

Welcome to the TOS 2021 Virtual Winter Meeting!

President's Message



Christine Turnbull TOS President.

TOS is excited to announce our first ever Virtual Winter Meeting, taking place Thursday January 14 through Sunday, January 17, 2021. Due to the pandemic, we are adopting a unique format for this meeting. While it will be different from a typical winter meeting, there are multiple ways that you can participate and have fun! Join us for an exciting lineup of speakers and collaborative birding, as we strive to find as many species

as possible across the state.

This year, we will conduct our first ever **FREE** 3-Day Statewide COVID Collaborative Birding Blitz, searching every beach, forest, meadow and desert all across the Lone Star State. At the end of each day, we will share stories and interesting sightings from participating birders around Texas.

A speaker package is also offered for a small fee (members receive a discounted rate), allowing you to attend virtual workshops each afternoon on topics such as *Empidonax* flycatcher identification. (Is there anyone who doesn't need some help with this group of birds?) Other presentations will take you to Alaska or all around our own state, educate you on bird behavior, highlight the research and conservation efforts for Loggerhead Shrikes, and much more.

Everyone will be required to register online so that we can share instructions, resources, and details with participants. You do not need to be a TOS member to participate, and we encourage our membership to invite friends, family, and fellow birders to sign up for the event.

Online registration will open mid-December and close on January 7, 2021. Don't wait!

We eagerly look forward to "seeing" you during the meeting via digital and social media platforms. Most importantly - be safe, have fun, and find birds!

—Christine Turnbull

What is the 3-Day Statewide COVID Collaborative Birding Blitz?

Everything's bigger in Texas! Collaborating together on January 15-17, we will bird our local patches, hotspots, and backyards. We will then compile everyone's eBird reports over the course of those three days to create one Texas-sized bird list.

Ways to Participate

- Search for rare/specialty birds
You can contribute by focusing on those hard-to-get species in your area. Do you live within 50 miles of a stakeout for Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Shrike, Williamson's Sapsucker, or Hook-billed Kite? Consider spending time looking for those birds or other local specialties and rare birds. This will help grow our collective list.
- Have your own Big Sit
Have a Big Sit at your house or a local public area. You are welcome to invite others to assist you, or you may bird on your own. Be sure to follow our COVID guidelines below. For more information on Big Sit guidelines, visit [THIS PAGE](#).
- Local Patch-athon
Challenge yourself to see how many birds you can find in your local patch. Not sure what a patch is? Find out [HERE](#).
- Just get out and bird!
Only have an hour or two? You can still be a part of our meeting! TOS encourages you to bird at any time in your yard, at work, or wherever you happen to be.

No matter how you bird, remember to share your eBird lists with TOS. After the meeting, we will tally the numbers and see how many species we, the birders of Texas, found.

COVID Safety during the Birding Blitz

For the health and safety of everyone, TOS asks that participants adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Limit travel to 50 miles from your home base.
2. Maintain social distance (at least 6 feet between participants) and/or wear a mask while in the field.
3. Do not hold in-person gatherings where social distancing is not possible.
4. Carpool only with existing family members or social "pod" groups.
5. Comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

Meeting Agenda

All meeting events will be held virtually via Zoom. Birding will take place across Texas.

Thursday, January 14

- 3:30-5:30 PM TOS Board Meeting
- 6:00-6:30 PM "Check-in" on Zoom
- 6:30-7:00 PM Welcome/Introductions/
Announcements via Zoom (Lots of
useful information is given during this
time, so please attend.)
- 7:00-8:00 PM Speakers: TOS Regional Directors –
*Favorite Birding Locations in Their
Regions*

Friday, January 15

- All Day Birding – 3-Day Statewide COVID
Collaborative Birding Blitz
- 3:30-4:30 PM Speaker: Cin-Ty Lee – *Empidonax
Identification*
- 4:45-5:45 PM Speaker: Dr. Tania Homayon –
*Texas Nature Trackers: Discovering
Populations & Documenting Change
for Conservation*
- 6:00-7:00 PM Announcements/Birding Reports/
Social Hour
- 7:00-8:00 PM Speaker: Romey Swanson – *Audubon
Texas Bird Conservation in Texas*

Saturday, January 16

- All Day Birding – 3-Day Statewide COVID
Collaborative Birding Blitz
- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Photography Class with Lee Hoy
- 3:30-4:30 PM Speaker: Dr Byron Stone – *Birding
Alaska with TOS*
- 4:45-5:45 PM Speaker: Shelia Hargis – *Magical
Migrations*
- 6:00-7:00 PM Announcements/Birding Reports/
Social Hour
- 7:00-8:00 PM Speaker: Jennifer Ackerman – *The
Bird Way*

Sunday, January 17

- All Day Birding – 3-Day Statewide COVID
Collaborative Birding Blitz
- 3:30-4:30 PM Speaker: Kent Rylander – *Bird
Behavior*
- 4:45-5:45 PM Speaker: Sue Heath with Jennifer
Wilson – *Migrant and Resident
Loggerhead Shrike Habitat
Affiliations in Texas*
- 6:00-7:00 PM Announcements/Birding Reports/
Social Hour
- 7:00-8:00 PM Speaker: Nathan Pieplow – *Listen to
Her Sing*

Registration Information

An email containing the link to registration on the Texas Ornithological Society's website, www.texasbirds.org, will be sent in mid-December, so be sure your email address is up to date in your TOS account. Please also share the link and this information through various social media outlets with non-TOS members and any local birding friends, clubs, and groups we may miss, as ALL are welcome to join this meeting.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may call Judy Kestner at 361-387-7329 or Frances Cerbins at 512-372-9039 for assistance with registration. If you don't get an answer, leave a message and Judy or Frances will call you back when they are available.

Registration will close on January 7, 2021.

Event Prices

3-Day COVID Collaborative Birding Blitz: FREE

Speaker Package, including access to TEN exciting presentations:

- \$25 for TOS members
- \$35 for Non-TOS members
- \$60 for Non-TOS members (includes a one-year membership)
- Free registration for students

2 Hour Saturday Virtual Photography Class:

- \$10 for TOS members
- \$15 for Non-TOS members

Photography Class

Saturday, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Cost: \$10 for members/\$15 for non-members

Description: Wildlife/Bird photography is unlike any other style of photography in that our ability to understand, find, and know our subjects is key to our success. What is it that helps separate great wildlife/bird photographers from good ones? What skills, habits, tips, and knowledge do you need to take your wildlife/bird photography to the next level? When do technical and creative exposure come together to produce brilliant images? Join us for all this and more!

Bio: Lee Hoy is the owner/operator of Big Bend Birding & PhotoTours and a freelance photographer. An award-winning photographer, his images have been published in Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, Texas Highways, Bird Watcher's Digest, & NANPA's Expression. Lee has taught myriad courses including beginning birding classes, photography classes, and Lightroom classes, serving as an instructor for Travis Audubon Society, Williamson Audubon Group, many Master Naturalist classes, and the Texas Ornithological Society.



