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Volume 63, No. 3 • May/June 2014

INSPIRING CONSERVATION THROUGH BIRDING

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Three Top Birding sites in Austin: Laguna Gloria, Commons Ford, and Hornsby Bend

By Stan VanSandt

Hello, friends! Are you new to the Austin area, new to birding, or just visiting the area and wanting to know some good spots to bird? Let me suggest some places in Austin where you don't have to go too far afield. We are fortunate to be located in the middle of the central migratory flyway, on the dividing line between many eastern and western birds, and close enough to Mexico to get a few birds that aren't found in any other state of the union. We even have a couple of endangered rarities nesting here, Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo (but they are best seen in March and April, so you'd better get cracking if you want to see them this year)!



The young Barred Owl

So where to go? In central Austin, convenient to downtown and easily accessible, I don't think you can do better than Laguna Gloria and the adjacent Mayfield Park, especially during migration. An old mansion converted into a museum, located at the west end of 35th Street, Laguna Gloria's beautiful grounds are frequently used for weddings. Mayfield Park has extensive woodland trails and is good for local residents like Barred Owl and Black-crested Titmouse and summer residents like White-eyed Vireo and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. But it is the edges of the lake on the Laguna grounds that hold the real treats: you may find Marsh Wrens and Common Yellowthroats in the reeds; you may see ducks or pelicans out on the lake; and in the large trees near the water (surrounded by healthy understory) anything is possible. My friend Sam Fason, who has birded Laguna most of his life, saw a Least Bittern there last year, and has seen such rarities as Worm-eating, Kentucky, and

MacGillivray's Warblers. I remember once when we both got our lifer Philadelphia Vireo at the same time: we could nail the identification because there were White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos in the same tree! Sam leads field trips at Laguna Gloria most months, so check the listings in your *Signal Smoke*.



Western Scrub Jay - Photo credit James Giroux

If you want to look for our western species - birds like Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Scrub Jay, or Common Poorwill - Commons Ford Park would be a great place to start. Travis Audubon offers frequent morning field trips there, usually led by Ed Fair, who has been the prime mover in getting the prairie area of the park restored to its native state. Before the restoration, a survey of the 40-acre area produced only one bird; afterwards there were more than 40 birds of a number of different species, including LeConte's and Grasshopper Sparrows.



Northern Shovelers at at Hornsby Bend. Photo by Jane Tillman

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White-faced Ibis at Hornsby Bend

And that's just one of several habitats in this large park: riparian woods, lakeshore, brushland, and more. Ed has seen over 230 species in the park, including all three kingfishers, Sprague's Pipit, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, 24 warbler species, as well as the expected local birds. I fondly recall seeing a mid-winter Palm Warbler in a hedge there on one of Ed's trips, and I believe the same bird came back the next winter too.

However, the crown jewel of Austin's birding destinations has to be Hornsby Bend. I started my birding adventure there, seeing over 40 species that I didn't know existed on my first two visits, so I have a special fondness for the place. I've got many more lifers since then, including Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Ruff, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Red Phalarope, and, oh, more than I can recall. The monthly

bird-walks routinely get 50 species in a morning and the monthly surveys (open to all) even more. There are miles of trails along the Colorado River, through fields and forest and around the wastewater ponds that are often filled with ducks, shorebirds and waders. If you only have time to bird one spot in Austin, this should be it – it's open daily from dawn to dusk and is a short distance from the airport.



Entrance to Hornsby Bend. Photo by Jane Tillman

There you go: three great birding sites right in town. There are many more, of course, and if you are hunting for specific birds like Rufous-crowned Sparrow or Canyon Towhee, Hooded Warbler or Pileated Woodpecker, you might have to go a little further afield, but for variety and numbers (not to mention convenience and access) you can't beat these three locations: Laguna Gloria, Commons Ford, and Hornsby Bend. ●

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Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline is the first day of the month preceding the first month of publication (for example, August 1 for the March/April issue). Submit non-copyrighted articles, announcements, and art to Aaron Prager, care of Nancy Manning, at nancy@travisaudubon.org. Submissions by email are preferred but not required. Call Nancy at 300-BIRD if you have questions. ●

Travis Audubon Monthly Meetings

Location: Huffman Hall at St. Matthews Episcopal Church
8134 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759.
Time: Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for social time. Program begins at 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments are provided.

