Travis Audubon Board, Staff, and Committees:

**Officers:**
President: Frances Cerbins  
President-Elect: Eric Stager  
Treasurer: Carol Ray  
Secretary: Julia Marsden

**Directors:**
Karen Bartoletti  
Clif Ladd  
Suzanne Kho  
Dennis Palafox  
Sharon Richardson  
Virginia Rose  
Mark Wilson  
Jo Wilson

**Advisory Council:**
J. David Bamberger  
Valarie Bristol  
Victor Emanuel  
Sam Fason  
Bryan Hale  
Karen Huber  
Mary Kelly  
Susan Rieff  
Andrew Sansom  
Carter Smith

**Office Staff:**
Executive Director: Nicole Netherton  
Land Manager and Educator: Christopher Murray  
Education and Program Coordinator: Caley Zuzula  
Operations Coordinator: Allison Long  
Design Director and Website Producer: Nora Chovanec

**Committees:**
Baker Team: Clif Ladd and Chris Murray  
Blair Woods Management: Mark Wilson  
Commons Ford: Shelia Hargis and Ellen Filtness  
Chaetura Canyon Management: Paul and Georgean Kyle  
Education: Cindy Cannon  
Field Trip: Dennis Palafox  
Hornsby Bend: Eric Stager  
Outreach/Member Meetings: Jane Tillman and Cindy Sperry  
Youth: Virginia Rose and Mary Kay Sexton
Birdathon 2018 Results

Birdathon 2018 proved to be a great success! Between ten events and seven teams, participants raised over $29,000 for Travis Audubon to further its mission of inspiring conservation through birding.

The winners of each competing category are as follows:
Most species (half-day):
Master Birders (88 species)
Most species (full-day): Gone Pishing (130 species)
Rarest bird: Phoebe Friends (Red-headed Woodpecker in Gillespie County)

Best Birdathon Story: Kat Ross with “Crazy Good Birds at the Coast”
Top Fundraisers: Gone Pishing (over $7000)

We extend a huge thanks to everyone involved in Birdathon for making it such a special and fruitful fundraiser. Special thanks goes to Virginia Rose and Sharon Richardson for their hard work coordinating Birdathon this year. Last, but not least, thank you to Quack’s 43rd Street Bakery, Window Alert, and Christina Darlington from Wild Birds Unlimited at Lakeline for your generous donations.

Travis Audubon Welcomes Allison Long to Staff

Our newest team member Allison just started with us as Operations Coordinator. In this role, she will be serving as the financial and membership point of contact for our office, as well as becoming our logistics and organization guru. She’s joining our team after having previously worked in PR, marketing, and communications for a local Austin restaurant group. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Allison has been interested in hiking, biking, camping, kayaking, and anything outdoor related for as long as she can remember. Join us in welcoming Allison to the Travis Audubon team!
Your Friendly Neighborhood Wildlife Rescue

By: Nora Noble-Christoff

As the Summer months roll in and the weather warms up, the Austin Wildlife Rescue (AWR) begins to feel the heat as wildlife intake significantly increases. As the only wildlife rescue center in the area, the demand for AWR’s services is high because it not only serves the city of Austin, but eight neighboring counties. So, it comes as no surprise that the rescue received a total of 7,700 animals last year. During the peak months -April through August- AWR takes in hundreds of animals and nearly half of them are birds. Now that June has arrived, the rescue is in the thick of baby bird season and as a bird lover, I was curious to see how it operates.

It was a balmy June morning when I entered the AWR. As the door opened to the facility, I was immediately greeted with a cacophony of sounds ranging from the gregarious Grackle calls to the cute chirps of the Killdeer. I ventured past the various cages filled with songbirds, doves, and waterbirds to meet with the AWR director Hayley Hudnall.

During our conversation, I was overwhelmed by the description of the daily dedication that goes into maintaining a rescue of this size. From cleaning, to feeding, to diet preparation, the small but energetic staff of the AWR have their hands full. Hudnall pointed out that hatchlings and nestlings are on a strict schedule; from 8:00 in the morning to 8:30 at night, all baby birds are fed every 20 minutes to ensure they meet their daily caloric intake.

