



## NEWSLETTER

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## AUDUBON OUTDOOR CLUB

### Corpus Christi, Texas

### June 2009

#### OFFICERS 2008-2009

*President* Leah Pummill 991-9031  
*Vice-President/Program* Maggie Haynie 449-6343 cell  
*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 Fred Jones Nature  
 Sanctuary June and Sept. No meetings in July or August.

#### JUNE 9

Covered Dish Supper  
**6:00 p.m., Fred Jones Sanctuary**

*Please note the earlier time for this meeting.*

Bring covered dish, beverage, eating utensils, table  
 and chairs (optional). There are picnic tables but not enough  
 for all. Pack all trash out. Don't forget your insect repellent.

Take TX 181 over Harbor Bridge. Exit at Moore Ave  
 (FM 893), turn left and go 6.5 mi. to intersection with FM  
 1074. Turn left on CR 3265 (Koonce Loop), go 0.5 mi. to  
 entrance on left.

#### FIELD TRIP

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

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

**Contact leaders with questions.**

#### AUGUST 22

##### Shorebirds

Local mud flats and estuaries around Corpus Christi  
 including Tule Lake. A good opportunity to study a variety of  
 molt cycles, including juveniles.

**Carpooling is strongly recommended.**

**LEADER:** Mel Cooksey, 949-8700

**Start at 7:30 a.m.,** Hans & Pat Suter Park. Suter  
 Park is on Ennis Joslin Road at the intersection with Nile Rd.  
 We will carpool to other spots and return before noon to  
 Suter Park. This is a half-day trip, lunch up to participants.

#### DUES TIME

A pre-addressed envelope was enclosed with the  
 May newsletter for you to use to pay your dues. Dues must be  
 paid **by June 30 to be included in the directory.**

Don't miss out on another 10 months of good  
 programs, field trips, and newsletter.

**Please fill out the envelope and mail it with your  
 check!** If there are NO CHANGES just fill in your name.  
 If your email has changed please include that.

#### DONATIONS

The Audubon Outdoor Club gratefully acknowledges  
 receipt of the following generous gifts:

##### Sustaining Membership

Walta Ocker

Charles Hoge

Jim & Ermine Hailey

##### Contributing Membership

Nancy Devlin & Margaret DiClemente

John Barrow & Louise Chambers

Kathy Stokes

John Shreves

Robert White

Jane & Frank Bachman

Jimmy Jackson

Terry & Karen Smith

Jean Beck

#### FOR GENERAL FUND

Charles Brown

Jimmy Swartz

#### Memorial for Leonabelle Turnbull

John Shreves

#### Memorial for Sheryl White

Martha Siegel

#### Birdathon Pledge for 158 species Bob & Jo Creglow

Edith Cosgrove

#### ABA CONSERVATION PROJECT AWARD

At each of its conventions the American Birding  
 Association, ABA, leaves a conservation legacy by funding a  
 local conservation and/or educational project. The monies  
 are raised through donations made by attendees at the  
 convention. This year the award was given to Blucher Park.

The award of \$2,500 was presented by David Bird, a  
 member of the ABA Board of Directors, to Larry Jordan and  
 myself at the April 30 convention dinner at the Omni Hotel.  
 The ABA, with this award, recognizes the ongoing effort to  
 enhance and improve Blucher Park and gives its support to  
 this ongoing project. The Corpus Christi Convention and  
 Visitors Bureau will match the amount of the award.

The monies awarded will be used to erect a  
 kiosk/chimney swift tower at Blucher Park. The kiosk will be  
 located on Carrizo St across from the Blucher Bed and  
 Breakfast. Additional funding for this project has been  
 awarded by the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries with  
 matching funds again from the CVB. The construction should  
 begin this summer with completion scheduled for September  
 2009.

-Leah Pummill

**This is the last newsletter until September. Good summer birding!**

**BLUCHER BIRD WALKS, APRIL, 2009**

We had about 220 visitors from all over Texas, plus Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Arizona, California, North Carolina, Louisiana, Wyoming, Montana, Ontario, British Columbia, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

There were 90 species of birds seen during the seven walks. Unique to this year was the female Eastern Towhee that hung around several weeks.