Purple Martins: The Full Story

Thursday, April 17, 2014
Speakers: Andy and Julia Balinsky

Purple Martins are North America's largest swallow. They are colony nesters and the populations east of the Rocky Mountains are totally dependent on human-made housing for their nest sites. This makes for interesting interactions between humans and the martins. Maybe you have seen the very active and vocal colony at Hornsby Bend. Maybe you are a Purple Martin landlord with your own colony. Maybe you have witnessed the roost spectacle at Highland Mall. If so, you know these birds are amazing. Join us in April as Andy and Julia Balinsky give us the full story of the Purple Martin's life, from egg to migrant. They will also talk about the fascinating relationship between humans and martins. For more information on martins, see the Purple Martin account in *All About Birds*, allaboutbirds.org. You can also find lots of information on the Purple Martin Conservation Association's website at purplemartin.org.



Julia and Andy. Photo compliments of the Balinskys

Andy and Julia Balinsky have been the stewards of the Hornsby Bend Purple Martin colony since 2003. They have watched over 1,300 Purple Martin babies fledge during that time. They have even hand-fed babies during late cold fronts! They have also spent many evenings watching the martin pre-migration staging roost at Highland Mall in the summer. They teach the Purple Martin Workshop for Travis Audubon. For those of you who haven't been around the birding community long, the Balinskys are famous for their Hornsby Bend wedding! Yes, it's true. They tied the knot at the birding blind at Hornsby. ●

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Chimney Swifts: Why We Should Care

Thursday, May 15, 2014
Speakers: Paul and Georgan Kyle

Sleek, unique and secretive, Chimney Swifts build their nests, raise their families and sleep just feet from where we watch TV, eat meals, and play with our own children, yet most people have never actually seen one. Join us as THE Chimney Swift experts, Georgan and Paul Kyle, share the secretive home life of these aerial acrobats, their fight to cling to survival, and what is being done to conserve their declining numbers.



Paul & Georgan

Georgan and Paul have had a love affair with Chimney Swifts for more than three decades. They have hand-reared and released more than 1,100 displaced nestlings, cared for injured adults, designed and built dozens of towers for the swifts to use for nesting and roosting sites, and worked tirelessly to educate the public about these benign, beneficial avian insectivores. In 1995 they founded the North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project, a continent-wide conservation initiative, and in 1999 received the National Partners in Flight award for their efforts in Public Awareness. Their book about the secret life of Chimney Swifts and a companion Chimney Swift tower construction guide were published by the Texas A&M University Press in the spring of 2005.

In December of 2006, the Kyles entered a life-time partnership with Travis Audubon when they donated their home and the surrounding eight acres to be maintained as the Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary in perpetuity. They continue to live on the property under a Life Estate and as TAS Sanctuary Stewards. Their work was featured in the July 2011 edition of *Audubon* magazine. ●



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Sanctuary News

Baker Sanctuary

Article and Photos by Chris Murray, Sanctuary Steward

Even though the summer heat has begun to settle over Texas, the weather is still some of the best for hiking and bird watching at Baker Sanctuary. In the last *Signal Smoke*, I expounded upon the virtues of the Hatfield Loop so this issue will focus on arguably the most hiked trail at the sanctuary, the Baker Springs Trail.



Lovely Live Oak

Beginning in the parking lot and looping south for about 1.5 miles, the Baker Springs Trail (BST) has quite a bit to offer hikers. First and foremost, many hike the trail because it can usually be counted on to yield a good glimpse of a Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) or two. The habitat the BST transverses is considered some of the best for GCWA to be found on the preserve, the primary reason why our 100-acre GCWA intensive study plot is essentially centered on the BST. Surveyors have been delineating GCWA territories in the BST area since the 1990s, a practice that will most likely continue for the foreseeable future.

