



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

January Program

Changes in Bird Populations: Our continent, our county and our backyards.

The main program includes Jan Goebel on "Survival by Degrees", Luke Thompson describing "Winter species on the Colorado", and Susan Leslie on "New Bird Survival Tactics in Your Backyard."

In addition, several members have great photos of birds seldom seen in Bastrop County, from the recent Christmas Bird Count, one of the most important citizen science efforts Americans produce.

This 90-minute program provides 1.0 hour of continuing education for Master Naturalists and Gardeners and includes Mike Goebel's famous Bird of the Month.

Field Trip Reports

Over the holidays the annual Christmas Bird Count was conducted. Locally, we had members who participated in two of these. Jan Goebel file the following reports.

LOST PINES CBC – DECEMBER 28, 2019

The mild Christmas day weather continued for this year's LPPCBC making it the warmest CBC I have ever participated in, 70 degrees on the car in the afternoon! Okay, so it was cloudy and there were occasional short showers which probably added to the lower total count at the end of the day. All teams reported that the volume of birds was down especially the number of ducks and American Bald Eagles (2). Unofficially the Count was 102 species, the lowest count in this Circle since it started some ten years ago.

Bird species highlights for this year LPCBC were: Snow Goose, American White Pelicans, American

Woodcock, Say's Phoebe, and yes, a Greater Roadrunner.

A big thank you goes to McKinney Roughs/LCRA for sponsoring the Count and to Nicholas Cowey as Compiler. The breakfast tacos and pizza were so very welcomed by the teams going out and coming back in. The Mountain Bluebird tee shirt you gave us looks great! Special thanks to Eric for bringing in 2 of his raptors, Ronan and Albert, for some fun learning and flying lessons.

Thanks to the volunteer section teams for birding all day in the name of citizen science and to the Circle landowners for access to bird on their property. This is the 120th year of the National Audubon CBC contributing to community science across the country. I'm looking forward to next year already!

Jan Goebel



A SAY'S PHOEBE

BASTROP-BUESCHER CBC – JANUARY 1, 2020

We had a cloudy day for this Count, the temperature was 50-55 degrees all day and no/low breeze which

Our Mission: To promote the conservation, restoration and enjoyment of natural resources and habitats for birds and other wildlife

made for very pleasant birding. Unofficial total was 115 species for the 42nd BBCBC Circle.

A bonus this year was a team boat birding the Colorado River for 14 miles. Luke Thompson said they saw "an island of Wild Turkeys" on a sandbar, lots of Green and Belted Kingfishers and 10 American Bald Eagles!

The Circle highlights were: Snow Goose, Common Raven, Blue-headed Vireo, LeConte's Sparrow and 16 American Bald Eagles.

Cindy Layton and Ron Martin were on my team, Section 1b. We had a fun day with many flocks of American Robins and Eastern Bluebirds at every stop. At one point we counted 10 Bluebirds on one wire at the same time! We still don't take those Red-headed Woodpeckers for granted; we saw 7 of them this year. You can find them off Alum Creek Rd and Park Rd 1C. A pair of juvenile American Bald Eagles were spotted playing in a field off Gotier Trace.

Big thanks to Shelia Hargis as our Compiler and coordinator for this Count. More thanks to the teams of volunteers birding for the day, the Countdown at Casa Chapala was fun comparing notes. Special thanks to the private property owners in the Circle for letting us bird and to the Bastrop and Buescher State Parks.

Cheers to a Very Birdy Year 2020,

Jan Goebel

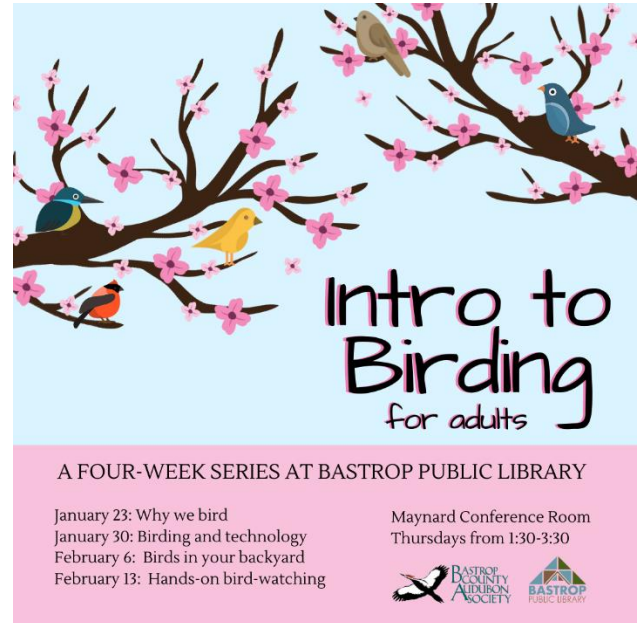
Upcoming Events

INTRO TO BIRDING FOR ADULTS JANUARY 23-FEB 13

This new course is being brought to you by BCAS in conjunction with Bastrop Public Library as part of our City's participation the "Bird City Texas" program.

