

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
 Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

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PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER:

The monthly meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be held on Monday evening, October 17, at 7:30 in the Garden Center. This meeting will be of particular interest to all area conservationists as the speaker will be Bill Graham, newly-appointed board member from Amarillo to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Mr. Graham is also the president of the Buffalo Lake Heritage Association, as well as a member of almost a score of other sport, hunting, wildlife and conservation organizations. Mr. Graham will welcome questions concerning the TP&W and the efforts being made to regenerate the Buffalo Lake NWR.

- 7/17: Willet, Least and Baird's Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher - Hollywood Road Sewage Disposal pond (KS).
- 7/29: Rufous and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Empidonax flycatcher - 2805 S. Tyler, Amarillo, Randall Co. (RR).
- 7/31: Upland Sandpiper - Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co. (KS); Greater Yellowlegs - Randall Co. (KS).
- 8/14: Yellow Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow - Buffalo Lake NWR (KS); Spotted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Tree Swallow - Randall Co. (KS).

FLYCATCHING:

Flycatchers are a pleasant part of summer. We are all familiar with the Western Kingbird swooping down between the cars at intersections. Who hasn't thrilled to the beauty of a Scissor-tail and enjoyed diminutive Empidonax on the wire or fences during migration. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on the topmost limb of a tree with a large dragonfly splayed out around its bill is a sight to see. The name is flycatcher and we expect them to catch flies.

Have you ever noticed the flycatching activities of members of other bird families? A tree full of Cedar Waxwings in the spring is fun to watch as birds continuously fly out from the tree and back - flycatching. Yellow-rumped Warblers are notable flycatchers. Some woodpeckers flycatch - namely the Red-headed, Lewis' and Acorn woodpeckers. Perhaps you have watched House Sparrows chasing a moth across the yard only to pounce on it at the end. Or have you seen House Sparrows jumping up to clean the insects off an automobile grill? There are others - how many can you add to the list?

.... Pogy Acord

- 8/21: Peregrine Falcon, Western Wood Pewee, Phainopepla (2 females), Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Buffalo Lake NWR (PA,KS).
- 8/24: Wilson's Warbler - 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, Potter Co. (KS).
- 8/27: Great Egret - Palo Duro Club, Randall Co. (EW).
- 8/28: Water Pipit - Hollywood Road Sewage Disposal pond (PA); Solitary Sandpiper - Buffalo Lake NWR (PA,KS); Ferruginous Hawk - Randall Co. (PA, KS).
- 8/29: Prairie Falcon - west of Vega, Oldham Co. (SW); Stilt Sandpiper - Briscoe Co. (SW); Pyrhuloxia - Palo Duro Canyon SP, Randall Co. (SW).
- 9/04: Prairie Falcon(2), Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Western Tanager - Buffalo Lake NWR (KS); Little Blue Heron (adult) - Palo Duro Club, Randall Co. (EW).
- 9/05: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Semi-palmated Plover, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Red-necked Phalarope (17) - Celanese playa near Kingsmill, Gray Co. (EBE,KS).
- 9/06: Great Egret (2), Snowy Egret, Wood Duck (3) - off Bates, Lake Meredith, Potter Co. (FC); Poor-will (3) - Randall Co. (NE,ME).
- 9/11: Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat - Christian Church Camp, Ceta Canyon, Randall Co. (RR,KS,EW).
- 9/12: Black Phoebe - Medical Center Lake, Amarillo, Potter Co. (NE,ME).
- 9/13: Forster's Tern - Medical Center Lake, Potter Co. (NE,ME).
- 9/14: Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 2805 S. Travis, Amarillo, Randall Co. (RR).

BIRD NOTES:

Most of us think of the fall migration season as beginning with the first cool spell in September and continuing through October. We thought it would be of interest to log each fall migrant on the date it was first reported, along with noteworthy sightings, beginning in July when migration actually begins:

- 7/03: Yellow-headed Blackbird - Lake Meredith, Hutchinson Co. (KS).
- 7/12: Eared Grebe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-necked Stilt, Franklin Gull, Black Tern - Hollywood Road Sewage Disposal pond, Randall Co. (EA,RR).

