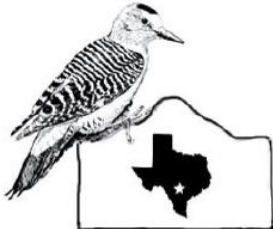


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**San Antonio Audubon Society**  
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A Conservation and Birding Club since 1954

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Volume 66, Number 4 June 2020

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*Online WebEx Presentation | Thursday, June 4 @ 7:00 PM*

# Truth about Asian Giant Hornets

Presented by Molly Keck

Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist

Board Certified Entomologist

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bexar County



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## **Please Join Us Online for Our June 4 Virtual Meeting**

Learn from entomologist Molly Keck about beneficial insects, harmful insects, and get the facts about the Asian Giant Hornet (AGH, also known as the Murder Hornet) currently being seen in Washington State. These hornets are native to temperate and tropical Eastern Asia and are 1.5-2" long (world's largest hornet) with black and dull



yellow/orange striped abdomen, according to Washington State University. AGH creates nests in the ground taking advantage of existing structures such as hollow trees or rodent tunnels. They aggressively

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colony, and as such are a serious concern for bees and native pollinators. AGH can be confused with other species in the same genus so positive identification is needed to confirm their presence. Molly will let us know her thoughts on AGH and Texas. Read more about AGH [here](#).

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### About Molly Keck

Molly Keck is an Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Bexar County, TX (San Antonio, TX). Molly graduated from Texas A&M University in and holds a Bachelors (2003) and Masters (2005) degree in Entomology. She is a Board Certified Entomologist specializing in Urban/Industry Entomology.



Molly has been working for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service since 2005. As a program specialist in IPM, her responsibilities include providing adult and youth educational programs. She works with the pest management industry providing CEU courses, identifying insects, and providing information to support the industry. Molly provides Master Gardener and Master Naturalists trainings and various educational seminars on entomology and pest management. In addition, she performs various research projects on fire ants, bed bugs, termites, and other urban and landscape pests.

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## Log-in Information to Watch Molly's Live Presentation

Topic: San Antonio Audubon Society

Time: Thursday, June 4, 2020 | 7:00 to 8:00 PM Central Time

Click [HERE](#) to Join WebEx Meeting

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microphones during the presentation.

Meeting ID: 921 659 844

Password (Not required for viewing) AztmEJEi349

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Photo Credits: Honey bee left, by Zachary Huang. Bumblebee, right, by Jessica Womack. Asian Giant Hornet, Washington State University.

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## **Texas Ornithological Society Elects New Officers**



Congratulations to Christine Turnbull, San Antonio Audubon Society Director at Large, on her election as President of the Texas Ornithological Society for 2020-2021. Other board members are Daniel Hodges, Vice President; Kendra Kocab, Secretary and John Berner, Treasurer.



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## **Welcome New SAAS Members!**

Janice Dean  
Alice Kuchenthal  
Marimena Raez-Thomas  
Patricia Rice  
Steve Tyson

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## **Warbler Nirvana at Warbler Woods**





Don and Susan Schaezler's Warbler Woods Bird Sanctuary in Cibolo, just northeast of San Antonio, has been a stopover for many warbler species and other migratory birds during the past few weeks. Highlights (shown clockwise) include the Blackburnian Warbler, top, Canada Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Lucy Spade took the photos of the Canada and the Chestnut-sided, all other photos from Susan Schaezler. Other notable species seen at Warbler Woods include Veery, Ovenbird, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Mourning Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush. If you're interested in visiting Warbler Woods, please complete the [contact form](#) on their website to request permission. Remember to leave a donation in the box inside the Visitor Kiosk when you arrive to help support this wonderful bird oasis.

