

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society

December, 1986

2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109

Vol. XIII, No. 9

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES:

- Dec. 20 (Saturday) - Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon): meet at the entrance to the State Park at 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 24 (Wednesday) - Buffalo Lake NWR: meet at refuge entrance at 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 27 (Saturday) - Lake Meredith(west): meet at National Park headquarters in Fritch at 7:30 a.m.
- Jan. 1 (Thursday) - Quitaque (Caprock Canyons): meet at entrance to State Park at 8:00 a.m.
- Jan. 3 (Saturday) - Lake Meredith(east): meet at National Park headquarters in Fritch at 7:30 a.m.

NOTICE! The participation fee this year is still \$3.00 per person. Be sure this money gets to the count compiler.

RENA ROSS:

The recent and unexpected death of Rena Ross has left all who knew her with a sense of great loss. Rena was a warm friend and a delightful companion with whom we shared many adventures afield in quest of birds. She was a sincerely interested and active member of the TPAS for many years and made one of the finest Presidents we have had. Rena's knowledge of birds was worldwide but none were of greater interest than those she observed in her own yard at 2805 S. Travis. Who can forget such species as the White-winged Crossbill, Black-chinned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Pyrrhuloxia, and others I no doubt have omitted. Her place seemed to be a magnet for the unexpected and rare, as though the birds knew their presence there would be noted and appreciated, and she shared these visitors with us all. Rena, your own presence will be greatly missed. You were warmly human, a gracious lady, and most excellent birder, and I know you have now added the Bird of Paradise to your life list.

BIRD NOTES:

- Nov. 9: Solitary Vireo - one at Buffalo Lake NWR (KS), a very late record. Only one other ^{Nov.} record, that of 11/13.
- Nov. 12: Turkey Vulture - three at Buffalo Lake NWR (DM) - a late sighting.
- Nov. 15: Bald Eagle - the arrival date this year, for sure. One in Moore Co. (FC), an immature over Amarillo (PA), two immatures at the Elysian Fields (KS). Rough-legged Hawk - twelve at Etter Lake in Moore Co. (FC), an unusually high number.
- Nov. 16: Northern Shrike - an adult at Buffalo Lake NWR, harassing a flicker (KS).
- Nov. 19: Oldsquaw - a female on the Triangle Ponds east of Tanglewood (DM), a rare visitor to our area, last seen in 1979. Seen later in the day by KS and DW, and again the next day by all three. Seen again 11/29 (KS), 12/1 (PA,DM), 12/4 (DM).
- Nov. 21: Fox Sparrow - one in the Palo Duro Canyon SP (KS).
- Nov. 22: Northern Shrike - an immature at Buffalo Lake NWR (DM).
- Nov. 27: A female Hooded Merganser and male Rusty Blackbird at Buffalo Lake NWR (KS).
- Dec. 4: Greater White-fronted Goose - one at the Elysian Fields (DM).
- Dec. 6: Bonaparte's Gull - four at the Elysian Fields (KS).

PA - Peggy Acord
FC - Fern Cain

DM - Don Myers
KS - Ken Seyffert

DW - Doris Williamson

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Kenneth D. Seyffert
2206 Lipscomb
Amarillo 79109

HIGH COUNTS:

In the annual Christmas Count issue of American Birds a summary of highest counts of individuals for Canada and the United States is published. In all of last year's CBC's, our area produced two of the highest, 207 Wild Turkeys at Lake Meredith(west) and 2265 McCown's Longspurs at Buffalo Lake. We have had the high count before on the turkeys at Lake Meredith and we usually produce the high count on longspurs. One year, I can remember, we produced the high count of Mountain Bluebirds on the Amarillo count. This year a summary of all-time highest counts of individuals was published in American Birds. Sure enough, the all-time highest count for the McCown's Longspur were the 2720 tallied at Buffalo Lake in 1983. Incidentally, the all-time high count for the Lesser Prairie Chicken were the 443 we recorded at Arnett, OK in 1967. We thought it would be of interest to publish a list of all-time highest counts for the Texas Panhandle only:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Amarillo (Palo Duro Canyon) | 4. Lake Meredith(east) |
| 2. Buffalo Lake | 5. Quitaque (Caprock Canyons) |
| 3. Lake Meredith(west) | 6. Friona |

