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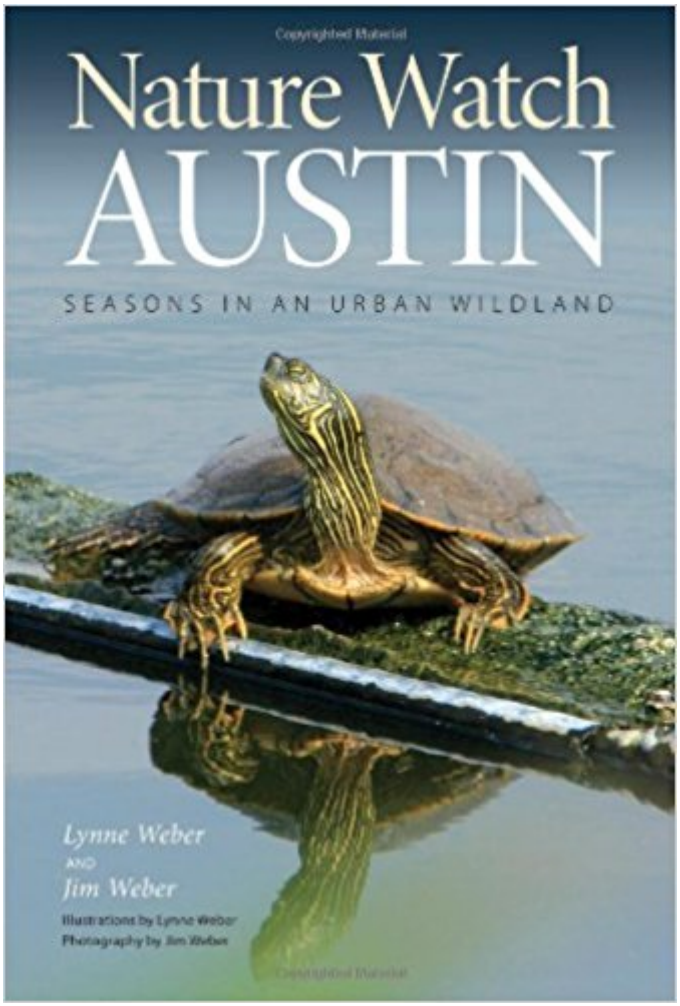
Nature Watch Austin: Guide To The Seasons In An Urban Wildland (Txam Nature Guides)



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Synopsis

Ducks in January . . . bats in March . . . rain lilies in April . . . meteors in August . . . the predictable appearance of fauna and flora allows humans to experience the natural cycles in the environment, no matter how urban the setting. In Nature Watch Austin, avid amateur naturalists Lynne and Jim Weber provide an introduction and guide to some of the natural events that define the seasons in the city of Austin and its surrounding areas. Month-by-month, each chapter profiles the plants, animals, insects, and other natural phenomena that are particularly noteworthy at that time of year. The authors also provide suggestions on how and where to see themÃ¢â ¬â •from driving to a nearby water treatment plant to lounging by the backyard bird feeder. Opening with a chart on weather, temperature, and daylight hours, each monthÃ¢â ¬â„¢s chapter featuresÃ Â photographs and original illustrations by the authors. A list of references includes area field guides and more in-depth sources of information by subject. No matter how clogged with traffic and entombed in concrete, even large cities harbor wildlife and support a community of plants, either in tucked-away places both familiar and unexpected, or in parks and preserves dedicated to city dwellers in search of open space. Learning the annual rhythms of Ã¢â ¬Å“urban wildlandÃ¢â ¬Â• encourages everyone to be in tune with nature and welcome the opportunities to enjoy it, year after year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Bite-sized entries make it easy to nibble here and there, but I was drawn to consume the full course meal of Central Texas's natural wonders prepared by the expert chefs Jim and Lynn Weber!. . . I

eagerly urge budding naturalists and newcomers who want a solid education of our region’s ecological heritage to check out this book! Even experienced nature lovers will unearth new revelations in these pages. . . The Webers not only educate and inspire, they empower their readers through suggestions on activities and ways to get involved in organizations, programs and projects that support the cause."--Andrea DeLong-Amaya, Director of Horticulture, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (Andrea DeLong-Amaya, Director of Horticulture Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center 2011-06-07)

Lynne Weber and Jim Weber work atÃ Â IBM in Austin, where she is a senior manager and he is a senior engineer. Both are certified Texas Master Naturalists, and Lynne is past president of the Capital Area chapter. The Webers are dedicated naturalists who conduct bird surveys, monitor and map invasive species, write nature columns for neighborhood newsletters, and lead nature hikes among their many outdoor activities..Ã Â

I have been wanting a book like this for years. It gives general information about the Austin area, a month-by-month account of the natural world in this area, and a list of resources for further exploration. My hobby is photography, and I have needed this to help me discover what to look for--and what I am looking at. As always, Texas A&M press has done a superb job producing this book--it will last for years, even years riding around on the back seat of a car or being crammed into a camera bag. I don’t know of any other similar resource.

Love this book! I am the mom of children ranging in age from toddler to teen and we all--adults and children--enjoy this book. The detail is excellent, the narrative informative while interesting to all. I really appreciate that the authors recommend specific locations to observe the monthly nature phenomena and wonderful photographs that really help you to know what you are looking for once you are out in the field, so to speak. I have long imagined such a guidebook to our local eco-system and am so grateful to the authors for pouring their hearts into this handy, rich volume!

It is so nice that to find a book that is so specific to Austin. Everything in it is around here and most is easily found. I love that it gives advice on what trails/parks are the best to find different things. And the layout is by Month - four sections per month - so we are reading a section each week - going along with the year. Perfect for our nature study aspect of homeschool. It has been spot on so far. And it has helped me FINALLY solve the mystery about what type of frog has been peeping in

my backyard -- a Cliff Chirping Frog. I am thrilled! Thanks to the authors for writing this book. I hope they will consider a sequel for next year! :-)

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