

## REVISED CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES:

Because of unforeseen circumstances, the Quitaque CBC will not be held on Dec. 19 but has been rescheduled for Jan. 1. The Arnett, Oklahoma count scheduled for Dec. 21 will be held on a date yet to be determined. Please note these changes in your calendar.

## FIRST ANNUAL MID-WINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY:

The National Wildlife Federation is responding to the need for an estimate of the number of wintering bald eagles in the 48 contiguous states by conducting a one-day midwinter bald eagle count on Saturday, January 20, 1979. An alternative count day for state and federal personnel has been scheduled for Friday, January 19. Localities experiencing inclement weather on the scheduled count day may conduct their survey on Sunday, January 21.

The bald eagle midwinter census will provide an important index to the number of eagles wintering in the 48 states and will identify important wintering areas. Mr. Elton Fawks, who organizes a multi-state midwinter bald eagle survey in the Mississippi Valley has given us his complete cooperation and involvement in our nationwide survey efforts.

An accurate and meaningful survey of all wintering bald eagles in the 48 contiguous states requires nationwide cooperation of federal and state agencies as well as the aid of many private organizations. The survey will be coordinated on a regional basis encompassing ongoing counts such as Mr. Fawk's. Draft field census forms are provided.

If you are interested in participating in this survey, contact Ken Soyffert who will provide you with the necessary census forms.

## BIRDS OF THE NORTHEASTERN PANHANDLE:

Mrs. Orilla Bryant of Miami, Texas, has sent us a very interesting report on the many different species of birds she has seen from her kitchen window and in her yard during the past year. Since January 1 and up to December 7, she has observed 78 species, which goes to show what a rich variety of birds can be found in the Panhandle in a very restricted area.

Some recent noteworthy observations were the White-breasted Nuthatch on Oct. 6, Red-breasted Nuthatch on Nov. 1, Fox Sparrow on Nov. 30 and Dec. 4, female Purple Finch on Dec. 2, 3 & 4 (the first anyone has reported this season), a Pigeon Hawk that keeps hanging around, and a Black-chinned Hummingbird soon during the summer. The woodpeckers she has plenty - Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy and Down Woodpeckers, and the Ladder-back. A Townsend's Solitaire has been seen often.

I think if we ran a contest on who could see the most species of birds in one's yard during the year, Mrs. Bryant would be hard to beat.

## BIRD NOTES:

The late Fall migration in the Texas Panhandle has been quite interesting, as shown below. Note particularly the number of late, and very late, sightings for some of the species:

- Oct. 23 - A Long-eared Owl at the home of Nancy and Ed Elliott near Canyon, and the only Golden-crowned Kinglet we've heard about as yet this Fall.
- Nov. 4 - the first reported sighting of a Bald Eagle was made by Mrs. Robertson at Lake Tanglwood. The first report of the season involving this species usually comes from this location.
- Nov. 5 - A Fox Sparrow reported at Buffalo Lake NWR by the Elliotts.
- Nov. 7 - along the creek below their house near Canyon, the Elliotts reported Eastern Bluebirds.
- Nov. 17 - a late Orange-crowned Warbler was sighted in town by Barry Zimmer. My own records (KS) show the latest date for this species as Oct. 25.
- Nov. 18 - Fern Cain, Frank Smith, and Roy and Judy Gurley found a Long-eared Owl along Short Creek, Lake Meredith. Fern says she finally got one!
- Nov. 19 - Barry Zimmer and Ken Soyffert had a good day at Buffalo Lake NWR. Noteworthy birds they saw were: a Common Loon; 2 Double-crested Cormorants; a late American Bittern (KS's previous late date was Oct. 9); about 12 Ring-necked Pheasant flushed at one time; 5 late Long-billed Dowitchers (KS's previous late date was Nov. 8); a late Sanderling (KS's previous late date was Oct. 22); a Northern Shrike; 7 Rusty Blackbirds; the first Tree Sparrows of the season; a Fox Sparrow.
- Nov. 23 - some incredible sightings were made at Buffalo Lake NWR on this date by Kevin and Barry Zimmer ---- an extremely late Northern Waterthrush (KS's late date for the species is Sept. 26!); 2 Le Conte's Sparrows (the only previous report of the species in our area was a specimen collected in the Palo Duro Canyon on May 3,