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## [What to Do if You Find a Deceased Bird](#)

Susan Schaezler of Warbler Woods would like to remind SAAS members that if you find a deceased bird, Warbler Woods is licensed to hold the birds that will then be transferred to Texas A&M. If you find a deceased bird, even a common one, Susan recommends:

1. Put deceased bird in a plastic freezer bag and include a note with county in which the bird was found, reason for death if known, species if known, date if known
2. Remove air from plastic bag and store in freezer

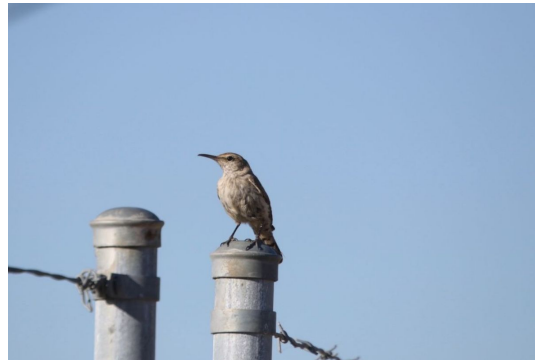
4. Place the bird in the garage freezer at Warbler Woods and let Susan know you have dropped off the bird

**Window Strikes:** Should you find a bird that has met its demise by flying into a window, you can take a photo of the bird and upload it, along with other requested data, to a new iNaturalist project called Bird Window Strikes in 9 Central Texas Counties. Find out more [here](#).

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## [Rare Sightings Along New Portion of Salado Creek Greenway Trail](#)

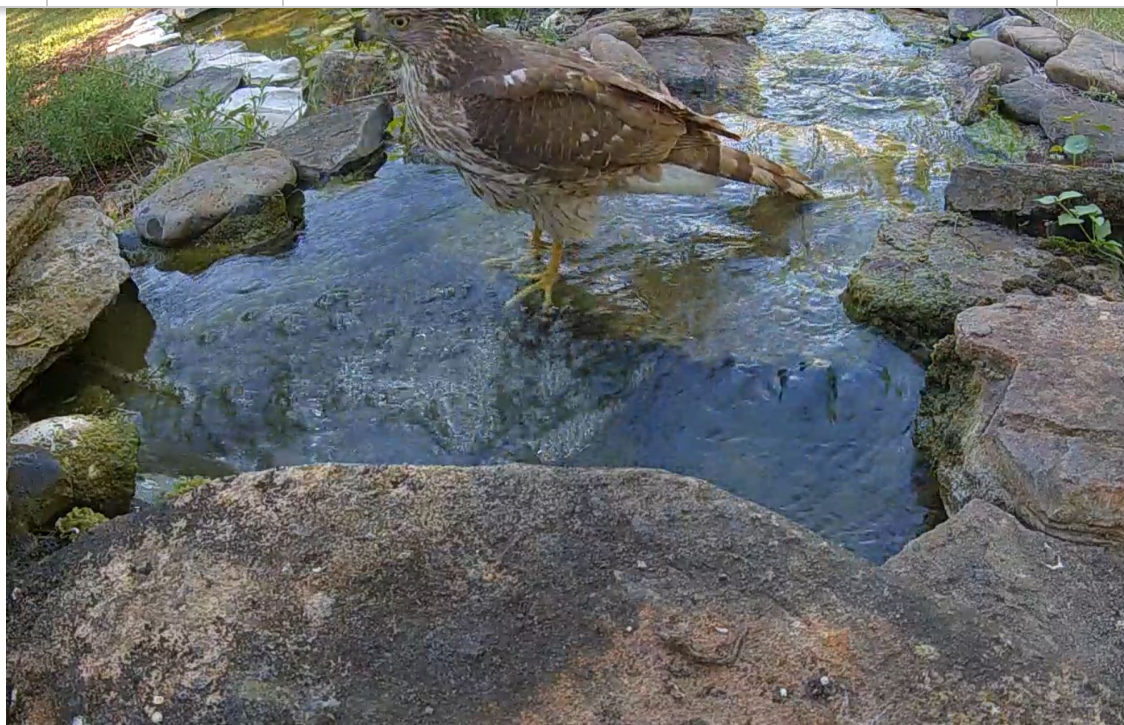
Friday, May 1 proved to be a very good birding day for SAAS Member Zach Tonzetich along the newly opened section of the Salado Creek Greenway Trail just east of Eisenhower Park in far north central San Antonio. The trail passes between a quarry on the south and Camp Bullis on the north, with Live Oak and Ashe Juniper habitat mixed with open grassy areas and scrubby brush. His finds included "a male Lazuli Bunting (appeared to be a first-year bird), two singing Rock Wrens, a Canyon Wren, a Blue Grosbeak, and both Eastern and Western Kingbirds." He also found "singing Redwing Blackbirds and very vocal Cliff Swallows, likely nesting in the quarry." Painted Buntings are also plentiful along the trail. Zach's photos below included Tropical Parula at top, Rock Wren bottom right and Lazuli Bunting bottom left.



