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BIG COUNTRY AUDUBON SOCIETY

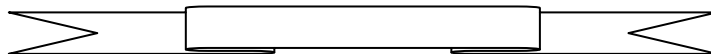
Penfeathers

In Remembrance of Lorie Diane Black

SEPTEMBER 19, 1956 – MARCH 18, 2011



On Friday, March 18, 2011, God and all His beautiful handiwork in Paradise ---birds, flowers, grasses, trees, dragonflies, butterflies, wildlife --- welcomed Lorie Black into their perfect world. Lorie left her siblings, Roy, Clayton, June, and Christy, and a whole host of dear friends and nature lovers behind to continue to care for, learn about, and protect this wonderful world which she so enjoyed and for which she cared. Whenever Lorie was a part of the field trips taken by her fellow Big Country Audubon members, all could be assured that the spotting and identification of whatever was seen was accurate and precise. Her vast knowledge kept us in awe. Lorie spent many of her lunch hours, after work times, and week ends perusing the areas around the Big Country to observe whatever birds were there. Her quiet, unassuming ways but strong leadership penetrated any group of which she was a part---Big Country Audubon, Texas Ornithological Society, or Friends of Abilene State Park. Those who knew Lorie will never forget her giving, pleasant spirit, encouraging ways, and quest for additional knowledge about the world around us. A huge space is left in our hearts and lives with Lorie's passing. Her memory, example, and contributions will continue to be an inspiration.



Texbirders,

I have sad news to share. Longtime Abilene birder Lorie Black passed away yesterday after a lengthy battle with cancer. Lorie served both the Big Country Audubon Society and TOS and was involved with numerous breeding bird surveys and Christmas bird counts.

Lorie was especially influential to my birding interests. When I began birding at the age of 12, Lorie's knowledge of birding was second to none in our small birding club. As a person who was hungry to understand how to identify sparrows and shorebirds, she was an invaluable resource.

Lorie's contributions to our knowledge of birds in this area, as well as her willingness to share her love of nature with all who knew her will be missed.

--

Jay Packer

Lorie was one of the first people I met and made friends with at TOS meetings. She served as Regional Director from the Panhandle for more than 10 years I believe. I will likely think of her at every TOS meeting I attend in the future.

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David Sarkozi

Houston, TX

Lorie is a special person to me one of the most steadfast supporters and board members for TOS ever...Never missed a board meeting, always had ideas and in the toughest of times managed a newsletter and helped get TOS the preserves and publications we have now when TOS was so very much struggling. TOS could not have achieved what it did in those hard days without her votes of confidence in the future of the organization.... I just really loved to be around Lorie, she was always easy to be around...This is so sad, and I just had no idea she was even ill. I feel bad that I have not kept up with her recently. Bless her dear heart...Your mom and Lorie were such a wonderful team! I am just lacking in the proper words and my eyes water as I type this. My sincere condolences to the family and everyone that had the pleasure of knowing this beautiful, giving and wonderful person!

Brush Freeman

Throughout many years I served on the TOS Board, it seems like Lorie was at every board meeting. She was a true asset to TOS. The few times I was able to get up to Abilene, Lorie and your Mom always showed Jan and I a great time. Everyone that has ever been involved in Texas birding should appreciate the many contributions Lorie made to birds, birding, and conservation. I don't ever remember seeing Lorie without a smile on her face. She will indeed be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

David Dauphin

Mission, TX

I was saddened to hear of Lorie Black's passing. She was always a champion of Texas birds , a tireless worker for TOS and a sweet and gentle person to be around. She will be missed by all who knew her and certainly welcomed by the birds she worked so hard to protect and save.

Jimmy Jackson

...She was always the same sweet smiling Lorie, always entering into discussions but never complaining. I'll have to admit, maybe to the dismay of other Board members, that I enjoyed working side by side with Lorie as much as with any of my other friends on the Board.

Lorie was an excellent constituent of the Board, always fulfilling her responsibilities as a Director; I'm sure more completely and efficiently as I ever did. She was a great advertisement for TOS as well as the birding world in general. An astute birder and even more so, an astute and faithful lady to all who knew her. I have missed her following her final term of office with TOS but now that she has entered her eternal abode having received her welcome of "well done, good and faithful servant" I'll miss her even more but anticipate with eagerness of seeing her again.

Lytle H. Blankenship, PhD

Kerrville, Texas

Texbirders,

I didn't know Lorie, but from the posts about her, she sounds so much like someone I would have liked to know. Whenever a person passes who has been instrumental in promoting Texas birds (either publicly or personally), Texbirders are quick to lavish praise in their remembrances and retrospectives.

