



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

## March Program

### Linda Ruiz McCall

Linda Ruiz McCall is our speaker for the March meeting that takes place on March 19 @ 7:00pm at the First National Bank building in Bastrop.



Her subject will be "The Geologic History of Central Texas and the Natural Resources of Bastrop County".

Linda Ruiz McCall is a geologist, educator, and business woman with experience in government service, private industry, and public education. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences and a Master's in Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Arts in Secondary Science Education from Teachers College of Columbia University. Linda currently serves as the Information Geologist for the Bureau of Economic Geology which functions as the state geologic survey

of Texas. Linda's experience includes project management and communication with an emphasis on geology, water, and energy resources. Linda's special interest is the use of new media in science communication. She has extensive speaking experience and is committed to helping to build understanding about natural resources.

## Outreach Opportunities

We recently received the following request from Austin Community College.

"We are interested in partnering with Bastrop Audubon in establishing a Student Organization. We have discovered through the National Audubon that Austin does not have a student chapter. So, since we are in Bastrop County, we would be interested in our Elgin Campus attending your meeting and being your student chapter. Our Austin Campuses will be partnering with Travis Audubon. Please let me know so I can gather students/staff for your next meeting. Also, aside from being the Elgin Campus Green Team facilitator, I am also a member of the City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Board. We have a walking trail that is on both ACC property and the City of Elgin Parks property. The side that the City of Elgin maintains has registered sightings of Mockingbirds, Bluejays, Barnswallows, Finches, Hawks, Vultures, Doves, Pigeons, Cardinals, Scissor Tails, Chickadees and Thrush. Would you be interested in taking a walk one day so that we can mark it as a Birding area so other interested birders can enjoy it as well? Please contact me if any of this is a possibility. Thank you for your consideration in this matter."

Also, Joan Bohls forwarded on the following...

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

“Sharon Richardson who is on Travis Audubon board has been coming out every year conducting a birding workshop for boy scouts at the scout camp in BASTROP. She would like some volunteers from our group to help and she is willing to do a program on what she does at the Boy Scout camp.”

If anyone is interested in helping out with either of these endeavors, please talk to any BCAS Board member.

## Bird City Update

Texas Parks and Wildlife did not make any selections in this inaugural application period. They are revamping their application process to more clearly assess future city commitments. Bastrop was invited to submit the new application later this year. This first application round was also by invitation only.

The Bastrop Parks Board met March 7 and voted to continue with this process. I was present, representing BCAS. Texas Audubon, represented by Director Suzanne Langley, was not at our local meeting, but has been working closely with TPWD.

The task force working under the Park Board's direction includes our local State Parks, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, the Chamber of Commerce, Bastrop Tourism Office, City officials, BCAS, and other groups as needed. As a side benefit to the many hours spent preparing the initial application, we all have learned a great deal more about each other's organizations, and new partnerships are springing up.

The next work meeting is March 26, and I will keep you updated on our progress. If you are curious about this project, search online for "Bird Cities certification". Some other states already have this program in place. – Susan

[TPWD Bird City Texas](#)

## In The News

GBBC

Some of you may have participated in February's Great Backyard Birdcount. Worldwide more than 205,000 checklists were submitted comprising 6700+ species.

## Migration News

Purple Martins have returned to the area. So far there have only been a few sightings in Bastrop County. As usual, Hornsby Bend is the nearest place to guarantee seeing these seasonal favorites. Your editor saw the first Barn Swallows of the year in his neighborhood last week.

Have you any reports of returning seasonal favorites? Let us know at our meeting on Tuesday!

## Upcoming Events

Mar 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.

May 11, 2019 – World Migratory Bird Day

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