



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

September 2004



Butterflies of Texas

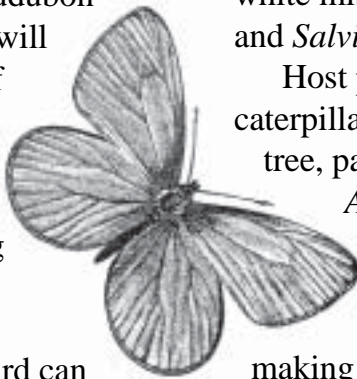
John Kelly

Tuesday, September 21

7:30 P.M.



John Kelly, board member and conservation chair of the Travis Audubon Society and a butterfly enthusiast, will present a program on Butterflies of Texas to the Bastrop County Audubon Society on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. at the First National Bank Building Long Community Room.



white mistflower, Texas lantana, Turk's cap, and *Salvia greggii*.

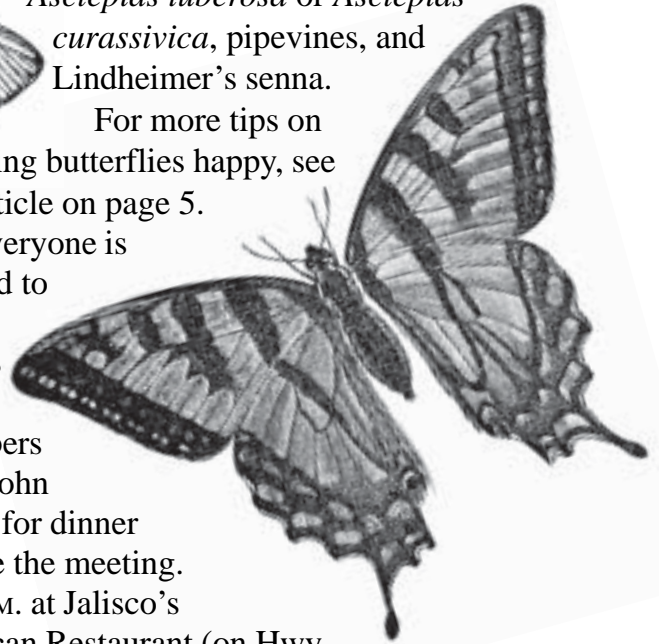
Host plants, which will provide food for caterpillars, include wafer ash or toothache tree, passion-flower vines, milk-weeds like

Asclepias tuberosa or *Asclepias curassivica*, pipevines, and Lindheimer's senna.

For more tips on making butterflies happy, see the article on page 5.

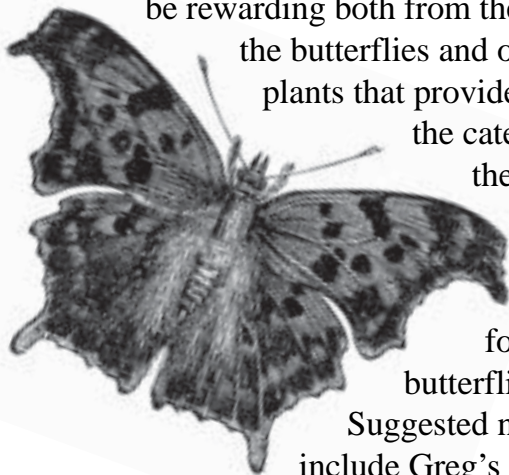
Everyone is invited to join BCAS board members and John Kelly for dinner before the meeting.

Six P.M. at Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant (on Hwy 71, near Tractor Supply).



Attracting butterflies to your yard can be rewarding both from the beauty of the butterflies and of the host plants that provide food for the caterpillars and the nectar plants which provide food for the butterflies.

Suggested nectar plants include Greg's mistflower,



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.

BCAS CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER 2004

Sunday, September 19 – Board Meeting at the home of Mary Ellen Branan, Bastrop, 303-2734. Call for directions to Mary Ellen's new nest.

Tuesday, September 21 – Chapter Meeting, John Kelly, Butterflies of Central Texas.

