



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

September Program

William "Bill" Wren



Bill Wren is Special Assistant to the Superintendent, University of Texas at Austin McDonald Observatory.

He is a veteran supernova researcher, helped design, build, and operate a number of unique telescopes, and now leads the effort to protect McDonald Observatory's dark night skies.

In response to the boom in oil and gas activities in and around the nearby Permian Basin, Mr. Wren is working with the industry to modernize its lighting practices. In addition to protecting the night sky for the Observatory, the industry benefits from greater cost-efficiency, and increased visibility and safety through reduced glare.

He will be doing a presentation on "Dark Skies".

What is a "Big Sit"?

Next month your local chapter is planning to sponsor a "Big Sit". But many may not know what this entails.

This is a way for those who are new to birding, or maybe not as mobile as they previously were, to

participate in an event without committing to a long hike, or a great period of time. Other benefits include being in a relaxed atmosphere with food and fun and an opportunity to meet other birders.

A "Big Sit" is basically a birding "tailgater"! We attempt to count as many different species of birds as we can, during a specific duration, all from within a 17-foot diameter circle. You can join us anytime, for an hour or for the whole event if you wish. You can bring a chair and snacks to share if you wish.

If you think you would be interested, watch this space! We will be sending out more information as plans solidify!

Upcoming Events

As the fall birding season gets into full swing, we wanted to make you aware of opportunities to travel within the state with the chance to fill out your life lists. Here are a few events coming up this fall.

Sept 19-22. 31st Hummerbird Festival: Rockport-Fulton

Sept 27-29 Celebration of Flight: Hazel Bazemore Park. Corpus Christi

Sept 30, Oct 1, Oct 4. Fall Incidental Bird Counts: Cibolo Nature Center. Boerne

Nov 6-10 Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. Harlingen.

For more information about these and many other events (some of which occur weekly) please check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife calendar at <https://tpwmagazine.com/archive/2019/birdcalendar/>

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

Coming This Year

Our speaker coordinator has come up with some great programs for the rest of this calendar year. However, if you know of anyone who is considered an expert in their field, and who would be able to give us a presentation which might be of interest, please contact David Mitchell.

Programs should be of general interest to the group and cover information in the fields of conservation, ecology, nature, geology, archaeology and other related earth sciences either in a general sense or even more specific to the Bastrop County area. Of course, we are ALWAYS looking for presentations on birding. If you have some great pictures of a birding trip you have taken and what to tell us all about it, please let us know!

Project Feeder Watch

If you are a member and are receiving this newsletter, we already know that you are interested in birds!

However, are you not able to get out as much as you used to? Do you still want to contribute to citizen science projects? You can still participate in projects of great importance. Consider enrolling in [Project Feeder Watch](#).

Just by observing birds at your own feeders, you can contribute to scientific effort to track long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The project lasts from November through April.

If you [sign up now](#) you can also get a really cool poster of “Common Backyard Hawks and Falcons of North America”

This is YOUR Newsletter!

If you have enjoyed a recent trip that including birding, we would love to publish a report of your trip. Please make submissions to the newsletter through BCAS email address published at the end of this newsletter.

We are also always on the lookout for pictures of birds that have been taken in Bastrop County, especially rarities or “lifers”.

Title your email “Newsletter Submission”.

Upcoming Events

Sept 17, 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.

Oct 3, 2019 – BCAS Committee meeting. Bastrop Library. 6:00pm

Oct 12, 2019 – BCAS sponsored “Big Sit”.

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