

# THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

NOVEMBER 30 — December 4th



Roadrunners are iconic birds in the arid southwestern United States. A few individuals have adapted to life in town, but they prefer to roam the countryside. They utilize all 8 of the major habitats of the Llano Estacado.

Roadrunners are also known as paisanos (which means countryman, or a familiar neighbor), correcaminos (which means roadrunner) or chaparral, which describes their preferred

habitat of 4-10 foot tall shrubs.

Roadrunners are omnivorous, eating lizards, snakes, birds, seeds, fruit, and insects. Their song is a hoarse “coo,” and when they sing they look like they are retching. They build large stick nests in prickly pear, shrubs, and sometimes on the ground, and can have up to a dozen eggs, which hatch sequentially, so all the babies will be of different sizes.

## **TEACHER AND STUDENT CHALLENGE;**

On the Sibley website ([www.sibleynaturecenter.org](http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org)) Read the two essays about Magoosh, a roadrunner that befriended a family;

[http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/birds/990912\\_magoosh1.html](http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/birds/990912_magoosh1.html) ....and

[http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/birds/000423\\_magoosh2.html](http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/birds/000423_magoosh2.html)