



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

October Program

Dave DeVore



Dave DeVore has been an avid wildlife photographer for the past 11 years, ever since going to Africa for mission work involving free vision clinics starting in 2009. He has primarily worked in the slums of Nairobi, serving the people in the most need. He has been to every part of Kenya and many game parks during his 19 visits to that beautiful country. He also has posted wildlife and nature photos on his Facebook page daily since 2014. This exercise has helped take his photography and understanding of nature to ever increasing levels. This coming Tuesday he will discuss wildlife tips and techniques primarily using

his photos of the birds of Kenya and Tanzania as examples. He is a member in good standing of the Travis Audubon Society and the Professional Photographers of America and enjoys teaching photography and leading field trips, workshops and safaris here and in Africa. To see his images from Texas, the U.S. and around the world, visit his photography web site at www.photoartbydave.com.

"Big Sit" Information



The Autumn Big Sit

Saturday, October 12, 2019

7:00 am to 3:00 pm

Fisherman's Park

1200 Willow Street, Bastrop TX 78602



Let's Count the Birds We See & Hear!

Bring the following: Chairs or a Blanket Water & Snacks Sunscreen
Binoculars (but we will have some for you)

Come and go event. We'll show you how to Big Sit with the birds!
Bring the kids to this family friendly learning experience, and stay awhile. KID'S PRIZES!
Rain possible? Call 651-214-7310



www.BastropCountyAudubon.org

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

Last month we promised you more information about this event. Hopefully you caught our email “blast” or saw the poster on our homepage. If not, the poster above should answer all your questions!

Some Big Sit Rules

- Observations can only be made from within your pre-determined 17-foot (diameter) circle.
- There’s no limit to how many people can occupy one circle (other than the obvious spatial limitations). Bring some chairs. Have a picnic or barbecue. Welcome passers-by and their contributions to your list.
- If a bird is seen or heard from within the circle but is too distant to identify, the circle can be left to get a closer look/listen to confirm the bird’s identity. However, any new bird species seen or heard while confirming the original, can’t be counted unless it’s seen or heard from an “anchor” who stayed behind in your circle, or is seen by you when you return to your circle.
- Tally the number of species that you observe.
- Big Sit participants can work in shifts. No one person needs to be there throughout the whole Big Sit! The area can be left and returned to as frequently as desired, but you must be sure to return to the exact 17-foot diameter circle each time.
- The same circle must be used for the entire Big Sit!

Come on out and help your chapter as well as have some fun!

Upcoming Events

Oct 12, Saturday, 7:00am-3:00pm – BCAS sponsored “Big Sit”. Fisherman’s Park, Bastrop

Oct 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.

Nov 7, 2019 – BCAS Committee meeting. Bastrop Library. 6:00pm

Audubon’s New Climate Report

BIRDS ARE TELLING US IT’S TIME TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.



1 GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER - PHOTO BY: JASON CROTTY/FLICKR

Over the last five years, Audubon has used the latest climate models and more than 140 million bird records—including data collected from bird lovers like you—to assemble [Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink](#), a new, ground-breaking report forecasting the survival of North American birds through the end of the century in extraordinary detail. Our science shows that 65% of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change. Even common birds like the American Robin, Northern Flicker, and even our Golden-Cheeked Warbler will experience declining populations and radically different ranges in the near future. But as the threat of climate change grows, so does Audubon’s work. This report not only illustrates how our warming planet will impact the birds we all love but also shows us that if we act, there is still time to create a brighter future for birds and people. And we already have a lot of the tools we need to reduce the effects of global warming. [Read the report](#) to learn what birds have been telling us for years: it is time to act.

Follow this link for specific information about how climate change will affect [Texas’s Birds](#).

Last Month's Meeting – Dark Skies

Last month's meeting on "Dark Skies" proved to be fascinating, informative, and transformative.

Fascinating because of the beautiful photography and other graphics presented. Informative because of the content and layman-like presentation of the information. Transformative because of the way in which each of us was able to walk away with positive action items that we could follow to achieve, if only in a small way, our own contribution to ameliorating the intrusion of lighting in our local area.

Many expressed a desire for more information about the Dark Skies Initiative. If this means YOU, you can check out the excellent [International Dark-Sky Association](#) website. There are lots of resources that include resources for use in educational setting for many different age groups.

Another site to look at for more information specific to Texas is the [McDonald Observatory Dark Skies Initiative](#) page. This contains a lot of the information that was presented at the Chapter meeting.

Photography Classes

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: The following does not serve as an endorsement by BCAS, but merely as a communication of information.

Members might be interested in a couple of birding photography classes at Precision Camera store on Anderson in Austin, like raptors. Not cheap, \$99 for 3 hours with birds mostly on a stick in their classroom with birds from Blackland Prairie Raptor Center. Not just for pros. The next raptor class is in December.

More information available at:

<https://www.precision-camera.com/birds-of-prey-shooting-experience/>

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".

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