



Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

May Program

Jordan Gray

Jordan Gray is a Biologist with Turtle Survival Alliance, and he will be presenting “Transforming Passion for Turtles into Effective Conservation Action”.

From the [Turtle Survival Alliance website](#) :-

“The TSA focuses on critically endangered species and employs a two-pronged approach to prevent extinction and promote recovery. We work in range countries - especially those considered to be turtle diversity hotspots - to support field research and conservation programs while at the same time securing the species in captivity as a guard against extinction in the wild. The TSA also develops captive breeding programs outside the range countries as an extra measure of protection against extinction. Today, the TSA supports and manages recovery programs for endangered turtles and tortoises around the world. Our model is successful because of partnerships, and we believe strongly in building capacity for saving turtles in the countries where they live. We identify individuals and facilities that are already involved in turtle conservation and work to help them get better at what they do. Because in the end, the battle to save species will be won or lost in the countries where they live.”

Meeting Details

Due to concerns about the Covid-19, and in particular the virulence of the Delta variant, the BCAS Board voted to conduct this meeting by ZOOM. At our next board meeting (and following ones as necessary) this

policy will be re-evaluated to ensure the best, safest approach for our members.

As a member you should have received a prior email detailing how to join the meeting. If you did not or require a “refresher” please [contact us](#).

The President’s Perch

Well, it’s May already. As I sit writing this month’s column (in late April) it’s pouring down rain outside and we are packing for a road trip. High Island in April, yeah baby! I’ve been reading eBird reports from High Island, and it sounds like Christmas Trees down there. Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, thrushes, orioles, Roseate Spoonbills, and warblers, bouquets of warblers. Just today a Cape May Warbler was spotted at Boy Scout Woods, sweet. We will be there tomorrow, maybe it will hang for another day. If you have not been to High Island you are missing one of the most special birding locations in this country. Houston Audubon operates four bird sanctuaries, and the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) operates one. At Smith Oaks the canopy walkway opened several years back and it is spectacular. You are actually eye-to-eye with birds in the tree canopy. This year we are not trying to hit any special weather or conditions, these are just the days we have open. But, when you are trying to make plans with an eye to what the birds are doing, Cornell’s “BirdCast” is a great tool. It gives you a graphic forecast of migration levels and includes several migration tools to further refine your planning. Check it out...

<https://birdcast.info/>

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



FIGURE 1 - CAPE MAY WARBLER

May is also going to be a very birdy month in Bastrop. Friday May 6th and Saturday May 7th will be the 2nd Annual Bird Weekend with many activities planned both days. The event kicks off at 602 Brewing Company around 5 PM with Birds and Brews. A short fun time listening to local bird songs and how to identify them. On Saturday, among many other events, there will be raptor demonstrations on the courthouse lawn from 2-4 PM, sponsored by Bastrop County Audubon. Go to the Bird City Bastrop Texas Facebook page for more details, current event lineup pasted below.

<https://www.facebook.com/birdcitybastroptexas/>

That's all for this month – stay birdy,

Mike Goebel

President Bastrop County Audubon Society



FIGURE 2 - RODE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

Field Trips

May – Warbler Woods - Schertz

Hello Auduboners,

Migration is in full swing, so let's get out and see some birds! I've scheduled a visit to Warbler Woods in Schertz for Saturday, May 14. This is an amazing place; privately owned, the hosts welcome visitors to share the bounty of birds that are attracted to the wonderful habitat and water features there. Right now they're seeing 10-12 species of warblers a day, plus other specialties. For those who are less mobile, there is a seating area overlooking the Warbler Pond where folks can do their own Big Sit and enjoy the many birds that show up.

Parking is limited there, so let's plan to carpool and take as few vehicles as possible. I need to let them know in advance how many people and vehicles to expect. Plan to meet at 7:00 AM at the Cedar Creek United Methodist Church parking lot at 5630 FM 535 (Pierce Lane) just off of SH 21, and leave vehicles there, then caravan to Warbler Woods. We'll bird all morning, then stop for lunch in San Marcos (suggestions appreciated!).

