

## Chili Chapter Brunch

The members of the Chili Chapter gathered on the morning of January 24<sup>th</sup> at The Ranch for the annual Chili Chapter Brunch. This brunch was established as a way for the Chapter to say "Thanks!" to The Ranch for allowing us to use space and basically headquarter our Chapter on the property. For those of you that have not been here, we have a storage shed in the storage area of the park. We invited not only Chapter 23 members, but also everyone at The Ranch to attend. While most of the 43 attendees were currently staying at The Ranch, we wish to make a special note that Martha McIlvain drove out from Carlsbad to attend. It was wonderful to see Martha again. As usual, the food was delicious, plentiful, and everyone enjoyed the time together. Ron Pardee and Mark Ireland won door prizes.

## Spring Picnic/Rally Scheduled

The Chili Chapter #23 will have a picnic/rally at noon on March 11, 2009 at Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Members are encouraged to join in the fun as we spend the day at this oasis in the desert just west of US 62/180. This section of the National Park is unlike any of the rest of the park. It is a rare desert wooded riparian area that draws birders from all over the world to search for the 300+ species that have been seen in the area, so bring your binoculars and bird books as well as chairs. In addition to a **Bring-Your-Own-Lunch picnic**, we will hold a semi-annual Business meeting at the park. We will be electing a Secretary and Treasurer at the meeting as well as discussing other Chapter business. If the weather is inclement, we will plan to meet at The SKP Ranch Park in Lakewood.

Directions to Rattlesnake Springs:

Heading west on US62/180 from Carlsbad, continue 5.5 miles past the turn to Carlsbad Caverns National Park at White's City. There is construction along the highway south of this intersection. Look for a brown National Park sign for Rattlesnake Springs and Slaughter Canyon Cave. Turn right on Washington Ranch Road and continue following the brown signs for approximately 2 miles. Turn right toward Rattlesnake Springs and Washington Ranch, following the signs into the park. There is only one picnic area.