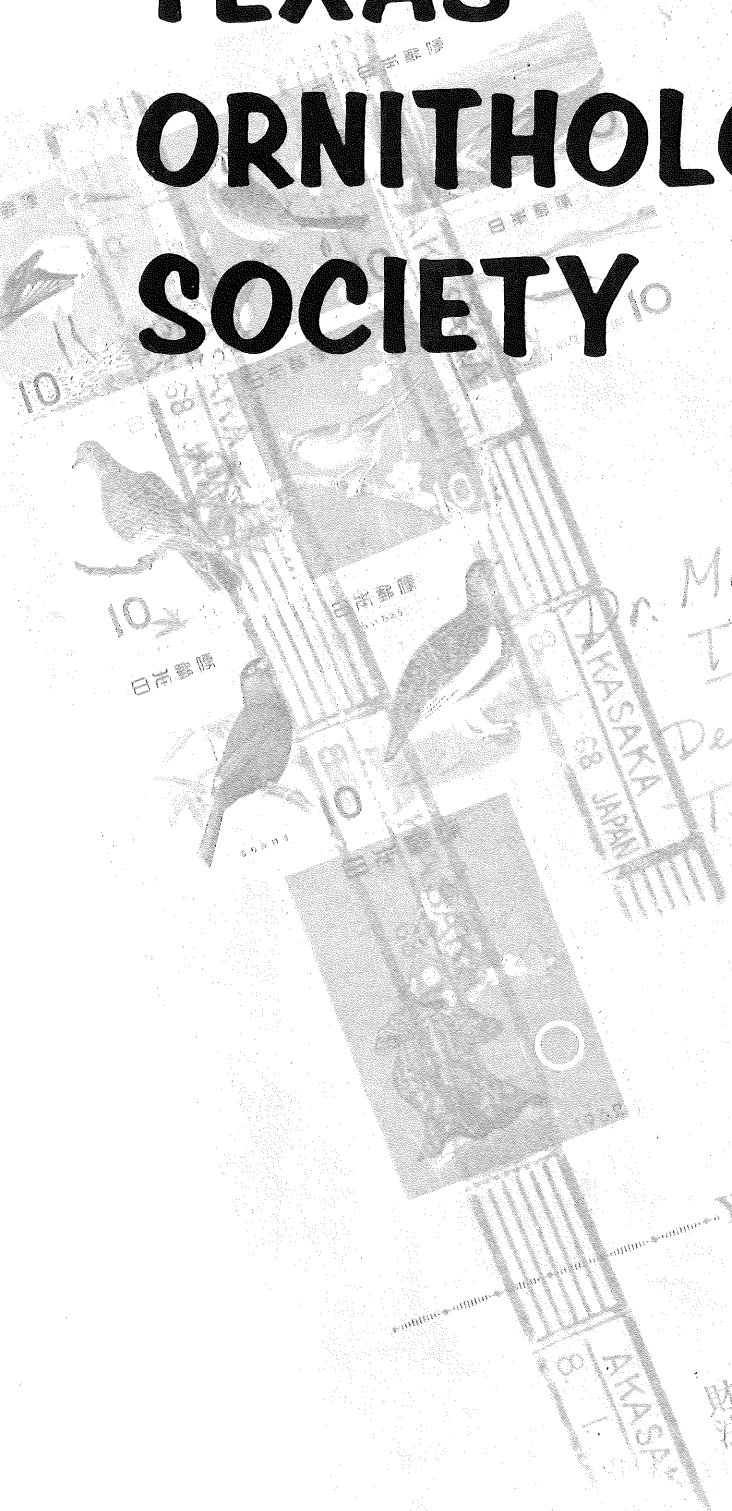
Bulletin of the TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Air Mail

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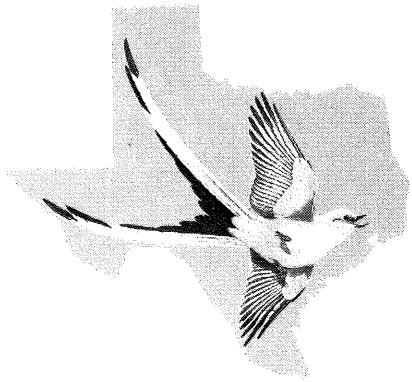
BULLETIN
OF THE
TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



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Illustrations in this issue

COVER: Envelope in which Dr. Kuroda sent his manuscript (page 2 in this issue); INSIDE FRONT COVER: frigate birds on Galapagos Islands, photographed by Dr. Richard O. Albert; LINE DRAWINGS, pages 3 and 14 by Barbara White; INSIDE BACK COVER: designed by Sylvia Rea.

日本鳥類学

NOTES FROM A JAPANESE ORNITHOLOGIST

By DR. NAGAHISA KURODA

The ornithological world is the same in any country. The core is some professional ornithologist who may, however, suffer from scanty study funds. The amateurs are more numerous and are more fortunate, since the bird watching and camera birding may be said to be the most cultural of hobbies, privileged to contribute to the science of ornithology by enjoying bird-walks through all kinds of Nature.

I want to introduce you here to some of the aspects of our ornithological world and how we are enjoying or suffering, or even fighting, in the field of common interest which we share with you.

THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD

First we might mention the core, the professionals, who may be classified into: working ornithologists, banding groups and official wardens. The working ornithologists are scientists of the government, private institutes, museums and universities. In Japan, ornithology has been first advanced by several university and private professionals during the early 20th century, and seven predecessors, of whom two are now the oldest members, organized the Ornithological Society of Japan in 1912, first publishing its journal 'Tori' (Birds) in 1915. The society contributed to the knowledge of Japanese avifauna by publication of the Handlist of the Japanese Birds, the first edition 1922 and revised every ten years (now the fifth edition is being edited). Parallel with this taxonomic activity, the ecological studies and banding researches were conducted by government officials and series of reports were published. The birds banded during 1924 to 1948 amounted to 418,825 with 15,924 recoveries.

The war interrupted all these activities and destroyed two big private collections, but one survived, now as Yamashina Institute for Ornithology. The director, Dr. Y. Yamashina is also actively leading, as director, the Japanese Association for Bird Preservation and Ornithological Society. The institute houses his former rich private collections of skins and literature and is serving as the center of ornithological activities, bird-banding and conservation. Its basic support is the annual subsidies of the Ministry of Education which, however, are far from enough to supply the seven members (of whom four are research staffs) with the salaries that deserve their burden of increasing works. We want patrons but so far unsuccessful, and here is the great suffering of professionals.

Some representative works of the institute include director's former taxonomic and genetic studies, Kuroda's works on pelagic survey of sea birds and their anatomy, as well as studies on the life history of Grey Starling, lasting over ten years, and the population studies of the Great Tit and general bird ecology, the census work in particular, by Uramoto, etc; one room is retained for a physiologist to work in when funds became available. Yoshii and Hasuo make a banding team working with local banders, the annual release having been raised to over ten thousand. They are supported by funds of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and are working as an international team of Asian Birdbanding Project sponsored by the Migratory Animal Pathology Survey of the U.S. Army.

君からの便り

Among some interesting recoveries, we have had several turnstones recovered in Siberian tundra and not a few from Alaska, while egrets were reported from the Philippines.

Beside these activities of our institute, it should be added that at Shinshu University, Prof. Haneda is making a notable contribution to the bird study, giving the students the graduate theme "life history of one species for one student." Each student selects his favorite bird species to work on and good results on the Tree Sparrow, swallow, martin, starling, shrike, greenfinch, warblers, skylark, bulbul, Blue Magpie, crow, tits, Blue Robin and Turtle Dove and so on have been reported and discussed comparatively, some of them having been already printed.

There are increasing young bird ecologists also in other parts but we know only few active bird ethologists, physiologists and migration students.

Recently, IBP (International Biological Program) projects are being seriously advanced in Japan by leading ecologists and lots of field work await both professional and amateur ornithologists in this concern.

THE AMATEUR'S WORLD

Our amateurs owe their present pleasure of their hobby of 'bird searching assembly' (Tancho-kai), now a publicly known word, to Mr. Godo Nakanishi who organized the 'Yacho-no-kai,' the Wild-bird Society, in 1934. The organ journal 'Yacho' has since then been regularly published, only with interruption by war, and members have now increased to over two thousand. The 'Yacho' contains articles on observations, poems, reports, sometimes serious studies, discussions on conservation or guide to field identification, and attracts the members by bird photographs which reflect a remarkable advance in technique and increase of photographer population.

This is so marked that the species so far considered as rare stragglers have become frequently or even regularly reported, almost every one with definite photographic evidence. Such species, especially waders, include: the pratincole, stilt, Marsh Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, the Ruff, dowitcher, oystercatcher, Whiskered Tern, Glaucous-winged Gull and so on; while some real rare stragglers have not been missed, such as the Least Whimbrel, Bristle-thighed Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Jack Snipe, Ringed (not Little Ringed) Plover, Dottrel, Eastern Dottrel, Saunder's Gull, needless to say of such big birds as Siberian White Crane, Sandhill Crane, Snow Goose, Kurile Canada Goose (these two were common formerly), Emperor Goose, etc.

