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
Donors Toast to Baker Steward’s Home

On August 19th, Travis Audubon staff, board, and some donors gathered at Baker Sanctuary to celebrate the progress that has been made on the Steward’s Home. This home, built by Solluna Builders, will be occupied by Chris Murray, Travis Audubon’s Land Manager, his wife, Julie, and their two sons. They expect to move into the home October 2018.

Wayne Jeansonne, founder and president of Solluna Builders, provided attendees with insight into the environmentally-friendly aspects of the home, while Travis Audubon President Frances Cerbins, Board Member Clif Ladd, and Advisory Council Member Valarie Bristol spoke about the past, present, and future of Baker and its role in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

Interested in visiting Baker Sanctuary? All Travis Audubon members receive daily access to the trails—become a member today!

Left to right: Clif Ladd, Valarie Bristol, Burgess Jackson. Ladd, Bristol, and Jackson have been the leaders in the efforts that have led to the culmination of this project.

Chris and Julie Murray, future residents of the Baker Steward’s Home.
Bird of the Week: Red-eyed Vireo

The strident, tireless song of the Red-eyed Vireo (one listener reported 22,197 songs by a single male in one day!) is a common sound in summer, and a much more reliable identifier than the bird’s difficult-to-spot red iris. Its song is an insistent, even monotonous call that earned it the nickname “preacher bird” in the 19th century. Ornithologist Bradford Torrey wrote of it, “whoever dubbed this vireo the ‘preacher’ could have no very exalted opinion of the clergy.” While their songs may sound monotonous to the inattentive listener, Red-eyed Vireos actually have a repertoire of 30 or more individual songs, each collection of which is unlike that of another individual. In fact, over 12,000 individual song types have been recorded! Red-eyed Vireos can be seen (and much more often heard) in riparian woodlands all summer, returning to South America in the fall.

Compiled by Owen Moorhead. Sources include the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

When you support Travis Audubon, you are protecting habitat and educating others about the importance of birds and other wildlife. Donate here!

Thank you, Mary Parker: Large Book Donation from Long Time Member

Adapted from an article by Jorjanna Price

We would like to extend our greatest thanks to long time member and volunteer Mary Parker for her donation of roughly 300 books on birding, ornithology, biology, prairies and nature.

Mary Parker joined Travis Audubon in 1963 while attending the University of Texas. She recalls the main event at meetings in the ‘60s was watching nature films. “They’d bring out these large film reels, and show birdlife and nature from someone’s travels. The filmmaker would do the narration.”
As a UT student, she and a small group of birders would find marvelous sightings in the wooded neighborhoods just a few blocks from campus. “That was before so much was paved over,” she says. The one student in the group who owned a car would take everyone out to Platt Ponds, now part of the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory.

Parker pursued her love of plants and animals by obtaining undergraduate and graduate degrees in zoology. With a Ph.D., she became one of the first female instructors in UT's zoology department. She would go on to work at several state agencies conducting environmental assessments.

The Eldorado native says her interest in plants took bloom at age 7 or 8, thanks to her mother's love of gardening and to periodic forays into San Angelo, where she would be allowed to buy one book per trip. At age 10, she discovered one of Roger Tory Peterson's field guides and set to identifying as many bird species as she could.

While maintaining her TAS membership for over five decades, Parker has enjoyed birding in Mexico, the Gulf Coast area, Big Bend National Park, as well as in other states where she attended professional conferences. Among her favorite birds are the Black-throated Sparrow (Amphispiza bilineata), Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris), and Sandhill Crane (Grus canadensis). Much of her birding is by sound because she knows most of the calls and songs by heart. Thanks to an acute sense of hearing, she can even hear the cranes fly over her head when they migrate.

As Parker well knows, birders never lose their love of the discoveries awaiting them in nature. We are so grateful to her continuous support of Travis Audubon throughout the years.
Wanted: Copies of Audubon Magazine’s Summer Issue

Travis Audubon Master Birder Sarah Fekete is accepting donations of the summer issue of Audubon Magazine, which features the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards with a photo of Cobalt-winged Parakeets on the cover and in the centerfold.

The photo, which won the youth category award in the annual Audubon photo contest, was taken in Yasuni National Park in Ecuador. This park is owned and managed by the indigenous local tribe, the Kichwa, who voluntarily gave up their hunter-gatherer rainforest lifestyle to embrace ecotourism.

Sarah was fortunate enough to go to Yasuni this summer and connect with the people and place. She’d like to gather the magazines and send them to the lodge to share with employees and guests alike.

If you are interested in donating your copy, please bring it to one of the September meetings or contact Sarah at sfekete@austin.rr.com.

