



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

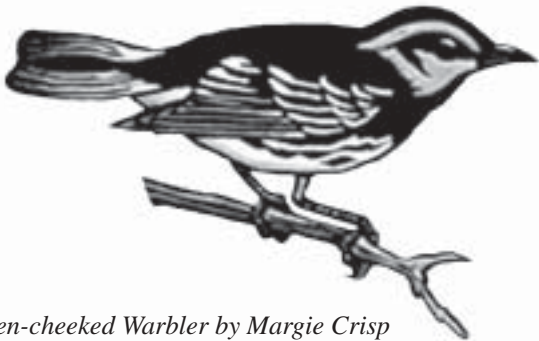
May 2005

Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge

Nancy Ragland

**Tuesday, May 17
7:30 P.M.**

Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1992 to protect the habitat of two endangered songbirds, the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. Doeskin Ranch is one of three areas open to public at the Refuge. The presentation will highlight the three hiking trails on the tract, each of which passes through a separate ecosystem, including riparian, grassland, and canyonland habitats. Ms. Ragland will emphasize the birds



Golden-cheeked Warbler by Margie Crisp



Black-capped Vireo by Margie Crisp

that can be found on the different trails as well as having a question and answer session about the Refuge after the presentation.

Nancy Ragland has been a docent at the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge for four years. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1999 with a bachelors in Geology and a bachelors in Geography and currently works at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. She has been birding, mostly in the Austin and Hill Country area, for seven years. Nancy is also a certified Texas Master Naturalist.

Everyone is invited to join BCAS board members and Nancy Ragland for dinner before the meeting. We will meet at six P.M. at the Roadhouse, 2804 East Hwy 21, across from the Bastrop State Park entrance.

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



Tuesday May 3rd, several Bastrop county friends joined me in the public protest of the Trans-Texas Corridor (HB 3588) at the State Capitol and to support HB 3363 to establish a two-year moratorium on development of the TTC while a comprehensive study of the plan is done. State Representatives, Senators, agency heads, county officials and citizens spoke to us from the Capitol steps, expressing various opinions on the TTC, all in opposition. State officials who support the TTC did not show up to explain their positions.

Individuals from many counties, who are not always in agreement on issues, banded together to express our dissent. The media was there to interview and film us in our yellow t-shirts, waving signs. We visited with the staffs (the Legislature was in session) and handed out information sheets asking them to oppose the TTC.

There are so many negative aspects about the TTC, I do not have room to list them all here. But a few that you may find disturbing include:

- The TTC plan adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission outlines 4,000 miles of Corridor to crisscross the entire state. The division of rural land by these wide Corridors will cause fragmentation of habitats and impose hardships on wildlife.
- As state land, the utility corridor and its water pipelines will be exempt from local ground water conservation district limits, and currently there is no law in place prohibiting that water from being transported outside of Texas.
- State TTC land will come off county and school district tax rolls, resulting in a loss of local property taxes.
- The law clearly allows the taking of additional land by eminent domain for "ancillary facilities" described as any unrelated industrial, commercial or agricultural use that benefits the Corridor (Sec. 227.08d (d)), as well as another section which allows adjoining right of way to be leased to a private entity for any purpose, including billboards, hotels, restaurants and gas stations (Sec. 370.172(a)(2)).

BCAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MAY 2005

May 15 – Board Meeting at the Elgin home of Bill Montgomery & Margie Crisp, 4 PM with potluck dinner following. 281-5667

May 17 – Chapter Meeting: Balcones Canyonland National Wildlife Refuge, Nancy Ragland

JUNE 2005

June 19 – Board Meeting at the Bastrop home of Sue Brubaker, 303-0440

June 21 – Chapter Meeting: Plants of the Lost Pines, Phil Schappert, Ph.D, Director, Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Station, University of Texas at Austin.

JULY & AUGUST 2005

No meetings in July & August. See you September 20th!

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

www.bastropcountyaudubon.org

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Bird Calls is published by the Bastrop County Audubon Society. Submit information to: Margie Crisp, PO Box 656, Elgin, TX 7862, E-mail: Tiliqua2@earthlink.net Margie (512) 281-5667 or Maggie (512) 321- 2569

- More than 580,000 acres will become government property used not only for transportation but also as State owned rental property in direct competition with private business.

If you are concerned about the Trans-Texas Corridor, please support HB 3363 and contact your own legislators or members of the House Transportation Committee and let them know. Pro-TTCorridor Rep. Mike Krusee is Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, 463-0670. Our representative is Robbie Cook, 463-0682. For more information see www.corridorwatch.org. The Texas Department of Transportation's site is: www.KeepTexasMoving.com. Additional information can also be found at www.i69corridorstudy.com

THE LEARNERS' CORNER

Please join us
Tuesday, May 17th
at 7:00– before the
regular meeting—for
a short program by
Conservation Co-chair
Bill Montgomery on
TEXAS TURTLES.



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@earthsharetx.org
or call 1-800-GREENTX

BCAS CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Imaginative self-starter with unlimited enthusiasm for bird watching, snacking and touring the countryside with fabulous, interesting friends needed to design & implement field trips for BCAS. Destinations up to individual. Perks include travel and great potluck dinners with the Board. Please apply forthwith to Pres. Priscilla Jarvis, 281-2762.

POSITION AVAILABLE

We need a friendly face to represent our group of dedicated, fun-loving birdwatchers and habitat protectors to the Bastrop County community at two or more local festivals a year (Hogeye in Elgin and Yesterfest in Bastrop). All equipment and additional help supplied. Jobsharing and flextime of this fundraising and friend-raising chairperson an option. Perks include meeting neat people and great potluck dinners with the Board. Please call Priscilla Jarvis!

WANTED

Creative persons to manage and distribute edibles at the June meeting. Please notify Sue Brubaker, 303-0440 if you can help with refreshments!



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.