



Signal Smoke

The Newsletter of Travis Audubon * VOL. 66, NO. 1 Jan./Feb. 2017



Texas Naturalist's Notes By Bill Reiner

NOVEMBER 2, 2016

As the leaves of most trees and shrubs native to central Texas turn colors and then drop away, two tree species, dominant on the landscape west of the interstate highway, stay green. Plateau Live Oaks are cherished for their gnarled shapes, their longevity, and their shade. Ashe Junipers, also known as “mountain cedars,” well... not so much.

One might think that a tree tough enough to grow on the thin, rocky soils of the Edwards Plateau, cloaking them in green through the gray winter days, would be prized—particularly in this season when evergreen trees are celebrated. Ashe Junipers are the only evergreen conifers common in Austin and its western environs. (To the east of town live their cousins, the Eastern Red-Cedars, and the “lost” Loblolly Pines that remain around Bastrop.) They are the closest thing we have to a native Christmas tree. They also provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife.

But many perceptions of Ashe Junipers—some true, some half-true, some false—conspire to make this tree reviled or at least misunderstood by many.

First, “mountain cedar” is not a true cedar. Like many other plants and animals that Europeans met when they came to the Americas, it was named for its likeness to the cedars of the Eastern Hemisphere. It is, like Eastern Red-Cedar and many cousins in the western United States, a juniper: *Juniperus ashei* to be precise. But just as the vultures, robins, orioles, and blackbirds of the Americas, who are not related to their namesakes in Europe, junipers will likely continue to be called “cedars” by many people.

Junipers are wind-pollinated, producing pollen in tiny cone-like structures at the tips of twigs of staminate (“male”) trees. The abundance of these pollen cones in mid-winter, when the pollen is dispersing, gives these trees a rusty color. Some of the pollen is blown onto pistillate (“female”) flowers on separate trees; these are the trees that then produce the blue, berry-like seed cones that are favorites of Cedar Waxwings and American Robins. Some people are allergic to the pollen that can produce a haze at times in mid-winter, and that certainly contributes to antipathy toward junipers. However, oaks and grasses also spew copious amounts of allergenic pollen, so that cannot be the sole reason for the scorn some people have for this tree.

One of the most pernicious myths about Ashe Junipers is that they are not native trees. Nothing could be further from the truth, and the myth ignores clear historical facts. Early accounts of the landscape—those that can be pegged to the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau, from Austin to San Antonio—routinely refer to “cedar-covered” slopes.

The forester William Bray, writing in 1904 the earliest broad description of the timber of the Edwards Plateau, goes into great detail on the different types of forest. “Cedar” he calls “the most abundant species of all.” “The writer knows of no region in which any species of cedar is so uniformly abundant and dominant as is the mountain cedar in the limestone country of Texas.”

The geologist Ferdinand Roemer, visiting New Braunfels and other new German colonies

in the 1840s, remarked: “The cedars here are not the stunted shrub-like plants found in the Northern States of the Union, but are stately trees with straight trunks, seldom more than twenty to twenty-five feet in height and one and one-half feet thick.”

Recent studies of Ashe Juniper growth rates found that the trees’ trunks grow very slowly, a rate of approximately 0.6 to 1.0 inch of diameter per decade. At that rate, the trees reported by Roemer ranged from 120 to 300 years old—in the 1840s. Clearly, they were not introduced by Europeans.

One historical account that has been cited to support the idea of vast prairies covering the Hill Country is taken out of context. Frederick Law Olmsted, in his *Journey Through Texas*, writes “after spending a pleasant week in Austin, we crossed the Colorado, into, distinctively, Western Texas.” Then, in a section entitled “The Western Prairies,” he goes on: “We were, in fact, just entering a vast region, of which live-oak prairies are the characteristic.... The live-oak is almost the only tree away from the river bottoms....”

Only six pages later, however, he writes the following, shortly after his party passed San Marcos on their way to San Antonio: “We pitched our tent at night in a live-oak grove, by the side of a deep pure spring, at the mouth of a wooded ravine closed by rugged hills toward the north. Behind us were the continuous wooded heights, with a thick screen of cedars; before us, very beautiful prairies, rolling off far to the southward....”

