

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY:

Our program for February will be presented by one of our members, Mr. B. W. Van Noy. A color-slide presentation, it will be on the flora and fauna of the Camp Don Harrington area. Mr. Van Noy has spent many years working there with the Boy Scouts and he is very familiar with this interesting and colorful locality.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following officers were elected for the coming year at our January meeting:

- President - Kenneth Seyffert
 Vice-Pres. - Esther Waddill
 Secretary - Rita Kenney
 Treasurer - Armon Mays
 Recorder - Peggy Acord
 Board of Directors - Lucille Fiedler, Vera Deason, B. W. Van Noy
 Board of Directors (not up for re-election)
 - Thelma Fox, Rona Ross, Jim Jokerst.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION:

Jan. 14, 1971

Dear Members of the Audubon Society,

In looking back over our Christmas Holidays, I happily recall your lovely Audubon Society wall tree, and how much it added to our pleasure. We were certainly fortunate to have been the "high bidder" for your entry and will thoroughly enjoy it in the years to come.

We hope 1971 brings the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society the very best in every endeavor.

Best regards,

Virginia Stuppe
 (Mrs. F. N.)

Thank you, Mrs. Stuppe!

BIRD COURSE AT AC:

Beginning Feb. 23, a course entitled "Ornithology: Beginning Bird Identification" will be offered at Amarillo College by Mrs. I. D. (Peggy) Acord. Classes will meet in the Engineering Building, Room #2, and will last from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Dates for the course are Feb. 23; March 2-9-23-30; April 6, and the cost for the six sessions is \$8.00. The courses will deal with the fundamentals of bird identification and will introduce the beginning birder to the basic field manuals, books, binoculars and other equipment available, as well as where to go to see the most birds. If you are a beginner and would like to know more about what you are up to, or if you have friends who have always wondered what birding was really all about, introduce yourself and them to the sport by attending these classes.

NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM:

Our nest-record cards for the current year, along with sets of instructions on their use, are on their way to us from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y. We urge all who can to participate in this program for the information each person compiles and sends in will contribute to the overall success of the endeavor. The first major analysis in North America based on nest-record cards submitted to date has been published in the Laboratory's The Living Bird under the title of "The Eastern Bluebird: Its Breeding

Season, Clutch Size, and Nesting Success". The article summarizes the future of the program in this way:

"The North American Nest-record Card Program serves as a center for the collection, analysis, and distribution of data on the breeding biology of birds. To accomplish its objective, the data must be available for research by others. The computerization of the program, now in progress, will increase the availability of data. Without a data-retrieval system, the only source of information is in the original cards. Understandably, we are reluctant, as are most programs, to lend these irreplaceable source documents.

"One of our major objectives is to use the North American Nest-record Card Program as an environmental monitor of the status of bird populations on the continent. A basic concept underlying this function holds that environmental pollution, especially by pesticides, reduces avian breeding success. Since the program will accumulate great numbers of cards for many species, the statistical significance of even small changes will show up. We can examine readily such problems as the effects of DDT spraying for Dutch-elm disease and treatment for gypsy-moth control. Besides providing a monitoring system for the effect of pesticides, the Nest-record Card Program will give us a basis for studying changes caused by drought, land-usage, and habitat deterioration."

SCHEDULE OF FIELD TRIPS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

- March 6 : Buffalo Lake - 9:00 a.m.
 March 28: Lake Meredith - 9:00 a.m. - meet at Sanford Recreation Area parking lot. (We may expand this meeting into a trip to the Alibates National Monument).
 April 17: Bird Walk - Memorial Park Cemetery - 8:30 a.m.
 April 25: Bird Walk - Llano Cemetery - 8:30 a.m.
 May 9 : Big Day Count (height of Spring migration).
 May 16 : Wild Flower Trip - 2:30 p.m. - location open.
 Sept. 4 : Bird Walk - Llano Cemetery - 8:30 a.m.
 Sept. 19: Buffalo Lake - 2:30 p.m. (shorebirds should be plentiful).
 Oct. 9 : Lake Meredith - 8:30 a.m.
 Nov. 7 : Palo Duro Canyon - 8:30 a.m.
 December: Christmas Count - date open.