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Common Loon				3		
Pied-billed Grebe				17		
Horned Grebe				14		
Eared Grebe				20		
<u>Western Grebe</u>		2				
American White Pelican				1		
Double-crested Cormorant		3				
American Bittern		1		1		
Great Blue Heron				24		
<u>Black-crowned Night Heron</u>		3				
Tundra Swan			3			
Greater White-fronted Goose		1				
Snow Goose		107				
Ross' Goose		2				
<u>Canada Goose</u>		50,000				
Wood Duck		1				
Green-winged Teal		25,000				
Mallard		225,000				
Northern Pintail		200,100				
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u>				1		
Northern Shoveler		100				
Gadwall		8500				
American Wigeon		100,000				
<u>Canvasback</u>		100				
Redhead				104		
Ring-necked Duck		150				
Greater Scaup					1	
Lesser Scaup		8500				
<u>Common Goldeneye</u>				81		
Bufflehead		100				
Hooded Merganser			8			
Common Merganser		2500				
Red-breasted Merganser		3				
Ruddy Duck		20				
<u>Bald Eagle</u>		35				
Northern Harrier						42
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4					
Cooper's Hawk	2			2		
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>		1	1			
<u>Red-tailed Hawk</u>			34			
Ferruginous Hawk		15				
Rough-legged Hawk		11				11
Golden Eagle	7		7			
<u>American Kestrel</u>					104	
Merlin						5
Peregrine Falcon	1					1
Prairie Falcon	3	3				
Ring-necked Pheasant						25
<u>Lesser Prairie Chicken</u>			4			
<u>Wild Turkey</u>			243			
Northern Bobwhite		148				
Scaled Quail			320			
Virginia Rail				14		
<u>Sora</u>		1		1		

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Common Moorhen	2			2		
American Coot		1535				
Sandhill Crane		7000				
Killdeer	19					
Greater Yellowlegs	3					
Long-billed Curlew						237
Least Sandpiper	9		9			
Stilt Sandpiper	1					
Common Snipe	3		3			
Bonaparte's Gull				135		
Ring-billed Gull			643			
Herring Gull		135				
Glaucous Gull		1				
Black-legged Kittiwake	1					
Rock Dove				62		
Mourning Dove					503	
Inca Dove					1	
Greater Roadrunner					10	
Common Barn-Owl						2
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	1			1	
Great Horned Owl		8				
Burrowing Owl						6
Long-eared Owl		3			3	
Short-eared Owl						1
White-throated Swift	2					
Belted Kingfisher				8		
Golden-fronted Woodpecker	61					
Red-bellied Woodpecker			4			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6					
Williamson's Sapsucker	1					
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	34					
Downy Woodpecker			13			
Hairy Woodpecker			13			
Northern Flicker			111			
Eastern Phoebe					1	
Says Phoebe			4			
Horned Lark		1500				
Blue Jay			16			
Scrub Jay	20					
Pinyon Jay			40			
American Crow					1085	
Chihuahuan Raven				2	2	
Common Raven			1			
Carolina Chickadee			64			
Black-crested Titmouse	24					
Verdin	1					
Bushtit	100					
Red-breasted Nuthatch			6			
White-breasted Nuthatch			3			
Brown Creeper			19			
Cactus Wren		1				
Rock Wren					11	
Canyon Wren	7					
Bewick's Wren	35					
House Wren	2					
Winter Wren			3			
Marsh Wren				21		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18					
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1		
Eastern Bluebird			186			
Western Bluebird	50					
Mountain Bluebird					663	
Townsend's Solitaire	28					
Hermit Thrush	6					
American Robin	4874					
Gray Catbird	2					
Northern Mockingbird	51					
Sage Thrasher					6	
Brown Thrasher	5					
Curve-billed Thrasher			7			
Water Pipit					7	
Cedar Waxwing					434	
Northern Shrike	1	1	1	1	1	1
Loggerhead Shrike				25		

