

the ROADRUNNER

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

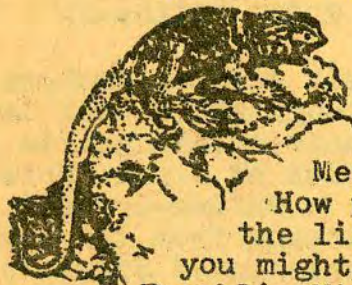


Editors: Jane Fowler - Jo Nagel

Volume 15 (5)

May 1985

GENERAL MEETING



MON., MAY 20,
1985, 7:30 PM
Garden Center,
3105 Grant in
Memorial Park.

How would you greet
the lizards and snakes
you might meet on the
Franklin Mts? John Hanson
and Bill Howe of the Herpetologi-
cal Society will introduce us to
the local reptiles with a slide
show and living specimens.

FIELD TRIP CALENDAR

MEMORIAL PARK

WED., MAY 8 and 15. Meet at 7 AM at
the Garden Center, 3105 Grant St.
for a stroll through the park. In
the past we've seen Western Tana-
ger, Solitary Vireo, Flycatchers
and Orioles. Leaders: Jo Nagel or
Tom Baker

UPPER VALLEY/RANDEL'S POOL

SUN., MAY 12. Meet at 7 AM at the
Crossroads Pond, Country Club Rd.
across RR from Doniphan Dr. The
time of singing of birds has come,
and we will be covering some of
the best song bird habitat in the
area. Leader: Joyce Davis (581-94
70 h, 544-6772 w).

CHIRICAHUA MTS.

THURS-SUN., MAY 16-19. Leader:
John Sproul (541-6126 w, 545-5157 h)
Plans are to leave Thursday for
the extreme southwest corner of
New Mexico to Guadalupe Canyon,
bird and camp overnight, then

move up to Cave Creek camp-
grounds for Friday and Satur-
day. There will be an owling
outing Saturday night you won't
want to miss. If you want to
leave Fri. or Sat. you can meet
up with the group in the Cave
Creek area. Anyone planning to
attend should advise John. Camp-
ing will be in the forest camp-
grounds, or if you can, make re-
servations at the Cave Creek
Ranch (602/558-2334) or Cathe-
dral Rock Lodge (602/558-2254).
The best chance to see unusual
birds is here.

RIO BOSQUE PARK

SAT., JUNE 1. Meet in the Feather
Lake parking area at 7 AM and
continue on to our city park.
Last year we saw the Painted
Bunting on this same trip. Other
species sought are Yellow-billed
Cuckoo and Blue Grosbeak. Leader
WANTED. Call Tom Baker (562-9461).

GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS

SAT-SUN., JUNE 15-16. Leader: Bob
Johnson (751-0125)

CLOUDCROFT

SAT-SUN., JULY 13-14. Ed and Elza
Gilboe have graciously offered
use of their cabin. Leader:
WANTED. Call Tom Baker.

ORGAN MTS. SUN., JULY 28

SAT.-SUN., AUG. 10-11. The Black
Range in the Gila or Casas Grand-
es in Chihuahua are trip consid-
erations. Let your interests be
known.

HUECO TANKS SAT., AUG. 17

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MON., MAY 13, 1985, 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.



YMCA SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

Central and Westside grade school children will be offered "Nature Programs". The program will begin June 3 with day-care activities occurring all week and nature programs occurring on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parents can sign up their children for all-week activities or just the specific nature programs. Gloria Basden from our Education Committee will be a counselor for these programs. For more information call the YMCA's Westside Director, Nellie Klinikowski, at 584-9622.

EL PASO SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION

As Vice-president of the El Paso Solar Energy Assoc. (EPSEA), I would like to extend an invitation to all Trans-Pecos Audubon members to attend our monthly meetings which are held on the first Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the El Paso Energy Information Center. The center is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Paisano and Piedras, near the Chamizal area. EPSEA is committed to the dissemination of information concerning various types of renewable energy sources and shares many common goals with the Audubon Society, such as conservation of energy and natural resources, reduced pollution levels and environmental preservation.

Our next 2 meetings are May 2 and June 6. For more information, call El Paso Energy Information Center (532-4999) Mon-Fri, 8AM-5PM.

/Joseph H. Summerour, Jr./

CHAPTER SLIDE FILE

Our chapter slide library is looking better all the time. Some recent additions, courtesy of Ray Waite and Barry Zimmer, have greatly increased the quality and completeness of this collection. These, in turn, allow us to greatly increase the quality of programs we give in the community. Thank you, Ray and Barry, for your talented contributions.

