



Photos of male & female golden-fronted woodpeckers by Ron Stoeck

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Golden-fronted Woodpecker *Melanerpes aurifrons*

The golden-fronted woodpecker is the common open-country woodpecker of eastern Mexico and northern Central America. It crosses the border mainly in southern Texas, where it is very common, noisy, and conspicuous. Similar in appearance and behavior to its relative, the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Where their ranges meet in Texas and Oklahoma, the two species aggressively defend territories against each other, and they sometimes interbreed.

Feeding Behavior Searches for insects on tree trunks and limbs, gleaning them from bark or probing below surface. Clammers about in branches of trees or shrubs to pick nuts, berries, or fruits. May forage on ground, and sometimes

catches insects in flight. Cracks open mesquite pods to eat the seeds. Likes suet!

Eggs: Usually 4-5, up to 7. White. Incubation is by both sexes (with male incubating at night and part of day), 12-14 days. Young: Both parents feed nestlings. Young leave nest about 30 days after hatching, may associate with parents for some time thereafter. 1-2 broods per year, rarely 3.

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Diet: Omnivorous. Feeds on a wide variety of insects. Also eats nuts, berries, fruits, and seeds of many plants; will eat many acorns where they are available.

Nesting: Advertises nesting territory with loud calls, sometimes with drumming. Nest site is a cavity in trunk of tree (live or dead) such as mesquite or oak, or in telephone poles or fence posts. Cavities are usually fairly low, typically less than 20' above ground. Both sexes help excavate the cavity, which may be used for more than one season.



Other birds you may see at your feeder/backyard:



L > R: Carolina wren by Brian Trock; lots of birds at the feeder by Brenda Stoeck; Carolina chickadee by MJ McFarland; Golden-cheeked Warbler (endangered) by Brian Trock; Hummingbird by James Davis/Edith Bergquist.



New process for online attendance at monthly Chapter Meetings!

Go to the Lindheimer Chapter web page at www.txmn.org/lindheimer/ and select "Chapter Meetings". Click on the meeting link and you're there!



Lindheimer Chapter
Texas Master Naturalist Program



Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm
What: "Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country – Trackways and Beyond"
Who: Janice Epps, President, Board of Directors, Heritage Museum
Where: In person: Tye Preston Memorial Library
Online: <https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/next-meeting/>

Join us for a program on one of the natural wonders of Texas!

The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country

You will learn about the history of the museum (fascinating & unusual) and what the museum has to offer to the community in educational programs and events (a lot!).



Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country was incorporated in November of 1995. It is a 501 (C) (3) organization dedicated to the collection, conservation, preservation, and display of materials associated with the natural and cultural history of the Texas Hill Country, as well as the education of visitors using its collections. For the last 20 years, the museum has been trying to protect and preserve over 200 dinosaur footprints and 28 separate trackways. Made approximately 110 million years ago, the footprints and trackways are part of the early Cretaceous period in the upper Glen Rose Formation. You can become a member of the Museum – just go to their website!

Our speaker is Janice Epps, President of the Heritage Museum Board since 2019. Janice, (along with husband, Don) are Life Members of the Museum since 2017. Janice's background is in business/accounting with a Masters in Accounting from UoFH. Her expertise is in business management.



The Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country

HOURS OF OPERATION Wednesdays-Sundays 12:00 - 4:00 PM Closed on major holidays

ADDRESS 4851 FM 2673, Canyon Lake, TX 78133

WEBSITE <https://www.theheritagemuseum.com/about>

PHONE 830-899-4542 **EMAIL** museum@gvfc.com

Chapter Information Page



2022 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Rich Nielson
VICE PRESIDENT	Sue Sommer
SECRETARY	Rob Kyrouac
TREASURER	Don Epps

COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

Education - Erin Harrison
Haley Faver, Ashley Black, Ellen Petray
Membership & Records – Brian Trock, Cheryl Trock (VMS)
Outreach – Debbie Kyrouac
Projects & Opportunities - Jeanie Springer

Subcommittees

Trunks – Deb Kyrouac
Program to Assist Landowners – Art Williams
Community Recognition (VP) – Sue Sommer
Hospitality (VP) – Sue Sommer
New Class – President-Caroline Broderick
Photographer-Lesley Frowick

COMMUNICATIONS

Director – MJ McFarland
Out & About – Sara Riggs

CHAPTER ADVISORS

Craig Hensley, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Wildlife Tracker

The Lindheimer Quarterly Newsletter MJ McFarland – Editor

Newsletter published quarterly by the Lindheimer Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist™ to communicate, educate & inform chapter members & the Hill Country Community. Current and previous issues of The Quarterly are posted on the website www.txmn.org/lindheimer.

