



Kiskadee (a members-only quarterly newsletter)

June, July, August 2018 - 1st Quarter, Volume 18, Number 1

Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society (ACAS) of South Texas was established in May of the year 2000.

Notes from Norma

The Last Roundup:

Another great year of speakers, field trips, educational programs and special events is planned for my 10th and final year as ACAS President. A Calendar of Events is included in this Newsletter so you can mark your calendars now and not miss any of these interesting programs. I will not be going away just fading into the background in another position on the Board of Directors, that is if I am nominated and voted in.



On the calendar for May of 2019, you can see that I will reflect on the past 10 years with a program *10 Years of ACAS, A Digital Scrapbook*. I hope you will join me in making this ACAS season a memorable one that I will be proud to include in the *Scrapbook*.

Some of my fellow board members recently suggested I make a hand fashioned scrapbook. Well I am NOT an artsy crafty person so my contribution will have to be in the form of a power point. Now if I can just learn how to do those zooming in and out, page turning features Donna McCown uses in her programs. Don't miss her as our first speaker in September as she shares with us her *Backyard Baby Birds*.

New Beginnings:

ACAS is very fortunate to have two fairly new members who have stepped forward and accepted positions as Chairs of our Publicity and Conservation Programs. After the May election they both set off on their duties and are well into being valuable assets to ACAS.

Susan Upton Communications/Publicity Chair is recently retired from the Department of Homeland Security and is very knowledgeable in computer technology. She will be editor of the Newsletter and promote our programs through local media. Keeping our website up to date with occasional changes will be little challenge to her talents. Susan and I recently purchased two computers for ACAS use. It was a fun event as I watched her ask the salesman all the right questions. (continued page 2)

The Inn at Chachalaca Bend is a corporate member of ACAS!

To bird at the Inn call 956-233-1180 for a time.

Trail maps are available at <http://www.chachalaca.com/>

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La Hacienda at Ebony Haven Preserve is a corporate member of ACAS.

For information about birding or volunteer opportunities contact Laurie Works by email at workerl@aol.com

NOTES FROM NORMA Continued

Mark Salvatore, Habitat/Parks/Conservation Chair is still employed in his field of industrial writing. He has just enough free time to be active in both ACAS and the RGVCTMN. He has already attended a TPWD sponsored grant writing forum in Austin. He will help the city write grants for the TPWD upcoming grant deadline of October 1st. Javier Mendez, our City Parks and Rec director welcomed Mark's offer to volunteer with him as Javier is at this time writing grants on his own.

So here's to new beginnings and rounding up more birding time for all of us; that is after all our collective purpose. Seeing birds ourselves and getting others to see them as we do, that's our goal each year as we plan these programs and field trips. Thanks to Alicia Cavazos and Mark Conway for planning our coming year, contacting the speakers and getting things rolling. Tell them the next time you see them what a great job they have done.

Let's go birding!

Norma Friedrich, President

Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society

ACAS September Events

September will be a busy month for ACAS members. Non-members are always invited to attend our events. Take your pick and join one of our activities. Mark your Calendar now!

September 1, 2018 Hugh Ramsey Nature Park for a Conservation Work Day 7:30 am to 9:30 am.

September 8, 2018 Birder Patrol will visit Frontera Audubon Society location in Weslaco. Meeting places TBA.

September 13, 2018 FOS Speaker Social we will be honored to have Donna McCown review her summer *Backyard Baby Birds* with a slide show of her great photos. 6:00 pm at the Harlingen Public Library Auditorium. Eagle Scout Jacob Garcia will give a report on his Eagle Scout project finished this summer in Ramsey Park.

September 15, 2018 FOS Field Trip will be *Ramsey Park Breakfast and Birds*. We will meet at 7:30 am bringing a pot luck item and your drink for breakfast at the pavilion. We will be birding the park and using the stream bridge and bird blind built by the summer Eagle Scout project. ACAS will supply plates, napkins and utensils. Since this is also a designated work day in Ramsey we will be watering and moving hoses before, during and after our Breakfast and Birds. Join us after the Breakfast and Birds as we maintain the bird friendly habitat. We are ordering cooler temperatures for the day.

September 21st, 22nd - Valley Environmental Summit and Beach Clean Up. <http://www.valleyes.us/index.html>

September 29th -Birder Patrol - Location TBD depending on where the birds are.

