



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

## Official Business

### It's time according to BCAS by-laws for the biennial election

Following is the slate offered by the nominations committee, Priscilla Jarvis, chair, for officers and directors to serve for FY 2012-2014. Election with nominations from the floor will occur during the Annual meeting, June 19 (regular third Tuesday):

#### **Officers:**

President	Susan Leslie
Vice-President	Roy Smallwood
Treasurer	Alan Jaeger
Recording Secretary	Open
Membership Secretary	Priscilla Jarvis

#### **Directors:**

Communications	Mary Ellen Branan
Education	Bill Brooks
Field Trips	Stan Wellso
General	Judy Turner

Note: Be informed that Susan Leslie does not expect to serve out the two-year term because of plans to move out of the state.



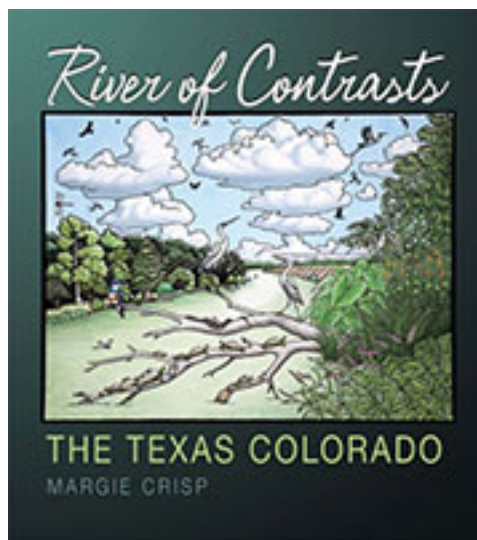
Photo: Roy Smallwood

Stan Wellso is getting ready for the kids of all ages! Also working the BCAS booth at McKinney Roughs Earth Day were Sue Brubaker, Susan Leslie, Russell Cole, Roy Smallwood, Priscilla Jarvis, and Lupe Munoz. Binocular training was a great success.

## For the May Program: Margie Crisp

### BCAS' Own: Artist and Author Presents Her New Book of Art and History of the Colorado R.

Released in April from Texas A&M University Press, *River of Contrasts: the Texas Colorado* is the fulfillment of four+ years' work for BCAS President Margie Crisp and reverses the neglect of appreciation for the major river which begins and ends within Texas. She will share her life-enlarging experience with us at the May meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., at the First National Bank Meeting Room in Bastrop, Hasler Blvd. @ H. 71W.



A working artist and writer, she created over fifty hand-colored linocuts, lithographs, silkscreen prints and photographs for the book to illustrate the changing character of the river and its diverse inhabitants. Detailed maps of each section encourage the reader to travel

down the river with Crisp as she hikes, wades, kayaks, floats, canoes, and boats the Colorado River from the headwaters at the edge of the Caprock Escarpment down to Matagorda Bay.



From its beginning at the edge of the High Plains of Texas, the Colorado River flows some 800 miles through twenty counties to meet the Gulf of Mexico. On its way, it fills nine lakes and reservoirs to supply water and electricity to vast areas of Texas. The river runs through the center of towns like Colorado City, La Grange,

Wharton, and Austin. Over 1.1 million people in Central Texas alone depend on the Colorado River's water for drinking, irrigation, electricity, and industry. *Continued, page 2*



## Field Trip Report, March 24,

8:00 A.M. -12:45 P.M.:

We had an enjoyable day visiting Earhardt Rd., Tahitian Village, North Shore of Lake Bastrop, and XS Ranch. Most interesting observations were 60 White Pelicans, 8 species of ducks, Belted Kingfisher, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Harris's Sparrow. BCAS members were Alan Jaeger, Priscilla Jarvis, Roy Smallwood, and Stan Wellso, leader.

