

TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>

April 2007



President's Letter

Greetings friends,

We get back to our normal meeting and field trip schedule this month. On 10 April, T. Wayne Schwertner (Texas Parks and Wildlife) will talk to us about White-winged Doves. On 14 April, Gil and I will lead a field trip onto Fort Hood. The Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler are arguably the two most sought after birds in our area. Fort Hood maintains the largest breeding populations of both species under single management authority. Although both species can be found off Fort Hood with some effort, because of the high densities of both species on Fort Hood, the installation provides a relatively easy and almost assured opportunity for viewing these special birds. I hope to see you at both the meeting and the field trip!

Also, please do not forget that our annual Bell County spring bird count is scheduled for 28 April. It is scheduled near the peak of the spring bird migration and should be a good time to see a variety of migrants. Some TLAS members will be meeting up to bird together, I am sure. However, you do not need to be part of a group to participate. You can contribute to this effort by reporting the birds that you see at your favorite local birding spot, be it your yard, a local park, or wherever. If interested in participating, please talk to Jack Williams for more information.

Since the spring migration is almost upon us, I would like to make my usual admonishment for you to get outside as much as possible to enjoy it. Also, please, please, please share what you see, ideally in a timely fashion. A call or e-mail to Gil or me will suffice. Not only might people want to chase some of the birds that you find, but your reports also contribute to the ornithological record for the area. While I am certainly willing to forward on your sightings to the pertinent record keepers, I would also encourage you to submit your own sightings to the Texas Ornithological Society (Bert Frenz is our regional compiler: bert2@bafrenz.com) and North American Birds (check their website for info on how to contact regional editors/compilers -

<http://americanbirding.org/pubs/nab/regeditors.html#Texas>). Again, it may seem like a small thing, but the sighting info that you submit does help the experts to evaluate the dynamics of our avifauna. Info on both common and rare birds, first arrivals, evidence of breeding, unusual behavior, unusually high or low numbers, etc. is welcomed.

If you want to keep up on regional and state-wide bird sightings, I would suggest joining TexBirds (<http://listserv.uh.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=texbirds&A=1>). Several TLAS members are active on that listserv and bird sightings from nearby areas, such as Austin and Waco are often posted. A smaller listserv that might be of some interest is the one operated by Central Texas Audubon Society (based out of Waco)

(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CentralTexasAudubonSociety/>). Although large listservs, such as TexBirds may seem a bit overwhelming, they do provide a lot of good info and provide you with the opportunity to interact with other birding enthusiasts. Cheers,

Rich Kostecke

PRESENTATIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise noted, the contact for programs is Scott Summers and the contact for field trips is Rich Kostecke Phone: (254) 547-2047; Cell: (314) 346-0658; E-mail: rkostecke@tnc.org or rkost73@yahoo.com.

9 April 2007: "Range Expansion of a Native Invasive Species: Ecology, Conservation, and Implications of the White-winged Doves in Texas." Our speaker, T. Wayne Schwertner, Ph.D. is currently the White-winged Dove Program Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This should be exciting!

8 May 2007: Membership slide show and annual business meeting.

Field Trips

14 April 2007: Fort Hood. Excellent opportunity to see golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo, among other interesting birds. Instructions for trip meeting site From Belton, take Hwy. 190 west for 1 mile. Exit (turn right) onto Loop 121. Go north on Loop 121 for 2.4 miles. Turn left (west) at the FIRST traffic light (NOT flashing light), right before Belton HS, onto Sparta Rd. Go west on Sparta for 11.6 miles. Look for sign on left, "Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB)." Turn left at this sign into an unpaved parking area. **Please be there at 08:00.**

28 April: Spring bird count

12 May 2007: TBD

30 June 2007: Fort Hood 4th of July Butterfly Count

7 July 2007: Stillhouse Hollow 4th of July Butterfly Count

Snack and Drink Sign-up

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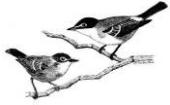
Snacks
09 Apr Marilyn Miller
08 May

Drinks & Ice
Golda Roberts
Terie & Steve Snyder

Other Issues:

At the February meeting of the Board, it was decided to look into the acquisition of a laptop computer for the chapter. We hope to use this computer for electronic data keeping for the chapter, website maintenance, and whatever else you can think of, in addition to audio-visual presentations. Please contact Rich Kostecke or Gil Eckrich with comments/suggestions as to this acquisition. Gil will present purchase options to the membership at the April meeting.

<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>



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

