

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST (CONTINUED)

wintered at the WMA. For more information, contact Rich Kostecke, <rkostecke@tnc.org >, 254-547-2047 (on the day of the field trip, 314-346-0658).

### Tuesday, December 9

#### Twin Lakes Audubon Society (TLAS) Meeting

David Phelan (D.V.M, Texas A&M University Veterinary School) will present "West Nile Virus and Salmonella Disease Problems of Backyard Birds: What Can We Do?" See November 11 listing for location and contact.



### Sunday–Friday, December 28–January 2 Trip to El Cielo, including Christmas Bird Count

Participants will caravan (carpool) from Harlingen to Gomez, Mexico; will scout the El Cielo Biosphere preserve count area prior to the CBC day (December 31); and will return to Texas on January 2. Richard Gibbons and Stennie Meadours will coordinate

limited accommodations for participants. Contact Stennie preferably by email <stenmead@aol.com> or by calling 281-339-1526 (h) or 512-799-0127 (c).

### Sunday–Friday, May 16–21, 2004

#### Trip to Orcas Island

Wimberley Birding Society trip to Orcas Island in the San Juans, where majestic forests rise above deep bays and rocky coastline and outdoor activities abound. Lodge in luxury at Rosario Resort, enjoy daily birding in prime coastal and inland habitats (murrelets, Pigeon Guillemots, Tufted Puffins, Mute Swans, Red-necked Grebes, Yellow-billed Loons, American Dippers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Horned Larks, etc.). Boat trip for killer whales and seabirds; visit to salmon restoration facility; lectures by local naturalists. Airfare from Austin, lodging, transfers, all meals, guides included. Contact Joe Sigg in Austin, 454-8363; or Jerry Hall in Wimberley, 512-847-3730.

### Saturday–Saturday, June 5–12, 2004

#### Trip to Panama

Dallas County Audubon Society is sponsoring this trip. For details, visit <www.audubondallas.org>.

## Love Means . . . (Continued from page 1)

rid of a kink. Imagine drawing a circle on a blackboard with your beak without moving your feet or shoulders.

Presently I note that owl #1 has a prey item. It had been obscured from me by the limb, but now the owl is working it over rather fervently. It seems at first to be a snake, but then I'm afforded a brief glance at the other end, to which is attached a fleshy, bloody mass. I decide that it's possum on the menu this evening. Owl #1 is seen to take a couple of ripping but petite mouthfuls. Presently, however, nothing but the tail is visible protruding from the beak. Shortly, it too is gone, slurped down like a strand of dark, fat spaghetti.

Sated, owl #1 now flies down alongside owl #2. It's just two owls and a birder, separated by 15 feet, in a quiet forest. We stare at each other, and they exercise their necks. A peaceful coexistence has seemingly come about. Slowly I reach down to the forest floor to pick up a stick, which I hold aloft on the chance that they might be feeling as comfortable with me as I am with them. Alas, I'm unable to coax a perch.

To my left, a Hermit Thrush (lead scout of the mobbing party?) lands on a ponderosa pine branch and delivers a chip note. Both owls jerk their heads to investigate, then return their attention to me. The jerking has loosened a feather on one of the owls, and now the feather is wafting down in the still evening air . . . down . . . down . . . and right into my outstretched hand! A gift? Or an indication that they want me out of their neck of the woods? I begin to suspect the latter as owl #1 suddenly lifts off and flies directly at me, then veers, missing me by about 5 feet before repositioning on a limb 30 feet behind me.

It's now close to 9 p.m., and near total darkness has settled in. Not being quite as nocturnally inclined as my new friends, I decide this a good time to bid adieu and wander back to my tent, looking forward to dreaming about birds in the night.

### Postscript

What was up with these owls? No expert in SPOW behavior, I nonetheless theorize that the two owls were indeed a mated pair, but that it was actually owl #2 that initially seized and began dining on the possum. Being larger than typical prey, it was unable to engulf the item whole but instead (pardon the imagery here) resorted to rips and tears. Then, either by force or through the spirit of cooperation, owl #1 took possession of the carcass and flew down the trail, entering the view of the birdwatcher. An argument that forceful possession took place was the behavior of owl #1 just after landing, for, despite the unexpected presence of the birder, it turned its head to look intently behind, seemingly predicting the pursuit of owl #2.