- 9/17: Yellow-rumped Warbler - 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, Potter Co (KS). FIELD TRIPS:
Oct. 23 (Sunday) - Buffalo Lake NWR - meet at entrance at 8:00 a.m.
- 9/18: Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow - Buffalo Lake NWR (KS). Nov. 6 (Sunday) - Oldham County - this is tentative.
- 9/19: Broad-winged Hawk - Amarillo, Potter Co. (KS). CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK:
As an example of what can be seen in this new and beautiful State Park, the following is a list of species seen Oct. 4 by Ken Seyffert. The areas covered were Lake Theo and the South Prong:
- 9/24: Swainson's Thrush, Nashville Warbler - 2805 S. Travis, Amarillo, Randall Co. (RR); Great Egret (5), Double-crested Cormorant, Prairie Falcon, Sage Thrasher, Lincoln's Sparrow - McBride Canyon and Bates, Potter Co. (FC, MG, TJ, RS, FS); Red-eyed Vireo - 2805 S. Travis, Amarillo (RR).
- 9/25: Sandhill Crane, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cassin's Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Townsend's Warbler, Pine Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Pine Siskin. - Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co. (PA, RR, KS).
- 9/27: Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling - Celanese playa near Kingsmill, Gray Co. (PA, FC, RR, EW); Peregrine Falcon - Carson Co. (RR, EW).
- 9/28: Rough-legged Hawk - northeastern Panhandle (RR, EW).
- 10/1: Least Flycatcher (calling) - 1911 Cherry, Amarillo, Potter Co. (FA).
- 10/2: MacGillivray's Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow - Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co. (KS).
- 10/4: Wood Duck, House Wren, Phainopepla (female), Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, American Goldfinch - Caprock Canyons SP, Briscoe Co. (KS).
- 10/6: Wood Duck, Sora - Lake McClellan, Gray Co. (KS); White-throated Sparrow - 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, Potter Co. (KS).

Pied-billed Grebe	Blue Jay
Great Blue Heron	Scrub Jay
<u>Wood Duck</u>	Am. Crow
<u>Green-winged Teal</u>	Black-crstd Titmouse
Mallard	Bushtit
Pintail	Rock Wren
Gadwall	Canyon Wren
Am. Wigeon	Bewick's Wren
Turkey Vulture	House Wren
Northern Harrier	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Swainson's Hawk	Am. Robin
Red-tailed Hawk	Curve-billed Thrasher
Am Kestrel	<u>Phainopepla</u>
Bobwhite	Loggerhead Shrike
Scaled Quail	Orange-crowned Warbler
Am. Coot	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Killdeer	Wilson's Warbler
Am. Avocet	Cardinal
Greater Yellowlegs	Rufous-sided Towhee
Long-bld Dowitcher	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Franklins's Gull	Chipping Sparrow
Rock Dove	Clay-colored Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Vesper Sparrow
Roadrunner	Savannah Sparrow
Bltd Kingfisher	Lincoln's Sparrow
Golden-frtd Wdpecker	White-crwnd Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsckr	Slate-colored Junco
Ladder-backed Wdpckr	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Flicker	Western Meadowlark
Eastern Phoebe	Pine Siskin
Scissor-tld Flycatcher	Am. Goldfinch
Barn Swallow	

Undoubtedly a number of these species were seen earlier than the dates shown, and species were seen we know nothing about; however, the observers failed to send in their reports. Everyone is encouraged to keep daily records. By doing so, we can get a more accurate account of not only the early dates but also of when each migrant species is last seen. This is of equal interest and value as a "first seen" date.

PA - Peggy Acord	TJ - Tom Johnson
EA - Elaine Adams	RR - Rena Ross
FC - Fern Cain	RS - Rosemary Scott
NE - Nancy Elliott	KS - Ken Seyffert
EBE - E. B. Ellis	FS - Frank Smith
ME - Marguerite Empie	DW - Esther Waddill
MG - Mary Glenn	SW - Stephen Williams (Houston)