



THE ROADRUNNER

NEWSLETTER

of

EL PASO AUDUBON SOCIETY

September, 1971, Vol 1, No. 6

Geth Osborn White, Editor

CALENDAR

Monday,

Sept. 20 Regular meeting at Centennial Museum, U-Teq Campus, 7:30 P. M. We have the honor to have Mr. John Spinks, Southwest Regional Representative of National Audubon Society, who will speak to us on the activities of the Society both regionally and nationally and outline some of the environmental action undertaken by this highly respected organization which has both the expertise and research to back it up.

At this time the membership will be asked to vote upon its wish to become a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. To qualify we must have 35 new members, not presently members of the National Audubon Society. Our present membership has more than enough in the local society.

Individual membership costs \$12; family membership (which counts 2 people) \$15. Local chapter shares \$4 with national for individuals and \$6 for families which is refunded from National.

Those who are already members of National Audubon with less than 6 months before renewal time have that portion, as above, refunded at renewal time; those with more than 6 months' before renewal, have the Chapter's portion refunded immediately to the Chapter. The National Audubon Society has intensified its conservation education efforts. It has perhaps the most beautiful magazine of its type in circulation, providing information on the wise use of our natural resources. We need a level of understanding to know what to do to preserve our environment. We can gather strength from a national organization which is respected for its intelligent environmental action. Come and bring a prospect on the 20th.

Saturday

Sept. 18 Field trip with the Sierra Club. People on the east side of the mountain meet at Bob Barto's house, 3312 Moonlight Ave. at 7:00 A. M; west side of the mountain, Joseph Leach's house, 735 de Leon for a hike into the Organ Mountains (east side) at Aguierrri Springs Recreation Area. New trails have just been opened by BLM. Bring lunch and water.

Sunday

Sept. 26 Field trip to Horizon Lake. 5:00 P. M. Follow Interstate 10 to Horizon exit. Stop at Land Development Office parking area. Bring a sandwich or lunch and hope for a red sunset. Shorebirds and ducks are moving through and this lake is a lovely spot at the end of the day with views of distant mountains.

Tuesday

Sept. 21, & 22 Junior League's Environment 71 Conference at the Hilton Inn, sponsored by their Ecology and Conference Committee. Nationally known speakers such as Joseph Karaganis, Chicago attorney specializing in environmental law, Brock Evans, Northwest Rep. of the Sierra Club, Amy Roosevelt, Environmental Consultant associated with Colorado Council of Arts & Humanities in Denver, are appearing on the program together with regional and local professional people. Make plans to attend and help staff a booth for Audubon.

REGIONAL MEETING OF SOUTHWESTERN AUDUBON SOCIETIES SCHEDULED OCTOBER 8,9, 10th at Silver City, New Mexico at Bear Mountain Guest Ranch. They will have an Environmental Appreciation Workshop with \$2. fee. Registration for workshop, Saturday lunch and chuckwagon dinner should be made with Mary Orr Russell, P. O. Box 183, Reserve, N. M. 87830. Wildlife film from National Audubon with speaker Robert Davidson who will narrate "The Vanishing Sea" is to be shown Friday, October 8.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE SET UP WITH CONGRESSMAN WHITE IN JULY with representatives from El Paso Audubon, Sierra Club, Cavers Society, Archaeology Society and members of the press. Congressman White seemed to be negative on keeping much of the Guadalupe wilderness. He re-stated that he felt the Master Planners for the National Park Service had the professional qualifications to present a program for the park for the best use for all the people.

Be sure to watch for announcements of hearings to be held this fall in Carlsbad and in El Paso. Attend if you can and let your views be known by letter. Supt. Donald A. Dayton, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220, has promised to let El Paso Audubon Society have a copy of the Master Plan as soon as it is available and to notify us of hearing dates. Those of us who have hiked or spent time in the Guadalupe Mountains know how fragile the ecology is because of its aridity and scant rainfall and we want to make sure its use is wisely planned. Scientific areas such as McKittrick Canyon, unique regions such as "The Bowl" a heavily forested domain of elk, muledeer and bear and turkey need to be restricted in visitor use.

CITIZEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL is to be formed in El Paso as an outgrowth of the Junior League's Conference, with 26 candidates proposed. Your president is one of these people and would appreciate hearing of local matters concerning the environment you would like stressed, in the event I'm elected to the Council.

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION EDUCATION COUNCIL, with the leadership of Dr. Max Bolen, Physics Dept., U-Tep, meets the second Monday of each month in Room 127, Physical Science Building, U-Tep. Audubon members attending these meetings are Ray Payne, Conservation Chairman, Bob Barto, Bill Hunt, Geth and Ed White. It's education oriented and doing a great job. Come if you're interested.

