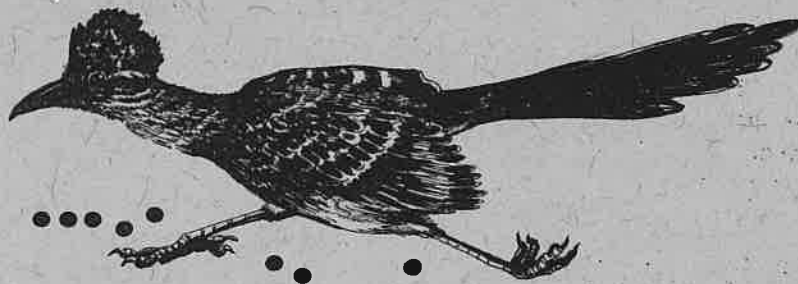


the ROADRUNNER



newsletter of
EL PASO-TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
published at
4220 Wallington El Paso, Texas 79902

November, 1975 Vol. V. No. 9

Lucretia Chew, Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, November 13
9 a. m. -- 2 p. m.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
UTEP-- SUB

El Paso-Cd. Juarez-Las Cruces Area Environmental Health Committee general meeting. Air pollution and solid waste management are topics. (Story inside.)

Saturday, November 15
7:30 a. m.
FIELD TRIP

Trip to Lower Valley for birding along the river and various ponds. Meet at Denny's on Gateway East near Bassett Shopping Center. Kevin Zimmer is leader.

Monday, November 17
7 p.m.
BOARD MEETING

Officers, board members, committee chairmen meet briefly before regular monthly meeting.

Monday, November 17
7:30 p. m.
REGULAR MEETING
Centennial Museum

Speaker: Environmental Engineer Jim Shoults
Film: WILDERNESS QUEST, outdoor documentary.
(Story inside.)

November 20-23
T O S FALL MEETING
Fort Davis

Texas Ornithological Society Fall Meeting at Davis Mountains State Park near Fort Davis. (Details were in the October newsletter.)

Saturday, November 29
SOUTHWESTERN HAWK COUNT

Annual Southwestern New Mexico Hawk Count.
(Story inside.)

Saturday, December 6
FIELD TRIP
8 a. m.

Trip to Upper Valley, generally in area which will be outside the Christmas count circle. Meet at the Country Club Bridge. Charlie Jensen is leader.

Thursday, December 17
PLANNING SESSION

Planning party for Christmas counts at home of the Charlie Jensens, 5816 Vista Clar, 7:30 p. m.

Saturday, December 20
All Day
CHRISTMAS COUNT
AFTERPARTY

El Paso area bird count, sunrise to sunset. Party afterwards at the Eddie Chews, 4220 Wallington.

Saturday, January 3
All Day
HUECO TANKS COUNT
AFTER PARTY

Christmas count at Horizon Lake-Hueco Tanks, sunrise to sunset. Party afterwards to be announced.
(Story on planning party and counts inside.)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MEETING

The El Paso-Ciudad Juarez-Las Cruces Area Environmental Health Committee will hold its first general meeting of the year in the Smiley Room, U T El Paso, on Thursday, November 13. The meeting begins with registration at 8:30 a. m., and the program at 9 a.m.

Speakers include Ramon Flores and German Sanchez, Cd. Juarez, on Air Pollution Sampling; J. M. Shoults, El Paso, on Air Pollution Monitoring; Ray Lozano, EPA Dallas, and Luis Ehrlich, Mexico City, on Analysis of Programs; and Bill Stewart, Texas Air Control Board, Austin, on Control in Texas.

The second portion of the agenda will deal with solid waste management. Speakers will include Carlos Alberto Yates, Cd. Juarez; Gilbert Salcedo and A. Haneman, Jr., El Paso. All interested persons are invited to attend.

SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO HAWK COUNT

The annual Southwestern New Mexico Hawk Count will take place on Saturday, November 29. Plans are to cover Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties and parts of Dona Ana and Sierra Counties.

There will be a pre-session on Friday night, November 28, at the Science Building at Western New Mexico, Silver City, at 8 p. m. At that time John Hubbard will give hawk identification pointers and assignment of areas will be made. The All-Day Saturday count will conclude with a dinner meeting at 5:30 p. m. at the Ramada Inn in Deming.

Dr. Bruce Hayward, Silver City, has extended an invitation to interested El Paso birders to participate. Perhaps some of us might help out with Dona Ana County. Additional details are available from newsletter editor. (532-6410)

CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Dates for the Christmas counts in El Paso and at Hueco Tanks were set by the board on October 29. A planning session to organize the two counts will take place at the home of President Charlie Jensen on Thursday, December 18. The El Paso count will occur on Saturday, December 20, with an after party at the Eddie Chews' that evening.

