

SUMMER 2010

Woods Wings Water

Dallas County Audubon Society • A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



40 Birdhouses for 40 years of Earth Day

Don Raines, a former downtown Dallas resident of seven years and recent Audubon Board member, saw a need for small birds to have shelter and nesting opportunities in the urban canyons of central Dallas, when over the years several small house finches would occasionally visit his window on the 16th floor of the Kirby Building.

The EPA Earth Fest Committee and the Audubon Board gave a thumbs up, to the notion of bringing birdhouses to public places for Earth day 2010. The Board determined the birdhouse types, quantity, tree locations, heights and orientations to promote optimal conditions to attract, wrens, chickadees and

sparrows. Dianne Thomas and Don conducted the site visits and documented each location with photos and descriptions. Dianne made all the arrangements for ordering and purchase with Wild Birds Unlimited for the forty kits. Ben Jones of Trinity River Audubon Center hosted the Celebrate Birds event on Saturday, April 17 at which numerous children, friends and parents volunteered their time to build their own birdhouses from kits as a contribution to our City. Ben provided the tools needed including the excitement. Gary Sanchez and Don supervised the process. Each birdhouse was marked with an anniversary year and children and their parents were notified exactly which tree their birdhouse would be located in downtown and area schools.



Some busy volunteers at TRAC



Each birdhouse was labeled for each anniversary year of Earth Day starting with 1971 and ending with 2010.

The Audubon Board volunteered to install the forty birdhouses the morning of Thursday, April 22 with four teams. Ed and Sharon Noyce, Dianne Thomas, Wayne Cherry, Gary Sanchez, Marianna Griggs, Don Raines and Scott Seidel (TRAC volunteer) participated in the Earth Fest event installation.

Twenty two birdhouses were placed in the heart of downtown, in areas that are accommodating to urban birds and within sight of many downtown urban dwellers, providing mutual benefit and a humane element for the downtown area. Consider these the first generation of birdhouses which should bring a random smile to office workers, visitors and residents.

Eighteen birdhouses were installed at six local elementary schools, each receiving three per school. Most were located near playgrounds, school gardens and entrances. Consider these the second generation of birdhouses that may inspire a school child to appreciate a certain kindhearted gesture to our bird friends. Thanks to everyone involved in this endeavor.

Bobcats and a fox from the North to the South in Dallas

Audubon Dallas received some interesting reports and photos from wildlife aficionados in Richardson all the way to Cedar Ridge Preserve in south Dallas. Last October, **Suzan Kumar** photographed a young bobcat in the backyard near her pool. Suzan thinks that Richardson has become somewhat of a refuge for the animals as they converge into the river system away from all the development in Plano and farther north.



Ryan Quiroz and his family were visiting Cedar Ridge Preserve recently when they saw a bobcat. They were just starting off near the Butterfly Garden when Ryan spied a bobcat “just calmly watching us from about 40 feet inside the fence to the garden.” His photo was shot from the other side of the fence before he turned and trotted away. Ryan wrote, “The Bobcat was amazing to see and the trails were great.”



Both photographers enjoyed their meetings with wildlife and quietly went about their business while letting the animals do their thing. Some people may be alarmed to see animals during the day but just remember that bobcats, foxes, and coyotes are omnivorous, and their diets include smaller creatures out and about during the daytime. All three species eat rodents, squirrels, rabbits, and wild fruits, such as persimmons, etc. Since squirrels are only active during the day, if you see a bobcat or other predator outside during the day, he is most likely in pursuit of a squirrel, small rodent, or other daytime food source.



More recently, Suzan photographed a lovely red fox also enjoying the peace and quiet provided by her backyard.

Field Trips

Saturday, June 5, 2010 @ 10:00 AM

UTSWMC Rookery

Leaders: Anna Palmer, Betsy Baker, or Sandy Schriever
No RVSP required

Description: Join us to see Tri-colored Herons, Great, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets, Anhingas, Little Blue Herons, White Ibises, Black-Crowned Night Herons, and others.

Meeting Place: Garage #3 on Campus Drive at UTSWMC.

Directions to Rookery: From 35E (Stemmons Freeway) go North on Inwood Road, take a right at the light at Campus Drive. Going south on Inwood toward 35E, turn left at the light on Campus Drive. Garage #3 is on the right just past the Rookery across from the Basketball Courts.

Sunday, June 20, 2010 @ 6:00 AM

John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

Leaders: Bob Stone and Chris Runk

Meeting Place: Meet at a church located in Kaufman County at US175 at Combine Road Exit at 6:00 AM.

