

The Roadrunner

VOLUME 21 (5)

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Oct. - Nov., 1991

The El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society meets on third Monday of every month, September through May. The General Meetings are held at the Garden Center, Memorial Park, 3105 Grant, El Paso, Texas. The public is cordially invited.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Monday, October 21, 7:30 PM - When scientists look for answers about wild bird behavior, such as navigation and learning, they often turn to domesticated birds for the answers. Our guest for the October general meeting is Becky Kroger and she will be bringing show and racing pigeons. These are Chinese Owl Pigeons that she has raised herself. This promises to be a fascinating demonstration of the techniques used to train these birds. For their part, the pigeons may shed some light on the behavior of wild birds.

Once again, we would like to remind you to bring your non-disposable drinking cup to the general meetings. The National Audubon Society has been very active in trying to reduce the amount of solid waste going into landfills. Let's practice what we preach.

Here's an easy way to remember your non-disposable cup: Follow John Sproul's example, not the editor's.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 18, 7:30 PM - John Kiseda, from the El Paso Zoo, is one of those fascinating people that one tends to run across here in El Paso. John's program for the November general meeting will be about the New Guinea Rain Forest, where he had done field work when he was with the Bronx Zoo. He will be presenting a slide show of his work there. In addition, he will be showing a video of work accomplished by the San Diego Zoo in New Guinea.

As we all know by now, the world's rain forests are in trouble from unrestricted logging and slash-and-burn agriculture. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done to save and to understand the rain forests before they are lost forever. The island of New Guinea is remarkable for its remoteness and that fact has delayed the destruction of its rain forest. Join us at the November General Meeting for a fascinating look at the New Guinea Rain Forest.

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.

- Aldo Leopold, 1887 - 1948

CONSERVATION

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK

The workshops the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is holding to get public input into the management plan for Franklin Mountains State Park are in full swing. If you haven't attended one yet, the schedule for the remaining workshops is:

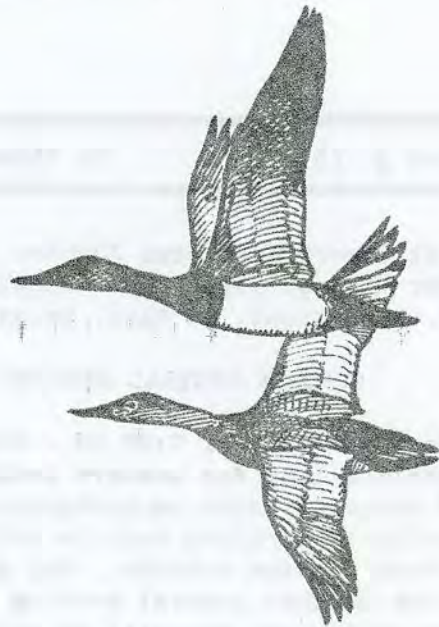
- Monday, October 28, 7 PM, Bowie High School, 801 S. San Marcial.
- Tuesday, October 29, 3 PM, Juarez Room, El Paso Convention Center, Civic Center Plaza.
- Tuesday, October 29, 7 PM, Transmountain Campus, El Paso Community College (tentative).
- Wednesday, October 30, 7:30 PM, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (Sierra Club monthly meeting).
- Thursday, October 31, 4 PM, Blumberg Auditorium, U.T. El Paso.

The TPWD planning staff will use the information gained from these workshops and the ones held in September to develop a range of alternative management plans for the Park. A document presenting these alternatives is scheduled to be released next spring.

More public meetings will follow, giving El Pasoans an opportunity to comment on the various alternatives. The TPWD will factor this input into its selection of a final plan, expected in Fall 1992.

Needless to say, this process is crucial to the future of the Park. Everyone who cares about protection of the scenic beauty and wilderness character of the Franklin Mountains should plan to take part in it.

Please attend on of the workshops, if you haven't already. Also, make sure you are on the mailing list for Park planning so you can stay informed about the planning process. To get on the list, contact Park Superintendent Carolina Ramos, FMSP, P.O. Box 200, Canutillo, TX 79835-9998, (915) 877-1528.
//John Sproul//



DONORS

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

FOR FEATHER LAKE

- Alice L. Price

FOR GENERAL CHAPTER WORK

- "Achievers" group at First Baptist Church
- Organic Garden Club of El Paso

ON THE TRAIL

HUECO TANKS STATE PARK

Saturday, October 5 - Meet at the "flying saucer building" at the junction of US Hwy. 62/180 and FM 2775 at 8:00 AM. Hueco Tanks is a jewel of a state park, and it gets a lot of use, use that sometimes leads to resource damage. Again this year, we're going to help the park staff with a project to repair some of that damage by reseeding eroded areas. Once our work is done, we'll conclude the trip with some birding in the park and a picnic lunch before our return to El Paso. Please bring gloves and a rake. Also, please call leader John Sproul at 545-5157 if you plan to attend, so we can let the park staff know how many to expect.