Thank you very much to hosts Bob Creglow, Karen Smith, Kathy Griffith, Mel Cooksey, Judith Reader, Patrick Bailey, Dave Grise, Linda Spiller, Mabel Byrnes, Frank Bachman, Jimmy Swartz, Maggie Haynie and Judy Kestner.  
-Larry Jordan

**DID ANYONE NOTICE?**

Did anyone out there notice that this group, the Audubon Outdoor Club, has been exceptionally busy this past 2008-2009 season? Beginning in August with the HawkWatch at Hazel Bazemore through mid-May and final field trip to catch last minute migrants, we have had our wheels churning. I am very proud of our officers, our committee chairmen, and our members for the outstanding effort they have made to support not only our birding community, but the rest of the City as well.

In June, with the picnic at the Fred Jones Sanctuary, we close our calendar year; however our officers and committee chairmen are hard at work planning your activities for the 2009-2010 season. Meetings and programs are being planned, and field trips organized-- suggestions and ideas are needed. Members are being reminded that your dues for the next year are needed and soon the wheels will be put in motion for the printing of our Audubon Outdoor Club activity and membership book. In August, the AOC newsletter will announce the start of another year.

I am looking forward to another active year. It will happen thanks to all our members who "step up to the plate" whenever we ask for help. It is because of you, the members, officers, and committee chairman that the AOC has indeed had a very good year and will do so again.

-Leah Pummill

**Ed. Note:** Well, Leah, I certainly noticed that in April 2009, we were sort of chasing our tails around with everything that was going on, and earning a lot of kudos along the way. Take a look at the Blucher Park article on the next page to see what you can do to fill in the time this summer.

**AOC BIRD RECORDS**

Maintained by Nancy Devlin & Marge DiClemente, 949-2910, [ndevlin@stx.rr.com](mailto:ndevlin@stx.rr.com). Report all sightings. Sightings reported here will be posted to ebird.org.

**WEB SITES:**

**AUDUBON OUTDOOR CLUB  
TEXAS HAWK WATCHES  
TEXAS WHOOPING CRANES:**

[www.ccbirding.com](http://www.ccbirding.com)

Webmaster: Patty Beasley, 361-994-8804,

[patty@ccbirding.com](mailto:patty@ccbirding.com)

AOC newsletter is on the AOC page.

**ABA CONVENTION ENDS**

The American Birding Association Spring Convention in Corpus Christi ended Sunday, May 3. There were about 275 conventioners from all over the United States and Canada as well as South Africa, the United Kingdom, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago. A total of 266 species were seen by the participants, the second highest total for any ABA convention.

The Bird of the Convention was the Surfbird seen by a few on the Port A Jetty. Also notable was a concentration of 1100 Buff-breasted Sandpipers (about 8% of the world's population) at the sod farm south of Calallen. One interesting note was that a British couple who have seen about 50% of the birds in the entire world, got their life Chuck-Will's-Widow at Blucher Park.

During the week busloads of convention attendees toured the hot spots on field trips organized by our many-talented Larry Jordan. Local field trip leaders, all of whom did a great job, included Bob Creglow, Mel Cooksey, Dane Ferrell, Debra Corpora, Bron Rorex, Tom Langschied, Willie Sekula and Derek Muschalek.

Reports of satisfaction were received from the participants. Here is one example:

"We are 3 women from North Carolina aging from 37 to 67 and we cannot thank you Texans enough for making it our most memorable and fruitful "Birding Trips" to date! I got 55 Lifers and another group member got 52 Lifers. Surprisingly we got most of our Lifers at Blucher Park. What a fabulous location in the city. We are taking with us many ideas. Thanks again for catering to birders."

Larry Jordan reports that overall both the conventioners and the ABA staff were very pleased with the field trips and the variety of birds seen, despite the terrible weather.

