

Travis Audubon

Signal Smoke

VOLUME 61, NO. 5

Inspiring Conservation Through Birding

Sept/Oct 2012

Fun, Food, and Great Outings in Store at the Fall Fundraiser

Join the festivities when Travis Audubon honors Carter Smith and offers guests the chance to bid on some outstanding nature outings—all part of the 2012 tribute and fundraiser.

The Victor Emanuel Conservation Awards Luncheon will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Austin Hyatt Regency. Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will receive Travis Audubon's annual award for his dedication to preserving Texas lands and wildlife habitat. This year we will be presenting a special youth award to Dotty Woods, 12, for her hard work toward restoring Travis Audubon's Blair Woods Sanctuary in East Austin.

"This is our third annual celebration of conservation heroes," said Board President Caroline Jones. "Travis Audubon has an excellent record of selecting honorees who exemplify the spirit of a true conservationist. Victor Emanuel, Andy Sansom, and now Carter Smith have all spent their lives and careers working to educate the public on the benefits of appreciating and maintaining the natural world.

"The fundraiser luncheon is a fun event," she said, "and it helps raise revenue to further our vision of inspiring conservation through birding." The occasion also serves as a celebration of Travis Audubon's 60th anniversary.

Part of the celebration will include a live auction with a wide selection of choice trips for nature lovers. Visit www.travisaudubon.org for more details and availability dates of the various inns and lodges.

Jorjanna Price

Live Auction: Raise Your Bid Paddles

Ranch Weekend with Carter and Stacy Smith (for four people)

Enjoy a weekend at the family's Dobbs Run Ranch in Edwards County. This rugged, scenic ranch in the western Hill Country cozies up to the West Nueces River and plays host to Black-capped



Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers, as well as Montezuma Quail and Zone-tailed Hawks. Guests will take driving and walking tours to observe wildlife and the conservation/research projects under way at the ranch. Food, drinks, and accommodations provided.

You Are Cordially Invited to the
**VICTOR EMANUEL
 CONSERVATION
 AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Honoring
Carter Smith

Presented by
 The Travis Audubon Society
 Saturday, October 27, 2012
 Austin, Texas

Purchase tickets online at
TRAVISAUDUBON.ORG

INSPIRING CONSERVATION
 THROUGH BIRDING

Exclusive Coastal Getaway (for two)

Spend two days in the lap of luxury at the Falcon Point Ranch Resort, which fronts San Antonio Bay. This world-class lodge is surrounded by ranchland, wildlife preserves, bays, and tidal estuaries. The 20,000-square-foot lodge features 12 luxurious rooms, a veranda, and resort-style pool. Enjoy fishing, hunting, or viewing exotic animals, marine life, and birds (even Whooping Cranes, depending on the time of year). Includes meals, plus birding/nature tour led by Travis Audubon board member Cullen Hanks.



www.falconpointranch.com 361.785.2191

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Travis Audubon

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Phone numbers below are
in the 512 area code.

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Mission Statement

Travis Audubon promotes the enjoyment, understanding,
and conservation of native birds and their habitats.

From the Travis Audubon President

Plans for our Victor Emanuel Conservation Awards luncheon are under way. The location is confirmed, the menu is selected, and fabulous auction items are lined up. Now the invitations have been mailed. Whew! I am breathless with the thought of how many hours of work and planning have been spent on the event already. Another thought: why have so many people worked so hard on these fundraiser luncheons three years in a row?

Good reasons come to mind immediately. The annual event gives Travis Audubon the opportunity to honor an accomplished and inspiring conservationist. This year's honoree is Texas Parks & Wildlife's Carter Smith, the executive director, about whom you will hear much more at the luncheon. Another reason—it's so enjoyable to spend time sharing a meal with friends, meeting new people, and laughing at ourselves as the auction bidding gets lively and spirited.

And then, there is the future. This year, we have added a youth conservation award, which will be given to 12-year-old Dotty Woods, a dedicated young conservationist. We do this because we want to encourage and support Dotty and other youngsters in their conservation education. The event also impacts the future by being a fundraiser for Travis Audubon. The proceeds from the luncheon provide funds to further our mission.

For all of these reasons, please support the event by attending and participating in the opportunities to contribute to the success of the luncheon and our organization. See you October 27!

Caroline C. Jones

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Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline is the first day of the month preceding the first month of publication (for example, June 1 for the July/August issue). Submit uncopyrighted articles, announcements, and art to Tess Sherman at sherman1@austin.rr.com. Submissions by email or on a CD are preferred but not required. Call Tess at 300-BIRD if you have questions.

Live Auction: Raise Your Bid Paddles

continued from front page

Brenham, Blue Bell, and Birding (for two)

The historic Ant Street Inn in downtown Brenham opens its doors for a two-night stay in this charming town between Austin and Houston. The inn is tastefully furnished with antiques and features 15 rooms with 12-foot-tall ceilings, exposed brick walls, stained glass, and private baths. Rooms have cable TV, wireless Internet, climate control, and complimentary Blue Bell ice cream. Guests also receive a basket with wine, fruit, and local goodies; breakfasts included. Package comes with a full-day nature outing led by Darrell Vollert, a life-long resident of Washington County, who will treat guests to local birding hotspots and history briefings. (Not valid during the Round Top antique shows.)

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Rendezvous in the Rio Grande Valley (for four)

Wind down with Texas sunsets and a culture "where time moves slower." That's the promise during a four-night stay at the landmark Alamo Inn in Alamo. The historic 1919 building offers suites furnished with family antiques and queen-size beds, as well as private bathrooms and kitchenettes. The Alamo Inn offers the hospitality of a B&B with the spaciousness and privacy of a small hotel. Guests may share two individual suites, a two-bedroom suite, or a house; includes daily breakfast. Package comes with a birding tour led by a local expert, as well as maps, checklists, and ABA Birder's Guide to the Valley. The inn is close to the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, five World Birding Centers, and North American Butterfly Association's Butterfly Park. (Not redeemable Jan. 20–March 20).



Located at the center of Texas birding in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
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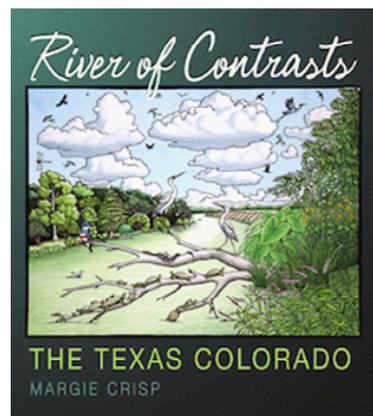
Canoe the Colorado River (for eight, children welcome)

Margie Crisp, president of Bastrop County Audubon Society, will lead a fun canoeing excursion on the Colorado River while entertaining participants with riveting facts about the river and its history. The Texas River School will donate the canoes and provide the site and facilities for an evening

cookout on the river and breakfast the next morning. Package comes with a signed copy of *River of Contrasts*, Crisp's book about the Colorado River (forward by Andy Sansom), and a beautiful hand-colored linocut from the book.

