

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

February, 1972

2709 S. Fairfield, Amarillo, Texas 79103

Vol. IX, No. 2

AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Species	Amarillo, Texas	Arnett, Okla.	Buffalo Lake NWR, Texas	Kenton, Okla.	Lake Mere- dith (West), Texas	Lake Mere- dith, Texas
Horned Grebe						4
Eared Grebe	1	1	1			7
Pied-billed Grebe		7	1	1		1
Great Blue Heron	2	1			2	3
Canada Goose		25	471	830		140
Snow Goose			6			
Mallard	68	9	13,000	890	72	241
Gadwall	10		15	1		64
Pintail	25		42,500	40	60	15
Green-winged Teal	162		10,500			400
American Widgeon			3,250	35	4	13
Shoveler			45	1		1
Redhead		3	75			
Ring-necked Duck			150			
Canvasback		26	60	1		
Lesser Scaup		1	60			
Common Goldeneye		2		14	1	81
Bufflehead		1	10	1	8	20
Ruddy Duck		1	10			1
Hooded Merganser				1	8	2
Common Merganser		1	2	1	18	33
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1			3		3
Cooper's Hawk						1
Red-tailed Hawk		8	2	3	7	8
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	5	1		2
Golden Eagle	4		2	2	3	2
Bald Eagle	1			2	1	2
Marsh Hawk	4	14	11	1	1	14
Prairie Falcon		1	2			
Sparrow Hawk	7	15	2	8	4	10
Lesser Prairie Chicken		93				
Bobwhite		74	24			
Scaled Quail				82		14
Turkey	62	111		19	9	
Virginia Rail						5
American Coot	21	600	50	125		40
Killdeer		1	5			4
Common Snipe	1				1	3
Herring Gull			4			1
Ring-billed Gull	10		10		30	550
Bonaparte's Gull					30	135
Mourning Dove	16	153	1	52	8	3
Roadrunner		1	1		1	2
Great Horned Owl	2	6	2	3	1	2
Burrowing Owl	1		3			
Long-eared Owl						1
Belted Kingfisher	1	1				3
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	9	3	5	4	2
Red-shafted Flicker	6	19	5	21	3	15
Flicker hybrid					1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		7				
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	17					
Williamson's Sapsucker	1					
Hairy Woodpecker		5			1	
Dowry Woodpecker		12		5	1	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	6	1	1	3	4	11
Say's Phoebe	2					
Horned Lark	298	64	153			50
Blue Jay	1	1		5		
Scrub Jay	2			10		
Black-billed Magpie				14		
Common Raven				15		
White-necked Raven				19		
raven (sp.)				4		
Common Crow	8	61		3		
Carolina Chickadee		44			3	
Mountain Chickadee				2		
Black-crested Titmouse	1					
Blue Titmouse				3		
Titmouse	1					

Species	Amarillo, Texas	Arnett, Okla.	Buffalo Lake NWR, Texas	Kenton, Okla.	Lake Mere- dith, (West), Texas	Lake Mere- dith, Texas
Common Bushtit	22					
Brown Creeper		1				
Winter Wren		1				
Bowick's Wren	18	15		10	4	13
Carolina Wren		1				
Long-billed Marsh Wren	4	5				17
Canyon Wren	4			5		
Rock Wren	6	1	2	3	1	5
Mockingbird	12	2		1	1	
Brown Thrasher		1	1			1
Sage Thrasher				6		
Curve-billed Thrasher				6		
Robin	337	12	5	203	5	1
Hermit Thrush	1	1				
Swainson's Thrush			1			
Eastern Bluebird		24			4	
Western Bluebird				6		
Mountain Bluebird	49			547	31	
Townsend's Solitaire	10			19		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	12	6		4		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11	3			1	1
Cedar Waxwing	2	1				
Northern Shrike				1		
Loggerhead Shrike		21	6	8	9	22
Starling	1	134	4	51	363	620
Audubon's Warbler	2					
House Sparrow	14	93	105	8		49
Eastern Meadowlark		12				
Western Meadowlark meadowlark (sp.)	340	70	95	3	33	37
Yellow-headed Blackbird			20			1
Red-winged Blackbird	357	414	250	2	9	292,000
Rusty Blackbird			1			
Brewer's Blackbird		540	5			2
Common Grackle						31
Brown-headed Cowbird	10	20	10	20		
Cardinal	20	29			6	6
Purple Finch					1	
House Finch	20		12	69	4	3
Pine Siskin	6	2	25	112	18	
American Goldfinch	54	47	30	55		66
Rufous-sided Towhee	11	3	1	10	2	
Brown Towhee	2			123		
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	12			3	3	10
Black-throated Sparrow	2			9		
White-winged Junco				2		
Slate-colored Junco	65	47		91		43
Oregon Junco	168	6	134	288	65	75
Gray-headed Junco						
Tree Sparrow	78	292	73	34	75	82
Chipping Sparrow						
Field Sparrow		11	159			
Harris' Sparrow		121				
White-crowned Sparrow	67	42	18	17	42	58
White-throated Sparrow						
Lincoln's Sparrow						
Song Sparrow	44	31	5	15	1	25
McCown's Longspur	275					
Lapland Longspur longspur (sp.)		6		2		
Total Species	72	70	59	67	48	66
Total Individuals	2,803	3,519	71,155	3,958	965	295,097
Total Observers	10	3	1	5	5	14

