## Staff & Board Listing

### Officers

- **Barry Lyon**  
  President

- **Frances Cerbins**  
  Vice-President

- **Julia Marsden**  
  Secretary

- **Ruth Pelphrey**  
  Treasurer

### Directors

- **Cullen Hanks**
- **Shelia Hargis**
- **Caroline Jones**
- **Clif Ladd**
- **Jeff Patterson**
- **Carol Ray**
- **Jean Warneke**
- **Jo Wilson**

### Advisors

- **David Bamberger**
- **Valarie Bristol**
- **Victor Emanuel**
- **Sam Fason**
- **Bryan Hale**
- **Karen Huber**
- **Mary Kelly**
- **Andrew Sansom**
- **Carter Smith**

### Committee Chairs

- **Byron Stone & Frances Cerbins**  
  Education

- **Jeff Patterson & Terry Banks**  
  Field Trips

- **Susan Moak**  
  Hospitality

- **Jane Tillman**  
  Monthly Programs

- **Terry Siegenthaler**  
  Sanctuary

- **Jane Tillman**  
  Speaker's Bureau

- **Sue Anderson**  
  Urban Habitat

### Staff

- **Joan Marshall**  
  Executive Director

- **Janet Reed**  
  Director of Administration & Membership

- **Chris Murray**  
  Land Steward & Educator

- **Georgean Kyle & Paul Kyle**  
  Chaetura Canyon Stewards

- **Nathan McGowan**  
  Rare Bird Alert Complier

- **Nora Chovanec**  
  Design Director & Website Producer

- **Betsy Pfeil**  
  Signal Smoke Editor

### Travis Audubon

3710 Cedar Street, Box 5  
Austin, TX 78705  
512-300-BIRD  
www.travisaudubon.org  
info@travisaudubon.org

---

Cover Image Credit:  
Purple Martin, *(Hirundo purpurea)*  
John James Audubon
In This Issue

Naturalist’s Calendar .................................................. Pg 3
Sanctuary News: Chaetura Canyon ................................ Pg 6
Sanctuary News: Baker Sanctuary ................................ Pg 10
Birds On and Off The Wall! Photo Spread ...................... Pg 12
Purple Martins! Photo Spread ...................................... Pg 13
Interview with Al Reinert .............................................. Pg 14
Changes Afoot on the Hike and Bike Trail ...................... Pg 15
Looking Ahead: Victor Emanuel Event ............................ Pg 16
Upcoming Events ........................................................ Pg 19
Classes ................................................................. Pg 20
Field Trips ............................................................. Pg 26
Member/Donor List ..................................................... Pg 27

Black-capped Vireo (Vireo atricapilla), Isaac Sanchez, Flickr Creative
Birding gets a little slow in central Texas by July. True, it can be satisfying to watch our local breeding birds raise their young, or to brush up on the vagaries of molt. But it’s also a good time of year, if you aren’t afraid of a little heat, to get out and learn about some of the other denizens of the Texas landscape.

Dragonflies and damselflies have become popular with many birders wanting to expand their horizons. Collectively called odonates (for the order Odonata, in which they are classed), or “odes” for short, these insects have much in common with the birds. They are recognizable at a glance and are easily distinguishable from other insects. They are active and conspicuous during daylight hours. And they are usually brightly colored and patterned. It’s also quite easy to attribute character or personality to them, which makes them fun to watch.

The common names with which the species have been christened are intriguing, too. The setwings, for instance, are a group of dragonflies that tend to perch with their wings angled below their bodies—looking much as a sprinter in the “set” position just before the starter’s pistol goes off. And the saddlebags dragonflies are marked with a large, dark blotch at the base of each hindwing, as if they’re outfitted for a long journey. Then there are the pondhawks and meadowhawks, pennants and shadowdragons, leaftails and ringtails and forktails and firetails, dashers and dancers and darners and sprites.

Like the birds, some are distinctive and easy to identify, while others are more challenging. It’s hard to mistake a big Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*) or a vivid red Neon Skimmer (*Libellula croceipennis*) for much of anything else. But careful observation of thorax and abdomen patterns are necessary to distinguish among the clubtail dragonflies or decipher many of the damselflies. Some are widespread; others have limited ranges. Most are active in summer, but some fly only in spring and others are more prevalent in late fall.

All odonates have the same basic physical structure: a small head with oversized eyes; a fairly short, stout thorax, to which the four wings and six legs are attached; a long, straight, slender abdomen that makes up
more than half the length of the insect. The wings, usually clear or translucent but often with diagnostic dark patches, are reticulately patterned with dark veins.

Dragonflies and damselflies can usually be told apart with ease. Damselflies are generally smaller and weaker flyers compared to dragonflies. Dragonflies hold their wings stiffly to the side, perpendicular to the body. All our damselflies hold their wings parallel to their bodies when at rest—with the exception of those in one genus (Lestes, the aptly named spreadwings). If you’re still not sure, a closer look will reveal other differences. The eyes of most of our dragonflies meet at the top of the head, or the gap between them is small; the eyes of all our damselflies (including the spreadwings) are widely separated. All four wings of damselflies are roughly the same size and shape; in dragonflies the hindwings are noticeably broader than the forewings.

Like many birds, too, the sexes of odonates usually have different coloration—sometimes looking like completely different species. The male Eastern Pondhawk (Erythemis simplicicollis), for instance—a commonly encountered species hereabouts—has a sky-blue thorax and abdomen and emerald-green eyes. The female, however, is patterned in bright lime-green and black. Juvenile males can look like a hybrid between the two, as patches of blue gradually supplant the green.