Unfortunately, the episode revealed no overt signs of a fledgling. However, the possibility that Junior, who was perhaps treated to the first few mouthfuls of possum, was perched contentedly back at base while mom and dad wrangled with the leftovers cannot be dismissed. —Stu Wilson



# URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

## Habitat Stewards in Action

Travis Audubon Society was the cosponsor of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) habitat stewards training that occurred in September. Twenty enthusiastic participants attended class on three Saturdays and four Wednesday nights. They now are ready to help you create wildlife habitat in a variety of settings. To fulfill their volunteer commitment, they must certify three backyard habitats or one schoolyard habitat within a year of completing training, or volunteer 50 hours that can be in outreach, habitat installation, and restoration. If you would love to have someone come visit your yard and make suggestions on ways to enhance it for wildlife, please contact me, and you will be put in touch with a steward who lives close to you.

Part of the habitat steward training included planting a schoolyard habitat at Becker Elementary in South Austin on Saturday, September 20. A habitat installed several years ago had fallen on hard times. Several hot August Saturdays were spent preparing the site, which had been infiltrated by Bermuda grass. Mulch paths were laid with the help of community service workers, and soil amendments were spread. The pond was



*Fifty-five people helped install a wildlife-friendly habitat at Becker Elementary on September 20.*

rehabilitated by Capital Area Master Naturalists. Several non-native trees and shrubs met their maker. A resident mockingbird guarded its American beautyberry shrubs.

When planting day finally arrived, Cyndi Marrs, a fifth-grade science teacher and project leader, had several fifth-graders ready to dig in the dirt at 8 a.m. The children had researched the plants and were thrilled to finally meet some of them in person—like frostweed and toothache tree. Neighbors and parents joined in. The principal, Janie Ruiz, wheeled the wheelbarrow and furnished a pizza lunch for all. All in all, 55 people participated. The neighborhood is still excited. In fact, Marya Fowler of the NWF is meeting with them to encourage the Bouldin Creek community to become certified as a community wildlife habitat.

The schoolyard habitat concept is still pretty new to Texas, and the kinks need to be worked out. The prime concern is having a maintenance plan for weeding and watering. School and community support is key. At Becker the different grade levels have been assigned watering chores in different areas of the habitat. The beauty of using native plants adapted to the site is that they should establish good root systems by the time summer arrives.

Future plans call for a bird-friendly area at the back of the

school. It will happen as soon as the fifth-graders research and decide which trees they want to include.

A loose partnership of volunteers from NWF, Capital Area



*A habitat steward helps plant zexmenia.*

Master Naturalists, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and Travis Audubon is planning our strategy to develop schoolyard habitats at other schools. Let us know your skills and interests, and come work with us!

## November Gardening

One thing to keep in mind when you are gardening for wildlife is not to be too fastidious about cutting back your plants once frost turns them brown. The twigs and dead leaves provide shelter and support for butterfly pupae that will emerge next spring. Seed heads provide food, and grasses provide nesting material for critters and shelter for overwintering butterflies. If you can stand it, wait until late February or early March to cut plants back.

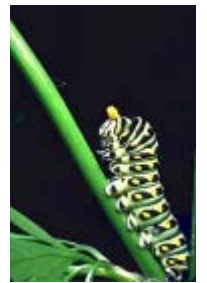
November is a good time to thin native perennials. Enlarge a flower bed and pop them in, or impress your neighbors with your largesse. If you want to donate them for schoolyard habitats, pot them up and contact one of the following people, who will take care of them until the need arises: north, Jane Tillman, <mljt@mail.utexas.edu>; central, Ilene Grossman, <ilene@wildflower.org>; south, Winnie Spitz, <wldflow333@aol.com>.

Still got the urge to plant? You can successfully plant plants like bluebonnets, penstemons, Indian blanket, liatris (gayfeather), and obedient plants (*Physostegia*) in November. We can expect a freeze by the end of November, so water them in well. Seeds of bluebonnets and other wildflowers that you meant to sow in October need to go in the ground now!

