

Backyard Birding Tips – Outline, Jim Case 08/08/26

* Intro – Our TMH Chapter counties are home to over 400 species of birds!!

- Learning can start in backyards. But ID can be tough with different males, females, young of a given species
- TOOLS THAT CAN HELP
 - _ Bird Guides – Sibley is best for species/age/sex but I also use Birds of TX by Armstrong and Nat Geo Birds of N. America
 - _ Feeders (birds are attracted by other birds) change with seasons, keep them clean and fresh
 - _ Binoculars, I use fairly light 10 X 40
 - _ Digital phone apps: **eBird** (has free course on how to use the app), **Merlin** for song and other ID
 - _ Go on guided bird tours with pros and attend birding festivals
 - _ A checklist with dates of observation helps decide when to put out different types of feeders (example: orange halves and grape jelly when orioles are migrating north and south)
 - _ Camera – I use a Panasonic Lumix bridge camera with 20-1200 zoom (kind of a starter camera, photos great for later identification)
 - _ **Water features** with brush, foliage cover (shrubs, trees, vines, ground plants where birds can approach a water source and scope it out before descending). We are moving exclusively to Native Plants in the yard. Not all birds will go to your feeders but will go to water – especially moving (dripping, spraying, misting, gurgling) water. I clean birdbaths and fountain with a power washer and change water almost daily. Runoff can be captured in a watering pot or water a fern below the bath. Water features really help slow birds down enough to get a photo for ID. I keep binoculars and camera nearby.
- The link below is to access the printable backyard birding list for Aransas County from eBird:
- <https://ebird.org/printableList?regionCode=US-TX-007&continue>



SPLISH-SPLASH!!