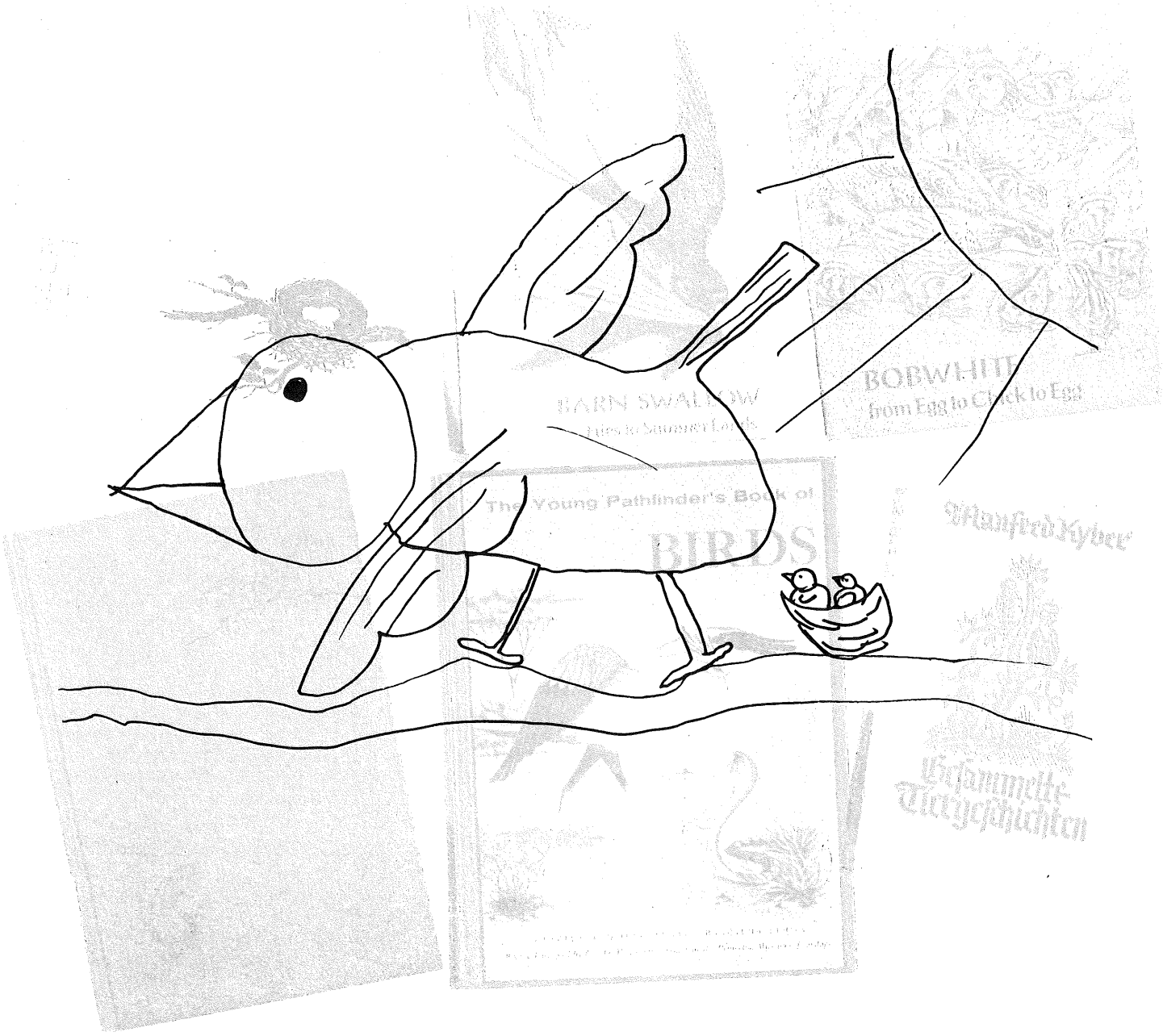
So exciting is such a search of accidentals and rare migrants, that amateurs' interest, to our bit of regret, has not been turned towards the 'common bird census.' Fortunately enough, however, the game law was amended to a law of wildlife protection and hunting, ordering the prefectural governors to have bird counts regularly made by census takers they appoint. This project is now being advanced by leadership of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry with the aid of field ornithologists, and many local keen amateur observers are to take part in it.

THE BIRD CONSERVATION PROBLEMS

Yacho Society has many prefectural branches, and the 'bird searching assemblies' to the fields, mountains and shores are planned seasonally or monthly and they celebrate the 'Bird Week' in May by holding public meetings and exhibitions, and school children supply their woods with nest-boxes. This "week" is a well established annual event among the general public and educational field, and every newspaper, radio and TV program as well as various periodicals, especially for school, would look for news or exciting articles on birds and their attributes.

We hope the whole year could be the "bird week," since, for the average citizens, particularly of big cities working in the midst of modern streets and company buildings, the birds are out of their daily concern. However, extreme modernization awakens man's inborn search for wilderness and its beautiful and lovely lives.

. . . continued on page 11



INTEGRITY AND CHILDREN'S BIRD Books.

Michael K. Rylander Jr.

INTEGRITY

by JOHN TROTT

and the current boom in outdoor literature

Books about the out-of-doors in general and birds in particular are big business these days. One has only to make a brief visit to any book store and glance through the book review section of natural science periodicals to be made aware of this. The books are big, elegant and expensive. Many of them are "For Children" because science is a vital issue in education at the present time. Publishers are also well aware that since many people can't get to wild areas now—there is not much left—they will read about it and "look" about it. I say "look" for these books are characterized by quantities of illustrations. Sketches, paintings and photographs fill the pages, some good and some very poor. Wildlife photography has finally come into its own as an art form and the superb and highly personal work of Eliot Porter is the epitome of this change. His first book, published by The Sierra Club, *In Wildness Is the Preservation of Our World,* may be the most beautiful book published in the United States. Robert Verity Clem's paintings for the recently published *Shorebirds of North America* glow with perception and an intense awareness of all those qualities that make up the living organism which is a bird, all filtered through his imagination and superb talent.

Photographs in other current books do not reflect such integrity, however. They are dishonest in that they do not represent the hunter in man scheming to capture on film a moment of reality. The birds have been photographed in captivity against "set" backgrounds or with no background at all. In the latter case, scenery a mile away is presented in perfect focus, for the bird has been superimposed against it. This is as close to wildlife photography as target practice is to hunting deer with a bow and arrow. I do not object so much to the picture as I do its presentation as a photograph of a wild, free bird caught forever on film.

As there are photographers who cheapen honest efforts, there are bird artists today who obviously know little of bird anatomy. Their work may reveal a high degree of technical talent but no real understanding of all the bones, muscle and feathers that make up a bird. A great taxidermist once said to me that there are many good bird artists but it is only the really great ones who have taken the time to study anatomy and know a bird from the inside out.

This article was supposed to have been about bird books for children and it would seem that I have deviated from the point. I have not. Birds do not change just because someone still in grade school is reading about them. Books written particularly for children have a very good chance of being bad. By bad, I mean dishonest and over-simplified to the point where the information becomes distorted. True science is science no matter who is reading it. I would say the criteria for a good nature book for young people would be that it inform and satisfy a discerning adult reader. Maybe the print will be larger and the vocabulary somewhat restricted, but it should be honest and factual. I'm not even so sure about the vocabulary for how do the young increase theirs if not challenged within a context to find meanings. Wouldn't the text of *The Shorebirds of North America* by Peter Matthieson interest a 12 year old? I think it would thrill, inform and provoke thought as it did for me and I say this as one who has taught 12 year olds for 14 years. I know a youngster who has an obsession for hummingbirds. For his information he goes to the most exact and highly technical sources written by authorities.

Possibly much of the fault of the poor writing in books on nature "for children" lies with editors who apply the same standards to scientific writing as they do to fiction. There is a great difference. Fiction must deal with a character or characters with whom the youngster can identify on some level. In science this is not so and the standards must be different.

I was once told by a writer of several children's books that my manuscript about a boy who discovers the delights of birds through his teacher must have more dialogue. "Children won't read a book unless they see dialogue on the pages," she said. "Straight descriptive passages won't do." This was an obvious parroting of editor's talk and is absurd. One might say that her books are published and mine are not but I'll stick to trying to make my statements in the manner in which they seem to be the most valid and honest.

A noted author comments on a mushrooming business

A book by a young woman, Sarita Von Vleck, entitled *"Growing Wings,"* is a fine example of a book about birds which states truth and honesty to anyone of any age group. Miss Von Vleck's description of a territorial battle between two brown thrashers is a masterpiece of behavior interpretive writing. Lippincott's series, *Living World Books,* presents life histories of great horned owls, porcupines, red-tailed hawks and other animals with reality carefully observed and sifted through a scientists' training and writing ability.

