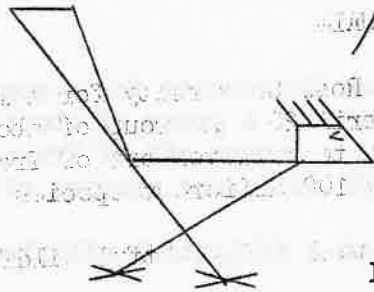


The Roadrunner



NEWSLETTER OF
EL PASO-TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON SOCIETY
Published at 4220 Wallington El Paso, Texas 79902

May, 1975 Vol. V. No. 5

Lucretia Chew, Editor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wednesday, May 14
7:30 p. m.
BOARD MEETING
Monthly meeting of officers and board members at the home of Charlie Jensen, 5816 Vista Clara.
- Sunday, May 18
7:30 a. m.
FIELD TRIP
Trip to Hueco Tanks State Park. Meet at the Bordertown Drive In Theater. There should be excellent possibilities for seeing spring migrants. Bill Hoppes is leader.
- Monday, May 19
7:30 p. m.
REGULAR MEETING
CENTENNIAL MUSEUM
Featured will be a presentation by Kevin Zimmer on the birds of the Trans-Pecos area and a very short color film entitled, "Pan-handle on Parade." This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the birds in our own area.
- Friday -- Sunday
May 23-26
FIELD TRIP
Trip to the Chiricahua Mountain in Southeastern Arizona. Camp in the National Forest or possibly stay in dormitory-style accommodations at the Southwest Research Station. Reservations in advance are essential. Please contact Lucretia Chew (532-6410) if you plan to attend. Cars will be leaving from Sheraton parking lot (Brentwood at North Mesa) at 6 p. m. Friday.
- Friday, June 20
PICNIC
6:30 p. m.
The Jack Ponders
4010 Flamingo
An affair for family and friends. Bring food for your family and guests. We'll put it all out family style for everyone to share. Beverages and homemade ice cream will be furnished. Bring handmade items to be auctioned off as a benefit for Audubon--something simple such as fudge or cookies or more complicated such as a dish garden, macrame, bird feeder, nature photograph.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

At their meeting on April 16, the officers and board of the local chapter decided to continue some kind of activities through the summer months. This is a change from the past several years when a picnic was the only regularly scheduled activity between May and September.

The first of these summer activities will be a picnic and benefit auction in the yard of Jack and Helen Ponder on Friday evening, June 20. Last summer's picnic at the home of Mary Moore was a resounding success -- well attended, much fun for all, and very profitable for the local treasury. You've got almost six weeks to be creative and original; plan now to join the festivities.

Additional outings and probably some field trips or brief studies will be forthcoming in July and August, and you will be kept informed through a somewhat abbreviated issue of the newsletter.

Please put the June 20 picnic on your calendar now; there probably will NOT be a June newsletter to remind you of this event!

FIELD TRIP NOTES -- WILDFLOWER WALK

We are very much indebted to Dr. Barton Warnock of Sul Ross University for a most enjoyable afternoon learning about wildflowers on Sunday, April 20. A group of about 25 people met at UTEP and then traveled to Tom Mays Park and to a canyon off of Trans-Mountain Road, where the poppies were in full bloom. Nearly 100 different species of wildflowers and cacti were observed in two small areas.

Our new knowledge was reinforced the following evening with a delightful wildflower slide show by Dr. Warnock at the regular April meeting.

Dr. Warnock's book, *WILDFLOWERS OF THE BIG BEND COUNTRY, TEXAS*, is an excellent source of information. The beautiful color photographs, the common names, and the clear descriptions make it very suitable for the novice. In addition to its other merits, the book is small in size and spiral bound for convenient reference in the field. This book is available from Sul Ross University.

TAKE A FRIEND TO AUDUBON

At last report, about the middle of April, the El Paso-Trans Pecos Audubon chapter was in fourth place in our region in the race for the \$1000 challenge grant money. Our chapter's percentage of membership increase since January was 14.1. There is still a little time left before the June deadline; get a friend to join Audubon RIGHT NOW!

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Audubon-sponsored summer workshops will be held in Maine, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, and a special one in ecology in Connecticut. There are several sessions in each location, and the one and two-week sessions vary from \$135 to \$325 excluding transportation. Brochures on each workshop are available from the newsletter editor.

BIG DAY COUNT

Big Day Count -- well named this year for at least two reasons. It was a big day, from before six a. m. to after eight p. m. for some of the 18 birders who participated. And a big day in the number of species seen -- 150 in all, the best count ever for El Paso.

The day must have been ordered specially, for it was beautiful -- clear, warm, with the temperature in the 60's at sunrise and in the middle 80's later in the day, and although unbelievable for El Paso in the spring, it was almost windless!

Seven parties of birders covered a large area of El Paso and into the edge of New Mexico. Geth and Ed White and Helen Barto covered Memorial Park and Tuesday Canyon off Transmountain Road.

