

From the President Mar 09

Optimism is the tendency to take the most hopeful view of matters or to expect the best outcome in any circumstance. So, it is with March that we see the blahs of winter give way to the promise of spring. New tender leaves on the penstemon and betony, the purple flame of the Redbuds, the nesting of Carolina Wrens all point to world in renewal. Likewise our own attitudes adjusting predicate something of a brighter view. The discontent of this winter's economic debacle has taken its toll on all aspects of our lives. Yet, we survive. Businesses are attempting to respond. Not all are laying off employees. Some are even finding ways to keep employees even as their business activity slows. Some, including my own, are offering discounts and rebates to stimulate sales and improve their cash flow while making great products available.

The environment, which has been secondary to many concerns of the last eight years, fairs better today. We who see nature as not separate from ourselves have real opportunities to impact decisions at every level of government. Will it be easy? No, it never is. Is it worth the effort? Yes. Past negativity is not a predictor of future negation. The trick is to keep turning, affecting a positive attitude, and working on projects with willing entities, and hopefully, others will see it as good.

Roy C. Smallwood 3rd.

Monthly Program: March 17, 2009 7:30 Lynn E. Barber's ABA Big Year

In 2005 my Husband James and I went on a field trip south of Dallas to look for longspurs. On that field trip we met a woman who was doing a Texas Big Year. (listing the most species of birds you can see in a year), her name was Lynn Barber. We both were quite interested in the adventure she was taking on. For that year we followed her quest thru a website on the internet. Lynn ended that year breaking the previous record for a Texas Big Year. Lynn will be sharing her adventures when she did "The" Big Year of birding in the continental US and Canada (the "ABA area") during 2008. She started the year in Rockport and ended with over 720 species for the year. Born in Wisconsin, Barber has lived in several states including Alaska, Oregon, North Carolina and Texas. When she's not birding, Barber is a registered patent attorney in Fort Worth, Texas. She has a Ph.D. in bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a J.D. from Duke University Law School. Presently Lynn is the President-Elect of the Texas Orthological Society and a member of the Fort Worth Audubon Society.

Come early and see what birds are around, have refreshments and mingle. Refreshments served at 7:00pm.

Directions to Wetlands: Take Hwy 6 across the twin bridges past Speegleville Rd. to FM 185. Turn right. Go about 1/2 mile and turn left on Eichelberger Crossing Rd. Follow for a mile, parking lot will be on the right. You can also take China Spring Rd to FM 185 after crossing the bridge turn right on Eichelberger Rd.

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New Birding Group

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Birding Group meets monthly on the fourth Sunday from 3:30 - 5:30 pm. We meet at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4209 N. 27th St. and go birding from there. So far we have gone to the Pecan Bottoms near HOT soccer fields, the Waco Wetlands and Reynolds Creek. Best birds have been the pine warbler and the American Eagle. I am thankful to Roy Smallwood and Eric Haskell who have been a great help to us so far. Anybody from the Audubon Society that would like to join us is welcome. For more information contact: Jane Derrick, 753-6920, pjderrick@aol.com
Hummers



Hummers in Snow "07"

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Send this application and check to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 52520 Boulder, CO 80322-1001
Include chapter code of
W06 7XCH

Renewal is \$35.00

**Senior 62 and older and students
\$15.00**



New Meeting Site for Central Texas Audubon Society in the Fall 09

As we go to print our chapter is making arrangements with Carleen Bright Arboretum (CBA) to hold our membership meetings there. CBA will be a more centralized site for members around the area. The parking lot is well lit and close to the building. All groups who meet there must pay, monitrial or volunteer a number of hours dedicated to the arboretum. Since we are not a rich chapter we will need to volunteer time. We would like to do the following: monthly bird walk, participating in Garden Gathering and Children Garden Fair, creating a bird checklist, obtain a grant to create signage for nature trail, identify native plants on trails and around CBA, provide and maintain feeders. We will still have our meeting the third Tuesday of the same months. The arboretum includes 6 acres of gardens, an ampitheater with a covered gazebo, and a 1,800 sq. ft. rental facility, Whitehall Center. CBA has a kitchen attached to the meeting area and the staff will set up and take down what ever we need for the meeting. The CBA staff is very excited to have us join with them in a working relationship. We need volunteers more than ever now. We can not keep letting so few do so much. Contact any board member if you are interested in helping at our new "home". For more about CBA

<http://www.woodway-texas.com/lev1.cfm/9>

Volunteers are needed for April 26th for the Gardeners Gathering at Carleen Bright and for Beasts N Blooms & Earth Day Too! - April 18 & 19, 2009 at Cameron Park Zoo. Lets get out there and let the local people see what they can do for the environment and conservation !!

