



# Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Bastrop County Audubon Society

## BCAS Board of Directors and Officers Elected at the June Annual Meeting for 2-year terms

President	Susan Leslie
Vice-President	Roy Smallwood
Treasurer	Alan Jaeger
Recording Secretary	Open
Membership Secretary	Priscilla Jarvis
Publications	Mary Ellen Branan
Education	Bill Brooks
Field Trips	Stan Wellso
State Audubon Delegate	Roy Smallwood
Directors :	Russell Cole and Judy Turner (Webmaster)

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## New Members Welcomed Joining BCAS from 7/1/11 to 6/30/12:

Julia Akin  
Audrey Ambrose  
Tara and Cameron Dickison  
Phyllis Johnson  
Beth and Carroll Moore  
Miriam and Robert Vaughn

## Chimney Swift Tower: Dedicated June 22

The Judy Ing memorial Chimney Swift Tower is now a major feature at City of Bastrop's Bob Bryant Park. On a beautiful June morning BCAS members, other friends and family of Judy Ing, City Parks personnel, and Chamber of Commerce members gathered for a special occasion, remember Judy and cut the official ribbon to declare the tower open for swifts and the public. Margie Crisp emceed the ceremony. Tom Scott, a former Bastrop mayor and a neighbor of Ing's, gave Ing's background and accomplishments.

*contiued, p 3, with photos*

## Program

### "Balcones---Past and Future in the National Wildlife Refuge System"

Bastrop County Audubon Society resumes its third-Tuesday regular meetings with guest speaker Deborah Holle, Manager of the Balcones-Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge.

Holle came to Balcones Canyonlands NWR in 1991. "I have worked with endangered species management my entire career and still love my job." After earning a Masters Degree in Wildlife Ecology from Oklahoma State University, Holle started working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Piedmont NWR in Georgia. She transferred to St. Marks NWR in North Florida and later

became the manager of the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge. (Fish and Wildlife is the governing agency of the National Wildlife Refuge System.)



*photo from NWR web site*

The purpose of the Balcones NWR is "to protect the nesting habitat of the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, two highly endangered migratory birds." The refuge consists of 23,822 acres in parts of Travis, Williamson, and

Burnet Counties. The "canyonlands" refers to the scenic canyons deeply etched by erosion from the Colorado River tributaries.

Over 100 years old, the National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of significant habitats that support abundant wildlife. Every state and Puerto Rico maintains NWRs. The first was founded in 1903 under Theodore Roosevelt with Florida's 3-acre Pelican Island, chiefly to protect egret and herons from slaughter for their feathers for the fashion industry, a crisis which simultaneously led to the founding of the National Audubon Society.

For some fun comparisons Texas has 18 National Wildlife Refuges, Arizona has 8, California has 41, Florida has 29, and Minnesota has 20.



*Greg Lasley, photographer*

The meetings are held at the First National Bank, Hasler Blvd. at Hwy 71W in Bastrop, second floor. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:15. All meetings are free and open to the public.



## Field Trip Report, May 12

--by Stan Wellso, Chair

8:00 am to 12:20 pm. We visited Tahitian Village and areas adjacent to HWY 969 including: Earhardt Road, Webberville County Park, Colorado Chapel Cemetery, and Wilbarger Bend. We saw many Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dickcissels, many Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and a Blue Grosbeak.

Enjoying birding, nature and being out in our beautiful green environment were Mary Ellen Branan, Jackie Fisher, Alan Jaeger, Roy Smallwood, and Stan Wellso (field chairman). Hope to see YOU on the next field trip.

American Egret 1  
Cattle Egret 15  
Blue-winged Teal 1  
Black-bellied Whistling Duck 6  
Red-tailed Hawk 1  
Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
Crested Caracara 1  
Black Vulture 8  
Turkey Vulture 6  
Killdeer 1  
Mourning Dove 14  
Rock Pigeon 1  
White-winged Dove 12  
Eurasian Collared-Dove 18  
Inca Dove 3  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 3  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 6  
Least Flycatcher 1  
Eastern Kingbird 12  
Western Kingbird 5  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 35  
Great-crested Flycatcher 1  
Eastern Bluebird 1  
Northern Mockingbird 12  
Loggerhead Shrike 1  
American Crow 10  
Cliff Swallow 45  
Barn Swallow 5  
Carolina Chickadee 1  
Tufted Titmouse 1  
Carolina Wren 1  
Yellow Warbler 15  
Chestnut sided Warbler 1  
Common Yellowthroat 1  
European Starling 3  
Eastern Meadowlark 1  
Orchard Oriole 15  
Baltimore Oriole 6  
Red winged Blackbird 43  
Great-tailed Grackle 86  
House Sparrow 65

## Reports from the Field in August:

Migrants are moving through now! For example, Brush Freeman heard Upland Sandpipers flying over, and recently he saw over 100 at XS Ranch (Steiner').