Observers: Peggy Acord, Roberta Currie, Lucille Fiedler, Thelma Fox, Mary Griffith, Rita Kenney, Kenneth Seyffert, and Esther Waddill of Amarillo, Texas; William Carter, Jon Cecil, and John Schenck of Ada, Oklahoma; Fern Cain, and Joed, Mary Cole, and Maurine Forbus of Borger, Texas; Barbara Lund and John Taylor of Fritch, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. "Chip" Elliott of Plainview, Texas; Milton Suthers of Umbarger, Texas; Jack Williams of Pampa, Texas; E. M. Glen of Palos Verdes, California; Marvin Davis of University, Mississippi; Arnold Moorhouse of Paris, Texas.

Seen during count period but not on count day: Amarillo - Red-tailed Hawk; Winter Wren; Baird's Sparrow. Kenton - Goshawk; Ferruginous Hawk; Roadrunner; Hairy Woodpecker. Lake Meredith - loon (sp.); Western Grebe; Lesser Scaup.

NEW OFFICERS:

The Annual Meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society was held at 6:30 p. m., Jan. 17th at the Amarillo Garden Center. A covered dish supper preceded the brief business meeting and program.

The Society elected by acclamation the slate of officers suggested by the Nominating Committee. We are delighted to welcome as our President Dr. Charles Smith of WTSU at Canyon;

Vice-President - Mrs. George (Esther) Waddill
Secretary - Mrs. Eugeno (Rita) Kenney
Treasurer - Mr. Armon T. Mays
Recorder - Mrs. I. D. (Peg) Acord
Director - Thelma Puntch
" - Mr. Kenneth Seyffert
(both terms expiring 1975)

The program presented to 36 members and guests was a fine selection of slides on the natural history of the Texas Panhandle by Damas artist Carolyn Stallwitz. An added attraction were the artist's fine pictures on display.

The TPAS was asked by the PESO Educational Service Center to support their efforts to obtain federal funds to finance a Texas Panhandle Environmental Information Center. The TPAS voted at the meeting to send a letter of endorsement to David Cole of PESO and cooperate with such materials, information, and services as we are able to provide.

ERRATA:

The array of ducks seen at Lake Tanglowood in early January, as reported in the last newsletter, were seen by Rena Ross instead of Rita Kenney. The Editor accepts this error and claims with all the more reason that bird observation be reported to him in writing.

BIRD NOTES:

Best bird of the month, and possibly of the year, was a male European Widgeon found at the Sanford Dam on 1/18 by Barbara Lund. Also lucky enough to see it on 1/20 were Fern Cain, Rena Ross and Esther Waddill. The Winter Wren and Baird's Sparrow continue to be seen in the Palo Duro Canyon since we last reported. Peg Acord and Rena Ross saw the latter on 2/10.

Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings have been reported at the Palo Duro Club and in various sections of town, with about 300 waxwings and Robins roosting nightly at the Grahams on Plains. A noticeable absence of Bobwhite and a small population of Scaled Quail exists as far south as Midland and as far north as Roger Mills Co. in Oklahoma. The rather frequent sightings of the Chipping Sparrow in the Palo Duro Canyon is unusual for winter. 9 were seen on our Xmas count, and 4 on 1/16 and 12 on 2/6 by Ken Seyffert. The Marsh Hawk is a common species at Buffalo Lake this winter, a dozen or more can be easily found in

short time, while a tour of the lake and the side canyons below the dam will turn up two or three hundred Tree Sparrows. If you would like to see eagles then go to Buffalo Lake. 2 adult Balds and 1 adult Golden were there on 2/6. Also, KS saw approximately 400 Chestnut-collared Longspurs in the fields near Buffalo on the same date.

