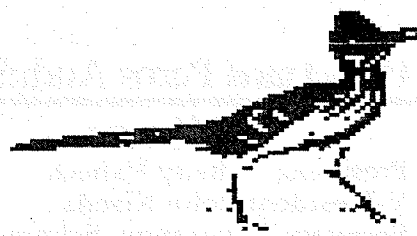


The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 31 No. 11 August & September, 2002



General Meetings

Monday, September 16, 2002

"An Environmental Consultant's Day"

Mike Gaglio

Memorial Park Garden Center

3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

Have you ever wondered what environmental consultants actually do? Mike Gaglio's topic for the first program of the Fall 2002 will be "A Day in the Life in the Real World of an Environmental Consultant." Mike will discuss work projects arising from required compliance with federal, state and local laws for natural resource use regulation. Current and past projects in the West and Southwest, will be highlighted along with a discussion of project effectiveness and limitations at the local level and exploration of new options. Project examples may include BASH (Bird Air Strike Hazards) for migratory birds, desert tortoise revegetation, reptile surveys and sensitive habitat characterizations and Texas wetlands delineation. Here is your chance to ask questions and learn what environmental consultants really do.

Butterfly Flutterby

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is sponsoring a Butterfly Flutterby family education event on August 17 at 9am at the Nature Park site. The purpose will be to educate kids and adults about all aspects of butterflies. We'll have stations for everyone (including butterfly identification, creating a butterfly garden, butterfly host plants, data from the North American Butterfly Association local counts) and stations for "kids of all ages". Call (505) 524-3334 for ticket information and directions to the site.

Chapter Web Site

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>.

El Paso Audubon Online, features updated graphics and more information for chapter members and visitors to El Paso.

El Paso Audubon Online supplements The Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet. make bird sighting reports at

ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

Help Wanted:

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
Work Day
Volunteers invited
no experience necessary

Saturday, September 28, 2002

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El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

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The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to whelenk@aol.com or mail to 6120 Quail Ave. El Paso, TX 79924. (915) 751-2408

From the President's Aerie

by, Betty Fisbeck

"The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity." When the Board met in early June to do chapter planning for the coming year, we used this mission statement from the National Audubon Society as the guide for the local Chapter. Our vision is a local community that is appreciative and protective of the natural environment. Many of us joined the Audubon Society because we became interested in birds and many of us associate Audubon with birds. Appreciation of the birds in our back yard, in our area, and beyond should lead us to a broader concern about protecting the natural environment. In the natural world, everything is interrelated and we must be concerned about habitat, water resources, balancing human needs with those of the natural world. Most of us who have a concern about all these things in the environment, have had a personal experience with nature in some way which leads us to want to protect what we have enjoyed. During the coming year, we will continue to have field trips to provide these experiences to not only members, but also others in the community. We will continue to have programs, that focus on all aspects of the natural environment.

From the President's Aerie
continued ...

One of our major goals in the coming year is to have the publicity needed to attract community members to our trips and programs so our community will be truly appreciative and protective of what we have.

**Southwest Environmental
Center
Grand Opening
Wednesday, August 14th.**

Join us for the grand opening of our new center on the Downtown Mall in Las Cruces! The fun starts at 6 p.m. at 275 N. Downtown Mall (next to Day's Hamburgers)
(505) 522-5552

At Feather Lake

by, John Sproul

Our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary opens for the season on Saturday, October 5 and will be open through the end of April from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to sunset on Sundays. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Admission is free.

Want to help us get ready for Opening Day? Join us at the lake on Saturday, September 28. Gates open at 8 a.m. but come whenever you can during the day.

SUPPORT LOCAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue

Meets; 4th Tuesday of; Jan., Feb., Apr., June, Aug. & Oct. El Paso Community College Northwest Campus, 6701 South Desert Blvd. Room 45
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo

www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park

Meets; 3rd Wednesday of each month at Police Dept. Westside Regional Command Center, 4801 Osborne
keystonepark.com or
keystonepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

P.O. Box 891 Las Cruces, NM 88005
www.cdnep.org

Friends of Rio Bosque

747-8663

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Rock Art & Bird ID Tours every Sat & Sun 8am & 10am
857-1135

Keystone Heritage

Purchase small to large pieces of property at the Keystone site! This makes a very unique gift, receive a personalized certificate and help Keystone purchase the 40 acres needed to complete their acquisition of available land at the site. Help prevent commercial development of these biological and archaeological assets. One square yard costs \$25 and one acre costs \$50,000. Call Bernie or Melissa Sargent at 584-0503.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso's Mission Valley. Coming up:

- 8 a.m. Sat., August 10 (Introductory Tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., August 17 (Workday)
- 7 a.m. Sun., August 18 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., September 14 (Birds)
- 8 a.m. Sat., September 21 (Workday)
- 8 a.m. Sun., September 22 (Introductory)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt.

