



The Prairie Horned Lark

Newsletter of the Panhandle Bird Club

Vol. X No. 5

May 10, 2009

Panhandle Rare Bird Alert

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Please call or e-mail Connie, with information on any unusual birds or first seasonal arrivals you see in the Panhandle.

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Caprock Canyons State Park

May 2, 2009

Joel Reese, fieldtrip leader

This was that cold misty day. I wasn't sure if anyone would come down from Amarillo, but four brave souls joined me-- Susan Thompson, Georgia and Leon Swift, and Karen (the new nature interpreter at the park)! We started the morning with our usual stop at Dry Creek Lake. Only a group of Blue-winged Teal and a few Ruddy Ducks, so we decided to walk along the very wooded dam to see some activity on the other side. After the thickets got too thick to continue, I decided to drop down to the lake edge and see if the path back would be a little "less thick". The group was stopped in their tracks to view a beautiful yellow warbler that brightened the gloomy morning dew. Well, I no more than got to the edge when I sighted an even **BRIGHTER** sight—four male **Painted Buntings** were flittering around the tall grass; and as if that wasn't enough, they were joined by a male and female **ROSE-BREADED GROS-BEAK!** And the best part, all these birds moved closer to us as they searched and nibbled along the grass. We all agreed it was a "once in a life time" event! The colors were so much more vivid with the contrasting dull overcast. Well, how can I add to that, how about four Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, three Bullock's Orioles, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, several, ever-lovely, male Cardinals, and one Blue Grosbeak. **JUST A GREAT DAY**, our day list follows:

Gadwall
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Ruddy Duck
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Swainson's Hawk



Lark Sparrow by Mindee Poldrack



Painted Bunting

photography by Troney Toler

American Kestrel
 American Coot
 Killdeer
 Mourning Dove
 Greater Roadrunner
 Chimney Swift
 Golden-fronted Woodpecker
 Eastern Phoebe
 Ash-throated Flycatcher
 Western Kingbird
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Horned Lark
 Cliff Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-crested Titmouse
 Bewick's Wren
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Northern Mockingbird
 Yellow Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Cassin's Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow
 Grasshopper Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak
 Painted Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Western Meadowlark
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Great-tailed Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Bullock's Oriole
 House Finch
 Pine Siskin
 House Sparrow

**Have You Got
 an Idea for a
 Field Trip?**

If you have access to a private ranch or other birding spot or have a favorite place to bird that you would like to suggest for a Panhandle Bird Club Field Trip, please contact Susan Thompson at 517-0772 or suthomps@sbcglobal.net.



Rudy Cadra and Susan Thompson

McBride Canyon Field Trip Report

April 11, 2009

Participants: Carolyn Boyd, Rudy Cadra, Judith Evans, Robert & Carrie King, Carl and Mindee Poldrack, Michael Ryan, Tim Stroud, and Susan Thompson (leader)

It was a cold morning with overcast skies, and just the slightest bit of drizzle starting out. I was especially happy that Carl and Mindee Poldrack, who have birded McBride Canyon more than I have, were along.

First we birded the tall cottonwoods and western soapberry motts at McBride House. We picked up a nice assortment of passerines including Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, a Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, loads of Northern Cardinals and American Robins, and an Ash-throated Flycatcher whose “come here” call helped us find him. Our ears also allowed us to identify a Northern Bobwhite and Spotted Towhee.

Grass Hopper Sparrow
 By Dave Herr



Spotted Towhee photography by Troney Toler

We slowly drove the road up McBride Canyon until it essentially runs out within view of the place where the Canadian River starts to become Lake Meredith. There we saw a large flock of Tree Sparrows, a group of Blue-winged Teal, and of course the usual suspects such as Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Great Blue Herons.

Our next stop was Mullinaw Creek where we walked a bit of the trail and got to see another good group of little songbirds, adding Yellow-rumped Warbler to our list, and getting some more looks and listens at gnatcatchers, cardinals, towhees, and kinglets.

The drive to the Alibates Visitor Center took us through some White-crowned Sparrows and Lark Sparrows, as well as within view of a Swainson's Hawk. We had intended to eat lunch there at the new (3 year old?) Visitor Center after taking advantage of "real" restrooms to wash up, but alas, it was locked up tight. We tried eating lunch in the picnic area but it was cold and windy, so most of us had our sandwiches in our vehicles, although not without some teasing from the tougher and cold-hardier birders.