In addition to the relatively abundant GCWAs, the BST also slips down into a small valley, a welcome respite from the heat if hiking during the summer. Near the valley bottom, a marked change in vegetation occurs as large sycamores and walnuts add to the canopy, with American Beautyberry and Carolina Buckthorn becoming common components of the understory. This more varied vegetation community, combined with occasional water from Baker Spring, tends to attract the more exotic Neotropical migrants, such as Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers, who will stop over during their migration north to forage in the canopy. While hiking down the rough trail to the valley bottom, keep in mind Lena Baker, Chell Baker's blind half sister. Legend has it she hiked the trail at least once a day by herself to gather water at Baker Spring.

The GCWAs and the valley are fairly conspicuous features of the BST but the observant hiker will be rewarded with even more. In 1997 a severe weath-



Lime Creek Scenics

er event produced 20 confirmed tornadoes in central Texas, one of which plowed through the town of Jarrell. A smaller tornado from the same system formed about three miles north of Cedar Park and travelled roughly nine miles southwest, touching down on an Albertson's as well as the Wheless tract adjacent to Baker, before dissipating on the north shore of Lake Travis. A tangled pile of snags can still be viewed from the west section of the BST, a silent testament to the power of the F-3 tornado that narrowly missed the steward's residence.

The more a trail is hiked, the more you will see and the BST is no exception. A few more of my favorite sights on the BST include a slightly hidden lace cacti 'garden', quite possibly the most aesthetically pleasing live oak yet discovered on the Sanctuary, and the very real possibility of at least hearing a Northern Bobwhite, if not seeing one, to name a handful; like the lone mesquite mentioned in the last *Signal Smoke*, I will leave it to the interested hiker to discover them, and hopefully more, on their own.



Dwarf White Aster (*Chaetopappa bellidifolia*)



Tower Workshop by Georgan Kyle

Chaetura Canyon

Article and Photos by Georgan and Paul Kyle

Several workshops and workdays were conducted before the arrival of spring in anticipation of the expected bipedal visitors – human and avian. At the annual Stewardship Day in February, volunteers spent a morning hauling juniper slash from the Little Beaver Hill parcel. The following weekend the Stewards and neighbor Ron Wood chipped it all into a nice pile of mulch. Then the next day, volunteers from the Capital Area Master Naturalists helped spread the mulch on the upper canyon trails.



Capital Area Master Naturalists by Mark Wilson

The first weekend of March, members of the Texas Bluebird Society came out for breakfast and a full-canyon tour followed by a nice home-cooked lunch on the deck overlooking the Canyon. The next weekend we had a third work day when volunteers from the Hays County Master Naturalists came out to help dig plants out of the trails to be replanted on a steep slope at the head of the Canyon, where habitat restoration and erosion control is ongoing.



Capital Area Master Naturalists by Mark Wilson

In mid-March, a new Chimney Swift Tower was constructed on the sanctuary as part of the Chimney Swift Tower Workshop – and none too soon. The first Chimney Swifts of the season were sighted just one week later on March 22nd. Other migrants continued to flow in. By the end of March, 50 avian species had been recorded for the year

The Canyon is now in fine shape for the many upcoming events, the first of which will be Chalupas and Chimney Swifts, the spring fund-raising dinner on Saturday, May 10th. This popular event has always sold out, so get your reservations soon. For more information visit www.TravisAudubon.org, or contact the Stewards (Kyle@ChimneySwifts.org).

Chaetura Canyon Donors: February, March

Jan Roset	Ian Egan	Keith Schindler
Dawn Reed	Chris Moses	Selena Schindler
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Mark Wilson	Roberta Marshall	Jimmie Konvicka
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Chaetura Canyon Donor Brick Campaign - Phase II



Paul and Georgan Kyle, Stewards

The Conservation Committee's campaign to raise at least \$5,000 for Chaetura Canyon land acquisition through the sale of personalized donor bricks was so successful that the TAS Board approved a second campaign for 2014! Final installation of all bricks from the first campaign is scheduled for this spring. The Sanctuary now has a beautiful new entryway, designed and built by Georgan and Paul Kyle, with steps and landing leading down towards the deck. Thank you to all the generous supporters who donated bricks in the first campaign.

