

## 2011 – 2012 Bird University

### September

#### **First Saturday of Each Month: Birding in the Park**

Location: Foster Park, Ft. Worth

Time: 8:30AM-10:00AM – September through April

Price: FREE

Join Jean Ferguson in this Ft. Worth Audubon Society field trip. This is a great field trip for beginning birders. Binoculars will be available if needed. Easy walking. Please come prepared for current weather conditions.

#### **Second Wednesday of Each Month: Birding at the Beds**

Location: Arlington Drying Beds, Arlington, TX (see instructions below)

Time: 8:30AM-10:00AM – September through April

Price: FREE

Join Martin Mattingly in this Ft. Worth Audubon Society field trip to the Arlington Drying Beds. This field trip will be great for beginning birders and to observe and document what birds are visiting the beds during each season. Birding will be done by automobile and with some easy walking. Please be prepared for the current weather conditions. Please note that after heavy rains the drying beds are not open to vehicles due to flooding.

Meet in the parking lot of the Dunlop Sports Center on the south side of Green Oaks Blvd. between Davis Dr. and Fielder Rd. in Arlington, across from the entrance to Village Creek Drying Beds. After meeting in the Dunlop Sports Center parking lot we will carpool over to the drying beds. Please ensure all valuables in your vehicle are placed out of sight PRIOR to arriving at the parking lot.

#### **Saturday, September 17, 2011 Birding 101 – A Class for Beginners**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 9:00am-11:30am

Price: FREE

Few things are as interesting, lively and beautiful as birds. They brighten up the landscape and fill our gardens with their beautiful music. Learn to identify and keep track of the birds you see, how to use your binoculars and how to recognize different birds by their call.

Following the lecture you will hike the trails of the Trinity River Audubon Center in search of the many birds that reside in our North Texas home. Be sure to bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.

#### **September 23-25, 2011 Fall Migration in West Texas**

Location: Lubbock, Texas

Time: This is an overnight trip

Note: Trip is limited to 12 persons and Ft. Worth Audubon Society members are given priority.

Enjoy Fall Migration in West Texas – Lubbock to be exact! Our leader will be Texas Tech's Cameron Carver. Cameron, an avid birder, is a past recipient of a Fort Worth Audubon Society scholarship; he is the current president of the Llano Estacado Audubon Society and is also President of the Texas Tech Range, Wildlife & Fisheries Club. Craig Carver (Cameron's father) will be co-leading.

For a tentative itinerary visit [www.fwas.org](http://www.fwas.org)

RSVP Required. Please contact Mary Lee Johnson by August 13<sup>th</sup> at [birder76051@yahoo.com](mailto:birder76051@yahoo.com) or 817-909-4207.

### October

**Saturday, October 1, 2011**                      **Trinity Bird Count**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 8:00AM-10:00AM

Price: FREE

A thorough census of the prairie, forest and wetlands of the Trinity River Audubon Center will be taken in support of the Trinity River Bird Count. For more information about the Trinity River Bird Count – an AMAZING Citizen Science project – please visit [www.trinitybirdcount.com](http://www.trinitybirdcount.com).

**Thursday, October 20, 2011**                      **Owl Prowl**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 7:30PM-9:00PM

Price: FREE

Owls are mysterious and amazing creatures. Join this class to learn more about owls and other birds of the night. Ben Jones, State Director of Education for *Audubon Texas*, will introduce you to the owls that call our area home. We'll cover owl anatomy, hunting techniques, and their amazing abilities. Then, we'll set out on an owl prowling on the Trinity River Audubon trails calling owls and listening for replies.

### November

**Saturday, November 5, 2011**                      **Birds of Prey Identification Class**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 8:00AM-11:00AM

Price: FREE

Birds of Prey are a fascinating class of birds spanning nocturnal hunters as well as scavengers. Soaring high above us on the Texas blue sky, Birds of Prey can be challenging to identify even for experienced birders. Learn the subtle differences in flight silhouettes, color and wing patterns to gain confidence in your ability to identify these beautiful birds. Ron Baughman has been an avid birder for 18 years. He is one of the founding members and officers of the Foundation for Avian Research and Education of NJ (FARE-NJ for short). He has been a Chimney Rock Hawk Watch official counter volunteer for ten years, and was also a volunteer at the Scherman-Hoffman center of NJ Audubon. He has participated in, and been a section leader for numerous Christmas Bird Counts. He is a North Texas Master Naturalist, and has co-lead birding walks for Master Naturalists, as well as at Trinity River Audubon Center. When asked what his favorite bird is, he usually replies with the last bird he has seen; at this writing, it's "Prairie Falcon"!

