



THESE FUTURE ORNITHOLOGISTS are engaged in bird study at the University of Alaska's model day care center in Moore Hall where Project Head Start teachers are working on-the-job as part of a six-week training program. From left are Mark Anderson; Marcella Walker, a trainee from Hooper Bay; Kurt

Heusser; Mrs. Sally Wellman, project director of the training program; Thomas Van Flein; Robbie Dellenbach; and John Vaska, a trainee from Upper Kalskag. Fifty-five teachers are enrolled in the program, conducted by UA's Head Start regional training office.

(UA PHOTO)

## UA Head Start Two Years Old

A regional training program for Project Head Start is beginning its second year at the University of Alaska under a grant of \$34,054 provided by the Office of Economic Opportunity, according to an announcement by Dr. Arthur S. Buswell, UA's executive director of Public Services.

The training program seeks to upgrade qualifications of teachers in Head Start, an OEO developmental project to aid pre-school children from economically and culturally disadvantaged backgrounds.

Mrs. Margaret Connet, Head Start regional training officer for Alaska, administers the program through UA's Division of State-wide Services. She joined the university staff in August, 1967, to organize the training program in its initial year.

A specialist in early childhood development, Mrs. Connet has served as a Head Start teacher and on the faculties of several universities, most recently with the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

She has directed and supervised numerous children's day care centers and schools, once establishing a private nursery in New Haven, Conn., under the advisorship of the noted Dr. Arnold Gesell.

A major function of Mrs. Connet's office is to plan short term training programs for the state's Head Start teachers. One such program—a six-week summer course involving 55 teachers—is nearly completed.

Project director for the summer course is Mrs. Sally Wellman, UA assistant professor of home economics. Assisting as consultants are Mrs. Irene Heusser and Mrs. Connie Griffith of Fairbanks. Earlier in the course, when about 40 teachers' aides also were enroll-

ed, Dr. James Irany and Mrs. Etheldra Jordan of Anchorage served on the consultant staff.

Faculty for the course has included specialists from the Seattle Day Nursery, Cooperative Nursery School in Birmingham, Mich., and California's Fullerton Junior College and Pacific Oaks College.

In addition to classroom instruction, the course partici-

pants are gaining on-the-job experience with actual Head Start centers in Fairbanks and at the university. The two centers on the UA campus are located in Moore Hall and the Home

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## Management House.

Mrs. Connet said that although the six-week course on the UA campus is upgrading the skills of Head Start teachers, the project is still faced with a severe shortage of persons trained in child development.

The shortage will be partially alleviated, Mrs. Connet indicated, by a supplementary training program now being initiated under separate OEO funding at Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage.

She said Mrs. Rose Barquist of Anchorage is coordinator for the supplementary program, in which Head Start teachers may enroll in a series of courses at AMU.

Another project, for training Head Start cooks, has been proposed for OEO funding, Mrs. Connet said. The pilot project would establish a cook's school for Head Start staff in the Bethel region.

Mrs. Connet said Head Start centers, to meet a project goal of improving the diet of children, normally provide at least one hot meal and a snack each day.