

NOTE: THIS IS THE NEW ON-LINE VERSION OF THE *SOUTHWESTERN FLYER*. I WANTED TO REDUCE OUR PAPER CONSUMPTION (THE OLD VERSION PRINTED ON FOUR PAGES FRONT AND BACK, THIS VERSION PRINTS ON TWO PAGES FRONT AND BACK)

SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER AND PRINT ON 8 X 11" PAPER (LANDSCAPE MODE). CHECK YOUR PRINTER FOR ANY SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS.

IF YOUR PRINTER CAN PRINT 2-SIDED DOCUMENTS:

OPEN THE ADOBE PRINT WINDOW, CLICK ON PRINTER PROPERTIES AND SELECT 2-SIDED. (USUALLY ON THE PRINTER SHORT-CUTS TAB) CLICK "OK" WHICH RETURNS YOU TO THE PRINT WINDOW. CLICK "OK" TO PRINT DOCUMENT. THEN COLLATE AND FOLD IN HALF. (MAKE SURE THE 'FOLDED PAGE NUMBERS ARE ARRANGED IN CORRECT ORDER)

IF YOUR PRINTER ONLY PRINTS 1-SIDED:

OPEN THE ADOBE PRINT WINDOW, CLICK ON PRINTER PROPERTIES AND SELECT LANDSCAPE MODE (USUALLY UNDER PAPER TYPE). THEN RETURN TO THE ADOBE PRINT WINDOW AND SELECT "ALL" IN PRINT RANGE. YOU WILL SEE PAGES 1-4 LISTED, BELOW THAT IS A SUBSET WINDOW, CLICK ON THE ARROW AND SELECT "PRINT ODD PAGES". CLICK "OK". THIS WILL PRINT PAGES 1 AND 3. RE-INSERT THESE PAGES IN YOUR PAPER FEEDER, RE-OPEN THE PRINTER DIALOG BOX AND SELECT "PRINT EVEN PAGES." YOU MAY HAVE TO EXPERIMENT A FEW TIMES. MOST PRINTER MANUALS EXPLAIN HOW TO PRINT TWO SIDED DOCUMENTS. ON MY PRINTER I NEED TO WATCH HOW THE PAPER IS DISCHARGED SO I CAN INSERT IT AND HAVE THE EVEN PAGES PRINT IN THE SAME DIRECTION. OTHERWISE, SOME PAGES WILL APPEAR UP-SIDE DOWN.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, SEE ME AT THE GENERAL MEETING AND I WILL DEMONSTRATE ON MY LAPTOP.

JIM JONES, NEWSLETTER EDITOR



*Newsletter of the
Fort Worth Audubon
Society*

February, 2009

**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
FEBRUARY 13 THRU 16, 2009**

see details on page 6.



Black-crowned Night Heron J Jones, VCDB

Southwestern Flyer ♦ © 2009

Gail Morris, executive editor ♦ Jim Jones, managing editor

Paula Murphey, copy editor ♦ Photo credits: as listed

Do you have a couple of hours every month? In April, Fort Worth Audubon will be voting and installing a new Board of Officers. Several of the “old timers” are shifting positions or taking a break for a while. We’d like to add you to the Board!



President’s Pen

by Gail Morris

Do you have to know the birds? Absolutely not! One of the advantages of being on the Board has always been having the “inside scoop” on great birds. It’s only natural that we call one another when we hear/see something spectacular. When I started with the Board, I didn’t know the difference between a black vulture or a turkey vulture. I certainly had never seen ANY warbler. I joined the Board and whamo! I started learning about where to find a barn owl in Tarrant County. Even better, a Board member said, “I’ll take you out there.” Then a bobolink showed up at VCDB and whamo! I had a phone call within 5 minutes of the sighting and was looking at it within 20 minutes. A snowy owl in Texas, whamo! “Come go with us!”

I knew nothing about these birds, but soon learned from the Board members who took me under their wing. Being on the Board gave me my own personal group of bird guides. Everyone is friendly and helpful.

How much time would you need? The Board meets once a month. It’s always the first Thursday of the month. During the summer months of June, July and August, we meet once. It’s a fun meeting of planning our year and eating lots of great food. We all get to catch up with each other and talk about our bird trips. An extra bonus to being on the board is getting the “inside scoop” on programs and fieldtrips. If there is a limited number of participants allowed on a fieldtrip, being at the Board meetings will give you the advantage of getting on the list.

