



SIGNAL SMOKE

The Newsletter of Travis Audubon Society

VOLUME 53, NO. 3

MARCH 2004

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Austin/Travis Big-Hour Results

The Austin/Travis Big-Hour Team Bird-Spot at Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park took place Sunday, November 15, at 12:15-2:15 p.m., under clear skies and temperatures in the mid- to upper fifties. Six birders recorded 52 species (49 seen and 3 heard only—HO) during the two-hour period. Highlights were flocks of American Pipit, Least Sandpiper, and Greater Yellowlegs on Lake Austin; 6 species of woodpecker, including Golden-fronted; and 7 species of sparrow, including Le Conte's (probably two individuals, one seen well in the large field adjacent to Lake Austin in the northeast "corner" of the park).



Major dips were Inca Dove, Cedar Waxwing, American Robin, and Chipping Sparrow. Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Sparrow were also missed, but not missed. The complete list:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe | Mourning Dove | American Crow (HO) |
| Double-crested Cormorant | White-winged Dove | European Starling |
| Great Blue Heron | Belted Kingfisher (HO) | Orange-crowned Warbler |
| American Wigeon | Golden-fronted Woodpecker | Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler |
| Gadwall | Red-bellied Woodpecker (HO) | Spotted Towhee |
| Green-winged Teal | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Field Sparrow |
| Mallard | Ladder-backed Woodpecker | Vesper Sparrow |
| Black Vulture | Downy Woodpecker | Song Sparrow |
| Turkey Vulture | Northern Flicker | Lincoln's Sparrow |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Eastern Phoebe | White-throated Sparrow |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | Le Conte's Sparrow* |
| American Kestrel | Carolina Wren | Northern Cardinal |
| Killdeer | Bewick's Wren | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Greater Yellowlegs* | Northern Mockingbird | Meadowlark sp. |
| House Finch | Eastern Bluebird | |
| Lesser Goldfinch | Carolina Chickadee | |
| American Goldfinch | Black-crested Titmouse | |
| Least Sandpiper* | American Pipit* | |
| Ring-billed Gull | Western Scrub-Jay | |

*New to the park checklist of Ed Fair, Isaac Sanchez, or both.

The next Bird-Spot events are scheduled for Sunday, March 14, at Mary Moore Seawright Metropolitan Park in south Austin, and Sunday, April 18, at Blunn Creek Preserve. For details, visit <www.travisaudubon.org>, or contact me at 459-1082 or <stu@bga.com>.

—Stu Wilson



TAS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Program: Private Landowners and Partnerships:
Aiding in Recovery of Endangered Songbirds
Presenters: Bob Peterson, Dave Wolfe Sr.,
& Tim Schumann

Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive (See page 6 for details.)

Travis Audubon Society

Email addresses are at "About Us,"
<www.travisaudubon.org>.

Officers and Directors

President

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First Vice President

Shelia Hargis 291-1861

Second Vice President

BJ Dertien

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Vacant
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Austin TX 78704

Recording Secretary

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Sam Fason 474-1185
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Richard Manson 347-8192
Marcie Wilcox 219-8425

Baker Sanctuary Steward

John Wilcox 219-8425

ACT Representatives

John Kelly (state president) 331-8693
Bryan Hale (state treasurer) 474-5599

Signal Smoke Editor

Rosemary Wetherold 892-1606

TAS Hotline: 926-8751

The hotline has information on TAS events (press 6) and rare birds in our area (press 5). To report sightings, press 1. To ask about birds, environmental issues, or TAS, press 2. No touch-tone phone? Call 474-5599.

TAS Web Site

www.travisaudubon.org

TAS Email

info@travisaudubon.org

TAS Fax

892-2026



Signal Smoke is printed
on recycled paper.

Mission Statement

The Travis Audubon Society promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and preservation of birds, wildlife, and their habitats in Central Texas.

LETTER FROM THE TAS PRESIDENT

The TAS Board of Directors has begun a professional audit of the society's books. Upon completion, we plan to publish a condensed version of the audited balance sheet in *Signal Smoke*. We are hoping for next month, but I hesitate to make a promise, for this project has taken much longer than I ever anticipated. The board decided to make no unbudgeted expenditures until the audit has been completed and digested. The budget should be completed in April, and we expect to publish a condensed version of that as well. Complete versions of the audited balance sheet and budget will be made available to interested members. Also, starting with this issue of *Signal Smoke*, we will be publishing all the motions that are passed at board meetings. We think that this triplet of reports—balance sheet, budget, and passed motions (what we have, what we are planning to spend, and what we have done)—will keep you adequately informed. We appreciate your patience while we get our ducks to waddle into a row.

