

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We wish to express our appreciation to all those who helped with the Texas Ornithological Society convention. Thanks, especially, to Peggy Acord for all of the planning and coordinating; Esther Waddill, who was in charge of the registration desk; Thelma Fox, whose arrangements of fall plant materials drew many compliments; Kenneth Seyffert for helping with the field trips; the Settles and all others who contributed to the success of the convention.

The talks by Jack Hughes and A. S. Jackson, both extremely informative and interesting, were very well received by the audience.

In terms of birding, the convention was also a success, with many T.O.S. members and visitors adding new birds to their life lists. Among the "listers" were two of our group: Peggy had looked long and hard before sighting her first Bonaparte's Gull Saturday at Buffalo Lake. Earlier, at Palo Duro Canyon, Kenneth had added the Northern Skrike to his life list.

We also want to express our appreciation to Thelma Fox and Peggy Acord for the planning and effort expended on the Christmas tree. Thanks, also, to all others who contributed work and materials for the tree and who stood by the tree during the Festival.

-- Leo A. Galloway

WELCOME

Mrs. Maurine Forbus of Borger has recently joined the National Audubon Society and the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society.

FABULOUS BIRDING FOR THREE TPAS MEMBERS

Among the 1,200 attending the National Audubon Society meeting in Sacramento Nov. 11-16 were Vera Deason, Thelma Fox, and Rena Ross, all of whom reported a wonderful time before, during, and after the convention.

Having left Amarillo early enough to include a tour of the Pacific Northwest prior to November 11, Rena and Thelma listed 258 species of birds in all, more than 55 of which were "lifers" for both. As one of the best birding spots, Rena selected Clover Point, Victoria, B. C., where they recorded in one day such exotic birds as Rhinoceros Auklet, Black Oyster-catcher, Old-squaw, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, Black Turnstone, Rock Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets, Harlequin Duck, White-winged and Surf Scoters, Northwestern Crow, Greater Scaup, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

In California, the two were joined by Vera Deason in time for attendance at the convention and some more good birding. Among the memorable events and sights for Vera were a house boat ride down the Sacramento River; trips to Big Sur National Park, Point Lobos, and the Tule Elk Preserve; her first visit to the redwoods; a chance to see Ed and Mary Moyer again; and a non-birding "splash" at Palm Springs.

At Pacific Grove, our birders saw Wandering Tattlers (there really are such birds!) and joined a National Audubon Society sponsored group on a boat trip out of Monterrey Harbor--20 miles into the Pacific--to see Shearwaters and other fabulous sea birds.

(Continued in next column)

NEXT MEETING

No December meeting is scheduled. Instead, we will have the Christmas Count at Palo Duro Canyon on Monday, December 26.

The annual meeting of the TPAS will be held at the Colonial Cafeteria, January 16, at which time officers for 1967 will be elected. The nominating committee consists of Kenneth Whipple, chairman, Mrs. Clyde Biller, and Mrs. George Ross.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

The annual Christmas Count will be taken Monday, December 26, at Palo Duro Canyon. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the first water crossing. Bring a lunch and spend the day helping in this nationwide census. A fee of 50¢ each must be remitted to the National Audubon Society, along with our report. Can we beat last year's figure of 62 species seen?

Several TPAS members will also take a count at Fort Supply, Okla., and again attempt to record the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Last year our Oklahoma count yielded the only Lesser Prairie Chicken recorded in the United States during the Christmas census.

BIRD NOTES

The Michael Rose family and the Galloways witnessed the heavy flight of incoming ducks over the dam area at Buffalo Lake Thanksgiving morning that Refuge Manager Gordon Hansen told the T.O.S. members about.

Most of the ducks were Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Widgeon, Mallards, and a few Shovelers.

Climaxing the T.O.S. convention, Thelma Fox came home to find Red-breasted Nuthatches and two Mountain Chickadees at her feeder; this was also the first-time Harris's Sparrow had appeared at her feeding station. The Galloways had two Evening Grosbeaks the same afternoon, November 27.

Kenneth Seyffert confirmed the brown immature Northern Shrike at Buffalo Lake and sighted three Blue Geese there, December 4.

Late in November, Leo Galloway saw several thousand Canada Geese land at Elysian Fields, the South Amarillo sewage treatment plant. This pond, christened by Rena Ross, may not equal Midland's Rose Acres, but birding in this previously overlooked area should prove very productive in the spring.

The George Ross's had two immature Whistling Swans on their lake in western Oklahoma the weekend of December 4-5.

FABULOUS BIRDING (con't from col. one)

On the return trip, driving over the curving mountain roads, Vera missed seeing the few California Condors, high in the sky, that the others sighted. West of Bakersfield, the three added Leconte's Sparrow. Another unforgettable sight was the flock of 300-400 Long-billed Curlews near Taft.

Anyone for the 1967 National Audubon Society convention in Atlantic City, N. J.?

THAT'S WHAT THE MAN SAID--WE THINK

Attending his first T.O.S. convention, Cheyenne Bailey, precocious grandchild of the I. D. Acords, was inspired to coo what may have been his first word. It sounded remarkably like -- "Archaeopteryx."

CALENDAR

Dec. 26 - Christmas Count, Palo Duro Canyon
Jan. 16 - Annual Meeting, Colonial Cafeteria

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