

The annual dinner of the TPAS will be at the Garden Center at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21. Members and their guests are invited. Esther Waddill has arranged what should be an interesting meeting with John C. Smith, Non-game Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. in Austin presenting the program. The subject of the presentation has not been announced, but those of us who heard John Smith talk on the Park department's non-gamebird program in Austin at the TOS spring meeting can vouch for the knowledge of this man.

As traditional, the dinner will be a covered dish affair with members bringing the food. Officers for the coming year will be elected.

A REVIEW OF THE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Palo Duro Canyon: 19 participants - Fern Cain (Borger), Chip & Elizabeth Elliott (Plainview), E. E. & Nancy Elliott (Canyon), Peggy Acord, Roberta Currie, Lucille Fiedler, Steve Fiedler, Thelma Fox, Mary Griffith, Bill & Ginger Holliday, Rita Kenney, Mary Moyer, Rena Ross, C. G. Schaffler, Kenneth Seyffert, and Esthor Waddill (Amarillo).

Let us compare the count with past ones. 69 species were seen as against the all-time high of 79 seen on the '69-'70 count, but 72 b.l. (Before Lumping). We have been averaging 8 species of waterfowl per count; this year we had 6. We missed the Pintail which is usually a certain one. All the playas in the count area were dry, and Lake Tanglewood had less than 100 ducks on it. We usually get at least two out of the three buteos to be seen; this year we missed both the Rough-legged and Ferruginous. We missed the Mourning Dove and Great-horned Owl (someone should have gotten up early or stayed up late on the chance of at least hearing the latter hooting). For the first time in eleven years we did not see the Mountain Bluebird (it was not found on any of the area counts), and for the second time in eleven years we missed the Eastern Bluebird. We missed the Field Sparrow that we usually get. We saw only 4 Mockingbirds, which is remarkable as the average for the count is 28 and last year we saw 51! The 45 Golden-fronted Woodpeckers was an all-time high. We had three bonus birds, The Screech Owl, Blue Jay and Fox Sparrow, and one species never recorded on the count before, the Sandhill Crane. 117 different species in 11 years have now been observed. Weather - a little wind at midday but otherwise ideal.

Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge: 3 participants - Kenneth Seyffert (Amarillo), Milt Suthers (of the refuge), Jack Williams (Pampa).

54 species were seen, a good count that would undoubtedly have broken the previous high of 59 recorded on the previous two years' counts had not the lake been dry. This condition eliminated five or six species of diving ducks right then and there. The hawk count was good with the 6 American Kestrels a new high. We had 3 bonus birds, the Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, and Least Sandpiper, and 4 species never before recorded on the count, the Cactus Wren, Harris' Sparrow, and McCow's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs. The Cactus Wren deserves

special mention as it was the most unusual sighting of any in the area counts. Jack Williams was quick to see it and identify it, and it was confirmed by the other two birders. This was a first sighting for Randall County and the second reported sighting for the Panhandle. The previous observation was made on July 21, 1967, in Amarillo, Potter County, by Leo Galloway. The nearest miss was the Burrowing Owl. Only 1½ to 2 inches of the top of its head was discernible as it stared steadily at its starers while standing at the entrance to its burrow. 94 different species in 7 years have now been observed. Weather - unbelievably beautiful. Wind 0-5 m.p.h.; temperature 35° -70°, sky, cloudless.

Arnett, Oklahoma: 4 participants - Leo and Ruth Galloway (St. Joseph, Mo.), Kenneth Seyffert (Amarillo), Jack Williams (Pampa).

68 species were seen which ties the high on the '71-'72 count (70 b.l.). The most outstanding feature of this count was the presence of Leo and Ruth who drove in from St. Joseph the previous night and left for home immediately after the count. All this in spite of frigid, snowy weather at home and risking traveling during the fuel crisis on a Sunday and Monday before Christmas. That is dedicated birding! The only species we missed that we normally get was the Killdeer. The 26 Lesser Prairie Chickens were well below average; fields usually planted to sorghum and that the chickens frequent were planted in wheat instead. The 148 Turkeys in a roost were one less than the previous high, and the 1207 coots was well above the former high of 600. We tallied 472 Mourning Doves, breaking the record of 364 in '70-'71, and the 57 Common Flickers was truly unusual when contrasted to the previous high of 28 and average of 16 per count. Ellis County is Tree Sparrow and Harris' Sparrow country and we broke records on both species by wide margins, 706 of the former as against the previous high of 570, and 209 of the latter as against 121. Bonus birds were the Golden Eagle and Mockingbird, and we added one new bird to the count list, the Burrowing Owl. 94 different species in 8 years have now been observed. Weather - unsurpassed.

