

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

May, 1982

2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

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PROGRAM FOR MAY:

The last TPAS meeting before recessing for the summer will be held on Monday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center. The topic of the program will be "Wild Energy" and it will be presented by Dr. Vaughn Nelson.

OUR THANKS:

Our thanks go to Mary Glenn for a most unusual and entertaining April program. It was an excellent color slide presentation showing a selection of the birds of the world and their nests as depicted on postage stamps.

LUJAN BILL: HR 5603 - FILLED WITH LOOP-HOLES, FINE PRINT, AND EXEMPTIONS:

The National Audubon Society is opposing the Lujan bill co-sponsored by Rep. Don Young of Alaska, Ronald C. Marlenee of Montana, Richard B. Cheney of Wyoming, Charles Pashayan, Jr. of California, David O'B Martin of New York, James V. Hansen of Utah, and William Emerson of Missouri.

The present Wilderness Act grants the wilderness system protection forever, whereas the Lujan bill would reopen it to mineral entry in 18 years. Under the present act, wilderness areas are open to mining claims and drilling leases until the end of next year, and then will be closed forever.

(1) - the Lujan bill would allow the President to open any wilderness area to drilling and mining before the year 2000. Congress could stop the President only by passing a law within 60 days.

(2) The bill would allow the President at anytime to withdraw protection from Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas without the consent of Congress by declaring them unsuitable for wilderness designation. These areas are wilderness lands that have been set aside by BLM for Congress to consider adding to the wilderness system. Present law leaves the decision on these study areas up to Congress, not the President alone.

(3) All of these study areas recommended for wilderness protection that have not been designated by Congress as wilderness areas by January, 1985 would be permanently released from further consideration. Further, there would be a January, 1988 cutoff for protection of proposed Forest Service wilderness recommended under the second Roadless Area Review Evaluation (RATE II). This new or never schedule would allow opponents to kill wilderness proposals simply by delaying them a few years by parliamentary tactics.

(4) The Lujan bill would bar the Forest Service from ever proposing any additional wilderness areas after the current proposals have been acted upon. This

provision, along with the permanent "release" of the Bureau of Land Management lands from further consideration, is like passing a law against further expansion of the National Park System.

Your help is needed. Here is what to do:

1. Write your representative (House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515) and senators (U. S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510). Tell them you were not fooled by Secretary Watt's double talk and that you want no part of H.R. 5603 or any similar legislation. Spread the truth!

2. Send replies to your letters to Alison Horton, National Audubon Society, 645 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, or call her at (202) 547-9009.

.... Helen Madsen

UP, UP, AND AWAY!

We couldn't improve on this: "A Toyota Land Cruiser for up-market birdwatchers with sunroof thru which owner can be elevated on an electrically-operated rotating seat, complete with attachment for cameras and microphones. Its Name? 'The Almighty'." Rumor has it that Fern Cain is seriously considering buying one of these.

BALD EAGLE RALLY:

Our thanks to Mary Moyer for a most successful and exciting evening at the Bald Eagle Rally Friday evening, May 7th, at Ordway Hall, Amarillo College. Armon Mays was in costume as "Uncle Sam" and greeted the guests. Bedford Forrest was Master of Ceremonies. The program was based around the National Audubon film "Last Stronghold of the Bald Eagle" and was introduced by Dan True. Involved in the evening activities were civic dignitaries, Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, a quartet, a brass band. Color guard awards went to Kristen Falwall, Kelly Calhoun, Donna Riley, and John Anderson for essays on the Bald Eagle. Our thanks again to Mary Moyer for a delightful evening.

.... Rena Ross

SPRING MIGRATION - FIRST REPORTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Observers</u>
April 10	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Lake MacKenzie	GE, ME
11	Rough-winged Swallow	Lake MacKenzie	T.P.A.S.
11	Cliff Swallow	Lake MacKenzie	T.P.A.S.
11	Lark Sparrow	Armstrong Co.	KS
11	Barn Swallow	Randall Co.	T.P.A.S.
11	Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Armstrong Co.	PA, RR
11	White Pelican (150)	Lake Meredith	CB
12	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Ross' - Amarillo	RR
17	Bank Swallow	Randall Co.	RS
17	Orange-crowned Warbler	Ceta Glen	T.P.A.S.
17	Lesser Yellowlegs	Randall Co.	KS
17	Least Sandpiper	Randall Co.	KS
17	American Avocet	Randall Co.	T.P.A.S.
17	Wilson's Phalarope	Randall Co.	T.P.A.S.
19	Common Yellowthroat	Vega	RS
20	Broad-winged Hawk	34th & Bowie - Amarillo	RR
22	Hooded Warbler	Furr's Nursery - Borger	FC
25	Upland Sandpiper	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Barn Owl	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Western Kingbird	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Wilson's Warbler	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Bullock's Oriole	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Cassin's Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Clay-colored Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Brewer's Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
25	Snowy Plover	Randall Co.	KS
28	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Baptist Camp	MM
28	Chimney Swift	Downtown Amarillo	KS
29	Cattle Egret	Lake Meredith	FC
29	Snowy Egret	Lake Meredith	FC
29	White-faced Ibis	Lake Meredith	FC
30	Eared Grebe	Randall Co.	ME, MM
May 1	Red-headed Woodpecker	Memorial Cemetery - Amarillo	KS
1	Black & White Warbler	Memorial Cemetery - Amarillo	KS
1	Nashville Warbler	Seyffert's	KS
2	Spotted Sandpiper	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Solitary Sandpiper	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Eastern Kingbird	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Great Crested Flycatcher	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Orchard Oriole	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Western Tanager	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Blue Grosbeak	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.
2	Grasshopper Sparrow	Tom Kritser Ranch	T.P.A.S.

PA - Peggy Acord
 CB - Chuck Brooks
 FC - Fern Cain
 GE - Gus Emple
 ME - Marguerite Emple

MM - Mary Moyer
 RR - Rena Ross
 RS - Rosemary Scott
 KS - Kenneth Seyffert
 T.P.A.S. - Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

BIG DAY COUNT:

Another successful Big Day Count was made on May 9. 146 different species were recorded and the winning team was that of Peggy Acord and Rita Kenney who recorded 89 species. The bird of the day was a male Bobolink seen by Virginia and Waymon Gill, and Kenneth Seyffert. It was found 3 miles east and 2.6 miles south of Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co. The bird was singing and was observed at great length. The last ones reported in our area was in 1954.

Another very good bird was a Yellow-throated Warbler seen in southwest Amarillo, Randall Co. on April 24 by Marguerite Emple. The last one reported in our area was on April 26 1971.