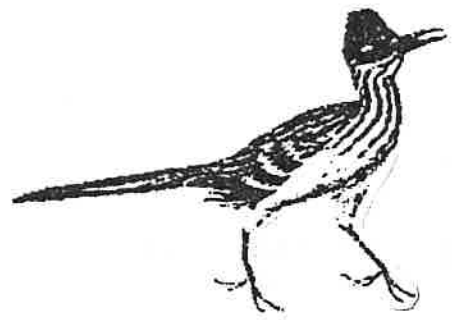


The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 28 No.2 April 1998 - May 1998

General Meetings

Monday, April 20, 1998 6:30pm
A Walk Around Feather Lake, John Sproul
Natural Resource Conservation, Tony Garcia

Meet at Feather Lake before the general meeting and take part in a guided tour hosted by John Sproul. Come walk around the lake and see what birds might be enjoying the sanctuary.

At 7:30, Tony Garcia will discuss resource conservation, its importance, what it does and what we can do. He has worked for over twenty years in natural resource preservation and has a BA in Range and Animal Science at TX A&I. Tony Garcia is currently working on his Masters degree.

May 18, 1998 7:30pm
John Green, Photographer
Four Seasons of the Rock Art Shelter
Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street

John Green is an expert nature photographer who has given several programs for the Trans-Pecos Audubon Society in the past. Those who have attended will remember a fascinating lecture with colorful slides. His work has been published in a journal called The Rock Art Scientist. John Green will be presenting photos of his Rock Art which originated by native Americans in a cave in the Big Bend National Park. The cave art work depicts the four seasons typical of North America. Don't miss this meeting and your chance to listen to a splendid speaker.

The Rio Grande:

Past and Present and Future

Join our expert speakers as they talk about the important ideas the river plays on humans and wildlife. The series consists of four Wednesday evening talks held at the Valle Verde Campus of the El Paso Community College.

All talks are from 7:30-9:00PM.

April 15

The River as a Source of Irrigation

April 22

The cultural significance of the Rio Grande

April 29

The River as a Source of Drinking Water

May 6

The Ecological Demise of the River and Prospects for Restoration

Contact Nancy @ the Southwest Environmental Center for more Information.

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The President's Corner

The Awards dinner was a wonderful evening for all involved. Once again, congratulations to Charles Simpson and John White who are the recipients of the Meritorious and Conservation award respectively.



Charles Simpson with Elizabeth Chase



John White with John Kiseda

I would like to extend a welcome to new board members, Hugh Jameson, Susie Schneider, Roxanne Schroeder and Margarita Kanavy. The next board meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 7:00pm at the Environmental Center, 800 S. Piedras at Piasano.

Elizabeth Chase

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society Board of Directors:

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

Committee Chairs:

Conservation	John Kiseda	833-6212
Education	Susie Schneider	542-3041
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality	Betty Pagel	772-2686
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 @ socorro.k12.tx.us

Special thanks to:

Scott Hedges for his excellent presentation on Colonial Water Birds of the Texas Coast at the February 15 Awards Dinner

and to

Jesse Hyder for his presentation on the stars and planets. It was an enjoyable talk in spite of the cloudy weather. If you would like to purchase a photos of the skies, you can help raise funds for a new astronomical observatory. For more information, contact Mr. Hyder at 594-2390.

FEATHER LAKE

The drama of the sky dance is enacted nightly on hundreds of farms, the owners of which sigh for entertainment, but harbor the illusion that it is to be sought in theaters.

-- Aldo Leopold

A Sand County Almanac

Leopold was writing about woodcocks in central Wisconsin, but his message is universal. Nature's wonders awe all around us... and all too often overlooked. In recent years, Feather Lake has had its own "sky dance" on spring evenings: spectacular numbers of White-faced Ibis flying on roost at sunset. Will this drama be repeated in 1998? There's only one way to find out. Visit on a Sunday evening in early April, or come to our general meeting at Feather Lake on Monday, April 20 (see p.1).

Mornings are nice, too, at Feather Lake.

