

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

September, 1982

2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

Vol. IX, No. 6

September Meeting:

The first meeting of the season of the TPAS will be held on Monday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center.

SO - A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED AND ROOTED FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE BIRDATHON.

.... Mary Moyer

Welcome back to our Audubon activities. I hope everyone is refreshed by the summer's change of pace. We are looking forward to our first meeting when Rhea Copening, Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society, will be with us. This is an excellent time to learn more about birds and the current events of the region.

.... Rena Ross

BIRDATHON = BIRDATHON:

We were sorry not to be able to thank you for your help in the Birdathon in the May Newsletter, but now we can give you the final results. Our chapter led the Southwest Region with \$13.14/capita, which made us the second highest in the nation in per capita collections. The Prairie Falcon chapter in Idaho, in the Rocky Mountain region, led with \$25.70/capita.

We finished with a total of \$1353.00, plus \$140.35 sent last August after the 1981 campaign had closed; so, this was a part of our total for 1982. Our chapter share was \$451.00; so, this, plus the \$62.50 we received from the Eagle buttons, gives us a total of \$513.50 to add to our Scholarship Fund. I would say it was a very successful effort for our Fund.

And now we want to extend our great appreciation to the seven Birding Teams who struggled all day in the field to find the birds to count in the Birdathon: Peggy Acord and Rita Kinney found 89; Fern Cain and Frank Smith 61; Nancy Elliott and Marguerite Empie 65, Tom Patterson and Bill Ford 56, Rena Ross and Mary Glenn 86, Rosemary Scott and Winnie Wester 71; Kenneth Soyffert and Virginia and Waymon Gill 87. The total was 146 different species.

Then we want to thank our Managers who worked hard to get the sponsors: Frank Smith of Borger, Vera Doason, Charles Meadors, Armon Mays, and Mary Moyer of Amarillo. Some had to manage more than one team.

Then finally, and with real gratitude, we want to thank all the Sponsors. They got into the contest with real enthusiasm, and many of them have increased their interest in the birding world. It is commendable that we had 100% collections, and on time to get the money all counted in the 1982 contest. We want to issue to our Sponsors an invitation to attend our next two meetings, in September and October, when we have Rhea Copening, our Regional Representative, speak (September), and our first Scholarship recipient, Jo Meeker, make her report (October). This will show you the reason for the Birdathon effort.

THE CONSERVATION FRONT:

Conservationists won major rounds in Congress last month in fights for wilderness protection, clean air, and pesticide control.

The House voted 340-58 for a ban on mineral leasing in wilderness areas. The ban covers all areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System plus National Forest Areas set aside for consideration for Wilderness status.

A strong bill to reauthorize the Clean Air Act was approved by the Senate Environment Committee and could reach the Senate floor by September 20.

The SEC approved a compromise plan for a 12-year effort to curb acid rain. The plan would require that sulphur dioxide levels in a 31-state area be reduced by 8 million tons below 1980 levels by the end of 12 years. It also provides for \$10 million in additional funding each year through 1987 for an interagency task force research program studying the acid rain problem.

Brighton, England, July, 1982: the International Whaling Commission voted 25 to 7 to end all commercial whaling within three years.

The Endangered Species Act passed through both houses of Congress with no weakening amendments. Senator John Chafee stated: "Rarely have I received as much mail on an issue, from people in my home state of Rhode Island, in states throughout the country, and even people in other countries. Such support, coupled with evidence on how well the Act is working, is compelling."

Your letters are important - goals are being reached. Keep up the good work!

.... Helen Madsen

NOTEWORTHY SUMMER & FALL SIGHTINGS:

Eared Grebe: 10 on a playa south of Dimmitt Castro Co., 7/4 (PA,KS); 40+ on a playa south of Kingsmill, Gray Co, 9/5 (EBE) - this sighting is of particular interest as many of the birds were adults with young from chick size on up; two adults were seen with small young riding on their backs.

