

Bird Watching Walkers Are Early Birds



First, Nickell shows his previous night's "catch."

By **EVELINE OEN**
Arts Editor

How early do you get up?
What do you do before you dash off to work or to school?

For a few people each spring means morning walks, looking for birds, on the Cranbrook grounds — before they get on to their daily routine. Some go on Wednesday, some on Saturday mornings during the height of the spring bird migration.

A main attraction — besides the morning dew and the birds — is Walter P. Nickell, who has been conducting the bird walks (five sessions each year) for the past 28 years. (This year's last session was Saturday.)

NICKELL, A NOTED ornithologist, first showed the last catch of the previous evening to the walkers as they gathered on the steps of the Cranbrook Institute of Science at 6:30 a.m. last Wednesday.

Then it was off, down the hill behind the institute, past faculty residences, around a stream, across a bridge,



Then, Walkers off and around the Cranbrook grounds.

around the athletic field where the Detroit Lions practice in the summer, back into the woods to check the "nets" and up the hill on the other side of the institute parking lot by 7:30 a.m.

LAST WEDNESDAY'S group, which numbered 10 adults and three children, plus "the press," fanned around Nickell to ask him questions and hear his comments as they walked along.

Nickell — in casual garb, with binoculars and pipe (later a cigarette) — talked mostly about the harmful effect of sprays on birds.

As if to illustrate the point, a dead magnolia warbler lay in the path of the hikers. After examining it, Nickell surmised that its death was the result of recent DDT sprayings in the area (mainly for the purpose of killing beetles which carry Dutch elm disease and mosquitoes).

"**UNTOLD NUMBERS** of birds in migration get killed by sprays each year," he said later.

Nickell (who is a close friend of Rachel Carson whose recent book, "Silent Spring," deals with this sort of



"Look! Over there! It's a . . ."

thing) said that he has been working with the spraying problem for the past 12 or 13 years.

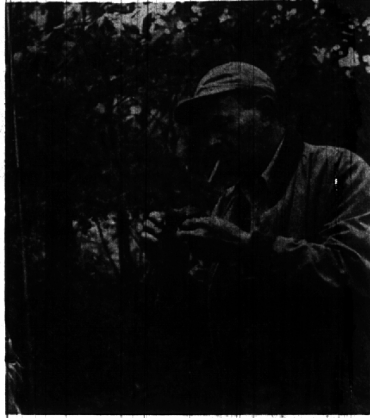
"We've tried to be realistic and have not asked for a total cessation of spraying, but rather that spraying be done when trees are dormant — in the fall, when the leaves have all fallen, and no later than mid-April in the spring," he said.

THE CITY OF Birmingham has been very cooperative, he said, but had trouble getting their supplies in time this spring. The result is that this year's bird mortality rate is the highest it has been in six years, according to Nickell.

"The worst offenders are individual property owners who hire private companies to spray their trees or their yards," he said.

Most spring bird migration through this area is during the month of May. Fall migration begins for some species in mid-July and runs through November, he said.

NICKELL SET UP his bird nets — much like long, loose, tiered badminton nets — April 29 this year. He will



Nickell frees a water thrush caught by his nets.

take them down June 1 and then set them up again near the end of July for the return migration.

He checks his "trap line" about every hour-and-a-half, taking the birds back to the Institute of Science for identification and banding before freeing them.

The "bird walk" check is usually the first on both Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and most hikers bring along a bird guide book (and binoculars) to try to identify the birds caught in the nets as well as those seen in the bush.

LAST WEDNESDAY'S hikers were Robert Bradburger and his two daughters, Karin and Bonnie, of 1978 Sheffield, Birmingham; Miss Mary Buick, a teacher at Torry School; Mrs. James Chabot and her daughter, Vaughan, of 3415 Devonbrook, Bloomfield Hills.

Bill Evitt, a student at Cranbrook Academy of Art; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Psenka of Stopeleigh Road, Bloomfield Hills; Mrs. Eli Coil, 755 Vinewood, Birmingham; Mrs. H. F. Klein, 512 Hawthorne, Birmingham.

Mrs. A. H. Green, 3245 Morningview, Birmingham; D. T. Stanton, 815 Mohegan, Birmingham; and hardy, obliging Cranbrook photographer Harvey Croze.

New Activities Added to Calendar For Arts Festival

Eight days of continuous activity will dominate the calendar from June 16 to June 23, during the 1963 Birmingham Arts Festival.

Focal points for festival events are the Birmingham Art Center, 1514 South Cranbrook Road, and the Shain Park area of downtown Birmingham.

