



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

## May Program

### Ian Layton

Our speaker for May is our own Ian Layton. He is going to be presenting pictures and information about trips he has made visiting the county of Northumberland in Northeast England.

Ian was born in England and grew up in both England and Scotland. His father was a casual birder and they always had a pair of binoculars handy for family trips and vacations. Ian spent a lot of time as a child in the coastal areas of the United Kingdom and developed his love for birding during these outings.

Ian has lived in the US since coming here to attend college in Kentucky in 1976. He and his wife, Cindy, have lived in Texas since 1982. After raising their family, Ian and Cindy have been active birders since 2009. They have birded throughout the US (including Alaska), parts of Canada, Honduras and the United Kingdom. They moved back to Bastrop County late in 2017 after spending 3 ½ years in the Rio Grande Valley.

They have tried to travel to the UK to visit Ian's family on a regular basis. Ian's parents and sister moved to Northumberland in the last 15 years.

Northumberland is renowned for its 'Heritage Coast', rugged scenery and the large number of castles, both inhabited and ruined, it contains. Historically, the coastal areas were the home of a lot of heavy industry and coal-mining. Since the economic changes that have seen the disappearance of these activities a lot of rehabilitation efforts have been undertaken. These rehab sites and the rugged moorland and coastal areas lend themselves to birding and Ian will share about this beautiful area of northeast England.

## A Fun Quiz

The following quiz was provided by Priscilla Jarvis.

It is derived from the book "An Exaltation of Larks" by James Lowery.

Match the following group names, called veneries, to the bird species they describe. Answers are towards the end of the newsletter. Have fun!!!!

- |    |                   |   |             |
|----|-------------------|---|-------------|
| 1  | A convocation of  | A | geese       |
| 2  | A murder of       | B | partridge   |
| 3  | An ostentation of | C | eagles      |
| 4  | A gaggle of       | D | owls        |
| 5  | A rafter of       | E | hawks       |
| 6  | A covey of        | F | woodpeckers |
| 7  | A parliament of   | G | peacocks    |
| 8  | A descent of      | H | sparrows    |
| 9  | A cast of         | I | turkeys     |
| 10 | A host of         | J | crows       |

## Birding is Good For You!

We all have our own reasons for birding. To get out in nature; to experience the joys of creation; for exercise; to satisfy our lust for the chase. The list goes on.

Whatever our reason, there is now "proof" that it is GOOD FOR YOU. I came across the following article recently that highlights a study performed in Britain that affirms the "restorative benefits of birdsong". So now when you hear that dawn chorus, you know why it makes you feel good!

[Natural high: why birdsong is the best antidote to our stressful lives.](#)

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

## Next Month's Meeting

Our June meeting will be the last one until we resume in September. During the summer bird activity is low around here, and the Texas summer heat will keep a lot of us inside. As a fun way to conclude our programs for the 2018-2019 birding year, we will be having a member-driven presentation of our pictures. So, if you have a few that you would like to share with the group, please send them to Mike Goebel and we will have a fun time enjoying each other's outdoor adventures!

## A Message from your President

The following information is from the Audubon Texas director and includes State Chapter news and a report on the Spring meeting:

Audubon Texas Update

Spring 2019 AFT Meeting

April 24, 2019

By Suzanne Langley, Executive Director

[slangley@audubon.org](mailto:slangley@audubon.org)

Thanks again to AFT for your financial support of the 2018 Chapter Assembly, to Susan, Merrick and Ann for serving as an advisory committee, and those of you who participated in the November gathering. Thanks also to Merrick for including the Audubon Works link to notes and presentations from the assembly. There's good information in this archive that will serve us well during this year and planning for our 2020 assembly.

Speaking of Audubon Works, a group has been established for Texas chapters and I would like to encourage chapter leaders and members to join the group. The link to the Texas group is:

<https://works.audubon.org/groups/state-chapter-group-texas-chapters>

Audubon Texas updates:

- Audubon Texas Women in Conservation took place in Austin in early March with more than 250 people participating in the luncheon where we honored: Susan Kaderka, National Wildlife Federation; Carolyn Chipman-Evans, Cibolo

Nature Center; Valarie Bristol, Travis Audubon Society; and Diane Wasserman, San Marcos River Foundation. Thanks to Nicole Netherton and the Travis Audubon Society board for serving as Host Chapter this year. This program benefits the Audubon Conservation Leaders Program for Young Women.

- Scott Moorhead joined our team about three weeks ago as Policy Director for the state. He is hard at work already tracking the current session, helping us plan our strategies for the next three years, and sharing his expertise on water and energy. Scott would like to schedule a legislative briefing for Texas Chapters if you would be interested. He will likely distribute a survey soon to gauge Chapter's policy interests and to learn which chapter representatives would like to participate in standing meetings with him. He would like to use the Texas Group in Audubon Works to post information. You can reach him at [scott.moorhead@audubon.org](mailto:scott.moorhead@audubon.org).
- We have moved to Austin! Our address is 7700 West Hwy 71, Suite 330, Austin, TX 78735
- Emily Johnson-Pounds has also joined our staff as Finance Administrator and can be reached at [ejohnsonpounds@audubon.org](mailto:ejohnsonpounds@audubon.org)
- We will post our State staff directory on the Audubon Works Texas Chapters Group.

I hope you'll make plans to attend the Audubon Chapters Convention July 26-29th in Milwaukee. The host hotel is Hilton Milwaukee City Center. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention>

## Quiz Answers

- 1 C
- 2 J
- 3 G
- 4 A
- 5 I
- 6 B
- 7 D
- 8 F
- 9 E
- 10 H

## Upcoming Events

May 21, 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.

June 6, 2019 – BCAS Committee meeting. Bastrop Library. 6:00pm

June 18, 2019 – BCAS monthly meeting.

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