



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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April 2015



President's Notes

I heard geese overhead this morning. The cloud cover kept from seeing them. I have not seen the goldfinches, ruby-crowned kinglet and dark-eyed junco at the feeder recently. Migration has begun. I continue to watch for whooping cranes during migration which begins about now. Bell County is positioned on the western edge of their migration route. I saw where one whooper was seen this year with a group of sandhill cranes in east Williamson County. Because of adequate rainfall, most whoopers wintered in their tradition area near Aransas Wildlife Refuge.

When did you last have a good robin pot pie? The Backroads article in today's (March 30) Temple Daily Telegram told about the early west Bell County settlers (1870s) harvesting robins in the fall when they "swarmed down on the cedar breaks innumerable numbers". The birds were attracted to the Ashe juniper (cedar) berries. The robins roosted nearby and the settlers would take the birds at night while they roosted. They would fry hem or make robin pies. I'm glad that practice has stopped.

My friend that regularly checks on the nesting pair of eagles south of Killeen reported that last Wednesday (3/25) the first eaglet was spotted looking over the edge of the nest. I have been regularly watching various eagle nest cams over the internet. The two eaglets at www.dukefarms.org/eaglecam hatched late last week. The eaglets at www.berrycollege.edu/eaglecam <<http://www.berrycollege.edu/eaglecam>> hatched in mid-February and are growing. This morning I observed one of the eaglets stretching and beating his wings as it hopped about the nest.

I look forward to seeing you at the TLAS meeting on April 14. We will meet at UMHB York Science Center, Room 117, at 7:00 pm.

Bert Pope

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, the contact for programs and field trips is Gil Eckrich; Cell: 254-534-0061,
Email is: gil.eckrich@att.net



PRESENTATIONS



07 Apr – Warblers of Central Texas by the Seasons. Gil’s presentation will cover which warblers spend the winter in Central Texas; which ones migrate through our area; and, finally, which ones nest here.

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



FIELD TRIPS



25 Apr – Messer Ranch, always a popular and productive field trip! Meet at 08:00 at the Belton Park and Ride. The photos at top of this newsletter are from the 2010 TLAS Field Trip to the Messer Ranch, and these are from the April 2013.

16 May – Sandy and Sue Lawry have again invited us to their ranch at Osage. This promises to be a most enjoyable field trip with many locally breeding species.

Snack and Drink Sign-up

DATE	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS
14 Apr	Gaylene	Bert	Marilyn	Mary Ann Everett
12 May	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			

Birds seen and Heard

Randy Pinkston did it again! On 1 April (NOT an April Fools joke) he found two White-tailed Kites at Slough Pond. Both birds were seen again by two other TLAS members on 2 April, and it would be great if these raptors, which are very rare in Bell County, would nest in the area. meters away, and walk up slowly, stopping periodically to get better looks.

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).

