

The Roadrunner

Central Texas Audubon Society Issue 249 October 2009

President's Message

October! What happened to September? If ever there was a month that zoomed passed, it was last. I suppose there is much going on at this time of year. The start of school for many, thoughts of Friday night lights, dance lessons, or tennis lessons, the beginnings of a new season for CTAS, all hastened by shortening days and cooler weather. In all these years, I've only taken one vacation in the month of October. I took my bride to Virginia and Washington, D.C. that year. I wanted to show her the Blue Ridge, Jefferson's and Washington's homes, the Smithsonian. When the kids came along, there was no way to vacation in October. However, the way to the outdoors is open even in October. A weekend hike or camping trip can fill this gap. There are state parks near enough in which to spend time. There is not the expanse of the National Parks, but there is space enough to lose one's cares in search of a less frenetic pace. Who knows, you may see fall warblers, Great Horned Owls, Black Capped Tufted Titmice as part of the bargain.

Roy C. Smallwood 3rd.

Monthly Program: October 20, 2009.

7:30pm Carleen Bright Arboretum

Trey Crumpton

The Bone Pile: The Past, Present, and Future of the Natural History Collections of the Mayborn Museum Complex, Baylor University.

Trey grew up across the street from River Legacy Park in Arlington, TX (great birding spot by the way). He received a BS in Environmental Science and BS in Museum Studies from Baylor. Trey is currently the Assistant Collections Manager at the Mayborn Museum Complex. At the present he is completing a MS in Environmental Science with focus on Landscape History of the Original Site of Baylor University in Independence, TX. His current activities include HOT Master Naturalist and is a member of the Urban Gardening Coalition.

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.

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Start watching for migrating cranes within the next few weeks. Whooping Crane families will fly with Sandhills.

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

Letter to the Editor: From Nada

Wareham: The Lillian Brown Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Karen Arquette- Loesch at the CTAS May meeting. Since that time I have been asked numerous questions and I realized that many of our members never had the opportunity to know this remarkable woman, Lillian Brown. Lillian was a founding member of Central Texas Audubon Society, a dedicated birder and conservationist who served on the board and was a key figure to its success until her death in 1990. This award was established by her family and friends to honor those outstanding members of CTAS whose leadership, dedication, and loyalty follow in Lillian's footsteps. Some members have asked the requirements for nominees of the LBLA Award. Nominees must be current members of Central Texas Audubon Society for five or more continuous years in good standing. They must have served our chapter in numerous capacities in remarkable and outstanding ways.

Recipients in the past are: 1997 Don and Pam Moes, 2001 Mary Bush, 2007 Nada Wareham.

Karen is an excellent example of the recipients of this award. Karen has been a member of CTAS for 9 plus years, has brought in many new members, served on the board for over 9 years (including as president and the editor of "The Roadrunner" for the last 9 years). Karen attends Audubon Texas meetings as my alternate representative and has worked with me to have more chapter representation. Not only is she an avid birder and observer of nature, she is a native plant gardener who generously shares her knowledge (and plants) with others. Karen has steered headed CTAS fundraising events for the last 7 years including the Birdathon and the annual auction. Leading field trips and workshops are some of what she donates to our chapter.

Nada Wareham

McLennan County Master Gardeners

and the Carleen Bright Arboretum are hosting a **Children's Garden Fair** this October 18, 3-5 pm. It is free and all children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be many activities such as propagation, insect identification, making seed cards, wildflower "pom poms", grow babies, and much more. Eric Haskell will lead a bird walk at 4PM

Educational Report Natalie Kutach:

This month I will make two visits to a class of 4 year olds at Little Lions Learning Center and 4 classes at Waco Montessori School. I have nominated one of our Audubon Adventures teachers, Mrs. Jill Barrow of Rapoport Academy, for the Ernest and Sarah Butler Excellence in Science Education Award. I visited Mrs. Barrow's classroom last year and did a lesson on Adaptation. This year, she took it "under her wing" and presented it on her own, flying solo. Please let me know if you are leading a group and would like to use the CTAS binoculars. Connecting people with nature, it's a good thing!

CTAS Migrant Study

Central Texas Audubon will begin a special migratory bird study at the Sugar Creek Nature Preserve and nearby Woodway Arboretum in the last week of April and first week of May, 2010. Fred and Nancy Gehlbach will direct the study. It will require one hour (6-7 AM) on each of three days per week. We need 10 volunteers, who have several years of experience with our spring passage migrants, summer and permanent residents. We'll take the first 10 people who contact us. Email nfgehlbach@gmail.com or call 772-4429.