LETTERS NEEDED FOR BIG BEND:

On Oct. 30 there was a meeting in Alpine. It was a meeting where "interested members of the public" were to be given the opportunity to offer suggestions on the Master Plan for Big Bend National Park. Of course, interested members of the public had to know about the meeting in the first place. Besides some people from the local area there were representatives of the Texas Tourist Development Agency, a State agency, the Big Bend National Park Development Committee, and National Park Concessions, Inc. We only found out about it when some of our group spent Thanksgiving in the Park. There are to be two more meetings, and we think that interested members of the public should let their interest be known now. Here are a few suggestions for letters: We

should like to know, in plenty of time, when and where the meetings are to be held. The Chisos Mountains high country is only 2 to 3% of the park area, but it should be left alone. There is no doubt that more public accommodations are badly needed, but they should not be in the Basin. Cattail Falls has a much reduced flow because of the increased demand for water by the present accommodations in the Basin, and it has been proposed several times that a greater part of these accommodations be removed because of the water shortage. If more accommodations are built in the Basin, Cattail Falls will dry up completely, and not only will a beautiful spot be lost, but a remarkable micro-biome also. Any new accommodations and facilities should be built outside the park. The present trails are being over used, and we would like to see more primitive trails. PLEASE WRITE NOW! However, do not mention your membership in an organization, as those that do will be counted together as only one voice.

Send letters to each of the following:

George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Frank Kowski
Southwest Regional Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 738 - Santa Fe., N. M. 87501

Luther T. Peterson, Supt.
Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

Common Bushtit (66); White-breasted Nuthatch (6); Red-breasted Nuthatch (10); Pygmy Nuthatch (9); Brown Creeper (2); Bewick's Wren (33); Long-billed Marsh Wren (1); Canon Wren (10); Rock Wren (3); Mockingbird (1); Curve-billed Thrasher (22); Robin (13); Hermit Thrush (1); Eastern Bluebird (2); Mountain Bluebird (14); Townsend's Solitaire (50); Cedar Waxwing (4); Loggerhead Shrike (10); Starling (63); House Sparrow (22); Western Meadowlark (40); Red-winged Blackbird (5); Brewer's Blackbird (1); Evening Grosbeak (16); Purple Finch (1); Cassin's Finch (93); House Finch (42); Pine Siskin (37); American Goldfinch (22); Rufous-sided Towhee (31); Brown Towhee (258); Rufous-crowned Sparrow (8); White-winged Junco (1); Slate-colored Junco (104); Oregon Junco (819); Tree Sparrow (101); White-crowned Sparrow (27); White-throated Sparrow (1); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Song Sparrow (80).

TOTAL: 92 species, about 6,905 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on the count day: Ferruginous Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Western Bluebird.)

Participants: Mrs. I. D. Acord, James Carrol, William A. Carter, Jon Cecil, W. Marvin Davis, (compiler), David Dillon, Leo Galloway, David Jones, Barbara Lund, Larry Mays, Dennis Mullins, Dale Myers, Kenneth Seyffert, George H. Sutton.

Dr. Davis writes: "On the 30th Bill Carter and 5 of his students found 10 W. Bluebirds in a flock near Spring Canyon on the Regnier Ranch; 2 males and 1 female collected. This was first reported sighting for Oklahoma, to my knowledge. He or Dr. Sutton, et.al., were responsible for others 'in the period'."

