schultis
 Treasurer - Bart Rumaker
 Directors - Anne Hussmann
 Larry Jordan
 Neil Keith

The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all of these fine members who have consented to actively participate as the governing body to insure and promote the chapter's continuance, growth and progress. Let's all pitch in and help them carry out their plans for 1987.

Nominating Committee - Betty Bowen, John Bowen, Anne Hussmann.
 (Ed. note: Our thanks to the Nominating Committee for a job well done.)

OPPORTUNITY OF A WILD-TIME!

EP/TPAS would like to extend to local educators a terrific opportunity to attend one of Audubon's 3 Ecology Camps. If you are interested in learning about field ecology, wildlife, nature photography or having a great time with wonderful people, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!! We are offering half, three-quarters or full scholarships for interested individuals. Call or write Gloria Woelfel, 615 Frontera, El Paso 79922 (833-7523) for an application form or more info. Completed applications must be returned by Feb 23. The Scholarship Committee will make a selection in March and notify the scholarship recipient(s). /GW/

* * *

THE ROADRUNNER is sent to all members of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Soc. Non-members 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.

OBSERVATIONS

December 29 - January 19

Not all of the El Paso CBC sightings are listed in this month's report.

FM - Franklin Mts.
 UV - upper valley
 WR - White Rock Canyon

LOONS - FALCONS

A Great Blue Heron was seen at Lake Willows 1/11 (JD) and UV 1/19 (PtR). Cattle Egrets were spotted on the CBC in the UV 1/3 (BJ). A Cooper's Hawk was seen on Country Club Rd. 1/15 (Pgr). Three Golden Eagles (2 ad., 1 undetermined) were seen on FM ridge-line 1/3 (JS,JF,JW). An immature N. Goshawk was viewed in a Horizon City yard 1/4 (AG,CG)(details reported).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

A Greater Yellowlegs and Long-billed Dowitchers were found at Doniphan Playa 1/10 (JD). Three Great Horned Owls were heard on the east side of FM 1/1 (JS,JF) and one near WR 1/3 (JS,JW). Two male Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in an east El Paso yard 1/1 (AB).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Black Phoebes were reported at Randel's Pool 1/11 (JD) and UV yard 1/18 (Pgr). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were spotted 1/3 on the west side of FM (JS,JW) and at Cement Lake (JD). Townsend's Solitaires were reported from all over the El Paso CBC area 1/3 and on McNutt Rd. 1/19 (PtR). Cedar Waxwings were spotted in 2 areas of the CBC 1/3(mob).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A Lazuli Bunting was seen in a Mt. Park yard 1/4 (RG). Black-chinned Sparrows were found in W. Cottonwood Spring Canyon 1/3 (JS,JF,JW).

Exotic Birds

Two Black-hooded Conures were reported in UV yard 1/18 (PtR).
 (cont. next page)

OBSERVERS: Anne Bowman, Joyce Davis, Jane Fowler, Al & Chris Gavit, Roger Gore, Bob Johnson, Peggy & Peter Riede, Patricia Russell(PtR), John Sproul, Jo Warolin.
/Joyce Davis, Observations Editor/
(581-9470)

(CBC cont. from p 1)

EL PASO CBC

The El Paso CBC, Jan 3, 1987 was a very successful event. We set new records for the number of counters in the field (41) and feeder counters (11). We totaled 95 species and 23,273 individuals (our record highs are 104 sp. in '76 and '85 and 60,200 ind. in '53 and 30,337 ind. in '85).

Individual highs were:

	this yr	previous high in	
Pied-billed Grebe	15	9	'74
Cattle Egret	52	1	'71
Red-tailed Hawk	28	25	'85
Am. Kestrel	81	76	'79
Greater Roadrunner	17	16	'73
Burrowing Owl	4	4	'80
Verdin	20	19	'61
Cactus Wren	43	35	'81
N. Mockingbird	58	34	'85
Townsend's Solitaire	13	4	'50
Cedar Waxwing	104	70	'78
Pyrrhuloxia	68	44	'77

I feel that some of these highs can be attributed to a greater number of eyes looking this year. Others (i.e. Cattle Egret, Townsend's Solitaire) could be due to changed migration patterns.

I wish to thank all who participated this year; your help was truly appreciated. Plan now to participate in the CBCs for '87. Thanks again. /Bob Johnson/



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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

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The deadline for the March ROADRUNNER is Feb. 21.

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