

San Antonio Audubon Society

AUDUBON NEWS

A Conservation and Birding Club since 1954

Volume 66, Number 2

March/April 2020

NORTHERN GOSHAWKS By Mike Scully

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First light at Eisenhower Park, I was walking my dog when I saw a large Accipiter going away, possibly a big Cooper's Hawk. Just then an American Kestrel flew up to mob it, lending a reference of scale, and I saw that the mystery raptor was too big for a Cooper's. Two weeks later, in early morning workday traffic near Loop 1604 and Interstate 10, a dark hawk flew across the loop

some distance ahead. It was raven-sized and somewhat similar in proportion. The rapid Accipiter-like flight seemed too swift for a Red-tailed or Red-shouldered Hawk. This hawk resembled the same bird I had come across two weeks earlier just two miles away. It may have been a Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).



Northern Goshawk
By Norbert Kenntner, Berlin,
Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

hawks regularly at a local New York State Hawk Watch site, but over the decades since then I have seen but one; a single individual in the Sacramento Mountains of New Mexico. Formidable hunters, goshawks combine the speed and agility of an Accipiter with the power of a Buteo; their size and strength enable them to prey upon a wide variety of birds and mammals. Over much of their range, grouse and squirrels form a major component of their diet and in years past, periodic winter irruptions of goshawks were tied to the cyclic population crashes of the snowshoe hare.

In the Old World, Northern Goshawks occur across a wide range from the United Kingdom east across Siberia and south to the Mediterranean, Himalayas, China and Japan. In North America, the species likewise occurs across all of Alaska and Canada from the Arctic treeline south to the Great Lakes Region, Pennsylvania and the Appalachian Mountains. In the Mountain West, the range extends to Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and in the mountains of Mexico south to Guerrero.

Northern Goshawks prefer mature forests with a closed canopy for nesting, but will also accept dense stands of paper birch, aspens and riparian bands of willows in alpine and tundra habitats. Size dimorphism between the sexes is pronounced, but not to the same extent as it is in the smaller, more strictly bird-eating Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. While significant differences in prey selection between genders in those smaller species occur, the same has not been demonstrated in the case of the Northern Goshawk.

A goshawk pair may copulate more than 500 times prior to and during egg-laying, which is among the highest frequency ever recorded for any bird. This may be a paternity mechanism for the male; data is lacking for goshawks, but females of the closely related Cooper's Hawk have been found to actively seek out extra-pair copulations. Goshawk females do most of the nest building and remain in the vicinity of the nest from egg-laying until the nestlings are partly grown, sometimes until they fledge. In those cases, the female and the young are provisioned almost entirely by the male for a period of nearly two months. The young fledge at around 40 days of age and are fed by the parents for another month. Young goshawks not yet independent may wander into

(Continued on p. 5)

SA AUDUBON CALENDAR: MARCH 2020 FIELD TRIPS

Please call the trip leaders if you have questions. Last-minute changes to field trips will be posted at saaudubon.org, www.facebook.com/saaudubon/ or sent by email via SATXBirds. Please arrive early.

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 AM

Vanishing Texas River Cruise on Lake Buchanan

SAAS is joining the four-hour Vanishing Texas Eagle and Birding Cruise. The crew will point out birds and wildlife seen on Lake Buchanan and the Colorado River. Access the open upper deck for viewing and photography. The enclosed lower deck has good viewing and seating. Lunch will be provided on this trip.

Please visit the cruise [website](#) to purchase tickets @ \$49.95/person or call VTRC at 512/756-6986. These trips sell out quickly. The cruise departure site is more than two hours from San Antonio, so allow plenty of travel time to arrive early. Call Mariann Golden (210/415-4661) if you have additional questions.

Saturday, March 14, 8:00 AM

SAAS Beginners' Bird Walk

Meet leader Georgina Schwartz (210/342-2073) at the Judson Nature Trails, 246 Viesca Street. From the 5900 block of Broadway, turn west on Ogden Street and drive to the stop sign at Greeley Street. You'll see a sign to Judson Nature Trails. Turn left, go one block and turn right on Viesca, then into parking lot on left. We have binoculars to lend.

