

FALL FIELD TRIPS:

Two field trips have been scheduled for the TPAS by our Field Trip Chairman, Peggy Acord. On Saturday, October 24, at 9:00 a.m. we will meet at McBride Canyon in the Lake Meredith area, while on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 8:30 a. m. we will foregather at the first water crossing in the Palo Duro Canyon. Hopefully we will see alot of birds but if not, our group always succeeds in finding many other objects of interest that make such trips satisfying.

A PLACE TO LIVE:

A new study program in Urban Ecology for grades 4, 5 and 6 has been published by the National Audubon Society. A PLACE TO LIVE is a 64 page work-text which covers basic ecological concepts, as found in any urban environment.

"Over three-fourths of the nation's children live in cities. A PLACE TO LIVE is a study program which provides material in ecology, relevant to these city and inner-city children. As future voters on solutions to problems in conservation, pollution and the quality of the environment, it is essential that they understand the interrelationships between living things, themselves included, and the total environment. A PLACE TO LIVE stresses these interrelationships, as found in surroundings familiar and interesting to the city child.

"In addition, the National Audubon Society, with the cooperation of naturalists and other educators, has produced this book in the belief that each child has a birthright to feel "at home" with nature, to marvel at the continuity of life, to delight in living things, and that an obligation exists to enable every child to enjoy, and preserve, that birthright through pertinent and satisfying study."

A PLACE TO LIVE has woven into its text "Try This" activities which help to sustain the children's interest and to amplify the concepts introduced. The book also includes nine "Walks" related to the text (and not requiring transportation). Along with the work-text there is a TEACHERS MANUAL in which many ideas for supplementary experiences are given. The cost of A PLACE TO LIVE is 75¢ per copy while for the TEACHER'S MANUAL it is \$1.50 per copy, and may be purchased from the Southwest Regional Office, P. O. Box 9585, Austin, Texas 78757. Orders of 15 or more should be directed to the Educational Services Department, National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. 10028.

Our Chapter has been looking for a worthwhile and practical conservation project to promote. This may well be it. Think it over.

NEST RECORDS:

Cards for the North American Nest Record Card Program should be turned in to Kenneth Seyffert as soon as possible for transmittal to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. So far only 21 cards have been filled out covering the following species of birds: Rufous-crowned Sparrow (1); Mourning Dove (8); Ladder-backed Woodpecker (1); Swainson's Hawk (1); Common Crow (1); Barn Swallow (2);

Western Kingbird (2); Eastern Kingbird (2); Yellow-billed Duckoo (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1).

BIRD NOTES:

No unusual movements of hawks have been reported this Fall with the exception of the Mississippi Kite. During the noon hour on 9/14, while driving east on I-40, KS reported seeing 30 to 40 of the kites passing overhead between Georgia and Washington streets. Alerting Peggy Acord, she reported a continuing light movement during the rest of the afternoon as well as an additional 18 seen by her and Rena Ross on 9/16. Also on this date they reported a large group of Common Nighthawks moving through. During this period Rena had many Broad-tailed, Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds at her home.

The blustery cold front that moved through in the early morning hours of 9/22 brought exciting birding to those fortunate enough to be out. KS arrived at Buffalo Lake just as the sun was rising and he watched 13 White-fronted Geese as they flew from the lake heading south. Also at the lake were a Green Heron, a White Pelican, 7 Forster's Terns, a Barn Owl, a Black & White Warbler, a Cassin's Kingbird, a Sora, 2 Knots, 50+ Northern Phalaropes, a Willet, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, 2 Catbirds, plus the many different species of shorebirds and waterfowl that have been there for some time. Most exciting of all, however, was the second sighting in 2 years of a Parasitic Jaeger by KS. This time it was a bird in light phase and was watched closely through a scope set at 30x as it sat in the shallow water some 100 yards away, and through 6x binoculars as it flew before the observer some 50 yards out. This time the elongated and sharply pointed tail feathers were clearly seen. Unfortunately, no other observer was on hand to confirm the sighting. Peggy Acord and Rita Kenney arrived at the lake 2 hours or so later but the bird could not be found again and the personnel at the Refuge were also unsuccessful in finding it. We have word from Katherine Whipple in Denver that a Parasitic Jaeger was seen in that area at about the same time and THE SCISSORTAIL published by the Oklahoma Ornithological Society reports one seen at Lake Hefner at Oklahoma City on 9/9. The two ladybirders picked up many of the aforementioned birds also, plus a male Townsend's Warbler. Birding continued good at the lake for the next few days. Leo Galloway and KS added a Great-crested Flycatcher on 9/24 while on 9/23 KS saw two immature Cedar Waxwings. KS reported a weak movement of birds on 9/26 bringing in the Lincoln's Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Pine Siskin, while on 9/28 PA had a Townsend's Solitaire cross through her back yard pursued by a Nockingbird. On 9/30 she reported a good movement of birds through her back yard during the afternoon. Within a short period of time she observed the first White-crowned Sparrow arrive along with a Philadelphia and Solitary Vireo, 5 Scrub Jays, and many Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows. To round out this report, KS was fortunate in observing a female Scarlet Tanager on 10/4 as she fed greedily on wild grapes in a side canyon at Buffalo Lake.

