

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*

January, 2009



left: Broad-billed Hummingbird being seen in Weatherford this winter.

below: Ross's Goose seen in Colleyville during Village Creek Drying Beds Christmas Bird Count.

photos by J Jones



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Gail Morris, executive editor ♦ Jim Jones, managing editor

Paula Murphey, copy editor ♦ Photo credits: as listed



President's Pen

by Gail Morris

The *Southwestern Flyer* is available on-line (and in color). Go to www.fwas.org and click on the Newsletter link.

A clean slate. A New Year. New beginnings. Breaking bad habits. Adjusting to better habits. It's that time of year when you can breathe a fresh plan into your lifestyle. When you are cutting out dessert and making all those other commitments that might slide later, don't forget to add an environmental commitment to 2009. Only don't let IT slide!

Planting more natives in your yard? There are several organic nurseries that offer free workshops every spring, and often they will include a discount on plants you buy while you are attending. Picking up trash when you are out birding? Deciding to fill the recycle bins instead of your trash cans? Maybe you are already doing these things, so what about promoting them and encouraging a neighbor or family member to do the same thing?

You could combine your new exercise walk with your environmental cause. Take along a bag and pick up trash as you go along the trail. Or if exercise isn't on your list, send money to an environmental cause on a regular basis. Even \$20 a month can add up to an amount that a park board could use for environmental needs.

If you don't have a location in mind, you might consider Cedar Ridge Preserve, just south of I-20 on Mt. Creek Parkway. There are 10 acres of wonderful hiking trails that go through all types of habitat, including a hummingbird garden near the entrance. They have conservation work days that include simple tasks as well as more strenuous trail clearing. Audubon Dallas owns and maintains the property and can always use donations, small or large. <http://audubondallas.org/cedarridge.html>

I would love for every Fort Worth Audubon member to get serious about at least one environmental cause in 2009! Make it local. Make it outside the state. Make it hands on or just donate! I hope you'll commit to something and improve the world we must preserve.

Gail

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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
John Bunker Sands Wetlands.....	2-1-09	B.Stone
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

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



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 of I-20

in southwest Ft. Worth.

Ornithology Report (continued)

Dallas County:

14 Dec: Crested Caracara (M. Cameron, north of DFW along HWY 121 / I635)

19 Dec: Monk Parakeets (T. Duenzl, near Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas)

24 Dec: 3rd year Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull (G. Cook, D D Currie at Lake Ray Hubbard)

25 Dec: Pine Siskins (C. Rowlett, Dallas)

North Central Texas Area:

30 NOV: Adult Bald Eagle (pair) (J Hearn, Cedar Creek Lake)

10 Dec: Broad-billed Hummingbird (P. Gilbert, in their backyard, Weatherford, TX. Still seen as of January 14, 2009, visit the Rare Bird Report on website)

2 Dec: Adult Bald Eagle, Spotted Towhee, im. Field Sparrow, Common Goldeneye (L. Lemmons, Hagerman)

6 Dec: Female Long-tailed Duck (Gail Morris, Haggerman)

3 Dec: Black Brant (B Gibbons, McAlister Park, SW Lubbock)

FIELD TRIPS by Mary Lee Johnson

Feb. 1: SPECIAL Sunday Field Trips: John Bunker Sands Wetlands

Join leaders Chris Runk and Bob Stone on several half-day field trips which they have arranged for visiting the John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center in Kaufman County. This is where the Masked Duck was found last summer. **The field trip dates are:** February 1, '09; March 1, '09; April 5, '09

Meet our leaders 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 wonderful Wetlands Center that is scheduled to officially open in September 2009.

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

Feb. 13 thru 16: Great Backyard Bird Count, 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. Details will be announced on our website.

Feb. 21: Fort Worth Nature Center, trip leader David Powell, details will need to be announced on the website.

Feb. 28: Richland Creek Wildlife Management Area, trip leader D D Currie and Dell Little. Located about 100 miles southeast of Ft. Worth, (25 miles east of Corsicana off I-45) You will need a Day-use Pass from TX Parks & Wildlife. Available at Walmart (sports desk) and most sporting / outdoor stores.

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, January 8, at 7:30PM

Our speaker will be Mike Francis on commonly-seen North Texas Birds. Members will bring their binoculars and spotting scopes to allow anyone planning to buy in the near future to test different equipment.

VP of Programs
Lee Snapple, lee@snaples.com

Membership News:

As of late December, our 2009 Chapter-only Membership list has grown to 79 members. See the note on this page on how you can join. Your Chapter-only Membership dues supports local habitat restoration projects and education programs at local schools.

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.



Window Decals

will be sold by at our general meetings. Chapter Only members may purchase the decals for \$1.00 each... Check with Ann Hoover.

December's first trip was astounding! Along with Debra Corpora, a birding friend from Rockport, TX, two other birders, and a leader, I spent five days on a trip to St. John's, Newfoundland (a "lifer" province for me). We got all four of our goals for the trip: Iceland and Black-headed Gulls, which are common there in winter, a Yellow-legged Gull, one or two of which have wintered there in recent years, and a wonderfully unexpected bird, a Northern Lapwing. The lapwing had arrived there after we had already scheduled to go – a great coincidence. All four birds were found in the first half day, and after that we just wandered around getting more pictures and hoping for a much better view of the Yellow-legged Gull, which did not ever come close, or for some other rarity to appear.