Share your culinary garden with butterflies. Dill, parsley, and bronze fennel are host plants for Black Swallowtail caterpillars and can be planted in November. If you want to grow parsley from seed, here is a tip from Horsetail Haven, a local herb gardener's website: freeze several seeds in an ice cube, and plant the cube. Plant rosemary too. It flowers in winter and is a big hit with butterflies and other pollinators.

Collect seed. Of course different seeds ripen at different times of the year. Use your senses to tell when they are ready. Get permission before collecting, and don't take all of the seeds, especially if the area is not supporting lots of the plant species

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# NEWS FROM HORNSBY BEND

## **Hornsby Bend Facility Changes**

In the coming months security changes will begin to affect Hornsby Bend as new fences and gates are constructed. A new main gate will be built at the entrance of the site on FM 973, but it will be open at dawn and closed at dark, as the current gate is. New fences will be built around the treatment buildings and digesters, and all visitors will begin using the “ramp” gate directly to the ponds. Platt Lane will be gated off just beyond where the paved section ends, to restrict access to the public safety training houses and biosolids research field. The Platt Lane gate is open most days by 9 a.m. and closed at dark. Visitors will still be able to drive around the ponds and down Platt Lane. Only national security level Orange or Red will cause tighter restrictions on access to Hornsby and all other wastewater facilities.

## **Center for Environmental Research (CER) Projects Research and Public Access at the Bend**

The mission of the CER is urban ecology and sustainability research and education. The research conducted by the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory (HBBO) is one way that we support that mission, but there are other research projects at Hornsby Bend that affect access to parts of the site. At all the gates leading to the river, you will see signs stating “Ecological Research and Education Area.” The 3.5 miles of riparian habitat at Hornsby Bend is the focus of multiple research and ecological data collection projects by the University of Texas biology and geography departments in partnership with the CER. Although we exclude vehicles, the public is allowed to walk or bike along the entire length of the River Trail, stretching from the southern end of Pond 2 upriver 3 miles to Platt Lane.



The hay fields of Hornsby Bend are used to help recycle biosolids through land application and are the focus of research by UT biologist Dr. Patricia Richardson.

During land application we post signs restricting access to these fields and leave them posted for a month. Please respect these signs. The large field just south of Platt Lane is a unique site of research sanctioned by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for experimental purposes where we are doing intensive study of soil under different loading rates of biosolids. Additionally, state, county, and Austin police and the Austin Fire Departments are using the houses on the unpaved section of Platt Lane as a public safety training area, with one of the houses being used for fire safety research in conjunction with UT engineering professor Dr. Ofodike A. Ezekoye. In early 2004 a gate and fence will restrict vehicle access to these houses and the biosolids research field.

## **Austin Biodiversity Partnership**

Urban development lowers biodiversity by destroying habitat and replacing it with non-native vegetation and built landscapes. The Austin Biodiversity Partnership is a CER project that aims to respond in three ways: conduct an Austin-area

biodiversity inventory, educate the public about the importance of biodiversity, and protect local ecotype plants. A biodiversity inventory will give us a picture of Austin’s biodiversity, which presently we do not have. We can use this information to guide policy and development decisions and to educate the public. There is a shortage of locally adapted plants for revegetation and landscaping projects in the City of Austin. Plants and trees are needed for projects in parks, preserves, urban creeks, water treatment ponds, public lands, and urban streets. Travis Audubon Society is one of the partners on this project, and you can support it too. To get information, sign up for both of the following listservs:

- Native Plant Rescue Listserv: To subscribe, email <listproc@lists.cc.utexas.edu> with the following request in the body of a message (leave the subject line blank):  
*subscribe PLANT-RESCUE your first name your last name*
- Austin Habitats Listserv: To subscribe, email <listproc@listproc@lists.cc.utexas.edu> with the following request in the body of a message (leave subject line blank):  
*subscribe AUSTIN-HABITATS your first name your last name*

## **CER Lunchtime Learning Lectures**

The CER invites you to bring your lunch to the Austin Water Utility’s headquarters (Room 104, Waller Center, 625 East 10th Street, between I-35 and Red River) and learn about the urban ecosystem of Austin from noon to 1 p.m. University researchers, educators, and environmental professionals involved with the CER will speak about their environmental work and research, with a focus on the ecological services that help sustain the city, as well as human impacts on the broader ecosystem of which Austin is a part. On November 19, Margaret Wallace, a UT geography graduate student, will speak on “Dung Beetles and Austin: Nutrient Cycling in Urban Soils.” On December 10, Dr. Patricia Richardson, UT Integrative Biology, will speak on “Biodiversity and the Soil Food Web: The Life beneath Our Feet.”

