

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

April, 1983

2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

Vol. X, No. 4

The next meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be on Monday night, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center. Topic of the program to be announced.

- talks to church groups during Soil Stewardship Week every year through an annual program sponsored by the Canadian River Soil and Water Conservation District.

MERITORIOUS AWARD CERTIFICATE:

In late November of 1982, the National Audubon Society announced the establishment of a "Certificate of Recognition for Chapter Activists". Nominations for this award were to be made by the individual chapters, approved by the Regional Director, and final approval by the National Audubon Society.

National defined an "activist" as an individual who:

- makes one more telephone call
- writes one more letter
- continues in office one more year
- chairs one more committee
- recruits more new members
- lead one more field trip
- continuously raises funds

The Texas Panhandle Society, supported by the Regional Director and by National headquarters, unanimously agreed that the individual most filling these requirements was:

MARY KINKEAD MOYER

upon whom the Meritorious Award Certificate was awarded at the Maych Conservation Dinner. Congratulations, Mary!

ANNUAL CONSERVATION AWARD:

At the March meeting the TPAS awarded its annual Conservation Award to a most worth recipient - HERBERT S. STONER. Herb is the District Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service and has lived in Amarillo since 1974. He has been engaged in many projects related to wildlife and conservation:

- works each year with the Amarillo Public Schools (Elementary) and Amarillo College in outdoor education class projects
- has helped establish many windbreak projects, not only for ranchers and farmers but also with the City of Amarillo on its golf courses and parks
- assisted the PTRS of Western Plateau School in the planning of an outdoor classroom
- lectures and shows many slide talks about conservation to the Boy and Girl Scout groups
- has helped many local ranchers in establishing wildlife habitats (Tom Kritser, Miles Childers)
- has assisted the Garden Club in conservation efforts.
- has assisted with the planning of an outdoor classroom for all Amarillo students working with the Discovery Center and City of Amarillo

The Society was very proud to bestow this award on Herb Stoner.

FIELD TRIPS:

- April 17 - Palo Duro Canyon State Park - meet at gate at 8:00 A.M.
- April 24 - Lesser Prairie Chicken trip to Wheeler County - meet at the Square in Wheeler 5:30 A.M.
- May 7 - Big Day Count

BIRD NOTES:

The first Eared Grebes (11) were reported on the Hollywood Road sewage disposal pond on 4/3 (KS), some in winter and some in breeding plumages. Two Black-crowned Night Herons at the Palo Duro Club near Canyon on 3/13 proved to be the earliest date on record for this species by 16 days (EW). After a winter dominance of the Mallard among the waterfowl, followed later by the Pintail and then the Am. Wigeon and Green-winged Teal, the N. Shoveler is now on top of the list along with an increasing number of Gadwall. Everyone has been keeping sharp lookouts for the first Turkey Vulture and Wainson's Hawk, both of which should have been seen by now, but so far, nothing. No doubt the weather (cloudy, cold days, many filled with snow) has deterred too precipitate an arrival.

Shorebirds continue scarce. Long-billed Dowitchers are reported regularly and the first Baird's Sandpipers were seen 3/26 (PL,KS), and the first Greater Yellowlegs, Am. Avocets, and Wilson's Phalaropes on 4/3 (KS). During a snow storm on 3/16, that rare visitor so far north, the Inca Dove, appeared in the Ross' yard in town (RR). The Burrowing Owl was seen on 3/26 (PA). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Buffalo Lake NWR 3/20 was unusual (KS), and another was in McBride Canyon 3/13 (KS). A very unexpected sighting was a flock of about 250 Crows flying over town headed south through a very heavy fog on 3/24 (RR). A rare species at any time, particularly in spring, was a singing male Pine Warbler at 2206 S. Lipscomb in Amarillo on the incredibly early date of 3/12 (KS). Appropriately enough, the bird was in a pine tree and moved about the observer so closely that a binocular was not needed to identify it. Another nice bird was a Fox Sparrow at 2807 S. Tyler in Amarillo on 3/24 (RR).

PA - Peggy Acord KS - Kenneth Seyffert
PL - Paul Behman EW - Esther Waddill
RR - Rena Ross

ALUMINUM - ALUMINUM - ALUMINUM

Bring your scrap aluminum to the next meeting - we need it!