



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

March 2005

Texas Living Waters

Jennifer Walker

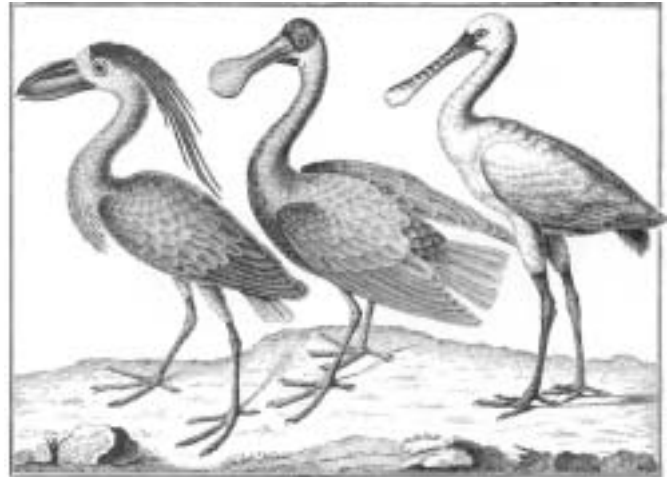
Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

Tuesday, March 15

7:30 P.M.

Jennifer Walker will talk about water planning and how it affects coastal areas and in turn how it effects the bird populations and distribution. Adequate amounts of freshwater are important for coastal habitat and wildlife. She will discuss some of the things going on right now in water planning that can affect the amount of water in our rivers, bays and estuaries.

Jennifer Walker is a Program Coordinator for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. She has a BS in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.



Jennifer works primarily on the Texas Living Waters Project and focuses her energy on water policy issues across the state with an emphasis on state water planning, conservation and bay and estuary protection issues.

Everyone is invited to join BCAS board members and Jennifer Walker for dinner before the meeting. Six P.M.. at Schlotzsky's Restaurant (on Hwy 71, near Walmart).

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Proposed Constitutional Revision

To be voted on at the April meeting

Current version of Article II (purpose), Section 1, of the Bastrop County Audubon Society Constitution:

Section 1. The purpose and objectives of this SOCIETY shall be to engage exclusively in any such educational, scientific, literary, historical and charitable pursuits as are set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation, if any, and said purposes and objectives conform to the provisions of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Proposed version:

Section 1. The purpose of this SOCIETY shall be to engage in educational, scientific and charitable pursuits regarding birds and other wildlife, both flora and fauna, directed at the appreciation and preservation of the natural environment, especially in, but not restricted to, Bastrop County. The nonprofit character of these pursuits conform to the provision of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Bastrop County Audubon Society meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August & December) in the Long Community Room of the First National Bank of Bastrop, 1020 Main Street, Bastrop. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments after the program.

President's Message

by Priscilla Jarvis
BCAS President



The Bastrop County Audubon Society is so fortunate to have you as a member. Our eclectic group contains so many talented, knowledgeable and personable individuals. I'm continually impressed with your generosity in time, effort and financial support.

We highly value our instructors and leaders for the Learners' Corner, monthly programs and field trips. We appreciate those who step up and volunteer to accomplish a project or task, especially when you fill in for and help someone else. Those folks who provide the scrumptious goodies at board and monthly meetings are to be complimented on their culinary skills.

We could not do without those who handle all our administrative needs which keep BCAS alive and thriving. Many board members spend a lot of time "behind the scenes" handling and maintaining our finances, membership, newsletter, correspondence, recordkeeping, web site, community education, public outreach and other critical activities. We have many reasons to be proud of ourselves.

You all deserve a big pat on the back for your continued support. Thank you so much. Working with you is such a pleasure!



The Terns

The birds shrug off
the slant air,
they plunge into the sea
and vanish
under the glassy edges
of the water,
and then come back,
flying out of the waves,
as white as snow,
shaking themselves,
shaking the little silver fish, crying out
in their own language,
voices like rough bells—
it's wonderful
and it happens whenever
the tide starts its gushing
journey back, every morning
or afternoon.



This is a poem about death,
about the heart blanching
in its fold of shadows
because it knows
someday it will be
the fish and the wave
and no longer itself—
it will be those white wings,
flying in and out
of the darkness
but not knowing it—
this is a poem about loving
the world and everything in it:
the self, the perpetual muscle,
the passage in and out, the bristling
swing of the sea.

From: House of Light by Mary Oliver
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Bird Calls is published by the Bastrop County Audubon Society. Submit information to:
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THE MARCH BCAS BOARD MEETING
will be held Sunday, March 13th at 4 P.M. in the home of Barbara & Jerry Harp. Potluck dinner following the meeting. Please call 512-581-0835 for directions.



