



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 11 ISSUE 5

twinlakesaudubon.org

January 2017

Greetings everyone!

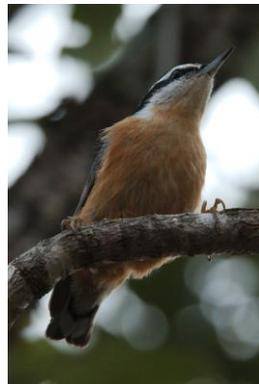
Here's a winter challenge. How many different species of sparrows can you identify in the next month? Most are migratory, and come into our locale during the winter, and then stay a while. But, not all. Some of the prettiest are all year. With my own lists, and careful reference to the range maps in Sibley, it was fairly easy to get 14 different sparrows which are here in our area consistently in the winter months. Throw in the Lark Bunting, and the Juncos, and you're up to 16. If you want to stretch, and count some that migrate through the Centex area, or also count some that are primarily and consistently West Texas and Trans-Pecos birds but are periodically seen in Bell, and you're up close to 20.

For me, this has always been a difficult chapter. Perhaps because these birds are frequently in the grasses or brush, and not easy to get a clear, prolonged view allowing someone with my intermediate skills to consistently get the correct answer. But it is a recurrent subject that continually comes up when we go into the field attempting to identify all that fly.

So, we just have to try harder. Reviewing the basics in the books relative to head markings, chest streaking or not, beaks, and tails is a good start. Try harder this month, and maybe we could have a sparrow around-the-room session in Feb with all of us trying to relate a successful identification.

Sandy Lowry, Pres

Results and Pics from 17 Dec CBC



TXBU CBC, Bell, Texas, US

Dec 17, 2016 7:00 AM - 6:45 PM

Protocol: Traveling

50.0 mile(s)

115 species (+4 other taxa)

Wood Duck 17
Gadwall 226
American Wigeon 14
Mallard 33
Blue-winged Teal 3
Northern Shoveler 58
Northern Pintail 11
Green-winged Teal 59
Canvasback 219
Redhead 1
Ring-necked Duck 20
Lesser Scaup 81
Bufflehead 39
Hooded Merganser 9
Ruddy Duck 2
Common Loon 7
Pied-billed Grebe 13
Horned Grebe 2
Eared Grebe 1
Double-crested Cormorant 324
Great Blue Heron 20
Great Egret 14
Black Vulture 137
Turkey Vulture 430
Osprey 9 Did 4.5 miles of CBC by boat, thus the higher count. Additionally, more water in Lampasas River below Stillhouse Dam likely contributed.
Northern Harrier 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 3
Cooper's Hawk 3
Bald Eagle 3
Red-shouldered Hawk 4
Red-tailed Hawk 17
American Coot 2050
Killdeer 40
Least Sandpiper 50
Wilson's Snipe 2
Spotted Sandpiper 1
Greater Yellowlegs 32
Ring-billed Gull 163
Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) 4
Eurasian Collared-Dove 54
Inca Dove 8

White-winged Dove 741
 Mourning Dove 2225
 Eastern Screech-Owl 4
 Great Horned Owl 5
 Burrowing Owl 1
 Barred Owl 11
 Belted Kingfisher 14
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 40
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5
 Ladder-backed Woodpecker 9
 Downy Woodpecker 17
 Northern Flicker 5
 Pileated Woodpecker 1
 Crested Caracara 36
 American Kestrel 76
 Merlin 1
 Peregrine Falcon 1
 Eastern Phoebe 53
 Say's Phoebe 1
 Loggerhead Shrike 43
 Blue-headed Vireo 2
 Blue Jay 11
 Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay 2
 American Crow 64
 Tree Swallow 8
 Carolina Chickadee 116
 Black-crested Titmouse 11
 Tufted x Black-crested Titmouse (hybrid) 26 Tufted/Black-crested Titmouse 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 2 Brown Creeper 2 Canyon Wren 3 House Wren 5 Carolina Wren 61 Bewick's Wren 20 Blue-gray
 Gnatcatcher 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet 14 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 103 Eastern Bluebird 153 Hermit
 Thrush 5 American Robin 55 Brown Thrasher 1 Northern Mockingbird 52 European Starling 667
 American Pipit 165 Cedar Waxwing 45 Orange-crowned Warbler 18 Common Yellowthroat 1 Pine
 Warbler 4 Yellow-rumped Warbler 111 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 103 Grasshopper Sparrow
 3 Le Conte's Sparrow 1 Chipping Sparrow 25 Field Sparrow 15 Lark Bunting 1 Fox Sparrow 1
 Dark-eyed Junco 14 White-crowned Sparrow 46 Harris's Sparrow 84 White-throated Sparrow 30
 Vesper Sparrow 33 Savannah Sparrow 69 Song Sparrow 40 Lincoln's Sparrow 13 Swamp Sparrow
 1 Spotted Towhee 5 Northern Cardinal 153 Red-winged Blackbird 190 Eastern Meadowlark 8
 Western/Eastern Meadowlark 592 Rusty Blackbird 2 Brewer's Blackbird 1683 Great-tailed Grackle
 28 Brown-headed Cowbird 60 House Finch 24 American Goldfinch 30 House Sparrow 16



UPCOMING EVENTS



PRESENTATIONS

10 Jan – Bill Reiner, biologist for the City of Austin will give presentation on Golden-cheeked Warbler status and research in the Austin area.

14 Feb – Dr. Cathleen Early, UMHB professor, will talk on teaching ornithology and leading field trips for UMHB students – informative, hilarious, and a don't miss!

March – No Meeting

11 Apr - TBA

09 May - Picture Show and Tell, Everyone bring pictures to share!



FIELD TRIPS

14 Jan: Las Tres Hermanes, on FM 2268, between Salado and Armstrong Road. Great place and great birds!

18 Feb: Inks Lake Fish Hatchery and State Park (time permitting)

18/25 Mar: **Sam Houston National Forest** - Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other East Texas specialties

15 Apr: **Messer Ranch!** This is always a TLAS favorite and should not be missed.

13 May: **Warbler Woods.** !! <http://warblerwoods.org/> Driving there is up to each individual (directions below). While there is NO specific time to be at Warbler Woods, we are shooting for 08. For gate code, be at the 9 May TLAS meeting, or contact [Gil Eckrich](#). **WEAR YOUR TLAS T-SHIRT!!!**

From Killeen/Belton

Take IH 35 towards San Antonio

Exit # 178(FM 1103)

Turn left on FM 1103

Turn right on Old Wiederstein Rd

Go past school and look for large green mailbox on left

19349 Old Wiederstein Rd, Cibolo

[Google Maps Link](#)

AUGUST: West Texas! Places include Big Bend, Davis Mountains, or even the Guadalupe Mtns. **Still looking for more TLAS member input on this one!**

Snack and Drink Sign-up

<u>DATE</u>	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS
10 Jan	Carol Farek	Liz Cowan	Available	Available
14 Feb	Carol Farek	Available	Elaine Horton	Available
March	NO MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK			
11 Apr	Available	Available	Marilyn Miller	Available
10 May	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			



Twin Lakes Audubon Society

P.O. Box 883

Belton, TX 76513

Return Service Requested

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

All members will receive THE CHIRP electronically instead of in printed form. If a member does not have access to a computer, please contact Cathy Cantu @254-541-3689 and we will gladly send you a printed copy.

As each issue goes to press, you will receive an email with a PDF of the new issue attached. The PDF is also available at our website: www.twinlakesaudubon.org

Meetings

7:00 p.m., second Tuesday of the month in Room 117, York Science Center, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton (No meetings March, June, July or August).