Saturday, January 3, has been set for the Hueco Tanks-Horizon Lake count with an after party that night at a place to be announced in the December newsletter. Compilers for the two counts will be Ruby Allen, Bill Hunt, and Charlie Jensen.

Last year 25 birders participated in the El Paso count and 21 in the Hueco Tanks count. All these people and more are needed to make this year's count a successful one. We hope you'll put these dates on your calendar now and make plans to help us with both counts.

GAME LAW VIOLATORS

From time to time we receive reports of game law violators. These should be reported directly to the federal warden, Tom Riley (852-3656) or to the local game warden of the Texas Parks and Wildlife. For El Paso call John Rische at 751-2054 or Foy White at 592-9393. Royce Wells at Fort Hancock covers Hudspeth County.

Remember that they need as much identification and description of the violator as you can furnish, as well as your name. Reputable hunters also abhor those who violate game laws. Reporting these violators to the proper authorities does not make you a "snitch." The illegal hunter or fisherman is actually stealing our wildlife, and by reporting him we are merely protecting what belongs to all of us.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

El Paso does have a visible pollution problem, but exactly what are the problems and the solutions? As our speaker for the November meeting, we are pleased to have Mr. Jim Shoults, a man who can answer these questions for us. Mr. Shoults, an environmental engineer, was in charge of the city/county air pollution control unit. Join us and learn first hand about the specific sources, current efforts, and future possibilities in El Paso's pollution battle.

The second part of the program will be a short film entitled WILDERNESS QUEST, considered to be an excellent outdoor documentary. The film will answer five questions; What is wilderness? Why is it important? How does it benefit man? Why is it disappearing? Why must it be saved?

BOARD MEETING

The officers, board members, and committee chairmen of the El Paso-Trans Pecos Audubon Society held a lengthy meeting on October 29. The major discussion centered on the Feather Lake project, the board's plans for it, and a careful reading of the tentative contract with the City of El Paso. Various changes in the contract were proposed and a meeting with city attorneys to discuss these changes is being arranged.

Kevin Zimmer has been selected by the board to serve as interim vice-president replacing Weldon Yerby who has recently resigned. Kevin will be in charge of the standing committee on publicity, including the column in the EL PASO TIMES.

A nominating committee composed of Berttye Barnhart, Bill Hoppes, Linda Jones, Kevin Zimmer, and Lucretia Chew was appointed. Elections will be held at the January general meeting.

Also discussed at length were meetings and field trips, with attempts being made to increase attendance and participation at these events.

LITTLE WHOOPER IN NEW MEXICO!

Bill Principe of Las Cruces and NMSU reports that he saw New Mexico's first whooping crane on October 25. This first little whooper has arrived with its foster sandhill crane parents at Bosque Del Apache Refuge near Socorro, N. M.

AUDUBON SUMMER WORKSHOPS

The National Audubon Workshops for the summer of 1976 have been announced. These include Maine Workshop, 4 sessions; Wisconsin Workshop, 4 sessions; Wyoming Workshop, 4 sessions; Ecology Workshop (Connecticut), 9 sessions.

In addition, an ecology workshop/seminar in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation has been announced for India in February, 1976.

Brochures on each of these opportunities are available from the newsletter editor.

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS

On this page each month we try to report as many sightings in the El Paso area as possible by as many different people. We hope this helps you to know where the birds are and what is being seen. You will be helping others in the area if you call the editor (532-6410) and report what you are seeing. Keep a list during the month with dates, and let me hear from you about the fifth of each month!

In Memorial Park on October 22, the red race of the YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, and 2 WESTERN TANAGERS by Ed and Geth White.

In the same place on the same day, a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, many YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, 30 GRAY-HEADED JUNCOS, 2 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, and a CASSIN'S SPARROW by Kevin Zimmer.

During the past several weeks in the Las Cruces area a pair of GOLDEN EAGLES and 2 COOPER'S HAWKS by Al Gavit.

25 CATTLE EGRETS by Margaret Pence near Clint on November 1.

About 50 CEDAR WAXWINGS in the Piedmont Hills area on November 1 by Eddie, Lucretia, and Steve Chew.

On the same day in McKelligon Canyon, CACTUS WRENS and LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES by the Eddie Chews.

On Interstate 10 east of El Paso on November 2, 8 RED-TAILED HAWKS, 2 WHITE-TAILED HAWKS (1 immature) by Geth and Ed White.

At Feather Lake on November 2, 6 SNOW GEESE (immatures), WIGEONS, GADWALLS, a few RUDDY DUCKS, some BLUE-WING TEAL, and 2 MEXICAN DUCKS by Geth and Ed White.

At the White's on Silver Street on November 4, a RUFOUS or ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD female.

