



Mrs. Edwin Getscher  
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**THE ROADRUNNER**

*is the most popular bird in the Southwest. It's antics and curiosity amuse everyone. Although he can fly for short distances he much prefers to run and is well known for his swiftness on foot.*



July 31, 1981

GETCHER

Dear Dr. Kent,

8/3

I tried calling you yesterday but your son (I presume) finally said you were in Arizona on a bird trip. He thought I might not be too late with my one item. You were in Arizona during the best birding time I believe. Hope you saw a lot. I missed one hummingbird, the white-eared, which I needed for my life list when I was there in May. Had to leave before trip was over.

We just got back from a short trip in Colorado and New Mexico day before yesterday and then yesterday I got my mail. The IBL was there; I read it. You reported "there were only a few scattered sightings" of ruby-throated hummingbirds. I don't know when I've seen so many of these hummers as I have this summer. Not only that, but I've had others in this area who have said the same thing. This really is the only thing I have to report.

I have seen several flights of Franklin gulls this summer and last Wednesday saw a few on a barrow pit near Hamburg. I missed some birds on the quick trip we just took - some I thought I should see but had a real goody (for me) that made up for the other non sightings. Two swallow-tailed kites after we left Dalhart, Texas. Excellent views.

I am sorry and it seems I am saying this all the time - I am sorry not to be able to give you more. My husband suffered two strokes; his first was December of 1979 and then two while I was in Arizona. You can imagine the traumatic experience as both my husband and son said "stay!" and the doctor wanted me too. And while I was gone my father-in-law passed away. So I am sort of pinned down trying to help my husband. I am hoping he loses weight so he can carry on as usual, but his right hand and right foot are still spastic. I do not mean to cry on your shoulder, but I do want you to know why I am not giving more info.

But you saw  
some of these in  
Arizona!

Hamburg IA  
Regards  
Gene