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November/December 2019 Newsletter

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Visit our website for updates:
[Bexar Audubon Society](#)

President's Message

Patsy Inglet, President
Bexar Audubon Society



If you have read the recent [Population Report](#) from Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the recent [Climate Report](#) from National Audubon, you know that **BIRDS**

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NEED OUR HELP. The threats are real; the data show alarming trends. We Audubon supporters have to step up and become more informed and involved in advocating for birds and the ecosystems that support them and us and in educating

the general public about a simple FACT: **What's good for the birds is good for humans.**

THE BIRDS ARE TELLING US THAT IT'S TIME TO ACT.

Since the Sept. 14 annual meeting and election, BAS board members/officers (VP Greg Pasztor, Secretary Britt Coleman, Treasurer Fred Loxsom, and Past President Anne Parrish) and I have been working to make our National Audubon Society-affiliated chapter even more active in support of the birds and other wildlife we all want to conserve. We are scrutinizing every aspect of our chapter to make it more in harmony with member preferences, local advocacy and conservation issues, and non-profit best practices. We are making great strides...

....BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Beginning in January 2020, Audubon supporters will have even more opportunities for programs, workshops, field trips and other outings, and social interactions with like-minded citizens. Our goal is to build an informed group of Concerned Citizens, Community Scientists, and Advocates willing to go out and get active. Bexar Audubon will continue to offer field trips and other outings of interest to nature lovers.

In addition, Bexar Audubon will hold monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday starting in January 2020 at the William R. Sinkin Eco Centro (1802 N. Main Ave. at E. Locust) outreach center for environmental sustainability operated by [San Antonio College](#). These meetings will feature workshops and speakers focused on making us more aware and better trained to meet the challenges that birds face.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please support Bexar Audubon Society with your time, talent, treasure, and energy.

- Let us know what kinds of programs you would like Bexar Audubon Society to

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offer to develop your abilities to help the birds. [Email](#) us with your suggestions.

- Volunteer for projects and participate in outings. Lead a bird walk; teach a workshop. Contact Education-Outreach Committee Chair [Patty Pasztor](#).
- Talk to your neighbors and friends about the benefits birds bring to our community and lives and what we can do to return the favors. Teach someone about [Plants for Birds](#)—how to plant native plants to help the birds.
- Donate to your local Chapter. You can use the PayPal link on the [Bexar Audubon Society](#) website.
- **Save the date** and join us on **Friday, December 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM** for a GREAT time celebrating birds and nature at Eco Centro (1802 N. Main Ave.). Bring a dish to share, a fun recycled or "White Elephant" gift and meet other Audubon and conservation supporters at our new meeting location. **The group vibration will get us all ready to “fly high” in 2020!** You will receive more details about the party by eBlast in early December.

We are what HOPE looks like to the BIRDS.

Make Your Vote Count for Parks & Trails on November 5

Vote **FOR** Proposition 5 on the November 5th ballot for [amendments to the Texas Constitution](#).

Proposition 5 (SJR 24)

“The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas’ natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes.”

In 1993 Texas authorized a percentage of the taxes collected on sporting goods to go towards a fund to support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Since then, the legislature has only appropriated a fraction of that fund to TPWD. Approval of Proposition 5 will mandate that the State of Texas devote 100% of the sporting goods tax funds to Texas

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Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to be used for capital improvements and maintenance for parks and historical landmarks, and to purchase land for new parks and trails. Proposition 5 will not increase the amount of sporting goods taxes – it will just ensure that these taxes are to be spent as originally intended.



[Bexar Audubon Society/San Antonio Audubon Society November Program](#)



Thursday, November 7, 2019 • 7:00 PM
San Antonio Zoo Education Center
Birds of Cuba Through My Lens
Presenter: Ken Butler

Ken Butler, a Texas Master Naturalist and photographer, will present a photo summary of a very successful birding tour of Cuba covering April 4-13, 2018, in which several San Antonio-area birders participated. The group observed 155 bird species during the tour;

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the highlight being the 21 endemic birds of Cuba.

Ken's presentation will review a portion of the total species recorded, with a particular focus on endemic species including such notable birds as the Bee Hummingbird, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Pygmy-Owl (Ken's photo is above), Fernandina's Flicker, Oriente Warbler, Zapata Wren, and Zapata Sparrow.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS FOR SALE AT NOVEMBER 7 AUDUBON MEETING

One of the easiest ways you can support bird habitat conservation is by buying a Federal Duck Stamp, among the most successful conservation tools ever created to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife.



The latest stamp features a Wood Duck with a background decoy, painted by Scot Storm, a native of Freeport, Minnesota. Bring \$25 cash or check to purchase your stamp at our November 7 Audubon meeting. For \$2 more, you'll receive a plastic holder to display your Duck Stamp proudly on your binoculars or backpack to show you support bird habitat! The stamp also guarantees you free admission into any National Wildlife Refuge in the United States. The new stamp is good through June of 2020.

Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology recently published a list of seven easy ways each of us can help protect birds. Read the article in its entirety [here](#).