Odonates must lay their eggs in or near water, since the larvae are aquatic. So bodies of water are superb places to look for them. Ponds and ephemeral pools are especially good places to find a diverse mix of species. On the other hand, many species are adapted to stream and river environments, especially the Argia damselflies, commonly called dancers—whose males are typically patterned in black and electric sky-blue or lavender.

Adult males, in particular, frequent potential egg-laying sites, where they wait for females who are receptive to mating. The males will defend territories, so there can often be aerial dogfights around the edge of a pond. Females usually come to water only when they are ready to mate, and juvenile males only when they have matured.

However, many odonates of all ages and sexes—especially the strong-flying dragonflies—can also be found hunting their flying prey far from water. Flying insects, in particular, are the main source of food for both dragonflies and damselflies.

Biting flies and mosquitoes are among their staples. The aquatic larvae of odonates, too, are voracious predators of mosquito larvae, which makes these flying hunters important controls on such pest species. The adults will also readily catch and eat smaller kin. (So it isn’t just a myth that dragons eat fair damsels.)
In turn, dragonflies and damselflies are often the prey of birds, frogs, and spiders. The larvae and eggs are gobbled up readily by fish, so they are an important link in the aquatic food chain. However, that also means odonate survival is higher in ponds without fish, or with plenty of aquatic vegetation in which to escape them. Ephemeral pools—the seasonal wetlands that are often dismissed as mere nuisances, and drained or filled in by landowners—are important habitat.

So are ponds that support a healthy growth of aquatic vegetation. Many female odonates lay their eggs in the tissues of plants at the water’s edge. For that reason, a golf course water hazard, where the vegetation has been mowed short all the way to the edge of the water, is poor habitat, as are stock tanks that are constantly muddied and trampled by livestock.

To see a wide variety of odonates, you will need to visit a variety of habitats, from ponds and rivers to wooded streams and sunny rain pools. Don’t forgo upland habitats, either. I find Variegated Meadowhawks (Sympetrum corruptum) and setwings, in particular, much more often in these areas than near water. The only leaftails I can recall seeing were in an upland prairie.

If you have not tried identifying “odes,” but you want to try, you will need two essential things: a close-focusing pair of binoculars and one or more good references. If you can focus your binoculars on your toes as you stand, or on the ground within a few feet of you, then your binoculars will do. As far as references, the guides listed below are superb, and there may be others new on the shelves. Another great resource is the Odonata Central website, at [www.odonatacentral.org](http://www.odonatacentral.org), where you can download a checklist of odonates for North America (or Texas or Travis County), and see images of all North American species. You might also consider taking an introductory class on the subject to get started. TAS offers a class this September. You can register at: [travisaubon.org/education/adult-classes/odonates](http://travisaubon.org/education/adult-classes/odonates).

If you’re interested in odonate conservation, or creating habitat, or want to get involved in citizen science projects, take a look at these websites: [www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org](http://www.migratorydragonflypartnership.org) and [www.pondwatch.org](http://www.pondwatch.org).

I wish to thank Dr. John Abbott for reviewing this column for factual accuracy; however, any lingering errors are mine. References for this article included Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America by Sidney W. Dunkel, Damselflies of Texas: A Field Guide, by John C. Abbott, and Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas and the South-Central United States: Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, by John C. Abbott.

Photo Credits: Bill Reiner
The best way to describe Chaetura Canyon by the end of May is lush. Measurable rain fell 42 days during April and May—with 27 consecutive days in May. This brought the total for the year to 22.6 inches. After more than 40 years on the property, we have never seen it so green. The abundant moisture prompted a colorful and whimsical array of mushrooms and other fungi to adorn the landscape—giving the sanctuary a fairyland atmosphere.

All of the seep springs were flowing and the usually ephemeral creek at the bottom of the canyon topped the foot bridge several times. We ventured out over the Memorial Day weekend to discover numerous waterfalls. The largest one was at the top pour-off on the northern-most Bristol Branch parcel. Here the water plunged over 15 feet with a roar that drowned out the possibility of conversation. The constant gurgling and sometime roar from the canyon floor could be easily heard from the residence all during the month of May.

There were nervous times spent watching radar and weather forecasts as we prepared for the spring events. Luck was with us and we successfully hosted TOWN Austin and Indian Trails Master Naturalists from Waxahachie for breakfast, walking tours and lunch in April. The Chalupas and Chimney Swifts fundraising dinner in May (a sellout for the 8th year!) fell between two very rainy days. As usual, the roosting Chimney Swifts were the stars of the show at dusk when more than 100 swifts entered the large roost tower right next to the deck. With the newly improved ramps and decks funded by the Anderson Foundation, we were pleased that two guests in wheel chairs were able to enjoy the event.

The unusually wet conditions resulted in an abundance of insects out on the property. While some of us may not welcome so many tiny flying and crawling creatures, it is a feast of plenty for the nesting birds. Healthy fledglings are everywhere including Carolina and Bewick’s Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus* and *bewickii*), Carolina

The resident Chimney Swifts are laying eggs and have settled in to incubate their broods. Those that nest further north have moved on, leaving their Chaetura Canyon stopover tower behind for now. However, they will be back with their young in late summer—just in time for the Mediterranean Feast on September 12th. We hope to see you then or at one of the Second Saturday Swift Watches in July and August.

