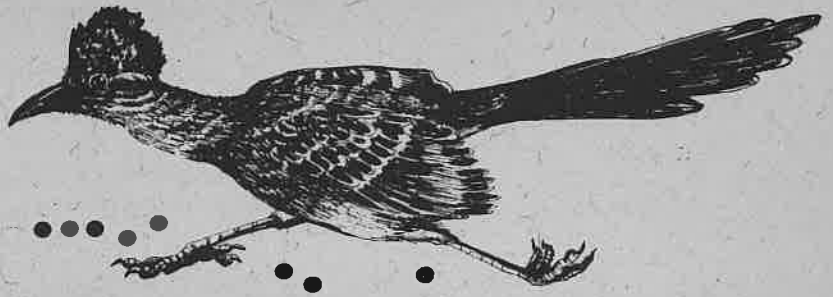


the ROADRUNNER.....



newsletter of
El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
published at
2809 Hector Drive, El Paso, Texas, 79935 (by: President: Robert P. Bleicher)
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CALCULATOR

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

The next Board of Director's Meeting will be held on the second Monday, 8 Oct. '79, at 7:30 p.m. at John Sproul's apartment: 601 West Yandell #25, Ph: 545-5157. I thank Mrs. Elza Gilboe for her hospitality during our September board meeting.

PROGRAM:

Monday, 15 October 1979 (our usual meeting time - the third Monday of the month) at 7:30 p.m., at the Garden Center, in Memorial Park, on Grant Street. Come a bit early, by 7 p.m., so we can get acquainted - over some refreshments. Clark Champie, a science teacher in the Clint Public School System, will be putting on a slide show on plants and wildlife of the Franklin Mountains and surrounding desert. Mr. Champie is the author of the books, "Cacti and Succulants of El Paso," and "Strangers in the Franklins." Both of these books are sold at the Wilderness Park Museum and at book stores in the El Paso Area.

Coming in November, Kevin Von Finger will present a slide show on the ecology of the El Paso area and its history back to early prehistoric times. Mr. Von Finger is employed as an Ecologist at Fort Bliss, Texas. More on this in the November issue of the Roadrunner.

FIELD TRIPS:

October 7, 1979 (Sunday): A trip to Feather Lake near the corner of North Loop Road and Avenue of the Americas. Meet there at 8:30 a.m. Joe De Pasquale tells me that already the ducks are showing up at Feather lake. Another reason for our trip will be to take a few minutes, after birding, to help police up the front area. Tom Gavit and his wife help provide us a secure area at Feather Lake however the local Audubon Chapter has the responsibility for the area. More on this at our next monthly meeting.

Maybe it takes scheduling a Birding Field Trip to bring us a good rain here in El Paso because that is exactly what happened when we were to meet at the Fort Bliss Ponds on Saturday, 15 September '79. Anyway it sure rained hard that morning!

So, we plan a return trip to the Ponds on Sunday, October 21, '79. We plan, again, to meet at the Furrrow Lumber Company parking lot (formerly Barcellona's) at 7 a.m.

From the pen of the President:

When you are an Audubon Chapter President, you receive many telephone calls; let me tell you about some of these calls.

Just last week, a young lady called and asked me to come to her area of town (about 14 miles from where I live) and stop some mean boys who were shooting birds with a be-be gun. They supposedly killed a mockingbird and some sparrows and were shooting at any bird that was in sight. I was extremely touched by her concern because as she said, "Soon there will be no birds around this area and I like to see them and hear them sing." We need more people like this young lady and less of the little bird killers. Because I felt a bit helpless about the situation, I told her to ask her parents to ask the boys to stop shooting the birds. Instead it turned out, they did not want to become involved and ask her to call the local Audubon Society to send someone out to stop the bird killings!

Next I asked her to let the neighborhood police patrol know that shooting was being done that "might" endanger people as well as birds in the area. I also told her to get friends who would help her act as witnesses to the shootings as they would probably deny any bird killings. While I could drive (14 miles) there to tell them to stop their shooting, they would probably start again minutes after I left the area. It is apparent that many of our youth have not been taught to respect and enjoy the presence of local wildlife. It is distressing to know that these types of actions are always taking place somewhere and just as refreshing to know that there are others who have a concern for our little feathered friends.