But it’s not just all hard work. As the nestlings develop into fledglings, the feedings slow down and soon they’re able to fend for themselves. When the time is right, the birds are released on site to ensure that they have plenty of food and water while they learn to thrive in their natural habitat. A victorious sight for the staff at AWR!

As I peered into a cage full of adorable White-winged Doves, I noticed a few with minor injuries. Although I had my suspicions of why birds came to the AWR, I knew there were other reasons besides injury that brought them there. Among injury, birds are brought in due to kidnapping and becoming orphans. Hudnall defined an orphan as when a baby bird no longer has a home (such as when a tree is cut down)
while a kidnapped bird is when a person takes the baby bird assuming that is was orphaned even though the mother may still be taking care of it.

During the height of baby bird season, it’s not unusual for Austinites to come across hatchlings, nestlings, or fledglings. So, what action, if any, should a responsible wildlife lover take during such an encounter? Try to observe if the bird is still being fed by its mother. If the baby bird is alert and standing most likely it’s healthy but if it looks lethargic or has its eyes are closed, consider taking a picture and emailing it to the AWR for assessment.

The AWR is a dedicated rescue staffed with hard-working passionate professionals devoted to the safety and healthy development of all wildlife, not just birds. I learned first-hand from Hudnall that Austin wildlife is truly a precious gift and I’m grateful for the AWR and the services they provide. If you love Austin and our unique native birds, reptiles, and mammals, then please consider making a donation to the AWR: https://www.austinwildliferescue.org/supportus

Blair Woods Buzzing with Folks at Bug-themed Nature Day

On May 26, Travis Audubon hosted a bug-themed Family Nature Day at Blair Woods Sanctuary. Over one hundred people attended and participated in insect-themed activities. Representatives from Lost Pines Master Naturalists displayed live walking sticks and cocoons and led insect-themed hikes along the trails, and educators from the Austin Zoo brought hissing cockroaches and a pollinator game. Travis Audubon volunteers facilitated a game about learning the differences between insects and spiders, and ran a table on entomophagy (insect eating) where people could learn about the environmental and health benefits of eating insects while trying samples of food made from crickets. Despite the heat, everyone had a great time!
Young Birders Represent Travis Audubon in Great Texas Birding Classic

Please join us in congratulating Travis Audubon’s Lost in Austin Young Birders! On Saturday, April 29, five members of Travis Audubon’s Young Birders Club competed in the 22nd Annual Great Texas Birding Classic Roughwings Tournament. Returning team members TJ Jobe (13), Thomas Carnegie (12), and Will Heyer (10) were joined by newcomers Bennett Schulz (11) and Seth Beer (5). The team had 8 hours to identify as many species as possible without the aid of an adult (except for verification). The team started at Commons Ford Park, then went across town to Hornsby Bend, followed by a quick stop at Roy Guerrero Park, then on to Camp Mabry and Reed Neighborhood Park, where they ended the day at Will’s house and identified their 72nd and final species (Blue Jay), taking 2nd place in their category! We are very proud of our young birders and give special thanks to their parents and team lead, Kat Ross, for all their help and support.

The Birding Classic has donated $918,500 in conservation funding to avian habitat restoration, enhancement, and acquisition projects throughout the state. The event is held during spring migration, with registration fees and sponsorships raising money for Texas bird and birding conservation project grants that include a General Conservation Grant, Lone Star Bird Award, State Parks Grant, and Nature Tourism Grant. There’s a tournament category for everyone – from the beginning backyard birders to the competitive listers. Be sure to mark your calendars for 2019, gather your team, register, and go birding!
Snapshots from Baker Nature Day 2018

Baker Nature Day on May 12th was a huge success, with over 200 attendees visiting the Jackie Arnold Education center and surrounding area for activities including seedball making, owl pellet dissection, hiking, and bird house building. Victor from Sky Kings Falconry presented several birds of prey, including a Great-horned Owl and Barn Owl, to a captivated crowd.

Notes from Chaetura Canyon: April 2018

By the end of April, most of the Chimney Swift towers on Chaetura Canyon were occupied – including all five in the Chimney Swift Glade, the Castle, and the large Observation Towers on the residence. The skies were full of their cheerful chatter and will remain so through the next few months.

