

COMING EVENTS:

Monday, Oct. 17 - Monthly Meeting

Place.....The Garden Center
 Time.....7:30 p.m.
 Program.....The Empies will tell us
 about exploring and bird-
 ing in Nova Scotia and
 Gaspo,
 (See Program notes below
 for more...)
 Hostess.....Fern Cain

Sunday, Nov. 13 -Field Trip to Caprock
 Canyons State Park
 (See Field Trip below
 for details)

Thursday-Saturday
 Nov. 24-26 - Texas Ornithological
 Society meeting in
 Sherman, Texas

PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER:

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society, meet-
 ing at the Garden Center on Monday night,
 Oct. 17 will have a very interesting program
 - "Here and There with the Empies" who were
 on a year's trip over the United States dur-
 ing the Bicentennial Year. The subject of
 their birding experiences will be "From the
 Land of the Loon - to the Great White Heron
 .. by way of the Gannet and the Murre". Gus
 and Marguerite Empie decided, in their re-
 tirement, that they could just as well travel
 over the United States and see what the Bi-
 centennial was all about. They stayed 16
 months, and are much wiser for their travel-
 ing, but Amarillo looked good to them at the
 end of their journey. They will discuss
 some of their more unusual birding sightings.

Mrs. Ed Elliott, President, will conduct
 the business session and discuss further
 the National Goals of the Audubon Society.
 Some committees will have reports.

The meeting beginning at 7:30 in the eve-
 ning is open to anyone interested in this
 organization and this program. Mrs. Norman
 Cain from Borger will be hostess for the
 evening.

PHOTO SOCIETY WINNERS NAMED:

Winning entries in the annual Amarillo
 Photographic Society competition have been
 named and one of our members, Roberta Currie,
 walked off with three of the prizes. In the
 category of color slides, she took First
 Prize with her "Yellow-shafted Flicker",
 and Fourth Prize for "Fiesta Time". In the
 Nature category, she took Second Prize for
 her "Canvasback Duck". The photos are on
 display in the second floor gallery of the
 Panhandle Plains Historical Museum at Canyon
 through Oct. 31.

MORE NOTES ABOUT NAS....Nancy Elliott

One of the workshops we attended at the
 National Audubon Convention in June was
 called "Successful Chapter Programs". The
 efforts of representative chapters to ac-
 complish some of their objectives were pre-
 sented in slide presentations and discussions.
 We were impressed by the perseverance and
 courage required to eventually succeed in

some of these projects.

The TUCSON Chapter sponsors a Sonoran
 Desert Ecology Workshop for adults each year.
 The Chapter loaned \$1500 and furnishes volun-
 teers for mailing, library work, and manning
 a store. They borrow professors from the
 Museum and University, and give college credit
 for the workshop. Participants have come
 from all 50 states and from abroad. The
 project is now self-supporting.

The SSASSAFRAS Chapter of Bloomington,
 Indiana secured a grant under the Environ-
 mental Education Act and developed a county-
 wide education program. They sponsored seven
 public forums on environmental problems in
 the community. These were rebroadcast on
 P.B.S. They had workshops for teachers using
 hypothetical dilemmas for children to solve
 as the format. Example: "What if you built
 your dream house by a stream and a feedlot
 began to pollute the creek, what could you
 do?" They have now published two textbooks
 and have environmental units taught in grades
 K-12.

Dr. Robert Witzeman described the Central
 Arizona Project and the efforts of many people
 and the MARICOPA Chapter to protect the rip-
 arian lands of Arizona from dams and channels.
 He said they started out birders, became con-
 servationists, then activists, then militants.
 They filed a suit of injunction to stop C.A.P.,
 though they lacked funds. The lawsuit capti-
 ved the attention of conservationists all over
 the state and they raised \$40,000. They are
 still \$10,000 in debt, but the Central Arizona
 Project is one of the projects Congress re-
 moved from funding this year.

