Share the Fun!
I don’t know about you, but when we go on vacation, even though the main purpose of our trip is not necessarily birding, we take every opportunity to bird!

Such was the case this past month. My wife and I spent a week in Paris, and then visited my mother and sister in northern England for a week. During our trip to the Palace of Versailles (even without binos!) we identified 13 species – including Rose-ringed Parakeets which have establish colonies in the area, like our local colonies of Monk Parakeets.

In Northumberland, we did more serious birding. We visited several local sites that included woodland, seashore and wetlands. Overall, we were able to tally 54 species upping our United Kingdom count to 100. Our best spot was two separate sightings of pairs of Red-throated Loons (or Divers, as they are known in Europe). We also saw this colorful Redshank.

We would love to hear of your birding adventures, be they near or far. Please send any submissions to the Editor at ilayton@austin.rr.com

Upcoming Events
Oct 16, Tuesday: -
5:00pm Pre-meeting dinner. Cedar’s Mediterranean Grill.
7:00pm BCAS meeting and program. First National Bank, Bastrop, 2nd floor meeting room – doors open 6:30pm.
Nov 1, Thursday: - BCAS Committee Meeting. Bastrop Library, 6:00pm
Nov 3, Saturday: - Afternoon Field Trip to Lake Bastrop. See article for details.
Nov 3-4: – Texas Audubon Chapter Summit

October Program
Jeff Patterson
Please plan to attend the October meeting of the Bastrop County Audubon and learn about birdsong from a master naturalist. Our speaker will be Jeff Patterson. Jeff’s subject will be “A World of Birdsong.”

Why do birds sing? What is the purpose of birdsong? What can humans learn from birdsong? What makes birds’ vocal anatomy unique? Although there is only time for a quick overview, Jeff Patterson will try to whet your aural appetite for more on the vast subject of birdsong.

Raised in a Texas birding family, Jeff has been birding almost as long as he can remember. He is employed as a technical specialist at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and has been exploring, hiking, camping and birding the natural areas of the state most of his life.
Jeff’s interest in birdsong began in the 1980s, but it wasn’t until smartphones, apps, and gadgets proliferated that he began working on it in earnest. Since 2010 Jeff has taught his popular birdsong class for Travis Audubon (TAS) where he tries to get his students familiar with most central Texas bird sounds. He lectures on such fascinating subjects as: the parallels between human and avian communication, how birds learn song, the astonishing variety of dialect and repertoire of birds, and the possible influence of birdsong on avian evolution.

Jeff spent 7 years as the TAS field trip committee chair, is a former TAS board member and has taught the TAS Shorebird class since 2013. He has provided presentations to and led field trips for Travis Audubon, Texas Master Naturalists, the Balcones Songbird Festival, and the perennially popular Sparrowfest at Balcones NWR.

November Field Trip—Lake Bastrop
Since our last field trip was September 29th, our Oct.-Nov. field trip will be held Saturday November 3rd. This date is significant because this will also be the field trip for the Texas Audubon Chapter Summit being held in Bastrop Nov. 3-4. I hope as many of you as possible are coming to the Chapter Summit because there will be excellent programs and a chance to meet Auduboners from all over our great state.

Our Saturday afternoon field trip will be to Lake Bastrop. Created in 1964, Lake Bastrop covers over 900 acres and has a maximum depth of 60 feet. There are separate entrances for the north shore and the south shore, with the south shore also hosting the headquarters complex and a meeting facility.

The lake offers opportunities for seasonal water birds, with Osprey and Bald Eagle always possible. The north shore has a small beach where various sandpipers can be found, and the occasional American Avocet or Black-necked Stilt might turn up. Cattails offer up the possibility of finding Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and Marsh Wren. No promises, but Ringed Kingfisher has been spotted from time to time.

The south shore features more accessible shoreline, and so can be better at times for ducks and other winter waterfowl. There is a covered bird blind with seating located at the south shore, which includes multiple feeding stations and a water feature which we will check. Several miles of woodland trails connect the north and south shore parks, and we will survey some of these for wintering warblers and other passerine species.

Lake Bastrop is also famous for a 1995 visitor that stayed for several months - Blue-footed Booby. Now, I can't promise there will be a Blue-footed Booby, but I also can't say there won't be one. Come bird with us Saturday, and let's see what we can find.

Mike Goebel - Field Trip Director
Contact
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Meeting Location
Bastrop Sound Sanctuary: 1902 Chestnut Street (aka Highway 21) - park behind building
The Sound Sanctuary is just east of Hwy 95/Hwy 21 intersection, if you reach Bastrop State Park, you went too far. This will be our dinner location, so it will be convenient to car pool to the lake from here and return.

Duration
Plan to arrive at the Sound Sanctuary by 1:30 pm as we will depart for Lake Bastrop a little before 2:00 pm. The field trip will be approximately three hours in duration and will end promptly at 5:00 pm.

Audubon Texas Network Assembly
November 3rd-4th.
Keynote Speaker is Sarah Greenberger, Vice President of Conservation Policy at the National Audubon Society. She oversees Audubon’s national policy team from Washington D.C. Greenberger came to Audubon from the the U.S. Department of the Interior, where she spent five years driving strategy and policy for the agency as a counselor and senior adviser to both former and current Secretaries of the Department of Interior, Ken Salazar and Sally Jewell. In that role, she was instrumental in shaping last year’s pioneering Greater Sage-grouse conservation
strategy working closely with Audubon, Western State Governors and other stakeholders. Prior to this engagement, she held several notable roles including serving as Legislative Counsel to Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and working as Clerk to Judge David S. Tatel on U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Chapter leaders, members and friends are welcome to attend. Tis year the theme is Leading in Advocacy Together. Participants will socialize, participate in interactive workshops and field trips, review success stories, and hear from Executive Director Suzanne Langley about the new direction of Audubon Texas.

You can register at


Use code YEAROFTHEBIRD at check out to receive a discount.

Saturday meet at Bastrop Sound Sanctuary, 1902 Chestnut St.

7:30-11:00 am Hornsby Bend Field Trip with Travis Audubon Society
1:30-5:00pm Lake Bastrop Field Trip (see article for details).

Sunday – McKinney Roughs Nature Park

7:30-8:30 – Light Breakfast
9:00-10:30 “What is the latest with Audubon Texas” with Suzanne Langley
10:45-12:00 noon

Session 1A: Birds, Wildlife, and the Border Wall - How to be an advocate in your community
Session 1B: Bird City Texas - Does your city make the cut? 10:45 - 12:00

Lunch Q&A with Suzanne Langley (Executive Director of Audubon Texas) and David Ringer (Chief Network Officer)
1:00-2:30

Session 2A: Climate Watch at Home + Field Trip Using Climate Watch Outdoors
Session 2B: Recovering Americas Wildlife Act - A Bold Vision