Lee Hoy

Meeting Presentations

Thursday Evening

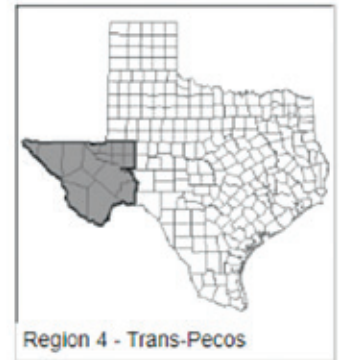
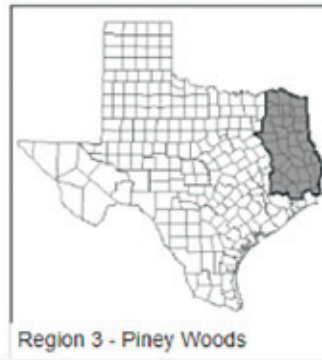
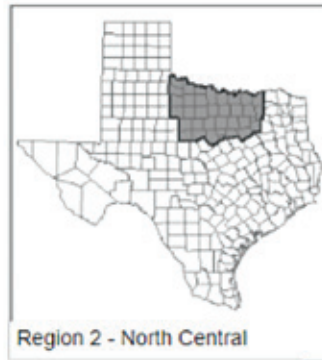
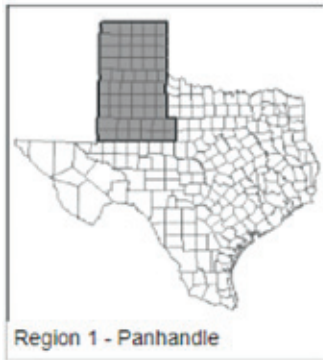
7:00 PM

Title: Favorite Birding Spots of TOS Regional Directors

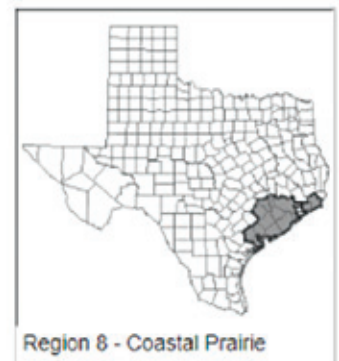
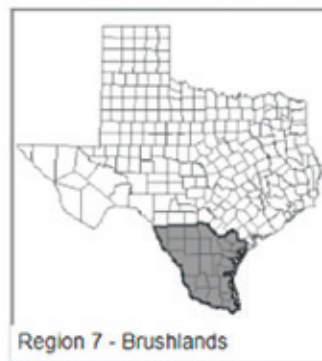
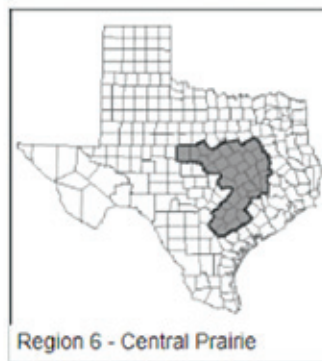
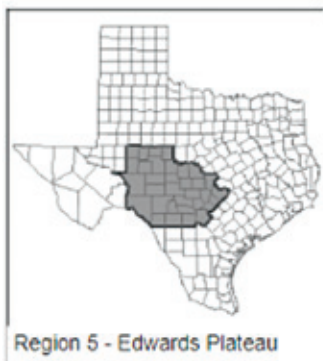
Presenters: TOS Regional Directors

Description: TOS has divided Texas into eight geographic regions. Each region has a TOS Director who

represents that region in Board meetings. Join us for this opportunity to meet the directors and learn about their favorite birding locations. This will give you some great ideas for future birding adventures once COVID is behind us and we are free to go birding anywhere we want. Visit the *About TOS, Board of Directors* section of our website, <http://texasbirds.org/aboutTOS.php>, to see maps of each region including the counties included in each.



Close



Your regional directors are: Region 1 – John Berner (Acting Director), Region 2 – Gailon Brehm, Region 3 – Laura Wilson, Region 4 – D. D. Currie, Region 5 – Christine Turnbull, Region 6 – Daniel Hodges, Region 7 – Raul Delgado, and Region 8 – Kendra Kocab.

Friday Afternoon

3:30 PM

Title: Making Empidonax Identification Accessible

Presenter: Cin-Ty Lee

Description: Empidonax flycatchers are among the most challenging bird species to identify because there are no single field marks that can be relied on. Instead, empid identification relies on a combination of soft field marks, such as structure and relative color contrasts. All of these features are subtle, making it difficult to even teach the basics of empid identification. In this talk, Cin-Ty will show you how to look at an empid so that you are better prepared for entering this notorious ID challenge.

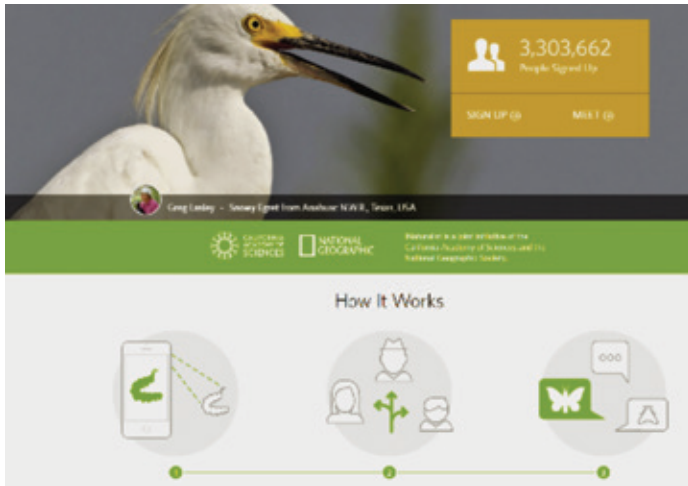
Bio: Cin-Ty Lee has been birding since he was ten years old. He's lived in Houston for 18 years, where he teaches geology and ornithology at Rice University. He has written numerous articles on challenging bird identifications, such as pewees, dowitchers, female orioles, pipits and loons. He has recently begun a dedicated effort to track nocturnal migrants over Houston with passive recording.



Cin-Ty Lee

4:45 PM

Title: Texas Nature Trackers: Discovering Populations & Documenting Change for Conservation



Presenter: Tania Homayoun

Description: Texas Parks & Wildlife’s Texas Nature Trackers (TNT), part of the Wildlife Diversity Program, tracks the status of wild populations of plants and animals throughout the state. This presentation will introduce the Texas Nature Trackers program and how it uses iNaturalist to support the Wildlife Diversity Program’s conservation work on Species of Greatest Conservation Need across the state. We’ll discuss some TNT projects and data needs and how this framework enables iNaturalist users and bioblitz participants to be active partners in conservation.

Bio: Dr. Tania Homayoun is a Texas Nature Tracker Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Through Texas Nature Trackers, she engages naturalists of all interests and ability levels in collecting citizen science and crowd-sourced data on Texas’ unique flora and fauna with a particular focus



Tania Homayoun

on species of greatest conservation need. Previously, Tania worked for Audubon Texas, with the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center and later the Conservation Science Team as its Urban Conservation Program Manager where she worked to develop and deliver conservation plans, educational programs/trainings, and activities supporting biodiversity and sustainable communities.