From Natalie Kutach Education Chairman Audubon will be in all sorts of classrooms this Spring including: First United Methodist Preschool, Little Lions Learning Center, Midway Intermediate School and Live Oak Academy. Many of our members will also be continuing their work with the Marsh Madness program at the Wetlands. Thanks to Fred Gehlbach who will allow some lucky 4th graders from Mrs. Amy McNamara's class to attend one of his Eastern Screech Owl bandings later this spring.

Volunteer Opportunities: Thursday, April 16th Spring Valley Elementary 6-8 pm. The Midway ISD 4th grade GT teachers present "**For the Birds**" - an **extracurricular science night**. If you would like to participate in the planning process and/or the event, please give me an email or a call. bkutach@hotmail.com or 848.2999

Live Oak Academy will be venturing to the Wetlands on Wednesday, April 15th. If you would be interested in leading a bird walk for them (bring your scope!), email/call bkutach@hotmail.com or 848.2999

Field Trips

March 15, 2008 Meridian State Park
Leaders: Karen Arquette and James Loesch
Meet at 8:00am at the visitors center to search for the Golden-cheeked Warbler.

March 21, 2009 Richland Creek WMA

Leader: Eric Haskell

Time 9:00am Meet at Luby's parking lot at IH 35 and Lake Shore to car pool. The Wildlife area is southeast of Corsicana. To learn about the area go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife website and search for Richland Creek WMA

Eagle Report:

Eric Haskell reports that they think the eagle nest at Lacy Point has eggs (due to the behavior of the eagles). Also another nest has been located on Lake Waco with two eagles present. (nesting not confirmed)

Bird Reports

Janet and Bill Wallace

Bill and I visited Rockport for the Whooping Crane Festival. We traveled back and forth between Rockport and Port Aransas for some of the tours, etc. We went out on the Skimmer on Friday morning to view the Whooping Cranes. It was windy and cloudy but no rain. We did see about 15 cranes and one that was within fifty feet or so of the shore-it let us take lots of photos. It is so dry that the cranes have little to eat. Even the alligators at Aransas NWR are in danger because of the low water levels. We saw several other species on the tour as well as on the bus tour on Saturday. Some highlights: Redheads, Ring-necked Duck, Buffleheads, Red-breasted Merganser, Least Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested and Neotropic Cormorant, Reddish Egret, White Ibis, Roseate Spoon bill, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, American Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marsh Wren, and the usual gulls, grackles, and vultures. We saw other water fowl that are typically at the Wetlands or on the lake. We had a great time-the wind was a little bit of a problem for some of the viewing on the bus tour, but all in all we saw 56 species and I added 9 new birds to my life list.

Joe Yelderman: I saw a Scissortailed Flycatcher at the Whitney wastewater Treatment plant Thursday (2-19-09). My first winter sighting of a scissortail.

Pam Moes 2/24/09: Mom and I saw a Barn Swallow on a wire just outside of Salado today.

Bill Ravencroft 2/27/09: We still have many hundreds of Robins

visiting our yard each morning and evening. This has been going on for 4 days now. Our patio now has a purple polka dot applied to it!
Harriet Sheared 2/27/09: This afternoon I have had flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings. They have been eating the ligustrum berries and visiting the birdbath.

Karen Arquette: 3/8/09: I have been hearing cranes and seeing many raptors along I35. Saw Cedar Waxwings on Great Backyard Bird Count day and not since. (I had 31 species for the count) I put up a martin house that Bill Ravencroft gave me and had martins on it in two minutes!

Elections: Elections will take place at the April member meeting and officers will be installed at the May meeting. Bev and Jim Smith and Bryan Stone are the nominating committee. If you are interested in holding office or nominating someone contact them. Bev and Jim bjpjs@hotmail.com Bryan Stone 776 3385 and 366 6245 Brston73@hotmail.com I

From the Editor: The most exciting thing for me this winter was the discovery by EG White-Swift of Short-eared Owls in the Bellmead area. EG and his son Joey found one on the Christmas Bird Count. Since then many groups have been back to the area and have seen up to 5 in one evening. In February John Muldrow found several in the Elk Road area. Since then (March 3rd) we had people at both sites at the same time and saw owls at both locations. There is some question as to whether they could be the same owls. For reports and bird sightings for the newsletter send to Karen Arquette Poehaven2@aol.com , 190 Johnson Road or 254- 829 2136 . Deadline for the newsletter is the first day of the month. The newsletter is printed Feb., March, April, May, September, October and November. (the same months we have meetings)