



The Roadrunner

Central Texas Audubon Society Issue 256 October 2010

President's Message

Looking forward: A chill is in the air so begin looking for those fall migrants. A few are beginning to make their way south. The warblers have been going through with a few still visiting in the area. Some hummingbirds are continuing to visit feeders and fall perennials. It's time to get outside and see what you can find.

Remember to send your sightings to Natalie for the newsletter.

We will have a good program this month with Mary Phillips presenting on her visit to Iceland and the birds and other flora and fauna of that country. Please join us on the 19th for that program.

I want to express our thanks again to Eric Haskell for his wonderful presentation on Japan at our September meeting. A great tour of some good birding sites as well as a cultural lesson on Japan.

Hope to see you on the 19th and bring a friend.

Janet Wallace



Young Black-bellied Whistling Ducks
by Bill Ravenscroft

Oct 19 mtg: Iceland

Dr. Mary Phillips will present another peek at her world travels at the meeting on **Tuesday at 7:30pm**, at Carleen Bright Arboretum on Bosque Blvd in Woodway. 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@hotmail.com or if necessary by phone: 848-4135.

EVENTS:

Sun Oct 17 Staff Booth for Children's Garden Fair at Arboretum, 2-5pm

Hazel Bazemore Co. Park Hawk Watch, Corpus Christi - Join expert watchers at any time from August to November at the best US hawk-watch site, where thousands of raptors may be seen (far) overhead daily for free. Eric & Kiyomi will be going Oct 9-11 this year.

Sat Oct 23 -meet 8am at Luby's parking lot on Lake Shore Dr. & I-35 to carpool to Arlington Treatment Ponds back, 3pm - (Eric Haskell leader).

Oct 2, Saturday -We had 8 attendees for Saturday's field trip to the Hennig property and Sewage Treatment Plant, of which the most exciting sightings were our first of season **Kinglet**, and a adult **Broadtail** soaring overhead with a juvenile. The bank/poison ivy kept us from walking the river shore, but the trip went well.

Education

Audubon will visit Waco Montessori Early Childhood Classrooms this month. We will also participate in the Children's Garden Fair at Carleen Bright Arboretum on Sunday, Oct 17.

Sightings and Reports

Karen Arquette: Hi all my friends at CTAS. I have made quite the change in backyard birds. Now September 26 in northern Michigan I have flocks of Slate-colored of the **Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrows** and **Evening Grosbeak. Ruffed Grouse** and **Turkey** are showing up too. Had a Black bear tear down my woodpecker suet feeder last night so all hanging feeders were taken down today till he passes thru to his den. Saw a huge Black Bear cross the road on my way to town Friday. He was so big he took only two lunges to cross the road. He was running and did not stop to look before or after crossing the road. I think it may have been chased by dogs. I spent the spring and summer scouting the area and have nesting **Kirtland's Warbler** as close as a quarter mile from my house. I am looking forward to going to the UP of Michigan this winter for several Owls. 2 hours from here I can go see Great Gray, Boreal, Hawk and Snowy. Boreal and Hawk Owl will be new for me. Also I am told I can get several gulls species at treatment plants close by. I have a pair of **Pileated** working on a dead snag 50 feet from my house to roost. As of this week I have checked off 55 species of birds from my yard. Can't wait to get my lifer Crossbills in my pines this winter. Let me know if you want to come visit and sit on my deck. I have plenty of room for visitors. Bought a lot across the street so I have access for trout fishing and

kayaking on Big Creek. Lovells, Michigan (half way between the equator and the north pole, at 45 degrees).

John Muldrow Observed a **Jaeger** on Wed, Oct 6 near the Waco Dam outlet structure. This is a county record for any Jaeger. Unfortunately, no confirmation photo or view by others was obtained.

Nancy and Fred Gehlbach; As usual our suburban nesting **Mississippi Kites** 7 pairs on our daily 2.5-3.5 mile transect left for the tropics in late August-early September, the last ones being young of the year that went out with arriving **Baltimore Orioles** and other passage migrants. Among migrants it was interesting to see a flock of **Eastern Kingbirds** eating only Beautyberry berries, while **Red-eyed Vireos, Eastern Wood Pewees**, and our hanging on (as of Sept. 15th) **Great Crested Flycatchers** and **White-eyed Vireos** ate only Roughleaf Dogwood berries. Over our 47 years in Woodway, we've noticed increased "hanging on" and fewer wintering North American migrants in our Latin American study sites, all correlated with our warmer climate.

Ann Gordon; This was another busy month in my back yard. **Yellow Warblers** continued to be present from 8/12/10-9/13/10. For 20 days I had **Wilson's Warblers** with several sightings per day with one to three individuals at a time from 9/3/10-9/30/10. For 17 days the **Nashville Warbler** was present from 9/12/10-10/1/10 with one to two individuals at a time several times a day on some days. The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** 9/8/10 and 9/24/10. **Northern Oriole** male 9/6/10 and 9/9/10, Immature male or female on 9/18-19/10. **Orchard Oriole** female again 9/12/10, **Black-and-White Warbler** 9/12/10, **White-eyed Vireo** 9/18/10, **American Redstart** female 9/19/10 and the **Coopers Hawk** female with no bands 9/20,24,29/10. The **Mourning Warbler** was seen 9/3/10 not 9/10/10 as I previously mistyped in last month's newsletter.



Rufous Hummingbird male by Ann Gordon

**The Roadrunner
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Bill Ravenscroft; For my neighborhood, the last 4 weeks have been more noticeable for what I didn't see rather than what I did see compared to earlier years.

So far few migrant warblers since the reported mid-August showings except a pair of **Nashvilles** October 1st.

The Orioles seen mid Sept. have moved on too.

The Hummingbirds abruptly left here between Sept. 25 & 26th although a lone **Ruby-throat** female was seen Oct. 4th & 5th.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were numerous for a while in mid Sept.

Saw a **Brown Thrasher** on 3rd Oct. which was a first time for me here and a lone **Black and White Warbler**.

Have seen numerous **Ospreys** here and around the lake, also a flock of 21 **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** with their young.

Saw an **Eastern Phoebe** 4th Oct

Eric Haskell; On Oct. 1, our first **Phoebe** of the season showed up on the backyard fence, checking out the disappearing Queen butterflies and mantises hiding from the Autumn chill.

At Waco Lake, a late Swallow flock of mostly **Cliffs** flew by with **Tree Swallows** at the drained Stilling Basin below the dam on Sep 27th. Surprisingly, waders haven't shown up in numbers there to feast on dead fish, and have been similarly lacking at the Wetlands, where a few **Blue-winged Teal** now reside. Also on Sep. 27th the first flock of **Double-crested Cormorants** joined the couple **Forster's Terns** and **Ospreys** seeking out their winter territories at Airport Beach, and all parks reopened following September 8 flooding.

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by Bill Ravenscroft

**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 _____
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Send this application and check to:
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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

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

Check out the new CTAS website
www.centexaudubon.org

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