

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Coastal Bend Audubon Society

On the Web at <http://www.coastalbendaudubon.org>

LOOK FOR COLOR, WEB-LINKED VERSION OF NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB AT WWW.COASTALBENDAUDUBON.ORG

Membership Meeting

To all Coastal Bend Audubon members. Please join us for our annual Membership Meeting at 6 p.m. on **Thursday, August 27th** at B&J Pizza on SPID. We will be electing new members to the board and discussing new ways to improve activities/membership and lot's more. This is your club and your input is valuable. If you are interested in becoming an active member then we would like to encourage you to visit with us. We welcome everyone's input, so come join us for pizza and discuss our plans for a new an exciting year ahead.



September Speaker

September's speaker is Michele Horine, Vice President of Nature Tourism & Communications for the Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Title of her talk is: "The Natural Side of Corpus Christi", and "Promoting America's Birdiest City through Conservation." Michele will present an update on the Blucher Park Enhancement Project: Chimney Swift Tower Kiosk, identify future conservation park enhancement projects, and provide an update on the growing trend using technology to enhance and promote outdoor recreation. The meeting is Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, 1900 N. Chaparral.

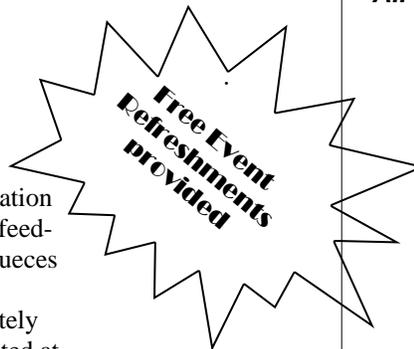
SPECIAL FALL SOCIAL

CELEBRATING HAWKS AND HUMMINGBIRDS!

October 3, 2009 9:00 until noon

Come and enjoy the biggest and the smallest of birds as they stream along North America's busiest migratory superhighway. The Jenkins Preserve is a private property with an observation tower, numerous well-maintained hummingbird and other bird feeders, and riparian brush and forest along the edge of the lower Nueces River.

Directions: From Calallen, travel west on Hwy 624 approximately five miles. Turn right on County Road 75. The preserve is located at the end of County Road 75 on the right. Please park along County Road 75 immediately adjacent to the house. Host: Mr. Bob Jenkins.



CBAS Monthly Meetings

Tuesday, September 1

Speaker: Michele Horine, Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau

Topic: The Natural Side of Corpus Christi

Tuesday, October 6

Speaker: Dr. Larry Niles

Topic: The Plight of the Red Knot

Tuesday, November 3

Speaker: Jim Blackburn

Topic: Can the Whooping Cranes be Saved?

Location:

Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History
1900 N. Chaparral
Corpus Christi, Texas

Time: 7:00 p.m.

All members and the public are invited!



**Earth Share
OF TEXAS**

One environment.
One simple way
to care for it.

WHAT'S UP AROUND TEXAS

XTREME HUMMINGBIRD XTRAVAGANZA

Saturdays in September, 9 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Lake Jackson
Hundreds of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make the migratory journey along the Texas coast and across the Gulf. Witness this with other hummingbird enthusiasts while enjoying related activities. Contact the observatory for more information.

Contact: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Lake Jackson, TX

Phone: (979) 480-0999

Web site: www.gcbo.org

HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION

September 17-20, 2009 Rockport

Over 14 speakers and programs, outdoor exhibits, a banding site, nature related vendor booths, Hummer Home visits, birding boat excursions, guided field trips and so much more highlight this annual festival along the Central Texas coast.

Contact: Rockport/Fulton Chamber of Commerce 404 Broadway, Rockport, TX 78382

Phone: (800) 242-0071

Web site: www.rockporthummingbird.com

E-mail: visitor@rockport.org

CORPUS CHRISTI HAWKWATCH CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT

September 25-27, 2009

Details will be available from the HawkWatch website. The Fall 2009 HawkWatch dates are from August 15 through November 15. Teams will be counting raptors and other migrating birds from Hazel Bazemore Park in Corpus Christi.

Web site: <http://www.ccbirding.com/thw/>

WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

October 5-11, 2009 Your favorite national wildlife refuge

Visit your favorite national wildlife refuge this week to learn more about your local natural heritage and what is being done to protect the wildlife around us.