Many fledglings were out and about, including Carolina Wrens, Bewick’s Wrens, Carolina Chickadees, Black-crested Titmice, House Finches, and Lesser Goldfinches. Keeping the seed feeders, peanut butter logs, and mealworm dishes full had become nearly a full time job. Laura Hopkins and Gary Cobb of The Wild Bird Center of Lakeway graciously donated many bags of seed and numerous feeder blocks to help stretch the feeding budget.

The monthly point count yielded 25 species, and we were up to 57 avian species for the year by May 1st. The two most remarkable sightings of the month were Broad-winged Hawks mating on top of a utility pole (witnessed by Georgean) and the discovery of a hummingbird nest by one of our Birdathon participants.

We were fortunate to have a visit in mid-April from Paul Salaman, CEO of the Rainforest Trust. Carol Bennett and Jo Wilson brought Paul out for breakfast and a tour of the sanctuary. We had a
delightful morning walking the trails and enjoying the Chimney Swifts overhead.

Between events and visits, maintenance continued. The last 240’ of high-fence on the Little Beaver Hill portion of the sanctuary was completed. That parcel is now completely deer-proof, and habitat restoration can now begin in earnest. Other “heavy” work included harvesting of old cross-fencing and work began on an expanded parking area on Hunter’s Pass. The weather was still mild enough to do some planting, and over 100 new plants were put in the ground in various locations throughout the sanctuary.

There are many events planned for Chaetura Canyon over the next few months, including the Morning Canyon Crawls and Evening Swift Watches on the second Saturday of each month. Check the [Chaetura Canyon page](#) for more information. Thanks to the following individuals for donations of useful items to Chaetura Canyon in April:

- Wild Bird Center of Lakeway: 20 assorted suet cakes, 115 pounds of assorted seed mixes
- Anonymous: assorted seed cakes and seed and Bird Magnetic Poetry Words
- Baker Chickens: one dozen eggs for Birdathon breakfast
- Mark Wilson and Dana Kuykendall: 40 pounds of black oil sunflower seed

Wish list: We are seeking donations to cover the cost of two new permanent benches at the head of the Lower Canyon Rim Trail. These can include a memorial or dedication plaque. Please contact us for more information ([Kyle@ChimneySwifts.org](mailto:Kyle@ChimneySwifts.org)).

### Birdability in National Spotlight

Virginia Rose, Travis Audubon board member and volunteer, has captured national attention with Birdability, her Birdathon event during which she spent the day visiting wheelchair-accessible parks to find as many bird species as possible. See National Audubon’s article on Birdability [here](#). Photo credit: Mike Fernandez
What to Watch for in June –
The Sounds of Summer

By: Jim Spencer

What is the one birdcall or song that defines summer for you in Austin? The one that is the soundtrack in the background, competing with the lawn mowers, leaf blowers, traffic and cicadas?

Ask birders and they will have a short list of four or five birds. Surely at the top of the list is the ubiquitous White-winged Dove. Its repetitive call is a soothing backdrop, a drowsy cooing that seems unfazed by the heat. Its neighbors often chime in, and sometimes launch into a melody that often ends with the age-old “who cooks for you” refrain. There is really nothing like a chorus of doves to accompany a backyard barbecue or walk in the park.

The proportion of doves calling and the calling rate for individual birds reaches its peak in May and June and then declines through October. Researchers have studied times of day when doves call and found the fifteen minutes before and after sunrise are the peak, although calling continues for a couple of hours and then tapers off. There is an uptick in calling in the late afternoon. It is thought that the longer call is advertising the male’s presence at a cooing perch, and the shorter call is used to attract a female and maintain the bond between the nesting pair.

