

The



Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 26 No. 6

December, 1996 - January, 1997



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Grand Tetons and Yellowstone

December
General
Meeting

General Meeting, Monday, December 9, 1996, 7:30 PM - Bob Johnson will be presenting the grandeur of the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park at our December General Meeting. His slide show will introduce us to the wildlife, birds, and wonderful scenery of these two extraordinary jewels of the continent. If you have never seen these areas, and even if you have, then the December General Meeting is the place to be. The meeting will be held in the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park.

Our monthly meetings are normally held on the third Monday of the month. The December meeting is held on the second Monday to allow all of us time to prepare for the holidays.

Hueco Tanks and City of Rocks

January
General
Meeting

General Meeting, Monday, January 20, 1997, 7:30 PM - John Green is a renowned photographer and world traveler who has worked with the El Paso Native Plant Society, the El Paso Cactus Club and the El Paso Archaeological Society to photograph areas around this region. For our January General Meeting, John will bring his considerable skills to bear on the Hueco Tanks Texas State Park and the City of Rocks New Mexico State Park—two areas that are wildly different from each other as well as from the geology and geography of the surrounding country. Come by the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, to see these two areas presented at their very best. This is a meeting not to be missed for an interesting speaker and spectacular photography.



WatchList Highlights Species in Decline

By John Sproul

In October, the National Audubon Society and Partners in Flight released a "WatchList" of birds that are not yet on the Endangered Species List but show clear evidence of being in decline or in danger. The WatchList includes 90 species, 14 percent of American breeding bird species. Many are already rare, some are still fairly common. Included are 18 species that nest regularly in Trans-Pecos Texas (* indicates nesting in El Paso check-list area):

- Mountain Plover
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Common Ground-Dove
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Lucifer Hummingbird
- Olive-sided Flycatcher
- Western Wood-Pewee
- Curve-billed Thrasher
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Bell's Vireo
- Gray Vireo
- Colima Warbler
- Lucy's Warbler
- Painted Bunting
- Cassin's Sparrow
- Black-chinned Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Orchard Oriole

Another 18 species appear in the Trans-Pecos as migrants or winter residents: American Bittern, Long-billed Curlew, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Short-eared Owl, Chimney Swift (sporadic nesting?),

Rufous Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Hermit Warbler, Dickcissel (sporadic nesting?), Clay-colored Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow (sporadic nesting?), Yellow-headed Blackbird and Rusty Blackbird. There are also a number of birds on the list that occur in our region only as vagrants.

Among other things, the WatchList serves to focus attention on habitats that are being degraded. For example, of the 10 species that nest in the El Paso area, 6 are known to nest only in the river valley, where habitat loss has been severe and is continuing today.

Shift to Texas Audubon Office Underway

By John Sproul

In keeping with its strategic plan, the National Audubon Society is decentralizing by establishing field offices in each state. These offices will be the focal point for all Audubon activities in a state, and many programs formerly run by Audubon's national office will be delegated to the field offices. Since March, the planning for an Audubon Texas State Office has been in high gear.

During the spring and summer, a State Office Committee of the Audubon Council of Texas (ACT) worked long and hard to develop a Conceptual

Plan for the Texas State Office. At ACT's meeting on October 26, delegates from Audubon chapters around the state approved forwarding the Conceptual Plan to the soon-to-be-selected state director as ACT's recommended course of action for Audubon in Texas.

The Conceptual Plan envisions a state office working closely with Texas Audubon chapters to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Texas and to build the strongest conservation ethic possible statewide. It envisions a fully staffed office with effective programs in:

- ◆ education;
- ◆ research, science and land management;
- ◆ grassroots support, communications, marketing and promotion;
- ◆ training and leadership development; and
- ◆ advocacy.

It identifies three broad conservation priorities: coastal systems, riparian/wetland systems, and land-management policy initiatives.

Up to now, Audubon's Southwest Regional Office (SWRO) represented Audubon and served chapters in the states of Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas, along with Latin America. It had long been a strong and appreciated ally for our conservation efforts in West Texas. The SWRO closed October 31. National Audubon contracted with former Regional Representative Sandra Skrei to keep an interim office open for chapter services until the Texas State Office starts

operation. By the time you read this, the state director may have been selected and the new office formally launched.

