

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

October, 1986

2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

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PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER:

The monthly meeting of the TPAS will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Center, Oct. 20. The program will be given by Tom Wood, the subject: "The Black-footed Ferret".

A CHANGE IN THE PRESIDENCY:

Because of pressing business matters, Bob Kerr had had to resign as President of the TPAS. We wish Bob success and heartily thank him for the services and leadership he has given to the society. Moving into the vacancy is Don Myers who seeks the active support of all the members.

CARLSBAD WEEKEND:

The field trip to Dog Canyon in the Guadalupe will be on Oct. 18-19, not the 25th as reported in the September newsletter. Saturday will be spent in Dog Canyon at the end of Highway 137 west of Carlsbad. There you don't have to hike to see the maples as you do at McKittrick. If you are planning to go please call Peggy Acord at 352-6372 for directions, and also so we will look for you. Make your own reservations in Carlsbad or White City, or camp at Dog Canyon. Sunday morning at Rattlesnake Springs if people are interested.

GIFT ITEMS NEEDED:

Your house too cluttered? Tired of dusting? The Gift Shop could use all kinds of good, saleable items. Some suggestions are dishes, antiques, brass, wooden pieces, pictures, vases, figurines, Christmas ornaments, kitchen pieces, etc.

Given up on ironing? The Linen Room could use grandmother's old tablecloths and napkins, lace, doilies, etc. Aprons are always a popular item. Also needed are pillows, afghans, quilts, and other linens. The TPAS will receive 50% of the profits from these items between Nov. 1 and Jan. 1. Perhaps this money could be used to help fund the special project we discussed at the September meeting. Please bring your gift items to the October meeting and I will see that the TPAS gets proper credit. You can bring things anytime up to the "Festival of Trees" to the Garden Center, but make certain they are clearly marked Audubon Society. However, the earlier they are brought the better chance is that they will be sold.

While you are searching your house over, you may find some things that are good but not Gift Shop quality. The Iris Society is desperately in need of things for all ages - children, boys, girls, men and women. They fill 350 bags each year. The Grab Bag booth is very popular and each year they run out early. I am told a lot of people are disappointed when they come on Sunday afternoon and the booth is sold out. Items needed are toys, games, jewelry, cosmetics, trinkets of all sorts. The Iris Society will sort and wrap them. Please bring them to the meeting and I will see that the Iris Society gets them, or you may call Mildred Simpson at 352-3790 and she will pick them up.....Rosemary Scott.....

BIRD NOTES:

Sept. 6: Cattle Egret - six on the Whittaker Road playa and two on the Triangle Ponds (KS).

Sept. 11: Townsend's Solitaire - one in Memorial Park Cemetery, Amarillo - a very early sighting (DM) - the earliest on record is 9/9/59. Barred Owl - one near Canadian, Hemphill Co. (FE,JE) - the only location in the Panhandle at which this species has ever been reported. A Summer Tanager was also seen.

Sept. 12: Black-throated Gray Warbler - one at Buffalo Lake NWR (KS). Peregrine Falcon - one at the Elysian Fields sewage ponds (KS).

Sept. 13: Pectoral Sandpiper - 33 on the Whittaker Road playa, an unusually high number (KS).

Sept. 17: Eared Grebe - 70+ at the Elysian Fields for several days (FC,DM). Baird's Sparrow - one or two at the Whittaker Road playa (DM).

Sept. 25: Merlin and Red-breasted Nuthatch - both in Memorial Park Cemetery, Amarillo (FC).

Sept. 26: Cassin's Kingbird - two at Buffalo Lake NWR (RR) - the first of the season. This species can be expected after most of the Western Kingbirds are gone. Several were seen at Canadian on 9/27 for a county record (FE,JE).

Oct. 4: Swainson's Hawk - 200+ overhead in less than five minutes near the Whittaker Road playa soaring on a strong north wind (KS). 50+ were seen later in Randall Co. and 44 in Armstrong Co.

Oct. 5: Mississippi Kite - a juvenile in the Palo Duro Canyon SP (PA & DA) - an unusually late date. Almost all kites were gone from the area this year by the second week of September. Rufous Hummingbird - one at 2805 S. Travis in Amarillo (RR) - the latest date on record.