The open position? Hospitality Chair. Show up at 6:30 on the nights of the general meetings and set up the drinks. Volunteers fill in the table with food. That’s it.

Of course, everyone is invited to come to the Board meetings. You don’t have to be a member. Want to see what it’s like? Email or phone a board member for where the next board meeting is to be held and come join us! You won’t be sorry that you did. After all, the Board sees all the GOOD birds!

Fort Worth Audubon Society Officers

- Gail Morris, President.....682.429.2811.....gmmorris@wentwood.com
- Mary Lee Johnson, VP Field Trips.....817.909.4207.....birder76051@yahoo.com
- Ann Hoover, Membership.....817.496.4437.....ahoov@sbcglobal.net
- Rozanna Francis, Publicity.....817.496.6793.....mkrtrfrancis@sbcgl.net
- Dale Roberts, Volunteer Coordinator...817.577.2090.....dalelroberts@aol.com
- Jim Jones, Newsletter Editor.....817-267-5554.....jim_jones54@tx.rr.com
- Bob Smith, Webmaster.....817.237.9747.....webmaster@fwas.org

For a complete list of officers, go to www.fwas.org

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort Worth Audubon Society is to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of birds and other wildlife while preserving and protecting their natural habitats.

Come join us at our monthly meetings!

The Fort Worth Audubon Society meets on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. We offer a brief Bird Identification Class and refreshments at 6:45 PM, followed by the meeting and guest speaker at 7:30 PM. All meetings are free and open to the public.

where:

UNT Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Room 100 (across from the elevators on the lower floor of Everett Hall, (Medical Educational Building 2)

(go to www.hsc.unt.edu/campusmap/)

Easiest entrance is from parking lots A or C off Clifton Street. Doors are on west end of building, lowest level.

2009 Scheduled Field Trips

- | Destination..... | Date..... | Leader |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Birding in the Park..... | 2-7-09 | J. Ferguson |
| Ft Worth Nature Center..... | 2-24-09 | D. Powell |
| Richland Creek WMA..... | 2-28-09 | DD Currie |
| John Bunker Sands Wetlands.. | 3-1-09 | B Stone |
| Birding in the Park..... | 3-7-09 | J. Ferguson |
| Lewisville Lake | 3-14-09 | J L Duhon |
| Educational Learning Area (also K Larkkart) | | |
| River Legacy Park East..... | 3-28-09 | C Amos |



**Join us for
Birding in the
Park**

**on the first Saturday of
each month from
September thru April.**

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Led by Jean Ferguson

(817) 426-3369

**Everyone is welcome.
Easy walking, binoculars
available for use.**

where:

Foster Park

on Trail Lake Drive

1 mile north os I-20

in southwest Ft. Worth.

**For field trip details and updates,
visit our website at www.fwas.org**

Field trips are open to all, members and nonmembers, beginners to world-class birders. We especially want to encourage and welcome first-time birders to come on our local trips in the Fort Worth area. These trips are an excellent way to get started learning the birds and the best locations and seasons to find them. There are always people on these trips who are willing and able to answer any question about birds. We try to help everyone see all the birds we find. Don’t let bad weather deter you. Often the best birding is in the worst weather. Miserable conditions certainly build camaraderie. Come prepared. Warm weather trips may bring mosquitoes, chiggers, etc. Always bring along food and water because lunch is always in the field. If you have any questions, call Mary Lee Johnson, Field Trip Coordinator, at 817.909.4207, or by email: birder76051@yahoo.com

FIELD TRIPS by Mary Lee Johnson

Feb. 28: Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area,

Trip leader: D D Currie and Dell Little. (Located about 100 miles southeast of Ft. Worth) **Directions:** From the DFW metroplex area, travel south on I-45 to Corsicana, Hwy 287. Go east on Hwy 287 and travel approx 20 miles. Turn right (south) on FM 488 toward Fairfield and go about 4 miles to the entrance of Richland Creek WMA South Unit. Meet at the entrance to the south unit at 7:30am. We will cover the south unit first, then the north unit. The field trip will last about 3/4 of the day. Bring food and drink. There are no restroom facilities, but there are plenty of trees and bushes. Stop at the Exxon/Wendy's at the intersection of I-45 and Hwy 287 for a pit stop. All participants need a Limited Public Use Permit for entry into the WMA. This permit can be bought for \$12 where hunting and fishing licenses are sold - reference permit No. 175. D. D. Currie 817-919-8587 or 817-233-7341