Joe Kendall
Founder & Executive Director

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Victor Emanuel Conservation Awards Luncheon * Tribute Film * Live Auction
Saturday, October 27, 2012 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Austin Hyatt Regency Hotel – 208 Barton Springs, Austin Texas
To buy tickets or become an event sponsor, go to www.travisaudubon.org. Or call 512-300-2473.

Thank you to our Sponsors

Join us in honoring *Carter Smith*

...this October, during our 2012 Victor Emanuel Conservation Awards Luncheon. Travis Audubon would like to thank the sponsors of this event.

SAVE THE DATES
Christmas Bird Counts

Dec. 17:
Mad Island Marsh, Matagorda

Dec. 29:
Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort, Bastrop

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Travis Audubon would like to thank Wes Mouton of Ragland & Mouton, LLP, for his unwavering assistance with our finances since 2007.

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Monthly Meeting Information

Travis Audubon Monthly Meetings - 7:00 pm

NOTE: New location for general membership meetings

First Presbyterian Church at 8001 Mesa Dr. Austin TX 78731 – Doors open at 6:30 for social time.

Refreshments will be provided. No monthly meetings are held during June, July, August, or December.

Thursday, September 20, 2012

**“Finding the World’s Birds –
Adventures in International Travel”**

Speaker: David Shackelford

David Shackelford was a tour leader for Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures. He speaks from experience and passion when he talks about finding the world’s birds. This broad topic covers the world in five sections, searching for some of the greatest birds on earth while looking for unique representatives of localized bird families. David’s presentation will also explore the amazing aspects of international travel. David comes highly recommended by several Travis Audubon members who heard him present at the Williamson Audubon Group meeting last fall. Don’t miss out on an informative and fun evening spent talking about birds from all over the world!



Photos courtesy of David Shackelford

of well over 8,000 bird species. His fascination with ecology and excitement for the natural world has led to a lifelong passion of studying wildlife behavior, observing birds, and enjoying the many facets of international travel and culture.

David Shackelford is an avid naturalist, as well as an accomplished wildlife photographer. He has extensive experience leading birding and natural history tours across the world, traveling through more than 150 countries spanning every continent, while racking up a life list

Thursday, October 18, 2012

**“The Greatest Birding Experience of my Life”
Speaker: Victor Emanuel**

Who can pass up an opportunity to hear Victor Emanuel speak? This presentation promises to be one you will never forget as Victor shares the greatest birding experience of his life. This is how Victor introduces his presentation:



Photo courtesy of Victor Emanuel

On the evening of March 22, 1959, I received an amazing phone call from my friend Ben Feltner. He told me that he and Dudley Deaver had seen a bird off Galveston Island that they were convinced was an Eskimo Curlew. I had known Ben for several years and knew he was an excellent observer. I also knew that many bird books described this species as “probably extinct.” I had no reason to doubt Ben’s sighting, but for some unknown reason, I did not go look for the bird until April 5, almost two weeks later. I went with Ben and a few other friends. We located the bird in question and after much study became convinced that Ben’s original identification was correct. There were Eskimo Curlew sightings on Galveston Island in late March and April for three more years. Each sighting involved only one individual, but one year another individual was seen a few miles away. In 1960, Don Bleitz obtained the only photos ever taken of this species. In this talk, I will discuss the events surrounding those sightings and the history of the Eskimo Curlew.

Victor Emanuel started birding in Texas 63 years ago at the age of 8. Victor holds a B.A. in zoology and botany from the University of Texas and an M.A. in government from Harvard. He is the owner of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. He initiated the first birding camps for young people, and considers that one of his greatest achievements. Victor has been the recipient of numerous awards such as Houston Audubon’s Roger Tory Peterson Excellence in Birding Award, American Birding Association’s Roger Tory Peterson Award, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology’s Arthur A. Allen Award, and Travis Audubon’s Victor Emanuel Conservation Award, an award named in honor of Victor to acknowledge and highlight Central Texas conservation heroes.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Please join us for the New Member Welcome to be held prior to the General Membership Meeting on September 20, 2012, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. This will be a meet-and-greet for all new members who have joined since January 1, 2012. Travis Audubon committees will be on hand to show how much fun you can have with Travis Audubon. Special snacks and beverages will be served.

If you are a longtime Travis Audubon member, please join us in welcoming our new members. If you are a new member, please take this opportunity to get acquainted and see how you can get involved!

SPECIAL TREAT: The Door Prize for the September new member party will be a one-night stay for two at the Austin Hyatt Regency on Lady Bird Lake. This prize will go to a new member.



NATURALIST'S CALENDAR

by Bill Reiner



photo by Robert Baumgardner

September and October are months of big changes, though it may not seem so at first. August heat usually continues into the first half of September. Tropical storms are not uncommon – more have struck the Texas coast in September than in any other month – and sometimes bring heavy rains. Even without a tropical storm, the clash of warm tropical and cool continental air masses may bring rain when strong autumn cold fronts begin to swing through the state. The first of these fronts often arrives about the time of the autumn equinox, September 23rd.

A good, drenching rain will support the burgeoning fall-blooming grasses and wildflowers. Purplish-pink wands of Blazing-star or Gayfeather (*Liatris* species) are already decorating prairie soils and grassy openings by the time September arrives. Goldenrods (*Solidago* species) begin blooming now. Since hay fever symptoms strike about the same time, the showy yellow plumes of the goldenrods are often blamed. However, goldenrod pollen is sticky, evolved to cling to the bodies of insects, and won't often reach your nose. The real culprits are the inconspicuous green flower spikes of ragweeds (*Ambrosia* species) and sumpweeds (*Iva* species), spewing thousands of lightweight pollen grains to the wind. Since ragweed plants often crowd together on disturbed ground, even such a scattershot approach to pollination ensures that some pollen grains hit their mark, and Northern Bobwhites will have plenty of ragweed seeds to eat come winter.

Most of the dominant prairie grasses – in particular, Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, and Indiangrass – reach full stature in September, and are usually in full bloom by October. Switchgrass clumps can be dense beside creeks and ponds, often going to seed in time to attract the attention of lingering Painted Buntings and migrating Indigo Buntings. You may also find, skulking among the dense stalks, the first Lincoln's Sparrows to return south.

