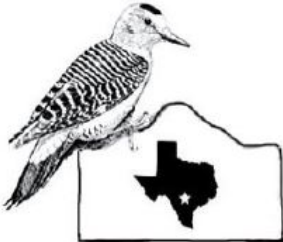


[View this email in your browser.](#)



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

---

Volume 66, Number 7 November/December 2020

In this issue:

[November 5 Special Presentation: Horned Lizards](#)

[November 8 Used Book Sale](#)

[December 3 Sharing Our Bird Photos](#)

[Welcome New SAAS Members](#)

[Board Member Nominations](#)

[SAAS Needs Volunteers](#)

[Christmas Bird Count 2020](#)

[Purple Martin Houses Update](#)

[BirdCast Fall Migration Maps](#)

[Mitchell Lake Audubon Center](#)

[SAAS Big Sit Recaps](#)

[Buy 2020 Duck Stamps](#)

[SAAS Leadership](#)

[SAAS Membership Form](#)

Click [HERE](#) for a PDF of this newsletter.

*Special Event Zoom Presentation*  
**Thursday, November 5 | 6:30 PM**

San Antonio Audubon Society & Bexar Audubon Society

---

**The Texas Horned Lizard  
Reintroduction Project:  
Preserving a Texas Icon**

**Presenter: Dr. Andy Gluesenkamp, Director of  
Conservation, San Antonio Zoo's Center for  
Conservation and Research**

---

Click [here](#) to register.

The Texas Horned Lizard, the most iconic Texas reptile, was once abundant throughout a large range. Today, Horned Lizard populations have declined or disappeared in many places in Texas. Habitat loss and invasive species (pesticide use, exotic grasses, and red imported fire ants) are frequently implicated in the decline. However, sufficient areas of suitable habitat exist where the lizards may be reintroduced and many landowners are engaged in landscape management practices that are conducive to Horned Lizards.

To preserve the abundance of the **State Reptile of Texas**, San Antonio Zoo launched the **Texas Horned Lizard Reintroduction Project**, which Dr. Andy Gluesenkamp will discuss with us. The project involves producing large numbers of lizards in captivity and then releasing them into predetermined habitats that can support the species. The program relies on GIS data, genetics, and current knowledge about Horned Lizard ecology and distribution.



## **NAME A BABY HORNED LIZARD**

Make a \$25 donation to the San Antonio Zoo's Texas Horned Lizard project and you can name one of the many baby Horned Lizards set to be released in the wild on November 5. Your name will be entered in a drawing to win a behind-the-scenes zoo tour for four people. Click [here](#) to make your donation and name a lizard.

---

## **Log-in Information for the Horned Lizard Zoom Presentation**

**Tickets are just \$5 per person**

All proceeds from this program will be donated to our friends at the San Antonio Zoo, who have been so generous in their partnership with Audubon through the years, and will support the Zoo's Center for Conservation and Research.

**Registration is a two-part process.**

After you've made your donation, you will receive a link for registration for the Zoom meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2020. Social time is 6:30-7:00 (wear a "horny toad" shirt or hat and bring your favorite "horny toad" stories); program starts at 7:00 with plenty of time for questions and answers.

Click [here](#) to register.

---

## **SAAS Used Book Sale**

**Sunday, November 8, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Trailhouse at Judson Nature Trails  
246 Viesca, San Antonio, TX 78209



Shop for great bargains, including field guides and other books donated by globe-trotting SAAS member Ron Huffman. Mask required and hand sanitizer available. Cash, check or credit cards. If you have items to contribute, contact Georgina

Schwartz at [gbird@att.net](mailto:gbird@att.net).

---

SAAS Annual December Potluck and  
Member Photo Showcase

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 PM  
(This year it's virtual via Zoom!)

Make some of your favorite snacks and refreshing drinks and join us from the comfort of your home to review the year through fellow members' photos and stories.

Have you spent time watching your backyard birds and have a particular fondness and set of stories about some birds you've been following? Were you able to get out and see some local birds on your neighborhood walks? Did your water feature attract some interesting birds? Were you able to visit places or work in places where you were able to photograph some charismatic critters? We are interested in all of your experiences!



If you'd like to share 5 to 10 photos, please contact Christine Turnbull ([cbsturnbull@hotmail.com](mailto:cbsturnbull@hotmail.com)). You will need to have your

photos lined up in Powerpoint, and even if you are new to ZOOM, we will practice with you prior to the meeting so you will appear to be a professional ZOOMER.



Please plan to spend an evening of camaraderie sharing and viewing members' bird photos. Looking forward to spending the evening with all of you!

