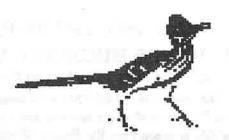
The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society Volume 28 No.4 September 1998



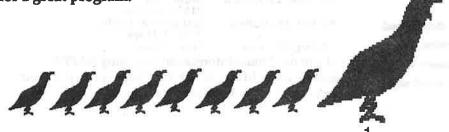
General Meetings

Monday, September 21, 1998 Keystone Historical Preservation Site Memorial Park Garden Center 3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

The keystone Archaeological Preservation and Protection
Association (KAPPA), Bernie Sargent (president), Carol Miller
(organizer), and Dr. David Carmichael (archeologist) will discuss
the Keystone Historical Preservation Site. The site and
Doniphan Marsh are closer to becoming a 99 acre park because
of congressional nomination of the southern Río Grande as a
United States Heritage river. They will present the plans for a
cultural, educational, and tourism site for all to enjoy, with
natural laboratories for the study of botany, biology, archeology,
history, geology, an other interesting subjects. Already planned
are botanical gardens, water bird rehabilitation areas, walk-in
archeological sites and Native American exhibits, nature trails,
and observation areas. Be sure to attend this interesting and
extremely important program.

Monday, October 19, 1998
The Franklin Mountains
Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm

This program is a must see for those who are interested in our beautiful and unique mountain. We will discuss the park and several areas of concern and general information. Please join us for a great program.



Anti-environmental Riders

The Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999 is laced with numerous antienvironmental amendments, called "riders". These riders are the worst and numerous we have faced, threatening our most basic environmental issues.

Legislative riders attached to appropriation bills change laws and policies in a way that bypasses the normal legislative process. Riders are subjected to little congressional scrutiny and only limited public comment. The president is forced to make tough decisions about whether to veto an entire Appropriation bill just to stop one or more bad provisions attached to legislation that funds important government programs.

The Senate will vote on the interior bill September. We need your help! Please call or write your senators and urge them to oppose anti-environmental riders on the interior spending bill. You can reach your Senators through their district offices or by calling the Capital switchboard at (202) 224-3121

The National Audubon Society opposes all anti-environmental riders and is working to send this message to both Congress and the President. You can also help by calling or writing the White House and urging the President to hold firm, and to veto any bill that reaches his desk with anti-environmental riders attached. You can contact President Clinton at The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C., 20500, telephone (202)456-1414

Inside The Roadrunner

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EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON'S BIRDATHON RESULTS

by John Kiseda/Birdathon Coordinator

The chapter raised \$5,600 for its designated conservation projects. Thanks to all of our sponsors and counters, the chapter will be able to support the Rio Bosque Wetlands Initiative, the Davis Mountains Preservation Project, the Texas Muduhon Society & our chapter's education projects! Our hirdathoners raised more money this year than in 1997, despite the fact that we had considerably fewer counters than in previous years; 23, not counting our ten Eastwood Meights Elementary School counters.

Only 160 species were seen this year, as compared to 1997's total of 171; fewer observers & "bad bird finding" weather for some, in part contributed to this smaller total of observed species.

Birds that were seen/heard in 1998, but not in 1997 included:

Canvasbacks
Golden Eagle - Fabiens *
Virginia Rail - Mesa Hills Marsh (heard)
Willow Flycatchers - Memorial Park & Hueco Tanks
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Cedar Waxwing
Hepatic Tanager - Durling's Farm
Eastern Meadowlark
Cooper's Hawk
Peregrine Falcon - lower valley reservoirs
Least Tern
Greater Peewee - La Vina
Swainson's Thrush - Durling's Farm
Nashville Warbler
Painted Bunting - Old Madden Lake area **
Orchard Oriole - Santa Teresa

hadn't been observed in a birdathon since 1995
 hadn't been observed in a birdathon since 1994

Birds that were seen/heard in 1997, but not in 1998 included:

