

# South Texas BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER 2017 Birding & Natural History Calendar

Gene Blacklock is an acclaimed birder, naturalist, author and educator. For curriculum questions, call him at 361.558.1829.

IF PREPAID REGISTRATION REQUIRED, CALL OR COME BY THE BOTANICAL GARDENS: 361-852-2100

Bring to Birding Classes: 'NORTH AMERICAN FIELD GUIDE' (available in Nature's Boutique); BINOCULARS.

## BLACKLOCK'S INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS OF SOUTH TEXAS: 1-Day Short Course

Tuesday, Jan. 24—**Class:** 9-11:30 am, Education Station. **Field Trip:** 1-5pm.  
Residents and Winter Texans learn how to identify birds found in South Texas during winter months.  
**\$45 members; \$60 others.** Class minimum 12, maximum 20.  
Prepaid registration required by Jan.21, 361.852.2100.



## BLACKLOCK'S WINTER FINCH / SPARROW ID & NATURAL HISTORY: 2-Day Short Course

**Class:** Friday, Feb. 3, 6:15-9 pm, Education Station. **Field Trip:** Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:15 am-3 pm.  
Intermediate and advanced birders learn why South Texas is a North American leader for diversity of winter finches and sparrows, with emphasis on seasonality and habitat. **\$45 members, \$60 non-members.**  
Class minimum 12, maximum 20. **Prepaid registration required by Jan. 31, 361.852.2100.**

## BLACKLOCK'S INTERMEDIATE SOUTH TEXAS BIRDS IN WINTER IDENTIFICATION: 3-Day Short Course

Feb. 7—**Class:** 9-11 am. **Field Trip:** 12:30-5 pm.  
Feb. 14—**Field Trip:** 7:15 am-12:30 pm. **Class:** 2-5 pm.  
Feb. 21—**Field Trip:** 7:15 am-12:30 pm. **Class:** 2-5 pm.  
Learn identification and natural history of South Texas birds in winter (basic plumage), including common characteristics of bird groups--songbirds, waterfowl, birds of prey. **\$95 members; \$110 others.** Class minimum 12, maximum 16. **Prepaid Registration required by Feb. 4, 361.852.2100.**

## BLACKLOCK'S ADVANCED FIELD BIRD IDENTIFICATION: 6 Classes, 2 Field Trips

Sunday Afternoon **Classes,** 1:30-4:30 pm: Mar. 5, 12, 26; Apr. 9, 23, 30.  
Saturday **Field Trips,** 7:15 am-3 pm: Apr. 8, 29.  
A course for more experienced birders, including more detailed characteristics of bird groups--songbirds, waterfowl, birds of prey.  
**\$150 members; \$185 others** (includes a 1-yr single membership). Class minimum 12, maximum 16.  
**Prepaid Registration required by Mar. 2, 361.852.2100.**

## BLACKLOCK'S BEGINNING WILDFLOWER ID & NATURAL HISTORY: 1-Day Short Course

Saturday, Mar. 25—**Class:** 9-11:30 am, Education Station. **Field Trip:** 1-5 pm.  
Celebrate spring with this practical, hands-on class and field trip for beginners and beyond identifying and studying native Texas wildflowers in Coastal Bend "hot spots." **\$45 members, \$60 others.**  
Class minimum 12, maximum 20. **Prepaid registration required by March 22, 361.852.2100.**



## BIRDIEST FESTIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA –save these dates!

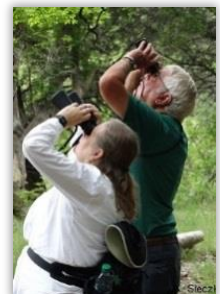
April 20-23, Festival 9-6; Optional Field Trips TBA.  
Take in seminars, vendors, and demonstrations on-site during day. Optional field trips allow birders to explore great birding sites around the Texas Coastal Bend to discover why Corpus Christi was named the Birdiest City in America 10 years running.  
**\$35 basic registration fee, plus optional field trips fees. 361-852-2100, ext. 224, wmwomack@stxbot.org.**

## BLACKLOCK'S ADVANCED BIRDING SPECIALTIES—Dynamics of Migration

Saturday, June 3, 9 am-noon. Lecture only.  
Explore timing of migration and range deviations of various species, related to climate and other environmental developments.  
**\$25 members, \$30 others.** Minimum 12, maximum 30. **Prepaid registration required by May 30, 361-852-2100.**

## BLACKLOCK'S INTRO TO EXCITING WORLD OF BIRDS: 1-Day Short Course

Saturday, Sept. 9—**Class:** 9-11:30 am, Education Station. **Field trip:** 1-5 pm  
Basic introduction designed for beginning birders with little or no experience in birding. Study some of the 450+ known bird species in South Texas. **\$45 each members; \$60 others.** **Prepaid registration by Sept. 6, 361.852.2100.**