---

## Welcome New SAAS Members!

Xavier Adame  
Kathleen Clancy  
Barbara Cummings  
Diane Dussault  
Don McFall

---

## Nominees for the SAAS Board 2021

We have an election coming up on Decmeber 3 to choose the Board of Directors for 2021. Thanks to all of you who said YES when asked to serve. Nominees are as follows:

President: Dahn Windhorn  
Vice President: Zach Tonzetich  
Secretary: Mariann Golden  
Treasurer: Debra Engler  
Director-at-Large: Christine Turnbull  
Director-at-Large: Sandi Wheeler  
Director-at-Large: Gail Nickel

---

# **SAAS Needs Volunteers!**



## **Message from Mariann Golden**

As President for the previous two years and acting President for most of this year, I want to thank all the Board members for their support and help in keeping SAAS going during this unprecedented time.

This has been a very dramatic year for SAAS. The Board is working hard on keeping SAAS going for this year and in the future. But, we need everyone's help to survive. I have been a member of SAAS for nearly 30 years and I certainly want SAAS to continue, but we all need to show our love for the birds and the environment and SAAS by becoming active in our organization. Please volunteer to serve on a committee, such as Field Trips, Judson Nature Trails, Nominating, or Education.

We now have a full slate of nominees for the board, thanks to former board members who stepped up and agreed to return. And thanks to Zach Tonzetich who agreed to join the board as a new member. We also want to express our appreciation to Georgina Schwartz, Lorna Engleman and Christian Fernandez, who have all served on the SAAS Board for the past several years.

Please reach out to a Board Member and volunteer to help SAAS. Contact Mariann Golden ([marianng9350@juno.com](mailto:marianng9350@juno.com)) or Christine Turnbull ([cbsturnbull@hotmail.com](mailto:cbsturnbull@hotmail.com)). We really value your participation!

---

## San Antonio Christmas Bird Count



TENTATIVE Date is Sunday, December 20

To say the least, this year has been an interesting one for birding, as well as with COVID-19. Following the guidance from National Audubon, we will wait until November 15 at the earliest to decide if this year's San Antonio Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be a go or not, if local rules allow:

- We will strive to run a COVID-19 safe and socially distanced CBC.
- Activities will comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.
- Social distancing and/or masking are required at all times in the field.
- Carpooling may be used to divide into smaller subgroups and will be encouraged to occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups.
- We are canceling the countdown dinner that has been used in the past to compile group numbers and submit Rare Bird Documentation.

For updates on this year's San Antonio CBC, contact Dahn Windhorn (naturenut7@hotmail.com or leave a message at 210/382-5968) if you are not already on a count team and are interested in

participating. We anticipate groups start as early as 7:00 AM and remaining in the field up to 7:00 PM.

---

## Purple Martins 78209 Project

**By Allison Hayne**

One of the important migratory bird species in Texas is the Purple Martin, North America's largest swallow. Purple Martins winter in South America, primarily in Brazil. In mid-January, Purple Martins begin showing up along the Gulf Coast of North America. Their breeding range in Texas includes most of the state except the Trans Pecos region.

East of the Rocky Mountains, Purple Martins nest exclusively in human-supplied housing because of loss of habitat and competition. To ensure successful nesting, housing must not be impeded by tall trees within 30 to 40 feet with wide-open flyways. Entry holes must be resistant to European Starlings and houses must be accessible for regular inspection to help control competition from introduced species such as the House Sparrow and European Starling. For housing located in the country, a predator guard is a must to keep snakes from climbing poles and eating whatever they find inside.



Thanks to many generous donors, my husband, Elliott, and I purchased a 12-gourd rack and installed it close to St. David's Church in Terrell Hills. With permission from the City of Alamo Heights, we have assumed responsibility for the two Purple Martin houses on



Viesca St. at the Judson Nature Trails and at the Alamo Heights Little League fields. We received financial backing from local residents as well as support from Bexar Audubon Society to make necessary repairs to the existing T-14 Purple Martin houses at those locations. We have observed successful nesting pairs at all of these sites.

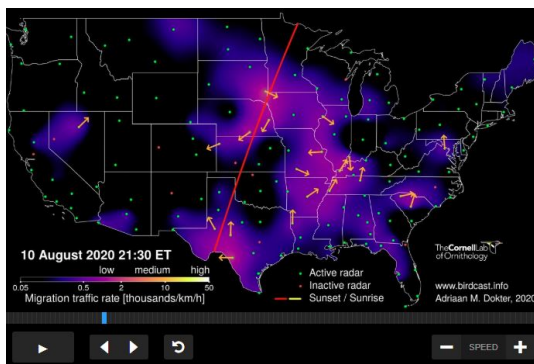
We are in the process of having signage made for each of the bird house sites and thank San Antonio Audubon and Bexar Audubon for their financial assistance with two of the signs.

If you need assistance with mapping out a Purple Mountain house location, maximizing its effectiveness, or are interested in donating an unused house to the PurpleMartins78209 Project, please text me at 210/289-6477 or email [purplemartins78209@gmail.com](mailto:purplemartins78209@gmail.com). Monetary donations can be made by Venmo @Allison-Hayne.