TIPS FOR BEGINNER BACKYARD BIRDING

**Summer
Tanager**





BACK YARD EXAMPLE



WATER FEATURES

Great-tailed Grackle



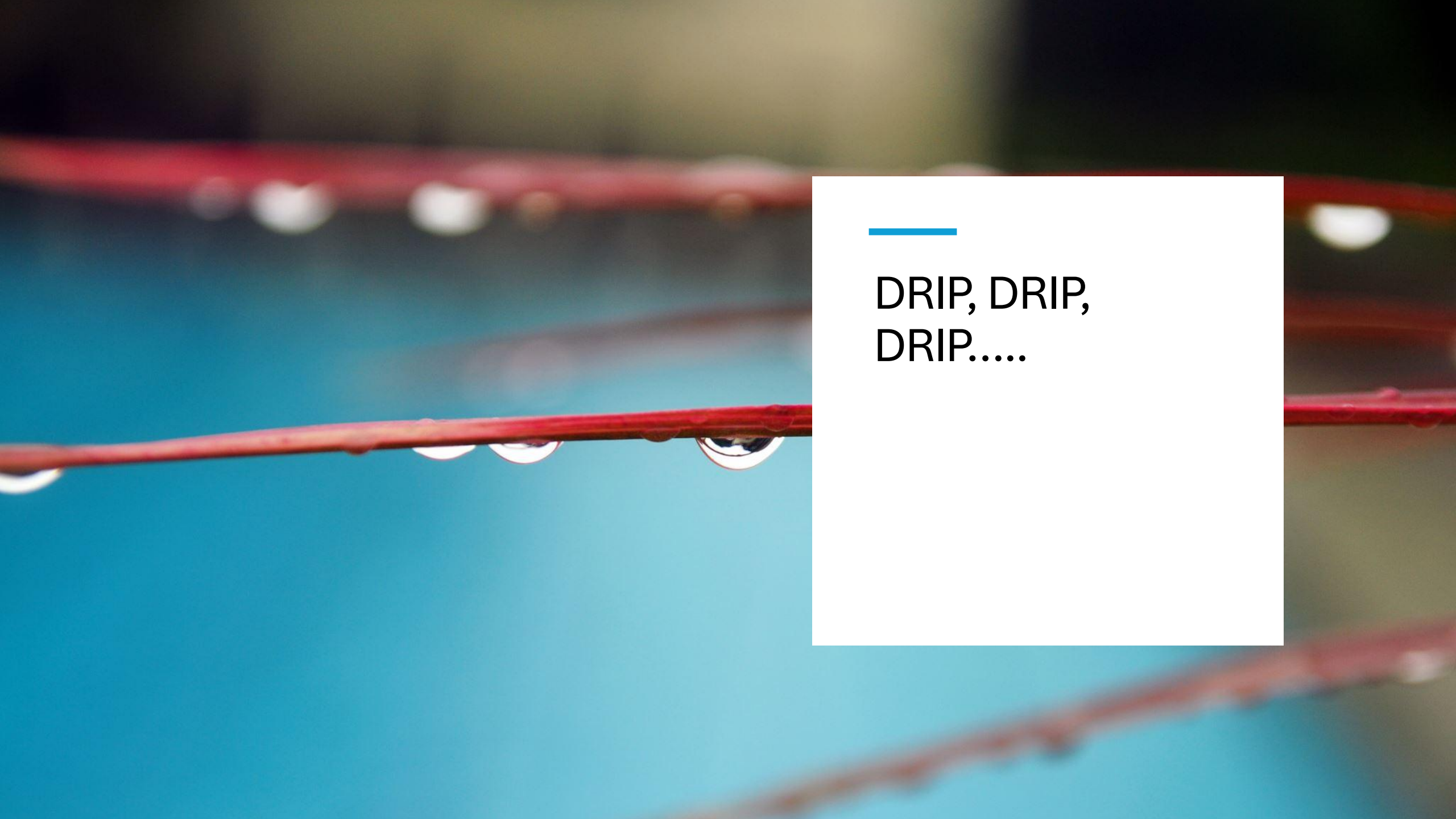
Yellow-billed Cuckoo



**Rose-breasted
Grosbeak**

Baltimore Oriole





DRIP, DRIP,
DRIP.....





KEEP THEM FRESH AND
CLEAN

!!!!!!!





Indigo Bunting

**Golden-fronted
Woodpecker**

Scarlet Tanagers



FLASHY SINGLES

I NEED A DRINK!!!



