



NEWSLETTER

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AUDUBON OUTDOOR CLUB

Corpus Christi, Texas

January, 2009

OFFICERS 2008-2009

President Leah Pummill 991-9031
 Vice-President / Program Karen Easton 949-7736
 Treasurer Judith Reader 937-1806
 Recording Secretary Jeanne O'Leary 992-2618
 Corresponding Secretary Peg Arvin 949-9831

Monthly meetings at C.C. Science & History Museum
 7:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. sharp (doors open at 6:45) on
 2nd Tuesday, Oct. thru May. Picnics at Fres Jones Nature
 Sanctuary June and Sept. No meetings in July or August.

January 13 - How to Write a Field Guide for Peru

Speaker: Dr John O'Neill

Dr O'Neill tentatively scheduled to give his talk which was postponed when he had a stroke last year.

SOUTH TEXAS BIRDING

K333-TV, Saturdays, 7:15-7:25 a.m.

Channel 3 (channel 6 cable)

Phyllis Yochem appeared on November 29, with Sabrina Hall, discussing How Do Birds Communicate: Bird songs and Bird Calls.

Tune in for more South Texas Birding. Video appears on www.kiitv.com later.

FIELD TRIPS

Don't forget walking shoes, hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, water, full tank of gas. LUNCH.

Field trips are not cancelled except when weather makes it impossible, such as warnings issued for driving conditions.

Contact leaders with questions.

JANUARY 10

Polliwog Pond City Nature Preserve

Ducks, wintering raptors. Insect repellent very necessary.
Start at Polliwog Pond west (left) entrance at 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Dane Ferrell, 248-4283, daneferrell@hotmail.com

Take I-37 north, exit Sharpsburg Road, bear right to Polliwog Pond lower (left) entrance. Coming south on I-37, exit Callicoate Road, turn left, go over Callicoate, then turn left on frontage road and follow frontage road to entrance as above. Driving time 30 minutes+-. This is a 1/2 day trip.

JANUARY 24

Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit

Brushland, lake waterbirds, hiking trail

Start at 8:00 a.m. at Calliham boat ramp.

Leader: Jimmy Swartz, 241-1119

Take I-37 north to State Hwy 72, Three Rivers exit. Turn left on 72 to Three Rivers, follow signs in town for Choke Canyon, Hwy 72 turns right, go about 6 or 7 miles to Choke Canyon Calliham Unit. Turn right. From entrance go to first road, turn left. Go to parking lot at boat ramp. Restrooms here. We will eat lunch in the picnic area. Driving time 90 min.

For possible birding after lunch, check with the leader.

Entrance fee: Individuals with Parklands Passport ("Bluebonnet" pass), free. The new Texas State Parks Annual Pass, free for all in one auto. Otherwise entrance fee is \$3.00 for adult 13 and over, \$2.00 for seniors, children free.



AOC BIRD RECORDS

Maintained by Nancy Devlin & Marge DiClemente, 949-2910, ndevlin@stx.rr.com. Report all sightings.

WEB SITES:

AUDUBON OUTDOOR CLUB
TEXAS HAWK WATCHES
TEXAS WHOOPING CRANES:
www.ccbirding.com

Webmaster: Patty Beasley, 361-994-8804,
patty@ccbirding.com

AOC newsletter is on the AOC page.

OTHER AREA WEB SITES

Rockport, www.birdrockport.com
Port Aransas, www.portaransas.org/birds
Kingsville, www.kingsvilletexas.com (Click Birding)
(Realitos) www.montemuchoaudubon.org

(See "Post Sightings on Ebird" on Page 4)

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Kingsville - November 22

KINGSVILLE AND BEYOND FIELD TRIP

On a cold slightly windy Saturday morning of November 22 fourteen hardy souls ventured forth into Dick Kleberg Park for our Kingsville and south field trip. We got under way by first birding the park where we found a few duck species, Belted Kingfisher and a Spotted Sandpiper. We then proceeded to move onto the usual county farm roads where we were able to pick up more duck and goose species in some of the ponds that were not dried up by the continuing dry weather.