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - KENTON (BLACK MESA) OKLA. THERE IS ANOTHER VIEWPOINT, MR. CHAIRMAN:

36° 54' N, 102° 54' W (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center about 4 miles east of Kenton as previous years; creeks and river bottoms with cottonwoods 44%, pinyon-oak-juniper woodland 22%, lake and cattail marsh 11%, rocky mesa slopes 10%, yucca-cactus grasslands 9%, cultivated fields 2%, town and ranchyards 2%). December 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 18° to 58° F; wind mostly calm until 2:00 p.m., then 10-20 m.p.h. SW; lake 60% frozen, rivers and creeks mostly open; no snow, ground dusty dry. 14 observers in 5-8 parties. Total party-hours, 57 (53 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 115 (44 on foot, 71 by car).

Great Blue Heron (3); Whistling Swan (1); Canada Goose (1800); Snow Goose (1); Mallard (2200); Gadwall (30); Pintail (4); Green-winged Teal (4); American Widgeon (45); Ring-necked Duck (1); Common Goldeneye (5); Bufflehead (3); Hooded Merganser (3); Common Merganser (12); Goshawk (1); Sharp-shinned Hawk (2); Cooper's Hawk (4); Red-tailed Hawk (3); Rough-legged Hawk (2); Golden Eagle (8); Bald Eagle (1a); Marsh Hawk (1); Prairie Falcon (3); Sparrow Hawk (5); Scaled Quail (157); Ring-necked Pheasant (1); Turkey (37); American Coot (85); Killdeer (5); Common Snipe (1); Herring Gull (1); Ring-billed Gull (2); Mourning Dove (15); Roadrunner (1); Great Horned Owl (7); Belted Kingfisher (3); Yellow-shafted Flicker (6); Red-shafted Flicker (124); Hairy Woodpecker (12); Downy Woodpecker (4); Ladder-backed Woodpecker (10); Horned Lark (8); Blue Jay (9); Steller's Jay (3); Scrub Jay (26); Black-billed Magpie (93); Common Raven (27); White-necked Raven (8); Common Crow (17); Pinon Jay (50); Mountain Chickadee (5); Plain Titmouse (16);

Amarillo, Texas
January 26, 1971

Repr. W. S. Heatley, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Austin, Texas 78700

Dear Mr. Heatley:

Recent news releases in the Amarillo GLOBE/TIMES leads one to believe that community leaders in West Texas, and particularly in the Panhandle area, are engaged in a conspiracy to denigrate the work of the Texas Air Control Board. It is our understanding that two of the Amarillo City Commissioners have been invited to appear before your Committee concerning the budget of the Texas Air Control Board, the implication being that since the Board has acted on the mandate given to it by the people when it was created by them it must, therefore, suffer the consequences of a job well done by having a sizable amount of its operating money taken away from it. Since this is the year of the tight budgets it brings with it the opportunity to clamp down on the operations of the Board. This is "dirty pool", to say the least. Apparently it is a desirable goal to control air pollution but not if it is going to cost something.

We of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society wish to correct that public image created by some of our leaders, and go on record in support of the work done by the Texas Air Control Board. The Board is engaged in an extremely difficult task and it deserves all of our support and encouragement in the days ahead; particularly it has earned an operating budget that will enable it to work even

more effectively toward controlling air pollution; let the chips fall where they may.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Seyffert, Pres.
Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

A copy of the above letter was sent to John L. Spinks, Jr., Southwest Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society in Austin who replied, in part: "Thank you for sending me a copy of your excellent letter to Representative Heatley relative to future appropriations for the Texas Air Control Board. I hope other Audubon leaders will follow your example by expressing themselves on issues so vital to environmental quality in our state"....

GUEST EDITORIAL: WHAT CAN ONE MAN DO?

"What can one man do, my friend? asks the TV commercial. Then it provides a neat answer with a sales pitch for a 'new' fuel for automobiles, implying that any public-spirited citizen who is interested in cleaner air and a healthier environment will rush right down to that company's nearest service station and fill up his tank with New No-Lead, New Clear, New Pristine, New Simon-Pure or New what-have-you.

