Greetings everyone from your President!

First of all let me give you a brief recap from last month. Last month at our meeting we had a very informative presentation given by Jim Hailey, who is the incoming president of the TOS (Texas Ornithological Society). He shared his many trips into the Alaskan wilderness, showing us the land, birds and mammals.

Due to inclement weather our field trip to Fort Hood’s West Range was cancelled; but, we did not miss much apparently since other field trips to that area have failed to produce the desired wintering birds of the past.

This month for our guest speaker, we look forward to hearing from our own Jeff Whitlock who will give a presentation on “Birding in South Eastern Arizona. Our Field trip will be on February 23rd and we will be going to the Llano Eagles nest and Inks Lake Fish Hatchery. The date is later in the month than usual, but will maximize our opportunity to see the Bald Eagles feeding their young.

Next month we will make a short distance field trip to Berry Springs Park in Williamson County to hopefully see some birds that are not often seen in our immediate area.

Mark your calendars for our trip to the Davis Mountains in August; our trip will be from August 9th - 11th, more details to follow!

The last two pictures above were taken on Stillhouse Hollow Lake: A Common Loon sunbathing on a beautiful Saturday morning and an American White Pelican stretching his wings. Temperatures have been unseasonably mild and birds are becoming more and more active, including cavity nesters preparing for the first brood. Get out and enjoy the weather, and especially, the birds!

Crystal R. Hammond
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

12 February – Jeff Whitlock on Birding in SE Arizona. SE Arizona is one of the real Meccas of the birding world and Jeff’s presentation will provide information on birding there, and, of course, photos of birds!

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

23 February - Llano Eagles Nest and Inks Lake Fish Hatchery. The nest is active and should offer some great views of feeding and other activities. Field trip leader will be at the nest (MAP) at 0800 already, and will be there for at least 1 1/2 hour while other birders show up. From there we will caravan to the fish hatchery.

9 March - Berry Springs Park, near Georgetown. This is a great new park with great birding Photos taken by Eric Runfeldt at the park

13 April - The Messer Ranch, Belton. It has been couple of years since we visited there, and anyone who has not been there will be delighted by the birds and Bill and Ann Messer's hospitality.

4 May - Warbler Woods

9-11 August - Trip to the Davis Mountains, including the Davis Mountains Preserve of The Nature Conservancy (bird around McIvor Center, hike into Tobe Canyon, owling and nightjars at night), CDRI (Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute), and much more.
**BIRDS SEEN / BIRDS HEARD**

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

[http://twinlakesaudubon.org/](http://twinlakesaudubon.org/)

In the morning of 4 February Gil Eckrich birded Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (BLORA) in preparation for an upcoming field trip, and found 36 species. Perhaps most unusual was the number of Pine Warblers.

Double-crested Cormorant 9, Great Blue Heron 2, Great Egret 1, Black Vulture 5, Turkey Vulture 12, Red-tailed Hawk 1, American Coot 12, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Wilson's Snipe 1, Bonaparte's Gull 13, Ring-billed Gull 9, Greater Roadrunner 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 8, Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 4, Merlin 1, Eastern Phoebe 2, Blue Jay 2, American Crow 12, Carolina Chickadee 3, Black-crested Titmouse 4, Bewick's Wren 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 17, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 21, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Pine Warbler 9, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Chipping Sparrow 21, Savannah Sparrow 1, Harris's Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 4, House Finch 8, American Goldfinch 2, House Sparrow 1

Sabrina Nicholson and Gil Eckrich visited Chalk Ridge Falls Park in the morning of 3 February with the primary purpose of enabling Gil to add some species to his TEXBIRDS Local Patch. Their 18 species did include 3 species in that category:

Wood Duck 5, Black Vulture 30, Turkey Vulture 55, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Mourning Dove 3, Red-bellied Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 1, Carolina Chickadee 4, Black-crested Titmouse 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Brown Creeper 3, Canyon Wren 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Savannah Sparrow 7, Le Conte's Sparrow 1, Lincoln's Sparrow 1, Northern Cardinal 2, American Goldfinch 2

Eric Runfeldt has been birding the new Berry Springs Park near Georgetown and has found some excellent birds highlighted on the TLAS website [http://twinlakesaudubon.org/Berry%20Springs%20Park/index.html](http://twinlakesaudubon.org/Berry%20Springs%20Park/index.html). Liz Cowan met Eric at that park on 1 February and enjoyed seeing Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, and that beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker.
Snack and Drink Sign-up

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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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>
<td>NO MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>Mary Voss</td>
<td>Cathy Shoop</td>
<td>Marilyn Miller</td>
<td>Tom Robbins</td>
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<td>14-May</td>
<td>EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING</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

January 8, 2013
7 – 9pm
UMHB York Science Building, Belton, TX

18 members present

Bert Pope (Vice President), opened the meeting at 7pm, and invited everyone to enjoy the refreshments and visiting time.

The lending library was available.

Bird Sightings were shared.

Treasurer Report: Marilyn Miller reported that she met the Eagle Scout at Lowe’s and purchased supplies for the Scout project we previously approved; costing $683. The balance in our account is $5,239.66.

Field Trip for 3pm Saturday at West Fort Hood was discussed. Meet at Elijah Road and Georgetown Road, north of Copperas Cove. The Waco Audubon group will be present.

Presentation: Alaska: The Last Frontier
Our guest speaker, Jim Hailey was introduced. Jim is the incoming president of the TOS (Texas Ornithological Society). Jim shared his many trips into the Alaskan wilderness, showing us the land, birds and mammals.

Ilse held a drawing for a bag of shelled pecans and a bird calendar.

Meeting was adjourned before 9pm.

C. Shoop (Secretary)
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).