One of the most interesting reports we have seen is the Midwinter Waterfowl & Eagle Survey made at Buffalo Lake on 1/5 by refuge manager Paul Ferguson. This survey was made during the first severe cold spell of the winter when all the playas were frozen and the waterfowl were gathered at the large reservoirs. This survey produces 400,000 Mallards,

100 Gadwall, 100,000 American Widgeons, 20,000 Green-winged Teal, 300,000 Pintail, 12 Canvasback, 10 Lesser Scaup, 6 Common Morgansers, 1,600 Snow Geese, 76,000 Canada Geese, 3 Bald Eagles, and 4 Golden Eagles. The breathtaking total was 897,728 birds!

After spending the morning of 1/23 with KS in the Palo Duro, Barbara Lund spent the rest of the day as follows: "After Palo Duro, I drove to Buffalo Lake where it looked and sounded like the ocean, complete with beach motorcycles. After spotting one drake Cinnamon Teal, I drove to Lake Marvin. Yes, got there before sunset and saw 33 species, enough to bring my year's list to 100. At Lake Marvin one can now watch birds to the lovely music of an oil-drilling rig ramming 15,000' into the earth and delight in the fragrance of fresh cow chips. For the few acres that area has it's really getting some mileage out of them. Multiple use at its best: recreation, water, wildlife, grazing, mineral exploitation (I mean exploration)."

"Mallard, 4; Gadwall, 17; Green-winged Teal, 68; Am. Widgeon, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 7; Canvasback, 3; Common Morganser, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Turkey, 24; Barred Owl, 2 (4:30 p.m. 7 two maniacs start calling, 'Who cooks for you, who cooks for you'all?' A couple of wild chuckles and then silence for the rest of the day); Great-Horned Owl, 2 (5:25 and sun still up); Belted Kingfisher, 1; Red-shafted Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Common Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Bewick's Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 30; Eastern Bluebird, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 25; Cardinal, 10; Am. Goldfinch, 7; Oregon Junco, 10; Tree Sparrow, 29; Field Sparrow, 2; Harris' Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 2; Fox Squirrel, 2. White-tailed Deer and a Turkey roost of about 20 birds on Gene Howe Refuge."

Her week-end pursuit of birds prompted her to coin a new word, viz., "Galloway, n: an unreasonable chasing after birds (or other things of interest)." Example: "This week-end I pulled a Galloway and drove to California and back in order to add the Condor to my life list."

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS:

Vera Deason reports that the contract for bringing the Audubon Wildlife Films to Amarillo during the 1972/73 season has been signed. This series will contain four films at the same charge as the present series.

COYOTE REPRIEVE:

Now federal legislation makes it unlawful to hunt coyotes from an airplane. Although the law doesn't mention the coyotes specifically, it does make it illegal to shoot at any species of wildlife from an airplane or to use an airplane to pursue or harass wildlife. Hunting coyotes from an airplane has been a fairly common practice in West Texas where the animals were easy to see on the open range. Penalties of as much as \$5,000 in fines and/or one year in jail are provided by the law.

.....Texas Parks & Wildlife.....

CALENDAR:

Feb. 21: Monthly society meeting at the Garden Center - 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 20: Audubon Wildlife Film at the Garden Center - 2:30 p.m. "Mule Deer Counting"

