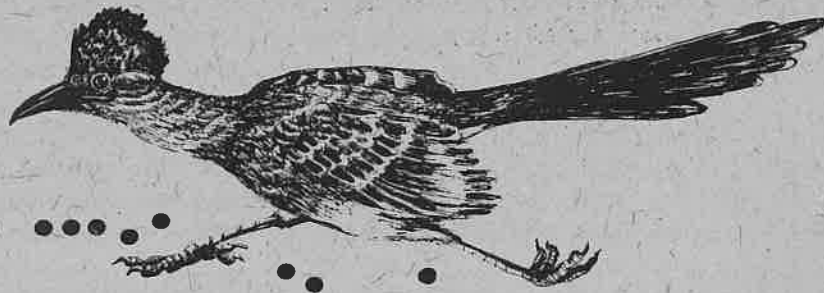


the ROADRUNNER



newsletter of
EL PASO-TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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October, 1976 Vol. VI No. 6

Lucretia Chew, Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 20
7:30 p. m.
REGULAR MEETING
EL PASO GARDEN CENTER
3105 Grant

John Davis, Vice-President of the American Rock Art Research Association, will talk on Prehistorick Indian Rock Art of the El Paso Area. The presentation includes slides, and Mr. Davis will comment on birds in rock art.

Saturday, October 23
7 a. m.
FIELD TRIP
Hueco Tanks

Field trip to Hueco Tanks, our first to that area in recent months. Meet at the Bordertown Drivein Theater on Montana at 7 a. m.

November 5/6/7
FIELD TRIP
FORT DAVIS

Weekend trip to Fort Davis including canyons and ranches in the area. Reservations at Indian Lodge should be made well in advance. For details of the trip, contact Kevin Zimmer, 751-0552.

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER EVENTS

A Friday night this fall does not seem to have been a wise choice for our first attempt at a NOCTURNAL WATCH; the weather was not cooperative. Although football players are undaunted by rain, birders evidently are, the sole participant of our very soggy nocturnal watch was President Charlie Jensen who confesses that there was not just a whole lot to watch.

The FALL MIGRATION COUNT met with much better success. There was a small get together to plan the count, and the food provided by Mary Zimmer was delightful. We are also indebted to Geth and Ed White for good food and drink at the end of the count day. A detailed report of the count is inside this newsletter.

Those in attendance at the SEPTEMBER MEETING were treated to some fine nature slides and a quick arm-chair visit to such far-flung places as South Texas and Gulf Coast, North Dakota, Hawaii, Bosque del Apache Refuge, and many local areas. Certainly one highlight of the evening was Ed Gilboe's willingness to serve as chairman of the Feather Lake Sanctuary project. Since the meeting, he has been busy working with our president in various aspects of that project. We are grateful for his contribution of leadership at a very crucial time in the project.

Our first fall big day count could very easily be labeled a success. Twenty-one observers in five parties tallied an impressive list of 127 species. This tops our total of 125 species for our spring count last May, and certainly shows the potential for fall birding in this area. Among the areas covered were Memorial Park, Arroyo Park, the Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds, Sunland Park, Durling's Farm, Randle's Pool, Hueco Tanks, Horizon Lake, Tornillo Lakes, the United Farms Game Preserve near McNary and several levee roads in both the Upper and Lower Valley areas.

The most productive route was the one covered by Charlie Jensen, Joe Di Pasquale, and Kevin and Barry Zimmer. It included Hueco Tanks and the game preserve and yielded a total of 102 species.

A few generalizations seem apparent from what was found. First, we seem to have hit the shorebird migration right on the nose with 17 different species. The water in the holding tank at McNary was drawn down the day of the count for irrigation, thus creating lots of open mudflats for shorebirds. This, however, also hurt us as most of the duck which had been there a few days before had disappeared, and along with them went all 142 white-faced ibis which had been there the previous Thursday. Sparrows also seemed to be present in good numbers, although many typical winter species had not yet arrived. The general concensus was that warbler numbers seemed to be down; evidently the main wave had passed through the week before.

Notable birds and the groups that found them included double-crested cormorant, snow goose, sandhill crane, long-eared owl, and Coue's flycatcher by the Chews' party; white-rumped sandpiper, Bonaparte's gull, and Allen's hummingbird by the Whites' group; a warbling vireo by the Gavits; and an osprey, 3 soras, semi-palmated plover, solitary sandpiper (first Hueco Tanks record), Northern phalarope, stilt sandpiper, Louisiana Waterthrush, and painted bunting by the Zimmer group.

