

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

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2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

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IMPORTANT - Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. sharp in the Board Room at Garden Center

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will hold its first meeting of the year on Monday night, January 18, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. in the Amarillo Garden Center. The occasion will be the annual election of officers for the coming year and will be followed by the installation of officers. Standing committees will make short reports of their past year's activities. The program will be presented by the Education Committee Chairman, Rena Ross, who will show the new bird slides the Society recently purchased from a bird slide company in Alabama, plus slides presented to us by Cliff Stogner of Lubbock and Tom Wood of Ft. Worth. The slides will be available for showing to other organizations for bird study.

Vera Deason will be the hostess for the social hour following the meeting.

AUDUBON ARK:

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Audubon Ark will be in full swing at Western Plaza Mall. If you have not been to see this excellent exhibit on Endangered Species, you will still have time to see it before it closes on Saturday, Jan. 16. It is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Celanese Corp. of America for the purpose of educating the public on the seriousness of the Endangered Species situation in our country. In the new year the Congress will be renewing the Endangered Species Act, or amending it, so it is important that EVERYONE be familiar with needs and be willing to notify the legislators to reauthorize the present act. So bring or encourage your friends and neighbors to come out to Western Plaza Mall to see this exhibit.

We also want to thank the various members for acting as hosts and hostesses during the exhibit. Two young people from National Audubon are there to make explanations, but they need the local members' help with the details. THANKS!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Amarillo(Falo Duro Canyon) - a record-breaking 85 species were observed. We had never exceeded 79 species on past counts, and what is equally remarkable, we added 5 new species to it; Snow Goose, Virginia Rail, House Wren, Lark Sparrow, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. The house Wrens were the first winter records for the Potter/Randall Cos. area, and the Lark Sparrows were the first winter records for the entire Texas Panhandle. The Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen at the Goodnight Trading Post by Rena Ross and Esther Waddill and is the fourth record for the Panhandle. Noteworthy were the 70 White-throated Sparrows, 8 Fox Sparrows, and 22 Lincoln's Sparrows; the previous highs were 18, 1, and 8 respectively. The Chipping Sparrow is another species rarely seen in the winter, and it had been ten years since we had found the Black-throated on a Christmas count. Conspicuous by their absence? - Bushtit and Curve-billed Thrasher. Participants: Peggy Acord (Amarillo); Robert & Jerry Askins (Dumas); Fern Cain (Borger); Waymon & Virginia Gill (Amarillo); Jim Montgomery (Roswell, NM); Mary Moyer (Amarillo); Rena Ross (Amarillo);

Rosemary Scott (Amarillo); Ken Seyffert (Amarillo); Esther Waddill (Amarillo); Winnie Wester (Canyon).

Buffalo Lake NWR - a good count when you consider that the lake is dry! One new species added - Screech Owl. The best bird - an adult Northern Shrike. Participants: Robert & Jerry Askins (Dumas); E. B. Ellis (Austin); Waymon Gill (Amarillo), Eugene Laycock (Pampa); Ken Seyffert (Amarillo); Larry Wynn (Umbarger).

Lake Meredith(west) - it was hard to believe that we had a Lesser Prairie Chicken on the east count last year, but even more so were the 4 on this year's west count (in the Bonita Creek area). Also new for the count was the Merlin (seen attacking a Goldeneye), Participants: Peggy Acord (Amarillo); Raymond Bryant (Miami); Richard Bryant (Borger); Fern Cain (Borger); Waymon Gill (Amarillo); Ken Seyffert (Amarillo); Frank Smith (Borger).

Arnett, OK - a disappointing count in that the Lesser Prairie Chicken was not found. An extremely windy day. No new species added. Participants: Dale Randall and Eddie Stegal (Wichita, KS); Ken Seyffert (Amarillo).

Quitague - the best way to start a New Year is to make a bird count. Two new species were added - an immature Northern Shrike in the interior of the park, and a Lincoln's Sparrow. Participants: Joel and Casey Reese (Kress); Ken Seyffert (Amarillo).

Lake Meredith(east) - a record-breaker with 73 species tallied (previous high was 66) and 8 new species added: White Pelican, American Bittern, Common Gallinule, White-necked Raven, Hermit Thrush, Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warbler. Participants: Fern Cain (Borger); Waymon & Virginia Gill (Amarillo); Rena Ross (Amarillo); Ken Seyffert (Amarillo); Frank Smith (Borger).