Avoid those books where the author has not been involved, where he has researched his topic and has re-stated another's observations and over-simplified "for children." A direct, honest telling of the truth as perceived by one with integrity will result in a statement that is new, refreshing and informative no matter who is the reader.

1967 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

— by WARREN PULICH

Two years ago a new Breeding Bird Survey was initiated under the auspices of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. It was designed to measure changes in abundance of the breeding birds by surveying populations on a large number of randomly located roadside routes, avoiding federal and state highways wherever possible.

The routes were selected on one-degree blocks of latitude and longitude. Each required 50 three-minute stops spaced one-half mile apart. At each stop, all birds heard and all birds seen within one-fourth of a mile were recorded. Each survey began one-half an hour before sunrise. Only one person observed and in most instances a second person assisted in recording or driving the vehicle. It took from four to four and a half hours to make a route.

In late May and early June, Texans joined with others in all states and Canadian provinces from the Atlantic Coast west to the 100th meridian. Although the Texas counts were organized rather late, 33 persons cooperated in making 39 roadside counts. Many participating were members of the Texas Ornithological Society. In 1968, the Breeding Bird Survey will be expanded to include the whole of the United States and the remaining Canadian provinces. In Texas, in the future it is hoped that many now existing gaps will be covered by more interested observers.

Those who ran one 1967 Texas Breeding Bird route each were: R. O. Albert; C. R. Bender; L. Berner, Jr.; E. S. Dillon; P. Dozier; V. L. Emanuel; L. W. Homan; J. Janding; Miss M. B. Keefer; J. T. Kent; C. E. Kiblinger; E. B. Kinsey; Mrs. A. C. Koon; A. L. LeSassier; B. A. Mack; M. Mullins; D. B. McKey; Mrs. G. W. Parker, Jr.; M. H. Robinson; K. D. Seyffert; W. D. Shepler; Mrs. D. T. Smith; C. Spangler; F. S. Webster; F. C. Williams; and T. S. Word.

The following made two surveys each: O. C. Bone; E. W. McDaniel; A. W. O'Neil; W. M. Pulich, Jr.; R. H. Wauer; and J. W. White.

The Texas survey would not have been a reality if such wonderful cooperation was not given, especially in view of the fact of such short notice. The success of the Texas Survey is due to the above persons and their assistants (names not available to Texas Coordinator). A hardy thanks goes out to each of these able persons.

The total number of birds counted in Texas was 30,185. The total number of species recorded was 172. It might be questioned whether such birds as Ring-billed Gull, Forester's Tern, White-rumped Sandpiper and Short-eared Owl were breeding species; yet, such seldom seen species during any breeding season as the Tropical Kingbord, Bank Swallow, Green Jay, Black-headed Oriole, Olive Sparrow, Varied Bunting and Golden-cheeked Warbler were recorded. Only the Mourning Dove and the Mockingbird were recorded on all Texas routes.

Table 1 shows the 20 top species recorded during the 1967 Texas Breeding Bird Survey. This represents an average of 38 species per route with an average number of 794 of birds observed per route.

As Texans continue to participate and counts increase, valuable data will be accumulated. The species changes in the state will be detected from year to year. With continued improvement and coverage of the routes, even the trends of the population of lesser abundant species will be better understood. Yearly comparisons will be possible. Much valuable information is expected to be produced.

It is urged that anyone interested in participating in the 1968 Breeding Bird Survey contact Warren Pulich, 2021 Rosebud, Irving, Texas 75060 or Willet T. Van Velzen, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland.

Some T.O.S. members were contacted too late last year and did not get a chance to run a route. We hope that this year many of these people will help in the Breeding Bird Survey as well as those who made the first surveys. Please let us hear from both old and new participants *immediately* so we can have full coverage of the State.

TABLE 1

The 20 Most Conspicuous Species

	Total Individuals	Number of Stops
House Sparrow	3388	437
Mockingbird	2899	1296
Mourning Dove	2176	860
Eastern Meadowlark	1661	540
Cardinal	1323	682
Red-winged Blackbird	1296	289
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1223	572
Bobwhite	1155	655
Lark Sparrow	1113	523
Cliff Swallow	1101	30
Brown-headed Cowbird	980	427
Painted Bunting	966	552
Black-throated Sparrow	689	226
Boat-tailed Grackle	624	85
Pyrrhuloxia	588	236
Turkey Vulture	498	259
Bewick's Wren	472	270
Common Nighthawk	415	194
Cassin's Sparrow	398	231
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	363	297

reports . . .

Joe T. Marshall's monograph "Parallel Variation in North and Middle American Screech-Owl" provides for the first time a delineation of Screech Owls based on biological traits in the field. It also discusses racial convergence in concealing color patterns and shows the dramatic geographical variation in color and patterns in fresh autumn plumages. Marshall remarks that "We taxonomists are so engrossed with subspecies that we have ignored a species problem existing in the United States, involving one of our most familiar birds, the common screech owl *Otus asio*." He concludes that there are seven species of Otus that occupy North and Middle America, O. *guatemalae, flammeolus, choliba, trichopsis, barbarus, clarkii,* and *asio*. He further divides the *asio* species into four groups: *Kennicotti, seductus, cooperi* and *asio*. The form *asio* occurs throughout Texas except in the Trans-pecos where *kennicotti* was found; the Big Bend Country from Boquillas to Juno is where the overlap occurred. Monograph No. 1 of the Western Foundation of Vert. Zool., 1100 Glendon Ave., Los Angeles, California 90024 (priced at $3.50) — 72 pages.

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Ralph J. Raitt's research results from the CHISOS MOUNTAINS of west Texas indicate that all BUSHTITS should be considered as a single species. Work in vocalization, general behavior, ecology, and color characters showed that black-eared populations failed to exhibit differences from plain-eared individuals. He concluded that adult males and juvenile females lack the black ears and adult females and juvenile males all possess the black ears. Auk, 84: 503-528.

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Homing experiments carried on with LEACH'S PETRELS breeding on Kent Island, New Brunswick, Canada, revealed that a high portion of released birds returned to their burrows at speeds of about 40 to a maximum of 217 miles per day. Two birds released 2,980 miles away from home at Selsay Bill, England, returned in 13.7 days — an average speed of 217 miles per day. Auk, 85: 36-43.

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In an ecological study of the GOLDEN EAGLE in south-central Montana, Jerry McGahan found that the average density of nesting pairs ranged from 66.3 to 74.2 square miles, and 45 successful nests produced 81 young of which 70 fledged. From 38 eyries 980 prey individuals were identified. Jack rabbits were most numerous (37.2%), birds represented only 12.4%, and 8.8% were game species, chiefly Gray Patridge and young Mule Deer. He found no evidence of predation on domestic species. Auk, 85: 1-12.

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Robert D. Ohmart's research on molt and pterylography in Scaled, California, Gambel's and Douglas Quail indicate that the genera *Callipepla* and *Lophortyx* "should perhaps be combined." He found that the only pterylographical differences among the four species were in crest patterns, rectrix numbers, and lengths of abdominal tract. Condor, 69: 535-548.

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Observations and photographs of a HOOK-BILLED KITE at Santa Ana National Refuge in southern Texas is the first record of this species for the United States. Raymond Fleetwood and John L. Hamilton reported that it nested there in May, 1964. Auk, 84: 598-601.

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The first THICK-BILLED KINGBIRD for Texas was reported for the Chisos Basin, Big Bend National Park, by Roland H. Wauer. First observed and photographed by O. R. Henderson, the bird exhibited aggression toward other birds, suggesting nesting behavior. The bird was seen only one day, however. Southwestern Naturalist, 12: 485-486.

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During field research on the Gray Vireo in the Chisos Mountains, Jon Barlow found BLACK-CAPPED VIREOS nesting on Pulliam Ridge. This first nesting record for Brewster County, extended the breeding range of this species 120 miles west of its previously known range. Of special interest was the fact that the Black-cap occurred within the territory of a pair of breeding Gray Vireos. Condor, 69: 605-608.

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Continued research by Stephen T. Emlen with planaterium caged INDIGO BUNTINGS revealed that the birds did not rely upon a biordinated celestial navigation system during migration. Emlen's birds maintained their normal migration direction in spite of skies that were advanced and retarded 3, 6, and 12 hours from local time. Auk, 84: 463-489.

—prepared by Roland Wauer

news . . .