Lake Meredith (east): 11 participants - Ken Adkisson (Sanford), Alice Allen (Fritch), Fern Cain and Frank Smith (Borger), Bill Dingus, E. B. Ellis and Jack Williams (Pampa), Bill and Ginger Holliday, Mary Moyer, and Kenneth Seyffert (Amarillo).

66 species were seen which topped the previous high of 65 b.l. recorded in '71-'72. We set a whopping record on Canada Geese, 5590 as compared to the previous high of 150. Lack of water in the Panhandle has no doubt concentrated these birds more around Lake Meredith. The Redheads were much more plentiful while the Ring-billed Gulls dipped to a low of 51. This count also turned up an unusual number of Common Flickers, 45 compared to the previous high of 24 and the average of 19 per count. The Ladder-backed Woodpecker count was high as was the 24 Great Blue Herons. To estimate the number of blackbirds that roost in the cattails below the dam is a mind boggling task. Some say there were 2½ million we settled for 1½. How do you break this

seeming mass of birds down into the various species of which it is composed? We arbitrarily based our count of each on the results of a previous study of a roost which disclosed that of 4,300 blackbirds in it 71% were Red-wings, 18% were Starlings, 9% were Brewer's, and 2% were cowbirds. Admittedly, this is only half scientific! Next year someone needs to take a sample of the roost just prior to count day to determine the ratio of each species present, and also get a more rational estimate of the number present. If any one wants to see a Tree Sparrow in Texas then make this count. We tallied 160 as against the previous high of 82. Note - no Golden Eagles! This was unusual, but we did see a record number of Bald Eagles. Bonus birds were the Common Loon and Western Grebe, and we added 4 new species to the count, the Snow Goose, Blue-winged Teal, Curve-billed Thrasher, and Fox Sparrow. 90 different species in 4 years have now been observed. Weather - windy at times, but warm.

Lake Meredith (west): 8 participants - Alice Allen (Fritch), Fern Cain and Frank Smith (Borger), Keith Coffee, Bill Dingus and Jack Williams (Pampa), Joel Reese (Dimmitt), and Kenneth Seyffert (Amarillo).

61 species were seen, second high to the 67 recorded in '70-'71, but 63 b.l. Like the Lake Meredith (east) count, a great jump in the number of Canada Geese, as well as the Mallard. Also like its sister count, no Golden Eagles, but a whopping 11 Bald Eagles! The pattern on the Common Flickers again held true - 63 compared to the previous high of 17 and the average per count of 10. The 13 Downy Woodpeckers was a big jump from the previous single birds seen on two previous counts. Since this count was started it has disclosed an interesting fact about the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Potter County. A few observations of it have been made in Randall County, but none reported in Potter County. This is the third year out of four that it has been seen in the northern part of the county along the Canadian River. Evidently it is another of those typically eastern species of birds that have moved westward up the Canadian. Other species that registered significantly higher counts were the Carolina Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, Cardinal, and White-crowned and Song Sparrows. New birds for the count were the Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Least Sandpiper, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), Brown Towhee, and Gray-headed Junco. 86 different species in 4 years have now been observed. Weather - 10° at the beginning of count, light snow cover, below freezing all day.

The Palo Duro Canyon turned up 11 species of birds not seen on any of the other counts: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Screech Owl, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Scrub Jay, Black-crested Titmouse, Bushtit, Canyon Wren, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Buffalo Lake was exclusive with 4 species: Ring-necked Pheasant, Cactus Wren, McCown's Longspur, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Arnett had 7 species of its own: Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Lesser Prairie Chicken, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur.

Lake Meredith (east) claimed 5 species: Western Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, Sora, Herring Gull, and Common Grackle.

Lake Meredith (west) came in with 2 species all its own: Red-breasted Merganser and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

CALENDAR:

- Jan 21: Annual dinner of the TPAS at the Garden Center, 6:30 p.m. Election of new officers.
- Feb. 3: Audubon Wildlife Film at the Garden Center, 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18: Month society meeting.

	Arnett, Okla. 12/22/73	Buffalo Lake NWR 12/17/73	Lake Meredith (west) 12/31/73	Lake Meredith (east) 12/29/73	Palo Duro Canyon 12/16/73
--	------------------------------	---------------------------------	--	--	---------------------------------

