

**Hill Country Night Sky Month Proclamation**  
**Bexar Audubon Society**



Whereas, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the members of Bexar Audubon Society, and are therefore worthy of celebration; and

Whereas, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among our Members and

Whereas, the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts birding enthusiasts to our region and therefore benefit to all birding enthusiasts; and

Whereas, preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies across Bexar Audubon Society lands is important to the high quality of life and community of its Members; and

Whereas, outdoor lighting directed upward into the sky constitutes “light pollution” of the nighttime environment, thus interfering with the annual migration of hundreds of avian species; and

Whereas, light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$2 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and

Whereas, the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe; and

Whereas, the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light trespass from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise, and as a result, light pollution continues to grow; and

Whereas, solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and

Whereas, Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region’s night skies, as evidenced by the frequent educational activities conducted in our region and by the increasing number of places in our region recognized as International Dark-Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association, and

Whereas, this regional effort is worthy of a month-long celebration;

**Therefore, I, Patsy Inglet, President of Bexar Audubon Society, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 as, NIGHT SKY MONTH throughout the Bexar Audubon Society, and urge all Members to celebrate such observation.**