MARCH MEETING

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, March 11, 8 P.M., at Trinity Hall, Carlow College, 3333 Fifth Avenue, Oakland.

Esther Allen will present the program, "Nature in Winter".

EDIE MOCK GOES TO TEXAS

I’m sending an article on our latest southern trip especially our stay in Texas.

On the last day of December ’90 we reached Tupelo, Tenn. There was constant rain, streams were overflowing their banks – we couldn’t even see where the original banks had been located. The fields were all flooded, looked like rice paddies. A large percentage of the fields had already been ploughed & disced – ready for spring planting. The erosion was extensive! Mistletoe was growing in the tops of very high trees. If I had brought a rifle – I could have shot down the branches – that is how the mistletoe is harvested for sale during the Christmas season. It is a semi-parasitic plant.

All of the lower branches were taken years ago.

We kept hunting for one flower in bloom – couldn’t even see one, not even a dandelion.

We did see a red tailed hawk – I wanted to get a picture but as I moved it flew across the road. It was as determined as I was & it finally won – no picture.

Later we saw three hawks in a tree close to the road – they didn’t even fly as I took their picture. All appeared to be sunning – warming up after a frosty night. Flocks of robins, bluebirds, and blue jays were seen frequently. What a place for an Audubon bird count on New Year’s Day! There was still some cotton left on the plants in the fields.

For miles we rode along what was the Natchez Trace – the 500 mile trail followed by early settlers. Many holly trees were growing in the woods. I chased after an armadillo near the Trace – they are surprisingly fast runners. Once you have seen the rooted-out holes along side the road – they are easy to spot. It was interesting to see the buttressed cypress in the shallow edges of wooded ponds. A few great blue heron were wading in the shallow edges. Spanish moss was hanging high up in the branches.

We were shocked and saddened to have a yellow bellied sapsucker fly into our windshield and kill itself.

I got my flower – Spec picked 2 maroon & yellow blooms, part in fruit. There were tiny belly flowers – white and yellow. We also saw a road runner – very strange looking. There were flocks of grosbeaks, black throated sparrows & a few cactus wrens. The motels & restaurants were excellent. The beige colored grasses & sedges alongside the roads shimmered in the morning sun & at sunset – a beautiful sight! At a highway rest stop near Baton Rouge we found 15 violets in bloom, part in fruit. There were tiny belly flowers – white and yellow. We also saw a road runner – very strange looking. There were flocks of grosbeaks, black throated sparrows & a few cactus wrens. The motels & restaurants were excellent. The beige colored grasses & sedges alongside the roads shimmered in the morning sun & at sunset – a beautiful sight! At a highway rest stop near Baton Rouge we found 15 violets in bloom, part in fruit. There were tiny belly flowers – white and yellow. We also saw a road runner – very strange looking. There were flocks of grosbeaks, black throated sparrows & a few cactus wrens. The motels & restaurants were excellent. The beige colored grasses & sedges alongside the roads shimmered in the morning sun & at sunset – a beautiful sight! At a highway rest stop near Baton Rouge we found 15 violets in bloom, part in fruit. There were tiny belly flowers – white and yellow. We also saw a road runner – very strange looking. There were flocks of grosbeaks, black throated sparrows & a few cactus wrens. The motels & restaurants were excellent. The beige colored grasses & sedges alongside the roads shimmered in the morning sun & at sunset – a beautiful sight! At a highway rest stop near Baton Rouge we found 15 violets in bloom, part in fruit.