FYI Birder Patrol field trips are a fundraiser for ACAS educational programs and a \$5 donation is requested. These trips are often led by a guest guide to a special area selected only a week or two prior to the date so as to catch the most recent rare or interesting bird sightings or locations. Guest guides in the past have been Pat Heirs, Mary Beth Stowe, Michael Marsden, Bill Clark and Michael Delesantro.

ACAS Summer Education Series

June, July, August—2018

This year marked the beginning of the ACAS Summer Seminar Series!! There is no doubt this will become an annual summer event as it was well-received and well-attended! Education Chair, Sue Griffin, coordinated a total of (3) seminars, one each summer month, centering on the focus topic “Improving Your Birding Skills.”

Guest Speakers included Tony Henehan, our local TPWD Wildlife Urban Biologist and Javier Gonzalez, Naturalist Educator for the SPI Birding and Nature Center. Tony concentrated on bird identification, which is at the core of birdwatching. Javier placed his focus on resident and summer breeding birds as well as local coastal hotspots to enjoy!

Those who attended the third and final seminar in August, were treated to a guest appearance by Bill Clark, one of the world's leading authorities on **raptor** identification and taxonomy. He is the author of over 100 papers and books on **raptor** taxonomy and distribution. He provided a brief orientation on his local Harris's Hawk banding program.

All three seminars had a great show of interest by those who attended at the library as well as the weekend trips that were scheduled to augment the seminars. Thanks to several ACAS members, refreshments were made available that encouraged those attending to mingle and network about the abundance of birding opportunity in the RGV. We would like to thank Education Chair Sue Griffin for coordinating this excellent opportunity for ACAS to promote its founding mission: *an understanding of the unique and important natural habitats of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the birds and other wildlife they support, and their benefits to humans.*



June-July-August Social/Field Trips

June—July—August ACAS Activities:

June 25: Birder Patrol Field Trip visited the San Juan Wetlands.

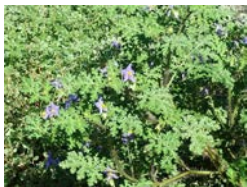
July 8: Conservation Work Day was held at the Hugh Ramsey Nature Park, Harlingen, TX

July 20: Completion of the Quarterly Red-Crowned Parrot Survey in the Harlingen area. This quarterly count is being monitored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. and TPWD personnel are on hand to assist. The numbers in Mexico are dwindling and the valley's population is becoming more important to their future. In the city of Harlingen there is an ordinance to protect parrots and their nests. For additional information contact Sue Griffin at chair@rgvbf.org

August 4, August 17-18: Conservation Work Days at Hugh Ramsey Nature Park were successfully attended. The invasive Guinea Grass is persistent but so are the many volunteers who glove-up and donate their time and talent to manage and enhance the park features for all to enjoy!

Quarterly Highlight: 2018 Davis Mountain Hummingbird Festival

The week of August 19, nine ACAS members headed West to attend the 2018 Davis Mountain Hummingbird Festival at Fort Davis, Texas. The group had a fantastic time, taking in any and everything of interest along the way. Some of their stops included Friedrich Wilderness Park outside San Antonio, the South Llano River State Park, as well as the Balmorehea State Park. The group enjoyed several programs offered throughout the festival and also took turns manning the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival booth. See below to enjoy some of the many sites and encounters captured by the group!!



ACAS Events for September, October and November 2018

Email acaskiskadee@yahoo.com for more information. Find us on Facebook!

September Speaker Social and Field Trip

September 13, 2018

Speaker Donna McCown

Topic: *Backyard Baby Birds!!*

Donna McCown will introduce us to the *Backyard Baby Birds* she photographed in her own backyard at her west Harlingen home. Also, Boy Scout Jacob Garcia will give a report on his Eagle Scout project finished this summer in Ramsey Park.



September 15, 2018—September Field Trip and Conservation Work Day:

Location: Hugh Ramsey Park “Breakfast and Birds”

Field trip to nowhere! Meet at Ramsey Park at 7:30 am for Breakfast and Birds. Staying at our monthly meeting spot for field trips and enjoying our own park, we will use the stream bridge and the bird blind built by Eagle Scout Jacob Garcia. Bring a covered dish breakfast item and your own coffee or drink. ACAS will supply plates, napkins and utensils. Migrating birds are possible with maybe a few lingering summer birds. As part of our Conservation Work Day that morning while we are birding, volunteers will be watering, moving water hoses and answering questions about the habitat we are helping maintain.

