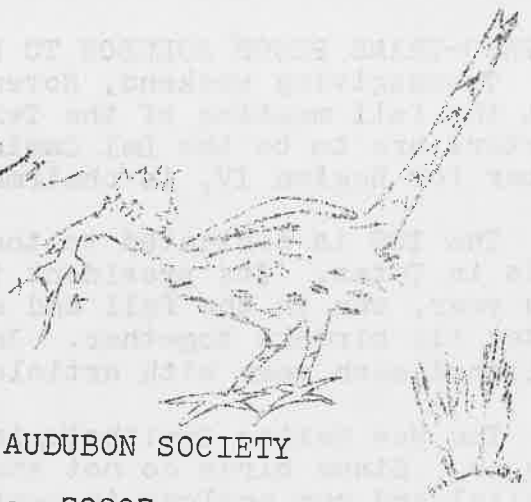


The Roadrunner



NEWSLETTER OF THE EL PASO-TRANS PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Bill Hunt, Editor

OLD BIRDS BY NEW NAMES OR WE KNOW YOU COMMON FLICKER

Have you ever thought how confusing it would be if birds did not have uniform names? Early settlers gave over 100 local names to the common flicker. Louisiana further complicates matters by having local Cajun names. My brother-in-law, taking me into a swamp looking for birds one Christmas holiday, looked at me quizzically when I was pointing at a coot and said, "You mean a poul d'eau."

Late in the last century a group of prominent ornithologists appointed a committee to standardize North American bird names. Under the authority of the American Ornithological Union (AOU) such a committee meets periodically to carefully consider name changes. The changes occur for rather complex and technical biological reasons resulting from research in ornithology. Bird books and bird societies conform to these names. Recent changes are listed below. If you mark your bird book by the new names, it will be easier to fix them in your mind.

Blue goose merged with SNOW GOOSE

Common teal merged with GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Widgeon now spelled WIGEON

Shoveler now the NORTHERN SHOVELER

Common egret now called GREAT EGRET

Harlan's hawk merged with RED-TAILED HAWK

Pigeon hawk now the MERLIN

Sparrow hawk now the AMERICAN KESTREL

Ruddy turnstone now considered a sandpiper instead of a plover. No name change, just a different family.

Upland plover now called UPLAND SANDPIPER (It is not a plover.)

Harlequin quail now called MONTEZUMA QUAIL

Red-shafted, yellow-shafted, and gilded flicker now merged and called COMMON FLICKER

Black-eared bushtit now merged with BUSHTIT

Audubon and Myrtle warblers merged to become YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

Catbird now called GRAY CATBIRD

Boat-tailed grackle has been divided into two species. Texas bird is GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE; Florida bird is BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE.

Baltimore oriole and Bullock oriole merged to become NORTHERN ORIOLE

Slate-colored and Oregon junco merged to become DARK-EYED JUNCO

Geth White

SUMMER'S OVER and your officers had a hard time getting started again this fall so your newsletter is late. The regular September meeting (third Monday) will be reported in the next newsletter.

EL PASO-TRANS PECOS AUDUBON TO HOST FALL MEETING

Thanksgiving weekend, November 22, 23, and 24, our local group will host the fall meeting of the Texas Ornithological Society. Meeting headquarters are to be the Del Camino Motel. Geth White, chairman and board member for Region IV, is chairman for the local event.

The TOS is dedicated to the observation, study, and conservation of birds in Texas. Its president is Edward A. Kutac of Austin. Two meetings each year, one in the fall and another in the spring, and a monthly newsletter tie birders together. In addition, two scientific journals are published each year with articles contributed by scientist members.

The New Mexico Ornithological Society has accepted our invitation to join us. Since birds do not know state boundaries, our interests are parallel and our ecology is certainly related. Dr. Bruce Hayward of the Biology Department, New Mexico Western University, Silver City, is president of this organization.

We are looking forward to having at least a hundred people in attendance, and we know we can count on the cooperative effort of people in our local Audubon Society to make it a great success. We should have lots of good wintering birds, beautiful fall weather, and interesting habitat exploration, especially for people from the population centers in central Texas who must come to west Texas to see mountains.

The committees which have already been set up are listed below. If you can work with any group, please call the chairman and offer your services; it will be appreciated so much.

GENERAL CHAIRMAN: Geth White, 584-7783
HOSPITALITY AND REGISTRATION: Louise Yerby, 755-7360
HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS: Lucretia Chew, 532-6410
FIELD TRIPS: Charlie Jensen, 584-7626
POST-MEETING TRIP TO MEXICO, OTHER TRIPS TO NEARBY PLACES, AND
BIRD SLIDE SHOW: Carl and Linda Jones, 584-4652
CHECKLISTS: Bill Hunt, 591-5630
MAPS FOR CHECKLISTS: Mary Moore

We are in need of leaders for the field trips. If you can learn a specific area well and take groups to it on one of the field trip days, Friday, November 23, and Saturday, November 24, we would be grateful. Charlie Jensen has tentatively set up field trips for (1) levee of Rio Grande off Frontera Road (2) Horizon Lake and open desert (3) Hueco Tanks (4) Aguirre Springs in the Organ Mountains near Las Cruces (5) Fort Bliss sewage ponds. Keep in mind that a good many people will be expert birders and able to identify birds seen on each trip, so the important thing will be to take people to the area.