"All this drumbeating for nonleaded gasolines WHO DID IT? had almost convinced me that I was wrong, but I could have sworn they were selling non-leaded gasoline in Florida and Georgia when I was just a tad, and I was pretty sure my scientific-minded nephew was using the unleaded variety in the 50's. So I called one of the petroleum purveyors' public relations office and asked, Sure enough, that company has been selling unleaded gasoline to the public since 1915.

"So what's new?

"I don't mean to fault the major oil companies for doing anything they can to minimize air pollution and to alert the public to the fact that a nonleaded fuel is available which will propel most cars efficiently and cut down on emission of particulates from exhausts. But it does seem a bit too much to ask us to pat them on the back or give them a medal for something they should have done long ago - especially since they are charging more for the nonleaded than for "regular" gas.

"There's another angle to this (without bringing in the auto designers and manufacturers, which is another subject entirely). Whether you use regular, premium or nonleaded gasoline, your car's exhaust still emits carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons - and that's pollution, brother. Of the more than 70 million tons of carbon monoxide discharged into our atmosphere in the U.S. each year, about 90 percent comes from automobiles. Two-thirds of the hydrocarbons in the air comes from transportation, mostly autos.

"So, whereas it might be a good idea for you to use nonleaded gas in your car all the time if you don't need a high octane grade - and to try a tankful even if you've been using premium, because it may not make your engine knock after all, and it won't hurt it even if it does - if you really want to know what one man can do to fight pollution in the air, that's closing in from everywhere, sit down and figure out how you can get by with driving less.

"If you have two cars, is the second one a necessity or a convenience? Do you drive to work every day when you could be part of a car pool or could take public transportation? Do you drive places where you could walk without difficulty? (I didn't say without inconvenience.) Are you driving a big car when a little one would do just as well?

"Of course, autos are not the only cause of air pollution. If you burn your leaves in the fall, you might consider burning less and putting more of them back in the soil. And maybe you should try to cut down on the volume of trash you deposit for incineration.

"As a citizen, you have the right and the duty to let your government know you're concerned about air pollution, nationally and locally, and if you make enough fuss, something will happen. Michigan has a new law making it possible for an individual to sue public or private polluters; Illinois included in its new constitution the right to a healthy environment; other states are working on similar legislation. This trend came about through people-pressure, so keep the pressure on.

"Oh, yes, there's another tinky one one man can do to stop pollution in the air. You can stop smoking."

....The War Cry....

WHO DID IT?

Two fish kills in Texas waters during 1969 have been listed by the Federal Water Quality Administration as being among the 12 worst in the nation that year. In a publication reviewing national fish kill statistics, the agency listed the Arroyo Colorado kill near Brownsville and the San Antonio River kill in the top 12.

The booklet said poisons were blamed for the Arroyo Colorado incident which killed 5,000,000 fish, and chemicals were responsible for the kill in San Antonio in which an estimated 100,00 fish died. The largest kill of the year occurred at Lake Thonotosassa in Florida, where food products dumped into the water killed 26,526,690 fish.

....Texas Parks & Wildlife

CALENDAR:

- Feb. 15 : Monthly Society meeting - 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center. Speaker: Mr. B. W. Van Noy Topic: "The Flora and Fauna of Camp Don Harrington".
- Feb. 28 : Audubon Wildlife Film - 2:30 p.m. at the Garden Center. Speaker: John D. Bulger Topic: "Scandinavian Saga".
- March 6 : Field trip to the Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge - 9:00 a.m. - meet at Refuge gate.
- March 15 : Monthly Society meeting.

"Up to the present, mankind may have profited more than it has suffered from the various powers it has been able to exercise. Let us assume that it has. But that is, at best, no more than good luck. At no moment has it ever known or, indeed, seriously considered what the consequences were likely to be. What actually happens when the steam engine or the dynamo or, for that matter, the automobile, the airplane, and the radio, is invented is simply this: Our hearts lift up and we let out a glad cry, "Hold on to your hats boys, here we go again."....Joseph Wood Krutch....