March 1 (Sunday): John Bunker Sands Wetlands

Trip leaders Chris Runk & Bob Stone on several half-day field trips which they have arranged for visiting this still-private facility in Kaufman County. The two remaining field trip dates are: March 1, '09 and April 5, '09

Meet at 7:00 AM in the parking lot of the church on Combine Road just off HWY 175 in Kaufman County. (**Directions** to the church: I-20 or LBJ Freeway (635) to HWY 175 in SE Dallas. Go south on HWY 175 to the Combine Road exit (8.0 miles SE of LBJ Freeway) This is the first exit after you see the Kaufman County Line sign. Turn right on Combine Road and the church parking lot is immediately to your right. These field trips are **limited to 8** participants and all must **RSVP** to Bob Stone at 214-351-2940 by 6:00 PM the Sunday before the field trip. All participants must sign a liability waiver.

Please go to www.wetlandcenter.com to learn about this Wetlands Center that is scheduled to officially open in September 2009.

Conservation & Field Trip by Mary Lee Johnson

Feb. 13 thru 16: Great Backyard Bird Count (BYBC), National Audubon, see details at www.audubon.org, then click on *Birds and Science*, then *Citizen Science*.

FWAS will also have several local counts lead by volunteers at area city parks. Additional details will be announced on our website and possibly in the local papers.

On Saturday from 9 AM to noon, FWAS members will be at the Village Creek Drying Beds (Arlington), Memorial Oaks Park (Benbrook), and Foster Park (south Fort Worth)/ On Sunday from 9 AM to noon, members will be at Bob Eden Park (Euless) and Oak Grove Park (Grapevine). And on Monday from 9 AM to noon members will be at Veteran's Park (Arlington).

And remember, you can also hold your own BYBC in your own neighborhood. All reports help scientists determine where the birds are, and what environmental conditions may be hurting (and helping) birds survive. Please get involved with this citizen science project!

Club News and Events

It's Scholarship Time Again!

Both students and adults can benefit from FWAS scholarships.

The **FWAS Environmental All-Star Scholarship (\$500)** is for high school seniors who show an interest in the environment and/or natural sciences.

The **Margaret Parker Adult Scholarship Program (\$2,000)**, available to chapter-only members, assists adult learners with the cost of a class, workshop or camp that offers content related to the FWAS mission statement. (If you would like to become a chapter-only member, please contact Ann Hoover at 817-496-4437.)

The application deadline for both scholarships is **March 15, 2009**. Go to www.fwas.org to submit an online application, or contact Paula Murphey at 817-459-3885 for a hardcopy application.

2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time again to sign up for **2009 FWAS Chapter-only Memberships**. We really appreciate your wanting to help us provide Audubon Adventures to our local schools, and providing financial aid to conservation projects both within Texas (which really helped lots of hurricane hit areas this year) and globally. Your continued support will allow us to do so much more.

Memberships are 20\$ for one person and 30\$ for a family. They are for the whole 2009 calendar year.

How about a gift membership for someone you know?

Your reminder card was mailed in November, and I hope to be hearing from you soon!

Thanks!

Ann Hoover,
FWAS Membership Chair
2801 Hitson Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76112

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 12, at
7:30PM

VP of Programs: **Lee Snaples**,
817-561-6862 lee@snaples.com

Membership News:

We started off 2009 with 125 chapter memberships, and we would love to add you to the list. Your chapter only membership dues helps with education in our schools and community, habitat conservation and repair (remember that little storm named Ike?) and programs.

So send in or renew your membership and be on the "A" list - Audubon list, that is.

We would like to thank the following people for their additional gifts to Fort Worth Audubon: Abhay Anello, Hester Schwarzer, Judith Loy, James Patton, Donna and Jim Wright.

Support the Future!

You can help FWAS support the future by sponsoring an *Audubon Adventures* classroom. The FWAS education program provides *Audubon Adventures* environmental education kits to many local schools. These award-winning kits bring conservation alive to future citizens in grades 3 through 8, emphasizing the importance of caring for wildlife and the environment.

This year, each classroom kit costs \$38.50 (plus \$7.15 shipping & handling). Help support the future today by giving a donation to the FWAS education program to sponsor a classroom (or 2, or 3...). Thank you! (*let Paula Murphey know if you are interested. Last year FWAS provided 86 teachers with class kits, and we would love to add more.*)

Traveling Birder

Lynn Barber's ABA Big Year: Species count as of 12/31/08: 723

My last trip of the year was to Arizona. There I hiked up a gentle incline along a rocky bubbling streambed where Rufous-capped Warblers, first two, and then three, had been reported. On my first hike the afternoon I arrived I did see them but could not get photographs, so I returned the next day and tried again. While I quietly stood listening, two of the cute yellow and chestnut/reddish capped warblers calmly worked their way past me, about 6-10 feet away, and then joined the third warbler 15 feet downstream. Of course I took many pictures, and tried not to scream with excitement!