We invite you to enjoy a few videos of the Memorial Day floods at Chaetura Canyon: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWdjDljRes](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWdjDljRes) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I925vaw6l8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I925vaw6l8)

Photo Credits: Paul and Georgean Kyle

---

**Ask a Birder**

Question of the Month

*I have heard that mixing cayenne pepper in bird seed will deter squirrels without hurting birds. I would like to make sure that this is true for all birds before trying it.*

~ Barbara H.

Barbara, I actually didn’t know the answer to this question, so I checked with Wild Birds Unlimited, 3535 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, Texas. They said it does work because squirrels have a sense of taste and smell, while birds do not. However, they recommend that you not mix powdered peppers of any kind into bird seed mix because the pepper powder can get in the birds’ eyes or be inhaled, which can do real damage. There are preparations of suet and solid seed blocks that do not pose this danger. Wild Birds Unlimited carries these prepared blocks. A Travis Audubon employee installed one in her backyard suet feeder and has witnessed squirrels taking a bite, then immediately dropping to the ground and running away shaking their heads. Now the hot suet block is only visited by birds, such as Laddered-back Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, Titmice, and White-winged Doves.

~ Dan Smith

Travis Audubon Ask-a-Birder Expert
The Chaetura Canyon Donor Brick Campaign is dedicated to the expansion of Chaetura Canyon. Thanks to everyone’s generous support, we have raised over $7,000!

A beautiful set of steps has been built by Georgean and Paul Kyle. All bricks, sold as of December 2014, are in place. Here are photos of the most recent bricks set down this spring.

We are now in the latest phase of the campaign. We have 80+ bricks to sell, with the potential to raise an additional $7,500. Orders are being taken now.

Find out how to order a brick at travisaudubon.org/conservation/sanctuaries/chaetura-canyon/chaetura-canyon-donor-brick-campaign.

Thank you again for your generous support!
Mediterranean Feast at Chaetura Canyon

Saturday, September 12, 6 – 10 pm
The Steward’s Residence, Chaetura Canyon

The Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary is unique. It is the only place in the world where Chimney Swifts are so carefully protected and so closely observed in such an intimate setting.

As their numbers dwindle elsewhere, Chimney Swifts thrive at Chaetura Canyon due to innovative conservation practices resulting from over 30 years of observation and research by Georgean and Paul Kyle. To ensure conservation for future generations of swifts and birders alike, Georgean and Paul donated their beautiful property and home to Travis Audubon Society (TAS) in 2006 to be protected in perpetuity. You can help maintain this wonderful resource by attending an unforgettable evening this fall.

The evening will begin with an optional stroll that wanders past numerous Chimney Swift Towers, through a haven of native plants. This carefully restored wildlife habitat—along the easily walkable upper trails—includes an amazing grove of sapling Spanish Oaks and several small ponds teeming with dragonflies, chorusing Leopard Frogs, and other aquatic critters.

Enjoy drinks and delicious appetizers on the covered deck overlooking the Canyon followed by entrees from Georgean’s now-famous culinary imagination. After-dinner entertainment will include a brief video presentation about the Canyon and its most famous avian residents, which often make an impressive appearance at sunset.

Admission: $75 TAS members; $100 non-members
Limit: 30 participants
Register: Contact Georgean and Paul Kyle (kyle@ChimneySwifts.org) ASAP

All proceeds go to the TAS Chaetura Canyon maintenance fund. The fund is used for maintenance and ongoing conservation and education projects at Chaetura Canyon. Travis Audubon Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

Volunteer at TAS Events!

We need volunteers to help with the Victor Emanuel Conservation Award luncheon. The luncheon is our largest fund-raiser and we need many volunteers to make it a success. Please contact event chair, Jean Warneke, at jeanwarneke@gmail.com.

Oversee the TAS annual holiday pot-luck. The potluck will take place on Sunday, December 13 at Saengerrunde Halle. We need a volunteer to coordinate this party. Contact the TAS office at volunteer@travisaudubon.org to offer your hand.
Sanctuary News

Baker Sanctuary

by Christopher Murray, Land Steward and Educator

May Rains
Spring at Baker Sanctuary began with a decent amount of rain and a subsequent spike in wildflowers, a welcome change to the drier springs we had been experiencing. However, May’s approximately twelve inches of rain made it challenging to remember our usual need for precipitation. By the end of the storms in late May, the ground was so thoroughly saturated with water that nothing further would soak in. We’ve never witnessed such high run-off levels. The creeks raged, the trails became either a sticky morass or transformed into temporary waterways, and dead Ashe Juniper trees (from the 2011 drought) toppled with regularity as their roots ripped free from the waterlogged soil.

Calling All Volunteers
In addition to the spring rains, another outstanding event transpired. In April, 243 volunteer hours were logged at Baker—setting a new record! Sixty-two energetic folks expended an average of four hours each helping out with the Family Open House, removing invasive plants, conducting Golden-cheeked Warbler (Setophaga chrysoparia) surveys, and performing grounds and trail maintenance.

Travis Audubon needs volunteers on a year-round basis not only at Baker but also at our Blair Woods and Chaetura Canyon Sanctuaries. As a volunteer you can play a key role in maintaining the plant diversity at the sanctuaries by helping remove invasive plants. Invasives often spread aggressively in new habitats when they are left unchecked by insect, animal foraging, or other diseases.

