



Signal Smoke

The Newsletter of Travis Audubon * VOL. 70, NO. 4 July/August 2022



A Note

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Travis Audubon friends and members,

As we head into another hot Texas summer, my mind wanders back to the cool weather and exciting birding of spring migration. This spring felt special, a return to some normality after two years of disruptions and stress. I was fortunate enough to spend more than a week this April birding on the Upper Texas Coast, my favorite place to be during migration. At last, I was able to bring a group to the coast for my favorite Travis Audubon event of the year, Birdathon. This year many of my group were birders from out of state who were making their first trip to Texas for migration, which just added to the fun. And as always, I ran into so many Travis Audubon friends during my days on the coast, it felt like home!

I was not alone in my enthusiasm for the return of a full slate of Birdathon activities. This year was our most successful Birdathon fundraiser ever! Thanks to all who participated, and I hope you're already making plans for next spring.

Our programs continue this summer despite the heat. Purple Martin parties will return on weekends in July. These are always great fun, and I encourage you to bring your non-birding friends to see the spectacle. Be sure to check our events calendar for all our upcoming field trips and classes.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank all my Travis Audubon friends as my term as President comes to an end. The last two years were anything but normal, but thanks to the hard work and creativity of our fantastic staff, and the even keel provided by our Board, Travis Audubon has emerged stronger than ever. Interest in learning about the natural world continues to grow, and Travis Audubon will be there as we have for the last 70 years, inspiring conservation through birding. I can't wait to see what comes next!

Please join me in welcoming our next President, Chris Gunter. Chris is a native Austinite and has been an active TAS member for decades. Chris joined the Board in 2020 and brings a real commitment to conservation and environmental education, the core mission of Travis Audubon. The Board will be in fine shape with Chris at the helm.

Thanks again to my fellow Board members past and present, you made the last five years a real pleasure. I will continue to be active in the organization, and I'm looking forward to getting back to my roots, leading field trips and teaching classes. I hope to see you out on the trail in the coming months. The best is yet to come!



Eric Stager
President

People

AT TRAVIS AUDUBON

Staff

Executive Director
Land Manager and Educator
Program Manager
Development Manager
Finance and Operations Manager
Design Director & Website Producer

Nicole Netherton
Chris Murray
Caley Zuzula
Cheyenne Moore
Judith Allen
Nora Chovanec

Committees

Adult Education
Advocacy
Baker Team
Blair Woods Core Team
Chaetura Canyon Management

Chimney Swifts
Commons Ford

Field Trip
Hornsby Bend
*Inclusion, Diversity, Equity,
and Access (IDEA)*
Memberships and Outreach
Purple Martins
Youth

Jeanette Larson
John Bloomfield
Chris Murray
Mark Wilson
Paul Kyle
Georgan Kyle
Paul Kyle
Ellen Filtness
Michael Sims
Celeste Treadway
Eric Stager

Lino Mendiola
Jane Tillman
Shelia Hargis
Mary Kay Sexton

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Sam Fason
Shelia Hargis
Bryan Hale
Karen Huber
Mary Kelly
Clifton Ladd
Susan Rieff
Andrew Sansom
Carter Smith

Upcoming Events

WITH TRAVIS AUDUBON

02 JUL, 22

Beginners' Bird Walk: Berry Springs

09 JUL, 22

Reimers Ranch Weekend Bird Walk

09 JUL, 22

Morning Canyon Crawl at Chaetura Canyon (FULL)

09 JUL, 22

Presentation: Austin's Amazing Purple Martins

10 JUL, 22

Commons Ford Bird Walk

12 JUL, 22

CLASS: Watching Birds: Identification, Life History, Behavior and More

16 JUL, 22

Blair Woods Restoration Day

17 JUL, 22

Commons Ford Bird Walk

23 JUL, 22

Pliriding at Blair Woods

24 JUL, 22

Let's Go Birding Together: Commons Ford

06 AUG, 22

Beginners' Bird Walk

09 AUG, 22

Commons Ford Bird Walk

13 AUG, 22

Morning Canyon Crawl at Chaetura Canyon

14 AUG, 22

CLASSES Shorebirds Class 2022 (FULL)

18 AUG, 22

CLASS: eBird Workshop

28 AUG, 22

Commons Ford Bird Walk

28 AUG, 22

Let's Go Birding Together: Commons Ford

Thank You

We are grateful to all of our members and donors who have supported Travis Audubon in any capacity in 2021-2022. Special thanks to our Lifetime Members and Leadership Giving Circle

