

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

November, 1983

2206 Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

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PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER:

The monthly meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be held on Monday night, November 21, at 7:30 at the Garden Center. No formal program has been scheduled; instead, several of our members who have made birding trips to the "hot spots" in this country and abroad, from Peru to Australia, will give us an account of their experiences. There will be no formal meeting in December as we meet in that month to count birds on the annual Christmas Bird Counts.

BIRDLIFE IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE:

In recent issues of this Newsletter, we have attempted to illustrate the richness of birdlife in the Texas Panhandle by listing the birds seen on field trips to various localities. On September 5 it was a prairie playa in Gray Co., and on October 4 a visit to the Caprock Canyons SP in Briscoe Co. The following birds were seen between 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. on the Currie Ranch near Lake Tanglewood, Randall Co., on October 16 (KS) - a total of 62 species:

- Pied-billed Grebe - 1
- Double-crested Cormorant - 2
- Great Blue Heron - 11
- Mallard - 5
- Blue-winged Teal - 2
- Gadwall - 5
- American Wigeon - 3
- Redhead - 6
- Ring-necked Duck - 3
- Ruddy Duck - 2
- Osprey - 2
- Northern Harrier - 2
- Cooper's Hawk - 1
- Red-tailed Hawk - 1
- American Kestrel - 2
- Wild Turkey - 4
- Bobwhite - 1
- American Coot - 6
- Sandhill Crane - 1100+
- Killdeer - 2
- Ring-billed Gull - 20
- Inca Dove - 1
- Belted Kingfisher - 1
- Golden-fronted Woodpecker - 4
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker - 2
- Northern Flicker - 6
- Eastern Phoebe - 3
- Horned Lark - 2
- Blue Jay - 5
- Scrub Jay - 1
- American Crow - 4
- Black-crested Titmouse - 4
- Bushtit - 16
- Canyon Wren - 1
- Bewick's Wren - 2
- Marsh Wren - 3
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 8
- Townsend's Solitaire - 1
- Hermit Thrush - 2
- American Robin - 2

- Mockingbird - 1
- Brown Thrasher - 6
- Starling - 40
- Yellow-rumped Warbler - 19
- Common Yellowthroat - 1
- Rufous-sided Towhee - 6
- Chipping Sparrow - 6
- Field Sparrow - 1
- Song Sparrow - 8
- Lincoln's Sparrow - 4
- Swamp Sparrow - 2
- White-throated Sparrow - 1
- White-crowned Sparrow - 26+
- Dark-eyed Junco - 1
- Red-winged Blackbird - 20
- Brown-headed Cowbird - 10
- House Finch - 2
- Pine Siskin - 2
- American Goldfinch - 2

Another species seldom reported, but one that undoubtedly moves through the area in migration more often than we realize, was the Baird's Sparrow (2) at Buffalo Lake NWR, Randall Co., on October 9 (KS). A small sparrow-like bird was kicked up from the grass just east of the lake between the dam and the road. Following it, the bird soon hopped up into a small hackberry tree where it was joined by another, and the observer was able to get good and lengthy looks at both.

LATE SIGHTINGS:

We are all conscious of early arrivals of birds; here are some unusually late sightings found this fall:

- 10/9: Mississippi Kite (8) over Amarillo (RA).
- 10/16: Com. Yellowthroat on the Currie Ranch near Lake Tanglewood, Randall Co. (KS).
- 10/20: Barn Swallow (6+) in Amarillo (KS).
- 10/20-22: Nashville Warbler in Borger, Hutchinson Co. (FC).

Observers: FC - Fern Cain
RR - Rena Ross
KS - Kenneth Seyffert

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

- Dec. 18^(Sat) - Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon); Meet at the Park entrance 8:00 a.m. - Compiler - Peggy Acord
- Dec. 24^(Sat) - Buffalo Lake NWR; meet at refuge entrance at 8:00 a.m. - compiler - Kenneth Seyffert
- Dec. 27^(Sat) - Lake Meredith(west); meet at Sarah's Restaurant in east Fritch at 7:30 a.m. - compiler Kenneth Seyffert.
- Dec. 30^(Fri) - Quitaque (Caprock Canyons SP); meet at park entrance at 8:00 a.m. - compiler Kenneth Seyffert.
- Jan. 1^(Sun) - Lake Meredith(west); meet at Sarah's Restaurant in east Fritch at 7:30 a.m. - compiler Fern Cain.