

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

November, 1982 2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109 Vol. IX, No. 8

organizations and individuals.

NOVEMBER MEETING:

The Monthly meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be held on Monday evening, November 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center. Jim Rogers, wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Reclamation, will report on the results of a study of migratory waterfowl in the Panhandle area. Mr. Rogers is also President of the local Ducks Unlimited.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:

It will soon be time for the Festival of Trees. This is the main project that the Garden Center conducts to pay its operating expenses, including all utilities. We feel most fortunate in having such a lovely and accomodating spot in which to hold our meetings and annual banquet. We all need to support the Festival with our donations of cakes and pies for the kitchen, and baked goods, candies, breads, and canned goods for the bake booth. In addition, each club that meets at the Center has an opportunity to make quite a bit of money with almost no effort. The Audubon Society can earn 50% of the money received in the gift shop from each item we donate and that is sold during the Christmas holidays. This money would help build up or treasury for our scholarship fund, or for other purposes. Please, everyone bring at least one item to the November meeting. This should be something suitable for a gift shop. Some suggestions are: glassware, china, woodon ware, linens, Christmas decorations, articles for men (they especially need these), and hard made gifts. If you bring your donations directly to the Garden Center, be sure to write "Audubon Society" on them so that our club will get credit. If you are unable to bring your donations to the meeting or to the Center, call me at 355-5215 and I will gladly pick them up. Search through your treasures; that Oriental vase or those pink book-ends may be just the thing for which someone else has been searching.

.... Rosemary Scott
Ass't Chairman - Festival of Trees

OPERATION GAME THIEF:

Operation Game Thief in Texas is completing its first year of operation, and officials said it has been highly successful. During its first meeting last April, the committee authorized payment of \$2200 to 14 persons whose information led to prosecutable cases.

Person who observe a game or fish law being violated may call toll-free 1-800-792-GAME, giving whatever information might be pertinent for pursuing the case. Callers may remain anonymous if desired. The Game Thief line is manned 24 hours a day.

Funds for the reward program are provided through donations from sportsmen's

...Texas Parks & Wildlife News...

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE:

Dec. 19 (Sun.): Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon) - meet at entrance to State Park at 8:00 a.m. Count compiler - Peggy Acord.

Dec. 24 (Fri.): Buffalo Lake NWR - meet at refuge headquarters at 8:00 a.m. Count compiler - Larry Wynn.

Dec. 26 (Sun.): Lake Meredith(east) - meet at Sarah's Restaurant in east Fritch (near Nat'l Parks building) at 8:30 a.m. Count compiler - Ken Seyffert.

Dec. 29 (Wed.): Quitaque - meet at entrance to Caprock Canyons State Park at 8:00 a.m. Count compiler - Ken Seyffert.

Jan. 2 (Sun.): Lake Meredith(west) - meet at Sarah's Restaurant in east Fritch (near Nat'l Parks building) at 7:30 a.m. Count compiler - Fern Cain.

BIRD NOTES:

Oct. 9 : Birding at Lake Meredith was productive this date (FC,EK). 50+ Cattle Egrets remained in Bates Canyon and the first Mountain Bluebird of the season was seen. A rare Merlin was spotted as well as a late Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Oct. 10: The TPAS field trip to Caprock Canyons SP near Quitaque produced some interesting observations. The best species was a small flock of Brewer's Sparrows. Two Blue Grosbeaks represented the latest reported sighting of the species for the Panhandle. 33 species were recorded in the Park, most of them during a delightful walk down colorful South Prong (PA,FC,KS).

Oct. 16: Some good birds were found at Buffalo Lake NWR and surrounding area (CS,DS,WW). Four late Solitary Sandpipers and three Stilt Sandpipers, and a Winter Wren, were noteworthy. Also seen were Osprey, House Wren, Sage Thrasher, and Swainson's Thrush.

Oct. 17: The Palo Duro Canyon SP was quite active on this perfect autumn day. Six birders (GJ,KS,CS,DS,WW), either as individuals or as a group, turned up such good things as three Black-thrtd Green Warblers (in one flock), Carolina Wren, Eastern Phoebe, Catbird, and Brewer's Sparrows. Near Vega, 6-700 Sandhill Cranes were seen (RS).

Oct. 24: Eight people spent a rewarding morning in a lovely canyon on the Tom Green Ranch north of Vega, Oldham Co.

(PA, VG, WG, MG, GR, RR, RS, KS). The following is a list of the species seen:

Pied-billed Grebe	Ladder-backed Woodpecker	Western Meadowlark
Great Blue Heron	Horned Lark	Brown-headed Cowbird
<u>American Bittern</u>	Scrub Jay	House Finch
Mallard	Common Crow	Pine Siskin
Gadwall	White-necked Raven	Rufous-sided Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Bewick's Wren	Lark Bunting
American Wigeon	Mockingbird	Vesper Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Curve-billed Thrasher	Savannah Sparrow
Marsh Hawk	Hermit Thrush	<u>Baird's Sparrow</u> (1)
American Kestrel	Mountain Bluebird	Dark-eyed Junco (OR & SC)
Scaled Quail	Townsend's Solitaire	Grey-headed Junco
Ring-necked Pheasant	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Turkey	Loggerhead Shrike	White-crowned Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Starling	Lincoln's Sparrow
Common Flicker (RS & YS)	Yellow-rumped Warbler	

On the way back home, MG, GR, RR, RS saw a female Pyrrhuloxia at 34th & Arnot Rd. in southwest Amarillo. Also on this date, a Prairie Falcon was seen near Panhandle in Carson Co. (FC).

Oct. 25: Sixteen species of birds were found in Vega between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. (RS). They were very numerous and quite active. Noteworthy were two Eastern Bluebirds.

Oct. 31: On a two hour, very slow walk, through only the eastern portions of the Christian Church Camp at Ceta Glen, South Ceta Canyon, 43 species of birds were recorded by a single observer (KS):

Red-tailed Hawk	<u>Winter Wren</u>	Red-winged Blackbird
Scaled Quail	Bewick's Wren	Western Meadowlark
Turkey	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Canyon Wren	House Finch
Roadrunner	Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Catbird	Rufous-sided Towhee
Common Flicker (RS & YS)	Brown Thrasher	Lark Bunting
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	Robin	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush	Dark-eyed Junco (OR & SC)
Horned Lark	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Blue Jay	Starling	White-crowned Sparrow
Scrub Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
<u>Carolina Chickadee</u>	<u>Pine Warbler</u> (1)	Lincoln's Sparrow
Brown Creeper	House Sparrow	<u>Swamp Sparrow</u> (2)
		Song Sparrow

Observers: PA - Peggy Accord	GR - George Ross
FC - Fern Cain	RR - Reaa Ross
VG - Virginia Gill	RS - Rosemary Scott
WG - Waymon Gill	KS - Ken Seyffert
MG - Mary Glenn	CS - Cliff Stogner
GJ - The George Jurys	DS - Dixie Stogner
EK - Ed Kutac	WW - Winnie Wester

FIELD TRIP:

The field trip scheduled for the Muleshoe NWR on Nov. 21 has been cancelled.