For Phase II, we hope to raise another \$3,200, again dedicated to land acquisition. The bricks will be used to extend the entryway down to the deck, allowing easy access from the street. New Sponsor Bricks (limited number), with the Chimney Swift logo designed by the Kyles, will be prominently displayed on the second landing (see design). Sponsors cover all cost of materials (transport, construction and installation is by volunteers), allowing 100% of funds from the other bricks to go directly to land acquisition. Phase II is sponsored by the Chaetura Canyon Maintenance Committee.



Sponsor Bricks are \$250. 8x8 bricks are \$100, 4x8 \$50.

Please consider donating a brick in Phase II of this on-going Sanctuary project. Add your name or message to the entrance, purchase a brick for your business or group, and/or help us honor the Kyle's as recipients of the 2014 Victor Emmanuel Conservation Award. Simply go to the Travis Audubon Chaetura Canyon webpage to find the instructions to order your brick. You may contact Mark Wilson by e-mail at mwilson7@austin.rr.com or 512-497-0744 with any questions. ●

Travis Audubon

Classes

Butterfly Identification

Classes: Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Field trips on the following SUNDAYS, May 11 & 18;
10:00 a.m. to Noon

If you enjoy watching colorful flying creatures but would like to skip the cold, damp early mornings many birds prefer, you may sync better with butterflies. These sunshine-loving denizens of gardens and meadows are not just pretty additions to a garden but an integral part of the ecosystem's fauna. Varied enough to be interesting, yet not so diverse as to be overwhelming, butterflies are worthy of study—on their own merits and as a complement to other wildlife observation. Their conspicuous daytime activities make them easy to observe, often at close range.

The class will include an introduction to the major families of butterflies, their predators, behaviors, challenges, life cycles, and survival strategies. After a general orientation to the lepidopteran world, participants will delve more deeply into identification—learning to recognize different butterflies and caterpillars by their appearance, habits, and feeding preferences. Whether you want to better recognize species or capture enhanced photographic images, this class will answer many questions and reveal the beauty and elegance of butterflies.

Valerie Bugh is an Austin naturalist specializing in area arthropods who also has expertise in taxonomy and photography. Val runs the Fauna Project at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, leads insect discovery walks, provides insect/spider identifications, talks to local organizations, teaches entomology classes, and has published *The Butterflies of Central Texas*. (See www.austinbug.com.) One of her favorite books is the *Kaufman Focus Guides: Butterflies of North America* (Jim Brock & Kenn Kaufman). Val will have handouts on host plants, species lists, and ID tips.

Class tuition is \$60 for TAS members; \$70 for non-members. Registration is limited to 20. Classes will be in central Austin.

For questions or to be put on the waiting list, contact Frances Cerbins at fcerbins@yahoo.com or 512-372-9039.

To register go to:
<http://travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/butterfly-identification>

Feather Identification Class

Thursday, July 19; 9 a.m. – 4 pm

Learn about master bird feather identification with Dave Scott, author of *Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species*. Students will learn to identify feathers they find in the field through a combination of shape, size, and color. Dave will share information to unlock the mysteries found within a single feather. This class will not only teach how to identify feathers but an incredible amount about the flight, lives, and habits of bird species. Knowledge of wing morphology and feather identification will be an amazing addition to your birding toolbox.

Dave Scott is a skilled wildlife tracker and naturalist who has been involved in environmental education since 2003. His focus as an educator is to re-connect students with the natural world through wildlife tracking, increased sensory awareness, wilderness survival skills, and development of a strong sense of place. Dave is the founder of the Earth Native Wilderness School in Austin, where he teaches bird feather identification, wildlife tracking, wilderness survival, and ecology. (See www.EarthNativeSchool.com.) Auto-graphed copies of *Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species* will be available for purchase (cash or check accepted).

The class, to be held in southeast Austin, will feature lecture/PowerPoint but also hands-on feather identification using the field guide. Dave will show feathers from over 50 bird species in North America. Tuition is \$50 for TAS members; \$65 for non-members. Bring your lunch. For more information, contact Shelia Hargis at shelia.hargis@gmail.com or 512-294-0272.