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Acord, Mrs. I. D.	1911 Cherry, Amarillo (79106)
Barnes, Adele	3635 Doris Drive, Amarillo (79109)
Beach, Michael H.	917 Gardenia St., Amarillo (79107)
Cain, Fern F.	406 W. Grand, Borger (79007)
Caldwell, Mr. & Mrs. D. A.	2208 Aspen, Pampa (79065)
Chastain, Richard	3000 Julian Blvd., Amarillo (79102)
Cope, Ida Lee	2200 Fannin, Amarillo (79109)
Courtney, Maston & Family	3515 Paramount, Amarillo (79109)
Cross, Ruth	2504 6th Ave., Canyon (79015)
Crow, James D.	1015 Purcell, Box 216, Canadian (79014)
Currie, Hugh	2204 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo (79109)
Darnell, Robert L.	Route 2, Box 156, Monte Vista, Colo. (81144)
Davidson, Mary E.	2514 5th Ave., Canyon (79015)
Davis, Gladys	Box 7326, Amarillo (79105)
Deason, Joe D.	2204 Parker St., Amarillo (79109)
Denson, Mr. & Mrs. Bryan L.	3900 Amherst, Amarillo (79109)
Dolcator, H. D.	3708 Lewis Lane, Amarillo (79109)
Duncan, Dr. & Mrs. Frank B.	1510 Crockett, Amarillo (79102)
Ecker, Mr. & Mrs. Norman D.	1608 S. Fannin, Amarillo (79102)
Elliott, Mr. & Mrs. C. P.	1201 Kokomo St., Plainview (79072)
Ellis, Mr. & Mrs. William L.	Box 1404, Pampa (79065)
Empie, Mr. & Mrs. A. W.	Box 3417, Amarillo (79106)
Findley, Joseph	Box 217, Canyon (79015)
Forbus, Maurine	1515 Gawain, Borger (79007)
Foster, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd G.	Box 177, Townsend, Tennessee (37882)
Fox, Mr. & Mrs. Grady L.	2807 S. Hayden St., Amarillo (79109)
Green, Geraldine	Box 17, Canyon (79015)
Griffith, Lawrence	3411 B Thurman, Amarillo (79109)
Harlan, Joe	4422 W. 2nd, Amarillo (79106)
Harrison, J. H.	904 Western, Amarillo (79106)
Hassell, Samuel	4309 Crockett, Amarillo (79106)
Hendrick, Charles K.	3501 Patterson, Amarillo (79109)
Hill, F. D.	5215 Berget Drive, Amarillo (79106)
Hollar, Mr. & Mrs. T. A.	7513 Lamont St., Amarillo (79110)
Holloway, C. K.	4603 W. 37th, Amarillo (79109)
Jokerst, Mr. & Mrs. B. James	Route 2, Box 159, Canyon (79015)
Kenney, Rita	301 Rancho Drive, Amarillo (79108)
Kritser Ranch	626 Bank of SW, Amarillo (79109)
Labrie, David	2505 12th Ave., Canyon (79015)
Lankin, Michael	3815 NE 11th, Amarillo (79107)
Littlefield, Carroll	Route 1, Friona (79035)
Lund, Barbara A.	Box 876, Fritch (79036)
Mays, Armon T.	2036 Travis St., Amarillo (79109)
Nicholson, Mr. & Mrs. C. L.	Route 2, White Deer (79097)
Patterson, Tom	Box 1331, Amarillo (79105)
Paul, L. B.	3728 Adams, Big Spring (79720)
Pederson, Rev. and Mrs. Charles	3510 66th Drive, Lubbock (79413)
Punch, Thelma	Route 1, 81st Avenue, Amarillo (79106)
Rinehart, Mr. & Mrs. Robert P.	Box 41, Haugan, Montana (59842)
Ross, Mr. & Mrs. George R.	2805 Travis St., Amarillo (79109)
Russel, Hollis T.	3708 Fountain Terrace, Amarillo (79106)
Sessler, Mr. & Mrs. Greg	205 W 9th #2, Amarillo (79101)
Settle, Mr. & Mrs. Tolliver C.	1212 W. 11th Ave., Amarillo (79101)
Seyffert, Kenneth D.	2709 S. Fairfield, Amarillo (79103)
Shile, Mr. & Mrs. Harold B.	3709 Farwell, Amarillo (79102)
Sifford, Alta Lee	2639 Wilton St., Dallas (75211)
Steele, R. B.	2707 Jackson, Amarillo (79109)
Stroit, August J.	3012 S. Hayden, Amarillo (79109)
Stroble, J. R.	4211 Erik, Amarillo (79106)
Tarwater, Bill	1505 Travis, Amarillo (79102)
Thomas, Louise J.	2400 Polk, Apt. 111, Amarillo (79109)
Thompson, James D.	2418 Hughes, Amarillo (79109)
Thompson, L. O'Brien	2900 S. Polk, Amarillo (79109)
Tucker, Mr. & Mrs. Jess F.	3802 Lewis Lane, Amarillo (79109)
Tyler, Mr. & Mrs. L. M.	1511 Virginia St., Amarillo (79102)
Van Noy, B. W.	2605 Taylor St., Amarillo (79109)
Waddill, Dr. & Mrs. George M.	2222 Harrison, Amarillo (79109)
Webb, Helen W.	2070 Ludlow Lane, Winston-Salem, N. C. (27103)
Wheeler, P. D.	233 Amarillo Bldg., Amarillo (79101)
Whiteford, Gary	2400 5th Ave., Canyon (79015)
Wolfe, Norman	Box 223, Brooklyn, N. Y. (11235)
Dufer, Ed	1010 N. Alabama, Amarillo (79106)
Fiodler, Mrs. Alvin	5508 Pinto, Amarillo (79106)
Simmons, Mr. & Mrs. R. L.	2400 Juniper, Amarillo (79109)
Smith, Dr. Charles	1211 4th Ave., Canyon (79015)