

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK  
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REVISED SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS; the unexpected can be looked for. Three species were added to the Potter/Randall

Dec. 17 (Sat.) - Amarillo(Palo Duro Canyon) counties chock-list this past year; American Woodcock, Phainopepla, and Connecticut Warbler. Here is my list of candidates of those species that can be

Dec. 24 (Sat) - Buffalo Lake NWR; meet at refuge headquarters entrance at 8:00 A.M. added to the Texas Panhandle list this coming year:

Dec. 27 (Tue) - Lake Meredith(east); meet at Sarah's Restaurant in east Fritch at 7:30 A.M. Olivaceous Cormorant  
 American Swallow-tailed Kite 9/18/95 (RS)  
 Gyrfalcon

Dec. 30 (Fri) - Quitaque(Caprock Canyons SP; meet at park entrance at 8:00 A.M. California Gull 2 on 5/2/97 (DM) - Rejected by 7886.  
 Groove-billed Ani  
 Western Screech Owl 9/11/97 - Prairie Co. - Mus. of Natl. History  
 Snowy Owl 1/31 on 2/1/89. Lewis (LAWRENCE) Univ. of KS  
 Lesser Nighthawk

Jan. 2 (Mon.) - Lake Meredith(west); meet at Sarah's Restaurant in east Fritch at 7:30 A.M. Callipe Hummingbird 8/1/91 - Rebecca Peterson  
 Hermit Warbler 8/15/93 (ODL) - OLSO CO.  
 Cerulean Warbler 5/11/70 (JIMM/FIL) - BUFFALO LAKE  
 Hepatic Tanager 4/26/93 (ODL) - ASTRO CO.  
 Snow Bunting 12/29/83 (ML) - DILLON CO.

NOTE: ; two dates have been changed from the schedule as published in the November newsletter. The Amarillo count will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, instead of Sunday the 18th, and the Lake Meredith (west) count on Monday, Jan. 2, instead of Sunday, Jan. 1.

What is your list of candidates? Keep your eyes peeled!

ANOTHER RARITY IN THE TEXAS PANHANDLE:

Near noon on November 14, Joyce Oelze, at 3408 Danbury in southwest Amarillo, was looking out a window of her home when she noticed a strange appearing bird in her neighbor's yard. Mrs. Oelze had recently become interested in birds and had purchased a field guide. Curiosity getting the better of her, she got out her book and, putting all the pieces together, she came up with an identification - an American Woodcock. She immediately called the Garden Center, who called Rena Ross, who called those birders she could get ahold of. Rena deserted George, who just thought lunch was imminent, dashed madly over and confirmed the identification. Pogy Acord arrived soon thereafter and reconfirmed the identification. Kenneth Seyffert, glutton that he is, thought, erroneously, that a woodcock would hang around long enough for lunch to be finished. When he got there, the bird had already flown off - another lifer missed because of wrong priorities! Sympathy was duly administered and the disappointed birder wandered back to work. Fate was kind, however. A call from Mrs. Oelze late that afternoon announced the bird was back! Priorities were on straight this time (one can always look for another job), and the bird was seen and the identification re-reconfirmed.

BIRD NOTES:

11/13: Gray Catbird(late); Black-throated Green Warbler (late); Fox Sparrow - all at Buffalo Lake NWR (KS).

11/16: Bald Eagle (first report of the season) at the Currie Ranch near Lake Tanglewood, Randall County, (EM); two adults at Buffalo Lake NWR on 11/25 (KS).

11/20: Hooded Merganser (2) - off Bates at Lake Meredith, Potter Co. (KS).

11/25: Merlin - one at Buffalo Lake NWR (KS).

12/4 : Winter Wren - one at Ceta Glen, Randall Co. (KS).

12/6 : Merlin - one west of Amarillo, Potter Co. (KS).

EM - Elizabeth Mess  
 KS - Kenneth Seyffert

LATE REPORT:

12/7 : Tundra Swan - two immatures on a play lake near Borgor, Hutchinson Co. (Fern Cain) - those were reported to have been in the area all during the previous week. Someone must arrange to have them chased over to Lake Meredith in time for the Christmas Bird counts.

The only mention of woodcock in the Texas Panhandle has been by Dick DeArment of the Texas Parks & Wildlife in Wheeler County who states that he has seen a few in fall migration in that area during the past 30 years. All of which points up the fact that alertness pays off and that