Oct. 7: Black-throated Green Warbler - two in the Palo Duro Canyon SP (KS). Two Merlins in a yard in southeastern Hutchinson County were unusual (FC,DW).

DA - Don Acord; PA - Peggy Acord; FC - Fern Cain; FE - Fred Elston; JE - Jan Elston; DM - Don Myers; RR - Rena Ross; KS - Ken Seyffert; DW - Doris Williamson.

NESTING BIRDS OF RANDALL COUNTY:

In the August, 1986, issue of The Phalarope, published by the Midland Naturalists, a summary of the breeding birds of Midland County was given. This list contained 73 species found nesting there at least once in the last 30 years. In addition, there are ten species which spend the summer but for which no evidence of nesting has been found. We thought it would be of interest to our readers to publish a comparable summary of the breeding birds of Randall County.

1. *Pied-billed Grebe: An opportunist when it comes to nesting. Well-grown juveniles seen as early as 28 June, and an adult still on nest as late as 24 August at the Buffalo Lake NWR after late summer rains had produced enough water for nesting.
2. *Eared Grebe: A colony of 19 adults was found at the upper end of Buffalo Lake NWR on 2 July 1972 (Milt Suthers). A rapid fall in water level caused the colony to be abandoned but not, however, before at least one chick had been produced.
3. Black-crowned Night-Heron: A heronry of 25-30 nests in a grove of cottonwood trees surrounded by water at the Buffalo Lake NWR summer of 1978.
4. Mallard: Sightings of adults with chicks and/or young quite common. Nest with eleven eggs found at the Buffalo Lake NWR 9 May 1969. An adult with six small chicks was seen on a playa lake near Umbarger as late as 25 September 1982.
5. *Northern Pintail: An adult with six young seen as early as 6 June, and one with five young as late as 15 August.
6. *Blue-winged Teal: Numerous sightings of adults with young. Eight unfledged young in two groups found at the Buffalo Lake NWR as late as 3 September 1984.
7. Gadwall: One nesting record - hen with seven young at the Buffalo Lake NWR 6 August 1972 (Ken Seyffert).
8. Turkey Vulture: Two nesting records, both at the same site in a side canyon downstream from the dam at Buffalo Lake NWR (Ken Seyffert) - nest with two downy young 4 July 1967, and nest with two eggs 27 May 1974. The nest was in a shallow cave near the upper rim of the canyon wall with its entrance hidden by bushes.
9. *Mississippi Kite: Common nester, particularly in the Palo Duro Canyon and Amarillo, building near the tops of cottonwoods and elms. Nest building observed as early as 8 May and, unaccountably, as late as 10 August in Ceta Glen (Peggy Acord). The only nesting species that golfers are able to identify!
10. *Swainson's Hawk: Nest building observed as early as 30 March. Adults building nest at the Buffalo Lake NWR 16 April 1967 fledged young from it on 23 July.
11. Ferruginous Hawk: One nesting record - nest with four eggs built on cliffside south of Amarillo along Palo Duro Creek 22 April 1968 (Jim Jokerst). On 18 May three downy young in nest, on 7 July adults feeding fledged young on ground $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from nest. Formerly more common.