1. Make windows safer, day and night.
2. Keep cats indoors.
3. Reduce your lawn size and install native plants.
4. Avoid using pesticides.
5. Drink shade-grown coffee. Look for Bird Friendly coffee, a certification from the



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Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center that also includes organic standards.

6. Use less plastic.

7. Watch birds and report your sightings in eBird; join citizen science projects such as [Project FeederWatch](#) or participate in a Christmas Bird Count.

Why doom and gloom won't help us fight climate change

By Bruce Beehler

Dr. Beehler's op-ed piece appeared in the Washington Post on August 16, 2019. An excerpt appears below. Read the complete article [here](#).

“Are bad things happening to our environment today? Yes, of course. Is climate change a substantial and growing threat? Certainly. Will the Earth's biosphere as we know it survive? One thing is for sure: We need to believe so to be able to function at full capacity as concerned citizens.

Only smart collective action, led by courageous people working with intelligent and well-funded organizations and agencies, can mount the necessary effort to keep our Earth from peril. We have won these sorts of battles before, and we can win them again, even if the threats seem larger than ever. With an inoculation of the magic elixir of bountiful nature, we can engage with spirit on behalf of our wildlife and forests, our bays and seas, and our one and only atmosphere.”

Bexar Audubon Society Field Trips

[Click here to download PDF of field trips.](#)

Sunday, November 3, 8:00 AM



Bird/Nature Walk at Cibolo Nature Center **140 City Park Rd., Boerne, TX 78006**

Leaders: Nico Siller and Patty Leslie Pasztor. Nico is a fantastic young birder and a high school senior from Boerne. Enjoy a fall walk through the varied habitats of prairie, marsh, creekside and woodlands as we

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look for birds, butterflies and more! Meet in the parking lot area. Don't forget Daylight Savings Time ends that morning (set your clocks back one hour). Bring water and a sack lunch or snacks. For questions and RSVP, email Patty at agarita@me.com or call or text 210/837-0577. Last-minute RSVPs are fine.

Friday, November 22, 8:45 AM

Bird & Nature Walk: Honey Creek at Guadalupe River State Park

3350 Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070

Wilt Shaw will lead a Bird & Nature Walk to this beautiful, pristine area accessible only by special guided tour. Meet at the Visitor Center of Guadalupe River State Park by 8:45 AM. We'll caravan or carpool from there to the entrance of Honey Creek. There is a \$7.00 fee to enter the park. Wear good walking shoes and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the walk. To RSVP, send email to Sherie Gee at slgee18@yahoo.com or text or call 210/367-1625.



Friday, November 29, 8:30 AM

Black Friday Birdwalk: Crownridge Canyon Natural Area

7222 Luskey Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78256



Instead of shopping or watching football the day after Thanksgiving, get out and enjoy nature at Crownridge Canyon Natural Area with leader Lora Reynolds. To sign up or for more information, contact Lora at 210/414-0792 or reynoldswrite@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, December 14, 8:30 AM

Bird Walk: Land Heritage Institute



land heritage institute

1349 Neal Road, San Antonio, 78264

Join leaders Patsy and Alan Kuentz and Lora Reynolds to bird this 1200-acre preserve with river and upland habitat along the Medina River on the southern edge of San Antonio. To sign up and for more information, contact Lora at 210/414-0792 or reynoldswrite@sbcglobal.net.

Friday, December 27, 9:00 AM

Holiday Bird Walk: San Antonio Botanical Garden

555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

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Enjoy the festive San Antonio Botanical Garden (SABG) in its holiday splendor by birding with Lora Reynolds and Sherie Gee. Contact Sherie at slgee18@yahoo.com or 210/367-1625 to sign up. Free for SABG members and non-members alike, thanks to the generosity of SABG for our event.

Thursday–Sunday, January 9–12

Rio Grande Valley Birding Trip

We're planning a Rio Grande Valley trip to see the unique birds of this area and will stay at the Alamo Inn in Alamo, Texas. Space is limited. RSVP to Sherie Gee at slgee18@yahoo.com or 210/367-1625. Sherie will contact you with the details.

SAVE THE DATE: January 22 Bexar Audubon Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM at Eco Centro



TPWD's Craig Hensley will talk to us about using the iNaturalist app for citizen science. On Saturday, January 25, we'll do some fieldwork, possibly at Brackenridge Park. Watch for details in the January/February BAS Newsletter.

Update on Navistar Truck Manufacturer's Plans for Plant near Mitchell Lake

Local media has been reporting that truck manufacturer Navistar International Corporation has plans to build a plant near the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (MLAC), causing concern among MLAC supporters that the plant could have an environmental impact on the birds, wildlife and habitat at or near Mitchell Lake.

Sara Beesley, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center Director, met with Navistar representatives at MLAC on Monday, September 30. The meeting included multiple Navistar executives, City Council District 3 representation, and their legal representatives. Sara's recap of the meeting follows:

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The land to be rezoned and purchased just southeast of Mitchell Lake is currently zoned as Farm & Ranch. Although they are seeking to change to manufacturing zoning, the Navistar plant will be assembly-based. They strive to be the first net zero waste plant of its kind in the world, and they were the first company to put electric school buses on the road. In addition, they've committed to using only Low Impact Development (LID) features and green infrastructure, including two retention ponds/wetlands. They are providing a 200-yard buffer along the Mitchell Lake trail fence line, and are interested in potentially funding Audubon's portion of the SAWS wetland restoration project.

