

May 20, 2002

The *Brown Pelican*



The Newsletter of the Coastal Bend Audubon Society

Great Start for Coastal Bend International Migratory Bird Day

by CBAS member Richard Gibbons

The Blucher Nature Center hosted over 100 migratory bird revelers on April 27th. Five youth teams participated in the Great Texas Birding Classic returning to the festival site with beaming smiles, tired eyes, and respectable checklists. Next year we hope to double our youth teams and provide loaner binoculars for them to use.

The youth team leaders did an outstanding job of getting our future decision-makers turned on to the outdoors. The IMBD conservation heroes were Mary Ellen Vega, Beau Hardegree, Smiley Nava, Warren Pulich, and Jesse Grantham. They were up to the task and made an impact. One young participant exclaimed to a local television reporter "This was the best day of my life!" There were young people stalking through Blucher Park binoculars in hand, listening and watching for the migratory birds taking a break from their long journeys. I watched the older birders grinning from ear to ear wishing they'd started that young.



A group of Roughwings gathers on the porch at Blucher Nature Center.
Photo by Mary Ellen Vega

Refreshments, sponsored by the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, welcomed both youth birding teams and participants in the first annual America's Birdiest City Spring Count. Count day conditions were fantastic for migrants with a bent for high-speed travel. *(continued on*

Journey to the Galapagos Islands

A field trip report by CBAS member Bron Rorex

The Galapagos Islands are located on the equator about 600 miles into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Ecuador. They are best accessed by air from Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador. The volcanic archipelago is composed of 19 islands and 40 islets. The last eruption occurred on October 5, 1998. The islands differ greatly, each having its unique mix of scenery and wildlife. One finds both the xeric recent lava flows of newly created land, and the lushly vegetated ancient calderas that lie in the mist of the highlands. Pristine beaches may be colored black, white, or even red. This variation also exists in the color of lava lizards and Sally Lightfoot crabs between the islands. Differences can even be noted from island to island in the endemic species of Darwin's *(continued on page 4)*

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This Month's Speaker:

Erin Erben
Senior Animal Keeper,
Texas State Aquarium

Subject:

Animal Rehabilitation at
the Texas State Aquarium

Location:

Natural Resources Center
Room 1003
Texas A&M University-
Corpus Christi

Time:

1st Tuesday of the
month 6:45 pm

**All members and the
general public are
invited!**

NEW

NEW

What's Up Around Texas

May 2002 Davis Mountains SP - Bird Banding - Join TPWD in capturing and banding birds in the Limpia Canyon Primitive Area. Excellent opportunity to learn our local birds and why we band. 8:11 am; call for dates (915) 426-3337.

May 21, 2002 Rockport, Texas - Public Meeting - The Shrimp Industry - Public comments requested on shrimp industry issues including drop in demand, effects of imports, environmental concerns, etc. Comments will be summarized by TPWD in a report for the next legislative session. 6-8 pm at the Aransas County District Court Room, 301 N. Live Oak.

May 22, 2002 Corpus Christi, Texas - Public Meeting - Future of Hunting in Texas - Provide input on the future of hunting in Texas. Data about the hunting decline will be presented. 7 pm at Texas Agricultural Extension Service District Office, Auditorium, 10345 Agnes (Hwy. 44).

May 22 & 26, 2002 Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens, Breeding Birds of the Coastal Waters - For all birders. Field trip will include boat trip to nesting sites. Guide-Gene Blacklock. Contact: (361)852-2100.

May 25, 2002 Galveston Island State Park. Guided Wetland Walk, 5-6pm. Led by the park's interpretive ranger, Hans Haglund. 14901 FM 3005, Galveston TX 77554, Contact: 409/737:1222 Patti Singleton birdnfool@worldnet.att.net

May 26, 2002 Galveston Island State Park. Guided Bird Walk, 8:30am. 14901 FM 3005, Galveston TX 77554, Contact: 409/737:1222 Patti Singleton birdnfool@worldnet.att.net

June 1, 15, 22, 29, 2002 Inks Lake SP - Stumpy Hollow Nature Hike - Guided hike through the trails in the park. Bring good walking shoes, water and a hat. Meet at park headquarters. 10:30-11:30 am. Contact: (512) 793-2223.