Participate in the 18th Annual Swift Night Out!

Join hundreds of Chimney Swift watchers all over North America for the 18th Annual Swift Night Out! Find a place where Chimney Swifts gather to go to roost in the evening, count them and report your sightings online.

These events will take place August 10, 11, 12 and September 7, 8, 9. For more information visit the Swift Night Out! page.
If you want to participate but do not know where Chimney Swifts are roosting, a list of sites in the Central Texas Area is available from Paul and Georgean Kyle; you can reach them by email at Kyle@ChimneySwifts.org.

For more information about Chimney Swifts and this event, visit the Kyles’ site: www.ChimneySwifts.org

**Birds of Texas Presentation at the Parsons House**

*By: Michael D. Jewell, Travis Audubon Volunteer*

Janel Nye and I presented our Birds of Texas slide show at The Parsons House on July 11, 2018 to a packed house. We had approximately 35 seniors show up, most early to grab a good seat. We had to turn away a few late comers due to space and fire codes. Later, we were told more showed up for this Travis Audubon presentation than for Casablanca with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman– in fact, the most ever!

“I was amazed. I would have stuck 2 more in but I didn’t feel it was going to be safe by the Fire Marshal. The residents are still talking about how fabulous it was.”
– Angelica Williamson, Parsons House Director
Virginia Rose Interviewed for Bird Calls Radio

Travis Audubon Board Member

Virginia Rose was recently interviewed for Bird Calls Radio, a radio show about wild birds and conservation hosted by Mardi Dickinson. Rose discussed Birdability, her initiative to make birding more inclusive, events in her life that have shaped her into the person she is today, and how Travis Audubon has supported her passion for birding.

Listen to the interview here!
TAS Events in September and October

**Beginner’s Bird Walk**
Saturday, September 1, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Mediterranean Feast 2018**
Saturday, September 1, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

**Commons Ford Bird Survey**
Sunday, September 2, 7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Two-Hour Tuesday at Hornsby Bend with Deb and Lee Wallace**
Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**World Shorebirds Day**
Thursday, September 6, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count**
Saturday, September 8, 7:00 AM - 11:30 AM, 4:00 PM - Dusk

**Morning Canyon Crawl at Chaetura Canyon**
Saturday, September 8, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

**Ruffled Feathers Book Club Meeting**
Sunday, September 9, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Two-hour Tuesday at Berry Springs Park with Jean Martin and Judith Bailey**
Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

**Avian Ink Celebration**
Friday, September 14, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

**Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk**
Saturday, September 15, 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**Commons Ford Prairie Bird Walk with Deb and Lee Wallace**
Sunday, September 16, 7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Young Birders Club: Chaetura Canyon**
Sunday, September 16, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Two-hour Tuesday at Champion Park with Dan Callaway**
Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Speaker Series: Audubon, On the Wings of the World with Jeremie Royer
Thursday, September 20, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Young Naturalist’s Time Machine Tour at Chaetura Canyon
Sunday, September 23, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Two-hour Tuesday at Camp Mabry with Jane Tillman
Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Travis Audubon Presents: Bird of Prey
Sunday, September 30, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Two-hour Tuesday at Charro Ranch Park with Janene Winn
Tuesday, October 2, 8 – 10 AM

Commons Ford Classic
Saturday, October 6, TBD

Beginner’s Bird Walk
Saturday, October 6, 7:30 – 9:30 AM

Commons Ford Prairie Plant Walk with Diane Sherrill and Kirsti Harms
Sunday, October 7, 9 AM – Noon

Super Tuesday at Reimers Ranch Park with Terry Banks
Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 AM – Early Afternoon

Washington on the Brazos State Park Field Trip led by Jean Martin
Saturday, October 13, 7 AM – 3 PM

Victor Emanuel Conservation Award Luncheon Honoring George Cofer
Saturday, October 13, 11 AM

The Big Sit! at Commons Ford Park
Sunday, October 14, 6 AM – 5 PM

Two Hour Tuesday at Mills Pond Park with Dan Callaway
Tuesday, October 16, 8 AM – 10 AM

Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk
Saturday, October 20, 7:30 AM

Introduction to Nature Photography
Saturday, October 20, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Baker Sanctuary Restoration Day
Saturday, October 20, 9 AM

Super Tuesday at Mitchell Lake with Lee and Deb Wallace
Tuesday, October 23, 6:30 AM – Early Afternoon

Introduction to Birds and Birding
Wednesday, October 24, 6:15 PM

Fall Butterflies 2018
Tuesdays, October 16, 23, & 30, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Field Trips on following Sundays: October 21 and 28, 10:00 AM – Noon

Blair Woods Family Nature Day
Saturday, October 27, 10 AM