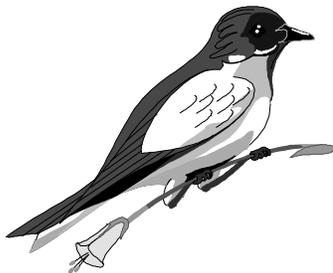


2003 Field Trip Schedule

May 3: Prairie Creek Park (Richardson)
Meet at the Park at 8 a.m.
Expect spring migration

May 10: TBD
The May 10 destination is still undecided because we want to hit the hottest spot at that time but it will probably be Prairie Creek, Spring Creek Preserve or Arapaho Park. Everyone will just have to be in suspense. It will be a local spot however.

**May 24: Eisenhower State Park
Hagerman NWR** (Lake Texoma)
Depart Kelley-Moore Paint store 7 a.m.
Targets: nesting Orioles, Tanagers,
Warblers, Buntings and other summer birds.



Are You Ready for Field Trips? RSVPing is most important!

One of the most satisfying experiences of the Audubon member is the successful field trip. As you consider joining a field trip, be sure to keep in mind these following tips:

First rule of field tripping is to RSVP the week of the trip to one of the co-chairmen:

Carolyn Oldham at 972-517-8987 or
email Carolyn.Oldham@verizon.net

OR

Tom Heath, 972-867-8646 or
email heathwtom@netscape.net

Second rule is to be on time. When it says the trip will meet, that means *DEPART!* So be at the location noted.
Don't be late!

Third Rule is to bring water and snacks for yourself.

Our carpooling site is the parking lot of the Kelly-Moore Paint Store at the northwest corner of Spring Creek Pkwy and Hwy 75 in Plano, referred to as the Paint Store.



BIRDING DAY AT THE HEARD A HUGE SUCCESS

Birding Day was a huge success with about 70 who walked the sanctuary in the bright sun but cold wind. The scissor tailed flycatcher put on a brilliant show as he made his first entrance north for the spring migration. And, the hooded merganser startled some onlookers as she flew out of the wood box she had acquired for her nesting site. Eleven eggs were being warmed in the box. Other highlights included sightings of a coyote, winter wren, white pelicans, tri-colored heron, sharp-shinned hawk, eastern bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher and white-eyed vireo. Mike Moore's group counted 52 species for the high and Carolyn Oldham's group came in second with 43 species. Raffle prizes provided some fun and also about \$200 for the treasury. Featured speaker was Jeff Gordon, field editor for the Birders' Digest, brought a new dimension to those of us learning about bird identification by using the sounds that birds make. It was a clever way to redirect our thinking Prairie & Timbers Audubon can be truly proud of the Birding Day event staged at Heard Museum on Saturday. Over and over, from P&T, Dallas, & Fort Worth participants, comments were heard such as "GREAT DAY," and "really enjoyable". A very special THANKS AND PRAISE needs to be given to Sally Evans and Karen White. Sally, who nearly single-handedly, investing many hours in organizing the days activities - food, entertainment, raffle, table favors - you name it - orchestrated the day, with support by Karen.

Tom Gruss

"Saturday's PTAS Birding Day was truly a wonderful experience for me! There has been such an enrichment of life for me since I became involved with PTAS; from the knowledge that I have gained, the sights that I have seen, to the friends that I have made. It has all been such a rewarding experience! One that I hope will continue for many years to come. I want to extend my personal gratitude to each of those who were responsible for making this event such a success! Sally Evans and Karen White...your awesome! Thanks to our group leaders! Sally Gruss.....my special thanks to you for letting me borrow your field glasses!"

Synne Magar Ferguson

Monk Parakeets

I have posted about a monk parakeet nest in Plano before, and while hiking the Chisholm Hike/Bike Trail in West Plano this past Sunday, I saw another nest near the old location. From a distance of over 200 yards, I could easily hear the raucous chatter of a parakeet, and followed it right to it's nest, midway up an electrical tower. In the few minutes I was there, I saw and heard only one bird, busily working on the nest. If you remember from past notices, I've seen two parakeets before, at a nearby nest, and watched one day while they were harassed by an American Kestrel. Others who went later to see the parakeets reported that they seemed to have abandoned that nest.