Speaking of the board, I am sad to say that Lois Burks, Wilma Anderson, and Wayne Bartholomew resigned their positions. They brought skill and personality to the board and made great contributions to our society. The board is poorer for their absence, and on a personal basis, I will miss each of them. The Nominating Committee is preparing the next slate of board members, and some of the

Continued on page 13

COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Email addresses are available at <www.travisaudubon.org> under "About Us."

TAS Rare Bird Alert	Isaac Sanchez	899-9414
	Alert number	926-8751
Bird Records	Ethel Kutac	346-7659
	Lawrence Buford	452-6344
Conservation	John Kelly	331-8693
Cyberspace	Chris Doggett	512-898-5500
Education	Vacant	
Field Trips	Georgia Harper	467-9700
Hornsby Bend	Kevin Anderson	972-1960
Hospitality	Vacant	
Latin America	Bob Warneke	443-5488
Membership	Chris Doggett	512-898-5500
Membership Secretary	Shirley Doggett	512-898-5500
Programs	BJ Dertien	
Property and Finance	Pat Dillon	347-0452
Publications	Rosemary Wetherold	892-1606
Publicity	Vacant	
Sales	Marcie Wilcox	219-8425
Sanctuary	Bryan Hale	474-5599
Urban Habitat Development	Jane Tillman	794-0058

ABOUT SIGNAL SMOKE

Subscription Information


Signal Smoke, published monthly or bi-monthly by Travis Audubon Society, is a TAS membership benefit. To join TAS, see the back page of this newsletter. For address or subscription changes, notify Shirley Doggett (TAS Membership Secretary), P. O. Box 1132, Round Rock TX 78680-1132; <membership@travisaudubon.org>; 512-898-5500. The post office will not forward *Signal Smoke*.


Newsletter Deadline


The submissions deadline is the first day of the preceding month (for example, April 1 for the May issue). Submit uncopyrighted articles, announcements, and art to Rosemary Wetherold, <rosemaryw@austin.rr.com>; 4507 Cliffstone Cove, Austin TX 78735-6610; 892-2026 (fax). Submissions by email or on a floppy are preferred but not required. Call Rosemary at 892-1606 if you have questions.





















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March 2004 Calendar of Travis Audubon Society Events

 Field Trip—See pages 4–5

 Meeting—See pages 6–7

 Birding Class—See page 7

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  Education Committee Meeting, 7 pm Deadline for April <i>Signal Smoke</i> (see p. 2)	2	3	4	5	6  Field trip, Barton Creek Habitat Preserve, 7:30 am
7	8	9	10	11  TAS Board of Directors Meeting, 6:45 pm	12	13  Monthly Bird Count, Hornsby Bend, 7 am & 4 pm  Field trip, Bastrop area, 7:30 am
14  Big-Hour Bird-Spot, Mary Moore Seawright Park, 7:45 am  Owl prowl, western Bastrop County, 6:30 pm	15  Urban Habitat Development Group Meeting, 7 pm	16	17	18 TAS Regular Monthly Meeting with program, 6:30 pm (see page 7)	19	20  Bird walk, Hornsby Bend, 7:30 am  Children's nature walk, Colorado River, 8 am  TAS Baker Sanctuary Open House, 9 am
21  Warbler survey, Bright Leaf State Natural Area, 8 am	22	23	24	25  Bird Records Committee Meeting, 7 pm	26	27  Naturalist birder's field day, Shield Ranch, 8 am  Ecological Literacy Day, Hornsby, 9 am
28  Bird walk, McKinney Roughs Nature Park, 8 am	29	30	31	APRIL 1 Deadline for May <i>Signal Smoke</i> (see p. 2)	2	3  Backyard Birding Class, 8:30 am  Field trip, Palmetto SP, 7 am  Field trip, Barton Cr. Habitat Preserve, 7:30 am  Field trip, Bastrop Co., 7:30 am

TAS FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

About TAS Field Trips All TAS field trips are open to members and nonmembers and to experienced and inexperienced birders. Wear appropriate clothing and walking shoes, and bring binoculars and water. Unless otherwise noted, field trips are free. Carpoolers should expect to pay a share of the gasoline expense. **For complete, up-to-date information on field trips, including cancellations due to weather or other circumstances, please check the TAS Field Trips webpage** <www.travisaudubon.org> (click on "Field Trips") **or the TAS hotline** (926-8751). Because of the publication schedule of the newsletter, things can change! If you do not have Internet access, contact phone numbers are provided below.