Especially Saturday morning, May 16. Stop by at 8:30am, and we'll serve you breakfast! Thus energized, you'll want to stay and take part in our bimonthly session of habitat-management. In the last newsletter, several names were inadvertently dropped from the list of folks who helped at workdays in 1997: Jean and John Coyle, Betty Fisbeck, Jane Fowler and Lil Harris. Our thanks to all, and our apologies for the omission. Thanks also go to the Brownies in Troop 27, the girl scouts in Intermediate Troop 184 and the students from Rocky Mountain College and Hanks High School who recently helped remove young salt cedars from within the basin.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's lower valley, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Through the end of April, it is open every Saturday, 8:00am to noon, and every Sunday, 2:00pm to dusk. Admission is free. From May through September, Feather Lake is open only for tours or work projects.



CONTRIBUTIONS

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

For General Fund:
Tom Baker

For Feather Lake:
Austin Terrace Garden Club

Donations

Bob Johnson
Lorraine Snelling
Tom Baker
Richard Hermosillo
Jean and John Coyle

Next Feather Lake Appreciation Day:

Join us Saturday, May 16 for breakfast at 8:30am and then work to help with habitat management at Feather Lake.



Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, a non-profit organization for the study, appreciation, and conservation of birds, is seeking participants in two new citizen-science projects. Volunteers for Birds in Forested Landscapes will study habitat requirements for seven species of forest thrushes and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. Volunteers for The Cornell Nest Box Network will monitor nest boxes and collect information on the breeding biology of cavity-nesting birds, such as kestrels, swallows, chickadees, and bluebirds. If you would like more information, contact;

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850-1999.

Sara Barker
Birds in Forested Landscapes
(607)254-2465
e-mail:<forest_birds@cornell.edu>

Colleen DeLong
Cornell Nest Box Network
(607)254-2482
e-mail:<CNBN@cornell.edu>

This message is from the newlist mailing list at Texas Parks and Wildlife. Please mail your questions to ownernewlist@tpwd.state.tx.us. To remove your name from this list send the following message to unsubscribe newlist your-email-address.

Feather Facts

presented by
Eastwood Heights Elementary
Cuckoo Conservation Club

The Painted Bunting by, Michelle Wentworth

The Painted Bunting is a beautiful bird. The adult male has a blue head, yellow-green mantle, red rump and underparts, and dark wings and tail. The female is green and yellow-green. The young painted buntings look like the adult females, but their colors are brighter. The adult painted buntings are about 5 1/2 inches in size. Their song is a series of varied phrases, but their distinctive call is a loud and rich chip!

The painted bunting can be found mainly in the southeast in brushy areas and woodland edges. They prefer semi-open areas with dense low growth all year round. The painted buntings winter in Florida and Mexico. In Florida, they can even be seen eating out of bird feeders!

They eat mainly seeds from grasses and weeds. They also eat many insects such as beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and flies. They occasionally eat fruits and berries. They look for food on the ground, in shrubs, and in low trees.

The painted buntings build their open-cupped nests in thick bushes, vines, or low trees. The nest is made by the female. It is made of woven grass, weeds, and leaves. The inside of the nest has fine grass, small roots, and animal hair.

They lay 3 or 4 eggs usually twice a year. The eggs are whitish to bluish white or pale gray with reddish brown spots on the larger end of the egg.

TPWD LAUNCHES NEW HUMMINGBIRD SURVEY IN TRANS-PECOS

AUSTIN--Since the beginning of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup survey in 1994, thousands of Texans have helped state wildlife officials collect information about the hummingbirds of Texas.

Because of the success of this study, the Hummingbird Roundup will include a new effort this spring -- the "Treasures of the Trans-Pecos" survey. The project, which focuses on the birds and habitats in the Trans-Pecos region, is modeled after the current annual roundup survey, which was developed to promote interest among backyard hummingbird watchers, while expanding the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) knowledge about species distribution, behavior and diversity of these birds. The Trans-Pecos roundup will collect two years of data from Texas residents in counties west of the Pecos River.

The Texas Hummingbird Roundup is a special project of the non game and urban wildlife programs at TPWD and 1998 is the final year of the statewide survey. Data collected by the project will be analyzed and used in publishing a book about the hummingbirds of Texas and the Southwest.

Texas has documented more species of hummingbirds than any other state and of the 12 species that have been documented in the Trans-Pecos, four breed in the region and occur nowhere else in Texas. The Lucifer Hummingbird, a Trans-Pecos specialty, breeds nowhere else in the United States.