Tania holds a BS in Ecology/Evolution/Conservation Biology and a BA in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota, where she studied the impacts of urbanization on landbird communities. She is an avid birder and always has room for one more native plant in her patio garden.

Friday Evening

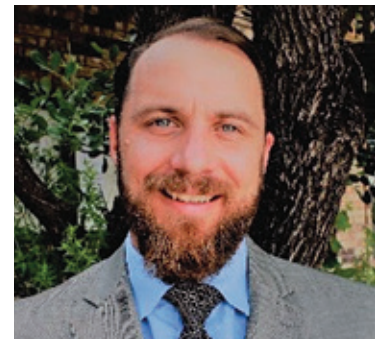
7:00 PM

Title: The Wonderful Wild of Texas: Birds

Presenter: Romey Swanson, Director of Conservation Strategy, Audubon Texas

Description: This talk will cover the many characteristics that make Texas so biologically rich - through a bird’s eye view. We’ll explore Texas’ bird diversity while detailing the seemingly disparate eco-regions that support them. We’ll detail the many conservation challenges that exist throughout Texas and how these challenges shape an uncertain future. We’ll also explore conservation successes and the role of private landowners in Texas conservation. We’ll review the science that drives Audubon Texas’ strategic conservation planning and how we all have a stake in the health of bird populations. From Burrowing Owls on the shortgrass prairies, Black-capped Vireos along arid river basins, the breeding warbler diversity of East Texas forests, to the nesting haunts of coastal waterbirds - there should be something for all bird enthusiasts.

Bio: Romey Swanson works for Audubon Texas as the Director of Conservation Strategy. In this role, Romey works with state, national, and international partners to identify and advance important conservation strategies to benefit birds, wildlife, and people. Romey is a Certified Wildlife Biologist and President Elect of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society - Texas’ largest professional society of wildlife managers. Additionally, Romey is an active leader within the Texas Land Trust Community serving on several organizations’ boards and committees. He received a Master’s Degree from Texas State University studying the wildlife of Central Texas. Romey lives in Austin and enjoys spending time with his family hunting, camping, and studying nature – much like his favorite naturalist Teddy Roosevelt.



Romey Swanson

Saturday Afternoon

3:30 PM

Title: Birding Alaska with TOS

Presenter: Byron Stone

Description: Byron “Doc” Stone’s talk tonight will outline the exciting birding potential that Alaska offers in early summer. He has co-lead the TOS “Grand Alaska Adventure” birding trip twice, first with Jim Hailey in June 2017 and again in June 2019 with Randy Pinkston. Byron and Randy plan to co-lead the trip again in June 2021.

Bio: Byron “Doc” Stone is an Austin physician and naturalist and a self-described lifelong “nature freak.” He grew up in central Texas and has been an avid birder for over four decades. Byron has traveled widely in Texas and other states



Byron Stone

to observe birds and wildlife and teaches classes for Travis Audubon Society on sparrows and raptors. He was the creative force behind the development of SparrowFest, a winter celebration of sparrow abundance and diversity at Balcones Canyonlands NWR in central Texas.

Doc formerly served on the Texas Bird Records Committee, is a Past-President of the Texas Ornithological Society, and has an abiding interest in conservation and ecology.

4:45 PM

Title: Magical Migrations: Birds on the Move

Presenter: Shelia Hargis

Description: Most of us are very familiar with spring migration. This presentation will focus on a couple of other magical migrations, migrations that tend to be really spectacular in the late summer and fall. You will learn about the migrations of Chimney Swifts and Purple Martins, how you can observe these birds on their way south, how you can help these birds as they undergo their demanding travels, and how you can participate in citizen science by participating in Swift Night Out. The migrations of these species are as spectacular as spring migration, just in different ways. Join us for this presentation so that you'll be prepared to experience them for yourself!

Bio: Shelia has been birding for nearly 25 years and is totally obsessed with birds! She spends most of her free time birding or thinking about birds. Shelia gives presentations on a variety of bird topics, surveys birds for the City of Austin and the North American Breeding Bird Survey as well as private landowners, and regularly leads birding field trips. She is Past-President of both Travis Audubon and Texas Ornithological Society.



Shelia Hargis

Saturday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: The Bird Way



Presenter: Jennifer Ackerman

Description: A multimedia presentation on *The Bird Way*, this talk explores a kaleidoscope of fascinating behaviors in the bird world through the lens of five arenas of daily activity: communication, work, play, love, and parenting. It tells stories about some of the extraordinary ways that birds do these things and the secret, sophisticated intelligence underlying

their behavior. The talk also explores the new discoveries that are overturning many of our old, conventional ideas about how birds live their lives, describes how science is making some of these astonishing discoveries, and shows the most stunning examples from each section of the book. The talk ranges from the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of northern Japan, to the rolling hills of lower Austria and the islands of Alaska's Kachemak Bay, and includes audio, video, and spectacular photos by professional photographers.

Bio: Jennifer Ackerman is a New York Times bestselling author who has been writing about science, nature, and human biology for more than three decades. She is the author of eight books. Her most recent book, *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent,*



Jennifer Ackerman

and Think, was published in spring of 2020 by Penguin Press and is described by reviewers as “splendid and spellbinding,” “exhilarating”, and “an enthralling study of the avian world.” The book was selected as an Editor’s Choice by the New York Times and a “best summer science book of 2020” by NPR’s Science Friday and will be published in more than ten languages. Her previous book, the bestselling *The Genius of Birds* (Penguin Press, 2016; paperback, 2017) is described by Scientific American as “a lyrical testimony to the wonders of avian intelligence,” and by The Wall Street Journal as “a gloriously provocative and highly entertaining book.” *The Genius of Birds* was named one of the 10 best nonfiction books of 2016 by The Wall Street Journal, a Best Science Book of 2016 by National Public Radio’s “Science Friday”, and Nature Book of the Year by the London Sunday Times. It is published in more than 20 languages.

The revised and reissued edition of Jennifer’s first book, about the natural life of the mid-Atlantic coast, was published by Penguin Press in 2019 under the title *Birds by the Shore*. Her previous books include *Sex Sleep Eat Drink Dream: A Day in the Life of Your Body* (Houghton Mifflin), *Ah-Choo: The Uncommon Life of Your Common Cold* (Twelve), and *Chance in the House of Fate: A Natural History of Heredity* (Houghton Mifflin). Jennifer has contributed articles and essays to National Geographic, The New York Times Magazine, Scientific American, The Wall Street Journal, and many other publications. She is the recipient of a Literature Fellowship in Nonfiction from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Bunting Institute fellowship from Radcliffe College, and a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Sunday Afternoon

3:30 PM

Title: Understanding Bird Behavior



Presenter: Kent Rylander

Description: Some bird behaviors seem obvious, such as a bird fleeing a hawk, but some are more puzzling. It's not immediately clear, for example, why a gull lifts its head to the sky when displaying and appears to use the same movements when drinking. Is there a connection between these two behaviors?