14th ANNUAL TEXAS BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

October 22-24, 2009 Mission

Join us in Mission, Texas as we celebrate the Valley's 280+ species of butterflies. Learn from internationally renowned speakers, explore the area's natural habitats on expert guided field trips. Other activities include the Butterfly Bonanza South Texas BBQ Dinner and the Nature and Butterfly Expo.

Contact: Greater Mission Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (800) 580-2700

Web site: www.texasbutterfly.com

WILD IN WILLACY

October 22-24, 2009 Raymondville & Port Mansfield

A four-day festival celebrating the natural bio-diversity of Willacy County, Texas, one of the four counties which make up the Rio Grande Valley. Birding field trips include airboat rides into the otherwise inaccessibly sloughs of the Laguna Madre

Bay, boating safari across the Laguna Madre to the northern tip of South Padre Island and access to private ranches. Special two-day free children's program featuring participation by USFWS, Gladys Porter Zoo and others. Other events feature butterflies, native Texas plants and history of the area.

Contact: Raymondville Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (888) 603-6994

Web site: www.wildinwillacy.com

E-mail: chamber@granderiver.net

16th ANNUAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL

November 9-15, 2009 Harlingen

Celebrate the wonder that is South Texas. This festival will focus on field trips, a trade show and special presentations by internationally renowned birders and authors of wildlife biology. Field trips offer glimpses of parrots, Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Altamira Oriole and Green Jay among many other birds found in this region.

Contact: Harlingen Chamber of Commerce 311 East Tyler, Harlingen, TX 78550

Phone: (800) 531-7346, (956) 423-5440

Web site: www.rgvbirdfest.com

SOUTH TEXAS WILDLIFE AND BIRDING FESTIVAL

November 19-22, 2009 Kingsville

The festival will include workshops and seminars, birding tours, vendors and exhibitors.

Contact: Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1501 N. Highway 77, Kingsville, TX 78363

Phone: (800) 333-5032

Web site: www.kingsvilletexas.com

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

November 17–22, 2009 Bosque del Apache NWR, Socorro, New Mexico

This festival highlights the world renowned Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. It features refuge tours and bird, biology, geology and art workshops and fantastic keynote speakers.

Phone: 575-835-2077,

Email: friends@sdcr.org

Web site: www.festivalofthecranes.com

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Suggestions for upcoming speakers or field trips? It's YOUR Audubon chapter, and we want to hear from you. Drop us a line and let us know what you think.

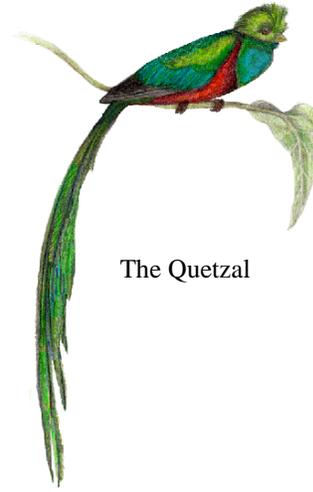
Email us at

coastalbend audubon@gmail.com

LAND OF THE QUETZAL

By Rich Kern

On April 10th my family and I explored an exciting tract of tropical forest in the Savegre Valley of Costa Rica. My brother Jim and I are looking for twenty partners to join us in the purchase of the 486 acre parcel which is adjacent to Los Quetzales National Park and across the Savegre River from Los Santos National Preserve. My purpose in April was to record footage so I could produce a short DVD about the property. Previously we had explored only the small, cleared portion where a copious spring is located and where the house for the partners will be built. On a contour map we could see that there were two



The Quetzal

long mountain ridges on the tract with a valley and a small stream in between.

Nearly 40 years ago, my brother Jim applied the concept of group ownership of wilderness land to 300 acres along Florida's Fisheating Creek. Those of us who invested have been glad. Our children thrived on their outdoor experiences, and those partners who have sold their shares have made a profit. Own, preserve and enjoy has been our motto. So why not do the same in Costa Rica?

Our guide in April was Marino Chacon the son of one of the two brothers who first settled the valley in the 1950's. Today the Chacon's own one of the most attractive eco lodges in the valley. Marino is the preeminent birding guide in Savegre.

Marino showed us several wild avocado trees on the property. Their plum-sized fruits are feasted on by quetzals, and soon the birds would be carrying them to their young. I had filmed nesting quetzals in the valley on earlier visits – always awestruck by their beauty. There is no better place in Central America to see them. Preserving an important piece of quetzal habitat is part of our motivation in choosing the Savegre tract.

