

TOWN



NEWS

Dallas Chapter – May 2025

Monthly meeting May 12th

6-7:30 PM

Shirley Meurer's Home
2816 Concord Dr, Wylie, TX 75044

Light refreshments will be provided

Social Hour and Knot Tying Practice



LIGHTS OUT FOR BIRD MIGRATION

TOWN ACTIVITIES

Mark your Calendars!!

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Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Car Free Bike Ride in Dallas

<https://dallasbikeride.com/>

Contact Marie if you decide to sign up

214-733-3222  
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Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>-Monday June 16<sup>th</sup>

Brazos River Canoe/Kayak Trip

Contact Barb Cutter 817-832-0549  
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Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

Day of fun on Cedar Creek Lake

2182 Hickory St., Mabank, TX 75156

Hosted by Mary Nester and Mar Burris

214--316-8960  
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Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> Pool Party

Karen Turbeville's Home

7222 Lakehurst Ave

214-213-7196  
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Poros Island - Greece Adventure

Sept 13-20 Wait list started

Contact Barb Cutter

817-832-0549

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Saturday August 16th

Pool Party 2PM

Barb Cutter's Home

2915 Scarborough Ln West

Colleyville, TX 76034
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Thursday, October 30th - November 2nd

Pedernales State Park

Contact Marie to sign up 214-733-3222
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Wednesday, November 12th - Sunday

November 16th

Palo Duro

Contact Melissa Brown

254-582-1528
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Monthly Meetings

6pm – 7:30pm

Second Monday of the Month

Contact Shirley to host 972-890-2491

Camping at Possum Kingdom



Possun Kingdom 5/2025



MARY, KAREN, LAURA, DEBBIE,
ALLISON



CHLOE



SHARON, SUZIE,
KAREN, DEBBIE,
ALLISON



KAREN, KAREN AND ROSIE IN THE KITCHEN

Townies visit In-Sync Exotics and see some BIG CATS!

In the beginning, before there was an [In-Sync Exotics](#), there was Vicky Keahey, a hard-working veterinary technician. She spent her days caring for, comforting and playing with the array of animals who visited the clinic where she worked. Then on one fateful day in 1991, a female cougar was brought into the clinic for treatment. The cougar, named Tahoe, accepted her vet's help graciously. But when it was time for Tahoe to return home, she was kept waiting and waiting until, finally, it became apparent that she had been abandoned. By this time, Vicky had grown attached to the 18-month-old cougar. Since the young cougar now needed a new home, Vicky happily obliged. So with Tahoe, Vicky got her first experience in rescuing and caring for an exotic cat. Because exotic cats aren't like average house cats, Vicky had a lot to learn about the specific needs of cougars. Vicky turned to her vet and the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) for help. Over time, Vicky and Tahoe built a bond of love and trust and learned to respect each other. Vicky had also earned the respect of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In 1994, an officer brought Vicky a second cougar in need of help. Vicky accepted the ailing male cougar, whom she named Ranger, and nursed him back to health. Tahoe also accepted the presence of Ranger, and the two soon became inseparable. Vicky was now the happy and well-entertained owner of two beautiful cougars. She learned more with each passing day about their personalities, likes and dislikes, and she spoiled them terribly with her love and attention. She also learned that private ownership of two large cats is an enormous responsibility. The cats required very expensive food, shelter and medical care and tremendous time commitments. Though Vicky was content with her two exotic charges, once again fate intervened. In June of 1998, Vicky met a 3-week-old female Bengal tiger that was badly maimed and inexcusably neglected, and her heartstrings were tugged to her very soul. The tiger's breeders were considering their options. They couldn't sell this tiger cub because she was in such bad shape, and they didn't want to care for the cub because she needed too much care. The tiger's life was clearly in danger. Vicky frantically searched for a way to rescue this cub knowing that if she took her in, it would be an even greater responsibility and time commitment than she already faced with the two cougars. Finding another home proved an almost impossible task, though. As the cub's life became more eminently endangered, Vicky decided to rescue the cub herself. She named the little girl Kenya and lovingly nurtured and healed her wounds. Vicky's experiences with Kenya and the bond the two shared led Vicky to the idea of establishing a non-profit organization dedicated to caring for rescued exotic felines and sharing her experiences with others. Believing that one person on a mission can make a difference and help better our world, Vicky researched how to establish a non-profit organization for her feline friends. She completed endless stacks of paperwork and obtained all related licenses. And thus in March of 2000, In-Sync Exotics Wildlife Rescue & Educational Center was born.