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c/o Comal County AgriLife
325 Resource Dr.
New Braunfels, TX 78132



2022 MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS

January 24
Madrone Pollinator Trail with Susan Bogle
February 17
on't Mess with Texas Bees" with Charlie Agar
March 17
"Native Seeds" with George Cates
April 21
"Heritage Museum" with Janice Epps
May 19
Iliana Peña, Texas Wildlife Association
June 15
July 21
August 18
September 21
October 20
November 17
December: Date TBA



2022 Board of Directors Meetings Every 4th Monday at 5:00 PM Meetings are via WEBEX All members welcome

- January 24 ● February 28 ● March 28 ● April 25
- May 23 ● June 27 ● July 25 ● August 22
- September 26 ● October 24 ● November 28
- December 26

Board Minutes available at:

<https://txmn.org/lindheimer/chapter-info/lmn-board-members/lmn-board-minutes-archive/>



The Red-tailed Hawk

by MJ McFarland

Red-tailed hawks (RTH) are raptors (birds of prey) in the same family as eagles and kites, the family *Accipitridae*. There are over 200 species of hawks in the world with up to 25 of those species living in the United States. RTH are a year-round resident to the entire state of Texas. Red-tails are one of the largest birds of prey in North America. They can easily be recognized by their large size, red tails & shrill screams. The photo by Darlene Varga provides a perfect illustration of why they're called "red-tailed."



Photo by Darlene Naney Varga

COLORATION Most Red-tailed Hawks are rich brown above and pale below, with a streaked belly and, on the wing underside, a dark bar between shoulder and wrist. The tail is usually pale below and cinnamon-

Length: 17.7-25.6 in
Weight: 24.3-51.5 oz
Wingspan: 44.9-52.4 in

Bird Cam! [Red-tailed Hawks](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)
[Cornell Lab Bird Cams](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) [Cornell Lab](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)
[Bird Cams \(allaboutbirds.org\)](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)

red above, though in young birds it's brown and banded. "Dark-morph" birds are all chocolate-brown with a warm red tail. "Rufous-morph" birds are reddish-brown on the chest with a dark belly. Red-tailed Hawks have extremely variable plumage, and some of this variation is regional...south Texas forms are darker above,

without the dark belly band most other Red-tails have. See www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed_Hawk/id.



FEATHERS The feathers and other parts of the red-tailed hawk are considered sacred to many American indigenous people and, like the feathers of the bald eagle and golden eagle, are sometimes used in religious ceremonies and found adorning the regalia of many Native Americans in the United States; these parts, most especially their distinctive tail feathers, are a popular item in the Native American community. As with the other two species, the feathers and parts of the red-tailed hawk are regulated by the eagle feather law which governs the possession of feathers and parts of migratory birds.

wikipedia.org/wiki/Eagle_feather_law **HUNTING**

Red-tailed hawks are diurnal. They will soar above their territory, usually on clear days, keeping a lookout for intruders. They are mostly solitary but are social during breeding season and migration. These hawks prefer to form their nests in wooded fence rows at the edge of forests, or in large trees within open areas. Pairs will stay together for years within the same territory. They are very territorial, defending territories that

Photo by Darlene Naney Varga

range from 0.85 to 3.9 square kilometers, based on the availability of food, perches, and sites for nests. The female is more aggressive than the male around the nest, while the male is more aggressive with regard to the territory boundaries animalia.bio/red-tailed-hawk. Red-tailed hawks are "sit & watch" hunters, commonly seen perched high up on telephone wires or in treetops waiting for their next meal to appear. These majestic birds feed on all types of small mammals like rats, squirrels and rabbits, other birds, and reptiles like snakes. Sometimes they also eat frogs, insects, and carrion. Their incredible eyesight allows them to spot prey and quickly swoop down to catch their meal. If you keep small livestock, such as backyard chickens, be warned they will be a favorite target for this skilled hunter.

Did you know:

the Red-tailed hawk is one of two hawks most commonly flown by falconers? [FAQ's \(texashawking.org\)](http://FAQ's(texashawking.org))

REPRODUCTION & NESTING

Red-tailed hawks usually mate at 3 years old. They are monogamous and stay with the same partner for many years. They soar together in circles during courtship, their flights lasting 10 minutes and more. Mating usually occurs

Did you know: A baby hawk is called an *eyas*. Male hawks are called *tierces*, while female hawks are called *hens*. A group of hawks is known as a *kettle*, a *cast* or an *aerie*.