**SIGHTINGS**

Date	Bird	Where	By
Reported at May meeting			
5/11	Yellow-green vireo	Paradise Pond	P Beasley
	Western Tanager		
	Mourning Warbler		
	Cedar Waxwing		
5/11	Broad-winged Hawk	Polliwog Pond	D Ferrell
	terr. display flight		
5/3	Groove-billed Ani	?	L Spiller
5/8	Lesser Goldfinch	Home	E&N Arnold
5/11	Yellow & Chestnut-sided Warbler		"
5/10	Yellow-green Vireo	Birding Center	M Cooksey
	Black-whiskered Vireo	Paradise Pond	"
	Cape May Warbler	" & Brdg Ctr	"
4/30	Buff-brstd Sandpiper	Sod Farm CR 69	B Creglow
	Hudsonian Godwit	"	"
5/2	Black-billed Cuckoo	Polliwog Pond	"
5/4	Surbird	Port A jetty	L Jordan/
	Bobwhite	Home	J Reader

## BLUCHER PARK SUMMER 2009

The spring migration is almost over for us here in Corpus Christi. Are you wondering what to do during the summer months? We have the solution to your problem! Come on down to Blucher Park on Carrizo Street every Monday at 5 PM and help the AOC maintain the best nature/pocket park in South Texas. Working in the park is good for the body and the soul. You get some exercise and feel good about maintaining habitat for our feathered friends.

After the work is done, trash picked up, weeds pulled and tree limbs trimmed and hauled to the street, we settle down for our "Chat and Chew" while the sprinklers continue to run. Sometimes we have lively discussions on nature topics but usually we simply visit. All the while we are keeping an eye on the Blucher House and the swifts as they prepare to head down the chimneys for a night's rest. "Chucky" the Chuck-will's-widow often entertains us as he swoops around looking for his supper.

All you need to enjoy this wonderful evening out is a pair of gloves, your favorite gardening tools, a bag or two (empty birdseed bags work great), a trash picker (available at hardware stores) and insect repellent.

For the Chat and Chew, bring your sandwich and water or your favorite drink. Occasionally people bring something to share with the group such as a special recipe or some healthy snack food discovered at the local grocery. We try to make our food choices healthy but we are not always successful.

So come on out on Monday nights. The only reason we might cancel would be rain. (We should be so lucky!) Everyone is welcome and we need your help. Feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns, My house number is 361-387-1040 or my cell 361-877-9723.

-Karen Smith, Chairperson for Blucher Park

**Ed. Note:** A group of TX Master Naturalists including AOC member Mary Grace Lopez, has a project to rid the park of cat's claw vine, *Macfadyena unguis-cati*. It has yellow trumpet-like flowers, and is very invasive. It is not native to Texas.

[www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/may/03](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2009/may/03), click on Cat's Claw Vine Can Take Over.

Maybe we can have a report from the group on their work. Emilie Payne did remove much of it from around two of the Blucher houses across the street a few years ago.

### LEADING FIELD TRIPS

An article in January/February 2008 Bird Watcher's Digest points out some things field trip leaders can do to make the trip successful and even things that participants in the field trip can do to make it enjoyable for everyone. One of our "rules" is that birders should stay behind the leader, for obvious reasons.

**1) Leaders should face birders and call out birds** This alerts inattentive and beginning birders and assists hard-of-hearing birders. If the leader feels turning around will "lose" the bird he or she should ask someone else to "stay on the bird."

**2) Make sure everyone has seen the bird** This can involve simply asking anyone who has not seen it to raise a hand. Beginning birders may be shy about admitting this. Bring those who haven't seen it to the front to help them. New birders may soon be helping others.

**3) Use easy to understand descriptions to pinpoint the location** The time-honored "o'clock" position is always the best. How many times have we said "that tree." Huh? When the bird is at a distance, use the clock face and describe certain trees, shape of groups of trees or bushes, colors found, poles, roofs, even clouds to pinpoint the location.

Up close, try "look for patch of red" or "the bird is on the branch at \_\_\_ o'clock" and "in the center or at the outside of the tree."

**4) Include comfort facilities, what to bring such as food, chair etc, clothing, equipment including special motor vehicles needed, and possible difficulty, in instructions published beforehand** AOC birders appreciate estimated travel time in instructions.

**5) Participants should keep unnecessary chatter and other distractions to a minimum** Many are birding by ear, and this includes the leader. Some birds are missed from inattention.

Last but not least, the field trip leader is very much appreciated, and is not responsible if the target birds don't show up! We would rate our field trip leaders among the best.

We hope all this encourages more people to volunteer to lead a field trip, you are providing much pleasure to other birders when you share your expertise. If you feel you don't have the expertise to identify every bird, but have the knowledge of a good location, ask someone to keep the bird list for you and help find the birds, and concentrate on good organization to make the day one to remember.

**AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY (ABC)  
CAMPAIGN TO REGULATE WIND ENERGY**

Wind power is widely touted as the green energy of the future, but did you know that wind turbines kill thousands of birds each year, including eagles, waterfowl, and migratory songbirds? The more wind farms that are built, the greater the problem becomes.

American Bird Conservancy is working with regulators, lawmakers, and the wind industry to limit the damage done by turbines.

Regulations that ensure new wind farms are not built in migratory flyways or in the vicinity of important breeding, wintering, or migration stop-over concentrations will significantly reduce songbird deaths. Agreements from wind farm operators to turn off turbines in bad weather during peak migration will also help, as will the use of radar to track large concentrations of birds as they move through an area where turbines are situated.

Your donation towards ABC'S Collisions Campaign will help ensure that we get wind energy right from the start.

You can help with a membership, or by donating to this campaign. Members (\$20 and up) receive three issues of the magazine, Bird Conservation, and can also receive three issues of the newsletter, Bird Calls (\$40 and up), to keep informed and up-to-date on this and other key issues.

Information: [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)

For wind information: Click on Conservation Issues then Wind Program.

Or mail to: American Bird Conservancy, Membership Department, PO Box 249, The Plains, VA, 20198.

August 5-9  
**Southwest Wings Birding Festival**  
Sierra Vista, AZ, 520-678-8238  
[www.swwings.org](http://www.swwings.org)

September 17-20  
**Hummer/Bird Celebration**  
Rockport  
800-242-0071  
[www.rockporthummingbird.com](http://www.rockporthummingbird.com)

Saturdays during September  
**Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza**  
Lake Jackson  
[www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org)  
979-480-0999

**2009 TEXAS PELAGIC TRIPS**

I have created a website dedicated to disseminating information about Texas Pelagic Birding. The address is:

[www.texaspelagics.com](http://www.texaspelagics.com)

It contains announcements about upcoming Texas Pelagics for 2009. There is also a good deal of information and pictures of many past Texas Pelagic Birding trips.

I invite anyone who is interested in Texas Pelagic birding to check it out. I'd also like to invite suggestions and anyone who would like to make contributions to contact me directly.

Regards, Gary Hodne, [garyhodne@earthlink.net](mailto:garyhodne@earthlink.net)

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**April**

<b>Operating Fund</b> March 31	\$ 4,997.75
Income	\$ 319.00
Expenses	254.36
<b>Operating Fund</b> April 30	\$ 5,062.39
<b>Reserved Funds</b>	
<b>Sanctuaries</b>	
Blucher Park	\$ 866.00
Fred Jones	3,182.65
Held-Moran	4,032.65
Packery	911.57
Suter Park	607.67
<b>Prize Money</b>	\$ 195.17
<b>Total Funds</b> April 30	\$ 14,858.10

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

-Submitted by: Judith Reader, Treasurer

**FESTIVALS AND EVENTS**

August 1 - November 15  
**Corpus Christi Hawk Watch**  
Hazel Bazemore County Park

Last weekend in September  
**Celebration of Flight**  
Hazel Bazemore County Park  
[dancferrell@hotmail.com](mailto:dancferrell@hotmail.com)

**YOUR NEWSLETTER**

There aren't enough words to express my thanks to two very faithful people, Edith Cosgrove and Joyce Jarmon, who mail out the newsletter every month. I could print newsletters by the ream and they would be worthless if they didn't get mailed out to all of you on time every month.

In that same vein, Barbara Olsen keeps meticulous membership information, which constitutes the mailing list. Once again, if our mailing list is not accurate, there isn't really a newsletter.

If you don't receive a newsletter, be sure to let us know, you can call any of these women, or myself, and we will check to make sure we have your right address, and send you another newsletter.

If you are a "winter Texan" or change your address for any reason, we need for you to notify us each time you make your seasonal move, please get the word to us by the deadline, the 16th of the month before you move.

And finally, thanks to everyone who sends articles and/or news items for the newsletter. This is your newsletter, and the more member participation we have, the better it is going to be.

-Editor

A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself.

