

GENE BLACKLOCK BIRDING & NATURAL HISTORY STUDIES: 2015 + TRIPS

SOUTH TEXAS Botanical Gardens & Nature Center 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi TX 78413 361.852.2100 www.stxbot.org

BLACKLOCK'S WINTER FINCH / SPARROW ID & NATURAL HISTORY Short Course

Class Session: Friday, January 23, 6:15-9:15 pm; and **Field Trip:** Saturday, January 24, 7am-1pm.

Award-winning & entertaining birder/naturalist Gene Blacklock says there is no other place in North America with such exciting diversity of these creatures than South Texas. Course is designed for beginners and/or those with a special interest in the skill of field identification and natural history of winter finches and sparrows, including seasonality and preferred habitats. Class session held at *Education Station* at South Texas Botanical Garden & Nature Center. **\$45 each members, \$60 non-members** including Gardens general admission. Class maximum 20 students, minimum 12.

Prepaid registration required by January 20, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S INTRO TO EXCITING WORLD OF BIRDS Short Course

Class Session: Friday, February 6, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Fieldtrip:** Saturday, February 7, 7 am-1 pm.

A short course and basic introduction designed especially for beginning birders with little or no experience in the sport of birding. Study some of the more than 450 known bird species in South Texas, with acclaimed birder and naturalist **Gene Blacklock**. Class session held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** site.

\$45 each members; \$60 non-members. Class maximum 20, minimum 12.

Prepaid registration required by February 3, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.



BLACKLOCK'S ADVANCED BIRD ID & NATURAL HISTORY 'GRAD SCHOOL'—10 CLASSES, 3 FIELD TRIPS

Begins Monday, February 9, running through May 2.

Classes: Mondays, 6:30-9:15 pm; Feb 9, 16, 23; Mar 2, 9, 16, 23; Apr 13, 20, 27.

Field Trips: Saturdays, March 28, April 18, May 2.

Gene Blacklock—author, former environmental educator and field biologist—explores seasonality, migration highlights, preferred habitats and specific identification marks; plus discussion/review of species associated with Biotic Provinces of Texas. Course is designed for adults with some years of field experience; or a beginners' long series introduction to captivating sport of bird ID. Class sessions held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a **Great Texas Coastal Bend Birding Trail** site. **\$200 members, \$235 non-members**, including all Gardens general admissions. (Non-member tuition includes a one-year Botanical Gardens individual membership.) Class maximum is 20, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by February 6,** 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions, 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S BEGINNING WILDFLOWER ID & NATURAL HISTORY Short Course

Class Session: Friday, March 6, 6:15-9:15 p.m.

Fieldtrip: Saturday, March 7, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Award-winning naturalist Gene Blacklock leads this practical, hands-on class and field trip for beginners identifying and studying native Texas wildflowers in Coastal Bend 'hot spots.' Participants encouraged to photograph, collect, store, press, preserve specimens. Class session held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens, a **Great Texas Coastal Bend Birding Trail** site. **\$45 members, \$60 non-members, Prepaid registration required by March 3,** 361-852-2100. Curriculum questions, 361.558-1829.

BLACKLOCK'S LANDSCAPING FOR BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES Short Course

Class Session: Friday, April 10, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Field Trip to local nursery:** Saturday, April 11, 8:30 am -1:30 pm.

Requested by Botanical Gardens members, this course covers desirable drought-tolerant, hardy attractor plants, managing ways to secure future for native plants and animals, water conservation, storm water runoff. **Course fee is \$45 members, \$60 non-members.**

Class maximum 20, minimum 12. **Prepaid registration required by April 7,** 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions, 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S SHORE BIRD IDENTIFICATION, ALTERNATE PLUMAGE Short Course

Lecture: Friday, May 15, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Field Trip:** Saturday, May 16, 7 am-1 pm.

Gene Blacklock leads this weekend course for all levels of birders, studying Coastal Bend shorebirds, life histories, migration timelines, summer breeding plumage. Students should bring binoculars. Course fee is **\$45 members, \$60 non-members.** Class maximum 20, minimum 12.

Prepaid registration required by May 11, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S INTRO TO EXCITING WORLD OF BIRDS Short Course

Class Session: Friday, September 11, 6:15-9:15 pm; **Fieldtrip:** Saturday, September 12, 7 am-1 pm.

A short course and basic introduction designed especially for beginning birders with little or no experience in the sport of birding. Study some of the more than 450 known bird species in South Texas, with acclaimed birder and naturalist **Gene Blacklock**. Class session held in Education Station at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** site.