For more information about CER projects, visit <[www.sbs.utexas.edu/hornsby](http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/hornsby)>.



## **Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory News Thanks, Tim!**

After long service leading the monthly bird survey, maintaining kiosk information, and many other tasks, Tim Hissam has taken time off to devote time to being a father. I want to thank Tim for his hard work and devotion in leading the HBBO and the monthly surveys. In his absence, I am coordinating the programs and projects of the HBBO.

## **Monthly Bird Survey**

Russ Nelson has returned to lead the monthly survey into its fifth year. It is through the devotion of amazing volunteers like Tim and Russ that we have been able to continue this survey for five years. I had my doubts that we could sustain the survey with only volunteers when Stennie Meadours, Rob Fergus, and

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# SANCTUARY NEWS



**W**e finished September with nearly 5 inches of rain. This moisture picked up the frostweed and started the grass growing again, to the extent that I have had to continue mowing. September began with

highs in the 90s, but we finished the month with cooler temperatures, with lows in the 60s. Throughout the month, we periodically sighted some fall migrants in our backyard. These sightings included a male Wilson's Warbler, four immature male Baltimore Orioles feeding in our Texas persimmon tree, a Yellow-breasted Chat at our water feature, and a Gray Catbird in the elbow bush by our back door on Sunday, September 28. We still had Chimney Swifts here on September 22, when at dusk I saw three swifts plunge into the tower. That same evening, Marcie and I heard a Great-horned Owl hooting back in the woods and

## HORNSBY BEND (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 11)*

Russ Nelson began the survey, but they and all the other volunteers have proven that it can be done—and can be fun and educational while collecting important bird data. All levels of birders can participate. Just show up on the second Saturday of the month at 7 a.m. or 4 p.m. in the parking lot of the CER.

### Monthly Field Trip

Rich Kaskan continues to lead our free monthly birding field trip on the third Saturday of each month. It departs from the parking lot of the CER at 7:30 a.m. and ends by 11 a.m. Rich is a gifted birder and knows Hornsby Bend well, so you are bound to get a promised 50 species minimum and to explore new parts of Hornsby Bend.

### Hawkwatch

For the third year, we have conducted a hawkwatch at Hornsby Bend, with helpful funding from Travis Audubon Society. Jeff Hanson has led the 2003 Hawkwatch. Results are posted on the HBBO website <[www.hornsbybend.org](http://www.hornsbybend.org)>, and look for final results in the December *Signal Smoke*.

### Ecological Literacy Volunteer Day

At Hornsby Bend we view volunteer "workdays" as opportunities for learning, as well as for maintaining the trails, birding shelter, and other visitor amenities at the site. Ecological Literacy Days are structured so that we spend a morning working and learning about local ecology. They take place on the last Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet at the CER with work gloves, boots, and water. We are out on the site all four hours, with the last hour or so given to hiking and learning about plants, birds, bugs, and more. We have not seen many TAS members in the last year, so please come and help.

—Kevin Anderson, CER Coordinator

a Screech-Owl whinnying from the direction of the old stone building near the parking lot. On September 22, I saw a few Monarch butterflies passing through the sanctuary. With the return of cooler temperatures, we began seeing bats again in the evening. On September 26, I checked our bat house and found one cave myotis inside. And finally, on September 30 a group of 15 or more Wild Turkeys showed up at 1 p.m. and again at 4:30 p.m. in the open area south of our trailer. This year has been a good year for acorns, especially on live oaks, and the turkeys gorged themselves on both acorns and corn before they faded into the lengthening afternoon shadows.

