

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Count. Only through fine attendance and cooperation were we able to get four parties in the field and cover a number of habitats; consequently, all previous Christmas Count records in the Palo Duro Canyon area were shattered. I especially want to thank Carroll Littlefield, who came from Friona to help us and, incidentally, contributed the day's rarest bird. --Leo Galloway

DEATH OF TPAS MEMBER

Henry G. Gibson, who passed away Dec. 13, will be missed by members of the TPAS. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Gibson and family.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Amarillo - The Count in Palo Duro Canyon December 22 was successful beyond all expectations. Whereas the previous record was 44 species, our 1965 count yielded 62 species and 2,849 individuals, with 13 observers in four parties. The most outstanding bird was a Verdin in mature plumage, seen by Carroll Littlefield. Other birds which had not been recorded on a previous Christmas Count included Scrub Jay, Wild Turkeys, and Canada Geese. Although recorded on a previous count, the Baird's Sparrow, which was seen at close range by Mrs. Fiodler, Mrs. Ross, and Mrs. Waddill, is worthy of note.

Those participating in the count were Mrs. I. D. Acord (compiler), Mrs. B. L. Banks and Leo, Mrs. Alvin Fiodler, Mrs. Grady Fox, the Galloways, Mrs. T. A. Hollar, Carroll Littlefield, Tom Lutyens, Mrs. George Ross, Kenneth Seyffert, and Mrs. George Waddill.

Ft. Supply, Okla. - Kenneth Seyffert and Leo Galloway (compiler) took a Christmas Bird Count at Ft. Supply, Okla., Dec. 21, with the express purpose of recording the Lesser Prairie Chicken; 25 of the birds were seen just prior to sundown as they flew into a sorghum field to feed. A total of 52 species were counted, with 7,069 individuals being seen. Besides the Prairie Chicken, the best birds on the count were the Western Grebe, Hooded Merganser, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. One bird which should have been present proved most elusive; the observers drove approximately 85 miles through farm land and prairie without seeing a single Horned Lark.

Cincinnati, Ohio - Mrs. George Ross and daughter, Mrs. J. S. Robinson, participated in the Cincinnati Christmas Count.

BIRD NOTES

232 species of birds were seen in Potter and Randall Counties for the year 1965, according to our Recorder.

A pair of Curve-billed Thrashers are wintering in Mrs. W. T. Graham's yard.

A mature Bald Eagle was seen on a tree in the water at Lake Stockton by Mrs. Kenneth Whipple and Mrs. Acord on December 7.

During the Christmas Count, Tom Lutyens and Carroll Littlefield investigated an unusual commotion and found a Pigeon Hawk holding a Mockingbird captive. At the appearance of the birders, the hawk flew, and the Mockingbird escaped into the brush.

JANUARY MEETING

A dinner meeting will be held at the Colonial Cafeteria in Wolflin Village, 6:30, January 17. Please note the change of time and place from our regular meetings. Program Chairman Jim Jokerst has ordered a sound and color movie on bird migration, which will be shown following the annual business meeting and election of officers.

BIRD NOTES (continued)

A nest believed to be the winter roost nest of the Verdin was discovered by Mrs. Acord, the George Waddills, and the Kenneth Whipples behind the Sad Monkey Railroad Station in Palo Duro Park, January 9. A small bird was seen flitting about the brush; although no one saw enough to get positive identification, Peggy Acord did glimpse some yellow on the bird, and it is felt that it was probably a Verdin. Mr. Whipple and Dr. Waddill photographed the nest, which was located less than 1/4 mile from the area in which the Verdin was seen by Carroll Littlefield on the Christmas Count.

Even though plans to participate in the West Palm Beach Christmas Bird Count had to be abandoned, Kenneth Seyffert and the two Galloways had many birding adventures before their return trip from Florida. Kenneth added 35 birds to his life list, including the Red-whiskered Bulbul, which has become established in south Miami (see the article beginning on page 25 in the Jan.-Feb. Audubon Magazine). Time didn't permit looking for the Spotted-breasted Oriole, which the Galloways had seen previously in Florida. Kenneth seemed to enjoy especially the soaring Wood Ibis seen throughout the southern part of the state and the American Bittern at Royal Palm Station in Everglades Nat'l Park.

Leo's choice for the most memorable experience was a stop at Greynolds Park, located in a populated area of north Miami, where thousands of Cattle Egrets, White Ibis, Little Blue Herons, Louisiana Herons, Snowy Egrets, and Common Egrets roost on several small islands. The birds were beautiful as they came, just before sunset, swooping in at seemingly lightning speeds, then braking at the last moment as they settled into the trees. Common Egrets, with necks extended, weaved and darted, heads held horizontal to the ground and bodies sometimes tipped up at nearly 90 degrees. The Texans didn't see the Scarlet Ibis, but a Miami lady with two guests saw one come in on the opposite side of the islands. By the time it was dusk, the trees were just a mass of predominately white birds.

CALENDAR

Jan. 17 - 6:30 - Annual Society Meeting, Colonial Cafeteria.

Feb. 21 - 7:30 - Monthly Society Meeting, Garden Center.

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING FUND

More names of prospective givers for the new Garden Center are needed. If you can furnish any names, please mail them to the Garden Center immediately or bring them to the meeting January 17.

TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Annual Report
January 17, 1966

OFFICERS:

President--Mr. Loo Galloway
Vice President--Mr. Jim Jokerst
Secretary--Mrs. Clyde D. Biller
Treasurer--Mr. Armon T. Nays
Recorder--Mrs. I. D. Acord
Chairman of the Board--Mrs. Joe Deason

BOARD MEMBERS:

Term expires 1966:
Mrs. Grady Fox
Mrs. George Ross
Mr. Charles Wright (temporary appointment)

Term expires 1967:
Mr. Kenneth Whipple
Mrs. Kenneth Whipple

Term expires 1968:
Mrs. H. D. Dolcater
Member to be elected to fill term temporarily held by Charles Wright

Membership: 30 members

Field Trips: 8 field trips (Buffalo Lake, Local cemeteries, Ellwood Park, Prairie Chicken Trip northeast of Canadian, Palo Duro Canyon, Tom Green Ranch)

Star Trip: Tom Green Ranch, Vega, Texas, November 14, 1965

Big Day: 17 participants, 112 species, 1789 individuals

Amarillo Christmas Count: 13 observers, 62 species, 2849 individuals

Ft. Supply, Oklahoma, Christmas Count: 2 observers, 52 species, 7069 individuals

Participation in North American Nest Record Card Program: 6 participants, 27 nesting species, 80 nests plus a colony of cliff swallows

Programs: Alibates Flint Quarries and Indian Ruins, Mammals of the Area, Nesting, Functions of Wild Life Refuges, Reports and Slides of Summer Activities

Screen Tours: 3 Screen Tours; attendance poor; ended the season with a deficit; Board decided to discontinue the Screen Tours for the present time.

Other Activities: Talks - Numerous talks to various groups.

Constructed and donated a bird feeder to the Children's Cottage, 1305 N. Washington.

Official Society and individual letters favoring various conservation programs.

Participation in Activities of the Amarillo Council of Garden Clubs:
White Elephant Sale, Festival of Trees (much interest in our tree and many favorable comments), Support of Campaign for Construction of a New Garden Center.

Records: 232 species sighted in Potter and Randall Counties
Most interesting: Whistling Swan, Acorn Woodpecker, Dunlin, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Whooping Crane, Common Redpoll, Verdin

Volume II of "Prairie Horned Lark" was printed, consisting of eight issues.