\$45 each members; \$60 non-members. Class maximum 20, minimum 12.

Prepaid registration required by September 8, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.



BLACKLOCK'S BEGINNING BIRD ID 101 SERIES—10 CLASSES & 3 FIELD TRIPS

Begins Monday, September 21, running through December 5**Classes:** Mondays, 6:15-9:15 pm; Sept 21, Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov 2, 9, 16; Nov 30.**Field Trips:** Saturdays, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 5.

With award-winning & entertaining birder/naturalist, Gene Blacklock, co-author of *Birds of Texas—a Field Guide* & *Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend*; former environmental educator for *Welder Wildlife Foundation*; *Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program*; and *Texas Parks & Wildlife* field biologist in colonial water bird management. This series is designed for people who wish to know more about bird identification but have little or no experience in the sport of field identification. Class sessions held in Botanical Gardens new Education Station. The Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is a **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** site. Class maximum is 18, minimum 12. **\$200 members, \$235 non-members**, including all Botanical Gardens general admissions. (Non-member fee includes one-year Botanical Gardens individual membership.)

Prepaid registration required by September 18, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

BLACKLOCK'S HAWKS IN FLIGHT, IDENTIFICATION Short Course

Class: Friday, September 25, 6:15-9:15pm; Field Trip: Saturday, September 26, 9:30am-1pm

Just in time for fall migration and Corpus Christi *Hawk Watch*, local naturalist Gene Blacklock discusses the common 'birds of prey' in an evening class; and leads a Saturday field trip. Class session held in Botanical Gardens Education Station. **\$45 members; \$60 non-members.** Class maximum 30, minimum 12.

Prepaid registration required by September 19, 361.852.2100. Curriculum questions 361.558.1829.

NEW—Travel & Learn! BIOTIC PROVINCE SAFARIES, with educator/naturalist Gene Blacklock; Co-sponsored by the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center.

Scientists recognize **seven major biological regions within Texas**: NAVAHONIAN (Guadalupe Mountains); CHIHUAHUAN (Trans-Pecos); KANSAN (Panhandle); BALCONIAN (Hill Country); TEXAN (North Central); AUSTRORIPARIAN (Piney Woods); TAMAULIPAN (South Texas)—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.

FIVE CLASSES/EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS featuring FIVE MAJOR BIOLOGICAL REGIONS OF TEXAS!**Balconian--2015. Kansan & Chihuahuan--2016. Austroriparian & Tamaulipan--2017.**

[TRIPS PRICED SEPARATELY. Participants need not take all safaris.]

[TRIP A] BALCONIAN REGION STUDY (Texas Hill Country)**Class—Friday, April 17, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.****Field Trip: April 21-23.** Begins at Motel 6, in Junction, 2 pm, April 21—exploring area of South Llano State Park.

Participants must provide own transportation, food and drinks, birding equipment, personal items, accommodations—carpooling encouraged.

Field trip will end at approximately 2 pm, April 23, Lost Maples State Park. **\$375 each members; \$410.00 non-members.** (Non-member cost includes one-year Botanical Gardens single membership.) Max 12, min 8. **PREPAID REGISTRATION required by March 1, 361.852.2100.****QUESTIONS: Gene Blacklock, 361.558.1829.****[TRIP B] KANSAN REGION STUDY (Palo Dura and Cap Rock State Parks, Buffalo National Wildlife Refuge)****Class—Friday, January 22, 2016, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station.****Field Trip—January 25-30.** Highlights Nearctic arctic birds wintering in Texas.Participants must provide own transportation, food and drinks, birding equipment, personal items, accommodations—carpooling encouraged. Other details/costs TBA. Max 10, min 6. **PREPAID REGISTRATION required by December 1, 361.852.2100. QUESTIONS: Gene Blacklock, 361.558.1829.****[TRIP C] CHIHUAHUAN/MEXICAN NAVAHONIAN REGION STUDY (Big Bend)****Class—Friday, April 15, 2016, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station. Field Trip—April 18-23.****[TRIP D] TAMAULIPAN REGION STUDY (Rio Grande Valley and Laredo)****Class—Friday, January 21, 2017, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station. Field Trip - January 24-27.****[TRIP E] AUSTRORIPARIAN REGION STUDY (Big Thicket)****Class—Friday, April 13, 2017, 6:15-9:15 pm, Botanical Gardens Education Station. Field Trip—April 16-20.**

[Unless otherwise noted, participants are responsible for their own transportation, meals, drinks, field supplies, out-of-pocket expenses. South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, or Gene Blacklock, are not liable for any injuries, medical expenses or damages occurred during classes or fieldtrips.]