Birds Flock to Feather Lake

By John Sproul

Feather Lake News

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, located at 9500 North Loop

in El Paso's lower valley, is alive with herons, egrets, ducks, shorebirds and black-birds right now. Check the calendar on the back page for dates and times it is open. Admission is free.

Our October 19 dinner at Feather Lake lured 35 members and friends. Thanks go to Dayle Edwards for providing the barbecue grill, to Bob Johnson for securing and preparing hamburgers and hot dogs, and to all the great chefs who contributed to the evening's fare.

In November, a steady stream of school classes and Scout groups made Feather Lake a busy place. Lupe Barrera, Bob Johnson and Richard Hermosillo deserve thanks for helping introduce these groups to our sanctuary. Thanks also go to the students from St. Clement's School who helped with plantings and trash clean-up as part of their visit.

Our habitat-management program at Feather Lake aims

to steer the vegetation towards native plant associations historically found in the river valley. Want to help? You'll have a chance on Saturday, January 25. Bring your lunch; we'll gather at noon to eat, then start work at 1 p.m.

Chapter Elections, Awards Coming Up

By John Sproul



lection of chapter officers and three directors takes place at our January meeting. Since we had no president-elect in 1996, we need to choose a full slate of officers: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

The new officers and directors will be installed at our Annual Meeting in February. That meeting will also feature the presentation of our Meritorious Service and Conservation awards. The Meritorious Service Award goes to a chapter member who has made outstanding contributions to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon and its programs. The Conservation Award goes to an individual, organization or other entity outside the chapter who has done exceptional work on behalf of the environment in Trans-Pecos Texas.

Are you interested in serving

as an officer or director? Do you wish to suggest a candidate? Want to nominate someone for one of our chapter awards? Please contact a member of the nominating committee: John Kiseda (833-6212) or Craig Braginton (877-4138). They want to hear from you!

Texas Wetlands Conservation Plan



he Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, in cooperation with numerous entities, has recently completed a draft of the State Wetlands Conservation Plan for Texas. The Plan focuses on non-regulatory, voluntary approaches to conserving Texas' wetlands. Its primary contributions include:

- ◆ Enhancing the landowner's ability to use existing incentive programs and other land use options through education and assistance;
- ◆ Developing and encouraging land management options that provide an economic incentive for conserving existing wetlands or restoring former ones; and,
- ◆ Coordinating regional wetlands conservation efforts, including mitigation and restoration.

Regional Approach

Due to the extensive size and physiography of Texas, a "regional" approach was used

to best characterize the diverse wetlands needs and resources of Texas. Three Regional Advisory Groups—one each in East Texas, the Panhandle, and the Gulf Coast—were formed to identify regional or statewide issues associated with conserving Texas wetlands, and to develop recommendations and proposals for action to address those issues. The results form the core of the State Wetlands Conservation Plan. These regions were selected because each represents a large wetlands complex, and each has a distinct socioeconomic structure and specific land use.

The Regional Advisory Groups met over the course of one year to discuss solutions to five general categories of wetlands issues that they identified: education, economic incentives, conservation, private ownership, and governmental relations. Information from these three groups were combined into a single plan.

Comments

The Texas parks and Wildlife Department would like to offer the public an opportunity to review and comment on the Plan. All comments should be returned to: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, State Wetlands Conservation Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX, 78744 no later than January 31, 1997. All comments will be considered.

To obtain a draft copy (approximately 60 pages) of the Plan, please write to the address above or contact (512)

389-8196. For additional information on the Plan's content, contact Julie Anderson, State Wetlands Planner, at (512) 389-4328, or e-mail julie.anderson@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Other Materials

Other materials developed in association with the Plan include: a quarterly newsletter, a video describing Texas wetlands, and a Wetlands Assistance Guide for Landowners, which summarizes existing programs that provide financial and technical assistance to landowners interested in conserving wetlands on their property. Free copies are available by calling (512) 389-8196.

