

"In regular semester, there's intramurals, outfit duties, and student activities, but in th' summer there's no single alibi for low grades!"

Grackles Not Dumb Says Wildlife Prof

Boat-tailed grackles are far from being dumb bunnies, contends Dr. Keith Arnold of Texas A&M's Wildlife Science Department.

Dr. Arnold, who's heading a research project on grackles, caught one female grackle in the same trap six times in two weeks.

"She's a smart old gal," Arnold chuckled. "She has learned that she won't be harmed. All she has to do is put up with the indignity of being handled briefly while I check her leg band.'

The "smart old gal," perhaps better known as "017," trades her freedom briefly for a free meal of milo maize.

Male grackles are more wary of being caught.

Arnold, an assistant professor of wildlife science, is seeking information which may eventually help control crop damage caused by boat-tailed grackles and other members of the blackbird family. including redwings, cowbirds and bobolinks.

color bands, using different colored bands in each trapping area. Colored bands allow him to quickly trace migration patterns.

Early indications are that the birds don't migrate much during breeding season.

"I have only one bird to dispel this theory," Arnold remarked. "A bird trapped in the System Building area was trapped two days later near the campus swimming pool.'

Adult female grackles are about the size of robins, while adult males are about twice as large and have massive tails. Arnold said the large tails cause the birds to be very slow flyers and easy prey for predators.

Arnold claims grackles are very colonial. They flock in a specific area and other colonies are not found for several blocks. Flocks range from 15 to 50 birds.

"These birds are highly individualistic concerning color bands," Arnold noted. "Some of them work like crazy to peck them others pay them no attention."

THE BATTALION College Station, Texas Thursday, June 29, 1967 Psychology Lab To Help **Eliminate Speech Defects**

A brown-eyed lad concentrated on a chart, giving names of ob- therapy sessions take 30 minutes. jects pointed out by a young lady.

The five-year-old occassionally bowed his head with the effort of pronouncing words starting with f, m, d and l.

"Mmmmmmm," he repeated, "ma, ma, ma." "Now with me. La, la, la, la,

ladder," the adult coached. "Not ya-ya, la-la." "La, La, ladder," the youth triumphed with a brilliant smile. "That's good, that's very, very

good," she replied. The scene in a sound-proof cubicle of the Psychological services Lab at Texas A&M is repeated seven times a day, with four-year-olds to 22-year-old college students. Mrs. Joann Bourgeois conducts speech therapy sessions while in adjacent, twoway mirrored rooms, other spe-

cialists administer remedial reading programs. did much better reading a book last night," one youngster boasted proudly. "I didn't have

to re-read parts." "I'm very enthusiastic about the results," a mother commented.

I read and spell better and know all the sounds of the letters,"

a young miss exclaimed. The summer remedial reading and speech therapy programs are offered in two six-week sessions by the Education and Psychology Department lab, directed by Dr. Edward J. Wylie.

It has a two-pronged goal, notes Dr. Paul Hensarling, department head. While providing remediation service, the lab enriches training of A&M students studying for certification as counselors or reading specialists.

Reading programs conducted by Mrs. Naomi Shannon, Mrs. Elora Dale and Mrs. Wanda Badgett help students with learning problems.

"Others just want to improve their skills in comprehension and speed reading," Wylie pointed out. Clinicians and specialists help pre-school children and students

from the surrounding area and as far away as Pasadena. Fivestudent groups are assigned on the basis of diagnosis of intelligence and reading ability, the director explained. Lab personnel work on the skill in which each person is deficient.

Different methods and materials are used in each case, depending on the deficiency," he said.

Speech therapy deals with problems of speech development, articulation and stuttering. Daily weekday reading sessions require

Traditional Slacks Iva Starnes mens ment

90 minutes. Individual speech The clinician and observer can communicate while therapy is underway. Modern equipment is used in The second six-week session be-

testing and teaching sessions. The lab utilizes three rooms gins July 17. Interested parents screened from a control center should contact the lab, Wylie said. by two-way mirrors. Via the mirrors, students may be observed lows for a more intensive proby light manipulation and inter-

gram," Mrs. Bourgeois comcom without being disturbed. mented.

Webb Hospital Commander Joins A&M Hospital Staff

• THE BEST FOR LESS •

Dr. Mount E. Frantz, commander of the Webb Air Force Base Hospittal at Big Spring for the past five years, will join the Texas A&M Hospital staff Aug. 8. Dr. Kenneth Nelson, director of

Student Health Services and university hospital, made the announcement.

Jayne Mansfield Killed In Accident

Actress Jayne Mansfield was killed early today in an automobile accident near New Orleans.

injured.

Her chauffeur and lawyer were also killed in the three-car smashup. Her children, also riding in the automobile, were only slightly

"Seeing students every day al-

Dr. Frantz retired from the Air Force June 1 as colonel, following 25 years service. He commanded the 50-bed hospital at Bryan Air Force Base from 1953 to 1958.

Other tours of duty included assignments in Morocco, Vietnam and Korea. He served in China and Burma during World War II. Prior to entering the service, Dr. Frantz practiced 13 years in Indianapolis, Ind.

At The Grove

Tonight: "Bye Bye Birdie" Friday: "Cyrano De Bergerac" Saturday: "All the Young Men" Sunday: "Second Time Around' Monday: "The Loved One" Tuesday: "The Grapes of Wrath' Wednesday: "Back Street"



Girl Watchers' Corner

NACOGDOCHES COED Patty Sandifer, of Franklin, Texas, is a sophomore educa-tion major at A&M this summer. She is a student at Ste phen F. Austin College at Nacogdoches during the regular school year.

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Observers estimate grackles cause a minimum of \$6 million damage annually in Texas alone. Corn, rice and other big grain crops suffer the brunt of the damage.

Arnold is anxious to learn how the grackles go about forming flocks after the breeding season. And he's interested in their migration patterns and ways these patterns can be applied to all social blackbirds.

Research funds totaling \$24,000 are being provided by a U. S. Hatch Fund grant and A&M University for the three-year study.

Working alone for the past several months, Arnold has banded 100 birds with metal government bands which gives each grackle a number. He also has banded 65 other grackles with

Another goal of Arnold's is to determine if the insect consumption of grackles balances the damage they cause to grain crops. "Grackles catch a lot of insects to feed their young," he explained. "We don't have any idea how many potential insects are destroyed. The question is whether we should destroy them."

Arnold checks eight campus traps and three off-campus traps several times daily. The wire devices have two funnel-like entrances. Grackles can enter easily, but are unable to retrace their steps to freedom.

Three grackle traps stolen recently prompted Arnold to quip, "Somebody must like blackbird pie."

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