FIELD TRIPS

Mary Ellen Braman, Field Trip Chair



JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, January 22, found us boarding the boat (capacity 41) for the Vanishing Texas River Cruise on Lake Buchanan to see the bald eagles. The weather was okay for January, and we had no complaints about the bracing gumbo, etc. served for lunch. The three eagles were high in the sky, but we agreed there were at least two juveniles, dark, with no white head or tail yet, and one bona fide adult. Most of us took the short trip up Highway 29 afterwards to see the three mature bald eagles at their nest of two eggs, birds and huge nest easily viewed from the highway shoulder. We don't know why there are three adults instead of two tending the nest. We spotted three loons diving on the lake and, more rarely, a green kingfisher. Over all, we listed at least 37 species for the trip. Winter is a great time to bird.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

We tried another week day jaunt February 23, with Stan Wellso and Priscilla Jarvis as co-leaders. The site was adjacent Tahitian Village and the Colorado River, recent acquisition of the Pines and Prairies Land Trust. A short hike allowed us to identify 26 species. Our other purposes, however, were to police the lighter trash as we moved along and to view the before scene as P&P plans its care and maintenance of the natural site. The high point was viewing a pair of red-shouldered hawks building a nest.

FINALLY, Eagle Lake/Atwater Prairie Chicken field trip is rescheduled for Saturday, April 9, departing from the rear parking area of Jalisco's in Bastrop, Hwy 71w, at 7:45 am. This field trip was postponed because the actual viewing of the booming endangered Atwaters is allowed only on this week end, period. For those, like me, who are determined to see this bird, the inconvenience of this date (the next week end after the Galveston Feather Fest) was less important than not seeing the bird at all. The Eagle Lake area abounds with many water fowl at various sites, especially the gated LCRA site, which I have arranged to include. Remember, the Eagle Lake Trip has been postponed the past two years due to inclement weather. Maybe we'll make it this time.

BCAS' MAJOR FIELD TRIP FOR 2004/5

Spring Migration in Galveston at FEATHER FEST,

a Top-Ranked Birding Festival

Thursday, March 31 thru Sunday, April 3, 2005

- Visit www.GalvestonFeatherFest.com for online registration or to print a mail-in form
- Registration of \$25.00 includes Thursday night reception Rooftop at the Fremont (hors d'hourvres, drinks), 6-9 P.M.; Friday night soiree at the History Museum (wine & cheese) with classical music and exhibit of John J. Audubon prints; admission to exhibitors' hall, tote bag and sleeve patch.
- March 18 deadline for preregistration; can be 100% cancelled until March 22; 50% until March 30.
- Examples of seminars by leading experts:
Shorebirds - the keys to identification, Fri or Sat, 2-4 P.M., \$15
Nature Photography - with opt. field trip, Fri or Sat 7:30-9:30 am, \$10
- Examples of field trips with expert leaders:
High Island - if you missed BCAS major trip in April 2003, here's chance to see the rookery and dozens of warblers, 8 hrs, \$45
5 different kayak trips! 3 hrs, \$30-35
Galveston Island Sampler - 4 hrs, Sunday, 8:30 am-2:30 P.M.
ETC - others to Texas City Dike, Pelican island, Anahuac, East Beach.
- Saturday Night Keynote Speaker and Dinner - Mark Lockwood on "The Ever-changing Birds of Texas," Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant, on the harbor. \$35

LODGING IDEAS

Phone 1-888-939-8680 for reservations at any inn in Houston, Galveston, Texas City, or Clear Lake. Feather Fest lists specials at Holiday Inn on the Beach (\$89 per night, children free); Sand Piper at Stewart Beach (\$50 per n.); Casa Del Mar suite w/ kit & lv rm \$70 Th, \$85 per Fri & Sat. Camping at Galveston Co. Parks, etc.

THE LEARNERS' CORNER

Please join us Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00—before the regular meeting—for another of our useful segments on birds and birdwatching. This month, Mary Ellen Branan will present a program on Yellow/Green Winter Birds.



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, E-mail estx@earthsharetexas.org or call 1-800-GREENTX

BCAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual membership \$20
- Family membership \$35
- Supporting membership \$75

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 _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to :

Bastrop County Audubon Society

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

Visit our Web site for updates and additional information on field trips, BCAS events, and other events of interest.

www.bastropcountyaudubon.org



R. G. Bell

Bastrop County Audubon Society
c/o Judy Ing
1005 Pine St.
Bastrop, TX 78602

Return Service Requested

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