The following programs were held in February and March: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Squires, travels in Tahiti, Australia and New Zealand (Tyler Aud. Soc.); Annual Society dinner, film The Grand Canyon, (Tex. Panhandle Aud. Soc.); Monthly Society Meeting, talk by Superintendent of Lake Meredith recreation area (T.P.A.S.); Monthly Meeting, "The Wood Ducks' World", color film (Dallas County Aud. Soc.); "Landscaping for Birds" by Mr. Olan W. Dillon, Jr. (Ft. Worth Aud Soc.); Monthly society meeting, The Lesser Prairie Chicken by Jim Jokerst, (T.P.A.S.); General meeting, by Charles L. Ward on "Our Federal Refuges", (Travis Aud. Soc); "Endangered Species, Proposed National Parks, and Scenic Rivers", by Ira N. Gabrielson, (Dallas County Aud. Soc.);

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Local nature groups made the following field trips in February and March: GLENN RANCH, Tex. Panhandle Aud. Soc.; PALO PINTO COUNTY, Evelyn and Bob Edens, leaders, Ft. Worth Aud. Soc.; BENBROOK LAKE, Tarrant Co., Mary Ruth and Joe Lowe, leaders, F.W.A.S.; IRVING SEWAGE PONDS, Margaret Parker and Frank Ewell, leaders, F.W.A.S.; BUFFALO LAKE, Tex. Panhandle Aud. Soc.; ARNOLD RANCH, Austin Co., Frank Oatman, leader, Travis Aud. Soc.; ROCKPORT AREA, including a boat trip to see Whooping Cranes, T.A.S.; AUSTIN AND AREA, T.A.S.; STANTON, observe evening flight of Sandhill Cranes, Midland Naturalists; DALLAS AND AREA, Carroll Kiblinger, leader, Dallas County Aud. Soc.; EAST TEXAS, Lake of the Pines, D.C.A.S.; FT. WORTH AUDUBON'S GREER ISLAND, Mrs. Margaret Parker, leader, D.C.A.S.; BUFFALO LAKE, Tex. Panhandle Aud. Soc.;

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The following Christmas Counts were held in Texas: FT. WORTH, December 30, 34 observers, 88 species; PALO PINTO, December 23, 17 observers, 75 species; DALLAS, December 30, 40 observers, 93 species; STANTON, 51 species; BIG SPRING, 73 species; MIDLAND, 75 species; SHEFFIELD, 107 species; DAVIS MOUNTAINS, 109 species; BALMORHEA, 102 species; DEL RIO, 117 species; TEXARKANA, 10 observers, 81 species; SOUTHERN TRAVIS COUNTY, December 22, 13 observers, 113 species; WESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY, December 30, 17 observers, 95 species; LEWISVILLE, December 26, 2 observers, 59 species; AMARILLO, December 30, 9 observers, 76 species; CORPUS CHRISTI, December 30, 30 observers, 126 species; ALICE, January 1, 3 observers, 51 species; LUBBOCK, December 30, 15 observers, 75 species; PALESTINE, 4 observers, 71 species; TYLER, December 30, 17 observers, 83 species.

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An important seven thousand-acre tract of their Salt Creek Ranch was given the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Mr. and Mrs. J. Meredith Tatton of Aransas County and Corpus Christi in November. This tract becomes an addition to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, winter home of America's whooping cranes, and is also important habitat for another species, Attwater's Prairie Chicken. — Audubon Leaders Conservation Guide

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At the fall meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society at Muskogee, Mrs. Lovie Whitaker outlined the progress being made in the fight to save the quetzel. She stated that movements are underway towards the establishment of refuges both in Mexico and Guatemala that would provide the special habitat of virgin sweet gum trees needed for nesting, and yet be sufficiently accessible to attract tourist trade as a source of revenue to help support such refuges. A beautiful zoo specimen of a quetezel was displayed. — The Scissortail

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The Texas Ornithological Society for 1968 will have its youngest, most populous and most dynamic conservation committee in history. Approximately half its members are under 35. Those serving are: Edward C. Fritz, Dallas (chairman); Charles Bender, San Antonio; Bob Burleson, Temple; Robert F. Coffee, Austin; Victor Emanuel, Houston; Hazel C. Green, Wimberley; Mrs. John H. Groce, Austin; E. B. Kinsey, Burnet; Mrs. R. C. Mauldin, Waco; Mrs. G. W. Parker, Jr., Ft. Worth; Warren Pulich, Irving; Roddy Rylander, Sherman; Dick Shannon, Austin; O. C. Sheffield, Tyler; Carroll Mart Sinclair, Tyler; Geraldine Watson, Silsbee; Sharon Anne Wehner, Austin; Terry S. Word, Alice.

Letters:

In response to several inquiries concerning our recent announcement that honey in hummingbird feeders can be fatal to the hummingbirds, we are reproducing below a letter from Mrs. Sally Hoyt Spofford, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, to Hazel Green. Mrs. Spofford was kind enough to allow us to reproduce her letter.

* * *

Dear Miss Green:

In response to your letter to Dr. Pettingill, may I say that we have always used and recommend your mixture of two parts water to one part sugar, and feel this is perfectly satisfactory. We do not believe that honey is as good —and in fact when used it should be more dilute — three parts water to one part honey. However, there are many who do prefer honey, although it ferments more easily.

I think that some of the concern over formulae has risen from those who have attempted to use sugar-water or honey-water for birds in captivity. This is not an adequate diet, if nothing else is furnished. Hummingbirds in the wild feed on flower nectar and small insects, and your vials of sugar water are just 'dessert!' This is the case in respect to all food offered at feeding stations. It is supplementary food, as far as most birds are concerned — and they will not give up eating insects or weed seeds, just because you offer them suet and sunflower seeds or corn.

It would be extremely difficult to prove that any one formula of sugar water was detrimental to hummingbirds, for few dead hummingbirds are ever found, and I doubt that one could prove these deaths due to sugar water. On the other hand, some of us have had hummingbirds return year after year to our feeders, as has been shown by banding. Apparently they have thrived on our 2-1 formula.

I trust this answers your question. You might also check some of the recent issues of Audubon Magazine, which has discussed this matter.

Sincerely,
Sally Hoyt Spofford

STATE CONSERVATION PLATFORM FOR TEXAS

1. Reorganize Parks and Wildlife and other natural resource agencies into a Conservation Commission as in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, etc.
2. Restore the 1500-foot protective zone around exposed reefs and live oyster beds on dredging permits.
3. Encourage further study of alternatives to the "Texas Water Plan."
4. Improve and enforce anti-pollution standards.
5. Implement and strengthen the Scientific Areas System under HB 220, passed in 1967.
6. Save the state from rising land costs and resource depletion on prospective water developments and other conservation projects by authorizing advance payment for pre-emption rights, with appropriate equities for the landowner.
7. Establish a state Scenic River program (Neches River, Guadalupe River, Village Creek, Rio Grande Canyons, etc.).
8. Establish a state Scenic Trails program (Balcones Escarpment Trail, etc.).
9. Establish a state Pesticides Control Board (HB 1210, never pushed in 1967).
10. Establish a Dinosaur Footprints State Park, near Glenrose.
11. Select the sites of state parks, under the 75 million dollar bonds program, on a basis of expert planning instead of political influence.
12. Stop the give-aways of state park areas by Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission and Legislature.
13. Require State Highway Commission, other land-using agencies and public utilities to place a value on natural habitat and wildlife wherever existent in an area under study for a road or other development, and to route highways and other projects accordingly.
14. Save both money and natural beauty by restricting to non-flowering seasons the non-essential mowing and grading of street and highway shoulders and park open spaces, and by eliminating the use of herbicides in such areas.
15. Tighten the Submerged Land Leasing Act, Art. 541e, V.A.T.S.
16. Protect all hawks and owls except for granting permits in individual cases of proven damage to farm animals.
17. Unify regulatory responsibility for fish and game laws.
18. Obtain appropriation of funds to employ a non-game biologist for the Parks and Wildlife Department.

Golden Eagle Study Begun

Field investigation has begun in the golden eagle study which the National Audubon Society has undertaken jointly with sheep ranchers and the U.S. government to find out just how much of a threat the golden eagle is to livestock, and what can be done about it.

The study is being made by a team from Texas Technological College, Lubbock, headed by Dr. Thadis W. Box, and financed by the Society, National Wool Growers Association and U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife.

The study grew out of talks begun by Carl W. Buchheister, now President Emeritus of the Society and still its special representative for the project. Dr. Buchheister was able to cut through much of the traditional distrust between ranchers and conservationists on this issue. He assured the ranchers that the National Audubon Society recognizes the right of the rancher to protect his livestock. The ranchers, for their part, agreed to share the costs of a study to find out how to get such protection without endangering the survival of the golden eagle.

