

THE PRARIE HORNED LARK
 Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

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September Meeting:

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society reconvenes on Monday night, September 19, at 8:30, at the Garden Center. Lea Reynolds, our scholarship recipient for 1983, will present the program.

A teacher and administrative assistant at Western Plateau Elementary School, she has her Master's degree from West Texas University. She is director of Outdoor Education and coordinator of outdoor classroom activities for her school, which has developed an outdoor learning center for the students. She will give her interpretation of the Audubon Western Camp and its program.

- Northern Shoveler
- American Wigeon
- Rodhead
- Ruddy Duck
- Swainson's Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Ring-necked Pheasant
- American Coot
- Semi-palmated Plover
- Killdeer
- American Avocet
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Willet
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Upland Sandpiper
- Semi-palmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Common Snipe
- Wilson's Phalarope
- Ned-necked Phalarope (17)
- Ring-billed Gull
- Black Tern
- Mourning Dove
- Horned Lark
- Tree Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Water Pipit
- Dickcissel
- Chipping Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Lark Bunting
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Western Meadowlark

A FIRST SIGHTING FOR THE TEXAS PANHANDLE:

A bird new for the Panhandle was found by Ken Seyffert at the Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co., on the morning of August 21. The bird was first seen as it perched at the top of a willow tree whose upper branches were dead. With it was a femal Cardinal. Both birds had conspicuous crested heads but the unidentified bird was more slender, was of a uniform dark gray color, had a slender, pointed bill, and its crest thrust upwards more sharply and was longer and more slender than the cardinal's. The gray bird would occasionally sally forth in flycatcher fashion and at such times it would display light gray wing-patches. It remained in view for quite some time, always returning to the same tree top after its flycatching attempts; at one time it flew to a clump of ripe wild grapes growing nearby where it became quite excited, flicked its tail back and forth rapidly, and gave a low "wurp" call frequently. It was obvious that the birds was a Phainopepla, a species of desert scrub and mosquito, to be found much to the south of us in the Trans-Pecos region and casually east to Midland and the Rio Grande valley. That afternoon Peggy Acord went looking for it and found not only one Phainopepla near the same location as the morning observation, but another one with it!

BIRDLIFE AT A PRAIRIE PLAYA:

As an example of the richness and variety of birdlife that can be found in the Panhandle in the Fall, the following list of birds were observed by Ken Seyffert and E. B. Ellis between 8:00-11:00 A.M., Sept. 5, at a playa near Kingsmill, Gray Co. There were 51 species in all:

- Eared Grebe
- Great Blue Heron
- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron
- White-faced Ibis
- Green-winged Teal
- Mallard
- Pintail
- Blue-winged Teal
- Cinnamon Teal

SENATE CLEAN WATER VOTE DUE SOON:

In response to a recent Lou Harris public opinion poll, Americans voiced overwhelming support for efforts to clean up the nation's waters. Ninety-four percent said they believe the Clean Water Act should be kept as is or made even stricter; 70% said they'd pay an extra \$100 per year in taxes and higher prices for clean and safe water; and 74% said that "curbing water pollution" is very important in improving the quality of life in the United States--in fact, they rated it just as important as "keeping the economy growing."

But senators don't pay as much attention to polls as they do to mail from the voters back home. This fall our senators will be voting on whether to weaken the Clean Water Act, keep it the same, or strengthen it. By writing them and making your views known, you can join with others to influence the Senate's vote. The time to act is now!