

Newsletter of the TEXAS PANHANDLE AUDUBON SOCIETY
THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

February 1980

2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, Tx 79109 Vol. XII, No. 2

A NEW WORKING YEAR - NEW OFFICERS - NEW PROGRAMS - NEW FACES

February 18 may be Washington's Birthday Designate or what, but it is the February meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society at the Amarillo Garden Center, 1400 Streit Dr. at 7:30 in the evening. So if you are celebrating away from home, be back in time for this important meeting.

The Program Committee has lined up a very timely program from the Texas Committee on Natural Resources to show us the importance of Wilderness Areas in East Texas. We will have two slide scripts on "Wilderness is Forever" and "Upland Island". These have been made to illustrate the need for citizen participation in proposals for the preservation of Texas Wilderness, which is threatened by the U.S. Forest Service's "Roadless Area Review and Evaluation" program. We will also be informed about the Wildress Pow-Wow scheduled for the Upland Island Wilderness Area on March 22-23. People going into East or Central Texas during this season might like to include the Pow-Wow in their travel plans.

Also we will hear from Fern Cain, a 5 minute bird talk on her recent trip to Panama. If the rest of us can't take these exotic trips for birding, we should hear a few words from the ones who do.

The hostess for the fellowship after the program will be

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It looks like this year has started off with a bang. The "Save Buffalo Lake" battle began to heat up in time for the Board to write a Resolution on the matter, and the Chapter adopted a slightly amended version at the Annual Dinner. By the time you receive this bulletin, we will probably have attended a meeting at the Randall County Courthouse and picked up petitions to circulate among our Audubon members. It is to be hoped that we can get every member's signature on these petitions. We will try to have some sort of system for getting them around as rapidly as possible. If you find yourself possessed of a petition, please speed it on its way as soon as possible. See you at the February meeting.

Mary Donelson

Bring your Aluminum to the meeting.

Just a note from the Ex-Pres. I do want to thank you all for the tremendous help you have all been during this past year, and especially braving the elements to help make a good annual meeting. It is only thru working together that our organization can be effective, and we can enjoy the benefits. I know you will all get behind the new administration and make 1980 our most active year in our 27. Best Wishes
Lyer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1980

President-Mary Donelson (Mrs. Ed)
Vice President-Esther Waddill
Secretary-Gwen Conner
Treasurer-Arnon Mays
Recorder-Peggy Acord
Garden Council-Rosemary Scott
New Board-Fern Cain-Robert Conner
Continuing-Rena Ross-Winnie Wester
Nancy Elliott-Max Traweek
Appointees-Mary Moyer-Kenneth Seyffert
Membership-Rena Ross
Publicity-Fern Cain
Hostesses-Dorothy Harrison
Bulletin Editor-Kenneth Seyffert

ANNOUNCING - 10th Annual AUDUBON INSTITUTE OF DESERT ECOLOGY will be held May 16-20 at the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, west of Superior, Arizona. It involves 60 participants in field studies of the Sonoran Desert. Information at the next Audubon Meeting.

REMEMBER - Ghost Ranch, N.M. - June 23-30, 1980-Begin packing now.

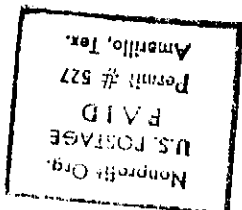
WELCOME BACK KENNETH

We missed you!