Lifetime Members

Membership at \$1,500

The Aeschbach Family
Ross Bee
Carol Bennett
Holly and Tom Brandt
Donna Brasher
Valarie Bristol
Sam Burnes
Donna Carter and Michael
Gagarin
Frances and Oskar Cerbins
The Collins Family
Colin Corgan
Kelley Cunny and Gregg
Sporar
Jackie Davis
Marilyn Rabkin
Stacia and Walt DeBill
The deVries Family
Laura Legett and Joe Doherty
Carol Edwards
The Fason Family
Sharon and Don Flournoy
Greg Flurry
Ann Gardner
Chris Gunter
The Haider Family
Bryan Hale
Julie Hallmark
Shelia Hargis
The Harrell Family
The Harris Family
Wendy Harte
Patrick Hotze
The Hoverman Family
Burgess Jackson
Kimberly and Jeffrey Jackson
Dale Jaroszewski
Caroline Jones
Diedra Kerr
Ronnie Kramer
Tasso Leventis

The Lowrimore Family
Julia Marsden
Cheryl McGrath and Robert
Miller
Sally Means
Vicki B. Meyer
The Moore Family
Kevin R Moore
The Mundy Family
Michael Portman
Jorjanna Price
Julia Prokop
Danette Ray
Marla Riddlespurger
Deborah Robertson
The Roddin Family
Alan Roddy
Theodore C Rogers
Stephen Rumsey
Ryan Runkle
Mary Sanger
Nona and Andy Sansom
The Schaezler Family
The Schooler Family
The Sexton Family
Vince Shouba
Catherine Sims
Ellen Smith
Cindy and Bryan Sperry
Byron Stone
Patsy Turner and Tim Stuart
Stan VanSandt
Karen Verser
Paul Wade
The Wadehra Family
Isabel Welland
The Wheeler Family
Jo Wilson
John Wilson
The Yates Family

Leadership Giving Circle

These members support our critical efforts in education, conservation, and advocacy. Members of this highest giving category set an example by making an annual gift of \$1,500 or more – over and above membership, celebration sponsorship, and Birdathon.

Bob and Margy Ayres
Judith Bailey
Carol Bennett
Holly and Tom Brandt
Holly and Tom Brandt
Frances and Oskar Cerbins
Ann and Don Connell
Colin Corgan
Jackie Davis
Dawn M Dickson
The Donovan Family
Michael Gagarin and Donna
Carter
Patricia Gallagher
Cecilia Green
Bryan Hale
Lee Decker and Faye Harris
Caroline Jones
Carolyn Long
Barry Lyon and Brooke
Smith
Julia Marsden
Susan Miller
Dennis Palafox
Ann Bishop & Penny Potter
Nancy Radding
Carol Ray
Alan Roddy
Theodore C Rogers
Lorna Terhune
John Umphress
The Warneke Family
Jo Wilson

Thank You

We are grateful to all of our members and donors who have supported Travis Audubon in any capacity in 2021-2022. Special thanks to our Wise Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Warbler Members.

Wise Owl Sustaining Members

These members support Travis Audubon through a monthly donation of \$10 or more.

Barbara Anderson
Judith Bailey
Kendal Barnard
Melissa Bedrock
Janet Brandt
Valarie Bristol
Capone Household
The Bergman Carton Family
Frances and Oskar Cerbins
Carol Drennan
Feagin Household
Vella Fink
Susan Galbreath
Donna Joan Herschleb
Dana Kuykendall and Mark Wilson
Stephen Livingston
Julia Marsden
Ann McGinley
Kathryn Mercer
Trent Miller and Meta Hunt
Geruza Paiva
Jeff Patterson
Michael Portman
Sonia Ralls and Fred Dalbey
Carol Ray
Sharon and Jeff Richardson
Robyn Seiferth
The Smith Family

Eric Stager
Mark Stoetzer
The Treadway Family
Carl Trovall
The Whitcomb Family
Jo Wilson
Michael Wolf
The Zess Family

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Members

Annual membership of \$500

Erica Clark
Germaine Curry
Alison Gallaway
Suzie and Patrick McCann
Rose Ann Reeser
Paul and Ellington Tough

Warbler Members

Annual membership of \$250

Linda S Abbey
Jacque Sue Austin
Shelly Botkin
Paul Braddock
Christel Erickson-Collins
Claire Field
Joanna Hitchcock
Joan G Hudson
Donna and Kent Jones
Mary Ann and Bob Kerr
Nancy Leahy
Mary and Lynn Moak
Laura F Nagy
Mollie O'Hara
Lidia and Allen Peck
Nancy Radding
Annemarie Read
Mary Lou Rizzo
Martha T Roman
Mitchel E Schwass
Louise D Smyth
Kim Soechting
Mark Stadtherr
Sally Swisher
Laura Tull
Judy and Laurence Willcott