**Earhart Road** off of 969 on August 20 had Lark Sparrows, a Loggerhead Shrike feeding a juvenile, Orchard Orioles, Yellow Warblers, Snowy Egrets, Bronze Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Little Blue Heron.

The **Sod Farms off of 969** had a few interesting birds including 3 White Ibis, 1 White-faced Ibis, 1 Egyptian Goose, about 20 peeps- shorebirds. Mike and Jan Goebel and I were about to look at some shorebirds using a scope when we were asked to leave. This is a business and the people do not want any interference with their business. Never did get those peeps identified, a two second look through the scope was not long enough).

**Webberville Park** had 3 species of kingbirds, and all three species of kingfishers along the River.

I had a Mississippi kite fly into a window at our house. The stunned bird landed on the air conditioner, and as I approached, it flew up and dropped its prey. It had captured a young cliff swallow, but did not return to pick it up after flying wobbily away.

Brush Freeman saw Hairy Woodpeckers several times on **Harmon Road**, and the last time he was there, he and a friend saw an immature Red-headed Woodpecker. Fall is coming, and there are many interesting birds passing thru this area now. Look for Swallow, Martins, Mississippi Kites, and Flycatchers passing over Bastrop. Let's get out and see what else is in this area.

--Stan

Savannah Sparrow 1  
Lark Sparrow 1  
White-crowned Sparrow 1  
House Finch 10  
Northern Cardinal 8  
Dickcissel 30  
Blue Grosbeak 1  
Painted Bunting 1

## Letter from the President--Susan Leslie

What a difference a year makes! A year ago we didn't have a September meeting due to the fires, but the Chapter made up for it with its efforts for the rest of the year. A few members who lost their homes have left the county. One burned-out member has been rebuilding all summer.

Going into this year, I'm looking forward to some rebuilding of the chapter. We'll have a new web site, for example, and a new project of replacing over 30 nest boxes around the State Parks and other locales.

The Board is to meet at the Bastrop Public Library now on first Thursday evenings from now on, which means no more giving up Sunday evenings. And the location is more central and public.

My summer passed gracefully with the daily show of a female roadrunner bathing vigorously in my water pan, while her mate looked on (disapprovingly?) from a bush. And Blue Jays have taken up on my property where they never came before.

I'm looking forward to a year of wonderful meetings and programs and wonderful projects that bring us all closer together and that bring us all closer to birds and all wildlife.

**BirdCalls:** published six 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](mailto: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.



**Chimney Swift Tower, continued**

A Parks Board member formally noted the BCAS' gift of the Tower as an educational and meaningful attraction to the park. The ribbon was cut, the cake was cut and served.

The tower and the day of dedication were amply reported in the Bastrop Advertiser in two issues. If you missed the occasion, go visit the tower and its kiosk of posters at your earliest convenience.



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

*Return Service Requested*



Orchard Oriole --  
*Natl Geographic*

## September Calendar

**Sept. 6, Thursday: BCAS Board Meeting at Bastrop Public Library, 6:30 p.m. (**

**Sept. 17, Monday: Lost Pines Master Naturalist program with David Scott, eminent instructor on i.d. of birds via feathers. Guests always welcome.**

**Sept. 18, Tuesday: BCAS General Meeting & Program. Doors open 7:00 p.m. First Nat'l Bank, 2nd floor. Everyone welcome.**

**Now until December 4: Exhibit at Bergstrom International Airport of Margie Crisp linocuts for her book River of Contrasts: the Texas Colorado.**

## Website Undergoing Sea-change

**Judy Turner, Web Master, reports:** "As many of you may have noticed, our Bastrop County Audubon web site has only one page and it's currently out-of-date. Unfortunately, in June our web host company decided to no longer support some of the older web page software. Guess what we had?! And, they didn't tell us ahead of time that our web pages would no longer be available.

We are not dismayed. - A committee has been looking into our options this summer. These will be presented to the board of directors at their next meeting (September 6). Hopefully, we will have made a decision and be on the road to a new web host and web site by the next general meeting."

Chaired by Turner, the other committee members are Susan Leslie, Alan Jaeger, and Roy Smallwood.



Photo by Judy Turner