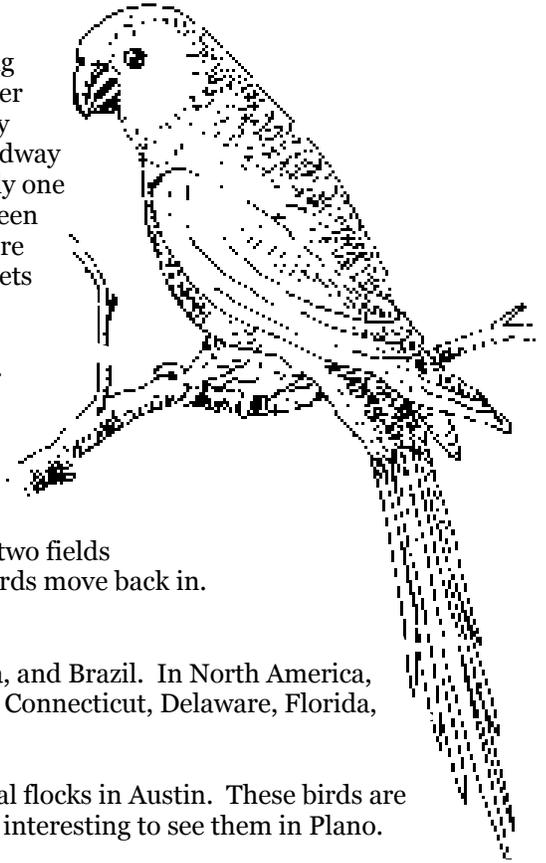
To get to the nest, take Spring Creek Parkway west from Central (Hwy 75). After passing Custer Road, turn right onto the first street, Pleasant Valley. Follow this past a few office buildings on the right, and apartments on the left - to a series of 3-4 small baseball fields on the right. Pull into the parking lot and drive to the restroom-building. The nest is in the tall electrical tower in the middle of the parking lot, right in front of that building. The old nest is still located in a ballpark light tower between the two fields closest to the restroom-building. Check this one out, too, to see if other birds move back in.

From an internet website:

The monk parakeet is a neotropical species of Paraguay, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil. In North America, escaped birds have established breeding colonies in the states of Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia.

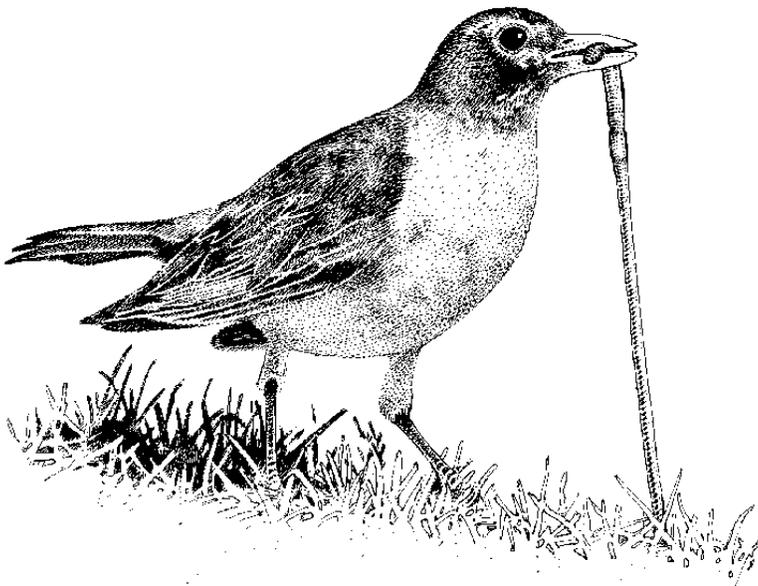
There is a good-sized flock living at White Rock Lake in Dallas, and several flocks in Austin. These birds are considered pests to agriculture and are banned as pets in California. It is interesting to see them in Plano.

Jerry Kerr



One Eleven Ranch

Our trip to Garland's One Eleven Ranch may have been the last of the "leafless" Saturdays this season. For, as you look around you now, you'll notice almost all the trees have developed a good cover of leaves...just in time for the impending warbler migration.



As for the birds at One Eleven, we had a nice look at a "First of Season" blue-gray gnatcatcher and a white-breasted nuthatch. As usual, the barred owl was easily located and, with the help of mobbing crows, we found a great horned owl perched in one of the large oak trees in the center of the park. Both the ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets were seen in several locations along the walk. In all, 31 species were accounted for during our time there.

In closing, I hope you are keeping an eye on the birds around your backyard these days. My yard list is already at 45 species for the year and I have yet to see my first hummingbird.

Mike Moore

GET YOUR PTAS SHIRTS

We have been so lucky to have an artist in our chapter who has designed a wonderful PTAS logo (Karen White) for our chapter shirts. We also have a terrific birding hat which sports the logo, too! Those who have ordered anything --shirts or hats-- please see Sally Gruss at the next meeting for pickup and payment.