About That Morning Cup of Java

 forested coffee farm in Guatemala has earned the the first ECO-O.K. seal of approval from the Rainforest Alliance and "certified eco-friendly" coffee beans are now in the United States. The eco-label is awarded to farms that meet a strict code of environmental standards that protect forests, wildlife, soils, rivers, workers and local people. The program is managed by the Rainforest Alliance, a ten-year-old international conservation group based in New York, and a coalition of environmental organizations in Latin America.

While coffee was traditionally grown in harmony with the rainforest, over the past two decades many farmers have switched to new, industrial farming methods that destroy forests and have serious environmental implications, according to biologists at the rainforest Alliance. A thick cover of shade trees is one of the main requirements of the ECO-O.K. program.

The ECO-O.K. coalition hopes that conscientious coffee drinkers will be willing to pay a slightly higher price for the reassurance that they are helping rainforest conservation efforts. "We can save a lot of forested family farms if people are willing to pay just one penny more per cup," says Daniel Katz, Executive Director of the Rainforest Alliance. "The premium price will give farmers the incentive to stay green and it will help ensure the survival of some of the Earth's most cherished birds and wildlife."

The first certified farm, called El Jute, is south of Guatemala City on the road to El Salvador. According to Luis Gaitan, the Guatemalan biologist who led the ECO-O.K. inspection team, "El Jute meets all the minimum requirements and then some. The forested areas are beautiful, with huge old trees, some of them rare and precious hardwoods."

As conservationists struggle to prove to cash-strapped farmers that conserving tropical forest is in their best economic interests, coffee stands as a glowing example: it is one of the few large-scale commercial

crops that can be grown with minimal damage to rainforests. The coffee plant evolved in the deep shade of African rainforests and for centuries was cultivated under a canopy of tall trees. Biologists from the Interamerican Foundation for Tropical Research and other institutions have proved what is obvious to any visiting birdwatcher: traditional, shaded coffee farms are a haven for wildlife.

While the "full-sun" fields yield more beans per acre, they also require more maintenance and frequent doses of expensive agro-chemicals. Traditional farmers argue that in the long run shaded farms are more secure, allowing them to ride out shifts in the volatile coffee market. Farmers using the traditional methods also insist that coffee grown in the shade tastes better.

The Rainforest Alliance is a pioneer in the use of eco-labels to certify tropical products from eco-friendly sources. Its mission is to find economically viable, culturally sensitive and ecologically sound alternatives to rainforest destruction.

It's time to Move On

By George Barnett

It was about this time seven years ago that I first volunteered to be the editor of the Roadrunner. As I recall, my words were something like, "...until you can find somebody who knows what they're doing."

The first couple of years saw the newsletter typed on an electric Smith-Corona with a spell-checker built in. When the checker detected a misspelled word it would beep at me; there were times when it sounded like four-part harmony. The articles were typed in the format needed for the columns, then pasted in place. Occasionally, a column would get laid down incorrectly and you received a newsletter with one, or more, columns going off at some bizarre angle. Different articles were typed at different times and pasted into the final copy at different times. Then you had the pleasure of seeing different parts of the same column aiming at different parts of the page, as if they were trying to escape. Ah, the good old days.

Then one day I received a call that the chapter was going to buy a used computer for use on the newsletter. I carried that computer in the trunk of my car for two days, and it sat in my garage for another week before I pulled it out to start work on the next issue of the Roadrunner. I set up the computer on my desk and, to the everlasting chagrin of my wife, turned it on. In the time it takes for the monitor to light up I became a computer nerd. There was no software and no manuals, but I didn't care. I started buying things for it like it was a new pet. I became engrossed in the terminology, mechanics, programming and lifestyle of the computer. I was obsessed. But the newsletter did get out, and without drunken columns.

