



NEWSLETTER
of
EL PASO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Vol. II, February, 1972

Geth Osborn White, Editor

CALENDAR

Sunday,
Feb. 13

FIELD TRIP to Hueco Tanks. Rendezvous at Memorial Park at 7:30 A. M. - back by noon. A good many species of birds overwinter in this park. Rock monoliths are warmed by the sun, small pools provide permanent water supply. Live oaks growing in crevices in the rocks shelter birds and give them mast and there's a plentiful supply of seed-bearing shrubs in the nearby desert.

Saturday,
Feb. 19

FIELD TRIP to Upper Valley. Rendezvous at bridge crossing at 7:30, Country Club Road. There may be a few water birds on the river, wintering sparrows in heavy grasses on the banks, possibly the Cattle Egret still at the fee fishing lakes and Common Gallinules on the dammed irrigation ditch just south of the bridge.

Monday,
Feb. 21

REGULAR MEETING at Centennial Museum at 7:30 P. M. G. W. Mitchell, of Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, will speak to us about the work of the agency in enforcing game laws and administering outdoors recreation in this big state. He will show color slides of animals and birds from the collection in the department. Hopefully, we will get some ideas about how we can help educate people to appreciate the predator birds -- hawks, owls and eagles -- which are so carelessly destroyed as enemies by ranchers and as sport by hunters and boys with new guns.

We will have a quarter hour study of bird skins selected from the collection given to the museum by the late General Myers. It helps to hold a bird skin in your hand to see the field marks. Coffee after the meeting will give us a chance to chat and get to know one another. Come and bring a friend or prospect. We especially welcome members of the National Society. Come and get to know your local Chapter.

COMING EVENTS. TOS (Texas Ornithological Society) is having its annual field trip for the spring at Big Bend National Park and the Davis Mountains on the last weekend in April. There is a post-conference trip on the Fiat through Copper Canyon to Los Mochis, price \$110. Train will leave Ojinaga, Chihuahua on Monday, May 1, at 4:00 P. M. Peter Koch will be trip leader. Reservations for the trip can be made to Roland Wauer, Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834. Reservations for the April 26-29 in lodges or motels should be made immediately and camping out is encouraged.

Mr. Roland Clement, Vice-president of the National Audubon Society, will be banquet speaker.

If you don't belong to the T.O.S. you're missing a great deal. Membership blanks will be at the next meeting, fee is \$5.00.

COMING EVENTS CONT'D.

Silver City's Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society has invited us to join them on a Hawk Count from Silver City to the Mexican Border near Columbus on March 4th.

Leader will be Tom Brake who will conduct the group which will break up into smaller parties through sparsely populated country around the Florida Mountains. On a previous count on December 11th a small group of observers counted 88 hawks. Species seen included Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Golden Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Prairie Falcon.

The evening before in Silver City a talk will be given on "Farming Sunlight for Electric Power," by Dr. and Mrs. Aden Meinel, experts in the solar energy field. If you plan to join this interesting field trip, drop a card to Mrs. Myra McCormick, Bear Mountain Guest Ranch, P. O. Box 1163, Silver City, New Mexico 88061.

OFFICERS ELECTED AT JANUARY MEETING

The slate of officers prepared by the nominating committee and presented by their chairman, Bob Barto, was elected by unanimous vote.

President:	Mrs. Ed White (Geth)
Vice-president:	Eddie Chew
Historian:	Mrs. Ruby Allen
Treasurer:	Mrs. Clarence Shelfer (Libby)
Membership:	Mrs. Leigh Wilcox (Roberta)
Programs:	Mrs. Mary Moore
Conservation:	Bob Barto
Field Trips:	Ed White
Social:	Mrs. Bob Barto (Helen)
Liaison:	Mrs. Robert Hardaway (Lee)
	Lisabeth Lovelace

With a thought of being helpful in writing letters to legislators and elected officials about environmental matters, the following is a list of Texas Congressmen:

District

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Wright Patman, Texarkana (D) | 19. George H. Mahon, Lubbock (D) |
| 2. John Dowdy, Athens (D) (impeached) | 20. Henry B. Gonzales, San Antonio |
| 3. James M. Collins, Dallas (R) | 21. O. C. Fisher, San Angelo (D) |
| 4. Ray Roberts, McKinney (d) | 22. Bob Casey, Houston (D) |
| 5. Earle Cabell, Dallas (D) | 23. Abraham Kazen, Jr. Laredo (D) |
| 6. Olin Teague, College Station (D) | |
| 7. Bill Archer, Houston (R) | |
| 8. Bob Eckhardt, Houston (d) | |
| 9. Jack Brooks, Port Arthur (D) | |
| 10. J. J. "Jake" Picke, Austin (D) | |
| 11. W. R. Bob Poage, Waco (D) | |
| 12. James C. Wright, Fort Worth (D) | |
| 13. Graham Purcell, Wichita Falls (D) | |
| 14. John Young, Corpus Christi (D) | |
| 15. Eligio de la Garza, Mission (D) | |
| 16. Richard C. White, El Paso (D) | |
| 17. Omar Burluson, Anson (D) | |
| 18. Robert D. Price, Pampa (R) | |