About Hornsby Bend Maps and other information about the Hornsby Bend facility may be found at the Hornsby Bend website <www.sbs.utexas.edu/hornsby>.

Saturday, March 6, 7:30–11:30 am Field Trip to Barton Creek Habitat Preserve

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Maggie Burnett, <mburnett@austin.rr.com>, 899-0390.

Saturday, March 13, 7 am & 4 pm Monthly Bird Count at Hornsby Bend

Meet at the Center for Environmental Research at Hornsby Bend. For more information, contact Russ Nelson, <russelln@concentric.net>, 431-1420.



Saturday, March 13, 7:30 am–1:30 pm Field Trip, Bastrop Area

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Kathy McCormack, 895-7268, <kathy.mccormack@motorola.com>.

Sunday, March 14, 7:45 am

Austin/Travis Big-Hour Team Bird-Spot, Mary Moore Seawright Metropolitan Park

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Stu Wilson, 459-1082, <stu@bga.com>. See also page 1.

Sunday, March 14, 6:30–8:30 pm

Owl Prowl, Western Bastrop County

For details, see the Field Trips webpage. Participants are limited to 15, so contact Cliff soon (email only: clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us) to re-serve your spot.



Saturday, March 20, 7:30 am–noon Bird Walk at Hornsby Bend

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Richard Kaskan, 748-8660, <kaskan@ieee.org>.

Saturday, March 20, 8–11 am Children's Nature Walk, Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park

Tailored for children ages 5–10 and their parents, but all are

welcome. For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Charles Stephens, 600-1700, <charles_stephens@yahoo.com>; or Rob Fergus, 478-8486, <fergus@mail.utexas.edu>.



Saturday, March 20, 9 am–noon

Annual TAS Baker Sanctuary Open House

Golden opportunity to see Golden-cheeked Warblers and to socialize with your fellow TAS members. See page 14 for details.

Sunday, March 21, 8–11 am

Warbler Survey in Bright Leaf State Natural Area

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Georgia Harper, <ggharper@utsystem.edu>, 467-9700.

Saturday, March 27, 8 am–noon (afternoon optional)

Naturalist Birder's Field Day, Shield Ranch

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Georgia Harper, <ggharper@utsystem.edu>, 467-9700.



Saturday, March 27, 9 am–1 pm Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend

Several hours of outdoor work, such as trail maintenance, habitat restoration, or work in the native plant nursery, are followed by at least an hour of learning about local ecology. Wear boots and work clothing, and bring binoculars. For more information, contact Kevin Anderson, 972-1960, <kevin.anderson@ci.austin.tx.us>; or Tim Hissam, <tphissam1@yahoo.com>.

Sunday, March 28, 8–11 am

Bird Walk at McKinney Roughs Nature Park

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Mark Bentley, <mebentley@austin.rr.com>, 301-2675.

TAS TRIPS AND EVENTS (CONTINUED)



**Saturday, April 3,
7 am–noon**

**Palmetto State Park
(between Luling and Gonzales)**

For details, see the Field Trips webpage,
or contact Ingrid Huskey, 928-1345.

**Saturday, April 3,
7:30–11:30 am**

Field Trip to Barton Creek Habitat Preserve

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Maggie
Burnett, <mburnett@austin.rr.com>, 899-0390.

Saturday, April 3, 7:30 am–2 pm

**Birding Field Trip along Western Bastrop County
Roads (with Optional Extension to Bastrop/
Buescher State Parks)**

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Jean Martin,
343-7053, <jeanmartin@austin.rr.com>.

Sunday, April 4, 8–11 am

Field Trip to Williamson County Regional Park

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Kathy
McCormack, 895-7268, <kathy.mccormack@motorola.com>.

**Tuesday, April 6, 5 am–late morning
(or later, as desired)**

**Trip to Nature Conservancy's Texas City Preserve
to View Attwater's Prairie Chickens**

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Scott
Haywood, 804-0819, <tas406@scotthaywood.com>.

