



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

February 2004

## *Different Perspectives of the Galápagos Islands*

*Henry Krusekopf*

**Tuesday, February 17, 2004  
7:30 PM**

Straddling the equator 600 miles west of the South American mainland, the Galápagos Islands have attracted human attention since their discovery in 1535. Although best known for the unique community of animals and plants that have evolved to survive on the dry, rocky islands—a gathering of species so unusual that it helped spark a young naturalist named Charles Darwin to write *The Origin of Species*—the Galápagos also have a rich and fascinating human history. The stark, jagged coastlines and mist-shrouded highlands of “The Enchanted Isles” have served for centuries as a refuge for pirates, a resupply post for whalers, and a destination for adventurers, settlers and society’s outcasts.

“Different Perspectives of the Galápagos Islands” will be presented by Henry Krusekopf and will touch on both the natural wonders of the Galápagos and the role mankind has come to play on these isolated Pacific Ocean outcroppings.

Henry Krusekopf has been to the Galápagos Islands twice. On his first trip in 1993 he was a tourist; on his second trip last year he participated in a month-long visit on behalf of a nonprofit international agricultural exchange program.

A 1987 graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, with a degree in History, Henry had a 10-year career as a journalist in Texas, Kentucky, and Guatemala. In 2001, he earned a Masters Degree in International Agricultural Development from the University of California at Davis, with emphases in vegetable crop production and soil nutrition.

Currently, he is reviving the family farm near Smithville. Henry’s Farm will produce free-range eggs, as well as assorted fruits and vegetables. He is also employed at Kimas Tejas Nursery in Bastrop, where he loves to talk plants.

Everyone is invited to join the speaker and BCAS board members for dinner before the meeting. Six PM at **Cartwright’s Bar-B-Q** (490 Hwy 71 in front of the Wal Mart).

**Bastrop County Audubon Society chapter meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August & December) at 7:30 PM in the Long Community Room of the First National Bank of Bastrop, 1019 Main Street, Bastrop. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the program.**



Galapagos Alphabet: Blue Footed Boobies© Margie Crisp 2001

# BCAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## FEBRUARY 2004

**Sunday, February 15** – Board of Directors Meeting: Priscilla & Jeremiah Jarvis's home, Elgin. 281-2762  
**Tuesday, February 17** – Chapter Meeting: Different Perspectives of the Galapagos Islands, Henry Krusekopf  
**Friday February 20-Sunday February 22** – Field Trip to Aransas NWR

## MARCH 2004

**Sunday, March 14** – Board Meeting Location TBA  
**Tuesday, March 16** – Chapter Meeting: Organic Farming and Backyard Habitat Creation, Steve Bridges, Kimas Texas Nursery  
**Saturday, March 20** – Field Trip to Barton Creek Habitat Preserve. Time TBA

## APRIL 2004

**Sunday, April 18** – Board Meeting  
**Tuesday, April 20** – Chapter Meeting: The Lost Pines, Past, Present and Future, Rich Gray, Texas Forest Service  
**Saturday, April 24** – Field Trip to Lake Somerville. Time TBA

## MAY 2004

**Sunday, May 16** – Board Meeting  
**Tuesday, May 18** – Chapter Meeting  
**Saturday, May 22** – Field Trip to Pedernales Falls. Time TBA

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 : Society. It is edited and produced by Margie Crisp, :  
 : Maggie Lambert & Priscilla Jarvis. Contributors for :  
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 : e-mail: Tiliqua2@earthlink.net :  
 : .....

**BECOME A FRIEND OF BASTROP COUNTY AUDUBON** and all of your dues will be used to support local conservation and education. If you wish you may join Bastrop County Audubon through our Web site ([www.bastropcountyaudubon.org](http://www.bastropcountyaudubon.org)). Alternately, you may join National Audubon; their Web site is [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org). As a member of National Audubon, you enjoy BCAS chapter membership, receive the *Audubon* magazine, and a portion of your dues supports national programs.