Horned Grebe	1
White Pelican	60
Double-crested Cormorant	12
Great Egret	2
Great Blue Heron	1
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	4
Wood Duck	2
Gadwall	14
Green-winged Teal	11
Blue-winged Teal	12
Northern Shoveler	14
Ring-necked Duck	1
Bufflehead	6
American Coot	65
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Crested Caracara	11
Turkey Vulture	30
Black Vulture	40
Killdeer	6
Least Sandpiper	8
Greater Yellowlegs	12
Common Snipe	2
Rock Pigeon	5
Mourning Dove	55
Eurasian Collared Dove	12
Inca Dove	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	7
Purple Martin	12
Barn Swallow	16
Cliff Swallow	24
Eastern Phoebe	1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1
Eastern Bluebird	10
Northern Mockingbird	26
Blue Jay	1
American Crow	22
Carolina Chickadee	2
Tufted Titmouse	1
Carolina Wren	1
Common Yellowthroat	1
European Starling	14
Red winged Blackbird	15
Eastern Meadowlark	8
Great tailed Grackle	70
Brown headed Cowbird	100
House Sparrow	10
Field Sparrow	1
Savannah Sparrow	10
Vesper Sparrow	16
Harris's Sparrow	3
Northern Cardinal	32

total 53 species

### Margie Crisp, program:

Crisp's art appears on several Bastrop County Audubon official tee-shirts and on the Hornsby Bend tee shirt for their Anniversary in 2009. She now has produced two different tees in promotion of the book. When she was editor of Bird Calls, the newsletter won an award from National Audubon.

We look forward to a unique evening with this special program. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

**Bird Calls** is published seven times per year September through June by the Bastrop County Audubon Society. It is edited and produced by Mary Ellen Branan, PhD. We invite letters, articles, poems, news tips, calendar items, reviews, and photos by mail or email. Deadline for submissions is by noon the last of the preceding month. Editorial office: 216 Schaefer, Blvd, Bastrop 78602 Ph.: (512) 303-2734. Email: editor@bastropaudubon.org

*Note:* The editor is seeking an assistant interested in desktop publishing, photography, etc., to help in the production of Bird Calls and other media.

**Answers to Quiz: (1) the Arctic Tern, from pole to pole**

**(2) White-throated Sparrow**



**What does that Hummer know that we don't?** photo by Pam Hohman



## News from American Bird Conservancy

from Steve Holmer, 4/9/12, excerpted:

### New program includes Texas Gulf's beach-nesting shore birds.

ABC is managing new program which will increase protection and public awareness of beach-nesting birds such as Least Terns and Black Skimmers affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill along the Gulf of Mexico. The project is funded by the BP Exploration and Production, Inc. and National Fish and Wildlife Federation.

Partnering with ABC are Houston Audubon, Texas Audubon, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO), Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, National Audubon Society, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), and Florida Park Service.

"Partners will post sensitive nesting areas with signs, distribute coastal bird guides to boaters and fishermen, and provide educational kiosks at critical nesting sites such as Bolivar Flats – an ABC-designated Globally Important Bird Area. The effort will also implement community-based outreach programs and establish colony monitoring protocols at these locations.

"Beach-nesting birds in the Gulf suffered not only from the oil spill itself, but from the poorly executed beach cleanup efforts that followed. This project will help protect key bird populations from disturbance during critical nesting periods and increase awareness of these at-risk species," said Kacy Ray, ABC's Beach-nesting Bird Conservation Project Office.

"Country singer Gary Nunn has donated his services for a television public service announcement asking fishermen and recreational boaters to **"Fish, Swim, and Play from 50 Yards Away"** from nesting islands, which will air in Texas from March through August. Additionally, GCBO and the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex will post at least thirteen previously unprotected nesting colonies on islands on the upper Texas Coast. Texas partners are also distributing a bird guide to coastal fishermen and recreational boaters.

*Quiz*

- (1) What bird--or animal--makes the longest journey in migration?
- (2) What bird's song sounds like "Old Sam Peabody?"

