

## WASHTENAW AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Published Bi-Monthly

Editor: Napier Shelton

January-February, 1970

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### January-February Calendar

- Wed., Jan. 21 - General Meeting, U. of M. Botanical Gardens, Dixboro Rd., Program: "The U.S. National Bison Range", 7:30 p.m. Details below.
- Sun., Feb. 1 - Audubon Wildlife Film, Lyle "Buzz" Moss, "Mule Deer Country", Ann Arbor Pioneer High School Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium, 3:00 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 18 - Ann Arbor Ornithological Society Meeting, Room 2009 Museums Bldg., U. of M., 7:30 p.m. Program will be announced in the Feb. 1 Film Notes and on the Ann Arbor News Outdoor Page.
- Sun., Feb. 22 - Audubon Wildlife Film, Walter H. Berlet, "The Untamed Olympics", Ann Arbor Pioneer High School Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium, 3:00 p.m. Final film for this season.

### Home on the Bison Range

Our January general meeting will feature a slide presentation, "The U.S. National Bison Range" by Joseph Engelhard. Mr. Engelhard, a graduate student at Central Michigan University, took the slides for his talk during a four-month study when he lived on the Range in Montana. Emphasis will be on calving and rutting behavior and management of bison, but scenes including other mammals and birds of this unit of our National Wildlife Refuge System will also be shown.

### Teach-In On The Environment - March, 1970

Students and faculty of the University of Michigan have recently organized ENACT (Environmental Action for Survival) to identify and deal with environmental problems at the local, state and national levels. One of ENACT's goals is to coordinate university efforts with community organizations and interested citizens. An Environmental Teach-In, scheduled for March 11-14, 1970, has received the backing of Senators Hart and Nelson and Congressman Esch. It is hoped that the Teach-In will have national impact.

WAS plans to actively participate in the Teach-In. If you have ideas as to how WAS should participate, please pass them on to Ralph Wall at 665-4292 or other WAS board members so that they may be discussed at the WAS board meeting scheduled for mid-January. You are also urged to participate on an individual basis or through other groups with which you are affiliated. You can reach ENACT by phone (764-4410) or by letter to ENACT, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich, 48104.

### "The Challenge of the Seventies"

The enclosed reprint of an article by Arthur Godfrey is one of several current warnings that time is swiftly running out on mankind unless he takes drastic steps to save his environment. When you have read the article, please circulate it to others to help promote public awareness of our grave situation.

## Conservation Notes

Environmentalists everywhere are speaking out for greater citizen participation in solving the numerous problems we all face. Let's take a look at some of the issues which should greatly concern those of us who dwell in the Ann Arbor locale. Though we are more fortunate than many other areas of like-size, still there is no reason for apathy.

Everywhere in the area we observe the rise of new buildings for business, industrial, cultural and residential use. Some of the construction seems to have beauty and design that we can all feel proud of. However, some of the structures are of mediocre quality and are crowded into limited space which detracts from beauty and effectiveness.

Building density gives rise to many accompanying problems, especially in transportation, which are going to become more critical as time elapses. We should be watching carefully how the city provides for the efficient egress and ingress of its citizens and what kinds of ordinances shall guide the appearance of our roadsides. An observant individual cannot always look with pride at the lack of unity and beauty in our highway and street-side signs, billboards and storefronts. Fortunately, we are working on these problems.

We can be reasonably satisfied with our riverfront programs for beauty and recreation. But most of us I am sure want as much of the river basin as possible left in a natural condition. We do not want construction going up on the flood plain. We would like a beautiful, small stream, such as Traver Creek, left in its natural state. We would like as much of the Huron River valley as possible available for parks, recreational areas, hiking and bike trails. Again, city and county officials working with citizen's groups have sound plans in the making. The Huron River Watershed Council is working for the betterment of the entire Huron River watershed.

Ann Arbor is an old city and has many historical landmarks that need preservation. People need to be reminded in some way of the struggles, inventiveness and character of living of our forefathers which make things as they are today. We have an Historical Commission working on this program, and I am sure that there are many ways for us to assist them.

The natural, physical and cultural environment is so complex that we need to involve all of our citizens, young and old, both in the development of a conservation philosophy and in the use of modern technology for the realization of that philosophy. Our local schools are noteworthy throughout the nation for their excellent programs in environmental education. Let's keep them so honored. There is also in the making a very challenging program for the development of an Environmental Interpretive Center for our community. Involved are the University, city, public schools and dedicated citizens. Your support can help bring the Center to early fruition.