For more information contact Priscilla Jarvis at 281-2762.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Friend of Bastrop County Audubon \$20**

Includes membership in BCAS, a subscription to the newsletter, *Bird Calls*, and invitations to all BCAS programs, events, and field trips.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to :*

**Bastrop County Audubon Society**

*Send to:* Alan Jaeger, Treasurer  
 117 Kaelepulu Dr  
 Bastrop 78602



**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, email [estx@earthsharetx.org](mailto:estx@earthsharetx.org) or call 1-800-GREENTX

# BCAS DUES SHARE REDUCED BY NAS

## HOW WILL BCAS SUPPORT ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & NEWSLETTER?

Did you know that in the past, part of the dues you paid to the National Audubon Society were sent on to the Bastrop County Audubon Society? That's how we have been able to produce this great newsletter, *Bird Calls*, and, in part, how we have been able to provide free educational material to local schools. The BAD NEWS is that NAS has reduced significantly the amount they send us, and they are planning to reduce it further, ultimately eliminating it completely. If you value Bastrop County Audubon's presence in the community, perhaps for *Bird Calls*, perhaps for the wonderful programs we host nine times a year, perhaps for the interesting field trips, we need your help. Please consider becoming a *Friend of Bastrop County Audubon*. It costs only \$20.00 a year. Thank you for your support of BCAS.

## FIELD TRIPS For the Birds



In November we explored Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory. Mary Ellen Branan reports on the variety of birds we saw (see back cover).

The trip to Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR was cancelled AGAIN due to nasty weather. Those Prairie Chickens really are elusive!

If you haven't signed up for our trip to Aransas NWR to see the Whooping Cranes (see the Census report in this issue), there may still be time to find a hotel room. Happy birding and hope to see you on one of our great field trips!

- ◆ February 20-22: Aransas NWR
- ◆ March 20: Barton Creek Habitat Preserve
- ◆ April 24: Lake Somerville
- ◆ May 22: Pedernales Falls

*Loretta Hennard, Field Trip Chair*  
512-321-3818

[www.BastropCountyAudubon.org](http://www.BastropCountyAudubon.org)

## BCAS Christmas Bird Count Results on Web Site

This year Bastrop County Audubon Society "Christmas" counts were actually performed on December 28. Below is the number of individual birds counted, the number of species, number of participants and other details for 2003. Christmas Bird Count Survey results are available for 1991-2003 (thirteen years!) on our web site.

### 2003 Results

Total (Individual birds)	12912
Species (approximate)	115
Participants (Human)	18
Parties (tea & other)	7
Party Hours (all night long. . .)	57.5
Hours Owling (who? who?)	1
Hours by foot	14
Hours by car	43.5
Miles by foot (not meter)	13.5
Miles by car	335.65
Total Miles	349.15

*Thanks to David Mitchell for coordinating our Christmas Bird Counts and supplying the data to our Webmaster for use on our web site.*



# TOM STEHN'S WHOOPING CRANE REPORT

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge  
January 4, 2004

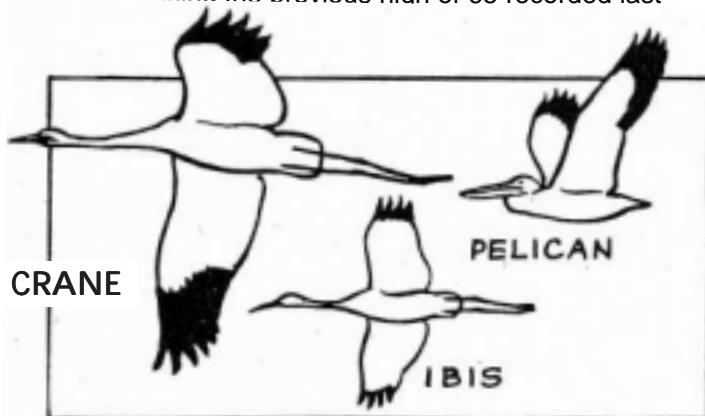
**Summary:** My census flight at Aransas on December 17th tallied 194 whooping cranes, presumably the highest total of whooping cranes at Aransas in 100 years. It surpasses the previous high of 188 in the fall of 1999, and is a notable increase from the peak of 185 cranes present last winter. The new arrivals included one additional family group, bringing the total of chicks to 25. This excellent production, combined with average mortality between spring and fall, accounts for the increase of 9 birds over last winter's total of 185.

**Report:** An aerial census on December 17, 2003 of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding areas estimated the number of whooping cranes present at 169 adults + 25 young = 194 total.

**Recap of cranes observed: (194)**  
adults + young  
Change from 12/10/03

Refuge	49	+ 9	
Lamar	5	+ 1	
San Jose	39	+ 7	
Matagorda	60	+ 6*	
Welder Flats	16	+ 2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>+ 25</b>	<b>=194</b>

\*The 66 cranes on Matagorda is a record total for that area surpassing the previous high of 65 recorded last



Report from [www.birdRockport.com](http://www.birdRockport.com) Check their web site for additional information on the Whooping Cranes.