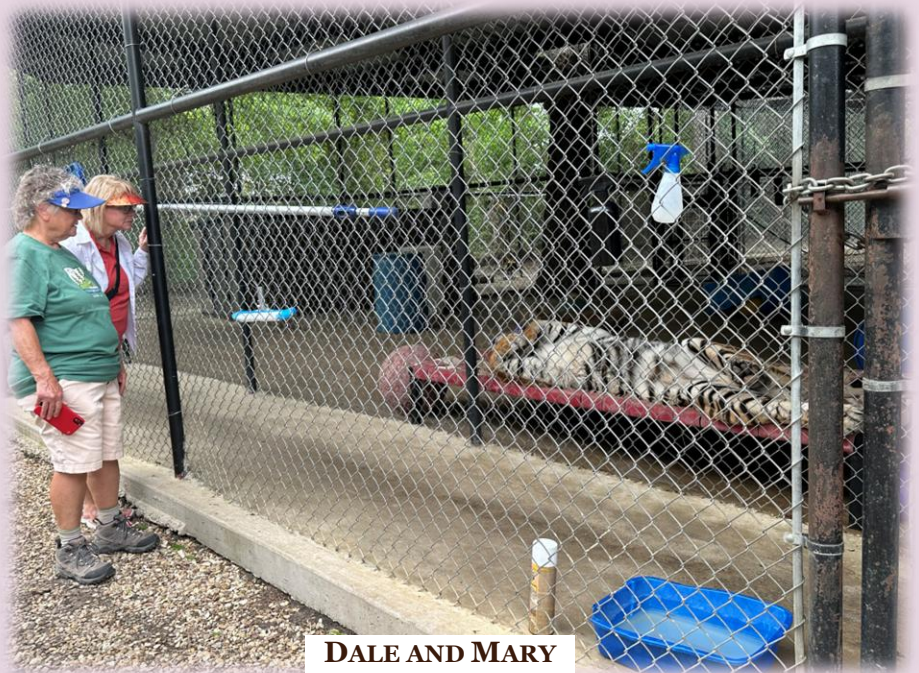
KING OF THE JUNGLE



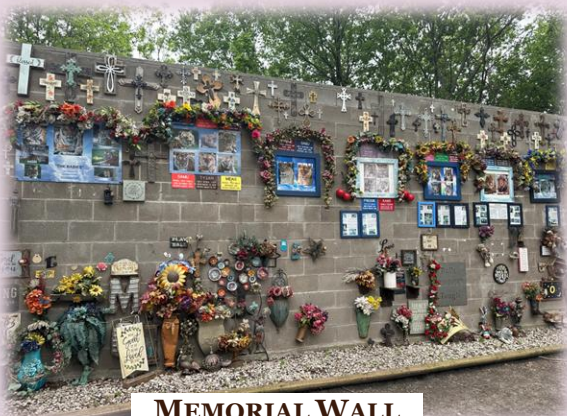
OUR GUIDE EDUCATING US ON BIG CATS



CATHY AND SHIRLEY



DALE AND MARY



MEMORIAL WALL





BACKYARD MURPHY FOR FOOD AND DRINK



THE COWARDLY LION

The Basics of Bird Migration: How, Why, and Where

Birds migrate in many ways and for a number of reasons. Here's a guide to the ways birds migrate, how they navigate, the hazards they face, and more. Geese winging their way south in wrinkled V-shaped flocks is perhaps the classic picture of migration—the annual, large-scale movement of birds between their breeding (summer) homes and their nonbreeding (winter) grounds. But geese are far from our only migratory birds. Of the more than 650 species of North American breeding birds, more than half are migratory.

Why do birds migrate?

Birds migrate to move from areas of low or decreasing resources to areas of high or increasing resources. The two primary resources being sought are food and nesting locations. Here's [more about how migration evolved](#).

Birds that nest in the Northern Hemisphere tend to migrate northward in the spring to take advantage of burgeoning insect populations, budding plants and an abundance of nesting locations. As winter approaches and the availability of insects and other food drops, the birds move south again. Escaping the cold is a motivating factor but many species, including hummingbirds, can withstand freezing temperatures as long as an adequate supply of food is available.

Types of migration

The term migration describes periodic, large-scale movements of populations of animals. One way to look at migration is to consider the distances traveled. The pattern of migration can vary within each category, but is most variable in short and medium distance migrants. Long-distance migrants face arduous journeys, yet it is undertaken by about 350 species of North American birds.



Permanent residents do not migrate. They are able to find adequate supplies of food year-round.



Short-distance migrants make relatively small movements, as from higher to lower elevations on a mountainside.



Medium-distance migrants cover distances that span a few hundred miles.



Long-distance migrants typically move from breeding ranges in the United States and Canada to wintering grounds in Central and South America.

Origins of long-distance migration

While short-distance migration probably developed from a fairly simple need for food, the origins of long-distant migration patterns are much more complex. They've evolved over thousands of years and are controlled at least partially by the genetic makeup of the birds. They also incorporate responses to weather, geography, food sources, day length, and other factors.

For birds that winter in the tropics, it seems strange to imagine leaving home and embarking on a migration north. Why make such an arduous trip north in spring? One idea is that through many generations the tropical ancestors of these birds dispersed from their tropical breeding sites northward. The seasonal abundance of insect food and greater day length allowed them to raise more young (4–6 on average) than their stay-at-home tropical relatives (2–3 on average). As their breeding zones moved north during periods of glacial retreat, the birds continued to return to their tropical homes as winter weather and declining food supplies made life more difficult. Supporting this theory is the fact that most North American vireos, flycatchers, tanagers, warblers, orioles, and swallows have evolved from forms that originated in the tropics.

What triggers migration?