When we got to the corner of 772 and 2240 where a black eye pea field had been harvested during the week we came upon 500 - 600 geese in a pond. After scoping the geese we continued on down the road about a mile to the corner of 2240 and 1120 where another pond had even more geese. This pond had about 1000+ combined birds of Snow (both blue and white forms), Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese. While I was showing various people what Ross's Geese looked like as compared to the Snow Geese, Larry Jordan and Judith Reader were looking through the birds on the pond from the other end of the line of cars. Judith came rushing down to us saying that Larry thought he had a pair of Brants so we immediately went down to their end. Just as we arrived something spooked the birds and most went airborne in a big milling cloud and then dispersed across the country side.

We next went to some wetlands and then on down to Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Park for lunch and the facilities of which both were greatly needed. While we were at lunch Larry and Judith went back and re-found one of the Brants. A count up was made at this time and we had **80 species**.

After lunch, most of the group elected to go on the road home. I elected to bird the wetlands next to the park and then proceeded to go to Drum Point to see what was there. At the area where the road meets the shoreline I found a mixed raft of ducks that had two adult female Surf Scooters. I next went back to the pond where the Brants were found earlier and again found them closer to the road. I watched them for 10 -12 minutes and made a drawing of what I saw before they again went airborne. I then left to come home with an additional 18 Species, mostly shorebirds, for a **grand total of 98**. Thanks go out to all the hardy souls who followed me around all day. -Bob Creglow

Knolle Farms - December 6

A bright, but cold morning greeted 15 intrepid birders at the Knolle Farm home of Pearson and Beth Knolle. Birding with the Knolles is a great experience as you are given the privilege of entering their fenced pastures when normally you are restricted to the farm to market roads of the area.

The bird of the early morning at the Knolle home was a Ferruginous Hawk. He remained clearly visible, allowing all to get a good look - of course he was probably just trying to warm up in the cold morning air.

A covey of Bob White Quail was the surprise of a short mid-morning hike making all of us jump as they burst into the air. It was good to see a large mixed flock of Eastern

and Western Meadowlarks and in another pasture the surprise bird was a foraging flock of Lark Buntings.

A Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk was the sentry at our lunch stop by the river. There we were joined for lunch by a herd of very pregnant Jersey cows, but they moseyed on when they decided, with Beth Knolle's help, that they probably wouldn't be allowed to partake of our peanut butter sandwiches.

We had a great trip, seeing a total of **63 species**. What started as a cold morning turned into an afternoon of warm sun. Thanks again to the Knolles for their hospitality and the generosity of their time. -Leah Pummill

FINS TO FEATHERS BIRDING TOURS

South Padre Island

Scarlet and George Colley have a three-hour boat tour (Fins to Feathers) on the bay for upclose shore birds and are always happy to get that special bird or close up look at the bird or birds you may need or want to see. Recently they provided close looks at the Purple Sandpiper which was on the slippery jetty.

Their web site www.fin2feather.com provides information about birding locations on South Padre Island, which is reached from Harlingen.

SIGHTINGS

Reported at December meeting

Date	Bird	Where	By
(Var)	Virginia Rails Clapper Rails	Birding Center PA	J Shreves E Fisher
11/27	Harlans Red-tails	Kingsville	B&J Creglow
9/22	2 F Surf Scoter 2 brant	Drum Point Kleberg Cty	B Creglow B Creglow
12/6	Wht-tl Hawk	Sinton bypass	K Smith
12/9	Green jays, grtr	Kiskadees, goldfinch	
12/6	Pine siskin Indigo bunting Grtr Kiskadee	Flour Blurr N Padre Island	Reader/Jordan M Cooksey
12/6	Greater Scaup	Lagune Madre	M Cooksey

TREASURER'S REPORT

November

Operating Fund	\$ 5,542.40
Income	\$ 157.80
Expenses	259.50
Operating Fund Nov 30	\$ 5,440.70
Reserved Funds	
Sanctuaries	
Blucher Park	\$ 861.00
Fred Jones	3,278.08
Held-Moran	5,087.05
Packery	1,238.15
Suter Park	754.92
Prize Money	\$ 195.17
Total all funds Nov 30	\$ 16,855.07

Ed. Note: A detailed report is available at meetings.

