



The Roadrunner

Central Texas Audubon Society Issue 253 April 2010

President's Message

Spring migration has an entirely new meaning for me this year. I've run up and down highways 35 and 95 so many times in the last month I've lost count. What I can tell you is I've seen many Caracaras on the stretch of road near Elgin, three of four at a time on occasion. So, if that's the bird you are after that's the place.

We have much planned for the month of April. Two big events—Gardeners Gathering and Beasts & Blooms and Earth Day, Too are slated. If you haven't volunteered for one of these you need to do so. Besides, you'll have fun.

I've been especially pleased by the number of visitors we had at the March meeting. And there has been some additional interest since the meeting. It is always good to see new faces, and it keeps CTAS vibrant and energized. So, all hail to our new friends.

CTAS continues to update its new website with information about our events, membership, and programs. If you haven't visited lately, take a look at www.centexaudubon.org. You'll also find links to help with identification of birds and links to other pertinent organizations.

Roy C. Smallwood 3rd

Photo: White-eyed Vireo



by Bill Ravenscroft

Polar Program

This month on **April 20 at 7:30pm**, Dr. Mary Phillips, Master Naturalist, will describe her journeys to both polar regions.

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.

May 18 last mtg – Potluck & Raffle Get stuff ready to bring! All proceeds support Central Texas Audubon.

CTAS photo contest for members and youth (ages 18 and under) to be placed on exhibit at the Carleen Bright Arboretum from June 14-July 19, 2010. The contestants **must be** members of Audubon (youth do not have to be members) and all pictures submitted **must be of birds**—not limited to Texas species. Contestants must submit a maximum of three reduced in size (150KB) digital photos to Bill Ravenscroft by April 15, 2010. Photographers may send their entries at any time until the cut-off date. The photos will be judged by a focus group of local photographers. Photographs chosen for exhibit must be 2MB or more to print at a minimum of 8x10 inches and be mounted, matted or framed to be at least 11x14 inches. The first place contestant will have his/her photo placed on the postcard as the invitation for the reception on June 20th as well as photo placed on exhibit. Second place will have photo exhibited as well as receive an autographed copy of Hummingbirds of Texas. Youth winner will receive a membership in Audubon as well as a gift certificate and photo on exhibit.

Field Trips

- **April 17, Sat, Earth Day Cameron Park Zoo booth** Assistance is welcome.
- **April 24 to Ft Hood-** Sat 6am meet at Bosque Square to carpool. Free, **limited-space** trip to see Goldencheeks and Black-capped Vireo. Call or email Eric Haskell (254) 379-3642 or Gil Eckrich for details at 254-534-0061, gil.eckrich@att.net

Sightings and Reports

Karen Arquette;

It took awhile for my hummingbirds to arrive but I have Ruby's and Black-chinned as of March 31st. My FOS Scissortail was on April 2nd. Sandra Row and I went to the Pecans by the soccer fields on April 1st. We were hearing several different songs and investigating when a huge flock of waxwings exploded from the tree tops and sure enough a

Sharp-tailed Hawk flew thru. We did not see any migrating Warblers, just the usual. I had my third back-yard Crested Caracara in ten years last week. That is two in the last three months.

Heidi Trudell & Matt York;

FOS Swainson's was seen Monday, Apr 5, 1-2 miles S. of Lorena flying over I-35.

At Meridian SP 23 March 2010, we had our FOS Golden-Cheeked Warbler, an AHY male, no others. White-eyed Vireo and Black & White Warbler were consistently vocalizing that entire day.

From March 1, 2010 through April 30, 2010, while supplies last, the Wisconsin Humane Society's "Wings" program will once again be distributing FREE WindowAlerts (8 WindowAlerts per request) with NO CHARGE for shipping and handling, to help you protect birds from collisions with windows at your home or office this spring. For more information about protecting birds from collisions with windows and to find out how to request your free Window Alerts, visit the WIngs web site at www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/default.aspx

Bill Ravenscroft;

Check our Yahoo site for my reports on a FOS Black and White Warbler and a White-eyed Vireo and an early Black-chinned Hummer. in mid March. Also, the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks which I saw every week in the spring and summer of 2009 have been resident in Waco all winter. I regularly could find a flock of 12 most weeks in Jan and Feb. which I documented by photograph. In March the flock had increased to 24. They were still around when I left on April 1st so I think they have become all season residents!

Harriet Shearer;

Ann Overall and I spent most of last week at Concan. We were able to see both the golden cheek warbler and the black cap vireo. In fact, the golden cheek visited our cabin on two different evenings. That was a real treat! The painted and indigo buntings have not arrived yet. Our life bird for the trip was hutton's vireo. We made two trips to Cooks Slough in Uvalde to see the black tail gnat catcher but never saw him.

**The Roadrunner
Central Texas Audubon Society
1308 Circlewood
Waco, Texas 76712**

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Joe Yelderman; I just saw my first Mississippi Kite off Oakdale in Woodway 4-7-2010, 7pm. Even though there is considerable disturbance due to construction around the sewer ponds, migrating shorebirds are appearing. On 4-2-10 Joe saw a flock of several hundred Least sandpipers, with a few Baird's sandpipers mixed in with them. In addition, there were a flock of 8 Pectoral sandpipers, a solitary

Solitary sandpiper and 2 Golden plovers in the ponds. Also on 4-2-10 several Franklins gulls flew over gravel pits on South Third Street and a Blue-gray gnatcatcher was seen in Woodway.

Eric Haskell; *Waco Lake* Bluebirds had chicks at 1 park 4/3/10. FOS Snowy & Cattle Egrets 4/11, flock of 100 Franklin's Gulls over the dam Friday, Apr 9. FOS Scissortail March 17, one day before my first (and last) County sighting of 2 Sprague's Pipits on Corps land near the Middle Bosque River. Also saw a Say's Phoebe out there. Our first Swainson's Hawk showed up 3/25 over the house.



Board Members CTAS

President/Roy Smallwood 776- 6142
RSmall820@aol.com

Vice President /Janet Wallace 366-6280
cjwallace@hotmail.com

Treasurer/Gail Cupit 776-2838
gcupit@grandecom.net

Rec. Secretary/Bill Ravenscroft
772-7637 wj635@hotmail.com

Corr. Sec. /Harriet Shearer 772-9597
shearerh@aol.com

Newsletter/Vacant

Field Trips/Eric Haskell

Programs/Eric Haskell -756-5359 (w)
e_haskell67@yahoo.com

Education/Natalie Kutach 848- 2999
BKUTACH@Hot.rr.com

Membership/Vacant

Social/Vacant

State Rep/Conservation/
Nada Wareham 799-7170
nadawaco@yahoo.com

Checklist/ Rare bird Reports/
Frank Bumgardner 836-4183
fbumgardner@hotmail.com

And don't forget, the **CTAS Yahoo Group site** will remain in Karen's capable hands after she goes to Michigan. You may post any sightings or relevant Audubon information there.

Check out the new CTAS website
www.centexaudubon.org

Help reduce paper waste and get your NEWSLETTER Faster, IN COLOR - receive it by email!
Send any Board member your email address with request to receive the newsletter by email.

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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