following these flights. Nests are usually placed to be easily approached from above and to have a wide view, such as in the top of a tall tree or structure. Nests are built or refurbished by both sexes using deciduous sticks 1-2 cm ((0.4-0.8 in) in diameter. The nest cup is usually lined with bark strips, fresh coniferous or deciduous sprigs and other vegetation. In this cup the female usually lays 2-3 white to light buff eggs at 2-day intervals. Buff to red-brown or purple markings vary from sparing to heavy. Incubation starts after the first egg is laid and lasts 28-35 days

with both parents participating. Young birds usually remain in the nest for 42-46 days and then spend another 7-8 weeks with their parents. Pairs will stay together for years within the same territory. They are very territorial, defending territories that range from 0.85 to 3.9 square kilometers, based on the availability of food, perches, and sites for nests. The female is more aggressive than the male around the nest, while the male is more aggressive with regard to the territory boundaries. A hawk's lifespan depends on the species, as there are many different types.

The red-tailed hawk has a lifespan ranging from 13 to 21 years. txtbba.tamu.edu/species-accounts/red-tailed-hawk/

Did you know...the fierce, screaming cry of the adult red-tailed hawk is frequently used as a generic raptor sound effect in television shows and other media, even if the bird featured is not a red-tailed hawk. It is especially used in depictions of the bald eagle, whose screams are far softer and chirpy.

VOCALIZATIONS The cry of the red-tailed hawk is a 2- to 3-second, hoarse, rasping scream, variously transcribed as *kree-eee-ar*, *tsee-eeee-arr* or *sheeeeeee*, that begins at a high pitch and slurs downward. The red-tailed hawk frequently vocalizes while hunting or soaring, but vocalizes loudest and most persistently in defiance or anger, in response to a predator or a rival hawk's intrusion into its territory. At close range, it makes a croaking *guh-runk*, possibly as a warning sound.

Did you know...As of 3/16/22, Comal County has reported 65 sightings of red-tailed hawks in iNaturalist!



LMN Chapter Project Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden & Wildscape (BBW) at AgriLife Gardens

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4FA9AA28ABF58-1stqtr1>

Busy Days at the BBW
Photos by Brian Trock





Madrone Trail Pollinator Garden





Recertifications and Milestone Awards

2022 Recertification Pin – Lightning Whelk

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



	Recertifications	Milestone Awards
December 2021 Sideoats Grama 	Joyce Doyle	
January 2022 	Susan Bogle, Judy Henfrey, Marilyn McFarland, Rhonda Neel, Lois Ricci, Sara Riggs, Brian Trock, Darlene Varga	250 Hours: MV Poffenberger, Mike Roberts, Karen Matson, Brenda Stoeck
February 2022	Ellen Anderson, Edith Bergquist, Joe Finneran, Jim Jameson, Ellen Petray, Patricia Porterfield, Jeanie Springer, Cheryl Trock	250 Hours: Judy Henfrey, Lisa Smith 1,000 Hours: Don Epps, Nancy Gray
March 2022	Don Bergquist, Ron Butts, John Davis, Jim Doyle, Erin Harrison, Deb Kyrouac, Valerie Lefebvre, Rich Nielson, Cathy Oberkamp, MV Poffenberger, Susan Sommer, Mary Williams	250 Hours: Aleta Meyer, Haley Faver, Mary Williams 500 Hours: Marilyn Garrison, Cathy Oberkamp 1,000 Hours: Beth Jameson, Rhonda Neel



Texas Master Naturalist Program™ 2022 Pin: Lightning Whelk, Texas State Shell

1st Quarter Monthly Meetings
Make sure to join us for 2nd Quarter meetings! Check out our webpage!

Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program™

Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm
 What: "The Madrone Trail Pollinator Garden -- Birth of a Garden"
 Who: Susan Bogle
 Where: Online via WEBEX

Join Susan Bogle to "Learn how this new garden came into being and how it will serve to attract the butterflies, bees & birds that are essential for pollination, as well as providing an example to both local citizens and visitors of how to attract pollinators with the proper utilization of native plants and garden design."

Susan Bogle is a member of Lindheimer Master Naturalist Chapter since 2024 and has received 10,000 volunteer hours. She is retired and lives in the community for her design & maintenance of gardens and trails in the second Canyon Lake and frequently lends her expertise to other groups & organizations.

She says, "In the way that land is being used, the most used land during the development of the WTRC. I use it to service the E.R. Blowers."




Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program™

Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 5:45 pm
 What: "Don't Mess with Texas Bees!"
 Who: Charlie Aja, Beekeeper
 Where: Online via WEBEX

Charlie Aja got his first hive of bees in 2015, but when he started doing extensive live rescues the following year he was looking for a niche location that's opened new friendships, travel, and lots of busy experiences. Today he does bee rescues, manages 500 colonies, and helps individuals all across Central Texas. His work will soon be the subject of San Antonio PBS reality TV show Charlie Bee Company. Charlie has in New Braunfels with wife Kaye, three dogs, and their backyard chickens.

