



NATURE NOTES

Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Conservation of the Natural Beauty of Sun City Texas at Georgetown
VOLUME 23 Issue 11 November 2021

Tuesday, November 16, 2:30 p.m.,

Retreat, Longhorn Room *Note different location*

Birds of Williamson County

Presented by Martin Byhower

See next page for further meeting detail.

Check meeting announcement for mask requirements

No December Meeting

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$4 for 2021

Dues include our monthly programs and all Special Interest Group programs and activities.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Nature Club activities are posted on the Nature Club website calendar. E-mails are sent to Club members only.

REPTILES & MAMMALS

SIG Chair: Open

REPTILE ID, RELOCATION & MAPPING

FREE service, call:

- Jim Christiansen 512-868-3504
- Steve Kelley 512-639-0539
- John Leek 713-825-0145
- Joe Plunkett 774-226-0810
- City of Georgetown Animal Control 512-930-3592



We encourage residents to leave harmless, beneficial reptiles in their landscapes, but call us so we can identify and map all reptiles.

ASTRONOMY SIG

No Astronomy SIG meeting November or December. Join us January 24th for our first meeting of 2022!



Watch for Special Viewing announcements.

SIG Chairs: Richard Wagoner & David Lingo

BIRDING SIG

Tues., **November 9** Cowan Creek, Florence – *Christmas Count and "Rare and Vagrant Birds in the Texas Hill Country."*



BIRD WALKS

Wed., **November 17**, Thurs, **December 2**, & Wed, **December 15**. All walks 8:00 a.m., meet at LHPP parking lot near the lake. Any changes will be emailed. Masks Optional
SIG Chairs: Ed Rozenburg & Martin Byhower

BUTTERFLY/MOTH SIG

No SIG Meeting in November or December



BUTTERFLY WALKS

Look for announcements
Meet at the Tranquility trailhead.

SIG Chair: Ed Rozenburg

GEOLOGY SIG

No SIG Meeting in November and December



SIG Chair: Paul Swetland

NATIVE PLANTS SIG

No SIG Meeting in November or December

Mon., **November 15**, 9:00 a.m. and Wed. **November 17**, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Tranquility Trail
Mon., **December 6**, 9:00 a.m. and Wed. **December 8**, 9:00 a.m. Meet at Tranquility Trail



SIG Chair: Pat Garren

The following are the nominees for 2022:

President:	Bill Blodgett (i)
Vice President:	Sharon Reed
Secretary:	Nancy Wagoner
Treasurer:	Dee O'Neil (i)
Board Member:	Martin Byhower (i)
Board Member:	Roger Rucker (i)
Board Member:	Judy Aishman

Voting to take place at the November Meeting

Nov. 16 General Meeting Details

Williamson County lies at the convergence of three distinct Eco-regions, and consequently boasts nearly 400 species of birds that either pass through or spend longer portions of their lives there. Martin Byhower is obsessed with finding and, with his new camera setup, photographing as many of those species as possible. "Think globally, but bird locally" is his credo, which helps reduce his carbon footprint while he gets to better understand his local environment. Come see and learn more about the species that live, literally, in your backyard, if not a stone's throw away!

Visit our new Bird/Wildlife Observation Blind!

by Martin Byhower

The Nature Club financed and constructed (with CA Board Approval) a Bird Blind along one of the new hiking trails in the North Point/Rocky Hollow area. The blind was completed in October, and on November 1, when the new trails were opened to the Sun City community, this bird blind became accessible to the public as well. Many of you may have attended and visited that day, and despite all the foot traffic and commotion, 18 species were spotted on that day alone! (list below)

Please come (or come back) another time when you can experience the blind in solitude, and possibly hear and see additional birds and wildlife (including resident beavers and other mammals that inhabit the area). Although much of the surrounding area has been graded, in season you will experience some beautiful wildflowers, butterflies and more on the hike in (about a mile from either trailhead). We deliberately avoided putting benches and tables at the blind so as not to encourage activity that might frighten the critters. However, there will be several lovely benches and table very close by. Below is something I wrote that might be included on a sign at the blind: a link to the map of the trails, parking, and the bird blind: and below that is a list of the birds seen on Nov 1.

Be still! Animals are here. Listen, look, and sniff the air. Be patient, and alert. Wrens will chatter, Chickadees will repeat their name, and Cardinals will chip, warning of your presence. Once they know you are not a threat, they will continue to go about their business. That's when you can really enjoy and be a part of nature!

Access the bird blind via Yaupon Creek Trail or Cowan Creek Trail : here is a link to a map:

<https://www.sctexas.org/Files/Library/NORTHPOINTTRAILMAPJULY20215.PDF> (Website sign in required)

November 1, 2021, Bird Blind Bird List

Wild Turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	3
White-winged Dove (<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>)	1
Killdeer (<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)	1
Black Vulture (<i>Coragyps atratus</i>)	1
Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	5
Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)	1
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)	5
American Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	5
Carolina Chickadee (<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>)	4
Tufted x Black-crested Titmouse (hybrid) (<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i> x <i>atricristatus</i>)	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (<i>Corthylio calendula</i>)	1
Carolina Wren (<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)	1
Northern Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	1
Eastern Bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>)	1
American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	2
House Finch (<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>)	1
Lesser Goldfinch (<i>Spinus psaltria</i>)	1
Spotted Towhee (<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>)	1
Northern Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	2