Black-bellied Whistling Duck * Canada Goose Common Tern Long-billed Curlew ' Western Screech Owl ** Bewick's Wren Black-tailed Gnatcatcher Hutton's Vireo Rose-breasted Grosbeak * Lazuli Bunting American Goldfinch D.E. Junco Monk Parakeet Snow Goose Sora Common Snipe Belted Kingfisher Long Eared Owl * Marsh Wren Townsend's Solitaire * Townsend's Warbler * Cardinal Savannah Sparrow Red Crossbill * Yellow-billed Cuckoo * **Bushtit** *

* a species that is either hard to observe or entirely rare/unusual to our area, or is R/U during this season ** a/the (?) owl didn't show up to be counted for the first time in

5 years at the Tornillo rest-stop area.

Special thanks goes out to the wonderful volunteers that helped with the birdathon mailings & especially to Jane Fowler, who did a great job keeping track of the fundraiser's sponsors & finances. Your hard work was greatly appreciated & worthwhile!

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society Board of Directors:

President V-President	Elizabeth Chase Weldon Fisbeck	591-5119 581-0174
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Treasurer	Hugh Jameson	751-7952

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Education	Susan Schneider	542-3041
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	volunteer need	led
Membership	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Programs	Nancy Wilson	833-3907
Publications	Kathy Ditlevson	751-2005
Publicity	Roxanne Schroeder	534-7019
Sanctuary	John Sproul	545-5157

About the Roadrunner:

Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. For further information, you may contact Elizabeth W. Chase:

W: 857-4323 fax: 857-4324

email; echase @ soccorro.k12.tx.us

Doniphan Marsh

The marsh has had fairly good water levels during the past few months & a good number of black-necked stilts and killdeer hatched-out/fledged this season. As is usual during August, egrets have once again begun to use the marsh more extensively & many shorebirds have been utilizing the site during the southward migrations.

Protection efforts for the wetlands & archaeological site continue, but nothing has yet been finalized. The Upper Valley Neighborhood Association has merged with KAPPA (the Keystone Archaeological Protection & Preservation Association) and has been holding meetings on a regular basis. The next three meetings are scheduled as follows:

#1: Sept. 21, 7:30pm Memorial Park Garden Center 3105 Grant St.

#2: Oct. 14, 6:30pm Hal Marcus Gallery 2430 N. Mesa Hueco Tanks

If you need more information regarding KAPPA, contact Carol Miller at 584-7088 & for check out their web site at www.keystone-site.org.

Feather Lake Notes

By, John Sproul

Feather Lake, the 43.5-acre wildlife sanctuary we manage at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's lower valley, opens for a new season on Saturday, October 3. Hours will be every Saturday, 8:00am to noon, and every Sunday, 2:00pm to dusk. Admission is free.

As always, our visitor program depends on volunteer support. We have a great crew that staffs Feather Lake during visitor hours. How about joining it? The time commitment is just 1 or 2 half days between October and April. The work is easy, the setting beautiful, the wildlife abundant. If you can help, please contact Charles Simpson at 598-2274.

We also have work sessions every other month where you can help with sanctuary management. Thanks are due to Bob Johnson and Jane Fowler for their contributions to the hearty breakfast that preceded our May session. Our next session will be Saturday, September 26. Join us at 2:00pm to help install benches at strategic locations around the lake.

If all this talk of work makes you hungry, then circle the evening of October 10 on your calendar. That's when we invite you to join us for our annual pot-luck dinner at Feather Lake. See "On the Trail" (p. 7) for all the details.

Then on Saturday, October 17, join us for Día del Río. Participants in this annual celebration of the Rio Grande will see the present river as they help with clean-up projects in the morning. In the afternoon, they'll see what it can look like in the future with guided tours at Feather Lake! If you can help with this event, please contact John Sproul (545-5157).

Next Feather Lake Appreciation Day: Join us Saturday, September 26 to help with habitat management at Feather Lake. We'll start work at 2:00pm.