12. Golden Eagle: Yearly in the Palo Duro Canyon system. Nest building or refurbishing as early as January/February, young fledged by mid-June. An injured female recovered and nursed back to health by Roberta and Hugh Currie returned with a mate four years later (1973). Three nests in that area produced three young that summer.
13. American Kestrel: A pair with nest found as early as 18 April. Most often found nesting in tree cavities. A nest with young found in one of the comfort stations at Buffalo Lake NWR 30 May 1982.
14. Ring-necked Pheasant: Many sightings of adults with young. A nest with 17 eggs found at the Buffalo Lake NWR 4 May 1969 (Ken Seyffert).
15. *Wild Turkey: Numerous sightings of adults with young in the canyon system.
16. *Northern Bobwhite: many sightings of adults with young, newly fledged chicks as late as 20 August.
17. *Scaled Quail: Many sightings of adults with young. A nest at the Girl Scout Camp 24 June 1962 contained 17 eggs (Peggy Acord). Newly hatched chicks found as late as 17 August.
18. *Common Moorhen: One nesting record; Southeast Park Lake in Canyon summer of 1983 (Winnie Wester).
19. *American Coot: Adults with red-faced chicks found as early as 16 May and as late as 30 July.
20. Snowy Plover: One nest with three eggs and another nest with a broken eggs, a pipped egg, and a newly hatched by dead young (victims of a hail storm) found at Buffalo Lake NWR 4 July 1958 (Peggy Acord). Several sightings of adults with young at same location at other times. No summer sightings since mid-70's.
21. *Killdeer: Chicks found as early as 3 May, nest with eggs as late as 4 July. Has nested on the roof of Penneys in Sunset Center (Peggy Acord).
22. *Black-necked Stilt: Adults with young first observed at Buffalo Lake NWR summer of 1977 (Larry Wynn). Nesting observed there and at other locations in following years.
23. *American Avocet: Nesting variable depending on availability of water in playas. Young most often found from mid-July on. Nest with one egg and partly hatched young killed by previous day's hail storm found at Buffalo Lake NWR 4 July (Peggy Acord).
24. Spotted Sandpiper: One nesting record;- an adult with an unfledged chick at the Buffalo Lake NWR 17 July 1966 (Ken Seyffert). Pair acting "nesty" found near the same location 10 June - 1 July the following year.
25. *Rock Dove: This bird that became civilized along with man reverts to its original stage of development by nesting from time to time on the rocky cliffs of the Palo Duro Canyon.
26. *Mourning Dove: Nests with young as early as 20 March and as late as 7 September (after hunting season has opened). A nest in a willow at Buffalo Lake NWR contained one egg on 4 April, two on 11 April, was empty on 18 April, contained two eggs on 25 April, two young on 9 May, and finally, two eggs on 29 May (Ken Seyffert). Another nest found there was occupied from 14 May to 10 June (two eggs). Besides nesting in trees, bushes and on the ground, nests have been found built on top of other species nests, in tumbleweeds, and one built about three feet above water level at Lake Tanglewood was under water on 17 June as the result of rising water level (P. Acord).