### Editorial Opinion

## Why Join a Board of a Society -- by Roy Smallwood

As an avid birder, I submit by birding we become aware of and intensely involved in our surroundings, in nature itself. I live with the conviction that we, as individuals and as a species, are a part of nature—not apart from nature. As a part of nature we are compelled to engage in responsible stewardship. We are, in fact, endowed with the wherewithal to do so. Whether it is from pessimism or optimism we approach stewardship, it is clear the collective can accomplish great things and small enhancements. The mutual benefits of a societal effort are the visible and outward sign of our belief in the common good, the balance of nature, and prosperity for ourselves. Once convinced of this we begin as individuals to do our part, to effect a change in our own behavior, decisions, and activities. Thence, we become involved in organizations with whom we find congress and common purpose.

Ultimately, the decision to step into a leadership role becomes the logical conclusion. With that decision, one gains an enhanced perspective, friendships, and connections to the community. It enables the employment of skills one already possesses and the acquisition of new ones. It provides an avenue to become actively involved in one's community. It provides opportunity to live one's beliefs.



**Black Skimmer** -- The large red and black bill is knife-thin and the lower mandible is longer than the upper. The bird drags the lower bill through the water as it flies along, hoping to catch small fish.



**Least Tern Chick**

## David Mitchell Reflects on the 2010 CBC: 4/26/10

In a fascinating "special to the [Bastrop] Advertiser," David Mitchell, organizer of the annual Christmas Bird count designated as the Audubon Bastrop-Buescher State Parks count, analyzed the count vis-a-vis the fires in September, 2010.

"We had 38 people turn out on New Year's morning to canvas 12 designated areas within the count circle and identify the number of species and individuals seen or heard. . . . Our preliminary data yielded 127 species, well above the average of 109 {and} the highest species count ever recorded for the TXBB. . . ."

"Needless to say, I was surprised by the results, since the birding groups reported no birds seen or heard within the burned areas."

Mitchell considers the Pine Warbler and the Pileated Woodpecker as key indicators of the fire's immediate effects but says an "accurate assessment of the effects of the great fire on the quality of our avian environment will take several years." The 93 Pine Warblers sighted was "significantly less than the total of 192 seen the previous year," but the 21 Pileated count was similar to the 19 seen in 2009.



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## From Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

"Our newly redesigned All About Birds website is packed with stunning images and information about every aspect of birding. Enhance your bird knowledge by visiting our popular Bird Guide, with more than 500 species profiles, new photo ID tools, cool facts, sounds, and video. Peruse the Living Bird section for articles about travel, science, and conservation. Practice using the four keys to identification or sharpen your knowledge about Songs and Calls in the Building Skills section. attracting birds right to your own yard."

B.C.A.S  
c/o Priscilla Jarvis  
783 Lower Elgin Road  
Elgin TX 78621

M a y 2 0 1 2

*Return Service Requested*



Western Kingbird has arrived!

## May calendar

**May 5, Saturday: Bill Brooks** presents a "Central Texas Reptiles" program at Buescher S. P. amphitheater. 2:00 p.m.

**May 7, Monday: Reptile Training Class** with Master Naturalists at the Red Rock community center, 8 p.m. Visitors welcome.

**May 12, Saturday: Field Trip** with Stan Wellso. Meet at 8 a.m., in the parking lot of the 1<sup>st</sup> Natl. Bank in Bastrop. Rain date: May 19.

**May 12, Saturday: Anahuac NWR.** Family events scheduled to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day, among observances world wide..

**May 13. Sunday: BCAS Board Meets.** 4 p.m.

**May 15, Tuesday: General Meeting & Program,** 7 p.m.

### BCAS Membership Application/Renewal

- Individual \$20
- Family \$35
- Supporting \$75
- Youth \$ 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Bastrop County Audubon Society

Send to: Alan Jaeger, Treasurer  
117 Kaelepulu Dr.  
Bastrop TX 78602

Or join with PayPal at: [bastropcountyaudubon.org](http://bastropcountyaudubon.org)

**Breaking News** --The question of flood plain regulations applying to the site for the Judy Ing Chimney Swift Tower has been resolved! The site has been approved by the City of Bastrop. The tower is built and ready to be installed in Bob Bryant Park in the near future.