



Belted Kingfisher near the sewer ponds by Ann Gordon, October, 2015.

THE ROADRUNNER

CENTRAL TEXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY

ANNA



What is October without a great photo of a monarch butterfly! Photo by Ann Gordon, in her backyard in McLennan County. Below is a Great Blue Heron at the Lake Waco Wetlands, also by Ann Gordon.





A Great Egret (left) and a Caracara by Ann Gordon at the Lake Waco Wetlands and near the sewer ponds in October, 2015.





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Central Texas Audubon Society

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President's Message

President/Janet Wallace 366-6280
j.wallace@grandecom.net
Vice President/Annette Jones
772-1622 plawaco@aol.com
Treasurer/Gail Cupit 776-2838
gcupit@grandecom.net
Rec. Secretary/Carolyn Edwards
Corr. Sec. /Harriet Shearer
772- 9597;
harshearer44@aol.com
Newsletter/Anna Dunbar 744-
7638;
dunbaranna56@gmail.com
Field Trips/Programs by
committee
Education/VACANT
Membership/Bryan Stone 776-
3385; brston73@hotmail.com
Social/inactive
State Rep/Conservation/
Nada Wareham 799-7170
nadawaco@yahoo.com
Check List/Rare Bird
Reports/Frank Bumgardner
836-4183
fbumgardner@hotmail.com

Hello everyone,

The rain last weekend was welcome-although if we could have spread it out a bit, that would have been nice. I seems we are due for more this weekend and next week. The birds that are migrating are probably loving all the filled ponds, lakes and the Wetlands.

We have been watching the Sandhill Cranes, Turkey and Black Vultures and some hawks as they continue to move south. We also have several Screech owls who are calling to each other in the evenings.

If you missed our program last month, you missed a great program by Dr. Joe Yelderman about Vultures and other common birds in our area. I am still thinking about all the data he collected as he went to work, on campus and in his neighborhood. It is amazing-I am in awe of all the observations and data he collected. Thanks, Joe-

Thanks to the members who came to help with the Children's Garden Fair activity as well as the Master Naturalists who helped us. We saw approximately 190 children and parents who made binoculars from the saved toilet paper rolls. Join us this month on the 17th for a review of how to participate in the Christmas Bird Counts. EGWhite-Swift and Annette Jones will again share how you participate. The Western count will be on December 19; the Eastern count will be on January 2.

Look forward to having another good group this month-come join us and bring a friend.
Janet

From Bryan Stone, October, 2015: Anhinga near the Waco sewer ponds.



From Ann Gordon: Pied-billed Grebe at the Lake Waco Wetlands, October, 2015.



Upcoming Events

**11/17 – CTAS meeting @ 6:30 PM
@ Carleen Bright Arboretum
(program starts at 7 PM).
Program by Annette Jones about
the Christmas Bird Count.**

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count is now in its 116th year. It is the longest-running citizen science project in the world and it has become a family tradition among generations.

**12/19 – Christmas Bird Count;
western McLennan County; meet
at Bosque Square Shopping
Center (Bosque Blvd near its
intersection with State Highway
6) at 7:30 a.m.**

**1/2/2016 – Christmas Bird Count;
eastern McLennan County**

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, November 17 at the Carleen Bright Arboretum at 6:30 PM-program begins at 7:00 PM. The evening's program will be EG White-Swift and Annette Jones talking about the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and how you can get involved. Did you know that the Central Texas Audubon Society has a 58 year history of participation in the Christmas Bird Count? All who are interested are invited to attend. Please be sure and plan to be there!

Friendly reminder:

Earth Share's Mission

To engage individuals and organizations in creating a healthy and sustainable environment

www.earthshare.org/index.html

NOTICE!! We want to encourage EVERYONE to receive our expanded Newsletter via e-mail and save a tree (as well as the cost of printing and postage)!! By receiving the newsletter electronically you will also see more photos and more information! Contact Anna at dunbaranna56@gmail.com to receive future newsletters via e-mail!



Savannah Sparrows by Ann Gordon, along a dirt road near the sewer ponds.

E-mail:

contactus@centexaudubon.org

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES I'd like to join! Please enroll me as a member of National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below. My check for **\$20, the introductory fee**, is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Send this application and check to:

National Audubon Society, Inc.

**225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014**

Attn: Chance Mueleck

Include chapter code of **W06 7XCH**

Renewal is \$35. Seniors 62 & older and students are \$15.

SIGHTINGS

Ann Gordon and Bryan Stone: Migration continued through most of October with a few Nashville Warblers and a Black-throated Green Warbler. Since the heavy rain passed the middle of the month I have not seen any more migrants in my backyard bird sanctuary.

Bryan and I went out on 10/27/15 in the morning and then again in the afternoon. The road to the sewer pond produced a sighting of an Anhinga, but all the water birds that had been there in the sewer pond this summer were gone. The grass was tall in the pond and produced a few sightings of some sparrow species, mainly White-crowned mature and immature and a possible Savannah. In the area around the pond in the trees was a Flicker, many Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Bluebirds and Phoebes. We traveled around some country roads in the area. For the rest of the morning we saw one or two pairs of Northern Harriers working the fields, 5 Kingfishers, a much photographed Horned Lark in the distance, Savannah Sparrows, a Caracara in the distance and a Great Egret. We also came upon a pond with about 30-40 ducks, mostly Redheads and Ring-neck.

In the afternoon we headed out to the Wetlands. The big find there was a Virginia Rail, but we could not get photos due to the thick vegetation and the problems that causes. Other birds seen there were: Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Kestrel, Coots, Pied-billed Grebes and Phoebes. There were a few ducks, but did not get a good enough view to ID.

Monarch butterflies became more numerous in the middle of October. The one submitted here was taken on 10/22/15 in my yard.

Jim Edwards: Activity is beginning to pick up at the park. I have seen lots of migrating white pelicans, cormorants, vultures, sandhill cranes and gulls this past week. The lake raised about 6 feet overall (above normal) with the weekend rainfall event. We need to be especially vigilant for possible whoopers migrating through. November is the main month for them.

Lots of winter residents are beginning to show up including yellow-rumped warblers, ruby-crowned kinglets and some winter sparrows. Northern flickers are now being seen or heard daily.

Nancy and Fred Gehlbach: We have had two large (30 plus) groups of Sandhill Cranes overhead the week of the 19th. Had one juvenile Yellow bellied Sapsucker on our Chinquapin oak in the front yard on October 28th. Eastern phoebes and Ruby crowned kinglets on our walking route in Woodway.

From the National Audubon Society:

Take our citizen science programs like the Christmas Bird Count. It's yielded more than a century of critical insight into bird population trends. That in turn has helped us spot trouble signs early and set smart priorities.

Come to the November 17th meeting of Central Texas Audubon to find out how you can be a part of the count! It's fun and educational and you never know what you might see!

Results of the 115th Christmas Bird Count are almost complete online. To get the full count summary, regional summaries, articles from participants, and more delivered right to your inbox, [sign up for American Birds online.](#)

American Birds is a FREE quarterly citizen science e-newsletter that contains news from all our citizen science programs: the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, and Hummingbirds at Home. It also includes the types of CBC information and summaries previously distributed in the print edition of *American Birds*.

If you have already signed up to receive the new citizen science e-newsletter, many thanks-you will receive our next quarterly edition of *American Birds* online in mid-November. [If not, there's still time. Sign up now.](#)