Involvement and participation of citizens is critical for the realization of a high quality of living and a wholesome social and physical atmosphere. Join with the groups working on these issues. Attend meetings of our organizations, clubs, and civic bodies--especially the City Council and Board of Education--and speak your piece. The Committee for Ann Arbor Area Planning, the Mayor's Natural Resources Group, the several Advisory Committees to the Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, the Federated Garden Clubs, Tri-County Sportsman's Club are good examples. Certainly the nature clubs (Washtenaw Audubon, Huron Valley Botanical Club, Sierra Club, etc.) should be considered for membership and support. Let's support the spring Teach-In wherein all of us will have an opportunity to consider in depth the environmental problems of our great city.

-Clarence J. Messner

## President's Message - Conservation Concern or Catastrophic Contentment?

Recent Ann Arbor News headlines read: "By 1990's: Breathing Masks or Death?", "Panel Warns: Pesticides Threaten Oxygen Supply", "Pollution Toll Soars (More than 15 million fish were killed by water pollution last year)". Articles such as "The Challenge of the Seventies" by Arthur Godfrey, enclosed with this newsletter, and Dr. Paul Ehrlich's "Eco-Catastrophe" which appeared in the September, 1969, issue of Ramparts Magazine warn of disaster for mankind in the period of ten or twenty years. And what is being done about it? Very little.

A good example of the ineptness of our political leaders to act completely in the interests of mankind is the action taken in November to ban the domestic use of DDT within the next year. It is now common knowledge that DDT is a non-containable substance which knows no geographic boundaries once released into the atmosphere. And yet our government did not impose a ban on the exportation of DDT which currently accounts for 65% of the U. S. manufacture of this biocidal material. Our government's action in banning the domestic use of DDT was based on the findings of a scientific panel that pesticides can reduce photosynthesis (the ability of plants to produce oxygen) by as much as 90% in water plants, believed to now supply 40% of the world's oxygen. The panel warned that "the release of biocidal materials into the environment should be drastically reduced".

Massive public concern and involvement are needed to avert ultimate catastrophe to our wildlife, plantlife and to mankind. Protection of the world's environment must become the foremost concern of our government officials and representatives and of the world's leaders. Keep your Federal, state and local representatives continually aware of your concern. Discuss environmental problems with your family, friends and colleagues and get them actively involved as well. Plan to participate in the Teach-In On The Environment planned here in March, 1970. Take an active part in environmental planning, conservation issues and pollution control problems in your local community. Your involvement is urgently needed. - Ralph J. Wall.

### Membership

We welcome the following new members:

Harris H. Ball, 1052 Baldwin, Ann Arbor, 48104, Mr. & Mrs. William Bishop, 1612 Morton, Ann Arbor, 48104, Mr. & Mrs. Russell P. Claggett, 1300 W. Madison, Ann Arbor, 48103, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Corson, 1047 Martin Pl, Ann Arbor, 48104, Ruth Page Edwards, 3111 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 48104, Mr. & Mrs. John Fine, 1512 Brooklyn, Ann Arbor, 48104, Jeff & Linda Frank, 2751 Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, 48104, Mr. & Mrs. S. D. Hewlett, 2215 Packard Rd., Apt. 3, Ann Arbor, 48104, Mrs. Dwight Hinds, 2319 Parkwood, Ann Arbor, 48104, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Lapinski, 9710 E. Michigan, Parma, 49269, Mr. & Mrs. G. D. McGoch, 1511 Golden, Ann Arbor, 48104, Harriet Parsons, 411 N. Adams, Ypsilanti, 48197, Mr. & Mrs. William D. Sperling, 5578 Ellis, Ypsilanti, 48197.

We also wish to acknowledge and to thank the following members for their patron membership contributions: Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Corson, Eunice Hendrix, Harriet Parsons, Mr. & Mrs. Emerson Powrie, Herbert F. Taggart, Dorothy Wilbur, Mr. & Mrs. Boyd W. Yard.

Membership dues are: Patron, \$5.00 or more (tax-deductible); Individual \$1.50; Husband & Wife, \$2.00; Junior (under 18 yrs.) \$.50. To join or to renew, please mail your check payable to the Washtenaw Audubon Society to our Treasurer, Mrs. Wayne Behling, 130 Clubview Dr., Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197.