TPWD invites anyone interested in learning more about hummingbirds to participate in this important new survey. Participation in the survey costs \$6.00 annually, or \$10.00 for two years, if paid in advance. Prepaid participants in the two-year program will receive a special package that includes: the annual survey, a Perky-Pet "Pop-Bottle" Hummingbird Feeder Kit, native hummingbird plant seeds, and other valuable materials. In addition, at the end of the survey year, participants will receive a newsletter with the survey results, and a participants sticker.

Don't worry if you're not an expert, or just learning how to identify birds. There are many helpful guides available, and the Hummingbird Identification Wheel offered through the Roundup survey is a great tool for identifying hummingbirds in Texas. In addition, the Roundup can help you with your identification questions and if it's a rare bird, we'll send someone out to document it.

If you would like to participate in the "Treasures of the Trans-Pecos" special survey, contact the Texas Hummingbird Roundup at (512) 389-4470 or dial 1 (800) 792-1112 and ask for extension 4470. You may also contact us by e-mail: christina.mccain@tpwd.state.tx.us

National Audubon Convention

**July 5 - July 12, 1998
Estes Park, Colorado**

The National Audubon Society's National Convention will be a great opportunity for chapter members to acquire training to help achieve conservation goals in our area.

Currently being planned are a series of concurrent sessions on interesting topics, a variety of panel discussions and presentations, and a variety of pre- and post-convention field trips. Special keynote speakers and conservation awards for staff and volunteers will add excitement to the event.

The registration fee will be approximately \$125.00 per person. Room and board expenses will vary. For more information, contact the National Convention office at 303-499-8622.

Special Features

A View From Here

by, Lucie Hunt at Harlan & Gschwind
part #2 of 6 parcels

Back in Pennsylvania, we used to predict in February our weather for the forthcoming season based upon a ground-hog's appearance. Now, with El Niño in vogue, I do believe it's time re-invent omens, and I propose in West-Texas, we do the march-of-ants from hibernation, come March. Yes! I saw one singular bold scout out there looking around and about. No! He was no more "lost" than me or my cats or dogs were. On such a lovely day for a walk, we are all purely curious and having FUN. I'll welcome your interpretation of Mr. Ant's hike.

Mama Gambel Quail still leads her last year's covey on its established trail. Those lazy old kids haven't left the nest yet, just like some dysfunctional humankind I know. Maybe my pets will chase them over the levée so they'll fly "outta here", as offspring should. Yes! It has been a very good year here so far.

And say, didn't we really appreciate all of the intrinsic beauty from three surprise snowfalls, complete with two rainbow shows? I am learning how to keep always some film in my camera and to follow my dogs up and out with the dawn of each new day. Since Santa Claus failed to bring me a good set of binoculars, maybe I'll just rely on my old ones and get me back to an optometrist.

I am in the novitiate stage of bird watching, such as John Kiseda has so adequately described. When I go on "birding" tours with Bob and John, I know I drive them crazy, for "they" all look like ducks and cranes to me, except for the sweet, petite white Ibis, which are the pets of my aunts in Florida. And because of my regular trips there, I do recognize the pelicans. How can anyone call them an "endangered species"? Well, maybe in West Texas Deserts...

My friendly Mrs. Cactus Wren, on that great stand of cholla cactus in my extended backyard, has been busy building another nest. After all, it is that time of year. Only the nests on the leeward side ever survive our windstorms. I have her definite identity all established, and now I can tell a true cardinal from a pyrrhuloxia even with my cheap binoculars. They sure do sound the same to me! As do those grasshoppers sound like sparrows under the brush. And crows can sound like jay birds. What about this confusion?

Hummingbirds and Sphinx moths and big bumblebees. My daughter, who is a physical therapist, says that sixty-six year olds like me have slow visual (and auditory) "processing".

Next time;

Lessons of Touch Learned in Our Desert

Wings of Spring National Audubon Society

For millions, spring doesn't truly arrive until the birds do. Flying thousands of miles from South and Central America, the birds of spring bring the change of the seasons with them. For the first time, the Audubon Society celebrates bird migration through a singular series of event which comprise "Wing of Spring." Taking place from April through June, "Wings of Spring" highlights the spring return flight of millions of birds. The following is a description of some "Wings of Spring" happenings.

Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22

International Migratory Bird Day,
Saturday, May 22

American Wetlands Month - May

Birdathon '98, May 8 (see special insert)

Founded in 1905 and supported by over 550,000 members in 518 chapters throughout the Americas, the National Audubon Society strives to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

On The Trail

Southest Arizona is one of the best birding locations in the country. Its deserts and mountains create a birding wonderland: that, combined with the closeness of subtropical Mexico, allow for a diversity of birds found nowhere else in the USA.

