



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

## January Program

### Jane Tillman

Jane Tillman is our speaker for the January meeting that takes place on February 19 @ 7:00pm at the First National Bank building in Bastrop.

Jane will be presenting on the subject of "Birds in our Lives".

Birds are well-represented in our language, poetry, art and music, and are a surprisingly integral part of everyday life. They permeate our culture from cute owls on pajamas to profound books like *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. By the end of this talk you will have a greater appreciation for birds, and the enrichment they provide us.

Jane Tillman is an active member of the Travis Audubon Society, a Capital Area Master Naturalist and a past president of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Austin chapter.

Since 2003 Jane has been teaching people how to attract birds to their yards with native plants. She teaches beginning backyard birding classes, leads field trips and gives talks about Central Texas birds to groups including garden clubs, neighborhood associations, birding festivals, libraries, lifelong learning groups, and Kiwanis clubs. Like you, she loves birds.

## What Are You Seeing?

Several recent sightings have piqued local interest. A Black-headed Grosbeak was reported and photographed in Cedar Creek this week.

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S52622201>

Mike and Jan Goebel photographed this beautiful, and rare, leucistic Tufted Titmouse in a relative's yard, also in the Cedar Creek area.



Leucism is a condition in which there is partial or total loss of pigmentation in an animal. This is different from albinism, since it is caused by a reduction in multiple types of pigment, not just melanin. If this bird was an albino, its eyes would be pink.

If you have any interesting, rare or unusual local sightings, we would love to hear about them. Please report them to the editor at

[Bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:Bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com)

## Coming Soon

In May we will be celebrating "World Migratory Bird Day".

This is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

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

Every year people around the world take action and organize public events such as bird festivals, education programs, exhibitions and bird-watching excursions to celebrate WMBD. All these activities can also be undertaken at any time on the year because that countries or regions observing the peak of migrations at different times, but the main days for the international celebrations on the Second Saturday in May and in October.

More information will follow as plans for this year's celebration are published.

## In The News

In California's wine country vineyard owners are turning to falconry to control loss of fruit to starlings, blackbirds and the like.

[Napa vineyard owners turn to dive-bombing falcons to protect grapes](#)

Many of us provide winter feed to birds – but should we --- and why?

[Why Do We Feed Birds—And Should We?](#)

A new Mom at age 68!

[World's Oldest Known Wild Bird Hatches Chick on Midway Atoll](#)

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)

## Great Backyard Bird Count



GBBC is this WEEK! Just a reminder to participate in this fun, annual citizen-science event.

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

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

## Spring Field Trips

Yes, spring is on its way already. In order to prepare yourself for the upcoming activity of spring migration, Field Trip Coordinator Mike Goebel has provided the following information about upcoming birding events.

Feb 15, 2019 to Feb 17, 2019

MATAGORDA BAY BIRDFEST

[www.matagordabaybirdfest.org/](http://www.matagordabaybirdfest.org/)

Palacios, Texas

Drawing attention to the beauty and diversity of species, our annual Birdfest celebrates its adjacency to the habitat where 229 species were counted in the 2017 Audubon CBC and The Nature Conservancy Clive Runnels Family Mad Island Marsh—ranked #1, once again. Headquartered in Palacios, “The City by the Sea,” this region is well known for its species diversity and unique ecological areas. Keynote Speaker Andy Sansom, eight other experts in the field, and tours led by expert bird guide Bob

Friedrichs and others. Bird artists of all ages will be showcasing their work. Our bird parade will feature extravagant birds—large, small, whimsical, and serious. Professional artists and amateur enthusiasts, local and regional, will all be competing for prizes and recognition.

Contacts:

lauriebeck@becktv.com

paula@whitney.net.

Feb 21, 2019 to Feb 24, 2019

23RD ANNUAL WHOOPING CRANE FESTIVAL

[www.whoopingcranefestival.org/](http://www.whoopingcranefestival.org/)

Port Aransas, Texas

The Coastal Bend is the only spot in the United States where the endangered Whooping Crane can be viewed at close range, and the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce celebrates this astonishing natural wonder with an annual festival honoring these grand birds. In addition to the Whooping Crane, an awesome array of wintering migratory birds flock into the wetlands and onto the Texas shorelines of Mustang Island in and around Port Aransas. Birding tours by land and sea are highlights during the festival. Visitors of all ages will enjoy the many festivities during the celebration. Free trade show featuring numerous unique vendors. A wide selection of optics, paintings, photography, and one-of-a-kind gift items for the nature lover in all of us will be featured. Other activities include world-renowned speakers, photography workshops, and a variety of field trips.

Mar 2, 2019 to Mar 2, 2019

15TH ANNUAL NATURE FEST

Jesse Jones Park & Nature Center. 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338

Nature lovers of all ages are invited to our Annual Nature Fest introducing visitors to local environmental organizations, outdoor activities, and native plants and wildlife. This free family event

includes pontoon boat tours, guided walks, live animals, a catch-and-release fish tank, and a variety of presentations throughout the day. The Nature Center has free guided bird walks on the first Saturdays of September through May. January features the "Winter Bird Count," and February has a "Beginning Birding" workshop and outing. Contact 281-446-8588 or visit our website.

Apr 11, 2019 to Apr 14, 2019

17TH ANNUAL GALVESTON FEATHERFEST BIRDING & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

FeatherFest Headquarters, 4700 Broadway, Galveston Island, TX, 77551

FeatherFest is the Island's annual birding and nature photography festival held during the height of spring migration. Galveston is one of the top locations in the country for birding because it hosts a wide variety of habitats in a small geographical area where some 300 species make their permanent or temporary home throughout the year. Mark your calendar now to attend the largest birding festival on the Upper Texas Coast and the only one with a dedicated nature photography track! Expert-lead memorable trips (including High Island) and workshops, birding and photography events, and 200+ species.

Contact: Julie Ann Brown, GINTC, 832-459-5533, FeatherFest@gintc.org.

*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

[bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:bastropcountyaudubon@gmail.com)

512 944-4707

### Upcoming Events

Feb 19, 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.

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

May 11, 2019 – World Migratory Bird Day