June 1 & 15, 2002 Big Bend Ranch SP - Birding Tour - Drive to sites then hike with a guide to some of the bird habitats at the park. 9 am-3 pm; fees \$31 TCP members, \$34 non-members. (915) 229-3416.]

June 1 & 15, 2002 Kickapoo Cavern SP - Birding Tour - Reservation only. A brief program on birds and the management of the endangered black-capped vireo will be presented followed by a birding and nature hike. Starts at 8:30 am; fee \$5 per person; call for more information. (830) 563-2342.

June 7 & 21, 2002, Village Creek SP - Nature Slide Program - One-hour presentations on various topics such as endangered species, birds, bats, wildscapes, etc. Programs held at the park's group recreation hall. 7-8 p.m.; reserv. available, not reqd. (409) 755-7322.

June 10-12, 2002, Mad Island Marsh Preserve, Awareness of Coastal Habitat Education Workshop - fee: \$50. Attention teachers and youth group educators! Includes studies comparing freshwater and salt marsh flora and fauna. Approved for 18 hrs. of TEEAC credit. Contact: Cathy Porter/Maxine Kubecka at (361) 972-3295.

June 15 & 29, 2002 Matagorda Island SP&WMA - Nighttime Wildlife Tour - Nighttime excursion viewing white-tailed deer, coyotes, reptiles and other creatures. Overnight stay on island reqd. Fees in addition to the ferry are \$4 TCP members, \$8 non-members, \$4 children 12 and under; reserv. required. (361) 983-2215.

June 16, 2002 Hueco Tanks SHS - Bird Identification Tours - Observe some of the over 200 species of birds which visit the park. Bob Johnson guide, volunteer bird expert of the Trans-Pecos Audubon Society. 7-9 a.m.; reservations available, not reqd, (915) 849-6684. (915) 857-1135.

June 19, 2002 Palo Duro Canyon SP - Butterfly Basics - Palo Duro Canyon has many wonderful species of butterfly. Lone Star Interpretive Theater program about these fascinating insects. 7-8 p.m., (806) 488-2227 Ext. 49.

June 22 - 23, 2002 Bird Banding at Dolan Falls Preserve. Friends of Dolan Falls Preserve can experience bird banding with ornithologist Dr. Brent Ortego of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Dr. Ross Dawkins of San Angelo, TX. Contact: Bea Harrison (915) 292-4351.

June 22, 2002, Conroe, TX Ivorybill woodpecker seminar with Chester Moore. 11 am "Southern Crypto Conference", Holiday Inn on I:45 in Conroe. Subject: Zeiss ivorybill search team and the possibility of these birds still existing. Moore will also debut his new book "The Ivory-billed Woodpecker: Alive in the Southern Swamplands?" Admission is \$5. Contact: e mail ibill@cryptokeeper.com.

June 23, 2002 Sea Rim Butterfly Count, 8 am Contact: Ken Sztraky, kens@ih2000.net

June 30, 2002 Sandylands Butterfly Count, 8 am Contact: Ken Sztraky, kens@ih2000.net

Great Texas Birding Classic

The Great Texas Birding Classic, sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife was once again very successful. This year was the biggest and best yet with 44 teams and 236 participants (up from 33 teams and 154 participants in 2001). Winners were announced April 28th at the Awards Brunch in Port Arthur, Texas. Winning teams will award a total of \$50,000 to approved avian habitat projects along the Texas coast. The winning teams will select their projects soon. Texas Parks & Wildlife appreciates everyone who supported and participated in the 2002 Birding Classic!

Local teams were:

- **Adults - Entire Coast**

- **Team Realtree Roadrunners**

Realtree and Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Cecilia Riley, Joan Holt, Jane Kittleman,
284 species

- **Adults - Central Coast Only**

- **AEP/CP&L Coots**

Jay Pruet, Ray Allen, Richard Gibbons, Jesse Grantham, 193 species.