These eulogies allow a vicarious pleasure in hearing about these dearly missed, wonderful people. They give us a glimpse of what life in their presence was like and I am grateful for that opportunity. Thanks, Texbirders!

I wonder, however, how many of us take the time to tell those who are important to us how we feel about them while it is still possible? I know that I'm guilty of taking friendships and relationships for granted. Perhaps some of you are, too. Please join me today in honoring Lorie by telling someone you know, love and respect why they are important, and what they mean to you! Treasure them today, not after they are gone!

Lorie, I wish I had known you.

Rusty Alderson

Leander, Texas



Upcoming Events...

Saturday, April 2, 2011 - Field trip to Hord's Creek Lake near Coleman. We will leave at 7:00am from the Burger King at Hwy 83/84 and Antilley Rd.. Come earlier if you wish to eat. The goal of this trip to see what can be found around the lake for the presentation and walk Larry and Dan will be doing for a group of Cisco Jr. College students.

Thursday, April 7, 2011 - Regular meeting 7:00pm at Rose Park Senior Center. Program will be presented by Laura Holbrook on the World Birding Center or the video "Ghost Bird" about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

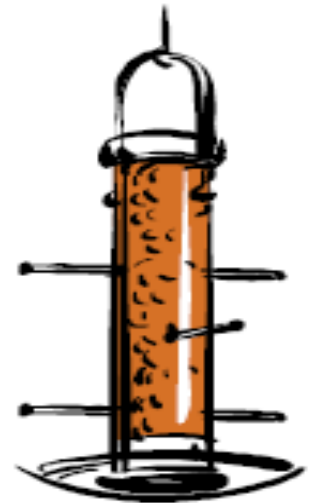
Thursday, May 5, 2011 - Membership Potluck 6:00pm at Cedar Gap Farms. We will provide brisket, tea and water, you bring your favorite covered dish.

Saturday, May 14 or 21, 2011 - We have be invited: Native Prairies Association of Texas is looking for help with a breeding bird survey on our Maddin Prairie Preserve to be held on either May 14 or 21--still working on dates. Watch the website for more info.



Laura's Blind Feeder Patrol...

March 26	Larry Millar
April 2	Randy Packer and Kathy Hampton
April 9	Dan Symonds
April 16	Steve Owens
April 23	W. K. and Carolyn Wiggins
April 30	Joe Thompson
May 7	Dan Symonds
May 14	Larry Millar
May 21	Kim Berry



Volunteers are always needed. We will have a sign up sheet at the Potluck, so check your calendar and sign up.

Species Spotlight...

AMERICAN ROBIN

Adapted from Laura Erickson

The quintessential early bird, American Robins are common sights on lawns across North America, where you often see them tugging earthworms out of the ground. Robins are popular birds for their warm orange breast, cheery song, and early appearance at the end of winter. Though they're familiar town and city birds,

American Robins are at home in wilder areas, too, including mountain forests and Alaskan wilderness. Robins are frequently seen year round in the Big Country.



Thrushes

Size & Shape & Color

American Robins are fairly large songbirds with a large, round body, long legs, and fairly long tail. Robins are the largest North American thrushes, and their profile offers a good chance to learn the basic shape of most thrushes.

American Robins are gray-brown birds with warm orange underparts and dark heads. In flight, a white patch on the lower belly and under the tail can be conspicuous. Compared with males, females have paler heads that contrast less with the gray back.



Behavior

American Robins are industrious and authoritarian birds that bound across lawns or stand erect, beak tilted upward, to survey their environs. When alighting they habitually flick their tails downward several times. In fall and winter they form large flocks and gather in trees to roost or eat berries.

Habitat

American Robins are common across the continent in gardens, parks, yards, golf courses, fields, pastures, tundra, as well as deciduous woodlands, pine forests, shrublands, and forests regenerating after fires or logging.

BIG COUNTRY AUDUBON SOCIETY

FIELD TRIP

FEBRUARY 26, 2011

LAKE COLORADO CITY STATE PARK

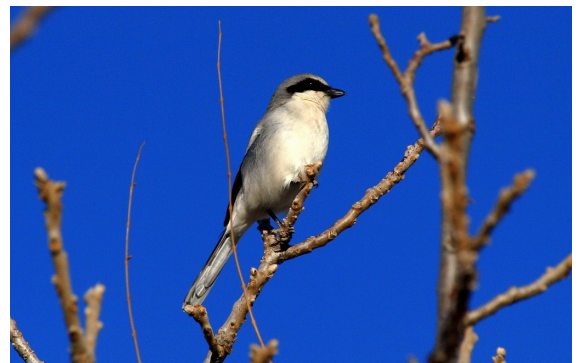


Seven folks headed west on a chilly Saturday morning to visit Lake Colorado City State Park. (Dan Symonds, Kim Berry, Joe Thompson, Mike and Jan Carrington, Kathy Hampton, and Bera Johnson.) Although the morning



