



BLACK MESA FIELD TRIP

September 4, 5 & 6, 2010

Join Payne County Audubon Society on a Labor Day jaunt to Black Mesa country to find western species not to be found back here in central Oklahoma. It's a long drive, but the birding possibilities are worth it. The species list is literally too long to print here, even the list of species found there and not in Payne County.

But let's throw out a few good ones just to whet your appetite. We'll be particularly interested to see Scaled Quail, Townsend's Solitaire, Say's Phoebe, Curve-billed Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, Scrub, Pinion and Stellar's Jays and, of course, the abundant Lark Bunting. And that's just for starters!

Where: We will meet at the parking lot across the street from city hall in Stillwater at 1:45 p.m. on Friday, September 3. We leave promptly at 2:00. We will have

dinner along the way, arriving at Black Mesa State Park that evening.

Accommodations: Those who prefer to camp will drop off at the state park. Sites are \$12 per night and include heated bathrooms, flush toilets, and showers.

Others who prefer full accommodations will proceed west to Hoot Owl Ranch in Kenton. Reservations at the ranch are up to the individual. Call 1-877-226-5791 or 1-580-261-7789 to make arrangements. Singles are \$79, doubles \$99. Both include a country breakfast.

Meals: Aside from the breakfasts offered at Hoot Owl, the trip does not include meals. However, Les and Patty Imboden plan to prepare evening meals for those who are interested in joining them Saturday and Sunday evenings. You may bring your own, but if you want to join Les and Patty you may email them at lesnpat@yahoo.com.

Birding: Saturday we will bird Hoot Owl Ranch in the morning, and as long as we find good birding thereafter. There is a \$5 fee for non-residents. If time permits we can move north to the national grasslands to see what Carrizo Creek has to offer. Sunday we will bird Black Mesa State Park and Lake Carl Etling. Monday we will bird some well-noted water features on our way home.

Contacts: Please advise trip leader Michael Harvey or assistant leader Les Imboden if you intend to join us. You can reach Michael at mharve@okstate.edu, phone 918-504-2337; or Les at lesnpat@yahoo.com; 405-533-1532. Be certain they know whether you will be caravanning with the group or meeting us at Black Mesa.