

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

August-September, 1969 2709 S. Fairfield, Amarillo, Texas 79103

Vol. VI, No. 7

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER:

Our new season will begin with what promises to be the most interesting program we have been privileged to present. Dr. and Mrs. George Waddill will show color slides of their trip to the Galapagos Islands made in the spring of this year. Those of you familiar with the photographic work of Dr. Waddill, his color slides on the wild flowers of the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains areas along with his more recent ones on the Great Smoky Mountains in the Fall, will anticipate seeing his latest work on that strange flora and fauna that is the Galapagos. We look forward to a large turnout and urge you to bring guests.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS FOR THE 1969-1970 SEASON:

The Amarillo Council of Garden Clubs, Inc., and the National Audubon Society is sponsoring the following series of Audubon Wildlife Films for the 1969-1970 season in the Amarillo Garden Center, 1400 Streit Drive:

- Oct. 26, 1969: "The Real Yellowstone"
Frank William Hall, Lecturer
- Nov. 30, 1969: "The Vanishing Sea"
Robert W. Davison, Lecturer
Great Salt Lake is the focal point of a fascinating photographic study of life in and around the Great Basin in Western United States. Among the animals found here are the brine shrimp and pelican, desert kit fox and kangaroo rat, water ouzel and Western Grebe. The dependence of all life upon water becomes increasingly significant as man's demands upon natural resources grow.
- Jan. 4, 1970: "These Things are Ours"
Mary Jane Dockeray, Lecturer
- Feb. 8, 1970: "Island Treasures"
Walter J. Breckenridge, Lecturer
- April 5, 1970: "Wild Rivers of N. America"
John D. Bulger, Lecturer
A stirring film story of our wilderness waterways and their importance to a great variety of animals, including man. Featured are the Allagash, St. Lawrence, Hudson and Buffalo Rivers, as well as pristine streams in the Northwest Territories. Nutria, mink, fisher and pine marten; caribou, beluga, curlew and ptarmigan are but a few of the wild creatures shown. Photographer Bulger traveled many thousands of miles to secure footage for this film, and presents it with a fascinating and colorful narrative.

Dates are Sundays - time: 2:30 P. M.

Admission: Season Tickets
 Single.....\$ 6.00
 Family..... 12.50
 Student..... 4.00
 Single Admission
 Adult..... 1.75
 Student..... .75

Prior to the showing of each film, we will attempt to give you in this Newsletter more background information on what to expect.

Tickets will be on sale at our September meeting and we urge all our members to purchase them and aid the Amarillo Council of Garden Clubs in their efforts to sell them to the public.

A TOUCH OF MAGIC:

On a bright spring morning five ladies headed south on a long awaited trip to the Big Bend National Park. With only brief stops for coffee and gas, we drove steadily through Lubbock, Lamesa, Midland and on towards Rankin. Just south of Midland, creosote bushes began to appear, a more desert feeling was noticed, Scissor-tails, Mockingbirds, Lark Buntings and Lark Sparrows abounded. The roadsides were masses of beautiful spring flowers. We began to see Pyrrhuloxias, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Curve-billed Thrashers, Cactus Wrens and Lesser Nighthawks. On through Rankin the roadside show continued - on to Iraan in the Pecos country.

We drove east from Iraan across the river, then turned south on the oil field roads. Five turning heads could not see everything - one short detour, well worth the time, produced more and more exciting birds. The singing Black-capped Vireo was a bonus.

Once back on the river road we drove along between hanging desert gardens and Painted Buntings on the left and the Pecos River and Vermillion Flycatchers on the right. We sped quickly through the beautiful rangeland on down to Marathon with spectacular clouds around and the green of spring everywhere. Near Marathon a herd of antelope caught our eye; then suddenly there was water across the road and rushing along the ditches. Hail piled up a foot deep along the road and whitened the desert between the desert plants. Ahead were clouds and the desert perfumed by rain. Deer and quail drank from pools and dips on the road. The late sun flooded the desert with brilliant light and against mauve mountains hung a spectacular double rainbow.

Tuesday was Colima Warbler Day. At 8:00 A.M. Rena, Thelma, Mary and Peggy mounted their horses and led by a guide known to us only as "Cousin", and followed by Mr. Granville Smith of Columbus, Ohio, began the 12 mile round trip to Boot Springs. After a brief stop at Laguna Meadows we rode down into the Boot. At the guide's direction we wandered along the trail by the spring. Among the pines, oaks and Big Toothed Maples, the Colimas sang and courted and fed. We saw them more easily than we expected. They are big warblers with a distinct song and brighter color than the book says. There were also Mexican Jays, Band-tailed Pigeons, Acorn Woodpeckers and once the scream of a nesting Zone-tailed Hawk. As we waited to mount up, a small buff-bellied hummingbird hung briefly before our eyes - a female Lucifers Hummingbird - another bonus bird and a lifer for all.