September can be a month of plenty. Black field crickets disperse, and, attracted to artificial lights, swarm into suburban shopping centers. Roadrunners, raccoons, shrikes, and screech-owls feast. If rains have been good in southern Texas, Snout Butterflies may sweep northward in massive flights. Look for them with the resident Queens and southbound Monarchs gleaning nectar from the fuzzy, flat-topped, dirty-white flower heads of Fall Boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), now in full bloom.

Acorns are ready for harvest in September, and noisy Blue Jays, Western Scrub-Jays, and Eastern Fox Squirrels are busy spiriting them away. Woolly Bumelia fruits are ripe now, too. Though it has an amazing array of common names – Chittamwood, Gum Bumelia, Woolly-Buckthorn, Coma, Gum Elastic – this tree, *Sideroxylon lanuginosum*, is easily overlooked. The small, black fruits, however, are beacons for hungry mockingbirds, White-winged Doves, and migrating orioles.

Summer birds leave, winter birds arrive, and passage migrants filter through. We may not notice the disappearance of the forest canopy birds – Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Summer Tanagers, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Red-eyed Vireos – since they do not sing much now. We do notice when the clouds of Cliff Swallows dissipate from around bridges and culverts, but, if you scan the sky, you might see multitudes of high-flying swallows like dust motes against the clouds. There they mingle with sailing Monarchs and soaring hawks. One or two days after a cold front there may be thousands of circling Broad-winged Hawks. In October the hawks may be replaced by flocks of American White Pelicans, soaring on stunning 8-foot wingspans of white and black, as they cruise southward on the north winds.

During the night those winds carry many other migrant birds past birders unseen, but a sudden switch to south winds will ground a hubbub of warblers and flycatchers and sparrows. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are especially numerous in September. Wilson's Warblers replace the Yellow Warblers of late August, then yield to Nashville Warblers later in the month, and finally to the winter warblers – Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped – in October.

American Kestrels re-appear on electric lines. Northern Shovelers and American Wigeons join the Blue-winged Teal that arrived in August.



Lincoln Sparrow.
Photo credit: flicker.com/_hemant_

By October, even more waterfowl crowd the ponds at Hornsby Bend and elsewhere. The "kee-ah" call of the Northern Flicker resounds again. Northern Harriers return to skim over the fields. A flash of white tail patches disappearing into a thicket signals the return of the Spotted Towhee. Meadowlark identification becomes

problematic as Western Meadowlarks join the resident Easterns, and, of course, the skulking sparrows once again challenge birders' skills.

Even spiders take to the air. Newly-hatched spiderlings spin a long streamer of silk and allow the wind to carry them off to new homes – if they're lucky. The setting October sun will sometimes highlight dozens of these gossamer strands clinging to the tips of branches and the taller grasses.

The bright yellow columns of Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*) and the bushy Goldeneye (*Viguiera dentata*), crowded with amber daisy-like flowers, are a sure sign of October's arrival. The former are prairie species, but will also grow abundantly in sunny roadside ditches. The latter

continued on next page

form bright clumps within and around the edges of woodlands. The sunflower family is in its heyday now – yellow gumweeds and broomweeds and goldenrods, pink palafoxia and blazingstar, white and lavender asters, tawny brickell-bush, bluish mistflower, white frostweed and bonesets. Even the normally unkempt-looking Povertyweed (*Baccharis neglecta*) is tipped with silvery flowers.



Trees are mostly still green. There are, however, hints of a color shift.

Maximilian Sunflower with Little Bluestem and Povertyweed. Photo credit: Bill Reiner

Virginia Creeper leaves are already red, and Poison-Ivy, too, often turns orange or red before most of the other woody plants. Flameleaf Sumac leaves redden and Cedar Elms are touched with gold.

Despite the cooler nights of October, reptiles are still quite active. In fact, you are more likely to find snakes in daylight hours now that the days are not so hot. Several species shift their hunting times from night to day, and often bask in the open on sunny days. Watch your path carefully, and you might glimpse a Western Ribbon Snake or a Coral Snake before it slips away.

Watch, too, for White-tailed Deer as October progresses, especially when you are driving. With the surging hormones of the rutting season, they have other things on their minds besides oncoming traffic.

CATCHING UP WITH BLAIR WOODS

Fall is a good time to reflect. In 2007, when I was the new Travis Audubon executive director, our board president Marsha May wanted me to see the sanctuaries. I remember my first visit to Blair Woods. I think the word I used to describe it was “ugh!” This is what it looked like:



Photo credits: Nancy Manning

Marsha told me there was a pond behind all of that, but I didn’t believe her. Blair Woods, referred to by some as the ‘stepchild sanctuary’, has become a hero sanctuary. When Dr. Frank Blair taught at UT, he would bring his zoology graduate students for hands-on learning at Blair

Woods; he would also invite the small children who lived in the neighborhood to play and learn there. Today, we can proudly say that Travis Audubon continues Dr. Blair’s legacy.

With funding from TogetherGreen, the Shield Ayres Foundation, and Applied Materials, we continue to restore Blair Woods while providing an outdoor learning laboratory for area schools. The combined amount received from these funders since 2008 is \$92,600. These funds paid for all workday expenses, including: equipment rentals and purchase, tools and materials, native plants, the Explore and Restore consultant, education materials, snacks, etc.

To date, with the help of 1,002 volunteers, we have hand-pulled or weed-wrenched over 9,150 individual invasive plants, cleared well over 1,100 cubic yards of non-native plants, planted 621

native plants (plus 15 pounds of seed), and have built two trails. Our Explore and Restore program is now offered to Norman Elementary and Pecan Springs Elementary schools in the fall and the spring. This program has been profiled by local news stations and honored by the City of Austin, which proclaimed “The Audubon/Norman Elementary Collaboration at Blair Woods as The Ecological Restoration Project of 2012.”

Thanks to the Shield Ayres Foundation and TogetherGreen, we have received another year of funding for restoration and education at Blair Woods. This fall we will concentrate on the savannah area of Blair Woods, clearing the invasive plants and beginning work on a hummingbird garden at the savannah opening with a rainwater collection system. The hummingbird garden will be funded with help from board member Kelly Logan, in honor of his grandmother, and will be named the Maribel Cullen Memorial Hummingbird Garden. The children will take a key role in the hummingbird garden project.

With the new TogetherGreen Fellows grant, we will host 39 of our homeowner neighbors, who live in the inflow drainage basin for Blair Woods at a special event at Blair Woods in September. We will provide brunch, an invasive species treasure hunt, native seed activity and tours to demonstrate how our neighbors are connected to Blair Woods, through the waterways.



