

CONSERVATION NEWS

Battle lines are being drawn again for the upcoming fight in the 90th Congress over legislation to dam the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Conservationists who thought the issue had been settled in the last Congress need to be re-awakened to the renewed threat as "compromise" legislation is shaping up along the lines suggested by Rep. Wayne Aspinall of Colorado. Apparently this "compromise" entails the building of one dam instead of two, but as David Brower of the Sierra Club pointed out, what kind of compromise is possible when you are asked to choose between one bullet through the heart, or two? With a new congressman in office, we in this area must begin now in our efforts to win support for the preservation of the Grand Canyon.

Sen. Ralph Yarborough introduced S. 3929 in the last Congress to establish a Big Thicket National Park in southeast Texas. This proposal would authorize a park of 25,000 acres and deserves the support of all conservationists. Sen. Yarborough should be thanked, also, for he was the original sponsor of the bill to establish the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, signed into law just recently.

It is reported that 43 Whooping Cranes are wintering at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. As 44 departed for the north the previous spring, this decrease in population points up the fact that this species will long remain on the highly endangered list -- Kenneth Seyffert, Conservation Chmn.

TPAS'ERS COUNT BIRDS

Carroll Littlefield participated in more Christmas Counts than any other TPAS member. Besides his usual count at Friona, he helped with the count at Muleshoe Wildlife Refuge and our own count here at Palo Duro Canyon. For his fourth, Carroll and Kenneth Seyffert also took part in the Lubbock Christmas Count.

Eight members turned out for the Amarillo Christmas Count, December 26. The count area was moved slightly to include the lower end of Lake Stockton this year. The total of 61 fell one species short of last year's, which was the best on record. About 6500 individual birds were counted. The most unusual bird recorded was the Scrub Jay, seen by Carroll Littlefield.

Those participating in the Amarillo count were Mrs. I. D. Acord, recorder, Mike Allender, Leo Galloway, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jokerst, Carroll Littlefield, Kenneth Matthews, and Kenneth Seyffert.

The previous national Christmas census record of 48 Lesser Prairie Chickens was bettered by Kenneth Seyffert and the Leo Galloways, who counted 443 of the birds at Arnett, Oklahoma, December 31. A Black Duck on Lake Vincent and a flock of 106 Turkeys in an open wheat field were also of interest. The new count area at Arnett was in place of a count at Fort Supply, Oklahoma.

Leo Galloway and Dr. Marvin Davis, formerly of the University of Oklahoma and now at the University of Mississippi, counted 62 species in the Black Mesa area in the north-west corner of Oklahoma, upping previous count records in that area by one species.

JANUARY MEETING

The annual meeting of the TPAS will be held at 6:30 Monday, January 16, at the Colonial Cafeteria. Following the important business meeting, which will include election of officers, Jim Jokerst will show his own nature movies. Come and bring a friend to share this treat. Guests and prospective members are most welcome. Note change in time and place of meeting.

BIRD NOTES

Rona Ross again topped the local listers by recording 424 species in the U. S. during 1966. Not being content with the cake, she had to put the icing on by recording 55 species, many of them new to her life list, while spending the holidays in Jamaica. Thelma Fox missed 400 U. S. birds by a single species.

In Potter and Randall Counties, reports Peggy Acord, recorder, TPAS members saw a total of 270 species during the year, including seven that were new for the two-county area: Cattle Egret, Ross' Goose, Knot, Northern Shrike, and Worm-eating, Golden-winged, and Canada Warblers. Kenneth Seyffert was the high birder, with 242 species on his local list for 1966.

Our prize bird in the area for December was the Ross' Goose, five of which were sighted at Buffalo Lake on December 28 by Kenneth Seyffert and Leo Galloway. Since then, the birds have been verified by the Refuge personnel and by four of our lady birders. (Ladybirders?)

Other birds of interest were a Loon, seen by Jim Jokerst at the Palo Duro Club on December 19, and a Winter Wren seen by Jim and Leo Galloway, December 21. The Galloways listed a Burrowing Owl just east of the Air Base on December 30.