-Submitted by: Judith Reader, Treasurer

**"BIRDING THE BEND"
THE TEXAS COASTAL BEND**

On January 1, 2009 a new web site will introduce to the rest of the world why you should come to the Texas Coastal Bend. Whether your interests lie in birding, fishing, kayaking, hunting, biking, wind surfing, etc., you will be able to find information and data that will hopefully lure you to the Coastal Bend of Texas. Hopefully, this site will attract visitors who are interested in all aspects of nature tourism to our area.

The "Coastal Bend" referred to on this site will consist of 13 counties to include the following: Aransas, Bee, Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleburg, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio. The initial studies or inventory as to what these counties have to offer a visitor interested in birding or any other of the outdoor activities listed was made by Ted Eubanks and members of his company called Fermata. The information has been shared with two committees consisting of representatives of all facets of nature tourism found in these 13 counties. The committees are the Advisory and the Steering Committees. Members of the Outdoor Club have been active in both.

Because birding is considered to be the largest drawing card in nature tourism, that aspect of these counties has been closely studied and evaluated. The web site for "Bird the Bend" will reflect those interests. Now, comes the part where the birders- that's all of you who are reading this page-- must become involved. What are you seeing out there? Not just the rare or unusual, but what you saw, on what day, and where. Just the species, not the number.

Telling the rest of world what we are seeing is critical to the success of this venture. If you and your computer are friends, reporting is easy. First go to the "eBird" web site, on their home page you will see a choice titled "Submit Your Observations" If you are new to "eBird" you will be asked to register and then follow the directions you are given to submit what you have seen and where. Believe me, I did it and if I can do it anyone with a computer will be able to log in their sightings.

However, some of you may not want to make that effort and that is okay as well - again remember what you see and where you see it is important to the success of this venture. Rather than just hanging on to the list of birds that you have seen, send the list to Nancy Devlin, she and/or Margie DiClemente will compile your results in "eBird" for you.

Make a New Years resolution - tell someone what you have seen. Let's make a success of this venture or adventure as the case may be. -Leah Pummill

**POST SIGHTINGS ON EBIRD FOR
NEW CVB BIRDING WEB SITE**

Starting January 1, all sightings should be posted to Ebird, ebird.com, which will then appear on the new CVB birding web site, **which is not up and running yet.** Ebird is an online checklist program, started in 2002 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

To register and get started, ::

ebird.org/ebird/Register

If you do not use a computer, remember all sightings should be sent to Nancy Devlin, 15337 N Mutiny Ct., Corpus Christi, TX 78418.

GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc

The Great Texas Birding Classic (GTBC), sponsored by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is a friendly, but serious birding for conservation tournament. It is held each year during April to coincide with the spectacular spring bird migration in Texas. During the tournament, teams vie to see who can spot and record the most bird species in a given time period. The adult teams with the highest species counts win the privilege of choosing the conservation projects that will be awarded Conservation Grant Grand Prizes.

Register and pay fees by March 9, 2009, to avoid late fees.

To date, the GTBC has contributed \$651,000 directly to avian habitat conservation along the Texas gulf coast through the Conservation Grant funding. Prior to each year's competition, organizations submit conservation project proposals to win funding through the grants awarded by the winning teams.

AOC has been the recipient of several awards by the winners of various classifications in this birding contest, for our Packery Channel Sanctuary and Fred Jones Sanctuary.

