

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK  
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

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2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

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The November meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be held at the Amarillo Garden Center on Monday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be a presentation of the Citizen Mobilization Project and how this chapter can promote it; also, various Committee Reports will be made. Members and guests will be asked to write letters to their legislators in support of conservation issues. Paper, envelopes and stamps will be furnished; however, if you have personalized stationery, bring it. Virginia Wood will be the hostess for the social hour following the meeting. Bring guests who are interested in conservation.

AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS

The fall meeting of the Council was held in El Paso, OCT. 31. The attendance was down from the 11 Chapters of last year, but the 7 Chapters represented, mostly from central and western Texas, decided that the purposes of the Council were: 1. Communication 2. Assistance to local chapters 3. Change through political action. A Quarterly Newsletter will be published by Pat Hartigan of Austin, and each chapter is entitled to 20 copies.

Matagorda Island is having problems with hunters who are promoting the building of a causeway to it which will open it up to abuse from too many people and vehicles. Exploitative interests want it turned over to the state of Texas, but the state does not have the proper laws for non-game and Endangered Species protection such as the federal government does. The Island needs to remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and members are urged to write President Reagan to that effect.

The Regional Office of The Audubon Society suggested that each Chapter have a Clean Air Coordinator and Energy Coordinator who would get direct mailing to keep the chapter informed of current issues. We are open to applications now.

Each chapter was urged to have a Citizens Mobilization Campaign to provide Citizen Action on the various conservation issues. This we will do at the November meeting.

The next Regional Meeting was announced for Rockport on April 14-21, with the business meeting on the weekend and field trips during the week...So begin planning now to attend.

Also, the Birdathon was announced for the last weekend in April (24-25), and Roger T. Peterson will return to Texas to participate. Some members from the state will be invited to "bird" with him. Put in your application now. Our own TPAS Birdathon will be held on May 9.

Each Chapter gave reports of its activities, and they proved to be quite varied!

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Nominating Committee: it is getting time to elect officers for the new year, and the Nominating Committee will be working on this important project. Call them to let them know you would be glad to take a job. Chairman Marguerite Empie, Marthan Meadors, and Harold Read will take your applications.

AMARILLO GARDEN CENTER FESTIVAL OF TREES  
- December 5-6:

The Audubon Society has tickets to sell and we need workers for the kitchen and as tree hostess. This is a good time to take friends as guests. Tickets are \$1.25 for adults and 50¢ for children. Call Mary Moyer for tickets. Our society receives a percentage from the tickets we sell. Everyone will want to attend.

NEW MEMBERS:

We are delighted to welcome Winnie Watley back to membership, as well as new members: Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bergstrosser, Mrs. Mary Glenn, Dr. & Mrs. J. R. Askins, Jr. of Dumas, John Earnhart of Canyon.

The President receives a quantity of mail from National Audubon and other conservation organizations in which they ask for assistance in letter writing, attendance at meetings, and/or money. The President can fulfill some of the requests, but we do need some strong conservationists who have the time and vocal willingness to participate and promote these programs. I am praying that we will get at least one such member in our society. Other chapters seem to always have at least one such person. Pass the word along, and seek active participants.

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\*\*\*\* AUDUBON ARK \*\*\*\*

THE ARK will be in AMARILLO, TEXAS DURING the FIRST WEEK IN JANUARY. We will need helpers. APPLY NOW! It is making only 6 stops in our Region. We are the last on the line as it moves west.

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\*\*\*\*\* LAKE MARVIN FIELD TRIP \*\*\*\*\*

Our field trip to Lake Marvin in Hemphill County on October 18 was an enjoyable and productive outing despite a moderate wind and the coolness of temperature (strangers to the Panhandle might have exaggerated and called it a "windy" day). Fall colors in the foliage were not at their height, but the sumac was in its deep red prime. Those attending were Peggy Acord, Waymond and Virginia Gill, George and Rena Ross, and Kenneth Seyffert. The following species were recorded in the immediate vicinity of Lake Marvin:

Pied-billed Grebe.....	7	Common Flicker.....	16
Great Blue Heron.....	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker.....	4
<u>White-faced Ibis</u> .....	1	Red-headed Woodpecker.....	1
Mallard.....	12	Hairy Woodpecker.....	2
Gadwall.....	75	Downy Woodpecker.....	1
Pintail.....	50	Blue Jay.....	1
Green-winged Teal.....	25	Common Crow.....	35
American Wigeon.....	75	Carolina Chickadee.....	16
Northern Shoveler.....	12	Pewick's Wren.....	2
Ring-necked Duck.....	1	American Robin.....	25
Canvasback.....	2	Eastern Bluebird.....	1
Lesser Scaup.....	6	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	3
Ruddy Duck.....	2	Starling.....	10
Cooper's Hawk.....	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	50
Red-tailed Hawk.....	2	Eastern Meadowlark.....	common
Marsh Hawk.....	3	Rod-winged Blackbird.....	30
American Kestrel.....	3	Common Grackle.....	600
American Coot.....	70	Brown-headed Cowbird.....	1
Killdeer.....	32	Cardinal.....	3
"peeps".....	2	Rufous-sided Towhee.....	4
Mourning Dove.....	10	Dark-eyed Junco.....	2
Painted Kingfisher.....	1	Chipping Sparrow.....	1
		White-throated Sparrow.....	3

BIRD NOTES:

- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - two at Lake Tanglewood, Randall Co., 10/15, and four on 10/21 (RC,EM).  
 WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - one on a playa lake north of Panhandle, Carson Co., 10/19 (FC).  
 SWAINSON'S HAWK - approximately 200 in a flock east of Shamrock, Wheeler Co., 10/15 (RS).  
 OSPREY - one still present at Lake Tanglewood, Randall Co., 10/21 (RC).  
 WILSON'S PHALAROPE - a late sighting of one on a playa lake in Roberts Co. 10/17 (DA,FA).  
 EVENING GROSBEAK - one male at 3513 Carlton Drive in Amarillo 10/24 (JW); two in Memorial Park, Amarillo 11/4 (RR) - first sightings of this species in several years.  
 LESSER GOLDFINCH - one at Lake Tanglewood 10/12 (FA).  
 MCCOWN'S LONGSHUR - 1000+ east of Amarillo 10/30 (RR).

(DA) Don Acord; (FA) Peggy Acord; (FC) Fern Cain; (RC) Roberta Currie; (EM) Elizabeth Moss; (RR) Rena Ross; (RS) Rosemary Scott; (JW) Jossie Wilson.

SEARCH FOR THE DOTTEREL (Eudromias morinellus):

Summer before last I went to England on a birding trip. One of the places we went was Scotland. There, high on the mountain, the search for Eudromias morinellus commenced. We took a chair lift about halfway up a hill, then we walked. When we got to the top we surveyed the surrounding terrain to see where a Dotterel might be hiding. There were many other mountainous hills around us. We

were to reach the peaks of three of them before our quest was over.

We got to the top of one, where we had our lunch of cheese and apples. A few of our group left us there. As we continued, our group got smaller and smaller. Finally, when we reached the top of the second mountain, there were only four of us left. We climbed high and far. We ran into some people who said they had seen Eudromias morinellus himself just on top of the next hill. It was tiring. Just when you thought you reached the top, you saw another incline facing you. We finally saw the Dotterel, and a weary but happily foursome trudged back over hill and dale to the waiting group to tell of the search and sight of the elusive Eudromias morinellus.

....from the diary of Emily Robinson, young granddaughter of George and Rena Ross, who shares with us her delightful account of a search all birders understand.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

- Dec. 20 (Sunday) - Amarillo (Falo Duro Canyon) - SF entrance 8:00 a.m.  
 Dec. 24 (Thursday) - Buffalo Lake NWR - Meet at headquarters 8:00 a.m.  
 Dec. 27 (Sunday) - Lake Meredith (west) - Meet at Nat'l Park HQ in Fritch 7:30.  
 Dec. 30 (Wednesday) - Arnett, OK - meet at Circle C Motel 7:00 a.m.  
 Jan. 1 (Friday) - Quitaque (Caprocks Canyon SF) - Lake Theo at 8:00 a.m.  
 Jan. 3 (Sunday) - Lake Meredith (east) - meet at Nat'l Parks HW in Fritch at 7:30 a.m.