During the summer, many people called to ask what they should do with little birds that have fallen out of a tree, or what should they do about that one little bird that did not leave the nest when the others did. Then there were many calls about what to do about injured birds as people were concerned about the welfare of sparrows and finches.

In numbers of calls, none were exceeded by the complaints about the neighbor's cat(s)! In fact one caller asked if I would come over and do something about that "nasty cat" that just will not stay out of their yard! I certainly sympathize with them. While we do not own any cats or dogs, we too are always finding those strange cats trying to get at the birds that feed at the feeders in our back yard. While we respect the rights of people to have their pets, it is an undeniable fact that many pet owners do not know where their pets are or what they are doing. And have you ever found a pet owner who would admit that their pet was not under control! I'm not sure of the solution, but I feel that each family should accept the proper responsibility for their pet(s) and be good neighbors by keeping their pets from harassing their neighbor's birds at their bird feeders.

Somewhere I would like to find the book that gives all the answers to all the questions an Audubon Chapter President might be asked! By the way, if there are five Mourning doves on the alley power lines, how many Housefinch are trying to feed at the backyard hummingbird feeders??????

So come join us on our birding trips - - while there are still some birds left to be seen.

Thank you to:

Bill and Jane Fowler - for helping me get out the September newspaper. Just a bit of help running the stencil machine, assembling the pages, and sorting out badly printed pages helped a lot.

Berytte and Bertha Barnhart - for your attaching all the mailing labels to the assembled Roadrunners and preparing them for the mailing.

Mr. Ed Gilboe - for mailing the Roadrunners for the Chapter.

And John Sproul - for the data provided to help make the Roadrunner edition.

A REMINDER:

In May we announced the planned revision of the field checklist for birds of El Paso County. This note is to remind interested members to contribute their knowledge of local birds to that project. Take a copy of the present checklist and mark corrections on it where you think a bird's status has changed. Send your marked-up checklist to: John Sproul, 601 W. Handell #25, El Paso, Texas, 79902. You can get checklists from John Sproul (545-5157, home; or 543-6126, work* or from Bob Bleicher (591-7261). If you want to work on the Checklist Committee, contact John.

LITTLE ACTION ON ALASKA:

The Alaska lands bill is still in Senator Henry Jackson's Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Jackson says the committee intends to report a bill this year, but thus far there has been no action. The bill that emerges from committee probably will be poor, so strong Alaska-lands legislation will have to be introduced after this bill reaches the Senate floor. Thus it is very important that Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-WV) schedule full floor debate on the issue. As an added twist, Senator Gravel (D-AK) recently threatened to filibuster any Alaska bill.

MEMBERSHIP:

In July, the National Audubon Society started a major new membership campaign that includes a special incentive for chapters to increase their membership. If, by 30 June 1980, our recruiting can increase chapter membership by 47 or more (20% of membership as of 30 June 1979), we get \$5.00 for each new Auduboner we bring in. That money can pay a lot of bills at Feather Lake. So recruit a new member. Think about giving Audubon memberships for Christmas presents. And when you give them, mark on the application that you are a member of the El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society.

OBSERVATIONS - 21 August to 22 September 1979.

Surprisingly, the hardest rains we've had lately was on the morning of our last scheduled birding trip=Naturally! Common scence kept birders home! Generally speaking El Paso birders seem to have been estivating lately. As a result this report is singularly brief: nine Forester's Terns were at the Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds on 22 Sept (JS); also at the ponds on that date were two Ash-throated Flycatchers (JS). Wilson's Warblers, Black-throated Hummingbirds, and Inca Doves play in Bob Bleicher's back yard. Report Observations to John Sproul at 545-5157 (home) or 543-6126 (work); or mail them to: John Sproul, 601 W. Handell #25, El Paso, Tx., 79902

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