1936 by J. Q. Stevenson!); a Palm Warbler (seen clearly as it tail-wagged on a picnic table out in the open - this is the first Fall report of the species in our area - to top it off, it was of the yellow, eastern race that has only been collected three times previously in Texas!); 25-30 Rusty Blackbirds; 2 Common Loons; 40 or more Common Snipe (a high number).

Nov. 25 - in McBride Canyon, Kevin and Barry Zimmer observed a Winter Wren, and on their way back to town, a Prairie Falcon.

Dec. 3 - another good day at Buffalo Lake NWR by Barry Zimmer and Ken Seyffert; 4 Western Grebes; a Double-crested Cormorant; several hundred Canada Geese; 6 Snow Goose; 15 Sandhill Cranes; 100,000+ ducks (mostly Mallards and Pintails); one adult and one immature Bald Eagle (soon close up); Savannah Sparrows.

#### BIRD COUNT FEVER:

The Amarillo(Palo Duro Canyon) Christmas Bird Count is the granddaddy of them all in the Texas Panhandle. Since the winter of 1961-62, 126 species have been observed during the count period. We thought it might be of interest to our readers to list the species seen:

Common Loon	Scrub Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Eared Grebe	Common Crow	Fox Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Black-crested Titmouse	Lincoln's Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Verdin	Swamp Sparrow
Whistling Swan	Bushtit	Song Sparrow
Canada Goose	White-breasted Nuthatch	McCown's Longspur
Mallard	Brown Creeper	Lapland Longspur
Gadwall	Winter Wren	Chestnut-collared
Pintail	Bewick's Wren	Longspur
Green-winged Teal	Long-billed Marsh Wren	
American Wigeon	Canyon Wren	
Northern Shoveler	Rock Wren	
Redhead	Mockingbird	
Ring-necked Duck	Brown Thrasher	
Canvasback	Curve-billed Thrasher	
Lesser Scaup	Sage Thrasher	
Common Goldeneye	American Robin	
Bufflehead	Hermit Thrush	
Hooded Merganser	Eastern Bluebird	
Common Merganser	Western Bluebird	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mountain Bluebird	
Cooper's Hawk	Townsend's Solitaire	
Red-tailed Hawk	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Rough-legged Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Ferruginous Hawk	Cedar Waxwing	
Golden Eagle	Northern Shrike	
Bald Eagle	Loggerhead Shrike	
Marsh Hawk	Starling	
Prairie Falcon	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Merlin	House Sparrow	
American Kestrel	Western Meadowlark	
Bobwhite	Yellow-headed Blackbird	
Scaled Quail	Red-winged Blackbird	
Ring-necked Pheasant	Brewer's Blackbird	
Turkey	Brown-headed Cowbird	
Sandhill Crane	Western Tanager	
American Coot	Cardinal	
Killdeer	Pyrrhuloxia	
Common Snipe	Evening Grosbeak	
Least Sandpiper	Purple Finch	
Stilt Sandpiper	House Finch	
Ring-billed Gull	Pine Siskin	
Black-legged Kittiwake	American Goldfinch	
Mourning Dove	Lesser Goldfinch	
Roadrunner	Green-tailed Towhee	
Screech Owl	Rufous-sided Towhee	
Great Horned Owl	Brown Towhee	
Burrowing Owl	Lark Bunting	
Long-eared Owl	Savannah Sparrow	
Belted Kingfisher	Baird's Sparrow	
Common Flicker	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Black-throated Sparrow	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Dark-eyed Junco	
Williamson's Sapsucker	Gray-headed Junco	
Downy Woodpecker	Tree Sparrow	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow	
Say's Phoebe	Field Sparrow	
Horned Lark	Harris' Sparrow	
Blue Jay	White-crowned Sparrow	