Yes, Marsha, I believe you now. There is a pond there and thanks to Judy Walther of Environmental Survey Consulting, it is running free, much like the 4th and 5th graders who Judy has connected to nature through the Explore and Restore program.

Nancy Manning

Notes from Chaetura Canyon

Weather can be wonderful!

On July 9, at about 6:30 in the evening, a storm cell from the Northwest converged with another cell from the Northeast just east of the canyon. Cooler and gusty winds preceded horizontal streaks of lightning and blasts of thunder. One flash/thunder occurred almost simultaneously accompanied by walls of water. Our toes were tingling as we watched two hatchling-year Northern Cardinals take refuge in a roofed seed feeder. Chimney Swifts scurried into their towers, indicating that this would indeed be an impressive event. The storm rumbled to the south, after dumping 3.5 inches of rain. A lone swift arrived in the lee of the storm flying through the rain more like a trolling boat than the typical jet fighter – just a little “misjudgment” on “his” part. By 7:28, the rain turned to drizzle and the hills to the east became visible again. Subterranean termites emerged in mass on wing and the local avian species that had taken

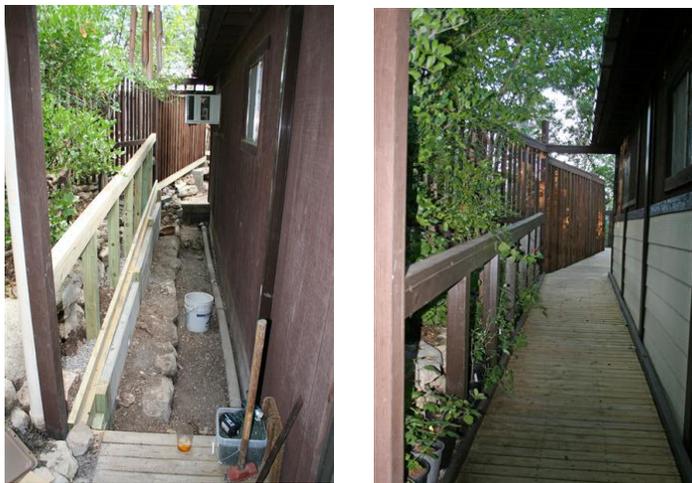


One of many fungi found after the July rains. Photo credit: *Georgan Kyle*

cover from the storm began to feast on a postponed supper. The bounty was so great that the Black-crested Titmice and Northern Cardinals were very successfully fly-catching the insects. Swifts were at eye level to the deck snatching the tasty morsels. More than six inches of rain fell on the canyon over the next few days. As a local singer-songwriter croons: “...it only takes a thunderstorm to chase the blues away...”

Under construction

One of the most striking and appealing aspects of Chaetura Canyon is the topography of hills, trails and steps – lots and lots of



Left to right, Phase One during and after. Photo credit: *Paul Kyle*

steps. Originally it took 15 sizeable steps down from the road just to reach the residence. Once at the residence level, the decks were more like trails with additional steps and narrow passageways to reach the main deck where all of the events and swift watching take

place. This created an extremely interesting and appealing venue, but not accessible to all who would like to participate. Over the past two years we have been working hard to improve accessibility.

In 2011 we completed Phase One of our ADA ramp system: a 25-foot ramp to bypass the 15 entry steps. This was accomplished with funds from the Chaetura Canyon Maintenance Fund and donated materials and labor from the two of us.



Top to bottom, Phase Two before and after. Photo credit: *Paul Kyle*

the completion of Phase Two, almost everyone can now reach the observation deck and residence with some assistance via a separate entrance, but we are not done.

Phase 3 will complete the ramp system by providing complete access to all visitors at the same gate regardless of their physical restrictions. It is our hope that additional funding will become available through grants and/or special donations to ensure that this project will be completed in 2013. Chaetura Canyon is too special not to be accessible to all who would like to visit. The stewards and Management Committee are dedicated to making this sanctuary as accessible as possible – as soon as possible.

Events

Second Saturday Swift Watches for July and August were packed, as were the “Graduate Studies” of the Introduction to Birds classes, which joined us on the preceding Friday nights. The final event of the year will be the Mediterranean Feast on Saturday evening, September 8th. See the Travis Audubon website for more information. We hope to see you there!

*Georgan and Paul Kyle,
Sanctuary Stewards*

BAKER SANCTUARY NEWS

One of the jobs I have been working on intermittently for the last year is digitally archiving the historical Baker Sanctuary documents compiled by former steward, John Wilcox. What I first thought would be a slightly tedious task actually turned into an enlightening one as I had the chance to sit and carefully read every document while the scanner slowly trundled back and forth. With the celebration of Travis Audubon's 60th anniversary, I thought it would be an appropriate time to share a few excerpts from Chell Baker's letters in an effort to shed a little light on the man who made such a generous donation.

Chell Miller Baker was born in Texas on December 18, 1891, to Andrew and Josephine (Grigsby) Baker. At the age of 30 he was sworn in as a private in the Ranger Force. The following is an excerpt from a letter he sent to his siblings, Ida and Lena, on August 15, 1922, from Cleburne, Texas, about two weeks post-enlistment:

'How are you all, fine I hope, as this leaves me well, and hope you are the same. How are you getting along gathering corn? Wish I could be with you, yes if I was there we would feed them rabbits on hot lead. I have paid 25 dollars, on my debts, and guess I will get paid again today. If I do, I will get to pay some more. I sure do hope I can get to pay all I owe. I can make a living at any thing, if I can get clear. You all do the best you can, and I will make all I can. If I could get those debts paid we would be all right, and I think I can.'

The same day he also sent a separate letter to his mother that gives a glimpse into the life of a Ranger:

'I'm afraid we are going to have trouble with those strikers as they have lost, and they know it. The sergeant thinks we are liable to have trouble with them, we got a machine gun, and 500 cartridges last night. I don't know what they are figuring on doing, and don't care, but I think we can interest them if they start anything.'

Chell was originally a Railroad Ranger with the Santa Fe Railroad but later became a Regular Ranger with Company D until his discharge on November 30, 1923. In 1926 Chell and Lena went to Gasoline, Texas, to pick cotton:

'Hello Momma and Ida, how are you this cold morning? This leaves us all right. A sand storm hit here yesterday evening at 5 o'clock, blew all night and is still blowing. Drizzled a little, and froze as it fell. It blew the top off the car, and tore it all to pieces, the old car sure looks funny. We are going to get out of this country just as soon as possible and come home.'

