

## GOOD-BY TO A PRESIDENT:

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the departure of Charles and Sharon Pedersen who will be moving to Lubbock in early August. Charles has accepted a new job there on the Texas Tech campus. His commitment to conservation and his organizational abilities, articulateness, and imaginativeness in furthering conservational goals are qualities that will be of value to the Audubon cause wherever he goes, but the TPAS will miss him.

## MID-SUMMER GATHERING:

Members of the TPAS will gather at the Lake Tanglewood home of Peggy Acord's parents on the evening of July 19th for a mid-summer get-together. Mr & Mrs. Roy D. Deupree have kindly asked us to share their lakeside retreat and this will be a good opportunity for all to share their summer birding experiences with one another. The time will be 7:00. If you plan on being there please advise Peggy at 352-6372 or Mrs. Deupree at 374-6841.

## POLEBRIDGE, MONTANA, JULY 1, 1970:

Here I sit this morning by my warm wood burner watching the sun coming through the fog and the pines. The thermometer outside is at 32 degrees. We have had a couple days of rain and yesterday evening when the clouds lifted, there was new snow on the mountains.

Coming home from our weekly trip to town yesterday, we saw a beautiful Black Bear grazing clover blossoms along the roadside. How great it was to be able to observe one doing what comes naturally instead of begging for "goie goop". The way the bear ate it looked as though the blossoms tasted as good as they smelled.

We have acquired several new neighbors since our last summer here. One has taken up residence in our old root cellar and has rather disrupted our electrical operations. You see, the "neighbor" is a Cony or Pika. How it got down this far out of the high mountain talus we don't know, but here "he" is! Our electrical generator is housed in the root cellar, too, so to keep from disturbing the Cony, we have not started up the generator yet and are getting our light from Coleman lanterns. We also have a family of Columbian Ground Squirrels living about the buildings now. We are trying to bribe them with food to be more sociable, but so far I think most of the desire for sociability is one-sided. We will keep on bribing, though, as long as the apple cores, bits of bread crust and tag ends of dry cereal hold out - maybe they will weaken!

Our hiking about the place has turned up a pair of Osprey and their nest, a Bufflehead with seven young ones, Townsends Warblers, American Redstarts and White-tail Deer plus the usual critters. We have also seen a Franklins Grouse with eight chicks. Our bird list for the place now stands at 75 with the addition of an Evening Grosbeak the other evening.

It is with sadness that I read a letter from Charles Pedersen the other day informing me of his transfer to Lubbock. I want to thank him and Sharon for the great job they did as active members of our chapter.

They will be sorely missed. We just hope they won't lose the path north to our area and will visit the TPAS folks often. I hope that as the new President I can serve as effectively and efficiently.

It is time to put another log on the fire. I hope you all have a pleasant summer. We will see you at the September meeting.

....Jim Jokerst

## NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new members to the TPAS:

Donald M. Gage  
707 5th St., N.W.  
Childress, Texas 79201

Dr. Charles K. Hendrick  
3501 Patterson  
Amarillo, Texas 79109

Jess F. Tucker  
3802 Lewis Lane  
Amarillo, Texas 79109

Mr. & Mrs. L. M. Tyler  
1511 Virginia St.  
Amarillo, Texas 79102

## BIRD NOTES:

The last Newsletter brought our bird notes up to May 9th and since that time many unusual and interesting sightings have been made:

On 5/11 Marie Mayfield spotted a Cerulean Warbler at Buffalo Lake which makes this a "first" for Potter/Randall Counties. Another "first" is a Chuck-wills-Widow found at the same place on 5/12 by Ken Seyffert. This bird was pursued diligently and careful observations were made of it as it both flew and perched in good light on the ground. On the same date, Esther Waddill and Peggy Acord toured the Palo Duro Club and found a singing male Kentucky Warbler, whose presence is quite unusual for our area, as well as a Broad-winged Hawk and a Black & White Warbler. 5/17 was a good warbler day for KS at Buffalo Lake where he saw 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers, both singing, and a Blackpoll Warbler. On 5/23 KS became quite excited as he zeroed in on a Hudsonian Godwit. This bird was feeding on the mud flats at the southern end of Buffalo Lake and as the observer watched it through his scope another bird of the same species flew in and lit by the first. Also present on this date was a Sanderling. Two days later Peggy Acord, Rena Ross and Esther Waddill confirmed the godwit sighting and made an extraordinary observation of their own. In a mixed flock of "peeps" Dunlins, the latter unusual in themselves, they saw several Northern Phalaropes in breeding plumage. This is noteworthy as all previous sightings of this species (which, I might add, have been very few) have been made in the Fall when the birds are in winter plumage. KS was able to see them on 5/30 at which time he recorded 4 females and 2 males, all in breeding plumage. On this same date he observed a singing male Magnolia Warbler, a singing Philadelphia Vireo, a singing male Blackpoll Warbler, and an Ovenbird, all at

Buffalo Lake. The only noteworthy observation made in the Palo Duro Canyon during this time was of a Great-crested Flycatcher by KS on 5/24. It is interesting to note that the Red Crossbills remained at the Fox's and Ross's through 5/24 and on this same date a Rod-breasted Nuthatch was seen at the Fox's.