The second bird that cries “summer” to those who are tuned in to bird sounds is the delightful Chimney Swift. Chimney Swifts are aerial insect eaters closely related to hummingbirds, but they are not well-known by the general public. They are well-named since they do use chimneys for nesting and roosting. A reduction in the quantity of flying insects as well as the practice of capping suitable chimneys and incinerators (with either brick or clay-flue liners) have led to a noticeable decline in
Chimney Swift numbers. It would be a shame to lose these birds. Their staccato courtship flight calls are loud and distinctive. Look up, way up sometimes, and you will see a pair of long-winged cigar-shaped dark birds flying in unison, like synchronized swimmers in the ocean of air. Sometimes you will hear them chittering. In June, they are busy raising young. Later this summer they will flock together in migratory roosts before heading back to Peru, Chile and Brazil.

Other birds in the running for top summer hits include the Common Nighthawk, recognizable by its “peent” call in the evenings as it catches insects in flight over well-lit big box stores. The unmated Northern Mockingbird male might be keeping you up nights as it sings non-stop, trying to attract a mate. Its all night singing may broadcast how fit it is, but may have an element of desperation, at least to human ears. Last, the Purple Martin with its cheerful “chew” calls and bubbly songs can’t help but bring a smile to tuned-in listeners.

Visit Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s All About Birds website to listen to the calls and songs of these vocal birds. Then, for fun, get outside and track them down.

ARTICLE INFORMATION COMPILED BY JANE TILLMAN, TRAVIS AUDUBON VOLUNTEER
REPOSTED WITH PERMISSION FROM KXAN’S WEATHER BLOG
TAS Events in July and August

July 7th, 2018
- FIELD TRIP: Beginning Birders' Walk at Lake Creek Trail
- CLASS/SANCTUARY EVENT: Birding By Ear – A Walk with Mikael Behrens

July 14th, 2018
- FIELD TRIP/SANCTUARY EVENT: Swift Watch at Chaetura Canyon
- FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count
- FIELD TRIP/SANCTUARY EVENT: Morning Canyon Crawl at Chaetura Canyon

July 15th, 2018
- FIELD TRIP/SANCTUARY EVENT: Commons Ford Prairie Bird Walk with Shelia Hargis
- CLASS: Shorebirds Class 2018

July 16th, 2018
- CLASS: Hummingbird Identification

July 21st, 2018
- FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk
- CLASS: Birding 102 – Bird Banding & Titmouse Research

July 28th, 2018
- SANCTUARY EVENT: Blair Woods Restoration Day

August 4th, 2018
- CLASS: Flying Wild Educator Workshop

August 11th, 2018
- FIELD TRIP/SANCTUARY EVENT: Morning Canyon Crawl at Chaetura Canyon
- FIELD TRIP/SANCTUARY EVENT: Swift Watch at Chaetura Canyon
- FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count

August 18th, 2018
- FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk
- SANCTUARY EVENT: Baker Sanctuary Restoration Day

August 19th, 2018
- FIELD TRIP/SANCTUARY EVENT: Commons Ford Prairie Bird Walk with Shelia Hargis

September 1st, 2018
- EVENT: Mediterranean Feast 2018

Stay tuned for information on our Purple Martin Parties, held Friday and Saturday evenings in July!
Thank You to Our 2017-2018 Donors

**Leadership Circle**
Bob and Margaret Ayres
Judith Bailey
Karen Bartoletti
Carol Bennett
Ann Bishop & Penny Potter
Vera Bowen
Holly and Tom Brandt
David Braun
The Cerbins Family
Ann and Don Connell
The Davies Family
Jackie Davis
Lee Decker and Faye Harris
Dawn M Dickson
Michele A. Dunkerley
The Gagarin Family
Patricia Gallagher
William Gammon
The Hale Family
Stephen Hannington
Lee Decker and Faye Harris
The Harte Family
Sarah Heather
George Hixon
Trent Miller and Meta Hunt
Caroline Jones
Diedra Kerr
Carolyn Long
The Lyon and Smith
Household
The Marsden Family
Patrick Oles
Dennis Palafox
Nancy Radding
Carol Ray
Anne & David Reynolds
Alan Roddy
Theodore C Rogers
Mary Sanger
Paula and Ernest Smith
The Sperry Family
Patsy Turner and Tim
Stuart
Virginia Sudela
Lorna Terhune
Bill Volk
Jo Wilson