January 2, Peggy Acord saw another Northern Shrike at Lake Stockton. On the 7th, a Carolina Wren appeared at Thelma Fox's feeder, Vera Deason had Cedar Waxwings in her yard, and Kenneth Seyffert and Leo Galloway recorded their first Brown Thrasher of the year at Buffalo Lake.

Sunday, January 8, Peggy Acord had eight beautiful Whistling Swans on Lake Stockton.

CALENDAR

- Jan. 16 - Annual TPAS meeting, 6:30, Colonial Cafeteria, Guests welcome.
- Feb. 20 - Monthly Society Meeting, 7:30, Garden Center

TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Annual Report
January 16, 1967

OFFICERS

President - Mr. Leo Galloway
Vice President - Mr. Jim Jokerst
Secretary - Mrs. George Waddill
Treasurer - Mr. Armon T. Mays
Recorder - Mrs. I. D. Acord
Chairman of the Board - Mrs. Joe Deason

BOARD MEMBERS

Term expires 1967: Mr. Kenneth Whipple
Mrs. Kenneth Whipple
Term expires 1968: Mrs. H. D. Dolcator
Mr. Tolliver Settle
Term expires 1969: Mrs. Grady Fox
Mrs. George Ross

MEMBERSHIP: 37 members

MEETINGS

The society has met monthly, January through May and September through December. During this period there have also been board meetings, as required. Programs have included illustrated talks on wild flowers, summer activities of members, and the Panhandle National Grasslands; also, films on bird migration, the Black-bellied Tree Duck, and reptiles.

CONSERVATION

Talks: Mrs. I. D. Acord, 13 talks to 543 people; Mrs. Joe Deason, 1, 50; Mrs. Grady Fox, 2, 75; Leo Galloway, 1, 60; Jim Jokerst, 2, 40; Mrs. George Ross, 2, 75; total, 21 talks to 843 people.

Official Society and individual letters to senators and representatives favoring various conservation programs: efforts on the Grand Canyon Dam; petition to Congressman Walter Rogers, opposing dams that infringe on national monuments; official letter from president to Jim Thomas, commending him for newspaper articles on water pollution.

Mrs. I. D. Acord appeared before the State Water Commission on behalf of the Committee for a Balanced Water Plan.

Mrs. Acord contributed information on natural areas of the Panhandle counties to the Texas Significant Areas Inventory.

During a blizzard, Mrs. Acord appeared on television, discussing the importance of feeding birds when natural food is not available.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

270 species of birds sighted in Potter and Randall Counties. Recorded for the first time in the two-county area: Cattle Egret, Ross' Goose, Knot, Northern Shrike, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler.

10 Field Trips: Buffalo Lake, Palo Duro Canyon, Ellwood Park, and local cemeteries; hummingbird trip to Ruidoso, New Mexico; field trip to ranches near Adrian.

Star Trip: Ranch field trip, Adrian, Texas, October 23.

Big Day: 9 participants, 107 species, 6839 individuals.

Amarillo Christmas Count: 8 observers, 61 species, 6537 individuals.

Arnett, Okla., Christmas Count: 3 observers, 57 species, 3287 individuals.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Conventions

Hosted fall meeting of Texas Ornithological Society at Ceta Canyon, November 25-27. Three members contributed articles on local birding areas and conditions to the convention issue of the T.O.S. newsletter.

Nine members attended the spring meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society at Black Mesa.

Three members attended the National Audubon Society convention at Sacramento, California.

Participation in Activities of the Amarillo Council of Garden Clubs

White Elephant Sale

Festival of Trees (TPAS entry, "Gem of the Forest")
Support of campaign for construction of a new Garden Center.

Branch Society Activities

March 2, Ralph T. Jones, Director of Audubon Branch Service, National Audubon Society, New York City, met with the president and chairman of the board.

June 1, received renewal of National Audubon Society branch charter, expiration date, 1968.

Miscellaneous

Revision of TPAS constitution to comply with requirements of branch membership approved by a large representative vote.

Participation in North American Nest Record Card Program for second consecutive year.

Field Check-list for Potter-Randall Counties revised.

Volume III of Prairie Horned Lark printed, consisting of nine issues.