On our hike up one of the mountain ridges we ascended from 8200 ft. to a little over 9000. At age 64 I had no trouble with the gradient. A trail had been cleared sometime earlier by university students doing a scientific survey. Along the way we found some cat feces – perhaps a puma or ocelot. The little margay is also in the area, and the jaguar is not far away. Tapir tracks have been found nearby. We climbed through a cathedral of large trees. Some were five ft. in diameter and towered 150 ft. above us – their crowns bristling with bromeliads. Despite all that we saw, there is much land still to be explored on the 486 acres.

Half the shares for our project have been spoken for. If you would like more information and a copy of my DVD please contact Rich Kern at kernnature@aol.com.



Jim Kern (founder of the FloridaTrail) and **Rich Kern** (wildlife film-maker) are looking for additional conservation-minded partners to buy 486 acres of virgin cloud forest in the Savegre Valley adjacent to the new Los Quetzales National Park.

Prime nesting habitat for the quetzal. 170 bird species. Botanical paradise. Hiking, fishing, horseback riding in the valley. Elevation 8,000 ft.

A house for use by the 22 partners will be built on a small, cleared portion.

Total Cost: \$27.5K per partner

**For more info contact:
JimKern@thekernco.com**

A Golden-fronted Woodpecker seeks sustenance from Linda Fuiman's hummingbird feeder. Linda blames the drought for forcing woodpeckers to the feeders. It has become a common sight across Corpus Christi.



UPCOMING CBAS MEETINGS

CBAS FIELD TRIPS

October 6

Speaker: Dr Larry Niles

Topic: Plight of the Red Knot – Current knowledge and ongoing mysteries*

Dr Niles has been studying the ecology of Red Knots and other highly migratory shorebirds for many years, focusing recently on the plight of the dwindling numbers of the *rufa* subspecies which migrates from the Canadian Arctic to the southern tip of Chile each fall. His research has taken him on expeditions as far-flung as the birds themselves, and exploring the complex relationship between the knots and the populations of horseshoe crabs spawning on the shores of Delaware Bay. Despite some progress with anthropogenic issues associated with the species, the population has continued a relatively steady decline over the past fifteen years.

Dr Niles will be discussing the 15 year picture of Red Knot research and conservation, and sharing some of the information he's learned from working with a team of researchers along the Texas coast. The Texas coast probably supports thousands of Red Knots during migration and wintering, yet very little is known about where they are from or what they are doing here.

Come and find out what's being done to unravel some of the mysteries facing this species in peril.

» *Dr Niles (see October speaker) will be leading a team of researchers and volunteers in the capture of Red Knots that migrate along Texas' Gulf beaches, in an effort to gain much-needed information about this poorly-studied and enigmatic component of the declining Red Knot population. Many hands will be needed to assist with various aspects of the fieldwork to take place on Padre Island National Seashore between September 30 through October 6. If you'd like to be a part of this research, please contact David Newstead for more details.*

November 3

Speaker: Jim Blackburn

Topic: Can we save the Whooping Cranes of Aransas NWR?

Noted Houston environmental attorney Jim Blackburn sees trouble ahead.

The recent winter loss of more than 8% of the whooper population was tied to low flows of fresh water from the Guadalupe River into San Antonio Bay. Recent research by Blackburn and his team of experts shows that low-flow problems will become worse as diversion of upstream water increases. This threatens the survival of the whooping crane as well as the productivity of local bays.

Can the Endangered Species Act help avert this threat to

SEPTEMBER 05, 2009: **BEGINNING SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION: CLASS AND FIELD TRIP**

Learn how to distinguish WHICH "peep" is WHICH. The trip will focus on two of the area's most important shorebird migration habitats. You will be learning from Gene W Blacklock – noted ornithologist and author of several books on birds in Texas and the Coastal Bend. Begins at Tule Lake Boardwalk 7:00 A.M; Ends at Indian Point no later than noon. Leader and Teacher: Gene W. Blacklock.

A \$20.00 donation per participant is requested, payable to: CBAS, P.O.Box 3604, Corpus Christi, Texas 78463. Reservations and donations by September 01; Minimum 6 participants. Please communicate reservations to Geneb@cbbep.org. Or 361.885.6247.

Directions: From Corpus Christi travel north on US 37, Exit and turn right on Southern Minerals Road; turn left on Up River Road - Shorebird Observation Deck on right approx. 50 yards.

