

December, 1969

2709 S. Fairfield, Amarillo, Texas 79103

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:

Tuesday, Dec. 23, has been set for the annual Christmas Bird Count by the TPAS. We will meet at 8:00 a. m. sharp at the entrance to the Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Our goal is to exceed the all-time high set in 1967 when 76 species were recorded. To do this we must have a large turnout so that all the best areas can be covered adequately. Also, we urge all who can to be prepared for a sunup to sundown count for it is in the afternoon and evening that enthusiasm tends to lag and during which those hard earned two or three species can be seen which can push a count above the previous record high. On last year's count it was during the waning minutes of daylight in which three male Purple Finches were observed. The group will gather at the first water crossing campground for its traditional noonday meal.

NESTING CARDS TURNED IN:

This year 63 nesting cards covering 26 species of birds were turned in to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology by members of the TPAS. The following is a rundown of the species and the number of nest cards covering each:

Mourning Dove (30), Mockingbird (1), Red-winged Blackbird (1), Bewick's Wren (1), Mallard (2), Ring-necked Pheasant (1), Hairy Woodpecker (2), Common Bushtit (1), Brown-headed Cowbird (1), House Finch (2), Golden-fronted Woodpecker (1), Barn Swallow (1), Bullock's Oriole (1), Eastern Kingbird (1), Swainson's Hawk (1), Ladder-backed Woodpecker (2), Lark Sparrow (2), Common Nighthawk (1), Western Kingbird (3), Blue Jay (1), Red-headed Woodpecker (1), Mississippi Kite (1), Great Horned Owl (1), Horned Lark (1), Cardinal (1), and Cassin's Sparrow (2).

A NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCED:

Notice has been received from National that a new category of membership is available to any bona fide student in high school, college or graduate school. This student membership rate is \$6 per year, all of which will be remitted to the National Audubon Society for the cost of Audubon magazine and other membership servicing. As National says: "We don't expect a great flood of student memberships but the infusion of new, young blood and ideas will be far more important than numbers."

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forests to be turned into comic books and plastic cigarette cases; if we drive the few remaining wild species into zoos or extinction; if we pollute the last clear air and dirty the last clean streams and push our paved roads through the last of the silences."

....Wallace Stegner

A NEW IDEA ACCEPTED:

An idea first broached by Dr. George Waddill was brought before the membership during the last meeting and accepted by them enthusiastically. Dr. Waddill had the thought that it would be well that a weekly bird count be kept of the species seen on

the acreage occupied by the Garden Center. In this way the increase, diminution, or changes in bird life could be recorded over the years. Twenty, thirty or more years from now when the saplings and shrubs that have just been planted have attained their full growths, it will be of great interest to see how this development and change in vegetational types has affected the bird life. A book will be placed in the Garden Center in which this information can be recorded and all members are urged to participate in the project. You can start your own Saturday morning bird count if you like, or your own Sunday afternoon count, or your own Wednesday afternoon count, with the knowledge that your observations will be of worth and interest to those coming after you. It is to be emphasized that the numbers of each species is of equal importance with that of the variety of species. Also, please sign your name when you make your entries.

BIRD NOTES:

Nov. 11 - Prairie Falcon (2), Golden Eagle (6), Harris' Sparrow (1), Curve-billed Thrasher (1) by Peggy Acord, Thelma Fox, Rena Ross and Esther Waddill on a trip to the Palo Duro Canyon.

Nov. 16 - A pair of Wood Ducks on Washington Street plays across the road from Scotty's, by Vera Deason and Rena Ross. A Long-eared Owl at Buffalo Lake by Kenneth Seyffert.

In addition, Jim Jokerst reports large flocks of both Eastern and Western Bluebirds near his home along with a large flock of Purple Finches. Last winter was noted for the wide dispersal of finches over the Southwest, South and Southeast with unusually large numbers of Purple Finches reported in areas where a few are always seen and stragglers in places where they are seldom or never seen. A wide variety of birds have been reported coming in to the feeders at the George Fox's; Red-breasted Nuthatches, White-crowned, Harris' and White-throated Sparrows, Oregon and Slate-colored Juncos, Blue Jays, Cardinals and undoubtedly others.

AN APPEAL:

Early next year we intend to publish a list of the birds recorded in Potter and Randall Counties over the years, showing what species are year around residents, what species nest here only and the early and late dates of their arrival and departure, what species winter here only and their early and late dates, and those that migrate through here in Spring and Fall with early and late dates for each season of their passage. Your assistance is needed in filling out those records we already have. If you can contribute to this effort please send your information to our Recorder, Peggy Accord.

CALENDAR:

- Dec. 23: Annual Christmas Bird Count at the Palo Duro Canyon.
 Jan. 4: Audubon Wildlife Film at the Garden Center - 2:30 pm.
 Topic - "These Things are Ours"
 Speaker - Mary Jane Dockery
 Jan 19: Monthly society meeting at the Garden Center - 7:30 p.m.
 Annual dinner and election of officers
 Program to be announced.