A number of brilliant students of animal behavior tackled questions such as this one during the last century. Among them were Konrad Lorenz and Niko Tinbergen, who were awarded the Nobel Prize for their work in animal behavior.

In this TOS virtual presentation, I'll explain some of the behaviors we regularly see at our bird feeders and on our bird walks, in particular some common innate and learned behaviors.



Kent Rylander

Bio: Kent grew up on a farm near Denton, Texas, where he and his brother Rod were birders throughout their teenage years. Kent majored in biology at UNT and after serving in the U.S. Army he completed his doctorate in zoology in 1965 at Tulane University in New Orleans. The same year he joined the faculty at

Texas Tech University, where he taught ornithology, animal behavior, comparative anatomy, and neuroanatomy. Although he retired in 2004, he continued teaching a summer course in ornithology at Texas Tech's Junction campus until 2015. During his career at Tech he made a number of research trips to Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and to Austria, where he studied the behavior of geese. In 2002, he published *The Behavior of Texas Birds* (University of Texas Press). He currently lives with his wife, Laura Ronstadt, in Fredericksburg.

4:45 PM

Title: Migrant and Resident Loggerhead Shrike Habitat Affiliations in Texas

Presenter: Sue Heath with Jennifer Wildon

Description: The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) and the Texas Midcoast National Wildlife Refuge Complex have initiated a project on the upper Texas coast to determine the difference in habitat usage by resident and migrant Loggerhead Shrikes.

Although Loggerhead Shrikes are still common in Texas, this species has undergone a 79% decline over the life of the Breeding Bird Survey. Some studies have indicated that constraints associated with winter habitat are limiting the migratory populations of this species. The Texas Gulf coastal prairie contains both migrant and resident shrikes

from November through February, but we do not know how migratory and resident populations coexist during this time period.

Our ongoing project seeks to determine if there are differences in habitat affiliations for migrant and resident shrikes during winter in Texas.

Bio: Susan Heath is a native Texan who returned to the state in 2007 after being transplanted to Virginia for 24 years. After serving in the U.S. Navy for four years and working as a computer security analyst in the Washington D.C. area for 12 years, she decided to return to school to focus on employment that was more personally meaningful. Sue received a Master's in Biology from George Mason University for her work on wintering waterfowl on the Northern Virginia Piedmont in 2003 and a Ph.D from the same institution in the spring of 2008. Her dissertation involved the effects of pesticides on birds that nest in agriculture in the north central states.



Susan Heath

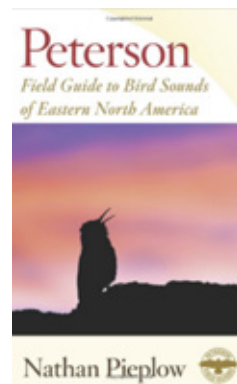
At Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO), she is in charge of conservation research including research projects focused on American Oystercatcher stewardship, beach nesting birds, non-breeding shorebirds, Black Skimmer monitoring, Motus tower network, Eastern Willet migration, bird use of intertidal reef, Loggerhead Shrike conservation, and the Smith Point Hawk Watch.

At Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO), she is in charge of conservation research including research projects focused on American Oystercatcher stewardship, beach nesting birds, non-breeding shorebirds, Black Skimmer monitoring, Motus tower network, Eastern Willet migration, bird use of intertidal reef, Loggerhead Shrike conservation, and the Smith Point Hawk Watch.

Sunday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: Listen to Her Sing



Presenter: Nathan Pieplow

Description: Only male birds sing, right? Wrong! In fact, this widespread notion has a lot more to do with human cultural and geographic biases than it has to do with nature. In this talk, Nathan

Pieplow explores the often-overlooked songs of female birds. You will hear the pair duets of meadowlarks and blackbirds, the musical songs of female cardinals and orioles, and the distinctive song of the female Canyon Wren, among others. In which species do females actually sing more often than males? How do you know when you're listening to a female Blue Jay? And where did we even get this crazy idea that only male birds sing? Answers to these questions and more in this presentation.

Bio: Growing up in South Dakota, Nathan Pieplow got started identifying bird songs by studying the classic "Birding By Ear" field guides in the Peterson series. It wasn't until 2003, when he faced the frustrations of studying sounds for his first trips to Mexico and Costa Rica, that he became dedicated to finding new and better ways to learn, describe, and catalog

bird sounds. Along the way he became a sound recordist and an amateur ethologist (a student of animal behavior).

Nathan says, "I'm not one of those superhuman beings who can identify every singing bird, or discern the nocturnal flight call of a Blackpoll Warbler as it passes overhead in the dark. My high-frequency



Nathan Pieplow

hearing is getting worse every year, and I don't have a great auditory memory. For me to learn bird sounds, I wanted more resources: more recordings, better glossaries, deeper discussions. So I set out to create my own resources. My earbirding.com blog is part of the result. *The Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds* is another part."

Nathan lives in Boulder, Colorado, where he teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado. He is a former editor of the quarterly journal *Colorado Birds* and one of the developers of the Colorado County Birding Website and the Colorado Birding Trail, and he regularly gives talks about bird sounds to bird clubs and ornithological societies.

2020 Annual Meeting

2020 TBRC Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Texas Bird Records Committee (hereafter committee or TBRC) was held at 11:30 AM on 12 September 2020. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held entirely online via video conference with each attendee connecting remotely. All members but Arnold were able to attend:

Members

- Tony Frank, Chair
- Eric Carpenter, Secretary
- Keith Arnold, Academician (did not attend)
- Mel Cooksey
- Mary Gustafson
- Dan Jones
- Petra Hockey
- Stephan Lorenz
- Chris Runk
- Willie Sekula
- Christine Turnbull, TOS President, was also able to attend.

The meeting was convened at 11:40 AM.

Election of Members

Carpenter and Arnold were the only nominees respectively for the Secretary and Academician positions. Both were unanimously (re)elected to their respective position.

Hockey's second term expired at the Annual Meeting and Arnold has become a non-voting member as of the meeting so that meant that there were 2 open Voting Member positions. There were 2 nominees - Sheridan Coffey (nominated by Gustafson and Sekula) and Greg Cook (nominated by Runk). The background/merits of each candidate were discussed and both were unanimously elected.