### Workday at the Sanctuary

I have scheduled a sanctuary workday for February 28 at 8:30 a.m. We are going to line-trim the tall grass in all three trail systems in preparation for our annual open house, which is typically held in March. If you are interested in helping out and can donate some time and a gasoline-powered line trimmer, we'll meet at the parking lot at 12221 Lime Creek Road that morning.

### Sanctuary Meeting Scheduled

The next TAS-BS Sanctuary Committee meeting is scheduled for January 6. We will meet at the Baker Cabin, 12308 Lime Creek Road. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner.

### Sanctuary Closed

The sanctuary remains closed and will reopen on January 24.

—John Wilcox, TAS-BS Steward

## NATURALIST'S CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

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The fruits of sugar hackberries are favorites of migrating orioles—though you'll probably need to wait until next August and September to see them. The berries may be gone by now, but sugar hackberries are frequent hosts of mistletoe, whose leafy clumps become obvious once the trees' leaves fall away. Mistletoe fruits are favorites of many berry eaters, including Eastern Bluebirds and Cedar Waxwings.

Among the last of the deciduous trees to change colors, Texas red oaks (or Spanish oaks) begin to turn in November, usually reaching full color around Thanksgiving. Blotches of red-brown—sometimes orange, sometimes crimson—appear among the persistent greens of the Ashe junipers and plateau live oaks of the Hill Country. Big Spanish oaks will mingle with cedar elms and Arizona walnuts in canyon bottoms, but smaller, multitrunked Spanish oaks also form nearly pure stands higher on the slopes, where seeps at the upper edges of impermeable rock strata provide extra moisture. These reddish bands and blotches on the canyonsides indicate prime nesting habitat for Golden-cheeked Warblers. Watch for them there when they return from Mexico and Central America next March.

This is, of course, only a sampling of the diversity of trees with which Central Texans are blessed. November is a good time to rejoice in those blessings.

—Bill Reiner

# NATURALIST'S CALENDAR

**A**bscission. Hard to believe that something with such a surgical-sounding name could be responsible for scenes to inspire painters and poets. Yet every autumn it happens again. Corky cells form at the base of a leaf stalk in response to longer nights and cooler temperatures. Green fades as the abscission layer severs the vascular system that sustained the leaf's chlorophyll factory. Other pigments, masked through the growing season by the chlorophyll, now show themselves: yellow carotenoids and xanthophylls, red anthocyanins. The forest changes from its summer green uniform to a quilt of varying hues and textures.

The color, timing, and pattern of change in any one tree depend partly upon its individual genetic makeup, its health, and its immediate environment, but it will generally follow the blueprint of others of its species. Red mulberry, for instance, lights up the forest understory with lemon yellow leaves, while prairie flameleaf sumac scorches the roadsides with red or orange. Walnuts drop their leaves early; post oaks often hold theirs well into the winter.

All this means that recognizing trees becomes easier in autumn, especially from a distance. A naturalist can also learn something about where different trees grow, and the niche each species fills in the environment. You might even, at the same time, pick up some hints for finding birds. If, for instance, you can remember where those big, heart-shaped red mulberry leaves shone in November, you'll know where to watch for migrating thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks when they stop by to gorge on the juicy, black berries next May.

The tall trees lining the banks of Town Lake—are the ones that are turning rusty tan now—are bald cypresses. These are among the few North American conifer species with deciduous leaves (needles). Naturally occurring bald cypresses usually grow within a few yards of rivers, streams, or other water bodies. Specimens planted in high, dry residential subdivisions often need supplemental watering to remain healthy, since they require a dependable source of water.

Bald cypress roots are able to tolerate saturated soils longer than those of other trees, which gives them a competitive advantage on a riverbank where water levels fluctuate unpredictably. Low cypress branches overhanging clear Hill Country streams are favorite perches for Green Kingfishers.

American sycamores, too, can tolerate saturated soils, and they also grow best where their roots have a steady supply of water. Sycamores grow quickly and soon tower over other streamside vegetation. Their gray-brown bark frequently flakes off, revealing the whitish inner bark. The mottled trunks are then unmistakable any time of year.