A RESUME OF THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

1. Amarillo(Palo Duro Canyon), Dec. 16 - the temperature when the count began was 9° F and the wind 30-40 m.p.h. from the north, gusting to 60 m.p.h. One of the most bitterly cold count mornings that I can recall. Under such adverse circumstances, the 70 species recorded was remarkable and one to be proud of. Participants: Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Fern Cain(Borger); Ed and Nancy Elliott(Canyon); Rosemary Scott(Amarillo); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo).
2. Lake Meredith(west), Dec. 23 - a windy day that turned into a cold rain by late afternoon. The water level is so far down there was none in the count circle - with a consequent loss of waterfowl tallied. New to the count - Say's Phoebe. Participants: Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Fern Cain(Borger); Betty Newby(Borger); George Newby(Borger); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo); Frank Smith(Borger).
3. Buffalo Lake NWR, Dec. 26 - an overcast but otherwise pleasant day, and a remarkable count. The finding and identification of the Glaucous Gull by Larry Wynn and Joel Reese was enough to make the count memorable by itself, but seven other species were new to the count - Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Hermit Thrush, Sage Thrasher, and Water Pipit. The 73 species total was a count record, the previous high being last year's 63. Just think how many we may have gotten with a dozen more participants located in areas we never touched! Participants: E. B. Ellis(Pampa); Joel and Casey Reese(Kress); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo); Rosemary Scott(Amarillo); Larry Wynn(Umberger).
4. Arnett, Oklahoma, Dec. 28 - a very thick, heavy fog in the morning and a cold north wind under overcast sky the rest of the day. The previous night's rain saturated the vegetation and made walking in it wet and cold. The count total was a low, and it was the first year we failed to record the Lesser Prairie Chicken. New for the count was the Say's Phoebe. Participants: E. B. Ellis(Pampa); Dale Randall(Wichita); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo); Eddio Stogall(Wichita).
5. Lake Meredith (east), Dec. 30 - it seems we had a genius for picking the wrong days for bird counts this year. The preceding and succeeding days were perfect birding days, but the weather was lousy on count days. On this day, the morning was cold (23° F), foggy and overcast and with some snow flurries, and it didn't clear up until midafternoon. I have never seen Meredith so empty of waterfowl. Despite the handicaps, the count was average and three new species were added - Merlin, Cedar Waxwing, and Chipping Sparrow. Participants: Fern Cain(Borger); E. B. Ellis(Pampa); Dave and Kathy Huffine(Borger); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo); Frank Smith(Borger).
6. Caprock Canyons SP(Quitaque), Jan. 1 - finally a count on which we had reasonably good weather. The morning was windy and cool, but by afternoon it was warm and still. Seven species were added to the young count, some of them extraordinary, and the party in the South Prong saw the Acouad shoop. The species added were - Greater Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Vesper Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow. Participants: Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Margaret Bailey(Aledo); Jim Montgomery(Lubbock); Joel Reese(Kress); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo).

Kenneth D. Seyffert
2206 S. Lapson
Amarillo 79109



AMARILLO GARDEN CENTER
Texas Panhandle Audubon Society
1400 Street Drive
AMARILLO, TEXAS 79106

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1979/80

1. Amarillo(Palo Duro Canyon), Texas - Dec. 16
2. Lake Meredith(west), Texas - Dec. 23
3. Buffalo Lake NWR, Texas - Dec. 26
4. Arnett, Oklahoma - Dec. 28
5. Lake Meredith(east), Texas - Dec. 30
6. Caprock Canyons SP, Texas - Jan. 1

