



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

January Program

Daniel Perales



Daniel Perales is our speaker for the January meeting that takes place on January 15 @ 7:00pm at the First National Bank building in Bastrop.

Daniel is the president of the Monte Mucho Audubon Society, based in Laredo, TX.

<https://www.meetup.com/montemucholaredo/>

<https://www.facebook.com/montemuchoaudubonsociety/>

Daniel is:

- Monte Mucho Audubon Society President 2015-2018
- retired U.S. Border Patrol Agent (1978-2007) - Patrol Agent in Charge of Laredo North Station
- Veteran - U.S. Marine Corps 1971-1974

- Birder and National Audubon Member since 2010
- Married to Mona Perales. Mona is a Monte Mucho Board Member.
- Originally from Encinal and Cotula, Texas area, now living in Laredo, Texas since 1975.

He will be discussing the Laredo Birding Festival, the challenges border birders face with the Border Patrol, and the threatened avian habitat in the upper Rio Grande Valley. He will also be sharing some photo of the diverse bird species to be found in the area.

Great Backyard Bird Count



The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up soon. This annual event is now in its 22nd year and gives an opportunity for all those interested in birds to contribute to a Citizen Science event, regardless of their time, or physical constraints. You may not be

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

able to dedicate a whole day, or maybe no longer to trek around state parks, but you can still do your bit!

This event helps to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You can participate by allotting as little as 15 minutes!

Last years effort resulted in participation in more than 100 countries and tallied more than 6,400 species. More than 180,000 checklists were submitted.

Our chapter will be organizing an field trip to coincide with the GBBC – more new to follow.

For more information on the GBBC, how to participate and instructions, follow this link.

<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Coming Event

The following from Travis County Audubon

The Wild Texas Film Tour will be in Austin Feb 20-21!

The Wild Texas Film Tour is a short film tour showcasing wildlife, adventure, and conservation stories from across the state. Meet the characters in the films, the folks behind the camera, and the conservationists keeping Texas wild for future generations. One of the featured films is "Little Grouse on the Prairie," a film produced by Friends of the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge that is a testament to the passion and commitment of a broad collaborative effort led by dedicated and determined organizations and committed individuals.

Get tickets today: <http://ht.ly/P1h830nfqIZ>

Local Christmas Bird Counts – Field Trip Reports



Mountain Bluebird

LOST PINES 8TH ANNUAL CBC

On Saturday December 29th birders from both the local area and further afield gathered at McKinney Roughs at 6 a.m. to find out our section assignments. I along with my wife, Cindy and Mike and Jan Goebel were assigned to bird a section which included areas to the south and east of the circle. Count Organizer Nicholas Cowey did his normal stellar job or making sure we had fresh coffee and scrumptious breakfast tacos available in order to fortify ourselves for the day to come. With high winds and temperatures in the low 40s, we were going to need it!

We started the day as the cloudy skies first began to lighten at Crystal Lake. The heavy rain events of the last few years have severely affected the spillway and lead to considerable erosion which is threatening the stability of the dam and the future existence of this important local birding location. Pickings were slim to start with. Early activity was highlighted by a lift off of many Great Egrets from the rookery area at the east end of the lake. Waterfowl counts were very low, probably due to the winds.

We made several visits to private properties, which gave us access to parts of the county not normally available for birding. A nice surprise at one such location was a flyover by a juvenile (2nd-3rd year bird) Bald Eagle. The sometimes-lake at Earhardt Road did not yield much since late growth had caused the grasses to be too dense for the waterfowl normally seen

here to be present. However, closer inspection with a scope did yield several Greater Yellowlegs.

A large flock of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks was a nice surprise at the entrance to The Colony.

A filling, hot lunch at Jalisco's fortified us for the rest of the day. The day continued as the morning had started with birds being very difficult to find. We managed to get good looks at Pine Warbler at the LCRA Zipline Trailhead.

Our group managed to log a hard earned 69 species. Overall the unofficial day's count was 115, with 3 more species added within the count window over the next few days.

Other sections were luckier with Mountain Bluebird, American Woodcock, Pyrrhuloxia, Say's Phoebe being added elsewhere in the circle. – Ian Layton.

BASTROP-BUESCHER 42ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)



Different groups of birders headed out about 7am on Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019 to participate in the 42nd Bastrop-Buescher CBC. It started out at 38° with

mod-strong north winds and by the end of the day it had calmed down and the temps had reached 48°. No sunny day for this count!

My team members were Cindy Layton and Ron Martin (also with BCAS). We covered Section 1A which includes Alum Creek Road, Gotier Trace, and Old Potato. Since most of the Section is in private lands we stayed to the roads to find the birds. At the end of the day Cindy clocked 61 miles driving and we walked 3.5 miles. Thanks for driving Cindy!

Alum Creek Road was the birdiest area with 6 Red-headed Woodpeckers and an Otter in the creek! Thousands of American Robins and hundreds of Cedar Waxwings flocked around all day. Other highlights were 3 Hooded Mergansers near Antioch cemetery, 10 "wild" mallards near Droemer Lake and 14 Ringed-necked Ducks off Gotier Trace. The usual suspects and sparrow clouds brought our final count to 50 species.

Sidebar: does anyone know how to gain access onto the Droemer lake property/ranch? I believe it is a reservoir for Smithville.

The Count Circle birders gathered at Morelia's at 6pm for the Countdown. Our Compiler, Shelia Hargis, unofficially tallied 105 species for this year's Circle, that's a bit lower than most years. Highlights were a Red-breasted Merganser and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Funny thing was no Blue or Green-winged Teals spotted.

Happy birding in 2019,

Jan Goebel

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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512 944-4707

Upcoming Events

Jan, 15 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.

Fri, Feb 15-Mon, Feb 18, 2019 – Great Backyard
Bird Count

Feb 20-21, 2019 – Wild Texas Film Tour – Texas
Spirit Theater

May 11, 2019 – World Migratory Bird Day

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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