

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Monday, April 17: The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will meet at the Amarillo Garden Center in its regular meeting Monday night, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Joe Deason, President, will preside.

Mrs. George Waddill will give the bird talk for the month.

The program will be given by Dr. Darrell Brooks, Professor of Biology at West Texas University. He brings a report on the "Wildlife Program at West Texas State". Dr. Brooks' life time interest in wildlife came from his study of entomology, and his interest in birds specifically began through a study of mites and their relation to birds. He accepted the responsibility for the wildlife program at the University because of his interest in birds and photography of wildlife in general. He has directed the course for the past 3 years and has had great cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife personnel of the State Parks & Wildlife Department. He will have slides of the student participation in the program.

Mrs. Blanche Pollock will be the hostess for the evening.

Sunday, April 16: Llano Cometary - 8:00 a.m. - Meet at entrance.

Saturday, April 22: a rendezvous with the prairie chickens at their booming grounds. Meet at 5:00 a.m. at the court house in Wheeler, Texas.

Sunday, April 30: South Ceta Canyon - 8:00 a.m. - meet at the church camp.

Sunday, May 14: Big Day Count covering Potter and Randall Counties. Contact Peggy Acord, Fern Cain or Ken Soyffert if you plan to participate.

Sunday, July 16: Wolfe Creek Park, Ochiltree Park - details to be announced.

November: Sevilleta de la Joya (The Jewel of Little Seville) National Wildlife Refuge, north of Socorro, New Mexico. This trip is at present tentative.

TOS SPRING MEETING:

The Spring meeting of the Texas Ornithological Society will be held on May 18 thru 20 at Alpine, Texas. Headquarters for the meeting will be at the Ramada Inn. Non-members as well as members are invited. You will have four different field trips to choose from on both the 19th and 20th.

- 1) Chisos Mountains - birders will meet trip leaders early in the Basin of Big Bend National Park and hike up into Boot Canyon to see nesting Colima Warblers. Other birds which will be seen include Mexican Jay and Acorn Woodpecker. Birds to be looked for are Zone-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Hutton's Vireo, and Painted Redstart.
- 2) Basin to Rio Grande Villago and vice versa - one trip will bird the village in the morning and proceed to the Basin; the other will start in the Basin and proceed to the village. Birds to expect will be Mexican Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, White-winged Dove, Varied Bunting and migrants. Birds to be looked for include Black Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Hutton's Vireo, Lucifer Hummingbird, and Rufous-capped Warbler.
- 3) Presidio County - this trip will leave early and will take birders to the fringes of the nesting range of several extreme West Texas specialities which occur elsewhere but are easiest to locate in the Shafter, Candelaria and Pinto Canyon areas. Vehicles will be limited to high wheelbase trucks and four-wheel drives. Birders not having such vehicles but wanting to go on this trip will be carpooled with others having appropriate vehicles. Birds that should be seen on this trip include nesting Phainopepla, Gambel's Quail, Crissal Thrasher, and possibly Lucy's Warbler and nesting Black Hawk.
- 4) Davis Mountains-Alpine area - this is a shorter trip for those who cannot spend the entire day. The trip will be mostly driving and will stop at the Kokernot Lodge, the Alpine sewage ponds, and various places in the Davis Mountains where we should find among others Scurb Jay, Mexican Duck and Zone-tailed Hawk. We will look especially hard for Black Hawk and Montezuma Quail.

REPORTING WHOOPING CRANE SIGHTINGS:

The National Audubon Society, many state game departments and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are asking sportsmen and others interested in wildlife to aid in an effort to collect more exact information on areas used by Whooping Cranes during their migrations.

"The Whooping Crane is an endangered species," said Dr. Dede Armentrout of Brownwood, Texas, the National Audubon Society's Southwest Regional Representative. "It is hoped that the cranes' migratory pathway and important stop-overs en route can be identified."