Olmsted was following the edge of the Blackland Prairie, a broad swath of grassland that once ran from Dallas to San Antonio. Interstate 35 traces its general course. As he traveled “west”—actually southwest, toward San Antonio—he was following this great sweep of prairie, keeping the “wooded heights,” the Balcones Escarpment, to his right. Such descriptions are common among the first-person narratives of the time—though sometimes mangled in re-tellings and reminiscences.

A major occupation in the first century of Anglo settlement in the Hill Country was that of “cedar chopper.” Entire communities were comprised of people who eked out a living harvesting these trees, which were often used for firewood or building materials. Juniper was a significant source for railroad ties during the great railroad-building era of the late 1800s. Because juniper wood is resistant to decay, smaller trees were used for fence posts—many of which still support fences today.

As a result of this lumbering boom, few “virgin” stands of Ashe Juniper survive. Much of the land was stripped of trees, leaving, in places, a more open, savanna-like landscape that some now believe was the pre-settlement appearance of all of central Texas. This partly accounts for the “invasive” epithet that is often thrown at the tree. In some places on the Edwards Plateau, junipers are encroaching upon what were once prairies or savannas, but in other areas, they are simply reclaiming land from which cedar choppers removed them.

Ashe Juniper is a pioneer (or “invasive”) species, that can grow up in grasslands where overgrazing has thinned the sod and thereby reduced fuel for wildfires. Cattle and other grazers will not eat it, and it is not a favorite food for browsers such as deer. In time, the junipers will shade out the grasses and form a continuous “cedar brake”—the first stage in natural succession that, over many decades, may result in a mature mixed forest. Whether, and how, the cedar brake diversifies depends upon several other conditions, such as water availability and soil depth.

Ashe Junipers are often reviled as “water hogs.” Like all trees, they do take up water. Some studies show junipers taking up more—especially isolated trees—but other studies show them capturing less than other trees, in particular when they grow together to form a closed-canopy forest. One myth claims that they suck water from aquifers, but their roots rarely go deep enough to tap into groundwater. They have also been accused of intercepting a small proportion of rain in their foliage, never allowing it to reach the ground.

This last claim is true, but, rather than a mark against the trees, is more often than not beneficial. Very little of our annual rainfall here in “Flash Flood Alley” comes in small increments. Most arrives in downpours of one, two, five, eight, or even 15 inches at a time. In those events, slowing and holding the water is most important. More water may be lost through unchecked runoff from heavy rains—especially on steep slopes—than from rainfall trapped by juniper foliage and evaporated back to the atmosphere.

An umbrella of juniper foliage may catch the first quarter-inch of rain, but it also slows the velocity of drops striking the ground, reducing their erosive potential. Juniper foliage and branches tend to funnel rain down the main trunk rather than dispersing it to the “drip line” of the outer canopy as in most broad-leaved trees. Water dripping into the interior of the tree’s canopy is then more likely to be absorbed by the spongy mat of fallen needles (or duff) at its base.

The quantity of water may overwhelm the duff’s ability to absorb it, especially under and around small trees that have not accumulated much of a mat. Even then, though, as water starts to run over the surface, the fallen juniper foliage tends to form tiny check dams that slow the overland flow. A small amount of the sediment carried by the flowing water may then settle out. In future rains, that check dam and its previously-caught sediment can retain still more water—and also provide a medium in which seeds can grow. Slowly, over years, a slope of eroded soil—or even bare, broken rock—can be colonized. Juniper cover and the organic matter in the trees’ litter also enhance and protect the structure of the soil. The clay soils common in the Hill Country, when pounded by direct impact of raindrops, tend to form crusts that impede infiltration of future rains. Juniper duff not only buffers the direct impact of raindrops, it also adds organic matter that helps maintain larger soil pores and prevents crusting.

