

*****THE TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING*****

Monday, January 15, 1979

This is the ANNUAL MEETING of the membership of the Audubon Society for the election of Officers and Board for the coming year, and it is very important that each member come and be a voice in the proceedings.

The PROGRAM will be given by our REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE of the National Audubon Society, DR. DEDE ARMENTROUT of Brownwood, Texas. Dr. Armentrout will bring a report on the present work and involvement of our National Society.

The meeting will be a covered dish dinner at the Amarillo Garden Center.

YOU ALL COME AND HELP US

A RESUME OF THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

1. Buffalo Lake NWR (Dec. 16) -- the 63 total species recorded is an all time high for this count and the participants can congratulate themselves on a good one. It was made under adverse circumstances as the day was partly cloudy, cold, and with a high wind steadily blowing out of the northeast. A total of 202,973 waterfowl were seen, which is very gratifying after the years with low numbers when Buffalo Lake was either completely dry or almost so. The best sight of the day, however, was the 30 Bald Eagles, 25 in sight at one time as they perched on the ice near the seething masses of ducks and geese. New for the count were the Western Grebe, American Bittern (standing in the cattail marsh below the dam with its neck stretched upward and hoping no one would see him --- it never flew and we were only a few yards away), Wood Duck, and Common Snipe. Participants --- Joel Rees (Kress), Rosemary Scott (Amarillo), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Larry Wynn (Umbarger).
2. Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon -- Dec. 17) -- a balmy but very windy day. This was hardly an average count, but then we only had 5 participants! New for the count were the Double-crested Cormorant (rarely seen in our area in the winter), and Winter Wren. A good bird was the Northern Shrike seen just east of the river and across the road from the Sad Monkey Railroad Station. Participants --- Peggy Acord (Amarillo), Jim Montgomery (Lubbock), Rosemary Scott (Amarillo), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Winnie Wester (Canyon).
3. Arnett, Okla. (Dec. 20) -- a solo performance that turned out much better than the counter expected. A nice day as far as the temperature was concerned, but again a very windy one. The 16 Lesser Prairie Chickens was higher than have been seen in the last several years. They were observed as they flew into their traditional courting grounds at the very crack of dawn. No new species were added. Participant --- Ken Seyffert (Amarillo).
4. Lake Meredith (west -- Dec. 23) -- not many people turned out but it was still a good count. The temperature was reasonable and the wind not too high. The second Northern Shrike of the count period was soon, this time in the Plum Creek area. The best bird, however, were the 40 Pinyon Jays at Alibates. The Most Dedicated Birder of the Count Period Award goes to E. B. Ellis who went in quicksand up to his waist (and his waist is many feet above the ground) in his effort to see that extra bird. His parents will probably want to change that award to The Most God-help-us-all Birder of the Count Period. New for the count was the Savannah Sparrow. Participants --- Fern Cain (Borger), E. B. Ellis (Pampa), Randy Livingston (Borger), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Frank Smith (Borger), Barry Zimmer (Amarillo).
5. Lake Meredith (east -- Dec. 30) -- this count began ominously in 11° temperature and with the wind blowing 5-15 m.p.h. straight out of the north. Sleet began falling, then snow; then more and heavier sleet and snow. By noon the roads were very slick and the count had to be called off (some people weren't sorry as they rushed home to watch the Cowboys play the Falcons -- it isn't everyone who places birding FIRST). Zimmer and Seyffert got the third Northern Shrike of the count period as they cruised the alleys in Fritch. The shrike had a House Sparrow clutched in its claws as it flew into some bushes in a backyard. The best bird, however, may well have been the Say's Phoebe for who expects to see a flycatcher in the northern Panhandle on a bitterly cold, snowy day? New birds for the count were the Ring-necked Pheasant, Say's Phoebe, and Northern Shrike. Participants --- Richard Bryant (Borger), Fern Cain (Borger), Randy Livingston (Borger), Joel Rees (Kress), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Frank Smith (Borger), Barry Zimmer (Amarillo).
6. The Quitaque count scheduled for January 1 had to be called off because of the weather. The day was bitterly cold with a high of 6° and a strong wind out of the north. The roads were bad and all the participants had 100 miles or more to drive to get there. We will try again next year!
7. Members of the Kansas Ornithological Society, under the leadership of Sebastian Patti, were to make the Black Mesa, Oklahoma count on Dec. 31. We hope they could make it

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1978/79

1. Buffalo Lake NWR, Texas - Dec. 16
2. Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon, Texas - Dec. 17
3. Arentt, Oklahoma - Dec. 20
4. Lake Meredith(wast), Texas - Dec. 23
5. Lake Meredith(wast), Texas - Dec. 30