**** Looking down the road.... ****

October 11, 2018—Speaker Mary Beth Stowe

Topic: *Odonates and butterflies*

October 13, 2018—October Field Trip

Location: *Estero Ilano Grande State Park*



**November 7-11, 2018—RGV
Birding Festival—
V o l u n t e e r!!! www.rgvbf.org**



November 15, 2018—Speaker John Brush

Topic: *E-bird entry—A citizen Science*

November 17, 2018—November Field Trip

Location: *Quinta Mazatlan*



Annual Photo Contest 2018

Birds in an Urban Setting

Rules for participation

- Only members may submit photos. There is no charge to participate.
- Photos taken in the past five years will be eligible for submission.
- Photos must be of South Texas birds that are in an urban setting. At a backyard feeder or bird house, on a fence or water feature, on a water tower or high line wire. Anything that depicts birds in the city.
- There will be a limit of 3 (three) entries per member.
- **Printed photo entries** 8 X 10 or 8 ½ X 11 must be delivered per one of the following in order to be reviewed before the Festival. 8 ½ X 11 will be cropped to 8x10.
- Brought to the ACAS October 11, 2018 meeting.
- Delivered to Virginia Vineyard by November 1, 2018
- Mailed to ACAS, PO Box 531582, Harlingen, TX 78553
- Eighteen printed photos, after review, will be displayed at the ACAS booth at the RGV Birding Festival November 8-11, 2018 to be voted on by the trade show attendees.
- The photographers of the first, second and third place photographs, as determined by the Festival voters, will be awarded prizes.
- The winners will be announced at the November 15, 2018 ACAS program meeting at the Harlingen Library, meeting begins at 6:00 pm. Photos will be returned at the November or December meeting. The photos may be donated to ACAS for educational purposes.
- All photos entered may be used by ACAS for any official publication.
- Prizes TBD

Native planted and somewhat messy flower beds are what birds like. It offers them food as well as security.



Ramsey Park News

Bobcat News:

Some time ago Linda Butcher found a bobcat at Hugh Ramsey park that had expired. A joint project coordinated by ACAS and RGVTMN has resulted in the bobcat being taxidermized and is now at home at the Estero Llano Grande SP. It was received by ranger Amy Hernandez and will be used for educational purposes.



(WO)MAN Power: Many ACAS members are also members of an esteemed organization known as the Texas Master Naturalists (TMN)! Overseen by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, these individuals complete extensive training and also make a commitment to devote their time and talent to the safe-keeping of our natural Texas beauty.

We would like to recognize ACAS and TMN member Linda Butcher. Linda was recently recognized this month for an accomplishment few have laid claim to, 4000 man hours of volunteer efforts in and around her community. Many of these hours were spent in her devotion to Ramsey Park. Linda was recognized at the last TMN meeting and awarded her accomplishment pin as well as the Presidential Volunteer Award. Thanks Linda for everything you have done and will continue to do for the benefit of other!!

Eagle Scout Enthusiasm:

Jacob Garcia, with Boy Scout Troop 1701, developed his Eagle Scout Project to construct and install 2 new enhancements at the Hugh Ramsey Nature Park: a bird blind at the south end of Lily Pad Pond and a foot bridge over the stream from the sidewalk to the pavilion/rest area. Jacob developed plans for both projects. He raised outside funding for materials and ACAS Conservation Committee contributed \$500 towards his needs as well. During July 12-14, Jacob, his family, friends, and fellow scout members converged on the site and worked long and hard to ensure the project met his, as well as the ACAS team's expectations. Jacob went above and beyond, including making time for orientations on native vs. non-native grasses, to remove the later in and around the area he and his team were working. If you have not been by, please make time to go and see this fantastic contribution Jacob Garcia has made to the park and to those who will benefit for years to come!!



Conservation Work Days:

The first and third Saturdays of each month will continue at this time, as designated work days at the park. Reminders will be posted on our FB page as each date draws near. Please make every effort to attend one or both days as the recent rains have certainly provided abundant food and shelter for our wildlife, along with plenty of opportunity for non-native grasses to get a foothold. See page 2 for more specifics.