**Lifetime Members**
The Aeschbach Family
Ross Bee
Carol Bennett
Holly and Tom Brandt
Donna Brasher
Valarie Bristol
Sam Burns
The Cerbins Family
The Collins Family
Colin Corgan
Kelley Cunny and Gregg Sporar
Jackie Davis
Stacia and Walt DeBill
The deVries Family
Laura Legett and Joe Doherty
Carol Edwards
Sharon and Don Flourney
The Gagarin Family
Ann Gardner
Chris Gunter
The Hale Family
Julie Hallmark
Sheila Hargis
The Harte Family
Patrick Hotze
The Hoveman Family
Burgess Jackson
Caroline Jones
Diedra Kerr
Ronnie Kramer
Tasso Leventis
The Lowrimore Family
The Marsden Family
Cheryl McGrath and Robert Miller
Sally Means
The Moore Family
The Mundy Family
Michael Portman
Jorjanna Price
Marilyn Rabkin
Deborah Robertson
The Roddin Family
Alan Roddy
Theodore C Rogers
Stephen Rumsey
Ryan Runkle
Mary Sanger
The Sansom Family
The Schaezler Family
The Schoolar Family
The Sexton Family
Vince Shouba
Catherine Sims
Ellen Smith
The Sperry Family
Byron Stone
Patsy Turner and Tim Stuart
Stan Van Sandt
Karen Verser
Paul Wade
Isabel Welland
The Wheeler Family
Jo Wilson
John Wilson
The Yates Family
The Youngblood Family

**Sustaining Members**
Joseph, Katharine and Ruby Ahlquist
Barbara Anderson
Michael Apperley
Judith Bailey
Will Boettner
Dawn Bowes
The Bergman Carton Family
Fred Dalbey and Sonia Ralls
Elaine Davenport and Blaine Williams
Vella Fink
Susan Galbreath
Eugene Garver
Kimberly Gruber
Donna Joan Herschleb
The Hunt Lemieux Family
The Ingarfield Family
Mary Jo Kennard
Richard King
Janet Krueger
Stephen Livingston
Ann McGinley
Trent Miller and Meta Hunt
Owen Moorhead & Erica Mendoza
Geruza Paiva
Jeff Patterson
Carol Ray
The Richardson Family
Veronica Roberts
Debbie Russell
Robyn Seiferth
The Sheehan Family
Ellen Smith and Alan Campion
Eric Stager
Mark Stoetzer
Karen Tarlow
Ian Tennant
Nancy Townsend
The Treadway Family
Carl Trovall
The Warneke Family
Mark Wilson and Dana Kuykendall
Michael Wolf
The Zess Family

Warbler Members
Karen Bartoletti
Carol Bohumolski
Michelle Cutrer and Richard Whittington
Genevieve Duncan
Kent Ellington
Christal Erickson-Collins
The Fason Family
William Gammon
The Harris Family
Sarah Heather
The Jones Family
Margaret Kenty
Carla Kenyon
The Kerr Family
Caroline Leggette
Suzy Maclay
Joan Marshall
Debbie Martin and Robert Sullivan
The McCann Family
Mary and Lynn Moak
The Morrison Family
J. P. Patterson
Betsy Polbanz and Barry Newberger
The Race Family
Rose Ann Reeser
The Rizzo Family
Susan Silberman
Kim Soechting
The Swisher Family
Deb and Lee Wallace
Judy Willcott and Laurence Miller
Pat Yingst and Tony Parchman
Nikki and Charli Zern

Birdathon Leaders
Barbara Anderson
Terry Banks
Frances and Oskar Cerbins
Julie de Wette
Anne Donovan
Bill Edwards
Ann Edwards
Ed Fair
Ellen Filtness
Andy Filtness
Laurie Foss
Shelia Hargis
Steve Janda
George Kerr
Paul and Gergeann Kyle
Greg Lasley
Shirley LaVergne
Mike Murphy
Chris Murray
Pam Paladino
Dennis Palafox
Carol Ray
Sharon Richardson
April Rohlich
Virginia Rose
Kat Ross
Cindy Sperry
Eric Stager
Byron Stone
Jane Tillman
Celeste Treadway
Daniel Walker
Deb Wallace
Lee Wallace
Mark Wilson
Jo Wilson and Carol Bennett