Photography Show and Contest

Central Texas Audubon is requesting our members to show their photography talent next year from June 14- July 19, 2010 at the Carleen Bright Arboretum. We need 30-40 nature photos for the show. We will have a contest to decide which photo, in the show, will be the photo featured on the invitations sent out to our members and all others on the mailing list at Carleen Bright. Entries for the contest must be sent to an email address as a JPG. All entries will be sent to a group of judges (yet to be determined) on a CD and will be anonymous. You may enter as many photos as you like in the contest. (winning entry will be displayed at show) Photos for the show must be a minimum of 12x18 either framed or mounted. Deadline for entries will be in April of 2010. Contact Karen Arquette for more information.

Field Trips

Where: Tradinghouse Lake, Sewer Ponds and searching for winter Owls

When: Saturday October 17, 2009
Meet: Luby's Lakeshore and I35
Time: 9am

Where: Flying W Ranch (Whitney area) Fall-winter survey of ranch

When November 1, 2009
Meet: Luby's at Lakeshore and I35
Time 8am

Where: Gault Site Tour

Leader: Dr. Clark Wernecke
When: November 7, 2009
Meet: Region 12 parking lot at 11:30 am

The Gault Site, located northeast of Florence off FM 2843, is considered one of the premier archeological discoveries in North America. James E. Pearce, known as the Father of Texas archeology, excavated the site in 1929. "The Gault School is interested in the larger question of the peopling of the Americas - who were the first peoples, what were they like and where did they come from?" Clark Wernecke, director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research in Austin, said. "Discoveries at Gault, right here in Central Texas, include 65 percent of all known excavated Clovis materials and play an important part in this discussion. If we were to discover artifacts below the Clovis strata, that part becomes even more important."

Wernecke said an estimated 1.7 million artifacts, 600,000 of which are Clovis age, have been recovered from Gault.

Editor note: Our tour will start at 1pm. Meeting time is allowing at least an hour to travel and time to organize to carpool.

Where: Carleen Bright Arboretum Bird Walk

When: November 21, 2009
Leader: Roy Smallwood
Time 9am

Archeological awareness event is Oct. 15

The Central Texas Archeological Society will have a Texas Archeological Awareness Event at McLennan Community College on Oct. 15 in the Michaelis Academic Center Student Commons.

At MCC, an Archeological Information Fair will take place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. that will include information about mammoth hunters from the Gault site (an archeological site located between Fort Hood and Georgetown), as well as opportunities to learn about the importance of archeology in Texas. A "Meet the Archeologists" reception will take place at 5-6 p.m., followed by "The Mammoth Hunters" presentation from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The lecture will feature Dr. Clark Wernecke, executive director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research. The presentation will feature information about the unfolding interpretations of what life was like 13,000 years ago at the Gault site and how these ideas are helping to mold a dramatically new view of the peopling of the Americas.

For more information, contact Linda Pelon at 299-8917 or lpelon@mclennan.edu.

Sightings and Reports:

Eric Haskell 10/03/09: We've had a record backyard Autumn hummingbird year (at least 8 at one time), now down to 1 regular female and 2 occasional others along with lower butterfly numbers, but the most exciting visit was a yellowish (Wilson's?) Warbler hopping in the front yard bushes this week. A Cooper's Hawk buzzed by as well, and I hope will hang out to dispel the House Sparrows.

Haven't gotten out around the lake since Public Lands Day last Saturday, but the last cool front seems to have ushered in a number of winter residents.

Location: Waco Lake 9/28/09
FOS Coots, DC Cormorants, and Terns at Airport Beach, where a couple unidentified gulls were also flying offshore. Also visited Airport Park, Koehne Park, Reynolds Ck. Big Pelican flock seen towards Wetlands at sunset, from dam area, where Coots and Grebes were floating. Pied-billed Grebe 9, Am. White Pelican 500, Double-crested Cormorant 60, Great Blue Heron 3, Great Egret 1, Snowy Egret 1, Cattle Egret 250, Black Vulture 2, Turkey Vulture 4, Osprey 3, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 3, Am. Kestrel 3, Am. Coot 50, Killdeer 3, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Ring-billed Gull 2, Forster's Tern 9, Rock Pigeon 11, White-winged Dove 40, Mourning Dove 14, Greater Roadrunner 2, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, E. Phoebe 1, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 6, White-eyed Vireo 1, Blue Jay 1, Am. Crow 2, Cliff/Cave Swallow 6, Barn Swallow 400, Carolina Chickadee 2, Tufted x Black-crested Titmouse (hybrid) 2, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2, E. Bluebird 2, N. Mockingbird 5, European Starling 14, N. Cardinal 5, Great-tailed Grackle 2, House Sparrow 2

From the Editor

Please take time to fill out and send the form included in this newsletter. We are still looking for someone to take over as Membership Chair person. I am excited to see what photographs our members submit for the show and contest. I know that we have quite a few talented members and this should make for a really fine show next summer. We are still working on the rules and regulations and prizes. More information to come as we work it out.
Karen Arquette