Before heading back to Amarillo, Rudy and the Poldracks encouraged us to go north on 136 just a bit to look at a Red-tailed Hawk nest, which proved a fine sight. After that, we birders went our separate ways to our separate Saturday afternoon plans.

Carolyn, Judith, and I decided to stop by Thompson Park on the way back, even though it was raining steadily by the time we arrived. We car-birded for a while, racking up a pretty decent list of waterfowl. The highlight was a group of 18 White-faced Ibis, a species none of us had seen at Thompson Park before.

Bird List (45 Species)

- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Redhead
- Bufflehead
- Ruddy Duck
- Northern Bobwhite
- Pied-billed Grebe



Golden-fronted Woodpecker
by Marc Stich

- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- White-faced Ibis
- Turkey Vulture
- Northern Harrier
- Swainson's Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- American Kestrel
- American Coot
- Killdeer
- Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Golden-fronted Woodpecker
- Ladder-backed Woodpecker
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Chihuahuan Raven
- Tree Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- American Robin
- European Starling
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Spotted Towhee
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Western Meadowlark
- Great-tailed Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- House Sparrow



Yellow-rumped Warbler
photography by Troney Toler

Field Trip Report : Lesser Prairie-Chickens in Lipscomb County

April 26, 2009

Participants: Carl & Mindee Poldrack, Susan Thompson (coordinator)

After a *very* comfortable stay at Kim's Cottage, a B&B in downtown Canadian (which I heartily recommend), I was packed up and ready to go a little after 5:00 a.m. when our guide, Dick Wilberforce, met me and the Poldracks right on my doorstep. We headed north through the dark to a Lesser Prairie-Chicken lek on a private ranch in Lipscomb County.

Dick parked his truck and we stepped out into some amazingly strong wind as the eastern sky was getting lighter. Despite the wind, I clearly heard a Cassin's Sparrow singing somewhere nearby, FOS for me. We walked a quarter mile or so to the blind. Dick carefully checked it for rattlesnakes before letting us enter. Inside, there were padded folding chairs to settle onto and the blind was roomy, as blinds go.

It wasn't long before we heard something akin to cackling – the males had arrived. Soon we could make out their shadowy silhouettes. The specialized feathers on their heads, called pinnae, were held straight up during their displays giving them a jackrabbitty air.

Soon there was enough light to discern some color, and I found my eye being caught continually by those reddish air sacks in their necks, and also their bright yellow “eye brows,” first on one prairie-chicken, then on another, and another as the birds bowed and bobbed, jumped and landed. (There was less jumping than usual, Dick reported, because with the winds up, the birds tended to want to avoid being blown several feet sideways while they were airborne.)

The wind kept blowing but even so, we could hear Grasshopper Sparrows adding their buzzing calls to the Cassin's sparrows songs.

The Lesser Prairie-Chicken was a life bird for Carl and Mindee. They were positively beaming from this chance to be so near to these amazing birds, and I felt I was pretty much radiating happiness myself. At times, the males were displaying and sparring only about 15 feet away from us. I had brought my scope and had it set up, but I wasn't even tempted to use it – there just was no need.

Our high count for the morning was 16 males. We didn't see any females, and Dick explained that by this time of year most females are sitting on nests already, and would only show up to look for a male if they'd had their nest predated upon and needed to start another one. The males were ever hopeful...

We stayed until the males had wrapped things up and left, close to 10:00. Time flew though!!! Dick's view – and I'm persuaded by the wisdom of it – is that we ought not to disrupt the prairie-chickens' natural behavior if at all possible. He explained that had we left the blind before they were through displaying, they would have flown off and not been back until the next morning. Prairie-

Chickens have plenty of challenges without birders – who love them probably more than anyone – adding to their problems.

Speaking of prairie-chicken problems, Dick explained that for the last 15 years or so, this particular lek has had around 40 displaying males. (This is apparently about the size of the leks when Europeans first arrived; historically the leks weren't huge – there were just a whole lot more of them.) Last year, a new natural gas line went through the property about a half mile from the lek, and this spring there are only around 20 displaying males...

And Dick relayed more news on the Greater Prairie-Chicken front. A number of us in the club have been to the greater p-c lek near Dexter, Kansas on the Massey's place. Well, there were no displaying males there this year. None. Another lek bites the dust. (Leks don't just “come back” by the way.)