-Edward Abbey

### BETH'S BIRDS

Caught Beth Hoekje on PBS, a short program. Showed her at Indian Point, at Kiwanis meeting, and a 3rd grade classroom. The classroom was fun, she had the kids acting like birds feeding. You can see Beth's slide shows about her travels and other subjects at <http://www.kedt.org/Ed/BethsBirds/bethbirds.htm>

Beth has given us many programs at our meetings, and also brought photos for members' photo show in May.

### BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK

In November, The Nature Conservancy purchased the 7,000-acre Fresno Ranch to add to Big Bend Ranch, the largest remaining private property inside the state park. It contains rare species such as peregrine falcon, Texas horned lizard and reticulated gecko, plus 8.5 miles of river frontage.

Big Bend Ranch State Park, the largest state park in Texas, over 300,000 acres of Chihuahuan Desert wilderness in a remarkably rugged, remote and unpopulated setting. The park extends along the Rio Grande from southeast of Presidio to near Lajitas in both Brewster and Presidio Counties. Embracing some of the most remote and rugged terrain in the Southwest, it encompasses two mountain ranges containing ancient extinct volcanoes, precipitous canyons, and waterfalls, including Solitario and Bofecillos Creek.

### INJURED BIRDS

As listed on the last page, the ARK is the only rehabber locally for land birds, the Aquarium for seabirds. Texas Parks & Wildlife has a Resource Protection office at 361-825-3244. However, you may live elsewhere or be traveling and find a bird in need of help. TPWD can locate a game warden or rehabber.

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/rehab/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/rehab/)

The first thing to think about is removing the bird from danger without putting yourself in danger. Capture if at all possible. If it is a songbird or seagull or something that you can easily handle, the best way is to throw something over it -- a towel, blanket, jacket, scoop it up with a shovel, whatever you can do, and then confine in a box, garbage can, paper sack, anything that will keep it safe and not hurt itself further. No bird cages!

Raptors and large water birds can be quite dangerous. All birds will bite, and a bird like a heron or bittern can poke you in the eye.

Do not handle the bird, show it off, etc. It needs to be in a quiet dark place with no attempt to feed or water until you have spoken with a rehabber.

-Barbara House

State and Federally permitted wildlife rehabilitator

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM FRIENDS CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C. - February 21-23, 2009

This conference was attended by 131 Friends of NWR groups, to address the serious issues facing the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Following the conference, the National Wildlife Refuge Association held an advocacy training session, meeting with over 245 U.S. Representatives and Senators and Committee staffers, to advocate for more support for the NWRs. Specifically, increased funding for the Refuge System and for land acquisition, as well as member support for the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus.

-Thanks to Friends of Balcones Canyonland Refuge

If you are looking for a worthwhile project and use of your time and/or money, joining one of the Friends of National Wildlife Refuge groups is a good one. Volunteers do a great deal of work that benefits the refuges for everyone.

### RECYCLING USED CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND BIRDING OPTICS

American Birding Association's **Birder's Exchange** (Betty Peterson, director) [www.aba.org/bex/](http://www.aba.org/bex/) gratefully receives donations of camera equipment, binoculars, scopes, tripods, and sound recording gear, that are sound and in good working order, but which have been replaced with newer equipment by their owners. These they distribute to deserving Latin American students and researchers via a system of volunteer couriers who hand-carry them to their destinations (these types of equipment cannot be shipped by ordinary means due to severe customs duties and unreliable shipping). This serviceable gear (please don't dump junk on them) can have a very long and productive life in the hands of students in developing countries (and you get a tax write-off).

-John C. Arvin

### MEMBERSHIP

#### PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Gabriel, Michael  
620 Hopper Dr  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411-2382 225-4658  
littrouble16@yahoo.com

Rodriguez, Juan  
620 Hopper Dr  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411-2382 225-4658  
juanrod23@yahoo.com

Walton, Bill  
4406 Sequoia St  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411-3646 249-6790

#### William "Bill" Sheppard

Mr. Sheppard died April 13. Barbara and Bill Sheppard owned Sheppard Ranch, where AOC had many field trips led by AOC member Audrey Humphreys, and hosted by Mr and Mrs Sheppard. Mr. Sheppard was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, and sister-in-law, Audrey Humphreys. Sisters Barbara and Audrey were Luckenbachs, a family name made famous in the song, "Luckenbach, Texas", by Waylon Jennings.

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

7841245123 C049



**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.