The following classes will be offered at the Bastrop Public Library's Maynard Conference Room. Times for the classes are 1:30p-3:30p. Subjects being offered are as follows:

- January 23rd: "Why We Bird"
- January 30th: Birding and technology
- February 6th: Birds in your backyard
- February 13: Hands-on birdwatching

A poster for an introductory birding series. The top half features a light blue background with a dark brown branch adorned with pink cherry blossoms. Several colorful birds are perched on the branch: a blue jay, a yellow warbler, a red cardinal, and a blue bird. The text "Intro to Birding for adults" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below the illustration, a pink banner contains the text "A FOUR-WEEK SERIES AT BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY". To the left, the schedule is listed: "January 23: Why we bird", "January 30: Birding and technology", "February 6: Birds in your backyard", and "February 13: Hands-on bird-watching". To the right, it says "Maynard Conference Room Thursdays from 1:30-3:30". At the bottom right, there are logos for the "BASTROP COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY" and "BASTROP PUBLIC LIBRARY".

LOST PINES GARDEN CLUB: JANUARY 14, 2020 – 6:30PM – 8:00PM

The Lost Pines Garden Club provides information on the opportunities and challenges of gardening in the Bastrop County area. The program for our Lost Pines Garden Club meeting on Tuesday January 14 will be "Native Texas Flora, Birds, and Butterflies". The presentation will be by Mary Odessa Parker, author of "Explore Texas, a Nature Trail Guide" and her husband did the photography. Their work has appeared in several publications. The club meeting starts at 6:30 pm at the Bastrop Public Library with snacks and socialization, club business starting at 7:00 pm followed by the program. The meeting is open to the public at no charge. Information on the club is at www.lostpinesgarden.org

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT – FEBRUARY 14-FEBRUARY 17

The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up soon. This annual event is now in its 23rd year and gives an opportunity for all those interested in birds to contribute to a Citizen Science event, regardless of their time, or physical constraints. You may not be able to dedicate a whole day, or maybe no longer to trek around state parks, but you can still do your bit!

This event helps to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You can participate by allotting as little as 15 minutes!

Last year’s effort resulted in participation in more than 100 countries and tallied more than 6,400 species. More than 180,000 checklists were submitted.

For more information on the GBBC, how to participate and instructions, follow this link.

<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Your Bastrop County Audubon Membership for 2020 - Due January 1

This birding year has flown by and it's time to renew your BCAS annual membership for 2020.

You may renew on our website bastropcountyaudubon.org/join-us

or pay by check via U.S. mail (address below) or pay directly at one of our monthly meetings with cash, check or credit card.

Our annual dues structure remains the same as years past:

Individual	\$20
Family	\$35
Youth	\$5
Sponsor	\$75

Thank you for your support of Audubon and the programs, education and conservation projects we bring to Bastrop County about birds and other wildlife.

This is YOUR Newsletter!

If you have enjoyed a recent trip that including birding, we would love to publish a report of your trip. Please make submissions to the newsletter through the BCAS email address published at the end of this newsletter. We are also always on the lookout for pictures of birds that have been taken in Bastrop County, especially rarities or “lifers”.

Title your email “Newsletter Submission”.

Upcoming Events

Jan 21, Tuesday: -

5p - Pre-meeting Dinner, Cedars Mediterranean Grill

7p – BCAS Meeting & program. 1st National Bank, Bastrop, 2nd floor meeting room (doors open @ 6:30p)

Feb 6, Thursday – BCAS Committee meeting.

Bastrop Library 6p

Feb 14-17 Great Backyard Bird Count (see article)

Feb 18, Tuesday: -

5p - Pre-meeting Dinner, Cedars Mediterranean Grill

7p – BCAS Meeting & program. 1st National Bank, Bastrop, 2nd floor meeting room (doors open @ 6:30p)

Bird Calls is published online and in paper copy by Bastrop County Audubon Society monthly except during July and August. We invite letters, articles, news tips, reviews of books and events, poems, cartoons and photos appropriate to the mission. Material should be submitted to the Editor at Bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com