



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

Welcome Back!

With our next meeting we start a new year, hopefully filled with exciting field trips, challenging projects and informative meetings. If you have any suggestions for field trips, presenters for meetings or projects to be undertaken by our chapter, please contact the appropriate officer.

New Slate of Officers Elected

At the June Membership Meeting a new slate of officers was proposed and voted on. All officers serve for a two-year term. Your new officers are as follows:

President- Susan Leslie
 Vice-President - Priscilla Jarvis
 Treasurer - Jackie Fisher
 Recording Secretary - Sandy Simon
 Membership Secretary - Jan Goebel
 Media/Editor/Webmaster - Ian Layton
 Field Trips - Mike Goebel
 Conservation - Joan & Kent Bohls
 Programs - David Mitchell
 Audubon Foundation of Texas Delegates - Susan Leslie/ Mike Goebel
 General Directors - Leah Razuri / Luke Thompson

Upcoming Events

Sep 18, Thursday: - 5:00pm Pre-meeting dinner. Cedar's Mediterranean Grill. 7:00pm BCAS meeting and program. First National Bank, Bastrop, 2nd floor meeting room – doors open 6:30pm.
 Sep 29, Saturday: - Field Trip to Hornsby Bend. See article for details.
 Oct 4, Thursday: - BCAS Committee Meeting. Bastrop Library, 6:00pm
 Oct 6, Saturday: – eBird Global Big Day. See story

September Program

David Sarkozi

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept 18 at the First National Bank Building in Bastrop, in the 2nd floor meeting room. Our speaker will be David Sarkozi. David will bring a presentation entitled **“The Dirty Dozen: The 12 hardest non-review species in Texas and thoughts on how to find them”**. This promises to be both informative and a challenge to those of us wishing to add more elusive species to our State life lists.

David is a repeat presenter at BCAS and is well-known in Texas birding circles. He also curates the Texbirds and Texas Century Club Facebook pages.

David starting birding as a teenager in central Texas. College distracted from that but after college it soon became an obsession. He has been birding for more than 30 years now and still has his first field guide.

David has served as Chairman of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club – Ornithology Group, President of the Friends of Anahuac Refuge, and President of the Texas Ornithological Society. He served on the board of TOS for 16 years.

David has been an active leader of field trips across the state. He has a special interest in Belize and has organized more than 20 birding trips to Belize under the name KoziBirding.com

In 2016 David retired after 35 years with the University of Houston where he as Manager of Public Safety Systems.

In 2015 he completed a 500 bird Big Year in Texas and in 2017 he completed a 504 species Big Year in Texas.

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

September Field Trip – Hornsby Bend

Our first Fall field trip of 2018 will be Saturday September 29th at the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory just east of Austin. To carpool up, meet at the parking lot in front of the Colony subdivision (near the intersection of Hwy 71 and FM 1209) at 7:30 am. If you prefer, just meet us at Hornsby by 8:00 am in front of the main building. We will depart from that location.

September is a great time to visit Hornsby Bend. Waterfowl are beginning to arrive, and sandpipers are continuing their southerly migration. In September it can be fairly normal to find 5-10 species of sandpiper in a day, with species such as Stilt, Pectoral, Spotted, Buff-breasted, and Least Sandpipers fairly common.

This is one of the best times to catch Black-bellied and American Golden Plovers in the area; and this month is also the Fall peak for migrating Baltimore, Bullock's, and Orchard Orioles, as well as over a dozen species of warbler.

But the thing I like best about September at Hornsby Bend is the possibility of something rare. September is the month that a Curlew Sandpiper visited from the Arctic for a few days in 1989. Red Knot, Sabine's Gull, Great Kiskadee - all found in September.

So, come on out and join us September 29th. I can't guarantee a rarity, but there will be plenty of birds.

