

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK

Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

March 1984

1911 Cherry, Amarillo, TX 79106

Vol. XI, No. 3

MEETING FOR MARCH

Because of the March Conservation Meeting the newsletter is a little early.

Our conservation dinner is Monday March 19 at 6:30 PM in the auditorium at the Garden Center. Dinner is being catered by Sutphens and tickets are \$5.25 each. Please phone reservations to either Vera Deason 374-6390 or Virginia Wood, 352-7100.

This is a very important meeting. We will have our annual Conservation Award.

The program is visual-audio presentation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department called HAND OF MAN. This is an excellent presentation. It is shown to groups of 70 or more. We need a good attendance, so please come and bring a guest or two. If you cannot make the dinner come to the program which will start about 7:30.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT —

DR. JOSEPH CEPEDA

Dr. Frank Duncan has alerted us to a situation of grave importance. The Celanoso Corporation in Pampa has filed a letter of intent to discharge effluent from their plant into White Deer Creek in Carson and Hutchinson Counties. If there is no protest in 30 days, a permit for such discharge will be automatically issued by the Texas Department of Water Resources.

Dr. Copoda has written a letter of protest on behalf of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society stating our concern for the possible contamination, but other letters would help. This must be done as soon as possible as the letter of intent was filed by the Celanoso Corporation Feb. 14, 1984. You may also wish to contact Executive Director, Texas Department of Water Resources, 1700 North Congress ave., Austin, TX 78711; Senator Sarpolius, PO Box 7970, Amarillo, Tx 79109

Rep. Bob Simpson, P. O. Box 30321, Amarillo, Tx 79120

Rep. Foster Whaley, Route 1, Box 70, Pampa, TX.

With clean water supplies a grave concern for not only our area but nation-wide we think it necessary to protest such discharge.

If this drainage is permitted it will contaminate the waters of White Deer Creek which, in its lower half, is a year-round, spring-fed, running creek, bordered by timber and supporting an extensive aquatic and terrestrial wildlife population. In both spring and fall this creek offers a resting place for numerous migrating bird species.

PLEASE WRITE TODAY

A belated but sincere word of "thanks" to Kenneth Seyffert's sister, Mary Jane Pipes for her help with the newsletter for many years.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday March 11, 1984 to the Duncan Ranch. To reach the Ranch go to White Deer and turn left at the blinker light on FM Rd 294. Follow this road to Skellytown. At the junction with 152 turn left and just past the town turn right on a paved road which will lead you into the ranch. The ranchouse is on a good graded road. We hope to see a good group at 2:30 PM. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting the Ranch, it is a delight that awaits you. For any other questions call Peggy Acord at 352-6372. It should take you about 1 1/2 hrs. to reach the Ranch. In case of bad weather we will cancel.

OTHER SPRING FIELD TRIPS

- April 15, 8:30 — Lake McClellan
 - April 29, 8:30-- Buffalo Lake. Meet at entrance for spring migrants.
 - May 12, 8:30--Big Day Count, details in April Newsletter
 - May 20, 8:30--Cota Glen Church Camps
- Fall field trips will be listed in the September issue.

GOALS ADOPTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR THIS YEAR AT FEB. MEETING

- Conduct at least 8 field trips including a geology trip.
- Take part in the Christmas Bird Count.
- Sponsor a natural History Bookshelf at the Public Library or the Garden Center
- Work toward sending a selected person to the Audubon Camp of the West
- Revamp the Outdoor education program.
- Help with the development of the area north of the Discovery Center.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We are working on 2 special programs for April and May. Watch the next newsletter for all the details.

BIRD NOTES

Feb. 10 Rona and George Ross found a Whooping Crane in with a flock of Sandhill Cranes north of Kress, Texas. The Rosses alerted local authorities to the birds' presence. Later at Aransas Refuge they were assured the bird was probably from the Aransas flock and not from the Idaho group which winters at Bosque de Apache in New Mexico. This flock usually stops at Alamosa, Colo going and coming from Idaho.

March 4 - Frank Smith had sandhill cranes near St Francis Road and the Fritch Highway.

The Randy Hansens on Austin have had a female Pine Grosbeak at their feeder lately.

Cedar Waxwings have returned.

This has been a severe winter as we all know. Reports coming in from a number of sources comment on the extreme shortage of doves, quail, and roadrunners. We fear a significant loss of wildlife state-wide.

REMEMBER!

ANNUAL CONSERVATION MEETING, MONDAY, MARCH 19, 6:30

COME

Bring a friend or two or three.

Phone your reservations in today Help us have a good turnout.