FIELD TRIPS FOLLOW-UP

April 6th, six Audubon members climbed through White Rock Canyon off Transmountain Rd. to see 25 species of birds. Noteworthy were a Rufous-crowned Sparrow drinking from the spring water, Black-chinned Sparrows and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

April 18, 19 & 20, Hal and Mary Flanders led 14 birders through the cool of the Chisos and the heat of the Rio Grande Valley floor in Big Bend National Park to count a combined total of 80 species. We saw good numbers of Tufted Titmice and Towhees in the mts., and camped among the many Summer Tanagers, Cardinals and Vermillion Flycatchers in the valley. Best finds were a Varied Bunting, a White-throated Sparrow and an Elf Owl that, as Hal promised would, came out of its home right at sundown for all to see. Many thanks to the "old man" of the desert for sharing his wide knowledge of the wildlife with us. Appreciated also was the private showing Hal and Harry Gordon presented of their two newest films. One of them, "Spiral Dance", was made about Big Bend National Park and its life. Both were of the same high quality as their Chihuahua Desert Trilogy.

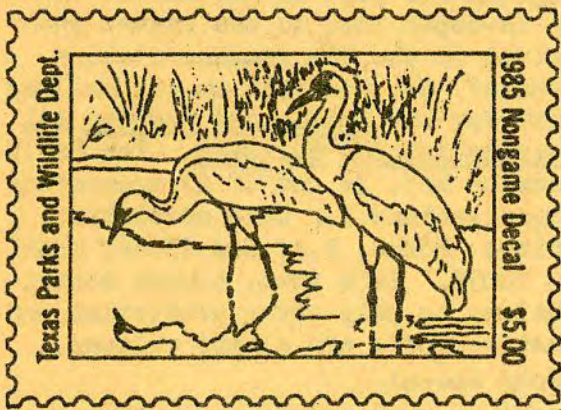
REVISED T.O.S. CHECKLIST AVAILABLE

The 2nd edition of the Texas Ornithological Society's Checklist of the Birds of Texas is now available. This 147-page booklet provides notes on status and range in Texas for all species currently on the state list (except for the elusive Least Sandpiper). For the El Paso area, the information for some species is very current, drawing on recent observations by local birders. For other species, it appears dated and may not reflect current status. Local birders will find some of the accounts surprising. See Piping Plover, Hudsonian Curlew and Black-crested Titmouse, for example. You can order a copy of this publication from: TOS, c/o Keith Arnold, Dept. Wildl. & Fish. Sci., Texas A&M Univ., College Station, TX 77843. Price: \$3.75 to TOS members, \$4.75 to nonmembers \$0.75 mailing. Texas residents add 18¢ (members) or 23¢ (non) state sales tax.

THE ROADRUNNER is sent to all members of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. Nonmembers can subscribe for \$4 per yr. Make checks payable to "El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society" and mail to: RR Editor, P.O. Box 9655, El Paso, TX 79986. Send any changes or corrections in name, address or telephone # to this address. Please Note: Bulk mail is not forwarded. Save us 22¢ in return postage by notifying us before you move.

 IT'S THE TIME TO BUY
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The deadline for the June RR is May 24. *****



YES, I want to help support the nongame wildlife and endangered species programs of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Please send me:

	Qty.	Each	Total
1985 Nongame Stamp		\$5	
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Amt. Enclosed			

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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Chapter
 Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join. Local Chapter:

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
 W10 71CH

Membership Category desired:

Individual/\$30 (H) Senior Citizen
 Family/\$38 (J) Individual/\$21(N)
 Student/\$18 (K) Senior Citizen
 Family/\$23 (P)

This is a new renewal membership.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

Zip.....Phone.....

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail to Bob Johnson, 5109 Paris, El Paso, TX 79924.

CONSERVATION CAPSULES

RHEA COPENING LAUDED: Rhea Copening, Audubon's Southwest Regional Representative, has a new feather in her cap. At the Mar 23-24 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Rhea was named recipient of that organization's Texas Natural Resource Conservation Award for 1985. She was cited for her professional contributions to wildlife conservation in general and for her key role in establishing the Texas Nongame Stamp program in particular. The appropriate way to celebrate Rhea's achievement? Buy a nongame stamp or decal, of course. Congratulations, Rhea!