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1981/82

- 1. Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon), Texas - Dec. 20
- 2. Buffalo Lake NWR, Texas - Dec. 24
- 3. Lake Meredith (west), Texas - Dec. 27
- 4. Arnett, Oklahoma - Dec. 30
- 5. Quitaque (Caprock Canyons SP), Texas - Jan. 1
- 6. Lake Meredith (east), Texas - Jan. 3

Species:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
EARED GREBE	16					
WESTERN GREBE						1
Pied-billed Grebe				13	5	2
WHITE PELICAN						1
Great Blue Heron	8	1	4	1		10
AMERICAN BITTERN						1
Canada Goose	5400	200				20
Snow Goose	25					
Mallard	2093	6700	106	8	90	1880
Gadwall	104	14		2	15	2
Pintail	3500	6000	57			10
Green-winged Teal	50	76	1		20	75
American Wigeon	102	100	6	4	30	1062
Northern Shoveler	11	22				
Redhead	25		7			2
Ring-necked Duck				30	9	3
Canvasback					6	
Lesser Scaup			1	1	1	
Common Goldeneye			1	13		9
Bufflehead				5	18	1
Hooded Merganser					3	
Common Merganser	15			3		12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1			
Cooper's Hawk	1	1		1	1	
accipiter sp.						1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	10	10	6	1	6
Rough-legged Hawk	3	5	1	1	1	
Ferruginous Hawk	4	9	1	3	1	1
Golden Eagle	3	2	1			1
Bald Eagle	1	4	12			4
Marsh Hawk	4	23	14	13	3	12
Prairie Falcon	3					
Merlin			1			
American Kestrel	21	12	23	3	27	12
Lesser Prairie Chicken			4			
Bobwhite	34	15	25	39	9	
Scaled Quail	41	26			63	15
Ring-necked Pheasant		3				
Turkey	24		219			
Sandhill Crane	1222	650				
Virginia Rail	1					6
COMMON GALLINULE						2
American Coot	12			96	30	225
Killdeer	11	2	6		6	8
Common Snipe				1		1
Herring Gull			1			1
Ring-billed Gull	1	2	14			36
Bonaparte's Gull						5
Rock Dove	2	25			18	
Mourning Dove		6	63	88	31	114
Roadrunner	4		1		2	1
Screech Owl		1				
Great Horned Owl	2	1	3	3		1
Burrowing Owl		1				
Long-eared Owl			1			
Belted Kingfisher	3		2	4	1	1
Common Flicker	25	17	52	18	6	35
Red-bellied Woodpecker			1	4		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	54				6	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					
Hairy Woodpecker			2	1		1
Downy Woodpecker			3	4		1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	17	6	10		1	4
Say's Phoebe	1					

Species:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Horned Lark	397	1100	10	35	35	70
Blue Jay	3			7	1	
Scrub Jay	20				11	
White-necked Raven					2	2
Common Crow	5		5	38	10	
Carolina Chickadee			10	18		
Black-crested Titmouse	4					
White-breasted Nuthatch			1			
Brown Creeper			2	1		
HOUSE WREN	2					
Bewick's Wren	19	3	9	6	3	1
Long-billed March Wren	1	7	3	1	1	21
Canyon Wren	7				4	
Rock Wren	4	2	1		2	1
Mockingbird	20				5	
Brown Thrasher		2	1			
Curve-billed Thrasher		1				
Sage Thrasher					1	
American Robin	44	11	50	32	200	10
Hermit Thrush					2	1
Eastern Bluebird	2		5	8		1
Mountain Bluebird	22		66	1	180	100
Townsend's Solitaire	4		5		10	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2		2		4	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18		3		2	1
Cedar Waxwing					3	
NORTHERN SHRIKE		1	1		1	
Loggerhead Shrike	7	9	5	12	9	9
Starling	58	32	19	530	275	50000
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7				2	2
House Sparrow	196	66	15	13	90	60
Eastern Meadowlark				1		2
Western Meadowlark	414	450	52	1	150	11
meadowlark sp.				98		
Red-winged Blackbird	75	428	370	3870	300	500,000
Brewer's Blackbird			2	295	10	2000
Common Grackle						3
Brown-headed Cowbird		500		2	3	500
Cardinal	45	1	10	16	3	7
EVENING GROSBEEK	6					
House Finch	38		4		1	2
Pine Siskin	10	8	23		100	8
American Goldfinch	35	10	65	7	31	32
Rufous-sided Towhee	34	3	8	1	2	9
Brown Towhee	1					
Lark Bunting		58			8	
Savannah Sparrow	1	14	1		1	
Vesper Sparrow					1	
LARK SPARROW	2					
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	1				1	
Black-throated Sparrow	2					
Dark-eyed Junco	285	111	192	50	105	109
Tree Sparrow	16	10	39	50		83
CHIPPING SPARROW	9					
Field Sparrow	11	1	2	8		1
Harris' Sparrow	2		7	68		
White-crowned Sparrow	150	985	297	31	22	36
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	1					
White-throated Sparrow	70		6			
Fox Sparrow	8		1			1
Lincoln's Sparrow	22	2	4		1	
Swamp Sparrow				1		
Song Sparrow	134	13	58	35	13	17
McCown's Longspur	250	206			50	
Chestnut-collared Longspur		1			2000	
TOTAL	85	57	70	54	69	73