The next Volunteer Work Day at Baker will take place on July 25th. The 2011 drought decimated a roughly 30-acre patch of woodland near the eastern boundary of Baker, killing most of the Ashe Juniper (Juniperus ashei) present and some of the Live Oaks (Quercus fusiformis). The death of these trees opened up the formerly shaded forest floor to more sunlight and rain, which is apparently great for grasses as well as upstart, invasive plants such as Nandina (Nandina domestica), Chinaberry (Melia azedarach), Tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima), and Chinese Tallow (Triadica sebifera). Volunteers will systematically search the area for invasive species, hopefully nipping the problem in the bud (no pun intended).

Following the Baker event, if you still have not had your fill of invasive species management, Blair Woods will host a Volunteer Work Day on August 25th.
The theme will, once again, be treatment and removal of invasive plants. Before Travis Audubon developed a Management Plan for Blair Woods, this 10-acre preserve was so overrun with Large- and Small-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum* and *japonicum*), that finding a native plant on site was worthy of celebration. After many years of effort, Blair Woods is once again tipping toward an ecosystem dominated by native plants but there is still a great deal to be done. So, be a part of the solution and lend a hand!

The Audubon Foundation of Texas and Audubon Texas have generously supported various programs for Travis Audubon, ranging from Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys to caging seedling oaks. Recently they have awarded a generous grant to continue a wildfire fuels mitigation program in a large swath of drought decimated Ashe Juniper at Baker Sanctuary. This area has strong potential for wildfire ignition and escalation. Fall workdays at Baker will involve helping to deal with the brush, a hard yet necessary task in today’s landscape.

Many thanks to everyone who takes the time to support Travis Audubon’s sanctuaries. We hope to see some new faces on the upcoming work days!

---

**Summer Reading**

**H is for Hawk**

By Helen Macdonald


“...hawk...considered spirit messengers to a world beyond, and (author Helen) Macdonald comes to understand that part of her bond with Mabel was her desire "to fly with the hawk to find my father; find him and bring him home.” But as Mabel matures into a confident hunter, she brings Macdonald a different kind of discovery: that grace resides in the most unlikely places—and that moving forward means leaving some things behind.”

*NYTimes Book Review Excerpt by Vicki Constantine Croke, February 19, 2015*
Birds On and Off The Wall!
Travis Audubon Members Enjoy an Evening at Flatbed Press June 4

Travis Audubon welcome table
Travis Audubon members contemplating bird art

Peter Mullan, CEO Waller Creek Conservancy and Joan Marshall, Travis Audubon Executive Director
Frances Cerbens and Jane Tillman
Purple Martins!

An Afternoon at the Largest Purple Martin Colony In South Austin June 8

Event host Laura Joseph

Joan Marshall with New Lifetime Members Deborah Robertson and Pat Hatfield

Photo Credits: Luv 4 the Natural World
Al Reinert
Director & Screenwriter

Interview with Academy-Award Winning Director By Joan Marshall

Crockett traveled widely and went west to Texas, but Audubon traveled further. The guy went everywhere—to every corner of the country from Galveston Bay to Newfoundland, from Florida to Montana. It was amazing and he was amazing, especially when you think that he was carting along all of his supplies to document and draw birds.

Marshall: If you were going to talk to children about the film, what would you say?

Reinert: Audubon is a great example of following your dream. He wanted to paint every bird in North America. He didn’t have the faintest idea of what that would take or the challenges involved. In the end it brought him fame and fortune—it shows you can do almost anything if you’re determined!

Marshall: If you could be a bird—any bird—what would it be and why?

Reinert: Everyone wants to be the high-flying eagle—the special bird. But Audubon’s favorite bird was the wood thrush. He loved it for its song. He said he would go into the forest and the song of the wood thrush would calm his nerves, no matter how bad his day had been. He never even had to see the bird. It was the song that brought him pleasure. I would want to be a songbird singing about the spirit of life.

Marshall: What project are you working on now?
Reinert: I’m back in space again—I’m writing a TV screenplay about the life of Neil Armstrong.
Al Reinert grew up in Texas and studied geology at Texas A&M University. He currently lives in Driftwood, Texas.

Join us July 15 at 7 pm for the premier screening of Rara Avis: The Life of John James Audubon and a conversation with Al Reinert following.

Changes Afoot on the Hike and Bike Trail

The Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake will be undergoing a makeover beginning this summer. The Butler Trail Ecological Restoration—a project of the Trail Foundation—will focus on repairing and improving ecology of the nearly 200 acres of riparian forest and uplands around the popular downtown trail. The project will restore and enhance native plant communities through planting and seeding to increase diversity and improve wildlife habitat. Erosion control and soil restoration will increase the landscape’s ability to withstand drought and heavy use. The project will also seek to improve the user experience through trail improvements, improved access to water, and increased safety. The restoration should make Lady Bird Lake an even better place to observe and enjoy birds and other wildlife.

