

newsletter of

EL PASO TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Lucretia Chew, Guest Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 15

7 a. m.

FIELD TRIP

Durling's Farm

Randle's Pool

A short trip to two nearby areas which have consistently turned up interesting and unusual migrator species. Both areas are small; here is the opportunity to observe varied species with a minimum of exertion. Meet at the bridge over the Rio Grande at Country Club Road at 7 a. m.

Wednesday, May 18

7:30 p. m.

REGULAR MEETING

EL PASO GARDEN CENTER

3105 Grant

It will be our pleasure to have one of our own members, Bob Bleicher, present the program on the Bird of Korea. Bob is recently back from a tour of duty in Korea with the Army, and has some fine slides to share with us.

Friday -- Sunday

May 20, 21, 22

FIELD TRIP

Guadalupe Canyon

This year's spring weekend trip will be to one of the nation's top birding spots, Guadalupe Canyon, on the border of Mexico, New Mexico, and Arizona. This is an extremely remote area which most people would probably never have the opportunity to visit. Some participants will be camping; however, accommodations will be available in Douglas, Arizona. Those interested should contact Kevin Zimmer, 751-0552, for specific details and to confirm travel plans.

SUMMER PLANS

The local society does not hold regular meetings during the summer, but leave some open spots on your calendar for some special outings. The board will be meeting to confirm plans for picnics and field trips for the summer. If there is sufficient interest, some weekend trips can be scheduled. Any suggestions about possible activities should be given to the officers immediately. Newsletter editor Kevin Zimmer plans a June bulletin about summer activities.

SANCTUARY BOOKLET

"Islands of Life: The National Audubon Sanctuaries" is a beautifully illustrated, 32-page booklet that describes the unique system of wildlife preserves that every Audubon member has a stake in. There are listings for 63 National Audubon Sanctuaries from Main to California plus a short section on chapter sanctuaries. (Yes, Feather Lake is there!) Available for \$1 from the Public Information Department of National Audubon.

THE TRASH BASH

Feather Lake received an enormous boost on Saturday, April 23, through the celebration of Earth Day with a TRASH BASH sponsored by the League of Women Voters, the Citizens Environmental Council, and Mildred Smith (the Tin Can Lady) and supported by numerous other local organizations. All money realized from the collection of newspaper, tin, and aluminum on that day went to the Feather Lake Refuge.

The City of El Paso turned over a check from Garden State Paper Company for \$784 for newspaper, Coors presented a check for \$140 from aluminum sales, and Mildred Smith presented a check for \$432, which included all the tin which she had collected since March 1. A few small amounts have come in since that time, making the total in excess of \$1350.

These funds will enable the Audubon Society to replace the pump which was stolen last summer and to proceed with plans for additional planting and management to encourage wildlife.

The Society is particularly indebted to Mildred McIntyre, Margie Ranc, and Debbie Messing of the League of Women Voters, and to Mildred Smith and several teenage helpers. Audubon Society members who manned the pick-up stations included Kevin and Barry Zimmer, Robert Dukes, Bob and Gretch Bleicher, Dorothy Williams, Bernice Howe, Shirley Day, Joe Guinn, Berttye and Bertha Barnhart, Edna Mae Lyons, Steve and Lucretia Chew.

NOT SO FAMOUS LAST WORDS

With many varied emotions I will be leaving El Paso on June 4 to begin a new adventure in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities in the local chapter and briefly as your president. In the past six months some rewards have come my way which were really the product of hard labor by those who preceded me. It has been my great pleasure to see Feather Lake receive both public attention and support. I am only sorry that Charlie Jensen and Bill Hunt were not here to share the joys.

It will be difficult to leave El Paso after 21 years. Here we have grown to love birding and have developed so many friendships among birders. Many special thanks are due to Charlie Jensen, who is already in Houston, to Ed and Geth White, to the Barnharts for long and untiring help, and most recently to Joe Guinn for his enormous efforts for Feather Lake.

To those of you who remain here in El Paso, I issue a challenge. Our local birding community is small; its continued existence requires extra effort and support. The past 18 months have meant various losses in leadership. Joe Guinn, your new president, and his board of directors and officers will need you increased support and encouragement. Birding and all areas of ecological concern require backing as never before, and it must come from you the members of local Audubon chapters.

I leave you with love and good wishes for continuing growth and success!

Lucretia Chew

BIG DAY COUNT

The May Big Day Count got a jump on things this year, being held on April 30! There was a much smaller group of birders than usual who didn't set any records, but who still came through with a very respectable 133 species.