Saturday, September 25 – Field Trip to Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory. Time TBA. Contact Mary Ellen Branan for more information 303-2734.

OCTOBER 2004

Sunday, October 17 – Board Meeting location TBA

Tuesday, October 19 – Chapter Meeting, Prairie Restoration for Grassland Birds, Jay Kane, Native American Seeds

NOVEMBER 2004

Sunday, November 14 – Board Meeting at the home of Priscilla Jarvis, Elgin, 281-2762

Tuesday, November 16 – Chapter Meeting, Jennifer McMahon, National Wildlife Federation, Texas Living Water Project–Keeping Texas Springs and Rivers Flowing for Wildlife and the Segments of Our Economy Which Depend on Them.

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

www.bastropcountyaudubon.org

2004-2005 Bastrop County Audubon Society Board of Directors

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President's Message

“Make new friends but keep the old; one is silver and the other gold.” Do you

remember this little song which is usually sung as a round? Making new friends while cherishing your old friends is one of the splendid benefits of belonging to the Bastrop County Audubon Society.

Each fall, we look forward to renewing those friendships we have enjoyed during the previous year.

I extend a warm welcome to our new board members, George Urban and Sue Brubaker. And I especially appreciate our former board members who agreed to be on the board again this year. Hip hip hooray for each of you!

This fall starts another exciting year of attending interesting programs, going on field trips, making and installing birdhouses in parks and preserves, providing educational materials to teachers, distributing information about Audubon to the community and working with other groups to protect the birds, animals, plants and habitat in Bastrop County.

We also have challenges ahead as Bastrop County becomes more urbanized and rural land is lost to development. As our population grows, we have the opportunity to reach out to newcomers to visit our meetings and join BCAS.

We look forward to being with you and welcome your involvement. Each of you has something to offer and the board encourages your participation in our activities. Please do not hesitate to reach me at 281-2762 or pjflamingo@flash.net if you have suggestions, ideas or questions.

I look forward to seeing each of you in September!

**Priscilla Jarvis
BCAS President**



SUMMER VACATION

Journal excerpt, Margie Crisp, August 2004

We're back from Arizona.* We had a terrific time with the absolute highlight of finding a nest of Elegant Trogons. At first I thought the brown back and flash of a white eye spot I saw was just an American Robin but since the bird landed high in a pine I took a closer look and discovered I was looking at the back of a female Elegant Trogon. Just as I was squealing and pinching Bill, the more colorful male flew to the opposite side of a large, barkless, dead pine next to us. Since we couldn't see around the trunk, we didn't know what it was doing and then it quickly flew away.

We cautiously made our way up the trail to get a look at the tree trunk and saw that it was full of woodpecker nest holes and Acorn Woodpecker cache holes. I said to Bill, “What do Trogons eat?” just as the female flew up and landed in the original pine tree with a mouthful of green katydid (yes, we were that close). Ask a question and get an answer! She flew over to the dead pine, dove into one of the entrance holes and the strange keening sound that we'd been hearing reached a sudden crescendo of loud nestling demands. The female poked her head out of the cavity, looked around for a moment and then launched herself off in search of more food for the loud and hungry babies. We watched the parents shuttling insects to the hidden nestlings for a good twenty minutes then continued up the canyon to find a bevy of Red-faced, Graces' and Black-throated Grey warblers; Painted Redstarts; Bridled Titmice; Mexican Chickadees, Brown Creepers, White-breasted Nuthatches—oh it was just fabulous. There were loads of lizards and rattlesnakes to make Bill happy too.

** Margie Crisp and her husband Bill Montgomery were camping and hiking in the Chiricahua Mountains in SE Arizona.*

Share Your Stories & Experiences!

We would love to hear about your summer vacation, your best birdwatching experience or your favorite bird! Share your stories by calling Editor Margie Crisp at 281-5667, e-mail tiliqua2@earthlink.net or call any of our board members (see list of names & phone numbers on opposite page).

We want to hear from you!



