

MAY MEETING:

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will have a "catch-up" meeting when they meet Monday night, May 21, at the Amarillo Garden Center at 7:30 p.m. Program Chairman Mary Donelson says we are having an expanded report from the Education Committee of Nancy Elliott, Big Day Count Report from Field Trip Committee of Kenneth Seyffert, results of the Alaska Bill and related subjects from our Conservation Chairman Max Traweek, and perhaps a new conservation challenge to take on. There are several decisions to be made, so come on out.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Board of Directors please note -- a meeting at 7:00 in the Library before the regular meeting on May 21.

By the time you got this, we will know the outcome of the Alaska Bill and we want to thank each of you who supported the Alaska Coalition Bill of Udall/Anderson. Many sent telegrams and made phone calls to the local office of John Hightower. The Alaska Coalition appreciated the effort we made to educate our Representative. Hopefully, we will get him to listening to the stands of the National Audubon Society in the future.

Be on the lookout for any news about the Dickey-Lincoln Dam in Maine.

The Nuclear Awareness Committee would like some additional representatives from the Audubon Society. Mrs. Estelle Duncan is one from Audubon. If you are interested in this, do call the President of the TPAS.

Aluminum - We sold 31 lbs, and now have \$6.20 in our Scholarship Fund. So keep that aluminum coming in, and got your neighbors to help. The summer should be a good time to collect. The price has gone up 2¢ a pound! Also, remember we can accept memorial gifts and any kind of contribution to this fund. We should have a "scholar" by next summer.

....Mary Moyer....

CONVENTION 79:

The National Audubon Society's 1979 Biennial Convention will be held June 29 - July 1 at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, Colorado. National Audubon Society President Russell W. Peterson will be the keynote speaker at the convening session of Friday evening. The address of welcome will be given by Governor Richard Lamm of Colorado. Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus will deliver a major address on Saturday evening, June 30 - "Preparing for the 80's."

There will be meetings for Chapter delegates, general sessions on Alaska, endangered species, Technical sessions will also be conducted on the Whooping Crane, Chilkat Bald Eagle, California Condor, energy, and land ethics.

Appearing at the General Sessions will be Assistance Secretary of the Interior, Robert Herbst; National Park Service Director William Whalen; Jerry McAfee, Chairman of the Board of Gulf Oil, and many of the National Audubon Society's top staff.

In addition to pre-convention and post-convention field trips, there will be art displays, agency exhibits, and the Book Nest where all sorts of interesting items may be purchased.

For further information and registration forms, call the NAS Representative for your region or write to CONVENTION 79, Box 3557, Boulder, Colorado 80307.

BIRD NOTES:

- April 7 - an Oldsquaw seen by Larry Wynn downstream from the dam at Buffalo Lake NWR. This is a species rarely seen in the Panhandle, the last reported sighting being on 3/24/71.
- April 8 - a male Wood Duck on the stream below the dam at Buffalo Lake NWR by Ken Seyffert.
- April 15 - Peggy Acord reported an Osprey at Lake Tanglewood as well as a Pinyon Jay (late date) and a Male Black-chinned Hummingbird (an early date). At Buffalo Lake NWR Ken Seyffert observed 15 Double-crested Cormorants (a high number), 41 Black-Crowned Night Herons, and 4 Black-necked Stilts.
- April 19 - the first Chimney Swifts were reported over town by Ken Seyffert.
- April 21 - Esther Waddill had a Western Tanager in Amarillo (an early date).
- April 22 - Sixty-four species of birds were seen by our field trip party on the Frank Duncan Ranch in southeastern Hutchinson County. It was an ideally perfect day for birding and one of those outings that will always be remembered. We all thank Dr. Frank and Estelle Duncan for their gracious and warm hospitality. Highlights of the day were the pair of Wood Ducks flying down White Deer Creek, and a Prairie Falcon.

- April 28 - a Townsend's Warbler was seen in her yard in Amarillo by Roberta Currie (an early date). Rena and George Ross reported 6 Cattle Egrets in Randall County as well as a flock of 50-75 Lark Sparrows. Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds were in their yard in town. In McBride Canyon, Kevin and Barry Zimmer saw a Parula Warbler.
- April 29 - in Llano Cemetery Peggy Acord and Rena Ross observed a Tennessee Warbler, a Parula Warbler, a Black & White Warbler, 3 Purple Martins, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Green-tailed Towhee. At Lake Tanglewood, Peggy had a Catbird. Off Alibates at Lake Meredith, Kevin and Barry Zimmer found 3 Dunlins. Ken Seyffert and Barry Zimmer and Mark Hankins spent the morning at Buffalo Lake NWR and saw a Common Loon, 75 Eared Grebes gathered in two compact groups, 2 Solitary Sandpipers, 4 Willetts, 2000+ Wilson's Phalaropes, and several singing Grasshopper Sparrows. Ken Seyffert was startled that evening around 9 o'clock by a Poor-will singing in the alley in back of his house in town.
- April 30 - Larry Wynn first observed 37 White Pelicans and an Osprey at Buffalo Lake NWR. Both species remained there all week.
- May 1 - Esther Waddill found a Blackpoll Warbler in Memorial Park Cemetery. At the Palo Duro Club, she observed a Grey-cheeked Thrush (an early date), and a Purple Finch.
- May 5 - at the Palo Duro Club, Peggy Acord, Rena Ross and Esther Waddill saw the first Mississippi Kite of the year, a female Summer Tanager, 2 Indigo Buntings, and a Broad-winged Hawk.
- May 6 - it was an excellent birding day for Peggy Acord, Rena Ross, Ken Seyffert and Esther Waddill at Buffalo Lake NWR. Nothing rare or unexpected was seen, but 92 species were recorded within the refuge boundaries. The 37 White Pelicans were still there as well as 57 Black-crowned Night Herons, a Broad-winged Hawk, and a late Ferruginous Hawk - this one bears watching closely for a possibility of its nesting in the area).
- May 10 - two Ospreys on the Currie Ranch as reported by Hugh and Roberta Currie.
- May 11 - a White-winged Dove was heard and then seen by Peggy Acord at 1911 Cherry.
- May 13 - as this goes to press, the final results of our Big Day Count is not known: the count figures to be a low one as the variety of shorebirds was quite low and the warbler/vireos were quite scarce. Some good birds were the 2 Ospreys reported by Roberta Currie, Peggy Acord and Rita Kinney on the Currie Ranch, and another seen by Ken Seyffert at Buffalo Lake NWR; KS also had a female Scarlet Tanager and a late Swamp Sparrow plus a singing Northern Waterthrush. Nancy and Ed Elliott had a Chestnut-sided Warbler on the creek below their home near Canyon. The warbler was also seen on 5/7 & 8. They also reported a Yellow-breasted Chat there on 4/24 and on 5/8 thru 5/13. On 5/12, Nancy and Rosemary Scott saw a Northern Waterthrush along the creek.