Check out these Hotspots along the trail through Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s eBird:

**MARTIN PARK**
http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129025

**PENINSULA TRAIL**
http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L2211187

**LAKE SHORE PARK**
http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129014

**NORTH SHORE OVERLOOK**
http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L1986003

**TOWN LAKE PARK (HOTE 042)**
http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L129110

**AUDITORIUM SHORES/DISCH FIELD**
http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L1449894

Tickets available at: www.austinfilm.org/co-sponsored-events/Film-rara-avis
Looking Ahead
Victor Emanuel Award Luncheon

Please help with the Victor Emanuel Conservation Award Luncheon

Victor Emanuel Conservation Award Luncheon
Saturday, October 17
Austin Country Club

Auction Items Needed!
Our biggest fundraiser of the year takes place on Saturday, October 17, at the Austin Country Club. We have offered some spectacular auction items in the past and are asking you for any suggestions for this year’s event. Members have stepped up and offered access to coastal condos or family ranches. Such donations have brought in money to help Travis Audubon with our endeavors to protect bird habitat around Central Texas. Please let us know if you have something to offer. Contact Jean Warneke at jwarneke@austin.rr.com, or 512-217-4814.

Artists Needed!
Are you an artist or know one? Would you like to help promote the TAS mission in your own way?

We are looking for artists or crafters to decorate birdhouses, which will serve as centerpieces for the luncheon tables. These works of art will also be auctioned at the luncheon.

Plain birdhouses will be available in June and need to be completed and returned by September 1. Contact Jean Warneke at jwarneke@austin.rr.com if you wish to participate.
Get Ready for the 6th Annual Victor Emanuel Award Luncheon!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 17 to attend our biggest fundraising event of the year. We’ll honor Robert Ayers for his work with land conservation and environmental groups throughout the State. Here’s a sneak preview of some silent auction items.

Birding in Ecuador’s Mindo Cloud Forest

Enjoy a four-night stay for two at Las Gralarias Guest House, all meals, on-site bird touring, and roundtrip transfers from Quito airport. Valued at $2,000.

Twenty-six species of hummingbirds, 25 flycatchers, 7 parrots, 15 ovenbirds, and 27 tanagers are among the more than 300 species on the checklist of Reserva Las Gralarias. The reserve encompasses over 1000 acres of cloud forest habitat (5370 ft to 7200 ft), and protects 4 important water systems.

Donated by Jane Lyons, owner and operator of Mindo Bird Tours and Las Gralarias Reserve. Jane was active with TAS in the 1980–90s. She worked at the Austin Nature Center and for National Audubon as the Regional Representative for Texas and Latin America and was involved in efforts for the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo.

Moody Gardens in Galveston

Enjoy two nights at the luxurious Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, Texas. Rooms are spacious and great for a family trip! Included are four 1-day passes to the Rainforest Pyramid and other attractions of Moody Gardens. Valued at $750.

The Rainforest Pyramid offers an up-close, interactive experience with endangered plants, animals, and birds ranging from Asian Fairy Bluebird to the Scarlet Ibis. Visit the 1.5-million-gallon Aquarium Pyramid and see penguins, seals, stingrays, sharks and more. Other attractions include a 3D/4D theatre, Colonial Paddlewheel boat, ropes course, and zip line. Donated by Moody Gardens Hotel and a friend of Travis Audubon.
Chisos Mountain Lodge in Big Bend National Park

Enjoy three nights at the Chisos Mountain Lodge in Big Bend National Park. Includes one breakfast buffet for two and one dinner for two. Valued at $550.

Big Bend National Park is one of the most inspiring and diverse parks in the U.S. At over 801,000 acres, the park boasts three diverse ecosystems: desert, mountain, and river. These vastly different environments provide an unparalleled outdoor experience. The park is great for hiking, biking, rafting, and birding, with over 450 species.

Donated by Chisos Mountain Lodge in Big Bend National Park.

Women Volunteers Needed
For Feline Monitoring Program in Costa Rica

The Global Classroom is seeking women volunteer field assistants for a well-established wild feline monitoring and conservation project at the Aula Global Biological Reserve. Several rare species of birds have been observed on the property, including the Three-wattled Bellbird, Resplendent Quetzal, and the Bare-necked Umbrella bird.

For more information visit www.ravenadventures.com
Events

Film Screening of *Rara Avis: The Life and Art of John James Audubon*
July 15, 7 pm
Austin Film Society
Marchesa Hall and Theater
6226 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin

Join us for the Austin premier of Rara Avis, the authoritative documentary about the life and work of naturalist, artist, and dreamer John James Audubon. Directed by Al Reinert. Premier Tickets: $15
Purchase at: [www.austinfilm.org/cosponsored-events/Film-rara-avis](http://www.austinfilm.org/cosponsored-events/Film-rara-avis)

**Purple Martin Parties**
*Voted Best Nightly Air Show in 2013 by the Austin Chronicle!*
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:45 – 9 pm
July 10 /11, 17/18, 24 /25, July 31/
August 1
Capital Plaza, 5400 Block of I-35

Watch a hurricane of birds as hundreds of thousands of Purple Martins swirl into their roosting site at dusk. This year the birds have moved near Capital Plaza Shopping Center at I-35. It’s better than the bats!

Binoculars are optional, but lawn chairs, cameras, and hats or umbrellas are highly recommended!

For more information about Purple Martins, visit The Purple Martin Conservation Association at [www.purplemartin.org](http://www.purplemartin.org).