CONTRABUTAONS

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges recent donations to our organization from these thoughtful friends:

3or Jeather Lake:

Mary Lou Alcorn & Family El Paso Country Day School Hughey Elementary School Vince Giordano

3or General Fund:

Susie Schneider
Jane E. Poss

Fort Bliss Ponds

The only large pond currently with water in it is the South Pond (which is quite full). A number of the smaller ponds around the plant also have water in them and have been great for shorebird use/observation. See Bob's observation reports (p. 6) for the many cool sightings of the past few months which have include Painted and Lazuli Buntings, Harris Hawks, etc.

The El Paso Herpetological Society

The El Paso Herpetological has once again been resurrected. Contacts for the society are Mike Ross at 585-6947 and Stella Jimarez at 751-3772. Meetings occur at the El Paso Zoo at 7:00pm on the first Thursday of each month. Typically there is a guest lecturer at each meeting.

SCOPING MEETINGS SET FOR REGIONAL WATER PROJECT by, John Sproul

The schedule is set for the public scoping meetings for the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project:

- *Wed., September 16, Anthony, NM
- * Wed., September 23, Las Cruces, NM
- * Thurs., September 24, El Paso, TX

The meetings will have an "open house" format where you can visit informally with agency representatives, project planners and project environmental consultants. You'll be able to learn about the project and offer your views on which issues should be studied and which alternatives should be analyzed in the environmental impact statement for the project.

The El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project is the project to deliver Rio Grande water to El Paso, Las Cruces and other local communities year-round for municipal and industrial use. It is going to play a central role in shaping the future of the Rio Grande in this region.

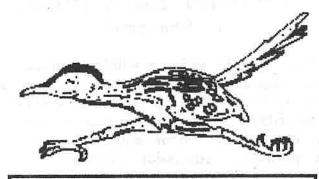
Increasingly, as the project advances, planners are recognizing the benefits of using the river itself to transport the water and of designing the project to mesh with efforts to restore and enhance the Rio Grande ecosystem. By taking part in one of the scoping meetings, you can help make clear that the public strongly supports this approach. Watch the news media for times and locations, and please plan to attend!



Cave Creek Ranch in Portal, Arizona

by, John Kiseda

The ranch has been taken over by new and apparently enlightened management. Much needed renovations to the rental units and the main building (it will be turned into a 20 seat "common Room" with a library, a catering kitchen, etc.) have already begun. Feeders are "up" and being maintained. The managers are naturalists and will do "walks/talks" on a variety of natural history subjects. This long awaited change regarding the Cave Creek Ranch, one of the best birding locales in Portal,



Feather Facts

presented by
Eastwood Heights Elementary
Junior Audubon Club

THE ROADRUNNER By, Claudia Oliva

The Road-runner is about two feet long with a very long mobile tail. His tail is used as a brake and a rudder. Their legs are powerful and they have a slim, streamlined shape. They are much better runners than flyers. They run quietly and as fast as a horse.

The Roadrunners eat snakes, lizards, and other small animals, like mice.
All of these it catches easily.

The Roadrunner's nests are well built and they are flat. Roadrunners live in low trees a few feet from the ground.

Roadrunners lay only three to six eggs. Roadrunners kill lizards and feed them to their young which are eaten head first. The Roadrunner is a very common bird in El Paso. You can see them all year round.

... is great news to those people who have loved the place and its birds, but could not deal with staying at the rental units. To be placed on their mailing list or to get more information, contact:

Roseann and Jonathan Hanson Cave Creek Ranch P.O. Box 16554 Portal, Arizona 85632 (520) 558-2334

ON THE TRAIL

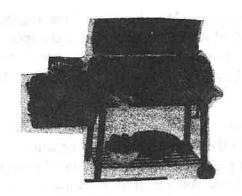
MIGRATION

The Vireos and Warblers are starting to come through early in September and who knows maybe we could catch a rare one. We will drive and walk and drive and walk, in the vicinity of the El Paso Country Club. The Red-shafted Flickers and Belted Kingfishers could be around, and a unusual duck could be in the Crossroads Ponding Area. That is where you will meet Bob Johnson (757-1876) at 7:47 AM on Saturday September 12. For those who do not know where that is, turn LEFT as soon as you cross over the railroad tracks at Mesa/Country Club Road and Doniphan, on the west side of town. Look for Bob's White Chev. Lumina Van.