- **Two Texas Birders & A Guy from California**

Robert Metzler, David Weaver, Chris Tenney,
162 species.

- **Coastal Bend Wagtails**

Gene Blacklock, Kendal Keyes, Terri Nicolau,
Vicki Allen, Linda Fuiman, 143 species.

New Summer Meeting Location

SAME MEETING DAY

DIFFERENT SUMMER MEETING LOCATION

CBAS is going to try something new ! We're going to meet during the summer months. And since the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History isn't available for meetings during the summer, the Center for Coastal Studies (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) is hosting the *Summer Audubon Series*.

So, we're going to meet at the same time (first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm) at the Natural Resources Center (NRC) Building, Room 1003, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Please join us this summer for the *Summer Audubon Series* of great programs and interesting speakers.

Meeting dates are:

June 4 Speaker: ERIN ERBEN

Business: Slate of Board of Directors

July 2 Business: Election of Board of Directors

August 6 Business: New officers

CBAS June Speaker - Erin Erben

Erin Erben, Senior Keeper of Animal Rehabilitation at Texas State Aquarium, has 6 years in bird rehabilitation, with expertise in raptors, shore and sea birds, including endangered species (Brown Pelicans). As of March 2002, five sub-permittees work under her direction as well as five volunteers. Training (performed by Erin) requires all to know how to work with and around the birds, prepare food and feed, and work with the raptors for educational programs.

The Texas State Aquarium (TSA) is a nonprofit educational facility, with a mission of conservation, education, and rehabilitation. The Gladys Sue Albertson Memorial Rehabilitation Program is a federally permitted (Migratory Bird and Endangered Species) wildlife rehabilitation facility, operated through TSA's Animal Husbandry Department.

Since its inception in 1993, an average of 225 patients are admitted each year. The majority of patients are shore and seabirds (90%; most are Charadriiformes and Pelicaniformes). Occasionally, a sea turtle may be admitted (avg. 1 per year). TSA is a partner with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, providing facility and veterinary support, in the event of a dolphin or whale live stranding.

Treasurers Financial Report

by Bill Schmidt

Nine-month Financial Report
July 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002

BALANCE FORWARD July 1, 2001	\$2,945.00
Deposits	
National Audubon Society	\$1,857.87
(dues sharing/rebate C.O.M.)	
General Fund	50.00
Sanctuary Fund	100.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$2,007.87
Disbursements	
Newsletters (8 months)	\$2,256.53
Chapter Expenses	286.00
Sanctuary Maintenance	165.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$2,707.53
BALANCE March 31, 2002	\$2,245.34

CBAS is always happy to accept your tax deductible donation. If you would like to make a donation please send a check to CBAS Treasurer Bill Schmidt at P.O. Box 3604 Corpus Christi, TX 78463.

Journey to the Galapagos Islands (Continued)

(continued from page 1) finches. Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands during a mapping expedition in 1835. During the weeks he spent there he observed that some species had physically adapted to their environment by evolving into distinct species. The size and shape of the birds' beaks changed to suit their diets. These observations were instrumental in the development of his theory of evolution that he published in "The Origin of Species."

The islands were set aside as a wildlife sanctuary in 1934 by the Ecuadorian government. In 1959 the uninhabited areas (97% of the landmass) were declared a National Park in order to preserve the flora and fauna unique to the area. Presently the National Park includes 50,000 square kilometers of the surrounding ocean that supports the ecosystem. Several oceanic currents converge in the Galapagos Islands and are vitally important in supporting its abundant food resources and marine diversity, including 300 species of fishes.



Blue-footed booby

The number of annual visitors to the islands is set by the Ecuadorian government. Behavioral guidelines for these visitors are strictly enforced by the National Park Service. Well-trained and very knowledgeable naturalists guide small groups (not larger than 15 each) as they intimately explore the islands. One quickly learns the importance of remaining within the marked trails, for the wildlife themselves appear oblivious to their human visitors. It is necessary to remain ever vigilant to avoid stepping upon birds exhibiting courting behavior, their nests and fledglings, sea lions, marine iguanas and even lava lizards. You can't approach, touch or feed the animals although they are often underfoot.