Soon after that I made a quick trip down to Frontera Audubon in the Lower Rio Grande Valley where a female Blue Bunting had been found. I had no luck on the bunting, so sadly returned home so I could take an airplane trip to Seattle. This trip had been scheduled for some time with the goal birds being a Black-tailed Gull that had been in Vancouver Island, BC, and a Whooper Swan that had been in Idaho. Unfortunately, both birds were no longer around by the time of my trip. I knew that the gull was gone by the time of the trip, but it took a long cross-country drive from Seattle to Hagerman, Idaho, in the ice and snow, however, to learn that the swan was gone. It was not looking good for getting any more new birds.

While I was in Washington, however, I got the astounding news of the appearance of a female Crimson-collared Grosbeak at Frontera Audubon, and shortly after that the report that the female Blue Bunting had also returned there. So, not having anything to chase in Washington, I took an earlier flight back to Texas, picked up my car at DFW and drove directly to the Valley. The next morning I was able to find and photograph both the grosbeak and the bunting. Finally a break in my negative results.

After that I had one more rewarding chase. My friend Debra and I joined Mimi Wolf in doing the Nacogdoches CBC, where she usually finds Henslow's Sparrows, one of my remaining goal birds that it seemed possible I might still get. And, within ten minutes of reaching the "sparrow field", we had the first of four Henslow's Sparrows! We also had just about every other sparrow found in east Texas.

That brought me to 722 for the year, which may well be where it all ends. As I write this, however, I'm on one last trip on my way to Arizona. It remains to be seen if I can drum up a new bird there. (Lynn has posted photos on her webpage at www.lynnbarber.com)

Conservation: by Jim Sipiora

FWAS will match donations up to a maximum of \$1000 to help the Texas Nature Conservancy's Attwater Prairie Chicken Restoration Project.

It is estimated that there were over a million birds inhabiting the coastal prairie but today it is the most endangered bird in the state with estimates as low as 40 birds left in the wild. A representative of the Texas Nature Conservancy explained how the money we contribute will be used. (1.) Protective pens for nests, holding pens for captive-reared chicks we

Conservation (continued)

release, replacing radio-telemetry equipment used to track and monitor nesting hens or even replacing the viewing blind at our Texas City Preserve (destroyed by Hurricane Ike). (2.) Attwater's prairie chicken conservation is labor intensive. We have radio transmitters on most of the hens at our Texas City Prairie Preserve and our 2 staff there spend a lot of time tracking and monitoring the hens. When the hens are nesting, we try to find the nest and put a predator-excusing fence around it. Then, when chicks hatch, we put a box and fence around most nests and feed them field-caught insect for several days, giving them a head-start on getting big enough to avoid predators. (3.) In addition, we receive captive-reared chicks each year, to supplement the existing population. This year we received about 50 captive-raised chicks at our Texas City Preserve, which are held in pens for a few days, then released on the preserve. Then there's lots of staff time monitoring those birds as well. (4.) Double all that effort and expense when we add the Attwaters prairie chicken work we're doing with partners in the Victoria-Refugio-Goliad area. We have a full-time fire crew in Victoria who have worked with landowners in the region over the past 5 years to maintain habitat in the Refugio-Goliad prairie, hoping to reintroduce prairie chickens in the area some day. And last year this dream became a reality, as we secured landowner permission and worked with the US Fish and Wildlife on the first release of captive-reared Attwater's on private lands. Nearly half of those made it through the winter and this past August and September, the partnership released another 140 chicks in the area. There's a related article on the web at www.nature.org.

As Hurricanes Rita and Ike remind us every few years, the species isn't secure unless we have several wild populations out there. In short, we can definitely make good use of any donation to Attwaters prairie chicken recovery.

And every little bit can help. **Please make checks payable to FWAS and note that it is for the Prairie Chickens.** Cash will also be accepted. Please contribute before the February 12 general meeting.

What's New at eBird?

If you've been using eBird regularly, you know all about the recent enhancements that have made it easier to keep track of your personal records and share them with fellow birders, scientists and conservationists. eBird provides the very types of output that birders want: list-keeping, rare bird alerts, state of the art mapping, and numerous ways to explore and view data. Thanks to your contributions we now gather over a million observations per month! Some of the changes include: keeping track of all of your bird lists; reporting birds from anywhere in the Western Hemisphere with plans to expand worldwide in 2009; up-to-the-minute rare bird reports complete with map and directions; enhanced eBird bar charts. Read about all these features and more by visiting <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>

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

Late November thru Late December 2008:

Tarrant County:

1 Dec: Pine Siskin and female Rufous Hummingbird (L. Barber, Fort Worth)

11 Dec: White Pelican (J. Schueler, Lake Worth)

24 Dec: Clark's Grebe (G. Cook, D. Little, D D Currie, Benbrook Lake)