

October Meeting - from Mary Donelson

Fern Cain, Public Relations Director with the National Parks & Wildlife at Fritch, will be the Program Chairman for the October meeting. She promises to bring to us Wes Phillips, Interpretive Specialist for Lake Meredith, with their excellent film on The Early Americans. Since we have such an interesting program, we thought we would forego our regular "5-Minute Bird Talk" and have Peggy Acord do a 5-minute review of the lecture on birding manners, sent out by the National Audubon Office. (Our Board DID decide, however, that it must be birders from another state needing the lecture instead of us!) The meeting will be Monday, October 15 at 7:30 at the Garden Center.

ALUMINUM * ALUMINUM * ALUMINUM

We are glad to report that our Scholarship Fund is growing Via Aluminum. We now have \$40.31. We will have to nominate Charlie Meador as our outstanding collector, so maybe some of the rest of us need to cultivate beverage drinkers who use aluminum cans, and people who use a lot of TV dinners. Check with your neighbors, as I'm sure they would be delighted to save for you.

I would like to challenge some of our non-participating members to help us with this aluminum drive, as we hope to get a scholarship together before 10 years, as they are about \$400 today.

Fold TV dinner trays into "fist size" pieces, and squeeze aluminum foil into tight balls. Cans can be left whole or flattened. Aluminum can be placed in plastic bags and left with one of the Audubon members. Bring them to the meeting on Monday night. Thanks, MKM

* A letter from Lucile Fiedler from Brasilia;

"I discovered a place where several hummers come - a red flaming shrub named Red silky oak, tho not an oak. One hummer is a swallow-tailed, blue violet head and throat, with rest of plumage blue-green, rather large and dark appearing. One got caught in our office, as we do not have screens, and we had quite an experience trying to catch it so it could go free. The other is emerald green, dark tail, white belly and a cerise mark on its neck. It is much smaller than the other.

This is the time of the year for good birding. We have a pair of wrens in the compound and I enjoy the early riser call of the jays.

I will ever hold dear the many interesting excursions and meetings we had there. I especially remember searching out the Prairie Chickens. I've renewed my subscription to Audubon Magazine and asked them to credit TPAS for it. Happy birding to you all."

* Put on your calendar now -

June 23-30, 1980 - Ghost Ranch, N. Mex., Southwest & Mountain Regions Joint Meeting

* THE SOUTHWEST REGION, Audubon Society

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Now you can write or phone them at your pleasure.

* MEMBERSHIP * * * * *

Do YOU have your NEW MEMBER yet?? We need 20 more, you know. President Russ Peterson is urging us on.

* That TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION meeting mentioned last month is to be held at Mo Ranch near Kerrville Nov. 10-11. We need a representative. How about YOU?* The BIG THICKET MUSEUM at Saratoga, Tx., is sponsoring guided tours on 4 Saturdays beginning Oct. 27. If you plan to be down that direction, you would enjoy a tour at \$5.00 per person and \$1.50 for children under 18. Write Big Thicket Museum, Box 198, Saratoga 77585.* Peggy Says about Buffalo Lake * *

With the uncertainty of the future of Buffalo Lake, we are aware of the value of the area for seeing birds.

Hawks have been numerous this fall, as have shorebirds. A large flock of migrating Swainsons were there Sept. 23, and 30th also Ferruginous, Red-tailed, Kestrels and an immature Peregrine Falcon, which demonstrated its youth and inexperience by allowing us to approach closely, then thrashing around in the treetops in a very unprofessional manner for the "prince" of hawks. Oct. 7 the same Peregrine was there with a young Red-tail, a Cooper's Hawk, Kestrel and mature Golden Eagle. How many places could you stand for an hour and see an eagle perched.

Anyone wishing to learn shorebirds should take a chair or stool, go to Buffalo, walk past the fence on the shore & sit with glasses and study the myriads of shorebirds on the mudflats. Each sweep of the glasses shows something. You can go from bird to book many times and

Peggy Says about Buffalo Lake - continued

this is the way to learn to identify shorebirds.

For so long Buffalo has been a part of the birding scene for us, it hurts to see the trash, bad roads, water going lower again. It reminds us that while it is fun to see new places, we can see much of value from each trip to a good area close at hand.

Sparrows are arriving along with 2 species of geese and 8 of ducks, reminding us that at least 1 more trip to Buffalo will produce some good birding, and 1 more and 1 more.

Kenneth (mostly) & others SAW * * * * *

- Sept. 8 - First Red-breasted Nuthatch reported by KS in town.
- Sept. 16 - Buffalo Lake with KS and BZ: White Pelican, Black-bellied Plover, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling
- Sept. 19 - KS observed a group of 25 Swainson's Hawks passing overhead at Buffalo Lake. Larry Wynn reported almost a continuous movement of them during this period. He also observed a Peregrine Falcon on the Refuge. Also on this date saw a Red-eyed Vireo by KS.
- Sept. 21 - Two Prairie Falcons in Palo Duro Canyon by KS.
- Sept. 22 - 39 Swainson's Hawks observed roosting in large cottonwoods at S. end of Buffalo Lake by KS. Also a catbird, warbling Vireo, and Black & White Warbler.
- Sept. 23 - a quick trip to Llano Cemetery turned up a Winter Wren and Red-breasted Nuthatch, while Memorial Park Cemetery had an immature Red-headed Woodpecker, Solitary Vireo, and Black & White Warbler.
- Sept. 30 - KS & PA counted 75 White Pelicans at Buffalo Lake. Other birds seen were 8 Cattle Egrets, a Peregrine Falcon (from less than 100 ft. away), a Marbled Godwit, immature Red-headed Woodpecker, Sage Thrasher, and a Townsend's Warbler. In town, KS had a Broad-winged Hawk in his yard.
- Oct. 7 - Buffalo Lake - PA & KS observed a great variety of shorebirds, including 3 Sanderlings, 13 Black-bellied Plover, 3 Marbled Godwit; also a Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, 6 very early Snow Geese; several hundred immature Barn Swallows.

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