Boats of all sizes serve as bases for housing island visitors and can accommodate from 4 to 90 guests each. They have been granted permits to take tourists to more than 50 official visitor sites located in the islands. Their exact routing is set by the National Park Service in order to minimize impacts from tourism. There are limits to the total number of folks that may visit specific sites daily. The boats anchor off shore in an effort to minimize their impact upon the natural islands. Visitors are then ferried to the islands in sturdy rubber rafts.

The seriousness with which regulations are enforced becomes immediately evident upon arrival at the island airport. All items entering the islands are thoroughly inspected and visitors are carefully queried in a friendly manner in an effort to avoid introduction of new species of any type to the islands.

The fun begins when Charlie, the resident Brown Pelican, greets island visitors upon their arrival at the dock for transport to their boats. Our naturalists are also on hand to greet us and instruct us in the safest method of entering and exiting the rafts sharing a stabilizing wrist grip with the helpful crew.

Each day in the islands was filled with adventures. Following the ritual of our first crossing of the equator, certificates signed by the ship's captain, were awarded. We snorkeled with the colorful fish and friendly cavorting Galapagos Sea Lions and occasionally swam alongside playful Galapagos Penguins, the northernmost species (due to the influence of the cold Humboldt Current). Pacific Green Sea Turtles were often seen swimming. Several Brown Noddies were observed sitting upon the heads of Brown Pelicans, ever hopeful for a snack. Wedge-rumped Storm-petrels "pattered" their feet on the water beside our ship.

Photographic opportunities abounded throughout the islands. Most problematic was acquiring the necessary distance from your subject due to close focus limitations of cameras. We photographed while Blue-footed Boobies conducted their courting rituals by displaying their beautifully colored feet one at a time, posturing, sky-pointing, and offering small twigs to prospective mates while whistling and tooting to each other. Some Waved Albatross also observed mating rituals while others laboriously took off and landed on their "runway", and others tended their fluffy nestlings alongside the trails. Frigatebirds, both Magnificent and Great, floated overhead in the breeze, ever alert for the chance of snatching a meal from mother boobies feeding their young. A Red-billed Tropicbird's tail streamers were noted floating in the breeze while the bird itself was concealed in a crevice of the steep ocean cliffside. Several times we observed three species of Boobies in one area...Blue-footed, Red-footed and Nazca (a race of the Masked Boobie). Flightless Cormorants displayed their tiny useless wings in the sun, as do all others of the cormorant family. Beautiful Swallow-tailed Gulls were frequently observed.

The endemic species of the islands are very cryptic. We struggled to detect the subtle differences in species of Darwin's finches. Sizes of a species, as well as bill size, varied from island to island. A small Ground Finch on one island might be the size of a Medium Ground Finch on the next. It certainly (continued on page 5)

Natural History Field Workshop/Tour of New Mexico

The Friends of Connie Hagar and Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program will offer a special natural history field workshop/tour of Cloudcroft and Ruidoso, New Mexico, July 27 – August 2, 2002. The five day workshop will be led by Gene W. Blacklock, Project Manager for CBBEP and an internationally recognized expert on natural history, especially in the field of birds. Gene will be assisted by a local expert in the Ruidoso area.

Gene will provide in-field instruction on the unique natural history of eastern New Mexico with an emphasis on the summer birds to be found there. Birds of special interest for the area include Common Merganser, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Gambel's Quail, Band-tailed Pigeon, Flammulated and Western-screech Owls, Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, Broad-tailed, Blue-throated, Calliope, Magnificent, Black-chinned, Rufous and Lucifer Hummingbirds, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-naped Sapsucker, Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Cordilleran and Gray Flycatchers, Greater Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Stellar's Jay, Common and Chihuahuan Ravens, Mountain Chickadee, Verdin, Red-breasted, White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Cactus, Rock and Canyon Wrens, Curve-billed and Crissal Thrashers, Western and Mountain Bluebirds Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Gray and Warbling Vireos, Lucy's, Red-faced, Audubon's and MacGillivray's warblers, Scott's Oriole, Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Black-headed and Evening Grosbeaks, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Red Crossbill and Gray-headed Junco.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to, from and during the tour. Some carpooling may be possible. Participants are also responsible for their own lodging. Headquarters for the tour will be Summit Inn,

1-877-682-2814. Participants are not required to stay at the headquarters motel. Cost is \$150.00 per person with proceeds going to fund Friends of Connie Hagar & Coastal Bend Audubon projects. A minimum number of participants are required for the tour and registration must be received by Cynthia Womack, (361) 729-6887, no later than June 27, 2002.