The newsletter is now done on a modern computer and is a committee effort, with a number of people contributing every month. John Sproul

sends articles for each issue by e-mail. Even without the byline, you can tell the articles are written by John because they are perfect, in all ways. Bob Johnson does the Observations and On The Trail Pages on his own computer and delivers finished pages to me. Those pages alone take as much time as the rest of the newsletter. Nancy Wilson brings information for the General Meetings for each issue. The final draft goes to Superior Copy to be run off on their big machines, and then it goes to Sally Jameson for the hard part: collating and delivery to the post office. This issue will have 600 copies made; that's 3000 sheets that must be collated, stapled, folded and mailed. The good news there is that, back in the old days, the newsletter was printed on a mimeograph machine by Jane Fowler and a number of others more dedicated than I.

The past seven years have been, at times, challenging, but always interesting. Despite the misspellings, bad grammar, poor sentence structure and late issues, I was honored with the chapter's Meritorious Service Award in 1995. I would like to thank the chapter and all of our members for the opportunity to serve the chapter as editor, but it is now time to move on, both figuratively and literally. The chances that my wife and I will be leaving El Paso get stronger with each passing day, and it's time for someone else to bring a fresh perspective to the newsletter. The position of editor is still open and waiting for someone to bring a few hours six times a year for the benefit of the chapter. Give me a call at home (581-1829) or at work (585-2785) so we can talk about it.

News and Notes for the Chapter

Following are some items of interest for the members of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society.

Annual Meeting

The El Paso Zoo has become one of the newest and one of the more popular venues for business meetings and dinners and it will be the sight of our chapter's Annual Meeting on Sunday February 16, 1997. The Annual Meeting is when the new chapter officers are installed and the recipients of the Conservation and Meritorious Service Awards are recognized and is always an interesting and fun time.

Since dinner will be served at the Meeting, reservations are a must. As this is written, the final cost of the dinner has not been set, but it is usually around \$15 to \$20 per person. Contact Betty Pagel at 772-2686 for more information and to reserve your place at the Meeting.

The Holidays and Giving to Wildlife

By John Kiseda

If you want to keep "giving to wildlife" even after the holidays are over, please consider donating a live tree to the El Paso Zoo. The following species would be greatly appreciated:

- Aleppo Pine
- Mondale Pine (Afghanistan Pine)
- Narrow Leaf Cottonwoods
- White Poplar

- Rio Grande Cottonwood
- Ash
- Pinon Pine

Trees as tall as six to ten feet would be greatly valued, but even small trees would be wonderful to receive.

Audubon Screen Saver

Several months ago we wrote about a screen saver for the PC sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Sales have been brisk (one was sold to a person in South Carolina via e-mail over the Internet), and the chapter has only one of the screen savers left.

If you haven't seen one of these yet, then you will be amazed at the amount of information and graphics that have been squeezed into this application. There are pictures of birds, pictures of habitats, bird songs, a bird quiz and much more. Some of the images can even be used as "wallpaper". This is your last chance to get this super screen saver, and it is only \$25.00. Contact John Kiseda at 833-6212 to reserve the last copy of the Audubon Screen Saver.

Feather Lake Supplies

By George Barnett

As you can see from John Sproul's article about Feather Lake, the wildlife sanctuary has become a favorite place for school classes, youth groups, scouts and many others. We would like to better serve those

groups by providing all of the tools needed to fully appreciate our sanctuary. The things we are most in need of are optics (binoculars, spotting scopes), and field guides. Not just any field guides, but those for such things as reptiles and amphibians, and butterflies.

Check that book shelf behind the picture of Aunt Agnes and Uncle Elmo and see if there are some field guides there that would be put to better use at Feather Lake. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate to Feather Lake, please give John Sproul a call at 545-5157. Or, you can just drop them off at Feather Lake on your next visit.

Another Christmas Bird Count

Bob Johnson has covered the the two El Paso Christmas Bird Counts on page 7. If you are unable to help with those two, or if they aren't enough for you, then you may want to participate in a another CBC in our area that will be conducted in east El Paso County.

The McNary-Ft. Hancock area has always been a rich source of birds, and it will be the site for a Christmas Bird Count on December 29, 1996. If you feel that you will be able to help with this count, give either Jim Paton (585-2628), or Barry Zimmer (821-6737) a call for more information.