The sycamores' broad, maplelike leaves are also easily recognized.



They rarely turn bright colors in fall—usually shifting quickly from light yellowish green to tan—but the pattern of change is rather distinctive. Unlike a bald cypress, whose entire canopy usually turns color at once, sycamore leaves change a few at a time, giving the tree's crown a mottled green-and-brown pattern (some-what mirroring the motif of the bark). When the canopy begins to thin, you can see the pendant seed balls that are favorites of wintering goldfinches and siskins.



Another common tree with a mottled fall appearance is the cedar elm. The furrowed, scaly bark is nothing like a sycamore's, nor are the comparatively tiny, inch-and-a-half-long, double-toothed, oblong leaves. Beginning in late September, a few leaves at a time change to yellow, then to tan, before eventually falling. Other leaves on the same tree remain green later, so the canopy has an appealing speckled appearance, like a pointillist painting, through the fall. By November the leaves that remain are usually all gold, and a breezy day may send the tiny leaves twirling down like confetti.

Cedar elms are the only native Texas elms that bloom in late summer and fall. Finches feed upon the seeds, which ripen in fall. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seem especially fond of cedar elms; you can often see the neat horizontal rows of sap wells these woodpeckers have drilled into the trunk.

In the Hill Country, cedar elms grow in the deeper, wetter soils of draws and canyons, though they don't tolerate long saturation as well as sycamores and cypresses. East of Austin, in former Blackland Prairie soils, cedar elms are more widespread. They are sometimes the dominant trees in woodlands there, or they share canopy space with sugar hackberries (also called sugarberries). Both species will overrun prairies when wildfires are suppressed. You can see examples of this at McKinney Falls State Park and around Granger Lake.

The two species are easy to distinguish now, even from a distance, because hackberry leaves will usually turn pale lime green before they fall, without the rich gold or tan tones of the elm. At close range, sugar hackberry differs in having smooth gray bark with many corky bumps, like warts.

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**Earth Share**  
OF TEXAS

Earth Share of Texas represents the Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll deduction plans for charitable giving. For information, call 1-800-GREENTX or email <estx@earthshare-texas.org>.

# RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

## RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF TRAVIS AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

### ARTICLE ONE

The name of the corporation is Travis Audubon Society, Inc. The corporation hereby adopts restated articles of incorporation which accurately copy the articles of incorporation and all amendments thereto that are in effect to date and as further amended by such restated articles of incorporation as hereinafter set forth and which contain no other change in any provision thereof.

### ARTICLE TWO

The articles of incorporation of the corporation are amended by the restated articles of incorporation as follows:

- To make the duration of the Society perpetual;
- To establish two classes of membership with differing rights and privileges; and
- To designate a new registered agent and registered office for the Society.

### ARTICLE THREE

Each such amendment made by the restated articles of incorporation has been effected in conformity with the provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and such restated articles of incorporation and each such amendment made by the restated articles were adopted on \_\_\_\_\_ in the following manner:

The restated articles and the amendments made by such restated articles were adopted at a meeting of the members held on \_\_\_\_\_, at which a quorum was present, and the restated articles and the amendments made by such restated articles received at least two-thirds of the votes which members present or represented by proxy were entitled to cast.

### ARTICLE FOUR

The articles of incorporation and all amendments thereto are hereby superseded by the following restated articles of incorporation which accurately copy the entire text thereof including any previous amendments and as amended as set forth above:

#### Article I

##### NAME

The name of the corporation is Travis Audubon Society, Inc. (the "Corporation" or "Society").

#### Article II

##### AFFILIATION

Travis Audubon Society, Inc. is a Texas non-profit corporation which may operate as a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The Chapter, by vote of its Board, may revoke its charter and cease to be a Chapter of National Audubon by providing sixty (60) days written notice of such decision to its State Director. Such revocation and termination shall not affect the existence of the Society.