MEMORIAL PARK

Warbler migration should be near its peak and Memorial Park is always one of the better places to see them. Also a stop at Arroyo Park, another migrant trap, which could produce a few rare ones. In addition to Warblers, Orioles and Vireos, (maybe both a Plumbeous and Cassin's) possibly a Hepatic Tanager might be found. The meeting time will be 7:14 AM, Sat.September 26, the place is The Garden Center in Memorial Park, 3500 Grant Street, your leader will be John Kiseda (833-6212).

This field trip is for all, but we are initiating a "Beginners Only" program this fall, to continue through the winter and spring. Each trip will concentrate in a smaller area, and cover only a few of the local regular birds. It will be conducted in more of a classroom setting and we will limit attendance to 10 persons. Please call John Kiseda for reservations.



FOOD and GOSSIP

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 IS THE DAY!! FOR WHAT?

7th ANNUAL POT LUCK PICNIC. WHERE?

At FEATHER LAKE of course.

The chapter will provide the burgers, dogs and rolls, also the condiments to top them off. This is a family affair, the kids will enjoy it as the birds will be performing. The grill will be hot about 5:30.

Come at 4:30 PM so you can build up your appetite walking around looking at the birds. By early Oct. some ducks are starting to arrive and we will have some of regular night roosters flying in.

We ask you to bring a dish (Salad, Pasta, dessert, or something else) to share with a few others, Also your own utensils and what ever beverages you like. If you think you might be coming give John Sproul (545-5157) or Bob Johnson (757-1876) a call. as we need an approximate count for buying the goodies. If you have a change of plans and at the last day you find you can come, please come even if you haven't called.

FEATHER LAKE

Saturday, October 17. Dia del Rio, see page 3.

OBSERVATIONS

MARCH 16, 1998 to AUGUST 15, 1998

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 the date and location will be bold and underlined. The listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition, October 1987. Leave sightings at (757-1876) Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson.

appeared in the June issue of the Roadrunner. Repairs have taken place and this report covers the missing two months. Thank you for your patience, I am your all seeing reporter, Bob Johnson (757-1876).

Observers: Mary Lou Alcorn; Kathy Ditlivson; Bill Fletcher; Jane Fowler; Madaline Gavit; Sallie Homan; Sally Jameson; Bob Johnson; Larry Jordan; Jody Kincaid(JKi) John Kiseda; Kathy Kiseda; Jim Paton; Patricia Russell: Susie Schnieder; John Sproul; Barry Zimmer. All-Entire Period; Var-Various; Mob-Many observers;-yd in vard.

A computer failure was the reason no observations Locations: Ant/Anthony; APk/Arroyo Park; Asc/Ascarate Park; BBd/Big Bend; Bsc/Boy Scout; Cor/Coronado; Emy/Emory; FLk/Feather Lake, FDv/Fort Davis; FHk/Fort Hancock; FQt/Fort Quitman; Fus/Fusselman Canyon; Hor/Horizon City; HLk/Horizon Lake; HTk/ Hueco Tanks; IHS/Indian Hot Springs; Kil/Kilkenny; Lom/Lombardy; LVI/Lower Valley; Mch/Macho Resivoir; McN/McNary; MsM/Mesa Hills Marsh; D-L/ Durling-Owens; PtD/Painted Dunes; Rdl/Randle's Pool; RBq/Rio Bosque Park; STA/Santa Teresa Area; Sod/ Sod Farm; SRS/Stan Roberts Sr; SHt/Sunset Heights; TgE/Tiger Eye; WCt/West Cottonwood Springs; WSp/ Whispering Springs.

