FIELD TRIPS

JANUARY 12, SATURDAY: Local feeder trip. Please note new meeting time--8:30 a.m. Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. There will be six stops on this trip visiting feeders ending at the Rhinelander's around 11:30 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. We will use as few cars as possible so please be on time at the meeting place where cars will be pooled.

JANUARY 19, SATURDAY: Camp Woodbine nature walk. Good news for all of those who cannot make the early morning hour of other trips. Meet at 1 p.m. at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. Camp Woodbine is one of the most interesting and beautiful spots in the area. Larry Hood (730-9251) will be the leader and although the last newsletter suggested participants bring a thermos of coffee, that won't be necessary; coffee will be served. This will be the first of several seasonal walks in this area. Wear walking shoes and comfortable clothing. The trip will be concluded by 5 p.m.

JANUARY 26, SATURDAY: Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Rock Hall, Md. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. Cars will be pooled. Larry Hood is the leader (730-9251). Bring lunch. Trip will be concluded and back home by 6 p.m. Snow--Rescheduled.

FEBRUARY 16-18: WEEKEND-3 DAY: Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge for the second annual trip. This was so successful last February, it is being repeated with Larry Hood as leader again. Because of the necessity of pooling cars and making arrangements to stay overnight at the Irish Grove Sanctuary, Larry must know by February 1 the number of people going. Phone No. 730-9251. If this trip is carefully planned, it can be most enjoyable and inexpensive by car pooling and spending the nights at the sanctuary's comfortable quarters.

PATUXENT CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

JANUARY 19: NASA area. Meet 8 a.m. at 9th and Montgomery in Laurel. Meeting place is beside the ball park between 8th and 9th on Montgomery.

FEBRUARY 2: Hawk and Owl trip. Meet 8 a.m. at 9th and Montgomery in Laurel.

FEBRUARY 9: Feeder trip. Meet 8 a.m. at 9th and Montgomery in Laurel.
WALK AROUND THE LAKE

Another dark cloud at the feeder, this time a Khu lantern reported the unusual

A woodpecker in the wooded area back of his house in Colmbia.

Good things

Anahuac Society, Texas*

The above article is reprinted from STRAITER SMOKER newspaper of the Trinity County.

Texas ducks hunt along the beaches.

When it's time to take the prey

The IIJIEVEL trappers were awarded the Texas coast. In the State Park in 1973, but not before they had

It is the law

When trappers return to catch the bearings, the bearers are needed. The IIJIEVEL trappers became tainted in the montmantled

Jefferson County

Two IIJIEVEL trappers were awarded October 1973.

Note

In the event of a change in the Louisiana Louisiana, the results of the previous biennial.

Program
SWAN LAKE?

A pair of mute swans introduced on Wilde Lake in Columbia recently has aroused curiosity and questions about the beautiful big birds. The pair wear the black neck bands of Dr. William J. L. Sladen who has placed them on the lake (Dr. Sladen bands and tracks whistling swans). They are pinioned (clipped) and the idea is that they will mate and raise a family come Spring. A nesting platform has been placed in the lake for that purpose.

The mute is another of our introduced birds. It is a native of northern Europe and was domesticated very early, raised in captivity first for its meat, later for its beauty. Medieval records show that mute swans were domesticated in Great Britain sometime prior to the 12th Century. Regarded as the property of the Crown, they could be raised only under royal license enforced by a king's swan master and his deputies.

The swan was brought to America as an ornamental park bird and has spread widely in the northeastern states and in Michigan. Now it appears the swans will become well established in Maryland. According to a recent article in the Baltimore Sun, the swans were not wild breeders here before 1962. At that time, two pairs of pinioned birds escaped from an estate along the Miles River and were not recaptured. Their descendants have produced large families and are still growing. They have been sighted in Kent, Queen Annes, Dorchester and Caroline counties on the Eastern Shore and in Anne Arundel County.

It may seem desirable to have so many large beautiful aristocratic swans become well established in Maryland but there is another important issue. Mutes do not migrate as the whistling swans do. They stay all year in their territory and raise their big families. They feed on aquatic vegetation which is winter food for Chesapeake Bay geese and ducks. According to Dickson Preston's article in the Sun, "They tear up more aquatic grasses than they eat. And when water vegetation grows scarce, they head for the farmer's fields."

But even of more immediate concern to residents of Wilde Lake and its many visitors is that mute swans are very aggressive and during breeding season (April until October) will attack almost anything which comes into their territory -- wild ducks, dogs, and children (all plentiful in the Wilde Lake area).

Since the swans are classed as an "exotic species", neither state nor federal agencies are concerned with them. Jan Reese who is monitoring the mute swans of the Talbot County area sees the swan as a menace to other wildlife, fishermen, and farmers if the rapid growth is not checked. He states, "In view of the rapidly growing population and its potential disadvantages, it seems imperative that some federal or state agency concern itself with management of mute swans.

"Someone has got to take responsibility, inform the public of the situation and decide whether they should be protected for esthetic reasons or commercially hunted."