Charlie captures native honey bees from walls and down and takes them to a "bee lab" for a little rehabilitation. He then keeps bees for agricultural bee valuation on crops properties all across the area. The byproduct of all this work is quality delicious Texas Hill Country honey. Charlie likes to call "Lippid Surprises."

NOTE! Beginning January 9, 2022 on Austin PBS, KLRU-TV, Charlie Bee Company will be airing Saturdays at 4:30 PM, with archive presentations on Sundays at 2:00 PM. In the Spring of 2022, following its Austin debut, Charlie Bee Company will be airing nationwide on PBS through American Public Television.




Lindheimer Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Program™

Monthly Chapter Meeting

When: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm
 What: "Native Seeds"
 Who: George Cates, Restoration Specialist
 Native American Seed, www.native-seeds.com
 Where: Hybrid Meeting
 In person at Tye Preston Memorial Library
 Online via WEBEX Here's the link: <https://txmnp.org/lindheimer/updates-info/next-meeting/>

Join us for a presentation on native seeds!

Planting native seeds is one small, but important step in safeguarding the web of life. Many sensible people are now enjoying the adventure, discovery and benefits that come with taking an active role in ecological landscape restoration.

About our speaker: George came to Native American Seed shortly after graduating from college in Sherman, TX. He's got a remarkable facility for looking at problems as "challenges" to be met, and the kind of willingness to learn that is a pocket-sized in a business full of the unexpected, unpredictable and at times downright chaotic. His persistence and attention to detail, along with his ability to grasp the "big picture," are qualities that allow him to move easily and competently to the spots where help is needed when he's not busy in the barn clearing seeds.



Contributing to Community/Citizen Science: iNaturalist.org



Photo of Rocky 1 & Rocky 2 by MJ McFarland

“Community Science” (formerly “Citizen” Science) is the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. As naturalists, many of us already participate in community science projects that contribute to the body of scientific knowledge about plants, animals & insects: butterfly surveys, bird counts, plant identification. And we take pictures – LOTS of pictures! Each picture is an observation and represents an opportunity to increase the scientific knowledge of what, where & when. One of the largest community science projects is iNaturalist, a world-wide, on-line database of observations provided by community scientists like Master Naturalists.

“If enough people recorded their observations, it would be like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that *anyone* could use to learn more about nature.” How to get started? Go to www.inaturalist.org and sign up!

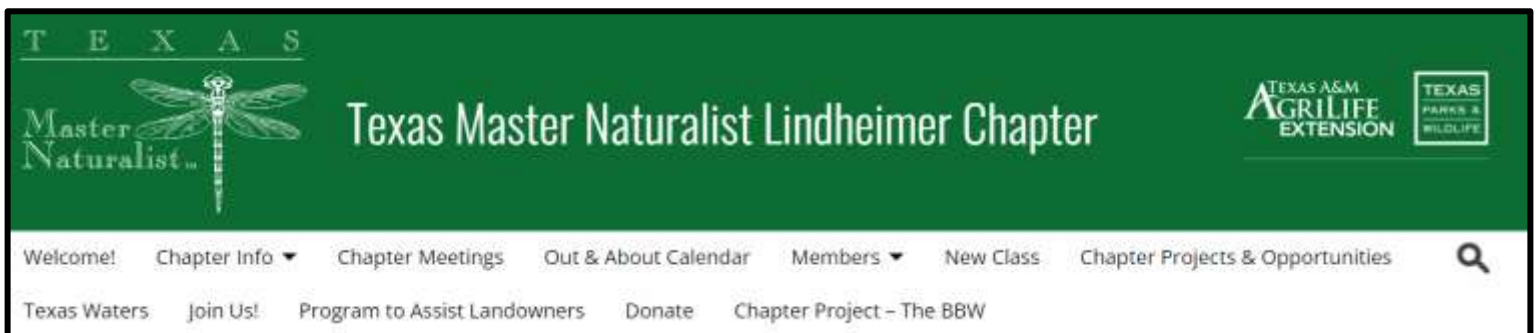
Here are the numbers as of 4/7/2022. Take a look at Comal County!!!

Location	Observations	Species	Observers
World	93,354,794	344,170	2,062,463
Texas	5,845,207	24,539	113,929
Comal County	79,289	4,259	3,800



Electronic Lindheimer

Website: www://txmn.org/lindheimer/



Facebook: www://facebook.com/txmn.lindheimer

Ops & Info: Weekly email with news, announcements, and AT/VH opportunities sent to your email every Sunday.