

TOWN NEWS

Texas Outdoors Woman Network

Dallas Chapter – November 2024

Monthly meeting November 11th

Dale Dickerson's Home

1424 Parkwood Dr, Carrollton TX 75007

Rafting the Grand Canyon Presentation



TOWN ACTIVITIES - 2024

Mark your Calendars!!

Thursday Oct 31st – Sunday Nov 2

Cooper Lake State Park

Trip leader- Shirley Meurer

Please email me directly sameurer@yahoo.com, or text me at 972-890-2491 if you want to sign up for this trip. Max tent campers are 12. Deposit of \$15.00 to sameurer@yahoo.com via Zelle or Paypal.

https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/park_maps/pwd_mp_p4508_154a.pdf

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Wednesday Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

Copper Breaks State Park

Trip Leader – Allison Gilani

Text 214-728-5752

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Thursday March 6th – Sunday March 9th

Brazos Bend State Park

Trip leader- Shirley Meurer

Brazos Bend State Park is a nature lover's paradise. The birding is phenomenal, and the alligators are very entertaining! It is about 300 miles and a good 5 hours from North Dallas.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/brazos-bend>

Contact Shirley Meurer to secure your spot. 972-890-2491

Thursday March 20TH – Sunday March 23rd

Martin Dies Jr State Park

All TOWN Camping Trip

More details to come

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December – No Meeting



Holiday Party -December 8<sup>th</sup>

4PM -7PM

Suzi Murphy's home

3317 Creekbend Dr. Garland, TX 75044

Directions - Take 75 north to Campbell Rd. Turn East on Campbell to Jupiter. Head north (left) on Jupiter. Turn right at the next light just past Big Springs Baptist Church, Heather Hill Dr .

Take your first left and follow around the circle to 3317. It's a grey 2-story. Those who wish to participate in the gift exchange, simply need to bring a wrapped gift with an outdoor theme (spending limit of \$20). Outdoor gadgets and gizmos are always popular!



## Rafting the Grand Canyon



*28 TOWN women and their friends white water rafted down the Grand Canyon*





**Before starting our Grand Canyon trip, we took a day to visit Bryce Canyon National Park to view the hoodoos, whoodoo, irregular columns of rock. Next, we visited Zion National Park which had breath-taking views!**



**Mary, Shirley, Cathy and Marie participated in the paddle on Lake Ray Hubbard guided by a birding expert from Trinity River Audubon Center. We learned many fun facts about the birds on the lake and it was a beautiful day to be out on the water.**





# Huntsville State Park

*Friday night dinner team. Allison, Rene, Karen T. and Karen K.*



*Shirley, Marie and Mary enjoying a paddle on Lake Raven*



*Rene paddled over to the tent campsite from the cabin for breakfast both days*

*Gator anyone?*





## How to understand bird language

Begin by quietly sitting and watching the birds for at least 20 minutes at a time, every day if possible. Each time, take note of what the birds are doing, and observe their vocalizations and behaviors. Over time, this will reveal how birds respond when watching for predators, feeding, mating, and nesting.

- 1) **ADOPT A SIT SPOT** – Stay in one place to learn about the birds in your local area. Visit the same location regularly until you get to know the birds individually (this robin versus a robin). You'll learn where they like to sit, their feeding habits, and their attitude toward predators and competitors. As the birds get to know you, you will disturb them less. Listen closely, learning the sounds of calls, songs and alarms.
- 2) **TRY TO FOCUS ON 5 LOCAL SPECIES TO START** - Start off growing your audio and visual skills by watching 5 common birds. Get to know these 5 very well. The more you get to know them, the easier it will become to recognize their different behaviors. Take note of what they do when they are alarmed, where they hide, how they ward off intruders, and other aspects of their behavior.
- 3) **LEARNING THE BIRDS' VOCALIZATIONS** – Many bird species use different alarm calls for the different predators they encounter. For instance, American Robins will sound an alarm when they notice a ground predator like a cat near their nest.
- 4) **LEARN THE "SHAPES" OF ALARM** – The following are examples of bird "shapes"
  - a. **Ditching:** This is when birds ditch suddenly into thick bushes to escape a predator.
  - b. **Bird Plows and Bullet:** You will see birds scattering very fast to get away from a predator such as a Cooper's Hawk.
  - c. **Sentinel:** Take note of birds that sit high on posts to get a good view from a safe distance.
  - d. **Parabolic Alarms:** When birds mob other predators such as owls, cats, hawks, snakes, and other birds that rob nests.
  - e. **Tunnel of Silence and Oppression:** Silence in the area where dangerous hawks are on the prowl.
  - f. **Popcorn Alarms:** Quick brief outbursts made by a bird or birds when a fast-moving ground predator is in the area.

Each of these different alarm scenarios is associated with certain body language from the birds, as well as their vocalizations, and can occur in thousands of birds or just one bird.

- 5) **START TO PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE OBSERVED** – Learning bird language is similar to how you would think about your own instincts when faced with a predator. The adaptation of birds to the environment is responsible for how a bird looks, why it behaves as it does, and the bird language that it uses. Learn to observe the beak shapes of different birds, why a certain bird is alone, or why other birds like sparrows are in a flock. Many people who live in the wild, like the San Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert, one of the last indigenous people who still often live as hunter-gatherers, are very astute in the bush; they are extremely skilled at bird language. Bird language keeps them alive by knowing where danger lies, it allows them to find prey when hunting, and it keeps them connected to the natural world and each other.