



# The Roadrunner

## Central Texas Audubon Society Issue 261 May 2011

### President's Message

• May is upon us and the migrant season is in full force. Many of you have been on trips to see the warblers on the coast-some even to Michigan to visit our old friend, Karen, to see the Kirtland's warbler. Many of us have been seeing the hummingbirds return and even some unusual visitors to our backyards-like the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak that visited our yard and Jane Derrick's for the first time. I always look forward to the first of the season baby downy woodpeckers, cardinals, wrens, sparrows, blue jays, finches and mockingbirds. Many of you have been seeing other first of the season fledglings. Looking forward to our annual auction and pot luck on the 17th. This is our fundraiser for the newsletter. Please join us at 7:00 for the potluck and then our auction of items brought by our members and visitors. Hope to see you there, Janet

### • May 17 last mtg: Potluck & Raffle

The meeting on **May 17 at 7:30pm, CTAS will host its fundraising raffle and potluck. Please bring any gently used or new item for the raffle; also bring a dish of your choice for sharing!!**

**Come early and enjoy the nature trails and gardens before the meeting. 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.**



Lesser Goldfinch by Ann Gordon, 4/27/2011

Ann Gordon added many wonderful photos to the [Back Yard Bird Sanctuary At Ann's](#) folder.

**Education:** Gardener's Gathering and Earth Day Booth - Thanks to volunteers staffing the Audubon booth at the Arboretum

and Cameron Park Zoo Apr 10 & 16. This link will take you to site with a few photos from 04/10 and 04/16

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/annettej/sets/72157626393890697/>

The Audubon Foundation of Texas and Audubon Texas are pleased to announce recipients of the 2011 Collaborative Chapter Grants. Funds made available by the Foundation are awarded in the categories of Conservation, Education, and Chapter Development and Communications. In the Education Category, Central Texas Audubon Society received a \$1,000 grant for supplies for community outreach activities.

**News:** On April 30 Dr. Spencer Moore reported sad news. We have again lost our eagle's nest and tree to the windy weather. The limb that held the nest has blown down as of noon Sunday, and here is the female eagle sitting on the fallen log looking down at the nest and the little ones lost to the water. If you will notice to the right of her, sitting on the log is a catfish that she brought in trying to do something to help them. It is very sad and you know she maybe a bird, but she really was feeling the loss of the moment. We felt so sorry for her sitting there.

### ➤ Sightings and Reports

#### Bill Ravenscroft:

Photographed a White-eyed Vireo showering in our sprinkler system on 11 April.

Got some good pictures of several Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's Terns, Snowy Egrets and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers 13 April at the lake.

We had a number of late Pine Siskins in the yard which were last seen 24<sup>th</sup> April. From 24<sup>th</sup> April, a Great-crested Flycatcher could be heard clearly in our neighborhood but I still haven't seen it yet. Also



saw several Western Kingbirds in town around the 27<sup>th</sup> April. Surprise sightings (all photographed) were a Red-breasted Nuthatch on May 1<sup>st</sup>, two pairs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Also saw a Yellow Warbler May 3<sup>rd</sup>. and a small flock of the Cedar Waxwings which seem to be lingering here.

#### Janet Wallace:

I had the first humming bird that I have seen at the feeder this morning (5/2) during the drizzle. If they have been at the plants in the yard, I haven't seen them. On April 21, we had a rose-breasted grosbeak come to the feeders in the yard. Never had one here before; only stayed for a while then moved on. It was such a treat!

### Good-bye to our dear friends Eric and Kivomi!!



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**Ann Gordon;** Following is a list of birds I have had in my yard with the date first seen.

On 4/7/11: **Indigo Bunting, Nashville Warbler.**

On 4/10/11: **Blue-headed Vireo**

On 4/19/11: **Painted Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat.**

On 4/20/11: **Wilson's Warbler, Swainson's Thrush**

On 4/21/11: Heard **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

On 4/22/11: Heard **Great-crested Flycatcher**

On 4/24/11: **Common Yellow-throat, Black-and-white Warbler**

On 4/25/11: **Yellow Warbler**

On 4/27/11: **Lesser Goldfinch (black-backed form), Chestnut-sided Warbler**

On 5/1/11: **Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ovenbird**

Several of the birds listed above were seen several times during this period. My last sightings for the season to date were:

5/1/11: **White-crowned Sparrow, Cedar-Waxwings.**

5/2/11: **Pine Siskin**

5/3/11: **Nashville Warbler**

I know these birds have been coming through here before, but with the waterfall and the drip puddle, they are coming down to the ground and really putting on a show for the camera.

You can see these photos on the CTAS Yahoo site and on my website: <http://annmgordon.com>

**Jane Derrick;** I saw a Rose Breasted Grosbeak on 5/3/11, a first for my yard. When I visited High Island on May 27th the number of warblers was called a "drop in" rather than a "fall out." I

saw Cape May, Black Poll, Black-throated green, Blackburnian, American Redstart, Tennessee, Black and White, Chestnut sided, and Yellow Warblers, a pair of blue grosbeaks and an orchard oriole.. A day or two later at a water drip in Bacliff, I saw an indigo bunting, ovenbird, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Other highlights of the trip were clapper, king and sora rails at Anahuac NWR and black bellied plovers at Boliver Flats.

**Richard Kostecke, Ph.D.**

**The Nature Conservancy:**

I spent just over 3 hours this morning (04/22/11) at Iron Bridge Park, where the Leon River enters Belton Lake, in Bell Co. Strong south winds were a nuisance, and my hearing was a bit limited due to some congestion from a lingering sinus infection, but I still managed to pick up a fair number of birds. Although a fair bit of filling in still needs to occur, most of the expected breeding species were present, as well as several migrants. Low water levels continue to provide a fair bit of shorebird habitat. My list from the morning:

American Wigeon 1  
Blue-winged Teal 14  
Northern Shoveler 7  
Great Blue Heron 5  
Great Egret 3  
Black Vulture 26  
Turkey Vulture 9  
Bald Eagle 1 adult  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Swainson's Hawk 1  
Red-tailed Hawk 1  
Killdeer 1  
Spotted Sandpiper 3  
Lesser Yellowlegs 12  
Least Sandpiper 97  
Baird's Sandpiper 7

Pectoral Sandpiper 7  
Long-billed Dowitcher 21  
Mourning Dove 10  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 3  
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 2  
Downy Woodpecker 1  
Eastern Phoebe 1  
Great Crested Flycatcher 5  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 7  
White-eyed Vireo 10  
American Crow 7  
Barn Swallow 2  
Cliff Swallow 10  
Carolina Chickadee 13  
Black-crested Titmouse 6  
Carolina Wren 8  
Bewick's Wren 3  
House Wren 1  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 11  
Eastern Bluebird 7  
Northern Mockingbird 2  
European Starling 1  
Cedar Waxwing 23  
Orange-crowned Warbler 1  
Nashville Warbler 2  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 2  
Prothonotary Warbler 3  
Common Yellowthroat 1  
Clay-colored Sparrow 31  
Grasshopper Sparrow 1  
Lincoln's Sparrow 9  
White-crowned Sparrow 13  
Summer Tanager 2  
Northern Cardinal 48  
Blue Grosbeak 4  
Indigo Bunting 6  
Painted Bunting 3  
Dickcissel 3  
Red-winged Blackbird 11  
Brown-headed Cowbird 5  
Orchard Oriole 4  
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