

the ROADRUNNER.....



newsletter of

El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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(by Robert P Bleicher, President)

Board of ^{Calendar} Director's Meeting:

Monday, 7:30 p.m., 14 May 1979. Chapter Board of Director's Meeting at the home of Bill and Tanya Hoppes, 1328 Madeline, Kern Place, El Paso, Texas, Ph: 533-1593.

Program:

Monday, 7:30 p.m., 21 May, 1979: Regular meeting at the El Paso Garden Center 3105 Grant Street, El Paso, Tx. Mr. Ernesto Beall from Ojo Caliente, Casa Grande, Chihuahua, Mexico, who works with New Mexico State University in Grasslands management is to put on a program titled: Wildlife in Chihuahua, Mexico.

There will be a special surprise in store for someone at the regular monthly meeting, so be there to be in on the event---right now it's a secret!

Monday, 7:30 p.m., 18 June, 1979. Member's night. We want members to bring few slides for showing. You can make your own oint; it's your program. Call Joe Guinn (Ph: 566-8438) and let him know if you are going to participate, so he will know how many participants we will have. Slide projector will be available.

Field Trips:

Sunday, 6 May 1979: May Day Bird Count. We need tea. Leaders and help to conduct our annual May Day Bird Count, so please call and say you'll help. We need to cover the Trans P. Can ons, Ascarate Park, Feather Lake, the ponding areas, the Rim Road Arroyo, Memorial Park, other local parks and areas known to harbor bird diversity. Call me and let me have our ideas and I'll try to match up some people for area teams. (Bob Bleicher, 591-7261).

Sunday, 20 May, 1979: A trip to the Tornills area, southeast of Fabens. We will meet at Denny's Restaurant at the intersection of I-10 and Geronimo at 06:00. Arrive early and have a cup of coffee! Participants may wish to bring their own lunch (and some water).

Membership:

I am happy to announce that our membership (National Chapter) has risen 1% (from 226 to 230). Our newspaper subscription membership (subscribers) now numbers six (6).

Thank you to:

Kris Kohlhoff - for your call on the arrival of Black-chinned Hummingbirds on 29 March 1979. It is always good to know when the first species start arriving during the migration period.

Mr. & Mrs. Clay Miller - for our kindness in allowing us -- those of us who could -- to camp and bird on your ranchland. We all enjoyed this relaxing activity.

John Sprout, and Bill and Tanya Hoppes, and Jane Fowler for helping me with the March edition of the Roadrunner published and mailed.

Earl King - for your call telling us of the appearance of the Orange-crowned Warbler at your residence, 3501 Waymore (Mission Hills on the West Side). And your data on seeing two Great-horned Owls at Durling's Farm two weeks ago, and of the sighting of the Black-crowned Night Heron at Randal's Pool on 6 April '79. I also thank you for volunteering to be a team leader for the May Day Bird Count on 6 May '79. Someone should meet you at the Country Club Bridge at 6:30 on the morning of the 6th.

Follow-up on the White Rock Canyon Field Trip, 25 March 1979:

Just as I said in a previous newsletter, the White Rock Canyon proved to be an excellent birding area. Just above the Wilderness Park Museum on Trans Mt. Road, the Canyon is closeby and easy to find. Those attending this field trip included: Bob Bleicher, Joe Guinn, Jane Fowler, Omega Patterson, Rut Aust, Mary Giles, Bobbie and Carl Johnson, Josephine and A. E. Nagle, Jeanette Cole, Kriss Kohlhoff, and Sid Sheppard.

Birds seen on this trip included the following: Black-throated Sparrow, Brown Towhee, Cactus Wren, Chipping Sparrow, Bairds Sparrow, Gray-headed Junco, House Finch, Golden Eagle, Pyrrhuloxia, Mourning Dove, Scott's Oriole, Dusky Flycatcher, Robin, Sage Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee. If you were not along, you missed a real fine trip.