**T-shirt are \$20
Sweatshirts are \$25.**

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge - I hope many of you saw the article in last Sunday's Dallas Morning News about the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge near Sherman. The article gave some of the history and background of the over 500 refuges in the national system as well as a description of the vital role Hagerman plays in the seasonal migrations of ducks, geese, and many other birds. The refuge is a stopover, a destination, and a year round home to over 300 species.

As for our visit there last Saturday, 17 of us joined up to tour the major public access points around the refuge. Although we did not find a bald eagle, we did see about 62 species of other birds, including snow and Canada geese, seven species of dabbling ducks, nine sparrow species and a few shorebirds. Several in the party stayed on for lunch and added nine more species to their list.

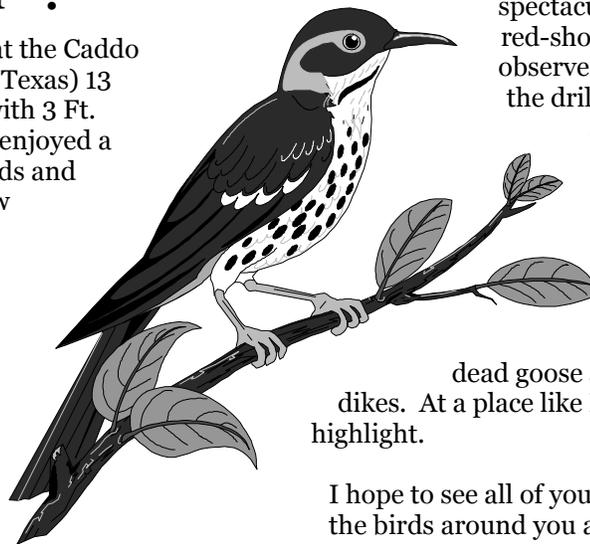
Foremost among all the birds we saw was an eared grebe. However, wind and sun conditions did not allow for a great look at this occasional visitor to

the refuge. The geese were certainly spectacular just in sheer numbers. Two red-shouldered hawks were briefly observed in mating behavior. On one of the drilling pads, several savannah sparrows bounced around in the grass a few feet from the group. Several American pipits in almost complete spring plumage fed in one of the mud flats along the road. And, a turkey vulture was feeding on a

dead goose atop one of the impoundment dikes. At a place like Hagerman, every bird is a highlight.

I hope to see all of you soon. In the meanwhile, enjoy the birds around you and keep an eye out for the arrival of more migrants.

Mike Moore



Notes from the Field .

Caddo Grasslands - On March 22 at the Caddo Grasslands (northeast of Bonham, Texas) 13 PTAS members and guests along with 3 Ft. Worth Audubon Society members enjoyed a beautiful day of birding in the woods and along the lakes. Within the first few minutes we spotted our first target bird - a yellow-throated warbler quickly followed by our second target bird - a red-headed woodpecker. Later we had good looks at pine and black and white warblers, a swamp sparrow, Louisiana waterthrush, hermit thrush, pileated woodpecker, roadrunner, and first-of-season scissor-tailed flycatcher. The special moment of the day came just as we were packing up after a picnic lunch at the lakeside. Someone shouted "osprey." We looked up just in time to see the osprey dive into the lake only about 100 feet offshore and come up with a large fish. In all, we saw or hear 69 species.

Carolyn Oldham and Tom Heath

Meridian State Park - 12 birders at Meridian State Park saw 50 species on a beautiful Spring day. The highlight was a gorgeous singing male golden-cheeked warbler which we worked very hard for, first of season male summer tanager, raucous canyon wren, Swainson's hawk, olive-sided flycatcher, probable Bell's vireo (singing but not seen very well), blue-gray gnatcatcher, black and white warbler, green heron. This spot is a real treasure-very beautiful and at the top of the Hill Country!

Carolyn Oldham

E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a computer and e-mail address and wish to automatically receive the various communications coming from Audubon Texas, National Audubon, and from your Prairie & Timbers Audubon Chapter, please let us know your e-mail address and we'll include you in the mailings. We try to screen the material forwarded so that you are not inundated with massive amounts of unessential material. If interested, send your e-mail address to **g-brehm@msn.com**

**PTAS' OWN MIKE MOORE
TO LEAD BIRD WALKS**

On April 19, join Mike at 9:00 a.m.
at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve for
"It's a Natural", an event
sponsored by
Plano Parks & Recreation.
He will be leading a bird walk or
two during the morning hours.