Thus, effective at the end of the Annual Meeting, current membership and term of service are as follows:

- Tony Frank, Chair – term expires in 2021, can be re-elected
- Eric Carpenter, Secretary (not a Voting Member) – term expires in 2021, can be re-elected

- Keith Arnold, Academician (not a Voting Member) - term is as listed for Secretary, can be re-elected
- Sheridan Coffey – 1st term expires in 2023, can be re-elected
- Greg Cook – 1st term expires in 2023, can be re-elected
- Mel Cooksey – 1st term expires in 2022, can be re-elected
- Mary Gustafson – 1st term expires in 2021, can be re-elected
- Willie Sekula – 1st term expires in 2021, can be re-elected
- Chris Runk – 2nd term expires in 2022
- Dan Jones – 2nd term expires in 2021
- Stephan Lorenz – 2nd term expires in 2021

The sequence (used primarily for order for oral/4th round records) of members for voting becomes:

Coffey, Cook, Cooksey, Gustafson, Sekula, Runk, Jones, Lorenz, Frank

Additional discussions

There were no other agenda items but Frank did discuss his thoughts on a subcommittee on Exotics that he has been wanting to create. The purpose of the subcommittee will be to do research and gather documentation on exotics in Texas that are potential candidates to be added to the official state list. Lorenz indicated that he would be interested in helping out with this project and volunteered to start some research/documentation gathering on Red-vented Bulbul to see if it is a viable candidate.

Adjournment

With no other formal business on the agenda and no additional Any Other Business items raised, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58AM.

Respectfully submitted,

—Eric Carpenter
Secretary, Texas Bird Records Committee

Regional Reports

Region 1—Panhandle

Region 2—North Central Texas

Fall migration is finishing up now in North Central Texas, and we are happily welcoming our wintering species back! The “squark” calls of Northern Flickers welcome me to the woods every morning on my dog walk. A darkly marked Red-tailed Hawk has settled into a nearby preserve. Its markings differ from most of our breeding red-tailed hawks; so, I presume it is here for the winter only. Some sparrows are slowly appearing, and I admit to being impatient to see more. By the way, for you in south Texas, many Lincoln Sparrows come through here in late August and throughout September. A few settle in for the season, but most continue onward. I remember being surprised how many I have seen on the coastal prairies in mid-winter, a time when the numbers up here are rather small. Song and Savannah Sparrows will outnumber them soon. Already, Golden Eagle, Mountain Bluebird, and Red-breasted Nuthatch have been reported for the region; so, we’re hoping for a fun cool season.

Unusual late summer and fall sightings this year, as reported by Ross Rasmussen, have been: Mountain Plover, Red Knot, Swallow-tailed Kite, Hammond’s Flycatcher, and Thick-billed (McCown’s) Longspur. A much longer list of somewhat unusually sightings have been seen recently, and I’m quite pleased to see folks reporting those on our regional Facebook pages – North Central Texas Bird Notes and North Central Texas Bird Alerts. I encourage members to follow those reports. I have noticed many reports from people relatively new to the local birding community – welcome! Also, I’m pleased to see reports and discussion of the everyday “unusual”, like the crazy appearance of molting birds in late summer. I speculate that our “stay-at-home” crowd has really gotten into bird observations this year.

Hey, thanks for reading and good birding,

—John Berner

Region 3—East Texas Timberlands (Pineywoods)

Region 4—Trans-Pecos

Dell Little and I have lived in the Trans-Pecos for two years, so every season here is a new day for us. One thing we noticed during this reporting period was the significant increase in the number of individual birds coming to our yard. It has been extremely dry across the entire region, so water sources of any kind are really attracting birds in large numbers.

Unfortunately, the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration, typically held toward the end of August was cancelled due to COVID-19. Fortunately, though, birders in the Trans-Pecos were able to support the Great Texas Birding Classic with two teams participating in the Far West Texas Adult Regional Big Day Tournament, two Far West Texas Big Sit teams, and four Trans Pecos birders who participated on four different teams in the Adult Statewide Big Day Tournament.

Fall migration was really good with a number of interesting sightings as follows: Surf Scoter, Balmorhea Lake 10/28/2020; Least Grebe, Christmas Mountain Oasis, 8/31/2020; Groove-billed Ani, Fort Pena Colorado Park 8/8/2020; Costa’s Hummingbird, private residence Alpine, 9/22/2020; Red-necked Phalarope Van Horn, 9/4/2020, El Carmen Conservation Company 9/24/2020, and Fort Hancock, 10/4/2020; Yellow-billed Loon, Balmorhea Lake 10/28/2020; Spotted Owl, non-public property in Jeff Davis county 9/19/2020; Crested Caracara, Alpine 10/8/2020; Eastern Kingbird, Fort Pena Colorado Park, 9/13/2020; Yellow-green Vireo, Fort Pena Colorado Park, 8/10/2020; Red Crossbill, private residence JDC, 10/12/2020; Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Franklin Mountain State Park, 10/22/2020; Yellow-eyed Junco, residential neighborhood El Paso 10/17/2020. Also, a number of warblers typically seen further east included Ovenbird, Gage Gardens, Marathon 9/14/2020 and private residence El Paso 10/16/2020; Golden-winged Warbler, 9/25/2020, Guadalupe Mountain National Park; Hooded Warbler, private residence, El Paso 9/12/2020; Northern Parula, private residence El Paso, 10/16/2020; Black-throated Green Warbler private residence, El Paso 9/13/2020; Canada Warbler, Memorial Park, El Paso 10/8/2020.

—DD Currie

Region 5—Edwards Plateau Report

—Christine Turnbull

Region 6—Central Prairie

John Lennon was right—“Strange days indeed”. Birding in Region 6 has been peculiar, too, over the last few months, as we feel the effects of weather events, either directly or indirectly. Notable sightings have popped up over the Central Prairie, perhaps spurred by hurricanes and wildfire events. Here in Lampasas County, the Pine Siskins showed up as usual, except they were about a month earlier than I have ever seen them! Could they be trying to escape the wildfires to our west and north? Reports of Sabine’s Gull, Red-necked Phalarope, and Black Scoter in Brazos County suggest the same. Pushing up farther north than usual are Couch’s Kingbird in Williamson County, as well as Nelson’s Sparrow, Black Skimmer, and Roseate Spoonbill in Brazos County. Is it a coincidence that these reports followed hurricane activity on the Gulf coast?

Many of us have already seen Red-breasted Nuthatches this year. Early reports in Comanche and Lampasas Counties suggest this might be an irruptive year for the species.

Impressive hummingbird sightings have become an almost daily occurrence in Region 6. Brazos County reported Anna’s and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. Bell County observed its second ever record of Anna’s Hummingbird in September.

Selasphorus hummingbirds have been, and continue to be, an impressive presence over the Central Prairie. Rufous

Regional Reports (continued)

and Allen's Hummingbirds are being seen region-wide in good numbers.

Check out elsewhere in this newsletter for all the exciting details of our upcoming Virtual Winter Meeting.

— Daniel Hodges

Region 7—Rio Grande Brushlands

—Raul Delgado

Region 8—Central Prairie

I hope everyone is geared up for a spectacular fall/winter season of birding! There seems to be a lot of movement of western species into (or very nearly into) Texas, and those birds could eventually work their way into our region. In the meantime, here are some of the many great bird sightings we have had in Region 8 since June:

A **Greater Roadrunner** was first reported at Kleb Woods nature Center by B. Nicklow on October 6 and continued through the end of the month. This is the first eBird record of this species in Harris County since 2017. A one-day wonder **Red-necked Phalarope** was discovered by R. Weeks in Brazoria County on September 29. The Big Sit at Bolivar Flats on October 24 produced a **California Gull** that many were able to see. A **Sooty Tern**, typically found offshore, was photographed by D. Walker as it flew down the shoreline in Calhoun County on September 21. Both H. Jerng (September 14) and R. Gibbons (October 4) reported a juvenile **Zone-tailed Hawk** in Fort Bend County. The reports came from different locations, so it is unclear if they are of the same individual hawk. A **Western Wood-Pewee**, first photographed in Quintana by S. Rogow, B. Schneider, and J. Schneider, was seen October 23-26. Two species that have few fall records in our region have also been spotted.