## BLACKLOCK'S BEGINNING BIRD ID SERIES: 6 Classes, 2 Field Trips

Monday Evening **Classes:** 6:15-9 pm; **Sept. 18, 25; Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23,** Education Station.  
Saturday **Field Trips:** Oct. 21, Nov. 4.  
Designed for those with little or no field experience who wish to learn more about bird identification.  
**\$150 members; \$185 others** (includes a 1-yr single membership). **Prepaid registration by Sept. 15, 361.852.2100.**



## BLACKLOCK'S SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION: 1-Day Short Course

Saturday, Sept. 23—**Class:** 9-11:30 am, Education Station. **Field Trip:** 1-5 pm  
For all levels of birders, studying Coastal Bend shorebirds, plovers, sandpipers, phalaropes . . . life histories, migration timelines, (basic) plumage.  
**\$45 members; \$60 others.** **Prepaid registration required by Sept. 20, 361.852.2100.**

**TRAVEL & LEARN! Gene Blacklock's BIOTIC PROVINCE SAFARIS TRAVEL & LEARN!**

Explore biological regions of Texas area with birder/educator/naturalist/author Gene Blacklock;

**Co-sponsored by the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center.**

Rotational including KANSAN (Panhandle); BALCONIAN (Hill Country); CHIHUAHUAN (Trans Pecos); AUSTRORIPARIAN (Piney Woods); TAMAULIPAN (South Texas); NAVAHONIAN (North Central New Mexico)—all equally exciting and interesting! Exploring these areas provides unique opportunities to see some of the most fascinating and beautiful flora and fauna regions within the United States, as well as some of the most attractive birds of North America. Special emphasis will be finding and seeing all birds (1) specifically endemic to each of these regions; (2) in the appropriate season to see them; (3) with a time line to maximize optimum opportunities to see the greatest species diversity.

**2017 Safari**

**[TRIP D] AUSTRORIPARIAN 'BIG THICKET' NATURAL HISTORY SAFARI**

*"Land of Ghost Lights", Big Thicket and Upper Texas Coast—Emphasizing Birds of Austroriparian*

**CLASS**—Friday, **March 31**, 2017, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.

**TRIP**—Monday-Saturday, **April 17-22**, including travel days.

**COST: \$625 Members, \$675 Others.** (Based on 8-person minimum, 12 maximum.)

**GENE'S TRIP SUMMARY:** "This region is like nowhere else in the world! Weather is temperate with mild winters, and considerable annual rain. The Mississippi River accesses the Gulf of Mexico here and bayous are abundant.

A portion of the Austroriparian in Texas is known as the *Big Thicket*, an amazing place where five major North American Biomes come together, known as an *ecotone*. The Region features cypress, tupelo and bay gall swamps, southern evergreen forests, deciduous forests, savannahs, and Georgia cane (*Phragmites*). Flora and fauna of this Province is especially unique, and many plants and animals have acquired interesting specialized adaptations—with more than five species of carnivorous plants there! There are many animals of special interest, one of many is the mud snake, a beautiful black and scarlet nocturnal creature, liking muddy sites. Plants I like are pitcher plants, ladies slippers, huge Magnolias. Smoke and dogwood trees are magnificent."

"For North America, the Austroriparian *Big Thicket* area contains more species of trees and shrubs than anywhere of comparable size. Historically dominated by large trees, it supports a considerable diversity of woodpeckers and other forest-dependent bird species. At least eight species of woodpeckers, including second largest North American woodpecker, the ivory-billed—now extinct because of lumbering practices of the last century. Other birds of special interest we will be looking for are: fulvous whistling-duck, **wood duck**, American and least bitterns, **glossy ibis**, **swallow-tailed kite**, rails; purple gallinule; **red-headed**, red-bellied, **red-cockaded** (endangered), **hairy** and down woodpeckers; flycatchers, yellow-throated vireo (they breed there), blue jay, American crow, **fish crow**, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted and brown-headed nuthatches, wrens, **migrating thrushes**; wood thrush; brown thrasher, **migrating wood warblers**; breeding **prairie warblers**; **Botteri's sparrow**, **Bobolink** and **boat-tailed grackle**."



**2018 Safaris**

**[TRIP E] NAVAHONIAN REGION STUDY**, north of El Paso in North Central New Mexico, including Cloudcroft, Alamogordo.

**CLASS**—April 2, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.

**TRIP**—April 15-22, including travel days. (Minimum 6 persons, maximum 12) Details TBA.

**[TRIP F] TAMAULIPAN REGION STUDY**, Rio Grande Valley and Laredo.

**CLASS**—October 29, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.

**TRIP**—November 11-17, including travel days. (Minimum 6 persons, maximum 12) Details TBA.



**[PARTICIPANTS MUST PROVIDE OWN TRANSPORTATION, ACCOMMODATIONS, FOOD AND DRINKS, BIRDING EQUIPMENT, PERSONAL ITEMS, OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES,—CARPOOLING ENCOURAGED.**

Gene Blacklock or the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center are not responsible for injuries, medical expenses, or damages during course of field trips. Cancellation Policy Applies—may be found on [www.stxbot.org](http://www.stxbot.org), Birding & Nature Resources; or call 361.852.2100.]

**CHIHUAHUAN/MEXICAN REGION STUDY** participants. April, 2016.