On the rather tedious trip down, the Zone-tailed Hawk we had heard appeared, taking our minds of our aching knees - momentarily.

Marguerite, who had preferred a comfortable chair on the porch to a saddle, had had a full day. The grain she had taken with her lured

a nice selection of birds and animals to her very feet.

Wednesday was a rest day. The riders had no after effects - thankfully. We poked around in the various off corners looking for prizes so far not found. A stop at the Headquarters building led us to Park Naturalist Roland Wauer. People who fail to contact such persons miss a lot of good birds. Also, much useful information can be given to park personnel by visitors who take time to leave or mail their observations to them. Mr. Wauer told us of a number of birds and birding places we might have missed.

After dinner Wednesday night we phoned the husbands to expect us a little later Thursday night than originally planned. We stopped briefly at the Lost Mine Trail. Overhead hung a pair of Golden Eagles - the pair whose nest was on the back of Casa Grande Peak. The birds hung almost motionless on outstretched wings against the overcast with heads turning from side to side - seeking with keen eyes for unwary ground squirrel.

On down green gulch - calling "pig, pig", hopeful of luring a javelina - which failed to be lured; exclaiming over a flock of 41 circling Common Ravens, we drifted on down to headquarters in the fast failing light and stopped in front of the Administration building where a spotlight illuminated the big sign. We sat in the car with the sounds and smells of the desert around us - then suddenly a big, moth-like creature fluttered into the light - the Elf Owl had come to dinner. In the space of a few hours and a few miles and a few feet of altitude we had seen two birds, a hummingbird and an owl, almost the same size, and both smaller than House Sparrows - the Blue-throated Hummingbird and the Elf Owl.

Dawn Thursday saw us loaded into the car, gliding down Green Gulch for the last time, dodging Poor Wills on the dawn-gray road. A bright spring morning lighted the Rio Grande Village campground. This campground in 10 years has grown from a newly bulldozed area of raw cement and matchstick trees to an irrigated oasis of great beauty. The nature trail along the river is a veritable jungle filled with birdsong and exotic growth. Our mission for the morning was a rare bird never recorded north of the border before. Roland Wauer had told us to drive to Campsite 19 - there it was and an attractive woman noting our glasses came forward to tell us which trees to watch. Suddenly, from a bush below the scantily leaved cottonwood we heard a strange call - then the bird darted out - a large black and orange oriole - The Wagler's Oriole - a real bonus bird to be sure!

Regretfully we left the oasis full of buntings, Summer Tanagers and orioles and rolled out across the desert once more. The trip home was full of spring color climaxed by a dramatic re-entrance into the Golden Spread through an impressive squall-line.

The Big Bend has a magic quality - the subtle colors, the soft haze. Like so many areas where birdlife and wildlife is exposed to people but protected from harm, the animals and birds are tame and confiding. You leave slowly, wishing to return for another touch of magic.

.....Peggy Acord.....

NEW MEMBERS:

We are most happy to welcome the following new members to the ranks of the TPAS. We hope their association with our organization will be long and profitable:

Mr. and Mrs. Byran L. Denson of 3900 Amherst in Amarillo.
William L. Ellis of Pampa, Texas.
Tom Patterson of Amarillo.
Mrs. Thelma Puntch of 719 W. 17th in Amarillo.

Our membership now stands at 53! Attached is a list of the membership, along with their addresses. We regret loosing Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Whipple from our group but know they will enjoy their association with the Denver Audubon Society.

BIRD NOTES:

As usual in the summer, our members are on the go and little bird news filters in to the Editor. Noteworthy, however, is the discovery of a pair of nesting Eastern Bluebirds at Lake Tanglewood by Peggy Acord. Apparently this pair succeeded in bringing off two broods. An extraordinary report is that of Rena Ross' who reported a chickadee in her yard during late August. Rena is familiar with both the Carolina and Black-capped Chickadee and she is of the opinion, based on listening to the bird's call, that the individual she saw was the Black-capped. It is usually assumed that only the Carolina Chickadee will be found in this area, and then only rarely; however, it is by no means certain that this is so and certainly is worthy of intensive investigation. Chickadees have been seen along the Canadian River in the Boys' Ranch area, both in summer and winter, and occasionally Mountain Chickadees are seen in town during the winter.