Tropical Kingbird by J. Chen

A **Yellow-green Vireo** was first reported in Quintana by M. Scheuerman, S. Mottin, and J. Schaberg on September 27 and continued through September 29, and a **Lazuli Bunting** was reported by J. Berner in Fort Bend County on September 29.

There is currently an interesting phenomenon with **Tropical Kingbirds** in our region. Two pairs have been reported recently. Both have been seen from late July to October, and both appear to be first county records. T. Freiday reported a Tropical Kingbird at Sea Rim State Park in Jefferson County, and a second bird was eventually discovered there. R. Weeks originally reported the pair in Quintana, Brazoria County.

—Kendra Kocab, Director

TOSNEWS Staff

Jack Eitnear
Judy Kestner

Editor
Advertising

Randy Pinkston-Chair/Publication Committee

Judy Kestner
Susan Foster

Proofreader
Proofreader

A special thank you to the Writers and Artists who contributed to this publication.

Printed by Sheridan

Typesetting by Phil Wolfe Graphic Design

Copyright ©2020 Texas Ornithological Society

Hooks Woods Updates

Photos by Shelia Hargis

The coronavirus may have shut down many things, but work at Hooks Woods continues. Before COVID, we installed a wonderful water feature on the edge of the “prairie” area at Hooks. Dennis Moncla’s great article and photographs in the 2020 *Texas Birds Annual* highlighted some of the birds who took advantage of the stream to drink and bathe. Even though many of us were not able to visit the sanctuary during the spring, the birds benefited from our efforts, and hopefully we will all be able to soon enjoy spring migration as we’re accustomed to.

In the meantime, we are continuing our management and habitat improvement efforts. Over the summer, Pete Deichmann, Coastal Sanctuaries Manager for Houston Audubon, “mowed” some of the large stand of bamboo that has been taking over the sanctuary. This is the first step in our plan to eradicate the bamboo. This is a long-term project that will free up some space for native trees and shrubs, vegetation that will provide needed food and cover for migrating birds and maybe nesting habitat for resident birds.



The pond was barely visible when we arrived!



James Giroux, Chuck Davis and Jan Hanson hard at work laying out the weed barrier.

On October 18, the TOS High Island Management Team met at Hooks to install weed barrier and mulch around the water feature to keep the grass, ragweed, and other vegetation from encroaching upon the pond.

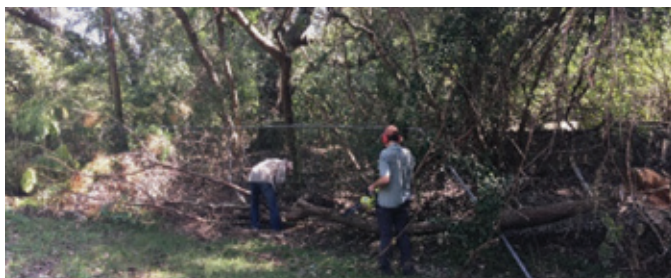


Done! Our amazing work crew: James Giroux, David and Jan Hanson, Kendra Kocab and Chuck Davis.

In addition to the weed barrier and mulch work, we removed algae from the pond, swept the boardwalks, laid out some weed barrier over the area where some of the bamboo had been cut (an experiment to see if the barrier will kill the bamboo underneath it), and cut up a tree (Chinaberry – yah!) that winds from a recent hurricane had blown down on our fence.



Experiment in the works to determine if a weed barrier will kill the bamboo underneath.



James and Chuck tackling the downed tree.

We finished the day with James trying to make friends with one of the three or four ribbon snakes that hunted in and around the pond throughout the day and kept a close eye on our work.



James, the snake charmer?



The Hooks Woods Western Ribbon Snakes seemed to be happy on land or in the water.

In addition to continuing to attack the bamboo, we submitted a grant application to the Great Texas Birding Classic to add bleachers near the water feature area, so that visitors can sit and watch the birds come in. If you competed in the GTBC and get to choose where some of the grant money goes, please consider choosing our project for grant money!

--Shelia Hargis



We're hoping to install bleachers similar to these so birders can sit and watch the birds at the water feature.z

2020 CONSERVATION HERO SHELIA HARGIS



Travis Audubon is thrilled to honor Shelia Hargis with our 2020 Victor Emanuel Conservation Award.

Hargis's dedication as a Crime Intelligence Analyst Supervisor with the Austin Police Department is rivaled only by her passion for birds and birding.

In her 22-year tenure as a Travis Audubon volunteer, Hargis's efforts have helped transform TAS from a local birding club to perhaps the premier conservation organization in Central Texas. Hargis served on the Travis Audubon Board of Directors for 12 years, including two as Board President(2004-2006).

During her tenure, she hired staff, led the fundraising for and subsequent acquisition of ten acres to Baker Sanctuary, and oversaw the donation of Chaetura Canyon to Travis Audubon. She currently serves on the TAS Advisory Board.

Hargis's commitment to sharing the joy of birding spans the whole state. As the President of the Texas Ornithological Society from May 2017 – April 2020, Hargis led the effort to add wildlife sanctuary acreage, facilitated membership meetings across Texas, and built organizational capacity.

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please email kelsey@travisaudubon.org.

Debbie Layer 1951-2020



Photo by Frank Farese.

Debbie Layer, a longtime TOS member and Kleb Woods volunteer, passed away Sunday morning, June 7, 2020. She had been struggling with a debilitating brain tumor for more than a year. It was only a couple of months before her passing that she made her final visit to Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, which she loved so well.

Debbie was a kind and generous spirit. A lifelong learner, her curiosity about nature and love of the outdoors kept her young. Her interests were focused on birds and gardening for wildlife, but spanned the entire world of nature. We have at Kleb Woods a lone Longleaf Pine across from the front steps of the nature center. The pine tree is one of Debbie's gifts. It was a small pine when she acquired and planted it, remaining in the grass stage for several years. She nurtured it, watered it, and, I suspect, spoke to it. Longleaf Pines can stay in the grass stage for as long as 15 years, and sometimes I thought hers might, too.

But it finally looked up and is now headed skyward. It is poetic that Debbie was also headed skyward about the same time. The pine is right outside my window and a constant reminder of her caring and nurturing spirit. I hear her voice when I visit it to see if it needs weeding or watering.

