

CHRISTMAS COUNT

Plans are moving forward for the Christmas Count to be taken December 22 in Palo Duro Canyon. This year we hope to include several new habitats so that we can increase our total number of species. The record Christmas Count for the Palo Duro Canyon area was apparently 1959, with 44 species recorded. CAN WE BEAT THIS? The last count, taken in 1963, yielded 36 species before a snow storm drove the observers out of the canyon.

Five birders hiked up a side canyon on Saturday, November 6, looking for possible habitats to be included this year. Several flocks of Mountain Bluebirds, a number of Townsend's Solitaires, two flocks of Bush-tits, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a number of Rock Wrens were seen. Things are beginning to look favorable for a good count. Plan to be with us December 22.

BIRDS AND BIRDERS

Mrs. George Ross observed a Snowy Egret on a playa near her home October 16. Mrs. I. D. Acord recorded Cedar Waxwings October 22 and a Townsend's Solitaire November 2, the latter at Buffalo Lake. Mrs. Grady Fox added the Ruffed Grouse and Cape May Warbler to her life list while visiting in Pittsburgh; welcome home, Thelma!

Mr. and Mrs. Tol Settles enjoyed a four-day trip to Northwestern Arkansas and Southwestern Missouri to see the fall foliage, in mid-October.

T. O. S. CONVENTION

The Leo Galloways attended the Saturday sessions of the Texas Ornithological Society convention held October 29-31 in Dallas. A morning field trip and evening banquet were the day's highlights. Leo represented Regional Director Peggy Acord at the afternoon business meeting.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The Festival of Trees, December 4-5, is only a few weeks away, and much work remains to be done on the decorations for the TPAS tree. Mrs. Acord, chairman, will appreciate any offers of help. A work night is planned for Friday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Galloways, 2213 Bonham. Anyone who can help will be welcome.

OCTOBER MEETING

An outstanding program on the function of wildlife refuges was given by Melvin R. Evans, manager of the Muleshoe Wildlife Refuge.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Reasons for the conservation of natural resources will be the theme of the monthly TPAS meeting November 15, 7:30, in the Garden Center, as members present colored slides of recent trips and summer activities. Among these will be shown the habitat of the Kirtland's Warbler and the Management Area designed to save this bird. If you have slides, please bring them along.

TOM GREENE RANCH FIELD TRIP

Sunday, November 14, Mrs. I. D. Acord will lead a field trip to the Tom Greene Ranch. Meet at 2:00 p.m. on the edge of Highway 66 at the east city limits of Vega. Anyone who is going, please contact Peggy Acord or Leo Galloway so we will know you are coming, and no one will be left.

BUFFALO LAKE FIELD TRIP

Eleven members participated in the field trip to Buffalo Lake October 23. Three Great Horned Owls, a large flock of Franklin's Gulls, and a number of species of ducks were observed.

NESTING RECORDS

A summary of contributions to the North American Nest Record Card Program conducted by the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, has been compiled. Local participants were Mrs. I. D. Acord, Mrs. H. D. Dolcator, Mrs. Alvin Fiedler, Leo Galloway, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jokerst, and Kenneth Seyffert. Kenneth had the most nests under observation.

A list of birds and the number of nests for each species follows: Swainson's Hawk, 2; Snowy Plover (young), 1; Killdeer, 3; Ladder-backed Woodpecker, 1; Mourning Dove, 24; Mockingbird, 6; Cardinal (young), 1; Western Meadowlark, 2; Cliff Swallow, colony; Redwing, 8; Western Kingbird, 3; Bushtit, 1; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2; Lark Sparrow, 1; Boat-tailed Grackle, 4; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Mississippi Kite, 8; Golden-fronted Woodpecker, 2; Ash-throated Flycatcher, 1; Bewick Wren, 1; House Finch, 1; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 1; Bobwhite, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (New Mexico), 1; Common Loon, 2; Water Ouzel, 1; and Bald Eagle, 1. The last three records were obtained in Montana.

CALENDAR

Nov. 14, 2:00, field trip, Tom Greene Ranch
Nov. 15, 7:30, Monthly Society Meeting
Dec. 22, Christmas Count

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