

April, 1970

2709 S. Fairfield, Amarillo, Texas 79103

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## PROGRAM FOR APRIL:

Charles R. Barden, Executive Secretary of the Texas Air Control Board, will present our program for April. This will be an open meeting to which the public is invited and for which we hope there will be a standing room only attendance. Mr. Barden's talk will be followed by a question and answer period during which the public can ask those questions whose answers it feels are important in helping to solve once phase of the world's pollution problems. Mr. Barden is a registered professional engineer and received his B. A. degree from the Univ. of Texas and his M. S. degree in Engineering from Texas A & M College. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Garden Center at 7:30 p. m.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

April will provide the setting for one of the most unusual observances our calendar has witnessed. April 22 will be "Earth Day" on hundreds of campuses in this country. Thousands of students at colleges, universities, and many high schools will participate in an "Environmental Teach-In", a day set aside for study, discussion and action in behalf of a more habitable environment, a more beautiful land. West Texas State University, for example, through a student organization, will present programs the whole week of April 20.

It is disturbing, however, to hear that some persons in the Panhandle are discouraging and critical of the "Environmental Teach-In" as disruptive and possible "communist". Perhaps the name "Teach-In" alarms uninformed persons. The idea for this day appears to have grown up out of the concern of several members of Congress (Senators Nelson-Wisc. and Muskie-Me; Rep. McCloskey-Calif.). Federal officials at both Buffalo Lake Refuge and Sanford Recreation Area have assured me that they have received directives from their superiors to assist, provide resources, and encourage the Environmental Teach-In.

The intent of the phrase, "Teach-In" is to describe the day's program style. Ideally class periods are to be reserved for discussion and information to improve our understanding of man's proper place and responsibility if the earth and its environment are to house life in the future.

In this day of flag lapels, window sticker flags, and patriotic bumper slogans, it is well to recall another dimension of patriotism given us by the late Aldo Leopold, Southwesterner, ecologist, Regional U. S. Forestry Chief:

"It is not a bit beside the point to be solicitous about preserving American institutions without giving so much as a thought to preserving the environment which produced them, and which may now be one of the effective means of keeping them alive."

I hope each Audubon member will use Earth Day as another opportunity to advance "the Audubon Cause". Most responsible periodicals and papers have been providing discussion resources to aid us. Why not invite friends and neighbors to your house for an afternoon or evening discussion of our environmental problems and responsibilities.

And last of all - let's fill the Garden Center Auditorium, Monday evening, April 20, at 7:30 p. m. when we have our public meeting with Charles Barden, Texas Air Control Board, for our program and question/answer period!

....Charles Pedersen

## TRAVEL CIRCUIT:

In Feb. Rena Ross met Esther Waddill in Houston when Elaine Robinson and Margaret Anderson took them around and showed them the sights (ornithological sights, that is). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was the steller attraction - a Red-throated Loon was another. A parade of glamorous water birds dulled the disappointment of missing the Attwater's Prairie Chicken.

Grady and Thelma Fox spent Easter near Port Antonio, Jamaica with their daughter and her family. Thelma added several new birds to her Life List - Jamaican Owl, which is very similar to our Short-eared Owl, Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo, Jamaica's Woodpecker - similar to our Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-faced Grassquit, also, 3 pigeons - the White-crowned, the Red-Necked and the Plain.

The yard around the house which is back from the beach has grown up since the Fox's and the Blacks first went there two years ago, and Thelma missed some of the ground birds she had seen before. One delight was watching the aerial gyrations of the Magnificent Frigatebirds from the patio. Birds seen commonly were Black-throated Blue Warblers, Redstarts, Yellow-throats and many flycatchers and vireos - including Black-whiskered Vireo, the Jamaican White-eyed Vireo and the Loggerhead Flycatcher.

Port Antonio is on the northeast end of the island which is heavily forested. Kingston, which is on the other end of the island, is very dry. It sounds like fun.

A visitor to Amarillo this week was Frances Williams of Midland. Mrs. Williams, who was here for the librarians get-together, is Regional Editor of Audubon Field Notes. Frances does a fine job for this exacting position.

George and Rena Ross are off for Fiji and points south and west. We will all be awaiting a report on their wanderings.

A day's visit to Pampa by Vera Deason, Rena Ross and Peggy and Bruce Acord confirmed that there really are Purple Martins nesting at the home of the Vernon Halls. The shiny male came swooping in just as we drove up. We became very excited. Frances Williams tells us that they have yet to show any interest in Midland although there is, surprisingly enough, one in the typical West Texas town of Big Lake.

....Peggy Acord

Leo Galloway and Ken Seyffert boarded the "Wandering Tattler" on 3/21 and returned home on the 29th after having made a flying trip through 6 southwestern states, plus Mexico. Leo added 2 birds to his Life List, the Bendire's Thrasher at Sunnizona, Ariz., and the Red-throated Loon in San Diego Bay, while KS came up with a whopping 23 new birds. If he were forced to name the one he enjoyed seeing the most it would be a toss-up between the Painted Redstart and the Broad-billed Hummingbird, both seen in Madera Canyon. Probably the most interesting birds observed were between Sonoita and San Luis, Mexico. On this lonely stretch of road the Mexican Common Raven, Mexican

Mourning Dove, Mexican Mockingbird, Mexican Turkey Vulture, Mexican Roadrunner, and Mexican Rock Wren were added to Life Lists while on a roadside stop at twilight (one of those fortunate pauses made in order to allow the Botanist to put his plants in a press) the only natural sound that broke that incredible immensity of silence was made by a lone male Mexican Horned Lark singing joyfully.

