

TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Twin-Lakes-Audubon-Society>
<http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>

December, 2011



Greetings everyone!



First of all, let me briefly give you a recap from last month. At our meeting we had a very informative presentation given by Becky Peak on a warbler mist-netting project in Chiapas province of Mexico. She explained to the group about the work that they are doing in Central America regarding the wintering grounds of the Golden Cheeked Warbler. Becky helped the group to understand how the nets they use are configured and how they go about trying to catch these true Texas birds in mid and upper story canopy. For our field trip we went to Hornsby Bend in Austin where we were led by Eric Runfeldt on a tour of the ponds; the group saw great numbers and diversity of water-related birds, including the Bufflehead, Eared Grebe, Northern Shoveler, Greater Yellowlegs, and the Northern Pintail.

Last month I proposed the idea of using our proposed T-shirts as a fundraiser for TLAS and we voted unanimously to purchase 40 of them and sell to the individuals for \$10. I am happy to report that the T-shirts have been ordered and will be available at our December meeting for those that have already ordered as well as for anyone who is interested in buying one. The T-shirts will be available at future meetings, or on request, until all are sold.

Just a reminder!!! The annual Christmas Bird Count is coming up; this year it is Saturday, the 17th of December. It is important that anyone wishing to participate in the CBC come to the meeting in December where we will discuss in detail the guidelines and areas as well as a presentation by Gil Eckrich on some confusing birds that are easy to misidentify.

We are still in dire need for someone to fill the vacancy of chapter vice president for the next two years. We need someone to step up and take the opportunity to serve the chapter; the President can't do it alone. Remember, this chapter is made up of many members, not just a few who assume leadership roles. **We need to hear from YOU, the chapter membership, with ideas and hopefully suitable candidate(s) for the position of chapter vice president.** If you would like to volunteer, you can email me at chammond_74@yahoo.com, or you can let me know at our next meeting. I need to hear from someone soon regarding this vacancy.

Crystal R. Hammond

PRESENTATIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

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

Presentations

13 December: Preparation for Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

10 January 2012: Open

14 February 2012: Susan and Schaezler will make a presentation on “Warbler Woods”. Take a look at their website <http://warblerwoods.org/>. Our April Field Trip will be to that great birding spot.

March: **NO MEETING**

10 April: TBA

8 May: Show and Tell – Bring your photos on flash drive, CD, or DVD to share with members.

Field Trips

17 December: **Christmas Bird Count**

14 January 2012: TBA, perhaps field trip to Fort Hood’s West Range for sparrows, pipits, horned larks, and owls

18 February 2012: Llano Eagle Nest and Inks Lake Fish Hatchery

March: TBA, perhaps a trip to Pineywoods to see Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other local specialties.

April: Field trip to Warbler Woods, Schertz, Texas

May 2012: TBA

Snack and Drink Sign-up

| | <u>Snacks</u> | <u>Drinks & Ice</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 December | EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING | |
| 10 January | Andrea Hankins, I. Meier | Sandy Lowery |
| 14 February | Cathy Shoop | Elaine Horton |
| March | NO MEETING | |
| 10 April | Margaret Donohoe | Marilyn Miller |
| 8 May | EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING | |

BIRDS SEEN/BIRDS HEARD

For up-to-date reports of bird sightings, go to the TLAS website!

<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>

In the afternoon of 4 December, Fort Hood Game Warden Richard Hoover spotted two large swans on a pond at West Fort Hood. In response, Gil Eckrich, Crystal Hammond, and Sabrina Nicholson were very fortunate to see and photograph two juvenile Tundra Swans. The conditions were miserable, the trails slick and muddy; but, these two birds made it all worthwhile. Thanks Game Warden Hoover!



To get an idea of the size of these birds, compare them to the American Wigeon in the photo.

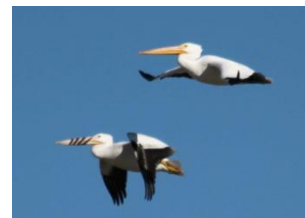
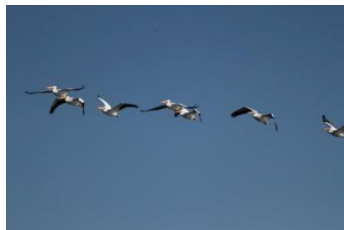
Randy Pinkston reports that he had received a picture of a winter hummer coming to a Stillhouse Hollow backyard feeder. Image quality was not so great but it looked like a female. It had been present for about a week.

Early on 3 Dec, in drizzling rain Randy arrived to check out this bird. A hummer soon appeared and perched on the feeder, but careful scrutiny revealed a young male Rufous. After about 20 minutes the Calliope appeared and allowed the attached photos, also poor quality as I was shooting with flash through a window. Nevertheless, the ID is certain and this was a county first for me. The Rufous returned again to confirm the presence of two good hummers.



He also reports other good birds this weekend include a first-cycle Herring Gull and FOF Bonaparte's Gulls at Temple Lake Park (Lake Belton), Merlin at Dana Peak Park on Stillhouse Hollow, several siskins in a goldfinch flock along Crows Ranch road, and two Dunlins on what remains of the lake along Farmers road in e. Bell.

Crystal Hammond reports that in the afternoon of 1 Dec, she saw 30 American White Pelicans circling around Dana Peak.





Twin Lakes Audubon Society

P.O. Box 883
Belton, TX 76513

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Meetings

7:00 p.m., second Tuesday of the month in Room 118, York Science Center, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton (No meetings March, June, July or August).

OFFICERS/CHAIRS

President: Crystal Hammond
Tel: 254 833 2224
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Cathy Shoop
Treasurer: Sabrina Nicholson
Membership: Carol Ann Wadley
Newsletter: Gil Eckrich
gil.eckrich@att.net
Hospitality: Shirley Beyer
Finance: Sandy Lowry
Directors: Liz Cowan
Randy Pinkston
Carol Ann Wadley
Chapter Reps: Joye & Corky Johnson