was cool, it warmed gradually and the wind was calm. The lake's water supply is low, and water birds were limited. (We believe the reason is because it has not recovered from a Golden Algae epidemic a few years ago which killed the fish.) But, Ruddy Ducks were plentiful all over the lake, and a few Buffleheads made their appearance for us. Other birds were enjoying the mesquite/cactus/thicket habitat alongside the lake. Among those who posed very near to give good looks were the Loggerhead Shrike,

the Curve-Billed Thrasher, the Bewick's Wren, Golden-Fronted Woodpecker, and Canyon Towhee. One Canyon Towhee performed either love or hate antics as it perched on the rear view mirror or Joe's Suburban and proceeded to flirt/skirmish with its image. A pair of Bewick's Wrens entertained with a game of tag all around, on, and under his vehicle, too. Joe must have smeared "bird-nip" on that car before he left home!



The Complete List

Bufflehead
Ruddy Duck
Pied-billed Grebe
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Northern Harrier
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
American Coot
Greater Yellowlegs
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove
Golden-fronted Woodpecker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Loggerhead Shrike
Chihuahuan Raven
Common Raven
Cactus Wren
Bewick's Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Northern Mockingbird
Curve-billed Thrasher
European Starling
Spotted Towhee

Canyon Towhee
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Bunting
Savannah Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
House Finch
House Sparrow

BIG COUNTRY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Field Trip

January 22, 2011

Abilene Waste Water Treatment Plant

Saturday was very cold and windy on the levies of



bird" was a tie between a flying Prairie Falcon and a Sharp-shinned Hawk sitting in a tree by the fence beside the road. A good time was had by all on this half day trip.

--Katharine Hampton



AWWTP. Kathy Hampton, Dan Symonds, Larry and Kathi Millar, Joe Thompson, Kim Berry, and new bird-er Wayne McCormick braved the elements to bird on foot all morning. I needed to retreat to the indoor protection of a vehicle some of the time.

Two scopes helped to pull many species of ducks within identifiable range. The "most unexpected bird" was a Says Phoebe. I thought the "best



The Complete List

Greater White-fronted Goose 21
Gadwall 30
Mallard 8
Blue-winged Teal 8
Northern Shoveler 40
Northern Pintail 50
Green-winged Teal 20
Canvasback 4
Redhead 4
Ring-necked Duck 10
Lesser Scaup 2
Bufflehead 40
Ruddy Duck 20
Double-crested Cormorant 20
American White Pelican 4
Northern Harrier 2

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1
American Kestrel 1
Merlin 1
American Coot 500
Sandhill Crane 22
Killdeer 2
Long-billed Dowitcher 12
Bonaparte's Gull 10
Ring-billed Gull 25
Rock Pigeon 15
White-winged Dove 10
Mourning Dove 20
Eastern Phoebe 2
Say's Phoebe 1
Loggerhead Shrike 1

Chihuahuan Raven 1
Eastern Bluebird 2
Northern Mockingbird 2
European Starling 23
Vesper Sparrow 20
Savannah Sparrow 50
Lincoln's Sparrow 5
White-crowned Sparrow 20
Northern Cardinal 2
Red-winged Blackbird 500
Eastern Meadowlark 60
Common Grackle 20
Great-tailed Grackle 40
American Goldfinch 12
House Sparrow 30



Big Country Audubon Society

PO Box 569

Abilene, TX 79604

Big Country Audubon Society

President - Larry Millar

Vice President - Joe Thompson

Treasurer - Randy Packer

Secretary - Carolyn Wiggins

Environment - Kathy Hampton

Big Country Audubon Society meetings are held at Rose Park Senior Activity Center on the first Thursday of October, November, December, February, March, April and May.

Hotline: (325) 480-1089

Website: www.bigcountryaudubon.org

Email: BigCountryAudubon@live.com

Big Country Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Please enroll as a member of the Big Country Audubon Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Annual Membership

Individual - \$20 Family - \$30 Student - \$10

Prorated Membership

Dec., Jan. or Feb - Individual - \$15 Family - \$22.50 Student - \$7.50

Mar., Apr. or May - Individual - \$10 Family - \$15 Student - \$5

Jun., Jul. or Aug - Individual - \$5 Family - \$7.50 Student - \$2.50

All dues renew on September 1st

Mail to: Big Country Audubon Society, PO Box 569
Abilene, TX 79604