WESTERN FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS

Saturday, October 12 - This is where desert meets mountain, so there will be the chance to see a wide variety of birds from both ecosystems. The leader is Hugh Jameson and he can be reached at 562-1768. Meet at the entrance to Tom Mays Park off Transmountain Road at 7:30 AM. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and you may want to bring refreshments as this trip will last three to four hours.



LOWER VALLEY TREK

Saturday, November 2 - Meet at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, 9500 North Loop at 8:00 AM. This will be a joint trip with our sister chapter in Las Cruces, the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society. After a look at Feather Lake, we'll venture down valley in search of winter resident and late migrant birds. The exact itinerary will depend on what spots are liveliest at the time. Bring lunch and liquids and plan to return to El Paso by mid-afternoon. Leader: John Sproul (545-5157).



MOUNT RILEY

Saturday, November 16 - This is a trip to the desert and the Portillo Mountains west of Santa Teresa, NM. We will be looking for the Short-eared Owl and we may expect to see Golden Eagles as well as a surprising number of other birds. Bring lunch and liquid refreshments as we will not return until mid-afternoon. The leader is Tom Baker (877-3365). Please let Tom know if you can supply a four wheel drive vehicle for the trip.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE

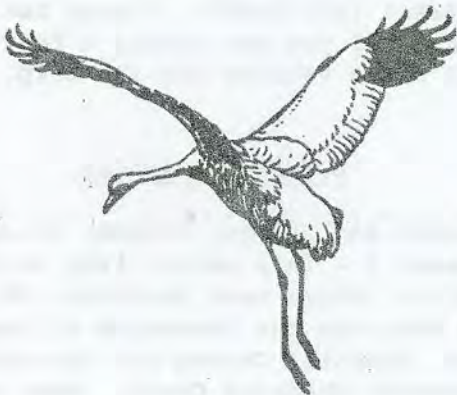
Saturday and Sunday, November 30 and December 1 - This annual trip to the wildlife refuge near Socorro, NM is a must-see for thousands of Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes and the extremely endangered Whooping Crane. Meet at I-10 and Transmountain Rd. at 7:30 AM on Nov. 30. Nancy Wilson (833-3907).



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

Feather Lake opens to the public on Saturday, October 5 and will remain open through the end of April. Hours are 8 - 11 AM on the first and third Saturdays of each month, and 3:30 PM to dusk each Sunday afternoon. The calendar on the back page will help you to remember that schedule. Plan to visit our sanctuary often this year. Better yet, why not volunteer to staff Feather Lake once or twice, greeting visitors and answering their questions? Please contact Betty Pagel (772-2686) if you can help in this way.

We rely on volunteers not only to keep Feather Lake open to the public but also for ongoing maintenance. In fact, each month, we devote a special day just to maintenance activities. Upcoming dates are Saturday, October 19 and Saturday, November 23. Gates open at 8:00 AM, but come whenever you can during the morning.
//John Sproul//



AUDUBON AUCTION

Once again, success in this year's Birdathon brought our chapter some fantastic prizes. As a fundraiser, we will auction off three of those prizes at our November 18 general meeting. Join us and place a sealed bid on:

-- a Patagonia Deluge Suit (Sealcoat rain jacket and pants, red, medium) (minimum bid \$150).

-- a Minolta Standard 7x50EW binocular (camouflage pattern) (minimum bid \$90).

-- AUDUBON PERSPECTIVES: A FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL, companion book to the Audubon TV specials (minimum bid \$25)

We will accept bids anytime between now and November 18. If you wish to mail in your bid, send it to: Audubon Auction, P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986.

//J.S.//

THE EP/TPAS T-SHIRT

With Christmas on the horizon, orders are pouring in for the one-and-only EP/TPAS T-shirt. Featuring our roadrunner logo, it's available in three stylish colors (coral, jade, aqua blue) and four amazing sizes (S, M, L, XL). Don't wait till the last minute! The perfect Christmas gift is available only at EP/TPAS general meetings (\$9.75) or by mail order (\$11.75) EP/TPAS, P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986. Get yours today!

