

The Village Courier



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FIRST AUDUBON BIRD COUNT HERE

Forty-four observers put in 86 hours of volunteer bird-watching last December 19 in a 15-mile circular territory surrounding Fermilab, carrying out the "Fermilab count." The Fermilab site became, for the first time, the geographical center for the local "Christmas Bird Count," part of the National Audubon Society's 77th annual event, which takes place nationally at this time each year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also a sponsor and the Fermilab count was directed by Richard Hoger of the DuPage Audubon Society which is responsible locally for carrying out the mission.

The observers were assigned to eight different sections in the Fermilab count circle. (See the map on page 2.) They were grouped in twelve parties with four more people observing at stationary feeders in the area. They covered 51 party-miles on foot and 340 in cars. This was one of 13 census areas in the Chicago region where the counting took place on this date. Nationally last year, 28,000 persons took part in the Christmas count, making it the largest outdoor sport in the world.

The compiled report of activities observed in the Christmas bird count fills 650 two-column pages. The data become the information needed to plot the winter range of North American birds and, in longer perspective, changes in bird ranges and numbers. Bird populations are good indications of environmental quality. They are mobile and quick to adapt to threatening conditions.

The official count day began at 7 a.m. and ended with a gathering for tabulation in the Fermilab Central Laboratory at 4:30 p.m. The bird-watchers begin from a central point in their assigned area, then spread out in all directions, sometimes spotting from cars with binoculars, other times on foot in areas known to be strong habitats.

The 60 species garnered in the Fermilab area included two Canvasback ducks spotted in the Main Ring at 7:30 a.m. The Canvasbacks are usually seen in Lake Michigan. At the other end of the day three Short-eared Owls were seen at 4 p.m., also at Fermilab. A Budgerigar, or Parakeet, reported



...Dick Hoger, 30-power spotting scope...



...Bird watchers spot quarry in trees...



...Upright Red-Tailed Hawk easily spotted...

(Continued on Page 2)

AUDUBON COUNT (Continued)

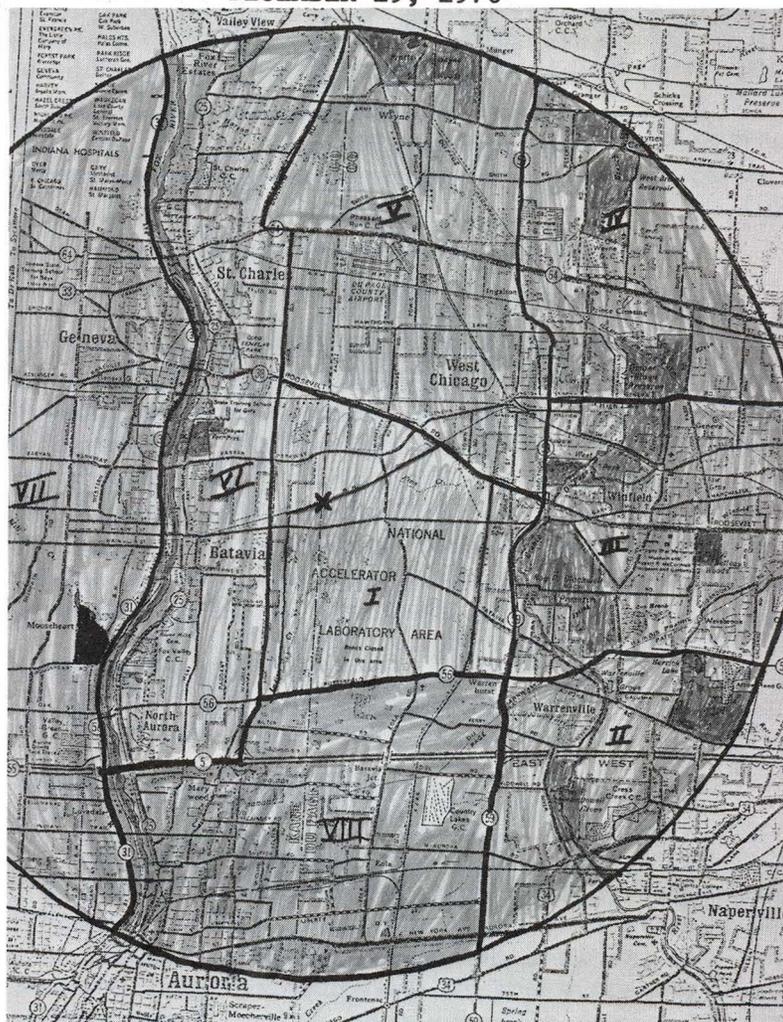
in Area III for the past 2 1/2 months was among the most unusual sightings. The birders conjectured that it was a runaway from a private home that had learned to cope because regular feed was available. The Pied-billed Grebe in Area VI, the Rufous-sided Towhees at feeders in Area VI and VII are considered unusual birds at this time of the year, according to Hoger. There were 8,177 individual birds sighted in the Fermilab count.