On The Trail

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The annual bird counts are upon us once again. In North America almost 1700 counts will take place between December 20, 1996 and January 5, 1997. As usual we will sponsor 2 of these, Hueco Tanks and El Paso. The compiler for these two counts will be *Bob Johnson (757-1876)*

The count area is defined as a 15 mile diameter circle (almost 115,000 acres), we sub-divide this circle and a team is assigned to each sub area. They spend the day counting every bird seen or heard. Each team will have at least one experienced birder to help in identification, so don't be bashful and say "I'm not too good at telling which is which, so I won't go". We need your eyes and/or ears to help find them, someone else will try to figure out what they are. If you cannot be out all day, come for a few hours in the morning or afternoon.

All participants are asked to pay a \$5 fee, however the chapter will pick up \$2 of this, leaving you only having to contribute \$3. This money goes to help defray the expense of publishing the results of the counts in FIELD NOTES. Come to the December 9th general meeting and see a copy of last years FIELD NOTES, its quite a document, this will help you understand the need for this fee.

When its all over we will have a **COUNT DOWN POT LUCK SUPPER** at *Gail and Terry Nickel's house, 6413 Cloudview (584-9621)*, the time and date - 6 PM on Sun. Jan. 5th 1997.

HUECO TANKS

The Hueco Tanks count will be held on Sat. Dec. 28th, 1996. Meet at the Flying Saucer Building, US 62/180 and FR 2775 at 7:29 AM. If possible call **Bob (757-1876)** before, this will help in making up the teams.

EL PASO

The El Paso count will be held on Sat. Jan. 4, 1997. PLEASE call **Bob (757-1876, as late as Fri evening)** this is because we do not use a general meeting place. Your name and number will be given to an area leader who will contact you about meeting time and location.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE

One of the most popular National Wildlife Refuges in the country is where you can see some great birds. How about *20,000 Snow Geese, 15,000 Sandhill Cranes and Bald Eagles.* Their are also plenty of ducks and some good passerines. We are hoping to have a special tour at 1 PM on Sat. into the back area where *Wild Turkeys and Porcupines* are often found.

This is a good way to start your 1997 bird list, if you have started it already its a good way to add many species. This trip will take place during the weekend of Jan. 18 and 19. Most birders will be staying at the Motel 6 (1-800 -466-8356) in Socorro (about 12 miles North up I-25), or other motels in town. Also Birders RV Park is available just North of the Refuge Boundary.

Meet at I-10 and Transmountain Rd. at 7:38 AM on the 18th or at the Refuge Visitors Center parking Lot at 11:07 AM. On Sunday the return trip will include a stop at Percha/Caballo Dams State Park where other good birds are always present, usually a rare Gull and some Loons. The coordinator for this trip will be *Nancy Wilson (833-3907)*, or call **Bob (757-1876).**

COUNTRY CLUB AREA

Always a good area to go birding, if you missed the November trip we're giving you a second chance. Read **OBSERVATIONS** (page 8) and you will see what good birds appear in this area. The *Lewis' Woodpecker* and *Red Crossbills* will probably still be around, also *Red-breasted Nuthatches* and *Phainopeplas.*

Your tour will be conducted by *Sallie Homan (584-0415)*, meet her at the Crossroads ponding area, (Mesa/Country Club and Doniphan) on Sat. Feb. 1st at 7:42 AM.

PLAN AHEAD

A trip to Big Bend National Park (about 350 miles) is still being considered for the Weekend of April 11-13. The only place to see the *Colima Warbler* in the US. Please let Bob know if you are interested.

Also the annual trip to Cave Creek Az. will, take place during the weekend of May 24-26.

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Observations

September 16, 1996 to November 15, 1996

Uncommon, Rare, and CASUAL sightings

A very rare sighting has the full entry *italicized*, **bold** and underlined. Some of the listings may not be considered **RARE**, but because of the season or habitat (date and/or location **bold** and underlined) they are unusual. The listing of birds here is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition, October 1987. If you are unsure of a sighting, don't **hesitate - report it**, to Bob "WILDBIRDER" Johnson 757-1876 (recorder).