Thank You

TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS



Thank You

TO OUR 2021 VICTOR EMANUEL
CONSERVATION AWARD CELEBRATION SPONSORS

Golden-cheeked Warbler Sponsors

Chuck and Mary Kay Sexton

Crested Caracara Sponsors

Julia Marsden
Shield Ranch
Peggy & Matt Winkler

Ferruginous Hawk Sponsors

Austin Water
Paula & Ernest Smith
Jo Wilson & Carol Bennett

Food Sponsors

Antonelli's Cheese
Kellie's Baking Co.

Painted Bunting Sponsors

Austin Parks Foundation
Judith Bailey
Karen Bartoletti
Frances & Oskar Cerbins
Shannon Davies
Alice & Chris Gunter
Chris Harte
Carol Ray
Nona & Dr. Andrew Sansom
Eric Stager & Friends
Texas Ornithological Society
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

Thank You

TO OUR 2021 VICTOR EMANUEL
CONSERVATION AWARD CELEBRATION SPONSORS

Swallow-tailed Kite Sponsor



Crested Caracara Sponsor



Ferruginous Hawk Sponsor



Updates

FROM THE SIGNAL SMOKE BLOG

Austin City Council Passes World Migratory Bird Day Resolution

POSTED ON MAY 11, 2022 CATEGORIES: [NEWS CORNER](#), [SIGNAL SMOKE HOME](#)



On May 5th, Austin City Council approved the World Migratory Bird Day Resolution drafted by Travis Audubon and introduced by Mayor Pro Tem Alison Alter. This resolution recognizes World Migratory Bird Day as May 14th this year, and every second Saturday of May hereafter, and states that planners and city staff will support Travis Audubon’s efforts to raise awareness about bird conservation.

Travis Audubon’s Executive Director, Nicole Netherton, spoke in support of the resolution at the meeting:

Thank you, Council members, my name is Nicole Netherton and I am the Executive Director of Travis Audubon. I’m here today to talk about the importance of World Migratory Bird Day, which takes place on May 14th. Thank you Mayor Pro Tem Alter and Council Members Pool, Tovo, and Fuentes for sponsoring the resolution marking this important day.

Wouldn’t you say that one of the best parts of recently returning to a more “normal” life is having visitors again? When I have friends visit me in Austin, I tidy up, order the best tacos, and generally roll out the weird, red carpet of our city because that’s how you treat honored guests.

Each spring we have some honored guests passing through our city that many of us don’t know enough about.

*Between March and June every year, **one out of every three** birds that migrate through the United States will pass through Texas skies at night. That’s nearly 2 billion birds – many journeying thousands of miles. It’s wonderful to imagine all those birds in flight. But the Council has many other important issues to consider today. Why is migration important? These are just little birds, right?*

This is a trick question because as you know, there are no “little” things in nature. Birds may be small, but they are connected to everything else. They are the umbrella species for all the lower organisms in the system and they need the same things humans do—clean air and water, enough food to get through the day, and safe, quiet places to make shelter and protect their young. Threats to birds are a warning for what become threats to us. Biodiversity deserves protection.

Studies show that birds provide tremendous human and economic benefit, from pollination to pest control. Birdsong increases human feelings of well-being and lowers reported feelings of stress – very important during the pandemic. A Texas A&M study found that ecotourism including birding generates more than \$9 billion dollars annually for the Texas economy.

And people travel from around the world to see the Golden-Cheeked Warbler, our

celebrity neo-tropical migrant who only breeds in Central Texas.

So what can we do to help these millions of special visitors?

We can protect their shrinking habitat from overwhelming development pressures.

We can turn off our lights from 11pm to 6am to minimize light pollution and prevent bird-building collisions.

We can keep our pet cats indoors.

We can plant native plants to provide nectar and host the insects that birds need to feed their young.

We can treat our winged visitors as the honored guests that they are. The miracle of migration brings us some of the world's most remarkable birds to Austin's backyards, parks, and waterways. Let's do everything we can to give them an Austin red carpet welcome.

Thank you for amplifying the importance of migratory birds with this resolution, and for working with Travis Audubon and our partners to help protect biodiversity in our city.

Read the full draft of the resolution [here](#) – the official signed version is coming soon.

