



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

December Program

Holiday Party

This month, we will be departing from our normal meeting schedule. Our annual Holiday Party will take the place of our regularly scheduled meeting.

If you are a paid-up member of BCAS, you should have received an email containing information about the party. If you did not, then please contact any board member for further details.

We look forward to celebrating with you, and we will be resuming our normal meeting schedule in the New Year.



Field Trip Opportunities

The following is a partial reprint of information provided in last month's newsletter. With the holiday season upon us, there are limited opportunities for field trips. Fortunately, however, we have two fantastic birding events already on the calendar. Happy birding!

When: Dec. 28, Saturday, 6AM-6PM

Where: McKinney Roughs Nature Park

This event, sponsored by LCRA, is the Lost Pines Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The count will start and finish at the McKinney Roughs main office, and there is no cost. This is an all-day count with a break for lunch. But you can also bird just half a day if you wish. Tell the CBC leader so they can plan for that when assembling the teams. Generally, there is coffee and breakfast tacos in the morning, and pizza for the evening count down. Plan to bring a lunch unless your zone leader tells you there will be a stop at a local eatery. Registration not required, but if you can, please-please do so. This helps with planning for the birding teams and food. Also, this is one of the very few CBCs that offer a free tee shirt to participants. Get more details at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/LostPinesCBC/events/>

or

<https://www.lcra.org/parks/Pages/mckinney-roughs-nature-park.aspx>

Click "Get Tickets" to register for free. If you don't have a LCRA account, it will take a minute to set it up. Too clunky, call or email LCRA outdoor programs at:

outdoorprograms@lcra.org 512-303-5073

When: Jan. 1, Wednesday, 6AM-6 PM

Where: Bastrop Christmas Bird Count

Held the first day of 2020, it is actually the 2019 Bastrop CBC. This is another all-day count, which can be a half day count by prior arrangement with your zone leader and, once again, is free. There will be a break for lunch. This count circle includes the

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

city of Bastrop, Bastrop and Buescher State Parks, as well as Lake Bastrop north and south shores. With a wide range of habitats, the Bastrop CBC normally finds 110-130 species. To participate in the Bastrop CBC, you will need to register. The simple reason is that the count does not launch from a central location, so arrive having eaten or bearing breakfast. Once registered you will be assigned to a zone and zone leader, unless you have a zone/leader preference. The zone leader will contact you with the starting time and location, as well as lunch arrangements. Some zones lunch in the field (authentic but chilly), some grab a quick bite at a zone restaurant (a resourceful option with warm food and facilities).

In the count circle and just want to count birds at your bird feeder holding a cup of hot coffee, can do! Just contact the count compiler Shelia Hargis for the rules and data forms.

The current plan is for a countdown dinner at Morelia Mexican Grill, located at 696 Hwy 71, approximate time 6PM. For more information check out the CBC website:

<http://www.bastropcbc.com/>

To register, contact count leader Shelia Hargis at:

bastroptxcbc@gmail.com

Your Bastrop County Audubon Membership for 2020 - Due January 1

This birding year has flown by and it's time to renew your BCAS annual membership for 2020.

You may renew on our website

bastropcountyaudubon.org/join-us

or pay by check via U.S. mail (address below) or pay directly at one of our monthly meetings with cash, check or credit card.

Our annual dues structure remains the same as years past:

Individual	\$20
Family	\$35
Youth	\$5
Sponsor	\$75

Thank you for your support of Audubon and the programs, education and conservation projects we

bring to Bastrop County about birds and other wildlife.

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 the 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

Dec 17, Tuesday: - Holiday Party

Dec 28, Saturday – Lost Pines CBC

January 1, Wednesday – Bastrop CBC (see article)

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