Sunday, June 16, at 4 p.m., the Festival Art Exhibitions will open at the Birmingham Art Center with presentation of \$1,800 in awards to outstanding artists, followed by a reception in their honor. The Festival Art Market, located on the lower level of the art center, will be previewed at this event.

The art exhibition and art market will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily, June 17-22.

EVENTS IN Shain Park will commence at 8 p.m. Sunday when the gothic dome, to be erected in the park, is the scene of a brief opening ceremony, followed by a performance of the South Oakland Symphony.

Monday evening, June 17, at 8 p.m., a feature-length motion picture, "Carnegie Hall" will be shown in the dome. The film claims guest performances by the greatest number of musical celebrities ever to appear in a single Hollywood film.

TUESDAY EVENING, June 18, at 8 p.m., the gothic dome will exhibit at local high school combos meet and compete for awards.

Thursday, June 20, a tour of outstanding homes and studios in the area will be offered from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

That evening, "The High Cost of Loving" will begin its run of four performances in the dome. "Curtain time" Thursday through Sunday evenings is 8:30 p.m.

LEADING ROLES in the Dean Coffin-Isabel Himehosh musical comedy satirizing credit-card living and the "buy now-pay later" philosophy will be played by Pam Guest (Mrs. Edgar A. Guest III) and Robert D. Schuler. Celine-Denno Winnie Coffin will also be featured.

"King Midas and the Golden Touch" will take the stage in the gothic dome for a single performance, Friday afternoon (June 21) at 1:30 p.m. This children's matinee will be performed by the Vanguard Players.

FOLK DANCING "oh the green" (Shain Park) will be a Saturday afternoon highlight. The group of dancers is sponsored by the American Mold Service, and the 1:30 p.m. performance is open to the public.



"Look, we surpassed our goal!" was the good news Mrs. Carl D. Rogers (right) had for Mrs. Robert B. Bender, (left), head of Birmingham Art Center activities for the 1963 Birmingham Arts Festival. Mrs. Rogers, chairman of the awards committee for the Festival Art Exhibition, reported a total donation of \$1,800 in awards. A goal of \$1,500 had been set. Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Bender believed that the awards fund could be sustained by personal letters inviting contributions from all members of the Bloomfield Art Association and other patrons of art in the Detroit, Birmingham and Bloomfield areas. In previous years, awards had been donated primarily by Birmingham merchants and business firms. Contributions ranged from \$5 to \$100, in response to the initial letter. Mrs. Rogers was assisted by Mrs. Douglas S. Brown, Mrs. Walter Hickey, and Mrs. Harry O. Hoyt, Jr.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE The Little Gallery Was First in Area

Happy Birthday, Little Gallery! art treasure hunt yielded finds from a book of Kyoto temple views done in 1725 to a contemporary Japanese encaustic and mosaic painting.

Owners Peggy and Albert DeSalle are celebrating this anniversary by unpacking crates and boxes filled on their three-month trip to India, Siam and Japan. DeSalle's

JUST RETURNED (and still recovering) from their trip, Peggy and Albert glow with enthusiasm. "We never know what we are going to buy for the gallery," says Albert. Constantly changing conditions and new discoveries influence their choices.

The Little Gallery, on Maple east of Hunter, reflects the wide scope of superb DeSalle taste. The changing shows of paintings in oil, water color and other media are hung on burlap covered walls in house-styled rooms. The small scale of the gallery allows the buyer to see how a painting will appear in a similar sized room in his home.

Huge paintings sometimes do not "come off" in a small room or at close range.

ALBERT DE SALLE'S love of the field of painting is infused into the gallery visitor as DeSalle tours the gallery with him discoursing in his deep, melodious voice and succinct choice of phrases.

Peggy's forte is a row of jewelry cases filled with an exquisite collection of contemporary jewelry in gold, silver and other metals.

This creatively conceived and beautifully crafted art form exhibits none of the crude workmanship sometimes associated with contemporary jewelry. Peggy feels that good jewelry, ceramics and other crafts spring from the same well of inspiration as painting and (See GALLERY, 4-D)

Ruth Shain Honored By U-M Award

Ruth Shain has been selected to receive this year's Outstanding Achievement Award by the regents of the University of Michigan. She will be presented the award Nov. 23 in Hill Auditorium on the Ann Arbor campus.

Mrs. Shain was informed of the honor Friday by Irene Murphy of Birmingham, a member of the university's board of regents. Mrs. Murphy presented her with a letter from Harlan Hatcher, university president telling her of the honor and inviting her to next fall's ceremonies.



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