We will concentrate on trying to find **Broad-billed** and **Violet-crowned Hummingbirds**, **Spotted Owl**, **Sulpher-bellied** and **Buff-breasted Flycatchers**, and two other flycatcher types: the **Tropical Kingbird** and **Northern-beardless Tyrannulet**. Most of these are found only in Southeastern Arizona. In addition, we could see the **Gray Hawk**, **Elegant Trogon**, **Bell's Vireo** and **Abert's Towhee**. We will find the **Gray-breasted Jay**, **Gila Woodpecker**, **Cassin's Kingbird** and **Painted Redstart**.

This great trip will take place on Memorial day weekend May 23, 24, and 25. Camping in the area is difficult so many will stay at one of the good motels in Sierra Vista. If you think that you might like to go, contact Bob "Wild Birder" Johnson 757-1876 for itinerary and other details.

WEST COTTONWOOD SPRINGS

While taking a hike into the **TOM MAYS** area of **Franklin Mountins State Park** you will be able to see *Scaled Quail*, *White-throated Swift*, *Ash-throated Flycatcher*, 3 *Wren species* (*Cactus*, *Rock*, and *Canyon*), at least 3 *sparrow species* (*Rufous-crowned*, *Black-throated*, and *White-crowned* and possibly more). If you look overhead it is possible that a *Golden Eagle* could soar overhead.

So why don't you take a hike with Bob Johnson (757-1876) on **Saturday April 11th**. Meet him at the entrance to the area located on the west side along **Trans Mountain Road**. The time to be there is **7:59 AM**.

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. May 2d**, the place is **The Garden Center in Memorial Park, 3500 Grant Street**, the leader is Scott Cutler 581-6071

ANTHONY

What's in **Anthony** that would attract birders? First Helen Bigalow lives there, and its at her home that she will give us an insight to the operations of the **CHIHUAHUAN DESERT WILDLIFE RESCUE** and a look at the raptors she takes care of.

Second we will take a look at **Rainbow Lakes** to see what birds might be lurking at the waters edge and in the trees nearby. Then we will cross the river to the *Heron Rookery* which has over 200 nests of *Cattle Egrets*, *Snowy Egrets*, and *Black-crowned Night-Herons*. Craig Braginton (877-4138) will show you how to find these places. Meet him at **Trans-Mt. and I-10 on Sat June 6th at 7:22 AM**.

FRIENDS OF HUECO TANKS

Upcoming activities at Hueco Tanks State Historical Park. Park entry fee is \$2.00 each, children under 13 \$1.00.

Rock Art Tours-Every Sat & Sun. 10AM & 2PM.

Bird Identification Tour 8AM; Sun Apr 19 & Sun May 17.

Birds of Hueco Tanks SLIDE SHOW 8 PM Sat. Apr 18.

Tours and shows are \$2.00 per person / \$1.00 ages 6-12.

OBSERVATIONS

January 10, 1998 to March 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/or 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.

We need your reports based on the checklist, because we are going to report them to the EL PASO TIMES to be included in the NEIGHBORHOOD page. If you are unsure of a sighting, **do not HESITATE; REPORT IT** to Bob "WILDBIRDER" Johnson 757-1876.

Observers: Mark Adams; Mary Lou Alcorn; Richard Hermosillo; Sallie Homan; Bob Johnson; John Kiseda; Jim Paton; Patricia Russell; John Sproul; Barry Zimmer. Var-Variou Dates; Mob- Many Observers; -yd, at their feeder; -ft leader of a field trip.

Locations: Asc/Ascarte Park; CCC/Coronado County Club; Emy/Emory; FHc/Fort Hancock Reservoir; FLk/Feather Lake; FBP/ Fort Bliss Ponds; HTk/ Hueco Tanks; Lom/Lombardy; Lev/Along the Lower Valley Levee; McN/McNary Resv; NTA/Nations Tobin Area; PtD/Painted Dunes Golf Course; ShP/ Sherman Park; SRS/Stan Roberts Sr. Drive; Sun/Sunland Park Area; STA/Santa Teresa Area; Tor/Tornillo Reservoir; XRd/Crossroads Area; 3Rv/McNary, Hancock, and Tornillo Reservoirs.