A HERMIT THRUSH at the White's on November 6.

A HERMIT THRUSH and a female ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD in the Charlie Jensen's back yard in the Coronado area also on November 6.

COMMON GRACKLES in Vinton and at Sunland Park on November 7 by Charlie Jensen.

In the Upper Valley near Durling's Farm on November 8, 6 HERMIT THRUSHES, a RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, 15 WATER PIPITS by Kevin Zimmer.

On November 9, a RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE in the Zimmer's yard in Mountain Park area.

In early November at the Carl Jones' new home in the Upper Valley, 3 KING-FISHERS, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, and several BLUE-WINGED TEAL.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!

Many, many thanks are due Weldon Yerby for his fine job of handling the For the Birds column which appears in the Sunday EL PASO TIMES. Weldon has handled a very difficult and time-consuming job for almost two years. Frequently he had to coax and badger chapter members into handing in their articles (including your editor!) and then tend to the return mail which arrived at his house in response to the column.

Certainly the weekly column has done much to inform El Pasoans about birds and to increase their interest in birding. Our sincere thanks to Weldon for his very great contribution.

BIRDING IN KOREA

The following account is taken from a letter to Weldon Yerby written by Bob Bleicher, a member of our local chapter who is serving a tour of duty in Korea.

On Sunday, September 28, I took a birding trip with the Royal Asiatic Society of Seoul, Korea. Our tour guide was Dr. Pyong-Oh Won, a professor of zoology at Kyung Hee University, Seoul, who is also co-author of the book, BIRDS OF KOREA, which is written in both Korean and English. He has been teaching ornithology at the University for the past sixteen years.

On our tour we were to see a university bird banding team drive and capture both chestnut and black-faced buntings using mist nets set up in a field of Italian millet. The bunting groups reach peak migration during the period from late September to early October. According to Dr. Won, some buntings were recently caught which had been banded seven years earlier, and many banded birds are caught in subsequent banding events.

Afterwards we proceeded to the national forest near Kwang-nung. Here the trees are taller than elsewhere in Korea since in other parts they were destroyed during the last war. As always, the time there was short, but after getting away from the big group, several of us did see the Korean common kingfisher, the pygmy woodpecker, several coal tits (like our black-crested titmouse but also having a throat like our black-throated sparrow), the carrion crow, and along the way several great white egrets of which there are many here in the ponds and rice fields.

Upon returning to Seoul, we took a trip to Kyung Hee University to see Dr. Won's twenty-year collection of birds of Korea. Again there was just not enough time to study everything; however, we do have a standing invitation to return and visit when we have more time.

On Sundays and on Saturday afternoons, weather permitting, I take my scope and my backpack (with water and sandwiches) and jump on my bike and go! And when he can go, I take a Korean friend, Mr. Soo, with me. He knows where to go and he speaks English.

My first month has gone fast and I look forward to seeing more countryside and more birds of Korea.

THANKS FOR THE HELP!

The September, October, and November issues of THE ROADRUNNER were prepared for mailing by Charles Abernethy, Russell Coleman, and Steve Chew. These three boys, all Eagle Scouts in Troop 165, are currently working on their religious award, Scouting God and Country Award, at University Presbyterian Church under Rev. Gordon Bowie. This service was performed as one of their projects for the community in which they live.

We thank these boys for their help, and now that their tour is up, maybe some of you would like to volunteer for the folding, stamping, stapling chores? ? ?

EDITOR'S CORNER

A matter of growing concern to the officers is that of poor attendance at meetings and poor participation on field trips. Over two hundred copies of our newsletter are now being mailed out monthly; 120 of these are to Audubon members and member families in El Paso, 12 more are to interested El Pasoans, and the remainder go to Audubon members residing outside of El Paso and to other individuals and groups on an exchange basis.

With 132 El Paso homes being reached each month, it would seem reasonable to expect attendance of 50 or more at regular meetings and 15 or more on field trips. Such is not now the case.

The leaders of the local chapter are searching for reasons and solutions. In this you could be of great assistance. What are your feelings about our programs? Are they interesting? Do you like the subject matter? What kinds of programs would you like? In addition to these specific questions about program, there are others. Is the meeting date (third Monday evening) inconvenient? Are there problems associated with the meeting place? Parking difficulties? Lack of transportation? Do you find the room itself unsatisfactory?

Whether you are one of those now attending meetings and field trips or not, I hope you will take a few minutes to let us know your feelings on these and other related aspects of meetings and field trips. Drop us a line or give us a call (evenings and weekends). Charlie Jensen, 5816 Vista Clara, 79912, Phone 584-7626 or Lucretia Chew, 4220 Wallington, 79902, Phone 532-6410.

Let us know what can be done to serve your needs and interests better!

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FIRST CLASS

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