Ruby Allen and Sarah Jane Dodds took Durling's Farm, Diez Lagos, parts of the Upper Valley and river levee area. Charlie Jensen, Lucille Swick, and Lucretia Chew went to residential areas in the Upper Valley, Cement Lake, Los Nogales, Randal's Pool, and Arroyo Park.

Al and Madeline Gavit, Bertha and Berttye Barnhart covered the Lower Valley including the river levee and Feather Lake. Bill Hoppes and Bob Bleicher birded Ascarate Lake, Fort Bliss Sewage Ponds, and Northeast El Paso.

Kevin and Barry Zimmer and Dave Steinbach went to Hueco Tanks and to Horizon Lake. Although each party saw more than 50 species, Kevin and Barry were the top birders of the day with more than 80 species on their list.

Helen and Jack Ponder contributed birds seen at their own feeders and also in the Mission Hills neighborhood.

The birders saw 23 species which had not been seen in the three previous Big Day Counts; however, there are 41 species which have been seen at least once in the previous three counts which were NOT seen this year, so the challenge for next year is definitely still there. Think of it -- the possibility of a Big Day Count with 191 species!

BIG DAY COUNT
May 3, 1975

Sared Grebe	Wilson's Phalarope	Solitary Vireo
Pied-billed Grebe	Forster's Tern	*Black-and-White Warbler
*Double-crested Cormorant	White-winged Dove	Orange-crowned Warbler
*Great-blue Heron	Mourning Dove	Lucy's Warbler
Snowy Egret	Inca Dove	Yellow Warbler
*Black-crowned night Heron	Rock Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Bittern	Roadrunner	Black-throated gray Warbler
White-faced Ibis	Burrowing Owl	MacGillivray Warbler
Mallard	White-throated Swift	Yellow-throat
*Mexican Duck	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Yellow-breasted Chat
Gadwall	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Pintail	Rufous Hummingbird	House Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Common Flicker	Western Meadowlark
Blue-winged Teal	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Cinnamon Teal	Western Kingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
American Widgeon	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Hooded Oriole
Northern Shoveler	Black Phoebe	Scott's Oriole
*Redhead	Say's Phoebe	Northern Oriole
Ring-necked Duck	Trail's Flycatcher	Brewer's Blackbird
Canvasback	Dusky Flycatcher	Great-tailed Grackle
*Greater Scaup	Western Flycatcher	Common Grackle
Lesser Scaup	Coues' Flycatcher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Bufflehead	Western Wood Peewee	*Western Tanager
Buddy Duck	Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Hepatic Tanager
Turkey Vulture	*Least Flycatcher	Pyrrhuloxia
Cooper's Hawk	Violet-green Swallow	Black-headed Grosbeak
*Red-tailed Hawk	*Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Swainson's Hawk	Rough-winged Swallow	*Painted Bunting
Golden Eagle	Barn Swallow	*Cassin's Finch
Marsh Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Purple Finch
*Merlin	*Green Jay	House Finch
American Kestrel	White-necked Raven	*Lesser Goldfinch
Scaled Quail	Verdin	Brown Towhee
Gambel's Quail	House Wren	Lark Bunting
Common Gallinule	Cactus Wren	*Savannah Sparrow
American Coot	Canyon Wren	Vesper Sparrow
Killdeer	Rock Wren	Lark Sparrow
Common Snipe	Mockingbird	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Long-billed Curlew	Curve-billed Thrasher	Cassin's Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Robin	Black-throated Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush	Dark-eyed Junco
Willet	*Townsend's Solitaire	Gray-headed Junco
*Pectoral Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
*Laird's Sandpiper	Water Pipit	Clay-colored Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	Cedar Waxwing	Brewer's Sparrow
Long-billed Dowitcher	Phainopepla	Black-chinned Sparrow
*Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike	White-crowned Sparrow
Western Sandpiper	Starling	Fox Sparrow
American Avocet	Hutton's Vireo	*Song Sparrow
Black-necked Stilt	Gray Vireo	Blue Grosbeak

*These species were not seen on any previous May Big Day Count in the past four years.

APRIL BIRD SIGHTINGS

30 SAGE THRASHERS by Kevin and Barry Zimmer on April 10 in the Franklins.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK in the Franklins by Kevin and Barry Zimmer on April 12.

At Ascarate Lake on April 19 an OLIVACEOUS CORMORANT by Charlie Jensen.

GREEN JAY by Carolyn McClintock on April 24 at 3033 Federal; still present on May 5.

On April 30 in Memorial Park a PHILADELPHIA VIREO by Kevin and Barry Zimmer and Geth White.

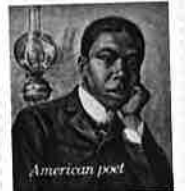
A LAZULI BUNTING in Memorial Park on May 5 by Barry Zimmer and Geth White.

IT ALL SOUNDED VERY FAMILIAR to your editor as she read through other newsletters for possible interesting information to pass along . . . several other groups in our area also had their spring counts on Saturday, May 3, and two of them had wildflower walks in the past few weeks . . . one group was looking for hosts for their outdoor summer meetings . . . and also like us, one group has just reached a mailing list of 200 and is investigating bulk mailing rates!

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4220 Wallington
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