Observers: George Barnett, Craig Braginton, Karen Braginton, Daryl Cole, Jane Fowler, Madaline Gavit, Inga Groff, Jeff Groff, Joe Groff, Richard Hermosillo, Sallie Homan, Anne Hussmann, Hugh Jameson, Bob Johnson, Larry Jordan, John Kiscda, Bill Linderman(Fredricksberg, Tx), Jod Lawrence, Bruce Lawson, Jim Paton, Flora Pitard, Ross Rassmussen(McKinney, Tx), Susie Schnieder, Roxanne Schroder, John Sproul, Judy Templeton, John White, Jimmy Zabriskie, Barry Zimmer, var-various dates, mob-many observers, -yd - in yard.

Locations: ACC/Anthony Country Club, Cas/Casitas Coronado, Can/Canutillo, Cor/Cornado Area, DMA/Doniphan Marsh, Esp/Esperanza, FBP/Fort Bliss Ponds, FHc/Fort Hancock, FLk/Feather Lake, Fro/Frontera, HTk/Hueco Tanks, Hor/Horizon, Krm/Kern Area, Kkn/Kilkenny, Lom/Lombardy, McN/McNary, Mea/Meadowlark, Mem/Memorial Park, MPk/Mountain Park, NEE/Northeast El Paso, O-D/Owens-Durling, Rdl/Randels Pool, STA/SantaTeresa Area, Sod/SodFarm, Sun/SunriseArea, Tor/Tornillo, Upv/Upper Valley, WCo/West Cottonwood Sprngs, WSp/Whispering Sprngs, Xrd/Crossroads.

LOONS to MERLINS

<u>COMMON LOON</u>	10/27	JP	Tor
(Released by CDWR)	11/3	JG	FLk
<u>WHITE PELICAN (22)</u>	10/26	DC	McN
	11/3	JC-ft	FHc
Double-crested Cormorant (82)	11/3	JC-ft	FHc
<u>GREAT EGRET</u>	var	mob	FLk
<u>WHITE-FACED IBIS</u>	var	mob	FLk
Snow Goose	11/9	JK	Xrd
<u>WOOD DUCK</u>	11/7	JS	FLk
<u>HOODED MERGANSER</u>	11/12	BZ	FHc
<u>OSPREY</u>	9/25	RH	FBP
	10/11	KB	Can
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	<u>9/21</u>	<u>JT</u>	<u>ACC</u>
<u>MERLIN</u>	11/9	BZ	Mem
	11/14	KB	Can

CRANES to PHALAROPES

<u>SANDHILL CRANE</u>	10/22	PR	STA
	11/3	JC-ft	FHc
<u>SEMIPALMATED PLOVER</u>	9/24	BZ	FBP
<u>Mountain Plover</u>	<u>10/26</u>	<u>SH</u>	<u>Sod</u>
Black-necked Stilt	var	mob	DMA
B-N Stilts have wintered over the last 3 winters here.	var	mob	FLk
Lesser Yellowlegs	<u>11/12</u>	BZ	FHc
<u>SEMIPALMATED SNDPIPR</u>	9/23	BZ	FBP
Baird's Sandpiper	9/25	RH	FBP
<u>PECTORAL SANDPIPER</u>	9/24	BZ	FBP
Stilt Sandpiper	9/25	RH	FBP
<u>RED-NECKED PHALAROPE</u>	9/24	BZ	FBP

GULLS to HUMMINGBIRDS

<u>Franklin's Gull</u>	<u>11/12</u>	BZ	McN
<u>BONAPARTE'S GULL</u>	11/12	JS	FLk
	11/12	BZ	McN
<u>HERRING GULL</u>	11/12	BZ	McN
<u>Band-tailed Pigeon</u>	<u>11/9</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Mdl</u>
<u>FLAMULATED OWL(heard)</u>	10/12	LJ-yd	Cor
<u>Western-screech Owl</u>	10/13	LJ	Tor
<u>LONG-EARED OWL</u>	11/9	JG	Sun
<u>ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD</u>	10/2	LJ-yd	Cor
Rufus Hummingbird	<u>11/2</u>	JZ-yd	Can
	<u>11/10</u>	GB-yd	Cor