Debbie put in 1,267 hours as a volunteer at Kleb Woods. She helped with just about everything we do at one time or



Photo by BeaAnn Kelly.

another. She has been a member of our honored Roadrunner Club since 2011, having logged 500 volunteer hours by that time. The routine chores of filling bird feeders, refreshing hummingbird feeders, and weeding and watering the pollinator and hummingbird beds were her gift to the staff on a weekly basis. She always helped with our special events, like Hummingbird Festival and Diggin' Old Stuff. She was our champion Christmas-time decorator and loved to arrange table decorations from fresh greenery. She enjoyed our birding classes and bus trips and made the most of them for a dozen years. Debbie also spent hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of hours volunteering for the Heartwood Master Naturalists and Jones State Forest. I know we will all miss her.

In August, Debbie's friends and fellow volunteers collected the funds to donate a memorial bench in her honor. It will be placed at Kleb Woods near the nature center, overlooking the gardens where she spent so much time. Excess funds collected from the bench effort were donated to two of Debbie's favorite organizations, the Texas Ornithological Society and the Heartwood Master Naturalists.

Debbie is survived by her husband of 49 years, Jerry, and her son Destin. If you would like to send them a card, the address is 4685 Deep Forest Ln. Montgomery, TX 77316.



Photo by Mark McLafferty.

—Fred Collins

Baylor prof Fred Gehlbach, last of 'old-time naturalists,' dies at 85



*Fred Gehlbach has a laugh while visiting a neighbor's owl box near his home in Woodway. In addition to considerable field work outside the area, he spent decades closely observing the owls near his home.
Rod Aydelotte, Tribune-Herald file photo.*

Fred Gehlbach, a longtime Baylor University biology professor, died this week after a lifetime sharing his explorations of owl behavior and the hidden connections of nature with students, readers and the Waco community. Gehlbach, 85, died Monday after several years of declining health. Gehlbach was known primarily as an ornithologist and a leading expert on Eastern screech owls, winning a special award this year from the World Owl Hall of Fame. He studied a single colony of screech owls for more than 40 years near his home in Woodway, where he established a 15-acre wildlife preserve after coming to Baylor in 1963.

But his wide-ranging research also led him to publish scholarly accounts of reptiles, fish, plants and even fossils. Even in his 70s, Gehlbach was exploring the Amazon and the Arizona deserts, consulting with Cameron Park Zoo and writing regular columns on ecology for the Tribune-Herald.

"I would say he was one of the last of the old-time naturalists, as well as being up to date on more modern ecological things," said Owen Lind, professor emeritus in Baylor's biology department.

Lind, who was hired on at Baylor as an aquatic biologist a few years after Gehlbach, said Gehlbach brought new life to an insular department. It was Gehlbach who got students out in the field and promoted "the idea that as a scholar you need to have the ability to get out and do some research," he said.

Gehlbach retired from the biology department in 1995 but was later reappointed as a research professor, serving into the 2010s. Professor Robert Doyle, associate chair of the biology department, said biologists have become increasingly specialized in recent decades, but Gehlbach's broad knowledge made a lasting stamp on the biology department. He said Gehlbach's ecological way of thinking was in fact ahead of its time.

"I took an ecology course in the 1970s from him, and I remember the extraordinary eye-opening experience of just walking through the woods and having him stop and talk about grasses and acorns and squirrels," Doyle said. "He could hear if there was an owl nearby. His breadth of knowledge was extraordinary."

Gehlbach was also a frequent speaker at community and school events and consulted on the Cameron Park Zoo's Brazos River Country exhibit, which opened in 2005 to showcase Texas fauna.

Deputy zoo director Johnny Binder said Gehlbach was involved with the zoo and its predecessor, Central Texas Zoo, for decades. As a herpetologist, Binder has long relied on reference books on reptiles co-authored by Gehlbach.

"He has helped us with horticulture, history and natural history," he said. "He was an amazing guy."

Binder said Gehlbach's close observations paid off. For example, by studying the Woodway owl colony, he figured out why owls catch blind snakes and take them to their nests.

"(The snakes) would eat the maggots out of their nests, and that would make the chicks healthier," he said.

A native of Ohio, Gehlbach earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell University and his doctorate from the University of Michigan. While at Michigan he met his wife, Nancy, who would be his partner in research for decades to come.

In the 1970s, Fred Gehlbach won a Guggenheim Fellowship to study the ecosystems of the U.S.-Mexico border. Fred and Nancy loaded their two young children, Mark and Gretchen, into a Volkswagen bus and spent a year traveling from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the Pacific Ocean.

The resulting book was "Mountain Islands and Desert Seas," which entwined personal narrative and an authoritative description of the landscape and ecology.

Through his professional life and writing, Gehlbach stressed that the web of life was under strain from human development and climate change.

"It's all one system," he said in a 2010 interview. "We are living in a one-world circle of life, but we are endangering it big-time."

No memorial service has been announced, but Gehlbach's ashes will be scattered at three sites: The Sugar Creek preserve in Waco, the Guadalupe Mountains in West Texas and the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona.

—JB Smith

Not traveling, but still birding. Our amazing postage stamp yard.



Red Start



I normally use my posts to tell about our birding travels, but all of that screeched to a halt in mid-March, when the COVID 19 pandemic hit Texas and the rest of the world. Today I was thinking about how this changed our birding for the year. I am not sure if it is of interest to anyone, but what else do I have to do?

We live in an apartment complex in the middle of the medical district in San Antonio, TX. We moved here a little over eight years ago. When the manager showed us this apartment we walked into the front door, saw through the sliding glass door to the backyard and said that we would take it, even before seeing the rest of the apartment. The balcony of our second floor apartment sits in the canopy of a group of mature live oaks. Even though the yard it not much bigger than a basketball court we immediately saw the potential for birds. We knew it would be good, but we had no idea just how good it would be.

We started a “balcony list” as soon as we moved in. As it was July, there wasn’t a lot of variety, but it was nice to see breeding birds, like Black-crested Titmice and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. As soon as fall migration kicked in we added quite a few new birds. We ticked along, adding winter residents and then spring migrants, particularly warblers. I was working full time, so my home birding was limited. By the end of the first year we had 56 species for the balcony. We continued to add birds. I switched to working from home about a year and a half after moving, which helped a lot. We finally got to 100 species in April of 2019. We had a number of extremely good birds, including a Broad-billed Hummingbird visiting my shrimp plant in January 2015. Spring migration was the most fun. We had accumulated an impressive list of warblers.

Then 2020 came along. I was furloughed from my job in corporate travel in March. We took covid very seriously, self-quarantining immediately. Martin stopped doing his consulting work. There was very little to do other than sit on the balcony and look for birds. My time birding went from less than an hour a day to all freaking day long every day. OK, maybe not all day, but I was probably averaging five or six hours. Martin was spending a good bit of his time there, too. When we starting sheltering at home our list was at 106 species. We thought we wouldn’t add much, but we were wrong.



