



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

December Field Trips – Christmas Bird Counts

So, it is that time of year again. Time for the nationwide Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. This year will mark the 119th time the Bird Count has taken place and it represents the nation's longest-running community science bird project.

We have two CBC's occurring in our county. They are the Lost Pines CBC and the Bastrop CBC.

If you are interested in signing up and in more information, you can do that at the following locations:

Lost Pines CBC: Saturday Dec 29th, McKinney Roughs.

This CBC is in Bastrop County between the Bastrop CBC and Austin CBC circles and just a bit to the north. This count is a community collaboration between the Lower Colorado River Authority, Bastrop Audubon Society and the Lost Pines Master Naturalists. This year the count will take place Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018 and will include the properties of McKinney Roughs, Hyatt Lost Pines, Webberville, Utley, numerous rural areas around Elgin, many area county roads and neighborhoods including Crystal Lake, Bluebonnet Acres, Wilbarger Bend, Union Chapel and Young's Prairie Road. The count also encompasses miles of the lower Colorado River. Count starts on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 6 am at McKinney Roughs Visitor Center. Plan to arrive by 5:30 am to meet up with your count group. Countdown will take place at 6:00 pm at the McKinney Roughs Visitors Center. Register online at

<https://goo.gl/fxDmvU>

Bastrop CBC: Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Shelia Hargis is the count compiler. Counting birds in Bastrop is the perfect way to bring in the new year! Many birders are needed to adequately survey the birds in the circle area to find all of the expected species and the rare species visiting the area. Shelia would like to have some feeder watchers also, so if you live within the circle and have bird feeders, please participate. For more specific information about the Bastrop CBC including a map showing the count circle, check out the website at:

www.bastropcbc.com.

If you have questions or wish to register, Email Shelia Hargis at bastroptxcbc@gmail.com

Other Opportunities

If you are interested in other state CBCs, you can find more information and links at

<https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/central-texas.html>

December Program

Douglas Soltau

Douglas Soltau will be giving a program on the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center at the monthly meeting of the Bastrop County Audubon Society, held this month on Tuesday, December 18th at the First National Bank Building at 481 Hwy 71 West in Bastrop. Douglas' talk will be about the history of the Wild Flower Center and its ongoing activities.

He has been a docent at the Wildflower Center since 2014 working in the gardens, giving tours at the center, and giving talks to groups about the Center. He has gardened for over 25 years, been an

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

organic gardener for over 15 years and has been president of his neighborhood garden club for the past 2 years. He is a certified wildlife habitat steward with the National Wildlife Federation and has a garden dedicated to butterflies and pollinators. Our December meeting is special with refreshments and goodies after the meeting. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

November Field Trip Report



On November 3rd, the Bastrop County Audubon Society held a joint field trip with the Audubon Texas Chapter Assembly at Lake Bastrop. We had a great turn-out with twenty-three birders taking to the field in cloudy 73°F weather.

November is always a transition month for Bastrop County, as the summer birds have left, but it's still a bit early for our winter birds such as sparrows, ducks, towhees, and thrushes. So, the birding was a bit slow as expected, but spirits were good, bolstered by a large stash of left-over Halloween chocolate.

There were several good sightings during the day. As we arrived at Lake Bastrop's North Shore, a kettle of 25 American White Pelicans were circling overhead, and later in the day we spotted two more. A pair of resident Osprey spent much of the day hovering and diving, proving many good looks, and plenty of photo opportunities. And, a nice bright female Belted Kingfisher was very cooperative later in the day on the South Shore. In total, we recorded twenty-four species for the day.

Species seen were as follows:

Northern Shoveler	3
Gadwall	2
American Widgeon	2

Pied-billed Grebe	4
Mourning Dove	3
American Coot	1000+
Ring-billed Gull	2
Double-crested Cormorant	5
American White Pelican	27
Great Egret	4
Black Vulture	7
Turkey Vulture	4
Osprey	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
White-eyed Vireo	1
Carolina Chickadee	2
Tufted Titmouse	3
Carolina Wren	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10
Northern Cardinal	2
American Pipit	13

- Reported by Mike Goebel.

Upcoming Events

Dec 18, Tuesday: -

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.

Dec 22, Saturday: Festival of Lights – Gingerbread House

6-9pm Fisherman's Park, Bastrop

. Volunteer Opportunity.

Dec 29, Saturday: -Lost Pines CBC:

Jan 01, 2019, Tuesday: - Bastrop CBC

Bird City Texas

This is an exciting new program sponsored by Audubon Texas and TPWD. We are working actively to get Bastrop certified as a "Bird City". To read more about the program and the recognition and benefits that are to be received by certified communities please follow the following link:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/>

**REMINDER - Membership Dues for 2019
Due by January 1**

Recently Bastrop County Audubon changed all its membership to a calendar year basis so your dues for 2019 are due now. Your active membership goes towards support of the meetings, speakers, education, field work, and *Bird Calls*. It is our mission to support conservation and *be for the birds* in Bastrop County.

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 pay directly at one of our monthly meetings by cash or check.

Our annual dues structure is as follows:

Individual:	\$20
Youth:	\$5
Family:	\$35
Sponsor:	\$75

If you have questions about the current status of your membership or want further information about joining please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support of Bastrop County Audubon Society.

Happy Birding.

Jan Goebel - Membership Chair

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Bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com