Friends, these species are in the process, right now, of fading away, right here in our high plains ecoregion and neighboring ecoregions. I'm not saying there's no hope, but with wind turbines proliferating in our area, their plight gets even rockier, since p-c's evolved to stay away from tall vertical structures that loosely resemble (to the p-c's anyway) good raptor roosts. (I'm not anti-wind-energy; I'm just relaying the facts that p-c populations crash in response to nearby wind turbines.)

Anyway, the least we birders can do is to talk to other people who live around here and have never heard of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken, let alone seen a lekfull of them. Tell about how amazing and special this bird is, if that is indeed what you think and how you feel. Let them know that despite the weird name, the rather amusing name, they're not a joke, nor a mythical creature. They aren't domestic chickens brought in by the pioneers that have “gone wild.” (Seriously, people don't know.)

Back to birding: Dick took us up to Lipscomb, and we drove around this vibrant little town. (He even unlocked the art museum there so we could use a real bathroom.) The birding highlights in Lipscomb included Chimney Swifts, an Eastern Bluebird, an Eastern Kingbird, and a Baltimore Oriole – that's right – sharing the same tree with a Bullock's Oriole.

Fun, great birding!! We said our goodbyes back in Canadian, scrambling back to our vehicles just as a heavy-duty hailstorm broke.

Rare Birds for the month of April

By Connie Fordham

American White Pelican

3 on 4/22/09, Gray County, Rudy Cadra

Double-crested Cormorant

2-4/14/09, Thompson Pk, Amarillo, Potter Co., Billie Shalvey

Snowy Egret

2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Cattle Egret

2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson
4 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

American Bittern

1 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

White-faced Ibis

3 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Snow Goose

1 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Ross's Goose

2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Mississippi Kite

1 on 4/23/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
5 on 4/26/09, Sunray, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz
21 on 4/27/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Ruth Starr

Sora

heard 4/26/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Ray Matlack

Common Moorhen

1 on 4/26/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Ray Matlack

Black-necked Stilt

4 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson
7 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

American Avocet

7 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson
1 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson
4 on 4/22/09, Gray County, Rudy Cadra

American Golden-Plover

2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Wilson's Snipe

2 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson
2 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

Short-billed Dowitcher

8 on 4/19/09, Hale County, Anthony Hewetson

Marbled Godwit

4 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Long-billed Curlew

36 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson
22 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Upland Sandpiper

2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson
2 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Greater Yellowlegs

2 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

Lesser Yellowlegs

1-4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson
2 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Western Sandpiper

1 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

Baird's Sandpiper

2 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

Wilson's Phalarope

2 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson
3 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Franklin's Gull

2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Chimney Swift

1 on 4/23/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

1 on 4/26/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Black-chinned Hummingbird

1-4/15/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Ruth Starr
1-4/18/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
2 on 4/24/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
1 on 4/26/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
4/27/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Ruth Starr
1 on 4/30/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Broad-tailed Hummingbird

1 on 4/24/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
1 on 4/26/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Downy Woodpecker

2 on 4/15/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Ruth Starr

Eastern Phoebe

1-4/18/09, Palo Duro Canyon, Randall Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Say's Phoebe

1 on 4/8/09, Dumas, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Cassin's Kingbird

2 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson
1 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Western Kingbird

1 on 4/15/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
4/18/2009, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
1 on 4/22/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Judith Evans
1 on 4/22/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Judith Evans
4/25/09, Dumas, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

4/18/2009, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
2 on 4/20/09, Lk Tanglewood, Randall Co., Marilyn Hill
4/25/09, Dumas, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Purple Martin

4 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson
2 on 4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

Tree Swallow

2 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Bank Swallow

2 on 4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Barn Swallow

4/8/09, Dumas, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz
4/15/09, Pampa, Gray Co., Kathryn Green

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

1 on 4/9/09, WTAMU, Canyon, Randall Co., Connie Fordham

Cedar Waxwing

10 on 4/9/09, WTAMU, Canyon, Randall Co., Connie
1 on 4/15/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Ruth Starr
10 on 4/19/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Bewick's Wren

1 on 4/9/09, WTAMU, Canyon, Randall Co., Connie Fordham

House Wren

1-4/18/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals
1 on 4/27/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Connie Fordham

Gray Catbird

1 on 4/26/09, Lk. Tanglewood, Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