Register online at:
<http://travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/feather-identification-class>



On Front Cover

Green Jay
Cyanocorax yncas
Photo by Rebecca Field



Hummingbird Identification Class

Mondays, August 4 and 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A wealth of hummingbirds visit Central Texas each year. From the nesting Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds to elusive visitors like Broad-billed Hummingbirds and Green-breasted Mango, these Central Texas hummingbirds can be a challenge to identify.

This class will introduce the 15 hummingbird species that have been seen in Central Texas. Mark Klym of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will discuss their ranges, habitat, and frequency of occurrence. He will emphasize the characteristics that can be used for effective identification, as well as the sounds for locating and differentiating these birds. Each species will be examined in detail by looking at key diagnostic features and comparing them to similar, often confusing species.

Mark Klym is TPWD's Coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and Texas Wildscapes programs. He is also co-author of *Hummingbirds of Texas* (Texas A&M Press, 2005). No prior birding experience is necessary. Participants will receive handouts and a "hummingbird roundup" kit from TPWD.

Lecture sessions will be held in central Austin. Tuition is \$45 for TAS members; \$60 for non-members. For more information, contact Jane Tillman at mljt@austin.utexas.edu.

Note: While Mark will not lead an optional field trip to Ft Davis this year, the Davis Mountain Hummingbird Festival is scheduled for August 21-23. Students may want to make the trip on their own to practice their skills.

To register go to:

<http://trivisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/hummingbird-identification-class>

Mission Statement

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

Spotlight on Advisory Council Member Karen Huber

Karen Huber is a sixth generation Texan who was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley. She received a B.A. from UT-Austin and a masters degree from the University of North Texas. Her professional experience spans agriculture, economic development, real estate development, conservation, and consulting to utilities. Most recently, she served as a Travis County Commissioner from 2009 through 2012.

As a commissioner, Karen was a champion for conservation, natural resource preservation, and quality growth. Her accomplishments include instituting new rules to protect groundwater resources and convening an economic study of Lake Travis, a much-needed economic tool for helping to determine good water policy.

Karen currently serves on the Hill Country Alliance Board of Directors and its Water Team. She also serves on advisory committees for the Texas A&M Sea Grant program, the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District HCP, the Austin Community College Environmental Science Division, and the Rainforest Partnership and Scenic Texas. Karen will be teaching a graduate course on Texas Water Policy at UT's LJB School in the Fall of 2014.

Karen is married to Leonard Huber, and they have lived on Lick Creek in far western Travis County since 1995.



Travis Audubon's Donor Appreciation Event Featured Karen Huber

Travis Audubon recently held a donor appreciation event hosted by Meta Hunt and Trent Miller in their lovely hilltop home. The evening featured special guest Karen Huber, who spoke about birds and water in Texas. Her excellent presentation described how the Texas coastline is one of the most bio-diverse, yet threatened coastlines in the nation. She focused on the struggle of our tenuous Whooping Crane population, and the laws related to water use that impact their survival.

Special thanks to Meta, Trent, Karen and to our donors for making the third annual Travis Audubon Donor Appreciation Event a truly memorable and celebratory occasion. ●

Naturalist's Calendar



Article and Photos by Bill Reiner

May days can be muggy and June can be hot, but if you retreat to the comfort of air-conditioned spaces, you'll miss what is arguably Nature's busiest time of year.

Bird migration peaks in early May, then dwindles, but large numbers of cuckoos, kingbirds, and nighthawks continue to wing through, even late in the month. A few warblers, notably Yellow and Wilson's Warblers and American Redstarts, may linger as late as Memorial Day, and even, rarely, into June. Birders who give up on migration too early could miss altogether such late arrivals as Mourning and Canada Warblers, Philadelphia Vireos, and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.

Out at Hornsby Bend, you may see a flock of birds the size of small gulls, weaving over the ponds like nighthawks or swallows as they scoop up insects from the water surface. These are Black Terns, named for the all-black head and breast they acquire in breeding plumage – distinctive among North American terns. They are bound for the northern Great Plains of the United States and Canada, where they will nest around shallow lakes and marshes.