Upland Sandpiper: 6 in Hansford Co 6/10 (KS) - a group circling low over a field south of Spearman.

Wilson's Phalarope: a pair on a playa in Carson Co. 6/20 (KS) east of where an adult male with chick was found in 1980.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: adults feeding young on a playa south of Dimmitt, Castro Co. 7/4 (PA,KS).

American Bittern: one in the marsh down-river from the dam at Lake Meredith, Hutchinson Co., 7/5 (KS).

Gadwall: an adult female with one duckling on the stream east of the dam at Lake Meredith, 7/5 (KS).

Cooper's Hawk: an immature being harassed by kingbirds at Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co., 7/11 (KS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: present in the 2200 block of Lipscomb/Parker in Amarillo, Potter Co. from 7/24 thru 8/27 (KS).

Western/Cassin's Kingbird: an albino at Buffalo Lake NWR 9/6 (KS) - snow white bird with yellow bill and pink legs and feet - eyes dark (red?).

PA - Peggy Acord RR - Rena Ross
EBE - E. B. Ellis KS - Kenneth Seyffert
VD - Vera Deason

FALL MIGRATION - FIRST REPORTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Observers</u>
July 4	Upland Sandpiper	Randall Co.	PA,KS
13	Black Tern	Randall Co.	KS
25	Greater Yellowlegs	Carson Co.	PA,KS
25	Lesser Yellowlegs	Carson Co.	PA,KS
25	Baird's Sandpiper	Carson Co.	PA,KS
25	Long-billed Dowitcher	Carson Co.	PA,KS
25	Stilt Sandpiper	Carson Co.	PA,KS
Aug. 1	Solitary Sandpiper	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
1	Empidonax sp.(5)	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
1	Warbling Vireo	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
1	Chipping Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR, Amarillo	KS,PA
1	Willet	Randall Co.	KS
15	Pectoral Sandpiper	Randall Co.	KS
16	Western Wood Pewee	Amarillo	RR
16	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Amarillo	RR
16	Yellow Warbler	Amarillo	RR
22	Cattle Egret	Randall Co.	PA
22	Sora	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
27	Broad-winged Hawk(3)	Amarillo	RR
29	Great Crested Flycatcher	Buffalo Lake NWR	PA,KS
Sep. 4	Cassin's Kingbird	Amarillo	RR
4	Wilson's Warbler	Amarillo	RR
4	American Redstart	Amarillo	VD
5	House Wren	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
5	Bell's Vireo	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
5	Pine Siskin	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
5	Savannah Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
5	White-faced Ibis	Gray Co.	EBE
5	Common Snipe	Gray Co.	EBE
6	Western Tanager	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
6	Clay-colored Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS
6	Brewer's Sparrow	Buffalo Lake NWR	KS

AUDUBON COUNCIL OF TEXAS(ACT) BULLETIN:

At its August 14 meeting the Audubon Council of Texas continued its discussion on non-game wildlife legislation/funding. A sponsor of this legislation has been found in the Texas House of Representatives. Further support in the Senate and with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is being solicited.

Equally encouraging, the Texas Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (TCAST) expressed great interest in the non-game project. TCAST would like to produce a planning document for non-game wildlife management that could be used in conjunction with the funding and implementation programs.

Thanks to the leadership of the ACT, the creation of a viable non-game wildlife program in Texas may become a reality.

FIELD TRIPS:

Sept. 25 - Saturday: Buffalo Lake NWR. Meet at entrance at 8:00 a.m.

Oct. 10 - Capreok Canyons SP, Quitaque, Briscoe Co.: Meet at park entrance at 8:00 a.m.

Capreok Canyons SP opened to the public on Aug. 13, but the "official" opening will be on Oct. 9 with Texas Parks and Wildlife officials, State Legislators, and TV and news media in attendance. The Park is the second largest in Texas, with approximately 14,000 acres. It is located just off Farm Road 1065, about three miles due north of Quitaque. It is open 24 hours a day, but visitors are asked to be out by 10:00 p.m. unless they are camping and staying overnight.