The record becomes a bit sparse after their Gasoline adventure but I assume Chell made good on his promise to return to his home at Route 1, Leander, to tend his family's land and live his life, a task sometimes made difficult by neighbors. The following is from a report dating from September of 1958 after Chell had been dealing with an obnoxious motorist for the better part of a week:

'11 PM. Car came as before, trained lights on house and yard after making a circle in front of house. Remained in this position a few minutes, then cut lights and moved up road to nearest place to my house very slowly, stopped again. After letting it stand at this point a few minutes with its motor idling, I fired a shot with a rifle real near the car at the ground. It started moving real fast and I fired another shot as before. It left at a high rate of speed.'

In 1967, a more serious incident unfolded, below are excerpts from a report Chell compiled over the course of several months:

'July 9th, 1967. 4:45 AM. Car...drove off road a short distance in plain view of house, put lights out, and fired several shots...turned lights on, pointed on house, and drove much nearer...fired one shot, shouting something which we did not understand...I fired several shots at this car, striking the car one time...which killed the motor but they got it started and drove off at a high rate of speed. July 17th, 1967. 9:15 PM. Car came from toward Volente...pointed head lights toward house...and fired a shot. I fired twice at the car with a 300 Savage rifle, hitting car both times. It drove away but seemed pretty badly disabled, and could not get much speed. July 19th, 1967. Pasture set on fire. July 30th, 1967. 11 PM. Car came...and shined head lights on front porch... they remained at this point 5 to 6 minutes... I called to them to move the car, they ignored the call...I then fired two warning shots near the car... they then moved on. August 2nd, 1967. Fire in west pasture. September 1st, 1967. 11:30 PM. Car came...slowly up my driveway to within about 60 steps of front porch, and sat there...for about 30 minutes, very quiet. November 12th, 1967. 6 PM. Car came...Lena and myself were playing with the dogs in the front yard. They came to a stop and fired a shot with a gun...striking near us. I ran in the porch and got my rifle...they opened fire on me, hitting the ground near my feet with 4 or 5 shots with a small semi-automatic rifle...I returned fire...hitting the car once or perhaps twice. It drove away...'

While it is not certain what the catalyst was for the confrontation in 1967, I would guess it had something to do with poachers. From his letters, it seems Chell was waging a running battle against them with little help from the local game warden. When Travis Audubon began talks with Chell, he expressed his concern about poachers and Travis Audubon took up the cause, speaking to the game department. A regional supervisor was sent out to assess the situation, resulting in a new game warden being assigned to the area. The new warden made his first arrest in 45 minutes after entering the area and eventually completed a total of 47 cases in the course of a single month. Travis Audubon Sanctuary chairman Luke Thompson wrote, 'Needless to say Chell is pleased.' I would imagine this act of advocacy by Travis Audubon went a long way in convincing the Bakers of our suitability to steward the land which they obviously loved. Chell Miller Baker passed away on April 18, 1978, followed by Elizabeth (Lena) Baker on September 2, 1982. Sara Penn Harris, who knew the Baker's personally, sums it up best in her essay, *The Story of Travis Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary*:

'I am sure they would be proud now to know the care with which their land is being protected, and the pride Travis Audubon members should take in protecting, forever, this wonderful, beautiful property, Travis Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary.'

Christopher Murray



Chell and Elizabeth Baker.
Photo courtesy of Nancy Manning

TA Field Trips Sept/Oct 2012

Travis Audubon Field Trips at a Glance

Date/Time	Location/Description	Registration Required?	Contact	Registration
Saturday, September 1, 7:30 am to 9:30 am	Beginners' Bird Walk at Riata Pond	No	Virginia Rose or Judith Bailey	
Saturday, September 1, 8:45 am to 10:45 am	Laguna Gloria with Sam Fason	Yes	Sam Fason	scfason@gmail.com
Friday, September 7, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm	Multiple Chimney Swift Roosts Across Austin	No	Shelia Hargis	
Saturday, September 8, 7:00 am and 4:00 pm	Monthly Bird Count at Hornsby Bend	No	Eric Carpenter	
Saturday, September 8, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm	Multiple Chimney Swift Roosts Across Austin	No	Shelia Hargis	
Saturday, September 8, Swift Fest in Jonestown and Annual Swift Count (2:00 – 8:00 pm) Annual Swift Count (7:00 – 8:15 pm)	Swift Fest in Jonestown and Annual Swift Count	No	Kathy McCormack	
Sunday, September 9, 7:15 am to 11:30 am	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, co-sponsored by TA and Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR	Yes	Deb Wallace	apeld@austin.rr.com
Sunday, September 9, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm	Multiple Chimney Swift Roosts Across Austin	No	Shelia Hargis	
Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 am to 9:30 am	Two-hour Tuesday! at Hutto Lake Park, led by Dan Callaway	No	Dan Callaway	
Saturday, September 15, 7:30 am-11:00 am	Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk	No	Eric Stager	
Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 am to 9:30 am	Two-hour Tuesday! at St. Edwards Park (Greenbelt), led by Ken Zaslow	No	Ken Zaslow	
Tuesday, September 25, 6:00 am to 1:00 pm	Super Tuesday! at Bastrop/Beuscher State Parks, led by Terry Banks	Yes	Terry Banks	55bluebirds@att.net
September 28-30	Hazel Bazemore Hawkwatch and Celebration of Flight	Yes	Robert Reeves	Reeves-robert@att.net 512-965-6629

Date/Time	Location/Description	Registration Required?	Contact	Registration
Tuesday, October 2, 7:30 am to 9:30 am	Two-hour Tuesday! at Northeast Metro Park, led by Dan Callaway	No	Dan Callaway	
Saturday, October 6, 8:00 am to 10:00 am	Beginners' Bird Walk at Brushy Creek Park	No	Virginia Rose or Judith Bailey	
Saturday, October 6, 8:45 am to 10:45 am	Laguna Gloria with Sam Fason	Yes	Sam Fason	scfason@gmail.com
Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 am to noon	Super Tuesday! at Aquarena Springs and Spring Lake Natural Area in San Marcos, led by Deb and Lee Wallace	Yes	Deb or Lee Wallace	apeld@austin.rr.com
Saturday, October 13, 7:00 am and 4:00 pm	Monthly Bird Count at Hornsby Bend	No	Eric Carpenter	
Sunday, October 14, all day (come out at any time)	The Big Sit! at Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge	No	Shelia Hargis	
Tuesday, October 16, 8:00 am to 10:00 am	Two-hour Tuesday! at Onion Creek Park (Greenbelt), led by Stan VanSandt	No	Stan VanSandt	
Saturday, October 20, 7:30 am-11:00 am	Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk	No	Eric Stager	
Saturday, October 20, 7:30 am-11:00 am	Commons Ford with Ed Fair	Yes	Ed Fair	ezflaw@sbcglobal.net
Sunday, October 21, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, co-sponsored by TA and Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR	Yes	Diane Sherrill	NativeEarthscapes@gmail.com
Tuesday, October 23, 7:30 am to 9:30 am	Two-hour Tuesday! at Big Webberville Park, led by Ken Zaslow	No	Ken Zaslow	
Tuesday, October 30, 5:30 am to 2:00 pm	Super Tuesday! at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park, led by Terry Banks	Yes	Terry Banks	55bluebirds@att.net

Due to the large number of events and limited space in *Signal Smoke*, readers are asked to visit the **Field Trips** page at www.travisaudubon.org for complete trip details and possible updates. Although emails to the registrar are preferred, those who do not have email access can register for any field trip by contacting Jeff Patterson at jepbird@att.net or 512-487-2755.