June brought its own surprises and since the notes of KS are the only ones available for this period the following observations will have to be answered for by him. On 6/6 he made some late sightings of several species -- a singing Eastern Wood Pewee, 3 Western Wood Pewees and an Olive-sided Flycatcher, and 4 Ruddy Ducks, all at Buffalo Lake. On 6/21 he headed up Timbercreek Canyon in the Palo Duro and was quite pleased to find 2 pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers along with the nest of one pair. The first pair were busily engaged in feeding their young fledgling, in this case a Brown-headed Cowbird, while the other pair were staying legit with their own kind. Since that time he has found this species in two other locations in the Palo Duro and at one place at Buffalo Lake. On the following 6/28, while walking further yet up Timbercreek, he was quite surprised when a male Summer Tanager lit in the top of a dead tree above him and started singing. The search is still going on for a possible nest sight. That afternoon at Buffalo Lake he saw a male Marsh Hawk and the unusual number of 368 American Avocets, 125 Lesser Yellowlegs, 15 Long-billed Curlews and 1 Willet. These figures were shattered on the following 7/5 when 864 Avocets were seen along with 275 Lesser Yellowlegs and only 12 Long-billed Curlews. These counts were head counts and not estimates. Also seen was one female Lark Bunting in the same immediate area in which one was seen last summer. A patient and close scrutiny of this area could possibly turn up a nest site. On this same date a nest of the Verdin was found in the Palo Duro. Though unoccupied its condition indicated it was of this year's construction. On 7/9 Esther Waddill, Rena Ross and Peggy Acord visited Buffalo Lake and besides the shorebirds observed by KS on 7/5 they also saw 1 Marbled Godwit, 1 Double-Crested Cormorant, Long-billed Dowitchers, Bairds, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers, 2 immature Vesper Sparrows, and most important of all, 3 Knots. A "Robin on the mud flats" turned out to be a Knot in breeding plumage while the other two were in their winter or non-breeding garb. To top things off, Marie Mayfield reported seeing a Whimbrel there earlier in the week. These sightings of so many different species of shorebirds in such quantities is extraordinary for early summer in our area. Ducks that have been present at Buffalo Lake all summer are the Mallard, including one female with seven young, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, one pair of Green-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shovelers, and Pintails.

#### THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF PESTICIDES:

At the Board of Directors meeting on 6/18 it was voted that the TPAS would have printed and distributed the 2-page Audubon Guide to Pesticide Do's and Don't's. This is the Guide that was published in the March issue of Audubon magazine. Those leaflets are at the Garden Center and will be sent to anyone free upon receipt of a self-addressed and stamped envelope. If you like, you may pick up copies at the Center. Please urge all

your friends to make use of this valuable information.

#### NORTH AMERICAN BREEDING BIRD SURVEY:

For the 4th consecutive year some of our members participated in the annual Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey of N. A. conducted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife. Charles and Sharon Pedersen, and Jim Jokerst made their count near Clarendon, Ken Seyffert made his near Channing, and, hopefully, Don Gage was able to make his near Childress. KS made an additional count in Union County, New Mexico, near Grenville, which was the third year for it.

Analyzing the Channing count, 1967 produced 35 species and 646 individuals; 1968, 43 and 759; 1969, 36 and 839; 1970, 34 and 852. The Greenville, N. M. count resulted in 33 species and 671 individuals in 1968, 33 and 663 in 1969, and 28 and 627 in 1970. Here are some comparative figures of the most numerous species:

#### CHANNING COUNT

	1967	1968	1969	1970
Western Meadowlark	165	197	203	201
Horned Lark	96	60	72	49
Mourning Dove	82	54	84	78
Cassin's Sparrow	60	74	134	93
Mockingbird	59	43	40	51
Scaled Quail	28	35	17	23
Cliff Swallow	27	80	148	194
House Sparrow	20	20	21	30
Lark Sparrow	20	36	23	32

#### GREENVILLE COUNT

	1968	1969	1970
Western Meadowlark	254	258	194
Horned Lark	159	163	167
Cassin's Sparrow	72	74	48
Common Nighthawk	23	16	20
Mockingbird	23	22	27
Cliff Swallow	19	16	21
Lark Sparrow	18	11	6
Mourning Dove	15	11	31
Western Kingbird	13	13	20

Range conditions in 1970 were extremely dry in New Mexico which is dramatically evidenced by the sharp drop in Cassin's Sparrow numbers. While they could not tolerate the very short grass prairies, the Mountain Plovers evidently liked it as 11 were seen, including 1 half-grown young. For the 3rd year, Long-billed Curlew were found in the same field on the Channing count. While on the way up to New Mexico on 7/13 KS stopped briefly near the Boys' Ranch on the Canadian River. Upstream he found a singing male Indigo Bunting which had all the characteristics of the Indigo except that its belly and undertail coverts were solid white, as in the Lazuli Bunting. It is probable that the bird was a hybrid as this is the area in which the two ranges overlap. Also seen was a female Eastern Bluebird.

#### CALENDAR:

July 19 - Get together at the Roy Deupree home at Lake Tanglewood - 7:00 PM.

Sept. 21: Monthly society meeting.