

THE ROADRUNNER

Newsletter of
EL PASO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Geth Osborn White, Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Whites have taken flight! But be not alarmed. We expect them back in time for Geth to edit the April issue of The Roadrunner, and in time for Ed to produce a nice list of field trips.

Geth is assistant leader for a birding trip in Yucatan and Oaxaca. We are looking forward to exciting reports of this interesting trip.

CALENDAR

Saturday

March 18

7 a.m.

FIELD TRIP TO HUECO TANKS AND HORIZON LAKE

Assemble at Memorial Park by the tennis courts. Bring \$1 for admission fee to Hueco Tanks, water, and lunch.

March nesting birds at the Tanks include several species of hawks, White-throated Swift, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Say's Phoebe, and others.

According to Lena McDee the total number of species listed for Hueco Tanks is 126. There is a good chance that a species or two might be added on this springtime walk.

Clarence and Libby Shelfer will lead the group through historical Hueco Tanks. After lunch they will guide the party over a short cut to Horizon Lake where "birding" will continue until about 1 p.m.

Friday

and

Saturday

March 31-

April 1

FIELD TRIP TO DESERT MUSEUM - TUCSON, ARIZONA

A never-to-be-forgotten tour is being sponsored by the Conservation Education Council of El Paso (EC-EC). Admission is \$1 for adults; children are free. Mrs. Jane Peckham, Executive Secretary of EC-EC will furnish further information through Box 10716, El Paso, Texas 79997.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum features outstanding exhibits of living animals and plants that are found in the Sonoran Desert. El Pasoans hope to collect many good ideas as they look forward to planning an outdoor museum in El Paso in the not too distant future.

Tuesday

March 20

7:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING - UT EL PASO CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

Clyde Anderson, County Commissioner, Ralph "Skip" Scoggins, State Representative, and Tati Santiesteban, State Representative, will present their views on ecology. An opportunity will be given for the audience to ask questions.

A film entitled "Avery Island" will also be shown. Included are pictures of many of the wild birds and animals which live in this delightful sanctuary.

Saturday

April 8

7 a.m.

FIELD TRIP TO THE UPPER VALLEY

Spring birds should be abundant, that is, if the sky continues to be as sunny and dust-free as it has been. Areas to be visited will be the same as those "birded" on February 19. (See article concerning that trip in this bulletin.)

CALENDAR - Cont'd.

- Wed. - Sat. T. O. S. MEETING
April 26-29 Spring Meeting of T. O. S. will be held in the Big Bend and in the Davis Mountains. Ronald Clement, Vice-President of the National Audubon Society, will speak at the banquet. Ample "camp-out" space is available. Otherwise reservations should be made immediately at Chisos Mountain Lodge, Big Bend (nights of April 26-27); Indian Lodge, Fort Davis (nights of April 28-29).
- Sat. - Sun. SPRING MIGRATION
April 29-30 Hyrad B. McCormick of Bear Mountain Guest Ranch will conduct a tour of little-known areas of the Gila River. Spring migration should be at its height in this fascinating region in New Mexico.

"FINDS"

- Baird's Wren - 1 Jan. 19 (In Upper Valley mesquite)
Great Horned Owl - 1 ; Jan. 21 (In front of Milam School)
Observer: Frances Baker (Omitted from previous issue)
Golden Eagle 1 Feb. 18 (In Upper Valley)
Observer: Joan Pierce
Snow Goose (Large Flock) Feb. 21 (Bosque del Apache) (Headed north)
Canadian Goose (Several) Feb. 21 (Bosque del Apache)
Observers: Bob and Helen Barto
Greater Yellow Legs - 11 Feb. 28
Wilson's Phalarope - 1 Feb. 28
Avocet - 2 Feb. 28 (Winter Plumage)
(Above three species on North Loop Pond)
Short-eared Owl - Feb. 28 (Brushy ditch near Clint)
Observer: Bill Hunt

GOAL ALMOST REACHED

The El Paso Audubon Society is fast approaching a goal -- affiliation with the National Audubon Society. Only one new member is needed to make affiliation possible! Let's get busy and secure that new member!

However, don't stop when the goal is reached. Just keep right on getting others interested in the Audubon Society and its work.

MEET VICE-PRESIDENT EDDIE CHEW

A scissor-tailed flycatcher started it all. "My wife's parents showed me one at Lake Corpus Christi about eight years ago," explains Eddie Chew, describing his start as a birder. Never an Audubon Club member until last year, Eddie, his wife Lucretia, and their children, Beth, 13, and Steve, 11, have now made birding a family hobby.