Travis Audubon Classes

Trees and Shrubs for Birders

Wednesdays, Sept 12 and 19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Field Trips: Saturdays, Sept 15 and 22, 8 am - noon

This class is for everyone who's ever missed seeing a bird, or missed getting others on their bird, because they couldn't identify the tree it was in. We will cover a couple dozen of the most common trees and shrubs in Central Texas. Knowing these species will enable you to recognize at least 90% of what you'll see in the area. The class will focus on identification in the field, and NOT on botany or any fine points of taxonomy. The class will be held on two consecutive Wednesday evenings, September 12th and September 19th, 6:30-8:30 pm, at a NW Austin location, with field trips on the following Saturday mornings.

The class will be taught by Diane Sherrill, a local native plant landscaper and property restoration consultant. Diane is a member and former president (1999) of the Williamson Co. Native Plant Society of Texas. She is also a member of Travis Audubon and longtime volunteer and tour leader for Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. Participants will need to bring paper and a pen to the classroom sessions. Binoculars, hats, sturdy closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and water are needed for the field trips.

Tuition for the class is \$50 for TA members and \$65 for non-members. Participants will be provided with additional information about the class and directions to the meeting place when they register. The PowerPoint presentation will be available for printing by students. It is recommended that students purchase *Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Texas Hill Country*, by Jan Wrede, prior to class start. To register online go to www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/trees-and-shrubs-for-birders. For questions or if class is full and you want to be on the waiting list, contact Diane Sherrill nativeearthscapes@gmail.com.

Travis Audubon's Fall Warblers Class

Wednesdays, September 19 and 26, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Field Trips: Saturdays, September 22, 29-30

Travis Audubon is happy to again offer a warbler identification class. This fall class will be taught by Doug Booher. The course will be an introduction to the 46 species of warblers that regularly occur in Texas including discussion of taxonomy, range of occurrence, breeding status, and habitat. Further, the class will focus on identification of those warblers that are particularly challenging to identify in non-breeding plumage. The class is designed for intermediate birders with at least one year birding experience. Doug Booher is a past president of Travis Audubon and has taught several of its classes.

The course will be held Wednesday evenings, September 19 and 26, from 7-9 pm at a Southeast Austin location. More specific information will be provided at registration. There will be a local field trip the morning of Saturday, September 22. In addition there will be an optional out-of-town field trip to Corpus Christi the weekend of September 29-30. The out-of-town field trip size is limited to 16 participants.

The tuition for the class is \$60 for Travis Audubon members and \$70 for non-members. Those going on the optional Corpus Christi field trip will share Doug's expenses for the field trip. For questions or if class is full and you want to be on the waiting list, contact Anne Wheeler at anne.wheeler@alumni.utexas.net. To register go to www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/travis-audubons-fall-warblers-class. Indicate in the notes if you plan to go to Corpus Christi with the class.

In the Field with Birding Apps for Smart Phone

Sunday, September 23, 8 am

Learning to use apps on our smartphones is easy from the comfort of our own living rooms. But that only gives users the mechanics of the app. The best way to learn to use them is in the field with real-time experiences. Join Laurie Foss for a morning of birding with hands-on instruction for the apps that you already have on your smart phone.

The following apps will be covered:

- Field Guides
- iBird Explorer Pro
- Audubon Birds
- Peterson Birds
- Sibley Guide to Birds of North America
- Listing apps
- Bird Watcher's Diary
- Bird Log
- Navigation
- iHike GPS
- Travis County Rare Bird Alert system

We will meet at Central Market North Lamar at 8:00 am. From there we will walk to three different birding locations nearby. We'll spend time learning the apps that the participants are interested in as we bird these locations. After our morning out birding and using all of our apps we will convene for lunch back at Central Market North Lamar for discussion and questions.

For those wanting experience uploading their Bird Watcher's Diary lists into eBird, there will be an optional computer session immediately after lunch at Central Market. Laptops required. Cost for the class, \$25 for TA members, \$35 for nonmembers. Computer session add-on \$10. To register online go to www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/in-the-field-with-birding-apps-for-smart-phone. For questions contact , Laurie Foss, lauriefoss@gmail.com.

Travis Audubon Odonate Identification class

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 25, 27, and October 2 and 4, 2012, 7 – 9 pm

Field Trip: Saturday, October 6, 2010, 9 AM – 2 pm

Dr. John Abbott, Curator of Entomology for the Texas Natural Science Center (Texas Memorial Museum) at the University of Texas, will once again be teaching this popular class. He is Editor-in-Chief and past president of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas, and the author of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas and the South-Central United States*, *Damselflies of Texas*, and five volumes of the *Texas Dragonfly*

Atlas along with numerous papers. The lecture portion of the class will meet in downtown Austin and the field trip will be at a nearby park. There will be easy walking on the field trip, and close-focusing binoculars are encouraged. The class fee is \$60 for TA members, \$70 for non-members.

To register go to www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/tas-odonate-identification-class. For questions or if class is full and you want to be on the waiting list, contact Kathy McCormack at VEFL21@yahoo.com or 512 698 9880. Class limit:15.

Baker Sanctuary Hands-On Gardening Saturday, Sept 29, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

If you want to learn more about native, organic, sustainable gardening in Central Texas while helping to restore the planting beds at Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary, be sure to sign up for this class! Diane Sherrill, owner of NativeEarthscapes, will discuss the principles of Earth Friendly gardening—why natives are so important; gardening in arid conditions, helping the birds and other wildlife with your gardening choices (all of them!), and the basics of organic gardening. Diane will also talk about the design principles she used in the beds at Baker. Then you will get hands-on experience as you plant the garden that will soon be the showcase of the county! The hard work has already been done—you will just have the joy of putting these beautiful and useful plants in the earth. Diane will be on hand for one-on-one questions and explanations. Feel the thrill of accomplishment while you learn. The class will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 29.