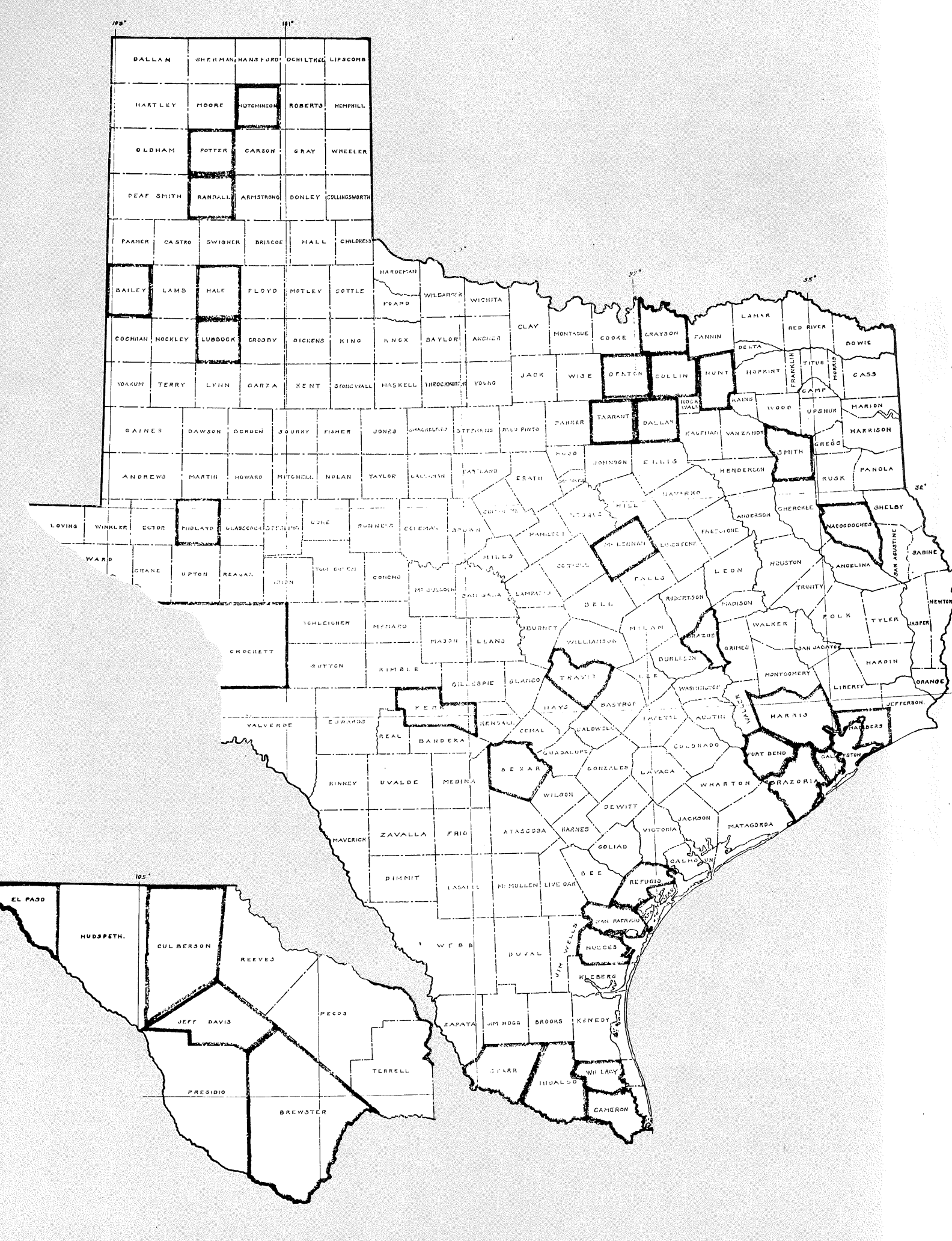
A Search For Facts

The study is simply a search for facts. There is no doubt, for example, that remains of young lambs have been found in stomachs of eagles, but there is little data on the extent to which such remains might have come from animals killed by eagles or from animals already dead, stillborn or killed by other causes. Likewise, not enough is known about the eagle's range, feeding habits, migration and other factors.

Field teams, following the "lambing season" into different areas, will study eagle habits, examine animal remains in the nest where young are fed, study relationship of herding practices to loss between lambing and kidding time and market, and other such aspects of the problem. Field studies will continue through the spring lambing season in Texas and New Mexico.

It is hoped that this will provide answers, and guidelines for controls that all concerned can agree upon.

—Aud. Leader's Conservation Guide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POTTER
CARSON
GRAY
WHEELER
DEAF SMITH
RANDALL
ARMSTRONG
DONLEY
COLLINGSWORTH
PARMER
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BRISCOE
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HARDEMAN
FOARD
WILBARGER
WICHITA
CLAY
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GRAYSON
FANNIN
LAMAR
RED RIVER
BOWIE
COCHRAN
HOCKLEY
LUBBOCK
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YOAKUM
TERRY
LYNN
GARZA
KENT
STONEWALL
HASKELL
THROCKMORTON
YOUNG
CAMP
MARION
GAINES
DAWSON
BORDEN
SCURRY
FISHER
JONES
SHACKELFORD
STEPHENS
PALO PINTO
PARKER
TARRANT
DALLAS
ROCKWALL
KAUFMAN
VAN ZANDT
WOOD
UPSHUR
HARRISON
ANDREWS
MARTIN
HOWARD
MITCHELL
NOLAN
TAYLOR
CALLAHAN
EASTLAND
ERATH
HOOD
JOHNSON
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SMITH
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GLASSCOCK
STERLING
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CHEROKEE
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NACOGDOCHES
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SAN AUGUSTINE
WARD
CRANE
UPTON
REAGAN
IRION
TOM GREEN
CONCHO
MCCULLOCH
SAN SABA
LAMPASAS
MILAM
FREESTONE
LEON
HOUSTON
ANGELINA
CROCKETT
SCHLEICHER
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WILLIAMSON
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ROBERTSON
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SAN JACINTO
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ATASCOSA
KARNES
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LASALLE
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LIVE OAK
BEE
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SAN PATRICIO
WEBB
DUVAL
JIM WELLS
NUECES
KLEBERG
EL PASO
HUDSPETH
CULBERSON
REEVES
PECOS
JEFF DAVIS
ZAPATA
JIM HOGG
BROOKS
KENEDY
TERRELL
PRESIDIO
BREWSTER
STARR
HIDALGO
WILLACY
CAMERON

ORNITHOLOGY IN JAPAN, *continued from page 3*

The Japanese Association for Bird Preservation, honored with His Imperial Highness's presidency, published a small colorful booklet, "Birds to your garden" in answer to this desire. This won great publicity and its regular organ "Nature," designed by keen young editors, is widely distributed among schools and families. Its aims, among others, are the conservation in young generations and their leaders.

The association holds, during the 'bird week,' the conservation report meetings where good results gain its prize. It is supported financially by some patrons, but again suffers from lack of funds for larger and necessary projects such as preservation of important areas of bird and wildlife before further destruction and exploitation. One best and serious example is now being fought by ardent young wader lovers called the Shinhama group. The Shinhama of Gyotoku area in Chiba Prefecture is a famous tide marsh, adjacent to the internationally known Imperial Duck-netting Pond, and is a traditional resort for great flocks not only of waders but also ducks and geese, and many rarities have been recorded since old Stejneger's time.

The area is now under a progressing project of reclamation for new highways and habitations, and final effort to preserve this area, particularly of young ladies of the group, has now moved a lady member of the Diet. We have lost such a place in Osaka, as well as extensive waterfowl marsh areas of Chiba, and are making a public appeal in support of this movement.

The Japanese White Stork and Crested Ibis have gone so far as to be finally protected in a large field cage for artificial breeding, free from insecticides. But, before other still common birds trace a similar case, we need much effort, research, education and especially funds to lead the situation to a compromise solution of wildlife conservation and human civilization.

Recent Editions of County Checklists

(This list includes checklists sent to the editor after several requests to TOS members. Omissions in this list are due to a lack of response from certain areas. Dates indicate most recent editions.)

Bailey County (Muleshoe Wildlife Refuge; 1961)
Bexar County (1960)
Brazoria County (1966)
Brazos County (no date)
Brewster County (Big Bend National Park; 1967)
Cameron County (?)
Chambers County (1966)
Collin County (Heard Sanctuary; 1967)
Crockett County (1966)
Culberson County (1960)
Dallas County (1965)
Denton County (1959)
El Paso County (1967)
Fort Bend County (1966)
Galveston County (1966)
Grayson County (Eisenhower State Park; 1967)
Hale County (1967)
Harris County (1966)
Hidalgo County
Hunt County (1957)
Hutchinson County (summer birds; 1952)
Jeff Davis County (Davis Mountains State Scenic Park; no date)
Kerr County (no date)
Lubbock County (1966)
McLennan County (1962)
Midland County (1967)
Nacogdoches County (no date)
Nueces County (1967)
Potter County (1966)
Randall County (1966)
Refugio County
San Patricio County (no date)
Smith County (1962)
Starr County
Tarrant County (1967)
Travis County (1959)
Willacy County (?)

BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DR. MICHAEL KENT RYLANDER ..... Editor
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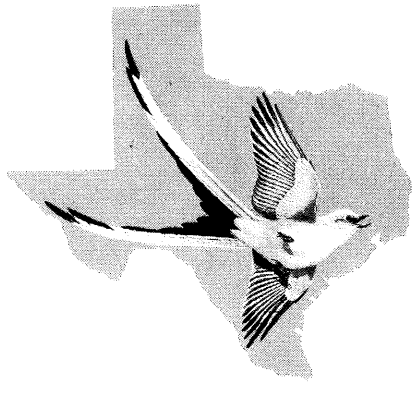
MR. DICK CHEATHAM ..... Art Director

THE TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Founded 1953

DR. W. J. GRABER, III ..... President
MR. CHARLES F. CRABTREE ..... Vice-President
MRS. CLEVE BACHMAN ..... Secretary
MR. W. RUSSELL WEIL ..... Treasurer

THE BULLETIN OF THE TOS is mailed to all members of the Texas Ornithological Society not in arrears for dues. Annual dues for active members is $3.00, for sustaining members, $5.00. Inquiries regarding membership should be addressed to W. Russell Weil, Treasurer, Texas Ornithological Society, 3429 Lovers Lane, Dallas, Texas 75225. The BULLETIN is issued four times a year. Individual issues may be purchased for fifty cents a copy. Original articles, reports and news of interest to TOS members are solicited for inclusion in the BULLETIN. All articles and letters for publication should be submitted to the Editor, Department of Biology, Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas 79409. Editorials are by invitation, but the Editor welcomes correspondence and suggestions regarding subject matter. Sight records and regional news should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director for forwarding to the Editor.



JOHN J. LYNCH

John J. Lynch, research biologist for the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, is stationed at Lafayette, Louisiana. His waterfowl career started in 1936. He was one of the pioneers in breeding ground surveys in Canada and the Northwest Territories. He is a graduate of Rhode Island College and holds an honorary Master's Degree from that Institution. Mr. Lynch has written numerous technical papers dealing with waterfowl including chapters in the volume, Waterfowl Tomorrow. His long association with North American waterfowl eminently distinguishes his thought provoking remarks on these pages.

ICONS

. . . *A Philosophy*

A leading sportsman's magazine not too long ago quoted a federal biologist as stating, "The biotic potential of the mallard would allow this species to survive under a bounty system." Is this the case, and if so, why?

Ans.: I am sure the species would survive. The question arises, however, at what level of abundance would the species survive? If the mallard was subjected to heavier gun pressure but was still provided with refuges and other escape areas, it could probably maintain its population at a rather high level — a level lower than the one prevailing — but would not be so low as to endanger the survival of the species. With regard to the capabilities of the bird for survival an interesting conjecture might be as follows: Suppose the mallard were found to be a vector of some disease of danger to humans and it was decided that in the interest of public health the species had to be eradicated. I personally do not want the job of eradicating the mallard for several reasons, some of which are sentimental. But as a professional biologist, I would probably state that I seriously doubt we could eradicate the mallard despite the measures we employ in the direction of that eradication. The mallard is a bird endowed with a tremendous biotic potential. It has high reproductive capabilities and is extremely widespread and extremely versatile. Personally, I do not even know how to begin to eradicate such a strong and vigorous bird even in the unlikely event that the welfare of our whole human population depended on its removal from planet earth.

Has waterfowl management really provided more birds to the public?

Ans.: I doubt that it has and I doubt that it can. We must remember this fundamental fact before getting more deeply into that question. It may or may not be feasible, biologically, to increase the population of any species of bird, especially a game bird, but one thing is very certain — our human population has increased greatly and is to increase more. Briefly, the answer boils down to that if we succeed in doubling the population of the mallard duck in North America but during the time required for this, the human population had trebled, then the abundance of the mallard relative to the abundance of humans has dropped. Actually, then, the matter of relative abundance rather than absolute abundance must be considered for any game species. Now then to complete the answer, we must remember that there are limits to the biotic potential of every species of wild bird and there are limits to the environmental resources available to every species. Let us remember too that the environment of some of our game birds, especially certain waterfowl, are being altered drastically by the needs of man and this alteration is said to be such that the very survival of some species is now threatened. How then can we plan for an ever-increasing abundance of a species that lacks a strong potential and whose environmental resources are being diminished at a rapid rate? It is rather obvious from the foregoing that there is a certain lack of realism in any plan for an ever-increasing supply of game birds; however, there

of Waterfowl Population Ecology

is no limit, at least potentially, to the amount of enjoyment that mankind might derive from these birds. The foregoing might be more briefly stated by saying that the goal should be more enjoyment rather than more birds. The first of these two illustrations is a realistic goal but unfortunately it happens to be a goal of waterfowl management and of the scientific disciplines that we cannot and dare not do very much about. When we aspire to a goal of greater human enjoyment of birds, we are then dealing with a humanity and I have never heard of a humanity that was properly managed by scientists or administrators nor in combination of the two.

Regarding refuges, some heated controversy has developed from changes in the migratory stopping places of geese. Protagonists claim many geese now spend the winter on refuges located well north of the birds' former wintering grounds. If so, is this "management"?

Ans.: In answer to that, we should point out in fairness, that refuges alone have not brought about these changes. The stage was set for such changes to take place when man's use of lands changed. When man changed the prairies to wheat fields and the woodlands to corn fields he then made available to migrant birds, especially waterfowl, a new supply of food that was more available and perhaps more sustaining through the winter period than any of the natural foods previously available to migrant waterfowl. All man then had to do was to provide birds with a safe rest area conveniently located near this new supply of food and the migrant birds took it from there. In many cases some birds that previously had been in the habit of migrating to wintering grounds in the deep south then adopted the habit of wintering in areas much further north. I might point out, however, that when birds decide to make such a change that is one thing; when man decides to deliberately provoke such a change, man had better know all of the possible outcomes of such action. A bird or animal that is forced to spend the winter period in regions where climatic stress is very great is going to find its already complicated pattern of life further complicated by accidents of weather. A severe cold spell or sleet or other extremes of winter weather could be devastating to a population that happened to be in a wrong place at the right time. Let us further remember that when we change the migration and wintering habits of birds we are getting into an area about which not very much information is yet available. These areas include what has been generally called environmental medicine or more specifically, the ecology of disease. More simply stated and perhaps oversimplified, that might read overcrowding predisposes toward epidemic. Furthermore there are certain psychological aspects that must be considered. We are only now learning a little bit about these stresses attendant upon overcrowding and forced changes in the normal habits of an organism. Before man starts meddling in these matters it is not enough that he has the knowledge, he has to know how to intervene. Man should also have the wisdom to know when he should intervene or whether he should intervene at all.

EZELL'S CAVE

A statement about an exciting cave with a unique fauna

The Surface

On the west side of San Marcos, Texas, in a pristine one-acre lot covered with three-leafed sumac, mountain mahogany and ancient redcedars, a six-foot-diameter hole leads downward to a pool of the subterranean Purgatory Creek in Ezell's Cave.

The Pool

The pool, which is shut off from the light and noise of the earth by an 80-foot limestone roof and can be reached only through a series of drops and tunnels, lies in a fantastic world of its own. The water is so clear and still that a man cannot tell where the air ends and the water begins. All is merged in an eery wonderland of everdeepening blue. Light from the flashlight penetrates the surface of the pool without any change, and strikes the ledge bottom, from five to thirty feet below, with a clear, distinct, bright circle. Beyond that ledge, the water deepens into an ever-bluer void, where spelunkers with aqualungs have never been able to dive within measuring distance of the bottom.

The cave walls above and below the water surface, reflect and blend into the background, forming a canopy of fantasty, part air, part water, part rock, with no apparent lines of demarcation.

The Strange Life

Suddenly, floating somewhere through this eery film, a transparent shrimp, seemingly in thin air, passes the flashlight beam. Then another, and another, drift effortlessly behind the first, their inch-long antennae waving ahead of their inch-long white bodies. Are they in the air, or one foot or ten feet below the surface? Finally they pass a tiny leaf which also appears to be suspended in mid-air, and you see that the shrimp are hanging on the surface tension, as is the leaf. The shrimp vanish.

Near the edge of the water at your feet you notice a white flatworm curling its way along. This is another species of life found nowhere else in the world except right here. Is it in air or water? Strangely, it starts a loop and you see its flat bottom pressed against the surface tension as if against the glass top of a display cabinet. The flatworm is in water less than an inch deep, its rear end on the rock below, its front end, upside down on the top of the pool, groping blindly for the specks of living creatures that start the life-chain of this weird ecosystem.

Master of the cave is the famous Texas Blind Salamander, irridescently white, delicate, toothpick-legged, red-gilled, eye-remnanted, about four inches long. This creature is one of but two such highly specialized salamander species in North America a living monument to the unusual modifications required of vertebrates that live entirely within caves. Its life, its very existence, depends on the unique invertebrates and peculiar environments of Ezell's Cave.

A Unique Fauna

In the small world of Ezell's Cave thirty-six or more species are known. Of these, ten are aquatic, including six which are known to occur only here. It is the whole aquatic fauna of the Purgatory Creek which is of such great academic importance. The occurrence together of a distinct flatworm, an ascellid isopod quite different from any others, a distinct amphipod, the only shrimp known from this region, the only thermosbaenacean of the Western Hemisphere, and one of the world's most striking cave-adapted salamanders makes Ezell's Cave and its contained Purgatory Creek pool a unique biological phenomenon worthy of stringent protection.

