



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

## President's Column

Hello, all! I first want to acknowledge how happy and relieved I am that Ian is safely home from the hospital. I know I speak for all of us.

The 2018 State Assembly was held this past weekend, with about 45 state, national, and Texas Chapter leaders attending. A lot of energy and information we can use right now! Mike led the Saturday afternoon field trip, which was highly praised despite windy conditions. Others from our chapter besides Mike and myself included Priscilla Jarvis, Jan Goebel, Joan and Kent Bohls, and Luke Thompson.

The new Audubon State Director is Suzanne Langley, who explained why her office is moving to Austin, and what the upcoming priorities are for Audubon in Texas. If you go to [tx.audubon.org](http://tx.audubon.org), and select "Conservation" from the upper left-hand menu, you will read about the scope of grassland conservation issues. Umm, is there any ranch land around Bastrop County? Langley will be bringing on board Romey Swanson to run the "Ranching Conservation" initiative for Texas and Oklahoma, as part of National Audubon's Working Lands Program. Some of you may know him from the Texas Ornithological Society. Other priorities include a stronger presence at the Texas Capital regarding habitat and Wildlife measures, and closer partnerships with TPWD programs. So, Austin is a good base for all this.

For BCAS, the take-away includes closer partnerships with the City of Bastrop on the Bird City Certification, with our local State parks on Habitat and Education programs, with the State on the Dark Skies initiative, and educating the public together with other entities on the Cats Indoors! program as

developed by Audubon, the National Humane Society, and PETA.

The secret here folks is that we at Audubon have the science, the resources, and even the literature and brochures on these issues. Other organizations have the volunteers, the staff, and the public outreach. So, we as BCAS can accomplish a lot by providing our expertise and funds, without wearing out our members as volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers - BCAS is scheduled to be at the Gingerbread House at the seasonal Festival of Lights on Dec 22. We will need helpers to dispense cookies, hot beverages, and children's Wildlife posters from 6-9 pm, down at Fisherman's Park. That is assuming no more floods and the park is cleaned up in time - Lots more information, to share at the November meeting!

See you there - Susan.

## Upcoming Events

Nov 20, Tuesday: -

5:00pm Pre-meeting dinner. Cedar's Mediterranean Grill.

7:00pm BCAS meeting and program. First National Bank, Bastrop, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room – doors open 6:30pm.

Dec. 6, Thursday:

6:00pm – Committee Meeting – Bastrop Library Meeting Room

Dec 22, Saturday:

6-9pm Fisherman's Park, Bastrop

Festival of Lights – Gingerbread House. Volunteer Opportunity.

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

## November Program

### David Mitchell

The Bastrop County Audubon invites all to attend the monthly meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> in Bastrop (for location detail see “Upcoming Events” above). This month the program will be *Birds of Antarctica* presented by Dr. David Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell will recount his experiences during a 2-month stay at Palmer Station during the Antarctic spring. Along with photos of birds and other marine wildlife, Dr. Mitchell will describe life at this remote research station populated by fewer than 50 staff and research personnel. He will touch on the ozone hole research he was conducting in Antarctica and how that research contributed to our understanding of the causes and consequences of increased ultraviolet radiation on marine ecosystems. Please join us. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM at the 1<sup>st</sup>. National Bank Building located at Hwy 71 and Hasler Blvd.

## What Are You Seeing?

Recently, the Central Texas Rare Bird Alert on eBird has reported the following (either rare or seasonally unusual) sightings in our area:

- Red-headed Woodpecker – Park Road East of 154 – Bastrop Co.
- Ross’s Goose – Hornsby Bend – Travis Co.
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow – Hornsby Bend – Travis Co.
- Sedge Wren – Commons Ford – Travis Co.
- Harris’s Sparrow – Platt Ln – Travis Co.
- Baltimore Oriole – Emma Long Park – Travis Co.
- White-tailed Hawk – Granger Lake Area – Williamson Co.

We would love to hear of your birding adventures, be they near or far. Please send any submissions to the Editor at [ilayton@austin.rr.com](mailto:ilayton@austin.rr.com)

## December Field Trip– TBA

No information about upcoming field trips was available at the time we went to print. Please check for more information at our November meeting.

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](mailto:Bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com)