

# The Roadrunner

Central Texas Audubon Society Issue 260 April 2011

## President's Message

**Looking forward** to Spring migrants and our resident hummingbirds to begin returning. Many festivals are coming up that will provide some great birding for anyone who has an interest in those. If you attend a festival, please send a report of what you see for our final May newsletter. I want to take some space to extend our thanks to Eric Haskell for all he has done for our chapter in his time here in Waco. He has been invaluable in serving as a leader of our society as well as finding expert speakers program and leading field trips. Eric will be greatly missed and I know I speak for the group in saying that we wish him and his family the best as they settle into life at the Strom Thurmond Lake in Georgia. Also, I want to say a word of welcome to Anna Dunbar who will take on the task of getting our newsletter compiled and ready for print. Next month we will send our reports to [annadunbar56@yahoo.com](mailto:annadunbar56@yahoo.com). Anna will be sending a reminder of when she will need your bird sightings. Upcoming volunteer opportunities are: Lake Waco Cleanup on April 9, Gardener's Gathering at the Arboretum on April 10 from 1-4. Earth Day at the zoo from 9-3 on April 16. Field trip to Russell Ranch on April 30-more details later. Remember our next meeting is on April 19 at the Arboretum. See you there or out birding.

Janet



**Yellow-crowned Night Herons nesting on Riverwalk, by Eric Haskell**

## Apr15 meeting: Birds of Choke Canyon

Bryan Stone & Harriet Shearer will present their observations of unusual sightings at Choke Cyn SP near Corpus Christi, on Tuesday at 7:30pm at Carleen Bright Arboretum on Bosque Blvd in Woodway. Choke Cyn has some of the northernmost recorded sightings of several "Texas" birds seen in the Rio Grande Valley, along with its own unusual ecosystem. Refreshments will be served starting at 7pm. **Carleen Bright Arboretum is located in Woodway north of HWY84 at the intersection of Bosque and Estates Drive.**

**Social-** I invite anyone interested in helping with refreshments to contact me at:

[anngordon@hot.rr.com](mailto:anngordon@hot.rr.com) or if necessary by phone: 848-4135.

## EVENTS

- **Apr 9 is the annual Waco Lake Shore cleanup** from 9am-3pm at Twin Bridges Day Use Area, volunteers needed. Lunch is provided.
- Also needed are folks to staff the Audubon booth for **Earth Day at Cameron Park Zoo Apr 16.**
- On **April 30** at 9am (meet 8am) we're planning to visit a new site, **Russell Ranch** near Pidcoke, to look for migrant birds.

## Sightings and Reports

**Eric Haskell;** Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm with the Audubon mission! I invite everyone to explore the free Wildlife Management Areas around the lake (just get a lake map), especially for the next CBC. Many have trails, good forest and grasslands, and many birds to spot. Only beware during turkey or deer seasons.



**Reynolds Ck eagle nest by Eric Haskell**

A male Bluebird checked out our box for the first time 4/3/11, and we scared the Starlings out of Martin house 2 by taking it down. At Waco Lake the nesting **Bald Eagles** were photographed Thu 3/31/11 with 2 chicks, by Spencer Moore. I saw my FOS **Snowy & Cattle Egrets** 4/4/11 at Airport Beach, **B&W Warblers** at S2 WMA on Middle Bosque River 3/25/11, then 3/28 FOS **LBHeron + Grasshopper Sparrow** at Flatrock, and FOS **Swainson's Hawk** the last week of March. This is the earliest I've seen Avocets at the lake (8yrs), + FOS **Solitary Sp.** at Flat Rock with gulls. Also noted my last? **RC Kinglet & Spotted Towhee** on Lacy Pt. Paradise Trail 4/1/11, & late **Bonaparte's Gull** still at Airport Park gravel bar 4/1/11, joined by a few Franklin's Gulls & some Ringbills.

Further afield I was happy to see over 20 YCNight Herons already setting up nests in the Baldcypresses of San Antonio's Riverwalk 3/13/11!

**Joe Yelderman;** Beware the Ides of March: I saw my FOS shorebirds March 14 when several Pectoral Sandpipers were observed

amidst construction at the WMARSS ponds and 4 Long-billed Dowitchers were feeding at one of the Rosenfeld Dairy ponds. Other birds of interest seen since then include Scissor-tailed FC, Barn Swallow, and a White-throated Sparrow along the Brazos near MCC.