Western Grebe	4/11	JК	Asc
White Pelican (149)	3/26	BZ	McN
Annual Control of the	Var	Mob	FLk
Brown Pelican	5/17	JP	McN
	6/28	LJ	McN
Double-crested Cormorant	6/29	JS	FLk
Great Egret	Var	Mob	FLk
Tricolored Heron	7/4	JS	FLk
White Ibis	6/9	JP	McN
White-faced Ibis	6/28	JS	RBq
Wood Duck	4/29	JS	FLk
	6/11	JS	Rdl

OSPREY	to YELLO	WLEGS	
Osprey	4/9	JS	FLk
Mississippi Kite	5/20	MLA	Emy
Northern Harrier	8/2	\mathbf{BJ}	FBP
Harris' Hawk	All	Mob	PtD
Rough-legged Hawk	3/20	BJ	SRS
Golden Eagle	4/4	\mathbf{BJ}	HTk
Peregrine Falcon	8/13-15	BZ	<u>FBP</u>
Virginia Rail	7/7	LJ	MsM
Sora	4/26	JS	FLk
Greater Yellowlegs	7/25	BJ	FBP

SANDPIPE	RS to G	ULLS	
Solitary Sandpiper	7/4	JS	FLk
Willet	4/20	JS	FLk
	6/28	LJ	FHk
Long-billed Curlew	5/6	SH	Sod
	7/14	JS	FHk
diam'r.	8/15	JP	FHk
Pectoral Sandpiper	4/17	MG	HLk
Short-billed Dowitcher	8/15	BZ	FBP
Franklins Gull	6/9	JP	FHk
Bonapart's Gull	4/20	JS	FLk
	6/9	JP	<i>FH</i> k

TERNS to	CUCK	oos	
Common Tern	6/9	JP	FHk
Least Tern	5/9	JS	<i>FH</i> k
	6/9	JP	Tor
	6/11	JS	Rdl
Black Tern	7/25	BJ	FBP
	8/1	JS	FLk
Common Ground Dove	5/17	JP	IHS
	6/3	JS	FO t
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/17	BJ	HTk
	Var	JS	LVI

OBSERVATIONS Continued from Page 6.

HUMMINGBI	RDS to	JAYS	
Blue-throated Hummingbi	rd 5/8	JKi-yd	Ant
Calliope Hummingbird	7/21+	PR-yd	STA
•	8/14	JK-yd	Cor
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	5/15	KK-yd	Cor
	7/3	LJ ,	WSp
	7/7	JS-yd	SHt
Olive-sided Flycatcher	8/2	BJ	FBP
Willow Flycatcher	6/8	JS	Mch
Vermillion Flycatcher	5/17	JP	IHS
Violet-green Swallow	6/27	LJ	Fus
Bank Swallow	4/11	JK	FBP
Cave Swallow	4/16	JS	FLk
Green Jay	4/13	SH-yd	Lom
•	4/18	SJ-yd	BBn
Scrub Jay	4/30	SS	APk



WRENS to WARBLERS

Carolina Wren

7/21

BZ-vd

TgE

Carotina Freeze		W.D.	PALAL
Brown Thrasher	6/13	KD+	FH _k
	8/13	BZ	FBP
Plumbeous Vireo	4/6	SH-yd	Lom
Red-eyed Vireo	5/16	PR-yd	STA
Lucy's Warbler	5/17	JP	<i>IHS</i>
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/15	BF	FDy
Yellow-rmpd Wblr(Myrtle)	4/23	JS	FLk
Townsend's Warbler	8/15	SH	FBP
American Redstart	8/15	SH-yd	Lom
Prothonotary Warbler	8/12+	BZ+Mob	FBP
Northern Waterthrush	8/13	BJ	FBP
Red-faced Warbler	5/16	SH-yd	Lom