GREBES to IBIS

Western Grebe (34)	3/6	BZ	3Rv
Clark's Grebe (31)	3/6	BZ	3Rv
(Dancing on the Waters)			
White Pelican (17)	3/6	BZ	FHc
(30)	3/15	MA	FHc
Double-crested Cormorant	2/28	JS	Flk
Great Egret (usually 20+)	Var	Mob	Flk
White-faced Ibis (1)	<u>Jan</u>	Mob	Flk
(no. increasing over 100)	Mar	JS	Flk

DUCKS

Black-bellied Whis. Duck	Var	Mob	Asc
Greatr Wh.-front. Goose	Var	Mob	Asc
These two birds have been at Ascarte for over 1 year.			
Snow Goose (170)	2/7	JP	McN
(37 + 2 Blue)	3/6	BZ	FHc
Ross's Goose (37)	3/6	BZ	FHc
Canada Goose	Var	JS	Flk
Wood Duck	3/4	JS	FLk
Hooded Merganser	Var	JS	FLk
Common Merganser	1/28	JS	FLk
(600)	3/6	BZ	FHc
	3/10	PR	
	FBP		
Red-breasted Merganser	3/6	BZ	Tor

VULTURES to CURLEWS

Turkey Vulture	3/13	JK-ft	Tor
<u>Osprey</u>	<u>2/7</u>	JP	McN
Harris' Hawk	1/25	RH	PtD
<u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>	Var until 2/10		
		Mob	SRS
Merlin	1/18	MLA-yd	Emy
	Var	BZ	NTA
Golden Eagle	2/4	RH	SRS
Black-necked Stilt	Var	Mob	FLk
American Avocet	Var	Mob	FLk
<u>Long-billed Curlew</u>	<u>3/6</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>FHc</u>

GULLS to SAPSUCKERS

<u>Bonapart's Gull</u>	<u>1/17</u>	JS	FLk
	<u>1/21</u>	BZ	Sun
	<u>3/15</u>	MA	Tor
<u>Mew Gull (Adult)</u>	<u>1/19</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>Sun</u>
(Juv)	1/21	BZ	Sun
<u>California Gull</u>	<u>1/21</u>	<u>BZ</u>	<u>Sun</u>
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	<u>2/18</u>	<u>BZ-yd</u>	<u>ShP</u>
Vermillion Flycatcher	3/1	BJ-ft	Lev
Red-naped Sapsucker	<u>1/19</u>	JK	CCC
	3/15	RH	HTk

GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS

The beautiful mountain country in the vicinity of Silver City, New Mexico will be the destination of this overnight trip during the weekend of **June 27 and 28**. We'll be visitings the **Cliff Dwellings**, the **Gila Wilderness**, and **Lake Roberts**. A Large *Great Blue Heron* Rookery is nearby and wild animals are always visible, a few years ago we saw a *Beaver Lodge* and the *Beaver* swimming in the pool. *White-breasted Nuthatches* eating out of Sid's hand, and *Black-headed grosbeaks*, *Hepatic Tanagers* and *Lark Sparrows* on the ground within 20 feet.

Great camping along the **Gila River**, but if you would like more comfort call **Doc Campbells Trading Post** (505-536-9551). We will have a campground picnic Sat evening. For all the **details** call Bob Johnson (757-1876).

BURROWING OWLS

Burrowing Owls have been declining throughout their range. As part of a study of the declines, the Canadian Burrowing Owl Recovery Team has been color banding birds, hoping to get information on wintering areas. The birds have been given as many as three color bands along with an aluminum band.

If you see a banded owl, take down the color combinations and in what sequence, which leg, where and when you saw it and let Bob *Wildbirder* Johnson (757-1876) know.

BACKYARD BIRD NEWS

Bird Watchers Digest has a new publication that premiered in January. Regular features will be tips on planting perennials, trees and shrubs to provide cover and food for birds and other creatures that visit backyards; regional reports cataloging are and will be visiting feeders across the country; and analysis of bird behavior and answers to common questions. Profiles of bird families will be another treat offered to readers.

Subscriptions (\$15.00 yr. for six bimonthly issues), call 1- 800-879-2473, or write to *Bird Watcher's Digest*, P.O. Box 110, Marietta Ohio 45750.