Saturday, April 10, 7 am & 4 pm

Monthly Bird Count at Hornsby Bend

For details, see March 13 calendar item.

Saturday, April 10, 7:30–11 am

**Field Trip to Rio Vista Park and
Aquarena Springs Boardwalk, San Marcos**

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Kathy
McCormack, 895-7268, <kathy.mccormack@motorola.com>.

Sunday, April 11, 7 am–noon

**Bird Walk at Emma Long Metropolitan Park
(Turkey Creek)**

For details, see the Field Trips webpage, or contact Charles
Stephens, <charles_stephens@yahoo.co>, 600-1700.

Saturday, April 17, 7:30 am–noon

Bird Walk at Hornsby Bend

For details, see March 20 calendar item.

Saturday, April 17, 8–11 am

**Children's Nature Walk,
Roy Guerrero Colorado River Park**

For details, see March 20 calendar item.

Sunday, April 18, 7:45 am

**Austin/Travis Big-Hour
Team Bird-Spot,
Blunn Creek Preserve**

For details, see March 14 calendar item
(note that the locations are different).

Sunday, April 18, 6–8 pm

Bird Walk at Meadow Lake

Two co-leaders are needed. For details, see the Field Trips
webpage.

Saturday, April 24

Field Trip to Pace Bend

For details, see the Field Trips webpage.

Saturday, April 24, 9 am–1 pm

Ecological Literacy Day at Hornsby Bend

For details, see March 27 calendar item.

Sunday, April 25, 8–11 am

Spring Bird Walk at Riata Pond/Yett Creek Park

Two co-leaders are needed. For details, see the Field Trips
webpage, or contact Mark Bentley, <mebentley@austin.rr.com>,
301-2675.



Audubon Adventures Classroom Kits Need Donations

Audubon Adventures Classroom
Kits for grades 3–6 have been
distributed for this school year. For
2003–2004 this nature curriculum
highlights Grasslands, Nature in
Your Neighborhood, Coniferous

Forests and Water, and Wildlife and People. These materials are a gift to Austin-area schoolteachers from Travis Audubon Society. The cost is approximately \$40 per kit, which includes shipping. Please consider sponsoring a classroom by donating to the TAS *Audubon Adventures* program. Mail your donations to Travis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 40787, Austin TX 78704. Please note on the check that it is for *Audubon Adventures*. You may contact me if you know of an area teacher who would like to receive a Classroom Kit. Many thanks.

—Julia Balinsky, <jwaxwing@employees.org>

TAS MEETINGS

Monday, March 1, 7–9 pm

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

North Village Branch Library, 2139 West Anderson Lane. Contact Shelia Hargis, 291-1861, <shargis@austin.rr.com>.

Thursday, March 11, 6:45 pm

TAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive. Contact Pat Dillon, 347-0452.

Monday, March 15, 7 pm

URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

North Village Branch Library, 2139 West Anderson Lane. Contact Chuck Simms, 331-9630, <charlesvi@aol.com>.

Thursday, March 18, 6:30 pm

TAS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

For details, see box below.

Thursday, March 25, 7 pm

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Contact Ethel Kutac, 346-7659.

Monday, April 5, 7–9 pm

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

See March 1 calendar item for details.

Tuesday, April 6, 7–9 pm

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Contact John Wilcox, <jmwo@earthlink.net>, 219-8425. See page 14 for more details.



Thursday, March 18, 6:30 pm
TAS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

**Program: Private Landowners and Partnerships:
Aiding in Recovery of Endangered Songbirds**

**Presenters: Bob Petersen, Dave Wolfe Sr.,
and Tim Schumann**

This presentation will focus on the efforts in Central Texas dedicated to the recovery of federally endangered songbirds—the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler. As a private landowner, Bob Petersen has dedicated a sizable portion of his ranch to habitat restoration, specially targeted toward the Black-capped Vireo. He has partnered with Environmental Defense, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Texas Parks & Wildlife. (There is a significant effort under way by private organizations and the federal government to partner with private landowners on these efforts.)