**Black-throated
Green Warbler**



Eastern Phoebe



Golden-fronted Woodpecker

Blackburnian Warbler





Summer Tanager



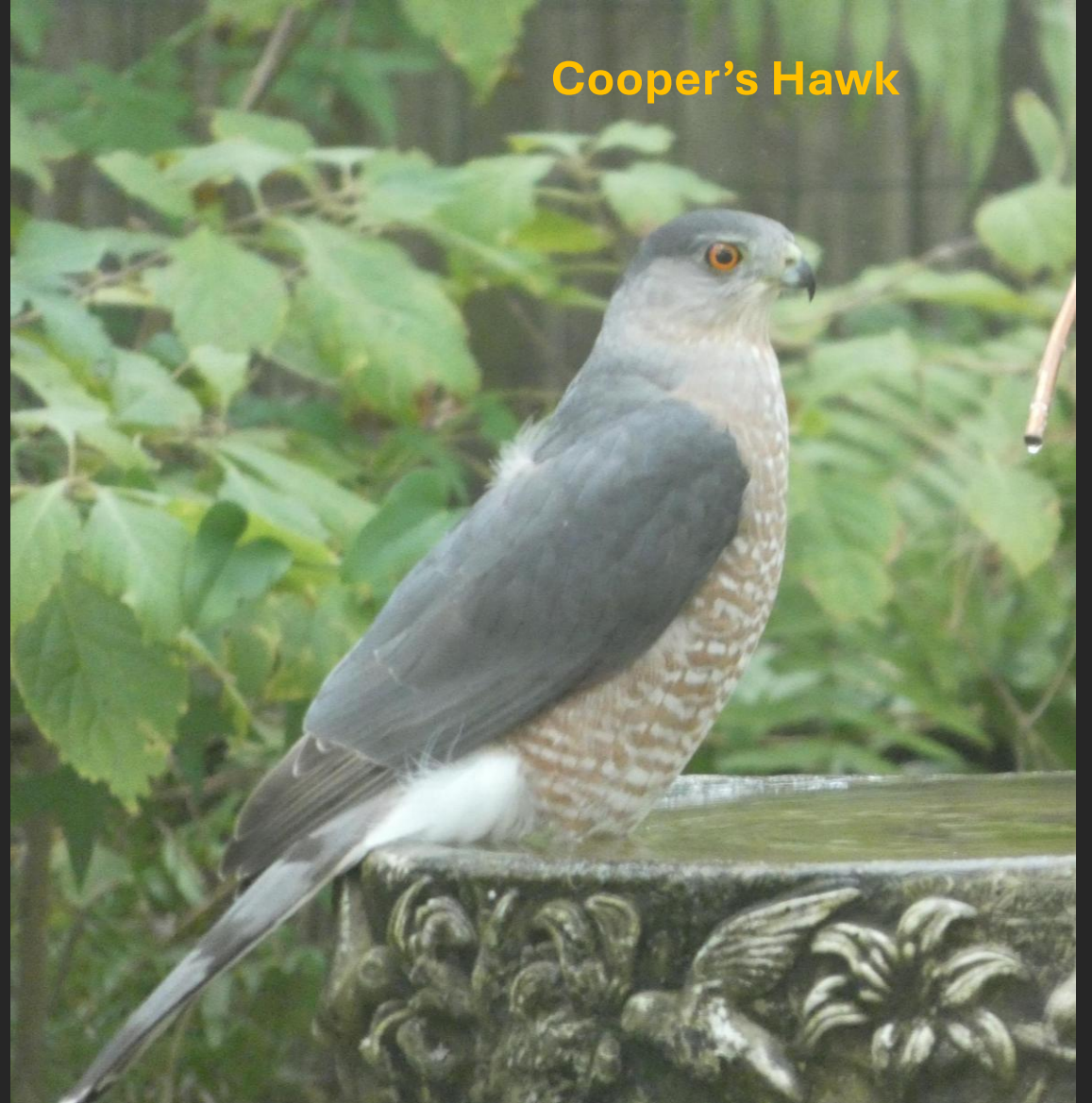
Magnolia Warbler



Blue Grosbeak



Cooper's Hawk





Gray Catbird



Canada Warbler

Lesser Goldfinch



Scarlet Tanager





Wood Thrush

Blue Grosbeak





Indigo Bunting



Blue Jay



Bay-breasted Warbler

A photograph of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak perched on a decorative stone ledge. The bird has a black head and back, a white belly, and a prominent red patch on its chest. It is looking up at a curved brown branch with a single drop of water hanging from its tip. The background is filled with green foliage and purple flowers.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Summer Tanager



Worm-eating Warbler



Painted Bunting



Baltimore Oriole



WHEN IN DROUGHT....

SHOWER WITH A FRIEND!!!















Northern
Parula

Black-throated
Blue Warbler



Nashville Warbler



Worm-eating Warbler/Orange-crowned Warbler

















○ ☽ 27 °C 80 °F 04/25/20



Tennessee Warbler

Black-throated
Green Warbler

○ ☽ 26 °C 78 °F 04/24/2026





CREATURES

AT NIGHT!!

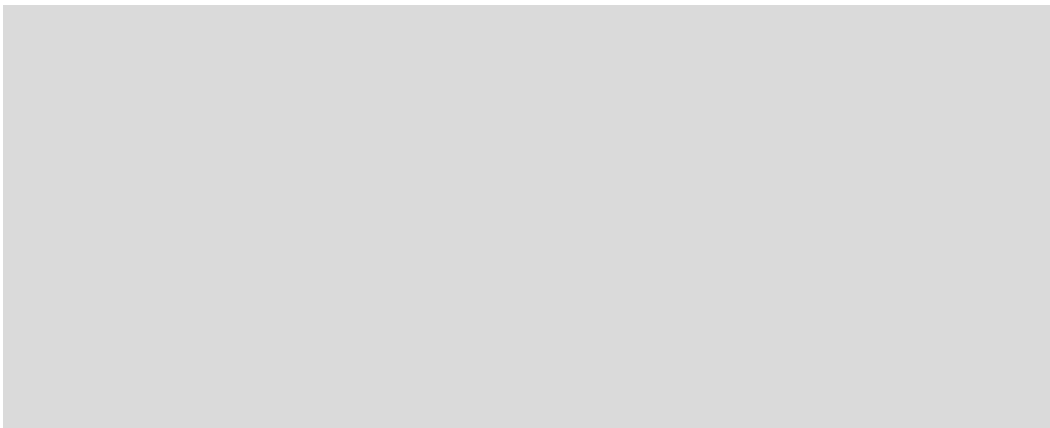




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○ ⓘ 23 °C 73 °F 09/26/2



GardePro



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26 °C / 78 °F

08/27/2025 02:11:54 AM





GOOSE ISLAND

STATE PARK DRIP









DOES BIRDING MAKE YOU SMARTER????

Yes, bird watching actively reshapes your brain through neuroplasticity. Research shows that the cognitive demands of identifying and tracking birds increase the density and structural complexity of brain regions linked to attention, visual processing, and working memory, which may also help protect against age-related cognitive decline.  Smithsonian Magazine +3



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING TODAY???

SERIOUS BIRDING, OF
COURSE...