Information: 747-8663.



ON THE TRAIL

CAVE CREEK

A different look at the Chiracahua Mountains, because in August all the young are fledged and are getting ready for migration, as well as the migrating *hummingbirds* are in. This will be the weekend of **August 10 & 11.**

Please indicate your intentions to attend by the **4th of August.** Must have 5 sign up or its no go. Call Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson (915) 757-1876 or E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com.

FRIENDS of HUECO TANKS

Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park - \$4.
\$2 for Seniors 65, Children under 12 - FREE.

Bird Identification Tours

Sunday Aug 18 7:07 AM
Sunday Sep 15 7:07 AM
Sat/Sun Oct 19/20 *Special weekend.*

The Annual Interpretive Fair, Look for more on this in the Oct. Roadrunner

Please check in at the Headquarters.

Reservations and Information [857-1135](tel:857-1135).

Leader Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson [757-1876](tel:757-1876).

SHORE BIRDS

One of the best places to find good birds in El Paso is the Fort Bliss Ponds. (Just read the OBSERVATIONS page.) In August the shore bird migration is at its peak. A plus for this date will be the high probability that passerine migration will be starting. We will also take a ride along Hawk Alley to check if the Red-tailed Hawks have started to arrive.

Date: Saturday, August 17

Time: 7:17 AM

Place: Walmart, 4530 Woodrow Bean/
Transmountain Road.
(North end of parking lot)

Who: Bob "Wildbirder" (757-1876)

DONA ANA

Let's see what we can find in the neighboring county. After leaving the X rds, a drive to Crawford Road, then on to the Sod Farm and finally out to Gardner Road. *Lazuli and Indigo Buntings* could be coming through.

Date: Sunday, September 8.

Time: 7:32 AM

Place: Crossroads Ponding area
(Mesa/Doniphan/Country Club)

Who: Betty Fisbeck (581-0174)

DOWN THE VALLEY

McNary, Fort Hancock, and Tornillo Reservoirs are always good for *Gulls, Ducks, Egrets, Cormorants*, and **GREBES** (see the OBSERVATION page). Quite a few species of passerines could also be present along with some birds of prey to include *Harris' Hawk*. Lunch break will probably occur at the Tornillo Rest Area.

Date: Saturday, September 28

Time: 7:43 AM.

Place: Feather Lake

Who: Bob Johnson (757-1876)

CELEBRATION of THE MOUNTAINS

During October we will be having a number of birding observation and identification locations staffed in El Paso. These will be in conjunction with various tours conducted for the Celebration of The Mountains. As of the end of July the exact times and places have not yet been determined. However check the September EL PASO SCENE, the El Paso Times each week from the end of Sep. and our next ROADRUNNER due out the first of Oct. Come to the Sep. General Meeting and learn more.

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Roundup
August 15 -16 -17, 2002. info 1-800-458-6232.
www.prude-ranch.com, E-mail <prude@overland.net>
Not an organized Chapter field trip.

OBSERVATIONS

RARE AND UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

May 16, 2002 to July 15, 2002

Listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition October 1987. Leave sightings at Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson (757-1876), or E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com.

Observers: Dan Allen; Art Arteaga; Bob Behrstock; Betty Fisbeck; Richard Hermosillo; Hugh Jameson; Bob Johnson; David Kruzich; Kathy Kiseda; John Kiseda; Jim Paton; Flora Pittard; John Sproul; Barry Zimmer.
(FT) Field Trip Leader; -yd in their yard.