Birdathon 2022 Winners Announced

POSTED ON MAY 17, 2022 CATEGORIES: [NEWS CORNER](#), [SIGNAL SMOKE HOME](#)



A HUGE thanks to all who participated in and donated to Birdathon this year! **You**

helped us raise over \$40,000. This has been our most successful Birdathon to date, and we could not have done this without you. After much deliberating and verifying submissions, the Birdathon Committee has determined the 2022 winners:

Most species (full day): Gone Fishing (134 species)

Most species (half day): Fledgling Birders (74 species)

Most Funds Raised: Gone Fishing (\$12,007 – a record!)

Rarest Bird: Too Many Coots (Dusky-capped Flycatcher at High Island)

Reveling in Raptors: Gone Fishing (10 species including vultures)

Copious Cardinals: Inks Lake Birders (31 individuals)

Neatest Non-bird: Off the Rails Birders (small gator eating a giant bullfrog)

Most Creative Team Name: I Got Birds in High Places

Rookie of the Year: Off the Rails Birders

Best Story: Fisher Hollow Goldies

“One of our participants had been trying for 3 years to see a Golden-cheeked Warbler, but she had dipped every time she tried. She was not originally on our participant list, but was on the “waitlist.” When someone else dropped out, she got added, and she was able to FINALLY add a GCWA to her life list during our Birdathon!”

If you participated in this year's Greg Lasley Photography Contest, please know that we are in the process of judging the submissions. Stay tuned for more.

Featured image above: The Fisher Hollow Goldies Team. Photo by Shirley LaVergne.

What We Stand For

POSTED ON MAY 18, 2022 CATEGORIES: [SIGNAL](#)
[SMOKE HOME](#)



Advocacy means different things to different people. Talking to a legislator about a bill. Writing a letter supporting or opposing something. Signing a petition.

That's all true, but advocacy is also something personal. Defining what you believe in. Communicating those beliefs to your family, friends and neighbors. Standing up for those beliefs.

With both views in mind, Travis Audubon's Advocacy Committee held a series of discussions this year to develop advocacy priorities to spell out what the organization stands for. The priorities are meant to be a guideline both to focus our public outreach efforts and to give members a better understanding of how we are putting our beliefs into action.

The priorities are built around the organization's mission of and vision for promoting the enjoyment, understanding, and conservation of native birds, and inspiring conservation through birding. They are organized into five general categories:

- Bird-friendly Communities
- Land and Water Protection
- Preserving Biodiversity
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Climate Advocacy

[Click here](#) for more details on each priority, including programs and action supporting each of the categories above.

*Featured image: Golden-cheeked Warbler
by Robert Downs*

Soaring at 70: Reflections by Jennifer & Valarie Bristol

POSTED ON MAY 23, 2022 CATEGORIES: [SIGNAL](#)
[SMOKE HOME](#)



In this monthly feature, our members and friends have been invited to reflect on and celebrate Travis Audubon's 70 years.



**Magnolia Gracie Neighbors Greene
(1889-1965)**

*Portions of this record will appear in the
Bristols' forthcoming book*

Magnolia Greene, often known as Mrs. John W. Greene, was an important early member and co-founder of Travis Audubon. She recorded much of the history of garden clubs in her book, *History of Texas Garden Clubs Inc. 1928-1948*, but she also championed the conservation mission of the garden clubs. Magnolia "Nolia" Gracie Neighbors was born in Kentucky in 1889 and was one of eight children. Magnolia graduated from Southwest Texas State University and proceeded to teach for 20 years until she married John W. Greene of Georgia; the couple had children.

Like so many women who resigned from a career once they were married, Magnolia joined the Federation of Women's Clubs and Texas Garden Clubs (TGC) for friendship, mental stimulation, and a connection with the outdoors. Magnolia worked her way through the ranks of the Violet Crown Garden Club of Austin and TGC. In 1945, while she was president of the Violet Crown Garden Club, they won the National

Conservation Green Ribbon award for the "Save the Texas Bluebells" project.

Magnolia served as TGC president from 1947 until 1949. In her first order of business, she aimed to move the garden clubs into an era of addressing social issues at the community and state levels. Her second order of business was to create the *Lone Star Gardener*, a magazine to promote gardening. Third, in 1946 she advocated for the creation of the Audubon Nature Camp of Texas as a partnership between TGC and National Audubon Society.

