

THE PRAIRIE HORNED LARK
 Newsletter of the Texas Panhandle Audubon Society
 406 West Grand, Borger, TX 790087

PROGRAM FOR APRIL

The Texas Panhandle Audubon Society will be having their Conservation Dinner on Monday night, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the Amarillo Garden Center. This is the annual meeting when someone in the Texas Panhandle is honored for their conservation practices. We have an interesting speaker, Mr. David Webster, area conservationist for twenty counties for the Soil Conservation Service. Mr. Webster has had interesting and varied experiences in this field for the past twenty years in both the United States and Australia. He has a very interesting presentation on the "New Farm Bill and How it Affects Society."

Any members who would like to exhibit some of their art work of various forms will be welcome and are asked to phone Joann Pruitt immediately to tell her the amount of table space you will need.

Also, this is a dinner meeting, so will need reservations. The dinner is \$6.00 and reservations must be made by Thursday, April 23, by phoning Joann Pruitt 355-8425, preferable afternoon or evenings. We hope to see you.

FIELD TRIPS

The March 29 Geology field trip was cancelled due to the weather. It will be rescheduled, probably in the fall.

Saturday, April 18, 8:30 a.m. Buffalo Lake. Meet at entrance. Early migrants and wildflowers.

BIG DAY, Saturday, May 9 Peggy Acord will cover Buffalo Lake and some other areas. Rosemary Scott will head up the Palo Duro area. Fern Cain will cover the Northern Potter County area. We need volunteers to accompany the leaders and people who would like to cover the cemeteries, Lake Tanglewood, ponds and roads. Please contact Nancy Elliott 358-1492 or Peggy Acord 352-6372

May 14, 15, 16, Texas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting in Guadalupe Mountains.

Eight people enjoyed the field trip at Buffalo Lake, March 15. They were: Lea Reynolds, Robert Smith, Don Myers, Joel Reese, Ed and Nancy Elliott, Fern Cain and Peggy Acord. Twenty-nine species were seen, probably the best of which were the Mountain Plovers and the Northern Shrike.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS UPDATE I am sure you are all getting anxious for further information concerning this project, no more so than I am. I am expecting any day now packets containing instruction booklets and forms for use by the participants. As soon as they arrive I will mail them to the individuals I hope will participate, even if on a limited basis. There are so few interested and skilled observers in the Panhandle that we need everyone's help. We have 120 blocks in our region that must be surveyed over a five-year period (= 24/year). I have selected these blocks and will send in the individual packets a map showing their locations. Each block corresponds to a 7.5' U. S. Geological Survey quadrangle. Remember -- nesting for some species has already begun and others are courting! Please jot down any nesting behavior you observe, even if it's only a bird in breeding habitat or a male singing in breeding habitat, as this is important information. Note the location of these observations so that they can be plotted in a USGS quadrangle, even if that quadrangle has not been selected for intensive surveying. All breeding observations will be used, regardless of location. Believe me, looking for these nesting birds can be fun, and you will be surprised at what you will learn. Kenneth Seyffert

BIRD NOTES

Personnel at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge reports that as of April 3, 25 to 30 of the Whooping Cranes had already left the refuge. Two were seen from the observation point that day. A total of 109 Whoopers wintered at

the refuge. They have been sighted in the Texas Panhandle so keep your eyes open. We might see some on their journey north.

Dick DeArment says that the Lesser Prairie Chickens are already displaying. He took some people out while the snow was on the ground to see them.

March 14. Merlin at Buffalo NWR being harrassed by a pair of Kestrels; ten Mountain Plover in the prairie dog town at Buffalo Lake NWR. (KS) Seen later in the day by Don Myers. This is the earliest date on record. Long-eared Owl, three together in the salt cedar stand at the upper end of BLNWR. (KS)

March 15. Hairy Woodpecker at BLNWR. Osprey at BLNWR. ((JR)

March 22. Bushtit pair building nest, largely completed, in top of juniper in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. (KS)

March 24. Franklin's Gull and Avocet at Trangle Ponds (DM)

March 26. Black-crowned Night Heron, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs at Triangle Ponds (DM)

March 30. Townsend's Solitaire in yard, Borger. (FC)
Two Golden Eagles near playa west of Pampa, Gray County. (FS)

April 1. Cattle Egret, one at BLNWR, earliest record and one of only a few spring sightings. Mountain Plover, 8 in prairie dog town at BLNWR. Long-eared Owl, 1 at head of draw at lower end of BLNWR. Great-horned Owl, adult on nest built on ledge on canyon wall at BLNWR. Vermillion Flycatcher, one male at BLNWR. The last sighting was in 1978. (KS)

April 4. Tundra Swan, 1 immature on the Goulde playa off South Washington Street, Amarillo. (KS)

April 7. Cattle Egret and Great Egret at Triangle Ponds (DM)

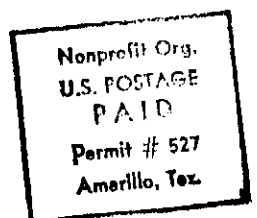
April 8. Merlin, Turkey Vultures, Snow Geese (100), Barn Swallow, Say's Phoebe, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Vega area, Oldham County. (RS)
Also, Rosemary says that her wintering Green-tailed Towhee was still coming to her yard in Amarillo as of 4-8.

April 11. Swainson's Hawks in the Panhandle. DM & FC

According to the Rare Bird Alert telephone tape for the Texas Coast eight species of warblers, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Vireos were seen at High Island on April 10. Also, shorebirds are coming in in good numbers at the Boliver Flat area, so some of these should find their way to the Texas Panhandle before long. The exciting spring migration time is her, so get out among them, and let me know your findings.

I appreciate all the help I am getting especially from Mary Moyer, Kenneth Seyffert, Peggy Acord, Don Myers, Rosemary Scott, and Frank Smith. You are like H&R Block to Me. "I couldn't have done it without you." FC

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