

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY:

Contrary to tradition, the Annual dinner of the TPAS will not be held in January but has been postponed to March. The January meeting this year will be strictly a business meeting. We have a number of business items to take care of and all members are urged to attend. One thing everyone can be thinking about is a Conservation Award; of what shall it consist and to whom shall it be given? Be sure and bring all the aluminum scrap you have been accumulating.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

The most notable feature of this year's CBC's was the mild weather and sunny skies. No low temperatures (the 10° at the beginning of the Buffalo Lake NWR count was the lowest), no snow, no howling winds. Without these elements they didn't seem like Christmas Counts, and we missed them. We didn't set any record for high numbers of species, but that can probably be attributed to a poor turnout in the number of participants. We were just spread too thin over the large territories to be covered. The names of the participants are listed on a following page, and we do thank them all for taking part.

Despite the almost entire absence of water on the refuge, the Buffalo Lake count produced 9 Bald Eagles, 4 adults and 5 immatures. The 11 Ferruginous Hawks were gratifying; it was a high number not only for the count but for all counts that have been made in the Panhandle. The Red-bellied Woodpecker has been there since early November, and the 2 Rusty Blackbirds were by themselves on a windmill pond out on the open prairie. The Prairie Falcon was flying about fruitlessly in a large flock of longspurs.

The 75 species on the Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon) count was above average, brought about primarily by the wide variety of ducks on Lake Tanglewood. The 4 Hooded Mergansers were most welcome!

The Lake Meredith (west) count continued low in numbers as the lake level has fallen to such an extent that the lake water itself no longer reaches the count circle. This has greatly reduced the variety of waterfowl to be found. Almost all the ducks now have to be found on the ranch ponds or caught flying overhead. The 186 Eastern Bluebirds along the Canadian River was an unusually high number for so far west and was, some say, a conservative estimate.

The Lesser Prairie Chicken count at Arnett was once again disappointingly low but while tramping a field in search of them, a totally unexpected Short-eared Owl was flushed. At Quitaque, tiny Lake Theo produced 13 species of waterfowl, and instead of being in the canyons as normally at this time of year, the Mountain Bluebirds were found out on the prairie.

There were surprisingly few waterfowl on the Lake Meredith (east) count even though the National Park Service took us out on a boat for 3½ hours during the afternoon. It was the boat trip, however, that permitted us to get the Common Loons and the Western Grebe. Most unexpected was the Lesser Prairie Chicken seen standing alongside the road soon after we turned off the main highway into Blue West (Moore Co.). This was a bonus bird, indeed!

For those who get fun out of statistics, the following may be of interest. The count name is given, the number of counts made so far, and the number of different species that have been recorded on it:

- Buffalo Lake NWR - 14 counts - 117 species.
- Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon) - 18 counts - 128 species.
- Lake Meredith (west) - 11 counts - 111 species.
- Lake Meredith (east) - 11 counts - 111 species.
- Quitaque - 5 counts - 105 species.
- Arnett - 15 counts - 108 species.
- Black Mesa (Kenton) - 12 counts - 124 species.

BIRD NOTES:

Of special interest are the bird notes kept by Mrs. Orilla Bryant of Miami, Roberts Co. She has kindly shared with us her daily records of the birds that have visited her yard. Such records are of great value and all birders are encouraged to follow her example. It is on such careful observations and meticulous note-taking that a comprehensive picture of the birdlife of the Texas Panhandle can be formulated. We need an Orilla Bryant in each of the Panhandle counties! Between Nov. 7 and Dec. 31, 1980, she recorded the following:

- Red-tailed Hawk; Merlin; Scaled Wauil;
- Ring-billed Gull; Yellow and Red-shafted Flickers; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy, Downy, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; Blue Jay; Common Crow; Carolina Chickadee; White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches; Brown Creeper; Bewicks Wren; Brown Thrasher; Robin; a controversial thrush (not unidentified - just controversial); Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; Cardinal; Evening Grosbeak; Purple and House Finchs; Pine Siskin; Lark Bunting; Oregon and Slate-colored Juncos; Tree Sparrow; Harris', White-crowned and Song Sparrows.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1980/81

1. Buffalo Lake NWR, Texas - Dec. 20
2. Amarillo(Palo Duro Canyon), Texas - Dec. 21
3. Lake Meredith(west), Texas - Dec. 28
4. Arnett, Oklahoma - Dec. 30
5. Quitaque(Caprock Canyons SP), Texas - Jan. 1
6. Lake Meredith(east), Texas - Jan. 4