Baker Sanctuary Saturday Hikes *(Members Only)*
August 22 & October 24, 8 – 11 am
Meet at Jackie Arnold Education Center
12308 Lime Creek Road, Leander

Join Travis Audubon Land Steward and Educator, Chris Murray, for an insider’s tour of the Sanctuary hiking trails. All levels of birders and outdoor enthusiasts are welcome but space is limited. To register visit: [travisaudubonsociety.camp7.org/event-1981963](http://travisaudubonsociety.camp7.org/event-1981963)
Birding 102

Birding 102 continues the intensive instruction and practice in the field that students learned in Introduction to Birds and Birding, and enables you to:

- Visit additional interesting birding locations
- See more great birds
- Learn aspects of birds and the birding year such as migration, breeding, behavior, and conservation

The course is organized as a series of field trips throughout the year and is open to graduates of TAS Introduction to Birds and Birding. Field trips are followed by lunch and discussion. Registration is required for each field trip. Shelia Hargis loves teaching Introduction to Birds and Birding and looks for any reason to go birding with her students after they have graduated. Laurie Foss, co-instructor of Introduction to Birds and Birding and eBird guru, assists with field trips. Liz Gushee, Introduction to Birds and Birding graduate and Digital Collections Librarian at the Harry Ransom Center, provides resource materials.

July Birding 102: Purple Martin Roost

Instructor: Shelia Hargis
Tuesday, July 21, 7:45 – 9 pm
Capital Plaza, 5400 block of IH-35

You’ve probably heard about the amazing Purple Martin roost in north Austin near the old Highland Mall. Maybe you’ve even joined us for a Travis Audubon Purple Martin party. Whether you’ve seen this spectacle or not, join us for a Birding 102 field trip at the roost.

We’ll meet at the roost with our lawn chairs and watch the birds come in, swoop around and then go to roost in the trees. We’ll talk about the Martins’ life cycle, what’s happening at the roost, and where the Martins are headed next. Timing should be perfect for a very large number of birds and will allow you to bring friends and family to later Purple Martin parties and share your knowledge with them.

Free. Registration Required.
travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/birding-102
Questions: Contact Shelia at intro2birds@gmail.com or 512-294-0272.

July Birding 102: Western Travis County’s Breeding Birds (FULL)

Instructor: Shelia Hargis
Saturday, July 25, 6:30 am – 2 pm

The July Birding 102 field trip will visit the western Travis County area. Summer is a great time to focus on the breeding birds in our area. It is also a good time to observe interesting behavior such as territorial defense, mating behavior, nesting behavior
and care of young. The goals of this field trip are to see many of our western birds and attempt to interpret their behavior. Target species include: Common Ground-Dove, Inca Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Bell’s Vireo, Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Canyon Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Orchard Oriole, and Lesser Goldfinch.

We will meet in southwest Austin at 6:30 am and carpool to a private ranch. During our picnic lunch, we’ll discuss our morning’s finds.

Tuition: $25 for TAS members, $30 for non-members. Waiting list accepted.
travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/birding-102
Questions: Contact Shelia at intro2birds@gmail.com or 512-294-0272.

Have you ever wanted to sketch an unfamiliar bird in the field so you can identify it later, but don’t even try because you “couldn’t draw a stick”? Despair not! Instructor, Linda Anderson, will show you just how much latent talent you really have. This class will be helpful for those who simply want to make better sketches in the field. The class will also serve as an introduction for those who are more serious about becoming bird illustrators.

This class starts with the general language of drawing, with a focus on birds. You’ll also sharpen your observation skills, see birds in an entirely new way, and begin to draw birds in the first class session. Linda has taught bird drawing sessions at our Youth Birding Camps and adult workshops. Both levels of audience were very enthusiastic about her presentations.

Tuition: $60 for TAS members and $90 for non-members. Supply fee is $10.
Questions: Frances Cerbins at fcerbins@yahoo.com
Register at: travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/bird-drawing-workshop

Bird Drawing Workshop (FULL)
Instructor: Linda Anderson
Saturdays July 11, 18 & 25, 2 – 3:30 pm
North of the UT campus, Hyde Park area of Austin

Feather Identification Class
Instructor: Dave Scott, author of Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species
Saturday, July 18, 9 am – 4 pm
Hornsby Bend
This class will teach participants to identify feathers that they find in the field through a combination of shape, size, and color. Dave will share all of the information necessary to unlock the mysteries found within a single feather. You’ll learn how to identify feathers and help you understand the flight, lives, and habits of the world’s bird species. Knowledge of wing morphology and feather identification is an amazing addition to your birding tool box, and this class will provide you with a great start.

Dave Scott is a skilled wildlife tracker and naturalist who has been involved in environmental education since 2003. Dave is the founder of Earth Native Wilderness School in Austin where he currently teaches courses on bird feather identification, wildlife tracking, wilderness survival, and ecology. For more information, visit www.EarthNativeSchool.com. Autographed copies of Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species will be available for purchase at the class, cash or check accepted.

Bring your lunch to eat on site. Tuition: $55 for TAS members and $70 for non-members. Questions: Shelia Hargis at sheliahargis@gmail.com or 512-294-0272
Register at: travisaubon.org/education/adult-classes/feather-identification-class

Hummingbird Identification Class
Instructor: Mark Klym
Mondays, July 20 & 27, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Central Austin

From our nesting Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds to the elusive visitors, such as Broad-billed Hummingbirds and Green-breasted Mango, Central Texas hummingbirds can be a challenge to identify. This class will introduce the 15 hummingbird species seen in Central Texas. Mark Klym will cover:

- Ranges, habitat, and frequency of occurrence
- Characteristics to use for effective identification
- Sounds for locating and differentiating species
- Comparisons of similar/confusing species

Mark Klym is Coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and Texas Wildscapes programs for Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). He is also co-author of Hummingbirds of Texas (Texas A&M Press, 2005). Participants will receive a Hummingbird Roundup kit from TPWD.