Species	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
European Starling				500,000		
Orange-crowned Warbler					3	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10					
Northern Cardinal	69					
Pyrrhuloxia	2				2	
Green-tailed Towhee	3					
Rufous-sided Towhee	34					
Brown Towhee	7					
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	42					
American Tree Sparrow			369			
Chipping Sparrow				20		
Brewer's Sparrow					3	
Field Sparrow			47			
Vesper Sparrow						31
Lark Sparrow	1				1	
Black-throated Sparrow	2					
Lark Bunting		589				
Savannah Sparrow						58
Le Conte's Sparrow			1			
Fox Sparrow	8					
Song Sparrow			180			
Lincoln's Sparrow	22					
Swamp Sparrow					3	
White-throated Sparrow	70					
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1					
White-crowned Sparrow		985				
Harris' Sparrow			33			
Dark-eyed Junco					1057	
McCown's Sparrow		2720				
Lapland Longspur		1690				
Chestnut-collared Longspur					2000	
Red-winged Blackbird				1,500,000		
Eastern Meadowlark				17		
Western Meadowlark					660	
Yellow-headed Blackbird		20				
Rusty Blackbird			12			
Brewer's Blackbird				120,000		
Great-tailed Grackle				40		
Common Grackle				31		
Brown-headed Cowbird				30,000		
Purple Finch	3					
House Finch			190			
Red Crossbill					30	
Pine Siskin					6952	
Lesser Goldfinch	4					
American Goldfinch					1522	
Evening Grosbeak					15	
House Sparrow		900				

While these were the birds we looked at, here are the names of the people they looked at:

Peggy Acord; Elaine Adams; Lula Bell Adams; Ken Adkisson; Alice Allen; Mike Allender; Pat Andress; Jodie Anthis; Jerry Askins; Robert Askins; Greg Arledge; Margaret Bailey; Esther Banks; Lee Banks; James Beck; Billy Besett; Orilla Bryant; Raymond Bryant; Richard Bryant; Gary Burkman; Richard Byrns; Fern Cain; Jack Cain; Anet Carlisle; Taylor Carlisle; Lance Clemons; Keith Coffee; John Crow; Hugh Currie; Roberta Currie; Robert Darnell; Vera Deason; Bill Dingus; Larry Duke; Estelle Duncan; Sandi Eads; Chip Elliott; Ed Elliott; Elizabeth Elliott; Nancy Elliott; Cindy Ellis; E. B. Ellis; Gus Empie; Marguerite Empie; Rosemary English; Lucile Fiedler; Steve Fiedler; Joed Forbus; Mary Forbus; Maurine Forbus; Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Foster; Roger Foster; Thelma Fox; Don Gage; Leo Galloway; Ruth Galloway; Gared Gibson; H. G. GIBSON; Virginia Gill; Waymon Gill; Bobby Gleason; Mary Glenn; Bob Gravestock; Mary Griffith; Richard Gritman; James Hamous; Molly Harsham; Kelly Himmel; Marguerite Hollar; Bill Holliday; Ginger Holliday; Dave Huffine; Kathy Huffine; Ronald Ice; Burl Jackson; Tom Johnson; Carol Jokerst; Jim Jokerst; Stephen Joyner; Rita Kenney; Eugene Laycock; Carroll Littlefield; Randy Livingston; Barbara Lund; Ruth Marshall; Kenneth Mathews; Marie Mayfiel; Jim Montgomery; Arnold Moorhouse; L. E. Moyer; Mary Moyer; Don Myers; Betty Newby; George Newby; Tom Patterson; Charles Pedersen; Sharon Pedersen; John Phillips; Wes Phillips; Brian Pruitt; Joann Pruitt; Thelma Puntch; Casey Reese; Joel Reese; Lacy Reynolds; Lea Reynolds; Pat Ridge; Rena Ross; Tommy Rosson; Gerald Sanders; Sonny Sanders; Rosemary Scott; Mr. & Mrs. Tolliver Settle; Kenneth Seyffert; C. G. Shaffler; Frank Smith; Darleen Stevens; Estelle Stevens; Charles Smith; Norman Stover; Frank Stowers; Milton Suthers; Jack Taylor; John Taylor; Paul Taylor; Jim Tucker; Esther Waddill; Winnie Wester; Joel Wheeler; Jack Williams; Wayne Williams; Doris Williamson; Larry Wynn; Barry Zimmer.