FRANKLIN MTS. ST. PARK: S.B. 54, the bill to remove the existing prohibition against spending state funds for operation and maintenance of Franklin Mts. St. Park, is still with a subcommittee of the Texas House Environmental Affairs Committee (RR, Apr). The subcommittee has taken no action on the bill and appears unlikely to do so. Removal of the funding prohibition through S.B. 464, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD) reauthorization bill, remains a very real possibility, though. S.B. 464 got a hearing before the House Government Organizations Committee on Apr 2. It also is with a subcommittee right now but is not expected to remain there. This bill must pass if TPWD is to stay in existence.

RIO BOSQUE PARK: Our chapter's efforts to develop an environmental-education program at this undeveloped 286-acre city park in El Paso's lower valley are slowly progressing. At its April meeting, our board of directors approved a cooperative management agreement for Rio Bosque with the City (RR, Oct 1984). The agreement now goes to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior and to City Council for their approvals. Thanks are due Malcolm Harris and Tom Wright for their helpful reviews of earlier drafts of the agreement.

TEXAS WATER: The conference to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of the Texas water legislation (RR, Apr) continues. The Senate

version, as you'll recall, is far stronger environmentally, but thus far the Senate conferees have given in to their House counterparts on language involving groundwater management and financing of water projects. At press time, a protracted debate over protection of bays and estuaries was in progress. If a bill does pass the legislature, its funding provisions still must be approved by the voters in November. Whether Texas conservation groups will support or oppose such a ballot measure depends on the outcome of the conference committee's current deliberations.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: Progress towards reauthorization of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) also continues. The most recent activity took place in the U.S. Senate, where Sen. John Chafee (R-RI) has introduced a bill (S. 725) calling for a 5-year reauthorization. The Environmental Pollution Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held hearings on the bill in mid-April. Want an in-depth look at the issues involved in the ESA reauthorization debate? Get yourself on the mailing list for the Endangered Species Act Reauthorization Bulletin. The Natl. Audubon Soc. is one of 27 sponsoring organizations for this newsletter. Write: ESARB, P.O. Box 27056, Wash., DC 20038. It's free, though contributions to help cover production and postage costs are always welcome.
/John Sproul/

FRIENDS OF FEATHER LAKE

Our chapter's Sanctuary Fund is fatter this month due to donations from the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club and from Mrs. J. T. Lyons. We sincerely "thank you" for your support and your concern for local wildlife.



OBSERVATIONS

March 24 to April 22

Although somewhat slow overall and certainly not matching the excitement of the same period for the past two years, some very good sightings were reported. Three species of casual status appeared and one first for our area was confirmed.

LOONS - FALCONS

Three Double-crested Cormorants noted at Ft. Hancock Reservoir 4/14 (BJ,RW) were the first reported for awhile. An Am. Bittern was first observed at Feather Lake 4/12 (JS,JG,BK) and seen there on several occasions 4/14 (TB,et al.). A Great Blue Heron was still in residence at Canutillo as of 3/28 (TC) and 5 were at the Northeast Oxidation Ponds (NEOP) 4/7 (BJ). Several Cattle Egrets were present at Feather Lake 4/7 (BJ,JoD,et al.). On 4/13, an imm. Green-backed Heron seemed somewhat out of place in a desert area near Castner Park (RH,KB). At least 30 White-faced Ibis were seen near Fabens 4/6 (AG,MG), 23 at Feather Lake 4/7 (BJ,JoD,et al.), but only 1 at Madden Lake 4/14 (BJ,RW). Two Snow Geese were at Canutillo 3/28 (TC). On 4/5, an Osprey holding a fish in its talons was observed between the levee and a plowed field near Rio Bosque Park (JS). A Swainson's Hawk was seen near the Avenue of the Americas 4/7 (BJ) and a sub-adult Golden Eagle near Socorro on 3/23 (AG,MG).

QUAIL - WOODPECKERS

Three Snowy Plovers were at Madden Lake 4/14 (BJ,RW). A number of Black-necked Stilts and Am. Avocets were at NEOP 4/7 (BJ). Eight Lesser Yellowlegs were noted at Tornillo 4/14 (BJ,RW). On 3/28, 85-90 Long-billed Curlews were seen flying over the levee road near Fabens but only 1 was in the same area 4/6 (AG, MG). Of special interest is the confirmation of an AMERICAN WOODCOCK observed and photographed in n.e. El Paso 12/27 (TCa,JH,et al.). This is a first record of this eastern species for El Paso County. On 4/9, a Common Barn Owl was observed roosting in a tree at a n. e. El Paso residence (DL,RW) and another one was pursued by Great-tailed Grackles at Feather Lake 4/14 (TB,et al.).