Tuition: $45 for TAS members and $75 for non-members. Questions: Jane Tillman at jtillman@austin.utexas.edu
Register at: travisaubon.org/education/adult-classes/hummingbird-identification-class

Note: The Davis Mountain Hummingbird Festival is August 20 – 22 and will be a great chance for students to practice their skills.
Central Texas can be an excellent place to study birds at their migration stopovers.

Jeff teaches the popular TAS class on Birdsongs and Eric grew up on the coast and is an active member of the TAS field trip committee. Both have been birding most of their lives and this will be their third year to teach the shorebird class.

Tuition: $80 for TAS members and $110 for non-members. Fees: $45 for Central Texas Coast trip.
Limit: Maximum of 15 people can attend the coastal field trip.
Questions: Nancy Radding at nradding@sbcglobal.net
Register at: travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/shorebird-identification-class

If you have taken the class before and want to go on the field trip to the Coastal Bend only, contact Nancy to get on the waiting list.

Shorebirds (FULL)
Instructor: Jeff Patterson and Eric Stager
Classroom (in north Austin):
Wednesdays, July 22, August 5 & 12
6:30 – 8:45 pm

Field trips (at Hornsby Bend and the Central Texas Coast):
• Local, Saturday, August 8, 7:30 – 10:30 am
• Corpus Christi, Friday, August 14, 5 pm (starts in Corpus) – Sunday, August 16, 12 pm

Can you tell the difference between those little brown birds on the mudflats at Hornsby Bend? If not, join Jeff Patterson and Eric Stager for Travis Audubon’s Shorebird Identification Class of 2015! This class is intended for intermediate birders who would like to increase their skills at identifying sandpipers, plovers, godwits, phalaropes, dowitchers, and other shorebirds.

Shorebirds are a fascinating and varied group of birds, with many interesting identification issues. Some undertake spectacular long-distance migrations (Hudsonian Godwits embark on a 6,000 mile migration which frequently includes stops in Texas). When suitable habitat is available,

Raptor Workshop
Instructor: Byron Stone
Saturdays, August 22 & September 12
9 am – 3 pm

Field trips to Texas Coast (optional):
• Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27
Who among us has not thrilled at the sight of a hawk soaring effortlessly through the sky, riding the wind to the limits of human vision and beyond?

Central Texas annually hosts 19 species of raptors (hawks, eagles, kites and falcons), with another 5 species that occur occasionally. Hawks are fun to watch, but they can be difficult to identify. This class will help you become familiar with the most commonly occurring raptor species in the Austin area, and teach you how to identify them and separate them from species which occur in central Texas less frequently.

The class will consist of two 6-hour classroom sessions with slides and lecture material. Two optional field trips to hawk watch sites along the Texas coast will be offered (for an additional charge) on the weekends of Sep 25-27 and Oct 23-25.

The main focus of the class will be to help you become:

• Very comfortable with identifying our year-round raptors (2 vultures, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk and Crested Caracara)
• Better able to separate year-round birds from those that spend only part of the year here (like Broad-winged and Swainson’s Hawks, Northern Harriers and several species of falcon)

This class is suitable for almost anyone who has a modicum of experience trying to identify birds with binoculars or spotting scope.

Byron Stone, aka “Dr Birdie,” has taught a popular sparrow identification class for TAS for 12 years, as well as classes on shorebird and gull identification. He helped create Balcones Canyonland’s SparrowFest, and is president-elect of the Texas Ornithological Society. Byron has been studying and enjoying birds in Austin and the rest of Texas for over 40 years.

Tuition: $90 for TAS members and $120 for non-members.
Fees: $30 for each field trip to the coast.
Limit: 30 classroom participants.
Questions: Frances Cerbins at fcerbins@yahoo.com or 512 372 9039
Register at: travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/raptors

Yellow Warbler (Setophaga petechia), Rebecca Fields

Fall Warblers
Instructor: Doug Booher & Amy Bishop
Classroom (Central Austin ): Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 7 – 9 pm
Field trips (Austin area and at the Central Texas Coast):
• Local, Saturday, September 12
• Corpus Christi, Saturday, September 26 – Sunday, September 27

Can you tell the difference between a Philadelphia Vireo and a Tennessee Warbler? If this puzzles you, join Doug Booher and Amy Bishop and Travis Audubon in refreshing your skills in identifying warblers.
Warblers can be very challenging to identify. They are very active and appear in a variety of plumages. Learn to quickly identify warblers from various viewpoints. Learn how to solve the warbler puzzle by piecing together diagnostic features. The class will use extensive photos and videos to illustrate multiple viewing angles and song files to hone your ear. Then we will practice our skills in the field. It’s a great opportunity to learn from and network with fun, knowledgeable birders.

The class is designed for intermediate birders with at least one year of birding experience.

Tuition: $70 for TAS members and $100 for non-members. Fees: $45 for field trip to the coast. Limit: 16 classroom participants. Questions: Cindy Cannon at cindycannon@mac.com Register at: travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/fall-warblers-class

TAS Odonate Identification
Instructor: Dr. John Abbott
Classroom (Northwest Austin): Monday, September 7 & Wednesday, 9 7 – 9 pm

Field trips (Hornsby Bend): Saturday, September 19, 9 am – noon

Dr. John Abbott, will once again be teaching this popular class. Dr. Abbott 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.