27. *Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Often a late nester. Nest with four eggs found as late as 2 August and nest with two young with only the beginnings of feathering found as late as 1 Sept.
28. *Greater Roadrunner: Most often found in canyon system. We have surprisingly little nesting information on record.
29. *Common Barn-Owl: Nested in one of the vacant buildings at Buffalo Lake NWR summer of 1976. Has been known to nest in a cliff cavity, a grain elevator, and a tree stump.
30. *Eastern Screech Owl: Adult with two juveniles in the Palo Duro Canyon SP 30 June 1967. Actual nests not reported. Probably more common than we realize.
31. *Great Horned Owl: Adult on nest as early as 14 February (in a refurbished Swainson's Hawk nest), fledged juveniles as late as 30 May. The nest of 14 February was destroyed on 14 March by high winds, having contained one egg.
32. *Burrowing Owl: Commonly found nesting in the burrows of prairie dogs but will on occasion dig its own nest hole. During the first summer after Buffalo Lake was first drained and before vegetation became rampant, adult owls were found at the entrances to deep crevices in the dry lake bed.
33. *Common Nighthawk: Common in summer but we have only one nesting record - nest with two newly hatched young on ground in short-grass prairie at Buffalo Lake NWR 16 June 1973 (K. Seyffert)
34. *Black-chinned Hummingbird: Nests have been found on a hanging vine, a light fixture in a garage, in a low bush a few feet from the ground. Nest building observed as early as 19 May, nest with two young 31 May.
35. *Belted Kingfisher: Builds in bluffs and banks along streams. Adult feeding young observed at Lake Tanglewood 9 June. In the Palo Duro Canyon, three observed in "wild courtship flight" as early as 21 March (Peggy Acord).
36. *Red-headed Woodpecker: Adults observed feeding young as early as 22 June and newly fledged young 28 July. Most often found in the Palo Duro Canyon system but a pair nested successfully in Amarillo summer of 1966 (Leo Galloway).
37. *Golden-fronted Woodpecker: A common nester in the Palo Duro Canyon system. Nesting observed as early as 24 April, feeding young in nest 28 July.
38. *Ladder-backed Woodpecker: Female observed disputing possession of nest hole with four House Sparrows as early as 30 March, young heard chattering in nest as early as 2 May and as late as 30 May. Has been found nesting in tree cavity less than five feet from ground.
39. *Hairy Woodpecker: One nesting record - an adult with one young coming to feeder along Palo Duro Creek 9-12 June 1969 (Jim Jokerst).
40. *Northern Flicker: Found nesting in the Palo Duro Canyon system, Buffalo Lake NWR, the cemeteries and parks in town. Nesting observed as early as 11 April in the Palo Duro Club (Esther Maddill). Almost invariably the summering birds are "Yellow-shafteds".
41. *Eastern Phoebe: Most often found nesting in Ceta Glen, Girl Scout Camp, Lake Tanglewood. On 1 July 1973 a nest with four young was found in a narrow side canyon running into South Ceta Canyon. The nest was built on a ledge on a cave wall (Ken Seyffert). Nests have been found built on light bulbs.
42. *Say's Phoebe: Nesting activity observed as early as 18 March, young in nest as late as 10 July. Two broods a year. Often nests on made-made structures.
43. *Vermilion Flycatcher: Two nesting records, both in Llano Cemetery in 1959: 6 May-1 June and 12 June-21 July. The pair had first been seen on 5 April and were "courting madly" on 16 April (Peggy Acord).
44. *Ash-throated Flycatcher: Nest building observed as early as 27 April, young in nest as late as 10 June. Nests in cavities in trees and utility poles.
45. *Western Kingbird: Nest building observed as early as 23 May, newly fledged young as late as 13 August. In open country where trees are absent will build on crossarm and transformer supports on utility poles, windmill platforms, tops of tall gate posts, bushes.
46. *Eastern Kingbird: All known nesting activity takes place at Buffalo Lake NWR. Adult on nest 6 June, nest with two young as late as 4 July.
47. *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Adult on nest as early as 19 April and as late as 10 June. Formerly more widespread and common. Frances Williams in Midland suggests it has been run off by the burgeoning population of aggressive Western Kingbirds. More often found nesting now in esquite/grasslands where the latter is less common.
48. *Horned Lark: As abundant as this species is we have only one nesting record, a nest with three young (eyes still closed) 16 April 1975 ^{NWA} at the Buffalo Lake NWR (Max Traweek).
49. *Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Nest building observed as early as 1 May (Palo Duro Canyon P). Eleven occupied nests found around Lake Tanglewood 20 June 1966 (Peggy Acord).
50. *Cliff Swallow: Abundant nester building on cliff walls and under bridges and overpasses and in road culverts. Some sites found containing over 200 nests. Has built on the brick walls of buildings at West Texas State University.
51. *Barn Swallow: Nest with five eggs observed as early as 12 May, one with four eggs as late as 2 August. At least two-brooded. Nests on buildings, under bridges, and in road culverts. A culvert at Buffalo Lake NWR is occupied yearly except when ends are clogged with winter-blown tumbleweeds, preventing access.
52. *Blue Jay: Has only become common in town in the last thirty years or so. Nest building observed as early as 7 April, young recently out of nest in late July.
53. *Scrub Jay: May be two-brooded - juveniles seen in the Palo Duro Canyon 26 May, young left nest at Lake Tanglewood 2 July.
54. *American Crow: Adult on nest in Palo Duro Canyon SP 3 May 1970. Adults with young have been seen as late as 11 July.
55. *Carolina Chickadee: Only two records evidencing nesting, both recent - an adult carrying nesting material in Ceta Glen 19 April 1985, and an adult feeding two recently fledged young in the Palo Duro Canyon SP 8 May 1986 (Ken Seyffert). Scattered and occasional sightings of it in Amarillo in summer without evidence of nesting.

