the ROADRUNNER.



newsletter of
EL PASO-TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Lucretia Chew, Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 21 7:30 p. m. REGULAR MEETING EL PASO GARDEN CENTER 3105 Grant

Saturday, April 24 7 a.m. FIELD TRIP AGUIRRE SPRINGS

Thursday, April 29
7 p. m.
KICK-OFF PARTY
BOARD MEETING
5816 Wista Clara

Saturday, May 1
All Day
MAY BIG DAY COUNT

Wednesday, May 19
7:30 p. m.
REGULAR MEETING
EL PASO GARDEN CENTER
3105 Grant

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND May 29, 30, 31 FIELD TRIP Featured will be a film about the Farallon Islands off the coast of California. The film will stress pelagic birds and also included work done by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Kevin Zimmer will be in charge of the program. Winners of the Bird Listing Contest will also be announced.

Field trip to Aguirre Springs in the Organ Mountains. The time should be just right for seeing lots of spring migrants. Participants should bring lunch and water and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Meet in the parking lot, Westgate Shopping Center, I-10 at North Mesa. Kevin Zimmer is leader.

Board meeting and dinner meeting to plan for the May Big Day Count. In lieu of paying for dinner, contributions to our Feather Lake Project will be accepted. RSVP to President Charlie Jensen before April 29.

Areas will be assigned at the dinner meeting listed above. If you can participate in the count, but can not attend the planning party, please contact Charlie Jensen before April 29.

Kevin Zimmer will present a slide program on birding in the Chiricahuas. Come for a session on improving your bird identification skills, and then join us for the field trip listed below.

Field trip to the Chiricahua Mountains in southcastern Arizona. This will be an opportunity to see the copperytailed trogan, a number of species of hummingbirds, possibly owls, and many other species. This is a repeat of last year's very enjoyable outing. Those planning to attend should contact Lucretia Chew at 532-6410 immediately, as cabins must be reserved fairly far in advance.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER: A BAD CASE OF SPRING FEVER

Seems the membership of our local chapter is suffering from a serious (but I hope not terminal) case of spring fever or some similar malady. After a good start in January and February, attendance at the meetings and field trips is way down. Our March meeting included an enjoyable and informative presentation on the Alaskan ril line, but only a handful were there to hear it. Likewise we have had several good field trips with lots of birds but few birders. The group going to La Cueva Park consisted of five members and a visitor from Iowa.

We are now in the midst of an important time in our Feather Lake Project, and many more willing hands are needed; each weekend it is the same faithful few the are there to have the gates open on Saturday morning and do the watering required to keep alive our hundred or so new plants. Surely there are others who could take a turn with the watering or with a Saturday morning shift.

Even your newsletter is ill this month. . . a temporary case of the shorts . . . a short amount of news . . . short of phone calls on bird sightings . . . short on news from national through mail problems . . . and short on time on the editor's part (and she confesses that she should have done less birding and less procrastinating and more writing.)

There is much exciting birding planned for the next six weeks. It is hoped that whatever has been keeping you away is now solved, and you will be able to join us on Wednesday. Let's face it, at least in birding circles, spring is the wrong time to have spring fever . . . that's when the birding is best!

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FIRST CLASS