**Harriet Shearer;** First of season hummingbird. Elysian Lane in Woodway, Friday, April 1.

**Ann Gordon;** 3/30/11, at 7:40 a.m. I saw a hummingbird hovering around the waterfall. He would go away for a few seconds then return to hover some more. He finally went to the upper left shelf of the falls and sat in the water, put his head down and bathed and probably drank. The light was not good enough for a photo and my flash would not reach from the house. My blind was put away for a day because of the rain predictions so I just have a verbal report. I watched him in the water for maybe 3 minutes, a long time, and got a glimpse of color that told me he was not a Ruby-throated. I am getting my HB feeders ready now. When I can get it cooled down I will put it out. I saw a **Nashville Warbler** bathing in the drip puddle 3/21/11 at 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Frank Bumgardner;** Jeanette and I had a male **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in the backyard in March, migrant **Thrasher**, & a flock of **Little Blue Herons** across from the Wetlands at the end of March.

**Earth Share's Mission;** To engage individuals and organizations in creating a healthy and sustainable environment.  
[www.earthshare.org/index.html](http://www.earthshare.org/index.html)

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES I'd like to join Please enroll me as a member of National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for **\$20: the introductory fee** is enclosed

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Send this application and check to:

**National Audubon Society**  
Chapter Membership Data Center  
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Include chapter code of **W06 7XCH**

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**Rich Kostecke;** Iron Bridge Park and associated wildlife management areas, where the Leon River enters Belton Lake, in Bell County on the morning of 3/26/11.

Blue-winged Teal 31, Northern Shoveler 18, Greenwinged Teal 5, Hooded Merganser 4, Wild Turkey 1, Neotropic Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant 31, American White Pelican 3, Great Blue Heron 2, Black Vulture 34, Turkey Vulture 19, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 2, Killdeer 23, Solitary Sandpiper 1 - my FOS, Greater Yellowlegs 5, Lesser Yellowlegs 6, Least Sandpiper 126, Baird's Sandpiper 4 - my FOS, Wilson's Snipe 26, Franklin's Gull 2, Ring-billed Gull 13, Mourning Dove 25, Red-bellied Woodpecker 13, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, Eastern Phoebe 1, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 1 - my FOS, White-eyed Vireo 22, Blue-headed Vireo 2, American Crow 14, Carolina Chickadee 26, Black-crested Titmouse 12, Carolina Wren 16, Bewick's Wren 4, House Wren 8, Winter Wren 1, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 11, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6, Eastern Bluebird 7, Hermit Thrush 2, Northern Mockingbird 7, European Starling 3, American Pipit 21, Cedar Waxwing 21, Orange-crowned Warbler 6, Yellow-rumped Warbler 12, Common Yellowthroat 1, Spotted Towhee 10, Eastern Towhee 1, Clay-colored Sparrow 1 - my FOS, Field Sparrow 15, Vesper Sparrow 9, Savannah Sparrow 2, Lincoln's Sparrow 19, White-throated Sparrow 10, White-crowned Sparrow 57, Northern Cardinal 96, Pyrrhuloxia 1 female - semi-odd location and maybe a bit late for this winter irruptive Red-winged Blackbird 5, meadowlark sp. 16 Brown-headed Cowbird 8.



**Golden-crowned Kinglet, by Bill Ravenscroft**

**Bill Ravenscroft;** Observations at my home on the East side of Lake Waco

American Goldfinches which were present in numbers left about the second week in March, with just a few stragglers for a week beyond that.

The **Dark-eyed Juncos**, also present in large numbers, left around the 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by most of the Yellow-rumped Warblers.

End of March sightings include White-throated Sparrows, White-eyed Vireos, Black & White Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets feasting on the larvae on the Live and deciduous Oaks.

Also photographed a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** in the last days of March.

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*And don't forget, the **CTAS Yahoo Group site** is in Karen's capable hands in MI. You may post any sightings or relevant Audubon information there.*

**Check out the new CTAS website**

[www.centexaudubon.org](http://www.centexaudubon.org)