Same address for subscriptions to *The BWD Skimmer* (\$12.00 for six alternate months) and *Bird Watchers Digest* (\$18.95, six issues a year).

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallow (29)	2/28	JK	XRd
(300)	3/6	BZ	McN
Violet-green Swallow	3/6	BZ	McN
	3/13	JK-ft	Lev.
Rough-winged Swallow	3/6	BZ	McN
	3/9	JS	FLk
Cliff Swallow	2/16	PR	XRd
Cave Swallow (50)	3/6	BZ	3Rv

JAYS to LONGSPURS

Scrub Jay	1/19	JK	CCC
	2/15	BJ	HTk
Cedar Waxwing	1/19	JK	
CCC			
<u><i>Plumbeous Vireo</i></u>	<u>1/21</u>	<u>SH-yd</u>	<u>Lom</u>
Orange-crowned Warbler	All	PR-yd	STA
Common Yellowthroat	1/17	JS	FLk
Black-chinned Sparrow	2/15	BJ	HTk
Chesnut-collar. Longspur	3/15	MA	FHc

UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS

From the observations of Mark Adams, traveling in Hudspeth County, on March 15, 1998.

While observing a mixed flock of shorebirds at Fort Hancock Reservoir they suddenly scattered into flight as a pair of Northern Harrier flew low over the mud-flat. The male Harrier chased an avocet into the middle of the reservoir. The Avocet dropped into the water and dove from sight. The Harrier waited, hovering in the mid-afternoon breeze 3 - 5 ft. above the water. Every 10 seconds, the Avocet reappeared at the surface, 10 - 15 ft. from its last surfacing. The Harrier would then dive at the Avocet, pulling up just above the surface, always unsuccessful. The Harrier worked at catching the Avocet for 15 minutes. I have never seen an avocet dive in the middle of a reservoir (where it is clearly too deep for the bird to wade or stand), nor have I seen a Harrier chase such a bird. Interesting. Fear induces new behaviors?

Dates to Remember

April

West Cottonwood Springs
Saturday, April 11 at 7:59am
Meet along Trans Mountain Rd.

April 13, Board Meeting 7:00pm
Environmental Center

April 20, General Meeting 6:30pm
Feather Lake

May

Memorial Park
Saturday, May 2 at 7:14am
Meet at the Garden Center,
3500 Grant Street

Birdathon
Saturday, May 8
Call John Kiseda 833-6212

May cont.

Southeast Arizona
Memorial Day Weekend,
May 23, 24, and 25
Call Bob Johnson 757-1876

May 11, Board Meeting 7:00pm
Environmental Center

May 18, General Meeting 7:30pm
Memorial Park Garden Center

June

Anthony
Saturday, June 6 at 7:22am
Meet at Trans Mt. & I-10

Gila Cliff Dwellings
June 27 & 28
Call Bob Johnson 757-1876

Friends of Hueco Tanks

Rock Art Tours

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

Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks

Birds of Hueco Tanks Slide Show - Saturday, April 18, 8:00 pm

Bird Identification Tour - Sunday, April 19, 8:00 am

Bird Identification Tour - Sunday, May 17, 8:00 am

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

The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to echase@socorro.k12.tx.us or mail to 5215 Wally Dr. El Paso, Texas 79924. Publication is assisted by Eastwood Heights Elementary Cuckoo Conservation Club students.
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EL PASO TRANS/PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 9655
El Paso, Texas 79995

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National Audubon Society's El Paso/Trans-Pecos Chapter's Birdathon 1998

Birdathon counters are psyching themselves up for Birdathon 1998! **What is Birdathon?** It's not your average bird count or fund-raiser, that's for sure! Birdathon is very unusual and unconventional: a wild weekend of birding and more importantly, our organization's primary source of income for conservation & education programs for the coming year.

Birdathon '98 will benefit the following programs and projects:

EDUCATION. Birdathon is the main source of funding used in support of our Audubon Adventures youth education program and the other conservation education endeavors of our local NAS chapter .