Sage Thrasher

1 on 4/27/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Ray Matlack

Curve-billed Thrasher

4/13/09, Amarillo, Potter Co., Ruth Starr

Mountain Bluebird

2 on4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Hermit Thrush

1 on4/21/09, WTAMU,Canyon,Randall Co., Connie

Black-crested Titmouse

2 on4/26/09, Lk.Tanglewood,Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

Red-breasted Nuthatch

1on4/15/09, Amarillo,Potter Co., Ruth Starr

Blue-headed Vireo

1 on4/23/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Orange-crowned Warbler

1on4/7/2009, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

1 on4/9/09, WTAMU,Canyon,Randall Co., Connie Fordham

2 on4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

1 on4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

1 on4/22/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

1 on4/23/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

1 on4/24/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Virginia's Warbler

1 on4/28/09, Lk.Tanglewood,Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

Lucy's Warbler

1on4/15/09, Timbercreek,Randall Co., Craig Hinger

Northern Parula

1on4/19/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Connie Fordham

Yellow Warbler

1-4/18/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

1 on4/22/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Yellow-rumped Warbler

5 on4/9/09, WTAMU,Canyon, Randall Co., Connie Fordham

4 on4/24/09, Lk.Tanglewood,Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

Yellow-throated Warbler

1 on4/22/09, Lk.Tanglewood, Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

Black-and-white Warbler

1on4/9/09, WTAMU,Canyon,Randall Co., Connie Fordham

Worm-eating Warbler

1 on4/27/09, PaloDuroStPk,Randall Co., Ray Matlack

Kentucky Warbler

1 on4/21/09, LkTanglewood,Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

MacGillivray's Warbler

1-4/18/09, PaloDuroCanyon,Randall Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Wilson's Warbler

2-4/16/09, WTAMU,Canyon,Randall Co., Connie Fordham

4/18/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

1 on4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

1 on4/19/09, Hale County, Anthony Hewetson

1 on4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

2 on4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

1 on4/23/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Connie Fordham

1 on4/24/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Spotted Towhee

1 on4/24/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Chipping Sparrow

4 on4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

2 on 4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

4 on4/19/09, Hale County, Anthony Hewetson

6 on4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

1 on4/22/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

4/24/09, Pantex,Carson County, Monty Schoenhals

4/29/09, Pampa, Gray Co., Jan Elston

Clay-colored Sparrow

2 on4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

2 on4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

Lark Sparrow

4/24/09, Pantex,Carson Co., Monty Schoenhals

4/25/09, Dumas, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Lark Bunting

4/26/09, Dumas, Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Lincoln's Sparrow

4/22/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

4/24/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

White-crowned Sparrow

4/22/09, Canyon, Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

4/24/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

4/29/09, Pampa,Gray Co., Jan Elston

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

1 on4/24/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

1 on4/30/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Monty Schoenhals

Lazuli Bunting

4/27/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Ray Matlack

Indigo Bunting

3 on4/26/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Connie Fordham

4/27/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Ray Matlack

Yellow-headed Blackbird

18 on4/19/09, Swisher County, Anthony Hewetson

4 on4/19/09, Lamb Co., Anthony Hewetson

4 on4/19/09, Castro County, Anthony Hewetson

20 on4/26/09, Sunray,Moore Co., Carolyn Stallwitz

Bullock's Oriole

2 on4/24/09, Lk.Tanglewood,Randall Co., Marilyn Hill

American Goldfinch

1 on4/23/09, Canyon,Randall Co., Connie Fordham

CORRECTIONS: Please correct your April Issue:

1) Ray Matlack saw the vermilion flycatcher and the tree swallow at Buffalo Lake, not Palo Duro Canyon.

2) Susan Thompson photos are Lesser Goldfinches, not American Goldfinches.



Blue Grosbeak

by Troney Toler

Photo taken at the blind in Palo Duro State Park



Great Horned Owl nest near Bushland

photographed by Marc Stich

Top April 25, 2009

Lower pictures May 2



is on the east side of the road. We will meet at an information kiosk on the west side of the road and hike about 3/4 mile to a shorebird sighting area. We will then go to other areas in the refuge. We will have maps and descriptions of the refuges we plan to visit. After Sequoyah we hope we have time to take a short trip to go to Robert S. Kerr Dam (I-40 Exit 308) for gulls. If we have more time we would like to go to Moffitt Bottoms (Exit 325) for waders and shorebirds. We plan to stay in Fort Smith at the Hampton Inn (479-452-2000). Their usual price is \$101 but they will charge us \$89. When you make your reservation tell them it is under James Luce with the Panhandle Bird Club. They will then charge you with your credit card. On Saturday morning we plan to visit Bona Dea at AR exit 81 and Petit Jean at Exit 108. We will stay at Rosemary's Saturday and Sunday nights. She has generously offered to cook our meals for us. She can accommodate as many as 12 birders in her large house! She will take us to several good birding areas around Conway on Sunday. We will return to Amarillo on Monday. Contact Susan or Jim for any questions and let them know if you are planning to go.. Leaders: Susan Thompson and Jim Luce.

