

## PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY:

The February 19th meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the Biology Building at Amarillo College. Our "5-minute Bird Talk" will be given by Kenneth Seyffert who will report on our Chapter's participation in an eagle survey. Richard Howard will bring us a program on "Birds of Prey" and will show us the mounted specimens acquired by Amarillo College under its recently granted permit.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

The January Annual Meeting started off the new year with a report from the Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society, Dr. Dede Armentrout, and with the election of a new slate of officers who are all hard at work getting the activities of the coming year organized.

The new Board of Directors and Officers are: Mrs. L. E. (Mary) Moyer, President; Mr. E. L. (Mary) Donelson, Vice-President and Program Chairman; Mrs. Grady (Thelma) Fox, Secretary; Mr. Armon Mays, Treasurer; Mrs. I. D. (Peggy) Acord, Recorder; Mrs. Wm. (Rosemary) Scott, Representative to the Garden Center; Mrs. Winnie Wester, Nominating Committee Chairman; Mrs. George (Rona) Ross, Membership Chairman; Mr. Max Trawoek, Conservation Chairman; Mrs. Ed (Nancy) Elliott, Education Chairman; Mrs. Frank (Blanche) Pollock, Social Chairman and Auditor; Mr. Bill Holliday; Mr. Kenneth Seyffert, Field Trip Chairman and newsletter Editor.

You will notice we do not have a Public Relations Chairman, and we need one very badly if our goals are to be met this year. If you have not indicated which committee you would like to serve on, please contact either a committee chairman or the President. We want every one to be a participating member this year.

At our first board of directors meeting on January 23, we adopted some goals for the coming year:

1. In cooperation with the National Society, to have a membership campaign to increase the ACTIVE members in our chapter. We have plenty of National members but we need dedicated and committed conservationists who will put their shoulders to the LOCAL wheel and help us make the Audubon Society a viable voice in our community. It needs it. Every member is a member of this committee.
2. Develop a Camp Scholarship program.
3. Assist the Education Committee with program aids for their work.
4. Membership participation in letter writing campaigns when needed on important issues.
5. Participation in local conservation programs - at present an aluminum drive.
6. An enlarged Publicity or Public Relations Committee to -
  - improve our image.
  - make the membership more knowledgeable.
  - give conservation information at meetings - to know facts.
  - a speakers bureau to appear at clubs when invited.
  - use Audubon slogan - "Americans Committed to Conservation".
  - increase the staff for the newsletter.
  - perhaps bring a notebook to meetings to write correct information.

If you have a good program idea for our meetings, contact the Program Committee Chairman, Mary Donelson, phone 372-8934 - now. She is fast getting the assignments made for the year. The same for field trips - phone Kenneth Seyffert at 373-9580.

Your know this is a Membership Society and the organization is just as good as the MEMBERSHIP, and not just the Officers. This is YOUR year to SHINE. Blessings on you.

....Mary Moyer....

## THE BIRD LADY OF MIAMI:

A delightful two hours were spent by Kenneth Seyffert and Barry Zimmer at the home of Mrs. Orilla Bryant in Miami on the afternoon of January 28. Mrs. Bryant is a charming lady who is a true lover of birds. The birds of the Miami area know this and must realize that they have never had it so good for several feeders and a bird bath in the backyard of the home provide for all their needs.

Displayed around the walls of the home are pictures of the many species of birds that have visited the yard during the last few years. Many of these pictures were taken by members of the family. While we were there we saw the following species fly in:

Common Flicker	Starling
Red-bellied Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	House Finch
Downy Woodpecker	Pine Siskin
Blue Jay	Dark-eyed Junco
Carolina Chickadee	Tree Sparrow
Curve-billed Thrasher	Harris' Sparrow

The Starling is usually a very bold and aggressive bird --- but not around Mrs. Bryant's house! The two we saw approached very warily, eased the joint in great apprehension before venturing to make their move, and before they could land on a feeder were sent scattering by a quick flick of a window curtain by the lady of the house who had been eyeing them all the while.

Mrs. Bryant has a sound reflector hung on her patio that is hooked up to a tape recorder inside the house. She has recorded many of the songs of the birds in her yard in this manner. She tested the skills of the two visiting birders by playing several of the tapes and asking them to identify the songs. They were doing pretty well, getting correct about one out of every six songs played, when they suddenly heard something very, very strange. It took them awhile to discover that what they were hearing was not a recording but a live Zebra Finch calling from its cage in the next room. They still are not totally convinced that the whole thing wasn't a set up!

Mrs. Bryant keeps a daily record of every species that she sees. This is an excellent habit that all birders should practice.

#### BIRD NOTES:

- Jan. 6 - a female Purple Finch was observed in the backyard of his home by Kevin Zimmer. The bird returned in early February and was seen by Barry.
- Jan. 7 - Barry and Kevin Zimmer, and Kenneth Seyffert spent a cold morning at Buffalo Lake NWR. Twenty-eight Bald Eagles were still at the lake plus a female Hooded Merganser on the stream below the dam. On the way back to town, large flocks of McCown's and Lapland Longspurs were seen. Many were feeding alongside the road and provided an excellent opportunity to view them closely and at length.
- Jan. 11- the best bird of the season, so far, was seen at Memorial Park Cemetery by Barry Zimmer, a Mountain Chickadee. This was the first one seen in our area since November of 1966. The bird was later observed by Kenneth Seyffert and Barry on Jan. 15 and by Peggy Acord on Jan. 17. On the 11th, Barry also saw 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches and a Hairy Woodpecker in the cemetery.
- Jan. 13- a Grey-headed Junco in the Palo Duro Canyon SP by Barry Zimmer and Ken Seyffert. On the way to the Park, longspur flocks estimated at 10-20,000 birds were seen. The big majority appeared to be Lapland.
- Jan. 17 -A Prairie Falcon near town by Peggy Acord.
- Jan. 19 - near his home in west Amarillo, Barry Zimmer turned in another excellent find - a Clark's Nutcracker. The bird has not been seen again.
- Jan. 20- on a Bald Eagle survey of the Lake Meredith Recreation Area, Max Trawoock, Barry Zimmer and Ken Seyffert found 34 of the big birds on the south side and Fern Cain and her party saw 20 on the north side. At Buffalo Lake NWR Larry Wynn tallied 12, and one was seen at Lake Tanglewood by Peggy Acord. Other good birds seen by the Trawoock/Zimmer/Seyffert party were a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Winter Wren.
- Jan. 25- two Hooded Morgansers were seen at Lake Tanglewood by Peggy Acord.
- Jan. 28- a trip to Lake Marvin in Hemphill County proved profitable to Barry Zimmer and Ken Seyffert when they came upon a Barred Owl. After being flushed, the owl was immediately pounced upon by a flock of crows that harassed it unmercifully for ten or fifteen minutes. Another good bird of the day was a Yellow-rumped Warbler.
- Feb. 4 - a loud clapping of hands by Barry Zimmer and Ken Seyffert in the cattail marsh below the dam at Lake Meredith produced a quick response from 4 Virginia Rails and a Sora. Though not seen, the birds were clearly heard. The 3 early Cinnamon Teals were welcomed reminders of an approaching Spring.