Tuition for the class is \$20 for Travis Audubon members and \$25 for non-members. To register online go to www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/baker-sanctuary-hands-on-gardening. For questions or if class is full and you want to be on the waiting list, contact Diane Sherrill nativeearthscapes@gmail.com. Class limit: 12.

Creating a Wildlife-Friendly Native Garden Saturday, October 13, 9 am - noon

Love watching wildlife and want to attract more to your backyard? Whether you are a novice or an experienced gardener, this three-hour wildscaping class is sure to inspire you to take your garden to the next level. Through a classroom presentation and outdoor habitat tour, Meredith O'Reilly will highlight some of the best native plants to attract birds, butterflies, and other beautiful fauna to your Central Texas garden throughout the seasons. Additionally, you will learn how to utilize color, height, a variety of materials, and different design elements to maximize the wildlife you can attract, all while benefitting the ecosystem as a whole. Of course, ecosystem gardening actually begins below ground – this class will take a closer look at the soil food web and important sustainable practices. Easy pond creation, neighbor-friendly tips, and fun garden project ideas will be included. The class is limited to 20 participants and will be held on Saturday, October 13, from 9 am to noon, in a Central Austin location. Tuition for the class is \$15 for TAS members and \$20 for non-members. To register online go to www.travisaudubon.org/home/?page_id=23

For questions or if class is full and you want to be on the waiting list, contact Meredith O'Reilly at meredith@greatstems.com. Meredith

O'Reilly is author of the popular wildlife gardening blog Great Stems and is co-host of Austin's annual Habitat Steward training. She is also a Capital Area Master Naturalist and a member of the Travis Audubon Urban Habitat Committee. To date she has helped 14 schools in the Austin area create schoolyard habitats.

Family Fun with Wildlife Gardening Saturday, October 20, 10:00 am -11:30 am

Cultivate kids' natural curiosity as well as their green thumbs by creating a wildlife haven at home. This class is designed for kids, ages 4-11, along with their parents or grandparents. Kids will learn all about what they, and their family, can do in their own backyard to invite some of Austin's best-known native fauna – birds, butterflies, frogs, lizards, and even earthworms – to visit. This 1.5-hour class will include a short engaging slideshow and hands-on activities to introduce the elements of habitat as well as the kinds of wildlife we are likely to see here in Central Texas. It will also include a walk through a wildlife habitat to observe the different elements of habitat in action and discover what wildlife calls that habitat home. The class will introduce fun and simple projects that families can do together, and kids will get to complete an in-class "gift for wildlife" project to take home to their garden. Whooooo will visit your garden next? Class size is limited to 16 children and will be held on Saturday, October 20, from 10 am to 11:30 am in a Central Austin location. One adult must accompany each 1-2 children. Tuition for the class is \$15 per child and includes the cost of project materials. Parents are free! To register online go to www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/family-fun-with-wildlife-gardening

For questions or if class is full and you want to be on the waiting list, contact Meredith O'Reilly at meredith@greatstems.com. Class limit: 16 children.

Travis Audubon's Introduction to Birds and Birding Class Tuesdays, Oct 15, 23, 30, Nov 6, 6:15 – 8:45 pm plus field trips on following weekends

Are you starting to notice birds and would like to know more about them? Have you been watching birds casually and would now like to take a more structured approach to learning more about them? Are you looking for a good excuse to get outside and connect with nature? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, then the Introduction to Birds and Birding Class is the class for you. This class promises to transform your relationship to birds and start you down the road toward a lifelong love and enjoyment of birds. You will also learn how you can make a difference for the birds and contribute to bird conservation efforts. Instruction will be provided during four classroom sessions and four field trips to popular birding locations around Austin.

The class will cover a variety of topics including: how to identify birds; bird identification of many species of Central Texas birds; bird migration; bird and habitat conservation; field guides and binoculars; and where to go birding in Central Texas. No prior birding experience is necessary.

continued on next page

Shelia Hargis is the instructor for this class. She has been birding for 16 years and loves birds! She spends most of her free time birding or thinking about birds and enjoys sharing her love of birds with others. Shelia has given presentations and classes on numerous bird topics including bird identification, bird migration, birding by ear, and wildscaping your yard. Shelia regularly leads birding field trips and is currently on the Travis Audubon Board of Directors and the Travis Audubon Habitat Conservation Committee. She is also a past president of Travis Audubon.

The classroom portion of this workshop is limited to 24 participants and will be held on Tuesday evenings, October 16, 23, 30, and November 6 (6:15 - 8:45 pm) in a downtown Austin location near 6th St and N. Lamar Blvd. The field trips will be held the following weekend. If more than 12 participants register for the class, half of the class will have their field trips on Saturday mornings, October 20, 27,

November 3 and 10, and the other half of the class will have their field trips on Sunday mornings, October 21, 28, November 4 and 11. Field trips will typically start around 7:00 AM and will end between 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM.

Participants will need to bring paper and a pen to the classroom sessions. Binoculars, hats, sturdy closed-toe shoes, sunscreen and water are requirements for the field trips. There are a limited number of binoculars available for loan to students who don't already have a pair.

This class usually fills up quickly, so register early. Tuition will be \$75 for TA members and \$90 for non-members. Visit www.travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/travis-audubons-introduction-to-birds-and-birding-class-fall-2012 to register online. For more information or if the class is full and want to be put on the waiting list, contact Shelia Hargis at intro2birds@gmail.com or at 294-0272.

Bird-a-thon 2012

This year's Bird-a-thon was a hoot! Our thanks go out to our Bird-a-thon teams, who raised \$17,243 for Travis Audubon's conservation and education programs. Whoo Hoo! The celebration party at the home of Jane Tillman and Mark Lyon is becoming a much looked-forward-to event, with great food, wine, Bird-a-thon stories, and the award of prizes. This year's winners are (drum roll please):

1st Place – Most money raised: Fledglings Take Flight

Team Captains: Laurie Foss/Shelia Hargis

2nd Place – Most money raised: Gone Pishing

Team Captain: Shelia Hargis

3rd Place – Most money raised: Legal Migrants

Team Captains: Byron Stone/Jane Tillman

1st Place – Most money raised by a new team: City Flickers

Team Captains: Caroline Jones/Jane Tillman

2nd Place – Most money raised by a new team: Los Playeros

Team Captains: Cullen Hanks/Barry Lyon

3rd Place – Most money raised by a new team: Baby-Bird-a-thon

Team Captains: Nancy Manning/Claude Morris/Jorjanna Price

Prize for rarest bird seen, a White-breasted Nuthatch, goes to Legal Migrants

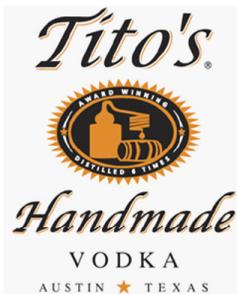
Prize for most Golden-cheeked Warblers (36) seen goes to Jeff Mundy