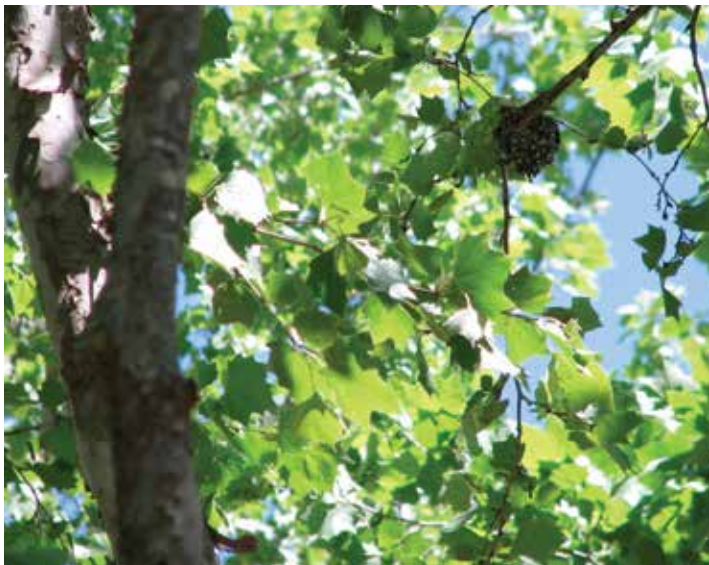
Nesting birds command the spotlight as the migrants move on. By late May, Summer Tanagers, Dickcissels, and Chuck-will's-widows will be incubating eggs. You may see a Red-shouldered Hawk carrying a snake to a hungry nestling. Ash-throated Flycatchers are feeding nestlings, too, but Field Sparrow young will have already fledged and left the nest.

Where you saw a pair of brown-feathered darts careening up and down a stream in March, there are now half a dozen, as newly-fledged Northern Rough-winged Swallows join their parents. Wild Turkey hens escort downy chicks. A fledgling Black-chinned Hummingbird somehow manages to avoid a punctured stomach when its mother plunges her bill down its throat to feed it. Several other fledglings are now trailing their parents and begging for food, including cardinals, phoebes, chickadees, and Golden-cheeked Warblers. Follow an excited twittering to its source and you might find them.

The Mexican Free-tail Bat colony under the Congress Avenue bridge becomes one of the world's biggest nurseries about now. Most of the bats that returned to the bridge in March were pregnant females. Over 90% of them will give birth in June, nearly doubling the population to over a million. For the time being, the mothers leave their babies behind when they depart at sunset to find food. When she returns, a mother can find her pup by the sound of its voice.

Gray Fox pups, on the other hand, are already adventuring with their parents. Spotted fawns follow cautious does, and bucks carry velvet-covered antlers. Rains fill many shallow pools, which then become stages for chorusing frogs and toads, such as Gray Treefrogs and Great Plains Narrow-mouth Toads, who gather to mate and lay eggs. Since these pools are ephemeral, egg-eating fish cannot survive in them. The tadpoles can grow to adulthood without becoming fish food – though they'll still need to avoid the clutches of such land-based predators as Raccoons.

A second wave of spring wildflowers begins as the bluebonnets and paintbrushes fade in May. Star attractions are companies of Firewheel (or *Gaillardia*), *Coreopsis*, and *Prairie Larkspur*. A particularly stunning roadside wildflower that begins to bloom in May is the *Standing Cypress* (*Ipomopsis rubra*): Vivid red, tubular flowers crowd the tops of erect stalks that usually stand about 3 feet tall, but sometimes reach 6 feet. Feathery green leaves cloak the stem; they resemble the bright green new leaves of *Bald-Cypress* trees.



Yellow-throated Vireo nest

By June, gold-and-brown Mexican-hats and purple-flowered nightshades crowd the highway shoulders. Stands of pagoda-like flower heads of *Lemon Beebalm* (*Monarda citriodora*) are common on roadsides, too – the purplish-pink color coming as much from the leaf-like bracts between rings of flowers as from the two-lipped flowers themselves. On sandy soils, you may find a related mint, *Spotted Beebalm* (*Monarda punctata*), displaying whitish bracts and brown-spotted yellow flowers.