56. Tufted Titmouse (Black-crested): Nesting observed as early as 12 April, young in nest 7 May, family flock as late as 18 July - all in the Palo Duro Canyon system.

57. *Verdin: First reported in the Palo Duro Canyon in 1965 (Carroll Littlefield). Nest building observed as early as 26 March 1967 from which young were fledged (first nesting record - Ken Seyffert), nest with three eggs as late as 6 May. Also builds a roosting nest in which it retires at night. Has not been reported in the canyon since 1976.

58. Bushtit: An early nester. Nest containing young as early as 2 April and as late as 24 April. Nest in shape of a hanging sock most often placed in topmost branches of juniper. Not found outside the canyon system.

59. *Rock Wren: Nest building observed as early as 3 April, nest with young as late as 23 June, a family group including four young as late as 9 August. Builds in crevices and holes in canyon walls and paves entrance to its nest with pebbles. A pair was observed in the Palo Duro Canyon SP 24 July 1986 feeding a fully grown juvenile cowbird.

60. *Bewick's Wren: Nest building observed as early as 25 April, nest with young as late as 16 July. May build in old woodpecker hole 20' up in tree or in base of tree at ground level.

61. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Nest building observed as early as 22 April and adults feeding young as late as 10 August. A peculiarity of the gnatcatcher is the tearing apart of a completed or partially built nest and re-using the material to build a new one a short distance away. A gnatcatcher engaged in such behavior was observed in the Palo Duro Canyon SP 21 June 1970 (Ken Seyffert). While one adult was dismantling a nest located near the top of a juniper, another was feeding a fledged cowbird nearby.

62. *Eastern Bluebird: Nests here only intermittently. Adults feeding young in nest observed as early as 15 April in the Palo Duro Canyon SP, and three newly hatched young as late as 29 July at Lake Tanglewood. Interestingly, the nest in the utility pole found occupied on 15 April was being investigated by bluebirds on the previous 24 January.

63. *American Robin: Only found here occasionally in summer prior to mid-century, now fairly common. Adult on nest observed as early as 16 April, new nest almost completed as late as 22 June.

64. *Northern Mockingbird: Nest with two eggs found as early as 8 May, nest with two eggs as late as 4 July. Another common nesting species for which we have little specific data.

65. *Brown Thrasher: The only direct evidence of nesting was a family group of three at the Buffalo Lake NWR 24 August 1980. Occasionally other summering birds have been seen there, including a pair in 1986, but actual nests have yet to be found.

66. *Curve-billed Thrasher: The first nesting in the county was discovered by Roberta Currie Seastrand on 19 June 1973 near Lake Tanglewood. The nest containing one egg was followed by the laying of another on each succeeding day until there were four on 22 June. It is two-brooded as this same nest contained three eggs on 12 August after its previous occupants had fledged. It is possibly three-brooded as adults have been seen feeding well grown young as early as 25 May.

67. *Loggerhead Shrike: Grown juveniles with adults have been seen as early as 16 June, a nest with at least four young in a cholla cactus as late as 18 June. The adults of the former group were harassing a rattlesnake, the young of the latter were being fed a lizard.

68. *European Starling: Probably began nesting in the county in the early 1950's when a few pairs could be found in Amarillo. Can now be found everywhere.

69. *Northern Cardinal: Nests in residential areas but most common in the Palo Duro Canyon system. In recent years has moved west to the Buffalo Lake NWR. Newly fledged young found as early as 14 May, adults attending young as late as 27 August.

70. *Blue Grosbeak: A nest built about 4' from ground in a willow tree contained three cowbird eggs and one grosbeak egg 27 June 1966 (Peggy Acord). Even after nesting season is over in late August, adult male grosbeaks can be heard singing.

71. Indigo Bunting: One nesting record: a pair feeding three recently fledged young in the Palo Duro Canyon SP 8 July 1979 (Ken Seyffert). Pairs and singing males have been found there and at the Buffalo Lake NWR on other occasions.

72. Lazuli Bunting: A male with possibly four or five young were seen at Lake Tanglewood 18 August 1963 (Peggy Acord, Esther Waddill). Singing males have been found in the Palo Duro Canyon on occasions.

73. *Painted Bunting: Most field guides do not show this species in the Panhandle at all in summer but it is quite common, particularly in the Palo Duro Canyon, where singing males are among the most common species found. The male birds leave in August leaving the females to attend their numerous young. An actual nest has yet to be found, a challenge for someone!

74. *Dickcissel: A species that may be plentiful one year, scarce the next. Most often found at the Buffalo Lake NWR in its weedy/brushy/sunflower grown lake bottom. Adults have been seen feeding young in late summer but an actual nest has yet to be found.

75. *Brown Towhee: A few in summer in the Palo Duro Canyon but not found elsewhere. An actual nest yet to be found but an adult feeding young seen as early as 8 May.

76. *Cassin's Sparrow: Very common in the grasslands in summer but only one nest ever reported - a nest with three eggs on the ground at the base of a forb at the Buffalo Lake NWR 28 May 1979 (Ken Seyffert). The matted grass underlying the nest allowed its base to be raised an inch or more above ground.