**Saturday, November 12, 2011**                      **Trinity Bird Count**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 8:00AM-10:00AM

Price: FREE

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December

**Saturday, December 3, 2011**                      **Sparrow Identification Class**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 9:00AM -11:30AM

Price: FREE

If those fleeting and fast little brown winter birds make you throw up your hands in despair then, this class is for you. Back by popular demand, DD Currie and Dell Little will share their over 50+ years of field ornithology experience to help you identify the sparrows of North Texas and put you on the fast track to easy sparrow identification. A 45 minute class on sparrow identification will be followed by a guided bird hike on the TRAC property. (A pre-class 'quickie' bird hike is available for participants beginning at 8:00am)

January

**Monday, January 2, 2012**                      **Christmas Bird Count**

Location: Trinity River Audubon Center

Time: 5:30am-5:30pm

Price: \$5.00

Calling all seasoned birders! Join Audubon's 112<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count and make a contribution to science! Every year families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission to collect data in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action. RSVP to Stephanie at [STIMKO@audubon.org](mailto:STIMKO@audubon.org) or (214) 309.5813 for team assignment.

Please bring your Sibley Field Guide for classroom reference.

**THIS CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT IS OPEN TO EXPERIENCED BIRDERS.**

Participants are expected to participate in the full 12-hour field monitoring. There may be limited opportunities for beginning birders - please contact Stephanie for additional information..

**Saturday, January 21, 2012**                      **Waterfowl Identification**

Location: John Bunker Sands Wetland Center

Time: 7:15AM-10:30AM

Price: FREE

Dabbling duck or diving duck? Goose? Heron? Egret? Join us at the amazing John Bunker Sands Wetland Center for a morning of waterfowl adventure with naturalist Dr. Bob Stone. Dr. Stone is a board certified orthopedic surgeon who helped to develop arthroscopic surgery worldwide. A former Dallas Audubon Board member, Dr. Stone has birded on all continents except Antarctica and is currently at 2030 on his World Bird List.

We will meet at the Rock Church at the intersection of 175 and Combine Road. (If travelling South on Hwy 175, take the Combine Rd exit south of Kaufman County Line sign.) Turn right from the Combine Road exit into the church parking lot. It is immediately to your right after you get onto Combine Road from Highway 175. After meeting in the church parking lot, we will take you to the JBS Center.

Participants must sign a liability waiver.

PLEASE visit [www.wetlandcenter.com](http://www.wetlandcenter.com) to learn about this wonderful wetland.

THIS CLASS IS FOR EXPERIENCED BIRDERS. Due to use of advanced identification terminology, beginning birders are discouraged from attending. Class size is limited to 12 participants. Please RSVP to Stephanie Timko at [STIMKO@audubon.org](mailto:STIMKO@audubon.org).

### February

**Saturday, February 18, 2012 Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**9:00AM-2:00PM at Trinity River Audubon Center**

**Price: FREE**

Join our experienced North Texas field ornithologists in this Citizen Science adventure for all ages. A 15-minute bird census will be conducted at various locations on the TRAC property every hour on the hour. All findings will be submitted to GBBC.

### March 2011

#### **Celebrate Birds Festival**

**Saturday, March 31, 2012: 10:00AM-2:00PM at Trinity River Audubon Center**

**Price: FREE**

A free egg-stravaganza for the whole family awaits bird enthusiasts and nature lovers at the Trinity River Audubon Center. As the country looks toward Earth Day, "Celebrate Bird Fest" will showcase the power and diversity of birds with an opportunity for children and adults to Meet Birds of Prey up close, Fly Homing Pigeons, Dissect Owl Pellets (What?), talk to an ornithologist (Cool!), and take guided birding hikes. There will be craft stations to create bird art and learn about binoculars and spotting scopes! The celebration features an additional earth-friendly element as participants build bird houses and make bird feeders.

May 2011

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Warbler Identification with Jim Peterson

8:00AM-11:30AM

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center

Price: FREE

The Warblers are coming! Are you ready? Warblers are colorful and extremely active birds, which flock in large groups during spring and fall migrations. They can be gray, olive, or green; many are patterned with bright yellow, red, orange, blue or black and white. There are many species of warblers with many names to describe their appearance. Learn to identify these amazing birds with ease and confidence.

Jim Peterson: Jim was Curator of Ornithology at the Dallas Museum of Natural History and is now Director of Technology at the Episcopal School of Dallas. He has compiled the Dallas County Christmas Count for the last 21 years, and currently maintains bird records for North-Central Texas at <http://www.nctexasbirds.com>