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
COMMON LOON						2
Pied-billed Grebe		4		2	11	3
WESTERN GREBE						1
Great Blue Heron		2		1		10
Canada Goose	<del>1725-1225</del>	50	99		170	7
Mallard	<del>7540-7500</del>	125	26	20	230	2317
Gadwall		91		1	190	14
Pintail	<del>575-500</del>	5			3	307
Green-winged Teal	5				3	92
American Wigeon	75	44	6		11	55
Northern Shoveler		2		34		
Redhead		6	1	2		
Ring-necked Duck		3	64		2	1
Canvasback		4		32	1	
Lesser Scaup		1			7	
Common Goldeneye				12	2	81
Bufflehead				1	16	1
Ruddy Duck					3	3
Hooded Merganser		4				
Common Merganser		51		1		13
Cooper's Hawk				1		
accipiter sp.			1			
Red-tailed Hawk	<del>20-44</del>		15	12	5	12
Rough-legged Hawk	<del>10-6</del>	1	1	2		
Ferruginous Hawk	<del>15-44</del>	2	2	3	1	5
Golden Eagle	1	1			1	
Bald Eagle	9	6	6			1
Marsh Hawk	<del>13-8</del>	2	8	6	4	3
Prairie Falcon	1					
American Kestrel	<del>11-8</del>	28	5	5	20	8
LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN				2		1
Bobwhite	<del>47-27</del>	15	39	21	26	
Scaled Quail	<del>31-20</del>	71	25		18	13
Ring-necked Pheasant	<del>23-8</del>	1				
Turkey		20	79	11		
Sandhill Crane					11	
Virginia Rail				3		4
American Coot		16		68	77	189
Killdeer				1	1	3
Common Snipe		1		3		
Ring-billed Gull		55				85
Rock Dove	<del>45-30</del>	10			25	1
Mourning Dove				57	79	
Roadrunner		1	1		7	1
Great Horned Owl	2		1			1
Burrowing Owl	<del>4-1</del>					
SHORT-EARED OWL				1		
Belted Kingfisher		2		4	1	1
Common Flicker	<del>16-10</del>	25	41	21	27	15
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1		2	7		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker		34			8	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2		2		
Hairy Woodpecker			9	8		
Downy Woodpecker			4	1		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	8	5	9		7	4
Horned Lark	<del>300-175</del>	106	8	56	10	
Blue Jay		2	1	1	3	2
Scrub Jay		7	5		6	
White-necked Raven					2	
Common Crow		4	7	111	9	1
Carolina Chickadee			15	17		
Black-crested Titmouse					3	
Bushtit		40				
Brown Creeper			1	2	1	1

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Bewick's Wren	2	8	12	4	8	3
Long-billed Marsh Wren	32	4	7	1	11	11
Canyon Wren		3	1		6	
Rock Wren	2	1	1		4	1
Mockingbird		13	3	1		1
Brown Thrasher	1	1	3			
Curve-billed Thrasher	34	1	3			
American Robin	4	132	1472	112	30	8
Hermit Thrush	1				1	
Eastern Bluebird			186	2		
WESTERN BLUEBIRD		2				
Mountain Bluebird	75	158	69		61	
Townsend's Solitaire		5	8		3	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1	1	2	1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	2	5	1	4	2
Water Pipit					7	
Cedar Waxwing		20	179	1	16	
Loggerhead Shrike	34	1	5	10	7	6
Starling	20	19	117	70	2	360
Eastern Meadowlark				4		2
Western Meadowlark	50	188	10	15	153	19
meadowlark sp.				164		
House Sparrow	<del>505</del> 355	79	12	71	36	96
Red-winged Blackbird	<del>310</del> 260	150	5151	900	158	10000
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	2			7		
Brewer's Blackbird	50	15		200		10
Great-tailed Grackle						2
Common Grackle						11
Brown-headed Cowbird	27		1	12		2
Cardinal	3	33	34	9	17	5
House Finch	12	25	36		2	
Pine Siskin	<del>54</del>	1	5	1	140	9
American Goldfinch	21	4	61	173	187	5
Rufous-sided Towhee	3	1	1	2	2	
Brown Towhee		5				
Lark Bunting	<del>27</del> 6					
Savannah Sparrow	4			1	9	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	2	8	2		8	
Dark-eyed Junco	<del>190</del> 440	411	468	24	185	46
Gray-headed Junco		1				
Tree Sparrow	<del>180</del> 160	2	10	217	26	10
Field Sparrow		2	1		1	
Harris' Sparrow	1	1	5	22		
White-crowned Sparrow	<del>110</del> 80	7	22	23	1	32
White-throated Sparrow		1		1		
Swamp Sparrow			1		2	2
Song Sparrow	7	10	15	19	33	16
McCown's Longspur	1700	125			50	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	<del>5030</del>			1	450	
Total	55	75	61	65	69	59

#### PARTICIPANTS:

1. Dec. 20 - Ken Seyffert(Amarillo); Larry Wynn(Umbarger).
2. Dec. 21 - Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Ed and Nancy Elliott(Canyon); Jim Montgomery (Lubbock); Mary Moyer(Amarillo); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo).
3. Dec. 28 - Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Fern Cain(Borger); E. B. Ellis(Austin); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo); Frank Smith(Borger).
4. Dec. 30 - E.B. and Cindy Ellis(Austin); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo).
5. Jan. 1 - Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Fern Cain(Borger); Joel Reese(Kress); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo).
6. Jan. 4 - Peggy Acord(Amarillo); Raymond Bryant(Amarillo); Richard Bryant (Borger); Fern Cain(Borger); Ken Seyffert(Amarillo).