77. Rufous-crowned Sparrow: Nest building observed as early as 18 April in the Palo Duro Canyon and a nest with three eggs as late as 18 July. All the nests found have been located at the base of clumps of grass or other plants growing on the rather steep slopes of gullies or ravines.

78. *Lark Sparrow: Egg dates range from nest with three eggs 16 May to one with three eggs 11 July. Most often builds on ground or in cholla cactus. One nest found six or so feet up in willow. Some ground nests found along roadsides only a few feet from the pavement, and one in the grassy median of a dirt road (11 July).

79. Black-throated Sparrow: An actual nest has yet to be found but adults feeding two young were observed in the Palo Duro Canyon SP 29 May 1975. The population in the canyons is quite small.

80. Grasshopper Sparrow: Common in summer but an actual nest has yet to be found. Adults feeding young observed 16 June, 19 July, an adult carrying food 17 August. One difficulty in finding this species nest is that the adult does not fly directly to it but alights some distance away and then runs to it, exiting the same way in reverse order.

81. *Red-winged Blackbird: Most often nests in cattail marshes and roadside thickets. Nest with four eggs found as early as 21 May. Probably nests much earlier as we fail to record nesting information on common species.

82. *Western Meadowlark: Another common species but for which we have only one reported nest - a nest with two eggs at the Buffalo Lake NWR 7 May 1972 (Ken Seyffert).

83. *Great-tailed Grackle: A species that began to be found with regularity only in the early 60's. Found nesting in Llano Cemetery 1 May 1965. Now a common nester in the cemeteries and parks in town, around farm and ranch houses, on permanent playas with cattails and willows.

84. *Common Grackle: Competes with the Great-tailed in nesting in the cemeteries and parks. Nest building observed as early as 1 May. Family groups begin flocking in August, feeding on cicadas.

85. *Brown-headed Cowbird: Ubiquitous! Lays its eggs (up to six) in the nests of other birds

86. *Orchard Oriole: An actual nest yet to be found (mostly from laziness) but numerous sightings of adults with fledglings. In Randall County confined primarily to the Buffalo Lake NWR.

87. *Northern Oriole (Bullocks): Common nester in the canyons, Buffalo Lake NWR, around farm and ranch houses, on mesquite/grasslands, in towns. A nest found in the Palo Duro Canyon SP (Cottonwood Picnic Area) was made almost entirely of green plastic strands from an easter egg basket.

88. *House Finch: Most often found nesting in evergreens, on man-made structures, in cholla cactus. Nest building observed as early as 30 March, nest with five eggs 7 May.

89. Pine Siskin: One nesting record - adults feeding baby birds at 5901 S. Western St., in Amarillo 3 May 1966 (Rena Ross). May nest more often as late May and early June sightings not that uncommon.

90. *Lesser Goldfinch: Nest building observed as early as 17 June, four newly fledged young being fed as late as 10 September - both observations at Lake Tanglewood. Found also in the Palo Duro Canyon with most sightings made from mid-summer on.

91. *House Sparrow: Nesting begins in March, continues through August. Four-brooded.

* - Indicates species also found nesting in Midland County.

Probable nesters but for which we have no nesting records: Great Blue Heron; Green-backed Heron; Cinnamon Teal; Red-tailed Hawk; Common Poorwill; Chimney Swift; Downy Woodpecker; Chihuahuan Raven; Canyon Wren; Common Yellowthroat; Lark Bunting. Possible nesters: Redhead; Ruddy Duck; Gray Catbird; Yellow-breasted Chat; Yellow-headed Blackbird.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Everglades National Park has banned the use of audio and mechanical devices to attract wildlife, on the basis that such devices may induce stress and disrupt mating/nesting activities. The event that precipitated this regulation was an attack on a man who was playing a Barred Owl tape near the owl's nest; the man sued the park for allowing a dangerous animal to exist so near the boardwalk!

Liability incurred by private landowners for allowing public recreation on their property, and the skyrocketing cost of liability insurance, are beginning to chip away at recreational opportunities. A Colorado irrigation company closed 3 lakes to fishing when it was unable to renew its liability policy; the company applied for a permit to spread rotenone in the lakes to kill the fish so that anglers would not be tempted to trespass. Could this happen to birding opportunities?