

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

January, 1986

2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

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PROGRAM FOR JANUARY;

The monthly meeting of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 20, at the Garden Center. A program on wildlife photography will be presented by John Gilmore of Hereford. The installation of officers for the coming year will also take place.

FACTS AND FIGURES; PLAYING GAMES WITH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS;

As a matter of curiosity that may be of interest to our readers, here are the totals of the different species recorded on the various Panhandle Christmas Bird Counts over the years:

Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon)	- 140 species (22 counts)
Buffalo Lake NWR	- 123 species (19 counts)
Quitaque (Caprock Canyons)	- 122 species (10 counts)
Lake Meredith(west)	- 121 species (16 counts)
Lake Meredith(east)	- 121 species (16 counts)

Here are the species exclusive for each count (seen on no other area count):

Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon) - Peregrine Falcon, Stilt Sandpiper, Black-legged Kittiwake, White-throated Swift, Williamson's Sapsucker, Verdin, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Baird's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Buffalo-Lake NWR - Black-crowned Night-Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Wood Duck, Swainson's Hawk (highly unlikely), Long-billed Curlew, Glaucous Gull, Barred Owl (highly questionable), Red-headed Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Swainson's Thrush (highly questionable).

Quitaque (Caprocks Canyon) - Greater Scaup, Inca Dove, Eastern Phoebe, Orange-crowned Warbler, Red Crossbill, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow.

Lake Meredith(west) - Common Raven, LeConte's Sparrow.

Lake Meredith(east) - Blue-winged Teal, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Meadowlark, Great-tailed Grackle.

Here are the species recorded last year but not this year (15 species):

Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Common Snipe, Inca Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, House Wren, Northern Shrike, Lark Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle.

Here are the species recorded this year but not last year (11 species):

Double-crested Cormorant, Herring Gull, Long-eared Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Sage Thrasher, Vesper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Red Crossbill.

BIRD NOTES:

Almost all the birding activity in December was concentrated on the Christmas Bird Counts leaving little else to report. The Glaucous Gull reported at the Elysian Fields on 12/7 was last seen on 12/9 by Peggy Acord. One of the few winter sightings of the Greater Yellowlegs was that of Don Myers in southwest Amarillo, Randall Co., on 12/27.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1985/86

- 1. Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon) - Dec. 21
- 2. Lake Meredith(west) - Dec. 28
- 3. Buffalo Lake NWR - Dec. 31
- 4. Quitaque (Caprocks Canyon) - Jan. 1
- 5. Lake Meredith(east) - Jan. 4

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Pied-billed Grebe	2			5	2
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	1				
Great Blue Heron	7			3	8
Snow Goose	8		12		
Canada Goose	6400	100	600	1000	9
Green-winged Teal	2	15	75	5	179
Mallard	1300	24	836	223	95
Northern Pintail	1502		1300	555	
Northern Shoveler	2				
Gadwall	9	45	10	3	3
American Wigeon	13	41	12	2	2
Canvasback			16		
Redhead	40		34		
Ring-necked Duck	4	51		1	
Lesser Scaup	4		10	7	1
Common Goldeneye		5		6	11
Bufflehead	1			8	
Hooded Merganser	2			2	
Common Merganser	70			12	279
Ruddy Duck				1	
Bald Eagle	18	24	3	*1	
Northern Harrier	3	5	14	15	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3		1	
Cooper's Hawk		1			
Red-tailed Hawk	2	18	9	6	12
Ferruginous Hawk	1		11	4	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1		3		
Golden Eagle	2	3	4	3	
American Kestrel	19	10	17	37	11
Prairie Falcon			1	2	
Ring-necked Pheasant			9	6	
Wild Turkey	35	207		3	
Northern Bobwhite	17	12	27	35	20
Scaled Quail	106	20		10	1
Virginia Rail					1
Common Moorhen					1
American Coot	10	1		53	110
Sandhill Crane				152	
Killdeer	2				
Herring Gull					1
Ring-billed Gull	21	3			35
gull sp.			2		
Rock Dove			11	25	8
Mourning Dove		25		7	
Greater Roadrunner	2	4	1	1	
Great Horned Owl		5	1		3
LONG-EARED OWL		1	1		
Belted Kingfisher		2		2	
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	52			4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	*1	2			1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	7	2	5	6	2
Downy Woodpecker		9	1	1	2
Hairy Woodpecker		2	*1		1
Northern Flicker	18	63	6	6	7
Horned Lark	113		788	400	4
Blue Jay	2	16			
Scrub Jay	4			14	
American Crow	6	52		13	5
Carolina Chickadee	*2	64			
Tufted Titmouse	5			2	
Bushitit				13	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		2		*2	
White-breasted Nuthatch		2			
Brown Creeper	2	5			
Rock Wren	x	2	2	1	2