Tuesday, March 17, 8:00 AM

Tobin Park

Meet Mariann Golden (210/415-4661) at Tobin Park on Ira Lee Road and Austin Highway. The entrance is accessible only from Austin Highway and Ira Lee. From the north on Austin Hwy, turn immediately right after crossing Salado Creek Bridge, turn left on Ira Lee, enter park on right. From south on Austin Highway, turn left before crossing the Salado Creek bridge and continue on Ira Lee to the park entrance. Please bring water, snacks and insect repellent.

Thursday, March 19, 8:00 AM

Friedrich Wilderness Park

Meet Dodge and Lorna Engleman (210/415-1038) in the parking lot. The park address is 21395 Milsa. The park is on the west side of I-10 near the Dominion Drive/Stonewall Parkway exit. Bring water.

Saturday, March 21, 8:30 AM

Crownridge Canyon Natural Area

Meet leaders Damian and Nancy Martinez (210/744-9330) in the parking lot at 7222 Luskey Blvd. From downtown, take I-10 W and exit Camp Bullis Rd. Turn left on Camp Bullis Rd. and continue for 1.5 miles. Turn right at Luskey Blvd. and drive 0.4 miles. The park will be on your right.

Tuesday, March 24, 8:00 AM

Crescent Bend Nature Park

Meet Sandi Wheeler (wheels5683@gmail.com) in the parking lot of the park. From San Antonio, take IH-10 east to the FM 1518 exit and go north toward Schertz. Look for a brown park sign at Schafer Road. Turn right and go 3 miles to the park. Entrance on left before Cibolo Creek. Bring water.

Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 AM

Land Heritage Institute

Meet Patsy and Alan Kuentz (210/493-2673 or 210/749-7196) at the LHI gate on Neal Road. Take Exit 46 off Loop 410 on the south side and turn south on Moursund Blvd., which turns into Pleasanton Road. Turn right onto Neal Road about 5 miles south of 410. Follow Neal Road 2.3 miles to the gated entrance. A \$3 donation to LHI is requested. Bring snacks and water.

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 AM

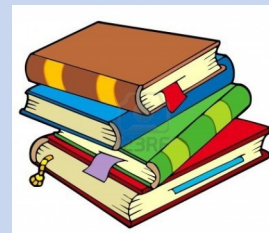
Haggard Ranch

Meet Metha at her ranch in South Bexar County. Go south on I-35 about 4 miles south of Loop 1604. Take Exit 137, Shepherd Road. Go left across the bridge and then left on the access road. Drive 0.5 mile to the gate and cattle guard. It is OK to leave the gate open. Follow the pink streamers. Go over the second cattle guard and go left at the fork to the house. For more information, call Metha 210/622-3886.

FIND GREAT DEALS AT THE SAAS USED BOOK SALE ON MARCH 5!

Bring cash or checks to buy used nature books at our March 5 meeting at the San Antonio Zoo Education Center.

We'll have birding books for locations around the world for sale at great prices! Come early for the best selection!



SA AUDUBON CALENDAR: APRIL 2020 FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, April 4, 8:00 AM

Junction Hotspots

We will be joining Rhandy Helton for a trip to Junction. For directions and other information, contact Helen Rejzek (hmr78253@gmail.com). Sign up early, as this trip will have a limited number of participants. SAAS members have first priority.

Sunday, April 5, 7:45 AM

Maverick Ranch

Meet Mary and Bebe Fenstermaker (956/236-3779) at the gate to their ranch on Boerne Stage Road. Exit I-10 West in Leon Springs. Turn left on Boerne Stage Road and drive 3 miles to the stop sign and turn right on Boerne Stage Road. Drive 1.4 miles to the gate on the left. The gate will be locked after we meet, so please note the start time and arrive early. Wear suitable footwear for hiking. Bring snacks and water.

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 AM

SAAS Beginners' Bird Walk

Meet leader Barbara Sykes (210/573-0535) at the Judson Nature Trails. See directions for March 14 walk.

