



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

Official: BCAS Elections At June Membership Meeting

We will hold the bi-annual election of Bastrop County Audubon Society's officers and board members at the June 19 meeting, in accordance with the By-laws.

A Nominating Committee composed of Mike Goebel and Priscilla Jarvis as of today has ready the following slate:

President - vacant
 VP - Priscilla Jarvis
 Treasurer- Jackie Fisher
 Recording Secretary - Sandy Simon
 Membership Secretary - Jackie Fisher
 Program Committee - David Mitchell
 Field Trip Committee - Mike Goebel
 Communications Committee - vacant
 Conservation Committee - vacant
 General Director - Susan Leslie

Most crucial is the position of president. By-laws presently state officers should not succeed themselves.

At the June meeting when the slate is offered, nominations from the floor for any position can take place.

Amendments to By-laws could also be offered by the nominating committee and the board at this time. The slate and any amendments will be announced at the May 15 meeting. By-laws require 30 days between proposals and vote by the membership for approval.

May Program

Eric Carpenter: Pelagic Birder

Speaker for the May 15 meeting of the Bastrop County Audubon Society is famed birder Eric Carpenter with a program on "Pelagic Birding in Texas."

Eric Carpenter is a Big Name in Texas birding. Most dramatically, he broke the 500 record for number of species of birds during the Big Year competition of 2003, winning with 505. He is an eminent volunteer, working with the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) of the Texas Ornithological Society, writing for the American Birding Association, monitor of ebird records for the state, and field trip leader for the monthly survey at Hornsby Bend for over 12 years.

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First National Bank Building in Bastrop, Second Floor Meeting Room.

Continued, See Meeting on p. 3



A Citizen Science Event

This Saturday, May 5, join more than 20,000 others in the Global Big Day, counting birds for 24 hours, one hour, or even 10 minutes,, then reporting your count on ebird.

During the day you can watch the sightings roll in from different parts of the world, over 150 nations, at the Global Big Day website. Last year's Day achieved a record result of 6,659 bird species, which is 65% of the planet's birds.

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

Midway Atoll**Plenty of Wisdom: Age 67:
Another Chick Hatched**

Wisdom, a Laysan Albatross, the oldest known wild breeding bird at 67 years old, has returned to the Midway Atoll Refuge and Memorial for breeding season each year since 1956 when she was first banded. Her new chick hatched in late February.



“Wisdom has successfully raised at least 30-36 albatross chicks over the course of her life,” reported Bob Peyton U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge manager. Laysans don’t nest

every year and raise only one chick at a time when they do.

She is also the oldest banded bird.

“The refuge and memorial is home to the largest albatross colony in the world,” with over 3-million birds, including Laysans, Black-footed albatross and the endangered Short-tailed albatross. *Gleaned from West Hawaii Today, Feb. 23, 2018.*

BCAS Booth at Bastrop Library

March 24— Our booth for education about birding in Bastrop County and planting for birds, via brochures and personal conversation with Priscilla Jarvis, Susan Leslie, and Mike Goebel, added to a sunny spring day at the annual fund-raising event for the Bastrop Public Library, on Saturday, March 24. Also, Bill Brooks and Mary Ellen Branan arrived early to help set up outdoors next to Jackie Fisher’s table for the quilt raffle and the row of Lost Pines Garden Club’s tents.

The booth as well offered binocular lessons for families, using our supply of quality youth-sized binoculars.

The garden club raises several thousand dollars for the Library’s children’s educational programs each year.

Note: Priscilla and Susan Leslie had to cancel the booth’s similar planned appearance at the Youth Nature Fest at Fisherman’s Park in Bastrop for April 21 due to inclement weather.

The President’s Perch

As a birder, April and May are probably my two favorite months of the year. During these months, the weather is still mild and bird migration North is underway, but I think it's the idea that each morning when you get up almost anything is possible. Each day brings a fresh set of new birds to experience. Old friends return each year such as Chuck-will's Widow, often heard, seldom seen. Dickcissels are calling their name along roadsides and in fields. Painted Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, and Summer Tanagers are bright splashes of color in our greening forests. Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, and Rufous Hummingbirds buzz our gardens and feeders. Shorebirds are on the move, so you could find White Pelicans, Ibis, Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, as well as sandpipers and dowitchers on nearby lakes and ponds.