There were a substantial number of raptors -- hawks and owls -- on the Fermilab count. Large numbers were also recorded for Mallard Duck, Red-winged Blackbird, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Tree Sparrow, Cardinal, Black-capped Chickadee, Blue Jay, and American Goldfinch.

Dick Hoger has many friends at Fermilab through his job at the Argonne National Laboratory. Many others know Dick and his wife at their Willowbrook Bird Haven in Glen Ellyn where they care for hundreds of sick and injured birds and small animals which people bring to them. Some of these are released in the Fermilab Main Ring so that they can return to their natural habitat in relative safety after they have recuperated.

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FERMILAB BIRD COUNT AREA
DECEMBER 19, 1976



FERMILAB CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
AREA I (FERMILAB SITE)

Canada Goose	5	Blue Jay	5
Mallard	498	Common Crow	64
Black Duck	2	Black-capped Chickadee	28
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	5
Red-tailed Hawk	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Rough-legged Hawk	13	Brown Creeper	3
American Kestrel	1	Starling	67
Ring-necked Pheasant	20	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)	
Herring Gull	1	Warbler	1
Rock Dove	86	House Sparrow	5
Mourning Dove	8	Rusty Blackbird	1
Great Horned Owl	5	Cardinal	5
Short-eared Owl	3	Purple Finch	5
Belted Kingfisher	1	American Goldfinch	28
Common (Yellow-sh.) Flicker	1	Dark-eyed (Slate-colored)	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Junco	
Downy Woodpecker	11	Tree Sparrow	166
Horned Lark	4	Swamp Sparrow	3
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Song Sparrow	3
Canvasback	2	Accipiter sp.	2
		Rufous-sided Towhee	5

EMPLOYEE NEWS & NOTES

Periodically questions arise concerning TIAA-CREF and how each organization invests your retirement premiums. Your annuity contributions can be invested in either TIAA or CREF, or in both under a variety of proportion options.

TIAA invests your premiums almost exclusively in fixed-dollar obligations--broadly-diversified group of bonds and mortgages. This provides a relatively stable return, which gives you basic protection in times of reasonably level or declining prices.

CREF invests your premiums in a broadly-diversified common stock fund. The dividends and other earnings are reinvested which are also credited to your annuity account. The retirement income you receive under CREF is variable, reflecting changes in market prices and dividends of the common stock.

Therefore, the objective of the combined TIAA-CREF system is to secure for you a lifetime retirement income that is more responsive to economic change than a fixed-dollar annuity alone and more predictable than a variable annuity alone.

Check your annuity statements (distributed by payroll 1-3-77) for the allocation of your annuity premiums. For additional information contact the Employee Benefits Office, Ext. 3395.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Recently the Laboratory was anonymously advised of the "apparently needless destruction" of some chairs. A subsequent investigation revealed that the chairs in question were highly defective and unsafe; arms had dropped off, back braces had broken, support mechanisms and casters failed, accidents had occurred to employees using them. Indeed, the chairs had been destroyed because they were considered a patently unsafe hazard. A refund was obtained from GSA and newer, safer chairs are being obtained. The concern and advice by those who wished to remain anonymous is sincerely appreciated.