Saturday, April 11, 7:30 AM

Old Tunnel State Park and James Kiehl River Bend Park

Meet leader Zachary Tonzetich (210/232-3670 or zachary.tonzetich@gmail.com) at the parking area of Old Tunnel State Park at 7:30 AM. We will bird the park briefly searching for Golden-cheeked Warblers and other possible early migrants. We will then visit James Kiehl River Bend Park for the remainder of the morning. Both parks are located north of Boerne near Comfort, TX. To get to Old Tunnel SP, take I-10 W toward Comfort and exit FM-473. FM-473 will veer left and become Old No. 9 Highway about 4 miles from the I-10 exit. Follow Old No. 9 Highway (it will become Old San Antonio Rd.) until you see signs for Old Tunnel SP. The state park is small and there is no entrance fee. Lunch to follow in Comfort, if there is interest. Bring water.

Saturday, April 18, Time TBD

Love Creek Preserve in Bandera County

Meet leader Ryan Smith for a bird walk at the preserve. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Christian Fernandez (bcfercaa@yahoo.com or 210/415-0843) if you want to attend or want more info. There will be hiking involved on some uneven and hilly trails. A \$10 donation to the Nature Conservancy is requested. The preserve is about 75 miles northwest of San Antonio.

Tuesday, April 21, 8:00 AM

Tobin Park

See March 17 field trip information.

Friday, April 24, 8:00 AM

Warbler Woods

Meet Sandi Wheeler at Don and Susan Schaezler's sanctuary in Cibolo. Take I-35 north toward Austin. Take Exit 176, Wiederstein Road. Turn right onto Wiederstein at the overpass. Turn left at the next road, Old Wiederstein Road. After you pass Dean Road, the Schaezler property begins on the right.

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 AM

Mission Espada

Meet leader Christian Fernandez (210/415-0843) in the Mission parking lot at 10400 Espada Road. The Mission is located on Loop 410 south at the San Antonio River. We will walk around the grounds and along the river.

Sunday, April 26, 8:00 AM

Crescent Bend Nature Park

See March 24 field trip for directions.

Monday, April 27, 8:00 AM

Castroville Regional Park

Meet Georgina Schwartz (210/342-2073) in the upper parking lot of the park. Take US 90 West to Castroville. At the end of the Medina River bridge, as you enter Castroville, turn left onto Florence Street and follow the signs to the park. Bring water and snacks; lunch at a local restaurant.

Bexar Audubon Invites SAAS to Events and Outings

Bexar Audubon Society (BAS), the local chapter of National Audubon, meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Eco Centro, 1802 N. Main. Check out the BAS [website](#) for upcoming meetings and outings.

PELAGIC CRUISE AUGUST 2020

Join SAAS on a cruise, Los Angeles to Vancouver, BC, August 22-26, 2020 onboard the Golden Princess. If interested, make reservations with Princess Cruises directly at Princess.com or 800/774-6237. We recommend making at least a deposit early, because the ship is already nearly full. Contact Bob Doe for more info: doefamily@aol.com.

SAAS MEETINGS CALENDAR

Thursday, March 5 • 7:00 PM
San Antonio Zoo Education Center
Moths in the Spotlight
Presenter: Delmar Cain

Moths, together with butterflies, make up the Order of Lepidoptera, a group that has played and plays a fundamental role in land-based ecosystems. With almost 160,000 described species, the group has a major influence serving as herbivores, pollinators, prey and in some cases, predators. Moths comprise about 90 percent of the Order and by numbers and diversity should receive more attention by the public.

In his presentation, using primarily photos that he has taken at his house in Boerne,



Delmar Cain

Delmar will focus on the beauty, interesting life cycles, food and life challenges of moths. He will also relate how photographing local wildlife provided opportunities for him, a retired attorney, to work with local enthusiasts and others who are recognized as international entomological experts.

Delmar is a native of Arkansas and grew up in northeast Texas. He graduated from Baylor University and from the University of Texas Law School. After four years in the FBI, Delmar and Ann returned to Austin in 1971, where he practiced law both in private and government law offices. Their two boys were reared in Austin. In 1996, Delmar and Ann moved to College Station where he served as General Counsel to the Texas A & M University System and Ann taught at Texas A & M University. Following retirement, they moved to Boerne in 2006.



USED BOOK SALE!

Bring cash or checks to buy used nature books at our **March 5 meeting**. We'll have birding books for locations around the world for sale at great prices! Come early for the best selection!