Only a unique series of geological, zoological and human events has produced and spared this rarest of rare ecosystems, Ezell's Cave, an emerald cameo of life.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy, National Organization, 1522 K. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20005, conserves land, educates people in the values of natural areas, and investigates natural areas and problems relating to them. It maintains and manages a system of preserves throughout the United States. Ezell's Cave is the first one in Texas, although The Nature Conservancy for a period did hold title to the Attwater Prairie Chicken preserve while World Wildlife Fund was qualifying to assume ownership.

The Texas Chaper of the Nature Conservancy is in immediate charge of the cave property, through Professor W. K. Davis, Biology Department, Southwest Texas State College, San Marcos, Texas. Consultants are Dr. Frederick R. Gehlbach of Baylor University and Dr. Robert W. Mitchell of Texas Technological College. The Texas Chapter is also in charge of fund-raising, including repayment of the land-purchase loan made by the national organization. Officers of the Texas Chapter are:

Texas Chapter

Edward C. Fritz—President, Dallas
Campbell Loughmiller—1st Vice President, Tyler
Dr. Hans Suter—2nd Vice President, Corpus Christi
John E. Galley—3rd Vice President, Kerrville
Ralph D. Churchill—Secretary, Dallas
Mrs. Norma Stillwell—Assistant Secretary, Dallas
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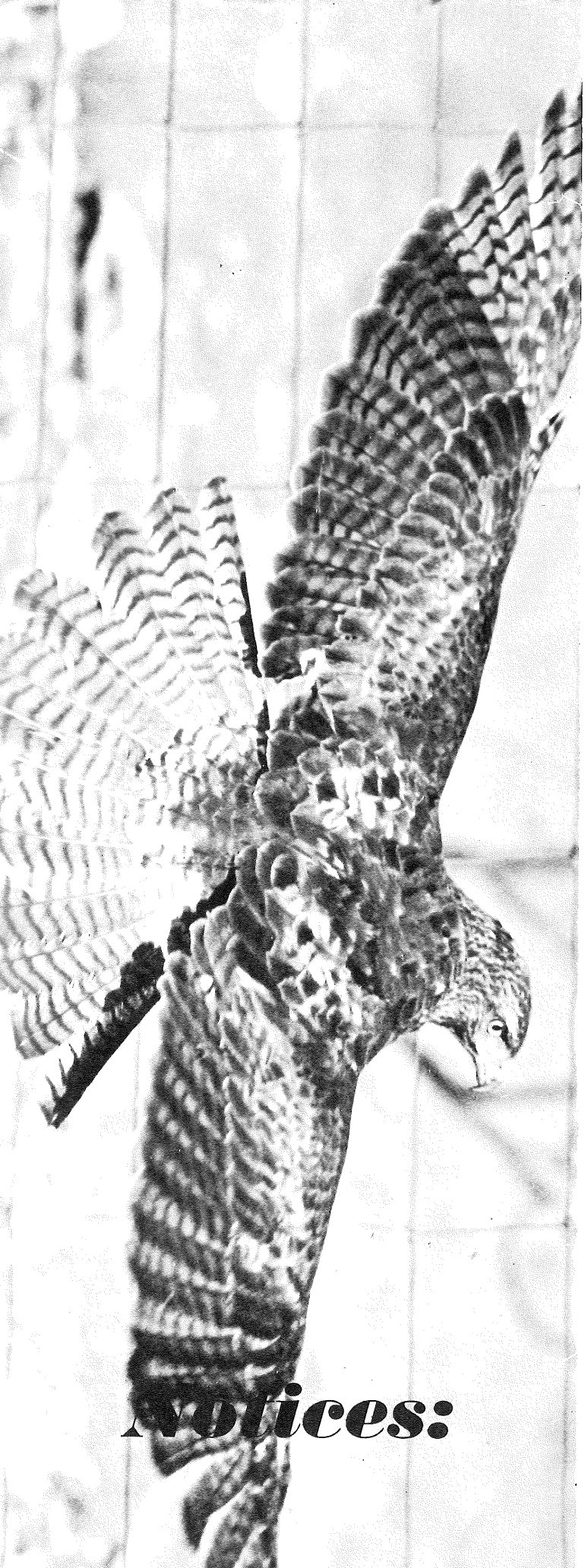
Mrs. Howard (Mary) Kittel, Ft. Worth
Clay E. Miller, Valentine

Where Your Money Is Needed

Purchase Price of Cave Lot	$ 7,430.00
Acquisition and Repair of House and lot next door as residency for caretaker*	5,000.00
Fence	3,000.00
Cost of this leaflet and stamps	300.00
TOTAL	$15,730.00

*Southwest Texas State College will arrange for a graduate student to serve as caretaker in return for his free occupancy of the residence at the site. A habitat restoration and research program will be conducted without charge by the biology department of Southwest Texas State College.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
909 Reliance Life Bldg.
Dallas, Texas 75201



Notices:

Spring activities by our sister organization to the north, the Oklahoma Ornithological Society will include a field trip, March 31 to the northeastern part of the state to observe the drumming of the Prairie Chickens, and the annual Spring Meeting at Alva and the Salt Plains Wildlife Refuge April 26-28.

The Editor invites TOS members to submit for publication in the **TOS Bulletin** ornithological papers dealing with such topics as ecological studies, life-history studies, significant range extensions, etc. Although the Bulletin will continue to include a large number of conservation reports and articles of general interest, an increased emphasis will be placed on scientific papers. Papers dealing with specific aspects of the history of ornithology, such as unpublished biographies of pioneer ornithologists, will also be considered for publication.

The TOS Yearbooks which were recently mailed to all members were compiled by our secretary, Mrs. Cleve Bachman. The compilation of such an informative yearbook indicates a considerable amount of time and effort on her part, for which we are most appreciative.

The TOS regrets the passing away of two of its members, Mrs. John Galley of Midland and Mrs. W. B. Bertelsen of Cranfills Gap.

The Arkansas Audubon Society will hold its spring meeting May 3-5 at the Mather Lodge, Petit Jean State Park, Morrelton, Arkansas. Interested members of the TOS are invited to attend. Write to Mr. H. H. Shugart, 180 N. Broadway, El Dorado, Arkansas, 71730, for details.

Texas Technological College is undertaking an intensive study of the Golden Eagle in Texas. Anyone knowing the location of nesting or potentially nesting birds in the state is urged to contact Dr. Kent Rylander, Department of Biology, Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. This study is sponsored by the National Audubon Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, all three agencies of which will appreciate any help afforded by persons having knowledge of the nesting and feeding habits of this bird.

Hazel C. Green, TOS conservation member, requests that reports be made to her on any instances of violation of the integrity of our roadsides and parks. She also urges that all members write Mr. J. C. Dingwall, Chief Highway Engineer, Austin, Texas, 78701, about the fact that too much vegetation is being destroyed on our highways and roadsides and that too much litter is left lying on the roadside.

An announcement from Ned Fritz, Conservation Editor: "Let's all gather together in the midst of spring at Meridian State Park northwest of Waco! Warren Pulich will lead field trips to hear and see the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo from 8:00 A.M. until noon. Other common nesting species include the rufous-crowned sparrow, canyon wren, and black and white warbler! There is a blend of east and west here with nesting western and eastern wood pewees plus many others.

Let's rally at noon at the picnic area near the lake beach to hear pep talks on the latest developments in our fight to save Meridian State Park from irreparable damage by leasing 85 or more acres for clearing into a golf course! In the afternoon we'll have more field trips featuring the ecology of the natural communities of the park — Fred Gehlbach of Baylor's Biology Department will lead them!

Here is our chance to strike a big blow for conservation — the bigger the crowd the stronger impression we will make on state officials on this issue and future projects. We want to demonstrate the values of our natural landscape, protest the proposed golf course lease, or if the lease has been withdrawn, to celebrate.

Accommodations: There are 38 campsites, including trailer and tent sites and screened shelters, at the park. Meridian has a hotel 4 miles away, and Waco offers all sorts of accommodations 50 miles to the southeast."

Editorial:

Ornithological Provincialism and the Will to Die

Birders show a curious dualism when it comes to provincialism. On the one hand we can become emotionally involved when oil kills large numbers of birds off the coast of Great Britain; and on the other hand we can restrict our attention almost exclusively to the birds of a region as arbitrary as a county. If you aren't sure just how provincial you are, ask yourself how proud you were when the Ivory-billed Woodpecker was recently discovered in "our" state—not Louisiana or Florida. If through some freakish twist of nature the Whooping Cranes all turned up on the Louisiana coast next winter, would you feel we had lost something which in a sense belongs to us? The degree to which you are devoted to your own area and to which you evaluate and judge the world from the point of reference of your own local area is the degree to which you are provincial. The truly cosmopolitan birder weeps as much for the Kagus as for the Whooping Cranes, if he weeps at all.

Now provincialism fathers patriotism and regardless of the intellectual and emotional restrictions which provincialism may impose, it can serve as a useful tool for getting a job done, such as defending a country or helping a vanishing bird linger on. It is unlikely that many of our rare birds would have survived even this long had someone not felt some sense of possession for them.