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### THANKS!

To all the generous folks who have made our Annual Appeal a success. Please let our contributors know that you appreciate their generosity by saying "THANK YOU!" in person when you have a chance.

#### Annual Appeal Contributors

##### Individuals and Families

Minnie Bartsch  
Barbara Bogart  
Karl Collier  
Margie Crisp & Bill Montgomery  
Sharon Finlay  
Roger & Emily Hewitt  
Priscilla & Jeremiah Jarvis  
Maggie Lambert  
Ann Mesrobian & Tom Dureka  
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Lee Stone & George Avery  
Belinda & David Thompson  
George Urban  
Dorothy Wells & Gary Grief  
Herndon Williams

##### Business and Professional Donors

Aqua Water Supply  
W. T. Biel, MD  
Evergreen Farms  
First National Bank\*  
Ellen Hinds, DVM  
Nancy's Card & Gift Shop  
Powell's Printery

\* First National Bank also allows BCAS to use the Community room for our monthly meetings free of charge.

*A note from the Editor & Webmaster:* Donors are listed according to the BCAS's Editorial Committee's rules of alphabetization (?!). If you think a mistake was made, please don't take offense since it was done without malice.

# GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

## February 13-16

***It's Easy to Participate!*** All you need is basic knowledge of bird identification and access to the Internet at home, a friend's house, local library, school, or anywhere you can get access to the web. Here's what you do:

- **Count the birds in your backyard**, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area.
- **Watch the birds** for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. We recommend watching for a half-hour or more, so that you'll have a good sense of what birds are in your area.
- **How to count:** Your data will be used by scientists to analyze bird populations, so it is very important that everyone count their birds in exactly the same way. On the day(s) that you count, watch your bird feeders, or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park.

For each kind (species) of bird that you see, keep track of the **highest number of individuals** that you observe at any one time. Use a "Tally Sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Your tally sheet should look something like the following:

House Finch - 3, **5**, 3, 4    *High Count = 5*  
Blue Jay - 4, 3, **6**, 2    *High Count = 6*

Be careful not to count the same bird over and over! Don't add another Blue Jay to your tally every time you see a Blue Jay at the feeder. *You could be seeing the same individual again and again.* If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once!

- **At the end of the day** go to "Submit your bird checklist" on the GBBC site: [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org). Fill out the questions about your location, local habitat, and count duration. Then enter your high counts for each species sited on that day and location. You can submit one bird checklist for each day that you count or for each new area that you count in.

For example:

- If you count 4 days at one location, you'd submit 4 different checklists.
- If you count 4 days at 2 different locations each day, submit 8 checklists. And etc.
- **Problems Getting Access to the Internet?**  
**Want to participate but don't have access to a computer? Contact Margie Crisp for help: 512-281-5667**
- **Finally**, after you've submitted your data, explore the GBBC web site. Check our results section to see other reports from your community, and watch as data comes in from other areas. Have a look through our other pages, and find out other ways you can help birds. Enjoy!



The annual **Great Backyard Bird Count** is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited, Cornell Information Technologies and the National Resources Conservation Service.

The data you collect and submit will be used answer many questions, some of which are:

- How will this winter's snow and cold temperatures influence bird populations?
- Where are the WINTER finches and other irruptive species?
- Will late winter movements of many SONGBIRD and waterfowl species be as far north as they were last year?

The information collected by participants will be combined with Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch data to provide an immense picture of our winter birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more important and meaningful.



***We need every bird enthusiast in North America to count for the birds!***

# THE LEARNERS' CORNER

The February Learners' Corner will meet at 7 PM, before the general meeting, for another valuable segment from our video, "How to Start Watching Birds with Dianne Porter." Please join us!



## Here's a report on the field trip to Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory:

A good showing from BCAS joined the free monthly birding field trip at Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory early one Saturday morning in November. Under the expertise of leader Richard Kaskan we saw 60 species of birds. Among them: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Caracara, Orange-crowned Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Kestrel, Northern Flicker, Marsh Wren, Lesser Scaup, Pintail, Gadwall, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals, Eared Grebe, Snipe, and White-faced Ibis. If you haven't seen all these, you missed a life-bird opportunity!

*Mary Ellen Branan*



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## *Thank You*

to Powell's Printery in Elgin for their support.



R. G. Bell

**Bastrop County Audubon Society**  
c/o Jarvis  
783 Lower Elgin Rd.  
Elgin, TX 78621

**Return Service Requested**

If checked, your membership is due! Thank you for supporting BCAS.