Species	1.	2.(NOTE)	3.	4.	5.
WESTERN GREBE	2				
Pied-billed Grebe	2	x	1		1
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT		1			
Great Blue Heron	2	x	1	6	15
AMERICAN BITTERN	1				
Canada Goose	7500	2000		450	
Snow Goose	25				
Mallard	108000	x	17	25000	64
Gadwall	303	x	6		95
Pintail	62000	x		200	
Green-winged Teal	4000		5	41	102
American Wigeon	21000	x		75	
Northern Shoveler	100	x			
WOOD DUCK	1				
Rodhead	10				
Ring-necked Duck					17
Canvasback	2		4		25
Lessor Scaup	3		2		
Common Goldeneye	1	x	11		62
Bufflehead	3				
Ruddy Duck	6				
Hooded Merganser			1		
Common Merganser	20	115		1	77
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2		1	1
Cooper's Hawk			1		
Rod-tailed Hawk	6	x	12	10	1
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	3	1	
Ferruginous Hawk	7	1	1	1	2
Golden Eagle	2	2	1	2	
Bald Eagle	30	6		11	
Marsh Hawk	12	x	10	8	2
Prairie Falcon		2			
American Kestrel	15	x	6	7	2
Lesser Prairie Chicken			16		
Bobwhite	53	10	25		
Scaled Quail	12	x		26	93
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	2			1
Turkey		18	75	94	
Virginia Rail					9
American Coot	1535		48		108
Killdeer			1	3	1
Common Snipe	1		2	2	2
Herring Gull				1	2
Ring-billed Gull	7			11	346
Rock Dove		4			13
Mourning Dove	1		7	15	
Roadrunner		1			
Great Horned Owl	2		2	1	4
Burrowing Owl		1			
Long-eared Owl	1				
Belted Kingfisher	1	1	1		1
Common Flicker	12	x	13	50	14
Red-bellied Woodpecker			9	2	
Golden-fronted Woodpecker		x			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1		1	
Hairy Woodpecker			2	13	
Downy Woodpecker			7	5	1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	4	x		11	3
SAY'S PHOEBE					1
Horned Lark	300	x	4	20	24
Blue Jay		1	2	1	1
Scrub Jay	1	x		18	1
Common Crow		x	60	30	
PINYON JAY				40	
Carolina Chickadee			15	58	
Black-crested Titmouse		x			
Bushtit		9			
Brown Creeper		x	5	6	
Winter Wren		2			

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Bewick's Wren		x	3	12	1
Long-billed Marsh Wren	1	1	3	4	4
Canyon Wren		2			
Rock Wren	1			1	1
Mockingbird		x	1	1	1
Brown Thrasher			1	1	
Curve-billed Thrasher	2	1		1	
American Robin	17	x	100	653	1
Hermit Thrush				1	
Eastern Bluebird			8	149	
Western Bluebird				1	
Mountain Bluebird	2	x		138	
Townsend's Solitaire		x		11	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		x		2	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		x	2	2	
Cedar Waxwing				6	
NORTHERN SHRIKE		1		1	1
Loggerhead Shrike	4	x	5	8	2
Starling	500	x	375	115	5000
Yellow-rumped Warbler		x		2	
House Sparrow	250	x	10	5	180
Eastern Meadowlark			1		1
Western Meadowlark	100	x	1	72	11
meadowlark sp.			75		
Red-winged Blackbird	800	x	1300	546	300000
Brewer's Blackbird			560		2000
grackle sp.					1
Brown-headed Cowbird			40	6	1000
Cardinal		x	8	19	2
House Finch	8	x		103	
Pine Siskin	2	x	4	63	
American Goldfinch	34	x	70	83	1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1	x	1	4	1
Brown Towhee		x		2	
Savannah Sparrow	3			1	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow		x		7	
Dark-eyed Junco	225	x	50	359	107
Tree Sparrow	3		150	142	20
Field Sparrow	2	1	4		
Harris' Sparrow		x	13	10	
White-crowned Sparrow	85	x		104	5
White-throated Sparrow		2			
Fox Sparrow		1			
Lincoln's Sparrow				1	
Song Sparrow	8	x	11	29	29
McCown's Longspur	2000	x			
Chestnut-collared Longspur	3				
Total	63	72	58	73	54

NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances, we did not have the completed returns on the Amarillo CBC when we went to press. We did know what species were seen but not all the individual numbers. Where numbers were not know, an x will appear in the column.