**Learn the Birds at
Heard Bring your
Field Guide!**

Collin County is rich with opportunities to observe birds. This year your Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society is offering an outstanding opportunity to birders of all levels of experience and knowledge. It is a birding class that meets just prior to the Chapter's regular meeting, at 7 p. m., just prior to the regular 7:30 p.m. meetings. Come in through the back door off the parking lot and you will be directed to the basement amphitheater where the class will be taught. Teachers are experienced members of the local chapter. (Don't worry; you'll still have a chance to grab a cup of coffee, a soft drink or a snack prior to the meeting and program.) The class format is an informal discussion teaching keys to identification of a small number of local birds each month. All you need to bring is your favorite field guide.

***The following is the Spring Schedule
for the birding class.***

Tuesday May 27,

No bird identification class, as the meeting will be at the Plano Outdoor Learning Center.

For more information about these short-course classes, call **Gailon Brehm**, PTAS Education Chairman, at 972-517-2542.

In 2001, Americans spent \$2.6 billion on birdseed. That's more than twice as much as they spent on prepared baby food, and two and a half times as much as they spent on food for needy nations. They shelled out a further \$733 million on feeders, houses and baths for birds.

-The Wall Street Journal

(Them birds are live'n good)



What is the Audubon WatchList?

Audubon WatchList 2002 identifies U.S. bird species that need our help. WatchList species are those facing population declines and/or threats such as habitat loss on their breeding and wintering grounds, or with limited geographic ranges. A centerpiece of conservation at Audubon, the WatchList is a science-based system that focuses attention on at-risk bird species so that limited resources are spent where they are most needed.

Audubon's WatchList 2002 is a revised version of the WatchList presented on the Audubon website in 1998. The Audubon WatchList is an independent conservation status assessment of bird species that occur within the U.S. and some protectorates. In 2002, for the first time, the Audubon WatchList includes birds of Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Because the list is science-based, the Audubon WatchList includes an assessment of all species regardless of whether or not they are already considered. Endangered or Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Audubon has used two independent assessments published by *BirdLife International* and *Partners In Flight* respectively, to place species in one of three categories: red, yellow, or green. Audubon's WatchList 2002 includes those species in the red and yellow categories.

RED: species in this category are declining rapidly, have very small populations or limited ranges, and face major conservation threats. These typically are species of global conservation concern.

YELLOW: this category includes those species that are also declining but at a slower rate than those in the red category. These typically are species of national conservation concern.

GREEN: species in this category are not declining, have unknown trends, or have very large population sizes. These species are not included on the Audubon WatchList.

The WatchList message is clear: we must harness the energy of individuals and groups to work together to protect birds, their habitats, and other wildlife for the enjoyment and benefit of ourselves and our children.

For more information go to National Audubon Society, Inc. website www.audubon.org

1 SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

***There is one
\$500 scholarship
still remaining
to attend an
Audubon camp.***

Please contact
Gailon Brehm
(972-571-3542)
for more information.



**PTAS OFFICERS, CHAIRPERSONS
and BOARD MEMBERS (B)**

- President** *Gailon Brehm**972-517-2542
Vice President & Programs:
Chairman *Sally Evans** 972-248-6283
Secretary: *Paula Brehm**972-517-2542
Treasurer: *Mike Mizell**940-382-8551
Birdathon OPEN
Conservation/Armchair Activist OPEN
Education *Gailon Brehm*972-517-2542
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*Carolyn Oldham** 972-517-8987
*Tom Heath** 972-867-8646
Hospitality
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Willie Meyers972-596-3827
Mailing *Dan Smith*..... 972-516-2297
Membership *Jerry Kerr*..... 972-578-3146
Co-chair OPEN
Newsletter *Ann Reynolds* 972-596-1833
Publicity
*Bobette Mauck** 972-562-6561
Synne Magar Ferguson214-345-5063
Regional Delegate
Mary Dickerson..... 972-896-5177
Board Member At Large
*Mike Moore** 972-509-5773

* = Board Members

Prairie & Timber Audubon Society
c/o Heard Natural Science Museum
One Nature Place
McKinney, Texas 75069

Membership Application



NOTE: Existing members should respond directly to National Audubon when they receive renewal notice.

_____ Please enroll me as a NEW member of National Audubon Society and Prairie & Timbers Chapter at the special introductory price of \$20.00. Enclosed is my check made out to: National Audubon Society

_____ I do not wish to be a member of National Audubon Society. However, I would like to receive Prairie & Timbers Rustlin's Newsletter. Enclosed is my check for \$8.00 made out to: P&T Audubon Society

Name: _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip _____ Phone _____

**Mail to P&T Audubon Society
c/o Mike Mizell 800 Edgewood Denton, TX 76201**

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NOTE: If there is an error in your name or address on this label, Contact Membership Chairman:
Jerri Kerr • 1719 Mimosa Ave. • Plano, TX 75074 • 972-578-3146