

# the ROADRUNNER . . . . .



Newsletter of  
El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
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December, 1978: Vol 8, No. 10. (by: Vice President R. P. Bleicher)

## Calendar

**December Meeting Date:** Friday, Dec. 15, 1978. The planning meeting for both the El Paso, Texas and HEMCO TATOS/TRASSCARDS Annual Bird Count will constitute the monthly meeting. This meeting will be at the home of Ed and Geth White, 2906 Silver Street, EPT, (Ph: 566-2326). Be there at 7 p.m. so that planning can get underway--there is a lot to be covered.

**January Meeting Date:** Monday, January 15, 1979, at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at our usual location at the Garden Center, Memorial Park, on Grant Avenue. Mr. Kevin Zimmer will present a program on "Birds of the Midwest." A big surprise is planned for this meeting--so be sure and be there for the activities. We miss you when you don't attend--really!

**January, Chapter Election Activities:** The Nominating Committee, composed of Bob Dukes, Jeanette Cole, and Helen Barto, will be presenting recommendations for a slate of officers for the coming year. Other nominations can be made from the floor. Come and help with your nominations and votes for your representatives. Remember Jan. 15th, at 7:30 p.m.

December Bird Counts are as follows:

1. El Paso, Texas, bird count: 17 Dec. '78. Meet afterwards at the Whites, at 2906 Silver Street, EPT, for the day's tallying.
2. HEMCO TATOS/TRASSCARDS: 30 Dec. '78. Meet afterwards at the Ed Gavit residence, 1712 Opossum Circle, Horizon City, (Ph: 852-3119).

Planning and team formations will be accomplished at the Dec. 15th meeting, already mentioned. We need everyone's help--so please come and take part in the bird counts. Kevin Zimmer will be the bird count compiler this year.

## January Field Trips:

1. Saturday, 13 Jan. '79. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Bella Napoli Restaurant parking lot at the corner of Montana and Harbrough. Geth White will lead the party to Ranch Country, back of HEMCO Inn. We will be looking for Longspurs (gregarious sparrow-like ground birds of open fields, tundra, and dunes). This will be a new area for many of us--please come along.
2. Saturday, 27 Jan. '79. Meet at the Wilderness Museum at 7:30 a.m. We will then proceed to Fusselman's Canyon for birding--mark this date.

### Bird Sightings:

25 Nov. 78: Al Gavit birding in Ramsey Canyon, Mile High, Arizona, saw: Violet-crowned and Anna's Hummingbirds and a Peregrine Falcon. He also stated that observers in the Phoenix, Arizona area were reporting the sighting of a "Plain-capped Star-throat" (a bird found in the book of birds on Mexico).

14 Nov. 78: Bob Bleicher reports having a pair of Robins in his yard.

22 Nov. 78: Bob Bleicher notes a flock of Horned Larks off highway 54 just north of EPT.

02 Dec. 78: Geth White reports seeing a White Pelican, an Anhinga, and both the Black-crowned Night Heron and the Green Heron at Surret's Lake.

11 Nov. 78: Earl King spotted a Great Horned Owl at Durlings Farm.

18 Nov 78: Earl King, visiting HEUCO Tanks, saw Stellar and Scrub Jays, Buffleheads, Pyrrhuloxia, Snipe, Water Pipit, and Pied-billed Grebes.

### Followup on Rim Road Arroyo Field Trip, 19 Nov. 78:

I'm not sure what happened here. This was a very local trip scheduled for "right downtown" to make it easy for all local birders. However, only three regular birders showed up: Bob Bleicher, Joe Quinn, and Sid Sheppard. We were blessed with the showing of Mary Giles, 4800 N. Stanton, EPT. She read our newspaper notice and responded. A school teacher from back east, now teaching in El Paso, Mary brightened our morning. We're in a bad need for field trip participation and welcome all newcomers. I did learn later that some of our "faithful" ended up at Tom May's Park instead of Tom Lea Park, where we were to meet--it could happen--and then did happen!

Seen on the morning outing were the following: Scrub Jay, Kestrel, House Finch, Mourning Dove, White Winged Dove, House Sparrows, Trail's Flycatcher, Grey Headed Juncos, the Crissal Thrasher, Brewer's Blackbird, the Common Flicker (Red Shafted), White Crowned Sparrows, a beautiful and long sighting of the Cooper's Hawk, Inca Doves, Orange Crowned Warblers, Pyrrhuloxia, Rufus Sided Towhee, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Black-throated Sparrow, and at least forty Gambel's Quail. Those not present missed a good field trip with some good birding. It is like I've said before, "The Rim Road Arroyo is a good place for birding in El Paso."

### "Pilot Project Would Save Water, Destroy Refuge"

Above is the headline of a story written by Jerry Large, Times Staff Writer, in the El Paso Times, Thursday, November 30, 1978 (page 5-B).

The first paragraph continues, quote: "A water reclamation project in Northeast El Paso would save water for the city, but would destroy the only "wetland wildlife refuge" in the area, if an advisory committee sticks to its initial decision." If you are in El Paso, Texas, you know the "wetland wildlife refuge" is our Fort Bliss ponding area which we local AUDUBONers consider one of our best birding areas on a year-around basis.

The article is too long to totally repeat here, however, we will mention that we will have representatives attend the meeting scheduled by the Public Service Board Committee on Dec. 6, 1978. At this meeting, the Committee will ask for public comment. We will try to followup here and let you know what happened.

Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

from

The El Paso Trans-Pecos

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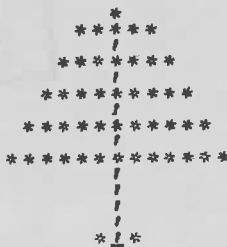
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