We have had word from Leo Galloway who took the "Wandering Tattler", without Ruth, on a 10,600 mile journey through 13 states in search of plants, particularly *Abronia*. When Leo says he did his birding going 60 m.p.h. down the highway he means it literally. He reports that he did pause, however, for 15 minutes on three different days and picked up three lifers! "On one of these early morning walks I did add the Grace's Warbler to my life list. And after looking all over in the west where there should have been Sage Sparrows, I stopped at some sand dunes in northern Nevada where there were some *Abronia* plants; before I could get out of the car to start collecting plants, two birds landed beside the wagon on the black-top, and without glasses I could see every identifying mark of the Sage Sparrows! His other lifer was the Mountain Quail seen "while I was sitting at the table drinking coffee at a friend's home in California.... It very shyly came up to the patio to get its evening handout of grain."

CALENDAR:

Sept. 15: Monthly society meeting at the Garden Center - 7:30 p. m.
Topic: "Galapagos" presented by Dr. and Mrs. George Waddill

Oct. 20: Monthly society meeting.

Oct. 26: Audubon Wildlife Film
"The Real Yellowstone" presented by Frank William Hall

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE
TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY - September, 1969

Mrs. I. D. Acord	1911 Cherry, Amarillo, Texas 79106
Mr. John Bandy	5104 Tawney, Amarillo, Texas 79106
Miss Adele Barnes	3625 Doris Drive, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mrs. Clyde D. Biller	Parliament House Apt., Gulfport, Miss. 39501 East Beach
Mr. E. F. Browder	1803 Harrison, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. James D. Crow	1015 Purcell, Box 216, Canadian, Texas 79014
Mr. Robert L. Darnell	Route 2, Box 134 A, Monte Vista, Colo. 81144
Mrs. Joe D. Deason	2204 Parker St., Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mrs. H. D. Dolcater	3708 Lewis Lane, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Ellis	P. O. Box 1404, Pampa, Texas 79065
Mrs. Alvin Fiedler	5508 Pinto, Amarillo, Texas 79106
Mrs. Maurine Forbus	1515 Gawain, Borger, Texas 79007
Mr. G. Lloyd Foster	Box 177, Townsend, Tennessee 37882
Mr. and Mrs. Grady L. Fox	2807 S. Hayden St., Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. and Mrs. Leo A. Galloway	4207 53rd St., Lubbock, Texas 79413
Mr. Douglas Grayson	P. O. Box 426, White Deer, Texas 79097
Mrs. Lawrence Griffith	3411 B. Thurman, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mrs. Joe Harlan	4422 West 2nd, Amarillo, Texas 79106
Mrs. W. E. Harrison	1015 Kansas St., Amarillo, Texas 79106
Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Hill	5215 Berget Drive, Amarillo, Texas 79106
Mrs. C. K. Holloway	4603 W. 37th, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. and Mrs. B. James Jokerst	Route 2, Box 159, Canyon, Texas 79015
Mr. Carroll Littlefield	Route 1, Friona, Texas 79035
Mr. Armon T. Mays	2036 Travis St., Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. Tom Patterson	Box 1331, Amarillo, Texas 79105
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Pedersen	2512 4th Avenue, Canyon, Texas 79015
Mrs. Thelma Punteh	719 W. 17th, Apt. D, Amarillo, Texas 79102
Mr. and Mrs. George R. Ross	2805 Travis St., Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sanders	2802 S. Lipscomb St., Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. and Mrs. Tolliver C. Settle	1212 W. 11th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas 79101
Mr. Kenneth D. Seyffert	2709 S. Fairfield St., Amarillo, Texas 79103
Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Shile	1213 S. Fannin, Amarillo, Texas 79102
Mrs. Altalee Sifford	714 W. 18th, Amarillo, Texas 79102
Mrs. R. B. Steele	2707 Jackson, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mrs. August J. Streit	3012 S. Hayden, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mrs. Bill Tarwater	1505 Travis, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. B. W. Van Noy	2605 Taylor St., Amarillo, Texas 79109
Dr. and Mrs. George M. Waddill	2222 Harrison, Amarillo, Texas 79109
Mr. Norman Wolfe	Box 223, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11235
Mr. and Mrs. Byran L. Denson	3900 Amherst, Amarillo, Texas
Mrs. James D. Thompson	2418 Hughes St., Amarillo, Texas 79109