U. S. SENATORS

Lloyd Bentsen, Houston (D)
John Tower, Wichita Falls (R)

Address a congressman as:

The Honorable John S. Doe
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

a senator, Senate Office Building

In the Texas legislature we have in our district:

Congressman James Kaster
3409 Nairn, El Paso

Congressman Thomas Niland
Basset Tower, El Paso

Congressman Charles F. Tupper, Jr.
Suite 216, Southwest National Bank Bldg.
El Paso

Senator Joe Christie
Suite 915
El Paso National Bank Bldg
El Paso

Congressman Paul Moreno
Suite 1140, Southwest National Bank Bldg.
El Paso

Senator Pete Snelson
Midland, Texas.

We need to keep in touch with our elected officials and let them know how we stand on legislation which affects our environment.

BIRD COLLECTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

Although North Carolina is perhaps not very often on our vacation routes when living in El Paso, I thought the membership, however, might be interested in knowing of an exhibit of much interest to bird lovers, and which I was entranced with on a recent visit to Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

In the dining room of Renolda, the home of R. J. Reynolds of tobacco fame that has recently been made into a museum, is a collection of American birds by Dorothy Doughty, which were manufactured by the Royal Worcester Porcelain Company, Ltd. in England.

Displayed on glass shelves on two sides of the dining room with appropriate lighting to set them off are more than 35 pairs of orioles, cardinals, flycatchers, warblers, etc. not only accurate to perfection in size, color and attitudes, but perched on leafy twigs or blossoming boughs they most often frequent. They were not only exquisite artistically, but of much interest for close study to the bird lover.

If any of you should ever be in that part of the United States, do plan to include a stop to see these birds on your schedule as well as have a leisurely tour of Salem Village, founded in 1766 by Moravian settlers.

It is restored and preserved like Williamsburg but is unique in having been a planned community with the church directing the economic as well as the spiritual affairs of its inhabitants. The houses and their furnishings make an interesting tour. - - - Lee Hardaway.

LONGSPURS I HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED

"Here they come again!" This was the cry we heard many times while waiting beside a muddy stock tank on the Kerr Ranch for a flock of longspurs to settle.

Our four-car caravan had started from Memorial Park at sunrise that Saturday, January 29th and beelined east from El Paso. We passed "East Montana Avenue Estates" about fifteen miles out into the unmarked desert. "Cheap land," the sign read, "with highway frontage."

An hour later, Mary Belle Keefer, our guide, slowed and turned into a dirt ranch road. At 1,000 feet above El Paso's elevation, the level land bore a substantial

cover of gray grasses, relieved in the washes by colonies of dark green tree yucca and on the rises by stands of creosote bush and cholla cactus.

Our first bird sightings on the ranch were several sentinel shrikes and a sparrow hawk hunting low, slicing the air with pointed wings. But since the prairie was otherwise quiet, we headed out one of the look-alike roads from the ranch house that would take us, our host assured, to a man-made waterhole used by the cattle.

At one of these chocolate oases we parked the cars -- like covered wagons protecting against hostile Indians -- and settled ourselves, with lunches, to await the coming of the longspurs. At first there were only the horned larks, with bright yellow and black striped faces and natty feather-horns. But then someone called out: "Here they come!"

A compact flock of tiny thirsty birds bounded into view and circled the pudding pond. On the second circuit they fluttered as though to settle at water's edge. But, no, they were off again, before binoculars could be raised to the eyes. Around and around they flew, all-a-twitter while the watchers downed devilled eggs and sandwiches in frustration. Then again the fluttery approach and several birds lit on the dark earth.

Plain, sparrow-like creatures they were! A few streaks on the sides, a patch of molting blackish feathers on the breast, and yes there was the famous black and white tail pattern as alas, they flew off again. We settled ourselves for more waiting as the flocks disappeared altogether. Now the bird-watchers chattered, comparing impressions. They were certainly longspurs, but what species?

"Here they come again." Came the now familiar cry and soon the birds were fluttering down to the edge of the clouded water. This time we could see birds with solid black breasts, and even one with a rich chestnut patch on the nape. Among these obviously chestnut-collared longspurs were one or two with white wing patches and buffier breasts which are the Smith's longspurs.

And so it went, until the lunches were gone and necks were tired of turning to watch the circling longspurs. We loaded up and took another road toward what we hoped was the ranch house. Geth White spotted a Golden Eagle soaring against a distant mesa and three cactus wrens emerged from a cholla grove as we drove along. But these were anti-climax to the real mission of the trip: we had met the longspurs and they were ours. - - - Bill Hunt.

I enclose membership dues for
\$12. individual, \$15 family for
one year in the El Paso Chapter
of the National Audubon Society.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Tel: _____

Mail to Mrs. Clarence Shelfer,
3050 A Chandler, El Paso, Tx 79904.

EL PASO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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El Paso, Texas 79930

FIRST CLASS