"Before we enlisted the help of the general public", quotes Dave Blankinship, Biologist for the National Audubon Society, "Whooping Crane sightings during migration were in-

frequent. Usually not more than 10-20 confirmed reports a year." Last year the story was different. With the help of the newspapers, radio stations and television networks, the public was informed and asked to help in reporting any sightings of Whooping Cranes. "This year, the confirmed sightings are way up, with 63 confirmed or highly probable sightings being logged, for the winter migration alone!" reports Mr. Blankinship.

Whooping Cranes fly twice each year between their Canadian nesting grounds and their wintering areas on the Texas coast and in central New Mexico. This migration takes them through Texas and New Mexico during March and April and again from late September until December. Whoopers migrate as single birds or in small groups.

"Anyone sighting Whooping Cranes is asked to note the number seen, exact location, what the birds were doing (i.e., feeding, resting, flying, etc.) and report the sighting as soon as possible to one of the locations below" urges Dr. Armentrout. "This year, some of the birds have been marked with brightly-colored bands, high on the legs. Anyone observing a banded bird is asked to make note of the number and colors of the bands, and on which leg the bands were located. We stress the importance of quick reporting. Please call from the nearest telephone or as soon as possible. Collect calls will be accepted when identified as a Whooping Crane report."

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (512) 286-3559 - National Audubon Society Southwest Regional Office (915) 752-7331 - D. R. Blankinship, National Audubon Society Whooping Crane Biologist (512) ~~752~~ 729-5649 - Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (505) 835-1828.

BIRD NOTES (including first sightings of returning migrants):

March 12 - Ken Seyffert reported 3 Chipping Sparrows in the Palo Duro Canyon SP.

March 19 - an early Vesper Sparrow was seen on this day by KS on the Hugh Currie Ranch, Randall Co. Very unusual was the fact of its singing, though briefly. This species is usually silent as it passed through our area. Also on the ranch were 3 singing Eastern Phoebes, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and 2 Rough-winged Swallows. The prize of the day, however, was the Black-legged Kittiwake seen on Lake Tanglewood. As KS was studying the bird, Peggy Acord drove up and confirmed the observation. The bird was watched at length and from a near distance as it both flew around the observers and settled on the water to eat a captured fish. On the way back to town, 2 Burrowing Owls were seen. At their home near Canyon, Ed and Nancy Elliott had a Vermilion Flycatcher, the first reported in some time.

March 26 - Peggy Acord spied the first returning Turkey Vulture at Lake Tanglewood.

March 28 - An early sighting and the first reported was the Double-crested Cormorant at Lake Tanglewood as seen by Elizabeth Moss.

March 29 - the cormorant was seen again by Elizabeth Moss and Peggy Acord.

April 1 - Barry Zimmer, at Memorial Park Cemetery, reported a very early returning Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Flying over Llano Cemetery were 3 Long-billed Curlew.

April 2 - Our first Swainson's Hawk in the Panhandle was seen by Rena Ross. Off Alibates Canyon at Lake Meredith, KS observed many returning shorebirds - Snowy Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, "peeps", Long-billed Dowitchers, American Avocets, and Black-necked Stilt. He also saw 3 Sandhill Cranes on the flats, 2 of them color marked, and he was able to record their numbers. In McBride Canyon, Fern Cain and KS sighted 3 White-necked Ravens. Crows are usually seen in this area, but these 3 were soaring overhead and occasionally calling. They were also being harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk whose mate was on its nest high in a nearby cottonwood. Later, Fern picked up a Sanderling on THE FLATS OFF Alibates.

March 21 - Barry and Keven Zimmer also observed the kittiwake at Lake Tanglewood. This made Barry's No. 500 on his life list. They also reported 40 Rough-winged--Seallows.

April 4 - Fern Cain reported the first sighting of a Purple Martin in Borger. It was a male.

April 9 - Spotted Sandpiper, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lark, Cassin's, and Brewer's Sparrows at Buffalo Lake by Ken Seyffert.

Important - - - Mary Moyer asks that you not forget to bring your Betty Crocker coupons to the meeting!