



THE ROADRUNNER

January 1942

Geococcyx Californianus

"Watch the roadrunner for an hour at his daily business of catching food and you will deem him among the most amazing of all the desert's amazing creatures. Snake-killer indeed! Chaparral cock! Not by sitting quietly on fence posts, not by slipping shyly from the path, has the roadrunner earned for himself these blood-stirring names.

"First impressions almost invariably give us an inadequate concept of this strange bird. We hear him scuttle through dry leaves ahead of us, catch a glimpse of him as he slips back of a rock, know from the flight of a grasshopper that he has gone a certain way, and that is all. Or, coming upon him suddenly, we surprise him into flight; note his short rounded wings, long tail, and coarsely streaked plumage; watch him sail down the arroyo, and marvel that with the shutting of his wings and reckless plunge into the thicket he is so instantly lost to view." (George M. Sutton)

To this strange, comical, amazing bird - this trade-mark of the Southwest from which we write, this publication is dedicated. Certainly no denizen of this area is more typical or familiar; and at the same time it is our sincere hope that the erratic habits of our bird will not carry over to its namesake.

The January Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday evening, January 9th, at the Centennial Museum, College of Mines campus, 7:45 P. M. The program of the evening will be the showing of two motion picture reels from the American Museum of Natural History. Their titles are, "A Bird City" and "Here and There With the Birds of Canada". This will be followed by a discussion of recent field observations by members and guests. The public is invited. Admission free.

This Bulletin

The present issue constitutes the first fruit of a controversy of long standing in our group. It is embryonic; it has not been approved by the Club, and is, therefore, not at the present time an official organ of the Club. Those of us who have pushed the idea thus far feel that it offers many advantages to the Club and can eventually become a reference of considerable value and importance. Up to the present time there has never been a publication. Furthermore, such an organ should arouse considerable interest in ~~the~~ ~~members~~ of our Club, since its mailing list need not be limited to our membership alone. It is up to you! Do you want it?

Now Officers

At the December meeting, which turned out to be a business meeting only, the nominating committee proposed the following roster of officers for 1942:

President	- Tom H. Kirksey
Vice-President	- Mrs. Marguerite Wright
Treasurer	- Mrs. H. D. Slater
Recording Sec'y.	- Mrs. J. Owen Allen
Corres. Sec'y.	- Miss Gertrude Fink, 2610 Wyoming Street.

The Christmas Census

The Annual Bird Lore Christmas Bird Census was held by the El Paso Bird Study Club on December 27th. Six members, in three parties, participated. The composite list showed the following results: 76 species, 2266 individuals, 77 miles covered by car, 6 miles on foot. Participants were; Mrs. Marguerite Wright, Miss Mary Belle Keefer, Mrs. Lena McBeo, Mrs. J. Owen Allen, and Tom Kirksey.

Winter Birds of the El Paso Region

Pied-billed Grebe	Belted Kingfisher
Treganza's Blue Heron	Red-shafted Flicker
American Egret	Cactus Woodpecker
Little Blue Heron	Arkansas Kingbird
Snowy Egret	Black Phoebe
Black-crowned Night Heron -	Say's Phoebe
Common Mallard	Desert Horned Lark
New Mexican Black Duck	Woodhouse's Jay
Gadwall	White-necked Raven
Baldpate	Gray Titmouse
Pintail	Verdin
Green-winged Teal	Rocky Mtn. Nuthatch
Blue-winged Teal	W. House Wren
Cinnamon Teal	Baird's Bowick Wren
Shoveller	Cactus Wren
Greater Scaup Duck	W. Marsh Wren
Lesser Scaup Duck	Canon Wren
Ruddy Duck	Rock Wren
American Merganser	Western Mockingbird
Turkey Vulture	Sage thrasher
Cooper's Hawk	Curve-billed Thrasher
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Crissal's Thrasher
Fuertes' Red-tailed Hawk	Western Robin
Western Red-tailed Hawk	Chestnut-backed Bluebird
Swainson's Hawk	Mountain Bluebird
Am. Rough-legged Hawk	Townsend's Solitaire
Ferruginous Rough-leg	Ashy Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Marsh Hawk	American Pipit
Prairie Falcon	White-rumped Shrike
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Audubon's Warbler
Texas Bob-white	Nevada Red-wing
Texas Scaled Quail	Thick-billed Red-wing
Gambel's Quail	English Sparrow
Florida Gallinule	Cassin's Purple Finch
American Coot	House Finch
Wilson's Snipe	Arkansas Goldfinch
Spotted Sandpiper	Spurred Towhee
W. Solitary Sandpiper	Lark Bunting
Greater Yellow-legs	W. Vesper Sparrow
Lesser Yellow-legs	W. Lark Sparrow
Pectoral Sandpiper	Desert Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Stufeldt's Junco
Western Sandpiper	Pink-sided Junco
Ring-billed Gull	Red-backed Junco
W. Mourning Dove	Gray-headed Junco
Road-runner	W. Chipping Sparrow
Barn Owl	White-crowned Sparrow
Pallid Horned Owl	Gambel's Sparrow
W. Burrowing Owl	Western Meadowlark
	Rocky Mtn. Song Sparrow