WOODPECKERS to KINGBIRDS

<u>Lewis' Woodpecker</u>	<u>10/30</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Fro</u>
	<u>11/5</u>	<u>JK</u>	<u>Lom</u>
(This is the second winter for these in the same place)			
Red-naped Sapsucker	10/12	CB-yd	Can
Willow Flycatcher	9/23	BZ	FBP
<u>Least Flycatcher</u>	9/23	BZ	FBP
Hammond's Flycatcher	<u>10/5</u>	JS	WCo
<u>Eastern Phoebe</u>	10/27	JP	Esp
<u>VERMILLION FLYCATCHER</u>	10/27	JP	Esp
	11/6	JZ	UpV
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<u>9/27</u>	LJ	HTk
<u>Great-crested Flycatcher</u>	<u>10/19</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>WSp</u>
<u>CASSIN'S KINGBIRD</u>	9/24	BZ	FBP
Western Kingbird	10/12	JS	FLk

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SWALLOWS to THRUSHES

Barn Swallow	11/12	BZ	Tor
Scrub Jay	10/20	BJ	HTk
<u>Stellar's Jay</u>	<u>11/9</u>	<u>BL</u>	<u>FHS</u>
Mountain Chickadee	10/22	RH	HTk
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9/24	BZ	FBP
	10/4	SS	Krn
	11/1	AH	Cor
WHITE-BRSTED NUTHTCH	10/13	LJ	Tor
	10/22	BJ	HTk
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<u>9/24</u>	BZ	FBP
Western Bluebird	11/10	JK	Cor
Townsend's Solitaire	10/7	LJ	HTk
	10/22	PR-yd	STA
Hermit Thrush (12)	11/	SH	O/D
<u>Wood Thrush</u>	<u>10/14</u>	<u>JF-yd</u>	<u>Kkn</u>

CATBIRD to SPARROWS

<u>Gray Catbird</u>	<u>10/20</u>	<u>BL</u>	<u>HTk</u>
	<u>10/25</u>	<u>RR</u>	<u>HTk</u>
Sage Thrasher	<u>9/16</u>	LJ	Rdl
	<u>9/22</u>	LJ	HTk
BROWN THRASHER	10/6	BJ	WCo
	11/13	RH	HTk
CEDAR WAXWING	9/23	BZ	FBP
	11/2	JZ-yd	Can
Solitary Vireo(Cassin's)	9/24	BZ	FBP
Virginia's Warbler	9/23	BZ	FBP
BLK-THRTD GRAY WBLR	9/23	BZ	FBP
Townsend's Warbler	9/25	RH	FBP
<u>Blackburnian Warbler</u>	<u>9/23</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FBP</u>
AMERICAN REDSTART	10/10	RS	Krn
WHITE-THROATED SPRW	11/13	BJ	HTk

LONGSPURS to GROSBEAKS

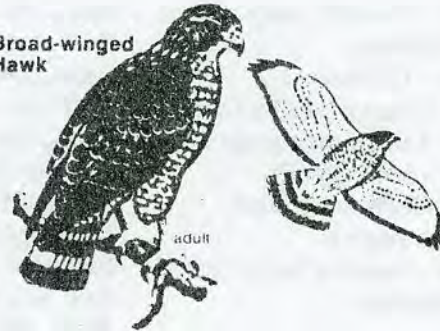
CHESTNT-COLLR LNGSPR	11/	SH	Sod
<u>Common Grackle</u>	<u>10/5</u>	<u>MG</u>	<u>Hor</u>
	<u>11/11</u>	<u>PR-yd</u>	<u>STA</u>
<u>Cassin's Finch</u>	<u>11/2</u>	<u>PR-yd</u>	<u>STA</u>
	<u>11/2</u>	<u>JZ-yd</u>	<u>Can</u>
	<u>11/10</u>	<u>JK</u>	<u>Cor</u>
<u>Red Crossbill</u>	<u>10/27</u>	<u>JL</u>	<u>Cas</u>
	<u>11/1</u>	<u>JW</u>	<u>Can</u>
	<u>11/11</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>Hor</u>
<u>Lawrence's Goldfinchs</u>	<u>10/12</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>FBP</u>
	<u>10/12-11/15</u>	<u>mob</u>	<u>HTk</u>
(3rd Texas record, previous two were 1 day, single sighting)			
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	11/2	JZ-yd	Can
<u>Evening Grosbeak</u>	<u>10/30</u>	<u>HJ-yd</u>	<u>MPk</u>
	<u>11/1</u>	<u>IG-yd</u>	<u>NEE</u>
	<u>11/3</u>	<u>PR-yd</u>	<u>STA</u>

