

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The 37° temperature and dewy grass of Ellwood Park were braved by ten birders Sunday morning, April 25. Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows were much in evidence, and a flock of about 40 Cedar Waxwings was seen. Warblers were scarce, with Audubon's Warblers being the most numerous, along with a few Nashvilles. We were happy to have Mrs. H. F. Argo of the City Library staff with us.

Saturday, May 1, 15 people shared the thrill of watching a Long-eared Owl in Llano Cemetery; the owl was perched in the same tree in the afternoon and was shown to several members who were not on the bird walk. Other birds of note included returning Scissor-tails, nesting Boat-tailed Grackles, and a flock of 16 Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Again, warblers were conspicuous by their scarcity.

The spotlight was temporarily taken from the birds when Steve Fiedler (inspired by Charles Wright and Ray Moore's program at the March meeting) displayed the skin of a mouse which he had prepared. We were glad to have Mr. Gibson recuperated to the point that he and his wife could join us for part of the walk. Newcomers to the birding ranks were Mrs. B. L. Banks and son Lee.

## BIRD NOTES

Again, many interesting birds have been seen during migration. Mrs. I. D. Acord found a second Common Bushtit nest at Lake Stockton; at last report, the nest contained young birds. March 31 and April 10 Leo Galloway recorded three Dunlins at Buffalo Lake; this unusual record was confirmed April 11 by Kenneth Seyffert.

Mrs. George Ross and Mrs. Grady Fox recorded 275 and 276 species, respectively, on a 2½ week trip to Galveston, Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana Wildlife Refuges, and other south Texas areas, including Big Bend. They were accompanied by Mrs. Ross's daughter, Mrs. J. S. Robinson of Cincinnati. We are wondering about the validity of the newspaper article sometime back concerning the overprotection of eagles; not a single eagle was seen on their entire trip.

The Gray-cheeked Thrush and Magnolia Warbler were among the birds in the Ross's yard May 6. Identification of the thrush, an uncommon bird in our area, was verified by Mrs. Robinson, who has become familiar with it in the East, and the observers were able to compare this species with the Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, which were also present.

Kathryn Whipple added a number of birds to her life list recently when the Whipples spent a long weekend in Big Bend and the Davis Mountains.

A fishing trip into New Mexico a week ago enabled Kenneth Seyffert to list a number of mountain birds on his life list.

Mrs. Acord and Mrs. George Waddill also spent a few days in New Mexico recently, with binoculars in hand.

## CALENDAR

May 17 - Monthly Society meeting.

## MAY MEETING

Jim Jokerst, Program Chairman, is planning another fine meeting for Monday, May 17, at 7:30 in the Garden Center. This will be the last regular meeting of the TPAS until September and, at present, no plans are being made to issue a Prairie Horned Lark during the summer. We would still like to be notified of any unusual birds or any conservation news that should be brought to the attention of the membership.

## WELCOME

We have received word from the National Audubon Society that Mrs. H. B. Martin has become a member recently, and we welcome her to the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society, also.

## "DELTA OF THE ORINOCO"

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Deason, 15 boys and girls from the Children's Home enjoyed the final program of the Screen Tour Series, presented by Robert C. Hermes. A letter postmarked Toxarkana, where the Hermes gave their last lecture of the season, says it was a pleasure to be in Amarillo and renew acquaintances here.

## NESTING SURVEY

The day following Leo Galloway's talk on nesting at the April meeting, nesting record cards were received from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. If you have a nest under observation, we would like to have the data on file. Call Galloway for data cards and information on filling them out. Thus far, data have been recorded on nests of Bushtits, House Finches, Mockingbirds, Mourning Doves, and a Swainson's Hawk.

One of the most foresighted nesting spots was that chosen by House Finches in a bird cage on a covered patio at the H. D. Dolcator home. The nest was abandoned, however, before the young were hatched.

## BIG DAY

As the newsletter goes to press, excitement is mounting for the Big Day, Sunday, May 9, when a count of all individuals, as well as species, of birds in the area will be attempted. Local parks and cemeteries, Palo Duro Canyon, and Buffalo Lake will be included. With a number of birders in the field and observers at home feeding stations, a good count should be obtained, and the Big Day may well become an annual spring highlight.

## BIRDS vs CHEMICALS

Did you see in the Amarillo paper that the numerous Purple Martins nesting at Griggsville, Illinois, have reduced flies, gnats, mosquitos, etc., to such an extent that the city has cancelled an order for \$600 worth of spray? City Fathers stated that because of the Martins, the spray just wasn't needed.

FLASH: Big Day Yields Acorn Woodpecker in Amarillo to Birders Acord and Whipple.