



# NATURE NOTES

Dedicated to the Enjoyment and Conservation of the Natural Beauty of Sun City Texas at Georgetown  
VOLUME 23 Issue 3 March 2020

**Tuesday, March 17, 2:30 p.m., SCB  
The Bamberger Ranch (Selah), History and Current  
Activities**

Presented by Colleen Gardner

**Tuesday, April 7, 2:30 p.m., SCB  
90 Birds I Shot in Kenya ..... With a Canon**

Presented by Randy Freeman

This is a joint meeting with the Birding SIG

## MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$12 for 2020

Dues include our monthly programs and all Special Interest Group programs and activities.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Nature Club activities are posted on the Nature Club website calendar. E-mails are sent to Club members only.

### AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

SIG Chair: Steve Kelly



### REPTILE ID, RELOCATION & MAPPING

FREE service, call:

- Steve Kelley 512-639-0539
- Jim Christiansen 512-868-3504
- John Leek 713-825-0145
- Joe Plunkett 774-226-0810
- City of Georgetown Animal Control 512-930-3592



We encourage residents to leave harmless, beneficial reptiles in their landscapes, but call us so we can identify and map all reptiles.

### ASTRONOMY SIG

Watch for Special Viewing announcements.

Mon., **March 23**, 7:00 p.m. CC Florence Room. Topic is TBD

Mon., **April 27**, 7:00 p.m. CC Florence Room. Topic is TBD.

SIG Chairs: Richard Wagoner & David Lingo



### BIRDING SIG

No **March** Meeting

Tues, **April 7**, 2:30 p.m., SCB, Joint Meeting with Nature Club, see above for detail.



### BIRD WALKS

Thurs. **March 5**, Wed, **March 18**, Thurs, **April 2**, & Wed, **April 15**. All walks 8:00 a.m., meet at LHPP parking lot near the lake. Any changes will be emailed.

SIG Chairs: Ed Rozenburg & Martin Byhower

### BUTTERFLY/MOTH SIG

Tues., **March 3**, 2:30 p.m., CC Georgetown/Florence, Topic TBA.



### BUTTERFLY WALKS

Wed., **April 29**, 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Tranquility trailhead.

SIG Chair: Ed Rozenburg

### ENVIRONMENTAL SIG

Fri., **March 27**, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., ACA, Topic “The Effects of Eight Billion People on our Planet, and What can be Done to Make a Difference”

Fri., **April 24**, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., ACA, Topic TBA

SIG Chair: Pamela Tanner



### GEOLOGY SIG

Tues., **March 24**, CC G'Town/Florence, 4:00 p.m. Paul Ohlenbusch presents, “The Caves of Sun City Revisited”



Tues., **April 28**, CC G'Town/Florence, 4:00 p.m. Jim Tobin will present “Stones that Rocked the World: Quartz.”

SIG Chair: Paul Swetland

### NATIVE PLANTS SIG

Mon., **March 23**, 9:00 a.m. Meet at the intersection of Sun City Blvd and Texas Drive (near the Dog Park) to explore the flora along the Mockingbird Trail

Mon., **April 20**, 9:00 a.m. Meet at LHPP to explore the flora along the Berry Creek Trail.



SIG Chair: Larry Fowler

*“But in the early 1970s, we were not birdwatching. We were birding, and that made all the difference. We were out to seek, to discover, to chase, to learn, to find as many different kinds of birds as possible — and, in friendly competition, to try to find more of them than the next birder. We became a community of birders, with the complications that human societies always have; and although it was the birds that had brought us together, our story became a human story after all.”*

— Kenn Kaufman, [Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder](#)

*“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”*

— Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

## Is your Netflix habit bad for the Environment?

*It's not as simple as it may seem*

In the old days, when you had to drive to a movie theater or go to a video store to get some entertainment, it was easy to see how your actions could have an impact on the environment. After all, you were hopping into your car, driving across town and coughing out emissions and using gas all the way.

But now that we're used to staying home and streaming movies and shows, we might get a cocky. After all, we're just picking up our phones or turning on the TV. You're welcome, Mother Nature.

But before you break an arm patting yourself on the back, read on. There's much more to know.