MAY 2, 2010 (Sunday): **SPRING MIGRATION HOT SPOTS**

The Texas coast is the most important migratory corridor in North America, and various spots around the Coastal Bend can be loaded with a wide diversity of warblers, sparrows, thrushes, orioles and many more during their annual journey back north. This trip will be led by CBAS Education Chairwoman Linda Fuiman, starting at Paradise Pond in Port Aransas at 7:00 a.m., and moving on to other locations as conditions dictate.

More field trips are in the planning stage...keep an eye on the webpage

(www.coastalbendaudubon.org) go to the meetings, or check your email for more information about field trips as the year progresses.

UPCOMING MEETINGS, CON'T

the last and only natural migrating population of whoopers? Are local bays going to be starved of the fresh water they need to sustain fisheries and bird populations? What are the implications for the local economy? Blackburn will present the results of this research and discuss its implications.

Jim Blackburn is the preeminent environmental attorney of the Texas Gulf Coast, a veteran of over 30 years of efforts to preserve our coastal heritage. He is the author of [The Book of Texas Bays](#).

There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Please save the date and bring your friends.

CURLEW SANDPIPER SPOTTED

As Reported by Mel Cooksey

A post-breeding Curlew Sandpiper was spotted, apparently a female, in the flats at the mouth of the Cayo del Oso in Corpus Christi. Mel spotted the bird about 7:30 PM on Monday, August 17th, and worked frantically with the remaining light to get digiscope photos, but could not.

Directions: Go to the intersection of Ennis Joslin and Ocean Drive. Park in the parking lot of the closed restaurant on the north side of the intersection. Walk down into the flats about ¼ mile or so, to the edge of the water in the very center of the flats. The flats are dusty dry, maybe slightly damp in the morning. Walk to the waters edge, and scan the shallow pools, around the short vegetation and small mangroves. There are LOTS of shorebirds here, with hundreds of Western Sandpipers as the main species, so it may take awhile to find the bird if it is still there.

Description: You are looking for a Dunlin-sized bird, although not as "squat", a bit more delicate, and longer-legged, although not as long-legged as Stilt Sandpiper. The main feature is some remnant blotchy rufous feathers on the belly. These show up well. The bird is in pretty advanced molt, well on its way to full basic. The back feathers appear to be a combination of black/white/gray mostly old feathers. There are some cold gray new feathers mixed in, maybe mostly around the scapulars. The belly appears to be mainly whitish, with some black spotting. I noticed no rufous feathers around the head or throat; they were whitish gray and appeared to be very lightly streaked. If you are chasing this bird, just look for the rufous markings on the belly. If you have The Shorebird Guide by O'Brien et. al., check the molting female at photo 5 on page 297. This is very close to our Oso bird. I noticed a whitish area at the lower back, and don't know if this was feather wear, or the white rump exposed below primaries.

A key feature is the bill shape. It is all black, very thin and gradually decurved throughout its length, with a thin tip. Dunlin has a slightly heavier bill, with a more abrupt droop at the tip. Here is a photo of Dunlin and Curlew Sandpiper together, to illustrate bill shape.

<http://www.birdphoto.fi/lajikuvat/kuvahtml/3calfer316.html>

It is really too early for Dunlins, although I did see one in full basic plumage at this location on Saturday. There are numerous Stilt Sandpipers present. Be advised there is also a Red Knot present, which would likely be the only other bird with reddish blotches on the underparts. There are lots of dowitchers, mainly Short-billed.

I was able to see the bird fly for a short distance, and clearly observed the white rump with NO central line, and gray upper tail feathers. My total observation time was about 20 minutes, at about 70-80 feet. The bird probed and picked at the surface, and was quite active. There is lots of scattered short vegetation which makes photography rather difficult. Especially when you're a lousy photographer like me. Will try again on Tuesday, August 18th, in the morning for photos.



Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferrugnea*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*). Photo copyright by Brian Stone, available from: <http://thenaturalstone.blogspot.com/2003/08/priors-fen-waders.html>. Retrieved on 8/19/2009.

CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN FOR EARTHSHARE OF TEXAS



**Earth Share
OF TEXAS**

**One environment.
One simple way
to care for it.**

Earth Share of Texas supports the work of its 70 participating environmental and conservation organizations by representing them in workplace giving programs throughout Texas.

Workplace giving is the opportunity for employees to contribute by having their designated amounts deducted from each paycheck.