Thursday, April 2 • 7:00 PM
San Antonio Zoo Education Center
Green Infrastructure in
San Antonio

Presenters: Nefi Garza (City of SA)
& Lee Marlowe (SARA)

Learn about Green Infrastructure (GI), a water management approach that protects or restores the natural water cycle, and how it is being used by municipalities to manage urban stormwater runoff in order to improve water quality, among other goals. The topic will be presented in two parts by Nefi Garza from the City of San Antonio and Lee Marlowe from the San Antonio River Authority.



Low Impact Design (LID) bioswale in parking lot at 1902 S. Alamo.

Flood management is critical to our booming population with the projected growth of our city. The City of San Antonio has embarked on becoming sustainable with low impact features, and we continue to learn what works in South Central Texas. Nefi Garza will highlight a few examples and provide a vision of the direction that the city will be going.

Lee Marlowe will highlight projects along the San Antonio River that converted degraded sites with lifeless landscape elements into attractive spaces where people enjoy spending time, nature can thrive, and water quality benefits can be achieved.

Northern Goshawks continued from page 1

neighboring goshawk territories where they are not usually driven out and may even be fed by the neighboring pair—behavior that seems to fly in the face of biological imperatives.

Though a permanent resident throughout the breeding range, Northern Goshawks do winter irregularly as far south as Northern Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma, and east to North Carolina. On our local SA Audubon checklist, Northern Goshawks are listed as winter vagrants. In recent decades, the previously regular irruptions of goshawks in response to the population cycles of the snowshoe hare have apparently ceased. This absence of winter irruptions might be taken as evidence of a widespread decline were it not for the fact that Canadian lynx populations no longer appear to be as affected by the population cycles of snowshoe hares as they previously were, either. It is not known at the present time why the population dynamics of these two North Woods predators have changed in relation to this important prey species. Climate change may be a factor.

To contact the author, email Mike.scully@nisd.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Royce and Tony Cole
25304 Battle Lake
San Antonio, TX 78260
210/317-2561

Jennifer Frank
1331 S. Flores St.
San Antonio, TX 78204
512/585-5885

Don and Mary Hall
2335 Quail Hollow
San Antonio, TX 78232
210/355-0533

Anne Matsen
1853 E. Hamlin
Seattle, WA 98112
206/290-5997

James and Ann McMullan
519 E. Mandalay Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78212
210/822-5895

Tom & Ellen Petray
562 Raven Ridge
New Braunfels, TX 78130
413/285-4333

Diane Sulak
3946 Deep River
San Antonio, TX 78253
602/818-6865

Thomas Wirtz
2701 Promontory Dr
Bismarck, ND 58503
701/663-3369

TAKE PART IN THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE APRIL 24-27

San Antonio will be one of 166 cities around the world competing April 24-27 to see who can make the most observations of nature,



find the most species, and engage the most people in the 2020 City Nature Challenge. Many events are planned in and around the city during the four-day event, including SAAS field trips. All you need

is a camera or cellphone with camera and an iNaturalist account. You can take pictures of plants, birds, insects and animals to upload to iNat for identification. Or, you can help identify others' photos. [Learn more.](#)

Craig Hensley of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recommends that you go to the iNaturalist.org website to set up your iNat account, rather than using the iNat app on your phone. In Account Settings, make sure you apply the Central Time Zone designation so that your photos have the correct time on them.



SAAS member Shirley Bartels received gifts of appreciation from the SAAS Board to recognize the many years of work she has devoted to the organization doing public relations and as Chair of the Judson Nature Trails Committee.

LOCAL BIRDING LOCATIONS MITCHELL LAKE AUDUBON CENTER

10750 Pleasanton Road
San Antonio, TX 78221

Visit the [MLAC website](#) or email mlac@audubon.org
or call 210/628-1639

SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

555 Funston, San Antonio, TX 78209

Visit www.sabot.org or call 210/207-3250

GOVERNMENT CANYON

12861 Galm Rd, San Antonio, TX 78254

Visit www.friendsofqc.org or call 210/688-9055

CIBOLO NATURE CENTER

140 City Park Rd., Boerne, TX 78006

Visit www.cibolo.org or call 830/249-4614

JUDSON NATURE TRAILS

246 Viesca Street, San Antonio, TX 78209

MITCHELL LAKE MONTHLY BIRDING TOURS

Pre-register online at [MLAC website](#)

1st Sunday: March 1 & April 5, 8:00 AM

2nd Sunday: March 8 & April 12, 8:00 AM

2nd Tuesday: March 10 & April 14, 8:00 AM

3rd Sunday: March 15 & April 19, 8:00 AM

4th Sunday: March 22 & April 26, 8:00 AM

4th Saturday (Beginning Birders Tour): March 28 &
April 25, 8:00 AM

\$8 for non-members; Free for members

Visit the [MLAC website](#) or email
mlac@audubon.org or call 210/628-1639.