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GRAD STUDENT TOUR INFORMATION

The Graduate Student Tour of the main accelerator is being re-scheduled for some-time in February. Depending on the Accelerator schedule, announcement for this tour might be on short notice; one week in advance. Watch for the announcement. Call Cheryl Stadtfeld, Public Information Office, 3351, if you have questions about the date.

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BRING 5 AND TAKE 5

Stretch your wig with the stimulating reading material you'll find at the new Fermilab Book Exchange that begins Wednesday, February 2 and will continue on the first Wednesday of each month in the small dining room at the west side of the cafeteria. Helen Ecker will be in charge of the new service, logging in your donations of five books; in return, you take five others home...and come back next month for more!!

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NO SNOWMOBILING is allowed on the Fermilab site. Off-the-road vehicles damage fences and are a potential threat to planted areas and wildlife on the site, Rudy Dorner, Site Manager, advises.

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NALREC's CANDLELIGHT BOWL

Saturday, February 12
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Bowling Green

Tickets now on sale. At \$7.00 per person, includes bowling and buffet. Special prizes for one comedy bowl, one special bowl, one scotch double bowl. BBQ chicken and roast beef sandwiches after second game.

Get tickets from Nelson Sample, Ext. 3366; Don Sorenson, Ext. 3087; Ralph Ovitt, Ext. 3719; John Stoffel, Ext. 3157.

VENDING MACHINE PROBLEMS

All malfunctions of vending machines throughout the Laboratory should be reported to Food Services, Ext. 3646. "The caller need not speak to me personally," says E. Jarzab, Food Service Manager, "but merely state the location and which machine is not working to whomever answers the phone. We in turn will call the vending company for prompt repairs."

SPORTS PAGE - Hustlers 63, Geneva State Bank 58 - basketball.

URA SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

Children of Fermilab employees who will begin a four-year college program in the fall of 1977 can apply for a scholarship for up to \$1,200 per year for four years, sponsored by Universities Research Association, Inc., the parent body of Fermilab.

Students selected for the URA scholarships are selected on the basis of their Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores -- both verbal and math. A copy of the student's official notification of scores must accompany the scholarship application. The score range of scholarship recipients varies from year to year. Winners are chosen by the staff of URA's Washington office.

Applications for the URA scholarship are now available from Vivian Butler or Ruth Thorson, Personnel Office, CL-6E. They must be returned by March 1, 1977.

CLASSIFIED ADS

- FOR SALE - Muskrat fur jacket - in good condition - size 16 - \$45. Ginny, Ext. 4080.
- FOR SALE - '74 Chrysler New Yorker - good cond. \$3,200. Call Winchester, Ext. 4455.
- FOR SALE - King size water bed w/pedestal, htr., 3-spd. vibrator. Heat ranges to 110°. Best mattress available. \$200. Call Ext. 3242.
- FOR SALE - 1967 Plymouth Belvidere. Radio, htr., gd. snow tires. Runs strong. \$200.00 firm. Call Ext. 3242.
- FOR SALE - Queen size water bed incl. htr., pedestal, sheets. \$150. Greg Lawrence, Ext. 3677.
- FOR SALE - Dehumidifier - Sears - 20 pts./day - like new, \$50 or best offer. McCrary, Ext. 3721.
- FOR SALE - Vega GT wagon p/s, p/b, a/c, GT equip. rack. AM/FM stereo. June Olsen, Ext. 3293.
- FOR SALE - 1 brand new, 1 used full-size wheel chair; 1 hospital bed, 1 hydraulic lift. Loretta, Ext. 3540.
- FOR SALE - 1975 1/2 Datsun 2807, air, many options, \$6100/offer, Bob McLin, Ext. 3941.
- FOR SALE - AR-XA manual turntable w/Stanton 500E cartridge, \$25. Innes, Ext. 4096.
- FOR SALE - Early American sofa and love seat, exc. cond.; coffee table, two end tables, good condition. \$1100 new, asking \$650. Call 377-1965.
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