

THE ROADRUNNER

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ CTAS Meeting,
10/18
- ◆ *The Big Year*
opens 10/14



- ◆ Children's Garden
Fair, 10/16
- ◆ Western McLennan
County CBC, 12/17

President's Message

Isn't this cool weather a refreshing change? It puts us all in a mood to get outside and enjoy this time of year. I hope that you will have an opportunity to see some of the migrants.

About eight of us really enjoyed our first birding trip of the year to Ann Gordon's backyard in Harris Creek. She has a wonderful area to attract birds and her set up for viewing and photography is wonderful. Thank you, Ann, for sharing.

Speaking of our first trip—we would like to plan a trip to view the movie *The Big Year* which will be in theaters on the 14th of this month. The movie will be at the Starplex Theater on S.Valley Mills Drive. I was unable to get viewing times. The movie is about three fellows competing to find as many bird species as they can in one year. It is as much about relationships as it is about finding birds. I know that many of us have made many new friends as we have been out looking for birds either locally or in other areas. Birders are friendly and always want to share what they have seen and willingly help a novice with identification.

Our October meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18, at the Arboretum at 7:00 for social time; the meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

As always, I look forward to seeing you. Please join us!! Janet

Dear Members

Our October meeting is on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:30pm, come early and get acquainted!

The meeting is held at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, located in Woodway north of HWY84 at the intersection of Bosque and Estates Drive.

We will view a PBS documentary called **Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air.** According to PBS: *Because hummingbirds live their lives in fast forward, much of their fascinating world is typically lost to human perception. But using cameras able to capture over 500 images a second, the hummingbirds' magical world can finally be seen and appreciated. Amazing footage shows these little powerhouses are far more than delicate nectar gatherers — they are also deadly predators. And watch as the birds display their elaborate mating rituals, showing off with nose dives that subject them to over ten G's of force — enough to cause an experienced fighter pilot to black out!*

From Ann Gordon in late September: "On several occasions I have seen two at a time, but this is my first photo with two. It was not a peaceful encounter as they had a beak battle for a few minutes."



Brown Thrasher photographed by Jim Edwards, at Ann Gordon's backyard, 9/28/2011



SAVE the DATE: Be sure and come to the meeting on November 15; there will be a special program about raptors by a licensed falconer from Cameron Park Zoo!!

Project Feederwatch for 2011-2012 starts in just a few weeks (on November 12). Visit <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw> for more information on how to get started. PFW is sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. Got questions? Contact Stephanie at jevnum@aol.com

NEW expanded format for e-mail newsletter subscribers ONLY! Hope you like it!



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, M;
photo by Ann Gordon,
9/29/2011

We are on the Web!
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80322-1001

Include chapter code of **W06
7XCH**

*Renewal is \$35. Seniors 62 &
older and students are \$15.*

SIGHTINGS

Ann Gordon: Regarding the field trip on September 28, it was a pretty good birding day. There were eight people in addition to me and my family including 2 possible new CTAS members!
There was a cool front that came through during the night and I did not know what it would do the birds already here and hoped if they left some new ones would come in. I think some did.

While the group was here these birds were seen: **Nashville Warbler(s), Brown Thrasher, Mourning Warbler, Baltimore Oriole** females 3 at one time, **Warbling Vireo** numerous times, **Indigo Bunting** female, plus the usual birds like Cardinals, Chickadees, House Finches, Bewick's Wren. The special bird to me was **the Brown Thrasher** since I have not had it in the yard for many years. I hope it will take up residence here again.

After noon, I saw a **Wilson's Warbler** male, **House Wren, Ruby-throated Hummingbird** male, and a possible young **Lark Sparrow**.

The Brown Thrasher, House Wren and the Lark Sparrow were birds I have not photographed in the last 2 years. Thanks for making me have a special day. I hope we can do it again sometime. See Ann's photos at <http://annmgordon.com> or the CTAS Yahoo Group site.

Frank Bumgardner: Over the last week of September Jeanette and I have had the 3 Baltimore Orioles, a Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a Young Indigo Bunting coming to water in the backyard. Also while on a trip to California we observed a Great Gray Owl, which gave me 701 species north of Mexico.

Photo below by Frank Bumgardner.



Jane Derrick (see photo on Mill Pond @Caddo Lake SP): From August 24 through September 24, my husband and I made a trip in our RV to spend a week in North Carolina at a beach house and a week in Virginia near the Blue Ridge Parkway at my sister's house. The primary purpose of the trip was to visit family, but here are some birding highlights of the trip: At Dangerfield S.P. (TX), I saw my target bird, the pileated woodpecker with little difficulty, sitting on a low limb in a tree near our campsite. At Gulpha Gorge, AR, I was delighted to watch an American redstart for about 15 minutes fanning its tail and flitting like a butterfly in the underbrush near the creek while a red-eyed vireo was making its nasal call, which was new to me. In Corolla, N.C. (on the Atlantic coast), an osprey moved back and forth from a pine tree on the road in front of the beach house to a bare tree on Currituck Sound in view from the beach house window. On the beach there were always sanderlings running in and out with the surf and occasionally other shorebirds. At a hawk watch at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway I saw three broad-winged hawks high above and another birder reported they had seen 60 broad-wings, several osprey and three bald eagles that day. At an RV park in Vicksburg, MS, I saw a Connecticut warbler, a lifer for me. And at Caddo Lake S.P. (TX) I am almost sure I saw a female bay breasted warbler. I did see a northern parula and a pine warbler. The water level was down two feet, but the lake was still beautiful and enchanting. On the last morning, at Mill Pond, a couple of belted kingfishers were chasing each other around; a great blue heron and great egret were fishing; and a red-shouldered hawk was perched and calling. It was a lovely ending to a great trip. Jane reported seeing 56 species, including 2 LIFERS, a probable Bay Breasted Warbler, F, and Connecticut Warbler.



On a different note: In late September, Nora Schell of the Lake Waco Wetlands reported that two **river otters** were seen swimming around the island area in Cell 2 of the wetlands. It was reported by Carolyn from the Cameron Park Zoo.