All these under appreciated benefits of junipers may account for the finding of a recent study that challenges conventional wisdom. Many land managers had assumed that juniper encroachment into former grasslands would cause springs to dry up and streams to stop flowing. But Wilcox and Huang, reviewing streamflows in four Edwards Plateau watersheds that had been degraded through overgrazing, then “invaded” by junipers, found that streamflow actually increased as the trees filled in. The contribution of baseflow—the portion of streamflow contributed by groundwater through springs and seeps—nearly doubled in that time.

William Bray, back in 1904, would not have been surprised. He describes the result of a storm in two small, adjacent watersheds near what is now Wild Basin: one “almost denuded” at its head, the other heavily timbered with “an almost impenetrable growth of cedar and mixed timber....” In the first, “the water at once begins to pour down as from a steep roof, converging into swift streamlets which erode every vestige of organic soil....”

In the other, “the downpour... is largely taken up by the porous ground.”

In some locations a healthy prairie may allow for more infiltration with little water lost to runoff. But on the steep, rocky slopes of the Balcones Escarpment, Ashe Junipers may be better water managers than we think they are.

References for this column included *The Timber of the Edwards Plateau of Texas; Its Relation to Climate, Water Supply, and Soil* (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Forestry, bulletin no. 49) by William L. Bray, “Energy balance and water use in a subtropical karst woodland on the Edwards Plateau, Texas,” by J. L. Heilman et al, in *Journal of Hydrology*, and “Woody plant encroachment paradox: Rivers rebound as degraded grasslands convert to woodlands,” in *Geophysical Research Letters*, by Bradford P. Wilcox and Yun Huang.

Chaetura Canyon Sanctuary News By Georgean and Paul Kyle

NOVEMBER 7, 2016

We took a rare week off in late July to travel to Lac Édouard, Quebec to attend the opening of the world’s first Chimney Swift Museum and Interpretive Center where they referred to us as “the grandparents of the Chimney Swift Conservation movement.” Our friend, and founder of the museum, Simon Parent translated into French as we showed the video of the swifts nesting in the towers at Chaetura Canyon which so many of our Canyon visitors have seen and love. We were presented with a hand-carved Chimney Swift by Simon’s father Réjean (a world-champion bird carver). Réjean carved all of the swifts for the display in the museum, and has built six Chimney Swift towers. After the festivities, we counted 66 swifts entering the old restored chimney at the site. We are told that this is the most northern range of the Chimney Swifts. We are delighted that there is now a map at the museum that marks Chaetura Canyon and Lac Édouard and declares the two sites “friends forever.”

After the brutal summer heat of July and early August, more than 12” of rain and cooler temperatures in late August revitalized the vegetation and recharged the springs in the bottom of the Canyon. Despite the earlier heat, the Introduction to Birds Swift Watch and final Second Saturday Swift Watch of the season were full to the brim with human participants and Chimney Swifts.

September was off to a great start with the second-ever wedding at Chaetura Canyon. Sarah Rodriguez and Rafael Ruiz said their vows on the deck overlooking the Canyon on September 2 before a group of 30 friends. The evening reception introduced the mainly non-birding guests to the Canyon and the Chimney Swifts. Everyone seemed enamored with the newlyweds and the aerial display at sunset.

The following week, the annual Mediterranean Feast returned after the 2015 hiatus—while the Stewards concentrated on closing their 40-yr-old business. This year’s event was a sell out with a waiting list. We express our thanks to all who participated in this important fundraising event for Chaetura Canyon and all of the others earlier this year.

Work continued removing internal fencing and re-installing it around the newly acquired parcels, and we hope to have all of the perimeter fencing completed by the end of the

year. Habitat restoration has begun on the new parcels with the removal of Juniper slash and non-native invasive plants. A Stewardship Day is planned for December, so watch the e-blasts and check the web site for more information.

Where have the birds gone?