22-25 MAY Conway, Arkansas: Invited by Rosemary Scott (20 Richland Hills, Conway, AR 72034) (501-548-6192) rosemary@landmarkusa.net. Here are the plans for our Memorial Day Weekend trip: Leave Amarillo at 6:30 a.m. which should get us to Oklahoma City about noon. Grab a bite to eat or bring lunch (We do not plan to caravan) and continue driving to Sequoyah NWR, Interstate 40, Exit 297 (Vian Tahlequah) hoping to arrive about 3 p.m. From Exit 297 drive south on 82. At 1.7 miles turn left at a T to the Sandtown Bottom Unit. Go 1.2 miles to near the refuge headquarters which

The Prairie Horned Lark

**Panhandle Bird Club
1213 S Bryan St
Amarillo, TX 79102**

Application for membership in the Panhandle Bird Club \$15.00 Annually September 1 to August 31
Make checks payable to Panhandle Bird Club, Mail to: Connie Fordham, 2404 11th Ave., Canyon, TX 79015

Name: _____ New: ___ Renew: ___ Telephone: _____ email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Field Trip Calendar for May and June, 2009

22-25 MAY Conway, Arkansas area (a.k.a. “We’re Going to See Rosemary at Her Place!”): We’ll drive much of Friday, stopping to bird in a few spots along the way, and stay in Ft. Smith Friday night. We’ll bird in Arkansas all day on Saturday and Sunday. We’ll drive all the way back on Monday (little to no birding planned on return trip). Specifics will firm up as the time gets closer but possible places to bird in Eastern Oklahoma and Western Arkansas include Sequoya NWR (Bald Eagles nest there), Robert S. Kerr Dam, Moffitt Bottoms, Lake Conway, Bell Slough (wide variety of warblers, flycatchers, goatsuckers, buntings and orioles along with shore birds and thrushes) and Bona Dea Sanctuary. In summary, we should be able to find a number of eastern species in prime nesting time. Rosemary has invited us to stay at her house (enough rooms and bathrooms for a crowd,) on Saturday and Sunday nights, and is even offering to feed us!!! We will most likely eat sack lunches on Saturday and Sunday. We might also opt for restaurant meals once or twice during the trip. **Coordinator: Susan Thompson. Leaders: Jim Luce and Rosemary Scott.**

13 JUN Hawks Nest Ranch in Collingsworth County: Meet at 6:20 a.m. (note early meeting time) at the west side of the Southwest Branch Amarillo Public Library parking lot (nearest to McDonald Lake). Alternate meeting spot will be at The Outpost in Clarendon at 7:30 a.m. For a rendezvous point later on in Collingworth Co., call 806-674-0789 on that day to learn where we are. Bring lunch. **Leader: Georgia Swift**

20 JUN Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area (Formerly “Cross Bar Ranch”): The Cactus Wren is our target bird. This site (15 miles north of Amarillo), is 12,000 acres BLM land managed in cooperation with West Texas A&M. Public access by road is strictly limited, so take advantage of this opportunity. Meet at 7:20 a.m. at the west side of the Southwest Branch Amarillo Public Library parking lot (nearest to McDonald Lake). Alternate meeting spot will be at Cliffside Gas Plant at 8:05 a.m. Directions to the gas plant: from Western, turn west on Brick Plant Road. (Brick Plant Road intersects Western roughly a mile north of the north side of Loop 335.) Stay on Brick Plant Road for roughly 11 miles – the road will twist and turn and cross over a few cattle guards and one water crossing. The pavement ends at Cliffside Gas Plant. IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL NOTES: Reasonably high clearance vehicles are needed to travel inside the Cross Bar and we will need to minimize the number of vehicles we take in – other vehicles may be left at the gas plant. Also we will all need to come out together so we plan on wrapping up the trip by 1:30 p.m. Bring lunch. **Leader: Susan Thompson**