THE DAVIS MOUNTAINS OF WEST TEXAS. Our chapter actually provides coverage for NAS members in this seemingly far away place that is part of our West Texas region. The Nature Conservancy has initiated a project to help preserve a significant amount of Davis Mtns. land via purchasing conservation easements and land. They need support to fulfill their long term financial commitment to protecting these unique mountain habitats of Texas, and we hope that we can help them in this important endeavor

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PROJECT. UTEP has moved forward with this project and an ~ 300 acre seasonal wetlands now exists in this previously neglected city "park". We need to demonstrate our continued support for this exciting and unique El Paso venture by providing UTEP with "local" funds to establish education and public information programs about this project

TEXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY. Our support helps to ensure that this NAS office based in Texas can be an effective, respected voice for the Texas (& especially our West Texas) environment.

How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of May 9-10, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be wildly scurrying about the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy (some might say foolhardy) & intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day afield, for the chance to collect meaningful data for a nationwide census project, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment.** Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will see 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a Birdathon contribution of \$30. All contributions are tax-deductible. Fully 95% of Birdathon income goes to our named projects; 5% pays for the cost of fundraising (printing, paper, postage, etc.).

So, whom can you sponsor? The following list of people were our 1997 counters; if you supported one of these people last year, give them a call if you are not yet sure if they will be a counter this year. As of today, anyone known to be a counter in 1998, has an asterisk next to their name. If you don't want to pick your own counter to sponsor, call Jane Fowler and she will help you to do that!

<i>Mary Lou Alcorn</i>	<i>Carolyn Brown</i>	<i>Jane Fowler*</i>	<i>Peggy & George Laswell*</i>
<i>Art Arteaga</i>	<i>Joe Cancellare</i>	<i>Joe Guinn</i>	<i>Iola Pennington</i>
<i>Tom Baker</i>	<i>Elizabeth Chase*</i>	<i>Sallie Homan*</i>	<i>Mark Riede*</i>
<i>Bertye Barnhart*</i>	<i>Kathy Ditlevson*</i>	<i>Anne Hussmann</i>	<i>Susie Schneider</i>
<i>Matt Bingham</i>	<i>Tara Ditlevson*</i>	<i>Bob Johnson*</i>	<i>John Sproul*</i>
<i>Paul Bingham</i>	<i>Phil Dolan</i>	<i>Larry Jordan*</i>	<i>Nancy Wilson*</i>
<i>Mary Bradley</i>	<i>Cliff Eidson</i>	<i>John Kiseda*</i>	and Special Student Counters from
<i>Craig Braginton</i>	<i>Betty & Weldon Fisbeck*</i>		Eastwood Heights Elementary School

Prizes (believe it or not, you may get something back besides a "good feeling that you've done the right thing"). As usual, as a Birdathon sponsor, you'll automatically be entered in our ever-popular Birdathon drawings for a number of wonderful prizes.

Pot-luck Dinner. The prize drawings will take place at our annual post-Birdathon pot-luck. It will start at 6 PM on Sunday May 10th, at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park in El Paso. Reports of the weekend's best birds, great food door prizes and the results of our prize drawings await you! How about joining us?

Whether it's \$.25 per species, \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a Birdathon pledge. Have you already made your Birdathon '96" pledge? **Excellent!** If not, please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed card today. Your support makes the work Audubon does, possible. **Thank you very much!**

Sincerely,


John Kiseda Birdathon Coordinator

Its here....Audubon's Birdathon 1998

Birdathon counters are already "in training", preparing for Birdathon 1998! What is Birdathon? It's not your average bird count or fund-raiser, that's for sure! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation & education programs. Birdathon '98 will occur on May 9th-10th & we hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding throughout the El Paso area, and possibly beyond.

Birdathon '98 will benefit the following programs and projects:

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The counters on the reverse side are ready to do their all for Birdathon to support wildlife, especially OUR wildlife. How about you? There is still plenty of time for you and a friend or two to become counters; it's easy and FUN (how hard can it be if I can do it ?). If you can't count during Birdathon, be a sponsor; remember sponsors are eligible to win great prizes! Remember, the "wild ones" are counting on help from all of us!

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

BIRDATHON '98

YES! I'll sponsor _____
for \$ _____ per species for each species
s/he finds on the Birdathon.

From _____

I'll sponsor _____ for a flat
\$ _____.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I will add a bonus of \$ _____ if my
counter sees a _____.

Telephone _____

My tax deductible gift of \$ _____
sponsoring _____
is enclosed, payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society.

Please clip & return this form by May 7th to:
Birdathon '98
c/o Jane Fowler
3212 Kilkenny El Paso, TX 79925

Thank you for your Generous Birdathon pledge!
Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.