



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

Annual Meeting

The business portion of the May 17 meeting is the Annual Meeting required in the BCAS By-laws. This year, the bi-annual election of officers and directors is a priority for the Annual Meeting.

A quorum of members in good standing is required for the election. Members not attending may designate a proxy to vote for them. If you know you'll be unable to attend the annual meeting, contact Priscilla Jarvis at 512-281-2762 or at pjflamingo@flash.net so she can obtain your proxy.

A nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for consideration, and members may nominate from the floor before voting. Any suspensions, amendments, or changes in by-laws may be offered for vote by the membership.

Financials, the organization's events and achievements of the past fiscal year, and new projects and goals for the future will be reviewed.

bastropcountyaudubon.org

Web Site Report: Planning to Travel?

You can efficiently research birding whatever your destination because the BCAS web angels already have put the links at your finger-tips.

Go to Links on the BCAS web site and choose Natural History Resources, which in turn compiles links and other sources of information on ornithology (also on butterflies and beetles). Select to see Electronic Resources on Ornithology for live links to "A Field Guide to Australian Birds," "Botswana and Zimbabwe Birding," "Birds of Costa Rica," and other links in South and Central America, Europe, the Middle East, Far East, New Zealand and Australia, Africa, Canada, etc.. You'll be amazed.

Program for May 17: Ranger Kristen Williams

The Volunteer Coordinator/Interpreter for Bastrop and Buescher State Parks hit the ground running in this time of floods, fires, and droughts to carry out a variety of events to reopen and maintain the parks' attractions. For the manpower she explores the community resources to grow a cadre of volunteers.

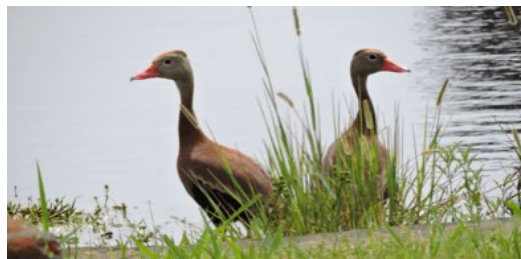
Williams will inform us of what's going on in her realm and inspire us on opportunities on how BCAS can enlarge our scope in volunteering in the parks. She will report on the status of recovery at this point.

Join us at the First National Bank Meeting Room, Hasler at Hwy. 71 in Bastrop. Doors open at 6:30.

A few of her projects include the return of the weekly guided nature hike, removing invasives, clearing hiking trail bridges blocked by flood debris, and planting pine saplings in BSP and now also along Park Road 1C, with a goal of 30,000 saplings.

BCAS has maintained nest boxes in both state parks for about ten years. We perform bird counts in the parks (field trips). In the past we participated in a fall festival, sponsored building a wildlife viewing stand which burned up in 2011, and donated funds for control of erosion after the fire.

Meet up at Cedars Mediterranean at 5:00 p.m. for dinner before the meeting. RSVP ssimon@yahoo.com.



May 1 photo in Bastrop State Park by S. Pyrczak:

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



Field Report

**Hornsby Bend (HOTE 037), Travis, Texas,
US Apr 1, 2016 2:04 PM - 4:08 p.m.**
**Comments: Audubon Texas field trip prior to the
McKinney Roughs meeting.**

What a great two hours of birding we had at Hornsby Bend on April 1. The best birds were American Golden-Plover and two calling Barred Owls. For some, the six Upland Sandpipers trying to fly north into a headwind were memorable. The Black-necked Stilts were crowd-pleasers as were the Eared Grebes, at least one of which was in breeding plumage. Including the leaders Mike and Jan Goebel and Jane Tillman, there were 20 people on the field trip. Conditions were overcast, 53 deg., and a stiff north wind of about 15 mph.
Total: 55 species

Wood Duck 1
American Wigeon 5
Blue-winged Teal 16
Northern Shoveler 14
Green-winged Teal 4
Redhead 2
Lesser Scaup 53 careful count on pond 2
Ruddy Duck 1
Pied-billed Grebe 1
Eared Grebe 12
Black Vulture 2
Turkey Vulture 2
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
American Coot 25
Black-necked Stilt 7
American Golden-Plover 2
Killdeer 5
Spotted Sandpiper 2
Solitary Sandpiper 1
Greater Yellowlegs 1
Lesser Yellowlegs 2
Upland Sandpiper 6 flying into the north wind, calling
Stilt Sandpiper 1
Baird's Sandpiper 1
Least Sandpiper 50
Pectoral Sandpiper 4
Wilson's Snipe 7
Wilson's Phalarope 1
White-winged Dove 1
Mourning Dove 38
Barred Owl 2 calling at about 3:25 down by pond 3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker 1
Crested Caracara 1
Eastern Phoebe 2
White-eyed Vireo 2

Editorial Opinion

Why Join a Board of a Society --

by Roy Smallwood

The following essay, published originally in the May, 2012, issue of Bird Calls, is evidence again of the range of Roy's talents and contributions to BCAS.

As an avid birder, I submit by birding we become aware of and intensely involved in our surroundings, in nature itself. I live with the conviction that we, as individuals and as a species, are a part of nature—not apart from nature. As a part of nature we are compelled to engage in responsible stewardship. We are, in fact, endowed with the wherewithal to do so. Whether it is from pessimism or optimism we approach stewardship, it is clear the collective can accomplish great things and small enhancements. The mutual benefits of a societal effort are the visible and outward sign of our belief in the common good, the balance of nature, and prosperity for ourselves. Once convinced of this we begin as individuals to do our part, to effect a change in our own behavior, decisions, and activities. Thence, we become involved in organizations with whom we find congress and common purpose.

