



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

June 2005

## Floral Encounters of the Unusual Kind:

Flowering Plants & Ferns of the Lost Pines

*Phil Schappert, Ph.D.*

**Tuesday, June 21  
7:30 P.M.**

Dr. Phil Schappert, director of the Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Station, will introduce you to a number of the unusual or uncommon flowering plants and ferns of the Lost Pines. Some (like the annual sundew) are just plain strange, some (like the Navasota ladies tresses) are rare and uncommon, others have rather astounding ranges of variation in form or flower color while many (like the loblolly pine itself) are out of place and still others have unusual relationships with insects and butterflies.

In Dr. Schappert's words, "Many of the floral encounters that I have had have been entertaining and most have also been educational and informative because they show how all the bits and pieces fit together and support each other. It is my hope that this presentation will offer you a new appreciation and perspective of the plants and flowers with which we share this unique island of sandy pines and dry upland oak."

Phil Schappert received his doctorate, with distinction, in Biology at York University in Toronto, Canada. He has taught ecology and conservation biology but is currently devoting his time to research the evolution and ecology of butterfly/hostplant interactions at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the editor of the *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*, and has authored a number of magazine articles and



scientific papers about butterflies and their host plants. He and his wife, Pat, manage the Stengl "Lost Pines" Biological Station near Smithville, Texas. Recently he has organized a Lost Pines chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas to serve Bastrop, northern Fayette and western Lee counties. You can learn more about Phil & his work at <http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/philjs> or <http://www.aworldforbutterflies.com>

Everyone is invited to join BCAS board members and Phil & Pat Schappert for dinner before the meeting. We will meet at six P.M. at Cartwrights BBQ on Hwy 71 by Walmart.

**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.**

## HOT OFF THE PRESS:

*The New BCAS T-Shirts are Here!*



Our newest chapter t-shirt features a pair of Painted Buntings by Elgin artist David Brock. The t-shirts are 100% natural cotton (light tan in color) and are available in sizes medium, large and extra large for the stunning price of only \$13 each. All profits go to BCAS.

**A GREAT WAY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**

## THE LEARNERS' CORNER

Please join Sharon Finlay, BCAS Vice President, Tuesday, June 21st at 7:00—before the regular meeting—for another of our short introductory programs about birds, bird watching and other natural history pursuits.



# President's Message

by Priscilla Jarvis  
BCAS President



Do you want to have an enjoyable, rewarding experience while participating in a beneficial service? The Bastrop County Audubon Society has two projects planned for this fall which will benefit the folks who live in and visit our community, Bastrop State Park, our local Girl Scouts and naturally, the birds.

At our May meeting, two Girl Scouts and leaders requested our assistance for a birdhouse project. The Girl Scouts want to learn more about birds and their habitats and plan to retrofit or make and install blue-bird houses in the State park. Working together we will make a map of the locations for future "house-keeping". They made a presentation to BCAS and we readily agreed to help them in this conservation project. The Park is enthusiastic about this effort, especially since young people will be involved.

The second project is to build a bird blind in Bastrop State Park. With the approval of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Park, BCAS will select an appropriate site. The bird blind will be available to all visitors to the park. We will need to determine the design (not complicated), acquire materials (hopefully donated), and build the blind and possibly a walkway.

Please let me know how you can help with these projects. We have these great opportunities to promote conservation in our county but cannot do it without YOU! We can make our work days most enjoyable, including inviting family and friends to participate in bird watching, picnics and general frivolity. Stay tuned for further information as these projects develop.

Have a fabulous summer!

## BCAS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### JUNE 2005

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

**DATE CHANGE: June 26** – Board Meeting at the Bastrop home of Sue Brubaker, 303-0440

### 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](http://www.bastropcountyaudubon.org)

*Bird Calls* is published by the Bastrop County Audubon Society. Submit information to:  
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**Return Service Requested**