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

We received questions this fall from numerous people voicing concerns that there are virtually no birds (or even squirrels!) at their feeders. Our November Ask-a-Birder Expert, Noreen Baker, weighs in:

The lack of birds in the fall, especially in September and October, is a common phenomenon that happens to varying degrees each year. It is related to several factors including the abundance of natural food choices in the fall, migration patterns and weather in general, and end of breeding season. In a year like this year when we have had good late summer rains, the seed crop in the wild is quite good and birds prefer natural food to feeders when the natural food is available. This year's live oak acorn crop is also quite good, which explains why squirrels are not coming to feeders.

Fall is also the time of year when our summer birds have gone and our winter residents have not yet arrived. This year has been very warm so far and many of the winter birds are lingering to the north and have not arrived in large numbers yet. The end of breeding season with young birds have fledged and are out of the nest also leads to a drop in feeder visits because parent birds do not have to work as hard at feeding youngsters and fledged birds are now out in the woods enjoying fall's bounty with the parents.

So bottom line, the lack of birds at this time of the year is not cause for alarm, and we should see birds return to the feeders once colder weather arrives and the natural food sources become less available.

Baker Sanctuary News By Christopher Murray

NOVEMBER 21, 2016

Living at Baker is always interesting, whether it is singing coyotes in the night, unsuspected flowers blooming, or migrant birds fleetingly passing through the landscape; there is always something to grab ones' attention. While playing with my sons in the parking lot adjacent to the Baker trailer, we stumbled across a large tarantula making its way through the grass. This was their first encounter with the hairy arachnid and they were suitably impressed – we literally had to drag them away when the spider had had enough and was becoming, understandably, a little tired of being watched closely.

Belonging to the genus *Aphonopelma*, there are at least 14 species found in Texas but it takes a microscope and a good deal of experience to tell them apart. One trait they all have in common is urticating, or barbed, hairs on their abdomens which the spiders will brush off with their hind legs if they feel sufficiently threatened. These hairs can cause skin irritation and, more seriously, eye problems if they lodge in the cornea of their target. Tarantulas are fascinating to watch – just don't watch them too closely!

While tarantulas are not known to be harbingers of storms, after spotting the shambling

spider, it rained and rained and then rained a bit more. Aside from the obvious benefits to the wildlife and the flora, the downpours had the added benefit of scrubbing our Glen Rose formation until it gleamed. Walking the North Loop shortly after the storm, I was startled to see how Harris Creek had been transformed. All the dirt, leaves, branches, and algae had been power-scrubbed from the creek bed by the torrent that had rushed through the previous few days. All that remained was a tranquil, gurgling creek with crystal-clear water that magnified the yellowish-orange Glen Rose limestone that makes up its bed. Since the canopy is taller and thicker in that area, lending a darker atmosphere, the effect of the bright stream is striking. I like to think paleontologist Robert Hill, the scientist who gave the Glen Rose formation its name in 1891, would have admired our particular specimen.

Once again Baker Sanctuary will be closed down for the annual, deer-management hunt beginning November 1 and continuing through mid-January. During this time Baker will host eight hunters whose efforts at harvesting deer will help keep the habitat in prime condition for the Golden-cheeked Warblers who will be returning in early March from their wintering grounds down south.

Interview with Robin Doughty

DECEMBER 9, 2016

In July 2016, Robin Doughty published *The Purple Martin*, his tenth conservation-related book. A longtime Austinite, Robin joined the Department of Geography and the Environment at UT Austin in 1971. Jordan Price, Travis Audubon's Director of Administration and Membership interviewed Robin for Signal Smoke.

Jordan Price: What is your bucket bird?

Robin Doughty: My current bucket bird is the Ivory Gull. I'm going to Greenland next year and hope to spot it. A previous bucket bird of mine was the Cream-coloured Courser. I had been curious about this courser for decades after seeing it in a bird book during my childhood.

JP: Where did you grow up?

RD: I grew up in a small town named Hornsea. It was located on the North Sea coast of England. The town has a freshwater lake, Hornsea Mere, about two miles long. It is the largest lake in Yorkshire and a great place to bird. I had four siblings, and to escape the house, I had two options, either birding or rugby. I chose both. I didn't know much about birds, and fortunately, some local boys took me under their wing. They were 4-5 years older than me and had a keen interest in birds and nature. It was with this group that I learned the basics of birding. Once I became known as a birder, people would contact me about strange birds in the neighborhood. I remember seeing puffins and gannets positioned on rocks near the road. Severe storms off the North Sea would drive these and other birds to my little town. When I was still a child, I remember being thrilled when my name appeared in print as a "recorder" for the Yorkshire Naturalist's Union.

