

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

February, 1983

2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

Vol. X, No. 2

FEBRUARY MEETING:

The February meeting of the Texas Audubon Society will be held on Monday night, February 21, at the Garden Center, 7:30. The topic of the program to be announced.

two females were seen in the Christian Camp in south Ceta Canyon 15 January by Barry Zimmer and Kenneth Seyffert.

The heavy snows in late January and early February produced unusually behavior in some bird species. While shoveling snow on 21 January, Kenneth Seyffert observed Horned Larks calling and flying overhead. This was unusual as the location was near downtown and Horned Larks are just not seen over that part of Amarillo. Even more unusual were the four that settled on the road in front of George and Rena Ross's home on Travis. They eventually found roosting places in the snow-packed road and apparently spent the night! To top it off, on February 4, while shoveling snow again (Kenneth Seyffert), a McCowns Longspur flew quite low overhead, calling. It was snowing quite hard at the time. Who says you can't bird while shoveling snow?

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED:

The following slate of officers were elected to serve for the upcoming year:

A Sharp-shinned Hawk remained in the yard of the Ross' during the bad weather, feasting on all the goodies who were desperate for a handout. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen in Kenneth Seyffert's yard on 21 January and 12 February; on the latter date it was feeding on the ground at the base of a tree where the snow had melted off. There have been plenty of raptors in the area, particularly Ferruginous Hawks and Prairie Falcons. Between spells of snow, Peggy Acord and Kenneth Seyffert saw 13 Ferruginous and 3 Prairies in the vicinity of Vega, Oldham Co., on 30 January. Also of note was a Fox Sparrow coming to the Sunday Canyon feeder as reported by Kingston Smith.

President - vacant

Vice-President - Dr. Joseph Cepeda

Secretary - Peggy Acord

Treasurer - Armon Mays

Recorder - Kenneth Seyffert

Garden Club Representative - Rena Ross

Member-at-large - Esther Waddill

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Program - Dr. Joseph Copoda

Conservation - Holen Madsen

Membership - Rosomary Scott

Education - Mary Moyer

Field Trips - Waymon Gill

Auditor - Harold Reed

Nominating - ~~KENNETH~~ Waymon Gill

Scholarship - Vera Deason

Public Relations - Robert Conner

Social - Virginia Woods

Newsletter Editor - Kenneth Seyffert

Board of Directors:

Three year term: Tony Ortiz
Esther Waddill

Two year term: Holen Madsen
Waymon Gill

One year term: Harold Reed
Rosemary Scott

Our lack of a President is a commentary on our times: everyone wants to be the President of the United States but no one will take on the job of being the President of the Texas Audubon Society, maybe because the perks aren't as great!

BALD EAGLE SURVEY:

The annual Bald Eagle census was conducted on the Lake Meredith Recreation Area on January 8. Eleven Bald Eagles (eight immatures and 3 adults) were found, along with two Golden Eagles. This is considerably lower than the numbers usually found on this survey. Participants were: Fern Cain, Sharlotte Ansely, Bob Gravestock, Frank Smith, and Kenneth Seyffert.

BIRD NOTES:

The birding event of the year has been, so far, the White-throated Swift. It was unheard of to have them on December 19 when two were reported in the Palo Duro Canyon State Park on the Christmas Bird Count. Even more unheard was to have them in January after spells of very cold temperatures and much snow. One was reported over the Sunday Canyon community on the rim of the Palo Duro on January 11 by Kingston Smith, and at least three were in the Park January 28 as reported by Rena and George Ross. The White-throated Swift normally winters no closer to the Texas Panhandle than southwestern New Mexico.

DEADLINE FOR REPORTS:

This Newsletter goes to press on the second Saturday of every month, as our monthly meetings are on the third Monday of each month. Committee Chairmen reports and any other contributions should be in the hands of the Editor on the Friday preceding the second Saturday. Please have next month's reports in no later than March 11.

This has also proven to be a Pyrrhuloxia winter. There have been persistent reports of them in the Lake Tanglewood area; 3 females and one male have been frequent visitors to a feeder in the Sunday Canyon community, as reported by Kingston Smith;