

MARCH PROGRAM:

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Amarillo Garden Center on March 21 at 7:30 in the evening. Besides the reporting of some of the new committees, the program will be presented by the newly formed Alaska Wilderness Campaign Committee with Mr. Orwin Rush as Chairman.

It will consist of a newly prepared slide presentation by the National Audubon Society to help bring the membership up to date on the Alaskan situation. There will be opportunity for discussion after the presentation.

Mrs. Edward Elliott, President, will preside at the business session and Mrs. Rosemary Scott will be the hostess for the social hour.

INFO NEEDED ON FISH-EATING BIRD HERONRIES:

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has initiated a Texas Fish-Eating Bird Survey. They are attempting to locate all colonial nesting fish-eating bird heronries in Texas, and monitor the number of individuals at these heronries.

The state is divided into 5 regions. One region is the West Inland region and it is divided into 5 subregions, of which the Panhandle is one.

Terry Maxwell and Dan McClung of Angelo State University in San Angelo are in the second year of a study of the reproductive success of the Great Blue Heron in West-Central Texas. Due to their work, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has asked them to coordinate the fish-eating bird survey for the West Inland Region. It is, of course, impossible for them to physically search this immense area for heronries. They are asking birders in the subregions, therefore, to assist them in locating these heronries.

Would you be willing to send in information on heronries seen by you or known by you? If so, send the information to Kenneth Seyffert, 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo 79109. Probably the only species involved in the Panhandle are the Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron. If you make any sightings of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and the Green Heron, send in that information also.

The following information is needed on each heronry: species, number of adults or active nests for each species, exact location of heronry (plotted on state county maps would be ideal) and if observed toward end of reproductive season, the number of young fledged. Also of value would be details on the ecology of the site (species of trees with nests, proximity to water, etc.). These heronries can be found in our part of the region through early July.

Your help in finding and reporting as many of these heronries as possible will be very much appreciated.

REPORT FROM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

All members and visitors are welcome to the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society meetings. We hope you will find our meetings, field trips, and other activities of interest and that you will be able to take part in them on a regular basis. We need to have an active and involved membership. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or my Committee for any information:

Rena Ross (Chairman) - 373-1450
Thelma Fox - 373-1276.

T. O. S. CONVENTION: APRIL 21, 22, & 23

The spring convention and annual meeting of The Texas Ornithological Society will be held at the Hilton Inn, 2721 South Tenth St., McAllen, Texas 78501. At the meeting Dr. Roger Tory Peterson will be in attendance to be enrolled as an honorary member of the TOS. This promises to be an historic meeting for the society.

Roger Tory Peterson has done more for birding than any other person. His field guides have sold millions of copies. Most birders have learned their birds using a Peterson field guide. Texans are especially indebted to Dr. Peterson for his Field Guide to the Birds of Texas and his Field Guide to Mexican Birds. He is the world's most honored artist/naturalist. He has received seven Honorary Doctorates; six in Science and one in Humanities. Numerous awards have been conferred upon Dr. Peterson in recognition of his contributions to science, education, and conservation.

Phylis Yochem, Regional Director for TOS Region VII, will head up the arrangements committee. South Texas is always great for birds. The combination of South Texas and Roger Tory Peterson is unbeatable. It should be a most memorable meeting.

HEADQUARTERS: Hilton Inn - \$21.00 (single)
\$28.00 (double)

REGISTRATION: Students \$2.00
Regular Member \$4.00.
Pre-registration checks should be made out to Hilton Inn, McAllen, and marked TOS Convention. Address envelopes to Hilton Inn, 2721 South Tenth Street, McAllen, Texas 78501, ATT: Sally Derr.

OTHER MOTELS IN THE AREA:

Holiday Inn \$19.00 (single)
2721 S. 10th \$25.00 (double)
Ramada Inn \$20.00 (single)
1921 S. 10th \$27.00 (double)
Rodeway Inn \$11.00 (single)
1421 S. 10th \$16.00 (double)

All rates quoted could change by April. You may want to check them yourself.

CAMPING: Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park, Mission, Texas.

FROM OUR SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE - DEDE ARMENTROUT.

RE: Audubon Sanctuaries in Texas - Ad Valorem Tax Exemption:

State Senator Ogg has introduced a bill in the Senate which, if passed, will grant ad valorem tax exemption to sanctuaries of the National Audubon Society and its chapters in Texas.