The owners of Warbler Woods, Susan and Don Schaezler, request that we leave a checklist of sightings with them and/or post the list on eBird. Donations are always accepted to help with

feeding and maintenance costs. I'm including their information sheet below; check out their website and eBird list!

Please email, text, or call me if you plan to attend, and let me know whether you will meet us for carpooling/caravanning or go on your own. If you don't arrive with our group, you will need to meet us at 8:30 AM outside the gate so we can go in together. I'd like to give them a head count by May 12.

Plan to bring water, binoculars, hats, snacks, and insect repellent, plus anything else you need for birding (camera, walking stick, field guide, etc.).

We look forward to a good turnout!

Happy Birding!

Louise Ridlon

BCAS Field Trip Chair

flridlon@hotmail.com

909 262-3429

Welcome to Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary & please read all information below:

- Puppy Alert—please drive slowly and slightly honk your car before driving out—right now, the 7 month old puppy doesn't listen right now and likes to greet everyone. Also stay 10' away from Don—he is very immunocompromised
- Rattlesnakes are out, be careful and stay on paths
- Please SIGN in
- Please ebird Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary Hotspot
- Drive slow & you need to drive in and park in birder parking lot
- Please donate—our donations only cover 65% of our costs and one cost is \$15/hr for labor to maintain Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary.
- There is a donation box in the Visitor Kiosk also <http://www.warblerwoods.org/donatesupport.html>

- Quiet on trails, please!
- The Gate will close on you—don't block the gate and there isn't room for 2 cars on most of the drive, so two-way traffic doesn't work. Put the code in slowly or the keypad won't work and you have to wait 30 sec until trying again
- You have to arrive in a vehicle—it upsets the dogs if you walk in, unless you have to park on Old Wiederstein Rd
- No dogs or pets in cars or trails—if left in car, my dogs could scratch your car & on trails, the coyotes are excited about a new dog!
- Park in birders parking lot—no driving on property—take left fork in driveway and park efficiently. Don't block circle drive or park on it
- Print your own checklist and map to plan for your trip
- Please consider dressing in colors found in nature and don't dress in bright colors to enable you to see more species and to not disturb nature
- Distances
 - Scout Pond Dam .2 mile
 - Thomas' Meadow .1 mile
 - Old Barn .5 mile
 - Chat Pond .25 mile
 - Sparrow Hole .25 mile
 - Second Pond .3 mile
 - Margie's Woods .25 mile
 - Don's Woods .3 mile
 - Heron Pond .4 mile
 - Warbler Pond 200' (have to spread out and share spots)
- Please watch for traffic on driveway!
- Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary open sunup to sundown
- Please sign in and leave a list of what you find or eBird to "Warbler Woods" hotspot—if given a choice, it has an orange icon
- At the kiosk and online is a checklist with map on back
- Quiet in blind areas and no moving around please in blind areas. Quiet on the trails too, especially with kids—we love children, but they

will learn a lot from listening too, other than “normal” kids’ voices!

- Watch out for traffic coming and going—narrow home driveway & gate will close on you, so don’t wait at an open gate.
- WATCH OUT FOR RATTLESNAKES, stay on trails—they are rarely seen and will usually rattle to warn you, if you get too close to them, but staying on trails is best procedure
- Butterfly garden by the PortaPotti is outstanding when blooming
- For warblers: Scout Pond Dam, Second Pond and the other water features which brings birds.

I recommend Old Barn; Margie’s Meadow; Scout Pond Dam; Chat Pond; Thomas’ Meadow and if you like owls, the Old Growth Forest and Margie’s Woods. Catbird Trail has a beautiful Eagle Scout Bridge, as does the Old Growth Forest. There are lots of other beautiful trails out there! 2nd Field is also a good area to bird, especially at the brush pile near the Scout Pond Dam—don’t forget that area!