Noteworthy Bird Sightings for November-December, 1969

<u>Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observers</u>
1	Red-necked Grebe	Ipperwash	11/28	Maley, Shelton
up to 4	Snow Goose	Sutton's Lake	Nov.	Many
up to 46	Blue Goose	Sutton's Lake	Nov.	Many
1	Common Scoter	St. Clair River	11/2	Keller, Wall
1	Goshawk	Monroe County	12/11	Fisher
1	Glaucous Gull	Grosse Ile	12/24	Otis, Heumann
1	Black-legged Kittiwake	Erie Marsh	11/22	Kleiman
1	Snowy Owl	Ipperwash	12/20	Kleiman
flock	Raven	Ipperwash	Nov.	Several
1	Boreal Chickadee	Pt. Pelee	11/26	Kleiman
1	Carolina Wren	Saginaw Forest	12/5	Shelton
2	Carolina Wren	Ann Arbor	12/22	fide Tordoff
1	Catbird	Proud Lake	11/23	Keller, Wall
1	Catbird	Monroe County	12/11	Fisher
1	Parula Warbler	Arboretum	11/25	DeBenedictus
many flocks	Redpoll	Washtenaw County	Nov-Dec.	Several
30	Red Crossbill	Arborcrest Cem.	11/9	Maley
4	White-winged Crossbill	Arboretum	11/9	Hotaling
1	Fox Sparrow	Arboretum	11/9	Hotaling

In addition, many noteworthy birds were sighted on the annual Christmas bird counts held in Monroe County on Dec. 21 and in Washtenaw County on Dec. 28. The results of these counts are detailed in the remaining pages of this newsletter.

If you wish to contribute an interesting or unusual record to a future issue of the newsletter, contact Al Maley (769-0907) or Nape Shelton (663-0479).

Monroe County Christmas Count - December 21, 1969

Twenty-three observers, comprised mostly of persons from the Ann Arbor area, took part in a Monroe census on Sunday, December 21, covering the extreme southeastern corner of the state. The 9 parties, largest ever for this count, worked from before dawn until dusk in searching every square mile of the 15-mile diameter count circle, except for Lake Erie which unfortunately was almost completely frozen all along the shore. A record number of 74 species was recorded, second highest ever for a Christmas count in Michigan (the record being 77 species tallied in Berrien County in 1962). Observers were aided by pleasant, cool and mostly overcast weather conditions. It had been planned to send an outboard motorboat onto Lake Erie in an effort to find various species of diving ducks and gulls, but because of the ice this was not possible. This fact undoubtedly prevented the group from finishing with 80 or more species.

Complete results are detailed below. Noteworthy sightings of species or numbers of individual species are underscored.

Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 28; Black-crowned Night Heron, 3; American Bittern, 1; Mallard, 5,000; Black Duck, 1,500; Pintail, 8; American Widgeon, 3; Wood Duck, 2; Common Goldeneye, 47; Bufflehead, 2; Hooded Merganser, 1; Common Merganser, 55; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 14; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 28; Bobwhite, 28; Ring-necked Pheasant, 90; Virginia Rail, 1; American Coot, 1; Killdeer, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 25; Herring Gull, 320; Ring-billed Gull, 100; Mourning Dove, 315; Screech Owl, 20; Great Horned Owl, 13; Long-eared Owl, 3; Saw-whet Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted

Monroe County Christmas Count - December 21, 1969 (Concluded)

Flicker, 51; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 13; Downy Woodpecker, 109; Horned Lark, 14; Blue Jay, 62; Common Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 98; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 37; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 20; Winter Wren, 17; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 3; Brown Thrasher, 3; Robin, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 41; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Northern Shrike, 1; shrike (sp), 1; Starling, 2,900; Myrtle Warbler, 7; Yellowthroat, 6; House Sparrow, 1,500; meadowlark (sp), 14; Red-winged Blackbird, 4; Common Grackle, 28; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Cardinal, 196; Purple Finch, 4; Common Redpoll, 13; Pine Siskin, 5; American Goldfinch, 45; Rufous-sided Towhee, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 185; Tree Sparrow, 465; Field Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 27; Song Sparrow, 225; Snow Bunting, 2. Total species: 74. Total individuals: 14,030.