Participating were Helen Barto, Bertha and Berttye Barnhart, Eddie, Lucretia, and Steve Chew, Joe DiPasquale, Sarah Jane Dodds, Al and Madeline Gavit, Carl Hoffmann, Charlie Jensen, Bart Rumaker, Ricky Saucedo, Mary Scott, Bernard and Barbara Steinau, Geth White, Barry and Kevin Zimmer.

Species seen are listed below.

Horned Grebe	Osprey	White-winged Dove
Hared Grebe	American Kestrel	Mourning Dove
Pied-billed Grebe	Scaled Quail	Rock Dove
Double-crested Cormorant	Gambel Quail	Roadrunner
Great blue Heron	Sora	Burrowing Owl
Cattle Egret	Common Gallinule	Long-eared Owl
Snowy Egret	American Coot	Lesser Nighthawk
Black-crowned Night Heron	Semi-palmated Plover	Black-chinned Hummingbird
Snow Goose	Killdeer	Rufous Hummingbird
Mallard Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	Allen's Hummingbird
Gadwall	Solitary Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher
Pintail	Greater Yellowlegs	Common Flicker
Green-winged Teal	Lesser Yellowlegs	Western Kingbird
Blue-winged Teal	Pectoral Sandpiper	Black Phoebe
Cinnamon Teal	White-rumped Sandpiper	Say's Phoebe
American Wigeon	Baird's Sandpiper	Western Flycatcher
Northern Shoveler	Least Sandpiper	Coues' Flycatcher
Canvasback	Long-billed Dowitcher	Western Wood-peegee
Lesser Scaup	Western Sandpiper	Olive-sided Flycatcher
Ruddy Duck	Stilt Sandpiper	Tree Swallow
Turkey Vulture	American Avocet	Bank Swallow
Cooper's Hawk	Black-necked Stilt	Rough-winged Swallow
Red-tailed Hawk	Wilson's Phalarope	Barn Swallow
Swainson's Hawk	Northern Phalarope	White-necked Raven
Golden Eagle	Bonaparte's Gull	Verdin
Marsh Hawk	Black Tern	Inca Dove
	White-winged Dove	

Dear Members:

Probably no activity of the Audubon Society is more important than its promotion of wildlife sanctuaries. They preserve land in its natural state, help assure the continuity of many species of birds and animals and make it possible for the public to enjoy wildlife. They also effectively educate the public on conservation through example.

Our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Valley has reached a critical stage in its development. We have established priorities for its development that include construction of a caretaker's trailer pad, a bridge, an irrigation system, a shelter and restroom facility, and observation blinds. Planting is an on-going activity.

An advertisement for a caretaker couple has met with unusual success. Many responses were received, and several of the candidates would be able to contribute substantially to the success of the project. The cost of preparing the trailer pad with fill dirt, concrete patio, gravel roads and utilities may be as much as \$2000. Most of this money will have to be raised from other sources than members' dues.

Since Audubon members have the greatest interest in promoting sanctuaries, it is fitting that the fund raising start within our own organization. I urge all members to give what they can. All contributions will help. Pledges of small amounts on a continuing basis will be particularly beneficial to the project since we will have on-going costs such as utilities in addition to the initial construction costs. All contributions will be dedicated to the Feather Lake Sanctuary and will be tax deductible.

Charlie Jensen, President

FEATHER LAKE SANCTUARY PLEDGE OR CONTRIBUTION FORM

Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Pledge of \$ _____ per month for _____ months, totaling \$ _____.

Signature _____

On the reverse side of this form, make any necessary changes in your name, address, or zip code, and mail the form with your contribution or initial pledge to Dorothy L. Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, El Paso-Trans Pecos Audubon Society, 1307 Idlewilde, El Paso, TX, 79925.

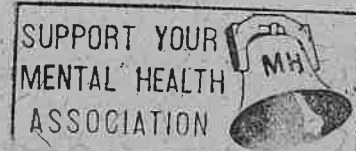
Fall Count continued

House Wren
Cactus Wren
Canyon Wren
Rock Wren
Mockingbird
Curve-billed Thrasher
Crissal Thrasher
Phainopepla
Loggerhead Shrike
Starling
Warbling Vireo
Virginia's Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
MacGillivray's Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
House Wren

Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Scott's Oriole
Northern Oriole
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Blackbird
Western Tanager
Pyrrhuloxia
Blue Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
Painted Bunting
Cassin's Finch
House Finch

American Goldfinch
Lesser Goldfinch
Green-tailed Towhee
Rufous-sided Towhee
Brown Towhee
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Cassin's Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow
Brewers' Sparrow

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