Prize for most Northern Mockingbirds (43) goes to Gone Pishing

Prize for best Bird-a-thon story goes to the Aviphiliacs

Team captains: Dan Callaway, Ethel Kutac, Ingrid Huskey and Catfish Kelly

Nancy Manning



Bird-a-thon Prize Donors



Thank you to Nancy Powell for donating a field trip to Acacia, her 157-acre Ranch west of Dripping Springs on the Pedernales River, and to Anne Donovan for donating a picnic lunch for this field trip. Thanks also to Anne and John Donovan for donating a day of birding at their Seven Oaks Ranch and a picnic lunch



Thank you to Bill and Ann Edwards for donating a trip to Cherry Springs Ranch. Visit www.TheCherrySpringsRanch.com



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Our Donors

Many thanks to all our donors – your support is critical to the ongoing conservation and education efforts of Travis Audubon.

Travis Audubon extends our gratitude to the Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$2,000 and to the McCoy's Corporation for the \$250 store credit, both helping fund the installation of wheelchair-accessible ramps at Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary. We also thank the Austin chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas for donating the funds to buy plants for the wildscape garden that our Urban Habitat Committee is installing at the AGE (Austin Groups for the Elderly) building. And special thanks to the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation for a grant of \$3,000 to fund our communications branding initiative.

Special Thanks to

Akard Estate for helping fund our youth education programs Mountain Trails Lodge and Outdoor Learning Center

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In Honor of Barbara Anderson's Birthday

Janet Beinke

Buy a Brick and Help Expand Chaetura Canyon!

The Travis Audubon Conservation Committee is launching an effort to fulfill a longstanding pledge to raise \$5,000 for the Chaetura Canyon Expansion Fund, and help dress up the entrance to this beautiful sanctuary.

You have the opportunity to have your name, your family's name or a corporate title featured at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Or perhaps memorialize a loved one with one of the personalized engraved pavers used in the project. The bricks will be part of a new set of steps at the entrance to Chaetura Canyon, leading from the front gate, down to the Sanctuary residence.

Both 4x8 inch and 8x8 inch grey engraved pavers will be available for donations of \$50 or \$100 respectively. Special 8x8 inch bricks with the well-known symbol of Chaetura Canyon, a silhouette of a flying Chimney Swift, will be available for an underwriting donation of \$250. Contributions for these artistic pavers will be used to cover the cost of the materials, installation, etc., allowing the other donations to go completely towards the Chaetura Canyon expansion fund.

The campaign kicks off at the September meeting! Please consider donating a brick to this sanctuary project and be one of the Travis Audubon supporters whose names will be featured at the new and improved entrance. You may contact Mark Wilson at mwilson7@austin.rr.com or 512-

497-0744 with any questions or if you would like to help. Check the Travis Audubon website soon for a link to order.

Chaetura Canyon Expansion

Ross Bee
Marc Bernat
Ellen Filtness
Andy Filtness
Laurie Foss
Joan Foster
Mike Foster
Shelia Hargis
Beth Heffernan
Ray Hodson
Roz Hodson
Wanda Holcombe
George Holcombe
Felicia Kongable
Caroline Legette
Steve Livingston
Nicole Netherton
Barbara Pitts
Johnna Robinson
Kat Ross
Nancy Ross
Diane Sherrill
Marcia Sims
Monica Solomon
Ralph Weston

Warbler

Shelia Hargis and Laurie Foss
Caroline Jones
Kim Soechting
Deb and Lee Wallace

Recent Bird-a-thon Donations

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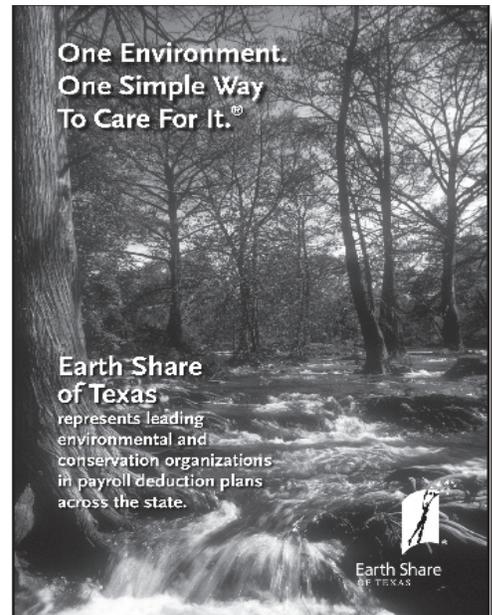
Travis Audubon is delighted to recognize its Business Members:

PMB Helin Donovan, LLP

To learn about the benefits of supporting Travis Audubon as a Business Member, please go to www.travisaudubon.org and click on Business Member, or contact Travis Audubon at 512.300.BIRD (2473).



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www.travisaudubon.org



Join your local Audubon chapter, Travis Audubon, by using the form at the right. Your dues will be put to use supporting local conservation, education, research projects, field trips, and other Travis Audubon activities right here in Central Texas. We seek your support through your membership in our local chapter. To become a member of National Audubon, please go to their website at www.audubon.org. Don't forget to include the National Audubon Source Code of 79M7 and the Travis Audubon Chapter code of W03, so Travis Audubon receives credit.

Join Travis Audubon now and support local birds, wildlife, and their habitats

Travis Audubon chapter members receive six issues a year of the *Signal Smoke* newsletter, priority sign-ups on local field trips, discounts on our educational classes, the opportunity to participate in our e-mail group, attend our wonderful monthly lectures, access to our three sanctuaries, and more!

To join Travis Audubon

Make your check payable to Travis Audubon and send it with this form to Travis Audubon, 3710 Cedar St., Box 5, Austin, TX 78705, or join online using any major credit card by going to www.travisaudubon.org and clicking on 'Membership.'

Travis Audubon

YES! I want to enjoy the benefits of Travis Audubon chapter membership. Enroll me as a member of Travis Audubon.

Enclosed is my check for:

- \$10 Youth Membership (up to age 18)
- \$30 Individual Membership
- \$45 Family Membership
- \$75 Painted Bunting Membership (embroidered patch of Painted Bunting)
- \$100 Vireo Membership (embroidered patch of Vireo, bumper sticker)
- \$250 Warbler Membership (Embroidered patch of Warbler, one free class, VIP field trip)
- \$1,000 Lifetime Membership (Special Lifetime Member embroidered patch, T-shirt, invitation to special events, VIP field trip)

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