And that was it for the year. My total was 723 species, which I understand is the most anyone has gotten in the ABA area in one year since the millennium, is the most any woman has ever gotten in the ABA area in a year, and is the most anyone has ever gotten in the ABA area in one year without going to Attu (an island at the end of the Aleutian chain in Alaska where Asian vagrants are common).

It's been just under a month since my ABA Big Year ended. Have I recovered? I'm not sure. I expected to be exhausted, but it hasn't hit yet. I still find myself grinning when I think back over what fun it



Rufous-capped Warbler....L Barber
Santa Rita Mountains, Arizona

was and what wonderful birds and sights I saw. And I still get rather wistful when I think that the likelihood of having such a great birding year again is very low.

If you've read The Big Year by Mark Obmascik, you've heard of Sandy Komito. He is the person who holds the ABA big year record, twice, both of his totals including Attu and both being over 723 species. By the way, I want each of you to ask **Ann Hoover** what role she played in making my big year happen – and making me spend all that money on airplane flights (92), pelagic trips (10) and rental cars (about 69,000 miles driven).

Visit www.lynnbarber.com for more photos of her ABA Year.



White-tailed Ptarmigan.....L. Barber
Guanella Pass, Colorado

Ornithology Report: by Greg Keiran gkeiran@tx.rr.com

Late December thru Late January 2008:

Tarrant County:

27 Dec: Dark Morph Ferruginous Hawk spotted and photographed on Old Aledo Road (M. Reed & S. Coffey, San Antonio).

27 Dec: pair of Prairie Falcons off Winscott-Plover Rd. (possibly pair seen here for the past 10 years). Also Prairie race Merlin (M. Reed & S. Coffey)

29 Dec: Western?/Clark's? Grebe at Benbrook. Possibly same Clark's reported 24 Dec. (M. Reed)

18 Jan: Rusty blackbirds at VCDB (P. Gottschling, Grand Prairie)

Dallas County:

14 Jan: Lesser Goldfinch in Garland (A. Summerfelt, Garland)

18 Jan: winter Glaucous Gull on Lake Ray Hubbard (R. Rasmussen & others) Also 2 Little Gulls & Lesser Black-backed Gull (G. Cook, Arlington)

North Central Texas Area:

30 Dec: Eastern Towhee, mature Bald Eagle, Horned Grebe & Cackling Geese at Hagerman (L. Lemmons, Denison)

2 Jan: adult basic Little Gull at Lake Ray Hubbard (G. Cook, Arlington)

2 Jan: Rock Wren at the spillway at L. Tawakoni. Also Pacific Loon & Red-throated Loon & possible Artic Loon (R. Kinney, Edgewood)

3 -20 Jan: Long-tailed Duck still at Hagerman NWR (K. Lockhart, Highland Village, L. Lemmons, Denison)

3 Jan: Palm Warbler at Tawakoni CBC.

6 Jan: Neotropic Cormorant & Rusty Blackbird in Cleburne (Jonathan)

13 Jan: Barn Owl & Red-headed Woodpecker at Dead Woman Pond at Hagerman (L. Lemmons, Denison)

14 Jan: 4 Short-eared Owls were observed at the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (Lisa Cole, Lewisville)

16 Jan: Bald Eagle at Lake Mineral Wells State Park (D. Owens, Park Interpreter)

18 Jan: Surf Scoter at Tawakoni & two Red-throated Loons & 63 Common Loons (R. Rasmussen)

FIELD TRIPS by Mary Lee Johnson

Feb. 7: Birding in the Park, Foster Park, SW Fort Worth, Jean Ferguson, see page 7 for ad.

Feb. 21: Fort Worth Nature Center.....Leader: David Powell
(joint field trip w/ Prairie & Timbers Audubon)

Meeting Time and Location: 8:00 AM in the Hardwicke Center parking lot.

Duration and description: This will be a 1/2 to 3/4 day trip. There will be lots of walking on non-paved hiking trails. Hiking boots are recommended. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks that can be carried with you. Restrooms are available in the Hardwicke Center.

NOTE: There is a \$4 entry fee