Speaking of gifts, check out the items available for sale at the general meetings. There are some exciting and useful gifts such as National Geographic Field Guides, Birder's Life List and Diary, and more. Why not make it a gift to yourself? Let's face it, you've earned it.

// J.S., G.B.//

OBSERVATIONS

August 11 - Sept. 14, 1991
Uncommon, rare & casual sightings

CR - Camp Rice Arroyo
DM - Doniphan Marsh
EC - Executive Center
FL - Feather Lake
HT - Hueco Tanks
QC - Quitman Canyon
RG - Rio Grande

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

Pied-billed Grebe - 8/31 DM (JD);
9/14 FL (JS/JD)
Redhead - 8/5 FL (JS)
Osprey - 9/2 FL (JS)
Harris' Hawk - QC (JS/JF)
Golden Eagle (imm.?) - 9/11 EC (SJD/BJ)

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Forster's Tern - 8/5 FL (JS)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 8/16 RG/GC
(JS/JF)
Belted Kingfisher - 8/16, 9/14 FL
(JS/JF/JD)

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Willow Flycatcher - 8/31 FL (JS) first
sighting at Feather Lake
Carolina Wren - 8/12 (AA*)
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher - 8/16 (JS/JF)

WARBLER - WEAVER FINCH

Cassin's Sparrow - 8/24 -25 HT (NW+)

OBSERVERS: Art Arteaga, Joyce Davis,
Sarah Jane Dodds, Jane Fowler, John
Sproul, Nancy Wilson, Bob Johnson.

// Observations Editor: Joyce Davis,
581-9470//

ADDENDUM

The site guide for the Doniphan Marsh in the September Roadrunner struck a chord for Joyce Davis since that is one of her favorite birding spots. So Joyce has provided information on the best observation site at the Doniphan Marsh:

The best site is from the hill on the east side of the marsh just below Keystone Dam. To reach this, turn east off Doniphan Dr, at Frontera. Drive east around the archeology site (native vegetation) to a road/trail along the front of the dam. The trail continues between the marsh and the dam to another hill. This will give you an overview of the entire marsh area. To exit the area, turn west at some blue posts to get to Doniphan at Bird St.

If you would like to share information about your favorite birding spot, contact George Barnett, Editor, 5905 Oleaster, El Paso, TX, 79932, (581-1829).



UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 25 - 27. - AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS, Fall Meeting, Abilene Texas. Special presentations, field trips, and networking with Audubon chapters from throughout the state. Information: John Sproul (545-5157).

November 7 -10. - TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Fall Meeting, Guadalupe Mountains. A paper session, programs, a banquet, and field trips in Guadalupe Mountains and Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Meeting headquarters will be in White's City, NM. Information: John Sproul (545-5157).

//J.S.//

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- Sat., 5 - Hueco Tanks Project, see page 3.
Sat., 5 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11 AM
Sun., 6 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Sat., 12 - Field trip to Westside Franklin Mtns., see page 3.
Sun., 13 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon., 14 - Board meeting at John Sproul's home, 601 W. Yandell, 545-5157.
Sat., 19 - Feather Lake work day.
Sat., 19 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11 AM.
Sun., 20 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon., 21 - General meeting, see page 1.
Sun., 27 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon., 28 - Franklin Mtns. Workshop, see page 2.
Tue., 29 - Franklin Mtns. Workshops, see page 2.
Wed., 30 - Franklin Mtns. Workshop, see page 2.
Thu., 31 - Franklin Mtns. Workshop, see page 2.

NOVEMBER

- Sat., 2 - Field trip to Lower Valley, see page 3.
Sat., 2 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11 AM.
Sun., 3 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Sun., 10 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon., 11 - Board meeting at the Snelling's home, 11689 Tony Tejada, 592-9642.
Sat., 16 - Field trip to Mount Riley, see page 3.
Sat., 16 - Feather Lake open, 8 AM to 11 AM.
Sun., 17 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Mon., 18 - General meeting, see page 1.
Sat., 23 - Feather Lake work day.
Sun., 24 - Feather Lake open, 3:30 PM to dusk.
Sat., Nov. 30 and Sun., Dec. 1 - Field trip to Bosque Del Apache, see page 3.

EL PASO/TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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