Still another tall mint that blooms in June, one especially fond of damp places such as streambanks and seeps, is *American Germander* (*Teucrium canadense*). Germander flowers are packed into long, terminal clusters like those of the beebalms, but without the showy bracts. The blossoms, apparent favorites of hummingbirds, are white to pale pink, with darker purplish markings. They are also “topless,” so to speak. Unlike most mint flowers, the upper lip of a germander flower is much shorter than the lower lip, and appears to be absent altogether; instead, the stamens arch through open space above the lower lip.

Among the showiest of the June wildflowers are the *Mountain-Pinks* (*Centaurea beyrichii*), which look like ready-for-the-florist bouquets standing on otherwise bare, rocky soil. The many branches of this foot-tall plant form a tight cluster like an inverted cone, the flat or rounded top crowded with pink blossoms.

Butterflies are there to take advantage of all the nectar, and to carry pollen from flower to flower. Although many butterfly species have been flying about for a month or more, *Common Wood Nymphs* make their seasonal debut in mid-May. With a wingspan of two to three inches, these are big butterflies, hard to miss as they lazily float by. The wings are cocoa-brown except for a broad yellow band across each forewing. Two black “eyespot” are embedded in each band – which is likely to be unnerving to a potential predator. Look for *Wood Nymphs* in open, grassy woodlands, especially where *Purpletop grass*, a frequent larval food plant, grows. ●



Standing Cypress in full bloom

Travis Audubon Society

May–June 2014 Field Trips

Date/Time	Location/Description	Registration Required	Contact
Saturday, April 26 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Travis Audubon/Shoal Creek Conservancy Walk along Shoal Creek	Yes	George Kerr at ykp@kerrlink.com
Saturday, May 3 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Beginner's Bird Walk — Berry Springs	No	Virginia Rose at virginia.rose@att.net
Saturday, May 3 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Laguna Gloria with Sam Fason	Yes (16)	Sam Fason at scfason@gmail.com
Saturday, May 3 6:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon	Warbler Woods with Robert Reeves	Yes (15)	robert@att.net
Tuesday, May 6 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Super Tuesday! at Commons Ford Ranch	Yes	apeld@austin.rr.com
Saturday, May 10 6:15 OR 7:00 a.m. to noon	Commons Ford Migration Walk	Yes (15)	nativeearthscapes@gmail.com
Saturday, May 10 7:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.	Monthly Bird Count at Hornsby Bend	No	Eric Carpenter at ecarpe@gmail.com
Tuesday, May 13 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Super Tuesday! At Berry Springs Park, led by Dan Callaway	Yes	moriscallaway@sbcglobal.net
Saturday, May 17 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk	No	Eric Stager at estager@gmail.com
Sunday, May 18	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge	Yes (15)	nativeearthscapes@gmail.com
Tuesday, May 20 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Two-hour Tuesday! At Big Webberville Park, led by Ken Zaslow	No	khz@att.net
Tuesday, May 27 5:30 a.m. to early afternoon	Super Tuesday! At Palmetto State Park, led by Terry Banks	Yes	55bluebirds@att.net
Saturday, June 7 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Beginner's Bird Walk — Zilker Botanical Gardens	No	Virginia Rose at virginia.rose@att.net
Saturday, June 7 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Laguna Gloria with Sam Fason	Yes (16)	Sam Fason at scfason@gmail.com
Sunday, June 8	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge	Yes (10)	Shelia.hargis@gmail.com
Saturday, June 14 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Commons Ford Monthly Walk	Yes (15)	nativeearthscapes@gmail.com
Saturday, June 14 7:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.	Monthly Bird Count at Hornsby Bend	No	Eric Carpenter at ecarpe@gmail.com
Saturday, June 21 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk	No	Eric Stager at estager@gmail.com
Sunday, July 13	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge	Yes (12)	Shelia.hargis@gmail.com

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.

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Travis Audubon gratefully acknowledges the grant from Walmart for the Hiking Club at Baker Sanctuary and to Bright Green Future for a grant in partnership with Leander ISD.

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