

THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

March 1-5-2010



When winter weather comes, wildlife struggle to find food, shelter, and even water. Many people put out birdfood to help out. During the period the snow covers the ground, birds that are normally scared of humans will come out more in the open.



The top photo is a yellow-rumped warbler, which normally feeds on insects and insect eggs, often high up in trees. Their small flocks fly away at the approach of humans.

The lower photo is a spotted towhee. Towhees stay hidden in thick bushes, preferring to kick the leaves on the ground and finding

seeds and wintering insects under the mulch. Their cat-like “meow” is more often heard than the birds are seen.

Teacher and student challenge;

To learn more about bird behavior in the snow, have the students read;

http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/elementalforces/070117_birdssnow.html

In this story, a small group of kids explore Sibley while it is snowing!

Another story follows a birdwatcher down a draw during a Christmas Bird Count;

http://www.sibleynaturecenter.org/essays/wildontheprairie/temporalobservations/991219_christmascount.html

Teachers; talk to your school’s reading specialist, and encourage them to utilize the stories on the Sibley website! Our phone is 684 6827 if they want to call!