Alicia Cavazos will be working in Ramsey Park some evenings. If this time is better for you than the Saturdays she invites you to join her. Phone 956-244-2347 or email her at alicav399@yahoo.com she will notify you when she goes to the Park.



Ramsey Nature Park Photos

Lots of activity this past quarter with park maintenance and the hard work from Jacob Garcia and crew completing his Eagle scout project. Photos by Crystela Cortez Wise.



Norma knows a thing or two about that hedger. See her handy work saving this Montezuma Cypress from the chokehold of Guinea grass!!!

Photos by Norma Friedrich and Alicia Cavazos



Volunteers Mark, Alicia, Laura, Linda and Norma helping with upkeep at Hugh Ramsey Park!!



"Action Photos" of Jacob Garcia completing the bird blind and walkway bridge for his Eagle Scout Project!!



Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society

Calendar of Events Sept. 2018 thru Aug. 2019

Speaker Socials and Field Trips

Socials are held on the second Thursday monthly at the Harlingen Public Library at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and are free to the public. All ages are invited to attend. Field trips meet the following Saturday at Hugh Ramsey Park at 7:30 am. Entry fees for some parks apply. A \$5 donation is requested from non-members.



Donna McCown

September 13, 2018	Speaker—Donna McCown— <i>Backyard Baby Birds</i>
September 15, 2018	Field Trip – Ramsey Park Breakfast and Birds
October 11, 2018	Speaker - Mary Beth Stowe— <i>Odonates and Butterflies</i>
October 13, 2018	Field Trip – Estero Llano Grande State Park
November 7-11, 2018	Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival—Volunteer!
November 15, 2018	Speaker - John Brush— <i>Ebird Entry, a Citizen Science</i>
November 17, 2018	Field Trip - Quinta Mazatlan
December 13, 2018	Speaker—Stephanie Bilodeau - <i>Plover Conservation in the RGV</i>
December 15, 2018	Field Trip— Harlingen CBC Circle: Team Challenge
January 5, 2019	Harlingen Christmas Bird Count 6 am—6 pm Countdown Dinner location TBD —6:00 pm
January 10, 2019	Speaker - John Yochum — <i>30 Special Birds of the RGV</i>
January 12, 2019	Field Trip - Salt Lake, La Sal del Rey “the King’s Salt,”
February 14, 2019	Speaker - Laguna Atascosa Staff— <i>Ocelots of LANWR</i>
February 16, 2019	Field Trip - Banding w/Mark at Arroyo Colorado Unit
Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26	Beginner Birders Winter Series- Time and location TBD
March 14, 2019	Speaker –Lianne Koczur— <i>Reddish Egrets & Brown Pelicans</i>
March 16, 2019	Field Trip - Hawk Watch at Santa Ana
April 11, 2019	Speaker - Rebekah Rylander – <i>BC Titmouse Study</i>
April 13, 2019	Field Trip - SPI for Migration!
May 9, 2019	Speaker - Norma Friedrich— <i>10 Years of ACAS, A Digital Scrapbook</i>
May 11, 2019	Field Trip – Palo Alto Battlefield and Old PI Road or Hwy 48 Boat Ramp
June 12, July 10, Aug 8	Birder Education Summer Series— Harlingen Public Library—6:00 pm—8:00 pm

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2018
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ACAS MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JANUARY—DECEMBER

**ARROYO COLORADO
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

The mission of the Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society of South Texas is to promote an understanding of the unique and important natural habitats of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the birds and other wildlife they support, and their benefits to humans.

Annual Dues are as follows:

(Please check one and fill out the form below)

- ___ \$250—Lifetime membership.
- ___ \$25—Yearly Membership, one mailing address.
- ___ \$40—2-year membership, one mailing address.
- ___ \$50—3-year membership, one mailing address.
- ___ \$5—Student rate, one yr. Full-time student.
- ___ \$100—Annual Corporate Sponsorship dues.

DATE _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NO: (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

Do you want to be listed in the *ACAS Membership Directory*? **___ YES ___ NO**

Do you want to receive your newsletter by Email? **___ YES ___ NO**

Mail Dues and form to: ACAS, PO Box 531582, Harlingen, TX 78553

Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society
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