Ultimately, the decision to step into a leadership role becomes the logical conclusion. With that decision, one gains an enhanced perspective, friendships, and connections to the community. It enables the employment of skills one already possesses and the acquisition of new ones. It provides an avenue to become actively involved in one's community. It provides opportunity to live one's beliefs.

American Crow 2
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 1
Purple Martin 21
Barn Swallow 13
Cliff Swallow 3
Carolina Wren 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 singing in the parking lot at the end of the field trip
Eastern Bluebird 2
Northern Mockingbird 3
European Starling 6
American Pipit 4
Chipping Sparrow 3
Savannah Sparrow 24
Lincoln's Sparrow 1
Northern Cardinal 4
Red-winged Blackbird 4
Great-tailed Grackle 15 by the entrance to Hornsby
House Finch 2
House Sparrow 3

Jane Tillman, Travis Audubon, co-leader



BCAS & Tree Folks —Happiness on April 19 as Treasurer Alan Jaeger extends the BCAS donation in memory of Roy Smallwood to Matt Mears of Tree Folks. L to R: Jan and Mike Goebel, daughter Kate Smallwood, Pam Smallwood, Allan, Matt, and Priscilla Jarvis. Pam Smallwood recalled “These were indeed Roy’s two favorite non-profits!” The donation is earmarked for Lost Pines forest restoration in Bastrop County. Mears was bowled over by members’ passion for birds (his is for trees) that he witnessed during our April meeting. The donation was funded by individual memorial contributions matched from BCAS’ general revenue.

photo by Judy Turner

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

By Priscilla Jarvis

Ask not what the birds can do for you but what you can do for the birds. The same might be said for the Bastrop County Audubon Society.

We have accomplished a lot for a small Audubon Society. Thanks to our dedicated board and other members who have contributed to our successes, which include:
 Entertaining, educational programs which start out with the popular “Bird of the Month”;
 Initiating a social time at a restaurant before the monthly meeting;
 Providing the Bird Calls newsletter;
 Helping host and participating in the Texas Audubon Chapter Assembly;
 Identifying birds and enjoying friends on field trips;
 Spreading cheer and providing educational materials at the Bastrop Festival of Lights;
 Showing children how to use binoculars and identify birds;
 Maintaining bluebird houses in the two state parks;
 Participating in Christmas bird counts;
 Supporting the National Audubon Society Climate Change Initiative.

To achieve more successes, BCAS needs participation by more of our members. Could you provide or arrange for a monthly program? Could you organize a field trip? Could you take a shift at our booth in a nature event? Is there a conservation issue that concerns you? What could you do to fulfill yourself while helping BCAS in its mission?

Climate Report from National Audubon

Habitat for Birds Can Be Grown Around Solar Fields

In Minnesota, a proposed bill would encourage new solar facilities to plant native plants such as grasses and wildflowers onsite—providing beneficial habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Solar energy is growing in the state, thanks in part to a statewide goal to generate 10 percent of its electricity from solar by 2030. This proposed legislation sets standards to define pollinator-friendly habitat around photovoltaic installations, with standards developed and overseen by the state's Department of Natural Resources and Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Bird Calls is published by Bastrop County Audubon Society monthly except during the summer. We invite letters, articles, news tips, event reviews, book reviews, poems, cartoons, and photos appropriate to the mission. The deadline for the next issue is noon on the last day of the preceding month. Submit material to mbranan@austin.rr.com. Or send by mail Editor, 216 Schaefer Blvd., Bastrop TX 78602, ph. (512) 303-2734. Editor, Mary Ellen Branan, PhD.

BCAS
c/o Dru Gabrysch
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Return Service Requested

Welcome New Members!

Dru Gabrysch, Membership Secretary, reports the following joined since November, 2015:

John Betz

Debbie Bresette

Patrick Bresette

Cathlyn Coon

Margaret Coon


Michael Lopez

Kendra Mueller

Barbara Vander Weele

calendar

May 7, Saturday, 1 - 5:00 p.m. Pines & Prairies Land Trust Yegua Knobbs Nature Preserve Spring Field Day. For full information about the planned bird census, go to pplt.org.

May 14, Saturday, all day:  Global Big Day. (See story, p. 4)

May 17, Tuesday, BCAS Annual Meeting & Program. First National Bank in Bastrop. Doors open 6:30. Dinner together at Cedars Mediterranean, 5:00 p.m. RSVP ssimon1221@yahoo.com. if attending dinner.

Global Big Day, Citizen Science for Birds: ebird

Mark your calendars—Saturday, 14 May.

Wherever you go that day, BIRD, and keep checklists. End by submitting your checklists on line at ebird. You'll be joining a global network of birders and conservationists because, as ebird says, "Global Big Day connects a network of people across the world to support a cause that transcends languages and cultures."

"From the southern tip of Africa to the soaring peaks of Himalayas, and from the Ecuadorian rainforest to backyards in New York – we are all a part of Team eBird, working to understand and conserve the birds we care about.

"Make Your Sightings Count! Every bird counts.

There are three ways that you can make your sightings as valuable as possible. It is important to note that these are only suggestions—not requirements! 1. Submit complete checklists. 2. Keep counts of the birds that you see. 3. Keep multiple checklists throughout the course of your birding: if you get in the car you should end that checklist and start a new one when you get to the next location."(ebird.org).