Greetings everyone from your President!

First of all let me briefly give you a recap from last month. At our meeting we had a very informative presentation given by Gil Eckrich on “Identifying Little Brown Birds’ - Which Sparrow?” The presentation included beautiful pictures of the various types of Sparrows and the key identifying features. The types of Sparrows included: Black-throated, White-Crown, White-Throated, Lark Sparrow, Harris’s Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Spotted and Eastern Towhee, Vesper Sparrow and Savannah, just to name a few. For our November field trip we went to Hornsby Bend where we saw many birds to include: Red Tail Hawk, Crested Caracara, Blue and Green Winged Teals, Least Sandpiper, Ruddy Duck, Gadwalls, Northern Shovelers, White Faced Ibis, Eastern Phoebes, and American Pipits. Be sure to check out some really nice photos of the field trip on our website, http://twinlakesaudubon.org/Field%20Trips/Hornsby%2017Nov12/index.html.

This month for our guest speaker, we look forward to hearing from Lianne Koczur who will be giving a presentation on “American Oystercatcher Research on Texas Coast” We will be participating in the yearly Christmas Bird Count this month on Saturday, December 15th. Afterwards, we will all meet for a countdown at Luby’s in Temple to go over the initial results of the day. If you are planning on participating, it is very important that you come to our monthly meeting where Tom Robbins, our compiler, will be assigning leaders and groups and provide more information about the bird count. Remember; do not let inexperience deter your participation – eyes count!

The pictures above were recently taken at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center where a couple of members went in search of the reported three species of scoters. Although the scoters proved reclusive, many other birds by both species and numbers were observed. As can be seen by these photos, a field trip to this great birding site should be on our calendar for next winter!
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

11 December - Lianne Koczur – “American Oystercatcher Research on Texas Coast”

8 January - Jim Hailey “Birding in Alaska”

12 February - TBD

16 March - Officer / Board Member Meeting “Time and Place TBD”

9 April - TBD

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

FIELD TRIPS

15 December - Christmas Bird Count

12 January - West Range Rd. Ft. Hood (joint trip with CTAS)

23 February - Llano Eagles Nest and Inks Lake Fish Hatchery

March - Possibly a trip to Sam Houston National Forest to see the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

13 April - Messer Ranch off HWY 190

4 May - Warbler Woods

August - Summer trip to Davis Mountains
On 28 Nov Gil Eckrich birded the south shore of Belton Lake on Fort Hood and found a few interesting birds; especially the first November record of an American Avocet and a Crested Caracara off North Nolan Road. The complete list follows:

Hooded Merganser 2, Common Loon 1, Horned Grebe 2, Double-crested Cormorant 30
Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 2, Black Vulture 4, Turkey Vulture 17, Osprey 1
Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 2, American Coot 29, Killdeer 4, American Avocet 1, Greater Yellowlegs 1,
Bonaparte's Gull 20, Ring-billed Gull 7, Forster's Tern 15, Mourning Dove 5, Greater Roadrunner 1, Belted Kingfisher 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Crested Caracara 1, American Kestrel 4, Merlin 1, Eastern Phoebe 2, Loggerhead Shrike 1, American Crow 4, Carolina Chickadee 1, Black-crested Titmouse 2, House Wren 1,
Bewick's Wren 1, Carolina Wren 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 3, American Robin 1, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 3, Spotted Towhee 1, Chipping Sparrow 1, Field Sparrow 1, Savannah Sparrow 4, Lincoln's Sparrow 1, White-crowned Sparrow 4

On 25 Nov Tim Fennell birded the area between Mankin's Crossing and Granger Lake from 7:30 - 11:30 am today. No sign of yesterday's Rusty Blackbirds at Mankin's Crossing. The family of Whooping Cranes was visible across the lake from the Friendship Park swimming beach (easier to see than yesterday, none of the birds appeared to be banded) but I didn't see the other two adults. Several other birders were at Friendship Park looking at the Whoopers. Eight Mountain Plovers were foraging in the field north of the intersection of Aubrey-Messer Road and Alligator Lane (not Alligator Road) in extreme southern Bell Co. Other interesting birds included an adult Bald Eagle at Friendship Park, a Solitary Sandpiper at Mankin's Crossing, a Burrowing Owl on the concrete pile on CR 356 and two Pine Siskins at Mankin's Crossing.

On 16 Nov Kathy Cantu observed and photographed 8 Hooded Merganser, 3 Ring-billed Gulls in juvenile plumage and a few Double-crested Cormorants at Slough Pond.
## Snack and Drink Sign-up

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>SNACK</th>
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<th>DRINKS &amp; ICE</th>
<th>PAPER GOODS (CUPS, NAPKINS, PLATES)</th>
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<td>11-Dec</td>
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<td><strong>EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING</strong></td>
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<td>8-Jan</td>
<td>Bert Pope/Cathy Shoop</td>
<td>Lowry's</td>
<td>Margaret Donohoe</td>
<td>Crystal Hammond</td>
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<td>12-Feb</td>
<td>Liz Cowan</td>
<td>Ronnie Collins</td>
<td>Marilyn Miller</td>
<td>Elaine Horton</td>
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<td>12-Mar</td>
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<td><strong>NO MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>Mary Voss</td>
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<td>Marilyn Miller</td>
<td>Tom Robbins</td>
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<td>14-May</td>
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### TLAS T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

**Cost:** $10  
**Color:** Sand  
**Sizes:** Medium to X-Large  

Proceeds go to the TLAS fund

You can pick up your TLAS T-Shirt at our next meeting; they will be on sale until ALL are sold.
Minutes of the Twin Lakes Audubon Society (TLAS) Meeting

TLAS November Monthly Meeting
UMHB Campus
York Science building

22 members present

Crystal Hammond (President) opened the meeting at 7pm and invited everyone to share the refreshments and visit.

We welcomed one new visitor.

**Bird sightings** were shared. 200 – 300 Sand hill cranes were observed. A northern harrier was observed.

Margaret thanked the four hosts for the refreshments.

Crystal informed the group of the **National Audubon Convention** being held this coming summer, July 12 – 15, in Stevenson, Washington called “Taking Flight Together”. With more details next month, we will consider sending a representative.

Cathy explained that we had a **lending library**. She recommended that we purchase a few more books: “The Big Year”, “Wesley the Owl”, and “Red-tails in Love” from Amazon used books. The group was in favor of adding these books to our library. Another title will be looked for “I came, I saw, I counted”, by one of the birders from the Big Year.

**Saturday Field trip**, planned for Nov 17 to Hornsby Bend. Meet at Belton Park and Ride at 8am, or at the site at 9am. A sign-up roster was circulated.

**Presentation was given by Gil** on the subject of identifying little brown birds that we may encounter at the Christmas Bird Count. Gil arranged the birds from most obvious to the more difficult to ID.

Three give away items were raffled: an aster plant, back yard bird calendar and bird cards.

Ilse provided fresh dill to everyone interested.

Next month all bring refreshments for December meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with visiting 8:15pm
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 Carol Ann Wadley @ 254-771-5346 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).