1. Common Loon				3	x
2. Western Grebe				1	
3. Pied-billed Grebe	28			15	1
4. Great Blue Heron			6	24	1
5. Canada Goose		869	2,400	5,590	65
6. Snow Goose		1		23	
7. Mallard	497	435	1,260	25,358	81
8. Gadwall	7	10	2	85	2
9. Pintail	5	130		12	
10. Green-winged Teal	3	50	17	457	2
11. Blue-winged Teal				1	
12. Wigeon	25	50		21	2
13. Northern Shoveler		22		5	
14. Redhead	10			104	
15. Ring-necked Duck	48			4	2
16. Canvasback	24			2	
17. Lesser Scaup	4		6		5
18. Common Goldeneye	8		13	22	
19. Bufflehead	4			4	
20. Ruddy Duck	2				
21. Common Merganser	7		7	3	
22. Red-breasted Merganser			2		
23. Sharp-shinned Hawk					1
24. Cooper's Hawk	1				
25. Red-tailed Hawk	14	5	17	12	1
26. Rough-legged Hawk	3	6	1	1	
27. Ferruginous Hawk	1	1		1	x
28. Golden Eagle	2	2			3
29. Bald Eagle		x	11	9	3
30. Marsh Hawk	13	16	5	13	9
31. Prairie Falcon	1				
32. American Kestrel	17	6	13	20	20
33. Lesser Prairie Chicken	26				
34. Bobwhite	132	148	92	21	18
35. Scaled Quail			34	92	150
36. Ring-necked Pheasant		1			
37. Turkey	148		75		30
38. Sandhill Crane		31			30
39. Virginia Rail	3			14	
40. Sora				1	
41. American Coot	1,207		1	11	9
42. Killdeer		13	13	2	1
43. Common Snipe	3		1		
44. Least Sandpiper		8	9		
45. Herring Gull				1	
46. Ring-billed Gull	x	4	11	51	
47. Mourning Dove	472	36	17	2	
48. Roadrunner	3	2		5	2
49. Screech Owl					1
50. Great Horned Owl	5	7	2	5	
51. Burrowing Owl	1	1			
52. Belted Kingfisher	3		3	6	3
53. Common Flicker	57	23	63	45	42
54. Red-bellied Woodpecker	14		3		
55. Golden-fronted Woodpecker					45
56. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1
57. Hairy Woodpecker	2		4		
58. Downy Woodpecker	14	1	13		
59. Ladder-backed Woodpecker		5	13	21	13
60. Horned Lark	9	1		2	74
61. Blue Jay	12				1
62. Scrub Jay					9
63. Common Crow	153		20		7
64. Carolina Chickadee	26		27		
65. Black-crested Titmouse					17
66. Bushtit					36
67. Brown Creeper	3		1		3
68. Bewick's Wren	12	8	19	18	14
69. Cactus Wren		1			
70. Long-billed Marsh Wren	1	5	7	14	5
71. Canyon Wren					5
72. Rock Wren		3	3	2	3
73. Mockingbird	4	2		2	4

	Arnett, Okla. 12/22/73	Buffalo Lake NWR 12/17/73	Lake Meredith (west) 12/31/73	Lake Merodity (east) 12/29/73	Falo Duro Canyon 12/16/73
74. Brown Thrasher		1	1	1	
75. Curve-billed Thrasher		x	3	1	2
76. American Robin	242	x	1	1	10
77. Eastern Bluebird	23		20		
78. Townsend's Solitaire				1	4
79. Golden-crowned Kinglet	1		5		6
80. Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2		9	3	6
81. Cedar Waxwing					20
82. Loggerhead Shrike	23	2	9	25	3
83. Starling	235	8	230	285,000	8
84. Yellow-rumped Warbler			1		
85. House Sparrow	49	25	30	39	30
86. Eastern Meadowlark	107				
87. Western Meadowlark	211	58	80	102	223
88. Red-winged Blackbird	3,481	35	160	1,065,000	13
89. Brewer's Blackbird	252	250		120,000	5,000
90. Common Grackle				x	
91. Brown-headed Cowbird	49	2	6	30,000	
92. Cardinal	46	2	40	4	56
93. House Finch		1			7
94. Pine Siskin	86	34	6	4	35
95. American Goldfinch	71	18	14	84	14
96. Rufous-sided Towhee		1	5		16
97. Brown Towhee			1		2
98. Rufous-crowned Sparrow		1	3	6	5
99. Dark-eyed Junco	130	87	140	105	161
100. Gray-headed Junco			2		2
101. Tree Sparrow	706	88	22	160	5
102. Field Sparrow	2				
103. Harris' Sparrow	209	1	6	8	2
104. White-crowned Sparrow	4	159	161	45	106
105. White-throated Sparrow					2
106. Fox Sparrow				2	1
107. Lincoln's Sparrow					1
108. Song Sparrow	34	25	33	36	31
109. McCown's Longspur		50			
110. Lapland Longspur	75				
111. Chestnut-collared Longspur	15	147			
longspur species					47
Total	68	54	61	66	69

x - Seen during count week
but not on count day

1	3		1	2
---	---	--	---	---