Arrangements have been made for a panel discussion on Friday night to be held in a banquet room at Jerry Wolfe's Restaurant in Juarez. The panel will be discussing wilderness preservation, scientific area preservation, and habitat development. Panel guests will include Ro Wauer, regional park planner, National Park Service, Santa Fe; John Henneberger, director of park planning, National Park Service, Santa Fe; Dr. Max Bolen, environmental education specialist, UTEP. We are also hopeful of having Congressman Richard White, Texas; Congressman Lujan, New Mexico; and Myra McCormick of Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society, Silver City, although these have not yet been confirmed.

The speaker for the banquet at Del Camino Motel on Saturday night is still to be announced.

BIRD RECORDS, SUMMER 1973

Immature GOLDEN EAGLE sighted July 28 by the Whites in Coronado Foothills. Mature GOLDEN EAGLE sighted within 50 feet of the observer in Coronado Foothills on June 30 (GOW) and another was seen by Charlie Jensen near the Fiesta Theater on September 2.

SPARROW HAWKS nested at Camp Pioneer (GOW, Linda Jones, Helen Barto) 6/2

SCALED QUAIL in covey, half-grown young, in arroyo on west side of Franklins, 7/28, by the Whites. Many pairs calling in mountain canyons in June and July. GAMBEL'S QUAIL, large covey in alfalfa field, 7/28. (GOW) Baby GAMBEL'S in Arroyo Park in September by Mrs. Edna Mae Lyons.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE, INCA DOVE, and MOURNING DOVE nested in Memorial Park; seen June 4. (GOW)

ROADRUNNERS seen on lower deserts and in foothills; three young seen in upper valley, 7/28, following parents and begging to be fed. (GOW)

BURROWING OWLS with young noted in lower valley by Bill Hunt in late July.

LESSER NIGHTHAWKS in great numbers over foothills in Coronado, 7/28 (GOW)

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD nests reported all over town; Elise Campbell reported that the same nest had been used a third time in lower valley, 7/15.

RED-SHAFTED FLICKERS nested in 3 known localities and seemed very abundant all over town; one naked young found dead on ground beneath nest hole at Camp Pioner, 6/6, Linda Jones, Geth White, and Helen Barto.

WESTERN KINGBIRDS especially numerous; many young being fed in June.

BARN SWALLOWS and CLIFF SWALLOWS nesting under bridge over Rio Grande in upper valley; estimated 100 birds in cliff swallow colony, and about 10 pairs of barn swallows; still feeding on July 31.

ROCK WRENS nested in stone wall in Coronado Foothills, fledged 3 young on July 27. (The Whites)

Three juvenile HOODED ORIOLES came to fig trees with male parent on Federal Street, 6/15. Two pairs returned in the spring to the neighborhood. Pictures taken of male at hummingbird feeder. (The Whites)

CATTLE EGRETS may be nesting around a small farm lake near Clint. Mrs. David Surratt reported 16 birds perched in salt cedar during June. The Whites and Bartos checked these nests on June 28. There were many grackle nests and some very deep nests which could have been cattle egrets, but in the absence of the birds, this could not be confirmed.

Many BLUE GROSBEAKS in pairs singing in upper and lower valleys in June.

MISSISSIPPI KITE nested again at Camp Pioneer; 4 kites seen in area but only one nest found on June 6. (GOW, Carl and Linda Jones)

CASSIN'S SPARROWS at Horizon Lake, 6/3, skylarking and singing. (The Whites and the Hardaways)

Migrant sparrows passing through noted by Betty Roberts from her home on east side of Franklins during week of September 3; LARK SPARROW, BREWER'S SPARROW, CLAY-COLORED, VESPER, SAGE, and a large flock of LARK BUNTINGS.

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 29 FIELD TRIP Byron Alexander and Rex Crawford will lead a field trip to a canyon near Anthony's Nose to see an area not greatly disturbed by man. Wear hiking boots, bring lunch and water. Meet at 9 a. m. at the intersection of Transmountain and War Roads. We hope to see a whiskered owl which has been reported in the region.

OCTOBER 15 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING UTEP Centennial Museum 7:30 p. m.

TO BE ANNOUNCED FIELD TRIP We've been invited to meet with the Midnats, a natural history group from Midland, for a field trip in the Davis Mountains. Pansy Espy, who lives near Fort Davis, has done a checklist of the birds of the Davis Mountains, and will lead us to some choice spots. This will be an overnight trip; details later.

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