A report from the Shift Project, which bills itself as "the carbon transition think tank," says these activities use more energy than we think.

According to "Climate Crisis: The Unsustainable Use of Online Video," digital technologies are responsible for 4% of greenhouse gas emissions, and that energy use is increasing by 9% a year.

"Stored in data centers, videos are transferred to our terminals (computers, smartphones, connected TVs, etc.) via networks (cables, optical fiber, modems, mobile network antennae, etc.): all these processes require electricity whose production consumes resources and usually involves CO2 emissions," the report points out.

Watching a half-hour show would lead to 3.5 pounds (1.6 kilograms) of carbon dioxide emissions, Shift Project's Maxime Efovi-Hess tells AFP. That's like driving 3.9 miles (6.28 kilometers).

In the European Union, the Eureka project found that data centers there used 25% more energy in 2017 compared to just three years earlier, reports the BBC.

Streaming is only expected to increase as we become more enamored of our devices and the prospect of enjoying entertainment where and when we want it.

Online video use is expected to quadruple from 2017 to 2022 and account for 80% of all internet traffic by 2022, according to projections by CISCO made in 2018. By then, about 60% of the world's population will be online.

### But data centers are becoming more efficient

The answer for a question like this is never simple. While the researchers above are correct in their numbers about digital consumption, there's another angle they aren't taking into consideration, say researchers at Northwestern University.

Use of different equipment on the global level and efficiencies at data centers are increasing every year. Data centers currently represent about 1% of global energy use.

"Every few months it seems there's another claim about the carbon intensity of Google searching or video streaming and often they're outdated and ignore the rapidly changing technology that runs the internet," Eric Masanet, a professor of engineering at Northwestern University, [told](#)

[USA Today](#). Masanet is the lead author of the paper, which was [published in the journal Science](#).

Yes, global usage will increase, says Masanet, but so will efficiencies.

That said, it still helps to be thoughtful about your energy usage.

### What can you do?

You're probably not going to give up Netflix and other streaming services, but there are things you can do to help lessen the impact of your online use, experts say.

For example, practice good digital hygiene, Lutz Stobbe, who researches the environmental impact of information and telecommunications technology at the Fraunhofer Institute for Reliability and Microintegration in Berlin, tells Ecowatch.

"Do you really need to upload 25 images of the same thing to the cloud? Every photo, every video is constantly backed up, for safety reasons, and that consumes energy every time. If instead you delete a few things here and there, you can save energy."

Here are some other tips:

- Disable autoplay for video through your browser and on social media.
- Stream over Wi-Fi, not mobile networks.
- Watch on the smallest screen you can. Phones tend to be more energy-efficient than TVs or laptops.
- Turn off your Wi-Fi in your home if you're not using your devices.
- Don't use high-definition video on small devices. You won't be able to tell the difference.

**By: Mary Jo DiLonardo – Mother Nature Network, October 2019**

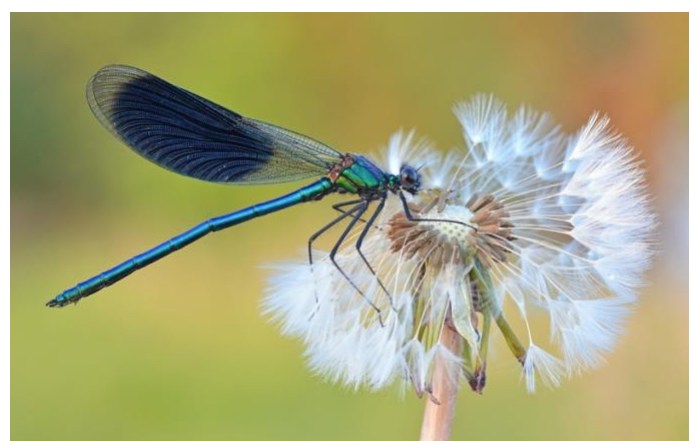


Photo from Article - [Imagination becomes reality in the winners of the 2019 Wiki Loves Earth photo contest](#)

Click link for the story and other wonderful nature photos

**By Ed Erhart – Wiki Foundation, December 2, 2019**