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Canyon Wren	x			2	
Bewick's Wren	4	18		7	
Marsh Wren	1	2	2	2	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	5		2	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	6		5	
Eastern Bluebird		40		10	
WESTERN BLUEBIRD				10	
Mountain Bluebird	6	184		30	45
Townsend's Solitaire	1	6		10	2
Hermit Thrush				1	
American Robin	5	195		133	10
GRAY CATBIRD		*1			
Northern Mockingbird	8	3		8	
Sage Thrasher	1				
Brown Thrasher	3	1			
Curve-billed Thrasher		2		1	
Cedar Waxwing	14	5		80	
Loggerhead Shrike	4	17	5	3	6
European Starling	585	358	74	459	150
Yellow-rumped Warbler	5	2		3	
Northern Cardinal	21	57	4	27	4
Rufous-sided Towhee	16	27	2	19	1
Brown Towhee	2				
Rufous-crowned Sparrow			2		1
American Tree Sparrow		19	33		1
Chipping Sparrow		2			3
Field Sparrow	2				
VESPER SPARROW					3
Lark Bunting			12	8	
Savannah Sparrow			18	2	
Fox Sparrow	1				
Song Sparrow	26	28	56	20	7
Swamp Sparrow		1			2
White-throated Sparrow	3	6		1	
White-crowned Sparrow	65	308	338	97	22
Harris' Sparrow		8			
Dark-eyed Junco	128	279	127	372	303
McCown's Longspur	125		2265		
Lapland Longspur	30		1690		
Red-winged Blackbird	14	225	286	34	1008
Eastern Meadowlark					1
Western Meadowlark	49	37	244	151	36
Brewer's Blackbird		51	123		24
Common Grackle				*15	
Brown-headed Cowbird					10
House Finch	20	2	4	1	4
RED CROSSBILL				*30	
Pine Siskin	5	8	9	5	
American Goldfinch	1	134	25	123	9
EVENING GROSBEAK				*15	
House Sparrow	83	12	231	18	18
Total Species	74	69	52	79	54
Total Individuals	11102	2895	9372	4367	2494

* - first for count

x - seen in count week but not on count day

1. Participants - Peggy Acord (Amarillo), Fern Cain (Borger), Hap Hamous (Amarillo), Tom Johnson (Amarillo), Mary Moyer (Amarillo), Joel Reese (Kress), Tommy Rosson (Hereford), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Doris Williamson (Borger).
2. Participants - Peggy Acord (Amarillo), Jodie Anthis (Huntsville), Fern Cain (Borger), E. B. Ellis (Austin), Mary Moyer (Amarillo), Tom Patterson (Amarillo), Joel Reese (Kress), Lea Reynolds (Amarillo), Rosemary Scott (Amarillo), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Frank Smith (Borger).
3. Participants - Peggy Acord (Amarillo), E. B. Ellis (Austin), Don Myers (Amarillo), Joel & Kay Reese (Kress), Lea Reynolds (Amarillo), Tommy Rosson (Hereford), Rosemary Scott (Amarillo), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo).
4. Participants - Peggy Acord (Amarillo), E. B. & Cindy Ellis (Austin), Joel, Casey & Kay Reese (Kress), Lea & Lacy Reynolds (Amarillo), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo).
5. Participants - James Reck (Amarillo), Chuck Luttrell (Fritch), Lea Reynolds (Amarillo), Ken Seyffert (Amarillo), Frank Smith (Borger), Doris Williamson (Borger).