

**Sabal Palm Audubon Center and Sanctuary Flood damage
 financed and repaired by the local Audubon Chapter**

The Rio Grande River flood damaged some of the equipment and lines used to keep consistent water in the resacas for the wildlife and vegetation. The river rose faster than predicted by the Water Master. One of the pumps was caught in time to prevent damage but the other was under water sooner. Rio Grande Delta Audubon Chapter interim financed \$700.00 to recondition one of the pumps. Many thanks to Sally Arroyo and Joe Krause for organizing the members and organizations who donated money to replenish these funds.

The other pumps were removed and reinstalled at no cost with Sabal Palm's Jimmy Paz and his equipment, the local irrigation district and Lee Zieger and his tractor.



Jimmy Paz



**Brownsville Irrigation District
 and Terex (backhoe)**



Lee Zieger

A ruptured pipe probably initiated by the flood will also be repaired by Jimmy and Lee. Completion of all flood damage repairs will be finalized by the time you receive this newsletter.

GPS BIRDING FANTASY

By Joe Krause

Pepe and his two buddies León and Jaime went on an exclusive birding trip to the far off and vast hinterland of New Aviatrix. The second day they happened on an obviously rare pair of birds. Quickly the three took out their bird ID books and tried to key out their discovery, but to their chagrin they had no luck. Finally, Jaime thought about a special bird mentioned in the appendix of his book. He paged to the rear and found just what he needed: the account of a new species of which there was but one pair known to exist.

In a flash Jaime photographed the pair to

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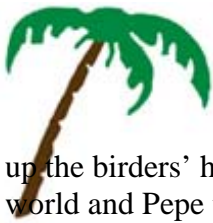
Mission Statement

Rio Grande Delta Audubon is dedicated to conservation of our native habitat for the protection of birds, other wildlife, and for the enhancement and appreciation of our environment.

RGDA Goals and Objectives

We encourage all to participate with your attendance and / or money to organizations supporting our Mission Statement. RGDA is the official National Audubon Chapter in the Rio Grande Valley. This means when you join RGDA your information will be shared the same as if you were a member of National Audubon, but you will not get the National Magazine. A direct membership with National is necessary to receive the magazine

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RIO GRANDE DELTA AUDUBON



GPS continued

up the birders' hotline on his cell phone to notify the world and Pepe turned on his GPS receiver to cue in seven satellites high in the sky and punched in the longitude and latitude to the nearest second of a degree. The official record was complete!

Now the team went to their tents, had a cold beer and went to sleep. There was no need to be on hand to direct traffic when the hundreds of private planes of enthusiastic birders from all over the world overwhelmed the closest local airport and four-wheeled jeep services. Each birder came equipped with his own GPS receiver and by checking the longitude and latitude easily got within 100 feet of the spot from which the rare birds were sited. The altitude of 8000 feet was also verified by their GPS units and the trees were in accord with the known habitat for the birds.

Now if you wish to know how the GPS receiver works ask Joe to make a presentation at a Rio Grande Delta Audubon meeting. Jimmy Paz will probably have them available for sale at Sabal Palm Grove in the future. They can be readily purchased at any sports department for about \$100-plus depending on how close you want to get to Pepe', León' and Jaime's position. If 100 feet isn't close enough, one centimeter accuracy is possible for a premium price. GPS is Global Positioning System



Rio Grande Delta Audubon Officers:

Lee Zieger - Presiden
Greg Vail—Vice-Pres
Mary Jean Garcia—S
Sally Arroyo—Treas

Board Members:

Margaret Etchinson
Jorge Garcia
Dorothy Greaney

Advisor:

Joe Krause



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RGDA encourages. We can send you a Membership Application for both RGDA and National Audubon by calling 800-776-1895 which is Rio RV Park owned by Lee Zieger, President of RGDA. Your support of the organizations like Frontera Audubon and Valley Nature Center in Weslaco, Arroyo Colorado Audubon in Harlingen, and others is very import to us.

Rio Grande Delta Audubon meets the first Monday every month

unless a holiday causes a conflict. The meeting place is normally the Historic Brownsville Museum on 641 E. Madison in Brownsville. Rio RV Park, 8801 Boca Chica is the alternative meeting location. Monthly programs organized by Carson Krook are very informative and cover the concerns in our Mission Statement. Programs about RGV Cats, Bats, Snakes, Gladys Porter Zoo, Laguna Atascosa NWR, Birding and Butterflying Mexico, plus conservation areas will give you an idea of the programs to expect.

Being a member getting monthly communications and visiting our web site at www.riograndedeltaaudubon.org will keep you informed.

Contact us at:

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% Rio RV Park
8801 Boca Chica
Brownsville, Texas 78521

Phone:

956-831-4653

Fax:

956-831-0147

Dues for Rio Grande Delta are due now for the same as last year at \$25.00 for an individual and \$35.00 for a family. You can also join in Categories of Green Jay for \$100.00, Buff-bellied Hummingbird for \$250.00 and other business classes. A membership includes an annual **free pass to Sabal Palm** and other ANCA properties all over the USA and **\$5.00 off a Los Ebanos Preserve annual membership.**