Payroll giving is one of the most efficient methods of supporting charitable organizations, because very little of the contribution is spent on administrative or fundraising costs. Employees love payroll giving, because it's easier to give small amounts through each paycheck than to write a single check for the same amount. Check with your payroll or human resources department—or with Earth Share of Texas—to determine if you are eligible to contribute to Earth Share of Texas and its organizations.

Some corporate participants in Corpus Christi are Home Depot and Walmart. State and Federal employees can sign up for workplace giving during the following dates:

- State Employee Charitable Campaign -- **September 1 through October 31**
- Combined Federal Campaign -- **September 2 through December 15**. Time will vary for each agency.

For more information, visit the EarthShare of Texas website at: <http://www.earthshare-texas.org/>

NORTH BAY SANCTUARY NEWS

TPWD EXPO SUSPENDED

By David Newstead

Sanctuary Improvements!

For those of you that have been following recent newsletters, CBAS has made several major improvements for wildlife at the North Bay Sanctuary. The Prairie Wetland project that was completed late last year continued to hold water far longer than any other shallow water wetlands in the area, including the large pond across the fence. This was an oasis for birds and other wildlife. Another enhancement completed in June was the installation of a small solar-powered flowing water feature for songbirds. Nestled amongst the brush and surrounded by cedar posts and hog fencing, the feature has been attracting thirsty birds ever since it was turned on. With the extreme drought conditions we're currently facing, it will no doubt be a real life-saver for many birds as they migrate through the area. A small viewing blind is planned in the future so that visitors can quietly observe the avian passers-by.

We'll soon be ordering some plants to landscape the area around the water feature, and also purchasing and installing state-of-the-art Purple Martin housing, thanks to Supplemental Environmental Project funding administered through Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. All of these things take work, and we always need a few extra hands. The main benefit of your volunteerism is getting to watch martins raise young in housing you helped to put up, and hummingbirds feeding on the Turk's cap you planted.

If you're interested in being a part of the exciting new enhancements coming to North Bay Sanctuary, please contact Dick Dubois (papadubois@yahoo.com) or David Newstead (davnewst@yahoo.com).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

When do I need to renew my membership?

You can easily know when your membership is due. Check the label on your newsletter and you will see the due date on the first line of your mailing label as shown below.



Any questions about your membership should be directed to the Membership Director, Laura Cooper, at lgcooper@earthlink.net.

AUSTIN, Texas — Because of a sponsorship revenue decline related to the economic recession, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is cancelling the Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo set for Oct. 3-4 in Austin. The agency will suspend the Austin event for at least this year and 2010 and will instead expand efforts to support similar events around the state.

"This was a difficult and painful decision, but after looking hard at the financial realities and seeking creative ways to keep the event going, we finally concluded that the economic recession is affecting sponsor support to the extent that it is not viable to stage Expo," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo has remained free to the public since its inception in 1992 thanks to sponsor support, but initial sponsor commitments this year have declined significantly. The Expo operating budget is more than \$400,000 in hard costs per year, money used to rent tents and contract for the many other services needed to stage the festival. That operating budget has been largely underwritten by sponsors, and the declining sponsorship revenue means the resources needed to stage Expo are simply not there.

The annual Expo has been billed as America's largest free, family-oriented festival of the outdoors, drawing more than 35,000 visitors from across the state to TPWD headquarters in Austin. Held the first weekend of October, the event has allowed visitors of all ages to try activities like fishing, shooting, birding, photography, camping, climbing, mountain biking and more with gear and guidance provided free, plus free entry, parking and shuttle service.

"We will suspend Expo in 2009 and 2010 while we focus on expanding our outreach efforts statewide through partnerships with other organizations and through events held at our own facilities," said Ernie Gammage, TPWD Urban Outdoors Programs leader and Expo director. "Participating in existing events relieves a considerable financial burden while still allowing us to reach our desired audiences."

"Our goal remains the same: to engage underserved audiences and bring more people into the world of the great outdoors," Gammage said. "One of our core beliefs is that recreation leads to conservation. By introducing Texans, especially urban Texans, to outdoor recreation, the outdoors becomes more relevant to them. They come to care about it and finally to care for it."

Gammage said TPWD plans to evaluate the situation in August 2010, and at that time determine whether Expo in Austin could be reinstated in 2011, or whether the alternate model of emphasizing statewide events should continue. Meanwhile, TPWD continues to actively seek and accept sponsor support for outreach events and similar efforts.

More information about statewide events and opportunities involving nature, history and the outdoors is on the TPWD Web site events calendar.