Warbler watching is best planned by first at Scout Pond Dam and sitting there for awhile and working the trees—keep in mind that the warblers are on the sunny side of vegetation, where it makes the bugs more active for easy eating. Then wander the forest paths some and check Chat Pond and Old Barn for buntings and nightjar pass for mixed flocks and Warbler Pond >1030 when the sun finally hits the pond and you can’t talk there and lots of quiet time, but at the end of 3 hrs, you will have some good action and photos. No standing tripods back there

Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary is supported by donations only and we personally donated over \$23,000 in 2017 to make up for deficit in expenses over donations, in 2018 we spent \$14,000 personally, in 2019 we personally spent \$9200.00 over donations—please help support Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary.

Gate 7931—put numbers in slowly and firmly and if you make an error, wait 30 sec before trying again

- The Gate will close automatically and don’t get in it’s way—it doesn’t know if you are still there!!!

- Gate: Don’t pull too close to the gate or it won’t open
- Don’t push or pull the gate—it opens when code is entered
- Gate will close automatically and is only open short time
- Don’t block gate when open—it can close on you!
- Snakes are out—be safe and stay on trails

Directions

<http://www.warblerwoods.org/directions--weather.html>

Trailmap

http://www.warblerwoods.org/uploads/3/1/9/9/31992523/visio-wwbs_map_as_drawing.pdf

Checklist

http://www.warblerwoods.org/uploads/3/1/9/9/31992523/bird_checklist_r8_052815.pdf

Visitor instructions—please answer what is requested and limit emails

<http://www.warblerwoods.org/visitor-instructions.html>

Decades of eBird data from Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary

<https://ebird.org/barchart?byr=1900&eyr=2019&bmo=1&emo=12&r=L213585>

Weather data from Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary Weather Station

<http://www.warblerwoods.org/directions--weather.html>

Warblerwoods.org

501(c)(3)

WWBS. 26-1378231

Susan Schaezler

[WarblerWoods.org](http://www.WarblerWoods.org), <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L213585?yr=cur>

501(c)(3) Cibolo/Schertz/Guadalupe County

Lone Star Land Steward Winner 2011. GCBO Site Partner

Life member TOS, SAAS, TAS

Miscellaneous News

Bastrop Bird City – Annual Bird Weekend



**BIRD LOVER
WEEKEND
MAY 6-7, 2022**



Friday May 6	Event	Location
5-6 PM	BEER & BIRD SONGS	602 Brewing Co.
6-8 PM	ARTWALK: BIRD POP-UP ART	Various Locations on Main Street
	HOOT! HOOT! HOORAY! FOR OWLS	602 Brewing Co.
	DRUM CIRCLE	Vibe Tribe
	WARRIORS OF PRAISE MUSIC	R. A. Green Merc
	STILT WALKER	Museum & Visitor Center
	STREET MUSICIANS	C & C Wine Co.
	ALL ABOUT BIRDS GROUP SHOW	Chicago Title
	CALVARY EPISCOPAL ART EXHIBIT	R.A. Green Merc
	COMMUNITY WALL EXPERIENCE	Bridges Emporium
Saturday May 7	Event	Location
8-12 AM	BIRD CITY BIG SIT (COME & GO)	Fisherman's Park
1:30-2:00 PM	BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY TALK	Lost Pines Art Center
2:30-3:30	RAPTOR DEMONSTRATION	Courthouse Lawn
2-5 PM	GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE	Lost Pines Art Center
5-6 PM	OUTRAGEOUS WEARABLE BIRD FEEDER CONTEST	602 Brewing Co.
5-6 PM	DRAWING & PAINTING BIRDS DEMO	Lost Pines Art Center
6-8 PM	ART AFTER DARK BIRD EXHIBIT	Lost Pines Art Center

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

Upcoming Events

Tue May 2nd , 7:00pm: - BCAS meeting - ZOOM.

Fri-Sat may 6-7 : Bastrop Bird City Bird Lovers

Weekend – see schedule above

Sat May 14: Field Trip, Warbler Woods, Schertz – details above

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”.