On the Matador Wildlife Area near Paducah. He expected the birds to stick around long enough for some data collection. Just about the only birds collected out of the bunch were five shot south of Chillicothe in Hardeman County ---some 50 air miles from the point of release.

....Texas Parks & Wildlife

#### WINTERING POPULATIONS:

It is interesting to note the fluctuations in bird populations from one year to the next. The following is a resume of three years of study of the wintering population on a 30.9 acre plot in the Palo Duro Canyon, made by KS. The survey runs from the first week in Dec. to the last week in Feb. The 20 most numerous species have been taken for each year and their density per one hundred acres shown. Col. I is for the winter of 1967-68, Co. II 1968-69, and Col. III 1969-70. The + sign indicates less than .5 per 30.9 acres. Altogether, 63 species have been recorded.

|                           | Col. I | Col. II | Col. III |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|----------|
| Oregon Junco              | 87     | 129     | 36       |
| Slate-colored Junco       | 37     | 16      | 13       |
| Mountain Bluebird         | 30     | 29      | +        |
| Bobwhite                  | 23     | 3       | +        |
| Robin                     | 23     | 71      | 22       |
| Song Sparrow              | 20     | 13      | 58       |
| Scaled Quail              | 17     | 3       | 16       |
| Common Bushtit            | 17     | 6       | 3        |
| Cedar Waxwing             | 17     | 0       | 3        |
| Cardinal                  | 17     | 10      | 16       |
| Golden-fronted Woodpecker | 13     | 13      | 13       |
| Am. Goldfinch             | 13     | 10      | 19       |
| Rufous-crwn'd Sparrow     | 10     | 3       | 3        |
| Red-shafted Flicker       | 7      | 13      | 10       |
| Bewick's Wren             | 7      | 10      | 19       |
| Mockingbird               | 7      | 2       | 6        |
| Townsend's Solitaire      | 7      | 3       | +        |
| Rufous-sided Towhee       | 7      | 13      | 16       |
| Brown Towhee              | 7      | 0       | 0        |
| White-crwn'd Sparrow      | 3      | 49      | 26       |
| Black-crstd Titmouse      | +      | 6       | 3        |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet      | +      | 6       | 6        |
| Pine Siskin               | +      | 6       | 61       |
| Killdeer                  | 3      | 3       | +        |
| House Finch               | +      | +       | 10       |
| Ladder-backed Wdpckr      | +      | 3       | 6        |
| Golden-crwn'd Kinglet     | 3      | +       | 6        |
| Marsh Hawk                | +      | +       | 3        |

The Total Density per hundred acres were 390, 437, and 398, respectively, while the total number of species seen were 44, 50, and 43.

#### PROOF THAT BIRDS DON'T READ BOOKS:

The Mourning Dove bearing band #1153-75344 is probably a bird that enjoys travel but quite likely hasn't read the books that say most doves migrate north to south, or south to north, in their migration flight.

The bird was banded July 10, 1969, in eastern Louisiana, near the town of Peck, and was harvested by a hunter near Brownwood, Texas, on Sept. 18, 1969. The dove had moved about 10 miles per day, almost due west, for a distance of about 600 airline miles.

Bobwhite quail are not usually considered a migratory bird, but Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist Don Davis is beginning to wonder. Last October, Davis tagged and spray-painted 442 birds for tracing purposes

#### IS MAXI BETTER, OR MINI?

Much publicity has been given the five maxi-coats belonging the Gina Lollabrigida. These coats are made of the fur of wild animals of species in danger of extinction, including the tiger and jaguar. One conservationist has estimated that the tiger coat contained at least 10 skins. Miss Lollabrigida's well publicized reply was, "The tigers in my coat were already dead", a comment which one columnist has compared to Marie Antoinette's famous "Let them eat cake." (from Ft. Worth Audubon Society).

#### A NEW ORGANIZATION:

Word has reached us of the formation of a new birding association that may be of interest to some of our members;

"There is perhaps no outdoor hobby and/or sport which is growing in popularity at as great a rate as is birding. We are in the process of forming an organization which will not only promote birding as a hobby and a sport but will give some cohesion to the ever growing number of birders in America. It was to meet this obvious need that the American Birding Association was conceived. As the official publication of the organization, BIRDING will, we hope, become one of the means of achieving the goals of the association."

Further information concerning this group can be had from the American Birding Assoc., P. O. Box 4335, Austin, Texas 78751. Some of their material will be available for member's inspection at our next meeting.

#### CALENDAR:

- April 20: Monthly society meeting at the Garden Center - 7:30 P.M.  
Topic - "Air Pollution"  
Speaker - Charles R. Barden
- May 2 : Field Trip - Llano Cemetery - 9:00 A. M.
- May 9 : Big Day Count - sunup to sundown.
- May 18 : Monthly society meeting.

#### BIG DAY COUNT:

Saturday, May 9, will be the occasion for our annual Big Day Count. This is a sunup to sundown count that will cover Potter and Randall counties. Unlike the Christmas Count, we are not restricted to an area 15 miles in diameter but can cover as much ground in the two county area as we have participants who can do it. If you can, please join us. Contact Peggy Acord for an area assignment. Remember, the birds seen in your back yard are of importance, too!