Granted that for the benefit of Texas birds provincialism at times may be good or even necessary, still we cannot ignore its price. This is the same price paid by the mesmerized plodder who, in order to avoid stumbling, clamps a fixed stare upon his narrow and well-worn path and never gazes up at the stars. His eyes soon lose the facility to focus on distant objects. Since all he really sees clearly is his path, he soon convinces himself that this path is his only possession. The tragedy is that he fails to remember that the stars belong to him just as much as the ground. While intellectually he may accept this fact, for all practical purposes he has lost the universe to a handful of dirt.

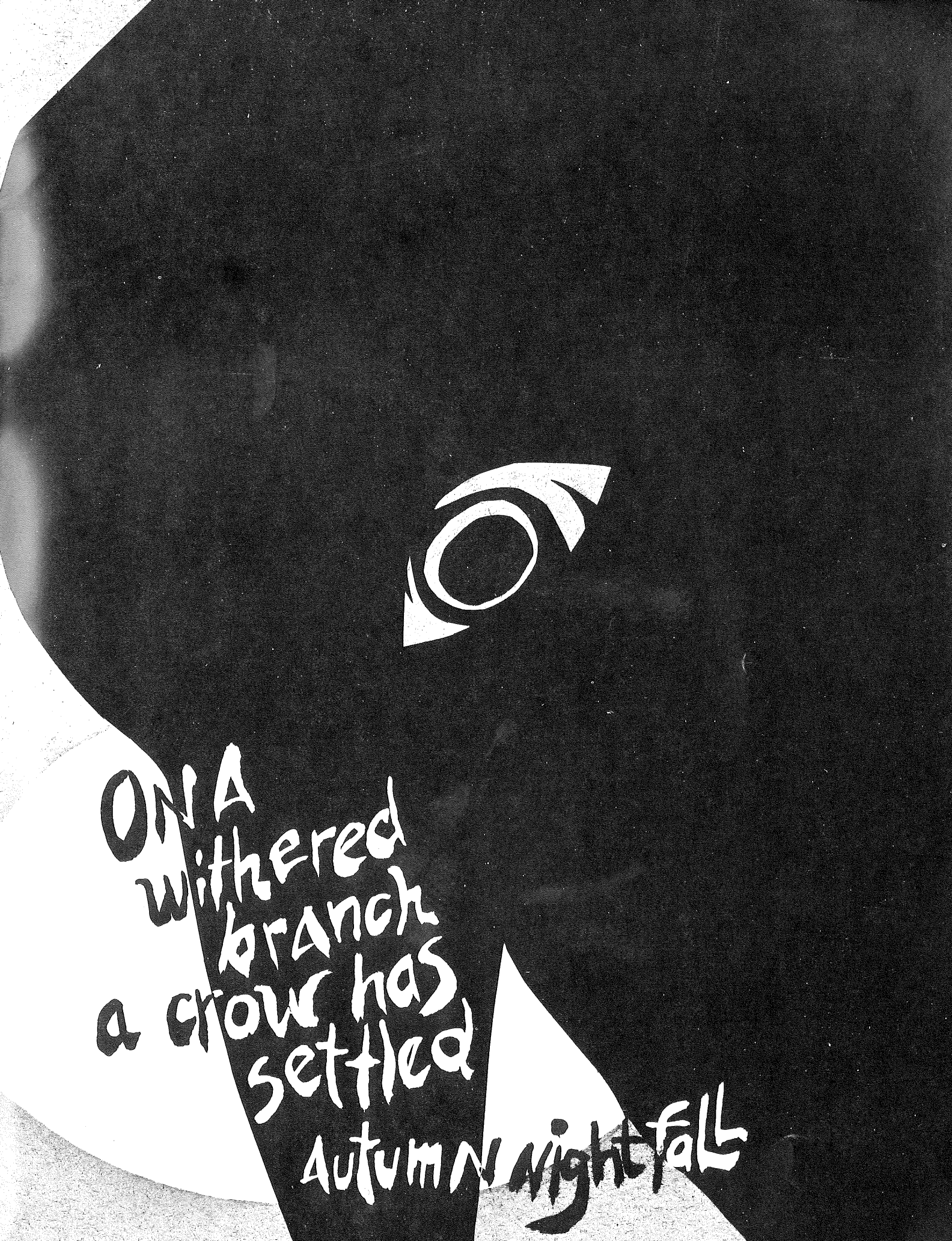
As a fourth generation Texan who was born and educated in this state, I am not indifferent to the fact that more species of birds occur here than in any other state. I understand why the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher would be a more appropriate state bird than the Mockingbird, since its restricted range makes it more uniquely "ours." Also, we would have to share it as a state bird only with Oklahoma, rather than with Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The point, however, is that a particular bird nesting in our backyard actually belongs to us *no more or no less* than any of the other 8,000 species of birds in the world. While it would certainly puzzle the world if Texas adopted, say, the Adelie Penguin as its state bird, if we in fact did this, it would represent the most significant testimonial any state has ever offered the world regarding birds. It would be stating, simply, that our interest, concern and involvement with birds was more than merely an extension of our own desire to possess nature and to separate the natural world into that which is ours and that which isn't Unlike the plodder whose blank stare soon convinces him that he belongs only to that piece of earth beneath him, and that only that piece of earth belongs to him, we would be free to respond to any bird in the world as if it were our possession. In giving up our provincial ideas and possessive feelings about Texas birds, we would gain a unique and universal perspective with regard to birds.

If we consider as our "will to live" our natural tendency to grow, to expand, diversify and intensify our experiences and to live exuberantly outside ourselves, then in some cases to restrict our experiences and emotions to ourselves and to that which lies immediately outside us represents a "will to die." An extreme case illustrating the will to die is that of an ornithologist who for forty years collected birds exclusively in his home county. He had no concern for anything outside of his little kingdom, and he spent most of his time attending to, in Midas fashion, his meticulously prepared collection. The birds in that county were "his" to the extent that he resented other ornithologists' collecting in that area. When he died he thought it appropriate that one of his better bird skins, one particularly characteristic of the area, be buried with him. His transition from a living form to a dead form was hardly noticeable, since he actually began "dying" at the age of twenty when he chose to anchor his feelings and interests exclusively to his home county. He slowly began to strangulate in a virtual Procrustean bed which he built for himself and which by no means adequately provided for the exuberant, unrestrictive and expansive life he was capable of experiencing. He destroyed life because he did not allow it to flourish, and any will to destroy life in this way is a will to die.

Although Texas is big, we discredit ourselves when we fail to realize that for us it also can be a Procrustean bed. The problem of provincialism is not solved by birding in other areas. For instance, as long as a Texan, while birding in Africa,, feels he is looking at *their* birds, while *his* are back home, then he has taken his Procrustean bed to Africa with him, and he is no less rigid in his way than an inflexible, opinionated person who ostensibly joins a discussion to gain new insights. On the other hand, a person who rarely has an opportunity to bird outside his backyard may develop a remarkable sensitivity to the birds of the world. Questions such as who owns certain birds, which state has the most beautiful, most numerous or most unique birds, etc., simply do not concern him. The truly cosmopolitan birder is just as sentimental and concerned with birds as is the provincial birder. The difference lies in the fact that his sentiment and concern are not expressions of an urge to draw lines, compare possessions and define kingdoms. To say that a bird is simply a bird is to admit a much greater involvement with birds *per se* than to say a bird is a Texas endemic. When we first become aware of an inclination to say, "The Golden-cheeked Warbler is *a* bird," instead of, "The Golden-cheeked Warbler is *our* bird," then we will see the chains of ornithological provincialism begin to weaken and we will see as the object of our love the bird itself, not merely a feathered symbol of our urge to possess.

— M.K.R.


On a
withered
branch
a crow has
settled
autumn nightfall

BULLETIN
OF THE
TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

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TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting

TIME: May 4th & 5th, 1968

PLACE: White's City, New Mexico (McKittrick Canyon)
Information Desk & Registration in Lobby of Cavern Inn Motel

LODGING: White's City, New Mexico

1. Motels—$5.50 up. Each person make own reservations. (White's City Concessions, White's City, New Mexico)
2. Trailer Parks—two at White's City.
3. Campground—Jim White Campground, ¼ mile E. & ¼ mile N. of Carlsbad, New Mexico, on Hwys. 62 & 180. Twenty sites—$1.00 fee.

FOOD: White's City Restaurant

1. Individual basis.
2. Field trip lunches available on individual basis.
3. Group Dinner—none, no place available.

MEETING: T.O.S. Business Meeting
Sunday—3 to 4 P.M.
Room at Park Headquarters near Cavern entrance.

ENTERTAINMENT: Saturday Night

1. Bat Flight & lecture—public and free.
2. Special T.O.S. cave trip following bat flight Saturday night.
   a. Regular entrance fee paid on individual basis.

FIELD TRIPS: All trips both Saturday and Sunday

1. McKittrick Canyon—Walking. Details will be available at meeting.
2. Roswell—Bitter Lake Refuge—Driving. Details later.
3. Rattlesnake Springs—Black River Village—Walking & Driving. Details later.