TREASURER'S REPORT

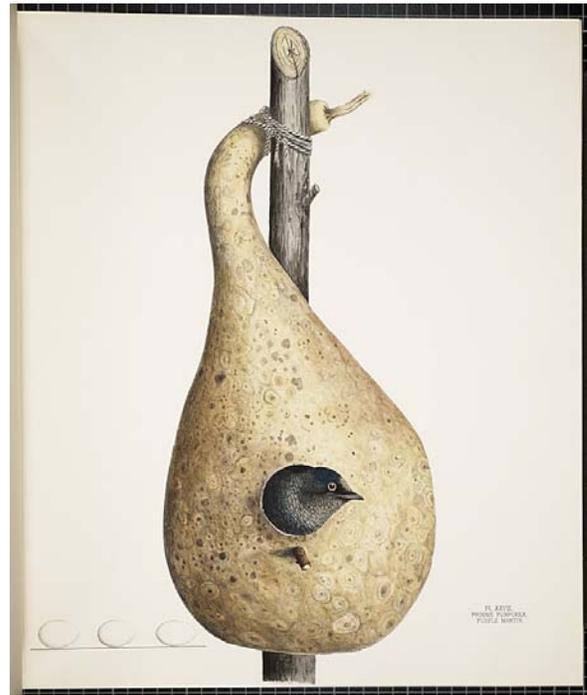
By Leatrice Koch

June 1 - July 31, 2009

Beginning balance..... 13, 739.88
 Income..... \$ 7,866.44
 Expenses 4,533.73
 3,332.71

Ending balance..... \$17,072.59
 Less reserved fund. 542.12
 Less Collaborative Chapter grant 600.00
 Less PM research grant 1841.69
 Less sanctuary improvement 2,000.00

Operating fund \$12,088.78



Purple Martin, from Smithsonian Galaxy of Images, <http://www.sil.si.edu/ImageGalaxy/index.cfm>. On 8/19/2009.

NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		Chapter: C9ZW130Z	
Name: _____		Address: _____			
City _____		State _____		ZIP _____	
Phone (optional) _____		Email (optional) _____			
Indicate Membership Preference: I would like to become a					
<input type="checkbox"/>	member of National Audubon Society and Coastal Bend Audubon Society (local W-13). Your membership includes the National Audubon Magazine, chapter membership and other benefits. Your chapter receives part of your dues. Dues: One year \$20 Make checks payable to National Audubon Society				
<input type="checkbox"/>	member of Coastal Bend Audubon Society (local W-13) ONLY . No NAS membership and no National Audubon magazine. Your chapter only membership includes all other Audubon membership benefits. Your chapter receives all of your dues. Dues: One year \$15 Make checks payable to Coastal Bend Audubon Society				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional Tax Deductible Contribution Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to the local chapter, Coastal Bend Audubon Society. You may designate the category you would like your contribution applied to. Designate category of support.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tern	One year	\$50		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Osprey	One year	\$100		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pelican	One year	\$500		
Designate specific area of support (Optional).					
General Fund <input type="checkbox"/>		Education Program <input type="checkbox"/>		Sanctuary Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
				Newsletter Fund <input type="checkbox"/>	
AMOUNT Enclosed: _____ Date: _____					
MAIL TO: COASTAL BEND AUDUBON SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 3604, Corpus Christi, TX 78463					

The Newsletter of the Coastal Bend Audubon Society

P.O. Box 3604
Corpus Christi, Texas 78463

Phone: 361-885-6203

Email: coastalbendaudubon@gmail.com

<http://www.coastalbendaudubon.org>

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage

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Permit No. 1080
Corpus Christi, TX

Regular CBAS meetings:

First Tuesday of the month, September through May, 7 p.m. at the CC Museum of Science and History



The Brown Pelican

Coastal Bend Audubon Society Board of Directors

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The Coastal Bend Audubon Society is a non-profit 501c(3) organization dedicated to the conservation of birds, and bird habitat, and to conservation education in the Coastal Bend.

The organization is supported by contributions from local memberships and from the National Audubon Society.

Your CHAPTER needs you! You can help steer the course of growth and change in our community by working together. Please contact us at 361-885-6203 about getting involved!

DIRECTORS

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This newsletter is compiled/written and published every other month. Articles of interest are gathered from various sources and compiled by the editor, volunteers, and/or contributing authors. All contributions and comments are welcomed.