There will be easy walking on the field trip, and close-focusing binoculars are encouraged.

Tuition: $60 for TAS members and $90 for non-members. Questions: Cindy Cannon at cindycannon@mac.com Register at: travisaudubon.org/education/adult-classes/odonates

Bar-winged Skimmer Dragonfly (Libellula axilena), Bobistraveling, Flickr Creative Commons
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location &amp; Description</th>
<th>Registration Required?</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday July 11 7 am &amp; 4 pm</td>
<td>Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Eric Carpenter at <a href="mailto:ecarpe@gmail.com">ecarpe@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday July 17 3 pm to Saturday July 18, 1 pm</td>
<td>James River Bat Cave south of Mason, TX</td>
<td>Yes (12) $</td>
<td>Craig Rasmussen at <a href="mailto:crasmussen@austin.rr.com">crasmussen@austin.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday July 18 7:30 – 11 am</td>
<td>Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Eric Stager at <a href="mailto:estager@gmail.com">estager@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday July 19 6:30 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Commons Ford Monthly Walk</td>
<td>Yes (12)</td>
<td>Shelia Hargis at <a href="mailto:shelia.hargis@gmail.com">shelia.hargis@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday August 8 7 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Commons Ford Monthly Walk</td>
<td>Yes (12)</td>
<td>Shelia Hargis at <a href="mailto:shelia.hargis@gmail.com">shelia.hargis@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday August 8 7 am and 4 pm</td>
<td>Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Eric Carpenter at <a href="mailto:ecarpe@gmail.com">ecarpe@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday August 15 7:30 – 11 am</td>
<td>Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Eric Stager at <a href="mailto:estager@gmail.com">estager@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday August 18 7 – 9 am</td>
<td>Two-hour Tuesday at Hornsby Bend, led by Ken Zaslow</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Ken Zaslow at <a href="mailto:khz@att.net">khz@att.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To register go to [www.TravisAudubon.org](http://www.TravisAudubon.org)

Key: Class size limit noted by ( ); $ indicates fee required
Members & Donors

Travis Audubon Wishes to Thank Its Members and Donors
(April 23 – June 16, 2015)

Bird-A-Thon
Barbara Anderson
Robert Ayres
Judith Bailey
David Bamberger
James Beckett
Carol Bennett
Marc Bernat
Patsy Bodine
Thomas Bodine
Jennifer Bristol
Valarie Bristol
Jimma Byrd
Sandra Casarez
Jaime Cervantes-Gutierrez
Karen Collins
William Dodd
Michael Gagarin
Larry Garrett
Sarah Garrett
Bobby Hughes
Carolyn Jenkins
George Kerr
Ronnie Kramer
Ethel Kutac
Sharon K Little
Randall Lockridge
Bert Marcom
Joan Marshall
Kathlene McCall
Mary McCarley
Cheryl McGrath
Frances McMath
Skip Mencio
Nancy Powell Moore
Tracy Novinger
Jeff Patterson
Penny Potter
Nancy Radding
Carol Ray
Danette Ray
Elaine Rushing
Sally Scott
Martha Scott
Eric Stager
Janice Summer
Judith Tasch
Tommy Thomson
Pauline Tom
Nancy Townsend
James Treadway
Celeste Treadway
Jo Wilson
James Wilson

Lifetime Members
Margaret Aeschbach
Heinz Aeschbach
Ross Bee
Carol Bennett
Donna K. Brasher
Valarie Bristol
Sam Burns
Frances Cerbins
Oskar Cerbins
Karen Collins
Michael Collins
Kelley Cunny
Jackie Davis
Karol deVries
Jim deVries
Joe Doherty
Carol Edwards
Michael Gagarin
Ann Gardner
Chris Gunter
Bryan Hale
Julie Hallmark
Pat Hatfield
Patrick Hotze
Russell Hoverman
Burgess Jackson
Caroline Jones

Ronnie Kramer
Tasso Leventis
Jane Lowrimore
Julia Marsden
Cheryl McGrath
Sally Means
Robert Miller
Jodie Moore
Julie Moore
Jeff Mundy
Katherine Mundy
Michael Portman
Jorjanna Price
Marilyn Davis Rabkin
Deborah Robertson
Beth Roddin
Alan Roddy
Theodore C Rogers
Stephen Rumsey
Ryan Runkle
Mary Sanger
Andrew Sansom
Nona Sansom
Susan Schaezler
Marika Schoolar
Jonathan Schoolar
Chuck Sexton
Mary Kay Sexton
Vince Shouba
Ellen Smith
Bryan Sperry
Cindy Sperry
Gregg Sporar
Byron Stone
Timothy L. Stuart
Stan VanSandt
Karen Verser
Paul Wade
John Wilson
Ira Yates
Roxanne Yates
Julia Youngblood

Other Donations and Grants
3M
Malcolm C. Damuth Foundation
Sharon K Little
(Chaetura Canyon Memorial Bench Donation)

Chaetura Canyon Donors April and May
Sandra Ashbrook
Barbara Anderson
Kay Little and
Jan Summers
Dale Zoch-Hardilek

Chalupas and Chimney Swifts:
Steve Janda
Andrea Walsh
Kathy Espinosa
Carolyn Powers
Kathryn Walsh
Frances Cerbins
John and Annie Judice
Pat Oles
Marj Voiers
Andy and Nona Samsom
Ed Sones
Mark Wilson
Dana Kuykendall