A course entitled Environmental Quality was offered for 3 weeks at the summer session, every day 9 to 3:30 with a great deal of field study, touring ASARCO, an oil refinery, water and sewage plants, range and forestry, valley ecology, weather, air, noise, population, urban problems. Professional speakers in the various fields lectured, presented films, printed matter. This course was taped and photographed and is available as a teaching tool in other communities. We will book it for a future Audubon meeting. Watch for it. The course will be offered again next summer, earns 6 credits in Physics.

#### SOME SUMMER BIRD RECORDS:

Orange-crowned Parraqueet observed in July by Dr. Lud Deppisch, Geth and Ed White, Steve West, Gertrude Rose, Ruby Allen and possibly others as this bird stayed in a bosque off of Country Club Road near the horse barns, feeding on Johnson grass seeds for several days. May have been an escaped bird.

Callippe Hummingbird, same place as above, Geth White.

Rufous hummingbird - Roberta Wilcox, 3133 Federal.

Burrowing owl - Ruby Allen, Gertrude Rose, Upper Valley, July.

Cassin's Sparrows - in alfalfa field off Country Club Road, July.

OF PEOPLE: Ruby Allen had a trip to the hill country around Kerrville after school was out where she became enthusiastic about conducting a Christmas count as it is a region not covered. Jack Ponder suffered a heart attack and after several weeks in the hospital is convalescing at home. The Hardaways and the Ed Whites had a delightful 10 days on Mexico's west coast birding and beachcombing in June, and the Whites spent most of August in New England. We have lost our treasurer, Madeline Lindberg, to Las Cruces, and Grace Thompson to Palm Springs for the winter.

LINK TO THE PAST - Lena McBee, who has contributed much to West Texas ornithology, has consented to give us notes from her journals over the years which will be of value to present birding in this interesting country. I quote from her letter:

"You write me that the Cassin's sparrows are singing madly in the alfalfa fields in the Upper Valley. Is this an annual phenomenon? You ask.

"decidedly not. We have had them, to my knowledge, only one summer in El Paso. They were near the Country Club bridge, west side of the river, through June of 1953 "singingly madly," feeding on berries of lycium (Berlanderi)

"We went to see them several summers in the Jornada Refuge, northwest of Las Cruces. I recall in June of 1946 and 1948 when they acted as if on their own territory. The male sang in a circular area around me for an hour once, part of the time in spiral flight. The habitat was a blackbrush-spotted area with patches of short grass. I have never heard the female sing.

"The Cassin's Sparrows are here in Carlsbad from mid-March to mid-September. I've seen them along the highway from here westward to the Huecos; also southward to Van Horn, Texas. I cannot see why they appear in the alfalfa unless because of the drouth.

"I am enclosing an episode that may well be named "A Remarkable Coincidence." Here it is:

"Jimmie Koons was the youngest member of the El Paso Audubon Society in 1956. On October 20, he and his mother brought two dead warblers to my house at 1530 Upson Avenue. The mummies had been picked up on a street in El Paso a few days before. We identified them as a Nashville and a Black-throated Green.

"I was telling Jimmie that I had seen Allan Phillips take the first New Mexico specimen of the Black-throated Green near Anthony (Nov. 1, 1954) when one came to my elm tree. The boy's quick eye saw it first.

"There's one now!" he said.

"The bird flew down to drink at the running garden hose in my flower bed and we had a good look at it, a handsome male.

"Mr. and Mrs. James Koons are now listed as members of the EPAS. Phillips has co-authored "The Birds of Arizona."

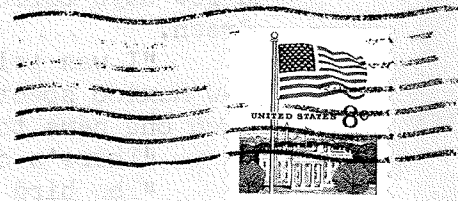
"Black-throated Greens have come a few more times to El Paso, the first after our "remarkable coincidence" being September 6, 1957, at the Boy Scout Camp." --- Lena McBee, Carlsbad, July 29, 1971.

THANKS TO Helen Barto for her help in mailing the newsletter; to the Unitarian Church for the use of their mimeograph machine; to Bill Hunt and the Presbyterian Church he ministers to for the use of their mimeograph for past issues (the machine was recently stolen) to Pamela Koons for the hospitality for the upcoming meeting.

El Paso Audubon Society Officers:

President: Mrs. Edmund White (Geth)  
Vice-pres. Rev. Bill Hunt  
Treasurer: Mrs. Clarence Shelfer (Libby)  
Conservation: Ray Payne  
Historian: Mrs. J. Owen Allen (Ruby)  
Programs: Mary Moore  
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Other Groups: Mrs. Robert Hardaway (Lee)  
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FIRST CLASS