Bob and Gretchen Bleicher started off with a planning desert party on Friday evening, and then Joe and Elizabeth Guinn entertained with supper while the count was being tallied on Saturday evening.

The participants included Berttye and Bertha Barnhart, Bob and Gretchen Bleicher, Steve and Lucretia Chew, Joe DiPasquale, Sarah Jane Dodds, Joe Guinn, Scott Wilson, Barry and Kevin Zimmer.

Several conditions made this count unusual. The dry winter and the small snow runoff has left water supplies in ponds and reservoirs low or completely non-existent. As a result, water birds were more difficult to find than usual. In addition, warblers, some flycatchers, orioles were not nearly so abundant as in the past several years. The list of species seen follows.

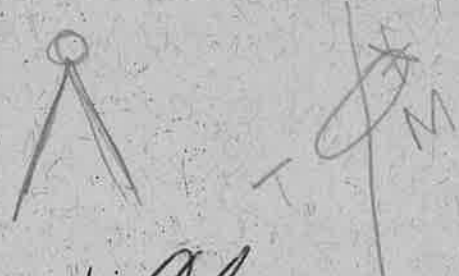
Grebe, Eared	Sandpiper, Baird's
Grebe, Pied-billed	Sandpiper, Least
Cormorant, Double-crested	Dowitcher, Long-billed
Cormorant, Olivaceous	Sandpiper, Semi-palmated
Heron, Great blue	Sandpiper, Western
Heron, Green	Turnstone, Ruddy
Egret, Cattle	Avocet, American
Egret, Snowy	Stilt, Black-necked
Heron, Black-crowned Night	Phalarope, Wilson's
Duck, Mallard	Gull, Ring-billed
Duck, Mexican	Gull, Franklin
Duck, Gadwall	Gull, Bonaparte's
Duck, Pintail	Tern, Forster's
Teal, Green-winged	Dove, White-winged
Teal, Blue-winged	Dove, Mourning
Duck, American Wigeon	Dove, Inca
Duck, Northern Shoveler	Dove, Ground
Duck, Redhead	Dove, Rock
Duck, Canvasback	Roadrunner
Duck, Lesser Scaup	Owl, Burrowing
Duck, Bufflehead	Swift, White-throated
Duck, Ruddy	Hummingbird, Black-chinned
Merganser, Common	Kingfisher, Belted
Merganser, Red-breasted	Flicker, Common
Vulture, Turkey	Woodpecker, Ladder-backed
Hawk, Red-tailed	Kingbird, Western
Hawk, Swainson's	Flycatcher, Ash-throated
Hawk, Marsh	Phoebe, Eastern
Kestrel, American	Phoebe, Say's
Quail, Scaled	Flycatcher, Western
Quail, Gambel	Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee
Gallinule, Common	Flycatcher, Olive-sided
Coot, American	Swallow, Tree
Plover, Semi-palmated	Swallow, Bank
Plover, Black-bellied	Swallow, Rough-winged
Killdeer	Swallow, Barn
Sandpiper, Spotted	Swallow, Cliff
Willet	Raven, White-necked
Yellowlegs, Greater	Verdin
Yellowlegs, Lesser	Wren, House

BIG DAY COUNT -- continued

Wren, Cactus
 Wren, Long-billed marsh
 Wren, Canyon
 Wren, Rock
 Mockingbird
 Thrasher, Curve-billed
 Thrasher, Crissal
 Robin
 T rush, Hermit
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
 Phainopepla
 Shrike, Loggerhead
 Starling
 Vireo, Bell's
 Vireo, Solitary
 Vireo, Warbling
 Warbler, Black-and-white
 Warbler, Orange-crowned
 Warbler, Virginia's
 Warbler, Yellow
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped
 Warbler, Townsend
 Warbler, Yellow-throat
 Chat, Yellow-breasted
 Warbler, Wilson's
 House Sparrow
 Meadowlark, Western
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed

Blackbird, Red-winged
 Oriole, Scott's
 Oriole, Northern
 Blackbird, Brewer's
 Grackle, Great-tailed
 Cowbird, Brown-headed
 Pyrrhuloxia
 Grosbeak, Blue
 Finch, House
 Siskin, Pine
 Towhee, Green-tailed
 Towhee, Rufous-sided
 Towhee, Brown
 Bunting, Lark
 Sparrow, Savannah
 Sparrow, Vesper
 Sparrow, Rufous-crowned
 Sparrow, Black-throated
 Junco, Dark-eyed
 Junco, Grey-headed
 Sparrow, Chipping
 Sparrow, Clay-colored
 Sparrow, Brewer's
 Sparrow, White-crowned
 Sparrow, White-throated

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