FLYCATCHERS - VIREOS

Western Kingbirds noted at NEOP 4/7 (BJ) were the first reported this spring. Two Scrub Jays appeared at Mt. Park 4/2 and were still present at the end of the period (JB). Several Am. Crows were heard calling in the Rio Bosque Park area 4/5 (JS). Small flocks of Cedar Waxwings were still being reported as late as 4/17 (JB,JN).

WARBLERS - WEAVER FINCHES

A pair of Bronzed Cowbirds returned to Mt. Park in early April and 4 Hooded Orioles (2m,2f) were being seen regularly there as of 4/22 (JB). Two Red Crossbills were present in a central El Paso yard 3/30 (JN).

CONTRIBUTORS: Tom Baker, Ken Beno, Flora Bittick, Janet Brockmoller, Tess Cardenas, Tom Carson, Joyce Davis, Al & Madeline Gavit, Joe Guinn, Jean Hagesfeld, Richard Hermsillo, Bob Johnson, Bob Key, Diane Lehr, Jo Nagel, John Sproul, Ray Waite.
/Bettie Roberts, Observations Editor/
(591-0421)

EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Treasurer	Jean Coyle 778-7238

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John Sproul 545-5157
Sid Shepperd 566-2162

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ACT Delegate	John Sproul 545-5157
Clean Air Act Coordinator	Joyce Davis 581-9470

**KEEP AN EYE ON WORLD OF AUDUBON
TWO NEW PROGRAMS COMING THIS SUMMER**

- Florida Wildlife
- California Cessors
- Roger Tory Peterson
- Chesapeake Bay
- Peregrine Falcons
- Texas' African Wildlife
- Audubon's Warriors
- Duke's Wilderness

Hosted By Cliff Robertson
Produced by the National Audubon Society
and Super Station WTBS

June 24 at 6:05 PM Eastern	August 29 at 6:05 PM Eastern
June 30 at 3:00 PM Eastern	September 7 at 7:05 PM Eastern
July 7 at 1:05 PM Eastern	September 10 at 9:30 PM Eastern
July 9 at 9:05 PM Eastern	September 16 at 6:05 PM Eastern

Check cable listings for channels

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S EYRIE

It may seem that I am always asking for your help, and it's TRUE. This time, I am asking for help with committees. For example, we need chairmen for the publicity and membership committees. Or perhaps you would like to volunteer to work on the newsletter. If you can donate a few hours a month to the chapter, please call me. (757-1876 or 751-0125)

Our chapter display at Cielo Vista Mall (Apr 12 & 13) was well received. Give the applause to Jeannette Cole, Virginia and Tom Baker for updating the display. (Plus the Bakers boarded this large item in their home for a week before the event.) Thanks also to Sid Shepperd, Helen Barto, Mary Pat Dwyer, Marilyn Stevens, Jane Fowler, Selma Shelby, Bart Rumaker, Bob Dukes, Liz & Joe Guinn, Jo Nagel, Betty Pagel, Elza Gilboe, Joyce Davis and John Sproul for helping at the mall by answering questions and distributing the newsletter and Audubon pamphlets to passers-by.

Plan to attend our May meeting or some of the upcoming field trips and bring a guest. Many people do not know what the Audubon Society is or what its members advocate. Let's show them. Also bring in those aluminum cans for recycling. The May meeting is our last general meeting until the fall. Aluminum can sales help to pay our rental of the Garden Center. (If you can't make the meeting, call me and I will pick up your cans.)

Don't forget the BIRDATHON, Sat, May 4! It's not too late to pledge your support by sponsoring one of the counters or by participating in the count. The pot-luck dinner is May 5, 5:30PM, at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant St. Call me or any board member SOON if you wish to join the fun.
/Bob Johnson/

NEW HUECO TANKS CHECKLIST

This month's special insert is the newly revised Birds of Hueco Tanks State Park: A Field Checklist. It's the first revision since Kevin Zimmer's original checklist was published in 1977. The new list, compiled by Barry Zimmer, incorporates much new information, gleaned from 7 years of additional birding at the tanks. In those years, the species list has grown from 172 to 197, with flycatchers (from 10 to 14) and warblers (from 14 to 18) showing the largest gains. The number of confirmed breeding species has climbed from 23 to 32. Congratulations to Barry for his usual excellent job, and thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. for providing us enough checklists to send you each a copy.

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