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## [Big Bird Bath](#)



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Keith Bartels, SAAS member, has an impressive backyard water feature that recently captured the attention of an immature Cooper's Hawk.

## [Handy Resources to Help with Bird IDs](#)

SAAS Board Member Lorna Engleman passed along a link to the White Oak Bayou Association in Houston, a non-profit



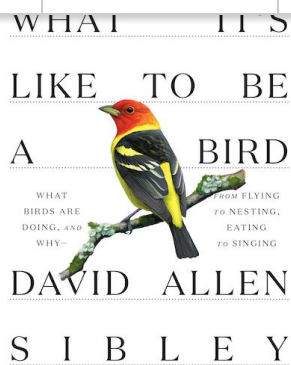
organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the bayou's natural wildlife habitats. The group has provided access to several bird species brochures (called "zines," short for magazines) that you can print in full color and fold to take with you while birding.

Flash cards, posters and cheat sheets are also available for free download. Take a look at the web page [here](#).

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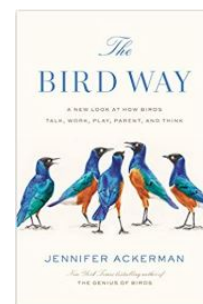
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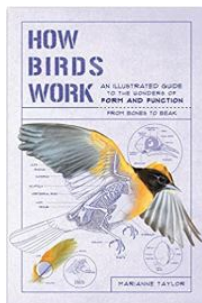


*Birdwatching* magazine recently interviewed field guide author and illustrator **David Allen Sibley** about his new large-format publication called "What It's Like to be a Bird," featuring more than 200 species and 330 illustrations, appealing to birders and non-birders alike. Read the interview [here](#). Author Sibley says of his new work, "I always learn a lot about a subject when I work on a book, which makes me confident that I'm producing a book that other people will also learn from. My favorite part is when I can pull together bits of information from many different sources and present them in a unified way, connecting them across categories and making complex ideas understandable."

**Jennifer Ackerman**, author of the *New York Times* bestseller "The Genius of Birds," has a new book, "The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think." The book investigates the bird way of being and the recent scientific research that is dramatically shifting our understanding of birds, including how they live and how they think.



Learn the answers to all kinds of questions about bird behavior and characteristics in **Marianne Taylor's** new book, "How Birds Work: An Illustrated Guide to the Wonders of Form and Function—from Bones to Beak." From the publisher: "*How Birds Work* goes beyond the



typical field guide to show us not only what birds look like but why. Why do many owls have asymmetrical ear openings? (Hint: It helps them pinpoint prey; see page 40.) And why does the Grey Heron rest on one leg at a time? (Hint: Not because it's tired; see page 66!) Birds boast a spectacular array of adaptations suited to their incredibly diverse diets and habitats. In this in-depth handbook, discover the ways they're even more astounding than you know—inside and out.

## [SAAS Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs](#)

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Payments can also be made online at: <[www.saaudubon.org/membership.html](http://www.saaudubon.org/membership.html)>

Click [here](#) for online membership form and payment.

### SAAS Membership

The SAAS newsletter is sent by email only to all members who have provided an email address. You will also receive a membership renewal notice by email. We no longer mail a printed membership directory to everyone, but a PDF copy is available by email from the membership secretary at [saasforbirds@gmail.com](mailto:saasforbirds@gmail.com)

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