Reservations required: Participants must e-mail Bob Stone at rgstone@sbcglobal.net before 6:00 pm June 13, 2010. In your e-mail, include your home and e-mail address, and phone number. Bob will then confirm your place on the accepted list by e-mail or will let you know if no positions are available. For those without access to a computer, you can call Bob at 214-351-2940 to reserve your place and then supply him with your personal information. You must sign a waiver when you arrive at the center. **Note:** E-mail is the preferred method of communication.

Directions: The Combine Road exit is off of Highway 175 8.0 miles southeast of LBJ Freeway and is the first exit after you see the Kaufman County line sign. Turn right onto Combine Road into the church parking lot immediately to your right after you get onto Combine Road from Highway 175. After meeting in the church parking lot, we will take you to the John Bunker Sands Wetland Center.

Description: This is a new wetland center. River water is cleaned in this marsh and pumped back to Lake Lavon. We will see ducks, egrets and possibly breeding rails.

Field Trip Length: half day

Saturday, August 14, 2010 @ 7:00 AM

Southside Water Treatment Plant

Leader: Bob Stone

Meeting Place: Meet at Southside at 7:00 AM

Directions: From the junction of I-45 and Hwy 175, take Hwy 175 (C.F. Hawn Freeway) about 12.5 miles south/southeast to S. Belt Line Road exit. Turn right on S. Belt Line Road and go approximately 1.7 miles to the gate at Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Description: We will see resident and migratory waterfowl.

RSVP Mandatory: Bob Stone, (214) 351-2940. You must contact Bob Stone and give your name, address and phone number to be placed on a list. This list of participants will be provided to Southside's administration the following day. No Exceptions! In addition, you must bring a picture ID so that the security guard can check your name against the list of participants attending. Again, no exceptions! By following these procedures we can return to Southside and hopefully continue to do so. Participants **MUST** sign a form at the office. You must confirm with Bob Stone at (214) 351-2940 by 6 PM on Sunday before the trip. Limited to 12 participants. Beginners welcome!

Field Trip Length: approximately 3 hours

NOTE: It is very important that you RSVP for every trip you plan to attend, except where noted.

Field trips may be cancelled due to weather or for other reasons, at the discretion of the field trip leader. Notice of last minute changes will be posted, if possible, online on the Late-Breaking News forum of the "Bird Talk" page. Be on time because trips will depart at the "meeting" time. Field trips are free and open to everyone, beginners to veteran birders, however some may have an associated fee which will be indicated. Dress for the weather and conditions, bring food and drinks as indicated, and be prepared with insect repellent, sun block and a hat.

Programs

Second Monday of the month, September through April (picnic in May) In the Auditorium on the first floor at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn St., Dallas, TX (SE corner of Oak Lawn and Maple) 7 pm-Refreshments, 7:30-Meeting.
For more information, contact Sharon Noyce at 972-572-8428.

Cedar Ridge Preserve

At an elevation of 755 feet, Cedar Ridge Preserve (CRP) is a slice of the Hill Country and features butterfly gardens, picnic area, and 10 miles of hiking trails. 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas 75249

Although Cedar Ridge Preserve sustained tree damage like much of Dallas in recent snowstorms, volunteers have been busy moving fallen branches that were blocking trails, using some to rebuild steps, and leaving other limbs alone to provide natural cover for wildlife.

**Want to show your support
and be the best dressed hiker at Cedar
Ridge Preserve this summer?
Get a cool CRP T-shirt while there!**

Conservation in Action (CIA) Work Days Saturday, June 19, July 17, August 21 at 9 am

Come join us to help restore habitat and maintain trails on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Enjoy the blooming Prickly Pear Cactus and maybe even see a Painted Bunting or two!

We've had lots of folks involved in Conservation in Action (CIA) workdays including Sierra Club members, community service workers, and local regulars all contributing to help maintain the preserve for everyone to enjoy. Most importantly, several volunteers were trained on how to maintain trails, which, at CRP is crucial since our hilly trails suffer erosion over time. Come hike and enjoy wildflowers, cactus, birds, and maybe even a bobcat. And, don't forget, you're always welcome to join us any third Saturday of the month between 9 and 11 am on our CIA work days. You can get some good exercise and meet nice people at the same time.

Our Mission

Audubon Dallas supports the conservation of birds and other wildlife, the protection of habitat and biodiversity, and the provision of education and opportunities for our entire community to observe and appreciate birds and nature.

YES! I want to contribute to the Audubon Dallas Summer 2010 Appeal to help the following:

Chapter Support

Cedar Ridge Preserve

Sanctuaries

Print all information except signature.

Donor's Name _____ Phone _____

Contact Person _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Circle one or write amount for Other: \$20 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____

I have enclosed my check, payable to Audubon Dallas.

MasterCard Visa Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Audubon Dallas 2010 Summer Appeal • P.O. Box 12713 • Dallas, TX • 75225-0713 USA