Hearings for the bill will be scheduled soon (probably in about two weeks).

We urgently need lots of letters encouraging your local legislators to support this bill and its counterpart in the House (not yet introduced).

What we are asking for is not extraordinary. Properties owned by churches, libraries, zoos, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Texas Nature Conservancy, the Little League, historic houses, structures and landmarks, symphonies, orches-

... of will re-
... .. tax exemption in the state of
Texas

The preservation of wildlife habitat becomes increasingly essential as more land is altered from its natural condition for agriculture, industry or human habitation. Yet, the cost of wildlife conservation becomes prohibitive, especially near cities, where tax rates are especially high. Without adequate tax relief, institutions could afford to acquire and maintain wildlife sanctuaries. Unfortunately, the concerns most able to bear high ad valorem tax burdens are often the most destructive to wildlife habitat (real estate development and industry).

Sanctuaries are, in themselves, valuable resources of education and aesthetics to a community. Please respond quickly to this appeal. Write your state legislators soon, since hearings will be held in about two weeks. Message of SB-626.

BIRDS HAVE THEIR PARADE:

The Peregrine Program at Cornell continues to excite the imagination of those who wish to see the falcon fly again around pyries in eastern North America. Last year 12 of 16 young pelicans successfully fledged. Five of these returned this summer to their release sites or to nearby locales.

Twenty-five females in the three facilities at Cornell, Fort Collins, Colorado and Chester Springs, Pennsylvania laid 112 fertile eggs this past summer. From them 69 young were raised, 27 from eggs that had been artificially inseminated.

Forty-two young Peregrines were returned to the wild, five in Colorado and 37 in eastern and midwestern states. All but six of the eastern releases are known to have flown successfully from their adopted nests at eight different sites in Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.

The plight of the Osprey in eastern North America is well known. The use of DDT caused a decimation of this hydrocarbon in the tissues of the ospreys and detrimentally affected their breeding success. The bird was nearly exterminated on Long Island Sound and surrounding areas. As a result of the ban on DDT in 1955 in this area, a chemically cleaner environment is allowing the osprey to make a comeback. This summer, Paul Spitzer and his field assistants found 105 active nests along the coast between New York and Boston. These nests produced more than 130 young, the highest number of young fledged since 1940's.

FIELD CHECKED WABLER BOOK:

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has published the results of Warren Pulich's 15 year research on the Golden-cheeked Warbler. The 170-page book is only 50 cents and you can get it by writing the Texas Parks & Wildlife, 2200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Ask for Bulletin #52.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE BROWN PELICAN IN TEXAS:

Through the Houston Audubon Society's initiative, coordinating efforts by government, industry and conservationists, a program to re-establish the endangered Brown

Pelican to its former habitat along the Texas Gulf coast has begun near Galveston. Twenty-four pelicans have been brought, in a plane lent by the Shell Oil Company, from the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, in Florida, to the Sea-Arama Marine World in Galveston. There a breeding project will be undertaken. No healthy wild pelicans are being used. The Suncoast Sanctuary has supplied crippled birds, pelicans found injured which veterinarians have been able to save, but not to restore completely enough to return them to the wild. Suncoast has shown that such birds can brood healthy young.

A major factor in the decline of the Brown Pelican has been DDT, and now that this pesticide has been banned and is gradually working out of the environment, wildlife authorities say contamination along the Gulf Coast has dropped to a tolerable level. The plan and hope -- is that healthy young pelicans fledged in the Sea-Arama project will, as their numbers grow start moving along the coast in search of new nesting areas and form new colonies.

BIRD NOTES:

Sandhill Cranes - the first cranes on the move north were reported on the week-end of Feb. 19/20. Dr. Frank Duncan observed a large group flying high east of Pampa, and Fern Cain saw them over the Lake Meredith area.

Pyrhuloxia - a male continues to frequent the backyard feeder at the Ross' residence as reported by Rena on March 5.

Curve-billed Thrasher - one has been frequenting the yard of the Armon Mays at 2036 S. Travis as reported by Armon on March 6.

Long-eared Owl - one was flushed from a salt-cedar grove at Buffalo Lake NWR by Kenneth Seyffert on March 6. His experience has shown that it is in such growths that this owl can most frequently be found.