Louisiana Waterthrush



Cerulean Warbler



Black and White Warbler

The first new bird I found was a Louisiana Waterthrush that literally dropped in on March 23. We have no water in the yard, other than a couple of clay plant saucers under the trees. I had never seen a Louisiana away from water before. We would go out close to dawn and scan the tree tops. Birds would come in and feed, then take off moving north. Some of the fly-over birds, like Upland Sandpiper, and Black-necked Stilt were surprising, to say the least. As I said, we had a great warbler list, 24 species before quarantine. We had repeats of almost all of them, including a couple of Golden-winged Warblers.

In the past we had seen three or four Ovenbirds total; this past spring we had at least ten. Our “best” sighting was a female Cerulean Warbler on May 12, a new county bird for me!

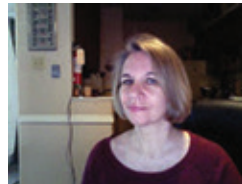
Even after Spring migration I continued birding every day, though not for as long a period. I can only stand so much Texas heat. I had some surprises in summer like an Eastern Wood-pewee in June and a female Painted Bunting in July who stayed just a minute before she took off. A pair of Black-and-white Warblers, also in July, were a surprise.

Soon some fall migrants started arriving like empidonax flycatchers and Summer Tanagers. In early September I spotted an Eastern Kingbird and numerous Baltimore Orioles. I was lucky to find another new warbler species, a Mourning. I added balcony bird #131 a couple of days ago, a migrating Northern Harrier flying over,

As I said earlier we had 106 species for the back yard when the pandemic started. We now stand at 131. More surprising is our total list for the balcony just this year is 109 species! Considering it took almost seven years to get to 100 species, we were very pleased. This included 25 species of warblers, 12 species of flycatchers, and six species of vireos. Our all time warbler total is 27 species!

As I said, the yard is tiny. The only under-story we have are two tiny clumps of ligustrum. We worked very hard this year. Other than a very few day trips to close areas we have stuck to birding the apartment complex. I believe many people could significantly increase their yard lists if they put in the time. We do have a bird feeder and the plant saucer “water features”, but most of the sightings have been in the trees. We pay attention to weather patterns. We found that frontal passages would cause drop-ins. The Cerulean Warbler was here during a little rain shower.

Here is a link to Martin’s album of photos on Facebook from the balcony. <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=martin.reid.142&set=a.10202516606008801> Martin’s photos



Sheridan

I am a serious birder and feminist. I enjoy being outdoors and try to spend every moment I can there. I travel extensively with my partner, Martin.

— *Sheridan Coffrey*

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge

The 2020 release season is winding down. The final 20 prairie-chickens from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center were transported to the refuge today.

After a final inspection by the refuge biological staff, they will spend two weeks in an acclimation pen before being released onto the prairie.

One more group of birds is scheduled to be moved from the Houston Zoo to the refuge soon. Conditions have been good this year and we are hopeful that many of these birds will make it through the fall and winter to the breeding season next spring.



(Dr. Mike Morrow inspects a prairie-chicken while biologist Brandon Melton logs the bird's information into the data set. Photo by John Magera/USFWS)



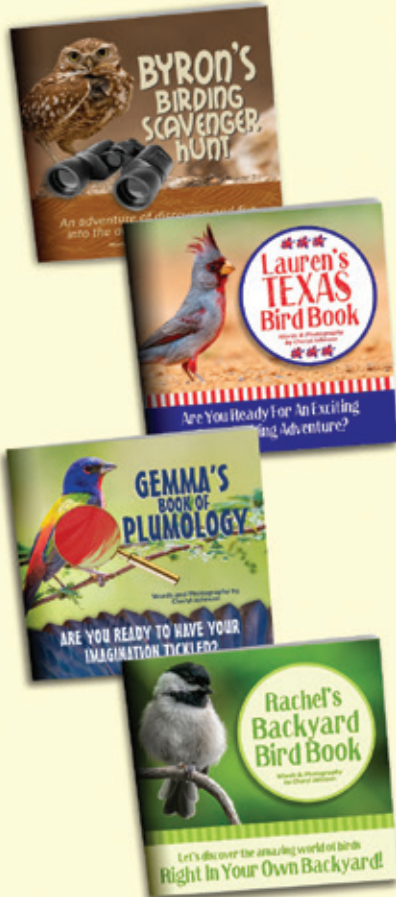
* Stay at the world famous **Alamo Inn B&B** close to Santa Ana NWR

* Order optics, birding books, and gear with 10% discount and free packing & shipping for TOS members

We support TOS and Texas Birding
TOS Members 10% Discount Off Accomodation
Tel. (956) 782-9912
alamoinn@gmail.com
www.AlmoInnBnB.com



PERSONALIZED CHILDRENS BIRD BOOKS



EACH BOOK FEATURES:

- A personalized title with your child's name on the cover, title page, introductory text, and a personalized dedication from you to your child.
- Each 40 page, soft cover book features 17 beautiful, full-color photographs of birds found in the United States along with fun and informative facts about each bird.
- Perfect for children ages 4-10.

19⁹⁹ each

FREE SHIPPING


ORDER ONLINE TODAY
Etsy.com/Shop/BackyardBirdNerd

HummerBird Celebration.

www.rockporthummingbird.com



Bus and boat trips, guided field trips, lectures and programs,
self-guided Hummer home tours, vendor malls and more!

 [RockportFultonHummerBirdCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/RockportFultonHummerBirdCelebration)

1-800-242-0071




**Rockport
Fulton**

Charm of the Texas Coast

Photography by Juan Bahamon

DONATIONS

Fall 2020 newsletter

Sanctuary Fund

Peggy Boston – Sabine Woods – in honor of John Whittle & Valarie Bristol
Rick and Doris Brown
Johnnie and Sharon Kay
Jerri Kerr
David Matson
Steve Mayes
Margie Ohlsen – In memory of her sister, Helen Thomas
Chris Runk

General Fund

Margaret & Frank Farese – In memory of Debbie Layer
Nancy & Rich Fisher (non-members) – In honor of Dennis Shepler
Jerry Gips
James McGowan – “
Virginia Hinson – In memory of Debbie Layer
Friends of Debbie Layer – In memory of Debbie Layer
Elaine Layer and Thad Anderson – In memory of Debbie Layer
Johnnie and Sharon Kay
Alyson Matthews – In memory of her aunt, Debbie Layer
Wolfgang Oesterreich

General Fund—Continued

Louise Ridlon
Claire Smith (non-member)
Michael Wolfson
Janey Woodley

Monthly Supporters

Frances Cerbins
Cathy Hay
Judy Kestner
Thomas Kihn
Tom and Patsy Inglet

2020 New Life Members

Denise Dailey
Sally Evans
Harvey Laas
Bill McDaniel
Abra Ziegler & Berri Moffett
Frank Ohrt
Dina Perry
Chris Steinke
Chula Sims



ANIMALS

The 232 animals in this photo were killed by house cats in just one year

The image seeks to draw attention to the more than two billion birds and other animals killed annually by domestic cats in the U.S.

YOUR NEXT VACATION, SIMPLIFIED.
STAY. PLAY. BIRD.



Texas.
Island Style.™
Port Aransas®
& MUSTANG ISLAND

WWW.PORTARANSAS.ORG | 800-45-COAST