Three speakers have graciously offered to present this important subject: Dave Wolfe, senior scientist with Environmental Defense, will discuss regional Black-capped Vireo recovery efforts that his organization is coordinating; Tim Schumann, biologist with the USFWS Partners in Wildlife program, will speak on the USFWS programs to assist private landowners in their recovery efforts; and Bob Petersen will talk about the specifics of the habitat restoration at his ranch, details of his land, and its species lists and birding opportunities.

This presentation will be followed up with a field trip to the Petersen ranch during peak spring migration. To date, 102 bird species have been documented at the ranch. One of the goals of the field trip is to expand the number of documented bird species. The 643-acre ranch is about 60 miles southwest of Austin, 12 miles west of Blanco, and 18 miles southeast of Fredericksburg. It has more than 8 miles of improved roads and trails that cross numerous types of diverse habitat, including deep canyons, springs, lakes, ridgetops, and savannas.

Mr. Petersen is very interested in exploring the potential of enlisting private landowners in programs that could expand the number of high-quality birding opportunities for birders, as well as provide an additional source of income for landowners. He is eager to discuss this issue with Audubon members and to receive their feedback.

Location: Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr. (Exit MoPac at 2222, go west on 2222, turn left on Balcones Drive, stay to the left at the fork, then turn right into church parking lot.) **Bus routes:** <www.capmetro.austin.tx.us>; 474-1200.

Bicycle routes: <www.ci.austin.tx.us/bicycle/bikemap.htm>; 974-7240. Refreshments provided.

TAS MEETINGS (CONTINUED)

Thursday, April 8, 6:45 pm

TAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

See March 11 calendar item for details.

Thursday, April 15, 7 pm

TAS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Program: "Texas Nature Trackers," presented by Marsha Reimer, Texas Parks & Wildlife. Details in next *Signal Smoke*.

Monday, April 19, 7 pm

URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT GROUP

See March 15 item for details.

Thursday, April 22, 7 pm

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Contact Ethel Kutac, 346-7659.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CLASSES

Backyard Birding Class

The TAS Education Committee is offering its Backyard Birding Class on Saturday, April 3, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Center for Environmental Research at



Hornsby Bend. This class is planned for persons who want to identify the birds in their yard and to learn of more ways to attract a greater variety of birds. The presentation will include slides and a lecture on bird identification and landscaping with native plants. There will be a break with time to examine and compare seeds, feeders, and field guides. Robert and Kathy Reeves and Martha Renfroe will be the presenters. The registration fee is \$15 per person. For additional information or to register, contact Martha Renfroe at 418-8334 or <marthar@academicplanet.com>.

Spring Warbler Identification Class

Warblers will be migrating north before long. Are you ready to ID them all? If not, consider taking our Warbler Identification Class taught by Cliff Shackelford, ornithologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. This very popular class will focus on the warbler species likely to be seen in Texas, but other species will be included as time allows.



Lectures will take place Tuesday, April 6, and Thursdays, April 8 and 15, 7–9 p.m., at the Center for Environmental Research auditorium at Hornsby Bend.

The field trip will be Saturday and Sunday, April 17–18, at High Island. Tuition is \$60 for TAS members and \$70 for non-members. Participants will also be expected to cover Cliff's expenses during the trip, which will be about \$15 per person. To sign up, contact Robert Reeves at <reeves1@austin.rr.com> or 779-9038 after 6:30 p.m.

Butterflies for Beginners

Mike Quinn of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will teach Butterflies for Beginners at the Center for Environmental Research auditorium at Hornsby Bend on Saturday, April 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first two hours will be in the classroom, followed by a walk to observe the many species of butterflies at Hornsby Bend.



Mike Quinn holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in wildlife and entomology, respectively, from Texas A&M. He has worked as an invertebrate biologist for Texas Parks & Wildlife since 2000. His duties include the coordination of TPWD's Texas Monarch Watch Program. He coauthored the recently published book *Monarchs, Milkweed, and More*. Mike regularly gives butterfly and other entomological presentations around the state. He is a consultant for the 84-acre North American Butterfly Association (NABA) International Butterfly Park, which is being built in Mission, Texas, and he has been active in the Texas Butterfly Festival since 1997. In his spare time, he maintains the NABA–South Texas and his Texas Entomology websites.

Class participants will learn about butterfly diversity; identification techniques, including equipment and books; life history information, including behavior and host plant usage; history of Texas butterfly watching; and other resources for butterfly information. Cost of the class is \$15. To register for the class and for more information, contact Robert Reeves at 779-9038 or <reeves1@austin.rr.com>. Additional information will also be available on the TAS website.