From an overall viewpoint, this year's census must rank as exceptionally satisfying and is a tribute to all those observers who worked so hard and enthusiastically to make it a success. Since I will be leaving Ann Arbor next year, it is hoped that someone else will undertake the organization of the Monroe Census next year. If interested, please contact me at 764-0457. Monroe County has the potential to compete with any other locality in the state for the greatest variety of birds in the wintertime. It would be unfortunate not to continue an annual Christmas census of this part of Michigan. For the present, at least, the results are published only in The Jack Pine Warbler and not in Audubon Field Notes, since Toledo's census includes the southeast corner of Michigan, overlapping slightly with the Monroe census.

- Dean Fisher.

WAS Christmas Count - Washtenaw County - December 28, 1969

Twenty-five observers, participating in the annual WAS Christmas count held on December 28, recorded a total of 61 species of birds, tying last year's record count of total species sighted. Total individual birds counted was 7,443, down considerably from last year's record tally of 9,101 birds which included 2,950 Snow Buntings compared to only 12 Snow Buntings sighted this year. In spite of heavy snow cover, much frozen water and cold weather, most parties of observers experienced considerable bird activity.

A Yellowthroat was the only new species recorded for a WAS count, but several new high counts of individual species (designated below by an \*) were experienced. Noteworthy sightings of species and numbers of individual species are underscored in the following complete list of results:

Mute Swan, 8\*; Canada Goose, 410\*; Mallard, 113\*; Black Duck, 91; Canvasback, 1; Common Goldeneye, 50; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 69\*; Sparrow Hawk, 30\*; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bobwhite, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 30; Mourning Dove, 516; Screech Owl, 12; Great Horned Owl, 12\*; Barred Owl, 1; Long-eared Owl, 2; Saw-whet Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 54\*; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Red-headed Woodpecker, 46\*; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 25\*; Downy Woodpecker, 101; Horned Lark, 32; Blue Jay, 203\*; Common Crow, 41; Black-capped Chickadee, 221; Tufted Titmouse, 62; White-breasted Nuthatch, 104; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Brown Creeper, 16; Winter Wren, 1; Robin, 10; Hermit Thrush, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 59; Starling, 1,275\*; Myrtle Warbler, 32\*; Yellowthroat, 1; House Sparrow, 2,000; meadowlark (sp), 20; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1; Cardinal, 272\*; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Purple Finch, 2; Common Redpoll, 310\*; Pine Siskin, 5; American Goldfinch, 165; Red Crossbill, 7; Rufous-sided Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 175; Tree Sparrow, 700; Field Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 10\*; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 76\*; Snow Bunting, 12.

WAS Christmas Count - Washtenaw County - December 28, 1969 (Concluded)

Additional species seen during the count period but not on the day of the count: American Coot, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; White-winged Crossbill, 2.

The area covered was the same as in past years, namely all points within a 15-mile diameter circle centered on Maple Road at the Huron River. Observers were: Dorothy Blanchard, Art Carpenter, Alice Crawford, Lloyd Crawford, Joseph Engelhard, Dean Fisher (compiler), Carl Freeman, Dale Greiner, William Hopkins, Janice Johnson, Jacob Keller, Philip Merna, Maxine Miles, Barbara Ann Miller, Diana Moore, Gard Otis, Paul Rockey, Ann Sleight, R. W. Storer, Robert Storer, Jr., David Storer, A. Sullivan, H.B. Tordoff, Ralph Wall, D. K. Weaver.

Our thanks to all participants and our special thanks to Dean Fisher for providing the organization and leadership needed to achieve our repeated success

Want to Write to Washington?

President Richard M. Nixon, The White House, Washington, D. C., 20500.  
Walter H. Hickel, Secretary, Department of the Interior, Wash., D. C., 20240.  
Sen. Phillip A. Hart, Rm. 253, Old Capitol Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20002.  
Sen. Robert P. Griffin, Rm. 353, Old Capitol Bldg., Wash., D.C., 20002.  
Repr. Marvin L. Esch, Rm. 501, Cannon Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20002.

Address letters to other cabinet officials in a fashion similar to that shown above for Secretary Hickel. An accepted practice is to address cabinet officials, senators and representatives as "The Honorable...", followed by "Sir" or "Dear Sir" for cabinet officials, "Dear Senator..." for senators and "Dear Mr. ..." for representatives.

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