Brown-haired and smiling Eddie is a rare native El Pasoan. After high school, he earned degrees at UT Austin and at UT El Paso before joining El Paso Natural Gas Company as a physicist.

As part of the company's experiments with nuclear stimulation of natural gas, Eddie is assigned preparation of an environmental statement of the effects of one such test.

In his avocation as an Audubon enthusiast, Eddie hopes to strength local club's program. Elected vice-president last December, he is eager to expand his knowledge of local birds, and to lend his support of efforts to protect the environment.

By Bill Hunt

UPPER VALLEY FIELD TRIP

February 19 was an unusually warm, sunny, pleasant day for a field trip. A group of "birders" met at the Country Club Bridge at 7:30 a. m.

The party proceeded leisurely down the Rio Grande to Payne-Taylor Place and on to "Fee-Fishing Lakes." Here the party divided into small groups.

Among the areas explored were Goggin Road, Owen's Place, Durlings, Good Service Dairy, and about fifteen miles of the Rio Grande with its adjoining farm land and near-by desert mesas.

Some individuals stopped "birding" at 11 a. m. while others continued until around 2 p. m.

Those who participated in the event were: Ruby Allen, Lorenzo Cuesto, John Dick, Sarah Jane Dodds, Mrs. L. H. Ginn, Mike Ginn, Janie Hardaway, Lee Hardaway, Lena McBee, Ethel Noble, Mrs. John K. Rose, Clarence Shelfer, Libby Shelfer, Ed White, and Geth White.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Pied-billed Grebe | 21. Ring-billed Gull | 41. Loggerhead Shrike |
| 2. Great Blue Heron | 22. White-winged Dove | 42. Starling |
| 3. Mallard Duck | 23. Mourning Dove | 43. <u>Parula Warbler</u> |
| 4. <u>Mexican Duck</u> | 24. Inca Dove | 44. Audubon's Warbler |
| 5. Pintail | 25. Roadrunner | 45. House Sparrow |
| 6. Green-winged Teal | 26. <u>Great Horned Owl</u> | 46. Western Meadowlark |
| 7. Blue-winged Teal | 27. Belted Kingfisher | 47. Redwinged Blackbird |
| 8. Cinnamon Teal | 28. Red-shafted Flicker | 48. Brewer's Blackbird |
| 9. Shoveler | 29. Say's Phoebe | 49. Boat-tailed Grackle |
| 10. Redhead | 30. Western Wood Pewee | 50. Pyrrhuloxia |
| 11. Cooper's Hawk | 31. House Wren | 51. <u>Cassin's Finch</u> |
| 12. Red-tailed Hawk | 32. Cactus Wren | 52. House Finch |
| 13. Marsh Hawk | 33. Mockingbird | 53. Green-tailed Towhee |
| 14. <u>Prairie Falcon</u> | 34. Curve-billed Thrasher | 54. Rufous-sided Towhee |
| 15. Sparrow Hawk | 35. Robin | 55. Oregon Junco |
| 16. Gambel's Quail | 36. Hermit Thrush | 56. Gray-headed Junco |
| 17. Common Gallinule | 37. Western Bluebird | 57. Chipping Sparrow |
| 18. American Coot | 38. Mountain Bluebird | 58. White-crowned Sparrow |
| 19. Killdeer | 39. Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 59. Song Sparrow |
| 20. Common Snipe | 40. Cedar Waxwing | |

SILVER CITY'S HAWK COUNT - MARCH 4, 1972

SPONSORED BY SOUTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Eddie and Lucretia Chew, accompanied by Steve and Beth, attended the Southwestern New Mexico Society's Hawk Count on Saturday, March 4. We are delighted that they were able to represent El Paso at this interesting count.

On Friday evening, preceding the census, they heard the Drs. Meinel talk on Farming Sunlight for Electric Power. This husband and wife team are both experts in the field of solar energy.

The Chews were fortunate to have Mrs. Myra McCormick of Bear Mountain Guest Ranch as leader of their party. This group's territory extended to the Mexican border. The weather was excellent and the group had a most enjoyable time; even though few species of hawks were seen. The party's total of thirty-one individuals was made up as follows:

Red-tailed - 10; Ferruginous - 1; Marsh - 4; Sparrow - 16.

Leaders of the five parties were asked to mail their lists of hawks to Count Leader Tom Brake.

We await with interest the final report on the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society's Hawk Count.