The TULSA Chapter described their Mohawk
 Park Nature Center project. This was a 3000
 acre completely natural area in the city which
 was used almost entirely for illegal hunting
 and dumping. The Chapter prepared a film on
 nature centers, invited the N.A.S. nature
 center planner to come, and they approached
 the city with the idea of converting the area
 to a nature center. The city designated 1000
 acres of it as a nature center, but never
 provided any funds. The Chapter formed the
 Mohawk Nature Center Corporation and signed a
 contract with N.A.S. for plans. They obliga-
 ted themselves for \$8700 although though they
 didn't have a penny in the bank. The city
 approved the master plan, but still did not
 provide funds. They contacted a couple who
 agreed to donate \$100,000 a year for two years.
 The Sanctuary is now known as the Mary Kay
 Oxley Nature Center. The Junior League be-
 came involved and gave money for a naturalist's
 salary, and the city came up with the rest of
 the money.

CAPROCK CANYONS FIELD TRIP:

Our next Field Trip will be to the Caprock
 Canyons State Park north of Quitague, Briscoe
 Co., on Sunday, Nov. 13. This will be a short
 and leisurely hike into the colorful South
 Prong where we will be looking not only for
 all the birds we can see but also for the
 Acoudad sheep that can often be found there.
 We will meet at the Haynes Scout Camp at 2:30
 p.m. From the junction of highways 86 and 256
 about 2 miles east of Silverton, the scout
 camp turn-off is 7 miles further east on high-
 way 256. Group leader will be Ken Seyffert.

BIRD NOTES:

Double-crested Cormorant - TWO WERE SEEN FLYING overhead at the Hugh Currie ranch, Randall Co. on 10/2 by Kon Seyffert (KS).

Cattle Egret - this Fall has witnessed not only a greater number of reports of this species, but also a larger number of individuals in each sighting. Heretofore, observations have been of two or three birds at a time, at the most, but this year was different. On 8/27 Esther Waddill, Rena Ross and Thelma Fox observed 10 in a field near Umbarger, Randall Co. During the first week of September, Joel Reese reported 20+ in a group south of Kress in Swisher Co. This is the largest congregation of this species ever reported in the Panhandle. KS observed 5 on a playa in Briscoe Co. on 9/11, and in early Sept., Fern Cain reported one in the Borger area, Hutchinson Co.

Snowy Egret - three were seen on a playa west of Amarillo, Potter Co., by KS on 9/18.

American Bittern - one north of Pampa in Gray Co. was seen by Rena Ross on 9/16.

Wood Duck - 18 were seen on Lake Marvin, Hemphill Co., by KS on 9/25. Very early in the morning is the best time to see them there as they leave the lake when they are disturbed by people and return to the small private lakes north of Lake Marvin.

Broad-winged Hawk - one was observed as it perched in a tree proening itself on 10/2 on the Hugh Currie ranch, Randall Co., by KS.

Swainson's Hawk - THE FIRST LARGE MOVEMENT OF this species reported in our area for several years was made by Joel Reese on 10/3. On that date he observed 200+ on the ground about 6 miles southwest of Kress, Swisher Co. The group was concentrated on a half section of land that had recently been harvested of its corn and then plowed. Joel speculates that the birds may have been attracted to the area because of the abundance of rodents disturbed by the harvesting and plowing.

Osprey - one seen at Lake Tanglewood, Randall Co. on 10/2 by KS.

Common Gallinule - on 9/11 KS observed one in the midst of a small group of American Coots on a small pond near Lake Theo in Caprock Canyons State Park, Briscoe Co. On 10/2 he observed one on a small pond on the Hugh Currie ranch below Lake Tanglewood, Randall Co. This is only the third or fourth reported sighting of the species in Randall Co. in 15 years.

Common Nighthawk - Rena Ross and Vera Deason reported the passage of 20+ over town on the evening of 9/20.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - while several observers noted the scarcity of this species in the Panhandle this summer, Rena Ross observed a migration of 100+ six miles south of Canadian, Hemphill Co. on 9/18.

Least Flycatcher - seldom do the small empidonax flycatchers call when they pass through our area in the spring and fall. Without

hearing them, it is almost impossible to identify them as to species unless one is expert and has them in hand. When they do call, it is usually in the spring, but this year Peggy Acord listened to one calling in town on 9/11. It gave its persistent "che-beck, che-beck" call, thus identifying itself as a Least Flycatcher.

Cactus Wren - during our field trip to the Tom Green ranch in Oldham Co. on 9/18, several of our members heard one of this species calling and we observed the remains of two nests built in cholla cactus. Tom Green was familiar with the species and stated they have nested regularly in the area.

Black-throated Green Warbler - KS saw two on the Hugh Currie ranch, Randall Co., on 9/18.