—Martha Renfroe

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

The following events are not Travis Audubon Society events but may be of interest.

**Mondays–Thursdays, 1:58 pm;
Fridays, 12:58 pm**

“Passport to Texas”

90-second radio program on KUT (90.5-FM) from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Thursdays, 6:04 pm

Howie Richey’s Eco-Calendar

Spot during *All Things Considered* on KUT, 90.5-FM.

Wednesday, March 3, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Permaculture: Practical Principles and Tools for Living in Alignment with Nature



Presented by Dick Pierce and Selwyn Polit at Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminister Drive, Austin. Permaculture is a design system for creating sustainable and ecologically sound ways to live our lives in harmony with nature. It covers a wide range of topics, including edible landscapes, integrating animals,

organic growing, herb spirals, ponds, natural and green building, maximizing food production with small-scale intensive growing, and designing self-maintaining landscapes. Sponsored by Wheatsville Food Co-op <www.wheatsville.com>; free. Repeats March 6 and 17 (different times and locations—see calendar items for those dates). For more information, contact Selwyn Polit, <selwyn@austintx.com>, 926-7876; or Dick Pierce, <dpierce@ail.org>, 236-6126. Or visit <www.austinprogressivecalendar.com>, and click on “Permaculture.”

Saturday, March 6, 10–11:30 a.m.

Introduction to Permaculture

Held at Kimas Tejas Nursery, 962 State Hwy. 71 East, Bastrop. See March 3 calendar item for details.

Tuesday, March 9

Twin Lakes Audubon Society Meeting

Bob Brister (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance) will speak on “Status of Utah Wilderness Protection Efforts” at the Fort Hood Natural/Cultural Area (directions forthcoming). For information, contact Rich Kostecke, <rkostecke@tnc.org>, 254-547-2047.

Thursday, March 11, 9 am–5 pm

Reconnecting Food Systems with Ecosystems: A Workshop on Enhancing Biodiversity in Agriculture

Held at the Center for Environmental Research, Hornsby Bend. Topics include national efforts and resources for integrating food production, wildlife conservation, and ecosystem health;

Texas-based examples of enhanced biodiversity and sustainable agriculture; conservation management techniques for landowners, farmers, and ranchers.

Keynote speaker is Daniel Imhoff, author of *Farming with the Wild* and cofounder of the Wild Farm Alliance <<http://wildfarmalliance.org>>.

Presentations by Dr. Dick Richardson, UT Integrative Biology (“Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture: Tools for Repairing the Land”); Dr. Patricia Richardson, UT Integrative Biology (“Wildlife from the Ground Up: Soil Biodiversity and Micro-wildlife”); Kevin M. Anderson, director, Austin Water Utility Center for Environmental Research (“Agriculture and Wildlife Conservation at Hornsby Bend: The Urban-Rural Interface”); Rob Fergus, director, Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory (“Bird Conservation through Agriculture”); Mark and Selena Kiser, Bat Conservation International (“Bats on the Farm: Integrated Pest Management”). Optional field trips to Bamberger Ranch on Friday, March 12. For registration, contact the Center for Environmental Research, 972-1960 or <kevin.anderson@ci.austin.tx.us>.



Saturday, March 13, 9 am

Twin Lakes Audubon Society Field Trip to Colorado Bend State Park

We will explore the riparian woodlands and arid juniper uplands for species more typical of the southern and western Edward’s Plateau (Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Common Raven, Canyon Towhee, Pyrrhuloxia, etc.). Meet at the Brick Oven Bakery and Restaurant in Kempner (Hwy. 190 between Lampasas and Copperas Cove) at 9 a.m. From there we will caravan approximately 40 minutes to the park. If you plan to participate, contact Rich Kostecke, 254-547-2047 (on the day of the field trip, 314-346-0658), <rkostecke@tnc.org>.



Wednesday, March 17, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Permaculture

Held at American YouthWorks South Campus, 1901 E. Ben White Blvd (southwest corner of Ben White and Woodward—long building behind Quiznos). See March 3 calendar item for details.

Monday, March 22, 7 pm

Butterfly Forum Meeting, Zilker Garden Center Auditorium

Phil Schappert speaks on “Passionvines and Butterflies.” For more information, contact John Kelly, 331-8693.