Tree Swallow - first reported swallow of the year - 3 at Buffalo Lake NWR March 13 by Ken Seyffert.

Snow Goode - 310 at Buffalo Lake NWR by Ken Seyffert on March 13.

Long-billed Dowitcher - the first shorebirds on the season reported by Peggy Accord on a playa near Lake Tanglewood on March 13.

Great-tailed Grackle - a flock of 80 or so can be seen each morning at about 7 o'clock as they gather in a large cedar on the west side of Washington Street just north of Brown's House of Books prior to their daily flight to the stockyards. These have been in the area all winter, as reported by Ken Seyffert.

CALENDAR:

March 20: Field trip up South Brushy Draw in the Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Meet at the Goodnight Trading Post at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water, binocular and/or camera, and wear boots or hiking shoes. Group leader - Bill Holliday. Phone 355-4382 for details.

10 YEARS OF WINTER CENSUSING (Dec. 1 thru Feb. 28) IN THE PALO DURO CANYON STATE
 AREA (1967-68 thru 1976-77) COMPRISING 106 TRIPS - Kenneth Seyffert

SPECIES	I	II	SPECIESY	I	II
1. Great Blue Heron	1	+	44. American Robin	93	102
2. Mallard	9	+	45. Hermit Thrush	8	+
3. Gadwall	2	+	46. Eastern Bluebird	2	+
4. Pintail	1	+	47. Western Bluebird	6	1
5. Green-winged Teal	15	1	48. Mountain Bluebird	34	24
6. American Wigeon	4	+	49. Townsend's Solitaire	61	3
7. Wood Duck	1	+	50. Golden-crowned Kinglet	32	2
8. Common Goldeneye	1	+	51. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	62	4
9. Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	+	52. Bohemian Waxwing	1	2
10. Red-tailed Hawk	3	+	53. Cedar Waxwing	30	23
11. Golden Eagle	6	+	54. Northern Shrike	1	+
12. Bald Eagle	2	+	55. Loggerhead Shrike	3	+
13. Marsh Hawk	23	+	56. Starling	46	9
14. American Kestrel	52	2	57. Yellow-rumped Warbler	10	+
15. Bobwhite	15	5	58. House Sparrow	65	6
16. Scaled Quail	19	8	59. Western Meadowlark	7	+
17. Killdeer	18	1	60. Red-winged Blackbird	2	+
18. Mourning Dove	15	1	61. Brown-headed Cowbird	2	+
19. Roadrunner	9	+	62. Cardinal	105	15
20. Screech Owl	2	+	63. Evening Grosbeak	4	1
21. Great Horned Owl	1	+	64. House Finch	45	5
22. Belted Kingfisher	49	2	65. Pine Grosbeak	1	+
23. Common Flicker	99	8	66. Pine Siskin	66	12
24. Golden-fronted Woodpkr	106	13	67. American Goldfinch	88	23
25. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	13	+	68. Lesser Goldfinch	1	+
26. Downy Woodpecker	8	+	69. Rufous-sided Towhee	102	12
27. Ladder-backed Wdpckr	79	4	70. Brown Towhee	9	+
28. Say's Phoebe	1	+	71. Savannah Sparrow	2	+
29. Scrub Jay	2	+	72. Baird's Sparrow	2	+
30. Common Crow	10	+	73. Rufous-crowned Sparrow	69	5
31. Black-crstd Titmouse	83	6	74. Black-throated Sparrow	1	+
32. Verdin	12	+	75. Dark-eyed Junco	103	118
33. Bushtit	26	10	76. Gray-headed Junco	6	+
34. Brown Creeper	19	+	77. Tree Sparrow	50	14
35. Winter Wren	8	+	78. Chipping Sparrow	2	+
36. Bewick's Wren	102	12	79. Field Sparrow	13	1
37. Long-billed Marsh Wren	20	1	80. Harris' Sparrow	9	+
38. Canyon Wren	28	1	81. White-crowned Sparrow	95	30
39. Rock Wren	22	1	82. White-throated Sparrow	37	3
40. Mockingbird	84	6	83. Fox Sparrow	5	+
41. Brown Thrasher	23	1	84. Lincoln's Sparrow	28	2
42. Curve-billed Thrasher	11	+	85. Song Sparrow	106	33
43. Sage Thrasher	2	+			

I - represents number of trips on which recorded.

II - represents average density per 100 acres.