IMBD Events (Continued)

page 5) (continued from page 1) Several participants were kind enough to focus on this positive aspect rather than the less than perfect birding conditions. Participants were able to locate 188 species in the Corpus Christi city limits. This was a bit shy of the rumored 196 turned in by San Diego. We'll see the final results in a month or so.

*Participants located
188 species within the
Corpus Christi city
limits!*

The US Fish and Wildlife Service began IMBD in 1997 to bring attention to the diverse challenges facing migratory bird populations that traverse the globe. Many of these migrants depend on processes that have been stable for thousands of years. Those conditions are being perturbed at an increasing rate and the bird populations are showing it. Humanity will need to make some major changes in lifestyle if migratory bird populations are to remain intact. It is hoped that humanity will adopt a further-forward outlook on life and consider the millions of other life forms that make up our complex ecosystems as we struggle to balance comfort, convenience, technology, stewardship, progress, and compassion.

Journey to the Galapagos Islands (Continued)

(continued from page 4) challenged our birding skills. The Woodpecker Finch (which uses a twig as a tool to access insects) was a more easily identified member of the island finch group.

At night we observed the Southern Hemisphere sky and identified the Southern Cross and other constellations. We toured the tortoise breeding program at Charles Darwin Research Station, home of Lonesome George, the lone survivor of one of the 11 remaining tortoise races found in the islands. We climbed the narrow, steep stairway of the cliff face to access the top of Tower Island to search for Short-eared Owls as they snatched their meals of low-flying birds such as Audubon's Shearwaters. We climbed the 372 steps to the summit of Farolete Peak to the signal light atop Bartholome Island.

My visit to the Galapagos Islands afforded me many adventures and unique memories that I'll cherish forever!



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One simple way
to care for it.**

April 26th Board of Directors Meeting

A Board of Directors meeting was held April 26, 2002 at Daryl's Steakhouse. The meeting was called to order by President Terri Nicolau and the following agenda items were discussed.

By-laws - Changes to the Coastal Bend Audubon Society by-laws are pending. Terri is going over the changes. A DRAFT of the new by-laws will be included in an upcoming newsletter and comments will be solicited.

Election of new officers - Gene Blacklock agreed to form a nominating committee. A nomination form is included in this newsletter (see below) for you to nominate anyone whom you feel is qualified. You may nominate by sending us the form, by telephoning us, or by e-mail. Please feel free to nominate as many people as you wish for each office, and PLEASE feel free to nominate yourself! Maybe no one knows that you would like to be Social Director and that you think you would be good at it! Self-nomination is perfectly acceptable. We have a mission to fulfill. If you would like to help - jump in!

Remember to send in your nominations for 2003 CBAS Officers!

CBAS Officer Nomination Form

Below is a list of the 12 board positions to be filled. Please write-in as many nominees as you feel are qualified for each position. Non-members are acceptable, but they would need to join if elected. The complete slate of officers will be presented in the June newsletter, so please submit your nomination forms prior to June 15th. Members will vote on the slate of officers at the July meeting. Officer terms will begin at the August meeting and will continue for one year. Mail to: CBAS Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 3604 Corpus Christi, TX 78463 or e-mail: kkeyes2@aol.com or call (361) 882-7232.

President: _____
Vice President: _____
Secretary: _____
Treasurer: _____
Newsletter Editor: _____
Education Director: _____
Membership Director: _____
Conservation Director: _____
Field Trip Director: _____
Social Director: _____
Member at Large: _____
Member at Large: _____

Please send in only one nomination form though. The nominees will be presented in the June newsletter and members will vote to select officers at the July meeting. You may also vote by email if you will be unable to attend the July meeting. Officer terms will begin at the August meeting and will continue for one year.