---

## [BirdCast Fall Migration Maps](#)

Fall migration is underway and you can track the movement of birds with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's real-time analysis maps until the service ends on November 15. The organization's BirdCast website



features maps to show intensities of actual bird migration as detected by the US weather surveillance radar network. Click [here](#) to access the site.

---

## [Mitchell Lake Audubon Center](#)

Updated October 9, 2020.

With the recent decrease in COVID-19 cases in the San Antonio area, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is open with limited hours. Please review the new guidelines at our [Plan Your Visit webpage](#). Purchase your tickets today [HERE](#).



Due to the impact of COVID-19 and Audubon's commitment to help slow the spread, all visitors must have a ticket before arriving at the property.

Trail hours will be Friday and Saturday only, from 7 am -12 pm. We are closed holidays, including the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving.

Limited timed entry tickets are available for staggered arrivals every 30 minutes. No late arrivals (more than 15 minutes) will be permitted. Visitors may stay on-site until closing regardless of entry time. Please note that gates will close at noon. Please make sure you have exited the property by noon regardless of your ticket time.

If you can't visit the center, online presentations are available for you to view from home. Registration details and program descriptions can be found [here](#).

**Wednesday, October 28, 6:30 to 7:30 PM**

Ten Ways to be Bird-friendly

Learn how to help birds in your own community!

**Thursday, November 12, 6:00 to 7:30 PM**

Feeding Wild Birds

Connect with nature in your own backyard!

**Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 to 8:00 PM**

Catios: Protect Birds and Cats at Home

Learn how outdoor cat patios can protect pets and wildlife!

---

## SAAS Big Sit Recaps

Fall migration has brought many interesting species through our area, with a Pileated Woodpecker, Lazuli Bunting, Cassin's Vireo and Black-throated Sparrow at Warbler Woods; a Sage Thrasher in Stone Oak Park; Surf Scoter and Brown Pelican at Braunig Lake; Black-bellied Plover and Red-bellied Woodpecker at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, and early arrivals of American Goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings in various areas.

SAAS scheduled some Big Sit-type outings in the past few weeks in birding hotspots conducive to sitting in one area, wearing masks, and social distancing.

**October 2:** Three SAAS members joined fellow SAAS member, Sandi Wheeler, for a nice morning at Warbler Woods. Highlight for the morning was a Great Horned Owl gliding quietly through the trees. We all enjoyed getting together



with those we haven't seen in many months. Social distancing kept us all safe. Thank you to Susan and Don Schaezler for sharing their wonderful bird sanctuary with us all.

**October 15:** Mariann Golden reported that during a Big Sit at Olmos Basin Park, Northern Cardinals, Eastern Phoebe, White-Winged Doves, Black-crested Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, Ruby-

crowned Kinglets and Orange-crowned Warblers were all seen. A surprise find by Mariana Outlaw was a Common Nighthawk sitting on a limb.

Be watching for more social-distanced field trips as SAAS finds ways to get together safely.

---

## **Buy the New Duck Stamps!**

The 2020-2021 Federal Duck Stamp featuring Black-bellied Whistling Ducks will be available for purchase on July 1, 2020, and will be



available until December 3, 2020, or as long as supplies last. Duck Stamps still cost just \$25 (the face value) each. This year, because we are not meeting in person, a small postage and handling charge of \$1 should be added *per order* for as many stamps as you want to

purchase at one time. To purchase the stamps, send your order with the following information:

- Your Name
- Your Mailing Address
- Check made payable to S.A. Audubon Society for the total number of stamps in your order, plus \$1 postage and handling per order

Mail your information and check to:

Georgina Schwartz  
3006 Belvoir Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78230

Your Duck Stamp shows that you support Migratory Birds and their Habitats AND it will admit you to any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee. Get yours soon. We have a limited number.

---

## SAAS Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

**San Antonio Audubon Society**

5150 Broadway #257

San Antonio TX 78209-5710

[info@saaudubon.org](mailto:info@saaudubon.org)

[www.saaudubon.org](http://www.saaudubon.org)

**Officers**

Dahn Windhorn, 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@saaudubon.org](mailto:birdreports@saaudubon.org)

Education/Outreach-----[info@saaudubon.org](mailto:info@saaudubon.org)

Field Trips

Mariann Golden-----[marianng9350@juno.com](mailto:marianng9350@juno.com)

Historian, Betty Walters

Membership

Database, Michael Shaw-----[saasforbirds@gmail.com](mailto:saasforbirds@gmail.com)

Judson Nature Trails

Barbara Sykes-----[btsykes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:btsykes@sbcglobal.net)

Publicity, Debra Engler-----[info@saaudubon.org](mailto:info@saaudubon.org)

Newsletter, Lora Reynolds-----[editor@saaudubon.org](mailto:editor@saaudubon.org)

Website, Christine Turnbull-----[web@saaudubon.org](mailto:web@saaudubon.org)

---

## SAAS Membership Form

## 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.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)



---

*Copyright © 2020, San Antonio Audubon Society, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