On The Trail Continued from Page 7

FOHT

Don't forget the Friends Of Hucco Tanks, we would like to have you join our organization, call Bob (757-1876) or the Park (857-1135). The next meeting will be on Wed. Dec. 18th, 6:30 PM in the Park at Ranger Alex Mares house.
 Rock Art Tours Sat. and Sun. at 10 AM and 2 PM.
 Bird Identification Tours 3d Sun each month at 8 AM.
 Upcoming tours Dec 15th, and Jan 19th.

Broad-winged Hawk



WHAT YOU MISSED

Didn't get to the Hawk Watch in Sep? Well first of all you missed the good company of NINETEEN birders, and as far as birds go you missed *Stellar's Jays*, *White-breasted Nuthatches* and *Clark's Nutcrackers* and other mountain forest birds. As for the birds of prey, the observation point counted over 300 birds each day Fri., Sat. and Sun., including *Golden Eagle*, *Broad-winged Hawk* and *Merlin*.

Nine happy birders followed Jean Coyle down the valley on Nov. 3d. They had a *Vermilion Flycatcher* and a *Belted Kingfisher* at Esperanza, a *Snow Goose* and *Western Grebes* at McNary, *White Pelicans* and *Double-Crested Cormorants* at Fort Hancock, the *Western Screech Owl* at the Tornillo Rest stop and *Clark's Grebes* and *Red Crossbills* at Tornillo Reservoir

Cliff Eidson was able to find some good birds for the group that showed up on Sat. Nov. 9th at the Crossroads. These included *Red-breasted Mergansers*, *Canvasbacks*, *Common Snipe*, *Lewis' Woodpecker*, *Red Crossbills*, *Red-breasted Nuthatches* and a *Red-naped Sapsucker*.

The Roadrunner

December

Sat., 7 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sun., 8 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Mon., 9 - General Meeting, see page 1.
Sun., 15 - Hueco Tanks Bird ID Tour, see page 9.
Sun., 15 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Sat., 21 - Feather Lake closed for the holidays.
Sun., 22 - Feather Lake closed for the holidays.
Wed., 25 - Christmas
Sat., 28 - Hueco Tanks Christmas Bird Count, see page 7.
Sun., 29 - McNary/Ft. Hancock Christmas Bird Count, see page 6.
Sun., 29 - Feather Lake closed for the holidays.

January

Sat., 4 - El Paso Christmas Bird Count, see page 7.
Sat., 4 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sun., 5 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Sun., 5 - Christmas Bird Count potluck dinner, see page 9.
Sun., 12 - Feather lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Mon., 13 - Board Meeting.
Sat., 18 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sun., 19 - Hueco Tanks Bird ID Tour, see page 9.
Sun., 19 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 to Dusk.
Mon., 20 - General Meeting, see page 1.
Sat., 25 - Feather Lake work-day, see page 3.
Sun., 26 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.

February

Sat., 1 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Noon.
Sun., 2 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Sun., 9 - Feather lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Mon., 10 - Board Meeting
Fri., 14 - Valentine's Day.
Sat., 15 - Feather Lake open, 8:00 AM to Dusk.
Sun., 16 - Hueco Tanks Bird ID Tour, see page 9.
Sun., 16 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.
Sun., 16 - Annual Meeting, see page 6.
Mon., 17 - President's Day.
Mon., 17 - General Meeting.
Sun., 23 - Feather Lake open, 2:00 PM to Dusk.

El Paso Trans/Pecos Audubon Society

P.O. Box 9655
El Paso, Texas 79986

Address Correction Requested

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Permit #2440