



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

September Program

Shelia Hargis



Shelia Hargis has been birding for 25 years and loves birds! She loves all aspects of being a birder - watching the birds in her backyard to traveling to other countries to see birds. She spends most of her free time birding or thinking about birds. Seriously, this is no exaggeration! Shelia gives presentations on a variety of bird topics, teaches classes for Travis Audubon, surveys birds for the City of Austin and the North American Breeding Bird Survey as well as private landowners, and regularly leads birding field trips. She is Past President of both Travis Audubon and Texas Ornithological Society.

On Tues September 7, Shelia will be presenting on the Hummingbirds of Austin. Birds are amazing beings. Hummingbirds are potentially the most amazing of all birds. They have abilities that other birds don't have, and their willingness to take advantage of free food from humans makes them

favorites of birders and non-birders alike. This presentation will cover some of those abilities as well as their life history and introduce the numerous species that call the Austin/Bastrop area home for some portion of the year. That's ten species for Travis County, and nine species for Bastrop County according to eBird!

Meeting Details

Due to concerns about the Covid-19, and in particular the virulence of the Delta variant, the BCAS Board voted to conduct the September and October meetings by ZOOM.

As a member you should have received a prior email detailing how to join the meeting. If you did not or require a "refresher" please [contact us](#).

The President's Perch

Welcome to a new year of Bastrop County Audubon Society. Those of you who are new to Audubon may not realize that an "Audubon year" begins July 1st, doubly confusing since we normally do not meet in July and August. But the date is important for several reasons such as it begins our financial reporting, data for chapter reports starts on that date, and club officers and boards members duties begin July 1st. And we have been out there working for you, lining up exciting programs for the new year, bringing on new members, staying current with National Audubon and handling our Bird City duties. As I write this first President's Perch of my term, I must remind you that, in a moment of utter folly, you elected to a second term Mike Goebel as your President. But to your great fortune he has a solid and experienced board to keep him from too much mischief.

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

The year 2022 will mark Bastrop County Audubon's fortieth anniversary, a year celebrated by gifts of ruby. We plan to have some fun with that. A few of those early members are still active with the club. Could there be pictures?

Bird City activities have continued, and the city together with Master Naturalists, the Garden Club, Audubon, and others will establish a nature garden at Bob Bryant Park. BCAS will donate a Purple Martin (PUMA) house as part of the garden. We have already had a site visit from [Purple Martin Propagators](#), and they think the location is good. Turns out, Martins want to be close to people. They have come to associate us with home and safety. Plans are to have it installed by January, in time for the Martin's return. The first year will require a bit more effort by us to get the colony established and I hope I can count on some of you to help. It's interesting work and you will learn a lot about Martins. So, it turns out that mature Purple Martins tend to return to the nest site they used the previous year and they come early (males first by a few weeks), that means January for Bastrop County. Then weeks or months later, the Martins returning to breed for the first time arrive looking for a new home. These will be our birds the first year the house is up. The issue will be that we will have to open the house in January "just in case" we get some birds, but it might not be until February or March that our birds actually arrive. So, "what problem?" you say; "House Sparrows and Starlings" I say. You must keep them out or they will take over.

We have a new Field Trip Director, Louise Ridlon. We are trying to decide when we can have a safe field trip to get out and see some birds. Stay tuned. As part of Bird City we have been holding "Big Sits" the fourth Saturday of every month at rotating locations, 8:30 – 10:00 am. You can follow Bird City and keep up with the big sit locations at

www.facebook.com/birdcitybastrop texas.

Go to that site to discover how to get texts or email alerts for the events.

Finally, due to Covid 19, First National Bank closed their meeting room to the public and could not tell us when or if it would be available again. Your board

had to act to secure a new meeting location for BCAS, and we were fortunate to land a spot at the Bastrop Library. We were unable to keep our old meeting date, so we will now meet the first Tuesday of each month (ex. July and August). We have the room 6-9 pm, doors open 6:30 pm, meeting begins 7:00 pm, and a hard finish by 9 pm as the library closes. It's a great room, lighted parking, security, central location, and we can have hospitality if we wish.

So, that's all for this month – stay birdy!

Mike Goebel

President, Bastrop County Audubon Society.

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 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

Sept 7, Tuesday, 7:00pm: - BCAS meeting and program ZOOM

Sept 10, Saturday, 8:30am: - Bird City Bastrop Little Hike, Colorado River Refuge, Two Bridges Trail

Sept 16, Thursday, 8:30 am: – BCAS Committee meeting. ZOOM. 6:00pm

Sept 25, Sat, 8:30 am: – Bird City Bastrop BIG SIT – Bob Bryant Park

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