The first camp was held in Kerrville in 1948. The Audubon Nature Camp was a five session, two-week intensive natural leaders training camp where scouts, junior club leaders, and aspiring teachers ages 18 and older could learn how to incorporate nature in their lessons and be advocates for conservation. The camp gained national attention and won the highest award from the National Garden Clubs, and camps in other states followed.

Magnolia served as third vice president on the National Council of Garden Clubs from 1949-1951 and was chair of the conservation committee for the National Council of State Garden Clubs. In 1952, she organized an Audubon club in her hometown of Austin to focus on birds, habitat, and conservation education in Central Texas. The City of Austin Recreation Department, under the direction of Mr. Beverly Sheffield, sponsored the society. Attending that first meeting in 1952 was a who's who of conservationists and civic leaders: Mrs. J. Frank Dobie, Mrs. Roy Bedichek, Mrs. I. W. Popham, Mrs. P.C. Oates, Mrs. J. B. Rutland, Mrs. Vera Digby, Mrs. E. T. Dawson, Mrs. Theresa Carrell, Miss Ruth Allen, Mr. Bradly Davis, and Mr. Everett Dawson.

As the group officially organized, they elected Magnolia as the president. They had lofty goals, including designating the City of Austin as a Bird Sanctuary, creating a bird checklist for Travis County, and creating a nature museum near Zilker Park. The club also organized nature walks along Bee Creek, in what later became the Wild Basin Preserve. By 1953, the organization adopted the name Travis Audubon Society.

We are honored that Magnolia's legacy lives on at Travis Audubon, and also at the Zilker Botanical Garden. Magnolia helped make Travis Audubon what it is today; [why not sign up for a field trip or class today in her honor?](#)

Remembering Mary Parker

POSTED ON MAY 25, 2022 CATEGORIES: [SIGNAL SMOKE HOME](#)



By Jorjanna Price

Travis Audubon lost one of its longest-serving members with the passing of Mary Parker, 81. A memorial service was held May 21 at St. George's Episcopal Church.

Mary joined Travis Audubon in 1963 while attending the University of Texas. The chapter was just a little more than a decade old, and monthly meetings consisted mainly of showing nature films. In 2015, Travis Audubon honored Mary for five decades of membership and her devotion to birds and the natural world. In return, she generously donated her collection of some 300 books and journals on ornithology and science topics.

Mary began to collect books on native plants and birds while growing up on the family ranch in Eldorado in West Texas. At UT, she and other students would go birding at Platt Ponds, now part of the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory. Mary earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in zoology. With a Ph.D. in hand, she became one of the first women on the faculty, which was a rare sighting in the UT zoology department. She later worked at several state agencies doing environmental assessments.

Even in retirement, Mary closely monitored birdlife at her East Austin home. She used her science training to record winged visitors by date, time, and observed behavior. She didn't have to see the birds to know which species were nearby.

Mary was such an expert birder that she could identify several hundred bird calls by ear. She even recognized the sounds of Sandhill Cranes in migration.

We thank Mary Parker for her dedication to Travis Audubon and her contributions to the conservation community.

Volunteer Spotlight: Noreen Baker

POSTED ON MAY 31, 2022 CATEGORIES: [SIGNAL SMOKE HOME](#)



By Alexis Puchek

A tried-and-true Texan, Noreen Baker was born and raised in rural Texas, just outside of San Antonio. Growing up on about 20 acres in the country kept Noreen around nature most of the time – her dad was an active birder and would come inside and pull out the bird book to show Noreen the species he would spot on their property. It was this time with her dad that helped inspire her love of nature and her desire to find and spot those birds herself. Although initially interested in studying Biology, Noreen started her college education at Texas A&M in Chemical Engineering. However, she quickly realized she wanted to do something more closely tied to the outdoors and helping the environment, and switched over to Engineering Geology for her undergrad degree. She followed that up with a Master's degree in Hydrogeology and has worked for an environmental consulting company for over 30 years.

Noreen's passion for birding is simple – she loves birds and she loves getting everyone around her interested in noticing and talking about birds, which is such a perfect introduction to her and her role as an Ask-A-Birder expert with Travis Audubon.

Noreen's Start With Travis Audubon

Noreen moved to Austin in 1991 and joined Travis Audubon as a member soon thereafter. Focusing on her career and family kept her busy for the first 20 or so years, so she didn't start volunteering officially with Travis Audubon until 2010 when other responsibilities lessened. When Noreen first started birding, it was more of a solitary activity, but the explosion of information on the internet and social media has made it much easier to connect with people and participate in birding activities. She attended several Travis Audubon field trips and eventually started volunteering, first as a field trip leader and then by giving bird presentations to various groups, but really connected with the role of an Ask-A-Birder expert where she could connect with all sorts of people and talk about all sorts of fascinating bird topics such as migration,

plumage variations, providing food and habitat for birds, and lots of other the things that make birds fun and interesting.

