

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

The TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY will begin its fall meetings on Monday night, Sept. 17 at the Amarillo Garden Center, 7:30 P.M., when Stephanie Brooks, specialist with the Soil Conservation Service, brings a program. There will be a small amount of "concise" time to share some special birding experiences of the summer. Come prepared.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

1. ALUMINUM - ALUMINUM - aluminum - Bring all you have collected for the summer, and be sure it is crumpled up ready for delivery. Pans can be folded to fit into a fist. PLEASE & THANK YOU.
2. A letter from Regional Director Dr. Dede Armentrout announces the employment of a Regional Assistant for the Southwest Region, Ms. Rhea K. Copening. She comes from the position of Executive Director for the Ohio Alliance for Environmental Education, with much experience in a great variety of related activities. We hope to have her in the Panhandle Chapter sometime this fall.
3. The new National President, Russ Peterson, was well received at the National Convention, and one important announcement was the raising of dues this fall. Also he announced a plan to encourage chapters to receive a bonus if they increase their group by 20% in the year. This will be about 23 for our chapter, so let's get busy with the "face to face" approach, which they say is the best way to get good members.
4. Plan Ahead now for June 23-30, 1980, for the joint meeting of the Rocky Mountain Region with our own Southwest Region at Ghost Ranch, N. Mexico. A beautiful place, and some of those chapters do great things. We can go and learn - maybe even have something to tell them.
5. If any members are planning to be in New York City on Thursday, November 8, you could attend the National Audubon Annual Dinner. It is a great opportunity to meet some of the active members of the Society and vote on impending business.

.....Mary Moyer

BIRD NOTES:

Observers - Peggy Acord - PA	Kevin Zimmer - KZ
Rena Ross - RR	Barry Zimmer - BZ
Esther Waddill - EW	Rosemary Scott - RS
Kenneth Seyffert - KS	Palo Duro Canyon State Park - PCD SP
	Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge - BL NWR

- May 6 - A small owl was found dead at BL NWR by PA, RR, EW, KS. Its body was badly decomposed but the wings were intact and salvageable. They were sent to Dr. Keith Arnold of Texas A & M, who verified the tentative identification of a Saw-whet Owl. This is the first documented record of the species for the Texas Panhandle and the fourth specimen for the state.
- May 19 - Another remarkable sighting was that of an Arctic Loon at BL NWR by Kevin and Barry Zimmer. The bird was found swimming next to a Common Loon, which aided the observers in making a positive identification. This is another first for the Panhandle. It was seen and studied at length through a spotting scope as well as binoculars. The next day it was studied again as it accompanied a Common Loon, this time by KZ and BZ with PA and KS. Also seen on the 19th by K & BZ at BL a Great Egret & late Bonapartes Gulls and a very late Red-breasted Nuthatch. In the PDC they found 2 Great Crested Flycatchers and in Memorial Park Cemetery a late Townsend's Warbler.
- May 24 - A second record for the Panhandle was an Inca Dove seen at the first water crossing in the PDC by PA and RS. The previous sighting was of a bird that wintered in town in 1977-78. This small dove is being seen more and more, frequently in the Lubbock area and may be a species that is expanding its range.
- May 27 - Another second record for the Panhandle was an adult male Scott's Oriole singing in the yard at 6203 Gainsborough as reported by BZ. This remarkable observation followed close on the heels of the one seen at BL last September. At Lake Tanglewood, PA reported a singing Veery, a late sighting.
- June 5 - On her Pantex Breeding Bird Survey, PA recorded a Vesper Sparrow and a White-Faced Ibis. The sparrow observation is one of a few summer reports of the species.

- June 9 - The most remarkable observation of KS Texline Breeding Bird Survey was the 443 Lark Buntings, an all time high since the previous high number was 9! Another recorded high were the 50 Long-billed Curlews. For the first time the Ferruginous Hawk was not found at its usual nest site although it was seen outside the count area.
- June 10 - KS reported one Ferruginous Hawk on the Miami Breeding Bird Survey.
- June 12 - Two female Purple Martins were seen at the Ross home by RR and daughter Elaine Robinson.
- June 17 - 24 White Pelicans and 2 Double-crested Cormorants at BL NWR by KS. This is only the third reported summer sighting of the cormorant in our area.
- June 24 - A Common Gallinule in Castro Co. by KS. The Yellow-headed Black-birds occupied the same playa where they were found nesting last summer, as well as two other playas in the county.
- July 4 - Still one White Pelican at BL NWR along with 21 Black-necked Stilts and 2 Marbled Godwits. The stilts nested there for the third year in a row and young birds could be seen by early August by KS.
- July 8 - A pair of Indigo Buntings were observed feeding three fledglings in the PDC by KS. This is the first reported observation of their nesting in Randall County. Both males and females were seen at BL in early summer.
- July 29 - Two Great Egrets were seen at BL by PA and KS, and they were still there on 9/2 by KS.
- August 11 - A Common Gallinule, along with 7 or more Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen on a playa lake in Gray County by E. B. Ellis.
- September 1 - A Red-breasted Nuthatch and Cedar Waxwing in his yard in town by KS.
- September 2 - The largest concentration of Long-billed Curlews in the Panhandle was at BL by KS - 550 of the big birds! He counted approximately 350 on the ground and as he finished 200 more came sailing in. Also present were Willetts, Marbled Godwit, and Black-bellied Plover plus a good variety of other shorebirds. Before reaching the Refuge, he saw 45 Upland Sandpipers in one field and a Northern Phalarope on a playa lake.
- September 3 - At BL NWR - a Red-eyed and Solitary Vireo, a Black & White Warbler, and several American Redstarts.