#### Article III

##### PURPOSES

The purpose and objective of this Society shall be to engage in any such educational, scientific, investigative, literary, historical, philanthropic, and charitable pursuits as may be included in the following stated purposes of the National Audubon Society:

1. To arouse, through education, the public recognition of the value of and need for protection of wild birds and other animals, plants, soils and water, as well as the interdependence of all our natural resources.
2. To study and conduct research with relation to the scientific facts, a knowledge of which is essential to the formulation of sound policies in the field of conservation.
3. To foster recognition of the need for preservation of such environmental conditions as ample food, water, and cover, and the maintenance of these factors for ensuring the survival of the plants and animals living therein, in their natural state.

4. To foster the preservation of an adequate stock of native plants and animals, so that no species may become extinct or threatened by extinction.
5. To promote the protection and preservation of all our natural resources, including the establishment and maintenance of nature sanctuaries.
6. To publish and distribute documents as a means of dissemination of information about the above-mentioned subjects or related matters.
7. To hold meetings, lectures, and exhibits, and to develop and maintain a library in the interests of the conservation of natural resources.
8. To establish and maintain such educational projects as nature trails, exhibits, tours, and camps.
9. To encourage the organization of branches and other affiliated groups in sympathy with the stated aims.
10. To cooperate, as occasion prompts, with national and state conservation agencies and with private associations devoted to conservation and education in the field of natural resources.
11. To further, by all means both wise and opportune, the objects included within or related to those listed above.
12. Except as otherwise provided for in these Articles of Incorporation, the Society shall have all of the powers provided for in the Non-Profit Corporation Act.

### Article IV

#### PROHIBITIONS

This Society is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to the members thereof, or to any private shareholder or individual. The property, assets, profits and net income of this Society are irrevocably dedicated to the purposes set forth above, and no part of the property assets, profits, or net income of this Society shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, except that the Society shall be empowered and authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution for the furtherance of the purposes set forth in these Articles of Incorporation.

### Article V

#### DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors of the Society shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purposes of the Society, in such manner or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Society shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of, shall be distributed to the Texas Audubon Society, if at the time it both exists and qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Provided further, that if the Texas Audubon Society is not then in existence or is not an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Code, such remaining assets shall be distributed to the National Audubon Society.

### Article VI

#### PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

No substantial part of the Society's financial resources shall be devoted to propaganda for or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, nor shall the Society participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing statements) any political campaign in behalf of any candidate for public office. Nor shall the Society participate in organizations or coalitions whose activities are contrary to this section or any activity which will be inconsistent with the tax exempt status of the National Audubon Society or this Society.

### Article VII

#### AMENDMENTS

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular or special meeting, provided that suitable notice is mailed to each member at least fifteen days before said meeting. Such meetings may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by no fewer than twenty members in good standing.

## RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION (CONTINUED)

### Article VIII

#### MEMBERSHIP

The membership is open to any person interested in the purposes of the Society. There will be two classes of membership: National Members (persons who are members of the National Audubon Society) and Chapter Members (who are members of and pay dues to the Society, and who may also be National Members). Chapter Members shall have the right to hold offices in the Society, to vote on Society issues, including election of officers, and to fully participate in the activities of the Society. National Members who are not Chapter Members shall have the right to attend meetings and functions of the Society. Additionally, the Board of the Society may from time to time extend additional privileges to National Members as it sees fit.

### Article IX

#### DURATION

Travis Audubon Society shall continue in perpetuity.

### Article X

#### DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be the governing board of

the Corporation. The number of Directors may be changed from time to time in the manner provided by the Bylaws of the Corporation, but in no event shall there be less than three (3) Directors.

### Article XI

#### REGISTERED AGENT AND OFFICE

The registered office of the Corporation shall be 7442 Dallas Drive, Austin, Texas 78729 and the registered agent shall be John Kelly.

### Article XII

#### INDEMNIFICATION

The Society shall indemnify a person who was, is, or is threatened to be made a named defendant or respondent in litigation or other proceedings because the person is or was a director or officer or other person related to the Society to the extent permitted in the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act governing indemnification. As provided by the Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall have the power to further define the requirements and limitations for The Society to indemnify directors, officers, or others related to The Society including, but not limited to, the purchase of insurance to fund such indemnity commitments as further described in the provision of the Act governing indemnification.

## URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 10)

you want. The following general hints for helping the casual collector determine when seeds are ripe are adapted from *The Wild Ones Journal* <[www.for-wild.org/](http://www.for-wild.org/)>.

- When they easily fall from the plant. If you have to tug, they are not ready. This sometimes means you have to check every week. Practice your technique on something easy like inland sea oats.
- When the seed capsule opens. If you can't wait, collect a few seed capsules, put them in a paper bag, close it, and let them ripen. Look for velvetleaf mallow and rock rose (pavonia) seed capsules now.
- When pods lose their green color and turn brown. If you shake them, they should rattle.
- *Lindheimer senna*, aka puppy-dog ears, might be ready now. This is a hardy native with yellow blooms for fall nectar. It is a host plant for the Cloudless Sulphur butterfly.
- When the stem holding the seed head is brown and dry. If you want to collect frostweed, this is a good indicator. (Every garden should have a clump of frostweed for fall nectar. It is very easy to grow from seed.)

Ripe seeds are plump and hard. Color varies with the species. Unripe seeds are still soft and sometimes moist. Green usually means unripe.

Remember, although some seeds like mountain laurel are distinctive, others begin to blur once you get home. Label them. Paper bags or envelopes work fine for *very* short-term storage. Plastic sandwich bags may trap moisture if

the seeds aren't dry, so don't use them.

Have a plan for the seeds you collect. It doesn't hurt to mimic Mother Nature. If a seed is ripe, it is ready to plant in the ground. If you want to store seeds to plant later, refer to Jill Nokes' classic, *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest*, or check out the Wildflower Center's native plant database, which has horticultural information. Fleshy fruits like buckeyes and Turk's cap offer further challenges.

Sometimes it is fun to be an absent-minded gardener. Just throw the seeds in a bare spot, and see what shows up.

—Jane Tillman, <[mljt@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:mljt@mail.utexas.edu)>

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 2)

process. With this process all questions can be answered fully, and we should not have a rushed discussion right before we vote. However, when it does come time to vote, I ask you to remember Abe Lincoln's words: "You can't please all of the people all of the time." Was he a birdwatcher?

The TAS Nominating Committee is being formed and is tasked with the job of finding new board members for you to vote on at our next election. If you would like to be considered for a board position or to nominate someone else, please contact me at <[hellodillon@hotmail.com](mailto:hellodillon@hotmail.com)> or 453-1555. If you don't want to nominate, but know someone who you think would make a good candidate, please let me know. The committee will talk to them and see if they are interested. The best nominee pool will be developed only with your help.

So, seen any good birds lately?

—Pat Dillon

Visit the TAS Web site!  
[www.travisaudubon.org](http://www.travisaudubon.org)



## Local and National Audubon Membership

Join the Travis Audubon Society using the form at the right, and all of your dues will be put to use supporting local conservation, education, and research projects. You may also join both Travis Audubon and the National Audubon Society through the Travis Audubon website <[www.travisaudubon.org](http://www.travisaudubon.org)>. As a member of National Audubon, you will enjoy Travis Audubon chapter membership and receive the quarterly *Audubon* magazine, and a portion of your dues will support national programs.

**Join Travis Audubon now and support local birds, wildlife, and their habitats.**

Travis Audubon Society members receive 11 issues of the *Signal Smoke* newsletter, priority sign-up on local field trips, and educational classes. All of their annual dues support local projects and programs.

### To join Travis Audubon Society:

Make your check payable to Travis Audubon Society and send with this form to TAS Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 1132, Round Rock, TX 78680-1132.

## Travis Audubon Society

YES! I want to enjoy the benefits of Travis Audubon Society membership. Enroll me as a member of Travis Audubon Society. Enclosed is my check for:

- \$10      **Youth Membership** (up to age 18)
- \$20      **Individual Membership**
- \$30      **Family Membership**
- \$60      **Painted Bunting Membership** (bonus Travis Audubon T-shirt)
- \$100     **Vireo Membership** (bonus T-shirt and book)
- \$250     **Warbler Membership** (bonus T-shirt, book, and free workshop)
- \$1,000   **Lifetime Membership** (bonus T-shirt, book, workshop, and listing in annual report)

T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership from \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_