What is Ask-A-Birder?

[Ask-A-Birder](#) is an online platform that Travis Audubon provides where anyone can reach out and ask a bird-related question. While it's primarily geared toward those in the Central Texas area (it is *Travis Audubon* after all!), Noreen has had people from as far away as Michigan with questions. While she may not know the answers to some of those out-of-state inquiries, she appreciates being a resource to those individuals and enjoys the challenge of providing an answer to their question and providing information on additional resources to continue the learning experience.

Being an Ask-A-Birder liaison doesn't mean she has to have expert knowledge in all things birds and birding. It's a healthy, fun, and challenging intersection between using her own expertise she's learned over the years and sleuthing to figure out the answers to questions she doesn't yet know herself. Noreen really enjoys being able to have an open dialogue with people and often continues the conversation beyond the initial question. She had one family ask what they should do about a bird nesting on their porch, and she used it as an opportunity to talk about the law that protects nesting birds and to have a dialogue on how they could introduce their child to the wonders of a bird choosing to nest on their porch, how to look for fledglings (baby birds), and to learn about where those birds will go and what they will do in their lifetime.

How did Noreen get involved in Ask-A-Birder?

Noreen wanted to find a way to get people to care – about birds, wildlife, and conservation, and to care about saving not just birds, but entire ecosystems. She believes it's much easier to get people to care when they have a personal connection with a topic – the more they see, the more they notice, the more they learn, the greater

the chance that they will care and be willing to take positive actions. And that's what helping people who reach out to Ask-A-Birder is all about. Noreen enjoys the opportunity to connect with people, not just by answering their basic question or by providing a simple bird identification, but by providing a combination of stories and information that hopefully will not only enhance their knowledge and enjoyment of birds but will also inspire them to care more and do more to ensure that our wonderful diversity of birds are here for generations to come.

Noreen has found that even with all the resources we have today – whether it's [eBird](#) or [Merlin](#), books and magazines, or websites – it can still be difficult for people to find a place to get the answer they're looking for; sometimes you just need to be able to communicate with another person. Travis Audubon's Ask-A-Birder program provides this avenue for people to reach out and it provides a way for Noreen to connect with others and to share her knowledge and love of birds. It was this desire for connection to others and to provide useful and valuable information to those who struggle to find answers, that inspired her to raise her hand as a volunteer with Travis Audubon's Ask-A-Birder program.

Why should someone consider volunteering for Travis Audubon?

“At some point, most of us get to a place in our lives where we want to do something more for the things we care about, something more beyond our own little circle,” Noreen says. Travis Audubon provides that opportunity, and plays such a great role in education and conservation, and really needs volunteers to keep the work going. You know that working at Travis Audubon makes a difference.

Noreen suggests that if you want to make things better, if you want to advance bird awareness and conservation, volunteering and even just being a Travis Audubon

member helps do just that. There are a variety of ways in which you can provide support and showing up is a great first step.

* * *

If you're ever interested in volunteering at Travis Audubon, know that there are many ways to get involved based on your interests, abilities, and comforts. I'm building my own comfort in leading and co-leading field trips and the expectations individuals have real-time. I love that there are opportunities like Ask-A-Birder that allow individuals to take a bit more time and supplement with research to answer the interesting questions that our local birders have. Get in touch and we can help you find the ways that suit your interests, whatever they may be!

Greg Lasley 2022 Photography Contest Winners Revealed

POSTED ON MAY 31, 2022 CATEGORIES: [SIGNAL](#)
[SMOKE HOME](#)



Thank you to everyone who submitted their work this year's Greg Lasley Photography Contest!

We received nearly 150 photos – and our judges Nora Chovanec (Travis Audubon Design Director) and Brad James (Master Birder and Photographer) scored the photos based on the following criteria:

Technical: Focus, Exposure, Lighting, Print Quality

Subject: Creative Use of Subject, Composition, Impact, Uniqueness

HERE ARE THE WINNERS:

5TH PLACE:



Magnolia Warbler by Jason Garcia

4TH PLACE:



White Ibis by Isaac Sanchez

3RD PLACE:



Cactus Wren by Sheila Ellwood

2ND PLACE:



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by Dylan Wake

1ST PLACE:



Duckling by Alan Zhou