Planning Meeting Report - The report regarding the planning meeting held in February is not complete yet. It will be complete and reported in the newsletter to keep all updated and to get further ideas from all members.

Member Data Base - A member data base is being constructed with member information including e-mail addresses. Please send your e-mail address to Terri Nicolau at tricolau@cbbep.org. We are looking forward to being able to e-mail the Brown Pelican soon to all members who would like this service. E-mail newsletters are much less expensive, we save on paper, postage, and handling - we can save your chapter fees!! Also, you can easily save all of your issues and you will know where they are. If you prefer to read a paper copy you can just print it. Plus we can include color photos in the e-mailed newsletters. In addition to e-mailed newsletter, we hope to have a Chapter web page up and running soon. John Gingrch has a web page ready. I will be checking with the Caller Times for further information about a free site. We will also have the newsletter available on line for all to read.

Meetings - In the past chapters meetings and program have been held from September through May. This was done for two reasons, many members travel during the summer and attendance declines a bit and birding generally slows during the hot summer months. However summer is also the time when many members have more time to enjoy being outside and planning for fall events needs to take place during the summer. Therefore, a motion was presented by Bron Rorex, and seconded by Cynthia Womack, to continue meetings throughout the summer months. A special meeting will be held in lieu of one scheduled monthly meeting in the summer. This summer we would like to have a "picnic meeting" at Marcella & Bob Jenkins house. Exact date will be up to Marcella & Bob. Gene Blacklock will check with them. Another meeting will be a holiday social in December with everyone bringing a covered dish similar the December meeting held last year at Terri's house. This schedule will result in 10 regular programs/business meetings and two meetings, summer and winter, that are social gatherings at someone's house. We hope you all welcome the changes and look forward to being a bit more active during the summer months.

Newsletters - In addition to the past chapter programs and meetings being held from (*continued on page 7*)

Board of Directors Meeting (Continued)

(continued from page 6) September through May, the newsletter has traditionally been produced only from September through May, totaling nine issues per year. However newsletter costs have increased with the use of our new printer, recycled paper, automated folding, tabbing, and mailing. A motion was made by Bron Rorex, and seconded by Carolyn Womack, to produce bi-monthly newsletters, rather than monthly to reduce newsletter and mailing costs. This would result in a total of six issues per year, with each issue mailed at the end of even numbered months i.e., February 25th, April 25th, etc. throughout the year. The new schedule will begin after this issue. You will receive a June issue then a July/August issue on approximately August 25th. Newsletters will continue to be about the same size, consisting of 4 - 8 pages. We are going to try to make an organized effort to contact members about providing newsletter articles. Field trip reports are favorites and we invite all to submit. Other items regarding nature notes or other nature related topics you may find interesting are always welcomed.

International Migratory Bird Day - The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Audubon Outdoor Club, and Coastal Bend Audubon Society will sponsor a large write-on bird check-list to be used during the International Migratory Bird Day events will be held at Blucher Nature Center on April 27th.

Fundraising – Members discussed selling bird posters, patches, pens & t-shirts at various functions to raise money for CBAS. We need to decide on some method to raise additional funds and carry it through. If anyone has ideas, preferences, or would like to help, please contact Terri at (361) 885-6209 or tricolau@cbbep.org.

CBAS
*“Big Day” will
be held in early
November.*

“Big Day” – Members also discussed reviving the fall CBAS “Big Day”. Several “Big Day”s were held in the past and were fun and successful. They consisted of an all day bird count with dinner and bird reports. A registration fee was charged and everyone paid for their own meals. We could possibly have a raffle to make it more appealing. A motion was made and seconded and “Big Day” will be held in early November. Cynthia Womack will be the “Big Day” committee chairperson. If anyone has ideas, preferences, or would like to help, please contact Cynthia at (361) 729-6887 or kstrl@interconnect.net.