But April and May, that's warbler season! With over 50 species of warblers in North America, each day brings new treats. See, here's the thing, they don't all come at the same time. Some warbler species come early, some in the middle, and some come late during the migration season. And, like people, within each species some start early and some take a little longer to get their kickstand up. When you factor in that male warblers normally come several weeks ahead of the ladies to claim a territory, it all means that on any given day in April or May almost any warbler or migrating bird could be in our yards or parks—Jan and I had our first Summer Tanager of the year last night. So, this is a terrific time of the year to get out and bird your patch, or be adventurous and head to the coast to places like High Island, Sabine Woods, or Port Aransas. This is most definitely the time to bird early and bird often.

Mike Goebel, President

Claude Morris Report

Leader of the monthly Colorado River survey for the **Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership** Claude Morris, marked this month’s trip as the 144th survey over a 12 year period.

May Calendar

May 5, Saturday: Global Big Day, midnight to midnight. Bird Count for scientific snapshot of bird species.

May 5, Saturday: Monthly Survey for Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership of Colorado River, via kayak and canoe. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Center for Environmental Research, fm 973, 1 mi. North from Hwy. 71 W. cgmorris70@gmail.com

May 15, Tuesday: BCAS Meeting and Program, 7:00 p.m. First National Bank on Bastrop, 2nd floor meeting room. Doors open at 6:30.

May 19, Saturday: Field trip at Hornsby Bend, 7:30-11:00 a.m.. "Easy walking and learning the birds of Hornsby Bend." Kevin Anderson, Austin Water Center for Environmental Research.

May 25, Friday: One-mile Hike in Bastrop State Park,, 6-7:00 p.m.. Meet at the playground to explore how Bastrop S.P. has recovered from the 2011 Bastrop County Complex Fire. Cullen Sartor.

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. The deadline for the next issue is noon on the first day of the month. Material is submittable at Contact, bastropcountyaudubon.org or by mail. to the Editor, 216 Schaefer Blvd., Bastrop TX 78602, ph. (512) 303-2734, or mbranan@austin.rr.com. *BC* is archived at bastropcountyaudubon.org

This Year's New Members

Membership Secretary Dru Gabrysch has compiled the list of individuals joining BCAS in 2017-18.

John Betz, Smithville
Alan Denman, Austin
Abigail David, Smithville
G.A. David, Houston
Janet Fitzimon-Barr, Cedar Creek
Lucien Thompson, Bastrop

Welcome!

Meeting, continued from p. 1

The Carpenters are invited for our before-meeting dinner at Cedar's Mediterranean and Italian Grill, 904 College Street, along the frontage road of Hwy 71w in Bastrop, at 5:00 p.m.



Carpenter has organized and co-led pelagic birding boat trips mostly out of South Padre's Port Isabel or Port O'Connor since the early 1990's. Promoting the wonders of Texas pelagic birding is another accomplishment, since pelagic birding, though well-established in the East and West coasts, was almost nil for the Gulf Coast until the '90s, due to insufficient knowledge of the

distinctive hydraulics for the Gulf of Mexico.

His most famous bird is the extremely rare and endangered Yellow-billed Albatross he sighted in 2003.



Donation to FCC April 28

Birding gear from several BCAS members poured in for the "gift-basket" donation to the big fund-raiser "2018 Lights Camera Texas" event for the Family Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center held on April 28 at the Bastrop Convention Center. A pleased winner took our basket at the silent-auction table for \$175.

Charlotte Pietsch of the FCC observed "The Birding Basket that the Bastrop County Audubon Society put together was amazing. Please know how much your donation of the Birding Basket and your support means to both Center's and to the day to day work we share in that allows victims to heal, to recover and to reclaim their lives as survivors."

The basket contained a pair of binoculars, a bird feeder, a set of Texas birding maps, an Audubon field bag, all our brochures, two books, a tee shirt, and a bottle of Decoy wine.