PHOTOS FOR TEXAS REVIEW SPECIES

The Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) web site - www.texasbirds.org/tbrc/ - has, among other things, a Photos Section where a representative sample of TBRC Review species (and some recently removed from the Review List) reside for your enjoyment. It is our intention to provide at least one photo for every TBRC Review species, even though a number of species are represented only by specimens. Thanks to the stalwart efforts of Mark Lockwood, Heather Prestridge at TAMU, and other most helpful Museum workers, we have been able to add a large number of the specimen-only species to the photos section - please check it out:

www.texasbirds.org/tbrc/photos

There remain a handful of species not in-place yet:

Common Eider:

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

Red-necked Stint

Dark-billed Cuckoo

Black Catbird -

Ed.Note: This list may not be current.

And lastly the new Review species, Evening Grosbeak - I'd be delighted to receive good/reasonable-quality digital photos of Evening Grosbeak TAKEN IN TEXAS; if you send me any images please be sure to include the place and date the pics were taken, and the name of the photographer - thanks. Martin Reid, Member, TBRC, www.martinreid.com

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)

Feb. 13-16, 2009

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

How to Participate

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 13–16, 2009. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. You may find it helpful to print out your regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.

3. When you're finished, enter your results through our web page. You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count (February 13, 2009). It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on March 1, 2009.

DUCK STAMPS

What are Duck Stamps?

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage. Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today.

Federal Duck Stamps are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Understandably, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources.

Buy Federal Duck Stamps from the following vendors:

- United States Postal Service

Select Post Office Locations: Call your local post office to check Duck Stamp availability.

- Amplex Corporation (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service distributor)
1-800-852-4897, www.duckstamp.com
- Duck Stamps can also be purchased at most major sporting goods stores that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

BOOK

The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds:

Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small
Stephen W. Kress

Illustrated by Anne Senechal Faust

Covers everything you need to know. Backyards, forest and shrub land management, nesting and roosting structures, plants, feeding. Reference material on sources. Created in association for Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

BIRDERS EXERCISE CAUTION

With winter birding going on, we want to repeat a warning that we have issued before. Cars and even trunks have been broken into at popular birding spots.

Please do not leave any valuables in your parked car. Carry everything with you when you leave your car. If this is not possible, it might be wise to leave a "watcher" at the parking site.

MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

German, Lyle (Bart)
325 Stages Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
991-5463
swbart36@hotmail.com

Whitson, Cecilia
1729 Bois D'Arc Pl.
Corpus Christi TX 78416
Home: 857-7826
Work: 826-1209
ceciliawhit@yahoo.com

RENEWAL:

Shoesmith, John & Pat
6509 Peacock Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78414
537-1224
pat_shoesmith@hotmail.com

MEMBER NEWS

We have received word of Jack Nielsen's death on November 15, he had been ill and in a nursing home.

Leonabelle Turnbull has had her pacemaker replaced, and now is resting at home (see your directory), she would look forward to visitors.

Peg Arvin is receiving chemotherapy here in Corpus Christi for Stage II cancer.

-Barbara Olsen

AUDUBON OUTDOOR CLUB
P.O. BOX 3352
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78463

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1262
Corpus Christi, Texas

Bill & Patty Beasley
7402 Piper Dr
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5123

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Student \$ 5.00 _____ Contributing \$60.00 _____
Individual 15.00 _____ Sustaining 100.00 _____
Family 20.00 _____

RETURN WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO AUDUBON
OUTDOOR CLUB TO: Membership Chairman, 1310
Southbay Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78412, 992-1887

FIRST NAME(S): _____

LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STREET ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:
(optional) _____

CITY, STATE _____

NINE-DIGIT (+4) ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

WORK (optional) _____

E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (Continued)

I would like to make a donation to the
Audubon Outdoor Club \$ _____

(Optional) To be used for _____

In Honor or in Memory Of:

Name/Address of Person to be Notified of Memorial:

I would like to give a gift membership to:

(AOC will send a notification to the person receiving gift.)

BIRD REHABILITATION

ARK, Port A, UTMSI, 749-6711 **ARK on menu**
Texas State Aquarium, 881-1200 (Seabirds only)
For caged (pet) birds, 854-5206

⇒ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS INCLUDING SEASONAL CHANGES:** Send to
Editor, 456 Eldon Dr #I-3, Corpus Christi, TX 78412-2407, grifkm@sbcglobal.net.