Sara is working directly with the City of San Antonio's Economic Development department to require only native plants be planted, grassland restoration is implemented along the buffer zone, wetlands are used as LID features, and an impact study regarding the current wetlands is included in their development package. Keep in mind, nothing is solidified, but by working with the city, we are committing Navistar to their promises.

The property is currently mowed Bermuda grass with some trees, and that's it. The creation of wetlands and installation of native, bird-friendly plants will overall improve the property.

Please contact Sara Beesley at sbeesley@audubon.org or 210.628.1639 with any additional questions.

Mitchell Lake Monthly Birding Tours

Pre-register online at MLAC website

1st Sunday: Nov. 3 & Dec. 1, 8:00 AM

2nd Sunday: Nov. 10 & Dec. 8, 8:00 AM

2nd Tuesday: Nov. 12 & Oct. 8, 8:00 AM

3rd Sunday: Nov. 17 & Dec. 15, 8:00 AM

4th Sunday: Nov. 24 & Dec. 22, 8:00 AM

4th Saturday (Beginning Birders Tour): Nov. 23 &
Dec. 28, 8:00 AM

\$8 for non-members; Free for members

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Visit the [MLAC website](#) or email mlac@audubon.org or call 210/628-1639.

San Antonio Botanical Garden

Third Saturday Guided Bird Walks

November 16; Walk will not be held in December

Free to SABG members; \$12 non-members.

Visit the [SABG website](#) to register.

555 Funston, San Antonio, TX 78209

AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Uvalde: Saturday, Dec. 14

Contact: Maureen Frank (mgfrank@tamu.edu)

San Antonio: Sunday, December 15

Contact: Dahn Windhorn (naturenut7@hotmail.com)

Countdown: Somerset United Methodist Church

Love Creek: Wednesday, December 18

Contact: Rebecca Neil (rebecca.neill@TNC.org)

Comstock: Sunday, Dec 22

Location: Seminole Canyon State Park

Contact: Mike Gleason (mgleason@stx.rr.com)

Del Rio: Monday, Dec 23

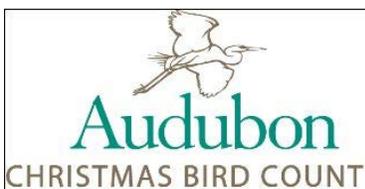
Contact: Mike Gleason (mgleason@stx.rr.com) or Karen Gleason
(delriomagnoliafan@gmail.com)

New Braunfels: Sunday, Dec 29

Contact: Lynn Thompson (lthompson54@satx.rr.com)

Boerne: Thursday, Jan 2

Contact: Betty Dunn (bebsd@hotmail.com)

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DON'T MISS NEW MOVIE OF INTEREST TO BIRDERS

A new Netflix Original Film entitled "Birders" documents fall migration while exploring the concerns of birders and conservationists along both sides of the Rio Grande, and how birds bring people together with a common interest. The US–Mexico border politics is subtle but the birding is real, with a candid look at some Texas birding hotspots and the monumental fall raptor migration near Veracruz, Mexico.



LINKS TO SAN ANTONIO AREA BIRDING INFORMATION



[Bexar Audubon Society](#)

[Cibolo Nature Center](#)

[Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas](#)

[Mitchell Lake Audubon Center](#)

[San Antonio Audubon Society](#)

[San Antonio Ecotourism](#)

BIRDING FESTIVAL IN WASHINGTON STATE

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Olympic Peninsula April 17-19, 2020

BirdFest

Come bird with us!



- ❑ San Juan Island Cruise
- ❑ Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- ❑ Guided Birding Trips
- ❑ Bird Art Classes
- ❑ Photography Workshop
- ❑ NAS Photography Exhibit
- ❑ Auction & Raffle
- ❑ Gala Banquet with Speaker: **Scott Pearson**



Located in Sequim, WA
 For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org
 or 360-681-4076






First Federal FUNDRAISER

City of San Antonio Natural Areas
 Saturday, December 14, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Star Party at Eisenhower Park
 19399 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78257



Observe the night skies with the San Antonio Astronomical Association. Family-friendly activity included. During inclement weather, this program may be cancelled. Suggested donation: \$3 per person or \$6 per family. For more information, email

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nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov. No reservations needed.



JOIN US!

Join our mailing list [here](#) to receive updates of local activities. You do not have to be a member and we will never share your information.

Membership

To join or renew your membership, please visit the membership page on our [website](#).

Bexar Audubon Society Board of Directors

President: Patsy Inglet
Vice President: Greg Pasztor
Secretary: Britt Coleman
Treasurer: Fred Loxsom
Past President: Anne Parrish

Committees

Education & Outreach: Sherie Gee and Patty Leslie Pasztor

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Conservation & Advocacy: Britt Coleman and Anne Parrish
Communications: Greg Pasztor
Newsletter & Website: Lora Reynolds
Membership: Michael Shaw

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