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 members@saadubon.org.

SAN ANTONIO AUDUBON NEWS

Editor: Lora Reynolds

Contributing Editor: Georgina Schwartz

Newsletter Distribution: Lora Reynolds

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SAAS-Y NOTES

Bring Your Aluminum Cans to Benefit SAAS

Georgina Schwartz will take your empty and crushed aluminum cans to a recycling center and donate the proceeds to SAAS. Call Georgina (210/342-2073) for more information or bring the cans to her at a monthly meeting.

Join SATXBirds in Google Groups

Keep up with local bird sightings by signing up for the [SATXBirds](#) group on Google Groups.

SAAS Receives Thanks for Katy Prairie Donation

In appreciation for our January speaker, Stephen Gast, traveling from Houston, SAAS made a donation to Katy Prairie Conservancy and received a letter of thanks.

SAAS Board of Directors Meeting

Donkey Barn at the SA Zoo

Thursday • March 26 • 6:00 PM

Thursday • April 23 • 6:00 PM

All are invited. Contact Bob Doe for more
info: DoeFamily@aol.com

San Antonio Audubon Society

5150 Broadway #257

San Antonio TX 78209-5710

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www.saadubon.org

Officers

• Bob Doe, President
• Mariann Golden, Vice President
• Georgina Schwartz, Secretary
• Debra Engler, Treasurer



Directors at Large

• Lorna Engleman
• Christian Fernandez
• Christine Turnbull

Committee Chairs

• Bird Records
• Dodge Engleman-----birdreports@saadubon.org
• Education/Outreach-----info@saadubon.org
• Field Trips
• Christian Fernandez-----christian1253@yahoo.com
• Historian, Betty Walters
• Membership
• Database, Michael Shaw----members@saadubon.org
• Judson Nature Trails
• Barbara Sykes-----btsykes@sbcglobal.net
• Publicity, Debra Engler-----info@saadubon.org
• Newsletter, Lora Reynolds-----editor@saadubon.org
• Website, Christine Turnbull-----web@saadubon.org

San Antonio Audubon Society Membership/Renewal Form

New

Renewal

Gift

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Please be sure your e-mail address is correct.
Your newsletters will be sent via e-mail unless other special arrangements have been made.

Please check box(s): Individual (\$20 per year)
 Household (\$30 per year)

We need and appreciate your financial support. Please indicate additional donations below.

Donation: Special Projects Fund \$ _____
 Donation: Judson Trails Fund \$ _____
 Donation: General Operating Fund \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **San Antonio Audubon Society**. Send dues and address changes to:

ATTN: MEMBERSHIP
SAN ANTONIO AUDUBON SOCIETY
5150 BROADWAY #257
SAN ANTONIO TX 78209-5710

Payments can also be made online at: <www.saudubon.org/membership.html>

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center Upcoming Events

Free Admission Weekend, March 7 & 8, 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Birding by Ear Workshop, April 1, 6:00 PM
Birding by Ear in the Field, April 4, 8:00 AM
Native Plant Walk, April 11, 9:00 AM
BioBlitz!, April 25, 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Words for Birds, April 26, 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM

For details and registration, visit the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center [website](#).

Birding the Border Festival



Del Rio and Val Verde County
April 15-18, 2020
To register and for more info, click [here](#).

Photography and Poetry at Urban Wild Event



The Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy hosted Urban Wild, an evening of poetry and photography celebrating nature on February 11 at the park's Urban Ecology Center. Photos of birds, reptiles and insects taken by San Antonio Audubon members Patsy Kuentz (pictured above with two of her photos), Lora Render and Lora Reynolds were included in the exhibit.