



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

April 2004

Clockwise from top left: Green-eyes, Pine Warbler in Loblolly Pine, Southern Flying Squirrels, Sandylard Bluebonnets, Houston Toad.



Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Station, University of Texas. Image © Margie Crisp 2002

Lost Pines—A Unique Ecosystem

Rich Gray, Texas Forest Service

Tuesday, April 20, 2004 – 7:30 P.M.

Rich Gray, Regional Fire Coordinator and State Urban Wildland Interface Coordinator for the Texas Forest Service, will present a program on the Lost Pines. A unique island forest, the Lost Pines are the western most extension of the loblolly pine. Separated by about 100 miles from the pine forests of East Texas, species in the Lost Pines are particularly adapted to the drier conditions here and provide unique habitat for varied flora and fauna. Mr. Gray will discuss the inhabitants, both wild and human, of the Lost Pines and the natural processes that continually shape this unique ecosystem.

Mr. Gray graduated from Colorado State University with a BS in Range Forest Management with a concentration in wildlife. He previously worked for the Colorado State Forest Service as an Insect and Disease Forester, Assistant District Forester, and District Fire Management Officer. He also served as the County Forester and Law Enforcement Officer for the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

Everyone is invited to join the speaker and BCAS board members for dinner before the meeting at 6 P.M. at **Cartwright's Bar-B-Q** (490 Hwy 71 in front of the Wal Mart).

Bastrop County Audubon Society meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August & December) at 7:30 P.M. 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.

BCAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



APRIL 2004

Sunday, April 18 – Board Meeting: home of Gary Grief & Dorothy Wells, Bastrop, 303-2372

Tuesday, April 20 – Chapter Meeting: The Lost Pines–A Unique Ecosystem, Rich Gray, Texas Forest Service

Saturday, April 24 – Field Trip to Lake Somerville. See “Field Trips For The Birds” for meeting information.

MAY 2004

Sunday, May 16 – Board Meeting: home of Sharon Finlay, Bastrop, 303-3369

Tuesday, May 18 – Chapter Meeting: The Road to El Cielo, Fred & Marie Webster

Saturday, May 22 – Field Trip to Pedernales Falls. Time TBA

JUNE 2004

Sunday, June 16 – Board Meeting: home of Barbara & Jerry Harp, Cedar Creek, 581-0835

Tuesday, June 18 – Chapter Meeting: Backyard Habitats, Marya Fowler, National Wildlife Federation; Officers and Board of Directors ELECTION!

JULY & AUGUST 2004

No Chapter Meetings

SEPTEMBER 2004

Sunday, September 19 – Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 21 – Chapter Meeting

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 : Society. It is edited and produced by Margie Crisp, :
 : Maggie Lambert & Priscilla Jarvis. Contributors for this :
 : issue include Alan Jaeger, Mary Ellen Branan, Loretta :
 : Hennard, Sharon Finlay & Priscilla Jarvis. :
 : Deadline for next issue: **Friday, May 28th** :
 : PO Box 656, Elgin, TX 78621 :
 : Margie (512) 281-5667 or Maggie (512) 321- 2569 :
 : e-mail: Tiliqua2@earthlink.net :
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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).

Alternately, you may join National Audubon; their Web site is 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@earthsharetexas.org or call 1-800-GREENTX

Birdhouses for the Parks Annual Bird House Cleaning

On Saturday, February 28th, birdhouse cleaning crews assembled at Bastrop State Park. The teams spent a pleasant hour strolling the golf course cleaning out and checking the bluebird and chickadee nest boxes installed by BCAS. Out of 58 birdhouses, 11 old nests were cleaned out of the houses. Most were likely bluebird nests. One active titmouse building a nest in a bluebird house was reported by Gary Grief and Dorothy Wells. Two birdhouses had been damaged and were no longer functional. Six houses were missing or not found (there was evidence of tree trimming and brush clearing around the course). One new house was installed for Amy and Ed Sabina of Falmouth, Massachusetts, as thanks for the donation of our new slide projector (see Chapter News). Now Amy & Ed can tell their friends they own a custom-built cedar house in Bastrop, Texas—right on the golf course!

Thanks to Gary Grief, Dorothy Wells, Barbara & Jerry Harp, Mary Ellen Branan, Maggie Lambert, Sharon Finlay, Bill Montgomery, Stan Wellso and Margie Crisp.

FIELD TRIPS For the Birds



On April 24, we plan to be at Lake Somerville where the birds are gloriously provided for with grasslands, understory thickets, mud flats, woodlands along the many creeks, and the lake itself. Nearly a dozen birds nest there year-round, and almost as many more stop in for the winter. Perhaps most likely to be seen are the shorebirds—and we can hope to get a glimpse of a Double-crested Cormorant or even an Olivaceous Cormorant!

You can either register at the regular meeting on April 20, or call Loretta Hennard (512-321-3818). Let's meet in the parking lot behind Jalisco early (6:30 A.M.) on Saturday, April 24, to carpool. Bring a picnic lunch, plenty of water, bug spray, and all of your birding paraphernalia—

Happy birding and hope to see you on one of our great field trips!

- ◆ April 24: Lake Somerville
- ◆ May 22: Pedernales Falls

Loretta Hennard, Field Trip Chair
512-321-3818



CHAPTER NEWS

BCAS Receives \$1000 Grant

Bastrop County Audubon Society was awarded a \$1000 Chapter Grant from Audubon Texas and the Audubon Council of Texas to upgrade our technology capacity for educational presentations. We will use the money to purchase a multi-media projector for use with computer presentations at our regular meetings, for the Learners' Corner and our planned Speakers' Bureau.

Funds for the grant program are from the Audubon Foundation of Texas, through 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@earthsharetexas.org or call 1-800-GREENTX.

New Slide Projector

BCAS has also received a new slide projector. Many thanks to Amy & Ed Sabina of Falmouth, Massachusetts for donating the Kodak Carousel projector to BCAS. The projector has auto focus and BCAS has purchased a new zoom lens.

BCAS Officer & Board of Directors Elections

BCAS will hold its annual officer elections at the June chapter meeting. Nominations for officers and Board of Directors will be made at the May and June chapter meetings. If you or anyone you know would like to be part of this fun-loving and energetic group, please contact BCAS President Bill Montgomery at 512-281-5667 or tiliqua2@earthlink.net.

Native Grass Custom Mix for Bastrop & Lee Counties



BCAS member and Executive Director of the Pines and Prairies Land Trust, Tom Dureka (512-360-3045) has put together a native grass mixture of perennial grasses, suitable for a wide variety of soil types. He is selling it by the pound. Contact him directly if you are interested.

Little Bluestem—(*Schizachyrium scoparium*) 31%
Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) 9%
Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) 35%
Sand Lovegrass (*Ereogrostis trichodes*) 13%
Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) 12%

THE LEARNERS' CORNER

The April Learners' Corner will meet at 7 P.M., before the general meeting. Using the "Birds of Texas" software program, Sharon Findlay will teach us about warblers, especially those we expect to encounter in our area. Please join us!



Thank You



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FUNDRAISING NEWS

IT'S YESTERFEST TIME AGAIN!

**SATURDAY APRIL 24TH
BASTROP, TEXAS**

Join other BCAS volunteers at our booth at Yesterfest in downtown Bastrop. The festival runs from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

We will be selling bird feeders, t-shirts, and handing out information about membership, Hummingbirds, native plants and birdwatching.

Contact Judy Ing at 303-9599 or txjudying@yahoo.net if you want to help or have items to sell to help raise money for BCAS's educational programs.

For more information about Yesterfest: <http://yesterfestbastrop.com/>



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.