Specie *Date* *Obsv* *Loc*

GREBES to IBIS

Pied-billed Grebe	6/3	JP	Tor
Western Grebe (208 fully grown plus many young, of Clark's Grebe both species)	7/8	JP	McN
American White Pelican	6/3	JP	McN
(19)	7/8	JP	McN
Brown Pelican	5/24	JS	FLk
(The bird was very listless, was caught by CDWR on the 26th and died the day after)			
Neotropic Cormorant	6/30	BJ (FT)	XRd
White-faced Ibis (30)	6/2	JS	RBq
	7/6	RH	FBP

DUCKS

American Wigeon	6/30	JS	FLk
Blue-winged Teal	6/2	JS	RBq
Cinnamon Teal	6/2	Unusual to have all	
Green-winged Teal	6/2	3 Teal Species in Jun	
Northern Shovler	7/7	JS	RBq
Redhead	6/7	JP	McN
	7/7	JS	RBq

BIRDS of PREY

Cooper's Hawk (Very late)	5/26	DA	CCA
Harris' Hawk	5/19	JP	FBP
(Seen regularly all period)		JS	RBq
Golden Eagle	7/7	KK-yd	KnJ
Peregrine Falcon (Very Late)	6/5	BZ-yd	Ton

SHORE BIRDS thru TERNS

Lesser Yellowlegs	7/8	JP	McN
	7/13	JK	Key
Willet	7/8	JP	McN
Spotted Sandpiper	7/8	JK	Key
Baird's Sandpiper	7/8	JP	McN
Wilson's Phalarope	5/28	JP	FBP
Laughing Gull	5/25	JP	McN
Franklin's Gull	6/3	JP	McN
California Gull	6/3	JP	McN
	7/8	JP	McN
Arctic Tern (3d Trans Pecos Rcd)	5/27	JP	FBP
Foster's Tern	7/2	JP	McN
Least Tern	5/25	JP	Tor
Black Tern	6/7	JP	McN

CUCKOO to CATBIRD

Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/26	JP	FBP
	6/5	BZ-yd	Ton
Barn Owl	7/6	RH	FBP
White-eared Hummingbird	6/30	BB	WCS
Rufous Hummingbird	6/30	DK	OSp
	6/30	DA	R28
Olive-sided Flycatcher	6/4	JP	FBP
Western Wood Pewee	6/4	JP	FBP
Warbling Vireo	6/4	JP	FBP
Hermit Thrush	6/3	JP-yd	Boy
Gray Catbird	7/7	JP-yd	Boy

WARBLERS

American Redstart	6/4	JP	FBP
	6/6	JS	RBq
Ovenbird	5/25	HJ	BBn
Hooded Warbler	5/26	JP	FBP
Wilson's Warbler (Very late)	6/11	BZ-yd	Ton
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/19	JS	RBq

TANAGER thru BLACKBIRDS

Western Tanager	7/1	BF	WCS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6/5	AA-yd	Bks
Black-headed Grosbk	7/10	KK-yd	KnJ
Lazuli Bunting	5/19	JP	FBP
Indigo Bunting	5/28	JP	FBP
Varied Bunting	7/3	JP-yd	Boy
Painted Bunting	5/25	JS	RBq
Yellow-headed Blackbd	6/29	FP	Hor
(250)	6/30	JS	FLk

In addition at the Fort Bliss Ponds, Jim Paton had a Bobcat on 5/26 and 2 Pronghorns on 5/28.

Locations: Bks-Backus; BBn-Big Bend Dr.; Boy-Boy Scout Lane; CCA-Country Club Area; FLk-Feather Lake; FBP-Fort Bliss Ponds; Hor-Horizon City; KnJ-Kenyon Joyce Lane; Key-Keystone Marsh; McN-McNary Resv; OSp-Old Spanish Trail; RBq-Rio Bosque Park; R28-Route 28 in New Mx; Tor-Tornillo; WCP-West Ctnwd Sp;

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make all checks payable to the National Audubon Society

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001
EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

W10
Local Chapter Code

7XCHA

Dates to Remember
Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

August	September	October
Chiracahua Mountains Sat & Sun, 10 & 11	Dona Aña Sunday, 8th	Board Meeting Monday, 14th
Board Meeting Monday, 12th	Board Meeting Monday, 9th	Hueco Tanks Fair Sat & Sun 19th & 20th
Davis Mountains Sat & Sun, 15, 16 & 17	Hueco Tanks Sunday, 15th	General Meeting Monday, 21st
Fort Bliss Ponds Saturday, 17th	General Meeting Monday, 16th	
Hueco Tanks Sunday, 18th	Down the Valley Saturday, 28th	

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