Mike Goebel - Field Trip Director

Membership Renewal

Welcome back for another interesting and fun year with Bastrop County Audubon Society (BCAS). This is to let you know of a change in the BCAS policy regarding our annual membership dues. Currently our dues renew on a "paid anniversary" basis. If you paid your dues in March, this meant your dues were good for a 12-month period from the date of payment. With 50+ members this continuous monthly follow-up results in a lot of work and confusion for keeping us all current on our membership dues. So, we want to change the process and keep happy members!

Your Audubon Board of Directors met earlier this month and voted to have all annual membership fees due by January 1 of each year. In other words, it was decided that in the future our membership period will run on a calendar year basis. This means that membership will run from January 1 through December 31, with everyone's membership fees being due by January 1st of each year. To make this policy transition as equitable as we can, if you have paid or will pay dues any time in calendar 2018, your membership will automatically renew on January 1, 2019 until December 31, 2019 at no additional cost to you. After the grace period for this year all dues will be due by Jan 1 of the following year. To ease the process your membership can be renewed on our website at

<https://www.bastropcountyaudubon.org/join-us/>

or you can pay by mail (form and address on website) or directly at one of our monthly meetings by cash or check. Our annual dues structure is as follows:

Individual:	\$20
Youth:	\$5
Family:	\$35

If you have questions about the status of your membership, please contact me at:

bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com.

We will follow up with any members who appear not to be current at a date to be determined in 2019. Thank you for your continued support of Bastrop County Audubon Society.

Happy Birding.

Jan Goebel - Membership Chair

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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

Cornell Lab Global Big Day – Oct 6

From The Cornell Lab

Every year for the last four years Global Big Day has set new heights for a single day of birding. This massively international collaborative birding event has been so great we want to have another worldwide eBird Big Day in October. Why October? Because spring is rejuvenating the southern hemisphere and the northern reaches of the world are in the midst of migration. No matter where you are, we're confident you can find some great birds on 6 October. Let's see what we can find together on the first October Big Day!

How to participate

- **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by hundreds of thousands of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive October Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data for scientists to use to better understand birds. Sign up [here](#). It's free.
- **Watch birds on 6 October:** It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long. Even 10 minutes in your backyard counts. October Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report birds from anywhere in the world.
- **Enter what you see and hear in eBird:** You can enter your sightings [via our website](#) or— even easier—download the [free eBird Mobile app](#). You can enter and submit lists while you're out birding, and the app will even keep track of how far you've walked, so you can just focus on watching birds. While you're downloading free apps, try out the Cornell Lab's [Merlin Bird ID](#) app for help with identification. Please enter sightings before 9 October for our initial results announcement.
- **Watch the sightings roll in:** During the day, keep an eye on how the lists are growing in different parts of the world. Follow along with sightings from more than 100 countries. Stats

will be updated in real-time on our [October Big Day page](#).

President's Perch

Hello, all!

Welcome to another great year of experiencing and learning about birds and other wildlife. We began the year on September 6 with the most Board members in attendance at a meeting for at least a decade. Joan and Kent Bohls, Ian Layton, Luke Thompson and Leah Razuri have stepped up to offer their skills and energy to BCAS. Thank you!

This is a good place to acknowledge the decades of service to BCAS and Audubon contributed by outgoing Board members Mary Ellen Branan and Alan Jaeger. We will look forward to seeing you at General Meetings.

David Mitchell has already lined up a number of wonderful speakers for this year, and Mike Goebel is scanning the weather forecasts and TX Bird as he plans the best opportunities for field trips. We have the Biannual Texas Audubon Assembly coming up on November 3-4, offering field trips, top-notch speakers, great food (All's Well Catering), and opportunities to visit with folks from other Chapters. Learn where to bird in their areas! As host chapter, we will need a few volunteers that weekend.

Throughout the year we have community events such as The Patch @Community Gardens, Trail of Lights, and Nature Fest, where our BCAS booth lets us meet our neighbors, catch the interest of fledgling Birders, and educate our community about wildlife issues. And have fun! We are not doing anything that is not interesting or fun, and preferably both at once... shared with as many as possible. See you on the 18th!

Susan Leslie - President