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Pied-billed Grebe			1			9
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT			3			
Great Blue Heron			17		2	
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON			3			
Canada Goose	55	50	1106		269	50
Mallard	50	208	68000	27	63	516
Gadwall			8500		76	1
Pintail	1		51000	5		405
Green-winged Teal	10		17000		141	1
American Wigeon	6		17000		41	4
Northern Shoveler	11		10		1	
Redhead	1				4	
Ring-necked Duck						3
Canvasback	1			2		
GREATER SCAUP						1
Lesser Scaup	8		8500			15
Common Goldeneye	1		5	9	14	
Bufflehead			2		1	7
Ruddy Duck			20			
Hooded Merganser						1
Common Merganser	32	2	15		3	
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1			1
Red-tailed Hawk	3	10	10	9	10	3
SWAINSON'S HAWK			1			
Rough-legged Hawk	2		11	x		
Ferruginous Hawk	1		6	1		1
Golden Eagle	1		1			
Bald Eagle	8	10	35		1	
eagle sp.					1	
Marsh Hawk	6	7	7	8	11	10
Prairie Falcon			2			
Merlin	1				1	
American Kestrel	7	18	10	11	13	14
Bobwhite		16	34	24		1
Scaled Quail	50	54			42	57
Ring-necked Pheasant	2		7			
Turkey	28	128		85		
Sandhill Crane	145		7000			
Virginia Rail					7	
American Coot	13	1	6	87	206	40
Killdeer	4		1			
LONG-BILLED CURLEW			1			
GREATER YELLOWLEGS			3			
Common Snipe					1	
GLAUCOUS GULL			1			
Herring Gull			5		2	
Ring-billed Gull	32		32		42	
Rock Dove			36			19
Mourning Dove				66		37
Roadrunner	1				1	1
Great Horned Owl		3	3	2	1	
Burrowing Owl			2			
Long-eared Owl					3	
Belted Kingfisher	2			3		1
Common Flicker	22	45	12	32	32	15
Red-bellied Woodpecker				13		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	35					10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4			1		3
Hairy Woodpecker		7		5		
Downy Woodpecker		11		10	1	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	2	13	3		9	7
Say's Phoebe		4	2	1		
Horned Lark	297		181	x	24	10

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Blue Jay		3		3	1	10
Scrub Jay	5					12
Common Crow	7	16.		32		9
Carolina Chickadee		15.		25		
Black-crested Titmouse	2					17
Bushtit	20					6
Red-breasted Nuthatch		4				
Brown Creeper		1				2
Bewick's Wren	3	8	1	4	3	1
Long-billed Marsh Wren		1	5	1	9	3
Canyon Wren	1					2
Rock Wren	2	1	1		6	1
Mockingbird	15	2	1	2		5
Brown Thrasher	1	2			1	
Curve-billed Thrasher	1	1	5		3	1
Sage Thrasher			1			
American Robin	216	190	6	13	150	598
Hermit Thrush			2			
Eastern Bluebird	12	14		7		
Mountain Bluebird	51	2				29
Townsend's Solitaire	1	3	1		5	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	1				3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	9		1	3	2
WATER PIPIT			1			
Cedar Waxwing	120				7	434
Loggerhead Shrike	1	4	3	3	6	3
Starling	42	22	47	123	5400	270
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER						1
Yellow-rumped Warbler						2
House Sparrow	198	30	311	50	51	70
Eastern Meadowlark				18	2	
Western Meadowlark	285	38	276	73	138	102
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD						6
Red-winged Blackbird	3	254	191	126	150000	249
Brewer's Blackbird				6	3	1
Common Grackle					25	
Brown-headed Cowbird				x	1	31
Cardinal	30	28		14	7	12
PYRRHULOXIA	1					
House Finch	2	41	4		32	2
Pine Siskin		5	5			40
American Goldfinch	36	11	5	39	7	50
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	4	1		10	8
Brown Towhee	2					
Lark Bunting	33		589	320		5
Savannah Sparrow			8		1	9
VESPER SPARROW						6
Rufous-sided Sparrow	4		1			4
Dark-eyed Junco	62	291	60	51	93	195
Tree Sparrow	1	13	8	92	29	
CHIPPING SPARROW					20	
BREWER'S SPARROW						3
Field Sparrow	1	1	25		1	2
Harris' Sparrow		3		23		
White-crowned Sparrow	105	852	185	10	374	91
White-throated Sparrow	1					5
Swamp Sparrow		1				
Song Sparrow	5	19	10	27	21	19
McCown's Longspur	296		1100			
Lapland Longspur			5			
Chestnut-collared Longspur			75	225		
longspur sp.					1	
TOTAL	70	51	73	46	61	72

x = seen during count week but not on count day.