Nature Notes

Birds: Bobwhite quail, Bronzed cowbird, Inca dove, Carolina wren. Butterflies: Reakirt's Blue, Rounded Metalmark nectaring on Black-Eyed Susan flowers, Giant Swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail, Checkered Skipper. Hilltop Nature Trail, April 28, 2002. Mary Kathryn Mauel



Bobwhite quail

Gray-cheeked thrush, Fulton May 9, 2002, Magnolia warbler, Redstart, many Ruby-throated hummingbirds, Fulton, May 14, 2002. Cynthia Womack.

Fulvous whistling-ducks overflying & visiting pond in Rockport for almost 2 weeks in the afternoon, up to 90 individuals of the species at times visiting the pond (mixing in with resident black-bellied whistlers). A Least grebe remains in pond behind my home in Rockport, Bron Rorex.

**Please report all sightings and nature notes of interest to
Gene Blacklock at 361-882-7232 or 361-885-6247 or
geneb@cbbep.org**

Sanctuary Notes by Bill Schmidt

Bird activity at the North Bay Sanctuary remains minimal. The heat and drought continue and although some areas did receive a small amount of rain on May 13th, the Sanctuary received only a trace. Two or three Great Egrets have been seen many times flying around near the east side of the pond. They may be nesting on the bank. There have also been a few Cattle Egrets in the fields.

The mesquite limbs on one trail are almost long enough to scratch passing cars. It would be a good idea to have another Sanctuary Work Day to trim these branches and continue trying to eliminate some of the Prickly-pear before the heat becomes too unbearable. Perhaps June 8th would be a good day. Earlier in the morning than the last work day might make the heat better. Would 8:30am be too early? Please reply to Chapter President Terri Nicolau before or at our next chapter meeting, June 4th, and let her know if you can make it or if you would prefer a different date or a different time.

Even in the heat of summer the Sanctuary provides enjoyable wildlife viewing, photographic opportunities, and peace and quiet. You may use it whenever you wish. I am usually free on Saturday mornings and will be happy to let you in. Call me at (361) 776-7039.

The Newsletter of the Coastal Bend Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3604
Corpus Christi, Texas 78463

Phone: 361-882-7232
Email: blacklock@aol.com

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Permit No. 1080
Corpus Christi, TX

Regular meetings:
1st Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm at the
Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History



The Brown Pelican

Coastal Bend Audubon Society Board of Directors

PRESIDENT:

Terri Nicolau
(361) 939-9964

VICE PRESIDENT:

Gene Blacklock
(361) 882-7232

SECRETARY:

Carolyn Goodloe
(361) 850-8668

TREASURER:

Bill Schmidt
(361) 776-7039

DIRECTORS:

Audrey Humphries
(361) 852-6418

Cynthia Womack
(361) 729-6887

Kendal Keyes
(361) 885-6245

Bron Rorex
(361) 790-9353

The Coastal Bend Audubon Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of birds and bird habitat and to education in the Coastal Bend. The organization is supported by contributions from local memberships and from the national Audubon Society.

Your CHAPTER needs you!

You can help steer the course of growth and change in our community by working together towards education. Please contact us at (361) 885-6209 about getting involved!

This newsletter is compiled/written and published monthly. Articles of interest are gathered from various sources and compiled by the editor, volunteers, and/or contributing authors. All contributions and contributions/comments are welcomed.

I would like to become a member of to the National Audubon Society,
Coastal Bend Chapter W-13.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

If you are already a member and would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please circle the category you would like your contribution applied to:

1. general fund - to be used as needed
2. education activities
3. sanctuary maintenance

The membership dues schedule is as follows:

Student/Senior	\$15
Introductory/1 year	\$20
2 year	\$30
Basic	\$35
Lifetime Individual	\$1000
Lifetime Dual	\$1500

Your membership entitles you to the National Audubon Magazine, local chapter membership, and other benefits. To join the National Audubon Society, Coastal Bend Chapter, please send this completed form and your check, payable to "National Audubon Society Chapter W-13" to Coastal Bend Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3604, Corpus Christi, TX 78463.