JP: What inspired you to study geography?

RD: I had an excellent high school geography teacher. He planted that seed of curiosity that led me to a lifelong study of the environment and geography.

JP: Why did you immigrate to the United States?

RD: I decided at a young age that I needed to study hard and get out of my town as soon as I was able. My father used to take the train to work, and I remember old men in town occasionally dropping dead on the train station platform. They would simply collapse, and fall to the ground while smoking. I did not want my future to consist of a predictable death in my hometown.

When I eventually applied for university, I sought a joint degree in geography, Italian, and philosophy. I was told my preferred course of studies was not permitted and chose geography. After completing my B.A. at Reading University and a second degree in Philosophy at the Vatican University in Rome, I was presented with a great offer and teaching assistantship from the University of California, Berkley. I left England and moved to California to pursue my PhD. My dissertation was titled, "Feather Fashions and Bird Preservation: A Study in Nature Protection." While in central California, I did some excellent birding on Point Reyes and the Farallon Islands. As a side note, a Golden-cheeked Warbler was once banded on the Farallons.

JP: What is the favorite class you've taught?

RD: My favourite class was a graduate level course titled, "The Nature Essay and the American Experience." I was able to incorporate all of my ideal nature authors and their work into the course.

JP: Why did you decide to rewrite the 2002 edition "The Purple Martin" and republish it over the summer?

RD: So much has happened with Purple Martins in recent years! This incredible creature is so dependent on humans and Austin has become an epicenter for its conservation! Rob and I decided to do a complete rewrite of the 2002 to reflect all of the changes that have occurred in the protection of this bird. The Purple Martin is an astonishing creature. Its centuries-long engagement with humans has made it quite dependent on us.

JP: When you were young, did you have a nature mentor?

RD: Henry Bunce and Ralph Chislett were two early mentors of mine. Chislett authored three bird books and also received the medal of the Royal Photographic Society. When I arrived in Austin, Ed Kutac was very welcoming! He introduced me to Hornsby Bend and also to the big white cranes on the coast. Ed was a great bird mentor in Texas and always had good cheer. He is missed.

JP: There seems to be a disconnect between kids and nature. How do we fix this problem?

RD: I agree. I think this situation can be improved by giving the youth citizen science projects where they have firsthand interactions with birds and the natural world. For example, children should be involved in projects about the breeding and migration cycle.

JP: What exciting projects do you have on the horizon?

RD: I'm working on two books! I've co-authored a book on all invasive species within Texas. That project is quite exciting. The second book I'm developing is a bird poetry book. It will contain poems that I have written about birds that I have seen in my travels.

JP: Do you like Bovril?

RD: I have a strong hatred for Bovril and its sibling, Marmite.

December Bird Forecast: American Woodcock, Harris's Sparrow and Lots of Birdwatchers

COMPILED BY JANE TILLMAN, TRAVIS AUDUBON VOLUNTEER
DECEMBER 14, 2016

Elusive American Woodcocks Showing Up

Have you ever been on a winter walk in a deciduous woods when a bird bursts out from almost underfoot? After you recover from your shock, you wonder what it was and where it went. Chances are it was an American Woodcock. A few winter in Austin, in wooded areas without much understory, often close to streams. This unusual member of the shorebird family is a squatty-looking bird with large black eyes almost on the top of its head. These help it keep tabs on the sky above while it forages for worms, snails and insects with its very long straight bill. It has superb camouflage with muted gray, buff and brown tones, and it relies on this cryptic coloration to frustrate bird watchers and keep it safe from predators. Recent sightings have occurred at Mayfield Park, Commons Ford Park and the golf course in Hyde Park. Right before they migrate north in early spring Woodcock males put on quite a display flight for the females, with a characteristic “peent” sound and twittering of wings. Count yourself fortunate if you get to witness this behavior –one that noted conservationist Aldo Leopold said was “a refutation of the theory that the utility of a game bird is to serve as a target, or to pose gracefully on a slice of toast.”