BIRD BOOKS FOR LIBRARIES

By Priscilla Jarvis

Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville Public Libraries Receive Donations from Bastrop County Audubon Society

The Bastrop County Audubon Society (BCAS) presented checks to Mickey DuVall, Bastrop, Sandy Ott, Elgin and Karen Bell, Smithville to purchase nature books for their libraries. BCAS provided a list of recommended field guides and other nature books for adults and children.

The BCAS focuses on children's education in natural history through support of libraries and school programs. Librarians Mickey, Sandy and Karen expressed their appreciation for the donations and invite teachers and others to make use of our public libraries' reference books and other resources. The BCAS appreciates our members who provide funds to support our fabulous libraries in Bastrop County.

Photos from top to bottom:
BCAS president Priscilla Jarvis (l) and Education Chairs Mary Anne & Jim Casey (r) present Smithville Librarian Karen Bell with a check.

BCAS president Priscilla Jarvis (l) and Board member Maggie Lambert (r) present Elgin Librarian Sandy Ott with a check.

Bastrop Librarian Mickey DuVall accepts a check from Program Chair Gary Grief.





Making Butterflies Happy

By Dorothy Wells

To make the butterflies happy, some simple suggestions are helpful:

1. Plant a large group of the same plant to attract attention.
2. Provide windbreaks.
3. Water at the root zone, so you don't wash nectar out.
4. Provide safe harbor for vulnerable chrysalides, by resisting the urge to tidy up dead stalks in your garden.
5. Provide year-round nectar. Some butterflies overwinter and come out on mild winter days.
6. Include some flat rocks or bare ground for sunbathing butterflies.

Male butterflies are attracted to puddling stations, which can provide salts needed for reproduction. Kelly Bender, an urban biologist at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, suggests the following recipe for creating a puddling station. Sink a wide, shallow bucket into the soil and fill it to about 1.5 inches from the top with coarse builder's sand. Allow a hose to dribble water into the sand until the water comes to the top of the sand. Sprinkle a layer of salt just to cover the sand. You can also apply composted manure. Add another layer of sand, no more than 0.25 inch deep, over the salt and manure, and dribble more water until the water level approaches the top of the sand.

Thanks to Coby Dinges, Native Texas Butterfly Nursery, and Travis Audubon Society for information contained in this article.

BECOME A MEMBER OF BASTROP COUNTY AUDUBON and all of your dues will be used to support local conservation and education. If you wish, you may join BCAS through our Web site

www.bastropcountyaudubon.org

Alternately, you may join National Audubon; simply follow the NAS membership instructions on our Web site. As a member of National Audubon, you will enjoy three complimentary issues of the BCAS chapter newsletter, *Bird Calls*, and receive the *Audubon* magazine.

For more information, please contact Membership Chair Judy Ing at 303-9599

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



Bird Calls is published by the Bastrop County Audubon Society. It is edited and produced by Margie Crisp, Maggie Lambert, Priscilla Jarvis & Judy Ing. Contributors for this issue include Dorothy Wells, Priscilla Jarvis, Alan Jaeger, Mary Ellen Branan & Sharon Finlay. Deadline for next issue: **October 28th**
PO Box 656, Elgin, TX 78621
Margie (512) 281-5667 or Maggie (512) 321- 2569
E-mail: Tiliqua2@earthlink.net

THE LEARNERS' CORNER

Please join us Tuesday, September 21 at 7:00—before the regular meeting—for another of our useful segments on birds and birdwatching lead by BCAS Vice President Sharon Finlay.



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

FIELD TRIPS

**Field Trip Saturday, September 25
Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory
Time TBA.**

The schedule is pretty sketchy—should we say flexible—right now for the fall field trips. Let's start, however, with an easy but always fascinating excursion to Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory (about 20 miles from Bastrop downtown off Hwy 71 on FM 973) on September 25, to see how the fall migration is progressing. I do hope to reschedule the field trips canceled by bad weather last year which included: Lake Somerville, Eagle Lake/Attwater, and Barton Creek Habitat Preserve. It's more fun to have a committee to plan with. If interested, call me at 303-2734, and we will get together.

For more information about Hornsby Bend, visit their web site: www.hornsbybend.org

Mary Ellen Branan, Field Trip Chair



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.