TANAGERS	to GRO	SBEAKS	
Hepatic Tanager	8/13	BZ	FBP
Summer Tanager	4/11	JК	D-L
Northern Cardinal	5/17	JP	IHS
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/6	JS	HTk
	6/6	JP-yd	BSc
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/22	MLA-yd	Emy
	5/30	LJ	WCt
	7/27	PR-yd	STA
BUNTINGS	to GOLI	DFINCH	
Lazuli Bunting	8/13	\mathbf{BJ}	FBP
Indigo Bunting	5/30	LJ	WCt
Painted Bunting	7/24	BJ	FBP
	7/27	MG-yd	Hor
	7/30	SH-yd	Lom
Green-tailed Towhee	4/21	JF-yd	Kil
Yellow-headed Blackbird	7/14	JS	FHk
Bronzed Cowbird	All	PR-yd	STA
Scott's Oriole	4/8	PR-yd	STA
American Goldfinch	4/13	SH-yd	Lom

ON THE TRAIL continued from page 5.

FRIENDS of HUECO TANKS

Sunday, September 20, **BIT.** Come see fall migrants at Hueco Tanks Historical Park. Under the new Management Pian, you can still participate in the monthly "Bird Identification Tour" for the same price. Previously the park enterance fee was \$2.00 and specials tours were an additional \$2.00 for a total of \$4.00. Now park entrance fees will be \$4.00, but no charge for tours.

Also for the month of September we will start at 7:30 AM instead of 8:30 as in the past. This is due to the fact that the park is operating on its new summer schedule, opening at 7:00 AM.

Looking ahead at Hueco Tanks.

Oct. 17, 7 PM. Slide Show, "Hueco Tanks Birds".

Oct. 18, 8AM. "Bird Identification Tour".

Oct. 25-25. Annual Interpretive Fair

WEB SITE UPDATED

Thanks to the wizardry of Bill Howe, our chapter's Home Page on the World Wide Web is now updated and sports a bright new look.

Check it out at:

http://www.whc.net/cdwr/tpæhome.htm
There is information on our chapter,
on upcoming events, on Feather Lake,
on local birding, and links to other
web sites of interest, especially
ornithological interest, in Texas and
New Mexico. There are many other
possible improvements; e-mail us
your ideas through the web site.
Thanks, Bill!

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA
CONSERVATION/BIRD ITEMS
Kino Springs (near Douglas)

Common Black Hawks have been nesting there for the past three years. John and Kathy Kiseda observed an adult bird above the Golf Club's main facility during the last week in August.

Ramsey Canyon, Garden Canyon (near Sierra Vista). South Fork Creek (Portal)

All experienced Elegant Trogon reproduction this past season. Two young males were seen associating with one another just upstream from the South Fork parking area.

Dates to Remember

September

Crossmads Area

Saturday, September 12, 7:45 am

Board Meeting

Monday, September 14 7:00pm

Environmental Center

Hueco Tanks

Saturday, September 20, 8:00am

October

Board Meeting

Monday, October 12, 7:00 pm

Environmental Center

Feather Lake Picnic

Saturday, October 10 Birding at 4:30pm

Cooking begins at 5:30pm

Memorial Park

Saturday, September 26, 7:51 am

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Rock Art Tours

Every Sat & Sun 10:00am & 2:00pm

Birding Activities at Hucco Tanks

Bird Identification Tours

æ

Slide Show Presentations

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.

[]M	y check	for \$20	is	enclosed.
-----	---------	----------	----	-----------

NAME _____

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 AUDUSON SOCIETY

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Local Chapter Code

7XCHA

The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to echase@soccorro.kl2.tx.us or mail to 5215 Wally Dr. El Paso, Texas 79924. Publication is assisted by Eastwood Heights Elementary Junior Audubon Society Club students. Printed by Superior Copy on recycled paper.

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