The Teddy Bear of Sparrows is Coming to Town

The Harris's Sparrow is making a list and checking it twice before it catches the next cold front to the Austin area. When you say the word “sparrow” most people think of the monotonous chirp and drab colors of the non-native House Sparrow, but Austin has a plethora of beautifully understated native sparrows that spend the winter here. For identification purposes, the Harris's Sparrow has the advantage of a song in a minor key all on one pitch. Unlike many wintering birds, it does sing while here. The warm tan/ochre coloration on its cheeks give it a Teddy Bear look. The black on its head, throat and breast is distinctive – some say it looks like it is dipped in black paint. And its pink bill and bright white belly help cinch the identification. Since Austin had good rains earlier in the year the native grasses have bloomed well. That is good news for this large sparrow, which summers in far northern Canada – it should find plentiful seeds along the hedgerows and in weedy fields where you can look for it.

Christmas Bird Counts Just Around the Corner

Just when most people are hitting the malls for last minute shopping, bird watchers fan out across the nation to continue a tradition begun over one hundred years ago, to census birds and determine how well bird populations are faring. You can participate in the fun, as a feeder watcher or active participant. Austin has several bird counts – learn about the Austin, Westcave, Balcones Canyonlands, Bastrop and other central Texas counts and sign up for a new experience and contribute to citizen science.

National Audubon Society Deeply Concerned by “Anti-EPA” Nominee Scott Pruitt

DECEMBER 14, 2016

A climate denier has no place leading the Environmental Protection Agency. President-elect Donald Trump’s transition team announced the nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as a candidate for administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The National Audubon Society issued the following response:

“Scott Pruitt’s nomination as the anti-EPA Administrator causes us deep concern,” said David Yarnold, Audubon’s president and CEO. “The Environmental Protection Agency’s work has always been based on science, but Pruitt is a climate change denier who has worked to dismantle well-grounded protections for clean air and clean water.

“Those protections have benefited birds and kids for decades and the next administration’s EPA needs to base its work on scientific consensus, something Pruitt hasn’t shown a willingness to do. We urge the Senate to hold an EPA administrator to those basic standards.”

Official Beer Sponsor: Thirsty Planet!

DECEMBER 15, 2016

Travis Audubon is thrilled to announce that local brewer, Thirsty Planet, is our official beer sponsor. Thirsty Planet graciously donated 120 bottles of Thirsty Goat Amber Ale and 30+ cans of Austin Eastciders’ Texas Honey Cider to our annual Holiday Party. Thirsty Goat is a very popular Austin beer and we are grateful that Thirsty Planet was so generous!

Year-end Message from the Director

DECEMBER 17, 2016

Dear Friends and Members,

Thank you for making a difference — and thank you for being part of the Travis Audubon Family!

The recent election left many questions unanswered about the future of environmental policy and support for the Endangered Species Act.

While we are hopeful, we also don’t want to be complacent. It’s important that we make our voices heard and are united in our actions about the issues we care about. In the coming year, you can count on us to share important news with you and to alert you to opportunities for you to express your opinion.

Travis Audubon is the oldest conservation organization in Austin, founded in 1952. We’re one of 500 chapters of the National Audubon Society across the country – making us the largest grassroots conservation organization in the United States. We’re bound by

our shared commitment— and stronger because of it.

May you soar into the New Year filled with health, happiness and prosperity.

With Kind Regards & Happy Holidays,

Joan Marshall
Executive Director

**JANUARY & FEBRUARY
EVENTS, FIELD TRIPS, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES**

(Many activities require registration. Please visit our website,
www.TravisAudubon.org, for more information about each activity!)