"Environmental pollution...now affects the

industrial areas is hovering over the countryside and beginning to spread over the oceans ...cities will not benefit much longer from the cleansing effects of the winds for the simple reason that the wind itself is contaminated."

....Dr. Rone Dubos....

Editor, THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK:

I read with interest the note in your September issue announcing the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society's initial meeting of the 1970-71 season. As the specified date drew near, I found myself imagining the joyful gathering with its animated discussions of summer nesting and fall migration, field trips and Christmas counts, years' lists and life lists, screen tours and monthly programs, John James Audubon and Roger Tory Peterson.

But ever in the background there seemed to be a muffled sigh, a stifled sob, a hysterical giggle---the only audible expression, I learned long ago, of a group whom I have come to think of as the Birdwatchers' Spouses Association. Unincorporated, charterless, and, indeed, as nondescript as a group of fall warblers, the BWSA nevertheless inspires within its ranks the deep fraternal bond of sympathy.

Despite this closeness, however, their attitudes toward birding are as varied as those of their counterparts, the birders themselves. They range from longsuffering (Don Acord) to stoical (Grady Fox) to tolerant (George Ross) to solicitous (George Waddill) to philosophical (Ken Whipple) to jaundiced (Ruth Galloway).

Friends, well-meaning but obviously not married to birdwatchers, constantly advise these melancholy souls to develop their own hobbies and to quit brooding (the word always chosen, for some reason) about the eccentricities of their mates. They have, I assure you, attempted to do just that. Don, for instance, has sought surcease in fishing, but each time a bass approaches his hook, a "twoedling" emanating from his nearby birdwatching spouse sends it swimming. Dr. Waddill has undergone similar trauma; his attempts to photograph wildflowers are constantly frustrated by the presence of a familiar shadow of a searcher after birds.

For his part, Ken has found that the telescope purchased for stargazing is, during any given astrological phenomenon, in the car of Kathryn's latest birding companion. Ruth has the perfect escape in literature---except for the bird legends, bird symbolism, bird imagery, and bird fables which keep popping up. Grady and George? Well, suffice it to say that many strange glances have resulted from the sight of prosperous attorney and successful businessman, pastel nets raised high, pursuing lepidoptera.

Though the old gang has scattered somewhat, the bond of brotherhood remains. And when THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK features a story about the travels of the lady birders or the "little-botany-much-birding" adventures of plant man Leo Galloway, across the miles ---from one BWSA'er to another---flash the knowing smile, the lifted brow, the friendly shrug. They claim it helps to know that someone else understands.

....A faithful reader and (alas)
a birdwatcher's spouse....

The first of four Audubon Wildlife Films scheduled for the 1970/71 season will be shown at the Garden Center on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2:30 in the afternoon. It will be "Central California's Coastal Plain" presented by John E. Taft who is the Conservation Chairman of the Sierra Club in California. The focal point of this film is a minute, unspoiled section of the California coast in San Luis Obispo County, between San Simeon and Point Sal. An added attraction is the fabulous castle-like one time home of William Randolph Hearst and the 70,000 acres of the Hearst Ranch where still today several species of African game roam free.

CANADIAN FIRSTS:

The Canadians have put into effect a ban on the manufacture of laundry detergents that contain more than 20% phosphates. By doing this they hope to cut down on water pollution and have expressed the hope that this country will follow suit in order to alleviate critical problems in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

In the area of litter, too, the Canadian province of British Columbia has scored a first with a regulation now in effect making all beverage containers returnable. Under the law, merchants have to pay a 2¢ refund on any soda or beer bottle, plastic or metal container that is brought back to them.

....Audubon Leader....

"From the dawn of his existence man has been held up as a spectacle to himself. Indeed, for tens of centuries he has looked at nothing but himself. Yet he has only just begun to take a scientific view of his own significance in the physical world. There is no need to be surprised of this slow awakening. It often happens that what stares us in the face is the most difficult to perceive."

....Teilhard de Chardin....

Pollution is not just the dumping of chemical waste into streams or the poisoning of the atmosphere with exhaust fumes. In small but important ways, man is polluting the environment in ways he can't even imagine.

Texas Park & Wildlife Department biologist Dan Lay of Nacogdoches recently found an empty nest built by a crested flycatcher. The well-constructed nest was nestled in an old woodpecker hole.

On close inspection, Lay found the nest lined with several tufts of spun glass of the type used for house insulation. The nesting bird apparently had picked up the prickly material from a trash dump. Lay doubts that the delicate newborn birds could have survived the irritating presence of the glass. No one knows how many other incidents such as this have hindered reproduction of birds and other living creatures.

CALENDAR:

- Oct. 19: Monthly society meeting at the Garden Center - 7:30 p. m.
- Oct. 24: Field trip to McBride Canyon at 9:00 a. m.
- Oct. 25: Audubon Wildlife Film at the Garden Center -- 2:30 p. m.
- Nov. 8 : Field trip to the Palo Duro Canyon at 8:30 a. m.
- Nov. 16: Monthly society meeting.