Follow-up on the Clay Miller Ranch Trip, 31 March - 1 April, 1979:

The El Paso Trans-Pecos Audubon Society again thanks the Clay Miller family of Valentine, Texas, for allowing us to visit their ranch for birding on 31 March and 1 April. We found your ranch beautiful, relaxing, and a wonderful place for birding.

Attending the trip were: Bob and Gretchen Bleicher, Joe and Elizabeth Guinn, Bertie and Bertha Barnhart, Josephine and A. E. Nagle, Geth and Ed White, and Sarah Jane Dodd.

Birds seen on the trip included: the bright and beautiful Vermillion Flycatcher, Scalded Quail, Black-throated Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Cactus, Rock, and Canyon Wrens, Meadowlarks, Mourning and White-winged Doves, Clark Buntings, Brewer's Blackbirds, Barn Swallows, Scrub Jays, White-crowned and Clark Sparrows, Black-throated Hummingbirds, Kildeer, Vultures, Green and Brown Towhees, Mockingbirds, and the Black-crested Titmouse.

Also seen at the Clay Miller Ranch were the Song and Clay-colored Sparrows, and the Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Cadderbacked Woodpeckers, Rufous-sided Towhees, Say's Phoebe, Pyrrhuloxia, and the Lesser Goldfinch--fantastic!!!!

After darkenss, we were impressed with the beautiful star studded sky. We saw three different satellites move quickly across the sky. Bob Bleicher put his scope on the planet Saturn and you could see the rings of Saturn at an angle of from 2-7 O'clock. Then he put his scope on the planet Jupiter and we could see the four largest moons nearest the planet. When the scope probed the starry sky, there seemed to be objects too numerous to count -- it was a great night for visiting, conversation, and exploring the night sky. We wish that all our Audubon friends could have been with us on this special occasion.

On the way back to the highway from the ranch, we saw hundreds of Long-billed Curlews flying and landing in a distant field undergoing irrigation. And on the way to Van Horn, we saw White-necked Ravens, Bronzed and Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Follow-up on Memorial Park Field Trip, 21 April 1979:

This was one of the best attended field trips we've had with fourteen (14) attending as follows: Bob Bleicher, Joe Quinn, Jane Fowler, John Sprout, Jeanette Cole, Lucial Swick, Mar. Giles, Bob Dukes, Josephine Nagel, Bobbie and Capp Johnson, and Bill Hoppes. (Wow, let's have this kind of attendance more often!).

Of course there were those routine birds: Boat-tailed Grackels, Mourning Dove, White winged and Inca Doves, Starling, House Finch, and House sparrows, but we were happy to see Robins, Mockingbirds, a beautifully perched Black-chinned Hummingbird, and the Cadderbacked Woodpecker. We were thrilled to find a pair of American Goldfinch (first found by Eagle-eyed John Sprout). We also saw the ever active and beautiful Wilson's Warbler and the Yellow-rumped (also known as Audubon's) Warbler. And to top off the morning's activities, we saw a small flock of Cedar Waxwings fly into a tree across the road from the Garden Center where we were all parked. The sighting added up to a very worthwhile birding trip.

Winter's Wildlife Toll (From the Audubon Leader Volume 20, Number 8).

A U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey reports that it has been an exceptionally hard winter for wildlife in the Western States and some other parts of the country. Colorado officials estimate that as much as 60% of the state's 350,000 deer and 50 to 40 percent of its 125,000 elk have been lost. A bighorn sheep herd near Gunnison was reduced to a remnant. In parts of the Midwest, quail, rabbits, and wintering song birds were hit hard, and in New Jersey, the bitter cold snap in February froze coastal marshes and brought black duck loss. The general trend noted at all points has been a decline in numbers for years, the losses become more serious as development continues to destroy habitat, and animals try to survive in more restricted ranges.

The question: Will increasing gasoline costs and the rising inflation eventually restrict or stop our little ventures into the bird's world?

Thank you to:

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