January 7, 2017 - River Monitoring Trip: Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership
2210 FM973, Austin, TX 78725

January 7, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Commons Ford Prairie Bird Walk with Lee and Deb
Wallace
614 Commons Ford Rd, Austin, TX 78733

January 7, 2017 - Beginner's Bird Walk at Pedernales Falls State Park
7101 TX-71, Austin, TX 78735

January 8, 2017 – Where to Go Birding in Austin. Program by Jane Tillman
Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756

January 10, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Two-hour Tuesday at Lake Pflugerville Park, led by
Dan Callaway
18216 Weiss Ln, Pflugerville, TX 78660

January 14, 2017 - CLASS: Waterfowl Identification

January 14, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count
2210 FM973, Austin, TX 78725

January 14, 2017 – Blair Woods Restoration Day.
5401 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Austin, TX 78721

January 17, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Super Tuesday at Granger Lake, led by Ray and Ginny
Steelman
3100 Granger Dam Rd, Granger, TX 76530

January 19, 2017 – MONTHLY PROGRAM: Birds of the Big Bend with Greg Lasley
Hyde Park Christian Church, 610 E. 45th St, Austin, TX 78751

January 21, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk
2210 FM973, Austin, TX 78725

January 22, 2017 – Young Birders Club: Information Meeting at Mueller Lake Park
4550 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723

January 24, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Super Tuesday at Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan
Park, led by Deb and Lee Wallace 614 Commons Ford Rd, Austin, TX 78733

January 27, 2017 - CLASS: Birding 102 – Rockport and Whooping Cranes

January 28, 2017 – Annual Stewardship Day at Chaetura Canyon

January 28, 2017 - Kid-Friendly Family Bird Walk
4001 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78756

January 31, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Super Tuesday at Buescher/Bastrop State Parks, led by
Terry Banks
100 Park Rd 1C, Smithville, TX 78957

February 4, 2017 - CLASS: Beginning Backyard Birding

February 4, 2017 - River Monitoring Trip: Austin-Bastrop River Corridor Partnership
2210 FM973, Austin, TX 78725

February 4, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Commons Ford Prairie Bird Walk with Ed Fair
614 Commons Ford Rd, Austin, TX 78733

February 5, 2017 – Annual Stewardship Day at Chaetura Canyon

February 7, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Two-hour Tuesday at Hornsby Bend, led by Jane
Tillman
18706 Blake Manor Rd, Manor, TX 78653

February 11, 2017 - CLASS: Birding 102 – Granger Lake Area

February 11, 2017 - Purple Martin Workshop 2017

February 11, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count
2210 FM973, Austin, TX 78725

February 11, 2017 – Celebrate Urban Birds: Austin Nature & Science Center
2389 Stratford Dr, Austin, TX 78746

February 12, 2017 - Tucson Audubon: Cowboy Birding Tucson, AZ

February 12, 2017 – Celebrate Urban Birds: Umlauf Sculpture Gardens
605 Robert E. Lee Rd, Austin, TX 78704

February 14, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Super Tuesday at Camp Tejas, led by Ray and Ginny
Steelman
4560 Co Rd 258, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

February 16, 2017 – MONTHLY PROGRAM: Watching the Woodpeckers of Central Texas with Stephen Shunk
Hyde Park Christian Church, 610 E. 45th St, Austin, TX 78751

February 18, 2017 - CLASS: Woodpecker Workshop

February 18, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk
2210 FM973, Austin, TX 78725

February 18, 2017 – Celebrate Urban Birds: Elisabet Ney Museum
304 E. 44th St, Austin, TX 78751

February 21, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Super Tuesday at Guadalupe River State Park, led by Deb and Lee Wallace
Park Rd 31, Spring Branch, TX 78070

February 25, 2017 - Celebrate Urban Birds! Bird Walk in Central Austin
3505 W 35th St, Austin, TX 78703

February 25, 2017 – Young Birders Club: Community Service Project with TreeFolks at Heritage Oaks Park
2100 Parker Ln, Austin, TX 78741

February 28, 2017 - FIELD TRIP: Super Tuesday at Pedernales Falls State Park, led by Terry Banks
2585 Park Rd 6026, Johnson City, TX 78636