The mechanisms initiating migratory behavior vary and are not always completely understood. Migration can be triggered by a combination of changes in day length, lower temperatures, changes in food supplies, and genetic predisposition. For centuries, people who have kept cage birds have noticed that the migratory species go through a period of restlessness each spring and fall, repeatedly fluttering toward one side of their cage. German behavioral scientists gave this behavior the name *zugunruhe*, meaning migratory restlessness. Different species of birds and even segments of the population within the same species may follow different migratory patterns.

How do birds navigate?

Migrating birds can cover thousands of miles in their annual travels, often traveling the same course year after year with little deviation. First-year birds often make their very first migration on their own. Somehow they can find their winter home despite never having seen it before, and return the following spring to where they were born.

The [secrets of their amazing navigational skills](#) aren't fully understood, partly because birds combine several different types of senses when they navigate. Birds can get compass information from the sun, the stars, and by sensing the earth's magnetic field. They also get information from the

position of the setting sun and from landmarks seen during the day. There's even evidence that sense of smell plays a role, at least for homing pigeons.

Some species, particularly waterfowl and cranes, follow preferred pathways on their annual migrations. These pathways are often related to important stopover locations that provide food supplies critical to the birds' survival. Smaller birds tend to migrate in broad fronts across the landscape. Studies using eBird data have revealed that [many small birds take different routes in spring and fall](#), to take advantage of seasonal patterns in weather and food.

Migration hazards

Taking a journey that can stretch to a round-trip distance of several thousand miles is a dangerous and arduous undertaking. It is an effort that tests both the birds' physical and mental capabilities. The physical stress of the trip, lack of adequate food supplies along the way, bad weather, and increased exposure to predators all add to the hazards of the journey.

In recent decades long-distant migrants have been facing a growing threat from communication towers and tall buildings. Many species are attracted to the lights of tall buildings and millions are killed each year in collisions with the structures. The [Fatal Light Awareness Program](#), based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and BirdCast's [Lights Out](#) project, have more about this problem.

Studying migration

Scientists use several techniques in studying migration, including banding, satellite tracking, and a relatively new method involving lightweight devices known as geolocators. One of the goals is to locate important stopover and wintering locations. Once identified, steps can be taken to protect and save these key locations.

Each spring approximately 500,000 Sandhill Cranes and some endangered Whooping Cranes use the Central Platte River Valley in Nebraska as a staging habitat during their migration north to breeding and nesting grounds in Canada, Alaska, and the Siberian Arctic.

What is a migrant trap?

Some places seem to have a knack for concentrating migrating birds in larger than normal numbers. These "migrant traps" often become well known as birding hotspots. This is typically the result of local weather conditions, an abundance of food, or the local topography.

For example, small songbirds migrating north in the spring fly directly over the Gulf of Mexico, landing on the coastlines of the Gulf Coast states. When, storms or cold fronts bring headwinds, these birds can be near exhaustion when they reach land. In such cases they head for the nearest location offering food and cover—typically live-oak groves on barrier islands, where very large numbers of migrants can collect in what's known as a "fallout." These migration traps have become very popular with birders, even earning international reputations.

Peninsulas can also concentrate migrating birds as they follow the land and then pause before launching over water. This explains why places like Point Pelee, Ontario; the Florida Keys; Point Reyes, California; and Cape May, New Jersey have great reputations as migration hotspots.

Spring migration is an especially good time for those that feed birds in their backyard to attract species they normally do not see. Offering a variety of food sources, water, and adding natural food sources to the landscape can make a backyard attractive to migrating songbirds.

Range maps

It's always a good idea to use the range maps in your field guide to determine if and when a particular species might be around. Range maps are especially useful when working with migratory species. However, they can be confusing: ranges of birds can vary year-to-year, as with irruptive species such as redpolls. Also, the ranges of some species can expand or contract fairly rapidly, with changes occurring in time periods shorter than the republication time of a field guide. (The [Eurasian Collared-Dove](#) is the best example of this problem.)

These limitations are beginning to be addressed by data-driven, digital versions of range maps. The maps are made possible by the [hundreds of millions of eBird observations](#) submitted by birdwatchers around the world. "Big Data" analyses are allowing scientists to produce animated maps that show a species' ebb and flow across the continent throughout a calendar year—as well as understand larger patterns of movement.

CORNELLLab All About Birds August 1, 2021

Here's how you can go Lights Out!

Building owners, businesses, developers, and homeowners can help protect migrating birds by turning off all non-essential nighttime lighting on structures from **11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night.**

Lighting Guidelines for EVERYONE:

- ☐ Turn off all non-essential lights from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night during migration season.
 - ☐ Do not use landscape lighting to light up trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
 - ☐ Close blinds at night to reduce the amount of light being emitted from windows.

For essential lights (like security lighting) use the following dark skies friendly lighting practices:

- ☐ Aim lights down
- ☐ Use lighting shields to direct light downwards and to avoid light shining into the sky or trees
 - ☐ Use motion detectors and sensors so lights are only on when you need them
- ☐ Share your support for the cause via social media and with local media, your commitment to go lights out to save birds is newsworthy.

SAVE A BIRD