

NESTING TIME

Nesting season is underway, a Verdin nest being the first reported; it was in the process of construction at the last observation. Kenneth Seyffert discovered this, the first recorded Verdin nest in the area, at Palo Duro Park on April 1.

A Mourning Dove nest at Buffalo Lake, April 1, and another at Llano Cemetery, April 2, have been sighted. Swainson's Hawks were building a nest at Buffalo Lake April 5. These three nests were found by Leo Galloway.

BIRD NOTES

Migration is also well underway. Among the latest reports are the following:

March 5, Eastern Phoebe, Jim Jokerst, March 14, Say's Phoebe, Peggy Acord, Lake Stockton. The 19th, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Jim Jokerst; Tree Swallow, Least Sandpiper, and Fox Sparrow, Buffalo Lake, Kenneth Seyffert. Another Fox Sparrow appeared in the Galloways' yard April 1.

March 24, Western Phalarope, Tradewinds Playa, Leo Galloway, and Turkey Vulture, Palo Duro Canyon, both Galloways. March 25, Yellow-headed Blackbird one mile north of Buffalo Lake, and Swainson's Hawk, Canyon, Kenneth Seyffert and Leo Galloway. March 26, Common Grackle, Peggy Acord; the 28th, Violet green Swallow, Buffalo Lake, by Rena Ross, Esther Waddill, Vera Deason, and Peggy Acord; Parula Warbler and Black and White Warbler, Rena Ross's yard.

Another Parula Warbler and Bohemian Waxwing, April 1, Lake Stockton, Peggy Acord. To the first of April, Bullock's Oriole, Thyrn Whipple; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Memorial Park Cemetery, and Lark Sparrow, Kenneth Seyffert.

April 2, Nashville Warbler and Black and White Warbler, Lake Stockton, Peggy Acord; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Snowy Plover, Buffalo Lake, Kenneth Seyffert and Leo Galloway. The 3rd, Ash-throated Flycatcher and two Orange-crowned Warblers, Palo Duro Park, and a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks, Ellwood Park, Peggy Acord, Esther Waddill, and Rena Ross.

Possibly a couple of late dates: April 3, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and April 4, White-breasted Nuthatch, both in Palo Duro Canyon.

APRIL MEETING

April 17, 7:30, at the Garden Center is the pertinent information for the next TPAS meeting. Following the business session and program, refreshments will be provided for the popular period of visiting and exchanging bird notes and stories!

The talk by Gordon Hanson, Buffalo Lake Wildlife Refuge manager, was well received last month, as members were informed about the purpose of the refuge and plans for improving it.

FIELD TRIPS

Four trips are scheduled: Saturday, Apr. 15, 8:00, entrance to Palo Duro Canyon, Leo Galloway, leader.

Sunday, April 30, 6:30, east end of Ellwood Park, Peggy Acord, leader.

Sunday, May 7, Big Day, story below.

Saturday, May 13, 8:00, north entrance to Llano Cemetery, Leo Galloway, leader.

BIG DAY 1967

Coming soon (May 7) is the Society's third annual Big Day, when individual birds, as well as species, are counted in local parks and cemeteries, Palo Duro Canyon, and Buffalo Lake, at the height of migration.

For details on when and where to meet, contact Peggy Acord or Leo Galloway. We would like to have as many in the field as possible.

Last year 6,839 individual birds of 107 species were seen by nine observers.

May 9, 1965, the prize bird was an Acorn Woodpecker in Memorial Park Cemetery, while the best bird on May 8, 1966, was the Scarlet Tanager seen at Buffalo Lake.

SAY'S PHOEBES COME TO OUR CARLSBAD, NM, HOUSE

Have you ever had a little bird eye a special ledge on your front porch, make a good inspection of it and then move in? Well, a little Say's Phoebe (Cont. next page)

CALENDAR

Apr. 15, 8:00 am, Field Trip, Palo Duro Canyon
Apr. 17, 7:30 pm, Monthly Society Meeting
Apr. 30, 6:30 am, Field Trip, Ellwood Park
May 7, Big Day
May 13, 8:00 am, Field Trip, Llano Cemetery
May 15, 7:30 pm, Monthly Society Meeting

SAY'S PHOEBES COME TO CARLSBAD (Continued)
took a liking to a wooden shelf that we had nailed under the eave of our porch, and you can just imagine the excitement around our place when we discovered her intentions of building there.

April 19 she dragged in one string to display, I would guess, her "No Vacancy" sign. The next day the pair really got busy and for ten days we watched the nest take shape--bits of mud for plastering the foundation, and then grass, cotton from the nearby field, lots of string perhaps pulled from a handy mop, and gradually a cozy little nursery was formed. Then for a few days we hardly saw our Phoebes around. There was a bit of apprehension as we viewed the empty, completed nest, and we feared something had happened to change their plans.

May 4 our fears were calmed: Mrs. Phoebe was sitting on the nest. The next day we just had to peek in. After hauling out a step stool and some encyclopedias to pile it high, we climbed up to look carefully in, but we just couldn't see anything when there were barely three inches between the nest and the eave. We figured out a way, though, and peered in with the use of a hand mirror. There were revealed two white eggs! May 8, three eggs; May 10, four. The bird book said it took 12 days to incubate the eggs, so we were counting the time now and awaiting the big event.

On the morning of May 23 we peered in the nest and saw three naked little babies, and the next day all the eggs had hatched. Of course, you know how busy the next few days were, and the interest heightened when we saw one parent stuff a Sulfur Butterfly down the throat of one youngster--just so much cotton, as it were! But that was what was making those little fellows grow and feather out.

We watched them rear two families that summer--they were still feeding the first brood when on June 13 the mother was sitting on the nest again. Five eggs were laid this time, but only four babies hatched.

To our pleasant surprise the birds were seen off and on throughout the winter, even bathing in our birdbath in the cold weather and visiting the nest once in a while during the cold months, murmuring their little soft warbling call when they flew to the site.

Happily, they built another nest right by the first the next summer, and two more families were reared. We moved, but kept in touch with those who followed us, and later I learned that they had returned to this spot for the seventh successive spring.

Are they awaiting April 19 this year?
I hope so.

--Mrs. Alvin Fiedler