

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*

March, 2009

From January 16 to 19, Michael Francis led a FWAS Fieldtrip to Bosque and Sanida Crest, New Mexico. The group's checklist totaled 89 species. They also were able to watch bird banding at Sandia Crest, and were fortunate to see all three species of the Rosy-Finch (Gray-crowned, Black and Brown-capped.) Other life-birds for some participants included Townsend's Solitaire and Cackling Goose. The thousands of cranes and geese in the photo below were seen at the Bosque del Apache NWR.

More details and a complete bird list is on our website at www.fwas.org.



Southwestern Flyer ♦ © 2009

Gail Morris, executive editor ♦ Jim Jones, managing editor

Paula Murphey, copy editor ♦ Photo credits: as listed



(January)

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.

Spring migration is upon us and once again, I find it so hard to squeeze in ALL the trips I want to take. Are you feeling the same?

I've never birded the Valley during spring migration. My imagination runs wild with what that could be like. I've been to High Island every spring since 2001, except for last year when I was in California during migration. I actually found myself homesick for High Island in April last year. It's a familiar friend. I also missed Boy Scout Woods and all the mosquitoes on the boardwalk of Smith Oaks, Sabine Woods and The Willows, and driving the beach on the washed-out road for as long as I can stand it in my Honda "4-wheel" Accord. One year, I made it almost to "nude beach," but my heart gave in and I turned back. If you've never driven the washed-out road, you should try it. It's good for the soul to get out of the box occasionally!

This year, I'll spend most of spring migration in Florida. I'm going out to the Dry Tortugas for the first time. Instead of sugarplums dancing through my head, it's Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers, Prairie and Palms, and all the others that head north in April and May. I've have my wish list ready. But I'm sure that Florida will surprise us with something not on the wish list, and that's when you can't wipe the smile off my face. It's the surprises, the unexpected. The bird you didn't hope for, didn't dream of seeing on the trip. It's one of the reasons that birding can be so much fun. Even when it's just to the neighborhood park. An early swallow or nighthawk? You never know until you step out the door.

When I return from Florida, I'll be spending the following weekend in East Texas. I haven't done spring migration in East Texas for two years and again, I'm anticipating what we'll see and looking forward to the surprises. In 2003, a TOS trip that I participated in had 27 species of warblers in one location. Yes, 27! I can't imagine beating that, BUT you never know unless you try.

If you're not excited about spring migration, then it's time! I encourage

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.....	3/7/09	J. Ferguson
Lewisville Lake	3/14/09	J L Duhon
Educational Learning Area & K Larkkart		
Clear Creek Wetlands.....	3/21/09	D. Cooper
(Denton)		
River Legacy Park East.....	3/28/09	C Amos
Birding in the Park.....	4/4/09	J. Ferguson
Snakard Ranch (Glen Rose)..	4/11/09	N Smith
Bay City / Brazosport... ..	4/24 to 27	B Tompkins
Nacogdoches / East TX... ..	4/30 to 5/3	G Morris



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.

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 (continued) by Mary Lee Johnson

(3/14) DIRECTIONS to LLELA: Take I-35E north to Lewisville. Exit on Valley Ridge (about one mile north of Business-HWY 121). Go east to the stoplight at Mill Street. Turn north (left) on Mill Street and drive to Jones Street. Turn east (right) on Jones Street and to the dead end at the LLELA front gate. There is a \$7 charge that covers entry and guide fees. Meet at 7:30 AM at the pavilion about a mile past the entrance.

Saturday, 3/21: Clear Creek Wetlands Trip Leader - David Cooper

Meet at 8 AM at the entrance to Clear Creek Wetlands in Denton. There will be one to two hours of walking on non-paved hiking trails. The trails may be muddy. Bring beverage/snack. We may go to the Greenbelt afterwards. Be prepared for weather conditions and insects. Restrooms are available in primitive outdoor "comfort stations." Trip will be cancelled for severe weather conditions. General information and map for the wetlands are at: www.cityofdenton.com/pages/parks_clearcreek.cfm.

Directions: North on I35 to Denton. Exit HWY 380 / University. Go east on University for 5.4 miles then left on Cooper Creek (just past Loop 288). Turn right on Mingo Rd. Go 1.35 miles east on Mingo to dead end and turn left on Collins Rd. Go north on Collins about 0.7 mile to parking entrance (just past La Croix Rd / just before left-hand curve in road).

Saturday, 3/28: River Legacy Park East Trip Leader: Charley Amos

Meet at the River Legacy Park East parking lot on HWY 157 / North Collins St. in Arlington at 7:30 AM. Walking for 2 to 4 miles on paved hiking trail. Bring water and snacks.

Saturday, 4/4: Birding in the Park (last one until September)

Saturday, 4/11: Snakard Ranch, Somervell County

Trip Leaders: Nancy Smith and Phil Craighead

Space limited, FWAS Chapter Only Members will be given first priority. RSVP required to Nancy C. Smith 817-454-1033 or nanscape@airmail.net by April 8, 2009

Target Birds: Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo, Spring Migrants

Friday to Monday, 4/24 – 4/27: Spring Migration in Bay City

Trip leader: Barbara Tompkins

Four-day trip to Bay City and the Brazosport area for spring migration. Space will be limited and FWAS Chapter Only Members will get first priority. RSVP to Mary Lee Johnson at birder76051@yahoo.com or 817-909-4207.

Thursday to Sunday, 4/30 – 5/3: East Texas Nacogdoches and Lufkin

Trip Leader: Gail Morris

More spring migration birding. Space is limited. FWAS Chapter Only Members will get first priority.

RSVP to Gail Morris at gimbloom@earthlink.net by April 20th.

President's Pen continued;

you to sign up for one of the April or May fieldtrips that Mary Lee has planned for FWAS. There's opportunity to join me in East Texas or go to the Bay City/Freeport area and see Quintana and one of my favorite Texas parks – Brazos Bend – with Barbara Tompkins leading. Even the survey at Tierra Verde in Arlington could be wonderful for migrants if the wind is blowing north. And, even if you can't make it out of town, step into a local park and see what surprise awaits YOU!

Gail

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.

GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, March 12,
at 7:30PM**

Our guest speaker will be Lynn Barber. Lynn will share stories of her adventures taken last year as she undertook an ABA Big Year.

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

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 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?

I hope to be hearing from you soon!

Thanks!

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



**Window Decals
will be sold by at our general
meetings. Chapter Only
members may purchase the
decals for \$1.00 each...
see Ann Hoover.**

Support the Future!Paula Murphey, Education Chair

You can support the future by sponsoring an *Audubon Adventures* classroom. The Fort Worth Audubon Society education program provides *Audubon Adventures* environmental education kits to many local schools and educational organizations. The 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 two, or three...). Thank you! (let Paula know if you are interested. Last year FWAS provided 86 teachers with class kits, and we would love to add more.)

Conservation: by Jim Sipiora

American Kestrel

According to four raptor experts in a book titled *The State of North American Birds of Prey* published in 2008, the American Kestrel population is declining. At twenty one hawk-watch sites across the continent, kestrel numbers have increased at two, remained the same at one, and fallen at the other eighteen. Possible causes for the decline include: forest succession, predation, pesticides, or diseases such as West Nile Virus.

The kestrel population in Georgia appears to be doing well as the birds have taken to nesting in power line transmission towers. The towers have tubular, hollow cross-arms which make perfect nest cavities. Since Georgia Power Company started installing the towers in 2003 an estimated 80% have been used by nesting kestrels. It is hoped this design can be used in other places to encourage kestrel nesting.

Burrowing Owl Habitat

The Army environmental staff, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local volunteers are making artificial burrows in the U.S. Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot in northeast Oregon out of plastic pipes, barrels, and buckets. Burrowing Owls have moved into over two-thirds of the 18 burrows created so far.

Wild Parrot News

Late last year a bill was signed into law in Mexico banning the capture and export of wild parrots. Mexico has 22 species of parrots and macaws and about 90% of them are at risk. An estimated 65,000 to 78,500 wild parrots and macaws are illegally captured each year in Mexico and more than 75% die before being purchased. Previously, 3,000 to 4,000 parrots could be caught and exported each year but there was no way to differentiate between birds that were caught legally and illegally. According to the National Geographic News, *The Defenders of Wildlife Mexico* report identified U.S. demand as a major driving force behind the illegal trade for some species, such as the yellow-naped parrot, which is found only in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

"In many cases, the destination of these birds are border cities like Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez to commercialize them in the United States," reported by Javier Sosa, director of the wildlife program at Mexico's environmental protection agency, PROFEPA.

Conservation...(continued)

The American Bird Conservancy and Pronatura Noreste of Mexico have acquired 2,470 acres at Mesa de las Guacamayas in northwestern Mexico. This is one of three main nesting sites for the Thick-billed Parrot. The entire population of this species is probably less than 2,000 birds. The land purchase should protect 40 nest sites. Nest boxes have been put up to make up for the scarcity of natural cavities. The Thick-billed Parrot became extinct in the U.S. in the 1920's. Attempts at reintroducing the species in the 1980's and 90's failed. It is hoped that if the Mexican population can increase some of the birds could be relocated to Arizona.

More details are available at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/>

All Hail Roger Tory Peterson!

Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

Book Review by Paula Murphey

I thank my lucky stars for Roger Tory Peterson. If it hadn't been for him and his landmark book *Field Guide to the Birds*, I would be an even sorer birder than I am.

Although we now also have Sibley, Kaufman, National Geographic and many other field guides, Peterson's was the first. His was the first modern illustrated guide that was actually intended to be taken out in the field. And where would we birders be without that?

So with the supreme debt personally owed to Peterson, I was eager to read the new biography about him, *Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson* by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal. I found it to be an experience in everything I wanted to know about Roger Tory Peterson but was afraid to ask.

The book is a candid portrait that honors Peterson's genius and achievements without covering up his blemishes. Drawing from Peterson's writings and interviews with people who actually knew the man, the book chronicles his entire life. But *Birdwatcher* is not just a chronological recounting of Peterson's personal and professional storyline; it also delves into the specifics of his influence on the birding world, conservation and the environmental movement.

Even though *Birdwatcher* is comprehensive and jam packed with details, it doesn't slide into what so many biographies do: the dry read. It's an enjoyable book. Rosenthal's writing is dynamic and keeps you going. Pick it up, and you too will thank your lucky stars for Roger Tory Peterson.



FIELD TRIPS by Mary Lee Johnson

Saturday, 3/7: Birding in the Park..... (See advertisement on page 7)

Saturday, 3/14: Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

Join us for a guided bird walk through varied habitat normally closed to the general public. An RSVP for this field trip is needed. RSVP to Mary Lee at birder76051@yahoo.com or call 817-909-4207. For more info about LLELA go to www.ias.unt.edu/llela/. (directions on page 6)